



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 154

Newsletter

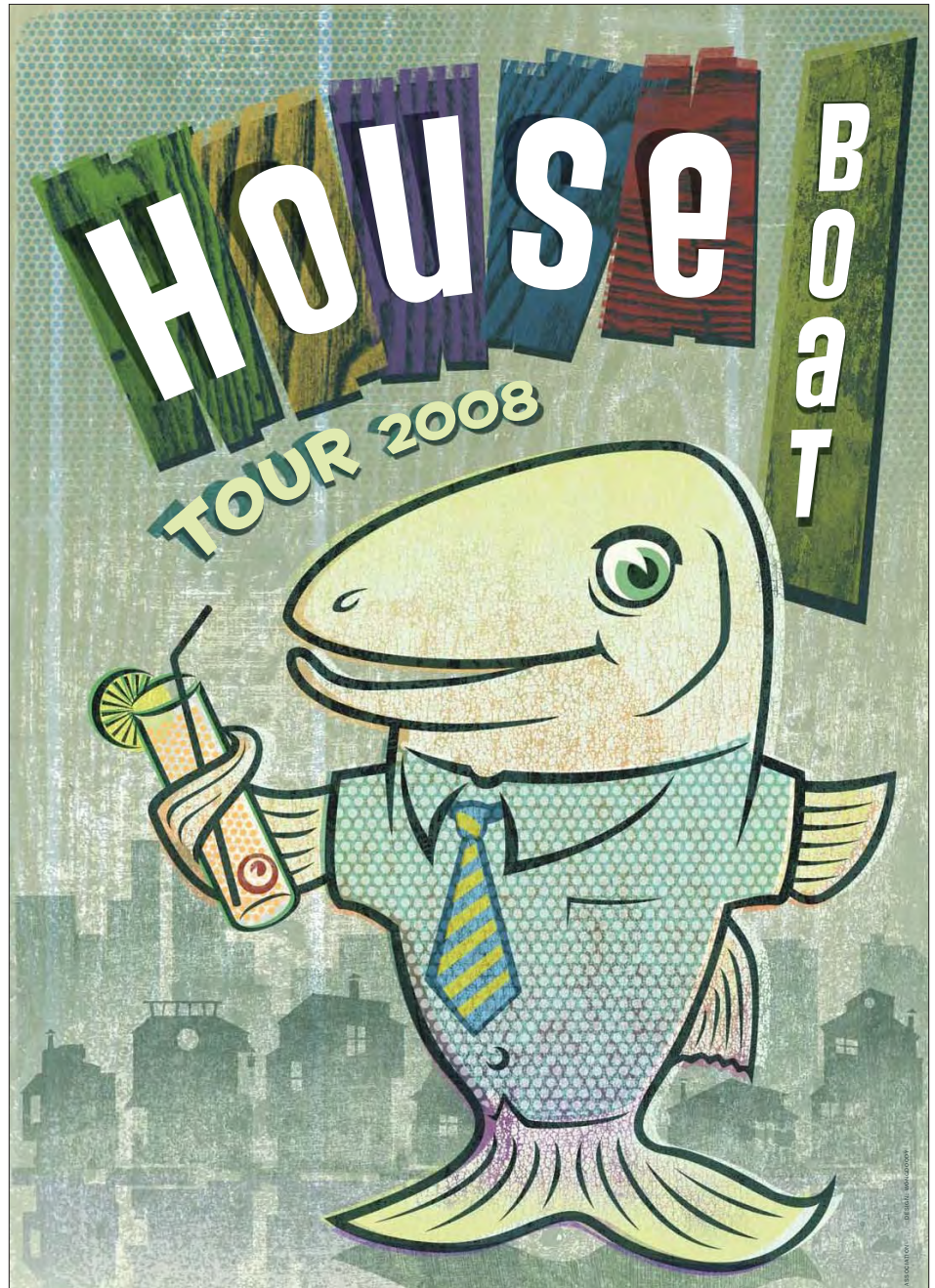
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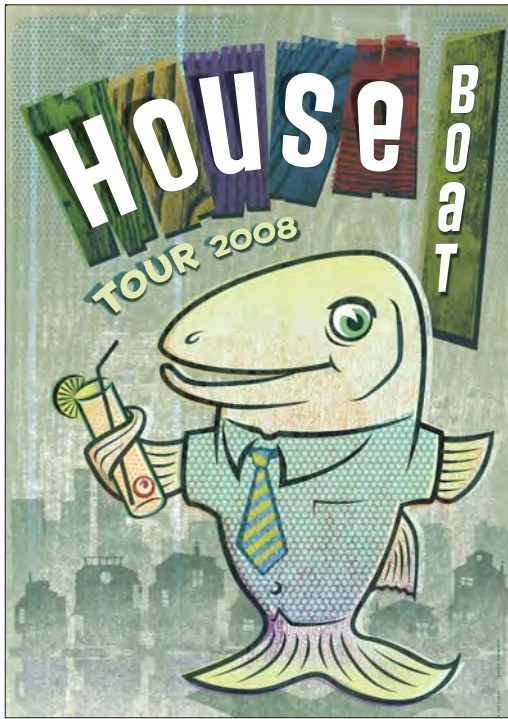
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Floating Homes Tour 2008 !!

See page 2



by Melissa Ahlers

Hey everyone! The 2008 Houseboat Tour is almost here! Thanks to the work of the committee this year is going to be one of the best yet. There will be 12 houseboats on the tour in east Lake Union and Portage Bay. Once again, we need lots of volunteers, so please make sure to sign up to host at one of the homes -- remember you will get to tour for free! The local flavor and community spirit is a large part of what is so special about this wonderful place we call home.

Tour participants will again have the opportunity to discover the fun, special life afloat. They will delight at the views of Lake Union and the Seattle city skyline from end moorage houseboats and roof top decks, to watery porthole views from an underwater basement! The history of the lake will be enjoyed by touring the early 1900's UW Women's Canoe House. Participants will appreciate an original Chinook shack where fishermen would dry their nets on the roof. The artwork in the homes on the tour promise that,

sometimes, the views inside are as compelling as those outside. And, of course visitors will enjoy the ever present access to the water that creates a mood and lifestyle all its own.

Tickets are \$25 each, and can be purchased in advance through Brown Paper Tickets, **www.brownpapertickets.com or 800.838.3006**. Remaining tickets, if any, will be sold the day of the tour, beginning at 11:30 a.m., at Terry Pettus Park at the foot of East Newton Street, on Fairview Avenue East. Numbers will be limited; advance purchase will guarantee viewing. The admission price includes transportation via shuttle bus between East Lake Union and Portage Bay. Participants will walk from dock to dock beginning at any home they wish. Comfortable, slip-on shoes are strongly recommended. The tour will take place rain or shine; free espresso drinks and restroom facilities will be provided.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

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Summer 2008



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Now and Then

Newsletter: **Marilyn,
Jann, Bill**

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Please visit seattlefloatinghomes.org

Most of the photos in the *Newsletter* are in **color**. See the originals online on our website. Our archives include this issue and go back to 2002.

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

Association Standing Committee Reports



Legislative & Legal Sheri Greaves, Chair

Lakefish Houseboat Permit: Update By Marty Greer

After appealing the decision denying a building permit for the houseboat proposed by Mark and Heather Lakefish, as reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the permit for the originally proposed houseboat has been issued and construction is underway.

After the appeal was filed, the City Attorney reviewed the decision and decided to settle the case with the Lakefishes and issue the permit, with two conditions. The issues in denying the original permit were that the 12 foot concrete float would (1) impede fish migration, (2) be an added heat source in the water, and (3) added sealant on the concrete float might chemically pollute the water. The City acknowledged that in fact the 12 foot float was less deep than the existing float and therefore would not be an increased impediment to fish migration; the Lakefishes agreed to increase the float insulation to R-40 from R-30; and agreed they would move the float into drydock if it needed repairs in the future instead of making repairs under water.

Unfortunately, this revised decision still includes reference to "the amount of additional floating material that has been added to keep the floating home afloat. There are no records regarding of (sic) permits or exemption review for this material." This seems to imply that some kind of permit or review is required in order to add flotation to houseboats. The decision does, however, omit the statement in the original decision that houseboat floats should be no deeper than 6 feet. The revised decision was only sent to the pertinent parties and not published online.

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Association Standing Committee Reports

Communications

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

The newsletter editors hope you have visited the new web site. Since we went on line in April, there have been quite a few updates. Look at the Environmental page. There is a great deal going on with the Shoreline Master Program, and, Bob Bowman has explained how the changes to the SMP might impact individual houseboaters. As always, Safety and Security reports on relations with the Police and Fire Departments and keeps tabs of crime via Dock Watch. Now you can find up to the minute information on the FHA web site.

The FHA Tour has information updates as they occur. There are significant changes in ticketing so check the web site.

Remember, you can go to the Forum for on-going conversations. If you don't find much there yet, send in your own comments, pet peeves, or questions. The web site is a terrific way to communicate with one another about local concerns. Besides the SMP, we are likely to see serious changes to the 520 Bridge, there is a possibility of a streetcar along Eastlake to connect us to the University district, and the new Lake Union Trail will increase bicycle and foot traffic around the lake. Any of these issues get your dander up? Write into the Forum page.

And what about sharing your special photos? Got some good summer dock shots? Share them

on the FHA web site. Just returned from a great summer vacation? Check out the gallery and show off photos of that special trip.

Are you missing Bob Lilly? Well, he's back! In early September you can find his latest offering: Color in Winter: What to plant when those annuals droop and die.

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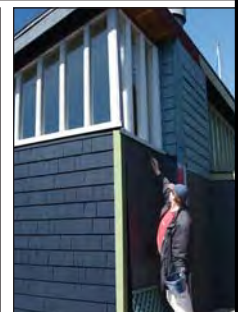
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Association Standing Committee Reports

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Mary and Giff Jones, Co-Chairs

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The Floating Homes Tour 2008 will be September the 7th from noon to 5 p.m. The Houseboatique will be offering a special commemorative T-shirt with this year's theme, a partying fish! Quantities will be limited and will be for sale starting tour day at 11:30 a.m. at the Houseboatique booth at the foot of E. Newton at Fairview Ave. E. We will also be selling a variety of our other houseboat theme items including our new folding umbrella.

If you want to volunteer to work in the Houseboatique booth for the tour please contact, Linda Valentine, liva@zgi.com and remember if you work one tour shift you get a complimentary ticket to do the tour on the other shift.



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

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SEATTLE POLICE HARBOR PATROL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 17

NEW 24 HR DUTY RIG: The Police Harbor Unit changed to a 24 hour duty rig last year and is now surveying public users about their service. Please contact Jann McFarland at the FHA office or anyone at the Harbor Patrol for a copy of this brief survey. Your responses are appreciated.

4th OF JULY. The Harbor Unit lifted a long-standing, unofficial policy allowing overnight anchoring in the south end of Lake Union on July 4th. Many disgruntled boaters complained about the early a.m. eviction. The policy will undergo revision to make it official one way or the other.

SEAFAIR. Much publicity is planned over boater safety for this weekend, especially emphasizing no tolerance for operation of a vessel while intoxicated.

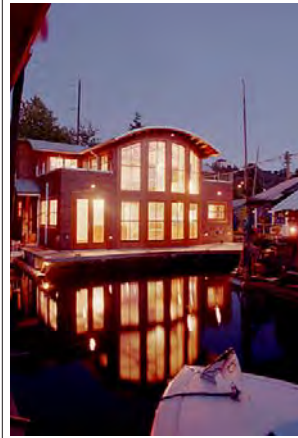
BOATING TOO CLOSE. Some boaters are operating too close to houseboat docks on the open waters of Lake Union and Portage Bay according to complaints. Even though there's no specific law against it, common sense and safe operating practices infer that boaters keep clear of swimming areas, which are restricted by the Harbor Code, to within 50 feet of a structure or a boat.

SEATTLE WATER & BOATING. Regulations & information on boating in Seattle waters is covered in pamphlets produced by the Harbor Patrol through an Allstate Insurance grant. Copies are immediately available at the Harbor Patrol Office next to Gas Works Park.

RADAR SPEED CHECKS. The Harbor Patrol expects to acquire several radar guns to detect speeding boaters, especially on Lake Union, Portage Bay, and other restricted speed zones inside the Cut.

URGENTLY NEEDED

A representative from the Floating Homes Community is needed to attend monthly Police Department West Precinct community relations meetings on the 2nd Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00 AM at 8th and Virginia. The West Precinct covers all of our community from Lynn Street south and clockwise along Westlake to the Fremont Bridge. Please contact Giff Jones, 206giff@raincity.com, Tiff McNamara, tiffmcnamara1@aim.com, or Jann McFarland at the FHA Office, jann@seattlefloatinghomes.biz



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Floating Homes

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Address	Sales Price
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2031 Fairview Ave E #N	575,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #K	635,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #P	665,000
2219 Fairview Ave E #10	787,000
2235 Fairview Ave E #10	1,010,000
2339 Fairview Ave E #M	1,080,900
2339 E Fairview Ave #N	1,350,000
2600 Fairview Ave E #2	898,000
2600 Fairview Ave E #11	865,000
3125 Fairview Ave E #B	568,400
10 E Roanoke St #2	2,395,000
10 E Roanoke St #4	2,341,500
1213 E Shelby St #5	929,500
1214 E Hamlin #8	1,200,000
3110 Portage Bay Pl. E #F	797,770
2466 Westlake Ave N #5	1,400,000
933 N Northlake Way #1	820,000

I helped many of our fellow houseboaters buy & sell real estate in 2007 (*italics above*); let me help **you** in 2008!



Melissa Ahlers, Realtor
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Association Standing Committee Reports



Environmental

Bob Bowman, Chair

The Lake Union/Portage Bay Sweep was once again a great success. Overall, the Sweep had about 250 participants, including boaters, shore volunteers and event support. About 2.1 tons (4360 lbs) of trash was recovered. This year the Environmental Committee had set a goal of beating last year's record turnout for the Sweep -- and we did, just barely. Our number last year was 39, and this year we had 40 houseboaters participating in the Sweep. The weather was not as good as last year, but it didn't get in the way of the floating home community pitching in to clean up our water backyard. This annual event is organized by Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. The FHA is one of the prime sponsors and a major source of volunteers. Thanks to everyone who volunteered this year. We hope to see even more FHA participants next year. See you May 2009.

I want to thank Susan Susor for her great work on the Environmental Committee this past year. She is resigning because of work commitments. And, I also want to welcome Ingrid Rasch as our newest Committee member. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee, please contact me at bobbowman2@msn.com.

Seattle Shorelines Master Program Revision

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to establish a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Seattle is now in the process of updating its SMP. This revision of Seattle's SMP will result in new regulations and standards for 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 and the FHA is a participant on the committee. Bob Bowman, Chair of the FHA Environmental Committee, is your CAC representative.

Please see the FHA website for more details. Continuously updated information is available on the website as well as links to the most current information from the City of Seattle SMP website.

Questions or comments: please email Bob Bowman at bobbowman2@msn.com

FHA Board Changes

The FHA Board welcomes new member, Molly Cadranel, from the Fairview Landing dock at 2369 Fairview Avenue E. Our many thanks to Michele Finnegan, Dox Co-op, who has resigned her position as Secretary.

There are a couple of open positions on the Board. Interested? Contact Jann McFarland at 206.323.3489.

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Nutria Endanger Local Wetlands

By Diana Forman

Exotic imported nutria - large rodents brought to Washington State from South America for their pelts in the 1930's - are back with a vengeance. Their voracious appetite for the stems, roots, and rhizomes of water and shoreline plants carves up marshlands, and their burrowing habit destabilizes waterside banks. Aided by an alarmingly high reproduction rate, nutria rapidly destroy habitat for water birds such as ducks and grebes; for salmon and other fish, and for muskrats, beaver, and other wetland species. Such destruction is underway in the Madison Park area of Lake Washington, in Laurelhurst and throughout Union Bay, along University of Washington shorelines, and in south Portage Bay.

Annie Stixrood (astixrood@comcast.net) of FABNIA, the Fuhrman and Boyer Neighborhood Improvement Association, recently formed a nutria subcommittee and organized meetings of concerned citizens from several neighborhoods, including the floating homes community, with representatives of the US Department of Agriculture and the Seattle Parks and Recreation. Plans are underway to secure funding from public agencies, private citizens, and local organizations in order to hire the USDA to control the population.



Nutria

More information on the nutria problem, methods of control, nutria identification, and how to report sightings can be found on the FHA website under "Our Environment." The site also features a recent article on Seattle's nutria population by PI environmental reporter Lisa Stiffler and links to helpful websites.

Diana Forman lives on Shelby Group Moorage in Portage Bay. She is an active FHA member and is on the Environmental Committee.

LAKE UNION TRAIL UPDATE

By Amalia Walton

The Lake Union Trail Citizen Advisory Group began meeting in May and includes representatives from, among others, The Floating Homes Association, the Center for Wooden Boats, Seattle Bike Advisory Board, Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board, Lake Union Dry Dock, and the Eastlake Community Council. The main goal of the first meeting was to create guiding principles for the Lake Union Trail Project. Led by project manager, Terry Reckord of MacLeod Reckord, meeting attendees created the following five point list of guiding principles:

1. Create a safe corridor that accommodates a variety of uses and provides a high quality experience.

2. Be a good neighbor to all the diverse users and communities around the Lake.

3. Create an identity for the loop that reflects the cultural and natural history of Lake Union and reflects the unique qualities of each adjoining neighborhood and community.



Walking Fish Tile

4. Make physical connections that link neighborhoods, local resources and the Lakefront.

5. Create opportunities for the larger community to engage in both the planning and long-term stewardship of the loop.

In addition to the May and June meetings, an open house was held on Tuesday, June seventeenth and many houseboaters were in attendance. It's our hope that, in addition to attending future open houses, Floating Homes Association members will communicate their concerns directly to the Board through amaliawalton@gmail.com, so we can make sure our voice is heard.

Our most recent communication with the city emphasized the need to protect parking all along the trail, use the Green Street plans that have already been created for the south end of Fairview E. from Fuhrman E. to E. Newton and preserve wildlife habitat at street ends, especially the Edgar Street End. Trail Advisory Group meetings will resume in the fall and a walking tour for group participants is being planned.

Floating Homes Association's ANNUAL MEETING 2008

By Marilyn Robertson

The 2008 FHA Annual Meeting was held on April 22nd at the South Lake Union Armory. During the pre-meeting social hour, members enjoyed the refreshments while they shopped at the Houseboatique and visited tables displayed with information and handouts on various community-related topics. They also mingled with old friends, folks new to houseboat life, scheduled speakers, and FHA Board members.

Fire Chief Gregory Dean, first speaker of the evening, had his audience laughing when he admitted to some misperceptions about houseboat living. He moved on to behind-the-scene accounts of recent waterside infernos and concluded with encouraging words to the community. He suggested houseboaters could learn more about fire prevention by inviting SFD representatives to individual docks.

The second guest speaker, David Graves, representative for the Lake Union Trail from the Seattle Parks Department, described plans in the works for the trail. Amalia Walton is the FHA representative on this project. (See related article) Then, Barb Donnette of Tenas Chuck talked about the 'walking fish' tile project and the possible use of these tiles as markers on the new Lake Union Trail/Loop.

Committee reports, a yearly staple of the annual meeting, focused on the future of our lake. Reminders of upcoming events: The Lake Union Sweep and the 2008 FHA Tour were offered. Bob Bowman spoke on how the proposed changes to the Shoreline Management Act could affect the community. Bill Keasler introduced the new web site and encouraged members to join in discussions on the Community Forum page.



photo by Marilyn Robertson

Rick Miner, June Fauchald, Sid McFarland and Marty Greer during happy hour.



photo by Marilyn Robertson

Attentive audience during LUTrail discussion

During the FHA Board elections, new member, Molly Cadranell was welcomed onto the Board. Then, President Bill Keasler presented a brief history of Lake Union as a Working Lake and discussed his views on adapting to change on our neighborhood lake.

The meeting ended with a Houseboatique raffle of bottles of wine and T-shirts.

See more photos of the meeting on the Association web site.



photo by Rick Miner

Raffle winner Joyce Miner and prize at end of Annual Meeting.

The Squirrelman of Eastlake

by Janet Yoder

During the summer of 2006, we at the north end of Eastlake neighborhood heard pounding in the evening and into the night. It was hard to pinpoint the source of the pounding because we live under the roar of the freeway bridge. But we knew someone was building something nearby. A fall windstorm blew enough leaves off the trees in the green belt below the freeway to reveal the new project - a treehouse. We admired it. We were curious. We chatted with neighbors about it. Then we met the builder - Dave Csaky.

The treehouse Dave built was not a child's treehouse, nor an architect's dream; more like a dilapidated carousel perched in a tree. Dave's treehouse was a chaotic, organic, non-square construction of plywood on two-by-fours on beams bolted into the strongest strategic branches of a maple and two linden trees on a hillside below the I-5 ship canal bridge. Dave's view was a realtor's rhapsody. Sunset. Olympic Mountain peaks. Lake Union. Kayaks. Rowboats. Tugboats. Party boats. Dave's treehouse felt surprisingly solid under foot and only swayed slightly in significant winds. Dave's treehouse was topped by a big brown tarp, nailed in place with lathe board. It reached up to a central tree trunk, like a circus tent. Wind blew through Dave's treehouse because it was open, except for his camp tent, which held his single bunk and cages for: his ferret, Rainbow; his pet rat, Lucky; and his balance-impaired squirrel, Tilt.

Dave Csaky had been homeless for nearly a year. He built a shelter on the ground on the west side of Harvard Avenue. It got bulldozed. Then he camped in the green belt below the freeway between Eastlake and Fairview. But, as he said, "It was damp, dirty and full of brambles." So he nailed a piece of plywood to a couple of tree branches, climbed up, and slept on it. From that small platform, Dave began building a treehouse to call home. He called it home for nearly two years. He got to know his neighbors, invited us up to tour his arboreal home and meet his adopted animals. My husband Robby Rudine donated a Tui Tui mailbox that Dave nailed to his tree to receive mail from neighbors and friends. Jim Ross gave Dave a block and tackle to so Dave could more easily get his scrap lumber up into the tree. Others helped Dave with kerosene lamps, hand warmers, paint, used furniture, flannel sheets, even ferret food. In turn, night owl Dave kept an eye on the area when most of us were sleeping. Dave confronted junkies and drove off troublemakers. In other words he was a good, if quirky, neighbor.

But Dave's treehouse was on city property, specifically the City Light right-of-Way. On Monday, April 7, the city posted a notice for Dave to vacate in 48 hours. Dave was devastated and sought my help. I contacted Josh Trujillo, Post-Intelligencer photographer. Josh was a former Eastlake resident and had already met and photographed Dave. Josh came with reporter Mike Lewis to interview Dave, the neighbors, and get the story out.

The PI published the story April 8. Photographs of Dave and his treehouse flew around the Internet. Local TV news crews showed up to interview Dave. His story went national on CNN and Fox. KIRO talk radio recorded a show in Dave's treehouse. Because Dave had rescued an injured squirrel and because he fed all the squirrels that visited his treehouse, Dave became known to the world as squirrelman. All the media attention got him a small reprieve: The city posted a new notice to vacate, giving Dave 10 days instead of 48 hours.

Neighbors rallied. Legally Dave had no choice but to move. We decided to try to find a used RV for Dave. Brandon Ferrante and Maria Bolander searched craigslist for possibilities. One stood out: Tim and Amy Custer had a used RV for sale and they agreed to a "squirrelman discount." I went to the bank to get enough cash to pay for it, knowing

others would chip in. When Tim and Amy showed up in their RV and met Dave, toured his treehouse, saw the support for him, they sold him the RV for a penny.

The next challenge was finding a place for Dave to live in his RV. People who read the news story e-mailed me with suggestions and a couple of offers. Documentary filmmaker Kevin Heutink and I gathered the offers and discussed them with Dave. Two sounded viable. So off we went to check them out. One ended up being just right and that is where Dave Csaky now lives, on 80 acres in Skagit County where he helps with the care of animals in exchange for a place to live in his RV. He moved there on April 20. The woman who owns the property is happy with the arrangement; so is Dave.

Dave got a volunteer crew to help dismantle his treehouse. A City Light crew came to clear away the discarded lumber and to trim the branches. The city also posted signs saying no trespassing or loitering.

On June 21, Dave and his landlady hosted a barbecue at his Skagit County home for some of his Eastlake neighbors. In addition to working with animals, former Eagle Scout Dave is now a part-time ranger at a Boy Scout Camp. Dave sends greetings to all the folks he knows in Eastlake. Though he misses his treehouse and the Eastlake neighborhood, Dave is thriving in his new home.

Update on The Squirrelman

Janet Yoder, Robby Rudine and their tenants, Brandon Ferrante and Maria Bolander, contributed to buy Dave a used pickup truck he can use for transportation and work. Any donations toward that purchase are welcome and can be mailed to "Squirrel Man" fund at Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa Street, Seattle, WA 98102.

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Eastlake

By Chris Leman, ECC Vice President, SKYSCRAPERS FOR SOUTH LAKE UNION- UNLESS YOU ACT

Our neighborhood's view of the Space Needle and the downtown skyline would lose to a proposal for 300 and 400 feet towers in South Lake Union on land now vacant or where most buildings are under 40 feet. The Space Needle is just over 600 feet tall, so properties, parks, and the Lake Union Loop could lose that view forever. The Eastlake Community Council's board of directors officially opposes the towers. The City Council members need to hear from you, and if you write them, ECC would appreciate a copy, to 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102, or info@eastlakeseattle.org. The City Council mailing address is P.O. Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025, and the e-mail and voice mail contacts are:

sally.clark@seattle.gov 684-8802
tim.burgess@seattle.gov 684-8806
tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov 684-8808
jean.godden@seattle.gov 684-8807
richard.conlin@seattle.gov 684-8805
jan.drango@seattle.gov 684-8801
bruce.harrell@seattle.gov 684-8804
nick.licata@seattle.gov 684-8803
richard.mciver@seattle.gov 684-8800

COMMENTS URGENT ON CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE

The Seattle Department of Transportation is considering major changes in the Residential Parking Zone Program: (1) Fees would increase substantially from the current \$35/two years; (2) the UW subsidy for permits north of Roanoke Street would be eliminated; (3) Eastlake's Zone 8 would no longer allow unlimited permits, with each household limited to two; and (4) the guest permit program would be changed from one permit good all the time, to multiple permits, each good for one day (thus allowing multiple guests), with a "low" fee for the first few packages, and higher fees for subsequent packages, and each household allowed no more than 100 days of guest permits per year.

The City needs your comments on these proposed changes (and please also send a copy to the Eastlake Community Council at 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102, or info@eastlakeseattle.org). The comment deadline is October 20. To read the proposals, comment, or fill out a questionnaire: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/rpz_policy_review.htm. Written comments may also go to Mary Catherine Snyder at SDOT, PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996 or
marycatherine.snyder@seattle.gov.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Eastlake Community Council builds community and enhances the neighborhood only with your help. We are all-volunteer, so donations of cash, stock, bequests, or real estate go a long way. And most valuable to us are your skills and volunteer time. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

1. Care for a park, shoreline, street, alley, graffiti-marred area, or other corner of creation
 2. Join the ECC board of directors or serve on its land use committee to help review projects
 3. Distribute the Eastlake News on your block or nearby.
 4. Help organize an Eastlake auction, tour, art walk, cruise, neighborhood-wide day of yard sales-or invent something new!
 5. Contribute photos and memories for the history of Eastlake, put together a historical exhibit, or connect us up with others who have a story to tell.
 6. Organize a block or dock watch for crime prevention and disaster preparedness
 7. Help with filing in the Eastlake archives.
 8. Enlarge, organize, and annotate ECC's digital photo archives
 9. Submit an article for the Website or the Eastlake News.
 10. Represent the ECC on the TOPS Site Council, an advisory body to the alternative school that is located in the Seward building.
- Want to learn more? Visit www.eastlakeseattle.org or write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, info@eastlakeseattle.org or phone (206) 322-5463.

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GENERAL DURABLE POWERS OF ATTORNEY

By Laura Connor

Most people when considering their estate planning, to the extent they do, concentrate on a will (most Americans don't have wills). However, the most important documents in your estate plan may be your durable powers of attorney. These include a general durable power of attorney for financial matters and a health care power of attorney. "Durable" simply means that the power survives incompetency. Other powers of attorney are voided by incompetency. Both the general durable power of attorney and the health care power appoint an agent to make decisions for you if you are unable to do so. They are important because they protect you during your lifetime. Your will takes effect only upon your death. The general durable power of attorney can be effective immediately or only upon your incompetency (a "springing power"). I prefer a power that takes effect immediately, but some attorneys prefer a springing power. In order for a springing power to become effective, proof of incompetency, such as a statement from a doctor, must be presented. With a power that is effective immediately, no such proof is required. This would mean that a daughter who sees her mother slipping into incompetence can gradually assist her without having to confront her with an allegation of incompetence. Since the loss of competence is often a gradual process, this seems more appropriate. For example, the daughter can begin balancing her mother's checkbook or paying a few bills and later take over other matters as her mother declines. The general durable power of attorney can be drafted to allow gifting to reduce estate taxes or possibly to spend down assets to qualify for Medicaid benefits for long term care. Giving these gifting powers has considerable risk but may be justified if you have confidence in the agent you are appointing. The risks associated with such powers should be discussed with your attorney. State law also allows you to disqualify the annoying busybody in your family from interfering with the agent

you have chosen. I will discuss health care powers and wills in later issues.

Note: Laura Connor is an estate planning attorney living in a houseboat on Lake Union. She will be writing more estate planning tips for future issues of the Newsletter. She can be reached at 206.622.6703.

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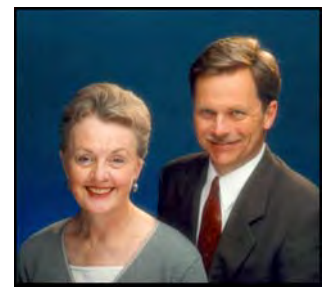
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from Rubicam family

2006

Dock 2025's "Auntie Martha" Rubicam passed away on June 26th in Santa Barbara, California. About 35 of the 2025 dock "alumni family" from the 1970s gathered for a celebration of her life on July 19th hosted by Linda Knight and Jann & Sid McFarland. Group pictures were taken in front of Martha's old houseboat with the present owners, Ren Nanstad & Debbie Woodberry. A potluck dinner with many toasts, crazy stories, and poring over old photos went on from afternoon into the evening.

Martha was a native Seattleite and after high school studied acting in California & New York, then married and raised her 4 children, Shannon, Deirdre, Chris, and Leslie all of whom spent time on the houseboat dock at one time or another. Martha moved onto the dock in 1968. As daughter Leslie says, "She revived from divorce and depression and bloomed again on the houseboats, just like her plants." Martha moved to California in 1984 and Leslie continued the houseboat ownership until 1992.

2025 alum, Bonnie Long, recalls, "When I picture Martha, she's a lean, comfortable-in-her-skin, no-nonsense, 40-something. To my 20-something self back then, she was the proverbial 'Older Woman'...wise and a bit intimidating, with a...mystery about her. I

MARTHA DICKINSON RUBICAM

December 11, 1926 to June 26, 2008

envied her long, dark, glossy hair. I admired her being so very OK with herself -- skinny legs, flat chest and all. And I loved her rich, velvet, sexy laugh....she didn't laugh lightly...On some level, I knew all was right with the close-at-hand world when Martha laughed...sitting on Shawley's deck...following one of our early 2025 Rummage Sales. Saturday had been an extravaganza...all of us buying and selling each other's junk. When the final dime was counted...we'd gleaned a couple thousand bucks (1970s dollars) from ourselves, helpful friends, and innocent passers-by. Every penny of our proceeds that day was Martha's, to help pay for her recent back surgery...she was a proud woman, and...fiercely independent. So it was not easy for her to accept the cash she was handed Sunday morning."

I remember some of Martha's antics fondly: One Christmas eve she & Jim Ghiglione scrubbed down an ancient maroon colored toilet from one of George Johnston's rental houses on the dock. The bowl was then filled with fruit, the tank with holly and all tied off with a big red ribbon. Five people crammed into Martha's VW bug with the toilet and drove it up to Mukilteo to deliver it to former houseboat neighbors, Doug Kimball and Lois Briscoe. Another time Martha and an old school friend went to dinner by canoe to a restaurant across the Lake. It was dark when they returned home and so she had rigged up 2 kerosene lanterns in the canoe for running lights. The two of them were singing "Who Killed Cock Robin" at the tops of their lungs. Martha taught many of us how to garden; she nurtured the dock children - teaching them to fish and catch crawdads. She loved to play her violin. She and neighbor, Linda Knight played in a group called the Music Lovers. When I decided to play the musical saw, Martha had to have one too, so one rainy day, off we went to Ernst Hardware where she sat down in the

saw aisle, pulled out her violin bow and started playing them one after another. The Sandvik 271 had the best sound and she left with her purchase clutched under her arm to the amusement of the saw salesman who admitted to having played violin in a symphony orchestra in his past. Martha had a lovely singing and speaking voice and many of us can hear her dispensing her bits of wit and wisdom that were usually right on target whether you wanted to hear it or not!

Another dock alum, Tom Haslett remembers, "Auntie Martha...I know I'll never forget her. Some of my memories of her are singing Christmas carols when she sang bass too...learning to catch crayfish with a piece of bacon and a kitchen colander on a stick...seeing her & Jim Ghiglione off on a year long camping road trip in that VW bus...carrying her out to the car on a door to get her to the hospital when her back was out...restringing her houseboat...listening to her wonderful voice on the radio promoting the Pete Seeger concert (a benefit for FHA)...Martha, you taught me a lot about life, I loved you, I love your daughters, and I'll miss you."

Her children capture some of her essence, "She will always be remembered for her elegant use of the English language, vibrant laughter, her unique and colorful character, a sense of irreverence, mischief, and uncommon wit and wisdom. She will be missed in ways large and small, and is infinitely loved."

Jann McFarland



Visiting UW Students Research History & Life Style of Houseboats

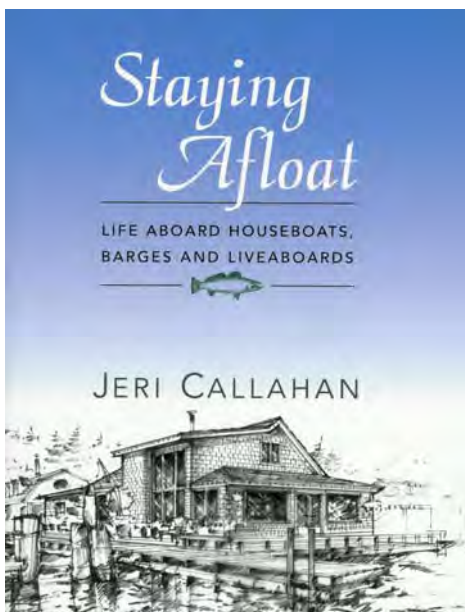
By Jann McFarland

Ane Tolsen, a graduate student in Architecture at the UW from Norway, completed a project on Seattle houseboats. It is in book format and is an overview of our community along with her observations including photos and original sketches. We visited a number of different docks so she could get a feel for the community. She spoke with FHA President, Bill Keasler and he allowed her to use some of his photos of his & Caryl's newly constructed houseboat on the Wandesforde dock.

Yuko Ono, a UW Landscape Architect student from Japan, contacted the FHA for help in a research project on houseboats built from 1910 to the 1930s. She had read Droker's history of houseboats, but wanted more information, and to see some of the classic houseboats from that time period. She was especially interested in my neighbor, Linda Cook's remodel as Linda has been working on restoring her sprung roof houseboat by herself for the past several years. Yuko & I visited several docks noting which houses were historically significant and why.

Ane and Yuko both have donated copies of their projects to the FHA Archives. It was a pleasure meeting these young women and introducing them to our unique community.

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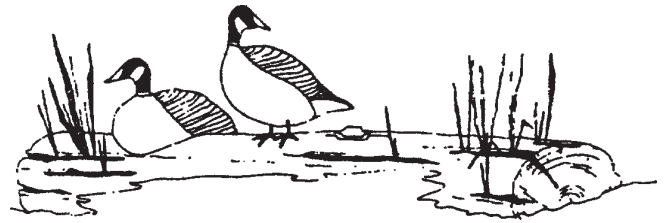


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Waterlog

by Marilyn Robertson

Today we're starting our trip around **Lake Union** at the southwest-most dock on Westlake Avenue.

Ann Bassetti tells us that **Madeline Binley & Kevin McCarthy** have taken care of the **2420 WESTLAKE** summer marriage rites (Congrats!). "We're also enjoying **Nancy & Mark McClelland** who fit easily into houseboat life, having rented on the Eastlake side. Nancy and Mark are so interesting and convivial; we wish they weren't returning to Chicago. **Casey O'Connor** flew to London in June to accept the 'SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARD' for the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC). The whole NW should be proud of the CLC -- one of only nine organizations in the world named in the first annual awards program, sponsored jointly by the London Financial Times and the Urban Land Institute! The CLC is 'Washington's largest independent land conservation and stewardship organization,'" <http://www.cascadeland.org/>

Erin Roche & Mark Koenig emailed with news of the arrival of their baby boy, weighing in at 5 pounds 2 ounces on July 4 at 6:45 PM. Mark & Erin have adjusted with their usual humor to the little boy's birth. 'Chance' arrived a month early, so it isn't surprising Erin mistook labor pains for GI cramps. Congratulations! Chance pictures and more are found at <http://islandtime.typepad.com/>.

At **2460 AND 2466 WESTLAKE** a birth was celebrated and at the end of summer a wedding banquet will take place. **Marty Greer** sends a welcome to the docks' newest resident, **Charles (Charlie) Maenner Jones**, born July 22nd, weighing 8 lbs, 9 oz. "His Mom and Dad, **Stacy & Tony Jones**, are both well and very proud of the little guy,

LILLY PAD

Bob Lilly has been off on another tour of British gardens but he is back in Seattle tending to gardens on Texas Chuck. In early September check out the FHA web site to find his latest offering: Color in Winter: What to plant when those annuals droop and die. This article will offer suggestions to houseboat gardeners stuck with pots of leggy and insect riddled annuals. Bob is enthusiastic about his move to the Web and suggests you watch for his Monthly Garden Calendar coming soon.


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Looking for a home: BW & Blackie

photo by Sandi Lindbeck

who is enjoying his brand new bedroom, which Dad finished in the nick of time." Marty says, "New neighbors, **Ripley Ballou** & friend, Alice are renting a houseboat on 2466, recently purchased by **Sheryl & Rob Turping**. Sheryl and Rob will spend the next couple of years living in their home in Italy. The 2466 dock will be the setting for a large family meal after the marriage of **Megan Schickler**, daughter of **Bill & Peggy**, to **Benj Burke**. Megan and Benj will wed at Kiana Lodge on Bainbridge Island on August 29th. Peggy got the idea of entertaining on the dock from our annual '2docks' summer party. We pick the date every year at our annual meeting in January! Our dock is wide, and so accommodates the long line of tables and chairs. It's quite elegant -- our upscale version of the block party -- a catered meal attended by 24 houseboat families. This year's theme is New Orleans and should be very festive." Marty enjoyed early summer in...Paris. After she finished her watercolor workshop tour in southern France, husband **Gerry Greer** joined her and the couple spent 8 days in Paris. "We rented an apartment (on Craig's list for very cheap!) at the 'tippy top' of Montmartre just around the corner from Sacre Coeur. Our Paris itinerary was planned around the many open-air food markets in all the arrondissements of the city. Each market has its own style and specialties, as well as unique characters, so every day we chose one market to visit, bought snacks for a picnic lunch, then explored that neighborhood in the afternoon. Lots of local color, and the steep walk back up the hill at the end of the day were good for the diet! Nights on the steps of Sacre Coeur presented a gorgeous view over the lights of Paris, as well as a chance to quaff with the local teenagers. My favorite discovery was the fanfare bands (all brass and a big drum) of students playing on the streets. By the way, we saw one in Fremont recently!"

On Portage Bay:

Sandi Lindbeck, on the **BRACKETT DOCK**, has been fostering two darling kitties. **Blacky & BW** are brothers and good buddies. She is looking for a permanent home for them and wants them to stay together. They are 2 years old, fixed, had shots, and are primarily indoor cats.

Good things come in threes says **Diana Forman**. "Residents of the **SHELBY GROUP MOORAGE** recently celebrated the wedding of **Anna Lewison & Michael Edmonds** on July 26 in Seattle. This happy event was followed a week later, on August 2nd, by the wedding of **Paul Chemnick & Theresa Knier** on Lopez Island. Dock neighbors also look forward to the birth of a baby to **Dorothy Caplow Echodu & Calvin Echodu** who moved onto the dock last September with son, Devin." Diana and



husband, **Bob Forman** spent part of the early summer on a three-week trip to eastern Canada. Traveling with another couple, they drove along the north shore of Lakes Superior and Huron making time to go canoeing. Bob and Diana went on alone to Quebec City, which was celebrating the 400th anniversary of its founding. The couple enjoyed a full week of Quebec's massive birthday celebration, featuring spectacular historical presentations, exhibits, music and dance. A late spring produced an abundance of insects to contend with while in Ontario, but the canoe touring was great, the scenery was magnificent, and Diana finally got to see moose close up - six in all.



photo by Katherine Hanson

Michael takes it easy.

At **2920 FUHRMAN AVENUE**, my neighbors, **Katherine Hanson & Michael Schick** took one of their most unusual adventures. Katherine shares some thoughts on their Sojourn in the Desert: "The desert seems an unlikely

... more Waterlog



photo by Katherine Hanson

Vinyard in Negev

destination for houseboaters on holiday, or so we thought before our recent vacation in Israel. Our itinerary included four seas-the Dead, the Red, the Med and the Sea of Galilee-but it was the Negev Desert and the little B & B in the vineyard that left the most vivid memory. Carmey Avdat (www.carmey-avdat.co.il) is a family run operation situated between the Makhtesh Nature Preserve to the south and Be'er Sheva to the north. From the grapes they planted ten years ago in an ancient riverbed, owners Hannah and Eyal produce 7000 bottles of wine a year, sold exclusively on the premises. When Michael wasn't relaxing in the hammock on the patio outside our bungalow, we walked into the canyon of En Avedat National Park to the pools below a waterfall (there were actually water fowl in those pools!), and explored the ruins of cities built by the Naboteans, wealthy traders of frankincense and myrrh. Their sixty-day camel caravan across the desert was an essential link in the spice trade between India and Rome. The Naboteans controlled it because they knew where the water was!"

It is not the first time **Don Brownlee** of **HOUSEBOAT HARBOR, INC.** has been mentioned in the *FH Newsletter*. Recently his name appeared in Waterlog in association with "Stardust", a space project that visited an orbiting comet, and brought back dust from the comet for analysis. Don was a principal investigator on that space mission. Now comes news that Brownlee's name is attached to a new mineral! This previously unknown mineral, found in a particle associated with another comet, is a combination of manganese and

silicon (manganese silicide). This new mineral has an official name, brownleeite. Congratulations, Don.

Back into **Lake Union**:

Robby Rudine of **TUI TUI** tells us he has returned from Texas and Brazil. "I got marooned in Brazil for 7 weeks while my Dad clung to life in a Salvador da Bahia hospital. He got out of hospital in time to celebrate his 67th wedding anniversary with my Mom, who in Brazil is under the care of my devoted sister. We had some party! It took two flying nurses to get Dad back to the states. Happily, both parents are thriving now. On June 20, **Janet (Yoder)** and I went to Skagit country where our erstwhile arboreal neighbor Dave Csaky, now world famous as Squirrelman, lives at a private wildlife rehabilitation center on a big acreage overlooking the San Juan Islands." (See more on Squirrelman in related article) "Our tenants, **Brandon Ferrante & Maria Bolander** had helped Dave secure his RV -- his new home. They came up north for the midsummer barbeque and brought Maria's parents visiting from Sweden. The parents had only been in the States two days and must have believed we all live in trees or afloat or live with half-wolves, pigs, goats, horses, as Dave now does. Dave took us fishing and we all caught trout, including first timer, Janet. I also found out that Maria's parents grew up two miles from my grandfather's birthplace in Vikingstad and that Maria's Mother has the same last name we had in Sweden - not the military name I have now! Tui Tui plans a Squirrelman stamp next year. Janet is having her non-fiction piece on the Healing Heart of the First People of This Land symphony published back east. And I have been active with Lushootseed Research in helping the City to get Cheshiahud's name spelled as best it can be for the proposed Loop - a project almost 100% about naming since little will change in terms of capital improvements. Dr. Jay Miller found evidence of Lake John standing next to his wife's tombstone, a marker identical to the one he is buried under at Washelli with the anglograph: Cheshiahud. He lived at the foot of Shelby Street on Portage Bay."

MALLARD COVE: Our intrepid reporter, **Giff Jones** sent this report just before he sailed off to northern climes. "**Angie Weber**, who lives with husband **Jim Caputo** and felines **Jake & Elwood**, just completed her MBA at UW. Congratulations, Angie! Doesn't everyone own two boats? Senior bachelor **Ed Buchwald** put his 31 ft Camano into the rental fleet at ABC Charters in Friday Harbor to make room for a newer boat, ten feet longer. **Giff & Mary Jones**, are off sailing in Canada 'til its time to prepare the Houseboatique for the upcoming FHA Floating Homes Tour. Speaking of which, **Lee Bourdeau**, one of Mallard Cove's original owners, has graciously offered his home on the Tour. On June 11th, **Al Hendrickson**, who competes with next-door neighbor Lee Bourdeau for Mallard Cove's most original resident status, celebrated his 90th birthday with friends, family, and dock residents. Al is a veteran of WW II, Korea, and many townhouse development skirmishes at Mallard Cove. Houseboat Realtor, **Melissa Ahlers**, was featured in the Puget Sound Business Journal's June 6 lead story, 'Un-sinkable Mortgages: Floating Homes Buoy Banks'. It's

catching: wedding bells are ringing the same weekend at three adjacent houseboats: **Paul & Linda Ellingson's** son married on Aug 8. The new couple, **David & Katie Ellingson**, will take up residence in our Eastlake neighborhood. The next day, Aug 9th, **Mike Massa & Beatta Rycharski** tied the knot, (undoubtedly a bowline) at the Seattle Yacht Club outstation in Port Madison. Not to be outdone, on the very same date, **Peggy & Dr. Doug Hanel** hosted an elaborate wedding fete on the dock for eldest daughter **Maggie** who recently passed her BAR. **Andy Mansell** took the month of July away from his world travels selling airliners to host his dad who visited from New Zealand: father & son boat-bonded in Desolation Sound. **Mark Guy & Diann Barry's** #1 son, **Conner**, is home for the summer from Whitman College in eastern WA where he'll return this fall as a junior."

Tiff McNamara and **THE LAKE UNION**, welcome Mark Taylor to the dock. Originally from London, England 'Taylor' sold nearly everything he had and arrived in Seattle with two suitcases and a job. During a previous visit to Seattle he noticed the floating homes community while at a wedding at Gas Works Park. He searched Craig's List and the rest is history. Taylor says that, "at the end of a tough day at work it is transforming to walk down the dock to my houseboat. I feel closer to nature and really enjoy my neighbors." On the 4th of July the entire dock gathered on the common deck area for the second annual potluck breakfast. Rosie the cat got into a valiant fight with a neighbor cat defending our dock turf and is sporting some stitches to prove it.

The **LOG FOUNDATION** and **Jann McFarland** are saddened by the loss of long-time neighbor and friend, **Kathy Salzinger** (2019) in a car accident in May. She and her husband **Sam**, who predeceased her in 1993, performed with local theater groups in Seattle and at the Bellevue Play Barn for many years after moving to Seattle from California in the 1960s. Her four children, Kristen, Matt, David, and Paul had a special memorial gathering at the houseboat to celebrate her life and some of the theater people were there along with neighbors and family. Many stories were told about Kathy and her way of "telling it like it is" approach to life. She was a real character with a dry sense of humor as well as a warm friend who will be missed very much. **Ren Nanstad & Debbie Woodberry** (2025) have moved to their houseboat full time after selling their home in West Seattle. Their dock neighbors are glad they will be residing here. They also bought a farm in wine country in Eastern Washington and are just beginning to restore a big old farmhouse there - a major project. **Victoria Slover** and her Chinese pug, **Lamaduk** (2025) have moved to southern California for more sunshine. **Klaudia Keller** has sold her business, Choice Linens and will be dividing her time between Twisp and the houseboat. Friend, **Christa** is housesitting when she is gone.

There have been a lot of beaver sightings this spring on dock 2025. The mama beaver came up on Jann & **Sid's** deck a few feet from the sliding door and happily munched on a pot of ornamental strawberries while they observed just inside. They were willing to sacrifice the strawberries, but

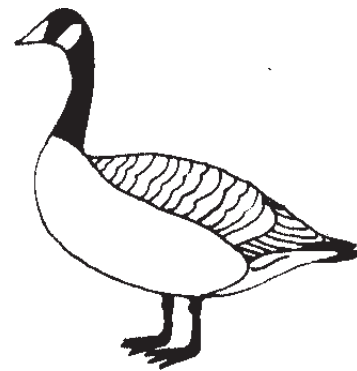
drew the line at the Meyer lemon tree and asked that the lady beaver please move on. At least one baby beaver has been sighted this spring swimming the channels. Neighbor, **Linda Cook** (2025) was not so happy to be awakened at midnight recently to find the beaver chowing down on her rose bushes. Linda was seen early the next morning putting chicken wire around her pots.

The two bald eagles that stand atop the tall trees at the head of the channel between 2019 and 2025 have been seen again this season. Many of us have learned to distinguish the seagull & crow calls indicating they are in the vicinity.

Seligmans, Tanya & Gerry (2017), visited the original houseboaters on Lake Titicaca at Puno, Peru in June. Tanya says, "These people have an interesting history that led them to build islands of reeds to escape others intent on their destruction. They seem to have things worked out well, the men do all the cooking and both men and women weave reeds and do other handicraft items for sale. They also have a system for dealing with neighborhood spats. A meeting is called, if the involved parties agree not to agree, they saw the island into two. Life carries on, but one part of the island is anchored elsewhere. They also must spend a lot of time adding reeds to their island as the reeds get water logged, so new layers must be added continuously. Their houses are made of the reeds as are their boats and they also eat the root of the reeds. Food for thought: it snowed while we were there and those houseboats have no electricity and fires must be well contained. We also trekked 80 kilometers to Machu Picchu enjoying the many spectacular peaks that were visible and feeling thankful that we were just crossing passes the height of Mt. Rainier and not scaling the incredibly high peaks surrounding them."

That's the latest from around the lake. Thanks to all the contributors who make the Waterlog so popular with our readers.

Email Marilyn at isobel.rob44@gmail.com with your dock news.



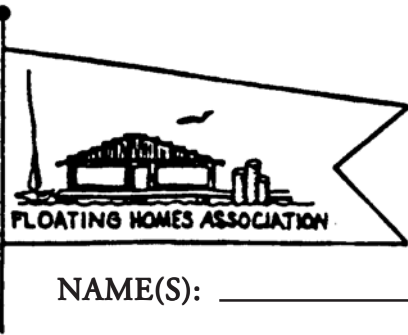
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11/02

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The Association's Legal Fund needs your support, also. Donations of \$50 or more are tax deductible! Make your separate check payable to SCCF/FHA.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the FHA Legal Fund.