

leschinews

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



Photo credit: Janice Brown

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

December 7 at 7pm

The Leschi Community Council will hold a **Meet and Greet** at the Grace Methodist Church on Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm.

We meet on the lower level in the hall and enjoy some goodies and music. We will want to know your wishes for 2023 programs as we begin to plan the new year.

Grace Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave S.

Go south past the Senior Center and look for a short street on the left; turn left there and park in the church lot. Walk leads to the entrance of the church which faces 30th Ave S.

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SAVE
THE **DATE**

**LCC ZOOM MEETING
JAN 4 AT 7PM**

President's Message

Hello Fellow Leschi Dwellers,

It's hard to imagine we are on the threshold of a new year. It seems to me the days, weeks and years just blend together now. A new future begins with every day, is an opportunity to seize change.

This LCC Holiday party on December 7, and for the months to come, we will be meeting at the Grace United Methodist Church a block to the south of CASC. Due to ongoing construction at CASC, the facility cannot accommodate our group until sometime next year. Diane Snell and I met with one of the officials at the church and they have wonderful meeting facilities. They honor our involvement in the community; thus we are getting a great rental rate. Read more about our holiday party in this issue.

One of the greatest gifts each of us has to give, is the gift of our time. There is a value to time, but it can be given without going into debt. Proud people often will not ask for assistance—be it running an errand, asking someone to check in on them or with our members who have children, asking for help with school projects. This is a time of year to pause and look around to see if we can help.

Our community is there for you. I encourage you to be involved. Leschi is unique as we have an amazingly engaged, friendly and supportive business community. We have one of the finest local, family owned markets in the city; Leschi Market. Three fabulous restaurants—BluWater Leschi, Meet the Moon and the original Daniel's Broiler.

Acknowledge each other, shop locally and be grateful for this little slice of beach living in Washington. Hopefully this year we will also be on the Argosy Cruise schedule for the Christmas ships. Sights and sounds, smells of fresh trees, warm baked goods, and a warmth of heart, make the holiday season perfect for making new memories.

Please reach out to those who may be alone during the holiday season, add a spring to your step and embrace all people in your path. A smile goes a long way for a weary traveler, a harried mother and your postman.

May your year-end be wrapped in joy, laughter, love and the wonder of a child looking and waiting to meet a new pony.

Kind regards to you and your families,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

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



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and visit our website: leschinews.com

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Please share with a friend.



OTHERWISE (with apologies to Jane Kenyon)

Several weeks ago, when the media was full of horrific photos of the damage caused by Hurricane Ian, I received an email with the title: Ten reasons why you should retire to Florida!! No no no! I immediately thought of Kenyon's poem *Otherwise* and how we might have been transferred to Florida instead of Seattle. *Otherwise* was often the kick-off poem to a sermon on gratitude at the Unitarian church we attended. So shifting into gratitude mode, I was thankful for Seattle, thankful for Leschi and thankful for weather we could tolerate. And feeling grateful always moves me to giving; I feel moved to give back to the community I am grateful for!

Although we typically give to worldwide organizations like Doctors without Borders, this time of year we limit our giving to local efforts. The first that comes to mind is the Giving Garland at Leschi School where needy families are given the type of holiday that the rest of us enjoy (see article on page 5).

I am grateful that we have a roof over our heads, with heat and lights and locking doors. I give to the Low Income Housing Institute so those less fortunate can at least live in a tiny house until they are able to move into more permanent housing. The average stay is about nine months, and one has the help of knowledgeable folks to help you take the next step. Many folks in tents work and have some funds but find it difficult to come up with first and last month rent in addition to a damage deposit.

And food! Although we may say Grace when we are thankful for our food, there are those who go without. One can give locally to the Rainier Valley Food Bank or St. Mary's food bank which is closer to Leschi (both have websites for donations). Giving money allows them to fill in the needs but if you prefer to take food, you can always email or check the website to find out the greatest needs. Leschi Market is collecting funds to provide a holiday dinner to families at Leschi School and to the Rainier Valley Food Bank for their holiday dinners.

Please donate at GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/08deabe6>) or in-store today at Leschi Market. For \$10 each, you can purchase one (or more) holiday meals for donation to the Rainier Valley Food Bank and families in need at Leschi Elementary School Thank you so very much!

There is a small branch of the YWCA on Cherry St. which has a food bank and specializes in helping victims of domestic violence. (2210 Cherry St., 98122) They have connections to numerous housing developments and help in securing housing.

Anything one can give helps! And remember to offer gratitude for the many gifts we have; it could be otherwise.

-Diane Snell

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was wonderful to read the tribute to Denise (Officer, then Detective) Cookie in the November *Leschi News*.

Officer Cookie was involved even earlier than the later Flo Ware Days. In year 2000, a group of teenagers had claimed Flo Ware Park as their park and were taunting and turning away anyone else who wanted to enjoy the Park. Officer Cookie was our community policing office. She would engage with the teenagers, talking with them and guiding their behavior.

She was also engaging with other local teenagers about playing chess. Some of these kids actually came to the public planning sessions we were holding to design a total park redo. They pushed for including a section for chess in the plan for the renovated park. I was sure at the time that they were inspired by Officer Cookie.

Officer Cookie continued to visit Flo Ware Park, which included two of the first chess boards in any neighborhood park in the city, to engage with the teenagers and others who were gang members. We were very sorry a couple years later, after the 2003 completion of the complete renovation, when she was reassigned to the Southeast District Police but proud she was promoted to Detective.

She has been a warm friend of our neighborhood, and she always gives me a good hug when we happen to be in the same place at the same time.

-John Barber

COMPASS

Hi Neighbors,



The residential real estate market is in a "Wait-and-See" mode.

Buyers are waiting for interest rates to flatten or drop and for home prices to fall.

Seller's are waiting for the market slow-down to end, so inventory is low.

If you'd like to discuss how to navigate these current trends, please reach out. I'd love to help you either maximize the value of your home or find the one you've been looking for.

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Scott Lennard is a real estate broker affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.

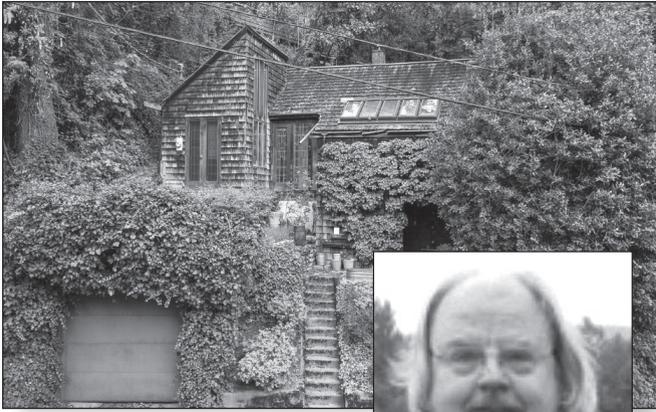


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Neighborhood and Beyond



DENNIS MORTENSON

We reported the death of Leschi resident Dennis Mortenson in the September issue, but the actual obituary did not appear in the *Seattle Times* until mid-October. The obituary mentioned his education at Cal Poly with a degree in architecture and that is how our family learned about him. We moved to Leschi in 1989 to a house that was built in 1895 but was remodeled in 1979 by Olson-Walker where Dennis worked. He participated in the remodel, and we turned to him for advice at times. His own remodeled farmhouse was also on East Alder St. (featured in the *Seattle Times*; *Pacific* magazine in the November 15, 1981, issue) The garden touches that we could see were whimsical; we appreciated his use of shingles and his landscaping, and we were happy to see that the house is being repaired and not torn down. John Barber tells us that Dennis also served on the land use committee of the Leschi Community Council.

-Diane Snell

REMEMBERING D'VONNE PICKETT JR., 31 YEARS OLD, WHO WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED ON OCTOBER 19

A dedicated husband, father, son, brother, friend and mentor, D'Vonne Pickett Jr. always had time for his family and friends—even when he didn't. He was also a "load bearing" pillar in our community. His dedication to and capacity for building connections in community was shown in how he spent his time. From coaching the CD panthers, to uplifting Black owned businesses, rallying support for community members and organizations, or supporting other small businesses...building connections was one of his superpowers.

D'Vonne was born and raised in the Central District, the beginning of a deep love and respect for his neighborhood and community. While D'Vonne started playing football for the

CD Panthers at 7 years old, he grew to be a standout basketball player at Rainier Beach high school. College basketball took D'Vonne to Arizona first, but eventually had him return to Seattle after earning a scholarship to Seattle University, where he played point guard (2012 to 2014) and graduated with a degree in communications. Following his athletic dreams D'Vonne played professional basketball in Ontario but ultimately made the decision to come home and pursue his goal of being "more than just an athlete."

In 2018, Pickett Jr. and his wife KeAnna, opened The Postman, a mailing and shipping business in the heart of the Central District. The shop was inspired by Pickett Jr.'s great-grandfather Jacques Chappell, who worked as a USPS mail carrier in the Central District for 37 years and is memorialized in The Postman's logo. The welcoming nature of D'Vonne and KeAnna Pickett in their family-style, mailing and shipping hub quickly created a neighborhood business that lived up to the business' motto: "Keeping Community Connected."

D'Vonne's bright light, generous nature, open heart, joyful personality and connecting spirit will be missed and remembered by all who had the good fortune to come into his presence.

There is a GoFundMe to support the Pickett family:
www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-pickett-family

-Jennifer Marquardt

SHULMAN MEMORIAL MEETING NOV 3

On November 3, LCC's Parks and Greenspace Committee held a public session to discuss the development of a picnic shelter in Leschi Park to honor Steve Shulman.

Because some neighbors had expressed concern that the project would attract crime at the previous meeting on September 25, Captain Eric Sano of the East District Police was invited to respond. Captain Sano said that the late night gunshots from the parking lot next to Bluwater Bistro originated from parked cars or cars driving or from men who aimed their guns over the Lake.

Several neighbors spoke out about the gunshots and bad behavior next to the Park. Other neighbors disputed some of those assertions. One neighbor declared that picnic tables often have homeless people sleeping on the benches. Another said that at times toughs would take over the picnic shelter at Madrona Park and not let other Park users close.

Captain Sano said he would investigate these claims and the overall data for similar conditions and return for a follow-up visit. Captain Sano does not see a picnic shelter as attracting more crime but is rather a positive amenity for families visiting the Park.

Some neighbors said that there may be a better location for a picnic shelter at the SE section of Leschi Park, perhaps next to the Leschi Market or in the playground above the comfort station.

Deputy Lt. Jung Trinh is scheduled for the February 1 general meeting of the Leschi Community Council. More details will be available in the January issue of the *Leschi News*. A public meeting later in February will be focused on a memorial for Steve Shulman, principally the picnic shelter concept.

-John Barber

LCC NOVEMBER MEETING

We reviewed the work of the Bylaws Committee in merging and updating our constitution and bylaws. There was one amendment and since that meeting, some concerns about the Restricted Fund policy have been raised. We will address those issues at our January meeting which should be a rather short meeting by Zoom. We hope you will zoom in and help pass the new bylaws so we can meet the state's expectations in updating these documents. This will take place on January 4th. Watch for details in our January issue.

-Diane Snell

THE 13TH ANNUAL GIVING GARLAND AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY— IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The Giving Garland is geared towards the children, providing families with support during the winter holidays in gift cards and gifts...some items are fun: toys, bikes, art supplies, board games, balls, books and some are basics: clothing, bedding, warm coats or diapers. And every family receives gift cards to easily accessible grocery stores. In 2021, **we distributed nearly \$13,000 in gift cards for groceries, clothing and specific gifts and approximately 900 gifts!** Over the last 12 years, the Giving Garland has supported over 1,800 children and their families during the winter holidays. It is made possible by the Leschi school and neighborhood communities, sponsored by the Leschi PTA.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS YEAR!

- **Donate Gift Cards** for the most frequently requested stores:
 - Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Costco, Target, Ross Dress for Less, Old Navy
- **“Cash” donations** for gifts and gift cards to be purchased:
- Go to the Leschi School website to see **WISH LISTS for individual gift items** at:
 - [Snapdoodletoy.com](https://www.snapdoodletoy.com) (a local toy store!) and [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

https://leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/fundraising/giving_garland

For more information, contact Katie Busby (phone: 206.251.3411, email: katiebusby@gmail.com), Jennifer Marquardt (phone: 206.423.2781, email: jrmarquardt1@gmail.com) or check the Leschi School website.

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

Once again, this year, Leschi Pier will not have a visit by the Argosy ships. The closest stop for us is a stop at Madrona where Parks will supervise a bonfire. December 16 at 5:35pm.

INFLATION AND CHRISTMAS:

Inflation since last Christmas has been 8.2%. By the time you read this, it could be more, less—or more or less the same.

Those of you wishing to mitigate this additional cost should therefore postpone your celebrations by 29.93 days.

The Twelve Days of Christmas will now culminate with thirteen rappers (w)rapping following the twelve drummers drumming (an almost perfect 8.34% increase).

If you drive a Tesla, you can tell everyone how much you've saved on gas. Unfortunately, Tesla has apparently put their prices up by around 20% in the past year, so if you're still sitting on the e-fence, maybe buy yourself a new cushion instead—but not quite yet, because:

According to [www.SmartAsset.com](https://www.smartasset.com), if you use this opportunity to buy your Christmas gifts in the January sales, you could save 10% or more on Christmas decorations, gift wrap, video games and exercise equipment. (Since you're not going to exercise over Christmas, this last suggestion makes perfect sense).

Who knows, your neighbor may even share the Christmas spirit—and their old tree?—with you.

-Malcolm Harker

PS: According to Google, the web domain [SmartAss.com](https://www.smartass.com) is for sale. Maybe this will also be cheaper after Christmas?

ELECTRONIC FREEBIES AGAIN

In my November article on downloadable e-books and audio books I discussed a way to move up in that long line of library holds you find when trying to get a recently reviewed book (*Google: Leschi Community Council Archives, November, p.11*). That line is getting more and more competitive in this age of Covid sheltering and increasing ownership of smartphones and tablets. The podcast and radio worlds are also beginning to report on the growing demand for these services from our free libraries. Last August a short interview with a Whatcom County librarian was broadcast on NPR's Planet Money regarding the economics of library electronic services. Another longer and deeper Planet Money discussion of the growing nationwide problem of costs related to these services was broadcast this November. You can listen to either program by Googling “Planet Money and digital lending” or the longer “Planet Money and The Ebook Wars.” If you are waiting excessively long periods to get e-books and audio books from your library you certainly should share that with them and urge them to recognize the growing importance to you of these services at their next budget meetings. Of course, the larger question relates to our funding of our libraries. Remember this when the next library levy comes up for approval.

-Jim Snell

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

[Editor's note: According to Fair Vote Action, "Ranked choice voting (RCV) just had its biggest Election Day ever. RCV Ranked choice voting won in 8 of the 10 places where it was on the ballot, including Seattle]

Flying under the radar on Election Day were cities, counties, and one state voting to accept ranked choice voting (RCV).

This isn't the first time there has been a wave of support for RCV. From 1912 and 1930, some forms of RCV were used, but most were repealed by the mid-thirties. There was another burst of support for them in 2009–2010, that petered out as well.

However, in the last ten years, RCV has emerged again as an alternative to voting candidates into office. For example, in June of 2021, New York City used RCV for the largest election in RCV's history. This year, 32 cities in seven states used the voting procedure to determine winners.

Nationwide, 50 jurisdictions employ some form of ranked choice voting. At the same time, Seattle voters added their city to the list of bigger cities, New York, San Francisco, and Austin, using RCV.

The list further expanded on Election Day when eight other cities and counties voted on whether to convert to ranked-choice voting. Based on an April 2022 poll by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation, these measures were expected to pass. It showed that more than 60 percent of Americans favor using RCV for federal elections.

On November 8, Seattle voters chose between leaving primary elections as is, or choosing RCV or an alternative "approval voting" system introduced by a citizen initiative. The latter approach allows voters to support as many candidates as they wish, with the person receiving the most votes winning. By a seven to two vote, the city council decided to place both proposals on the ballot. While the approval voting proposal was limited to Seattle, Washington for Equitable Representation, a coalition of organizations is pushing for RCV across the state, including for federal elections. The victory in Seattle could bolster that effort in the state legislature.

So how does Ranked Choice Voting work?

In Seattle, voters will now rank all the primary candidates on the ballot by preference. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the first preference vote, then the candidate in that race who received the fewest votes is eliminated.

Here's where it becomes a bit challenging to understand. The eliminated candidate's votes are then distributed to other candidates that the dropped candidate's voters chose as their second favorite on the ballot. Further candidates will be eliminated with the same procedure followed until a final winner receives a majority of votes. It may also end when a select number of candidates pass a threshold of votes needed to move on to the general election.

Critics of RCV say it is confusing and will decrease voter participation.

Critics of RCV complain that it is too difficult for voters to understand and that there will be a significant vote drop off in elections. However, exit polls from Common Cause New York and Ranked the Vote NYC showed 3 in 4 voters are eager to use the method in future elections.

Alaskans for Better Elections, which advocated for the new election system, commissioned an exit poll in conjunction with their state's special election for congress. It found that 85 percent of voters found the ranked ballot to be "simple" or "very simple." And 95 percent said they had received instructions on how to fill out the ballot.

RCV trims out candidates with a narrow voter base.

Advocates of RCV point out that it forces candidates to win in crowded races by securing the majority of voters. However, in doing so, they must attract voters outside their party's core voter base. In short, RCV diminishes voter attraction to proposals considered too radical from candidates, whether perceived as from the left or right. Consequently, some of the Democrat and Republican Party leaders have not embraced RCV for fear that some of their candidates will lose elections.

Before Maine residents converted to RCV by initiative in 2018 for federal and statewide elections, Republican Governor Paul LePage and some of the state's senior Democrats fought the initiative. Presumably, he could see RCV giving him a problem since he was elected twice to the governorship without receiving a majority vote. After the initiative passed, the state supreme court struck down the law by issuing an advisory opinion. Six of the seven court's justices were appointed by the Republican Governor. A second initiative passed again, approving RCV over the politician's objections, and was implemented.

An Alaskan congressional special election held this summer was a headline example of how a dominant party's candidate could lose due to RCV. Due to two recent changes, Mary Peltola became the first Democrat to be elected to the House of Representatives from that state in 50 years. The party primaries became nonpartisan blanket primaries, and RCV was adopted. Only the top 4 candidates would advance to a general election.

In a June primary Democrat Peltola came in fourth behind Republicans former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and businessman Nick Begich. Independent Al Gross came in fourth but withdrew and endorsed "two outstanding Alaska Native women," Peltola being one of them.

With Gross out of the election, just three candidates ran in the August general election. Peltola led with 40 percent of the total after the initial ballot, which was not enough to be declared the winner. Begich was eliminated since he was the lowest-scoring candidate. His second-choice votes mostly went to Palin; however, over 40% of his voters did not choose a second preference. As a result, Palin failed to overcome Peltola's vote total, and Peltola won the election.

The Republican Party leaders protested the result. Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas asserted that Palin should have won because "60% of Alaska voters voted for a Republican." He accused RCV of disenfranchising voters. However, he didn't acknowledge that the 60% was divided between two Republican candidates. Palin captured only 31% of the votes, while Republican Nick Begich received 28%. Palin lost a substantial amount of Begich's voters in the next round of counting votes because Begich's supporters didn't choose Palin as a second preference. They understood what they were doing. They would not vote to send Palin to congress.

Does RCV favor Democrats or Republicans?

University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation did show a partisan divide over RCV, with 73 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of independents, and only 49 percent of Republicans in favor of its use. Steven Kull, director of the Program for Public Consultation, said in describing the public's reception to RCV the more they know about it, the greater "they seem to like it. Resistance is rooted in unfamiliarity. This is particularly shown among Republicans."

The most uncompromising Republican opposition to RCV came from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. When he signed a bill that creates a police force dedicated to pursuing voter fraud and other election crimes, he also banned ranked choice voting for all elections in Florida. However, Republicans do not seem averse to using ranked choice voting. Half of the former Confederate States, and all red states now, use RCV for military and overseas voters. Utah, a red state which hasn't voted for a Democrat President since 1964, has far more cities using RCV than any other state.

Of the only two states that currently use RCV statewide, one is red, Alaska, and the other is blue, Maine. Each state has voted in the last four presidential elections strictly for either Republican or Democrat presidents. Nevertheless, both states adopted RCV through a citizen's initiative.

What can RCV accomplish?

Ranked Choice Voting can contribute to greater accountability of politicians to the majority of voters. It can strengthen the voice of independent voters. Although, it doesn't assure that the majority promotes democratic values. Other conditions contribute more to that end, like fair and comprehensive civic education among our citizens, particularly our youth.

RCV can become cumbersome if not executed with the support of state governments. Without that support, gaps between adopting this new approach and laws not meant to facilitate it could confuse the administration. If frustrations result, then opposition to it will follow. Nonpartisan commissions must oversee the administration of RCV elections to avoid future problems in electoral procedures.

We witnessed victories of election deniers in 2022 to offices responsible for accurate and reliable vote counts. Unfortunately, this trend demonstrates that all oversight mechanisms can be corrupted by ideologues committed to a cause that discounts the reliability of an election if its results are unacceptable to them. Nevertheless, RCV may be able to filter out enough election deniers to retain an election process overseen by more citizens committed to a democratic process. This accomplishment alone is a critical reason for using RCV.

—Nick Licata

*This article has been updated and adapted from "Citizenship Politics," 11/4/22. It is reprinted with permission from the author. Nick Licata is the author of *Becoming A Citizen Activist and Student Power, Democracy and Revolution in the Sixties*. He is a former Seattle City Council member and the founding board chair of Local Progress, a national network of over 1,300 progressive municipal officials. You can subscribe to Licata's newsletter "Citizenship Politics."*

MOTOR BOAT RACING IN LESCHI, PART 1

Ask any ten people when powerboat racing first occurred in Leschi and you'll probably get at least nine blank stares. The number of people in King County who would answer correctly could probably be counted on the fingers of one hand until the publication of this column – or, until the arrival of the forthcoming book *SLO-MO*, by local author Andy Muntz.

Motorboat racing in the Northwest began in July 1904 in Portland, on the Willamette River. As the early motorized boats (known then as auto boats) gained popularity, a race was organized in Seattle in 1906 on, believe it or not, January 1. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported the next day that 2000 people watched the Seattle Mid-Winter Regatta from the Leschi Park Pavilion, nearby boathouses, and steamers and launches on the lake. The winner averaged 25 miles per hour over the 30-mile race.

The next race was run off Leschi Park on July 4, in the presence of a large crowd, according to the *P-I*. The year's racing season concluded with the Labor Day Regatta circumnavigating Mercer Island on a 16-mile course that began and ended at Leschi. The winner finished in an hour and 7 minutes.

Fast forward a half century to the dawn of modern boat racing in Seattle.

Growing up in Madrona in the 1950s, I became a confirmed hydroplane fan, like most other kids here. Recently I have discovered several Leschi and near-Leschi connections to the sport, including some of the best known events of Seattle's entire boat racing history.

In 1950, Seattle Chrysler-Plymouth dealer Stanley Sayres commissioned the unlimited hydroplane *Slo-mo-shun IV*, which promptly set a world speed record of 160 MPH on a one-mile straightaway course on Lake Washington. The team then went to Detroit to challenge the established powers of big time boat racing for the Gold Cup, the sport's premier prize. The *Slo-mo* conquered the fleet, and with the victory it gained the right to stage the following year's race on its home waters.

The 1951 race, produced by the recently created Seafair, captivated the imagination of the city. As the day's racing continued, many thousands of people viewing it on KING TV, Seattle's only station, left their couches to watch from the lake shore in Mount Baker. That race was won by Sayres' newer boat, *Slo-mo-shun V*.

The hydroplanes could be heard in Madrona, Leschi, Mt. Baker, and miles beyond. But it was the sound of an age of innocence, of swords (fighter planes) into plowshares (race boats)—the big World War II-surplus warplane engines bringing entertainment in an era of (relative) peace and prosperity. It was the joyous soundtrack of my youthful generation.

There was also the hometown pride that upstart Seattle, a provincial outpost that still had wooden sidewalks in parts of downtown, had conquered the titans of Detroit who had dominated the sport for over three decades. Aircraft technology, both engines and hull designs, had displaced the era of automotive-powered dominance. Ironically, it was a local car dealer whose boat conquered Motown and brought the prize home to the Jet City.



“Slo-mo-shun IV” on the dock (1953).

What a contrast to today’s Seafair. With bone-jarring warplanes strafing Leschi homes, spewing pollution, evoking the US wars on Vietnam and Iraq, and traumatizing refugees from war-torn countries, the Blue Angels are meant to glorify US militarism. The idyllic promises of childhood didn’t bring us to a world at peace.

Historians have at times debated about who, ideologically, really won World War II. A distinguished local journalist once opined that, if fascism had prevailed in the war, there would be Disneyland on both coasts. That was after a couple of beers, but still ... he had a point, one which, in light of recent events, may be yet to fully play out.

The onshore center of racing activity (the “pits”) was located at Mt. Baker Beach, which was cramped and poorly suited for the intensity of the action. At the request of the race committee, Stan Sayres’ *Slo-mo* crew utilized Leschi’s Lake Washington Yacht Basin (“YABA”), on the water at 120 Lakeside Avenue, as its base for race week. Leschi was the Sayres team’s Seattle’s race headquarters from 1951 to 1956.

Next month: *Straight Outta Leschi.*

~Roger Lippman

The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 46 years in the neighborhood.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF RUBY BISHOP PROPERTY

The destruction of the massive cedar tree by the developer at 916 32nd Avenue South took away the huge root system that absorbed part of the large underground aquifer coming down the hillside. City regulations require a re-vegetation plan for mitigation of tree removal. (SMC 25.09.065) An environmental consultant for the project calculated that mitigation would require the planting of 57 trees on the site. The reviewer then notes that “The available space to plant trees at appropriate spacing after development will not support 57 new trees.” The document continues, “The reviewer for this project has accepted 5 trees as an alternative.” This remarkable statement was offered with no justification.

Concerned neighbors had tried for weeks to get an explanation from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections agent on the case. Calls and emails were ignored. Eventually, the neighbors reached the agent’s supervisor, who responded promptly, if not satisfactorily. She “explained” that the standards used for determining re-vegetation don’t have to be followed by developers. How the necessity for hillside stabilization will be met, given the presence of the aquifer on this hillside, has not been explained. Perhaps readers will recall the great 1898 landslide on this very hillside that covered 75 acres and washed a sawmill into the lake. (See my *Leschi News* column of June 2021.)

Nevertheless, a building permit was issued on October 14. In the second week of November, digging was done for the house foundation. The lower part of that excavation quickly filled with water, which is no surprise. Neighbors below the site are concerned that the swimming pool they have wanted will encompass their backyard and basement.

Meanwhile, the developer was in negotiations for months with the City Attorney’s office regarding the fine of over \$90,000 for illegally removing the site’s massive cedar tree. Though it is not clear to outsiders what there was to be negotiated, a settlement was reached, and a reduced fine of \$40,000 has been paid. This amounts, of course, to nothing for the developer, which bought the land for a little over \$1 million and will sell the two houses it builds for about \$7 million.

Neighbors had hoped that this crime would get the treatment it needs from Seattle’s newly elected tough-on-crime city attorney. Apparently, this is not the type of crime her office intends to be tough on.

If concerned citizens wish for more of an explanation, the person who responded, Christy Carr, is the Environmental Lead–Land Use Division, Policy and Technical Team, in the Department of Construction and Inspections. She can be reached at 206-615-1393 or christy.carr@seattle.gov. Please advise me, c/o this publication, of anything you learn that is of interest.

~Roger Lippman

THE SEASONS OF LIFE

“You’re living in the springtime. You should be transitioning!” said the doctor of acupuncture on recently. He came to this conclusion after taking my pulse three times. Although I felt fine, my pulse reading said differently. I was surprised and anxiously waited to continue the conversation at our next session and get more information. The doctor explained that springtime is for projects; summer is for productivity; fall is for transitioning; winter is for hibernation. I asked if transitioning is the only act I should be doing in this period designated fall. Hesitating, he said no, that I could wrap up some projects. I explained that I do not see myself sitting in a rocking chair although this is not bad, for some folks. I am trying my best to wrap up some projects, but I am at various stages in some projects, and often beginning new ones. There is so much to do, so much I want to do before the sun sets. I can see myself leaving projects undone, not because I forgot or ignored them

but because I ran out of time! And he thinks I should slow down. The doctor is two, maybe three decades younger than I; this I do not forget.

Without knowing the end, I say my first seventeen years were winter. Much of what I needed and wanted never materialized. But foundations laid by my mother, church members, and teachers provided me with sustenance that nourishes me still. Life has gotten better and better since that time. This is true of many folks I know. My most recent example comes from Holocaust survivor Josh Gortler. He had a “normal” spring the first three years of his life; in 1939 he and his family were placed in a concentration camp where they remained until the end of World War II. Next came Berlin where they were referred to as DP’s, Displaced Persons. In 1951, he and his family arrived in Phoenix, Arizona. In many ways his life has been very good. Near the end of his memoir *Among the Remnants*, he wrote, “I know I went through a very difficult period, but since that period has ended, I’ve had a very, very fine life. When I came to the United States, we were very poor. We had nothing. But now, financially, I’m very comfortable. Socially, I’m acceptable. Religiously, I’m very comfortable with the level where my family and I are.” Now he and his wife Sara spend time traveling, touring with his book.

I have shared and thought about being in the springtime quite often. I admit, most of my listeners are over 60. Like so much figurative language and life in general, just so much can be said, and then the simile, the metaphor no longer works. Maybe all of us have spring, summer, fall, and winter, but this classification does not unfold in the same order or

last as long for everyone. Surely some seasons are extended for some of us, shortened for others of us. Maybe some seasons are repeated! And, of course, there are the listeners who don’t get the point the speaker/writer had in mind.

I attended two funerals in the past two weeks; one person was 53, the other 50. Surely, I am not to divide their lives and come up with exceptionally short seasons. Or did they not get to fall? Is winter the end? Look at the millions of refugees who escaped their homelands. Consider women, men sometimes too, who end terrible relationships by escaping. What about people who have spent much of life living “quiet lives of desperation?” Think about people who leave jobs they have almost always hated or folks who return to school to achieve long-held dreams. This country is full of people who blossomed after sixty or seventy. Colonel Sanders is my favorite example because so many of us judge ourselves and others by the amount of money we have.

I don’t doubt the doctor’s reading or assessment of my physical health. However, my mind and spirit are not yet in the fall, I plan to take the advice of my friend who told me to live in “perpetual spring.”

May all of your seasons be amazing!

-Georgia S. McDade

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



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Culture Corner

“THE STORIES WE CARRY”: THE NEW INSTALLATION OF THE AMERICAN ART GALLERIES AT THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

Community and Conversation highlight Capitalism and Colonialism in the American West in the newly created American Art installation at the Seattle Art Museum.

Theresa Papanikolas, Curator of American Art, and Barbara Brotherton, Curator of Native American Art began to “interrogate and re-contextualize the collection” with the help of 11 community advisors and three artists in the summer of 2021. Certainly, the death of George Floyd, and the protests that followed sparked elite predominantly white institutions across the country to rethink their own unacknowledged racism.

Consequently, the American art galleries formerly filled with art by predominantly white artists, have been entirely transformed.

Barbara Brotherton, retiring curator of Native American Art declared that the museum is following a “dramatically different approach, bringing the historical American art collection into conversation with Native, Asian American, African American, Latinx, and contemporary art. This new interpretive framework brings forward historically excluded narratives and artistic forms. Instead of seeing these communities as parallel to the so-called mainstream history, the museum now is looking at intersections.”

No longer organized chronologically, “The Stories We Carry,” features five themes: Storied Places, Transnational, Reimagining Regionalism, Ancestors plus Descendants/ Faces of America and Ancestors plus Descendants/Memory Keepers.

At the entrance the delightful Wendy Red Star, one of the lead artists, confronts us with a large lightbox: *Áakiiwilaxpaake (People of The Earth)*. Red Star humorously and seriously speaks of how excluded she felt from the American art galleries by the boring American art genres, portraiture, and landscape.

Portraits of 70 native women, youth and even babies stand in front of the Northwest icons Mt Rainier and the Space Needle. Contemporary Native people are front and center in the present and future, rather than their usual position in the past as a prelude to white America.

Shaun Peterson (Tulalip/Puyallup, Qwalsius)’s *Song for the Moon* (2022) presents the Puyallup creation myth in a banner like painting. The label declares: “Native philosophies offer different ways of knowing the land, including the belief that

all animate and inanimate beings are alive and indivisible from the land. Nature and its many features are thought to be sacred, not scenic.”

Next to it is Sanford Robinson Gifford’s *Mount Rainier, Bay of Tacoma – Puget Sound* (1875) with tiny figures dwarfed by the landscape and its golden light. These paintings, as the label



Wendy Red Star. “Áakiiwilaxpaake (People of the Earth),” 2022. Seattle Art Museum Commission
Archival ink jet prints, dibond, LED lights, electrical components, wood, milk plexiglass, 84 x 62 x 12 in.

comments “cast the region’s original communities as characters in the myth of the American wilderness: wild, remote, and poised to be taken over.”

Inye Wokoma excavated works of art buried in storage to curate an entire gallery that “Reimagines Regionalism.” He wrote long interpretations with his insightful interpretations.

Leading off is Roger Shimomura 1978, *Minidoka Series #2: Exodus*, 1978 from his first Minidoka series, in the Ukiyo-e style. Next to him, the mid-century modernists Kenjiro Nomura and Kamekichi Takata are finally given the prominent place they deserve.

My favorite juxtaposition in Wokoma’s gallery was the overlap of an elevator door of the Chicago Stock Exchange in front of a painting of Puget Sound by Albert Bierstadt. Apparently, Bierstadt never saw the Puget Sound, the painting is entirely fabricated.

Then Wokoma pulls no punches!

“The Indigenous figures along the dramatic shoreline seem inconsequential to the grand possibilities of the land: the subtext for this painting commissioned by a wealthy merchant. . . The elevator screen from the Chicago Stock Exchange (ca. 1893-94) by the “father of skyscrapers” Louis Sullivan is an utterly literal symbol of economic expansion, the overwhelming might of

colonialism. Now installed so that visitors can move entirely around it and look through it, the screen offers an opportunity to consider what this gateway was leading to—and what it kept out.”

In the last gallery “Ancestors + Descendants/ Memory-Keepers” includes the only Latinx artists Alfredo Arreguin, acquired only this year, and Cecilia Alvarez, a gift to the museum in 1992 and never before exhibited.

The grand finale is the extraordinary basket by Suquamish artist Ed Carriere. He recreates weaving techniques from thousands of years ago by working with archeologists to recover fragments from waterlogged sites. As Brotherton states “Carriere’s precise work challenges notions of artistic hierarchy and provides a nuanced view into the brilliance of transforming humble materials into works of memory and power.”

“The Stories We Carry,” entirely rejects traditional myths of the American West such as Manifest Destiny. Instead the stories told here by a diverse cross section of voices, explore questions of conquest and colonialism, as well as exchange and tradition.

-Susan Platt, PhD

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

TREES OF THE WEST BY MOLLY HASHIMOTO: SKIPSTONE BOOKS

This beautiful book divides trees into bio-geographical zones with drawings of trees that survive in that zone and the wildlife one might find there. Molly gives instructions on the tools one would need to draw or woodblock one’s own artwork (if one were fortunate enough to be so talented!)

and once again, she uses quotes from authors, poets and artists to enhance the experience. An added treat is a page on a forest scientist or ecologist, honoring those who work to preserve our forests.

Given the limited space offered in this section of the *Leschi News*, I will just look at one tree: the Bigleaf Maple, a tree I love and worry about. Some recent deaths of these magnificent trees are concerning. The Nature Conservancy magazine recently cited a study by UW scientists linking the hotter, drier summers as well as urban development as stressors to the maples.

Molly describes these majestic trees as tall as 75 feet and living as long as 200 years (but perhaps not in urban settings). We have all seen the samara, the helicopter seedlings that float down to the ground. She mentions an especially large maple on the loop trail at Discovery Park. She also notes that the native Indians used the maple wood for their canoe paddles.

If you can get your hands on the Pacific NW magazine from the November 20th edition of the *Seattle Times*, almost the entire magazine is devoted to this lovely book. A wonderful gift for your favorite tree-hugger and anyone you know with artistic abilities.

Note: The Audubon Center at Seward Park has Hashimoto note cards for sale: 5 each of 4 different birds. Another great gift idea!

-Diane Snell

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Seeking Sustenance...

GIFT OF WINE

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

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



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

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

With the increased travels during 2022, and even more in the coming year, the *Around the World* packages might be a great way to revisit or anticipate those far off destinations. Focusing on one country, or several, is easy enough to do. Rieslings from Germany, Barberas from Italy, Tempranillos from Spain, Bordeaux style wines from Mexico, Malbecs from Argentina or our unique “stamp collection” section that houses wines from Georgia, Greece, Lebanon and Morocco.

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

This brings me to Champagnes and Ports. These are ultimate gift wines, if not for the sole fact that people rarely buy them for themselves. Who knows why, but we tend to put off splurging for these special wines for ourselves yet are ecstatic when we are gifted them. When in doubt, look to the Port and Champagne





...in the Wilds of Seattle

sections. Many of these wines are discounted during holiday months, and great finds can be had for under \$45. Vintage Champagnes and Vintage Ports are more expensive and harder to find, however “Colheita” Ports (years of ports not designated as “vintage”) can be found for a lesser dollar amount and for nearly every year; a great idea when trying to match birth years, anniversary years, and other significant dates in one’s life.

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

These are just a few of our offerings. Take a look at our lock box, located next to the Champagne in the wine aisle. It is full of treasures as well!

- 2014 Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley (\$185) **100-points**, Robert Parker
- 2017 Dow’s Vintage Porto (\$150) **96-points**, Robert Parker
- 2009 Clos des Papes Chateaneuf du Pape (\$121) **96-points**, Wine Spectator
- 2019 Salvioni Rosso di Montalcino (\$90) **93-points**, Vinous
- 2011 Muga Prado Enea Gran Reserva (\$79.99) **99-points**, James Suckling
- 2018 Lavinea Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$61.99) **94-points**, Wine Spectator
- Champagne Marc Hebrart Brut Rose NV (\$57.99) **92-points**, Vinous
- 2019 Cadence Bel Canto Cara Mia Vineyard Red Mountain (\$55.99) **97-points**, Wine & Spirits
- 2010 R. Lopez de Heredia Vina Bosconia (\$39.99) **95-points**, James Suckling
- 2019 Roland Lavantureuxhablis (\$34.99) **93-points**, Wine Enthusiast

Still unsure what gift to give the wine lover on your list? One of my favorite reminders is that accessories like wine glasses and decanters rarely need a gift receipt! Have a safe and memorable holiday season and we’ll see you next year! CHEERS! ENJOY!

-Kenneth Benner

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.

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While not directly in our little village, this cafe has an ambiance and quality of food, that must be mentioned. It’s been open 4 years (where Mrs. Cook’s had been), but until last week I had never been. They bake their own treats and offer organic, fresh food, distinctive menu items and decorative designed latte’s. The food quality is outstanding, the vibe is casual but elegant and reminiscent of a European restaurant. Mr. Bar offers an all-day breakfast, creative sandwiches and a Happy Hour with mulled wine and small plates for noshing.

Speaking to the coffee manager, they will be opening just a coffee location in Madrona shortly.

-Janice Brown

And Karen Daubert reminds us that if we need holiday centerpieces, Leschi Mart has their exceptional holiday turkeys and smoked turkeys as well as all the fixings—so remember to order ahead! And don’t forget the wine—and the discount for six bottles or more



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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESCHI CC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 11/8/22

Attendance: Janice Brown, Diane Snell, Ashley Martin, John Barber, Yun Pitre, Matthias Linnenkamp, Trevor Lalish-Menagh

LeschiNews - Diane

- December's submittal deadline- November 21

Board Business:

- LCC December Holiday Party- December 7th at Grace United Methodist Church @ 7pm.
- LCC General Meeting Venue
 - LCC may start holding in person LCC general meeting at the Grace United Methodist Church starting in Feb 2023
- Parks and Open Space Committee
 - Met at the Central Area Senior Center for the committee meeting in September and November. Requesting LCC to pay for the venue rental.
 - Plans to separate the issue of crime from the issue of honoring Steve Shulman
 - May request LCC board members to attend future meetings
- Upcoming LCC General Meetings
 - January- Vote on the By-laws changes via Zoom meeting
 - February- Asked Lawrence Pitre to talk about We R One Series that focuses on the history of the Central Area
- Future LCC Board Meeting Topics
 - LCC board member succession plan
 - Discuss format for the next Parks and Open Space Committee meeting

-Submitted by Yun Pitre

	Income	Expenses	Balance 10/31/22
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$5,291.00		
Dues	\$1,990.14		
Donations	\$2,829.61	(\$30.00)	
Reimbursement	\$546.57		
Insurance		(\$731.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$6,487.66)	
Other Expenses		(\$768.30)	
Totals	\$10,657.32	(\$8,061.96)	\$16,363.06
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk	\$827.71	(\$2,110.51)	\$1,164.52
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$4,444.53	(\$300.00)	\$8,254.87
Frink Park			\$1,979.43
King Street			\$1,270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area			\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,111.85
Steve Shulman Memorial			\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1,233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1,200.00
Wading Pool			\$3,006.13
West Sheridan Street End			\$649.92
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$15,929.56	(\$10,427.47)	\$49,416.65
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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **DECEMBER 19**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements and membership dues to this address:
Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122-6538
or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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DECEMBER CALENDAR ~ HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

- » **December 7**
Leschi CC holiday gathering at Grace Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave. S
- » **December 10, 6-10pm**
Holiday Gala at Central Area Senior Center. Featured guest singer Eugenie Jones. Tix: \$100/\$125/\$150. Call 206 766-4926 for more info.
- » **December 13, 6pm**
Leschi CC Board meeting
- » **December 16, 5:35pm**
Argosy Christmas Ship at Madrona Beach
- » **December 18**
Hanukkah begins at sundown
- » **December 19**
Deadline for January *Leschi News*; submit to leschinews@comcast.net
- » **December 21**
First day of winter
- » **December 25**
Christmas Day
- » **December 26**
Hanukkah ends at sundown; Kwanzaa begins
- » **December 31**
New Year's Eve

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