

# leschinews

October 2014 Issue No. 315

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

## CANDIDATE FORUM

***Join us at 6:30pm for a Meet & Greet with candidates. Then from 7-9pm, a discussion on Gun Initiatives, Candidates positions and Pre-K initiatives.***

**The following candidates are scheduled to attend:**

- Seattle Municipal Judge, Position 7: Damon Shadid and Fred Bonner
- State Representative: Sharon Tomiko Santos and Daniel Bretzke
- State Senator: Pramila Jayapal and Louis Watanabe
- U.S. Congressman: Adam Smith

**HOSTED BY LESCHI, MADRONA AND MT. BAKER CCS  
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OCTOBER 22, 6:30-9**

## Inside the News

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**SAVE THE  
DATE**  
**Halloween  
Spooktacular!!!**

3-6pm, 10/31 along Lakeside Ave.

# Presidents' Message

If there were any global warming deniers in Leschi, they must be convinced after this summer! We don't mind all this sun and warmth, but we would like the zucchini to cease and desist.

We had temperatures in the 80s for our Book Sale but were protected by all our canopies. We want to thank the small army of helpers that hauled the books to Grocery Outlet, set up canopies and tables and books, and then came back to break it all down again. There are too many to name individually as it would take the whole column to do so, but we do thank Grocery Outlet for their space and an extra table and thanks to the Senior Center for the loan of 6 tables. It was very much a community effort. And many thanks to those who gave up wonderful books for the cause, some so pristine that we felt the owner must have worn gloves while reading! We made less this year as we had no advance sales to booksellers; it seems there is a glut on the used book market. Our sales that day amounted to \$493.40 and we felt a little let down to be sending such a small check to Seattle Music Partners. But we had a surprise in the mailbox the following Monday: a check for \$300 from the Children Count Foundation! The Board has voted to put that \$300 with the book sale proceeds for the Music Partners. This is the most important project for children that we do all year, and having supported this group since they first started, it seems critical to continue supporting to the best of our ability. However, that said, we will not be doing a book sale next year unless someone younger wants to take on this project. Hauling boxes of books up and down stairs is tiresome for folks in their 70's. We will search for a more lucrative (and lighter weight) fundraiser in 2015.

The leftover books were disposed of as follows: a young woman from a non-profit group that tutors 5th graders who are behind took the children's books that were appropriate, Joanne Petroff took the beautiful coffee table art books to the Library sale where they will go for much more than \$1, and the rest was taken to the Lifelong Aids Alliance Thrift store which has a nice book section. And we must thank Cynthia Davenport, not only for her bags and bags of good reads, but for sending sustenance for the booksellers: Syrian Nutmeg Cake!

We hope to see you at the 10/22 Candidate Forum that we are hosting along with Madrona CC and Mt. Baker CC. The Meet & Greet portion at 6:30 will give you a chance to personally meet the candidates.

*Be the change you want to see in the world. -Gandhi*

*-Diane Morris & Diane Snell*

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**Leschi Community Council**  
140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2  
Seattle WA 98144-6538

#### Presidents

Diane Morris, 206.322.7648  
Diane Snell, 206.726.0923  
leschinews@comcast.net

#### Vice President

Janet Oliver, janetoliver@seanet.com

#### Secretary

Amy Fink  
amy.e.fink@morganstanleysmithbarney.com

#### Treasurer

Kim Murillo  
kim2938@gmail.com

#### Program Chair

Diane Snell, 206.726.0923

#### Parks and Greenspace

John Barber, 206.324.1548  
barber-osa@comcast.net

#### Public Health & Safety

Tracy Bier  
atbier@msn.com

#### SCCF Representative

Jeff Floor, jsfloor@gmail.com

#### Newsletter Editor and Advertising

Diane Snell, 206.726.0923  
leschinews@comcast.net

#### Production Manager

Kirsten Hopperstad  
khopperstad@msn.com

#### Staff Photographer

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# The Latest in Leschi

I hope you are not the type whose eyes glaze over when the City Council or some other government entity is mentioned, as this issue is full of exciting possibilities. Nick Licata and Our Parks Forever want to improve the citizen oversight that seemed so lacking to many of us when the Metropolitan Park District was on the primary ballot. Developer impact fees are being talked about after years of being brought up at community meetings; I have often heard city officials mumble something like “the state won’t let us collect impact fees” but 80 other cities in this state do so! The full council hearing is on the Seattle Channel; we know this is not as exciting as the FBI’s Most Wanted, but actually has more of an impact on your lives as it would relieve some of the citizen tax burden. Oh, but I should be more realistic; it would allow the powers that be to spend our taxes on something else. At this point in my life, I don’t expect taxes to go down. (An interesting note: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw was fined \$150 by the Ethics Commission for campaigning for the Met Park District on city property at the Mayor’s Coffee Hour in July. CM Bagshaw said she was unaware that this was city property.)

We have semi-good news from Metro: instead of deleting the #27 altogether in February, they plan to continue the commute service AM and PM. They are changing the route however; it will no longer go all the way down Yesler to 3rd (where we want to go) but will turn on 9th to Seneca, go past Town Hall and continue downtown, coming back up on Spring. However, this bus will not go past Douglass-Truth during non-commute hours.. Those of us near the lake will still have the hill to contend with. The one bright spot in this is that the route is not being deleted altogether; it would be harder to reinstate a route than get it expanded.

We were appalled to hear that parks does not want to put bathrooms in parks any longer as it “encourages” drug use and prostitution. I seem to remember hearing that prostitution was one of the oldest professions and probably it predates public bathrooms. One would suspect that a profession with this lasting power would go on regardless. The planning committee for the Jimi Hendrix Park will have to deal with the need to pee when it puts on a concert at this large venue.



We hope that you will put the October 22 Candidate Forum on your calendar. It’s important to know who and what you are voting for. I am seeing pro and con arguments on NextDoor Leschi re: the background check on guns; it would be good to hear the actual debate on both this issue and the competing measures for a Pre-K program. Voter participation in the primary was pathetic; perhaps we can make an effort and improve our performance in November.

-Diane Snell

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# Neighborhood & Beyond

## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Bring your witches and goblins to the lakefront on Halloween from 3-6pm! Gather treats from the merchants and have a picture taken at Leschi Market for the Leschi website!



## ART IN THE 'HOOD

### Invitational Sidewalk Chalk Art

An excess of sidewalk chalk left over from the second annual Hopscotch event resulted in an impromptu contest at Flo Ware Park on Saturday, September 13. Our roving reporter and secret artist, Diane Morris, covered this event:

Participants were instructed to draw portraits of their family on 4 sidewalk squares per person or family group. One sizeable family came prepared with a family portrait; others came with little or no idea of how to proceed. There were prizes for the eleven best pictures as selected by a panel of volunteer judges. The prizes were impressive: a huge art folio of crayons, pens and paints, pizza certificates and several scrumptious-looking pound cakes which were baked by Knox Gardner, the spark plug behind Hopscotch and the person who was not willing to store all that chalk for another year! The first prize went to the family who worked from the family portrait; another winner was a young girl who wanted to portray her family as butterflies! If this happens again, don't miss it!

*-Diane Morris*

### Tile Painting for the Cortona Parklet

Cortona Café held another volunteer art event the very next day. Glass tiles and paints were supplied to those who wanted to create a tile that represented Seattle or their neighborhood. The painted tiles will be fired and installed on concrete planter boxes as a mosaic. The concrete planters are part of the parklet (a parklet is a small community space the size of a parking space and it is located in a parking space.) Although some cities have moving parklets that appear one day and pop up some place else the next day, this parklet is more permanent and looks much safer. Once the tiles are installed, make a point of visiting Cortona and take your food and latte to the parklet where you can see everything that goes on in the street and on the sidewalk in safety...and beauty. Cortona is located at 25th and E. Union; its recent pedestrian crossing came about as a result of an application to the annual Street and Park fund.

*-Diane Morris*

## PEPPI'S WOODS UPDATE

Friends of Peppi's Woods received a grant in July from the Department of Neighborhoods to do the work to formalize the informal social trail at the north end of the woods.

By widening the trail which currently exists and modifying it to save trees as well as reduce the slope of the trail, we will make the access to the woods easier for a broader range of people.

Many Leschi residents as well as parents of Leschi students have committed time to participate in work parties or provide refreshments for work parties.

With the support of Seattle Parks Department Natural Area Crew, we will prepare the route for the trail, and cover it with gravel.

Our steering committee consists of John Barber, Erikka Sagor, Joanne Donohue, Jana Robbins, Liz Ohlson and 5 students from Leschi whose intimate knowledge of the woods is essential to our work.

The focus of our Saturday, October 18 work party will be the removal of the ubiquitous invasive plants throughout the woods and removal of plants from the trail route.

On Saturday, November 8, our fall planting will occur.

Further work party dates will be determined as we coordinate our trail work with Seattle Parks Department.

We thank Leschi residents for their enthusiasm for and appreciation of the work done to restore the woods.

*-Liz Ohlson*

## BEYOND FACEBOOK

Did you ever think of going beyond Facebook and email on your iPad? That touch screen is perfect for drawing and painting...sort of finger painting without the paints. Kate Barber and Libby Hill are starting an art group at the Central Area Senior Center in October, beginning October 2 from 1-3:30 in the Solarium. The group will meet every Thursday, except for the 3rd Thursday, which is the monthly birthday lunch. Kate and Libby do not want to be instructors but they are willing to be coaches. The class is not structured; it is intended to be a work group. One brings your own project to work on or finds a project there.



*Left to right Jeanie, Libby & Kate, photo credit Joan Ervin*

Donations of drawing and painting supplies are there for your use. Jeanie Merlyn is joining the two iPad artists and she doesn't use an iPad, so don't let the lack of an iPad keep you from joining. Fees are the usual \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members.

If you are unfamiliar with the options on an iPad, visit the Senior Center and study the bulletin board just inside the dining room. There is an artful display (put together by Jeanie) of the work done by Kate and Libby on their iPads. The pictures displayed were printed on a home printer, not fancy equipment. One can choose the size of a brush and the color(s) to be used, enabling you to draw what looks like a charcoal sketch or a colorful watercolor with visible brush strokes. Kate said you can stick to traditional art or expand your range all the way to Sci-Fi or comic book figures. Your work is saved in the gallery and you pull it back up to continue working whenever you wish. It is so convenient to carry an iPad rather than an easel, paint box (or charcoal) and sketch pad. A revolution in making art!

-Diane Snell

## OUR PARKS FOREVER

This is the group that opposed the Metropolitan Parks District proposition due to poor citizen oversight; the levy system was preferred in which there are specific projects named and citizens review the progress and completion of the projects. This group has decided to stay together as a group to support candidates and lobby officials. They are supporting an audit of Parks, will seek to be part of the committee that selects the new Supervisor of Parks and will seek representation on the oversight committee for members. There is hope that moving to the new District elections of councilmembers may result in more community/citizen based representation.

Councilmember Nick Licata is also taking steps to provide better oversight. He wants to increase the size of the oversight committee to 15 (from 11) and have a citizen from each of the seven council districts serve on the committee. He proposes to "work to establish the DPR/ Park Board performance team and the consultant's scope of work; to review DPR's business, service, and financial management practices; to identify process improvements and cost efficiencies; to identify financial management practices, including financial policies; to identify measurable performance benchmarks and aspirational goals; and to involve DPR employees in developing expectations for annual performance and financial measuring and reporting."

The LCC responded to Nick Licata, thanking him for his suggestions to improve the oversight and we took the opportunity to mention some of our grievances:

"The Leschi Community Council would like to thank you for your work on improving the oversight elements of the Metropolitan Park District. Our concern here in Leschi was not the tax money; we have many parks that we are proud of and work to maintain, and we do not regret paying more for proper maintenance. What we did worry about was oversight as it did not seem to compare with the past levy system. Equity is an important part of distributing money for parks. Seeing the big players (Aquarium, Zoo and the elephant in the room, The Waterfront project) lining up with their hands out put fear into us.

We have already seen a lack of equity in the operation of the parks; despite the fact that we have minority groups in our neighborhood and we know that African Americans have a higher rate of drowning, our wading pools were not filled during the summer as were the ones on Capitol Hill. Use of wading pools for small children can overcome fear of water and prepare children for the free swim lessons at the neighborhood pools.

# Leschi Lakecenter and Yacht Basin

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We also have a problem with parks' new policy of not providing bathrooms in parks; the new Seven Hills Park (16th & Howell) has a BBQ and picnic tables but no bathroom which is creating problems for neighbors of the park. Parks reasoning is that bathrooms encourage drug use and prostitution. Really, I think that if we outlawed ALL public bathrooms, we would still have prostitution and drug use! Here in Leschi, folks use the public stairways for these purposes. It is unreasonable to think that families with small children can picnic without bathroom facilities. Until we can find a way around these bodily functions, we need to provide bathroom facilities for folks no matter what a hassle it is for Parks. This is part of being a civilized community. Apparently Parks has told the Jimi Hendrix Park planning committee that they will not build bathrooms at that very large venue. So we will have concerts in the park with no place to pee? Perhaps it is time to hire some normal people to work in the Parks Department...people who actually urinate and defecate and are not just robots."

And we received this response from one of CM Licata's aides:

"Thank you, Diane, for your kind words on behalf of the Leschi Community Council.

The Seattle Park District Board won't have its first meeting until September 30th, but even before the Citizen Oversight Committee is formed, Nick is thinking ahead to how its performance will be monitored and measured because equity can best be realized through an effective committee, rather than through a committee in name, only.

And, I agree with you...it's perfectly normal to pee!"

We are most happy to have the eagle eyes of the experienced parks supporters from Our Parks Forever insisting on good citizen oversight as well as the work of CM Licata. We will all be watching as the Oversight Committee meets and a budget is created for the new monies.

*-from a collaboration of John Barber's notes, Nick Licata's public letter, Diane Snell's letter in response and subsequent reply from Licata aide.*

## A BAKER'S DOZEN NEW SHORELINE STREET ENDS

The citizen group, Friends of Street Ends, is happy to report that new shoreline street ends have been opened for public use, due to a fund established in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. The Department of Parks and Recreation has cooperated with the Seattle Department of Transportation to complete the improvements of these street right-of-ways that end at water ways.

The new public access areas feature a path, a sign, a bench, and landscaping. Some offer kayak launching. In Ballard, there are three: 11th Ave. NW, 20th Ave. NW and 36th Ave. NW; in SE Seattle, there are two: 72nd Ave. S and 75th Ave. S; in Magnolia, one at McGraw St.; along the Duwamish River, there are four: Riverside, S. Fidalgo, S. Oregon, and the east side of the east waterway of Spokane St.; and in West Seattle, there is the SW Bronson Way shoreline street end. Two NE street end improvements are snagged in a legal process.

*-John Barber*

## THE QUEST FOR DEVELOPER IMPACT FEES

I have attended community meetings for years where concerned citizens ask about developer impact fees; when new developments spring up in one's neighborhood and the community struggles to absorb the impact, is there any way to get some relief from those who are building this new project? I have heard over the years that Seattle doesn't "do that" and even that the state doesn't allow it. Well, the Seattle City Council is finally studying this and it appears that 80 other cities in the state do collect developer impact fees.

There are some restrictions laid down by the state but certainly there is an opportunity if the Council chooses to do this. We will briefly go over the definition and types but if you want to see the whole program, it is on Seattle Channel, September 10, Transportation Committee meeting.

The definition is a one time payment by new development for capital cost of facilities needed by new development. There are 4 types of fees:

1. Transportation (capital projects only, not transit; could be major roads & arterials but not neighborhood streets)
2. Parks and recreation: facilities only
3. Fire Protection (stations and trucks)
4. Schools (This is where it gets tricky; fees would go to the School District, not the City and would pay for construction)

Impact fees cannot be used for repair, replacement or renovation. Such fees must be a fair share based on growth and not existing deficiencies. Fees must be proportionate to the impact. There can be no double charging and cities cannot rely on impact fees solely.

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Myth vs. fact: In this section, one fact was presented among many myths. The fact is that Impact fees reduce the burden on existing residents and businesses. Myths: Impact fees ARE paid by developers and builders (not at present; myth); Impact fees stop development (myth); and impact fees can solve any infrastructure problem (myth).

Councilmember Rasmussen has suggested that a “study group” be formed; hopefully they can do a quick study. A representative from Bellevue spoke at that meeting and said that Bellevue had been collecting impact fees since 1990 when it was first allowed under the Growth Management Act. So for 14 years, Seattle residents have been picking up bills that could have been paid by developers. We can only hope the study group acts fast; it is one of those jokes about Seattle that we “study” things rather than act.

*-Diane Snell*

## SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Senior Center will host a Meet and Greet on October 21 10am-12noon. This is designed for newcomers who are not familiar with the Center. Perhaps you remember how it felt to enter a new school and have the teacher introduce you to 30 unfamiliar faces. Unnerving, eh? This meeting will be a gentle coffee hour with experienced Center users there to answer questions and lead tours, discussing the many classes and programs the Center offers.

**IMMUNIZATION CLINIC:** Free clinic for flu and pneumonia shots on October 8, 10am-12 noon; just show your Medicare card. Vaccines for whooping cough and shingles are also available, but one needs to sign up first for those vaccines. Call 206 726.4926 to register; your medication list will have to be reviewed first.

Interim Director, Dian Ferguson, will be honored for her mentoring work at a luncheon honoring Women of Empowerment September 20. She was given a hearty round of applause at the monthly member meeting. It is obvious the membership appreciates her and the monthly updates she gives.

The Marketing Committee, ably led by Joan Ervin, reported on the outreach at the EastPAC picnic and the ROOTS picnic. Joan is working on a Holiday Cookbook with members' recipes.

Facilities Committee: The lighting along the sidewalk has been repaired and new lights installed on the roof. The drainage issue has been fixed and a new water heater installed. The group is now

looking at ways to reduce the high heating bills that come in the winter months with all those windows that are not double-paned. There are plans to upgrade the dining room area and make it more flexible for rentals; several pro bono interior design folks are involved in the planning. Landscape architects will consider changes to the exterior, including increased parking space.

The Center has been collecting items for the Soiree hosted by Senior Services November 1 at the Museum of Flight. Our donated items that sell bring needed funds back to the Senior Center.

New classes and programs: Yoga on Wednesdays 2-2:30pm; ASL (American Sign Language) Wed. 3-4pm; Drop-in Computer classes Wed. 1-2pm. Movie Day has resumed on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10 am in the Technology Room.

The Concert Fundraiser at Langston Hughes (October 19; 3-6) will feature music for all tastes, including Big Love (classic rock). The admission fee is \$50, but if you include your annual Senior Center renewal, the cost will be \$100. The usual membership fee is \$60, but if you include it with the admission, you can get both for \$100 (a \$10 savings.)

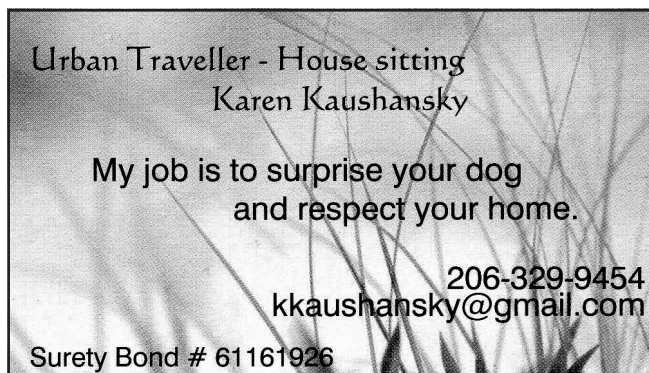
*-Diane Snell*

## THE FATE OF THE POST OFFICE SITE

At the heart of the Central District, the intersection of 23rd and Union has been the scene of continual transformation over the past several decades. Popular businesses spring up and disappear (Ms. Helen's Soul Food, Philly Cheese Steak, Med Mix). Nearby, thriving hot-spots take hold, serving a transforming demographic (Neighbor Lady, Chuck's Hop Shop, Central Cinema). And a major employer – the Post Office – moves its energies elsewhere, leaving only a skeleton crew and pared-down service behind. In the slow-churn wake of all this turnover, the super block at the southeast corner where dozens of mail carriers formerly operated is now the center of animated discussion regarding the future of this commercial node.

While nearby parcels boldly stake out their futures, the Post Office site – aka, the Bangasser property (so named for the family of five siblings that currently owns it) – idles by. The site directly west across 23rd Avenue, former location of Ms. Helen's and the Colman Building (seriously damaged by the 2001 Nisqually earthquake), is now a deep hole with the tops of drilled piles peeking up and the buzz of excavators and concrete trucks all around. In little more than a year from now, a six-story mixed-use building will be complete, filling the decade-old void with the promise of 92 apartments and 5,000 square feet of ground level retail space. Across 24th Avenue to the west, the same developers of the Colman site, Lake Union Partners, are moving forward with a four-story mixed use building, also slated to be complete in late 2015. Capitol Hill Housing is moving forward with a low-income project on the historic Liberty/Key Bank site, and rumor has it that even the Richlen's “Super Mini” site at the northwest corner is being considered for re-development.

Meanwhile, with the vacuum of the departed mail carriers, the remaining tenants on the Bangasser property bide their time,



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despite what appears to be a distinct lack of night-time security in a parking lot that has become a favored nighttime hang-out for occasionally boisterous partying. The Bangassers are not developers and harbor no interest in taking that risky, gut-wrenching ride that is modern-day development. Instead, they have opted to leave that excitement to an experienced entity and have pinned their hopes on an up-zone making the sale of the property more attractive.

Currently the site is zoned NC2-40: the NC standing for “Neighborhood Commercial”, the 2 standing for the level of intensity of commercial development (on a scale of 1-3) and the 40 standing for a 40-foot height limit. In mid-2013, the Bangassers approached the City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) for an up-zone to NC2-65, maintaining that without the added 25 feet of allowable building height, the much-needed new development on the site would be untenable, leaving the existing strip mall to descend further into hopeless crime-ridden decay.

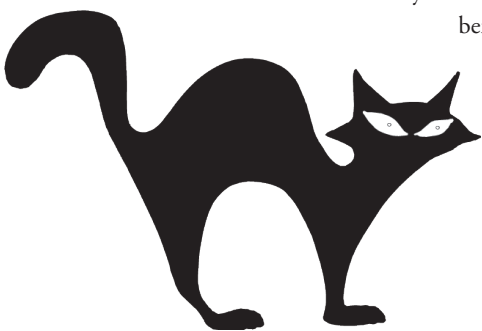
With a slightly different perspective, the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (LURC) has stepped into the process. (Full disclosure: the author is an original LURC member). Seeking to advocate for interests of the greater community, LURC has studied the issue and hosted public meetings for identifying neighborhood priorities for the site. The group contends all of these priorities would be disregarded if the up-zone were to march forward without any conditions, leaving the neighborhood with the impacts of incongruous bulk and deep shadows – along with higher rents – that a taller building would bring. The Bangassers and LURC are currently in negotiations for drawing up a series of conditions to allow the property owners the benefit of the additional building height, while providing some degree of benefit for the community as a whole.

The task of defining a condition that intersects with both the private benefit and the public good is tricky at best, and downright contentious at worst. One convenient solution may lie within the pending “23rd Avenue Action Plan”, a City of Seattle project that has been concurrently studying the future of this intersection as well as those at Cherry and Jackson. Looking to guide development in and around these three sub-districts, the Plan proposes a series of up-zones – similar to what the Bangassers seek – but with conditioning that would attend to many of the issues LURC has raised. In July of this year, the City released a draft document of this effort, known as the “Urban Design Framework” (UDF).

With a little bit of luck and a lot of good will, the UDF could be a positive influence on this and other blocks in the

vicinity. The alternative could be years of benign neglect at a 20th century strip mall surrounded by 21st century urban development.

-Jeff Floor



## LOCAL HEROES AT THE HEAD OF THE CHARLES

### America's Fall Rowing Festival

Our neighborhood crews are gearing up for the 3.2 mile Boston Head race, celebrating its 50th race this year. It hosts over 11,000 athletes and 400,000 spectators from all over the world. (Last year's race included over 100 Olympians.) See our crews practicing from Seattle Parks Department's Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center at Stan Sayres Pits.

Racing on the Charles River October 18-19 will be Maura Deering, Nancy Lockett, Becky Morcom, Karen Weisman, and Andy Bolender, coxswain, for Mt. Baker and Irena Baker, Ginny Calvin, Gail Schueler, Becky Brown and Beth Upton, coxswain, for Conibear in the Women's 4+. Conibear will also field a Women's 8+ with Ines Pearce, coxswain, Martha Goodlett, Randy Pratt, Presha Sparling, Kristi Skanderup, Tara Vagen, Sarah Smith, Karen Johnson and Ellie Horsnell. All these boats 'qualified' for this year's race by finishing well last year.

“The women set a new standard for the Mt. Baker Adult Crew”, says coach Lee Kulinna. “This encourages the men and the juniors. We hope to make an annual pilgrimage to the Head of the Charles.”

Mt. Baker will send a Men's 4+ with Matt Johnson, Steve Ellmann, Joel Massmann, Sam Skrivan, and Hudson Bolender, coxswain. Phil deFliese, Tom Moore, Doug Ostergaard, and Jordan Rosenfeld will row a Men's 4x in the Director's Challenge race.

West coast crews, many from Seattle, have begun to make a mark in this 'world's largest two-day rowing event'. The boats our neighborhood crews are sending reflect the great depth of skill and dedication on the two entire teams. You can watch the race online at [www.hocr.org/the-regatta/live-webcast/](http://www.hocr.org/the-regatta/live-webcast/)

Eleanor McElvaine and Sara Lopez coach the Conibear boats. Says McElvaine, “I look forward every year for another trip to Boston. Fourteen women will be completely focused on representing Conibear. They are going to row that course with intensity, rhythm, grace, beauty, and pride. It's a fun ride getting ready!”

Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center offers programs for ages 8-100 in rowing, sailing, kayaking and windsurfing for all ability levels. Financial aid is available. Check the schedule at: [www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/Mtbaker.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/Mtbaker.htm)

- *Editor's Note: Since its origin in 1965, the Head Of The Charles Regatta® has welcomed the world's best crew teams to the banks of the Charles River for the ultimate two-day rowing competition. Janet Oliver, LCC Vice-President and avid rower, reports on the crews that Mt. Baker will be sending this year.*



**Lisa Eaton, DPT, OCS**  
**Julie Grove, MPT**

120 Lakeside Ave  
Suite 210  
Seattle, WA 98122  
206-925-3762  
Fax: 206-324-3600

## A PROLIFIC GARDEN AT SEATTLE GIRLS' SCHOOL

I recently represented Leschi Community Council at a delightful garden party at the Girl's School on Jackson. Enthusiastic sixth graders were the guides and they were especially excited about the rain garden they developed on 29th Ave. S, which diverts water from the house gutters to a garden in the front yard.

The vegetable and fruit gardens are lush with red runner (and other) beans, rhubarb, red raspberries and a new type of incredible blackberries, one inch in length. Val Sanford and her husband Mike, who is a chef, prepared many delicious treats, but the Thai Basil ice cream he invented was incredible!

The garden is named for Sharon Hammel, who proposed the idea and helped the girls with planning what has become a jewel in the neighborhood.

-Diane Morris



## LET THERE BE MUSIC

Watch for free concerts this month and a big fundraiser for the Senior Center.

The Green Dolphin will feature Septimus on Oct 17 at 6pm; see back cover calendar for details and remember, food is served. No host bar. Central Area Senior Center. 500 30th Ave S

Ernestine Anderson Place will be hosting free concerts monthly. This month is October 18th, 7:30pm. (Doors open at 7pm.) Orville Johnson & Friends are playing at EAP. 2010 S. Jackson.

A second big fundraiser this year for the Central Area Senior Center will be held on October 19 at Langston Hughes, 104 17th Ave. S at corner of Yesler. 3-6pm. Doors open 2:30pm. Cost: \$50 Music by Funk E Fusion.

Garfield Vocal Music Concert on 10/21 at 7-9pm and Garfield Orchestra Concert in a Side by Side with Seattle Symphony members on Oct. 23, 7pm. Both held at the Quincy Jones Performing Arts Center, 400 23rd Ave. S.

See Culture Corner (page ?) for the details on free concerts at the Frye by our own culture maven, Amy Fink.



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# Culture Corner

## “GANDHI WITH AN IPOD!”

By Susan Noyes Platt

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

A life size red fiberglass figure of Gandhi painted with glitzy red automobile paint and holding an iPod leaps out at us in the first gallery of City Dwellers, Contemporary Art From India. Debanjan Roy's sculpture defiantly alters our image of the humble white-garbed Gandhi. We are a long way from the non-violent Gandhi, who was murdered in January 1948 in the aftermath of the extreme violence of the Partition of India and Pakistan. (See the film Earth by Deepa for a potent telling of that time).

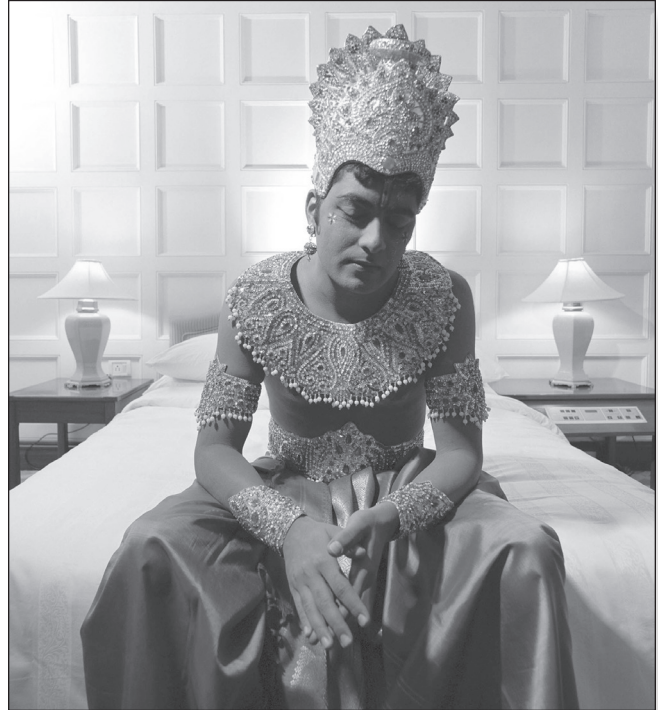
The red color of this sculpture refers to that violence; the shiny synthetic material refers to the contemporary reality of India, commercial, business oriented, and materialistic. The antithesis of everything that Gandhi believed in and lived.

All of the work in this exciting exhibition plays with the past and present, upsets clichés and fixed romantic notions of India,

and provides insights into where it is today. At the same time, it is clear that all of these artists have great reverence for their own history, both cultural and historical. I can't help envy contemporary artists in India for the enormous wealth of cultural references at their disposal.

Another wonderful work is by Nandini Valli Muthiah, who places the blue-skinned Krishna in contemporary surroundings like a modern hotel room. In contemporary India, Krishna frequently appears in full size statues in religious processions. Muthiah just takes it one step further.

Vivek Vilasini poses hundreds of people on the face of an historical façade of a Hindu temple in South



**Disillusioned** by Nandini, from the *Definitive Reincarnate* series, 2003, color photograph, 40 1/4 x 40 x 1 in., Collection of Sanjay Parthasarathy and Malini Balakrishnan. © Nandini Valli Muthiah

India. If we look closely we see a catalog of contemporary Indian people from school children in uniforms to women in saris. The artist himself sits near the top in contemporary dress.

Pushpamala N and Clare Arni perform and restage publicly available imagery from historical paintings to police mug shots and, of course, Bollywood posters. So effectively are they re-created that you always have to look twice to know that they are not the real thing. Their work is political: they are looking at female clichés, oppressions, and shallow assumptions by foreign photographers who romanticize India.

---

### CITY DWELLERS

Contemporary Art From India  
Seattle Art Museum August 30 – February 15  
Selected works from the Collection of  
Sanjay Parthasarathy and Malini Balakrishnan

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### MUGHAL PAINTING POWER AND PIETY,

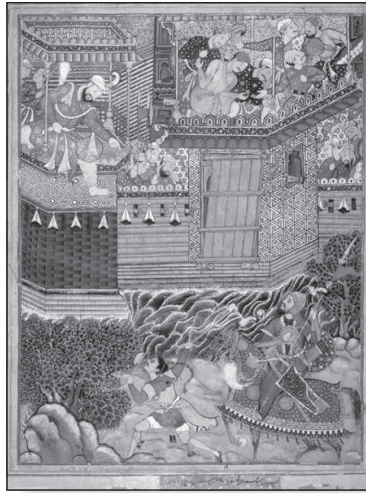
Asian Art Museum July 19 – December 7, 2014.

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Debanjan Roy, **India Shining V**, 2008, fiberglass with automotive paint, 66 x 32 x 36", Collection of Sanjay Parthasarathy and Malini Balakrishnan. ©Debanjan Roy, Photo courtesy Aicon Gallery.

The dazzling exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum is paired with Mughal Painting: Power and Piety at the Asian Art Museum, a small, but intense selection of miniature paintings along with objects similar to those that appear in the paintings, such as daggers, rings, and necklaces. This dialog of two and three dimensions is provocative, and helps us to look much harder at the tiny details of the miniatures (magnifying glasses are provided).



**Hamza outside the Fortress of Armanus,** 1567-82, Mir Sayyid 'ali, Persian, active 16th c., opaque watercolor, ink and gold on paper, 34 15/16 x 28 3/4in. (88.8 x 73cm), Seattle Art Museum, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Fuller.

Mughal painting initially was the result of the amazing rule (1556-1605) of the enlightened leader Akbar who unified India. He embraced Persian cultural traditions, as well as reaching out to include all religions, created a huge library with books in many languages, and brought artists, scholars, translators and holy men to his court. Although he was a Muslim, he sought unity among different traditions. Akbar altered the course of Indian history and art in a way that lasted many centuries.

Since Independence in 1947, sectarian violence has dominated India, but today, the religion of capitalism is the dominant force in the country. These contemporary artists respond to that with both critique and humor. A fiberglass Gandhi with an iPod? Krishna in a four star hotel room? Makes perfect sense.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to see these cutting-edge artists so generously loaned from the private collection of Sanjay Parthasarathy and Malini Balakrishnan.

## FREE CONCERTS AT THE FRYE

**Q**uestion: What's a better than a free art museum? Answer: When that museum hosts free concerts. The Frye Art Museum on First Hill has always offered free entrance to art lovers, and this fall the museum will host free musical events in their concert hall. To get tickets plan on arriving at the museum's front desk when the 'window' opens, as tickets are handed out on a first-come-first-served basis. Be there early, because popular concerts 'sell out' quickly. The window usually opens one hour prior to the concert, which gives you time to view the museum's art collection and have tea and crumpets (or our favorite, chocolate macaroons) at the museum café. By the time this article goes to press The Frye will have already hosted a much anticipated jazz concert by trombonist Dr. Julian Priester on September 20th. The remaining concerts in this fall's line-up include:

- Seattle Classical Guitar Society's Frye Concert Series: October 25th and November 29th, Saturday afternoon concerts starting

at 2pm. One of the goals of SCGS is to promote up-and-coming musicians, and lucky for us, they sponsor these artists (they pay the musicians, you don't) by offering concerts at the Frye, free to the public. This introduces excellent classical guitarists to the public and gives the artists a chance to sell their CDs (see the table near the concert hall door). For more info see [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org).

- Ladies Musical Club of Seattle: LMC has been promoting high caliber classical music in Seattle since 1891. This venerable group sponsors local soloists and chamber musicians by offering free concerts in several venues around town. You can attend LMC performances at libraries, museums, community centers, churches, and fortunately for us in Leschi, at The Frye. This fall's LMC Frye concerts are scheduled for Oct. 11th, November 1st, and December 6th; all are Saturday afternoon concerts that start at 2pm. For more info see [www.lmcseattle.org](http://www.lmcseattle.org).

These concerts are a great way to spend a rainy fall afternoon. You can find The Frye at 704 Terry Ave. on First Hill, near St. James Cathedral and O'Dea High School. Early birds can find free parking in the Frye lot across the street from the museum.

-Amy Fink

## M. Suzanne Heidema

Certified Public Accountant

417 31st Avenue  
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# Seeking Sustenance in the Wilds of Seattle

## OCTOBER WINE TREATS

Is it really October already? What a wonderful summer and beginning to fall that we have had down here by the lake. With all of the festivities geared around the kids towards the end of the month, don't forget to treat yourself to some adult goodies as well. Here is a collection of 7 treats, no tricks here!

### 2011 **Domaine de la Tour du Bon Bandol Provence** (\$37)

"Dark currant, fig and blackberry fruit forms the core of this red, with well-hewn tannins providing support through the finish, where tobacco, charcoal and sinewy details fill in. A hint of baker's chocolate hangs in the background. This will need some time to fully stretch out. Best from 2016 through 2026." -Wine Spectator, 92 points.

### 2012 **Domaine Comte de Lauze Châteauneuf-du-Pape** (\$34)

"Offering up a rich, full bouquet of black cherries, pepper, plenty of garrigue and sappy flowers, this full-bodied wine has excellent acidity, a pure focused texture and chewy tannin. It needs air to show its best, so decant if drinking anytime soon. It will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age, and drink well for over a decade." -Rhône Report, 92 points.

### 2010 **Domaine Vincent Siret-Courtaud Châteaumeillant Loire Valley** (\$14)

While vines have been grown in Châteaumeillant since the 5th century. This red comes from 15 to 60-year-old vines. This "Cuvée Tradition" is a blend of 75% Gamay and 25% Pinot Noir. On the nose, the wine reveals aromas of red fruit followed by spicier notes. Big and smooth on the palate with some fine, elegant tannin.

### 2012 **Chevalier du Moulin Bordeaux** (\$8)

An extraordinary find from France. An approachable blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Beautiful dark cherry, spices, and a pleasant earthy note. The mouthfeel is silky and balanced with a long fruity finish. Not many inexpensive Bordeaux's measure up to the quality of this affordable red.

### 2012 **Flowers Chardonnay Sonoma Coast** (\$39)

This wine is quite well known in the wine collector world. "Flowers' multi-site Chardonnay blend draws on their Camp Meeting Ridge estate as well a handful of other far-coast plantings. In 2012 it's creamy and fresh, like a ripe pear bursting with juice. There's enough acidity to keep it frisky, while delicate floral aromas speak to the cool coastal sunshine that grew the vines."

### 2013 **Hiruzta Txakolina White Guetaria Spain** (\$14)

"Intense aromas of white (pear and apple), citrus (grapefruit) and tropical (pineapple and passion fruit) fruits on the nose, enveloped in the perfume of white flowers (orange blossom), all accentuated by the subtle effervescence of natural carbon dioxide gas. Balanced and fresh in the mouth, it has quite a sharp taste with well-integrated acidity. Agreeable on the palate with hints of citrus and tropical fruits in the aftertaste. Long, aromatic finish. 93% Hondarrabi Zuri, 7% Gros Manseng." -Winery notes.

### 2013 **Sasa Florentia Pinot Grigio Venetie** (\$10)

"Produced from grapes grown in the hillsides of the Venetie region known for its ancient tradition for producing outstanding wines. This crisp wine is dry, fresh and distinctive with an old world personality that pairs perfectly with salads light appetizers and seafood." -Winemaker's 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 Dablia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His wine column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experiences in the wine world. Check out the latest at [www.LeschiMarket.com](http://www.LeschiMarket.com) or request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to [ken@leschimarket.com](mailto:ken@leschimarket.com) and follow the wine department directly on twitter at [twitter.com/leschimarket](https://twitter.com/leschimarket).*



## EAT THAI!

We now have two Thai restaurants in the neighborhood! Lotus Thai restaurant on Cherry meets my criteria for eating out: great food, reasonable prices (\$10.95 seems to be the top price), and an added bonus, I can walk there. Lotus Thai opened in October of 2013 in the old Central Grind location on Cherry just west of MLK between Assimba Ethiopian Restaurant and the Catfish Corner (now closed). It is a small space so you are close to the cooking action and can get caught up just watching the dishes being prepared. The menu is large and varied with plenty of vegetarian choices; I love the green curry. You can choose your heat level; I am \*\* two stars. We have enjoyed a number of the appetizers and can recommend the crispy tofu, fresh rolls, and roti with peanut sauce. The option of brown rice is actually a red rice and delicious. One evening we ordered several generous appetizers and had to work to finish our main course. Fortunately we are good eaters. A lunch visit with friends found us taking home to-go boxes.

Lotus Thai does a brisk take-out business, and lunch time attracts many Garfield HS students. Maybe they are ordering the lovely Thai iced tea. A great addition to the dining choices in the neighborhood.

-Hope Hensley

### LOTUS THAI

2724 E. Cherry St. 206.323.9445 Open 11am-9:30pm

## ALICIA'S FUSION BISTRO

We have a new dining spot at the lake! And it seems to be popular. We were there on a warm evening and the outside tables filled up fast, but many chose to eat inside as well. The menu is shorter than most Thai restaurants but everything we tasted was excellent.

We shared an unusual salad of roasted carrot and avocado on arugula, a combination that had never occurred to me, but it was wonderful.

For entrees, we had Mediterranean Mussels (spicy hot with a delicious broth that one mopped up with grilled bread) and a vermicelli bowl with grilled steak. This is quite a generous dish and it took my husband some time to work his way through. We probably should have stopped there, but wanting to experience the full meal deal, we ordered dessert. I had crème caramel and he had Portuguese doughnut balls with a coconut lime sauce. The balls were warm, obviously freshly made. It was a little much after the meal, but very good. I would recommend this dish be shared by at least two if not three. The crème

caramel was also very good, with thinly sliced banana adorning the top of the crème, under the caramel sauce.

For drinks, I had a Kumquat Mojito, one of their signature cocktails; it was refreshing but I have had kumquats so seldom in my life and I can't remember any distinctive flavor when I did have them, so I can't speak to the kumquatness of the drink. My husband had a ginger beer which is probably a better choice; it goes well with the food and is served in a nice tall glass, like a pilsner glass with a very heavy bottom.

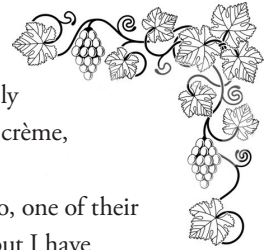
Prices: Vermicelli bowl \$13; Mussels \$14 (grilled bread extra: \$2.50)

The owners have an International District restaurant named Green Leaf which has a loyal following.

-Diane Snell

### ALICIA'S FUSION BISTRO

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**LCC GENERAL MEETING**

September 3, 2014

**First Speaker**

Architect Jeff Floor is our LCC representative to the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (LURC). Jeff gave an overview of the projects and plans LURC has been reviewing; interactions they've had with the public, developers and owners; potential impacts on the environment and the neighborhoods to proposed developments; potential parking and transportation issues, etc. Most of these projects are currently in the planning stage. Locations include:

- 18th and Jackson: 4-story, mixed use facility
- 15th and Yesler: 5-story, mixed use, micro-housing facility
- 151 12th Ave: 6-story mixed use micro-housing facility
- 2020 S. Jackson: 6-story, 50 units, mixed use LHI-Workforce facility
- 2203 E. Union: currently under construction – 6-story mixed use, with 74 parking stalls
- 24th and Union: SE Corner of the street, 4 story mixed use, 20 parking spaces
- Liberty/Key Bank on Union: Historically significant; Liberty Bank was founded in response to red-lining practices. Landmark status was denied, but many neighbors still want some sort of memorial to the significance of the site's history included in whatever final plans are adopted. LURC would like to see family and/or low-income housing considered.
- 1141 MLK (at 23rd): 4 story mixed use facility
- 1622 E. Yesler – 4 story live/work building, probably 7 parking stalls
- Pratt Art School on Jackson: there may be 2 new buildings developed here later on 2301 E. Union (post office site): developers asking for a re-zone from 4 to 6 stories. There's no proposal on the table just yet.

- Swedish/Providence: A proposed development in this neighborhood has been alarming the Squire Park community. There are issues of scale, potential traffic revisions, etc.

**Second Speaker**

Amanda Doerr from the group promoting the Proposition-1 initiative to increase funds to Metro and support threatened bus routes stressed that voters should be sure to read all the way to the ends of their ballots in the upcoming election, since Prop-1 will be the last item listed. Prop-1 proposes a Seattle-only tax on car tabs and a 0.01% sales tax increase. The goal is to raise up to \$45 million of which \$38 million would be used to preserve threatened Metro bus routes, \$3 million to enhance regional transit plans, and up to \$2 million to subsidize low-income bus passes. Several meeting attendees challenged Ms. Doerr's group's claims about restoration of bus service and encouraged voters to read Prop-1 very carefully. The Proposition is designed to prevent further bus cuts (i.e., the February 2015 proposed deletions and changes.) There was concern about paying for outlying communities but this seems to be a joint effort; Seattle will set aside funds if the outlying community will also provide funding to keep inter-city transit in effect.

Third Speaker: Quanlin Hu from DPD was scheduled to speak about the proposed changes on 23rd Ave. She did not speak on the changes to the street (lane reduction to two each way and one turn lane), but instead spoke of the plans for retail and the intention to keep the cultural, ethnic nature of the area intact. We will revisit this issue in November as it is the traffic changes that will most impact our area; Quanlin Hu has already referred us to a speaker from SDOT.

*-Amy Fink & Diane Snell*

- *Note The LCC Board meeting minutes will be posted on the website and printed in the November issue. Some questions were not resolved at when this Newsletter went to press.*

# Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

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

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

LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary

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

LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)

LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

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\$15 student/low income/ senior membership  I am making an additional donation for LCC work

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# leschinews

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or email Diane Snell at [leschinews@comcast.net](mailto:leschinews@comcast.net)

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## October 2014 | Calendar

**NO LCC MEETING THIS MONTH**—see Candidate Forum on cover.

**OCT. 4** Leschi Natural Area work party, 9am-3pm. Lunch & tools provided. 36th & Terrace.

**OCT. 6** Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting, 7pm, 128 30th Avenue (Diane Morris's)

**OCT. 9** Central Area Neighborhood District Council 6pm The Central 500 30th Ave S

**OCT. 11** Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, 9am at The Central (Breakfast: \$12)

**OCT. 17** Green Dolphin Street Lounge, 6pm at The Central, JAZZ Buffet: \$20; Lifetime members \$15 (new price) Band: Septimus

**OCT. 18** Stairway Clean-Up, 9:30am, 31st & Washington. Bring tools: rake, broom, pruners.

**OCT. 18** Free concert at Ernestine Anderson Place. 7pm. Orville Johnson & Friends

**OCT. 19** Fundraiser for Senior Center at Langston Hughes (17th & Yesler), 3-6pm, \$50

**OCT. 21** CASC Community Meet & Greet, 10am-12pm (see page ?)

**OCT. 21** Garfield Vocal Music Concert at Quincy Jones PAC, 7pm.

**OCT. 22** Candidate Forum 6:30-9pm Mt. Baker Community Club

**OCT. 23** Garfield Orchestra Side by Side with Seattle Symphony; Quincy Jones PAC, 7pm.

**OCT. 23** EastPAC, Chardin Hall Seattle U, 6:30 pm, free parking off Jefferson.

**OCT. 28** Seattle Community Council Federation, 7 pm, Central Area Senior Center



Contact **John Barber** about **String of Pearls** work parties at **206.324.1548** and contact **Darcy Thompson** for **Frink Park** work parties at **206.325.4295**.

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or on our website: **www.leschicomcommunitycouncil.org** or **leschinews.com**