Meet Your State Senator

Join us on June 5 at 7pm for a Q&A with our State Senator Rebecca Saldaña. The Leschi CC Board has submitted some questions to her, and we want to hear your concerns as well.

Following the Senator will be Joseph Elenbaas, the new Crime Prevention Coordinator for the East Precinct.

June 5 at 7pm at The Central
500 30TH AVE S, ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF JACKSON

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Hello Leschi Residents,

Summer is only a month away; so hard to believe how quickly the time goes by. The flowers are in bloom and the energy always is more vibrant when the sun shines.

Our program this June will be varied and hopefully valuable to you. Rebecca Saldaña, our Senator for the State of Washington from the 37th District will be answering questions posed by the Leschi CC Board and the audience will also be able to ask questions.

Then we will hear from Joseph Elenbaas, our East Precinct Community Crime Prevention officer. He will be speaking about what is being done in our neighborhoods respecting crime and what is being done and planned.

Finally, a couple of our missing Leschi Stars will attend to collect their star for being an unsung community hero.

You may know that we take a summer break with no LCC general meetings during the months of July and August and no newsletter. We will return Wednesday, September 4th. We promise an exciting, informative program for you.

Don’t forget that the Leschi Art Walk takes place Saturday, September 14th in our business district. Please contact us at leschinews@comcast.net if you want to rent a booth for the event to showcase your talent. Or, if you just want to volunteer to help. We meet monthly on the second Thursday at 3:30 at BluWater Bistro. Come and offer your creative ideas to make this the most memorable ArtWalk yet.

Thank you for all your support and may your flowers bloom brilliantly and may your health be stellar over the summer. Enjoy family and community BBQ’s and reach out to your neighbors.

Warm regards,

Janice Merrill Brown
LCC President
SOS forum review & homelessness

I recently attended a candidate forum for District 3, and I urge all voters to do the same even if you think you know who will vote for and vote against. You may hear something that really affirms your position, or you may come away shaking your head and vowing to find out more about each candidate. This forum was put on by SOS (Speak Out Seattle) and I was pleased at the format even though this is a more conservative group than I would normally support. I think they did a fair job of identifying the concerns that most Seattleites have and I applaud their choice of Essex Porter as moderator. He did an excellent job.

What wasn’t discussed was anything about climate change and what can be done but really, most citizens are more concerned about getting their Amazon package stolen off the porch than they are about the worsening signs of climate change.

Of the 7 candidates that evening, the men seemed more aligned in ideas for solutions than the women. On the lightning round where, the candidates hold up signs indicating a yes or no on important issues, the vote for a property tax, “Yes” was 5 out of the 7. The 2 “No” candidates were Sarah Brereton and Pat Murakami. These same two were against rent control.

I didn’t hear a satisfying answer to the problem of not being able to replace police officers who are retiring—it was as if most of the candidates did not hear the word “retiring.” According to KUOW news, this is a problem affecting most big cities and is unlikely to be related to any Seattle policies.

The other question which I did not feel was answered was what to do about the frequent turnover of social workers working in services for the homeless population. I wanted to jump out of my seat and say, “I will answer that question!” As a retired social worker, I know that job satisfaction is far more important than money and that means having the necessary resources to do one’s job. What a thankless situation to be a “navigator” for homeless persons. What do you have to offer? Not housing; it isn’t there; not a bed in a rehab clinic…that’s probably a 10 month wait and not a bed where there is help for the mentally ill…those have been scarce since Nixon opened the door of the facilities that used to do this work and turned the residents out on the street.

And I hate it when people demonize the victims; do you really think that a person wants to be addicted? Seeks a mental illness to deal with? Wants to live under a bridge instead of having a roof over one’s head? Why not blame Perdue Pharma, if you’re into blame? Or The Sackler family? Or just maybe landlords?

The Huffington Post had a recent article on the problem of being homeless and it is everywhere. They saw it as a problem of prosperity rather than the opposite. Even Salt Lake City which was once lauded for housing everyone is now dealing with a growing homeless population. From the Huffington Post’s look at this issue: “Homelessness is no longer a symbol of decline. It is a product of prosperity. Most people being pushed out onto the
streets by America’s growing urban economies do not need dedicated social workers or intensive medication regimes. They simply need higher incomes and lower housing costs.”

“The people with the highest risk of homelessness are the ones living on a Social Security check or working a minimum-wage job,” said Margot Kushel, the director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations. In 2015, she led a team of researchers who interviewed 350 people living on the streets in Oakland. Nearly half of them were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

“If they make it to 50 and they’ve never been homeless, there’s a good chance they don’t have severe mental illness or substance abuse issues,” Kushel said. “Once they become homeless, they start to spiral downward really quickly. They’re sleeping three to four hours a night, they get beat up, they lose their medications. If you walk past them in a tent, they seem like they need all these services. But what they really needed was cheaper rent a year ago.”

“Other research has found the same connection between housing costs and homelessness. In 2012, researchers found that a $100 increase in monthly rent in big cities was associated with a 15 percent rise in homelessness. The effect was even stronger in smaller cities.”

“Once you’re homeless, it’s a steep hill to climb back up. When an eviction is on your record, it’s even steeper. And even if you do get back into housing, you’re still one illness or one car problem away from becoming homeless again.”

“And rising affluence isn’t just transforming the economic factors that cause homelessness. It is also changing the politics of the cities tasked with solving it. Across the country, as formerly poor neighborhoods have gentrified, politicians are facing increasingly strident calls to criminalize panhandling and bulldoze tent encampments. While city residents consistently tell pollsters that they support homeless services in principle, specific proposals to build shelters or expand services face vociferous local opposition.”

“The biggest hindrance to solving homelessness is that city residents keep demanding the least effective policies,” said Sara Rankin, the director of the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project at Seattle University School of Law. The evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that punishing homeless people makes it harder for them to find housing and get work. Nonetheless, the most common demands from urban voters are for politicians to increase arrests, close down soup kitchens and impose entry requirements and drug tests in shelters.

Does this sound familiar? Throw them in jail? We will all be paying for bigger jails instead of throwing housing and beds for mental illness and addiction rehab into the resource mix. And we already incarcerate more people than any other first world nation? Or maybe we have slipped into third world status while I wasn’t looking.

I still think of my one great success: getting a disabled woman on disability moved from a slum landlord basement apartment (with a bathroom outside and strange looking wiring looping over the walls; at my house, the wiring is inside the walls!) She was able to move into a Seattle Housing building with older disabled tenants and an elevator. I visited her in the new place, and she was ecstatic not only with her surroundings (and indoor bathroom) but with her neighbors: she had found Scrabble partners and started a book club. Under Medicare rules, I could no longer keep visiting but enjoyed her annual Christmas card for years.

-Diane Snell
REMEMBERING JOYCE MUSKELLY

Sadly, we lost another pillar of the Leschi Community in the past month: Joyce Muskelly. I remember Joyce as holding down the kitchen when we had our potluck holiday parties! She accepted the potluck contributions and controlled the flow of salads, casseroles and desserts as they made their way form the Senior Center kitchen to the groaning board in the dining hall.

I also remember her as a tireless volunteer when we used to have rummage sales. Joyce arrived early and set about organizing the piles of clothes we received on tables and on hangers from the chain link fence up at Leschi School. Whenever a customer would stop to “rummage,” she would wait and then swoop in to restore order to what seemed hopeless to the rest of us.

~Diane Snell

Joyce Muskelly always made me feel welcome. She had the warmest smile that would light up any room. I remember coming upon her in the kitchen right before one of the annual Leschi Community Council holiday parties. Everybody was scurrying around. One of Joyce’s rubber-gloved hands carried a plate of turkey and the other a stack of napkins as she cheerily commandeered those of us around her. She was active in the community council until recently, including bringing one of her special desserts to meetings. She and her husband, Thurston, made a loving couple—a role model for many of us. I will miss her very much.

~Karen Daubert

Joyce made everyone feel welcome at Flo Ware or Powell Barnett Park events; so warm and calm.

~Janet Oliver

Back in 2000 to 2001, Thurston Muskelly wanted a thorough turnaround from the gang-infested condition of Flo Ware Park to a family-friendly place. He assigned me, and what I remember is how, although most people in the neighborhood thought that nothing would happen and why spend their time, Joyce thought otherwise. She supported the effort throughout by always being there for planning meetings, events, and community outreach. She was a calm, supportive presence—no question in her mind that the process was on the right courses—that meant an awful lot to me and I appreciated that.

~John Barber

The Leschi Community Council Board purchased a special rose as a tribute to Joyce and her years of volunteering in the community; Her husband Thurston wanted it planted in the circular bed by the door of the Senior Center. A ceremony with the Muskelly family in attendance was held and John Barber dug a hole for the plant and for family members to add their own shovel of dirt.

IN MEMORY OF ROYALE

On May 10th, in the middle of the afternoon, another young man of color was murdered on our streets. Royale Lexing, (pronounced Roy-Ell) 19 years old, grew up in the Central District on 20th Ave. As a youth, he had big dreams to join the
NFL with his friends. They would often talk about how they were going to make it big, and how they would bring their friends along with them. As he got older however, his dreams started to shift. He had hoped of being a counselor for At-Risk Youth. You see, Royale was never involved in any gangs or their activities, but some of his friends were. He found that most had joined just to make a little money, open some doors; they weren’t thinking of the violence that would come to plague their lives. By the age of 19, Royale had already moved out of the Central District, but his ties here would always be strong. That’s part of the secret beauty of the Central District: the love, the many colors, and the ties that bind us like family. So, on that sunny day in May just hanging with friends, like he had done many times before, Royale became another victim of Wrong Place at the Wrong Time.

Our young men of color are more likely than not to bear scars of gun violence. They pull up their clothing to show the gnarled scars that have healed poorly—a knee, a calf, 6 shots in one man’s stomach, and my own son shot on two separate occasions. By the time they reach adulthood, they will have lost at least 10 friends. It’s an epidemic. We need to open more doors for these young men. We need to let them know that we see them, we love them, and more than anything: we don’t want them to be hurt or killed. We need to mourn the loss of a compassionate, 19-year-old man who had dreams of lifting those other little boys out of the hard life set before them. We can all help clear that path.

—Katy Leighton

THE LAST 6,000

Plant Amnesty initiated a program on April 1, 2019 to identify the majestic trees remaining in Seattle. According to their website: “In 2015, the city hired the University of Vermont to use aerial technology to measure tree canopy. It used a technology called light detection and ranging, or LIDAR, in which a sensor-equipped plane collects data to create a three-dimensional model of the Earth’s surface and surface characteristics, such as trees. One result of that study was the discovery that there were only 6,338 trees with a trunk diameter of 30 inches or greater left in the city.”

There has been no assessment of majestic trees since then, and many of these beautiful giants have been lost because of age, wind, climate change, and development. These trees are critical to the planet’s future: they absorb hundreds of gallons of storm runoff and filter pollutants from the air around us.

Efforts are currently underway to have an army of tree friends search out the remaining large trees in the city (and, we hope, save them). Volunteers are needed to take photographs with a camera or smartphone, collect data and submit findings to the Last 6,000 Action Database. Per the website: Ideally you can identify the species of your tree, get a photograph of the leaves or needles and the whole tree, and measure the tree trunk’s diameter at breast height. Volunteer “librarians” are also needed to enter the collected information into a database.

Please visit www.thelast6000.org for more information and to participate in this critical survey.

—Anne Depue

OUR PARKS

Leschi has long been known for its commitment to volunteer action. Volunteers are committed to improving Leschi’s outdoor public areas.

Lately, a new group has emerged to attack a weed-infested corner of Leschi Park, across S Leschi Place to the west of the swing set. This part of the park has long been ignored by the Park Department and subsequently became taken over by blackberries and weedy clematis vines. Debby Henderson, an immediate neighbor of the park, became inspired about the terrible look of the place and decided to see if other neighbors felt the same and were ready to act on their own. So far, there have been three Saturday work parties, and expect summer to slow them a bit, but expect the Parks Department to do more to help.

Other park and open space work parties have picked up to continue the work of previous years. There have been several work parties, especially for youth groups and schools in Frink and Leschi Parks. The Leschi Natural Area has regular First Saturday events. And the Community Council’s Third Saturday work parties are focusing this season on cleaning up the shoreline street ends.

Please call John Barber at 206-324-1548 to connect with any of these efforts.

—John Barber, Parks & Open Space

UPDATES FROM LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Leschi Star Award

Congratulations to Katie Busby and Jennifer Marquardt for receiving Leschi Star Awards from the LCC for their invaluable service and years-long dedication to our school community. Their contributions are too numerous to list but suffice to say our school would not be the same without them!
Jog-A-Thon

The school year is drawing to a close, but we are no less busy at the school. Our annual jog-a-thon on May 1 was a rousing success; this is an annual fun and festive community event which doubles as one of Leschi Elementary’s important annual fundraisers. Every class chooses a theme for the Class Spirit contest, students collect sponsors from family, friends and neighbors to pledge donations for the number of laps they run during the event and their collective laps are tallied by the class for the Golden Shoe award. The jog-a-thon course is 1/15 of a mile and students run for 15 minutes. A great big thank you to Leschi Market for the 9th year of donating popsicles for the runners to enjoy after their hard work!

Golden Shoe awards (class who ran the most collective laps in their lunch period):
1st Lunch (K–1st grade)—Ms. Valdez, rm 204, 351 laps
2nd Lunch (1st–3rd grade)—Mrs. Savage, rm 303, 407 laps
3rd Lunch (3rd–5th grade)—Mr. Partridge, rm 308, 469 laps

Class Spirit contest (from their lunch period):
1st Lunch (K–1st grade)—The Bunch of Grapes, rm 206, Ms. Chin, and rm 217, Ms. Woods
2nd Lunch (1–3rd grade) Super Heroes, 213, Mrs. Trudel and Sun, Moon & Stars, 215, Mrs. Snyder (TIE!)
3rd Lunch (3rd–5th grade) Mad Scientists, Mrs. Schaad

Annual Giving Campaign

Thanks to all who helped us raise $85,000 in this year’s annual campaign. Your generosity makes a huge difference to every student, teacher, staff member and family who are a part of the Leschi school community. Gratitude goes out to those who gave this year: Leschi families, extended family members, friends, Leschi community members and businesses with corporate matching programs.

Leschi School has always been fortunate to realize the added benefit of corporate matching associated with donations made to the Leschi PTA. Usually corporations offer a 1:1 match, doubling the initial donation. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, however, has an incredible program that matches charitable giving donations 3:1! Thanks to Leschi donors employed by the foundation the Leschi PTA received an additional $30,000 in matched funds, bringing the grand total raised in association with the 2018–19 Annual Give Campaign to $115,000!

The money we raise each year has a huge impact:
• Reimburses teachers for classroom supplies they buy with their own money
• Provides equitable access for all students to school activities and programs
• Supports in-school enrichment programs such as Healthy & Whole Food Snacks, Writers in The Schools, Art From The Heart and Style Song Writing
• Sponsors fun community building events such as the Black History Celebration, Family Dance, Field Day and Parent Equity Team functions
• Provides support for low-income families in need: for food, rent, utility bills, clothing and more

Keep up to date on upcoming events and news by visiting leschies.seattleschools.org or our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/leschischool. To support our school and community programs please see: leschies.seattleschools.org/about/calendar_and_news/news/annual_giving_campaign.

~Benson Funk Wilder and Jennifer Marquart

JUNE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE CENTRAL!

SILK SCARF PAINTING WORKSHOP—NEW WORKSHOP
Back by Popular demand, Seattle Artist Jolyn GC guides you through a 2-hour workshop offering inspiration for creating your own hand-painted silk scarfs. All Materials Provided. Everyone Welcome!
$5 Members; $7 Non-Members
Wednesday, June 12, 1:30–3:30pm

DRUMMING FOR MEMORY; DRUMMING FOR FUN—NEW CLASS
Everyone welcome! And a special welcome to those experiencing memory loss!
$4 Members; $6 Non-Members
Wednesdays, 10–11am in the Solarium

FATHER’S DAY LUNCHTIME ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Please join us for a super delicious lunch and a tribute to Dads
$5 Community Dining
Friday, June 14, 12noon–1pm in the Dining Hall

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, June 19, 1–2pm in the Dining Hall

GREEN DOLPHIN
Featuring Deems Tsutakawa
Great music, great food, great people, great time!, $15
Lifetime members; $20 Annual Members; $25 At the Door
Friday June 21, 6–9pm

Come join us at the Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave S, or call 206-726-4926 for more information.

~Selah Brown
THOSE INCIDENTS THAT SCAR

At a recent poetry reading along with two black women, one in her thirties, the other in her fifties, I mentioned the ordeal of getting a doctorate at the University of Washington. A white male in the audience called out, “The UW isn’t like that now; let the other girls talk.” The comment reminded me of a decades-old comment made by another white male, a friend. Said he, “Affirmative action has been around five years; that’s long enough.” I connect the statements because in both instances although neither white male had endured, suffered the discrimination and frustration, both were certain of their conclusions, had no doubt that their conclusions were correct. One thought I should step aside and be quiet and say nothing about the inequities I had experienced because “the U isn’t like that now.” The other was convinced five years of affirmative action was sufficient to eradicate the results of slavery from 1619 to 1865, weak or no compliance with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, and the slightly enforced and poorly funded Reconstruction laws.

I wish there were a way to make an individual understand that humans respond to stimuli, but all do not respond the same whether time or degree is the measuring tool. But this wish takes little of my time. Acts resulting from words and actions take a much larger chunk of time. Worse, these responses cannot be controlled. I cannot choose to ignore them and then ignore them. Believe me. I have tried. Why would a well person choose to dwell on something unpleasant, sad, horrible? Scars, some worse than others, are there. A little light, a sudden rub can irritate the scar.

Years after a remark, a person may continue to be pained by the incident. High school Senior A, for example, finally told someone that classmate Senior B told her that it was she, Senior A, who should have died rather than Senior C. More than half a century later, the pain is still there.

In another case, a long-retired woman suffering from Alzheimer’s whispers to visitors, “They’re trying to take my job,” because throughout her tenure as an aide she was harassed with the possibility of being fired. Psychologist Jennifer James would probably label the comments as slugs and go so far as to say with the passage of time one can laugh at the slugs. I don’t doubt this, but everyone does not come to the point where the pain becomes the subject of laughter. For instance, ridicule about physical features over which we have no control have hurt and hurt more.

It is important to know that I am not talking about scars of the magnitude of those carried by survivors of genocide, indigenous people everywhere, the Holocaust, forced assimilation, conflicts between Palestinian and Israelis, North and South Koreans, Pakistan and Indians, for example. I never said the scars are equal. I say that the scars hurt, maybe not as sharply but hurt, nevertheless. I’m talking about the scars that family, friends, onlookers may never see—from injuries they sometimes inflict—but scars that are present regardless. No one can ever know how many people failed to accomplish whatever because of the kind of hurt I’m describing. Of course, some folks aside and be quiet and say nothing about the inequities I had experienced because “the U isn’t like that now.” The other was convinced five years of affirmative action was sufficient to eradicate the results of slavery from 1619 to 1865, weak or no compliance with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, and the slightly enforced and poorly funded Reconstruction laws.

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I was reminded of 1925 Countee Cullen poem.

Incident

Once riding in old Baltimore,
Heart-filled, head-filled with glee,
I saw a Baltimorean
Keep looking straight at me.

Now I was eight and very small,
And he was no white bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, ‘Nigger.’

I saw the whole of Baltimore
From May until December;
Of all the things that happened there
That’s all that I remember

The online comments listed beneath this poem on PoemHunter.com, go from one extreme to the other: those who see the incident and the poem as trivial and others who empathize or, at least, sympathize.

Will this always be the case?

~Georgia S. McDade

Georgia Stewart McDade, a Louisiana native who has lived in Seattle more than half her life, loves reading and writing. Earning a Bachelor of Arts from Southern University, Master of Arts from Atlanta University, and PhD from University of Washington, the English major spent more than thirty years teaching at Tacoma Community College but also found time to teach on every level at several other institutions of learning.

ANOTHER SMOKY SUMMER AHEAD?

I know I speak for us all in hoping for a tamer fire season this year. Long-range forecasts are always very tricky, but we’re now close enough to summer that we have some guidance on how the 2019 summer might turn out. Let’s take a look.

The three biggest factors meteorologists look at when making a seasonal fire forecast are the amount of fuel for fires, the moisture content of this fuel, and the weather conditions themselves (which both determine the former two and provide for periods of enhanced/diminished fire danger).

Counterintuitively, a wet spring actually increases summertime wildfire danger, and this is because wet springs create more vegetation that can be burned in the summer. The summers east of the Cascades (where most of our fires occur) are plenty hot and dry enough to create tinder-dry fuels, so springtime fuel moisture content is not nearly as correlated to summertime fire danger as fuel availability is.

This winter and spring were drier than average, which limited the amount of new understory. Unfortunately, it also means that soil and fuel moisture levels are below normal for this time of the year, especially with the record-breaking heat we saw during the
second week of May. A weak El Niño is still brewing in the Pacific, and these El Niños tend to bring us warmer than average weather for at least the first half of summer. So unfortunately, current forecasts point toward another smoky summer. Let’s hope it’s not as bad as the past two.

Smokier Summers: A Trend?
There has been a clear increase in wildfires over the past decade, and the causes are multi-factorial. The biggest cause of this increase is that, due to decades of fire suppression and poor forest management practices, the forests of Eastern Washington and Oregon are abnormally thick, allowing fires to grow far larger than they did in the past when forests were thinner. Additionally, more people live, work and recreate out in fire country now, and human-caused fires are becoming a more regular occurrence. Finally, the past several summers in particular have been extremely hot—more so than can be explained by global warming alone—but global warming is undoubtedly having an effect by prolonging our summers and decreasing fuel moisture.

So yes, we’ll likely be in for yet another more active-than-normal fire season in the Pacific Northwest. I don’t think we’ll be as smoky as the last two years (2017 and 2018 had ash falling from the sky, after all!), but I unfortunately think we’ll see some smoky periods with poor air quality. As always, obey all fire laws and burn bans: during hot summer days, all it takes is a spark to create a raging forest fire.

On that note, have a wonderful, wonderful summer! Enjoy the sunshine, the lake, and everything that makes our Leschi summers so special.

~Charlie Phillips

Charlie Phillips, a Madrona resident, received his B.S. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington and works in Portland as a meteorologist. Check out his weather website at to charlie.weather2gether.net.

ONCE AGAIN, LIBRARY TV FREEBIES

My article in last month’s Leschi News can bear some tweaking. To retrieve your copy, go to www.leschicommunitycouncil.org/newsletter-archives. Several years of the Leschi News can be found there. Or, the article can be found by entering “archive” in the search box at the bottom of the first page of the Leschi Community Council website. It is on page 8 of the May issue.

Due either to some updates in the Library’s web pages or my inattention, my earlier guide for finding the Library’s movie and TV streaming instructions should be simplified and expanded a bit.

On your computer or laptop, you can Google “SPL” for the Library’s web page, click the “Books & Media” tab at the top left and choose the “Movies & TV” selection on the drop-down list. Cranking down a bit, you will find the Access Video, Hoopla and Kanopy streaming services. Access Video includes a large library of documentary and art films, HBO and A&E features and interesting independent productions from around the world. Clicking on each service provides full instructions for using them. Each service provides a “help” button. To the right of the list of services is more detailed information for each on the use of computers, phones and tablets with the varying operating systems. Included here is a great deal of detailed instruction for mirroring the video stream from digital devices onto your TV screen.

Since my last article, I have learned that Hoopla, like Kanopy, can be entered (also with a one-time code entry) as a regular Roku channel. This process, I believe, can also be applied for the Fire TV and Apple TV wireless streaming services. These services, however, like Roku, require a subscription fee and include necessary wireless boxes or “sticks” that can be expensive.

On the other hand, if you don’t have one of these services, you can still view the material on your larger TV screen by using an HDMI cord to connect your digital device with an HDMI jack equipped TV. You may need a supplementary connecting cord to manage this. Wireless dongles are also available. You need to read carefully to be sure which dongle your computer, tablet or phone can use. There is a range of prices for them and a wide range of performance too, so look up the product reviews. If you want to venture into the world of dongles, I would suggest reading the Wikipedia articles on Airplay and Miracast.

~Jim Snell

OUR LESCHI STARS!

At our May meeting, we honored these stars of our community with the Leschi Shooting Star award.

Cara Ross, Leschi business owner (Blue Heron Healing Arts) for her 8-year role as a planner and now a grant writer for the Leschi ArtWalk. After watching us struggle for funds, she submitted and won a grant from the Office of Arts & Culture for $1300 for TWO years! Thank you, Cara!

Maisha Barnett who planned and sought funding for the restoration of Powell Barnett Park (named for her grandfather). She invited the neighborhood children to help select the playground equipment which has made it a nationally recognized park. More recently she worked with other groups to obtain adult exercise equipment; now parents can work out while keeping an eye on their children. Thank you, Maisha! She remains busy working on Jimi Hendrix Park!

Katy Busby and Jennifer Marquardt were recognized for their ongoing work as volunteers at Leschi School. Jennifer dreamed up the Giving Garland which helps families in need and Katy created a Jog-A-Thon for school fundraising! They both spend many hours every month helping to make Leschi School a success; thank you both!
“SEATTLE STYLE FASHION/FUNCTION”

Fashion? Seattle? Clara Berg, Collections Specialist for Costumes and Textiles, started her introduction to the latest exhibition at MOHAI, with the response she got when she said she was curating a show on Seattle fashion. I must admit that I have often felt that way myself, especially after moving here from Dallas, Texas where women are extremely fashion conscious and well groomed.

But now I see how wrong I was. We not only have fashion—we have invented a lot of fashion!

Of course, a good percentage of our inventions are outdoor wear. Nordstrom, the major sponsor of the exhibition, began when John W. Nordstrom made money in Alaska during the Gold Rush. As we all know he started out with shoes. Clothing did not come until the 1960s. Eddie Bauer developed the down jacket after he had a near death experience. Ski and hiking outfits for women, use of Gore-Tex for jackets, the development of fleece from recycled plastic bottles (is that still true?), grunge, and those amazing Utilikilts! We have lots of fashion in Seattle.

And we also have our share in high fashion clothing. As we enter the show at MOHAI, we first see a batik patterned jacket by John Doyle Bishop worn when he was nationally recognized as one of the 100 most fashionable men in America in 1967. Setting the fashion/function theme of the show, Doyle’s jacket is juxtaposed to a wool ski ensemble from 1948 designed by the Seattle Wool Company.

Hi fashion continues into the presence. Luly Yang Couture creates unique dresses with luscious fabrics and patterns. Included in the exhibition is her Blue Morpho Gown, a cascade of fabric sparkling with crystals and a blue butterfly motif. In contrast, contemporary Indigenous artist and founder of the store 8th Gen Louie Gong contributed a boldly patterned wool blanket cape of wool.

There are four cleverly organized sections: Nature and Place, Growth and Aspiration, Northwest Casual, Innovators and Rule Breakers. In each section we have a mix of eras, styles, ideas, and types of garments that dazzle us with color, and designs. I suggest wandering around to allow surprises to come upon you unexpectedly. One of the more prosaic styles, a skirt and blouse, caught my eye with its Seattle Center inspired patterns, the Space Needle, Monorail etc, created in honor of our World’s Fair. A peculiar looking black dress turned out to be a 1907 sidesaddle riding habit. Interspersed throughout the four sections, you can discover elaborate hats, such as “The Fascinator” of 1950s by Ethel Young and the “two-toned oxfords” shoes from 1930s Nordstrom. In honor of today’s tech culture, we have the “Cellular Automata” knit scarf of 2018 by KnitYak featuring computer programming code!

Enhancing the garments is a video from the Wing Luke Museum on the Asian women who worked in the garment industry here, and a short clip of a Black fashion show sponsored by Vogue. One of the most prominent of the photographs posted throughout the exhibition was DeCharlene Williams, a well-known mover and shaker as well as fashion maven in the Central District until her death in 2018. She is listed as a member of the Advisory Committee for the exhibition.

I commend Clara Berg and MOHAI for ensuring diversity in the exhibition. I am sure their collection is dominated by the gifts of beautiful clothes from elite women. But Fashion/Function embraces many communities in Seattle, from a replica of the cedar hat worn by Chief Seattle woven by his descendant to the African inspired cape worn by the Reverend Samuel B. McKinney.
Once she has discussed the technique, she divides the birds into locales: one’s backyard and the city, wetland and pond, shoreline and beach, meadow and grassland, desert, forest and Alpine and tundra.

Concentrating on the backyard as these are most familiar to me, her woodblocks of the robin and the rufous hummingbird reminded me that I had not yet seen a robin this year. They are always plentiful once our blueberries begin to bear fruit but have been strangely absent so far.

The hummingbird has been spotted quickly flitting from one bush to another and just recently discovered the hanging fuchsia basket that arrived in time for Mother’s Day. The Northern flicker is also captured in a wood block print; they have already been present in sight and in sound as they hammer away at some object trying to attract a female. An ordinary human like me would think that the flicker’s striking appearance would be enough, but female flickers want more!

The Great Blue Heron turns up in the shoreline and beach section and is illustrated as a dramatic wood block print with Mt. Rainier appropriately in the background. The Stellar Jay is in the forest and woodland section, but this is also a backyard favorite. We see them daily and hear them when we stray outside too early for their comfort.

The Black-capped Chickadee is portrayed amidst a colorful dahlia display. We were used to seeing them at our deck talking; their love of sunflower feeder was filled with black sunflower seeds and it didn’t matter how many folks were on the deck talking; their love of sunflower seeds outweighed the possible danger of humans.

These are a few of my favorites but she has so many more. And she teaches watercolor painting and printmaking workshops in Seattle and points farther north. She teaches watercolor painting and printmaking workshops in Seattle and points farther north.

“I once had a sparrow alight on my shoulder for a moment while hoeing in a village garden, and I felt I was more distinguished by that circumstance than I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn.” —Henry David Thoreau, Walden

~Diane Snell

Editor’s note: The Seward Park Audubon Center has a 2-day bird event June 15–16. Go to sewardpark.audubon.org for more information and registration.
Seeking Sustenance...

SUMMER WINE AND THE LIVIN’S EASY

Summer is upon us Leschi! The cold, snow and rain finally give way to warmer days, shorter nights, buzzing Blue Angels, barbecues and more! No matter what you are up to down here by the lake, Leschi Market will have you covered all summer long: meat and fish for the grill, the freshest of summer fruits and veggies, and the best wine selection you could ask for!

Here are some sizzling summer wines to check out. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer. Cheers!

RED

2015 Carpineto Chianti Classico Riserva ($26)
“Smells like a little Cabernet Sauvignon enhancing the Sangiovese in this black currant and cherry-flavored red. Cedar, thyme, iron and sanguine notes round out the palate as this cruise to a lingering aftertaste. Shows excellent structure and balance.” ~Wine Spectator, 94-points.

2017 Leschi Cellars Pinot Noir Willamette Valley ($19.99)
“Leschi Cellars is proud to introduce Pinot Noir to our stable of wines. This one of a kind Pinot Noir accurately captures the elegance and complexity created by the volcanic soils of Oregon. The blackberry and cherry aromas give way to finely developed tannins, mushroom and earth on the lengthy, dry Burgundian finish. A great match for Northwest salmon or Leschi Market’s roast chicken.” ~Winemaker notes.

2017 Le Fraghe Bardolino Veneto ($13.99)
This soulful Italian red wine from the Veneto. The much less famous neighbor of Valpolicella. Bardolino is the sleeper appellation using similar grape varieties. Bright red fruit is marked by whispers of cinnamon, leather, and dusty earth. A nice wine for pizza, pasta, earthy Italian cheese and charcuterie. Organic.

White

2018 Big Salt White Table Wine Oregon ($16.99)
Founded in 2011 by husband-and-wife duo John House and Ksenija Kostic. They set off to investigate the myriad terroirs of Oregon. They have found sites with blustery Pacific winds, extreme diurnal shifts, and rocky, well-draining soils. Their work is among the most compelling white winemaking throughout the Pacific Northwest.

2017 Leitz “Dragonstone” Riesling Rheingau Germany ($16.99)
“While Johannes’ dry wines solidified his reputation in Germany and throughout Europe, no other wine made him as popular in the US as did Dragonstone. Coming from the Rüdesheimer Drachenstein, the pure quartzite soil, being a silicate, lends a saltiness to the orange citrus-flavored wine which buers the acidity and counterbalances the palpable sugar.” ~Importer notes.

Rosé

2018 Diving into Hampton Water Rosé Languedoc ($22.99)
Music icon Jon Bon Jovi and legendary French winemaker Gérard Bertrand have joined forces to launch this Rosé. They shared a vision in uniting the essence of the relaxed lifestyles of the Hamptons (where Jon Bon Jovi’s family lives) and the South of France. The wine is described as a fresh and lively Rosé, with distinctive minerality, featuring Grenache, Cinsault and Mourvèdre.

2018 Tranche Cellars Pink Pape Rosé Yakima Valley ($18.99)
“Pale salmon in color. Delicate aromas of mountain berry, white peach, citrus blossom and honeydew. The wine is bright and focused on the palate, with fresh citrus and stone fruit qualities underscored by a wet stone-like minerality. Driving acidity provides excellent focus and direction, drawing out the palate to a lingering, mouthwatering finish.” ~Winemaker notes. A Leschi Favorite!

2018 Ameztoi Rubentis Txakolina Spain ($18
“Ignacio Ameztoi constitutes the seventh generation to carry on the tradition of making Txakolina. The wines are fermented in stainless steel and bottled with residual carbonic acid that gives the wine its natural spritz. Fine and sophisticated fragrance accompanied with notes of citrus and menthol.
Harmonious in the mouth, freshness that reminds you the strawberry sour caramel, tasting cheerful because of its bubbles.”
-Winemaker notes.

**2018 Domaine Saint André de Figuière Rosé Provence ($13.99)**
“Le Saint André Rosé is intended to be light, invigorating and easy-to-enjoy. Aromas and flavors of peach, orange skin and white flowers are accented by refreshing acidity and a salty minerality thanks to the influence of the sea. A soft profile made from a blend of Cinsault, Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet-Sauvignon.” –Winemaker notes.

**2018 Cedergreen Cellars Viola Rosé Columbia Valley ($13.99)**
“Our Viola Rosé is a classic blend of Gamay Noir and Cabernet Franc. We were smitten by the aromatics of this Rosé and found examples of similar blends from the Loire. Great minds and all. Flavors reminiscent of bright crushed strawberries and raspberries combine with deep floral notes of lilac and violets. San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition Gold 2019. Enjoy!”
-Kevin Cedergreen, Winemaker notes.

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 and follow the wine department directly on twitter at [twitter.com/leschimarket](http://twitter.com/leschimarket).

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**MADRONA ARMS**

*Editor’s note: We welcome back Malcolm Harker who recently reviewed the Hi-Spot and we apologize for attempting to rename him Matthew…very sorry.*

For those seeking to gain both elevation and calories, ascending from Leschi to Madrona can tick both boxes. A visit to the Madrona Arms at 34th & Union is well worth while even if you don’t have boxes to tick.

Peter the owner has Northern Irish roots, reflected in his choice of vegetables, including Roasted Veggie Pizza (anyone for carrots and sweet potatoes?) plus Irish Nachos and Ques O’Dilla for you Mexican-Irish Americans. Our favorite is the Flat Iron Steak with Chipotle Mashed Potatoes and more of those delicious Root Veggies, which also make an appearance in the Guinness Beef Stew. You can have Guinness without the stew too.

Or you can enjoy the weekly Taco Tuesday event, for as little as $2 (you’ll have to rustle up an extra buck if you need the beef). The $6 margaritas are unforgettable unless you order another.

The unsolved mystery is why Arms? The “coat of arms” is a heraldic device which features in British pub names. Madrona is a neighborhood and a tree. Whatever next:

- The Western Red Cedar Arms?
- The Sitka Spruce Arms?

Perhaps, you’ll ponder these and other mysteries while sipping your Guinness...

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**MADRona ARMS**

Mon–Fri: 11am–midnight  
Sat–Sun: 9am–midnight  
1138 34th Ave, 206-739-5104  
[madronaarms.com](http://madronaarms.com)

- Malcolm Harker

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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EXEC. BOARD MEETING—MAY 6, 2019

JANET
Treasury report; little change from last month.

JANICE
Randall Spahn unable to attend June meeting to collect the Star award; but his partner Buzz will be there, and both can be given to him. June meeting features State Senator Rebecca Saldaña who will be answering the Board’s submitted questions and others from audience. Following the Senator will be Joseph Eselbaum, the East Precinct’s new crime prevention coordinator.

JOHN
Neighbors are taking on a triangular patch in Leschi Park which is being overrun with weeds. SDOT helping with mowing. King St. street-end is more closed than others. Twenty persons were asked about the site; 17 out of 20 liked it and 3 loved it. John said he had been following the pollution guide (Seattle Times) which has been high, but only during the week!? Neighbors complaining that the path that runs along Frink and Leschi Park is not safe. It is heavily used by walkers, joggers and parents pushing strollers. Neighbors complain about speeding cars but Lake WA Blvd very curvy at that point and cars tend to slow down. Diane suggested that delineating it more clearly as a path by using bollards or even a short (in height) fence might alleviate the situation rather than taking the path away altogether.

Concerns about Marina management which features speed boats in their advertising. Parks had indicated two years ago, that the managing entity should be working with the neighborhood but that has not happened.

John, Kate and Diane Morris picked out a special rose as LCC’s memorial to Joyce Muskelly. It will be planted Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the circle bed in front of the Senior Center.

DIANE
Wine tasting results: Ticket sales of $1140 were given to the Senior Center. Not all expenses are known yet.

News deadline: May 20. Board members are asked to submit their memories of Joyce Muskelly to include in the June issue.

Website corrections: A Leschi resident was unable to find information about May meeting on the website. Board members are asked to review the website as though you were a newcomer and note what you would like to see changed. We can ask website creator to make changes this summer when the newsletter is not being produced.

PayPal: Leschi resident paid dues to PayPal but had to contact editor to say his label was not updated. This is because PayPal doesn’t tell us when any money goes into the account. Janet to check with Yousef on how to handle this.

ArtWalk recap: Six artists have responded to call for early registration. LCC needs to pay ArtWalk for 2 booths: LCC booth and one for voter registration.

~Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

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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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My check is enclosed: $35 family membership $25 individual membership
- $15 student/low income/ senior membership
- I am making an additional donation for LCC work

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Leschi News advertising rates:
business card, $35; 1/4 page, $70;
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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

June 2019 | Calendar

Jun 1 9am–3pm. Leschi Natural Area work party. Lunch & tools provided. 36th & Terrace.

Jun 5 7pm. LCC Community Meeting, see cover for details. At The Central
(aka: The Central Area Senior Center or CASC, 500 30th Ave S)

Jun 8 9am–12noon. Seattle Neighborhood Coalition (SNC), breakfast meeting at The Central; $14 for hearty breakfast.

Jun 9 12–2pm. Annual Flo Ware event for kids!

Jun 10 6pm. LCC Executive Board meeting at The Central.

Jun 13 6pm. Central Area Neighborhood District Council (CANDC) hosts a City Council candidate forum,
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 2116 E Union St, Seattle, WA 98122.

Jun 21 6–9pm. Green Dolphin Nightclub featuring Deems Tsutakawa. $15 for Lifetime Members; $20
for Annual Members and $25 for non-members. Appetizers, no-host bar, music and dancing

Jun 27 6:30pm. EastPAC at Chardin Hall, Seattle U. Park in bldg. lot on Jefferson
just east of 12th. Turn right into lot just beyond athletic fields.

Jun 29 10am–2pm. Leschi Park work party with EarthCorps and
Seattle Green Partnership. For more information, go to
everthecorps.org/volunteer/event/a0E1E00000Pmq3UAB/.

Jul 25 and Aug 17 More work parties to benefit our wonderful area
(some full but check with group). You need to sign up!

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

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