



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 93 April 2022

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Flags—For and Against	1
March 2022 Flutterings	2
Michael's Flag Room	5
Crowned Republics?	6
Larry Snyder's Family Heraldry	7
Flags in Support of Ukraine	8
A New Flag is Born	9
A Flag for Tigard—Ideas	10
The Flag Quiz	11
Portland Flag Miscellany	12
Next Meeting	12

## Flags—For and Against... Unite or Divide

By David Ferriday

It is often said that the three things necessary for human existence are food, clothing, and shelter. That may be true of the human body, but what about the human spirit?

I have been considering what else is needed for a fuller life. These might be learning, health (medical care), and what I'm calling “celebration”.

Celebration includes the arts, religion, sports, and the things we especially care about that give our lives meaning.

Flags can be included in this category. But flags are two-sided—literally and symbolically.

While a flag can represent any group of humans (a nation, a city, a social collection of people, an army, a company, whatever), it can also divide us into separate groups, sometimes at odds with one another.

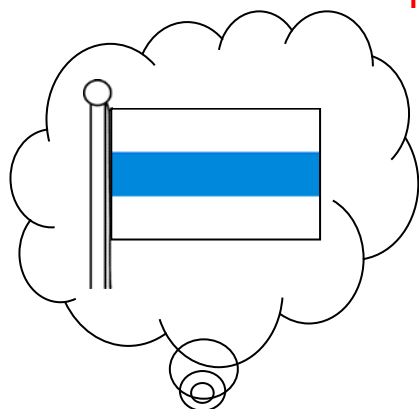


The People of Ukraine.



The People of Russia.

The terrible war in Ukraine illustrates the power of flags to show division and conflict. What is necessary is for us all not to lose sight of the ordinary people whom flags represent, not just their governments and militaries. Even in conflict, all flags, like all people, deserve respect.



***We are proud of our flag.  
We may not be proud of what  
our government is doing, but  
the government is not the flag.***

— Jaime Vazquez

[portlandflag.org](http://portlandflag.org) | [facebook.com/portlandflag](https://facebook.com/portlandflag) | [instagram.com/portlandflag](https://instagram.com/portlandflag)

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.

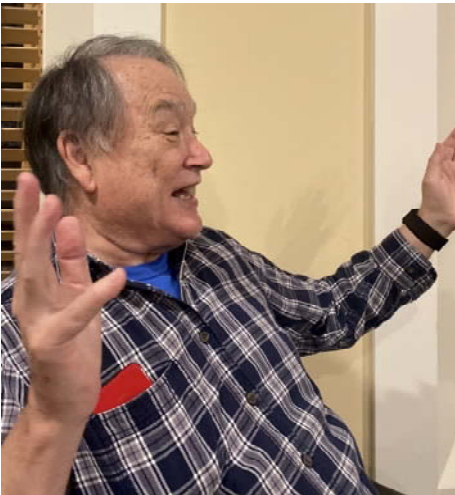
## March 2022 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our March meeting, hosted and moderated by Jessie Spillers in his Legends conference room and streamed via Zoom, 16 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation.

Jessie began the meeting describing the challenge to web designers of finding symbols to represent languages—flags are an obvious solution but pose some issues (what to use for English, for example)—he cited [flagsarenotlanguages.com](http://flagsarenotlanguages.com).



Laptops bring remote participants into the meeting.



Jessie Spillers moderates the meeting.



Michael Orelove unfurls the flag of Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday.

Max Liberman, wearing a flag tie, gave an engaging presentation on “crowned republics”: countries with post-Soviet flags bearing crowns despite having no monarchy; these crowns perhaps instead symbolize sovereignty (see p. 6).



Alden Jencks enjoys flag art sent him as thanks by students.

Michael Orelove took us through a year of the now-11 federal holidays, showing the flags that might be flown for each—some were obvious, some received friendly debate.

Alden Jencks, having recently made a flag presentation to schoolchildren, displayed the flag-drawings and thank-you notes that they'd sent him.



Max Liberman describes non-monarchical flags with crowns, perhaps signifying sovereignty.



David Koski solicits feedback on prospective designs for Tigard, Oregon’s flag.



Ted Kaye unfurls the new flag of Salt Lake City, Utah.

David Koski described his initial work in designing a flag for his home city of Tigard, Oregon, using road system motifs (see p 10).

Ralph Bartlett (in Melbourne, Vic., Australia), proudly announced the publication of the proceedings of ICV 26 (Sydney, 2015) in pdf format via USB drive and on line ([flagsaustralia.com.au/proceedings.html](http://flagsaustralia.com.au/proceedings.html)), “beating the Poms”, whose ICV 27 proceedings are pending.

Ted Kaye nominated and members confirmed Max Liberman as the PFA’s delegate to the FIAV general assembly at July’s ICV 29 in Slovenia, then he unfurled the new Salt Lake City flag, which he’d helped usher to adoption.

Larry Snyder, our resident heraldist, presented images of banners he had created for family members, based on prior coats of arms he’d developed (see p. 7).

Chris Maddish (in Pennsylvania) participated with a Zoom background consisting of the “Appeal to Heaven” flag bearing as its central emblem Charlie Brown’s kite-eating tree.



Ralph Bartlett exults over the publication of the ICV 26 proceedings.



Chris Maddish updates a historic flag design with popular culture.



Larry Snyder explains banners of family arms.



Graham Houser poses suitably attired.

*Continued on next page*

John Niggley told how after he hoisted a Ukrainian flag, a neighbor left a bouquet of sunflowers at the base of the pole.

Scott Mainwaring showed PFA Instagram posts relating to the Ukrainian flag, then described his work documenting flag-based art.

William and Joyce Gifford shared an image of flag we identified as a U.S.-Mexico mash-up, then related their recent experiences selling Ukrainian flags.

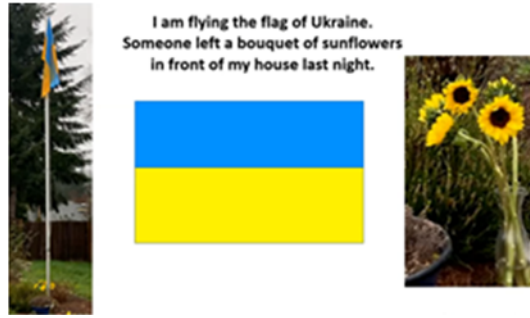
Al Cavallari (in New York), shared a number of images of the U.S. State of the Union address in which many members of congress wore yellow and blue clothing in support of Ukraine.



**Al Cavallari comments on the prevalence of Ukrainian colors at the recent State of the Union address.**



**Graham Houser explores a 1913 no-stars-flag mystery.**



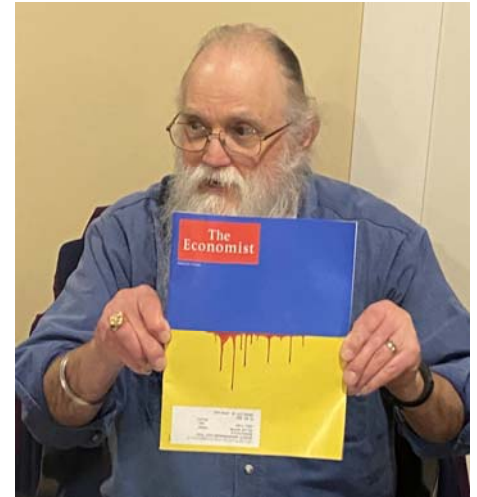
**John Niggley relates his experiences flying the Ukrainian flag.**



**Scott Mainwaring describes Ukrainian-flag Instagram posts.**

Graham Houser posed a flag mystery—a 1913 photo of the U.S. congressional count of electoral votes appears to show a U.S. flag with no stars...one explanation was an inadvertent backward display.

Alex Zimmerman shared a 2004 book from the Flag Institute, *British Flags & Emblems* (by Graham Bartram with a foreword by the Duke of Edinburgh), lauding its thoroughness.



**William Gifford shows an *Economist* with Ukrainian flag dripping blood.**



**Alex Zimmerman shows the Flag Institute's *British Flags & Emblems*.**

Our next meeting, on May 12, 2022, will be hosted by Joyce and William Gifford at the Oregon City Library. Ted Kaye will deliver the PFA flag to them.

We also expect to stream the meeting via Zoom again, to welcome our local members and far-flung friends.

## Michael's Flag Room

By Michael Orelove

When I moved into Kathleen's house, she gave me the small extra bedroom for my stuff. I have a lot of stuff. When I look around the room, I can count 9 flags.

- A flag my grandson made for me titled "The Republic of Michael Orelove", with images of my interests in the four quadrants: Gold Panning, Michael Mail, Time Capsules, and Astronomy.
- An American flag I made out of copper wire sometime in the 1970s.
- A small American flag that can be lowered on its flagpole for half-staff days.
- A tabletop flag of Mars. I made the flag for Mars in 2004.



The U.S. flag in copper wire.

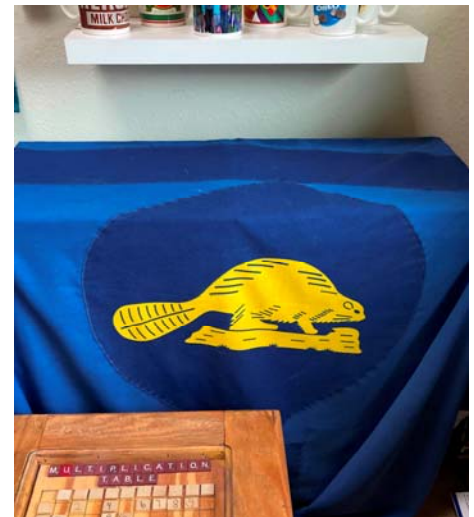


The flag of the Republic of Michael Orelove.

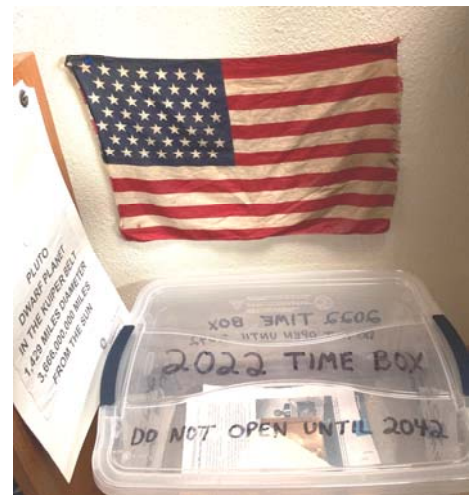
- A coffee mug with photos of three of Kathleen's granddaughters with small flags of all 50 states. They set up the display to sell Girl Scout cookies each year.
- A tabletop flag of the Philippines, for my daughter-in-law's heritage.
- A tabletop flag of Oregon.
- A 4' x 6' Oregon flag that flew in Juneau, Alaska's 50-state flag display. I was one of the volunteers that put up the flags each spring and took them down in the fall. I use the flag to cover six record storage boxes holding my other flags, beaver side up.
- A 49-star American flag representing my 33 years in Juneau (Alaska was the 49th state to join the Union).



The flags of U.S., Mars, Philippines, and Oregon; plus a coffee mug with flags.



The Oregon State Flag (reverse).



A 49-Star U.S. flag and time capsule.

## Crowned Republics?

By Max Liberman

After the fall of communist governments, a number of Eastern European countries readopted pre-communist flags and coats of arms. In some cases, these include monarchical symbolism despite the fact that the countries are now republics.

The flag of the Republic of Serbia prominently features a royal crown atop the arms. Its neighbor, Montenegro, also a republic, has a double-headed eagle with crown, orb, and scepter.



Serbia.



Montenegro.

Sometimes the national flag has no crown, but other official flags do. The president of Hungary's flag features St. Stephen's crown with its characteristic bent cross. The president of Russia has a tsarist eagle with three crowns.



Hungary, President.



Russia, President.

In Georgia, the president's flag has no crown, but the minister of defense does.



Georgia, Minister of Defense.

The symbolism, one might think, is not very apt. It's been asserted that "putting a crown on your country's flag is the visual equivalent of putting 'Kingdom of' before your country's name." I can't now recall where I found it put in those terms—if you recognize your own quotation, please let me know!

If these countries don't wish to restore their former monarchies, maybe they ought to alter their symbols accordingly. During the 1931–39 Spanish Republic, for example, the national arms' three royal crowns were replaced with the walls and towers of a mural crown—which dates back to the Roman Republic and is a common heraldic symbol of cities.



Spain, Arms of the Kingdom.



Spain, Arms of the Republic.

On the other hand, perhaps a crown doesn't have to imply a crowned head. The arms of San Marino, a republic since 301 C.E., have long featured a crown. It's meant purely as a symbol of sovereignty, an indication that San Marino is the equal of any sovereign kingdom.



San Marino.

And one former Soviet state uses a crown for a different reason altogether. On Tajikistan's flag, it alludes to the popular (though almost certainly false) etymology that links the country's name to the Persian and Arabic word *taj*, meaning "crown".



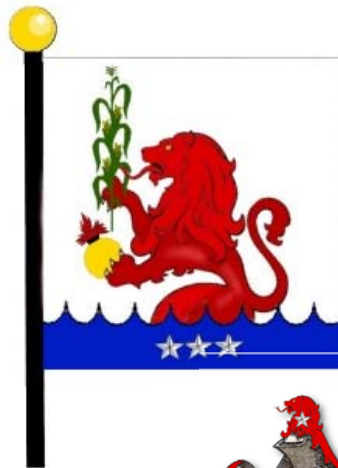
Tajikistan.

## Larry Snyder's Family Heraldry

By Larry Snyder

As an associate fellow of the International Association of Amateur Heraldry, I have developed coats of arms for my extended family and then banners derived from them.

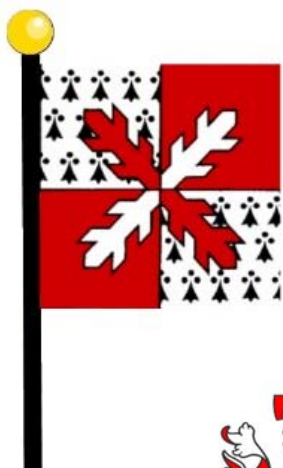
These arms, designed over the past 15 years, are all registered with either the American College of Heraldry and/or the United States Heraldic Registry. Each banner takes its design from the central shield of the arms.



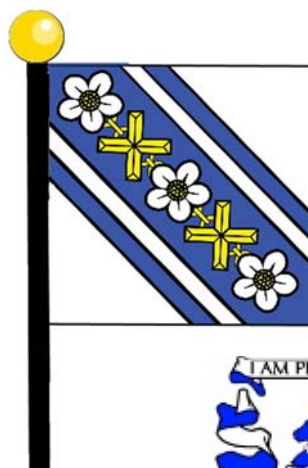
Firebaugh



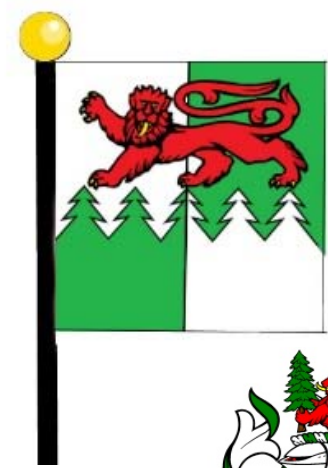
Meserve



Snyder



Frazier



Byles



## Flags in Support of Ukraine

By Alden Jencks

On Saturday, Feb. 26, I attended the “Support Ukraine” rally downtown and observed many flags.

At right, the trident of St. Volodimir is used very effectively as a finial.

Below is that trident again, used very effectively as the letter “U”. I just love this photo for several reasons. First, there’s the wonderful juxtaposition of the demure Ukrainian lasses and the earthy language. Then there is the spelling by the Ukrainians who may not have completely mastered English. Finally, the young ladies are sporting sunflowers (the national flower) in their hair. This is not a particularly good example, but the Ukrainian flag and colors are stunningly beautiful when displayed with spring flowers.



The trident as a finial.

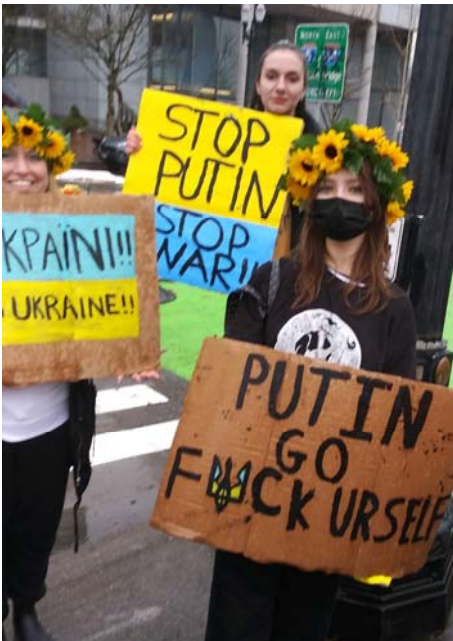
Speaking of saints, to the right is “St. Javelin”, Mary Magdalene depicted on the back of a sweatshirt holding an FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile launcher. This saint reminds me of an image I’d seen in Peru, with St. Michael’s armament upgraded from his traditional sword to an arquebus.

The Azerbaijan flag below may signal general support of Ukraine.



“St. Javelin” with a missile launcher.

Below a Belarus “pahonia” flag is tied on someone’s back—white with a red horizontal stripe and a shield with Grand Duke Vitaut.



Young women carry signs in support of Ukraine in downtown Portland.



Azerbaijan in solidarity?



Belarus in solidarity?



A week later I saw a flag wired to a fence in Brooklyn Park in S.E. Portland. It is painted on a piece of plywood. The heart is metallic gold color, which contrasts nicely with the yellow of the flag. I found the simple display very touching.



Ukraine flag with metallic gold heart.



A business at S.W. 9th and Washington flies two Ukrainian flags bearing the trident of St. Volodimir.



Ted Kaye's home display of the Ukrainian flag (top to the north).

## A New Flag is Born

By Al Cavalari

I have been trying to think of a flag to fly that could show support for those brave Russians who, at great personal risk, are defying their government by protesting the invasion of Ukraine. The official white-blue-red flag of Russia would fail—it would most likely be identified with support for Russia's invasion of its neighbor.

A PFA member suggested that a new flag would have to emerge organically as a result of a popular movement, and so one has.

The white-blue-white flag emerged spontaneously shortly after the invasion of Ukraine. Around the world people took to the streets to demand that Russian troops go home. According to Wikipedia, the flag began to appear alongside Ukrainian flags at those anti-war demonstrations. It is the Russian flag with the “bloody red stripe” removed; now white-blue-white.

The modern white-blue-red flag of Russia is called a militaristic symbol of Tsarist Russia and associated with its military power and violence. Removing the red stripe removes not only the stain of blood but also that symbol of authoritarian power.

Apparently Russians at home and abroad had the idea independently, in a “joint creation by the people. A truly collective protest.” I've placed an article on my business's website: [flagguys.com](http://flagguys.com).

Brave people are being arrested for showing this anti-war flag in Russia. The images below are from around the world.

See [whitebluewhite.info](http://whitebluewhite.info) and [meduza.io/en/feature/2022/03/16/a-new-symbol-of-russia-s-anti-war-movement](http://meduza.io/en/feature/2022/03/16/a-new-symbol-of-russia-s-anti-war-movement)



The Russian anti-war flag.



The anti-war flag with Ukraine's flag.



The white-blue-white flag in Seattle.

## A Flag for Tigard—Ideas

By David Koski

My home city, the S.W. Portland suburb of Tigard, has no flag.

As a graphic designer, I recently began to consider what might make a good design for such a flag.

Here I share the progression of my thoughts so far for a flag for Tigard—using the school colors that were dominant when I was young, the green representing unbuilt areas and the white representing highways and railway.

My first idea played on the concept of urban shifting to rural, with green and white lines transforming into smaller dimensions.

Originally named Tigardville, after a settler of 1852, Tigard's growth began with the arrival in 1907 of the Oregon Electric Railroad, which crossed Capitol Highway (now also called 99 W).

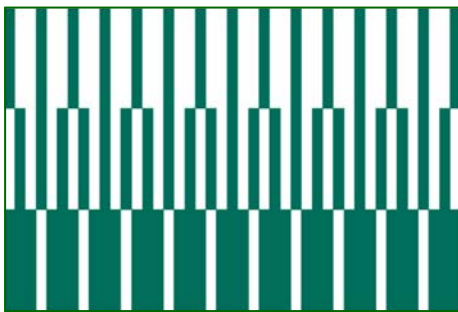
That “X” might form a distinctive theme for a flag. One idea crosses the railroad with the highway.

Today, the addition of Highway 217 creates a third thoroughfare. If the map is rotated to set them vertical and horizontal, the image could inspire a “crossed-H” theme.

While any resemblance to the letter H or to two small letters (tt) is purely coincidental, the design is immediately recognizable.

Various versions resulted, including one evoking the heraldic pattern called “grillage”.

This is a work in process...



The original idea.



Today's highways and commuter rail line, rotated.



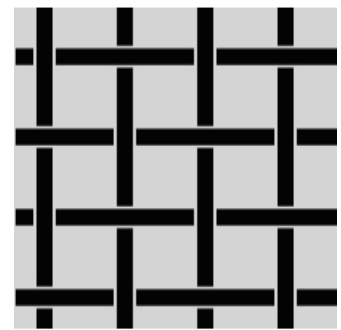
Tigard High School colors: green and white.



Tigard, 1916. The squares are houses.

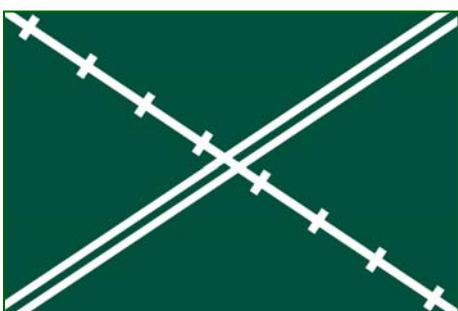


Modern era, round 1.



Grillage

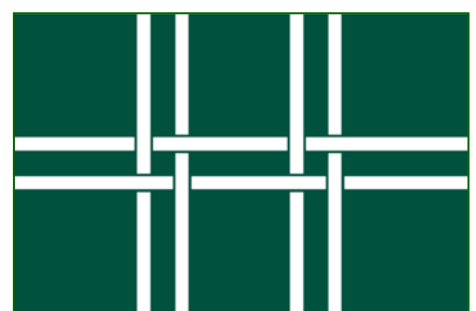
The heraldic pattern based on a grill.



Design with highway and railroad.



Modern era, round 2.

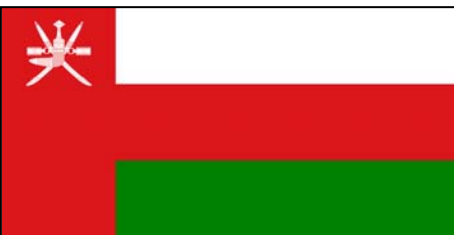


Modern era, based on “grillage”.

## What's that Flag?

By Scott Mainwaring

Identify these flags, and the “articulatory phonetics” theme based on their sequence. Answers in the next issue...



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

By Mike Thomas

These are flags of organizations currently flying at the World Exhibition “Expo 2020” in Dubai.

Congrats to solvers Tony Burton, John Cartledge, & Bruce Stewart.



Francophonie



Gulf Cooperation Council



ASEAN



Organization for Islamic Cooperation



European Union



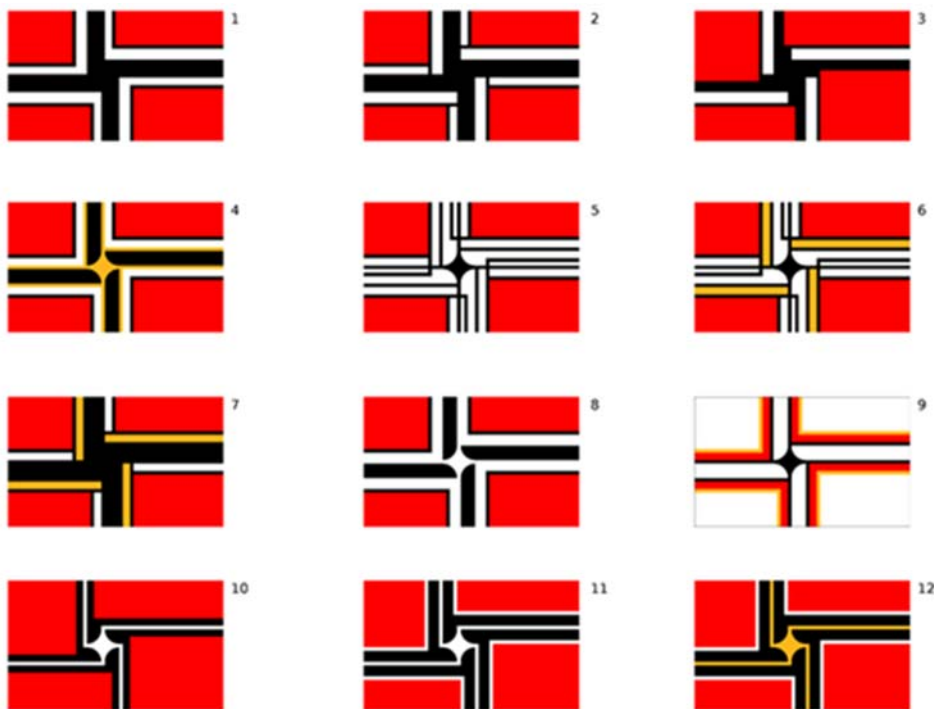
Arab League



African Union



## Portland Flag Miscellany



“These Portland City Flag Cornhole boards are a great way to show your city pride.”

The game comes complete with two regulation sized boards and eight cornhole bags (4 each of two colors).

\$200 at [cornholeworldwide.com](http://cornholeworldwide.com).

“A few flag proposals for the unlikely case that Portland is taken over by fascists.”  
(Posted by u/[deleted] on the r/vexillology subreddit 4 years ago.)

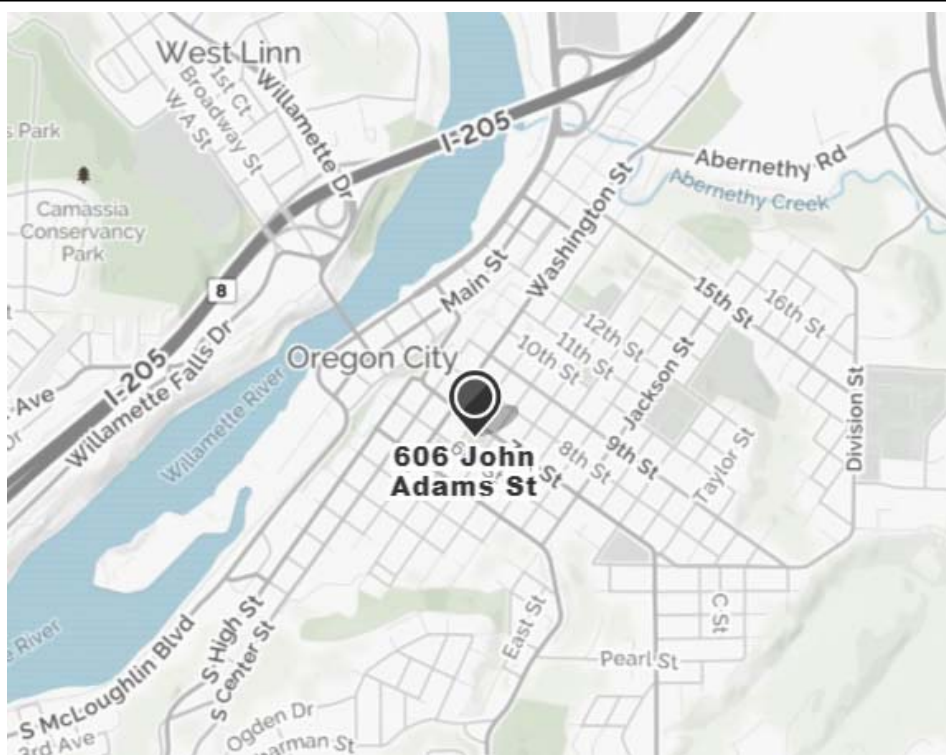
## May Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be hosted by Joyce & William Gifford at 7 PM, Thursday, 12 May 2022, at the Oregon City Public Library, 606 John Adams St, Oregon City.

Those who cannot attend in person should watch for a Zoom invitation.

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

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



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).