



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



# The Voice

January  
2013  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House – visit our website at [www.voicenewspaper.org](http://www.voicenewspaper.org)

## The great Burndale tutoring showcase singalong



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Tony Bissiri (center, with guitar), an AmeriCorps tutor with Neighborhood House's tutoring program at Burndale Center in Auburn, leads a group of young students in an Old MacDonald singalong. The song kicked off the Dec. 11 Burndale Center Youth Tutoring Showcase. Students presented research projects relating to animal adaptations.

## What now? Falling off the fiscal cliff

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Like everyone else, you awoke on the morning of Dec. 21 to find that the much ballyhooed Mayan apocalypse came and went with not even a whimper. But in the waning moments of 2012 the United States faces another calamity — and unlike the purported end of the Mayan calendar, this one will have very real consequences.

Jan. 2, 2013 could see the United States economy tumble over the “fiscal cliff” — the popular term for the trillion-dollar spending cuts that kick in should Congress and President Obama not reach a budget deficit plan. Such cuts would likely spark massive government layoffs, reductions in most federal programs and the start of an economic recession.

To avoid a possible catastrophe, members of Congress have been working to hammer out a budget deficit deal that would offset proposed spending cuts with increases in tax revenue.

Tax rates are one of the key sticking points in the debate. President Obama and Democrats favor an extension of the Bush-era tax cuts for low- and middle-income earners while allowing the tax rates for those making \$250,000 and above to revert to the higher, pre-2000s levels. Republicans have countered that current tax rates should be maintained, though House Speaker John Boehner recently conceded that taxes may be raised on those making more than \$1 million.

Please see “Fiscal cliff” on Page 2

## Exploring the history behind this season's biggest holidays

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

The winter is a busy time of year for holiday celebrations. Whatever your own beliefs, chances are you're already at least somewhat familiar with all of the major holidays this month.

This season, The Voice is digging a little deeper into the histories behind the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the Solstice.

### Christmas

In the United States, where about three-quarters of the population identifies as Christian, Christmas is the best-known and most widely-observed of the winter holidays. But how it is celebrated — even the day on which it is observed — varies.

Christmas, the traditionally accepted date of the birth of Jesus Christ, is Dec.

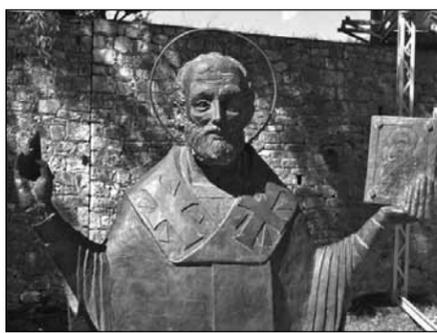


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A statue of Saint Nicholas, the inspiration behind Santa Claus, is seen near a church in Demre, Turkey, where Nicholas was bishop in the Fourth Century.

25. But the Western and Eastern Christian churches use different calendars, meaning what day a person observes Christmas depends on what church that person belongs to. The Western Christian Church is the predominant Christian orthodoxy worldwide,

its adherents in particular found among the Christian peoples of North America, South America and Western Europe. Eastern Christianity is found primarily among the Eastern Orthodox Church of Russia, Greece, and other areas of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and the Oriental Orthodox Churches of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Armenia, Coptic Egypt and elsewhere.

Western Christianity uses the Gregorian calendar, which is the most widely accepted international standard. Eastern Christianity, however, uses the Julian Calendar, which is 13 days different from the Gregorian calendar. A member of the Russian Orthodox Church or Ethiopian Orthodox Church, for example, would observe Christmas on what would be Jan. 7 to most of the world.

Of course, many observe Christmas as a secular holiday. You know the one — the night of Santa Claus, a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. (Even Santa Claus has a

religious origin, being modeled after Saint Nicholas, a Fourth Century Greek bishop known for leaving gifts for the poor.)

### Hanukkah

Though Hanukkah is a relatively minor holiday in the Jewish faith, it remains one of the best-known Jewish holidays in the United States — a misconception that most likely stems from its observance in close proximity to Christmas. (Yom Kippur, next observed Sept. 13 – 14, 2013, is the holiest day of the Jewish year.)

The origins of the holiday date back 2,200 years, to around 175 BCE, when Jerusalem and the surrounding land of Judea were part of the Seleucid Empire. In that year, King Antiochus IV invaded Judea, looted the Temple of Jerusalem and outlawed Judaism within the empire. His

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## Health Notes

*A column devoted to your well-being*

### *A New Year, and some old ways to keep the gloom away in these dark, winter days*

BY ADRIANE VETTER  
*Special to The Voice*

Welcome to the new year, and yes, more rainy, gray days, since this is the Northwest and we all know it is pretty gloomy (with a few sunbreaks) until around April. So, what's a person to do to get through all of this gloom and cold? Well, if you're not into going to a tanning salon—and who has money for that, as well as wanting to risk unhealthy exposure to sun lamps?—you can brighten things up by wearing more color in your wardrobe. I've found that simply adding a little green or red into my clothing choices (the brighter the better) makes me feel better. Studies have shown that colors like yellow, orange or red do pep up one's spirits, so try it and see.

Also, keep up on the vitamin D and add Sambucus (or elderberry syrup, which you can get at most health food stores, or in the health food section of your local drug stores), will help keep you healthy.

For a nice pick-me-up, why not try some dark chocolate? Two squares a day is a good

regimen to keep up. It tastes great, and dark chocolate has heart healthy properties, too. Don't forget to eat your greens, too, as they have lots of vitamins and minerals your body really needs when it's dark outside. The ones at the farmer's market (the Ballard one goes year round!) are the best, because they're free of pesticides and other things you don't want or need.

I've also found that if I watch some silly comedy (my favorite is *The Three Stooges*) or the occasional action movie, then that'll pick up my mood almost instantly. Try it, and see if laughing at some comedy antics doesn't make you feel a bit better, even as the rain continues to pour down and the days are still a bit dark (though after the Solstice, they get lighter). Many DVDs are available at local libraries.

There's always organizations that need volunteers, and believe me, helping someone out is almost guaranteed to make you feel better. So, happy new year all, and let's all look forward to that sunny day, which I know is coming soon!

### **Fiscal cliff**

**Continued from Page 1**

Obama has called for \$1.4 trillion in new revenues, while Boehner's proposal would raise about \$1 trillion in new revenue.

On the other hand, Republicans are calling for greater spending cuts, particularly in programs that are most popular with Democrats, including health care and Social Security. One option under consideration would raise the eligibility age for Medicare, which is currently age 65. Another would trim growth in Social Security benefits by adjusting the formula used to calculate annual cost-of-living adjustments.

While negotiations have been in flux, and the situation may very well have changed by the time of publication, more certain are the consequences—particularly for low-income people—should a deal not be struck before the new year.

Embedded in the 2011 Budget Control Act, which laid the groundwork for spending cuts totaling \$1.5 trillion from 2012 to 2021, is a mechanism known as "sequestration." Under sequestration, across-the-board cuts totaling more than \$1 trillion would take immediate effect should Congress not reach a deal.

That would mean cuts to programs, including housing, that have already seen significant reductions.

Funding for housing assistance has already been cut by \$2.5 billion since 2010, according to data provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). That includes cuts of nearly \$1.5 billion to public housing. The only programs that have seen modest increases in that time are the Section 8 Voucher program (\$180 million) and the

Section 8 project-based rental assistance program (\$782 million), and Homeless Assistance programs (\$49 million)—investments made to mitigate the impact of cuts to public housing, according to CBPP analysis.

But funds to expand the voucher programs are simply no longer available; under sequestration, they would be slashed.

In Washington state, cuts via sequestration would amount to the loss of 4,040 vouchers, \$5.2 million in public housing funding and \$3.6 million in Homeless Assistance grants, according to CBPP.

Nationally, cuts to housing could affect hundreds of thousands of families. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan has stated that through sequestration: over 250,000 families would lose their Housing Choice Vouchers; 100,000 families would lose Homeless Assistance Grants; 80,000 homeowners would lose housing counseling assistance; and 53,000 jobs would be lost.

Cuts would not be limited to federal programs, either. Whatever cuts are made to non-defense discretionary spending (think education, transportation, health care and, yes, housing) will be passed on to states, which will see a decrease in federal dollars trickling down to fund many state programs. With fewer federal dollars coming in, states will likely be forced to curb their own spending or raise taxes to make up the difference. Governor-elect Jay Inslee, a Democrat, has indicated he doesn't want to raise taxes in 2013.

Should Congress reach agreement on a budget deficit plan before the deadline, a disaster could be averted. Otherwise, we all could wake up on Jan. 2, 2013 into a catastrophe not even the Mayans could have foretold.

## Shining holiday stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAR OF SEATTLE

Center Park resident Dorene Cornwell (left) and Kim Tran, a student in Seattle School District's Exploratory Internship Program (XIP), decorate the Center Park community room for the Center Park Holiday Celebration Dec. 13. The annual celebration was supported by Seattle Housing Authority, Center Park Resident Council, Digital Promise, Open Doors for Multicultural Families and STAR of Seattle, an accessible computer lab located in the building.

### **What you need to know about the flu**

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

What is the flu?

Influenza (flu) is a disease that affects people's airways and lungs. It is caused by influenza viruses that pass from person to person easily. Each flu season, several different flu viruses spread. Even healthy children and adults can get very sick from the flu and spread it to family and friends.

How serious is the flu?

For healthy children and adults, flu is typically a mild or moderate illness. It may cause considerable discomfort and require staying home for a period of days, but most otherwise healthy people will get better with rest at home and plenty of fluids.

Flu can be serious for infants and children under two years of age, pregnant women, and many people who have long-term health problems such as diabetes, asthma, neurological diseases, heart or lung problems, weakened immune systems, and possibly, obesity. These people are at high risk for severe illness and should call their doctor if they develop flu symptoms. In some instances, flu can lead to hospitalization and even death. Doctors can prescribe anti-viral medicine to prevent severe illness, but they work best if given within 48 hours of getting sick.

How does flu spread?

Flu spreads from people who are infected to others through coughs and sneezes.

When people cough or sneeze, they spread germs through the air or onto surfaces that other people may touch.

What can I do to protect myself and others from catching the flu?

Get flu vaccine each year. It's the single best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from flu. Health experts recommend flu vaccine for all people 6 months and older. Make sure everyone who lives with or cares for an infant younger than 6 months gets vaccinated to protect the infant from getting flu.

You can also take these everyday steps to protect yourself and others from getting sick:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Touching these areas spreads germs.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home from work and school until at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, and avoid close contact with others when sick.

Common flu symptoms include fever, tiredness, headache, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches.

Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

### **Volunteer with the 2013 Free Tax Campaign**

United Way of King County is currently recruiting volunteers for the 2013 tax season.

Help hard-working, low-income families keep more of what they earn and save for the future.

In 2012, 650 volunteers prepared 14,400 returns and helped return \$20.7 million in refunds, including \$7 million in Earned Income Tax Credits. Help us do even better this year!

What volunteer opportunities are available?

• Volunteer tax preparers are at the center of the campaign, helping clients complete their tax returns. Volunteers walk a client through their taxes, ensur-

ing that they receive all the credits they are eligible for.

• Intake volunteers are the first to see our clients. They help clients get their paperwork in order, answer questions clients may have, and keep the waiting areas efficient and organized.

• Bridge to Basics volunteers help connect our clients to public benefits they may be eligible for. This includes helping fill out Food Stamp applications and getting clients to save via savings bonds.

• Volunteer interpreters help clients who can't speak English get their taxes done.

For more information or to register go to [www.uwkc.org/taxvolunteer](http://www.uwkc.org/taxvolunteer).

#### 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).

# Be safe

## A winter safety quiz

BY KELLY MCKINNEY  
Seattle Neighborhood Group

In the spirit of the season here is a short holiday safety quiz to end the old year and begin a new year.

**Question 1:** After having a jolly good time at Jack Frost's winter party, Frosty S. Mann is walking home. Frosty is tired and wants to get home quickly. What should Frosty do?

A. Take a short cut through the park, which is dark and isolated.

B. Continue walking home along the well-lit, busy streets until he gets home.

**Question 2:** The winter holidays are a busy time for Mr. Kringle. He is responsible for delivering toys and goodies to the girls and boys in his neighborhood. He has many stops to make along the way. Where should Mr. Kringle put the gifts in his car.

A. Mr. Kringle should place the gifts where no one can see them.

B. It doesn't matter where Mr. Kringle puts the gifts, nobody would steal from him.

**Question 3:** Donner and Blitzen are walking down the street, when they notice someone is following them in a car. What should Donner and Blitzen do?

A. Wave the car down and ask the driver why he is following them.

B. Turn around and walk the other way.

C. Call 9-1-1.

D. Both B & C.

**Question 4:** The Whos are out in their front yard, when they notice a tall stranger

lurking around their neighbor's house looking into the windows and checking the doors. What should they do?

A. Confront the stranger about his activities.

B. Call 9-1-1 and report his suspicions to the police.

C. Call their neighbors and let them know someone has been lurking around their house.

D. Call his Community Police Team officer and inform her about the suspicious activities.

E. First B, and then C & D.

**Answers:**

B. Frosty should stay on the well-lit, busy streets where people can see him.

A. The best solution is to not keep valuables in your car at all, but when that is not possible then the next best solution is to keep the valuables where they cannot be seen. It is also a good idea to move the vehicle every time something new is put into the trunk of the car.

D. Turn around and walk the other way. It is very difficult for cars to turn around that quickly. Stay as far away from the suspicious vehicle as possible. Call 9-1-1 as soon as possible to report the incident.

E. Whenever you observe something suspicious call 9-1-1 first. After calling 9-1-1 you can call the neighbor and the CPT office. Remember that most home burglaries happen during the day, when people are most likely to be gone.



# Letters to the Editor

Readers of The Voice speak out

## A note of thanks

BY BRENDA KAY NETH

When I moved into Seattle Housing Authority's University House in 1998, I was so grateful to have my own one-bedroom apartment, complete with kitchen, bathroom, and a community room with a piano to boot. Not to mention laundry facilities in the same building. I had transferred from a "shoebox-sized" apartment, one which had served me well to keep me off the streets and in stable shelter. At each time, I was grateful for the accommodations that both transitional and low-income housing had provided.

But as time passed, I found myself in various modes of appreciation or frus-

tration living in this community. I had to learn to face my own physical and mental crisis or limitations within my own space, without affecting others. For a time, I wasn't successful at this, and grew resentful of the fact that the "grass was greener" on the housing horizon. I couldn't move out and felt trapped, and my resentments created a worse scenario than necessary.

Fortunately, that time has passed, and I have faced myself head on. I am very grateful for living under a warm roof, and for the continuous efforts of our resident council to create better, more accessible and exciting community options. I am very blessed to have housing. Thank you Seattle Housing Authority for giving me the opportunity to have self-sufficiency and humility together.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MAGGS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Holidays

Continued from Page 1

actions sparked a revolt, led by the Maccabees of Judea. By 165 BCE the revolt had succeeded, and the Maccabees ordered the Temple of Jerusalem to be cleansed and rededicated.



IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Judah Maccabee, who led the successful Jewish revolt against the Seleucid Empire that is celebrated in the observance of Hanukkah, is the central figure in this 19th Century woodcut.

For this purpose, oil was needed to keep the menorah burning at the temple, day and night. Though there was only enough oil to last a single day, the menorah burned for eight days and nights. The eight nights of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, celebrate this miracle of the oil.

Today, Hanukkah is observed with the lighting of a candle on a nine-branched Menorah — one candle for each night of the holiday, and a ninth candle, called the shamash, which is used to light each of the eight. Often, gifts are exchanged each night — particularly in the United States, where the holiday has developed an increased significance given that it falls in close proximity to Christmas.

Because the Hebrew Calendar is lunar, the dates of the eight nights of Hanukkah vary each year. In 2012, Hanukkah began Dec. 8 and concluded Dec. 16. Next year it

will begin Nov. 27.

Significantly, the celebration of Hanukkah is not described in the Torah, the holy scriptures of Judaism. It is instead recounted in the books of 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees, which describe the revolt against the Seleucid Empire and the subsequent creation of an independent Jewish state led by the Judean Maccabees. Though celebrated as champions of religious freedom and independence, the Maccabees have a complicated history, known also for religious zealotry, forced conversions and violent attacks on neighboring kingdoms. Their rule, first as an independent state and later as part of the larger Hasmonean Dynasty, lasted until 37 BCE, when the kingdom was absorbed into the Roman Empire.

### Kwanzaa

While our first two holidays in this list are connected to two of the world's major religions, Kwanzaa is a celebration of the world's people. The holiday, observed each year from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, is a celebration of African heritage and African-American culture. Though observed predominantly within the United States, it is also held in Canada and elsewhere around the world.

Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga, a leader of the black nationalist movement of the 1960s and '70s and a professor of Africana Studies. The holiday



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MYERS/COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Myers, U.S. Air Force, demonstrates a Kwanzaa ritual where she lights a candle in the Kinara.

was first observed in 1966.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which translates to "first fruits of the harvest." The seven days of Kwanzaa correspond to the holiday's seven core principles, each with its own special resonance in African-American culture. Those principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Celebrants of Kwanzaa decorate their home with African art and may dress in traditional clothing. Candles are lit and displayed in a kinara, a candelabra with seven branches. The traditional holiday greeting is "Joyous Kwanzaa!"

Kwanzaa has grown in profile nationally since its inception in the 1960s. Recently, U.S. presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama have all acknowledged Kwanzaa in official White House statements. In 1997, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating the holiday. Another such stamp was issued in 2004.

Though originally conceived as an alternative to Christmas, Kwanzaa has since come to be observed alongside Christmas by many African-American Christians. Though its popularity has waned some in recent years, it is estimated that several million people celebrate Kwanzaa in the United States alone.

### Solstice

The winter solstice occurs on the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere — the time at which the sun is at its lowest altitude above the horizon. It occurs each year on Dec. 21 or 22, and thanks to the work of modern astronomers, can be pinpointed to the exact second of its occurrence. However, the significance of the solstice was not lost on the people of the ancient world, an event that has resonated with humankind for thousands of years.

It has been observed, particularly in cultures of the Northern Hemisphere, with celebrations that are steeped in the symbol-

ism of renewal and rebirth.

Germanic pagans, which hailed from what is modern Germany, Scandinavia, and parts of Great Britain, observed the Yule festival at least as far back as the Fourth Century CE. Yuletide was a mid-winter festival associated with the Norse god Odin and the coming of the Wild Hunt, a spectral group of riders that thundered across the sky. Observance of Yule may have included a feast and a toast to honor the Norse gods.

Observance of the winter solstice continues to this day, as modern pagans practice a variety of customs to celebrate the coming of winter.

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IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Wodan's Wild Hunt" by German artist Friedrich Wilhelm Heine (1845 - 1921) depicts the Wild Hunt of Norse mythology. At the head of the column is "Wodan," or Odin.



## A dream is fulfilled at Barton Place

*Work of volunteers, community partners yields a new computer lab*

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Skip Donaldson's dreams are beginning to come true.

The Barton Place resident speaks candidly about the problems that caused him to miss the technology boom of the previous two decades — the drug addiction, the homelessness, the trips in and out of prison.

Sober now for five years, the Vietnam veteran is excited to finally be getting caught up on his lessons in computer literacy, and not a moment too soon.

"There's going to come a time when if you don't know how to use a computer, you're going to be lost," Donaldson said.

He's one of six Barton Place residents who together comprise the Barton Place Computer Lab Committee. The volunteer collaborative culminated last month in the grand opening of the Barton Place computer lab, a technology center located right in the heart of their community.

The City of Seattle awarded the lab committee with a Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund grant, providing resources to purchase two computers, a printer and the hiring of a project coordinator to provide some computer instruction classes at the new lab. In return, committee members will contribute in-kind volunteer hours to match the grant funds.

Please see "Barton Place" on Page 2



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

From left to right (above), Seattle Housing Community Builder Marcia Johnson and Barton Place Computer Lab Committee Members Skip Donaldson, Ollivette Wade, Ken Henderson, Sydney Koerber, Debra Dixon and Mary Lewis are pictured at the Barton Place Computer Lab grand opening Dec. 13. In front is Dixon's grandchild, Kalisha.

At left, members of the computer lab committee cut the ribbon, officially opening the computer lab for business. The new lab was made possible with a Bill Wright Technology Grant and additional support from the City of Seattle, the Seattle Housing Authority and Full Life Care. Free high-speed internet was provided by Comcast with support from the City of Seattle.



## Accessible garden plots installed at Schwabacher



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Youth from United Indians Youth Home install the raised garden beds at Schwabacher House.

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

It started through resident initiative — could Schwabacher House, with some financial and volunteer support, enjoy the benefits of neighborhood gardening on the grounds of their community?

In all, 20 Schwabacher residents signed a petition pledging their support for the project. Today, Schwabacher resident green thumbs have access to four raised garden plots, two each in the front and rear of their building, where they will be able to practice sustainable gardening.

"I think it's just heavenly," said Schwabacher resident Jacquie Willette. "I'm so glad it's come here."

The plots are raised to provide better access for persons with limited mobility. A community-wide effort made the new

Please see "Schwabacher" on Page 4

## Move into 2013 with your Resident Action Council

At the Jan. 9 planning meeting the Resident Action Council will be looking back to 2012.

This was a good year for RAC. We more than doubled our active membership. We worked with the Resident Leadership Development Team to recognize the very special volunteers who make our communities better. Most of our Leadership Team attended training to help us improve our work. We presented two forums where Seattle Housing management answered our questions, heard our concerns, and made commitments that addressed many of the shared concerns we'd uncovered in our planning sessions before the forums.

We'll remember what worked well and discuss what can work better.

And the Resident Action Council will look forward into 2013.

We will complete planning for the Public Safety in Public Housing forum on Feb. 13, where we are inviting representatives from the Police department, the Housing Authority, and the City Council's Public

Safety Committee to hear our concerns.

We will decide on a topic for an April Forum. A few possibilities are:

- Being an advocate: Speaking up, for yourself and others!
- Mental Health in Seattle Housing communities
- Resident Services: What do we have? What do we need?
- Bi-annual SHA Management forum: Were 2012 commitments kept? What is our 2013 focus?

When, where, and other questions

Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Center Park Community Room, upper level of 2600 S. Walker at MLK. Nearest transit stop (buses 4 and 8) is on MLK at S. Hill Streets. Buses 7, 9, 42 and 48 stop on Rainier S at S Walker, 2½ blocks West of Center Park. We now reimburse bus fare and car-pooler mileage! More questions? Phone 206-322-1297 or email Talk2RAC@gmail.com

Arrive early for a getting-to-know-you gathering and light lunch at 1 p.m.

### Host a Safe Communities Conversation

During January the Mayor's office and Police Department offer a wonderful opportunity for us to tell SPD more about our Public Safety concerns!. A facilitator, note-taker and a police officer will attend each Safe Communities Conversation to lead discussions with groups of five to 15 people.

The Resident Action Council hopes

that information from these meetings will reveal issues that are shared in public housing communities throughout the city.

If you or your Resident Council want to host a Safe Communities Conversation, please contact Kevin Henry at Culturezone@aol.com or call 206 954-8024. Call soon to schedule, and mention that you live in a Seattle Housing community!

## Seattle Housing to hold lottery for spots on the new 2013 Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) waitlist

By SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority will be opening a new waitlist in the Spring of 2013 for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program using a lottery system with registration available online-only.

Registration for the lottery will be open from February 4, 2012 at 7 a.m. through February 22 at 5 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) and will determine who is placed on this new waitlist. Those interested in registering for the lottery are encouraged to visit [seattlehousing.org/waitlist](http://seattlehousing.org/waitlist) in advance of the registration period to better understand the process and to keep informed of information as it is made available.

In order to give everyone who registers an equal chance of placement on the waitlist, 2,000 households will be selected at random by computer to be placed on the new waitlist. The last time a new waitlist was opened for Seattle Housing's HCV program was in the Spring of 2008.

Any person 18 years old or older (or an emancipated minor) may register for the lottery no matter where he or she lives. If someone lives outside of Seattle and receives a lottery number, and later a voucher, they will be required to live in Seattle during their first year on the program. Residents of Seattle Housing's Low-Income Public Housing units are welcome to register.

Important information about the lottery:

- Only one person per household may register. Households may only register once.
- Registering for the lottery, does NOT mean you are applying for housing.
- This is not a first-come, first-served process, so there is no need to be the first in line to register. A rush at the beginning of the registration period may result in website instability. If you experience this, please come back to the site later. Also, please do not leave registration until the last minute on February 22 in case you experience technical difficulties.
- The registration form asks you to provide the name, date of birth, social security number, race and gender of all members of your household. Since it is

Please see "Lottery" on Page 4

### 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

## Writing for a lost generation

*Peter Bacho's "Leaving Yesler" captures a part of Filipino-American culture that has since faded away*

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

For his novel "Leaving Yesler," local author Peter Bacho wrote a character that was less a product of his environment than a response to it.

"What I wanted was a kid antithetical to the macho culture I was raised in," Bacho says. "Hypermasculinity is a recipe for disaster."

For Bacho — who has examined Filipino American culture in five previous books, including 1991's "Cebu," which won the American Book Award — the novel serves as a capstone for his writing career, one in which he has doggedly attempted to capture the stories of a Filipino America that has since faded.

Bacho's protagonist is Bobby Vincente, a young man from Yesler Terrace who in 1968 is approaching his 18th birthday.

Bobby's age is especially important given the backdrop of the Vietnam War, the conflict that has already taken the life of his older brother, Paulie. Without a college deferment, Bobby will likely be drafted into the army and sent to Vietnam. His pursuit of a GED so that he can enroll in South Seattle Community College is one of the drivers of the plot, but the story digs into even deeper ground, tackling questions about family, culture and identity.

Bobby is a young man caught between worlds — too sensitive for the macho cul-



IMAGE BY PLEASURE BOAT STUDIOS

Peter Bacho's new book, "Leaving Yesler," tells the story of a Filipino-American boy growing up in Yesler in the 1960s.

ture of Yesler Terrace, but equally uncomfortable in campus life; driven by notions of pure love while falling for a sophisticated, liberated woman named Deena; raised by a Filipino-American father, but dogged by doubts about his paternity. Even the boundaries between the living and the dead are blurred, as Bobby is visited regularly by ghosts.

In writing the character of Bobby, Bacho says he put himself into the mindset of a 16-year-old. That approach informs every detail of the book — even the sense of humor is that of an adolescent. It was a new challenge for him, and one that he says he enjoyed immensely.

The Yesler Terrace of his novel is also drawn from his experience as a teen.

"Kids were a little bit harder there, and I knew the attitude," says Bacho, who grew up in Seattle's Central Area and played basketball in the old Yesler gym. "I wanted to put into that milieu someone who didn't have that attitude, and (had) these crazy notions about pure love."

And in a novel steeped in Filipino culture,

Please see "Novel" on Page 4

## Barton Place

Continued from Page 1

The city and Comcast partnered to connect the building with free high-speed internet. And the city's surplus technology program provided three additional refurbished computers to expand the lab's capacity.

The six computer lab committee volunteers come from diverse backgrounds but share one important trait — a desire not to be left behind by the digital revolution.

Sydney Koerber wants to use her time online for an achievement that's a lifetime in the making.

"I'm 63, and I want to get my GED," Koerber said. "And I don't want to have to go to someone else to look something up for me. I want to do it myself."

"But most important, I want to get my GED online. You're never too old."

Mary Lewis said her grandchildren inspired her.

"I wanted to learn about computers," she said. "I'm not good yet, but I'm getting there."

Debra Dixon's granddaughter was with her for the grand opening.

"She knows more about computers than her granny," said Dixon with a laugh, gesturing to Kalisha, age 5.

"I know nothing about computers," Dixon continued. "Better than having my grandkids teach me, I want to learn how to do it myself."

Ken Henderson said he has a passion to learn about computers.

"I'd like to learn as much as I can — to really learn the computer, use websites, actually learn how to do it," he said.

Ollivette Wade, a lifelong activist and

community organizer, was drawn to the cause — reluctantly, at first.

"This type of work is my career," she said. "Who I am wouldn't allow me to turn my back on this community" — though, she said with a laugh, she knew the amount of work she was getting herself into at the time.

Wade has grant-writing experience — she's worked for Seattle Neighborhood Group and has served on the boards of such organizations as the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, the Seattle Habitat for Humanity and the South Seattle Community Council. She volunteered to write the grant proposal that was submitted to the city.

Just a year after the endeavor was launched, the Barton Place Computer Lab is now open for business.

At the Dec. 13 grand opening, the six volunteers who spearheaded the campaign offered their thanks to the community partners — most notably the City of Seattle, Full Life Care and Seattle Housing Authority — who helped make the dream a reality.

Full Life Care employees will partner with the lab in providing a series of health and wellness-related computer classes.

And Seattle Housing Authority property management staff and community builder Marcia Johnson provided logistical support in scheduling meetings, identifying a lab location and helping to facilitate partnerships.

With the ribbon cut and the lab open for use, the fruits of so many efforts were finally in reach.

For Donaldson and the rest of the computer lab committee, it's fulfillment of a dream.

"When I walked in and saw this setup — it's reality to me," Donaldson said.

## Honoring residents in action



Sidney Carter and Hodan Mohamed (above) received leadership awards in recognition of their work organizing the NewHolly Water and Sewer Committee. At left, Seattle Housing resident and board member Doug Morrison lights candles in memory of resident leaders Donna Potter-Garcia and Bette Reed, who passed away earlier this year.

PHOTOS BY TERRY NUON

## RAC hosts volunteer recognition event

By TROY SMITH  
Special to The Voice

On Dec. 1, Resident Action Council held the second annual volunteer recognition party at Center Park.

In attendance was a group of volunteers from throughout the Seattle Housing Authority community. In all, about 60 people attended the event and were welcomed with a nice spread of food, including turkey, roast beef, ham and many munchies. Terry Nuon was there to take pictures of awardees and of the group as a whole after the ceremony.

RAC at-large member Susan Irwin served as emcee, while Seattle Housing Commissioner Doug Morrison and RAC President Nancy Sherman presented the awards. It was touching to see Commissioner Morrison light the candles of the two awardees who had since passed away so they would be there in spirit though not physically. We lost Bette Reed and Donna Potter-Garcia earlier this year, and candles were lit for them.

RAC would like to thank Seattle Housing Executive Director Andrew Lofton for coming and helping us thank and honor all of our great volunteers.

For copies of pictures, contact troy\_smith1962@yahoo.com.

Awardees included:

Barton Place Computer Lab Volunteers Ken Henderson, Debra Dixon, Sydney Koerber, Ollivette Wade, Mary Lewis and Skip Donaldson; Wai Lam and Yi Zhong Li of Beacon Tower; Patsy Taylor and Nancy Dillon of Bell Tower; Robin Lee and Barry Trask of Cal Mor Circle

Fred Hines of Cedarvale House; Tammi Bradford and Donna Potter-Garcia of Center Park; Vicky Freulich, Rosie Smith and Nialuga of the Columbia Place Coffee Hour Staff; Bobby Hardy of Gideon Matthews Gardens; Sherry Morgan and Rick Currier of Green Lake Plaza

Jin Ju Chen and Chengxi Zeng of International Terrace; Gisela Smith and Eddie Hoey of Jackson Park House; Mo Newell and Ellie Rhoades of Lake City House; Marilyn Brink and Mark Gardner of Olympic West; Christina Dolcideria of Rainier Vista

Faye Rime and Andy Kidd of Stewart Manor; Lanelle Trotter of University House; Kristin O'Donnell and Yin Lau of Yesler Terrace

Harvard Court Resident Council; Jefferson Terrace Computer Lab Committee; Lake City House; NewHolly Water and Sewer Committee; Yesler Community Council

Awardee information provided by Resident Action Council.

## 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.

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

# Yesler redevelopment receives boost with two funding announcements

## JPMorgan Chase Foundation awards Seattle Housing \$750,000 to support Yesler Hillclimb project

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority today announced that JPMorgan Chase Foundation has awarded it \$750,000 over three years to support design and completion of the 10th Avenue Hillclimb connecting the Yesler Terrace and Little Saigon neighborhoods, and to participate in a feasibility study of a mixed-use development proposal put forward by representatives of the Little Saigon business district. JPMorgan Chase is the first corporate foundation to invest in the physical redevelopment of the Yesler Terrace neighborhood.

“We are extremely pleased to have a civic leader such as JPMorgan Chase as a community partner at the very beginning of Yesler’s redevelopment,” said Andrew Lofton, Executive Director of Seattle Housing Authority. “This generous gift from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation demonstrates the Foundation’s vision and commitment to revitalizing Yesler Terrace, and underscores its commitment to the broader Seattle community.”

The new 10th Avenue Hillclimb will run along the 10th Avenue South right-of-way, connecting South Jackson Street to South Main Street and increasing pedestrian flow between the Yesler Terrace, First Hill, Little Saigon and International District neighborhoods. Currently pedestrians are required to navigate lengthy, circuitous routes between Yesler Terrace and adjacent Harborview Medical Center to the restaurants and shops of Little Saigon and the International District. The increased connectivity between these communities will lead to economic growth for small businesses, increased access to jobs, and will provide a safer and easier way for residents and workers to reach social, recreational and shopping resources.

Earlier this year, Seattle Housing contracted with the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority to host two Hillclimb design charrettes, which were interpreted in six different languages. Representatives of the Little Saigon community and Yesler Terrace residents created a shared vision and selected preferred design elements for the Hillclimb. The design will incorporate landscaping, lighting, gathering spaces, artwork, and community garden space. Construction of the Hillclimb is expected to begin in the Summer of 2013.

“JPMorgan Chase is proud to support Seattle Housing Authority in the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace,” said Cree Zischke, Regional Executive of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. “Its work will help to transform the community into a neighborhood that accommodates growth in Central Seattle while providing affordable housing near transit, jobs, schools and parks. The implementation of the Hillclimb early on in the redevelopment process enables Little Saigon and the International District to be connected to, rather than isolated from, their neighboring communities.”

“The physical connection between these vibrant neighborhoods is a critical component of the redevelopment, one that these neighborhoods have desired for a long time,” said Lofton. “With the input of residents and the gift from JPMorgan Chase, we are ready to take the Hillclimb from dream to reality.”

In addition to the Hillclimb, the gift from JPMorgan Chase will support a study of a proposal to preserve and enhance Little Saigon as a social, cultural, and economic hub of Seattle’s Vietnamese community. In August 2012, as part of a package of legislation authorizing the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, the Seattle City Council approved Resolution 31403 presented by the Friends of Little Saigon. The Resolution calls for a collaboration between the City of Seattle, Seattle Housing, Friends of Little Saigon and other community members to explore the feasibility of developing a mixed-use project that could include low-income housing, affordable commercial space, and a Vietnamese cultural center. The funds from JPMorgan Chase will support the implementation of the feasibility study.

“We look forward to working with the City, Little Saigon and others to determine how the proposal might fit with broader redevelopment,” said Lofton.

The overall vision for the redevelopment of the Yesler Terrace community includes creating a safe, vibrant mixed-income community, supporting economic and cultural diversity, increasing economic opportunity for residents and employing sustainable, green building principles. The redevelopment plan centers on replacing the existing 561 aging public housing units in locations throughout Yesler Terrace.

## \$19.73 million HUD Choice Neighborhood grant awarded to Seattle Housing for Yesler redevelopment

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced the award of a second Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant totaling \$19.73 million to Seattle Housing Authority for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. HUD awarded Seattle Housing an initial Choice Neighborhoods grant of \$10.27 million in August 2011. This second round of federal funding will jumpstart physical construction of the heart of the new Yesler Terrace.

“HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative supports local visions for how to transform high-poverty, distressed communities into neighborhoods of opportunity,” said Secretary Donovan. “We’re emphasizing a comprehensive approach to revitalizing neighborhoods by considering the totality of a community with regard to health, safety, education, jobs and quality housing in mixed-income neighborhoods.”

Seattle Housing’s first Choice Neighborhoods grant in 2011 began the transformation of the Yesler Terrace neighborhood, fueling the first phase of the redevelopment project. Phase I, which began in 2012, includes construction of 98 replacement homes for extremely low-income residents, 20 new homes for low-income residents, community gardening improvements at Horiuchi Park, the launch of the 10th Avenue Hillclimb connecting Yesler Terrace and the Little Saigon business district, and Cradle to College education support for residents of the Yesler Terrace neighborhood.

This second Choice Neighborhoods grant will launch Phase II of the redevelopment, which includes more replacement housing for extremely low-income households, increased services and additional community improvements. The grant leverages the significant federal, City, and private resources already invested in the revitalization of the Yesler Terrace community and will help to generate additional funds and support for the redevelopment of the neighborhood.

“I am so pleased that Yesler Terrace was one of the four projects selected nationwide for a Choice Grant,” said Senator Patty Murray. “I have fought to continue funding this program because it provides HUD the opportunity to be a partner with local housing authorities and communities that can leverage this funding to revitalize neighborhoods, develop affordable housing, and create new opportunities for residents.”

“From NewHolly to Rainier Vista, High Point to Lake City, the Seattle Housing Authority has a proven and distinguished track record of revitalizing communities,” said HUD Northwest Regional Administrator Mary McBride. “The Authority and its partners will take all the lessons learned from these successes to transform Yesler Terrace into a vibrant, mixed-income and mixed-use community. HUD is very pleased to be a part of this effort.”

“By building a mixed-use community at Yesler Terrace we can improve the quality of life for very low-income families and create new affordable housing opportunities,” said Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn. “The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s

support of this important project will help us meet the needs of even more members of our community.”

Funded by the second Choice Neighborhoods grant along with dollars leveraged from additional public and private sources, Phase II of Yesler Terrace redevelopment will begin in January 2013 and include the following:

### Housing

- Healthy, energy efficient replacement homes for 114 extremely low-income families and an additional 60 new homes for low-income households. When Phases I and II are complete 38% (212 homes) of the total 561 replacement homes will be complete.

### Community improvements

- Construction of the South Washington Street portion of the Green Street Loop, connecting southern portions of the neighborhood.
- Continuation of the central pedestrian connection from the 10th Avenue Hillclimb between the Yesler Terrace and Little Saigon neighborhoods to the new Yesler neighborhood park, which will be located in the heart of the neighborhood.
- Financial assistance for Historic Seattle for the rehabilitation of Washington Hall, located at 14th Avenue and Fir Street.

### Supportive services

- In partnership with Seattle University and others, extension of Cradle to College education support for all residents of Yesler Terrace including early learning programs, youth tutoring and mentoring activities.
- In partnership with Neighborcare Health, funding for two health educators to connect residents with medical services and help them understand how to navigate the medical system.
- In partnership with the Workforce Development Council, job placement services to assist Yesler Terrace residents in finding and obtaining jobs.

“This is a strong endorsement of the six years of important collaboration and planning with the community and the City to help guide the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace,” said Andrew Lofton, Executive Director of Seattle Housing Authority. “In 2013, we will begin to see the actual physical transformation of Yesler Terrace into the neighborhood of the future envisioned by residents and stakeholders as the construction of homes, parks, and the Hillclimb gets underway. We are looking forward to making our first new homes for low-income residents available by the end of 2013.”

The overall vision for a redeveloped Yesler Terrace includes creating a safe, vibrant mixed-income community, supporting economic and cultural diversity, increasing economic opportunity for residents and employing sustainable, green building principles. Seattle Housing’s main focus in redevelopment is replacing the existing 561 aging public housing units in locations throughout Yesler Terrace and enhancing services and quality of life for low-income residents and others throughout the community.

## Yesler relocation plan submitted

Just days after learning about the \$19.73 million Choice Neighborhood award from HUD, the Seattle Housing Authority submitted the official Relocation Plan for the Yesler Terrace redevelopment to the City of Seattle on Dec. 14. Both events were huge milestones for the project.

Even when people look forward to moving, it can be stressful. When someone else tells them they need to move, like with any relocation effort, it can be even more difficult. The Relocation plan deals with making the very real challenge of moving from home more manageable for over two hundred people, so you could even argue that it has more impact than a mere \$19 million.

Relocation plans are required any time public money is used in projects that require someone to move. They

cover things like how the resident needs to pay none of the moving costs, how they will be provided with other affordable housing, and how they get advice and help to make the relocation work out the best for their needs.

The Yesler Terrace plan builds on the successful experience of previous relocation done by the Housing Authority. With this plan, there are additional parameters set by the Cooperative Agreement with the City of Seattle, signed in September. This insures that all the input from residents and the public that was part of the city council’s decision-making process this summer is respected in the plan.

While creating the part of the plan that covers who gets first priority to

Please see “Yesler” on Page 4

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MAGGS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## All Seattle Public Library locations open Sunday in 2013; Play the 'Check-out Sunday Challenge'

BY SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

For the first time in at least a century, all locations of The Seattle Public Library will be open on Sunday in 2013. Expanded operating hours are being funded by a levy approved by voters in August.

Fifteen branches currently closed on Sunday will join 11 other branches in opening their doors every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. beginning Sunday, Jan. 6. In addition, the Columbia and Northgate branches will be open seven days a week beginning in 2013.

"At community meetings and through patron surveys, we heard that Sunday hours were important," City Librarian Marcellus Turner said. "Particularly for families, working people and students, having Library service available in every neighborhood on Sunday will be a huge benefit."

Each branch with new Sunday hours will host a special celebration on a Sunday (dates and locations listed below) from 2 to 3:30 p.m. between Jan. 6 and May 5.

Each celebration will feature a children's craft activity, refreshments and an opportunity to participate in the Check-Out Sundays Challenge.

The Columbia Branch library, near the Rainier Vista neighborhood, will host the inaugural Check-Out Sunday celebration on Jan. 6, with a special guest in Mayor Mike McGinn.

The High Point Branch library will host its celebration Jan. 13, and the NewHolly Branch celebration will be Feb. 3. A full list is below.

### Check-Out Challenge

Patrons can get a free Check-Out Challenge card in a keepsake sleeve at any Library location in mid-December.

To participate in the Challenge, patrons just need to visit any location of The Seattle Public Library on Sunday and get their card stamped before they leave.

Patrons with 15 stamps can enter a prize drawing. Patrons who attend Sunday Branch Celebrations also receive commemorative stickers for their Check Out Cards.

Prizes include Booklovers Baskets and lunch with City Librarian Marcellus Turner. Drawings will take place in May. Patrons do not need to be present at the drawings to win prizes.

For more information, call the Library at 206-386-4636.

### Sundays are special celebrations

Jan. 6, Columbia Branch, 4721 Rainier Ave. S., 206-386-1908. This kick-off celebration will feature Mayor Mike McGinn, Councilmember Richard Conlin and City Librarian Turner.

Jan. 13, High Point Branch, 3411 S.W. Raymond St., 206-684-7454

Jan. 27, Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch, 1134 33rd Ave., 206-684-4705

Feb. 3, NewHolly Branch, 7058 32nd Ave. S., 206-386-1905

Feb. 10, Fremont Branch, 731 N. 35th St., 206-684-4084

Feb. 24, South Park Branch, 8604 Eighth Ave. S., 206-615-1688

March 3, Queen Anne Branch, 400 W. Garfield St., 206-386-4227

March 10, International District/Chinatown Branch, 713 Eighth Ave. S., 206-386-1300

March 17, University Branch, 5009 Roosevelt Way N.E., 206-684-4063

March 24, Wallingford Branch, 1501 N. 45th St., 206-684-4088

April 7, Green Lake Branch, 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N., 206-684-7547

April 14, Magnolia Branch, 2801 34th Ave. W., 206-386-4225

April 21, Montlake Branch, 2401 24th Ave. E., 206-684-4720

April 28, Northgate Branch, 10548 Fifth Ave. N.E., 206-386-1980

May 5, Delridge Branch, 5423 Delridge Way S.W., 206-733-9125

Library events and programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

### New library cards

Beginning in January, the Library also will unveil five new Library cards. Four feature photographs of iconic Seattle sites: the Pike Place Market, Space Needle, Mount Rainier and Central Library. A special card for children was also designed.

The Library will continue offering its current "classic card," which features the Library logo. Patrons can replace their current card for a new one in 2013 without a charge.

"We are excited to offer new cards that reflect some of our local history and culture," Turner said. "They also emphasize our special focus on imagination, opportunity, discovery, community and fun."

"We are delighted to be part of the new Library card program," said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority. "We're thrilled that the Pike Place Market is being recognized as a significant member of the Seattle community."

"We're honored for Mount Rainier to be part of The Seattle Public Library's celebration of Seattle icons," said Randy King, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. "Both the park and the Library are rich resources for our region, and it is a privilege to partner with one of the nation's leading libraries."

### Sundays survey

Patrons should be sure to complete a survey about the types of services and activities they would like to see on Sunday during their next visit to the Library. The survey will be available through January.

document. Copies will be shared with these groups, and it can be viewed by anyone on the Yesler Terrace page of the Seattle Housing Authority website.

Resident can use the new Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Relocation Hotline to ask questions about relocation in general or the plan itself, even in languages other than English:(206) 256-7052.

## Novel

Continued from Page 2

Bacho purposefully wrote a character that is not biologically Filipino.

"I wanted to celebrate culture, not racial purity," he said.

Boxing is also a powerful symbol in the novel. Bobby's father, Antonio, is a former fighter haunted by past glories in the ring; Bobby takes up boxing as a way to make his stand against the bullies of his neighborhood.

It also has significant resonance with the Filipino America of the 1960s; as Bacho says, watching one of their boxers win a bout would be one of the few times they might see a Filipino succeed.

"If their guy can win in the ring, maybe there's hope for them," he says.

Bacho's Seattle is populated with a generation of Filipino men, many of whom immigrated in the 1920s and 1930s. They live in studio apartments in the Central Area and gather in cafes and restaurants, where they play cards and talk about the fights. His protagonist refers to many of them as "Manong," an Ilocano word that conveys respect to an elder.

"We had a sense of community, and I don't know that we have that anymore," Bacho says of the Filipino-American community in which he grew up.

"Somebody's got to write for these guys," he adds.

In his early 60s, Bacho is now a member of that older generation, one who has embraced his role as chronicler of Filipino-American culture.

His characters are drawn from traits he's observed in life. Though they exist only on the page, he says there's not much that removes them from being flesh and blood.

"You know how they sound, you know what they look like," Bacho said.

And you grow attached, he said.

"You become very close to them," said Bacho of his characters. "Even if you have to kill them, you're still very close to him."

There is death in "Leaving Yesler," though most of it occurs off the page, in the recollections of those who are still living. But as anyone who reads the novel will learn, death is not necessarily the end for any of Bacho's characters.

But what about when the writing is done?

Bacho says he feels a tremendous emotional satisfaction. But it's also a draining experience, the end of what might have been years of his life. (Three years, in the case of Leaving Yesler.)

He says he's done writing novels, that Leaving Yesler is his last. After six books — five novels and a work of non-fiction on the sport of boxing — he doesn't expect he'll immerse himself in another. (He'll continue to do creative work, and says he's been working on some film scripts.)

If that's the case, he's finishing on a high note, with a happy resolution for Bobby.

"I was determined to have a happy ending," Bacho says. "This is young adult (fiction), and kids have to have hope."

"This culminates a series of books I've written about this community," he says. "I think it's a good endnote."

## Lottery

Continued from Page 1

not possible to save an unfinished registration, it is best to have this information on-hand before beginning your registration.

A link to our online-only registration form will be made available at [seattlehousing.org/waitlist](http://seattlehousing.org/waitlist) once the registration period officially opens on February 4 at 7 a.m.

To access the most up-to-date information about this lottery and the waitlist process, bookmark [seattlehousing.org/waitlist](http://seattlehousing.org/waitlist) check back for updates. You can also call the waitlist hotline at 206-239-1674.

If you do not have access to a computer, call our waitlist hotline at 206-239-1674 for a list of locations that can serve you. It may take up to 2-3 business days for a response.

## Schwabacher

Continued from Page 1

accessible garden plots a reality.

Schwabacher residents partnered with Seattle Tilth's Just Garden program to secure funding support for the project.

Seattle Housing property management gave the project a full endorsement, and Stephanie Seliga, founder and manager of Just Garden, coordinated with the City of Seattle to secure the necessary permitting for the raised beds. Materials to construct the beds were donated, and the labor to build the beds was provided by a neighbor in Ballard.

Installation day was a wet and chilly Friday, Nov. 30. In spite of the cold, more than a dozen youth, most from the nearby United Indians Youth Home, worked a full

day to get the beds planted in the ground.

The youth home, located in Ballard, provides support services and transitional housing for homeless youth, ages 18-23.

"One of the tenets of their organization is respect for elders," Ross said. "They don't necessarily encounter elders often, so this was important for them to come here and help us build a garden."

The next phase of the project is installation of a utility shed, where donated gardening tools will be stored.

Further out, an underground water catchment system will be installed, so that gardeners will be able to rely on rainwater to water their crops.

To learn more about Just Garden, visit [justgarden.org](http://justgarden.org) or call 206-633-0451, Ext. 116.

## Volunteer opportunities with Nature Consortium

### MLK Day of Service

In honor of Dr. King and his legacy of service and justice, Nature Consortium will host a weekend of community engagement and volunteering in Seattle's largest forest, the West Duwamish Greenbelt. Join us on Saturday, Jan. 19 and Monday, Jan. 21 to plant trees and shrubs in the greenbelt as part of an ongoing effort to encourage biodiversity and create a healthy urban forest.

Nature Consortium will provide tools, gloves, coffee, snacks and live music. This is a fun and family friendly event for all. Email [volunteer@naturec.org](mailto:volunteer@naturec.org) for more information and to sign up today!

### Guitar assistant wanted

Nature Consortium's Youth Art Program at Rainier Vista is looking for an enthusiastic and patient volunteer to assist our Teaching Artist during weekly, beginning guitar classes.

We ask that volunteer applicants (age 18+) have previous guitar experience and basic knowledge of major guitar chords. Students are ages 7-18. Must be available on Mondays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., from January through March.

Contact Nature Consortium at [oleana@naturec.org](mailto:oleana@naturec.org) for more details.

