



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 99

Newsletter

Spring 2009



Photo by Amalia Walton

Fairview Houseboater Enjoys Winter Snowstorm.

The Floating Homes Association's 47th Annual MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Puget Sound Yacht Club

2321 N Northlake Way

6:30 to 7:30 pm

Social Hour

With Complimentary Refreshments

7:30 to 9:30 pm

Business Meeting

Agenda

History of Lake Union

Lorraine McConaghy, MOHAI Historian

Update on

Shoreline Master Program

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Board Elections

"HOUSEBOATIQUE" Items for Sale!

FUN!! INFORMATION!! PRIZES!! REFRESHMENTS!!

See Page 2 for more **Membership Meeting** Features ...

See seattlefloatinghomes.org for map and directions...

SMP Revision Update

*"Initial" City Proposals Would
Have Serious Negative
Impacts on Floating Homes*

By Bob Bowman

The Seattle SMP (Shorelines Master Program) Revision Citizen Advisory Committee will complete its work in early June. Seattle DPD (Department of Planning and Development) will then develop draft policy and regulations for the shoreline. These draft regulations will go to the City Council for approval in the summer of 2010.

Although DPD has not yet formally developed its proposed new regulations for floating homes, the information they have provided thus far has sent up red flags for the houseboat community.

In response to DPD's policy proposals, our FHA workgroup has met twice with DPD representatives to provide feedback and to educate city staff on the serious harm their proposals could do to the floating home community. Based on the information we have received to date, FHA is very concerned about three issues: 1) the long term viability of floating homes in Seattle, 2) the float size and other "conforming" requirements for new replacement houseboats and 3) new standards for flotation depth.

Long Term Viability

Proposed DPD language states that "new" floating homes and/or floating home moorages are prohibited. DPD says this proposed language is based on the state Shoreline Management Act. DPD says that existing floating homes could be replaced, but would need to meet at least some conforming over-water standards where feasible.

FHA expressed concern with the proposed language that explicitly prohibits new floating homes. It is felt that DPD has gone beyond what is required by WAC (Washington Administrative Code). FHA thinks that "prohibit" de-legitimizes floating homes in the long term and devalues them. It has been suggested that language other than outright prohibition would be more appropriate. DPD has informally responded that it may be possible for DPD to use

Continued Page 9 ...

47TH FHA ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP

Wanted: YOU!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2009
6:30 TO 7:30 pm SOCIAL HOUR
7:30 TO 9:30 pm MEETING

PUGET SOUND YACHT CLUB
2321 N Northlake Way

Be sure to come out on April 22nd for the 2009 FHA Annual Meeting at the Puget Sound Yacht Club. This venue has been at the north end of Lake Union since the mid 1950s, and is a wonderful place for a meeting right on the lake shore. The Social Hour will begin at 6:30 pm and the meeting will be from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Browse the Houseboatique and stock up on your favorite items, have some of the complimentary refreshments, chat with other houseboaters and meet some of our newsletter advertisers. Sign up for a committee and support the FHA Board members who volunteer many hours to help keep our Community safe and sound.

Our special guest speaker will be Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, the public historian at the Museum of History and Industry. She will be talking about the History of Lake Union. Dr. McConaghy earned her PhD in history from the UW and presently teaches in the museum studies program there. Her area of research interest is the antebellum U.S. Navy. She has a book coming out in October entitled, "Warship Under Sail, the Sloop-of-War Decatur in the Pacific Squadron, 1854 - 1859."

The other major topic for the meeting is an update on the Shorelines Master Program which is currently being rewritten. FHA has been working hard on the Citizen's Advisory Committee with the Department of Planning & Development and many people with interests tied to Lake Union and other bodies of water in Washington. There are potential impacts to the Houseboat Community that need to be ironed out before the new program is put into place.

There will be lots more information imparted, Executive Board Elections, and fun door prizes awarded! Hope to see you there.

Puget Sound Yacht Club is at 2321 N. Northlake Way. It is near the Sunnyside street boat launch and east of Gas Works Park. For directions see seattlefloatinghomes.org

Membership Changes

By Jann McFarland

In order to remain compliant with Washington State law, the FHA has recently done some fine tuning of its bylaws and articles, creating two kinds of memberships: voting and non-voting. Voting memberships will be for households dwelling in and/or owning a floating home in the City of Seattle. Each household membership is entitled to one vote. Those who do not meet the qualifications to be voting members will be non-voting members.

The Annual Meeting to be held on April 22nd will require an active voting membership in order to cast a ballot for the elections or any other matter that may be voted upon. If you are not a member or have been a member, but your membership has expired, you are encouraged to join, or renew your membership prior to the Annual Meeting.

If you own a floating home in Log Foundation, Mallard Cove, Roanoke Reef, Lee's Moorings, 2420 Westlake, 2460, Inc., Nesika Chuck, or Tenas Chuck, you have membership through your condo or co-op association as a group. If any other groups would like to pay as a dock or co-op a 10% discount is offered and the FHA office will invoice your group every year when it is time for renewal.

A membership form is on the back of this Newsletter or you can send \$50 (\$40 for age 65 & over) to Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview Ave East, Seattle, WA 98102 and include the information requested on the membership form.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer staff photographer. Date photograph was filed at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (date of photograph and file date may differ by a month or more): May 15, 1936.



Photo MOHAI Collection

Ships on Lake Union, 1936. See related story page 17.

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

2329 Fairview E
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Now and Then

Newsletter: Marilyn,
Jann, Bill



Spring 2009



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Please visit seattlefloatinghomes.org

Our archives include this issue and go back to 2002.

Note: Advertisers represented in this *Newsletter* are not endorsed by the Floating Homes Association.

Standing Committees

COMMUNICATIONS

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

Color Newsletter !!!

Changes have come to houseboat communications. The editors hope you are excited about our new color newsletter. It is such a pleasure to print color photos in...color. And readers will thank the talented houseboaters who responded to requests for photos taken during the December holidays and the snowstorms. Our community never looked more

beautiful.

In recent issues there are newsletter articles and stories with links to the FHA web site. For example, this issue, Spring 2009, contains a great travel piece, attached to Waterlog. The writer, Jeanette Corkery, kept a journal while she spent the 2008 Christmas holiday season in Italy. The editors felt sure you'd be missing something really special if you couldn't read her other entries, so you will find them on the web.

Have you noticed the web site, seattlefloatinghomes.org, has many new stories and articles? You may have been able to keep up with the SMP because of the up to date coverage. There

will be some changes to our home page, which should make it easier to quickly read breaking news stories. And, on the home page, you will be able to scroll down to Waterlog and click. No more searching through each online Newsletter to read your favorite column. And there are more pictures on the web site.

Standing Committees

LEGISLATIVE

Sheri Greaves, Chair

Are We Marinas?

We are now halfway through the Legislative session and everything seems to be going well in Olympia, although we had a bit of a scare on PSSB 5255/PSHB 1077 a few days ago. The short version is that some marina owners down on the Duwamish were feeling that the calculation for lease rates on marinas was unfair as based on upland values that vary greatly due to location.

This Senate bill included language to mandate an averaging of lease rates for marinas based on geographic zones. That didn't originally sound troublesome to us until we realized that the definition of a "marina" in the bill was so broadly defined as to include everything where one can tie up a boat, including possibly the moorage next to your floating home.

(11) "Marina" means any entity providing vessel moorage on state owned aquatic lands including private and public marinas, yacht clubs, homeowner associations, mixed facilities with moorage and other uses such as boat yards, and individual docks other than docks that may



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This could include ANY entity, other than exempted residential homeowners, who have moorage on aquatic lands - restaurants, parks, anybody who offers a place for a boat to tie up, and no one seemed to be able to answer the question of what "exempted residential homeowners" actually meant.

Not Yet

A hearing was held on Thursday afternoon, Feb 26, Steve Greaves, Houseboat Harbor went down to testify, and Mike Ryherd, our lobbyist, was also there and testified. Mike worked with Senators Fraser, Regala, and Kohl-Welles on Thursday and Friday, and DNR on Friday, to clean up the definition section on 5255. As of late Friday the DNR spokesman said they had rewritten the language to make it clear it does not include floating homes.

As of this writing, the definition of "marina" has been changed to "any entity occupying state-owned aquatic lands that provides vessel moorage for a fee, excluding homeowner associations, facilities that provide moorage exclusive for floating homes, and facilities that are entirely dedicated to providing public use and access under a no-fee public use and access agreement."

Note: Fortunately, this Senate bill died before coming to a vote, but illustrates what goes on behind the scenes with our vigilant FHA Board working with our lobbyist and others to protect our community interests.

Standing Committees

SAFETY & SECURITY

Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs

Dock Watch Update

Have you gotten a Dock Watch email lately? One was sent on 02-28-09. If you did not get it you may need to sign up for the email distribution list service. We don't want to lose you so please opt in at seattlefloatinghomes.org/dockwatch/subscribe

Contact Tiff McNamara at tiffmcnamra1@aim.com with any questions or concerns. – **Tiff McNamara**

A Close Call

A 30' pleasure boat exploded during refueling at the North Star Marine Fuel Dock on Lake Union Saturday, Feb 28. The burning boat had been cast away from the dock so SFD Fire-fighters were helpless as the inferno drifted southward then contacted and damaged a 64' motor yacht at adjacent Diamond Marina. Two Seattle Harbor Patrol boats responded within minutes, applying foam to the blaze and later towing the wreckage to their dock across the canal. Two persons were injured. The accident allegedly occurred from gasoline vapors not vented before starting the engine(s). – **Giff Jones**

Fisherman's Terminal Fireboat Changed

When: Thursday, February 5th, 2009
Where: Fisherman's Terminal Fire Station #3

What: "The veteran fireboat *Chief Seattle* has replaced the *Alki* at Fisherman's Terminal Fire Station #3. The *Chief* will not be staffed but will otherwise be at the ready. As before, the full alarm fire fighting team will travel by land from Station #5 on Elliott Bay. Depending on traffic this drive takes approximately 12 minutes." – **Giff Jones**

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Standing Committees

HOUSEBOATIQUE

Giff and Mary Jones
Co-Chairs

The Houseboatique will again offer gift items of interest to Seattle's floating homes community at the FHA Annual Meeting on April 22nd at the Puget Sound Yacht Club. This venue on north Lake Union is an exciting and more intimate meeting room with dramatic views of downtown Seattle. Several lucky winners will take home prizes from the Houseboatique raffle, which concludes the evening's agenda. Don't miss the chance to meet neighbors from other docks and shop the Houseboatique during the social hour and learn about issues that affect houseboaters in the stimulating meeting that will follow.

Standing Committees

ENVIRONMENTAL

Bob Bowman, Chair

FHA is again a prime sponsor for the **Lake Union/Portage Bay Sweep**. Try to set aside Saturday, May 9th to do your part in helping clean our water yard. The last few years, Diana Forman and I have planned and coordinated the Sweep with the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. As it turns out, we will both be travelling (not together - for folks with over active imaginations) both prior to and on Sweep day. So I am asking for two volunteers to work with us in planning and then coordinating FHA volunteers at the Lake Union and Portage Bay sites. Please email me at bobbowman2@msn.com if you might be interested. It will be fun - honest.

One other thing - I want to thank Molly Cadranell for allowing FHA to use the **Best Management Practices** she developed for her dock. FHA is using her work as part of the Lake Steward environmental program we are developing.

Nutria Update By Diana Forman

Houseboaters spent two weekend days in December, raising funds for a collaborative effort to stop the nutria invasion that is destroying wetlands and damaging shoreline around Portage Bay and adjacent areas. By the end of January, 36% of Portage Bay houseboaters had participated in raising a total of \$1,101.

This winter the Wildlife Services of the US Department of Agriculture surveyed and trapped nutria on property owned by the University of Washington and Seattle Parks, around Portage Bay and in the Laurelhurst area netting 165 nutria.

Further trapping will also focus on the large nutria population in the southwest portion of Union Bay, but Wildlife Services will continue to monitor all previously trapped locations and respond to calls about nutria sightings.

If you spot nutria in your area, please contact Diana Forman at houseboatdiana@comcast.net or Annie Stixrood, chair of the nutria control project, at astixrood@comcast.net, who will relay

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the information to a Wildlife Services agent. You may also contact Wildlife Services District Supervisor Matt Cleland at matthew.d.cleland@aphis.usda.gov.

Find the complete report, Nutria Eradication by Diana Forman, and other Nutria information at the FHA web site www.seattlefloatinghomes.org

Do flamingoes get goosebumps?



Photo by Jen Kern



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LAKE UNION and Portage Bay SWEEP

A Community Cleanup Event

Saturday, May 9, 2009
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Volunteers in kayaks & other small boats pick up & transfer trash to larger craft for collection by Seattle Public Utilities. Shore cleanup will be done around the lake involving non-boaters. Check PSA website for more information.

<http://www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/events/7th-annual-lake-union-and-portage-bay-sweep>



If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Chris Wilke at
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
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or see
seattlefloatinghomes.org

Anthony Harris / Clean and Green Seattle

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FHA Shorelines Master Program Workgroup

By Bob Bowman

The SMP

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to establish a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is now in the process of updating the Seattle SMP. The revised Shoreline Master Program will establish shoreline goals and policies for:

- 1) Preferred shoreline uses,
- 2) Environmental protection and
- 3) Public access.

Current information on the SMP process is posted on the FHA website as it becomes available:

seattlefloatinghomes.org/smp

More comprehensive information is available on the city's SMP Advisory Committee website
www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate/Overview/default.asp.

SMP Revision Workgroup

This revision of Seattle's SMP will result in new regulations and standards for all shoreline uses including floating homes. Revised regulations and building codes for over water structures could have a major impact on how we maintain our existing houseboats, flotation and docks, and how new houseboats are built.

Seattle has established an SMP Citizen Advisory Committee. The FHA is an important shoreline stakeholder and is a participant on the Advisory Committee. Bob Bowman, Chair of the FHA Environmental Committee, is our CAC representative.

The FHA Board established an advisory group to work with Bob on SMP issues. The workgroup includes: Bill Keasler, Marty Greer, Diana Forman, Sid McFarland, Charlie Weems, Molly Cadranell, Ed Waddington, Amalia Walton, Marilyn Robertson and Sheri Greaves.

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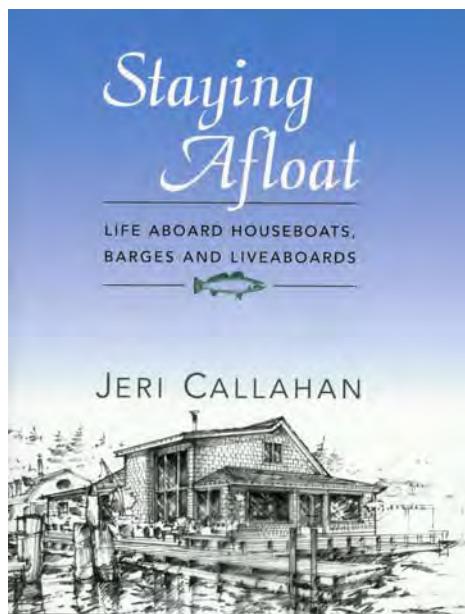
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SMP REVISION UPDATE

FHA has serious questions about DPD's interpretation of the scientific information it is relying on as it develops new regulations.

... Continued from Page 1

other language. This issue is not yet resolved.

FHA expressed concern with proposed wording in the Comprehensive Plan which changes floating home moorage from a "water dependent use" to an "allowed use". DPD said that this new language more clearly states the situation and does not really constitute a substantial change for floating homes. FHA feels this wording leads to further erosion of legitimacy for the floating home community. FHA needs to better understand the possible ramifications of this proposed change. This issue is not yet resolved.

Float Size and Other Conforming Requirements

DPD's best available science indicates that over-water coverage is detrimental to salmon migration through the ship canal from the Montlake Cut to the locks. Thus, DPD's current goal is to lessen the amount of over-water coverage, in part by restricting the size of the floats for new replacement floating homes.

Originally, DPD planned to require all new replacement houseboats to meet conforming floating home standards, standards which the vast majority of floating home moorages do not currently meet. Imposing conforming standards for new replacement floating homes on these non-conforming docks would not be physically possible without substantially reducing the float size for most floating homes because of setback, open water and walkway access requirements.

In February, our workgroup took DPD staff on a walking tour of a dock and explained the physical limitations, if not impossibility, of bringing existing nonconforming docks into conforming status. We also mentioned the potential loss of value to houseboat owners if float size was reduced to the 1200 sq ft conforming limit, even in a situation where no other conforming standards are imposed.

DPD said they would re-evaluate their proposed regulations in light of the issues we presented. It appears, however, that DPD may still plan to limit the float size of replacement houseboats, although we do not yet know their specific proposals.

FHA, as well as other CAC representatives, has serious questions about DPD's interpretation of the scientific information it is relying on as it develops new regulations. FHA does not believe the float size issue has been resolved. We will continue to work with DPD staff, collect other available

scientific research, and propose alternate language in an attempt to satisfactorily resolve these issues.

On a positive note, DPD says it plans to eliminate the "conforming/non-conforming" terminology. Instead it would use such terminology as, "standard A and standard B."

Flotation Depth

DPD is concerned about flotation depth and the current lack of standards for flotation.

The primary concern is the impact of flotation on fish migration. The DPD proposal would set standards for flotation depth based on a yet to be determined formula related to the size of the float and the height of the houseboat.

It was unclear if this new standard would be just for new construction or also for existing houseboats. DPD said that maintenance of flotation would be allowed, but indicated that without standards, owners would keep adding flotation until they reach the bottom of the lake.

We pointed out that there are natural limits to flotation depth. FHA also questioned why flotation depth made a difference, since over-water structures such as docks above the water cause fish to go

around them.

DPD said that research on fish behavior around docks and piers done by Charles Simenstad from the UW shows some fish go around and some go under floats. DPD is also concerned that deeper flotation may impede water circulation, which could be a causal factor in higher water temperature and thus be problematic for fish. DPD acknowledged that they don't have all the answers yet from science.

Again, FHA has serious questions about DPD's interpretation of the scientific information it is relying on as it develops new regulations. FHA is very concerned about setting flotation standards that are not realistic and that could have severe economic consequences for houseboat owners. This issue is yet to be resolved.

The FHA Board and SMP workgroup are continuing to work with DPD and the SMP Citizen Advisory Committee to help ensure that DPD proposes reasonable and fair regulations that maintain the viability of floating homes in Seattle. At this point we are not confident that this will be the case. At the annual meeting in April, we will provide more information and discuss possible strategies as we move forward



Photo by Jann McFarland

The Association's SMP Workgroup met with DPD Representatives on the Log foundation Moorage. From left: Amalia Walton, FHA Board; Maggie Glowacki, Lead DPD Planner; Bob Bowman, Workgroup Chair; Bill Keasler, FHA Pres; Brennon Staley, DPD Planner; Ed Waddington, FHA Co-Treas.



Photo by Betty Swift

Reader, let's hit the Lake Union Trail. We'll stop here and there to catch up on our neighbors.

The first stop is **Tui Tui**. Robby Rudine tells us some sad news. "Mom had been living in touch-and-go condition with my sister in Brazil for the last three and a half years. Miraculously she recovered around the time of her 87th birthday just enough to be able to and want to travel back to Texas one last time. Janet (Yoder) and I organized a reunion in Texas. The event was magnificent and Mom was the beaming belle of her own ball. But the trip ultimately cost her life and she died on native soil on February 1." Robby and Janet spent almost two months in Texas and are happy, but also sad to be back afloat in Tui Tui. "We also lost our dear friend Vi Hilbert at the end of 2008. Janet was working on a book of essays and interviews with this treasured elder. She was able to leave Texas on Christmas morning and attend Vi's funeral at the Upper Skagit Indian Reservation under the big snows."

Congratulations to Janet who has had her piece *Eight Days with Dave; True Treehouse Tales of Seattle's Squirrelman* accepted for publication by Chautauqua Literary Journal. (See Summer 2008 Newsletter issue for more about Dave.) In 2008, Robby put out new Tui Tui portrait stamps honoring his and Janet's two Goddaughters. Last year, "we welcomed Deb Narine & Larry Sunde to live on our dock. It's not quite a houseboat but it keeps their toes dipped in the water. They sweated out and masterminded a beautiful remodel of their space in the historic Garney Harris house - built in 1912 and placed on pilings above Lake Union in 1959. They make wonderful new neighbors along with their cat, two dogs and

entourage!"

Very proud Giff Jones reports, "Mallard Cove Floating Homes, once the bastion of owner turnovers and instability during the uplands condo battles of the 90s, boasts a cohesive community of no rental, 100% owner-occupied-houseboats for most of the current century." Mallard Cove News: Angie Weber admits, "The only excitement we've had is taking Jake and Elwood for their annual vet visit". The cats, born on Election Day, 2004, were the pretext for a double-themed 4th birthday party last Nov 4th. The celebration was such a smashing success that Angie and hubby, Jim Caputo want to keep the felines



Photo by Angie & Jim

Mallard Cove: Birthday Boys, Jake and Elwood.

equally healthy for their election day/BD party in 2012! Steve & Laura Strockbine, apparently admiring of the other one on the dock, signed up for a Mercedes SmartCar drawing, and WON. They'll use it at their place on Maui. Do they plan on sailing their new C&C 33 to Hawaii? What recession?? Ed Buchwald, resident septuagenarian, perpetual vacationer, and no mincer of words, reports getting "nailed by an out of control snowboarder" while skiing at Alta/Snowbird/Solitude in Utah. Details? "Back hurts a little. Need to get a hair cut". Beating the winter blahs nearly beat Giff & Mary Jones, as they drove south on December 20 under the advancing snow storm that left ice and snow on the docks and cars in the ditches.... all the way to Salem. They did make it safely to Santa Barbara for the holidays with relatives followed by 16 days in Bucerias, Mexico and coastal "car cruising" until late February. Sadly, Mallard Cove lost our long-time rich-on-life resident of Mallard Cove Susan Dearborn, on January 31. (See obituary article in this newsletter.) Lee Bourdeau and 16 year old daughter, Monique just returned from China where they, "extended our grip on history by about 5000 years... seeing 8000 terra cotta soldiers thousands of years old, to viewing



Photo by Debbie Woodbury

Two on a Roof: Stan & Barb Lorenson (Log Foundation) shovel the white stuff.

the tallest buildings in the world... was quite a contrast". Oldest son, Connor, of parents Diann Barry & Mark Guy, is a Junior this year at Whitman college. Casting Walla Walla aside, Connor is spending the rest of this semester studying in France. Diann reports, "he is living with a French family in Paris and working very hard (yeah, right!) to improve his French." Mark and Diann

ship and a years-long renovation saga, Gus & Janet Schairer have finally completed the transformation of their once funky little 85-yr-old Vashon cabin into a pied-a-terre-a-grandeur. "Now Gus has a wonderful studio equipped for all his sculpting projects", says Janet, while she revels

was born on Nov 3, 2008, new daughter of parents Michael and Paulene and sisters Marlena and Tessabell, on 2339.

The Lake Union

Members of "The Lake Union" at 2031



Photo by Debbie Woodbury

The Lake Union: Wisteria, Lights and Snow.



Photo by Julia Forbes

New additions on Tenas Chuck, Tazmin & Flinder source of constant amusement to Julia and Ed.

plan to visit Connor in May for a personal guided tour and to see how much English he remembers. After 32 years of owner-

sheds rainwater...inside. Now, only the mice are homeless.

Tenas Chuck Dock Electra Sheldon

over radiant heated floors that don't shift, walls with insulation, and a roof that no longer

Fairview Ave. E. have been doing a bit of international travelling reports Tiff McNamara, Mike Linus and Sandi McQuirk-Linus went on a fourteen-day cruise through the Panama Canal to celebrate Mike's August retirement from his 39-year career in the Merchant Marines. It was their first experience as "cruisers."

Sandi reports, "We had a great time, but we were glad to get back to Seattle in time to shovel snow off the roof, twice!" Ethan Lowry, Nicole Halabisky and their one-year old daughter Paia went to Thailand and Japan to visit with family in the month of January. Paia is already a world traveler!

Log Foundation has a new author. *Embracing the Edge* is by Neil Peterson. Neil has "excelled as an entrepreneur, CEO, founder of Flexcar, and leader of the Metro transportation systems in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Seattle. He is the founder of the Edge Foundation, which provides professional coaches for young students with ADHD. Regardless of the situation -- making the team, securing a job, or even facing "certain death" - the tales from *Embracing the Edge*

Photo by Debbie Woodbury



**more
Waterlog
page 13 ...**

Trip to Italy

By Jeanette Corkery

Collevecchio, Part 1
(Thursday, December 12, '08)

I knew I was in for a long six weeks that first morning when I went down for breakfast and sat opposite Elisa, the proprietor of the house and childhood friend of my traveling companion, Zenia. Elisa gestured to the box of Kellogg's Cornflakes, pushing it my way as she said, "There's probably spider webs in the cereal, but..." her voice trailed off. It was obvious the unsaid words were, "It won't hurt you." I wondered, VWMMD? What would Ms. Manners do? Should I say politely, "Thank you very much, but in my country, spider webs are not a delicacy"? Or, "Sorry, I have a chronic cough and my doctor has told me that my cough would be aggravated by eating spider webs." In the end, fear of offending my hostess, with whom I'd be staying the next six weeks won out, and I grabbed hold of the cornflake box and poured a fairly generous portion in my bowl.

A quick glance at the contents of my bowl revealed that these were, indeed, no ordinary cornflakes. Rather than a bowl of flakes loosely piled on top of one another, these (decades old...?) flakes were clustered, as though adhered by some unseen substance, like super-glue or ...cobwebs...? Now what to do...poke gently at the cornflakes with my fork and discretely flick out any suspicious clumps? I could feel the proprietor's eyes staring at my cereal bowl as she ate scrambled eggs and toast she'd prepared for herself. I could hear Ms. Manners whispering in my ear. "Go ahead. Scarf down those flakes. Don't insult your hostess." Besides, I reasoned, the National Geographic is filled with stories of survivors living off insects in the forest for years. If they could do it, so could I. Furthermore, if the deceased remains of the makers of those cobwebs are in there, I could get a shot of well-needed protein as well.

Inspired, I reached for the carton of orange juice sitting on the table, deliberately bypassing the milk and drowned my Kellogg's cornflakes with that rich acidic beverage which would surely be the perfect antidote to whatever else might be in my bowl besides the cornflakes.

I don't know whether it was the breakfast affair or the discovery that there was neither closet nor drawers in which to put my belongings that prompted me to wonder if I could, indeed, endure six weeks here. Eating cobwebs for breakfast was one thing. Living out of a suitcase for six weeks was somehow worse. Sleeping in a three-foot wide cot was okay, but having it positioned next to the proprietor's bed, who could win any worldwide snore-off contest was another. And all this was before the great cookie bake off. I began to plot my escape from Collevecchio.

Marilyn's note: If you enjoyed this piece, you will find Jeanette's other journal entries on seattlefloatinghomes.org.



Photo by Jeanette Corkery

Collevecchio - from Elisa's back yard.

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... more Waterlog

provide the inspiration to stay focused, persevere, and succeed." From book cover notes.

On the night the big snow storms began, Marty Greer says the **2460-66 Westlake Co-Op** was having its first ever progressive dinner. What a fun event! The docks were decorated for the holidays, wreaths adorned our doorways and Christmas trees blinked and sparkled through the windows. We started with good old fashioned cocktails - martinis and manhattans, hiked to the next dock for hors d'oeuvres, then back up the dock for salad, back to the first dock for main course enchiladas, and finished the evening with the most delicious trifle at yet another home. But that night as we dreamed of sugarplums, the snow gremlins put a frightening list on neighbor Ingrid's house.



Photo by Jann McFarland

Politically Incorrect Sugar Bear orders the Chinook dinner.

So the next day we worked off our calories frantically shovelling snow from our roofs and decks, hoping to avoid the same fate. Only on a houseboat would you have folks who annually move from their warm and sunny home in southern California to freezing cold wet Seattle - **FOR THE WINTER!** Yes, every year on January 15th Mick & Judy McNulty pack up their car and drive north to spend the winter on our dock (2460 WL), renting Chris & Steve Nielson's cute little houseboat. They trade their tennis rackets and surfboards for skinny skis and raincoats - oh, and there are local relatives involved

also... Mick loves hanging out at the Center for Wooden Boats and Judy loves spending time at Hilltop Yarn on Queen Anne and a Fremont yoga studio. We love having them here to share laughs and

more ...



Photo by Nancy Hansen

Lee's Moorings.

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Floating Homes Association Newsletter
13
Spring 2009



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Northlake/Lees Moorings

Sally Weems has passed her "waterlog correspondent" torch on to Karen Eckhart. Welcome Karen. What's happening? "Excitement abounds on our fun dock in the center of the universe (Fremont)! We welcome new neighbor Julia Finks!" The passel of raccoons who live on this dock have grown in numbers and especially love the Eckhart houseboat. "...up on the roof, under the houseboat and snuggling atop our Chris runabout!" Wet paw prints are constantly tracing their ramblings from house to house. "Steve (Eckhart) and I were in San Francisco during the BIG Seattle snow storm but heard from our neighbors that shovelling that lovely white stuff became an ongoing ritual!"

The Trail ends, but we haven't visited Portage Bay. Let's cross the University Bridge, and head down Fuhrman Avenue East.

Betty Swift says **The Shelby Group** dock is thriving in every way except,



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

Shelby Dock: Roof Snowman.

perhaps, their IRAs and mutual funds. "We have three babies that are here and on schedule, one engagement, and a wonderful recovery. Last October, Dorothy & Calvin Echodu welcomed the arrival of little Elie Rose right here in her own home (how's that for being a real houseboater?). At Christmas time, Penny Lewis became a grandmother when tiny Sam was born to her daughter, Karen Lewis & husband Kent Brookover. Many houseboaters will know Karen as the superbly talented illustrator of Robert Fulghum's new book *Third Wish*. And lastly, Barbara Sterling, who has been on the dock longer than almost all of us, will become a great grandmother next fall. Jim Gray has come back to his houseboat and to his enormous black cat after a long convalescence off dock. We're so happy to see Jim return with his lively humor and sprightly walk.

Rob Elleman & Carrie Lee, long-time house sitters in Molly & John Bailey's home, celebrated their holidays by becoming engaged. And Ann Schuh, our creative garden master, has our shore garden (which some folks say is really just an old beached barge) packed with flowers and shrubs ready to bloom.

Jeanette Corkery of **Brackett Association** dock reports that Laura Lowry and her boyfriend, Andy, decided on a whim to head to Mexico for five glorious days of sunshine, warmth, ocean, delicious food, fun and photography. They expertly calculated it was the warmest place they could visit for the least amount of dinero! They cooked their own meals with fresh ingredients and especially enjoyed the morning lobster catch from local



Photo from Laura Lowry

Brackett Dock: Laura and Andy in Mexico.

fishermen. Jeanette had her own adventure in December. "My friend, Zenia and I went to Italy to visit her childhood friend, Elisa and to help her whip her 'casale' (farm house) into shape. Elisa was anticipating the arrival of a slew of in-laws (over the holidays) and needed help getting the yard (some 15 acres) in shape. She also had a number of indoor projects, especially a kitchen re-model (or 'semi' remodel, to be more exact.). Zenia invited me, because she thought it would be a fun trip/experience for me. We had been talking about going to Italy for the past five years, and finally got around to it when Elisa needed extra help this Christmas. Although the trip had its challenging 'moments', overall, it was a great adventure and I'm very glad I went." (See side bar page 12.)

Waterlog News: collected by Marilyn Robertson isobel.rob44@gmail.com

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Photo by Mark Sanderson

Eastlake P-Patch Hopes to Expand

Chris Leman, whose reports from Eastlake have often appeared on these pages, now has a more regular commentary on Eastlake affairs at www.eastlakeseattle.org/eastlake-news. As always, we are grateful for Chris' energy and purpose.

**By Mary Jones
and Barb Donnette**

The Department of Neighborhoods has offered the P-Patch an opportunity to apply for a grant to expand its garden space! Mary Jones and Barb Donnette, the volunteer site coordinators for Eastlake P-Patch, want to see more garden plots and more gardeners enjoying this neighborhood treasure. They have a great design for the expanded garden, but need assistance in creating a work plan, budget, help building the garden, etc.

The grant application is due on April 6th. Someone is needed immediately to coordinate the application.

See Application information at: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/>.

Interested in working with Mary and Barb? Please contact

Mary Jones: MEJ@raincity.com, 860-9293

Barb Donnette: jandbdonnette@comcast.net, 324-6147

Please reply via email to both of us when possible as we both travel, but can still help when needed.

New garden plots will be assigned to people who work on helping create them. Those who commit the most hours will be moved to the top of the list and given priority in plot assignments.

For more details, see article about P-Patch on seattlefloatinghomes.org.

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Lake Union Trail

By Amalia Walton

Eager to fulfill her civic duty and get her hands on a pair of scissors, houseboater Lilian Gregorich was honored to assist Mayor Nickels at the official opening of the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail. Also on hand to celebrate the December 3 ribbon cutting were representatives from the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Parks Department and other Lake Union neighbors.

The 6.2 mile trail, named for a Duwamish chief whose village was located on the lake, completes an unfinished piece of the original Olmstead park plan for Seattle, uniting neighborhoods around the lake and connecting parks and street ends in a band of green. The Cheshiahud Loop will provide us with a much needed and accessible escape to the outdoors that highlights the beauty and history of Lake Union.

According to a City of Seattle news release, 2009 will bring another \$1.6 million to the Trail through the 2007 King County Proposition 2 Park Levy. This money will likely be spent on improvements to pathway sections and intersections along the loop, clean-up and safety improvements, additional wayfinding and interpretive signage, and enhanced public access around the loop at street ends and waterways.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the public meetings throughout 2008! Your time and thoughtful input helped to shape the Trail into a community asset that reflects our unique point of view as houseboaters.



Seattle Parks Foundation

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Left to right: Christopher Williams, Deputy Superintendent of the Parks Department; Amalia Walton, Houseboat Resident and FHA Board Member; Lilian Gregorich, Houseboat Resident; Mayor Nickels; Doug Walker, Seattle Parks Foundation Board Member.

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WANTED: STORIES OF LAKE UNION

Here is an excerpt from a memoir describing a series of 1920s family cruises up in the Inside Passage. This section documents the first journey's beginning, on Lake Union.

We had been to sea in ships, never in small craft, but that did not affect our planning. Other lubbers had bought cruisers and sailed away, and we saw no reason why we should not. What we never dreamed was that most of the following seven years should be spent afloat.

In those first three days aboard our whole attention was devoted to getting the little Yakima ready for sea. We lay at a mooring in Lake Union, in the center of Seattle; amid city streets and sounds...The boat was thirty-six feet long, with a cockpit and a hunting type cabin. The cockpit was covered by a canopy and could be enclosed with curtains. A wheelhouse amidships was open aft. From this a companionway led below. The cabin contained a large locker forward, transom berths, a combined engine room and galley, and a tiny bathroom...

We slept aboard the boat while fitting out. We were encircled by Seattle. We could see street cars and hear the honking of automobiles, but land and its activities seemed remote. All day long our home rocked gently to passing water traffic. Ships from the Pacific, impressive white yachts, small cruisers equally gleaming in bright varnish, tugboats with tows, Cape Flattery salmon trollers sic., tankers and oil-blackened work boats, all proceeded endlessly up and down the fairway. The shores were lined with services for these boats, wharfs to sell them fuel, marine railways for their haul-out, sprawling shed like structures for repairing and building, and long floats jutting out into the lake for mooring...

From Kathrene Pinkerton, *Three's a Crew*.

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The FHA in cooperation with the Museum of History and Industry is searching for writers whose work is informed by Lake Union. Perhaps you know of a hidden gem like *Three's a Crew*, the one excerpted below. Maybe you have found a paragraph in an old journal where the writer mentions Lake Union. Do you have letters from a 1950s houseboater? Are you writing poetry, fiction or non-fiction, focused on the lake? If so, let us know. MOHAI historian, Lorraine McConaghay, and the FHA want to collect a variety of Lake Union stories and publish them in the newsletter or on the FHA website.

Submission directions: Email a working title and a brief discussion (< 200 words) of the work you wish to send. Questions? Email Marilyn Robertson at isobel.rob44@gmail.com



Floating Homes 2008 Market Review

Address	Sales Price
2025 Fairview Ave E #M	590,000
2019 Fairview Ave E #N	675,000
2727 Fairview Ave E #6	725,000
2019 Fairview Ave E #C	795,000
1214 E Hamlin St #9	1,075,000
1214 E Hamlin St #11	1,189,700

Yes, the Seattle real estate market is changing! As you can see, we had six sales of floating homes last year, as compared to 19 in 2007. But the desirability of owning a floating home is strong, and there's still nothing else like it in Seattle.

I've helped many of our fellow houseboaters--and landlubbers!--buy and sell real estate, so if you're contemplating a move, please give me a call. I'd be glad to discuss options available in this ever-changing market.



Melissa Ahlers, Realtor
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A Small Bite of History

By Jann McFarland

Last spring I got a call from Leslie Bilancia who lives on the east coast. Leslie and her husband, Phillip were transplanted New Yorkers when they lived on a houseboat in Seattle in 1964. Phillip was at the UW working on a grant to translate a Chinese legal dictionary into English and other languages.

They had never forgotten their experience of living on the water. The Bilancias were featured in a Sunday PI pictorial on February 16, 1964 and also in an issue of Seattle Magazine around the same time. Leslie wanted to let me know

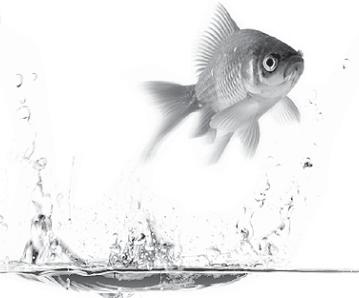
MR. AND MRS. PHILLIP BILANCIA, New Yorkers who recently moved into a houseboat, found it took them and their cat a while to get their sea legs. Guests of the couple occasionally get seasick from houseboat rocking. Like all houseboaters, Bilancias have become confirmed bird watchers. Particularly entrancing are the water-fowl whose squabbles are almost as interesting as those of humans.

that her daughter and family were coming to Seattle for the first time and wondered if their old houseboat was still afloat. After some questions, I figured out it was the floating home owned by longtime houseboater, Jonathan Ezekiel located on the end of one of the Tenas Chuck docks. I called Jonathan who was happy to show his place to the Bilancias' daughter and family.

Several phone calls and months later, Lexie and David Hautau and daughter Lily met me on a lovely sunny summer day and we visited Jonathan and his houseboat.

The place hadn't changed very much so it was fun for Lexie to get to visit and take pictures to show her parents. Lexie wrote after she returned to her home in Georgia, "We really appreciated your kindness during our trip to Seattle. We loved seeing my parents' old houseboat and we all fell in love with your lifestyle on those houseboats. Now as soon as we win the lottery we will be back to buy one!!!"

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Lexie, David and Lily Hautau with Jonathan Ezekiel.



Photo by Jann McFarland

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Susan Dearborn

Susan Dearborn, long-time resident of Mallard Cove Floating Homes, lost her 7 year battle with ovarian cancer on January 31st at age 72. Susan was an intelligent, active, and involved woman in all segments of her life. Armed with a PHD and a Masters in Counseling, she was a founder of the Pacific Family Mediation Institute. She trained other professionals and maintained her own mediation practice. Susan was passionate about physical activity. She was a Masters Swimmer, competed in the Nationals and World Masters Games, and joined one of Seattle's first Women's soccer teams. She learned to wind-surf in her 60s and regularly challenged the legendary winds of the Columbia Gorge.

Susan was perhaps best appreciated by her dock neighbors for her desire to be involved, from serving on the Board as Treasurer to membership on the dock maintenance committee, and always offering her input on various dock activities. Her houseboat was the venue for her own pre-planned memorial service on Sunday, March 1st. Over 90 friends, relatives, and neighbors crowded together (yes... at one time!) to celebrate her life, attesting to the notion that Susan's unique presence was valued by many and will always be remembered — **By Giff Jones**



Dale D. Patterson

January 20, 1931 - January 27, 2009

Dale was born January 20, 1931 in Gary IN. He attended 22 grade schools across the US and graduated from high school in DeKalb, IL. Following high school he joined the regular army and tested into West Point. Dale loved the army but as he said: "When they tried to make an officer and a gentleman out of me, I realized that I wanted out!"

After graduating from the University of Illinois with a master's degree in geology, Dale went to work as a petroleum geologist in Venezuela. While living in Caracas, he married Betty Patterson. They moved back to DeKalb when Betty became pregnant. Dale and Betty had 3 children and later divorced. While in DeKalb, Dale taught high school math and assisted his parents with their commercial dry cleaning business. He earned an EdD in curriculum and supervision from Northern Illinois University and was a tenured faculty member, when he decided that white collar living wasn't for him!!

Dale later started a student housing business and was driving a school bus in DeKalb when he met Ruth Woudenberg in 1977. They were married in 1979 and lived in Missouri, San Diego, and Chapel Hill, before settling into the Seattle houseboat community. During those years, Dale and Ruth traveled extensively, including Europe, Thailand, Peru, New Zealand, Fiji, and Guatemala. In addition, they spent 18 months living in an RV and traveling all over Mexico, up to Alaska, and down to the Florida Keys.

Dale lived his final 15 happy years on the Tenas Chuck Moorage, where he contributed his time and expertise unselfishly to friends and neighbors. Dale was TCM's resident handyman and dock system wizard; he pulled and repaired our sewer pumps many times. He was an integral member of the Dock Maintenance Committee and carried all manner of things in the back of his VW rabbit convertible, from metal recycling, to long boards, to doors. He served on the TCM Board. He also helped maintain the FHA office building and the grounds around it. Dale often greeted guests on the dock and would answer questions about the houseboat community. TCM is a little less perfect as the result of the loss of our friend, neighbor and "dock grandfather" of sorts.

From Ruth Patterson and neighbors at Tenas Chuck.

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3/09

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