



# FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 159

Newsletter

Summer 2011

## NEW FLOATING HOMES BILL



Photo courtesy of the Washington State House of Representatives.

Governor Chris Gregoire signs FHA bill into law on April 29, 2011. From l to r : Tom Clingman, Department of Ecology, Nick Federici, FHA Lobbyist, and Lake Union houseboaters, Marty Greer, Amalia Walton with daughter Lilian, Lon Marie Walton and Melissa Ahlers.

### By Ben Kelly

Last year, the City of Seattle undertook to revise its Shoreline Management Plan. The FHA was involved from the beginning, and though the City was receptive to FHA's concerns, the potential impact of some of the changes spurred the FHA to further action. Lead by Amalia Walton and the Association's Legislative Committee, the FHA drafted a bill seeking to revise Washington's law to ensure the long-term vitality of our floating community. Working with the City, the State, and thanks to the strong support of legislators Jamie Pederson, Ed Murray, Frank Chopp, Dave Upthegrove, Jeanne Kohl-Wells and others, the bill passed both the house and the senate! The bill, which makes explicit the legislature's goal of allowing the "continued use, improvement and replace-

ment" of houseboats, becomes law on July 22, 2011.

Because much of what we all value about our community is its architectural and aesthetic diversity, and because the SMP places uniform regulations on our unique homes, the FHA continues to closely review the proposed language. We have been encouraged by the City's continued willingness to make changes based on our input. The FHA submitted formal comments on May 28, 2011, and will have another opportunity later this summer as the City has agreed to accept additional comments after making changes in response to the first round. The FHA's comments are, and will be, available on our website.

### Inside

**2011 Annual Meeting**

**MOHAI Houseboat Exhibit**

**Why should you care about what happens to SR520?**

**Waterlog**

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*Newsletter:* Marilyn, Jann

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Summer 2011



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## Environmental

By Ben Kelly, Chair

The Environmental Committee was also active in response to the proposed SMP changes. The FHA submitted comments in support of the City's proposal to require manual and mechanical weed control methods before resorting to dumping chemicals into the lake. We also sponsored and participated in another successful Puget Soundkeeper's "Sweep" of Lake Union and Portage Bay, removing mounds of flotsam and jetsam from the shores and surface of the water bodies.

Next year, the Committee plans to turn its attention to the stormwater and sewer overflows that continue to spill into our waters after storms.

## Community Relations

By Melissa Ahlers, Chair

At the board retreat in January we recognized how much work the FHA was doing for the community and had to ask the question, do floating home owners know what is being done on their behalf? Do they feel like they have an opportunity to become involved, ask questions, provide feedback, share abilities, and resources related to the issues that confront us? As we move forward with our work we

recognize the need for strengthening communication between not only the FHA and the individual docks, but also between the docks themselves.

From this discussion came FHA Community Relations Committee with the current working mission to create and foster a connected community within Seattle's floating homes. The group will welcome new homeowners, and look at ways to communicate easily between the FHA, floating home docks, and between each other. This will enable us to create a way for our community to share resources, abilities and best practices in living afloat.

In order to do this, we would like to recruit dock representative(s) from each dock around the lake. This will be an informal group of people who will receive the minutes of the FHA meetings and, in general, be "in the know" on what is happening within the FHA. Also, this person can be a point of contact for outside inquiries to the dock or be the conduit for questions to the FHA from their membership. As in the past, members are welcome to attend FHA board meetings and ask questions.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to be your dock's rep! Melissa Ahlers, 206-356-2262 or [Melissa@lakere.com](mailto:Melissa@lakere.com)

## BOARD RETREAT

On Sunday, January 16th FHA Board members met for a one day retreat with facilitator, Kathleen Wareham to better focus, reenergize, and set some goals for the future. Discussions included the strengthening of existing Board committees and the birth of two new committees: one for recruiting new Board members (Operations, Bob Bowman, Chair), and one for better connecting to the houseboat community (FHA Community Relations, Melissa Ahlers, Chair). Board members came away from the retreat with a better sense of how the organization might be improved and working together to achieve the new goals.

## 2012 Houseboat Tour!

2012 will be a special tour because we will be celebrating 50 years of the Floating Homes Association! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9th, 2012 and be ready to make it the best tour yet! Interested in joining the fun on the planning committee? Please contact Melissa Ahlers at [melissa@lakere.com](mailto:melissa@lakere.com) or 206-356-2262.

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# FHA 49th Annual Meeting



Photo by Caroline Johnston

Eager crowd waits for the 49th Annual meeting to begin.

## By Marilyn Robertson

An enthusiastic crowd of houseboaters from around Lake Union and Portage Bay gathered on April 28th at the Puget Sound Yacht Club for the 49th Annual FHA meeting.

Members began arriving about 6:15 pm to enjoy refreshments and conversation. There was plenty to talk about. Only a day earlier the community learned the state had passed a bill protecting the houseboat community. Howard Droker, the meeting's main speaker arrived early to chat with members and autograph copies of his book,

### *Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats.*

Tricia Rendina, moderator, introduced Marty Greer, acting president. Marty said a few words about Bill Keasler, who retired last fall, after 30 years as FHA president. Marty passed the microphone to Giff Jones, Mallard Cove resident, who offered more heartfelt words about Bill and described a plaque for the FHA office, now to be known as *Keasler Cottage*.

Elections were held, with Mary Greer, unopposed, elected as FHA president. The other officers elected were Vice President: Sheri Greaves; Secretary: Judy Sarafin;

Trustees: Melissa Ahlers, Ben Kelly, Joyce Black (1 year), Laura Lowery (1 year), Libby Kutcipal (1 year), Brian/Lorie Groth (shared 1 year), Marilyn Robertson, Ed Waddington/Julia Forbes (shared) and Amalia Walton.

Other speakers for the evening included Marcia Iwasaki, Project Manager for Seattle's Public Art Program; Amalia Walton, SMP Task Force Chair; and Erin Feeney, UW architecture student.

Visit the FHA website at [seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org) for complete article and gallery of photos.

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# HOUSEBOATIQUE



Photo from Tricia Rendina

Tricia Rendina modeling the new Houseboatique quarter zip dark blue sweatshirt.

## By Tricia Rendina

Summer may finally be here, but we still have chilly evenings. The newest product at the Houseboatique can help take that chill off -- quarter zip sweatshirts. Dark blue with our brightly colored little houseboat logo, these fleece sweatshirts are high quality with a generous cut to them. We carry sizes small to 2x. The price of a little extra warmth? \$40 to FHA members and \$45 for non-members.

In preparation for the "very distant" holidays at the Houseboatique, we're brainstorming for new items. It's always nice to see something fresh on the tables. As is frequently said ... more to be revealed. But in the meantime, if there's an item you'd like to purchase from the Houseboatique, don't wait for the holidays or the Annual Meeting. Just email me at [trendina@yahoo.com](mailto:trendina@yahoo.com), let me know what you want and we can make it happen.



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# FHA OFFICE REFURBISHING PROJECT

By Marty Greer

In a presentation at the FHA annual meeting in April it was announced that the FHA office, located at 2329 Fairview E, is being re-dedicated as *Keasler Cottage* to honor former FHA president Bill Keasler's 30 years of service to our community. We've had a beautiful sign made, but before we put it up, the office desperately needs a facelift! Jann and Sid McFarland, and I have made up a list of the work necessary to clean up, repair and paint the office. The work will be done, weather permitting, from July 21-31.

There are lots of ways to help – pruning, deck board replacement, roof cleaning, patching/filling, pressure washing and painting. In addition to your time, we also need tools and equipment (sturdy ladders, rakes, hammers, pruners, assorted sizes of paint brushes, buckets, etc). If we all pitch in, this shouldn't take too much time out of any one person's summer schedule and will make the office something we can all be proud of instead of the somewhat neglected little place it is now.

Please email or call Marty Greer and let me know how you can help and when you are available between July 21-31. We need to get all the prep work done so the office is ready to paint the weekend of July 30-31. Marty Greer, [marty@watercolor.com](mailto:marty@watercolor.com), 206.450.8885.

## 1. Clean Up

- Replace deck boards as needed - Sid has marked them & will have materials, tools.
- Prune willow tree of dead limbs that are over the building or deck, cut up and give for firewood or take to dump



Photo by Caryl Keasler

Photo from FHA Newsletter

FHA Office circa 1991.

- Rake dead leaves & twigs off roof and around work area
- Pressure wash building and scrub with cleaner
- Repair roof strut and other rotted structural supports, etc. as needed
- Filler and primer where needed

## 2. Painting

- Paint house & trim
- Paint front door

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# Floating Homes Community Exhibit at MOHAI

By Erin Feeney

In May 2013, the history and evolution of Seattle's floating homes community will be shared in the new community gallery at the South Lake Union location of the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)! UW architecture graduate student Erin Feeney is in the process of coordinating and designing the exhibit, so please look for upcoming opportunities to share your stories and get involved. Here are a couple of ways you can participate:

## Oral History Project

Erin is looking for houseboaters who have stories, photos or other interesting information to share related to the life in the community, from past to present. She also needs images of homes built anywhere from 100 years ago to those just finished yesterday. If you are willing to have stories, photos and/or your home documented and possibly used the exhibit, please contact Erin Feeney at [misshouseboat@gmail.com](mailto:misshouseboat@gmail.com) with your name, address and a brief statement about what you would like to share and your availability this summer.

## Community Survey in late August – Please participate!

In August, a short survey will be sent out through the FHA e-alert system to all floating homes residents in preparation for the 2013 MOHAI exhibit. The results from this survey will be used to generate a community profile



Photo by Caroline Johnston

Erin Feeney introduces history project idea at Annual Meeting 28 April 2011.

for the exhibit, but please note that no personal details will be released from the information collected. Please submit only one survey per household. In order to take the survey, make sure that your email contact information is current with Marilyn Robertson at [isobel.rob44@gmail.com](mailto:isobel.rob44@gmail.com)

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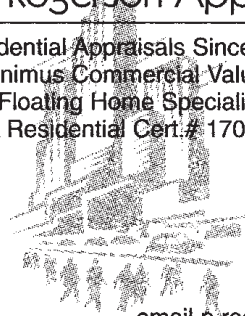
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# P-Patch Celebration

By Marilyn Robertson

June 21st was, of course, the Summer Solstice and it was also the celebration of the completion of the P-Patch garden expansion. The afternoon and evening were sunny and pleasantly warm. Around 80 people attended the event that lasted from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A silent auction was held with bidding items as diverse as P-patch T shirts, FHA Houseboatique merchandise, cakes, art objects and prints. The money collected will go to next year's new endeavour, The Bee Project.

Guests were free to wander the gardens, chat with gardeners and discover the Giving Garden. Or, as some guests did, settle on the large expanse of grass. Garden related entertainment, including a slug race, was a big hit with children. Food was provided by Jasper's BBQ and music by "Corn Likkers", "String Lab Trio", and "Rabbit Stew String Band".

The Giving Garden is a section of the P Patch that produces vegetables to be shared with kitchens for the needy. Each Thursday, members of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in the Cascade Neighborhood, pick up and distribute that week's harvest. Houseboater Yvonne Jones is the lead gardener for the Giving Garden.

For more photos from P-Patch visit FHA website, [seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org)



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

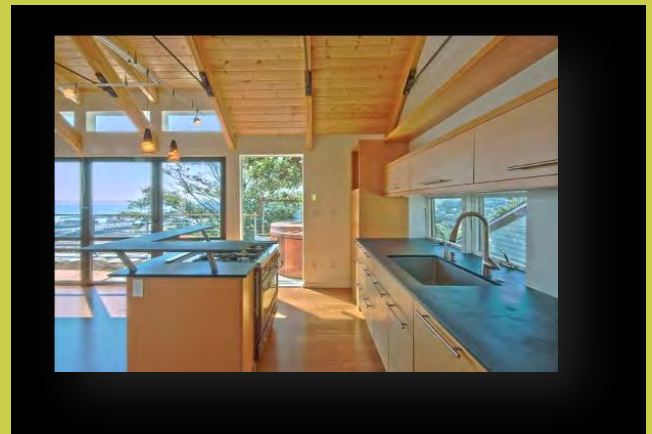
Gardener Yvonne Jones manages the Giving Garden.



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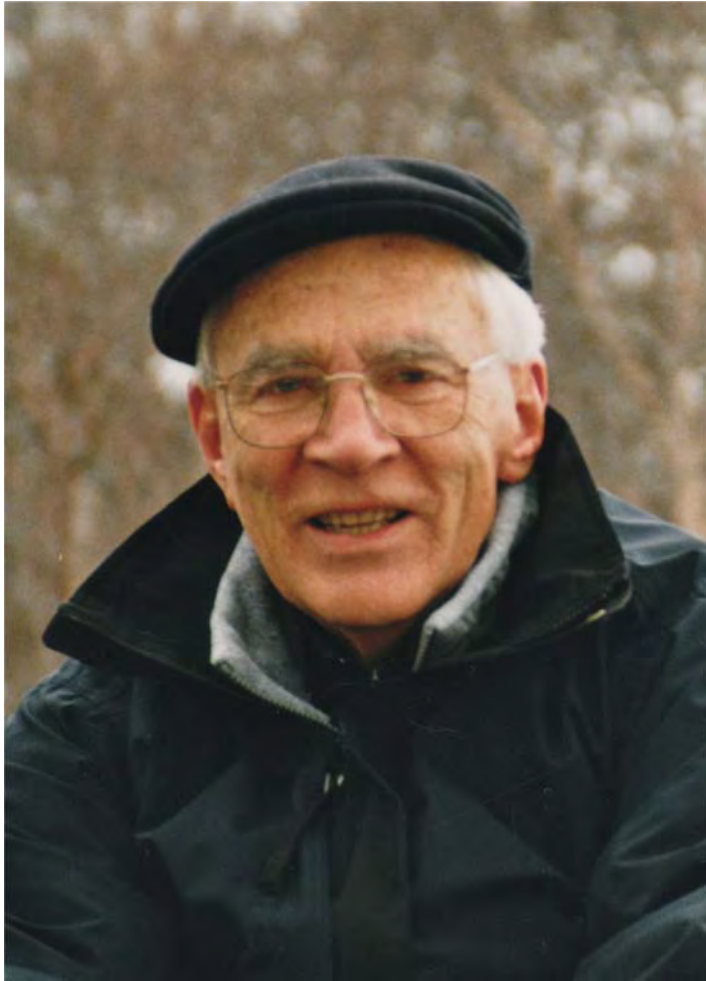


Photo from Tromso, Norway by Leversee friends.

**John Holzheid Leversee, MD**  
 January 4, 1927 to April 7, 2011

Jack Leversee of Roanoke Reef passed away peacefully and unexpectedly on April 7, 2011. That's the day our community at large lost a trusted and valuable friend.

John H. Leversee, "Doc Leversee" to many, was a retired family physician, UW Professor of Medicine, Korean War MASH unit veteran, neighborhood friend, FHA advocate, gardener, volunteer, problem solver, and fixer of all things broken.

Jack was a tireless supporter of human rights and equality, treating with dignity, those less fortunate. He participated with numerous organizations here and abroad dedicated to improvements in health care and living conditions, including much work with free medical clinics, Planned Parenthood, and PATH.

Jack will be remembered as a worldly, self-effacing friend with unlimited interests, who never missed an opportunity to pay a visit, enjoy good conversation, recommend a book or movie, celebrate a worthy occasion, or decry a political miscreant. He was fulfilled by people doing good for the universe and personified, "think globally, act locally".

Jack loved the water, rowing and windsurfing into his seventies. He was even said to have water-skied to work at UW from his modest home on Evergreen Point. He was strongly supportive of the Floating Homes Association, being instrumental in urging Roanoke Reef into active membership in the FHA.

Jack and his wife Joan, who lives at their home on Roanoke Reef, were married for 56 years. He is survived by Joan, sons Bob (Heidi) & David (Irina) of Seattle, daughter Susan (Miller) of Mill Valley, CA, four grandchildren, and an extended family. He also leaves behind fond memories of thoughtful exchanges, encouraging words, and generous actions. Citizen/Friend/Family member Jack Leversee will be dearly missed and his legacy long-remembered.

**Giff Jones**  
**Mallard Cove**

**Frequency of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)**

*Excerpted from Roanoke Park Portage Bay Forum, (Erin O'Connor) May 19, 2011*

John Spencer of Seattle Public Utilities talked about the Seattle and King County Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Reduction Program mandated by state and federal law to clean up Puget Sound by 2025. The Program is to reduce the combined stormwater and sewage that reaches Puget Sound, Lake Union, and Lake Washington when storage tanks overflow. Right now, Seattle has 90 outfalls that pour overflows into Elliott Bay, Lake Union, and Lake Washington. Such events happen 337 times per year in Seattle with spills amounting to 190,000,000 gallons and this doesn't include King County's overflows.

The goal is to reduce the number of events from 337 to one per outfall per year. One method to keep storm water out of the sewer system is the use of rain gardens, swales,

residential rain gardens from roof-to-rain-barrel-to-ground, but only where soil can accept the flow. Such green infrastructure will be accompanied by building fewer, but larger storage tanks to hold water for treatment.

The treatment plant at Denny West now controls Lake Union overflows. The North Seattle area already has separate systems for storm water and sewage, but they are combined in our area.

SPU independently and SPU and King County jointly have 11 projects in planning or underway with the goal of upgrading the whole system. They are building both larger storage tanks and larger tunnels jointly. A 19-foot diameter tunnel, for example, is going from Montlake to Interbay. It costs less overall for projects that are handled jointly.

Spatial Technology is being used as a model on planning for a maximum storm every 32 years and for more intense storms over 20 years in light of recent weather. They are monitoring flow for two years – storm vs. normal amounts of water. Closed circuit TV is used to monitor cracks and breaks, and they fix them by re-lining or by "bursting," breaking the old pipe and installing new. They monitor overflows for both quantity and quality, such as FOGging – stoppages from Fats, Oils, and Greases. Also, tire dust that goes into the water is bad for wildlife, containing toxic metals and hydrocarbons that go into the sediment.

As far as earthquakes go, Spenser said the present pipes, installed in the 1920s, have been remarkably resistant, and even a few of the old wooden pipes are still in operation.

In response to concerns about the effects of SR 520 construction hauling on sewer lines under the streets, Spenser seemed to feel that the sewers would be all right, but he said after



**Jeffrey Philip Browne**  
**February 15, 1949 to January 7, 2011**

Jeff Browne, age 61, long-time resident of Portage Bay, died suddenly January 7 at the home he and his wife Bette shared in Anacortes.

Jeff was from Chicago, the oldest in a family of seven. He and Bette met in Spokane – Jeff in the Air Force and Bette in college – and moved to Seattle after their marriage. Bette had grown up hearing houseboat stories – her grandmother had lived on a Portage Bay houseboat, as had her parents during the depression-so it "just seemed natural" to live on one.

Jeff and Bette's time on the houseboat spanned 30 years, from 1973 to 2003: from the time when moorage owners held sway – from approving a new owner before a houseboat could be sold, to demanding pet removal, to evicting houseboats whose owners gave offense. There was much fuel for late-night conversation, bonding-and plotting....

The Browne's houseboat was one of the classics: a low-ceilinged rectangle, small and cozy. A good-sized alder, growing up from one of the logs, had a place of honor near the front door. The building standard was heavy on charm and light on basics, e.g. insulation. Early on, the house demonstrated its lack of flotation when a group of unwitting guests congregated on the channel side, threatening to put the house awash. Jeff quickly orchestrated an orderly albeit hasty dispersal.

When Jeff and Bette eventually remodeled, it was to a simple and elegant one-story design, honoring the spirit of the original. After 30 years on the houseboat, they moved to Anacortes to be closer to Bette's elderly mother. They kept in touch with Seattle friends, continuing the tradition of potluck meals and local travel together.

Jeff was a quick study, a lover of learning, and skilled at whatever he turned his energies to—from an early stint as a survival instructor for the Air Force, to heading up a Microsoft sales team. (When asked how someone who so conspicuously loved creature comforts – and hated exercise – could be a survival instructor, he explained it was all in the mind.) Jeff was the staunchest of allies, the



Photo from Bette Browne

**Bette and Jeff on their houseboat.**

most loyal of friends, ready to advocate for, or come to the defense of those he loved. He was ever impatient with mediocrity, with sloppy thinking, with half-baked ideas. He was a natural leader, a lover of life, a man with high expectations. He loved discussing ideas and arguing politics. Above all, he had a tender heart.

Jeff is greatly missed – by his friends, by his family, and by his wife Bette, whom he cherished.

**Lois Loontjens**  
**Neighbor and Friend**

hauling for one of their projects near Discovery Park, they did have to rebuild the road on Commodore Way. Their EIS, which is scheduled for spring 2013, will treat heavy hauling.

Spenser suggested that comments about all concerns should be made on the Scoping Document the CSO Program will send out for review soon and at public hearings for the Program.

For more information about the Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction Program, contact Christina Faine, CSO Outreach Lead, 206 615-1098, or email [christina.faine@seattle.gov](mailto:christina.faine@seattle.gov).

*The FHA board is looking for someone to investigate and monitor this issue for our community. If you are interested, please contact FHA Board member, Ben Kelly, Chair of the Environmental Committee.*  
[benkelly@yahoo.com](mailto:benkelly@yahoo.com)

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO SR 520?

*At a meeting on June 23 at Queen City Yacht Club, Fran Conley, Coalition for a Sustainable SR 520 explained what could happen to our neighborhoods, including Eastlake, if the present plan goes forward. Condensed here are several Coalition concerns excerpted from the website [sustainable520.org](http://sustainable520.org).*

### YOU SHOULD CARE BECAUSE...

The plan misleads the public.

The state talks about replacing the floating bridge, but does not mention that a third of the bridge does not float... approaching Seattle, the bridge roadway rests on columns. This segment will be untouched, with its earthquake problems un-solved, unless more funding is found someday.

We've been told there will be 6 lanes,

but the coalition has found that the lane increase is to 8 lanes, plus off ramps.

The plan increases travel times and gridlock.

Expansion under the current plan will not improve the time it takes to get from the east side of Lake Washington to the University, to downtown, to the Capitol Hill area, or to North Seattle...or make the reverse trips.

1. The bottleneck at the Montlake cut, where long waits are driven by drawbridge openings, will continue and get worse as more vehicles arrive.

2. Congestion on I-5 will increase and will back up into downtown. The 520 project will add no lanes to I-5 but will remove an existing express lane and introduce

**continued next page ...**

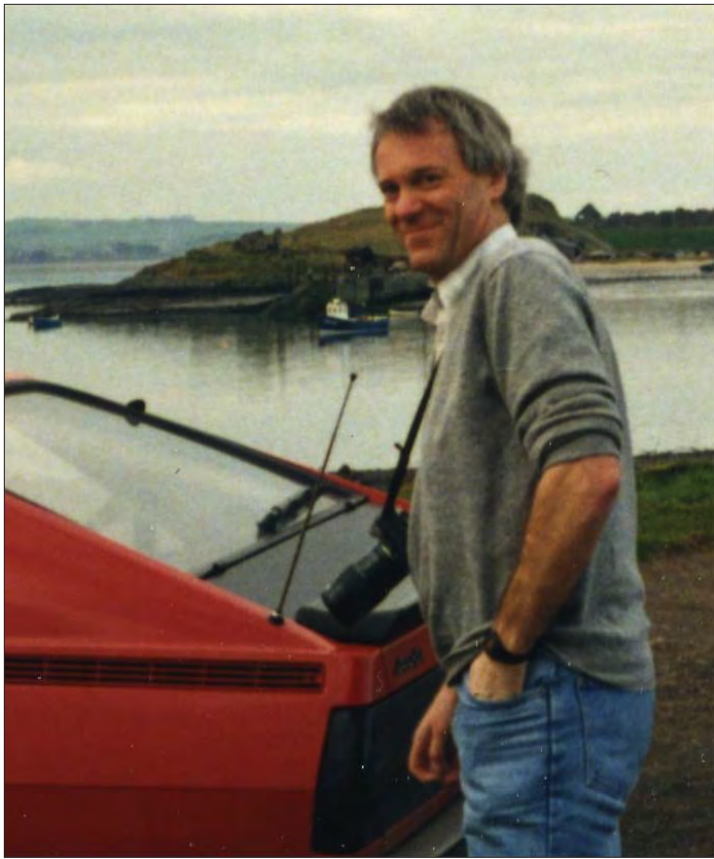


Photo by Jim Weyand

**Julian Besag. Northern England, 1989**

## **Julian Besag**

**March 26, 1945 to August 6, 2010**

Julian Besag became our neighbour and friend when he rented a houseboat on Portage Bay. It was 1988, and Julian, a professor at University of Durham, was at the University of Washington for summer quarter. He told Jim and me he was working in the Spatial Statistics department. He tried to explain the field, but Jim and I quickly got lost. So we seldom discussed Julian's work. His friendship with us was based on mutual enjoyment of houseboat life, Jim's fascination with sailing and Julian's eagerness to learn to sail in Puget Sound waters, and our connections to Britain.

We stayed in touch after Julian returned to University of Durham and paid him a brief visit in the winter of 1989 while our daughter was at school in Yorkshire. He was a gracious and entertaining host.

In 1992, Julian was back in Seattle and living in his own houseboat on Dox Co-op. Soon after, he bought a 26 foot Choi Lee and was teaching himself to sail. Because he lived close by, we soon discovered how esoteric, or perhaps I should say mind-boggling, spatial statistics really is. And we had a hint of his impact in this field. Julian, with a bachelor's degree in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Birmingham, was head of the Spatial Statistics Department at UW. And he was mentor to PhD students! Julian said very little to us, but slowly we realized he was 'an eminent statistician' who had a major role in designing mathematical models for a huge variety of practical problems – from astronomy to mapping the incidence of diseases. Julian would never have mentioned it, but we have since learned that the maps in newspaper articles showing the risk of disease occurrence were very likely made using Julian's original ideas.

Over the years the three of us maintained off and on contact mostly centered on sailing. Julian had a wicked sense of humor. He had strong dislike of ostentatious boats, and liked to put a scare into the owner of such a boat. At his helm, Julian would act like a novice and veer perilously close to the larger boat. At the last minute, with a big grin and inches to spare, he would make a perfect tack.

Julian demanded a great deal of himself, and it was no different when his health began to fail from chronic kidney disease. Rather than go to a clinic every two or three days for dialysis, he insisted on managing his care with home dialysis. Through all of this he never stopped working. At the time of his death Julian was a visiting professor at both Bath and Bristol.

Nothing stopped Julian from sailing. It is beyond belief that he managed to make at least one solo voyage to Vancouver Island and back to Shilshole Bay while administering self-dialysis. *The Telegraph* reports 'Apart from the houseboat in which he lived, and his sailing boat moored alongside, he owned three other boats, including the one in his bath.'

Please use this link to learn more about Julian and, maybe spatial statistics.

[telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/science-obituaries/7992538/Professor-Julian-Besag.html](http://telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/science-obituaries/7992538/Professor-Julian-Besag.html)

**Marilyn Robertson**

... '520' from page 11

additional new weaves.

3. There is no plan for additional capacity on local streets for the additional vehicles coming off the bridge. Vehicles coming off 520 will lose whatever time they saved on the bridge. The traffic will clog downtown, the University District, Laurelhurst and Wedgwood, Madison Park, Montlake, Portage Bay, Roanoke Park, and Capitol Hill.

The plan reduces your property values.

Property values will be reduced due to huge concrete walls, increased noise and pollution, congested traffic making it difficult to get in and out of neighborhoods.

The plan wastes your money.

Your money is being wasted on a political boondoggle that won't improve travel times for cars or better bus service.

For the complete article, please visit [sustainable520.org](http://sustainable520.org) You'll also find directions on how to contact city council members, state representatives, and make donations.







Photo by Betty Swift

# Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

everywhere, shop at Trader Joes, and probably know more about the city of Seattle than any resident!

I was startled when I heard clucking chickens on the upland side of Fuhrman Ave. A few days later Jim and I returned home to find two people in white jumpsuits messing around the Hawthorne tree on our parking strip. Jim opened his car window but quickly closed it as a swarm of bees approached. The woman in white explained they had placed a box in the tree, to which her escaped honeybees would, hopefully return at nightfall. (By morning, box and bees were gone.) It turns out she's the upland neighbor with a chicken coop and five hens. It pleases me to think residents of Portage Bay circa 1911, might have enjoyed their own fresh eggs and honey like my neighbor does.



Photo by Joe Ginocchio

4th July, 2011.



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

Chickens in the Hood.

## July 2011

### FUHRMAN AVE EAST

Your Waterlog columnist sends news from 2920: **Katherine Hanson & Michael Schick** were in Europe in late June to early July. Michael was lecturing in Poland while Katherine visited family in Oslo Norway. Staying at their houseboat were our long time friends, **Anita & Joe Ginocchio** from Santa Fe. They are terrific houseboaters who try to coordinate their visits to Seattle with Katherine and Michael's travels abroad. Anita and Joe prefer to bike



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

Fuhrman Avenue Beehives.



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

Blaine Hammond surrounded by Daniel Herb with Sebastian, Micaela Adams, John Thorne holding Random, Stephen & Cathy Fedele holding Leo. June 26, 2011.



## Waterlog ...

At 2918, **Tim Quigley** has been renting **David Foecke's** houseboat for about a year, and I've only just met him. Tim works at the UW. Through the fall and winter we saw him from afar but now, with sunnier days, we bump into each other often. I'm delighted to learn he'll be renting for another year.

### HOUSEBOAT HARBOR.

When **Sheri Greaves** asked her HH neighbors if they had stories to report **Blaine Hammond** wrote back. "The other day I commented to a friend that for the first time in years we have babies in our neighbourhood. When Solweig and I moved to Houseboat Harbor in 1971, there were several children in the area – teens and pre-teens, and the Barge (next to me) had small children and babies. The Dolphin house spilled its half-dozen out onto Portage Bay Place for ball games. We



Family photo

Wedding in New Zealand: Paula, Brad, Allison, Don and Carson.



Family photo

Wedding Party Jump!

wedding. The plan for a beach ceremony was rapidly changed to a veranda overlooking the jungle as a torrential rainstorm moved in (giving some a queasy ride on the water taxi with 10 foot waves). A clearing 2 hours later let everyone experience the beach with fantastic lighting. Blue skies the next day allowed us to hike part of the trail out and enjoy a week of touring on the South Island (glaciers, beaches, wild surf and rock formations) before heading home.

### Greetings from LEE'S MOORINGS, AKA "Hummingbird Dock"

Dock Reporter, **Karen Eckhart** writes, "We have new neighbors! **Maile & Brian Roundtree** and their daughter **Avia** have moved onto the dock and Maile is totally spoiling us with baked goods which she leaves in her open kitchen window for us to sample! **Cecile Thomas & Stedem Wood** have also bought a houseboat on our dock



Photo by Steve Eckhart

Hummingbird Nest.

watched the Brownlees' children grow up on the 3118 dock. Now one is in college and the other just got married! These childhood days pass quicker than you think! I'm happy to again be surrounded by young children."

Also from HH, **Paula Szkody** writes: **Don (Brownlee)** and I had an interesting 2011. The highlight was the marriage of our houseboat daughter (**Allison**) to a kiwi (Brad Stephens). Allison left for NZ in December with her fiancé, Brad, to spend the year in Christchurch and I went in January to spend a three-month sabbatical at the University of Canterbury. NZ life was going well until the Feb 22nd earthquake shut down the city and the University. Allison and Brad went through the violent shaking in a glass shop near downtown, while I was on the 8th floor of the astronomy building. Restoration of power and water took weeks in parts of the city, while aftershocks still continue, and downtown Christchurch will take years to recover. Don arrived at the end of March and we toured the North Island, seeing fabulous beaches and old Kauri trees. Then son, **Carson** arrived and everyone went up to Abel Tasman (a national park on the north side of the South Island reachable only by hiking or water taxi) for the April 16th





Photo by Steve Eckhart

Two Hummingbirds Nesting on Outdoor Lights.

and are soon to move in and join the fun here! We have had a plethora of nature events in the past few months! In the winter we had a river otter slipping, sliding and playing in the snow on the dock across from us in the marina owned by the Freemans...it was so cool! Great pictures! A mama hummingbird built a teeny tiny nest on our front porch, right on our year round party lights (for warmth, I guess!). **Steve (Eckhart)** photographed the whole exciting event from the two little



Photo by the Eckharts

Otter Plays in the Snow.

eggs in the nest to the births, mama feeding them and then the eventual tearful goodbye to the babies as they took off on their first flight. There is another hummingbird nest on a neighbor's floating home. I guess that makes us the Hummingbird Dock! Very cool to see them flying hither and yon! To top it off, atop the **Daggatt** houseboat, duckling eggs hatched and needed a bit of help getting from the roof to the lake, luckily **Gemma & Russ** were home for all the excitement! Ain't nature wonderful?

**2466 WESTLAKE**

**Marty Greer** reports the **Chappelle** family is the proud new owner of **Gerry Greer's** old Mercury sailboat. The *Moonsail* sat on a trailer in Gerry's (Lake City) backyard for 15+ years, lonely, tarp-covered, and dry. **Dave Chappelle** had raced sailboats his whole life, but was without one at the moment. A deal was struck (you move it, it's yours), and now the *Moonsail* is wet once again, and sailing merrily most evenings. **Jesse Chappelle** just graduated from the UW with a

degree in Near Eastern Languages (Arabic) and Civilizations and a minor in International Studies – a very timely major! In Dave's words, "Three down, two to go" (the twins should graduate next year...)! Must be something in that Lake Union water... **Bill and Peggy Schickler** have not one, but two new grandchildren this summer. Daughter Melissa & husband Adam had a baby girl, Natalie, March 5th, and, just to even things up, daughter Megan & husband Benj had a baby boy, Evan, on May 26. Grandpa Bill is grinning ear to ear, and Nana Peggy has been knitting up a storm in both pink and blue. **Lucy Lakefish** (age 4) has a brand new



*Floating Homes*

2011 Market Review

Address	Sales Price
2025 Fairview Ave E #M	475,000
2420 Westlake Ave N #11	530,000
2017 Fairview Ave E #N	580,000
933 N. Northlake Way #14	727,000
2466 Westlake Ave N #17	850,000

Yes, the Seattle real estate market is moving forward! As you can see, there have been 5 floating home sales in the first half of this year, which is similar to the market at this point in 2010.

The desirability of owning a floating home is strong, and there's still nothing else like it in Seattle.

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



*Melissa Ahlers*, Realtor

Lake Real Estate  
 FHA Board Member - 10 years  
 206 356 2262  
 melissa@lakere.com



Photo by Marty Greer.

**Moonsnail** inaugural Lake Union Voyage with most of the Chappelle Family plus Solo the Dog Aboard.

brother, **Jasper**, born to **Mark & Heather** on March 1. Lucy really loves Jasper; she announced the other day that she was going to marry him! Jasper is the smilingest kid you'll ever meet, looks just like Dad, and at 3 months weighs as much as sister Lucy did at 6 months! **Tia Monahan** was the original 2466 "dock baby" – and now she's driving a car! Tia got her driver license in December – how can that be? Can she possibly be that old? Sheesh – next thing you know she'll be goin' to the prom! But for now she's babysitting Lucy and Jasper Lakefish – the beat goes on.

But wait -- there's more! **Olivia Leland & Van Chappell** ( no relation to the other Chappelles across the dock) are expecting their baby in August. Stay tuned!

**Stacy & Tony Jones** (ex-2460 WL) welcomed son **Oliver** to their family last summer, joining 2 year old **Charlie**. That was entirely too many little boys (Tony included) for one tiny pink houseboat, so they up and moved to land. We were all sorry to see them go, but they didn't sell, so maybe there's a chance they'll be back when the toddlers become more sure-footed? **Rich Patton & Cathi Major** had a facelift – er, their houseboat did – new shingles all around. Lookin' brand new!



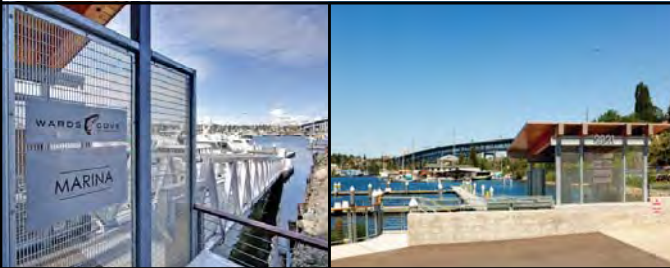
Photo by Peggy Schickler

**Schickler Grandbabies, Evan & Natalie.**

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Photo from Libby Kutcipal

Libby Kutcipal & Delilah.

Kenya with Doctors Without Borders -- we hear from her occasionally and follow her blog. A summer get together is planned mid-July for the entire dock. Now we just need some sun and warm weather!

**LOG FOUNDATION**

Jann McFarland writes: While Elizabeth & Alan Shaw (2019 FVE) were traveling earlier this summer, a rowdy gang of raccoons partied at their house -- fortunately just on the roof. They were hanging out under the eaves of the bedroom. Two culprits were seen attempting to gain access to an upper floor porch by climbing the house posts, however the cables across the railings deterred them from achieving their mission.

The 4th of July found most of the Fairview houseboaters partying up a storm -- with the added attraction of SUNSHINE!

**2420 WESTLAKE AVE**

Libby Kutcipal, a new FHA board member, writes: We all survived the winter, but not without several homes losing their attachments to the dock. There was no damage, but it kept things interesting on those windy days and nights. At our Co-op meeting, we started a "Beautification Committee" for the dock. This committee initiated a spring clean up in March. This really made a difference to the gardens at the top of the dock. Several small projects have been completed. The biggest endeavor is a new awning over our stairs, which should be in place as you read this. The dock is excited by its new façade!

Everyone is embracing the beginning of the summer. Ann Bassetti & Gene Nutt traveled to Spain for a few weeks in May and June. Kate & Joe Hanauer moved from New York to a houseboat, they are renting from Lizz Maunz. Pat & Teri Tucker from Paterson, WA recently purchased a houseboat on our dock. They have just moved in and have already enjoyed several family gatherings! Casey O'Connor is spending several months in



Photo by Libby Kutcipal

Delilah Hits Lake Union.

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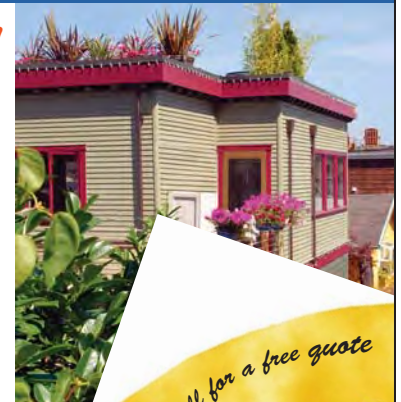
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Photos by Jann McFarland

"If we can just get on to the porch, maybe we can get into the house."

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Photo by Jann McFarland

The Boats Trying to Stay Behind the Police Buoys.



Photo by Jann McFarland

The Crowded Craziness.

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(Houseboat References Available)





Photo by Jann McFarland

The Hill of Heads & Head on the Hill at Gasworks Park.



Photo from Gregorich

Max, Amalia, Chris and Lilian.

**THE LAKE UNION**

**Lorie & Brian Groth**, new FHA board members, began the move to their remodelled houseboat in early June. Now that the weather has improved they are finally settled in and ready to enjoy Lake Union life.

**FLO VILLA**

**Baby Max Gregorich** was born on Thursday, June 30 at 8:16 am. **Amalia Walton** says, 'He is 8 lbs 2oz, 20 inches long and nice head of dark hair, along with plenty of extra baby fur. So far Max has been a very easy-going little guy. **Lilian** adores him and is proving to be a helpful and loving big sister. Can't wait to bring Max to his first board meeting in September!'

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Amy and Ray Villanueva April 9, 2011.

Photo by Villanueva

**Amy Ellingson** has changed her name! On April 9, 2011 at Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood in Oregon, **Ray & Amy Villanueva** tied the knot (literally). Congratulations!

**MALLARD COVE**

Waterlog reporter, **Giff Jones** gives us a run down on the doings at MC.

HB #1: THE ORANGE FLASH: is **Jim Caputo's** new Vespa Fremont commuter. He still smiles every time he rides it. Giggles?

HB #2: HIS AND HERS HOUSEBOATS: **Bob Farra & LeAnne Quinn** are leaving HIS at the Cove and spending the summer at HERS nearer to Pete's Market.

HB #3: SAIL or POWER? **Steve & Laura Strockbine** went from their San Juan 29 to a Cuddy cabin cruiser then back to a bigger/better

sailboat while benefiting their neighbors. See HB#11.

HB #5: SOUTH AMERICA: **Giff & Mary Jones** spent the month of March and part of April in Chile/Patagonia/Argentina. They hiked instead of sailed around the Horn and spent their last 10 days biking the wine regions of the Andes with REI.

HB #6: ITALY: **Bob Berman & Lisa Horton** spent her 50th in grand style this June, singing Happy Birthday to the tune of pasta and Chianti.

HB #8: MOST ENTHUSIASM award goes to 9 year old **Ariel Igielski** for running the pressure washer at the dock's spring work party.

HB #11: KEEPING IT IN THE 'HOOD: **Marsh & Sue Bugge** bought the Strockbine's

Cuddy cruiser. It's now their Guemes Island home transportation.

HB #12: BIG CHANGES are in store: **Ryan & Loryn Peterson** bought Al Hendrickson's houseboat and are undergoing a complete renovation including a 90 degree counter-clockwise spin for better entry access. Hang on!

HB #15 DOCK CHARMER: Little **Greta Kate Ahlers**, at a year and a half is charming the dock with new steps, smiles, and giggles.

HB#17 BIG MOVE: **Andy Mansell** found his way back home just for the 4th of July weekend from his new digs in So Cal. It took his promotion to Senior VP -- Head of Airline Marketing at Aviation Capital Group to make the sacrifice.

HB #19 ANOTHER BIG MOVE: **Mark Guy & Diann Barry's** son **Connor** is back for the summer and some culture recovery from his recent teaching job in Las Vegas.

**TUITUI**

**Robby Rudine** writes: On the second longest day of the year, I put on my virtual Jackie Kennedy O pillbox and gave a tour of Tui Tui to the crew shooting a pilot for a series about our dear quirky community of bobbing domiciles. The crew wanted a parting shot from the Tye Yacht Club back to Tui Tui. I volunteered to clamber my old



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## Waterlog ...



Photo by Brian Groth

bones atop the barrel vault of Grande Tui and wave the Tui Tui flag.

When I got on the roof our recently rescued/adopted Keeshond, Misha went nuts. He is very insecure and wants to keep me in sight. Barking, woofing and howling he kept backing up on the west deck, the better to keep watch on me and register his protests. The inevitable happened. One rear wheel went over the edge and soon he was spinning into Lake Union! He had never been swimming before that we know of before we rescued him (the first time!) -- Dutch Barge Dogs being useless to their skippers and masters off-barge. He panicked, I panicked the film crew panicked. I was ready to jump off the roof if he started sinking. But Misha can swim, albeit in a somewhat vertical dog paddle. So, I hustled down the stairs and with the help of the crew pulled our frantic dog over to the puppy retrieval ramp and jerked him out of the water in one waterlogged adrenaline heave up onto our high deck where our twice rescued dog shook it all off.

But dang if the most photogenic drama of the day, with two professional cameramen around didn't go entirely unrecorded for the hilarity of posterity. Woe is YouTube, the camera guys had been in transit and missed the action!

For over ten days we were favored with a visit by **Janet's (Yoder)** and my niece from Spain. Tania Domingo Yoder and her friend Andrea Escriver Serrano spent some idyllic days on the Archipelago of Tui Tui. They attended the summer solstice party at the Eastlake P-Patch, the Demo Days at Lake Union Sea Ray (great hotdogs and a Bayliner ride -- thanks Bill and Buzzy!), rode the quacking Ducks, did all the Seattle tourist things. We recommend the butterfly garden at the Pacific Science Center! Tania turned 21 on this trip, and as a dual national\*, presented her US Passport whenever she was "carded". \*not to mention her Tui Tui citizenship.

**WATERLOG Readers:** As some of you may know, I am lucky to be working with grad student, Erin Feeny on the Seattle Houseboat History project and exhibit with MOHAI. Part of that project is to collect current data about who is living in the houseboat community. Why does the Association need current, accurate information about who lives in the 2011 houseboat community?

## Coming Soon to Wards Cove....



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our other projects



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1. Current information will allow us to make comparisons and contrasts to the Seattle houseboat communities from the past.

2. When the Association works with the City, the State and other agencies, we need to have accurate tools to describe our community.

In order to reach as many houseboat residents as possible we are sending out a short email survey. Note: Houseboat resident includes owners as well as renters, FHA member or not.

If you are not yet receiving e-alerts, we encourage you to subscribe to the news and events e-alert list. Worried about sharing your email address with the Association? The FHA does not share membership list or email lists with other organizations or individuals. So, why not let me sign you up. It's easy. Just e-mail me at [isobel.rob44@gmail.com](mailto:isobel.rob44@gmail.com) Any questions? Please contact me through email or call 324.1257.



Photo by Jann McFarland



Photo by Joe Ginocchio



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Floating Homes Association  
2329 Fairview Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102



6/11

## Floating Homes Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help Preserve and Protect Seattle's Colorful Houseboat Colony.  
Join the Floating Homes Association Today!  
Group Memberships available with 10% discount.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSEBOAT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD DUES:

Regular & Associate - \$50

65 and Over - \$40

New

Renew

CONDO/COOP NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSEBOAT: Rent  Own

MOORAGE: Rent  Own

Please include me on the FHA News and Events e-alert mailing list

*The Associations's General Fund also needs your support.*

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the FHA General Fund.