

leschinews

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

LIFT UP IN LESCHI!

Please attend our March meeting and bring your ideas on how we can help the unfortunate folks who are camping out in our neighborhood parks. We have done some basic research into resources, but it will take all of us to put our heads together and try to solve some of the crises from pandemic to massive job loss which have resulted in increasing homelessness.

Leschi March meeting March 3, 7pm

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE BACK COVER

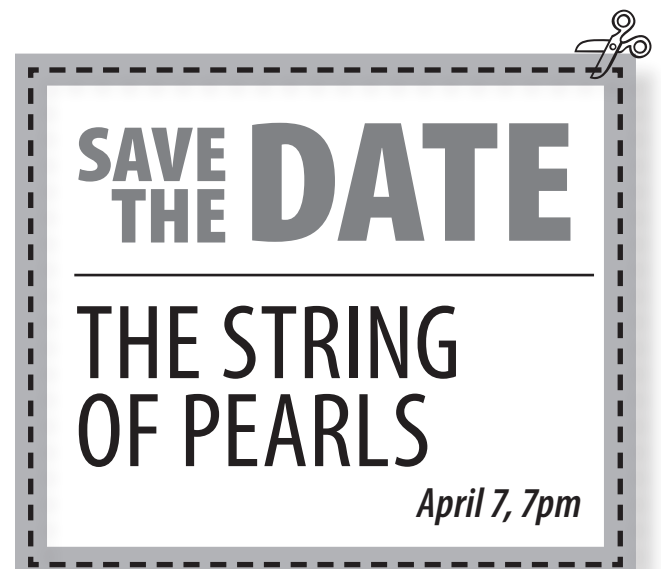
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President's Message

Hello, Hale and Hearty Leschi Residents,

Well, as I write this, we have had a snowstorm mid-February over President's Day weekend. What an adventure! I looked back at pictures I took a couple of years ago, and they were literally the same.

Certainly, it seems we are moving toward a more inclusive world, ever so slowly. One issue that we are exploring at our monthly meeting on March 3rd, via Zoom at 7pm, is discussion on how we may do our own little bit to work on solutions for the homelessness we see occurring right here in Leschi, along the water and in the parks.



Join our conversation, round table discussion, or bring suggestions to our meeting. Let's call it "Lift Up in Leschi" for the sake of putting a name to the discussion. Help us brainstorm how to work within our neighborhood what we might do to assist, whether it be kind words, deeds, assistance, maybe funding or by lifting up those who may need a hand up right now. It could be help finding a job, assisting in service outreach, obtaining a commitment to trash collection, or overall putting our collective minds together to see if we can help in our little village.

The city and the country are experiencing this crisis. There are many ways we can help that perhaps are time related, rather than direct monetary relief. We can all do something. If we can come together and create a plan of action, it is one step toward compassionate caring. We are a little community of people from all walks-of-life and with no doubt, amazing skills and suggestions.

Please join us to "Lift Up in Leschi." I encourage you to engage with us. Part of the beauty of Leschi is the strong commercial core, whose businesses have endured and created out-of-the-box solutions to whatever dilemma we face...pandemic, snow or simply helping out.

Kudos to Dian Ferguson, the manager of the CASC, who organized along with AARP and AME Church, and to Mt. Zion, Covid vaccinations for Seniors.

May the snow melt with little damage and inconvenience.

*Regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council*



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The Slow Search for the Covid Vaccine

I have learned a lot about patience during this past year; for someone who went to a lot of meetings, it seemed strange to be sequestered seeing no one except for my spouse and, from a distance, our grandson and his wife who have been shopping for us and doing any heavy lifting around the house and yard.



Waiting for My Shot

When we learned about the vaccine, I felt we would just wait until we heard from our provider. After all, it was almost a year since we received strict orders from our daughter about keeping social distance.

We did finally receive emails from our provider that the vaccine was available, and it would be possible to set up an appointment by accessing a special Covid-19 website. I tried for several days to reach that website; I was consistently denied access. I figured that the website was overwhelmed and continued to be patient (only a little less so). I was finally able to get on the site about a week later; I was found eligible and given a "scheduling ticket." The next step was to choose a clinic site, but nothing was available nearby. I finally gave up but heard on the radio (KUOW's Week in Review) that Mossback (Knut Berger) was having the same trouble. He finally found an open appointment in Spokane! I decided that "being patient" was the better course as there was no way I was driving to Spokane and back to get the vaccine.



Dian Ferguson with volunteer, images courtesy Joan Ervin

immensely). I was told that if I did not get scheduled for the Feb. 4 clinic date, I was promised the next one. But we received a call the day before the clinic, giving us an appointment.

It was with great relief that I received an email from the Central Area Senior Center about a vaccine clinic they would have in coordination with the First AME Church of Seattle. One merely had to use old technology, the telephone, to schedule an appointment. I was able to get through after being cut off three times (that redial button helped

It was rather a madhouse when we arrived. Apparently, there were some folks gathered who had not preregistered and the Central Area Senior Center Director, Dian Ferguson, had to tell the group that if they were not preregistered, they would not be given the vaccine. That was sad to hear, being aware of the difficulties these folks had to have faced in trying to get appointments. However, helping them would have meant running out of vaccine and thus disappointing those who had legitimate appointments.

We were each given a tag to wear with our appointment times and things went more smoothly. It all took much less time than driving to Spokane! And we were given appts for our follow-up shots.

Thanks to the staff at the Central Area Senior Center who handled a heroic task in taking all those calls and subsequently scheduling the appointments. And thanks to the staff at First AME and Dian Ferguson for their clinic day management. Mt. Zion also sent members who helped. Safeway (23rd and Madison) had provided the vaccine and pharmacists to administer the shots. Thanks to all!

-Diane Snell

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Neighborhood & Beyond

LESCHI MEETING WITH COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Our February 3 general meeting (held by Zoom) was planned to allow residents to ask questions about police reform. The first question had to do with diverting mental health calls to a crisis intervention team rather than to the police. CM Sawant reported that some funds had been allocated but not nearly enough.

Most 911 calls do not need a police response. The next question asked if traffic stops could be moved to SDOT. Ted answered that parking enforcement had been moved to SDOT, but there don't seem to be many violent interactions due to a parking issue. (This was my question as when I looked at the violent interactions with police, they seemed to be predominantly mental health crises and second, traffic stops involving lack of a turn signal or some non-working problem with the car. Having been stopped myself for a burnt-out brake light, I was given a warning ticket and had 2 weeks to get the light fixed or I would be issued a ticket. This kind of situation can be resolved by others (SDOT?) without a stop; one could trace the license plate and send letter to owner of vehicle. No guns needed.)

911 calls could be routed to appropriate help (and not the police unless necessary) but the Mayor would need to be pressured to make this change.

Another question concerned holding violent protestors responsible. Sawant is against violent protests; it is counterproductive. If a protestor in her crowd is suggesting something unlawful, she said the group talks the person out of it.

One question asked if chokeholds, no knock warrants and crowd control weapons such as pepper spray and blast balls could be outlawed. Sawant said the Council had voted against these tactics unanimously. There will be another hearing on this issue (Feb. 9 at 9:30am).

Another question asked about having a civilian oversight committee as some other cities have. Although Sawant did not mention it, Seattle has three such committees, but they have no teeth.

Sawant talked briefly about the history of police who came into being to protect property. If there were more equality, there would not be a need for so many police.

Another question concerned illegal encampments esp. at Miller playfield. Sawant said there were problems getting garbage collected; teams are working with Parks, but the problem is so big that they can't keep up with it. Budget cuts of \$2 million result in underfunding programs like these. Real Change is working with her office on this problem.

Sawant's policy person, Ted Viddone, said that the offer of Tiny Houses is snapped up quickly and more money is needed for this program. Two residents were concerned about encampments in Frink Park and felt it was a serious problem after so much hard work by volunteers. One of them recommended moving these campers to parking lots or under freeways. Sawant again pointed to the lack of resources for safe places for homeless people.

It was suggested that we hold a special meeting to propose solutions; March will be that meeting.

A new issue surfaced: Closure of sections of Lake Washington Blvd. to traffic for long periods of time (more than a month). Sawant was aware of this and asked Ted to follow up.

Following the meeting, we agreed that we would have an open session on the issue of homeless persons camping in Leschi's public parks. This will be in March.

-Diane Snell

STEVE SHULMAN'S HEADSTONE UNVEILING CEREMONY

It is a Jewish tradition, when someone passes, to hold a Headstone Unveiling Ceremony at the gravesite at the first Yahrzeit (anniversary of a death). The Shulman family and the Leschi Market family invite you to join the ceremony via [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) for the Unveiling Ceremony of Steve Shulman's headstone. Due to Covid-19 and delays at the quarry, the unveiling ceremony is being delayed until April/May. If you would like to be notified, please email us, info@leschimarket.com.

-The Shulman family and the Leschi Market



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THE LESCHI STREET BEAT

Friends of Street Ends (FOSE): Progress in Leschi/Mt. Baker

If you are anything like me, living with little understanding of our public parks in Seattle, I think you will be delighted to hear of the concrete progress that Friend of Street Ends (FOSE) is making right now and right here in Leschi/Mt. Baker. At the eastern end of S. Massachusetts Street (see Map), a new public access jewel is gradually being revealed. Known as Street End #50, this little public park will allow walkers to stroll to the edge of Lake Washington, take in the views of Mt Rainier, and to hand-launch small watercraft.

This street end was totally overgrown and inaccessible just six months ago. In fact, after living here for two years, I did not have any clue that the lake was accessible at this location. So, when I saw a notice in NextDoor posted by Roger Lippman about a neighbor cleanup party at this location, I thought well “why not?” I showed up with clippers in hand a few days later to participate. Our group simply got busy as we worked to witness a transformation in the making.



*Karen Daubert, Roger Lippman, Daniel Collins and Team in action
—Safe Covid practices in place January 2021*

I didn't know the term “street end.” In this case, we are referring to Shoreline street ends which are located where a street right-of-way terminates at water's edge. Can you believe that there are 142 of these parcels in the City of Seattle?

At the work party I met Karen Daubert, Friend of Street Ends (FOSE) founder and her team of volunteers. The Massachusetts Street End Project #50 is led by Daniel Collins, an arborist by trade, volunteer designer, and project leader. We simply got busy pulling roots, cutting overgrown vines, removing invasive bushes.

After three or four sessions over a six-week period, we filled up two large dumpsters after hauling hundreds of wheel barrels loads to our “take away” pile. We can all attest to the progress we have made and the bright future for this little park. In the plans are a gravel trail to the flat area next to the shore where we hope to install an inviting bench.

In this project my eyes were opened to the power of progress on a local scale and the collective pride that builds when making a positive, constructive change to a neighborhood. I invite you to learn more and get involved. See www.streetends.org for more information. Also, we of Leschi should be proud of our official partnership with FOSE. Thank you, Leschi Council for your support. We hope to keep you posted monthly here at *The Leschi Street Beat!*

To volunteer, contact Daniel at Dmcollins1962@gmail.com.

EASTPAC MEETING

The late January meeting of EastPAC featured one of Seattle's police oversight organizations: The Office of Police Accountability. EastPAC is the group that brings the community together with the officers of the East Precinct to discuss current trends in crime.

The civilian-led OPA was created in 2002 to provide civilian oversight of the police. In 2017 the oversight expanded into three organizations: OPA, CPC (Community Police Commission) and OIG (Office of Inspector General for Public Safety).

The office (OPA) investigates Seattle Police Department misconduct (policy violations, not criminal allegations). The complaints come from SPD employees and members of the public who have witnessed SPD actions that seem to violate policy. The review was ably presented by two members of OPA: Jennifer Tippins and Geneva Taylor.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT Use the complaint form on the website, phone, write a letter or come in person (probably not a good idea now as staff works remotely during the pandemic).

UPDATE 19,000 complaints were received following the protests. Most of the complaints concerned one incident: the pepper spraying of a young child. (I believe this concern was not sustained as it was not done intentionally but the presenters did not discuss the outcome). 140 complaints are actively being investigated. One can view the variety of complaints by searching for the Demonstration Complaint Button, a tool I was unable to find on the website after going through it twice. I used the Search button to access the Demonstration Complaint Dashboard. To discover the outcomes, one needs to use the specific case number so it's a rather lengthy process. See the website: seattle.gov/OPA. OPA information can also be found on YouTube.

Attendee questions about the investigation of the police officers who attended the protests in the other Washington resulted in the usual answer: We can't talk about it while it's under investigation. One attendee wanted to know why the involved officers were on paid leave. The “under investigation” answer probably applies to this as well.

EAST PRECINCT UPDATE Captain Sano gave end of year statistics: Crime up 13%; violent crime up 9%. Property thefts up, rapes down and 65 shootings with six fatalities. This is an increase from 2019, and it affects African American males age 18–29 who comprise 67% of all shooting victims although they are only 10% of the population. Sano said a lot of this violence was gang related. He did clarify the alarming 140% increase in homicide: the total climbed from 5 in 2019 to 12 in 2020.

The encampment at Cal Anderson Park was one of their biggest challenges; the dismantling of the camp was made by a coalition of groups: Public Utilities, SDOT, Parks and Human Service workers who convinced 58 people to go to alternative housing. There is a smaller encampment at Miller playground which will be more problematic when the schools reopen.

City Attorney Pete Holmes reported on the destruction perpetrated by protestors on January 20 in the downtown area (West Precinct). Three were arrested: one referred to Federal officials for damage to the Federal Courthouse, one for the felony of breaking a large window at Starbuck's and another in an assault case on a photojournalist and an officer. When referred to the jail, property destruction results in an out of custody arraignment. The jails are keeping only offenders of violence against persons due to the virus.

There are no in person jury trials right now; they may begin on February 3rd, but this date could slide again until it is safer. This is the same everywhere for courts and jails.

It was obvious from the various presentations that the police and the City Attorney were frustrated by the difficulties in holding perpetrators accountable and of course, the public is frustrated. Perhaps we should focus on the fact that we live in a humane society where the virus is not ignored, and we do not ask innocent people to risk illness by holding court hearings and throwing all those arrested in jail where one cannot socially distance.

The last speaker was from the Department of Neighborhoods on the Community Conversation project. I did not hear this presentation as the meeting was hijacked by someone from Capitol Hill who expressed valid concerns about ongoing property destruction, but then used more than his time to pontificate at length about his own personal bias. I left in disgust as it was apparent that he was not going to be shut down. I did express my concern to the group the following day; it's a shame that a well thought program can be so easily disrupted by one person's political agenda.

-Diane Snell

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

In my years in our neighborhood, I've been curious how it came to be named after Leschi, a leader among Indians of the upper Nisqually River Valley. The perimeter of Lake Washington was inhabited by the indigenous Hachoo-absch (People of the Large Lake), known to the white settlers as Lake Indians. They were considered to be a band of Duwamish.

The area around the future Leschi Park was known to the Lake Indians in the local Lushootseed language as hw-QWEE-yhaqw-eye-ahqs, translated as Saw-Grass Point. Here they gathered bulrushes for household mats. It was probably an area where Indians coming across Lake Washington to the future Seattle encamped en route to Elliott Bay, but it is not known as having been a village site. (See Site 25 on the Burke Museum map referenced at bottom.)

Leschi never lived in what is now Seattle, and he may or may not have ever set foot in it. But he was widely known in the region and east of the mountains, where his mother, a Yakama Indian, was from. He has been celebrated as an influential orator, respected among Indians as well as by numerous whites with whom he had good relations.

As I mentioned in a previous column, Leschi's name was bestowed on the park in about 1891 by Frederick Grant, president of the private cable car company that developed and owned the park. (It became a city park in 1903.) Grant believed that Leschi was innocent of murder charges stemming from fighting in Pierce County, for which he was hung in 1858.

Neighborhood historian Wade Vaughn surmised that "strong feeling against the Indians, resulting from the Indian war, had moderated by this time." In the late 19th century, there was a certain

nostalgia on the part of old settlers who published wistful accounts of the pioneer days of life alongside the Indians—a triumphalism of survival and pioneer grit.

Historian Lisa Blee observes that "Leschi Park shows how Seattleites built an urban identity untroubled by the violence of settler colonialism by driving Native inhabitants from their homelands and replacing them with symbols lamenting Indians' unjust treatment."

The Indian-settler battles of the mid-1850s were provoked by the efforts of Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens to force the Native people into unlivable reservations and enable settlers to obtain title to Indian lands. Treaties such as Medicine Creek (December 1854), which covered the Nisqually and other south-Sound tribal territories, were foisted upon the Indians. Leschi, who by some accounts refused to sign, or signed under protest, or whose mark was forged, communicated to the whites that Indians were willing to give up land but only in exchange for enough space to live as accustomed.

Histories written by whites often refer to Leschi as a chief. But it should be noted here that "chief" and "tribe" were settler concepts imposed upon the native inhabitants. The invaders wanted to establish entities and individuals with whom they could negotiate treaties. Defined tribes, tribal leadership, and land ownership were mostly alien concepts to the native population.

As characterized in "The Bitter Wars of Medicine Creek," Governor Stevens made his case against the Indians "in deep denial of his contribution to the hostilities. Stevens ... became an out-of-control avenger ... awash with distortions," who "had allowed his pride, wounded by his own misjudgments, to turn him delusional, bordering on the pathological." He was described by the U.S. Army regional commander as "anxious for a long and expensive war ... to exterminate the Indians."

Sound familiar? As Eduardo Galeano said, "History never really says goodbye. History says, see you later."

Stevens had vowed to the territorial legislature that all hostile Indians would be done away with. Part of the Indigenous response was seen in the arrival of hundreds of warriors on the shore of Lake Duwamish (now Lake Washington), where they camped on their way to attack the tiny Elliott Bay village that was Seattle in late January 1856. The staging ground, somewhere in the vicinity of the present Leschi Park, came to be known as Leschi's Camp.

While Leschi may have been involved in planning the attack, known as the "Battle of Seattle," he denied that he participated, though various historians have dismissed his denial. Most of the histories I have read say his presence (or absence) cannot be established with certainty. The one exception is found in the book "Ka-Mi-Akin" (1917). The author, a settler who claimed to have long-standing good relations with the Indians and to have interviewed numerous witnesses to the battles of the 1850s, provides details on Leschi's presence, referencing settler manuscripts that may have been unpublished and are thus difficult to get hold of to evaluate for accuracy.

The attack on Seattle did not do much damage, though it left psychological and economic effects on the settlement for some years. After the one-day battle, with a break for lunch by both sides, the attackers slipped away and vanished. The battle was the peak of Indian resistance in the Seattle area.

-Roger Lippman

Special thanks to Alexandra Harmon for her guidance.

Some useful and interesting references, all available from the Seattle Public Library:

- Lisa Blee, "Framing Chief Leschi," 2014
- Richard Kluger, "The Bitter Waters of Medicine Creek," 2011



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- Coll Thrush, “Native Seattle—Histories from the Crossing-Over Place,” 2007 (In-library use only, or listen to the library’s podcast.)
- Alexandra Harmon, “Indians in the Making,” 2000
- Della Gould Emmons, “Leschi of the Nisquallies,” 1965 (historical fiction)
- A.J. Splawn, “Ka-Mi-Akin, Last Hero of the Yakimas,” 1917 (revised 1944)
- Ezra Meeker, “Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound—The Tragedy of Leschi,” 1905
- https://www.burkemuseum.org/static/waterlines/images/maps-and-images/waterlines_map_medium.pdf

PROFILES IN PRIVILEGE

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought many other issues to the forefront, particularly “Racial Equity” and its corollary, White Privilege.

Leschi is a model community in many respects with a diverse history and unsurpassed “lakeside village” ambience. But it also demonstrates how hard it will be to meet the Founding Fathers’ aspiration to achieve an “ever-more perfect union.”

The online real estate site Zillow currently shows only a handful of homes for sale in Leschi. I thought I’d found a bargain at \$500,000—but that was an empty lot.

The principal culprit? SF5000.

Leschi, along with its neighbors Madrona and Mt Baker, is largely zoned SF5000-Single Family homes on a lot of at least 5,000 sq ft. The new Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations ease this constraint marginally, but the minimum lot size is unchanged—and your new “backyard cottage” may well cost you around \$250,000 by the time you’ve met all the code requirements.

Covid-19 plays a role too: As part of the Federal Covid-19 Relief efforts, interest rates have been driven down to historic lows—and folks are spending much more time at home. If they work for Amazon, Microsoft or any of the other local tech companies who have seen their share prices climb rapidly, then there may also be big (share option) bucks to spend.

So, after a brief pause, Seattle home prices are on the rise again.

Which brings us back to half a million dollars—a lot for a Lot.

A million dollars and up for a family home in a nice neighborhood is a lot too. There may be lots of folks (many newly arrived) in Seattle who can get a million-dollar mortgage, but they’ll often come from a different background—racial, financial and educational. That may be good for some models of diversity, but as Ira Gershwin wrote for brother George’s opera Porgy & Bess, “It Ain’t Necessarily So.”

So: If you’re interested in your “Privilege Profile” here’s a simple test:

1. How long have you lived in Leschi?
2. How much more is your home worth than when you bought it?
3. Who do you see when you look in the bathroom mirror?
4. What do you see when you look out the window? (nice yard? lake view?)
5. Which vehicle are you and your neighbors more likely to own: A Tesla or a truck? (if you own both—maybe a Prius too?—ignore the other questions!)

If you’d like to share your privilege, “affordable housing” is a good place to start. But that inevitably means SF5000 must go. “Preserving the character of the neighborhood” is a worthy

objective—but if it effectively means excluding folks of modest means, then we need to figure how to make this objective less obstructive.

–Malcolm Harker

(local resident for almost 30 years and mostly a cyclist—though Sarah sometimes lets me borrow her Mini if it’s raining)

PLANNED CONSTRUCTION AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY

Construction to expand Leschi Elementary is scheduled to begin in summer of 2021 and be completed in spring of 2022. According to SPS, “a two-story addition will be constructed to hold four classrooms to address student enrollment growth. The main entrance and administration area will be modernized to create a secure entry vestibule that directs visitors into the office area.” Although student enrollment has held steady or decreased over the last two years, the additional space is meant to accommodate expected long-term growth in addition to a new pre-school program.

Video of a public Q&A held in January is not yet available online, but additional information can be found here: https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/capital_projects_and_planning/school_construction/projects/leschi.

Keep up to date on upcoming events and news by visiting leschies.seattleschools.org or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/leschischool>.

To support our school, classrooms, and community programs please see: https://leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/fundraising.

–Benson Wilder



SNOWMAGEDDON

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day 2021. And boy oh boy did his prediction come true this year! From February 11–14, the biggest regionwide snow/ice storm since December 2008 swept through the Pacific Northwest, bringing Seattle its heaviest single-day snowfall in 52 years and dropping devastating amounts of freezing rain over Portland and the Willamette Valley, knocking out power to over 500,000 customers there. This same “polar vortex” that brought arctic air to the Pacific Northwest would later go on to bring record low temperatures to Texas, knocking un-winterized power plants offline and causing a massive spike in demand, resulting in rolling blackouts and leaving approximately four million Texas residents without power.

There were three main ‘storm systems’ that brought snow and ice to the Pacific Northwest. The first of these systems arrived Thursday night and persisted through Friday afternoon, bringing up to 4–6 inches of snow to SW Washington and NW Oregon but just giving a few flurries to the Seattle area. But the second system, which arrived Friday night and persisted through Saturday afternoon, was far stronger and brought widespread heavy snow throughout Western Washington, Northern Portland, and the Columbia River Gorge, as well as devastating freezing rain to the North/Central Willamette Valley. In fact, Saturday was Seattle’s snowiest single day since December 31, 1968. The 1968–69 winter was Seattle’s snowiest winter on record with 67.5 inches recorded at Sea-Tac Airport, so the February 2021 storm is in good company! Yet a third system would swing through Sunday night into Monday morning, bringing a brief shot of snow to Western Washington and even more freezing rain to Oregon, this time focused over Northeast Portland and the Columbia River Gorge.

One notable feature of this series of storms, particularly “Storm 2” Friday night into Saturday, was how little snow the usually snowier Cascade foothills received compared to major cities along the I-5 corridor. The foothills usually get more precipitation because our weather comes from the west, and as it encounters the west slopes of the Cascades, it is forced to rise, “wringing out” moisture and causing additional precipitation. However, in the case of the Friday night—Saturday storm, there was a strong offshore pressure gradient, with higher pressure east of the Cascades than west of the Cascades. This caused strong, dry easterly flow along the Cascade foothills, ensuring that much of the snow that fell there was absorbed by the ultra-dry atmosphere before it had time to reach the surface.



Snoqualmie, Enumclaw, Index, and many other spots in the Cascade foothills saw a measly 2–3 inches of snow from this series of storms. However, these relatively paltry snow totals were also accompanied by winds gusting to 40–50 mph and windchills dropping into the single digits, so it’s not like the Eastside got off easy from this series of storms!

Since most of our lowland snows occur when humidities are high and temperatures are near or even slightly above freezing, the snow tends to be heavy and wet, with big, gloppy flakes. However, most of the snow we saw with these storms was relatively light and dry due to the dry, very cold arctic air mass over the area. Not so great for snowballs or snowmen, but great for skiing down Madrona Hill and East Alder Street! Such light, fluffy snow also helped increase our snow totals—the “snow-to-water ratio” was more in the 15:1 range rather than the usual 10:1 ratio.

My official “line in the sand” for impactful lowland snow is the third week of February. By the last week of February, the arctic air up north is warming rapidly, sun angles are rapidly rising, and it’s nearly impossible to get snow that sticks around more than a day. However, we can still get lowland snow through March and even April if we have a cold, heavy shower that arrives in the early morning just before sunrise, when temperatures are near their coldest of the night.

Hard to believe the spring equinox is just 3 weeks away! I love lowland snow just as much as the next Seattleite, but I wouldn’t be upset with a little more sunshine as well.

–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.

STORMING THE CAPITOL— SUPPORTING BLM

The Capitol attackers/protectors and the Black Lives Matter protestors make grossly different statements, statements that separate Congress. The two groups have very different wants. Black History Month is a great time to remind both sides of this chasm and its size and then work to eliminate it.

Thanks to the Internet, I could gather all kinds of information while my fingers did the work. I began with the former president’s comments: the statement that he won the election, there were irregularities, the election was rigged. His speech on the morning of January 6, convinced many to march on the Capitol and some to storm it. No way could anyone have known Mitch McConnell would agree with so many who believe it was the president himself who incited the riot.

Then, I went to the 147 Congresspersons who refused to certify the election: six senators from four Southern states and two Midwest states and 141 representatives from 36 states. Next I went to the most recent list of persons who have been charged with an array of offenses: entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; disorderly and disruptive conduct; violent entry; parading; demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol Building; possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device; theft of government property; carrying a pistol without a license; destruction of government property; civil disorder; assault; resisting or impeding an officer, employee, or passage; unlawful entry; obstruction of an official proceeding; unlawful possession

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of a firearm on grounds and buildings. For more details, see <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/09/965472049/the-capitol-siege-the-arrested-and-their-stories#database> (WBUR 2/12/21).

Offenders came from at least 26 states and range from age 18 to 71. Several of them were identified because of what they themselves posted on digital media! Others were identified by relatives, friends, and associates. NPR (1/21/21) says “nearly 1 in 5 people charged over their alleged involvement in the attack on the U.S. Capitol appear to have a military history. At least 15 of the defendants appear to have links to the Proud Boys, a far-right gang, recently declared a terrorist group in Canada. Their values have been widely described as racist, misogynist, anti-immigrant and hateful against other minority groups. At least four of the defendants have alleged ties to the Oath Keepers, which the Anti-Defamation League calls an “anti-government right-wing fringe organization.” At least 13 defendants appear to have expressed support for QAnon, the pro-Trump conspiracy theory.

I have gone to the trouble of finding this spectrum of participants who felt compelled to attack the Capitol because they support the former president, and many admitted they were there to support him. I want everyone to see participants are an extremely small minority, but they are not alone. Others support them. How many? We may never know. I do not believe the overwhelming majority of that 74 million who voted Republican would have attacked the Capitol nor condone what was done. However, they share the same or similar ideology, an ideology diametrically opposed to Black Lives Matter supporters.

How does Black Lives Matter get into this? BLM rose from the murder of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman. Police brutality and other murders, often of unarmed men, women, and children, and the filmed 8-minute-46-second murder of George Floyd sparked the protests. “The protests spread to over 2,000 cities and towns in all 50 states and all 5 permanently-inhabited territories, as well as in over 60 other countries,” reports Wikipedia. Stacker adds that the protests were “the largest ever in every state.” The New York Times concludes, “... the recent reports [are] the largest movement in the country’s history, according to interviews with scholars and crowd-counting experts.” Millions joined; estimates are from 15 to 26 million. Time Magazine says 93% of the protests were not violent. (September 5, 2020). Neal Caren, a professor who studies movements, says “...even if only half [of persons who said they participated] told the truth, the surveys suggest more than seven million people participated in the marches. With millions in the streets, the cross section was out there. The protests went on for days.

How many Capitol protestors support BLM? My guess is none. Surely someone will produce a count eventually. Another question: how many of the persons who stormed the Capitol also contributed to the violence in BLM protests? Eventually, we’ll know. I say this because herein lies a grave problem in and for the US.

That small number—800 to 1000s, depending on the source—of protestors believe their whiteness makes them superior to people who are not white. They not only believed Donald Trump; many showed up with intent to harm. They came with weapons, lumber, fire extinguishers, etc. They built gallows to hang Vice President Mike Pence. They sought Nancy Pelosi. They held Congresspersons and their staff against their will. This is wrong. The white supremacists accept the long history of genocide, slavery, and Jim Crow as the natural order of life for others—whites had a right to inflict whatever harm, including death, how and whenever they chose; this was wrong. Murders, including some by officers of the law, have been perpetrated against people of color—men, women, young, old, prominent, unknown, many of whom are black, because the victims happen to be black. This is wrong. White supremacists believe this so-called superiority justifies their domination of non-whites in all areas. This is wrong.

I have pointed out before that the US has never had a fair election. Over the years, left out were indigenous peoples, poor white men, Africans, women, Chinese, Japanese. According to the law, all citizens have the right to vote. But voter intimidation and suppression have kept thousands, millions over the centuries, from voting. And still, some of our lawmakers plot to improve their gerrymandering and voter suppression skills. Just as the last president referred to himself as the “least racist,” I say this election was the “least rigged.”

News columnists repeatedly call for media literacy. This sounds good. But persons who believe as the white supremacists believe have no interest in literacy, media or otherwise. Do you believe the Congress persons are not media literate? Are the protestors who arrived on the private jet media literate? Something much stronger than a lost election propels them to deny the rights of others based on the amount of melanin in skin.

Black Lives Matter protestors want to end what white supremacists want to be the norm for all time. Allies, accomplices, co-conspirators are ready. If the supremacists would replace “white” with any other color, become the grammatical objects in the sentences rather than the subjects, the celebration of America’s being on the route to greatness could begin in earnest. What a marvelous Black History Month gift for all of us protesting not being first class citizens. Just think. For today.

-Georgia S. McDade

Georgia S. McDade, a charter member of the African American Writers’ Alliance, began reading her stories in public in 1991 and credits the group with making her write poetry. Many poems are inspired by artists. Georgia writes for South Seattle Emerald and Leschineus. She also does interviews for KVRU (105.7) and KBCS (107.3). Outside the Cave is the name of four volumes of poetry; Observation and Revelations: Stories, Sketches, and Essays is the name of her volume of prose.

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Culture Corner

JACOB LAWRENCE'S "STRUGGLE...FROM THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE"

Seattle Art Museum opens March 5

Following our catastrophic Capitol riot, what could be more timely than Jacob Lawrence's series on Struggle.

Ironically, the art works remind us that those insurrectionist "Minutemen" mimic the militias of the early days of the American revolution and are also trying to overturn a government. I don't have space here to expand on this comparison which can be another essay.

Jacob Lawrence's "Struggle...from the History of the American People" (1954-56) is a 30-panel series on exhibit through May 23. The Seattle Art Museum is reopening starting on Friday March 5 (Fridays through Sundays, 10am-5pm), purchase a timed ticket online:

<https://secure.seattleartmuseum.org/events>.

The artist began this historical series in the same year as the Brown vs Board of Education 1954 desegregation ruling. Although it ends with a reference to the movement West (focusing on overburdened oxen, certainly as a metaphor), he planned to create twice as many works.

Jacob Lawrence and Gwen Knight spent the last thirty years of their lives here; they are part of the history of our city. They moved to Seattle, Washington in 1971 where he was an influential professor at the University of Washington. They lived in a small house near the University with a studio upstairs, a location that only two years earlier had been declared legal for African Americans.

His most prominent work in his early years in Seattle is the stupendous Kingdome mural Games of 1978 that hangs in the Convention Center. Comprised of ten connected steel panels it celebrates huge-limbed sports players of many racial mixes in the foreground and their cheering fans surrounding them. Lawrence uses scale to highlight the drama while also subtly foregrounding integration in sports as another milestone of change. The Games mural builds on many representations of games in Lawrence's career.

In contrast to Games, the earlier Struggle . . . from the History of the American People is on the same small scale as his well-known Migration Series from 1940-41. The title is crucial, it is not a Black history but an American history. Also striking is the emphasis on compressed space, sharply angular figures that reinforce the idea of conflict, as well as a subtle, but dramatic use of color.

Most important, though is the emphasis on the impact of history on the ordinary person. For example, in the famous subject of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," we see the soldiers in small boats that accompanied the "great man" and quotes from a letter by Washington's slave Tench Tilghman "We crossed the River at McKonkey's Ferry 9 miles above Trenton...the night was excessively severe ... which the men bore without the least murmur." In the Battle of New Orleans, fought by Andrew Jackson after the peace treaty was signed with the British in 1815, Lawrence features piles of dead on both sides, emphasizing the meaninglessness of war.

Each one of these images is a radical imagining of what Lawrence describes as "the struggles of a people to create a nation and their attempt to build a democracy."

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Jacob Lawrence, "We have no property! We have no wives! No children! We have no city! No country! —petition of many slaves, 1773," Panel 5, 1955, Struggle: From the History of the American People, 1954–56, Collection of Harvey and Harvey-Ann Ross, © 2019 The Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Foundation, Seattle / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Although he did not continue with the series, he continued with the topic. Ten years later, *Struggle II, Man on Horseback*, 1965, depicts a brutal attack during the Civil Rights movement: a baton-wielding police officer rides on a horse with bloody feet that stomps on protestors. The electric energy of the black and white line highlighted with red dramatizes the violence. *Confrontation at the Bridge*, 1975, depicts Civil Rights marchers from Selma to Birmingham, led by Martin Luther King, brutally turned back by the police. We are all particularly familiar with this event now, as John Lewis was at the forefront of the march with King.

Lawrence has created many series based on American history including *Toussaint L'Ouverture*, 1938, *Frederick Douglass*, 1939, *Harriet Tubman*, 1940, and *John Brown* 1941. His fifth and most famous series, *The Migration of the Negro*, 1941 concisely represented the economic and social forces that led thousands of ordinary people to migrate from South to North in the early twentieth century.

Soon after his arrival in Seattle he was invited to create a new historical series on the story of George Washington Bush, African American pioneer. The five

panels (originally intended to be larger works) detail the pioneering trek West by the wealthy Missouri farmer who funded six wagons on the Oregon Trail. The dominant image conveys the swirling river waters of the Continental Divide. An entirely new subject for Lawrence, the energy and complexity of the panels is an example of his willingness to transform his style in response to the demands of the subject.

Throughout his life Jacob Lawrence constantly embraced new subjects, new challenges, and new circumstances. He elevated the excruciating struggles of African Americans to heroism and highlighted the stories of resistance and sacrifice by all the people under the yoke of the large forces of oppression in American history.


In addition to the Jacob Lawrence series this exhibition also includes new work by Derrick Adams, Bethany Collins, and Hank Willis Thomas that “reinforce the timeliness of *Struggle* by engaging themes such as democracy, justice, truth, and the politics of inclusion.”

Leave enough time to see Barbara Earl Thomas’s stunning installation “*The Geography of Innocence*.”

Last, the Ray Troll show “*Cruisin’ the Fossil Coastline*” has opened at the Burke. Easy to get a reservation.

—Susan Noyes Platt
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ZOOMING TOWARDS SPRING

Hello and welcome to March! Following is a Zoom-inspired Top-10 List for your reading pleasure. The wines have either a) been featured, b) will be featured, or c) are just some of our newest arrivals that have us beyond excited.

Bubbles!

We will begin with one of our newest arrivals. Unparalleled true Champagne for the price.

Champagne Henri Dosnon Brut Selection NV \$32.99

Bright and floral bouquet of ripe lemons. Very fresh and perfectly round, this is a light and fruity but well-structured Pinot Noir Champagne with a bit of Chardonnay, good finesse and persistent fruit aromatics. -Robert Parker 91-points, -Wine Spectator 91-points

Following the Champagne is one of Leschi Market's best-selling domestic sparklers. Roederer Estate and Louis Roederer were our esteemed guests for our Wine Wednesday Zoom Season 1 series finale. Again, reminding our palates that a quality sparkler under \$25 does exist!

Roederer Estate Brut Anderson Valley NV \$24.99

An enticing, toasty, nutty aroma leads to crisp and complex flavors in this medium-bodied wine that is braced by good acidity and a fine bead of bubbles. Subtle, mature notes complement the elegant texture. -Wine Enthusiast 93-points, -Robert Parker 93-points, -Wine Spectator 93-points, -Decanter 93-points

Blanc!

One of our most popular Wine Wednesday Zoom topics was Women in Wine, where we featured female-owned wineries and vintners. While, this particular wine was not featured, it easily could have! Erica Orr is making some of the finest wines in our state.

2019 Orr Chenin Blanc Columbia Valley \$20.99

Fresh, dry, 100% Chenin blanc was fermented naturally with native yeast. Green gold in color with aromas of crunchy pears, cucumber peel, and honeydew melon. It's lively, bright, bone dry and a tiny bit saline in the mouth. -Winemaker notes

The next wine needs no introduction. Based on sales for the 2020 calendar year, almost everyone knows this wine—it was in the Top-5 for sales for the year, and one of everyone's favorites!

2019 Pascal Jolivet Attitude Sauvignon Blanc Loire \$13.99

Beautiful freshness in mouth, a frank attack, delicate green and lemon flavors, citrus fruits, green apple and kiwi aromas. The minerality gives a long finish to the wine, a smoothness and elegance. -Winemaker notes *Best-Seller 2020*

Rouge!

This wine recently made its return from Europe. The previous vintage routinely ranked in the top sales each and every month, and the current offering doesn't skip a beat. Worth a try!

2016 Domaine de Mayol Luberon \$12.99

Smooth and fruity on the palate, hints of ripe berries, such as strawberries and blackberries. The complexity and the power of Syrah and Grenache add a sensual texture and good length. -Importer notes

Leschi Market was one of the very first ever retailers for Thurston Wolfe Winery, and we continue featuring their wines nearly 35 years later. The Dr. Wolfe Red was one of the best-selling wines of 2020 and made for a popular Virtual Tasting to kick off Season 2!

2018 Thurston Wolfe Dr. Wolfe's Family Red Horse Heaven Hills \$14.99

62% Zinfandel, 29% Petite Sirah and 9% Lemberger make up this fusion of varietals. Deep red color and dark fruit aromatics. The Lemberger adds light spicy hints which elevates the entirety of the blend. -Winemaker notes

A late 2020 addition to the shelves that really took off is from Klinker Brick. They had a white wine make the Wine Spectator Top-100 so we ventured into their other offerings to find this gem from Lodi.

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2016 Klinker Brick Winery Zinfandel Lodi \$18.99

Fruit from 55- to 120-year-old vines. This is a full-throttle bottle, packed with big, bold concentrated dark fruit, sweet spice and a lovely swirl of mocha with just a dash of black pepper on the finish. -Decanter 90-points, -Wine Enthusiast 90-points

Finding wine under \$20 from Oregon is becoming more and more challenging. That is why this second label from famed Soter Vineyards is a must try. Over-delivering on the quality to price point ratio every single vintage.

2018 Planet Oregon Pinot Noir Willamette Valley \$19.99

Scents of raspberries laced with pine needles and pretty flavors of rhubarb and raspberry, along with more of that pine-forest accent. Delightful wine for near-term enjoyment, with enough tannins to show some grip through the finish. -Wine Enthusiast, 90-points, -James Suckling 90-points

During our March 10th Zoom Virtual Tasting, we head to Argentina to learn about the near extinct grape varietal made a tremendous comeback with just a little change of scenery. Malbec is now one of the most sought-after grape varietals and this particular one is one of the best!

2018 Catena Malbec Mendoza Argentina \$19.99

Telltale aromas and the soft and velvety texture of the grape, with nicely integrated oak and a dry, long and pleasant finish. This has mind-boggling quality for the quantity—they produce 2.5 million bottles of it! One to buy by the case. -Robert Parker, 91-points

Save the best for last? Why not! Year in and year out, this is a top contender for possibly my favorite wine in the entire store. Anna Schaefer of àMaurice in Walla Walla has this wine locked in. Featured in one of Virtual Zoom tastings—this was a huge hit for guests and hosts alike. If you haven't tried this wine, you won't regret it.

2016 àMaurice Malbec Gamache Vineyard Columbia Valley \$35.99

Vivid scents of blackberry, blueberry, black pepper, licorice, fresh herbs and violet. lovely spicy sweetness and a fine, tight grain to its intense dark berry and pepper flavors. Finishes with firm but integrated building tannins and excellent lift and length. -Vinous, 92-points

By now you've reached the end and might be asking yourself: they sure talk a lot about these Virtual Wine Tastings over Zoom, what are they? In a nutshell: every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, Leschi Market's Thom and Ken host the "Educational Happy Hour." Interested folks

can purchase the wines-to-be-featured in the store leading up to the episode. Upon purchase, the Zoom codes print right on your sales receipt. Then at the appropriate day and time, log on to Zoom.com, enter those codes, open the wines and let us take over. A great time is had by all! Still unsure what all this means? Ask next time you are in the store or send us an email for further info: wine@leschimarket.com. We hope to see you on a call soon! If not, then we'll see you in the wine aisle.

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.





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LCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 2/8/2021

Attending: Janice Brown; Trevor Lalish-Menagh, Janet Oliver, John Barber, Tracy Bier. Guests: Dianne Ramsey, Darrell Howe.

QUICK REVIEW (READ ONLY):

Janet: Treasury report

Diane: March deadline: Feb. 15

April meeting: Friends of Street Ends to present program from history to present

BRAINSTORMING ON ENCAMPMENTS IN PARK

Ideas submitted for agenda

Janet: How can we develop living situations we can afford that look more attractive to people who need them than the parks look? First thought is that being out of the rain, having heat and electricity, might attract people so there is no need for police or others to order them out of the parks. I'd like to have a little (brief) brainstorming on this.

Diane: Tiny House villages successful for some folks; where do we have room for a village? If situation worsens, are there places in the park where a village could be placed that wouldn't result in irreparable damage to park? Villages less likely to work for seriously mentally ill persons; explore Trevor's example of group homes; are there grants to help financially?

Meeting input

John Barber had invited Darrell Howe, long-time forest steward of Frink Park, to fill us in on current encampments. John said that Darrell had taken on the task of cleaning up and asked Darrell if there was any hazardous waste. Darrell mentioned human waste as one hazardous waste. Parks knows about these campers but is not cleaning up. The site he is monitoring is not easily accessible. John mentioned another encampment with three tents in the SW corner of Leschi Park.

Additional note by Darrell 2/15/2021

(I wanted to add a bit of background and observations.)

We have had encampments in Frink and Upper Leschi natural areas for years. There had been a fair response from the City in the past for eviction and cleanout requests up until about 2016. Unfortunately, in the last 5 years the City has moved away from involvement with encampments: <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FAS/Rules/MDAR-final-17-01>. We have had support from the Police, but the Parks Department has requested that SPD respect their current policies and not engage with the homeless in our local Parks unless there is an emergency.

Parks does have a supporting role in cleanup of debris on their properties, but resources are limited and locations such as Cal Anderson Park strain the system. We have had some trash/debris removal by Parks along the edges of Frink & Leschi, but any steep slope areas are not currently accessed by their staff. During the summer months Parks often hires contractors to do work on steep slopes and other critical areas but we have not seen these crews in Frink.

Here is a link to the current recommendations for trained volunteer Forest Stewards: <https://www.greenseattle.org/information-for/forest-steward-resources/reporting-encampments/>.

In upper Frink Park east of 31st & Jackson there is currently at least two active sites with long park visitors entrenched on the steep hillside. The amount of debris/waste and discarded materials is impressive. It is not clear what type of disposal system they use for human waste. Trained volunteers are not allowed to be on public steep slopes.

I previously sent out info regarding other communities in Seattle such as Ravenna where there has been some success. City website: <https://homelessness.seattle.gov/category/homelessness/>.

While seeking solutions I would encourage all to contact Donna Waters who is the Parks point person for encampments: Donna.Waters@seattle.gov.

Tracy mentioned an encampment in Madrona near the pump station; it is not visible to automobile traffic but to those on foot.

Meeting input, cont.

Diane S. said she had been looking for possible sites for a tiny house village and mentioned the large area south of Thurston's house which is owned by Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. She said that Thurston was at the Parkshore in Madison Park. John Barber said he was moving back home with 24-hour care.

Darrell said that an interim step would be to move the campers to an area in the park less likely to suffer permanent damage. He has concerns about the wetland area. This would be a policy change for parks if they were to direct folks where to go.

Diane expressed concern about those with mental health issues as they could be less likely to be successful in the self-managed tiny house villages. She would like to know more about the Orange County solution which Trevor had mentioned at the general meeting.

We agreed to meet in 2 weeks after gathering more information, giving folks enough time to follow up on their tasks.

Tasks: Janet: research renovation of empty office bldgs. to accommodate homeless persons.

Tracy: research publicly owned land for possible village sites.

Trevor: more information on Orange County solution

Diane: Ask Sharon Lee if they have talked to Rev. Manaway; check with Alison Eisenger on homeless "count," maintain contact with Teresa Barker in Ravenna area re: their findings.

Note: the 2019 homeless "count" found 11,199 homeless persons in King County.

-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell and Darrell Howe

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Totals	\$405.00	(\$753.74)	\$13,541.62
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ArtWalk			\$2,447.32
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Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends			\$5,335.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area			\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,287.85
Steve Shulman Memorial			\$65.00
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W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1200.00
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TEMPORARY "INCREASE" IN LOCAL POPULATION OVER PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND



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