

News for Seattle's Floating Homes' Residents plus our friends, neighbors and the floating curious.

Fresh Vision Sets Sail at the FHA Annual Meeting

By Heidi Eagleton

On a clear and beautiful evening in May, Floating Homes Association President, Stafford Green, opened its 2025 Annual Meeting at the Queen City Yacht Club by outlining his vision for the FHA and for the future of our floating homes community. Before ninety neighbors and friends, he detailed a refreshed strategy developed with input from members and volunteers to revitalize the FHA's direction as one grounded in transparency, inclusion, and progress, and one that embraces the floating homes community's history, culture, and sense of place. Before an engaged audience, he outlined the FHA's strategic priorities: empowering dock leaders with stronger support and tools, honoring our past with



Stafford Green at Annual Meeting:
Photo Credit: Molly Cartwright

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Not Your Typical Politician: Joy Hollingsworth's Refreshing Style

By Nick Harrison, Editor, Eastlake News

There is something refreshingly un-politician-like about Joy Hollingsworth. She's the first to admit that she found City Hall was a maze when she arrived on January 2, 2024 as representative of Seattle's 3rd District City Council member.

Navigating city and county services was a top priority - essential for Joy herself as a Council newbie and important too for her constituents. That's why Joy and her staff created an "Information Center" where constituents can find help with everything from housing to street repairs.

The D3 Information Center is included in her "Joyful Noise Newsletter", May 2025 edition; Joy brought copies to the FHA's annual get-together in May at the QCYC where she was on the agenda to address the FHA community and answer questions from members. The neglected condition of Terry Pettus Park was raised early in the discussion. As a tribute to one of the FHA's founding champions—who played a vital role in preserving Seattle's floating

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Not Your Typical Politician... continued from page one

homes—the park holds deep significance. Yet, its long-promised renovation has remained stalled for over years. Joy committed to following up, and she made it clear she intends to see it through.



Most people are familiar with the City's Find-It, Fix-It app but Joy wants constituents to know that if they get stuck they can always get help directly from her office where she maintains a full-time staff of three. No matter what the issue is, she's committed to helping find an answer.

Joy has deep roots in Seattle. She's a fourth generation Seattleite who's involved in her family business, a marijuana production company based in Shelton, WA.

When Joy does say a politician-like thing such as "it's an honor to serve you" it has more than a ring of truth to it.

New FHA Lake Union Water Testing Initiative Underway

The Floating Homes Association (FHA) is launching and funding a new initiative to monitor the water quality of Lake Union—an issue that ranked as a top concern among members in a recent FHA survey.

John Giaever and Dave Gavin have sourced credible "swimming quality" water test kits, and testing will be conducted at three key locations: Eastlake (Log Boom), Westlake (2460 Coop), and Goose Beach. Samples will be taken several times over the summer with duplicate tests performed to reduce variability and increase accuracy.

The methodology has been reviewed by King County water specialists, who are particularly interested in the quantitative results. This initiative is not only a valuable service to our members but also a broader contribution to the health and sustainability of Lake Union—benefiting the entire Seattle community. It's one more example of how the floating home community plays an active role in protecting and enhancing our shared environment.

Restoring History on the Water: Kelly Freiborg's 1930s Floating

Kelly Freiborg, owner of a commercial interior architecture firm, has turned her talented professional skills and personal passion toward preserving a piece of Seattle's architectural history. Her 1930s floating home on Lake Union reflects her commitment to thoughtful restoration, blending period-appropriate design with practical modern upgrades.

Freiborg's interest in historic preservation started during her time at Minnesota State University, where she studied art, design, and construction management. After moving to Seattle and purchasing her floating home with her partner Dallas Kemp in June 2022, they set out to restore it in a way that respects the original character of the structure while making it more livable for modern use.

One of Freiborg's core beliefs is that older homes hold a unique place in history. Her own home has been relocated several times around Lake Union, and she sees each move as part of its evolving story. That layered past makes preserving its design elements all the more important.

A good example of this approach is her replacement of later-installed aluminum windows with historically accurate replicas. The new windows were modeled after those used in Seattle's old Ford Factory, located on Fairview Avenue, helping to maintain the home's 1930s character. She also adjusted the size of each window slightly to make rooms feel more spacious—an important detail in floating homes, where every inch of space counts.



[Link to photos and supplier list](#)

Freiborg and Kemp chose a low-profile underfloor heating and cooling system to save ceiling height and improve comfort without disrupting the home's historic aesthetic. She emphasizes the importance of choosing furniture that fits the scale of smaller, older homes, both for practicality and to stay consistent with the period. Her deck, for example, comfortably holds a small seating area and fireplace while still preserving space for movement—and the occasional duck visitor.

In terms of budget-conscious updates, Freiborg often sources vintage light fixtures from thrift stores and online marketplaces. These pieces not only add character but can also be adapted to modern smart-home technology. She also encourages the use of sustainable materials like recycled redwood siding, which supports both environmental goals and historical continuity.

Most importantly, Freiborg advises anyone looking to renovate a historic floating home to start by confirming that the structure is sound. Hiring a qualified inspector helps ensure the home's layout and foundation can support meaningful updates. Surface fixes, she says, are only worthwhile if the basics are in place.

Freiborg's approach to restoration is practical, detailed, and rooted in respect for the past. Her work shows how historic floating homes can be – and should be – preserved and adapted to meet today's needs—while still honoring the stories they have carried for generations.



Meet the new 2025 elected Floating Homes Association Board

President Elect - Stafford Green

Hi, I'm Stafford Green. I spent 25 years at Coca-Cola, working around the world on everything from marketing and tech to HR and strategy. Along the way, I led some amazing teams while living in ten countries and helped bring big ideas to life—whether it was launching new factories, driving marketing innovation, or just making things run better. Today, I bring that same strategic focus and collaborative energy to the Floating Homes Association, where I currently serve as President and work closely with the Board to strengthen and support our unique community.

My professional background includes creating innovation centers in Paris to step up global ad creativity, leading digital marketing for the World Cup from Berlin, and developing European music events with Apple Music while based in London. These experiences have given me a strong foundation in building high-performing teams, managing multicultural, complex projects, and delivering results in fast-changing environments.



Stafford, far left, with a group of his capeLABS volunteers

Now retired in Seattle, I live in a floating home in Eastlake with my wife Kristin and our fluffy dog Watson. In my role with the FHA, I'm focused on advancing a long-range strategic plan that supports our history, advocacy, environment, and member services. I believe the FHA Board should transition to a more strategic role, meeting quarterly vs monthly. This shift will enable our stronger committees to take the lead on execution while creating space for busy, high-level thinkers to serve on the board. It gives passionate individuals the opportunity to dive deep into specific areas—like Social, Environment, or History—where they can make a real impact. I see my role as providing support to new or growing committees when they need it, such as Brendan's Social Committee, while ensuring well-established teams, such as Melissa's Tour Committee, have the autonomy and resources to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

My role is to dive deep and elevate the organization to the next level—then collaborate with the right person as a new president with a different set of skills to take it even further.

Beyond the FHA, I founded capeLABS, a children's charity that leverages education and technology to prevent child sexual abuse. We focus on empowering guardians and children with the tools to recognize and stop harmful situations before they escalate. Our programs blend expert research with innovative digital content to create lasting impact. Best of all, the evidence shows it works.

I care deeply about community, effective leadership, and helping people live safer, more meaningful lives. As President, I'm committed to transparency, thoughtful planning, enhancing engagement with neighbors and government representatives, and fostering collaboration across docks to protect and celebrate our floating homes' life.

Contact: president@seattlefloatinghomes.org

Vice President Elect - Sheri Greaves



Hello, I'm Sheri Greaves. I have lived in Houseboat D ('the smiley-face houseboat') on Portage Bay Place East since 1982. I grew up in a small town in Southeast Missouri, affectionately referred to as the "Bootheel." I went to college at Arkansas State University, and received my Masters in Public Administration from the UW after moving to Seattle. During that time, I worked as the Office Manager at the Floating Homes Association part-time. That led to me joining the FHA Board in 1992. My main interests were (and still are) in legislative and urban affairs, so I was very involved in the effort to get the DNR lease 30 years ago, saving the floating homes on the University Dock from eviction, and drafting the regulations for floating homes in the Seattle Shoreline Master Plan as a member of the Board and Chair of the FHA Legislative Committee. I later served as President for several years.

My real job since 1992 has been working in various positions at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the last 20 years as a research administrator in the Public Health Sciences Division. My husband races boats so we spend a lot of weekends at small lakes and rivers around the PNW, and also at our cabin on Orcas Island.



I think the Floating Homes Association continues to make a difference in the lives of everyone in our community, and I look forward to continuing my relationship with the FHA for many years to come.

Secretary and Board of Directors member - Linda Knight

Hi, I'm Linda Gail Knight. I've lived on my floating home since 1969, and over the years, this community has become deeply woven into my life. I'm a retired registered nurse, and my late husband, Jim—who was a pediatrician—shared my love for this unique lifestyle. While he wasn't an FHA officer, he was always a strong supporter of our Association.



I helped organize our very first Floating Homes Tour back in the late '70s alongside Jan McFarland, and have continued to support community efforts since. These days, I assist with the quarterly Dock Leadership Team meetings and have volunteered with our intern Chloe to hunt FHA materials to archive.

"Behind that quick wit is a kindness and curiosity," says friend Kristin Green. "Linda is just so much fun to be around."

Outside the FHA, I've played violin with the Music Lovers group, raised a wonderful son who now teaches art and graphic novels at the college level, and enjoy regular long walks with a group of friends. I find the role of Secretary both entertaining and—despite rumors—completely possible. I'm happy to serve and contribute to the continued strength of our floating homes' community.



Board of Directors

**Meet the new 2025
elected Floating Homes
Association Leadership**



Melissa Ahlers

I've lived on a floating home for 25 years and feel deeply connected to this unique and vibrant community. I'm married and a proud mom to a wonderful 15-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old Havanese dog. I've been a realtor in this community for over 20 years, helping neighbors buy and sell floating homes with care and local insight. Along the way, I've even made appearances on a couple of reality TV real estate shows—though I'll be the first to tell you they're totally scripted!

I'm excited to be chairing the Floating Homes Association Home Tour on 9/7/2025, and I'm always looking for volunteers to join the team! If you're interested, call or text me at 206-356-2262 and join the fun!

David Boschwitz

Hi, I'm David Boschwitz. I'm a software engineer based in Seattle, currently working at Amazon in the Alexa for Enterprise division. My work focuses on building voice-enabled productivity tools that help organizations streamline communication and operations. I graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Software Engineering, where I led a senior design project on disaster relief technology as part of IBM's Call for Code initiative. That experience deepened my belief in using tech for good.

Growing up on Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota, I've always had a strong connection to water. After moving to Seattle, I found my way to a floating home



community and instantly felt at home. Now, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Seattle Floating Homes Association as the Director of Technology and Communications. It's been incredibly rewarding to apply my tech background to help strengthen communication and support within our community.

When I'm not coding or volunteering, you'll often find me behind a camera. I love photography—capturing adventures, portraits, and events is my creative outlet. You can check out some of my work at david.boschwitz.com.

Save the Dates:

FHA Paddle-up Dock Rock Concert,
August 15th, Portage Bay

Eastlake FHA Floating Homes Tour
Sept. 7th, Fairview Avenue East

Becca Galfer

I've lived on Flo Villa dock for more than 10 years, including 9 years as dock Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer, and now VP/Secretary. My husband, Derek Bottles, and I recently retired from 25+ year careers, so the time has come to expand our community involvement.

We are avid boaters with two 31-foot sailboats tied to our floating home, a 28-foot lobster boat in Anacortes, several small sailboats for racing, and myriad kayaks and dinghies on the lake and at our cabin on Lopez Island. We're headed to Lake Garda, Italy to compete in Tasar sailing worlds this summer. We also launched a business to provide marine surveying and interior yacht detailing.



I'm excited to lend my career experience as a designer and user experience design leader to updating the FHA website and logo. Your honest and unfettered input will be important!

Megan Sutherland

I've lived on a houseboat in Eastlake for over a decade now, and I love this quirky, close-knit community, with its proximity to both the city and to nature, and all it offers. It reminds me of the island where I grew up, where our neighbors were family, our doors were open, and our little homes on the water were places of refuge and joy.

I attended the University of Washington for both undergrad (English Literature) and grad school (Finance MBA). After moving to Eastlake right after college, I would walk the neighborhood and dream of life on a floating home, and was thrilled to make that a reality so many years later. I spent the early



Megan serves as Treasurer for the FHA as assigned by the Board

part of my career in finance, working at a small company, and then in finance and marketing at two of the region's larger employers. I am grateful for those experiences, the relationships I developed, and all that I learned, but I've more recently found the most meaning in community work. I currently serve as board chair of Safe Crossings Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping grieving kids heal and get back to being kids again after the loss of a loved one. Every day demonstrates the resilience of young people and the importance of community, and it's an honor to be involved.

It's such an unbelievable privilege to live in this little sanctuary, nestled quietly amidst the hustle of our vibrant and beautiful city, and to be part of this community - there's truly no place like it.

Floating Homes Association Committees



FHA Social - Brendan Lopez

My name is Brendan Lopez and I live on the Boston Rose Dock, two blocks south of Pete's Market. My first memory of a floating home comes from a car ride into the city, looking out on Portage Bay, through the window of my parent's 1996 minivan. I never imagined I would be living in a floating home. It all started when my then girlfriend, and now wife, insisted we move from a 900 sq/ft apartment to a 450 sq/ft single wide in March 2020. Five years, three moves and one sailboat later, the hooks are certainly in. I am so grateful for the experiences, friendships and conversations the floating home community has provided me. On land, I am a committed husband, responsible dog dad and practicing small business owner. I love cooking, writing, flossing, making coffee, bird watching and practicing yoga. Let's have some FUN!

Membership - Sarah Morlidge

I'm Sarah Morlidge. A few years ago, I downsized from a large suburban house in Sammamish to a floating home on Roanoke Reef—and I've never looked back. Originally from England, I now work as the Technology & Communications Director at a private school on the Eastside. I love the scenery and wide-open feel of Washington and have no plans to leave.

Living on Lake Union is a dream. In my spare time, you'll find me tending my P Patch allotment or out on the water—sometimes solo, sometimes with my husband, our kids, or our dog. These days, my role with the FHA is to help organize and streamline our membership records, making sure everything is tidy and up to date.



Environment- John Giaever

I'm John Giaever, a retired engineer who spent my career designing medical devices. I was born in Norway, raised in New York, and have called Washington home since 1977. After a couple of years on the

Olympic Peninsula, I moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington. I've lived on two houseboats over the years, including my current one on Westlake, so I know the floating home lifestyle well. In my free time, I love being outdoors and spending time on just about any type of watercraft. I care deeply about our Floating Homes' Community and am committed to helping it thrive while making sure the Lake's resources are shared fairly by everyone.

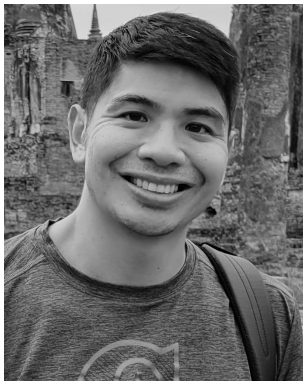


Leadership Update: In the coming weeks, John will step down as Committee Lead and continue contributing as a valued committee member, allowing him to focus more deeply on environmental issues he's especially passionate about.

Katheryn Hayes will take on the leadership role, continuing the committee's mission to protect and enhance the natural resources of Lake Union.

Welcome Committee - Stephanie Farrell

Hi! I live on The Log Foundation dock in Eastlake with my partner Dave and our crazy-sweet 5-mo puppy, Otis. We've been floating home owners for 2yrs, and the prior 30 was spent on Capitol Hill raising our 3 kids, Hannah, Connor, and Chloe. This year, Dave retired from a 40-year career in finance and I'm an architect, so one of us has a lot of vacation and the other one works all the time! We love the beauty and the simplicity of living on the lake in a close and caring community. Being in the FHA has helped us to feel even more connected and tap into priceless shared information. Look for me shopping at Pete's, drinking coffee at Fram, kayaking to work, running around the lake, picking up trash with my trash-grabbers, or scooping Otis's many poops :-)



Safety & Security - Jason Rungsigul

I'm Jason Rungsigul, a lifelong Pacific Northwest resident, and I've been enjoying life in the floating home community for the past four years. I'm a proud UW alum with degrees in electrical engineering and business, and I do my best to balance work with family life. My wife, Yao, and I are raising our energetic daughter, and when I'm not exploring new places or trying great food, you'll find me cheering on my favorite sports teams, playing tennis, or spending time outdoors with my family.

Chloe Obbayi, Intern

Hi, I'm Chloe Obbayi, a sophomore at Seattle Academy. I stay busy with sports like lacrosse, soccer, and skiing, and I'm also part of our school's mock trial team. Outside of school, I love to swim, go camping, and spend time with friends. I've always had a love for travel—I even lived in New Zealand for three years before returning to Seattle.

Right now, I'm helping Linda Knight organize the historical archives for Keasler Cottage, and later this summer, I'll be working with Stafford on a new lake map of the floating homes and local businesses – plus, helping with the Dock Rock Concert August 15.





A Kindred Group on the Water: RBAW and the FHA

By FHA News

While the Floating Home Association focuses on life here in Lake Union and Portage Bay, there's another group out there working on many of the same issues—but from a boater's perspective. The Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) is a nonprofit made up of volunteer boaters, plus a small professional team, that's been active for decades.

Like us, they care about keeping our waters safe, making sure taxes and regulations are fair, and ensuring places like Lake Union and Portage Bay are shared thoughtfully among boaters, homeowners, paddlers, and businesses. They also do a lot of work in Olympia—tracking legislation, supporting Harbor Patrol funding, pushing for derelict vessel removal, and protecting access for everyday boaters.

While our missions are not exactly the same, we often find ourselves aligned in wanting a well-balanced, well-cared-for lakes and bays. The FHA is building a new partnership to support one another in reaching our shared goals. To learn more about them, visit www.rbaw.org.

Government and Neighborhood Relations Report

By Sheri Greaves, Committee Chair

Since joining the Board last year, I've had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Government and Neighborhood Relations Committee. It's been a productive and active year, focused on two pressing issues that have been on the Board agenda for many years: the Seattle City Light (SCL) meter policy and the new DNR lease process.

Early on, Stafford and I met with the two SCL representatives responsible for Fairview Avenue. They were cooperative and constructive, and I believe we reached a sensible outcome. In short, unless an owner in their home significantly increases their electrical load, SCL will not require meters to be relocated to shore; the existing setup—where the meter remains on the floating home—will continue to be allowed. Should a change be necessary in the future, it would apply only to that specific home, not the entire dock. While there are additional nuances, the key takeaway is that there is no widespread enforcement of a move-to-shore requirement for existing structures. This topic was reviewed at our last Dock Leadership Meeting at the College Club, and, if requested, we are to happy have another session to go over it in more detail.

On the DNR lease front, the state is sending out letters to dock representatives as leases approach expiration. These letters ask whether the dock intends to renew and encourage early submission of the application—ideally one year before the current lease ends. Although the application can appear daunting at first glance, it is largely a matter of reusing the information from your current lease. My own dock is among the first to expire, so I'm currently completing our application and am happy to assist others as they begin this process. Once submitted, DNR will schedule a meeting to discuss terms. Unlike 30 years ago, when floating homes had a unique lease structure, the new lease applies broadly to all aquatic lands. Thankfully, Amalia Walton, experienced with the process, has once again worked closely with DNR to protect the interests of the floating home community. This topic was also discussed at our most recent Dock Leadership meeting.

To support better communication and collaboration, we are hosting informal discussions with dock leaders quarterly (versus annually in previous years). These small-group discussions help surface dock-specific issues and allow leaders to bring insights back to their communities. These meetings have been well received, and we encourage you to share topics of interest with your Dock Board member. You may also email me directly at slrgreaves2025@outlook.com if you have suggestions for future discussions.

The Board has also adopted a new framework to help prioritize the issues we take on. Our goal is to ensure that resources are used responsibly and that initiatives benefit the broader floating home community. In the months ahead, I'll be focusing on helping docks complete their DNR applications and working with them to ensure the appropriate upland parcel is used—an important factor in managing lease costs. Additionally, I plan to engage with the King County Assessor's Office to better understand the methods used in valuing floating homes and the associated upland parcels. It's worth noting that while DNR administers the lease, the rate is based on the appraised value of the upland property—so accuracy here is critical.

If you're interested in joining the Government and Neighborhood Relations Committee or would like to help with any of these efforts, please don't hesitate to reach out. We welcome all who want to contribute to our community.

Learnings from Fire Station 22 Emergency Drill on 2025 Dock

By Jason Rungsigul,
The Safety Committee

Summer is here, and with it comes more time spent on the dock-grilling, relaxing, and enjoying the sunshine. But with increased activity and warmer weather, the risk of fires on docks and houseboats also goes up. That's why preparation and knowing what to expect are so important for all of us.

Recently, Fire Station 22 (Roanoke) held a comprehensive emergency training drill on one of The Log Foundation's docks. The firefighters were not only highly professional, but also took the time to walk through their procedures, planning, and "what if" scenarios that could arise during a dockside emergency. Their visit was a great opportunity for both firefighters and residents to learn how emergency response works and what we can all do to stay safe.

In the event of a fire on a dock, the first and most important step is to call 911 immediately. Harbor Patrol is usually the first to arrive, followed closely by the initial fire truck. In a real fire emergency, firefighters will prioritize accessibility and park as close to the scene as possible, regardless of standard parking spots. The first fire truck on scene carries roughly 500 gallons of water, which is used in coordination with Harbor Patrol to begin fighting the fire. When additional fire trucks arrive, they will connect to the nearest hydrant to maintain a continuous water supply and support the ongoing firefighting efforts.

Key Safety Reminders

Know Your Exits: Always identify your nearest exit and a safe path out before taking any action.

Personal Safety: If you attempt to fight a fire, ensure you have a clear escape route in case conditions worsen.

Electrical Hazards: Never touch downed electrical lines under any circumstances. "Off" electrical lines can suddenly turn back on.



Scan here to view photos

Additional Tips for Dock Safety:

Communicating with Firefighters: Share any relevant information about people's status or location with any firefighter on scene.

Firefighters wearing bright helmets serve as coordinators and are the best contacts for relaying critical information.

Dock Markings: Posting the total dock length at the head of the dock helps firefighters estimate how much hose they'll need. Even better: mark the dock in 50-foot increments all the way to the end.

Dock Maps: Having a houseboat map posted at the dock entrance showing the location of each houseboat can significantly speed up emergency response and coordination.

Get Involved and Stay Prepared! We're currently working on an emergency contact fridge magnet for every household to make sure key numbers are always close at hand. Also, I'm looking for neighbors to join the Safety Committee-it's just me right now, and even a little help can make a big difference for our community's safety and preparedness. If you're interested, please reach out:

contact@seattlefloatinghomes.org

A big thank you to everyone who participated and to the dedicated team at Fire Station 22 for their professionalism and commitment to our community's safety.



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restorations at Keasler Cottage and Terry Pettus Park, modernizing communications, amplifying the FHA's role in neighborhood and city affairs—and positioning Seattle's floating home community as an even more valuable civic partner to the city.

Stafford emphasized the FHA's focus on being "more useful and more fun," while becoming a cherished and contributing part of the broader Seattle community—a true "net provider of good." He closed his remarks by encouraging everyone to get involved, noting that continued volunteer support is essential to keeping our quirky, connected, and vibrant community thriving in the heart of downtown. FHA business was to follow.

Key to the evening's events and as required by FHA By-laws, was the election of its new Board of Directors by its membership. Familiar faces returning to the Board include Melissa Ahlers, David Boschwitz, Linda Knight, Sheri Graves, and Megan Sutherland. Newcomer, Becca Galfer also was elected to serve. Their combined experience from communications and event planning to design and community organizing energizes the FHA for an exciting year ahead.

Committee chairs updated the hard work going on behind the scenes. Melissa Ahlers announced the 2025 Floating Homes Tour on Sunday September 7th from 12pm to 5pm. Sheri Greaves offered her legislative insights from Seattle City Lights to DNR leases to floating homes' property evaluations. Safety initiatives from Jason Rungsigul include reintroducing a "fridge magnet" with emergency numbers and a focus on fire prevention. Rounding out chair input was David Boschwitz's outline on improvements to FHA's digital systems and Megan Sutherland's financial snapshot. Stafford added information about the FHA Historical Archive project powered by AI, and the FHA Social's planned mid-August Dock Rock concert in Portage Bay.

Invited special guests and speakers highlighted the evening addressing the major interests of floating homes FHA members in light of their responses to its 2024 Survey of Floating Homes Residents. Of utmost concern were neighborhood & legislative relations and the environment. To that end, our own District 3 Council member, Joy Hollingsworth acknowledged the importance of our floating homes community as a partner to the city in her enlivened remarks to meeting participants. Jenifer Chou and Maribel Stephens, representatives of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, were also on hand to actively engage with our community to build closer ties with the city. On the environmental front, Author- Naturalist David B. Williams introduced his book, "Wild in Seattle: Stories at the Crossroads of People and Nature," to inspire floating homes residents to connect with its lake environment and to look closely at the rich natural world it provides around us, an environment to be treasured and protected.

As the sun was setting over Portage Bay, the meeting was coming to its end and one of its best parts of the gathering was participants left with a shared sense of purpose whether it be to push the City to restore Terry Pettus Park, to reimagine Keasler Cottage or by simply signing up to volunteer to help the FHA realize its mission. With full stomachs from a fantastic buffet, arms filled with goodies from the Popup "Houseboatique," heads brimming with FHA committee updates, and memories of a wonderful evening, neighbors and friends from the floating homes community left the 2025 FHA Annual Meeting feeling upbeat and engaged.

By Heidi Eagleton

Lake Life to Lift-Off: A Floating Home Neighbor at Blue Origin

Sailing and aerospace might seem worlds apart—but both demand sharp navigation, flawless coordination, and a deep respect for forces beyond our control. For Holly Deuterman, a lifelong sailor and Senior Technical Program Manager at Blue Origin, the connection is clear. Whether trimming sails in a regatta or aligning cross-functional teams for a rocket launch, she's drawn to environments where precision matters and the stakes are high.

Holly is a Senior Technical Program Manager at Blue Origin, the private aerospace company founded by Jeff Bezos with a mission to build a future where millions of people live and work in space. While her day-to-day focus is on managing complex programs, she brings a sailor's mindset to her work—adaptable, solution-driven, and always scanning the horizon.



That same curiosity and drive have fueled her parallel passion for STEM outreach, a role she proudly embraces at Blue Origin. One of her most meaningful moments came during a recent New Shepard NS-31 rocket launch, where her team of volunteers was recognized for their education efforts. "It's incredibly rewarding to support the next generation and promote inclusivity in aerospace," she says.

Holly's sailing roots run deep—she started learning the ropes with her dad at age 10 on a small lake in North Carolina. Her talent quickly caught wind. She went on to sail competitively at the College of Charleston and, at just 19, became the youngest member of the team that won their first Offshore National Championship. "Sailing has always been my outlet for adventure and my home away from home," she says.

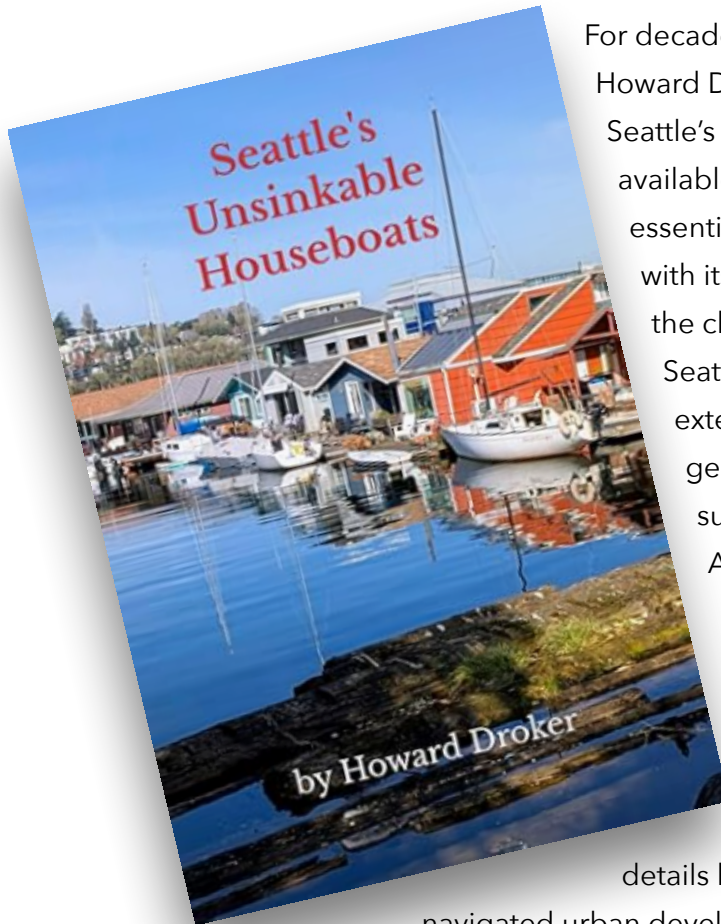
That sense of navigation carries over into her role at Blue Origin. As a program manager, she coordinates across nearly every business unit and with external partners. "Like being a bowman on a racing yacht, program management means you're often the first to react, the one responsible when things go wrong, and the last to take credit when they go right," she laughs. "It's a great way to stay humble."

When asked what excites her most about her job, Holly doesn't hesitate: "Promoting women in STEM. I'm proud to be part of a company like Blue Origin that backs that up with action."



Howard Droker's Houseboat Classic Returns to Benefit Our Community

The classic is now preserved forever in digital and print-on-demand thanks to our volunteer team and the generosity of Howard Droker



For decades, Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats by Howard Droker has stood as the definitive account of Seattle's floating home history. Long out of print and available only through rare original copies, this essential book is now back in circulation, reissued with its original 1977 text. It offers a new generation the chance to explore the colorful legacy of Seattle's houseboats and waterfront life. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Howard Droker for generously allowing this reprint, with all profits supporting the work of the Floating Homes Association.

From humble beginnings to a thriving alternative housing movement, Seattle's houseboats have been home to working-class laborers, artists, bootleggers, and adventurers. Droker details how our unique floating communities navigated urban development, Prohibition, the Great Depression, and conflicts with land-based residents, ultimately shaping Seattle's



This book is available **now** in both print and Kindle edition on Amazon at a special discounted price for a few days so Floating Home Residents may buy multiple copies as gifts. Use the QR code to the left, or google "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats Amazon"

FHA Volunteer Project Team: Idea (Sheri Greaves), Project Lead (Stafford Green), Kate Leroux (Layout, Proofreader), Craig Dewey (Proofreader) and Brian Demkowicz (Scanner).



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Wondering what your floating home is worth?

I live on a floating home at Mallard Cove and know the lake market well! So if you're curious about your floating home's value, or you're thinking of selling, I'd be happy to chat.



MATT GOYER
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