



# THE VALLEY VIEW

MARCH — APRIL 2012

ISSUE NO. 181

SEATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FEDERATION MEMBER




**January Snowstorm** cloaks Madison St. in an otherworldly glow at night, with illuminated trees framing a winter promenade. Madison restaurants stayed open during the storm, packed with hungry locals.

## Unspoken Truths Exhibit

By Faye Williams

Nearly 100 youths and adults came out on Saturday, February 11th to take a glimpse into a part of American history that has often gone untold. Delbert Richardson, a story teller, cultural anthropologist, and collector of African American memorabilia, chose to bring his exhibit to the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center in honor of Black History Month.

As onlookers viewed objects such as branding irons used to mark enslaved Africans, slave collars, and slave shackles, Richardson verbally explained the stories surrounding these objects. Richardson began his collection more than 20 years ago, and has expanded his collection over the years. The collection also includes documents of slavery and copies of news clippings from the era. The exhibit chronicles the rich history of Africans prior to chattel slavery, the experiences and impact of chattel slavery, the Jim Crow Era in America, and the many contributions African Americans have had on scientific, cultural, and technological inventions in the United States and the world.


Richardson would like to “expose youth and young adults to the ‘non-sanitized’ portion of American history, to hopefully spur their curiosity to seek their own beliefs and therefore develop their own truths.” He plans to make the exhibit an annual event at the community center. 

## Local Fashion Star Dazzles on the National Stage

Lisa Hunter, owner and designer of Madison Valley’s **Vian Hunter**, will be appearing on a new NBC reality show called *Fashion Star*, which airs on Tuesday nights beginning in March. Hunter opened her upscale boutique in our neighborhood in 2009, specializing in classic, yet affordable designs based on retro-chic styles from the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Supermodel Elle Macpherson will host the new series, with each episode featuring a professional fashion show shot in front of a live studio audience and highlighting the contestants’ original designs. Competing designers will face a unique weekly challenge, and the series winner will have his/her designs available for purchase online and in department stores around the country.



Hunter is no newcomer to reality television. Several years ago she was a finalist for consideration to appear on the eighth season of another popular fashion series, *Project Runway*, but she didn’t make the final cut. In 2012, however, we are happy to offer our support of Lisa in this exciting opportunity on the national stage. The series was taped last summer, but Lisa is unable to divulge the outcome, which will be revealed on NBC later this spring. We wish her the best of luck and urge our readers to watch the show this next month. If you haven’t yet, stop by her boutique and see her winning designs in person. Vian Hunter House of Fashion is located at 2814 E. Madison Street. *Photo courtesy of John Russo, NBC Studios* 

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## GMVCC News Briefs

### Wed, February 15th Council Meeting —

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dan Schmitt. There was not a quorum present. **GMVCC meetings will now take place at the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center, meeting the third Wednesday of every month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** The GMVCC is committed to a partnership with First A.M.E.

**Dept of Neighborhoods Fund Grant:** We submitted a grant to restore and beautify the traffic triangle at Madison and 28th near Bailey-Boushay House. Awards will be announced in August. For the **Only in Seattle Grant**, we received \$15,000 for the creation of a neighborhood brand and website for our business community.

**MVMA:** The Merchant's Association is booming with active members. A Bastille Day Celebration is planned for July 14th. Funding will come from money received from the *Only in Seattle* Grant. Contact Lindy Wishard ([lindy@lindywishard.com](mailto:lindy@lindywishard.com)) if you're interested in participating in the planning of this fun event.

**MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center:** FAME staff reported more participation in activities. A council member will meet with FAME regarding covenant guidelines. The computer lab is now open and free WiFi is available. Ewajo Dance Studio is holding classes in a newly renovated studio. The gym is holding classes and activities on Saturdays for youth. There remains an effort to engage families in the local community. An effort to refurbish the playground would attract families, as neighbors have been requesting a central playground for some time. GMVCC will try to organize a community event in April to highlight the playground restoration. A community garden was also suggested at the site, with classes for kids in composting, etc. Raised beds could be constructed directly over the existing asphalt.

**Stormwater Project Update:** Planting and restoration of the Arboretum side of the construction site is scheduled for April.

**East District Council Board:** It was suggested that someone attend these meetings to voice our interests in neighborhood planning.

**Seattle Greenways:** Bicycle & pedestrian friendly corridors are being built throughout the city. The project is looking for community participants. Some areas of interest are: To determine the needs of users (i.e. advanced riders, novice riders, kids, walkers); Identify grade-friendly routes for users to get to around the city from various points like schools, parks, bus stops, & businesses; Find neighbors willing to ride (or walk) and evaluate proposed routes; Identify ways to spread the word about the Greenways Project. To become involved see [www.tinyurl.com/mpgsignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/mpgsignup). Info will be used to invite you to a Google Group for future communications. Also, you can follow the group on Facebook and Twitter: [www.facebook.com/MPGreenways](https://www.facebook.com/MPGreenways) or [www.twitter.com/#%21/search\\_realtme/from%3Amgreenways](https://www.twitter.com/#%21/search_realtme/from%3Amgreenways)

### Next Council Meetings: March 21st & April 18th

**The Next Submission Deadline is April 21st!**

Please email submissions to: [valleyviewED@gmail.com](mailto:valleyviewED@gmail.com)

## Editor's Note



After three and a half years of producing the *Valley View*, my schedule has changed and the time has come for me to step down as Editor. I am looking to pass the torch on to another caring community member in 2012. The Community Council needs your help in keeping our neighborhood newsletter alive in this ever digitalized world. We are ac-

tively seeking volunteers (in all shapes, sizes, and ages) to help with editorial duties, graphic layout, and advertising. I would like to retire in June, but so far no one has expressed interest in taking over the helm. Yet, we continue to receive donations, ads and lots of appreciation and encouragement for our publication, so I'm convinced that local residents want to keep reading our paper. Unfortunately, the council has advised me that if no one steps forward to volunteer after my departure, the future of a printed newsletter is in question. With the debut our new website this summer, it's also possible we will shift to an online version only. If you want to ensure the future of the *Valley View* in any format, now is the time to voice your opinion to the council. After all, this newsletter belongs to you and everyone in our community, so I urge you to get involved in what becomes of it. Please attend a council meeting in March or April to contribute your thoughts and suggestions, or to volunteer. You can also email me with your opinion: [valleyviewED@gmail.com](mailto:valleyviewED@gmail.com). Thanks!

## Community Center

By Edna Daigre

There's much to do at the new MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center this spring. Chris Daigre, Artistic Director of **Ewajo Center**, opened a **Community Dance and Fitness Studio**, with classes for everyone, regardless of age or limited mobility. They are now offering open classes for youth and adults, and a senior/boomers workout. You're invited to the Ewajo Center's free **Community Open House** on Saturday, May 5, from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Summer Qtr starts July 5, so register now! Info at [www.ewajocenter.com](http://www.ewajocenter.com) or see Daigre's own website at: [www.chrisdaigredancefitness.com](http://www.chrisdaigredancefitness.com).

Do you have a **passion for basketball**? Contact [Goldinexbasketfactory@gmail.com](mailto:Goldinexbasketfactory@gmail.com) for Youth Sessions offered at the Community Center for Girls & Boys, Ages 7-17. Coach Benjamin Muhammad has 35 years of basketball experience, and has trained All-Star NBA Players. The Community Center also offers "**A Joy to Read**", a **Family Reading Academy** for youth, parents and grandparents. Founder Carly Brown-Calhoun believes the key to students' reading success is parental involvement. You can check out their website at [www.familyreading.us](http://www.familyreading.us) 

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## President's Report


By Lindy Wishard, GMVCC President

**Madison Valley Website** — Madison Valley received a grant from the Department of Economic Development to create a new website for our neighborhood. This site will be shared by the Merchants Association and the Community Council. The purpose of the site will be to share information about businesses, events, and neighborhood news with one another and with the greater Seattle community. The new site is scheduled to launch this Summer 2012.

**Mark Your Calendar for Bastille Day, July 14th** — The Merchants Association and Community Council are planning a splendid Bastille Celebration, on July 14th. It's an opportunity for the community to come together, eat great food, drink wine, listen to music, and get to know one another. If you are interested in helping with this event please let us know. We're looking for everything from French musicians and mimes to people to help advertise and decorate. Whatever your interest level, please contact me at [lindy@studio-prima.com](mailto:lindy@studio-prima.com), or call 206-552-0345.

**Madison Valley Greenways Project** — What are Greenways? A "greenway" is a residential street equipped with special safety features to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. These changes do not eliminate auto traffic, instead they cause drivers to adjust their speed and course. Greenways include crosswalk improvements, safer intersections, and lower speed limits. Greenways are being created locally and around the country. Planning for Greenways in Madison Valley and Madison Park is now underway. To get involved contact Bob Edmiston at [lenswork64@gmail.com](mailto:lenswork64@gmail.com), or visit [www.facebook.com/MPGreenways](http://www.facebook.com/MPGreenways). You can also go online to [www.tinyurl.com/yzqkleo](http://www.tinyurl.com/yzqkleo) to see an informative video.

**Traffic Circle Beautification** — If you live near a traffic circle, please consider being a traffic circle steward. The city is encouraging us to beautify our traffic circles. This means cleaning up the circles, and planting flowers and plants that are both beautiful and drought tolerant. Madison Valley has 31 traffic circles. It would be wonderful if each of our circles had someone responsible for it. It's not much effort and it's a great way to enhance our neighborhood. If you're interested in being a traffic circle gardener please contact Lindy Wishard at [lindy@studioprima.com](mailto:lindy@studioprima.com) or call 206 552-0345.

A map of traffic circles can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/TrafficCircleMap.pdf>. For information about the city's effort of clean up traffic circles, see <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treeneedyou.htm>. 

## Local Arts & Culture

Feeling creative this spring? Local artist Barbara Dunshee is offering **Pottery Classes** in Madison Valley in her home studio. For *Valley View* readers, the early bird registration price of \$310 is extended to March 25th, so don't delay! Email or call Barbara for how to register using this special offer (it's not automated after March 18th). Barbara offers small classes, wheel throwing, and hand-building in a ten week course for \$330. Classes begin the week of April 9th and end the week of June 11th. Visit the [www.bdpottery.com](http://www.bdpottery.com) "contact" page for details. Call 206-229-3311 to sign up, or shoot an email to [barbara@bdpottery.com](mailto:barbara@bdpottery.com). See also [barbdunshee.blogspot.com](http://barbdunshee.blogspot.com).



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Luc's Snow Mascot, Jan. 2012

Did you know that March is **Washington Wine Month**? Did you also know that Washington is the second largest producer of wine in the United States and a \$4.7 billion dollar industry? In its honor, Rover's Restaurant will take **50% off any bottle of Washington wine** from Feb. 21st - March 29th (Sunday-Thursday). Rover's has over a 100 selections from Washington on its menu, and

Scot Smith, Rover's Wine Director, invites you to come and indulge in the best of our state's wine and food with Chef Thierry Rautureau. Luc also has a Monday Night Wine Special, offering 50% off any bottle on their wine list, with the purchase of one 3-course menu. For Luc Dinner Reservations: 206-328-6645. Rover's Dinner Reservations: 206-325-7442.

For a rich cultural experience in the outdoors, pay a visit to the **Seattle Japanese Garden** this spring. The beloved garden reopened on Feb 12th, and the **First Tea Ceremony** is on Saturday, April 21st, in the Shoseian Teahouse. For tickets & reservations, call 206-684-4725. Tea service is \$5, but visitors can also view the Chado demonstrations from the patio at no charge. Also offered is **Ikebana Flower Arranging**, the course running March 27th-April 17th (10 a.m. - noon). The cost is \$86. Call Cheryl Brown at 206-386-9106 for info and the supply list. Or register online at [class.seattle.gov/parks/Start/Start.asp](http://class.seattle.gov/parks/Start/Start.asp). Japanese Garden admission is \$6 for adults & \$4 for seniors/students/youth. Children ages 0-5 are free. 



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**ANSWER to VALLEY TRIVIA (p. 7)** - This photo shows the Gatekeeper's Private Residence at the south entrance of the Arboretum. This stone & timber cottage was built by the Works Progress Administration between 1936 - 1937 and remains inhabited today.

## Spring Garden Workshops

By Kyra Butzel, City People's Garden Store

**Soil Prep for Vegetables: Sun, March 18, 11am - noon**  
**Scott Behmer**, Farm Coordinator for **Solid Ground's Lettuce Link Program** will discuss how to improve your soil to increase your chances of a healthy harvest. He will go over soil types with hands-on demos to help you identify your own soil and will also discuss amendments and cover cropping.

**Winning Combinations: Sat. March 31, 10am - 11am**  
Join **Professor Emeritus Walt Bubelis**, Horticulturalist and local plant expert, as he picks out pairs and groups of plants that look great and thrive when planted together. Walt will discuss things to consider when picking combinations of plants, and weather permitting, will walk you through the nursery to find more great plant pairs.

**Permaculture & Fruit Trees: Sat, April 7, 11am-noon**  
Permaculture is a set of techniques and principles for creating landscapes that are naturally sustainable. You will learn how to create healthy soil relationships, how to control pests using natural predators, how to create diverse plant relationships, and how to prevent disease by keeping trees healthy. Instructor **Jackie Crameris** a landscape professional who incorporates permaculture into the gardens and orchards she designs.

**Planning a Year Round Edible Garden: Sunday, April 8th, from 11am - noon.** Author of *Edible Heirlooms*, **Bill Thorness**, will help you get your vegetable garden started earlier and extended later using cloches, cold frames, and other techniques to warm and dry your soil. He'll also discuss how to use succession plantings for continuous production and when to start fall and winter crops.

**Small Urban Garden Design Tour: Sat, April 21, 11am**  
Garden expert **Richard Greenberg**, of **Earth Wizardry Gardens**, will lead a tour through three local gardens, with possible viewing of others, in the Wallingford and Crown Hill districts of Seattle to illustrate small garden design concepts. Attendees will have the option of choosing to eat at a local restaurant for lunch after the tour to discuss the gardens and ask questions. Meet at City People's Garden Store.

**Growing Great Tomatoes: Sat, April 28, 10am - 11am**  
A homegrown tomato is the Holy Grail of the kitchen garden, and yet it can be one of the most challenging hot-season crops to grow in our moderate Maritime summers. However, help is on the way! **Bill Thorness**, author of *Edible Heirlooms*, will share tips and techniques to help you have your best tomato year yet using season extension, pruning, trellising, and proper fertilizing and watering.

Complete workshop information can be found at the CPG website, [www.citypeoples.com/gardenstore](http://www.citypeoples.com/gardenstore).






**VALLEY TRIVIA:**

**Can you name this historic structure?**

Answer listed on the bottom of page six.

**Neighborhood Schools**

**The Valley School** — February was a month full of events showcasing classroom thematic units. Pre-K “superheroes” were featured in a story they wrote together with their teacher as they delved into how it feels to be powerful. They starred in a slide show reenactment dressed in costume. Kindergartners also took to the “stage” demonstrating their knowledge of the Arctic, its climate and animals, with a dramatic tale of adventure. Under the spell of Ancient Greece, 1st graders shared with the whole school their interest in mythology, dressing up as favorite gods or goddesses. 2nd graders learned about electricity with hands-on experiments and research on historic moments in this illuminating branch of physics. The Middle Ages kept the 3rd graders busy designing castles, creating illuminated letters for writing assignments, and learning about life in darker times. Leaping several centuries ahead, the 4th graders each chose a U.S. state to research and presented this information to schoolmates with illustrations, posters, reports and food at a rousing state fair. The 5th graders had no doubt the widest audience for their life-size whale in inflatable plastic, which they built at the MLK Community Center as part of a unit on cetaceans. The whole class met at the center at 5:45 a.m. for a King 5 News story featuring their amazing 60-foot behemoth, which was also visited, inside and out, by the entire school community. — **By Gail Mensher**

**McGilvra Elementary School** — Biking unit runs from March 5th - 23rd. All students are encouraged to bring their own **bikes & helmets** and ride to school! There will also be bikes at school for students to use from Cascade Bike Club. If you have a small bike at home no longer in use, we’re looking for donations of children’s bikes for K-1st grade. We also need parents to help riders learn, patrol the bike course, and provide extra safety support. Please help out the **McGilvra School Bicycle Program** by donating your time. In 2011 all Kinders learned to ride because of parent support! Please email Ms. Scott at [lmscott@seattleschools.org](mailto:lmscott@seattleschools.org) for information and ways to volunteer on this exciting program for local kids. 

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Green Thumbs** — Green Footprints needs you and invites hardy volunteers to join their Spring Work Parties at Alder Creek Natural Area. **Next work party is April 14th, 9am to Noon.** Bring gloves, water, and a friend. Alder Creek is located on 26th Ave E R-of-Way, btw. E. Helen & Prospect St.

**Desperately Seeking** — *The Valley View* Editor is retiring and we need a local resident to keep spreading the good news to local doorsteps and coffee counters! Seeking person who wants to connect with their community and make a difference... Skills in MS Office/Publisher, Internet, Digital Photography, Graphic Layout, and Coordinating Ads & Donations. Duties can be shared btw several individuals. Please email with interest to [valleyviewED@gmail.com](mailto:valleyviewED@gmail.com). GMVCC wants to hear from YOU!

**Space For Rent** — Now Accepting Ads for May! Post a **message to Mom**, advertise a **Yard Sale, Apt-for-Rent**, or **find a Lost Pet!** Affordable rates. E: [valleyviewED@gmail.com](mailto:valleyviewED@gmail.com).

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## Spring Events Calendar

Wed, March 21, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC monthly meeting, at the MLK Community Center, 3201 E. Republican

Sat, April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. — Early Bloomers Plant Sale hosted by the Arboretum Foundation at the Graham Visitor's Center. Features early blooming perennials, and young trees and shrubs. Free parking and free admission. Not to miss!

Sat, April 14, 9:00 a.m. - Noon — Green Footprints Neighborhood Work Party at Alder Creek Natural Area. Bring your own gloves and water. Located on 26th Ave E. Right-of-Way, between E. Helen & Prospect Streets.

Wed, April 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — GMVCC Monthly Meeting, at the MLK Community Center, 3201 E. Republican

Sat, April 21, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — First Tea Ceremony at the Japanese Garden, Arboretum. See p. 6 for details.

Sat, May 5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Ewajo Center's Community Open House at the MLK FAME Community Center. Come check out their beautiful new dance and fitness studio!

Sun, May 13, until 4:00 p.m. — Mother's Day at the Arboretum. Come see what's in bloom, stroll the grounds, and get a *Free Instant Photo* of your special mom on Azalea Way.



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