

Out and about ...with Mary Louise VanNatta

MARY LOUISE VANNATTA Special to the Statesman Journal
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It is worth celebrating when a new doctor settles in Salem, especially when he is affiliated with the great work of Liberty House. In late August, Dick and Gayle Withnell hosted a "meet and greet" for Joseph C. Oh, who will be a full-time physician at the child-abuse assessment center.

The organization's board members and key supporters, including Marjorie Dudley, Laurie Ann Rogers and Randy Green came out to welcome the doctor. He comes to the area from California and specializes in pediatric and adolescent medicine.

The Withnell's Keizer home displays some of Dick's favorite cars, including a red 1974 Dodge Dart, which was admired by Richard and Krystal Foster.

Board President Danny Bisgaard visited with donor Sheri Kelly of Kelly's Home Center. John and Denise Callahan enjoyed catching up with friends. Denise worked at Liberty House when she was a student at Willamette University, and she now serves on the board.

Oh comes to town with few connections, as his parents live in Korea. He said he is looking to get involved in the community and enjoys scuba diving, hiking and other outdoor activities. He said when his California friends asked where he was going, he told them it was the state where part of the movie "Twilight" was filmed.

The medical community, especially Liberty House Executive Director Gretchen Bennett and physician recruiter and board member Patrick Devlin are delighted he has joined the organization.

The group also was excited about the Champions for Children Luncheon, which will take place at the Conference Center on Sept. 22. For more information, check out www.LibertyHouseCenter.com.

2009 Celebration Oregon!

It rained all day, but where there is wine, there are Salemites, and when the Oregon State Fair is in your backyard, we don't miss it.

On Aug. 28, my family attended the 2009 Celebration Oregon, the 30th anniversary of the Oregon Wine Competition. We were guests of the Austin Family Business Program at the Oregon State University College of Business, which supports family business with the difficult balance of work and blood relations, with an emphasis on generational transition issues.

Director Robin Klemm and Sherri Noxel were quick to introduce me to Samuel Coelho of Coelho Winery in Amity. His parents, Dave and Deolina, founded the winery in 2004.



Diane Stevenson |Special Statesman Journal
Liberty House Executive Director Gretchen Bennett listens to Dr. Oh accept his warm welcome to Salem.

Other Salem families found tasting were John, Janet and Sara Whitney of Le Shoe Boutique and Cindy Beard and her family of F&W Fence.

Local businesses provided food and wine. Bentley's Grill featured its popular crab cakes with Asian slaw and Tobioko Aioli, carefully prepared by Altaman Adolphues and Chef Derek Ridgway. The food lines were long, but we satisfied our hunger with a piece of Great Harvest Bread. West Salem's bread makers Ellie Toombs and Amber Garrett served fresh samples.

The night was about wine, however, and the winners were proudly showing off their best. SEDCOR's Tami Lundy and her family appreciated Salem's Sass Handcrafted Oregon Wines. Jerry Sass showed us his award-winning 2005 Pinot Vieux Amis.

This occasional column highlights social and charitable events in the Salem area and the people who attend them. Contact VanNatta at OutandAboutSJ@live.com