



September-October 2017

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FIND THE Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association online at [www.bwna.us](http://www.bwna.us)

BWNA  
Calendar of Events

**Thursdays**

**September 7, 14, 21 and 28**

4:00-7:00 p.m.  
Cully Farmers Market  
NE 42nd and Alberta

**Monday, September 11**

7:00-8:30 p.m.  
BWNA Board Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Skidmore and 37th  
Library Meeting Room

**Friday, October 6**

BWNA newsletter submission  
deadline for November-  
December issue. E-mail articles  
to Al Ellis, [editor@bwna.us](mailto:editor@bwna.us).  
E-mail photos and ads to Amy  
Gwilliam, [design@bwna.us](mailto:design@bwna.us)

**Monday, October 9**

7:00-8:30 p.m.  
BWNA General Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Skidmore and 37th  
Fellowship Hall

## Two nail-biter legislative wins for demolition/infill reform

by Al Ellis

It went down to the wire—in fact, the very last day of the legislative session. The bill in question was Senate Bill 871, ostensibly intended to hold developers and demolition contractors accountable for asbestos removal prior to demolition of residential homes. Among the bill's most ardent advocates was B-W's own John Sandie—immediate past BWNA president, regular contributor to this newsletter, and member of the UNR steering committee (i.e., United Neighborhoods for Reform, the citywide grassroots preservationist organization with roots in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood). Over a two-year span, John repeatedly touched base with legislators, gave oral and written testimony, and sought support from like-minded residents and organizations in an effort to keep the bill alive and substantively whole as it made its way through a labyrinth of planning sessions, committee hearings, and proposed amendments—finally culminating in the dramatic last-day vote that sent the legislation to Governor Brown's desk for signing into law.

The new law has the potential to be a significant step forward in reducing residents' exposure to asbestos during residential demolitions, a prime "hazmat" (hazardous waste) objective in the UNR Demolition/Infill Resolution endorsed by over 40 Portland neighborhood associations. That said, the text of the legislation is unfortunately replete with "may require" clauses, the only stipulated requirement being submission of a completed asbestos survey prior to demolition. Of particular concern are unanswered questions regarding implementation (e.g., What role, if any, will the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) play in enforcing the law? What responsibilities will local jurisdictions like the Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) be expected to shoulder?) What will be the penalties for noncompliance, and how will they be imposed? Advising DEQ in formulating policies to answer these and other questions related to implementation and enforcement of the law is the DEQ Advisory Committee, which reconvenes in September with (no surprise) John Sandie at the

table. Concurrently, John and UNR will continue to push for lead paint abatement requirement legislation via the Oregon Health Authority.

A second end-of-the-legislative-session nailbiter involved House Bill 2007—not because it was in danger of failing, but because it just might pass! Starting out as a relatively innocuous bill, HB 2007 initially required cities to fast-track building permit review of affordable (i.e., low-income) housing projects. But builders and pro-development groups lobbied strong and hard to get the bill amended to require, in effect, that every neighborhood in Oregon be opened to widespread construction of duplexes and other density-increasing dwellings without respect to either affordability or the unintended consequences of increased demolitions of single-family homes in order to free up lots. By the time these amendments were revealed to the public, HB 2007 was already in the Ways and Means Committee and seemed assured of a floor vote at the very end of the session. But UNR, BWNA, and allies quickly mobilized, got the word out, and Capitol offices were soon awash in e-mails and calls from incredulous constituents. Result? The bill never got out of committee.

## National Night Out Picnic a Success!



more photos follow...



## President's message

by Tim Hemstreet

## Summer Neighborhood Picnic and Recent Association Activities

Perfect weather and the beautiful setting of Wilshire Park once again made for a fun and relaxing Beaumont-Wilshire National Night Out (NNO) Picnic back on August 1. Neighbors supplied an impressive variety of dishes to augment the hamburgers, hot dogs, and cake supplied by your neighborhood association. The picnic provided a great opportunity to meet with new and old friends and to welcome a few new arrivals to the neighborhood. Great musical entertainment was provided by the band Broke 'N Hip, and children were amused by the games, adults primarily by the raffle. I'd like to extend many thanks to the local businesses and organizations that contributed to making this NNO picnic one of the best ever. Businesses donating food, refreshments, and raffle prizes included Alameda Brew Pub, the Arrangement, Beanstalk, Beaumont Florist, Beaumont Hardware, Beaumont Market, Children's Place Bookstore, Fire on the Mountain, Fire & Stone, Green Dog Pet Supply, Kennedy School Pub, Pinball Outreach Project, Pips, Thrive, and Yo Choice. Special thanks go out to Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship church for supplying the tables and chairs and Boy Scout Troop 107 for schlepping them to and from the park. If you have the chance, please do let these

local Samaritans know how much we appreciate their support in bringing the neighborhood together in celebration.

Please also note in this issue's "BWNA Calendar of Events" that the next BWNA General Meeting takes place on Monday, October 9. Our last General Meeting in June resulted in the approval of updated bylaws and passage of a motion by the Board to send a letter to key Oregon legislators expressing concern about House Bill 2007. Board members were alarmed that the bill as written would have actually encouraged home demolitions in neighborhoods like Beaumont-Wilshire while not effectively incentivizing construction of affordable housing. Gratifyingly, the legislature adjourned without HB 2007 moving out of committee, then managed to pass an alternate bill incorporating significant constructive provisions from HB 2007 that substantively encourage affordable housing without diluting historic review or exacerbating demolitions. Thanks to the many neighbors who attended the June meeting, providing valued input on HB 2007 and other agenda issues. Your active participation bolsters BWNA and strengthens our neighborhood.



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## Editor's notes

by Al Ellis

**F**actual data dismissed as “fake news”? Doublespeak “tweets”

posing as policy? George Orwell novels from 70 years ago (*Animal Farm*, 1984) selling like hotcakes? Through the looking glass we go, my friends. But amid the clouds of unreality and uncertainty, a ray of sanity shines through in the person of intrepid professional investigative reporters whose job it is to follow the evidence wherever it may lead, no stone unturned—a la *All the President's Men*—enduring threats and demonization from on high, such as the Trump administration's shameful vilification of world-class journalists as “enemies of the people”—an Orwellian epithet recalling Stalin's heinous purge trials of the '30s. Truth is, investigative journalism is an indispensable godsend for this or any democracy, providing the watchdog scrutiny necessary for exposing abuses of power at the highest levels. Anyone in doubt need only flip the coin to view life in Putin's Russia, Xi's China.

But how is this relevant to a modest little newsletter like ours?

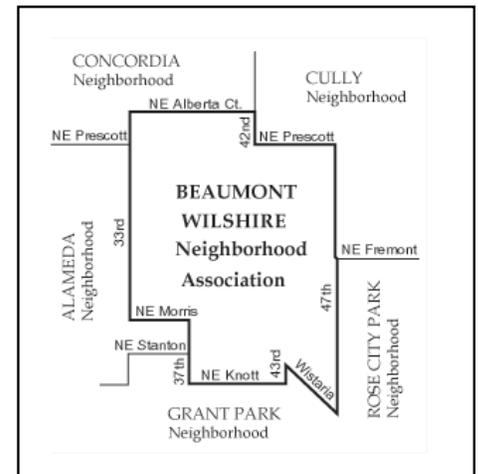
After all, a 12-page bimonthly publication is light years away in scope and resources from heavyweight dailies like the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. That said, our all-volunteer team prides itself in striving for quality journalism and offering up an eclectic array of topics, some requiring at least a modicum of investigative reporting.

Three such examples can be found in this issue: a profile on advertiser St. Rose School, investigating the school's demographics and contributions to the community; a story tracing the legislative path of two impactful bills with local implications, investigating efforts to legislate demolition/infill requirements on a statewide level; and an update to an article a couple issues ago on two local traffic signal projects, investigating why it took PBOT so much longer to complete one than the other). Not journalism that saves democracy, but illuminates nonetheless.

Speaking of which, Beaumont-Wilshire has had no shortage of issues in need of investigating over the years and residents motivated to investigate them. Working in tandem with BWNA, neighborhood activists have successfully made the case for transportation improvements (i.e., speed bumps for accident-prone Wistaria Drive), parking congestion relief (i.e., diagonal parking spaces adjacent to Fremont Street), beautification (i.e., graffiti removal and preservation treatment for the Wilshire Park pavilion mural), and livability (i.e., preventing construction of a cell tower adjacent to residences, where *Fire & Stone* is located today). Current neighborhood issues include the need for improvements in Wilshire Park, preservation of viable homes from demolition, and crime/vandalism concerns—especially car break-ins—just to name a few. So let me suggest getting the ball rolling on issues of interest to you with some investigative reporting of your own for publication in this newsletter, either

in the form of a news article or editorial commentary. Your contribution is not only an appreciated assist for our team, but a service to us all.

Additional note: for those considering submitting an article, “Letter to the Board” editorial, or ad for the next issue, note on this issue's “BWNA Calendar of Events” that the article/ad submission deadline falls a week earlier than usual, Friday, October 6.



- Do you know a neighbor who could use a helping hand?**
- The Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Volunteer Group stands ready to pitch in.
  - Cleaning chores: yard work, window washing, garage/storage organization, simple painting.
  - Contact John Sandie 219-508-4162 or sandiefam@gmail.com



# Unraveling the traffic signal project enigma

by Al Ellis

Regular readers of this newsletter may recall an article in last year's November/December issue entitled "New traffic signals for Beaumont-Wilshire arteries" about two BWNA-advocated projects approved, funded, and in the process of being implemented last winter by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). One project involved a safety-enhanced modernization of the decades-old signal system adjacent to Beaumont Middle School on the corner of N.E. 42nd/41st Ave. and Fremont St.—the other project, just down the street, a much-needed left-turn signal system to relieve congestion at the corner of Fremont and 33rd. By early 2017, the new signal system at 42nd/41st and Fremont was fully operational and completion of the project at 33rd and Fremont seemed not far behind—signals already mounted in place, albeit covered in sheaves. As winter turned to spring, spring to early summer, and early summer to midsummer, however, the status of the new signals remained unchanged—still sheaved and not functioning. It was an enigma for neighbors and motorists alike, begging the obvious question: why so long—now over half a year—to activate mounted signals? Flick the switch, already!

Enter BWNA President Tim Hemstreet into the picture, who sought to solve the enigma by going to the controversy's source—PBOT. In reply to Tim's e-mail, PBOT Communications Director John Brady offered the following (partial) explanation:

*...We've been slow to turn on the signal because we were waiting to install the vehicle detection system in the turn lanes. This system tells the signal that there are cars waiting to turn. It looks like the installation of this system will be delayed some more.*

OK, but why such a lengthy delay? Upon further inquiry, Mr. Brady elaborated:

*In terms of the delay in the installation of the loop detector, there are two main reasons...One is the cold and rainy winter we had. To install the detection system, the pavement has to be dry. Given the winter we had and also the rainy spring, there were very few windows to install the detection system in the winter and spring. Secondly, the installation schedule is dependent on the contractor's availability to do the work. The initial weather-driven delay in the winter and spring pushed the work into the busy summer construction season, and we've had difficulty scheduling the work. We'll install the loop detection system at a later date.*

Let's review: The exceptionally rainy weather delayed the project for months, which eventually made it impossible to fit the installation job into a busy contractor's schedule during the first three months of summer. Buy that? Enigmas die hard.

BWNA's inquiry motivated PBOT to organize a Beaumont-Wilshire/Alameda neighborhood ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 17th to activate the signals—minus the vehicle detection system (to be installed at "a later date"). Again quoting Brady: "From our standpoint, we'd like to get it as soon as possible." Amen to that.



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# BWNA newsletter board member interview: Deb Harris

by Mark Mohammadpour

**A**long with Roger Price and Al Ellis, Deb Harris is at the same time among the newest and most veteran members on the BWNA Board of Directors, having returned after serving previously. Professionally, Deb has taught in Oregon middle schools, high schools, and universities for more than 40 years and is currently a senior instructor at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. A highly-respected educator, she has accrued accolades including the National High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 1993 and National K-12 Health Education Professional of the Year in 2002. When not teaching, Deb loves reading, trying out new local restaurants, great wines, and walking the neighborhood with friends.

*How long have you lived in the neighborhood and what's your favorite part of living in the neighborhood?*

I have lived in the neighborhood for a very long time. I was brought home to where I live today from Emanuel Hospital as a newborn in 1953. A few months earlier, my parents moved into their brand-new home that they had contractors build, on a lot they had purchased on the corner of NE 47th and NE Shaver Streets. I lived there until the age of 18 when I left for college, but spent each summer at home. I moved out in 1976 to SE Portland, but my parents maintained their home and I visited weekly. In 1998, I moved back to NE Portland into an apartment, and shortly before my father died in 2006, I purchased the home from him. It has been the only real "home" I have ever really known.

My favorite part of living in the neighborhood is the fact that I can walk everywhere and that I know it "like the back of my hand," after living in it for such a long time. I also love the fact, as my dad used to say in living there, "that I can get to almost any part of the city in 15 minutes"...well, a little more than that now with the increased traffic!

*What's your favorite neighborhood store or restaurant, and why?*

My favorite stores are Beaumont Market and The Arrangement. I love that I can go to The Arrangement at the last minute for a gift



and I can ALWAYS find it there and get it gift wrapped. Beaumont Market is my "go to" store for last minute gifts and food items as well. I love the fact that they are open on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day as I always seem to forget something at the last minute and they always seem to have what I need.

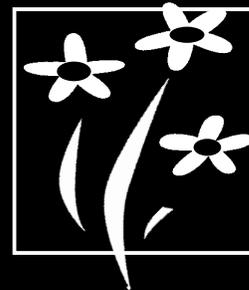
I love Amalfi's for my favorite restaurant as I would go there as a young child, when it was in what is now Starbucks, with my parents and grandparents. I can

still envision it as it was then, with red and white vinyl tablecloths and that pizza that still tastes the same today. I also enjoy Eclectic Café, Alameda Brew Pub and many nights I swing into BlackBird Wine Shop for a glass of wine at the end of a long day.

*What are the issues you're looking to help address as a member?*

I love participating on the BWNA Board as it keeps me abreast of what is happening in the neighborhood, gets me involved with policies and the happenings of the most important things that the Board needs to address. I am looking to become more involved in the "anti-demolishing" of BWNA homes and reducing crime in the neighborhood. Keeping our neighborhood safe and affordable to everyone is important to me.

*Thank you for your service, Deb!*



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# St. Rose School: service to the community as a virtue—and as advertised!

by Pat Bellamah

In this time of rapid change in the skyline and the neighborhoods of Portland, it's easy for the history of the city to evanesce with the landscape that embodied it. And so it was with some surprise to learn St. Rose School, now housed in a brick schoolhouse at 5309 NE Alameda, dates its inception to 1913. In that year, according to communications director Shelly Davidson, "Four Holy Child sisters left their community, homes and friends in England and traveled all the way to Oregon with the intention of starting a new school and community. The sisters lived in Ladd's Addition and traveled to Northeast by foot and streetcar. The area of the school was described in letters home as 'wild woodland' and impossible to reach by car."

Today St. Rose, an advertiser with this newsletter since the beginning of the calendar year, educates about 245 students in an academic program that includes full-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, as well as 1st through 8th grades. As a school associated with St. Rose Church, last year about 71 percent of its students were Catholic, but



29 percent were not. And while 75 percent of the students come from the neighborhood, some commute from other parts of Portland or as far away as Happy Valley, with the minority enrollment demographic at an impressive 35 percent.

When asked what attracts parents to choose St. Rose School for their kids, principal Karen Asbury ticked off the basics: academic excellence, small class size, physical education, music and art programs. But what really differentiates St. Rose, she emphasized, is what they refer to as "virtue education" and the school's serious commitment to instilling students with a spirit of service. Speaking to the process, Principal Asbury explained that virtue is taught by focusing on a specific virtue, such as perseverance, honesty, ethics,

or integrity, for a couple of weeks. The word is introduced at a school assembly and then reinforced by the faculty in the context of teaching or discipline until another virtue becomes the focus.

The service component of character development entails different service projects for each grade. For example, once a month all of the students bring in extra lunches to feed the homeless, except for the pre-K students who make lunches at school. The 6th-graders deliver the lunches to the St. Francis dining hall for the homeless in Southeast Portland. The 3rd-graders support Northwest Children's Outreach by collecting gently used clothes and toys from the other students, which the kids themselves go to Northeast Children's Outreach to sort. The 3rd-graders also go and visit ill and disabled children at the Providence Center for Medically Fragile Children. Someone from the Center trains the young students how to interact with the hospitalized children and the students quickly adapt. The 2nd-graders visit with the elderly at an assisted living home, and the 5th-graders support the parish food bank by collecting food door-to-door in the neighborhood. The whole school participates in a project they call the "blessing bags," referring to baggies the children assemble with non-perishable snacks and a note that school families can keep in their cars for the children to give to the homeless people they encounter.



These and many other service projects not only teach St. Rose students to serve the poor, the ill, and the isolated, but also teach them from a young age not to be afraid of people who are different from them and to have the courage to engage by seeing the humanity in everyone. The result is a school with a palpable sense of joy and community, aptly summed up in their ad in this issue: "...helping to form lifelong learners who respect others and serve the community." Newsletter aside, St. Rose's most effective form of advertising is, not surprisingly, word-of-mouth—from the students to their friends.

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# Insider insights into newsletter distribution

by newsletter distribution co-coordinators  
John Sandie and Georgina Head

Every couple of months when you discover the rolled-up publication stuffed in your doorknob or perhaps folded and slid into your screen door or under your mat, it's likely you don't give much thought to how it got there. While the content is the most important aspect of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association Newsletter, it shouldn't be overlooked that this is one of the few neighborhood newsletters hand-delivered to each and every residence, as well as to many local businesses. Key to the system is tight organization and a multitude of dutiful volunteers.

It starts with picking up the 2,650 copies printed from the UPS store on Sandy Boulevard, then breaking these down into boxes for ten captains and their teams of neighborhood volunteers, then further breaking the newsletters down into the 53 individual carrier routes—each of which has been laid out in a color-coded geographic grid covering the entire neighborhood—and culminating in deliveries to homes and businesses, with routes completed in 20 to 50 minutes depending on the size of the route size and pace of the walker. The goal is to coordinate and accomplish the whole operation in approximately two and a half weeks, with newsletters delivered no later than mid-month, but preferably during the first week. That said, variables like sickness, vacations, and inclement weather make the goal challenging at times—

which is why we are always on the lookout for B-W residents willing to consider volunteering to be “on call”—i.e., to serve as substitute carriers. (Contact Georgina Head, georginafh@outlook.com to sign up.)

Despite widespread popularity within the neighborhood, the door-to-door newsletter delivery system is not without its critics, especially in the area of cost-benefit analysis. It is argued, for instance, that significant sums of money could be freed up to fund BWNA projects if the newsletter were to go totally digital, expanding on the online color version currently accessible via BWNA website (www.bwna.us). After all, the argument continues, many residents prefer to get their news online anyway, and for those who don't, a few piles of printed newsletters could be placed at effective points throughout the neighborhood for individuals to access. But the debate has inevitably swung back in favor of individual delivery of newsletters as a primary communication tool for BWNA, with the emphasis on quality of content. (As for my own personal experience, I've always received numerous “thank yous” and other signs of appreciation every time I walk my delivery route—just reinforcing my thumbs-up enthusiasm!)

So next time you find the newsletter at your door, realize that a host of your fellow neighbors had a hand in it getting there, hopefully generating a little good cheer as they make their way.

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# Amazing aster family for late summer bloom

by Barbara Strunk

**A**ster family plants are winners for late summer flowers. This huge group of plants includes annuals and perennials such as coneflowers, sunflowers, chrysanthemums, dahlias, black-eyed Susan, feverfew, asters, and lettuce among many others. The Asteraceae is one of the largest plant families, with 1620 genera and thousands of species. These flowers are very attractive to pollinators, birds, and people. They also attract beneficial insects that prey on not-so-helpful insects. I have several of these genera in my garden, and I love them dearly. Before describing just a few, it is important to emphasize that success in the garden means knowing how these plants grow in their native habitats and matching those conditions as much as possible. The aster family plants we garden need sun, good drainage, and regular water. It is especially important that newly planted plants get regular water. "Drought tolerant" means a plant can deal with less water, but only after it is well established. I planted coneflowers (Echinacea), black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia), and others, early this summer. During the crazy hot weather at the beginning of August, I watered them twice a day.

One of my favorite late bloomers is goldenrod (Solidago). It is not the allergy producer; ragweed is the allergy-creating culprit. Goldenrod has lovely sweeps of tiny yellow flowers. Some varieties such as 'Little Lemon' and 'Golden Baby' have been developed to be smaller than the species and fit perfectly into the late summer garden. There are also small goldenrods that are groundcovers. The

biennial Brown-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia triloba) has been gently seeding around my garden for many years. The goldfinches get most of the seeds, but enough seeds drop to sprout for next year. They produce 2-inch long-lasting daisy-shaped yellow flowers with brown centers. They are lovely in the garden and long-lasting in bouquets. It is easy to pull out the plants that the birds and the wind "misplace." Speaking of goldfinches: I have noticed our resident Lesser Goldfinches eating the leaves of our sunflowers—but just some of the leaves; the plants are hale and hearty. Sunflowers (Helianthus annuus) provide greens and seeds for the birds, pollen and nectar for the bees, and flowers, seeds, and satisfaction for people.

Coneflowers (various Echinacea species) have been developed over the years into amazing colors for gardens. I love the spiny centers surrounded by colorful downward pointing petals, from which the name is derived. The garden coneflowers have been developed from plants native to Eastern and Central North America in moist prairies, meadows, and open woods. They need regular water. Another aster family plant I love in my garden is feverfew (Tanacetum parthenium). This medium sized annual is covered with small white daisy-shaped flowers and dissected foliage, a bit like small chrysanthemums. It is a bit more weedy than others because the seeds are spread easily by the wind and passing people. The root systems are limited, and unwanted plants are easy to pull out.

Go online and dig into books to explore this huge plant family. Check out the nurseries and your friends' gardens. Collect seeds and trade plants. The late summer effects you'll be able to create, from formal to wild, are amazing. This huge family has lots to choose from; a gardener can spend a lifetime exploring their possibilities.



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Back-to-school favorite from Kathy's Kitchen!

by Kathy Campbell

# Hearty Vegetable Lasagna

1 16 oz. package lasagna noodles  
1 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced  
¾ cup yellow squash, cubed  
¾ cup chopped onion  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
2 T. vegetable oil  
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese  
2 26 oz. jars pasta sauce  
1 tsp. dried basil  
1 package frozen spinach, thawed  
1 15 oz. container part-skim ricotta cheese  
4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
2 eggs  
1 cup tomato sauce

Cook the lasagna noodles in a large pot of salted boiled water for 10 minutes or until al dente. Rinse with cold water and drain.

In a large saucepan, cook and stir mushrooms, onion, and garlic in oil. Stir in pasta sauce, then add the yellow squash, spinach, and basil. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

Mix together ricotta, 2 cups mozzarella cheese, and eggs.

Preheat oven to 350°. Spread 1 cup tomato sauce into the bottom of a greased or sprayed 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Layer half the lasagna noodles, ricotta mix, sauce, and Parmesan cheese. Repeat layering and top with remaining 2 cups of mozzarella cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 40 minutes. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.



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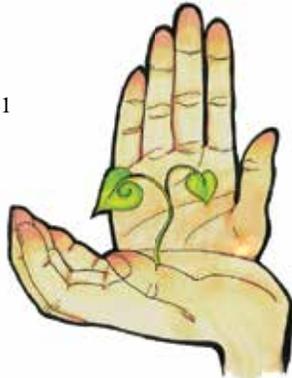
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