

leschinews

February 2023 Issue No. 399

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

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

February 1 at 7pm

We believe public safety is integral to a healthy and welcoming community. This is why we regularly dedicate a community meeting to this topic. Our February 1 meeting will let us review current issues of public safety in Leschi and surrounding neighborhoods, allow you to share your concerns and discuss how we as a neighborhood can work with each other, the police and lawmakers to make Leschi a great place to live.

This is also your opportunity to talk to and hear from people who can help us address public safety. We will be joined by Girmay Zahilay, King County Council member (District 2); Lt. Trinh, Seattle Police Department; and Joseph Elenbaas, the Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Seattle Police Department East Precinct. We have also reached out to our City Council member Kshama Sawant's office and hope she will attend too.

We will meet in person at Grace Methodist Church at 722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144 on February 1 at 7pm. Masks are encouraged.

If you have questions about or for the meeting, please send them to leschicouncil@gmail.com.

inside the news

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

WE R ONE

presented by Seattle
artist **Lawrence Pitre**

MAR 1 AT 7PM

President's Message

Hello Leschi Residents,

It's hard to believe I am writing for the February newsletter now. It seems the year has started with a quick pace. Yesterday was like a hint of spring with blue skies, sunshine and a fresh breeze. Today, back to Seattle gray.



Our monthly program is on February 1 at 7pm and our topic will be public safety and crime prevention, so please mark your calendars to be sure to attend. We want to create a safe and welcoming community with the guidance of a panel of experts from the public sector as well as the police department. We are meeting at the Grace Methodist Church on the lower level in their large meeting room. We will have signs out this month indicating where to enter the building. The church is one block south of the CASC and has a large parking lot.

We would like to know, as a community, what topics interest you as residents. Our mission as a non-profit is to bring information and programs that interest our community members.

Coming up again this year will be the Leschi ArtWalk and we will be starting meetings in the next month, anticipating an ArtWalk date of September 9, 2023. If you want to volunteer or know artists who may be great fits or are just curious what you may be able to do, please contact me or any of the Board members.

As we work our way into the year, we wish you the best life you can live and as mentioned before, reach out to your neighbors. See if you can help in any way.

Most people are hesitant to ask, but I know there are many people ready to assist in ways they are able.

Kind 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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COMMUNITY BUILDING

I am looking forward to our next Leschi Community meeting which will focus on creating a safe and welcoming community. A successful community is one where people get together and look for positive solutions to real and perceived problems. We have invited representatives from the police and our elected representatives to help us in this process. Listen and be open to new ideas. "Know that no one is silent but many are not heard; work to change this." (This last is from a poster on building community and is probably one of the most difficult ideas to embrace but it makes a difference.)

During the many decades I have been a member of the Leschi Community, we have had a committee that addresses Public Health and Safety, but it did not occur to me until the last few years that these are two difficult topics that deserve to be separated and given equal attention. Certainly we could have had more articles on the Covid pandemic during this time. We did take the advised precautions, but public health is so much more. We are a safer community when we all follow the guidelines for vaccinations. With jet travel, we are still at risk as not all countries have robust health departments and even here, we see questioning about what solutions the best scientific minds have created. I remember one man on NextDoor Leschi questioning why we felt people need to be vaccinated against measles as it is a childhood disease. There can be severe side effects (meningitis)

and the vaccination MMR protects one against mumps as well; mumps can lead to infertility for males and that might be a personal concern. I feel we need someone to head a Public Health committee and keep the community aware of trends and possible solutions.

We used to have monthly meetings with the East Precinct police where we shared our neighborhood concerns and received advice from the precinct or at the least promise to look into it. Unfortunately, this group is no longer meeting. Many problems are not reported, and of course unreported incidents don't really "exist" in police data as the police are not aware of them. We are hoping that a concerned citizen will want to assume chairing a Public Safety committee and reporting back to the community.

What can we do to keep a safe community but also a welcoming one? Staying barricaded in our homes is not a welcoming solution. I look back on September's ArtWalk and the evident joy of community members as we greeted each other after a long absence. Let's work together to create a safe but inclusive community where we can leave our homes and enjoy the parks and open spaces we have worked so hard to create.

-Diane Snell

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Neighborhood and Beyond

REMEMBERING A COMMUNITY LEADER

In January, we published a tribute to Thurston Muskelly as he had returned home from the Parkshore retirement community. We were to learn later that Thurston died on Christmas Eve while our paper was at the printer. John Barber adds a farewell to fond memories of Thurston:

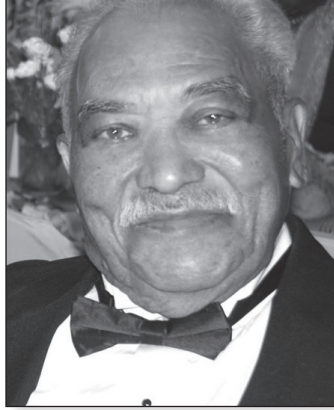
I actually knew Thurston long before he became President of the Leschi Community Council, a post he held for 9 years.

In the 1970s, I became union steward for the Seattle HUD office's newly formed branch of the American Federation of Government Employees. Thurston was the regional representative of the AFGE, Thurston's assignment was to ground us new union officers in the rules and best practices of union leadership. He was a knowledgeable, straight ahead guy who quickly had us on a strong path.

For many years, I didn't know how instrumental he had been in advocating for the public health community, like saving the building at the north tip Beacon Hill that served as discontinued as veterans' hospital, for use (instead of sold on the real estate market) as a public community health clinic. During that time, he was mentored by Senator Warren G. Magnuson in the nuances and skills of political influence.

Increasingly, I saw his experience in political influence put into play with his leadership of the Central Area Development Association. He would give the Mayor and City Council members annual walks in the Central Area to raise awareness for fighting crime and for addressing the development aspirations of the local business community.

When he became President of the Leschi Community Council, he already had established his reputation among the elected city officials, who were just a phone call away. He was seen by many in City Hall as "Mayor" of the Central Area. I was already Chair of LCC's Parks and Greenspace Committee when he became President. When he told me, "John, you've got to do something about Flo Ware Park," I knew it must have some problems, and I got right on it, through a process of planning, grant writing, and fundraising that led to the total renovation of the park and active community policing. We made much other progress during his Presidency like renovating the King Street Shoreline Street End and a section of Lake Washington Boulevard



leading to Leschi Park, trail-building in Frink Park, acquisition of wooded areas for the Leschi Natural Area, and major renovation at Powell Barnett Park. His support helped us throughout. He also fended off plans by Scientology to locate a drug treatment center in Leschi, because of how he saw as doubtful the credentials and goals of the sponsor.

His strong affiliation and influence at the Central Area Senior Center were assets for our community. He was a warm and steady friend, and I will miss him dearly.

-John Barber

REFLECTIONS ON THURSTON MUSKELLY

It is my sad honor today to offer a Reflection on my friend and coworker Thurston Delane Muskelly. I first met Thurston by phone in 1971. He was President of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1170 at Seattle's US Public Health Service Hospital. I was a young activist associated with Seattle's free clinics, as our community health centers were called then and whose patients had just gained access to the hospital's services at no charge. We met at the encouragement of the PHS Hospital Director Dr. Willard Johnson. Dr. Johnson, a true public servant, hoped that those with a stake in the hospital would come together to mount a serious resistance to the federal government's longstanding effort to close out the entire system of Public Health Service hospitals in order to give the business to private hospitals and clinics, at greater expense to the taxpayers.

Thurston made such a deep impression on me in that first phone conversation, that from that day until now, over 50 years later, I have never forgotten his home phone number and never had to look it up! It was clear to me that Thurston was a person of great strength and compassion.

Indeed, Thurston became a key leader in the coalition that not only fought off hospital closure year after year for 10 years, but that also helped transform the hospital into an example of how the Public Health Service could serve its traditional beneficiaries, and at the same time address unmet medical needs in the community. Thurston helped build our Public Health Care Coalition into a powerful voice for the hospital's stakeholders: merchant seamen, commercial fishers, military retirees and dependents, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, the hospital's staff, and the free clinics. Our campaign helped spark opposition to PHS closures nationally, and Thurston was instrumental in building support for our efforts in Congress, especially in his close personal relationship with US Senator Warren Magnuson.

It was only after the election of President Reagan in 1980 that the PHS Hospital system was finally shut down. But our political strength allowed us to win Plan B: the transfer of the hospital to local public control, with substantial federal

seed money. As a result, for over 40 years advocates and elected officials in our community and state have developed many important healthcare delivery and professional training programs, some of which are supported by the rental proceeds from the hospital property, now known as Pacific Tower. Thurston was proud that the legacy of our coalition's hard work has been an ongoing expansion of access to health care and greater health equity.

Let me say more about Thurston the man. He could fix just about anything mechanical. Hired as a janitor by the hospital in 1960, he was soon recruited into the engineering department where he did amazing work until he retired from federal service in 1981 when the hospital was de-federalized. I got to see his talents up close after being hired in 1978 as Patient Advocate, a position which our coalition had proposed and helped develop. For the next 13 years I got to see Thurston in action, often fixing things that broke down. I remember how several times he was able single-handedly to avert a crisis by repairing the antiquated and complex folding equipment in the hospital laundry.

I learned from Thurston that his mechanical skills developed early on when his father, a railroad engineer, would take him to the railroad yard in North Carolina to learn how to fix engines and equipment. He further developed his skills in the Navy during the Korean War and as a steel mill crane operator in Ohio before moving to Seattle in 1960 with his wife Joyce, of blessed memory, and 5-year-old son Thurston Edward.

Even more important than Thurston's mechanical skills were his effectiveness as a leader and the way he built relationships with people. As union president he turned what had been a weak union local into a force to be reckoned with, with a core of leaders he recruited and strong support from the employees. I witnessed many times how he stood toe-to-toe with hospital management when they tried—often unsuccessfully—to impose their authority on an issue on which he believed they were wrong.

Thurston also placed high value on building community and enjoying life with coworkers and friends. As union president, he made sure that the hospital workers and their families could enjoy annual picnics at Seward Park, where he would fry whole coolers full of fish he had caught at Moses Lake.

After retirement, he devoted himself to community service with lasting impact, as President of the Leschi Community Council for ten years, he oversaw the renovation of Powell-Barnett Park, Flo Ware Park, Peppi's Playground and trails in Frink Park. He convinced the Leschi Council to help bring the Seattle Girls School into the neighborhood. As he explained it, "We wanted the young ladies to be competitive. If a man got a degree in mechanical engineering so could a young lady. She could stand as tall as he."

I do not have time to say more about Thurston's volunteer work, except to note that while serving as Community Council President, he also served as President of the Central Area Senior Center and also as President of the Central Area Development Association, which among other things helped seniors maintain their homes when they couldn't afford to. He held these 3 presidencies at the same time!

Let me close by sharing Thurston's own words from an interview captured in two articles published by Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, of which he was a member.

"My greatest thing is helping people... I really get disturbed when people in power can do something for others and don't do it... I think everyone is entitled to justice and care. My greatest hope is that people will look upon others with love and peace, not hate, and that everyone will reach out and help someone."

Amen, Brother Muskelly. Rest in peace.

~David Loud

This eulogy was delivered by David at Thurston Muskelly's funeral 1/16/23

FAREWELL TO A FOLK MUSICIAN



We are sad to announce the January 6th passing of longtime Leschi resident and renowned fiddler, Vivian Williams (nee Tomlinson), 84, who for decades made significant contributions—musical and otherwise—to the lives of Northwesterners.

As a child and teen growing up in Tacoma, Vivian learned to play piano and classical violin. She married her college sweetheart, Phil Williams, after graduation from Reed College. They moved to Seattle and attended UW, where she earned her M.A. in anthropology and Phil earned a law degree.

Vivian switched from violin to fiddle during the '60s folk revival. She entered dozens of fiddle contests over the years, won many, and was inducted into fiddlers' halls of fame. She and Phil founded several bands, including Tall Timber, Seattle's preeminent bluegrass band for 20 years.

In 1965, Phil and Vivian moved into their forever home on 35th Avenue, where they hosted hundreds of boisterous jam sessions and dozens of traveling musicians including Bill Monroe, Libba Cotten, Doc Watson, Ralph Stanley, and Mike Seeger.

Vivian and Phil co-founded the Seattle Folklore Society, which organizes performances and tours of traditional musicians. The Northwest Folklife Festival, which they co-founded in 1971, has become the largest festival of its kind, drawing over 200,000 visitors yearly. In 1976, Vivian recorded the fiddle line for the catchy TV ad, "Do the Puyallup."

Starting in 1967, Vivian and Phil released dozens of LPs and CDs on Voyager Recordings, the record label and recording studio based in their Leschi home. Last year, Vivian donated Voyager to Smithsonian Folkways, which will keep the label's catalog available.

Vivian was preceded in death by her husband, Phil Williams, and is survived by her sister, Barbara Tomlinson; her niece, Shana Iverson; and her nephew-in-law, Michael Speers. A memorial for Vivian will be held in the spring—perhaps during this year's Folklife Festival.

-Submitted by Paul Schafer. Paul is currently writing a book on the life and times of Vivian and Phil Williams

FRINK PARK FOREST RESTORATION

During the pandemic I completed training with the City of Seattle and the Green Seattle Partnership/Forterra to become a forest steward. I've been leading a restoration project in Frink Park for a year. I have tools and materials (like mulch and plant deliveries) from the city so all it takes is volunteer energy. This work not only restores native plants and habitat, but it's also a great way to get out of the house and away from the daily grind. In the spring and summer

when sunset is later, I sometimes go to my site after putting our kids to bed to unleash some stress on some ivy or a holly tree for half an hour or so. We are fortunate to have this urban forest but some of it is in a state of disrepair with invasive species like ivy and Himalayan blackberry. Some of our neighbors have restored swaths of it, but much work remains, particularly on the Leschi Park side. Please join me in the Friends of Frink Park group on Nextdoor and join our next event.

-Jeff Flogel

LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Our students are back in the swing of things after the holiday break and will be spending time in February observing Black History Month. The cisterns and rain garden installed last year through the RainWise program have been working well during these wet winter months, and the outdoor learning space will be getting more and more use as we head into spring.

Keep up to date on upcoming events and news by visiting leschies.seattleschools.org or www.facebook.com/leschischool.

To support our school, classrooms, and community programs please see: leschies.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/fundraising.

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER NEWS

In review of CASC's program operations in 2022, it is especially meaningful as COVID-19 shut down all in person and face-to-face programming for almost two years. 2022 represented the opening of the facility to our members fully and their ability to share in the full activation of programs and activities. In 2022 we were fully staffed having added a Bookkeeper, Social Worker, and new Program Coordinator. Members continue to benefit from our partnership with POCAAN who provides free footcare to members on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Being fully staffed allowed us to implement old and recent programs in 2022 including SHARP, The Black-Well Being Gathering funded by the Black Co-Op Fund in June in four sites across WA State, and to continue to host Vaccination Clinics for Booster Shots and Flu Shots and COVID-19 shots to children twelve and under. We also expanded our programs to other sites serving seniors. We continued to add new programs into the fall including Let's Talk Food and a Master Chef Veteran Program focused on Veterans. CASC men hosted cooking demonstrations of favorite recipes and shared the food cooked with Veterans, both men and women and the spouses of Veterans both alive and deceased. During 2022 we remodeled the ADA restroom.

We have ambitious plans in 2023 to continue renovations and delayed maintenance to the building. Supplies and vendors were difficult to get in 2022. Fortunately, we were able to sign contracts for getting work done in 2023. Our plans include a remodel of the men's and women's restrooms in 2023, the install of a new HVAC system utilizing MacDonald Miller as the contractor, the addition of Solar

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Panels with Sphere Solar Energy as the contractor once the HVAC system is installed and to follow that up with resurfacing the Parking Lot.

We look forward to introducing Live Music once again on the 3rd Fridays of each month at our Green Dolphin Lounge, 6–9pm at the center. We are lining up great entertainment for 2023. We will kick off the first Green Dolphin of the year featuring: A Night of Karaoke with “Shut Tha Door Parker,” February 17, 6–9pm. Cost: \$20 Lifetime Members, \$25 Annual Members, and \$30 Non-Members. Dust off your favorite songs from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s. Come prepared to sing and join in the fun at Central’s first Karaoke Green Dolphin of the year.

We continue to adhere to COVID-19 protocols of vaccination confirmation and masks. CASC looks forward to the continuation of providing valuable services and programming to seniors and the community now and in the future while offering a safe place to make connections in 2023 and beyond. We will be hosting a 5th Booster Shot Vaccination Clinic in February 2023 with our partnership pharmacist, churches and organizations at FAME Church located at 1522 14th, Seattle, WA 98122. Please call us at 206.726.4926 if you would like to schedule an appointment and/or know individuals in need of an appointment.

~Dian Ferguson

SALONICA TO SEATTLE

Seventy-one years ago my parents and I immigrated from Salonica, Greece to the US aboard the SS Argentina. We were allowed to enter the country as refugees after the horrors of the Holocaust. Many people are surprised to know that 50,000 Greek Jews from Salonica, almost the entire Jewish population of that city, were murdered at Auschwitz but it is sadly true. As we pulled into New York harbor my dad held me in his arms as he pointed to the Statue of Liberty and told me never to forget that sight of welcome, freedom and hope. My father was making the courageous leap to a better life. My mother was not so happy to leave the family that remained and I was a wide-eyed 4 and a half year old.

We crossed the country by train to Seattle with the \$100 which we were allowed to take out of Greece. Our belongings were few and many things had been broken because our trunk had been tossed off the ship due to a dock worker’s strike in New York.

My parents were given a choice of three cities to reside in and chose Seattle because of the harbor which seemed to resemble Salonica most closely. We were welcomed to Seattle by the Sephardic Bikur Holim synagogue and community which at the time was located in the Central Area on E. Fir Street. Sephardic Jews, descendants of Spanish Jews, of that time spoke Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) which was the language my parents used at home in addition to Greek. The community helped us to find a one bedroom rental on S. Leschi Place. It was a very humble bungalow that was also home to some whiskered rodents, but it was affordable. The

great thing about it was its proximity to Leschi Park and the waterfront. Like many other older homes on Leschi, it has been replaced by a much grander home.

The Central Area in those days was home to much of the Jewish community of Seattle. This included Temple de Hirsch, Herzl synagogue, now Langston Hughes center, the Sephardic Bikur Holim, now Tolliver Temple, Brenner’s and Lippman’s bakeries, the Talmud Torah school (which later became the Islamic School), kosher butcher shops and more.

My parents sent me to immigrant pre-school at Temple de Hirsch where I met my best friend, Marian who was a German refugee from Shanghai. I attended the Talmud Torah on 25th Ave. for kindergarten and first grade. At some point during first grade, we moved on from Leschi to an apartment on 19th Avenue East which housed mostly immigrant families.

My best childhood memories of our first home revolve around Leschi Park which became my front yard and the waterfront where I fed my duck friends. However, the most important thing that happened during this time was that my parents and I were able to become US citizens. After attending night school classes to learn English, American History and Civics, my parents were able to pass their tests and I was naturalized along with them. We raised our right hands together and took our Oath of Allegiance. It was a proud moment for all of us.

~Irene Matalon

THE MOSQUITO FLEET

Because I had the luck and privilege of having been raised on the Seattle shores of Lake Washington, I recall the last runs of the Madison-Kirkland and the Leschi ferries. Several of our waterfront parks, especially Madison Park, Madrona Park and Leschi Park emerge from that era.

I can remember taverns and restaurants replacing those abandoned sites. In our time I have visited friends at apartments and condominiums overlooking water-logged, lonely pilings and street-ends, evidence of a once-busy commotion of travelers. The individual histories of these unique parks have been described by others, but the rich history of Seattle would have been a relatively modest story without these watery links to the second largest lake in Washington State. With a burgeoning population, and a simultaneous rise in the popularity of bicycles, motor bikes



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and other strange modes of city street travel, some observers are asking themselves if the old Mosquito Fleet of small boats might be updated and re-introduced?

Do the local names Brewster, Brighten Beach, Calverts, Barnaby or Belt Line mean anything to Seattle-area residents today? Those tiny lakeside stations were among the 50-plus stops the old Lake Washington steamboats—or Mosquito Fleet—made in the early 1900s. Although the term “Mosquito Fleet” is also correctly attached to Puget Sound routes (and occasionally coastal waters) it can also be used in connection with Lake Washington water transport.

Captain Adolph J. Anderson, with his brother Captain John L. Anderson, operated much of the Puget Sound and Lake Washington steamboat trade at the turn of the 20th century. On the lake, Anderson Steamboat Company boats ran north to Juanita and southward to Rainier Beach, with dozens of intermediate stops—some of them for the convenience of a friend or a waving hand on the end of a dock. There were occasional accidents and miscalculations by passengers and freight-handlers, resulting in a frightened passenger struggling in the water below the passenger ramp or a load of building material or groceries sinking to the muddy bottom.

Mercer Island was then a farming wilderness and a true island, sometimes called East Seattle. The Anderson boats put in at five locations on the Island’s west shore, and at eight ports-of-call along the eastern shore. Clusters of homes, schools, small businesses and country roads emerged at the Mosquito Fleet coves and wharves.

On the Seattle or western shore, the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition site (now the University of Washington) was a principal water landing. Other Seattle ferry stops remain: Madison Park, Leschi Park, Mt. Baker Park, Brighten Beach and Rainier Beach. Cross-lake, along the once remote shores of the eastern, or Bellevue, venue, today’s names match the original stops: Juanita, Yarrow, Kirkland, Medina and Newport. Other more-or-less forgotten ports were Cedarmere, Churches, Demotts, Curtis, Northrup, Sunnyside, Lewisville, Hazelwood and Kennydale.

The Anderson boats were constructed and managed for foot passengers and freight. After 1901, the occasional internal-combustion contraption was brought aboard, pushed, and later rolled off the other end. I was told by a Seattle neighbor that an elder member of her family

driving a Ford Model T attempted to come aboard after the drawbridge had been raised, resulting in a large splash, some panic, and the driver’s death by drowning.

Mosquito Fleet boats lost business with the construction of roads around Lake Washington. For example, Peter Kirk’s establishment of Kirkland and C.P. Hillman platting Kennydale near the coalmines of Newcastle and Black Diamond, were better served by wheeled land transportation. With newcomers streaming across the new floating bridge, and real estate booms underway in the Bellevue area, the pokey but charming Mosquito Fleet lost business. Captain Anderson was forced to close out one of the pleasant and exciting chapters in Puget Sound history.

Is it time to revive our Mosquito Fleet and return casual visitors, commuters and residents to deliberate, scenic routes serving the many bays, rivers, parks and small junctions of Lake Washington and Puget Sound?

-Junius Rochester, local author and historian

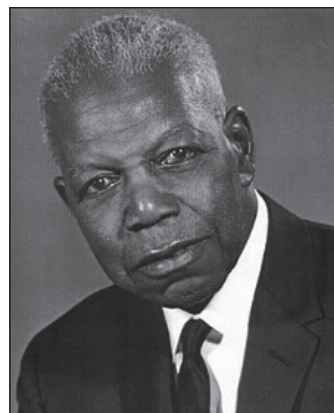
POWELL BARNETT

I recently discovered that the paper archives of the Leschi Community Council (originally known as the Leschi Improvement Council, LIC) are lodged in the Special Collections of the University of Washington Library. One can arrange to inspect them over a video conference call, so


I selected one of the four boxes to browse through, with a librarian turning the pages for me.

It was pretty routine stuff until I came upon some pages about Powell S. Barnett (1883–1971), who in 1959 was the founding president of the LIC.

What first caught my eye in the files was a 1967 letter from the then-president of the council to the city’s Board of Public Works. In this document, the council requests that Lake Dell Avenue, which runs down the hill from Leschi School until it becomes East Alder Street, be renamed Powell Barnett Way. The Board of Public Works agreed that



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Barnett deserved recognition for his “long and unselfish service,” but pointed to a longstanding city policy against naming streets for living persons.

I knew of Powell Barnett’s role as an original organizer and president of the LIC, but there was little documentation on his activities that I was able to find. I got one anecdote from the eldest son of Herb Schneider, Barnett’s successor as president. Herb had related that he accompanied Barnett walking along Jackson Street, hitting up the shopkeepers for contributions to the council. They coughed it up, but there were comments like “How much this time?”

Just when I was despairing of finding more about what Barnett had done in Leschi, I got lucky. Searching through the Barnett papers on location at UW Special Collections, I found two tape-recorded interviews with him from the 1960s. One was done in 1968 by Larry Gossett, who provided me with a copy. Gossett was a friend of mine from our activist days at the UW in the late ‘60s, when he was a leader of the Black Student Union and I was in Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). When he interviewed Barnett, Gossett was working at the university’s Suzzallo Library, where the head of the Manuscripts and Archives Division, Richard Berner, had hired him as a student research assistant to gather historical information on African American pioneers in Washington State. Berner himself had interviewed Barnett the year before.

Gossett is, of course, well known as the former King County Council member representing Leschi and beyond. Among his other accomplishments, he was a prime mover in changing the name of King County, which was originally named after President Franklin Pierce’s vice president-elect, William King, a slave owner. Now, as is well known, we live in Martin Luther King County.

Since the interview has not been published, I will quote extensively from Barnett’s remarks about the LIC.

“The Leschi Improvement Council was formed out of the needs of the PTA in the Leschi School. The PTA called a meeting to resolve some questions, and out of that, the need for a club in the district, to represent the people’s interest in the district, developed, and the Leschi Improvement Council was developed as a result of that meeting there. And it’s been going ever since. [Barnett struggles to recall the founding date, and he comes up with 1952, but it was 1958, according to Wade Vaughn’s “Seattle Leschi Diary.”

“The Leschi Improvement Council is one of the most effective neighborhood councils in the entire Northwest. It was one of the first councils to ask for a rezoning of their area from multiple use to single-family residence. The reason was that we became interested in the welfare of the entire community, and we made a study of what we considered the conditions in the community, with the idea of establishing a remedial course of action.

“We found that in the Leschi area, which is an older part of the city, there were a number of older, larger houses that didn’t lend themselves readily to modern-day living. They were too large for the average family of today, and we didn’t want those houses turned into duplexes and triplexes, which would mean the concentration of a large number of people in small areas. In our opinion, that’s where ghettos would

start. So in order to protect the homeowner, we thought it desirable to ask the city council to rezone the whole area from multiple use to single-family residence. In 1963, we presented such a resolution to the city council, and it was passed by the council. This meant that the Leschi area, from that time on, is zoned for single-family residence, with the exception of occasional spot zoning. At the present time, we are engaged in a preliminary study as to what areas in Leschi would lend themselves to apartment houses, with the exception of high-rise.

“We feel that the people who live in the Leschi area should have a breathing space around their homes, and not succumb to the lack of housing that we would be expected to let down our guards. I don’t think the council would take very readily to that, because that is not the answer. Many people believe, and we’re inclined to believe too, that open housing is the answer because it gives people an opportunity to spread over a larger area. Absolutely we favor open housing.”

“Open housing” referred to ending racial discrimination in real estate.

The transcript of the Berner interview with Powell Barnett is available in digital form on request from the University of Washington Library’s Special Collection.

Next month: Open housing; Powell Barnett Park.

—Roger Lippman

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



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Culture Corner

FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PATH-BREAKING ARCHITECTS

Immense creativity and dedication to community paired with perseverance in the face of racism characterize all the artists in two exhibitions, one recently over, the other opening in early February.

committed to speaking out about racism in our society. That was seen most boldly last year in Weems installation at the Armory in New York City: “The Shape of Things” a huge multimedia commentary on racism in the US.

Weems is extremely personal in her early work, speaking of her family, with captions that bluntly state where she started from as a sixteen year old mother. “Like my mother,

my sisters and I all had children by the time we were sixteen or so... when they heard I was pregnant, daddy cried and momma seriously blew her top. Smokin’ she stormed into my bedroom one night, and in a voice trembling with rage said, “What’s this mess I hear bout ya being pregnant, girl!!!!?”

Such colloquial, but beautifully crafted narratives often partner with Weems’s photographs as in her famed *Kitchen Table Series*, that follows a relationship from first bloom to final disintegration. Pairing the familiar photographs with the (rarely seen) narratives gives much greater insight into Weems’s powerful feminism.

From his earliest work, Dawoud Bey explores the aesthetics of light and dark. His work is less personal than Weems, but his empathy radiates from every photograph. In the 1980s his Harlem portraits celebrate the confidence of his subjects. At the end of the exhibition, we see Bey returning to Harlem in 2014 using color photography to emphasize the disruptions and disintegrations in the historical Black community.

Both artists address historical

catastrophes: Weems speaks of slaves drowning themselves off the coast of Georgia’s Sea Islands, Bey pays homage to the Birmingham shootings. They also explore power relationships, Bey through almost monochromatic images of stops on the underground railroad, Weems with forceful commentary on photographs of half-naked black slaves presented as anthropological specimens to support theories of the inferiority of Black people.



Carrie Mae Weems, *Untitled (Woman and Daughter with Children)* from *The Kitchen Table Series*, 1990, © Carrie Mae Weems, courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

“Dawoud Bey and Carrie Mae Weems: In Dialogue,” (Seattle Art Museum, closed January 22) features two photographers who are lifelong friends—they first intersected in Harlem in the late 1970s in the orbit of the Studio Museum.

The exhibition covers 45 years, a thrilling overview from late 1970s/early 1980s to 2016. Both artists have won major awards, as well as mainstream recognition, but remain



Norma Sklarek, Chuck Roberts (at right), Gruen Associates' Los Angeles Office, 1972

The fascinating exhibition “From the Ground Up, Black Architects and Designers” (Museum of History and Industry, February 4–April 30) features 24 national architects, supplemented with 11 architects from Seattle: nationally only two percent of architects are African American, only 500 are women. Black architects have faced numerous barriers, but continue not only to practice their art, but to promote other African American architects, fight for community and advocate for affordable housing.

The Seattle group features pioneer Benjamin McAdoo (1920–1981), the first registered Black architect in Washington State. A path-breaking designer of modular low-income housing, McAdoo was recruited to work internationally, but then chose to return to Seattle.

Denise Johnson Hunt (1948–1997) played a major role in Seattle for many years bringing diverse communities together on large projects such as Benaroya Hall and the waterfront.

Among the national group Moses McKissack III (1879–1952) descends directly from West African Ashanti builders who though sold into slavery became master builders here. Moses’ father, Gabriel Moses McKissack (1840–1922), learned from his father and then taught his son Moses.

Norma Merrick Sklarek (1926–2012) was known as the “Rosa Parks of architecture.” She was rejected from 19 architecture firms until finally hired as a junior drafts person in the Department of Public Works in New York in 1950. But she went on to be a licensed architect in the state of New York in 1954, then in California in 1962, and the first Black woman member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1959.

Today Black architects are head of their own firms at a younger age even as they are ever more directly addressing inequities of power, access and gender.

The new generation includes J. Yolande Daniels associate professor at MIT who “critiques the techniques of power–gender, sexuality and race—and how these social structures shape the built environment in the form of architecture.”

Laurie Allison Wilson, one of the Seattle architects, is a consultant for the latest Africatown Community Land Trust building in the Central District. She looks at “What are the differences between African American culture and European culture, and how does that express itself in architecture?”

“From the Ground Up, Black Architects and Designers,” opens big doors to diversify a still dominantly white profession and history.

–Susan Platt, PhD

www.artandpoliticsnow.com

GEORGE TSUTAKAWA: EARLY WORKS ON PAPER

*Cascadia Art Museum, 190 Sunset Ave. Edmonds
Wednesday through Sunday 11am–5pm, \$12*

Seattleites probably think of fountains and sculptures when Tsutakawa’s name is mentioned but the Cascadia Art Museum is exhibiting his sketches and watercolors, many not seen before. These drawings are mostly from his early days before he graduated from the UW with a degree in sculpture.

He had an interesting career, spending the war years at Fort Snelling (Minnesota) where he taught Japanese. His watercolor of Fort Snelling is very different from other works which is reminiscent of cubism. Editor: My favorite is his sketch of Mt. Rainier.

–From Seattle Times Sunday January 15



Seeking Sustenance...



FEBRUARY WINES WE LOVE

Love (and rain) are in the air all month long. This month is a great time to highlight some of the more obscure grape varieties found on the shelves at Leschi Market. These wines have all been thoroughly vetted by our experienced and diverse tasting panel and have passed the ultimate test! This column will cover such grapes as Erbaluce, Pais, Sylvaner, Gaglioppo, and Hondarrabi Beltza, to name a few! Join us on this tongue twisting journey of discovery. You might find something you like. Enjoy!

White Wine

2020 Kuentz-Bas Alsace Blanc Alsace \$12.99

30% Sylvaner, 20% Pinot Blanc, 15% Muscat, 15% Pinot Gris, 10% Gewurztraminer, 10% Chasselas. Classic Alsatian blend. Aromas of melon, jasmine and gardenia with a dry finish. Classic Alsatian character in a very affordable package. Organic/biodynamic. ~Winemaker notes

2021 Antoniolo Erbaluce di Caluso Piedmont \$18.99

100% Ebaluce. Great organic Alto-Piemonte producer makes a small amount of this light, refreshing white that some believe has been cultivated there since before the Romans arrived. Crisp, fleshy and intense: peach, pear, guava and pineapple on the nose and palate, with white flowers and a firm mineral streak. ~Winemaker notes

2020 Shulman Estate Steve's Legacy Blanc Walla Walla \$19.99

29% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, 19% Picpoul, 12% Grenache Blanc, 10% Clairette Blanche, 10% Viognier. Aromas of macadamia nut complemented by marzipan, peaches, baking spice and citrus blossom. A complex evolution of flavors from ripe lemon, tangerine and pear to almond and toasted brioche. ~Winemaker notes

2020 Domaine Leon Boesch Les Fous Gewurztraminer Alsace \$23.99

100% Gewurztraminer. Bone Dry, Biodynamic, raised in foudre, this is absolutely perfect, textbook Gewurztraminer. Easily the best Alsatian Gewurz in the shop! ~Distributor notes



...in the Wilds of Seattle

2021 Libertine Wines Dolphin Party Scheurebe Willamette Valley \$24.99

100% Scheurebe. A honeybee nestles itself inside a white pear blossom flower. It buzzes closer and lands on the garnish of your limoncello as you lay in a hammock on a gentle spring afternoon. These images consume your mind as you drink this wine. ~Winemaker notes

Red Wine

2020 Statti Lamezia Rosso Calabria \$13.99

40% Gaglioppo, 40% Greco Nero, 20% Magliocco. Deep, young, brilliant colors. Typical taste and smell characteristics in a wine whose vinification process introduces the cultural versatility of such a precious terroir. ~Winemaker notes

2020 Kiona Vineyards Lemberger Red Mountain \$15.99

100% Lemberger. Kiona Vineyards produced the first commercial bottling of Lemberger in the United States in 1980. A medium-bodied, fruit-driven wine that pairs with a wide array of foods. Lemberger is an uncommon grape that's worthy of attention. ~Winemaker notes

2021 Pedro Parra Vinista Pais Itata Chile \$18.99

100% Pais from 100 year old vines. Pedro Parra is a well-known terroir expert who co-founded interesting projects such as Clos de Fous in Chile and Altos Las

Hormigas in Argentina. Fresh, vibrant red with aromas/flavors of red flowers, wild strawberry, dusty earth and fresh herbs. ~Winemaker notes

2021 Florez Poilu's Pinard California \$25.99

55% Picpoul, 45% Pinot Noir. Ruby red in color. Aromas of red fruit, cream, and peach yogurt. Juicy red fruits and a medium tannin palate. A crushable blend to be enjoyed. ~Winemaker notes

Rosé Wine

2021 Ameztot Rubentis Getariako Txakolina Rose \$20.99

50% Hondarribi Beltza and 50% Hondarribi Zuri. Rubentis brings forth zesty notes of blood orange, ruby red grapefruit, crushed green herbs, and white pepper, which mingle delicately with sea spray, salty citrus, and streaks of chalky minerality. Sustainably grown, vegan. ~Distributor 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.



LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESCHI CC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 1/10/23

Attendance:

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

LeschiNews-Diane

- February submittal deadline is January 16th

Board Business:

- Inquiry from a resident to LCC regarding the marina rental fee increase
 - John to request a copy of the marina management contract with City of Seattle from the Parks department.
 - LCC will notify resident we will be looking into it and will be back in touch.
 - Report back to LCC board next month
- Committee status
 - Need to revisit current LCC committees at next month's meeting.
 - Use LeschiNews as an outreach tool to recruit members to current committees and to suggest ideas for potential new committees.
 - February's LCC general meeting is a good opportunity to recruit members for the public safety committee.
 - Open Space Committee Update

- Committee met with Parks Dept on King St Street End. Parks may do maintenance work such as pruning and pathway improvement. Upcoming Meetings

- Preparation for the February on public safety
 - In person meeting on February 1, 2023, at Grace United Methodist Church located at 722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144 @ 7pm.
 - Invite East Precinct Captain, East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, District 3 Community Engagement Coordinator, District 3 City Council member Kshama Sawant and King County District 2 Council member Girmay Zahilay
 - Meeting topics to include:
 - Statistics on what type of crime / safety issues we face in Leschi vs. adjacent neighborhoods (Mount Baker, Central District, Denny Blaine, Madrona)
 - What should one do if you experience a public safety issue and what response may you expect?
 - What specific actions can individuals take to increase safety for their property and surrounding areas?
- Topics for future LCC General Meetings
 - March- Presentation by Leschi artist, Lawrence Pitre, on his We R One series
 - April- Invite SDOT's new director Greg Spotts

-Respectfully submitted by Yun Pitre



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General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$6,271.00		
Dues	\$2,273.16		
Donations	\$5,134.61	(\$30.00)	
Reimbursement	\$546.57	(\$100.00)	
Insurance		(\$731.00)	
Printing and postage		(\$8,612.21)	
Other Expenses		(\$1,024.18)	
Totals	\$14,225.34	(\$10,497.39)	\$17,450.65
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk	\$5,227.71	(\$4,521.99)	\$3,153.04
Cherry Street Corridor			\$635.76
Flo Ware Park			\$686.53
Friends of Powell Barnett			\$1,068.06
Friends of Street Ends	\$4,744.53	(\$4,300.00)	\$4,554.87
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	\$24,197.58	(\$19,319.38)	\$48,792.76
Certificate of Deposit	\$1.13		\$11,257.55

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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)

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MYSTERY MEMBERS

We appreciate all who have joined the Leschi Community Council and we do try to send the Leschi News to each of you, but there are times when one joins by PayPal and we have a name but NO address.

If you are not receiving the news each month, please contact leschinews@comcast.net and we will correct the problem.



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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

» **February 1, 7pm**

Leschi CC Public Safety Meeting at Grace United Methodist Church: 720 30th Ave.

» **February 1**

This month is Black History Month. We encourage you to read Roger Lippman's article on Powell Barnett, one of Leschi's influential leaders.

» **February 2**

Groundhog Day



» **February 7, 6pm**

Leschi CC Board meeting. Usually a Zoom meeting.

» **February 9 and 23**

Free foot care at Senior Center for members

» **February 14**

Valentine's Day

» **February 17, 6–9pm**

Karaoke at Senior Center: Shut the Door Parker (see article inside for details)

» **February 20**

President's Day

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