inside the news

3 Special Report: Womxn’s March
5 Changes on the Leschi CC Board
6 Food Drive Success!
8 La Nina is Over

And from the Editor: no general meeting this month – start your garden! And read about the need for volunteers for the Leschi CC Board and consider offering your talents!

SAVE THE DATE
March 8 Lunch & Learn!
Forum on Social Security and Medicare
Central Area Senior Center, 11:45-1:30
RSVP: 206.726.4926

Wade Vaughn 1929-2017
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LESCHI’S HISTORIAN, pg. 4
We will be taking time off from our community meeting in March as our scheduled speaker is unable to attend, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Wednesday, April 5.

March is a month of changes for the LCC. First, I and the rest of the board want to sincerely thank Amy Fink for her tremendous service as the LCC Treasurer over the past several months. She was given the not-so-small task of rectifying the council’s non-profit status with the IRS. Not only did she do all the required research, complete lots of paperwork, and make countless phone calls (not to mention the obligatory hold time and music), she also set up the council for a much cleaner path to maintain our status moving forward. Thank you, Amy!

Gratefully, we are excited to welcome back a familiar face onto the board, who has graciously stepped forward to fill the role of Treasurer moving forward. Janet Oliver previously served as VP on the board the previous four years, and we are delighted to welcome her back. Welcome, Janet!

Furthermore, following very helpful board discussion and input, I’ve decided to appoint a few new chairpersons in an effort to help alleviate and balance the workload for the Treasurer’s role moving forward: Ad Manager, Restricted Funds Coordinator, and Events Coordinators. Please see the Changes on the Leschi CC Board article by Diane, and consider volunteering with us. These positions are a great way to get involved with the LCC in a more specific capacity. Please send me an email if you are interested in any of these positions!

I also encourage you to consider if you’d like to become even more involved with the LCC over the coming years by considering running for President of the LCC at this May’s election. I will be vacating my position as President this spring and welcome conversations with any interested persons in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Yuki Igarashi
Womxn’s March on Seattle

On January 21, Judkins Park was the staging grounds for one of the largest protest marches ever held in Seattle. Billed as a testament to the power of unity and the rallying cry that love trumps hate, the march attracted women, men, children and seniors from all over the state in response to the inauguration of the 45th president of the United States. The participants came by foot, Smart Car, buses and ferries. An estimated 100,000 to 120,000 gathered in the fields behind Washington Middle School most carrying signs and many sporting pink hats which have become a symbol of resistance to the country’s new leader and his widely criticized treatment of women.

The pre-march scene and the march itself were marked by a festive spirit and laudable organization. The four or five speeches before the march, given by women representing the diversity of America, called on the crowd to respect and support the rights of Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, and Muslims, and the right of all women to control their own reproductive health. The speakers were polished, on point and received with enthusiasm.

Because of the large number of participants, getting out of Judkins Park was no small challenge and the first marchers were well past Westlake Center while thousands still waited to get through the gates and start down Jackson. The route, west on Jackson and north on Fourth Avenue to the Seattle Center, was over 3.5 miles long. Supporters lined rooftops along Jackson crying out “Tell us what democracy looks like” as the marchers shouted back, “This is what democracy looks like!” The occasional “Wave” rolled over the top of the crowd with arms and voices rising together. It was a thrilling experience to be part of such a spirited and respectful mass.

The ranks grew in size as the march wound its way through downtown. Some joined in the International District. Ferries brought in thousands and one participant reported that on at least one of the overcrowded Bainbridge boats, the crew announced that the men’s head was open to all. The weather, partly cloudy and in the 50s, was ideal for exercising First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly.

According to police reports following the march, there were no “incidents” or arrests. (The only anti-protester we encountered was at the Seattle Center—a young man seeking attention by screaming profanities about Bill Clinton.) At the January 26th East PAC meeting, Lt. Ballingham said the women’s march was one of the best “protests” ever and the sign he liked best was carried by a woman “of a certain age” that read “Now you’ve pissed off Grandma!” Indeed, there was no limit to the creative signs. Some of our favorites included:

- I’m with Her (with image Mother Earth or, in some cases, the Statue of Liberty)
- NYET
- Blink Twice if you need rescuing, Melania
- Build Bridges not Walls
- Make America Good Again
- There Will Be Hell Toupee

And many more which we won’t print in a family newsletter.

Other highlights: the larger-than-life artistic representations of Putin, Trump, Che Guvera, Madame Curie, Rosa Parks and more. The enormous Earth. The female-occupied litter carried by a satanic society, the female brass band at the Seattle Center. And the free Metro shuttle buses at the end of the route that carried folks with tired feet back to where it all started.

On a let’s-be-good-neighbors note, we want to acknowledge that the march took place on the weekend before the celebration of the Lunar New Year. Many merchants—grocery stores in particular—in the Chinatown International District reported a sharp drop in sales over previous years as potential customers could not get through the foot and car traffic. Viet-Wah reported a sales drop of 65%. If you joined the march, consider being a good neighbor and spending a little extra time and money in the CID in the coming weeks.

~Anne Depue

Author’s note: this article has been fact checked.
LESCHI LOSES ITS HISTORIAN

Wade Vaughn, author of the Seattle Leschi Diary, passed away January 31, 2017. He and his wife (Shirley) purchased a lot and he built their home in the Leschi Community on Randolph Avenue in the early 1960’s. He never left the Community. If he was laid off or asked to transfer, he just stayed in his home in Leschi until he found another job.

He became very involved in the Leschi Community Council. He was elected President for a couple of terms. He loved to help with all kinds of projects - the shoreline parks, stairways etc.

At one time, he decided the Leschi Council would be able to make some money if they wrote a history about the Leschi Community. He asked all interested people to sign up that would like to help with the book. No one signed up. He started research and became so interested he ended up writing several books including “Seattle Leschi Diary.” All profits for books were given to the Community Council. Any new member in the Community can check out his books at the Douglas Truth Library.

Wade truly loved the neighborhood not because of the location, but because of the wonderful people in it. A memorial/open house will be held in the spring at his former home to celebrate his beautiful life.

When a date has been confirmed - we invite those that would like to remember Wade Vaughn. (Date & Memorial/Open House information will be forwarded to the Leschi news for publication).

- Shirley Vaughn

Our editor’s memories of Wade

When we first moved to Leschi, the previous homeowner passed on her copy of The Seattle Leschi Diary. We were delighted to find a photo and brief description of our house in the Diary and it was really our first introduction to Wade and the wonderful folks who made Leschi so special.

I think of them as the Leschi pioneers, although it was long past the westward trek days. Wade and his contemporaries had a real commitment to this community; it wasn’t just another stop in the road; it was the place they loved and where they worked to make it a better place. Art Mink showed his love for the community in his commitment to the Leschi News; it was an honor when he asked me to take it on in his later years. Flora and Richard Cole worked with CORE to solve racial injustice and Flora worked hard to get the City to purchase the old nursing home on the ridge and make it a Senior Center for the community. Ed and Joan Singler were involved in creating a branch of CORE here in Seattle; they are at Horizon House now, but still subscribe to the Leschi News and we have frequent email exchanges. I feel privileges to have known these pioneers and met them when they were still active. Wade was my walking history of Leschi and I often called him for details on the events that preceded our arrival. I did have to laugh at Shirley’s reporting that no one stepped forward to help with the work on the history of Leschi. We on the Leschi CC Board can identify with that! It seems to be a different world now.

- Diane Snell

NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIES

A large crowd attended our February meeting where we heard about the oral history project at 23rd & Jackson and the plans for Africa Town at 23rd and Union.

Jill Freidberg, documentary filmmaker and her assistant, Domonique Meeks, told us about Shelf Life Stories, their current project. Residents come forward to share their experiences living in the 23rd and Jackson neighborhood.
They can talk about the changes in the area and what the Red Apple store has meant to them. Jill showed a video with some examples of the oral interviews. One woman spoke about shopping at Welch’s with her twins in a double stroller; if she had to go downstairs for an item, the staff at the checkout would offer to look after her twins. This recollection brought forth numerous stories from the audience about Welch’s, our neighborhood hardware store before it was turned into a multi-story apartment building with retail on the ground floor. As we reminisced about the funky old hardware store where you could buy just two nails instead of a shrink wrapped two dozen, it occurred to me that a year or so from now, we would be talking about the Red Apple in similar terms. Jill’s plan is not to develop a documentary film, but to send a mobile story map around the neighborhood. Check out their website: www.shelflifestories.com

K. Wyking Garrett spoke of the plans for Africa Town, stressing the importance of preserving the memories of the Central District as primarily African American, even as we see that population slowly being pushed south. Garrett’s own grandparents came to Seattle from the South in the 1940’s; his grandfather was a co-founder of the Liberty Bank, the first black-owned bank in Seattle. It was located on Union and 24th in the building, which later became the Key Bank. That lot is under construction now with Capital Hill Housing building a multi-story apartment structure with retail on the ground floor. Garrett’s video showed many of the personalities and traditions that shaped Seattle. The CD Mardi Gras celebration was a forerunner of Seafair. When the parade was moved downtown to be Seafair, the CD float featured Bobby Seale and Huey Newton. He also told us about the first Africa Town, something we didn’t learn about in school. After shipping slaves was outlawed, someone tried to bring slaves on the ship Clothilde; when it landed, the ship was seized and ultimately burned. The Africans settled in an area near Mobile and named their settlement Africa Town. (Google Clothilde for more details) It is planned that the Fountain of Triumph will be a part of the black heritage; Garrett was responsive to the need that the importance of this work by the renowned black artist, James Washington Jr., should be emphasized. We should learn more about this project as new development takes over the old post office site at 23rd and Union. And yes, we will experience yet another move of our post office.

~Diane Snell

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!

Last month we featured a plea from Leschi Elementary Reading Tutor Melissa Woodbridge and her fellow reading tutors. They knew that many students eat two meals a day at the school: breakfast and lunch, and they worried about the Midwinter break when students are off for an entire week (2/20-2/25). They compiled a list of food items requested by the families and made arrangements to put the donated items into bags or boxes for each family in need.

Here’s Melissa’s report:

“Our food drive was a huge success! With donations from six different grocery stores (Leschi Market, Central Coop, Grocery Outlet, Safeway, Target, and Trader Joe’s), we collected almost 500 food items for Leschi and White Center Heights Elementary. At Leschi alone, we were able to pack around 130 backpacks for kids to take home for the break next week. This included donations from Immaculate Conception Church. Families are coming in today and tomorrow to pick up food. We want to thank all of the grocery stores for their generous donations, and also the individuals who donated when we were tabling outside of Leschi Market” (and those who left food at the School.)

Thanks to all who donated food items and a big Thank You to the reading tutors who recognized the need and worked to solve the problem.
CHANGES ON THE LESCHI CC BOARD

Our treasurer, Amy Fink, resigned. We are eternally grateful to her for so expertly resolving the issue with the Internal Revenue Service over our non-profit status. While our mistake was minor (a wrong box checked), the solution was a lengthy process with requests from the State of Washington for documents that we knew the IRS already had. But as Amy kindly pointed out, one does not argue with these guys.... they hold the power. So we shall miss Amy and her expertise, but we have another talented person who has stepped forward: Janet Oliver, who was our Vice-President for the four years that the two Dianes were co-chairing the LCC. The V-P position has limited duties and with two Presidents, there wasn’t a change to cover for “the President” as there were TWO! Janet was definitely under-utilized in that position. We appreciate her willingness to step into this position as she returns fresh (and warm) from several months in Southern California and the Southwest. We told her all our rain had definitely fallen by now.

In an effort to reduce some of the work that the Treasurer has to do each month, President Yuki Igarashi has created three chair positions to take on some of the responsibility:

Ad Manager: Primary point of contact for advertisers and prospective advertisers, from initial interest through ad execution. Acts as a liaison between advertisers and printer, newsletter editor, and LCC as needed. Responsibilities include emailing artwork to layout for approval, emailing monthly invoices for published ads, and communicating incoming revenue to treasurer.

Restricted Funds Coordinator: Primary point of contact for restricted funds; communicates annually with chair of each fund and coordinates invoices for payment with treasurer. Prepares report for monthly Executive Board meetings.

Events Coordinator: Liaison between LCC board and each event-planning group. Handles necessary permits, accepts revenue, and requests checks from treasurer for documented expenses. Prepares monthly report for Executive Board meetings. There are four primary events per year: Flo Ware picnic in May or June, Art Walk in September, Halloween Spooktacular in October and the Holiday party in December. Any proposed event beyond these four must be presented to the Board and receive Board approval. This Chair could accept one or more of the events; it is not necessary to take on all four events. There could be a Chair for each of the events.

The Board would prefer to consider candidates who are willing to stay in their role through the next standard Board elections in May 2018. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these roles, please contact Yuki at YElgarashi@gmail.com or lechinews@comcast.net.

~Leschi Community Council Board

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE CENTRAL?

Two big events coming up at the Central Area Senior Center:

Meet the Mayor: Monday, February 27, 5-7pm. Celebration of Black History Month.

Lunch and Learn: Wed., March 8, 11:45-1:30pm. Protecting, Strengthening and Expanding Social Security and Medicare for ALL Generations. Curry Chicken lunch $4 for first 100 registered. RSVP to Central Area Senior Center: 206.726.4926

Surprise Valentines! Thanks to Cliff Holland and Safeway for honoring our seniors with flowers and chocolate-dipped strawberries for Valentine’s Day. Safeway supplied the goodies, but Cliff made it happen. Way to go, Cliff!

There is a timeline for the Central to complete certain plans and reports for the transfer of the property from the city.

The City is interested in turning city-owned property over to groups to preserve the African American heritage in the Central District. The fire stations on Yesler and 23rd and the

Leschi Lakecenter and Yacht Basin

Moorage, offices, shops and restaurants where Lake Washington Blvd. meets Lakeside Ave. - www.leschilakecenter.com

BluWater Bistro – Crossfit 206 – Daniel’s Broiler – Leschi Market and Wine Store
Marshall’s Cleaners – Meet the Moon Kitchen, Bar, Coffee – The PolkaDot Jersey Bike Shop
Saba Ruby Asian Dining – Sol Yoga Studio – Starbucks

Office and retail space available!

For leasing information, contact Jim Edris at 206.838.2080 or email jim@leavittcap.com

For moorage information, contact Leschi Yacht Basin at 206.328.6777 x102, or email marina@leavittcap.com

Leschi Lakecenter is a Leavitt Capital Companies development. www.leavittcap.com
one on 17th (currently occupied by Centerstone) are being considered along with the Senior Center. A plan for operation and sustainability needs to be developed. What will the focus of the Center be? And how will the programs and activities support that focus? Director Dian Ferguson will need to begin Community Engagement forums in April, which will share plans with the surrounding community and take their concerns into account. All the paperwork needs to be completed by October 30 and then presented to City Council in November.

March’s Green Dolphin features the Supa Sonic Soul Sistahs; it’s always on the 3rd Friday of the month. See the calendar on the back page for more details.

Classes: Taproot Theater is leading Improvisation classes primarily for those with early stage memory loss, but actually anyone can participate. Mondays from 2:30-3:30pm starting Feb. 27, into March (the 6th, 20th and 27th), and the last class is on April 3.

~Diane Snell

TWO BIG BLONDES CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Two Big Blondes Consignment is excited to announce that their Twentieth Anniversary will be celebrated throughout the month of March 2017 with a special event honoring the past and current owners plus other special guests on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

Two Big Blondes is a consignment store that specializes in plus size women’s clothing. It was opened on March 27, 1997 by Winnie Smith and Judy Pugh, the original two big blondes. The store originally opened in a warehouse setting in Georgetown. However, customers still recall how happy they were to visit the new store that focused on clothing that fit them, instead of finding small selections in other Seattle thrift & consignment stores.

With the help from a small business grant from the City of Seattle, in 1999 the two blondes moved the business to its current location at 25th & Jackson in the Central District of Seattle. The location is well known in the community from the original owners who ran Frank’s Superette, which provided groceries and a lunch counter to customers. The building was also the site of the Chicken Soup Brigade Thrift Store, which later became Lifelong Aids Alliance and can now be found on Capitol Hill.

Susan Smith became the second owner of Two Big Blondes in 2007 and quickly expanded the square footage and selection of the store. After a career of running and building up businesses, she was ready to retire and sold the store to the current owner, her niece Lisa Michaud, in 2013. Lisa is a native of the Central District and was returning to live in the neighborhood with her family.

The store philosophy is simple: happy customers, a warm inviting place to shop, a comfortable space to embrace the beauty of our bodies, and quality clothes at great prices. With over 4,000 square feet of retail space and over 10,000 items in the store, there is a wide variety of styles – from junior trendy to Sunday best and casual to couture. There is a separate designer section and two salerooms that always have 25% - 75% discounts. Many people know of their bi-annual bag sales in the basement where you can fill a 13-gallon bag of clothes for less than $10 each.

Everyone is welcome at Two Big Blondes. The staff loves to meet new people and welcomes regulars, many of whom have been coming since it opened 20 years ago! In a rapidly changing neighborhood, Two Big Blondes strives to be a business that serves all customers – from local residents to friends that travel from out of the city and state.

Through its affiliated non-profit Seattle Women’s Assistance Fund, Two Big Blondes also provides free clothing to homeless and low-income women from the donations of the unsold items and proceeds from the bag sales.

Throughout the month of March, Two Big Blondes will celebrate their anniversary with special discounts including the ever-popular spinning wheel of deals (with added prizes), raffles, giveaways and online sales as well. On March 18,
starting at 2pm, the store will host a party with special guests, entertainment, refreshments, raffles, photo booth and a chance to share your thoughts & memories of the store and the neighborhood.

More information will be available on the website www.twobigblondes.com, where you can sign up for the newsletter as well. Lisa can be contacted at info@twobigblondes.com or by phone at 206-762-8620 with further questions.

-Lisa Michaud

LA NIÑA IS OVER!

Well, it was nice while it lasted. But all good things must come to an end, and this year’s weak La Niña was no exception. NOAA officially announced that La Niña ended early last February, meaning that the La Niña of 2016-2017 only lasted four months. Though this was one of the weakest and shortest La Niñas on record, it still managed to have quite an impact on our weather this winter.

La Niña is name for the periodic cooling of water temperatures in the central and eastern Tropical Pacific due to an increase in the strength of the trade winds and a resulting increase in upwelling off the coast of Peru, which is where cool, acidic, nutrient-rich water from the deep rises to the surface. La Niña has a variety of effects on weather around the world, but here in the Pacific Northwest, it is known for giving cooler-than-average winter temperatures and slightly above average winter precipitation, resulting in heavier-than-average snowfalls for both the mountains and the lowlands. This is because during La Niñas, a ridge of high pressure often forms in the eastern Pacific with a trough over our region, giving us cool and moist northwesterly flow.

The wintertime pattern with this year’s La Niña was similar to what we would expect, with a large ridge in the Pacific and a trough over our area. However, this trough was much deeper than usual, sending the jet stream further south to California and leaving us cold and relatively dry here in the Pacific Northwest.

La Niñas tend to make California drier than normal, but this one was a real drought-buster for them. The Sierras have been blessed with over 200% of their normal snowpack for this time of year. Mammoth Mountain plans to stay open until the 4th of July after recording an incredible 20 feet of snow in January alone, the North Sierra is on track for their wettest season EVER, and extended forecasts from the Climate Prediction Center keep the West Coast cooler and wetter than normal for the next month. Nearly every reservoir in California is above their average level for this time of the year, and these levels will only increase this spring as the snow begins to melt in the Sierras. This was the type of winter California needed to end their multi-year drought.

But it isn’t just California that has seen gobs of snow – the vast majority of the Western U.S. has well-above-average snowpack for this time of the year. Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming are all doing extremely well, Oregon is well-above normal, and even Washington is sitting near average despite the fact that we’ve had a relatively dry winter with the exception of a few warm and wet “Pineapple Express” events this past February.

Most models keep us in neutral conditions through autumn, though some develop a weak El Niño later in 2017. A return to La Niña conditions next winter looks unlikely, but the Climate Prediction Center still gives us a 15% chance of returning to a La Niña by next September.

- 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 forecasting wind energy along the Columbia River Gorge. Check out his weather website at weathertogether.us.
MARIA DE LOS ANGELES: ARTIST, ACTIVIST, DACA

Susan Noyes Platt, www.artndpoliticsnow.com

As ICE raids are escalating, the artist Maria de Los Angeles in her art and her life poignantly underscores the terror and insecurity of immigration policy. Maria is among a group of people vulnerable to being deported under the new administration, about 70,000 youth known as DACA, (Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals), a program enacted by Obama that gave children who had arrived with their parents without papers, the possibility to get a work permit, go to school, and have a driver’s license. But at the moment, as indiscriminate ICE raids escalate, supposedly for criminals, but actually sweeping up blameless people, Maria fears as much for her parents and her siblings and her friends as for her own loss of temporary status.

I first met Maria de Los Angeles through “We make America” an informal group of artists making 100 Statues of Liberty in mourning, with tunic, torch and crown for the Women’s March in Washington, D.C. and New York City. The day after the election, she and Joyce Kozloff, (for whom she was working and who has a long history of art activism) called a meeting to decide what to do to build community and respond to the election as artists.

The result was “We Make America,” a title that suggests that we all contribute to what America is today. The verb “make” can also literally refer to contributions of workers, immigrants and the act of making things. Perfect. The group started small, then ballooned when it was put on Facebook the next day.

When I went to photograph the making of the props for the Women’s March, Joyce pointed me to Maria as a primary organizer.

Maria told me immediately that she was undocumented, but with temporary status under DACA. She was born in Mexico and came to California with her parents at the age of 11, growing up in Santa Rosa, California. She went to Pratt on a fifty percent scholarship. Since she could not get loans as a DACA, she managed to fundraise the rest of it (these schools are insanely expensive). Then she got a full scholarship to Yale, where the professors encouraged her to question who she was and discover what she wanted to say. She succeeded in finding her voice and avoiding being pigeonholed.

Last summer Pratt, where she now teaches, invited her to teach a course in Italy, giving her the opportunity to see the murals of Tintoretto in Venice, as well as the whole sweep of Italian Renaissance Art. The huge floating figures of Chagall in Lincoln Center also inspire her, as well as Siqueiros, the most radical of the Mexican muralists, who successfully paired radical politics with experimental media.

Madrona Computer

PC - Mac support & networking
Netflix, Amazon, Roku, Apple TV
Hardware & software installations
Virus & malware removal

Chris Kamila 206.462.4340
chris@madronacomputer.com
ICE officials are Latinos, and some Latinos are white-skinned (as Maria herself). But the two colors of paper create a tension, emphasizing the sense of confrontation because of the fear and hostility escalating daily.

She adds text as well, tiny words like “My America” “Our America” emerge in bubbles from the mouths of agents, or she writes longer texts around the edge of the drawing such as racist taunts and clichés. Maria de los Angeles breaks through restrictions, and conventions in her art, just as she would like to see the barriers between races break down.

A frequent motif is ICE agents swooping down from the sky on families trying to protect themselves. Families are represented by islands of emotional lines that suggest anguish, terror and self-protection. But sometimes salvation itself swoops down from the sky, to rescue someone from the agents on the ground.

Another theme honors the almost invisible contributions of workers. That format depicts a group of workers, precariously holding up the white world of privilege.

Maria de los Angeles also creates garments. She sews paper together, and paints them with confrontational slogans, such as “illegal” and “undocumented.” then takes a group of friends to do interventions, at places like the Trump hotel.

There are thousands of young people who will be affected if the DACA status is repealed, hardworking young people who have been given a brief reprieve. But as we have seen this administration is intent on wreaking havoc with the stroke of a pen. Pay attention to DACA, pay attention to the escalating ICE raids in Latino communities and speak to your Congressional representatives about keeping DACA and stopping the arbitrary raids.

**A NEW POLITICAL FORCE**

**BOOK REVIEW** Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right, by Jane Mayer

An overused term these days in publishing is “Hidden History.” but in this case, I believe, it is quite justified. While the Koch brothers have received a good deal of mention in the press, much less attention has been given to the enormous size and power of their network of associated foundations. The great appeal of their organization is that the Kochs are willing to accept the public attention while the other foundations are shielded from view, thus “dark”, by the provisions of the tax code that the Democrats first discovered and the Kochs have exploited. The result of this dark appeal is that the group’s funds have grown enormously since 2008. It is acknowledged by them that they would spend $889,000,000 nationally in 2016. This makes them, in effect, an independent political party, and it is causing seismic shifts under the American political landscape. We see this daily in the news.

This deeply researched study of big money in modern American politics is essential to understanding the enormous political changes we are experiencing today, locally and nationally. It is a big and detailed work, but it is quite amenable to skimming, according to one’s area of interest. A good compact review of the book’s more tasty highlights can be found at the Washington Post by Tom Hamburger. He covers revealing incidents of Koch family history, such as
the father’s flirting with Stalin and Hitler, strange and harsh childhood discipline, and intra-family feuds. But Mayer spends great effort to document a persuasive account of the long and tireless efforts of the Kochs to accomplish their political ends, which is nothing less than to establish libertarianism as a new American creed. This entails telling the stories of the gathered right-wing family foundations making up their network, and their efforts to inject their economic views at the university level with endowments and even the right to blackball appointments. At one of their conferences, it is claimed that they have 5000 scholars installed in over 200 colleges.

The book’s most compelling bit, for me, is in the last chapter when the Kochs’ fifty year project, building quiet anonymous political dominance, is temporarily frustrated by Obama’s reelection. As related, at recent Koch sponsored network conferences; a great deal of rethinking of their methods has taken place. As a result, some very revealing statements of their true motives are openly expressed, while the need to conceal them is discussed, in a search for a way to appeal to politically uncommitted voters in the next elections.

The book could be characterized as second in a series on the history of U.S. political affairs in the 20th Century and forward, because it deals with another of the fundamental facts of American politics: money. My review of the Dulles Brothers’ careers (see “book reviews” at our website), dealt primarily with power, but also power backed by wealth, of course. The two, power and money, seem practically identical twins. But on closer inspection, I believe, the dominant players in each sphere are not identical. There is the very old money from the slave trade, furs and rum, pretty old money from the robber barons’ oil, steel and railroad monopolies, and big modern money. This modern money seeks influence just as the earlier moguls did. The difference in the use of this new foundation money seems to be its scope and that it is focused on the very practical methods and means of moving the current domestic political climate to the far right, using the most sophisticated methods of modern polling, focus group opinion analysis, and penetration of university economics departments. Also, it is being done outside of the formal Republican Party structures. This is starting to provoke concern and even organized resistance by powerful sectors of the economy, which have characterized dark money as “crony capitalism.”

This new right is definitely different from any we have experienced before. It is national in scope, pervasive from the school board level to Washington D.C., and based on a philosophy that seems to believe that a society can be run based on no principle other than the proposition that the money power rather than organized government should rule in resolving all matters of civil dispute.

Its origin, in the case of the Kochs, father and sons, is traced directly to the John Birch Society and the economists Hayek and von Mises. Its foreign policy is based on a suspicion of globalist economic and diplomatic agreements and a resistance to involvement in foreign wars, while supporting a large defense budget. The continuing power of American conservative interests might have been foreseen as the inevitable result of the era of monopoly, when the great fortunes of the 19th Century were amassed, corporate law was created to protect the major owners and executives of the great firms from lawsuits, and political power was concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. But the rise of the countervailing power of unions and progressive mass movements slowed the progress of the move to the right. The FDR era’s forced sharing of the profits of WWII and advancing technology brought relatively golden years of industrial peace and prosperity and the unprecedented growth of the middle class. Then, in the 1980’s, the Reagan reductions in government regulation and corporate income taxes began and the offshoring of jobs. This set the stage for the renewed growth in confrontation between left and right in domestic affairs that we are seeing today.

With the elimination of practically all constraints on political donations by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, and backed by greater concentration of accommodating power in the conservative mass media, the years of libertarian think tank planning is coming to fruition. A great enticement to join in the effort has been the benefits of the provisions of the tax code, especially in 501(c) (4) and (6). These sections were meant to foster educational, social welfare and other non-political projects and allow unlimited donations. But with the courts’ forced complacency, the IRS has allowed them to be used to provide tax sheltering for political action groups with the donors names concealed. This attraction brought more money into the network for the 2016 presidential election, when, at the last minute, the Trump campaign attracted Koch network money including money from one of the wealthiest hedge fund managers and super-PAC sponsors, Robert Mercer. This came as a complete surprise to many, though Trump had campaigned on elimination of Mercer’s beloved retained interest tax loophole. Thus, big money continues to exercise its dominance in political affairs.

-M. Suzanne Heidema
Certified Public Accountant

417 31st Avenue p 206.329.5221 • f 206.329.5415 sheidema@msn.com

- Jim Snell
MARCH IS WASHINGTON WINE MONTH

March is Washington Wine Month. If you were looking for an excuse to explore the wonderful world of Washington wine, now is your chance. Following is a smattering of some our favorites. Enjoy!

**RED**

**2014 Buty Merlot & Cabernet Franc Columbia Valley ($41.99)**

“Supple, broad and expressive, layering rose petal—accented cherry and plum flavors against powdery tannins, finishing with sleekness and harmony. Drink now through 2024. 325 cases made.” –Wine Spectator, 92-points.

**2014 Mark Ryan Winery ‘The Dissident’ Red Columbia Valley ($34.99)**

“The entry-level Bordeaux blend (which is as good as many estate top wines) is the 2014 The Dissident, and it will be another great value in 2014. My notes start with ‘screaming deal’ and it shows lots of Cabernet character (cassis, lead pencil, hints of flowers), medium to full-bodied richness, superb purity and a great finish. Buy it by the case.” –Wine Advocate, 91-93 points.

**2012 Andrew Will Cabernet Franc Columbia Valley ($32.69)**

Winemaker Chris Camarda is recognized as one of the top producers of Cabernet Franc wines in this country. An ample wine that delivers a mouthful of crushed red berries and floral notes. A balanced and precise wine, it comes together seamlessly with refined tannins and a lingering finish. –Winemaker Notes

**2013 Avennia Gravura Red Blend Columbia Valley ($32.69)**

“Entry level Gravura. 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc. Classic notes of leafy herbs, chocolate, tobacco leaf, black currants and earth. This medium to full-bodied, rounded and downright sexy. 2013 has terrific mid-palate depth, supple tannin and an already hard to resist style. One of the rising stars in the wine world, winemaker Chris Peterson continues to make incredible wines under his Avennia label. Drink 2016-2024.” –Wine Advocate, 92-points.

**2013 Maison Bleue Metis Red Columbia Valley ($19.99)**

“This wine is a blend of 45% Grenache, 37% Syrah and 18% Mourvèdre, coming from Boushey, Pepper Bridge, Olsen and Minnick vineyards. The aromas pop with notes of clove, orange peel, black pepper, funk and red and blue berries. The palate is lithe, pure and focused, with a pleasing mouthfeel and sense of balance to the citrus and blue-fruit flavors.” -Sean Sullivan, 90-points.

**2014 Lobo Hills Right Bank Blend Red Wine Columbia Valley ($18.69)**

“The 2014 Right Bank Blend is 83% Merlot, 11% Malbec and 6% Cabernet Franc. This wine is aged in mostly neutral oak and delivers unadorned fruit rounded by soft wood tannin. Consume 2019 through 2034. Production: 400 cases. Available: 300.” –Winemaker notes.

**2014 Ryan Patrick Rock Island Red Columbia Valley ($14.99)**

“Stylistically, we are looking for dark, rich and ripe flavors for this blend. We source fruit from vineyards throughout the Columbia Valley with bold and concentrated characteristics, creating the desirable style of our Rock Island Red. 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Syrah, 15% Merlot, 4% Primitivo.” – Jeremy Santo, winemaker.

**WHITE**

**2015 DelLille Cellars “Chaleur Estate” Blanc Columbia Valley ($35.99)**

“Aromas of tropical fruits, lemon oil, fig and honeysuckle. Very sexy, complex and smooth on the palate, with expressive flavors of citrus fruits, honey, wild herbs and flowers. Finishes with outstanding subtle length and thrust. The Sauvignon Blanc from Sagemoor, reportedly the oldest planting of this variety in the state, makes up a good percentage of this wine.” -Stephen Tanzer, 93-points.

**2015 Thurston Wolfe PGV (Pinot Gris-Viognier) Columbia Valley ($12.99)**

“Our 2015 PGV is a unique blend of 65% Pinot Gris and 35% Viognier, creating a rare wine with intense fruit aromas and a rich, crisp finish.” –Winemaker notes.

**2015 Barnard Griffin Chardonnay Columbia Valley ($10.59)**

“Our 2015 Chardonnay opens with vibrant pear, peach and pineapple flavors highlighted by lemon zest and citrus notes. Very crisp and refreshing! A touch of lime and oak spice chimes in on the long finish. A great accompaniment to a broad range of food choices.” –Winemaker notes.

Kenneth Benner, a Seattle area native, is a trained chef and has worked in such restaurants as Barbacoa, B.O.K.A. Kitchen + Bar, and Dahlia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His wine column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experiences in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMarket.com or request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to ken@leschimarket.com and follow the wine department directly on twitter at twitter.com/leschimarket.
We recently went to That’s Amore for one of our family birthday gatherings and given the size of the family, it’s always a challenge to get reservations, but we were fortunate! Italian food had sounded comforting to us in this dark and wet winter and That’s Amore took us in…all nine of us. We have had celebrations there in the past, but I really had forgotten just how good it is!

We tried two appetizers: the Bruschetta and the Antipasto platter. The Antipasto platter was very good, with nicely roasted veggies and fruit in addition to the usual salamis, cheese, olives, but the Bruschetta was fantastic. Grilled Tuscan bread topped with marinated tomatoes, onions, garlic, balsamic vinegar…I could have stopped there, but of course I was sharing with eight others, so that left some room for an entrée.

Son-in-law John chose the wine: a Sangiovese Merlot; it was excellent. I ordered the Grigliata di Melanzane and it was fantastic and also a very generous serving. Half of it came home for next night’s dinner. One thoughtful note: the staff had added a steak knife in case the eggplant skin proved difficult but that didn’t happen. It was baked to perfection!

My husband ordered the Penne Bolognese with grilled sausage and although he loved it, half of his came home for the next night! Did we pig out on the appetizers? Give that we were sharing with so many others, I don’t think we overdid it and the entrees were very generous. And we can’t eat like we used to; there were days in the golden past when an Italian restaurant meant starting with Minestrone, followed by salad, pasta course and then the entrée. And finally a scoop of Spumoni ice cream! And of course, there was that magic basket of bread that filled each time we emptied it. Where did we put it?

But back to the entrees: Son-in-law had the special pasta with short ribs (no leftovers there) and daughter, Ann, had another special: Tagliatella with Crab (another take-home box needed!) A roast chicken special with polenta was ordered at the other end of the long table and obviously, it was good; plate went back to the kitchen with entrée completely devoured!

We were celebrating two birthdays that night so our waitperson brought two large portions of tiramisu with a candle on each. The rest of us passed on dessert as Ann had made a cake, which was waiting at home with the yet-to-be-opened gifts. The service was impeccable, which can be difficult with that many at the table. Water glasses were filled promptly and unobtrusively. One waitperson even helped by taking the family photo at the end of the meal.

Ambience? It is a long, rather narrow space and reminds me of the places we used to haunt in San Francisco’s North Beach where you might be seated at a long table with complete strangers. That was not the case here; we were the only group seated at a long table; there were many couples and a few at round tables for six persons. I think it must be impossible to seat a group our size in a manner that seems comfy and makes for good conversation. We have at least one birthday in almost every month of the year and so we have tried many dining establishments.

The South Lake Union Cactus put us in a room of our own with a long table and those at the far end from me might as well have been in the next county. I am not sure how we avoid this at home when the table is extended, except that we are probably much louder at home than out in public. Only the meek are not heard from…and we are still trying to find out which one is meek.

- Diane Snell

THAT’S AMORE
1421 31 Ave. S, 206-322-3677
Mon-Thurs 5-10; Fri & Sat 4-10; Sun 4-9

~Diane Snell

...in the Wilds of Seattle

Frozen Foods • Deli • Meat • Fresh Produce • Beer & Wine
Household Goods • Health & Beauty
Natural and Organic Products • And so much more!

Luck is always on your side when you shop at Grocery Outlet!

Overshop. Underspend™
LESCHI GENERAL MEETING
Please see review in Neighborhood Memories article, page 5.

LCC EXEC. BOARD MEETING 2/8/17
Minutes: approved by email

Yuki’s report
Treasurer position; given Amy’s resignation, we need to announce the position open in the newsletter. Diane shared some ideas for relieving the burden on the treasurer by appointing some chairs to take some of the responsibilities of the treasurer, i.e. managing the ads, the restricted funds, the events, etc.

Yuki did approve these chairs: an Ad Manager, a Restricted Funds Coordinator and an Events Coordinator to handle the income and outflow for community events like the Art Walk.

Yuki also suggested making the offices a one-year term instead of a two-year term. There was not agreement on this as there is a learning curve with some of the positions. An officer can always choose to resign after one year.

Ad Hoc committee
John, Tracy and Diane to meet at Tracy’s on the 15th to review meeting attendance lists for possible helpers.

Yousef
Yousef was unable to attend. Diane reported difficulty signing in to add the amended bylaws to the online document.

Newsletter report: Diane
• March issue deadline: 2/13/17
• Have not sent letter to restricted fund chairs as no report yet; getting calls
• Have not sent info to advertisers on website ads; waiting for site to go live and folks will be able to see the courtesy ads Yousef is placing there.
• Sent renewal letters to lapsed dues folks; got many renewals, apologies, thank yous and some donations 2013-2015. Added bonus: got free notice of folks who have moved. Post office charges $2.47 per returned newsletter but first class mail notice is free.

Parks
John reported the sudden death of Cass Turnbull, founder of the nonprofit Plant Amnesty and the more recent political action group TreePac. An effective speaker, she was able to create an interest in the best pruning practices through slides and humor. John attended the annual Forterra gathering of forest stewards and was able to do some networking. John has been the chair of the Friends of Streetends since 2001 and has been working on a response to an EIS proposal. Karen Daubert has expressed interest in returning to FOSE since her retirement and Marty Oppenheimer is also a longtime member of the group but both are away and deadline for EIS response is tomorrow. Feb. 18
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 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

Please provide your contact information:

Name________________________________ Phone____________________
Address_____________________________________________________
City________ State____ Zip________ Email________________________

All donations are tax-deductible as we are a non-profit 501-C3.

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

Mail to:
Leschi Community Council • 140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2 • Seattle WA 98122-6538

---

March program

Discussed asking Bob Shimabukuro re: his book Born in Seattle and his fight to get government redress for the Japanese relocation during WWII. Also considering Coll Thrush who has written on the native history of this area. Group expressed interest in immigration given the current climate; Diane to contact ACLU.

~Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

---

Work party is at Charles Street shoreline park (Charles and Lake Washington Blvd.) where the primary task is removing blackberries to open up the view. The cherry tree has died and John will be looking for a replacement and hoping to find a rare specimen. There are funds for this in the restricted funds.
Leschi News advertising rates:
business card, $35; 1/4 page, $70;
1/2 page, $140. Contact Diane Snell
at 206-726-0923 to advertise to
your community.

Leschi News

The next Leschi News deadline is MARCH 20. Mail all articles, comments,
letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:
Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122-6538
or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

march 2017 | calendar

FEB 27 Mayor Murray “Meet & Greet,” 5-7pm at The Central, 500 30th Ave. S.

MAR 1 No Leschi CC meeting this month.

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

MAR 8 Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting, 7pm at Iora Primary Care, 306 23rd Ave. between Yesler & Jackson; driveway entrance on Main.

MAR 9 Central Area Neighborhood District Council, 6pm at The Central, 500 30th Ave. S.

MAR 11 Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, 9am at The Central (Breakfast: $14)

MAR 17 Green Dolphin Street Lounge, 6-9pm featuring Supa Sonic Soul Sistahs. Admission is $20 for non-members and $15 for lifetime members if reserved in advance. $25 at door. Refreshments. No Host bar. The Central Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S.

MAR 18 String of Pearls work party, 10am-12pm at Charles St & Lake Washington Blvd.

MAR 23 EastPAC meeting, 6:30pm at Chardin Hall, Seattle University. Parking off Jefferson past 12th on right.

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

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