

Harrison Denny Community Council NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1993

Youth Club: A Learning Experience

by Zé daLuz

Last fall the Council started a youth group as a direct response to neighbors ranking "opportunities for youth" third in our Needs Survey. I spoke recently with Luata Lawrence, one of four core adults now involved (and the prime "mover and shaker") to find out what direction the group is going and how we can support them.

Editor: Who are the Youth Club?

Luata: There are about 20 kids, ranging in age from 11 to 19, who attend the meetings, although they don't all come every time! They go to different schools and have different friends, but they all live in our neighborhood. Many are young men looking for something to do.

Editor: What is the group doing now?

Luata: We meet every week, usually on Monday. That day, adults start calling kids in the morning. Many of the kids say they want to come but need to be reminded. Twice a month we have a speaker, usually a local businessperson. At the other meetings the kids are deciding the agenda, although we're helping them with the basics of organizing a club. We're also looking for people to volunteer to take the group on outings, for example going bowling, fishing, or on a field trip.

Editor: Why did you get involved?

Luata: Young people are our future. I can see these young people becoming involved with the council's projects, becoming motivated. I'd like to see elders' and young people's energy coming together in our neighborhood. As I get to know a lot of these young people personally I realize how much potential we have — it's exciting!

YOUTH CLUB NEEDS

Donated van — in any condition

Volunteers for evening basketball sessions

Adult volunteers for fieldtrips

Snack providers for club meetings

Speakers for dates in July, August, and October

More Youth!!!

Harrison-Denny Community Council General Meeting

March 16

7:30 p.m.

2915 E. Madison #204

Featured Speakers

Come hear how other Community Councils are getting involved with the King County Organizing Project, the only countywide organization of community groups and churches working with low and moderate income families for social and political change.

Editor: I heard you're planning a backpacking trip?

Luata: Yes, we are taking a group backpacking to Lake Ozette, on the Olympic Peninsula. The trip is from Sunday, June 25 through Tuesday, June 27, and we're looking for volunteers and equipment. It's basically a three-mile hike to the beach, where we'll camp out.

Editor: Do you have other activities planned for this year?

Luata: Sure! We have speakers scheduled for nearly all year, and in December we'll have a big party for them and all the kids at the Bailey-Boushay House. Another project is holding evening basketball at King School — it's all arranged, we just need responsible adults to be in charge. And we're working on getting a van donated so the kids can rehab it and use it for field trips.

Editor: Sounds great! One more thing: how can kids become involved with other council activities?

Luata: Each person who comes to the Youth Club has different interests: sports, getting a job, having fun.... If you come explain what you're doing you might get some volunteers!

Editor: Thanks for the suggestion! And thanks for being involved!

Profile: Pamela English, Community Organizer

I thought it was time everyone "meet" Pamela through the newsletter, so we talked for an hour one evening after her typically busy day.

Pamela was born at the famous Bethesda, Maryland hospital which treats U.S. presidents, and she and her three brothers grew up all over the world: Hawaii, Europe, Japan.

"I first remember feeling at home when, as a teen, my dad and I spent three years in Oak Harbor." They eventually settled in Sacramento, where



Pamela met her husband John. While living in Nevada for three years she yearned for the friendly and homey Pacific Northwest. They moved here with their children Eric (now 11) and Rebekah (now 6) in 1991, after Pamela's research found Seattle rated high in education and community atmosphere.

Pamela was a mechanic in the Army and had worked in "office" type jobs, but it was a help wanted ad asking "Do you want to help people?" that made her decide exactly what she wanted to do!

"I applied for the Vista job and was hired to organize in low-income neighborhoods. Training was provided, and I had a natural instinct for motivating people to organize themselves.

Going door to door, identifying community leaders and targeting goals, she worked in three neighborhoods to set up community councils. During the 18 months she was there, ten crack houses were shut down and one neighborhood got a block grant to build a community center and community police substation.

Meanwhile, Pamela was only making \$500 a month, so when she was handed a flyer advertising the Harrison Denny Community Organizer position, she applied.

"The diversity of the neighborhood really impressed me. I liked the Executive Board."

They were impressed by Pamela's many achievements in social activism (she has worked with Drugs Draw the Line; served on the King County Diversion Committee, and is on the Tacoma News Tribune Advisory Committee and the Federal Way Diversity Commission). The feelings were mutual, so Pamela was hired and here we all are one year later!

I asked Pamela how she felt about her job after one year.

continued on next page

Revitalization Plan for Central Area

At our last General Meeting, the Council heard members of the Central Area Planning Committee speak about their Central Area Plan, currently in draft form. These folks have been working since October of 1991 to come up with a comprehensive plan addressing economic development, housing, land use, and youth in the Central Seattle area.

A key element of the draft plan is to revitalize the Emerald City Bank, who would then loan money for implementing various sections of the plan. A nonprofit institute would also be set up to advise the bank and administer the plan. The CAPC has \$525,000 in seed money from the federal government.

For a copy of the draft plan, call us at 860-8039.

Harrison Denny Community Council

Mailing Address:

2915 E Madison Street, Suite 204, Seattle, WA 98112; telephone 860-8039.

1992 Officers:

President, David Foecke (323-4709); Vice President, Charles McDade (325-3218); Secretary, Winnie Coleman (324-2170); Treasurer, Pearl Castle (325-1546).

General Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

The newsletter is published 10 times a year. Send letters, articles, notices, recipes, artwork and poetry to **Editor** at the above address. Deadline is the first of each month (except July and December).

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An Evening of Elegant Dining

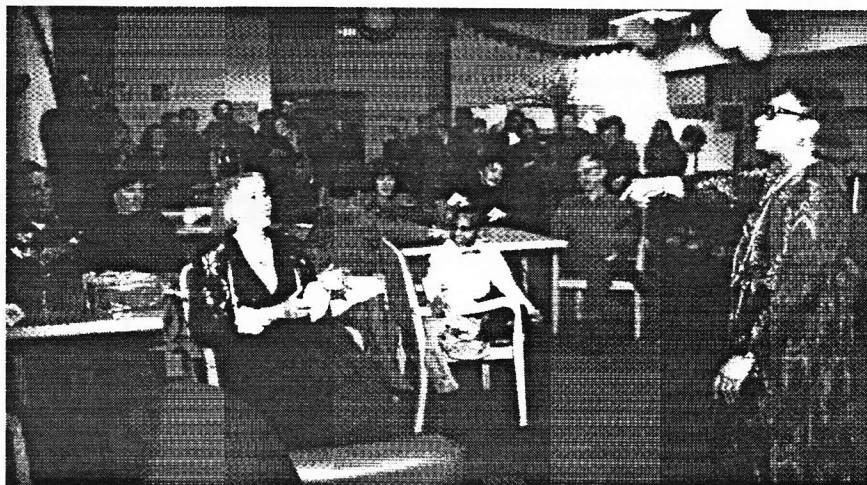
by Pearl Castle

Sunday, February 21 started as a day of snow, hail, and pouring down rain. But from 5-8pm, about 80 neighbors and friends wended their way on East Madison between M.L.K. Jr Way and 29th Avenue East, for the Harrison Denny Community Council's first-ever Progressive Dinner.

Our group's route took us from **Five Loaves Deli** (select your own salad with two delicious fat-free dressings) to the **New York Deli** (great french onion and lentil soups) to **Café Flora** (eggplant terrine with red bell pepper sauce - wow!), to **Rover's** (salmon quenelles in lobster sauce and a glass of white wine, with **Fran's** lime/tequila sorbet after ward to cleanse the palate) and finally to **Bailey-Boushay House** for cakes from **Exquisite Desserts** and the B-B chef!!!!

A nice touch was the live musical entertainment in

two restaurants: Hobnobbin', an acoustic guitar and hammer dulcimer duo, and Neil Runstein & friend, a piano/electric guitar jazz duo.



Pat Wright explains how to fully participate in one of the Choir's rousing numbers

As we window-shopped our way to each restaurant, we waved to friends in three other groups of diners. Full and happy, we all joined up at the Bailey-Boushay House to enjoy the Total Experience Gospel Choir and each other's company. The House was really rockin'!

It was a lovely evening, both fun and tasty. Thanks to

Larry Kaplowitz for a great poster, and thanks to a great committee: chairperson Lee Desta, Thierry Rautereau (initiator of this idea), Zé daLuz, Pamela English, Pearl Castle, Peggy & Jerry Sussman, and Charles McDade. The Council raised \$2,400 at this event, to support our Youth Club, the Village School, and our community organizing projects.

Plant Flowering Street Trees

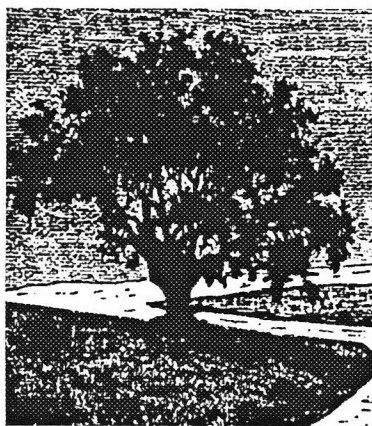
by Ed Gentzler

Help fight air pollution, beautify your neighborhood, create cooler summer streets and sidewalks, muffle car and airplane noise, slow down the high winds whistling through the area, play Johnny Appleseed, get to know your neighbors, increase your property's resale value, and give your block a sense of identity.

You can do *all* of that by planting street trees, and the City of Seattle will even pay you \$17.50 per tree for doing so!! (see sidebar).

In case you haven't noticed, many local residents are realizing all the above benefits and giving their streets a real sense of pride and cooperation. For instance, the 300-block of 34th Avenue East has planted flowering cherry trees; the 300-block of 33rd Avenue East planted alternating Thundercloud flowering plums with redbuds; and Harrison Street sports Newport and Blireiana flowering plums. The Harrison Denny Community Council planted flowering cherries and other shrubs on the grounds of M.L. King Jr. School and helped plant flowering pear trees along M.L. King Jr. Way East.

These efforts also send a strong message that these are streets where people talk to each other and care about each other. So, what kind of trees are you and your neighbors going to choose to plant?



Street Tree Discount Program Offered

excerpted with permission from City People's Garden Store Flyer

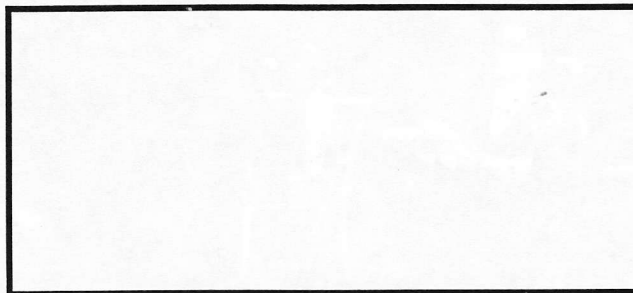
City People's Garden Store is again participating in the "Seattle Releaf" program, set up by the City of Seattle to encourage people to plant street trees. Until May 1, Seattle residents can obtain a voucher valued at \$17.50 and apply it towards the purchase of approved street trees. Get your vouchers from the Arborist's Office, Dexter Horton Bldg., 710 Second Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98104. The telephone number is 684-5047.

Vouchers may be redeemed at participating nurseries, including City People's Garden Store. Just bring in your "Seattle Releaf" voucher and City People's will discount approved trees by \$17.50 per voucher. If we don't have the trees you want in stock, we can probably order them for you.

Remember to use your vouchers before they expire May 1, 1993. Happy planting!

Come to the Council Meeting March 16 - 7:30 p.m.

*Can we have an impact on the economy
and jobs in Seattle and King County?*



Harrison Denny Community Council
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Remember when....

May 15 is the date of our great
Martin Luther King Jr.
(previously Harrison)
Elementary School
80th Birthday/Reunion!

Plans are afoot, with meetings
Wednesdays at 7:00pm at the office (2915 E. Madison, #204).

What years did you...
your kids... your parents...
your friends... your favorite teacher
attend... be in the PTA... or teach at the school?

Sign up!
CALL 325-1546