

leschinews

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

LESCHI'S DREAMCATCHER

Curious how the Dreamcatcher Sculpture came about? Join us for an informative meeting on the sculpture at the intersection of Yesler and 32nd Ave. Artist Lawney Reyes wanted to replace the old wooden Thunderbird with something that he felt more appropriately reflected memories of his brother Bernie Whitebear and his sister Luana Reyes. The neighborhood activist who helped bring this about, Joan Singler, will join us.

May 5, 7pm

SEE ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK PAGE



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**SAVE
THE DATE**

*Elect LCC officers at
our June 2 meeting*

President's message

Greetings Fellow Leschi Dwellers,

Today, as I sit writing my monthly message, I'm sure you, too, are pretty pleased to have experienced this week's warm, sunny weather. If this was how we rolled 300 days a year, our streets would be overrun.

We're approaching a summer that, hopefully, will be more 'normal.' I love that people are out, walking, cycling, running, and back engaged in life. This time has really shown us just how much we need social connection and interaction.

Last month we had a fascinating presentation from The Friends of Street Ends (FOSE, <https://www.streetends.org>). Such an interesting history of successful community involvement.

This month we are offering an exciting program, via Zoom, about the history of Bernie Whitebear, the Indian culture, and The Dreamcatcher Sculpture at the junction of Yesler and 32nd Ave. They might touch on the wood carving/totem that was there prior to the installation of Dream Catcher. Please join us the first Wednesday of the month, May 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

And do not forget to speak up if you would like to run for office. Our election is scheduled for the June meeting. If you have an interest in becoming involved, please reach out.

Please continue to support each other. It's thrilling to be out and about, but I suggest you continue to use caution and follow CDC guidelines. If anyone needs assistance obtaining their vaccine, or other help, please contact us.

Recently, with my ears pricked up for ideas on the homeless challenge, I read about an app Michael Oher, (the football player the movie The Blind Side was about) created an app called Good Deeds, that connects people who need help or something with people who can help or donate. I did download it onto my phone. Still navigating it. I thought this would be a great thing to apply in our community.

May the spring flowers bring a smile to your face as we continue on this intriguing journey and where we find ourselves in at this juncture of our lives.

*Warm regards,
-Janice Merrill Brown, President, Leschi Community Council*



"The best way to predict the future is to invent it." Frank Maguire

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Moving Slowly Toward a Positive World

Last month, I told a neighbor not to read my editorial because it seemed too depressing. My mood has lightened with the sun and the signs of spring: bulbs blooming, a robin bathing in our birdbath, a wild bunny dashing across the yard and not even stopping to nibble the lettuce starts! Sun and warmth! It gives one a new lease on life. Maybe we'll move past this limit on our activity to gather again and enjoy the beautiful place where we live.

There are positive signs everywhere. Vaccines are now available for all ages 16 and up. Both our state and Federal governments are recognizing some of the needs and inequalities in our society. A recent Zoom cast from the UW School of Social Work featured the positives in the American Rescue Plan, recently passed narrowly by Congress. Jennifer Romich, head of the West Coast Poverty Center, invited social workers to talk about what they saw in this legislation.

Romich spoke to both faculty and social workers in the field. Omar Cuevas Vega with the nonprofit, Poverty Action, spoke about the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit which has been something the goes into effect when one submits their tax forms. Beginning July 1, these credits will be paid out monthly which is a big boon. Children do seem to want to eat all year round, not just in April.

Rachel Meyers, head of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (wliha.org), said that Housing is a Human Right is

aspirational; we need to DEMAND change. She sees hope in the 50 billion for housing; there are resources to pay back rent and avoid eviction. There is five billion for housing vouchers to 2030, five billion for homeless and five billion to stave off mortgage foreclosures. (Do not confuse this nonprofit with the Low Income Housing Institute (lihi.org) which brings us tiny house villages and low-income housing buildings.)

UW professor, Amanda Gavin, spoke about maternal and infant care. New Medicaid guidelines expand pre- and post-natal care from 60 days to an entire year. Coverage has varied state to state. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the poor outcomes that exist in the US, one of the richest countries in the world, where there is loud outrage about ending pregnancies but no real commitment to helping keep mothers and children healthy.

It is so refreshing to see some legislation that may actually lift some folks out of poverty and provide decent housing and medical care. Social workers are not often treated to positive legislation; I remember horrible decisions during my years working with a general caseload in Baltimore County, especially the closing of mental hospitals without the promised increase in community resources. One tends to remember the horror stories as they were so much more numerous than the few successes. May the sun and positive legislation continue to uplift our spirit!

-Diane Snell

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your April issue, Ruby Brown described the large new "mixed use" development planned at 23rd & Cherry.

Ruby also stated that in June 2020, Washington State passed HB2343, "which allows every single-family home to convert to a duplex or a triplex"

It would be a real step towards creating affordable housing if this was so. Unfortunately, the first clause of the legislation states that: "A city planning pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 is encouraged to take the following actions in order to increase its residential building capacity."

More "encouragement" is not enough. Neither is putting a "Black Lives Matter" or "In This House, We Believe..." sign in the front yards of our nice houses in a neighborhood zoned SF5000. You may be able to build an Accessory Dwelling Unit or Backyard Cottage. But, since you still can't split the lot, you'll have to find around \$250,00 to become a landlord.

Seattle may be progressive and liberal by US standards and our social consciences may be soothed by the 2019 Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation, but so long as SF5000 limits development in around three quarters of our city, we're still guilty of denying opportunities to folks of modest means who would like to stay in the neighborhood or join us here.

President Biden's new Infrastructure Plan singles out restrictive zoning as an obstacle to more affordable housing in areas such as Seattle. Our local Congresswoman, Pramila Jayapal supports him: "Now is the time to go big. While @POTUS's infrastructure plan is a great first step, we must do more to make the economic and social investments that we need," Jayapal tweeted.

Most of us voted for both—so let's support their initiatives and remove the MLK "Red Line," which currently separates the Central District which allows higher housing density and smaller lot sizes from our leafy enclaves of largely white privilege.

*-Malcolm Harker
Madrona resident*

Neighborhood & Beyond

We are looking for Leschi residents to help make decisions for our community by serving on the Leschi Community Council board!

You would have 1–2 meetings per month: our general meeting 9 times per year and the monthly board meeting which usually lasts about one hour. Meetings are conducted by Zoom at this time.

ELECTIONS OF LESCHI CC OFFICERS

Our LCC elections usually happen in May at the annual meeting but with the pandemic and the inability to have in-person meetings, we were hoping to wait out the restrictions. But this year, all offices need to be filled and rather than wait another year, we have decided to try a vote-by-mail effort.

The open offices are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The current Secretary and Treasurer have reached their term limits, but the President and Vice-President can run again, should they choose to do so.

- Section 1. President. The President shall: preside over all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Board; appoint committee chairpersons; and be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Section 2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall: assist the president as needed; perform the duties of president in the president's absence; and act as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: collect dues; maintain a list of all paid members; receive funds; pay bills; keep records of all transactions; balance all funds; and prepare monthly financial reports for Council meetings.
- Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall prepare meeting agendas, record minutes of all general and executive board meetings and provide a copy to the newsletter editor; provide all officers with copies of relevant documents; maintain copies of all outgoing correspondence; retrieve mail from the post office; channel correspondence to appropriate persons; maintain lists of meeting attendance and council members; and maintain all records, reports and documents of the Council.

This is an opportunity to guide the council in their work. The Council has been and shall continue to be organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational and literary purposes. Its goal is to initiate and/or support beneficial public interest projects and programs, to create a neighborhood awareness of community issues so that residents of Leschi may

make informed and effective decisions in matters concerning them, and to support and promote artistic and cultural activities that are consistent with the Council's purposes (from our Constitution) Both the Constitution and Bylaws are on our website: see <https://www.leschicommunitycouncil.org/documents>.

If you wish to run for office, please send your name and a brief bio to leschinews@comcast.net. We will be voting in June!

REMEMBERING STEVE SHULMAN

How best do we honor Steve Shulman? Some of us who knew and loved Steve have been talking about and thinking about how best to honor him for months.

Steve was our neighborhood's grocer, as owner for many years of the Leschi Market. He was a friend of Leschi Park, a generous friend and activist for the community, and a friend to the people who shopped and worked in his store. He was a true presence and made an extraordinary contribution to the safety and well-being of our community.

Steve succumbed to Covid disease in March 2020, very early in the pandemic. He brought a sharp awakening in our community about the dangers of the disease.

In the coming months, we may have meetings with Seattle Park Department representatives to plan a memorial to honor him, and his principles of enhancing the community in ways that bring people together and provide respect and enjoyment of where we live and who we are.

The Community Council invites your participation in this process. Steve's family is developing an idea for a picnic shelter in Leschi Park. There will be an organized process for the community to engage in the outreach and planning. Friends of Steve and Leschi Park enthusiasts are especially urged to participate.

If you wish to join in the planning or just to keep informed as the process goes forward, please send a note of your interest to our Leschi Community Council's central email address: leschinews@comcast.net, or text to 206-954-4458.

*-John Barber
Chair of the Parks and Greenspace Committee, LCC*

FRIENDS OF STREET ENDS

Karen Daubert's presentation at our April meeting took us from the conception of mini-parks at street-ends through the legal issues, the lawsuits and the final decision from the Washington Supreme Court: Street-ends are public property and should be open to all. Since then, volunteers have worked tirelessly to subdue blackberries and ivy and enhance the street ends in Leschi with native plants. Our street-end parks are

small, natural areas where one can enjoy views of the lake and the mountains. The group, Friends of Street Ends (FOSE), is working with other neighborhoods to open the shoreline at the end of streets for the public. Karen showed a Powerpoint designed by volunteer Daniel Byrne, to show us work in other neighborhoods. Some areas are more densely populated with apartment dwellers nearby and the use is greater; the designs reflect the heavier use with concrete steps leading down to the shore as one sees at E Allison St.

We will continue to print the current work of the FOSE volunteers in our area. Please feel free to join them if you to participate in this worthy project.

-Diane Snell

ON THE BENCH: FRIENDS OF STREET ENDS WANTS YOUR IDEAS

As we have reported recently, Friends of Street Ends (FOSE) is making real changes daily here in our neighborhood. A volunteer group under the leadership of Daniel Collins, opened the water's edge of Lake Washington at the East end of S. Massachusetts St. With parking for a few vehicles, low bank access, a gentle curving path leading to the water, this little hidden gem offers a breathtaking view of Mt. Rainier, a quiet refuge, and a place to access the lake with a kayak.

When thinking about the use of this space, Karen Daubert and her team could not help but think about the best ways to set up the "new" park for public use. Could we incorporate a spot for people to gather? Should we keep the site natural and soft with a simple grassy slope? Would a bench or table be a good idea? How would we design and install a bench (or benches) that would be safe, useful, attractive, and dry?

We need your help. Included below is some information, photos, considerations, and ideas:

1. Constraints: The bench or furniture must meet the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). This applies to indoors and outdoors benches. Minimum size: 42" long, 20" deep, 18" back; height 17-19"; strength: 250 lbs. support in any direction.
2. Permits: Usually these benches are mounted in concrete and this requires shoreline permits.
3. Location and orientation: Where? How close to water? Angle to sun and view?
4. Configuration: More than one bench? Is a table a good idea?
5. Materials and design: Design is important for usefulness, comfort, and maintenance. Constructed of metals and/or wood? Aesthetic?
6. Funding: What is our budget. Can we raise some funds to install?
7. Recognition: We are planning to recognize Steve Shulman with this bench.

So here is what you can do to help us. As you visit public spaces, look for best-in-class ideas for benches and table in small parks. What do you like? What do you want us to avoid? We need your help, insight, and advice. Please contact Daniel Collins, Project Manager at FOSE (dmcollins1962@gmail.com), or me at The Leschi Street Beat danielvbyrne@gmail.com.

-Daniel V. Byrne, PE

LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

It has been a busy few weeks—in spite of spring "break"—as our educators and administration have been working hard to ease the transition to hybrid learning. Students are adjusting to new faces and new routines, both online at home and in the classroom. We appreciate everyone's hard work and patience.

The Leschi Elementary PTA has launched our Annual Give campaign to support our budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Our annual Jog-a-Thon will also take place (through virtual connection) on May 19. To donate, please use the links to our Facebook page or fundraising page below. Thank you, as well, to our Garfield Golden Grads, who are raising funds to support our families, even though we have had to cancel this year's Golden Grads concert.

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

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

-Benson Wilder

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LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

I mentioned previously that I lived at the Farm, at the uphill end of Spruce Street behind Lake Dell/Alder. In the fall of 1982, I left my job as an auto mechanic at Black Duck Motors after nearly ten years and went on a five-month exploration of Eastern Europe. Soon after I returned, my landlord decided to sell the house and the half-dozen vacant lots surrounding it. Even though my fortune at the time was somewhere in the low three figures, I offered \$100,000—quite a hefty chunk at the time. But he sold it for \$130,000.

Meanwhile, the landlord tried to evict me. City law at the time did not allow an eviction just because a house was to be sold. The buyer could have evicted me legally only if he wanted to occupy the house or tear it down. A lawyer friend helped me take the case to court, but there was no justice to be had. The landlord's lawyer lied that I had wrecked the floor of the house. The judge somehow didn't like the look on my lawyer's face, and she wasn't about to give me a chance. So, I was out the door, but just as well, because I had decided to go back to college in the fall of 1983 to get my bachelor's degree at Evergreen State College.

When I returned to Seattle in June 1985, I checked with friends in Leschi and was pointed to Tracy Friedman, a community activist who owned a rental house right on the corner of 35th and Alder. A nice guy, Tracy lived a couple doors up Alder in the house now owned by the esteemed editor of this publication. He was looking for a tenant, so I was in with his

well-kept 1940s house that his wife had inherited. He rented it to me and put in a nice new wood-burning stove. The property included three additional wooded lots and a 2-car garage, along with a peekaboo view of the lake.

I settled in with a housemate, a recovering devotee of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. (See the Netflix series "Wild Wild Country" for some good background.) My friend had a back-alley garage on Capitol Hill that he called the Radical Wrench. Everyone there had bright orange coveralls to fit in with the guru ethos; they all had to wear the colors of the rising sun. During the summer between Evergreen school years, I had worked in his shop and got a glimpse of the unraveling Bhagwanville scene as it rippled through Seattle.

I loved the little house, but it didn't end well. For the first time I had a steady job with a real income, and after about a year I asked Tracy if he'd like to sell me the house. That put the wrong idea in his head, and he set out to see what the market would bear. A developer offered him more than I could have, all cash, and pretty soon I was out the door again. In my place sprouted four big houses. There are now that many or more on each the three places I had rented in the Dell.

-Roger Lippman

This author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 45 years in the neighborhood.

WHAT IS A STREET END PARK?

If a public street end in Seattle leads to water, it is 99% likely to be open to the public, though may not be practically open and accessible. Have you seen a blue shore view sign? Or perhaps have you noticed an unusual build-up of non-native plants? The Friends of Street Ends (FOSE) is working to address these shortcomings.

At the Massachusetts St. street end, we staged one dozen work parties in the last six months to open these views and that lake water to the public.

The hard work of many neighborhood volunteers is now coming to fruition. This fall we intend to plant Northwest native plants and improve the pathway to the Lake. We welcome your thoughts and energy.

-Daniel Collins

JETLINERS ROAR OVER LESCHI ON BRIGHT SUNNY DAYS

Newcomers to the Leschi neighborhood are often astonished that on bright sunny days, the roar of jetliners shatter the normal quiet. Welcome to the "East Turn"!

The East Turn was established in 1975 to conserve jet fuel during an energy crisis that occurred when Jimmy Carter was President.

Outgoing commercial jets from SeaTac Airport start turning East as they approach I-90 and go directly over the heart of Leschi, across the Lake and continue East or turn South.



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The jet traffic avoids going over any of Mercer Island even though fuel could be saved by doing so. (Writer's personal note: Somehow, Mercer Island has political clout). Leschi is the first northerly mark of Seattle, where making the turn and avoiding affecting Mercer Island, coincide.

Several attempts over the years have been made by representatives of Leschi to seek equity in sharing the noise, but they failed since nobody else wants the noise.

The Port of Seattle, which operates the airport, and the FAA are jointly responsible for the current policy. They claim that the future jetliners will be so quiet that we won't notice them, but that promise goes back a couple decades.

-John Barber

UPZONE FALLOUT

Just across the street, on the west side of MLK, we have the same beautiful flowers but a not so certain future. Upzoning has reared its ugly head into our lives with details. For starters, a person wanting to upgrade their home to accommodate additional family members, sent home because of Covid, or to help with density or simply to age in place, is met with thousands of dollars in MHA fees over and above regular permitting fees.

Most properties in the CD upzones fall into the highest MHA fee category so black people who have lived in the CD for generations are saddled with the highest MHA fees in the city. MHA fees for the CD wind up being about equal to "soft costs" to design the building. Soft costs are all the consulting fees, (architecture, engineering, permits, etc.). That means soft costs doubled overnight for these residents, black or otherwise, when MHA was codified. Soft costs are always paid out of pocket by the homeowner. They are never wrapped into a construction loan. So, if a homeowner wanted to build a small duplex, for instance and needed to spend 50k on soft costs, well now, because of MHA fees, they will have to pay approximately 100k out of pocket before any loan kicks in.

Some properties in Districts 2 and 3 have been devalued as low as \$1000 with the value being placed on the land. It is "Assessed for Highest and Best Use," and we are getting clarity from trusted professionals about how this turn of events will affect upzoned homeowners. The consensus is that Assessed value has little meaning for real property value and means nothing outside the context of property taxes. It has nothing to do with the value to a bank, or a buyer. A 750k house, even if devalued to \$1000 could get a loan for repairs and could also get insurance because they recognize the home is worth 750k.

The bad news is that the homeowners now must pay property tax on the "highest and best use" of the property as if a developer put a million-dollar structure on the land. I actually heard this possibility when I was fighting upzoning for the CD. Taxing, based on "highest and best use" is a huge driver of gentrification.

The reality is that The City places barriers to prevent us from developing our own property for highest and best use, and then punishes us for not doing it! It is a Land Grab, pure and simple! The MHA is not delivering on its promise to provide affordable apartments because developers are opting to pay an "in lieu of fee" instead, even though the MHA has already displaced many people. Seattle's black and brown neighborhoods didn't create Seattle's housing crisis, so we are not going to simply give up our homes while the rest of Seattle looks away like nothing is happening. We will fight this even as we create an anti-displacement tax fund to help pay the difference of your tax bill prior to this new assessment model, for ALL upzoned homeowners in Seattle, regardless of Ethnicity or age.

I strongly believe that no one should be a victim of legal maneuvers inspired by race or age, to take property from families. If you do decide to sell to a developer, get a unit and a percentage of all rent as part of the deal. If he creates condos, get a unit and a percentage of every condo sold. Let the developer pay for your property over time. Remember land is scarce. Wall Street investors are purchasing property across the US, in order to rent it out. Shady local investors want Single family homes to rent. Developers want single family lots to rebuild. Wealthy tech workers want a SF home to live in.

There is no way, you, or I can compete or outbid. Please contact me at keepyourhabitat@gmail.com if you have issues with any of the above.

-Ruby Holland



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THE ISSUES THAT PLAGUE US

April 20th: coronavirus is surging in some parts of the world. Many places have no vaccine; many people refuse to get the vaccinations—some healthcare professionals included—as well as all the folks who refuse to wear masks or forego travel. And don't forget that the virus is mutating, possibly requiring a different or more vaccine. Revelations about inadequacies and disparities in our healthcare system require immediate correction.

The jury is deliberating the fate of Derek Chauvin. Many in the media have warned us that regardless of the verdict, we should prepare for disturbances. How many unarmed persons have been killed by police officers since the death of George Floyd? Duante Wright was killed a few miles from the site of Floyd's killing. Body cams and cell phones are not the deterrent some thought they would be when Rodney King was beaten. (1996) How many have been killed and injured in mass murders this past month? What can be said to people who argue there is no justice? Though terribly saddened, I refuse to count the number dead and injured, but I think about the innumerable lives changed forever because of the shootings.

More than 80% of the populace want background checks, but a handful of persons in Congress know better. Actually, one person, Mitch McConnell, refused to bring bills up for a vote. With the backing of the National Rifle Association and gun and ammunition manufacturer money, the laws remain the same and automatic guns can be easily purchased.

Voter suppression, a subject that has been with us since the founding of the country, seems to be the number one priority of so many—those for and those against. Since the election, 43 states have introduced over 200 bills to change voting rules, almost all a manner of restricting the votes of people of color, disproportionately African Americans.

The number of persons at the border, especially children, children too young to take care of themselves, overwhelms the systems we have in place. Yet, because of the situations in the homelands of these people, parents are willing to risk everything, children and their lives included, to get to the United States. Maybe the best advertising ever is that of the American Dream. So, few of us Americans know how often the US played a role in the destruction of the governments from where these people come.

Homelessness and its consequences plague many metropolitan areas; newspapers and television daily direct our attention to the human beings suffering. Progress is being made but not nearly enough, not quickly enough. Some folks worry about children's not attending school, their lack of academic progress and erosion of social skills; children's health preoccupies others.

The insurrection of January 6 and the warning that some of those involved continue to pursue their goal of "stopping the steal" worry more than law enforcement personnel. The role of white supremacists aggravates the problem. Of course, everyone involved in the insurrection is not a white supremacist, but one white supremacist can be a danger to the law and order many of us love and say we support. What makes a supremacist superior? Having equal rights for all takes nothing from the supremacist and may provide unimagined benefits for all of us. Despite being warned about climate change and many who could affect necessary change doing little or nothing, climate change is upon us.

I have shared most of my stream of consciousness subjects for the day. I can only hope and pray that persons responsible for correcting problems cited above will do what needs to be done. Too many warnings have gone unheeded for much too long. We owe ourselves and fellow human beings our best.

-Georgia S. McDade

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

Editor's Note

Georgia wrote this before the Chauvin verdict. She wants us to know that this satisfactory verdict held one police officer accountable. This should not be considered justice.

"True justice is when the police cherish and protect life instead of fearing and endangering it.



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True justice is when families can access and receive healing and support for their traumas and losses from all parts of our society without fear.

True justice is when Black, Indigenous, and brown people can breathe easy and move freely without limits and without fearing for our lives.

True justice is when we fully acknowledge and root out white supremacy and colonialism to reimagine a new future together.

True justice is within reach if we continue to do the work.

Rejoice in accountability and commit to true justice.”

Thanks to the Courage campaign for these words.

AN EXTREMELY DRY START TO SPRING

The Pacific NW has seen an extremely dry start to spring. As of April 21, Seattle has only measured 2.88” of rain since March 1, over three inches below average. The springtime drought is even worse further south; Portland has seen just a paltry 1.64 inches of rain, over four inches below average and good for their driest spring on record. Such a dry spring is particularly notable this year because we are coming out of a moderate La Niña in the tropical Pacific, and La Niñas are sometimes associated with cooler and wetter-than-average weather for the Pacific Northwest in the winter and early spring. However, one year can be drastically different from the next, and this year is a perfect example of how large that variability can be and why it is important to take any long-range forecast with a grain of salt.

Such a dry spring has allowed the moderate drought conditions that persisted earlier this winter over SW Oregon to intensify and expand northward through the Willamette Valley, and some parts of south-central Oregon are now experiencing severe drought conditions. Western Washington is not experiencing drought conditions and snowpack in the Cascades and Olympics is thankfully still above normal, but drought has expanded and intensified over the Columbia Basin. But as dry as we have been this spring, the drought situation is far more dire over California and the Desert Southwest. Lake Powell and Lake Mead, two reservoirs along the Colorado river, are expected to reach historically low levels in the upcoming months, and if current forecasts are correct, states dependent on the Colorado River will be forced to ration water.

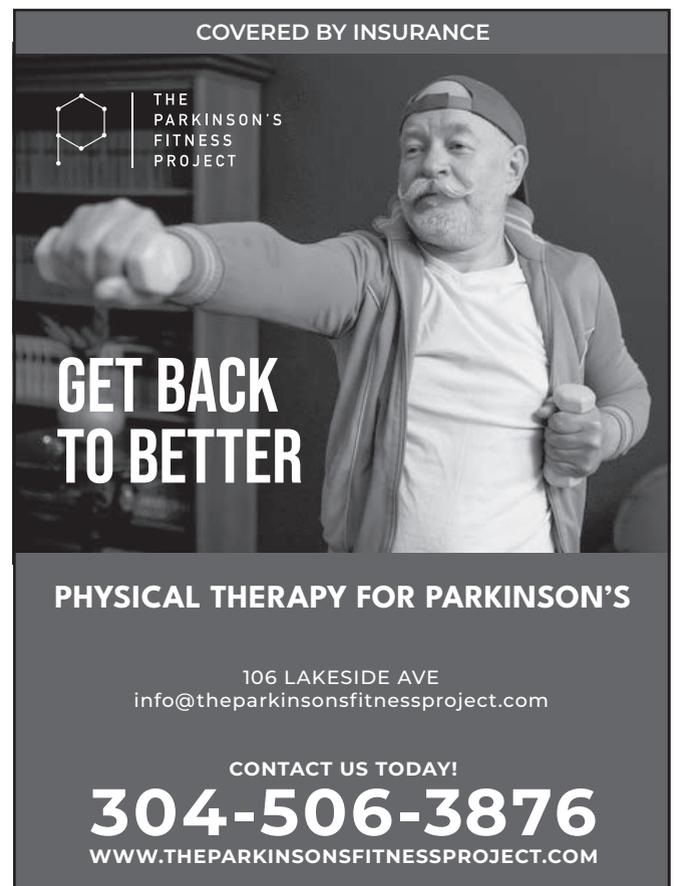
Unfortunately, with such dry fuels throughout the West, long-range forecasts are calling for yet another more active-than-usual fire season for the Western US. California and Oregon in particular had extraordinarily active fire seasons last year, and the “Labor Day Fires” of September 2020 in Oregon were associated with extremely powerful, dry, and rare offshore winds that typically only affect the region once or twice a century.

Thankfully, even if we don’t see much rain in May or June and drought conditions worsen, there is still hope that we could have a below-average fire season in the Pacific Northwest if the summertime pattern is dominated by cooler, moister onshore flow from the Pacific Ocean and we escape any major heat waves or thunderstorm outbreaks. Unfortunately, strong offshore flow and the notorious strong, dry “Diablo” and “Santa Ana” winds are far more common in California, and with drought conditions as bad as they are there, I think there’s a pretty good chance California will see above-average fire-activity and multiple “public safety power shutoffs” from utilities, which are where utilities temporarily shut off power to customers in high fire danger areas during periods of extreme fire danger.

Hopefully the entire Western US will see some drought relief this summer, but even if the weather doesn’t cooperate, we can do a lot to conserve water and prevent forest fires. Be sure to always put out any campfires completely, obey burn bans, properly discard of cigarettes, and when fire danger is particularly high, keep vehicles off dry grass and avoid power equipment that creates sparks. And know that it is OK if your grass gets a little brown this summer! You’ll save a ton of water by watering it less frequently over the summer, and it’ll be as green as ever after the rains return this coming autumn.

-Charlie Phillips

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



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Culture Corner

WANAWARI! AND A SALUTE TO A FEW OTHER GALLERIES

WaNaWari wins a headline again with five provocative installations.

Carletta Carrington Wilson's "Night of the Stereotypes," in the kitchen, includes assemblages and a zine you can take home for \$30. The artist summarizes the zine: "mammy and pickaninny embark, with a host of other stereotypical caricatures prevalent in the 19th and 20th centuries, on a journey to confront the image-makers and, especially, to demand a role in the portrayal of their likeness on the silver screen."

Watermelon-themed fabric hangs from the ceiling and over some of the windows. Wilson's hand-made textiles and assemblages reframe the rampant stereotypes of slaves that pervaded products, cartoons, language, and above all, film. My favorite was "You ever think about owning your own home" a four-sided assemblage with references to the food served (heavy meals), songs, and slave caricature-kitsch embedded in small piles of cotton that fill the house. Carletta states: "Stripped of the ability to make themselves known as, not only historical but human beings, the African body, under enslavement became a surface upon which images, representation meanings and definitions were ascribed and imposed upon by their captors: Through the use of paper, pen, film, cloth and other materials countless objects populated a world of caricatures traveling further, wider a longer through and over time."

Filling the living and dining room and focusing on the black body in an entirely different way, dancer-photographer Shocara Marcus created "Choreographing my Past." Her extraordinary dance positions intersect and somehow remain isolated from the members of her family in her childhood home. Although



Collect Calls to Miss Annie

Retracing The Times

March 2021

Lay Down Your Hands

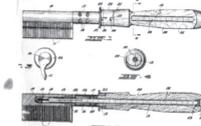
**Growing Community Through Healthy Hair
A Recount of Miss Annie**

Recounted by Patricia, born and raised in Seattle. Patricia was the first African American baby born at Providence Hospital. History recorded by Ashley.

I believe it was about the late 70s into the 80s when I went to miss Annie. I was living at my mother's for a while, then I got married, and my mother was going to Annie to get her hair done. I was in-between perms because they were doing perms in the 60s and just trying to always keep my hair looking really good, as they would say. It was a limbo time of experiment for me with my hair. So my mother suggested that I try Annie's and I thought it to be a good idea.

Later at church, I saw a lady who was here was just absolutely beautiful. It just looked like a palm, actually. And she told me it was a press and curl and she was going to Annie's. And I thought, wow. This is really the answer. And so I switched, and I went to her. I remember she was very reasonable and she was very sensible about your hair. And she just had what they call, I guess, a growing hand or just a way to naturally treat your hair without putting chemicals in it. I was amazed that my hair would be so silky and look perfect for the outcome that I wanted and didn't have to go into chemicals to get it flowing. She had what I call a good hand.

When you entered the salon, it was like going into the jungle or the forest. She had huge plants, house plants, green plants just growing everywhere.



Hot Comb #1,362,823

poem by Mia Imani



Hold one ear down at a time
Feel the heat radiating
Pressing your reality
Slicking it against your head
A way to correct hard-headedness
Keep your fingers straight and still
Sweat forms a reservoir in the palm
Inching up towards the fingertips
The iron catches the auricle

Hot Comb History

source: wikipedia.org, internet and self knowledge

This specific item was used to straighten hair by heating on the stove in the late 1800s. This is the equivalent of the modern-day flat iron. Most households had at least one hot comb. Walter Sammons (1890 - 1973) invented an enhanced hot comb in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Mia Imani Harrison, "Collect Calls to Miss Annie" detail of gallery handout.

she created the series in 2014, it perfectly speaks to today, as so many people have returned to their parents' home to wait out the pandemic.

Another nostalgic work upstairs by Mia Imani Harrison Good Mourning: A Collective Calls to Miss Annie, combines audio and video recollections of an exceptionally beloved black hairdresser, Miss Annie. It includes a handout with homages to black beauty products, poems by the artist and the narrative of the audio. This work generously shares a very private aspect of the lives of African American women.

Also upstairs is the work of Lisa Myers Bulrush, just selected by the Northwest African American Museum to represent Seattle in a docuseries "The Story of Art in America"! Her exhibit at WaNaWari "Holding Patterns: The Memory Palace" includes altered books and collages that explore what the artist calls "Afro Futurist fantasy" that feature "Black people fleeing racism on earth." Her intricate work has layers of references that take time to explore.

The last installation by Kyle Yearwood, is also full of fantasy. Manipulated photography paired with animation creates compelling magic realism. Short videos suggest a dream world. In "Fueled by Love" hearts pour out at us, but the showstopper

is “I heard the Black Girls in Baltimore can Fly” (until July 18, Thursdays and Fridays, open by appointment only. Saturdays and Sundays, drop-ins 10am–5pm 911 24th Ave).

Galleries of Note

Be sure to also visit our wonderful local galleries, often no appointment is required. Here is a selection:

ArtXchange, one of my favorites, currently features a major retrospective of the work of Donald Cole “Precision and Freedom.” Now 90 years old, Cole’s work spans six decades from New York City in 1970s SOHO to the present. His work is mostly abstract, ranging from geometry to swirling colors. He also cuts up old work, as in this year’s glowing red painting Realaction. You can see more of his work online on the ArtXchange website and meet the artist Saturday, May 15th from 12–4pm. (512 First Ave South, Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5:30pm, until May 22)

I was fortunate to see the work of Gaylen Hansen this month at Linda Hodges, another stalwart gallery. Gaylen is now almost 100 years old! He lives on Whidbey Island, a stark contrast to his many years on the Palouse of Eastern Washington. His paintings now feature dense woods: his familiar alter ego “The Kernel” is barely visible among the trees.

Traver Gallery (opposite the Seattle Art Museum 110 Union Street) had a deeply moving Preston Singletary exhibition, “Lifting Up from the River,” an homage to his father who died in November at the age of 80. In varied formats of blown and sand-carved glass, a poetic narrative began with a portrait of his father and continued through evocations of his life of fishing and his gradual transition to death.

I explored the minimalist neon installation by Kelsey Fernkopf at METHOD gallery on the last day. Their upcoming installation by Hugo Moro will be just the opposite, “a dystopian greenhouse, inhabited by glistening and surreal, vines, ferns, and flowers.” (Fri–Sat, Noon–4pm, by appointment, 106 3rd Avenue South).

More good news: the Asian Art Museum opens to the public on May 28. Tickets will be released every Thursday at 10am and everyone must get tickets online in advance of their visit.

–Susan Platt, Ph.D.

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

NEW MEDICAL FANTASY FOR MIDDLE GRADE AND BEYOND

Longtime physician and successful mystery author Susan McCormick is back with a new novel sure to enchant readers of all ages. Set in Seattle, *The Antidote* (May 2021, The Wild Rose Press) is her first foray into middle grade fantasy, though readers will be left hoping it won’t be her last.

Twelve-year-old Alex Revelstoke can see disease. And not just disease—injury, illness, anything wrong with the body. This comes in handy when a classmate chokes on a hot dog or when the janitor suffers a heart attack unclogging a gooey science experiment gone awry. But Alex soon learns his new ability puts him and an unsuspecting world in peril.

Throughout time, the Revelstokes have waged a battle against ancient evil itself—the creator of disease. Alex has seen its darkness. He has felt its strength. He does not want to fight. But Alex is the last Revelstoke. The war has just begun. Weaving in disease, health, and past pandemics, *The Antidote* is a timely tale, yet also steeped in history.

With her unique perspective as a doctor, mother and writer, McCormick combines her knowledge of medicine and her storytelling skills to craft a one-of-a-kind adventure about disease, darkness, and deception—one that readers won’t be able to put down.

The inspiration for the story came from a volunteer experience in her oldest son’s middle school. “I was struck by how much mythology the kids knew—everything there was to know and then some. They studied it in school, but they already knew it through the Percy Jackson books by Rick Riordan. During a science class chicken wing dissection meant to teach about tendons, muscles and bones, I realized the kids didn’t know nearly as much about the human body. As a doctor and mother, I wanted to impart an enthusiasm of the human body and a knowledge of disease and health much like the kids had for mythology. The importance of this is even greater in the era of COVID-19.”

Susan McCormick lives in Madrona with her husband and two sons. She is also the author of the cozy murder mystery series *The Fog Ladies*, and she wrote *Granny Can’t Remember Me*, a lighthearted picture book about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Visit her online at www.susanmccormickbooks.com.



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Seeking Sustenance...

MAY WINE NEWS

Hello and Happy Spring Leschi! Days are getting longer, the sun is out more and more, the Mariners (YES! The Mariners! at least at the time of print) are in first place, vaccines are flowing, and gardens are being planted. Spring is a sign of love, hope, growth and, you guessed it, rosé! Hey, this is a wine column after all! Last month we highlighted our new Italian expansion in the wine aisle. This month we focus on ten new and fun arrivals perfectly palatable for the season.

Pinks!

2020 Tranche Pink Pape Rosé Yakima Valley \$18.99

A favorite every vintage—this year will not disappoint! Just released and delicious! “Aromas of green strawberry fields, kiwi and passion fruit, with lifted notes of stone fruit blossoms. Bright with flavors of stone fruit and ripe citrus, underscored by mountain berries and key lime. Driving acidity provides excellent focus and a touch of salinity with a long mineral finish.” -Winemaker notes

2020 Lu + Oly Flowerhead Rosé Columbia Valley \$16.99

A second label for our friends of Mark Ryan Winery, this wine will soon be one of your favorites too! “Strawberries and raspberries combine with delicate peach and cherries flavors on the palate, progressing into apricot and zest. Full taste and crisp acidity provide a winning pairing with a long finish. Blend: 89% Sangiovese, 6% Merlot, 4% Syrah, 1% Grenache.” -Winemaker notes

2020 Leschi Cellars Rosé Horse Heaven Hills \$14.99

Light, bright and full of ZIP! The Leschi team is so delighted to share our most recent discovery. Basically a 50/50 blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, this dry, mineral gem will certainly please even the most diehard Francophile! We recommend pairing with lighter fare like seafood or appetizers or possibly just as your sidekick on a sunny day. Enjoy! -Leschi Market Wine Team

2020 Villa Wolf Pinot Noir Rosé Pfalz Germany \$12.19

With beguiling fruit aromas, delicate and light at the same time, this is the ideal summer wine. The grapes grown on sandstone soils produce a perfectly balanced wine, with the necessary concentration and a fruity acidity. -Winemaker notes

Whites!

2018 La Craie Vouvray France \$17.99

Made from fruit grown on tuffeau clay soils near the village of Vouvray. Bottled with between 8 and 12 g/L of residual sugar it is on the lighter side of demi-sec and displays all the winsome charms and flexibility at the table that made Vouvray famous. -Winemaker notes

2017 Selbach Riesling Qualitätswein Mosel (1L) \$13.99

Peach, apricot, apple, as well as citrus fruit and herbs. Nuances of quince and tropical fruit, and honeyed flavors, backed by a touch of salty minerality, and always balanced by crunchy acidity. -Distributor notes

Reds!

2018 Mark Ryan Monkey Wrench Columbia Valley \$29.99

New, limited and great for those twilight steak dinners on the deck! “Accessible for today, depth to cellar. Dark, luscious black fruits on the nose progresses into a voluptuous mouthfeel with cherry, baking spice, and blueberry compote on the palate.

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Well balanced acidity combines with velvety tannins and deep flavors continue with a lengthy finish.”

-Winemaker notes

2019 Evesham Wood Pinot Noir Willamette Valley \$20.59

Always nice to have a go-to Pinot Noir that is light and fresh! “Zesty, powerful, yet beautifully balanced. Black and red fruits, slight creaminess with bright acid and some chewy tannins. The winemaking techniques are all old-school and the wines are very representative of our region and winemaking.”

-Winemaker notes

2019 Domaine de L’Idylle Gamay Savoie \$14.99

Um...killer gamay at this price? If you love Beaujolais and remember how inexpensive it used to be, buy this wine and reminisce. It’s all about that light body, low alcohol, bright, bouncy red fruit. Roast chicken anyone? -Distributor notes

2020 La Puerta Malbec Famatina Valley Argentina \$11.19

From vineyards nestling high in the foothills of the Andes in the Famatina Valley. Ancient soils, clear mountain air, hot sun and cool breezes combine to create the perfect conditions in which to grow and ripen grapes. A perfect match for outdoor cookouts!

-Winemaker notes

Cheers, enjoy!

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



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Malcolm Harker, our intrepid restaurant reviewer, is venturing out to eat but not every place receives high marks.

Sarah and I have been eating out—occasionally even in! This morning it was the patio behind Belle Epicurean on Madison—a Croque which this Monsieur found somewhat soggy and tepid by the time hisAmericano Misto finally showed up 10 minutes later. The Yorkshire/Maltese terrier cross at the next table was however very cute—though I always thought that a Maltese Cross had something to do with the Red Baron and the First World War. Fortunately, there were no Maltese Falcons around, as it was a very small dog and would probably have tasted better than my crock—at least to a falcon.

-Malcolm Harker





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LCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 4/12/2021

ATTENDEES

Janice Brown, Janet Oliver, Tracy Bier, Ashley Martin, Tonya Cairns, Diane Snell.

Janet: Treasury report. Janet explained the categories on the report for our guests. As usual, the restricted funds make up the bulk of the money in the treasury.

DISCUSSION

Homeless encampment follow up; Janice, Janet, Tonya and Ashley will work on a letter to present neighborhood concerns to local pastor. Discussion about involving other neighborhoods.

Shulman Memorial: Tracy and Diane told what they knew about the current plans in the absence of John. We are hoping that John will write an article for the Leschi News to inform the community.

May & June meetings: May will be devoted to the story behind the Dreamcatcher at blinking light intersection at Yesler and 32nd. The artist (Lawney Reyes) and the community leader (Joan Singler) will speak, and we will try to contact Larry Gossett to speak about the accomplishments

of Bernie Whitebear. The Dreamcatcher is devoted to the memory of Bernie and sister Luanna Reyes. The June meeting could feature the candidates for office and instructions on how to vote. Diane suggested that we find a neutral person to establish a Gmail account to take the vote. The idea is to give the election more neutrality than having the Board accept and count the votes. This should not be a huge task as usually the participants are not that many.

Kiosk by Bluwater needs updating; Diane offered her mea culpa as she has the key and she kept it up until sequestration from the pandemic. We will post information about the election and some interesting photo of historical Leschi.

Diane: May deadline for Leschi News: April 19

-Respectfully submitted by Diane Snell

	Income	Expenses	Balance 3/31/21
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$70.00		
Dues	\$585.00		
Donations	\$950.00		
Insurance			
Printing and postage		(\$2,140.49)	
Totals	\$1,605.00	(\$2,469.89)	\$13,025.47
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk			\$2,447.32
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends		(\$500.00)	\$2,985.59
Frink Park			\$2,067.60
King Street			\$1270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area			\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,287.85
Steve Shulman Memorial			\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1200.00
Wading Pool			\$3006.13
West Sheridan Street End	\$200.00	(1,400.00)	\$650.00
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$1,805.00	(\$4,369.89)	\$42,356.83
Certificate of Deposit			11,255.49



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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON ZOOM

May 5, 2021, 6:45pm, Pacific Time
(US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88366926560?pwd=UjRvdnAyZGhEaTJnRmtlV0JuRWUxQT09>

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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **MAY 17**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements, and membership dues to this address:
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EARTH DAY 2021

Earth Day was April 22, and we didn't promote it in our April issue because we had no community projects to get involved in; the pandemic still rules our communal lives. But for Earth Day, there was a thoughtful column in the New York Times: "The Wilderness is in Your Yard, Too" by Margaret Renki who writes on all things natural.

Renki states that "many people no longer feel a connection to the natural world because they no longer feel themselves to be a part of it. We've come to think of nature as something that exists a car ride away. We don't even know the names of the trees in our own yard."

She states that "Earth Day is a reminder that we are living creatures all the same. For we belong to one another...to the house finches and the climbing raccoons and the door-knocking turtles and the bathing bears. Recognizing that kinship will do more to keep our fellow creatures safer. It will also keep us safer, and make us happier, too."

"...even if you can't observe it (Earth Day) by planting trees or pulling trash out of nearby streams, this week is a good time to remember that it's never too late to become a naturalist. And the first step is simply waking up to our own need for the very world we have tried to shut out so completely."



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