

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY

NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

Rotary
Newberg Early Birds



May 25, 2023

This week's invocation/inspiration was given by soon-to-be-past-president, Casey Hostetler.

"People will live up to what you believe them to be."

Paul Harris Fellow (\$1,000 value) pools are 5 Year / 5 Member pools. Each pool is started with 5 members pledging \$150/year for 5 years. Each year one of those five is drawn and has earned a Fellowship. For those of you good-at-math, that's \$750. The remaining \$250 is funded by the club, which eventually comes back to the club.

Last week's drawings for 2023 were Mark Moison, Amy Ouellette, Dan Burns, Roger Jordan (for grandson, Malachai), and Gary Stewart.

Pancake Breakfast: WE NEED SPONSORS! Newberg Jeep Ram had to withdraw as main sponsor this year so we have a big slot to backfill. We also need fresh blood on the committee to give our 10-year-long volunteers a break.

[Gather Repertory Theatre](#) was last week's program as presented by Artistic Director, JeanneAnn Comiskey and Reid Arthur, both are George Fox graduates.



JeanneAnn is the Community Engagement Coordinator for our Chehalis Cultural Center.

Gather Repertory's company is comprised of JeanneAnn and Brendan Comiskey, Cora Beeman, and Reid Arthur.

Gather's Mission Statement: To bring the community together through sharing purposeful stories that foster equity, develop curiosity, and celebrate life.

The company was formed in the summer of 2021 when the world was exiting the

pandemic and our communities felt like they were becoming increasingly divisive.

In other words, how to bring people together in a loving, accepting way.

The company's first performance was of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning *Our Town* in August, 2022. It was chosen because it was perceived as a tale of a community and two families. The circle of life, death, love, regret and appreciation (even if appreciation is realized after death).

The group chose to set aside traditional casting and ignore gender, race, and period or regional backdrop.

Gather Repertory's company model is not that of a "community theatre" but of a professional company of paid performers.

That means all their creatives are paid. It also means that they qualify for, and are, a 501c3 entity.

Funding comes from sponsors (this is where the 501c3 fits), tickets, donors and grants.

Returning briefly to last year's performance, *Our Town*, let's amuse ourselves with some commentary.

They decided, foolishly, to produce their inaugural performance at the end of July/beginning of August ... outdoors, in 100° heat. Fun Fact, though, of six performances they sold-out four of them.

Reid considered this "a love letter to Newberg."

Now Showing: Men on Boats.

Premise: Ten explorers. Four boats.

One Grand Canyon. *MEN ON BOATS* is the true(ish) history of an 1869 expedition, when a one-armed captain and a crew of insane yet loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River.

The tale was taken straight from the real journal entries of John Powell [not *OUR* John Powell] and re-adapted by Jaclyn Backhaus



into the three-act adventure comedy we know now.

Men on Boats is playing at 7:30 PM on May 19, 20, 26 and 27 and 4:00 PM on May 21 and 28 at North Valley Friends Church, 4020 N. College St.

Cost of admission is \$15 but branded as Pay-What-You-Will. The idea is to make performances as accessible as possible to the widest range of disposable income, including flat broke, to attend and enjoy the performances.

Coming Next: *A Feminine Ending*, by Sarah Treem, showing August 31 to September 3. Auditions begin June 12 with many details on their [Facebook page](#). Or email gatherrepertory@gmail.com with questions.

What does the future hold for Gather Repertory?

They would like to produce two shows per year including a large and small production.

Considering cast members earn \$600 per production series (\$1,000 for lead role) it stands to reason that everyone involved has day jobs.

They would like to mature into a space they can call their own. Not that playing in a church is bad. Even we Early Birds also feel it when our own venue must be surrendered some Thursday mornings.

And they will continue to seek out and perform shows that are purposeful and relevant. One of the things they appreciate about their business model is that they're not beholden to anyone in their choice of performances and can choose based on their collective passions.

Q: What is the cost of a typical production?

A: About \$25,000 per show including venue, hair & makeup, talent, administration, costumes, stagecraft, printing, publicity, ticketing, etc. ([donations help](#) ... a lot)

