Our featured speaker is Lawrence Pitre, Central District artist who has proposed creating a mural for the 2-story retaining wall on 31st, just south of S. Jackson St. The community is invited to ask questions and comment on this proposal. We tried to have this program last January, but snow intervened and by the time we had an opening in our schedule, the pandemic was upon us and community meetings were a no-no!

In our February issue of the Leschi News, Pitre was interviewed by local artist Esther Ervin and he talked about his roots in the Central District and his mentorship from Jacob Lawrence. As noted on his website: https://www.lcpitre.com/artist-bio:

“Personally, Lawrence sees his artistic endeavors as self-expressions depicting life experiences, which includes struggles, joy, and his love of life. Lawrence seeks to understand the process of creativity in the way a theoretical physicist seeks to understand the universe. His selection process is a spiritual layering which, when you step back seems to float within the universe we live in. He calls this process natural “intelligence.” It is a key aspect of Pitre’s philosophy as he explores different art forms, styles and unique works of art.”

~Interviewed and compiled by Esther Ervin

We will also have a speaker from the Health Department to bring us up to date on Covid-19 and answer our questions.

Topic: Leschi Community Council
Time: Oct 7, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81670663785?pwd=YXVfMlNhb48R0VmJ2WgyUklyY2ZzQT09
Meeting ID: 816 7066 3785
Passcode: 680667
One tap mobile
12532158782, 81670663785#,0#,680667# US
Dial by telephone
+1 253 215 8782
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdIj2VTsEa
Go to https://support.zoom.us/ for step-by-step instructions

inside the news

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SAVE THE DATE

NOV. 3 VOTE!

NOV. 4
LCC ZOOM MEETING 7PM
President’s Message

Hello fellow Leschi dwellers,

As I write this, it is the first day of Fall, 2020. This year has been an adventure for all of us. It has required love, compassion, understanding and infinite patience.

The LCC’s new norm will be Zoom meetings at least through November. A detailed instruction list will be included in this paper, on our website and on our Facebook page. It is easy to use, and it will allow you to at least see outside faces. Some of our neighbors continue to be fully self-quarantined at home.

The LCC Board has been meeting this way, and I am sure some of you have encountered this means of communication. Should you have difficulty, please contact one of us and we will help walk you through it.

The month of October, on the 7th at 7pm we will have our monthly meeting via Zoom, featuring Lawrence Pitre who has created a plan to paint a mural on the retaining wall at 31st and Jackson. His presentation should be interesting, and he is looking for community support. Additionally, we will have someone from the King County Health Department speaking about our county and the work being done on Covid-19.

As we move forward into the fall and winter months, I implore you, if you haven’t already, to look out for your neighbors, check on their needs - be it errands to be run, someone to talk to or just plain show you care. Leschi is a unique little area of Seattle like no other.

Recently I have sent letters out to new homeowners in our neighborhood (I have no way of tracking new renters - sorry) inviting them to become involved with the Leschi Community Council. This group is here to serve our fellow neighbors, and it is a volunteer Council. Please participate and if you have an interest in becoming more involved, we invite you to ask questions as to how to do that.

My wish for you this October is you remain optimistic in light of all our challenges. The famous adage of a company I once worked for (Xerox) is: “The only thing constant is change.” Embrace it, even one little step at a time. All we encounter are snapshots of a brief moment in time.

Happy Virtual Halloween! We are unable to hold our Halloween Spooktacular this year; no permits for Special Events are being issued by the city.

~Janice Merrill Brown, President
Leschi Community Council
A Reimagined Police Department

Last month I talked about expanding the CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM to address mental health issues. Police have very little training for these situations and unless we want to accept a high level of deaths, we need to put professionally trained staff in place to handle these cases 24/7. Mental health services, both inpatient and outpatient need to be expanded.

This idea came from the Transportation Choices group; Berkeley CA has already moved in this direction. Use the DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION to address traffic issues, send letter to owners of vehicles with a light out, failure to signal etc. SDOT workers can write up accident reports; police seldom go to accident scenes unless serious injuries. You’re on your own to exchange information and contact insurance companies with minor accident. And no life should be wasted over minor infractions like missing lights or failure to use turn signals.

THE SHELTER PROJECT: social workers and health dept. officials visit homeless camps, offer shelter that is available, offer addiction rehab services; Health Dept. to facilitate installation of dumpsters, porta-potties for sanitation problems and ensure follow-up in emptying waste containers and servicing porta-potties. Only involve police when there is an issue of assault or murder. Cease sweeps which only move the problem to another area. Increase funds to provide more shelter that is safe; the large indoor shelters are not sensible during a pandemic.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: this is a difficult area; it is often the most dangerous situation for police. Research promotes prevention as most effective. Treatment programs seem to be most successful for those who go voluntarily. Court mandated treatment is less effective. You could send in a team of crisis intervention folks with backup police if there is an indication that weapon involved. Look for research on what is most successful. Keeping up with research and making changes as needed should be an integral part of any department, including police.

GANG UNIT: keep with police but beef up support to the local groups of ex-gang members who mentor young boys to keep them out of gangs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS would be what we know as police now dealing with robbery, assault, murder, missing persons. Keep the Community Police teams and encourage them to actually involve themselves in community activities and get to know the community leaders.

That leaves Crowd Control which I am still mulling over. As a veteran of protest marches since the 60’s, I see the police have different tactics now. In the “old days,” the police would barricade the side streets to keep the march headed in the right direction, and they would stand on the sidewalk sometimes in twos along the march route. This was in San Francisco and later when we moved, in Washington, D.C. Now they are amassed as though they were facing an oncoming army, rather than citizen protestors. I suppose this has to do with the militarization of the police, but it is obvious they are there in a mass to charge when “necessary” and I am sure their definition of necessary is somewhat different than the citizen view. I was encouraged to see our former police monitor, Merrick Bobb, urging police to look at protestors as the group who needs to be protected, not the enemy.

It was encouraging to see Acting Chief Diaz respond to the overtime scandal by reassigning staff to put more feet on the street. It seems appropriate that a chief should not only lead but manage the department.

We should hope that City Council will look seriously at the current tasks the police are burdened with and suggest changes, not just cuts.

CORRECTIONS

A sharp-eyed reader pointed out a mistake and an omission on last month’s lead article about the occupation. The mistake was calling Fort Lawton Fort Lawson. Our apologies! The omission was that Omari’s last name was omitted: Garrett. Our author, Susan Platt, said the press information given to her omitted his last name and she was unaware of that fact.

This same reader compiled the following information from NAAM’s website about the Colman School property.
A PUPPY NAMED SHULMAN

Courtney Lee, a Mt. Baker resident and volunteer for Canine Companions, is spearheading a drive to raise $25,000 for the non-profit group that provides canine companions FREE for those individuals who are in need of a trained companion. Any supporting group that raises the sum of $25,000 has the right to name a trained companion dog. Courtney has raised $19,000 and if she reaches the goal of $25,000, wants to name a puppy “Shulman, in honor of our beloved Steve Shulman. Steve, a well-known dog lover, was a generous donor to this organization. If you would like to donate, visit http://support.cci.org/goto/Shulman

Canine companions for Independence was dear to Steve’s heart. As a dog lover he understood what dogs can do for people. Steve always complained about going to Galas, but not this one. He loved what they do for people. And the happiness that this program brings to people brought happiness to him. As you can see from the video, he loved seeing the puppies that would come in the store and you can see the puppies loved him.

~Yousef Shulman

98122 GAINS A POST OFFICE!

After waiting long past the promised 9 months, our new post office opened on September 21 with a ribbon cutting at 9am. We need to offer thanks to Kshama Sawant and her staff for listening to our pleas and working on this with the post office powers that be. No other politician paid any attention to this plight.

The post office is located in the departed space where The Electric Lady once lived. It is directly across Union from PCC. Parking is minimal so it will probably serve mostly walkers and there are many in the area. Wear your mask when entering out of respect for the hard-working crew. Post office staff has been out there serving the public throughout this pandemic and unfortunately many workers have succumbed to the virus.

~Diane Snell

THE COLMAN SCHOOL ENCAMPMENT

Last month, the Leschi News featured an article by Susan Pratt on a dispute going on at the Northwest African American Museum. The article described the position of the group now encamped at the museum. This month, we present the position of the museum, in its own words, extracted from its Web page https://www.naamnw.org/naam-blog/colman-faqs. For further details, please see that page.

The museum acknowledges the efforts and sacrifices of the original 1980s-1990s occupiers of the former Colman School, including Mr. Garrett.

What is going on in front of NAAM’s doors?

Currently, Omari Tahir Garrett is leading an encampment with the purpose of taking the Colman School to realize his vision of the AAHM&CC. The one demand is ultimately to control the Colman School building. (“Our ONE Demand: FREE THE LAND https://africanamericanheritagemuseumandculturalcenter.org/our-one-demand/)

Why don’t you just give them the building?

Many people are unaware, but NAAM does not own any part of the Colman School building. We are a tenant of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (ULMS). https://urbanleague.org/urban-league-village/

Why don’t you attempt to collaborate with them?

We did. On June 30, 2020, NAAM included an Africatown representative on our virtual program “It Takes a Village: From Pandemic to Protest” in hopes of collaboration. Regrettfully, a leader from Africatown commandeered the discussion by inappropriate and disparaging comments out of turn. (See link to the virtual program at https://www.naamnw.org/naam-blog/colman-faqs

On June 30, 2020, our executive director and board chair approached Omari Tahir Garrett and a small group that was gathered at the time. It was made clear that there was no interest on Mr. Garrett’s part to collaborate, and our director was told that she would “end up like Edwin
Mr. Garrett also noted several other African American leaders who were killed or died, and stated “I’m warning you.”

Despite the clear threat, NAAM remains dedicated to finding a resolution.

Currently, we are working with community leaders to convene a healing circle that will result in a resolution for all parties involved.

Why do you keep calling the police on the occupiers?
We have not called the police on the occupiers. The calls to police and medic one were facilitated by entities outside of NAAM.

We do know that one instance of the police being called happened after a resident of the Urban League Village was assaulted with a golf club. In that instance, the ambulance called the police to the scene.

Thanks to our reader for providing the other side to this story.

A JOURNEY OF 10,000 STEPS

Our Leschi CC President, Janice Merrill Brown, makes the 10,000 steps a daily exercise and she most likely walks those steps in her favorite community, Leschi. One can see both new and old on a walk and Janice shares her discoveries with us.

Village Happenings

The residents and surrounding businesses in our commercial zone can cheer now that the scaffolding on The Lakeside at 121 Lakeside Ave. is almost down. After living with being tented for over a year, the work is almost complete. The residents can now enjoy the light of day and I’m sure the neighborhood is just as excited it will finally be over. (photo)

Painting Boat and Lakescapes

Walking one day on my quest for 10,000 steps, I encountered these two ladies painting and it was so lovely to watch. A serene time for sure, but responsibly masked and painting was an idyllic scene on a sunny day. (2 photos)

Find It, Fix It

Seattle has an amazing app that allows you to report a variety of items from potholes, graffiti, broken park benches, trash collections, etc. It is so easy to use, they look at, and actually fix the problems in record time. When the City of Seattle first announced it, there wasn’t a lot of fanfare. It has come to my attention a lot of people are unaware of it, so I wanted to remind our readers.

Recently I turned in a tent encampment area that had a 3 ft. pile of trash. It was picked up and as I drove by again yesterday, it is growing again.

Just go to the app store on your phone, download and use.

~Janice Merrill Brown

LIBRARY WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Seattle Public Library was named the 2020 Gale/Library of the Year, the most distinguished recognition in the library industry. This honor culminates years of groundwork bringing Library access to more people and in new ways throughout Seattle.” (The Next Chapter, the publication of the Seattle Public Library Foundation)

I have come to appreciate their online access during this need to shelter. The library has kept me well stocked with E-books, and if I should ever tire of reading, I could watch a movie from the two library services: Kanopy and Hoopla.

The same issue of The Next Chapter described how the library is loaning Wi-Fi services to the Tiny House Villages, an emergency shelter, Solid Ground and Asian Counseling and Referral. With the need to shelter, this service allows folks to communicate with friends and family and avoid that sense of isolation one would ordinarily experience in these times.

—Diane Snell

STRING OF PEARLS FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

OCTOBER 10: A new shoreline street end project is coming our way! Thanks to the leadership of community volunteers, South Massachusetts in the Mt. Baker neighborhood will be a new and welcome space. A work party is being hosted on October 10 from approximately 9 to 3. Bring masks, gloves, water, and energy as the focus of this first work party will be removal of invasive plants.

OCTOBER 31: South Judkins Street will be the focus on a work party on Halloween – from 9 to noon! Bring masks, gloves, TOOLS (rakes, clippers, shovels, etc.) and we will complete our annual maintenance of this special site.

KEEP MOVING KEEP LIVING

Low-impact fitness and injury rehab in Mt. Baker and Ravenna.

Keeping Seatlites moving and doing the activities they love.

Schedule with a Physical Therapist:
206.535.7356 or info@elizabethrogersPT.com
www.elizabethrogersPT.com
CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

We are currently in a previously uncharted place regarding the property and building. We have engaged a lawyer as we are working with the City of Seattle lawyer in getting agreement on language and scope of services for the documents.

We have no plans for expansion at this time. CASC’s goal is to get through the arduous process of City negotiations. The Executive Committee of the board and I am central to this ongoing process, rightly so since we have been at it regularly since 2018 in our efforts to acquire the building and property as the representatives of the organization. We will keep Leschi leadership and the Community Council apprised through our normal channels of emails, fact sheets, call for action and other means deemed appropriate. It is wonderful having the LCC, you and the community as Allies.

--Dian Ferguson

Update from Seattle Times 9/23/20 On Wednesday, Mayor Jenny Durkan unveiled legislation to formally transfer ownership of the Central Area Senior Center from the city to the nonprofit that has operated the center since 1975. Durkan also proposed legislation to grant a long-term lease at the city’s old Fire Station 6 to Africatown Community Land Trust, which has long planned to turn the shuttered building into a cultural innovation center to boost Black-owned businesses.

UPDATES FROM LESCHI ELEMENTARY

Leschi Elementary students began classes on September 4 following the remote learning model. In these challenging times, we are doing our best to welcome new families, foster connections between students and teachers and among families, and focus on the need for equitable education for all students. Our PTA continues to work with the school’s family support team to provide food, rent, and utility assistance for families in need as the covid-19 economic crisis continues. We welcome donations and would like to thank our community partners, including Bluwater Bistro, Meet the Moon, Leschi Community Council and Leschi Market, for their unwavering support.

LESCHI LAW

- Estate Planning & Probate
- ERIN FAIRLEY

ATTORNEY

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We wish the very best to Principal Lisa Moland, who has been and will always remain an important part of our school community. A group of parents, staff and community members continues their advocacy to demand transparency and accountability from SPS following Ms. Moland’s dismissal last spring, especially in light of standing policies on racial equity and family engagement.

At the same time, we welcome the new members of our school’s leadership team, all of whom have been working very hard in these extraordinary times to connect with families and give every Leschi student access to a high-quality education.

Principal: Stephen Liu

I am excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Leschi Elementary and I am honored to join the work that Leschi is doing to support each and every student as they learn and grow. As a resident of the Central District, I am proud of our neighborhood and community members, and I am committed to working and collaborating with you to create a positive impact on students, families, and staff. Leschi Elementary has a rich school history and I know that, together, we will continue to build on the important work of the school and to make improvements to better serve our students, especially those furthest from educational justice.

I know that transitions and having changes in leadership has an impact on students and the community and I look forward to navigating this change with you. I am eager to listen and learn from our students, families, and staff while also learning about Leschi and the success the school has had and the ways that we can partner to improve the areas that need to be better. I will be sending out more information and details about this process for you to share your stories with me. Schools can’t do it alone and a strong partnership with the community is vital for the success of our students.

As an educator and leader, I am focused on the health, safety, and well-being of our students so they can learn, grow, and reach their highest potential. That starts with a positive school culture where students, staff, and families are happy and excited to be at school. During my career as an educator, I have focused on the positive culture needed in the classroom and school since we know that students, and adults, learn best when they feel positive and safe. I taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in the Seattle Public Schools and the Northshore School District and I also served as an assistant principal at Fernwood Elementary in the Northshore School District for three years. For the past three years, I have been the principal at Wedgwood Elementary in the Seattle Public Schools, and I have learned a great deal through experiences, mistakes, and successes. During my time at Wedgwood, I worked with the staff and community to align the teaching and services for supporting students who were struggling, academically, socially, and emotionally.

My spouse, Rainy, and I have two children, Alakai (age 7) and Ira (age 4) and we enjoy playing games, spending time at the park, and connecting with friends and neighbors. Alakai is a 2nd grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary, which is our neighborhood school, and Ira attends a local pre-school. As a parent, I know the joys and challenges of parenting and that every parent wants what is best for their child(ren). As a community member, I will work diligently on issues of equity and social justice that impact our students, families, staff, and community.

Head Teacher: Letta Mason

In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world!” I am Letta (Steward) Mason, I truly believe that it takes a village with a social justice foundation to raise a child holistically in today’s world. I am a wife, a mother of four and grandmother of 6 beautiful human beings. I have
Assistant Principal: Barbara Dixon

I am very excited to be joining the team at Leschi. My husband and I have raised 5 children here in Seattle and now we have 5 beautiful grandchildren.

I have been employed in the district for 20 years. I attended Seattle Central Community college, receiving my AA in Early Childhood education. I worked on the Black Child Development campaign collecting data in the 80's and began working at Happy Medium, which is now Giddens. While there I attended some classes at Pacific Oaks college. I volunteered at MLK elementary school as a tutor, then became a Sped IA and worked until 2004 when I received my bachelor's degree and teaching certification from Antioch University. I received my master's degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

In my journey at SPS I have worked at Martin Luther King Elementary, Bailey Gatzert Elementary, African American Academy, Lawton Elementary, and currently at North Beach in addition to Leschi. I am happy to be returning to the District I consider home, Seattle School District! It is an honor to be a part of a rich, diverse community who values equity, trusting relationships and education for all.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD TO LESCHI TEACHER

The Leschi Community Council sends congratulations to Kaitlin Kamalei Brandon, Leschi Elementary teacher, who recently was one of five educators from across the country awarded the 2020 Teaching Tolerance award for Excellence in Teaching. Ms. Brandon strives to ensure that diversity is an important part of the materials that are used to teach. She created a website Colorful Pages and compiles reading lists and offers workshops. She goes beyond diverse inclusion by teaching allyship; the students picked up on this quickly, recognizing that “a harm on one member of the community is a harm on all of us.” We are so fortunate to have such a teacher in our local school! Thank you, Kaitlin!

This information was published in Teaching Tolerance, the magazine of the Southern Poverty Law Center, an American nonprofit legal advocacy organization specializing in civil rights and public interest litigation. Wikipedia Submitted by Diane Snell
To get there, I drove down Lake Dell past my first house at 35th & Alder to the sharp right turn at Spruce, and then all the way to the end. My rattling old VW could be heard as I came down the hill. The cat grew attuned to the sound and was always out to meet me at the hilltop, just as I entered our driveway.

Eventually, my former Alder Street rental house was sold and completely rebuilt. Now it’s a very very very fine house, with two BMWs in the yard. But not much character.

Life at the Farm was idyllic for my three years there, 1980-83. Once we had a Balkan dance party, with my brother Peter’s Yugoslav band, dancing in the dirt outdoors, just like in some dusty Serbian village. (In fact, that’s exactly what Peter and I had done when we travelled in then-Yugoslavia in 1982.) For years afterward I met people I didn’t know who had been at that party.

I advised partygoers to park just above the Farm, in the lot of the then-church at 246 Lake Dell. The church was an old white house used only one or two days a week. Somehow, I guess the proprietors found out afterward, and they put a cable across the parking lot’s entry, opening it only for services. Disappearance of the hardware that fastened the cable in place seemed to discourage the holy men, eventually.

Roger Lippman

**In the Dell**

**TREES ARE THE VIEW**

Below is a survey of critical information on the city’s rules for trimming and cutting trees.

**Types of Illegal Cutting**

PARKS: Trees growing within the boundaries of City of Seattle, Department of Parks and Recreation-owned parks and boulevards, as well as City-owned greenbelts may only be pruned after obtaining a permit from the Department of Parks and Recreation. Tree removal is not allowed for view improvement. Tree topping is prohibited on all Parks properties.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY: Trees growing within street or alley rights-of-way may only be pruned or removed after obtaining a permit from the Urban Forestry section of the Seattle Department of Transportation. Trees growing within unimproved rights-of-way are also included in these regulations. Tree topping is prohibited on all rights-of-way.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS (ECAs): Removing, clearing or any action detrimental to habitat, vegetation or trees is prohibited within ECAs and regulated by the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI)- see TIP 331. This includes areas characterized by steep slope, potential slide areas, known slide areas, wetlands, wetland buffers, riparian corridors, shoreline habitat and shoreline habitat buffers. Only non-native and hazardous trees (TIP 331B)
can be removed within some of these ECAs and only with a replanting plan reviewed and approved by SDCI (SMC 25.09.320 and TIP 331A). General tree maintenance is allowed without permits, as long as the action is not harmful to the health of the tree and meets accepted pruning standards. Tree topping is prohibited in ECAs.

OTHER PRIVATE PROPERTY: You cannot remove any tree that is six inches or greater in diameter, unless the tree is designated as hazardous. You must get a hazard tree assessment from a certified arborist or a registered consulting arborist with the ISA Tree Risk Assessment qualification. You must apply for and obtain approval from SDCI prior to tree removal. More information regarding tree and vegetation removal on private property, see: http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-(a-z)/tree-and-vegetation-removal

Tree companies working on regulated trees or in regulated areas should have a copy of any permit that has been issued by a City department in their possession on the job site. If they cannot produce a permit, they are subject to a stop-work order.

Reporting Illegal Cutting

The City of Seattle counts on the public to report illegal tree removal.

On private property: If you observe what you think is a violation of Seattle’s tree code on private property please report it to the Code Compliance Division of the Department of Construction and Inspections online or call the Code Compliance line at (206) 615-0808. (Open Mon, Thurs, Fri 8am–4:30pm and Tues, Wed 10am–4:30pm.) Code Compliance is only staffed to respond to complaints during business hours of the work week; messages will be addressed as soon as possible during business hours. The Seattle Police Department generally will not respond to suspected tree code violations. Please do this even if the trees have already been removed.

Street tree removal: Trees in the right of way are regulated by the Seattle Department of Transportation. Concerns about street trees can be reported by calling (206) 684-TREE (8733) or emailing seattle.trees@seattle.gov

It is extremely helpful to report these three essential pieces of information:

1. Site or property address. Code Compliance can’t look for a location that does not have an address. However, if it is a vacant lot or otherwise has no address, note this and provide the addresses of the lots on either side of where the violation is occurring.

2. Pictures of the tree(s). It is helpful to have something else in the picture to give the investigator an idea of the size of the tree(s). That could be something of a known common size, such as a person, a car, or house.

3. Picture of tree cutting/removal company truck with company name. Or, if no name, the license plate number and state.

On Seattle Parks Department property: Report to (206) 684-4113 during regular business hours (8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Monday through Friday.)

For more information, scour the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections website. A section on fines for illegal cutting on private property states that the penalties run from $57 - $72 a square inch. So, do your homework before reaching for the chain saw!

- Compiled by Anne Depue

WHERE LITTLE CABLE CARS ONCE CLIMBED HALFWAY TO THE BARS:

The remains of the streetcar which ran from downtown to Leschi was recently featured in a Seattle Times “Urban Sketch.” For those of you interested in this piece of urban history, the old bridge still spans Lake Washington Blvd. behind the Leschi Market: https://images.app.goo.gl/Mv6vWioiqEsUof8.

Anyone for bleacher seating and meals on wheels?

Fremont has long celebrated its streetcar with the oft-decorated sculpture “Waiting for the Interurban.” As we prepare for social distancing and outdoor dining continuing into the fall, maybe Leschi could have its own interurban moment.

“Waiting for the Interlaken” perhaps?

~Malcolm Harker
If you told me that a Labor Day windstorm brought 12 consecutive hours of sustained hurricane-force winds to Timberline ski resort on Mt. Hood, I would have burst out laughing. “No way!” I would have said. “There’s no way that could ever happen in early September.” At least, that is what I would have thought before the Labor Day wind/firestorm of 2020.

On Labor Day afternoon (9/7), an intense, extremely dry cold front raced across the Columbia Basin, creating dust storms so intense that they could clearly be seen from satellite. Winds picked up over Western Washington throughout the day, and this cold front slammed into the Willamette Valley in the afternoon, bringing sudden, intense winds accompanied by dust, cooler temperatures, and much, much lower dewpoints. These extremely strong, dry winds started new forest fires by downing energized power lines and growing abandoned, smoldering campfires into raging tempests, and they turned existing wildfires into hellish beasts that devoured everything in their path.

When the dry, easterly winds finally shut off on Thursday 9/10, Oregon wildfires had scorched over 400,000 acres, and several towns in the Cascade foothills had been burnt off the face of the Earth. Thankfully, the fires over Western Washington were far smaller and less damaging than those in Western Oregon, though the Big Hollow fire south of Mt. St. Helens burnt nearly 25,000 acres during the event.

And then there was the smoke. The 2010s have seen plenty of smoky summers, but I’d never tasted air as noxious as it was this September. The smoke cooled temperatures so drastically that we became enshrouded in summers, but I’d never tasted air as noxious as it was this September. The Helens burnt nearly 25,000 acres during the event.

The 2020 Labor Day fires were a textbook “worst-case-scenario” fire pattern for the Pacific NW. In this pattern, a deep upper-level trough plunges south from Canada and spills cool, extremely dry air into the Columbia Basin. This upper-level trough also helps push a tongue of warm air offshore, creating a very strong thermal gradient. This thermal gradient induces a strong pressure gradient - and very strong, extremely dry, easterly winds.

This pattern occurs occasionally in October and frequently occurs from November through February. However, it isn’t associated with high fire danger for the Pacific Northwest then because our fuels are very wet, and the air is frigid. Our fuels are plenty dry during July and August, but this pattern doesn’t occur because the Canadian airmass is not cool enough to create the intense offshore gradients needed for truly extreme fire danger.

But in September, our fuels are still plenty dry (in fact, they are often the driest of the entire year) and the arctic has cooled enough for strong cold fronts to plunge southward into the states. And on rare occasions, these cold fronts can bring California-style fire danger to the Pacific Northwest.

Despite the intensity of this event, it was not unprecedented. The Yacolt Fire of September 11, 1902 traveled 30 miles in 36 hours from Carson, WA along the Columbia River Gorge all the way northwest to Yacolt, WA. Seattle’s streetlights glowed at noon, and the blaze dropped a half inch of ash in Portland. Another devastating Columbia River Gorge fire occurred on September 15, 1929, and on September 20, 1951, a fire broke out in Forks, WA on the Olympic Peninsula and traveled an astonishing 18 miles in only 6 hours. The 2020 Labor Day Fires are just the most recent occurrence of this devastating pattern.

Even so, the 2020 Labor Day Storm was likely particularly intense, even for a “worst-case” pattern. Unfortunately, wind speed and humidity records from those prior events are scant and difficult to find, but there is a robust record of daily high/low temperatures. The 2020 storm had the strongest cold front of all the storms - consider that Denver had a high of 93 and sunshine on Labor Day, and a low of 31 and an inch of snow on the 8th! Stronger fronts are associated with stronger winds. And when you consider the extraordinary wind speeds measured in the 2020 storm, it’s tough to imagine any event that could be stronger.

Can we expect more forest fires in a warming climate? Unfortunately, the answer is yes. Global warming is expected to intensify droughts over the Western US and make forests more susceptible to devastating blazes. However – this easterly windstorm was still an extraordinary, 50–100-year event, and there’s no reason to expect that we’ll see more of these windstorms in a warming world. In other words, we’ll have more frequent and severe fires due to higher temperatures and lower fuels, but this was an extreme, highly anomalous event by all measures and will remain a rare occurrence even in a warming world.

~Charlie Phillips

Charlie Phillips, a Madrona resident, received his B.S. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington and works in Portland as a meteorologist. Check out his weather website at Charlie.weatherbettergether.net.
BEYOND QUARANTINE AND COVID

As we all are acutely aware, we have been wading through one crisis after another: COVID, the wildfires, the smoke, the invisible bad air. I have been wondering about the birds during the bad air. Creatures small and large have had their habitats destroyed. So far the only article I have seen on the last topic was by the wonderful Lynda Mapei’s in the Seattle Times “Endangered wildlife, habitat burned in Washington wildfires; years of effort to boost populations wiped out” https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/endangered-wildlife-habitat-burned-in-wildfires/

I didn’t want to go out in the smoke during the week I would have been visiting art exhibitions. I only went to WaNaWari around the corner (open 2 – 8 on Friday and 11-5 on Saturday and Sunday). They have a new show going up on October 1, with video, sound and digital artists Andrea Coleman, Ilana Harris- Babou , Zachary James Watkins and Zahy Lauren, also known as L.Haz. WaNaWari is holding a virtual fund raiser October 28th, 6:30-8:00pm, much more information is on their website. Support this wonderful local culture organization.

Several galleries are open: Greg Kucera is showing the ever-fascinating Pakistani-born Humaira Abid until November 7 (open Tues-Sat:10:30 - 5:30) and ArtXchange offers a solo exhibition of lyrical abstractions by Alan Lau through October 24th, 2020. Experience the show in the gallery (Tues – Sat. 11- 530 no appointment necessary) and online!

Center on Contemporary Art (COCA) has just opened “what story would the unintended beneficiaries tell” until October 24, 2020. They invited artists to “Peel back the layers of white-washed history and examine the 19th Amendment, a non-inclusive historical moment.” One of the artists included is the exceptional Carletta Carrington Wilson, with a piece from her “letter to a laundress series.” labeled “awaiting the suffrage/ which if hard work counts for anything, the negress richly deserves.” All African American women were excluded from suffrage when it first passed. Many museums are gradually opening up: You need to check the websites to reserve a spot. Sometimes these sites are a little convoluted, so we spend much more time than we went to on that sort of activity, but it’s worth it in the end.

Instead of art reviews, I offer a review of an extraordinary new anthology published this summer by Raven Chronicles, Take A Stand, Art Against Hate.

Raven Chronicles Press, for those not familiar with this important Seattle-based literary project, began in 1991. The amazing Phoebe Bosché has been the editor of Raven Chronicles Press and published a regular magazine for many years, but she now focuses on anthologies. These amazing collections of visual art, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction bring together writers with many voices. I treasure and constantly re-read these amazing collections of visual art, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction bring together writers with many voices. I treasure and constantly re-read these anthologies. The anthology was completed before COVID and the huge BLM protests this summer. But we see the same conditions already in place. Knowing that this many creative people (53 artists and 117 writers) address the challenges we currently face is comforting and uplifting.

The anthology was completed before COVID and the huge BLM protests this summer. But we see the same conditions already in place. Eric Garner said “I can’t breathe” 11 times. Protests against racism have been going on for decades, with their roots in slavery, where this anthology begins. The planet has been deteriorating, but Rajiv Mohabir offers hope: “Why Whales Are Back in New York City”: “Our songs will pierce the dark / fathoms. Behold the miracle: / what was once lost / now leaps before you.

The final poem by Ellery Akers also suggests a way forward: “At Any Moment, There Could be a Swerve in a Different Direction”: “it sounds like the click of knitting needles as hundreds of thousands of women knit pink hats; / it looks like a coyote, crossing the freeway to go home.” You can buy the anthology on their website https://www.ravenchronicles.org/. This anthology will have a virtual reading Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:30–9pm. Check on Facebook under the name of the anthology to access the zoom link, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86470421418?pwd=OExKUGk3UjZa1hGai.9EUE104VAIZze09.

~Susan Platt, Ph.D.

www.artandpoliticsonow.com
BOO! Hello Leschi- welcome to October. No need to sugarcoat anything—you know, and I know what kind of year this has been, and we still have some difficult times ahead. With that said, we can cut right to it: nobody says we have to endure these times with bad wine! So, let’s look to turn this all around with some good wine by our side. Seven is a lucky number, so we’ve settled on seven “spooky good” wines to present to you. Spooky good, meaning- these wines over-deliver on the quality to price ratio. No tricks here, only treats!

NV Jacquesson Cuvee No. 741 Champagne ($59.99)
This is maybe the scariest (best) of the bunch! This Champagne normally retails for, get this, $90! Leschi Market was able to procure several cases at a very reduced cost. Don’t believe us? Check out these reviews and scores: “The Cuvée No. 741 is quite pretty, complex, nuanced and multi-dimensional in feel. In this release, the Pinot Noir is especially expressive and gives the wine a measure of textural breadth. Soft contours and a host of toasty, resonant flavors give the 741 its distinctive feel. Best of all, the 741 will drink well upon release.” —Vinous, 93-points.

Also: 93-points, James Suckling & 93-points, Robert Parker

2016 Black Stallion Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley ($24.99)
Does the idea of a Napa Valley Cabernet intimidate you? Does it cause you to wonder how much money you’ll have to spend? Toss those thoughts out the window with this true Napa Valley gem available for a fraction of the price of most Napa Cabs. “A soft and silky red with lots of dark berry and toasted-coffee undertones, yet not overdone. Full body, round and silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with a splash of Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec and Syrah.” – James Suckling, 92-points.

2017 Querciabella Mongrana Maremma Toscana ($20)
A super-Tuscan at $20 is unheard of. Easily a best seller, not just in Italy, but in the entire store. The previous vintage received a 95-point rating, and we expect this vintage to rate just as well. “Harmony and simplicity are beautifully built around a core of fruit. Like the untamed nature of Maremma, Mongrana is vibrant and intense, charming to drink on its own, or paired easily. 50% Sangiovese, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot. Biodynamic and vegan.” —Winery notes.

2015 Villadoria Bricco Magno Langhe Nebbiolo ($16)
The importer, as well as the winery, touts this wine as “declassified Barolo.” What does that mean exactly? The Nebbiolo that is used to make this wine shares the same earth and dirt and climate as Nebbiolo grapes that are used to make the world’s top Barolos. The difference? The vineyards that produce THIS wine are literally across the street from the designated “Barolo” territory markers, making this wine just like Barolo, at half the cost. A crazy good wine to try.

2019 Ovum Big Salt Oregon ($16)
This wine is a must try for anyone feeling adventurous or wanting to try something completely different. The various white varietal blend (Riesling, Gewurz, Pinot Blanc) consists of grapes that make your mind think it
will be a ridiculously sweet wine, however, this wine is totally dry, in true Alsatian style. It opens up your eyes and leaves your palate craving more. “A white wine that embodies a day at the beach. It’s bright, fresh, dry and a bit salty. (although no salt is added of course!) Mother nature creates complexity by allowing all of the grapes to ferment together, with native yeast rather than making in the lab. Finding cool climate vineyards in Oregon is what it’s all about.” —Winemaker notes

2018 Pascal Jolivet ‘Attitude’ Sauvignon Blanc Loire France ($14)
Consistently a best-seller for the better part of the last year. If you like good Sancerre and don’t want to pay into the $30s, then this is your no-brainer alternative. “Very pleasant by itself or with seafood, asparagus, roasted fish and goat’s milk cheese. Attitude is the epitome of Pascal Jolivet’s style of wines. It has international appeal and characterizes the evolution of a new generation of Sauvignon Blanc consumers.” – Winery notes. Leschi Market Best Seller

2017 San Vito Chianti Italy ($13)
Another stellar wine that out-drinks many Chianti in the $18-$20 range. We included this in our Zoom Episode 5 back in June, and wow, did it blow people away on the quality you get for just $13. “Organically farmed Sangiovese, this opens with vinous aromas of just pressed grapes, wild berry and plum that mingle with whiffs of blue flower and dark spice. The vigorous palate offers juicy wild cherry, raspberry and clove alongside fresh acidity and supple tannins.” – Wine Enthusiast, 88-points.

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 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. Request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to ken@leschimarket.com

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SMALL STORES, CAFES AND BUSINESSES!
As we swerve from outdoors to indoors this fall, be sure to keep on supporting our local restaurants, cafes, and small stores. We have two special, what I call old fashioned, stores that I particularly like to patronize, Union Market at 21st and Union, which carries almost any last minute grocery item you might want and Shop Rite on 15th which is a wonderful hardware store that carries everything under the sun. Go local. Support our small businesses. I call them old fashioned because grocery stores tend to be huge, and small stores these days often have only one product (not that they aren’t delicious, as in the Raised Donuts on 23rd St.).

The Fonda El Costeño taco stand across from Union Market is a terrific asset also. It specializes in recipes from Oaxaca! Chicken mole tacos, and another dish we tried, Tlayuda, a type of Oaxacan pizza like dish with bean sauce, cheese and marinated meat instead of tomato.

Dinner for two with one of their huge veggie burritos (my personal favorite) comes in at about ten dollars.

~Susan Platt

And we heard that Chuck’s Hop Shop has turned its entire parking lot (all of maybe 6 slots) into an outdoor drinking area, adding to the patio area. Of course, parking is a little difficult around there so hopefully you got there on foot.

~Diane Snell
LESCHI CC BOARD MEETING
9.7.20. MEETING BY ZOOM.

Attending: Janice Merrill Brown, Trevor Lalish-Menagh, Janet Oliver, John Barber, Tracy Bier, Diane Snell. (Trevor joined the meeting partway through.)

AGENDA:
Janet: treasury report; Diane asked about the amount for signing onto Zoom. Janet said it was $14.95 per month. Diane asked where it appeared in the report and Janet said that she and her spouse were paying for it. Objections arose from the group urging her to reimburse herself; she declined saying that they were using Zoom for themselves personally.

ALL: Zoom meeting announcements. We discussed how to put the Zoom directions in the Leschi News, Facebook and website. We approached it from the perspective of someone naïve to the computer and listing what they needed to participate and how to sign in and join the meeting.

Janice: Discussion about the balance of the year on Zoom. For October, we decided to invite Lawrence Pitre to talk about the mural he wants to install on the large retaining wall at Jackson and 31st. He had been invited early in the year when we had to cancel meetings due to snow and then the virus intervened. We also discussed inviting someone from the Dept. of Health. For November, we talked about how to re-envision the structure of the police department.

Discussion of the ability of LCC to act as fiscal agent for business district fund: Business Improvement Fund. The individual businesses would contribute to help cover the cost of security. See Bylaws and constitution wording on this.* Trevor suggested that the business group approach the Central Area Chamber of Commerce to see if they might act as a fiscal agent. Security should be a legitimate business expense and not need to go through a non-profit organization.

Diane: Leschi News October deadline: Sept. 21; she requested that John make Trevor an administrator on Leschi Facebook so he can post notices.

Trevor mentioned that he is not able to put changes on website calendar as he can no longer get into that site. Diane will contact Kirsten as we now have no one to make changes.

The following portions of our LCC Constitution and Bylaws spell out what we may do and not do as a non-profit organization.

*Bylaws & Constitution of LCC: _____________________

Thanks to Janet Oliver for compiling the pertinent parts of these important documents.

“The Council has been and shall continue to be organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational and literary purposes.”

ARTICLE VIII Prohibited Activities
The Council shall not carry on activities for the benefit of private interests.

ARTICLE IX Dues, Contributions, and Other Revenue
All, or at least a substantial part, of its financial support shall be derived, directly or indirectly, from the general public, a governmental unit, or a combination of these sources. ’A
Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

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

LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular
LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary
LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways
LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)
LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

Name __________________________________________ Phone ________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________
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All donations are tax-deductible as we are a non-profit 501(c)(3).

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

Mail to:
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substantial part’ consists of, normally, one-third (1/3) of its total financial support.

Donations may be accepted. Donors will be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, if the Council satisfies 501 (c) (3) requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

Any revenue generated by the Council shall be for the benefit of the Leschi neighborhood or general community. No part of the Council’s net earnings may inure to the benefit of any particular resident, member, officer, or other individual.

Business not addressed at this meeting; will move to October agenda: Need to order more Star awards; let’s discuss how we might award folks with the current restriction on meetings

-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell
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 Community Council is a participating member of the Seattle Community Council Federation.
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Address Service Requested

The next Leschi News deadline is October 19. 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

BY EMILY DICKINSON

Ashes denote that Fire was —
Revere the Grayest Pile
For the Departed Creature’s sake
That hovered there awhile —

Fire exists the first in light
And then consolidates
Only the Chemist can disclose
Into what Carbonates.

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