JUNE MEETING

Mark your calendars for June 27 at 6pm. We are partnering with our parent organization, Central Area Neighborhood District Council (CANDC), Squire Park Community Council and local business, Dan Sanchez Realtor to present the candidates for the vacant Seattle City Council District 3 seat. All candidates are invited. Complimentary food provided by Ezell’s, Costco, and dessert selections from volunteers. The event will be live streamed.

AGENDA: 6pm - Enjoy food and mingle; 6:30-8:30pm - Candidate Forum

Grace United Methodist Church Hall (lower level) 722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

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Dear Fellow Leschi Dwellers,

What a treat we had with spectacular weather! Having the sunshine, I believe, makes people smile more and be kinder.

Well, the Leschi Community Council has had a great year: getting back to in-person meetings with a wide variety of interests. We are gaining new momentum and it’s exciting. The head of SDOT provided a vision of a community leader who is a “boots on the ground”-type of person. Response from City of Seattle departments always brings hope for the future that we are heard. The traffic issues along Lake Washington Blvd and the speeding will hopefully have a resolution sooner rather than later.

For our June meeting we are combining with CANDC and others for a candidate forum on June 27. There is full information on the cover of this newspaper as to time and agenda. We have rolled our June meeting into this one joint event as we felt it very important to hear the candidates that we will be voting for in the August Primary. Given the large number of candidates who have come forward, it is critical to host an event that allows each candidate to share their views.

The 10th annual Leschi ArtWalk is scheduled for Saturday, September 9. We have contacted past vendors and already have some submissions for artists. There are entry forms on the LCC website. Please encourage artists you may know to participate.

As you know, the LCC newsletter and the monthly meetings go on hiatus during July and August. The LCC Executive Board will continue to meet and plan for our Fall meetings.

Have a wondrous summer and please remember to reach out to neighbors to make sure we don’t leave people forgotten. Not everyone feels brave enough to ask for help.

Kind regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” ~Frank Maguire
I was much relieved when I heard that the Crisis Care Levy has passed despite its odd placement as a single item on a ballot in a special election at a time when we are not usually voting. Sometimes these types of elections are ignored but the need for these resources is great, and voters seem to be aware of the need.

I feel that much of our homelessness is due to the lack of mental health care and my own experience leads me to believe that closing mental hospitals without increasing the community mental health resources contributed over the years to this overwhelming crisis of persons sleeping “rough” as they describe it in the UK.

I worked in an “outpost” office for the Baltimore County Department of Social Services in Catonsville; there were 4 of us installed in what had been the local jail. The windows were at the ceiling and the walls were very thick. Two of us served the community as social workers and the other two handled medical assistance applications and food stamp applications respectively. There was some history with this building; it housed the Draft Board during the Vietnam years, and this was where the Berrigan brothers had poured blood on the files.

Things were much calmer in the building when our office opened... that is until there was an unexpected release of patients from Spring Grove, the mental institution that had originally opened in 1797. It was one of those forbidding buildings that looked like a chamber of horrors and village rumor had it that there had been a sign that read: “Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter!” I was never able to verify that, but the ominous look of the building led one to think there might be some truth in the rumor.

Although I was not in favor of institutionalizing “mental” patients, it soon became clear there had been little thought given to the sudden release of the patients. The plan was that patients would be moved to community mental health centers and receive outpatient care. The problem was that they were released with their meager belongings in a trash bag with no housing options. We were soon overwhelmed with homeless people that had no chance of getting help from community resources as the clinics had not been given additional funds or staff to handle the influx.

I was well aware that some people had been institutionalized because no one knew what to do with them. One village resident came to my attention when he wrote a letter to the President (then Nixon) and it was passed down to the local agency to handle. When I met him, I learned that he had been an orphan and was deemed “slow” and therefore was put in an institution in Pennsylvania. As it turned out, he had a significant hearing loss but was able to learn. I don’t remember what he had asked the president but apparently, he was satisfied with resolution as he soon adopted us and would visit often. While this was a potentially tragic case, he was able to learn to lip read, was socially appropriate and he seemed to have survived the unfortunate institutionalization well.

But that was not true of many of the people we would meet in the first few weeks after the “release.” I vividly remember one person who told me he was living under a big bush in the park and needed everything. Catonsville was pretty much a village with one main street of small businesses and no large apartment buildings. There were some boarding houses but no vacancies. This patient had his medical record with him (!) and proudly gave it to me to read. His doctor has recommended that he never be released into the community as he had killed several persons for no apparent reason and no demonstration of regret. In our interview, he was socially appropriate and even had a sense of humor. I gave him an application for emergency assistance and asked if he wanted help completing it and he replied No, his secretary would handle it. I was saved from trying to find a living place for him and his fellow patients as they disappeared within two days; I have often wondered if that was the beginning of mental health services as delivered by the police department.

We have seen this method doesn’t work any better than institutionalization does.

This crisis care levy should help but will be slow in coming. 2025 is the target date for the first care center and hopefully something will be done to ensure adequate staff. There is a shortage of therapists now. Incentives like tuition assistance might help to reduce this problem and perhaps better pay. “Helping” jobs are not well paid and burnout is often a problem, but the centers are a start. And many thanks to King County Councilman Girmay Zahilay for all his hard work on this project.

-Diane Snell
MAY MEETING WITH SDOT DIRECTOR GREG SPOTTS

At our May community meeting we were joined by Greg Spotts, Director of Seattle’s Department of Transportation (SDOT), and Matt Beaulieu, lead traffic engineer and responsible for road operations and capital projects.

Greg, who previously worked for the City of Los Angeles, opened the meeting describing his passion for being out in the neighborhoods, building relationships and understanding the issues residents may experience. He displayed confidence that despite Seattle’s budget shortfalls it will be possible to “co-create” meaningful projects with the community. He wants to deliver on the current transportation imperatives “fast and flavorful” and bring in emerging global best practices.

Ashley Martin, who facilitated the meeting, then moved the discussion to topics our Leschi neighbors had expressed an interest in. First up, pedestrian safety.

While the department is going through a top-to-bottom review of current projects, it is currently focused on several measures related to Seattle’s Vision 0 initiative. The initiative aims to eliminate any traffic fatalities. Measures include limiting right turns on red, leading pedestrian walkway signal intervals, and light rail safety. Additionally, the City of Seattle now focuses on safety over congestion management, appointing a Chief Safety Officer. SDOT is also working with the City Council to introduce a bill that would allow for broader automated traffic enforcement, which state law now permits cities to undertake.

Specifically with regards to pedestrian safety in the Leschi business district, Matt Beaulieu quoted probe data that suggests average speeds at around 25 miles per hour. Probe data is data collected from connected vehicles, cell phones, fleet GPS units, and other mobile sources. This drew expressions of doubt from the audience. Many neighbors regularly observe vehicles that appear to go much faster than 25 miles an hour. Or is 25 miles an hour still too fast on a road that cuts through an area that bustles with kids and visitors to the lake on weekends?

Matt and Greg committed to re-reviewing the data and potentially collecting more data to assess the flow of traffic on Lakeside Ave. They also suggested measures that may be options to slow down traffic besides speed cushions, such as narrowing the roadway. One thing Greg wants the department to get better at is iterating on solutions. This includes going back and checking if solutions work as intended and then making further improvements.

Next, Greg provided an update on the project of closing Lake Washington Boulevard between the Mount Baker and Seward parks for cars. In short, the task force commissioned to re-envision Lake Washington Boulevard could not come to an agreement and as such the street will continue to be closed to cars on certain summer weekends only. The 2023 schedule can be found at parkways.seattle.gov.

The meeting then moved on to road conditions. Find It, Fix It, the mobile app that anyone can download to their phone is still the best way to get potholes and other road hazards addressed. For drainage issues though, contact Seattle Public Utilities directly. City Lights is responsible for street lighting, except for within parks, where lighting is managed by the Parks Department. And for trees in the public right of way SDOT has now a “tree guy” on staff to assess potentially hazardous trees more quickly.

The city’s program to resurface roads is financed by the “Move Seattle” levee. With winters getting wetter the challenges to keep roads in good condition have grown. The city uses specialty software to identify the best times to make repairs and needs to determine how to best allocate the budget. Greg said, he wants the city to follow the principle “if you are going to touch it, make it right.”

Finally, how are traffic circles maintained? Funding for public right-of-way maintenance is limited in Seattle, compared to other cities. Seattle only has funding for the occasional “mow it down” effort. Greg therefore recommends that neighbors adopt a traffic circle. When neighbors band together, they can petition for a “Small Sparks” grant, which the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods provides, and which can be used to pay for restoring and replanting a traffic circle. You can find information on the program at seattle.gov/neighborhoods/community-grants/neighborhood-matching-fund.

We took away several action items from the meeting. Ashley Martin, our Public Safety Committee Chair, will address those with the city and provide updates as progress is made. Specifically, we expect SDOT to outline the next steps for how to calm traffic throughout Leschi. Secondly, we need to know where Leschi stands relative to other neighborhoods for road repairs. Third, we will obtain a link to the top-to-bottom safety review that SDOT conducted and ensure our neighbors can comment. Lastly, we will manage communications with the city on two specific issues—critical light outages and trees at risk of falling on Washington Boulevard.
Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting. By showing up, showing your interest, or submitting questions, the city knows that we are serious about making improvements to Leschi’s roadways. There is strength in numbers.

—Matthias Linnenkamp

SHULMAN MEMORIAL UPDATE

On April 16, about 23 people braved the morning rain for a walk through at Leschi Park to discuss possible locations in the park for a memorial for Steve Shulman, and to discuss possible design concepts for the memorial. The attendees included a mix of LCC/community members, and Friends of Steve Shulman, as well as the architect who will do the memorial design work. Key sites that were visited included 1) the so-called “Market” area just south of Leschi Market (the eastward-sloping hill side and flat area by the bus stop), 2) an upslope “Central” area that was the site of the old fountain (now a ring in the paved path), and 3) a downslope “Central” area closer to Lakeside Ave.

Design concepts that were discussed included: 1) a restored seating area around the old fountain, 2) picnic structure, 3) gazebo or bandstand. An additional concept (submitted after the walk) suggested some type of open air, variable use, seating on the hillside in the “Market” area.

At the end of the park walk, attendees filled out a questionnaire/straw poll indicating their current site and concept preferences, as well as any other thoughts or concerns regarding the memorial. This information will be used to guide future memorial design work. In general, the idea of a restored seating area in the “Central” old fountain area was very popular. About a third of the respondents favored some kind of structure for the memorial (gazebo, bandstand, or picnic structure).

A full summary of the discussion on the walk, and the questionnaire results can be found on the LCC website.

—Christine Rossen

MONTHLY LITTER BRIGADE

Join us for a short work party picking up litter! All of these events are 10am-Noon, and always with all supplies provided, plus free refreshments from Broadcast Coffee and Temple Pastries.

Sun 18 June: Pratt Park
Sun 16 July: Powell Barnett Park
Sun 20 Aug: Temple Pastries

DAY OF CARING AT THE LAKE

At S Judkins Street, Karen Daubert and Jared Smith hosted 11 volunteers who spent the morning weeding, trimming, pruning and then heavily mulching this special shoreline street end. And at S Atlantic St, Omar Akkari hosted another group of hard-working volunteers—all from Seattle Department of Transportation Street Use Department—removed bamboo and invasive plants and spread mulch. This annual event is an excellent opportunity for volunteers from throughout the City—some from West and South Seattle—to work in a different neighborhood and to meet with other volunteers. Next year—around May 20—will be another opportunity for Leschi volunteer projects—so make a note in your calendar for May 2024!

And, as always, volunteers are needed to do general maintenance and oversite of our Leschi shoreline street ends—no prior experience is needed. Just bring your gloves and help out. If questions, please notify John Barber at 206.324.1548 or Karen Daubert at 206.310.1792.

—Karen Daubert

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER NEWS, SUMMER 2023

Two months of my Sabbatical flew by quickly. It was both a productive time and relaxing time. Not finished, but I was able to jumpstart the cleaning of my mother’s home and remodel. I coordinated with my son and his fiancé on their wedding plans for late summer. Mary and Twanda were good stewards during my absence. The quiet time allowed me to spend time coordinating the upgrades to the CASC facility. A contract was signed with MacDonald Miller to complete the design for the HVAC system in the dining hall and later in the older portion of the building east of the reception area and the lower level. Work on the new HVAC system will launch following Seafair activities by the end of August. Once work is completed, Sphere Solar Energy will install the solar panels. Solar panels will assist us in lowering our overall energy consumption and expenses.

An exciting line up of entertainment is planned for Summer and Fall 2023 and the third Friday’s Green Dolphin Lounge, 6-9pm featuring:

June 16, Brandon Willis, Saxophonist
July 21, Butch Harris, Pianist, Jazz, R&B
August 6, Seafair Patio Party, The Triple Treat Band, 11am-5pm
September 9-10, Central District, Jazz Walk, Kick-Off, 6pm
September 15, Josephine Howell, R&B, Jazz, Gospel
October 20, Michael Powers
November 17, Darren Motamedy, Saxophonist
New and old programs will continue throughout the summer. The SHARP program will resume walking in late June with routes highlighting different themes of health, education, civic engagement, historical places, salons, barber shops, and churches. New routes will also be designed.

CASC will host a Free Community Block Party with a focus on Health, Fun and Community, Saturday, July 8, noon-4pm. 30th Ave S from King St to Grace United Methodist Church on Dearborn will be closed for the Block Party. Activities include food vendors, Bingo, children’s games, DJs, and music. Funding for the Block Party is made possible from the City of Seattle Neighborhoods for our Let’s Talk Food program.

Hope to See you at one of the upcoming activities. Have a Great Summer!

-Dian Ferguson

THE MOUNT BAKER GARDEN TOUR RETURNS!

For its 4th year, we are pleased to announce the return of “Hidden Gardens and Outdoor Spaces,” a garden tour of beautiful, quirky, varied and creative front and backyards in the Mount Baker neighborhood. In addition to the Garden Tour, the Garden Art Sale on Hunter Boulevard will be back with many more local artisans who make garden-inspired and garden-themed work.

The tour will feature six to eight gardens with entertainment spaces, seasonal containers, edible gardens, and, of course, unique northwest landscapes. As in past tours, gardens will display a wide range of styles, sizes and composition.

Save the date: Sunday, July 9
Garden Tour: 9am to 3pm
Garden Art Sale: 10am to 4pm
Tickets will be available in mid-April at this link: mountbakergardentour.com.

Prices: $25 each when purchased in advance on Eventbrite and $35 if purchased on the day of the tour. The Garden Art Sale will be free to attendees. We hope to see you on July 9!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE:

The bus ride home from Jazz Alley started uneventfully at 3rd and Stewart—not always the case. At Benaroya Hall a woman was pacing and gesticulating, then boarded and sat quietly in front of me - until we reached the library where she stood in the front door and inexplicably started berating the driver for calling her a “d***-a*** b***.”

After denying this, he sat quietly while her rant continued. Eventually a young man explained to her that we all needed to get home and she reluctantly wandered off.

By the time we reached The Peaceable Kingdom of Madrona, I was the only passenger. I walked up to the front and told the driver that I thought “thank you for your service” should be extended to urban bus drivers as well as military personnel. He told me that the crazy lady was a regular but that he hadn’t expected her to launch into her angry monologue as it was only Wednesday. He explained that could have called the cops, but it would have ruined everyone’s trip home. He could also have taken the day off and joined his family for a trip to LA - but there was a job to do.

Most folks I know almost never ride the bus and this tale may sound like a good reason not to. But I trust Seattle bus drivers to take care of their passengers. And if we don’t thank them for their service, who will?

-Malcolm Harker

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI
Vice Comes to Leschi

Early in the last century, gambling, prostitution, and other forms of what is lumped under the general category of vice made their way out to quiet, idyllic, barely settled Leschi as a result of political gamesmanship downtown. Our neighborhood was ripe for the spillover because we were one of the first places out of downtown to have public transportation, so downtowners who wanted to be anywhere but there had the means to do so. First came the horse-pulled wagons, in 1871, along what is now Yesler Way. In 1884 there was a line on Jackson Street with three round trips a day. And in 1888 occurred the first cable car line north of San Francisco, coming out Yesler to the lake and returning on Jackson.

Col. Alden J. Blethen, the dyspeptic editor and publisher, beginning in 1896, of the early Seattle Times, wielded the paper as a blunt instrument against both his competitors and his political opponents, of which he made sure to have many. He wanted vice in early Seattle confined to a wide-open area just south of Yesler, with strict enforcement of prostitution and gambling laws everywhere else. Blethen’s name (and his progeny’s) can still be found on the paper’s editorial page, as they probably have been every day since 1896. Colonel, you say? Apparently, as a story has it, he had the title bestowed by the governor of Minnesota. He didn’t acquire it on the field of battle.

The Times, incidentally, goes back to 1879, albeit with several name changes. It became the Daily Times in 1886. However, as the result of a merger, it became the Press-Times in 1891, reverting to the Times in 1896.

Municipal policies swung from wide-open tolerance to crackdowns, and back, sometimes under the same civic leaders. The city’s attitude, for a time at least, was to give the people so much ethical reform that they would be sick of it and go back to what Blethen wanted in the first place. The only firm position seemed to be held by demagogic preachers and their allies, organized as “ladies of decency.” Mayor Hiram Gill described them as “a bunch of magpies.” Twenty years later, Mayor John Dore called them “fur-clad hussies.”

The labor union papers, among others, were outspokenly critical of the Times, which they referred to, in later years, as Fairview Fanny. The most poetic line of media criticism I ever read came from the Washington Teamster, in response to something the Times published in the 1970s about flying mammals around Spokane: “Bats haven’t been seen east of the Cascades since the last time Harry Missildine upset the vermouth table.” (Missildine was a hard-drinking Spokane sportswriter.)
Now the *Times* has refashioned itself as a liberal rag, sort of, trying to keep up with its educated population base. But when the chips are down, you can count on the paper to revert, as it did for the 2000 election. To ensure lowered inheritance taxes for the Blethen descendants, the paper endorsed George W. Bush, against the better judgment of many of its staffers.

Crackdowns on vice in Col. Blethen’s day, early in the last century, seemed designed to raise the rates for police protection and shakedowns. When the neighborhood, which was then becoming known as Skid Road, was effectively shut down for a time, vice activity just dispersed itself around the town.

That’s where Leschi comes in.

People along the Yesler Way cable car route complained that the rowdy crowds of Pioneer Square were disrupting the peace on their way out to Leschi Park, throwing whiskey bottles through the windows of local residents. The police chief shut down the Leschi Park Pavilion (which existed from 1890 to 1930) when weekend dances there got too rowdy and “conducive to the ruin of young women.”

A housewife at 3004 Yesler fired her 17-year-old servant, who had got in the habit of sneaking out to join the carousing ex-Skid Roaders. This good girl, when she started going to Leschi Park, went to bad and worse. It was this sort of thing that made Seattleites happy to open up Skid Road again, to keep the rest of the city clean.

But the cat, so to speak, was out of the bag, and sin was not to be confined any longer to one district. The police chief overreached. Not satisfied with his take from a deal whereby he got $10 per month for each of the hundreds of sex workers in the numerous houses of prostitution downtown, he was in on a plan for a 500-room brothel on the west side of Beacon Hill—reputedly to be the world’s largest. It was built, but the controversy proved to be too much, and it instead became the Lester Apartments. Mayor Gill was recalled and the police chief ended up in the state pen for corruption. Even Col. Blethen and his son were tried, but they were acquitted.

The building would have been forgotten to history had not an Air Force bomber, taking off from Boeing Field on a test flight in August 1951, glanced off Sick’s Rainier Brewery, bounced on the road, and cartwheeled with all four engines full on into the apartments, at 3004 10th Avenue South, killing the crew of six along with at least five residents. (Another bomber, coming in for a landing with a wing on fire, crashed nearby in February 1943. A passenger plane taking off to the north from Boeing Field crashed in July 1949.)

Mayor Gill was later elected to a second term, this time as an enforcer of prohibition (which came to Washington state some years before it was enacted nationally). In his third term, things had gotten so out of hand on Skid Road that the armed forces placed all of Seattle off limits due to venereal disease spreading through Northwest-based military ranks.

---Roger Lippman

*The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 47 years in the neighborhood.*

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**THE WALLA WALLA ONION**

Local growers, most with Italian antecedents, do whatever it takes to preserve the unique qualities originally inherited from the Island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea, the ancestral home of the Walla Walla Sweet.

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*Apartment house on Beacon Hill, built in 1910 to be a brothel. Courtesy of UW Special Collections (UW8235)*

*The building would have been forgotten to history had not an Air Force bomber, taking off from Boeing Field on a test flight in August 1951, glanced off Sick’s Rainier Brewery, bounced on the road, and cartwheeled with all four engines full on into the apartments, at 3004 10th Avenue South, killing the crew of six along with at least five residents. (Another bomber, coming in for a landing with a wing on fire, crashed nearby in February 1943. A passenger plane taking off to the north from Boeing Field crashed in July 1949.) Mayor Gill was later elected to a second term, this time as an enforcer of prohibition (which came to Washington state some years before it was enacted nationally). In his third term, things had gotten so out of hand on Skid Road that the armed forces placed all of Seattle off limits due to venereal disease spreading through Northwest-based military ranks.*

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*The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 47 years in the neighborhood.*

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What causes these delectable orbs to be sweet enough to eat like an apple? Help comes from natural chemical compounds, which contain sulfur, causing sweetness of sugar-quality. And Sweet Onions consist of about 80 percent water, so they need care in keeping them fresh. The watery delicacy and its sweet taste can be preserved for months if stored in a cool place with each bulb separated from one another. Experts frequently wrap onions in a woman’s nylon stocking and suspend them from a basement or garage ceiling.

Again, like a fine varietal wine made from carefully nurtured grapes, Walla Walla Sweets are grown on about 1,300 acres in southeast Washington and a patch of northeast Oregon. This light-yellow product can exceed 50 million pounds a year out of the ground.

As noted, competition to this delicacy can be found in the Maui Sweet Onion, grown year-round on Maui and Molokai, Hawaii. The Texas Super Sweet likes the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the Noonday Sweet Onion thrives in East Texas. The Carzalia Sweet is a competitor from New Mexico, the Vidalia from Georgia, and the Imperial Sweet from southern California.

The Walla Walla Sweet is a crunchy bulb with a long history. It has earned its designation as Washington’s official and most famous vegetable.

—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.

This article has appeared previously in the Post Alley News.

IF, IF, IF…

I am reading Alan MacPherson’s Battle Cry of Freedom, Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States, and Elie Wiesel’s Night. In all three, man’s inhumanity to man is at an extreme high—or, rather, an extreme low. In not one of the situations, in the books, it seems, not one person could have ended the brutality. Each leader had support though admittedly in varying degrees.

I begin by referring to these books because lately, more than usual, it seems, much of the inhumanity, cruelty, brutality I see could have been, can be stopped by one person or, at least, two or three persons.

Consider the following:

• A person rings your doorbell—all you know is that his skin color is not the same as yours; you shoot him—twice, first in the head.

• A driver and friends realizing they are lost and choose to turn around in the wrong driveway, your driveway; you come out and shoot, killing one occupant in the car—thankfully not all four occupants.

• A man says he is hungry, thirsty—you put him in a choke hold as two other persons hold the hungry, thirsty man down. The man dies. No one, you included, wanted or expected him to die.

These examples are not new. Others remembered are here:

• An unarmed person is returning home from the store—all you know is that his skin color is different from yours—you FOLLOW him, get into a fight with him; he overpowers you; you shoot and kill him because you were “afraid for your life.”

• A person on a holiday in a hotel goes to your hotel door, bangs on the door expecting a family member to let him in; you shoot through the door killing the vacationer.

• A Japanese exchange student and his American friend are looking for the site of a Halloween party; they ring your doorbell, not noticing the difference in one digit in the address; you shoot and kill the high school student.

• An unarmed man and a man on a scooter have a disagreement—a right on red turn? too close? “typical” road rage?—you the scooter rider shoot FIVE times as the unarmed man is driving away trying to get his nephew to a birthday party.

All these incidents took place. Of course, you are the culprit in none.
I hope we’ll not be distracted phone users, touch the cell while driving, drink while driving, use drugs legal or illegal, prescribed or over the counter while driving. A second could change lives irrevocably; a second could end lives.

I want to believe that not one of us would act as the perpetrator in the instances above. All of this is sickening to many of us, most of us most likely. Yet, because we can get guns so easily, we too often solve differences with guns rather than talking, yelling or fist fighting. Both parties may be bruised or embarrassed, but both walk away. In so many incidents today, a person’s life is unalterably changed; another person or persons are dead, and the lives of those who loved them are changed. Some of us don’t know these people, but we too are changed. John Donne was right: each man’s death diminishes me.

I got on this course because of the death of Parminder Singh and Harpreet Bajwa who were going to pick up their children when a driver crossed into their lane, hitting them head-on. The driver was trying to get his cell phone when he lost control of his car and killed them instantly. The parents were in their thirties; their five and eight-year-olds would be reared by someone else. I have not heard the driver say, “I’m sorry,” but I am guessing he is indeed. You know the essence of my next sentence—the apology will not resurrect the parents. The lives of many are changed because of this one act by a person who wanted only to get his phone. And I am not ignoring the distracted driver. Regardless of what happens, his life is different too. Maybe he will replay the scene. Perhaps he can’t stop thinking “If, if, if…” All the ifs in the world won’t change anything that happened.

Advertisements in the media everywhere ask us not to use our phones while driving. I found ads created as far back as 2013 asking us not to text and drive. Some ads ask us to put our phones in the glove compartment if we know we’ll be tempted to use them. Some authorities say as many as 3,000 persons die each year because of distracted drivers.

Of course, the number of persons who die because of drunk driving far exceeds 3,000. And again, all we must drive while or after drinking. We can take a taxi, Uber, Lyft if we must drink. Knowing how much we have drunk and/or how alcohol affects us is not something we automatically know. We do not have to take a chance. We do not have to alter our lives because we drank.

We may as well add drug addiction to the list. Again, authorities can never know how many accidents are caused because the driver is under the influence of a drug.

There will always be accidents—some that have nothing to do with guns, alcohol, or drugs—but there should never be as many as there are. And if we were more careful, we could solve many problems.

I hope your takeaway from this piece is not to do anything that will hurt or kill others. Our freedom does not give us the right to mar the lives of others.

~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 Leschinews. 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.
“I CHOOSE TO REMEMBER US WHOLE (ALTAR NO 3)”
A Project by Daniel Alexander Jones

On a sunny midday in May, I joined about 50 people for a procession sponsored by Meany Center for the Performing Arts that was part of “I Choose to Remember Us Whole (Altar no 3).” Daniel Alexander Jones, an artist, theatre artist, singer, performance artist, and educator, imagined the idea and invited Seattle artists to collaborate. The title suggests the purpose, healing by reconnecting to unseen forces.

The performance began at the Henry Art Gallery with the artist singing about wholeness, accompanied by Walter Kitundu playing a harp-like instrument. We were encouraged to wear earthy colors: I wore a bright green tee shirt from my Qi Gong class (which turned out to be the perfect prelude to the afternoon). A number of young women dressed in various shades of yellow began to dance. A drumbeat signaled the beginning of the procession. As we passed through some trees the dancers reached for the sky then to the earth. It was a gesture familiar to me from Qigong, receiving positive energy from trees and giving stale energy back to the earth.

“I Choose to Remember Us Whole (Altar no 3)” is a new iteration of a project that Jones created at Cal Arts Center for New Performance called ALTARED STATES which:

“invites participants into an intentional relationship with unseen forces that shape our lived realities, including waves of history, culture, cosmology, and Soul. Altars have traditionally served as meeting places between the material and the numinous, among and across a range of cultures and artistic forms.”

Our invitation to wholeness embraced these forces. “What would it feel like to remember and to be remembered as whole beings? What would change? What would enable wholeness? And what can we do to embrace as whole what now seems irrevocably torn asunder?”

Valerie Curtis-Newton, the head of the Drama Department at UW, greeted us at the “The Wisdom Walk,” in the courtyard of the art building. We were asked to take a prompt, walk a labyrinth and write in a book at the center of the labyrinth in response to the prompt. My prompt was “what do you wish someone had told you when you were five years old?”

Our second stop “Altar to Interdimensional Entanglements” by Afroditi Psarra, a (Multidisciplinary Artist and Associate Professor, UW Digital Arts and Experimental Media DXARTS) intervened in a preexisting public art installation of metal chairs set in open metal structures. Afroditi (who is Greek - Aphrodite, Goddess of Love!) hung knitted fabrics as portals on the scaffolding of the outdoor rooms. Collaborating with AI (!) through prompts such as “black holes” and “warped passage,” she knitted patterns. Each hanging composed a different sound when we stroked the fabric.
Not far away at Leon Finley’s “Altar to the Death of the Sun” we were asked to think for a minute about “what will we become when the sun burns out.” We faced West and spoke our answer out loud.

The fourth destination Altheo Rao’s “Chestful of Whispers” at the UW Farm near the southwest corner of the campus, focused on fertility with history, poetry and planting seeds.

Then the procession wound its way to the end of Rainier Vista for the grand finale: Timothy White Eagle’s “Sacrificer Les Vivants” (sacrifice the living). White Eagle has long experience with ritual performances: we experienced death and resurrection through stories, and actions. Finally, he offered us fireweed tea brewed from the first plant to grow back after a forest fire.

So, we experienced a sequence of rituals that expanded our spiritual and emotional wellbeing. As a mystic, Daniel Alexander Jones seeks to collaborate in our recovery after the shattering events of the pandemic. Instead of presenting his own experience through art, we were expected to be part of the process of exploration.

Until July 9, the Henry Art Gallery is displaying an altar that was the starting point for Altar no 3, a collaboration with several artists from WaNaWari, expanded with parts of the five altars that we visited. You can contribute to this installation by writing about “what would it feel like to remember and to be remembered as whole beings? What would change? What would enable wholeness?”

Fortunately, my Qi Gong practice works with unseen energy (Qi) in our organs, bones, and spirits: a good foundation for a procession to wholeness. I have not achieved wholeness of course, but this event was another step in the process.

~Susan Platt, PhD
www.artandpoliticsnow.com

THEATER AND DANCE OPENINGS

ALL NEW CELLS

The Shattered Glass Project (TSGP) presents the West Coast premiere of All New Cells, written by Aliza Goldstein and directed by Alison Kozar, June 2-18, at Theatre Off Jackson. All New Cells is a powerful story of disconnection and a search for identity contrasting how we live IRL (in real life) and how we present to the online world. Tickets are available at shatteredglassproject.org/all-new-cells-june2023.

SPECTRUM DANCE THEATER PRESENTS TARGETED, JUNE 2-4.

Cornish Playhouse Concept, Choreographer, Direction by Donald Byrd

Targeted completes the “Insidious Trilogy” that began in 2019 with Strange Fruit and Grief in 2022. The Trilogy wonders at Jim Crow, its history, its legacy, its transformation, and its contemporary manifestations. Targeted is an evening-length devised dance/theatre work that premieres in June. The title refers to what appears to be a systematic targeting for the murder of Black people by white supremacists. Driven by “the great replacement theory” (a belief that whiteness is under threat), white supremacists have put in their crosshairs native-born black and brown people, but also non-white immigrants.
SUMMER WINE

Hello and welcome to summertime Leschi! This month’s offerings are bright, fresh, fun and pink! All sorts of ideas for your various gatherings, cookouts, and sunsets. Before we get to the top 12 pink wines for summer, it is important to point out 2 very special Champagnes that arrived late spring, from a very special producer. Limited in supply, unlimited on flavor and complexity.

A special shout out goes to one of our wine stewards, Courtney. Her work and research on tasting notes make it easy for all of us to be better educated in all things wine. Be sure to thank her the next time you enjoy reading a descriptor in the wine aisle!

Finally, let Leschi Market be your one-stop-shop for all of your summer needs. Have a fun and safe summer everyone!

Champagne

**Agrapart 7 Crus Champagne Extra Brut NV $74.99**

Scents of green apple, freshly baked bread, white flowers, and buttery pastry. It's an ample, incisive wine, with racy acids and a saline finish. One of Champagne’s greatest producers. –Wine Advocate, 93-points, 93-points James Suckling, 92-points Wine Spectator

**Agrapart Terriors Blanc de Blancs Champagne Extra Brut NV $87.99**

Creamy and flavorful, yet it remains precise and vertical, with an array of lemons, green apples, pie crust, almonds, hazelnuts, and chalk. Lots of energy, with zesty citrus notes at the end. –James Suckling, 95-points

Rose

**2022 French Pool Toy Rose France $10.29**

Crisp flavors of fresh picked berries with a hint of citrus. A tasty, easy to drink rose in 100% recyclable plastic (even the cap). –Winemaker notes

**2022 Chateau de Campuget Tradition Rose France $10.99**

The Rosé has a nice appearance with a light and fresh pink color. This particularly fruity taste of raspberries and strawberries, typical of the Campuget style, has a good and refreshing acidity. –Winemaker notes

**2022 Rezabal Txakoli Rose $13.99**

We call Txakoli Rezabal Rosé “musical” because there is a good harmony in its sensations. Very fresh on the nose, with notes of wild strawberries. Silky, captivating the palate, with a balanced body. 100% Hondarrabi Beltza. –Winemaker notes

**2022 Ostatu Rosado Rioja $14.99**

Made from Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Viura grapes which come from the highest parts of our vineyards. Intense aroma of red fruits (strawberries, raspberries, currants), some citrus sign (orange peel) and fine minerality. Very fresh and balanced on the palate with nice acidity. –Winemaker notes

**2022 Maris Rose France $14.99**

A subtle and balanced wine, elegant and tasty, floral, and fruity, fresh and round. Wine to drink chilled with friends. Nice minerality that is in balance with the orange and raspberry notes. –Winemaker notes

**2022 Mas de Valeriole Ve Rose Mediterranee $15.99**

“Ve” – a local Provencal expression meaning “Look at that!” – is a blend of 70% Caladoc (a crossing of Grenache and Malbec), 15% Merlot, and 15% Marselan. Offers bright, salt-tinged flavors of raspberry and ripe citrus fruits, with a sneakily long finish given its modest price. –Importer notes

**2022 Lobo Hills Rose Horse Heaven Hills $15.99**

This Cabernet Franc Rosé opens with aromas of raspberries, strawberries, and white pepper, and has lingering flavors of cherries, strawberries, and tea. –Winemaker notes

**2022 Domaine les Mescrances Charmes Rose Mediterranee $16.89**

Classic varieties including Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah and Tibouren comprise this fresh, red-fruited rosé. Pressed shortly after harvest with minimal skin contact, its pale color and bright acid make for an effortlessly drinkable and digestible wine. –Importer notes

**2022 Domaine Annibals Cuvee des Annibals Rose France $18.99**

55% Cinsault, 25% Grenache, 20% Syrah. A bright and elegant pink hue, this dry and fruity wine offers aromas of peach with notes of fresh ripe white fruits and pineapple. Very clear, refreshing and mineral. –Importer notes

**2022 Grosgrain Blush Walla Walla Valley $21.99**

Pale blush hue with aromas of strawberry, ruby red grapefruit, melon, and white flower. Crisp, fresh, and dry with mouthwatering acidity. 86% Grenache/ 14% Carignan. –Winemaker notes

**2022 By. Ott Rose Provence $25.99**

The wine displays a fresh nose redolent of red berries, citrus fruits, and white blossoms. It is luscious and fruity on the palate with a smooth and silky mouth feel. Fresh notes of citrus zest accompany the persistent finish. 58% Grenache, 30% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 2% Mourvèdre. –Importer notes
2022 Domaine du Bagnol Rose Cassis $31.99

No estate expresses the salt-kissed limestone-driven terroir of the idyllic Provençal seaside village of Cassis like Domaine du Bagnol. A rosé of scintillating energy and gleaming red fruits. 50% Grenache, 30% Cinsault, and 20% Mourvèdre, with gorgeous purity of texture and intense evocation of limestone soil. —Importer notes

-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.

THE LOST LESCHI BURGER

I love a tasty burger. Here in the Leschi area, we’re fortunate enough to be the beneficiaries of a number of high quality ones. From the BluWater to Daniel’s and Meet the Moon to Heyday. We’re doing it right, and this is something we ought to appreciate. We tend to think of the hamburger as originating in classic mid-century Americana, and so it is interesting to me that our local history with burgers in Leschi may go back quite a bit farther than we might have thought.

A few years ago, I was cleaning out a closet in my house. Now, it’s an old house, perhaps one of the first in the area, built prior to 1900. It’s been cobbled together over the years in a number of shall we say “novel” ways. There was a shelf at the top of the closet, which viewed from the bottom appeared to be just a run-of-the-mill wood plank. However, once I got up onto my stepladder and finished removing all the clutter that was up there, I was shocked to discover what appeared to be a sign.

It had clearly been there for a long time. There’s some lore in the family that at one point, shortly after getting married in 1919, my great grandmother, former Leschi resident Trudy Ward and her newlywed husband Charles, attempted to make a go of it selling hamburgers. Up to this point, we had no particular evidence of this enterprise; only a story from a relative who has since passed. But here in front of me was a physical remnant of that time. And I have to tell you that it was exciting to see. What I’d really like to know is what this establishment was like. Was it just a hamburger stand? Where was it located? And most importantly, what did these burgers taste like? Because I want one! The sign currently remains part of this closet; however, it has been suggested that the artifact might be better located in a museum. If one is so interested, and we can suitably patch up the closet shelf so that it remains functional, that would probably serve everybody’s best interests. If you happen to have any information about Ward’s Hamburger Specialists, our lost Leschi hamburger establishment, please contact the Leschi News so we can consume the rest of this tasty mystery.

My Top Seattle Burgers:

✓ Heyday—located just next door in the Mount Baker neighborhood, right on the edge of Leschi. The BYOB is great. While it’s a bit pricey to put everything together, you will not be disappointed in the result. Everything this restaurant does is done correctly. (10/10)

✓ Yard House—Another favorite. This is a gourmet burger, and it is delicious and particularly juicy. Order it medium rare. You will want to eat here every day. (9/10)

✓ Nordstrom Grill—Go to the one Downtown. There’s something special about eating here. The burger is delicious and for some reason you’ll feel like it’s 1940. (8/10)

✓ Dick’s Drive-In—While not a gourmet burger per se as the others presented here, I would be remiss if I wrote about burgers in Seattle and didn’t mention Dick’s. This place is great. The Dick’s Deluxe is the way to go. It’s cheap, delicious, and my gosh order some fries to go with! (10/10, in its own league)

-Brian Ward, Leschi resident

Editor’s note: Brian always orders a cheeseburger in his search for perfection as he is then comparing apples with apples!
LESCHI CC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 5/9/23

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

Leschi News

• May submittal deadline is May 22
• No issues in July and August; events will be sent to Ashley for her monthly email.

Board Business

• Committee Report
  ◦ Public Safety Committee
    – Next meeting will be later in May and will be a virtual meeting.
    – Best public safety practices and Night Out are a couple of items the committee will focus on.
  ◦ Parks and Open Space Committee
    – Leschi Park and Schulman Memorial
      • Discussed forming a working steering committee.
      • Will need to work with LCC Executive Board to share the draft plan with the community when the time comes.
    – Powell Barnett Park
      • One Seattle Day of Service at the park is scheduled for May 20th.
      • Community members are encouraged to participate.
    – South Leschi Moorage
      • Further discussion on the status of public access moved to July’s meeting.
      • Ashley and Yun will connect with Darrell for information/documentation on the moorage.
  ◦ ArtWalk Committee
    – The committee meets every other week. Next meeting is on May 11th at 3pm at Bluwater.
    – Artwalk vendor application will be available online soon.
    – Discussed Vendor recruitment strategies.
  ◦ Treasurer report
    – Expenses exceeded income for the first 4 months of the year.
    – LCC should be in good shape for the 2nd half, because advertising revenue is usually more in the 2nd half of the year.
    – SW Frink Park restricted fund project will close out soon.
    – Membership dues and ad revenue. LCC executive committee discussed the topic and decided to continue the conversation at the June Executive meeting.

• New Business
  ◦ CANDC June Meeting
    – CANDC plans to host District 3 Candidates Forum in June. CANDC asked Leschi CC to help with event logistics and outreach.

– 6 members voted yes and 1 member abstained from the request.
– Event will be held at Grace Methodist Church
– Date and Time to be confirmed by Diane S.
  ◦ Leschi Star Award
    – Awardees to be recognized in Leschinews.
  ◦ Leschi boundary expansion
    – Matthias to connect and advise Roger on the boundary expansion proposal.
  ◦ Revised Bylaws status
    – Janice is still waiting for the response from the State.
  ◦ Marina Fee
    – Ashley emailed the resident and let him know LCC has received his email. LCC needs additional information on this topic.
  ◦ LCC Executive Agenda
    – Future agendas will include Old Business category which will cover unresolved agenda items.

Respectfully submitted by Yun Pitre

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Certificate of Deposit

Respectfully submitted by Yun Pitre

Certificate of Deposit $5,37 $11,257.92
Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!
We create awareness of neighborhood issues so residents may make informed and effective decisions.
LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular
LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary
LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways
LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)
LCC supports the Leschi Business Association, Leschi Elementary School and the Central Area Senior Center
LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

Name____________________________________ Phone____________________
Address______________________________________________________________
City_________________ State____ Zip________ Email_______________________

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

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

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

Leschi Community Council
140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2
Seattle WA 98122-6538
Address Service Requested

Leschi News advertising rates:
business card, $35; 1/4 page, $70;
1/2 page, $140. Contact Diane Snell
at 206-726-0923 to advertise to
your community.

The next Leschi News deadline is AUGUST 21. 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

JUNE CALENDAR

» June 7
Leschi CC meeting moved to June 27
for a candidate forum.

» June 11, 11:30am-2pm
Furry5K run You and your
dog Seward Park

» June 13, 6pm
Leschi CC Board meeting

» June 16
Green Dolphin at Senior Center
features Brandon Willis, saxophonist.

» June 17 and 18
Fremont Parade (2pm Sat.) and Fair

» June 18, 10-12pm
Litter brigade at Pratt Park; tools and
refreshments provided.

» June 18, 11am-3pm
Juneteenth Celebration at Rainier
Beach Community Center

» June 27, 6pm
DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE
FORUM (see cover)

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