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## FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 149

*Newsletter*

SUMMER 2006

# NOAA Dock Fire !

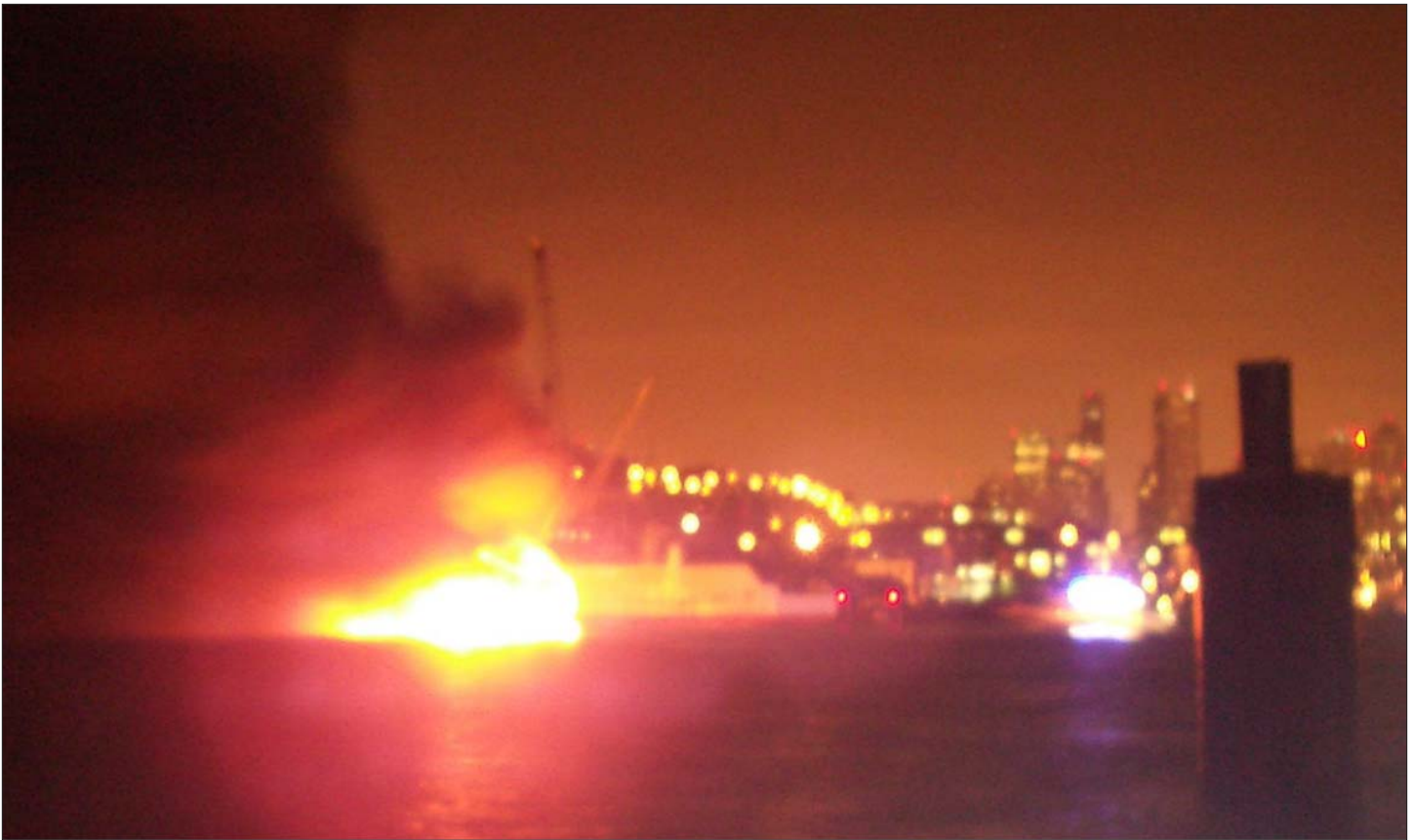


Photo by Blair Robbins and Bob Burk

**PRECARIOUS:** The view from 1717 Fairview in the early morning of 5 July 2006 as fire engulfs the NOAA piers next door. *Newsletter* features on the fire begin on page 14, including first-hand accounts of the evacuation from those in the houseboats.



### 2006 HOUSEBOAT TOUR

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 – 5:00 PM

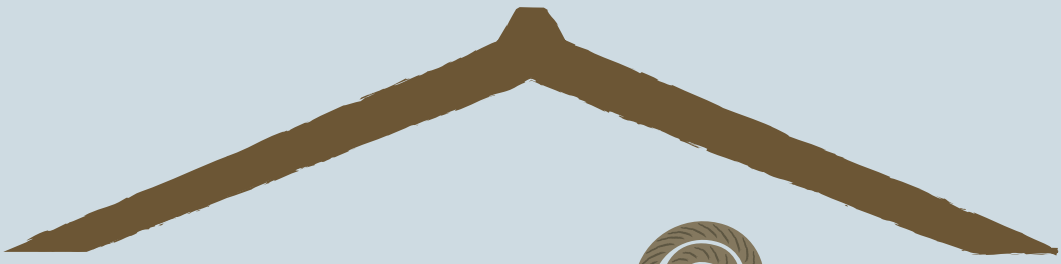
*15 Homes  
East & West Lake Union  
Open for Public Viewing*

**By Melissa Ahlers**

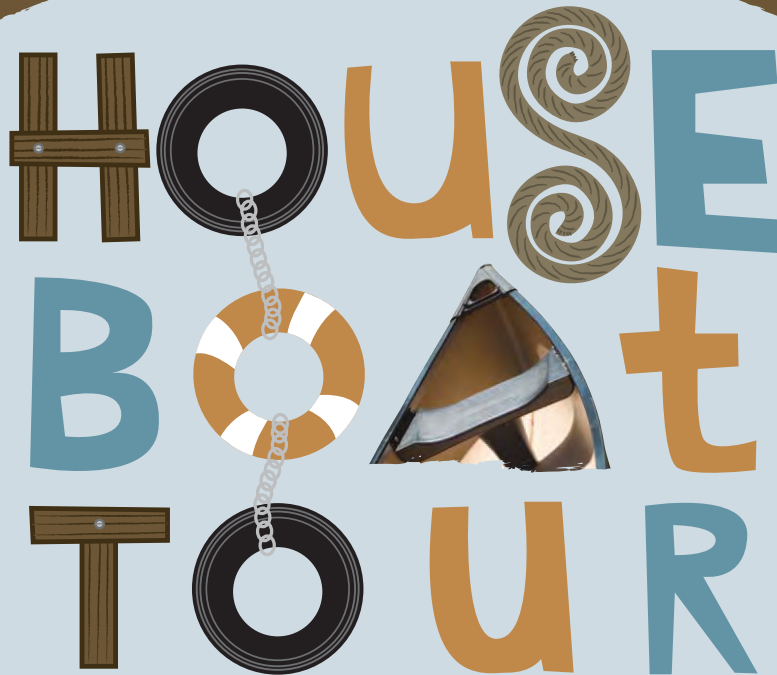
It's time for the 2006 Houseboat Tour! This year's tour will feature fifteen homes, ten on east Lake Union and five on west Lake Union. The selection of homes this year reflects the eclectic houseboat community: the old and new, the big and the small, the feel of the community and our lifestyle on the water.

And yes, the "Sleepless" houseboat is on

*continued on page 8*



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2005

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**Laurel Doody** (2241 FV)

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**Emily Hine** (2766 WL)

**Giff & Mary Jones** (2600 FV)

**Mark Koenig** (2420 FV)

**Tiffany McNamara** (2031 FV)

**Marilyn Robertson**

(2920 Fuhrman)

**Amalia Walton** (2207 FV)

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**Now and Then**

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Summer 2006



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## Association Standing Committee Reports



Legislative & Legal  
Sheri Greaves, Chair

**Election News:** As another election cycle is upon us, we need to stop and thank our elected legislators for the job they do for us and the responsiveness they have shown to our concerns on a host of issues. In the 43rd District, Speaker Frank Chopp, Representative Ed Murray, and Senator Pat Thibaudeau have always been there for us when we have called upon them with a problem. This year Senator Thibaudeau has been tapped by the Governor to head up the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform and therefore has chosen not to run for re-election. Thank you, Pat, for your years of faithful service to our neighborhood and your attention to the special concerns that always arise around our Floating Home community.



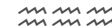
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# Association Standing Committee Reports

Ed Murray is making the move from the House to the Senate to replace Pat and we know that Ed will continue to do his outstanding job of representing us in Olympia. We wish him well in his election. Speaker Chopp, running with only light opposition, will, we know, continue his dynamic brand of leadership of the House of Representatives (and equally strong advocacy for our concerns) come January in Olympia.

In the 36th District, as of this writing, all three legislators, Rep. Helen Sommers, Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, and Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles are running without opposition, and deservedly so, given the work that they do on behalf of their district's constituents and our members on the west side of Lake Union.

That leaves all the electoral action in the open seat in the 43rd District to replace Ed Murray in the House of Representatives. As you probably know, or by now have figured out, the 43rd District leans heavily to the Democratic Party side of the partisan battles. In years past (and there are no signs that would lead us to believe it is changing) winning the Democratic Primary has been tantamount to winning the general election come November. That explains all the yard signs, doorbelling, mailings, etc. There are six Democrats running in the Primary. Political reality tells us that whichever of the six wins the Primary Election in September, will, in all likelihood, be the new Representative of the 43rd District in Olympia when the next Legislative session starts in January, 2007.

To give you some insight to who they are and how they think, we have asked each candidate to submit a statement of not more than 300 words addressing issues and concerns of the floating homes community. Their responses are included in this issue.

**Herbicide Application in Portage Bay:** The FHA Environmental Committee and Legislative Committee are working together on this issue. Our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the City of Seattle on an improved notification process and the possibility of stronger local oversight of the waterways within the City limits. Stay tuned.

**Property Tax Assessments:** Mike Ryherd is working on getting a meeting with the King County Assessor's Office to discuss methods and practices of assessing floating homes, both our houses (which are personal property), and our land (real estate). We will report to the membership any information from that meeting, and any items that we might identify for further discussion with the KCA.



## Environmental

Jan Carlson, Chair

Leading up to May 14, 2006, the Environmental Committee focused on the Lake Union Sweep, the annual cleanup of Lake Union, distributing flyers around the lake and at the FHA Annual Meeting in April where they also put on a skit to encourage houseboaters to participate in the Sweep. The Committee also asked the FHA to be a sponsor of the event and funds were donated to the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance to help put on the Sweep. The Sweep saw an increase in the number of participants and many houseboaters turned out for the day of cleanup. According to Chris Wilke of PSA, it was the biggest year ever for on-water participants.

The spraying of toxic chemicals this summer into Portage Bay for non-native weed abatement has also been a focus of concern for the Environmental Committee. The state of Washington has issued a new general permit for aquatic plant and algae management in Washington State waters. Two members of the Committee, Diana Forman and Bob Bowman (also FHA Board member), attended the Department of Ecology open house to discuss the permit that has been issued allowing an applicator to begin spraying. Efforts to stop the spraying have not yet been successful.

**Editor's note:** Diana Forman notified the FHA board about the Department of Ecology (DOE) meeting. Five board mem-



photo by Marilyn Robertson

**Environmental committee plays up the May Lake Union Sweep.**

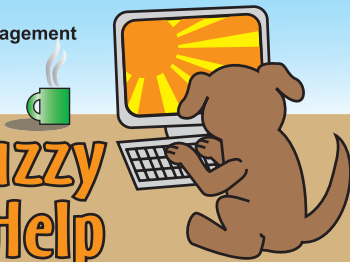
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## Association Standing Committee Reports

bers, Bob Bowman, Sheri Greaves, Giff and Mary Jones and Marilyn Robertson as well as other houseboaters attended the DOE open house on May 18th. It was an opportunity for concerned citizens to ask about changes in the permitting process, such as increase to a 5-year permit for spraying. The DOE was questioned why there was no information meeting provided in the Seattle area prior to the granting of the permit. Participants expressed worries about effects of the Portage Bay chemical applications on human, wildlife, and native aquatic plants. When King County Metro Aquatic plants expert and DOE were asked, "Who is managing our lake?" neither agency took responsibility, but said no specific entity is responsible. King County Metro said that stewardship for such a large waterway: Lake Washington, Portage Bay, Lake Union and the Ship Canal was unwieldy. Following the meeting the FHA board initiated communication with several DOE representatives. Efforts are underway to contact the city of Seattle regarding the management of the waterway within city limits.

(For more information see Diana Forman's article in this issue.)

## Security & Safety



Giff Jones  
Tiffany McNamara  
Co-Chairs

The Safety & Security Committee is grateful for the help of veteran houseboater Jim Donnette, who has volunteered to be our fire department liaison. Before the NOAA fire broke out, Jim and Giff attended a productive meeting with the firefighting team at SFD Station #5 on the waterfront followed by a patrol of Elliott Bay aboard the "Chief Seattle" after dinner. Jim and the S&S Committee have stepped up pressure to get better SFD response since the NOAA fire. Houseboat residents can help by contacting Mayor Nickels, the SFD, and Councilmember Richard Conlin (Public Safety), expressing your own concerns. See Giff Jones Open Letter to Mayor Greg Nickels in this *Newsletter*.

**Update from Tiff McNamara on Patrick Wayne Martin:** PWM is an individual who has repeatedly burglarized the houseboat community over the past few years. I was surprised to hear he was released from the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla last April. The officials had told me that there was no way PWM would be released from prison until June 27th. Another hard life lesson. Unfortunately a community review with PWM in person will not be possible. As of today there is no evidence PWM has returned to our neighborhood. If he does reappear in the future there will be no mercy during

# Association Standing Committee Reports

any stage of his capture, sentencing, imprisonment or release. Please be safe this summer and keep your home secure at all times. Let's look out for one another.

(At this time there have been no reported incidents directly related to PWM.)

## Membership & Communications

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

The big news from the Communication Committee is the finalization of the new FHA logo. It will be unveiled in the next *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* continues to grow. We have received compliments regarding the content which covers environmental, social and political issues related to our community. You will notice more photos used to accompany articles and stories. Please remember to check out the *Newsletter* on line, where you can enjoy photos in color! The editors wish to thank all the FHA community writers and photographers who contributed to this issue. Take special notice of the coverage on the Lake Union Fire. We welcome letters with suggestions as to how we can make the *Newsletter* better as well as comments on articles. In addition we invite you to send us ideas for future articles and to submit articles. You can contact us at: Marilyn Robertson, *Newsletter* Editor, c/o Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview Ave East, Seattle, WA 98102 or send email to isobel.rob@earthlink.net



## Fundraising

Melissa Ahlers, Chair

The 2006 Houseboat Tour will take place on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-5. Volunteer shifts will be from 12 – 3 or 3-6, with the opportunity to tour for free the other portion of the day! It is a great community event and so much fun to get to know your neighbors and all their stories of houseboat living... Please contact Val Burgess, Volunteer Coordinator at coachval@comcast.net or 206.324.8473. Any questions about the tour overall? Please contact Melissa Ahlers at melissa@lakere.com or 206.356.2262.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on tour day!

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## HOUSEBOATIQUE AND THE TOUR

By Mary Jones

Who wouldn't love to have a memento from our upcoming 2006 Houseboat Tour? Remember to stop by the Houseboatique table and peruse the many items we have for sale. We'll be located right next to our ticket booth at Terry Pettus Park on Fairview Ave. We have some new items we introduced recently. A warm, caramel colored fleece lap blanket with our traditional red houseboat embroidered on the corner; colorful note cards with our houseboat mantra "a neighborhood, an attitude, a way of life"; our ubiquitous and ever popular "Floating Kitchens" Cookbook and much, much more. You're also supporting The Floating Homes Association by your purchase. See you at the Tour this Sept. 10th.

# HOUSE BOAT TOUR

... from page 1

this year's tour! Always happy to share the houseboat that made our floating community famous, the current owners were married there and don't mind the flock of kayaking tourists. The Tenas Chuck Co-op, designated a National Heritage Historical District, features a re-modeled "nautical cottage" complete with a rowing scull oar used as a banister. Tour participants will delight at the views of Lake Union from secret gardens, a "Cuckoo's Nest" high atop a newly-designed houseboat on a newly-designed dock on Fairview, and a kitchen decorated with glass tiles that were salvaged from the old Seattle Library. One home shows off the dog-friendly entry and egress for morning paddles to take the dog for a swim, and another home features a hand-painted front door inspired by a piece of 17<sup>th</sup> century French wallpaper. The artwork in the homes on the tour promise that, sometimes, the views inside are just as compelling as those outside. And, of course, visitors will enjoy the ever present access to the water that creates a mood and lifestyle all its own. The tour is Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each, and can be purchased in advance by sending a check for \$25 per ticket to the Floating Homes Association office at 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102. Tickets will also be for sale the day of the tour, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Terry Pettus Park (east Lake Union) at the foot of Newton Street, on Fairview Avenue East. Tickets will be limited; advance purchase will guarantee viewing.

The admission price includes shuttle transportation via boat and/or bus between the east and west shores of Lake Union. The tour will take place rain or shine. Otis Pimpleton's BBQ will be back due to high demand, frozen treats will be available, and free espresso drinks will be provided!

If you would like to volunteer and tour for free, call our fabulous volunteer coordinator, Val Burgess at 206.324.8473 or email coachval@comcast.net Let her know if you would like to volunteer from 12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 206.356.2262 or melissa@lakere.com. Thank you for making this tour such a great experience for one and all.

We look forward to seeing every-one on tour day!

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# WESTLAKE PARKING

By Mark Koenig

The City of Seattle has designated Westlake Avenue North as a corridor in need of a revised parking plan. The current system (free parking with some time-limited areas) has resulted in occasional capacity volumes in certain sections of the vast parking area that spans the water side of Westlake Avenue from South Lake Union Park to the Fremont Bridge.

The plan presented by the city implements standard paid parking (8am-6pm Monday-Saturday) throughout the entire parking area with a Residential Parking Zone in designated areas for legal live aboard and floating home residents to park for a yearly fee. There were no exemptions or discounts offered for business vehicles, employees, marina patrons, customers or any other users who currently utilize the parking area.

In an effort to fight the city on this issue, residents, business owners, and boat owners who have ties to Westlake Avenue North formed a community organization in order to highlight the critical flaws in this parking plan, and help develop alternatives acceptable to the members of the community.

In early June, the city held two open houses to present its plan and obtain feedback. Below are highlights from a recent letter sent to all addresses along Westlake Avenue North:

Thank you for your spirited participation in the Westlake Avenue North Draft Parking Management Plan Open Houses and for your input on the draft plan during the public comment period. Between the June 6 open houses and the July 7 comment deadline, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) received almost 300 individual responses in the form of completed surveys, letters and e-mails. The individual comments are now posted on the project's website at [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation\\_westlake.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation_westlake.htm).

We want to move forward with your continued help and involvement. The need to provide balanced access to Westlake's resources and businesses requires that SDOT continue to develop a parking plan. The Department does not plan to adopt a moratorium nor impose an implementation schedule on the process. Instead, we have selected an experienced third-party facilitator, who has already begun contacting community members to identify effective ways to move forward. Our intent is to schedule a series of working meetings over the next several months to expand the ideas already gathered and constructively refine the plan's features. Meeting notices will be advertised via the project's email list, mailings to the neighborhood, and updates on the project website. Pending the results of these meetings, SDOT will identify the most appropriate methods of sharing the final parking plan and implementation schedule with community members.

Your continued active participation in the development of the parking management plan for Westlake Avenue North is encouraged. I will continue to monitor the process and recommendations. Please contact Meghan Shepard at 206.684.4208 or [meghan.shepard@seattle.gov](mailto:meghan.shepard@seattle.gov) for more information and suggestions for community involvement.

Sincerely, Grace Crunican  
Director Seattle Department of Transportation

## Floating Homes Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
10 September, noon to 5:00 pm	Houseboat Tour	Terry Pettus Park
19 September	Election Day, Primary	
23-24 September, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Seafaring Family Fun Days	South Lake Union Park

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# FHA 44th ANNUAL MEETING



photo by Marilyn Robertson

**Rapt FHA members during 44th Annual meeting.**

**By Marilyn Robertson**

On April 26, 2006 the Floating Homes Association held its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Naval Reserve Center in South Lake Union Park. Members arrived early to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and a chance to visit with neighbours and meet houseboaters from other parts of the Lake. Many took the opportunity to check out new items at the Houseboatique. Colleen Wagner and Judie Romeo from Northwest Seaport were there with an exhibit and information table for everyone to look at and to answer questions about the organization's projects. There were also tables for signing up to work on the FHA committees.

After welcome remarks, FHA President, Bill Keasler introduced guest speaker, Lynne Melder, a hydraulic engineer and lead regulator of the Lake Washington Ship Canal for the Army Corps of Engineers. She spoke about controlling water levels using the locks and offered FHA members "a glimpse into how a very complex system affects" our neighbourhood.

The standing committee chairs of the FHA Board presented their annual reports on what they and committee members have been up to this past year. Melissa Ahlers reminded those present this year's tour will be on September 10th from noon to 5pm. Volunteers were asked to sign up. Wong Doody will be doing the



photo by Marilyn Robertson

**Bill Keasler, President FHA welcomes members.**



photo by Marilyn Robertson

**Emily Hine talks about an emerging parking issue on Westlake.**



photo by Marilyn Robertson

### Mike Ryherd discusses approaches to understanding houseboat appraisals.

print materials. Should be a great tour!

Mike Ryherd, FHA lobbyist, was guest speaker for the Legislative Committee. He described the communication with King County over the floating home property tax situation and answered questions about how to proceed with an appeal on personal property taxes. This is an election year and it was mentioned that most candidates in the past who have been successful, have had support of the FHA.

Following up on last year's introduction of several new FHA logo choices, Emily Hine shared an example of the progress of the latest design, and reported the Board was nearing a final choice.



photo by Marilyn Robertson

### Guest speaker Lynne Melder, Hydraulic Engineer, explains how and why Corps regulates water levels in Lake Union, Portage Bay and Lake Washington.

Board elections were held. Current Board members were re-elected and new member, Mark Koenig from Westlake was elected.

For more information and photos on the Annual Meeting and to view Lynne Melder's power point presentation, please visit the FHA web site at [www.seattlefloatinghomes.org](http://www.seattlefloatinghomes.org).

## Seafaring Family Fun Days

By Judy Romeo

Don't miss **Seafaring Family Fun Days** September 23-24 at South Lake Union Park!

There will be tours of historic ships, rides in historic boats, exhibits, demonstrations, hands-on maritime skills activities, Northwest native canoe construction, food vendors, including a traditional native salmon bake, and maritime music.

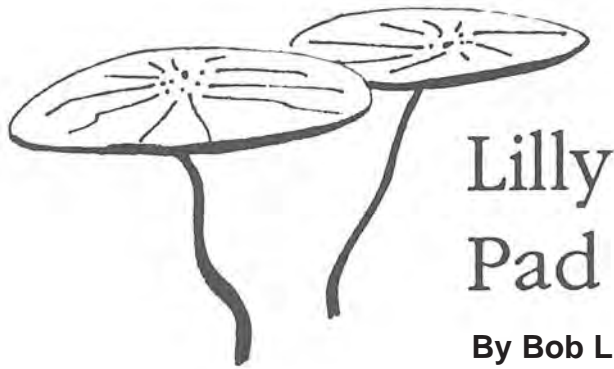
Lt. Peter Puget, in full British naval costume, will be there to reminisce about his adventures exploring and charting our waters aboard *HMS Discovery*. There will be something for kids of all ages. And there will be pirates. Aarrgh!

**Seafaring Family Fun Days** is being presented by the 12 maritime heritage organizations of South Lake Union. They call themselves SHIPS (Seafaring Heritage In Partnership Seattle) and they do know how to have a good time. The event is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. For further information, call 448-0707 or email [seafaringheritageseattle@yahoo.com](mailto:seafaringheritageseattle@yahoo.com)

photo courtesy Discovery Modelers Education Center



Andrew Loviska as Lt. Peter Puget will return for Seafaring Fun Days.



# Lilly Pad

By Bob Lilly

## Bulbs in Pots

We have all got pots of annuals for that flashy summer color; now, what do we do when the first 40 degree night sends the tropical and sub-tropical plants to never-never land? A nice light frost will do the final bedtime call for all our other annuals and turn the dahlias black. Its time to clean out the pots for winter. But we don't have the option of hiding these bare pots 'under the deck' like the landed gentry, so let's fill them with bulbs for those harbingers of spring – the tulips, narcissus and crocus and their friends.

**Preparation** If you are going to just leave the pots alone and not do any fall planting don't pull the annuals like petunias, lobelia and trailing plants, cut them off – it's less messy and saves soil. For fall planting chop up the soil to loosen it and add fresh soil if needed. Mix in some bulb food in the bottom 3 to 4 inches of soil and cover with a bit more soil to fill the pots ½ full. The target level for bulb planting is one-half of the pot for roots and one half above the bulbs to support stems and protect the bulbs from too much cold. Crocus and other 'minor' bulbs can be planted a bit shallower.

**Timing** Plant your bulbs as soon as they become available, usually around September 15<sup>th</sup> or wait for the Arboretum Foundation Bulb Sale on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> this year at the Arboretum Visitors Center. This sale has the largest selection of bulbs of all types and more tulip and narcissus cultivars than most

shops or catalogs. I am co-chair of this event and we always have expert advice on hand. There will be 15 vendors selling plants for fall color and winter interest.

Once you have the bulb, plant as soon as you can (narcissus first) and water in well. Once a bulb has begun to grow roots it cannot be damaged by freezing. Root growth takes about two weeks for tulips and three weeks for most other bulbs. Our first chance of a bad frost or freeze is around Thanksgiving.

**Selection** You can mix bulbs for a longer show but a cleaner more manageable pot will be achieved by one type per pot. When flowering is done the pot can be set aside to care for next year or plant annuals on top. Don't mix tulips unless they are all the same type, best for pots are Darwin, Triumph, Single Early, Single Late, and Kaufmaniana. Gregii tulips in pots are best all one cultivar as this group varies widely in size and height. Narcissus can be mixed

in the same manner- stick to the same types: large cup, small cup and so on. Do not mix the doubles. For a long show, plant several pots of different types and move the pots around.

**Cover** The best of all the fall colors to plant over bulbs are pansies which come in 4 inch pots and fit perfectly over the bulbs – you can plant them right on top of the same day you do your bulbs. Cabbages also work. Just cut them off when the bulbs get about 2 inches tall. I also cover pots with evergreen boughs, which like the winter hardy annuals will keep the cats out of your pots.

**Other bulbs** The minor bulbs: Alliums are very showy but their foliage is always ratty about flower time, their natural cycle! Hyacinths are great in pots and will last two or three years. Scilla, bluebells, crocus, iris reticulata,



photo by Marilyn Robertson

## Golden Eagle Lily

This is lily 'Golden Eagle' a fragrant hybrid that gets 7 feet tall. The best results with lilies is to plant when they are dormant in October and November, another reason to visit the Arboretum Bulb sale in early October. Look for Ann Hawes at Enchanted Lily, one of our vendors.

and camas tend to be a bit weedy and flower so briefly that using them in pots is not recommended.

**Spacing** When growing in pots space narcissus about ½ inch apart, tulips a little less, minor bulbs even closer and hyacinths about one inch apart. No bulbs in pots should ever touch as this will bruise the bulb.

**Perennial or not?** Narcissus are perennial here but must be fed with another round of bulb food when about 2 inches high. You can use this approach on all other bulbs – it sort of works. Just remember the bulb you buy was farmed like corn (full sun, food and fantastic soil) which you cannot do in pots. Tulips are not perennial in pots, each bulb splits to form 2 or 3 new bulbs and these cannot get enough food or light in pots to reliably form a blooming size bulb. Use them like an annual.

**Soil** Bulbs do not mind reused soil but be sure to loosen it up and add some bulb food. As always, I strongly recommend Black Gold Potting Soil. It has good texture and weight and lasts for several seasons. Never reuse tulip soil for the tulips as a disease that disfigures the foliage will carry over.

Note: We have all been charmed by those colored calla lilies in the stores and I have been asked why these callas never bloom as much the second year. These callas are marginally hardy and their breeding for color has brought in some hardy genes and some tender ones. It's all a gamble. They need big pots and some winter cover to survive the cold weather. The callas we buy with all the flowers have been treated with a growth hormone to initiate flower production on side buds. This we cannot do at home so only the primary bud will flower the second year. The bulbs do increase in size and slowly increase in number if the pot is large enough.

Bob Lilly, our resident plantsman, is associated with the Arboretum and the Bellevue Botanical Garden. He lives on Tenas Chuck.

## TRIBAL CANOES



Northwest Indian canoes passed through Lake Union on Monday, July 31 on their way to Magnuson Park at Sand Point to an historic gathering hosted by the Muckleshoot tribe. The gathering included tribes from Washington and British Columbia. There were some 70 hand-carved cedar log canoes, 50 to 70 feet long. 40 Indian tribes from both coasts of Vancouver Island, Southern Alaska, the coast of British Columbia, Straits of Juan de Fuca and Washington's Puget Sound and Hood Canal were represented. Some of the canoes were 'pulled' (paddled) since the beginning of July.

Photos by houseboater Marilyn Evans.



# FIRE ON LAKE UNION

Compiled by Jann McFarland

Here are several first hand accounts by houseboaters who were evacuated from the fire area in the early morning hours of July 5<sup>th</sup>. Log Foundation's three docks at 2017, 2019, and 2025 were closest to the scene at NOAA.

## *Tanya Seligman, 2017 Fairview Ave E*

We slept through the first hour of the fire until a neighbor on the next dock phoned us and asked what was going on at NOAA. Yikes! Flames, boats, lights and action – how did we sleep through all that? I watched awhile and then decided to get dressed as the flames were getting higher and closer. Gerry went back to bed and encouraged me to do the same and called me an alarmist. Then the firemen pounded on the door and said to evacuate to the end of the dock as a boat would pick us up. Gerry moved then, but slowly. So we arrived at the Silver Cloud with other neighbors who were wearing blankets provided by the fireboat folks. We sat in the lobby awaiting news of what was taking place and hoping for the best. Also, we had to make an early morning flight to Washington, DC for a wedding.....We got our ride to the airport..... Firemen escorted us back to our house at 5am and gave us 5 minutes to collect what we needed.....We wheeled the bags to Eastlake and Fairview where our neighbor Rob was waiting....and he took us to the airport.... We did make the flight! We were a bit tired with only the 3 1/2 hours of sleep we got, and looked forward to getting caught up in Washington DC. But the first night in the hotel there were two fire alarms (both false) so we began the wedding celebrations with sleep deprivation.....Kudos to the policeman and the firefighters who helped us retrieve our stuff and to the Silver Cloud Inn for the use of their lobby and to the offers of support and rides from neighbors both near and far.

## *Bill Bloxom & his dog, Buddha, 2017 Fairview Ave E*

The fireworks were a rocker and Buddha and I pretty much had to be at my houseboat to prevent uninvited intrusions. A wooden boat center boat ran out of petrochemicals and had to tie up for the night. During the fire my immediate houseboat neighbors were evacuated and it was a panic. Buddha and I slept soundly right through it all. It was either the beer or the seventy-mile bike ride beforehand. I didn't even get the chance to show off my new American flag boxers to the news crews. So much excitement, so little time...Was I on the "do not evacuate" list? Is the "American" Fourth of July "celebration" just the politicization and militarization of what should be a peaceful summer solstice? I sure wish the eagles and cranes would return.

## *Blair Robbins, 2017 Fairview Ave E*

Bob and I were awakened around 2am by a loud bang, probably an explosion. I heard a lot of sirens and could see the pulse of blinking lights behind our bedroom curtain. The house was also moving quite a bit from wave action. Bob fell back to sleep, but I got up and opened the bedroom door at which point

I saw that the southern most NOAA dock was on fire and the Harbor Patrol boats were pumping water onto it. I awakened Bob and we watched the fire briefly... Bob took some photos around 2:05 that show the end of the NOAA pier in flames. There was a huge billowing cloud of black smoke blowing NE, so we were very fortunate as the cloud contained glowing embers and there were chunks of piling aflame in the water between the NOAA docks. I got dressed and turned on my cell phone to call Tim Carlander...since his beautiful sailboat is moored just south of the pier that was first on fire. No one answered, so Bob got dressed and ran over to 2019 to tell him... I thought all would be okay as the larger fireboat had just come onto the scene....I went to the patio and the patrol boat...was passing by telling me to evacuate now!!! I grabbed my purse and cell phone, pounded on some neighbors doors and yelled their names, then headed to the street. Bob and I met at the dock entry and I gave him the news. He raced back and got his computer.....Soon after, we were told to move our car from the area and so we did. We came back and stood nearby until around 6:30 am, when we went back home....Indeed, we need to have an emergency evacuation plan! It would be wonderful if someone from the Fire Department and Harbor Patrol could talk with us and help to develop a plan.

## *Sandi McQuirk-Linus, 2025 Fairview Ave E*

We had a great Fourth until about midnight, when one of the guests...began to get very ill. At 1:20 we called 911....The firemen arrived soon after, one asking my husband if it always smelled like burning creosote down here. My husband answered that it was probably just the smoke from the fireworks. While they assessed the status of our sick companion, they got the call to go to the fire....They called for an aid car to come for our friend....Because the family of the man didn't know the area, I led them to Virginia Mason to meet him...I returned home, and found that Eastlake was just thick with smoke. I couldn't imagine how bad it would be at the house. As I turned to come down to the lake, it became very clear and there was no smell of smoke on our dock (2025), but I could really see the glow of the flames by then. My husband had gone to bed, and as I got ready for bed myself, the loudspeakers began to tell us to evacuate. We got dressed, grabbed the cat and its carrier, and left. We went to a motel by the University Village. Even there you could smell the smoke from the fire. I was disappointed to hear the next day that some of the people on the dock had decided to stay—probably because of the choking density of the smoke I had driven through on Eastlake. If the wind had not shifted, or had shifted the smoke back toward our docks, it would have been very bad, and having the fire spread to the docks much likelier. Even though the EPA said the smoke wasn't dangerous, after what I had seen on Eastlake, we would certainly have been in harm's way to have stayed on the dock. I don't think the fire department makes the decision to call for evacuation lightly, and, not knowing all the factors from our position, staying seemed to be an arrogant, dangerous choice.

## *Jann & Sid McFarland, Log Foundation, 2025 Fairview*

We also were awakened by the Harbor Patrol bullhorns saying something like, "If you can hear this, get out of your houseboat now, the fire is spreading this way." We could smell the smoke and see the fire & smoke from our windows, but



Photo by Blair Robbins and Bob Burk

### **Engines shower water and foam on the NOAA fire 5 July 2006.**

couldn't tell exactly where it was coming from. We threw on our clothes and ran up to the street to see what was happening. There were people, fire trucks and hoses every where. We ran back down and started evacuating our three terrified cats. We only had one cat carrier so I put "Max" in it and then put "Baby" in a plastic milk crate with a pillow over it and ran them up to the car. Sid followed behind carrying 18 pound "Beau-Bob" who peed all over him, the dock and in the car. We didn't go back for anything else – never had a choice – it had to be the kitties. We went to my sister & brother in-law's house in the Roosevelt area. We reeked of smoke. Sid left almost immediately to go back to the neighborhood, while I drank several cups of their wickedly dark strong coffee. I returned home about 5 or 5:30 am and the police let me through the barricade. It was still smoky, but the fire was pretty much out. It is apparent that we need 2 more cat carriers, an evacuation plan, and a strong box (or rented safety deposit box) for important papers. Since someone on our dock slept through the fire, we need a routine to make sure everyone is accounted for. We are thankful that the wind shifted so that the houseboats were spared – we envisioned losing all of the houseboats down to Pete's if the fire had gotten to 2017. It is especially frightening to think how long it takes the fireboats to get here compared to how fast everything burns.

#### ***Amalia Walton, Flo Villa, 2207 Fairview Ave E***

Our dock also evacuated and we had *no* idea what to take. In our sleepy haze I think we ended up with laptops and toothbrushes instead of passports and birth certificates.

#### ***Richard Ying, Flo Villa, 2207 Fairview Ave E***

My family and guests were awakened around 2am of the 5th, not long after we went to sleep late that night after the fireworks. We had smelled smoke earlier, but took no action. But when the fireboats arrived, and bull horn blared to evacuate, we ran up the dock with our neighbors. The smoke on the dock

and on Fairview was moderately thick, but it looked bad further uphill on E. Boston. We took the police's advice and got the heck out of the neighborhood. It was then around 3 am. The wind was blowing from the Southwest, so we headed that direction. We had to go up to I-5 southbound to get around the road blocks set up by the police and fire departments on Eastlake and Fairview, and looped around to find that there was no smoke at the Marriott Residence Inn, South of the fire. The front door to the lobby was locked, and a night watchman finally opened it and said that there was only one room available at the place: not enough for us and friend. We went further and arrived at the Silver Cloud Inn, immediately South of the fire, but smoke free. The lobby there was a beehive of activity. About 30 others had gathered there to escape the fire. Some were watching the fire on the lobby TV, but most were just lounging around and drinking free coffee offered by the Inn. The Inn had rooms and we paid and checked ourselves in, and had a good what-was-left-of-the-night's sleep. The next morning, we were told by the receptionist at checkout that our payment had been reversed and all guests who checked in as a result of the fire were given complimentary rooms that night. We were delighted. In these days of big national chains, it is very comforting to find there are still neighborhood businesses which can respond to neighborhood problems. OK, so the Silver Cloud Inn is a regional chain. But their reaction to our problem that night was as warm and friendly as any local mom and pop business could have provided. It was not just the money. The feeling that night at the Silver Cloud Inn's lobby was, while not festive, was definitely one where neighbors came together to "ride out the storm". The contrast to the locked and darkened lobby of the Marriott was stark. We all survived the fire with minimal discomfort, and with the happy discovery of a "good neighbor" at the South end of the Lake.

OPEN LETTER TO THE MAYOR

## A Response to 5 July NOAA Fire On Lake Union

Dear Mayor Nickels:

This letter is regarding the July 5th NOAA dock fire. It is presented by the Safety and Security Committee of the Seattle Floating Homes Association Board of Directors on behalf of nearly five hundred houseboat families living on Lake Union and Portage Bay. We are asking for immediate protective relief.

Once again we have been badly frightened by a major fire proximate to our floating homes. This time, several entire docks were evacuated by boat in the middle of the night while other frightened families grabbed what they could and fled their homes for safety. Shore side fires have threatened our community nine times in as many years, miraculously, with no serious injury or loss of life.

The SPD Harbor Patrol provides rapid response and basic firefighting services, but they are first to admit they are not trained and equipped firefighters. Several times Patrol #4, their largest vessel, has been overwhelmed by the size and intensity of flames. The morning of July 5th was one of them. The absence of a slight wind shift to the south was all that prevented a raging inferno from sweeping northward from dock to dock, potentially taking out a third of our floating homes.

It took 30 minutes for the "Alki", the nearest SFD boat, to reach the NOAA fire scene, and 3 hours for the

"Chief Seattle" to show up from Elliott Bay. While not the fault of firefighters themselves, this is unacceptable performance for a primary public safety agency. The critical missing link is a lack of proper marine emergency equipment presence within an acceptable circle of response. Again, we are asking for immediate protective relief... before one or more of our members gets hurt... or worse.

It's our observation that "Engine 1", the new Homeland Security-funded fireboat, is now being commissioned for use on Elliott Bay to replace the "Chief Seattle" which is scheduled for dry dock. We understand that 7 or 8 months hence, the "Chief" is scheduled to move to Fisherman's Terminal to relieve the "Alki", which will then be retired. We believe this scenario to be counterproductive to the interests of our community. This is why:

**1. Our need is immediate.** Not seven or eight months or more from now... for a modern, efficient, marine firefighting vessel capable of rapid deployment to the floating home community and its neighboring shore side businesses.

**2. The "Chief Seattle" is not that vessel.** It is too large for accessing narrow fairways around houseboats and fighting residential house fires. The "Chief" is suited for large, commercial and industrial firefighting and should remain on Elliott Bay for that purpose.

The "Chief Seattle", because of its size and weight, generates a massive high speed wake that will be an extremely hazardous threat to houseboaters' property and personal safety. Our dock systems get exposed to damage even when smaller pleasure yachts exceed our waters' 7 knot "no wake" restrictions. One of the undersigned witnessed significant houseboat and



Photo by Blair Robbins and Bob Burk

**Tugboat pushes a scorched NOAA ship out of the area sometime after dawn.**



dock damage from a violent wake thrown by "Chief Seattle" responding to a recent emergency on Lake Union.

Our community needs a lighter, smaller, and faster boat, one producing minimal wake and more properly matched to residential marine firefighting, while still being capable of extinguishing a large marina fire. It is therefore our most urgent suggestion that the new "Engine 1" fireboat assigned to Elliott Bay, instead be immediately placed in service inside the locks and berthed at Fisherman's Terminal or other suitable facility. The "Chief" and the new "Leschi" can serve far more appropriately on the Elliott Bay waterfront where their size and tonnage is an asset, not a liability.

Seattle's unique and valuable fresh water pearl, the floating homes community, deserves the same level of protection afforded any other home in our city. Our continued vulnerability should not be relegated to one more day of waiting for a proper fireboat.

Sincerely,

Gifford T. Jones

Co-Chair, Safety & Security Committee  
Floating Homes Association Board of Directors

Tiffany McNamara

Co-Chair, Safety & Security Committee  
Floating Homes Association Board of Directors

Jim Donnette

SFD Liaison  
Safety & Security Committee

(On August 12, Giff received the following response from Councilmember McIver. "...I asked the Fire Department for a response to the issues you raised. They in turn provided me with a copy of the Mayor's July 26 response to you. I certainly hope that the new Engine 1 and the soon to be delivered Leschi will help to improve responses to fires such as the one at the NOAA piers...")

## EMERGENCY EVACUATION

By Giff Jones  
Safety/Security Co-chair

The July 5th NOAA fire was a rude awakening for much of our floating home community. Less than two hours after the excitement and chaos of the "Lake Union Family Fourth" had died down, it erupted again with a four-alarm fire that directly threatened a third of our houseboats. A few sound sleepers were jolted awake by Harbor Patrol bullhorns blaring the need to evacuate immediately. "They had to take us off on the police boat because we couldn't get ashore, the smoke was so dense!" many recounted.

Fire and thick, acrid smoke had raged toward shore and northward, closing off land access to several of the closest docks. The press reported forced evacuation of 52 houseboats on three docks, while 70 residents fled voluntarily. From many other frightening accounts, the total is likely higher; it could have been a major disaster. Only the absence of a strong south wind saved the south half of our Fairview houseboats from being consumed by flame.

In the aftermath, the hot topic was waking suddenly from a sound sleep, becoming aware of a fire raging nearby, and not knowing what to do, where to go, or what to take. People later asked themselves, "What did I leave behind?" What about trapped neighbors? House pets? Car keys? Cell phone? What else?

The best answer is to plan ahead for the next emergency whether it is fire, earthquake, or some Homeland Security event. Many of the following suggestions are borrowed from city and Seattle Fire Department websites.

**Prevention:** Conduct home and dock inspections to determine that fire prevention and emergency preparedness measures are in place. Ask for professional help; our fire and police departments can be valuable resources.

**Preparation:** Be aware of your own environment. Are the docks clear enough to allow for mass evacuation? Is there adequate lighting? Where's the nearest fire hose? Fire extinguishers? Do you know how to use them? Find more than one way out of each part of your house-

boat, especially bedrooms. Place 911 stickers with address and houseboat number on each phone. Develop a procedure and an evacuation checklist\*\*. Keep this list in a visible, convenient location. Know where to go, whom to contact, once off the dock. Inform visitors and house sitters. Practice evacuation drills together as a household and as a dock.

**Evacuate** methodically:

Stay calm. Assess situation. Call 911. Give exact address. State facts.

Consult evacuation checklist\*\*. Take essentials and EVACUATE.

Inform emergency personnel of anyone left behind, especially elderly or non-ambulatory.

**Additional considerations:**

If unable to evacuate: Determine the safest area in your home in case escape routes are blocked. Close all doors and windows. If smoke is present, seal cracks and vents with towels or clothing, stay low and breathe through a damp cloth. Do not break the window. Take a phone with you. Be near an exit point. Declare your presence by phone or a signal in the window.

If a boat fire: Do not cut a burning vessel loose. This action contributed significantly to the spread of fire to adjacent docks and increased damage during a recent marina fire.

**Sample Evacuation Checklist:** Everyone's list will differ. Customize your own and prioritize so that most important items are first in case of limited time. Consider pre-packing an "escape bag" to keep near an exit.

**Pets/pet carriers, leash.**

**Wallet, purse, cash, checkbook, credit cards.**

**Drivers license, ID, Passport.. Medications.**

**Car keys, house keys.**

**Cell phone.**

**Flashlight.**

**Important papers, documents, insurance policies.**

**Addresses, personal phone numbers. Photos.**

**First aid kit.**

**Shoes, clothing.**

**Water.**

**Most Important Item:** Be prepared!

## How Did Your Chemicals Get Into My Water?

### *Aquatic Weeds, Permits, and Means of Control*

By Diana Foreman

All of us who live on or recreate in waters infested with invasive aquatic weeds want to control them. So far, we have not been able to agree on how best to do that while ensuring the long-term health of our lakes and waterways. The one thing we do know is that the summer of 2005, filled with the hum of commercial weed mowers and the slightly sour smell of weeds harvested with manual cutters drying on houseboat decks, is over – way over.

Last summer was heaven, at least for those of us in the houseboat community eager to employ only mechanical and other non-toxic means of controlling aquatic weeds. No chemical controls

were permitted in most state waterways. At the same time, we knew that the Department of Ecology was at work on a new general permit for the state of Washington to cover the “application of aquatic herbicides, algacides, and nutrient inactivation products to state waters.” We braced for its appearance because it regulates the granting of specific permits to private commercial herbicide applicators - the folks hired by yacht clubs, marina owners, waterfront home owners, community organizations, and others who want to control bothersome aquatic weeds statewide with chemicals – and we share the water to be treated.

The draft permit was issued early in December, and the public comment period stretched from December 7, 2005, through January 27, 2006. Houseboaters were among the record 710 individuals and organizations who wrote broadly diverse, impassioned letters and emails to the Department of Ecology questioning, celebrating, bemoaning, and requesting changes to the draft permit. On March 1 the final version of the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit was released, and it’s tempting to say that, despite several revisions in response to public concern, this new master permit remains something only an herbicide applicator could love.

For houseboaters who want to replace chemical controls with non-toxic methods, in particular, the new general permit brought disappointment and frustration. Under this new general permit there would be

1. no opportunity to alter the course or the effects of any specific permit granted to an applicator to treat and retreat a particular area with herbicides for a period of five years.
2. no opportunity for those who share the shoreline with an organization or individual hiring an herbicide applicator to be involved in that decision or to escape the effects of that decision.
3. no requirement for the person or entity who hired the applicator to even consider non-toxic mechanical means of control.
4. reduced consideration of the long-term effects of repeated herbicide applications on a specific water area.

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NORTHWEST MARINE TRADE ASSOCIATION



photo by Jann McFarland

Sample flyer posted in Portage Bay.

These and other difficulties with the new general permit moved Richard Smith of Smith & Lowney, PLLC, environmental lawyers working with the Washington Toxics Coalition, to file an appeal of Washington State's new general permit with the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) at the end of March. The Toxics Coalition alleges that the Department of Ecology permit "fails to adequately protect water quality, wildlife, and public health from dangerous pesticides in violation of the

Federal Clean Water Act and Washington State law." The appeal will be acted upon in November.

Two other attempts have been made by Smith & Lowney on behalf of the Toxics Coalition to protest the new general permit and halt its use to regulate application of herbicide to state waters. One was a request for a "Stay" of herbicide treatment activity under the new general permit and the other a Temporary Restraining Order. Both attempts were rejected by the PCHB on a 2 to 1 vote of the three-person panel. As a result, on May 9 Portage Bay was treated with fluridone, a systemic and non-selective herbicide that kills submerged plant life, both noxious weeds and native plants alike.

Three more treatments occurred in May and June to "top off" the initial application and maintain a stable concentration of fluridone in the water to ensure effectiveness. Portage Bay may see additional chemical treatments in late summer and early fall, however, for the applicator hired by the yacht clubs indicates that additional applications may be needed August through October. The flyers posted around the application site to warn water users that a chemical treatment has occurred stipulate "no irrigation for 30 days" after each treatment, so many of us have not watered our plants with lake water since early May. No swimming restrictions are indicated, but most swimmers on our dock shower immediately after swimming as a precaution. There have also been puzzling irregularities in the posting of these flyers, and e-mail conversations with staff at the Department of Ecology have occurred throughout the summer.

For four of us on the 1213 East Shelby dock who have worked on the issue of weed control on Portage Bay since 2001, this has been a dramatically eventful season. We know that the size and interconnectedness of the water bodies comprising the Lake Washington Ship Canal make it impossible to eradicate noxious weeds in our area. We also know that chemical "control" of the weeds merely knocks them back for that year as we saw following the use of chemicals in 2002 and 2004. Since non-toxic controls such as mechanical harvesting, raking and cutting accomplish the same knock-back for a single season, we find it hard to justify the annual use of herbicides far into the future. It seems a risky and impractical business given that no long-term studies of the effects of repeated chemical applications on the waterway's salmon population, or on the aquatic environment as a whole, have been completed.

Of course, we realize that if the appeal fails in November, Portage Bay – and water bodies all over the state of Washington – will experience four more years of herbicide treatments without meaningful moni-

toring, public input, or consideration of non-toxic means of control. We feel we have no choice but to keep asking questions of the Department of Ecology, to push for lake stewardship education, and to urge the DOE to develop a general permit attentive to the needs of large lakes like Lake Washington. Another important goal is eventual creation of an oversight organization for the Lake Washington/Lake Union waterway to address long-term water quality issues and ensure community involvement and partnership.

In the meantime the fluridone does seem to be controlling the weeds – at least until next spring when this cycle begins again.

Diana Foreman lives on Shelby Dock.

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# Eastlake Community Council News

By Chris Leman

Founded in 1971, in part by the late FHA leader Terry Pettus, ECC works closely with the Floating Homes Association to improve and protect the neighborhood.

**Sept. 20 meeting on land use projects.** Tuesday, Sept.

20, 7-9 .m. at TOPS-Seward School. 2500 Franklin Ave. E. ECC is hosting a public meeting about land use projects in the neighborhood. We will hear from the developers of 2946 Eastlake Ave. (a residential/business proposal to demolish the charming Allison Court, with its courtyard, affordable apartments, and many small businesses); and a huge office and retail project on the 1600 block of Eastlake Avenue East, including land all the way west to Fairview Avenue E. along E. Blaine Street., the former location of Sound Propeller, Pima Medical Institute, and other businesses. If you know of other impending land use projects, come tell the meeting! ECC's land use committee needs your help in making sure that new projects will fit the neighborhood. To get involved, contact ECC board member Matthew Stubbs, matthew\_stubbs@comcast.net or (917) 449-7739.

**Oct. 10 elections meeting.** 7-9 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, ECC is holding an elections forum, featuring the many controversial measures that will be on state and local ballots. Come hear opposing sides debate, and pitch in your views. Questions may be submitted beforehand to the addresses below. This meeting also involves the annual ECC board and officer elections. If you would like to be considered, or wish to nominate your neighbor, send a brief biography to Chris Leman (seebelow). The ECC board meets monthly and welcomes new members.

**SR520.** The draft SR520 environmental impact statement was released for public review on August 11, beginning a 60-day comment period. The EIS and its all-important appendices can be viewed at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge) (also available on cd/rom, free at 381-8400). Please send WSDOT your comments in one of three ways: (1) online at [www.SR520DEIScomments.com](http://www.SR520DEIScomments.com); (2) by e-mail to [SR520DEIScomments@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:SR520DEIScomments@wsdot.wa.gov); or (3) by letter to Paul Krueger, Environmental Manager, WSDOT-SR520 Project, 414 Olive Way, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98101. Please speak at one of the public hearings: Mon., Sept. 18, 4-7 p.m. at Seattle's MOHAI, 2700 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. E; or Thurs., Sept. 21, 4-7 pm. at Bellevue's St. Luke's Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE.

So far, ECC opposes the six-lane options and prefers the four lane proposal which because of wider lanes and shoulders, would accommodate more traffic than the current bridge. ECC also joins the Arboretum and UW in opposing the Pacific Street Interchange, which would actually straddle Union Bay and Marsh Island. ECC welcomes your ideas (see address below). If you write to WSDOT, please send us a copy.

**Lake Union SE shoreline project.** This fall and winter, volunteer work parties will continue to remove invasive plants and weeds, and install native plants in 1500 & 1600 blocks of Fairview Ave E. Watch for signs with dates of weekend work parties. Tax-deductible donations of native plants and cash are welcome,

## SELLING or BUYING a FLOATING HOME on LAKE UNION or PORTAGE BAY?



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with checks made to Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission and mailed c/o ECC; to be notified about parties, contact Chris Leman (see below).

**Other parks.** Houseboater Tricia Rendina (261-4271) is coordinating monthly work parties at Good Turn Park, 3149 Fairview Ave. E., with next ones on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. and Thurs. Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. To help at Fairview Park, contact Mary Kay Gillespie, 328-2161. Parks that still need a coordinator: Rogers Playfield, Lake Union SE shoreline project, and North Gateway Park under I-5 at Harvard & Eastlake. A stewardship group is forming for Colonnade Park. To help, please contact Chris Leman.

ECC appreciates that the Log Foundation and Tenas Chuck have purchased individual ECC memberships for all of their households. We welcome any other docks who would like to join this program.

For questions, contact ECC Secretary Chris Leman, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, cleman@oo.net, or phone 322-5463.



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photo by Paul Fredrickson from PSA

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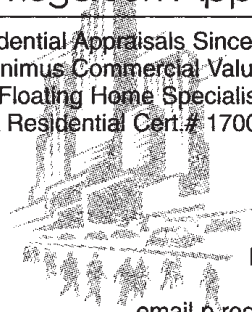
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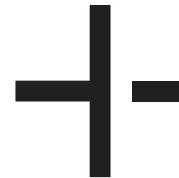


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photo provided by john giovine

## Sally (Sears) Giovine Kerr

25 July 1923 – 11 April 2006

The people of Portage Bay Pl. E. miss long-time resident, Sally Giovine-Kerr. She lived there since 1968 with her husband Bob Kerr and their combined family. Sally was “A true force of nature”, said John Giovine, speaking lovingly of his mother.

I think of my neighbor Sally: her strong will with an all-embracing spirit and her big heart that had love and compassion for those who needed a kind friend or a good word. Jo Bailey remembers seeing Sally in the U. District on the Ave, (an area she really enjoyed), greeting and chatting with the young people, believing they needed to be accepted.

Born and raised in Olympia, Sally married Peter Giovine and had five sons. Suddenly in 1959 she found herself widowed. Some years later at a Unitarian event, she met Bob Kerr. He was an engineer and father of three. There was an instant attraction! They married in 1968. He whisked Sally and the boys to Seattle, to live in an old red houseboat on Portage Bay, at Carrie Stafford’s moorage. Shortly afterward, they purchased a property named the Dolphin House between the Stafford moorage (now Houseboat Harbor) and the Mattson moorage (now Portage Bay Condominium). Here, Bob and Sally had a moorage for three houseboats and a home on land.

Professionally, Sally earned a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Ed., and did advanced work in counseling at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. She taught school for a while. Then she counseled adult individuals as well as separate women and men’s groups. Sally became a Minister in the Universal Life Concept and performed 30 marriages, of which she was very proud. She was always available to “her” couples for pre and post-marriage counseling.

Sally’s interest in all things spiritual led her to Indian Shamanism. She loved to decorate the house with artwork, drums, feathers, beads and other symbols of the human spirit.

SNAPSHOTS OF SALLY: Wearing overalls and painting a houseboat or sitting on a roof pounding nails ... Walking on the road with the dogs Simon and Zeke ... Sitting on the deck with Bob, sharing a quiet moment ... Enjoying the view of Portage Bay with Bob ... Shoveling mud off the road after the big landslides from Fuhrman Ave ... Jumping into Portage Bay in her one-piece, black bathing suit ... Distributing fruit to friends from her small farm near Olympia ... Going out in the sailboat on Opening Day with the family ... Joining the protest march against nuclear submarines in Bangor ... Attending caucus meetings with Bob at Election time ... Going to the MOHAI on Saturday mornings with Bob for the radio show “Sandy Bradley’s Potluck” ... Seeing the children and grandchildren come and go at the Dolphin House.

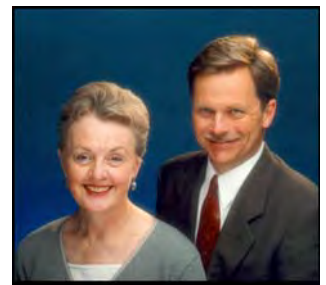
Jo Bailey and Carl Nyberg remember many potluck dinners with the Kerrs and other neighbors. Sally liked to lead the singing of the song “The More We Get Together” before they began eating! Ozell Gaines, another old friend and houseboat neighbor, is using a cane that Sally had used. What a way for him to feel his friend’s support: “Lean on me”.

Sally lived life to the fullest, but facing the reality of lung problems, she decided that home on Portage Bay would be the best place to spend her last days. So...with hospice care and surrounded by Bob, their children, extended family, good friends and neighbors, she died peacefully on April 11, 2006.

At Houseboat Harbor, next-door to the Kerr family, there is a climbing rose Sally gave me years ago. I planted it in the garden where she could also enjoy it from her deck. The “Sally” rose, as it grows older, keeps reaching higher, just as Sally always did, loving the light of life and love. – **Myrna Cordova**

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photo from Goodin Family

## Onis Goodin

10 November 1912 – 7 October 2004

At the end of World War II, Onis Goodin traveled from Washington, D.C. to Seattle to join her attorney husband who had accepted a job with the Justice Dept there. This was quite an adventure for her and her family. Rationing had just been lifted and people weren't traveling much. She sold their house, bought a big car, and, without a map, just asking directions along the way, traveled cross country with her three children and mother in law. Onis was not by nature one to seek adventure, excitement or change, but she had a passion for life and rose to its challenges. She was well educated and a teacher with a Masters degree.

When Onis was in her 50s, her life changed. Her children were grown and out of the house when unpredictable circumstances led her to leave her comfortable home and existence. She needed a place to live. Her son Alan told her about houseboat living. She found one on Fairview on a leased moorage for around \$4000. She was on the end and loved it. She loved the view and loved being rocked to sleep at night. According to her daughter,

Mary, houseboat life was not always perfect. In one instance she recalls, a big storm displaced some of logs from under Onis' houseboat. She and a friend helped keep the houseboat afloat. Despite occasional problems, Onis was hooked on houseboat living. Unfortunately about five years later, her "docklord" decided he wanted her end moorage space and she had to leave. Not about to give up her life style, Onis found two other people who were interested in buying their own houseboat moorage and they purchased property in Portage Bay.

Onis loved living in Portage Bay and thoroughly enjoyed the sense of community.

She also enjoyed all of the beauty of life from her houseboat on Portage Bay. She fed the ducks, watching them grow from chicks to adults. She never ceased to be amazed at the magnificence of the moon rising, the lights from the University reflecting off the water and the occasional rainbow. She entertained friends and family regularly with annual parties that included Opening Day, Seafair and the Christmas parade of boats. Her grandchildren spent their growing up years visiting their grandmother and enjoying water activities, swimming, boating and fishing for chum. Onis lived there until she was 88.

I am fortunate to be writing this tribute and to be able to say Onis was my friend. I have never met anyone like Onis Goodin. She had so much love and joy in her heart. She recognized the beauty in life and loved it. She always engaged in life in a positive way and with a forgiving spirit. If it's possible to summarize a life like Onis', I would say it's the historical life of a "houseboater": one which embodies tolerance for people with different backgrounds, their choices and their lifestyles. She loved and accepted everyone. This last was unusual since she grew up in the South where these views were contrary to her background and culture.

In memory of Onis Goodin, a mentor of love, tolerance, and joy, I hope that current and future houseboaters will remember her houseboat history and strive to live by the high standards set by Onis and others who share her philosophy of life. – **Ledjie Ballard**

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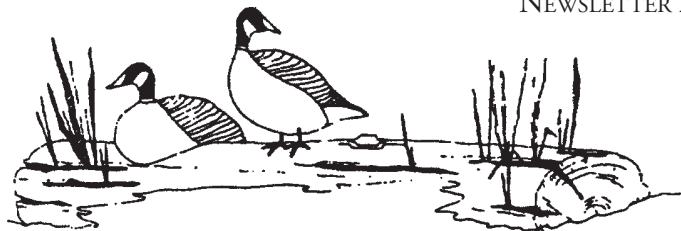
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# Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson



## Fall 2006

It's a sunny afternoon so lets hop on a boat and sail around the Lake.

We begin at the south end of Lake Union at **2420 COOPERATIVE** (Westlake). This dock welcomes **Kathleen Kelley, Chuck Arnold**, with their bunny and their fish, as they rent **Chuck Day's** house for a couple years. Chuck D. has sauntered eastward for a job opportunity, but assures us he will return.

**Mark Koenig** says, "We painted our house a bright orange-yellow **Erin [Roche]** likes to call it mango, with shamrock green and claret red trim, along with a touch of sailboat blue hidden here and there."

It's not far north to **2460 INC. AND NESIKA CHUCK CO-**

Peggy previously spent time living on their power-boat at the end of the 2420 dock. They came highly recommended as neighbors by our friends there. **Steve and Chris Nielson** of Nesika Chuck co-op have been living in San Diego due to Steve's job. But they snuck back into town this month for a week long French cooking class on Bainbridge Island. Now we want them back as full time residents more than ever. In addition to Steve's famous fish tacos, we'll be expecting Coquilles St. Jacques and Mousse au chocolat!"

At **WESTLAKE COVE**, Emily Hine reports about activities on 2766 and 2764. "**Ann Magnano** and **Sheri Boddy** from Westlake Cove are having an eventful fun summer. In July they completed the demolition of an old houseboat and they are now in the process of building a new & improved houseboat on the end of 2764 Westlake Ave (next to the Diamond Marina boat/gas dock). Check out the progress. According to Ann, not much to report – just a lot of permits to obtain! Look for walls sometime this fall (we hope!)."



photo from Mark Koenig

**Mark and Erin's mango houseboat with green and red trim, hidden touches of blue.**

OPS where we see **Marty Greer** out painting a watercolor. Marty talks of the arrival of new and old houseboaters. "2420 INC and Nesika Chuck co-ops welcome **Bill and Peggy Schickler** to our community. Moving here from Manhattan Beach, California, they bought houseboat #8 in the Nesika Chuck co-op. Bill's company manages the 4 city-owned golf courses in Seattle. Instead of the fish or flower pennants flying from most of the houses on the dock, a golf flag flutters from their window. 24-year-old daughter **Megan** is living with Mom and Dad in houseboat 8 until she finds an affordable place of her own – good luck Megan! Bill and

Before we go into Portage Bay, we stop at **933 NORTHLAKE** where **Sally Weems** tells us two houseboats on Northlake Moorage are for sale. Not much other news, except her roof top garden is flourishing after last year's visit from **Bob Lilly** (Tenas Chuck)!

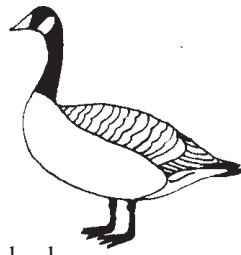
We'll head under I-5 and the University Bridge to visit a couple of neighbors on Portage Bay. At **2818 BOYER AVE Jeanette Corkery** tells us her neighbor, **Mardi Newman** who is a nurse and an auctioneer, is going to be auctioned! Seattle's newest magazine, SEATTLE METROPOLITAN and NORDSTROM are hosting a charity auction of Seattle's hottest singles on 14<sup>th</sup>

September at Nordstrom. There are 12 singles being auctioned and Mardi is one of the 12. All proceeds go to On the Boards. In the current issue of "Seattle Metropolitan", there's a spread of Mardi Newman and the other "bachlorettes".

We say hello to **John Pursell** further west on Fuhrman Avenue East who announces that in the 50 years he has been checking lake temperatures he measured a record water temperature of 78 degrees on that hot weekend in late July.

Back in Lake Union we find **Robbie Rudine** at **TU!TU!**,

## ...Waterlog



who tells us his news. “**Janet (Yoder)** and I came back from Brazil just in time to attend the world premier of *The Healing Heart of The First People of This Land*, the symphony commissioned by Vi Hilbert, composed by Bruce Ruddell and performed May 20 at Benaroya Hall under the baton of Maestro Schwartz.”

There have been animal doings as well at Tui Tui. “One night our dog Saba went out on to the west deck and started up a yowl and growl chorale. Then we heard a loud splash. Uh oh! Our old dog’s fallen in the drink. We rushed out to see a big rodent head bobbing and weaving a head bow wake. We thought otter...no too big...nutria...no, not butt ugly enough...then, after insolently staring us down, it took a dive and slapped the biggest, fattest, flattest beaver tail you ever saw. The splash was so cannonball-like as too drench my coffee with an extra dollop of Lake Union water. It swam around Grande Tui and slapped and dived four times before disappearing.

“We have been watching the Peregrine falcons playing and hunting and perching on the structures of the Ship Canal Bridge. We seem to be in the Ravine Heron rookery flight



photo provided by Derek Stanley

### Derek & Doug with Kepler and new baby Anton

path too - much quieter commuters than the express lane hellions roaring up above. Do you have any news as to when the DOT noise abatement project will begin?

“Tui Tui has issued a number of new stamps including commemoratives of our diplomatic missions to Brazil and soon to come stamps for Janet’s birthday and a zazzle.com dual franking stamp that will be valid for US postage and feature the Coat-of-Arms of Tui Tui. Sadly, last week our houseboat neighbors on Isle Regis lost their beloved and

long-lived feline companion Regina Whitewalls Regis. I hope to do a stamp issue in tribute to the felines of Tui Tui.”

At **TENAS CHUCK**, 2339 Fairview, **Val Burgess** reports “There are now 9 small children on 2339. It’s fun and exciting to be a part of this new generation.” The latest addition is **Tessabell Naomi Sheldon**, born 6/16/06 at 9:55am PST, weighing in at 8 pounds 4.4 ounces! For a week or so, her working name was ‘Baby Sister’. The family waited until she told them what her real name was to be. Parents, **Michael** and **Pauline** were still moving back into newly remodeled houseboat when Tessabell arrived. Everyone is excited that she and older sister, **Marlena** now have a room of their own.

Still on **TENAS CHUCK** at 2331 Fairview **Jeri Callahan** shares a message **Doug Hunt and Derek Stanley** sent her.

“It may come as a surprise to you: we are parents again and still a bit in shock! We rejoined the adoption waiting pool Memorial Day weekend assuming we would have the average year or two waiting for our second child. Well, four weeks went by. Then we were chosen to become Daddy and Papa to a little boy. **Anton Harper Stanley-Hunt** was born, July 10, 2006 at 8:59 AM. He has more hair now than **Kepler** and Doug put together in the past year!”

Jeri tells us more news. “My neighbors, **Jan Knutson** and her husband, **Ed Hutchinson**, are moving to Anchorage, Alaska in July. Both are fund raisers. On a recent trip to the cabin in Seldovia Ed purchased a year ago, they spent time in Anchorage where serendipitous happenings resulted in each receiving job offers! Jan will be working with Catholic Charities and Ed with United Way. Both plan to return to Tenas Chuck when they retire in the next two to three years. They’ve rented their houseboat to **Howard Barnstein**, newly hired by the Gates Foundation. Howard will be joined by a house-mate, **John Howard**.”

Jeri continues, “**Barb Donnette** just reminded me of a wonderful “Fiddler on the Dock” in late June when we had Jerry Canote (his wife Julie is daughter of **Florence Yerxa**, the current grand dame of Tenas Chuck...age 87!) and his twin brother not only making music, but also leading us in some square dancing in our parking lot where the event took place.”

Moving south along the lake we reach **FLO VILLA** and find **Don** and **Barbara VanNimwegen** at home. They share the story of a trip last year. In April 2005 Don, an anesthesiologist received a call asking him to join the USNS MERCY to aid in the Indonesia earthquake relief. While there, he saw two children with birth defects, conditions too complicated to be managed on the ship. Through Healing the Children, efforts of the Captain, Consulate, Governor, and others, Don brought both little girls back to the USA. The year old child, Putri, an orphan, went through successful open heart surgery. The 8 year old, Mawarni was taken to St. Louis and had neuro/plastic surgery to her face (a 15 hour procedure). This

surgery also was very successful. In July 2005, Don returned the kiddies to their home in Indonesia.

The trip from LA to Nias Island, their destination, took more than four days and consisted of several layovers, a daylong road trip, and an overnight ferry.

Their arrival was a surprise to the orphanage but the nuns were ecstatic to see little Putri. Don and Barbara were invited to stay with the nuns as there were no functioning hotels. A welcome home celebration at Mawarni's house began with speeches by the elders, who after the earthquakes,

around the lake. **Tiff McNamara** just happens to be on the dock checking out the progress of work on her houseboat. She tells us a 'bit of gossip. "**Catherine O'Brien** went on a trip to Frankfurt, Germany for a little bit of both work and pleasure. **Larry Logue** has been steadily transforming a small shed into a marvelous home much to his neighbors delight. **Coco Hess** has spent her summer doing as much sailing as possible, crewing on **Tim & Melissa Ahlers'** Melges 24, racing at Shilshole and in the Vic-Maui on the boat Blue Moves II. The dock welcomes new renters **Kara and Paul Mealy**. We are thrilled to see flowers in the flower boxes once again. Congratulations to Rachel Patterson & Ben Johnson who were married on the end of our very dock on August 5th." And speaking of that wedding, **Dick & Kelly Patterson**, parents of the bride, rented an extra raft and tied it to their own. They put up a canopy on their raft with a flower arbor to serve as a backdrop for the wedding ceremony. As kayakers and other boaters hovered and gawked, the vows were said and then a reception with dancing followed. There were over a hundred people present.....

A couple of days later the following message arrived in neighbors' emails:

"Yo Neighbors! We've got about 80 yards of top-quality, mini-golf green Astroturf to give away that we just used this weekend to cover a rental barge for our daughter's wedding. It may have some cake crumbs and an occasional champagne splatter, but it's only a quick hose-spray away from being brand new again. There's enough material to carpet the walkway of an entire dock, or two; the largest piece is 45' x 12'. It comes with a 24-hour warranty and a free set of steak knives. Any takers? Any ideas about who could use this pretty stuff? xo, Dick & Kelly, your friendly neighborhood Astro Santas."

So, that's it. Join Waterlog in the fall for another trip around the lake.

If you want to see your name in print send us your story. Email Marilyn Robertson at [isobel.rob@earthlink.net](mailto:isobel.rob@earthlink.net)



Photo by VanNimwegen

**Barbara and Don VanNimwegen in Singapore.**

thought God had abandoned them. Seeing Mawarni healed, renewed their faith. Barbara says, "Then the feast began. Out came, on a platter, a pig head complete with nose, eyes and ears plus the heart and liver. I was wondering how I was going to get through this without disgracing myself..... Eating in Indonesia is different—there are no utensils but your fingers, and belching frequently and loudly is a sign of appreciation for the meal! I managed to down most of the food, but eating rice with your fingers is messy at best. Mawarni's mother was sitting beside me, and she and her friends were.... chattering and laughing. No one spoke English except our translator, so it was a few minutes before I realized they were all laughing at me trying to eat delicately with my fingers. So, I thought, do or die, and I picked up a handful of rice and jammed most of it into my mouth. Well the whole group burst into laughter..... It certainly broke the ice."

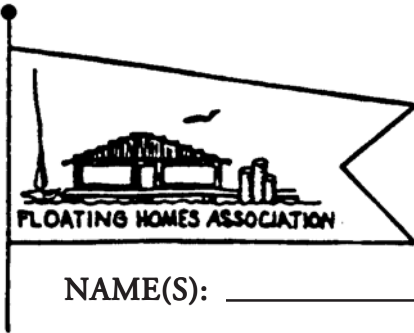
"THE LAKE UNION" Dock is our last stop on this trip



Beth Means

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