

leschinews

November 2014 Issue No. 316

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

Traffic Issues

with Dongho Chang, Traffic Engineer for SDOT

Join us for a discussion of pedestrian safety on Lake Washington Blvd, the impact of lane reduction on 23rd Ave and the delays on Yesler caused by streetcar accommodations and new bike lanes.

November 5, 7pm

**CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER, 500 30TH AVE S.
(ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF JACKSON AT 30TH AND KING)**

inside the news

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Be sure to vote

YES

on Prop. 1!!



Presidents' Message

Please read our Stairway Project article on page 9. We had the help of industrious neighbors at our last two stairways and it made such a difference. Your two Dianas are both at an age where we seem to be outliving our body parts (knees mostly), and these younger folks work circles around us. Superwoman Diane Morris did work with a broken kneecap at this last work party.

At our October Board meeting, we looked at the restricted funds, those that have been designated for a particular purpose. We saw that we had \$137 in the Youth Fund. We have not had a Youth Committee or chair for many years and we decided to close out that account, add a small amount from our Unrestricted funds and give \$150 to the Children's Garden at Leschi Elementary School. Most of the other funds are designated for some park or street-end shoreline area. The biggest Restricted Fund is for Officer Brenton who was killed in our community in 2010. Neighbors established a memorial garden in the parking strip where he was shot, but the initial costs have long been paid for, and maintaining the area means that we pay SDOT a fee for the use of the parking strip each year. It is in the neighborhood of \$140 per year. The current planting looks good and there has not been a need to buy more plants for some time, so that fund will remain fairly static for some time. We will be notifying each group that has funds in our account of their total and if there are other accounts that can be closed, we will do so.

Another action at the Board meeting was the approval for accepting an ad from Uncle Ike's Pot Shop. We know this will be a controversial action, but it is the law now and we can only hope that it does have an effect on the illegal market. We had hoped to talk to the minister of the church whose members have been demonstrating against the shop, but we have had no response to our request for an interview. There was an acknowledgement among Board members that this is a law that will take some time for the public to adjust to. The new law does prohibit smoking pot in public so you will not see folks hanging around the shop smoking after making a purchase; they need to take their product home and use it there. Across Union at the old Post Office site, one can frequently smell marijuana being smoked and although folks have complained at the EastPAC meetings about the group of men that hangs around there, the police cannot do anything about it. It is private property and the owner has made it clear to the police that he has no problem with the loiterers.

Watch for information on our Holiday Party in the next issue. Our usual first Saturday in December event won't happen as the space was rented to another group. We will be doing something on a smaller scale on our regular meeting night.

Do vote! And don't forget the food bank when you do your holiday grocery shopping!

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

-Diane Morris and Diane Snell



Like us on Facebook: **LESCHI**
and visit our website: leschinews.com

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Uncle Ike's Pot Shop

In the interest of full disclosure, I need to say that I voted yes to legalize marijuana; feeling that legalizing what is a rather innocuous weed might do something to dismantle the drug cartels. Our "war" on drugs has certainly been a huge failure with young folks in jail for possession of small amounts or for selling small amounts. The so-called "war" has been a failure in getting the big guys, but a "success" in filling the jails with folks who shouldn't be there. So I was naturally curious when a pot shop opened at 23rd and Union, and I wanted to find out the details: How well controlled is it? And is it making a difference?

Also, in the interest of full disclosure, I do not smoke pot; I do not smoke at all, as I have bad asthma and smoking is verboten (even second hand smoke.) But I did try it in the 60's and I did inhale. I also ate a brownie (innocently) laced with weed at an end-of-term potluck for my Sociology Honors course. Weird, but true. It was the 60's after all. This was a credited class that met in an off campus apartment or, in good weather, in a treehouse built by one of our classmates. Neither of these experiences "hooked" me or led me to try harder stuff.

Moving on from the true confessions part of this story, I met with Ian Eisenberg, the proprietor of the pot shop. Ian said he voted for legalizing pot (for many of the same reasons that I did) and did an in depth study of the laws, and decided that he wanted to open a shop.

He talked about the 1000 foot rule: a shop has to be at least 1000 feet from a school, school bus stop or public park or public housing designated as a drug free zone. But there is nothing in the regulations about churches. It is still illegal to smoke pot in public; purchases are meant to be taken home and smoked away from the public eye.

No one under 21 can enter the store or even hang around outside. Security is a big part of the operation, and getting guards who were appropriate proved to be more difficult than Ian thought. Bouncers were not appropriate; they tended to be big bruisers who seemed to be aching for a fight. Security firms do not always have well trained folks, but Ian found Apache 6, a group of ex-military guys who are well trained in de-escalating incidents. Only six customers are allowed in the store at one time, three at the counter and three in line inside, another security measure.

Security actually starts at the very beginning. Each pot plant is given a bar code and can be tracked through processing and distribution to the retail outlets. The state tests the product; the plant is subject to mold and fungus. Ian said that sometimes Liquor Control Board employees meet the truck when it arrives at the store and check the contents against the manifesto created when the truck was loaded with product. Product is kept in enormous safes in the store's back room, and the building itself is alarmed. All sales must be cash purchases, and an armored truck comes at the close of business to collect the receipts. Receipts are then "banked" at a credit union, as banks are reluctant to get into this business, although they seem to have no problem laundering money for the big cartels.

So who is buying? Ian said that he was surprised to find an equal number of women customers; he expected the clientele would be mostly male. All socioeconomic groups are represented. He also underestimated the number of people who would not buy until it became legal.

And what about supply, which was a problem when the first Seattle store in Sodo opened. Ian said the supply chain was catching up. After a long hot summer, there has been a good harvest and he feels he will be able to stay open indefinitely. With increased supplies, the price is falling and Ian expects it will soon be about double the street price. Even with the price difference, the police have told him that the legal sales are cutting into the street sales.

We toured the store before it opened; a line was already starting to form. I had to sign in and wear a visitor badge. Product is neatly displayed in polished display cases, and a salesperson walked me through the choices, which are far greater than in the 60's. No wrinkled baggies of green stuff with the accompanying Zig Zag

-continued on the next page

papers. There is a manual with testing results if someone wants to check the THC content of a product. There are cookies, and

A+ IN FRUGALITY **GROCERY OUTLET**
bargain market

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1126 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Seattle, WA 98144 (206) 302-1005
Store Hours: 8a.m. - 10p.m., 7 Days a Week

I asked about directions on consumption after reading Maureen Dowd's experience in the *New York Times*. (She shouldn't have eaten so much of that candy bar, but who can eat just one square of chocolate?) I was told that each package contains one serving. There are innocent-looking products to hide your stash if you're worried about the kids getting into it.

There is also a separate glass shop with the accessory products, including beautiful glass bongos and pipes that have been blown by artists who have worked for Chihuly. This is obviously a pastime that has moved upscale from the baggie/Zig Zag days. It was rather overwhelming and I likened it to changes from the old college days when we had a jug of non-denominational red wine from Oak Barrel winery in Berkeley which we drank out of paper cups to today's wine offering which has to come from Napa (not Lodi country) and served in stemmed glasses after being opened by a fancy free-standing de-corker.

There have been protests, primarily from the Mt. Calvary Christian Center, one door north of the shop. One large demonstration brought out the TV cameras and a police presence that stayed at a discreet distance. After interviewing Ian, I went next door with an intern from the Capitol Hill blog and we attempted to meet with Reverend Witherspoon, pastor of this church. An administrative person took our names and contact numbers and promised to give them to the Reverend. I am waiting for his call.

In the meantime, we need to remember that Initiative 502 was passed by 55.7% of Washington voters. The Yes vote was mostly

in Western Washington with two eastern counties, Spokane and Whitman, and one southern county, Skamania. Colorado passed a law legalizing pot for recreational use the same year that Washington did. Now Alaska, Oregon and the District of Columbia have initiatives on the ballot to legalize recreational use. A recent *New York Times* editorial (10/6/14) endorsed legalization (calling it a drug far less dangerous than alcohol) and stating that "ideally the federal government would repeal the ban on marijuana, so states could set their own policies without worrying about the possibility of a crackdown on citizens violating federal law." Changing public perception will be slow, but in the meantime, it is legal here and the safeguards seem to be well planned and carried out.

-Diane Snell

Letter to the Editor

From the Seattle Music Partners: Thank you for your continued and generous support of our program all these years! We have more than 100 students signed up at four schools. Instruments have been handed out. First notes found. Next week we introduce our volunteers to the students, one-on-one lessons start and the fun begins! Thank you for helping us make that, and more, possible.

-Scott Gelband, SMP



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Neighborhood and Beyond

HOPE FOR BUS #27?

At our October 22 forum, City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen spoke in favor of Proposition 1, which is designed to buy back bus hours for Metro. During the question period, I asked about buying back hours for the #27 so lower Leschi is not so isolated. He responded favorably, saying that he felt we need to buy back those hours, as Leschi has no other options. He is aware of the big hill and then a hike north or south to catch another bus. CM Rasmussen is Chair of the Transportation Committee and a bus rider himself, so we know he understands, but we may need to remind him. But first, as he noted, go to the end of your ballot, as the Metro funding prop is at the very bottom...even after the monorail that we thought had died some years ago. Then vote YES, and if it passes and we have the funds, we will work to resurrect service on the #27!

-Diane Snell

LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Annual Giving Campaign is officially under way! The Leschi PTA is launching its 5th Annual Giving Campaign.

This year our goal is to raise \$35,000. We are proud to report that the 2013 Giving Campaign raised over \$30,000! We invite you to contribute to make this year the best yet for all of our 380 kindergarten to fifth grade Leschi students and teachers.

Your contributions support the following and much more:

- Tutors in every K/1st grade classrooms
- Art supplies and resources (SPS district budget does not cover more than basic art supplies)
- Library maintenance (there is NO SPS district budget for new library books or materials)
- Technology maintenance
- Before, during and after school enrichment programs: Music, Drama, Chess, Futsal, and more
- P.E. and Recess equipment – balls, helmets, curriculum and more
- Teacher reimbursement for classroom supplies purchased with their own money
- Field trip scholarships and transportation

Every single dollar makes a difference!!!

To donate you can:

- Send a check (payable to Leschi PTA) to: Leschi PTA Annual Giving Campaign, 135 32nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

- Bring a check (payable to Leschi PTA) to the school office
- Place your contribution in the “Annual Giving Campaign” donation box at school events
- Donate online at www.leschischool.com – It’s easier than ever to use a credit card or PayPal account to make an investment in our students and teachers! If you would like to make a bigger contribution, but giving in one lump sum will not work with your budget, consider using the PayPal subscription feature to make a monthly contribution. Visit the website to see the online giving options. www.leschischool.com

-Katie Busby

LESCHI’S CHILDREN’S GARDEN

The Leschi school garden has successfully entered its 2nd year. Garden education started the 2nd week of school and is successfully moving forward. At least three classes are participating in outdoor education every Friday.

Kim Blakemore continues to serve as parent volunteer garden coordinator. Parent volunteers Juli Hudson, Sophi Kimura, Regina Coleman, Helen Shor-Wong, Jana Robbins and several community volunteers are continuing to generously make garden education possible for all sixteen classes this school year.

Other exciting news is that parent volunteer Jana Robbins will provide forestry education to classes as well. This was made possible last year, but limited to only some classes due to small volunteer capacity. This year, Jana and Kim are synchronizing volunteer effort and schedules so that garden and forestry education becomes a school wide offering. Leschi’s teachers have embraced this offering and have already scheduled their classes for outdoor education for the fall quarter.

Two community volunteers will also work with specific classrooms on focused projects. Dee is a student studying sustainable eco friendly designs and will be working with the 4th/5th grade classrooms every Monday (during fall quarter) teaching about water conservation, rain

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catchment and irrigation systems. Her goal is to get students to build rain catchment and irrigation systems for the school garden. Haley is a current AmeriCorps student teaching at IslandWood. She approached Leschi to find out if she could develop and teach a 2nd grade garden curriculum. She will teach garden education every other Wednesday to four different classrooms.

Leschi Community Council (LCC) has generously donated \$150 toward the school garden. LCC serves as the garden's community partner. Thank you LCC for your donation.

Kim Blakemore is currently drafting content for a \$2000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, which if awarded, would provide some funding for an individual to teach outdoor education.

Kim and Jana are busily working on identifying and creating outdoor education curriculum that links classroom learning to lessons in the natural world.

Needs:

- As always, we could use more parent volunteers. We have gardening Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are able to volunteer in the morning, afternoon or both on any of those days, please contact Kim Blakemore at kblakemo@uw.edu or Jana Robbins at jana_b@earthlink.net.
- Volunteer work can be done remotely as well. Needs include grant writing, community outreach, blog updates, supply gathering, community events coordinating (e.g., potential Harvest of spring fair coordinating), communications, general weekend maintenance.

As you can see, this little "garden" of ours is not so little anymore. The students and teachers absolutely love it and it has become a bigger classroom than we ever imagined. Five classes enjoyed planting fall seeds: spinach, Brussels sprouts, watermelon radish (who knew there was such a thing!) and lettuce. They moved strawberries to a strawberry patch and transplanted herbs into pots. It was a busy and fun loving day!

-Kim Blakemore

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SENIOR CENTER?

New informational programs this month include the following; please note that these programs are open to the general public:

MEDICARE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

November 4: 4PM and November 18: 4PM

Stop by the Central Area Senior Center to learn about UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage choices.

PSORIASIS INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Wednesday, November 12: 11AM-12PM

Learn more about psoriasis and get useful tips on how to live with it, plus find out ways to have conversations that are more productive with your doctor. This free educational event is brought to you by AbbVie and led by a Psoriasis Patient Advocate.

Must call 206-726-4927 to sign up for presentation.

LARGE GRANT FOR FRINK PARK

Friends of Frink Park is happy to announce that we have received a \$45,000 King Conservation District (KCD) Grant for Frink Park Wetland Restoration of to rehabilitate and restore two degraded wetlands and their buffers. This will reduce invasive species, increase native plant and wildlife habitat in Frink Park and increase opportunities for aesthetic enjoyment and public awareness of wetlands. Additional funding will come from Seattle Parks Department (SPD) to help develop long-needed wetland restoration best management practices (BMPs) for SPD to develop restoration standards citywide for volunteers and contractors working in SPD wetlands.

The two wetlands and their buffers total 1.75 acres and are located below Jackson St. and above Lake Washington Blvd S. Numerous

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unique wetlands are present within Frink Park, this project focuses on Wetlands #3 and #4 (per the Frink Park Concept Plan), which are saturated forested wetlands associated with seeps in a sloped landscape. Unlike many wetlands, standing water is not present. Common tree species include willow and cottonwood. The adjacent upland urban forest to the west and north of the wetlands has been cleared of invasives, and then planted with native plants, which are becoming well established due primarily to dedicated volunteer efforts.

KCD funds will help purchase contract labor, supervision, plant materials, placement of woody debris, watering support and follow-up maintenance. Activities within the wetlands will be performed by contracted crews. Friends of Frink Park will require volunteer hours, as a component of the grant, to provide support and labor for upland buffers and wetland edge restoration; look for more information in 2015 as to how you can participate in this unique neighborhood opportunity.

For more information or to volunteer labor or related services contact, Friends of Frink Park Darrell Howe Dhowe@Artcycled.com

WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS CLASS

Leave a treasured memory to your family by telling about your life, its joys and its challenges. Our grandchildren don't realize we grew up without computers, cell phones and GPS! Instructor Diane Morris said you don't have to be a writer to leave these memories; guidance is given! Wednesdays, 1pm, FREE

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

The monthly member meeting reviewed the Facilities Committee: the members are working with a decorator on a color theme. Floor samples are being considered to replace the damaged floor in the large dining room area. New coverings for the chairs are being researched as well; no one likes the plastic (which is cracking in many cases), but the coverings need to be able to be wiped off. Tree pruning will take place in the very near future by professionals at a reduced price.

The Center has a contractual agreement with Grace Methodist Church to use their parking lot for Senior Center overflow.

A grant has been submitted to make a video of the history of the Central Area.

When Dian Ferguson was appointed as interim Director, the Center deficit was \$60,000. Dian announced that the debt has been reduced to \$2000!

Cindy Granger will join the Center as the new foot specialist. Foot care is done on Mondays by appointment only. (726-4926)

Joyce Muskelly is heading up the committee for the annual Holiday party, which is scheduled for December 14, 3:30-7:30. There will be a talent show! The Senior Strummers will perform and they are looking for more local talent! More about this event in the December issue.

-Diane Morris

WALK SAFE

Although Seattle is rated the second safest city in the country for pedestrians (after Boston), SDOT feels that our fatality figures can be lowered. Jim Curtin, SDOT, came to the Senior Center with tips to keep us safe when we are walking.

He said most accidents happen to pedestrians who are in the crosswalk with a WALK sign (which was scary.) Pedestrians over 50 account for 70% of fatal accidents. And who are those drivers? About

30% are speeding, 48% impaired (alcohol, drugs, legal or not) and the other 22% are distracted (texting, cell phone call, changing the radio station, trying to get their donut out of the bag, etc.). Investigating these accidents costs the state about \$665 million, money that could be spent on our education system (or maybe even transit?).

Jim looked at the square mile around the Senior Center: 768 collisions in the last 3.5 years, involving 31 pedestrians. Most occur on the arterials. He showed a slide, which indicated the reduction of lanes on 23rd Ave. and how this will make it safer for pedestrians. A longer WALK sign will be given for a senior to safely cross the street. Left turns will be regulated by a "protected" signal: green arrow, yellow arrow and then red.

A small but vocal group attended this meeting and had much to contribute. Concern was expressed about the cyclists who have no rules of the road and are often unpredictable. Jim straightened us out on that myth; cyclists have the same rules of the road as any vehicle; they just don't obey them at the same rate. You will see a cyclist enter the intersection on a red light when there is no cross traffic, but it is just as much against the law for the cyclist as for a driver. Kate Barber, who cycled to work for decades, said she wished such cyclists were cited as that kind of behavior makes a bad rap for all cyclists.

There were concerns about rumored changes to Rainier Ave. and he said plans are not complete on that, but he did tell us that Rainier Ave. has the worst collision rate in the state and changes are needed to make it safer.

Tips for drivers and pedestrians:

1. Know your speed
2. Scout your route (is there a safer way?)
3. On timed walks, don't start if you can't make it across in the given time
4. Look, smile, wave to make sure a driver has seen you
5. Make eye contact
6. Look left, right and left again
7. Wear bright or reflective clothing at night

We were all given reflective badges to wear with another tip about the weather and earlier sun down this time of year. We also were given the phone number for road issues (including potholes): 206 684-ROAD!

M. Suzanne Heidema

Certified Public Accountant

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER STAIRWAY PROJECT

The September Stairway project was a delight in many ways: the weather was beautiful, we had many volunteers and we accomplished a lot! LCC Board members Jeff Floor, Janet Oliver and the two Dianas were joined by Bill Caldwell and Rick (30th Ave. neighbors), Eric and Julie Nelson, new neighbors on 29th, Dennis Tully and Jim Snell.

One of the problems we had noticed in August was that a laurel bush/tree had sent a large branch over the stairway right under the light that is supposed to shine on the steps for safety. We hadn't brought the equipment to deal with it in August but this time, Bill Caldwell brought a ladder and pruners and chopped off the offending branches, which kept our baggers working diligently all morning. Bill also cleaned the light fixture and was able to clean graffiti off a public sign. Blackberries and ivy were removed as well. The group even stopped at noon for a brief bagel break together. Thanks to all of you. It makes such a difference when there is neighborhood help, and two and a half hours is not too much to give to your community. We had thank you's from neighbors going by! And SDOT thanked us for all we do when we reported the 25 bags and numerous laurel limbs.

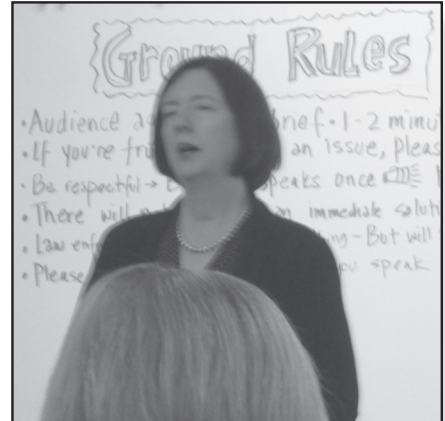
And to add to our delight, webmaster Allan Fink has created a new sign for us. Thank you, Allan; you are a man of many talents!

The October project also brought out hard-working volunteers: Darcy Thompson, Darrell Howe, Matthew Goosen and Sam Ung from the 32nd and Washington cluster of homes. Neighbors who could not come out and help did volunteer use of their yard waste bins so bag usage was minimal. We reported problems to SDOT; we did not have a mower or weed whacker to cut the tall grass by the metal barrier at the top of the stairs and SDOT will do that. There is also a question about the light and whether it is working or not; branches block the light from reaching the stairs and SDOT's Urban Forester will assess that issue. Weather will determine if we schedule a November project.

NEW POLICE CHIEF VISITS

EASTPAC MEETING

Kathleen O'Toole, our new police chief, has been attending the various precinct meetings and the EastPAC meeting was prepared for her visit in late September. A list of problem areas had been prepared for her. Leschi's concerns were the 29th & Alder area along the south side of Powell Barnett Park. Other concerns from Leschi had to do with racial profiling, a query whether their code of conduct was online, what measures have been taken to hire more officers who live in the neighborhoods that they patrol. Not all concerns were answered, as questions were also taken from the attendees.



Chief O'Toole said the manual would be put on line and she gave some examples of discipline, including the teaching moment used to handle the officer who wrote excessive tickets to public pot smokers and wrote snarky comments on the tickets to the City Attorney. She mentioned the Office of Professional Accountability, led by Pierce Murphy, which is independent of the police.

O'Toole wants to focus on prevention and intervention, not enforcement. She is supportive of the bottoms up, grass roots

Leschi Lakecenter and Yacht Basin

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

BluWater Bistro - Crossfit 206 - Daniel's Broiler - Fido & Scratch Pet Store - Leschi Market and Wine Store
Marshall's Cleaners - Pert's Deli - Sabai Ruby Asian Dining - Sol Yoga Studio - Starbucks

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marina@leavittcap.com

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from the current decree with the Department of Justice. There is a robust review process for use of force.

O'Toole introduced her Deputy Carmen Best and received enthusiastic support when she said Officer Sina Ebinger would be returning to the East Precinct. Many community councils and block watches have worked with Sina in the past and are happy to have her reassigned to our precinct.

O'Toole is direct in her answers; she readily admits that there are situations where the police need more training (in response to dealing with people who have mental health issues, for instance) and is very willing to look into the problem areas. We are a big city with lots of big city problems and it will take a while to get it all under control, but one does feel that this woman is not just a figurehead but a woman of experience in police policy and an open common sense approach.

Diane Snell

NEW NEIGHBORS

We welcome a new business in the space once occupied by Safeco, the area on top of AutoZone at 23rd & Jackson. This is a primary health clinic for seniors: IORA. The community was welcomed on Oct. 21 to an open house with tour of the facility (which is still under renovation.) The staff includes two geriatricians, health coaches and social workers. Classes in managing chronic conditions are planned along with clubs for diabetic or walking groups. The focus is on comprehensive and preventive (not reactive) care with follow-up and coaching to achieve one's goals. IORA has a large parking lot and is served by the #14 and #48 buses.

GREEN DOLPHIN STREET LOUNGE

Join the Central Area Senior Center for our Green Dolphin Street Lounge featuring Debbie Cavitt on November 21. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members. Friday, November 21, 6-9pm

NEW LESCHI BUSINESS

Welcome to Sonya Seale, hair stylist at Salon 121. Sonya moved her business to Leschi a few months ago and is delighted with our community. She offers styling to women, men and children.

Sonya studied at the prestigious Koehler Academy in Arizona, a school with competitive admission requirements. She has studied as an assistant under lead stylists at salons like Gene Juarez and was promoted after 6 months to be an independent stylist. She does both cuts and colors and has many customers who come in for a weekly blow dry styling.



SONYA SEALE

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She offers smoothing with a Keratin treatment for dry, brittle hair and offers coloring techniques such as Ombre and Balayage. Ombre is the technique that has darker hair at the scalp which gradually lightens and Balayage is a hand painted color. Sonya can give advice about color: what works for you and what upkeep would be involved.

Loma is the product that Sonya uses and sells. It is made locally (Monroe, WA) but sold nationally. It's an organic line with no sulfates and no harsh ingredients. The products use an aloe vera base which is hydrating. Her hair colors are ammonia and PPD free.

Sonya works Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Call for an appointment and receive 20% off on your first visit: 206.328.5854

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Culture Corner

ANOTHER SEATTLE TREASURE: ARTXCHANGE GALLERY

Susan N. Platt, Ph.D.

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

If you have not discovered the Artxchange Gallery yet, now is your chance to visit a magical exhibition there and add a new space to the special places to see art in Seattle. The Artxchange motto is “cultural exchange through art.” “Mythscape: Australian Aboriginal Art” is certainly an example of that.

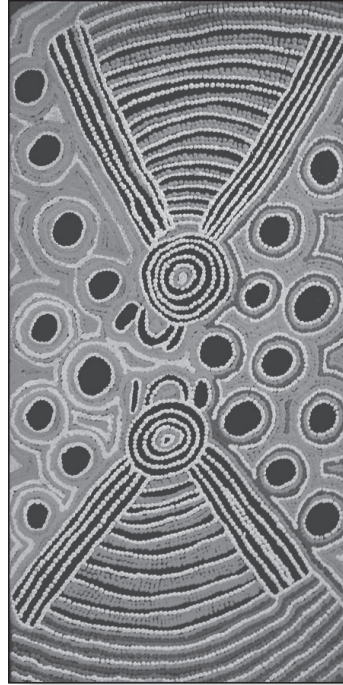
A few years ago, we had a spectacular exhibition of Australian Aboriginal art “Ancestral Modern” at the Seattle Art Museum. (See my blog at www.artandpoliticsnow.com for a post about it.) Ann Small, director of a gallery specializing in aboriginal art in Sydney, Australia, came to that exhibition and made a connection with Artxchange Gallery Director, Cora Edmonds. As a result, we now are fortunate to have a new exhibition of Australian Aboriginal art in Seattle. Only a few artists are repeated in the two exhibitions.

At first glance “Mythscape: Australian Aboriginal Art” appears to be a dazzling abstract art of textures, patterns, and colors.

But this Australian Aboriginal art identified by the gallery as “modern art from the world’s oldest continuing culture” is layered with very specific meanings. Each painting is based on “dreaming” a story, a ceremony, a legend, a specific feature of the landscape, or weather. These meanings are passed for thousands of years in oral traditions inherited by particular families from one generation to the next.

Australian Aboriginal painting first emerged in 1971 in Pupunya (several hundred kilometers northwest of Alice Springs in the Central Australian desert) when a school teacher Geoffrey Bardon encouraged some of the men in the community to paint the ephemeral designs that they were creating in sand or on bark or even in tattoos. Bardon took the work to an art gallery in Alice Springs (he received no commission) and the work was almost an immediate success. Over the years different artists’ cooperatives have developed that protect the artists from the exploitation of dealers and collectors.

Many of these artists come from the Wirrimanu Art Community and the Warlukurlangu Artists group, both located in the center of Australia. The exhibition includes senior painters all the way to emerging artists, both men and women. The changes



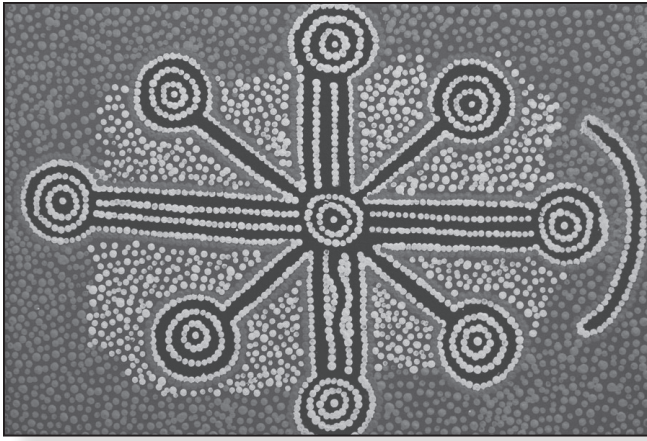
Maggie Long Nakamarra, **Karnta Jukurrpa (Women's Dreaming)**, Synthetic polymer on linen 36" x 18"

This painting tells a version of the Karnta Jukurrpa (Women's Dreaming), a mythical story from Pikilyi (Vaughan Springs), which is to the west of Yuendumu. It tells of two 'Karnta' (women) who were making damper out of a type of bush flour made from ground seeds. Damper is a traditional bread baked in the coals of a fire.

in the art are subtle. To our untrained eyes we see patterns and colors that vary from work to work, but if you compare, for example, the large and beautiful black and white painting *My Country* by Doris Ryder Napaltjarri, a senior artist who is representing water sites in the desert, to the work *Our Land* by the young Sarrita King, you can see a subtle difference. In *My Country*, the painting connects to a place and a subject that goes back for centuries. *Our Land* suggests a rent fabric, as indeed is the case, not only because indigenous culture everywhere is changing, but also, as here in the Northwest, it is specifically threatened by huge extraction plans, such as fracking, from

global companies. With such scarce water in the desert (note themes relating to water in many of these paintings), fracking is a particularly egregious act. Fortunately, people are actively organizing against it and on October 11 had a major protest in Alice Springs called “Global Frackdown.”

The paintings represent many aspects of the aboriginal culture, some of them considered sacred. There has been a long debate as to whether these artists are revealing secrets that should not be shared. The titles and narratives tell us some of the stories, from both a male and a female perspective. As we look at these paintings however, we can have only a superficial understanding, so any secrets there, whether obvious, disguised or transformed, we cannot possibly fathom. They are the result of tens of thousands of years of learning and knowledge among the aboriginal peoples of Australia.



Michael Japaljarri Wayne, **Ngapa Jukurrpa – Water Dreaming – Puyurru**, Synthetic polymer on canvas 12" x 18"

This site depicted in this painting is Puyurru, west of Yuendumu. In the usually dry creek bed are water soakages or naturally occurring wells. Two Jangala men, rainmakers, sang the rain, unleashing a big storm. The storm travelled across the country, with lightning striking the land. This storm met up with another storm from Wapurtali, to the west and was picked up by a 'Kirkkarlanji' – brown falcon – and carried further west until the falcon dropped the storm at Purlungyanu, where it created a huge soakage. At Puyurru the falcon dug up a giant snake, warnayarra (the Rainbow Serpent). The snake carried water with it to create a large lake named Jillyiumpa, close to an outstation in this area.

In contemporary Warlpiri paintings, traditional symbols are used to represent the Jukurrpa – Dreaming stories. This is an important part of passing knowledge, providing younger generations with a deep-layered understanding of their land.

[According to the indigenous sourced website pawmedia.com "Jukurrpa is a Central Australian Aboriginal term used to mean the laws and protocols set by the ancestral beings who created the world. People sometimes use the word dreaming in place of Jukurrpa. Jukurrpa describes people's relationship to place, to each other, to plants and to animals, and the proper ways of interacting with these relationships. Jukurrpa is also the stories of the ancestral beings and how they shaped and created the world."]

But, to return to the special place where these paintings are installed, Artxchange Gallery contrasts sharply with traditional commercial galleries. Instead of a bare white space, we are immersed in subtle lighting (in paper enclosures commissioned from Vashon artist Elaine Hanowell) and surrounded by wood paneled columns. That warm atmosphere corresponds to the motivation behind the gallery. Much more than a commercial space, Artxchange is about education and international understanding. Cora Edmonds' trademark photograph, taken in 2000, of a young boy from rural Nepal greeting her with a traditional Namaste led to the founding of the Namaste Children's Fund for education of girls in rural Nepal by Edmonds and her husband Phil Crean.

So the connection of the gallery to people in other parts of the world as well as to artists who come from other places and live in Seattle, dominates the gallery. It is indeed a place for Artxchange.

MYTHSCAPES: AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART

Thru November 22, 2014

Artxchange Gallery 512 First Ave S (past King)

Tues-Sat 11-5:30

UPBEAT ON JACKSON

The LIHI (Low Income Housing Institute) is supporting monthly concerts at Ernestine Anderson Place on Jackson, a street that has been the home to many jazz venues in Seattle's central district history.

Leschi CC's two Dianes made the short trek to EAP on October 18 for a FREE concert that featured Orville Johnson, folksinger and accomplished guitarist. He was accompanied by Matt Weiner on bass and Nova Devonie on a red accordion. I have to confess that I have never been fond of accordions; my previous experience has been in Italian restaurants where a strolling musician wants to play romantic ballads while you and your husband are dining. So we have to end our spirited political discussion and pretend to make goo-goo eyes at each other while the musician plays and then expects a tip!

Nova opened my eyes to the fine instrument her little red accordion actually was! She did four solos, each an original piece. She played Cajun Lung and explained that someone had already written Cajun Heart so she had to choose another organ. There were some whimsical exchanges with Orville musing that Cajun Lung came from working in Cajun mines. Nova's rendition was evocative of an entire group of musicians playing Cajun music. Her waltz, The Lonely Waltz, was sad and lonely; she said imagine this space is empty and you are the only person here, dancing with your floor mop. It was easy to visualize. In addition to being a fine musician, she has a great voice. This is not to diminish Orville's performance, but his talent was expected; the accordion surprised me.

Opening the show was Catherina Willard, who made us sing. I cannot sing, but went along with the plan as I figured no one would hear me off-key in that crowd. We sang in 3-part harmony and it sounded pretty good; she led us there slowly and with much praise and I didn't notice anyone fleeing from the room.



The next *Upbeat on Jackson* concert will be on Saturday November 22nd featuring jazz pianist Sumi Tonooka. FREE; DON'T MISS IT! Like *Upbeat on Jackson* on Facebook.

-Diane Snell



Seeking Sustenance...

THANKFUL FOR WINE

The holiday season is upon us once again. Thanksgiving is a week filled with sights, scents, and memories that take us back in time. Grandma's traditional stuffing and sweet candied yams, your Auntie's addictive pistachio-marshmallow salad, wondering which family member will be caught tearing a piece of crispy buttery skin off the turkey before dinner and hoping someone remembered Dad's mustard. New dishes infiltrate the tradition like warm Brie with herbed cranberry sauce and cheesy shredded potatoes.

Getting hungry yet?

It is truly a meal focused on everyone's favorite flavors while at the same time having little focus at all. What I mean by that, solely from a culinary standpoint, is that the dishes run the gamut of palate emotions, usually all at the same time: sweet, salty, rich, creamy, light, heavy, briny, herby, tangy and so forth. The most common question I get this time of year: "How could I possibly pair wine with everything that's going on?"

The easy answer would be: "Well, you can't." But that just wouldn't be accurate (or fun) at all! In fact, certain wines pair perfectly with a Thanksgiving feast. Whether you are playing host or a visiting guest, following are a few tips and suggestions to keep in mind.

Generally speaking, I first recommend that you drink what you and your guests like. If you prefer Old World style of wines, let's find a French that will work. Only satiated by Washington reds or California whites? No problem. When pairing reds or whites to specific foods, you will want to remember to try to match acidic foods with acidic wines, creamier and richer foods with weightier and richer wines. Now for some specifics.

In the realm of white wines, Chablis, Pinot Gris, and Chardonnay will be your best options. Chablis (northern Burgundy) is crisp, lean, complex and loaded with an unmistakably delicious minerality. Pinot Gris, especially those from Oregon, exude a touch of creaminess while maintaining a dry lightness on the palate. Chardonnays with a kiss of oak

enhance buttery and roasted notes in everything from the turkey to the mashers.

Red wine options include the light to medium bodied Pinot Noir, Gamay Noir, Burgundy and Beaujolais. Pinot Noirs and one of my new favorite varietals, Gamay Noir, are great matches for lighter, leaner fare. Pinots have more of an earthy-mushroomy characteristic (think roasted root vegetables!) while Gamays are bright with flavors of sweet black cherry and raspberry with

a touch of spice. Red Burgundy is primarily made

from Pinot Noir, exhibiting solid raspberry and strawberry notes, good earthiness with great balance and complexity.

Beaujolais (technically the southern region of Burgundy) is made from Gamay Noir. They offer a light and refreshing more fruit forward style. These four red wines, by and large, are higher in acid and lower in tannin, creating perfectly balanced wines for food.

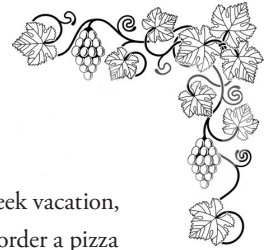
Full bodied, bold Cabernet Sauvignons or red blends from Walla Walla or Napa are also sure to be big time crowd pleasers as well.

Save room for dessert? Finish dinner off with a Sauterne or Ice Wine. Both pair well with the tartness of a freshly baked apple pie and the spiciness of pumpkin chiffon pie while not being too overpoweringly sweet or syrupy. A delicious way to end a hopefully delicious meal.



- Chablis:** 2013 Domaine Garnier and Fils, Chablis, \$16
- Pinot Gris:** 2013 Elk Cove Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, \$17
- Chardonnay:** 2013 L'Ecole No. 41, Columbia Valley, \$20
- Gamay Noir:** 2011 Evening Land Vineyards, Eola-Amity Hills, \$22
- Gamay Noir:** 2010 Domaine Vincent Siret-Courtaud Chateau de la Motte, Loire, \$14
- Pinot Noir:** 2011 Anam Cara Cellars, Chehalem Mountains, Oregon, \$23

...in the Wilds of Seattle



- Burgundy:** 2012 Domaine Perraud Le Grand Sorbier, \$18
- Beaujolais:** 2010 Domaine Berrod Chiroubles, \$18
- Red Blend:** 2012 Ryan Patrick Vineyards, Rock Island Red, Wahluke Slope \$15
- Rosé:** 2013 Aix de Provence Rosé, \$14
- Dessert:** 2009 Chateau Lamourette Sauterne, Vin de Bordeaux, \$20

ENJOY! CHEERS!

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 experiences in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMarket.com.

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PAGLIACCI'S PIZZA

The evening before we left on our week vacation, our grandson convinced us to just order a pizza for dinner, and he suggested the Agog Primo from Pagliacci's. I have long been fond of their pizza and was pleased to see that they had opened a place in Madison Park, and our area is on their delivery circuit.

I couldn't figure out the name of this pizza, but it did appeal to me as we always called our grandmother "Gog" since my little brother struggled with saying Grandma and shortened it to Gog. And Gog she was for the rest of her long life, even to family friends.



This Agog has mushrooms, roasted garlic, Kalamata olives, goat cheese, Fontina and Parmesan over an olive oil base. After baking, they sprinkle fresh chopped tomatoes over the whole thing. Veggie. Tasty. \$25.99 for the largest.

Grandson said he wasn't all that hungry and would only eat one slice. He ate three slices. It is very filling, although it tastes a little lighter without the tomato sauce.

And yes, they did deliver, on time, and even found the house without a late frantic call. It looks on the website as though they have eat-in space.

-Diane Snell

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ATTENDING

Janet Oliver, Diane Morris, Diane Snell, Amy Fink, Jeff Floor

TREASURY REPORT

1) Bank Balances: \$21,192.11 checking account, \$11,238.19 CD balance. 2) Expenses from the Artwalk are +\$16 after all bookkeeping was done. 3) A 'mystery' check for \$300 was received; LCC board members will investigate provenance and purpose. 4) The check from the Small Sparks grant for the Flo Ware event was \$840.69. 5) The Book Sale brought in \$488.40 for the Leschi School Music Program.

Note: The bank balance has \$14,720 in Restricted Funds, which means they are designated for a particular purpose like a particular park or the Officer Brenton Fund, which is the largest fund we manage. All of the money in the CD account is allocated to the Officer Brenton fund; the CD plus the funds in the bank checking account consist of a total of \$15,998.95.

LURC REPORT

Jeff said the LURC is in negotiation with the Bangasser family -- owners of the property at the southeast corner of 23rd and Union, site of the Post Office -- for drawing up a possible "Property Use and Development Agreement" (PUDA). This would be a set of conditions for any development of the property, essentially in trade for allowing the up zoning from its current 40-foot height limit up to 65 feet. If the two groups come to agreement on the four priorities the LURC identified through public input (transitions to the adjacent single family zone, retail size,

public open space and affordable housing), then the LURC would withdraw its opposition to the up-zone.

GREEN SPACE

1) John Barber wants to write the Parks Dept. asking for a 10pm closing time on the Leschi Natural area and Frink Park. This was discussed by the board but tabled until we could get more input from Darryl and Darcy on the impact to Frink Park from the updated closing time at Leschi Park. 2) John needs a weed-whacker to use on the String of Pearls parks. Janet Oliver offered to donate her weed-whacker. 3) There is a soil erosion issue at Powell Barnett Park. Diane is in contact with Maisha Barnett about this and the missing card table problem.

NEXT STAIRWAY CLEAN-UP

We will work on the 29th and Lane stairs on 9/20/14 from 9:30am to noon.

EAST PRECINCT MEETING

On 9/25/14: New police Chief Kathleen O'Toole will be the guest speaker.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

The October meeting will be on 10/22/14 at 6:30pm at the Mount Baker community building. This will be a candidate forum and we're co-sponsoring the event with the Madrona and Mt Baker community councils. Gwen Rench will host. The November meeting will be at the usual time/place and will cover traffic issues.

Submitted by Amy Fink



Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

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

LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular

LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary

LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways

LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)

LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

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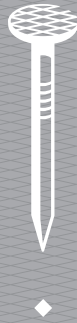
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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **NOVEMBER 17**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:

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November 2014 | Calendar

Happy Thanksgiving

NOV. 1 Leschi Natural Area work party, 9am-3pm. Lunch and tools provided. 36th and Terrace.

NOV. 5 Leschi CC meeting, 7pm. Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave S.

NOV. 8 Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, 9am. The Central (Breakfast: \$12)

NOV. 9 Celebrate Day of the Dead, 2-3:30pm. Douglass-Truth Library, Gayton Family Mtg Room

NOV. 10 Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting, 7pm. 128 30TH (Diane Morris's)

NOV. 12 Psoriasis Informational Presentation, 11am-12pm. Central Area Senior Center

NOV. 13 Central Area Neighborhood District Council, 6pm. The Central 500 30th Ave S

NOV. 20 Senior Coffee Hour, 10-11am. Central Bldg 810 3rd Ave. NW. Universal Design on design elements that allow access for all ages and abilities

NOV. 20 Garfield Jazz Kickoff Concert, 7:30pm. Quincy Jones PAC

NOV. 21 Green Dolphin Street Lounge, 6-9pm featuring Debbie Cavitt. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members.
Refreshments, no host bar.

NOV. 21-30 (closed Thanksgiving) Holiday Art Sale, Pratt Fine Arts. 1905 S Main

NOV. 22 *Upbeat on Jackson* concert: jazz pianist Sumi Tonooka. FREE at Ernestine Anderson Place, 2010 S. Jackson

NOV. 25 Garfield Jazz Jam 5pm The Royal Room at 5000 Rainier Ave. S

NOV. 25 Garfield Symphony Orchestra concert, 7pm. Quincy Jones PAC Foyer

Please Note: EastPAC will NOT meet in November; next meeting Dec. 4.

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.

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