

# leschinews

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

## Thank You to Our Heroes!

The Leschi Community would like to recognize and thank the heroes that have made a difference in these trying times. We thank the medical community, the doctors, the nurses, the respiratory therapists, the housekeeping staff and the first responders: firefighters, police and EMTs. We would not have a fighting chance if you were not out there day after day helping to save lives, often without the proper protective equipment. You are the true heroes in this nightmare.

We want to thank the community businesses that stood by in the worst of times to offer needed services. Even in the loss of their owner and mentor, Steve Shulman, the staff at Leschi Market took steps to thoroughly clean and reopen with safety measures in place and special shopping hours for the vulnerable seniors so that we had a grocery resource in these difficult times.

Thank you to Bart Evans, BluWater Bistro, who creatively filled in when we lost our caffeine options in the abrupt closure of Starbucks. He offered a pop-up coffee option at 6am to keep the energy flowing and initiated take-out

meals with FREE delivery within 2 miles. BluWater meals have been a delicious diversion from the usual home concoctions that often lack one of the non-optional ingredients. And thank you to Bart for his free lunches to medical staff!

Central Pizza and Mt. Baker's Mioposto and That's Amore offered take-out meals as well as several Madrona restaurants. The Central Area Senior Center, despite the cancellation of events and classes, continued to provide hot meals at lunch for pick-up or delivery and offered grocery shopping services to those who could not get out. Thank you for looking after our most vulnerable population!

Thanks to Park Postal for staying open to provide an essential service when we still have no post office in our area. And thank you to Grocery Outlet employees for continuing to serve the community in these dangerous times.

Thank you to the volunteers who keep the local food banks going in this critical time. If you have any disposable income, consider donating funds to either St. Mary's Food Bank or the Rainier Valley Food Bank. Both serve our area. Giving funds allows them to fill in the gaps and minimizes the physical contact for their volunteers. Let's not allow families to go hungry in the land of plenty; food doesn't trickle down.

And last but not least, a huge THANK YOU to our postal workers who keep on their daily rounds delivering mail despite the risks both from the virus and the threats from the other Washington. We need you and we appreciate you!

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*-The Leschi Community Council Board:*

*Janice Merrill Brown, Trevor Lalish-Menagh, Janet Oliver, Tracy Bier,  
John Barber & Diane Snell*

# President's Message

Dear Leschi Neighbors,

Business first; the LCC Board decided to pause the Flo Ware event and the Leschi Art Walk this calendar year. With the unknown timing, and what it takes for coordination and publicity, this seemed to be the most prudent. We will return with those events stronger than ever in 2021. We also are now entering our summer hiatus for meetings and will resume (hopefully) in September.

As for business within the LCC, we will have a bylaw amendment regarding emergency situations that affect voting of new officers. This will be voted on at our September meeting, or whatever is our next meeting." Emergency Amendment wording as follows:

In the event of a publicly declared emergency that impacts the Leschi Community and with a majority vote of the Leschi Community Council Executive Board, the holding of regular meetings can be suspended. Any essential action delayed because of a suspended meeting should be given priority for action at the first meeting possible following such emergency.

As I write this, we are moving to the last 11 days of May and we remain under strongly suggested "safety in place" orders. When we reflect what our children's and grandchildren's lives will look like in 5, 10 and 20+ years, it is hard for us to imagine. Then again, we have changed so much in the last 10, 20 and 50 years, some of our ancestors would be astonished how our world looked like pre-Covid.

Hats off to all of you who have persevered under our unusual circumstances with the Covid-19 virus. It has been an adventure requiring patience, courage and resilience. I know I have experienced at various times, fear, anticipation, peace, energy, and wanting to move out of the country. Unfortunately, there is nowhere to go. And perhaps you might agree with me when I say, "I cannot believe at this stage in my life, this is happening."

We just have to sometimes put one foot in front of the other and push on. Remember to breathe. Remember to focus on today and right now. We have no control over what tomorrow will bring. Let's be certain we express appreciation for what we do have, whether that encompasses our health, our friendships, our families or our businesses. Just pick up the telephone and say hello to someone you haven't spoken to in a long time. Please reach out. Be brave. One could be a person that does not feel comfortable reaching out but prefers to be contacted. Get out of your comfort zone, if that sounds like you. If you are someone who always reaches out, understand the reason some people don't. It doesn't mean they don't care about you; they may just be afraid.

Additionally, I have observed a broad spectrum of people's attitudes of our situation. Some people are terrified, and others exercise caution and wear masks and gloves where appropriate. Be sensitive to this and use this opportunity to participate in compassion from your heart.

I look forward to seeing you again at our monthly meetings that will resume (if possible) September 9th at 7:00p. The location is the Central Area Senior Center at 500 30th Ave. S., Seattle WA 98144. We will continue to offer exciting new programs and speakers that are relevant to our community. In the meantime, if any of us can be of service to you, please contact any of us.

*Warm regards,*

*Janice Merrill Brown  
President, LCC*



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# Save the Post Office!

I have written about the Post office and its illustrious history before, but now the danger to its existence is imminent with the President calling the institution a "joke." It is hardly a joke to serve an entire nation in both urban and rural areas, having moved beyond delivery by horses to trains, jet planes, boats and even snowmobiles. What private company would bother with the populations beyond the densely populated areas? No money in that!

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand wrote an excellent Op-Ed piece for the New York Times, published April 27, 2020. She extols the virtues of the post office and emphasizes its importance in the voting process. She also offers a solution to the ongoing money problems.

## Senator Gillibrand suggests these solutions:

Allow the Post Office to reinstate its basic banking service. She says that an estimated 10 million people lack banking services in this country and must use the exorbitant "payday" system to cash checks or send money. She notes "it is expensive to be poor in America." You might ask why not open an account at the local bank? I stood in line behind a young man with brown skin at our local bank where I was making a Leschi CC deposit. When the line grows long, one of the "higher" level persons comes to ask what service each person is seeking and direct them accordingly. When he asked about opening an account, he was told that they didn't open accounts on this day at this time; she told him when an account might be opened, a time that probably interfered with his working hours. He left looking discouraged. Restrictions like these tend to discourage folks who do not have the luxury to come to the bank at the bank's convenience. But it is to the bank's advantage not to have accounts that don't generate excess funds that can be used by the bank.

Step 2. Eliminate the 2006 law requiring that the Post Office prefund their pension and health care benefits 75 years in advance. The Post Office now has a fund that pays for these benefits for persons who have yet to be born. What other agency or business is required to do this? Gillibrand says, "Even the President's own postal task force determined that if the service were allowed to use the same pay-as-you-go policy as every other agency, it would have been operationally profitable before the pandemic."

Gillibrand then emphasizes the importance of the Post Office in our voting system. As someone who used to work the polls, I was initially sorry to see the change to vote by mail. There was excitement and neighborhood camaraderie at the polls which I would miss, but I have to say it has eliminated many problems. I came to appreciate the new system when I remembered the man who came running into the polling place at 8:02 PM, after I had announced that the polls were closed. Hopefully, this man and others can now find a drop box for their mailed ballot. Voting by mail helps the elderly, the differently abled, mothers with young pre-school age children, those who have to work that day and it helps all of us in the midst of a pandemic. We won't always have a pandemic, but we here in the Northwest are subject to earthquakes and thinking of a recent anniversary, volcanoes. Voting by mail ensures that we all have the opportunity to vote and hopefully, we exercise that opportunity!

The Post Office employs 600,000 persons and has an enviable record of hiring from diverse populations. My own postal carrier is reliable and gets upset when his substitute does something foolish like not delivering the business mail until it was so late the businesses were closed! We are his customers and he wants to take good care of us! Let's save his job and the other 600,000!

*-Diane Snell*

## Fionnuala O'Sullivan

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# The Neighborhood & Beyond

## LESCHI CC MEETINGS/EVENTS CANCELLED

Our June meeting is cancelled and the Flo Ware event as well as the Art Walk are both cancelled.

Although we have no knowledge of what our world will be like in September, it takes months of planning for the ArtWalk and many of those months have already been lost. Even if we are back to “normal” in September, we have not been able to meet and reach out to the participating artists.

We hear that Seafair is also cancelled and yes, even the Blue Angels. This will be a relief to Leschi’s many dogs, we are sure! For Angel lovers, the noisemakers have been confirmed for 2021.

It is rather alarming to see that the number of new cases of the virus each day is still over 150; perhaps that is a “flattening,” but it sounds rather ominous to the average person

We hope that we can hold a meeting in September to elect officers and celebrate a new crop of Leschi Stars! We will accept Star nominations until the end of June; send your nomination to [Leschinews@comcast.net](mailto:Leschinews@comcast.net).

If you wish to run for an office on the Board, please contact Trevor Lalish-Menagh, Chair of the Nominating Committee. (email [trev@trevreport.org](mailto:trev@trevreport.org)). You may check out the duties of the various Board positions on our website: Leschinews. At the top select Our Council,

then select Documents. This will show you the Constitution and the Bylaws. Go to Article V of the Bylaws: Officers -Duties. This will tell you what you want to know about each position on the Board. Chairpersons of committees are chosen by the President; please contact our President Janice Merrill Brown if you are interested in chairing a committee. We will let you know if we can hold a September meeting on both our Facebook page and the September issue of the Leschi News.

~Diane Snell

## THE CENTRAL RESPONSE: COVID-19

Owing to the Coronavirus and the requirement for spatial separation, it became necessary to readapt our programs and activities to serve seniors. No longer could we offer congregate meals a mainstay for socialization for our seniors. Within time we established some new adaptations. We are providing to go lunches, delivering some lunches and meals, basic groceries essentials, picking up prescription drugs for seniors, offering health and wellness calls and helping seniors complete forms for entitlement benefits such as food assistance and unemployment support.

We are maintaining office hours, 8:30 am–5pm, Monday–Friday for this purpose. Staff and several volunteers are on site daily helping to prepare and bag groceries, acting as drivers to deliver hot meals, and cold to go boxed lunches. Those picking up lunches can come through the front door and get them. We are practicing spatial distance. All staff members have their own offices. The dining hall is ample spacing for the preparation of the to go hot meals, boxed lunches, and groceries to be delivered. Staff and volunteers have all been provided masks and nitrile gloves for usage. Seniors can feel free to call CASC at 206-726-4926 for assistance.

Additionally, we are reviewing the Federal, State, County and City standards for opening doors to ensure we internally can abide by the new requirements of spatial distance which may be only 25% usage of our existing square space. If this is the case, our dining hall where capacity has been determined to be 200 will be reduced to 50. Therefore, we are certifying our outdoor terrace capacity and other areas of usable space to add to our spatial distance areas.

We have found many new partners in our adaptation of programs. The Faith Community has been wonderful to alerting us to seniors in need of assistance, Swedish Hospital for setting up Coronavirus Testing for seniors and wonderful collaborations with closed restaurants for meal preparations for seniors, other non-profits and small businesses particularly media for getting community newspapers into the hands of seniors and Safeway/Albertson for groceries donations to seniors.





## HORSE GIRL GONE GLOBAL

An around-the-world enquiry of the 'Equine Addiction' Hello and welcome to Horse Girl Gone Global. A 2019 recipient of the Watson Fellowship, I am currently on a journey to discover the feedback loop between horses, the economy, and the environment around them. This blog will serve as the primary vessel for me to share the stories and insights collected on my 12-month adventure visiting horse cultures in Europe, South America, Australia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

### An Interlude in the Middle East

The flight to Jordan was eerily empty on March 11th. The normally bustling Doha airport felt like an unpopular museum; women in hijabs shuffled by, their face scarves shifted down to accommodate bright blue face masks. Bedouin men in flowing white robes drifted through with falcons perched on hands covered in latex gloves.

After a 7-hour layover in Amman, a time that was filled with one Starbucks latte and two panic attacks about COVID19, I boarded the tiny plane to Aqaba on Jordan's Red Sea and the only other airport in the country.

We arrived in the middle of a storm; the plane barely managing to make it to the tarmac amid the screaming winds and pelleting sand. I converted to at least four religions as I prayed for safety on that miserable 45-minute flight.

In the two-gate airport I met driver number one. I knew who he was when he held out his phone to show a picture of myself glowing behind the cracked screen. After transferring to another taxi at a gas station on the edge of the small town, I let myself settle in as we sped to the Wadi Rum desert. Half brain dead from 35 hours of travel, my eyes slid over the Bedouin houses squatting in the dark. The melodic hum of Arabic swam through the static on the radio. Sand continued to patter against the windows. The muttering of the driver grew louder as the sand came at us faster. Like a snow blizzard it invaded the headlights' beams, forcing us to slow down from 60mph to 10mph, the opaque burnt-orange curtain closing in on all sides. In the next 20 minutes we turned around, then back towards my destination, twice. The driver's face screwed in frustration as he shouted over the phone to my host, Sandra. I was glad I couldn't translate.

After 40 minutes we turned off the main road onto a sand track heading towards a small cluster of dark houses. There were no street signs or addresses, and without phone service we had no hope of identifying which was Sandra's home. The taxi man back tracked to where we had seen a single police car and then he pulled over and began to haul my luggage out of the boot. As I jumped out and pleaded for him to take me "to Sandra's," the Jordanian police officer stepped out of his vehicle, hand on gun. He conferred quietly with the driver then turned to me with an enormous smile: "To you Jordan welcomes!"

As the wind and sand whipped around us the police officer showed me photos on his phone of horses and falcons in the desert until Sandra finally pulled up. The short-haired Dutch woman didn't acknowledge my strange arrival, but maybe that's the way nomads often appear in the Wadi Rum desert. At her modest cinder block house, I met Shannon, another young woman staying with Sandra, as well as the three dogs and four cats. We sat on the floor and had tea with fresh lemon, ginger, and mint before going to bed.

At 5am I awakened from the strange doze so often induced by sleeping on the couch to the smell of dogshit. The large husky-mutt rescue was at that moment pooping in the middle of the living room, two feet from my nose. Fumbling around the stranger's house, I did



my best to scrape the green diarrhea off of the ornate handwoven rug with an empty yoghurt container (no bags to be found). As I stepped outside in search of a garbage can, I had my first glimpse of the landscape in daylight. The red desert sprawled before me was as foreign as another planet. Intimidating rocks broke the rolling sand, their jagged faces moody in the morning sun. I knew I wasn't on Mars only for the silver pick-up truck and rusting green garbage bin.

The next 72 hours was a whirlwind of adventures. Going to feed the scruffy Arabian horses that have never known a blade of grass in their lifetime, visiting the caves and springs in the deep desert with a local young Bedouin man, "sledding" the car down a 80 degree sand hill, playing FIFA and drinking tea in the makeshift café in town, having dinner over a fire in the hand built camp of Omar and Yasser, dancing in the moonlight at our end of the world party.

Amid these micro adventures I was checking email and Expedia whenever I had the opportunity to connect to WIFI. Covid19 was blossoming like desert flowers after a spring rain, and the world was panicking. Jordan was closing their borders, the Watson Foundation had requested fellows return to the states, Seattle was the viral epicenter of the USA.

On March 15th, saying goodbye to fast-formed friends and the still-alluring desert, I slipped out of Jordan on one of the last flights to leave the country.

Stubbornly determined not to return home, I decided to fly back to Australia where I enjoyed quarantine in the sun and working at a horse yard on the Mornington Peninsula. In mid-April I finally retreated back to Seattle where I have been appreciating the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, enjoying seeing friends at a 6ft distance,

and doing everything I can to go safely out of the house as much as possible (like walking 100 miles last week). Working with horses is keeping me sane throughout lockdown, but I am already chomping at the bit for when I can continue to pursue my project once again.

I hope this finds all of you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

*-A Socially Distanced Cello Lockwood*

## UPDATE FROM LESCHI ELEMENTARY

Our family support workers and Odessa Brown community care coordinator, along with our teachers, staff, Principal Moland, and our dedicated parent volunteers are continuing to work hard, connecting our families to services and helping meet basic needs. Our big push over the last few weeks has been getting the Chromebooks donated by Amazon to our students and helping families set them up. Our teachers have been thrilled to see more and more faces popping up on their Zoom meetings - but good old-fashioned phone calls still work too!

The Leschi PTA is accepting donations to continue and expand our support for Leschi Elementary's Family Support Office. The Family Support Office is helping Leschi families experiencing financial stress by providing:

- gift cards for grocery and gas
- limited financial assistance with bills including rent and utilities
- non-perishable food, hygiene supplies, and school supplies

If you wish to donate, checks made out to Leschi PTA can be sent c/o Leschi PTA to 2809 S Washington St, Seattle WA 98144. Please note 'family support' in the memo. You can also find our fundraiser on Facebook and donate there: <https://www.facebook.com/leschischool/>.

We are also excited to announce that our annual Jog-a-thon will happen in June, in a remote, home-based form! Details to come soon - please stay tuned to the school website and Facebook page, if

you wish to sponsor one or more of our students on the move. In lieu of our Annual Giving Campaign, this this will be our major effort to raise funds in support of next year's budget for teachers, classrooms, technology, art, music and special programs such as Writers in the Schools and 5th Grade Camp.

*-Benson Wilder*

## LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Up Spruce Street a ways, behind my late-1970s house at 35th and Alder, were Elmer and Abby Allen, born around 1900. Their daughter Peggy, and her husband Jerry Sussman, lived near us in Madrona when I was a child in the 1950s, and my parents knew them, from folk dancing or politics. In the '70s my brother Peter and I became friendly with them and their four kids. We called the kids our cousins, and we included their numerous cousins as family as well.

A long time ago, Elmer acquired a surplus house from a Duwamish public housing project. He collapsed the walls and somehow dragged it up into the Dell, where he had built a garage and first floor to mount it on. The house is still there.

Elmer and Abby's daughter Pat recently filled me in on their background. Elmer was from South Dakota. He didn't get on well with his father and went away during World War I. Finding his way to Australia, he joined the military and eventually ended up in Belfast, where he met Abby. At that time, politicized (and armed) Irish had returned from the war and were in rebellion against English domination. Winston Churchill, then head of the War Office, recruited brutal mercenaries to put down the rebels, with whom Abby, who had been influenced by her Marxist brothers, was in sympathy. This was at the same time as Churchill advocated the use of poison gas against "uncivilized tribes" in the Middle East (as I mentioned in an on-air NPR commentary during the Gulf War).

In 1920 Elmer went back to South Dakota and after a while Abby went to Montreal, where she worked as a housekeeper for a wealthy senator's family. On one occasion she helped serve for a dinner party with a distinguished guest. When Abby was at the sink after dinner, a chauffeur on the estate, who had been flirting with her, snuck up from behind and grabbed her around the waist. When she threw a dishrag at him, he ducked, and the flying cloth plastered the guest, the aforementioned war criminal Churchill.

Eventually Elmer caught up with Abby, and they got married in 1927.

Living next door to Elmer and Abby were Tassos and Margaret, closer to my age. He was a Greek with a charming accent. They made candles at home and sold them at Pike Place Market. He had some chickens, and then another friend gave me a couple hens. Since I didn't have a place for them, I asked if he would keep them with his for a while. I wasn't getting around to building my henhouse, and one day I came home to find my chickens in the basement.

Some years later I ran into Tassos at the hardware store. He said he was doing construction work, and I told him I was fixing up my new house. He put his arm around my shoulders and said, "You know, Royer, we are not heepies anymore."

*-Roger Lippman*



# Leschi Market

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF UTTER DESPAIR

I hate calling Customer Service; I know that I will be frustrated to the point of tears and don't look forward to that experience. I recently had to call Eddie Bauer and due to "volume," we were relegated to a texting call. I explained my issue briefly and rec'd a text back that more or less answered a question that I did not ask! At least it was a brief encounter, if not at all satisfying.

My next experience was not so brief. I had been receiving daily emails about my LeschiNews email account; Xfinity aka Comcast wanted the email confirmed. I looked at the address of the sender and it was a name I didn't recognize and an email address that was not either Comcast or Xfinity so I ignored it until the past weekend when I got a similar email from Xfinity requesting that I confirm the account or they would deactivate it. Seeing it was the LeschiNews account which is used by contributors, readers and advertisers, this did not seem wise. So, I tried to confirm and when I entered my password, I got the message I expected: invalid password!

I had to steel myself to make the call and I agreed to take the post call survey so I would get better service. My Customer Service representative was a very nice young-sounding man who unfortunately had a rather strong accent which I struggled with and he obviously struggled to understand my problem. I told him I did use that email account and they should be able to tell by looking at it that it was used daily. I told him that I had tried to enter my password, but it was invalid (as usual). He had me enter the Xfinity .com website and try to resolve the issue there but guess what! Although the password section was filled in with "dots," when I tried to enter the password, I got the INVALID message again. I suggested that he give me a password and presumably that would work! This had gone on for quite a while and I could hear my voice quavering and thought No NO! Don't cry in front of Customer Service! This nice compassionate man could sense my desperation and asked if he could put me on hold while he took my situation to a specialized department for answers. I agreed to hold, and, in the meantime, I nicknamed that "other department" as the Department of Utter Despair. When he came back to the phone, I thought he was telling me to hold while he transferred me to that Department, and I agreed although I knew I would actually be in utter despair if I had to tell my story again. But apparently, he told me that he had turned the problem over to the U.D. dept. and I could just hang up. Instead I was on hold listening to music I didn't care for and finally hung up. I quickly received two emails in succession stating Congratulations! Your email account has been confirmed! (without any messy passwords apparently). I had forgotten about the survey but sure enough, another call in half an hour. I danced around the issue and tried to explain that the representative was nice and empathetic but was not able to resolve the issue himself and turned it over to

"another" department. I did not admit what I called that department and hopefully I will never have to call them as they are the holders of my password and if they tell me what the password is, I suppose they might have to kill me.

One month after this harrowing experience, I discovered a new problem. I was unable to send or receive emails and it was during the Leschinews week! I called and was turned over to a technician who was courteous but did not have fully developed listening skills as I had to explain 3 times that No, I could neither send NOR receive. I gave him the Error message and he seemed not to recognize this; apparently it was one of those more serious problems and he had to contact another department. He asked if he could put me on hold and I agreed but after a long "dead" period, I looked at my cell phone and noted that the call had ended, but not by me! I called back indignantly and went through the screening process once again and reached a technician who gave his name so fast, I didn't catch it. I said I had been talking to Chad and he said he was Chad; I explained my problem again and gave the Error message again and again was put on a hold which seemed to end very abruptly. Very incensed at that point, I called again and suffered through the vetting process only to reach a technician who disconnected at the sound of my voice complaining that I had been cut off twice! Now, a THIRD time! I did not call again as I feared my blood pressure might approach dangerous levels. I mused on how I could complete the newsletter without the Send/Receive function as I obviously was not going to get any help in resolving this problem. I tried to ease my anxiety with a glass of wine...OK, maybe two! I finally approached the computer cautiously before going to bed that night and it had been fixed! I now had over 50 emails to go through! Thank you but please, email gods, don't send me to the Department of Utter Despair again!

*-Diane Snell*

## BEAVER BELIEVER

The resurgence of wildlife in the neighborhood in recent weeks has resulted in documented sightings of wild rabbits and coyotes.

At the beginning of May a friend looking out her kitchen window saw a large, brown visitor at her fishpond. It was a small, hungry beaver. "Frank," as he came to be known, seemed to enjoy the large pond and the fresh fruit that was delivered to him by my friend's daughter. He seemed to settle right in. Unfortunately, he also began to take great delight in the beautifully landscaped woodland garden. The Japanese maple was the first to go and it was apparent that by summer's end there would be little left in the back yard if he kept up his pace. What to do? Call a "beaver relocater."

My friend, who lives about 2 blocks west of Lake Washington near Denny Blaine beach, got hold of a permitted trapper who lives in Madison Park. He came and set up a suitcase trap and



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promised that Frank would be taken to the Tulalip Reservation which welcomes the resettling of beavers as the tribe works to restore salmon habitat in the foothills of the western Cascades. It was unusual, the trapper said, for beavers to be found in private Seattle gardens. But these are unusual days. In the end, Frank must have gotten wind of the plans and disappeared, refusing to be enticed by the fresh willows and alder that baited the live trap.

Frank is probably a juvenile. Beavers typically are encouraged to leave their colony when they reach about two years old and are sharing a lodge with parents and younger siblings. They head out solo, looking for their own territory, typically a half mile or more from their birthplace. They will begin looking for a mate soon after. Frank will one day grow to weigh about 60 pounds. The name “Frank” was a guess as it is difficult to tell the sex of a beaver by sight. This is a determination best made by smell, if you can get that close to their sex glands, which is not advised. Males smell like motor oil and females like old cheese. Frank’s front incisors were orange because of an iron-rich protective coating.

Beavers were once prolific in North America, numbering close to 400 million when the first Europeans arrived. By 1900, the fashion craze for beaver fur hats and accessories, and a growing reputation as a farmland pest, saw beaver numbers drop to 100,000. Today, there are about 15 million beavers in the United States. Being how beavers are rodents (the second largest in the world) they reproduce quickly, and their numbers will no doubt begin to grow as environmentalists realize the incredible contributions beavers make to the ecosystem. Beavers are now considered a “keystone species.”

Beavers rebuild Nature. Their damming of streams, done so they can build lodges that are safe from predators, results in the creation of quiet pools for young salmon. In addition to providing fish habitat, their lifestyle (the felling of trees for building and

nourishment and dental care) creates wetlands which in turn provide habitat for butterflies and moose alike. They dig canals to bring additional water to their living areas and to skid small branches and logs along. This engineering, along with the ponds they construct, effects water storage and drainage. Their work actually lowers the temperature of water in some streams and rivers, a critical feature as we face the challenge of climate change.



There are dozens of beaver colonies around Lake Washington. The best-known local spot to see beavers is at Beaver Lodge, a public access area at the intersection of McGilvra and the Broadmoor golf course. Best time for viewing is at dusk. Patience is required as beavers can stay under water for 8 minutes.

A wonderful website for additional information is [beaversnw.org](http://beaversnw.org) which includes an astonishing aerial photo of the waterways beavers have made in the wetlands at the west end of the Montlake Community Center. And there’s a book that will convince you that beavers can literally change the world: *Eager: The Surprising Secret Lives of Beavers and Why They Matter* by Ben Goldfarb.

On a recent evening stroll near Leschi’s T Dock, we saw a beaver swimming toward the tip of the fallen pine that now floats on the lake’s surface. “Frank!” we shouted. We wish them the best.

–Anne Depue

## IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN AND WHAT COULD BE?

Sick people, lacking paid leave, couldn’t afford to stop working. Others who lost their jobs lost their health insurance, too. White-collar workers on lockdown discovered they were counting on people without health care to endanger themselves by delivering food. Poor children began falling behind in school because their parents couldn’t afford internet access. African Americans in states like Louisiana began dying in numbers out of all proportion to their share of the population. The coronavirus was a serious blow. But it quickly became obvious that America’s pre-existing conditions had left the country far weaker and more vulnerable than it should have been. (My italics.)

I began with the words James Bennet, editorial writer for the New York Times, wrote April 9th because his paragraph succinctly covers circumstances I would have summarized to begin this article. Moreover, Bennet says nothing I did not know long before the pandemic. I hasten to admit that I was far from alone; many other persons were, are privy to this information: the millions whose plight it is to live in these circumstances; social workers, teachers and others who work in urban and sometimes rural communities, many “service” workers. But like me, they have no power to improve life for more than a few persons at a time and often only temporarily. The researchers could not make Donald Trump not cut their budget for the study of disease and pandemics. Evidently, neither could Congress. Or in the midst of the wheeling and dealing, Congress selected a greater good, most likely saying, “We can’t get it all.” The people with power return to their safe environments as the powerless continue suffering in their unsafe environments.

As Trump lavished hyperboles on the economy before the virus, the economy he takes credit for, I knew it was not great from a great many of us. No one asked the person rising at dawn and/or working until after midnight, “How are you faring in this economy?” No one asks the person



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who works two, three jobs to live, support a family comfortably. The people at the top made hundreds of thousands of dollars that they could choose to spend or save; the people at the bottom continued their trudge in drudgery choosing whether to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills, skipping meat or purchasing more of the not-so-lean ground beef, not looking at vegetables. Many persons in the position of going to college or have children going to college had to defer their and their children's college or vocational school plans. Would any in the higher and high echelons of government have guessed so many Americans would need food, need food so soon? Could anyone have imagined so many food banks could be emptied so quickly? Recently our leaders have heard how many of us live paycheck to paycheck, but it meant nothing to most of them. Their checks continue to be deposited in their accounts as is expected. They may not know the amount of their mortgage or mortgages, rent, utilities, insurance, etc. Everything is always paid and paid on time. The President loves to mention how he accepts no check but never mentions how much wealthier he has become as a result of becoming President. When Trump so often lavished hyperboles on the economy, he was ignoring so many Americans as he has always done unless he was in a denigrating mode.

I did not want to write about coronavirus! The subject is everywhere—all or most stories on the front page of the Seattle Times, almost all of the TV channels. Of course, it is important. What tires me is the “discovery” of so many problems in the United States. Of course, there are problems, big problem—pre-conditions. Americans who do not have at least \$100,000.00 annually coming into their households, without inheritances, and know nothing about the social service sector of our country, live high above or away from the urban centers or rural sections are not affected by much of the negatives.

I look at the persons on television, for instance. As they recount the news, they continue to live, for the most part, as they live: pay remains the same, health insurance, paid sick leave, and the list continues. “Essential workers” have always been essential but never valued. Essential workers are being recognized more than ever before. More people in more places—especially those not in the so-called “essential workers” group, whose children, nieces, and nephews certainly won't be in this group—have noticed these persons for the first time other than, perhaps, a present of some sort. Or a “big” tip. The television, newsprint, signs, salutations are great, well-deserved, but they do not remove these persons from danger nor put more money in their paychecks. Sincerity requires that we provide much better care.

Friends know I say the Imperialist has no clothes. I say the curtain no longer covers Oz—before President Barack Obama said it in his commencement address!

More than anything I want to hear the following.

Everyone will have shelter.

Everyone will have healthcare including those who cannot pay. (This includes the mentally ill. No one knows how many of the homeless are mentally ill. This includes persons addicted to prescription and illegal drugs. Unhealthy addiction is unhealthy addition.)

Everyone will have more than simply adequate education—this includes computers and wi-fi. Education from pre-k to diploma, a certificate, a two or four-year degree.

Everyone will have a job with a living wage.

The infrastructure of the U. S., especially bridges and roads, will be repaired, rebuilt and NOT WITH SHODDY MATERIALS!

I realize this is expensive. I also realize that the U. S. prints money, gives money, billions. Little is ever said about the Pentagon budget. On occasion the Pentagon has asked for less and been given

more! Our foreign aid budget is a staple for many countries—some use the money wisely; others do not. I refuse to check how much we have spent in the past eighteen years as we fight never-ending wars decreed by a handful of individuals, persons who often do not represent “the people,” persons who were elected from countless gerrymandered districts.

Not doing the above is more expensive than all of the above! You know the adage “A stitch in time saves nine.” Imagine how different the response might have been had not so many industries had not been outsourced so millionaires could make more millions. Imagine how different our response to the pandemic would have been had everyone had insurance. Imagine how many social problems could be solved if the stress in more parents' lives were dramatically reduced. The birth rate and crime rate could be significantly reduced. Preventing mobility in the lower classes eats away at the classes above.

Make changes for selfish reasons! Just make the changes that allow more members of our society to live comfortably rather than desperately. When people can get the basics—food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, a job/career—adequately, they encounter less stress and may become more productive members of society.

More and more I repeat the better off we are, the better off we all are. Most individuals who work in civic, community organizations see this possibility. We have had a few presidents, congresses, local, state, and federal leaders who also envision a much better world and work to make it a reality. We must get others as soon as possible if we ever plan to make the United States of America the great idea it is on paper. I still believe.

—Georgia S. McDade



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# Culture Corner

## THE SEATTLE COVID 19 MURALS: CREATIVITY AND CHEER

Dozens of COVID 19 murals going up on Capitol Hill from Pike and 10th to Broadway and Pine, in Pioneer Square, and a third group in Ballard. The idea is that plywood over closed stores provides a great surface for painting. Many types of artists are involved, and the procedures vary. Sometimes an individual store owner directly chooses artists, as with the Globe Bookstore, Molly Moon, and Oddfellows; other times it is an organization like the Alliance for Pioneer Square and Pioneer Square Business Improvement Association. Here is a link to a website that lists all the artists and murals there in Pioneer Square. See [pioneersquare.org/experiences/murals-in-pioneer-square](https://pioneersquare.org/experiences/murals-in-pioneer-square). Another organization is “Signs of Hope” by CreativityThatConnects. [creativitythatconnects.com/collections/seattle-locations-1](https://creativitythatconnects.com/collections/seattle-locations-1).

In some cases, artists simply paint beautiful imagery such as lush green foliage (Josephine Riceflower Wakuda) or mountain peaks (Nikki Frumkin). Often there are encouraging words: “Keep Going,” “Slow Down” “Stay Strong,” “Stay Home,” “I can’t wait to see you again,” etc. The theme of the mural is frequently directly related to the store that commissioned it, as in the cheery works of Morgan Zion on Molly Moon’s Ice cream stores and Coastal Kitchen (a nautical theme of course).

Collectively the murals suggest a reassuring outburst of creativity as we all fear the loss of all of our cultural organizations. Many of the artists come from a street art/graffiti background, or a pop culture focus. Others are obviously highly trained illustrators and fine artists.

If you go to look for the murals, be forewarned it is easy to miss some of them. The walking tour map of Pioneer Square (from link above) showed me that I missed at least half of them. Even on Capitol Hill to which I returned three times, I missed some based on photos sent to me by Jeff Hou, UW Professor of Landscape Architecture, who kindly sent me a link to his facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/houjeff/media\\_set?set=a.10221629106098228&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/houjeff/media_set?set=a.10221629106098228&type=3). Hou’s images include Ballard which has an outstanding group but does not have a website.

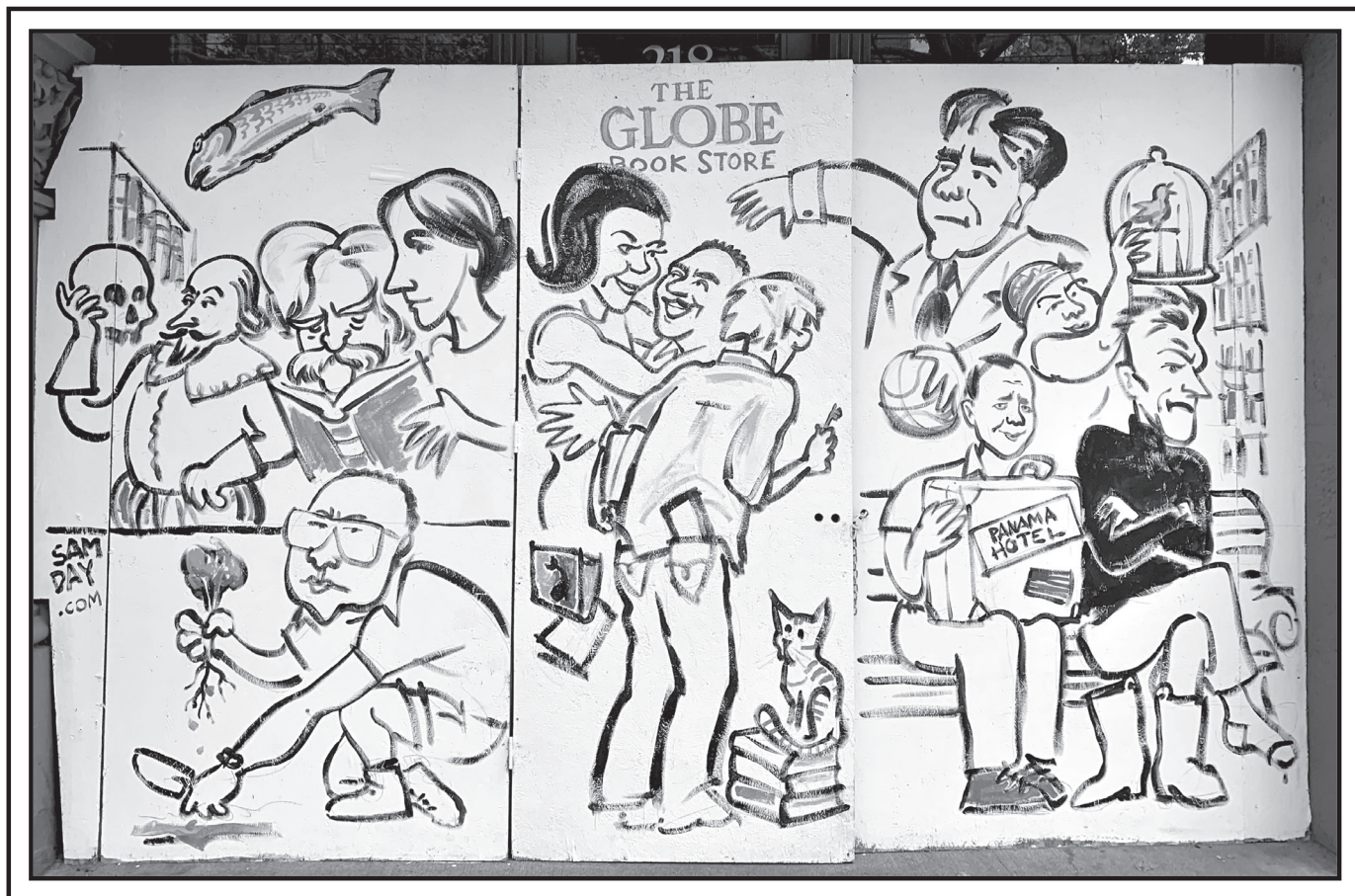
I encourage you to look at the murals closely and individually even as you experience the collective spirit. The styles are wildly contrasting. I have a couple of favorites. On Retail Therapy on Capitol Hill a mural by Burgundy Viscosi depicts birds with large lungs. I love this image. The mountain scene by Nikki Frumkin in Ballard, “Ascent Outdoors,” was stunning (she is a professional painter of mountains). But the Globe Bookstore images by Sam Day of famous literary figures made my day. Globe Owner John Siscoe personally commissioned them. (For more imagery see my blog posts at [artandpoliticsnow.com/blog/](https://artandpoliticsnow.com/blog/).)

These artists all have distinctly contemporary approaches, which is appropriate for this existential moment in history. They did not concern themselves with the long history of mural painting starting in Italy in the fourteenth century and continuing in a direct line through to the twentieth century with Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros, the most famous of the Mexican muralists who worked in



*Malt Bizney and Carlos Aguilar, Broadway near Pike, photo by Susan Platt*





Sam Day, *The Globe Bookstore*—left panel: William Shakespeare, Alex Haley, Mark Twain, Virginia Woolf; door (obverse): Michelle Obama, Langston Hughes, me; right panel: Sherman Alexie, Maya Angelou, Jamie Ford, Samuel Beckett; door (reverse, below): Tintin and Snowy

the United States at various times ( New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles). Judy Baca, who studied with Siqueiros continued those grand mural traditions in the 1970s and later in both her own work in Los Angeles and that of many others. Then of course there are the Indigenous traditions of large-scale painting, all over the Americas.

Another historical reference for public murals is Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal which commissioned artists to paint murals between 1933-1943, some of which still survive in their original locations. The Public Works of Art Project, part of the WPA, paid artists an hourly wage as workers because artists identified with unemployed factory workers, mine workers, and many other industries in marches and protests. They were very, very visible. The government programs for visual artists, writers, theater artists, musicians, and dancers, was brilliantly promoted with the slogan "preservation of skills."

Today, we have a government that would not even think of providing employment to any workers, much less artists. Furthermore, we are prevented from getting out in the street and protesting. The COVID 19 mural





artists, paid by individual business owners and community organizations, can only express hope and solidarity, not a critique of the system in which we are living.

But I am inspired by the fact that these creative artists are getting support from the community.

So, here is my hope for the next step:

I would like to see some of these and other artists connecting the dots on the virus and climate change as affiliated, intersecting crises. The denialism of the virus is the same as denialism of the climate crises, which is escalating even as lots of people temporarily stay home. We can't wait to get back on the road (I definitely include myself in that). The disintegration of the systems of the planet through our actions, is part and parcel of the disintegration of our bodies.

A big positive of this quarantine as seen in these murals and every day: a shared experience. We all hope to build on that sense of connection, and the sharing spirit of "stay at home." We need to for our own survival.

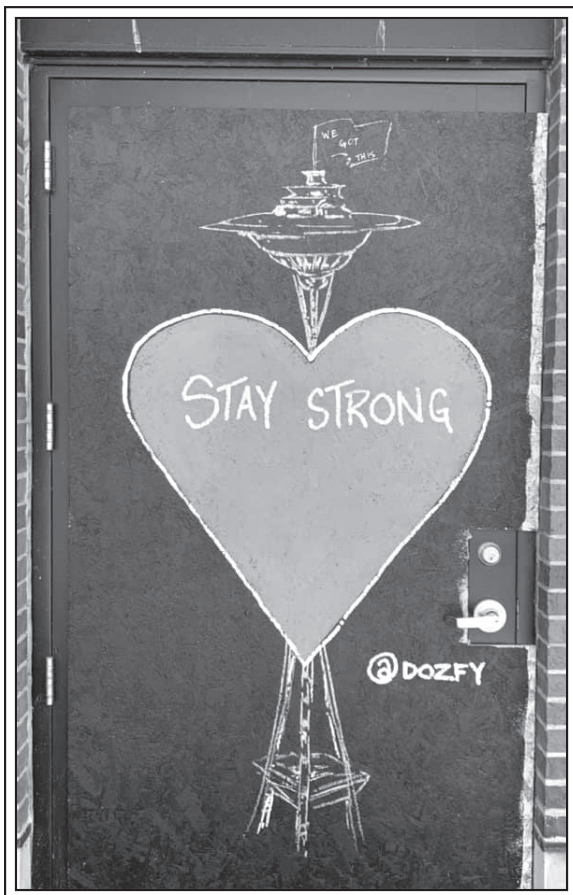
*~Susan Platt  
Art & Politics Now*



*Burgundy Viscosi, Retail Therapy.*



*Steve Shao, Ballard. Photo by Jeff Hou*



*Patrick Nguyen(Dozfy), Ballard. Photo by Jeff Hou*



*Ryan Henry, Ballard. photo by Sean Yale*





# Seeking Sustenance...in the Wilds of Seattle

*Kudos to Leschi Market for a creative solution in the pandemic world!*

## LESCHI MARKET LAUNCHES WINE WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL TASTINGS

Hello Neighbors and Friends! You may have seen the Leschi Market Facebook posts, or maybe even have already participated- we just want to continue to get the word out as we look to continue throughout the summer and into fall.

Due to the high demand and customer requests- Leschi Market proudly launched our Virtual Tasting Series in mid-May via Zoom! Our goal is to host a Zoom tasting every Wednesday from 5:05pm to 5:35pm and explore the world of wine. Wine pros from Leschi Market's award-winning wine aisle are on hand to guide you through new wines, new varietals, and new regions in an educational setting that is professionally fun. We also look to include winemakers, importers, and other knowledgeable industry folks as featured guests in future episodes.

Every Monday we'll announce lineups for the next two Wednesday meetings. Wines will be discounted from normal shelf price to encourage participation. Once you purchase the wines to taste, you'll also receive the proper codes and passwords. Log on at the right time on Wednesday, grab a glass, and enjoy! (Spitting is optional).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH**, introduced the endeavor at hand. Learning about the origins of the Leschi Cellars project, a big toast to Steve Shulman, and we even discussed the very viable option of freezing leftover wine. Always something new to learn!

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH**, we featured all new summer releases of Leschi Cellars. Participants were able to taste new Leschi Cellars wines just before they hit the shelves.

Stay tuned for upcoming lineup announcements and join us for one sometime- we are positive you'll have a great time and maybe even learn a thing or two!

In closing- please know, Leschi Market is dedicated to providing a healthy and safe environment for all customers. We are proactive with implementing policies and day to day operations to ensure this. We want to thank you all for the overwhelming support, kind words of encouragement to our staff, and overall understanding as we navigate these difficult times. Leschi Market will continue to be your one-stop-shop all summer long. Stay safe, stay strong and be well.

*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](http://www.LeschiMarket.com) or request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to [ken@leschimarket.com](mailto:ken@leschimarket.com) and follow the wine department directly on twitter at [twitter.com/leschimarket](https://twitter.com/leschimarket).*

## TAKEOUT MEALS

We have been ordering takeout locally once a week in an attempt to help local businesses. Recently we had the Salmon Tacos from BluWater Bistro (very good but a lot of small containers to deal with!), a veggie and a meat pizza from Central Pizza (the young 'uns take leftovers in their lunch), Chuki's Tacos (excellent but a lot of food!) and Naam Thai: I splurged and got fresh rolls for lunches as well as a Spinach/Prawn dish which I adored but alas, they made an error in the order and my husband got a salad rather than the very garlicky chicken dish he had ordered. That's the first error we have had in our takeout experience.) I usually have enough food leftover to have for lunch or in some cases, the next day dinner.

We see that Meet the Moon has come back to the neighborhood (where have you been?) and offering takeout. I suspect that most restaurants will continue the takeout option even when we enter a later phase; having 50% of your normal diners may not be economically feasible.

*-Diane Snell*

## FUTURE TRIPPING

*And Malcolm Harker imagines a reopened restaurant in the waning of the pandemic:*

Welcome to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe:  
May I show you to your remote table?  
I'll also need contact information for everyone in your party.  
Here's our disposable menu for you to peruse.  
And a tape measure to make sure you stay 6 ft apart.  
We're unfortunately unable to offer any organic or free-range menu options as we don't know where they've been.  
It's also really, really difficult to keep a mask on a chicken.

*-Malcolm Harker*

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## EXEC. BOARD MEETING MAY 11, 2020

Attending remotely: Janice Merrill Brown, Trevor Lally-Menagh, Janet Oliver, Tracy Bier, John Barber, Diane Snell.

Actions taken:

June meeting cancelled.

Flo Ware annual celebration cancelled.

ArtWalk cancelled. There is not enough time to contact all the artists and they may be hesitant given current conditions; there is no way to know what it will be like in September.

Approved a bylaw re: postponing vote during emergencies; this will be taken to the general membership for a vote when we do have a meeting in the future

Leschi Stars We will continue to accept nominations for Leschi Stars through June 30th and present the awards whenever we have our next meeting.

Trevor suggested a push on dues which we do need but Diane would like some help with it if we proceed.

*-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell*

	Income	Expenses	Balance 4/30/2020
<b>General Fund</b>			
Ad Revenue	\$4,927.00		
Dues	\$905.00		
Donations	\$1,115.00		
Insurance			
Printing and postage		(\$2,266.20)	
Totals	\$7,064.50	(\$2,941.20)	\$14,488.69
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
ArtWalk			\$2,447.32
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$1,150.00		\$2,035.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project	\$100.00	(\$396.36)	\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area	\$750.00		\$5,595.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,287.85
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1200.00
Wading Pool			\$3006.13
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$9,064.50	(\$3,337.56)	\$41,405.05
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>			\$11,254.53

Happy Summer

# 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

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☐ \$15 student/low income/ senior membership

☐ I am making an additional donation for LCC work

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## june 2020 | calendar

Another month of isolation!

We have no events!

We have no invitations!

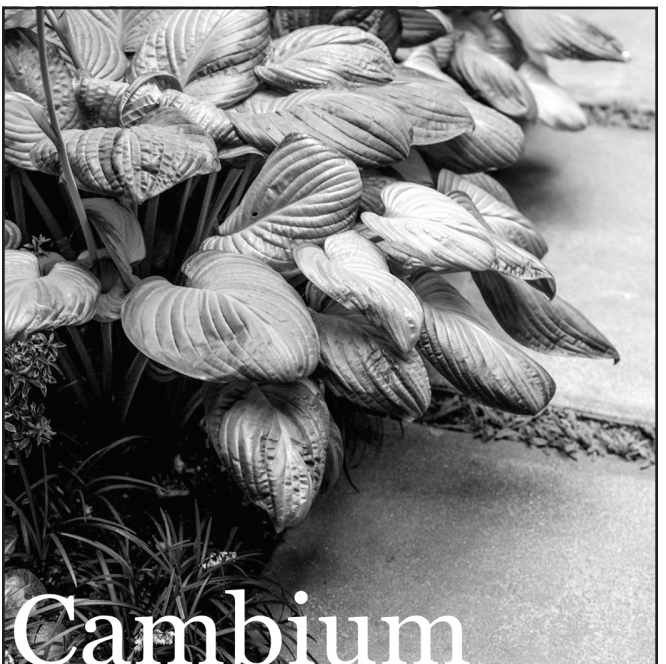
There will be NO newsletter  
in July and August.

Deadline for September newsletter: August 17


Keep safe! Read a book! Wear Your Mask!

Watch your garden grow!

When we meet again, we'll provide  
name tags, so we recognize each other  
with our Pandemic hairdos and beards  
that weren't there last February.



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# leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **AUGUST 17**. 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](mailto:leschinews@comcast.net)

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## Life After the Pandemic

What will our life be like after the pandemic?

We saw in the NY Times that England is experimenting with robots delivering groceries. A small wheeled robot can deliver two plastic bags of groceries in a closed compartment! (I guess England hasn't banned plastic yet.) Will we have more robots doing the work lower paid workers currently do?

What changes do you see? Will social life go back to groups happily eating together in restaurants and sharing nachos and drinks at a bar?

Will you be comfortable sitting next to a sniffing stranger at the movie theater?

Will you look at the long checkout line at the grocery store and decide against joining it?

Will public transportation be permanently damaged by fear of contagion?

We want to hear your predictions! Send us your take on the aftermath to [leschinews@comcast.net](mailto:leschinews@comcast.net). We'll publish your thoughts in the September newsletter.

Join us on Facebook: LESCHI or see our website: [leschicommunitycouncil.org](http://leschicommunitycouncil.org) or [leschinews.com](http://leschinews.com)