



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 110 February 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Change Hawaii's Flag?	1
January 2025 Flutterings	2
Irish Regimental Flags	4
ScanFair 2024	5
Edgar Flag	7
Banner-Carrying Gabriel Hurricane	8
There's a Flag for That	9
Roundup	10
The Flag Quiz	11
Portland Flag Miscellany	12
Next Meeting	12

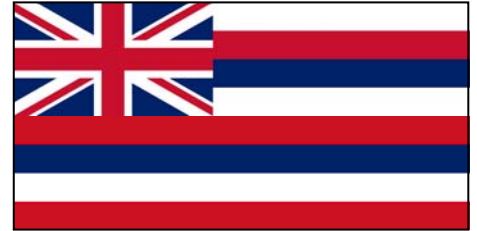
Change Hawaii's Flag?

By Ted Kaye

Should Hawaii change its state flag? I hope not. Yes, it recalls a troubled past, yet it has had a deep and abiding history spanning 200+ years of the Kingdom, Territory, and State of Hawaii, with a much greater claim to historical relevance than even California's flag.

However, HB1385 would create a commission to lead the process of redesigning the state flag. Submitted by Rep. Andrew Garrett, the proposal has already stirred controversy. It reads:

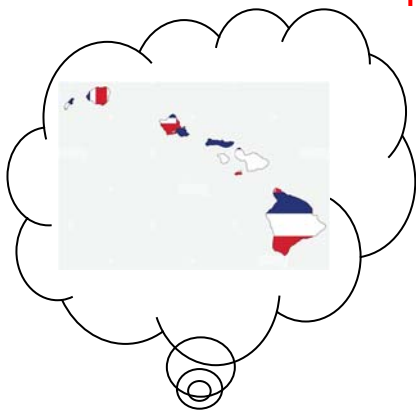
This bill establishes the Hawaii State Flag Redesign Commission to create a new state flag that better represents the diverse cultural identity of Hawaii. The commission will be housed within the Department of Accounting and General Services and will consist of 13 members, including the executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (who will serve as chairperson), two senators, two representatives, four members from Native Hawaiian organizations, and four cultural historians. The commission's responsibilities include leading community engagement, conducting public education



Hawaii's flag, adopted in a similar form by Kamehameha I in 1816.

campaigns, hosting forums and workshops, and soliciting design proposals from the public. Members will serve without compensation but can be reimbursed for expenses. The bill acknowledges the current flag's historical roots in the Hawaiian Kingdom and recognizes the complex legacy of colonization and annexation. The commission is tasked with developing a new flag design that honors Hawaii's Native Hawaiian foundation while reflecting its contemporary multicultural identity. The commission must submit a report with its recommended flag design to the legislature before the 2026 regular session and will cease to exist on December 31, 2026. The legislation aims to create a more inclusive and representative state symbol through a transparent and collaborative process.

With all the other state flags that merit revisiting more, perhaps in its collective wisdom the Hawaii legislature will not pass the bill.



Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono
(The life of the land is
perpetuated in righteousness.)

— Kamehameha III, upon raising
the flag in 1843

portlandflag.org | facebook.com/portlandflag | 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. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

January 2025 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our January meeting, hosted by Jessie Spillers at his residence at Legends in Portland and streamed via Zoom, 9 members and guests enjoyed two and a half hours of flags and video conversation.

As host, Jessie moderated the session, with the PFA flag standing proudly behind him; he began with a presentation on the history of the flag of Turkey, where his daughter lives and he will visit soon (with the potential of moving there).

Graham Houser reported on NAVA's flag distribution project, with success getting flags into classrooms, and showed a Hungarian flag he'd differenced to recreate the 1956 protest version with the Soviet-style arms torn from the center, leaving a hole.



Graham Houser recapitulates the 1956 Hungarian protest flag.



Ted Kaye enjoys a cigar box felt from the early 1900s with a flag representing Poland.

Ted Kaye passed around several new additions to his flag-book library, then exhibited "cigar box felts" from the early 1900s bearing period flag images.

Max Liberman continued his deliberations on flags of heads of states, sharing some that show political party symbols and change with administrations.

Kirin Cowell-Shah, joining us for the first time in three years or so, described his incipient research into city and state flag redesign efforts, and a potential project to document all the flags displayed in classrooms at Lincoln High School.



Kirin Cowell-Shah describes his flag research at Lincoln High School.



Jessie Spillers explains the history of the Turkish flag.



Max Liberman shows a Kenyan presidential flag (2013–22) with a party symbol (the TNA's dove).



John Niggley (l) unfurls the flag of Osh, Kyrgyzstan (assisted by Graham Houser).

John Niggley brought several flags, including those of Bermuda, Malaysia, Penang (a province in Malaysia), and Osh (the second-largest city in Kyrgyzstan), plus personalized flags he'd created to celebrate the births of neighbor children.

Alden Jencks delivered a PowerPoint presentation on an interesting and compelling exhibit at Astoria's Columbia River Maritime Museum on Japanese *yosegaki hinomaru* (寄せ書き日の丸, good luck flags), created by the Obon Society (obonsociety.org).



Alden Jencks narrates his presentation on Japanese good luck flags.



Alex Zimmerman displays the flag of the Helsingborg Yacht Club (Sweden).

Alex Zimmerman, back from a recent visit to Sweden, displayed the flag of the Helsingborg Yacht Club, and described a conversation with the owner of the flag company which had produced it (who encountered issues with the precise color required).



Ralph Bartlett joins at lunchtime in a Melbourne, Australia, suburb.

Ralph Bartlett, zooming in from Victoria, Australia, described the tradition and shared an images of the annual Christmas cake presented to the U.K by Australia, replete with Australian flag symbolism. (see p. 6).

Our next meeting, on Thursday, March 13, 2025, will be hosted by Mike Hale at his home in Beaverton.

Ted retained the PFA flag for him. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends.



Irish Regimental Flags

By Gary Flanders

During a recent visit to Dublin, my wife and I toured St Patrick's Cathedral. There we saw the many regimental flags on display. Many are over 100 years old. All have been carried into battle by an Irish soldier.

Contrary to American conservation traditions, in Great Britain and Ireland, once such flags are placed on display they are never touched again. They are allowed to "decay" as an example of how soldiers served and sacrificed.

According to our docent, each day before the doors open, a designated person walks under each flag to collect any dust or fabric that has fallen from it. That material is then filed in a special place under the name of the flag.



Irish regimental flags "laid up" in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland. They are not conserved or preserved, but rather left to disintegrate as a memorial to those who carried them.



More Irish regimental flags "laid up" in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland.

ScanFair 2024

By Alden Jencks

Nordic Northwest sponsors the annual ScanFair, which each December brings Scandinavia to Portland through traditional food

and drink; entertainment focused on cultural heritage; games, activities, and crafts; welcoming local community organizations—and, of course, many FLAGS!



A Viking ship bears flag shields.



A young visitor channels her inner Scandinavian in front of flag designs.



A display of Sámi folk art includes the Sámi flag, a “Nomadic Artistry” sign, reindeer horns, and little national flags on the table.



Five Nordic flags announce the entrance to ScanFair.

Ceremony of the Christmas Fruit Cake

By Ralph Bartlett

The Royal Hospital Chelsea celebrated the annual Ceremony of the Christmas Cake—now in its 75th year—in December 2024.

A much-loved festive tradition dating to 1949, the Christmas Cake Ceremony celebrates the enduring friendship between the U.K. and Australia. This year, the flag-festooned cake was donated by the State of Victoria, and Agent-General for Victoria, Tim Dillon, presented it.

Why does Australia donate a traditional English Christmas Fruit Cake each year? Because immediately after WWII, Britain was very short of fresh food supplies, so when the then-Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip of Greece were married in November 1947, over 85% of their wedding cake ingredients were donated by Australia, including its fruit content.

Other British Commonwealth countries also contributed to the 12 official wedding cakes. This idea of fruit cake donation then became a Christmas Fruit Cake in 1949. Each year a different Australian State donates the Cake. In 2024 it was Victoria's turn.

Royal Hospital Chelsea was established by Charles II in 1682, to provide care and, if required, a home for British military veterans. They are affectionately called the “Chelsea Pensioners”.

The 2024 wedding cake featured the state flag of Victoria, the state's coat of arms, and symbols representing the RSL (Returned Services League—similar to the VFW or American Legion in the U.S.) and the Chief of Staff Association, which sponsored the cake.



The ceremonial cutting of the annual Christmas Fruit Cake.



The annual Christmas Fruit Cake, donated this year by the state of Victoria, Australia.



The presentation of the Christmas Fruit Cake in the Royal Hospital Chelsea, to Chelsea pensioners by the Agent-General for Victoria, Tim Dillon.

Edgar Flag

By Eddy James Anoniello

The “Edgar Flag” honors my grandfather, Edgar Reese Frachiseur Jr. I presented it to the Umatilla County Commission, as well as the Pendleton City Council, hoping to get the design adopted for the county or city.

Both groups very much enjoyed my flag design, however the Umatilla County Commissioners had already adopted a flag. The City Council for the City of Pendleton were looking for some different elements within a flag design to represent my city .

I’m hoping my flag design gains enough attention to be potentially adopted by the State of Oregon.



Eddy James Anoniello's design seeking adoption by a city, county, or state.



Andean Banner-Carrying Gabriel

By Alden Jencks

The Portland Art Museum is currently featuring its wonderful collection of Andean religious paintings. I have always loved the way in which indigenous artists of this region expressed timeless Christian themes in bold and refreshingly novel ways. Why, for example, must St. Michael always be armed with a sword? Why not a Spanish arquebus? Boy—a gun like that would really strike fear into the hearts of heretics and non-believers!

Among the two dozen Portland pieces, I sought in vain for a gun-slinging archangel. But I was not disappointed....for I was confronted with a wonderful Archangel Gabriel carrying a **regimental battle flag**. Gabriel was presumably the standard-bearer for an entire heavenly host of armed angels!

The curator's explanatory label (shown in full below) states that the banner was based on a picture in a Dutch military handbook.



The Archangel Gabriel, bearing a regimental battle flag, in a 1730 Andean-region painting.

Hurricane Survivor

By Rich Leibson

This flag flies on beaches when the ocean is closed, although it is not universally used.

I received this tattered one through the courtesy of Anastasia State Park, in St. Augustine, Florida. It is one of two “beach closed” flags that endured 2024’s hurricane season, surviving the effects of Helene and particularly Milton; it came down in October after Milton abated.



“Beach Closed” flag from St. Augustine, Florida’s Anastasia State Park, a hurricane survivor.

HIGHEST HEAVEN Andean Art from the Elvin Duerst Bequest

The glorious saints and archangels in this gallery were made in the Americas but far from the United States. Elvin A. Duerst's gift of works from the Spanish viceregal or colonial period in Central and South America from 1521 until the revolutions led by Simon Bolivar liberated these areas from Spanish control in 1821. This art represents a tradition rarely present in US museums but familiar to millions from Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico. The violent conquest of the Americas by Iberian powers, beginning in the sixteenth century, did not displace the peoples of the Incan and Aztec empires. Artists and artisans applied their advanced skills to the new religion of Christianity, producing an iconography and style completely new and reflective of their ancient cultures. The Duerst gift is shown here in its entirety, along with other examples of Ibero-American art of that period, as well as pre-contact works and contemporary art.

Oregon-born and educated Duerst was an American foreign aid worker who spent years in Central and South America and throughout the world with the United Nations, The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, and Stanford University. In addition to art of the viceregal period, Duerst also donated contemporary art to the Museum.

The Portland Art Museum has an excellent collection of Andean art.

Unidentified artist

Archangel Gabriel, ca. 1730

oil on canvas

Bequest of Elvin A. Duerst, 2010.25.14

Images of archangels were popular in the viceregal period and symbolized the power of God. Gabriel, perhaps the best known archangel, appeared to the Virgin Mary to tell her she was going to conceive and give birth to Jesus. The news led to the psychological wounds she would suffer as a mother witnessing her son's torture and death. The artist based Gabriel's pose and the position of his banner on a Dutch military handbook.

The Gabriel painting was a bequest to PAM from Elvin A. Duerst.

Park rangers waited to give it to me until they had a replacement in hand. I think they kept the other one, which was even more shredded.

These flags remind us all of the power of tropical storms and hurricanes—and St. Augustine only had glancing blows from them last year.

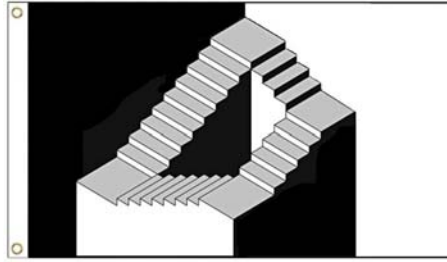
The flag now hangs as a banner in my office ... it has seen enough outdoor duty!

There's a Flag for That

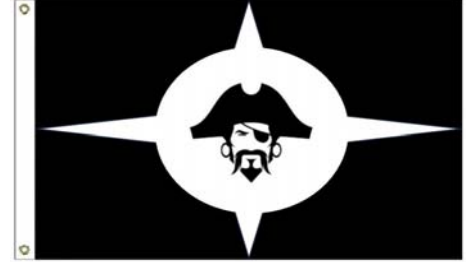
It takes an **inventive** mind to send an effective message. It takes an **artistic** mind to create an alluring design. It takes an **imaginative** mind to combine message and design onto the field of a flag. Take a look here for flags conjured by such inventive imaginations.

This is the philosophy of the blog "There's a Flag for That", which features a weekly item showing a flag honoring a specific day.

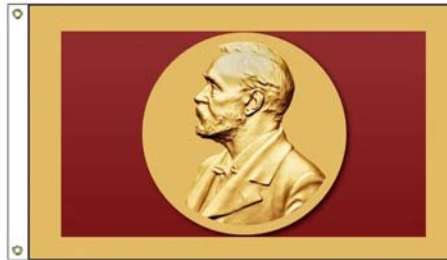
Check out the site seewhosalutes.com/blog to suggest designs and sign up for weekly reminders of the latest flag. Here are some recent examples.



Take the Stairs Day (2nd Wednesday).



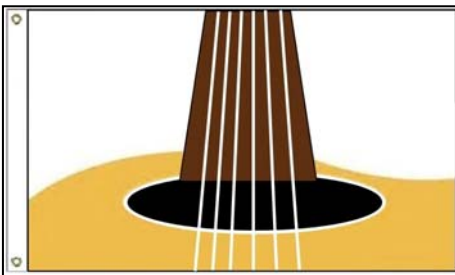
Talk Like a Pirate Day (9/26).



Nobel Prize (12/10).



Howl at the Moon Night (10/26).



Guitar Day (2/11).



PEX Candy Dispenser (12/2).



Chef's Day (10/20).



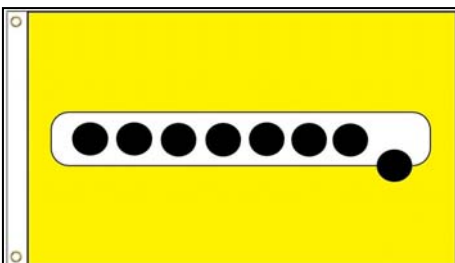
Optimist Day (2/6).



Bruce Lee's Birthday (11/27).



National Handbag Day (10/10).



Change Your Password Day (2/1).



Pay Back Your Parents Day (11/20).



Nat'l Coach Appreciation Day (10/6).

Roundup



A potential new flag for the U.S., reflecting a recent presidential proposal (forwarded by Andreas Herzfeld).



Flags For Good is offering Christopher DeCaro's redesign of the California flag for times of distress. \$3 of each sale goes to California wildfire relief efforts. flagsforgood.com



The flag of the micronation of the Marina Org Queendom is a horizontal tribar of yellow/blue/gray.

According to Goddess MARINA LEUILLET, the yellow symbolizes her fair hair, the blue symbolizes her blue eyes, and the gray symbolizes her silver toenails. The Queendom is officially recognized by the Republic of Saugeais, the Republic of Slowjamastan, and the Republic of Molossia.



Sighted at the German American Society: a) A German-American seal with the U.S. flag on the wrong side and b) A German-American pie-chart.



Aldén Jencks's former apartment was great for window displays and flag pole displays.

Note: 1) the "GERMANY" label behind the downspout, 2) the Netherlands flag in the window with label below it, and 3) the Montréal t-shirt with *fleur-de-lis*.

This display welcomed Sibylle to Portland!

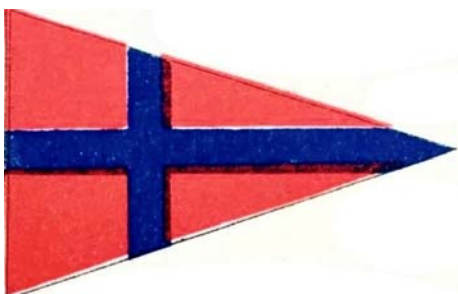


A Portland coffee-shop patron assented to a photo of his national-flag-festooned cap, with an unusual central image ((reggae forever?). carousell.com.my/p/fleece-beanie-unisex-shred-alert-1253870330/

What's that Flag?

By Bruce R. Stewart

Identify these flags and the theme that connects them.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By John Cartledge

These are the flags of the homes to the seven modern wonders of the world (see britannica.com/list/new-seven-wonders-of-the-world).

In each case the flag is that of the lowest tier of government that has a recognized flag,

Congratulations to solvers: Mike Thomas and Nikita Dudko.



China (Great Wall).



Yucatan, Mexico (Chichén Itzá).



Jordan (Petra).



Cusco, Peru (Machu Picchu).



Rome, Italy (Colosseum).



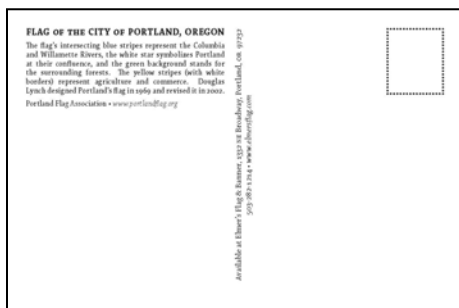
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Christ the Redeemer).



Uttar Pradesh, India (Taj Mahal).



Portland Flag Miscellany



With a new run of Portland flag postcards in hand, Ted Kaye offers to resupply PFA members, especially for use in efforts to promote the flag's public display. He'll bring them to future PFA meetings.



Portland's new mayor, Keith Wilson, holds a press conference in February. He stands with the city council's president, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, in front of national, state, and city flags.

(Photo by Tatum Todd, *Oregonian* staff.)



Alden Jencks asked this fellow if he realized that he was a walking Portland Flag.

He was flattered and interested, but said that, to his knowledge, no particular planning had gone into his outfit.

(TriMet is the Portland metro area's mass transit system.)

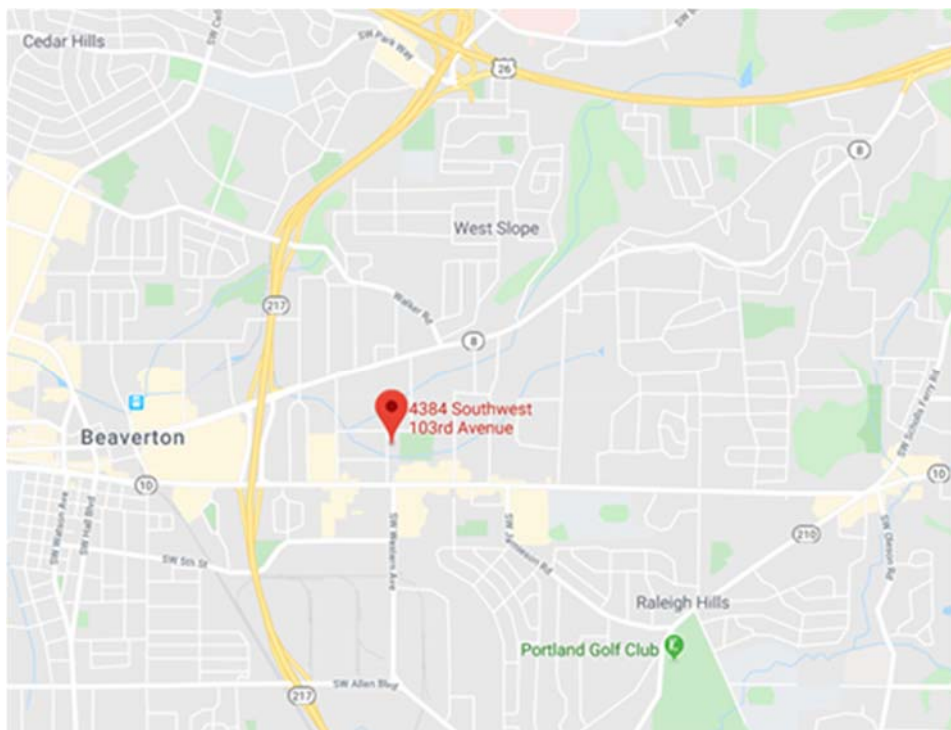
March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, March 13, 2025, hosted by Mike Hale at his home, 4384 SW 103rd Ave., Beaverton.

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 portlandflag.org.