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FEBRUARY 2018

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

## mark your Calendar

**February 14** – MDC meeting

*Taking Care of the Northwest Environment - What's Behind and What's Ahead*  
Roger Leed

**February 28** – MDC meeting

*Report on a Pollution Poll and Clean Energy Initiative*  
Andrew Villeneuve, executive director of Northwest Progressive Institute.

**March 14** – MDC meeting

*Healthcare for all in Washington State*  
Phil Talmadge, former justice, Washington Supreme Court

**March 28** – MDC meeting

*Defence Challenges: North Korea, Pakistan/ Afghanistan and Syria*  
Congressman Adam Smith, ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee

*MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St. unless otherwise noted.*

## Can you offer a ride?

Some of our members are no longer able to drive or no longer drive at night. It was agreed at the January 24 meeting that those who can offer rides to them could have their names and phone numbers listed on the MDC website (metrodem.org). Those who need rides can contact them to make arrangements.

If you choose to participate, send your phone number and area of the city where you live or are willing to pick up riders to Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com.

For example:

Allan Munro  
206-937-9825

Can provide rides to members living in West Seattle.

There is no guarantee that those listed will be able to provide rides for every event or meeting.

homelessness

## Freeattle? No, says Bagshaw



*Discussing homelessness from left are Seattle City Councilmembers Lisa Herbold and Sally Bagshaw and MDC members Dan Fievez, Al Rasmussen, Bob Rosenberger and Seth Armstrong.*

No, the homeless are not coming to Seattle from faraway places because of the “free” benefits, said Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw at the January 24 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. This is not Freeattle, she said, citing statistics that indicate the last known addresses of 75 percent of the homeless in Seattle are in King County, 20 percent are in Washington state, and only five percent are from elsewhere.

Homelessness is  
the symptom...

Homelessness is the symptom, she said, and was seconded in that by the other guest speaker, Lisa Herbold, Seattle City Councilmember. They agreed that the causes are to be found in inadequacies in our criminal justice, healthcare, and foster care and other systems.

The bottom line, said Ms Herbold, is that we don't have enough housing.

“We need to turn up the dial,” Ms Bagshaw added, as we are not doing enough to address the problem. It would help, she said, if we could view homelessness as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue.

There are a variety of solutions, they agreed, and we need to accept that we need a variety of solutions, such as keeping people safe where they are (for example, camps under freeways), 24/7 emergency shelters, detached accessory residences, and mobile units.

There are risks to implementing these solutions, said Ms Herbold, noting that at any given time there are at least 500 complaints in the homeless camp database regarding crime, trash, sanitation, location and other issues.

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## Meeting notes

January 24

### Carbon tax resolution

The resolution supporting a carbon tax passed unanimously. See text at www.metrodems.org

### Rides

It was agreed that the names of those who can provide transportation to others will be posted on the website so that those needing transportation to MDC events can contact them.



## Current members of the MDC who are or have been elected officials

Representative **Seth Armstrong**  
 Seattle City Councilmember **Sally Bagshaw**  
 Edmonds School Board Director **Carin Chase**  
 Senator **Maralyn Chase**  
 King County Executive **Dow Constantine**  
 King County Councilmember **Rod Dembowski**  
 Port of Seattle Commissioner **Fred Felleman**  
 Senator **Pete Francis** (former MDC president)  
 Seattle School Board Director **Jill Geary**  
 Seattle City Councilmember **Jean Godden**  
 Representative **Roger Goodman**  
 King County Assessor **Lloyd Hara**  
 Senator **Bob Hasegawa**  
 Judge **Ed Heavey**  
 Seattle City Councilmember **Lisa Herbold**  
 Seattle City Attorney **Pete Holmes**  
 King County Councilmember **Jeanne Kohl-Welles**  
 Seattle City Councilmember **Nick Licata** (former MDC president)  
 Senator **Eugene Lux**  
 Seattle School Board Director **Eden Mack**  
 Mayor **Chris Roberts**, Shoreline  
 Port of Seattle Commissioner **Peter Steinbrueck**  
 Representative **Gael Tarleton**

op-ed

# Are we in another bubble?

by Allan Munro



Allan Munro

My answer is an unequivocal YES.

For nine years the Federal Reserve and other central banks have flooded the world with money to offset the downturn of the financial crisis of 2008. Since that time the market value of stocks, bonds, real estate on the coasts, paintings, other objects d' art, and even antique cars has increased exponentially.

For example, S+P 500 stocks rose 25 percent during 2017 but corporate net earnings increased only approximately 10 percent. Price/earning ratios are around 19. This exceeds the historical average of 14-16 and has been equaled only two other times since World War II. The Dow Jones Industrial average gained another 1000 points in less than four weeks. Home prices in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco are close to twice what they were before the 2008 bubble. Bitcoin shares have gone into the stratosphere.

Things are truly getting nutty.

We all know where this has to end.

But we don't know when it will end. There are factors pointing to an extend-

ed upward run:

1. The entire world economy is now growing. Even previously depressed economies like Japan and Southern Europe are growing.
2. The Trump tax cuts will provide a one-time accounting boost to reported corporate earnings. This event, which arises out of repatriation of profits held outside the US, will mask whatever is really going on.

Therefore, this bubble may continue well into 2019.

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 may continue  
 well into 2019.

### WHAT TO DO?

1. Don't sell assets in a panic. Ride it out.
2. Get out of debt rather than buy securities.
3. Purchase only assets that produce income even in worst-case scenarios.
4. Don't buy equities except in the most extraordinary situations and then don't use margin. You don't want to be the person without a chair when the music stops.

You may have to put up with these constraints for the next six to seven quarters.

"Double, double toil and trouble  
 Fire burn and cauldron bubble"

(Macbeth, Act IV, Scene 1)

Thank you Bill Shakespeare for your comment on the current condition of the economy.



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## From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

# Roger Leed to speak on Northwest environment



*Roger Leed, shown here with his wife Jean Leed, will speak to the MDC February 14.*

Environmental law expert Roger Leed will speak to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 14 meeting on “Taking Care of the Northwest Environment – What’s Behind and What’s Ahead.”

Mr Leed, a long-time member and former board member of the MDC (1976-2016), represented clients on some of the earliest cases in Washington state interpreting the state Environmental Policy Act as well as federal environmental regulations.

He considers one of his most important efforts (involving several cases) was seeking compliance of proposed Seattle segments of I-90 freeway with the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. The result was the reduction of the scale of the project from six-seven general purpose lanes in each direction without lids or transit to three general purpose lanes with two transit/carpool lanes, bike lane, pedestrian walkway and a Seattle lid. This was achieved only after three proceedings before the US District Court for the Western District of Washington and three appeals to the 9th Circuit Court of appeals over a period of ten years.

The second most important was opposition to Puget Power’s plan to build two nuclear power plants near Sedro Wooley, which would draw water from the Skagit River and return heated effluent back into the river. Mr Leed represented a group of farmers, cannery business owners, and fishing and environmental activists and

had the support of local tribes. These proceedings went on for around eight years.

He also represented a citizen group to stop a housing development at Keystone spit on Whidbey Island where the ferry to Port Townsend docks. The Supreme Court eventually overturned Island County’s approval of the project. Keystone is now protected as part of the Ebey’s Landing National Historic Preserve. Mr Leed declares this a “great victory for scenic values and historic preservation.”

In another significant action Mr Leed represented British Columbia environmental groups in opposing Seattle City Light’s plan to raise Ross Dam, which would have flooded across the border into BC. He contested the project in hearings before the Federal Power Commission and the International Joint Commission. Eventually City Light dropped the project in exchange for compensatory power from the province.

Another action saw Mr Leed suing King County’s Cedar Hills Landfill to bring it into compliance with federal environmental standards. Rainwater was leaching contaminants and polluting the groundwater aquifer, the leachate was poisoning fish at the Issaquah Creek Fish Hatchery, and uncontrolled odors were impacting the surrounding residential developments. The landfill site is now so presentable, says Mr Leed, that the County offers tours to the public.

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**healthcare for all**  
It’s the only way to fly!

from the MDC Health Care Task Force

While Washington and Olympia continue to flail around and do nothing about health care expenses or to pay for many of other services everyone needs in order to survive, have you continued to tell family, friends, and neighbors about how we can and should pay fully for our health care with tax money, not private insurance or charity? We, the MDC Health Care Task Force, hope so.

Health care coverage for all hasn’t happened yet in the US because most of those with Medicare, Medicaid, or health care coverage as veterans, etc. want to stay with what they’ve got. Many are fearful or nervous about a government program for health care because they believe the government always screws things up. But using public money (taxes) to cover health care expenses would not be not a government-run health care system. Only health care expenses would be regulated and prices for health products and services would be negotiated with health care providers. In most all other major countries, people get their health care paid for this way, as a right, not by buying private, for-profit commercial insurance coverage.

We cannot and must not stop pushing for having health care expenses covered for everybody, not just for those who are already covered or who have to pay for commercial, for-profit insurance, or else suffer or die.

It’s now known that a majority of physicians, other health care providers, and people already covered by public funds want health care cost coverage for all – as a right, not a privilege just for those who are already covered, or who can afford to pay for coverage.

We must continue to push national and state political leaders, and our fellow citizens, to make this happen. “It’s the only way to fly!” We must continue to work together to get this done!



here are the answers to  
**Jack Whisner's annual crossword puzzle**

S	M	A	R	T			O	A	R		
H	O	L	M	E	S		B	R	A	S	S
R	S	L		S	P	U	E		T	A	T
E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y			L	E
D	U	R	K	A	N			M	I	D	I
	E	E			N	E	D		D	A	N
D	D			S	I	M	O	N		N	B
H	A	P	P	Y	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R
I			E	R	G			C	T		U
N	O	E	L		F	B	I			S	E
G	O	N	Z	A	L	E	Z		B	I	C
R	O	D		E	E	L		P	I	N	K
A		S		C	A	L	K	I	N	S	

- Homelessness continued from p1 -

Lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest issues, said Ms Bagshaw, adding that we need to turn that around. Mixed-income neighborhoods are more successful, she said.

Low-income neighborhoods are not necessarily a bad thing, Mr Herbold commented, as long as there is access to services.

Both agreed that the city and county need to invest in these neighborhoods.



**To members of the MDC board of directors -**

We will be setting up a page on our website with the names, photos and bios of all members of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Inasmuch as you represent the MDC and its members, we'll include your email address so members and others can contact you if they wish. Therefore, please send to me (walkere1@msn.com) a photo, a bio and the email address you want to use. Thanks for your help. - Eleanor Munro

obituary

**John Darrah**

1933 – 2018

John Darrah, former King County Superior Court judge, died January 19, 2018.

Mr Darrah served as secretary of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle in 1964. His name first appeared on the MDC membership rolls in 1961.

He earned a degree in political science from Yale College in 1955 and his law degree from Yale Law School in 1960. He was the first director of the Defender Association and also served as a Seattle Municipal Court judge.

A memorial for Mr Darrah will be held 10 am, February 16 at Epiphany Parish of Seattle, 1805 38th Ave, Seattle.



- Leed continued from p3 -

Mr Leed received a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard College and earned his JD from the University of Michigan Law School. He has taught land use and environmental law at the University of Puget Sound Law School, has served as panelist, lecturer, and committee chair on a variety of environmental seminars and symposiums and has published widely on shoreline management and other environmental issues. He also served 10 years as a board member of the Washington Environmental Council and as its president 1980 –1982.



Membership renewal date appears on above label

February 2018

METROPOLITAN  
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
 OF SEATTLE



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