

leschinews

JUNE MEETING

Please join us at our final community gathering before we break for summer. Meet your neighbors over food and drinks, meet with our board and share concerns, ideas for programming and learn how to get involved in a casual setting.

We will meet on Wednesday, June 5, from 6:30-8pm outside of Grace United Methodist Church. Please note the earlier start time! If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will shift the festivities indoors to the large event room on the lower level.

Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30pm

Grace United Methodist Church
722 30th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

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SAVE THE DATE

SEPT 4 @ 7PM
Leschi Community Meeting

SEPT 14 @ 11AM-5PM
ArtWalk

President's Message

Hello Leschi Community!

It has been wonderful meeting so many community members during my three years volunteering with the council, and I am looking forward to leading it for the next two years as president.

I am happy that I will be able to count on a strong team of new and old board members. I welcome Allen Urness as our new Vice President, and I am glad that Matthias Linnenkamp as Treasurer and Trevor Lalish-Menagh as Secretary will stay on for another two years. And I am appreciative of Janice Brown and Yun Pitre for their leadership over the past three years, keeping the council going during challenging times.

I'm encouraged by the increasing engagement we've seen this year so far. I can feel the energy building with new supporters joining us, a budding public safety committee, and more of you attending our community meetings. I hope to continue to build on that engagement and to ensure that the Leschi Community Council represents the interests, needs and concerns of folks from all parts of Leschi.

I am looking forward to bringing programs to the community that will be engaging and worth your while.

To facilitate broader engagement, we have recently refreshed our website. Thanks to Gino Alberto who put in countless hours to thoughtfully redesign it and make it more useful to you. Please check it out at leschicommunitycouncil.org and don't hesitate to give us feedback!

Our next event is our June community meetup on June 5. Instead of our standard meeting format, we are hosting a gathering (with food!) to kick off summer. Stop by to meet neighbors, connect with board members and committee chairs, and provide input for future meetings and issues we need to tackle for the community.

Friendly reminder that we take a summer break with no community meetings or Leschi News printing in July or August. The board will continue to meet and all are welcome at board meetings. Email us at leschicouncil@gmail.com with questions or to get board meeting information.

I hope to see both familiar and new faces at our June event, and around the neighborhood.

All the Best,
Ashley Martin



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

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THE NON-COMP PLAN and other inequities

One gathered from our recent meeting with some of the folks who worked on the Comp Plan update, that the work had been intense, and it is presented as forward looking. It appeared to me as a cautious document that very slightly enhanced the previous comp plan but seemed to ignore the public wishes. Voters seem to want low income housing available so we don't have encampments but there is little said about low income housing. I think if anyone had a "crisis" in their home budget, there would be some serious evaluation about expenditures. No more Friday night pizza! Perhaps the city could hold back on ShotSpotter which has poor results. We voted for Social Housing, and it seemed to be enacted into law, but I did not find a reference to it in the plan.

It is a concern of mine that the powers that be are either not listening to the public or just outright ignoring them. The public has shown that it wants something done about the lack of housing for the minimum wage workers. Why can't our teachers and other helpers live in the communities they serve?

Another example is the Denny Beach issue known as the city's only nude beach. (Nudity is not a crime in this city.) We thought the previous meeting had resolved this issue but now we see that Parks has come up with a plan to establish a children's park at the entrance and then move into the nude portion of the park. Will there be a wall to separate the two? It seems that a towel would hardly be enough to protect innocent children from harmful scenes of human flesh. And who are the powers that be listening to? The large group that turned out previously or the person with the most money? We do not lack children's parks. We are blessed with what is probably the most creative beach park for children at Madrona Beach.

And the City Council (with the exception of one member) recently voted to approve a new police contract that resolves the pay issue handsomely but shuts down any more accountability for police. Polls seem to show that the public approves of police accountability (by 80% according to Hacks and Wonks) but thanks to our council representatives, that is not going to happen. The contract supersedes anything that the Mayor or even the Police Chief might want. Public comments at this City Council meeting were shortened from the usual 2 minutes per person to 1 minute. It was especially disappointing to see our own District 3 representative vote for this contract.

Perhaps it is time to read *Animal Farm* again; it does appear that some animals are more equal than others.

-Diane Snell



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Neighborhood and Beyond

MAY MEETING SUMMARY

Joined by Katie Sheehy, Strategic Advisor, Equitable Development Team and Michael Hubner, the Long Range Planning Manager and One Seattle Plan Project Manager.

The goal of our May community meeting was to obtain an update on Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, understand which stage the plan development is at, what it covers and how the community may provide input.

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

Seattle's Comprehensive Plan is a road map for where and how our city will grow and invest in communities over the next 20 years and beyond. It guides City decisions about where we locate housing and jobs, and where and how we invest in transportation, utilities, parks, and other public assets. The One Seattle Plan is a major update that advances a vision for the future that aligns with our city's core values to make Seattle more equitable, livable, sustainable, and resilient for today's residents and generations to come.

Visit seattle.gov/opcd/one-seattle-plan to read the overview. You can also subscribe for updates on that page.

One set of concerns raised by community members was related to how parking will be managed if multi-unit dwellings can be placed on parcels in residential, mostly single-family neighborhoods or in so-called neighborhood centers, like the one planned for Madrona.

This is in part addressed in the preliminary proposal for zoning changes, which you can find here: seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanNeighborhoodResidentialConceptsDRAFT2024.pdf.

Most of the zoning changes reflect the requirements of House Bill 1110, which was passed by the Washington State legislature.

Another concern raised was whether the feedback system is equitable and pulling in feedback from all affected community members, especially those for whom placing a phone call is the only or most convenient option. The presenters encouraged community members to access the online portal and submit feedback (the extended deadline closed on May 20).

Lastly concerns were raised about what changes in zoning may do to property values and how those changes would affect the residents who may have lived in the neighborhoods affected for generations.

The meeting highlighted the importance of staying engaged as the Comprehensive Plan is shaped and finalized over the coming months. The goal is to finalize the plan by the spring 2025.

What's next? The online comment period closed on May 20 (it had been extended from early May). The presenters shared that a zoning update will be available in the fall, so we'd like to invite them back at that time to delve deeper on that topic.

-Ashley Martin

LCC PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

As the Public Safety Committee is in its early stages, we will be spending the next couple of months developing our plan for the Leschi community and seeking volunteers to assist us. The committee will focus on three main areas: Traffic Calming, Personal and Property Crime Safety, and Emergency Preparedness. Below, you can learn more about each area and our initial plans. We aim for this effort to benefit the entire Leschi community, and we invite you to get involved. Some community members have already joined in, and if you want to help shape and support this initiative, please let us know.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming involves various measures to reduce vehicle speed and volume on roads, making them safer and more pedestrian-friendly. Our initial focus has been discussions with the city regarding options to slow traffic along Lake Washington Blvd, but there is more work ahead.

PERSONAL AND PROPERTY CRIME SAFETY

There are many ways to improve safety, such as partnering with community police liaisons for home safety reviews and participating in neighborhood block watches. One way to get involved is by participating in Night Out (seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/night-out) on the 1st Tuesday in August, which raises crime prevention awareness and unites communities. We will explore training and resources to support our community and collaborate with partners to share information.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Community emergency preparedness involves planning, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. We will begin by focusing on individual and family preparedness and gradually expand to the entire community. I am reaching out to neighboring communities to learn from their experiences and successes.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please email me at Allen.Urness@gmail.com and I will follow up in the coming weeks as we establish the committee.

PRESS CONFERENCE RE: ENCAMPMENT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN POWELL BARNETT PARK

Very seldom does a community hold a press conference, but when an encampment of asylum seekers from Congo, Angola, and Venezuela in 60 or more tents occupied Leschi's Powell Barnett Park (ML King Drive between E Alder and E Jefferson), the Parks and Greenspace Committee quickly made an assessment.

Overcrowding had resulted in food and human waste on the hillside east of the tents. Clearly, the two toilets in the park comfort station could not sustain 120-plus people.

We also saw that the asylum seekers were helped by volunteers from the area, who offered donated food, clothing and other supplies. The City had been promising indoor housing for the campers, but little was happening.

We held the press conference at 1pm, May 6. It was attended by KOMO, KING, FOX 13, the *Seattle Times*, and the *Capitol Hill Blog*. The press conference was jointly held with members of the Barnett family. Maisha Barnett (granddaughter of Powell Barnett) was the lead speaker. The neighborhood was represented by Hope Hensley, who lives across the street from the park, and me.

We discovered during the press conference that the Venezuelans had packed up the night before. By the end of the week, all of the asylum seekers were channeled into hotels, motels, and shelters.

It is rare that our community council, or a committee of it, holds a press conference. This is the only one I can remember, and I have been a regular here since I started coming to meetings in 1972.

The media has treated us well, and that includes video time on KOMO, KING, and Fox, the *Capitol Hill Blog*, and the front page of the *Seattle Times*. The Leschi neighborhood was shown as inclusive, caring, and loving its parks.

-John Barber, LCC Parks and Greenspace Committee

LESCHI SCHOOL UPDATE

We had a very busy and successful late April and May at the school—a doubleheader community event on April 27 to rededicate our portrait of Powell Barnett and learn more about his legacy, followed by our amazing Golden Grads Spring Concert; staff appreciation week with lots of goodies and an outing to BluWater Bistro; our Move-a-thon on May 15; state testing in multiple grades; and Family Dance on May 31! Looking forward to Field Day, Juneteenth celebration, and 5th Grade Promotion in June!

Please visit our website at leschipta.org for updates and to support our work on behalf of educators, students and their families. Our Annual Giving Campaign remains open and 10% of the funds raised will be shared with other low-income school communities in central and south Seattle. Please check with your employer as many will make matching contributions for charitable donations!

-Benson Wilder

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER NEWS, JUNE

May has been a month of outside clean-up at the CASC. The trees were all trimmed, along with the shrubs and bushes. We had the slope trimmed and cut down in preparation for the building of a new deck off of the Solarium which is slated to start soon and finished prior to Seafair.

Delays to the new HVAC system have been due to a wet roof in need of drainage and clean-up prior to the installation and work commencing on the new HVAC system on the roof.

Have you seen the recent beautification of the inside premises? Eunice Bias, Restoration Committee leadership is spearheading this effort. The Committee has raised funds and secured donations to replace equipment, hang original art, acquire plants, flowers and a new microwave and cart. Please quickly visit to see the many new plants and flowers that adorn the inside and outside of the building.

June 21st Green Dolphin will feature Jazz Artist of the Year, Eugenie Jones. 6–9pm, CASC, Cost: \$25 (Lifetime), \$30 (Annual) and \$35 Non-Members and at the door.

Movie screenings: On-going, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday CASC will host movies at 1:30pm; a wonderful selection of recent movies is featured. See the brochures created and available at the front desk and on our “New” Website, casrcenter.org which launched earlier this year.

-Dian Ferguson

BICYCLE SUNDAYS

On scheduled weekends from May to September, a portion of Lake Washington Boulevard—from Mount Baker to Seward Park—will be closed to motorized vehicles from **10am Saturday to 6pm Sunday**.

Local access: People driving to homes along the boulevard because they live there, are visiting, or making deliveries are allowed from the nearest cross street.

Parking lots are open and will be accessible from the nearest cross street.

The 2024 event dates are:

Saturday, May 25–Sunday, May 26

Saturday, June 15–Sunday, June 16

Saturday, June 22–Sunday, June 23

Saturday, July 13–Sunday, July 14

Saturday, July 27–Sunday, July 28

Saturday, August 10–Sunday, August 11



Hi Neighbors,

Homes sales in Leschi, Mt Baker, Madrona, Madison Park and Seward Park have been very slow since October.

That's about to change, as Sellers prepare their homes for the busy Spring market and Buyers grow tired of sitting in the wings waiting for new inventory and rates top drop.

If you'd like to strategize how to maximize the sale of your home or bid and win the one you've been looking for, please reach out. I'd love to help.

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Saturday, August 24–Sunday, August 25
Saturday, August 31–Sunday, September 1
Saturday, September 21–Sunday, September 22

–Submitted by Anne Depue

THE MOUNT BAKER SUMMER FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 23, Hunter Boulevard Park 10am–5pm

Last year's Festival was such a success that this summer we're expanding it to include:

- Up to 50 artisan booths
- Live music
- More delicious food
- For the first time, fun activities and events for children (details to come!)

Bring your whole family, grab some friends, and join us as we kick off the first weekend of summer and celebrate art, food, music and community at our free Summer Festival! Please stay tuned for more information to follow soon. We look forward to seeing you there! Rachel Hollister and Tanya Bednarski, Summer Festival Co-Chairs

*Please note: the Mount Baker Garden Tour will return in Summer 2025.

FRIENDS OF STREET ENDS

Accessible Shores and an opportunity to enjoy and improve your neighborhood

Did you know public street ends dot the shores of Lake Union, Lake Washington, the Ship Canal, Puget Sound and the Duwamish? For more than 30 years, Friends of Street Ends (FOSE) has worked to improve public shoreline access throughout Seattle for the city's over 140 shoreline street ends. FOSE (an organization of community volunteers) was started here in Leschi. From scout groups to environmental organizations to neighbors, we gather to tend to plantings and pathways, as well as provide seating and water access for all. These shoreline places are often designed as a collaboration between local community members and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), the city agency which manages the street end program.

If you're interested in helping to maintain or improve your local shoreline street end, join us for our next meeting on June 13th at 6pm. For more information, email us at FOSE@streetends.org or visit streetends.org.

–Laura Perry

HONORING CANCER SURVIVORS

June is Cancer Survivors Month. Personally, I don't know anyone who hasn't been, in one way or another, affected by cancer. My mother had breast cancer, my grandmother had pancreatic cancer and my childhood best friend had ovarian cancer. They did not survive. Unfortunately, I have countless other friends, relatives and colleagues who were diagnosed with this horrendous disease. Some survived. Others did not.

If you are considered high risk for cancer, it is extremely important to get screened. Screening can save lives. Some cancers have a 90% cure rate if discovered early. If detected early, it will be easier to treat and hopefully cure. Do you have family members who have or had cancer? If yes, you may be considered high risk. This is especially the case with breast and prostate cancer. But don't think the list stops there. Over 600,000 people are estimated to die from cancer this year with the number one culprit being lung cancer.

Unusual skin growth or bleeding, lumps, difficulty urinating, uncontrollable coughing and unexplained weight loss are symptoms of some types of cancer. Get screened on a regular basis and see your health care provider if you have symptoms that can't be explained. Be your own best advocate and don't wait until it's too late so if diagnosed, you can say you are a survivor.

–Carol A. Coram, Ed.D.

Washington State Lead Ambassador, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Cancer Survivor

LIFE'S A BEACH

Leschi beach is a great place for families to hang out in the summer with amenities including a lifeguard, diving platform, rest rooms and grills for your burgers.

Denny Blaine, Leschi's northern neighbor, has a different vibe. As the Seattle Times recently reported that KUOW reported:

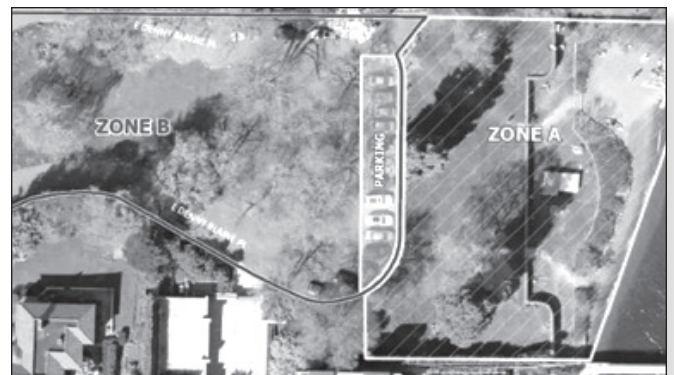
A nude beach popular with queer people in Seattle drew ire from wealthy neighbors, who complained about parking and alleged lewd conduct.

An anonymous donor (or donors) offered to pay for a children's play structure there—ostensibly to tame the park.

Park-goers protested, and won, but a mystery has persisted: Who would have paid for the playground?

Sources claim that the anonymous donor lives nearby and is the owner of University Village. It's therefore possible that swimwear sales—or the lack thereof—were also a factor.

The City Parks Department—the same folks who recently upgraded the Madrona Drive duckpond—had provided a helpful map to summarize the now ditched proposals:



It seems Zone A would have been where you could let it all hang out, whereas in Zone B it would be suggested you put a towel on it. The Duck Zone would remain in its existing location—they're all naked all of the time anyway.

To further muddy the waters, previous legal challenges have apparently resulted in nudity being ruled legal throughout the city. The implications for the only “Towels Required” zone in all of Seattle could have been profound.

- A towel-dispensing and recycling station?
- Towel Guards instead of Lifeguards?
- Uber Towels?
- TikTok Towels?
- Online surveys to obtain feedback on visitors’ “Towel Experience?”

The conversation possibilities would also be endless:
Well, hello big towel boy!
You call that a towel?

Fortunately, your correspondent is too old and shortsighted—as the now-defeated policy may also have proved to be.

—Malcolm Harker

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI

Frink Park 7: Carlos Bulosan, Part 2

Carlos Bulosan’s union work and his writing ability led him from California back to Seattle, where, late in 1951, he went to work as publicity director for the largely Filipino Alaska Cannery Workers Union, Local 37 of the ILWU. He produced the local’s 1952 yearbook. This was the first US union local to be organized by Filipino workers. Bulosan’s work was often cited as an inspiration by the young Local 37 reformers Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, who were murdered in Seattle in 1981 at the behest of the Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

At a party given for Bulosan shortly after he arrived, he was introduced by union organizer Chris Mensalvas to Jo Patrick, a member of the Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, which fought the deportation of union leaders. Patrick was a longtime activist for farm workers’ rights who had met many of the young leaders of Local 37 while organizing at farms near her Yakima hometown. Bulosan wrote of their meeting in the summer:

*The sun was perched on the pillars of the sky,
 But it came down to sit upon her feet;
 Then it entered her shining brown eyes
 And stayed there to gaze upon the moaning world.*



Patrick, 33, was separated from her husband and raising two young boys. As a communist, she was blacklisted and unable to find work in teaching and worked instead in factories and sweatshops. She was instantly drawn to

Bulosan, then about 39. From about 1953 to 1955, they lived together in her Lake Dell house, and he helped raise her children. In the autumn, he wrote,

*The moon stepped out from her hidden throne,
 And sat upon a carpet of hidden cloud;
 Then she clapped her hands, and the sky
 Became a splendor of gold and blue.*

He wrote long letters to her older son, Tim, about his life, the history of the Philippines, and its colonization by Spain and the US. These were also his most productive years in writing poetry, though little if any of it was published until years after his death. In the winter,

*She smelt of snow, white snow, pure snow.
 ... the wind was howling in the bare trees,*

Not long after his return to Seattle in the early ‘50s, he had a recurrence of tuberculosis, for which he had earlier been hospitalized in California. He recovered somewhat after treatment at Firland Sanitarium, north of Seattle. In the springtime,

*Many flowers were dancing about her feet,
 Clapping their hands and dancing, about her feet.*

His years with Jo Patrick were complex. They each had found the love of their life. They made a pact: I will write to you and you write me back every single day. Yet, due to his health struggles and excessive alcohol consumption on the part of both, there were difficulties, and they eventually separated.



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In 1956, his health declining from the effects of TB and alcohol, Bulosan died of pneumonia.

In researching this story, I explored the extensive collection of Bulosan's papers at the UW Special Collections, with support from the helpful staff. There I saw a chronology of Bulosan's life by Licerio Lagda, who had written his master's thesis about Bulosan at the University of the Philippines in 1984. I found Mr. Lagda, well into his 80s and sharp as a tack, in Southern California, where I visited him, and he generously shared with me his thesis and many other papers not found in Seattle. My heartfelt thanks go out to him and his family for their support.

-Roger Lippman

The author writes monthly about Leschi history and his experiences over his 48 years in the neighborhood.

A WALK THROUGH THE WOODS

*It was morning, not too early, not too late,
For the air was low and blue;
And the downward hill, sloping under our feet,
Was fresh with dew:*

*It is a wonderful day, she said,
Touching leaves and grass, eating flowers
Off the vines and bushes.
"Do you hear it, the song of summer?" she said.
Touching her hand, going downhill,
Trying to discover the enchantment that charmed her,
I tried in vain; and in vain did I hear the song of summer.
What was lacking in me, what was amissed in my heart?
We walked through the woods, holding her small hands,
Down the hill, fresh with dew,
Toward the waiting lake, and her memory;
And at last, seeing sailboats flying on the water,
At last I saw, or seemed to see,
The rapture of her summer morning ...*

*"Do you hear it, the song of summer," I said.
"O I wish it will never end, until eternity!" she cried.*

*Through her I heard the song of summer.
Through her I saw the glorious day.
That summer, a year ago,
I found everything through her,
and through her alone.*

*Come with me to her forest and lake.
Under a dewdrop is her bright white face,
Surrounded by unicorns racing on blades of grass,
And fairies dancing in newborn flowers.
All her summers are in the maplewood.
All her springs are in the heartshaped crocuses.*

*Come with me, come with me,
To her forest and lake;
Where it is never too late
To see her small white feet dancing downhill
Toward her enchanted paradise.*

—Carlos Bulosan

*An unpublished poem among those written in Leschi for Jo Patrick.
Credit: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections*

IS COMMON SENSE IN A COMA?

I do not recall the first time I read "The Obituary of Common Sense," but I know it was years ago, and I know I smiled. (Locate by placing the title in your browser, if you like.) Phillip K. Howard's 1995 book *The Death of Common Sense* was a reminder of the article. Ever so often something happens to remind me of the article or the book. I used to say Common Sense was sick, but more and more I think it's dying. I refuse to say it is dead. In conversations I occasionally say, "You know Common Sense is on its deathbed." A friend of mine says, "Common Sense is not dead; it's in a coma." Without reading the book or essay, you get the idea. More and more incidents in our society show what many of us believe: common sense is getting less and less common. The essay cites instances in which the call should have been one way but was another.

The Renton crash in which 38-year-old Andrea Hudson, 12-year-old Boyd Buster Brown, 13-year-old Matilda "Tilly" and 12-year-old Eloise Wilcoxson were killed has crossed my mind countless times. I think about the deceased and the survivors of the crash, the community. I knew no one, but that did not prevent me as well as many others being affected by the tragedy. The driver of the car was going 120 miles per hour; he hit the Hudson vehicle going 107 miles per hour. (At least one other source says the driver was going 112 miles per hour.) King County Council member Regan Dunn wants "to study options for improving road safety in the Fairwood community." Nowhere is the speed limit 120 mph. Obey the law. According to the prosecutor, "alleged" driver 18-year-old Chase Daniel Jones of Kent had totaled two other cars within the year, both also the result of speeding. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says 26% of fatal crashes are related to speed. How many lives could be saved if we did not speed?

Another safety issue involving cars: to allow bus traffic to flow faster, the Department of Transportation inserted bus lanes on some stretches of Rainier Avenue and made the street one lane north and one lane south, added a turn lane, and reduced the speed limit. This is a plus for buses. However, some drivers pass or drive in this lane. Either action can be frightening and dangerous. Trying to make a turn when crossing a bus lane can be equally frightening because a vehicle may also be in that lane. Drivers must watch for the bicycle and scooters inside and outside the lanes.

Please remember some Tesla drivers believe watching the road is not something they must do. Despite the times the cars have been involved in accidents which could have been avoided had the drivers been attentive, some drivers believe paying attention is not their responsibility. Recently a Tesla ran into the back of a motorcycle, killing the rider.

One final issue involving cars: drivers who think making donuts is an activity enjoyed by everyone. Going around in circles can be dangerous. When a person sits on the hood of the car as the car goes around in circles, the danger increases. Spectators may also be injured or killed. Thanks to the internet, one can see a list of charges lodged against Seattle's

Belltown Hellcat. There are also stories of his reason for ignoring the charges or paying them with no fuss—his social media following is worth it.

Any conversation about common sense must include something about guns in America. Our lax laws allow thousands of people to be injured or killed by guns. In 2021, the number was 48,830 and includes suicides. The mass shootings—four must be dead for the shooting to be labeled “mass”—are themselves common. Again, information about them can be easily found. According to the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, two-thirds of mass shootings are linked to domestic violence. One’s home may not be safe. The odds of a woman being injured or killed by a spouse or partner are greater than being injured or killed by an unknown person. However, knowing people is not a prerequisite for shooting at them or killing them. Snipers fired at a group of teen rowers in California. More than once snipers have fired at persons driving along I-5. As I am writing this, a reporter is describing the fleeing persons at an Auburn Little League game: shots fired at Isaac Evans Park.

What amazes me most about the gun violence in the US is the number of persons injured and killed and how little some states and the federal government do to reduce the number. National Rifle Association lobbyists played a significant role in Congress’s prohibition of the use of federal funding to advocate or promote gun control.

Several times drivers have reported having their windshields hit by rocks or boulders pushed off bridges and overpasses. Most of the time, drivers have escaped with

injuries only. Of course, the emotional and mental scars may never disappear. Yet another stress is added to the stress some drivers ordinarily feel whenever they are behind a vehicle’s wheel.

I began this essay about common sense. As I progressed, I admit that the role of common sense is not as important as I thought. “Decency,” common decency is what’s missing. Too many of us act and live in the moment—and there is a time for such. But too many of us commit deeds in a moment that snuff out or negatively change lives forever. We can do better. Here we need Common Sense. We need to think about our actions and their impact—on others and ourselves.

-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).



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Culture Corner



Preston Singletary's "Ashes from the Fire," 2024, blown and sand carved glass.

RAVEN IS BACK!

Raven, the creator in the Tlingit mythology, rescued humans from darkness by stealing the sun.

"He was a white bird and the world was in Darkness. Raven decides he will try and do something about the darkness, for himself and for the world. As he follows the Nass River, he encounters the Fishermen of the Nights ... They tell Yeil (as Raven was then called) that Nass Shaak Arankaawu (the Nobleman at the Head of the Nass River) has many treasures in his Naa Kanidi (Clan House)including beautifully carved boxes that house the light," So Raven having disguised himself as a human baby, took the moon and the sun out of their boxes and liberated them.

Preston Singletary wondered what Raven has been doing since mythic times, so in his new series of glass works he brings Raven back, he wakes him up to our disastrous world. This exhibition (which unfortunately closed on June 1 but there is a free catalog you can get) includes many versions of Raven as well as a new story about Raven written by collaborator Garth Stine:

"I Dream Therefore I am Raven."

The exhibition is contained in the smaller room at Trevor Gallery, a low lighted space with a large photo of the forest at one end. Interspersed throughout the room are the new Raven sculptures, it feels like we are walking into the forest with Raven all around us.

Just outside the entrance is "Blue Light Spirit Mobile" suggesting blue spiritual light floating in the air. On the other side is "Communicating with the Spirits" two children riding on a composite bird/ animal who seem to be joining us. So, the stage is set for a special event.

At the entrance a sign says, "Please Feed the Raven." In these stories Raven is constantly in pursuit of food, as he realizes how degraded the salmon and berries he is given have become.



Preston Singletary's "Frozen River," 2024, blown and sand carved glass.

We see a white Raven. Raven was originally white, but when he rescued the sun, the Chief was so angry that he threw ashes at him and turned him black. But after sleeping for such a long time Raven grew new feathers and turned white again. As he arrives among people all glittering and white, they stare at him, so he decides to rub himself with ashes and turn black again so no one will notice him.

Preston: "In my interpretation of what is happening now I want to believe that Raven is battling climate change, protecting the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, or helping discover the Boarding School grave sites.

So the first story tells us about Raven's Dreams of the World Before with clear skies, clean water, uncorrupted animals, "magnificent salmon, berries ripe to bursting, and roe hurling themselves up river to spawn. "Before the world turned on itself with contempt and tore itself apart."

Altogether there are sixteen pieces that reference Raven's efforts to heal the world, each accompanied by a story written by Garth Stein.

They include Raven using ashes from the fire to change himself back to black from white. Crying to unfreeze the frozen river, and purify the water to liberate the fish there, protecting the children who have died at boarding schools, and taking on a fog hat and a fighting hat. The final piece is "Wolf sitting on a Rock "observant, cunning, ruthless, merciful, the spirit he would need to lead People into the Future World."

It is hard to overstate how creative this collaboration is between Stein and Singletary. The sculptures each convey the poignancy of the stories. They are all subtly colored, red, yellow, blue and created with blown and sand carved glass compressed within a larger shape and the form lines of traditional Tlingit sculpture, Stein's stories seamlessly bring together the mythic and the contemporary in narratives that both tell us of the degraded state of the world, and the possibilities for healing it.

Yet in the end we see how much must be done.

How ironic that white colonial settlers tried so hard to obliterate native culture, but now we increasingly realize that Indigenous knowledge may be the only way forward for our planet.

One upcoming exhibition I would like to mention.
Gallery 4Culture, June 6–27, 2024
Opening: Thursday, June 6, 6–8pm

JOHN FEODOROV: *Assimilations*

A series of paintings and prints question the ways colonization shapes identity.

John is a wonderful quirky artist whom I included in both of my recent books, *Setting our Hearts on Fire*, and *Art and Politics Now*. He has a unique perspective and sense of humor on cultural intersections.

-Susan Platt, PhD
www.artandpoliticsnow.com

LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY BY BONNIE GARMUS

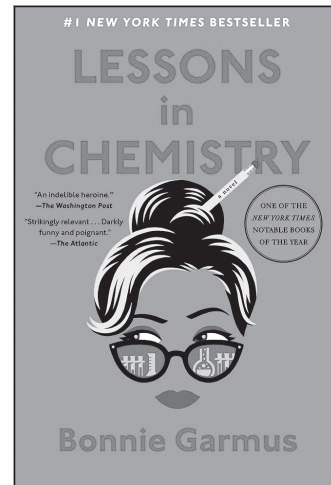
It was the 1960s. She loved chemistry but wasn't taken seriously. She had to fight to get the necessities for her lab and her work was printed under the department head's name. And of course, there's the pay differential but no one knows about it because we can't talk about our salaries. And there was the sexual pressure which apparently still goes on.

There's a lot of anger in this book (as well as humor) and women will recognize it. I remember those days in elementary school when the teacher asked a question and although my hand was raised, it was always a boy who was called on. I didn't realize at the time that girls were just destined for the kitchen and childcare. Long before high school, I had stopped raising my hand to answer questions.

Given the number of holds on the eBook version, I am not the only one who has enjoyed this book. My favorite quote is not from the heroine, but from her friend with similar experiences: "If men had to spend a day as a woman in this country, they would fold by noon!"

There are many characters to love in this book: the precocious child, the gifted dog (but aren't they all?...except those owned by Kristi Noem) and the Reverend who is not all that certain about God. My graduate school experience was better than depicted in this book, but even today when I call a business that we have an account with, I will be asked to put my husband on the phone to make sure it's OK to talk to me because all the accounts are in the man's name. Or do they think I am not capable of making decisions?

-Diane Snell



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Seeking Sustenance...

REMEMBERING A LESCHI WINE LEGEND

Longtime readers, neighbors and patrons of the Leschi Market may remember the name Ed Raftis. Others may not remember the name, but may remember a friendly, refined, older gentleman, that shuffled around the wine aisle with his larger than life, seemingly gold plated scissors that I swear could shear a lamb, cutting and hanging shelf talkers and wine descriptors. Either way, for a solid 20 years, if you purchased wine from Leschi Market anytime between 2000 and 2020, you were selecting a wine that Ed helped select for the store.

In early 2020, before the pandemic had really hit, for health reasons, Ed moved from his Lake Washington condo, just minutes from the store, to Moraga, California to be near his son and his son's family. Last month, we at the Market learned from one of Ed's oldest friends, Richard Nelson, that he passed away in April, shortly after celebrating his 88th birthday.

Ed's passion for wine led him to Leschi Market in his retirement. He was extremely instrumental in the expansion of and dedicated his time and knowledge to the success of the Leschi Market Wine Department and what it is today. I will forever be grateful for my time spent with Ed, in the store and out. Whether he would ever admit it or not, he took me under his wing in 2007 as the wine department grew and grew, and become increasingly difficult for a one-man show (in retirement mind you), to run. He taught me a lot about how retail worked, what he looked for in wine and the ever important price to quality ratio. He respected my palate, valued my ideas, and slowly transitioned into a supporting role – focusing his time pouring over reviews upon reviews of wines, recommending wine to bring in, and creating and fully facilitating weekly email blasts and monthly newsletters in addition to every single shelf talker hanging on the shelves.

Ed also wrote for the Leschi News for many, many years. When he decided to hand that over to me, he approached me with a printed copy of every single column he had ever written, and said, "Maybe this can give you some ideas." I have so many fond memories of Ed. From our early adventures carpooling to trade tastings together, to his unfiltered, unapologetic, and at times brutally honest feedback on wines, and somehow maybe even more critical opinions on labels. "The sales people need to know what they are working with!"

I have a plethora of valuable insight from my time with Ed that I carry with me today. I'll share some of my favorites here in no particular order. Be honest with feedback to winemakers and sales reps. Sometimes a phone call is much simpler than an email – tone and meaning will not get lost or

misconstrued. Wearing shorts in January is okay, "shorts are a sign of royalty!" Don't spit wine, spit olive oil and beer. The first chilled wine of the day is the best wine of the day. Really cold wine hides its flaws, the question is, was it shown this way intentionally?

I don't know much about Ed growing up in Colville, or his life as an attorney in New Jersey, but I am proud to have worked with him and know him how I did. He was a proud grandpa that bragged about his grandkids. He loved Mariners baseball and Gonzaga basketball, which always led to heartbreak in the end, and maybe a little extra friendly ribbing from this Husky. He loved wine and reading and writing about wine. Wine was a true passion of his. German Riesling was his gateway wine, and when he tasted one, you could actually see with each sip how he was transported back to a specific time and place in his memories.

I want to close by giving a heartfelt thank you to Ed-Edmund B-Mr. Raftis. Thank you for all you did in your time at Leschi Market. Your contributions live on in the store and the neighborhood.

Here are five current offerings of favorite Ed Raftis wines, complete with accurate and thorough descriptors.

Louis Roederer Collection 244 Champagne

An elegant Champagne, with bright acidity buoying a well-integrated range of ripe pear and white cherry, almond skin, fleur de sel and apple blossom notes. Fine and seamless, with a lingering, spiced finish. –*Wine Spectator*, 93-points, 94-points *James Suckling*, 93-points *Wine Enthusiast*

2022 Cristom Mt. Jefferson Cuvée Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills

Dried flowers, incense, rosemary and dried strawberries. Wonderfully fresh, crunchy in feel, with stimulating acidity offsetting its tart red fruits and hints of sour citrus that pucker the cheeks. Finishes with youthful tension, lightly structured, leaving suggestions of tart raspberry. –*Vinous*, 93-points

2021 Ridge Three Valleys Red Sonoma Coast

Nose of toasty oak, strawberry jam, mixed berry pie, black tea and baking spice. Layered black and blue fruit on the palate with milk chocolate, cherry, garrigue and textured tannins on the finish. –*Winemaker notes*

2022 Lobo Hills Dry Riesling Yakima Valley

This Riesling was slow fermented on yeast cultivated from Alsace, France, which produced a range of lovely aromas: apricot skins, white peaches and honeysuckle. On the palate, this Riesling has a rounded quality, giving way to flavors of apricots, melons and peaches. –*Winemaker notes*



...in the Wilds of Seattle

2021 Walla Walla Vintners Merlot Walla Walla Valley

Lifts from the glass with a blend of peppery red berries and dusty rose. It's luxuriously soft, with a pleasant inner sweetness and crisp wild blueberry fruit. This tapers off with admirable length—pleasantly chewy with a dark resonance. —*Vinous*, 90-points

~Kenneth Benner
Co-Owner & Wine Director
Leschi Market / Leschi Cellars
206.322.0700

EAT YOUR WAY DOWN JACKSON

Go to the Moonlight Café when you crave Vietnamese Food

Moonlight Café, 1919 S Jackson, open Monday-Sunday 10am-9pm. Many entrees are under \$20.

Jackson Street is lined with restaurants showcasing a variety of dining-in and take-out options. Beginning in Leschi at Jackson and 31st Ave S and working your way down to Rainier Ave, you can choose from pizza, international, barbeque, sushi, pub food, soul food, before hitting the mecca of great Asian restaurants in the ID. Join me as we take a short drive, walk, bike or hop on the 14 bus to check out nearby spots.

Let's start the adventure at the Moonlight Café, a Vietnamese restaurant at 19th and Jackson which has been a mainstay in the neighborhood since 1995. It's tucked away in a small lot which has parking in the front. I always enjoy the welcoming feeling I have coming into the restaurant. You are greeted by the wait staff who are dressed in beautiful and colorful tops.

Their menu is extensive, in fact maybe even overwhelming as there are two menus, one for meat eaters and another for vegetarians. It's hard to recommend any one dish because there are so many from which to choose. My friends and I had the mango salad which is flavorful and plentiful, crispy Sesame Beef with fresh vegetables, and the Shrimp Snow Peas and Shiitake Mushrooms which pops with flavor.

Probably the best approach is to choose a favorite Vietnamese dish and see how it fares with similar ones at other restaurants. Or ask the wait staff for a recommendation. You won't be disappointed by the price and portions as well as the pleasure of restaurant dining while discovering or supporting this neighborhood gem. Sorry, no bar so fancy cocktails are out but they do have a limited wine and beer selection.

Another reason for delving into Jackson's restaurant scene is to explore the nearby neighborhoods. Most of these restaurants aren't fancy dining but are fun to go to for the

first time or return to after some time. You can have take-out from many of these restaurants, but I like to dine in and see the flow and diversity of locals coming and going.

In addition to exploring these restaurants, have you seen all the amazing murals on the sides of buildings on Jackson between 23rd and Rainier? Public art and delicious food are definitely a good combination for a nice evening out. The Moonlight Café parking lot features one of a magnificent crane.

Do you have a favorite restaurant on Jackson you would like to share with others? I'd love to hear from you, email *Leschi News* your suggestion and I'll give it a try.

~Mary Carter Creech

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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESCHI CC BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MAY 7, 2024

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

Leschi News

- Submittal date (Diane): May 20th
 - Matthias - meeting write up
 - Ashley - June meeting
- Ashley to coordinate volunteers to distribute
 - Diane will handle Grocery Outlet
- Summer flyer
 - One pager that we print on our own and distribute
 - Matthias/Ashley to follow up with Diane

Board business

- Committee Update
 - Public Safety - no updates
 - Open Space and Parks - Encampment topic below
 - Artwalk - Matthias to contact Janice to avoid last minute updates. Music groups are confirmed. Diane has contacted all past vendors.
 - Yun asked when the next committee meeting will be. Perhaps in two weeks.
- Treasurer Report: Not reviewed, will be ready to publish in the Leschi News
- Old Business
 - Website revamp progress update: Gino did an incredible job!
 - If anyone sees issues or updates, send them to Ashley.
- New Business
 - June Community Meet Up (Ashley/Matthias)
 - Meet your neighbors - celebrate summer - with food.
 - › How do we engage more neighbors? Young people, under-represented communities
 - › Public safety - what does a functioning committee mean to us? How should it work?
 - › Cultural programming - history, the arts - how do we connect Leschi with local arts, culture, and history?
 - Ask Susan to get involved.
 - Format: potential to have timed sessions and have groups rotate across the tables. Or it may be that folks will have a topic they prefer to stick with. Sticky notes to capture ideas.
 - Google sheet to pull together format. - Trevor to set up. All Board members to work together to work out the format. Important to get the word out to drive attendance. Matthias/Ashley will handle food.
 - Summer Priorities
 - How to engage with our existing members
 - › June meeting with a focus on getting involved
 - How to represent more of Leschi, more diversity, more neighborhoods
 - › LCC table at Grace United Methodist Church's for Night Out
 - › Map our members (based on their addresses) and create a plan on how to reach out to parts of Leschi that are not well represented.
 - Use public safety committee to develop our committee working model. This requires regular engagement with volunteers/ committee members and a plan of actions to be taken/initiatives to be moved on.
 - › Appointed Allen Urness as Public Safety Chair
 - Encampment at Powell Barnett Park
 - Support for the encampment was across a lot of people and groups, but those groups and efforts weren't connected.
 - Press conference - John estimates that 15 media outlets showed up.

- Current update: All refugees have been moved to housing. Public notice from the city: Notice to vacate by 8am 5/9. Community members and organizations are cleaning up the space and have storage for the supplies that can be reused.
- Laura Jenkins connected us to the Mayor's office to keep them updated about what is happening at Powell Barnett Park.
- The Mayor's office has asked us to keep them posted if anything changes at Powell Barnett Park. John could act as the contact. Ashley will respond to the Mayor's office and introduce John.
- Next board meeting - will shift to Mon 6/10 6pm.
- Old records: See attachment (Diane) - Move to next month
 - Board members to review attachment
- Housekeeping (Ashley/Matthias) - Move to next month
 - Review the masthead in the Leschi News - discuss the roles where there is no engagement, e.g. land use chair and business associate.
 - New event calendar on website:
 - In the interim, Ashley will manage the site events calendar.
 - › In the interim, Ashley will manage the site events calendar.
- Committee member action item None

Respectfully submitted by Trevor Lalish-Menagh

| | Income | Expenses | Balance 4/30/24 |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | | | |
| Ad Revenue | \$4,171.00 | | |
| Dues | \$1,331.43 | | |
| Donations | \$1,171.81 | | |
| Reimbursement | | | |
| Insurance | | | |
| Printing and postage | | (\$4,323.12) | |
| Room Rentals | | (\$360.00) | |
| Other Expenses | | (\$297.18) | |
| Totals | \$6,674.24 | (\$4,980.30) | \$17,011.14 |
| Restricted Funds | | | |
| ArtWalk | \$175.44 | | \$648.84 |
| Cherry Street Corridor | | | \$635.76 |
| Flo Ware Park | | | \$686.53 |
| Friends of Powell Barnett | | | \$1,068.06 |
| Friends of Street Ends | | | \$4,546.31 |
| Frink Park | | | \$1,979.43 |
| King Street | | | \$1,270.00 |
| Leschi Gateway Project | | | \$51.03 |
| Leschi Natural Area | | | \$6,345.39 |
| Officer Brenton Fund | | | \$2,527.27 |
| Steve Shulman Memorial | | | \$65.00 |
| String of Pearls | | | \$2,130.38 |
| W. Vaughn Memorial Fund | | | \$1,200.00 |
| Wading Pool | | | \$3,006.13 |
| West Sheridan Street End | | (\$278.27) | \$371.65 |
| Whitebear DreamCatcher | | | \$201.64 |
| Totals | \$6,849.68 | (\$5,258.57) | \$43,744.56 |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$40.56 | | \$11,299.24 |

Support your community by joining the Leschi Community Council!

The Leschi Community Council works with the community to make Leschi a great place to live and visit. Your financial support helps us bring this mission to life.

- LCC produces the *Leschi News* to keep you informed. You can find all past issues and many other resources on our website, leschicommunitycouncil.org.
- LCC puts on monthly community meetings, providing opportunities to engage with public service organizations, the city and our lawmakers to address local issues of concern and make change.
- LCC also uses these monthly meetings to connect you with local artists, historians and indigenous culture, honoring Leschi's heritage.
- LCC organizes and provides a conduit for volunteer efforts, from park maintenance to local events. One of our major events is the popular annual ArtWalk in September in the Leschi business district.
- LCC supports the Leschi Business Association, Leschi Elementary School, and the Central Area Senior Center.
- LCC sponsors committees dedicated to pursuing local causes on an ongoing basis, such as parks and public safety.
- LCC supports our local schools and the Senior Center.

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leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **AUGUST 19**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements and membership dues to this address:
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or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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JUNE CALENDAR

- » **June 5, 6:30pm**
Leschi CC Community Meeting. Share food and ideas! Grace United Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave. Outside on the lawn or inside the large hall on the lower level if inclement weather. NOTE EARLIER TIME.
- » **June 8, 9:30am-5:30pm**
Garfield Playfield Seattle Central Little League's Diamond Champion Community Day
- » **June 10, 6pm**
LCC Board meeting 6pm via Zoom
- » **June 21, 6-9pm**
Green Dolphin. Featuring Eugenie Jones. Cost: Lifetime Members: \$25; Annual members \$30; Non-members \$35. Senior Center 500 30th Ave S.
- » **June 23, 10am-5pm**
Mt. Baker Festival in Hunter Blvd. Park. Artisan booths, music, Kids activities
- » **June 24, 12-7pm Mon-Tues**
Wading pool opens at Peppi's Playground.
- » **June 26, 12-7pm Wed-Sun**
Wading pool opens at Powell Barnett Park.

"And what is as rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days."

—James Russell Lowell

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