

leschinews

May 2015 Issue No. 322

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

“The Gang of Four”

Bob Santos will be the featured speaker at our Leschi Community Council May 6 meeting. As a long time Seattle activist, Bob has written a book, “The Gang of Four”, which chronicles the activities of four Seattle men who each directed non-profit organizations serving ethnic groups within the community from the late sixties through the nineties.

The four included Larry Gossett, Executive Director of the Central Area Motivation Program; Roberto Maestas, Ex. Dir. of El Centro de la Raza; Bernie Whitebear, Ex. Dir. of United Indians of all Tribes; and Bob himself, Ex. Dir. of the International District Improvement Association. Together they formed an alliance, the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County; their activism included sit-ins, demonstrations, rallies, occupations, lectures and sometimes time spent behind bars (or in bars, as Bob says!)

May 6, 7pm

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER, 500 30TH AVE S.

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

June 8

Candidate Forum, See page 4

Presidents' Message

Marcia Rutan from Seattle Public Utilities presented an interactive recycling program at our April meeting. Even those of us who thought we were good at recycling learned something new. She gave us two reasons for wanting to reduce the use of landfills: the expense of hauling garbage (the current landfill is in Oregon) and the fact that landfills produce methane gas which adds to global warming.

Door prizes of Bio-bags for food waste and a grand prize of a bottle of Prosecco to celebrate our increased recycling knowledge made the program even more interesting! We were glad to see some new folks and hope they learned enough to avoid any fines.

We were also glad to see neighbors join Board members at our renewed stairway clean-up project at King St. and 30th. Litter was bagged and the sticky bedstraw pulled. Blackberries were tackled and 16 of those tall yard bags were filled for SDOT pick-up.

We are delighted to have Bob Santos speak at our May meeting. He has written a book on the famous gang of four who were prominent activists for civil rights in the decades from the late sixties to the 90's. His appearance in Leschi actually precedes the book launch at MOHAI on May 12. (Details on the cover.) This area has a rich history from the days of Chief Leschi through the civil rights era.

Many community activists showed up at the 23rd & Jackson Starbucks to meet Scott Kubly, the new director of SDOT. He wanted to explain the Mayor's new levy proposal that is planned to take the place of the expiring Bridging the Gap levy. And of course, the attendees wanted to talk about their own transportation concerns. Talking was difficult; this is a very busy and NOISY Starbucks. Much concern was expressed about pedestrian safety; this is the heaviest pedestrian area of the four intersections currently in the midst of planned change (Jackson, Yesler, Cherry and Union where the streets intersect with 23rd Ave.)

We have made some changes to our website; you will find more categories on the right hand side. We will use these categories to file articles from current Leschi News issues. It should make it easier to find an article pertaining to your interest; if it's moorage you are interested in, all the articles pertaining to moorage will be under that category beginning with the most recent. It is a good way to get letters from the city a wider distribution. We are now archiving issues of the Leschi News, as physical storage of extra copies becomes an issue. The Seattle Central Library also has archives of the Leschi News.

Last month we said that the annual Hopscotch event would be June 6, but it has been moved to August 23. We'll try to have a summer calendar for your use in our June issue as we don't publish in July and August. The Flo Ware event is still on June 13.

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

-Diane Morris & Diane Snell

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Taking Back Our Parks

Our Parks history seems to be an up and down cycle. Not all parks are visited by strolling ladies in their Sunday best and men in suits as we have seen in pictures of Leschi Park 100 years ago. More likely today, we see immediate neighbors with young children using play equipment and the occasional family picnic in the afternoon or early evening. But night activity can be a very different scenario.

When I first moved here, Flo Ware Park was the trouble spot. Tired play equipment and a sandbox with used needles poking out of the sand, plus regular gang attendance at all hours. We had a neighborhood clean-up; John Barber headed up an energetic committee that went after funding and volunteer hours. Eleven years ago, a newly renovated park was dedicated with safer play equipment and no sandbox. It took police drive-bys and a neighborhood agreement with the store across Jackson to convince the gang element they should not be there. It also helps that the Seattle Girls' School uses the park for recess breaks. And it helps that it is a small park and highly visible for a drive-by, but it still has its problems. Having loomed large in gang history for so many years, giving up gang "ownership" of this park is a constant struggle even though most gang members now live far south of Leschi.

More difficult was the problem at the Leschi Natural Area, with wild parties at night and the subsequent debris littered everywhere. Neighbors joined together and met with Parks and the police. Parks cooperated with an earlier closing time posted. The police again did drive-bys and noted license numbers; many of the daytime car licenses belonged to Garfield students who were given a warning at the school. The undesirable traffic diminished.

Leschi Park surfaced as the next problem, particularly the parking lot by the tennis court. It became a gathering place for alcohol, drugs, loud music and the litter. Nearby neighbors complained of inability to sleep with all the noise. We held a public meeting with Parks and were able to get the parking lot blocked with bollards at night; the closing time was moved up to 10pm.

We now have two new problem areas: one at Peppi's Park. With warmer weather, nighttime activities (drinking, drugs, sales of drugs, and prostitution) are a problem. One neighbor goes around picking up used condoms in the mornings so the school kids don't find them. There is not a ready solution to this as no parking lot is involved, but we will work with parks and police to try to remedy this situation.

The most serious and hardest to solve is the gang activity by Powell Barnett Park. Because the park is bound by city streets with public parking, it is not possible to actually block off parking. The perpetrators do hang back by 29th & Alder, but their activities go beyond the usual drinking, drugging and litter. There have been several incidents with gunfire, even while it is still light out. Residents with families are frustrated; one does not want their child living in a war zone. Police presence has been spotty at best. We know the police are understaffed, but we need to have attention paid to this issue. We know there is crime in other neighborhoods, but Leschi seems to be getting the gunfire. It is amazing that no one has been hurt yet. Again, we will meet with the police and parks personnel and explore ideas that may mitigate the problem.

- Diane Snell

Ask me about real estate when you see me in Leschi!



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Neighborhood & Beyond

THE NEXT STAIRWAY CLEAN-UP

Mark your calendar for May 16 and meet your Leschi CC Board members at the top of the Dearborn stairs at 30th. This is just south of Grace Methodist Church. We meet at 10 and work until noon. We have some gloves, but you will need to bring your own tools. If anyone has a weed whacker, this is a tall grass area that could use a good whack or two.... or three. We will bring some goodies to keep up your strength.

CANDIDATE FORUM

The Madison Valley Community Council is hosting a candidate forum at the Bush School on June 8 at 7pm. It will be held in the gymnasium and will feature the candidates running for the District 3 council position as well as the two open seats for the City Council. The open seats face a citywide vote while district candidates face the electorate in their own district. These will be the names that appear on the August primary ballot where each race will be narrowed to the two top winners in the primary. The District elections have attracted many new candidates you may not know about; this forum will give us a chance to hear their agendas. Hope you can make it!

The Bush School is located at 3400 E Harrison; go north on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and turn right on Harrison.

-Catherine Nunnely, Madison Valley CC

PERT'S DELI CLOSES

We were sad to learn that Pert's would be closing at the end of April. Mai and Max have been there 20 years, and while I know that we can get coffee and sandwiches elsewhere, we will miss that small town café feeling that one had in Pert's. Mai knew everyone and would sound the alarm when something did not seem right. I remember her calling me to say a regular customer had not been in for a while; she was concerned about him as he lived alone and seemed to be failing (mentally). She knew that he and I went to the same church and maybe I



could find out what was wrong? I did call him and eventually we called in the CARE team from the church to make sure he had some supports. But I always wondered how Mai knew that we went to the same church. He certainly didn't share that, as he couldn't remember my name from one Sunday to the next.

Mai was glad when Diane Morris and I were elected to the co-chair positions of the Leschi CC, as she knew us and could alert us to community issues. She expressed regret that she could not get more involved in the community; when she couldn't make the big meeting with the police last year, she made several large salads for the audience. Her famous bread pudding was their annual contribution to our holiday potluck; they couldn't always attend but the bread pudding seemed to make it.

Mai and Max were generous about letting us use their tables and chairs for informal committee meetings, when we sometimes only bought coffee. It was at Pert's that I made business arrangements with our new newsletter printer and where I met SDOT officials about plans for the Lake Dell retaining wall. Allan Fink and I worked on the plans for the website at Pert's, and it was a favorite meeting place for John Barber and his parks folks and for Kim Murillo, our LCC treasurer. We all went through Max's illness and treatment with the two of them and were encouraged when we saw him behind the register again.

We don't know yet what business will occupy that space, but that business won't have Mai and Max. We'll miss that neighborly feeling. In this day and age when you are waited on by someone who barely makes eye contact (and changes frequently), one misses that warm feeling of being greeted by name and asked about your knee (even though you stopped limping six months ago!).

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And in true Mai “form”, she was not interested in what I might say about their closing, but wanted me to be sure to put this in the newsletter: longtime Leschi resident Barry Simonson died on February 14. Mai felt that strollers in the business district might remember him as he walked with his Golden Retriever: the dog carried the leash, not Barry! We wish we had known him.

-Diane Snell

RENT ON STAGE AT GARFIELD

This spring, Garfield High School is proud to present Jonathan Larson’s groundbreaking rock-opera RENT. Set in New York City during the HIV crises of the 1990s, RENT follows a year in the lives of Alphabet City’s bohemian residents as they struggle with issues of AIDS, sexuality, homelessness and economic hardship. Although RENT deals with weighty and often controversial subject matter, its overall message is one of love, hope, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Garfield will be the first high school in Washington to perform RENT as it was originally intended, in its full and uncensored form. GHS students are known for their history of challenging widely held beliefs and opening up discussions in response to contemporary issues prevalent within our society. These students are involved in every aspect of the production,

from the choreography to the pit orchestra to the set and costume designers. We invite you to come and experience the culmination of their efforts at one of the many performances taking place in May.

RENT

7pm on May 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and 30

Quincy Jones Performance Hall
400 23rd Ave Seattle, WA, 98122

Tickets can be purchased at the door
or online at www.showtix4u.com

Garfield Theater contact:
garfielddramapr@gmail.com, 206-252-2408

GLOBAL READING AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY

This year’s Global Reading Challenge Champion teams were The Reading Rockets from Leschi Elementary School and The Lords of the Book from Orca Elementary School.

Congratulations to the winners and all the students who competed in this year’s challenge!

More than 3,000 elementary school students from 54 Seattle public schools participated in The Seattle Public Library’s 2015 Global Reading Challenge.

The Global Reading Challenge is a Battle of the Books program for 4th and 5th graders enrolled in Seattle Public Schools. The program encourages children to have fun and enjoy reading. After reading 10 books, children take part in a “Quiz Bowl” game to determine the winner for the city of Seattle.

A series of in-school challenges take place in February at participating elementary schools. The top team from each school then competes in semifinals against other school teams, and the winning schools from the semifinals will go on to compete in the city final.

JOG-A-THON

The school jog-a-thon is Friday, May 15. It’s one of our two big fundraisers for the school. Students raise money per lap run or in a lump sum. All money raised by the 4th grade class will be used for their 5th grade camp next year. If you are interested in donating, please contact Katie Busby at katiebusby@gmail.com or (206) 251-3411 or drop a check off at the school.

Community support is always appreciated! Camp tuition is approximately \$150/student. Two nights and three days for every 5th grader that wants to attend. Focus is on bonding and community building within the class and outdoor experience. If you want to sponsor a student, make a note in the memo section and make the check payable to the Leschi Elementary PTA.

ANNUAL ASK

We raised \$48,000 this year! Thanks to our wonderful, school community, the greater Leschi Community and businesses for your on-going support. A great school makes a great community!

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AND 30

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MOORAGE UPDATE

Dear Moorage Tenants and Project Advisory Team Members,

This is the first in a series of regular updates we are starting to keep tenants informed of upcoming operational changes, project updates and future improvements to the Leschi and Lakewood Moorages. (The background was noted; this information is on our website.)

Parks developed the following overarching goals to guide recommendations for the PATs and form the basis for our path forward:

- Maintain public ownership of the moorages;
- Provide safe, accessible and affordable moorage for Seattle residents;
- Protect shoreline habitat;
- Improve public access and community benefit without compromising security;
- Create quality facilities that are competitive in the marketplace;
- Enhance the sailing heritage at Leschi;
- Make moorages self-sustaining for ongoing capital upkeep and maintenance; and
- Ensure concessionaire quality with performance measures and regular auditing of the new concessionaire contract.



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Upcoming Operational Changes

Last week, we gave 30-day notice to the current concessionaire that we will be terminating their contract. Parks will be taking over management, operations and maintenance of both the Lakewood and Leschi moorages beginning June 1, 2015. Once we get closer to the date we will provide you with contact information for the Parks staff in charge of operating these facilities. This management structure will be in place until we select a long-term concessionaire to make capital improvements and operate the moorage facilities.

Future Plans for the Moorage Facilities

Parks has determined that our goals can be best achieved by a private partner with the expertise and capital to make the marinas economically sustainable. Moorage operations are not a core line of business for Seattle Parks and Recreation and proceeding with a private investor, who has experience in this field, makes the most sense. We explored a number of options and a private/public partnership is the best option. It makes sense not only financially, but also from a customer service perspective. As you know, the condition of our moorages is getting worse by the day.

Parks will issue a new RFP for a concessionaire to take over operations of the marinas, make the necessary capital improvements and perform ongoing major maintenance. Parks will continue to involve the community in the planned RFP process and ongoing operation. The new RFP will incorporate input from the PAT processes and at least one PAT member will be directly involved with its development. Once we have selected the Operator/Developer we will work hand in hand with them from start to finish and set up a process for continual evaluation of the contract, as well as opportunities for continual check-ins with the tenant community and surrounding neighborhood. In addition, we will work together to ensure that tenants and the community are up to date on construction timelines and moorage/neighborhood impacts.

We are committed to ensure that the new RFP will address the individual needs at both facilities through one concessionaire, while recognizing that the space and surrounding neighborhood of the Lakewood Moorage is different from the Leschi neighborhood. Much of what we heard from the PATs will be included in the RFP process, both through the RFP and through the agreement with the successful operator.

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Project Updates

In the last year and a half, there have been a number of urgent repairs that have occurred at South Leschi:

- Removed outer slips from service due to structural issues.
- Modified decking on all walkways including:
 - » Provided slip resistant (painted with granular material) high-density plywood overlay of existing decks.
 - » Mechanically fastened overlay to existing deck sub structure.
 - » Modified all connecting joints to include metal bottom plate to more strongly hold sections in place.
 - » Longitudinal thread rods reattached under deck to strengthen structures to resist twisting motion.
- Replaced main electrical circuit breaker panel and all breakers.
- Replaced service wire and individual receptacles at each slip.
- Repaired and remounted each light station at each slip.

Sincerely,

-Christopher Williams,
Acting Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

EAST PRECINCT POLICE SUPPORT BLOCK WATCH

At the March meeting of the East Precinct Advisory Council (EastPAC), a meeting of citizens and authorities of the Seattle Police Department, members and officers spoke on crime activity and block watches. EastPAC is a monthly forum of those who live, work or have some other tie to Seattle Police Department's East Precinct.

Block watches have been around in Seattle since the 1970s when they were established to deal with the heavy crime problem. Block watches are programs based on the idea that neighbors collaborating can be the first and best line of defense to prevent and react to crime. The neighbors organize themselves to watch for crime in their area so they are better prepared to contact the police and be witnesses in the event of a crime. Block watch captains work with the police and each other to remain as current as possible on crime patterns.

West Seattle block watch captains network have utilized technology to help block watch captains and police work together as efficiently as possible. Organizers use Facebook and email to get information and newsletters out to members as fast as possible. Social media can also be used to get people involved by informing them of the existence of block watches and the possibilities in their areas. Even one meeting for a neighborhood to get to know each other can make neighbors more inclined to contact the police if they witness a crime being committed.

Petty crimes that are prevented with the help of block watches have gone down in Seattle, but lately there have been many instances of gang activity according to Lt. Dan Whelan of the Seattle Police Department. Many of the same individuals have started violent altercations in Seattle and as far south as Renton, Kent, and Tukwila. The 12 gang detectives of the Seattle Police Force have good leads on many of these young men, most younger than 20.

Captain Davis expressed his support for block watches in Seattle. He stated that motor vehicle thefts and car prowls are down and stressed the importance of the police force working with block watches in order to continue to suppress crime.

Many of the speakers suggested that citizens attend a block watch meeting and look into the possibility of starting a block watch in their neighborhood. It is also greatly beneficial to know who the local Community Police Team officers are. To start a block watch in the East Precinct, call Terrie Johnston, (206)-233-0015. The phone number for the East Precinct CPT is 684-4370.

-Kai Griem

■ (Editor: Kai is a student at Garfield High School. He attended this meeting with our Public Health & Safety Chair, Tracy Bier and wrote this article for the Leschi News. East Precinct is one of the categories now listed on our website; the EastPAC meetings occur in the last week of the month after our Leschi News deadline so the notes have always been late. This way we can put the latest information on the website in a more timely manner, but this does not mean we will be following daily crime news. We don't have the staff or that; we refer you to the East Precinct blog.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTRAL?

Pampering Spa Day

Sunday, May 3: 3PM-6PM

Join us for a day of pampering at the Central Area Senior Center! Hearts for Humanity, a mobile outreach organization that provides therapeutic salon and self-esteem services will partner with CASC to provide haircuts, manicures, pedicures, beard and moustache grooming, facials, lashes and eyebrow arch, flat iron, curls and some limited braiding. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. This is a special fundraising event where funds will be allocated to the Central Area Senior Center's scholarship fund. Please call 206-726-4926 to register.

Green Dolphin Street Lounge: Septimus

Friday, May 15: 6PM-9PM

Join the Central Area Senior Center for our Green Dolphin Street Lounge with dancing, live music, a no-host bar and appetizer foods. May's Green Dolphin night features Septimus! Septimus, originally known as "Just Us," is comprised of the Brown family of Seattle. Performing R&B and funk, the band includes members who have played together as a family for more than 40 years. The group formed in the early 70s and

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has been an integral part of the Seattle soul and funk scene ever since. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members. To make a reservation, please call 206-726-4926.

Elder Law Day

Saturday, May 23: 9AM-3PM

An all-day interactive workshop on Elder Law issues will be provided by attorneys and legal interns on Saturday, May 23, 9 am-3 pm at CASC. Workshops will cover medical directives, estate planning and open forum discussions on items of collective interest. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members and includes handouts, refreshments and lunch. Please call 206-726-4926 to register.

-Joie Hsu, Program Coordinator, Central Area Senior Center (CASC), 500 30th Ave. S

DENTAL TIPS FROM DR. MIKE

At what age should I bring my children to the dentist? As summer approaches and many people anxiously await new family members, we thought now would be a good time to bring up something that often comes as a surprise to many new parents. When should their child start going to the dentist? Normally, the first teeth to erupt are the lower front teeth (incisors). This usually occurs around 6 months. What could be wrong with a tooth that a child just got in their mouth? Well, while it is unlikely there is anything 'wrong', it is a great opportunity to introduce your child to the routine of going to the dentist. This also gives the dental care team an opportunity to talk about things like home care, oral habits, diet, development and any other questions you may have. The goal is for the child to have fun, non-stressful dental visits to lay a foundation for future worry-free checkups.

If your child has not been to the dentist yet, make an appointment for them as soon as you can. Call your dentist and ask if they see children. If not, ask for a referral to a pediatric specialist.

For more information or to ask questions, feel free to visit us at www.32pearls.com. We'd like to make this a regular feature, and your feedback will help us to make it more informative and useful for everyone.

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MEMBER MEETING AT THE CENTRAL

Director Dian Ferguson holds member meetings every month on the third Wednesday at 1pm. She updates the members on proposed changes to the Center and listens to member concerns and suggestions.

On April 15, guest Sharon Sutton from the UW School of Architecture presented 3 plans that her students had developed several years ago when there was talk of renovation vs. rebuild at the Center. Since one of the major concerns is more parking, renovation was discounted. Parking needs a flat area, and the only flat area on the land is at the top. Underground parking was planned with integrated plans for senior housing and community buildings, all carefully laid out to preserve the view for nearby residents and use the slope extensively. The student plans were very creative but the audience was told that these are not plans that would be used as the Senior Services concept is different; they are not interested in a mix of seniors, kinship families and aging out foster care youths that comprised these plans.

Before anything can be decided, a feasibility study must be done. No one currently knows if the slope can be safely developed. Leschi is known for its slopes AND its slides and careful geo-technical studies would have to be completed.

What we do know is that the City is anxious to talk about transferring property purchased with funds that allow them to transfer to non-profit organizations. The timeline is November; the city would write up the documents for the transfer and the City Council would have to approve it.

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The Central is currently writing a grant for a Dept. of Neighborhoods grant to do a feasibility study to determine what if anything can be built there. This was a grant that was awarded a few years ago when the Center was under different leadership, but the grant was turned back to the city when the Senior Center was literally going under and was saved by Senior Services. Paula Houston, Senior Services Director, said they had to get the bills paid and hire staff to run the Center and had neither the time nor the personnel to deal with the former grant at that time. IF the Center does get the grant, it would be 2016 before anyone would know the results of the feasibility study. And even then, there are many parts to a big project like this, so don't get excited or apprehensive! Let's just say we're in the "dream stage" now.

-Diane Snell

CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY WITH A TRY-ATHLON

Memorial Day has been celebrated in the United States for centuries, dating all the way back to the Civil War when it was called Decoration Day and it was put in place to commemorate the loss of thousands of soldiers. The name changed in 1971, and now Memorial Day is celebrated in a variety of different ways; including parades, concerts, backyard barbecues and even the Indianapolis 500. However, it is important to remember that Memorial Day is in place to remember all of the Veterans who have passed away, and we at Seattle University believe that the best way to remember those who have fallen is to give back to the armed forces. That's why the Master of Sport Administration and Leadership program at Seattle University is putting on its Second Annual Trying4Troops Indoor Try-athlon, where all proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. The event is held in the Seattle University Recreation Center, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. The event includes a 10-minute pool swim, a 10-minute bike ride on a stationary exercise bike, and a 10-minute treadmill



run. There will also be music, snacks, a photo booth, a raffle! If you are interested on joining in on the fun, please go to the link below and sign up!

Remember, Memorial Day is not just a day off from school or work, it is a day to remember those who have lost their lives serving our country. What better way to enjoy your day off by getting some exercise, while also giving back to the community and celebrating those who have served?

If you are interested in either donating or participating, please visit www.trying4troops.org.

You can also like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trying4troops or follow us on twitter at [@trying4troops](https://twitter.com/trying4troops).

Have a fun and safe holiday!

-Alice Sax, Seattle University Sport Administration

BRADNER GARDENS SPRING SALE

Don't miss this event! It's your chance to buy heirloom tomato starts as well as other vegetables and herbs. Fruit trees and shrubs are also on sale; plants are from Neighbor Sally Nursery. Bargain prices! Sales benefit Bradner Gardens projects!

Even if you don't have a garden, just come and visit this neighborhood garden; if only every pea patch could be like Bradner Gardens. Remember how to get there; they have free concerts in the summer; bring your picnic dinner and dine on the lawn.

BRADNER GARDENS PARK (BGP)
Sunday, May 24 - 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
29th Avenue S. and S. Grand St., Seattle

-Joyce Moty, jmmoty@gmail.com



CULTURE CORNER

DRAGON KITES, LEGOS AND PORCELAIN @LARGE ON ALCATRAZ

~Susan N. Platt, Ph.D.
www.artandpoliticsnow.com

In 1995 when I participated in the United Nations NGO conference on Women in China as a representative of the International Art Critics Association, I visited the “Beijing East Village,” an avant-garde artists’ community created in the early 1990s. I didn’t know that it had already been disbanded by the time I arrived, but there were a few traditional artists remaining whom I visited with three friends. As soon as we stepped back outside we were detained, our passports taken, and we were interrogated for three hours in a nearby teashop. Once released, we were under surveillance for the rest of our time in China: my hotel phone was tapped and I was followed. It was unnerving. On the last day, I stayed away from a celebration with a group of Chinese women artists because I feared my surveillance would extend to them after I left the country. Although this was a brief experience, I still remember my intense anxiety and the feeling of relief as I got on the plane.

Internationally renowned artist Ai Weiwei was detained for almost three months in 2011, ostensibly for tax evasion, followed by house arrest, and today he is still under surveillance and can’t leave the country. Though he has been able to continue to create work all over the world in absentia.

“@Large, AiWeiwei on Alcatraz,” an extraordinary installation inside the former Federal prison expands on his personal experience to call attention and honor political dissidents detained in countries all over the world. Placing @ Large on Alcatraz Island, now populated only by cormorants and gulls in the midst of the incredibly beautiful San Francisco Bay, amplifies the subject of unjust detention (as it exacerbated the suffering of the people detained here).

At the top of the Island, we enter the “New Industries” Building and face an oversized dragon kite, his mouth wide open, his long teeth threatening. Made of dozens of kites hand painted in China, the dragon confronts us, suspended from the ceiling, its body weaving back and forth through the columns of the enormous space. But it is trapped. It cannot move. Historically a symbol of imperial power, this dragon expresses both rage and futility.



@ Large is a brilliant pun/title for this multi-part installation, created under the a unique private public partnership that includes the FOR-SITE Foundation led by Cherle Haines, the National Park Service and the Golden Gate Conservancy. Haines had the idea of an installation on Alcatraz, and then happened to meet Ai Weiwei in China, just after his release in 2011. Ai Weiwei wanted to broadcast injustice inside and outside China: it was a perfect fit. But it took a lot of diplomacy to gain support: it is the first time any art event has been held at Alcatraz.

How better to first greet visitors than with a giant Chinese dragon kite! Near the dragon are “bird kites” that reference countries holding political prisoners. These threatening, unmovable birds emphasize the contradiction of their “detention” with the freedom of the many birds on Alcatraz Island, now designated as a bird sanctuary. Ironically, the kites are titled “With Wind,” suggesting what is needed for flight.

Some of the kites that form the dragon have quotes from human rights activists who are included in “Trace,” installed in the second vast room of this former industrial factory where prisoners once made army uniforms under heavy guard. From looking up at kites, we look down to the floor at portraits of 176 people imprisoned for political beliefs in 33 countries. The portraits are constructed in small Legos, with various sizes and colors, arranged on a grid with a white (Lego) ground; we see them as individuals, linked by a common structural restraint.

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Ai Weiwei figured it all out from China. But he is also an architect (he collaborated on the Birds Nest Stadium for the Beijing Olympics), so he was able to work with models and dimensions. Before I went I was dubious about the use of Lego, but actually, the digitized portraits perfectly express the barely visible condition of prisoners. A few honor past heroes like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King. Edward Snowden and John Kiriakou, the former CIA officer who publicly discussed waterboarding, appear prominently. Thirty-eight Chinese prisoners form a single huge segment on the floor, the only panels that were assembled in China. The other five segments were put together over three weeks by 90 volunteers following patterns, a demanding and complex process.

As we move through the vast room with crumbling plaster on its walls and derelict fixtures from fifty years ago, we look at faces and names. (We can't walk on the Legos, so we see many of them from afar, again appropriate for these disappeared detainees). In a book on a pedestal, as well as online, we can read each of their stories. The artist worked in collaboration with Amnesty International to select the names to include, and these are only a fraction of who might have been included. We have not heard of most of these people, such as Meriam Ibrahim from Sudan accused of apostasy and adultery, or Irom Sharmila Chanu charged with an attempt to commit suicide in India and the many people from Bahrain accused of organizing a terrorist group, or the Saudis convicted of "breaking allegiance with the king".

From the United States, there are six names and only one prisoner from Guantanamo, Shaker Aamer. I expected to see Mahamedou Ould Slahi who just published the incredible Guantánamo Diary detailing the torture he survived. There are still 122 prisoners at Guantánamo, 56 of whom have been cleared for release. Those prisoners, like the political prisoners in @Large, are all victims of a profound violation of human rights and falsely accused of actions which they did not commit. As I read the Declaration of Human Rights included in the @Large catalog, I realize that every one of those rights is violated in the United States and around the world.

From a narrow passageway looking down through broken windows, we view a third installation in the same immense building. Originally, armed guards stood here watching prisoners work. "Refraction" suggests the wing of a huge downed bird. Made from giant solar panels used in Tibet as solar cookers, it again represents immobility.

From the New Industries building, we descend down the hill to Cellblock A, part of the public tour of Alcatraz. Inside each of twelve crumbling cells, we sit on a small stool to listen to the songs, poetry or speeches by people or groups, imprisoned for their creative expressions. There is the Nigerian Fela Kuti, Pussy Riot and Martin Luther King. But we also hear Liao Yiwu's poem "Massacre" in honor of Tiananmen Square, Sudan's people's poet Mahjoub Sharif, Chilean Víctor Jara and Ahmad Shamlu, a Persian poet.

Even more penetrating are two sound installations, "Illumination," in the psychiatric isolation units of the adjacent prison hospital. We hear the sounds of Tibetan Buddhist monks and Hopi Indians (who were imprisoned at Alcatraz for refusing

to send their children to government boarding schools) chant in adjacent windowless spaces.

Also, in the hospital, "Blossom" fills derelict sinks, toilets and bathtubs almost to overflowing with hundreds of white porcelain flowers. Putting them into plumbing fixtures suggests they could be flushed away at any time. The flowers also reference the 100 Flowers Campaign in China, when intellectuals were invited to critique Mao, only to be sent into exile. Ai Weiwei's father, Ai Qing, was a famous poet who was sent to clean toilets in the Gobi desert.

The final installation "Yours Truly," appropriately placed in the dining hall of the prison, offers an opportunity to correspond with political prisoners: post cards are pre-addressed to the people featured in "Trace." As we write, we know that this small act provides a crack in the devastating isolation of those lost in a prison or detention system.

Ai Weiwei cannot leave China, but his outspoken protest of unjust imprisonment and detention and his stand for freedom cannot be contained.

"Freedom for me is not a fixed condition but a constant struggle." Ai Weiwei Beijing 2014

LESCHI PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Closer to home, our Leschi CC treasurer, Kim Murillo, has a small exhibit of photographs at the local Edward Jones office on Lakeside. There are just four photos, but they are stunning. Do stop by and take a look. Kim will have a booth at our ArtWalk on September 12.

-Diane Snell



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MAY IS ROSÉ

Anyone that has lived in Leschi for a couple of years can tell you- May means rosé. Domestic and imports arrive, making for a very fun time of year to set the tone for summer. Never fear, with all the choices out there, let Leschi Market help you think pink. Here are some current offerings.

2014 Commanderie de Peyrassol Rosé Côte de Provence (\$20)

This wine is the classic representation of the pink-tinted wines of this region and is the workhorse wine of the estate. It carries a lovely fruit blossom nose and finishes crisply dry with a stony touch that gives it class and elegance. It is exceptionally long, resulting in a Rosé that is lively, fresh and full-bodied. Limited. A great substitution until the rosé from Bandol arrives!

2014 Syncline Rosé Horse Heaven Hills (\$18)

“Our creation of this wine is in direct response to our love of crisp, dry rosé. The color is a striking pale pink with aromas and flavors of strawberries and melon skin. Finishing completely dry, this is as serious as Rosé gets. 38% Mourvèdre, 32% Cinsault, 30% Grenache. 850 cases produced.” –Winemaker notes.

2014 Tranche Cellars Pink Slice of Pape Blackrock Estate Vineyard Yakima Valley (\$15)

“Pale salmon in color with a light pink hue. Delicate aromas of rose petal, white peach and nectarine, with lifted notes of sweet pink grapefruit and lemon zest. The wine is fresh and lively upon entry, with bright mountain berry flavors complemented by wet river rock minerality. Driving acidity and citrus qualities provide focus and direction, drawing out the palate to a mouthwatering finish. A blend of Cinsault, Counoise and Grenache. 637 cases produced.” –Winery notes. Always one of Leschi Market’s best-selling pinks of the season!

2014 Seven Hills Dry Rosé Columbia Valley (\$14)

“In the tradition of the classic French Rosés, ours is delicate and refreshing, pale in color, and bone-dry. Primarily Cabernet Franc, with small amounts of Petit Verdot for additional structure and Malbec for expressive fruitfulness, this wine exhibits flavors of peach, grapefruit and papaya along with fresh herbs, white flowers, and a hint of spice.” –Winemaker notes. This will not be around come June. Get it now.

2014 AIX Rosé Coteaux d’Aix en Provence (\$14)

An award-winning wine from one of the region’s largest and most prestigious wineries, Domaine de la Grande Séouve, who have established AIX as perhaps the definitive Provence rosé. Unashamedly vibrant and summery, with a bright pink color and a delicate balance of crisp acidity and soft, ripe summer fruit.

2014 Jean-Luc Colombo Cape Bleue Rosé Côte du Rhône (\$12)

“Soft, delicate pink. Subtle hints of peach, rose petal and pepper on the nose. Dry and complex, with intriguing notes of raspberries, fresh cherry, black olive and fennel. A great rosé to enjoy on its own or with a wide range of appetizers, fish, poultry dishes and vegetarian fare. 67% Syrah, 33% Mourvèdre.” –Winemaker notes. Knocked the tasting panel and I over with the price to quality ration that this wine delivers. A MUST try!



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2014 Ryan Patrick Rosé Columbia Valley (\$10)

“Hints of Rainier cherry, pomegranate and dried cranberry with traces of savory herb aromas. A bright lively acidity with a fruit driven mid palate and a crisp, clean finish. A blend of 57% Syrah, 27% Sangiovese, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Mourvèdre, 4% Grenache, 1% Cinsault. 150 cases made.” –Winemaker notes.

2014 Domaine Le Clos des Lumières Côtes du Rhône Rosé (\$8)

This wine pours a beautiful pale salmon color. Very fine nose dominated by strawberry aromas. The palate will again reveal the strawberries, in addition to cherry. The mid-palate shows some spiciness, followed by a pink grapefruit and flint finish. Cinsault, Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre. Affordable. Dry. A perfect wine to end the day (and the column) with.

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 Dablia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His wine column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experiences in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMarket.com or request to be added to email updates or send questions, comments, or suggestions to ken@leschimarket.com and follow the wine department directly on twitter at twitter.com/leschimarket.

THAT'S AMORE

It has been several years since we ate at That's Amore, but our grandson wanted to celebrate his birthday there. He had a hankering for ravioli.

It was the proverbial dark and stormy night and a Tuesday at that, so we didn't think we needed reservations, but the place was packed. They were able to pull together a table for the four of us up front by the window, but we marveled at the crowd on a Tuesday night. Our server was surprised too. As one of only two servers, she seemed to be doing everything: acting as hostess, cashier, bus person filling water glasses and the usual server tasks of taking orders and delivering food.

Alas, no ravioli for grandson, but they have a special tortellone each night which is a similarly filled pasta shape. He ordered that night's special: tortellone filled with rib meat. Girlfriend ordered Chicken Parmesan; spouse ordered lasagna, while I went for the Ginger Butternut Squash soup, which was pleasing on a night like that: hot and tangy with ginger. (And reasonably large bowl for \$6.50.) They serve a rosemary-flavored bread while you wait and it is hard not to fill up on that! (It is baked on the premises.) The food was very good and comforting on a cold, wet night. It made me wonder why we had waited so

long to return to That's Amore, but I think that Thai food has recently replaced Italian food on my list of favorites.

Service was slow, but it was understandable given the crowd and only two servers. We watched out the front window with apprehension as the rain created a veritable river on the sidewalk and we felt privileged to have obtained a very close parking spot.

The young ones took boxes of food home; the older “clean your plate” duo left no crumb undisturbed. Expect about \$25 per person if you add soup or salad to your entrée.

Diane Morris reports that they serve a delicious brunch on Sundays, but I could find no mention of it on the website, except for an Easter Brunch so it may be an occasional event.



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-Diane Snell

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Present: Janet Oliver, John Barber, Kim Murillo, Jeff Moor, Diane Morris and Diane Snell.

Minutes: approved by email. Minutes changes requested by Diane S. When there is a vote on an action, please note #ayes, #nays, #abstentions. (If discussion involves something that might be a legal matter, specific details will be submitted.)

Treasury/CD: Kim submitted report for March; question about purchase from Quill office supplies (this was an order for mailing labels for the newsletter.) Kim will complete a W-9 form for those who need it to submit with a grant. Matching grant application needs to be completed. Original IRS letter from old records needs to be copied for these apps. Donations need to be in a separate category from renewals.

LURC: Jeff Moor reported on more activity at 23rd & Union. The Richlen gas station property plan has had its first hearing; the plan is a mixed-use retail/residential units. Residential parking will be below grade; commercial parking and loading will be in a garage at grade in the middle of the block. Loading/unloading access has to be on the residential street rather than the arterials of 23rd & Union, based on SDOT requirements. Some neighborhood concerns about that. This developer is Lake Union Partners, who are also doing the project on the SW corner next to Casey Family, but this project is their own plan. Post Office site: a new discussion around community-based development. UW students have devoted one quarter of study to this concept. A PDA (Public Development Authority) may be the way to make it commercially successful. (Other PDAs are Pike Place Market/ Chinatown/ SAM/ PacMed.) The plan would involve separate buildings, rather than one massive block of building, with open spaces between the buildings.

Kim Murillo expressed a concern about the Post Office site; she had gone to the small post office now located at 23rd & Union midday on April 1 and found herself enveloped in a haze of smoke and fumes from a group of folks smoking pot around the coffee kiosk. The owner has met with the police previously, but nothing seems to have changed. Diane S said she would report it to the East Precinct.

Flo Ware: John Barber and Diane Morris are working with Katie Busby and Christine Miller on the Flo Ware event planned for June 13. They hope to have the Pop-up Adventure Playground again.

Program: Diane reported that Bob Santos will be the speaker in May and for June, City Councilwoman Kshama Sawant & Senator Pramila Jayapal have accepted invitations to speak on their respective experiences as the newest “kids on the block”. John Barber expressed an objection as Sawant will probably be a candidate in the fall. However, the filing period is not over and we don't know how many candidates there will be at this point. We

will plan a candidate forum for the fall and invite each to speak. We agreed to present the speakers with prepared questions and to ask them specifically to avoid campaigning.

NPSF projects: four projects were chosen, three of which deal with safety concerns...mostly pedestrian crossings. The other project is a path at the NWAAM/Jimi Hendrix Park. LCC projects of a sign at King St. street-end shoreline park and the living wall for the Lake Dell retaining wall were not selected. John Barber felt he did not want to pursue the plan of a sign at King St. Diane S. felt we should look for other help for the Lake Dell retaining wall. Some businesses will grant free plants for community projects. Janet Oliver will research these local options. Both Janet and Diane Morris will check with landscape architects about the mesh wall piece of the plan.

Art Walk: Kim said the next planning meeting is April 23 and she will ask the planners to give early updates so we can cover the progress in the May newsletter.

East Precinct Board: Tracy attended the meeting with Kai Griem, Garfield High student. He will write an article on the block watch talk presented at the meeting and submit it for the May newsletter. Diane S explained that Captain Davis is being transferred to West Seattle and this is a big loss to the Central District. Captain Davis grew up in this neighborhood and knows it well. In the short 13 months he has been our Captain, he has accomplished a great deal, including a coordinated raid with federal agents on a Central Area home that has been a problem to neighbors for more than a decade. Both drugs and guns were confiscated; a decision on the home will be made later. Diane S would like to write a letter to Chief O'Toole in opposition to this transfer. Stephanie Tschida (Chair, East Precinct Advisory Council) and Sonia Richter (retired SPD Crime Prevention Officer) have both sent such letters. The Board unanimously approved.

Website changes: Diane S. worked with Allan Fink to make some changes to the website which should help folks find information more quickly. More categories have been added, including the school, land use, etc. Jeff was asked to submit brief descriptions of large projects in the area that residents may wonder about, i.e. those projects that LURC (the Land Use Review Committee) gets involved in. John Barber was asked to submit brief descriptions of each of the String of Pearls. Appropriate newsletter articles can be added to each category as they appear. More photos were requested of Kim and anyone who has some nice seasonal photos of Leschi, as photos seem to be more enjoyable on the website than long articles. Back issues of the Leschi News are now archived on the website.

Meeting adjourned shortly after 8pm.

-Minutes: Diane Snell

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may 2015 | calendar

MAY 2 Leschi Natural Area work party 9am-3pm. Lunch & tools provided. 36th & Terrace.

MAY 6 Leschi CC meeting, 7pm Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S

MAY 9 Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, 9am, The Central (Breakfast: \$14)

MAY 11 Leschi CC Executive Board Meeting 7pm, 128 30th (Diane Morris's)

MAY 14 Foyer Concert: Garfield Orchestra at Garfield Commons (inside school) 7-9pm

MAY 14 Central Area Neighborhood District Council, 6pm, The Central 500 30th Ave S.

MAY 15 Garfield Jazz Gala, 6:30pm, Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College

MAY 15 Green Dolphin Street Lounge 6-9PM featuring Septimus. Admission is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for lifetime members. Refreshments. No Host bar.

MAY 16 Leschi CC stairway cleanup at Dearborn St. stairs, 30th to 31st. Meet at 10am at top of stairs just south of Grace Methodist Church. Bring tools. 10am-noon.

MAY 20 RENT, Garfield Drama, 7pm, Quincy Jones PAC (also May 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30)

MAY 22 Garfield Jazz at Folklife Festival, 5pm, (get program on entry to find out where)

MAY 24 Bradner Gardens Sale, 10am-3pm, 29th S & S Grand

MAY 28 EastPAC Meeting, 6:30pm, Chardin Hall, Seattle U. Parking off Jefferson past 12th on right.

MAY 30 Garfield Jazz, 6pm, The Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S

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

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