PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

April 5 at 7pm

This will be the first meeting of the newly forming Leschi Public Safety committee. All are welcome to join. In this session, we will document the community’s public safety concerns, discuss the impact and priority of each, and brainstorm potential paths to address the issues. Our public safety chair will be attending the April EastPAC meeting so we can also discuss which concerns to take to that meeting. Public safety can be a personal and emotional topic, so we ask that folks bring an open mind and allow all concerns to be voiced. If you are not able to join, please send your input to leschicouncil@gmail.com.

Grace Methodist Church
722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

inside the news

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Hello Leschi Neighbors,

Well here we are at the beginning of Spring and we were teased a little in the last few days with the great weather: warmth and sunshine!

Our April meeting will be Wednesday, April 5 at 7pm at Grace Methodist Church in the lower large room. We had a lively turnout at our last Public Safety meeting and expect another large group. Please attend if you have concerns, as we are looking for people interested in participating in this committee.

The Leschi ArtWalk is now planned for Saturday, September 9, 2023—the Saturday after Labor Day. We will have our first meeting on Thursday, April 13, at 3pm at BluWater Bistro, Leschi. We will be sending applications out and contacting artists who participated in the past, as well as those who were not able to make last year. Additionally, we are very open to new vendors this year.

We decided to do the voters forum in the fall, once the primary to slim down the field is complete, and offer a presentation by the parties chosen in that primary.

We are also looking for Leschi Star candidates for our 2023 awards. This is how we honor people in our community for their service. Please submit someone who has made a difference in Leschi and the reason you are recommending them for a Star.

As we move fully into Spring, may your flowers bloom brightly and birds sing a melody to you that warms the cockles of your heart. Again, please reach out to your neighbors, get involved and let laughter brighten your day.

Kind regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” ~Frank Maguire
WHERE IS BEN FRANKLIN WHEN WE NEED HIM?

Our March issue was our 400th issue; at 10 issues per year that is 40 years of publishing the Leschi News. The Leschi Community Council has been in existence since the late 1950s and the early meeting notes were handwritten and later copied for distribution. We went to a published and mailed version 40 years ago. We didn’t miss an issue during the pandemic even though our community meetings were suspended and the Board continued to meet by Zoom each month. And in other ways, we are in good shape: we have a wonderful group of contributors who offer items of interest such as notice of work parties, critiques of art shows and books, the latest offerings in wine and historical articles so we can know what went on in the Leschi’s past. Current community interests are public safety and how will we memorialize Steve Shulman, the much beloved owner of Leschi Market and a great believer in a strong community. An ongoing concern is the traffic through the business district. We have invited our new Director of SDOT to attend our May meeting and that is one issue we will bring up, in addition to the plan to make Lake Washington Blvd less accessible.

But given all the assets, I worry about how long the News can continue in this form. In the past year, we have seen not one, but two, increases in mailing costs although we have a nonprofit rate. Costs for mailing are now exceeding $100 per issue; these costs were around $80 per issue a few months ago. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I would think there was a plan to get rid of newspapers. “Newspaper go out of business at the rate of 2 per week.” (The Guardian). “Overall, 2,500 newspapers in the United States–a quarter of them–have closed since 2005, The country is set up to lose one-third of its newspapers by 2025. And in many places, the surviving local media outlets have made major cuts to staff and circulation.” (New York Times) “Most areas that lose papers do not get a print or digital replacement, creating news deserts and crisis for our democracy.” (Northwestern News)

Printed news is invaluable. There can be background so one understands the context of an issue, something that is not possible in broadcast versions. My hero, Ben Franklin was committed to newspapers. When he was our first Postmaster General, he made sure the original mail delivery persons, the Pony Express, carried newspapers into the hinterland.

Printing costs have also increased several times in the past two years, and I can see that the publishing company is suffering; they now lease only half the building they used to and many of the staff have left. They seem to be down to a skeleton crew and often they want us to pick up the printed copies in the morning; does this mean they go home once we pick up our copies? This makes life interesting on our end as it means we have to be ready when they want us. It takes close to half an hour to get there but we do breathe a sigh of relief when we have the bundled copies in our vehicle!

We don’t want to increase the membership fee, but it would help if those signed up for trial subscriptions would contribute something! Therefore we are planning to send out a letter of woe once again, urging subscribers to catch up on dues and urge those not paying to help keep us solvent. If you are not sure what the status of your dues is, you only need to check the mailing label which should say Dues paid through???. There is a low income category of $15 if you are struggling in this uncertain economy; every bit helps!

~Diane Snell

Editorial

WHERE IS BEN FRANKLIN WHEN WE NEED HIM?

Leschi News April 2023 | 3
SHULMAN MEMORIAL MEETING

The Shulman Memorial group met on March 16 to continue the discussion about the memorial and the site. Yousef Shulman presided over the meeting.

Vision for the Memorial: A place to gather and develop community. Could be in many different places in the park and used for a lot of different things for the everyone in the city of Seattle, not just Leschi neighbors. Project proposal and possible structure location(s) must be approved by the City of Seattle’s Parks Department. The Seattle Parks process is a long, lengthy process, with completion of project possibly 3-5 years down the year. Parks would provide permanent maintenance for the park. We get to choose an architect, and have already secured a pro bono architect, Joe Chauncey, whom Parks is willing to work with. Joe Chauncey is a Leschi Market customer and longtime friend of Steve’s. Current estimate cost for the Memorial is a minimum of $300,000.

Yousef pointed out that the process is long due to the diverse areas for approval at various stages, including type of design, and application of permits. There are many things to consider in addition to the Memorial that are mandatory by the City of Seattle. For instance, the memorial must have ADA access, be a certain amount of feet from a restroom, and be near a path. If it isn’t near a path, a path must be created, and more that we are probably not even aware of at this stage. We must demonstrate community support. Two of three of the required community meetings have been met.

Site Selection: Three spots have been identified and submitted to Seattle Parks to determine feasibility and approval for the Memorial. The three suggested sites are: Moorage: Along the waterfront, south end of South Leschi Moorage Market; North edge of Leschi Park, near the Leschi Market Central; Center of Leschi Park, near the circular walkway. There was discussion regarding the three sites; it was noted that the least desirable location would be near the Moorage. Seattle Parks suggested that the Moorage site was most desirable from their perspective, due to the ease in which to build and maintain the site. However, this site would have to also involve the Seattle Department of Transportation. It was noted that we can submit additional suggested sites for Seattle Parks approval.

There was consensus that we consider the area of the old fountain (and bandstand before then) where the area is already graded and there is good drainage. It is felt to be an ideal site. The fountain at this site was built approximately around the 1880’s and has historical significance to the city. Currently, the fountain area has plantings in it. There was a question as to whether Leschi Park, and the fountain are part of the Olmsted Trust, which it is not. However, it was suggested that we invite the Olmsted Trust to meet with our group. It was asked that a list of “Pros” and “Cons” be complied for each proposed site.

Design: A covered structure has been approved by the Leschi Community Council. However, there is no decision on the type of structure. When we know that location of where the Memorial will be, it will be easier to decide on the type of and cost of the desired structure. It was suggested that we invite the architect, John Chauncey, to the next meeting. Could he possibly come up with a few concepts for the group to become acquainted with? Yousef will reach out to John Chauncey. The more complicated the design, the more costly it becomes. The Leschi Community Council must approve the design.

There were concerns about the ability to reserve the covered space, which can be done. It was suggested that a notice be posted about marking reservations through Seattle Parks to avoid possible conflict. However, it was also noted that we might want to have a design that doesn’t require a reservation for use. Yousef emphasized that he appreciates everyone’s input and knows all have your heart in the neighborhood.

SAVE THE DATE: Meeting April 16, 10am by the Leschi Market for viewing proposed sites.

Edited version from the official minutes.

LESCHI GREENSPACE REPORT

Leschi Natural Area, corner of 36th Ave and East Terrace Street This beautiful, wooded area with outstanding views of the Lake has been a neighborhood asset since 1993, but now has lost its leaders—through illness or moving elsewhere. It is ready for some tender loving care. But, first in order, is to find new leaders and volunteers. A walkthrough and discussion will take place on Earth Day, April 22 at 1pm. All neighbors are invited.

South King Street Shoreline Public Access Area: This area designed to be a spot of habitat and public contemplation of joy of nature was unfortunately sheared by a maintenance crew of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) in late February. Explanation of the unexpected haircut has been fuzzy. But even so SDOT will install some new native plants this month along with some tidying up of plant beds and walking surface.

Leschi Gateway Project, Lake Washington Boulevard and Erie to Yesler: Over the last couple of months, the corner section of the Boulevard at Erie Avenue, which is owned by the Seattle Parks Department, was encroached on by neighbors, first by clashing back of shrubs, then by excavation. A neighbor-led meeting with Parks maintenance
staff was held on-site early in March. The Parks Department has committed to addressing the encroachment issues, clean-up, and safety issues.

Powell Barnett Park: There will be a neighborhood voluntary work party in Powell Barnett Park on May 20 to re-plant the slope adjacent to the wading pool. Details will follow in the May issue of the Leschi News.

Maintenance deficit at Leschi Park Leschi Park is a community treasure, yet the Parks Department does not provide maintenance to most of the landscape beds and now there is uncontrolled and unsightly spread of sprawling prickly blackberries in the south lawn area next to the South Leschi Moorage. I have reported this several times to Parks but repeatedly nothing is done. We will then look to a neighborhood work party sometime this summer, details to follow in the next issue.

-John Barber, Chair Leschi Parks & Greenspace

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY FOLKS INTERESTED IN ARTWALK 2023

The actual date for this event is September 9, 11-4pm. The first planning meeting will be held April 13 at 3pm at BluWater Bistro. No special skills are needed to help plan this community event. If you like to see people gather and have fun, join us! The more hands we have, the less work for each person. Our tasks will be to encourage artists to show their work, find music groups to entertain, provide activities for kids to enjoy and get the word out! Where should we advertise this? Bring your ideas as we brainstorm!

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Although the official Earth day is April 22, Mother Earth will appreciate whatever you decide to do on whichever day works for you; Leschi has the luxury of 3 options in April.

1. Swimming and lake-lounging season approaches: Volunteer to improve a small patch for all on April 8, 9-noon.

On Saturday April 8, Daniel Collins-Beacon Hill and the Friends of Seattle Street ends (FOSE) invite you to Massachusetts street end (immediately off of Lakeshore Drive, near 7600 Lake Shore Dr) 1 block south of Atlantic, to help us restore the small landscape we have been working on through the Covid months. We have a JobBox of tools, so all we ask is that volunteers have up-to-date vaccinations and closed toe shoes. The effort will include some weeding, mulching, and planting of PNW native plants. I will give a quick tour of the grounds and explain our mission. You can arrive at any time; simply visit if you like. We are also collaborating with community stewards on the restoration of Atlantic Street end so opportunities to participate on this shoreline are looming in the near future.

We recognize that various public street ends were poorly managed in the past or have had a confusion of private owner management of their resources. We want to establish a clear and robust landscape on the water for native habitat and public enjoyment—a pocket park if you will. These events are great ways to build community on public Rights of Way with the support of Seattle SDOT staff and improve shoreline habitat values. Please RSVP with Daniel, local arborist, at dmcollins1962@gmail.com.

2. Not a gardener? You can still help to improve your community by joining a litter brigade! Chris Tremonte has formed a volunteer group that tackles litter issues once a month. Chris provides both tools and treats for his workers. The April group will meet at Powell Barnett Park on the 3rd Sunday, April 16 from 10-12pm. For more information, check the website http://tinyurl.com/JaxlerCleanup

3. Frink Park work party April 29 from 10-12pm. Meet at end of Yesler (east of the Dreamcatcher). Bring water and dress for weather. Gloves and tools provided.

There is actually a last minute 4th option on Earth Day at 1pm. This is not a work party but a walk-through of the Natural Area. So if you want to celebrate Earth Day but not get your fingers dirty, consider walking through this gem of a park led by our Greenspace chair: John Barber. Just show up at 1pm on April 22!

STAR AWARDS: IS THERE A STAR NEAR YOU?

The Leschi Community Council Board is now accepting applications for our annual Leschi Stars. Applications must be submitted by May 5 to be considered; winners will be presented with the prestigious star at our June meeting.

Please use this application: 2023 Leschi Star Nominations Instructions: Once a year we honor our Leschi Stars, those folks or groups who have made a big difference in Leschi. EXAMPLE OF AN INDIVIDUAL: Henrietta Price who has been a crossing guard at Leschi Elementary School for more than two decades and encourages the children to do their best as she safely guides them across the street. GROUP EXAMPLE: Keller Williams staff who sent 60 folks to Leschi Park to weed, mulch, prune for their day of community service.

Send us your answers to the following:

• Your nominee’s name and contact information.
• Tell us why this person is a STAR! Be specific.
• How do these activities enrich life in Leschi?
• Your name and contact information. Send an email to leschinews@comcast.net, or mail to LCC, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A, #2, Seattle 98122.

NEIGHBOR DAY

The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods has designated May 6 as Neighbor Day, which seems to be an adaptation of the old Neighbor Appreciation Day where we sent neighborly cards to folks we felt were making a difference in our communities. This adaptation encourages us to indulge in acts of kindness. Examples from DON:

• Host or lead a volunteer effort in your neighborhood for One Seattle Day of Service on May 20. Register at seattle.gov/mayor/one-seattle-initiatives/day-of-service
• Host a neighborhood potluck
KING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Take these actions to help manage the spread of coronavirus and keep each other safe.

The best protection is to get vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people can now do more things safely and are helping reduce COVID-19 in the community.

Wearing a mask in high-risk settings (such as crowded places) helps to protect everyone. It’s especially important to protect people that can’t get the full protection from the vaccine, such as young children and people with medical conditions who are less able to fight the virus.

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER NEWS

In September 2022, I was honored and equally surprised to learn that I had been awarded a sabbatical grant award by the BIPOC ED COALITION WASHINGTON STATE. In a letter that I and our Board President, Barbara Peete received, it said, “We are honored and excited to provide Central Area Senior Center a sabbatical grant award in the amount of $60,000 to support a three-month sabbatical for Dian Ferguson, Executive Director. Congratulations on receiving this award!”

Furthermore, it said, “We know that you as a leader of your organization and community have been working for many years with great dedication, in service to the community. We are thrilled to support your rest and renewal, your wellness and reconnection with your creative energy, and the sustainability of your organization and your collective work.”

I am thrilled to be able to depart my organization effective this month and know that my work is in the hands of a great board, professional staff, and CASC volunteers. Helping to lead them while I am away are two great individuals, Mary Diggs-Hobson, who will serve as the Administrative Director and Twanda Hill who will be the Publicity, Marketing and Human Resource Director.

Mary Diggs-Hobson has Executive Management experience, to be exact, fifty years of experience working in corporate, government, and the community, and nonprofit sectors. Mary’s experiences include community development and organizing, urban planning and development, organization and nonprofit development, management, strategic planning, and large-scale program management. She co-founded and successfully managed, AARTH a faith-based social justice nonprofit organization as the executive director from 2000-2021.

Twanda Hill has and is the guru of Publicity and Marketing in her own consulting company for the past twenty-five years. She has designed numerous, brochures, websites, created publicity and marketing pieces, created and edited videos and set-up Social Media platforms for internal and external communication to government, the community, corporate and non-profit organizations.

I am able to go on a two month Sabbatical knowing that the center is in good hands. I plan to return on June 1st. My son is getting married in September to his girlfriend of sixteen years in Houston, Texas. I will use my additional month to go to Houston at the end of August and to participate in this wonderful Celebration of Love.

An exciting line up of entertainment is planned for the third Friday’s Green Dolphin Lounge April 21 from 6-9pm featuring Eugenie Jones, Jazz. I look forward to coming as a guest to Green Dolphin in the two months ahead.

-Dian Ferguson
LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

We are closing out the annual giving campaign to support the PTA’s budget for 2023-2024. More details can be found at the link below; we are also looking forward to the return of the Golden Grads Spring Fundraising Concert on April 29 and the annual Jog-a-thon on May 17!

Leschi’s 5th grade Global Reading Challenge team, The Cliffhangers, competed in the All-City Finals on March 21! Asha, Asia, Caeli, Cutler, Eden, Evelyn, and Thomas squared off against six other SPS area schools in the semifinals and their classmates were so thrilled to support them from the audience.

![Leschi's 5th grade Global Reading Challenge team, The Cliffhangers, competed in the All-City Finals on March 21! Asha, Asia, Caeli, Cutler, Eden, Evelyn, and Thomas squared off against six other SPS area schools in the semifinals and their classmates were so thrilled to support them from the audience.](image)

THE MASON BEE MYSTERY

You may remember that several years ago, we had an enthusiastic group of mason bee adopters who were hoping to increase pollination in the area. Sadly, the bees started to diminish in the later years of the experiment and now we know why.

As I have written before, my Mason bee raising project has run afoul of the increasing prevalence of a parasitic fruit fly called the Houdini fly. It has been given this name because of its ability to escape the confines of the Mason bee’s mud cell after it has starved the bee’s larva. The pest has become enough of a problem that a March 7th article in the Seattle Times brought the matter to the general public’s attention. Until an effective trap or other countermeasure is developed by our entomologists, I have decided to use my own defensive measure: just removing the availability of Mason bee larvae from my yard. I have always been careful to remove all mites and predatory bug eggs from my bee hotels, but this has not been sufficient to even reduce the flies the next spring. Some flies are apparently overwintering in my shingles, where there have been a few Mason Bee cells, or in similar niches in nearby homes and yards where Mason bees live. Perhaps, by making my yard unfriendly to the flies by removing their single host, they may disappear. It will be an experiment and may take more than one year. We will see.

-Jim Snell

FOR THE BIRDS

One of the many delights of a Leschi spring is the return of birdsong. If you are uncertain or curious about the wonderful notes you are hearing, the Merlin app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology is highly recommended. It is free and can be found in the Apple app store (also available for Android). Download it, head outside one fine morning, navigate your new app to “Sound ID” and press the green button. And you will instantly know which birds are singing nearby. Last summer at 6:20am, in the space of five minutes, I heard a Steller’s Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Anna’s Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, and, of course, an American Crow which came to crash the party. You can also take a photo of a nearby bird and get an instant ID.

In February, the folks behind eBird, the database which powers the Merlin app, held their annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Here is a list of 43 bird species that were spotted over three days (2/17-2/20) in the Washington Park Arboretum as a reminder to keep your eyes open to the wonders around us:

Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Anna’s Hummingbird, American Coot, Glaucous-winged Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper’s Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush,

-Anne Depue

NO CASH? NO SPLASH!

A tsunami of financial fear recently rippled along Lake Washington and lapped at the lakeside docks of the financially favored.

The original seismic shift was triggered by the failure of a bank in Silicon Valley. Aftershocks were however reported as far north as the banks on the banks of the lake in Madison Park.

The aftershocks’ effect on Leschi have yet to be determined.

It is likewise unknown whether the re-calibration of “too big to fail” might also apply to the 520 and I-90 bridges.

Readers of the Leschi News should however be reassured that if bags of cash are washed ashore on Leschi beach, they’ll be among the first to know.

-Malcolm Harker

THE MONORAIL

Who knew that the Monorail had a connection to Leschi—in three ways!

One of the original drivers of the Monorail, which was constructed for the 1962 World’s Fair, was Levi P. (Jim) West. He was a long-time Seattle Transit operator who worked the Summit route. Among the top four in seniority, he was the first on duty with the plum Monorail job. Years before, beginning in 1917, he had been a gripman on the Yesler Way cable car, which ran from downtown to Leschi.

Early in April 1962, less than two weeks before the Century 21 fair opened, West visited Leschi School, dressed in his Monorail uniform, to tell a group of fourth and fifth graders about the new train. The visit was organized by West’s daughter, Mrs. Ellen Matson, who was the school’s office secretary.

Among the students present was Mary Smith, a granddaughter of the Leschi Improvement Council founder Powell Barnett.

-Roger Lippman

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI: POWELL BARNETT, PART 3

Powell Barnett’s father brought the family in 1889 from Indiana to the coal town of Roslyn, Washington. The elder Barnett had been recruited to work in the mines there, along with about 300 other African American miners. They didn’t learn until they were most of the way to Washington State that they were being brought to break a strike by white miners. In a 1967 interview, Barnett relates that, after the white miners’ strike was settled, and they were reinstated, the relationship among all the workers was “as good as you could expect.” Blacks were able to hold skilled and supervisory positions along with whites. He adds that there was no housing segregation in Roslyn.

While a teenager in the small town, the young Powell helped organize a brass band. “The white boys had one there and the Slavonian people had one, so we decided that we should have one,” he told interviewer Richard Berner in 1967. They didn’t have a teacher, so they approached a man who was teaching the white band. But before long the teacher received an ultimatum from the white band to choose one or the other. A member of the white band then agreed to teach the Black band, but before long he received the same ultimatum. It’s interesting, though, that Barnett didn’t retreat from his comments about racial harmony.

After his father was injured in a mining accident, the teenage Powell Barnett became a miner himself. But he saw no future in mining, as he told Richard Berner.

“I looked around there and I could see two or three generations of people all working in the mines. Usually the fathers in those days, they expected the son to follow in their footsteps which a great many of them did. But I couldn’t see myself spending my whole lifetime in and around the coal mines, which presented the same thing year in and year out. You stay there fifty years and you’ll still be the same kind of a person, doing the very same thing, hard, laborious work with relatively low compensation for it.”

He left for Seattle in 1906. In the city, he worked as a construction and paving worker, a public utility employee, and a maintenance worker in the County-City Building
(now the King County Courthouse). For a time he operated his own moving company. For 15 years, Barnett was the Democratic precinct committeeman in the 33rd Legislative District, which included Rainier Valley. At some point he served on the staff of State Senator Frank Connor, who represented the district.

Barnett excelled at baseball and organized Seattle’s first Black team. He knew the rules so well that he was eventually asked to be an umpire. In 1944 he organized the interracial Northwest Umpires Association, of which he was an officer for 17 years. Eventually he was hired as a local scout for the Baltimore Orioles.

Barnett joined an all-white band and played the bass from 1908-1913. In 1913 he became the first (and only) African American to join the all-white American Federation of Musician (AFM) Local 76. In 1917, he organized the Tenth Division Band, a civilian group that gave recruits a send-off from Seattle’s waterfront to World War I. He is known to have played the sousaphone, bass, and drums in Seattle, in addition to the small tuba that he played in Roslyn.

In 1917, with the consent of the AFM local, the predominately African American Local 458 was formed, and the city was divided between the two unions. The African American local got Jackson Street and vicinity as its performance area.

In 1921, due to a dispute over turf, Local 76 expelled some white members of Local 458 (but apparently not Barnett). That year, Barnett was elected president of 458. But the battles continued, and Local 76 successfully petitioned the international union to revoke the charter of the African American local, which was done in January 1924. Local 76 thwarted the Black musicians in their attempt to establish a new local, but relented late that year, and a new local, 495, was formed to give Seattle’s Black musicians union representation.

Hostility toward the Black union by Local 76 continued, however, for nearly 30 more years, a story that is beyond the scope of this article. Finally, in the mid-1950s, Barnett spearheaded a proposal for a merger of the two locals, which was accomplished late in 1956.

Powell Barnett lived for many years in the western part of Leschi, in the vicinity of Jackson Street and what is now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South. Many descendants of his and his wife’s families remain in the Seattle area, and elsewhere. In July 2012, in honor of a gathering of about 70 family members, Council member Larry Gossett, on behalf of the King County Council, proclaimed Barnett/Conna Family Reunion Day.


~Roger Lippman

The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 47 years in the neighborhood.
IKAT: A WORLD OF COMPELLING CLOTH UNTIL MAY 29

Seattle Art Museum, 1300 First Ave, 206-654-3100
Wed-Sun; 10-5; closed Mon and Tues. Tickets: many categories; advance purchase cheaper. Adults: adv. $29.99, day of visit $32.99; seniors: adv. $27.99; day of visit: $24.99.

Curator Pamela McCluskey began the tour of her dazzling new “Ikat” exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum by pointing out that almost all the clothes we wear are made from oil based polyester with toxic dyes.

“Ikat” celebrates cotton, harvested and dyed by hand in a technique used for centuries. Ikat means binding, and it refers to a specific technique of binding sections of cotton to resist dying during weaving.

I was skeptical of the exhibition at first because I am not at all familiar with textiles. I thought it might be boring! I couldn’t have been more mistaken! The exhibition is riveting in so many ways, that I have been three times, and still haven’t nearly absorbed everything.

Before you enter the exhibition watch one of the videos of contemporary weavers in Indonesia and look at the work in the adjoining gallery; they provide insights into the gathering of the sources of the dyes in the jungle, the process of preparing the yarn, and the weaving, particularly featuring Tamu Rambu Hamueti queen of the Prai Yawang kingdom on the island of Sumba, Indonesia. We also begin to learn of the ritual, mythological and symbolic meanings of the textiles, particularly the “geringsing,” a ritual cloth for coming of age girls. But each of these textiles has a deep spiritual significance. As one weaver explained:

The spiritual force in natural dyed cloth is amazing. Sometimes people feel as if the cloth has a soul, as if it is alive.

–Madi Diavi, dyer and weaver in Bali, from the Touching the Ground documentary, 2021

The historic textiles in the exhibition are all anonymous, so this contemporary gallery provides an invaluable opportunity to understand the role of Ikat more fully in these cultures.

In the main entry to the exhibition we see a spectacular contemporary art work that blows up the technique itself to a huge scale. Zurash/Slipped took artists Chinami and Rowland Ricketts an entire year to complete. The process involves special organic cotton, here in over one thousand bundles bound to resist the dye. The pattern emerges only in the weaving process. Zurash/Slipped has a stepped (slipped) pattern, but the installation is like a giant loom (6000 verticals) of 200,00 warp yarn strands.

For the historic textiles, galleries have been entirely transformed: each region is a different color and the fabrics on the wall are now protected not by plexiglass, but by sinuous wooden platforms that prevent us from getting too close.
The regions and colors in the order we walk through them are Japan gray blue; Africa raspberry red; India mustard; Southeast Asia Cinnamon, Uzbekistan lime green, Indonesia dark blue, Europe pale blue, Americas pink, Contemporary US white (!) and Contemporary Ikat dark gray.

Another helpful aspect of the exhibition is what the museum calls “living labels” short videos in each region that provide more insights into the process by contemporary weavers.

These historic fabrics require us to immerse ourselves in their complex patterns and meanings. Also crucial to remember is that they originally were an active part of life, as a futon cover in Japan, or a ceremonial robe in Africa worn as a political statement in opposition to British colonialism.

In the Uzbek section, Ikat weaving filled the houses as carpets on floors, walls, pillows, and room screens. Women laboriously raised the silkworms for the weavings themselves. The imagery evokes the flowers, plants, birds and insects of a paradise. The colors all come from natural sources: red from the madder plant, yellow and green from buds of a Japanese pagoda tree, black from pomegranate peel, magenta from scale insects obtained from galls on pistachio trees, and indigo blue imported from India.

The Uzbek weaving traditions were wiped out by the Soviets, but in recent years have seen a huge revival.

This is just a brief taste of an extraordinary exhibition by the amazing curator Pamela McCluskey. She has traveled to Bali several times to meet artists at the “Threads of Life,” an organization that has been helping traditional weaving to survive since 1995.

“Ikat” gives us immersion in a rich tradition. Each of these textiles requires intense viewing to appreciate their process and meaning.

And the next time you buy a garment, think about who made it.

So I end with a plug for Flood (floodclothing.com) my favorite environmentally friendly clothing designer based right here in the Northwest. Their hand made clothing is made from fabrics that are 100% upcycled!

~Susan Platt, PhD
www.artandpoliticsnow.com

CONSIDER THIS NEWSPAPER

A weekly newspaper worth reading is Real Change which you can buy from vendors in the area. We usually buy ours from Eddie at Grocery Outlet. The new issue comes out on Wednesdays. There have been a number of lead articles in the last few months: voting options (ranked choice and approval), Social Housing, the King County Regional Housing Authority plan, and a review of Stephen Bezruchka’s new book: Inequality Kills Us All. Dr. Bezruchka is one of my heroes and one seldom reads about him in the media, but I have listened to his talks on Alternative Radio and I think we should all pay attention to him! A recent article took an in depth look at the City Attorney’s office under Ann Davison. I don’t see much in the Seattle Times that gives me the same amount of information on timely issues as I have found in these articles. In addition to learning, you can feel good about helping the vendors keep themselves together.

-Diane Snell
APRIL WINE AWARDS

April is here! Sounds of lawnmowers humming, baseball bats cracking, and corks popping fill the air. With the recent awards season of movies and TV, we've devised our own set of wine awards for some very unique categories. Ten wines to learn about this month. Enjoy!

“Best of Tastings Award”

With the pandemic every waning, Leschi Market has been fortunate to bring back our ever popular community tastings. The first wine listed is an inexpensive 100% French Pinot Noir that was poured at our September 2022 tasting. The combo of quality + varietal + price + region is unheard of! Around the store we call it the ‘Zach Galifianakis Wine’—and once you see the label, you’ll understand why. This wine is a major underdog and deserves some more notice. The second wine was poured just the other day at the April 1 tasting, celebrating Long Shadows and their 20th Anniversary.

2019 J. Mourat Rouquin de Jardin $13.99
100% Pinot Noir, unoaked and high-toned with bright cherries and a mix of lovely fresh herbs. Rouquin de Jardin, where the redheaded gnome (Rouquin means redhead in French) is standing in a moonlit garden, without his pointed gnome hat but still sporting his shades, this time with a glass of red wine. –Distributor notes

2018 Long Shadows Pirouette Columbia Valley $64.99
Smoking good notes of ripe black and blue fruits as well as tobacco, graphite, and chocolate. Dense, full-bodied, and concentrated on the palate. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and 10% Petit Verdot. –Jeb Dunnuck, 95-points

“Best Sparkling from Mexico Award”

The award name says it all. Didn’t know they grew Aglianico in Mexico? We didn’t either, until we tried and fell in love with this wine. Think about enjoying this wine on Mother’s Day, or Sunday brunch, or any other day that ends in a ‘y.’

2021 Mina Penelope Extra Brut Sparkling Rose Valle de Guadalupe $49.99
It’s rare that a wine of this small production makes it beyond the estate from which it comes, so consider this a once in a lifetime opportunity. An incredible expression of a method champenoise Aglianico (100%). –Importer notes

“Best of Pre-Sell Award”

Leschi Market committed to these wines months and months ago. They have finally arrived, and oh boy are they dynamite. Paolo Savino was founded in Castiglione Falletto in 1921 and is in its 4th generation of Scavinos. These are rather limited, but well worth the time and effort!

2018 Paolo Scavino Barolo 375ml $20.99
Leads with deep aromas of cherry, earth, licorice and tar, with cherry and berry fruit prevailing on the palate. Lithe and firmly structured, with nuances of spices and rose hip. –Wine Spectator, 91-points, also: 93-points James Suckling, 93-points Wine Advocate

2021 Paolo Scavino Dolcetto $14.99
Purple color, fresh and delicate aromatics of cherry, blueberry, spices, and flowers. The structure has a lightness and brightness in it. Well defined by good tannins and harmonious acidity this wine has a pleasant freshness and intriguing character. –Winemaker notes

“Return of an Old Friend Award”

Arianna Occhipinti makes some of the best wines, period. Her wines were out of the Seattle market for a brief period, but have returned, and we at Leschi Market are absolutely thrilled to be able to sell her wines again. Many of you will remember her wines, or possibly have even visited the winery. Well, they are back and better than ever!

2021 Occhipinti SP68 Bianco Sicily $27.99
Aromatic blend of two native Sicilian varietals, Zibibbo (60%) and Albanello (40%) that is fermented dry; Zibibbo lends a floral, aromatic complexity while Albanello adds...
structure. Notes of Mediterranean herbs and white flowers, along with pink grapefruit, lychee and white peach. — Winemaker notes

2021 Occhipinti SP68 Rosso Sicily $27.99

The name ‘SP68’ refers to the main road which runs by the Occhipinti winery in Vittoria. A blend of mostly Frappato (70%) with a bit of Nero d’Avola (30%) to add spice and body. Notes of cranberry, sour cherry, herbs, and licorice with fresh acidity. Organic and biodynamic. — Winemaker notes

“New Vintage – No Beats Skipped Award”

This wine continues to impress, vintage after vintage. The description below says it all. Enjoy!

2021 Giacomo Fenocchio Roero Arneis $19.99

The scent is soft and complex, particularly inviting with aromas reminiscent of broom, chamomile, and fresh fruit. The taste is pleasantly sapid, full, and very persistent. Excellent as an aperitif. It goes nicely with savory dishes, white meats, and grilled fish. — Winemaker notes

“Best Every Day Drinker Award”

Stumble upon this $12 lovely wine full of complexity that pairs with everything. Winner!

2021 Monte Tondo Corvina Veneto $12.99

100% Corvina. Bright, lively nose with fresh cherry, blackberry and black pepper hints. Medium-bodied with moderate acidity and supple, well-integrated tannin. Balanced dark fruit core with cherry, dark chocolate and spicy notes. Moderate length with a smooth, seductive finish. — Winemaker notes

“Newest Leschi Addition Award”

2021 Leschi Cellars Sagemoor Collection Wahluke Slope $24.99

The Leschi Market Wine Team had the opportunity to create a merlot focused blend from Sagemoor’s esteemed Weinbau Vineyard. This experience was about as hands on as one can get! Borrowing the deli’s measuring cups, the wine team used various merlot from different vineyard blocks to ‘scientifically’ blend together the best attributes of each. The finished product is rich and fleshy with black currant, blueberry and crushed rose petal notes that give way to fine tannin and lively complexity. A great new partnership with more custom blends on the horizon!

— Kenneth Benner

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.

AND A “COFFEE”

We were delighted to receive the following recipe on St Patrick’s Day from one of our advertisers, Fionnuala O’Sullivan (we suspect she is Irish). Our March issue was long printed and out in the world, but we didn’t think the Irish would mind if we celebrated them in April as well. It’s nice to have a recipe as my favorite Irish Coffee place, the Buena Vista Café, is far away!

Irish Coffee Recipe

It’s the only time of the year that I make Irish coffees!
1. Warm your glass mugs (pour hot water into them).
2. Make a pot of excellent, really hot coffee.
3. Whip quality, heavy cream until billowy.
4. Put a sugar cube (or 2) into every mug, add some coffee to dissolve the sugar, then a shot of whisky (choose something between the best/sipping-only stuff, and the ‘knock it back shot’ kind).
5. Fill almost to the brim with coffee.
6. And then FLOAT the cream on top.
7. DO NOT STIR—that is a mortal sin.
8. Sit back, sip and enjoy.
LESCHI CC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 3/7/23

Attending: Janice Brown, Ashley Martin, Matthias Linnenkamp, John Barber, Christine Rossen, Diane Snell

Leschi News - Diane
- April deadline is Monday, March 20th
- April news; restricted fund feature. Diane to write up a blurb about Bill Caldwell taking on the Brenton memorial. Encourage someone to step forward to steward the Leschi natural area. Maybe divide the work in two: organize work parties and engage with Green Seattle on slope work. Or encourage the representative to bring on folks and form a work committee.
- Janice needs to do this.

Shulman Memorial - John
- Proposal to build a picnic shelter in Leschi Park
- Upcoming meeting, the goal of the meeting, meeting attendees
- March 16th, 7pm at CASC (solarium)
- Moderator: Mike James
- Attendees: Communicate to the community.
- Why not on the other side of the street? Underwater drainage would require special construction and increase cost. If you build on a platform, then it’s not as accessible.

Public Safety update
- Met with Stephanie Tschida on 3/6. Will start attending the East PAC board meetings the second Wednesday of the month.
- Will send out a public safety committee email and set up a virtual meeting ahead of the next East PAC meeting.

Grants
- DPR’s plans for Lake Wn BD from Erie to Huron
- Unintended radical pruning of the King Street shoreline street end
- Had planned on some responsible pruning in partnership with SDOT. Will follow up informally.

LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Status on storage for canopies and paperwork
- In Feb Diane was looking into an alternate option.
  - Working with Dian Ferguson at the senior center to on them storing the canopies and they can use them as well. Should have space opened up at the end of the week.
  - Paperwork - we have the Leschi News since day 1. Leschi news are saved in the serials dept of the Seattle public library downtown.
    - ACTION ITEM: Weekend work party to meet and go through the paperwork together. Both Diane and John have paperwork to review.
- Janice has negotiated a rate at Public Storage - deferring this decision, let’s clean up our paperwork.

Treasurer’s report - Matthias
- We’re a little behind on dues. Diane will add a blurb to the next Leschi News. Add to next email. Look at your LN label for the date.

Leschi News
- Invite Chapalo Street, he has been supporting a traffic plan. Diane has been working with him. Diana would like to ask him to revisit safety plan for Leschi and Madrona. No stop sign between Madrona and Seward Park.
- June ideas:
  - Invite Chapalo Street, he has been supporting a traffic plan. Diane will reach out, copy Ashley.
  - Bring in ranked choice representative for refresher before voting
  - Leschi star awards
- Primary Candidates meeting pros and cons
  - Candidates can file until May 19th. Will be very challenging to get them for a June meeting. Will not proceed with this meeting topic.

Certificate of Deposit
- $15,551.47

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Martin
Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!
We create awareness of neighborhood issues so residents may make informed and effective decisions.

- LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular
- LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary
- LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways
- LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)
- LCC supports the Leschi Business Association, Leschi Elementary School and the Central Area Senior Center
- LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

Name_____________________________ Phone____________________
Address___________________________________________________
City________ State____ Zip________ Email_______________________

All donations are tax-deductible as we are a non-profit 501(c)(3).
My check is enclosed: □ $35 family membership □ $25 individual membership
□ $15 student/low income/ senior membership
□ I am making an additional donation for LCC work

Mail to:
Leschi Community Council • 140 Lakeside Ave. Suite A #2 • Seattle WA 98122-6538

How to use PayPal:
Search for @leschicc or use https://paypal.me/leschicc. In the notes, please include your mailing address and let us know if the amount paid is for dues, a donation or both. Pay LCC dues now!
APRIL CALENDAR

» April 1
In 1989, a Seattle comedy show went on the air and said the city’s Space Needle had fallen down. It even had pictures. The news was a joke, of course, but that was little comfort to 700 panicky callers alarmed at the story.

» April 5, 7pm
Leschi CC meeting at Grace Methodist Church 7pm; see cover.

» April 5-13
Passover

» April 8, 2-3pm
April is National Poetry Month and on April 8 at the Central Library, current Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest hosts a celebration for a new collection of poems from more than 150 Washington writers, of all ages, inspired by the salmon on the Northwest.

» April 9
Easter

» April 11, 6pm
Leschi CC Board meeting via Zoom.

» April 13, 3pm
ArtWalk planning meeting at BluWater Bistro.

» April 16, 10am
Shulman Memorial folks meet at Leschi Market to walk the park and look at the options for a picnic shelter.

» April 16, 10-12pm
Litter brigade does Powell Barnett Park

» April 21, 6-9pm
Green Dolphin evening at the Central Area Senior Center. Eugenie Jones.

» April 22, 1pm
Earth Day. Walkthrough at the Leschi Natural Area 36th & Terrace

» April 29, 10-12pm

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