

leschinews

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



Please mark your calendar for our April community meeting. We are happy to welcome Council member Joy Hollingsworth as our special guest. Public safety will be one of the key topics (SDOT and SPD are invited as well). Parks and the upcoming Seattle comprehensive plan will also be on the agenda. While we will plan time for Q&A, if there are topics you would like to ensure are on the agenda, please email Ashley at ashleym4@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm

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

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SAVE THE DATE

MAY 1 AT 7PM
Election of Officers

President's Message

Dear Leschi Neighbors,

Ah, today it feels like Spring and it's a welcome feeling. Everyone's steps are a little higher, laughter more evident on faces and a feeling of hope is in the air. Little daffodils are up, cherry and plum trees blossoming, and winter is becoming a memory.

We're very excited to bring you a program in April with our newly minted City Council Representative, Joy Hollingsworth. We are inviting SDOT and SPD to discuss concerns raised at our public safety meeting. We are certain to have an exciting meeting and grateful that Joy's schedule permits her attendance. So, Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm; meeting location at the Grace United Methodist Church on 30th Ave S.

We are coming up on our Board of Directors elections in May, so please reach out to our nominating committee if you are interested in serving our community. Committee: Trevor Lalish-Menagh (trev@trevreport.org) Yun Pitre (yun.pitre@comcast.net) or Gwen Rench (gwenrench@gmail.com). Many opportunities are available with a little to do, or a little more to do. All hands are appreciated.

As we move forward fully into Spring, many opportunities are available in our Parks Committee and also the 12th Annual Leschi ArtWalk meetings will begin April 4, at BluWater Leschi at 3pm. We should have artist booth applications online in April.

Please be kind to one another and look around to see if anyone you know or in your neighborhood needs assistance. Few people are forthcoming about asking for help, so please be proactive.

Here's to a great Spring season.

Warm regards,
Janice Merrill Brown
President, Leschi Community Council

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



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and visit our website: leschinews.com

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IS COMMUNITY POLICING A THING OF THE PAST?

I remember becoming an active member of the Leschi Community Council many years ago and the relationship we had with the police then. There was a closer relationship; new officers appointed to the East Precinct would make arrangements to attend our community meetings and introduce themselves and mention the shift they would be working in the Leschi area.

The police attended many of our community events, especially the annual picnic in Flo Ware Park. This park had been a problem area for the police, but the council took on a project to renovate the park and schedule events there to involve the community. I remember knowing many of the police by name; one who has since retired helped to roast hot dogs over the fire for the attendees. We had Hallah dogs for our Muslim friends. One year when someone arranged for a dunk tank, the East Precinct captain was the first to volunteer. I personally did not favor a dunk tank, but it was a big hit.

Now I really don't know any officers by name; Joseph Elenbaas is the most visible person in the East Precinct, but he is not an officer. He is the Crime Prevention Coordinator and gives us valuable tips on avoiding break-ins.

Why do we have so much trouble hiring new officers? This past week's Hacks and Wonks (KODX radio) addressed this topic. This is not only a Seattle problem, but a national one.

Our newly elected City Council is suggesting some possible solutions: more money, a housing subsidy, and lowering standards. Please, not a lowering of standards. This would only increase the problems we have now. We need to look for people who are committed to community, who sincerely want to help create more functional communities... not more insensitive individuals.

Host Crystal Fincher and guest Robert Cruikshank, political analyst now with the Sierra Club, identified some serious problems: sexism, racism, and a lack of accountability. I was shocked to find out recently that Officer Cookie has experienced sexism; she is an officer that the community loved and respected. She would often participate in our Flo Ware events teaching the kids to play chess. One wants to say Wake Up Police Dept. and City Council: this is the type of officer we want!

I had the opportunity to talk to a young man who had finished his stint in the Marines and was interested in a police career but didn't want to interview with the Seattle Police Dept. He said he has heard about the sexism and racism but for him, the overwhelming barrier was "the overt disdain in law enforcement by Seattle leadership." He did

not feel a higher salary or housing subsidy would make much difference. His suggestion: "If leadership commits to the fact that they are there to serve the people of their community, more good citizens who value the community will want to become officers."

In the meantime, some sensible reorganization would help to alleviate the delays in response times. During the infamous Defund period, the police department was NOT defunded, but funds and duties were reallocated to allow the police to follow up on the concerns of the public. The ticketing of cars with faulty brake lights, and drivers who didn't use turn signals were moved to SDOT, NOT to stop the individual but to photograph the license plate and send an automated letter to the owner of the vehicle. This would eliminate some of the horrific cases seen elsewhere when drivers might pay the ultimate price for a simple traffic infraction. The penalty should be a fine, not a death sentence. Unfortunately, the Mayor moved that task back to the police which does interfere with response time in units that are not fully staffed.

Fincher also recommended increasing the Care Team which only works downtown now and only during certain daytime hours that are not the hours of most demand. Perhaps a focus on the problems that need to be solved rather than recruiting would alleviate some of the problems and try to build a police force from the top down that values serving the community.

-Diane Snell



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Neighborhood and Beyond

MARCH PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Our March meeting focused on public safety with about 25 community members in attendance.

Traffic safety and managing speed continue to be a top concern. While we had an engaged meeting with SDOT last year, the concerns remain the same and little to no action has been taken. The group discussed different traffic calming measures including speed cameras and dynamic “your speed is” signs being effective elsewhere.

Next steps to address pedestrian and traffic safety are to re-engage with SDOT this year. We are working to have them attend our next meeting. The public safety committee will also research how else community groups can drive traffic calming efforts (ex. neighborhood signs).

A number of folks in the room have experienced personal larceny crimes, such as home, building, and car break-ins and purse snatching. There was concern about lack of police response in some of those incidents. There was also some confusion in the room about how to call in non-emergency issues.

We discussed potential actions to address personal safety. We are connecting with SPD to invite them to our next meeting. And we will publish information about how to report crimes that should not go through 911 in the Leschi News and on our website and email. We want to emphasize that folks need to report all crimes through SPD (Nextdoor posts are not formal reports that feed data to SPD).

At the meeting, residents volunteered to form a Leschi public safety committee. Interested in learning more about the Leschi public safety committee? Contact Allen Urness at allen.urness@gmail.com.

-Ashley Martin

FIND IT, FIX IT APP

“Find It, Fix It” is a smartphone app offering mobile users one more way to report selected issues to the City of Seattle. With Find It, Fix It, reporting an issue is as easy as snapping a photo with your smartphone, adding detailed information, and hitting submit. The map’s “drag and drop” feature or the phone’s own technology can be used to pinpoint the location. Android users can download the app from the Google Play Store and iPhone users can download it from the App Store. The app offers the following service request categories:

- **Abandoned Vehicle/72hr Parking Ordinance:** Report vehicles parked in a public right of way more than three days.
- **Clogged Storm Drain:** Report a clogged storm drain.

- **Dead Animal:** Report a dead animal for pickup by animal control officers.
- **Found a Pet:** Report a pet that you have found within the City of Seattle.
- **Graffiti:** Report graffiti, including what it is on—parking meter, utility pole or building—so it gets automatically routed to the appropriate department for response.
- **Illegal Dumping / Needles:** Report illegal dumping—junk, garbage or debris—on public property, including roadsides, open streets and paved alleys.
- **Lost a Pet:** Report your own pet that you have lost within the City of Seattle.
- **Overgrown Vegetation:** Report overgrown vegetation in public right of way areas or on City property.
- **Parking Enforcement:** Make an inquiry regarding a parking concern.
- **Parks and Recreation Maintenance:** Report damage or maintenance issues in City of Seattle parks.
- **Pothole:** Report a pothole.
- **Public Litter and Recycling Cans:** Report overflows or damage to public litter cans on sidewalks.
- **Scooter or Bike Share Issue:** Report a parking or maintenance issue with a shared scooter or bike.
- **Snow and Ice:** Report issues related to snow and ice within the Seattle city limits.
- **Street Sign Maintenance:** Report damaged street signs.
- **Streetlight:** Report a streetlight outage or damaged streetlight.
- **Traffic Signal Maintenance:** Report malfunctioning pedestrian and traffic signals and beacons, radar speed signs, and school zone and pedestrian rapid flashing beacons.
- **Unauthorized Encampment:** Report unauthorized encampments in City parks and rights of way.
- **General Inquiry - Customer Service Bureau:** This miscellaneous category is for making an inquiry or request not listed above, which will be processed by the City’s Customer Service Bureau.

-City of Seattle brochure

SPRING COULD USE A LITTLE HELP!

As spring warms up Seattle, green space work parties will be ramping up. Our local forest stewards will host regular work parties in Frink Park. Visit greenseattle.org and search their events for Frink Park (or your preferred local park).

Frink Park work parties:

- **April 20, 10am-12pm** - Meet by tennis court
- **April 30, 10am-12pm** - Meet by tennis court

The Seattle Day of Service will fall on May 18 and several groups are planning activities. We'll mention those in our May issue.

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING IN MAY

Typically, we would have held Board elections last May but with the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, the State had requested that elections be moved to even years. Both our President and Vice-President had been term limited (Two-2 year terms) but they graciously agreed to stay in office for one more year.

The Leschi Board consists of 4 officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and the Chairs of committees who are appointed by the President but have usually come forward and expressed an interest in serving. Committee chairs have voting privileges.

The Board meets monthly on the Tuesday after the first Wednesday. Our general meetings are held on the first Wednesday. Board meetings are held by Zoom unless we are able to find a meeting place that is free. Changes in meeting date and time must be agreed on by the Board and publicized.

You may review the duties of each officer on the website. Choose Our Council, then choose documents and go Article VI of the Combined Constitution and Bylaws.

The President will choose a nominating committee consisting of 2 persons led by the Vice-President by April 15 of even-numbered years. If you are interested in running, please contact the Vice-President. It is also possible to nominate from the floor at the May meeting.

Do not hesitate to contact any Board officer to discuss the position. Contact information is listed on the masthead of the *Leschi News* (page 2).

All paid members of the Council are eligible to vote.

Diane Snell

(The Leschi CC constitution requires a public notice of elections for 2 months in a row.)

LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Join us on April 27 for a day of community, commemoration, and music!

At 12pm on Saturday, April 27, we will welcome members of Powell S. Barnett's family and former King County councilman Larry Gossett to rededicate the portrait of Mr. Barnett which adorns the entryway of our school.

Beginning at 1pm on the same day, our annual jazz concert sponsored by the Garfield Golden Grads student support group will commence, featuring Butch Harrison and Good Company! Attendance is free and open to all, but if you are able, please consider making a contribution to the Leschi PTA's family support fund.

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 is currently in



Portrait Honors Central-Area Leader

Eric Barnett presented a portrait of his grandfather, Powell Barnett, 83, to Barnett yesterday at a Leschi School assembly honoring him for his work in the central area. Eric is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Barnett, 216 29th Av. S. The assembly, co-sponsored by the school P.T.A. and the Leschi Community Council, was in conjunction with Negro History Week and Brotherhood Week. The elder Barnett, of 506 28th Av. S., helped organize the Urban League, of which he was president. He is a member of the Jackson Street Community Council and helped form the East Madison Y. M. C. A.—Times photo by Larry Dion.

full swing 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

SEATTLE GIRLS SCHOOL EXPANSION

On March 6, ground was broken at the 24th Ave S site of the school for a new gym and community space.

The facility will hold 420 people for student events, performances and community activities. SGS also intends to rent and share this space with other mission-aligned organizations in the community. This is good news for a community with limited public meeting space.

-From Media Advisory

CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER (CASC) NEWS, APRIL

April ushers in Spring, flowers blooming and longer days of sunshine. CASC continues to offer its usual assortment of daily programs and activities supplemented by special informational programs to keep you informed and safe. Mark your Calendar for the following dates in April. Activities include:

- 3/28 - Casino Part at 12pm
- 3/29 - AARP Safe Driving Course at 12pm
- 4/3 - Clinical Research Education Training at 12pm
- 4/10 - Skin Care Seminar at 11am
- 4/12 - International Cultures Celebration at 2pm
- 4/17 - End Of Life Planning Seminar at 11am
- 4/19 - Green Dolphin Featuring, CASC's own Ronnie "LOVE" Jones, 6-9pm, CASC, Cost: \$25 (Lifetime), \$30 (Annual), and \$35 Non-Members and at the door.

Movie screenings: Starting in April, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday CASC will host movies at 1:30pm; a wonderful selection of recent movies is featured. Brochures are available at the front desk and on our “new” website, casrcenter.org.

-Dian Ferguson

POWER OF CREATIVITY IT'S SELF-CHECK OR GET OUT

Towards the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader tells a surprised and frustrated Lando Calrissian, “I am altering the deal. Pray I don’t alter it any further.” Over the last decade, amidst the rise of automation, an increasingly normal art of the retail experience is self-checkout at the grocery store. Introduced simply as a time-saving supplemental convenience for customers, its use has shifted into a means of aggressive cost-cutting. This has both severely diminished the customer experience and revealed a more nefarious long-term goal pursued by the operators of large retail chains: the elimination of virtually all cashier roles.

Consider that it’s late on Friday evening, about eight-thirty, and you decide to get a jump on the weekend by getting some shopping out of the way. You drive over to your local supermarket and fill up your cart full of items for the next week. Then you head up to the front, and what you find is distressing: An array of regular cashier stations, which, although spacious and plentiful, are closed, and one poor attendant who is tasked with oversight of 8-12

cramped self-checkout stations. Given that going through self-checkout with a packed cart is a nontrivial task, you don’t find this to be convenient at all, and although you would prefer not to be a bother, you ask politely if there’s anyone around who can do normal checkout. Eventually, a manager arrives who is curt and dismissive of your request, and before you’ve even had a chance to verbally express a word, she’s already issued an ultimatum to you, “You’re just going to have to use self-checkout.” I left.

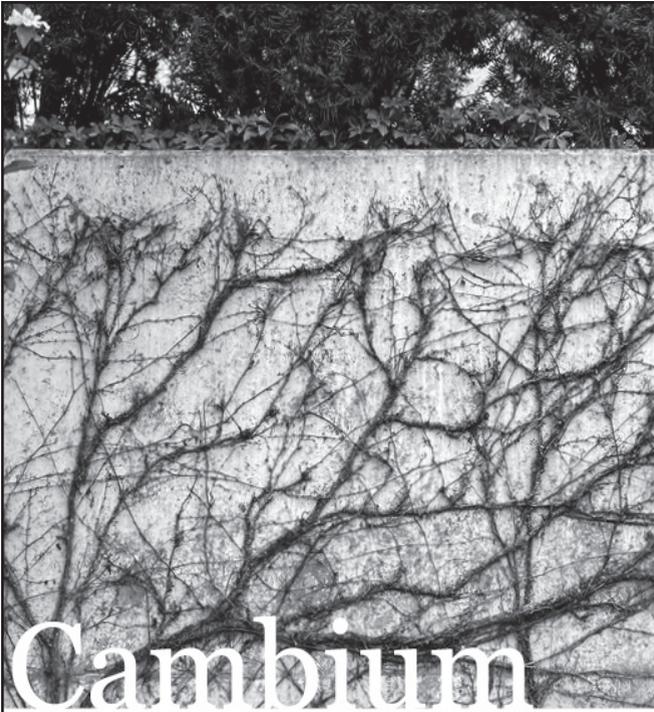
Automation has played a vital role in the advancement of human civilization, but it doesn’t require one to be a Luddite to recognize that something different and new is happening here: Management views providing a basic customer experience as a chore, rather than a vital part of their business strategy. This situation isn’t going to get better. It was recently announced that Kroger (a conglomerate including QFC and Fred Meyer) and Albertsons (a conglomerate including Safeway and Haggen) are going to merge, pending regulatory approval. This will leave us with fewer choices and less competition, consequently resulting in increased grocery prices. In our own backyard, Amazon (owner of Whole Foods) has been brazen about its pursuit of a cashier less future. In 2018, the very first Amazon Go location opened up to the public right here in Seattle. Although Amazon has since closed a number of these stores, they have been offering this technology to other retailers, as BBC News reported in March 2020. While their “Just Walk Out” implementation is significantly more convenient than what’s currently on offer at most local supermarket chains, the future of the role of cashier is clearly in jeopardy. An added dystopian dimension to the story of retail automation has been the narrative of increasing retail theft and the addition of highly prominent teams of on-site armed security personnel appearing in place of folks tasked with augmenting the shopping experience. It would seem to be an unintended consequence of removing humans from the transaction as a cost-cutting measure. At a time of price hikes, we should be asking ourselves what these changes mean for the future. What’s next? For what it’s worth, I reached out to Safeway’s corporate office regarding my own experience at the E Madison St store and specifically asked about their policy regarding self-checkout. A spokesperson for the company stated that their policy is to ensure that at least one regular checkout stand is available at any given time; clearly, there’s a misalignment of expectations from corporate and the reality in the field.

-Brian Ward, Leschi resident

POLLINATOR PATHWAY

If you’ve lived in the Central Area for 14+ years you may remember a project called the Pollinator Pathway. It was conceived by Sarah Bergman to plant native, pollinator attracting plants in the planting strips along E. Columbia from Madrona to Seattle U.

The Central Area District Council (CANDC) wants to resurrect the pollinator project, expanding it to include any yards and/or containers along with planting strips. We are in the very early stages of Bring Back the Birds and Bees CD, but envision providing various levels of support to people in



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the CD who want to create pollinator gardens. There will be an initial pilot program to work out the kinks and then we hope to have the funding to run with it.

If you are looking for a fun volunteer opportunity, we're looking for help with grants, plant acquisition, website design, posting flyers, outreach and more!

Below is the beginning of the document we'll use for funding and outreach:

Bring Back the Birds and Bees CD

Purpose: The Central Area Pollinator Pathway project is designed to create Central Area-wide opportunities to build community through gardening. There is an additional goal of improving the natural environment in the Central Area by increasing habitat for bees and birds, which then helps improve all aspects of neighbors' well-being.

Scope: Through social media, posters, neighborhood blogs, community councils and other community groups we will offer free native plants. The free plants come with the opportunity to be mentored in creating habitat for bees and birds by partnering with groups such as (TBD), and/or any other group that makes sense. In addition to mentoring, if the gardener is interested, we will also encourage neighbors to volunteer to help with the planting.

Eligibility: Anyone living within the Central Area Neighborhood District Council defined Central Area boundaries: Broadway/Boren/Rainier/MLK/Massachusetts/Lake Washington/Madison who has access to a planting area may request participation in the Central Area Pollinator Pathways project. Plants and mentoring will be allocated on a first come first served basis as long as funding is available.

Funding: In order to purchase the plants and provide a stipend for our mentors we will explore funding through private charitable organizations.

Contacts: Mary Pat DiLeva: mpd12000@hotmail.com, landline 206.324.5161, cell 206.839.7468; John Stewart: stewartj@seanet.com, cell 206.658.3700.

-Mary Pat DiLeva

PUBLIC SAFETY, PROSTITUTION AND LOW-HANGING FRUIT

Our esteemed editor raised a number of concerns in her March editorial on Public Safety. I was however puzzled as to the connection between prostitution and "low-hanging fruit." I only considered this briefly before deciding it was best not to go there.

Speeding vehicles are indeed an issue in Leschi—particularly on Sunday mornings when numerous fancy rides (and riders) congregate in the beach parking lot for "Cars & Coffee"—though I doubt much fruit changes hands.

As a city cyclist, my threat analysis is quick and simple: Is it black? Is it German?

A yes to either is concerning; if it's a double affirmative, then I have my US Coastguard-approved marine air horn at the ready.

I recently attended a community meeting in another local neighborhood where proposed new traffic signs for the Montlake 520 Interchange and its landscaped lid were considered to be too large and a threat to character of their "historic neighborhood." Extensive "Community Outreach" had apparently indicated that safety was only the third concern. I was able to raise safety to the top priority by pretending to be a Personal Injury Attorney ("Better Call Saul!") and conspicuously taking photos of the whiteboard with the lowly safety rating.

I don't know if large signs influence "traffic flow." However, rather than spending vast amounts on "Shot-Spotters," maybe more lives could be saved by devices which spot speeding German Cars. Google Translate advises that the appropriate term is "*Lauter Autoabgas-Spotter*."

Maybe they can spot low-hanging fruit too?

-Malcolm Harker, Madrona resident

LIFE AND TIMES IN LESCHI: JOHN M. FRINK

Our neighborhood's Frink Park is named for Leschi residents John and Abbie Frink, who donated the land to the city of Seattle in 1906. Born in 1845, John Frink arrived in Seattle in 1874. Starting out as a day laborer, and later a schoolteacher, he made his fortune as Seattle's first manufacturer of industrial equipment, including iron and steel products for logging and mining. His Washington Iron Works, established in 1880, remained in the Frink family until 1969. The factory, destroyed in the Great Seattle Fire, was replaced in 1892; the building still stands, at 400 Occidental Avenue South.



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In 1885 he helped establish the Seattle Electric Company and was named its superintendent. After a while it took over most of the city's private streetcar lines, until it was acquired by the predecessor of today's Puget Sound Energy, and then municipalized in 1919.

The Frinks were members of the First Presbyterian Church, headed by the Rev. Mark Matthews, an indefatigable anti-vice crusader and the bane of open-town politicians—the ones who tolerated, endorsed, or profited from vice and corruption of all sorts here in the early 20th century.

John Frink, a member of the school board and the city council, later served eight years as a Washington State senator, from 1891 to 1899.

In 1900, Mr. Frink ran a losing campaign for Washington governor. He was nominated as a Republican with the backing of John L. Wilson, who, with money from the Empire Builder, James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railroad, had recently purchased the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. But Frink was a victim of the vengeance of Seattle's popular mayor, Tom Humes, who thought he should have been the candidate. Humes, who ran a wide-open city, spent the campaign attacking his fellow Republican with more vigor than he mustered against the Democratic nominee.

In a big Republican year, Frink, presumably on the anti-vice side, given his choice of pastors, was the only one to lose, not even carrying King County, while Republicans won everything else statewide. Frink did come within 1% of victory, nonetheless. But he was only a bit player caught in the political machinations, a saga told well by Murray Morgan in his book "Skid Road." For a good time, read it. Any historian should aspire to be as good a storyteller as Morgan.

John Frink became a member of the park board in 1906. That year, the board was attempting to obtain financing to acquire the roughly 15-acre parcel known as "Washington Park," which had been platted for private use. Instead, the Frinks bought the parcel and quickly donated it to the city. Since there already was a Washington Park (now part of the UW Arboretum), the board renamed it to honor the benefactor. He remained on the park board until 1914, serving as its president from 1908-1909.

Frink also involved himself in civic affairs in other ways. He spoke out in opposition to the planned Lake Washington Ship Canal and locks. In a 1908 speech he cited numerous reasons, largely having to do with cost and usefulness. He also complained that, since the canal was first proposed in 1854 by early settler Thomas Mercer, very little had been



Caricature by Edwin Brotze, 1906

accomplished towards the goal. It would be almost another decade before the canal was completed—63 years to the day after Mercer's proposal.

Most of Frink's reasons for concern do not seem to have stood the test of time. However, he failed to speak to the environmental disruption that would result from the elimination of the Black River outflow from the south end of Lake Washington—an important Indian fishing area. The lowering of the lake also eliminated wetland areas of Native sustenance around the lake, including in Leschi.

In 1905, the Frinks built a mansion just across 31st Avenue South, at Jackson Street. The Olmsted Brothers, who developed plans for the park, also prepared designs for the private residence. The house remains, having left the Frink family in either 1978 or 1984. A friend of mine, the Frinks' great grandson, told me that the family sold it for much less than it was worth, due in part to racism fueling their fear that Blacks were going to be moving into the neighborhood and lowering the property values.

I met a woman who went there with a friend for an estate sale in 1984. They ended up buying the whole house, for \$111,000. Upon returning home, she thought better of it and disposed of her share soon afterward.



The Frink Mansion's sign—waiting for an update.

In recent times, the house has been known for the sign on its north side counting down daily the number of days till the end of Trump's presidential term. The house went on the market in 2021 for \$2.5 million, selling for a bit less. The new owners have preserved the sign. Perhaps before long it will be repurposed to enumerate the days remaining in Trump's prison term.

John Frink died in 1914; Abbie died in 1946.

—Roger Lippman

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

In the coming months we will meet some past Leschi residents who once upon a time were inspired to creativity by their walks in Frink Park.

RAGE ON THE PAGE

For quite a long while now, I have been preoccupied with crime not-so-serious and serious, here and elsewhere, locally, nationally, and globally. I want crime to be reduced, to go away. I think we can help reduce crime. Graffiti abounds. Seeing youngsters break windshields because they can is disturbing. The carjackings are more frightening. When the carjackers are in their early teens, I am more disturbed. When I learn children are aiming cars at people who are walking along the street, minding their business, I get upset. Knowing that some folks are throwing/pushing rocks off overpasses onto cars, barely missing cars, and striking others is scary. Hearing that snipers—adults, people who must know they can hit, maim, and kill individuals—randomly shoot at drivers on the freeway can anger sane people. And there are the assaults. (Statistics telling us that crime is down is no comfort to those who are victims today or suffering from yesterday's crimes.) A person runs up to someone working in a flowerbed or walking along the street or going down the stairs in a light rail station and strikes the unsuspecting individual. The victim's life and often the lives of those who love the attacked person are altered permanently. There may be no physical scar, but the trauma of the incident may permanently change one's worldview.

I won't include the mass shooters here; they belong in another category although perhaps their lives would have been different had someone intervened when the perpetrators were younger. But do not think they do not cross my mind. Children and teachers killed at school, college, people at work, at a dance, a religious service, a march, a parade, a movie—these acts are different. The immeasurable trauma is multiplied.

However, I plan to begin with smaller problems, and I admit my plan is not a panacea. Many people thrive through their hobbies and avocations. Many artists do not hesitate to say their art changed their lives—for the better; art can be therapeutic and cathartic. (I am using an extremely broad definition of art. I include cooking, gardening, teaching, auto repair and/or restoration, sewing, knitting, collecting, playing an instrument, and countless more crafts, abilities, and talents.) I often tell myself that through my writing I can rage on the page. This raging allows me to endure or withstand much; I am asking that others do the same. Letters to the editor and opinion pieces, for instance, allow us to rage on the page. What if we learned early to express our rage and frustration through writing?

The organization Pongo encourages people to write. And Pongo is one of the most amazing groups I know. From writing with children in crisis in the 70s, founder Richard Gold began the writing groups dubbed Pongo in 1992 with homeless youth. In 1998, Pongo extended its mentoring to the Clark Children & Family Justice Center. A coup for Pongo was instituting its poetry program at the Child Study & Treatment Center, the only psychiatric hospital for youth in Washington State. According to the website, "Pongo partners with multiple organizations in the Seattle area, mentoring poetry with LGBTQ+ youth at Lambert House, incarcerated men at McNeil Island Corrections Center, foster care youth at Treehouse, and incarcerated women at Mission Creek Correctional Center. More than 6500 persons have been aided through the Pongo Method." Gold published *Writing with At-Risk Youth: The Pongo Teen-Writing Method* in 2014. The method is used in

many states as well as in Japan, South Africa, and Poland. Sixteen books containing poetry written by young people have been published. Many of the alumni now lead lives as citizens/mentors who make life better for those who come in contact with them.

Ideally, no one would need Pongo. But a look at the beginning of this article shows we need Pongo and more, and we need it now. Ideally, we would give people what they need before the justice system becomes involved in their lives. Presently, the Western Washington Poets Network (WWPN) could be the answer for many people. Its website, westernwashingtonpoetsnetwork.org, lists over sixty poetry and writing groups in 28 cities that provide over 100 venues for poets each month! The group also has a Facebook page with 570 members and close to **17,000** views in its first five months! Just think. Somewhere someone in the area is sharing poems every night of the week. Locate readings by day of the month and Zoom, critique groups and workshops, poetry resources, and supporting venues. Webmaster Michael Dylan Welch keeps viewers informed.

Please do not misunderstand. I am not saying writing or art or any hobby can solve the world's problems. I am saying that some of us would have fewer problems if we had an outlet such as writing or poetry, an outlet that hurts neither us nor others. I know mental illness exists; many people are mentally ill. Those who are in contact with the mentally ill are not always aware of the illness nor its severity, but far more people can be helped than can't. How do I know? Far more of us survive without inflicting pain and horror, and life is not perfect for us. I am saying that maybe art has significantly reduced the number of people who harm others and increased the number that help others.

-Georgia S. McDade

Georgia S. McDade, a charter member of the African-American Writers' Alliance, began reading her stories in public in 1991 and credits the group with making her write poetry. poems are. Georgia writes for South Seattle Emerald and Leschi News.



COMPASS

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.

SCOTT LENNARD

206.604.2828 | Scott.Lennard@Compass.com

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Culture Corner



Beginning of Jessica Jackson Hutchins's dance performance (artist pictured on the left; she did not participate in the dance.)

THOUGHT-PROVOKING EXHIBITIONS IN SEATTLE

Jessica Jackson Hutchins "Wrecked and Wretched"

Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave, ph. 206.622.9250

Wed-Sun 11am-5pm, FREE; runs until May 5

Jessica Jackson Hutchins began the tour of her exhibition with a tall narrow stained glass window *Shadow Swing* commissioned by the Frye Art Museum for their lobby. Comprised of beer bottle glass that is fused and leaded with other types of glass, it is over 24 feet high and only 19 inches wide. As we looked, it changed color several times, responding to the light. But this wonderful window, off beat as it was with its bulges and cracks, was by far the easiest piece to look at in "Wrecked and Wretched."

As we enter the first large gallery, we see two large painted canvases hung over ladders to create an enclosure, with strange ceramics at their base. The works do not attract us, but rather push us away with their odd colors and forms.

As we enter the largest gallery we are confronted with large, oddly shaped ceramics placed on broken off chairs: sometimes the ceramic echoes the colors in the patterned out-of- date upholstery as in *Lascaux Reprise 2012/2018*.

Lascaux played a major role in the performance that activated these pieces for one evening. One dancer sat behind it in a chair embracing it as another dancer put on a ceramic form that looked like a very heavy set of containers that hung over his shoulder. A third dancer moved more freely around the room interacting with ceramics hanging on the wall. The three performed an excruciating dance that suggested constant effort to connect to each other and occasionally almost succeeding: one dancer held out a long carrot while another dancer reached toward it with a strange device. The most moving moment was when they briefly came together in spite of their heavy loads.

Hutchins has said she doesn't like the idea of art being "about" something. But for me, especially after seeing the performance and seeing so many addicts in the street every day, it is about addiction in many different ways.

In describing work like *Milagros 1 Blue Arm*, a painting with ceramic arms attached to it, the artist said, "I made arms for junkies I knew."

Milagros is made for healing. Hutchins felt her works were "on behalf of suffering people, as symbolic stand ins for their enfeebled body parts."

The artist declares "The title 'Wrecked and Righteous' just came to me, as sometimes titles do; it has a cool musicality and a punky sensibility. The hard-lived, the desperate, the

urgent is much more beautiful and profound (and funny) to me than the refined or skilled. It also suggests the presence of real authenticity, real righteousness.” If you can overcome your basic aversion to these unbeautiful works, they open a door to our suffering addicts that is strikingly empathetic. To know more come to her conversation with Curator Amanda Donnan May 4, 3-4:15pm.

Seattle has several other innovative exhibitions at the moment:

Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park, 1400 E Prospect St., ph. 206.654.1300, Thurs- Sun 10am-5pm Adults \$14.99; Seniors \$12.99

At the Asian Art Museum, Anida Yoeu Ali’s exhibition “Hybrid Skin, Mythical Presence” (until July 7) features chadors in brilliant colors. Like “Wrecked and Righteous,” they are going to be animated in performances. *The Buddhist Bug* on March 23, 2024 (sorry that date has passed.) and *The Red Chador* will be performed on June 1, 2024. *The Red Chador* was previously performed in Seattle and all over the world: seven women, each with a different color chador walk through the city and assert the power of women, the opposite of the way we perceive chadors.

Ali grew up in Cambodia, where as a Muslim, she was in a small minority in a dominantly Buddhist country. These works assert her special identity and transform our perceptions.

Her second work *The Buddhist Bug* is a 328 foot saffron colored creature that twists and turns within the museum into several galleries. There is a human face that emerges from one end (seemingly wearing a hijab) and a pair of feet from the other. Come to the performance on June 1!

Henry Art Gallery 15th Ave NE & UW, ph. 206.543.2280, Thurs 10am-7pm; Fri-Sun 10am-5pm, Free 1st Thursdays

We are lucky to have “LOVERULES —From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation” by the well-known Hank Willis Thomas at the Henry Art Gallery (until August 4.) Thomas explores the many techniques of the advertising industry to dehumanize African Americans while also targeting them to buy products. A large painting in the first gallery pays homage to African Americans in Hollywood, but you can only see their faces if you use a flash picture. I was disappointed there was no list of the names.

At the Twilight’s Last Gleaming, a flag covered with stars, hanging from a flag pole and spreading across the floor represents the 20,923 lives lost to gunfire in this country between 2012 and 2022. The artist’s own cousin was shot and killed, leading to this homage.

Winston Wachtler Gallery, 203 Dexter Ave, ph. 206.652.5855, Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm

Another artist who pays homage to relatives who died, here of drugs and addiction is Barry Johnson. “Never Leave Before Saying Goodbye” subtitled “lost Boys” is a deeply felt series of oil paintings on exhibit at Winston Wachtler until April 13 (203 Dexter Avenue). The artist stands, sits or lies among large trees, by the sea, and in a field, deeply grieving his loss.

-Susan Platt, PhD

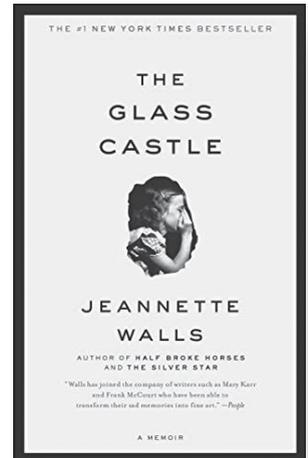
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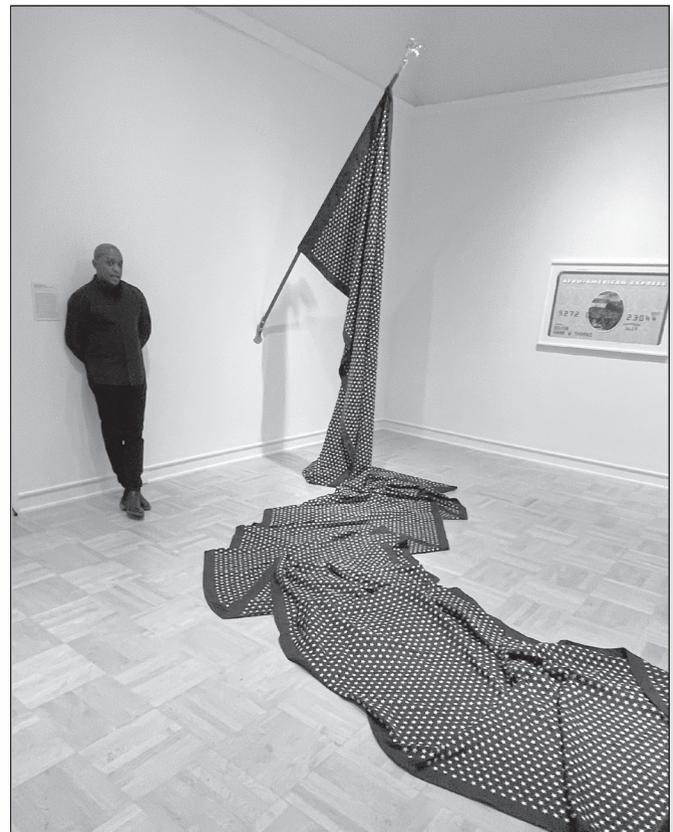
Tell us about it: leschinews@comcast.net

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

This book is a memoir of life with the Walls family written by the second oldest daughter. The parents are definitely the counterculture type, but before you picture a blissful Back to the Earth moment, read this book. Mom has a master’s degree in English literature and a teaching certificate but considers herself an artist. Dad’s education is a little sketchy but he is a math whiz and teaches the kids about the stars and planets. The children learn to read early and are quite well read by the time they enter school, which is another sketchy area for them. They don’t always live close to schools. They are constantly on the move as Dad can’t seem to hold a job and does have a bit of a drinking problem. They often take off to parts unknown in the middle of the night to avoid a child welfare visit the following day. I know you are thinking this can’t end well but do read it. These are bright, capable kids who can save themselves even if they fail at saving their parents.



-Diane Snell



“At the Twilight’s Last Gleaming” by Hank Willis Thomas.



Seeking Sustenance...

APRIL SHOWERS US WITH GOOD WINE

Longer days, fresh cut grass, and baseball season are all back in full swing. Also back in action is Leschi Market's longtime beloved wine steward Courtney! Courtney is responsible for 99% of the descriptors and shelf talkers bestowed upon each and every wine, continuously updated with current vintages, reviews and ratings. If you've ever read a shelf tag, you've read and enjoyed her work. She is a big part of the wine operations at the store—and be sure to compliment her work next time in the store!

Featured here are TEN newer wines to the store. Bright, crisp whites to match with the nicer days ahead. Reds include Pinots that are lighter on their feet and a few powerful reds for those days that bring that springtime rain and chill. Enjoy trying some new wines this month! Cheers!

White Wine

2022 Damsel Sauvignon Blanc Horse Heaven Hills \$14.99

Notes of ripe apples and pears with white flowers and light nuances of honey. Medium-bodied, juicy and vivid with crunchy acidity and notes of lemon pith and zest. Flavorful, floral finish. —*James Suckling, 90-points*

2022 Klinker Brick Albarino Lodi \$14.99

Strikingly floral aromas with hints of lychee burst from the glass. A mid palate richness and mouthwatering acidity enhance flavors of white stone fruit, fleshy peach and spring melon flavors. The finish is clean with notes of lemon pith. —*Winemaker notes*

2022 Top Source Sauvignon Blanc Columbia Valley \$19.99

This pure expression of Sauvignon Blanc (100%) from the magnificent Columbia Valley, the largest AVA in the Pacific Northwest. This wine pairs with all sorts of culinary delights thanks to its beautiful combo of exotic fruits and fresh minerality. —*Winemaker notes*

2022 Sant'Angelus Sophia Umbria \$19.99

Refreshing, balanced and delicate, with stone fruit on the finish. With the initial aging in French oak, one can better taste the minerality and natural flavor typical of clayey soils. Sophia goes very well with white meat, fish, oysters and cheeses. —*Winemaker notes*



2021 Sant'Angelus Canonica Umbria \$23.99

Fresh, delicate and balanced flavor of yellow flowers and ripe fruit with a typical hint of vanilla on the finish. With refinement in oak, one can better taste the terroir and the minerality typical of clayey soils. Very drinkable wine which goes very well with richer fish-based, white meat or pasta dishes and cheeses. —*Winemaker notes*

Red Wine

2021 Nicolas Jay L'Ensemble Pinot Noir Willamette Valley \$69.99

Fresh pine, ripe cherry liqueur, and toasted spice. Supple and medium to full-bodied, with ripe tannins, it delivers elegant freshness and wonderful purity through its long, mouthwatering, seamless finish. —*Jeb Dunnuck, 95-points, 93-points, Wine Enthusiast & 93-points, Decanter*



...in the Wilds of Seattle

2021 Mark Ryan Crazy Mary Mourvedre Red Mountain \$55.99

Aromas like blackberries, vanilla frosting and extinguished wax birthday candle. Then, to keep your hungry attention, she whips up flavors like marionberry pie and an earthy puff of marjoram. The wine's mouth-feel is viscous and pleasing. –*Wine Enthusiast, 93-points*

2021 Aubaine Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills \$46.99

Aromas reminiscent of a fresh mixed berry cobbler: blueberries, black cherries compete together with hints of nutmeg, rose petals and lavender notes, and fresh earthy notes. Smooth and refined on the palate with a nice velvety texture. –*Winemaker notes*

2022 Cristom Mt. Jefferson Cuvee Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills \$41.99

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*

2019 Damsel Cellars Syrah Royal Slope \$19.99

Pencil shavings, blackberries, violets, savory herbs and pink peppercorn. Supple on the palate with dark fruits, blood orange, dried leaves and toasted coconut. This wine is approachable, easy drinking yet complex, and will surely be a crowd pleaser. –*Winemaker notes 92-points, James Suckling*

–*Kenneth Benner*

Kenneth Benner, a Seattle area native, is a trained chef and has worked in such restaurants as Barbacoa, B.O.K.A. Kitchen + Bar, and Dablia Lounge. Ken is the wine buyer at Leschi Market. He has a passion for learning, a meticulous palate, and a tenacity for searching out the best for his customers while offering some of the most highly coveted wines in the area. His monthly column is intended to inspire and explore new choices in wine, learn about wine with his readers, and share his knowledge and experience in the wine world. Check out the latest at www.LeschiMart.com or to request to be added to email updates at wine@leschimarket.com.

WORTH THE WAIT!

*Island Soul: 4869 Rainier Ave. S (Columbia City), ph. 206.329.1202
Mon-Thurs 4-10pm, Fri & Sat 4pm-12am, Closed on Sunday*

On Friday, March 15, I took two out-of-town family members to dinner. We ended up at Island Soul on Rainier at 7pm. This little place was crowded. Since most of their seating is for two people only, our party of three had to wait for a long time. We were told that it would be 20 minutes to be seated; it ended up being 1.5 hours.

Those parties of three who were already seated didn't want to leave after eating and were allowed to chat longer than I thought should have been allowed. That was my only complaint and despite that, the hosts were very nice and tried to accommodate us. Once we were finally seated it was worth the wait. The food was delicious!

The rib tips (side) were really good as was a cornbread muffin that I had. It was actually delicious and I'm thinking about it and wanting one right now.

Maybe it's just me but even the French fries seemed to taste better than regular French fries although I didn't see any different seasoning on them. Whatever it was, it was subtle. My guests totally enjoyed their meals, oxtails, and a sandwich. They also got juice which by the looks on their faces, was sublime.

–*Ruby Holland, Central District resident*



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LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LESCHI CC BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 14, 2024

Attending: Janice Brown, Diane Snell, Ashley Martin, Yun Pitre, Trevor Lalish-Menagh

Leschi News

- Submittal date (Diane): March 18th

Board business

- Committee Update
 - Public Safety
 - March LCC general meeting went well.
 - Meeting recap to be part of the April edition of *LeschiNews*
 - Open Space and Parks
 - No update
 - Artwalk
 - The first committee meeting is on April 3rd at 3pm Bluwater.
 - The committee will apply for a Small Sparks grant to help fund the event.
- Treasurer Report
 - Move a lot of LCC's non-working funds into higher interest bearing accounts, which should add more money to LCC's funds this year.
- Old Business
 - Indigenous People Program- Contact person from Leschi Elementary School who help organized the event retired.

We will need to find another contact.

- LCC Website- Revised website will go live by the end of the month.
- Board Election Nominating Committee Update
 - Nominating Committee members: Yun Pitre and another committee member
 - Committee to provide slate of names by April 15th.
- New Business
 - Review and discuss the format and content of the Eastlake Community Council Newsletter- to be at a future meeting.
 - Leschi Elementary would like to have Chief Leschi re-dedication and possible program in Fall and would like LCC to be involved.
 - Upcoming LCC General meeting topics
 - April- CM Hollingsworth
 - May- Election and Comprehensive Plan Update or King County Assessor

Respectfully submitted by Yun Pitre

	Income	Expenses	Balance 2/28/24
General Fund			
Ad Revenue	\$2,666		
Dues	\$758.81		
Donations	\$459.54		
Reimbursement			
Insurance			
Printing and postage		(\$1,399.78)	
Room Rentals		(\$300)	
Other Expenses		(\$105.18)	
Totals	\$3,884.35	(\$1,804.96)	\$17,396.59
Restricted Funds			
ArtWalk			\$473.40
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	\$3,884.35	(\$2,083.23)	\$43,954.57
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.21		\$11,258.89

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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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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

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Search for [@leschicc](https://www.paypal.com/leschicc) or use <https://paypal.me/leschicc>. In the notes, please include your mailing address and let us know if the amount paid is for dues, a donation or both. Pay LCC dues now!



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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.

leschinews

The next Leschi News deadline is **APRIL 15**. Mail all articles, comments, letters, advertisements and membership dues to this address:
Leschi Community Council, 140 Lakeside Ave Suite A #2, Seattle WA 98122-6538
or email Diane Snell at leschinews@comcast.net

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APRIL CALENDAR

- » **April 3, 7pm**
Leschi CC meeting at Grace United Methodist Church; see cover
- » **April 9**
Leschi CC board meeting
- » **April 15**
Income Tax due
- » **April 16, 6-7:30pm**
Central District meeting on One Seattle (comp plan).
Garfield High
- » **April 19, 6-9pm**
Green Dolphin Featuring, CASC's own Ronnie "LOVE"
Jones, CASC, 500 30 Ave S. Cost: \$25 (Lifetime), \$30
(Annual) and \$35 Non-Members and at the door.
- » **April 20, 10am-12pm**
Frink Park work party, meet by tennis court.
- » **April 22**
Earth Day, Passover Eve
- » **April 26**
Arbor Day
- » **April 27, noon**
Leschi Elementary School: re-dedication of Powell
Barnett picture and concert with Butch Harrison
& Good Company
- » **April 30, 10am-12pm**
Frink Park work party, meet by tennis court.
King County real estate tax due

O! how this spring of love resembleth
The uncertain glory of an April day!

—Shakespeare

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