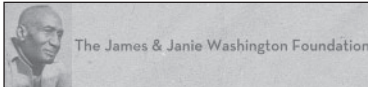




February 2015
Issue No. 270

The James and Janie Washington Cultural Center Brings New Awareness

The sculptures and paintings that James Washington, Jr. created enrich the Central Area neighborhood—an example of his work that many of us see daily is the Fountain of Triumph at 23rd and Union. Those who attend or visit Mt. Zion Baptist Church will be familiar with Washington’s Oracle of Truth that sits right outside the Church. Washington’s work appears at the Seattle Convention Center, the Sheraton Hotel lobby, and elsewhere. But Washington’s impact goes far beyond Seattle, and that is thanks in great part to the efforts of many who have helped develop the James and Janie Washington Cultural Center at 1816 26th Ave. Occupying the Washington’s historic Seattle landmark home, the Center exists because the Washington’s had the foresight to set up a Foundation in 1997. When James and Janie Washington both passed away in 2000, their wills asked that the house become a cultural center. Estate executor and founding Foundation Board member the Reverend LaVerne Hall first had to prepare an inventory of everything in the house before it was ready to become a Cultural Center. Rev. Hall’s involvement in the Center increased after a new director was hired in 2012 because Hall felt a need to increase awareness about Washington’s work and the important place he occupied in art and African-American communities. In particular, she felt that Washington’s name and work could be lost in time without efforts to keep it alive.



(continued on next page)

Council Corner, *By Deirdre McCrary, E. Marion*

This month, in anticipation of Neighbor Appreciation Day, Council Corner extends a heartfelt and huge THANK YOU to the generous Board members who volunteered their time and expertise a few years ago when the Madrona Community Council threatened to blink out for lack of new energy and ideas.

Bill Mahoney can do anything, so he leads, writes, and fills vacancies as needed. Susan Minogue, articulator of policy, anticipates problems and finds solutions. Kevin O’Doherty and Stacey Kryman, king and queen of social events, continue to plan stylish and well-run gatherings for young and old. Nikki Lundin, a.k.a. “spark plug,” enthusiastically supports and fills in where needed. Jason Cook, web organizer extraordinaire, keeps us digitally available and transparent. Barney Mansavage works to keep the Council and our partner school, Madrona K-8, connected. Barbara Parker ably took on the job of newsletter editor, cultivating a sense of community with engaging interviews and articles, inviting volunteers with her friendliness and enthusiasm, and working to keep the newsletter solvent. Finally, Casey Losh, Lord of the Exchequer, has overseen and organized MCC’s finances to make our budget both healthy and transparent. His worthy successor is Paul Gomez, but we’ll miss Casey’s careful guardianship of the purse strings.

Editor’s Note: And let us all thank Deirdre McCrary for recording Council meeting activities and preparing Council Corner publications each month.

Early February Events

On Monday Feb. 2 at 6:30pm, the MCC, the Sally Goldmark Branch Library, and Madrona K-8 School will launch their free public joint lecture series with author Ben Mikaelson who will speak with the public at Madrona K-8 library as he discusses the challenges he faces when creating his books. A slide presentation provides a clear view into Ben’s diverse experiences that include raising a black bear, living with homeless people, and going undercover. Child care for children three to 12 provided by the MCC.

On Feb. 7 the MCC will present Neighbor Awards for the 20th year. Our special guests are Seattle’s 49th Mayor Norm Rice whose 1995 proclamation established Neighbor Award Day as well as winners of Madrona awards for the last 20 years. Every effort has been made to contact award winners from years past, but if we missed you, let us know you will be there (contact *madronanews@gmail.com* or call 726-9798) so we can prepare a name tag for you. The community and family and friends are all welcome.

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The house today contains many of Washington's paintings and sculptures as well as display cabinets reflective of Washington's life and work. One cabinet contains objects from Jim Crow rural mill towns like the one where Washington grew up in Mississippi where access to water fountains or toilets was defined by the color of a person's skin. Washington began to draw at the age of 12, left home at a young age, and struck out on his own, often working on shoes and shoe repairs as well as creating his art. He was an assistant art instructor for the Works Progress Administration in 1938 and held a series of government jobs thereafter, one of which brought him to the Pacific NW in 1944 where he met his soon-to-be wife Janie Rogella Miller. Washington's work addressed a wide range of topics. When in Mississippi, Washington created a WPA-sponsored exhibition of the work of Black artists—the first in that state. Washington himself worked on many African and African-American subjects and he did not shy away from depicting the inequities of racism. After his move to the PNW Washington became involved with Seattle's art community, showing his work at Frederick and Nelson Department store, studying under Mark Tobey, and curating a series of art shows at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. In 1951 Washington met muralist Diego Rivera and other artists in Mexico where Washington first encountered the soft volcanic stone that moved his work more toward sculpting.

In addition to working in art, Dr. Washington mentored young people, was a Sunday school teacher, and a Boy Scout leader. Rev. Hall recalls that the National Council of Negro Women invited young people to put on paper their memories of Black historical events. Washington looked at each piece of work from the 100 plus participants. James and Janie Washington both believed in the importance of education, but he further believed that one has to go beyond book learning to pull creativity from the spirit. Mrs. Washington was a nurse, and she taught Sunday school at Mt. Zion Baptist church for 50 years. Additionally, she was Mr. Washington's main cheering section. So it is important also to keep her spirit alive.

The spirit of both Washingtons is well represented in the many activities sponsored by the Cultural Center in recent years. There are monthly "Sit n Sip" events with people who have

played a part in Seattle's history or art. On other occasions artists might perform their work, or read from recent publications. Frequent artists in residence take up month-long positions in the house where they can work in a supportive atmosphere. There is an annual May garden party at the Cultural Center so people can view the house, Mr. Washington's art studio, and the garden. And there is a Nov. fund raiser that helps support the organization which remains dedicated to supporting educational programs, special projects, exhibitions, critical scholarship, and community work that deepen appreciation of and access to the beliefs that guided James Washington's extraordinary art and life.

2015 events include the Sit 'n Sip Artist Speaks Series every third Friday at 6:00pm; the annual garden party on the first Sunday of May; celebration of the birth of James Washington 108 years ago on Nov. 7; and other events announced in the quarterly newsletter. The Cultural Center offers tours by appointment, oral interviews, and a browsing library open by appointment. To learn more about these and other opportunities sign up via an email to reinassa@earthlink.net.

Neighborhood News and Notes

Jim Mellilo was featured in KIRO 7 news on Dec. 10. Mellilo felt frustrated that although he had twice captured video images of a suspected burglar loitering in Madrona buildings Mellilo owns, police had not acted. Mellilo posted pictures of the man all over the Madrona business district, offering a big reward for recovering Mellillo's stolen cellphone and computer that con-

(continued on next page)

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Neighborhood News & Notes (cont'd from page 2)

tain the only pictures Mellilo has of his mother who died last year. Police said that the person pictured on Mellilo's posters is a suspect but police spokesperson Patrick Michaud said "It takes time. That's one thing that people need to remember and be cognizant of when police say we're investigating."

Burglars seemed to be on the loose all over Madrona in the Dec. holiday season. According to reports on Next Door Madrona, individuals were following delivery trucks, then taking packages delivered to porches. In one case, the household's video camera showed a man taking a package off the porch, then returning for the wreath on the house gate before driving off. To keep informed about activities such as these and otherwise to learn about neighborhood activities, individuals may want to sign on to Next Door Madrona at nextdoor.com; Leschi, Garfield, and other neighborhoods also have Next Door distribution lists. These distribution lists focus on a narrow community, allowing neighbors to report thefts or suspicious activities, offer goods for sale or free, share information about repair and building services, and report neighborhood activities.

On Jan. 2 neighbors bid a fond adieu to long-time St. Clouds' bartender and bar manager Gage Tschykovsky who masterminded the restaurant's many cocktails and impressive wine list for nearly 10 years. St. Clouds gathered some of Gage's regulars to pay tribute on Jan. 2 all of whom were delighted by Tom

Bennett and the Rolling Blackouts' unforgettable performance of a song Tom had written as a surprise for Gage.

The Neighborhood Park and Street Fund (NPSF) invites grant proposals for projects valued up to \$90,000; application deadline in Feb. 9. Examples of park projects include minor playground improvements, trail upgrades, natural area renovations, park benches and tables, and accessibility improvements. Examples of street projects include sidewalk repair, crossing improvements such as marked crosswalks, curb bulbs, and pedestrian countdown signals; and traffic calming, such as traffic circles and radar speed feedback signs. Awarded projects will be completed in 2016. To learn more about the fund or to propose a project, visit seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npsf/default.htm.

Dorffel Drive Study Update

By Stephen Szender, 38th Ave.

Six Madrona neighborhood residents attended the Jan. 5 meeting of the Madison Park Community Council and universally objected to various findings of the Dorffel Drive Study, the conduct of the study, and some of its conclusions. We objected to the way in which the study was conducted with virtually no warning, notice, or even a sign on the barriers explaining what was happening. We also took issue with validity of some of the

(continued on next page)

Leschi Lakecenter and Yacht Basin

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Dorffel Study (cont'd from previous page)

data presented (60-77 mph speeding across the speed recorders 100 feet from the S curve). We also took issue with the claim that actions taken were 100% successful in controlling speed. We pointed out that it would be difficult to conclude any other result when you place a barrier across the road wherein you were measuring the speed. The measured speeds were no doubt reduced but the barriers also caused confusion, frustration, and rerouting that resulted in "several unforeseen interactions" (although we did not believe that they were necessarily unforeseen). These included people making U turns on local streets, driving on the wrong side of the road, and seven instances of vandalism where the barriers were removed and/or dismantled. It was also pointed out that it was not in Madison Park's interest to inhibit free movement between our neighborhoods. Finally, we agreed that "observational data from the study do not support a recommendation to permanently implement the experimental intervention" and expressed our gratitude that common sense prevailed among those who conducted the study and analyzed the data.

The MP Council proposed a motion to conduct a professional study aimed at increasing safety at the Lake Washington Blvd-37th E. intersection. As a group we strongly objected to another unilateral MP Council-sponsored study and insisted that the Madrona CC be informed of, and participate in, any future study. The motion was amended to include both the Madrona and Leschi CC in future actions regarding this issue.

Future Transportation Revisions

By Diane Snell, from Leschi News, Dec. 2014

Among Leschi Community Council's (LCC) guests at their Nov. 2014 meeting was Dongho Chang, traffic safety engineer for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). The LCC group listed their traffic grievances including issues at 12th and Yesler and Lake Washington Blvd. safety, as well as expected revisions along 23rd Ave. The group questioned what appears to be a lack of planning among various entities of Sound Transit, Metro, SDOT, and whoever is in charge of streetcars.

Mr. Chang described Seattle as the fastest growing city in the country, putting it in the middle of numerous construction efforts affecting transportation that will take years to put into place and for which planning has occurred. As for 12th and Yesler concerns, Mr. Chang stated it will get worse before it gets better. Trucks bearing supplies will be coming to Yesler Terrace, while trucks carrying off demolition debris will leave the area. He told us there will be a reevaluation of the lanes and traffic signals in this area once the streetcar is operational in early 2015, but it is a work in progress until all the various projects are completed, perhaps by 2022.

Mr. Chang shed more light on the 23rd Ave. lane reduction plan which followed two years of neighborhood meetings and multiple points of input into the 23rd Ave. Action Plan. Planned revisions expected to begin in mid-March will reduce 23rd Ave. to two lanes with a middle turning lane, allowing lane expansion from the current eight feet to 12 feet. 23rd Ave.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Musical Events

Evensong

Sunday, February 8, at 5 pm

Evensong is the sung form of the ancient Evening Prayer service.

Worship in the Style of Taizé

Wednesday, February 25, at 7:30 pm

The form of worship based on that of the community of Taizé (pronounced Téh-zay) is a quiet, meditative, and devotional experience consisting of readings, accessible repetitive music, and periods of profound silence.

Participation can be active or passive as long as the worshipper is open to the mysterious wonder of God.

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Transportation Revisions (cont'd from previous page)

will be completely redone in concrete which holds up better to the weight of trucks and buses. Because the 23rd Ave. corridor is the route for the No. 48 bus—one of the more heavily used city buses—bus turnouts will be created and dedicated left turn lanes are expected. At the same time sidewalks will be made more pedestrian safe without impacting the many houses that line 23rd Ave. Additionally, the plan will attempt to move bicyclists to a greenway not on 23rd Ave. Anticipated changes are outlined on www.seattle.gov/transportation/23rd_ave.htm

One concern is that during construction, northbound 23rd Ave. traffic will be diverted to Martin Luther King Jr. Way, which is already a problem during the commute. Dongho assured us that the increased traffic will be monitored and traffic lights will be adjusted accordingly.

Dongho also addressed the streetcar issue. The plan for the streetcar that materialized at 14th and Yesler is to link the light rail station in the International District to First Hill (where the original plans for an underground light rail station were scrapped due to soil instability) and ultimately to link up with the South Lake Union streetcar. This brings another governmental entity into the mix; the streetcars are under the jurisdiction of Seattle, the light rail under Sound Transit, and buses are under Metro, a regional system. The three entities are working together to plan a transportation system that will serve the region. Dongho pointed out that Seattle had no historical system to build on as in New York, Boston, Chicago...no subways or streetcars. Our streetcar

tracks were torn up in the early 40's and we have never had a subway system. Although streetcars are less flexible than buses, their steel wheels stay on tracks and do less damage to roads than buses and streetcars can operate through snow.

Madrona Dining & Sipping Society

By Audrey Seale, 36th Ave.

The MDSS launched 2015 activities on Jan. 11th (1/11) with an early Sunday supper at Tallulah's on 19th E. The restaurant was designed by Madrona's own Soni of Bottlehouse. Over 30 Madrona folks enjoy a prix fixe Sunday supper and half-price wines. The food was great and animated conversations tied us together as a grand neighborhood. We welcomed first timers Jill and Brian, and Larry received a prize for having come the longest distance... from Luxembourg! And loved their OMG chocolate cake dessert.

Maybe we can keep this number fun going. Next up 2/22 we will head to Loulay for Sunday brunch prior to that evening's Oscars. Loulay is another of chef Thierry Rautureau's restaurants (he of Rovers and Luc). It's the morning of Oscar night so we can vote on favorite movies and then maybe catch a matinee at 2:00pm. Two is such a lovely number. Won't you join us?

We are thinking of celebrating Spring Poppy-ing out all over! You will need to be on the MDSS email list to learn about our fun adventures and to join the neighbors at our events. To be on that list, contact me at Audreyseale@comcast.net. Hope to see you soon.

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I Remember When: Madrona, the Lost Paradise

By Aaron Dixon from May 2005 Madrona News

Looking back, growing up on Madrona Hill in the early 1960s was a very special experience. We had everything that we needed on that Hill—community, family, support, guidance, and nurturing. From 34th Ave. down to Empire Way, now called Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, was a neighborhood of mostly African American working-class families with a sprinkling of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Jewish families. There were only a few apartments; most families were proud homeowners with large families, often with seven or eight kids. The business district on 34th Ave. between Union and Cherry was a reflection of the community. Black, Jewish, Chinese and white business owners knew the names of all of us kids and our parents, and we knew them on a first-name basis. At 34th and Union, Marge at the International Groceries Association (IGA) store was always so friendly, always smiling; many of us had our first jobs there. Kirk's Cleaners, the black-owned cleaners on the corner cleaned our clothes as we got older. The Bavarian Bakery provided us with delicious German pastries. Joe's, the Chinese store on Union between 33rd and 34th, gave credit to anyone who needed it. Joe and his wife Ma were like our uncle and aunt--always asking about our families. On the corner of 34th and Spring was Walt's Gas Station and across the street was another black-owned gas station Walt eventually bought. All in all, there were three grocery stores, three gas stations, and one drug store on 34th Ave.

On hot days we kids would go down to 34th and Cherry to Mr. Collins' Soda Fountain and swirl around on the wooden stools at the counter while a graying Mr. Collins made soda drinks with syrup and carbonated water. And if we had enough money, maybe we would get a malted shake. When we finished, he would bring out a wooden box that held a dazzling variety of penny candy. If it was really hot, we would go across the street and sneak into the rented walk-in freezers where families who could not afford their own freezers could rent space to store their extra meat. Some days we got adventurous and went down past 34th to 35th Ave. and beyond to the white upper-class neighborhoods, exploring and picking up white friends along the way. Together we made our way through Madrona Woods where we played war games, and then continued down to Madrona Beach. There we swam and dove and splashed around in the water until it was time to head back up through the woods and home to dinner.

Madrona was truly probably the most harmonious place in America in the early '60s. Jack Scott, the Garfield basketball coach and Marge, his young college assistant, who both were white, taught us how to work as teams, how to

share, how to be better athletes and better human beings. Even the crabby old white lady at Lake Washington Realty, who let it be known that she would not do business with Asians or Blacks, could not affect the richness of the neighborhood. The Center of Our Universe, Our Spot, was Madrona Park—simple in its design, yet complex in its offering. At the park we made friends and sometimes enemies. We often fought, we cried, we laughed, and played. We held hands and kissed. We learned to play basketball, softball, football, tennis, ping pong, tether ball. On rainy days we would cram into the little field house and play marathon ping pong games. Every spring we signed up for softball teams, according to our ages. During the long season we traveled to far away places, like Ballard and Beacon Hill, and played America's favorite pastime against some tough-looking kids. Some of my most trying moments, and some of my most joyous, were at that park. In mid-summer, we competed in track and ping pong tournaments. In winter, the park was closed yet we still gathered for pick-up touch football, pretending to be Jim Brown or Johnny Unitas. We played after school until supper time when our parents yelled for us to come in and eat warm meals prepared with love.

We had white friends, Japanese friends, Chinese friends, and Filipino friends. It was as if we were all one big family in one great village of human beings. Madrona had to be the greatest place to grow up in America during the early '60s, despite the unrest taking place in other parts of the country and the world. It wasn't that we didn't know about Mississippi or Alabama. We did—but once we stepped out of our doors and off our porches in Madrona, none of those terrible things seemed to matter. Until the Summer of 1967.

(to be continued in the next issue)

Feb. Is Black History Month

Blacks make history every day of every month but special attempts are made to discover/rediscover Black history in Feb. of each year. For example, historylink.org the free online encyclopedia of Washington history reports that in 1898, Mary B. Mason--thought to be the first black woman to go to the Yukon in the gold rush of 1897--returned to Seattle from the Yukon with \$5,000 in gold dust. Jan. 8 is the 140th anniversary of Centralia's founding which was originally christened Centerville by its African American founders, George and Mary Jane Washington. Jazz singer Ernestine Anderson launched her amazing career while still a teenaged Seattle high school student back in the 1940s. In 1993 Ken Bunting became managing editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the first African American to run a newsroom at any of Washington's daily newspapers.

BlackPast.org provides links helpful for teachers, students, and others who wish to commemorate Black History Month or learn more history any day of the year. The website itself is a 10,000 page reference center dedicated to providing informa-

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Black History Month (cont'd from previous page)

tion on US African American history and on the more than one billion people of African ancestry around the world. The website provides an online encyclopedia of famous and less well-known people whose contributions to Black history are available. There are also links to hundreds of websites that document the history of people from African ancestry, including major Black museums and archival research centers.

Kraus Fund Applications Invited

Longtime Madrona residents Mimi and Martin Kraus left Austria in 1939, fleeing Nazi persecution. They settled some years later in Seattle where they delighted in hiking or skiing in the Pacific Northwest every weekend. Mimi lived to age 98, and when she died she left a generous bequeath of \$50,000 to benefit Madrona parks and recreation. In 2010, the Madrona Community Council solicited applications and subsequently distributed funds for: renovation of Madrona Beach, restoration work in Madrona Woods, improvements to Harrison Ridge, and the renovation of the Madrona Shelterhouse. In 2014 we funded permanent stepping-stones and a park bench for Nora's Woods. The MCC is soliciting applications for the remaining \$20,000 of the Kraus gift. Applications are due Feb. 24. Grant decisions will be made at the Council meeting on March 3, and awards will be announced by April 7.

Submit applications (further details found on the MCC website; Madrona.us) via email to wmahoney@gmail.com or

mail to Bill Mahoney, Madrona Community Council VP, 425 31ST Ave, Seattle, WA 98122. Questions? Send queries to wmahoney@gmail.com.

In brief, project requirements are:

- Project must demonstrate public benefit of a park and/or recreation project.
- Project must be within the boundaries of the Madrona neighborhood.

Project criteria are:

- Projects can be for any amount, up to \$20,000; smaller projects will also be considered.
- Project must meet the approval of the Parks Department or other land-owner agency in concept and design. The concept approval should be obtained and included in the application by the due date.
- Project should demonstrate a high degree of neighborhood involvement and support, or demonstrated need.
- Successful projects will receive a one-time award, and should not be used for ongoing maintenance.

Neighborhood School News

Coyote Central

Coyote Central is launching its Winter term of 25 weekend courses for 5th–8th graders on Feb. 7; courses range from welding to cooking to hip-hop music production. There are scholarship opportunities for every applicant needing a break in tuition. Go to www.coyotecentral.org for details for all 25 Winter term

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School News... (cont'd from previous page)

courses as well as Spring Break and Spring term courses.

Madrona K-8 School

The Seahawks were in the House on Dec. 9 when Madrona PreK-8 hosted NFL Play 60. Professional Football Player Safety Dion Bailey and Blitz stopped by the school to have a little fun with the kids, and share NFL Play 60's mission "to make



the next generation of youth the most active and healthy." This professional program encourages student participation in an active and healthy lifestyle and promotes

physical education, and this is an important message to share as a community. Hosting Seattle Seahawks--the 2014 Super Bowl Champion--in our school was a very special occasion. Abundant thanks are owed to Ms. McGee, for this winning opportunity, and to Ms. Hendrickson for organizing workout stations for 50 students to interact with Dion Bailey. Go Hawks.

Madrona K-8 will kick off their Author Lecture Series in partnership with Madrona Community Council, and the Seattle Public Library on Feb. 2 at 6:30pm in the school library at 1121 33rd Avenue. Author Ben Mikaelson will present this free lecture. See page 1 of this newsletter for details. Childcare is available for children aged three to 12.

Please join Seattle Music Partners (SMP) staff, family and friends on Feb. 3rd at one of Seattle's great Italian restaurants, Perche No? Pasta & Vino, for an evening of great food and exceptional music to support SMP. This marks the 15th year for this event that provides great opportunity to mingle with other SMP supporters and staff. Music will include sets by SMP volunteer ensembles. Perche No? owners, Lily and David Kong, have generously offered to donate 50% of the proceeds from meals to support SMP's work. Reservations can be made at 547-0222 or via email to percheno8@aol.com. Please be sure to indicate you are part of "Dine Out for SMP!" so your meal will be counted in the proceeds. Perche No? is at 1319 N. 49th (just south of the Green Lake ball fields). Dinner is available from 5:00-10:00pm and music begins at 6:00pm.

(continued on next page)



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Play Mayfair Madrona Mutt Matchup

By Susan Fondren and Jennie Grant

As the new Mutt Matchup editors, we are having a blast so far. In the Nov. 2014 issue, for those of you who thought Phyllis was an unusual looking dog, you were right. She isn't a dog, she is a mini lamancha goat. We have a diverse pet kingdom in Madrona and there are more fun surprises in store for Mutt Matchup in 2015! In response to reader concerns regarding the challenging nature of mutt matchup, we have decided to provide additional clues in the form of answers to questions of a seasonal nature. This month we report Valentine's Day wishes of human and animal companions! The answers are on page 10.



Patti & Morgan (NP) -
10 Years in Madrona

Valentine's Day Gift:

Kisses

What I love most about...

Their joyous approach to each other



Charlie & Cora - Ages: 7

Valentine's Day Gift:

Kisses

What I love most about...

They feed us



Ben -
11 Years in Madrona

Valentines's Day Gift:

Heart shaped chew

What I love most about...

Intelligence and gentle nature



Jolson - Age: 13

Valentines's Day Gift:

Won't bark at strangers for one day

What I love most about...

Throws the ball well



Julie & Julie -
20 Years in Madrona

Valentines's Day Gift:

Lots of love and treats

What I love most about...

His loyalty, he's a dog lover



Rico Suave - Age: 9

Valentines's Day Gift:

Love

What I love most about...

Their lives revolve around me

School News... (cont'd from previous page)

After an undefeated Fall Madrona PreK-8 Girls Soccer had a very successful season. Twenty middle school girls are on the team that put on a great performance in two games at Memorial Stadium in December. The girls lost in the initial match to Salmon Bay, but came back strong in the evening game under the lights, defeating Orca and taking home third place overall.

Fallen Sentinels

By Peter Mason, Grand Ave.

We had a very big wind storm on Dec. 11. The two big casualties in Madrona Woods were pacific madrones, aka arbutus menziesii. These are the “naming trees” for both our park and our neighborhood. Arbutus menziesii is a very distinctive Pacific Northwest native tree, found in coastal areas like the Magnolia bluffs or anywhere in the San Juan Islands. It is the only broadleaf evergreen tree native to the Pacific Northwest. We have only a few left in Madrona Woods, so losing two is quite a blow. Fortunately, some natural regeneration of madrones is taking place in the woods, thanks to all the clearing work we have done.

The two madrones (18 inch diameter) fell across the top of the stairway in the woods. The larger of the two fell without completely being uprooted, and was left suspended over the trail. I was reluctant to chop this tree up, because it could have survived as it was. But safe and welcoming trails are a priority for us, so this tree had to go. The smaller tree was less healthy, and was completely uprooted by the wind. Its position on the ground made it a bit more difficult to saw, due to “binding.”

I set out one afternoon with a small bow saw, an axe, and a sledge. Four hours later the trail was completely cleared. I was aided only by gravity. Gravity has often been my undoing, so it was nice to have its help. In the course of my pleasant labor on a beautiful day, with a beautiful view, I met:

- A father and very young daughter. She was dressed as Batgirl, complete with mask. They had already climbed the stairs (100 vertical ft). She climbed over the tree (not yet removed from the trail) quite cheerfully.
- An out-of-town visitor was very happy to find a 10-acre, well-maintained greenspace in the middle of urban Seattle.
- Another hiker cheerfully offered to help me. This was early in the four hours – I might have taken him up on his offer during the last hour.
- A couple of dog walkers controlled their dogs and all also hopped gracefully over the logs. Thanks to all dog owners who do the right thing.

Work parties are held on the fourth Sat. of each month from 10 :00am-1:00pm; the next is on Feb. 28. Check the website for details of when and where to meet at: www.madronawoods.org/get-involved/work-parties/. You can also go to cedar.greencitypartnerships.org and click on CEDAR. Put in Green Seattle Partnership and select Madrona Park to find details and indicate that you'll be attending.

You can find announcements of work parties and all kinds of interesting information and photos on our website www.madronawoods.org. And we have a Facebook page too.

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Little League Registration Is Open

Seattle Central Little League offers tee-ball, softball, and baseball for girls and boys age four to 16 years. On-line registration and additional information is at www.seattlelittleleague.org, and email inquiries can be directed to seattlelittleleague@yahoo.com. Registration prior to the skills days beginning on Feb. 21 will ensure the best experience for you and your child.

Affiliated with Little League International headquartered in Williamsport, PA, Seattle Central Little League serves kids from all neighborhoods between I-90, the Ship Canal, I-5 and Lake Washington. Skills days begin in Feb., and practices start in March with games held into the first weeks of June. Tournament play, which ultimately leads to the Little League World Series, begins in July. Get your kids and their friends together, and let's play ball!

Mutt Match-up Answers: Ben and Jolson; Patti and Charlie & Cora; Julie & Julie and Rico Suave

Sponge Sponsors Free Family Event to Celebrate Chinese New Year

Seattle families are invited to a free celebration of the Chinese New Year on Feb. 1 from 10:00am-1:00pm at Sponge's language education center for children at 3107 S. Day St. To commemorate the Year of the Goat, Sponge will offer an exciting Chinese dance performance and a variety of activities. The Franklin High School Lion Dance Team will present a lion dance, a centuries-old performance art that is rich in Chinese history. This spectacular dance mimics a lion's movements and features acrobatics, tricks, and majestic, vibrant costumes. Often performed at Chinese New Year events and festivals, the lion dance is said to bring luck and good fortune to those who see it, because lions are viewed as lucky animals in Chinese culture.

The festivities will continue with goat themed crafts for children, delicious New Year themed snacks, and a special story about the origins of Chinese New Year. Rounding out the day will be free Mandarin mini language classes led by Sponge's native-speaking teachers. To RSVP or for more information, contact events@spongeschool.com, call 227-7138, or visit www.spongeschool.com.

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MADRONA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please send your calendar items for the next month to madronanewscalendar@gmail.com

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS:

- MON & THURS** 6:00am – 7:00am **Bootcamp Class**—Get up early and get fit! Madison Park Physical Therapy. For details contact Nikki Lundin www.nikkfitt.com
- TUES & THURS** 9:45am – 10:45am **Work out with us!**—Madrona Playfield, Garfield Track and other neighborhood locations. Contact Rachel@UnstillLife.com
- WEDNESDAYS** 6:30pm – 7:45pm **Rachel x Two**—Fun/social track workouts for all levels of runners. Garfield High School Track, group runs. RachelD@RachelxTwo.com
- WED & FRI** 8:30am – 9:00am **Meditation**—Guided silent meditation led by Pieter Drummond. Epiphany Chapel, pieter@stonegroundmeditation.com
- THURSDAYS** 10:00am – 12:00pm **All Threads Together**—Conversation, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint. Epiphany Library, Trish Stone, twallistone@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
- 7:15pm **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 kbarker715@comcast.net
- 3:00pm – 5:00pm **Chess Club**—For girls and boys ages 7 to 15 to learn chess or tune up their game. MLK Community Center, 3201 E Republican St. Call 257-5572 to register or drop in.
- SATURDAYS** 2:00pm – 4:00pm **Free Wine Tasting at Madrona Wine Merchants**—1127 34th Avenue. For more information consult www.MadronaWineMerchants.com
- WEEKENDS** 9:00am – 5:00pm **Donate Used Goods**—Northwest Center Big Blue Truck. Grocery Outlet parking lot. www.bigbluetruck.org

- Feb 2 9:30am–10:15am **First Mondays with Mary**—Informal conversation with Madrona K-8 principal Mary McDaniel regarding the school
- Feb 2 6:30pm **Lecture Series Ben Mikaelson “Finding the Heart of the Story”**—Jointly sponsored by MCC, Madrona K-8 School and the Seattle Public Library; at Madrona K-8 School library
- Feb 3 7:15pm **Madrona Community Council Meeting**—Everyone is welcome! Madrona Playfield Shelterhouse. Holly Smith, ho2lye@yahoo.com
- Feb 7 9:30am–11:00am **Neighbor Appreciation Day**—Everyone is welcome to celebrate and recognize our Madrona neighbors during this annual festivity at the MK-8 library. Contact madronanews@gmail.com
- Feb 7 9:00am–3:00pm **Neighborhood Work Party for the Leschi Natural Area**—Rain or shine we will meet at the Park entrance at 36th Ave and East Terrace. Gloves and lunch provided for participants. Contact Bunny and Fran Wood 323-2296 or Diane Morris 322-7648
- Feb 8 1:00pm–4:00pm **Black History Month presenter Charles Parrish at the James and Janie Washington Foundation**—James Washington’s Stone Studio (lower level) 1816 26th Ave
- Feb 13 6:00-8:00pm Artist and researcher Esther Ervin will help you identify and learn how to preserve vintage photos. James and Janie Washington’s living room, 1816 26th Ave
- Feb 14 2:00pm-5:00pm **Madrona Art Walk**—Art work displayed and live music at Madrona businesses. Contact madronabusineses@gmail.com
- Feb 18 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. neighborhoodcooking@gmail.com
- Feb 19 Happy Chinese New Year!
- Feb 28 10:00am–1:00pm **Friends of Madrona Woods Work Party**—Meet at 38th and Marion, or contact Peter Mason petermason065@gmail.com



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