



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 160

Newsletter

Spring 2012

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26TH

See Page 2



photo by Marilyn Robertson

The Argosy Christmas Ship festival has been a Northwest tradition for 63 years. Each night from December 1 through December 23rd, 2011 the Argosy Christmas Ship sailed to different Puget Sound waterfront communities, over 45 in total. On the final night, Portage Bay residents and guests, along with a huge flotilla of boats, gathered to enjoy the Christmas lights and listen to the choir singing holiday songs.

FHA 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

By Laura Lowery

Pretty nifty, we are fifty!
The Seattle Floating Homes Association (FHA) has reached its Golden Anniversary this year, and we're planning a great big birthday bash to celebrate, in conjunction with the FHA Annual Meeting.

Please join us at the Queen City Yacht Club (2608 Boyer Avenue East) on Thursday, April 26, 2012, from 6:30pm until 10:30pm. The agenda will include just one hour of elections and speeches. The rest of the evening will be devoted to music and dancing with a live band, enjoying

great food, sipping local wine and Red Hook beer, eating birthday cake, and celebrating with fellow floating home community members.

A formal invitation should arrive on your doorstep sometime this month, but for now please mark your calendar and plan to attend. With special "50th Anniversary" commemorative gifts planned for those who attend, this will be a year you don't want to miss!

A special thanks to the 50th Anniversary Party Committee who have been busy planning the celebration: Joyce Black (chair),

Laura Lowery (co-chair), Marty Greer, Sheri Greaves, Libby Kutcipal, Jann McFarland and Tricia Rendina.

See you in April!

(In this issue, see related articles on the new FHA Logo and on the new houseboat history book to be published in early July)



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Newsletter: Marilyn, Jann

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Spring 2012



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Notes from the President ...

By Marty Greer

Managing the 'database' of the FHA has been a daunting task over the years. Though the houseboats are, finally, pretty permanent, their owners come and go, as do memberships in the FHA. The main use of the FHA database has always been communication. In the past couple of months we have embarked on creating a brand new database using a service that allows us to manage membership, store documents, and easily communicate with members and the board. So if you are asked to 'update' your contact information one of these days—even if nothing has changed—please help us to make this new database of houseboat residents an accurate and useful project by providing the information to your 'dock contact' to the FHA.

This fall brings another Houseboat Tour, the main fundraiser for the FHA. You'll be hearing from tour organizers in the very near future, looking for houseboats to be shown as well as volunteers. I hope you'll all participate.

From time to time the board is asked to make contributions from FHA funds to other projects and organizations. The Board uses the following guidelines in

deciding when and to whom to donate funds:

1. Will the funds we donate be used in a manner that supports the FHA Mission?

The mission of the Seattle FHA is: To protect, preserve and promote the vitality of Seattle's historic floating homes community through education, advocacy, environmental stewardship and collaboration.

2. Is the organization/individual requesting the donation reputable? Do they enjoy a good reputation among the Seattle floating homes community?

3. Will the donation help to improve our community?

4. Will the donation reflect positively on the FHA?

5. Will the donation encumber the FHA in any negative way?

6. Does the request fall within appropriate FHA budget parameters?

Are you passionate about our lake and its environment? Have you been looking for a way to participate in the FHA? The Environmental Committee of the FHA Board is looking for a chairperson. This committee is perhaps our most important one since Lake Union and Portage Bay are our "yards" and "playgrounds" and our stewardship of these waterways and

shorelines shows our commitment to our own preservation and the environmental health of our City. Please give me a call or an email if you can help.

Mark your calendars for April 26, our 50th anniversary Annual Meeting and Party. And watch for our new LOGO!

Information Technology Committee

By Marilyn Robertson

Since Lorie and Brian Groth (The Lake Union) joined the FHA Board last year they have been hard at work on the old membership list, converting it to a database with more easy access for the Office Manager, Jann McFarland and Communications Chair, Marilyn Robertson. The FHA has a new service provider, which will store the database, and also provide storage of a variety of board documents. Presently, the FHA uses several 'hosts' to send out communications to the membership. Soon, e-alerts and other communications will be sent out through this single provider.

If you have been contacted by a board member to assist us in updating your dock's membership list, thank you for sharing current information.

The FHA board wishes to thank Lorie and Brian for their interest, patience and creative approach.

Community Relations Committee

By Melissa Ahlers

This new committee is working to establish and foster connections between 1) the houseboat docks and the FHA and 2) between the houseboat docks themselves. The committee hopes to do this by welcoming new floating home residents, developing a structure of communication between the FHA and the docks as well as encouraging each dock to share information with other docks. The FHA Board's intent is to stay informed about individual dock needs, to share resources, and to share best practices for living afloat. To accomplish this, the FHA would like to have a contact on each dock or co-op to represent their neighbors in this network. If you would like to be the representative for your group, please call Melissa Ahlers at 206.356.2262 or email

melissa@lakere.com

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**Lake Union Rotary
Wants to Hear from
Houseboat Community**

Board member Larry Logue, who is also a member of the Lake Union Rotary, reports that the club, which meets in the Center for Wooden Boats, is sponsoring a survey to ask neighbors what they would like to know about Lake Union Park. (See Flyer at right for more information.)

**LAKE UNION PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY**



Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

Seattle's Lake Union Park is a vibrant urban oasis in a rapidly-changing landscape. Among greenspace and unforgettable lake views, the park is host to a remarkable variety of public programs and events that some in our community may not be aware of.

The Rotary Club of Lake Union seeks to identify how we can better connect the community with all that Lake Union Park has to offer. **Please consider taking this short survey to tell us what you would like to know about the park.** Your feedback is invaluable and anonymous, and will not be shared with outside parties.

Take the survey online at **www.delivr.com/1dkfp**



For more information or to request a paper survey, please email info@lakeunionrotary.org or call (206) 382-2628 extension 29.



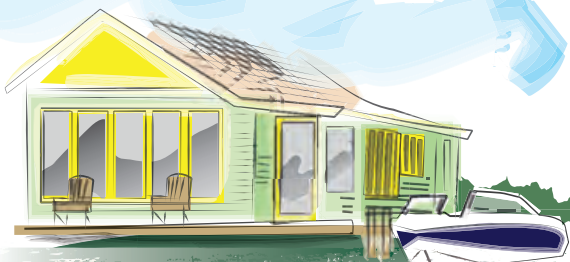
Visitors to Lake Union Park enjoy the model boat pond



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Houseboat Tour 2012

The year 2012 brings many good things, among them the biennial Floating Homes Tour! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9th to throw out the welcome mat and get ready to share your floating stories. This is the FHA's main fundraiser and the committee will soon be starting work on the planning. The tour will comprise of 10-15 houseboats representing the fun, interesting and unique ways of living on the water. Please contact me if you would like to be a part of this great committee or if you would like to volunteer for tour day!

Melissa Ahlers
 FHA Fundraising Chair
Melissa@lakere.com
 206-356-2262

The FHA is pleased to introduce a new logo. When the Annual Meeting Committee presented the new 50th anniversary logo to the board, there was enthusiastic response. What we saw was a stable, steady houseboat amid waves and fluttering pennants. The committee was further surprised when the board unanimously adopted the design, not just for the 50th anniversary, but also as the Association's logo. There was a sense that this fresh, clean look reflected our new directions without losing our traditional houseboat community feel. Thanks go to Libby Kutcipal, board member, who took on the task of finding the right designer.

Editor, FHA Newsletter

NEW LOGO FOR THE FHA!

By Libby Kutcipal

The FHA logo was designed by Jae Evans, of Bellevue. Jae was trained as a graphic designer and entertainment marketing executive working for New Line Cinema in Los Angeles. He has created Movie Posters and Marketing Campaigns for films such as *Lord of the Rings*, *Austin Powers-Goldmember*, *Life as a House*, *John Q* and dozens of others over his career. He has since relocated to the Pacific NW to focus on his other passions: family and real estate. He now has a successful real estate business in the greater Seattle area.

Jae generously donated his graphic design skills to the FHA's logo project.



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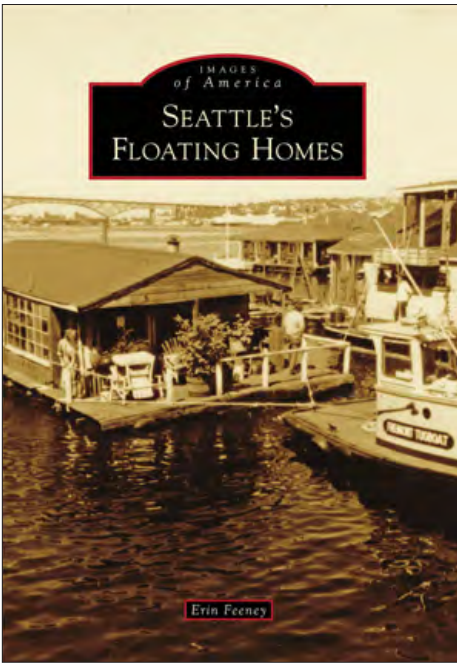
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SEATTLE'S FLOATING HOMES

The latest from Erin Feeny is that the draft of her *Images of America* photo-history book on our community, called *Seattle's Floating Homes* was sent to the publisher in December 2011. We have learned the release date for *Seattle's Floating Homes* will be early July 2012! Come to the Annual Meeting in April to hear more. The MOHAI exhibit Erin is working on for the Floating Homes Association will elaborate on the history started in the book and continues the story of the floating homes community up to today. The exhibit will be at the new South Lake Union location of MOHAI and will open in May 2013. Erin is still looking for photographs and oral histories for the exhibit, so please email her at misshouseboat@gmail.com if you would like to share photographs or stories of your home or dock.



Marty Greer Stepping Down



photo by Marilyn Robertson

Marty at board meeting on Fairview.

By Bob Bowman

Marty Greer has announced that she will not be seeking a second term as FHA President. Marty was named interim president in December 2010 to complete the term of Bill Keasler who had retired from the Board. She was elected as President in April 2011. When she took office, Marty had indicated that she could only commit to a one year term. She felt that other obligations and spending increasing time in eastern Washington would not allow her to devote sufficient time as FHA President for another year. Marty and husband Gerry continue to live in their houseboat on Westlake.

Board Development & Operations Committee

by Bob Bowman, Chair

At the April 26th Annual Meeting and anniversary party, we will hold our election for FHA board members and officers. Board members normally run for two year terms and officers always for a one year term. The By-Laws call for the President, Vice-President, Secretary and board positions, which terms are over, to be elected by all FHA members present at the annual meeting. The Treasurer will be elected by the new Board of Directors at the May board meeting.

If any FHA member is interested in running for the FHA Board or for one of the officer positions, please email me by March 10th at bobbowman2@msn.com. I will be happy to discuss the duties and answer any questions you may have. All candidates will be asked to provide a short biography which will be sent out to FHA members prior to the April election.

Please consider running for the FHA Board or an officer position. It's an opportunity to serve your community, share and learn skills, and have an enjoyable and rewarding experience working with other houseboaters.

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FHA Membership Has Its Rewards

By Laura Lowery

Membership in Seattle's Floating Homes Association (FHA) is one of the best deals on the lake. The FHA would like to encourage you to join, or renew your membership, this year.

As a nonprofit organization serving the interests of floating home owners in Seattle, the mission of the FHA is to protect, preserve and promote the vitality of Seattle's historic floating homes community through education, advocacy, environmental stewardship and collaboration.

Membership benefits are tremendous, and annual dues are very reasonable. If this were a MasterCard advertisement, it might go something like this:

Cost of annual dues? \$50 per household (\$40 for those 65 and older).

Average price per hour for a professional advocate? Hundreds of dollars.

Being a member of the FHA? Priceless.

By joining or renewing your FHA membership, you will be supporting an active organization that shares a stake in your best interests as a floating home owner, and that keeps communication

flowing among the community.

Here are just some of the many benefits of membership:

Advocacy: The FHA serves as an advocate on important legislative issues and legal matters related to maintaining the vitality of the community, and protecting the rights of floating home owners. For example, the FHA has been deeply involved in the City of Seattle's revision of the Shoreline Management Program, and drafted a bill—passed into law in 2011—which makes explicit the Washington state legislature's goal of allowing the 'continued use, improvement and replacement' of houseboats.

Floating Homes Association Newsletter: Twice a year the FHA publishes this newsletter filled with articles about what is happening in the community. Members will always receive a copy in the mail, and are also able to access the newsletter (as well as previous editions) online.

FHA E-Alerts: News doesn't happen just twice a year. Breaking news, upcoming events, stories and photos related to the floating home community are accessible through email alerts sent to members via

your email address.

FHA Annual Meeting: Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the annual meeting, which takes place on a weekday evening in the Spring (usually late April). The agenda typically includes a social hour, the latest update on what the board has been doing for you, a legislative update, board member elections, and engaging and relevant guest speakers.

FHA Website: The FHA maintains an informative website with links to details about the association history, advocacy, community, environment, safety and security, and news and events. Visit the site at seattlefloatinghomes.org.

A Sense of Community: The FHA provides an important link to the many interesting neighbors in Seattle's floating home community. And, if you are interested in becoming more involved, the volunteer Board of Directors welcomes your participation.

Please join the FHA in keeping the floating homes community a thriving centerpiece of Seattle's history. Become a member, or renew your membership, today.

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Mike Swofford

May 7, 1938 to August 16, 2011

How we miss our dear friend and neighbor, Mike Swofford. The resident bon vivant of Mallard Cove may have lived in #13, but his spirit buoyed the entire dock. To those on the water, he was "No, Dear," setting sail on every pleasant day. To his friends, he was a sparkling eye, a contagious laugh, and a witty word. To his grandsons (William, Wyatt, and James) he was "Grumpy"—a nickname befitting his keen ear for a punchline, definitely not his disposition.

Mike moved to Lake Union in 1998 and retired in style after an accomplished career as an attorney. He became an integral member of our houseboat community, inspiring all of us to live life to the fullest. He is survived by his close-knit family (Linda, Jeff, John, Anne) and our loving memories. Mike continues to be very present in our hearts.

The Hanel Family, Mallard Cove



from Swofford family

Mike Swofford.

Annette Brigham

January 20, 1930 to August 10, 2011



photo from Adrienne Robineau (daughter)

Annette Brigham.

Annette Brigham, 81, passed away peacefully on her houseboat, surrounded by her two daughters and son-in-law, on August 10, 2011. Survivors include brother, Georges Brigham (Connecticut), cousin Francoise Rice (West Virginia), daughters Felicia Dale and Adrienne Robineau (Washington).

Born on January 20, 1930 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a residential neighborhood of Paris, France, to an American father and French mother, Annette lived in Paris until 1940. During WWII, the family left their apartment in situ just before the Germans occupied the city. They settled in her father's hometown of Boston, Mass.

Annette graduated from Smith College in 1951; moved to Seattle in 1952; and in 1953, she completed a drafting course at Boeing. In 1956, she met and married Edwin Larwil Dale in Seattle, where they lived for a short time in a rental houseboat on Lake Union at the foot of East Roanoke Street. That houseboat sank in Puget Sound, when the owner attempted to tow it to Alaska. Their first daughter, Felicia, was born in 1958. They moved to Vashon Island in 1959 and lived there for 28 years. Their second daughter, Adrienne, was born in 1961. The couple divorced in 1982, and Annette moved back to Seattle in 1987. She purchased houseboat no.10 on Willow Dock, on Lake Union, at the foot of Lynn Street, in 1989. Coincidentally, no.10 used to be moored at the foot of Roanoke Street; possibly at the same time Annette and Larry lived in the rental houseboat. There are tales of no. 10 being used to hide booze under it during Prohibition. Now, a resident beaver has built her lodge beneath the houseboat.

It was after moving to Seattle that Annette discovered kayaking. She joined the Mountaineers, took every safety course the group offered and volunteered for student recruiting, classes and trips. She finally perfected the Eskimo roll after 10 years of practice. She traveled the globe, becoming an expert kayaker while experiencing some of the most beautiful, remote and challenging trips. In 2000, she was the oldest person to complete a very challenging kayak trip north of the Arctic Circle off the coast of Norway. She completed the 'Everest' of kayaking by paddling around the northern tip of Vancouver Island. She also kayaked the southern tip of Chile and in the Galapagos, Baja, Iceland, Alaska, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, the San Juans and Puget Sound. Closer to home, she took many a paddle in Lake Union and Lake Washington, including on Halloween and Christmas, when she bedecked her kayak with a carved pumpkin or a miniature Christmas tree and lights. After being diagnosed with cancer, Annette joined the Team Survivor Northwest Dragon Boat, paddling and racing with team Survivor Sake, an all-women cancer-survivor team.

Annette worked as a technical draftsman in downtown Seattle at URS Corp. for more than 20 years. Her hobbies included knitting, traveling, potlucks and kayaking. Annette valiantly fought stage 4 breast cancer for five years. She never complained, gave up hope or the will to live. She remained lucid and aware, kept her sense of humor and continued her 'let's have a party on the houseboat' attitude right up to the end. Remembrances are suggested to Pasado's Safe Haven. Read more and view photos of her life and artwork at: www.AnnetteBrigham.com.

By Adrienne Robineau

2012 TOUR OF FLOATING HOMES COMING UP *THE FHA NEEDS YOU!*

By Marty Greer

Years ago we used to sing this song (to the tune of *Acres of Clams*) at every FHA annual meeting:

*I live like a king on my houseboat
Secure in the lifestyle I've found,
Feeding the quackers and honkers
Enjoying the great Puget Sound.*

*There's swimming and fishing and boating,
There's ducks walking in our front door
And so with my dollars I'm voting
To keep our Lake Union secure.*

*I owe it all to the 'Sociation
Of Floating Home Owners, you see
All of this legal protection
Remember it doesn't come free.*

*We've had auctions & cookbooks & parties
And T-shirts, home tours and much more
We keep working to keep our debts settled
Let's stay in the black evermore.*

Cute, and still rings true!

It is time to begin work on the Houseboat Tour of 2012, scheduled for **Sunday, September 9th**. As you all know, it is a huge undertaking—we put our whole community on display for over 1000 people! We need help from the entire community to organize and execute the tour.

Below, are descriptions of some of the projects and tasks that create the tour. If you have interests or skills in any of these areas, or you'd just like to pitch in, please let us know. Don't feel afraid—these jobs have been done before, and there is plenty of source material—you won't have to re-invent the wheel. The positions of Tour Chair(s), Press Agent/Publicity, and Houseboatique Coordinator have been filled, but those folks can always use additional help on their committees.

To pitch in, please email Melissa Ahlers, melissa@lakere.com 206.356.2262 or Courtney Cooper, Courtney@seattleafloat.com 206.850.8841 and let us know how you would like to participate in this event that is so vital to the health and well-being of our community!

Some of the Help We'll Need to Create the Tour in 2012

HOMES SELECTION COORDINATOR - Is responsible to spearhead the selection of homes on the tour, and maintain ongoing communication with those homeowners to ensure dedicated participation. Will evaluate physical layout of each house and work with Volunteer Coordinator to determine number of volunteers needed to chaperone the house and move and safeguard the public. Write descriptions and get photos taken of homes for ticket/brochure. Get permission from each co-op or dock owner for tour to take place on their property.

LOGISTICS MANAGER - Arrange for and coordinate the various physical items needed for the success of the tour, including: insurance, porta-potties, bus and/or boat transportation, espresso carts, food trucks/stands, signage, flowers. Obtain permits if any needed.

VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR - Work with Homes Selection Coordina-

tor to determine the number of volunteers required to staff the tour. Also, work with the houseboat community to gain volunteer support and involvement, and coordinate/schedule and train the volunteer corps for tour day.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR - Is responsible to gather whatever communication modes are used by each dock and/or co-op and communicate via those methods with them regarding information and needs of the tour committee.

SPONSORS COORDINATORS - Setting up packages at different sponsorship levels and then getting advertisers and other businesses in the community to sponsor various items to offset tour expenses. Also, enlist area businesses in other donations such as restaurant certificates, etc. Interface with area businesses for participation and then coordinate graphic layout of ads and coupons.

GRAPHICS COORDINATOR/ GRAPHIC ARTIST - Will help determine artistic representation (logo) for the tour and handle electronic layout of poster, postcard, e-card and ticket.

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR - Will incorporate theme, logo and advertising into various web-based formats, creating Facebook and MySpace pages, e-blasts, twitter campaign and blogger content. Will help launch viral campaign via the houseboat community members. Will work with publicity committee.

DISTRIBUTION AGENT - Is responsible to distribute posters/flyers to posting service and to each dock for further distribution by members and will also help throughout the scope of the tour carting and delivering items.

Update on Shorelines Master Program

By Amalia Walton

After reviewing the city's response to the May 2011 FHA comments, the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Committee met in December and drafted a second round of comments that focuses on our rights under the new floating homes legislation passed in 2011 and codified as an amendment to RCW 90.58.270.

In our second round of comments, submitted in December 2011, we first thanked the city for making two edits to the proposed regulations based on our first letter and for considering our requests to use the county registration system and to incorporate FHA environmental best practices. We then touched on three major objections to the current proposed regulations: DPD's definition of "float" as pertains to floating homes, language regulating the minimum distance between floating homes, and regulations that prevent floating homes from being relocated to moorage sites in public waters, including for Safe Harbor.

As we await a second response from the city to our comments, the SMP Committee will be reaching out to our city council members through emails, phone

calls and meetings. In particular, we hope to meet with the new members of the City Council Committee on Planning, Land Use and Sustainability, Richard Conlin (Chair), Tim Burgess (Vice Chair), Mike O'Brien, and Sally Clark (alternate).

We have come a long way from our first days on the SMP Citizens Advisory Council where the draft regulations were developed, through lobbying the city council, studying salmon habitat in Lake Union, and lobbying our state legislators in Olympia to codify our status as a permanent part of the city's future and an important linkage to our past.

Can we count on you for emails and phone calls to city council members?

Will you be there with financial contributions if litigation is necessary to defend our community from unreasonable regulations?

Protecting our homes is a big job and we cannot do it without your help.

For more information about the SMP or for an electronic copy of the FHA's comments to the city, please email Amalia Walton, amaliawalton@gmail.com.

Legislation for the Long-Term

In amending and clarifying the state's position on floating homes, our legislators recognized that our homes are "an important cultural amenity," an "element of our maritime history," and "a linkage to the past." The new law was passed with the goal of "ensuring the vitality and long-term survival" of our community and allowing the "continued use, improvement, and replacement" of our homes "without undue burden."

Specifically, the law states that "applicable development and shoreline master program regulations may only impose reasonable conditions and mitigation that will not effectively preclude maintenance, repair, replacement, and remodeling of existing floating homes and floating home moorages by rendering these actions impracticable."

You can read the new law at: tinyurl.com/SHB1783

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Fred Bassetti Celebrates His 95th

By Ann Bassetti

Ann Bassetti and Eugene Nutt held a grand fête at their houseboat on 2420 Westlake N in honor of her father, Fred Bassetti's 95th birthday. Current and former houseboaters were among the crowd: Paul and Mila Kraabel, and Sally Carley from 2351 Fairview E, Ellyn Swanson from 3146 Portage Bay PI E, Malcolm Harris formerly from PBPI, Marty and Gerry Greer from 2466 Westlake N.

Fred bought his first 3146 Portage Bay PI E houseboat in 1968—approximately 500 sq. ft, for around \$5,000—when it was still 'Topsy's Dock'. Two walls were immediately replaced by massive window 'barn' doors, which opened the small space to the deck and water. Richard Beyer (of *Waiting for the Interurban* fame) sculpted a column on the sagas of middle-aged men.

Fred recalls hearing some geese flying over as he was cooking dinner one evening. He impetuously stepped out on the deck, waving his hand, calling out, "Farewell! Have a safe flight!" To his surprise, the geese circled back and landed at his feet. It was then he realized he had a slice of bread in his hand—which he thought they now deserved.

Within a few years, when Fred married Moira and had a couple small children, the tiny bachelor pad was poked out and built up to approximately the same shape it currently has. Although the babies were taught to swim, and had a grand time running to visit neighbor Clarence, the family hastily moved when 5 year old Megan fell in. She had no problem swimming—she just couldn't climb out onto the slippery logs. Too close for comfort, they sold the house to Owen Haselton, and moved to land.

Eight years later Fred moved back to the lake, this time to 2420 Westlake. Recently remodeled by a shipwright, houseboat #10 was up to snuff. Fred's only addition was a bar across the living room cupola, on which to do pull-ups! Neighbors kept a wary eye out for Fred as he took off across the lake on his windsurfer. When daughter Ann and Eugene bought the houseboat immediately next to his, Fred was worried they'd 'cramp his style'. Instead they fed him dinner many nights, and were grateful he shared his washer and dryer.

A few years later, Fred re-met Gwen Caldwell, when she came back to Seattle to revitalize the Grand Central Bakery. After a couple years in the 2420 houseboat, they decided it was



photo from Gwen Bassetti

Fred at his farm in Goldendale.

just too small for two. Coincidentally, Owen—still in Fred's original Portage Bay houseboat—wanted to downsize. Conveniently they swapped—buying each other's houses. We wish we had a photo of George Johnston hauling Fred and Gwen's household goods—especially the piano!—via raft, from Westlake back to Portage Bay!

This move inspired more remodeling and updating at the Portage Bay house, by chance mostly on the land (shallow) side of the house. No one realized that the lake level was low during the remodeling, and the house was sitting on the bottom at the time. There was panic when the water started to rise, and one side of the house did not! (Greg Johnston to the rescue!) Since leveling out, 3146A has been lovely and commodious—a far cry from the original teeny bachelor pad.

After 44 years mostly in the houseboat community, there are certainly many more colorful Fred Bassetti stories to be shared. We salute you, Fred!

An advertisement for Special Agents Realty. It features a photograph of a houseboat on a lake. Overlaid on the image is a yellow silhouette of a man in a suit and hat. The text 'Special Agents Realty' is written in a stylized font. The phone number '(206) 419-0065' is displayed in large yellow digits. The website 'www.SpecialAgentsRealty.com' is at the bottom.

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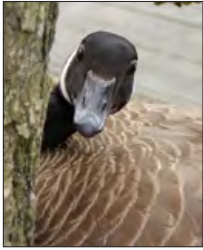


Photo by Betty Swift

Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

The snowstorm of mid January resulted in some scary moments for some residents whose homes responded negatively to the 6-inch snowfall that was followed by rain. I know of two board members whose listing homes were returned to level, thanks to prompt action of neighbors with brooms and shovels!

Doctor Jim and I are staying put this winter and enjoy traveling from the safety of our armchairs. What are we reading? Why blogs of course! A French friend, long time resident of Canterbury, England, writes of her ongoing adventure teaching school in Rwanda. And, my brother created an online journal during the month he spent in a tiny village near Vera Cruz, Mexico. Several houseboaters have sent me stories of their overseas adventures. So sit back and visit south east Asia and India. And catch up on dock doings sent in by our intrepid Waterlog reporters.

2920 Fuhrman Avenue East: While the doctor and I were in Maine in the autumn, we invited **Erin Feeney**, U of W architecture student working with our community to collect stories and photos for the upcoming houseboat exhibit at MOHAI, to stay in our houseboat and experience the feel of houseboat living. Now she's away in India. "I am studying in India until the end of March with a group of UW students. We are based in Chandigarh, the joint capitol of the states of Punjab and Haryana, which was designed as a modern symbol of Indian indepen-



Erin's photo

Erin visits the Taj Mahal.

dence in the 1940s by a team of Western architects. In collaboration with local architecture students, we are studying the future growth and urbanization of the city. I am in the housing group, looking at existing housing conditions and community models, as well as proposing alternative housing for the future. The diversity and sense of interdependence I have encountered in the Seattle houseboat community provides an interesting contrast to many of the self-sustaining informal communities we are witnessing here. The ample sunshine, delicious food, vibrant colors, and



photo by Joyce Black

Martha and Cork Keck joined Joyce and Dave Black in Mazatlan early in the year.

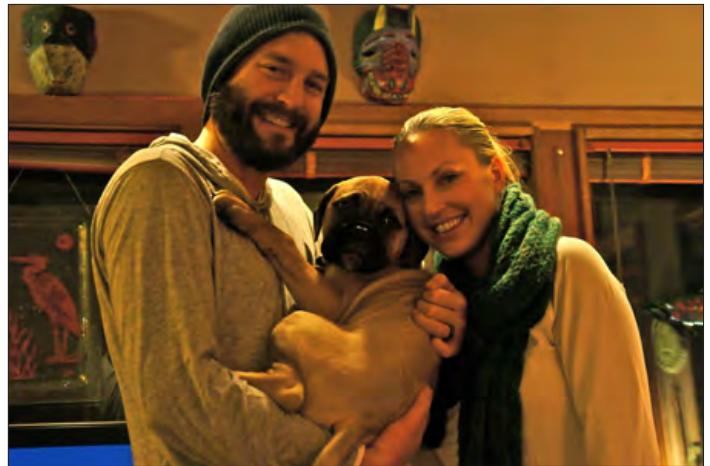


photo by Joyce Black

Loren and Rob Van Oss with Bodhi.

generous people in India will be tough to leave, but I look forward to diving back in to things in Seattle!

Willow Cove: 3146 Portage Bay Place **Joyce Black** writes, "As you may remember, in the Summer 2010 edition of Waterlog, the Willow Cove Dock reported the loss of our wonderful dog resident, a Bull Mastiff, Lucy. We are happy to report **Loren & Rob Van Oss** have a new baby Bull Mastiff named **Bodhi** and what a sweetheart he is. His favorite thing to do at our house is to get under our coffee table, that won't be happening for long. Welcome baby Bodhi!!" Earlier this year, **Joyce & Dave Black** welcomed fellow Willow Cove residents **Martha & Cork Keck** for some fun in the sun at their beach home in Mazatlan, Mexico. "Given the cold spell in early February, the Kecks' were more than happy to be wearing shorts and enjoying the beach at Stone Island, which is a taxi ride and a short ferry trip to a great swimming beach with pleasant beach restaurants with good food and drink."



photo by Blaine Hammond

Open House for Ozell Gaines, at Blaine Hammond Houseboat on 1/21/12: Ozell Gaines at left, Ken Kennedy (also a HHI founder), Larry Ambrose and Steve Greaves.

Blaine G Hammond sends sad news from Houseboat Harbor, Inc. "We have experienced two losses, just a few weeks apart." The first was due to a move: **Ozell Gaines** moved in January to the Ida Culver House. He was one of the original founders of the corporation in August 1968, when moorages, owned by the houseboaters, was a very new concept. Ozell was for years one of HHI's most active members, filling nearly every volunteer and elective position the organization had to offer! The second loss was the death of another of the original founders. **Ethel Scribner** died on Friday, February 9. With her husband, **Doctor Belding Scribner**, she was among those who signed the paper committing a group of twelve houseboat owners from a number of different moorages on the lake, to purchase Carrie Stafford's moorage on Portage Bay Place E and bring it into compliance with the new Seattle laws requiring upgraded docks. Ethel, too, willingly involved herself in nearly every volunteer and elective position over the decades. But she found it necessary, some years ago, to move to an assisted living facility near Baltimore MD, close to where her sons live. The Scribners are missed here, both for their contributions to Houseboat Harbors' corporate life, and for their positive, personal impact in creating a closely-knit community at this moorage."

3146 Portage Bay Place: **Fred Bassetti** celebrated his 95th birthday at a grand fête at the houseboat of **Ann Bassetti & Eugene Nutt** on 2420 Westlake. (See separate story on Fred and his life on Lake Union and Portage Bay.)

Tui Tui: **Robby Rudine** is in Brazil for Carnival and to visit his Brazilian family. "**Janet** and the ferocious wolfing **Misha** are fortifying Tui Tui. Our houseboat neighbor **Hope Regis** had her hip replaced — making her doctor a 'hip Hope' artist. The operation was a success but Hope had to superambulate the ramp at its steepest and iciest and on crutches; so you couldn't say her timing was the best. Our not-quite-afloat mud house neighbors in the Old Garry Harris house, former houseboaters Deb Narine and Larry Sunde, launched a new product called the Upper Hand from Stretta. It is a useful series of hand grip actuated pole mounted tools. Deb, a professional media maker at SpyGirl Productions, produced the requisite infomercial that has appeared on

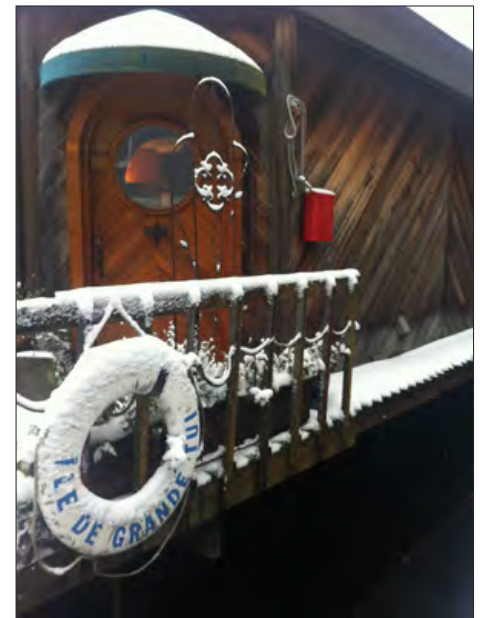


photo by Robby Rudine

Tui Tui weathers the snowstorm.



Lederer family photo

Ethel Scribner, in Ellicott, MD, while she and her son, Dr. Jonathan Lederer "were looking at geese ... in a stream." 2011.



photo by Gwen Bassetti

Fred Bassetti celebrates his 95th birthday with a bottle of bubbly.

the QVC home shopping network. Janet's sister Karen will be visiting Tui Tui from Spain during the Easter holiday. Tui Tui is actively issuing more stamps for 2012. Tui Tui has also posted an Ambassador Peripatetic David G. Sears to the Republic of Tajikistan this year under the guise of a Fulbright. Our dog loves the snow. We discovered he has all wheel drive. He splay out his toe pads and claws in a completely different way and with his short-coupled body and low center of gravity is gratified to turn his nose into a snowplow. Or a schnozzola plow and Keeshond Zamboni in complete and zestful ecstasy. I heard through reliable sources that the body parts found last month under the Ship Canal Bridge were DNA matched with another gruesome discovery of remains. At a Southside recycling plant workers sorting discards were shocked to find a human torso coming down the conveyor belt. SPD has a tentative ID of the victim and a person of interest in the crimes."

Mallard Cove: **Giff Jones** writes from Tucson, "I'm enjoying too much sun down here with close friends. **Mary** and I had spent pre-snow holidays in Puerto Vallarta then Santa Barbara, and in mid January arrived at SEATAC under clear night skies and awoke the next morning with 6" of snow on the dock." Here's some news from Giff about some of his dock mates. "**Greta Kate Ahlers**, closing in on 2, continues to charm the dock. She loves to visit her grandparents in Redmond and her other grandparents, **Tom & Linda Ahlers** on Roanoke Reef. Pretty soon she'll be helping her dad, **Tim**, maintain his annual goal of snow skiing SOMEwhere every month of the year. **Ryan & Loryn Peterson** are 2/3 of the way through a complete renovation of their houseboat while 9/9 of the way to completion of their first child, due any day. Adding to the stress after multiple moves, is the sale of their most recent temporary residence at HB #2. **Bruce & Barb Lippke**, together with entire extended family, returned last month from their umpteenth annual trek to Kona for the winter holidays, returning just in time for our January snowstorm. In between SCUBA diving vacations, **Bob Berman & Lisa Horton** 'getting back in the saddle again' most weekends at his Cle Elum ranch. Sadly, **Mike Swofford's** houseboat is on the market. (See **Peggy Hanel's** tribute to Mike's memory elsewhere in this newsletter.) **Marsh & Sue Bugge** recently vacationed down under in New Zealand as well as sharing time between their Guemes Island home and sun-seeking hops to Hawaii." Giff concludes with, "The rest of our Mallard Cove non-respondents are presumably engaged in illicit pyramid schemes, working for the CIA, or other similar secret activities."



photo by Mike Naylor

London.

Willow Dock Cooperative: **Mike Naylor** reports two new residents. "**Pika Sebastian Ruef Hubley** born on December 21, 2011, a welcome new baby to a dock that has been without children for way too long. And **London** joined the dock in the fall with her Mom, **Tabitha Baker**. London is a rather amazing presence on the dock, well behaved and eye catching!"

DOX CoOp. **Amy Ellingson Villanueva** keeps in touch via email from



photo by Melissa Ahlers

Tim and Greta Ahlers enjoying the snow at Mallard Cove.



from Hubley family

Pika Sebastian Ruef Hubley.

Waterlog ...

the Philippines. Amy and husband, **Ray** have a blog, erly.com/user/ray/philippines The couple shares their experiences living in Dumaguete City on Negros Oriental. (See Waterlog Sidebar on page 21 for a short piece from Amy.)

Flo Villa Tricia Rendina says, in late January, while she was on vacation, there was a fire on their dock stairs due to a faulty extension cord. Fortunately, **Gretchen Ranney** was coming home, saw the smoke pouring out from under the stairs and called 911. There was no serious damage.



Villanueva photo

Amy Ellingson Villanueva at Mount Hood. Summer 2011.



photo by Amalia Walton

Lilian Gregorich. Snow Princess of Flo Villa dock.



photo by Amalia Walton

Max Gregorich. Love the hat, Max!

The Lake Union. **Larry Logue** completed a trip to Borneo in late November, climbing Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in south east Asia with some trekking friends. Larry writes, "Borneo is near the equator, so even at the 13,432 foot peak of Mt. Kinabalu, it seldom freezes, but it can pour rain, as I discovered on my descent." Once safely down the mountain, Larry and his friends managed to replenish all those lost calories by visiting the many seafood restaurants along the coast, where often the fish had just been unloaded fresh from the small fishing boats. Many local residents live on the water, but unlike our houseboats on Lake Union, their accommodations are a little more basic. Larry spent the remainder of the trip visiting regional attractions like an Orangutan rehabilitation center. "Unfortunately, the old growth hardwood jungle habitat for the Orangutans is rapidly being logged off and replaced by extensive oil palm plantations, so these rehabilitation centers are critical for the survival of the Orangutans and other native species."

With many great memories, and a



photo from Larry Logue

Larry struggles to descend during torrential downpour. He made it!



photo by Larry Logue

Near city of Sandakan.



photo by Larry Logue

Rustic abode. No utilities.

couple extra pounds from all that good food, Larry

returned to Seattle with its delightful grey skies and freezing temperatures. Even so, he was glad to be back home on Lake Union.

Log Foundation Jann and Sid McFarland "I finally got Sid to part with our 1934 Chris Craft 'project boat' and sold it to a father and son who restore classic boats. After reading ads for months, we found a 1950 Chris Craft 17' runabout on Craig's List to replace it. The boat was in Portland and so we drove the truck down and tried it out on the Willamette River where it was moored near some of the houseboats. The man we bought it from was really nice — even had to get in the river to help us get the boat on the trailer. He took off his shorts and I said, 'you thought ahead to wear your bathing suit', to which he replied, 'this is my underwear'. Oops! We drove home and launched at the Sunnyside street boat ramp and are excited to have a running boat again."

A little too much wildlife? "An eagle came screaming between our house and the neighbors with a big 'something-I-didn't-want-



photo by Jann McFarland

Jann & Sid's 1950 runabout meets neighboring boats on the channel.



photo by Jann McFarland

Captain Sugar Bear says, "Wanna go for a spin in my new boat?"

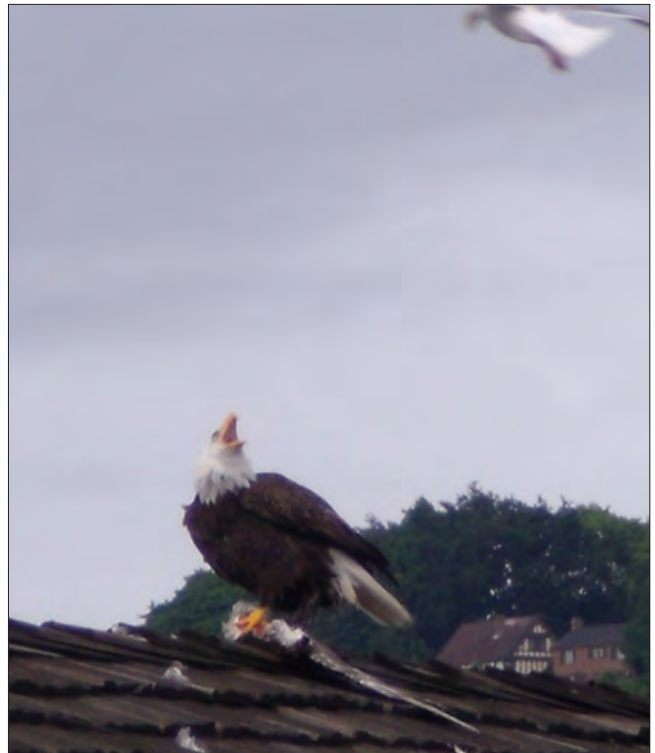


photo by Jann McFarland

Annoyed Eagle: "...and you are going to be dessert."

Waterlog ...



photo from Jann and Sid McFarland

Joyce Black, Sid and Jann McFarland working hard on FHA business in Mazatlan.

to-look-at' in his talons and he landed on the roof of their house about 6 feet from my bedroom window. I tore downstairs to get my camera. The seagulls kept dive-bombing him and he flew over to another house across the channel. I got a series of pictures before he flew off with the 'left-overs'.

discovered we both owned weeks at the same timeshare in Mazatlan and so when Sid & I were down there last fall, we met and had lunch at an outdoor restaurant on the beach. Joyce and Dave had just bought a house there in old town and she was down with some girlfriends checking on the renovating work they had done. A



photo by Ingrid Rasch

Here comes the snow on a Westlake dock.

While Joyce Black (Willow Cove) and I were talking one day, we

few weeks later, I ran into Lee Bourdeau (Mallard Cove) who was in Mazatlan at the same resort for a week.

Dave Gardner, a longtime houseboater from Log Foundation and then from 2460, Inc., passed away on July 5, 2011 at the age of 82. 'Hamburger Dave' as he was affectionately called by his neighbors, was an airline pilot with United for many years. He and his wife, **Marty** were active in the earlier years of fundraising for the FHA when there were huge legal bills to pay off. At one of the auctions that Marty was in charge of, he

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photo by Steve Eckhart
Rose and Tom Hesslebrock renew their vows; with neighbors and flower girl, Avia Roundtree.



photo by Betsy Chappelle
Rich, Brownie and Cathy lead party out to look at Christmas lights on Lake Union.

even stepped in as auctioneer. His voice was deep and resonant – perfect for the job! We miss you old friend."

2460 and 2466 Westlake(**Marty Greer** reports that "residents of 2460 and 2466 Westlake celebrated the holidays together this year with a *Houseboat Crawl* organized by our resident party promoter, **Cathi Major**. This festive, progressive cocktail party began at **Rich**



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Waterlog ...

Patton and Cathi's houseboat where we were all presented with mini-cocktail glasses, each with a distinctive hand knit (by Cathi) 'glass cosy' which we took with us from houseboat to houseboat avoiding multi plastic glass abuse. Most folks immediately gave up trying to pace themselves on the food when faced with a tray of Dungeness crab sliders at this first stop! Several hours, two docks, and six houseboats later, after fine wines, champagne, and elegant nibbles, we ended the evening with the beautiful view from **Christy Smith's** end houseboat. But wait, there's more: **Dave & Betsy Chappelle**, not ready to cry uncle, fired up their classy 1950 Chris Craft racing runabout and picked up **Marty & Gerry Greer** and Cathi, Rich, and **Brownie** the bow wow, and we went for a tour of the Lake Union houseboat Christmas lights. We all agreed this is a beautiful city and a magical time of the year." 2460, Inc co-op welcomes new resident **Cathy Graubert**. Cathy says, "I have known ever since a short stint in a houseboat on Portage Bay in my early twenties that this was the life for me and that I would return after I launched those kids! Well, I finally



photo by Steve Eckhart

Sally and Charlie Weems.

arrived at Houseboat D in December, but the boys arrived 3 weeks later for college vacations! They are kind of tall boys so finding spots for them in what I call my 'half bed-

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A fresh perspective

It is funny how it takes moving halfway around the world to get me writing again. There is something precious about the first few weeks in a new place. All your senses are heightened; eyes, ears, nose and mouth working overtime to take in everything new and strange. *Is this going to hurt or help? Am I in trouble or perfectly fine?* Nothing can be taken for granted when you are new and you do not yet know the new 'rules to live by'. *How do I greet my neighbor in the morning? Is it okay that there are ants all over the shower? What does a pedicab cost and how do I get one to stop (then bring me back again!)?*

In the beginning, it can be very lonely and a little scary. But in an exhilarating way, like the feeling you get right when you jump from a high spot above the water. It is both freedom and commitment. Freedom because when no one else around knows you, you must remember, or *redefine for yourself* who you are. And commitment, because there is no going back, you have already jumped off the cliff – now it is time to make the most out of your new home.

All of the above encourages me to write. Writing takes time and reflection, both of which come more readily in a new place. My schedule free, my

contact list short – time is what I have. And with heightened senses and daily episodes of discovery, confusion and comedy, there is much to reflect on. Some early lessons learned about life in Dumaguete:

Do not bother with street names. No one pays any attention to these – but you better know the name of the closest bakeshop and tuyok manok place to get where you are going.

"Malling" is actually a favorite activity of many Filipinos – not to be confused with what happens to you during a lion attack.

Don't scream! House lizards and giant spiders are our friends. The best mosquito repellent ever.

Beware of Tanduay on an empty stomach, and before eating, make sure you ask, 'what is sigsig made of?'

When subscribing for newspaper delivery, be prepared to sketch a map of the route to your house, include lots of the aforementioned landmarks (no street names).

Small backpacks are not allowed, but giant handbags are perfectly okay when preparing to shop(lift) downtown.

Everything has more than one name,

and likely an acronym to boot: Gloria Arroyo, Ate Glo and GMA are all the same person (not to be confused with the GMA network).

People may be used to seeing white men with Filipina wives, but not white women with Filipino (American) husbands. *'First time, hala!'*

But above all, thank you, Dumaguete, for welcoming us. For all the smiles, hellos, help and patience. For living up to your reputation as the city of 'Gentle People'. And for offering friendship to the newcomers, so that I know it won't be long before we grow familiar and find our own place here in the City by the Sea.

Amy Ellingson Villanueva New Dumaguete resident

Amy and her husband moved to Dumaguete from Seattle, Washington in November, 2011. In Seattle, Amy worked for a national network called Catalyst Kitchens, an organization promoting social enterprise and job training in foodservice. She was responsible for fundraising, marketing, and documentation for the growing network.



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Waterlog ...

room' houseboat was challenging, but we did it! I am thrilled to be here, although I had no idea how much daily conversation would revolve around beaver habitat and behavior!" Marty continues, "Cathy bought the former houseboat of **Bill Babcock & McNair Smith**. McNair was the designer and overlord of the lovely gardens at the top of our two docks and the co-op is now struggling to deal with all the issues of garden maintenance he handled so seamlessly – including one voracious beaver! This guy (or gal?) has gone nose to nose with many a neighborhood dog and cat and doesn't even twitch – just sniffs and keeps on chewing, and chewing, and chewing."

Libby Kutcipal reports the news from 2420 Westlake: "We are happy to welcome new renters **Shannon Barbour (#5)**, **Wes Wright (#9)** and **Sean Balch (#14)**, who moved across Lake Union from a floating home on Eastlake. We were sad to see the previous renters go! **Casey O'Connor (#8)** has returned from Nairobi after working there for nearly a year with Doctors without Borders. The marina welcomed **Linda Tate**, but was sad to see **Bill & Peggy Schickler** move their boat to Roche Harbor. **Jessica & Kevin Vanderzanden** hosted a holiday potluck for the dock, which was an overwhelming success. The dock had a new set of steps built for the entrance to compliment the new



photo by Steve Eckhart

Lee's Christmas Party, pictures neighbors **Kirsten Scott**, **Karen Eckhart**, **Sylvia Hubbert**, and **Gemma Daggatt**.

awning, which was installed this summer. **Lesley Hazelton** was awarded a 'Genius Award' by *The Stranger*. Congrats Lesley! 2420 survived *Snomageddon* without any major dock disasters —just a few falls, a few icy windows, and a few frozen pipes!"

Karen Eckhart sends greetings from Lee's Moorings. "Romance was in the air on

August 13th when **Tom & Rose Hesselbrock** renewed their wedding vows on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Neighbors and guests attended the rooftop deck party, and the couple's college-bound daughter cheered on her parents. We waved a sad goodbye to **Sally & Charlie Weems** as they moved off the dock after living and contributing here for umpteen years. **Nancy Hansen**



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... Waterlog

Too many photos to print! Please visit FHA web site seattlefloatinghomes.org for a complete gallery of Waterlog, March 2012 photos.

Thanks to all contributors for great stories. If you don't see your dock mentioned here and would like to share your docks stories, please contact Marilyn for information regarding sending stories and photos. isobel.rob44@gmail.com.



photo by Terry Moos

Lee's Moorings Dock under light blanket of snow.

& Jim Burnell provided a fitting gathering place to say goodbye. The dock also held a festive Christmas party to cheer the season and gather everyone, both present and past owners, for a warm evening. As everyone is aware, snows hit fiercely later in mid January."



Floating Homes

2011 Market Review

Address	Sales Price
2017 Fairview Ave E #N	580,000
2019 Fairview Ave E #R	575,000
2025 Fairview Ave E #M	475,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #B	690,000
2369 Fairview Ave E #6	2,885,000
2727 Fairview Ave E #14	238,000
933 N Northlake Way #14	727,000
2420 Westlake Ave N #11	530,000
2460 Westlake Ave N #D	797,000
2466 Westlake Ave N #17	850,000
2764 Westlake Ave N #C	355,000

Yes, the Seattle real estate market is moving forward! As you can see, there were 11 floating home sales through the MLS in 2011.

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

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



Melissa Ahlers, Realtor

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Floating Homes Association 6/11
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

NAME(S): _____

HOUSEBOAT ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD DUES:

Regular & Associate - \$50

65 and Over - \$40

New

Renew

CONDO/COOP NAME: _____

HOUSEBOAT: Rent Own

MOORAGE: Rent Own

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The Associations's General Fund also needs your support.

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