

**Warm Gathering  
On A Cold  
Winter's Night  
Lettered Streets  
Winter Potluck!**

Tuesday, Jan. 11  
6:30 p.m.

First Congregational  
Church  
2401 Cornwall

Please bring a food  
item to share.

Please join us for the  
annual Lettered Streets  
Winter Potluck!

This year, in addition to  
hot casseroles, salads,  
dips and desserts, we  
will hear the Honeybees  
in harmony. You can chat  
and nosh with dozens of  
neighbors in the church's  
warm, lovely dining room.



We will brighten up the  
January darkness. Be  
sure to bring your ideas  
for future meetings and  
events.

## Derek Long and Sustainable Connections



*Photos from KCTS' "Fixing the Future" with David Broncaccio. See video at <http://video.pbs.org/video/1650808108>.*

Derek Long may live among the historic dwellings of the Lettered Streets, but his life is thoroughly wrapped around building a distinctly different future. For the past nine years he has carefully nudged, forward thinking Bellingham towards the next era. We are crawling out of the Industrial Age into the Caring Conservers' Age (credit to Jack Lessinger, economist, for the name). The future world begins at the core of everything: You and I, then our street, our neighborhood, our town, our food sources, our businesses, social services and schools, etc. The coming era must heal the side effects of the Industrial age, the pollution of the air, the water, the earth and society.

Sustainable Connections, co-founded by Derek and his wife, Michelle (Executive Director of Business Alliance for Local Living Economies – [www.livingeconomies.org](http://www.livingeconomies.org)), conduct campaigns to change our thinking and behavior. The "Buy Local" ideas make us think about the impact of our purchases. Are we keeping our local economy alive? The heavy emphasis on community partnerships builds closer connections amongst the citizens and strengthens each effort. Pulling together is a core value of the Caring Conserver Era. Each business is supported, but also asked to examine its practices. The "Smart Trips" campaign seeks to change transportation

thinking and habits to include walking, biking and ridesharing.

The Roller Coaster economy will do what it does, but keeping our money circulating here may give Bellingham more stability. Neighborhood stores often contribute warmth and an enriched social world.

Resurrected morality could be a byproduct of this new philosophy. When customers and owners know one another it is much harder to be greedy, corrupt or sue-happy. We know we must not leave our grandkids soaking in toxic air, water and earth. Pioneering teams like Sustainable Connections, along with business and government may coax the needed personal sacrifices from our people. The changes we need affect ecological systems, growth and social systems, natural resources and consumption, and climate change. Is this a bit much? SC will cut it into bite size pieces for us; recycling, buying local, smart trips, green buildings, affordable housing and partnering.

SC encourages innovation. Derek says, "We are entering an intense period of experimentation." The federal government funds innovation. (SC funding comes from businesses, individuals, foundations, and local, state and federal dollars – I would say they are all funding innovation – in SC's case.



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the  
newsletter of  
the lettered streets  
neighborhood  
**letterhead**

WINTER ISSUE © 2011 LETTERED STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Letterhead is the official newsletter of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association and is published four times a year. If you have an idea for an article, or something you'd like to see included in an upcoming issue, please send an e-mail to [letterhead.et@gmail.com](mailto:letterhead.et@gmail.com). Pictures or layout questions, try [barb@ourhousepublishing.com](mailto:barb@ourhousepublishing.com).

For the latest news, be sure to visit our website at:  
**www.letteredstreets.org**

And become our friend on Facebook! Search for  
**Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association**

Want to receive our bi-monthly Lettered Streets e-bulletin? Go to  
<http://letteredstreets.org/calendar> to get on the mailing list.

## Derek Long and Sustainable Connections

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*Derek Long*

An example is Bellingham's participation in the Community Energy Challenge for home energy efficiency. For \$95, a trained energy assessor will come analyze your home for energy saving opportunities. And then there are \$1,500 worth of tax incentives to do the necessary work. SC programs are getting nationwide recognition. This November, KCTS and David Broncaccio recorded interviews for a documentary called "Fixing the Future", which aired nationwide in November and is available for viewing any time online. Just do a search for the title.



*David Broncaccio interviews Michelle Long, Executive Director of Business Alliance for Local Living Economies in KCTS' "Fixing the Future".*

As a young man, while traveling, Derek saw injustices he believed should be corrected. His business experiences gradually led him to start SC with Michelle. Memberships, contributions and grants fund the non-profit organization. There are six hundred business members and a staff of fourteen. Derek has focused on measuring the benefits of new ways to evaluate business success, as well as sharing this information with the rest of the world.

Derek and SC are part of a worldwide movement, but he pays attention to the nearby community. The "Big Picture" plan envisions small, local and independent communities with a caring populace that conserves resources, revives resources, innovates and looks after all its people.

—Arlene Feld

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# Local Bike Rack Sculpture Unveiling



PHOTO: MARIA McLOE D

On Nov. 15th, a sculptural bike rack created by artist Thor Myhre made from re-purposed brewery parts was unveiled at Chuckanut Brewery. Mayor Dan Pike was in attendance, as well as many bicycling enthusiasts to witness the unique sculpture. "Wow this is the first bike rack unveiling I've ever been too", was overheard in the crowd, as well as bells from waiting bikes ready to claim their tickets for half off a pint to the first 10 bikes parked. Everyone enjoyed great food and great beer while admiring the newest piece of art displayed in downtown Bellingham. Check out more examples of Myhre's sculpture at <http://www.thormyhre.com>.

## Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information will be kept private and confidential, and will not be used or released without your consent.

I would be willing to help distribute newsletters (The Letterhead)

Recommended annual contribution:

Single – \$5     Household – \$10     Business – \$25

Mail to: Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association • P.O. Box 852 • Bellingham, WA 98227

## Howard Steiner Your Representative to MNAC The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Howard Steiner gathers the latest neighborhood and city government news throughout Bellingham via MNAC. Beyond being a conduit, he is a treasure trove of city history. Because Howard cares enough to follow important events, he attends Waterfront, Old Town and Fountain District planning meetings. And this practice goes back many years. A forever resident, he recalls the look, the people and the changes in Bellingham. The Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association gratefully acknowledges Howard's service.



Howard Steiner, Shirley Mahlberg and Councilman Barry Buchanan at the Ice Cream Social.

MNAC is composed of one representative from each of the city's neighborhood associations. The reps are invited to express the association's concerns to the city, to bring back information on city activities and to prepare recommendations on possible changes to the city's comprehensive plan or to neighborhood plans.

Howard attends MNAC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Board Room. Reps are appointed by the Mayor for two years. The associations suggest the appointments. Meetings are open to the public. Minutes of meetings are found at the City of Bellingham website: <http://www.cob.org/services/neighborhood/resources/index.aspx>.

—Arlene Feld

# Lettered Streets Events In 2010

Winter Potluck in January  
 First Annual Garden Tour in July... Thanks to Patty Gentile.  
 A new logo in shades of green... Thanks to Jim Straatman.  
 Special meeting topics... Gardening four different ways, Fire Safety.  
 Garden Calendar published in Sept... Thanks to Chair, Arlene Feld.  
 Terrific new communication system on our website and Facebook...  
 Thanks to Natalie McClendon.  
 Ice Cream Social in August... Thanks to Vice Chair, Chris Eltrich for the ice cream.



*Natalie McClendon, Earl and Carolyn Hutchins at the Ice Cream Social.*



*Lora McMurry showing her chickens on the Garden Tour.*



*Line up for the Garden Tour.*



*Fire Marshal Napier at a Neighborhood Association meeting.*

## Support your Neighborhood!

Contact Arlene Feld for information regarding advertising in The Letterhead

[letterhead.ed@gmail.com](mailto:letterhead.ed@gmail.com)



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**Macbeth**  
 January 28-February 13  
**The Sensuous Senator**  
 April 1-17  
**Damn Yankees**  
 June 3-19

## Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association

Monthly meeting: 2nd Tuesday (most months) at Washington Square, 2501 E Street, 7 p.m.

**Next meeting: Potluck, January 11, 6:30 p.m.**

**Special Meeting Place:** First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue

Chairperson: Arlene Feld  
[arlene\\_feld@hotmail.com](mailto:arlene_feld@hotmail.com)  
 Vice Chair: Chris Eltrich  
 Treasurer: Vince Brown  
 Secretary: Kate Ramsden  
 MNAC Rep: Howard Steiner



Area 1 Rep: Earl Hutchins  
 Area 2 Rep: Shirley Mahberg  
 Area 3 Rep: Rae Edwards  
 Area 4 Rep: Mike Kimmich