

# leschinews

February 2021 Issue No. 379

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



## JOIN US

Zoom in to our February meeting as we discuss police reform with our Councilmember Kshama Sawant!

She will answer submitted questions about the progress in making positive changes. Readers may submit questions to [LeschiNews@comcast.net](mailto:LeschiNews@comcast.net).

**February 3, 7pm**

(ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK COVER)

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Witness to the Abuse of Power



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**MARCH MEETING  
ON MARCH 3, 7PM**

# President's Message

Happy New Year, fellow Leschi residents,

Today, as I write my February message, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day dedicated to remembering his legacy. I hope those readers who celebrated, safely social-distanced of course, experienced the peace of the light he embodied.

We embark in two days on the opportunity to embrace a powerful chance to come together, as a new President and Vice President are sworn in. My wish is it will be one of hope, peace, compassion and the chance to recognize all people's unique gifts and talents.

Personally, I, as an avocation, write books, poetry and believe if we liken ourselves to a garden, we can imagine every one's individual right to a life they choose. In a garden many, many species get along in the same plot of ground. Daisies are not jealous of the beauty of roses. The thorns that protect the roses are not envious of pinecones that fall from a tree. Pansies are not angry because they do not grow as tall as irises. Daffodils make way for spring tulips but don't hamper little crocuses from blooming.

If you look at the world through eyes of wonder and gratitude, your world will soften. This is my wish for all of you. May your personal world become sweeter with each passing day.

Warm regards,  
Janice Merrill Brown  
President, Leschi Community Council



P.S. Our February program, on the 3rd at 7:00p via Zoom, will be questions posed to Council Member Kshama Sawant about proposed ideas on the reform of the SPD. This session will be moderated by Trevor Lalish-Menagh, our LCC Vice President.

And on this day of Martin Luther King's birthday, let us listen to his words:  
*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."*



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# A Slow Road to Recovery?

The week before Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the Seattle Times predicted a large increase in homelessness, far greater than during the Great Depression. That will make the recovery much more difficult and Congress seems reluctant to offer more assistance. Many members seem to still be smarting from that generous package given last spring. Assistance could have been more targeted. My household did NOT need assistance and yet we received stimulus checks which we turned into food bank donations knowing that even if they got it wrong with our needs, there were many others out here who desperately needed help.

Here's a look at the situation here in Washington:

- ♦ The Economic Policy review (Economic Opportunity Institute) quoted from the Census Bureau's latest data:
- ♦ Hundreds of thousands of Washington residents are struggling to make ends meet—behind on rent payments, lacking health insurance and without enough food on the table.
- ♦ 168,750 households (11 percent) report being (1 or more months) behind on rent.
- ♦ Nine percent of Washington residents age 18 and older (more than 396,000 people) report having no health insurance.
- ♦ More than 207,000 households (10%) with children under 18, report sometimes or often not having enough to eat.

It would make much more sense to do what many European countries did: continue one's earnings to some extent during this period of unemployment. Sweden and the Netherlands paid workers 90% of their earnings; Japan, the UK and Italy gave 80% support; Denmark 75–90%, France 70% and Germany offers some complicated support aid for hours worked plus 60% of any losses (67% if children in household.) Many of these countries gave cash payments to freelancers and self-employed people. Spain established a permanent basic income for poorer residents. Agreements were made with employers that workers are not laid off so restarting would be easier. This information came from several websites; no single source mentioned all the countries above.

(Sources were Personnel Today, NBC News, and OECD which is the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.)

Maintaining support at the level of the workers former earnings would allow a worker to keep paying rent making their recovery easier and keeping property owners afloat as well. One wonders how folks will pay all that back rent without more financial assistance. Perhaps those visions of large homeless encampment are not that far-fetched.

Hopefully a more targeted assistance program would pass Congress. Support the unemployed and those at the lower end of Social Security pensions. Support the freelancers and self-employed and seriously consider a basic income for those at the bottom. Monies given to those at the bottom go right back into the economy. Tax cuts which primarily benefit the upper end do nothing to stimulate the economy.

No one in this country should go without food, shelter and healthcare especially when we can afford to support a bloated military budget. The popular myth that people want to keep their current health care plan is just that: a myth. A Fox News Poll showed 72% of Americans support a government run single payer health care system. (11/3/20),

And let's hope that war is not considered as a solution to an economic depression, even though that worked for the Great Depression.

In the words of our new poet laureate: "Being American is more than a pride we inherit / It's the past we step into and how we repair it."

*-Diane Snell*

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# Neighborhood & Beyond

## LESCHI LOSES A LEADER

Born in segregated Arkansas in 1928, Judge Charles V. Johnson helped break the color barrier in Seattle, where he was lauded for bringing racial equity to his courtroom, revitalization to the NAACP and leadership to the region's civil rights movement.

Johnson, who died peacefully in his sleep in his Leschi home on Dec. 29, was remembered by colleagues, family and friends as a trailblazer who never boasted, a mild-mannered man with a good sense of humor. He was 92.

The public knew him for his 30-year career as a Seattle Municipal and King County Superior Court judge, where he helped integrate and improve the efficiency of every system he touched.

"Judge Johnson was the best of Seattle, a stellar example of what's possible when persistence, dedication, and opportunity meet," Mayor Jenny Durkan said in a statement. "His sagacity, the compassion he showed for those who stood before his bench, and his dedication to improving the judiciary has made us a better city."

From an early age, Johnson's family instilled in him the belief that education provided the power to rise above the segregated south. When he finished junior college at 20,

Johnson enrolled in the military and was deployed to Germany for four years, according to a 2017 interview with King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg. "As a young prosecutor, going into Judge C.V. Johnson's courtroom was everything you could hope for—it was dignified, respectful and fair, and the judge's commanding presence was the consistent factor," Satterberg said in an email.

Johnson's story about his military service was featured in the 2014 documentary, "Breath of Freedom." When he returned to a segregated U.S., Johnson missed the freedom of an integrated Germany where he was able to enter any establishment without restriction.

"Many of the soldiers that I know came home and they became engaged in the civil rights battle because they had had a breath of freedom, and they wanted some more freedom," Johnson said in the 2017 interview.

In 1954, Johnson enrolled in the University of Washington School of Law, where he was the only Black person who graduated in his class.

His desire to create a more equitable Seattle encouraged Johnson to revive the NAACP's Seattle Chapter in 1958, where he served in a leadership role for four decades.

"At all levels in this organization—from branch, state, regional and national levels—and from the streets to the courtrooms, he worked tirelessly to fight for civil rights," said Carolyn Riley-Payne, president of Seattle/King County NAACP. "He loved the NAACP, he loved civil rights, and he loved the people who he worked so hard to make this world a better place for. He will be greatly missed."

Lacy Steele, Seattle/King County NAACP president emeritus, met Johnson a year after he helped revive the Seattle chapter. In the decades since, the two worked together on the NAACP national board and attended First African Methodist Episcopal Church. Their daughters were close friends.

"He did a lot of things he didn't have to do, but he did it because that's the type of person he is," Steele said. "He was strong, he never boasted."

In the early 1960s, Johnson helped lead a march to persuade stores to hire Black workers. He participated in demonstrations at City Hall to end segregated housing and demand that Black people be allowed to live wherever they could afford. After several years of effort, the Seattle City Council passed an open housing ordinance in 1968, weeks after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to prohibit discriminatory practices in the sale and rental of properties.

After he graduated from law school, Johnson became an attorney at a private practice for 11 years. He was a Municipal Court Judge from 1969 until 1980.

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In the 1960s, Johnson was also instrumental in helping integrate Seattle Public Schools by holding demonstrations, meeting with the school board and facilitating freedom schools, which provided alternative education for Black children in churches.

“Over the years we’ve had to take step after step to try and make Seattle a more integrated and inclusive community,” Johnson said in the 2017 interview.

Outside of his work and activism, Johnson helped found the Black legal foundation, Loren Miller Bar Association in 1968, which connected the about 10 Black attorneys in Seattle at the time.

“When you think of Judge Johnson, he’s a trailblazer,” said James F. Johnson, president of Loren Miller Bar Association. “He’s a Jackie Robinson of his time.”

At the municipal court, Johnson was proud to have diversified the clerk’s office and ensured the hiring of more Black probation officers. He helped set up a payment plan for people to pay their fines in increments. In 1981, Johnson was appointed a Superior Court judge where he focused on felonies and juvenile crimes until he retired in 1998.

~Melissa Hellmann  
Seattle Times staff reporter

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## ZOOMING INTO 2021

Well, 2020 had some highlights and many lowlights. The Presidential election result and COVID vaccines may finally allow us some traditional American optimism—though those among us with Scandinavian ancestry may still believe that “UFF DA” Rules! (Amazon has the matching mug and T-shirt).

Perhaps the most lasting change in 2020 is that even old folks like me finally learned how to use WhatsApp & ZOOM. My sister in Portugal provided the most entertaining WhatsApp moment as she accidentally turned video on while chasing her dog around the kitchen, still holding the phone to her ear and enabling us to literally enjoy a “birds-eye view” of her habitual culinary chaos.

My unsubstantiated claim that I was the only immigrant in our New Year Zoom group was promptly corrected by the heart-felt recollections of 2 Jewish friends whose parents brought them to the US as young children.

A Native American friend, who now shares our Madrona home, reminded us that Americans include Native Americans (already here when the first Europeans arrived), descendants of Slaves (brought here against their will), Refugees (fleeing persecution in their homeland) and finally Immigrants (like most of us) who came to improve our lives—though not necessarily the lives of those already here or those who helped us survive and prosper.

Another baby-boomer Zoomer now retired and finally able to pursue his true calling as a mystery writer give us his insight: “Crime pays—but not enough” We no doubt all feel that about something.

Zoom and its protocols also reminds us that, in the words of Sting and the Police (an apt but ancient rock band name):

*Every move you make  
Every breath you take  
I’ll be watching you....*

We all, no doubt, have aspects of our life and country that we’re unhappy with—and things we’d rather not reveal. However, as we enter a new year (and Presidency), perhaps we can imagine ourselves as a small child again—maybe even being held up by a parent to see the Statue of Liberty. There are still few countries in the world better able to fulfill Lady Liberty’s promise.

~Malcolm Harker

*(Yearning for the Canadian border to re-open, so I can escape the wired and coddled masses of King County and sail north again)*

## NEW CHARGING STATIONS NEARBY

Two new fast charging stations have been located in the Madison/Miller neighborhoods at 2113 E Olive. Source: Seattle City Light’s “Light reading”

## TEN THOUSAND STEPS

Sometimes the steps are taken in your mind and excellent tips are found:

- FTC launched a new scam reporting website (courtesy of a recent AARP article), at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov): “Every time you report scams or bad business practices to the FTC, you’re helping protect your community,” says Andrew Smith, director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Fraud. Also, romance scams were by far the costliest to older Americans, causing nearly \$84 million in financial loss last year.



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- Protect your mail (again an excerpt from AARP monthly newsletter): “Informed Delivery is a free service from the U.S. Postal Service in which the agency sends, via email, images of letter-sized mail expected to be delivered to you soon. This is a great way to monitor that nothing is stolen by ID thieves from your mailbox. Visit [InformedDelivery.usps.com](https://InformedDelivery.usps.com) to sign up.”

And I will continue until next month on my 10,000 steps.

~Janice Merrill Brown

## LESCHI SCHOOL UPDATE

Congratulations to Mr. D for being named this year’s recipient of the first annual King County Larry Gossett Service Award! Text from his nomination below:

Mr. Donaldson has worked in the Seattle School District for 30 years as a Family Support Worker, to ensure that families’ basic human needs are met. He is an ever-present community fixture, and his contributions include co-founding The Rising Sons boy’s group and co-founding of the Rising Daughters girl’s group, as well as the Racial Student Equity Team at Leschi Elementary. During the pandemic, he has supported weekly “grab and go” food distribution to support families, as well as technical support, and numerous school needs. He was recognized as Family Support Worker of the Year, and the 2019 MOHAI Educator of the Year.

Mr. Donaldson has worked with the Leschi Community, the PTA, and service agencies such as Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic, numerous Churches, local community centers, and merchants. He has built partnerships with these community resources for holiday assistance, clothing, rental and energy assistance, and food donations for essential family support in a community with a large minority and immigrant population with numerous needs. He is grateful for such rewarding, fulfilling, and challenging work.

Keep up to date on upcoming events and news by visiting [leschies.seattleschools.org](https://leschies.seattleschools.org) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/leschischool>.

To support our school, classrooms, and community programs for the remainder of the school year please see: [https://leschies.seattleschools.org/school\\_involvement/fundraising](https://leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/fundraising).

~Benson Wilder

## LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Two other places, not counting streets and buildings, have been named for the Native American leader Leschi.

The People’s Republic of Leschi lasted a matter of hours, if it even happened. In 1970, as part of a campus protest, the Seattle Liberation Front reportedly held the west entrance to the UW and proclaimed it to be liberated territory, until the police came along with tear gas. The action was referenced vaguely in

a couple of books and an offhand remark in The Seattle Weekly, but none of the authors knew much about it. SLF veterans I checked with had not heard a word of it.

If any readers have information about the alleged People’s Republic, I would be happy to learn more.

Leschi Town, the other namesake, is a simulated city for training the US military and local police for urban warfare, built in 2003 on Fort Lewis. This happens to be the same place where Leschi had trained his warriors (before, of course, the 1917 establishment of the fort, which took away two-thirds of the Nisqually reservation). In Leschi Town, mock battles take place in a landscape of wrecked vehicles, cinder blocks, and ruined offices. It was used as a training ground for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Not just because it was built upon Leschi’s old homeland was Leschi Town so named. Army regulations specify that a military facility is to be named after someone who is “distinguished or a deceased hero.” Contemporary sources agree that Leschi had good relationships with some of the officers stationed in Nisqually territory—officers of an occupation army. The US military was somewhat more sympathetic to the Indians than was the kill-them-all Territorial Governor, Isaac Stevens. Army officers did not believe Leschi should have been found guilty of murder for killings in wartime—if he was even the killer at all, which is doubtful.

At the time Leschi Town was being named, Fort Lewis officials who endorsed the naming were proud that prominent army officers in Leschi’s time had objected to his conviction and execution, just as some later military leaders opposed the US torture of prisoners at Guantanamo—though not, of course, the US invasion of Iraq. This drags those of us who opposed Bush’s Iraq war, along with numerous other US wars, into vexatious territory. While Leschi had been regarded by some early settlers in the way later Americans viewed the terrorists who attacked on 9/11, his legacy was being re-evaluated in the early 2000s and used for the military’s present-day purposes. And yet, Nisqually Indian council members also endorsed the naming.

Perversely, the naming was meant to reflect well on Fort Lewis, both in defending international humanitarian law and proclaiming the just nature of the American war in Iraq. Both the Nisqually and the US military presented themselves and each other as principled fighters who respected the laws of war.

It’s hard to do justice to this complex situation in the space here. For a compelling examination of the fascinating context, see “Framing Chief Leschi,” by Lisa Blee (2014), pages 75–79, available from the library.

~Roger Lippman

## REVIEWING THE JANUARY 12–13, 2021 WINDSTORM

Late on January 12th and early on January 13th, a surprise windstorm ravaged the Pacific Northwest, knocking out power to 559,000 customers in Western Washington, over 100,000 in Northwest Oregon, and another 100,000 over Eastern Washington. Winds gusted to 50 for the Seattle metro area—strong, but not out of the ordinary for a Pacific Northwest windstorm. Why was this system so much stronger than expected? Why were there so many outages despite

strong but unremarkable winds, particularly for NW Oregon northward to central Puget Sound? And what lessons can we learn from this event so that we don't get caught flat-footed during future windstorms?

This storm can best be described as a prolonged "atmospheric river" that was capped off by a stronger-than-expected, compact, and rapidly intensifying low-pressure system that rode along this atmospheric river and slammed into the Olympic Peninsula the night of Tuesday 1/12. An "atmospheric river" is a long, narrow, relatively stationary filament of moisture that extends from the subtropics to the mid-latitudes, and because warm air can hold more moisture than cool air, atmospheric rivers tend to be far wetter than systems that lack a subtropical connection. This atmospheric river brought 2–3 inches of rain for the Seattle metro area, 4–6 inches of rain over Southwest Washington, and as much as 10 inches of rain over the Olympics, Willapa Hills, Oregon Coast Range, and NW Oregon/SW Washington Cascades, resulting in widespread minor-to-moderate flooding on many rivers and numerous landslides across Western Washington and Oregon.

We knew that this atmospheric river was going to drop a tremendous amount of rain and cause problems with landslides and river flooding. However, the winds with this tempest far exceeded our expectations. Nearly every weather model was going for simply breezy conditions to accompany this atmospheric river. The one exception was the European model, which was adamant that we would have a moderate windstorm with gusts in the 35–50 mph range. The European model nailed these wind speeds, but we instead saw damage more representative of a storm that had 55–65 mph gusts. Why did we see such extensive damage despite unremarkable wind speeds?

The primary reason for the greater-than-expected damage was due to saturated soils from all the heavy rain experienced during the atmospheric river and first half of January, as these saturated soils lose their cohesion and allow trees to topple more easily under strong winds. Many Pacific Northwest trees (especially conifers) have shallow root systems, as the ample precipitation that we receive west of the Cascades means that these roots can get all the water they need without reaching deep underground. The combination of shallow-rooted, leaved conifers in loose soils means that these trees can experience a lot of force under only moderate wind and topple completely, resulting in significant disruption to the electrical grid.

An important lesson from this storm is that we can't let any particular hazards from a storm "overshadow" and "minimize" other impacts from the storm, as the sum of the impacts can be greater than the parts. We had very high confidence in heavy rain that would cause significant flooding and landslides and we effectively communicated this threat. However, the focus on flooding and landslides unfortunately came at the expense of any focus on wind, when in reality, it should have amplified the focus on wind due to soil saturation. While it is true that there is only so much information TV meteorologists can put in a 2-minute TV newscast (as a KOMO News intern who has practiced in front of a green screen, I've experienced this first-hand!), we have other methods of disseminating this information, such as social media and weather blogs,

and I don't think there's much of an excuse for not correctly highlighting the small but very real potential for a highly disruptive windstorm.

Forecasting is a probabilistic exercise by nature. When we run weather models, we look at all the different solutions, discern what solutions are most likely based on model consensus, prior model performance, and climatology, and emphasize these solutions while still highlighting the risks associated with the less probable, but still possible, solutions. Unfortunately, humans are poor at understanding probabilities, leading to an incongruence with the nature of forecasting and human psychology. Thankfully, I know we've made great strides in doing this over the past few years, and I'm optimistic that we can take these lessons and further improve our forecast communication when the next windstorm inevitably strikes.

—Charlie Phillips

*Charlie Phillips is a Madrona resident who received his B.S. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington. He works in Portland as a meteorologist. Check out his weather website at [Charlie.weathertogether.net](http://Charlie.weathertogether.net).*

## RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEW YEAR

Last month I listed presents from the protests. This month I'm suggesting resolutions to make good use of the presents and make the getting-late-in-the-evening world better. These resolutions are not the kind that can be abandoned in a few days or a few months. Unfortunately, some may take years; some have been in the making for years, decades, centuries. If

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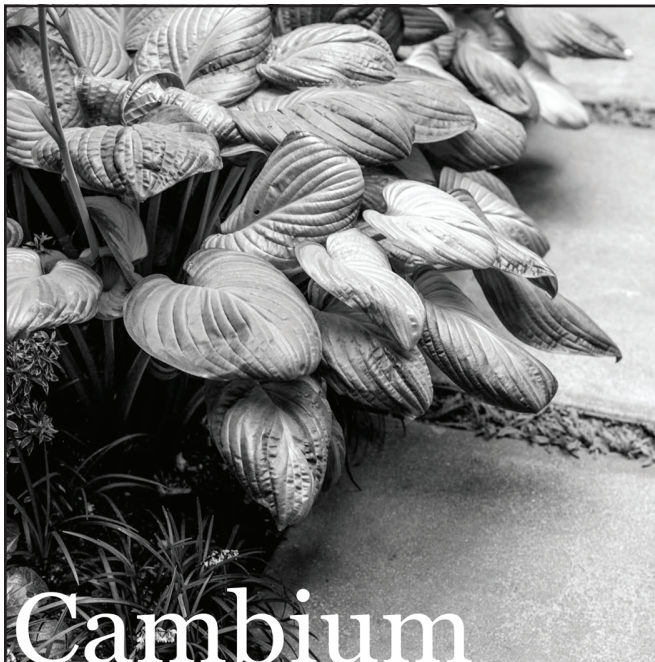
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you have observed and learned much in the past four years, you know American democracy needs work. If you agree, each of us has work to do, work we need to begin immediately.

- You can work to improve the education of all children and acknowledge the inherent inequality of a system that requires funds from the populace when you know all parts of the populace do not have the same amount of funds.
- You can select an environmental issue to solve. Check the endangered species list. Check polar bears, butterflies, coyotes, wolves. Remember the Arctic.
- You can pick up litter though you did not discard it. Select a park, your neighborhood, a street you use often, a park.
- You can work to clean a body of water. This may require that existing laws be enforced and include legislation to clean the body of water.
- You can save the salmon.
- You can stop the Keystone Pipeline—again.
- You can work to end fracking.
- You can keep climate change on the minds of all of us, especially persons responsible for law-making.
- You can work for the use of renewable, non-toxic resources.
- You can begin a garden and show others how to do the same. You can plant extra vegetables and regularly donate them to a food bank.
- You can work in every election to select persons who are concerned about all of us.

- You can get lead out of the water pipes and asbestos out of houses immediately rather than as late as thirty-three years from now.
- You may work on the eradication of voter suppression, which takes several forms. Gerrymandering and purging, though different, can have the same negative effect.
- You can work for mail-in voting nationwide.
- You can work to restore the part of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court removed in 2013.
- You can work to make voting by mail a national rule.
- You can work to make the qualifications for president more than being born in the US and at least 35 years old. Vetting must be more detailed. Candidates must have served the public in some way.
- You can work to end the electoral college.
- You can work to get in writing the requirements for the president rather than relying on tradition (setting up blind trusts, showing tax returns, etc.).
- You can work to limit the amount spent on the transportation and Secret Service protection of the president.
- You can work for term limits.
- You can work to secure remuneration for innocent persons imprisoned.
- You can fight for the infrastructure of the country—roads and unsafe buildings in much of the country are in danger of collapsing.
- You can work for the repair and replacement of railroads and the purchase of modern trains.
- You can work for universal healthcare. It's a fact: fewer persons would have gotten COVID or died from it if more of us had had health insurance.
- You can work for a universal minimum income. Did you know some persons earn the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour; other persons earn \$2.35 per hour? Migrant workers are paid piece rate which almost always means below minimum wage.
- You can volunteer at a school. There are a variety of tasks, tutoring among them.
- You can work for an income tax that would eliminate property tax and sales tax.
- You can see that persons who have lived in their house, often paid for their houses not be forced from those houses because of the property tax.
- You can work to reform the police department. Insist on proper training, retraining. Let the police do police work.
- You can let the President know that the US should be in the Paris Agreement, the UN Human Rights Council, and the World Health Organization.
- You can work to end Citizens United.
- You can work to end persons employed by the government being hired to work for companies they previously regulated. This includes lobbying.



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- You can work to reduce the number of guns by placing more restrictions on who and how one can purchase a gun.
- You can work to eliminate “high-capacity” magazines for guns.
- You can work to end monopolies, thereby reducing prices.
- You can work to provide wraparound services for those released from prison.
- You can work to free persons unfairly incarcerated.
- You can work to end capital punishment.
- You can work to limit terms in prison.
- You can support rape kits being analyzed immediately.
- You can work to provide mental health care.
- You can insist on a path for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and new immigrants.
- You can insist that prisons concentrate on rehabilitation and, therefore, reduce recidivism.
- You can work to get two years of college or vocational training free for high school students whose household income is less than \_\_\_\_\_.
- You can work to remove officials—at any level—who violate ethics.
- You can work to give those with little income the breaks given those with high income. (Law student fees in Washington, for example, for the bar exam, for example, were waived because of the pandemic; occupational certificate fees were not waived.)
- You can work for trials for persons who broke the law rather than forgive them. Congress—the peers of these persons—decided not to charge them.
- You can call for a review of the principle of the presidential pardons.
- You can work to set the last day to confirm a Supreme Court Justice regardless of party—no exceptions.
- You can eliminate conflicts of interest. You can stop veterans from having to wait for years to get treatment and benefits.
- You can demand Supreme Court justices be more diverse.

Since the beginning of March, when we were first asked to shelter in place, and in May, when the protests, worldwide, began, many of us have seen our country and fellow citizens in ways we

could never have imagined. Collectively and individually, our responses span a spectrum. Under no circumstances should we ignore what we have seen. It is our responsibility as humans, citizens to correct the wrongs; democracy does not work when citizens are ignorant and unengaged.

Select one or two of the suggestions above; add other suggestions. Move immediately to rectify the wrong.

I hope your holiday was extraordinary in the best way. Let 2021 see activism as never before, activism that will indeed make the US great for each of us.

~Georgia McDade

*Georgia S. McDade, a charter member of the African American Writers' Alliance, began reading her stories in public in 1991 and credits the group with making her write poetry. Many poems are inspired by artists. Georgia writes for South Seattle Emerald and Leschinews. She also does interviews for KVRU (105.7) and KBCS (107.3). Outside the Cave is the name of four volumes of poetry; Observation and Revelations: Stories, Sketches, and Essays is the name of her volume of prose.*

*Editor: When I looked at this list of “should,” I cringed. My past resolutions were pathetic in comparison. But I thought of this quote from Rebecca Solnit: “Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe with which you break down doors in an emergency. Hope should shove you out the door because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the annihilation of the earth’s treasures and the grinding down of the poor and the marginal. To hope is to give yourself to the future—and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.”*

*Editor: In view of recent events, we should say that taking an axe to the door is metaphorical; one gets up from the sofa and takes an axe to the door of their lethargy and begins the work that brings hope.*



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# Culture Corner

## SELMA WALDMAN: WITNESS TO THE ABUSE OF POWER

*"Lust for power and territory is the same lust that kills man, women, children and the land itself" Selma Waldman 2002*

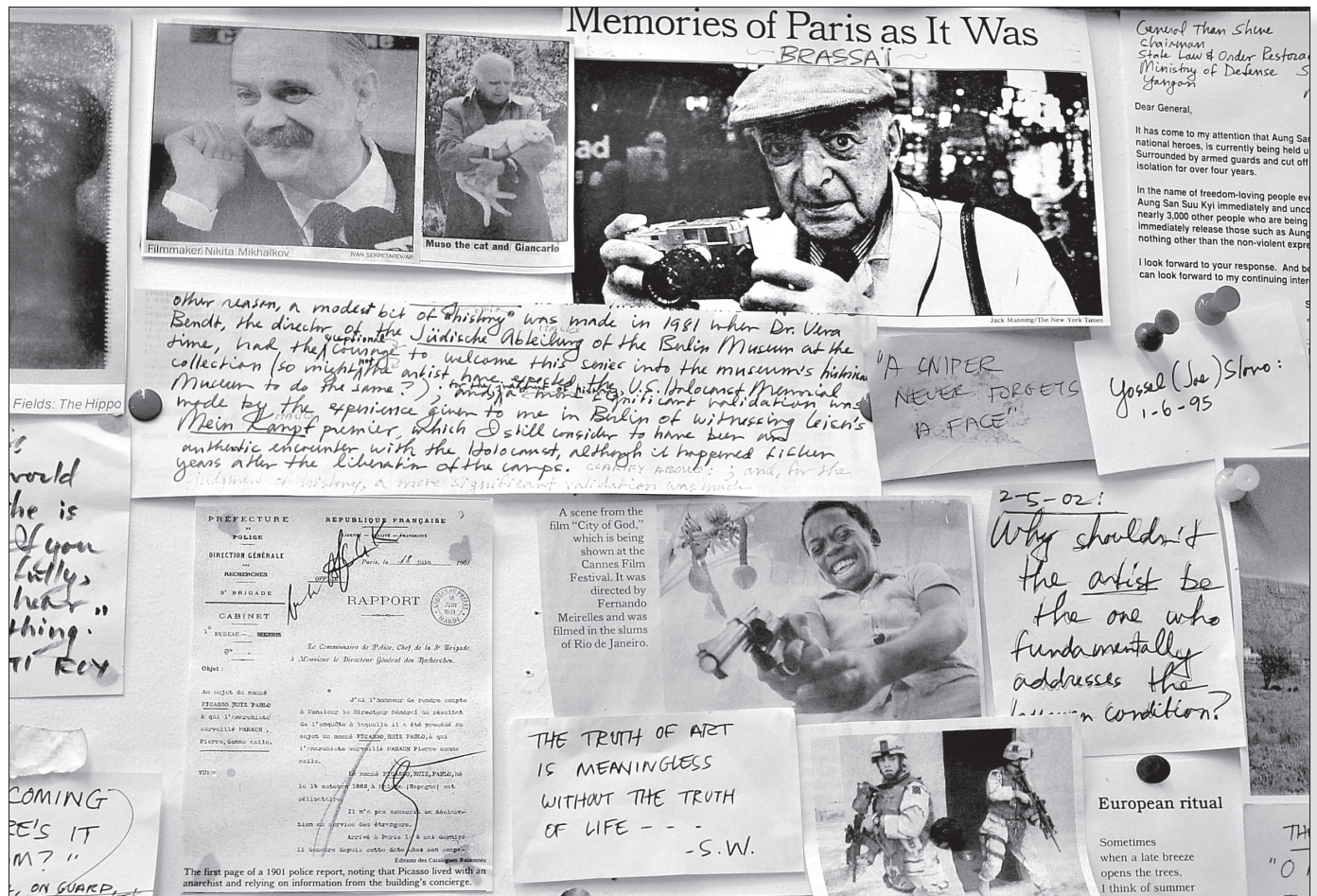
What would Seattle's deeply political artist Selma Waldman think of our current catastrophes?

On a bitter winter day in January 2008, I accompanied Selma Waldman to the last demonstration that she attended before her death in April. "Shut Down Guantanamo" began with a demonstration of waterboarding. A young man, tied face down on a board, had a wet towel over his face and water poured over his head into a bucket. Even in the simulation, the volunteer felt as though he was about to drown.

During the speeches that followed by politicians and political activists, we held up enlarged images of one of Selma's explicit drawings of waterboarding from her long series Black Book

of Aggressors. They scrupulously depict in her expressionist drawing technique, several means of waterboarding, with detailed text taken from newspapers. Selma urgently said in my ear, "But it shouldn't be only Guantanamo, what about the black sites, the other places of torture." She always understood that one place is connected to so many other places; one manifestation of torture connects to the will to power everywhere, the will to oppress, the desire to destroy the human spirit.

"A Conversation in Time and Space" presents thirteen of Selma Waldman's monumental drawings at the Center on Contemporary Art partnered with nine brave COCA members responding to her forceful work and statements with their own art and commentaries (all of which can be seen and read on the COCA website <https://cocaseattle.org/time-and-space> until February 20). Waldman's art embraces the classical tradition of Käthe



One wall of Selma Waldman's studio, with source material including photo of the photographer Brassaï  
*"Why shouldn't the artist be the one who fundamentally addresses the human condition?" Photograph by Henry Matthews*



Kollwitz in her expressionist line. The materials of chalk and charcoal were part of her politics as well, a metaphor for the fragility of life.

How ironic that this timely exhibition cannot be visited in person. The current disasters we face, COVID-19, climate change, homelessness and hunger, intersect with the abuses Waldman addresses: torture, detentions, endless wars, starvation.

Rainer Waldman Adkins carefully selected the works to touch on large themes in his mother's work: the Holocaust series called Falling Man Suite from 1966, The Man and Bread series, featuring extreme desperation in famine, police brutality in The Thin Naked Line, drawn after the 1999 World Trade protests in Seattle and the aggressions of war, in nine images from the over 80 works in the "Black Book of Aggressors," from the cycle called Naked/Aggression—Profile of the Armed Perpetrators first begun in the late 1990s in response to the genocide and war crimes in Bosnia and Chechnya.

Waldman grew up in Kingsville, Texas, deep in South Texas, where everyone was employed by the mighty King Ranch as virtual slave labor. Although her own family was middle class, she learned about oppression as a way of life in her early years from Chicano friends.

When Waldman was on a Fulbright Fellowship in Berlin, she was profoundly affected by the 1960 documentary *Mein Kampf*. She began a series of drawings of dehumanized and distorted figures based on images and accounts of the Warsaw ghetto. These are the first works on the Nazi holocaust by a Jewish American artist to be acquired by a German museum.

Collectively titled Falling Man, the ninety drawings are near life-size representations that were dramatically hung from the ceiling and stairwell of the Jewish Museum in Berlin. It is represented with one huge drawing at COCA called "The Doll." The helplessness of the naked figure, subtly rendered only in line, brings us directly to our current crisis as so many people lose their homes and live in the streets in desperation.

The two "Man and Bread" drawings of the late 1960s come from a group of more than 300 works (of which 25 are in the Collection of the Memorial Terezin Ghetto Museum). Waldman based the imagery on Elie Wiesel's descriptions in *Night* (Bantam Books, 1960) of the struggle for food to the death in concentration camps.

On March 21, 1960, Selma Waldman saw the front-page photographs of the Sharpeville Massacre, in South Africa. She was so shocked that she decided to commit her art more deeply to a "struggle to end genocide and racism." We can draw a direct line from South Africa to our current atrocities in the United States and elsewhere, by the military, the police and most recently armed militias.

Police brutality in the large drawing *Thin Naked Line*, 1999–2002, based on press photographs (the point of departure for much of her work), gives us the faceless mass of the Seattle riot police who attacked the anti-World Trade Organization demonstrators in 1999. They are dehumanized warriors who advance toward us as a group.

Finally, her last series *Naked /Aggression: Wall of Perpetrators IV–V*, *The Black Book of Aggressors (I–IV)* (2005–2006) bears witness to the degradation of human beings and the systematic abuse of power in Abu Ghraib,

Guantanamo, and elsewhere. Left unfinished at the time of the artist's death in April 2008, the *Black Book of Aggressors* would have included two hundred drawings and eight walls. For the final wall, she planned to reconfigure Goya's *Saturn Devouring His Son* (1820–1823), *The Colossus* (1808–1812), and other black paintings, to address atrocities world-wide.

As Selma Waldman wrote "the cycle 'corrects' the mythic profile of the invulnerable warrior-hero, born to fight and trained to win—and reveals it as a reckless existential lie and an obscene fraud without which battles could never be engaged—confirms it as the fool's proof of manhood, the lifeblood for fascist, the main meat dish out to defense profiteers, and the first refuge for scoundrel fanatics."

What could be a timelier statement given what we have just witnessed in the US capital!

Every detail of Selma Waldman's life carried her strong spirit of resistance and her belief that creative voices could win over forces of oppression. In her small home in Rainier Valley (now lost) she filled every surface with art, poems, quotes, and books.

Selma Waldman would answer the question with which I began by speaking of the intersections of past and present, all seated in an obsession with power manifested as racism, fanaticism, and inhumanity.

But she always paired her witness to depravity and the abuse of power with a celebration of the human spirit in all of its glorious powers of creativity and resistance.

—Susan Platt, Ph.D.

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



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# Seeking Sustenance...

## FEBRUARY WINE FUN

February makes you shiver no more! Leschi Market's Wine Wednesdays are sure to warm you up! Last month we took a deep dive into the Wine Spectator Top-100 as well as the 2020 Best Selling Wines at Leschi Market. We pulled the curtain back on lists and ratings and discussed how ratings and reviews translate down to the retail level, the good, the bad, and the ugly!

How does it all work, you ask? Easy! Stop by the store and buy the wines for the tasting or tastings that appeal to you. (All wines are packaged at a discounted price—to encourage joining the on-line tastings!) Once purchased, the codes and passwords you need will be conveniently printed on your sales receipt. At 5:30pm on the date of the tasting, visit [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com), click on "Join a Meeting," and enter the appropriate Meeting ID # and Password provided, once prompted. From there, sit back, relax, and let Leschi Market take over. We'll move through the 3 or 4 wines in about an hour with thoughts and takes from

Leschi Market Wine Stewards as well as special guests, maybe a winemaker, importer, or sales representative. There's always time for questions and comments.

The Virtual Tastings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Come for the wine, stay for the hot takes, stories and adventures that these wines and wine regions bring out during the discussion. From celebrating Women Winemakers to hearing the perils in Portugal of hurriedly flushing salt cod down the toilet... can you tell yet that we have a good time? We have dubbed Season 2: An Educational Happy Hour. They've really become quite the community event!

February is a guarantee that more fun times are in store. Ahead of Valentine's Day on February 10th we'll take a look at some lovely wines with which to cozy up: a perfect pink bubbly suitable to share fireside, an enchanting Furmint from Hungary, and a luscious little Nebbiolo. Cost for this tasting will be \$42.

Once we reconvene on February 24th, don't cry for us as we visit Argentina! Many will learn and try lesser-known grapes, Torrontes from the 2020 vintage, and a Bonarda, before giving way to the #1 grape of the country, Malbec! Cost for this tasting will be \$40.

Want to have tasting info and announcements at your fingertips? Follow our Facebook Page or send us an email: [wine@leschimarket.com](mailto:wine@leschimarket.com) and be added to our mailing list for all of the latest info and updates.

Stay safe and healthy, and we'll see you in the wine aisle.

Cheers! Enjoy!



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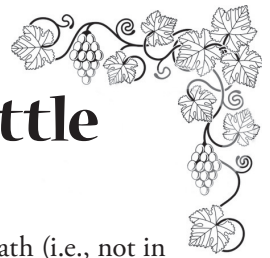
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Kirsten Hopperstad

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 206-325-7743

*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 monthly column is*





## ...in the Wilds of Seattle

*intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experience in the wine world. Check out the latest at [www.leschimarket.com](http://www.leschimarket.com) or to request to be added to email updates at [wine@leschimarket.com](mailto:wine@leschimarket.com).*

### TAKE OUT UPDATES

This past week we ordered from MedMix once again. It is so reliably good that one feels as though they have had a complete meal with the freshest of veggies loaded onto one's gyro. Choose from lamb, chicken, eggplant, falafel or hummus. I find the gyro very filling, but there are plates to choose from which offer rice and salad and other delicacies if you order the Veggie Plate.

Another specialty is my husband's favorite: Shish Tawook. Marinated chicken chunks on rice. Baklava is offered for dessert but it's hard to find room for it! Their servings are large! Orders can be placed online, and they do offer delivery (more expensive). The gyros are wrapped in waxed paper and then foil. I specify this because of a recent warning about the take-out containers we have become used to—they are full of PFAs.

And what are PFAs? Consumer Reports (August 6, 2020) says "PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are often called 'forever chemicals' because they're close to indestructible. There are nearly 5,000 types, and most haven't been closely studied. Among the ones that have, many have been linked to harmful health effects, including decreased fertility, hormonal changes, high cholesterol levels, weakened immune system response, increased risk for certain cancers, and low birth weight in infants." One more thing to worry about as we try to stay safe!

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#### MEDMIX

2204 S Jackson St. 206-325-5642

M–F: 11am–9pm; Sat. 3–9pm; closed on Sunday

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BluWater Bistro has announced that under the new Covid-19 restrictions, they will be open for indoor dining at 25% of capacity. Outdoor dining still available with rain cover and heater stands.

### FRESH FLOURS

While this is a little off the beaten path (i.e., not in the CD), it is worth the trek. Our grandson and his wife discovered it when Bakery Nouveau was closed at a critical pastry moment.

Look at their website; it is guaranteed to set those salivary glands working overtime!

Fresh Flours offers 6 varieties of croissants, including an Azuki Red

Bean Croissant. (Let's not neglect our protein when we indulge!) The menu includes Muffins, Danish, a Fruit Galette, a Scone of the day, Coffee Cakes, a Cinnamon Roll and the humble cookie. The grand offspring appeared in our kitchen on my husband's post-Christmas birthday with a selection of yummys which we chose to split in half, and I am hard put to recommend a favorite. They were ALL good!! The Galette is a nice choice if you want to minimize the pastry and emphasize the fruit but one does hate to minimize the flaky pastry! Fresh Flours accepts online orders but does not deliver. There is outside eating and limited inside choices. They have 3 other locations: West Seattle. Phinney Ridge and S Lake Union where only the truly courageous would deign to drive. I am sure I have gained a few pounds just writing about this delicious bakery, but I felt it was important to let you in on the secret!



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#### FRESH FLOURS

1624 S McClellan St. 206-258-3121

M–F: 6am–5pm; Sat & Sun 7am–5pm

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~Diane Snell

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## LCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 1/11/2021

Attending: Janice Brown, Trevor Lalis-Menagh, Janet Oliver, John Barber, Diane Snell

Janet: Treasury report; she reported that it is difficult to find an open branch. The internet will show the bank's hours but once there, the building is often locked. She attempted 4 banks before she was able to make the deposit (Bank of America).

Trevor: He has agreed to be the host for our February meeting with Councilmember Sawant.

Janice had these questions to ask of Sawant:

1. How would you propose law and order to be maintained?
2. Your feelings on the responsibility of interlopers, vandals and violent protesters to be financially liable for damages; whether financial restitution or working the costs off.

Diane's questions for Sawant:

1. Are there funds to enhance the Crisis Intervention team and avoid armed reactions to mental health crises?
2. Will choke holds and no-knock warrants be banned?
3. Could traffic stops be moved to the Dept. of Transportation?

Goals for 2021: At the last meeting, it was suggested that we have some goals for 2021. Janice researched the LCC constitution and saw that our monthly meetings offer a platform for meeting goals.

Janice's suggestions for our programs for the year are:

1. A follow up to indigenous peoples.
2. The music program and other events we support, perhaps highlighting both preamble and naming the programs and/or highlighting one a month in newsletters.
3. Maybe a community book club or presentations by authors with attention paid to history.

4. Someone from Woodland Park Zoo to tell the tale of how the zoo began here in Leschi.
5. Bring someone in about the history of the trolley, where it went, when it started and when it was pulled out.
6. History of the Leschi marina area—members of the Seaborn family are still around.

Diane's goals for 2021:

1. Make a list of the organizations we wish to support financially and donate regularly
2. List the ideas for a memorial to Steve Shulman and discuss with Yousef: Naming a portion of Lakeside Ave as Steve Shulman Way, Park furniture, design of our Leschi Star for a block of sidewalk in front of the store with Steve's name.

	Income	Expenses	Balance 12/31/20
<b>General Fund</b>			
Ad Revenue	\$8,322.00		
Dues	\$2,110.00		
Donations	\$1,720.00		
Insurance		(\$472.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$5,566.93)	
Totals	\$12,700.50	(\$9,175.53)	\$13,890.36
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
ArtWalk			\$2,447.32
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$4,650.00	(\$200.00)	\$5,335.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project	\$100.00	(\$396.36)	\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area	\$1,500.00		\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,287.85
Steve Shulman Memorial	\$65.00		\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1200.00
Wading Pool			\$3006.13
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$19,015.50	(\$9,771.89)	\$44,921.72
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>			\$11,255.29

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

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

☐ \$15 student/low income/ senior membership

☐ I am making an additional donation for LCC work

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3. Identify groups we wish to promote and try to program accordingly, i.e., FOSE (Friends of Street Ends)
4. Identify some short term goals such as John's wish for a tree survey.

Janet's goal:

Recruit more members for the Board to reflect the diversity of the community.

Diane: Newsletter deadline: Jan.18

Website issues: none of us are able to access the website.  
John added his concern: websites should be dynamic and need to be used to highlight current events.

Star Award: one nominated by parent at Leschi School to be presented by Janice at BluWater; date to be announced.

*-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell*

## LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING WITH COUNCIL MEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Time: Feb 3, 2021 06:45 PM Pacific Time  
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87646232740?pwd=UXIDNytrcCsrTTJQcUk5eU1BOVFhUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 4623 2740

Passcode: 184719

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# leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **February 15**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:

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

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*Forget the gray skies and that constant moisture and concentrate on the approach of Spring! Courtesy: Ella Higginson*

## WHEN THE BIRDS GO NORTH AGAIN

Oh, every year hath its winter,  
And every year hath its rain  
But a day is always coming  
When the birds go North again.

When new leaves swell in the forest,  
And grass springs green on the plain,  
And the alder's veins turn crimson  
And the birds go North again.

Oh, every heart hath its sorrow,  
And every heart hath its pain—  
But a day is always coming  
When the birds go North again.

'Tis the sweetest thing to remember  
If courage be on the wane,  
When the cold dark days are over  
Why, the birds go North again

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