

DEC 2008 /  
JANUARY 2009

# Briarcrest

neighborhood news

## Neighborhood Calendar

[www.briarcrestneighbors.net](http://www.briarcrestneighbors.net)

Submissions for the Briarcrest website:  
[info@briarcrestneighbors.net](mailto:info@briarcrestneighbors.net)

**Council of Neighborhoods, Wednesday, January 7, & February 4, 7:00 - 9:00 pm,** Shoreline Historical Museum, 749 N 175th Street (short block west of Aurora N). The Council of Neighborhoods comprises two representatives from each of the City's 14 neighborhood associations.

**BNA General meeting, Monday, December 10, January 12, & February 9, 7:00 pm,** Congregational Church, 15518 27th Ave.

**Shorecrest High School Landscape Work, Sunday, 12/14/08, 1/11/09, 2/8/09, 3/15/09, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, and Saturday 4/18/09, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Bring gloves and tools if you have them. We have access to the bathrooms and snacks are provided. Contact Bill Bear to confirm the dates: 368 0858 or [flyingbear2@gmail.com](mailto:flyingbear2@gmail.com)

**IvyOut at South Woods Park, Saturday, January 17, & February 21, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** South Woods Preservation Group: [savesouthwoods.org](http://savesouthwoods.org).

**Table Meeting, Thursday, January 15, 7:00 pm,** 15517 27th Ave NE. Bring articles for the newsletter.

**Briarcrest Singers, Wednesday, Dec 17, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park Towne Center, 17171 Bothell Way NE.** A neighborhood elementary school choir captures the spirit of the season with holiday favorites and their wish for the new year: "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 7:30 pm.** Seattle Congregational Church. For info contact Marilyn Peterson, 367 9104.

**Sustainable Shoreline Education Association.** For information on upcoming meetings, go to: [sustainableshoreline.org/](http://sustainableshoreline.org/).

**Popy's Café, Wednesdays, 5:00 - 6:30 pm.** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 14514 20th Ave NE. Join us for a warm community atmosphere and a delicious meal every week. Free and open to all.

Submit newsletter articles to:

- Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Newsletter Chair  
15517 27th Ave NE  
[bettelinn@hotmail.com](mailto:bettelinn@hotmail.com), 363 5517
- Marcia Taylor, Assistant Editor  
15858 28th Ave NE  
[iptaylor@earthlink.net](mailto:iptaylor@earthlink.net), 725 1377
- Submissions for the Briarcrest website:  
[info@briarcrestneighbors.net](mailto:info@briarcrestneighbors.net)

**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Officers**  
Bill Bear, Director 368 0858  
Jon Melusky, Asst Director 361 2563  
Bettelinn Krizek Brown, Secretary 363 5517  
Charlie Brown, Treasurer 363 5517

**Block Contact Coordinators**  
Jon Melusky 361 2563  
Glinda Mathews 361 1917  
Dan Henry 363 9562  
Dennis Lee 362 7798  
Bettelinn Brown 363 5517  
Fawzi Khoury 367 0221

**BNA Mailing Address:**  
c/o Sherry Marlin  
14750 20th Ave NE

*Thanks to the Seattle Congregational Church & the First Christian Reformed Church for the use of their buildings. This newsletter is published by the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association and is distributed by the volunteer Block Contacts who live on your block. We appreciate your comments, your donations to the BNA which offset the printing costs and your patronage of the local businesses that advertise with us.*

## The Year in Review

2008 has been a year of increased involvement of the BNA in the wider communities of the City of Shoreline, our schools, the County, and the State.

- We had a fun neighborhood anniversary party with live music and dancing.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District held its delegate convention here. There was a high level of participation.
- We are involved with the Sub Area Plan for future development south of 150th Street. The Citizens' Advisory Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays.
- Many of us spoke at the Fircrest Master Planning meetings this year to support community use of the excess property and to preserve the land in its natural environment for the continued use by Fircrest residents. I represented you on the Public Health Lab Risk Assessment Stakeholder group.
- Neighbors came to a class by Jim Diers on Asset Based Community Development. One result of that was many more block parties this year.
- We helped Prince of Peace host Tent City 3 this summer. Many of them still come every Wednesday at 5-6:30 for POPY's community dinner.
- We worked together with local churches and PTSA's to weed and clean up the school grounds at Briarcrest, Kellogg and Shorecrest in the September Embrace Shoreline Schools event.
- I represent you on the Long-Range Financial Planning Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.
- We are often represented at Parks Board, Planning Commission, City Council and Council of Neighborhoods.

All of this participation by neighbors has increased our social capital. Not to take any credit from our hard working teachers and their students, but as predicted by Robert Putnam, when social capital increases school achievement improves. Our Briarcrest Elementary School won State wide recognition for improving test scores.

- Bill Bear, BNA Director

## Bridging Two Worlds

The American flag, precious to my heart, is a symbol that encouraged me to follow my dream. After my high school graduation, I visited 3000 B.C. Egyptian Pyramids. While inside, I heard an echo, low and deep: "You are going to America." The flag is the symbol of my echo, my dream, my hope, my liberty and my freedom for a free world manifested by the goodwill of everyone, everywhere, all alike.

Many pioneers came to the US envisioning dreams, maybe to continue their education or maybe to have a better life. Just like me, many wanted to create a better future for their children and their grandchildren. The flag helped me to follow my dream, to forgive people, civil wars, revolutions, segregations, bigotries and prejudices and rise above and beyond divisions, races, and ethnicities and reach deep to human souls.

I am honored to be an American and grateful for being given the chance to fight terrorism through my language and cultural skills that opened doors to build bridges between two worlds.

The tears I saw on the television during Election Day brought my memories to 1963 when I first came to the US with a big dream. I saw people saying joyfully "I never thought this will happen in my life time." Memories went back to Washington D.C. when I witnessed the funeral of J. F. Kennedy. I also watched Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Civil Rights Movement speech.

I am delighted for the change in our government. I hope our new leaders on both sides and in the middle, all people, young and old, poor and rich, all join hands in this crucial time.

Another flag from my past is the Lebanese flag; a flag that formed my youth and brought memories to my heart, it embodied the everlasting Cedar tree mentioned in the bible.

My feelings went to my youthful days growing up on the shores of my own hometown Byblos, the ancient Phoenician city on the Mediterranean. At that time, Lebanon was considered to be "Switzerland of the Middle East".

During my recent visit in 2008 to Lebanon I saw the country shattered and ruined by civil war, bad economy, poverty and corruption. I was sad. I prayed for miracles and before my departure I witnessed a new elected president for Lebanon who happened to be from Byblos my hometown. My idealistic dream is back with an echo high and loud: "World Peace."

- Afifi Durr

### A renter's viewpoint

In the summer 2008 issue of the Briarcrest Neighborhood News, Bill Bear talked about ways to get renters involved with their community. For Sigrid Anne Strom, involvement started when one fir too many was felled. Strom moved to her Fircrest-area duplex three years ago, drawn to the area's neighborly feel and – as a birder – by the firs and other native trees.

About a year and a half ago, she watched Seattle City Light top trees along 15th to clear them from power lines. As a former Seattle tree steward, she opposes topping as a pruning method. Then she watched an absentee property owner clear his lot of two huge fir trees plus smaller ones. The barren lot is still undeveloped.

She went to City Hall and, with the help of Councilmember Janet Way and staff, was able to save a single tree. Her experience taught her something. "I was upset that my immediate neighborhood was changing radically and, as a renter, I felt that I had no say." Suddenly, she felt that people listened.

When she heard about the formation of the Southeast Neighborhoods Subarea Planning Citizen Advisory Committee, Strom, a technical writer, saw an opportunity to get involved. "This is my home – this is where I live, even though I am a renter." Her involvement has emboldened her to talk to other renters about neighborhood issues. "If they have a voice, they will become part of the social fabric of the community."

So far, the 15-member advisory committee has developed a decision-making framework and has engaged in "robust - not heated, but robust" discussions about how the Briarcrest and Ridgecrest neighborhoods should develop. The committee has developed a level of trust and she is optimistic that it will be able to articulate a vision for the neighborhood and that the city will listen.

- Kathy Hall

### Helping Our Schools

Briarcrest neighbors – even those who don't have children in the schools – are invited to be involved with their neighborhood schools. Dick Potter, who represents our District 5 on the Shoreline School Board, says there are two types of volunteer jobs: inside and outside the schools. Whether you are a gardener or a storyteller, there is a niche for you.

See specific volunteer opportunities at Briarcrest Elementary, Kellogg Middle School, and Shorecrest High School at [briarcrestneighbors.net/Volunteer.html](http://briarcrestneighbors.net/Volunteer.html) or call Briarcrest at 368-4170, Kellogg at 368-4783, or Shorecrest at 361-4286. Pat Hegarty, Shorecrest Principal appointed Kristi Queen as our Shorecrest contact for coordinating the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association school support activities. *Cont'd next column*

### School of distinction

Briarcrest Elementary has been named one of 99 "Schools of Distinction" by the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The award recognizes dramatic improvements in student reading and mathematics.

- Kathy Hall

### Culmination of Shoreline's Visioning Conversations

The Town Hall meeting on Wednesday November 19th had high community energy with good turnout. While everyone sat at large round tables in the Shoreline Room, four Planning Commissioners spoke of themes they observed in 20 Community Conversations. At each table, people were encouraged to consider the "snippets" and themes. The Public Comments at the end were constructive and the meeting ended on time yet many stayed beyond 9:30 p.m. to visit.

The next steps to this visioning process include submitting whole ideas, Community Concepts, to the city by Dec. 22. They will be sent out electronically for peer review and any revisions due before the second Round Table on January 8, 2009. The City Council is seeking different viewpoints from the community in their legislation-writing efforts and the Community Concepts will be posted for public viewing and access.

- Bettelinn Krizek Brown

### Nurse Suzanne Receives Award

On November 19th, Briarcrest resident Suzanne Gillette was honored as the 2008 "Woman of Light" by the Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League (WHEEL) at its annual Homeless Women's Forum. Suzanne recently retired after a 34-year career in nursing. She taught nursing at the university level and volunteered in shelters for homeless women for most of her 20 years in the Seattle area. The last six years she was Parish Nurse at Mary's Place, a safe and welcoming community center for homeless women and children.

Suzanne often saw up to 14 patients a day and conducted weekly health and nutrition classes. Despite the long hours and sometimes sad situations, she reflects fondly on her career. "Even though I was the one charged with counseling and teaching, I never stopped learning from the women I met."

- Lois Harrison

### Street Lights

My girls love to wait in the front yard for their daddy to come home. When they see his bike coming up the road they yell their hellos from a few blocks away. I joined them the other day, and soon remembered how dark the evenings get in winter. A few high school students were walking home and we could barely see them, even when they were just across our road. I worried about cars seeing them. As my daughters and I stared down the street, watching for their daddy, I realized how poorly lit our street is. My neighbor came outside and brought up the same issue. We would appreciate improvement of the street lighting of our street. It's an important safety issue for pedestrians and motorists alike.

- Erika Bakker

### Marisa's Day

For the owner of Lupe's Tienda of Shoreline, October 5th wasn't business as usual. This day allowed her to honor the memory of her daughter and raise awareness of domestic violence. The 200-plus walkers who came to Green Lake that brisk, brilliant autumn day to mark "Steps Against Domestic Violence Day" received handmade pins that reflected a mother's love. Lupe Peach's daughter, Marisa, died at the hands of her fiancé on January 5, 2007. The walk raised over \$7,000 to benefit New Beginnings ([newbegin.org](http://newbegin.org)) which in 2007 served over 9,000 callers to the 24-hour Help Line. The guest speaker, Governor Gregoire's husband Mike, read the proclamation signed by the Governor to recognize October 5<sup>th</sup> as the day of remembrance for all victims of domestic violence in the State of Washington. The sponsors who supported this vision were AA Party Rentals, Carter Subaru, Century Graphics of California, Cline Jewelers, Coffee News, Java Jane, Lupe's Tienda, Marshall Boyd and Associates, Osirius from Urban Fit and Port of Subs Mountlake Terrace.

- Arthur Peach

### Go Organic

Have you thought about going organic but are unsure how? Get organic tips at the organic page of our website, [briarcrestneighbors.net](http://briarcrestneighbors.net). You will find a recipe to use on plants for both insects and fungal pests. For further information email Nicole Nelson at [nmfnelson@gmail.com](mailto:nmfnelson@gmail.com).

- Nicole Nelson

### Green Street Demonstration in Briarcrest

City of Shoreline officials have selected 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, from NE 145<sup>th</sup> to NE 150<sup>th</sup> streets, as the potential site for a "Green Street" demonstration project. This would be the first test of the "Green Street" concept in Shoreline. See more at [briarcrestneighbors.net/BC\\_Issues.html](http://briarcrestneighbors.net/BC_Issues.html).

- Ian Taylor

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