

leschinews

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

Happy Holidays Everyone

We regret that we cannot invite you to our usual Holiday party with drinks and snacks, but the virus surge has continued restrictions on gathering. Instead, we are pleased to take you on a virtual tour of two important exhibits in Seattle—while we can't go there personally, join our art critic, Susan Platt as she takes us on this journey: Barbara Earl Thomas and Marita Dingus, and Narratives and Guardians

December 9, 2020, 7pm

ZOOM MEETING ID: 859 6839 7379, PW: 174163

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President's Message

Greetings to my fellow Leschi dwellers,

Once again, we experience being self-contained at home. What can I say? I am aware that we have residents who have continued to remain in their homes since March. Hats off to you. I hope your diligence has been rewarded with good health.

As we swing through the balance of this exceptionally tumultuous year, it can seem hard to grasp all the good that happened. The City of Seattle agreed to make it possible for the Central Area Senior Center to finally be delivered to CASC. What was amazing is we learned from Dian Ferguson on this month's Zoom program, that the city had never granted an actual lease to the Center. It has functioned (with challenges because of it) on month-to-month tenancy. Amazing.

We aren't able to hold our usual Holiday party with munchies and socializing this year, but our Art Critic, Susan Platt, has agreed to take us on a virtual tour of two artists' exhibits. Zoom to our meeting on December 9th at 7pm to join the virtual tour! Zoom sign in instructions are on the back cover of this issue, on Leschi's Facebook and on our website.

I ask again that you reach out to people in our area - neighbors, new residents, people who have been here awhile - to make sure if someone needs errands run - that they are not forgotten.

What this virus has shown is that many people have reflected on what is important in their lives. Family and friends rise to the top. Efficiencies abound that were totally unexpected. Companies on a broad spectrum didn't quite grasp the benefits of flex time and remote working. It turns out it is a positive experience, and we will see the broad workplaces change significantly in the future.

As we move into 2021, I wish you a magnificent holiday season filled with memories, special moments and heartfelt thanks to those who have stepped up their game to serve their communities. Hats off to the First Responders, Medical Staff, grocery stores and our local restaurants and all the delivery people.

Please stay safe and wrap yourself in the knowledge you are living in times that will rock history books for years to come.

Best wishes to you and your families.

*-Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council*



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Bah Humbug? Maybe Not

Sometime during this pandemic, my long-time friend in New York sent me a bumper sticker that said Make America Kind Again! I must have been in one of my Covid moods when the isolation was getting to me and I wondered WHEN America was kind? Was there a time we could go back to and decide we were “kind?” Surely not when we came to this country and assumed that it was uninhabited and ours for the taking. Surely not when we indulged in the slave trade. Surely not when we altered our immigration policy to shut out certain groups like the Chinese Exclusion Act, mocking the “kind” message on the Statue of Liberty. Surely not when we incarcerated the Japanese in camps during WWII. Surely not when we turned away a ship full of fleeing Jewish people sending them back to a certain death in Europe. Surely not when we dropped atomic bombs on two cities in Japan (one was not enough?). And I don’t even want to go into the policies of the last 4 years...children in cages? Fortunately, that mood lifted before I searched for a painless exit-strategy from this planet (maybe the sun came out and I saw a hummingbird in the garden).

I looked beyond the government actions and focused on individuals. I thought of the health care workers who bravely go to work each day in dangerous conditions and give their all to acutely sick patients. I thought of our neighbors who bravely deliver food to shut-ins and those who work in the street ends to make our world more beautiful. I thought of the teachers who are trying to keep students engaged in an online environment and their poor parents who must juggle work and “teacher’s aide” tasks they have not been trained for. In non-Covid times, we have neighbors who tutor school children or gather necessities to take to Tiny House Villages. And I think of our businesses like Leschi Market, Grocery Outlet and BluWater Bistro who are struggling to survive but still helping out in the schools and meeting other community needs. And closer to home, the kindness of those who contribute to our newsletter each month and don’t throw expletives my way when I gently remind everyone of the deadline. Thank you all! And thank you to those who contribute to worthy causes like our nearby food

banks (Rainier Valley and St. Mary’s) and to the needs of homeless persons (Real Change and the Low Income Housing Institute).

Real Change is one of my favorite organizations because it gives one a chance to earn some money and change their circumstances. LIHI provides the Urban Hygiene centers where homeless persons can shower and take care of their laundry. They also give us the Tiny House Villages, a steppingstone to more permanent housing and a giant step beyond a tent or makeshift shelter out of garbage bags. LIHI also has built 60 properties in the Puget Sound area which offer reasonably priced apartments for formerly homeless persons and workforce units for those whose income is 30% below the median income in this area. LIHI provides supportive services: “case management, life skills training, technology access and training, financial literacy training and savings programs, and activities for some of the more than 500 children in LIHI housing.” One of our local LIHI facilities, Ernestine Anderson Place, offered monthly music events for several seasons when it was safe to gather. We enjoyed both the music and the interaction with residents. We were surprised to be offered a nutritious meal (either meat or veggie choices).

These organizations give me hope that we may someday resolve homelessness; everyone has a right to shelter, sustenance and health care in a civilized society.

-Diane Snell



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Neighborhood & Beyond

THAT OTHER VIRUS

So, the virus surges when we are totally sick of the whole business and just want to have the usual holidays with loved ones. This has all happened before. I received my online edition of The Mossback Den, Knute Berger's contribution to Crosscut.

Berger stepped back into history and talked about the 1918-1919 Spanish Flu and how the restrictions were lifted on November 12, 1918, just in time for the holidays. The Seattle Times proclaimed, "Epidemic Virtually Over." Residents enthusiastically planned holiday gatherings and celebrated the New Year not appropriately distanced...or masked for that matter.

But Berger tells us that "the epidemic wasn't over here, or around the state. About half of roughly 5,000 influenza deaths in Washington occurred after that January of 1919. Social distancing, restrictions and masks had worked — but much of that was undone in the two months after the ban was lifted." The Dr. Fauci of that time, Dr. T. D Tuttle, met similar resistance to what we see now. Berger says that "The business community did not like having its doors closed, citizens did not like being kept out of moving picture shows or told they couldn't have dances or hang out in ice cream parlors. Quack remedies flourished." The legislature in Olympia, beginning a new session in January 1919, was not enthusiastic about Tuttle's restrictions and he was fired, only to be quickly hired by the U.S. Public Health Service in Tacoma. He was later "appointed the head epidemiologist of the state of Kansas." I guess we tend to want to kill the messenger when we don't want to hear the news.

Now we are faced with further closures after enjoying some opening and we don't like it. But the choice is not one I want to make; I am already in that targeted demographic and as a long-time asthma patient, I would be toast.

But will the public accept science? One wonders if History will be any more persuasive than Science. Science actually relies on history of similar epidemics when a new illness appears. So, the same restrictions have been applied: the masks, the closures, the restrictions on social gatherings and there were the same objections. And then they were lifted but too soon, which seems to be a lesson for us if we can listen. So, don't gather for the holidays, stay masked and safe and we hope you are all with us in 2021.

-Diane Snell

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

The recent pattern of COVID-19 infection follows a similar pattern from the 1918 flu, when relaxed restrictions spurred a deadly wave of infections over a century ago.

Thank you to Anne Depue for sending us this poem in a time when we need some hope. A poem about hope written on the final day of the 19th century by English poet Thomas Hardy:

The Darkling Thrush

*I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,*

*And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.*

*The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,*

*And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.*

*The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,*

*His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.*

*The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,*

*And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.*

*At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead*

*In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;*

*An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,*

*Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.*

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*So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound*

*Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,*

*That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air*

*Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.*

*-Thomas Hardy
December 29, 1900*

NOVEMBER LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

A Zoom meeting was held on November 4; the expected speaker from King County was not available but fortunately we had Dian Ferguson, the Director of the Central Area Senior Center, speaking on the recent acquisition of the building. She gave us a brief history of the building which was originally either a nursing home or rehab center. The business failed and the building was put up for sale in 1975. A contingent of neighborhood activists prevailed upon the City to purchase the building for use as a senior center for Central District residents. Unfortunately, the city never gave the Center the usual lease except for a month to month and upgrades to the aging building were not forthcoming.

Various directors have tried to get help from non-profit agencies to upgrade but at least a ten-year lease is expected from any funding agency. Attempts to get a longer lease were futile and ultimately the current director, Dian Ferguson, felt that it was crucial to have ownership of the building to accomplish anything meaningful in repairs and renovation.

The City Council approved the transfer of the property 9-0 in 2018 but the Mayor prolonged any meaningful decision until recently. Mayor Durkan finally submitted a transfer ordinance in the last 2 months. This means that the Center should be able to pursue funds to make the needed changes.

Director Ferguson listed the problems they want to address:

- Modernize the building
- Upgrade the heating and electric systems
- Upgrade the parking lot
- Install a generator to ensure continued operation during this area's notorious power outages
- and finally, do an interim redesign to accommodate the services needed by the senior community.

At some point in the future, the Center may want to expand its footprint, but there are no current plans.

Although classes on site have been curtailed during the pandemic, the Center and its employees have been busy meeting the nutrition needs of the community. They have partnered with First AME church to make food deliveries on Wednesdays and Fridays. They also prepare 40-50 take-out meals for pick-up or delivery.

The Walking Tour occurs on Wednesdays where seniors (masked and socially distanced) can keep up their exercise program with walks through the neighborhood. The Drumming class and a dance class (limited to 8 persons) are still meeting with appropriate precautions.

Dian was asked if they still had any connection to Sound Generations; she replied that Anthony, their chef, is still paid by that agency. His salary is federally funded under the Congregate Meals fund and monies are funneled through Sound Generations for disbursement.

We can be proud of what the center is doing during these difficult times, but still look forward to the reopening of all activities. Socialization is a big part of meals and seniors (as others) tend to eat more when socially engaged with others. Aging can be a lonely business, cruelly enhanced by the Covid-19 restrictions.

Attendee Dianne Ramsey mentioned the fact that a portion of Lake Washington Blvd. (south of Leschi in Mt. Baker) had been closed for a significant period for no apparent reason. SDOT did not notify contingent neighborhoods, which is alarming as it severely curtails business in our small neighborhood business district. We expect to follow up on this.

We did discuss the fact that we had never received a response to our letter of concern to Denise Juneau, Seattle School Board superintendent, regarding the abrupt dismissal of Lisa Molland from Leschi Elementary. After a significant period of waiting, we contacted Zachary De Wolf, 3rd district Director and current president of the school board. He asked for a copy of the letter which was sent and promised to follow up. Dianne Ramsey requested a copy of the letter; she heads up the Education Committee for the League of Women Voters and will also follow through.

Gwen Rench expressed concern about some inaccuracies in a newsletter article and she was requested to specify the errors in an email for follow-up.

-Diane Snell

Fionnuala O'Sullivan

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BELATED BESTOWAL OF LESCHI STAR AWARDS

Randy Spann and his buddy, Buzz, were not able to attend the meeting when we presented Leschi Star Awards and the event kept getting delayed due to current meeting restrictions. Finally, the two met with Leschi CC President Janice Merrill Brown for coffee on the outdoor patio at BluWater and received their awards for doing what we thought was impossible: getting SDOT to give us a pedestrian crossing at the



Image courtesy Janice Merrill Brown

dangerous spot on Lakeside Ave. They kept logs of traffic and foot traffic and finally convinced SDOT of the need (something we have all known for some time!). Thank you, Randy and Buzz!

11TH ANNUAL GIVING GARLAND AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY

We greatly appreciate the past partnership, support and tremendous generosity from our school community (Leschi Elementary families, extended family, friends and co-workers) as well as our local supporters (the Leschi Community Council, Leschi Market, BluWater Bistro, Rainier Food Bank, Northwest Harvest, Food for Schools; Mt. Zion Baptist, First AME and Mercer Island Presbyterian Churches). We welcome and thank you in advance for your support again this year!

The Giving Garland is a charitable event which, in the last 10 years, has supported over 1,300 children and their families during the winter holidays. It is made possible by the Leschi school and neighborhood communities and is sponsored by the Leschi PTA.

This year we anticipate twice as many of families requesting support this year; at this time 93 families with 273 children will benefit from the generosity shown through the Giving Garland. The support we provide families through the “virtual” Giving Garland is even more critical than ever...due to COVID 19, students and families are in greater need of help.

How You Can Help!

- Donate Gift Cards for the most frequently requested stores:
 - » Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Costco, Target, Ross Dress for Less, Old Navy
- “Cash” donations for gifts and gift cards to be purchased:
 - » Checks made out to “Leschi PTA” (in the memo add “Giving Garland”)
 - » Make donation via PayPal (go to the school website listed below)
- Go to the Leschi School website to see WISH LISTS for individual gift items at:
 - » Snapdoodletoy.com (a local toy store!)
 - » Amazon.com

Checks and grocery cards can be sent to 202 29th Ave Seattle WA 98122 or dropped at the school office weekdays from 8am to 2pm.

In 2019 the Giving Garland supported 55 families with 180 children. The event is geared towards the children in the families. In pre-Covid years we hung tags on the garland which represented a gift, this year we will still be giving gifts to families...some items are fun: toys, bikes, art supplies, board games, balls, books and some are basics: clothing, bedding, warm coats or diapers. And every family receives gift cards to easily accessible grocery stores.

There are currently 370 students enrolled at Leschi Elementary, all of whom are attending school via “remote learning”; approximately 50% of the student body qualify for free and reduced lunch and 19% qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Our number of homeless children enrolled at Leschi has increased significantly in recent years. Presently there are 70 children attending Leschi who meet the criteria of “homeless”, making the homeless student population at Leschi Elementary one of the highest in the Seattle Public Schools.

Leschi PTA is an 501(c)(3) Organization, Tax ID #91-1391625.

For more information, contact Katie Busby (katiebusby@gmail.com), Jennifer Marquardt (206.423.2781 / jrmarquardt1@gmail.com) or check the Leschi School website: https://leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/fundraising/giving_garland

STRING OF PEARLS WORK CONTINUES THROUGH WINTER

Leschi’s five shoreline street ends are heading into the Winter months looking pretty good! We hosted a work party at South Judkins Street – the largest of the five – and were thrilled to see the amount of work that five safely spaced volunteers could accomplish. This street end had not enjoyed a “major maintenance” for over two years, so it was especially exciting to have Mark who announced that his favorite job (along with his



pocket-sized puppy Mitzi) was cutting blackberries. Who would know?! In the meantime, John, Roger, Daniel and I worked on cutting overgrown bushes, pulling invasive plants, and generally opening up the view to the lake. A very good time was had by all!

If you are interested in helping out at any of the street ends this year, please let us know! And a big thank you to anyone who helps out – for keeping these special areas looking so nice!

-Karen Daubert 206-310-1791

John Barber 206-324-1548

Leschi String of Pearls

STREETEND AT MASSACHUSETTS & LAKESIDE AVE

Who will be the FIRST to take a swim from the newly opened Massachusetts street end at the eastern base of Massachusetts street and Lakeside Drive? This challenge is going out to readers of the Leschi Newsletter, the Friends of Street Ends, and NextDoor enthusiasts in the associated neighborhoods of Mt Baker,

Leschi, and Beacon Hill. Participants from these neighborhoods have recently blazed their way to cold lake waters and want to show off their handiwork.

However, we have much work ahead. The plan is to recover restricted access at the street end with an improved trail, native plantings, and further develop the recreational and aesthetic qualities here through dialogue with the community. Everyone's voice is valued. We are merely in Phase I. Many people have been promoting the String of Pearls "vision"- open public access to all street ends on Lake Washington. We find that during our epidemic while local parks can become concentrated with too many visitors, our street ends can provide a natural outlet for dispersed recreation—a further value for the string of pearls. We welcome future volunteer support here - please contact me: Daniel - dmcollins1962@gmail.com. Our volunteer work abides by Covid safety protocols.

For those, taking up the swim challenge please note: Swimmers must have a photo that indicates some level of immersion on a dated image taken at the Massachusetts street end location. Please provide photo, name, and contact information; emailing to the same address as above; if you are successful during the months of November, December or January.

Though this shoreline site is far from cleared of problem plants be aware, that while the access into Lake Washington waters is merely "roughed-in" and safe from the sticky brambles, it's not necessarily safe from high storm-sewer discharges for the swimmer. Please read the sign by the shoreline as we take no liability here. We are coordinating this project with SDOT and the Friends of Street Ends.

-Daniel Collins
Nicoterra Trails, Pathways to Nature

LAND USE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

For those of you who don't remember this committee, they review larger scale buildings planned for the Central District. Their meetings generally conflict with Leschi CC meetings, so it has been a long time since we had a peek at that they are doing. It was a Zoom meeting of course, and I was surprised that Chair Jeff Floor actually recognized with me with my now shoulder length hair! Two proposed buildings were reviewed: one is a rehab and addition to an older building at 12th and Remington Court (near Seattle U).

The interesting part of this plan is the rehab of an older building from seismic upgrades to incorporating it with a new building that adds more height. It is located across from the new Family & Children's Justice Center. It will be a mixed-use building with construction planned to begin in 2022. The architect showed examples of the firm's other work including a rehab on an Anhalt building across from what was the main Group Health building, now Kaiser. It happened that I worked

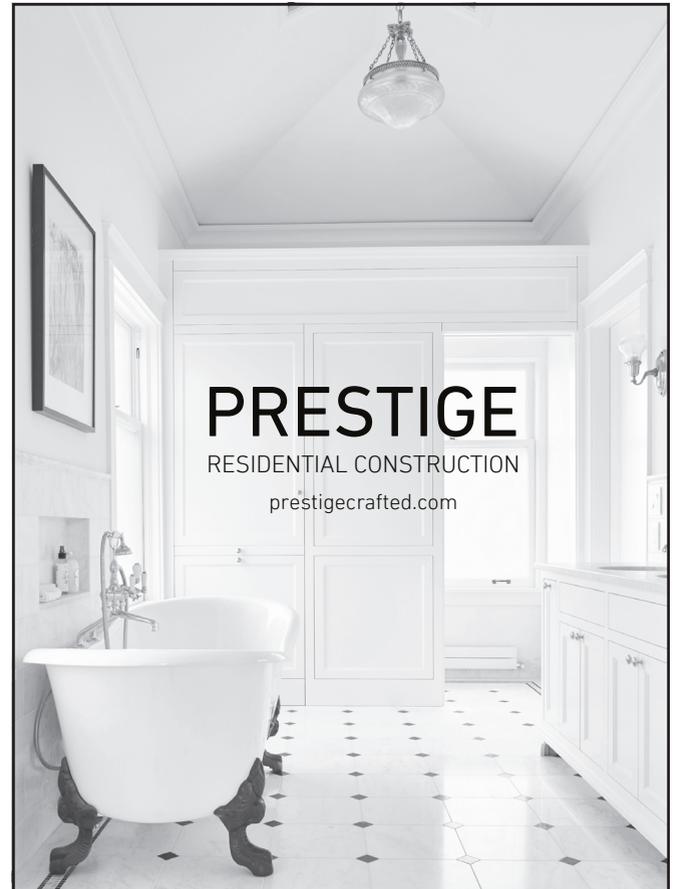
in that building when I was a hospice social worker at Group Health. It was a pleasure to approach that building each day with its oval courtyard and the many windows that looked out on the courtyard. Once inside, all thoughts of Anhalt disappeared as the building awkwardly contained the many cubicles we tend to work in these days. It gave me a lift to imagine this graceful building returned to its original use. It's good to know that older buildings can be brought up to code and enjoy a new life in a different persona.

The second review was the one I had zoomed in for; it is a proposed 91 unit building on Good Shephard property which formerly held the 22nd Ave. Tiny House Village. The Village has been moved to 22nd and Columbia with its residents intact.

The height of this building is expected to be 67 ft., two feet higher than the building on 23rd and Union that houses PCC. Although the neighborhood adjusted to the Tiny House Village and actually supported it, there are concerns about the height of this proposed building. The street behind is mostly single-family homes, some with DADUs (Detached Accessory Dwelling Units).

WA House Bill 1377 has allowed greater height for buildings on church property that are intended for supportive services, such as low-income housing. The planned building has more generous setbacks than required by law, but it is the height that concerns 21st St. residents who felt they had not been notified. Apparently, flyers about a community meeting had been distributed but they were not all that effective. This building will be built and operated by the Low Income Housing Institute. Lowering the building height will reduce the number of housing units at a time when our homeless population is increasing daily.

-Diane Snell





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THE 10,000 STEPS JOURNEY

BluWater's Bart Evans has been at the forefront during our entire Covid year, ever ready to continue to do business. The week prior to our new Governor Inslee mandate regarding restaurant dining, Bart installed a secure awning on the patio that already featured heaters and has a great gas fireplace. This makes for a cozy setting even in dank, wet weather. Remember they have takeout.

Meet the Moon installed a tented area, but per their phone message today, they are open for take-out only during this new 30-day limited opening.

Please continue to support our local Leschi businesses.

-Janice Merrill Brown

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Some questions have been raised about the accuracy of my Woody Guthrie anecdote published here last month. I placed Woody in Leschi at 3404 E. Yesler, sometime in May-June 1941, when he was writing songs for the Bonneville Power Administration. I am looking into this further and will report back when I have more information.

Quiz time: Benjamin Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Franklin Roosevelt: three of these US presidents had something in common, and it had to do with Leschi. What was it (aside from party affiliation), and why didn't the fourth share it? The first correct respondent gets to take the author out to a vegetarian lunch, with proper social distancing. Answers next month.

While we're speaking of dead Presidents, Garfield High School was originally named East High School, and later called Walla Walla. When, in 1922, it was renamed for the 20th U.S. President, it was said that the life of President Garfield "was felt to be symbolic of this school." In his brief term as President he proposed, though without success, a universal, federally funded education system, particularly for the purpose of aiding formerly enslaved African Americans in the South.

A stroll along Leschi's lakefront often reminds me of some happy times of my childhood in adjacent Madrona, exploring its outer edges long before I settled in Leschi.

At the north end of downtown Leschi was Seaborn's Marina. The whole little area by the water was known as the Lake Washington Yacht Basin, or YABA. Anyone could wander in and rent a boat. I never did, but I figured I would when I was grown up. Alas, by that time, the rental business was long gone. Eventually the showroom, at street level, became a luxury car dealership, also now gone.

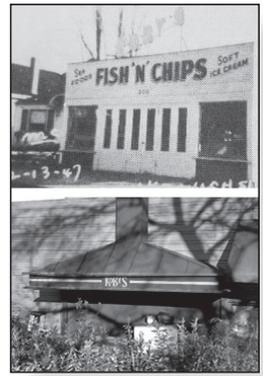
At 200 Lake Washington Boulevard was Koby's, above the marina and just south of where we now find Daniel's Broiler and Dr. Michael Bilikas' dental office. Though its big sign said Fish 'N' Chips, it was better known as a hamburger place. With my best friend, Dave, I would stop by there for a burger when we were walking or hitch-hiking home to Madrona from the hydroplane races, or if we were out and about, testing our neighborhood's boundaries.

If there was a person called Koby, he was before my time. The proprietor we knew was Pinky, short and cubic, looking true to his name while working over a hot grill all day. He had a sign by the counter that said, "Our credit manager is Helen Waite. If you want credit, you can go to Helen Waite."

Dave declared Koby's to have the world's best hamburgers. They were pretty good, by my taste back then. But Dave knew. He was born two days after me, but somehow, he was the worldly one. I think it was because I was the oldest child, but he was the youngest in his family and had a big brother to teach him things like that.

Pinky died in about 1975, and Koby's location has since become the parking lot between Daniel's and the businesses to the south. There's a faint reminder of the glory days of Koby's, facing the outdoor dining courtyard at BluWater. For a while it was a take-out window, but now it is just a sign. It's nice to have this reminiscent acknowledgement of the good old days of great hamburgers – days when people like me didn't know any better than to eat them.

-Roger Lippman



OWL TALES

Back in the day when going to a holiday party seemed dangerous only because of the amount of eggnog one might consume, I met a young music critic who was living in Leschi. He told the story of walking down to Leschi Market from Yesler through Frink Park and being struck in the back of the head. At first, he thought there was someone behind him wielding a bat or stick. In a split second, he spun around but there was nothing there. Then he realized it must have been a bird, a large silent bird. When he arrived at the store blood was running out from under his baseball cap which had been knocked off in the encounter (the word on the street—or on the forest paths—is owls tend to bump folks who wear baseball caps more frequently than those who are bareheaded). He mentioned the incident to his father, a doctor, who suggested he get a rabies shot. He called the public health department who advised getting a series of rabies shots similar to those recommended to folks who have been scratched by bats that would run to some \$20,000! He followed his dad's advice and lived to tell the tale.

Owls have long fascinated our household. I like to remind my family I was an Athena in college though the Greek goddess's wisdom and courage never quite boosted my tennis game the way I hoped. Nearly 20 years ago, we hosted a birthday party for our daughter at Camp Long in West Seattle which included a summer evening owl walk. Aside from losing one of the children for 20 minutes or so near dusk on the wooded trails, the evening was a rather uneventful in that we didn't see any owls. But we got to search for owl pellets (chunks of undigested fur and bones and meat that owls regurgitate after meals) and attend an informative talk in the club house all about owls. We even slept in the cabins at Camp Long (highly recommended). It was the last birthday party we gave our daughter because how could we top that?

Not long after, Harry Potter came long. Now my daughter wanted to catch an owl and have a flying messenger of her own. So, we rigged up a small decorative cage and put a large black plastic rat in it and went to the Arboretum and hung it on a tree branch. We went back the next day and no owl and no rat, only the swinging, empty cage. It is a mystery that continues to delight.

We finally saw our first owl in the wild, a barn owl, sitting atop a fence post on a rural Montana road. Majestic. Imperturbable. Captivating.

Then, on a dark and gloomy day this last July, my daughter and I were walking a quiet forest path at Saltwater State Park when we came around a bend to see not one, but two owls sitting on adjacent branches of a large maple.



We stood transfixed, watching the birds swivel their heads and fluff their feathers until crows moved into to harass these wondrous creatures. Later, the same week, we walked in Ravenna Park when a silent, dark force crossed our path. Eerie. Powerful. Another owl! It landed on a conifer instantly blending into its surroundings. Again, we stood in awe. Fifty yards later we sighted another owl. This was late afternoon. These owls seemed to be familiar denizens to those walking the city trail though one person stopped and said he had been waiting for years to see them. We felt blessed.

These were probably barred owls, the most commonly sighted owl in the city these days. The barred owl is a relative newcomer, showing up in these parts in the mid-sixties. It is considered an invasive species and drives out other native owls. Its hoot is not that of gentle fairy tales but what seems at times like a crazed monkey. One has taken up part-time residence in the greenspace adjacent to our Leschi home and hoots at various times through the evening. It let loose a powerful invective at 2am recently when a large maple limb came down. Lately NextDoor has been full of reports of owls swooping down on runners and walkers on Beacon Hill and near Bush School.

In part because of our new neighbor, which we have seen once in the daytime perched on a laurel limb, we are keeping a new kitten inside. She is a feisty thing, but owls will eat cats. They are carnivores feasting mostly on rodents. With their silent speed and sharp talons, an owl is not something any household pet will want to tangle with. According to a 2017 UW Columns magazine article on Paul Bannick, an internationally renowned photographer of owls, a well-fed owl will just eat the brain of its prey and leave the rest for later.

Bannick has recorded five different owl species in Discovery Park. They are out there. Around us. Watching us. He thinks, with their erect stature and flat faces, they remind us of ourselves but are comfortable in places we are not which might account for why owls have long been appearing in literature with supernatural powers and representing death, wisdom, and considered portents of evil. They were represented in art as long as 30,000 years ago on the caves in France. And they are defined by one of my favorite words, “crepuscular,” meaning “active at the beginning and end of the day,” rather like my daughter.

For a wonderful audio about how to see a barred owl in the daytime, listen to Paul Bannick’s audio at: <https://magazine.washington.edu/feature/see-owls-in-seattle-paul-bannick/>.

And send us your owl tale to share with our readers.

LA NIÑA STRENGTHENS, GOOD SKI SEASON EXPECTED

If you looked east across Lake Washington on one of our few sunny days this past month, you’ve probably seen the gorgeous, snow-tipped peaks of the Cascades glistening in the weak November sun. The last two Novembers saw very little mountain snowfall, so it is so refreshing to see a thick blanket of white covering the mountains before Turkey Day. As of 11/20, Crystal Mountain was planning to be open by Thanksgiving, and Stevens Pass is aiming for December 2. Although Snoqualmie Pass hadn’t announced an opening date as of 11/20, there is already more than enough snow there to open up for limited operations. I am optimistic that this snow will continue to pile up for the rest of 2020 and well into 2021, and I am hopeful ski resorts will be able to stay open, operate in a safe way, and provide some much-needed outdoor recreation during these next few months.

We saw a classic La Niña pattern for much of November, with a steady parade of moderate/strong storms arriving from the WNW and giving us gusty winds, moderate/heavy rain, and gobs of mountain snow. A “weak” La Niña was already present in August in September, but it quickly strengthened to a “moderate” La Niña

through October and November. As we head into December, it is looking increasingly likely that the current La Niña strengthen to a “strong” La Niña that slowly weakens in spring 2021.

During the first half of the “storm season” from October through December, La Niñas have historically given the Pacific NW above-average precipitation with near-average temperatures. But during the latter half of the storm season from January-March, La Niñas tend to be wetter & cooler than average, both allowing snow to build up over the Cascades late into the season and making it slower to melt during the spring. Particularly strong La Niñas, like the La Niña of 2007-2008 or La Niña from 2010-2011, can cause cooler and wetter-than-average weather to persist into May. I still remember skiing in the Alpental backcountry on Memorial Day 2008 with my mother, the last day there of the epic-2007-2008 ski season.

Will It Snow at My House this Winter?

La Niña years are consistently snowier-than average in the mountains, but the story in the lowlands is a bit more complex. La Niña winters tend to have more snow days than Neutral Years, but Neutral or weak El Nino years seem to have the biggest snowstorms. I can’t guarantee that we’ll see any flakes in the lowlands this year, but I think there’s a higher-than-usual chance for at least a few snowflakes to fall over Leschi this winter even if we don’t see any major snowstorms.

-Charlie Phillips

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



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Culture Corner

A TRIP TO MEXICO!

In case you are yearning for a trip to colorful Mexico, go to MadArt before December 12 (325 Westlake Avenue N, open Thurs, Fri, Sat noon to 5 by appointment; email them at info@madartseattle.com).

Marela Zacarias brings us her colorful interpretation of the Temple of the Feathered Serpent in Xochicalco, a Mesoamerican site near where the artist grew up in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She built the temple itself at the center of the installation out of screening: it is an accurate but scaled down version of the pyramid. We see the building blocks of Mesoamerican pyramids — the sloping talud, the framed rectangular tablero and a projecting cornice to cap it off—in the platform shapes on either side of the stairway.

“Inside Out” is the title of the exhibition, referring to the fact that the wire mesh of her sculptures is usually covered and invisible, but also perhaps referring to the “inside out” feeling of our current world, as the earth pours forth its energies on us in earthquakes, storms, and fires.

My Mayan expert friend, Carolyn Tate commented “The transparent pyramid! A contradiction in terms, for a real pyramid is built of solid, opaque stone. “Inside Out,” the title of the exhibition, reminds us that Mesoamericans usually placed crafted objects like eccentric flints or obsidians within pyramids to “enliven” them. They knew -without having to physically see it -- that there was a source of animate energy that kept the pyramid ritually “alive.” Marela realizes that contemporary viewers need some visual help conceptualizing this animating force and so makes her structure of wire mesh, so we can see the pulsing element within.”

Exploring the pyramid, we see a strange shape hanging inside, a plaster serpent wrapped around a tire, but it indeed looks like a pulsing heart. It represents Cihuacoatl, dedicated to the mythological Aztec goddess known for providing women with strength during childbirth.

The artist said about the central image “I wanted to dedicate my temple to the resilience inherent in being a woman, the creative power, but also how we’re warriors with this energy that helps us. Not only in childbirth, but I think of the women who are separated from their



Marela Zacarias, “Inside Out”, MadArt, installation detail. Photo by Susan Platt

children at the border, of women who are going through a war, women who are single moms and finding food for their kids. I mean there’s just so much resilience that is called from us.”

Marela grew up going to archeological sites with her mother, an anthropologist, so the Mesoamerican sites are deeply embedded in her cultural identity. She came to Seattle to create a public artwork for the new airport terminal, then spent 8 weeks creating this work in a residency at MadArt, a space that sponsors artists to create dramatic installations in their 4000 square foot space.

According to Cross Cut author Agueda Pacheco Flores, Xochicalco is “one of the only places where Aztec and Mayan shamans and leaders came together, perhaps to study the stars and determine the calendar. Aesthetic elements found on the site reflect art from both cultures, suggesting they built the temple.” The artist sees a parallel between the collapsing of the Maya and Aztec civilizations and our current world.

The murals on the walls that surround the pyramid immerse us in brilliant colors: purples, reds, pinks, aquas, reds, oranges and yellows. First there is a burst of spiraling energy that suggests a dramatic event, perhaps, according to Tate, “an explosion of creative energies, like those shown in the creation narrative of the (Cardinal) Borgias codex.” (Catholics loved to destroy indigenous cultures, but also admired them). Underneath the spiral, fret like decorations echo those on Mexican pyramids. The flying wedge shapes, Tate offered, “may suggest the splintering of the beings of a previous creation, or maybe even the current creation.”

The next section suggests portals and entrances, especially the brilliant red diamond shape that spans the corner. Then there are more portals. Above this is an actual light shaft going directly to the sky. Carolyn commented that another real light shaft exists at Xochicalco. The vertical shaft connects a cave to the light-filled earth surface. A shaft of light penetrates the cave on the two annual Zenith Passages, when the sun is thought to fertilize the earth.

A feathered serpent with its long tongue stretches across the next wall. Marela has interpreted the serpent on Xochicalco, with her own aesthetics of color and abstraction.

A glowing tree with roots creating labyrinthine spaces leads us out of the underworld of the serpent. Finally, a circular form collects energies, suggesting perhaps a shield, a disc, a planet, and a metaphor of unity.

Marela Zacarias’s “Inside Out” energized me with its wonderful colors and spiritual references, something we all need these days!

~Susan N. Platt, Ph.D.
www.artandpoliticsnow.com



Marela Zacarias, “Inside Out”, MadArt, installation detail. Photo by Susan Platt

THE MUSEUMS ARE CLOSING!

So, you will have to wait at least a month to see Barbara Earl Thomas “the Geography of Innocence” at the Seattle Art Museum, but luckily it is scheduled to be up for an entire year.

The provocative exhibition at the Bellevue Art Museum curated by Tariqa Waters, “Yellow No 5” (scheduled through April 18) includes seven well known artists of various backgrounds and one group of white men. Waters says that the exhibition “examines the transactional relationship between culture and consumerism and how they often work in tandem to conceal their connection.” There is a video on the Bellevue Art Museum website you can view while waiting for this important show to reopen

Perhaps you will have to wait for the gallery exhibitions as well. Marita Dingus shows more of her amazing works in “Face Time” at Traver Gallery, (110 Union St #200- currently Tues -Saturday 11-3)

“Not Your Monolith” at Center on Contemporary Art, 114 Third Ave (currently viewable only online wins the prize for networking. The exhibition tackles the concept of monolithic ethnic identities with a range of provocative works by artists from five different cultural organizations! According to the press release “Each artist presents work that provides a distinct and equally invaluable perspective on what it means to be not only an individual but also a communal member of BIPOC artistic communities and the global community.”

-Susan Platt

BOOK REVIEW

And closer to home, Karen Daubert reminds us of our own neighborhood history:

Leschi Community Council has been incredibly fortunate to be the home of several historians and community leaders – as well as a lot of caring, kind and giving folks!

The Community had its own historian for many years in Wade Vaughn. Wade and his wife Shirley wrote and/or edited several books, three of which I found recently on my bookshelf. Wade befriended Bill Schaefer who had written a diary of Life in Leschi for many years and the writings benefited greatly from Wade’s editing. Wade was also a talented artist, creating postcards for the community, its letterhead, and its “Welcome to Leschi” signs. I was president of the Council at the time when Seattle communities were designing their own signs. We decided to have a blind competition where the judges were not allowed to know the names of the artists. Wade’s design won handily for its welcoming message “Community of Diversity” and its design. But Wade could be inflexible at times and he was adamant that no one was to know that he designed the signs – as long as he lived. I kept that promise but thought it was about time that the community’s historian was acknowledged for his other contribution to the community.

Wade would be very pleased to see the community today and to know that others are carrying on his tradition of writing about their own history in Leschi.

-Karen Daubert

MY UNFORGOTTEN SEATTLE BY RON CHEW

The Seattle Public Library hosted a Zoom interview with Ron Chew about his new book, My Unforgotten Seattle, a long (630 pages) book of short chapters based on his journal entries. The interviewer was Paul Ikeda; both grew up on Beacon Hill and they shared memories of the importance of the school (Beacon Hill) and the library when they were growing up.

Ron was the only child of Chinese immigrants; his father worked long hours as a waiter at the Hong Kong restaurant and his mother worked in one of the many sewing factories in the Pioneer Square area. Ron attended the UW majoring in editorial journalism but left there in 1975 to work at the International Examiner where he became the editor in just a year. He would later become the Director of the Wing Luke Museum and he changed their focus from artifacts to stories of the people. His first exhibit featured the Japanese incarceration. I remember one of the first exhibits I saw at the Museum featured the sewing factories like the one where Ron’s mother worked. Many of the immigrants had extensive education; some had been teachers in China but of course, the language was a barrier and sewing became one of the few places where they could find work.

Ron is either not comfortable speaking about his achievements or is just not a speaker, but more suited to written communication. The interviewer was skilled but even drawing him out often produced a story that sounded fascinating but wasn’t carried to its conclusion. He spoke of needing to have a jock strap for gym class and it was not something available in the stores near their Beacon Hill home and his mother was totally flustered by this strange item. We never heard how this was resolved! Hopefully, the book fills in the blanks. He was much more comfortable talking about his walking regimen, starting from only a mile a day to reaching marathon distances.

Ron said that he had given an advance copy of his book to someone in the International District and was then inundated with phone calls requesting copies. He had to explain that it was not out yet. The book is published by the UW Press and is now widely available (39.95). It should be a welcome addition to the libraries of those who collect books about Seattle.

-Diane Snell

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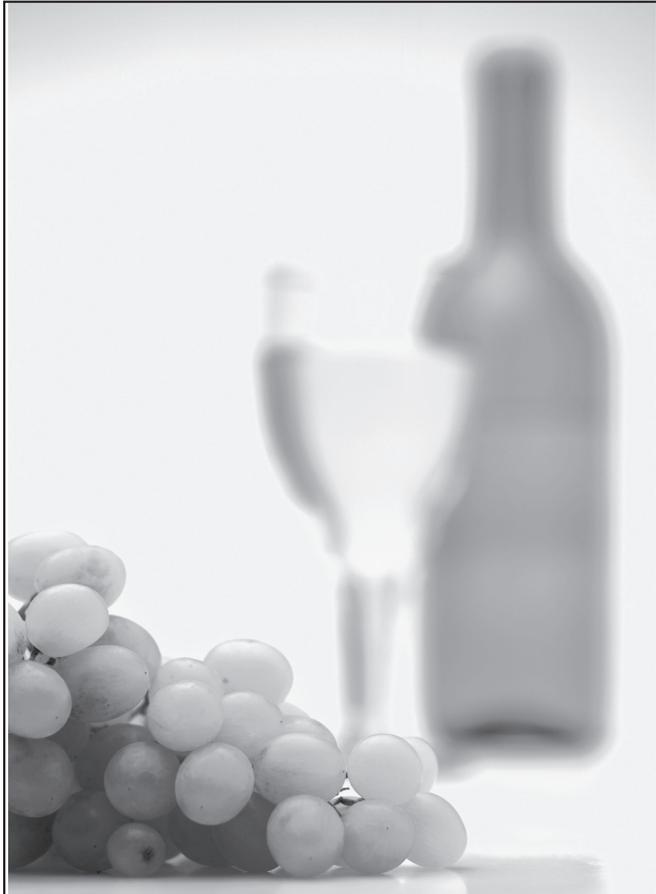


Seeking Sustenance...

GIFT OF WINE

Happy Holiday Season Leschi! Giving the gift of wine can be equally as fun for the gift giver as it is for the recipient. When choosing a bottle of wine (or two) to gift, keep a few basic ideas in mind. Know what the recipient tends to like and have a rough estimate of what you would like to spend. Many great wines can be found across all ranges of price points. When in doubt- ask an expert- like US! Leschi Market will be well staffed with wine experts throughout the month to assist you with all of your wine questions.

A comment that I will never forget, was said to me one of my first holiday seasons at the Market. "Giving wine just seems so last minute." We have discussed the art of gift giving many times before. As we embark on the biggest gifting season of the year, let me offer some ideas on putting a little meaning behind those gifts. Trust me, in general, everyone loves to receive wine as a gift, and if you put just a tiny amount of thought into it, it won't seem so last minute at all. Personally, I anticipate quite a bit of wine gifting this year!



We've explored several options in the past of theme-based wine gifts. These definitely show some amount of thought. They are just as fun to assemble as they are to receive. All you need to do is choose your price point and choose your theme. Here are some of my favorites from recent years.

For the bicyclist on the list, for example, a "Tour de France" package can include a wine from several different regions in France: Alsace, Beaujolais, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne, Chateaufort du Pape, Gascogne, Languedoc-Roussillon, Loire, and Rhône are great starting points. These regions are so diverse themselves that you could easily choose a few wines from within each region.

With the lack of travel abroad this year, the "Around the World" packages might be a great way to visit those far-off destinations. Focusing on one country, or several, is easy enough to do. Rieslings from Germany, Barberas from Italy, Tempranillos from Spain, Cabernet Sauvignons from South Africa, Malbecs from Argentina or Carmeneres from Chile.

Domestic sets can be great too. Walla Walla, Willamette Valley or Napa would provide great themed packages. The possibilities and spin-offs are endless. From an "Italian Getaway," to an all-organic grouping, from all under \$10 wine, to an all-animal themed label, use your imagination and creativity, and most of all, have fun with it.

This brings me to Champagnes and Ports. These are ultimate gift wines, if not for the sole fact that people rarely buy them for themselves. Who knows why, but I've seen the trend that we tend to put off splurging for these special wines for ourselves yet are ecstatic when we are gifted them. When in doubt, look to the Port and Champagne sections. Many of these wines are discounted during holiday months, and great finds can be had for under \$35. Vintage Champagnes and Vintage Ports are more expensive and harder to find, however "Colheita" Ports (years of ports not designated as "vintage") can be found for a lesser dollar amount and for nearly every year; a great idea when trying to match birth years, anniversary years, and other significant dates in one's life.



...in the Wilds of Seattle

Finally, let's conclude with highly sought-after wines that are in fairly limited supply. Collectors, cellar builders, and new winos alike will appreciate getting their hands on some of these rarities!

These are just a few of our offerings. Take a look at our *new* lockbox, located next to the Champagne in the wine aisle. It is full of treasures as well!

2015 Leonetti Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla (\$117) 97-points, James Suckling

2011 Muga Prado Enea Gran Reserva (\$89.99) 99-points, James Suckling

2016 Felsina Fontalloro Toscana (\$60) 98-points, Robert Parker

2007 Graham Vintage Port 375ml (\$49.99) 97-points, Robert Parker

Louis Roederer Champagne Brut Premier NV (\$47) 92-points, Wine Spectator

2017 Lingua Franca 'Avni' Chardonnay Willamette Valley (\$35) 93-points, Wine Enthusiast

2016 Chateau Magnol Haut-Medoc Bordeaux (\$24.99) 95-points, Decanter

2016 Querciabella Chianti Classico Toscana (\$24.99) 94-points, Decanter

Still unsure what gift to give the wine lover on your list? One of my favorite reminders is that accessories like wine glasses and decanters rarely need a gift receipt! Have a safe and memorable holiday season and we'll see you next year!

CHEERS! ENJOY!

Kenneth Benner, a Seattle area native, is a trained chef and has worked in such restaurants as Barbacoa, B.O.K.A. Kitchen + Bar, and Dahlia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His monthly column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experience in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMart.com or to request to be added to email updates at wine@leschimarket.com

TOO CLOSE TO CALL?

According to the Daily Mail Online (the UK's very own Drudge Report) "Google searches for 'liquor store near me' hit an all-time high on Election night as Americans watched the results roll in."

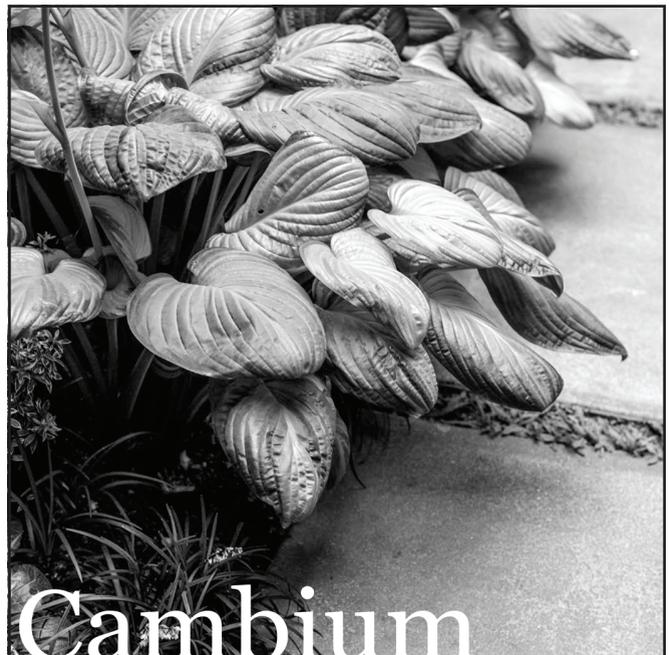
My local search drew a blank for "Leschi liquor."

A subsequent search for "sausage near me" also came up short - apparently Google is unaware of Leschi Market's excellent home-grown (stuffed sounds a little too direct) selection.

An old adage states that "two things you don't want to see made are politics and sausages"

Several years ago, your correspondent was stopped by the police near Helen Bush School on Lake Washington Blvd. They were clearing the way for President Obama's motorcade which was heading down to some Denny Blaine mega-donor's lakeside mansion for a fundraiser. He was close enough to call at the Leschi Market - but I suspect POTUS didn't want to see how sausage was made either.

-Malcolm Harker



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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING 11/9/2020

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

Janet: Treasury report; Janet contacted SDOT about the increase in the fee for the parking strip memorial to Officer Brenton and was told that it was just a fee increase; they do nothing to maintain it. Janet is also waiting for a response from the insurance company about the increase in the annual premium.

Janice: December meeting: Diane said that Susan Platt would be willing to do an art talk on the black artists in the area over the years. Board agreed.

January meeting: We usually do not have a meeting in January as it follows so closely on the holidays, but Diane said she had found a coronavirus program we might use, as King County has not been forthcoming. Diane will pursue and we can schedule a week later than our usual meeting for community convenience if we decide to do this.

February meeting: Janice suggested we follow up with the plans for the police department. Lots of discussion; little agreement. Plan to invite speaker who will address the proposed changes.

John Barber: John expressed concern about a large group of motorcyclists gathering in the south end of Leschi Park. He said that volunteers had a very successful work party at the Judkins street end with many neighborhood volunteers. He also expressed regret over the number of trees lost in parks, many due to lack of watering. He would like to see a Tree Project where volunteers would document trees so the need can be assessed. Janice suggested an article for the newsletter.

Diane: Newsletter deadline: Nov. 16

Star Awards: This will stay on the agenda until restrictions are lifted for meetings.

Leschi history: some discussion around accuracy in newsletter articles. John agreed that there are inaccuracies

in the last newsletter, and it is difficult to find old-timers to help with the facts. Diane did talk to one of Art Mink's daughters and learned that Jo Patrick had one son, Tim, and no daughters. John felt that the Seattle Times had done an extensive obituary on Jo Patrick.

Website issues: Trevor does not know if he can sign on to add calendar information. No other issues were brought up.

Diane mentioned that we had received a thank you card from Sharon Lee, Low Income Housing Institute, for our Tiny House Village donation.

-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

	Income	Expenses	Balance 10/31/20
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$7,272.00		
Dues	\$1,715.00		
Donations	\$1,315.00		
Insurance		(\$903.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$4,169.03)	
Totals	\$10,419.50	(\$6,877.63)	\$13,907.26
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk			\$2,447.32
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$3,150.00		\$4,035.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project	\$100.00	(\$396.36)	\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area	\$1,500.00		\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,287.85
Steve Shulman Memorial	\$65.00		\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1200.00
Wading Pool			\$3006.13
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$15,234.50	(\$7,273.99)	\$43,638.62
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LETTER TO THE COUNCIL

Here is a thank you letter from Sharon Lee, Low Income Housing Institute:

“Thank you, Leschi CC, for your timely donation to LIHI for our Tiny House Village program. Great write-up too in the Leschi News. Thanks for being so awesome! We just moved people camping in John Little Park by New Holly into tiny houses. Cheers! Sharon”

FINANCIAL REPORT

A new restricted fund has been added to the list: the Steve Shulman Memorial fund as we received our first donation. A decision has not been made on the memorial and we will work with Steve’s nephew, Yousef, to make a meaningful decision. Once that decision has been made and the cost has been calculated, we will reach out to the community for additional funds.

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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **December 21**. 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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ZOOMING MADE EASY!

Virtual participation in the December meeting of the Leschi Community Council requires you to download the Zoom program, or "app." The procedure for obtaining that depends on the type of electronic device you are using.

On an Apple product you would download the Zoom app by going to the Apple App Store and searching for "Zoom Cloud Meetings." Click "Get." On an Android-based device you would go to the Google Play App Store and do the same. On a Microsoft-based device you would go to their website at <https://zoom.us/download> and download their "Zoom Client for Meetings." Then you should install that download by double-clicking the Zoominstaller.exe file. If you have an Apple Mac computer, double-click the file called Zoom.pkg already in your Downloads folder. At this point you should see a "Join a Meeting" button on your device's screen. When you click that, you will be asked for the meeting ID. After the ID is entered you will click "Join." Then you will similarly be asked for the Passcode. At that point, depending on the scheduled meeting time, you will either be in the meeting itself or in the waiting room. If in the waiting room, you will be moved into the meeting when it opens.

December 9, 2020, 7pm

ZOOM MEETING ID: 859 6839 7379, PW: 174163

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our website: leschicommunitycouncil.org
or leschinews.com