inside the news

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February 2 at 7pm

MEET THE MEN from Marina Management who are updating our marina and bringing it into the current century after long delays. Peter Joers and Nick Bod will present recent changes and timelines.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK COVER

Photo credit: Janice Brown

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 2ND MEETING TBD
President’s Message

Dear Leschi Dwellers,

I’m not sure about you, but some days I can feel the hint of Spring. Today, for example, the sun is out, no rain and a great opportunity for those involved in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day to do so in pleasant weather. No umbrellas needed.

This month we are excited to present a great program (via Zoom) by the Leschi Marina group. The south side of the marina is gorgeous and I understand they finally just resolved the electrical issue. Please join us at 7pm Wednesday, February 2nd. (See Zoom instructions on inside back page.)

I encourage all of you to become familiar with the Leschi Community Council, the programs we bring, activities we generate and ask you to consider being involved. We have many huge hearts with concern for all humans within our little village of Leschi. Please join us. Note the article about resuming our annual Art Walk and join us in planning!

This afternoon as I conclude this letter, I feel accomplished at having cleaned up all the frozen plants in our condominium flower boxes. I’m ready for Spring!

As always, mask up, stay safe, wash your hands often while singing “Happy Birthday” for proper wash time, and please reach out if you need assistance.

Just curious: what types of programs would you like to see the LCC take on? Send your suggestions to leschinews@comcast.net.

Be your own best Valentine this year. Eat chocolate, hug yourself, and be grateful for the opportunity to be kind.

Warm Regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” ~Frank Maguire
My most memorable presidential moment, after the election of Barack Obama, was Joe Biden using the term “systemic racism.” That is a term I have heard for a very long time, but I can’t recall it being said by a president before Biden. What’s frustrating is how often someone, particularly an elected official, says there is no “systemic racism.” I usually believed the speaker knew better but thought I did not know better. But after hearing the denial so often, I had to admit that some people, millions most likely, do not believe “racism in this country is systemic.” I have never heard anyone say, “I am a racist.” Not hearing such a confession does not negate the presence of racists; denying that racism in this country is systemic does not eliminate systemic racism.

I wonder if deniers know what “systemic” means: think about a plant, a big plant. If something is “systemic,” then it is in the root—most important part of the plant—and, therefore, all the shoots, tissues of the plant. It is throughout the plant. Cancer that has metastasized provides another good example. The cancer is no longer in one part of the body but throughout the body, everywhere.

Many examples of systemic racism exist from the founding of the country—how the first people here were treated, how the Africans were treated. Both support the premise. Add to that who had a hand in the development of this country taken from others. Consider the benefits reaped by those with white skin as compared to those without white skin. (I am omitting the exclusion of females and the poor because they suffered discrimination of another kind and presently my concern is racism! I am very much aware that some types of discrimination often intersect thereby harming some persons, families, generations in more than one way.) Countless instances exist of spoils being given to those who have something rather than those who have nothing. The government played a major role in determining who got what, where, and when. The government has in many instances perpetuated and maintained this racism.

Despite knowing that many problems in this country got their beginning centuries ago, we need to see how racism pervades, permeates the system today. Examples abound, but too many of us, for all kinds of reasons, never see and/or fail to connect what we see.

Demonstrations following the murder of George Floyd scream at me. Whether Derek Chauvin intended to kill Floyd is immaterial. Floyd is dead despite saying more than thirty times, “I can’t breathe.” We can guess Chauvin did not believe him. What would you do if you heard someone say, “I can’t breathe?”

Maybe an officer is instinctively suspicious of someone, especially a person of color, struggling as he gasps, “I can’t breathe.” No sane person wants officers killed. Most of us want nobody killed. But maybe, just maybe, Chauvin was convinced he cannot believe Black people, so he honestly thought Floyd was lying. Maybe Chauvin would have released Floyd had Chauvin believed Floyd was dying. Chauvin was and has not been alone. North, South, Midwest, East, and West are sites where persons have said, “I can’t breathe” only to be killed by persons hired, entrusted to protect the ones who called for help and were then killed. Please don’t ask for a list of persons who voiced as loudly as they could, “I can’t breathe.” Siri can give you articles. This is in the system. No, all police would not ignore cries for help, but how many are too many? This is systemic.

During the demonstrations shortly after Floyd’s death, other persons of color were murdered. It seems that the publicity surrounding Floyd’s death, the body-camera wearing police, and dash cameras recording, police would have been highly sensitive and, therefore, more cautious, more reluctant to fire, to fire so hastily, to fire so many rounds into the body of one person so many times. But facts say people are shot, shot hastily, and multiple times. Perhaps officers so feared these persons of color that they forgot about cameras and did what they had to do: shoot.

Yes, officers are taught to shoot to kill in every situation—when what looks like a child holding what looks like a gun, when a mentally ill person has a knife, or a person with a pocketknife is walking across the street. A shot in the air would stop me. Why is it ok to shoot multiple times—and in close range? Do you know how many times some persons of color have been shot?

Georgia S. McDade

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

Leschi Community Council arranged a special January meeting to introduce our local school to the community. The meeting was opened by Benson Wilder, PTA President, who described how he and wife wanted to live in the CD to be close to family members and checked out Leschi School. They liked the commitment to social justice, the diverse population and the emphasis on community events and community building.

After introducing Principal Stephen Liu, we heard a similar message of community. Mr. Liu stressed the focus on racial equity and social justice. He said the school has 3 rules: Respectful, Responsible, Safe. The students help define these rules and craft the meaning together with staff.

There are three levels of education: general education, special education for those with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) and Advanced Learning. The district is planning to refer all students for advanced learning.

Kindergarten registration is open now. There will be a June orientation and a jump start in August. The PTA will arrange meet-ups for students and families.

September 7 is the first day of school for grades 1–12 throughout the city. Kindergarten students will start on September 12. Leschi is an early start school: 7:55am; this means early dismissal: 2:25pm. While this can be an issue for working parents, there are numerous after school options, the most popular being Launch Learning.

Launch’s website describes this program: “Launch teachers collaborate with one another as well as with public school teachers to create lesson plans that maximize enrichment learning. We incorporate teacher feedback and observations to identify student needs and plan activities with specific learning objectives that support each child while remaining fun and inclusive for everyone.” Launch is a 40-year-old program and longtime residents may know it as the Community Day School.

Questions asked during the Q and A included one about in person tours: perhaps in the summer. Demographics: most teachers are white and have Master’s degrees. Student ratio is 37% white which bears out the new census findings: a majority of Seattle children are children of color. Construction: 4 new classrooms are being built; two will probably be for pre-school classes and there will be an expansion of the office in this construction and improved safety. The current layout offers access to the entire school once you get inside the main door. And how can we help? Once we are able to meet in person, volunteers are always needed! Support our community school!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

I hope this message finds you well! My name is Ethan Niyangoda, and I’m the Volunteer Coordinator at Reading Partners Seattle. At Reading Partners, we believe that our communities do better when all students have access to high-quality learning opportunities and the critical reading skills needed to prepare them for academic, social, and civic success. Reading Partners is seeking volunteer tutors to work one-on-one with students in the 2021–22 school year at Leschi Elementary. Online and in-person opportunities available! Give a little over one hour per week. We offer flexible schedules and provide tutoring between 8am and 4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. No experience is required, as we provide volunteers with a structured curriculum, training, and ongoing support to help you and your student succeed.
We run our programming in 5 Seattle schools, and currently have a critical need of volunteer tutors. I wanted to reach out to the Leschi Community Council to see if you might be able to help us publicize our organization and volunteer opportunity. Here is a look inside one of our Reading Centers; I am more than happy to provide some more information about our program and the work we do in the Seattle community.

~Ethan Nivangoda

LESCHI SCHOOL GRATEFUL FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

If you have any instruments in good condition that you have not used for a while, the Leschi Elementary School music program is happy to accept them. I had not played my flute in at least two decades so it was time to find a new home. I delivered it to the school the week before the holidays and was warmly greeted by school staff.

~Karen Daubert

NEW YEAR MEANS NEW GOALS

As we enter a new year, most organizations develop goals for the coming year. Leschi CC worked on goals at a special Board meeting on January 12 and Friends of Street Ends developed current goals at their recent meeting.

Friends of Street Ends will work to:
1. Increase our visibility media, blogs and our website to inspire visitors, volunteers and stewards
2. Recruit, mentor and support stewards for each shoreline street end (SSE)
3. Recruit additional members, volunteers and stewards
4. Advocate for Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to:
   a. Permit all encroachments, including long delayed use of public land
   b. Improve maintenance, including bench replacement and signage
   c. Pass long-delayed shoreline street end ordinance
   d. Spend funds and complete priority projects: 6th Ave W, 11th Ave NW, 72nd Ave S, E Martin
   e. Financially support volunteer projects up to $20,000 per year

Ambitious goals, but this is a hard-working group which accomplishes much each year. See the LCC Board minutes to see Leschi’s 2022 goals.

~Karen Daubert and Diane Snell

ATTENTION ARTISTS, PATRONS AND VOLUNTEERS

It appears we will be able to resume the Annual Leschi Art Walk! We have booked September 10th with the Parks Department for the event. We are excited and are asking interested parties to email leschinews@comcast.net or me, Janice Brown, at janicemb@comcast.net. Once I get an idea of how many people want to volunteer to help, we’ll set a meeting time. Again we will be meeting at BluWater and will meet monthly at the beginning, on a weekday afternoon. Whether you can help a little or a lot, raise your virtual hand.

Additionally, if you know of artists who would like to participate, please give us their names or send them our way. Two years ago, I approached vendors I saw at Seattle area events I thought might be a good mix. Those who came, wanted to come back—really enjoyed it.

Patrons—aahh. As we are a non-profit, gifts, donations are always appreciated. We also submit for various city grants.

As a note to former committee members, I will be calling you!

~Janice Merrill Brown
WHY DOES SEATTLE HAVE SO MANY POTHOLES RIGHT NOW?

Last week, and unbeknownst to each other, my brother and mother called me on the same day with exactly the same question. “Why does Seattle have so many potholes right now?”

My knee-jerk reaction was to go on a tirade against our city council and their lack of focus on our crumbling infrastructure. But in all seriousness, there are several scientific reasons why Seattle is particularly susceptible to potholes.

Potholes are created by the cycle of water seeping into cracks in pavement, freezing/expanding and weakening the pavement structure, and then thawing, leaving additional cracks behind and allowing the process to begin anew. In the meantime, cars and trucks passing over this weakened pavement further break the pavement down, and over time, they cause it to collapse completely, creating a pothole.

Western Washington’s climate is ideal for potholes. The steady drip of rain, cool temperatures, and practically non-existent sunshine during the winter means that it’s pretty easy for water to get deep into the pavement, and even during our dry periods, it’s too humid and our sun is too weak to evaporate any of the subsoil moisture. Additionally, temperatures will often dip slightly below freezing during our cold snaps, so there is a lot of freezing and thawing of the road surface compared to other parts of the country.

Still, Seattle sees an abnormally large number of potholes compared to some of the newer cities and suburbs in the Puget Sound region. This is due to two reasons. First and foremost, Seattle’s roads are layered. Although most are covered in asphalt, many have concrete below that, and some, particularly from Pioneer Square north to Ballard and east to Capitol Hill, have bricks below the concrete. This means that any water that flows through a crack in the asphalt at the surface sits at the base of a layer and collects instead of draining into the soil, and when the region experiences a hard freeze, this water freezes, expands, and thaws, leaving weakened pavement that eventually turns into a pothole as traffic passes over it.

Additionally, Seattle’s roads are constantly being loaded by very heavy vehicles. King County Metro operates 1,540 buses, and there are a ton of construction vehicles as the city continues its tech-led construction boom. The most heavily trafficked roads are also the soonest to be repaired, but I remember how quickly potholes began to pop up on Montlake Blvd just to the south of the Montlake Cut, where Bus Route 48, one of King County Metro’s most active lines, passes by 1019 times a week.

The weather in late December 2021 was perfect for giving us so many potholes in January 2022. On the heels of a stormy November and a drippy, cool December, an arctic front moved through during the morning of December 26th, bringing 4–6” of snow to much of the city and keeping highs below freezing.

After the initial burst of snow, Seattle went into a hard freeze between 12/26 and 12/31, with highs in Seattle proper staying below freezing all days except 12/30 and lows dropping into the teens on the 27th. With such cold weather, all the water in and underneath the top layer of pavement completely froze solid. By early January, temperatures slowly rose above freezing as a series of increasingly strong storms moved inland, and since then, potholes have repeatedly occurred as vehicles pass over spots in the pavement weakened by the deep freeze.

The easiest way to report potholes is through the Find It/ Fix It program.

Charlie Phillips is a Madrona native and lifelong weather geek who now works at Puget Sound Energy as an energy trader, making sure there is enough energy to keep the lights on! Check out his weather blog at weathertogether.net.

CHARLES AND IRVING STREETS: ADVENTUROUS STAIRWELL WALK

Although there are many ways to explore Leschi’s stairways, one is to start at the water’s edge and head up. Charles Street Shoreline Street End (one of Leschi’s original String of Pearls) makes for a lovely beginning of your adventure. As you carefully cross Lakeside Avenue, you will find a new stairwell heading directly up the hill. This eventually ends in a dead-end at Lake Washington Boulevard where you can head north or south. The photos above were taken to the south and illustrate some creative and welcoming ways that neighbors have celebrated the Leschi Community! Bird feeders, signs and art demonstrate a love of nature, art and the neighborhood!
For those that are interested in providing similar gifts to the community, like other stairways in the neighborhood, these could benefit from more volunteer maintenance like occasional trash pickup, leaf removal and general tidying. Thank you to all our local stewards!

~Karen Daubert

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE RATS!

At poison, or rodenticide, is widely used to kill rodents such as rats, mice, and voles. But rat poison has harrowing consequences to the rest of us. Rodents aren’t the only animals to sicken or die from rat poison: so do other wildlife, pets, even children. And rodents rapidly develop resistance to each new rodenticide, leading to ever-more-toxic poisons that linger long in the environment. Rodenticides have now made their way into the food chain in harmful ways that are only beginning to be realized.

Raptors in human environments are highly vulnerable to rodenticides. They prey heavily on rodents, as well as on small birds, which may feed on rodenticide-laden insects. Secondary poisoning in raptors and other non-target wildlife is well documented. Wherever rodenticides have been studied in wildlife, the prevalence is high and the effects are devastating.

What Rodenticides Do

SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANTS

There are a lot of rodenticides. The most common are anticoagulants, which cause animals to bleed to death internally. The most potent are second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). Only one dose is enough to be lethal.

SGARs have very long half-lives, accumulating in an animal’s liver—and remaining in the environment—for months. Although only one dose is fatal to a rat, SGAR-poisoned rodents die slowly, making them easy prey for raptors and other predators.

SGARs were partially banned by the EPA in 2015, but only after an uphill battle with manufacturers such as Reckitt-Benheiser, maker of d-CON. Yet they are still widely used (e.g., Neogen Havoc, d-CON).

Ever notice those ubiquitous black boxes around commercial buildings, in alleys, and even at residences? They contain rat poison and are installed by pest control companies. Some are mechanical traps, but most contain rat poison. Common SGARs are Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, and Diphethialone. Look closely at the bait boxes; they list the type of poison inside.

Other Rodenticides

As rodents adapt to anticoagulant rodenticides, other types of rodenticides are now also in use. These include:

- Bromethalin, a nerve poison (Tomcat, Motomco)
- Cholecalciferol, a fatal concentration of vitamin D3 that causes kidney failure (d-CON recently replaced the anticoagulant brodifacoum with cholecalciferol).
- Zinc phosphide, a liver, kidney, and nervous system poison (Tomcat, RatX, Wilco Zinc Homeowner Bait, Havoc)

These newer rodenticides are more difficult than anticoagulants to identify in dead and dying animals in time to treat them, and their secondary effects on other animals are not well studied.

Three Certainties About Rats and Rodenticides

1. We will never get rid of rats.
2. No method of rodent control is permanent. If rat poison worked, we wouldn’t have to keep using it.
3. The harm caused by rodenticides far exceeds their limited benefits. There is no such thing as a “good” rat poison.

The Good News

Most rodent invasions can be controlled without rat poison. Really! Rodent problems usually arise because people unintentionally create desirable rodent habitats. Before you consider poisoning, take stock. The first line of defense against rodents is integrated pest management: Exclude, Clean Up, Modify Habitat.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Poisons used to kill rodents have safer alternatives. Audubon, January–February 2013.
Raptors and rat poison. Living Bird, Summer 2015.
Raptors are the Solution (RATS). Rodenticides and Raptors Project. Urban Raptor Conservancy.
Safe Rodent Control Resource Center.

1. Exclude: defend your fortress
   - Identify where rodents can enter a home or building (e.g., crawl spaces, eaves, and ventilation pipes). Rats can enter very small spaces.
   - Exclude access with material that rats can’t easily chew (hardware cloth, steel wool).

2. Clean up: eliminate sources of food, shelter, and water

   Clear Up Trash
   - Get rid of food scraps and pet waste
   - Tightly secure garbage bags
   - Close waste bins tightly. Don’t overfill.

   Secure Compost Bins
   - Tightly close compost bins. They make cozy homes for nesting rodents.
   - Don’t use compost bins in cold weather, when food decomposes slowly
   - Never add meat or fat

   Eliminate Open Food Sources
   - Bird feeders are also rat feeders!
     - Use seed blocks or cakes, which leave less food on the ground
     - Remove excess seed daily (raze it up or put a drop cloth below feeders)
     - Take in feeders overnight
• Clean up unharvested fruit and vegetables
• Never leave pet food outside
• Secure backyard chicken and duck coops (this is hard)
  – Close or remove feeders overnight
  – Install rat-proof flooring

3. Modify Habitat
• Remove ivy and other dense undergrowth. Ivy is perfect rat habitat.
• Clear vegetation 3–6’ away from buildings. Rats hate to move in the open.
• Eliminate water sources

This frightening article from the Urban Raptor Conservancy was submitted by Anne Depue who has covered other wildlife in the Leschi area.

LAWYERS IN LOVE

Jackson Browne is one of my wife’s favorite singer songwriters from the latter part of the previous century. His contemporary, the late, great Warren Zevon, is one of mine. Both wrote songs about lawyers: Lawyers in Love by Jackson and Lawyers, Guns and Money by Warren.

Lawyers have a way of inserting themselves into many aspects of our lives, currently including Prez., Veep and “First Gentleman” and Mayor of Seattle. This is particularly so at critical times when we may need their services, with cost a secondary consideration.

We were reminded of this recently when we decided to update our Estate Planning arrangements. Google advised that there are several acronymous organizations available to assist, including the NAECP, AAEP, ACTEC, NNEPA, NAELA and AATELA. However, being acronym-challenged, we followed the advice the Lawyer whose blog told us this, and just asked neighbors who are both retired lawyers, there being no shortage of legal over-the-fence advice in our classy neighborhood.

As old folks, we’re used to needing to get things fixed by highly qualified professionals such as Doctors, Dentists, Accountants, Car Mechanics, Plumbers and the like. We also like to have the problem explained in lay-person’s terms:

If I don’t do this, you may die/be a life-long sucker/get audited by the IRS/end up in the ditch/fill your basement with raw sewage/whatever.

Our recent legal experience was however somewhat different. We were told that all our existing documents needed replacing entirely with new ones, albeit with the same names and purposes, but without any explanation as to why or in what respects our previous expensive lawyer’s work was deficient. At almost $7 per minute there is of course a limit to the amount of deeper understanding we want to acquire at the expense of the Estate we’re planning to preserve. We were however offered a list of other experts in the field, though they turned out to be $7.50 per minute.

Estate Planning is all about money. The Gubmint won’t come after it until you’ve got more than enough—but the lawyers adhere to the Mary Poppins Doctrine:

Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start
When we write we begin with A, B, C
Your Estate begins with dough for me, (dough for me)
The first priority is dough for me

Warren Zevon put it in his own pithy (and often debauched) way:

Send Lawyers Guns and Money
It just hit the fan

The moral of this amoral tale?
“Caveat Emptor”

If you’re not familiar with this Latin legal term, your lawyer may be able to assist. However, buyer beware!

—Malcolm Harker

This document is not intended as a legal opinion. Its contents may not be cited or otherwise used in any manner prejudicial to the quiet enjoyment of its contents by those authorized to enjoy things quietly.

It took me 30 minutes to write. I charge in 20 minute increments, so that makes it 40 minutes.

Please send me $298.15.

Credit Card/PayPal/Zelle/Venmo payment accepted, subject to a 5% premium for briefly forcing me out of my comfort zone—in PJ’s at the kitchen table, for the past 2 years.
Editor’s note: There is help in completing forms that don’t require a lawyer. People’s Memorial Association holds classes at a minimal charge ($5 for members, $10 for non-members). Check their website as classes are being held by Zoom and are taught by professionals.

A local resource is Leschi Law; Erin Fairley specializes in estate planning. We took our completed papers to her to set up the legal portion and the charge was reasonable.

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Breaking news: A horned sea serpent was reported seen in Lake Washington. The Leschi Harbor Patrol station received a call from a Mercer Island woman who said she and two other women saw a “strange, two-horned creature about five feet long” on the surface of the water in front of a wharf.

News to me, anyway. This Associated Press dispatch was carried in the Portland Oregonian on July 18, 1936. As for the Seattle Times and P-I? Not a peep. The only Leschi news reported that month was that a man’s hand got caught in a Yesler Way cable car door at Leschi Park on July 13.

Our favorite drugs that induce such fish stories were, by and large, not yet invented then—and to the extent that they did exist, they probably hadn’t made their way to Mercer Island—so I’d say the report deserved some credence. And it’s not the only time such a thing has been reported.

In 2018, KING TV offered cellphone images of three six- or seven-foot-long sturgeons photographed off a family’s dock in Kenmore. That one is easier to understand, because the north end of the lake is shallower than much of the rest of it, and it wouldn’t be as unusual for bottom-feeders to surface. These fish were identified by a Washington State biologist, who noted that they can grow to longer than ten feet, reach over a thousand pounds, and live for over a hundred years—though not necessarily in Lake Washington. Sturgeon are among the world’s oldest and largest freshwater fish, dating back to prehistoric times.

Yet another dead sturgeon, this one eight feet long, was found floating dead north of Matthews Beach in 2013. And back in 1987, UPI reported an eleven-foot-long white sturgeon found floating near the Kirkland shore. It weighed 670 pounds. The fish, estimated to be 80 years old, was weighed with the help of a forklift at NOAA’s location, at Sand Point.

The last ice age, which ended about 13,000 years ago, covered the Seattle area for 1500 years with 3000 feet of ice. As that ice sheet retreated, with the earth’s climate warming, the sea level was high enough that Lake Washington was connected to Puget Sound and filled with salt water. Relieved of the weight of all that ice, the land hereabouts gradually rose, and later the sea level dropped somewhat. Lake Washington was eventually separated from the sea. With the influx of rivers carrying snowmelt, the lake was flushed of salt and evolved to freshwater. The saltwater fish remaining there evolved to survive in the new environment or didn’t. Anadromous salmon (able to live in salt and fresh water) migrated between the lake and the ocean, as they do today. Whether Lake Washington sturgeon date to the icepack melt is probably unknown. Also unknown is the veracity of the rumor that fish displayed at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exhibition at the present UW campus, in what later became Drumheller Fountain, were transplanted or “escaped” (huh?) to Lake Washington in 1909 and grew into the latter-day monsters that have been observed.

After the end of the Ice Age, the most dramatic change to the aquatic environment of the lake probably occurred with its lowering in 1916, upon the opening of the Ballard locks. Much wetland surrounding the lake was lost, and the former Black River outlet at the lake’s south end dried up. These changes resulted in the loss of wildlife habitat and Native American fishing and foraging grounds.

—Roger Lippman

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

~Roger Lippman

Photo courtesy of Roger Lippman

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Christina Reed addresses racism head on in her immersive exhibition “Reckoning” at the M. Rosetta Hunter Gallery at the Seattle Central College.

The exhibition consists of three parts. The first is Reflection, a wall filled with large black and white prints based on historical photographs of white people: juries, businessmen, families, picket fences, interspersed with the words of the declaration of independence, maps of redlining. The white people are passive, but collectively they create a wall of oblivious privilege. Interspersed with the images are repeated quotes from the declaration of independence underscoring the racism of the white founders as they wrote of equality even as slavery was perpetuated and black people denied all rights.
The artist added a round mirror every few feet in the mural. We can see our own white faces as part of the white racist gaze, or for a visitor of color, feel the insistence of this wall of privileged exclusion.

We turn from this immersion in whiteness to the second part of the installation, Regard: White Gaze. Thick glass squares hanging from the ceiling painted with blue eyes gaze directly at us. A literal white gaze, the hanging pieces of glass feel claustrophobic as we approach them, suggesting the feeling of being watched, judged, monitored, and even threatened simply by the act of looking. It is very difficult to walk through this intense forest of glass panes, another wall of privilege, so we walk around it.

The third part of the installation Repair suggests actions to counter racism. There is going to be a closing on February 17 from 5–7 pm (hopefully) in which people wear signs that have references to various aspects of ways to counter racism. On one side of the sign is an oblique reference. You have to turn the sign over in order to know what it means. In other words, you have to do more than look at the sign. Then once you turn it over a wide range of possible ways forward are offered some educational, some personal, some joining with others. They include references to the 1619 project, a history of slavery and the roots of racism. Another explains red lining, a third “12 out of 18” lists the 12 Presidents out of the first 18 who owned slaves. Other actions suggest observing microaggressions, euphemisms. And of course, speaking to our elected representatives about racism and supporting diverse cultural organizations. Revolution is not included but volunteering on projects related to the Criminal Justice System is one of the more specific community actions.

Christina Reed received support for this project and did much of her research at the historic home and library of the James and Janie Washington Cultural Center 1816 26th Ave in the Central District. If you want to know more about this important artist, come to the unveiling of a bronze statue of Dr. James W. Washington and the restored “Fountain of Triumph” Washington’s last public monument. The “Fountain,” formerly located on 23rd Ave, addresses salmon migration as a metaphor of the difficulties of survival for African Americans. The Event will be at 24th and Union part of the newly built Midtown Center, February 26, 2022, 6:30–8:30pm. Call the Washington Foundation for Information 206-709-4241.

Other exciting exhibitions:
• Lauren Iida’s Citizen’s Indefinite Leave at Art Exchange Gallery, Tuesday-Saturday 11am–5:30pm, until February 19. Iida bases this series of her extraordinary paper cut out art on her grandmother’s experience during World War II.
• Embodied Change: South Asian Art Across Time at the Asian Art Museum, until July 10.
The first exhibition by the newly hired curator of South Asian art Natalia Di Pietrantonio, who oddly is not South Asian, but I will say that she definitely knows the field. The exhibition includes 16 artists in a wide range of media as well as stunning early miniatures. Most of it focuses on the female body and the rich Goddess traditions of India. More soon!
• Nancy Holt: Between Heaven and Earth at Western Washington University Art Gallery, Bellingham, 10am–4pm Monday–Friday and 12pm–4pm Saturday, until May 7.
I am quoting from their description as I haven’t seen it yet: “the trans-disciplinary exhibition addresses not just the complexities of her artwork but her interests in sciences, from geology, biology, ecology, surveying technology to astronomy.” Western Washington University owns one of Holt’s works “Stone Enclosures: Rock Rings” as part of their exceptional collection of public art on the campus. This is probably the most major exhibition in the Northwest this spring. Make the trip!

~Susan Platt, PhD
www.artandpoliticsnow.com
LOVE IS IN THE AIR: RELEASE OF STEVE’S LEGACY RED TO BENEFIT THREE LOCAL CHARITIES

Residents from all of our surrounding neighborhoods, from Leschi to Madrona, Madison Park to Seward Park and beyond, know that Steve Shulman, longtime Leschi Market owner and beloved community leader, was one of the first to pass away from the effects of COVID-19 in March of 2020. In January, Leschi Market and Shulman Estate Wines released Steve’s Legacy Red, a big and bold Walla Walla wine to honor Steve and continue his many charitable contributions throughout our community.

A portion of the proceeds from each bottle sold will be donated by Leschi Market to three charitable community organizations advancing causes that were near and dear to Steve’s heart. $10 per bottle sold will be shared among Jewish Family Service of Seattle (Supportive Living Services Program), Rainier Valley Food Bank, and the Southeast Seattle Senior Center.

The project has been in the works for more than a year, with many members in the community helping in various aspects. There was the formation of the Shulman Estate Advisory Council, a collection of some of Steve’s best friends, both personally and professionally throughout his life. The group – close to twenty in all – met over zoom a handful of times, we talked, obviously, a lot about Steve, and his beliefs, causes and outlook. In the end, we whittled down to the 3 charities and causes mentioned above, to be the first, initial partners and beneficiaries of Steve’s Legacy Project.

The wine, a Walla Walla Valley blend consisting of more or less equal parts Malbec, Petit Verdot, and Merlot, retails for $39.99. There are 100 cases available for this vintage, and it is expected to sell very quickly. Each grape brings their A-game to the party. The Petit Verdot brings the structure, backbone and tannin, while the Malbec offers that brilliant Malbec-deep purple color with the Merlot showcasing the dark brooding fruits you’ve come to expect from Walla Walla grapes.

The label is one of my personal favorites from the entire line of Leschi wines. The actual picture of Steve, in the middle of the wine aisle he created 25 years ago with a welcoming smile on his face. The photo was taken for a feature story on Leschi Market turning 70 years old in 2018. The morse code at the top pays homage to Steve’s father, Leonard Shulman, and his time as a railroad telegrapher. The series of dots and dashes “… -- / - -… .-” translates to “SMS / LBA,” the first being Steve’s initials, and the latter standing for “Loved By All.”

The back label took quite an emotional toll to write, but the end result is beautiful and would make Steve proud. As many of his closest friends and family would tell you, he didn’t seek, or frankly even like the recognition or attention, even though it is more than well deserved.
Legacy: a gift, handed down from the past for future generations’ benefit. Steve Shulman was our gift. He was known to us all as a friend, neighbor, uncle, boss, business owner, community leader and papa to his pups, and cherished for his generosity, good deeds and commitment to our community. This wine will help ensure that Steve’s legacy lives on. Enjoy this wine knowing that you are continuing Steve’s legacy.

Thank you all for your kind words and support over the last two years. May we all continue to build community together.

-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.

BLUWATER BISTRO LESCHI
102 Lakeside Ave. 206-328-2233
Hours: Mon-Fri 11am-2am, Sat/Sun 9am-2am

While we at Leschi News always let you know how appreciated Bart and his team at BluWater are to our community, I don’t recall a recent review of their food.

First, Bart has installed new eastern windows, beautiful new blue themed carpeting and exquisite lighting.

Now a little about their appetizers; BW’s ceviche is divine and authentic. When the original BW opened on Lake Union, I had the ceviche. It was awesome and the recipe is still the same, or better. The secret—they cure the fish in lime juice. If ceviche is cured in lemon juice, it is bitter. The tortilla chips that come with this appetizer are perfect for ‘dipping’. The salmon as an appetizer is wild, generously portioned, and good enough for a light dinner with its sautéed spinach.

Bart chooses the freshest produce—never have I had bad lettuce there. The portions are substantial for a large appetite and perfect to split or take half home for tomorrow’s lunch.

The meat vendor Bart uses is excellent and the quality of his meat is top quality.

BluWater Leschi offers a vast selection of foods for any size or type appetite and then includes a seasonal fresh or special menu. February 14th, he has a great Valentine’s Day special: lobster and sirloin accompanied with champagne!

Aside from all Bart and team does for our little village of Leschi, the staff, service, food and ambiance are worth revisiting. Thank you, Bart!

-Janice Brown

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LESCHI CC BOARD MEETINGS 1/10/22 & 1/12/22

The Board had voted to hold two one-hour meetings; the first to cover the usual business and the second on 1/12/22 to discuss goals for 2022.

January 10, 2022 Minutes
Attendance: Janice, Trevor, Yun, Matthias, Ashley, Diane

February News
• Submittal deadline: January 17

Board Business–All
• Leschi Star awards–Anyone in the community can nominate someone. When we recognize people, we tell their stories. Plan on about a dozen awards. Matthias to check whether there are order amounts that trigger better pricing.
• LCC Insurance permits–Treasurer will be responsible to work with the insurance provider on obtaining liability insurance for LCC sponsored events
• Action on new non-profit rules that went into effect 1/1/2022–By Laws Committee members, Janice, John, and Tracy will work on this task. Diane will provide Gwen’s contact info to Janice.
• Duwamish vs. Muckleshoot–Matthias to resend the link to the Crosscut survey
• Confirm February General Meeting topic and guests–Marina Update

Discuss the scope/plan for our Wednesday meeting to discuss 2022 goals
• Goal for the entire board
• Which organizations to support such as LIHI, Leschi Elementary School, Senior Center, etc
• Succession planning
• Restricted funds.

January 12, 2022 Minutes
Attendance: Janice, Trevor, Yun, Matthias, Ashley, Diane, Tracy

LCC Board Goals for 2022
1. Ensure that LCC bylaws agree with the revised state regulations. Board members to meet with Gwen Rench to review bylaws: Janice Brown, John Barber and Tracy Bier.
2. Develop Orientation meeting for new Board members. Diane and Matthias
3. Support Friends of Street Ends groups by committing to clean up events–Janice, Tracy, Yun
4. Present the remaining emergency preparation workshops for the community–TBD
5. Support the creation of a public picnic shelter in Leschi Park in Steve Shulman’s honor. (John Barber to lead)
6. Build program of interest to community (example: local authors, artists, etc)

Restricted Funds
1. Provide the history of each restricted fund projects to Matthias–Diane

Artwalk–Janice
1. Schedule for September 10
2. Start planning committee meeting in March
3. May add historic tour to the event
4. Advertise Save the date and planning committee members in upcoming Leschi News
5. Apply for Small Sparks grant

Organizations to support
1. Leschi School; Leschi Music Program; LIHI tiny homes; Sr Ctr; Rainier Food Bank; FOSE
2. Rely on Treasurer’s recommendation on how much to give organizations that will be based on cost/ad/due projection.

Succession planning
1. Chip away at Leschi News duties over the course of the year,
2. Leschi News 40th Anniversary is in April
3. Talk to John B about all the work he has done and are doing in the community and ways for members to assist him

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Certificate of Deposit
$1.13 $11,256.42
Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!
We create awareness of neighborhood issues so residents may make informed and effective decisions.
LCC joins with the Leschi Business Association on ArtWalk and Halloween Spooktacular
LCC supports the Instrumental Music Program at Leschi Elementary
LCC supports volunteer activities in our local parks and on our public stairways
LCC supports the Central (Central Area Senior Center)
LCC produces the Leschi News 10 times a year

Name_____________________________ Phone____________________
Address___________________________________________________
City________ State____ Zip________ Email_______________________

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

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

LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING
Feb 2, 2022 7pm
Pacific Time (US and Canada)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88254418509?pwd=bTVqVHA0Y0VKVpHdk5DeFRpZ1U2dz09
Meeting ID: 882 5441 8509
Passcode: 755406

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Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFTZm4Zk0
Leschi News advertising rates:
business card, $35; 1/4 page, $70;
1/2 page, $140. Contact Diane Snell
at 206-726-0923 to advertise to
your community.

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

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

The next Leschi News deadline is **FEBRUARY 14**. 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

**PAYPAL IS BACK!**

Our treasurer, Matthias Linnenkamp, closed our
defunct PayPal account and opened a new one so
now you have 2 ways to pay your dues: by check
or by PayPal. We will work on adding PayPal to our
subscription form.

**HOW TO USE PAYPAL:**
Search for @leschicc or use https://paypal.me/leschicc.
In the notes, please include your mailing address
and let us know if the amount paid is for dues, a
donation or both.

Check the latest Leschi News to see the date you
need to renew. Given our many donations this year,
our General Fund is rather low and the restricted
funds are limited to those projects they support. Let’s
start the new year with a healthy treasury so we can
continue our work in 2022. Pay LCC dues now!

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