

leschinews

January 2023 Issue No. 398

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

ZOOM MEETING in JANUARY

January 4 at 7pm

Although we usually don't have a meeting in January, preferring to let you slowly recover from the excitement of all the Holidays, this year we must vote on our new Constitution/ Bylaws to approve and send on to the state. This should be a short meeting; the document was presented in November and posted on the website. We will have it on the website if you wish to review it again before the vote. Anyone with any proposed amendments should have those ready to present and send a copy to our secretary, Yun Pitre: yun.pitre@comcast.net.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK COVER

inside the news

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING
FEB 1 AT 7PM
@ GRACE METHODIST CHURCH**

President's Message

Hello Fellow Leschi Residents,

As I sit writing this, we had huge, snowflakes quickly fall from the sky this morning. My newer adopted cat, Maze, was fascinated watching the flakes fall and didn't quite know what to think.

We are rolling into 2023 filled with promise, opportunities to be of help and to bring in a new set of promises to deliver to ourselves on January 1st; better known as resolutions. How long will you keep yours?



Our January meeting will be via Zoom, as the members vote on the consolidated Constitution of the Leschi Community Council and the By-Laws updated to be in compliance with new requirements passed in 2021. The majority of that change included lots of inclusionary language to remind all of us that we all matter.



Photo credit: Janice Brown.

In February we will once again meet in our temporary location at the Grace Methodist Church on 30th Ave. S., one block south of the CASC on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. We held our Holiday Party there and it was a lovely, warm environment.

February we will be working on the safety with presenters from SPD to discuss precautions we can take, information on crime statistics and lots of emergency preparedness.

We are planning meetings filled with concerns, issues and creative examples of our artistic community. We will be announcing new and revised committees and encourage you to participate in any way you are able.

Here's to 2023!

Warm regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

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

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and visit our website: leschinews.com

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Is Social Housing the Solution?

Recently I was listening to my favorite local commentator, Maria Tomchik, as she was talking about the dilemma of homelessness. She said the estimated number of homeless persons in the Seattle/King County area is 23,000. I found that number shocking! I immediately thought that sounded like the population of a small town and how would we do that? Ever curious, I turned to Google and found that the population of a small town is considered to be about 5000. That sounds even worse; we need to find housing for 4 ½ small towns? Where?

Enter Initiative 135 on Social Housing with a new (to us) housing proposal: "An initiative to create the Seattle Social Housing Developer to develop, own, and maintain social housing for all of the workforce and communities in Seattle. Existing affordable housing is limited by the market tools they have been given. We need varying and multifaceted strategies to continue building affordable housing. Social housing will work in tandem with non-profit and federally funded housing developments to pull more housing off of the private market."

Mission and Goals of the Seattle Social Housing Public Developer. The housing...

- Will be **public forever**, owned exclusively by the Public Developer and governed by renters, community members, labor, and subject matter professionals
- Will include a robust **mixture of income** levels from very low to moderate income
- Will have rental rates that are **permanently affordable** and not based on what the market dictates
- Will provide **restorative conflict resolution** prior to the start of any eviction procedures, and ban evictions based on changes to household income
- New developments will be built to **Passive House** standards.
- Should use union labor and establish **labor harmony agreements**

- Should use a lottery-based, **minimal barrier**, no-fee or background check application process which doesn't discriminate based on immigration status
- Should charge **less than 30%** of a renters' monthly income in rent
- Should meet **green-building standards** for rehabilitating acquired buildings
- Should include daycares, communal kitchens and/or other **community resources**

Social Housing has been in Singapore and Vienna for the past 100 years and works well. I have never been to Singapore, but I have seen these buildings in Vienna, and they are well kept and have been built to ensure that tenants have "light, air and sunshine." Vienna has many parks for outside activities, and it is common to stroll in the market area and window shop in the evenings.

Any increase in density will be new to us as we have been brought up on the single-family home with yard ideal. But realistically, how else could we find space to house 23,000 persons? I am fond of my own single-family home but if I am honest about it, there is a considerable time commitment to consider in keeping up a house and a yard. Could time have been better spent in taking the children to the park, in helping with homework rather than mow the lawn?

I would encourage everyone to read the entire initiative (which can be found online; Google Initiative 135) as it is well designed. It eliminates that 10 year reversal for low income housing to revert to the market; it ensures reasonable increases not related to the market and it does address the "missing middle." We just need to replace that single-family home dream with the mission found in the European Social Charter: "**The right to housing is a human right** (Articles 16 and 31 of the European Social Charter)."

-Diane Snell

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Neighborhood and Beyond



Photo credit: Janice Brown.

LCC 2022 HOLIDAY PARTY

Fifteen LCC members met at Grace Methodist Church for a low-key version of past Holiday parties. It is difficult to get musicians since COVID and we are grateful to long time LCC member David Miles for playing seasonal favorites on his accordion. The planned sing-along did not happen! I am usually the outlier who can't sing at such gatherings, but there were other looks of horror at the thought of exposing one's voice to the community!

We shared cookies and other nibbles and there were many earnest conversations across the room.

This was our first time at Grace Methodist and interestingly enough, we were going back to our roots as Powell Barnett and his group of activists formed the LCC during meetings at Grace!

Thanks to all who came and a special thanks to Leschi Market for sparkling juices to imbibe!

—Diane Snell

PANDEMIC NOT OVER IN THE NW

Maybe the other Washington has a special shield that is keeping it safe from Covid, but the King County Health Department does not feel that it is over here yet. Dr. Jeff Duchin is recommending that we wear masks indoors and be sure to remain current on vaccinations. The Flu seems particularly problematic this year, but the available vaccine is quite effective.

The flu is most dangerous for:

- Children under 5 years (especially under 2).
- Adults 65 years or older.
- Those who are pregnant.
- Anyone living with a health condition like asthma, diabetes or heart disease.

Before attending any large holiday gatherings, test yourself for signs of Covid and suggest that other guests test as well. This worked well at our large Thanksgiving gathering.

—Compiled from the King County Public Bulletin

LESCHI'S LEADER: THURSTON D. MUSKELLY

I can't recall the first time I met Thurston—or even the issue or organization that we had in common at the time—but I do recall the passion that he held for everything community-related. Thurston presided over the Leschi Community Council for many years (at least three terms as I recall) at a time when Leschi was experiencing a rebirth of some of its public spaces and a growing number of development projects. He always led with a sense of openness and purpose. He was on the leadership team of the Central Area Senior Center during its time of transition from a government-run organization to its own non-profit. And he chaired the board of the Central Area Development Association during the Central Area's development explosion. Thurston was supported in all his endeavors by his loving wife Joyce who was also one of Leschi's best-ever bakers! Thurston broke his hip in 2019 and has been living in Madison Park at Parkshore Retirement Community since then. During that time, several of us met Thurston weekly—via Zoom—and discussed everything from local to international news. It was a highlight for all of us. And he treasures the *Leschi News*!

In December, to Thurston's great delight, he returned to his beloved home of over 50 years on 29th Avenue South where he is living today. Thurston continues to be a mentor and role model and I am honored to be his friend.

—Karen Daubert

FAME IS FLEETING

We recently observed the 60th anniversary of Richard Nixon's "last press conference," when the defeated candidate for governor of California announced, "You will no longer have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore." Of course, as those of us who have been around a while know only too well, it didn't work out that way.

Thirty years ago, to mark the anniversary, a local disk jockey asked 100 Seattleites to identify Nixon. Only eleven of fifty Leschi School fourth- and fifth-graders had heard of him. Two knew he was a former president. Others guessed he was a garbage man, singer, school principal, or DJ.

The fifty adults did better. Thirty said he was “a jerk,” ten said he “lied about something,” five thought he had “something to do with Watergate,” and five said he “stole some tape.”

From *Seattle Times* archives.

-Submitted by Roger Lippman, who is grateful that we no longer have Nixon to kick us around anymore.

GROUND BROKEN ON 86 AFFORDABLE UNITS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT



The project is adjacent to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Rendering by Runberg Architecture Group.

LIHI and project partner the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd have broken ground on a new affordable housing project on two parcels of land owned by the church at 1415 and 1419 22nd Ave.

When the new seven-story building, called Good Shepard Housing, is complete it will have 86 units with 18 studio apartments for low-wage workers, 66 small efficiency dwelling units for the formerly homeless and one manager's unit. A building manager's office and parking for nine vehicles is also planned.

The ground level of the building will house a separate three-bedroom unit, with its own private entrance, to be occupied by the church's minister. The project is being built adjacent to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd which has occupied its building at 2116 E. Union St. since 1951. It will also rise in an area surrounded by new developments that include Lake Union Partners' East Union apartments, which opened in 2020, and the 432-unit Midtown Square which opened in 2021.

Walsh Construction Co. is the general contractor for Good Shepard Housing. Runberg Architecture Group is the architect. The project team also includes 4EA Building Science. A single-family home, built in the 1950s, was removed from the parcel at 1415 22nd Ave. to make way for the new development this fall.

This project is the result of a years-long relationship between the church and LIHI. 1419 22nd Ave. was the location of LIHI's first tiny house village which opened there in 2015 and operated until 2020. “We value this partnership with the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. We applaud the Church for leasing their land long-term to LIHI to create permanently affordable housing for vulnerable people who are unhoused or cost burdened. We are blessed with their compassionate leadership as other churches have sold their land to for-profit developers instead,” Sharon Lee, director of LIHI, said in a press release.

The project was first announced in August and is projected to be completed in spring 2024. It is made possible through an ordinance, adopted in June 2021, that provides development bonuses for affordable housing on property owned by religious organizations. The ordinance allows additional height and floor area to create a greater number of homes if all housing created on the site is affordable to households earning up to 80% of area median income for at least 50 years. The project is funded with the aid of an \$8.2 million grant from the city of Seattle's Office of Housing. Additional funders include Enterprise, Heritage Bank, State of Washington Housing Trust, Federal Home Loan Bank and Wyncote Foundation NW.

-From The Daily Journal of Commerce submitted by LIHI



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THE 2022 LESCHI ELEMENTARY GIVING GARLAND, SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY...THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

The Leschi Elementary Giving Garland, a charitable program, is in its 13th year of supporting families in need of help during the winter months and holidays. On behalf of the families who received help, we extend a tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who gave so generously and willingly!

This year the Giving Garland supported over 60 families with more than 120 children, celebrating the holidays with toys, bikes, books, games, clothing, bedding, diapers, car seats, groceries, warm winter outerwear and more. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school, greater Leschi and surrounding neighborhood communities, we were able to distribute more than \$12,000 in gift cards for specific gifts, groceries, and clothing as well as approximately 700 gifts! THANK YOU!!!!

Your generosity made a huge difference in so many lives...

"Thank you so much—S is going to be so happy when he sees and gets to use his bike! Wishing everyone who helped us a very happy holiday."

"Thank you, guys, so much. We are truly thankful for all the help, you can't really know how much it means."



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"He never gets jackets that fit—my [teenage] son will be so happy, we appreciate you more than I can say."

A special thank you for making it all come together to Katie Busby, Jennifer Marquardt, the Broadmoor Golf Club (Thomas Kollasch, Sheri Henderson and Lou Peterson), Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, the Leschi Community Council, the Hotes Foundation, generous anonymous donors, and all of the GG volunteers.

-Jennifer Marquardt

FRIENDS OF STREETEND YEAR IN REVIEW

We are especially proud of our NEW street end projects which were 100% volunteer-driven!

South Atlantic Street, located in the Mt. Baker neighborhood was led by neighbors Kate Winton and John Baldwin. Formerly inundated by atrocious bamboo and blackberry, Kate and John spent weeks digging and pulling—resulting in an incredible view and access site on Lake Washington. Next steps are completion of a landscaping plan, continued vigilance regarding the bamboo, and new plantings.

South Massachusetts Street, located in the Mt. Baker neighborhood was led by volunteer Daniel Collins. It had been used as a private garden by adjacent property owners before Daniel completed the design, handled the permitting, and oversaw volunteers who worked throughout the year to manage the invasive plants and weeds and replacement with native plants.

In addition, Friends of Street Ends members worked with the city on several projects:

E Martin Street aka Good Turn Park in the Eastlake Community was led by Detra Segar as it is maintained by volunteers and as SDOT improves the drainage and parking.

E Harrison St in the Denny Blaine neighborhood is being redesigned under the leadership of Libby Sinclair who oversaw the challenging planning, design and permitting this year.

E Hamlin Street in the Montlake neighborhood was the site of a hard-working group of Girls Scouts who are maintaining this special street end.

E Prospect Street in the Madison Park neighborhood is being led by Octavia Chambliss who has a team of volunteers working to maintain and enhance this important project and Gene Brandzel's legacy.

E Pine, S Dearborn, King, Charles, Norman, and Judkins Streets, along Lake Washington, are stewarded by several volunteers with help from SDOT's Urban Forestry team.

Finally, we worked closely with Seattle Department of Transportation's Shoreline Street End Manager, Omar Akkari, who throughout this year continued to support community efforts, oversee maintenance work and juggle dozens of projects throughout the city.

It was a very productive year! We are grateful for the support of dozens of volunteers and supporters. Thank you!

Please support this effort by donating online (Friends of Street Ends) or by sending your donations to Friends of Street Ends, c/o Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Avenue, Suite A #2, Seattle, 98122.

—Karen Daubert

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

On the Friday before the Friday before Christmas, the Christmas ships serenaded us from Lake Washington as we huddled around an illegal bonfire on Madrona beach. It was a festive family occasion, followed by dinner at the ever-friendly Bluwater Bistro (huddling optional but encouraged).

As I watched the twinkling flotilla from our lake-view booth, I remembered a Cole Porter song made famous by Frank Sinatra. Though perhaps not strictly seasonal, it resonated with the occasion:

*Who wants to be a millionaire?
Have fancy flunkies everywhere
Who wants to live on a lake-side estate
A lake-side estate?
Well, that would be great!*

Our bonfire was fun, dinner delicious and the company convivial.

As we remember this holiday season, let's not forget those less fortunate than us, unable to enjoy family, food and festivities.

—Malcolm Harker

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI: MOTORBOAT RACING IN LESCHI (PART 2)

“What is truly chilling is that there are a lot of smart people interested in sports,” said Fran Lebowitz. “That just gives you no hope at all for the human race.”

She may have been onto something, but I'm not entirely on board with that sentiment, especially when it comes to hydroplane racing. And particularly when there is a Leschi angle, which we continue to explore this month.

In early August 1951, as the hydroplane races began on the oval three-mile course that stretched from just south of the floating bridge most of the way to Seward Park, the boats jockeyed for position near the bridge as they headed for the starting line. The fans were taken aback that Seattle's team, the two *Slo-mo-shun* boats, were nowhere to be seen—until they came zooming in, straight out of Leschi, under the bridge, passing the slow-churning gaggle of Detroiters. *Slo-mo IV* went inside, and *Slo-mo V* went to the outside, hitting the line just as the starting gun fired and pulling away from the rest of the fleet. This “flying start,” sometimes joined by other boats, continued to 1955, when it was banned by racing authorities.

The master of the flying start, *Slo-mo-shun V* driver Lou Fageol, was later involved in the most spectacular accident of the era on Lake Washington. During the 1955 time trials, he was roaring up the backstretch when the boat caught a gust



"Slo-mo-shun V" hurries out of Leschi, under the spectators crowded on the Floating Bridge, for a flying start. Photo courtesy of the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum, Roger Newton Collection, Kent, WA.

of wind, lifted up, and did a complete somersault in the air. Fearing the worst, Fageol bailed mid-flight. At more than 140 miles per hour, he executed a perfect dive into the lake, entering the water headfirst with his arms stretched out ahead of him. He survived, but with serious injuries that ended his racing career.

The Sayres team dominated racing in Seattle up to 1956, by which time both boats had been destroyed in racing accidents. In that period, there were estimates that hundreds of thousands of people came to the races each year.

Here I'm going to stretch the neighborhood boundaries a bit—just by a block or so, and I hope our Mt. Baker neighbors will forgive me for poaching a good story. During the 1954 race, Detroit-based *Gale IV*, coming out of the north turn to start heat 2, experienced a steering failure and headed straight for the shoreline. The boat leaped a short concrete bulkhead and landed in the midst of a rose garden where the family of Dr. Forest Black was hosting a race-watching party. No one was injured. After the boat came to a stop, Dr. Black came to the driver, Bill Cantrell, and asked if he had an invitation to the party. Replying that it was all a big mistake, Cantrell climbed out of the boat, brushed himself off, and somehow found his way back to the Mt. Baker pit area.

How did *Gale IV* happen to lose its steering control? This was an opportunity for Seattle fans to indulge in schadenfreude. *Gale IV* and its stablemate, *Gale V*, had almost identical paint jobs. The most identifiable distinction, from the rear, was that one of them had its rudder mounted to the left of the propeller, and on the other boat the rudder was on the right. In an attempt to confuse the Seattle team, the *Gale* crew swapped rudder sides on both boats just before the race. Unfortunately for the team, though, they failed to properly secure the *Gale IV*'s rudder, and it worked its way loose by the beginning of the second heat.

—Roger Lippman

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

We are pleased to add another historian, Junius Rochester, to our contributing writers.

THE MYSTERIOUS OLYMPICS AND THE CHRISTIE EXPEDITION

Among the candidates for “the last American untamed wildernesses” are the Florida Everglades, most of Alaska, and our own snowy Olympic Mountains. Tourists and adventurers now frequently roam these natural wonders, sometimes with the help of professional guides and semi-luxurious accommodations. The first Euro-American winter investigation of the Olympics was supported by the *Seattle Press*, forerunner of *The Seattle Times*.

The idea for this great adventure came from a grizzled Scot and local mountain man named J. H. Christie. He threw down the challenge in a letter to the *Seattle Press* describing his background: plenty of experience as a hunter and explorer, an owner of good health and high spirits. Perhaps to Christie’s surprise, the newspaper responded positively, paying for his adventure with the assurance that the paper had an exclusive about what many Natives described as the home of the “bird god.” Former Washington Territorial Gov. Eugene Semple once described the snow-capped peninsula as a “land of mystery, awe-inspiring in its mighty constituents.”

For six months Christie and five other sourdoughs clambered, slid, fell, and hiked through the center of the Olympic Peninsula. Their journey began along the banks of the Elwha River near Port Angeles, ending at the wild rapids of the Quinault River, north of Grays Harbor.

Two mules and three dogs accompanied the party. One man turned back, one dog was lost, and the two mules fell to their deaths. The party suffered frostbite, near drowning, dysentery, and semi-starvation. When matters appeared desperate, the bounty of the inner peninsula miraculously provided. Christie later wrote that one night they feasted on “elk tenderloin . . . flanked by Crumb’s bread.” Later they found a bear, drank its melted grease to relieve their dysentery spells, and gorged on river trout, salmon, fowl, berries, and legumes.

After six months the wild-looking party emerged near the Pacific coast. Local citizens stared in amazement at the rumped party, listening intently to their tales of adventure. Christie wired the Press for \$125 return fare from Aberdeen back to Seattle.

The Press had its’ story, and the explorers disappeared into history. There was a strange coda: almost 50 years after the expedition, Robert L. Wood of the Mountaineers tracked down old man Christie who was living in a log cabin in Vernon, British Columbia. The octogenarian adventurer, after a lifetime of prowling peaks and valleys throughout western lands, couldn’t remember details of the Olympic crossing—the first by a party of white men.

Christie Peak and Press Valley remain as monuments to the Christie/Press Expedition, alongside Goblins Gate, Flypaper Pass, Lunch Rocks, Pluto’s Gulch, and other lyrical monikers in one of America’s last wildernesses.

In the 1970s, after reading Robert Wood’s book, I suggested to a friend that we hike the Press Expedition trail, using notes and data described by Wood. My experienced hiking friend, Dave Haley, drew up a day-by-day outline of our proposed trip,

including appropriate trail food and equipment. With the good wishes of friends and family, we entered the Elwha River Valley, emerging ten days later at shimmering Lake Quinault. Our adventure, based on the raw notes and newspaper descriptions of J. H. Christie’s 1889 trek, remains the most exciting and challenging outdoor adventure of my life.

—Junius Rochester

Junius Rochester, author of the Last Electric Trolley and contributor to the Post Alley News, is a NW historian.

FACING CHALLENGES IN 2023

Happy New Year! As much as I wish this for everyone everywhere, I am less hopeful than I have been that such will be the case. Countless examples make me feel as I do. Having recently celebrated my December birthday, I can’t avoid thinking I have expected more and better from us humans than so many of us display. Only the word length of the column controls the amount of commenting.

Wars continue. The spotlight is on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine; naked aggression some call it. But wars rage in many places around the globe. Syria and Yemen come to mind. Several countries in Africa are embroiled in war.

Other countries are not officially at war, but citizens are being killed as they protest government rules. Afghanistan and Iran are on this list.

With wars and conflicts and skirmishes come displacement of persons, homelessness. Some sources say approximately 90,000,000 persons have been forced to flee their homes. Most Americans know there are thousands of persons, sometimes risking death, as they attempt to enter the United States via Mexico. Countless know about Afghans, those who escaped and those who are trying to escape since the US withdrew. Many persons are trying their best to escape terrorism and persecution. Climate change has become a more obvious cause forcing people to leave their homes. Quite often these people are marginalized, have always been marginalized. Now, they have lost the little they had. In most of the situations cited, people will suffer more rather than less. Many people spend years trying to get asylum in the United States. Despite the Statue of Liberty, many Americans fear the newcomers will rob them of their dreams, so they do little to help and sometimes protest our government providing any service.

Environmental disasters deserve a category. Climate change comes to mind first. Its effect is global though it does not affect all of us at the same rate nor the same way. Glaciers are melting; rivers are drying up; whales beach themselves; fish suffocate. Even the butterfly migration is getting smaller! People are not excluded, and most affected are often peoples who have contributed the least to the problem. It is the so-called “developed” countries—yes, the US is in this group—that are primarily responsible for the carbon emissions and rising of the earth’s temperature.

Coronavirus is yet another danger. It has left an indelible mark on the world. At this writing 6,666,801 persons are listed as having died from COVID; in the United States 1,112,797 have died, and there are 101,714,157 cases of the dreaded disease; 98,769,378 patients have recovered. We know these figures are incorrect for a variety of reasons—some persons

died before the disease was diagnosed; some of the dead were diagnosed incorrectly; now that we have the vaccine, some persons get the disease without knowing or reporting it. Though we can never be certain of the number of deaths nor cases, we know many persons in many places have suffered the effects of COVID. We know we will never again return to “normal.” The situation is worsened in the United States because we had the vaccine, distributed it free, and yet large numbers of Americans refuse get the vaccines. Some recent studies show that though the disease killed Republicans and Democrats at approximately the same rate in December 2020, more Republicans than Democrats have died since the advent of the vaccine. Millions of persons for a plethora of reasons will not get vaccinated. Some details can be found at these sites: <https://news.yahoo.com/almost-twice-many-republicans-democrats-175245935.html> and <https://fox59.com/news/national-world/gap-between-covid-deaths-in-republican-vs-democrat-counties-larger-than-ever/>. The Center for Disease Control is asking us to get the vaccinations and wear masks indoors. Some countries do not have the vaccine. Now scientists know there is “long-haul” COVID. The disease lingers in some bodies and may do so for years.

Each of the problems above affects the US to a lesser degree. Here as many as one-half million persons are considered homeless! Again, there is no definite way of counting these persons. There are couch surfers and persons who live in vehicles. We do know that many people spend years on lists as they wait for public housing. One organization’s recording said no housing is available and there would be no housing for at least three years, so “do not leave a message.” This malady crosses all ages.

Many of those unhoused are persons who are mentally challenged. The police and social workers, the courts often have no place to house the mentally ill though they know a person hospital would be more beneficial than a jail. How serious is the problem when the county sues the Department of Social and Health Services for not providing proper care?

The mentally ill play a role in one of the greatest problems in our country: guns. With more mass murders than any other developed country, the US has some of the laxest laws relating to guns. When other countries had a mass killing, they acted quickly to change their laws and immediately solved the problem. According to the May 25th New York Times, Britain banned semi-automatic weapons and handguns, and Australia held mandatory gun buybacks. However, the US ban on assault weapons (1994) lasted a mere ten years because George Bush allowed it to expire (2004). We have not had a Congress with enough persons to vote to pass a law to ban the weapons permanently. Manufacturers and gun owners have a larger voice than the 75%—depending on the poll—who argue for stricter laws. (Brady United Against Gun Violence says 97% of us support expanding background checks.)

One other major problem makes this list although some of you may not put it in the same category as the previously listed reasons interrupting my happiness: voting. Georgia is a great example. The last election in Georgia contains, I hope, more problems than most states, but similar and worse problems can be found in some of the other states. With aid from the Supreme Court, Georgia as well as some other states, passed laws that made voting more difficult for some voters, especially those Black and poor.

Thanks to the Brennan Center, documents show “that between 2014 and 2016, states removed almost 16 million voters from the rolls—a 33 percent increase over the period between 2006 and 2008.” 16,000,000! Few persons, Eric Holder one of them, called the moves foul. Some people learned they were not on the roll when they attempted to vote. Different states have different rules for provisional ballots; the votes are not always counted. As many as 100,000 (CNN) persons were purged from the Georgia rolls. The American Civil Liberties Union and Greg Palast say as many as 200,000 persons were removed. Georgia changed the number of drop boxes—330 fewer! Although there were other changes, these show the disenfranchisement of some voters. How many other states changed the rules after the 2020 election? Gerrymandering poisons the voting results. In a great democracy, all citizens vote. Whatever can be done to help citizens exercise the vote should be done. If all citizens do not have the right to vote, the elections will be flawed.

Just think how much could possibly be changed for the better if all eligible voters voted! Candidates who truly represent us would be elected. My hope would be increased. All of us could have a better 2023.

~Georgia S. McDade, Ph. D.

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.



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Culture Corner

MYGRATION: TOMAS COLBENGTON AND STINA FOLKEBRANT

"Mygration" at the National Nordic Museum (2655 NW Market St); 10am–5pm Tuesday to Sunday; runs until March 5; Admission \$20

Did you know that Rudolf, the celebrity reindeer of Santa's sleigh would have to be a female. Male reindeer shed their antlers in the winter. This is one of the many surprising facts I have learned in order to understand "Mygration" a new exhibition at the Nordic Museum.

"Mygration" addresses a strange plan hatched in the late 19th century to bring 100s of reindeer and Sámi herders from what was then called Lapland to Alaska in order to "civilize" Native tribes there (then called Eskimos, now, Inuit and Yupik). It was the misguided plan of Sheldon Jackson, General Agent of Education in Alaska. He spread the idea that Alaskan Natives were starving. He had first tried to bring in a much smaller number of reindeer and herders from Siberia in 1893, across the Bering Straits, a much shorter trip!

In 1898 he declared, as the Alaska Gold Rush was at its peak, that the Gold Miners were starving, as a ploy to raise money. The Gold Miners were devastating the environment and the local food gathering practices, but no one was starving.

Jackson's real agenda was actually part of the late 19th century efforts to "civilize" and assimilate Native peoples—in this case the Alaskan natives, who had not been touched by the boarding school and other policies in the lower 48 states.

Like the Alaskan natives, the Reindeer were also to be domesticated, to be used as draught animals as well as providing food.

The expedition had the dramatic title of the "Lapland-Yukon Relief Expedition." It began with 87 Lapps (now called Sámi), some Fins and Swedes and 530 reindeer.

By the time they reached Seattle many of the reindeer died of starvation because their diet of lichen was not available.

The first gallery features several photos of the Sámi by Anders Beer Wilse taken when the expedition stopped in Seattle. In a group photo we see about twenty herders (it isn't clear if that was all that survived), along with their families, including very young children.



Installation, "Mygration" Tomas Colbengton screen prints on polycarbonate glass, c.6 feet by 2 feet and Stina Folkebrant, acrylic on canvas, c.10 feet x 15 feet

The herders stand out in their distinctive crown-like hats and clothing made of reindeer hide.

The larger gallery surrounds us with life size paintings of reindeer in shades of gray by Stina Folkebrant. Her focus is the relationships of animals and humans and here indeed we feel that we are wandering in a field of reindeer.

But climate change is affecting the age old cycle of seasons. As the artist told me on email:

Climate change affects the reindeer herding because the winters are warmer and the snow melts and then it gets really cold and the ice prevents the reindeer from eating so they starve and die. The seasons are changing and that's a problem also when the reindeers are giving birth to calves in springtime. If its too cold they die.

Hanging from the ceiling in the center of the gallery is a circle of transparent plexiglass panels as well as one panel with a mirror in the center. Tomas Colbengton transferred Sámi

photographs onto the plexiglass. As the panels turn in the air, the Sámi seem to gently herd the life size reindeer in the paintings. We are also reflected in the mirror in the center and become part of the movement.

The artists state that they are evoking the Sámi concept of herd mentality: Reindeer are herd animals and being together offers protection from danger. The whole herd becomes a single organism with a thousand eyes that can detect danger; if one turns around, the others follow. People are also herd animals; they want a sense of belonging.

The story of the Sámi and the reindeer in Alaska follows many twists and turns, with various odd power plays, including being taken over by a Gold Rush family, but in 1937 the Alaska indigenous people were given ownership of the herds from the Sámi. Alaska natives mostly didn't like herding which required them to be away from home for months at a time, although one woman was famous for her success. They let them go to join their caribou cousins. In other words instead of assimilation to white man's ways, they assimilated the reindeer to their own habitat.

Some Sámi stayed in Alaska and intermarried with the Indigenous people. They are still very much part of Alaska today.

"Mygration" is a celebration. As the moving plexiglass images of the Sámi intersect with the reindeer paintings, the installation perfectly conveys the magic of nomadic herders of reindeer.

-Susan Platt, PhD

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

ARTIST CALENDARS

I like to use a wall calendar to keep on top of important dates, like Leschi News deadlines, and I have found my favorite calendars tend to be those that feature artists' work. One of my favorite artists, Molly Hashimoto, has a 2023 calendar of birds by Pomegranate Press. Twelve of Molly's birds grace the months of the year in a calendar approximately 12x13 inches. (Note: All of Pomegranate's calendars are printed with soy-based inks on environmentally sourced paper.) The calendars are available through Amazon for \$15.99.

Another beautiful 2023 calendar is the Birds and Botanicals calendar illustrated by Janis Howes, one of our ArtWalk vendors. Janis missed this year's event as it occurred the same day she was receiving an award in Edmonds for her poster which was the prize winner for an arts event in Edmonds. This is a smaller calendar (width 5 ¾ inches; height 8 ¼ inches) for those with limited space, but its colorful illustrations will brighten any work space. The calendar is available from Etsy for \$20 (includes tax and shipping). Visit janishowesillustration.com for more art and a link to Etsy.

-Diane Snell



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Seeking Sustenance...

BEST WINE OF 2022

Happy New Year Leschi! Before we move forward with resolutions, wishes and hopes for the new year, let's reflect for just a bit on 2022. We saw the return of Seafair and the Blue Angels to Lake Washington. We had a beautiful celebration in the park for Steve. And wouldn't you know it—those Mariners actually made the playoffs! Okay, you are saying, get on with it, how could this possibly segue to wine? Well here goes.

I love reflecting. Looking back. Learning. See what wines sold. See what wines didn't sell. What wines worked. What wines didn't. Some wines you forget about over time, and it's a nice surprise when you remember them. I make lists: Overall Best Sellers, Worst Sellers, Best Seller by Region/Country, Best Under \$10, and so forth. I thought it might be fun to share a few of those lists to help close out 2022 and begin 2023.

A couple of rules worth mentioning: No wine will be repeated, for example, if it made the Best Overall list and is \$25, it wouldn't appear on the Best Wine Over \$20, because

its already on the Best Overall (better) List. This allows for more different unique wines to be mentioned! Also, prices are rounded to give the reader a rough price point for reference. Pricing is constantly changing, and honestly, may have changed since the deadline for this column!

So, here you have it. Five lists of Top 10 wines, or essentially, the Top 50 Wines from Leschi Market for 2022. Happy New Year! Cheers and enjoy!

Top 10 Red Wines

1. Thurston Wolfe Dr. Wolfe Red (\$15)
2. Chateau St. Cosme Cotes du Rhone (\$14)
3. Airfield Syrah (\$14)
4. Mark Ryan Vincent Red (\$18)
5. Mark Ryan The Chief Cabernet (\$24)
6. Goru Gold (SOLD OUT)
7. Novelty Hill RSR Red (\$18)
8. Lobo Hills Right Bank Red (\$18)
9. Domaine Bosquet Malbec (\$10)
10. Torre Gajo Montepulciano (\$14)

Top 10 White Wines

1. Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc (\$12)
2. Mary Taylor Gascogne (\$11)
3. OT Sauvignon Blanc (\$9)
4. Ducasse Bordeaux Blanc (\$16)
5. Ovum Big Salt (\$17)
6. Thurston Wolfe PGV (\$14)
7. La Lisse Chenin Blanc (\$11)
8. Los Vascos Chardonnay (\$10)
9. Garzon Albarino (\$15)
10. La Crema Chardonnay (\$22)

Top 10 Wines Over \$20

1. Shulman Estate Legacy Red (\$40)
2. Lecole Chardonnay (\$20)
3. Rombauer Chardonnay (\$40)
4. Drouhin Chablis (\$22)



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Hi Neighbors,

SCOTT LENNARD

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

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

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

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

206.604.2828 | Scott.Lennard@Compass.com

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



...in the Wilds of Seattle

5. Dauvissat Chablis (\$24)
6. Mary Taylor Domaine Passy Chablis (\$23)
7. Delille D-2 (\$40)
8. Chateau Magnol Bordeaux (SOLD OUT)
9. Roederer Estate Brut (\$24)
10. Pol Roger Champagne (\$50)

Top 10 Pink Wines

1. Campuget \$10)
2. Montrose (\$10)
3. Amble & Chase can (\$5)
4. Mark Ryan Flowerhead (\$16)
5. Triennes Provence (\$15)
6. Ramon Dry can (\$4)
7. Mr. Pink (\$10)
8. Tranche (\$20)
9. Leschi Cellars (\$14)
10. Domaine Ott By.Ott (\$24)

Top 10 Bubbles

1. La Farra Prosecco (\$14)
2. Mille Prosecco (\$9)
3. Dibon Cava (\$9)
4. J. Laurens Rose (\$14)
5. J. Laurens Brut (\$14)
6. Moutard Champagne (\$28)
7. Leon Manbach Cremant (\$20)
8. Landmass Sparkling (SOLD OUT)
9. Dumont Champagne (SOLD OUT)
10. Louis Roederer 242 (SOLD OUT)

~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 Dablia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His 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.



LESCHI MARKET

Rather than a restaurant review, I just want to shout out to the Leschi Market. Most of you know this market offers almost everything you want, including pre-made dinners, sandwiches, soups daily, salads, prime rib on Friday

and Saturday. Recently I bought “their own recipe” macaroni and cheese and was astounded how good it is. I mean it is awesome even for breakfast.

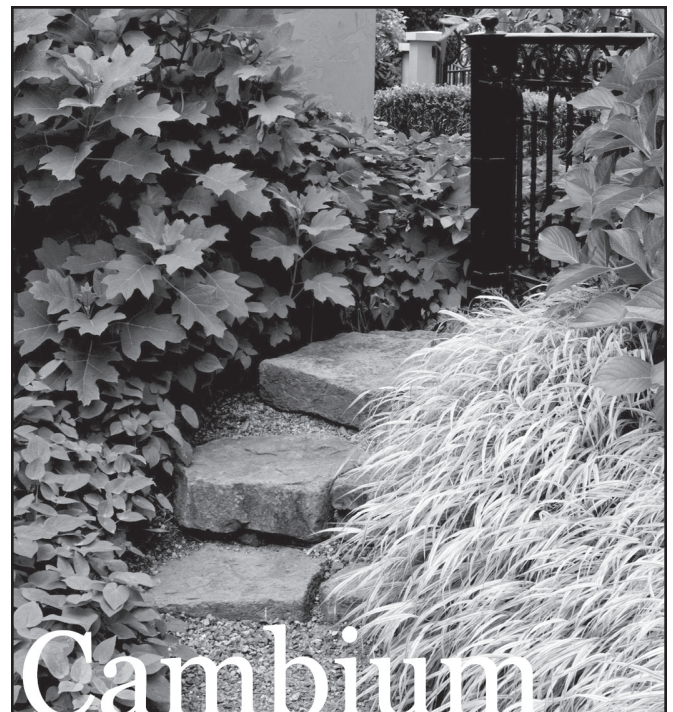
~Janice Brown

Ed. note: This is one courageous woman; I have heard of eating cold pizza for breakfast but not mac 'n cheese!


BLUWATER BISTRO

Blewater Bistro celebrates the season with beautiful trees and the Dickens Carolers! Guaranteed to put you in the mood!

And if you are fond of truck food, we hear there is a taco truck next door to Grocery Outlet in the defunct auto repair spot. We have heard their tacos are good but have no other information. Let us know if you have a chance to partake! (leschinews@comcast.net)



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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESCHI CC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 12/13/22

Attendance:

Janice Brown, Diane Snell, Ashley Martin, Yun Pitre

LeschiNews-Diane

- January submittal deadline. All articles due by the 19th.

Board Business:

- Holiday party recap-
 - The event went well. One change for next year, if we are unable to get music performers, we have boombox and play seasonal music
- Upcoming Meetings
 - January
 - Discussion and vote on revised Bylaws.
 - General meeting via Zoom
 - February
 - Focus on public safety
 - Meeting notification via LCC Facebook, LCC Next Door, Leschi News, LCC website
- Meeting venue-In person at Grace United Methodist Church @ 7pm.
- Facilitation by LCC executive members

- Panel speakers: Possible speakers include East Precinct Captain and/or Crime Prevention Coordinator
- Future LCC General meeting topics
 - March- Presentation by local LCC artist Lawrence Pitre
 - April-Possibly invite non-profit Creative Justice on their work
- CANDC report out on Pike Place Market
 - CANDC sent letter to the City Council opposing Council Bill 120456 which removes Pike Place Market Historical Commission's oversight of the Market. CANDC supports the emergency ordinance that put Dept of Neighborhoods in charge of the Market during the pandemic to expire at the end of 2022 as planned.
- LCC canopies and documents
 - Need storage for these items
- Initiative 135 House Our Neighbors (HON) campaign for "Social Housing"
 - Invite to April or May's meeting to share information on the initiative
- LCC Secretary
 - Yun Pitre will officially continue in this position

-Respectfully submitted by Yun Pitre





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General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$6,271.00		
Dues	\$2,233.95		
Donations	\$5,059.61	(\$30.00)	
Reimbursement	\$546.57	(\$100.00)	
Insurance		(\$731.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$7,277.50)	
Other Expenses		(\$788.30)	
Totals	\$14,111.13	(\$8,926.80)	\$18,907.03
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk	\$5,227.71	(\$2,410.51)	\$5,264.52
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$4,744.53	(\$300.00)	\$8,554.87
Frink Park			\$1,979.43
King Street			\$1,270.00
Leschi Gateway Project			\$51.03
Leschi Natural Area			\$6,345.39
Officer Brenton Fund			\$3,111.85
Steve Shulman Memorial			\$65.00
String of Pearls			\$2,130.38
SW Frink Park			\$1,233.08
W. Vaughn Memorial Fund			\$1,200.00
Wading Pool			\$3,006.13
West Sheridan Street End			\$649.92
Whitebear DreamCatcher			\$201.64
Totals	\$24,083.37	(\$11,637.31)	\$56,360.62
Certificate of Deposit	\$1.04		\$11,257.46

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LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular

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LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways

LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)

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My check is enclosed: ☐ \$35 family membership ☐ \$25 individual membership

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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

January 4, 2023 at 7pm

Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please join us online at <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 821 1255 4281

Passcode: 166218

If you can only join us by phone dial **+1 (253) 215 8782** and enter the meeting ID and passcode above at the prompt.



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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **JANUARY 16**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements and membership dues to this address:

Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122-6538
or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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JANUARY CALENDAR



- » **January 1**
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- » **January 4, 7pm**
LCC Zoom Meeting
- » **January 10, 6pm**
LCC Board meeting
- » **January 16**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Deadline for February issue of *Leschi News*
- » **January 22**
Chinese New Year
- » **January 23**
National Pie Day

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