

leschinews

January 2018 Issue No. 348

Leschi Community Council is a participating member of the Seattle Community Council Federation

Soothing a Hectic Season

Nicole Burns, Cellist, was one of four Garfield students to perform at our annual Holiday party on December 2. Read the story on page 4.



Image courtesy Joan Ervin

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

*No LCC meeting
this month*

Keep warm!

President's Message

Happy almost New Year as this newsletter may reach you before we actually ring in 2018. As we reflect on the tumultuous year we have had with great tragedies and great triumphs, our own local community ended the year with celebrations all around.

First, there was a drive to assist children in need that attend Leschi Elementary. It was a wonderful success with lots of gift cards that were so appreciated. The Annual Gala on December 2 at the Central Area Senior Center was a magical evening—wonderful dinner, outstanding musical entertainment, lots of glitter, sparkle, terrific auction items and fun was had by all. The Leschi Community Council's annual Holiday Party was held on December 6 with a Garfield High string quartet enthralling all with mesmerizing classical music.

Now as we look forward to our year ahead and decide to resolve to do things differently, may I add the following:

Endeavor to become more involved in your community, neighborhood, committees that interest you and embrace something new. Become all you can be. Stretch your comfort zone. Try something that challenges your sensibilities. Reach out to someone who needs a smile or a kind word. Let us walk proudly in our individuality and nurture the diversity of our little gem known as Leschi (which I affectionately call the *Village of Leschi*).

A happy and peaceful New Year to all!



Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council
janicemb@comcast.net

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Leschi Community Council
140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2
Seattle WA 98122-6538

President
Janice Merrill Brown
janicemb@comcast.net

Vice President
Trevor Lalish-Menagh
trev@trevreport.org

Secretary
Diane Snell
leschinews@comcast.net

Treasurer
Janet Oliver, janetoliver@seanet.com

Program Chair
Diane Snell, 206.726.0923

Parks and Greenspace
John Barber, 206-324-1548
barber-osa@comcast.net

Land Use Chair
Jeff Floor, jsfloor@gmail.com

Public Health and Safety
Tracy Bier, atbier@msn.com

Leschi Business Associate
Yousef Shulman
yousefshulmanlcc@gmail.com

Events Chair
Position open

Marketing Chair
Yuki Igarashi, YElgarashi@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor and Advertising
Diane Snell, 206-726-0923
leschinews@comcast.net

Production Designer
Kirsten Hopperstad
khopperstad@msn.com

Staff Photographer
Position open

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Tax Relief for Seniors

At the Central Area Neighborhood District Council meeting on December 14, an important issue was presented: tax relief for seniors. (Note: The District Council is still meeting despite its "axing" by former Mayor Murray. We do not know how the current Mayor feels about these groups.)

With the tremendous rise in real estate prices in this area, there is a subsequent rise in property taxes and seniors (and disabled) live on fixed incomes which make it difficult to keep up with rising taxes and they often face the prospect of having to leave their homes. Seniors may see a rise in health care costs due to aging issues as well, thus adding to the crisis.

King County offers two programs. One is for folks over 61 and/or disabled and provides an exemption or reduction in real estate taxes if one qualifies. One's income must be under \$40,000 including monthly Social Security benefits.

The other program is a deferral of taxes and the income qualification is \$45,000. A deferral means that the deferred taxes must be paid when the house is sold and it is often this requirement that discourages participation. Seniors are reluctant to "shortchange" their heirs by having to pay these taxes through the proceeds of the sale. However, in reality, home values have risen so much in the past few years, the taxes are probably a small percentage of the total value.

There are actually about 40,000 older homeowners who would qualify for this program but only 15,000 take advantage of it. Our legislative representative, Rebecca Saldana, is interested in taking on this project

and trying to get the annual income figures raised to accommodate more of the elderly and disabled. There is more than likely an educational component that should go with this. There is a social worker assigned to the Central Area Senior Center who could help explain this program to interested parties and answer questions.

It is important to keep seniors in their own homes as long as possible as institutional care is costly to both the individual and the state, which bears much of the cost through Medicaid. Our state has ranked second in keeping these costs low by providing services like these that help to keep seniors in the homes.

We should support this effort by our representative.

-Diane Snell

M. Suzanne Heidema
Certified Public Accountant

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Neighborhood and Beyond

LESCHI HOLIDAY PARTY

It was a special evening when a string quartet of Garfield students performed at our annual Holiday party. Mari Morikawa, Nicholas Gjording, Marte Borgemann and Nicole Burns played classical music for an hour to an appreciative Leschi audience. We are so fortunate to have Garfield High School and its talented students close to our neighborhood.

Leschi Market sent a sommelier, Lisa, to serve their new private label wine, Leschi Cellars, to complement our table of noshes. Many of you exclaimed about the grapes and one of the cheeses. The grapes were black grapes from Costco. We tried to find the actual name of the Danish white cheddar that had been soaked in red wine before cutting into wedges, even contacting a Danish friend back East, but no luck. The cheese was also from Costco but had little information. Most of the Danish cheeses imported into this country tend to be soft cheeses so the Internet was no help either. We are glad you really liked that cheese and if we ever find out more about it, we will pass that information on!



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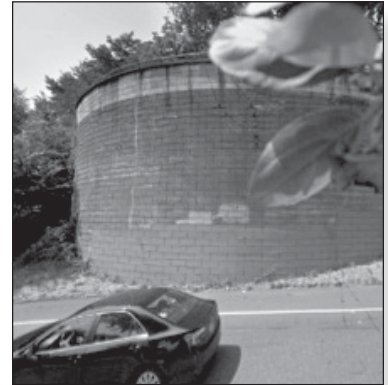
ERIN FAIRLEY
ATTORNEY

LESCHI LAW, PLLC • 121 LAKESIDE AVENUE, SUITE B • SEATTLE, WA 98122
PHONE: 206 353-4625 • EMAIL: ERIN@LESCHILAW.COM • WWW.LESCHILAW.COM

A MURAL FOR LESCHI

At the December Leschi Community Council Executive Board Meeting, Tom Goedde from Mt. Baker, Lawrence Pitre, Director of the Central Area Chamber of Commerce and Stephanie Tschida presented the idea to create a giant mural on the retaining wall on the corner of 31st and Jackson.

The wall is a perfect candidate for a mural depicting the rich cultural history of Leschi and the Central Area. Tom, Lawrence and Stephanie put out a few proposals of ideas for what to put on the wall, though the most important aspect of it is to get community involvement in the creation of this work of art. We want to engage the community and help make this wonderful art project be a beacon of cooperation for all of us in the Central Area.



The group mentioned the work of the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and how they have modeled a way to garner deep community involvement in public arts works. We would seek out a similar model for developing this wall. You can read more about the Philadelphia Mural Arts Project and their process at www.muralarts.org.

There is a long road ahead for the group to make this project a reality. They will have to work with the local communities, the Department of Neighborhoods and the City Council to get support and funding for the wall. The group is planning on presentations that are more public and seeking funding opportunities through grants and crowd funding.

One interesting aspect of the wall is the idea to make it an augmented reality project. The concept is that you would use your mobile device to view a part of the mural to get more details of the history the mural is portraying. The team anticipated that local High School students in the area could help out, with not only painting and designing the wall, but also creating the accompanying app to digitally enhance the mural experience.

It is important to note that at the December meeting the Leschi Community Council Executive Board did not have a quorum and thus could not support the mural



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project officially yet, but we anticipate much excitement from the community in the upcoming months as Tom and his team foment interest around the city to make this a reality.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Tom Goedde at goeddeUP@gmail.com for details, and let's work to bring some beautiful community-driven art into the public spaces of Leschi!

~Trevor Menagh

UPDATE: THE MASON BEE PROJECT

We received our bee-buyback funds this past month from Crown Bees of Woodinville. They totaled \$210 and we bought seven \$30 Grocery Outlet gift cards and delivered them to the Leschi School Giving Garland project for needy families.

We hope next spring will not be as unusually wet and long, and we will be able to raise even more Mason Bee cocoons with those cocoons we held back.

Thanks to all our volunteers who have housed the bees this past year!

~Jim Snell

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER GALA

It was all glitter and glam at the Holiday Gala at the Central Area Senior Center on December 2. The women were in their evening best with killer strappy shoes to match.

Even some of the men wore jackets with a shimmer!

However, they did not outdo CT Thompson who commanded the mike in his sequined red dinner jacket. Thompson and his quartet played many favorites and kept the evening lively.

Free group photos were available in the Solarium and the Leschi CC table obliged with a group photo. Past President Thurston Muskelly and his wife, Joyce joined us for the evening.

Auction items were available, including handmade quilts from the Center's quilters. Tables bid against each other for a chance to be first in the Dessert Dash. The difficult part was deciding which dessert to dash for!

The Center was beautifully decorated, thanks to Boyce Johnson, decorator extraordinaire!



CT Thompson and vocalist Darlene Hudson. Image courtesy John Barber

"FRIENDS OF STREET ENDS" WORKS

A citywide group called *The Friends of Street Ends* (FOSE) was founded twenty years ago through the leadership of Leschi neighbors, Karen Daubert and John Barber. The group works for public access to streets that dead end at the shore of Lake Washington.

Over the years, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) collected annual fee payments from landowners who lived next to street ends, but used part of the street ends as part of their yards. The fund built up to a couple million dollars and a few years ago, SDOT started developing plans and constructing improvements to open up more street ends for public use that had not been, up to then, ready for public use. It soon became apparent that the new street ends were more expensive than anticipated. At *The Friends of Street Ends* meeting of November, SDOT described sharp cutbacks of this program and a lesser way forward.

A major aspect of FOSE's function has been to monitor SDOT's other uses of the fund that is raised from street end permits. It is clear that the fund will become less over time when adjacent landowners discontinue their private uses of the public right-of-way. A key concern is to make sure that the public street end shore access areas are well maintained and new shore access is opened over time. These funds will require a combination of additional City funding and volunteer action to accomplish the goal of opening all 149 identified right-of-way shore access areas.

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FOSE meets every other month and invites new volunteer involvement. Please call John Barber at 206-324-1548 if you are interested.

~John Barber

LESCHI THIRD SATURDAY WORK PARTY

The side of Lake Washington Boulevard north of the Historic Cable Car Bridge is special. The steep slopes on the north edge are graced by Madrona trees looking up to the Cable Car Bridge.

On Saturday, January 20, at 9:30am, we volunteers will gather to cut back the Himalayan blackberries that are striving to blot out the native plants. There are other parts of the edge of the Boulevard that have been damaged by the City's machine mowing and an overgrown area along East Huron Street that needs to be cleared and re-planted.

Bring work gloves, clothes for wet conditions, and loppers or hand pruners. The work party will finish at Noon.

~John Barber

THE GIVING GARLAND AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY

You have warmed hearts and homes! Thank you for your generosity!

For the past eight years, the Giving Garland, a holiday charitable program at Leschi Elementary School, has served families in need of help during the holidays.

On behalf of the families who received help, we extend a tremendous thank you to everyone who gave so generously and willingly!

This year we helped 36 families, with 110 children, celebrate the holidays with toys, bikes, books, games, clothing, bedding, diapers, groceries and more. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to distribute over \$10,000 in gift cards, \$5,750 for groceries to Safeway and Grocery Outlet, and approximately 600 gifts! WOW! THANK YOU!

Your generosity made a huge difference in so many lives...

"Thank you so much. You can't imagine how much this has helped my family during a difficult time in our life. May you have all of the happiness and blessings that life has to offer!"

"I cannot believe this is all for my family. Thank you SO much! We appreciate you and all of the givers more than I can ever express. God bless you."

A special thank you for making it all come together goes out to Jennifer Marquardt, Katie Busby, Charles Burdell (and the Broadmoor Community), the Leschi Community Council, Erikka Sagor, Julie Smith, Jo Usher, Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson, Ms. Irma Nickels and Ms. Stout.

OTHER NEWS FROM LESCHI ELEMENTARY

School tours

School tours for prospective families! If you are interested in learning more about what happens within the walls of Leschi Elementary School, please join us at school during school hours to see the good work in action. You will hear from Principal Claytor, speak with Leschi parents and students and tour the building.


- Thursday, Jan. 11, 8–9:30am
- Wednesday, Jan. 17, 8–9:30am
- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 8–9:30am

Please call the school office at 206-252-2950 to reserve a spot.

Writers In The Schools

Leschi Elementary and Seattle Arts and Lectures collaborate in another year of Writers In The Schools (WITS). For the third year, we welcome Dr. Jeanine Walker, a published author, into Leschi classrooms to work with 3rd through 5th graders in the exploration and discovery of their individual and unique writing talents. Last year, eight Leschi students were published in the Annual WITS Anthology, Pulling the Secret Out of the Flames. We are thrilled to be embarking on a writing journey with Dr. Walker and WITS again!

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Leschi school production

Leschi Elementary is proud to present *Alice in Wonderland*! On May 3rd the Leschi school production of *Alice in Wonderland* will come to life on stage, with a cast and crew of approximately 40 Leschi Bull Pup Squad... Don't miss it!

Annual Giving Campaign

The Annual Giving Campaign launched in early December. Our financial goal this year is to raise \$80,000. The Annual Give Campaign is our biggest fundraiser of the year and the money raised pays for the following and more:

- Tutors, subject specialists and recess aide to lower adult-student ratio
- Writers In The Schools (WITS)
- In-class snacks—healthy, fresh and whole foods
- Professional development and supply reimbursement to teachers
- Instrumental and vocal music instruction
- Technology software and hardware maintenance
- Library maintenance and improvement
- Family Support—assistance for students and families in need
- Scholarships—field trip and enrichment tuition
- Art curriculum, supplies and resources

~Benson Funk Wilder

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL

Director Dian Ferguson met with members of the Senior Center on December 21 to relate current news. Proceeds from the Holiday Gala were \$10,000!

These funds may supplement parking lot funds as the estimate has grown for a redo of the lot. She is waiting for permits (applied for in May) to proceed. The city did fill the dangerous potholes in the meantime.

So far, both the Office of Finance and Administration and the Office of Economic Development seem to be involved regarding the purchase of the building. Dian does expect a letter in mid-January from the new Mayor on the process. The building needs to be assessed with all its blemishes.

Our new classes in January begins with *A Matter of Balance* starting on January 22. This is a two-hour class, which will meet on Mondays from 1:15 to 3:15. Fee is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Classes will run through March 26.

A five-week drumming class also starts on January 22 and will meet at 10:15 on Mondays. Five weeks of class will cost \$30.

Triple Treat will perform at the January 19th Green Dolphin; see the calendar of the back of the news for the details.

Chef Anthony will be away January 2 through 4 and visiting chefs will prepare the midday lunch, which is \$5 for seniors and \$10 for younger folks (under 60). The menu may be seen on the website or a printed version is available at the Center. Diane Morris pointed out that one offering in December was for Calm Chowder, something we could all use during a hectic holiday season!

~Diane Snell

CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK THROUGH PAIN AND PERSISTENCE!

I always remember that Macy's is on 34th Street. What I forget is the cross street. At the stoplight I asked, "Which way is Macy's?" Each of the ten to twelve persons standing there pointed to the right. Everybody can find Macy's! For the first time, I was in New York the week before Christmas. I had to see Macy's decorations. Nobody does Christmas decorations like Macy's. I was not disappointed. I walked through the door and stopped immediately. I gazed at the many huge white/silver ornaments, probably basketball size, illuminating the main aisle. All ornaments are attached to greenery. The strings of ornaments and greenery flow from one wall across to another. Down the center of the store are rows of identical ornaments and greenery. The sparkling rhinestones take everyone's breath away. I stood to the side, watching people enter the store. Mouths flew open. Regardless of age,



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gender, race, or any other category you choose, everyone stopped, momentarily paralyzed. Anyone not spellbound by the beauty managed an “ahh.”

The beauty simply magnified New York’s overflowing energy. I have been in New York for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Easter Parade and New Year’s Eve. However, this was my first time being there for the week before Christmas. Walking up and down streets watching others walk up and down streets, purchase hot dogs, chestnuts, soft drinks, pizza, peanuts purses, hats, gloves, watches, scarves, paintings, belts, and just about anything else one can think of from some of the countless vendors can occupy someone not in a hurry for hours. Christmas quadruples—at least—the people and activities, revs up the city.

What was different in what I long ago labeled New York’s assaults on the senses was this observer. Age has taken its toll. Sciatica struck June 15; yes, I remember the date. The first time I visited New York I was in my thirties; I am now well past my thirties. New Yorkers seem to think there are no long blocks in New York. Any address seems to be two to five, maybe six blocks away; “You can walk it” they say, cab drivers included. On the other hand, they explain, “You can get there faster by walking Perhaps they can get there faster; I can’t. In ’78, I walked it. Then the subway steps that seem to go almost forever surprised me because of their length; now they are obstacles to be overcome. I beg for escalators and try my best to remember, “to stand to the right.” No one must worry about me walking to the left. I look for landings. I stop at landings. This is new. When once I never looked for

elevators, I am terribly aware of their absence. I regret there are no elevators. I wonder was there no one who thought of the older, old, handicapped.

The trek from the subway on “mostly flat terrain” to the Metropolitan Museum requires several stops for breath. I recall no such stops in previous trips, and I was talking to one or several companions, acquaintances. I always go to the Museum, always carve out time for this amazing repository of some of the greatest masterpieces of humankind. And once I arrived at the Museum, I must walk farther, stand longer. And I breathe harder. Knowing there is a show on Michelangelo automatically means walking and standing.

Walking up the many steps I know I have run up many times, I begin to wonder where are my eyeglasses. I couldn’t have forgotten them because I have several pairs. However, forgetting the glasses is just what I have done! The days of reading the descriptions minus glasses are gone. And I have forgotten them on a day when the Met has Michelangelo and Rodin! I venture to lost and found and discovered they have only one pair of glasses and they are broken, but the employee offered a magnifying glass.

Though I have seen work by Michelangelo several times in several places, I am as amazed as ever. No one will convince me that some of the smaller works are unfinished. I think the artist delighted in showing what he could do with marble. He wanted to show what was “trapped” in the marble. Despite the increasing pain, I trudged on.

I’m good at telling myself that I can eat, sleep, rest at another time. Whatever I am doing at the time—viewing art in a museum, for example—I may never get a chance

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to do it again or do it again soon. I always think I must seize the day. The big difference was being technically handicapped. Each time I saw a person using a cane or walker, I wondered if there was pain, if the pain is only temporary. Several times, I spoke to such persons.

Lying down three to five hours usually alleviates the pain. Now I am much better, trying not to fear the pain will return once I venture out. As far back as I can remember, I have wanted everyone to be healthy. This trip has made me more sympathetic even as I realize no one's sympathy eases another's physical pain.

~Georgia S. McDade

A WHITE CHRISTMAS FOR LESCHI!

There's only a 7% chance of a White Christmas in Seattle (defined as 1 inch or more of snow on the ground) for any given year, but Mother Nature gave many places in the Pacific Northwest their first White Christmas since 2008 as a low pressure system made landfall on the Northern Oregon Coast, drawing down cold, dry Canadian air while still spreading precipitation northward into the area. Amounts generally ranged from 1–4 inches around the area, with less near sea level and more up on the hills. The Leschi neighborhood saw approximately two inches by the lake, while amounts were closer to three inches on top of Madrona Hill. Sea-Tac airport, where our official weather observations are taken, recorded 1.6 inches on Dec. 24 and one inch on Dec. 25, with that one inch tying the record for Christmas Day set in 1965.

Snow is exceedingly difficult to forecast in Western Washington due to the fact that temperatures are often right on the edge for accumulating snow. This system was initially predicted to make landfall near Astoria, but it instead made landfall near Garibaldi, decreasing the northward extension of above-freezing air in the mid-levels of the atmosphere and keeping precipitation as snow all the way to sea level. Even Portland saw snow on Christmas Eve, though they switched to freezing rain shortly before midnight as warmer, Pacific air spread into the region aloft while cool, easterly winds kept temperatures below freezing in the metro area.

With an average of 4.3 inches per month, January is the snowiest month of the year for Seattle. Even though the days are getting longer, the northern latitudes are even colder in January than December due to the “thermal inertia” of the atmosphere—i.e. the lag in response between incoming solar radiation and the temperature of the atmosphere. January 1950 stands out as a particularly brutal month, with an average temperature of 24.85 degrees and 12 single-digit low temperature readings at Sea-Tac airport from January 1st to February 3rd. January 13th, 1950 featured one of the worst blizzards in Seattle history, with temperatures remaining in the teens all day and 20 inches of snow at Sea-Tac airport.



A snowy view from the lookout above the stairs by East Olive Lane. Taken December 25, 2017 by Sara Robertson

While it's a safe bet to assume January 2018 won't be as snowy as January 1950, it's still too early to know if we'll witness any other brushes with snow this month. But seeing as five of the past 10 January's have seen measurable snow at Sea-Tac airport and three of the remaining five have seen a trace, I'd say the odds are in our favor to have at least one more brush with the white stuff in the Seattle area this month.

I hope you had a fantastic Christmas, and here's to a splendid 2018!

~Charlie Phillips

Charlie Phillips, a Madrona resident, received his B.S. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington and works in Portland as a meteorologist forecasting wind energy along the Columbia River Gorge. Check out his weather website at weathertogogether.us.

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MIGRATION: A PERSPECTIVE FROM LONDON

By Susan Noyes Platt* www.artandpoliticsnow.com

A small red sweatshirt reads “My first Christmas ever,” one of hundreds of pieces of children’s clothing hanging above my head in the Church of St. James Piccadilly in London. The artist Arabella Dorman brought the clothing discarded by refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos, after they had crossed the sea from Turkey in a rubber raft. The Moria camp there houses 5000 refugees in horrendous conditions.

Dorman created the installation in order to call attention to the ongoing refugee crisis, particularly for children. Perhaps because they were installed above the nave of a church, my first thought was that the clothing suggested angels flying in the air. But the clothing is not necessarily from children who have died (although some probably have), but from children forced to travel forever without an end, thanks to the EU policy of shutting its borders to refugees. It is almost like dying.

I see a single shoe, an African dress, a striped shirt. As I look, the suspended clothing begins to evoke children running, falling, playing, holding hands, perhaps dancing. “Suspended” as a title refers to both the fact of the installation hanging from the ceiling like a massive

chandelier, the status of the children who cannot go home or find a new way forward, as well as the state of the government policy towards these children. The UK government had agreed to take 400 unaccompanied children when the Calais camps were dismantled last April. They took only 200. And of course, the total number of refugee children is staggering.

The scale of the tragedy is conveyed in Ai Weiwei’s monumental film *Human Flow* released in London last week. He visited 23 countries, and filmed the refugee crisis from the sea, the land, up close with refugees speaking for themselves (with dozens of translators helping him). We hear from fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers, youth and children, NGO and government officials, and the Princess of Jordan. Ai Weiwei used drones hovering over a vast expanse of wet tents on the border of Northern Greece or to survey the sterile boxes assigned to refugees in a Berlin airport. Ai Weiwei himself often appears, he talked with them, he helped them get out of boats; he witnessed the blowing sand in Africa and the insides of destroyed apartments in western Turkey as people tried to salvage something.

We saw many, many children, held by parents, walking on their own, always moving, until they cannot move as they approach a closed border.

(Not in the film, but a newspaper article told of an Afghan child hit by a train and killed when she was forced back onto the tracks by border guards at an EU crossing.)

The UK has what photographers Rob Stothard and Silvia Mollicchi call “The United Kingdom’s Immigration Detention Estate.” 30,000 people came through immigration in 2016, and 6,000 are detained. In their photographic project, we see the settings of detention in shopping malls or business parks, in rural areas, or in plain sight, such as at Heathrow airport.

Greg Constantine photographs “stateless people” around the world. “Nowhere People,” sponsored by the UNHCR, focuses on people in permanent detention in the UK. They cannot go back to where they came from and they cannot stay in the UK. There are 10 million people around the world who live without a nationality; over 75 percent are from minorities such as the Rohingya, the largest stateless group. Recently we have heard of their suffering as they were forced to leave Myanmar (and some speak in *Human Flow*).

The experience of migration in the UK is far longer and more complex than in the US. The Migration Museum in London provides a selected overview in “No Turning Back: seven migration moments that changed Britain.”



Arabella Dorman, *Suspended*, detail. Image courtesy Henry Matthews



Angelica Dass, *Humanae*, 2017 copyright Angelica Dass
Image courtesy Migration Museum, London

The earliest “moment,” the expulsion of the Jews in 1209 followed on years of discrimination. The next event is 1607 when the East India Company first went to India leading to a long history of colonialism: the exhibition focuses on the stories of Anglo Indians, Gurkhas and Lascars. Huguenots came to Britain in 1685 to seek refuge when they were expelled from France. Next is 1905 when the Alien Act limited immigration with intensely xenophobic campaigns, mainly also targeting Jews who were coming from Eastern Europe to escape pogroms. The year 1952 is when the first passenger jet flight profoundly altered migration from the tradition of slow journeys on ships (although today we have a sad return to sea travel, and even the most ancient migration by foot). Rock against Racism in 1978, celebrates a grassroots resistance movement to racism in the music community. The last “turning point” 2011, when the “census reveals rise of mixed-ethnicity Britain,” which led directly to the vote for Brexit (UK exit from the EU) spurred by fears of immigrants taking jobs.

The final segment leaves no doubt as to the situation today. Two photographic art projects, *Humanae* by Angelica Dass, and *Mixed* by Andrew Barter both celebrate the diversity of contemporary Britain.

~Susan Platt

**I have spent the last two months in London.*

THE GENIUS OF BIRDS

Last winter we began to hear, on dark evenings, the sounds of something that sounded like a distressed monkey. It came from the trees along the path that empties onto East Alder. Primitive. Haunting. An Internet search by my husband, who had taken ornithology in college and knew the sound came from a bird and not a dying primate, turned up a match: the barred owl. This was no fairy tale hooting, so what was this owl “saying?” According to Jennifer Ackerman’s research, birds that continue singing after the season for mating has passed

may be vocalizing for their own amusement. On the other hand, maybe it was a statement about territory. Alternatively, because vocalizing in birds releases dopamine and opioids into their nervous systems and thereby relieves aches, pains, and diminishes the sense of cold, these bizarre sounds may have been warding off the insults of winter.

How birds sing, navigate, make tools, pass along knowledge and socialize are some of the topics covered in Ackerman’s remarkable homage to the power of the bird brain. Birds can count, make hooks for foraging food, teach their young and kiss. The term “birdbrain” is decidedly a misnomer. Consider that it’s not the size of a brain that determines intelligence, but the number of neurons that respective brain contains. And these pint-sized descendants from dinosaurs have more neurons than elephants!

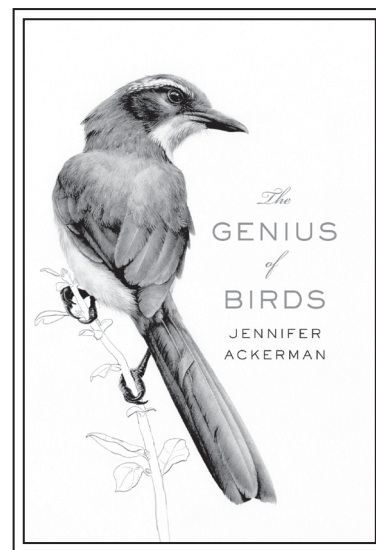
The astounding facts about the intelligence of birds presented in this accessible and delightful book are too immense to enumerate here. Suffice it to say that even for the novice birder or the casual observer of wildlife, there are great treats in store. Did you know that magpies can recognize their images in a mirror, “a form of social awareness that we once believed was restricted to humans”?

Or that crows are sensitive to inequity and cockatoos can delay gratification?

One of the underlying themes is that the birds that don’t have to solve problems and deal with environmental challenges, lose some of their brainpower compared with their counterparts who

do have to contend with more complexities. So, beware depending on Alexa! And birds which are nurtured longer in the nest than related species grow bigger brains. Lesson: Talk to your children, not your cellphone!

We are fortunate in Leschi to have enough greenspace to support myriad avian species. That’s the good news. The bad news: Human encroachment and climate change mean that 80% of the world’s bird population might be extinct in the next 100 years. Go out and meet your winged neighbors. Observe their intensity, their energy, their habits, their flights. And rejoice that we live in an environment that sustains such miracles.



THE GENIUS OF BIRDS

by Jennifer Ackerman, April 2016 by Penguin Press

~Anne Depue



Seeking Sustenance...

WINE TO RESTOCK THE CELLAR

Happy New Year Leschi! Did the holiday celebrations deplete your cellar? Now is a great time to restock. In the event you missed out on some of the recently high profiled wines, here is a recap of some of the wines that are still available from the always coveted *Wine Spectator* Top 100. A great way to fill that cellar back up with proven winners. Here are five.

2015 Château de St. Cosme Gigondas (\$39.99)

#5 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2017

A textbook version of the brawny side of Gigondas, offers a grippy alder bass line underneath layers of dark currant and fig fruit, while lots of tobacco, rosemary and bay leaf fill in throughout. Muscular and energetic, this is built for the cellar. Best from 2019 through 2030. 95-points. (At deadline, there were still a couple available!)

2015 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$131.99)

#14 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2017

This offers a drop-dead gorgeous core of cassis and raspberry pâte de fruit flavors that hold center stage but still allow notes of Lapsang souchong tea, anise, incense and shiso leaf to chime in. Very long, with a sublime feel through the mineral-tinged finish. So seductive already, but this should cruise in the cellar. Drink now through 2040. 98-points.

Roederer Estate Brut Anderson Valley NV (\$19.99)

#25 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2017

A voluptuous, expressive sparkler, with floral red apple, brioche and cinnamon spice aromas and rich, vibrant flavors that finish on a luxurious note. Drink through 2018. 92-points.

2014 Quinta De Cabriz Red Dão Portugal (\$7.99)

#46 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2016

"A crisp and minerally red, with concentrated flavors of dark cherry, roasted plum and dried raspberry, layered with rich, spicy notes. White chocolate details show on the finish, accented by hints of pepper. Drink now through 2020. Best Buy." 90-points.

Chartogne-Taillet Brut Champagne Cuvée Ste. Anne NV (\$36.99)

#87 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2017

A bright, finely meshed version that shows beautiful harmony throughout, offering flavors of Gala apple, spring forest, almond pastry and lemon curd riding the creamy mousse. Lasting, spiced finish. Disgorged February 2016. Drink now through 2022. 92-points. In addition to the above *Wine Spectator* Top 100 offerings, here are a few other wines worthy of cellaring for the upcoming year.

2012 Corliss Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley (\$88.99)

"A wine that I would put up there with the crème de la crème of Washington State Cabernet's, which is insanely good and does everything right. 97% Cabernet and 3% Petit Verdot. Fabulous notes of toasted spice, chocolate and tobacco leaves. Fabulous purity and freshness, a big, rich mid-palate and sweet tannin that emerge on the finish. Drink 2021–2041. Bravo!" –*Wine Advocate*, 97-points.

2014 Produttori del Barbaresco Nebbiolo Rouge Piedmont Italy (\$39.99)

"Fragrant, with cherry, strawberry and rose notes, this elegant red offers flavors of berry fruit, licorice and underbrush, ending with a firm grip of tannins and chewy licorice and spice accents. Best from 2019 through 2032." –*Wine Spectator*, 92-points.





...in the Wilds of Seattle

2015 Lingua Franca 'Avni' Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Oregon (\$39.99)

"Refined and precise, featuring a structure that's elegantly complex, with raspberry and cinnamon aromas and sleek cherry and mineral flavors. Drink now through 2022. 772 cases made." –*Wine Spectator*, 92-points.

CHEERS! ENJOY!

Kenneth Benner, a Seattle area native, is a trained chef and has worked in such restaurants as Barbacoa, B.O.K.A. Kitchen + Bar, and Dahlia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His wine column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experiences in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMarket.com or request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to ken@leschimarket.com and follow the wine department directly on twitter at twitter.com/leschimarket.

PROVEN BREAD AND PASTRY

For folks who have swooned over the morning pastry at Meet the Moon, there is good news. The baked goods come from Proven Bread in Woodinville, which will now be selling their products retail at PCC Community Markets.

The first time I ate at Meet the Moon, I took a piece of the sour cream coffee cake home to my spouse who was grateful and said he would save half for after lunch, but something happened along the way and he ate it all. And pronounced it delicious! We were later to discover that the muffins are very good as well!

Now you can find these goodies even if there is a line waiting to get into Meet the Moon!

–Diane Snell

ALMOST PARIS

One quickly gets used to a croissant breakfast in Paris, but it is a little more difficult here as they are not on every corner...yet. (One can always hope for a better world!) We did find a remarkably good almond croissant at PCC Community Market in Columbia City.

The store itself is a pleasure: red and white pots of cyclamen greeted us at the entrance and this store is spacious, unlike its predecessor in Seward Park where a line would back up behind the indecisive customer perusing

the bagel selection. PCC has bakery items from Macrina and Rae's in West Seattle, but the croissants are just in a bin of random baked goods, which appear to be PCC made. This Croissant is good-sized, light and has an intense almond flavor. It isn't in the same league as the double-baked croissants at Bakery Nouveau, but then again its price is more modest: \$2.39. Enjoy!

–Diane Snell



FISH AND ELVIS?

After reading Karen Daubert's glowing review of The Fish Guys, I decided to get my Christmas salmon there. What an experience! One really needs to have at least an hour to spend, as the offerings are much more than fresh fish. There were smoked mussels and smoked black cod. There was an artichoke dip for a last minute contribution to a get-together. There were samples of alder smoked salmon. There are some baked goods from a local place called Patrick's.

And in addition to all the eats, a band was setting up in the northeast corner of the room and my server handed me a flyer: Seattle's #1 Elvis impersonator would be making an appearance! Unfortunately this is a busy time of year and we didn't wait for the performance, but do check out this interesting place! You will find many items you can't live without!

–Diane Snell



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206.779.4643
fos@gbk.com

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EXEC. BOARD MEETING 12/11/17

Attending: Janice Merrill Brown, Trevor Menagh and Diane Snell.

THE MURAL PROJECT

Three people came to make a presentation on a project they hope to pursue: Tom Goeddes from Mt. Baker, Lawrence Pitre, Director of the Central Area Chamber of Commerce, and Stephanie Tschida, who has vast experience with projects like this.

They would like to install an historical mural on the huge blank retaining wall at the corner of Jackson and 31st. They had a very nice power point presentation of possible scenarios, but no decision has been made yet on what exactly would be shown.

Permission still needs to be obtained from the City of Seattle. The three Exec. Board members present felt they could support the project, but they did not make up a quorum. One more Board member is needed to get Board support. Trevor agreed to write up the project and solicit community opinion on the Google site.

OLD BUSINESS

LOGO: Janice asked to move this to the January 2018 Board meeting.

RACISM: Lack of contact between presenters and Board makes it impossible to present this program in January; it will be moved to later in the season.

NEW BUSINESS

JANICE would like a program in the new year honoring folks in the community who make a difference. This should be at our annual meeting in May where we present the Leschi Star awards.

JOHN BARBER was ill and unable to make the meeting but sent an email with the following items:

- The January third Saturday work party will focus on removing invasive plants along Lake Washington Boulevard, Erie to Yesler. There are plenty of blackberries to cut back and/or dig out. And, there's a section in the middle by E Huron that needs to be completely cleared and mulched.
- The neighbors along SW Frink Park (Dee Boersma) have reached a compromise about their issues with a change of landscaping that was underway without their participation.
- No word on the Marinas except that Parks does have a long-term lease executed and is working on applying for the permits. Our look at the design is somewhere

down the line. In the meantime, a group in the Lakewood neighborhood is preparing to sue before the hearing examiner.

DIANE: Dec. 18 is the deadline for the January issue of the Leschi News. We have lost the 2 ads from Uncle Ike's: the pot store and the auto wash. Diane requested that Janice meet with Dian Ferguson re: the rent for our meetings. We do not have a current contract and we are not receiving any invoices. Our treasurer will not make payments without an invoice.

DONATIONS to Leschi School Giving Garland program: \$200 from LCC, \$210 from Leschi's Mason Bee project and many individual donations from Leschi residents.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Jan 8 at 7pm in the Technology room at Senior Center.

-Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Cherry Street Corridor fund is a complete mystery to the current and previous board. We have checked with past longtime Treasurer Suzanne Heidema and long time past President Thurston Muskelly but neither are aware of this fund or how it came about. We appeal to the reading public to tell us the background of this fund or we will have to vote to move it elsewhere.

The next fund is for Flo Ware Park. The now defunct Diversity Committee had voted to have an annual celebration of the anniversary of the Park, which was renovated more than a decade ago. The celebration was planned for May to coincide with Flo Ware's birthday, but it has since moved to June for better weather and avoiding conflicts with Mother's Day and Madrona's Mayfair celebration. The dollars in this fund are remnants of a grant from years past. This celebration is primarily for children with appropriate activities.

The Friends of Street Ends (FOSE) maintains a small fund, primarily from individual donations. Most of the work for this group is by volunteers, and they have not had any regular maintenance expenses.

	Income	Expenses	Balance 11/30/17
General Fund			\$12,203.94
Ad Revenue	\$7,475.00		
Dues	\$2,250.00		
Donations	\$2,837.79		
Postage		(\$840.00)	
Printing		(\$6,595.50)	
Totals	\$13,117.71	(\$10,183.60)	\$11,952.60

Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

We create awareness of neighborhood issues so residents may make informed and effective decisions.

LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular

LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary

LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways

LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)

LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

All donations are tax-deductible as we are a non-profit 501(c)(3).

My check is enclosed: ☐ \$35 family membership ☐ \$25 individual membership

☐ \$15 student/low income/ senior membership


☐ I am making an additional donation for LCC work

Mail to:

Leschi Community Council • 140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2 • Seattle WA 98122-6538



	Income	Expenses	Balance 11/30/17
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk	\$1,320.00	(\$1,995.51)	\$147.64
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park	\$20.00	\$-670.00	\$1482.67
Friends of Street Ends			\$427.38
Frink Park	\$6930.39	-\$6930.39	\$2323.58
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$347.39
Leschi Natural Area	\$3275.00		\$5679.87
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3773.85
String of Pearls		-\$200.00	\$1680.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund	\$1000.00		\$1000.00
Wading Pool			\$3006.13
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$25,663.10	(\$19,979.50)	\$36,230.03
Certificate of Deposit			\$11251.43



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business card, \$35; 1/4 page, \$70;
1/2 page, \$140. Contact Diane Snell
at 206-726-0923 to advertise to
your community.

leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **JANUARY 22**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:

Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122-6538
or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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PLEASE NOTE: no Leschi Community Council Meeting this month

JAN 6 Leschi Natural Area work party 9am–3pm. Lunch and tools provided.
36th and Terrace.

JAN 8 7–8pm. Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting at The Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S,
in the technology room

JAN 11 6–7:30pm. Central Area Neighborhood District Council at The Central
500 30th Ave. S

JAN 13 SNC. 9am–12pm. Breakfast \$14 at the Central (500 30th Ave)

JAN 19 6–9pm. Green Dolphin Street Lounge (Senior Center) 500 30th Ave. S. Triple Treat Band will perform.
Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members if reserved in advance. \$25 at door.
Refreshments. No Host bar.

JAN 20 Leschi CC work party on Lake Washington Blvd., near the cable car bridge. Meet at 9:30am to clear
blackberries. Come dressed for weather and bring tools to tackle thorny stems.

JAN 25 6:30–8 EastPAC; please visit their website for time and location

Contact Darcy Thompson
for Frink Park work parties
at 206-325-4295.

Join us on Facebook:
LESCHI or see our website:
leschicommunitycouncil.org
or leschinews.com