



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 82 June 2020

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[www.portlandflag.org](http://www.portlandflag.org)



***You cannot choose your battlefield.  
The gods do that for you,  
But you can plant a standard  
Where a standard never flew.***

**— Nathalia Crane**

## Flags in the Time of COVID-19

In these “quarentimes”, a vast array of new flags and flag usage has evolved: flags for COVID-19 defiance (as first published in print in the last *VT*) and to honor and motivate health-care workers; displays and projections of national flags reflecting the worldwide nature of the pandemic; masks in all forms using flag imagery (and in some cases, actual flags—such as the mask made from an Oregon flag by PFA member Brittany Vega—shown at right); and flag manufacturers making masks and personal protective equipment.



That colorful panoply far exceeds the *Vexilloid Tabloid's* capacity—watch the PFA’s [portlandflag.org](http://portlandflag.org)/blog, the next issue of NAVA’s *Vexillum*, Instagram, and online resources for more images.



Designers suissas + silva turn flags into houses to urge the world to stay home to fight COVID-19.

<https://www.designboom.com/design/suissas-silva-flags-into-houses-stay-home-fight-covid19-03-27-2020/>

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or [editor@portlandflag.org](mailto:editor@portlandflag.org). If you wish to complain, call your mother.

## May 2020 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our May meeting, held on the Zoom virtual platform because of the COVID-19 shutdown, 13 PFA members enjoyed over two hours of flags and video conversation.

Ted Kaye hosted, welcoming new attendee Matt Bray with a round of introductions from everyone describing their flag interests.

Joyce Gifford described the work on smALL FLAGS' new website and asked for opinions on selling historical American flags that have been appropriated recently by fringe groups (such as the “Betsy Ross” flag, First Navy Jack, or the Gadsden Flag).



Joyce Gifford joins from “outdoors”, a video backdrop courtesy of OPB.



William Gifford compares the very similar flags of Manitoba and Ontario.



Ted Kaye displays several Canadian flags, starting with British Columbia's.

William Gifford announced that their company now offers in small-patch size all Canadian province and territory flags, then described the flag-waver software that simulates a flag design flying in the wind: <https://krikienoid.github.io/flagwaver/>.

David Koski pursued the concept of a “flag in the style of another flag”, using Cuba and Puerto Rico to explore it (see p. 8), and showed flags at Nordia House (see p. 10).



David Koski creates flags in the style of other flags.

Ted Kaye announced that NAVA's latest publications had been laid out: *Vexillum 10* and *Raven 27* (edited by Scott Mainwaring), reminded members to renew and to attend NAVA 54 in Cyberspace on 13 June, then shared a number of Canadian flags from his collection, including national, variant, and provincial flags (this continued a theme of Canada-related items).

Ken Dale shared an amusing T-shirt with a Norwegian flag, representing half of his heritage.



Ken Dale declares half of his heritage with a T-shirt.



The participants in the meeting wave “good-bye” to John Schilke, who had to leave early.



John Schilke greets the group.

John Schilke reported on the pleasant but locked-down conditions at Mary’s Wood, regretting that he could not host this month.

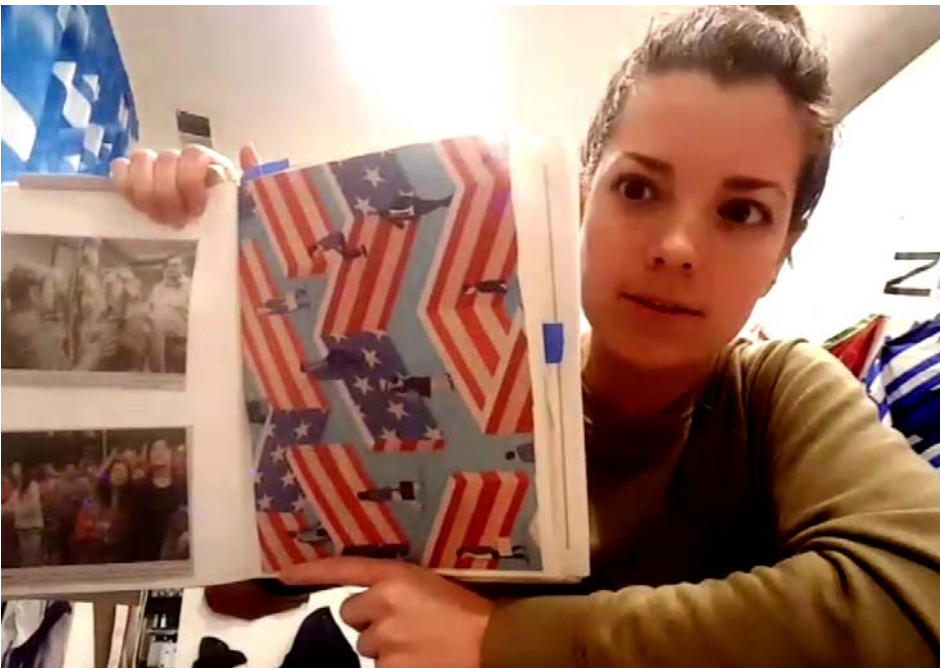
Jessie Spillers honored Michael Orelove with astronomical references, pointing to galaxy images.

Brittany Vega gave a tour of her studio, where she creates art from disassembled flags; she showed her PFA-inspired file of flag-related clippings from the *New York Times*; recommended the “Why the Flag? Podcast” ([flagpodcast.com](http://flagpodcast.com)); and showed how she had sewn a mask using fabric from an actual Oregon state flag (see p. 1).



Jessie Spillers gestures skyward.

Michael Orelove recounted his and Kathleen Forrest’s adventures in mask-making (see p. 10) and his challenge to 15 members of her family (including grand-kids aged 8 to college) to construct flags out of felt.



Brittany Vega shared flag-related *NYT* clippings from her studio.



Michael Orelove shows his own entry in his family “felt flag challenge”.

*Continued on next page*



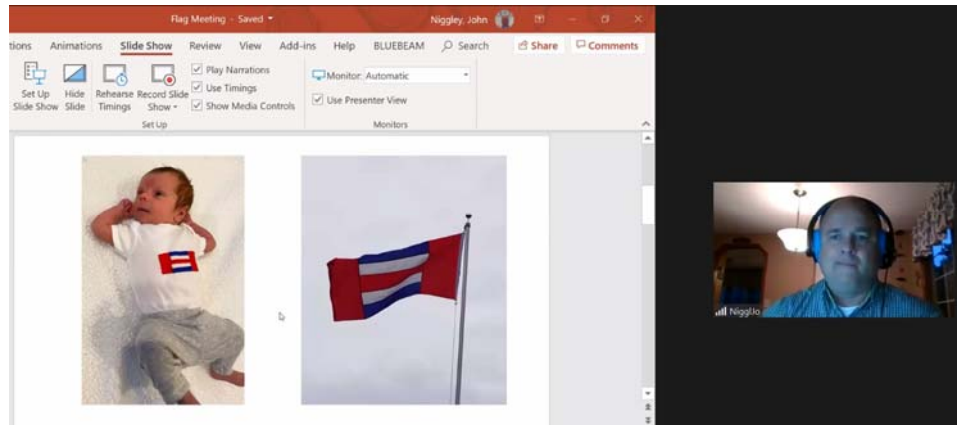
**Max Liberman updates Canada's arms.**

Max Liberman described his latest effort to redesign the arms of Canada using native fauna and country-wide symbolism, invoking Ted's editorial in *VT* 81 about representing everyone collectively rather than each one individually.

Scott Mainwaring announced that the NAVA Facebook group "Flags & Vexillology" had exceeded 3,000 members; he displayed the flag of Brigus, Newfoundland; he showed his proposals for a NAVA 54 flag; and he described how he blogs for the PFA (currently with a large number of COVID-19-related flags and usage)—he asks members and readers to send items to him at [info \[at\] portlandflag.org](mailto:info[at]portlandflag.org).



**Scott Mainwaring displays the flag of Brigus, Newfoundland.**



**John Niggley challenges the participants to decode the flag he'd designed for his neighbors' newborn. Hint: it includes national flag elements, a nautical signal flag, and an actual letter.**

John Niggley described celebrating the birth of the neighbors' baby with a flag invoking his mother's nationality (Canada), and first and last initials (C and H); then shared images of flags he flies in honor of his company's overseas business.

Matt Bray recounted some of his world travels, where he acquired flags including that of Tonga, and complimented the *VT*. His wife, Katie, joined for the later part of the meeting.



**Matt Bray, attending for the first time, promises to bring the Tonga flag to a future meeting.**

Our next meeting will be hosted by Ted Kaye on 9 July, either at his home or again on Zoom.



**Ken Dale posts: "This was at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Portland last year in preparation for Memorial Day. About 4,000 vets were buried there before Willamette National Cemetery opened across the road. We will not place flags this year, nor will Boy Scouts across the country."**

## COVID-19 Messages

*On 4 April 2020, New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, wrote to New Yorkers:*

Oregon Governor Kate Brown has offered to provide New York with 140 ventilators from Oregon's stockpile. We are so grateful to Governor Brown and the people of Oregon. New York State will repay the favor when Oregon needs it. This generous offer is an inspiring example of the solidarity that other states are showing to New York.

*In response, Al Cavalari, of the Flag Guys® in Windsor, New York, wrote:*

Thanks for the Ventilators!

In March of 1774 the British government issued the Boston Port Act as punishment for the Boston Tea Party. The Royal Navy blockaded the harbor and closed it completely. The idea was to starve the Bostonians into submission, destroy their economy by throwing them out of work and cutting them off from imports. Nothing was to get in or out.

Boston responded by sending a letter to the other colonial governments. The letter did not ask for material aid. It only asked that the other colonies respond by cutting off their own commerce with Great Britain. The letter was signed "Your friends and fellow countrymen".

The other colonies responded by sending shipments of food and supplies to the beleaguered Bostonians. Say a wagon of flour, from Rhode Island, maybe a herd of sheep from Connecticut. Maybe a shipment of something



else from South Carolina. Virginia declared a day of fasting and prayer in support of Boston.

The British planned that their action, one of four punitive measures known collectively as The Intolerable Acts, would serve to destroy the colonies' resistance by shattering their collective unity and dividing them. It had quite the opposite effect. It served to unite them around a response to a common threat. It also led directly to the First Continental Congress held in Philadelphia that very September. There in the tiny room of Carpenters Hall, still standing, for the first time 13 hearts began to beat as one.

E Pluribus Unum.

Well, actually 12 hearts. Georgia couldn't make it but the imagery is better with 13. Now we know, Oregon would have been there too.

Thank you to the Great State of Oregon from "Your friends and fellow countrymen" in New York State.

Excelsior!

—Al Cavalari

This letter appeared in  
*The Oregonian* on 8 April 2020

*The writer is a longtime friend of the PFA and a NAVA member, currently serving as its shopkeeper.*



*The UK's on-line Flag Shop  
([www.theflagshop.co.uk/](http://www.theflagshop.co.uk/))  
announced near the end of March:*

Support our NHS and say Thank You. In these unprecedented times there are heroes everywhere, nowhere more so than within our NHS [National Health Service].

We urge everyone to show their appreciation, however you can! At The Flag Shop we also want to express our gratitude and we will therefore donate 50% of all proceeds from every NHS flag sale to the COVID-19 fundraiser.



Thank-You flag for the UK's  
National Health Service.



Variant flag for the UK's  
National Health Service.

## A Conversation with John Cartledge on Flag Design

*John Cartledge writes:*

Something's troubling me. The guidelines on good flag design in *GFBB* and the NAVA/FI principles have always seemed to me so sound as to be (without intending any discourtesy) almost self-evident, as soon as one stops to think about the matter.

Yet when I look at the additions to FOTW in *Vexi-News* each week, I am struck by how few of them are compliant. The prevalence of seals and badges, plus lettering, is striking, and I am wondering why this is. It may be that the designers of many of these flags are not aware of *GFBB*, but even if they aren't, you'd assume that most of them would come up with something compatible with it simply from an instinctive awareness of good design principles.

Has there been any discussion or correspondence about this? Has anyone actively challenged what you recommend? Are there cultural factors at work here of which I'm unaware? What's going on?

I recall challenging speakers at presentations on Canadian and Croatian town flags about why many of those they showed would be very difficult to recognise in practice, but neither seemed especially concerned. In the Canadian case this was because (allegedly) specimens of these flags existed only in the bottom drawer of the mayor's desk, and were never seen. In the Croatian case, it was because they were flown only above the relevant town hall, so their meaning was obvious from the context and they did not have to be recognisable.

But can this be universally so?

*Ted Kaye responds:*

I share your concerns. Restating them as a question: Why do so many new flags run counter to the basic principles of good flag design, now readily available through the widespread accessibility and awareness of *Good Flag*, *Bad Flag* and related guidance?

I reluctantly conclude that three major factors come into play:

- The overwhelming mass of existing poor flag designs gives people the wrong models to emulate and overwhelms good advice—for example, as the most widely-flown U.S. state flag format is a seal-on-a-bedsheet; that conditions citizens to view that as an acceptable design form.
- The lack of importance attributed to the flags (the lower in the governmental hierarchy, the less attention they get: countries rate great flag designs as they lead nations in war, peace, sports, etc.; states/provinces less so, and cities even less).
- A resistance to “outside influence”—rejecting authority, not wanting to be told what to do, and insisting “only WE know how to represent ourselves on a flag”.

Supporting this, an examination of the recent city flag designs compiled on [portlandflag.org](http://portlandflag.org) by Masao Okazaki and Scott Mainwaring shows mixed results—a range from great to poor.

However, taking the long view, I'm heartened that in nearly every case, flag designs are changing for the better...while sometimes not as much as we'd like, but still improving. Furthermore, the very fact that cities are taking on change means a growing appreciation of the value of flags—for civic cohesion and branding.

*John Cartledge responds:*

Taking the discussion a bit further, it occurs to me that while the flags listed in supplements to FOTW are usually those of official/professional/voluntary bodies, most I see around town every day are not. They're much more likely to be commercial (outside filling stations, building sites, supermarkets, hotels, etc.) and consist simply of a logo (often containing words) a bedsheet. The reason why they're not fit—they're designed as logos, for use in advertising media, and simply turned into flags as an afterthought. They're not designed with a vexillological application in mind, and that's why they don't work.

One exception is the logo of the P+O shipping company, which is very effective. It combines the former Spanish and Portuguese national colours, because these were the countries to which the Peninsular (i.e. Iberian) +Oriental line's ships originally sailed. But it was designed as a flag to be flown on vessels—and only became a logo later, reversing the more usual sequence. *QED*.



The makers of commercial flags usually can't be bothered to print them on both sides, so half the time what you see is the image reversed. Thus, for example, a supermarket chain called Morrisons flies a flag proclaiming it snosirroM. And a retail chain called M+S (abbreviated from Marks+Spencer) flies flags apparently proclaiming that what's on offer is S+M. This could lead to some interesting encounters at the check-out.

*John Cartledge is a frequent UK-based contributor to VT.*



1:1



1:2



2:3



8:11



13:15



1:  $\frac{6136891429688 - 306253616715\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{118 - 48\sqrt{2}}(934861968 + 20332617192\sqrt{2})}{4506606337686}$

### Flag Proportions

A reader sent in this recapitulation of differing national flag proportions, expressed in precise mathematical terms.

Readers: please check the math.

### Got Salt?

By Michael Orelove

In 1999 I made about 100 salt shakers in my image to send out as holiday gifts.

Since then some things have changed. I don't have a mustache and I have less hair. Some things have not changed. I still have holes in my head.

Since Kathleen and I now use less salt in our diets I use the salt shaker as a flag stand for toothpick flags.

The photo below shows flags from Cinco de Mayo and Earth Day.



This BR-GW meeting may be a myth, but it abides in U.S. popular culture.



Michael Orelove's salt shakers.

## Flags in the Style of Another

By David Koski

I've been intrigued by on-line vexillographers who enjoy adapting one flag in the style of another. At one point I considered creating every national flag in the style of every other, but soon abandoned that.

The concept remained, and I began to explore different ways that a flag could take another's style.

That let me to experiment with the flags of Cuba and Puerto Rico (both originated in New York!).

I exchanged their colors, I spliced them together in various ways, then I spliced the resulting flags together again. Note that the shade of blue and the size of the star vary between the original flags, with unusual results.



Cuba and Puerto Rico in the style of each other.

## Women's Suffrage

By Michael Orelove

Alice Paul founded the National Woman's Party in 1916 as a lobbying organization to promote women's suffrage. She created a huge banner in suffrage colors (yellow, white, and purple) to which she added a star as each state ratified the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The final flag has 36 stars, representing the 36 states (3/4 of the then-48 states) needed to pass the amendment.

I recently bought three replica suffrage flags and gave one each to my daughter-in-law, niece, and granddaughter.

My daughter-in-law, Pam Turlove, took the flag paddle-boarding. (She tried to use it as a sail but there was not enough wind.)

The replica flag is a reminder of the hard work done by the National Woman's Party to grant U.S. women the right to vote, a 72-year struggle finally successful in 1920.



Pam Turlove with the Alice Paul Banner.



## “Rogue States”



**MATOBO**  
*The Interpreter* (USA, 2005)



**UNNAMED COUNTRY**  
*Z* (France, 1969)



**UNNAMED COUNTRY**  
*Iron Eagle* (USA, 1986)



**VAL VERDE**  
*Commando* (USA, 1985)



**VAL VERDE**  
*Die Hard 2* (USA, 1990)



**TAZBEKISTAN**  
*Ambassadors* (UK, 2013)



**SAN MONIQUE**  
*Live and Let Die* (USA, 1973)



**HATAY**  
*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (USA, 1989)



**SALOUF**  
*Where the Spies Are* (France, 1966)



**MAGUADORA**  
*Whoops! Apocalypse* (UK, 1982)



**ZAMUNDA**  
*Coming to America* (USA, 1988)



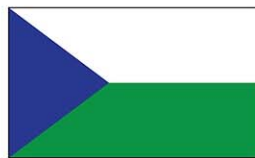
**NAMBUTU**  
*Casino Royale* (USA, 2006)



**QUEMADA**  
*Burn!* (USA, 1969)



**UNNAMED COUNTRY**  
*Help!* (UK, 1965)



**PETROVIA**  
*Air Strike* (USA, 2004)



**ZANGARO**  
*The Dogs of War* (USA, 1980)



**WADIYA**  
*The Dictator* (USA, 2012)



**TOMANIA**  
*The Great Dictator* (USA, 1940)



**UNNAMED ISLAMIC COUNTRY**  
*Superjail* (USA, 2007)



**UNNAMED AFRICAN COUNTRY**  
*Banzai* (France, 1983)



**SLOVETZIA**  
*The Beautician and the Beast* (USA, 1997)



**NIBIA**  
*Ace Ventura* (USA, 1994)

Mixed-media conceptual artist Stephanie Syjuco exhibited “Rogue States” (2018), at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis in 2019. Part of the artist’s “ongoing exploration into the power and meaning of flags and banners”, it consists of 22 flags reproduced from American and European movies that depict “enemy nations” through a Western lens.



“Rogue States” flags on display at CAM in St. Louis (stephaniesyjuco.com).

## Roundup

By Michael Orelove

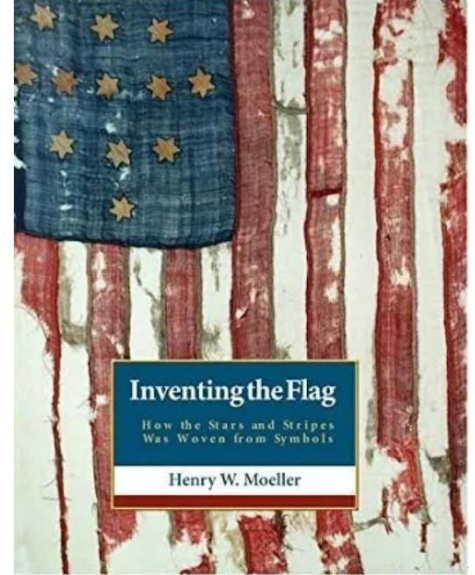
Kathleen Forrest made face masks for both of us for when we go out shopping.

She had a set of napkins with various holiday themes. She decided to sacrifice two during the current COVID-19 crisis to keep us safe and flaggy.

For her own mask she used the St. Patrick's Day napkin—green with clovers. For my mask she used the 4th of July napkin.

She downloaded a pattern from the internet and got out her sewing machine.

In a few hours we had our masks—and two less napkins.



Longtime NAVA member Henry W. Moeller's *Inventing the American Flag: How the Stars and Stripes Was Woven from Symbols* was published by Roaring Forties Press in Berkeley, California, in late 2019. The culmination of decades of research, the 320-page book has more than 100 full-color illustrations.

It's available on Amazon.com and from [roaringfortiespress.com](http://roaringfortiespress.com).



Kathleen Forrest creates the mask and Michael Orelove tries it out.



Cutting out the patterns for the masks.



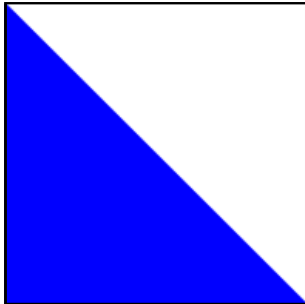
At Nordia House in S.W. Portland, the flags of Nordic countries fly in alphabetical order: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden (as captured by David Koski—that's a Finnish name).

## What's that Flag?

By John Cartledge

Name these flags and identify the theme connecting them.

Answers in the next issue...



## What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

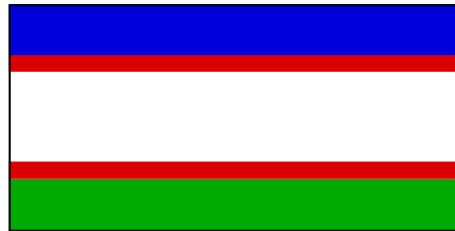
By Scott Mainwaring

These flags represent cities along the Equator (all lie within 5 degrees).

Congrats to solvers Tony Burton, John Cartledge, Bill Neckrock, and Mike Thomas.



Kinshasa, DR Congo



Cali, Colombia



Singapore



Quito, Ecuador



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



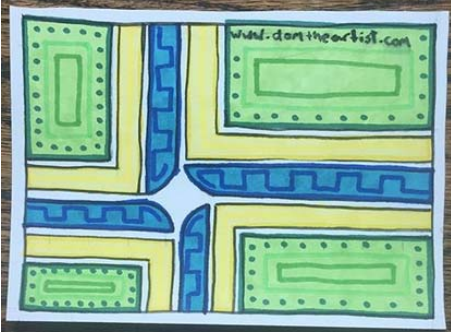
Guayaquil, Ecuador



Nairobi, Kenya



## Portland Flag Miscellany



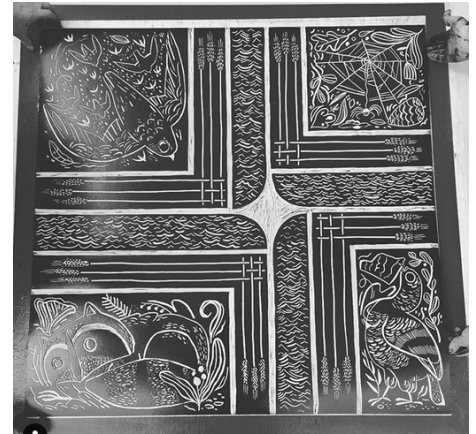
A Portland Flag postcard by local artist Dominic Anaya ([domtheartist.com](http://domtheartist.com)). He posted this to Instagram (@domtheartist503) saying “No, not all my postcards are winners. Not sure I’m even going to use this one. Unless you’re into vexillology, you might not recognize this design, but it’s the flag of Portland, Oregon.”



<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAQtHxnhOTz>  
@jennymoffatt posted on Instagram: The Portland flag never looked so beautiful! Thank you @3rdperiodstudio @rudyz3!! I absolutely love it. Gorgeous hand work. 3rd Period Studio is a store in St. Louis, Missouri, run by artist Katherine C. Huelsing.



A Portland building sports the tribar Cascadia flag, complete with an actual tree (Douglas fir?).  
*Thanks to Russ Olson.*



<https://www.instagram.com/p/BnxDBqmhwt>

An example of one “flag in the style of another”: the city of Portland in the style of the nation of Seychelles (see p. 8 for David Koski’s ideas) ...from a reddit poster who is “Putting the LOL in vexillology”.



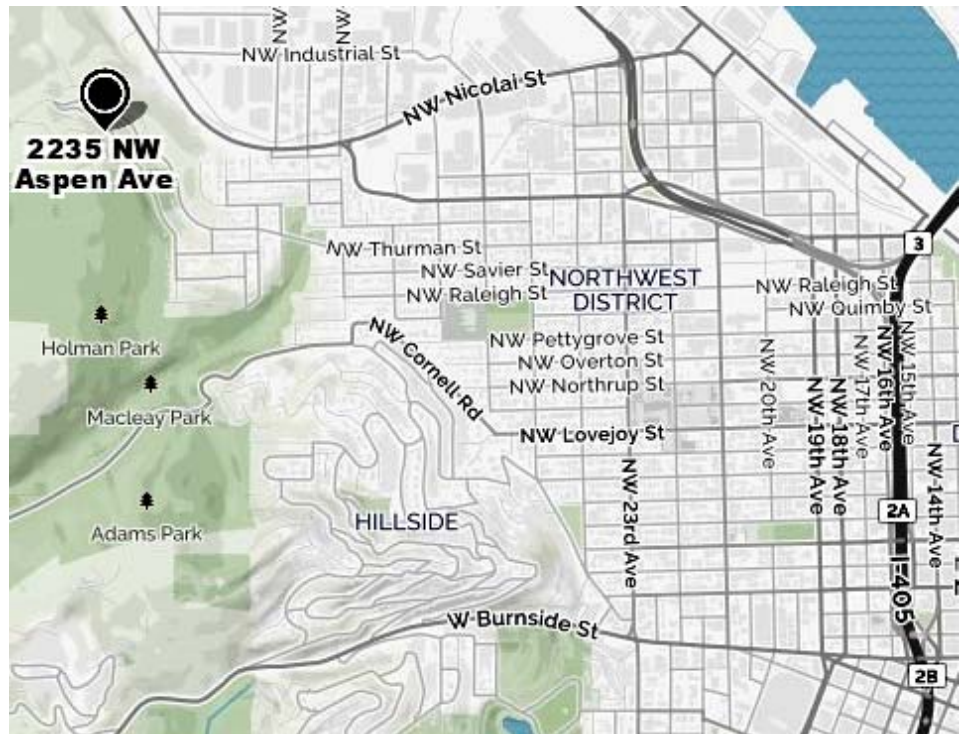
## July Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association (COVID-19 allowing), will be at 7 PM, Thursday, 9 July 2020, at the home of **Ted Kaye: 2235 NW Aspen Ave., Portland, OR 97210**—enter on Belgrave.

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion. Newcomers are welcome!

If you can’t get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at [www.portlandflag.org](http://www.portlandflag.org).