

leschinews

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

Leschi's Holiday Party

Set aside your shopping, your gift-wrapping and your fruitcake production to celebrate with an evening of classical music. Enjoy a glass of wine, some fancy cheeses and perhaps a bite of holiday cookies.

December 4 at 7:30pm

THE CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER, 500 30TH AVE. S

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

**SPECIAL MEETING
ABOUT THE PROPOSED
MURAL AT JACKSON
AND 31ST STREETS**

January 15, 7:30pm — at the Central

President's Message

Hello Leschi neighbors,

Wow! Do you ask yourself where did this year go? Particularly with holiday music, lights and decorations happening before Thanksgiving.

Our program for December is our annual Holiday Party. We, as we write, are waiting for confirmation on our musical program. In the past we have had a string quartet from Garfield's orchestra... Alas, they graduated. We expect an equally mesmerizing program this year. We will have appetizers, cookies, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. This is a wonderful opportunity to give a look at your Community Council and ask about engaging with us. We encourage you to come and to become involved. While we cannot promise a trip to Tahiti for your participation, we can offer you an opportunity to make a difference in whatever way you are able in our little corner of Seattle.

The season is upon us and most of us will have to dig deep for extra energy.

It is also a time to look around, check on neighbors, offer to drive someone somewhere, pick up groceries, and care about our neighbors. Sometimes the loneliest people are the ones who do so much for others and are too humble to ask for themselves. Reach out and ask. The worst that can happen is they can say no. The best is you could really make someone's day.

In 2020 we already have a great line up of programs. You are always welcome to come to our monthly meetings. The location is at the Central Area Senior Center at 500 30th Ave. S., on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Wishing you a magnificent holiday season. Smile, hug lots, breathe, engage in mindfulness and most of all, laugh 'til your belly hurts.

Warm regards,

*Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council*



Like us on Facebook: **LESCHI**
and visit our website: leschinews.com

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Leschi News is published monthly except July and August by the Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122.

Editor: Diane Snell, Issue #367

This newsletter is printed by
Pacific Publishing on recycled paper.

Please share with a friend.



Editor's housekeeping

THE NEW FORMAT

We finally got there! The November issue is in the new format, which saves us the trimming and stapling fee (\$200 per month) and the paper is ready earlier which should end late notice of our meetings. The paper is heavier and is costing about \$20 more to mail, although part of that is an increase in the number mailed. There was also a slight increase in the layout costs as our layout artist, Kirsten, is learning this new format. Thanks to Kirsten for taking on this project and to Pacific Publishing for their help in the process of changing.

TWO HOLIDAY PARTIES

We want to clarify something that may have been confusing in the November newsletter. There are two December holiday parties. One is the Leschi Community Council get-together that takes place on December 4th. There will be music; unfortunately, the Garfield Orchestra students will not be with us this year; they have graduated, and we need to wait for the new students to reach the performance stage. We will socialize with wine and goodies for the rest of the evening. The other much bigger event is the Central Area Senior Center's GALA on Dec. 14th. There is a fee to attend this event, but you enjoy live music, dancing and a full course catered dinner. This is a fundraiser for the Senior Center and there will be an opportunity to bid on selected items. The themed baskets put together by the volunteers are packed with goodies!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It takes many neighbors to contribute in whatever way they can to keep our community vibrant. These are the folks we have heard about recently.

Thanks to John Barber and his helper Mark Schergen for their continuing efforts to combat long standing blackberry stands at the Dearborn street-end. This is a tight space and it would be difficult to handle more volunteers due to the slope and restricted nature of the blackberry clump.

Thanks to upper Leschi resident Bill Caldwell and his sister who remembered that Halloween was the tenth anniversary of that tragic night when Officer Brenton was killed; they did some weeding and raking around the memorial in case the family came by. We learned that tragically the widow of Officer Brenton has died. There

was a contingent of police cars and a fire truck that came by that evening to pay their respects.

Thanks to Katie Busby who has taken on the Giving Garland project at Leschi School. This year the number of homeless students has risen to 78. The Giving Garland is an opportunity to see that these children have a Christmas this year with gifts and food certificates for their families. The Leschi PTA is accepting both dollars and grocery gift certificates for this project.

Thanks to Leschi residents Elisabeth Beaber and Jed Fowler volunteering for the Homework Helpers program at the Douglass-Truth library for the past seven years. They were featured in the Fall edition of The Next Chapter, the Seattle Library's publication.

And thanks to Janice Merrill Brown for picking up the November newsletter at the printer, taking the labeled copies to be mailed to the Bulk Mail Center in Tukwila and then driving Jim Snell around Leschi and Madrona to deliver newsletters to the businesses that accept them. (Sorry to say that Starbucks is no longer accepting the community newspapers; the Leschi News can be found at Leschi Market, Park Postal and Marshall's Cleaners. Leschi Market displays the newsletter on the meat counter and near the front door in a Plexiglas holder.)

And many thanks to John Barber for transporting your editor to meetings!

And a hearty thanks to our subscribers who noticed their label and realized it was time to renew; and your donations always help, especially as we enter the giving season.

-Diane Snell



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WHO WAS LESCHI? PART II

Last month's article supplied some information about this neighborhood's namesake, Chief Leschi. Leschi was a leader of the Nisqually people who resisted Washington territorial Governor Isaac Stevens' program of removing Native people from their homelands to make room for white settlers. [You can find more information about how the Nisqually people were affected by white settlement in the November issue of the Leschi News; website: Leschi News.]

In a series of battles known as the Puget Sound Indian Wars, Leschi and his fellow resisters, who were far outnumbered by settler militias and US soldiers, fought bravely for almost a year (Oct 1855–Aug 1856). Eventually, the resisters ran out of food and ammunition and were unable to continue fighting. Though they did not defeat the settlers who sought to displace them, they won a victory for Native people.

After the fighting ended, Governor Stevens offered better reservations to several tribes, including the Nisqually. The original reservation offered to the Nisqually was two square miles of uninhabitable land on a bluff above Puget Sound. The new Nisqually reservation was larger than the one that the governor had originally proposed and, importantly, was next to the Nisqually River.

Leschi Executed

After the war, Governor Stevens arrested Leschi for the murder of Benton Moses, a white settler who fought against the Native resisters. Even though the death happened during a war, and even though there was no evidence that Leschi killed Moses, Leschi was tried for Moses' murder.

Leschi's first trial ended in a hung jury. In the second trial, he was convicted. Leschi's supporters appealed the case to the Territorial Supreme Court, but the conviction was upheld.

On February 15, 1858, Leschi was hanged as punishment for the murder.

It is said that these were his last words to his people: "Whatever the future holds, do not forget who you are. Teach your children, teach your children's children, and then teach their children also. Teach them the pride of a great people."

Nisqually Displaced Again

In 1887, US Congress passed the Dawes Act, which changed US policy toward reservation land. Many tribal lands, including the Nisqually reservation, were converted to pieces of private property (called allotments) and divided up among individual Native people.

In 1917, only 50 years after the Nisqually reservation was granted, a group of settlers in Tacoma convinced the US government to build an army base in Pierce County. The army called the base Camp Lewis, which later became Fort Lewis.

Fort Lewis would eventually cover 90,000 acres, 3,500 of which were the eastern two thirds of the Nisqually reservation. At the time, the land was held by 25 Nisqually allottees. The government forced the Nisqually to sell their land at below market value to make room for the base. The Nisqually people were again displaced. Many graves, including Leschi's had to be moved.

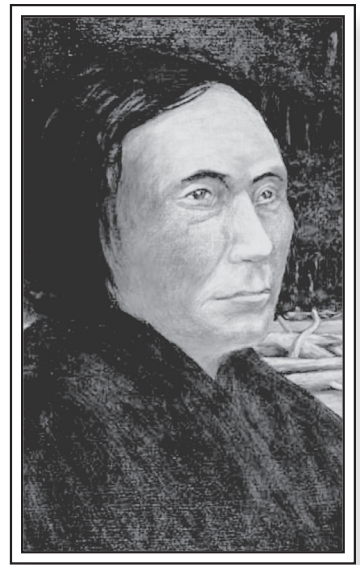
Today, Fort Lewis, which merged with McChord Airforce Base in 2010, is known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM).

An Injustice Reexamined

In the early 2000s, a group of people, led by Leschi's great niece and Nisqually tribal chair Cynthia Iyall, began a campaign to correct the injustice of Leschi's hanging. In 2004, the group convinced the Washington State Legislature to formally request that the State Supreme Court revisit Leschi's case.

Though then-chief justice Gerry Alexander believed that the state court could not reopen cases that were decided by a territorial court, he agreed to form an historical court, formed of volunteer judges, to revisit the case.

146 years after Leschi's execution, the historical court overturned his conviction.



Nisqually Resilience

Despite the horrors they have endured as a result of white settlement, the Nisqually people have continued to fight for their land and river—and for their human dignity. In the 1960s and 70s, Billy Frank, Jr., a Nisqually, led the struggle to protect and preserve Native fishing rights.

Today, the Nisqually tribe actively participates in restoring habitat for salmon and other species that depend on healthy ecosystems.

Every year on January 29th, they close their tribal offices to celebrate Chief Leschi Day.

Further reading

Framing Chief Leschi, by Lisa Blee

Leschi, Last Chief of the Nisquallies, by Cecelia Carpenter

Nisqually Indian Tribe, by Cecelia Carpenter

Tears of Internment, by Cecelia Carpenter

The Bitter Waters of Medicine Creek, by Richard Kluger

Where the Salmon Run: The Life and Legacy of Billy Frank, Jr., by Trova Heffernan

Where the Waters Begin: The Traditional Nisqually History of Mount Rainier, by Cecelia Carpenter

-Carla Saulter

SPECIAL PRESENTATION—THANK YOU

We want to thank the Evergreen College Students from the Native Pathways Program who took part in our November Program and thanks to Kendra Aguilar, their teacher, for making it happen!

It was a very moving program as the students spoke of both Leschi and their own individual tribes. There was representation from many of the Northwest tribes and one young man, Jesse, from an East Coast tribe. This special presentation ended with one student reading the words of Leschi's executioner who felt he was executing an innocent person.

Kendra asked us to stand in a circle and hold hands and reflect. I thought of how both our community and the school were named after Leschi decades before he was exonerated. The feeling that he was innocent was prevalent at many levels, just not in the governor's office (Governor Stevens at that time).

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Neighborhood & Beyond

A PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE TO DIANE SNELL

I would like to acknowledge an amazing woman, Diane Snell. Diane is our tireless Secretary of the LCC and the amount of time, energy, editing, love and passion she has for our community is phenomenal.

We will see if she puts this in... I took this picture of Diane at a meeting we had. Because I had a little crown tiara and put her in the Queen's chair, it epitomizes the royalty she is to the Leschi Community Council. Even with some mobility challenges, she tirelessly engages in work for the Council.

Please accept my sincere gratitude. Without Diane, when I took over as President, it would have been challenging for me. She is astute, has a heart of gold and is quick to give back.

Diane, by By-Law rules of the LCC, will be retiring from the Council. We have encouraged a change in By-Laws, but she says no. Therefore, if anyone would like to step forward at the end of our "season" in June, and take part in the Council, please ask any of the members what duties would be and how you can help.

Here's to the grace of the woman we all know, Diane Snell. Thank you. I must also mention her husband and partner, Jim Snell. He also works tirelessly for the Council and was smart enough to recognize and marry an amazing woman.

-Janice Merrill Brown

Editor's note: I appreciate the fulsome tribute, but I feel strongly that we need to abide by the Leschi CC by-laws. I don't think anyone should have the ability to serve unlimited terms and I think all organizations can receive help from new ideas and new energy.

LESCHI HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

This year Leschi trick-or-treaters were treated to uncommonly fair weather and an ever-expanding group of businesses participating at the Leschi Lake Center complex. Groups of children accompanied by grownups scampered upstairs and down hallways to find the goodies interior offices offered. Blu Water Bistro reprised their 'guess the pumpkin weight' contest while supplying free hot cider to all. Most of the street-front businesses handed out treats, including Starbucks and Leschi Mart. We couldn't gather enough volunteers to staff the Spooktacular tent in Leschi Park but hope to remedy that next year. All in all, a good time was had by all, and we especially enjoyed seeing all the little ones dressed up in their finest make-believe costumes. Looking forward to seeing you all next year!

*-Cara Ross,
LMT Blue Heron Healing Arts*

MOBILE POSTAL UNIT EXPANDS HOURS IN DECEMBER

The mobile postal unit in the Grocery Outlet parking lot will be there from 8am–2pm each day in December. In January, they will resume current hours of 8am–2pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

-Diane Snell

SAFE WALKING SPACES

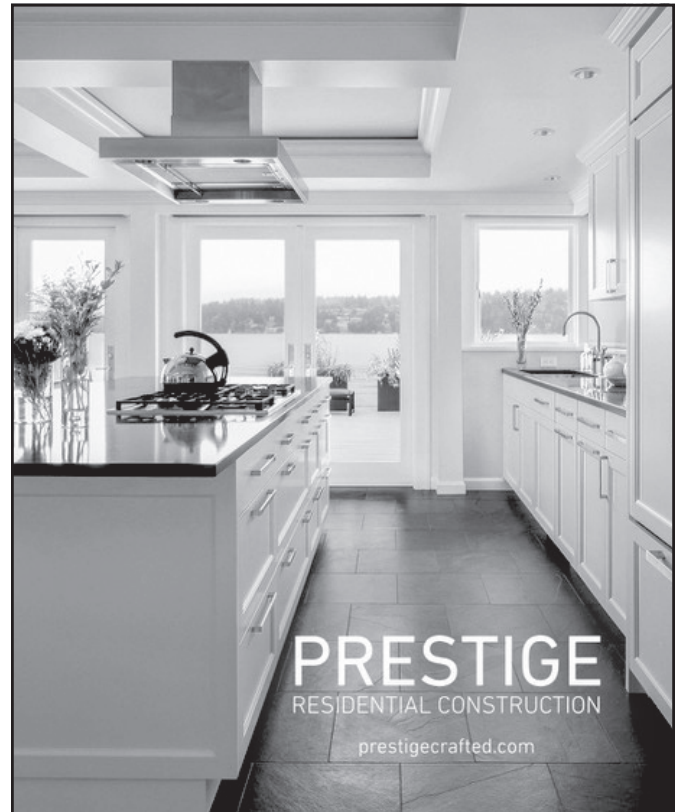
According to the City of Seattle sidewalks, paved or not, are the responsibility of adjacent property owners. Owners are responsible for safety and accessibility of this right of way.

For overgrowth issues please call 206-684-7899 or discuss it with your neighbors.

-Sally Wagner

WINTER WALKS: LESCHI'S SHORELINE STREET ENDS

I was reviewing our former community council historian, Wade Vaughn's wonderful history of the Leschi Community and was again reminded of the importance of shorelines to our past!



Leschi's Shoreline Street Ends—also known as the “String of Pearls”—are doing relatively well considering they are all turning 25 years old! We urge you this winter to visit these street ends along Lake Washington Boulevard and to volunteer if the inspiration strikes you!

King Street remains a habitat site with its two benches and quiet outlook. Of the street ends, it is the most hidden so sometimes extra vigilance is appreciated.

Dearborn Street also has two benches and its slope has received lots of volunteer time this past year as the blackberries are removed and the bank cleared so as to provide a much better view of the lake and Mt. Rainier.

Charles Street received some care and attention from volunteers this year, but its bank has significantly eroded thanks to our recent heavy rains. We are working with Seattle Public Utilities to help restore the bank.

Norman Street received care from the neighbor as well as the Department of Transportation including removing blackberries and opening the view of the lake.

Judkins Street needs volunteers throughout the year! This too was opened by thanks to the City, but volunteers are still needed to weed the beds and keep the view of the lake open from the boulevard. We are also working to ensure the parking remains open to visitors versus for the exclusive use of the neighbor.

Again, we welcome volunteers, including volunteer leaders. Simply contact John Barber 206-324-1548 or Karen Daubert 206-310-1792.

—Karen Daubert

LAND USE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Early community outreach—what could be more sensitive to the people's concerns? For those who follow development issues in the City of Seattle, the Design Review program is a familiar part of the building permit application process, a response generated in the late '90s to widespread discontent with the overall quality of built projects, intended to “promote designs that fit into and relate to the surrounding neighborhoods”. What may be less familiar are the recent changes to

the program directed at improving the end result, as well as minimizing the cost of construction to building types dedicated to the public good (i.e., low income housing). In mid-2018, a new rule was passed by the City, Early Community Outreach for Design Review, “...requir(ing) developers to begin conversation with community members before building project designs are complete.” Once the early community engagement requirement is met, the project can then begin the Design Review process.

The department charged with issuing building permits and operating the Design Review program, SDCI (Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections) partners with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to administer this new outreach process. An applicant (developer and their design team) is required to put together a plan for engaging residents, ostensibly before an architect's pen hits paper. The intent is to garner input before design decisions are baked into the proposal, so that the team can hear what the community's concerns are and do so at a stage in the process where they might be incorporated into the design.

The key word here is “might.” While some in the design and development spheres feel the requirement to perform this outreach is onerous, there is no obligation to actually incorporate the input expressed in these forums into the design. Rather, the requirement is just to prove that the outreach occurred, and to summarize what was heard. As stated in the Director's Rule describing the program states:

While a collaborative approach is encouraged between the applicant and the community, the applicant is not required to incorporate any specific community feedback into the project's design. Comments and discussion presented at the Design Review meetings should focus on compliance with the established design guidelines. Applicants may, at their discretion, respond directly to the community about any feedback that is not related to Design Review.

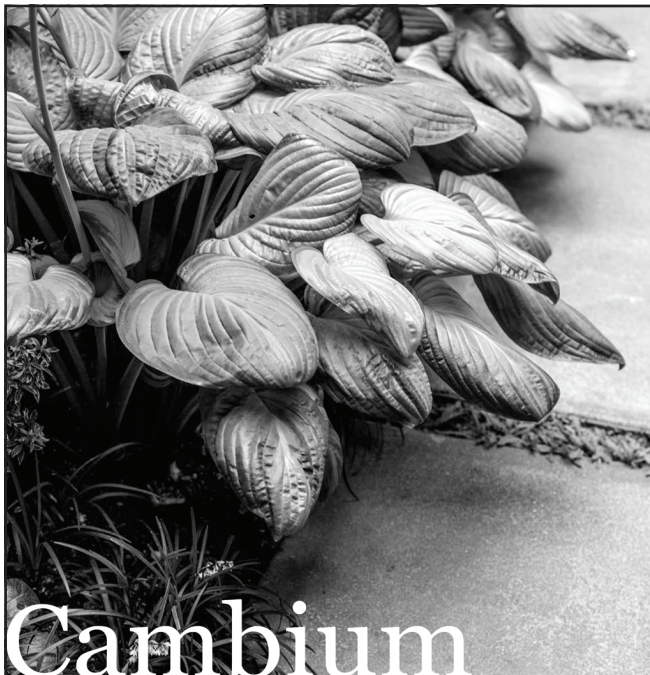
So, while you may have taken the time to express your concerns at an Early Community Outreach event, there is no guarantee that it will have any influence on the design. The City seems to look at this as a baby step toward a more inclusive design process, an improvement over a condition where a development seems to spring out of nowhere. Merely fostering dialogue is deemed a positive, albeit small step. As stated in a meeting between LURC members and DON administrators this past summer, we were told that DON is “walking a tightrope” and wants to be very careful not to be seen as favoring the interests or concerns of neighborhood residents as opposed to developers.

The scope of the Design Review program is limited, directed primarily at the exterior character of a building, with a nod to the functional considerations of pedestrian and vehicular access to a site. This excludes many of the concerns people in the community have about new development, including affordability and housing unit type (e.g., the preponderance of tiny studios vs the relative dearth of two- and three-bedroom units). Bring up any of these topics at a Design Review Board meeting, and you will be politely reminded that this is not the place for that conversation. Discussion at an Early Community Outreach meeting on the other hand, is allowed to stray into whatever topic the community members care to bring up.


For many attending the Early Community Outreach events, the lack of documentation presented by the design team can be frustrating. While on the one hand, it can be rewarding to say something prior to any design commitments have occurred, the response can also be, what am I supposed to comment on? There is a conundrum here, which the City seems to acknowledge, but having both early input and a design proposal to react to, can't occur simultaneously.

The biggest hurdle right now to the success of the Outreach process is actually from the other side: Us. You and I and all our concerned neighbors are not showing up in droves to these events. Despite the required notice reaching hundreds of residents, it is actually quite common that only one or two people show up to an Outreach event, even those held on evenings and weekends.

So, while there are some embedded oddities and tweaks necessary with the Outreach program, its full potential won't be realized until the public decides to sit at the table.



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If you find the topic of development and the future of our built environment interesting, consider attending a Central Area LURC meeting. We convene on the fourth Monday of every month (holidays excepted) at Byrd Barr Place. Visit our web page at centralarealurc.org for up-to-date information.

-Jeff Floor

(Full disclosure: the author is a member of the Central Area Design Review Board, the volunteer program administered by the City of Seattle as part of the building permit process, and a member of the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (LURC).

UPDATES FROM LESCHI ELEMENTARY: THE GIVING SEASON IS UPON US

Leschi Elementary currently has 405 students enrolled; 50% of the student body qualify for free and reduced lunch and 19% (78 children) qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Over the past several years, the number of children with unstable housing attending Leschi Elementary has dramatically increased, and as a result our school has one of the highest homeless populations in the Seattle Public Schools.

You can help contribute to the essential support provided to families in need from our community through programs such as the Giving Garland and break backpacks, and numerous other services provided through our Family Support Office.

On that note, congratulations to our beloved family support worker Mr. Gerald Donaldson (aka Mr. D.) for being honored by the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) as 2019 Educator of the Year!

The 10th Annual Giving Garland at Leschi Elementary will be hanging in the halls in December! For the past 9 years the Giving Garland has served families in need of help during the holidays. Last year we supported more than 40 families with approximately 144 children, giving thousands of dollars for grocery gift cards as well as hundreds of gifts. The Giving Garland is geared to support the children in the families; we hang tags on the garland which represent a gift; some items are fun: toys, bikes, art supplies, board games, balls, books and some are basics: clothing, bedding, warm coats or diapers. We also give every family gift-cards for easily accessible grocery stores.

We appreciate the past generosity, support and partnership from our neighborhood community: the Leschi Community Council, Leschi Market, other local businesses and residents in our neighborhood. And we welcome your support again this year!

For more information, contact Katie Busby at katiebusby@gmail.com or check the school website leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement for the link to the Amazon wish list.

The break backpack program is going strong. During week-long school breaks, students are vulnerable to food insecurity without the support they receive while in school. These break bags provide all the meals students typically get at school: breakfast, lunch, and a snack; nut-free, pork free meals that help fill the gap. You can contribute by purchasing items from the Amazon wishlist and having them delivered to the school. Thanks to the generosity of friends of Leschi, we've packed more than 30,000 meals since 2017! You can find the link to the winter 2019-20 wishlist here: <http://a.co/hEgIWVv>. Contact rachelfabermachacha@gmail.com with questions.

Box Tops for Education now has a free mobile app that scans your store receipt, finds participating products, and instantly adds Box Tops to our school's earnings online. Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Find and download the app for your smart phone at: BTfE.com. Traditional Box Tops are being phased out of production, but you may continue to find them on many products throughout the store. You may continue to clip and drop those in the front office.

Now through January 1, 2020 Bluwater Bistro is supporting literacy improvement at the school. When you come into the restaurant, add a \$5, \$10, \$15, or \$20 donation to your check. All funds will go to help the

school purchase e-readers, tablets, and literacy learning software. Each donor will be added to the in-store donor wall and online donor list. Thank you Bluwater!

The 2019-20 Annual Giving Campaign launches this month! Your donations to the Leschi PTA will help support the following:

- Tutors, subject specialists & recess aides to lower student-adult ratio
- Writers in the Schools (WITS) program
- In-class snacks—healthy, fresh & whole foods
- Professional development & supply reimbursement to teachers
- Scholarships—5th grade camp, field-trips & after-school enrichment
- Technology, software & hardware maintenance
- Library maintenance & improvement
- Family support—assistance for students & families in need
- Instrumental & vocal music instruction
- Art curriculum, supplies & resources.

Keep up to date on upcoming events and news by visiting leschies.seattleschools.org and our Facebook page, facebook.com/leschischool.

-Benson Funk Wilder

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

Exercise & Educational Program for Knee Arthritis Management

December 4 through March 11, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10-11am

Join the UW Pacific Study to discover the effects of Exercise and Education on pain management for people with knee arthritis. Must be willing to join Enhance Fitness. There is still space! Call today to register, please call 206-685-2082 or email pacificstudy@uw.edu. Free.

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Holiday Craft Workshop

Wednesday, December 11, 1:30–3:30pm in the Dining Hall

Get an early start on your Holiday by making your own specialty cards or holiday decorations and gifts. ALL CARD MAKING MATERIALS SUPPLIED, but feel free to bring your own items to decorate! \$5 members; \$7 Non-members.

Birthday Lunch And Holiday Gift Giving

Thursday, December 19, 12–1:00pm in the Dining Hall

Cake, Music, Gifts and Holiday Cheer.

Celebration

Saturday, December 14, 6–10pm

Featuring Jazz Diva Eugenie Jones, A Soulful Holiday Dinner of traditional foods with a modern twist catered by Precise,

Gourmet Desert Dash, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction and Portraits by Flyright, Keith Williams, photographer. Cost: \$150; \$125; \$100. All proceeds will benefit the future ownership of the building. RSVP by December 1st. Individual tickets and table sponsorships available.

The Central will be closed for the Holidays: Monday, December 23, 2019 through Monday, January 6, 2020.

~Selah Brown

RASCALS

Some days there seems little that folks can agree on. Take a recent exchange on Next Door about raccoons. Participants claimed they were cat slayers or cat players, should be trapped and removed or left alone, and carry rabies or do not. It is time to check on the facts, and their alternatives, about these neighborhood denizens.

Raccoons are native to North America and, according to the San Diego Zoo website, Christopher Columbus was the first person to have ever written about them. They are generally nocturnal—thus their fine camouflaged coats which are not “waterproof”—but if seen in your yard during the day they are most likely hungry and taking advantage of a fruitful bounty as opposed to being sick. Because, yes, they do carry rabies and live for only a couple days once infected. If you suspect a rabid raccoon (staggering, erratic walk; discharge from eyes and mouth, i.e. “foaming;” repeated high-pitch sounds; wet, matted hair on face), call PAWS: 425-412-4040. Also take heed that their feces can carry unwelcome parasites.

The disproportion of the raccoon’s leg length—the hind legs being much longer—is what gives them their curious loping style and they can run 9.9–15 mph (the average house cat can sprint close to 30 mph). They weigh in at 12 to 40 pounds, and 60-pound males have been recorded. They have 40 teeth. (Remember Elf?) An amazing fact from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): “Like squirrels, raccoons can rotate their hind feet 180 degrees and descend trees headfirst. (Cats’ claws don’t rotate and they have to back down trees).” They can scale most wood and metal garden fences with ease, so you can forget building a Wall. And speaking of cats, yes, they will attack cats if hungry, sick, or cornered, but might also be seen eating alongside them.

Raccoons make their dens in hollow trees or other cave-like places (read: under decks, in chimneys and attics, etc.). In green spaces, they might change their daytime resting places every few days. While they don’t technically hibernate, they can go weeks in the winter without food losing up to half their body weight. In the wild, they have a life span of 2 to 3 years (up to 20 in zoos). Their main predators in Seattle are coyotes, large hawks, eagles, and cars.

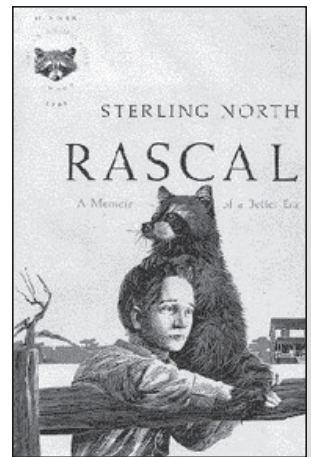
Given their short life span, it is not surprising then that raccoons are ready to breed at about 12 months and most mating takes place in early spring. Gestation is a short 60-day affair with litters averaging one to seven offspring. Per the San Diego Zoo: “Males play no role in the rearing of the cubs.” Once they leave the nursery at ten months or so, raccoons are typically solitary although they can be seen eating in groups if the food is there for the taking.

Raccoons are omnivores. They will eat just about anything, including slugs, and their preying on small rodents, thus keeping down the population of rats and mice, gains them a fan club. But they are poor hunters and don’t bag many rodents, preferring meals that are easier to procure. Like your unsecured garbage.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife strongly discourages folks from feeding raccoons or giving them access to pet food or garbage. Feeding them can cause their population to multiply and encourage them to lose their fear of humans. Always feed your pets indoors and bring them in at night. The WDFW website (wdfw.wa.gov) gives advice and offers illustrations re: how to protect your house and pets from the creatures, and what to do in worst case scenarios. Trapping and relocating often backfires as raccoons will either wreak havoc with the new respective resident population or attempt to return to their original home. Please don’t follow Sterling’s lead in *Rascal* and try to raise one as a pet.

Send your raccoon stories to: leschinews@comcast.net.

~Anne Depue



THOUGHTS FOR THE 2019–20 WINTER

Every year as autumn transitions to winter, we are bombarded with a seemingly endless supply of “winter weather outlooks.” The “Farmer’s Almanac” outlooks may be the most well-known; the 2020 Farmer’s Almanac gives us “Chilly, Normal Precipitation” this winter, while the Old Farmer’s Almanac (a separate company) says the 2019–20 winter will be “Wet (Or Worse!)” for the Pacific Northwest. Of course, most people acknowledge that both Almanac forecasts should be treated as a source of entertainment, as they use their own “proprietary formulas” (mainly based off solar activity) to make their outlooks and are, on-average, less accurate than a simple coin flip.

Seasonal forecasting is a tremendously desirable skill. If you are a hydrologist and can forecast how much snow will fall in the Columbia River watershed during the winter, you’ll help people plan accordingly for spring runoff season. If you are a natural gas trader and see the potential for a much colder-than-average winter, you can buy gas options ahead of time at a lower price and sell them at a higher price when the cold weather hits and heating demand skyrockets. But unfortunately, even NOAA’s state-of-the-art climate models have little skill forecasting temperature and no consistent precipitation skill. However, just because we can’t forecast the temperature or precipitation months in advance doesn’t mean we can’t at least have a few insights into what the winter might hold.



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One of the best seasonal predictors is whether the Tropical Pacific is in an El Niño (warmer-than-average), La Niña (cooler-than-average), or “Neutral” state. El Niño years typically give us warmer and calmer-than-average weather and La Niñas tend to give us cooler/wetter-than-average weather with heavy mountain snow.

Neutral years, on the other hand, are really a mixed bag. They bring normal temperatures and precipitation on average, but they can run the gamut from cold and snowy to warm and boring, and of course everything in between. Interestingly, many of our biggest windstorms and floods—including the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 and Hanukkah Eve Storm of 2006—occurred in Neutral years. It’s impossible to forecast individual storms weeks ahead of time but having a Neutral winter may slightly increase the probability of a significant weather event.

Regardless of whether we end up warmer, wetter, calmer or snowier than normal, I’m fairly certain that the next few months will be dark and gloomy. A healthy diet and the occasional bit of fresh air go a long way towards improving your mood and energy when there is so little light in the sky, and I’ve found that Vitamin D supplements can be a big help as well. Have a great rest of 2019, and I’ll catch you in 2020!

~Charlie Phillips

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



GARFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

Garfield Community Center is proud to offer a wide range of free and low-cost classes and activities for our neighborhood! Registration for the Winter Quarter classes and events starts on December 3rd, but all of the classes are visible online now at seattle.gov/parks. Classes below are listed with an Activity Number so you can search for the class quickly in our database.

Please join us for our Community Holiday Party on December 13th! We’ll have a meal and toy registration for the kids. Come celebrate all the season’s many wonders with your neighbors and friends at Garfield Community Center! Get more information by calling our Center at 206-684-4788.

Free Drop-In Programs

- Adult Table Tennis (Ages 18 and older)
Tuesdays and Fridays, Ongoing from 11am–1pm
- Fitness Room (18 and older)
Daily during operating hours
- Pokémon Club (All Ages)
Thursdays, 1/2–4/9; 4–6:30pm
- Tot Gym (walkers–5 yrs)
Mondays and Wednesdays, Ongoing from 10am–1pm
- Soul Line Dancing (18 and older)
Saturdays, Ongoing from 11am–1pm

For Youth

- Youth Development Taekwondo (Ages 5–17), #26858
Mondays and Wednesdays, Ongoing from 6–7:30pm
Free!



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For Adults

- Tai Chi for Recovery, #26855 and #26856
Wednesdays, 1/8–2/12 and 2/26–4/1 from 12:30–1:15pm, \$30 This Tai Chi class uses movements that are slow and fluid to help restore balance, stability, ease of movement and alignment.
- Get F.I.T. (Fitness Infused Technology), #29729 and #29745
Wednesdays, 1/8–2/12 and 2/26–4/1 from 6–7pm. \$30, Step Aerobics and weights help you build strength, tone muscles and get moving using smartwatch-like bands to monitor heart rate and blood pressure.
- Marcus Garvey Book Club
Tuesdays (1st and 3rd), Ongoing from 6–8pm Free!, Facilitators Reverend Harriett Walden and Eric Stark of the Family Empowerment Institute lead conversation.

For 50+ Adults

- Stroke Awareness/Hands-Only CPR, #25663
Wed, 2/12 from 11am–12pm. Free!, Learn about hands only CPR and how to recognize the signs of a Stroke.
- Dance for Parkinson's, #25620
Thursdays, 1/9–2/27 from 11:15am–12:45pm. Free!, Explore dance movements in a welcoming environment with live music.
- Zumba Gold, #27170
Wednesdays, 1/9–3/19 from 6:30–7:30pm. \$55
- Circuit Training, #27169
Fridays, 1/10–3/20 from 10:15–11:15am. \$66

Register for these and many other Seattle Parks and Recreation programs by going to seattle.gov/parks and selecting "Sign up for Classes and Activities." You can also register in-person at our Center. Financial Aid up to 50% for adults and 80% for youth is available—applications for

scholarship can be found at all Community Centers. Scholarships require proof of income, such as a 1040 form, and take 2–6 weeks for processing (so apply early!).

Finally, if you have any questions about programming at Garfield Community Center or any other SPR park or facility, please call us! We want to hear from you, 206-684-4788.

-Jennifer Romo,
Assistant Coordinator at Garfield Community Center

INVASIVE TREES HAUNT THE URBAN FOREST

[Words of Caution from "The Trees of Seattle," the City of Seattle's monthly tree newsletter]

You might think they look pretty, birds love them, but don't be deceived! Some trees do more harm than good, lurking within the urban forest, quietly threatening the health and vitality of our valuable trees and shrubs English Holly, European hawthorn, and cherry laurel are just a few of the common invaders, spreading quickly and aggressively hogging all the water, light, and nutrients just for themselves.

To defend the health and diversity of Seattle's urban forest, it's best to get rid of these invasive trees while they are still small and manageable. Pull young seedlings as soon as they sprout and avoid intentionally planting them in yards and gardens.

-Anne Depue

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Bûche de Noël Cake
Chocolate Mousse Cake



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French Apple Tart \$26.00
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1368 31st Av S, Seattle, WA 98122 | 206.325.3347

Culture Corner

DANCE AS PROVOCATION

Part I "Donald Byrd: The America That Is to Be" at the Frye Art Museum, Oct 12–Jan 26

Donald Byrd transforms movement into resonant art. The world-renowned choreographer Donald Byrd has been based here in Seattle since 2002. In March 2016, I wrote here about his humble base in the Madrona Bath house.

A groundbreaking retrospective of Donald Byrd's career, curated by Thomas F. DeFrantz, Professor of Dance, Duke University, successfully overcomes the challenge of exhibiting dance in a venue designed for visual art. Videos from the 1970s to the present (from tiny to huge), as well as photographs from throughout Byrd's astonishing career, mesmerize us as we witness his extraordinary creativity. In addition, on a low stage inside the gallery we can enjoy intimate performances by the Spectrum Dancers on Tuesday and Wednesday at noon and Saturday and Sunday at 3pm.

Donald Byrd has been radical from his first performances in Los Angeles as early as 1978, when he challenged racism, gender, and bourgeois sensibilities with a classical pas de deux that paired a "disaffected" black man and "blasé cigarette smoking" white woman. His choreography has deep classical roots, but he has consistently expanded the ways that he can confront us with deep social issues through music, movement, gesture, and settings. He deeply believes that dance can trigger social transformation.

His main inspirations are the giants of twentieth century dance George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham and Alvin Ailey, but he also explores popular traditions ranging from punk and funk to Irish jigs. His encyclopedic vocabulary of movement (as well as music) becomes his own as he embodies challenging social issues.

Earlier in his career he aimed to shock: we see him in beauty pageant drag, singing an exaggerated "God Bless America" in *American Dream*, 1995 in a performance that includes "a phantasmagoric patchwork of terror and display." You will have to see it to know what this means!

In addition to confronting bourgeois race and gender clichés, Byrd rewrote classics. In his *Harlem Nutcracker*, 1997, Clara now an African American matriarch, welcomes her well-to-do family for Kwanzaa and Christmas in Harlem. The choreography parodies traditional ballet while it also celebrates African American dance traditions. Another even bolder retelling is *The Minstrel Show, Revisited*, 2016: it confronts us with the ongoing existence of the racist blackface.

At the center of the exhibition at the Frye is a gallery with four large walls filled with *A CRUEL NEW WORLD/the new normal*, 2013. Performed in the orange jump suits worn by prisoners and detainees, and inside a hurricane fence, with an American Flag falling on the ground, it explores, through extreme movements, the anguish of being trapped with no way out.

Also included are excerpts from the WOKENESS festival last fall that featured intense performances by his extraordinary dancers on lynching and the killing of African American men.

Finally, don't miss Donald Byrd performing *Sweltering Son* only two years ago!



Johan Elbers. Donald Byrd in his choreographic work *P-HP*, 1983. Photograph. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Photo © Johan Elbers.



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Part II: "Immigration: South Asian Perspectives"

In this era of prejudice toward immigrants, we cannot be reminded often enough of the huge contributions that all immigrants make to the US.

Enter the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)'s new exhibition "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation." (Nov 2–Jan 26).

The exhibition spans from the early twentieth century to the present with events that sometimes parallel the experiences of other ethnic groups, such as Indian American farmers making good from nothing and mobs driving them out, as happened to the Sikhs in Bellingham in 1907.

The Smithsonian organized the exhibition, but Dr. Amy Bhatt, co-author of *Roots and Reflections: South Asians in the Pacific Northwest* provided a Northwest component. I found it more compelling, perhaps because I personally knew some of the people featured such as Farah Nousheen from the radical cultural group TASVEER. I have been friends with her since the aftermath of 9/11 when she made her first film on prejudice against Muslims. Don't miss her articulate interview.

Highlighting the press preview and the exhibition itself were ways to don saris through complex manipulations of huge lengths of fabric. The stunning silks created a dramatic accent near the beginning of the exhibition, and we learned that each pattern contains stories. You can learn more about this in the MOHAI program "Sari Stories," on December 15.

Other segments featured tech, engineering, food, film, dance and music. On December 3, MOHAI screens *Vellai Pookai*, a Tamil language movie thriller set in the Northwest at 630 and followed by a conversation with the director. Vivek Elangovan.



Photo No. 2 Installation view, "Beyond Bollywood", photo by Susan Platt

Another not to miss program is *Dancing Peacock Puppet Theater*, Saturday December 21 from 2:30pm.

I want to honor here the impressive Vic Bhatia, who died in 2003. Bhatia helped to create and run the Honors Program at Washington State University from 1964 to 1993. He also was the director of International Education. Hundreds of students from all over the world have been deeply impacted by these two programs.

I wish the programming also included readings from some of the amazing local authors of South Asian descent such as Indu Sundaresan and Sonora Jha, to name only two.

But I was particularly happy to see the emphasis on activism and politics in the last part of the exhibition. How fitting that our District 3 representative Kshama Sawant pulled off her election while this exhibition was going on!

~Susan Noyes Platt

www.artandpolitics.com

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Seeking Sustenance...In the Wilds of Seattle

HOLIDAY WINE

There is no wine column this month due to family illness. The December column helps us find gifts of wine for both a hostess gift and a seasonal gift. Leschi Market's knowledgeable staff is well positioned to help you find that perfect gift so don't despair!

We will focus on FOOD this month. A busy holiday season often means less time for cooking and more eating out; fortunately, we have a plethora of reviews and recommendations for you to choose from.

AROSA

In the Arboretum Court, Arosa, The Waffle Café features delicious small waffles which can stand on their own or be topped with delicious specialty syrups. I had the pumpkin spice topping in honor of the fall, but there will be a seasonal topping for the Christmas Season and there are lots of other choices.

The waffles are unique, rich in content with eggs and vanilla as well as pearl sugar that gives it a special flavor and texture, crisp on the outside, soft on the inside. It is an old family recipe and makes a full breakfast with a cup of coffee.

But in case you want more protein they also serve breakfast sandwiches, delicious panini-like mozzarella artichoke or grilled eggplant for example. At lunchtime, on another day, I had a fabulous homemade soup Coconut Curry and another day Roasted Corn Tortilla Soup, an entire meal in itself. Another of their specialties is their signature mocha latte.

Cesar and Adriana Santangelo are originally from Venezuela but have been in Seattle for seventeen years. Arosa realizes their dream from when they lived in Venezuela. The café is very much a family scene. Until recently, their baby Luciana was there every day, but now she is old enough for day care. They also have a 7-year-old boy, Alexandro. An entire wall is filled with wonderful photographs of family and friends.

Don't miss the delicious food as well as the delightful atmosphere.

AROSA

3121 E Madison St Ste 101
M-F, 6:30am-3pm; Sat 7:30am-3pm
arosacafe.com

-Diane Snell

SIMPLY SOULFUL

I also want to briefly mention another family-run restaurant in Madison Valley, Simply Soulful. It features wonderful soul food with breakfast served all day. I had dinner there with friends. My Catfish Dinner Special (with a great \$6.95 price for seniors and children) featured two pieces of delicious breaded fish cooked to order, and two sides, along with the exceptional corn muffins. I had collard greens, my favorite when cooked "soul" style, and my friends had candied yams and mac and cheese. All delicious.

SIMPLY SOULFUL

2915B E Madison St.
Tue-Fri, 9am-8pm; Sat 9am-7pm; Sun 10am-5pm
simplysoulfulcafe.com

-Susan Platt

FROM KAREN DAUBERT

I was on a mission this fall to visit a couple neighborhood restaurants representing various cultures and have this to report:

Café Selam on Cherry and 24th is a small Ethiopian restaurant where I enjoyed the traditional meat platter but would return to try the vegetarian.

Lan Hue Bakery at the Pacific Rim shopping center on Jackson and 9th is a Vietnamese take out that makes excellent (maybe best in the city) Bahn mi sandwiches. I enjoyed half the first day and half the second with great results.

Harbor City at 707 S King St. next to the Wing Luke Museum is known for its Dim Sum and specializes in barbecue chicken and pork.

-Karen Daubert

AND FROM THE SNELL FAMILY

Too busy to make cookies? Go to Lowrider Baking Co. at 2407 Union; opens at 11am (closed Mon & Tues). These cookies are buttery and sweet the way a self-respecting cookie should be. Family favorites: the Salted Pecan and the Lemon Cranberry.

And they are not tiny bakery cookies; they are the size Grandma always made... good for sharing!

-Diane Snell

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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LCC BOARD MEETING 11.11.19

Present: Janice Merrill Brown, Janet Oliver, John Barber, Tracy Bier, Diane Snell.

Janet: treasury report. Two increases in annual bills: the fee for using the plot of ground where the Brenton Memorial went up from \$170 to \$176. The cost of renting the postal box at Park Postal went up from \$180 per year to \$190.

Janice: Holiday Party update: she will be contacting the Friends of Garfield Orchestra tomorrow to engage a quartet and she will be buying the food for the event. Diane agreed to contact Yousef for wine and to obtain the state license for serving alcohol.

Janice will arrange a coffee date with Randy and Bud to present their Star awards as neither could attend the annual meeting.

January program: should we skip, as the 1st is on Wednesday. Diane said we usually don't meet in January for that reason, but she thinks there is a need for a special meeting which she will discuss when it is her turn.

Diane is term-limited and cannot run again so we need to look for a person who would like to be secretary before the annual meeting in May.

Trevor: Suggested Tax assessor John Wilson for speaker at general meeting. Diane suggested February when we have no speaker and households will have rec'd that valuation card and may have questions. Agreement.

John and Diane: presented their proposal for the Flo Ware event. Due to the length of the meeting, it was not discussed but comments will be requested by email. Katie Busby has approved the draft. John said that Diane Morris was on the Senior Center Board but did not want to go to the meetings. John Barber is willing to take her place, but we don't know the process. Diane will draft a letter for Janice to sign broaching the subject.

John and Mark (neighbor) have been battling a big stand of blackberries at the Dearborn street end. It is on a slope and there is not enough room for more than two workers at a time, so he has not put out the word for more volunteers; they are slowly making progress. Both the Leschi Natural Area and Frink Park are getting more plants and will need volunteer help to plant them.

Tracy: There is an uptick in car prowls, and they are not being reported; this is data which the police dept. needs. She would like to have another meeting on Crime Prevention with our community resource person, Joseph Elenbaas. April is an open meeting month. Janice asked about a follow-up on emergency preparedness; June is the next open meeting as May is the annual meeting for elections and Star awards.

Diane: She and Tracy have concerns about the proposal for a mural at Jackson and 31st on the big curved retaining wall. Few people know about this in the community and they think that we need to have a public meeting. January is proposed. Janice will contact Dian Ferguson about a good date for that meeting and Diane S will contact the artist. Tracy is willing to distribute flyers in the neighborhood and Mt. Baker should also be invited.

Newsletter issues: the new format is saving us the \$200 in trimming and stapling fees, but other costs have risen: the postage is about \$20 more and Kirsten is charging \$50 more as it is taking her longer with the new format. This might resolve itself as she gets more familiar with the new format. The big advantage is that we get the newsletter earlier as it is ready right off the press and should get mailed in time to be in home before the scheduled meeting. Diane needs help picking up paper and going to BMC. Janice offered to do it again and John said he could be back-up.

Deadline: Nov. 18 for the December issue.

Douglas Barnett, son of Powell Barnett and father of Maisha Barnett died and John Barber did get to the service on Sunday. He spoke of all the talented people there as Douglas Barnett had been a leader in the Black Arts groups.

RESOURCES

PublicSpace@seattle.gov (contact them when you are wanting info on a project in the public space)

PRC@seattle.gov (contact them if you are requesting a meeting on a topic of importance to the community)

FLO WARE EVENT DRAFT

Write to Rev. Manaway to explain the event and invite the children of Tabernacle to participate. Efforts to work through the church's outreach worker have been unproductive. Try to coordinate time of event with the church letting out. Ask if there is an elderly church member who knew Flor Ware and have that person speak BRIEFLY.

Produce flyers which should be posted in this community (small stores, church etc. Girls School). Resume putting a Flo Ware bio in that month's newsletter, so folks understand the importance of the event. Have a Leschi Community Council presence at the park and warmly welcome guests from the church.

Possible small presentation: John Barber could explain the renovation project of the park and the efforts to recognize the activist part of Flo Ware. Perhaps some children could read her words inscribed in the tiles; I thought if we just had two children each read one inscription, maybe others would pay attention and start reading them. Keep all presentations BRIEF as the day is for kids and they will not have long attention spans.

Consider giving a Small Sparks grant to pay for kids' activities. We now have a reliable face painter and our cotton candy person if we catch her soon enough! We need to know the date early on to write a grant.

Enlist local merchants in getting food for event. Try to get some kids' music from Meter Music School.

Katie reviewed the draft and felt it was a good start. She wondered if Odessa Brown has an outreach person as they do a lot for both Leschi and Madrona schools.

Katie suggested June 14 as the date for the 2020 event.

-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

	Income	Expenses	Balance 9/30/2019
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$3,336.80		
Dues	\$2,055.00		
Donations	\$2,260.00		
Insurance		(\$757.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$6,419.91)	
Totals	\$8,594.30	(\$9,052.05)	\$12,320.20
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk	\$3,545.00	(\$2,111.99)	\$1,397.32
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park		(\$270.00)	\$753.98
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$300.00	(\$124.82)	\$885.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$347.39
Leschi Natural Area			\$4,845.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,463.85
String of Pearls	\$200.00		\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn			\$1200.00
Memorial Fund			\$3006.13
Wading Pool			\$201.64
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$12,654.30	(\$11,558.86)	\$36,826.37
Certificate of Deposit			\$11,253.78

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

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or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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december 2019 | calendar

DEC 4 LCC Holiday Party, 7pm Central Area Senior Center

DEC 5 at 6:30pm Rescheduled EastPAC meeting for both Nov. and Dec. at Chardin Hall, Seattle U.
Park in bldg. lot on Jefferson just east of 12th. Turn right into lot just beyond athletic fields.

DEC 14 SNC Breakfast meeting at Central Area Senior Center; \$14 for hearty breakfast. Speaker: Cindy Barker on Emergency Preparedness and the HUBS...where one goes for info if communications are knocked out. There should be one in each neighborhood.

DEC 9 LCC Board meeting 6pm Central Area Senior Center

DEC 14 HOLIDAY GALA at the Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S. 6pm. Catered dinner served with choice of entrees, Music by Eugenie Jones quartet, raffle & gift baskets! Call 206-726-4926 for ticket prices and reservations

No CANDC meeting in December

DEC 18 1:15–3pm Membership meeting at Central Area Membership Meeting



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or leschinews.com