



Floating History Awaits Rescue

As the shape of the new South Lake Union Park emerges, the tall ship Wawona faces eviction unless she gets extensive repairs and passionate support from her friends and neighbors. Time is running out.

By Colleen Wagner

Houseboaters know what a unique treasure we enjoy, living in the very heart of Seattle on a lake that is constantly changing and which has so many charms. Almost hidden away at the south end of Lake Union is one of the most special of these charms, the schooner Wawona. You can't miss the three tall masts towering above everything around her. Over one hundred and eight years old, she waits in quiet dignity to be saved.

Have you ever been aboard Wawona, the last of our old commercial sailing fleet? Wawona is a time capsule. She never had an engine; only sails moved this 165' vessel built in 1897 as a lumber schooner. In 1914 she began sailing the Bering Sea for six months every year, fishing for cod from sixteen dories, cleaning and salting cod on board. Each autumn she returned to Lake Union to winter with the rest of the codfishing fleet. Constructed of massive Douglas fir, Wawona could carry 400 tons of timber on voyages throughout the Pacific Ocean or 400 tons of cod from the Arctic Circle. Wawona is an icon of the Pacific Northwest's economy in its developing years: timber and fish, hard work and commitment to succeed without any guarantees.

Wawona needs extensive repair - but then, so does any other 108-year-old structure. She needs to be saved and to have a permanent moorage. There is no other symbol around that represents the way Seattle and Puget Sound's other port sites came to exist.

We lost the steam ferry San Mateo and the Art Deco ferry Kalakala. We can't afford to lose Wawona. In 1970, she became

Continued on Page 11 ...



Splicing Line



Lake Union Oral History

**Inside
Waterlog**

**Summer Cruise
Holiday Sale
Ballard Locks**



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AROUND LAKE UNION & PORTAGE BAY

NWOC CHRISTMAS CAROLING BY KAYAK

December 9th, 10th and 11th 6-8 pm

Every December, the Northwest Outdoor Center organizes caroling tours to benefit the Seattle Children's Home and the Homestead Community Land Trust. They take 30 people per session, stopping at houseboat parties, where they spend 20 minutes or so singing carols from kayaks. Carollers pay \$40 a head and it all goes to the charities. NWOC provides kayaks, gear, instructor/escorts and song sheets, but excludes singing lessons. Wear warm (water/windproof) clothing, waterproof gloves, hat, sleigh bells, flashlight (preferably a headlamp), battery powered twinkle lights, hats, decorations, antlers, etc. It can be as cold as the high 30s, and from dry to drizzly to downright rainy.

NWOC also needs houseboaters hosting holiday parties to come outside to listen to them sing. Times are roughly 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 pm. All you need is to throw a party so the kayakers have a group they can sing to! Sometimes folks supply cookies and hot cider or another treat, but that is optional.

Information from John Meyer, NWOC. For further information or to sign up, please call 206-281-9694. www.nwoc.com

CHRISTMAS SHIPS

Dec. 1st through the 23rd Watch the parade of lighted boats. They also often come through the Lake & Bay after their regular schedule for an evening.

December 1st: Opening Night 8:10 to 8:30 pm at Gasworks Park

December 23rd Grande Finale 8:45 to 9:05 Gasworks Park

For full schedule see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/events/ChristmasShip.htm>

ELECTRIC BOAT COMPANY SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Cocoa Cruises. After a great turnout last year, the cruises are back for another holiday season. **Beginning December 1st there will be cruises on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at 8 pm.** The fleet of electric boats are decorated with twinkle lights & garlands, heated & enclosed. 10 people per boat (maximum) cruise the Lake to view the holiday & City lights. Cost is \$30 per person and includes holiday treats from McCormick & Schmicks. On December 1, 14, and 23rd the Christmas Ships will be on Lake Union to add to the festivities. Visit the web site at www.theelectricboatco.com/specialevents.asp for more ways to celebrate and how to participate.

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The Floating Homes Association holiday gift ideas! Check out our new Tote Bags! We also have coffee mugs, note cards, t-shirts, sweatshirts and baseball caps on sale at the office during the holidays!

<http://www.SeattleFloatingHomes.org/store> has our full catalog.



The FHA office at 2329 Fairview Avenue East will be open two weekends this season.

Holiday office hours

December 10th/11th and 17th/18th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm each day.

Phone: 206 325-1132

The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
Seattle, WA 98102

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Fall 2005



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Fundraising Melissa Ahlers, Chair

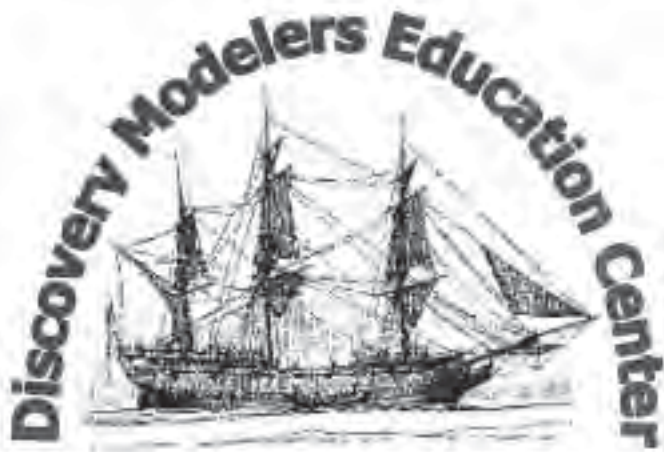
The 2006 Houseboat Tour will take place on Sunday, September 10th, 2006. Next years' tour committee will begin forming early 2006. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Melissa Ahlers at melissa_ahlers@hotmail.com or 206.709.9376

Membership & Communications

Emily Hine, Chair

Emily Hine chairs the Membership and Communications Committee. This committee is responsible for communication with the membership (you). Among other things they are responsible for our website, the Annual Meeting and this *Newsletter*.

To find out how you can help, contact Emily Hine at 206-817-4241 or email emilyhine@comcast.net.



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Environmental

Jan Carlson, Chair

FHA Board Supports Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

By Jan Carlson

The mission of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is "To protect and preserve Puget Sound by stopping the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the Sound." According to Chris Wilke, Pollution Prevention Director at PSA, this includes all of the lakes, rivers and streams that empty into Puget Sound.

Because houseboaters have such a direct and personal interest in cleaning up the waters of Lake Union and Portage Bay, the Floating Homes Association showed its support by purchasing a table at the PSA's annual fall fundraiser, "Salute to the Sound." FHA members including the Environmental Com-

mittee who attended were, Dave Galvin, Sheryl Landon, Jan Carlson, Diana Forman and Enrico Pozzo.

Money from the fundraiser goes toward supporting the PSA in their many activities, one of which is the Lake Union Sweep held every spring. This is a big cleanup of Lake Union, Portage Bay and the ship canal done by volunteers in kayaks and assisted by larger boats that haul the trash to land.

Since its beginnings in 1984, according to PSA literature, it has created a citizen stewardship program which, "includes enforcement of the Clean Water Act, trained citizens who monitor pollution, and a pollution prevention program, which offers technical and regulatory assistance to businesses." In 1990 the PSA began filing Clean Water Act citizen's lawsuits against major polluters in the Puget Sound basin. The PSA staff and trained volunteers also monitor the waters of Puget Sound, Lake Union, Portage Bay and Lake Washington by boat. "Since 1997, PSA has conducted over 325 patrols and reported hundreds of pollution incidents." PSA conducts ongoing water quality sampling. In 2003 they partnered with Frontier Geosciences to study how vehicles crossing the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge were affecting the storm water flowing into Lake Washington. They found the effluent contaminated with toxic metals. PSA has also trained over two hundred citizens to observe, document and report pollution. Interested houseboaters can get this train-

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Association Standing Committee Reports

ing by calling PSA at 206 297-0409 or can join the FHA Environmental Committee whose members plan to volunteer for the training and patrolling.

As the only leader that encourages cooperation between citizens, businesses, industry, technology and government to assume stewardship of the waters of the Puget Sound basin, PSA encourages all citizens to report pollution. They can do this by notifying both state and federal authorities of pollution they see including any oil sheen on the water: the Washington State Emergency Management (Dept. of Ecology) at 1 800 OILS 911 (1 800 645-7911) and the National Response Center (Coast Guard) at 1 800 424-8802. The Coast Guard will investigate any oil sheen that is 10 feet square or larger. Not every report will generate an investigation, but they all generate a report. An accumulation of reports will generate an investigation so every incident should be reported, and it's the law. Another organization, the National Response Center, will follow up with the Coast Guard and the Dept of Ecology, and will get back to someone reporting a pollution problem. Their number is 1 800 42PUGET (1 800 427-8438).

For additional information on the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, their web site is www.pugetsoundkeeper.org

Phone Numbers to Report Water Pollution

1 800 OILS 911 (1 800 645-7911) - Dept. of Ecology

1 800 424-8802 - Coast Guard

1-800 258-5880 - State Emergency Management (24 hours) They answer the phone for the Department of Ecology after hours.

What's happened to your report? Phone 1 800 42PUGET (1 800 427-8438) - Pollution Prevention Hotline.

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs

Michael Dellario and wife Hiromi, who recently moved from Japan into the "10 Cents-a-Dance" houseboat on Flo Villa, has a bent for solving problems. With our recent rash of marina fires, dock members were seeking a way to protect themselves from this danger. Michael helped them solve the problem while developing a couple of additional benefits at the same time. – Giff

Squirt It, Suck It, Move It

An Idea for a Multi Use Dock Pump

By Michael Dellario

If you are the kind of person who thought of this then you may have had a similar image of those same pajama clad neighbors, with their buckets, trying to bail out a sinking motor boat trapped in one of our tiny canals to keep from enduring a local version of the Exxon Valdense.

If you ever did think of these scenarios, here's a thought. In the case of a fire your first call should always be at least a semi coherent scream to 911 to send the fire department or water patrol. But...What if the house boat is hard to reach? What if it is on the next dock and you notice the paint on your house is starting to bubble up from the heat? What if the local fire brigade is just too busy on land because all heck is breaking loose because of an earthquake of proportions that only Steven Spielberg could envision? Well...then we

continued next page ...

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Association Standing Committee Reports

are back to that line of pajama clad neighbors with buckets.

Our dock thought long and hard about looking at each other splashing water about in our Pajamas and decided there had to be a better alternative. So with a little guidance from our neighboring dock who had a stationary water pump, we put together a mobile cart with a high pressure pump that can suck water out of the lake (or a sinking boat) and can be used with a manageable 50' of fire hose to squirt over 100 gal./min. over

What would happen if one caught on fire?

a fire. Kind of a neat idea in a pinch...Plus if you get bored you can always use it to cream a runabout full of marauding drunken Lake Washington brats with those over sized toy store squirt guns they like to carry. Just kidding: You wouldn't want to hurt one of those little charmers would you?

You can find one of these neat little mobile firefighting carts on the internet for about \$3,500. Or if you are a bit cheap like us, you can make a trip to your local Honda pump dealer, Pacific Ind. Supply and of course Hardwick's to get the parts you need to put one together yourself for under \$1000. It's not that hard...heck we did it!

Finally, if the image of your neighbors in Pajamas isn't enough to convince you to embark on this endeavor, there is one more use you may want to consider. In an emergency if the electric power goes out for a long period of time, with a few creative connections you may be able to use the pump to transfer some of that lovely collection of backed up "Pump House Gold" to the septic system on land. Of course if there is a real Spielberg sized earthquake I am sure we will be dealing with a lot more of that pump house commodity



Photo by Michael Dellario

"Squirt," Flo Villa's new dock pump.

than you produce locally.

Hope the idea helps,
Happy Squirting

For further info or advice, contact Michael Dellario:
Mdellario@aol.com

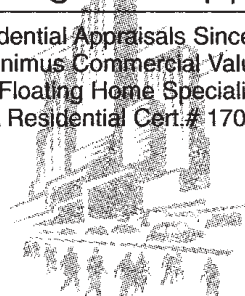
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Portage Bay Clean Water

By Betty Swift

The Portage Bay Coalition for Clean Water, in reality a small nucleus of folks on one Portage Bay dock, launched a mini-campaign this summer to promote use of non-chemical methods for managing aquatic weeds. With encouragement from the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks' Micro Grant Program and assistance of staff from Washington Toxics Coalition, the group used a four-pronged approach to help shoreline residents and businesses control nuisance water weeds without resorting to herbicide applications.

Starting in early June with the distribution of 700 flyers to residences, institutions and businesses around the shores of Portage Bay and Lake Union, people were alerted to common water weed problems and non-chemical remedies that can be used by individuals or commercial contractors. With the help of a summer intern at Washington Toxics Coalition, the group then located and purchased three types of rake/cutters to try on the local weed growth which by that time was touching the water's surface.

Next, a public meeting was announced and held at the Pocock Rowing Center. Dr. Jonathan Froge of King County's Freshwater Program talked with folks in the crowded room about growth patterns of the two primary noxious water weeds, gave valuable and practical information about dealing with them and helped the group pool their ideas and work toward solutions. Use of the three rake/cutters was demonstrated and a subsequent lakeside tryout date was planned. Finally, a web site was developed in conjunction with the Floating Homes Association's web site, to provide updated information on water weed information and control strategies.

Because of a legal settlement against the Washington State Department of Agriculture, herbicides could not legally be applied to salmon-bearing waters this year. During the remainder of the summer lakeside residents, business and yacht clubs used rakes and also hired licensed contractors to apply bottom barriers and use mechanical harvesters to keep the weeds at bay.

Betty Swift may be contacted at bswift@myuw.net

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Lake Union & Portage Bay History Project

Holly Taylor

This winter, work will get underway on the Lake Union and Portage Bay Oral History Project, an effort to document a part of Seattle's history through interviews with long time residents and workers in the area. The project is a collaboration between Jack Straw Productions and heritage consultant Holly Taylor, and grew out of recent efforts to document the history of maritime industries around Lake Union.

The focus of the project will be the history and development of the lake shore, from the perspective of the water, including stories of ship yards, houseboats, bridges, industrial sites, the natural environment, and other unique and distinctive aspects of this area.

The project's first step will be to record oral history interviews with a variety of long time residents, shipwrights, bridge tenders, power plant engineers, and other folks who have stories to tell.

After interviews have been completed, the project team hopes to work with the Center for Wooden Boats and other neighborhood organizations to produce an audio historic sites guide, a Lake Union & Portage Bay heritage sites map, and other historical projects such as an on-line exhibit. So far, the project has been supported by grants from 4Culture (King County Lodging Tax) and the Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation.

Do you know someone who should be interviewed? Are you interested in getting involved? Contact project director Holly Taylor at holly@pastforwardnw.com or 206.463.3168 with suggestions, questions, or contributions.



This 1944 photo shows female workers with an airline fuselage at the Kenworth plant, South Lake Union. Do you know anyone who has a story to tell about working at one of the many industrial plants around Lake Union?



Why were these vessels anchored in Lake Union in 1925? Can you tell the story for the Lake Union History Project?

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Rescue Wawona

... continued from page 1

the first vessel ever to be put on the National Register of Historic Places. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation now regards Wawona as one of the 10 most endangered historic landmarks.

Until recently, when she was closed to the public, thousands of schoolchildren and visitors had enjoyed touring Wawona. A restored Wawona would offer more one-of-a-kind educational opportunities. Volunteer docents and crew would provide information and would maintain the ship and shop. Schoolchildren would sign aboard as crew members and stay overnight, cooking on the coal-fired galley stove, raising sails, sleeping in the fo'c'sle, raising a barrel from the hold, making a monkey's fist and throwing to shore, lowering a dory and going fishing. Adults and families would have a perfect setting to listen and sing along with the sea music now heard twice a month and could listen to speakers on tall ship sailing and traditional ship building and see maritime movies and theatrical plays.

Wawona is an essential part of this region's history but maritime heritage is more than tall ships. The South Lake Union Neighborhood created a neighborhood plan based on the one element all agreed on: having a park on the lake. And the park's theme was

meant to be maritime heritage. The City Council and the Mayor approved this. The park plan has been completed but there is no specific indication of maritime heritage except The Center for Wooden Boats on the east edge and the Historic Ships Wharf on the northeast edge.

Maritime heritage is part of our culture. We live in a maritime nation, a maritime region, a maritime city. You can help raise the issue of this best use of South Lake Union Park for maritime heritage. Just sign the enclosed card and send to SHIPS, 860 Terry Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109. We will hand-deliver the cards to the City Council

You also can write to the Mayor and the City Council about making sure South Lake Union Park has an active, year-round, hands-on maritime heritage center. Don't forget that, as significant as Wawona is, so are the 1889 tug Arthur Foss, the 1904 Lightship Swiftsure, the 1922 steamer Virginia V and the 1909 fireboat Duwamish, all located at South Lake Union. All are National Historic Landmarks, meaning they all are nationally significant and are the last of their kind.

The people of Seattle saved the Public Market and the houseboat community. Working together we can help create a major maritime heritage focus at Lake Union. First, we can help save Wawona and then our other floating historic ships. We can help create a maritime heritage museum in the former Naval Reserve Armory.

The challenge is great; help is needed. This is an invitation for all houseboaters to get involved. The opportunity is now. Waiting is not an option. The outcome will be a Lake Union treasure for all generations to cherish. For more information or to find out how you can help, call Dick or Colleen Wagner, 206-282-0985.



Loading Dory



By Bob Lilly

Rooftop Gardens

There are several large houseboats in Fremont on the North Lake Dock that have extensive roof gardens. Each of these roof decks have been constructed as an integral part of the house and show extremely good thought and technique.

The planters in most cases go around the outside top level of the house with the siding continuing to the top lip of the planter walls. There is usually a top treatment that is repeated on the inside edge and the siding is repeated down to the roof deck. This design uses the entire planter structure as an effective 'railing' for the roof decks they enclose.

The best method here is to construct water impervious, hard fibreglass boxes inside the planters with drainage integral to the design. A slope or channel in the bottom will help with drainage – imagine a bathtub. Usually a drain field, of gravel, not crushed rock, is placed in the bottom, which is then covered with a landscape cloth called filter fabric. This landscape cloth keeps the soil and fine particles out of the field and the drains. The drains go directly into the lake.

This system will give you a good 10 to 15 years of trouble free planting depending on how aggressive your plants are. Always start with a light- weight soil mix. The weight capacity of your float must be taken into account. All the houses we visited have modern concrete floats.

An automatic drip system works best for this type of installation as we are really dealing with extremely large pots and a consistent watering program will work best. You can use 'leaky' pipe or the stiffer type with emitters every 12 inches or with tiny

drippers at the ends of even smaller flexible tubes.

Remember to plum water up to your roof decks: the lake is a long way down on these two story houses. Planters like these should be a minimum of 18 inches deep for the plants. For scale, design, and height appropriate for a planter serving as a railing, a two foot depth is better.

The first roof garden we toured was Sally and Charlie Weems houseboat built in 1993. A continuous planter no more than two feet wide circled the perimeter of the large deck. In the center of the deck was a cluster of different size and style pots, nicely arranged on a sort of stage. Sally's main perennial and shrub border was a mix of campanula, asters, grasses, fennel, dierama, astilbes, chrysanthemums and lilies. These were used amongst 8 large shrub roses, some of which were planted to hang down and break the roofline of the houseboat. There were nice height differences in the roses and with some clematis but this garden did not have any large trees. It was a pleasant garden, more like a cottage garden with space for annuals to provide summer color.



Weems deck.

Bob Lilly

The second garden was at the home of Nancy and Jim Burnell. This houseboat was a little older than the first, built in 1991. The garden arrangement had more structure plants, with a few larger trees- three Acer palmatum, a cypress, a beautiful crepe myrtle with cinnamon coloured bark and one large umbrella pine. There were a few very large planters in the center

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of the Burnell's roof garden that create separate spaces or what gardeners call 'rooms'. Irrigation here was with leaky pipe, with the feed pipe hidden under the lip of the planter. This is an excellent solution as all of the system is above soil level and not down in the roots where the pipe is hard to maintain. These surface systems must be drained for winter. You do not want water to freeze in the pipes that feed the leaky pipe system. There is no need to worry about draining the dripping part of the

colonizing the space.

The larger plants used in these types of roof gardens eventually will dominate all the space available for roots. Trees, bamboos, larger evergreen shrubs form such a tight root mass you can no longer garden with smaller plants (the annuals and perennials) in their root zone. It is best to give the small plants a place of their own- big pots or a separate chamber in the planter, perhaps around the edge. If you would like to see the extreme of this plant dominance problem, go to Freeway Park- much of the under story is gone.

The third garden at the home of Gemma and Russ Daggatt was a shrub and perennial border with a wilder arrangement of medium size plants and a few larger shrubs for structure. Being more densely planted with larger scale perennials, this type of garden needs more maintenance than the other two gardens. The shrubs used here were Viburnum tinus, cotinus (smoke bush), roses, aronia, hebe, buddleia, and the smaller, woody sub-shrubs of sage, thyme and artemesia. All of these need quite a bit of care, from an annual winter prune on the cotinus, rose and buddleia (butterfly bush) to a shearing after flowering on the lavender and artemesia.

Perennials used were lilies, sedums, campanula, Shasta daisies and alchemilla (lady's mantle) with a few grasses- miscanthus and panicum, both fairly large plants that need to be cut back each winter. Also in the mix was Phormium tenax (New Zealand flax), a large evergreen plant with strap like leaves. This plant comes in many colors and is a very good pot plant, if a bit tender.

This tour of roof gardens was a great view of houseboats where the garden is an important component of the overall design. If you can manage the weight and of course the 'garden-ing', this is a great way to have the lake and the shore at home.



Burnell rooftop.

Bob Lilly

system as it does it on its own.

Planting in this garden was a combination of large trees and shrubs with perennials in areas of their own or under some of the larger plants. Shrubs used were nandina, Rhododendron yakushimanum (great for sunny locations), pyracantha, and lavender (wonderful in pots but short lived, about 6 years of 'good looks'). The perennials used showed good attention to easy care: daylilies, ferns and two grasses, helictotrichon or Blue Oat Grass and Blue Fescue, a smaller tuft like clump.

There was some re planted bamboo in this garden. Bamboo will completely fill planters with a mass of very dense, woody roots and can be a problem to remove. A barrier had been used to keep the roots from spreading into the entire planter and from

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Musicians Around the Lake

By Marilyn Robertson

Two men, whose instruments, music and venues are very different, describe why they like to play and perform.

Michael Schick, a Portage Bay resident and physicist at the U of W, is an accomplished cellist. Michael grew up in a house filled with music. His mother played the piano, his father loved opera and young Michael played the trombone.

In his twenties, he began playing the cello while a graduate student at Stanford. "I signed up for lessons, but it's different when you take up an instrument as an adult. A young person's fingers are more agile. Things come easier and stay with you as a kid". But he feels the adult learner often has more appreciation for learning.

After he arrived in Seattle in 1969, Michael took lessons from a number of people, many of whom, he jokes, "probably would like to forget they ever taught me." Over the years he has continued to practice and to play with groups but confesses he has taken long breaks from lessons.

Seven years ago, he was asked by the Lake Union Civic Orchestra (LUCO) to help out with an upcoming concert. When Michael asked what they were performing, he was told, Sibelius #2. "My God, I thought, that's an enormous symphony. It's huge. I said I'd do what I can." He has been playing with them ever since.

Two years ago he began lessons again. And he continues to perform; occasionally he fills in with a local string quartet when they need a second cellist. Michael has played with the group, Bonnie Dundee. He describes this as his "Folk Life debut."

Each summer, he enrolls at music camp at Whitman College in Walla Walla. Participants from across North America and Europe choose to play either with the orchestra or in chamber groups. They play music from morning to night for five days.


Practicing and performing takes a good portion of his free time and has become a significant part of Michael's life. He believes the cello is a great instrument to take up as an adult. For him, this instrument is a good outlet for expression. He explains listening to music is one thing but making it is quite another. There are pieces of music he doesn't enjoy listening to, but was surprised to find that those same pieces, "could be such fun to play." Playing music has added to his life. "I get an enormous amount of pleasure playing Beethoven's 9th. And the romanticism in the Brahms 1st sonata can break your heart."

Lake Union Civic Orchestra's 2005-2006 Season began this fall. Performances are at Town Hall. Call for tickets at 206.343.LUCO and on the web at www.luco.org

If you joined the FHA cruise on the Virginia V on 18th August you had the pleasure of listening to and dancing to music by The Midnight Ramblers. But, were you aware Portage Bay houseboater, Norman Turgeon is the harmonica player with that blues group? Norman has played with the Midnight Ramblers for about 12 years. The group has released a CD 'Houseboat Sessions', taped where? At Norman's. So if you missed the cruise, you don't have to miss the music.

Norman says the harmonica is his only instrument, which he has been playing since his "hippie days". He enjoys listening to "everything from opera to pop". He met Steve Gold, the lead singer of Midnight Ramblers, about 12 years ago, while Steve was working as a waiter at an Italian restaurant. He invited Norman to sit in with his band. Norman, Steve and Lemuel have been playing together ever since.

He enjoys travel, so it is not surprising he has managed to combine travel



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Michael Schick, Portage Bay resident provides Brahms with a view.



Norman Turgeon plays harmonica on the Virginia V cruise.

Mexican music and lots of fun. The following year the two men met up again. But this time, were joined by Pablo's two brothers and his sister. They have played together every February for ten years. The group travels and performs in restaurants in Morelia, Acapulco and Puerto Vallarta, playing traditional Mexican music as well as vintage American popular songs.

Last year Norman and Steve Gold headed east, the far east that is, to Viet Nam. "We winged it in Vietnam and had a gig almost every night playing for dinner, drinks and tips. We traveled for a month from Saigon to Hanoi stopping for a few nights in most of the major small towns."

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The Ballard Locks

By Marilyn Robertson

Why is our lake system lowered two feet each fall? Many residents of Lake Union and Portage Bay know the regulation of the Ballard Locks affect the seasonal changes in the level of the lake. But the Locks are not operated as a separate entity. Their operation by the Army Corps of Engineers is integral to the management of the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

To understand the role of the ship canal in present day Seattle requires a look at local history. In the 1850s there was no connection between Lake Union and Lake Washington. The waters of Lake Union flowed out to sea through Ballard's Salmon Bay, then a marine inlet. But some early Seattle residents saw the possibility of a sea to lake waterway. Thomas Mercer suggested the name, Union, for the lake between Salmon Bay and Lake Washington. In 1860, a fellow named Pike, needing to move logs from Lake Washington to Portage Bay, dug a canal at the Portage Bay/Union Bay location, now known as the Montlake Cut. But until the Corps dug the Ship Canal, this channel remained too shallow and narrow to accommodate vessels. The U.S. Navy, interested in a safe fresh water anchorage in Lake Washington, supported a lake to sea canal. But Seattle was squabbling over several proposed canal routes. Their indecision forced the navy to build a shipyard near Bremerton. In 1891, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gen. Hiram M. Chittenden (1858-1917) pushed for the Lake Union route. Finally, in 1911, the Corps began construction of the Ship Canal, which opened July 4, 1917. The Hiram Chittenden Locks, known locally as the Ballard Locks, includes two locks and a 235 foot spillway with six gates to assist in water-level control. A fish ladder is integrated into the Locks.

In the beginning the Canal provided a route to move coal and logs. Today it still provides commercial vessels with a safe, fresh water moorage. The Army Corps of Engineers web site describes, "Vessels of all sizes and types use the system around the clock, 7 days a week, to pass between saltwater and freshwater - 75,000 boats, mostly pleasure craft, but also government research vessels and sightseeing vessels, sand and gravel barges, fuel barges, fishing boats, container ships bound for Alaska, log

rafts, and over two million tons of commercial cargo."

Lynne Melder, Hydraulic Engineer, Water Management, Army Corps of Engineers said the Corps' operations include navigation through the large and small Locks, management of water quality, the fish ladder, the spillway and regulating lake levels. However, the Corps major role is water management. They must coordinate with other users of the Cedar River Watershed to manage the "water budget". The users or stakeholders meet, at regular intervals, with the big player, the City of Seattle, whose drinking water comes from the Watershed.

NAVIGATION THROUGH THE LARGE AND SMALL LOCK. Corps is mandated to provide water for Locks to allow passage for commercial vessels and pleasure craft. The Corps minimizes the use of the large Lock and maximizes the use of small Lock to prevent wasting water and reduces the intrusion of salt water.

SALINITY CONTROL. Over the years the Corps has worked to improve the seals on the Locks to prevent leaking of salt water into the fresh water system. The salinity is monitored at regular intervals. The salinity measure at the University Bridge is maintained at 1/1000 (EPA standard for Ocean is 35/1000.)

TEMPERATURE. Water temperature can affect smolts (a smolt is young salmon migrating from fresh water to the sea) and mature fish. Corps monitors temperature at a number of locations around the lake.

FISH LADDER. When the Corps built a 10 step fish ladder in 1917 they understood the need for safe fish passage. In 1976 a new ladder was constructed using modern standards. This present ladder has 21 weirs (ladders) which affords a gradual incline for the fish to swim upstream. The fish ladder operates year round. The Muckleshoot Indian Nation works to improve fish stocks in the Lake Washington Watershed and conducts research and fish counts at the Locks.

SPILLWAY. Fish fumes allow safe passage for the smolts. Smolt fumes are opened April through August.

The spillway of fresh 'attractant' water moving swiftly in the opposite direction to the fish, aids the fish in finding the ladder. Where salt water mixes with the fresh, the fish find an area to adjust to fresh water.

LAKE LEVELS. Lynne explained while the Corps goal is to provide water for all users, they must maintain lake levels at or above 20 feet at the Locks for 7 out of 10 years. The Corps



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begins filling about 15 February and by May the water level reaches 22 feet, where it is maintained throughout the summer. Using the small lock when boat traffic is low conserves fresh water during summer, when the lakes receive less inflow. Lake level is at 20 feet by December 1. The Corps assesses how much water is needed on any day by the users of the Cedar River Watershed but is mandated to keep the water at certain levels. They must provide a safe, healthy environment for fish and plant life, provide navigation of the ship canal, protect the shore line from erosion during stormy winter months, and heed safe water environmental guidelines. "It's a balancing act," Lynne said.

On 10 August, representatives of FHA Board met with Lynne Melder. Marty Greer, Sally Weems, Marilyn Robertson, Jan Carlson and Sid McFarland, discussed the Corps role in managing the Locks. Questions reflected general as well as personal concerns. A shore side houseboater complained the lake level dropping by two feet in early December is unnerving. Sid explained his work on the lake relied on accurate knowledge of lake levels. All agreed with Lynne that, "this is our waterway," but realized that with knowledge comes responsibility. The Corps is performing a difficult task. The Floating Homes Association, too, must find ways to become stewards of the Lake Washington Canal.

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By Chris Leman, ECC Secretary

The ECC by-laws allow a board position to be shared by two people, and we are fortunate that in October houseboaters Tim & Melissa Ahlers were elected to such a position. Tim was already organizing ECC's digital photo archive, and Melissa organized the big Oct. 11 candidate and ballot measures forum that ECC sponsored jointly with FHA and six other organizations (see separate article).

A 1999 ordinance declared parts of Fairview Avenue East as a "green street," but preserving the country road qualities of Fairview awaits completion of roadway guidelines for approval by the City. Congratulations to the many Fairview volunteers who have produced guidelines that are nearly ready to submit for City consideration. The committee for Fairview between Roanoke and Newton is led by houseboaters Jim and Pam Goetz jim.goetz@ch2m.com; and Fairview between Fuhrman and Hamlin is led by Barbara McPherson wrmcpherson@yahoo.com Contact them to receive a draft, or ECC web site, eastlake.oo.net.

Dedication ceremonies for Colonnade Park (under I-5) will be Saturday, Dec. 3; as of press time, the time had not been set, but see the Parks Dept. web site at www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/i-5openspace.htm ECC & the Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission have received \$15,000 in City matching funds for improving Louisa Street-end park and welcome comments on the design; see the Oct./Nov. 2005 Eastlake News, or contact ECC President Carsten Stinn at teamenzo@hotmail.com. ...With another \$20,000 City contract, ECC, assisted by houseboaters Giff Jones and Melissa & Tim Ahlers, is set to improve parking & install a shoreline walkway on Fairview between NOAA and Lake Union Dry Dock.

Want to help? ECC invites suggested art and words for street signs entering Eastlake, to uengelmann@comcast.net or 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102. ... ECC and the Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission seek volunteers to weed, prune, and clean up our local parks (especially at Roanoke street-end, Fairview, Colonnade, and Good Turn parks, and Rogers Playfield and Franklin Green Street. Contact cleman@oo.net or 720-4792. For more, see eastlake.oo.net, pick up the Eastlake News at local businesses, or write us at 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102. Donations and membership dues are welcome and needed.

Resources:

Lynne K Melder, Hydraulic Engineer, Water Management, Army Corps of Engineers,
lynn.k.melder@nws02.usace.army.mil

Army Corps of Engineers, <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil>

Background of the Cedar River Watershed, http://faculty.washington.edu/zerbe/PA_596/watershed

Shared Salmon Strategy, <http://www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org/watersheds/watershed-lakewashington.htm>

Lake Washington Ship Canal- A Snapshot History,
<http://www.historylink.org>

Lake Union Facts, <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/lakes/LakeUnionFacts.htm>



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FHA's 2ND BIENNIAL SUMMER CRUISE

By Jann McFarland

A near capacity crowd arrived on the evening of August 18th to attend the 2nd FHA summer cruise party on the historic steamboat, Virginia V. The Electric Boat Company donated use of their boats to shuttle many attendees to and from their neighborhoods to the Virginia V's pier in southeast Lake Union. Volunteers who were going on the cruise, captained the electric

Sid McFarland



boats and most made two trips to get everyone aboard. As guests boarded, most headed for the "liquid refreshments" table as it was a hot evening. Norman Turgeon, Portage Bay houseboater, and the band he plays with, The Midnight Ramblers entertained in the main salon with lively music. The

tables were decorated with colorful tropical print cloths from Klaudia Keller's company, Choice Linens.

At 7:15 just before the boat was to leave the dock, a late guest was cheered aboard as he ran the maze of docks and piers out to the VV moorage. As soon as he boarded, the boat began a cruise of the Lake and Portage Bay and then out into Lake Washington. A wonderful buffet

Marilyn Robertson



Bill Keasler



dinner was donated and catered by the Outback Steakhouse. The menu included Caesar salad, lamb chops, and other goodies and finished with a delicious creamy cheesecake.

Coming back to Lake Union, a full moon was rising, and by the time the boat was almost back to the pier, it was hovering over St. Mark's Cathedral like a giant orange ball - truly spectacular. Marilyn Robertson managed to snap a photo (see page 23) to share with the community and the *Newsletter*.



Sid McFarland

At 10 pm The Electric Boat Company was there with their fleet of boats with THEIR captains to take everyone safely back to their shuttle points. (Well, you didn't think all of OUR captains were going to drink water on the cruise did you?)

The FHA would like to thank the Outback Steakhouse and The Electric Boat Company for their generous donations to the make the cruise a memorable event. Thanks also to Sheri Greaves and her planning committee, to Pete's Market for a price break on the "liquid refreshments" and to Klaudia for her event planning expertise.

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EASTLAKE CANDIDATES' NIGHT

By Melissa Ahlers

Nearly two dozen political candidates for local office, from Mayor to Seattle City Council to School Board, defended their positions in Eastlake on October 11th. A standing room only crowd of Eastlake, Portage Bay, Roanoke Park and Floating Home residents filled the library at Seward TOPS to learn about the ballot measures and meet the candidates who were campaigning for their vote this November.

The forum had a lively debate style format, where each candidate and speakers for and against ballot measures had one minute for initial remarks, then one minute each to answer written questions submitted by the audience. The candidates had the opportunity to conclude by posing a question to each other.

The evening concluded with a dynamic debate between the proponents and opponents of the monorail.

The audience walked away with a valuable understanding of our city government, the issues they deal with and the importance of our communities' involvement in building Seattle's future.

This forum takes place each October, along with Eastlake Community Council's annual elections. Hope to see you all there next year!

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30 YEAR FLOATING HOME OWNER SYLVIA DIER HUBBERT CAN HELP

FHA's 43rd ANNUAL MEETING

The Floating Homes Association's 43rd Annual meeting was held at the Naval Reserve Building in South Lake Union Park on April 26th. It featured a program with representatives from the city's Parks Department and from the Vulcan/Paul Allen organization speaking to the question "What's Going On in South Lake Union?" Board Reports were also heard. Elections were held. Complimentary refreshments were enthusiastically consumed,

Clockwise from right: "Sheriff" Tiff McNamara reports on the Dockwatch. Melissa Ahlers does the Tour. Snickering in the audience. Giff Jones on the new fireboat. The city's plan for South Lake Union from Seattle Parks Victoria Schoenburg. All photos by Enrico Pozo.



There will also be about 10 weekends during this 10 month phase of construction when the bridge will be fully closed to traffic for safety reasons.

Fremont Bridge

Art Brochet, Muir Public Relations

The Fremont Bridge Approaches- the elevated roadway structures at each end of the bridge - are being replaced to extend their life and increase the structures' ability to withstand a major earthquake. (No construction will take place on the bridge itself, as it was earthquake retrofitted in 2000.)

In addition, key roadway and intersection improvements and circulation changes will enhance safety and mobility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists in Fremont. SDOT will also improve the connections between Fremont and the Aurora Bridge as part of this project.

Phase One of the project, which began in September, will involve both work underneath the bridge approaches (tie-backs, micro-pile footings, and new bridge piers) and work all around Fremont (curb changes, new and updated traffic signals and re-striping lanes). This work will occasionally require temporary lane closures on some Fremont arterials, but no full closures are required for construction except on the Burke Gilman Trail, the Ship Canal Trail and the Burke-Mill Road where they cross underneath the Fremont Bridge itself. When the first phase is completed next summer traffic will move into, through and out of Fremont much more easily - just in time for:

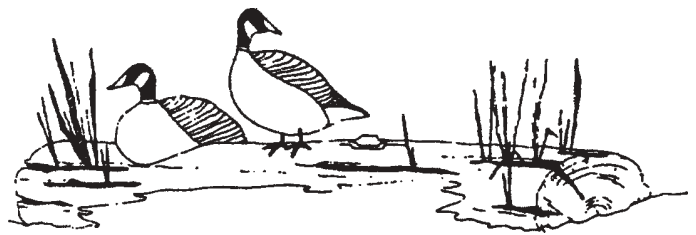
Phase Two-when the existing roadway surfaces at either end of the Fremont Bridge will be removed and replaced, two lanes at a time. Traffic across the bridge will be reduced to one vehicular lane in either direction and a single shared pedestrian/bicycle lane. There will also be about 10 weekends during this (approximately) 10 month long phase of construction when the bridge will be fully closed to traffic for safety reasons.

Phase Three will start with reopening of the bridge to 4 lanes of traffic, plus reopening of the Burke Gilman trail. This phase of the project involves upgrades of mechanical and electrical equipment underneath the bridge and will be little noticed, except a few last full weekend closures.

During construction, neighborhood businesses will remain open and parking will still be available on the street and in multiple, inexpensive parking lots. Metro buses will continue to serve the Fremont area and Fremont will remain the Center of the Universe: hosting popular neighborhood events.

For background on the project, including drawings, photographs and an email list sign-up form, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/fremontbridgeapproaches.htm>. You can even sign up to receive mp3 audio files updating you on the latest construction news.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project please call SDOT Project Manager Lorelei Mesic at 206-684-5178. Also, businesses may contact SDOT's Business-Liaison Consultant, Art Brochet, at 206-547-1008.



Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

THIS ISSUE WE WILL BEGIN OUR TOUR ON WESTLAKE AVENUE:

2420 Westlake Cooperative:

Ann Bassetti reports on another new resident to Westlake Co Op. **Mary Blanchette**, has moved here from Mendocino County, CA, to be with her partner, **Casey O'Connor**. Mary was also seeking an international airport closer than 3 hours away. Can't get much closer than Kenmore Air! **Erin Roche** and **Mark Koenig** have been sighted for the first time in over 3 years! They have been adventuring all over the globe, starting with a 2-year Peace Corps stint in Tonga. Mark and Erin are happy to house and car sit for Mark's mom, a FEMA employee, while she's out of town for a few months. (Can you guess where she is?) Now that Mark and Erin have returned, their wonderful renter, **Ginger Miller**, is seeking another rental houseboat. Ginger has been on the dock for several years and we testify she's a good neighbor. Simba, her unusually fluffy, very sweet Golden Retriever is an added bonus for any dock. Simba is well trained and he's won the Canadian Championship in Chilliwack, BC! Contact Ginger via email at gingermiller@mindspring.com or at office phone 206-860-1020. Speaking of house sitting — **John & Kathryn Breining** could use a house sitting gig during the week. They live outside Gig Harbor, but work in Seattle, and spent weeknights on their boat in the Co Op's small marina. A few months ago, their boat almost sank (but didn't, thanks to a quick Harbor Patrol rescue!) and the couple have been forced into a daily 4-5 hour commute. Restoration of the boat may be lengthy. If anyone needs a house sitter, email John and Kathryn at j.breining@att.net. The couple recently house sat for **Ann Bassetti** and **Gene Nutt**, who recommend them. The Spring 2005 issue, *Waterlog* mentioned **Lesley Hazleton's** Book, *Mary: A Flesh-and-Blood Biography of the Virgin Mother*. We are delighted to report the book recently received the Washington State Book Award. Congratulations, Lesley.

North Lake Dock

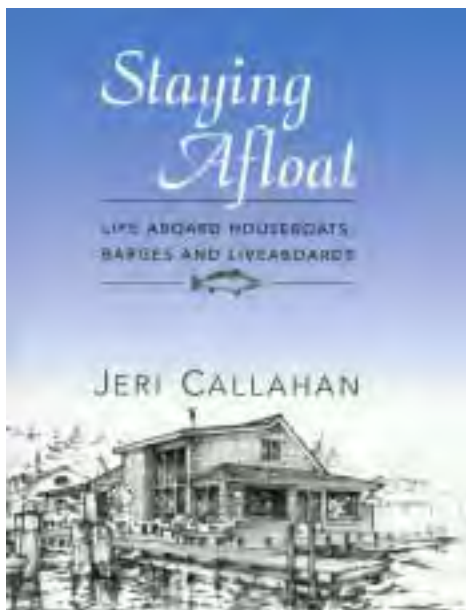
Sally Weems reports two sets of new neighbors on North Lake Dock. **Dave Whitlock** is in houseboat #15, previously owned by **Chuck & Shirley Viele**, and #5, formerly **Brian & Lorie Groth's** houseboat is now the residence of **Steve & Karen Eckhard**. Also, **Jerry & Terry Moos** are rebuilding #2 after a teardown to the logs. This houseboat is old- one of the originals. They have rented it for years and will become

Continued next page ...



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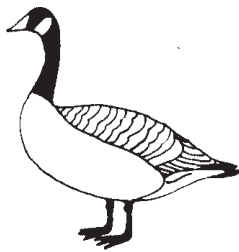
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... more Waterlog



residents, moving to Fremont from Kirkland. This summer, **Nancy Hansen & Jim Burnell** visited Russia. Nancy reports it was an interesting trip – “we saw an abundance of beautiful Russian Orthodox churches and World War II memorials. We had never been to Moscow so were not sure what to expect but the streets were crowded with people. Traffic jams are a major issue.” Since their visit to St. Petersburg 5 years ago, “the city had been ‘cleaned up’. Buildings have been repainted, parks are greener and re-planted. The Hermitage was crowded with tourists. Our tour guides were teachers who spoke openly about their disappointment in the current political system and the corruption following the fall of communism.” A guide told them that during the communist era one would go into the stores but there was nothing on the shelves - now one goes into the stores and the shelves are full but Russians have no money to purchase anything!

Into Portage Bay

Boat Street Dock

In the spring 2005 issue of the newsletter there is a photo, taken last summer, of several couples dancing on a raft. When asked if anyone knew who these folks might be, an email from **Mike Dash**, Boat Street, shed light on the mystery. “The raft is my front porch. We’re out for our second ‘Waltz on the Water’ on Portage Bay. The raft is powered by an electric fishing motor so it may be slow, but there’s no engine noise to drown out the music or distract from the view. I have a wonderful circle of dancing friends and would have to agree that they have the right idea.” In the photo are Henry Burton, Dan Burton (no relation), Gabriella Moller, Mette Hanson, Bruce Wolcott, Karen Powers, Bruce Watson, Betsy Munk, Ellen Jesse, Mike Dash, David Wilbur and Wynia (one name only).

Other news from Mike, “We on the University dock may have the only floating wood-fired oven on the bay (all 1850 pounds of it!). It heats up to 750+ degrees and makes great pizza.”

2818 Boyer

Jeanette Corkery spent the summer working the front desk at Glacier Lodge in East Glacier Park, Montana. While she was gone she asked her neighbors to keep an eye on the five goslings, offspring of “Gladys and Glen” who “choose the planter on my front deck for their nesting venue.”

Back into Lake union

3235 Fairview

News from Tui Tui: **Robbie Rudine** reports, “In June, I took my Mom to live in Bahia, Brazil with my sister. **Janet**

(Yoder) joined us. We took my sister’s Portuguese classes that will help Janet in her singing with Batucada Yemanja do Pacifico. The band had a busy performance schedule during the summer, performing at Brazil Fest and at various community functions.

The river otters returned to our dock this summer and left us their distinctive reddish scats armored with half digested log lobster carapaces. We’ve also had many close encounters with herons and bats.”

Recently a memorial service was held for Don Hilbert, Vi Hilbert’s husband at the Upper Skagit Reservation. Don, a Pearl Harbor survivor, was sent off with military and tribal honors including a ritual burning at Upper Skagit. The event carried on for two days and was attended by family friends, spiritual leaders from Indian country, Maori elders and native Hawaiian dignitaries. Also in attendance were anthropology and linguistics academics from Canada and the US. Father Pat Touhy, S.J. of Swinomish presided. “Don helped with Eastlake projects by video taping events leading up to the creation of Fairview Park and was a not-frequent-enough visitor to Tui Tui.”

Tui Tui remains involved in funding and raising awareness for a symphony composed by Canadian Bruce Ruddell. “The piece, The Healing Heart of Lushootseed, will be performed by the SSO at Benaroya Hall on May 20, 2006.” Anyone interested in donating for the artist’s commission and production of a professional recording can contact Robbie at rrudine@aol.com. Are you interested in a conversation group in Brazilian Portuguese? Contact Robbie.

Mallard Cove

Giff Jones joined the Lake Union Trekkers, who recently expanded their horizons with a four day backpacking hike over the North Cascades Pass to Stehekin on Lake Chelan. Except for camping in the flood-ravaged, blown-out Basin Creek campground in the driving rain, the trip was exceptional. Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail among the glaciers and exquisite 360 degree views was exhilarating. Along for the trek were leader, **Val Burgess, Barry Burgess** and **Jim & Barb Donnette** all of Tenus Chuck, **Giff & Mary Jones**, Mallard Cove, **Tim & Jan Carlson**, Log Foundation, and longtime houseboat aficionado, **Elaine Eigeman**. Making it a might easier was Val & Barry’s sherpa son, Jordan and his pal Jason Lambacher. Fellow Lake Union Trekkers Lynn Coker, Joanie McDermott, and Nicki Harbo did local hiking and the all-important Concrete-to-Chelan vehicle shuttle.

Tenas Chuck

Bob Lilly, resident plantsman, and Water Lily columnist, joined a garden tour of lowland Scotland, 28 June to 14 July. In Glasgow they visited Hill House, designed by Charles Rennie MacIntosh. The tour took in gardens in Western Scotland, The Borders and the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. “There were utterly fantastic gardens in the middle of nowhere”, Bob said and castle gardens tucked into protected crannies. Waterlog thought **Jeri Callahan** author of Staying Afloat. Life Aboard Houseboats, Barges and Liveaboards, deserves her own interview.

Jeri grew up in the 40s and 50s in a “small town” suburb of Dayton, Ohio. She spent childhood summers on Lake Huron, near Parry Sound, Ontario on one of the small islands that dot the lake. Their island was three acres of granite ledge with a grove of evergreens in the center. The only structure was a small cottage, “4 rooms and a path”. There was an outhouse and a clothesline, and that was it. No electricity. No running water. On the rocky shore of Lake Huron, Jeri and her mother did the laundry. Neighbors, a doctor and pharmacist, assessed water quality annually, always pronouncing the water fit for drinking. “A boat was our car,” Jeri laughs. “And once a week the ‘grocery boat’ arrived with whatever supplies we had ordered.”

After graduating from William and Mary College, Jeri was hired as the Food and Fashion editor for a Dayton paper. Jeri is still amazed she got the job. “I had no fashion sense and my adventures into food is best described by what I did with tuna casserole. I assumed that since tuna casserole was served in a silver dish, I prepared the casserole, put it in the silver dish, then into the oven. That was the end of the silver dish!”

Jeri married Charlie Callahan, a Seattle native in 1958, moved to Seattle and raised three children. Thirty years later, in 1988, she was divorced with no idea what to do next or where to live. After taking the annual houseboat tour, she wondered if a houseboat might suit. Within days she was on Tenas Chuck peering through the windows of an available houseboat. The neighbor showing the place didn’t have a key, so took Jeri to visit another neighbor, who shared stories about a recent trip to Greece. The houseboat dock, with its little cottages, reminded Jeri of summers on Lake Huron. And the dock community seemed to have the values she recalled from her hometown. “I liked it that the people who

lived on the dock were interesting, creative men and women.” Several days later Jeri owned her first houseboat.

The Lake Union

Tiff McNamara says The Lake Union has a few changes on the horizon. **Tiff & Brad McNamara** have started the remodel of their houseboat. Houseboat C is for sale and rumor has it former residents of 2019 FVE are finalizing their offer. **Brett Pickman** is moving out for a spell and giving the helm of his houseboat to his Mom. **Ethan Lowry & Nicole Halabisky** are the proud owners of 2031’s third raft/floating dining room. Neighbors have plans to dine afloat in formation next summer. **Joyce Major** will be renting her place out while she heads off to travel the world and **Nicole Hess** will be doing the same, delivering sailboats hither and yon.

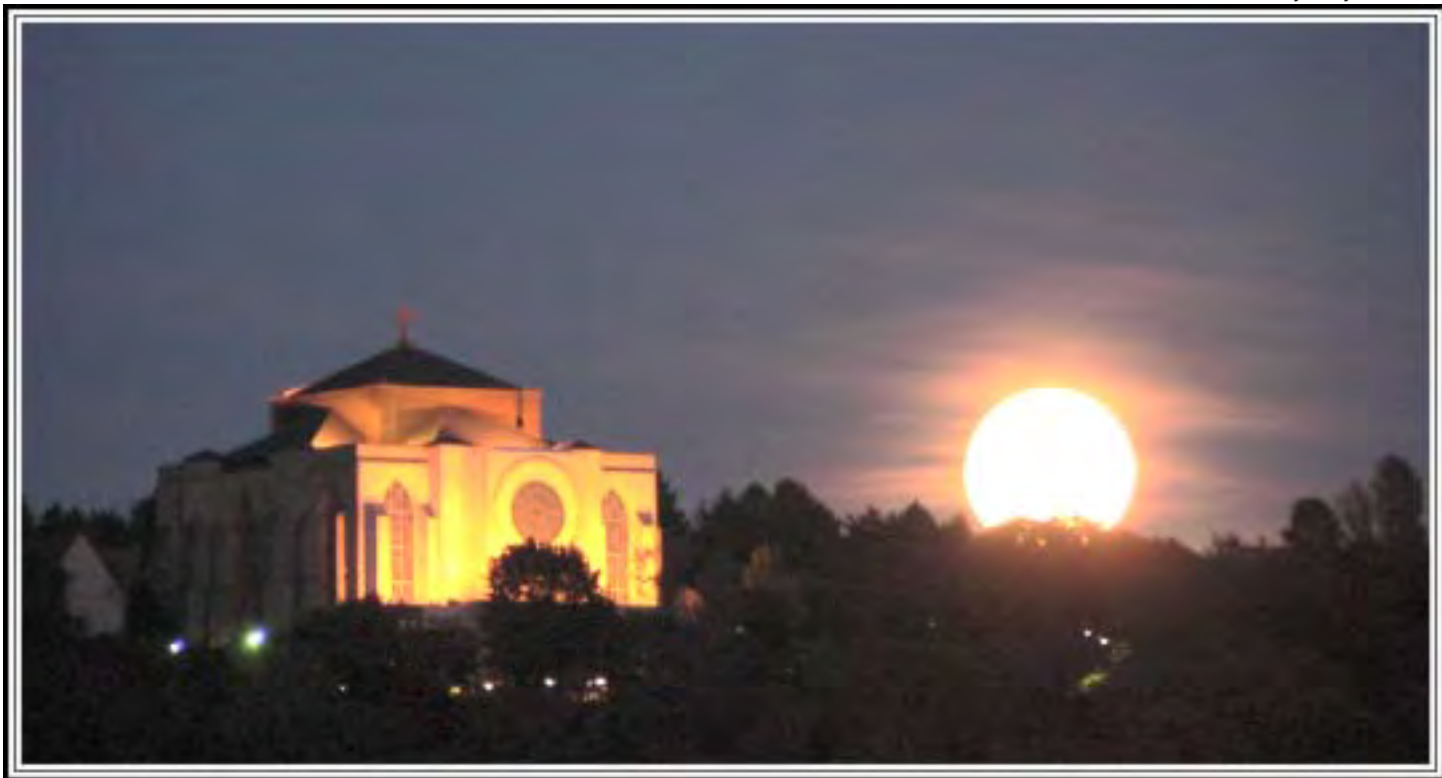
Log Foundation

You may have met the guest of **Tanya & Gerry Seligman** on the Virginia V Cruise. Susanne Forhan owns a business on Eastlake. After working in the neighborhood for 10 years, Susanne opened Eastlake Massage at 3103 Eastlake Ave E. Phone: 267-2725. They deal with specific injuries as well as “just plain old relaxation massage.” Website is www.eastlakemassage.net.

Thanks to **Ann Bassetti, Tiffany MacNamara, Robbie Rudine, Jeanette Corkery, Sally Weems** and **Mike Dash** for contributions.

Send dock news to Marilyn Robertson
isobel.rob@earthlink.net

Photo by Marilyn Robertson





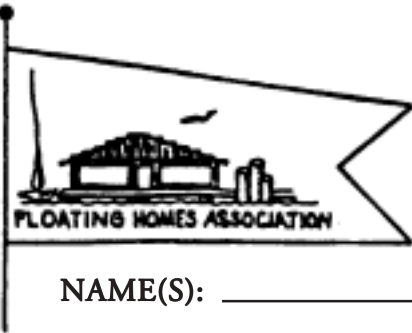
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11/02

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