

## Brit blogger tells the story of Astoria's 30th Ave. one person at a time

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A blogger from across the pond is telling the story of a major thoroughfare in [Astoria](#) - one person at a time.

[Annabel Short](#), 34, has created a blog where she will interview one person each week who lives or works on 30th Ave. from the [East River](#) to 57th St. for an entire year.

Short's blog, [30thave.org](#), already has an eclectic mix of shopkeepers, artists and neighborhood mainstays over the last four months.

The [London](#) native said she moved to Astoria two years ago for work and was fascinated by the neighborhood she now calls home.

"I live in this area and rather than let these interesting things pass me by, I want to find out what they are," she said.

Short said she came up with the idea after going for a long walk with her 10-month-old son Jack in November. The site went live in December and she began interviewing locals, hearing stories about their fears of gentrification and pride in Astoria.

"It's inspiring. I feel like I'm a conduit for them to tell their stories," Short said.

[Natalia Paruz](#), 36, lives on 30th Ave. and is better known by most in the neighborhood as the "Saw Lady."

She told Short in an interview posted in March that she taught herself how to produce angelic sounds from the saw and has done so for the last 17 years. Paruz said she was "honored" to be profiled on Short's blog.

"I've been living on this avenue for years and there are people I've always seen but never knew who they were," Paruz said.

[Bob Singleton](#), executive director of the [Greater Astoria Historical Society](#), was one of Short's first interviews on the site. Singleton gave her a historical perspective of 30th Ave. and said he hopes the blog will inspire more people to blog about their own areas.

"It's one of the most successful streets in this neighborhood and the fact that she's celebrating it is a wonderful thing," Singleton said.

Over the next two weeks, Short plans to interview [Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas \(D-Astoria\)](#) and a teacher from Public School 17.

Short said she plans to turn her blog into a book, but for now she is hitting the street - learning an important life lesson over and over again.

"Whatever you think about people is probably not true," she said.