

leschinews

OCTOBER MEETING

Hear from the candidates for Mayor, County Executive, and City Council. Veteran journalist Essex Porter will moderate our 2025 election forum, asking the questions that matter to Leschi residents.

Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm

Grace United Methodist Church, Lower Hall

Doors open at 6:45pm.

722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

November 12

**Join us for a community
conversation on public safety
with Seattle officials**

President's Message

Hello Leschi Community!

We are looking forward to our next community meeting, which will be our annual candidate forum. That meeting will not have any time for community updates; we'll be using all of the time for the forum. Please read the article in this issue for more details - we are very excited about the engagement from the candidates!

It looked and sounded like folks appreciated our September meeting, where Sophia from OEM spoke about emergency preparedness. The audience was very engaged and I heard positive comments from folks after the meeting. But I want to take a moment and reflect on the start of the meeting. Some folks new to the neighborhood stood up and introduced themselves, and asked if anyone in their specific area was in attendance, as they are trying to get to know their neighbors. That got me thinking about the opportunity for our meetings to foster stronger connections across community members. We as the board will think on how to activate this at meetings and events—but in the meantime, I hope that if you come to any of our events, or as you move around the neighborhood, that you take a moment to say hello to that person you pass on street, or introduce yourself to that neighbor you see regularly but haven't gotten around to meeting yet. I volunteer with the Leschi Community Council because I believe that fostering a strong sense of community at the neighborhood level can have meaningful impact for all of us locally and that it cascades up and contributes to making Seattle more inclusive and welcoming as well.

Please check out our website for our event plan through the end of the year, we'd love to see both familiar and new faces! We are going to be holding our 2026 planning meeting in late October. All are welcome to join us, and this can be a great time to dip your toe into volunteering with the LCC.

We will focus on four key areas at the planning meeting:

1. Community Outreach (includes membership, monthly meetings, events, business engagement)
2. Parks & Greenspaces
3. Public Safety
4. Leschi News

If you have any questions about the council, upcoming events or the planning meeting, please don't hesitate to email me at leschicouncil@gmail.com.

See you around the neighborhood,
Ashley Martin
LCC President



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

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Please share with a friend.



Caring for Leschi's Parks Together

Leschi is blessed with beautiful public lands. From the wooded ravines to lakefront views, these green spaces are more than places to walk the dog or catch a sunset. They are living ecosystems, shaped by over a century of history and by thousands of volunteer hours from neighbors who have pulled ivy, planted natives, and cared for trails.



But these parks are also fragile. Restoration work takes years of steady effort, and it can be undone in an afternoon. When mowing cuts down native plants, when off-leash dogs trample restoration sites, or when fallen logs are hauled off for private use, the health of the forest suffers. What may look like messy or neglected ground is often intentional—downed trees retain moisture, shrubs provide habitat, and native groundcovers protect against erosion. A tidy-looking park is not always a healthy one.

What's missing right now is a cohesive vision. Volunteers, City crews, and neighbors all care about these spaces, but too often decisions are piecemeal and reactive. Complaints drive action rather than long-term planning. The result is frustration for volunteers, confusion for residents, and harm to the very landscapes we want to protect.

We can do better. Leschi deserves a coordinated approach to stewardship, one that honors the years of work already invested and ensures these parks remain resilient for generations to come.

This means:

Supporting our volunteers. Forest stewards and community members have spent decades restoring acres of parkland. They need consistent backing from Parks, not setbacks.

Respecting restoration sites. Please keep dogs on-leash in Leschi's natural areas and parks. Off-leash activity may feel harmless but causes real damage to sensitive habitats.

Protecting natural features. Don't remove logs, limbs, or other materials from the park. What look like debris are often critical to the forest's health.

Getting involved. Join a work party, help spread mulch, pull ivy. Many hands make light work, and it's one of the best ways to meet your neighbors.

Parks help make Leschi special, but their health is not guaranteed. It takes planning, patience, and community care. Imagine what we could accomplish if we worked from the same playbook—neighbors, volunteers, and the City aligned around a shared vision of healthy, thriving parks. The forested parks of Frink and Leschi have stood for more than a century. With thoughtful stewardship, they can thrive for the next hundred years. Let's treat them as the treasures they are, and let's do it together.

~Ritzy Davidson

Easy Ways to Get Involved in the Leschi Community!

The Leschi Community Council is run 100% by volunteers. Want to get involved but don't want to overcommit yourself? The following tasks are easy ways to contribute that make a big difference!

- Join the Meeting Planning Committee
- Send *Leschi News* distribution email monthly
- Distribute monthly flyers to local businesses
- Distribute monthly flyers in the neighborhood
- Put together welcome packages to new Leschi residents
- Distribute welcome packages

Reach out to leschivp@gmail.com if you're interested!



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MADISON PARK AND MOUNT BAKER



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING RECAP

At our September 10th Emergency Preparedness meeting, we heard from Cindi Barker, who coordinates Seattle's all-volunteer Emergency Hubs in the southern half of the city. These hubs are designed for neighbors to help each other after a disaster by sharing information, connecting to resources, and supporting the most vulnerable—especially when professional responders can't get to us right away.

Currently, Leschi does not have an emergency hub. Interested in helping start one? Reach out to leschivp@gmail.com. To learn more about how hubs work and how you can get involved, visit seattleemergencyhubs.org.

GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Want to get to know the candidates for the top jobs in Seattle and King County? Don't miss out on our election forum on **October 14, 7pm**, at **Grace United Methodist Church** (doors open at 6:30pm). We will have Mayor Harrell and his challenger Katie Wilson, City Council President Sara Nelson and Dionne Foster, as well as Claudia Balducci who is running for King County Executive. (Girmay Zahilay had a scheduling conflict.)

Also, get ready for a different type of event. Instead of the usual ping-pong game of one-minute statements and rebuttals, we will interview each candidate separately for 20 minutes on the topics you care about. With this format we will get beyond the campaign rhetoric.

Use the QR code to submit questions or concerns you would like to hear the candidates talking about.

And it gets better! Veteran journalist and Leschi resident Essex J. Porter will moderate the forum. Mr. Porter was a fixture in the KIRO newsroom and in the Washington



politics reporting scene and we feel fortunate we could lure him out of retirement for one evening. You won't want to miss this event!

This event is co-sponsored by the Central Area Neighborhood District Council (CANDC).

-Matthias Linnenkamp

ELECTION PRIMER: WHAT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ACTUALLY DO

Seattle's Mayor oversees around 25 departments and commissions, charged with policy execution. They work with the City Council on budget and policies and are responsible for using appropriated funds effectively. They represent the city and promote economic development.

The King County Executive is responsible for implementing county policy affecting transportation, the criminal legal system, and public health services. They are also responsible for running free and fair elections.

City Council members develop city policies on housing, public safety, and municipal infrastructure. The City Council also develops and approves the city's budget and tax law in collaboration with the Mayor's Office.

-Matthias Linnenkamp



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What You Need to Know

During the September 10th Leschi Community Council meeting, Sophia Lopez from the Office of Emergency Management shared practical steps we can all take to prepare for emergencies.

She highlighted the worst-case scenario—a major earthquake striking Seattle—noting that if we're ready for the biggest disaster, we'll also be better prepared for smaller ones like severe storms and flooding. Sophia recommended planning as though the City won't be able to assist us for at least two weeks, which means having enough supplies

and a family plan to cover that time. In the case of a major earthquake, it could take a month or more before utilities are restored.

Go to seattle.gov/emergency-management to sign up for Alert Seattle, explore the Hazards Explorer Map, and find resources such as first aid classes.

PLANNING

- Make sure your plan includes how to take care of everyone that depends on you, both human and animal
- If there is an earthquake, roads will likely be significantly impacted, start planning walkable routes to essential locations
- Go to the Hazards Explorer Map to view the biggest hazard threats to your key locations (home, other family, school, work, etc.)
- Ask someone to be your out-of-state contact, the one person you contact if Seattle experiences an emergency. Let all your out-of-state friends and family know that they should NOT contact you during an emergency but instead, reach out to your designated contact
- If you have kids in school, find out what their school's emergency plan is
- Practice with your family what you will do during an emergency, including evacuating to an agreed-upon meeting point so it becomes muscle memory
- Create a plan for your pets, first responders will make every effort to save pets so make sure to take them with you (shelters are mandated to co-house pets)
- Meet your neighbors now and map out your neighborhood, learn about people's skills and their needs, don't wait to do this during an emergency
- Find out now what your insurance does and doesn't cover, every \$1 spent on insurance saves \$6 in recovery
- Sign up for Alert Seattle so you receive lifesaving, geocoded messages for your area during emergencies
- Take first aid skills training such as Stop the Bleed classes

PREPARING YOUR HOME

- The number one injury from earthquakes are cuts on hands and feet from broken glass and other dangerous debris, make sure you have a pair of shoes under/by your bed to protect your feet
- Secure furniture and large items to the wall using brackets or straps
- Secure picture frames to the wall
- Use museum putty to secure smaller freestanding items

SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND

- Assume water service will be disrupted, plan on 1 gallon of water per person per day (that includes drinking, cleaning, bathing, sanitation)

- Try to keep your vehicle fueled above $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tank at all times so you're ready to evacuate
- Have tarps and duct tape on hand in case you have broken windows
- Have a 30-day supply of your medication in case you are unable to get prescriptions refilled but make sure to rotate them so they don't expire
- Water filters
- Bleach for water purification, cleaning, and sanitation
- Have a travel camping stove (with extra propane) so you can heat food and water
- For sanitation, use the two bucket system (one for #1, one for #2). When not in use, keep the supplies needed in your buckets (kitty litter, toilet paper, garbage bags, bleach). Cut a Styrofoam pool noodle in half lengthwise and run it along the rim of the buckets to make it more comfortable to sit on
- Have a wrench or other tool located by your natural gas valve so you can turn it off if needed

CREATING YOUR TO-GO BAGS

- Have one at home, your workplace, and in your vehicle
- If there is no power, you will not be able to use credit cards to buy supplies, make sure you keep cash (small bills are ideal) in your to-go bags
- Include a fully charged portable charger
- Layers of clothing

COMPASS



Hi Neighbors,

SCOTT LENNARD

Summer's coming to a close.

It was a sleepy July & August for real estate and Buyers and Sellers now await new fall inventory and interest rates to fall.

After years of intense competition, the pendulum has swung back in Buyer's favor as homes are sitting longer and prices are being negotiated.

These are interesting times for Seattle real estate. If you'd like to strategize how to maximize the sale of your home or find the one you've been looking for, please reach out. I'd love to help.

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



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- Something that brings you joy, peace, or happiness to help sustain you
- Medical documentation for your pets (required by some shelters)

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- Do not rush out of the building – make sure to drop, cover, and hold – don't move until the shaking has stopped
- Do not stand in doorways, get underneath a table or other furniture within three seconds, otherwise you risk being thrown forcefully by the shaking
- If you have a walker, sit in it and lock it
- If you're in a wheelchair, make sure to lock it
- If you use a cane, use it to get to the ground and don't stand up until the shaking stops
- If you're near water and there is an earthquake, get to higher ground once the shaking has stopped
- Make sure you are not near the outside of a building during an earthquake, unreinforced masonry is the most dangerous
- If you have natural gas and hear a hissing sound, smell rotten eggs, or see the dial rapidly spinning, your gas needs to be shut off. Call 911 or close your valve so it is perpendicular. Know that turning the gas back on is not for a layperson, make sure to work with a professional

DURING AN EMERGENCY

- People tend to panic when it comes to buying supplies right before and during an emergency, buy only what you need, don't hoard! Help ensure others can buy needed supplies as well
- Don't rush to help others if you're not okay
- For potable water, remember that you have 50 gallons in your hot water tank that you can access (unless you have a tankless water heater)
- Water filters can filter out microbes and debris but not chemicals. Lake water will likely be contaminated with chemicals. You cannot make hot tub or pool water potable
- If you collect water, make sure to boil it for 3-5 minutes
- If you are unable to boil it, use bleach (5 drops for 2 quarts, stir and let sit for 30 minutes, make sure there is no chlorine smell before you drink it)
- Use a higher ratio of bleach for cleaning (go to doh.wa.gov for more information)
- Use text messages because they use very little signal strength compared to phone calls
- Ham radio operators can help get messages out, go to your nearest neighborhood hub for help and resources
- For sanitation, it's okay to dump urine in the yard, other waste material can be double bagged and Seattle Public Utilities will pick it up (once they're able to)
- Post on social media if you need help and are unable to communicate in another way

It can be overwhelming to think of everything you need to do to prepare. Start with taking one action. Even if you only do one thing, that is one step closer to being prepared than you are now!

For more information including how-to videos, signing up for Alert Seattle, for first aid classes, and to view the Hazard Explorer Map, go to seattle.gov/emergency-management. To find your closest emergency hub, go to seattleemergencyhubs.org.

-Nikola Davidson

OCTOBER NEWS AT THE CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER

Nine UW Nursing students will join us on Thursdays from 10am-7pm to continue their academic studies on site and to engage in firsthand learning through their internships at the center. In coordination with their onsite instructors, they will offer health education, blood pressure checks, and Telehealth online training in the computer lab as one of several programs and activities. The Central Area Senior Center (CASC) is pleased to have them join us again this fall quarter.

CASC's is currently in the planning phases for the implementation of a Health and Wellness Resource Fair scheduled for Friday, October 17, 1:30-4:30pm in the dining hall. The free event will include a variety of vendors with expertise in mental health, fitness, end-of-life planning,



dementia, health screenings (blood pressure and glucose level readings), community and financial resources. Experts will be on hand to address vaccine concerns, including flu shots, and to share tips with participants. There will also be nutrition and cooking demonstrations with samples and help with navigating the Medicare enrollment options this fall, which is important information with all the upcoming changes this year. CASC wants to ensure members and seniors feel informed and confident in their choices.

There is no Green Dolphin Lounge in October due to the Health Fair.

Prepare to celebrate Halloween with CASC on Friday, October 31, 1:30-4:30pm. Wear your best costume; you may win a prize. Enjoy, treats, entertainment, games, and fun! There may be ghosts, goblins, skeletons, pirates, and witches greeting you at the door.

Questions, visit us at casrcenter.org or call, 206.726.4926.

*-Dian Ferguson, Executive Director,
Oveta Hunter, Health Fair Coordinator*

SKETCHING GROUP RALLIES IN LESCHI PARK

If you noticed people sketching along the Lakeside Avenue shopping area and in Leschi Park on August 30, it was the Seattle Chapter of Urban Sketchers. It is a group my late wife, Kate Barber, and I spent many happy hours with, losing ourselves in the act of drawing and noshing afterwards. We even spent a week in Amsterdam at the world convention of urban sketchers.

Generally, the sketchers draw for an hour, then they have a “throw down” where they spread the drawings on a picnic table and savor everybody else’s work.

In our neighborhood, the sketchers found plenty of “eye candy” for subjects. Several painted the front of the Leschi Market or the sailboats. A few drew the tall trees of the park, the cablecar bridge, the lakeshore leading to I-90, the Bellevue skyline, ducks, motorboats, and the comfort station. One of the amateur artists even sketched the house she grew up in—yes, she grew up right here in Leschi. The sketchers represent a variety of skill-levels, from beginners to polished veterans.



Examples of their work can be found on the Leschi Market’s facebook page and the Urban Sketchers’ facebook Page. If you are interested in checking out this group, their monthly schedule of outings is posted on a website: seattle.urbansketchers.org. The sketchers meet every month at 10am and sketch and nosh until noon.

-John Barber

SOUTH LESCHI MOORAGE PROJECT UPDATE

The underwater clean-up has started at the South Leschi Moorage, removing decades of debris. Additionally, the shore by the moorage will undergo a new landscaping approach starting this Fall. South of the entry to the South Leschi Moorage, the shore will be regraded to form a gravel beach. The area next to the beach will be planted in three beds of native shrubs and smaller plants to about 10 feet west of the beach with two 20-foot gaps between the beds to allow access to the beach.

Next April, expect construction of electrical utilities at the north edge of Leschi Park on both sides of Lakeside Avenue. The underground utilities will be installed next to the Leschi Market and will extend by trenching across Lakeside Avenue into the parking area with some revisions, like curb blocks, in the parking area.



Major construction of the new pier and breakwater, including the demolition of the old wood pier, is anticipated no earlier than September 2026.

Call John Barber at 206.954.4458, or email at barber-osa@comcast.net, if you want to see a copy of the plans.

-John Barber

LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROPOSES INCREASE IN DUES

Based on our constitution and bylaws, which you can find on our website (leschicommunitycouncil.org), anyone living in Leschi is a member of the Leschi Community Council. However, only dues paying members may hold a board or committee office or vote to elect someone to the board, on changes to our constitution and bylaws or other matters that require a community vote.

Article IV, Section 1 of our constitution outlines our dues. It currently reads as follows: "Annual dues shall be \$25.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for families, \$15.00 for persons who are low income, and \$50.00 for commercial establishments".

Dues and donations cover the council's operating expenses and distribution of the *Leschi News* (while advertisements in the *Leschi News* pay for layout and print). Dues have not changed in more than 20 years, but our operating expenses have increased, especially over the last several years.

Our biggest operating expenses include room rentals, website hosting, insurance, city licenses and fees. Bulk mail rates for the *Leschi News* have increased and so have printing costs, which we have had to subsidize with dues for the last two years.

The executive board therefore proposes and will put to a vote at our November meeting to replace the current dues section with the following:

"Annual dues shall be \$50. Residents with higher incomes shall contribute \$100 or make additional donations at their discretion. Residents with low income may pay reduced dues of \$25. Dues for commercial establishments shall be \$150."

If approved by voting members at our November 2025 community meeting, this change will become effective on January 1, 2026.

-Matthias Linnenkamp

Leschi Profiles

MEET NAJMA SHEIKH: CITY OF SEATTLE'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

We're excited to introduce Najma Sheikh, the City of Seattle's Community Engagement Coordinator for the Central Region! Najma has been in her role for about eight months and is eager to support Leschi residents.

Her primary role is to connect neighbors with City services and act as a two-way bridge

between our community and City departments. If a City project may disrupt a neighborhood, Najma will reach out to keep residents informed. Likewise, if there are concerns that need to be elevated to departments or the Mayor's Office, she helps make sure those voices are heard. She focuses on linking residents to City programs and resources.

Najma regularly creates reports for the Mayor's Office highlighting neighborhood issues, and she played a major role in supporting local events during the Seattle Day of Service. She is committed to making civic life easier and ensuring people feel heard.

Najma will join the Leschi Community Council Public Safety Meeting on November 12th to learn more about our neighborhood priorities and provide support. To increase her accessibility to the community, she will be holding office hours through the rest of the year on the following dates:

- Douglass Truth Library (12-3pm):
- October 24



- November 21
- December 19
- Hing Hays Coworks (10am-12pm)
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4

-Nikola Davidson

SACRO BOSCO PIZZA

(Open evenings Wednesday to Sunday, 5-9pm, at Temple Pastry, 2524 S. Jackson St)

I am always excited when a new restaurant opens up in the greater Leschi neighborhood. Enter Sacro Bosco (meaning Sacred Grove), which is operating as a pop-up in the evenings out of the Temple Pastry space on South Jackson St.

Sacro Bosco specializes in Roman style pizza (a long rectangular pizza on a flaky pastry like crust), seasonal side dishes, and a nice selection of Italian wines and cocktails.

On the night of the Jackson Street Jazz walk, we were out with friends enjoying music. By 8pm we were tired from our walking...and hungry.

Our friends suggested we try Sacro Bosco. We arrived close to 8:30pm, clearly past the main wave of earlier diners. But our server was welcoming and friendly.

The menu looked wonderful, with pizzas such as the salame piccante that comes with red sauce, calabrian chili and fennel pollen and the sweet coppa topped with mozzarella, balsamic caramelized onions, and heirloom tomatoes.

By 8:30 pm, most options were already sold out, so we ordered what was still available: the heirloom pizza (\$34), the blistered beans with caramelized onions, anchovies, and breadcrumbs (\$10), the tomato, bread, and cheese panzanella salad, and an Italian Chianti.

All of the dishes were excellent! Ingredients were clearly of very high quality. The Roman pizza arrived as a long rectangle cut into eight four inch square slices. We were four people, and the combination of the pizza, the panzanella salad with hearty bread croutons, and the blistered bean salad made for a very satisfying meal.

I look forward to making another visit to Sacro Bosco very soon (and earlier in the evening!) to be able to try more of their offerings.

I highly recommend that you check them out!

-Christine Rossen

first located in Gaza, now in Cairo. All of these children have experienced what they draw first-hand. Each child has a unique style, but all of them are vividly depicting attacks by Israel. We see bombs flying through the air toward a building, the inside of a bombed out apartment, bombs falling on buildings as a child plays hopscotch in the foreground, triplets who each depicted the destruction of their lives in different ways, one with a flaming house, one with a tank attacking them, and the third contrasting their life with their father and then discovering him bleeding on the ground. A three year old creates a tangle of black lines, another uses only black and red to outline destruction of his home with a person lying on the ground in front.

It is hard to look at these drawings and think of what these children have been through. Another exhibition titled "Healing and Hope in War Zones, Children's Art from Gaza and Ukraine" showcases art. The drawings from Ukraine distinctly stand out for their color and detail.

D'vorah Kost brought the Gaza exhibition to the United States from Cairo. The Visual Arts ministry at St. Marks Cathedral sponsored it as part of a series of events called "Sacred Spaces." The small drawings were easy to overlook in the corner of the huge cathedral, but once you look closely, you cannot look away.

To complete this article about artistic expressions addressing Gaza, I highly recommend the book *We Are Not Numbers* (WANN), *The Voices of Gaza Youth*, which is a selection of short articles and stories by young adult writers describing their life in Gaza. This collection spans from

2016 to 2024. The website wearenotnumbers.org has recent posts and a way to buy the book. WANN is contributed to



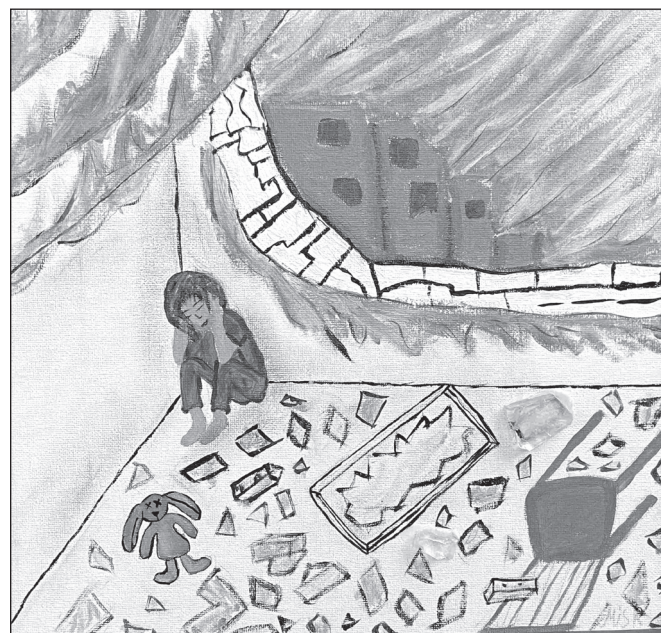
ARTISTS AND WRITERS ADDRESS GAZA

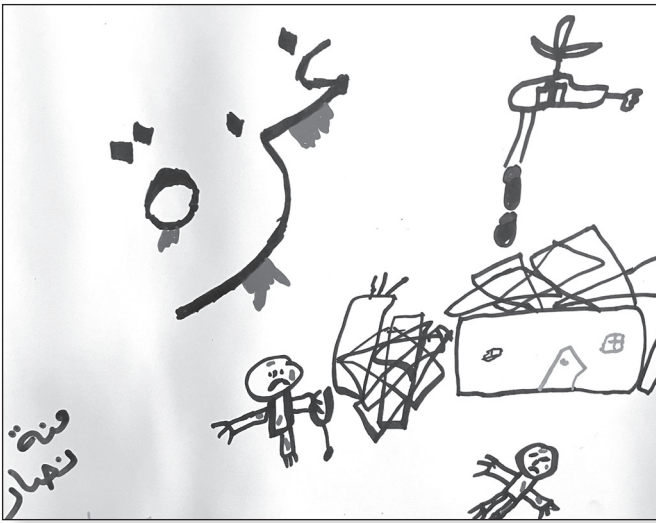
Humaira Abid, a Pakistani artist who lives in Seattle, created an exhibition, which can be seen at Greg Kucera gallery focusing on children from Gaza and other places who have died in war. Her installation "The Shape of War" consists of twenty-four children's desks (she plans on creating many more). On the desk is a Rehal, that would hold a Quran, prayer beads, and a flower—a primrose symbolizes innocence or a petunia symbolizing hope.

Each desk has a drawer. When you pull it out you see photographs of a child and a text. Each text details stories from the children's lives, how they were killed, and many photos of the child. This exhibition is heartbreaking. As we look at the photographs of the happy child with her family, and read the texts, it is almost unbearably sad. It is hard to imagine how the artist could create this work. But Humaira has been a socially engaged artist for a long time, so this is only an intensification of her deep commitments.

Another exhibition in Seattle brings us the painful reality of the present moment.

On the wall of St. Mark's Cathedral is a group of about thirty drawings depicting the war in Gaza from the perspective of children in a drawing and painting workshop





by a group of 385 Palestinian young adults. Each entry has a different feeling, but rarely do we read of despair. In some cases there is depression, but a will to survive. Many speak of participating in the Great March of Return that began in 2016. One details going to the beach, another of studying the stars (he is now studying astronomy in Russia). Other stories include “The Betrayal of Wonder Woman,” “The Donkey Carts of Gaza” and much more. Four of the writers and one mentor/teacher have already been killed. Quite a few have escaped Gaza with fellowships, and some are helping with the WANN project inside and outside of Gaza.

The blog posts come up to the present. I urge you to take a look at them.

-Susan Platt

Leschi Parks

STEWARDED OUR FORESTS: THE ONGOING WORK IN FRINK AND LESCHI PARKS

On a summer evening, I joined longtime Leschi Forest Stewards, Darrell Howe and Darcy Thompson, for a walk through Frink Park and upper Leschi Park. As we stepped under the canopy, the air cooled immediately, a reminder of how these parks serve as natural refuges in the city.

For more than twenty years, Darrell and Darcy have led volunteers in restoring forest health: pulling ivy, removing blackberries, and planting native species. What was once a tangle of invasives is now a thriving urban forest, home to owls, a flowing creek, and a restored wetland. The pair shared stories of early collaborations with the Green Seattle Partnership, grants secured, countless work parties, and the careful planning that goes into choosing the right plants for the right conditions. Dead trees and downed limbs, which might look like debris to some, are intentionally left in place to retain moisture and feed the soil, key to helping the forest withstand increasingly dry summers.

Their efforts are rooted in a long history. Frink Park, a 17.2-acre wooded ravine with trails, a creek and waterfall, was donated to the city in 1906 by John and Abbie Frink. Designed by the Olmsted Brothers, the park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2019 for its historic and natural character. Leschi Park, at 18.5 acres, is the city’s second oldest park, encompassing both the manicured lower park and the more natural upper area. Together, these parks hold deep cultural, historic, and ecological value for the neighborhood.

But alongside the success stories, I also witnessed the challenges. Areas that volunteers had painstakingly restored were mowed down by Parks maintenance crews, sometimes



wiping out years of work in a single day. Paths of snowberries were cut, native groundcovers sheared to the soil, and established plantings destroyed, while nearby patches of ivy were left untouched. In some spots, mowing created the appearance of roadside parking areas, inviting vehicle damage to forest edges.

The issue is not one of ill intent but of disconnect. While the Forest Stewards have long worked with Parks on vegetation management plans, complaints from individuals often trigger uncoordinated responses. Crews are sent out without clear direction, and mowing or cutting happens in ways that undermine established plans and ecological goals. In steep areas where volunteers cannot work for safety reasons, invasives continue to spread when not addressed by Parks, undoing years of community effort.

The result is disheartening. Volunteers spend countless hours planting, mulching, and maintaining only to see thousands of dollars-worth of plants cut down. One

estimate suggests it would take 10,000 replacement plants and 200 cubic yards of mulch to repair just one round of unnecessary mowing. When native plantings are destroyed, invasive ivy quickly creeps back, threatening tree health and wildlife habitat.

Parks in different neighborhoods often receive different levels of care and funding. Leschi's natural areas have struggled to get the same attention as other parks, even while residents and volunteers have poured in thousands of hours of unpaid labor to steward them. Volunteers want to help but they also want their work respected, supported, and integrated into decision-making.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Reach out before you request mowing or removal. Well-meaning calls to Parks can sometimes undo years of volunteer restoration. If you have concerns, contact leschivp@gmail.com first so the solution is consistent with the park's vegetation management plan.

- Leave logs and limbs where they are. What looks like yard waste is actually critical forest infrastructure, holding moisture, enriching soil, and supporting wildlife.
- Join the effort. Volunteer work parties are the backbone of forest restoration. By planting, mulching, and maintaining native landscapes, neighbors directly strengthen our parks. Contact leschivp@gmail.com to learn about upcoming work parties.
- Get curious about the bigger picture. Restoration is not about creating tidy landscapes but resilient ecosystems. A healthy forest may look messy, but every plant and log plays a role.

Frink and Leschi Parks are treasures—historical, ecological, and community spaces worth protecting. With better coordination and support, the work of volunteers can be sustained instead of undone. And with more neighbors involved, the forest can continue to thrive for the next generation.

-Nikola Davidson

Leschi Elementary

LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Omaretta Sharpley, Leschi's new SPS Family Support Worker. Omaretta is dedicated to building strong, culturally responsive connections between schools, families, and communities. She is passionate about supporting families through advocacy, resource coordination, and trauma-informed care. In addition to her work in schools, Omaretta is the owner of a wellness business that provides professional services in herbalism, gardening, and nutrition, with a focus on digestive health and holistic wellness.

Please visit our website at leschipta.org for events and school updates, and to support our work on behalf of educators, students and their families.

Upcoming events:

- Morning Coffee Chat: Wednesday, October 8 at 8am
- Fall Festival: Thursday, October 23 from 4-6pm

-Benson Funk Wilder and Chris Tremonte

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Leschi School

PART 1

When Leschi Elementary School opened in 1909, serving grades 1 to 8, the young neighborhood was nearly all white, and the school's student body reflected that in its composition. In the 1920s and '30s, Shiro Kashino's family, the only Japanese-Americans in the neighborhood, lived about five blocks north of the school. It wasn't until Shiro went to Garfield High School that he was exposed to people other than whites. His family was



Leschi School students, June 1928.

Courtesy of the Seattle Public Schools Archives, image 244-11.

taken away to a concentration camp after Pearl Harbor, along with all other West Coast Japanese families, whom the government unjustly suspected of being unpatriotic. Yet, when given the opportunity, he enlisted in the army and became one of the most decorated soldiers of World War II. For the following two decades he was the best-known person to have attended Leschi School—until Jimi Hendrix made the news.

In 1938, with the opening of Washington Junior High, Leschi converted to kindergarten through 6th grade. When Rainier School closed in 1940, Leschi began to serve the area as far west as 19th Avenue, bringing in a multi-racial student group to the largely white school.

During and after the war, large numbers of African Americans moved to Seattle, where there was work at Boeing and the shipyards, as well as other industries that had prospered in wartime. The real-estate practice of redlining confined Black housing opportunities to limited areas,



Leschi students, June 1955.

Jimi Hendrix is third from left in the second row from front, wearing a striped shirt.

predominately in the Central Area, including Leschi. The area thus underwent a transition from mostly white to mostly Black, and Leschi School's composition followed. When underfunding led to a decline in the quality of education in the Central Area, white families who had the opportunity left for other neighborhoods or enrolled their children in private schools.

In the early 1960s, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) engaged in anti-discrimination campaigns around the country, including Seattle, where the focus was on



Leschi students, 1974.

Courtesy of the Seattle Public Schools Archives, image 244-37.

employment, housing, and education. Among CORE's leaders were Leschi residents Joan and Ed Singler. Joan later co-authored a history of the CORE campaign entitled *Seattle in Black and White* (2011). The book says that by 1964, eight Central Area school students were more than 85 percent people of color, and almost all Black Seattle elementary

-Roger Lippman

The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 49 years in the neighborhood.

Leschi History

THE NORTHWEST'S FIRST DOCTORS

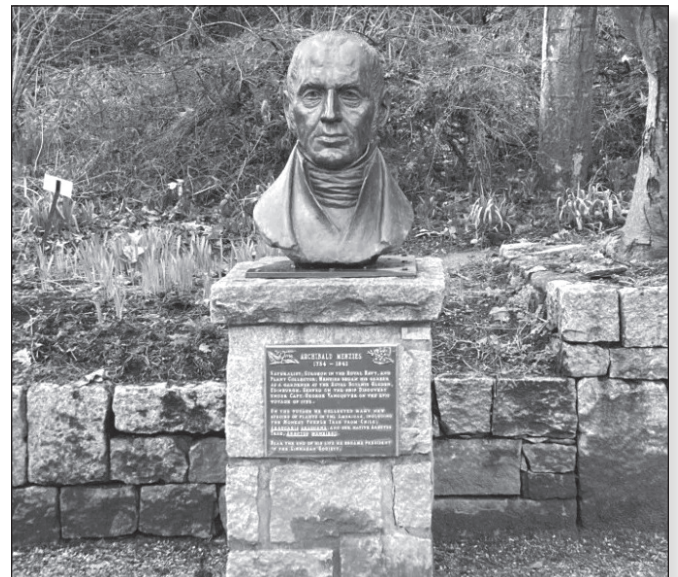
Early pioneers were not overly concerned about their health. Folk and Native medicines, poultices, mid-wives, or a sip of corn liquor usually treated common illnesses. Also, there was little local knowledge of germs or unsanitary conditions.

Perhaps the first trained doctor to spend time in the Pacific Northwest was Archibald Menzies. A graduate of the Medical College of Aberdeen, Scotland, Menzies arrived offshore with English Captain George Vancouver in 1790.

Next was Dr. John McLoughlin, remembered for his white mane and array of duties as Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at the mouth of the Columbia River. For over 20 years McLoughlin was accepted by others as the physician of the new Oregon Country.

In 1833, William Fraser Tolmie brought surgical instruments and "modern" remedies to Fort Vancouver. Also employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, Dr. Forbes Barclay kept careful records of health conditions in the Oregon Country. For example, Barclay noted the local appearance of dysentery in 1844 and measles in 1847.

Dr. Marcus Whitman, in the Walla Walla area, removed an arrowhead from the back of Mountain Man Jim Bridger in 1835. However, Whitman's sometimes unsuccessful treatment of Cayuse Indians may have led to his violent death by Natives in November 1847.



Puget Sound settlements witnessed the 1852 arrival of Dr. David S. Maynard, a founder of Seattle, and remembered by some as a frequent sampler of alcoholic nostrums in his medicine cabinet. Also in the 1850s, Drs. Henry A. Smith and J.S. Kellogg plied their trade, often by canoe, throughout the area.

The 1874 organization of the Medical Society of Washington Territory did not stem the rising tide of so-called patent medicines. Often liberally laced with opium and

alcohol, such nostrums as Kickapoo Indian Sagwa, Hamlin's Wizard Oil, the Balms of Gilead, Anodyne Cordials, and Swamp Root offered "cures" for a wide array of maladies. In 1906 muckraking journalist Samuel Hopkins Adams wrote a series of articles for Collier's Magazine debunking the production and use of local patent medicines as "The Great American Fraud."

Pacific Northwesterners were as impressed with colorful curatives as Americans everywhere. In fact, the manufacturers of such balms liked natural-sounding names that included words such as "vegetable," "Indian," or "Quaker" in their titles. For example, Donald McKay was a purveyor of something called "Indian Worm Eradicator." It was manufactured by McKay's outfit, the Oregon Indian Medicine Company. McKay had been raised in Umatilla, Oregon, and was therefore familiar with Columbia River lore.

Legend states that McKay may have met his death in a duel with Kit Carson. However, other rumors indicate that he was later found peddling medicines made from roots provided by "old Indian women of the Modoc and Nez Perce Tribes." One of those palliatives was called "War Paint Ointment"; another was known as "Warm Springs Consumption Cure."

Today, great medical schools at the University of Washington, Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and Children's Hospital have made the old-time balms of John McLoughlin and the Native Worm Eradicator into quaint, dim memories.

-Junius Rochester

Junius Rochester, whose family has shaped the city for many generations, is an award-winning Northwest historian and author of numerous books about Seattle and other places.

KITCHEN COOLERS

In September I wrote about kitchen coolers. With further research, I have learned that they actually have a well-documented history. In real-estate ads in the local papers from the turn of the 20th century through the 1930s, they were sometimes mentioned as a feature called a kitchen cooling closet, a cooling cupboard, or a pie safe.

In the national press, however, they were commonly known as a California Cooler. Say what? The coolers were well suited to the temperate west-coast climate, and they appeared in California by the 1890s. Besides, back then, who had even heard of the Pacific Northwest? As late as the 1980s, when I would travel east and tell someone I met that I was from Seattle, they would ask, after a while, "Where in Oregon did you say you're from?" Nowadays, almost everything people need, or think they need, is identified with our city.

Kitchen coolers date to an era before electric refrigeration. Cooling was accomplished with an icebox, when that literally meant an insulated container with a big block of ice in it.

Cold space was limited, so it was advantageous to have an alternative, low-maintenance cooling option. One publication described the cooler as "An icebox without ice."

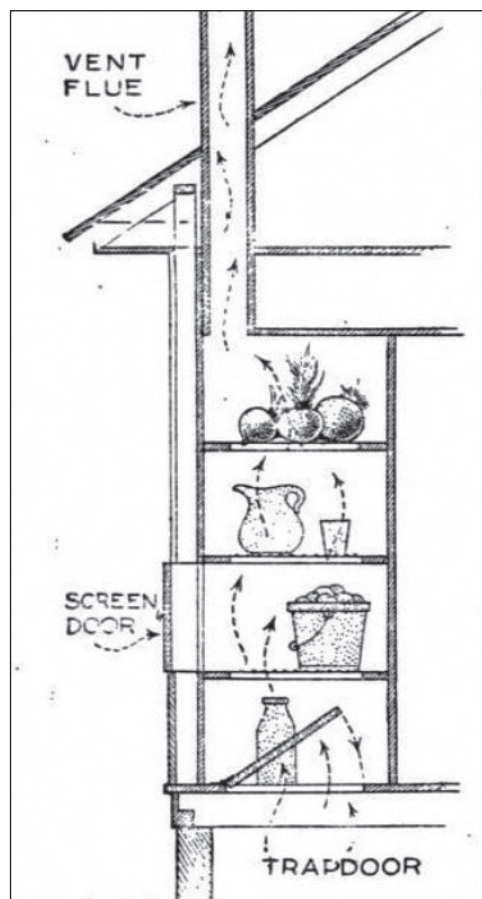


Image from Popular Mechanics, 1923.

It was, and remains, ideal for items like tomatoes and apples that shouldn't be kept in the low-humidity environment of a modern refrigerator.

An enhanced version, which I have never seen locally,

improves efficiency and would also be suitable for the more extreme inland and eastern climates. The bottom of the cabinet opens to a cool basement, either directly or through a duct. A trapdoor at the bottom is closed when outside air is cold enough. (See illustration.) From the cabinet top, a vent goes up through the roof, like a plumbing vent. Both openings are to be covered with bug screening, and



An outer door to the cabinet allowed milk deliveries directly into the cool space.

the rooftop exit needs a rain cap. This scheme increases the intake of cool air regardless of the season.

-Roger Lippman

September Board Meeting Notes

- Leschi News (Ritzly)
 - Content deadline: 9/12; Files due to printer: 6pm 9/23; Printer pick up: 9/24
 - Matthew is going to provide support for the Leschi News - providing a final review of the content and layout. Thank you!
- Membership & Community Outreach (Nikola)
 - Will work on renewal notices next week
 - Sangee - many community groups are creating a group on LinkedIn. Sangee will look into it.
- Meetings (Ashley)
 - Sept meeting debrief - Great turnout, great speaker and an engaged audience. Let's post the content online as well. Nikola is writing an article for the next Leschi News.
 - Oct candidate forum -
 - We have 5 of the 6 candidates booked (Mayor, County Executive, City Council Position 9), one of them has another commitment.
 - We are excited to have Essex Porter (previously Kiro and NPR) moderate and interview the candidates.
 - Matthias is looking into AV equipment, we will likely need to rent this
 - We will need volunteers to help with set up (5:30pm) and tear down (9:00pm) - Nikola to recruit from our volunteer list (Matthew & Sangee volunteered help with setup)
 - Nikola designed the flyer - will email it to the board (DONE), Matthias will get them printed and posted - if you want any for your neighborhood, let him know. Will post on Next Door. Ashley to send the email - one next week (week of 9/22) and one the week before the event.
 - We have a form to get topics and questions from community members. ALL - Please share with your neighbors LINK [HERE](#)
 - John - we could update the sandwich boards. Need to design (2 A1 sheets), print and laminate. TBD
 - Nov public safety forum
 - We will coordinate a panel of city organization partners
 - Nikola met a dept of neighborhoods lead who will attend, and she can help connect us with
 - Nikola - working to identify a Parks contact. Ashley will start contacting other orgs: SPD, SDOT, Joy's office
- Parks (John/Nikola)
 - South Leschi Moorage Project
 - The underwater clean up has started at the South Leschi Moorage. The shoreline has been cleaned up. Construction work will start - utilities are up first: electricity, pump out station, etc.
 - They will need to close Lakeside for 1-2 days to run the trench across the street. They are working to identify the times to minimize impact to traffic and the businesses.
 - John will plan regular updates about the marina project in the Leschi News. Flag to Ritzly to squeeze in an update.
 - King Street shoreline street end, the community put a garbage can at that location - John currently empties the trash can - which is not sustainable. John will reach out to Seattle Public Utilities to see if it could be added to a route.
 - Sept 29th: Parks and Greenspaces will have a planning meeting with the forest stewards

- Nikola and Sangee are creating resource guides - the first one is "who to contact, how to surface issues." Our goal is to connect community members with the right people.
- Traffic Safety (open)
 - Lori will be spending more time with a new grandbaby and won't be able to lead this committee. She's up for helping with traffic signage this year. We wish her the best!
 - We will be looking for a new committee lead. Ashley can support in the meantime.
- Treasurer's Report (Matthias)
 - August was a quiet month - no spike in expenses or income.
 - Will publish the notice in the Leschi News about the change in our subscription/membership fees. Surfaced it in the Sept meeting and will also bring it up again in the Nov meeting - Matthias
- Oct Planning meeting (Nikola/Ashley)
 - 2026 planning meeting will be Oct 21st 6-8pm. We are working on a location, and will provide dinner.
 - We will plan by committee topics. We'll have the entire group work on Membership & Community Outreach. Then we'll break into two groups for the second portion to discuss Leschi News and Public Safety.
 - John suggested we should invite a representative from the Leschi Elementary School. Sangee will get the PTA president contact info.

	Income	Expenses	Balance 8/31/25
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$2,571.00		
Dues	\$2,822.58		
Donations	\$1,557.06		
Reimbursement			
Insurance		\$(1,011.00)	
Printing and postage		\$(5,238.28)	
Room Rentals		\$(870.00)	
Other Income & Expenses	\$1,001.89	\$(968.12)	
Totals	\$7,952.53	\$(8,087.40)	\$16,211.77
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk		\$(407.00)	\$1,234.28
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends		\$(593.71)	\$3,423.51
Frink Park			\$1,979.43
King Street			\$1,270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area			\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$2,527.27
Steve Shulman Memorial			\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
Wade Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1,200.00
Wading Pool			\$3,006.13
West Sheridan Street End			\$371.65
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Total Funds	\$7,952.53	\$(9,088.11)	\$42,407.83
thereof in short-term CD's			\$33,002.15
Cash			\$9,405.68
Certificate of Deposit (Brenton)	\$149.18		\$11,450.16

Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

The Leschi Community Council works with the community to make Leschi a great place to live and visit. Your financial support helps bring this mission to life. As a supporting member, you help the LCC:



Host monthly meetings to connect you with local officials, organizations, artists, activists, and historians



Organize neighborhood events such as the annual ArtWalk



Coordinate volunteer efforts with local causes such as parks and public safety



Deliver the **Leschi News**, Seattle's longest running neighborhood newspaper



Maintain our website, leschicommunitycouncil.org

All donations are tax-deductible, LCC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

Annual supporting membership: ☐ \$35 family ☐ \$25 individual ☐ \$15 student/low income

I'm making an additional donation for LCC ☐ _____ (amount)

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pay by QR code



Mail this form with a check to:

Leschi Community Council
140 Lakeside Ave, Suite A#2
Seattle, WA 98122-6538

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Pay by PayPal:

Search for **@leschicc**

or use paypal.me/leschicc

(In the notes, please include your mailing address and let us know how much is for dues and how much is a donation.)



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specials and read up on the Bargainista Blog!

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Store Hours: 8am – 10pm, 7 Days a Week

Leschi News advertising rates:
business card, \$35; 1/4 page, \$70; 1/2 page,
\$140. Contact Matthias Linnenkamp at
leschitreasurer@gmail.com to advertise to
your community.

leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **OCTOBER 17**. 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 Ritzy Davidson at newsleschi@gmail.com

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

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UPCOMING FALL LESCHI EVENTS

- » **October 4, 11am-12pm**
Recess Monkey concert at Madison Park's Pioneer Hall
- » **October 4, 7-10pm**
Oktoberfest at Mount Baker Community Club
- » **October 5, 10am-12:30pm**
Peppi's Woods Work Party. Register at greenseattle.org
- » **October 8, 8am**
Morning Coffee Chat at Leschi Elementary
- » **October 14, 7-9pm**
Election Forum with Mayoral, King County Executive, and City Council candidates Grace United Methodist Church
- » **October 19, 10am-12pm**
Cleanup at Powell Barnett Park
- » **October 23, 4-6pm**
Fall Festival at Leschi Elementary
- » **October 31, 4-6pm**
Trick or treat Madrona businesses along 34th Avenue
- » **Fridays through October, 3-7pm**
Central District/Madrona Farmers Market located at the corner of MLK, Jr. Way & E. Union St.

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