

leschinews

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

Holiday Open House

Join us for drinks and appetizers,
view our accomplishments for the year and
enjoy a concert by The Bach Street Boyz! Let us
know what you think we should focus on in 2015.

December 3 at 7pm

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER 500 30TH AVE S.

(One block south of Jackson at 30th & King)

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Save the Date!

**Family Holiday party
at the Senior Center**

December 14



Presidents' Message

We are breaking with tradition this year by not having a first Saturday potluck for the holidays; our usual first December Saturday at the Senior Center was secured by another group. We will host an Open House on our regular meeting date: December 3 from 7-9. We will serve appetizers and drinks; we will display our achievements for the past year. And best of all, we will be entertained by The Bach Street Boyz, a quartet of Garfield Seniors (and one Garfield graduate) from 7:30-8:30pm. Please join us and let us know what you would like to see us work on in 2015.

We are currently working on two issues: the shortened hours at Leschi Park were a temporary measure to alleviate some of the unpleasant late night activity; to make the change permanent, concerned citizens need to contact parks. The ultimate decision will lie with the City Council. The use of bollards to block the parking lot by the tennis courts at closing time will still be in effect. This alone may keep the undesirable activity to a minimum.

The other issue is Bus #27. Now that the measure to raise more money for Seattle buses has passed, we need to make sure that our lost hours are bought back. We got some assurance from City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen at our October Candidate Forum, but we can imagine that there will be resistance on the part of Metro. We don't have a large volume of riders during those off hours and Metro has been stressing service improvements in the high volume areas. One of your Dianes (Snell) met with John Barber and Janet Oliver to plan our strategy, which will begin with a letter to Councilmember Rasmussen, with copies to the Mayor and Andrew Glass Hastings, the Mayor's aide on transportation issues. The letter details the various groups affected by these cuts and the topographical challenges. We will ask for meetings as well.

We all get many end-of-the-year appeals for donations and it is hard to decide where to give funds that are not limitless. We encourage you to think "local" when making these decisions. We have two food banks which help more people each year, many of whom DO work, but with low wages and insufficient hours, pay checks don't stretch to cover all the necessities. Rainier Valley Food Bank and St. Mary's Food Bank are two important helping agencies. St. Mary's has been filling backpacks for school children to take home on the weekends when they don't have access to free breakfast and lunch at school.

Nickelsville could use warm clothing and bedding; we took some down coats over there and learned that they had to pool their resources to pay for a motel for some of the children who did not have warm enough clothing. Families with children face the "outgrown" dilemma when the season changes; if you could take your outgrown kids' clothes there, it would save them precious funds. The camp is on Dearborn, a few short blocks west of Goodwill on the right.

■ *Be the change you want to see in the world. -Gandhi*

-Diane Morris & Diane Snell

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Outbreaks...real and imagined

We were fortunate to take a vacation week on the beach in Manzanita, OR this fall, but unfortunate to be in one of those more rural areas where the news is all FOX, all the time. And what did we hear? An outbreak of Ebola in Texas! Alarming news until we found out that the outbreak was one case of a young man who had just come from Liberia, where he did have contact with an Ebola patient. We were cautioned by health authorities that one needs to have contact with bodily fluids to contract this disease, but it seems that many newscasters forgot that piece in spreading the alarming news.

Every year we face a real outbreak of influenza, and that is an airborne disease. Unless we get a flu shot, we are likely to come down with flu if we are in public places or riding on public transportation. No need to touch their bodily fluids; just breathe the same air. Each year about 30,000 persons die from complications of the flu. But the flu season doesn't seem to stir up panicked cries to seal the border.

One politician suggested that not sealing the border with Mexico would lead to cases of polio being brought to this country. If you Google the World Health Organization, you will find zero cases of polio in Mexico. There are spots in Africa and Pakistan/Afghanistan where polio is still a problem.

And a much scarier "outbreak" is on the horizon. The senior population is one of the most rapidly growing demographics and

that cohort is soon to be joined by the numerous baby boomers. The incidence of Alzheimer's disease increases rapidly after we reach age 80; we now have 400,000 to 500,000 cases per year. And it's not over quickly like Ebola. Patients with Alzheimer's go on for years and have increasing care needs. How will we as a nation provide this care? Experts fear that the costs could eat up the entire Federal budget.

I mused to my husband that maybe there would be an end to war if we had to spend everything on Alzheimer's patients. He replied that those in charge would always have a safe and segregated cache of money for war.

Washington is one of the few states that has not yet developed a plan for handling Alzheimer's. Governor Inslee did convene a committee to first explore the current impact of Alzheimer's disease in the state and then outline the steps that must be taken to sustain and improve services for Alzheimer's patients and their families. The goal is to improve the quality of care, increase awareness and train the family unpaid caregivers and health care professionals to deal with this disease at all stages. The most formidable goal is to "mitigate the catastrophic emotional and economic impact of what has become nothing less than a public health epidemic."

-Diane Snell

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Neighborhood & Beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bank Restoration Project on Leschi Slope

I recently received my final permit to complete the first phase of the restoration of my bank. The top of my property is at the corner of 33rd Ave and East Alder, and the bottom is at Lake Dell. This land is part of what is known as the Olmstead Legacy—but it is also my front yard. It is about 1/3 of an acre and currently overgrown with invasive species like English Ivy, wild clematis, holly, etc., and the big leaf maples are getting to the end of their lives—so their root systems are dying along with large sections of the over-story. The ivy has killed most of the native understory plants.

The restoration plan and permit is posted on the fence at 33rd and East Alder so people who are curious can read about the plan and understand what is being done there. I am allowed to restore 1,500 sq. ft. every three years, so over the next three years work will be completed at the top of the bank. There will be chain saw noises as we thin the over-story to allow more light to get in to help the new plants, and cut up the limbs that are taken down so they can be more easily moved

down the hillside. As we remove ivy and other invasive plants we'll cover the disturbed soil with chips (hence the giant piles of chips in my yard), and plant over 500 native seedlings ranging from Douglas Firs, to Sitka Spruce, to Western Red Cedars, Cascara, Garry Oaks, vine maple, rhododendrons, filberts, salal, Oregon grape, wild strawberries, sword ferns, and a long list of other plants (included on the information on the fence). I buy the plants from County native plant sales, or in some cases, I am growing them from seeds or acorns.

Part of the reason for this note to the Leschi News is that when I fire up the chain saw to do necessary work, rather than call me or ask me what is going on, people have been known to call the police, the parks department, and a number of other agencies and report that I am clear cutting a park, which is of course not the case. In a few years, the new plants will be firmly established, and a healthy forest will be growing out there once more. Eventually the trees will block the view—so this is clearly not about cutting down trees to get a view. A major reason for this project is to re-establish a healthy network of deep root systems from a diverse mix of native plants. The preponderance of ivy and maples leaves the bank vulnerable to slides and erosion. If anyone has questions, the contact information is on the sign on the fence, and I am happy to talk with interested neighbors and explain the project.

*William Pickard , 3213 East Alder Street
(206) 849-7039, bpickard@pickard-murphy.com*

LESCHI CC OPEN HOUSE

Join us on December 3 and listen to a quartet of talented young musicians! Take a look at their bios:

Bach Street Boyz

Mitso Floor convened a handful of like-minded musicians in December 2010, when all were students at Washington Middle School. After playing together recreationally for several months, they adopted the light-hearted moniker and set themselves to the serious task of becoming a quality performing ensemble. The quartet performs regularly at private events and competitions around the Puget Sound, including the 2013 WMEA Solo/Ensemble Contest, where they earned a Superior rating.

Three of the four Bach Street Boyz attend Garfield High School and are members of Garfield's orchestra under the direction of Marcus Tsutakawa.

Mitso Floor (viola) currently studies with Joseph Gottesman and is the principal violist in the Garfield Orchestra. He also plays violin and cello, and has been known to record all four parts of string quartets



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for his own composited videos. He knits fish, amphibians, walruses, gargoyles and other creatures, sometimes during class.

Halden Lin (violin) joined the Bach Street Boyz in May 2012. He is the principal violinist in the Garfield Orchestra and competes on the varsity swim team.

Alex Strong (violin), a founding member of the quartet, wrestles, plays ultimate Frisbee, knows how to cook a mean breakfast; works at the Pacific Science Center, and sometimes wears flip flops in freezing weather.

Adrian Golay (cello) studies with Rajan Krishnaswami, and is a principal cellist in the Garfield Orchestra. He is an ardent ultimate Frisbee player and a musical perfectionist.

SHINING LIGHT ON TRAFFIC ISSUES

It was a dark and stormy night when our November 5 meeting occurred and we did not expect a large crowd. Indeed, it was a small but very vocal group, and we had the opportunity to get wound up over traffic, parking and cyclist insensitivities while we waited for our featured speaker, Dongho Chang, to make his way from a Seward Park meeting to our meeting. We listed our grievances on a flip chart, which were supposed to focus on 12th & Yesler, the 23rd Ave. lane reduction and safety on Lake Washington Blvd., but quickly morphed into all traffic related irritations. We were questioning the lack of planning among the various entities of Sound Transit, Metro and whoever the heck is in charge of the intrusive (purposeless?) streetcars.

Dongho Chang, traffic safety engineer for SDOT, helped us to put our grievances into a larger perspective. He told us Seattle is the fastest growing city in the country and we are in the midst of numerous construction efforts that affect transportation. It will take some years for it all to be in place but yes, there IS planning behind it all! He pointed out the various projects that are currently or soon to be in play: the 520 bridge, light rail on I-90, South Lake Union construction (the fastest growing neighborhood in the city), Yesler Terrace construction, more construction on Mercer and Broadway, the end of the Alaskan Way viaduct and the tunnel that should replace it, the plans for the waterfront and the emergence of buses from the tunnel as they are replaced by trains. Mind-boggling. He said it is the period of the most intense development in the history of the city.

As for the 12th & Yesler concerns, it will get worse before it gets better. Trucks bearing supplies will be coming to Yesler Terrace, while trucks, carrying off demolition debris will leave the area as their grand plan is carried out. He told us there would be a reevaluation of the lanes and traffic signals in this area once the streetcar is operational (early 2015), but it is a work in progress until all the various projects are completed (2022?).

Dongho was able to shed more light on the 23rd Ave. lane reduction plan than I had heard at all the neighborhood meetings AND there were TWO years of neighborhood meetings before the beginning of this project (this spring). We gave notice in the newsletter, signs were posted everywhere and mailers sent to local residences. The fact that some folks did not know made me question my journalistic tendency to do straight reporting on meetings like these; perhaps some National Enquirer type headlines would have worked better: SDOT AXES two lanes on 23rd Ave. Would this work better?

What we did learn from Dongho is that 23rd Ave. was not safe for pedestrians and there are numerous pedestrians making their way to the bus stops; the #48 bus is one of the more heavily used buses in the city. The traffic lanes are only 8 feet wide, not much wider than a vehicle. By reducing to two lanes with a middle turning lane, the lanes can be widened to 12 feet and the sidewalks widened and smoothed to accommodate the pedestrian traffic without affecting the many houses that line 23rd Ave. There will be turnouts for the bus on the far side of the intersection and the traffic lights will allow the buses to easily slip back into the traffic lane. With the experience of waiting for left-turners to free up the lane, I will appreciate the fact that there is a dedicated left turn lane.

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One concern is that during construction, the northbound 23rd Ave. traffic will be diverted to Martin Luther King Jr. Way, which is already a problem during the commute. Dongho assured us that the increased traffic will be monitored and traffic lights will be adjusted accordingly.

23rd Ave., which is pockmarked with various sizes of potholes, will be completely redone in concrete, which holds up better to the weight of trucks and buses. Buses are exempt from paying extra taxes for road maintenance, but they do a number on the roads. The plan will attempt to move cyclists to a Greenway not on 23rd Ave. Construction begins in Spring 2015.

Dongho did address the streetcar issue. The plan for the streetcar that materialized at 14th & Yesler is to link the light rail station in the International District to First Hill (where the original plans for an underground light rail station were scrapped due to soil instability) and ultimately to link up with the South Lake Union streetcar. This brings another governmental entity into the mix; the streetcars are under the jurisdiction of Seattle, the light rail under Sound Transit and our buses under Metro, a regional system. The three entities ARE working together to plan a transportation system that will serve the region. Dongho pointed out that Seattle had no historical system to build on as in New York, Boston, Chicago...no subways or streetcars. Our streetcar tracks were torn up in the early 40s and we have never had a subway system. Although streetcars are less flexible than buses, their steel wheels stay on tracks and do less damage to our roads than buses. And streetcars are not stopped by snow.

Lake Washington Blvd. was a concern for Seward Park residents as well as our Leschi attendees. We have no stop signs from Madrona Ave.

south to the entrance to Seward Park, which encourages speeding. With the addition of the existing blind curves, it seems there is a need to slow traffic down traffic. However, stop signs are not a part of the modern lexicon for traffic engineers; they prefer traffic calming, but keeping the traffic moving. So, they use calming techniques like traffic pillows (we know them as bumps or topes in Mexico) or radar speed signs (which show YOUR SPEED) and more subtle techniques like building out a right turn to make the turn slower. With all the projects going on in the city, it is unlikely there will be an in depth traffic study on Lake Washington for a while. Dongho said there is a calendar of projects and he would see that we had access to it. Stay tuned!

-Diane Snell

CONTENTIOUS MEETING ON REZONE APPLICATION

Once again, debate raged at the November 13 meeting of the Central Area Neighborhood District Council. At issue was the proposed upzone of the MidTown Center (Post Office site) at 23rd and Union, where the Bangasser family has requested the allowable building height be raised from 40 feet to 65 feet. The topic has carried on for over a year, attaining hot-topic status in December 2013 when the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (full disclosure: this author is a LURC member) formally entered opposition to the proposal in front of a city hearing examiner. The hearing examiner ultimately recommended denial of the rezone, an advisory position that leaves the final decision up to the City Council.

In an effort to persuade the LURC to withdraw its opposition to their proposal, the owners engaged the committee in negotiations seeking an agreement that would place conditions on the upzone, that the LURC could sign on to as beneficial enough for the community as

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a whole. At the property owner's insistence, the negotiations focused on resolving several issues first before addressing the District Council's highest priority – and as it turns out, most contentious one – affordable housing. Once the low-hanging fruit of open space, retail area and eventually even transitions/setbacks were agreed to one-by-one over the course of months, the parties took on the elephant in the living room.

A parallel effort by the city is moving toward an upzone of much of the surrounding 23rd and Union environs to 65' regardless of this particular proposal, but with the added condition of Incentive Zoning, which allows the added height as an incentive for providing a modest amount of affordable housing for an extended period of 50 years. From its initial involvement, LURC has contended that this separate up-zone the owners are proposing would effectively grant this one property special status apart from its neighbors who would be subject to the City's eventual legislative re-zone and the IZ condition that would come with it. Removing this entire block from IZ consideration would be a major blow to the effort for blunting the rising cost of housing in the CD over the long term.

On the other hand, the Bangasser family – which is not seeking to develop the property but to sell it to an as-yet unnamed party – feels that IZ is an unreasonable burden they would prefer not to saddle the eventual developer with. Instead, they have suggested an obligatory commitment to another affordable housing program known as MFTE (Multi-Family Tax Exemption). Normally entered into voluntarily by developers, the MFTE grants an exemption from property taxes in exchange for providing affordable housing in a project. Putting an MFTE clause in would guarantee that affordable housing would be built, according to the property owners. In contrast, the LURC posits that a guarantee of participation in MFTE is not incredibly significant since developers in neighborhoods similar to ours almost by default participate in it, given the particularly sweet carrot of the tax exemption. Besides, they point out, the eventual application of IZ to this property would not preclude participation in MFTE; both programs could be applied to the site.

In a last ditch effort to salvage an agreement, the Bangassers proposed an additional clause which would include the property in the pending IZ designation if permitting for a new development project is not vested under their proposed rezone first. While on the surface intriguing, the idea loses its luster when one considers that vesting could realistically happen in as little as three months. Consequently, LURC demurred, and the issue came before the CANDC a final time.

After an update from LURC chair Amanda Bryan, and a statement from family representative Hugh Bangasser, a fair quantity of heated debate filled the room. While much of the discussion amounted to slightly new phrasing of months-old arguments, one interesting twist came from architect Donald King, who announced that indeed there is an actual proposal on the table for redevelopment of the site. This came in stark contrast to the ongoing contention by the owners that no such proposal exists. King clarified that this is the brainchild of the Union Street Business Associated, not the Bangassers, a point also made clear by Tom Bangasser. (DKA Architecture – the firm that Donald King founded and is currently transitioning out of – authored the initial plans for the City's rezone of the area showing the planned 65' height limit).

After relative order was restored, a motion was put forward for the CANDC to compel the LURC to withdraw its opposition. The motion failed on a 9-2 vote. A follow-up motion was passed that the CANDC should support LURC in taking its opposition before City Council along with a stipulation that only if IZ is applied would the CANDC & LURC be supportive of the rezone.

The next step will be for the City Council's Planning, Land Use and Sustainability (PLUS) Committee to take up the rezone application at its meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2pm. If the Council changes course from the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and approves the application, likely a few months would pass for the legal constructing of the ordinance before it takes effect. If the application is denied, the property will be subject to the area-wide re-zone, which sources say will probably be adopted toward the end of 2015. Either way, by early next year, it should be revealed who the buyer/developer waiting in the wings might be – if indeed there is one, USBA-related or otherwise – and possibly what they have in store for this key site.

-Jeff Floor

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SENIOR CENTER?

At the monthly member meeting, Dian Ferguson, the Interim Director, talked about the recent fundraisers. The benefit concert at Langston Hughes was not as well attended as they wished and it did conflict with a Seahawks game, which meant some sold tickets went unused. The loss was in the neighborhood of \$1300. The music was good; there was a shoutout for the group Big Love and a request that they perform at a Green Dolphin event. Despite the lower turnout, the mailing about the event brought in a huge increase of memberships, both annual and lifetime.

The Senior Services Soiree was held on November 1 at the Museum of Flight. This event is a black tie affair with a dinner, silent auction and a live auction; our Senior Center contributed gift baskets, unique items and services. Vernetta Stowers coordinated the contributions. The services were surprisingly popular: a pie a month and a Soul Food dinner were big winners. The Center cleared over \$8000 after giving 20% of sales to Senior Services to help defray expenses for the event. Dian snagged the beautiful quilt put together by the Center Quilters.

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The Center's Holiday Recipes cookbook is now on sale with favorites from Center members. The cost is \$15; \$5 goes to the cost of printing and the other \$10 benefits the Center. It is very entertaining with clever sayings and lovely photographs.

The Facilities Committee narrowed the choice of a new dining room floor to either tile or a simulated wood strip. As the committee split half and half in their vote, Dian brought the decision (and floor samples) to the members' meeting. This vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the wood-like product. It was felt that this would be more attractive for rentals.

Rentals are increasing and Dian hopes that ultimately, this revenue will handle 1/3 of the annual budget. She has been getting requests for "Green Dolphin-like" events. Folks want to duplicate that Green Dolphin experience for their own special day, whether it is for a retirement party or a birthday. Two such private events are coming up in December.

Also, in December, there will be a Senior Center party for families. Children invited! The Holiday party committee will prepare food and guests are asked to bring a dessert. Children will be free, but a \$5 donation is requested from adults to help defray expenses. The entertainment could be YOU! It's an informal talent show, with the Center's Guitar Strummers leading off at 4pm. Deems Tsutakawa will perform at 4:30pm. Leschi/Hawthorne and FAME Angelic Choir will get us all singing along. Santa is coming with a Sleigh Photo Booth for a cost of \$5; get your pictures taken in the photo booth with master photographer, Joan Ervin. This event takes place on Sunday, December 14, 3:30-7pm.

-Submitted by Dian Ferguson and Joie Hsu

FOWL DEEDS

Leschi's bird population made the news recently. One item appeared on the Police Blotter: discovery of an illegal rooster in the 'hood. It's hard to keep the existence of a rooster undercover; they don't respond well to "Shush!"

Then KOMO sent its crew to Leschi Park to witness what was either a battle to the death or an impassioned love encounter.

It turned out to be the latter, but the talons of the great birds had become intertwined and they were having some difficulty going

their respective ways after an impassioned encounter. Police called the Animal Shelter, but the birds were able to disengage before help arrived. Darrell Howe (Friends of Frink Park) sent us the story and photo and reported that Parks cut off the snag the eagle had been using as a perch. Too bad, but Parks is always worried about limbs falling on humans. Hopefully the eagle will find another perch.

The third fowl deed went unreported in the wider world: neighbor Anne Depue took a photo of a woodpecker the size of their cat that attacked the gate pole in their yard and damaged it within 5 minutes. It was a Pileated Woodpecker; they grow 16-19 inches long and according to the Lockwood/Depue family, their rat-a-tat tats sound more like a sledgehammer!



-Thanks to contributions from Darrell Howe, John Barber and Anne Depue

Leschi Lakecenter and Yacht Basin

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WINTER GALA!

See the Christmas Ships up close from the lovely (and warm) Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center upper room. Enjoy cocktails, dinner and speaker Judy Rantz Willman, daughter of Joe Rantz, featured in the popular book 'Boys in the Boat'.

Joe Rantz rowed on the 1936 University of Washington crew that won gold at the Berlin Olympics, and his daughter Judy gave great assistance to Daniel James Brown, the author of the book detailing Joe's life, much Northwest history and rowing lore.

The event begins at 5:30 pm on Sunday, December 7 and is a fundraiser for youth scholarships and equipment renewal. Tickets are on sale at Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center for \$75 at 3800 Lake Washington Blvd S. (206) 386 1913

-Janet Oliver

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mt. Baker is looking for volunteers on December 7 to prepare for a FREE event at the Mt. Baker Clubhouse.

LUMINARIAS: Need 8-10 helpers to set up luminarias from Mt. Baker Beach to the Clubhouse 4-5pm

COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES: Bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies to the Mt. Baker Clubhouse anytime after 4:30pm.

REFRESHMENTS: Need 4-6 volunteers to serve refreshments and help with the cookie table at the Clubhouse. 7-8:30pm.

If you can volunteer, email: Erin Bruce at ebruce@mountbaker.org

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CHRISTMAS SHIP SCHEDULE

The following sailings all start at Leschi Marina; if you are there in time, you can listen to the music without boarding the ship or if you want to ride, find ARGOSY online at www.argosycruises.com and book your tickets.

- Dec. 3, 7-9:30pm. – Pacific Sound Chorus
- Dec. 4, 7-9:50pm. – Emerald City Band
- Dec. 5, 7-9:45pm. – Master Chorus Eastside
- Dec. 7, 5-7:20pm. – Dickens Carolers

THE POLAR VORTEX

What is a "polar vortex"? You hear it said from time to time, but do you really know what it is? This catchphrase became quite the buzzword last year as all sorts of media dished it out like free miniature Bibles. Professor Rush Limbaugh took it upon himself to define the polar vortex, seemingly settling the hysteria once and for all.

"So, ladies and gentlemen, we are having a record-breaking cold snap in many parts of the country. And right on schedule the media have to come up with a way to make it sound like it's completely unprecedented. Because they've got to find a way to attach this to the global warming agenda, and they have. It's called the 'polar vortex.' The dreaded polar vortex."

"Do you know what the polar vortex is? Have you ever heard of it? Well, they just created it for this week."

"Now, in their attempt, the left, the media, everybody, to come up with a way to make this sound like it's something new and completely unprecedented, they've come up with this phrase called the 'polar vortex.'"

And here's my favorite part.

"Whatever it is that keeps the polar vortex vortexed in the Arctic Circle is vanishing, and that cold air is coming to us. Normally it stays up there. But now it's down here. How did it get here? That's the deepening mystery. That is the crisis. That is what is man-made. Man is destroying the invisible boundaries that keeps that air up there."

"Polar vortex vortexed." Good one Rush. The fact is, the polar vortex was not just created in the last week. In fact, the term has been alive and well for over 50 years.

The polar vortex is a persistent cyclone that encircles either one of Earth's geographical poles in a cyclonic fashion (in the same direction as low pressure systems; counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere). They are usually less than 1,000 km in diameter, and their strength depends on the temperature gradient between the poles and mid-latitudes. As such, the vortices are stronger during the winter than the summer, as the temperature gradient between the poles and mid-latitudes is greatest at this time.

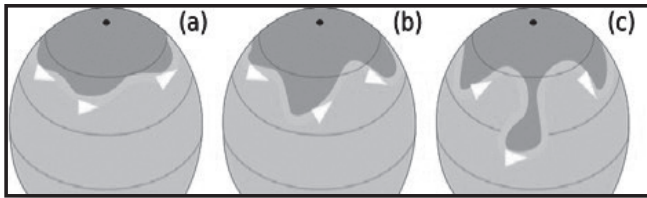
Vorticity is an advanced concept, but it can be thought of as the tendency for an air parcel to spin, with higher values responding to higher tendencies. Therefore, the higher the vorticity, the stronger the polar vortex. The diagram shows how a singular polar vortex over the North Pole weakens and breaks down into two separate vortices. When



this happens, one of these vortices can slide south and bring a whole bunch of cold air that had been previously been stored up near the poles with it.

It can be a little bit tricky to explain just in terms of words, so hopefully the picture below help you understand.

The diagram below gives a general idea of how a part of the polar vortex gets cut off from the main circulation by the pole, bringing frigid air southward with it.



Schematic of the formation of an arctic outbreak in the Northern Hemisphere. Source: Wikipedia

The Polar Vortex is explained by Charlie Phillips, Garfield graduate, now at the University of Washington. Charlie has his own blog on weather and has agreed to contribute a column to the Leschi News about local weather, but introducing us to the larger concepts at the same time.

CAR PROWL PREVENTION

- When you exit or enter your parked vehicle, take a moment to look around the area.
- Turn off and lock your car whenever you have to walk away from it. This includes at gas pumps, ATMs, coffee shops, etc. Never leave your car idling and unattended.
- Before leaving your parked car, always remove the keys, roll up the windows and lock the car.
- Leave No Valuables in Your Car. Never leave valuables in your car. Items of little or no value to you still look inviting to a thief. Even pocket change is enough of an enticement for some thieves.
- If you must leave valuables in your car (say you're out shopping and still have some stops to make), make sure that nothing of value is within plain view. Place items in your car trunk out of sight. Do this when you get to your car, rather than waiting until you park at your next stop.
- Don't leave accessories visible in your car. You may have taken the Laptop or iPod in with you, but if you leave the USB cables for your laptop or earbuds for the iPod in the back seat, the offender may think those items are in the car and break in anyway.
- If you have a GPS, think about how it is mounted in your car. If the mounting for the GPS is visible, the thief may think the GPS is in the glove box or under the seat and may break in to try to get it. Have removable mounting for the GPS and put that out of sight as well.

*-Tracy Bier, LCC Public Health & Safety Chair;
tips from Seattle Police Dept.*

HAPPINESS IS CONTAGIOUS

Maybe mom was right. Research suggests that surrounding yourself with friends and family who are happy can actually increase your own happiness.

Scientists at Harvard University and the University of California, San Diego, found that emotions, particularly happiness, have a viral effect in how they spread from one person to another. For every happy person in your physical social network, you have a 9 percent chance of increasing your own happiness. The effect is more pronounced the closer someone is to you geographically, and it does not seem to include electronic communications. The study, "Dynamic Spread of Happiness in a Large Social Network," can be found online in the British Medical Journal (www.bmj.com).

This is especially good news considering the potential health benefits of happiness and positivity. A study published in Stroke magazine has indicated a "significant association" between optimism and a reduced risk of stroke. This is in addition to studies that have linked optimism to a healthier immune system, faster wound healing and a lower risk of heart disease. While the exact cause of the benefits is not clear, one theory is that optimistic people are more likely to take care of their health. In addition, there is hope that teaching optimism could become part of a preventative program for various conditions.

What's one way to get happy? Try massage! Exposure to stress, a contributing factor to unhappiness, over a long period can increase the rate of neural degeneration and increase the risk for Alzheimer's disease. Luckily, a study from Umea University in Sweden has shown that just five minutes of massage has the potential to lower stress, and 80 minutes of massage has a tremendously positive effect on stress levels. Get massage, get happy and cheer up your friends and family!

*-Cara Ross, Licensed Massage Practitioner
(excerpted from the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals website)*

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Culture Corner

THE AMERICAN WEST: THE HAUB FAMILY COLLECTION AT THE TACOMA ART MUSEUM

Susan N. Platt

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

Elk Buffalo, *The Monarch of the Plains* created in 1900 by Henry Merwin Shady sets the tone for the exhibition in the new wing of the Tacoma Art Museum, designed by Olson Kundig Architects. Shady drew his buffalo in a zoo. This monarch of the plains, like so many of the Native leaders depicted in these paintings at this time, was captured and confined.

The mighty buffalo is a frequent subject in the Tacoma Art Museum's new collection of 295 works of American art by 140 artists acquired by a generous donation from the Haub Family. In a later gallery, we are confronted by the fauve-inspired Buffalo at Sunset by Apache-affiliated artist John Nieto painted in 1996. In between is Frederic Remington's *Conjuring Back the Buffalo* of 1889, filled with skulls, which marks the condition of the buffalo at the end of the 19th century: almost extinct as a result of widespread and intentional slaughter.

The effort to exterminate the buffalo failed. They are now not exactly thriving, but numerous. Native peoples also survived attempts to exterminate and assimilate them and to terminate their tribes. Today many aspects of their cultures are being resurrected and reshaped in dialog with the contemporary world. More than that though, as profound speakers and savvy activists, they play a crucial part in contemporary efforts to stop the devastating practices causing climate change.

At the far end of the sculpture gallery (its plentiful natural light carefully controlled by the architects), a conversation begins. Beside a 1978 bronze sculpture of Chief Washakie by Harry Jackson, the words of the Chief spoken exactly one hundred years earlier eloquently state the physical restraints of those years:

"The white man, who possesses this whole vast country from sea to sea, who roams over it at pleasure, and lives where he likes, cannot know the cramp we feel in this little spot...every foot of what you proudly call America, not very long ago belonged to the red man."

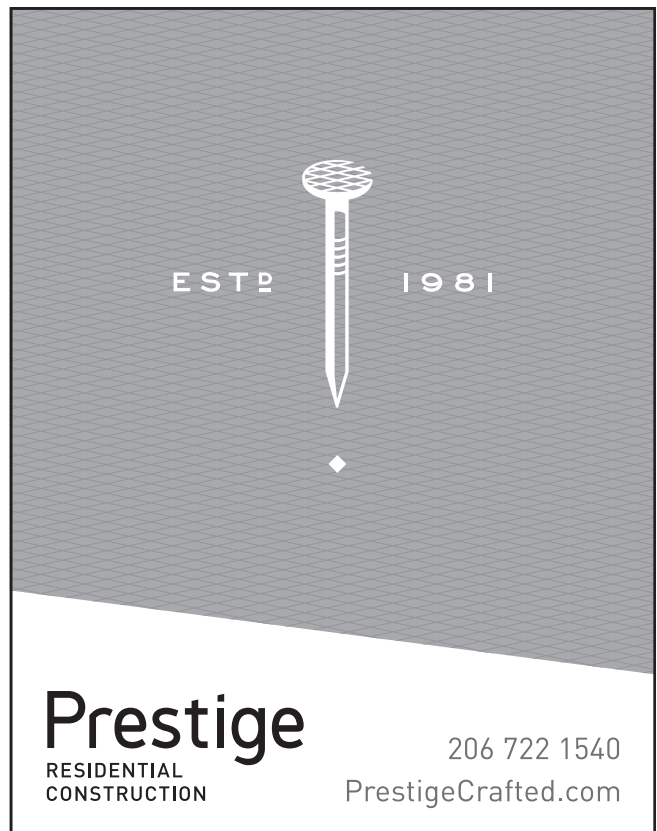
—Chief Washakie, 1878

With this stirring description of the nightmares of forced resettlement, Tacoma Art Museum Haub Fellow, Asia Tail, begins the task of reframing the romanticized concepts of the art of the West on display in the Haub Collection. Affiliated with the Cherokee tribe, Tail explained, "The quotations are just the beginning of a project to integrate Native voice and presence in this exhibition."

Four compact interior galleries display a selection of 120 paintings from the Haug collection. The understated design reflects Olson Kundig Architects' surprising philosophy that art, not the architecture, should dominate at an art museum. The new wing is meant to evoke both a railroad boxcar and a longhouse, two references to the West embedded in Tacoma.

Comments by both Haub Curator of Western American Art Laura F. Fry and native speakers appear beside many of the paintings and sculpture throughout the exhibition. For Junius Brutus Stearns's *The Meeting of Tecumseh and William Henry Harrison at Vincennes*, 1851, Laura Fry focuses on the artist's love of ancient history: "In creating this fanciful image some 40 years after the Shawnee leader's confrontation with General William Henry Harrison in 1810, Stearns presented the scene of an American conflict between two epic leaders in the same light as the legendary events of ancient Rome."

But we also hear from Tecumseh himself "The only way to check and to stop this evil, is for all the red men to unite in claiming a common and equal right to the land. ... The white people have no right to take the land from the Indians, because they had it first; it is theirs."



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Wanata (The Charger) Grand Chief of the Cherokee by Charles Bird King purposefully, but with somewhat pathetic results, tries to give Wanata the pose of European “grand manner” portraits. The artist never met Wanata, so he made up the portrait from someone else’s sketch. King was commissioned to paint portraits of the Native leaders who came as delegates to negotiate with the US government in 1821. The idea of a vanishing race was already creating Indian galleries on the East Coast in the 1820s.

Next to *Canonicus and the Governor of Plymouth* by Albertus del Orient Browere, Tail comments “This painting hints at the long history of conflict between Native American tribes and the US government. Native leaders have continued to fight, long after Canonicus’s time, to protect their people and advocate for their rights. Because of the efforts of our ancestors, millions of Native Americans from hundreds of nations are still here today.” Obviously this is a direct refutation of the prevailing ideology behind the paintings of native leaders in the 19th century, that they were a vanishing race.”

Scott Manning Stevens (Director of Native American Studies at Syracuse University) points out in his catalog essay that including the Northwest in the concept of the West integrates the hundreds of native groups practicing various ways of life. It moves beyond the limited cliché framed by Western movies that focus on cowboys and Indians of the High Plains. The catalog also includes insightful essays by Fry and Peter Hassrick (Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming) as well as color illustrations and discussion of individual artworks.

The collection includes many surprises (most of the works have never been exhibited before), including a work by Rosa Bonheur, and

paintings by Robert Henri, Thomas Hart Benton, Maynard Dixon, and Taos school artists, as well as examples of landscape painting by such well-known artists as Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran.

Some people I spoke with felt strongly that the museum should work much harder to deconstruct the clichés of the West in the labels and in the organization of the display. I would have liked to see more contemporary native art.

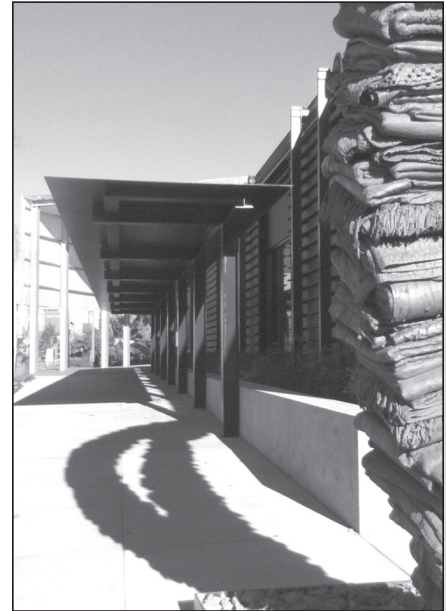
Curator Laura Fry understands the issues. She spoke of complicating given ideas citing, as an example, the multiple racial backgrounds of cowboys. Asia Tail’s project represents an ongoing commitment on the part of the museum to expand native voices.

The museum also commissioned a public sculpture outside the new wing by Seneca artist Marie Watt:

Blanket Stories, Transportation Object, Generous Ones and Trek. The artist invited community members to contribute blankets that would be cast in bronze at the Walla Walla Foundry. Each donated blanket has a story that can be accessed on the museum website.

It creates a giant relaxed x shape in front of the museum, a concept that could have many meanings.

Clearly, the museum is interested in framing the collection of art of the American West in new discourses. I look forward to hearing about further programming that will introduce new ideas and voices to counter the traditional romantic perspectives in art of the Haub Collection.



Tacoma Art Museum with detail of Marie Watt, **Blanket Stories: Transportation Object, Generous Ones, Trek 2014**, Cast bronze.



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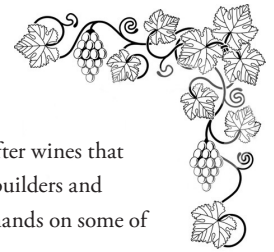
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GIFT OF WINE

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

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

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

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

"Around the World" packages are great for those fresh off a journey, or for those about to embark on one in the coming year. Focusing on one country, or several, is easy enough to do. Rieslings from Germany, Barberas from Italy, Tempranillos from Spain, Cabernet Sauvignons from South Africa, Malbecs from Argentina or Carmeneres from Chile.

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

This brings me to Champagnes and Ports. These are ultimate gift wines, if not for the sole fact that people rarely buy them for themselves. Who knows why, but I've seen the trend that we tend to put off splurging for these special wines for ourselves, yet are ecstatic when we are gifted them. When in doubt, look to the Port and Champagne sections. Many of these wines are discounted during holiday months, and great finds can be had for under \$30. Vintage Champagnes and Vintage Ports are more expensive and harder to find, however "Colheita" Ports (years of ports not designated as "vintage") can be found for a lesser dollar amount and for nearly every year; a great idea when trying to match birth years, anniversary years, and other significant dates in one's life.

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

2012 Domaine Vieux Telegraphe Chateaufeuf du Pape (\$80)

Wine Spectator 94-points

2011 Kopke Vintage Porto (\$56)

Wine Spectator 94-points

2011 Evening Land Vineyards Seven Springs Pinot Noir (\$50)

Wine Advocate 92-points

2009 Caparzo Brunello di Montalcino (\$33)

Wine Advocate 91-points

NV Champagne Moutard Brut Rose de Cuvaision (\$30)

Wine Advocate 92-points

2012 Board Track Racer The Chief Columbia Valley (\$24)

Wine Spectator 92-points

2012 Chateau Pegau Cuvee Maclura Cotes du Rhone (\$18)

Wine Advocate 91-points

Still unsure what gift to give the wine lover on your list? One of my favorite reminders is that accessories like wine glasses and decanters rarely need a gift receipt!

Have a safe and memorable holiday season and we'll see you next year!

CHEERS! ENJOY!

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



LCC EXEC BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 6, 2014

Attending: Diane Snell, Diane Morris, Janet Oliver, Jeff Floor, Amy Fink, Kim Murillo

September meeting minutes: approved by email

Treasury/Kim: Discussion of cash w/in officer Brenton fund: Jeff suggested donating to the Police guild. Diane (Snell) recommended deleting the entry for the Jackson Street Music fund, which is flat (\$0.00). Other budgetary items discussed: Cherry street corridor, The Pollinator highway, and a reminder to check in with John Barber about King Street. Diane Snell made a Motion to close out the Youth Fund and send that cash to benefit the children's garden at Leschi elementary; the motion was passed.

LURC/Jeff: Regarding the Bangasser site: LURC accepted the retail portion of Bangasser's proposal since it meets existing code. LURC remains firm with their position on transition setbacks on upper stories, which are already compromised from the original LURC position. Bangasser says LURC is standing in their way and promoting blight. But Bangasser has requested three extensions and seems to ignore security issues on the site, which may indicate how they prioritize blight. Since the city wants to apply Incentive Zoning along 23rd, LURC contends that incentive zoning should apply at this site as well.

Janet is concerned about potential plans for the Red Apple site. Diane S. noted that Red Apple has lost business since Grocery Outlet went in.

Programming Notes: The October general meeting will be the candidate forum on 10/22 in conjunction with Madrona CC and Mt. Baker CC. November is Transportation month. Dongho Chang will be back to discuss safety on Lake WA Blvd and another speaker will address 23rd Ave. issues. December will be the Holiday Party, but on our regular Wednesday night meeting time, not on a weekend.

Next Stairway Clean up: Washington and 31st /32nd for October. The board discussed whether we should we take a break from stair-cleans and skip November, or maybe take a 3 month break while the weather is at its worst. The issue was left undecided.

The new Pot Shop on 23rd & Union: The church next door is upset that Uncle Ike's Pot Shop is opening at this location near the church on 23rd, but most of the board thought the illegal trade at Alder/29th was potentially a much bigger problem. The police did a drive by and it helped at Alder/29th. The police did a drive by at the coffee kiosk and Mr. Bangasser asked them to leave. Diane Snell will interview the proprietor for a newsletter article. She also plans to interview the minister at the church objecting to the pot shop location.

-minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Fink

LCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 11/10/14

Attending: Janet Oliver, Kim Murillo, Jeff Floor, John Barber, Tracy Bier, Diane Morris and Diane Snell.

Minutes: October minutes approved by email.

Treasury: Kim confirmed the restricted fund accounts which total \$14,720.02 and unrestricted funds of \$7,903.90. She will break down the revenue into ad revenue, renewals and donations in the future.

Janet Oliver, Vice-President, asked for approval of a letter which will be sent to the contact person for each restricted fund, letting them know the amount remaining in the fund for their project.

John Barber wanted to know how we reached the point of being solvent when 3 years ago, we seemed to be bankrupt (for unrestricted funds). Answer: Selling ads and collecting revenues and finding a cheaper printer. The wine tasting fundraiser boosted our treasury and another boost has been donations that folks include with their renewals.

Kim Murillo suggested that we might consider offering small grants for projects that enhance the community, getting folks used to writing grants and figuring out their expenses, submitting expenses, etc. Maybe this would be an experience that would encourage more use of Neighborhood Department grants.

Jeff Floor: LURC has been negotiating with the Bangasser family on the property at 23rd & Union where the Post Office has been. LURC has not withdrawn its opposition to an upzone request due to a lack of agreement with the current owners on Incentive Zoning, which would allow for affordable housing. LURC is backing away from negotiation, as they cannot come to agreement.

John Barber said that the earlier closing time for Leschi Park, the use of bollards to restrict access to the parking lot by the tennis court and the locking of the bathrooms at night have resulted in a much quieter time for nearby residents. No raucous parties and beer can litter to pick up the next day. Unfortunately, this was a temporary measure granted by Parks; to make these changes permanent would involve City Council. John is working with the nearby neighbors who brought up this issue and trying to get letters of concern written. The letters would be taken to Jean Godden, who is the Councilmember assigned to Parks this year. John also feels we should jump on the bus issue and make our case for increasing hours of operation for the #27. John, Janet and Diane S. will meet in the near future to draft a plan on the bus issue.

We will host the holiday Party on our regular December meeting night; an open house with concert (The Bach Street Boys) is



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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)

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planned. No meeting in January. Diane S. will ask Bob Santos to speak in February; he is writing a book about The Gang of Four.

Newsletter: Janet will submit an article about the Mt Baker celebration in December, Jeff will write about the LURC decision not to continue negotiation on 23 & Union property and John will write about the Leschi Park hours or Tree Ambassadors.

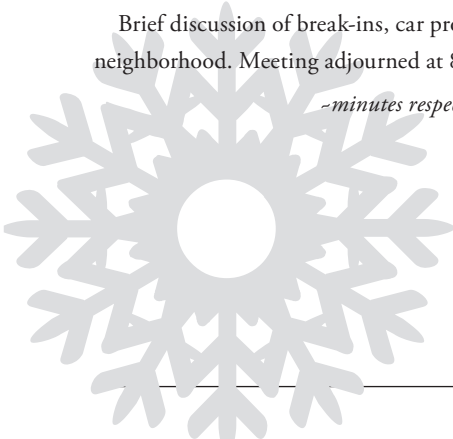
In keeping with our plan to donate to the Leschi Children's Garden, we have purchased six ollas for their use.

Leschi Natural Area is applying for a Patagonia grant; John agreed to look over the grant and offer feedback.

Mt. Baker is asking for volunteers to help with the Christmas Ship event on December 7: help set out luminaria, bake cookies and serve them.

Brief discussion of break-ins, car prowls and fowl deeds in the neighborhood. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

-minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Snell



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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **DECEMBER 17**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:
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December 2014 | Calendar

DEC 3 Leschi CC Open House & Concert 7pm. Central Area Senior Center

DEC 4 EastPAC meeting 6:30pm. Chardin Hall, Seattle U. Parking off Jefferson past 12th on right.

DEC 6 Leschi Natural Area work party 9-3. Lunch & tools provided. 36th & Terrace.

DEC 8 Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM 128 30th (Diane Morris's)

DEC 9 Garfield Jazz 8pm Sunset Club Holiday Concert 1021 University St

DEC 11 Central Area Neighborhood District Council 6pm The Central 500 30th Ave S

DEC 12 Garfield Orchestra Messiah singalong, 7:30 at First Baptist Church on Capitol Hill

DEC 13 Seattle Neighborhood Coalition 9 is at The Central (Breakfast: \$12)

DEC 14 Garfield Jazz Winterfest 12:30pm Seattle Center Armory

DEC 14 Central Area Senior Center family Holiday party 3:30-7pm (See page ?)

DEC 18 Garfield Orchestra Midwinter Concert, 7pm Quincy Jones PAC

DEC 19 Green Dolphin Street Lounge 6-9PM featuring Surround Sound Band. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members. Refreshments. No Host bar.

DEC 20 7:30pm, Dark Divas: a tribute to Black singers from Billie Holiday to Nina Simone. Ernestine Anderson Place 2010 S Jackson

DEC 28 Garfield Jazz Jam 6pm The Royal Room 5000 Rainier Ave S

Contact John Barber about String of Pearls work parties at 206.324.1548 and contact Darcy Thompson for Frink Park work parties at 206.325.4295.

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