

# leschinews

January 2017 Issue No. 338

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



## OUR BRIEF “SNOWSTORM” LENT GLITTER TO OUR ICONIC DREAMCATCHER AT 32ND & YESLER

The Dream Catcher is a tribute to Bernie Whitebear and his sister Luana Reyes. In building this tribute, Lawney Reyes, their brother (and well known artist), wanted to capture something of their spirit – “a lot of people thought Bernie was a dreamer – and he was. But he and Luana also lived to see many of their dreams fulfilled.”

*May all our dreams be fulfilled in the New Year!*

## inside the news

- 3 Miracle Worker Hero!
- 6 The Polar Vortex Strikes Again!
- 10 Tabaimo: Utsutsushi utsushi
- 12 The New Elephant in the Room

## Keep the LCC going!

Thanks to all who did peek at their mailing label and realize it was time to renew. Keep up the good work so we don't have to send a whiny letter.

# President's Message

Happy 2017! For me, this new year comes with a new role with the Leschi Community Council. As still a relative newcomer to the Leschi community, I wasn't expecting to find myself in this position so soon. But in a few short months, I've already learned what a wonderful community this is, and with such a rich and storied history. I am lucky to be surrounded by an amazing and knowledgeable council who deeply cares for this community. I'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to Yousef for his leadership as President over these past several months. The amount of work he's done behind the scenes has been remarkable, and I hope to continue to build upon the momentum. We are all lucky that he isn't going far and will be continuing on with us in the capacity of Vice President!

If I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet, I hope to very soon! I live in the Central District with my husband, Kyle, but I work here in Leschi. I had the distinct pleasure of joining the Edward Jones Leschi branch in the spring of 2016, moving from my initial branch location on Capitol Hill. Admittedly, my path to Seattle is a story all too familiar in this city, as I moved here in 2009 for a job - but Kyle and I also have some family history in Seattle. As such, my objective this year on the council is to continue to be the voice and support of a gracefully evolving community - to both welcome the Seattle and Leschi newcomers finding opportunities and a new life here, while respecting, supporting, and learning from those who have built this neighborhood to be what it is today.

As a council, we will continue to make progress against our 2016-2017 goals. The payoff of Yousef's efforts to improve communication channels, including a revamped website, email communications, and social media, will be available in early 2017. We will continue the stairways & String of Pearls maintenance projects, bring more visibility to the Leschi Business District, and explore new ways to increase membership and involvement with the LCC, per the goals initially outlined in mid-2016.

We welcome your ideas, questions and comments - as always, you can reach us at [LeschiNews@comcast.net](mailto:LeschiNews@comcast.net), or follow us on Facebook. Watch for Facebook notice of launch of new website!



~Yuki Igarashi

Like us on Facebook: **LESCHI**  
and visit our website: [leschinews.com](http://leschinews.com)

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# A Hero Hidden only in Leschi

This month's hero is a fairly new resident to Leschi and you may have not realized she was here, but she is highly visible in the world of Seattle and Housing as the Director of the Low Income Housing Institute.

Sharon Lee came to Seattle in the 80's from Philadelphia where she had become active as a teenager when Chinatown housing was threatened there with the expansion of downtown, a freeway and a convention center. One of the victories back then was that landlords could not raise the rent if they had housing violations (sound familiar?)

Sharon went on to college to focus on Urban Studies and for a Masters in Architecture and Urban Planning. When she arrived in Seattle, she went to work for "Uncle Bob" (Bob Santos) at Seattle Housing and later for the City Council. She ended up working for Frank Chopp at the Fremont Public Association. The group was not interested in managing housing despite recognizing the need and so the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) was formed in 1991 with Frank as a co-founder. Sharon was named Executive Director in 1994.

So, in just 25 years and numerous grants, this busy woman has guided LIHI to create 63 buildings with 1900 units of housing. We have two near us: the Ernestine Anderson Place and the new Abbey Lincoln Court, which is devoted to workforce housing. Lower rents allow lower paid city workers to both live and work in Seattle. The first family to move in was a young couple with an infant who had been living in one of the tiny houses. The names chosen for these two facilities are those of figures in the jazz world, recognizing the Jackson Street jazz history and a history of civil rights activism.

LIHI also owns and operates three Urban Rest Stops, where folks can shower and do their laundry. It is estimated that 60% of homeless persons work either full or part-time and the Rest Stops allow them to maintain basic personal cleanliness and clean outfits for work.

LIHI has also spearheaded the movement to build Tiny House Villages. Each structure costs about \$2200 in lumber and supplies and they are indeed tiny, but they provide shelter off the ground and have that all-important door that locks, protecting personal belongings. We have an example on 22nd just north of Union, behind the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

A creative fundraising effort was developed between LIHI and Uncle Ike's: 5 pre-rolled joints in a package designed to look like a Tiny House; a percentage of the profit goes directly to the Tiny House project. Designed to be a gift, it sells for \$25. One bud-tender reports that sales are good and even better; many of the staff have enthusiastically decided to help build a tiny house! (Will send photo)

LIHI is working on projects in Olympia, Renton and next to Fire Station 39 on Lake City Way. Permits are being sought to build workforce housing in the Little Saigon area in the International District. Sharon is a woman with a critical mission; we can help by identifying possible building sites in the area and urging our churches to provide space for Tiny Houses or supplying temporary housing inside until more permanent housing can be found.

*-Diane Snell*

## Community Discussions on Affordable Housing

If you are interested in affordable housing or on the contrary, concerned about the proliferation of multi-story buildings, you might want to join a casual discussion about proposed changes to your neighborhood to generate more affordable housing, improve transportation services, and parks investments. Snacks and drinks will be provided. All are welcome.

### CENTRAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Affordable Housing Neighborhood  
Maps + Other City Services  
at Optimism Brewing, 909 E Union St.  
Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 6 – 8pm

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# Neighborhood & Beyond

## "THE HEART OF LESCHI"

Talented resident, Kate Barber produced this sketch of Leschi's "downtown" with its gathering places at Starbuck's, Meet the Moon and BluWater Bistro.

But of course, there is another "heart" to Leschi and that is the heart that gave generously to the neighborhood causes we mentioned in our December newsletter. Yousef Shulman reports that 720 hams were purchased for the Rainier Valley Food Bank! These hams are pre-cooked and have no waste, making them a good choice for those who may be homeless. Although some negative comments on the choice of hams were received, imagine yourself homeless with no cooking source—would you be able to cook beef or pork adequately over a BIC lighter?

## And from the PTA at Leschi School:

The 7th Annual Giving Garland at Leschi Elementary warmed A LOT of hearts & homes! Thank you for your generosity!

For the past seven years, the Giving Garland, a holiday charitable program, at Leschi Elementary School, has served families in need of help during the holidays. The giving garland is geared to support the children in the families; we hang tags on the garland which represent a gift, some items are fun – toys, bikes, art supplies, board games, balls, books and some things asked for are basic – clothing, bedding, warm coats, diapers. We also give every family gift cards to local grocery stores.

On behalf of the families who received our help, we extend a tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who gave so generously and willingly! Thank you for the



donated gifts, gift cards, wrapping paper and time to the 2016 Giving Garland. This year we saw the number of requests for support increase significantly; the Leschi School community and greater Leschi neighborhood helped 39 families with over 130 children celebrate the holidays with toys, bikes, books, games, clothing, bedding, diapers, grocery gift cards and more; we distributed nearly \$6,000.00 in gift cards and approximately 500 gifts! Your generosity made a huge difference in so many lives...it brought tears of appreciation and joy to parents' eyes, whose children may not have had any gifts to open on Christmas and relieved the stress of buying a warm winter coat, a big box of diapers or groceries for a special family meal.

"Thank you so much, your help has made a really hard time for my family a little bit better. Happy Holidays from my family to yours. I hope the New Year brings you all the happiness and blessings that life has to offer!"

"My family and I want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you SO much! We really appreciate you. God bless you and have a blessed Christmas."



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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, Merrily Wyman, Jo Usher, Liz Ohlson, Jeni Owens, Mr. & Mrs. Donaldson, and Ms. Stout & Ms. Bomani.

At Leschi Elementary, with a few more than 400 students, approximately 50% of the student body qualifies for free and reduced lunch, which is one way the school district measures income levels of their families. In addition to free and reduced lunch status, the school district tracks the number of students who qualify as homeless, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Shockingly, our number of homeless children doubled from last school year...as of early November we have approximately 70 children attending Leschi who meet the criteria of "homelessness," making Leschi the second highest homeless population in the Seattle Public schools. Support provided to these families from our community through events and services such as the Giving Garland and our Family Support Office (and Mr. Donaldson) are incredibly important.

We really appreciate the partnership, support and generosity from our neighborhood community...the Leschi Community Council, local businesses and residents in our neighborhood!

*Editor: It seems appropriate to quote Robert F. Kennedy here: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lots of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of HOPE."*

## HOLIDAY PARTY RECAPS

### Leschi CC Holiday Concert

Thanks to all who attended our Holiday concert with the Cello Quartet from Garfield High School. It's important to support these talented students and Leschi CC is happy to do so! Many stayed to taste the food and sip the drinks and talk about community issues. Thanks to Jennifer Marquardt for announcing the plight of many homeless Leschi students and the efforts the school is making to alleviate some of the problems these families face. Read the report from the PTA to see the success this effort had.

### CASC Black Tie Affair

Final figures from the December 4 fundraiser show that \$13,000 was raised (after expenses were paid!) toward the resurfacing of the parking lot. The lot is packed with potholes and presents a danger of falls for the seniors. Leschi CC bought a table for the event and although few Board members could make it due to other obligations, we invited long time community members to share the table with us. Thurston Muskelly came in a tuxedo but the rest of us fell down on the black tie piece!

## SHELF LIFE

Documentary filmmaker Jill Freidberg's successful 4Culture grant allows her and collaborators like Domonique Meeks, Henry Luke, and many others to record stories about the Red Apple and about the neighborhood. Freidberg imagines the Central District as a great constellation of stories, and the Red Apple is one point of entry into that constellation. She hopes that community stories can help newcomers understand the history and context of the Central District; that stories about people's lives and the neighborhood itself may help everyone reach out to one another.

The stories come from current and former residents who visit Shelf Life at 2301 S Jackson St., Suite 201--just west of the Red Apple Market.

During a recorded audio interview that can be thirty minutes or longer, participants may choose to share:

- Neighborhood or family history
- Family traditions
- Personal experiences of growing up in a Central District neighborhood
- Changes in the life of the city or of the neighborhood and their impacts
- Sources of neighborhood and/or family pride
- Topics of interest to them

People are welcome to drop in, and they can also bring in someone they think should be interviewed. Age is not

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important, but having roots in the neighborhood (or at the Red Apple) is. You can schedule an interview via <http://shelflifestories.com> telephone 206-866-6488 or visit the Shelf Life storefront (open from 1:00-6:00pm Sun. and Wed; and from 10:00am-3:00pm on Mon., and 10:00-7:30 on Tuesdays.). Sometimes interviews are in progress, so it may be advisable to call before visiting.

*-Barbara Parker*

## WHY WAS DECEMBER SO COLD?

Frigid weather has been hard to come by the past few years in the Pacific Northwest. Due to the “Blob” of warm water in the Northeast Pacific for much of 2014 and 2015, a very strong El Nino during the 2015-2016 winter, and additional warming due to climate change, Sea-Tac Airport has only recorded two months of below-average monthly temperatures since January 2014 (February 2014 and November 2015). But this December, we’ve seen our fair share of winter weather, with sub-freezing temperatures, lowland snow and even freezing rain in spots around the Columbia River Gorge. What changed, and why have we been so cold?

The culprit behind our cold December is also every news station’s favorite winter weather buzzword: the “polar vortex.” But the “polar vortex” wasn’t just conjured up by a creative journalist some blisteringly cold winter day; it is an actual phenomenon in scientific literature that only found its way into the mainstream media over the past couple years. The polar vortex is an area of low pressure and very cold air that is generally kept locked up in the arctic by the jet stream – the current of strong winds in the upper troposphere that steer the paths of storms across

the mid-latitudes. But sometimes, a strong ridge of high pressure will push the jet stream poleward, disrupting the polar vortex and weakening it. As the vortex weakens, it loses its staying power in the arctic and can actually slide down into the mid-latitudes courtesy of a large trough in the jet stream, bringing true arctic air down to the Lower 48.

Early in December, a ridge of high pressure started to bulge northward into Western Alaska/Far Eastern Russia, disrupting the polar vortex and sending it southward. One cold wave came through early-mid December with highs in the upper 30s and even an inch of snow between December 8-9, and an even colder one came in during mid-December with highs struggling to reach freezing in many areas throughout Western Washington.

But as cold as things were here, they were much colder further east. Casper, Wyoming dropped down to -33 the morning of December 8, and West Yellowstone, Montana dropped to a bone-chilling -43 degrees on December 17. We Seattleites can thank the Rockies and the Cascades for blocking this truly frigid air from entering our region.

Some long-range models hint that January may look like December, with the potential for occasional arctic blasts and bouts of light snow for parts of the Pacific Northwest. Be sure to check out my weather blog at [charlie.weathertogogether.us](http://charlie.weathertogogether.us) for all the latest on the wonderful weather we experience in the Pacific Northwest, including the potential for snow this month!


*-Charlie Phillips*


## WINTER PLAYFAIR

Lift your winter spirits at the first ever Winter Playfair happening from 4:00-7:00pm on Jan. 14. Designed for children and adults of all ages, activities include opportunities to acquire skills or use existing ones (sing-along; piano playing; knitting; collage making; coloring; decoration creation--for the Feb. MCC Neighbor Awards and the Epiphany Have A Heart event—and much more), play games (bean bag toss; jigsaw puzzling, Twister, Legos) and exchange items you want for those you no longer need (plush toys; books; magazines; puzzles; children’s costumes). Anyone who has underutilized Legos is encouraged to bring them.

If you can share 30 minutes of your time to lead a game or share a skill on Jan. 14, please be in touch by Jan. 8 with Audrey Seale at [audreyseale@comcast](mailto:audreyseale@comcast) so she can arrange for tables, mats, etc. Participants so far include All Threads Together, Epiphany Parish, Madrona Grace and the Madrona Community Council. Many more have been invited to pitch in to play. Getting together as a community also means sharing a meal, so please bring food to share on the 14th. Madrona Dining and Sipping Society is on board too. Plates, etc., will be provided. To let us know you plan to bring food, please send an email to Barbara Parker at [parker@seattleu.edu](mailto:parker@seattleu.edu). The event is at Epiphany’s Great Hall and kitchen (1805 38th Ave.). See you there!

*-Barbara Parker*



  
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## THE YEAR 2016 IN LURC

The year 2016 has been an auspicious year in Central Area development and land use, and in turn, a full one for the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (LURC). We've studied, commented on and hosted meetings on all of the following projects, including some lively events that if their potential is captured, will lead to community-building beyond the occasionally confrontational discussions.

The heart of the district at 23rd and Union has been humming with activity, both on paper and in construction. Two mixed-use buildings that herald the next generation of urban form opened their doors: the Central, a 65', six-story project at the southeast corner, and the four-story, 45' Stencil at 24th and Union. One more broke ground in November, East Union, also a 65' six-story project, on the former Richlin's gas-station/Cappy's gym properties at the northeast corner. The eponymous Liberty Bank Building (LBB), a low-income housing project by Capitol Hill Housing, is currently moving through the permitting process, slated to start construction in late 2017. And at the very tail end of the year, we all learned about the Lennar/Regency redevelopment of the Mid-Town mega-block at the southeast corner (currently owned by the Bangasser family, site of the Post Office).

These last two projects are of particular interest in light of the ongoing gentrification of the Central Area in particular, and urban centers around the country in general. In both cases, the developer is building a partnership with community groups, with the potential end result being an ownership model that would itself be groundbreaking. The non-profit Africatown is a common thread in both, with a memorandum of understanding that 15 years hence could land them and Cornerstone in an ownership position at LBB, and at Mid-Town, could see them with an actual financial stake in the project. This is all happening at the heart of the once redlined zone, at a time when the ethnic demographic of the area is flipping.

Down the road a piece at 23rd and Jackson, the redevelopment of Promenade 23 is moving ahead. In February, LURC hosted a gathering of over 125 people, interested enough to jam into the lobby of Ernestine Anderson Place. The 500-unit, 65' high project is targeted to begin construction in fall of 2017. Along with a full-grocery store and various retail spaces down to the pop-up scale, it will re-establish a direct pedestrian connection along the 24th Avenue alignment from South King Street to Jackson. At Jackson, this aligns with the current crosswalk to Walgreen's occurs, and at the south side, it is currently the blank back wall of Red Apple. This feature is a clear public benefit, only diluted somewhat by the proposal that it be gated off after hours. What becomes of Red Apple – or a reasonable facsimile thereof – during the two-year construction period is still unresolved.

Kitty-corner to this, and much less on the radar for most folks, Community House, next door to the more prominent Flowers-4u shop, is in permitting for a four

story mixed-use project, and has plans to redevelop that entire corner. More should be learned at the beginning of 2017.

Other projects in the pipeline include six-story mixed-use proposal at the northeast corner of Rainier and Dearborn, and one of similar scale immediately to the north at Rainier and Lane. A multi-building project at 13th and Fir (behind Washington Hall) looks likely to break ground in 2017.

In addition to bricks and mortar, there are other policy initiatives that continue to warrant attention. The HALA effort will be moving forward in piecemeal proposals, with some portions possibly applying projects that become vested in 2017. The "Backyard Cottage" (detached accessory dwelling unit, or DADU) rules update hit a stall recently, with a hearing examiner ruling in December that the city needs to go through an EIS process before the changes can go into effect.

One of the bigger impacts that received some commitment is the approval of the master plan at the Swedish Hospital Cherry Hill campus. The allowable building heights there will be dramatically higher than existing, which has put residents in the nearby blocks on edge for years, bracing for what will be a parallel increase in traffic and other impacts.

To address the prospects that the future holds for our neck of the woods, LURC also has been involved in reviewing proposed changes to the Design Review program – the process that multi-family and commercial



  
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projects go through to refine the quality of what we all look at every day (important reminder: single family projects do not go through Design Review). Several of our members also participate in the Central Area Design Guidelines Coalition – a group formed in May of this year to document criteria that will guide designers working here, and the design review boards that review their work, to solutions that fit their context. The process will likely take years to complete, not unlike the timeline for any construction project.

LURC also participated in its first “Land Use 101” seminars this year, providing residents with some fundamental grounding on how development works, with the hope being that an informed community can better steer its own future.

No doubt, the one project that most of us deal with directly is the ongoing 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements, even if it is not exactly in the purview of LURC. Thankfully for the denizens of north-south travel, the year saw the completion of this massive water-main replacement/street-rebuild project between Jackson and Union. At the time of this writing, a war zone persists between there and Madison (and will extend to John Street...and at some point, south of Jackson). If fortune be with us, the future for the Central Area will be as smooth and gracious as the newly paved 23rd Avenue.

*-Jeff Floor, Chair  
Land Use Review Committee*

## YEAR IN REVIEW FOR LESCHI'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

This past year, there have been multiple work parties restoring nature and improving trails in Leschi, Frink, the Leschi Natural Area, and Peppi's Playground — especially, preserving a wetland area of Frink Park, restoring a former homesite and steep slopes in the Leschi Natural Area, and planting hundreds of new plants and improving the trails of Peppi's Playground.

The shoreline street ends received some help from the City street landscape crews and year-end volunteer work parties, due to a re-focus of the monthly stairway cleanup project.

Leschi Park is benefitting from a new crushed gravel path that the Parks Department installed to enable handicapped people to access the Park's comfort station from the parking lot by the tennis courts.

Sadly, we continued to lose trees — some from illegal woodcutting in Frink Park, but also disease claimed a magnificent elm tree that graced the edge of Lakeside Avenue South in Leschi Park. The latter will be replaced by a noble fir tree.

Powell Barnett Park blossomed with the installation of an adult outdoor fitness center and the landscape renovation of the slope along the east edge of the park. The raised crosswalk across Martin Luther King Jr. Way at East Alder Street was painted in the bright colors of Africa.

Flo Ware Park continued to receive special treatment from Park Department gardeners, especially the perennial landscaping on the west edge.

Some people have asked: what did we get out of the recent tax increase for parks (the Metropolitan Park District)? I've seen some real but mostly subtle improvements in landscape maintenances, for instance renovating of the landscape above the comfort station in Leschi Park as well as the rebuilt stairway and new trail there. The parks were greener this summer, and are getting to look more well tended. Some parts of parks maintenance are missing the extra help that crew work can provide — notably the trails. At this writing, there is no word about the future of the boat marinas or of filling our wading pools with water this summer.

The proposal by Seattle City Council to legally allow camping in our neighborhood parks is apparently on the shelf, hopefully not to be revived. In many ways, this was a desperate attempt to accommodate homeless families and individuals. But it was deeply flawed, because the idea lacked the essential features of safe, sanitary, easily accessed by public services (social workers, police, fire) locations, and most of all, the concept did not put a roof over their — the homeless — heads.

Readers, please note that the Leschi News provides contact information for the Community Council officers and main volunteers, who invite your comments, input and questions.

*-John Barber, Parks and Greenspace Chair*

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## MIDTOWN CENTER MEETING 12/21/16

A large crowd assembled at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the program on the Midtown Center development. Jeff Floor, Chair of LURC (Land Use Review Committee) explained that the meeting would feature a presentation by the developers on three development options, followed by a 30 minute q&a to clarify anything we had heard and another 30 minutes for each table to indicate what they liked about the possibilities presented and what they disliked.

Regency Partners has had the land under contract for 1 ½ years; their plan would be to manage the retail portion. Lennar, a company based in California but with a local presence, would be the construction company. They do apartments only, no condos. An example of their work is now under construction is at 2020 Madison.

Sensitive to the community needs, they met with Wyking Garrett who represents Africa Town. Their preferred development option would sell a portion of the property to Africa Town to operate in a way that preserves the heritage of the neighborhood. And recognizing the need for subsidized rents, they plan to participate in both the MFTE and HALA recommendations of 10% renting for at 60% of average median income.

Each of the three designs would have a center “mews” or alley for pedestrians. There are plans for 30,000 sq. feet of grocery and 10,000 sq. feet of drug store space. The rest would be reserved for small scale retail. Underground parking would provide 125 parking spaces for retail and on a lower level 250 gated residential parking spaces.

The company has agreed to repair the James Washington, Jr. fountain and give it back to Africa town for placement.

The three design plans will be presented to the Design Review Committee on 1/5/17. Construction is planned to begin the first part of 2018 and opening planned for 2020.

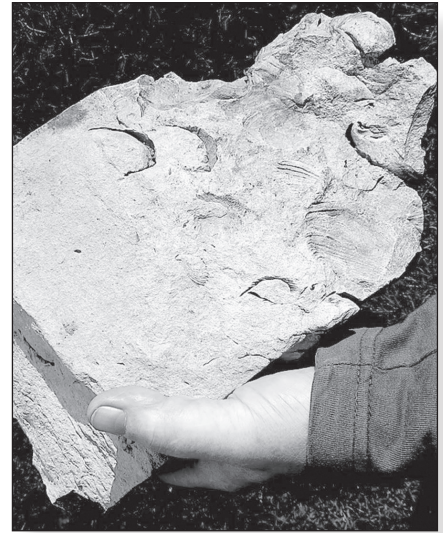
Comments from the tables were often in opposition: some didn't feel a grocery store was needed despite the plans for multi-story housing at the Richlen site kitty-corner from Midtown, the 2 new existing buildings (The Central and The Stencil), a building planned at 22nd and Union and the Liberty/ Key bank site which will be all low income and perhaps with few cars. Unanimous approval for keeping the Post Office on site was expressed, but it will have to go somewhere during construction. There was a suggestion for a day care site at the Africa Town portion of the site.

—Diane Snell

## LESCHI PARK ERRATIC

We thank Darrell Howe for the factual information on this rock. Despite a brief (very brief) period of majoring in geology in college, I had to look at

the dictionary definition of erratic as I associated it with that driver ahead of us who seems to have stayed at the pub for one too many. “Erratic” also means: a rock or boulder that differs from the surrounding rock and is believed to have been brought from a distance by glacial action.



The Leschi Park erratic in Seattle's Leschi Park is a sandstone erratic with many embedded bivalve fossils. Analysis of the fossils and the rock's minerals shows it may have come from the Nooksack Group near Mount Baker, or from the Harrison Lake area of southern British Columbia (Wikipedia).

Darrell obtained this information from Christian Gronau, British Columbia, who was able to analyze a fragment that had broken off the main rock. “The piece, aside from containing molds of *Buchia pacifica*, is weathered all around to a light tan color (clay minerals), as can be seen at one freshly broken corner. On one side, the specimen exhibits clear and well-preserved glacial striae, as if to make doubly sure that it is recognized as a glacial erratic. Lithology and fossil content corroborate the suspected source of the Leschi Park erratic as being the Harrison Lake area in BC.

Harrison Lake is about 75 miles east of Vancouver by Harrison Hot Springs, perhaps not an unreasonable distance when it comes to glacial action, but truly awesome in human terms.

—pieced together by Diane Snell

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# CULTURE CORNER

## **"TABAIMO: UTSUTSUSHI UTSUSHI" AND THE FUTURE OF THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM**

When I went to the wonderful Tabaimo exhibition at the Asian Art Museum, the head curator told me that the Museum would close at the end of it for two years! That is February 26, 2017. Mark your calendars.

Tabaimo is a world-renowned artist who represented Japan at the 2011 Venice Biennale! We are incredibly lucky to have a major exhibition of her work here in Seattle. Even more amazing is that half of the works are newly created for this exhibition. The artist herself curated the show, pairing her videos with famous works from the Asian Art Museum's collection.

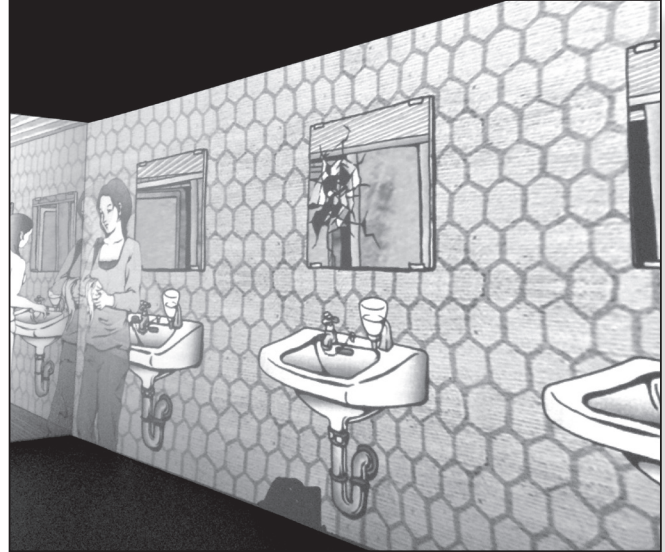
Tabaimo made up the word "Utsutsushi" to go with "utsushi" which means immersive copying and studying of a master artist's work. At the beginning of the exhibition, Tabaimo honors her mother, a well-known ceramic artist and the Edo era artist that she studies (utsushis). "Utsutsushi" seems to mean taking it further, to play with and innovate in response to historical art.

First, Tabaimo pairs two 16th century Chinese wooden chests with her video *Two*, 2016. The video is projected on the back of a transparent wall behind the chests, so that their silhouette frames the video. Initially we see an animation of a chest full of bed covers, but then an arm reaches out from behind a pillow! Suddenly we realize that this artist creates fantastic stories. A sense of the unknown from mundane places erupts in many of the works.

One great example is *ConVENience*, which features a walk in installation with three walls on which the artist projects life size Japanese public toilets. Inside this space, one drama after another emerges such as a turtle coming out of a drain and a woman diving in and disappearing.

The artist cautioned us as we went through the exhibition to stay until the end of each work: it was true- there are always surprises that catch us off guard in these poetic narratives. They aren't very long, so it is not difficult to watch to the end. I also encourage you to enjoy the well-known historical works juxtaposed to the videos. You will see them with new eyes.

The historical art collection features many extraordinary works many donated by museum founder, Richard Fuller. We have seen only a small part of it over the years. The museum wants to expand in order to increase its space for exhibitions, as well as accommodating more resources for teachers and schoolchildren. The expansion also adds



*Tabaimo, public conVENience (sic), 2006, video installation, Courtesy of Gallery Koyanagi*

temperature controls that will protect the works on exhibit, and expand what can be borrowed for special exhibitions.

That expansion is projected to be 50 feet high with a lot of glass windows. It will be added to the back of the museum, in an out of the way corner of Volunteer Park (the East side). At a recent community hearing (there have been five), elite board members and other art people defended the need for the expansion, while park users bemoaned the cutting of trees, the threat to copper beeches, the loss of part of the park, the idea that the museum goers would be looking down on people in the park through the windows, the excessive height (as tall as the Olmsted Tower), and the light that would be blazing from the museum. Some called for the museum to be built somewhere else, or to stay within its footprint. Many people made a lot of good points. Many park users were upset they had not been asked about the plans earlier in the process.

I spoke in favor of the expansion because I know that Richard Fuller was a pioneering supporter of contemporary artists as well as a collector of Asian Art. He would certainly have been delighted with this plan for modernizing the 1930s building. (Let's face it: it is a little dreary, isn't it?) But, after listening to the many park users, I could also sympathize with the concerns for the park itself. While we are endowed with many beautiful parks in Seattle, Volunteer Park certainly is special. Small and centrally located, it embraces many different activities. I revel in the old growth trees as well as Shakespeare

in the Park. (By the way, the theater is also going to be rebuilt next year.) People lie in the sun, but they also play games. Then there is the wonderful Conservatory. Will the new Asian Art Museum tower over us and inhibit our enjoyment? I don't think so given the location of the expansion. But for two years, the building of the new wing will disrupt us with a lot of construction noise.

Both Volunteer Park and the art deco Asian Art Museum are landmarked. The plans need to go before the Landmark Preservation committee and doubtless will be altered by other committees as well. Stay tuned. Here is a link to the current museum presentation on their website.

[www.seattleartmuseum.org/inspire](http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/inspire).

But above all, don't miss the Tabaimo exhibition! Bring your children and grandchildren, they will love it and it will cheer you up as well. Not only amusing, but also thought-provoking, Tabaimo's work leads us into imaginative worlds in which anything can happen, certainly a good place to be for this particular historical moment.

### Other shows not to miss:

- "Kiss Fear" Bonfire Gallery, 603 S Main Street at the Panama Hotel to January 28, 2017
- "Poet Daemond Arrindell with Artists Mary Coss and Holly Ballard Martz take an intimate look down the barrel - contemplating gun rights, the loss of life, and the search for healing in their touching, powerful and sometimes darkly humorous ruminations on America's weapon of choice."
- First Thursday Reception January 5, 2017: 6PM - 9PM
- Workshop with Poet Daemond Arrindell Saturday January 7, 2017 3PM - 6PM
- "30 Americans" Tacoma Art Museum to January 15, 2017 "This critically acclaimed, nationally traveling exhibition showcases paintings, photographs, installations, videos and sculptures by prominent African American artists who have emerged since the 1970s as trailblazers in the contemporary art scene."
- "Yves St Laurent: The Perfection of Style" - Seattle Art Museum to January 8

~Susan Noyes Platt,

[www.artandpoliticsnow.com](http://www.artandpoliticsnow.com)




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## CYNTHIA LINET: THE GUN SHOW

"The Gun Show has been three years in the making. What started out as mere curiosity has now become my cause. The proliferation of guns in our country, frightening, though it may be, in itself, is squarely connected to wider issues of militarization, war, and the real threat of nuclear annihilation in our lifetime. Will we disarm in time? That is the question. Disarming must begin with us." -- Cynthia Linet

The Gun Show takes a complicated look at the presence of firearms in the United States. Local artist and activist, Cynthia Linet, presents 115 portraits depicting multiple aspects of the uniquely American cultural phenomenon of gun ownership.

Gallery Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday, Evening Hours: 5:00 to 7:00, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Admission is free.

The M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery is located at the north end of Seattle Central's Atrium Cafeteria, main campus building, 1701 Broadway at the corner of Broadway and Pine. For more information, please visit online at [www.seattlecentral.edu/artgallery](http://www.seattlecentral.edu/artgallery) or call 206-934-4379 to speak with gallery staff. The gallery is funded by Seattle Central's Associate Student Council and Student Leadership.


### THE GUN SHOW

M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery,  
 January 3 through February 3

**Opening Reception: January 4, 5-7 PM**

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# Seeking Sustenance...

## WINE TO RESTOCK THE CELLAR + A NEW ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Happy New Year Leschi! Now that the cellar has been depleted with host gifts and general entertaining, it is a good 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 back up that cellar is with proven winners. Here are five.

### 2014 Mollydooker Shiraz McLaren Vale Carnival of Love (\$69.99)

#30 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2016. "Luscious cherry, blackberry and plum jam fruit flavors marry together, forming this powerful yet elegant Shiraz. Made from a selection of McLaren Vale's premier grapes, its deep color and fragrant nose leads to quite a voluptuous palate of fruit intertwined with rich mocha, coffee and chocolate, with traces of licorice and toffee. Carnival of Love offers exceptional complexity while remaining balanced and delightful to drink." 95-points.

### 2014 Orin Swift Machete Petite Sirah & Grenache California (\$44.99)

#6 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2016. "A nearly opaque color sets in the glass with a hard, red complexion that is almost black. Aromas of ripe blueberries and candied plum mingle with toasted oak and charred vanilla. The entry is soft and inviting which paves the way for a lush mid-palate replete with layers of ripe boysenberry and cassis. The finish showcases ripe tannins and pronounced fruit which frames the two for nearly a minute." 94-points.

### 2014 Hahn Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands SLH (\$21.99)

#67 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2016. "The texture is plush, with lots of complex flavors, ranging from plum to anise to dusty, cedary oak. Satisfying from start to finish, ending with dusty, nutmeg-scented tannins. Drink now." 90- points.

### 2014 M. Chapoutier Côtes du Roussillon- Villages Les Vignes de Bila-Haut (\$13.99)

#51 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2016. "This red is supple and fresh, showing a mix of dark berry, plum, herbal tea and peppery flavors. Lightly grapy tannins frame the licorice- and mineral-accented finish. Drink now through 2018." 90 points.

### 2014 Joseph Drouhin St.-Véran (\$16.79)

#61 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2016. "Though rich, this is offset by vivid acidity, creating a nice tension to the lemon, apple and melon flavors. Long and tangy on the finish. Drink now through 2018." 90 points.

## NEW WALLA WALLA WINERY

Shortly before the holiday craziness, the Leschi Wine Panel was lucky enough to meet Elephant Seven Winery. They check all the right boxes: Small production? You bet! Producing three total wines, and their current offerings are their very first releases. Scores? Yes! Garnering great scores with a first vintage is unheard of—see the write-ups below. Local? Of course! Not only are the grapes sourced from Walla Walla, but also the winemakers live right down the lake from us here in Leschi!

I'll leave you with this quote from their website, and encourage you to learn more here: [www.elephantsevenwine.com](http://www.elephantsevenwine.com). Give them a try — you won't be disappointed.

"Our goal is to do as absolutely little as possible to the wine. We do not use chemical additives, enzymes, color enhancements or any other foreign substances. Through the struggle of keeping things simple, we create something that is genuine, honest, and beautiful."

### 2014 Elephant Seven Syrah Yellow Bird Vineyard Walla Walla (\$41.99)

"This Syrah from the Yellow Bird Vineyard is co-fermented with 6% Viognier. It begins with aromatics of leather, milk chocolate, blackberry preserves and hints of smoked bacon. There are flavors reminiscent of black cherry, anise, crème de cassis and milk chocolate. Plush, and exceedingly delicious, this will age gracefully into the next decade. Best 2016-2026." —International Wine Report, 93-points.

### 2014 Elephant Seven Syrah River Rock Vineyard Walla Walla Rocks (\$32.99)

"Sourced from the prestigious River Rock Vineyard, this deep cored wine opens with an aromatic profile of tar, smoked brisket, Umami, blackberry jelly and hints of cassis. There is a gorgeous range of flavors at play, with red currants, red cherries, Umami, seaweed and bacon fat. The palate is rich with a seamless mouthfeel and velvety texture. 114 cases made. Best 2016-2026." —International Wine Report, 93-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](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).*



## ...in the Wilds of Seattle

### FEED CO. BURGERS - CENTRAL

The first few times I drove past Feed Co., I didn't notice the Burgers part and wondered what a rural supply place was doing in the heart of the Central District. Not having a ferret or even a hamster, I couldn't see myself going in there. I finally noticed the word "Burgers" and realized that WE were the livestock this place was meant for! It did seem the right place for an eatery on the ground level of a multi-story building with apartments (The Stencil), but the name is less than appealing.

Nevertheless, it needed to be reviewed and with my friend from Maryland in tow and my spouse, the three of us "did" lunch. One is not sure what to do on entering; it looks like a place where you go up to the counter to order, but we decided to choose our booth first as there was only one left. A waiter brought menus to our booth and later brought our food; we didn't need to retrieve it. Then they kept bussing empty plates although there is an accessible receptacle for bussing your own, so not sure what is the PC thing to do. Wait staff is friendly and engaged.

There is a basic burger for \$5 (1/4 lb.), or you can go upscale with a 6 oz. burger dressed with fancy trimmings.



My husband ordered the generous Texicana with frizzled onions, BBQ sauce, bacon, cheddar, slaw and a grilled jalapeno (\$9.50). I noticed he put the jalapeno to one side, but he did bring it home when he couldn't get through the second half of the burger.

My friend Pat ordered the Mushroom Burger, which has porcini and crimini mushrooms, thyme, and Gruyere (\$9).

There was nothing on the menu about any veggie burger, so I ordered the Tempura veggies (only \$4) and we got two sides: onion rings and sweet potato fries. I figured the tempura would be a small offering (wrong) and we would need the sides. Too much food. But they have take-home boxes so we didn't waste!

My tempura veggies consisted of four very large stalks of broccoli dipped in tempura batter and fried. There was an orange (in color) dipping sauce, which was not distinctive, and I kept thinking how good a spicy peanut dip would be with this.


I later discovered from the waitress that they do have a veggie burger and you can order it with any of the fancy treatments. The drinks were interesting; there were soft drinks in two flavors: pear and raspberry (\$4 each). Pat ordered a Coke and it was a Mexican coke with real sugar and no high fructose corn syrup. They also serve interesting flavors of shakes (Salted Caramel!) but it was cold out and ice cream seems a crime against nature in that weather.

**SOLD!**

**EWING & CLARK**



*Thank you for another great year!*



Kristine Losh  
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## LESCHI EXEC. BOARD MEETING 12/14/16

**ATTENDING:** Yuki Igarashi, Yousef Shulman, Jeff Floor, John Barber, Tracy Bier, Diane Snell.

**GUESTS:** Kshama Sawant and aide Clay Showalter

This meeting location was changed the day of the meeting, as Iora had no one to staff their facility that evening. The Central Area Senior Center graciously provided their technology room for our meeting.

The LCC Board had invited City Council Member Sawant and her aide, Clay Showalter, to our meeting to discuss homelessness. Concern had been expressed at a previous meeting about hosting homeless persons in the parks without resources. We began the meeting with what we felt were more reasonable choices for housing the homeless; there are spaces within community facilities that could be used for temporary shelter to put folks inside in inclement weather where resource information could be more easily shared. And many large churches in this area have considerable parking lot space where tiny houses could be built. A logical choice, but not one favored by the Mayor, is the designated emergency shelter in each city district; in our area, that is Garfield Community Center.

John Barber, as a Park Steward in Leschi Park, spoke to situations that had occurred there where homeless men are living but not visibly. John had found a prescription bottle of needed medications and a dental plate at different times and luckily, had been able to find the owners in both cases, but this is an example of why resources are needed for these folks. CM Sawant seemed to agree with the need for resources. She said 3-4 new encampments are planned around the city. Her office plans a push for a tax on the rich and a real estate excise tax to increase needed funds. She offered resources from her staff in our endeavors to implement community resources for the homelessness.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Jeff said there will be a meeting on the design plans for the Midtown Center on 12/22 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 6:30pm.

**YOUSEF:** He had hoped that the website would be up by now but there is more training needed. He did not feel we should pay for it until that was accomplished. Diane suggested that we pay half the final payment and pay the second half when the training is complete. Yousef and Yuki expressed agreement with that plan.

### DIANE:

1. The January issue newsletter deadline is Dec. 19; need to include brief recaps of the LURC activities and Parks.
2. All advertisers have been contacted re: rate increases for ads in January. No negative feedback received.
3. No letter has been sent to Restricted Fund Chairs yet as no Treasury report has been generated.
4. No info on website ads has been sent to advertisers yet as we have not been trained on entering the ads yet.
5. More money was spent on food for the Holiday party this year and more was eaten; report being sent by email.
6. Park Postal can do newsletter layout on InDesign and they are OK with 2-day turnaround; need to discuss cost.

*~Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell*

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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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# leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **JANUARY 16**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:

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## january 2017 | calendar

*Please note: there is no Leschi meeting in January.*

**JAN 7** Leschi Natural Area work party, 9am-3pm. Lunch & tools provided. 36th & Terrace.

**JAN 10** Housing Affordability Discussion, 6-8pm at Optimism Brewing. 909 E Union St.

**JAN 11** Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting, 7pm at Iora Primary Care.  
306 23rd Ave. between Yesler & Jackson; driveway entrance on Main.

**JAN 12** Central Area Neighborhood District Council, 6pm. The Central, 500 30th Ave. S

**JAN 14** Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, 9am at The Central (Breakfast: \$14)

**JAN 14** Winter Playfair, 4-7pm. at the Great Epiphany Hall, 1805 38th Ave. See page 6.

**JAN 20** Green Dolphin Street Lounge, 6-9pm featuring Josephine Howell. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members. Refreshments. No Host bar.

**JAN 21** String of Pearls work party this month 10am-12pm. Back to Dearborn and Lake Washington Blvd. to complete blackberry removal and trim the shrubs. Bring tools and meet at 10am!

**JAN 26** Meaningful Movies at Mt. Baker Community Club featuring *A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet*, 6pm.

**JAN 26** EastPAC meeting, 6:30pm. Chardin Hall, Seattle U. Parking off Jefferson past 12th on right.

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

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