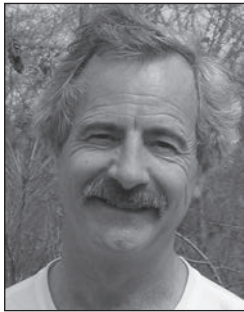




January 2013  
Issue No. 249

### Just a Smile

The first year it was Bacolad; last it was Novosibirsk; the year before it was Assam. Over the past 20 years Madrona physician William Nichols has traveled to these and many more little-known places worldwide to provide anesthesia for economically disadvantaged children who will undergo repair of a cleft lip, palate, or other facial deformity. The children are mostly wee ones who have not yet learned that facial deformities shape their ability to eat and drink and language development. Nor have they learned that these deformities can attract abuse that may make it impossible even to attend school. And that's the beauty of *Operation Smile*, the international charitable organization for whom Dr. Nichols volunteers. In as few as 45 minutes, a team of medical volunteers and many support staff replace clefts with a smile like every other. In any given year, *Operation*



William Nichols

*Smile* completes 52 such missions in as many countries, operating on as many as 150 children during each two-week mission. The truly amazing thing is that within hours of an operation, children who went to surgery with even the worst bilateral clefts often look like their puffy lips and stitches came only from a big, bad fall.

When asked how he chooses where he will go for an *Operation Smile* mission, William chuckles that the missions choose him. Specifically, there has to be a need for his skills at a time when he can qualify for vacation time from his regular job with a large Seattle anesthesia group. When a match occurs, a flurry of activity follows to line up travel inoculations, register for required visas, meet other team members via virtual means, organize donated supplies, and so on. On many occasions Dr. Nich-

*(continued on page 3)*

### Council Corner

In attendance at the Dec. 4 meeting were many residents from the 600, 700, and 900 block of 34th Ave. as well as members of the group "Safer Sidewalks, Mature Trees," and MCC board members and officers. Comments from those present illustrate continued high priority relating to trees and sidewalk safety. Susan Minogue reported that the Seattle Department of Transportation has appointed Liz Sheldon to work with the Madrona community on this topic. Those present expressed interest in hearing from Ms. Sheldon at a future MCC meeting, possibly Jan.8. [Read more about this topic in a related article in this issue.]

Kevin O'Doherty reported that 65

holiday wreaths were sold to benefit the MCC. Most buyers reported learning about wreath sales in *Madrona News* and on Madrona Moms. The total income for MCC was around \$400 after ad costs.

Treasurer Casey Losh reported that cash balances are about the same as for prior months. Further, he said he'd completed non-profit and corporate tax returns for the MCC. He reviewed ad revenues for the *Madrona News* to conclude that the newsletter would lose less than \$100 this year; cheers followed. MCC members expressed high satisfaction for having pulled the organization out of the red column in the last two years.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Meet MCC Board Member Kevin O'Doherty

Kevin grew up on the banks of Cleveland's Lake Erie. One of Microsoft's first sales reps, he went on to run the sales office for Ohio and Kentucky. As he traveled to Seattle on a regular basis over the years, Kevin realized that this was the place he wanted to end up. When an opportunity arose for a Redmond-based job in 1998 Kevin made the move; 13 years ago he planted his roots in Madrona.



Kevin O'Doherty

Kevin's left Microsoft in 2000 to start a second career in real estate and home renovation. The renovations included four Madrona houses, often bringing back previous glory or establishing new glory. Several were the beneficiaries of architectural salvage from the Italian consulate, previously located at 36th Ave. and Terrace. Those

*(continued on page 2)*

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## Kevin O'Doherty... (cont'd from page 1)

who remember that house will recall the beautiful attention to detail in it. Over the years, Kevin found homes for all but the china hutches. The beautiful ballroom chandelier lights a dining room in Washington Park, much of the architectural detail and lighting went into a Tuscan-style home in Madrona, and the ballroom windows became a solarium in his own home.

In 2008, Kevin put renovations on hold to focus exclusively on real estate. As a broker for Windermere in Madison Park, Kevin sells homes in Madrona and beyond. He finds that the factors that attract people to the many homes he has sold in Madrona are the same ones that attracted him to the neighborhood to begin with--the waterfront, the views, and the small town atmosphere that is not found in other neighborhoods. Further, Kevin notes that Madrona is one of the few areas where there is public access to the water, a marina, and all the benefits of both.

Kevin joined the MCC two years ago when the SOS went out that the Council was in danger of going out of existence. He admits he'd always been curious about the Council, and saw the crisis as a way to satisfy that curiosity and perhaps make a difference for the future. Prioritizing the Council's finances and debt, he sought clarity about where money was and had been going, and what the Council's operating costs actually were. Casey Losh and others contributed significantly to the effort. With the goal of Council self-sufficiency, Kevin proposed numerous means to raise funds, including what has proved to be a very successful wine-tasting benefit and this year's sales of holiday wreaths. He has more ideas percolating.

Kevin observes a growing need for the community council to recruit new blood and joins other MCC members in inviting people to attend occasional meetings to learn how they might contribute --in big ways or in small --to the Council's ambitious agenda.

In addition to his work and community interests, Kevin relishes travel, and most enjoys smaller rural towns like those found in Sonoma County and in Tuscany. He is an avid snow skier in winter and water skier in summer. He also runs five days a week, almost always along the beautiful Lake Washington waterfront that he loves.

## Council Corner.. (cont'd from page 1)

Susan Minogue reported that Madrona K-8 has a new slate of student officers who are eager to fund raise by selling Italian sodas. It was suggested that the group might want to sell those also at Mayfair. Finally, there was a general discussion around recruiting new board members for the MCC. Several ideas were discussed.

## Madrona Community Council Meeting \*Draft Agenda for January 8th

*7:15pm at Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. All Welcome!!*

Items to consider (not necessarily in the order listed below):

- » 34th Ave corridor street trees and sidewalks: SDOT presentation of draft scope of work for corridor study
- » Working with Leschi CC in cleaning/maintaining the James St. stairwell

### Events:

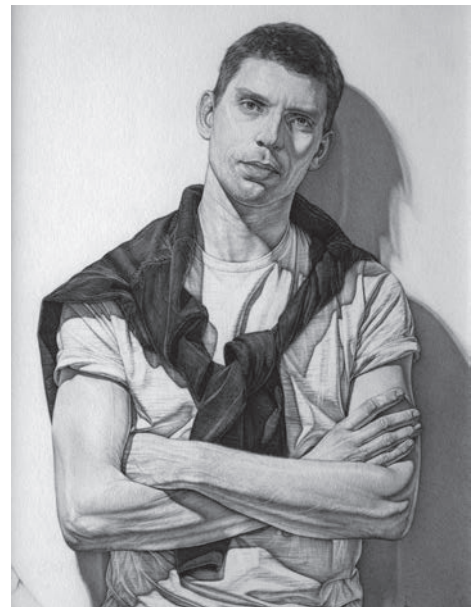
- » Neighborhood Appreciation Awards; set date for awards
- » Mayfair/recruiting

### MCC business:

- » Change of venue for Feb. meeting
- » Report from Treasurer
- » Shelterhouse renovation update
- » Report on printing and mailing options for *Madrona News*

\*Please be aware that draft agendas can and do change.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Just Smile... (cont'd from page 1)

ols serves as the anesthesia team chief which means he will arrive a week before operations commence to pre-screen for surgeries. There he meets the dozens of other volunteers from around the world with whom he will work, and he begins to meet the hundreds of parents and children who arrive from all over the region, hoping that they will be candidates for this free surgery. Many have traveled by ferry, bus, train, or walked for days to get to the hospital where the *Operation Smile* surgeries will take place.

On a mission the surgery process begins when children selected gather at the hospital with their family where volunteer teens from the US and other countries interact with the children to keep them amused. Often amusement comes from the many toys volunteers bring from their own communities. When each child's turn for surgery arrives, the anesthesiologist may take a little hand and together they walk down the hallway to the operating room; babies are carried. Often there are several operating tables in each surgical arena, with as many as four arenas operating simultaneously. Under anesthesia, the operation quickly commences and when it is over the anesthesiologist carries the still-sedated child to recovery. Later in the day, children who are old enough to do so take a first look at themselves in a mirror. And always they smile.

One such smile now graces the face of Li Meng Fang. In 1990 she was found on a garbage heap by a poor farmer scavenging for scrap. The box with Meng Fang also contained a bottle of milk and a scribbled message that said "please have mercy." The plea for mercy doubtless came because the baby had a cleft lip and palate, an evil omen according to local superstition. The man fed the child but left her, returning days later to find her still there. Determined not to let the baby die, he took her home. But because family planning policy allowed only one child, the farmer's wife and villagers forced him to choose between his life there and the baby. He made his decision, leaving the village to become an itinerant, but always fearful that someone would take the baby from him. In 1993, Li Xing Shan appeared in Shantou, China to learn that *Operation Smile* was there repairing clefts. He and the baby slept at a construction site across from the hospital, waiting. Although the schedule was full, after hearing their story the visiting doctors made room for Meng Fang. Dr. Nichols was

there for that operation so many years ago, but he never tells the story of the farmer and his child without a catch in his voice. Other stories and pictures like those of Meng Fang can be viewed at [operationsmile.org](http://operationsmile.org).

In addition to taking part in missions most years, Dr. Nichols also is president of *Operation Smile* in Washington State where he speaks for and raises funds for the international organization. Because so many medical supplies and labor are donated, the cost to perform one operation is \$250. Here in Seattle, many others also support *Operation Smile*, including a UW student group that puts on an annual fund raising variety show, many other doctors, nurses, dentists, and medical professionals who volunteer for missions, and those who donate time and money to support *Operation Smile* initiatives.

Originally from Savannah, William has made Madrona his home for the last 20 years; he is an enthusiastic booster of the Madrona Community Council. In his spare time he enjoys slalom water skiing, and travels with his wife--often to visit their grown children in Denver and Portland. He is always ready to share a smile.



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## Coyote Central's Winter + Spring Sessions

Following a most successful Fall term that enrolled over 250 kids, Coyote is heading into Winter and Spring terms with nearly 40 more project-oriented, fast-action courses. These courses range widely to include welding, bikes, furniture design, fashion design, electronics, performing arts, and culinary mastery. Coyote's options for scholarships or trading goods and services for tuition make its programs available to *all* kids in fifth through eighth grade. Kids come from all over the city and from more than 30 different schools.

Winter and Spring terms begin Feb. 9 and April 27, respectively. Visit [www.coyotecentral.org](http://www.coyotecentral.org) for the full schedule.

## Leschi Community Council Activities

LCC invites Madrona neighbors to join them for a winter wine tasting at BluWater Bistro on Jan. 19 from 6:00-9:00pm. The event is co-hosted by Leschi Market with appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks provided. It is a good time to replenish your wine cellar after the holidays and enjoy the comfort of BluWater's fireplace room on a winter evening. Tickets are available through [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com) at \$30 each. Proceeds support the Leschi Community Council's ongoing work in the community, which will focus on traffic calming and public stairway improvements in 2013.

Watch for Leschi's 2013 calendar to appear at Leschi Market. It features 12 local artists and their artistic depictions of Leschi in watercolor, pastels and photography. Several of the artists showed their work at Leschi Art Walk last June. Pre-orders are being taken at [leschinews@comcast.com](mailto:leschinews@comcast.com)

## Remodeling?

By Lisa Sears, 38th Ave.

Whether you're remodeling with consideration to sell your house in the future, or you simply want to enjoy an updated home, certain design choices must be made. Who better to ask than J.A.S Design-Build, a company with a stellar reputation and a portfolio of impeccably remodeled homes in Madrona. I spoke with Joe Schneider, the founder of J.A.S. to discuss some of these design choices.

The current trend in remodeling older homes is to open up the floor plan, creating a better utilization of previously closed off rooms. Homeowners are also building what Joe refers to as a "life pantry," the space in a home that can be used as a "drop-zone" for coats, shoes, keys, mail, and miscellaneous "stuff." This is "a space that's a little chaotic so that there is calm everywhere else in the house."

Remodeling with the intention of selling your home in the future takes a practical approach. Joe suggests kitchen and bathroom remodels because they make an older house feel more updated. Remedying obvious maintenance issues such as painting, plumbing, and electrical concerns also are smart choices.

The last discussion is design return on investment. Joe says, "Use intention when remodeling. Don't build something like the guy next door. Build a truly great space. Be thoughtful and contextual when going through the design process of a remodel." Paying attention to the details will be noticed. Joe reminds me that you get what you pay for and that quality work always sells better in the end. I am a Coldwell Banker Bain realtor and you can reach me at [lisasears@cbbain.com](mailto:lisasears@cbbain.com)

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## Genesis House in the New Year

*By Monica Ramsey, Executive Director of Genesis House*

It's 2013 and there is much to report from the halls of Genesis House. Gone are our towering hedges and overgrown underbrush. One of our neighbors told us he has lived in the area for over 30 years and had never seen the hedges cut—and we believe him. Taking down all that foliage was a loud and difficult task and we are thankfully finished. Thanks to everyone in the neighborhood for putting up with the din and dumpsters. I promise we didn't kill the laurels, just brought them down to a level we can manage. Soon we will have a beautiful and safe hedge for you all to enjoy, and we are looking forward to watching the limbs leaf out this spring.

We thank neighbors who donated gifts of food, presents, gloves, scarves, hats and coats! We got everything from filled stockings to hand knitted mittens and hats. Many of our donors shared personal stories of addiction, some within their families and some their own. Addiction is an equal opportunity affliction. I saw a weariness in the eyes of a neighbor who lost her son to heroin familiar to those of clients who are struggling to beat their own addictions. What is different is that one still has hope.

In the new year we are focused on giving hope to our clients and their children and doing our best to create opportunities for recovery. We sincerely thank each of you who has reached out this last month with donations and kind words regarding our changes. We live in such a gracious community.

## Play Madrona Mutt Matchup

*By Andrea Matus-Magee, Randolph Place*

Who says people always look like their pets??? Match the people to their dogs. The answers are on page 10.



Christina - 36th Avenue



Mandrake



Megan - 32nd Avenue



Clancy



Miles - 30th Avenue



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## Trees, Sidewalks, SDOT

Regular readers of the *Madrona News* will be aware of continuing coverage on street trees, sidewalks, and the role of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) as well as various neighbors' concerns and initiatives. SDOT reports the recent appointment of Elizabeth Sheldon to work with the Madrona community on this issue. In her Nov. 27 email to MCC Vice President Susan Minoque, Ms. Sheldon wrote:

We have made some progress and have identified a funding source to complete a full corridor study, but haven't had a chance to draft the scope of work yet. I'd like to be able to come to the [MCC] meeting prepared with a draft scope of work to discuss, rather than just a plan to have a plan.

Ideally, Ms. Sheldon will be able to attend the Jan. 8 MCC meeting. However, her attendance could not be confirmed prior to publication. Accordingly, neighbors interested in this topic should check in at the MCC website [www.madrona.us](http://www.madrona.us) prior to the Jan. 8 meeting.

While visiting the MCC website, please also read other publications you will find there on trees, sidewalks, and collateral concerns so that you are well prepared when we do meet with SDOT. Specifically, please look for a draft proposal titled "Safer Sidewalks and Mature Trees." The group who authored the proposal exists to find and implement a comprehensive plan for sidewalk repair that will retain as many as possible of Madrona's existing street trees. The primary focus in the proposal was on the five blocks between E. Cherry and E. Pike, and the one block of Union between 34th and 35th. The accompanying graphic shows that corridor, but readers are urged to examine it on the website where color graphics better show affected trees. To send feedback to the Safer Sidewalks and Mature Trees workgroup on their draft proposal email [MadronaTreesSidewalks@gmail.com](mailto:MadronaTreesSidewalks@gmail.com)

Additionally, please see a Nov. 12 letter from Madrona residents to Peter Hahn who are advocating for faster removal of the mature trees in front of homes on the 700 block of 34th Ave., citing issues that include pedestrian safety, front yards being darkened by the tree canopy, and sewer line repair costs arising from tree root invasions.

## Map of Trees



## Nominate a Special Neighbor

Each spring the Madrona Community Council (MCC) sponsors Neighborhood Appreciation Day awards that are bestowed in mid-March. Feb. 26 is the date by which to submit nominations for the following awards:

- ◇ **The Nora Award:** Named in honor of Madrona activist Nora Wood, this award is given to a Madrona resident who, over time and in ways large or small, has left a personal mark on the community.
- ◇ **The Local Hero Award:** Given to a Madrona resident for an act of heroism, singular kindness, or generosity.
- ◇ **The Unsung Hero Award:** Given to a Madrona resident for service to others in the larger community.
- ◇ **The Madrona Resident for Life Award:** Bestowed upon a long-time, active resident who has left Madrona but is much missed.

You are invited to submit one or more nominees, with a few sentences about each that describes how the nominee reflects values of the award for which nominated. Email your nomination(s) on or before Feb. 26 to [madronanews@gmail.com](mailto:madronanews@gmail.com) for review and selection by MCC members.

## Wing Luke Solicits Entries for New Show

The Wing Luke Museum invites artists to submit work for an exhibition exploring race and racism in the Pacific Northwest in the 21st century. The exhibit will open in May 2013. Exhibit goals include exploring the changing landscape of race and racism in the Pacific Northwest, examining the unique ways race plays out here, engaging youth and elders in an ongoing conversation about race, and moving beyond clichés and stock stories to the rich and complicated reality of race in daily lives.

Submissions are open to people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds who live in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska) or who have a connection to the region. All media will be considered. Submissions must be received via email on Feb. 1. For additional information either visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org) or contact Mikala Woodward at 623-5124, x. 115 or [mwoodward@wingluke.org](mailto:mwoodward@wingluke.org).

# It's the People Who Make the Place

By Kim Herber, 35th Ave.

When Nana Elsa from Minnesota or Brother Mike from California come to Seattle, it only takes a quick tour around the willy-nilly-hilly streets of Madrona for them to see what a picturesque place this is. What they can't know after a short visit is how invested the people who choose to live here are in this neighborhood. I know that the *Madrona News* does not run formal obituaries, but our neighborhood recently lost two residents who were dear to me, and examples of how Madrona gets into your blood and stays there. If you knew them, you will no doubt agree. If you didn't know them, let me introduce you to two of my favorite Madrona neighbors, Bill Hanson and Rossi Daniels.

It seems like it hasn't been that long since I ran into community stalwart Bill Hanson headed up from downtown on the No. 2 bus so I was shocked to see his face on the *Seattle Times* obituary page in early November. Bill lived on 32nd Ave. with his long-time love, Jacqueline Kleffman, and a series of mutts. A native of Montana and a retired accountant, Bill was the face of the Madrona Community Council (MCC) from the mid-90s through 2006. As MCC president, Bill tirelessly fielded phone calls from concerned neighbors, organized and ran the monthly MCC meetings, brought community-minded speakers to Madrona, and made sure our neighborhood was represented in local political and governmental decisions. In 2007, the neighborhood recognized Bill with the Nora Award. It was Bill who invited me to take over as editor of the *Madrona News*, which he assured me would NOT be that much work. Despite that one prevarication, Bill's hard work, commitment to the community, long hours of volunteerism and kind spirit were an inspiration to many.

Rossi Daniels lived across the street from me, above a mosaic of topiary fishes and cars she'd carved into the evergreens at the corner of 35th and Pine. Rossi and her husband Joe moved to Madrona from Reno in the early 1960s. Joe, who passed away in 2008, was a stern-faced supervisor at Metro who liked to dress in cowboy hat, boots, and bolo ties. Big-hearted Rossi worked at Madrona Drug, the site of the current Madrona Ale House, for nearly 20 years. People in the neighborhood, espe-

cially her dozens and dozens of godchildren, called her Mama Rossi. She sold candy and medicines and whatnot to everyone in Madrona who ever had a sweet tooth or a sniffle. And she loved to talk! With Rossi, a simple conversation meandered from topic to topic and you dared not try to get away until she was finished talking, or it was time to fix dinner, or it got dark. She also worked in the office at the Goodwill Baptist Church and said she depended on Jesus to guide her, but I think she knew her own way very well. At her funeral, friends and family lined up to sing the Gospel music that she loved and tell stories about Mama Rossi.

After you live somewhere for a while, your life gets entwined with the lives of so many others. For Madrona I send condolences to the families of Bill and Rossi. They will be missed by people like me who knew them personally, and by everyone who is part of the neighborhood Rossi and Bill enriched.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Team up with United Way of King County and thousands of people across the country on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 21 to honor Dr. King's memory and his legacy of compassion. The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve ([www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)), the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

Choose one of many projects for the perfect way to give back either on your own or with a group of friends, colleagues, or family members. This is a great way to help out in the community and meet like-minded people. Ways to help include:

- Registering as a project leader: Pick any project that fits your group's interests. To volunteer on your own, email Erica Ellis, United Way's online volunteer specialist at [volunteers@uwkc.org](mailto:volunteers@uwkc.org)
- Showing up for an event on the day they are scheduled; no pre-registration required. See what is scheduled at [www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/mlkday](http://www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/mlkday)

Don't have Jan. 21 off? Find a way to volunteer on a day that fits your schedule. For more information, email [volunteers@uwkc.org](mailto:volunteers@uwkc.org) or call 461-3644.

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## 2012 in Review

Madrona Wine Merchants made it through their first year in business. They continue to squeeze more wines into their tiny space and plan ahead to another full year of wine tastings, changing art shows, and general self-amusement. The art show for Jan. and Feb. is Candyland by local artist Kelly Lyles.

The Madrona Community Council's fundraiser for holiday wreaths came to fruition on Dec. 1 when buyers picked up their wreaths. Pictured here is Arthur Mansavage who helped distribute the wreaths. Many thanks go to Amara Parenting for making their parking lot available for pick up. Be looking for this popular fundraiser in 2013.



Last May's newsletter featured 12-year-old ballet dancer Dakota Wear who had been admitted to several prestigious summer ballet intensives. Her mother reports that after weeks and weeks of fund raising with car washes, bake sales, door-to-door bracelet sales, and other events, Dakota's financial goals were met. With the funds she was able to attend the American Ballet Theatre for their three-week summer intensive, followed the next day by a flight to New York City and an intensive with the Joffrey Ballet. Dakota and her family are grateful for the support they received and note that auditions for 2013 begin in January. Dakota will be ready.

Madrona Dining and Sipping Society enjoyed a full roster of visits to various restaurants in 2012; they also viewed Trimpin's play and visited the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum followed by dinner at the Collections Café. Many thanks go to Audrey Seale for organizing these events. Look for more exciting events in 2013; sign up to receive notices from [audreyseale@comcast.net](mailto:audreyseale@comcast.net)

## FITT Tips

By Nikki Lundin, E. Marion

Posture. How is your posture? Do you stand up straight? Are you sitting tall as you are read this article? Chances are pretty slim and you are not alone. The good thing is, you can make this change if you are mindful of it. I practice my posture in the car while I'm driving. I force myself to sit up tall and push my shoulder blades into the seat behind me. While I'm doing that, I suck my belly in toward my spine. This will not only help me while I'm walking around later, it will also make me taller (I need all the help I can get at 5'2") and make my belly firmer. Also, by training yourself to do these small adjustments, it will actually help you when you are doing your everyday activities like walking, running, bending over to pick up a child, or sitting at your computer.

Many of my clients sit at a desk most days. So, in my class, we work on "getting our shoulders out of our ears." It sounds funny but where are your shoulders right now? Are they up near your ears? If so, start engaging those belly muscles (or your powerhouse of your body). Push those shoulders away from your ears and slide your shoulder blades down your back. It may seem uncomfortable but this is actually the proper way to stand and sit. I often tell people to look a child's posture. It's usually really good. They stand up tall. Their spines are straight. Yes, our kids should be our examples. So, if you are looking for a New Year's resolution, try working on your posture. You can work on it a few minutes a day and you DON'T need childcare or a partner to do it. You can practice anywhere, at any time. NO EXCUSES.

Classes are now held on Mon. and Thurs. from 6:00-7:00am at Ridge Fitness and at STRENGTHstudio on Weds. and Fri. from 6:00-7:00am and Thurs. from 9:30-10:30am. Questions? Email me at [nikki.lundin@comcast.net](mailto:nikki.lundin@comcast.net)

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# Madrona's Digital Pioneer

By Kate Perry, 37th Ave. and Restaurant Bea

Madrona neighbor Mel Carson recently published an exciting new book called *Pioneers of Digital*, which tells the stories of twenty people who have used the internet to accomplish amazing things. Whether highlighting use of virtual reality, online video, the Presidential election campaign, or social media, each chapter catalogs the career of an impressive entrepreneur, taking the reader on a journey of their ups and downs, trials and tribulations. Mel wrote the book with co-author Paul Springer who is a professor of advertising and marketing at Buckinghamshire University in the UK.



Mel Carson

*Pioneers of Digital* is aimed at anyone interested in how the internet works and covers a lot of ground in an accessible way. Mel and his co-author even provide a jargon buster appendix to explain some terms people might not be familiar with. The book includes two chapters about local heroes here in Seattle. One is Qi Lu who works at Microsoft and is the man behind the search engine Bing, and the other is Vanessa Fox who went a long way to change the working culture at Google during her time there in the last decade.

Mel moved from London to Seattle 18 months ago with his wife Ashley, who was born in Seattle but had been living in

England for three years. They'd both been working for Microsoft and fancied a spell working over here. This past June they moved to 33rd Ave. with their daughter, Maggie, who was born last summer. They love it here. "Everyone's so friendly," says Mel. "The neighborhood is so walkable, and with the parks, the lake, the restaurants, and the cafes, there is always something to do, see...or eat." Mel is always out and about in the neighborhood; you can often find him beavering away with a latte at Cupcake Royale, and when you do stop by to say "hi."

You can find information about Mel's book at [PioneersOfDigital.com](http://PioneersOfDigital.com) and on Amazon. After Mel's recent departure from Microsoft, he founded Delightful Communications, a firm geared toward helping businesses with social media integration, digital public relations, and personal branding. He's great to work with—he helped me strengthen the Restaurant Bea website.

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Many Thanks

By Judith Starbuck, Grand Ave.

We have thanks on our minds as this productive year in the Madrona Woods restoration draws to a close. First of all, thanks to the many volunteers who turned out in the last couple of months to get some of the more than 3,000 plants in before the end of the rainy season. Among the plantings are cedars, Douglas and grand firs, red-twig dogwoods, willows, vine maples, sword ferns, salals, Oregon grapes, osoberrries, snowberries, huckleberries, salmonberries, serviceberries, sword ferns and other ground covers. Friends of the Cedar River Watershed and Seattle Works mobilized two major work parties – enlisting hardy souls who carried and planted our potted promises, sometimes on steep slopes and in boot-sucking mud. It looked to me like most people were having fun, and they definitely didn't have to go to the gym on the days they worked with us.

Currently scheduled work parties will be Jan. 12, from 10:00am – 2:00pm with Seattle Works and Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, and Jan. 21, from 10:00am – 2:00pm with United Way's MLK Day of Service, (we hope folks will sign up through the United Way website). The more neighborhood folks we can get to join them, the faster we'll be able to finish with those 3,000 plants. Come out to play in the mud and feel you're doing your part to finish up this last piece of the restoration. Our regular fourth Saturday monthly work parties will resume in February. You can find announcements of work parties and all kinds of interesting information and photos on our website:

[www.madronawoods.org](http://www.madronawoods.org). And we have a Facebook page too.

Many thanks to those who bought living holiday trees in Dec. from Friends of Madrona Woods to help us raise funds for long-term maintenance and to provide more trees for ongoing restoration. Peter Mason reports that because of this year's success we hope to sell trees again next year, and he promises to find native conifers with denser foliage. Double thanks to purchasers who are donating their trees for post-holiday planting in the Woods.

**Mutt Match-up Answers:** Christina and Clancy,  
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# MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please send your calendar items for the next month to [madronanewscalendar@gmail.com](mailto:madronanewscalendar@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS:

- MONDAYS** Tom Bennett and the Rolling Blackouts—Playing every Monday evening at St. Clouds. [www.tombennettmusic.com](http://www.tombennettmusic.com)  
1:00pm – 3:00pm Let's Play Seattle!—Playgroup for kids under 5. MLK Community Center, [Jennie.burton@gmail.com](mailto:Jennie.burton@gmail.com); [meetup.com/letsplayseattle](http://meetup.com/letsplayseattle)
- 1st & 3rd TUES** 8:00pm Song Writer's Salon—A not so-open mic at Bottlehouse; contact [comalrkin@gmail.com](mailto:comalrkin@gmail.com) for information about performing
- WED & FRI** 8:40am – 9:00am Meditation—Guided silent meditation led by Peter Drummond. Epiphany Chapel, [pieter@stonegroundmeditation.com](mailto:pieter@stonegroundmeditation.com)
- THURSDAYS** 10:00am – 12:00pm All Threads Together—Conversation, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint. Epiphany Library, Trish Stone, [twallstone@yahoo.com](mailto:twallstone@yahoo.com)  
11:00am Family Story Time—Bring your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs. Madrona Library, 684-4705  
6:00pm – 8:00pm Wine Maker Reception & Free Tasting—Support our local winemakers at Bottlehouse, 1416 34th Ave [www.bottlehouseseattle.com](http://www.bottlehouseseattle.com)  
7:30pm AA/ALANON Meeting—Great Hall, Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Avenue, 324-2573
- FRIDAYS** 7:30am – 8:30am Madrona/Leschi Citizens Against the War—Quiet demonstration, 23rd & Union, Kathy Barker [www.kbarker715@comcast.net](mailto:www.kbarker715@comcast.net)
- SATURDAYS** 2:00pm – 4:00pm Free Wine Tasting at Madrona Wine Merchants—1127 34th Avenue. For more information consult [www.MadronaWineMerchants.com](http://www.MadronaWineMerchants.com)
- WEEKENDS** 9:00am – 5:00pm Donate Used Goods—Northwest Center Big Blue Truck. Grocery Outlet parking lot. [www.bigbluetruck.org](http://www.bigbluetruck.org)

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- Jan 2 3:30pm – 4pm Business Owners of Madrona Meeting—Bottlehouse 1416 34th Ave. Soni Dave-Schock at [madronabusineses@gmail.com](mailto:madronabusineses@gmail.com)
- Jan 5 9:00am – 3:00pm Leschi Natural Area Work Party—Meet at 36th Ave & E Terrace. Bunny & Fran Wood 323-2296 or Diane Morris 322-764
- Jan 8 7:15pm Madrona Community Council Meeting—Everyone welcome! Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. Holly Smith, [ho2lye@yahoo.com](mailto:ho2lye@yahoo.com)
- Jan 11 9:30 – 10:15 "Fridays with Farah"—Come to Madrona K8 for a coffee chat with Farah Thaxton, Principal. For information, call 252-3100
- Jan 12 10:30am – 12:30pm Central Seattle Preschool Fair—At the Garfield Community Center
- Jan 16 9:00am – 1:00pm Homeless Cooking Wednesday—Bring a knife and a cutting board. Donations of fresh food (no protein) and money always welcome. St. Clouds Restaurant. John Platt, [john@stclouds.com](mailto:john@stclouds.com)
- Jan 19 6:00 – 9:00pm Winter Wine Tasting—Join the Leschi Community Council at the BluWater Bistro (co-hosted by Leschi Market). Tickets available through [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com) for \$30/ea. Diane Snell [jdsnell1@comcast.net](mailto:jdsnell1@comcast.net)
- Jan 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service—For options consult [www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/mlkday](http://www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/mlkday)
- Jan 24 6:00pm Seattle Police East Precinct Advisory Council Meeting—Seattle University, Chardin Hall, Room 142. [www.eastpac.org](http://www.eastpac.org)
- Jan 27 Sundays are Special Celebration—Check-Out Challenge, refreshments and crafts. Sally Goldmark Library, 1134 33rd Ave., 684-4705



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