



A community-based newspaper serving the Puget Sound area since 1981



# The Voice

March  
2012  
*Articles translated  
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Owl in a day's work



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A great-horned owl shares the stage with Woodland Park Zoo education specialist Janel Kempf during a visit to the YELS classroom at the Neighborhood House High Point Center. Kempf and the owl were visiting High Point as part of a presentation on raptors.

## State makes marriage equal for all

**Legislature, governor approve same-sex marriage bill; referendum challenge likely**

By VOICE STAFF

Describing it as a proud moment for Washington state, Gov. Chris Gregoire signed into law a bill that will legalize same-sex marriage. The moment came during a signing ceremony Feb. 13 at the state Capitol building in Olympia.

"It's a day that historians will mark as a milestone for equal rights — when we did what was right, just and fair and did it together, Republicans and Democrats, gay and straight, young and old," Gregoire said.

Rep. Jamie Pederson, a Seattle Democrat, sponsored the House bill; Sen. Ed Murray sponsored the Senate's version.

Same-sex couples won't be able to

exchange vows quite yet — the new law is set to take effect June 7.

Opponents of same-sex marriage responded quickly to the bill signing by filing Referendum 73, which would repeal Washington's nascent marriage law. Opponents will need to collect 120,577 signatures by June 6 to see the referendum added to the November ballot. If they succeed, implementation of the new marriage law would be delayed, pending the result of the November referendum.

The National Organization for Marriage, which has backed referendum campaigns that repealed same-sex marriage laws in California and Maine, has pledged financial support for the referendum effort.

**Growing support nationwide**

Recognition and support for same-sex

**Please see "Marriage" on Page 3**

## One Night Count illuminates King County's unsheltered homeless population

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

They huddle in plain sight, in doorways or under freeway overpasses, in their vehicles or on park benches. Nearly anyone who lives or works in an urban area is aware of King County's homeless population; the annual One Night Count is an effort to make an accounting of all the people who are without shelter in Seattle and King County.

The effort is organized by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) with support from the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) and dozens of state and local partners and volunteers.

In the early morning hours of Friday, Jan. 27, volunteers with SKCCH, including KCHA employees and officials with the Obama Administration, combed Seattle and King County to tally the homeless individuals and families that live each day without shelter.

This year's One Night Count revealed 2,594 unsheltered homeless living in

Seattle and King County, a 6 percent rise from last year's total of 2,442. (When taking into account the expanded area covered by this year's count, the increase is 3 percent.)

The count covers areas where homeless people are known to live, and was expanded in scope from 2011. Construction work on the Alaskan Way Viaduct this year complicated the count in Seattle; many homeless who sought shelter under the old viaduct have moved out of the area, and One Night Count organizers aren't sure where they may have gone.

The majority of those counted were found in Seattle (1,898), but large unsheltered homeless populations were also found in Kent (104), Federal Way (77), Renton (73), Auburn (44) and on the East Side (138). Another 174 were counted riding the region's Night Owl buses.

The numbers are a stark reminder of the unmet need for housing and shelter in Seattle and King County. Both the Seattle and King County housing authorities are contributing to homelessness prevention efforts in our regions.

"Ending homelessness is a key aspect of our mission at KCHA," said Kristin Winkel, Homeless Housing Program Manager at KCHA. "There isn't a uniform solution to finding everyone a home, so we are pioneering a variety of programs to serve as many of those unique needs as possible."

Both King County and Seattle housing authorities have used targeted programs to help serve the homeless.

KCHA has partnered with behavioral health providers, including Sound Mental Health and Navos (formerly High West Seattle Mental Health) to offer rental assistance and intensive, community-based services to the chronically homeless.

"In particular, King County has really worked hard to address the issue of chronic homelessness, and that's something where we've made quite a bit of progress on," Winkel said. "We're looking to apply some of those successes to address youth homelessness and homeless families and their needs."

Both housing authorities offer VASH vouchers, which provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.

The Seattle Housing Authority recently embarked on a partnership with Public Health – Seattle & King County and Harborview Medical Center to establish a medical respite center in its Jefferson Terrace building. The center offers respite care to homeless patients, and has been operating since Sept. 2011.

Seattle Housing also offers an expedited wait list for individuals in transitional housing provided by Plymouth Housing, Low-Income Housing Institute, DESC and others. Once an individual has lived in transitional housing for one year, they essentially move to the top of Seattle Housing's wait list, said Communications Director Virginia Felton.

"Those are the kinds of projects that we're working on," Felton said. "And we're also looking through our strategic plan to explore other ways to serve the homeless."

Both the King County and Seattle housing authorities work with SKCCH and CEH; Stephen Norman, the executive director of King County Housing Author-

**Please see "Homeless" on Page 2**



## Health Notes

*A column devoted to your well-being*

### How can you save yourself \$3,000 in 2012? Quit smoking

BY PAUL ZEMANN AND LINDSEY GRETO  
*Public Health – Seattle & King County*

Working over the last 20 years to help people stop using tobacco or avoid starting it at all, there's one thing we've learned from folks trying to find a way out of their addiction that really stands out.

Many express that they have grown tired and unmotivated by the promise of improved health and a longer life when they stop using tobacco. A smokefree lifestyle is beneficial to everyone. (For residents of Seattle Housing Authority, there is one more incentive, as the agency now prohibits smoking in all of its properties.)

So let's try a new approach for the New Year — financial considerations to help motivate you to stop using tobacco.

It is absolutely undeniable that tobacco use is a financial black hole — a very expensive addiction and one that is active seven days a week, twelve months a year.

Think about the money that smoking cigarettes cost. Let's say you smoke a pack of cigarettes a day, and let's put the cost of that pack at \$9 (that's 50 cents less than the average cost for a pack of Marlboro Reds in King County).

Do the math: \$9 a day for 365 days is \$3,285 after-tax dollars every year. You would have to earn \$4,000 to \$6,000 (depending on your tax bracket) to pay for your yearly addiction.

That's just the direct cost, which doesn't include the increased cost of health and home owner/renter insurance, additional doctor visits and missed days of work. (Smokers miss on average of five to 10 more work days per year than non-smokers.)

While stopping tobacco use because of financial reasons may not sound nearly as noble as quitting for health reasons, or "for the children," it does help to motivate many people to try.

Hopefully this information has piqued your interest. Having a solid plan can be the key. Here are some tips for success and resources that have helped thousands

give up smoking for good:

- Take time to plan. Pick your quit date a few weeks ahead of time and mark it on the calendar. If you can, pick a day that isn't stressful. As your Quit Day approaches, gather the medications and tools you need and map out how you're going to handle situations that make you want to smoke.

- Anticipate what triggers you to want to smoke or use tobacco; develop a plan to cope with those triggers.

- Make a plan to save the money you would have been spending on tobacco; it is really supportive to watch the dollars grow.

- Learn a way to relax. Simple deep breathing is better to reduce stress than lighting a cigarette. The craving usually only last a few minutes at a time.

- Talk to your doctor about the different over-the-counter and prescription medications and various types of treatments available to help you quit smoking. A list is available here: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm198176.htm>

- There are a lot of online programs to help you stop. Learn as much as you can about tobacco and quitting — knowledge is power.

- Get some exercise every day. Walking is a great way to reduce the stress of quitting. Exercise is proven to not only combat weight gain, but also improves mood and energy levels.

- Eat a balanced diet; drink lots of water and get plenty of sleep.

- Ask family, friends and co-workers for their help and support. Having someone to take a walk with or just listen can give a needed boost.

- You don't have to quit alone. Help is available. Consider joining a stop-smoking program.

- Know that relapse is a part of recovery — if you slip up, try again!

For more information and resources to help you live tobacco-free, see the accompanying article on this page.

### Homeless

Continued from Page 1

ity, and Tom Tierney, the executive director of Seattle Housing Authority, are members of CEH's Interagency Council.

And of course, simply by offering decent, affordable housing to thousands of individuals and families, both King County and Seattle housing authori-

ties are preventing an untold number of people from becoming homeless. But the results of the One Night Count do indicate that more work and resources are needed to provide support and housing to those who are still homeless.

*To learn more about SKCCH and the One Night Count, visit [www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org).*



## Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

#### The Voice

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The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of Seattle Housing Authority and the King County Housing Authority. Neighborhood House helps diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence and community building. The Voice contributes to that mission by providing low-income people, immigrants, refugees and other concerned parties with timely, relevant news. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, Neighborhood House, SHA or KCHA. We welcome articles and tips from the community and reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Voice is published online at [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org) and at [www.seattlehousing.org](http://www.seattlehousing.org).

## Resources to help you quit using tobacco

COMPILED BY PUBLIC HEALTH – SEATTLE & KING COUNTY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Call 1-866-706-2400 or visit [www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com](http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com).

#### State and National Resources

##### Washington Quitline

1-800-QUIT-NOW

The Quitline is a free, phone-based counseling service for Washington residents. Due to recent budget cuts, some people don't currently have access to the services — but if you live in King County or have insurance benefits (including Medicaid), then you're eligible. Professionals at 1-800-QUIT-NOW can tell you if you have benefits.

##### Asian-Language Quitline

Telephone counseling services available in the following languages:

Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin): 1-800-838-8917

Korean: 1-800-556-5564

Vietnamese: 1-800-778-8440

##### Washington Recovery Help Line

An anonymous and confidential help line that provides crisis intervention and referral services for Washington State residents.

Professionally trained volunteers and staff are available to provide emotional support 24-hours a day, and offer local treatment resources for substance abuse, problem gambling and mental health, as well as to other community services.

The Recovery Help Line is authorized and funded by The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery and is a service of Crisis Clinic and serves residents in Washington State. Call 866-789-1511 or visit [www.warecoveryhelpline.org](http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org).

##### National Cancer Institute's Nationwide Quitline

[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)

1-877-44U-QUIT

A free, phone-based counseling service, open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. – 5 p.m. PST. Go to the website for cessation materials and mobile tools, including a smartphone app and a text-to-quit program.

##### Become an Ex

[www.becomeanex.org](http://www.becomeanex.org)

A free online cessation resource for anyone that helps you re-learn your life without cigarettes

##### Quit Tobacco — Make Everyone Proud

<http://www.ucanquit2.org>

A free program for military and veterans.

##### My Last Dip

Offers unique research-tested, self-help programs designed specifically to help chewing and smokeless tobacco users quit for good.

Developed by researchers with over 40 years' experience in helping chewers quit tobacco, these programs have been funded by research grants from the National Cancer Institute. Visit [www.mylastdip.com](http://www.mylastdip.com).

##### Pfizer Helpful Answers

Medication assistance programs for people who have no insurance, or who do not have enough insurance and need help getting their Pfizer medicines.

#### Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need through the program that is right for them. Many will get their medications free or nearly free. Visit [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org).

#### Local Resources

##### Auburn Regional Medical Center, Living Tobacco-Free weekly support group

Provides support for people interested in trying to quit tobacco. Meets every Wednesday, 6 – 7 p.m., on the second floor, Heart Care Center classroom, 202 N. Division St., Auburn, WA 98001. Free drop-ins welcome!

For more information, please call Heidi Henson at 253-223-7538 or e-mail [hhenson@seattlemca.org](mailto:hhenson@seattlemca.org).

##### Federal Way St. Francis Hospital, Freedom from Tobacco Weekly Support Group

Provides support for people interested in trying to quit tobacco. Meets every Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Executive Dining Room, 34515 Ninth Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98003. Free drop-ins welcome!

For more information, please call Heidi at 253-223-7538 or e-mail her at [heidihenson@fhshealth.org](mailto:heidihenson@fhshealth.org).

##### Gay City Health Project Out-to-Quit

A free, six-week smoking cessation workshop series for LGBT folks who want to make a plan and stick to it, learn skills to handle stress and get support in a queer environment! New groups are always starting!

For more information or to register for Out-To-Quit, contact Lark Ballinger at 206-388-1710 or [lark@gaycity.org](mailto:lark@gaycity.org).

##### Nicotine Anonymous Support Group

Nicotine Anonymous is a nonprofit, 12-step fellowship of men and women helping each other live nicotine-free lives.

Nicotine Anonymous welcomes all those seeking freedom from nicotine addiction, including those using cessation programs and nicotine withdrawal aids.

The primary purpose of Nicotine Anonymous is to help all those who would like to cease using tobacco and nicotine products in any form.

The Fellowship offers group support and recovery using the 12-Steps as adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous to achieve abstinence from nicotine. For more information, visit [www.nicotine-anonymous.org](http://www.nicotine-anonymous.org).

##### Seattle Counseling Services

A number of tobacco cessation groups are available. These groups are open to the public and there is no financial eligibility requirement to attend. Seattle Counseling specializes in LGBTQ, but anyone is welcome.

Contact Shane at 206-323-1768 x203 for information and to register.

##### Sea Mar — South Park/Burien

Tobacco cessation counseling and follow up. Need not be a patient to participate. Services are free and available in Spanish. Offices are located in South Park and Burien. To participate, call 206-762-3730.



Please recycle me



# Be safe

By KELLY MCKINNEY  
Seattle Neighborhood Group

A few weeks ago my grandmother received a phone call from a woman claiming to be her granddaughter. When my grandmother answered the phone, the woman tearfully called her "Grandma" and told her a story about going to Lima, Peru and getting arrested. For a moment my grandmother believed the woman was one of her granddaughters. She began asking the woman questions. The woman did not have any satisfactory answers. My grandmother began to suspect that this was some kind of scam. The woman told my grandmother that she needed \$2,000 to pay a lawyer, who would help her get out of jail.

After the woman told her story, a man then got on the line and tried to persuade my grandmother to wire \$2,000 to him on behalf of her "granddaughter." Fortunately, my grandmother wasn't fooled for long; she did not send the money. She also contacted the police. However, there is little they could do because the call came from a foreign country.

Seniors are often the targets of such scams. However, there are some things that can be done to prevent someone from being

## Don't be a victim of a telephone scam

taken in by this kind of scam.

1. Communicate with your family and friends on a regular basis. Know what is going on in their lives. If you know what members of your family are doing, you are less likely to be fooled by someone claiming to be someone they are not.

2. Don't be afraid to ask questions, if something doesn't seem right. Check out the story before giving anyone money. Do not keep it a secret.

3. Check before sending any money to anyone, even people claiming to be family.

4. Do not share any personal information over the phone.

5. Contact the police. They may not be able to do much about it. However, it will at least let them know that people in their jurisdiction are being targeted by scammers.

Hopefully, something like this will never happen to you. However, these tips should help you from making any costly mistakes.

*Kelly McKinney (323-7084) and Allan Davis (323-7094) are Community Education Coordinators for Seattle Neighborhood Group. Call Allan or Kelly for crime prevention information or help with your safety and security concerns.*

# Shopping at your local farmer's market

## Get great deals on produce and be healthier, too

By ADRIAN VETTER  
Special to The Voice

As the weather warms up and we are out and about more, this is a good time to check out what's being offered at your local farmer's market, and odds are, there's one very near you. Many offer a good variety of items, from local produce that is not rife with GMO's (genetically-modified food ... in this case, any pesticides or unnatural coloring or chemicals).

It's also a good way to know exactly what you're getting for your money. In the case of many of the vendors from which I've bought produce, I can talk directly to the person who grew the tomatoes, broccoli or apples, or who made the jam or the cheese, and find out what they put in it, or how they grew it. I find it's also a good way to enjoy produce that is seasonal, and therefore fresher, than things that have been shipped a long distance, then left to sit on the shelf, often for weeks, before you buy them. Trust me, if you've only had a red delicious apple from a store, you haven't really had one!

Try different vendors at different markets. My favorite markets are the Saturday market in the University District, which runs year-round from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Ballard Sunday market, which runs year-round from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and the Wednesday Columbia City market, which runs May to October from 3 to 7 p.m.

All have a variety of vendors who sell fruits, vegetables, cheeses and crafts, as well as honey, jellies and, in the case of the Sunday market, hot sauces, baked goods and handmade clothing and jewelry.

I've also bought chicken breasts from the Sunday market (a little pricier than the store, but all natural and very tasty). Definitely a treat for when you have a little extra cash to spend on something good for yourself. If you make a good soup out of the two very large breasts you'll get from the meat vendor, you can have good meals for more than one day.

Here's my simple chicken soup recipe. Enjoy!

### Chicken soup

Cook the chicken breasts in enough oil or butter (I prefer butter, because it's more natural) to coat a pan, and add at least a teaspoon of salt (salt substitute, or an herbal substitute can work, too, if you're watching your sodium), pepper and garlic powder. When the chicken's all done and cooled, pull the meat from the bone and chop it into bite sized pieces.

Put the pieces into a large soup pot with two large peeled and chopped potatoes, three chopped carrots and two pieces of chopped celery. Cover all with water, add one more teaspoon of salt or salt substitute, one half teaspoon of pepper, two chopped garlic cloves (Fresh is best!), chopped fresh parsley and half of a chopped red or yellow onion.

Simmer on medium heat, covered, until veggies are completely done and chicken is falling apart. Add seasoning to taste.

Enjoy with a fresh salad and artisan bread or rolls. The leftover soup will be okay in your fridge for several days.

### Washington's 2012 Presidential caucuses coming up

Presidential caucuses for the state's Republican and Democratic parties are coming up in the next six weeks. The caucuses will appoint delegates to attend district and, ultimately, the party's national conventions and, in the case of the Republican party, select a presidential nominee.

The Republican caucus will be held

Saturday, March 3.

The Democratic caucus is scheduled for Sunday, April 15. With incumbent President Barack Obama the presumptive Democratic nominee, the Democratic caucuses may lack the drama of the Republican caucuses.

For more information about the Republican caucus, visit [www.wsrp.org](http://www.wsrp.org); for the Democratic caucus, visit [www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org).

## Marriage

Continued from Page 1

marriage appears to be growing nationwide. Just days after Gregoire signed Washington's same-sex marriage bill into law, the New Jersey Legislature approved its own same-sex marriage bill, but Republican Gov. Chris Christie vetoed the bill. Days after that, the Maryland

Legislature approved a same-sex marriage bill that will put the issue before voters in November (Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, has said he will sign the legislation).

Six states (Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont) and the District of Columbia have already made same-sex marriage legal.

### Write a letter to the editor

Send your letters by e-mail to [tylerr@nhwa.org](mailto:tylerr@nhwa.org), or by regular mail to:  
Neighborhood House  
Attn: The Voice  
905 Spruce St., Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98104



Neighborhood House

## Do you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?

Low-income tax payers may be eligible for the EITC, a tax credit for people who work and earn low wages. A tax credit usually means more money in your pocket.

To claim the EITC:

- You must have a valid Social Security Number;
- You must have earned income from employment or self-employment in the 2011 tax year;
- Your filing status cannot be "married, filing separately";
- You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing jointly;
- You cannot be a qualifying child of another person;

If you do not have a qualifying child, you must be age 25 but under 65 at the end of the year, live in the United States for

more than half the year, and not qualify as a dependent;

You must meet certain income limits (see below).

Earned Income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must each be less than:

- \$43,998 (\$49,078 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
- \$40,964 (\$46,044 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$36,052 (\$41,132 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$13,660 (\$18,740 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

For more information about the EITC, visit [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc).

Need help filing the EITC? The United Way Free Tax Preparation campaign (see accompanying article on this page) will help you understand if you're eligible.

## Get free help with your taxes

If you (or your household) make less than \$50,000 per year, you can get free help with your taxes. The United Way of King County's Free Tax Prep Campaign offers free tax help through April 17 at multiple locations throughout Seattle and King County.

You don't need an appointment, but because many sites get very crowded, you should arrive as close to the site's opening time as possible for the best chance of getting served.

Assistance is provided by certified tax professionals and is available in multiple languages.

Here's what you should bring with you:

- Any W-2 form, 1099 forms and other end-of-the-year income statements that you received from all of your employers and sources of income

- A copy of last year's tax return, if you have it

- Social Security card number or Indi-

vidual Taxpayer Identification Number and birthdates for every person to be claimed on your tax return

- Childcare provider name, address and tax ID number

- Anything else you think might affect your return, even if you're not sure

- If you want your refund deposited directly into your bank account, you'll need to bring your bank account number

- If you are married and filing jointly, both the filer and spouse must be present to file electronically

The Free Tax Prep Campaign operates sites in Seattle, Auburn, Bellevue, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, Shoreline and White Center. A summary of tax prep sites was printed in the Feb. 2012 edition of The Voice.

For more information about free tax prep assistance, please call 2-1-1 or 1-800-621-4636 or go to [unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxhelp](http://unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxhelp).



## Envisioning a Yesler Terrace hill climb

### Stakeholders offer feedback at February design charrette

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

**YT** A few dozen people, including Seattle Housing staff and leaders and stakeholders from the Yesler Terrace and Little Saigon neighborhoods, gathered Saturday, Feb. 18 for a design charrette to offer feedback for a proposed Yesler pedestrian hill climb.

The charrette is the beginning of the public comment process to create a dedicated pedestrian thoroughfare through a redeveloped Yesler Terrace, linking the neighborhood with Little Saigon and the greater First Hill neighborhood.

The first phase of the hill climb would connect South Jackson Street and South Main Street along 10th Avenue South right-of-way. A future phase would link Main to South Washington Street and up to Yesler Way.

Future projects could extend the pedestrian climb in a northwesterly direction as far as Harborview Medical Center.

"It's an important connection between Yesler Terrace and Little Saigon, so we wanted to start first in a location that would be a benefit to both communities," said Anne Fiske Zuniga, Senior Development Project Manager with Seattle Housing Authority.

Once completed, Fiske Zuniga said the corridor would serve as a vital pedestrian thoroughfare into and through Yesler Terrace.

Choice Neighborhood funds will help pay for the project; Fiske Zuniga said that Seattle Housing would also explore funding from other sources.

"We think of this as the first step in a larger pedestrian corridor that connects Little Saigon, Yesler Terrace and, frankly, First Hill," she said.

Elements that may be incorporated into the final design include a community garden, pedestrian lighting, art installations, plazas and open space.

"It's more than just a staircase," she said



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Yesler Terrace Community Builder Brett Houghton (left) and Yesler Terrace resident Yin Lau examine the proposed corridor of the Yesler Hill Climb at a design charrette Saturday, Feb. 18. Lau was pointing out the location of his apartment in relation to the proposed hill climb.

of the project.

Quang Nguyen of the Friends of Little Saigon and the Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce spoke of the importance of creating strong pedestrian connections between Little Saigon and a redeveloped Yesler Terrace.

"We want to preserve the small business district feel (of Little Saigon), but with Yesler Terrace being developed, we want

to make sure there are good connections between Little Saigon and also within Little Saigon and the surrounding neighborhoods," Nguyen said.

He added that redevelopment would have a "huge impact" on Little Saigon.

Staff from GGLO, the architectural firm in charge of the Yesler Terrace redevelopment

Please see "Yesler" on Page 2

## Choice Neighborhoods, Round II

### Housing Authority goes for additional funds

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

**YT** Seattle Housing Authority staff members are once again preparing a grant application, due April 10, to bring Choice Neighborhoods funding to the Yesler Terrace Neighborhood. The agency was awarded \$10.27 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in August 2011. In the 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Grant cycle, approximately \$20 million is available to Seattle Housing to continue the work of neighborhood transformation.

Through the application materials being prepared, housing authority staff is emphasizing the need to expand on the Phase I efforts and begin the redevelopment within Yesler Terrace itself. During this phase of construction, infrastructure needed for affordable and market-rate housing would also be built.

The large park at the center of the neighborhood would be developed during this second phase, and a new low-income apartment building would be built south of the existing community center. The proposed building would be a mid-rise, allowable under current zoning.

Critical community improvements in the grant would include the northward continuation toward Harborview of the new pedestrian connection between Yesler Terrace and Little Saigon.

Supportive services funding being applied for would provide additional education services, job training and health services for residents of the neighborhood.

Seattle Housing Authority will be informed of the results of the grant application by September.

#### Public meeting on Yesler legislative package

Seattle Department of Planning and Development is holding a public meeting from 5:30 - 8 p.m. March 7 to review draft legislation relating to the Yesler redevelopment. The meeting will be at the Yesler Community Center, 917 E. Yesler Way.

Drop-in talks with city staff will be held from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. March 10 and from 4 - 7 p.m. March 15 at the Yesler Community Center.

## Executive Director Tom Tierney to retire in August

### Eight-year tenure marked by sharp increase in low-income people served

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority's Tom Tierney recently announced that he will retire from his position as Executive Director in August of this year. Tierney has led the organization since March 2004.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Seattle Housing Authority increased the number of households served by more than 2,000, even as federal funding was curtailed.

When he began at the agency, more than 200 acres of Seattle Housing Authority land across the city was under redevelopment. With those redevelopments substantially complete, hundreds of new apartment homes for low-income residents have been built and occupied. These redevelopments



Executive Director Tom Tierney

include High Point, Rainier Vista and NewHolly.

Over this time period, 26 high-rise build-

ings have been rehabilitated across Seattle through the homeWorks program, extending their useful life significantly.

John Littel, Seattle Housing Authority's board chair, praised Tierney for his collaborative style and ability to move important initiatives forward.

"The housing authority has been fortunate to have Tom at the helm over this time of challenge and opportunity," Littel said. "His leadership has been marked by a spirit of partnership with other agencies across the city and genuine appreciation of both the strengths and challenges of Seattle's low-income residents.

"He also acknowledges that these accomplishments represent the successes of a strong staff, which will carry the agency into the future."

Prior to coming to the Seattle Housing Authority, Tierney held executive positions

Please see "Tierney" on Page 3

#### Content guide

Don't see your neighborhood section? Consult the guide below to find the logos that correspond to your community.

-  High Point Herald
-  NewHolly Notes
-  Rainier Vista News
-  Yesler Happenings

# Housing Authority to open new office on March 26

*New location to feature expanded service hours*

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Beginning March 26, Seattle Housing Authority will consolidate most of its office services in a new headquarters building at 190 Queen Anne Ave. N. in Lower Queen Anne. About 250 staff members from three locations will move to the new building.

Both the current Central Office Building at 120 Sixth Ave. N. and the Porchlight Building in Ballard will be closed. The Operations Support Center in North Seattle will remain open, but property management staff in this building will move.

Hours of operation at the new building will be 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“This is an expansion of our current hours,” notes Rental Assistance Director Lisa Wolters. “We are taking advantage of this change to expand our service hours so that working people can come to our office without having to take time off from their jobs.”

Administration and admissions functions for the agency’s rental housing and for the Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8) will be located here. Many resident services, including annual reviews and employment services, will also be available.

Services at the current Central Office

and Porchlight Building will be suspended at noon on Friday, March 23. Olympic Movers has been hired to accomplish the move itself, which will take place over the weekend. Staff will report for work on Monday morning (March 26) at the new location, which will be open for business beginning at 8 a.m.

A few property management staff members will move in late March, to accommodate ongoing tenant improvements at the new location.

Most staff phone numbers will remain the same. The new building address is:

190 Queen Anne Ave. N.

P.O. Box 19028

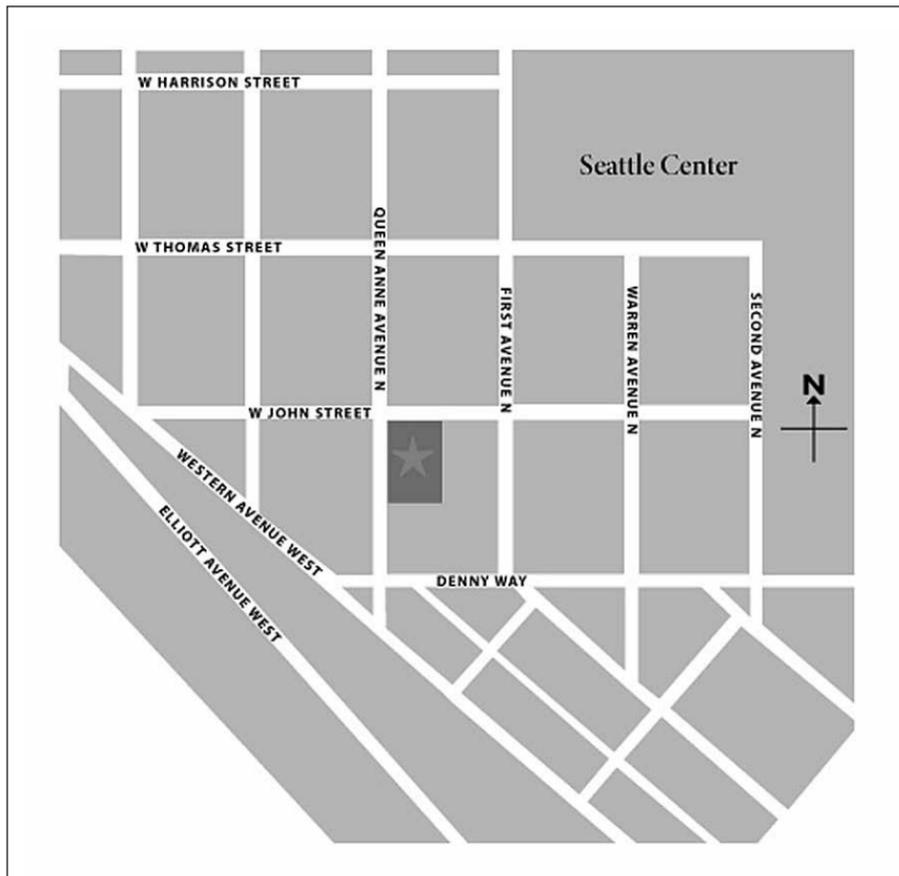
Seattle, WA 98109-1028

The new headquarters building is slightly further from the downtown core, but is better served by public transit. Surface parking lots are plentiful in the neighborhood, and metered street parking is usually available.

Southbound Metro bus routes on Queen Anne Avenue North include the following: 1, 2, 8, 13, 15, 18, 81 and 994

Northbound Metro bus routes on First Avenue North include: 15, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 33

East-Westbound Metro bus routes on Denny Way include: 1, 2, 8, 13, 15, 18, 30 and 81



MAP COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The map above indicates the new location of the Seattle Housing Authority central office at 190 Queen Anne Ave. N. (near the corner of Queen Anne and West John Street). The new office will house the current Central Office Building from 120 Sixth Ave. N., the Porchlight Building in Ballard and the Operations Support Center in North Seattle.

Expanded Metro RapidRide Bus Service is expected to begin serving this neighborhood as early as Sept. 30, 2012.

The current Central Office Building at 120 Sixth Ave. N. was sold last summer. The

housing authority also has a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Porchlight Building in Ballard. That sale is expected to close within the next several months.

## Nominate your favorite volunteer for an Unsung Hero award

**HP** High Point residents, is there a volunteer and leader in your community who you think deserves some extra recognition? Nominate that person for a Delridge District Unsung Hero award!

The criteria for the award, which is open to volunteers serving communities in the Delridge District, is listed below, along with an application.

### Criteria:

- The awards are for volunteers, not paid staff, who serve the neighborhoods within the Delridge District, located between these boundaries: Spokane Street to the North, Roxbury to the South, 35th Avenue to the West and the Duwamish River to the East. Organizations and persons who reside outside of the district, but who serve within those boundaries are eligible.

- One Outstanding Unsung Hero will be chosen; seven runners-up will be invited to attend the banquet on April 20.

- Selections are made based on the application submitted. Clarifications can be made if additional documents are required, but the committee members cannot add additional information that wasn't included to be the basis for selection.

- Based on the write up, winners will be selected based on depth or breadth of their contributions, the length or intensity of their work, the significance of their contributions and other aspects of their work that sets them

above the other nominees.

- Multiple nominations for the same person are an indicator for selection, but not the sole reason for selection. Information on all the submissions will be considered to provide the fullest description of the nominee.

- Applications must be submitted by March 20. Notifications and invitations to the Unsung Heroes Banquet will be sent by April 2.

Submissions can be made via email to [dd\\_unsungheroes@googlegroups.com](mailto:dd_unsungheroes@googlegroups.com).

### Include in your application:

- Your name
- Your affiliation with the nominee
- Your contact information, including phone, email and mailing address
- Do you prefer to remain anonymous?

- Nominee name
- Nominee contact information, including phone, email and mailing address
- Nominee service position

Answer the following question:

Please describe how the Nominee serves the neighborhood/project/organization in 300 words or less. (This is the major deciding portion of the application.)

What makes the nominee stand out? Can you provide details or an example of his or her efforts and work? How has his or her service affected the project/community?

Residents at the design charrette was light, residents will have the opportunity to attend an upcoming charrette this spring. Feedback from February's charrette was to be presented at the March 1 meeting of the Citizen Review Committee, which took place after The Voice's deadline.

## Yesler

Continued from Page 1

ment, and from the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) also spoke at the charrette.

Though attendance by Yesler Terrace

## Seattle Housing Authority proposes amendment to the 2012 MTW Plan and Agreement

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Seattle Housing Authority will be inviting public comment on three changes related to the Moving to Work (MTW) program. These changes are primarily technical in nature, but require a formal review process.

The first change is an amendment to the 2012 MTW Plan to allow for an exchange of a small piece of land equivalent to the size of a parking lot. This land swap will allow Aegis Living to develop senior housing near the intersection of 22nd Avenue E and E Madison Street while maintaining adequate parking for Seattle Housing's adjacent six-unit scattered site property.

A second change is the end of the temporary rent ceiling for higher income tenants in some of Seattle Housing's public housing properties. Under this policy rents are decreased below 30 percent of the household's income for two years when their calculated rent would exceed market value for the unit. While this issue impacts only a very small number of households (currently fewer than five),

administering the policy is burdensome compared to its benefit.

The third change is the adoption of an amendment to our MTW agreement with HUD. This amendment documents the application process for Replacement Housing Factor funding, a source of capital funding. Seattle Housing already receives these funds, but HUD is requiring this amendment to document a new administrative process for applying for and administering the funds.

Seattle Housing residents and the general public are welcome to comment on these changes. The full text of the amended plan and agreement will be available on the website at [www.seattlehousing.org](http://www.seattlehousing.org) or by calling 206-615-3576. There will be a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. March 26 at Seattle Housing's new offices at 190 Queen Anne Ave. N.

Comments, questions, or requests for interpreters or accommodations can also be sent directly to Beka Smith at [bsmith@seattlehousing.org](mailto:bsmith@seattlehousing.org), 206-615-3576, or P.O. Box 19028, Seattle WA 98109. All comments must be received no later than April 8.

### About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority. The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from SHA residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in SHA communities.

If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question about anything you've read in this publication, please contact Editor Tyler Roush at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at [tylerr@nhwa.org](mailto:tylerr@nhwa.org).

All submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, style and length.

# A place for hope and healing

## Mission of Medical Respite Center moves Jefferson Terrace residents

BY SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

It has been over six months since the Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace accepted its first client, a homeless individual who was just discharged from the hospital with no safe place to heal. Since then, more than 200 others have stayed at the facility, receiving temporary shelter, medical care and social services.

The facility itself is housed at Jefferson Terrace, a 17-story Low Income Public Housing building that has a sixth-floor entrance across the street from Harborview Medical Center. Entry to the Respite Center is by referral from hospitals or clinics only, so the building's proximity to the area's busiest emergency room, where many homeless get their only medical attention, made it an ideal location. Staff from Harborview now operate the facility.

In 2011, the 23 apartments on the building's seventh floor were remodeled into the stand-alone operation that now houses approximately 30 clients, plus 24/7 staff and clinic space. The Respite Center has its own private entry, in a similar arrangement to Full Life Care, a different social services program operating in former apartments on the sixth floor.

Most studio apartments were transformed into semi-private sleeping rooms, equipped with hospital beds. To create space for the Respite Center, former seventh-floor residents moved elsewhere in the building.

Michael King is one such resident. On Feb. 10, he joined several other residents for a tour led by Director Anne Taylor.

"The program is doing great things. I would like to support it, maybe do some volunteer work for them in the office," King said.

He and fellow resident Cory Russell were neighbors on the seventh floor, and were visibly moved to see the changes in their former apartments, where they say their "beautiful friendship blossomed." King's apartment became a day room where clients can socialize if they are feeling well enough to leave their rooms.



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

Anne Taylor (right), the director of the Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace, leads a tour of the facility for building residents Michael King (right) and Michael Hamm (left) and Marcia Johnson, Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder (far left.) Another tour for building residents is scheduled for March 16. As it celebrates its sixth month of operation, the facility has been renamed the "Edward Thomas House."

The plan for the tour was hatched at the January meeting of the Respite Care Advisory Group, which was created in 2010 to ensure that the input of residents of Jefferson Terrace can help the Respite Center run successfully for everyone.

Russell is an active participant of the group, which tackles issues as diverse as smoking policy and the coordination of security staff. The next tour is scheduled for March 16 at 1:30 pm. Interested parties should call 206-615-3534 to sign up for a limited space.

Also at the most recent meeting, Ed Dwyer-O'Conner

of Harborview announced that new signs will soon be appearing at Jefferson Terrace. The facility is being renamed "The Edward Thomas House" in honor of a former client of respite services. After a stay in respite care in 2004, Thomas obtained stable housing and connected with a regular physician, without having to resort to emergency room visits for healthcare.

"His experience serves as an inspiration to people living homeless on our streets and those working to end homelessness in our community," said Dwyer-O'Conner.

## Tierney

Continued from Page 1

at both the City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle. He held a number of high-level positions in city government from 1985 to 1998, including stints in key staff roles to Mayor Norm Rice across his two terms. At the Port, Tierney served first as Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and later as Deputy CEO.

"I have had the privilege of serving the Seattle community in a variety of ways," said Tierney, "and it has been an exceptionally rewarding honor. I will turn 65 in August and will leave while my health is strong and my spirit still somewhat youthful."

The Seattle Housing Authority's seven-member Board of Commissioners is responsible for hiring and overseeing the work of the agency's executive director. The Commission plans to advertise the opening in Seattle and Washington State, and expects to garner interest in the position from across the country.

A committee of three board members, chaired by Nora Gibson, will oversee the search. Commissioners Juan Martinez and Kollin Min are also committee members.

The position is now being advertised on the agency website. All application materials are due by March 9. Screening of applicants will take place in March, with interviews anticipated in mid-March. The interview panel will include Commissioners along with several members of the community.

The Board expects to identify a final candidate in late March, with employment commencing in July. Salary is negotiable, depending on experience.

The Board of Commissioners will host a community meeting Tuesday, March 7 to hear from stakeholders. Commissioners seek ideas from community members regarding the ideal characteristics they should keep in mind as they seek to hire a new director. The meeting will be held at the Porchlight Building in Ballard, 907 Ballard Way NW, at 6 p.m.

The Board is interested moving relatively quickly on the selection process because of the number of important projects currently underway. These include legislation soon to go to City Council regarding Yesler Terrace redevelopment, budget challenges due to the recession and new partnerships to promote access to education and economic stability for residents.

## Resident Action Council meeting announcement

BY RESIDENT ACTION COUNCIL

The Resident Action Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 in the Center Park Community Room, 2121 26th Ave. S. All Seattle Housing Authority residents are invited to attend.

A social period with light refreshments will precede the meeting at 1 p.m.

Agenda items include approval of revisions to the RAC bylaws and discussion of

further revisions. Representatives from the Northwest Justice Project and the Tenants Union will present information about the legal rights and responsibilities of Seattle Housing residents.

For more information or to request interpreters, documents in large print, Braille or other languages, please contact the RAC office at 322-1297 or email RAC Secretary Jim Bush at [jbwa2@yahoo.com](mailto:jbwa2@yahoo.com) by Friday, March 9.

## Events at the Seattle Public Library's Columbia Branch

 Residents of Rainier Vista may be interested in some of the upcoming opportunities available to them at the Columbia Branch Library.

The library is located at 4721 Rainier Ave. S. and is open from 1–8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It is closed Fridays and Sundays.

### Homework Help

5 – 7:45 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays

Homework Help volunteers will be at this branch to assist students on a drop-in basis through the school year, with the exception of school holidays.

### Free Tax Help

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays

The Seattle Public Library, AARP and the United Way of King County are working together to offer free tax help at 11 library locations through mid-April. Trained volunteers will be available to answer questions and prepare personal tax returns.

### Grupo Bilingüe de Juegos / Bilingual Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Thursdays

Grupo Bilingüe de juegos para padres y cuidadores con niños entre las edades de Nacimiento hasta 5 años. / Bilingual play group for ages birth to 5.

Information taken from the Seattle Public Library's Columbia Branch events calendar. For more information, visit [www.spl.org/locations/columbia-branch](http://www.spl.org/locations/columbia-branch).



Please recycle me



## Jay Inslee, U.S. Representative and candidate for governor, coming to High Point

BY HIGH POINT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**HP** In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln called democracy “government of the people, by the people and for the people.” It means that our government is here to serve us — and we have the right to decide who will represent us and how we want to be represented.

Voting is a right that, throughout history, many have fought for and sacrificed everything to achieve. It’s a right that people continue to fight for and that millions of people throughout the world still do not enjoy.

This year at High Point, we have the pleasure of hearing from one of the candidates for the Washington State Governor’s race, Democratic Representative Jay Inslee.

Inslee has been a U.S. Congressman from Washington’s First Congressional District, which includes parts of King, Kitsap and Snohomish counties. Come and learn more about the candidate and ask questions!

This event will be from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Thursday, March 15 at the Seattle Parks and Recreation High Point Community Center, 6920 34th Ave.

For more information and to reserve your space, contact Shukri Olow at 206-696-3148.

### The High Point Neighborhood Association

Presents:

### A Community Meeting with Representative Jay Inslee (D)

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8 pm  
High Point Community Center  
(Across from West Seattle Elementary school)  
6920 34<sup>th</sup> SW Seattle, WA

Voting matters. Your voice matters. Come ask questions of Representative Jay Inslee. He is campaigning to become the next governor of Washington State.

\*Attorney General Rob McKenna (R) was invited to come, but is unavailable.\*

For interpretation and childcare, please RSVP by contacting Shukri Olow at [solow@seattlehousing.org](mailto:solow@seattlehousing.org) or at 206-696-3148.

Refreshments, interpretation and childcare will be provided.

With support from: the Seattle Housing Authority and the High Point Clinic



### Rainier Vista Community Safety Meeting

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 5  
Neighborhood House Community Room  
4410 29th Avenue S.

**RV** The Rainier Vista Traffic and Safety Committee cordially invite you to join your neighbors to:

- address community safety issues around Rainier Vista neighborhood
- improve community safety through education and how to engage with neighborhood police officers
- share ideas for effective public safe-

ty programs and community involvement

- meet representatives from Seattle Police Department, Neighborhood Security Patrol and SHA Property Management

All community members are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Interpretation will be provided in Somali, Oromo, Amharic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese.

For more information, please contact Evelyn Larsen, [evlarsen@comcast.net](mailto:evlarsen@comcast.net) or Naomi Chang at [nchang@seattlehousing.org](mailto:nchang@seattlehousing.org).

## NewHolly residents attend ‘Take Back Our Streets’ safety rally



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY BUILDING OFFICE

**NH** In the NewHolly Gathering Hall, Seattle Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith (left, at lecturn) and Seattle Police Lt. John Hayes (right) discuss personal safety and crime prevention with members of the NewHolly community. Both Smith and Hayes urged residents to report crimes when they occur.

Do you have a friend or family member who smokes?

Do you smoke cigarettes?



## Learn how to Quit

Come get support and be inspired to quit for life!

Capital Park – Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 8-10 a.m., 525 14<sup>th</sup> Ave East, 98112

Jackson Park – Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 1-3 p.m., 14396 30<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, 98125

Rainier Vista - Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 6-7 p.m., Boys & Girls Club, 4520 MLK Way S.

Barton Place – Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> 1-3 p.m., 9201 Rainier Ave South, 98118

Center West – Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30-11 a.m., 533 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave West, 98119

Harvard Court – Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2-4 p.m., 610 Harvard Ave East, 98102

High Point - Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-7:30 p.m. High Point Center, 6400 Sylvan Way SW

Yesler Terrace - Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 1:30-3 p.m., 825 Yesler Way, Community Room

NewHolly - Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 4-5:30 p.m., Gathering Hall, Downstairs in Room 107

For more information or to request interpreters call Mike Graham-Squire, Neighborhood House (206) 353-7945



Neighborhood House



Made possible by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services



Seattle HOUSING AUTHORITY

**FREE. EVERYONE WELCOME. FOOD. PRIZES!**

## NewHolly Safety Team is active!

BY APRIL YEE

NewHolly Community Building Intern

**NH** Are you concerned with your personal safety when walking in NewHolly? Are you interested in gaining valuable self-defense skills with some of your neighbors?

NewHolly Safety Team volunteers are organizing free self-defense workshops in the NewHolly Gathering Hall. Training will include being more aware of surroundings, walking with confidence, using your voice and fighting back, if

necessary. Seven Star Women’s Kung Fu will be leading all workshops.

Workshop sessions are free to NewHolly residents, but space is limited to 25 people per class, so please contact Joy Bryngelson to register: 206-723-1725 or [jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org](mailto:jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org). Interpretation and childcare are provided; please request them when registering. The following options are available:

Mixed-Gender Adults and Youth Workshop: 6 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13

Women Only Workshop: 2 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24