



# NEWSLETTER

Number 162

Spring 2013

## MOHAI Exhibit Opens June 15

### Still Afloat: A Contemporary History of Seattle's Floating Homes

By Erin Feeney

Still Afloat shares a contemporary perspective on a historic community that is indeed another one of Seattle's diverse neighborhoods. Despite a long history of land use battles, evictions, and other challenges to their existence, the floating homes are still afloat on Lake Union and Portage Bay today. Many changes have come to the floating homes in recent years; some have added stability and value to the homes, while others threaten the unique lifestyle and fundamental vitality of the community.



Seattle Museum  
of History and  
Industry in South  
Lake Union

Images from history are brought to life with contemporary stories of life in the community. Visitors will be able to experience the sights and sounds of life in the floating homes community, and hear stories from residents who have seen the community change over the years. Exhibit displays include photographs, video interviews, underwater film, and a scale model of a floating home—showcasing the technology that enables the homes to float.

Still Afloat celebrates the strength of community and individual creativity that has made Seattle the vibrant city it is today. The exhibit has something for everyone, whether a first time visitor to Seattle, a curious local, or a long-time floating home resident. The exhibit will run from June 15 to November 3, 2013 in the Linda & Ted Johnson Family Community Gallery at the new location of the Museum of

History & Industry (MOHAI), with a member preview for FHA members on June 12<sup>th</sup>. More information about MOHAI, the exhibit, and the opportunity to become a docent for the exhibit will be available at the Annual Meeting.

#### Floating Homes Association Annual Meeting

Lake Washington Rowing Club  
910 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Social Hour: 6pm – 7pm

Meeting: 7pm – 9pm

See you there!

# From the Editors

## Building community

By Libby Kutcipal & Laura Lowery

A note from the Editors:

Maiden voyage complete. We survived our first FHA newsletter production. We had some great feedback about the last newsletter, and encourage your comments/questions/concerns. We are always happy to consider new input, additional views, contributing writers, etc.

As we work on the newsletter, we see the importance of our members, advertisers, and supporters. We'd like to encourage everyone to get involved in the Floating Homes Association. You may consider nominating yourself for board membership, or if your time is more limited, committee involvement. The FHA also needs one-time volunteers for the biennial Floating Homes Tour, the Lake Union sweep, the Annual Meeting, etc. FHA members will also have an opportunity to volunteer as a docent at the upcoming MOHAI exhibit, "Still Afloat."

The MOHAI exhibit, as mentioned in Erin Feeney's front page article, showcases our community. Show your support! Visit the exhibit. Volunteer.

Take home message: Get involved.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting!



Libby Kutcipal  
[libbykuts@gmail.com](mailto:libbykuts@gmail.com)



Laura Lowery  
[loweryle@gmail.com](mailto:loweryle@gmail.com)

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## Newsletter Editors

Libby Kutcipal  
Laura Lowery



Spring 2013

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# Notes from the President

By Sheri Greaves



Hi, everyone! It's a pleasure to write my second message to you as President of your Floating Homes Association. I have had an amazing year working with this Board on all sorts of things, and I think we have made tremendous progress.

The "new" database (that really isn't very new anymore) is up and running. We are able to send out e-alerts to everyone on the lake who has given us their email address. (If you haven't done that yet, please do so we can keep you informed and entertained...☺) We are going to start sending out the minutes from our Board meetings so you know exactly what we're up to, and how hard we are working for you. It might even prompt some of you to want to join us on the Board. We promise not to bombard you with emails, just the important stuff, and we never share your email addresses with anyone.

The Board is holding a retreat in March to look at several issues including how to attract more members and keep them informed and involved. The purpose of the survey that we sent out recently was to get demographic data about our neighborhood and life style. We had an amazing number of surveys returned and some of your comments were very helpful and gave us a warm feeling about how much we houseboaters love our community and our lives on the water.

The Membership and Communications Committee has been recruiting Dock Reps to help in communicating with you better, and so that issues can be discussed that affect all of us. There is a special Discussion Group set up in our association database system so that Dock Reps can talk about concerns, get help from each other, and bring issues to the Board that might be missed without this new method of communication.

Our Facebook page is up and running at "Seattle Floating Homes Association." Please feel free to "like" us and join in the discussions taking place there. That's a great way to share the fun things you're doing on a day-to-day basis or post pictures of daily houseboat living.

The MOHAI exhibit, "Still Afloat" on Seattle's floating homes opens on June 15<sup>th</sup>! Erin Feeney has been putting in a ton of effort to make this exhibit really something special. MOHAI is

hoping that a lot of our community will volunteer to be docents, and will also become members of MOHAI. Sounds like a really fun way to share our community with folks who might not know how cool it really is.

Well, as you can see, most of what I'm talking about has to do with trying to find ways to serve you better. I don't want to steal the thunder from our Committee Chairs, so I will stop now and let them go into more detail about what they're up to.

But, just to give a few quick kudos...to **Amalia Walton** and **Ben Kelly** for guiding us through the Shoreline Master Program maze and getting us some very good results by working with the City DPD and Council over the last few years. (This really has been going on forever it seems)...to **Bob Bowman** for his work in chairing both the Finance Committee where he has recruited a new treasurer (**Tom Hasselbrock**) to allow **Ed Waddington** and **Julia Forbes** to finally step down, and the Nominating Committee to identify a slate of officers and Board members for next year.

The FHA Annual meeting is coming up on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We have a great new location...the Lake Washington Rowing Club on N. Northlake Way, and are planning a fun evening with a little bit of business thrown in. See you all there!

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# FHA Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 24

The Seattle Floating Homes Association's Annual Meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24, 2013. The annual meeting is a once-a-year opportunity to connect in person with dozens of floating neighbors from around the lake. It kicks off at 6pm with a social hour. The meeting will include a brief review of association business, officer elections, a pertinent update on Seattle's Shoreline Master Program, and some great news from the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) about an upcoming exhibit on the history of Seattle's Floating Homes.

## Floating Homes Association Annual Meeting

Lake Washington Rowing Club  
910 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103

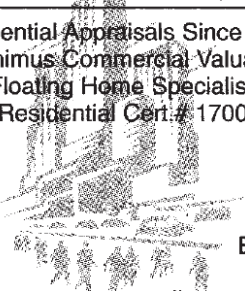
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## See What's New at Wards Cove!



### ONLY 3 HOME SITES LEFT!

Three floating homes are now occupied. Six are in the permit & building process. Two homes are being built in Port Townsend & two off-site on the Fremont Canal. Only home sites 4,5 & 12 remain! Stop by & take a look!

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# Join the FHA Board of Directors

## We Need You!

By Bob Bowman

Want to get more involved in the floating home community? Consider joining the FHA Board of Directors or volunteering to serve on a committee. You'll get the opportunity to work with neighbors on interesting projects, make new friends, and support our historic and uniquely Seattle way of living. It's rewarding and enjoyable.

Think about it! Okay, time's up! Now email me at [bobbowman2@msn.com](mailto:bobbowman2@msn.com) and I will be glad to talk to you about becoming a board member or other volunteer opportunities.

### MANY THANKS TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS:

**Marty Greer** has had a long and distinguished history of active board involvement. She has served as president and vice-president as well as taking on innumerable projects to help the FHA. We owe her a huge "thanks" for all she has done for our community. Since she and Jerry are spending increasing time at their Methow-area home, Marty felt this was the time to retire from the board.

**Julia Forbes** is retiring as FHA treasurer and board member. She is letting go of the financial reins after 15 years of outstanding service to FHA. Her strong voice of fiscal responsibility will be missed — after all, sometimes someone has to say "no, we can't afford it," even when it's not popular. **Ed Waddington**, Julia's husband, is co-treasurer and will leave that position, but remain on the board.

**Melissa Ahlers** is leaving the board after 10+ years of service. During this period, she has been a key leader in the biennial Houseboat Tour. Thanks to her help, the Tour has been very successful in raising funds for the FHA. The good news is she may return to the board after a well-deserved break.

**Lorie & Brian Groth** have resigned from the board due to their work-related move to San Francisco with Microsoft. They joined the board two years ago primarily to help with technology issues and -- they did it. Their knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed. We wish them good luck in their new adventures.

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# Special Edition: Houseboatique!

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By Judy Sarafin

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## City Council Passes Final Draft of Shoreline Master Program

By Amalia Walton

FHA board members, using the new floating homes law (RCW 90.58.270) to our advantage, successfully lobbied the City Council to make many of our requested changes to the proposed new Shoreline Master Program (SMP) before they passed a final draft on January 22. Among other revisions, the draft reflects favorable edits to sections regulating minimum distance setbacks, environmental regulations, the proposed registration system and float structure. Ensuring that these changes were made was a demanding process requiring many phone calls, emails, meetings, letters and appearances in front of the City Council.

The Board would like to thank all the community members who contributed their time and knowledge to this lobbying effort. It is so important that our elected officials hear all our voices.

There are three remaining issues that were not fully addressed in the City Council's final draft. All three will hinder the ability of displaced homeowners to relocate their homes to new slips on Lake Union or Portage Bay. The FHA remains concerned that the

ability to relocate displaced homes, a right we have traditionally referred to as "Safe Harbor," is not being fully preserved in the new regulations.

The three remaining issues are as follows:

- a limit on the percentage of water coverage allowed within a moorage with no accommodation for displaced homeowners to relocate;
- the inability to reconfigure existing floating home moorages or relocate existing floating homes within a moorage site;
- a prohibition on relocating an existing floating home to a portion of a moorage occupying waters owned or controlled by the city or occupying any street or street ends existing on the effective date of the ordinance, or on property later dedicated to the city for street purposes. We successfully lobbied to have state lands removed from this regulation but still feel that it does not support Safe Harbor.

The next step in the SMP update process is for the city's proposed regulations to be reviewed by the state Department of Ecology (DOE). The SMP is not final until it is adopted by the DOE into state regulations. We plan to work closely with DOE and our legislators to make sure that the adopted revisions support the sustainability of our community.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions and participation. *Please contact Amalia Walton ([amaliawalton@gmail.com](mailto:amaliawalton@gmail.com)) if you'd like to discuss the SMP process in further detail.*



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# 'Ride the Ducks' Proposes New Ramp

By Rob Widmeyer, President of Log Foundation, and Jann McFarland, Vice President of Log Foundation

Ride the Ducks is proposing to construct a ramp at the north end of the former NOAA property at 1949 Fairview Avenue East to provide round trip access to the lake for the water portion of their Seattle tour.

They propose building this ramp into Lake Union adjacent to the Terry Pettus Park, near floating homes at the foot of East Newton Street. The continuation of the

proposed route out of the water crosses the Lake Union Trail before traveling south on Fairview Ave E.

There are many issues involved with this proposal that concern neighbors including intensity of usage, safety issues, environmental impact, noise and privacy concerns.

The Log Foundation houseboat co-op is adjacent to the proposed ramp and is actively opposing the proposal through the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) process.

For more information, the DPD project number for the project is 3013612.

Visit the DPD website to view the file, or send a comment to [ben.perkowski@seattle.gov](mailto:ben.perkowski@seattle.gov) or [prc@seattle.gov](mailto:prc@seattle.gov).

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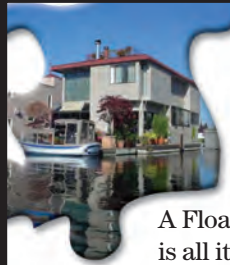
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# U.S. Supreme Court Rules on Lozman v. City of Riviera Beach

By Amalia Walton

It's official: floating homes are not vessels. At least that's what the U.S. Supreme Court decided on January 15 when it issued its opinion in *Lozman v. City of Riviera Beach*, and held in a 7-2 decision that Stan Lozman's floating home is not a "vessel."

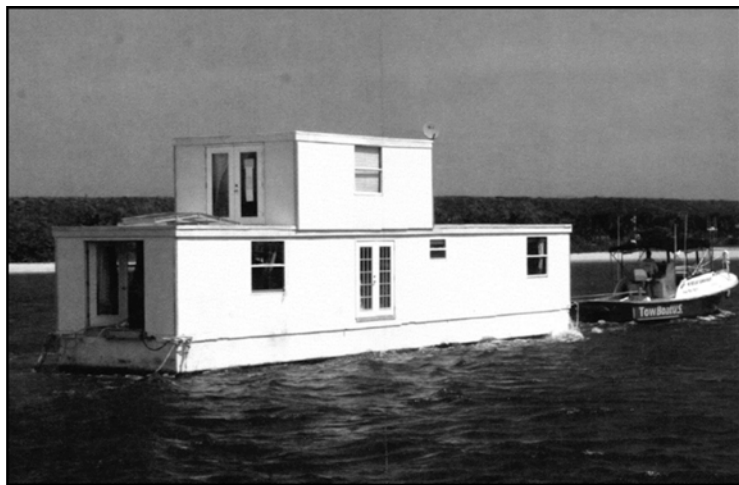
The question before the Court was whether a floating structure that is indefinitely moored receives power and other utilities from shore and is not intended to be used in maritime transportation or commerce constitutes a "vessel" under 1 U.S.C. § 3, thus triggering federal maritime jurisdiction. If our homes were considered vessels under federal law they would be subject to maritime liens and numerous safety rules under the Federal Boat Safety Act, while home-owners would be at risk of being sued under the Jones Act for expensive workers' compensation and would become strictly liable in tort to anyone lawfully in the home.

Thus, we should all be relieved that the Supreme Court concluded that a floating home is not a vessel because, though it could theoretically be used to carry people or things over water, this use is not practical. Although

the test will require individualized application to the particular facts of different homes, it will provide a strong basis for arguing that the floating homes in our community are not "vessels."

We were pleased to note that the Court cited our new state floating homes law in support of its conclusion and amused by the whimsical discussion of the seaworthiness of a garage door, Pinocchio in the whale and the technical aspects of floating on an inner tube.

The board of the Floating Homes Association is ever grateful to our pro bono attorneys from the San Francisco firm of Munger, Tolles and Olson LLC for their excellent advocacy on behalf of our community.



The Lozman floating home.

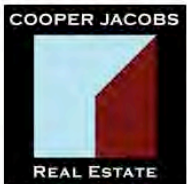
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# FHA Community Relations Committee Update

By Marilyn Robertson

At the beginning of the New Year, Marilyn Robertson became the chairperson of the FHA Community Relations Committee.

The committee is directed to establish better connections between the Floating Homes community and the FHA.

**Dock Representatives:** We are working to recruit Dock Representatives from each floating home dock or group of closely neighbored docks. Dock representatives share information, update their docks on what's happening with the FHA Board, and update the Board on important dock news, such as when new owners move aboard. A big thank you to the 29 Dock Representatives who have signed up so far!

**Community Survey:** The FHA recently conducted a short, anonymous survey focused on the demographics and life style of our floating community. The purpose of the survey was to provide the community with accurate,

current information about the residents. Your answers will allow us to more accurately describe the floating homes community to legislators, city council members and the press. The resulting data will also be included in the MOHAI Floating Homes exhibit (Still Afloat), providing a snapshot of the floating homes community as it exists today. This survey will also furnish us with a baseline from which to measure changes within the community.


*Questions or comments? Contact Marilyn at [isobel.rob44@gmail.com](mailto:isobel.rob44@gmail.com)*



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# Floating Homes Tour 2012

By **Melissa Ahlers, 2012 Tour Chair**

Wow. What an amazing tour! Twelve floating homeowners generously opened their doors to share their homes to a sold-out audience of over 1200 appreciative tour participants. Gorgeous homes, talented volunteers, enthusiastic tourists and a beautiful day created one of the most successful tours we have ever had!

Not only is the tour a wonderful opportunity to welcome the public to our docks, it is a great community builder and fun day for all volunteers involved. We are lucky to have such a popular and enjoyable fundraiser to support the important work of the FHA.

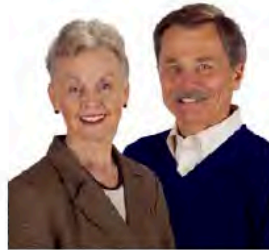
This year's success is due in large part to the combined efforts of an amazing group of committed volunteers: **Tim Ahlers, Laura Lowery, Beata Rycharski, Joyce Black, Mary & Giff Jones, Rick Miner, Sylvia Hubbert, Tricia Rendina, Marty Greer and Jann McFarland.** Thank you all so much for your talent, hard work, time and energy that you gave many months before tour day. Your work is greatly appreciated.

To the homeowners, thank you for opening your homes to the community. It is an amazing act of sharing to open your doors to the participants, and a very rewarding one too. I heard so many compliments on all the homes, large and small alike—it takes every type of houseboat to create a successful tour. And, a big thank you to the 100+ volunteers who drove the boats, attended the houses, managed the lines and shared our community on the day of the tour. We couldn't have done it without all of you! *If you're looking forward to the next tour as much as I am, mark your calendars for September 2014!*

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# Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

Let's take a trip around Lake Union and Portage Bay.

Today, we'll start from the Brackett Dock, and climb aboard **Linda & Tom Valentine's** little 1959 Dorsett. First stop is...



*Dory Day Out*

## Lee's Moorings Terry Moos, reporter

As spring approaches, the Lee's Moorings Water Dwellers look forward to the return of the Anna hummingbirds, the promise of sunshine on their roof decks, and the annual Fremont Summer Solstice. In the meantime, we've been on the move, not letting the grass grow under our feet (grass on the dock? Not!).

**Teri Hall & Bob Bowman** visited Maui in February to enjoy some winter sunshine. Meanwhile, Cedric (the cat) enjoyed his time with the house sitter, who might have spoiled him just a little. **Maile, Brian & Avia**



*Palm Trees on Lee's Moorings*

**Roundtree** made their annual trek to Park City, Utah, where Maile enjoyed the Sundance Film Festival activities. It was a chance for her to see some amazing independent films and schmooze with the artists. Unfortunately, Brian took a bad fall while skiing, and has been in recovery mode while his broken legs heal. Maile and Avia were frequent fliers to Utah to keep him company until he returned home. **Bob & Sylvia Hubbert** spent several weeks in Del Mar, California, meeting up with friends and visiting their old stomping grounds. They also spent time in Kona, Hawaii, where

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## Waterlog continued...

Sylvia caught up on her reading and Bob enjoyed his tennis matches. **Cecile Thomas** enjoyed a week of SCUBA diving with friends in Cozumel, Mexico. She is often spotted swimming around the dock in warmer months, but after being spoiled by the tropical Yucatan waters, she may not hit Lake Union until August... unless James from Aqua Dive enlists her help! In December, Cecile visited her parents, cousins and many friends in France. Cecile is principal and founder at Make-It-Matter, LLC, a marketing and advertising firm in Fremont. **Rose & Tom Hesselbrock**, daughter **Caleigh** and a friend head to Cabo San Lucas for a beach getaway in April. Reading good books, enjoying the Pacific Ocean view, and sipping gin & tonics in a very languid fashion on the deck are on the checklist of activities. **Gemma & Russ Daggatt** and daughters **McKinlay** and **Kaya** enjoyed a family trip to Hawaii during Christmas vacation. And three cheers for Kaya, who cut her beautiful long hair and donated it to Locks of Love. Not only is she sporting a sassy new hairdo, her donation also helps the non-profit organization provide hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children. For more information, go to [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org). Kaya, you are an inspiration! Visiting Joshua Tree National Park and touring the Palm Springs Flight Museum—including crawling through a restored B-17 and meeting a former WWII ball turret gunner—were just a few of the adventures

**Jerry & Terry Moos** had during their visit to Palm Desert. **Nancy Hansen & Jim Burnell** traveled to Palm Springs to visit family and catch some rays. Jim is making great strides in his recovery from hip surgery in January. While going through physical therapy, **Charlie Weems**, our former Lee's Moorings neighbor, visited Jim to make sure he wasn't slacking off! Charlie & **Sally** are enjoying their home at Horizon House, but we still miss them around here! Some Lee's Moorings ladies (who shall remain nameless until they are ready for prime time) have been kicking up their heels at the weekend Zumba classes at Dance Studio Salsa Con Todo in Fremont. They have adopted '**The Emerald City Dockettes**' as their stage name. We'll let you know when their next gig is scheduled. Finally, hats off to **Edith Fairhall**, who just stopped by to give this reporter a little treat of Theo chocolate. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a little bribery! Until next time. Back aboard the little dory, we motor north to...

### Westlake 2466

**Marty Greer**, reporter

While residents of 2466 WL dock were sad to lose long time houseboater **Kristina Moris** to the Big Apple, we welcome new owners **Nancy & Roger MacPherson** and their daughter, **Jordan**, to our



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community. Nancy had wanted to live on a houseboat for practically her whole life and had always kept an eye out for one. Roger is friends with **Lynn Bishop** (2466 WL) who told him that her next-door neighbor had fallen in love with NYC and might be willing to sell her houseboat. Roger called Kristina and a couple of phone calls later the deal was done. On the morning of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Nancy heard water running in the bathroom of their Pine Lake home; she rushed in to see what was going on and found a little model houseboat on wine cork floats bobbing in the bathtub, a surprise from Roger, fulfilling a lifelong dream. For the time being, daughter Jordan will be

living in the houseboat and Nancy & Roger will stay there on their frequent overnights in the big city. They will continue to run their company, McPherson Construction, from their home on Pine Lake near Sammamish. It's always nice to have handy "construction-type" people on a floating dock. Roger will join **Dave Chappelle** in that capacity, who, by the way, grew up 3 doors away from Nancy on Mercer Island! Was this meant to be, or what? 2466 Westlake also welcomes **Dave Lefkow & Amelia Snow**, new renters in **Chris & Steve Nielson's** houseboat. Dave is the "D" in J&D Foods – think Bacon Salt, Bacon Rub, Baconnaisse, Bacon Gravy, BaconPop, "everything should taste like bacon"! Dave and his partner started J&D Foods with \$5000 won by Dave's (then) three-year-old son **Dean** on America's Funniest Home Videos (he hits his Dad in the head with a wiffle ball while imitating Ichiro). Dave's business took off after his appearance on Oprah a few years ago, and we're all looking forward to finally having some "pork" on the dock! (BTW, his bacon products contain no bacon – they're vegetarian!) Dave's two children, the infamous Dean, & **Ashley**, will be here part time and are looking for playmates. **Ted Coulson** has sold his houseboat on 2460 WL. He was for many years a valued member of the co-op, incredibly generous with his time and talents. **Larry Shaw & Marsha Traverso**, who have rented the houseboat for the past several years, became new co-op members last September when they bought the houseboat from Ted. As with many folks, they had always dreamed of living on a houseboat; also like many folks, they have made a major adjustment to living in such a small space. They love being on the water and think their neighbors are terrific.

**Dave & Betsy Chappelle's** (2466 WL) daughter,



## *Floating Homes*

### 2013 Market Review

Address	Sales Price
2764 Westlake Ave N #D	250,000
2764 Westlake Ave N #A	330,000
2219 Fairview Ave E #7	467,500
2818 1/2 Boyer Ave E #9	518,000
2031 Fairview Ave E #E	815,000
10 E Roanoke Street #3	1,357,000
2369 Fairview Ave E #1	3,000,000

Yes, the Seattle real estate market is heating up! As you can see, there have been 7 floating home sales through the MLS in the last 6 months.

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

I've helped many 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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*Amelia and Casey on City Hall steps.*

**Amelia, & Casey Cartwright** were married in a commitment ceremony on Guemes Island last September. But more exciting, they were one of the

## Waterlog continued...

first couples to “really” get married after it became legal in Washington. Amelia & Casey stood in line beginning at 9:30 pm on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and got their marriage license at 3:30 am the next morning. They were married 3 days later at City Hall by volunteer judges performing the ceremonies amidst scattered rose petals, a pianist playing Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata, and proud teary-eyed parents, family and friends. **Marty Greer** (2466 WL) took a group of watercolor painters to Key West Florida for 10 days in November. She was dubious about the weather, given all the time she has spent visiting her mother in Florida in too hot, too humid weather, but arriving a day before her group she walked off the plane to as good as it gets – blue skies, gentle breeze, 78 degrees, no humidity. The other surprise upon arriving at the Key West airport terminal was the tiki hut bar in the baggage claim area, from which everyone was picking up beers and margaritas that they carried with them into taxis and onto buses. A conversation with the bartender revealed that 1. everyone drinks on the street in Key West, and 2. November is “our secret month – perfect weather”. And so it was. “We painted the whole colorful town from morning ‘til evening, then enjoyed the best fresh seafood you can imagine. Friendly folks and wonderful sunsets! If you can stay several blocks off the main tourist drag, you won’t notice the crowds at all.”

### 2420 Westlake Co-op

From **Ann Bassetti**

Our resident author, **Lesley Hazleton**, gave the premier reading of her newest book *The First Muslim: The Story of Muhammad*, to an overflowing crowd at Town Hall. A prodigious researcher, Lesley drew extensively from her personal knowledge of the region plus “...early eyewitness sources and on history, politics, religion, and psychology”. We hope she can now return to the 21st century! Welcome to our newest neighbor, **Phil Ockenden**, renting **Kevin McCarthy & Madeline Binkley's** house. From London originally, Phil says his name originally referred to one who sat under an oak tree! He works in finance at Microsoft, plays soccer, and seems like a great new addition to our dock. Kudos and accolades to **Jamie Tucker**, who is off contributing her talents to benefit the world, first in Uganda (with 'Yofafo'), and now in Tanzania. The daughter of **Pat & Teri Tucker**, Jamie lived on our dock for some months while arranging her first “post”. Now Pat, Teri and assorted other daughters come and go between their houseboat and their primary house and farm in Paterson, WA.

On our way again, we cross to the east side of the lake and head for...

### Log Foundation

**Victoria Slover** (2025) has moved back to her houseboat from California and everyone is glad to see her and her little pug dog, **Lama Duke** in the neighborhood again. **Jamie Thurner & Mark Sanderson** (2019) searched the internet for bargain trips and took off for a couple weeks to Hawaii to escape the cold and rain. Unfortunately it rained quite a bit on their trip –but hopefully it was warm rain. **Linda Cook** (2025) traveled to Mexico in February. **Jann & Sid McFarland** (2025) traveled to Mazatlan per usual in November and December. Besides hanging out with **Joyce & Dave Black** (Willow Cove) and **Tricia Rendina** (Flo-Villa) they also enjoyed other local pastimes. Baseball in Mazatlan: There are three baseball fields around a central fenced in area for viewers to sit on plastic chairs with a concession stand that mostly sells peanuts and cerveza.

Few places in the world offer a unique lifestyle in a community on the water as the one that we enjoy. Every day we just have to look out of our windows and see the ripples on the water to remind us how lucky we are . . .

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*Sid and friend, Segundo at a neighborhood baseball park.*

A friend of Jann & Sid, Segundo plays at the neighborhood baseball park where he is pitcher for a local league team called Familia Garcia --mostly older guys --but they play younger teams as well. Their team was winning the 2012 playoff when we left mid December. He also coaches young people for several baseball teams around the city.

### The Lake Union

The dock said farewell to **Lorie & Brian Groth** and welcomed new owners, **Keith Rosema & Laura Snyder. LeAnne Quinn** (The Lake Union) and husband **Bob Farra** (formerly of Mallard Cove) are moving back to her houseboat and we will be happy to have them back on the Lake.

### Waterlog Quackings from Mallard Cove

From our tireless reporter, **Giff Jones**

**Ed Buchwald**, reports that he was in Big Sky, Montana on the slopes (he says nothing about being there in the bars!) until Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Then he, and partner **Laura** left for Kona to dive certify Laura's daughter **Anna**. They then head for Bequia in the Caribbean in May, (whew!) presumably to put into practice what has just been learned. No grass growing under this septuagenarian's feet! **Giff & Mary Jones**, spent a month over the Christmas holidays in Inverness, near Point Reyes National Seashore, CA, visiting local friends and house-pet-sitting there with "Rusty", their favorite Aussie Shepherd. Giff was home for three days before flying off to Miami for an educational visit to Cuba, taking advantage of one of the State Department's allowed person-to-person cultural tours. He visited areas from Cienfuegos to Havana, including



*Giff and Mary house-pet-sitting in CA.*

the Bay of Pigs, and is eager to return for more. Comments? "... an intense and fascinating 10 day socio-economic-political education!" and, "Lift the economic embargo. It's a hurtful and needless anachronism." **Bruce & Barbara Lippke**, made their annual Lippke family Christmas holiday trek to Hawaii where this year, granddaughter Kira and younger family members hiked out to the coast over the hot lava beds from the active Kilauea volcano where they experienced fresh lava streaming and steaming into the ocean.

Now turning to next generation dock news: **Elle Linnea Peterson**, daughter of **Ryan & Loryn**, marked her first birthday on February 24<sup>th</sup>. She's crawling, standing, and is a-l-m-o-s-t there!



*Elle Linnea Peterson*



## Waterlog continued...

That other dock charmer, **Greta Kate Ahlers**, turns three in March, having "mostly managed to avoid the terrible twos" according to parents **Tim & Melissa**.



*Greta Kate Ahlers is almost three!*



*Andrew Oliver Ellingson with black lab, Bu.*

**Andrew Oliver Ellingson**, born December 18, and first grandchild of "Papa and Mimi," aka **Paul & Linda Ellingson**.

The co-star here is black lab, "Bu" who climbed up on the couch to comfort Andrew who had a case of the hiccups. Parents, David and Katie Ellingson are former Eastlake residents. **Erik Ray & Katie Collings**, who bought on the dock a year ago, gave birth to a baby daughter, **Madeleine Lee Ray**, born February 19th @12:09PM. Weight: 6 lbs. 14oz. Congratulations Katie & Ray. **Sue & Marsh Bugge** spent early part of February in San Jose del Cabo where they "... warmed up and dried out for three weeks ..." Marsh, currently dock Maintenance Co-chair, ostensibly stored up his energy for the Mallard Cove big spring fix up/cleanup. Notable-and-Pleasing-Facts-to-Report Department: For the first time in recent memory, Mallard Cove has gone through more than several weeks without a remodeling job in progress on one or more of our 20 houseboats. No contractor trucks blocking the driveway; no sawhorses to stumble over on the dock, no banging and sawing at 0730!

### Tui Tui

Item: Archipelago of Tui Tui. A large school of unidentified fry is swimming in the clear waters surrounding the Tui Tui sewer pump out station. Any fisheries biologists in our community are most welcome to apply for a research visa to study these piscine scholars. Contact [robertrudine@gmail.com](mailto:robertrudine@gmail.com)

Around the corner, under the University Bridge... we're in Portage Bay.

### PBCA

Reporter, **Pam Campbell**, suffering from jetlag writes: We have a pair of newlyweds, **Dr. Jannell Dubbins & Dr. Ted Sousa**. They tied the knot in January. Two houseboats have new owners.

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Welcome to **Janice & Bill Albert** and **Trish & John Heller**. Pam spent a month in Burma (aka Myanmar) and found it beyond fascinating. At Inle Lake fishermen use one foot to propel their boats. 'Gold Buddhist temples everywhere, millions of Buddha statues, and monks and nuns everywhere.



*The Plains of Bagan*



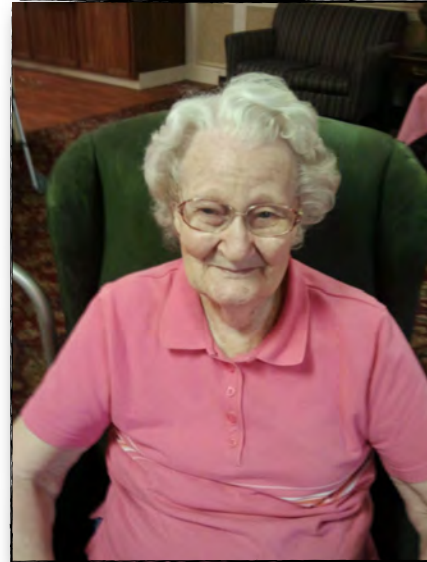
*The U Bein Bridge at sunset.*

The Plains of Bagan, with over 3,000 temples cover an area of 20 square miles. The lovely Burmese people

are warm and gracious, and beyond thrilled that the brutal government has relaxed to the point that Nobel Laureate Aung San See Kyi has been released from 15 years house arrest and is now a functioning member of their parliament. The people are hopeful this trend continues. They love Hillary Clinton and President Obama. I brought home a T-shirt that says "Oburma" on the chest.' The U Bein bridge at sunset, the longest teak footbridge (nearly a mile) in the world.

### Houseboat Harbor Inc.

Some readers may know that FHA President, **Sheri Greaves** visits, as often as possible, her mom, Jonnie Faye Ray, who lives in Kennett, Missouri!



*Pretty in pink!*

**Fritz & Margaret Wagner** spent the Fall traveling overseas after Margaret retired from a long career in Education. After spending some time with family in Michigan, they set off for Turkey to spend time with their daughter who lives in Istanbul. This is a wonderfully interesting city with remarkable history. On foot and public transportation they traipsed all over

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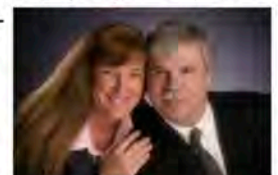
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## Waterlog continued...

the place absorbing culture and enjoying friendly helpful Turkish people. The couple then flew from on to Cape Town, South Africa where they enjoyed reconnecting with friends and family. The Spring



*Paula at Great Wall*



*Allie and Kai*

flowers were in full bloom; this is one of the more bio diverse places on our planet. The native plant life is spectacular. They traveled out from Cape Town, enjoyed local wine and hiking scenic mountain trails, to say nothing of the long beautiful beaches. After 7 weeks they returned to Turkey, spent more time in Istanbul and visited Cappadocia with all of

its spectacular vistas, and then returned in November to Seattle, glad to be home. HHI residents **Paula Szkody & Don Brownlee** have had an interesting year with travel and becoming grandparents. Paula did her first "around the world" trip in August to give talks at two scientific meetings. From Seattle, she flew east to Krakow, Poland (since all her grandparents came from Poland, this was both work and an ancestral visit) with the highlight being the conference dinner in the famous Salt mines. From there, she continued east to Beijing for a meeting of the International Astronomical Union where highlights included tours of the Great Wall and the Terra Cotta warriors in Xian before the final east leg back to Seattle. An equally momentous trip occurred in December to visit 2-day-old grandson Kai, born to daughter **Allison** and her Kiwi husband, **Brad Stephens** who live in Oceanside, CA. Allison lived on 2235 Fairview dock her first year of life and then at HHI until she left for college - a water baby



*Audrey's new home*

who now has a Masters degree in marine biology and lives one block from the ocean. HHI's newest resident, **Audrey Hudgins**, moved to the dock in August 2012. Audrey held an open house on January 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit Professionals Without Borders (PWOB). At the end of the day, Audrey was thankful that her house was still floating and for the generosity of so many guests - Professionals Without Borders received \$848 in donations.



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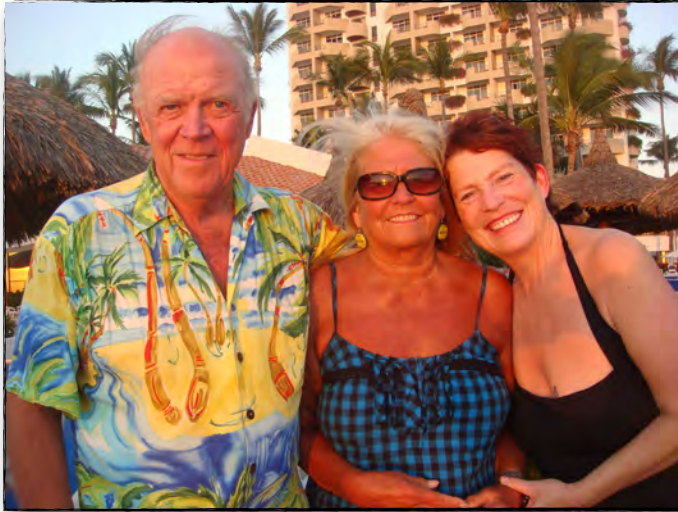


## Willow Cove Association

Well things have been pretty quiet at the Willow Cove dock. **Martha & Cork Keck** enjoyed skiing in Sun Valley and **Joyce & Dave Black** went the other direction and have been enjoying the beach in Mazatlan, Mexico. Bodhi, our resident bull mastiff continues to grow and his mom and dad, **Loren & Rob Van Oss** had some down time earlier in the year in Hawaii while Joyce and Dave Black took care of Bodhi.



*Carnival: Dave & Joyce Black*



*In Mazatlan: Sid, Jann and Tricia*

**Elsa & Diane** have had some traumatic events with Diane's mother passing away in Arkansas and Diane undergoing surgery. **Zach Lell** continues to be happy in his newly remodeled home and **Joby Shimomura** is finally able to take a breath after managing our Governor Jay Inslee's campaign. Joyce and Dave Black were able to hook up with several of our floating home neighbors in Mazatlan, **Tricia Rendina** and **Jann & Sid McFarland** for good food and lots of good margaritas. Jann wins the prize for the best tan!! The Mazatlan house has become a wonderful get away for many Seattle friends who have made it a ritual to go for Carnival in February, the second largest in the world after Rio. Back in Seattle the dock's garden looks pretty sad and residents are all looking forward to the Spring when those beautiful flowers poke their heads out and remind us Winter is over.

## Shelby Dock

In late August members of the Portage Bay floating homes community gathered in the Shelby Dock garden to celebrate the many years **Alan Hunt** has lived on the Shelby Dock. He moved into his houseboat on Opening Day 1975. He has served as the dock treasurer and "maintenance supervisor" since June 1993, the time of the Shelby Group incorporation. Alan has recently moved to a lovely home he built overlooking the Icicle Creek Valley in Leavenworth. His wise counsel and thorough knowledge of the dock



*Alan Hunt and Bob Forman*

will be sorely missed. Many members from the Portage Bay floating homes community came to wish Alan well. He was presented with an historical print of Seattle's Opening Day—a fitting reminder of his years on the dock. We were honored also to have Erin Feeney join us for the event. Her book—*Seattle's Floating Homes*—had just been published and includes many photos from the personal photo album of **Mack Hopkins**.

Erin enjoyed being part of the community she had researched and written about so very well. It all came to life in the gathering. She willingly signed books for attendees and shared her stories of writing the book. The Shelby Dock has a number of new residents. They include the following: New Owners, **Carol & Carl Buchan**, who are natives of the Northwest and decided to buy a floating home on the dock after a period of renting another. As Carol tells it, "Our professions, construction contractor and graphic designer don't necessarily direct us to life on the water, but just about everything else we enjoy does take place



## Waterlog continued...

on or around it. We have spent a large proportion of our time outside of work cruising the Pacific Northwest waters or sailing competitively in the Seattle area, other parts of our country and around the world. Once our children flew the coop, it just seemed to make the most sense to live "smaller"



*Erin Feeney and Mack Hopkins*

and close to the water. We love being located in the middle of the city so that anything we can't get to by boat, is a short bike ride away." **Victoria Voris & Steve Skieens** moved on the Shelby Dock recently. Victoria is a Business Planning Director at Microsoft, and Steve is a Sales & Services Specialist at Hydra-Pro Marine Crane Manufacturing Company. Both enjoy the outdoors and feel right at home living so close to the water and nature. They particularly enjoy kayaking and watching the seasons change with the different types of birds and boats that appear as the weather changes. Outside of such an ideal location to live, they chose a floating home, because they appreciate the community of people who are also passionate about living in and keeping up the traditions of this peaceful, yet quirky, wonderful, and magical lifestyle. New renters include **Greg Cotter** who moved to Seattle about three years ago and onto the Shelby Dock last fall. He owns four restaurants and a catering operation in the Seattle area. (See [www.creativecafeswa.com](http://www.creativecafeswa.com) for more details.) He lives and sails on his sailboat in the summer in the San Juans and north—thus his interest in living on the water full time! **Lauren Glickman** moved onto the dock in early fall. She is the Executive

Director of Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project and has a small consulting business. In her words, "I give compassion fatigue workshops to people working in the care-taking fields so they can build their resiliency and stay healthy over the long haul while doing some of the toughest work in our community. I do that work out of my home, which makes living on a houseboat all that much better. I completely lucked out in how I got here. My former boss and her husband moved to Leavenworth and they agreed to let me live on the houseboat while they figure out what they want to do. The owners are fixing it up bit by bit, so I see them once a month or so...other than that I just enjoy my watery world. I love the tranquility and the birds...and I saw an otter the other day!" **Julia Mayer & Lance Jones** joined us on the Shelby Dock over a year ago. Julia is a management consultant for PwC and Lance an environmental consultant for Environmental Resources Management (ERM). Lance is a Seattle local and has always lived on or within view of the water so living on a houseboat was something Lance has always wanted to do. Julia moved here a few years ago from St. Louis because of the mountains. Friends of hers live on a Westlake dock, so when Lance and she decided to move in together, houseboats were at the top of the list. As Julia tells it, "When we looked at this one, we literally walked in the doorway (that Lance had to duck to get into) and his first words were 'we'll take it.' We have now been part of the wonderful houseboat community since September 2011." **Bari Weinstock & Matt Epstein** began renting on the Shelby Dock last fall. Bari works at Tommy Bahama and Matt at Amazon. Growing up on the east coast, living on a floating home was the farthest thing from their reality a few years ago. As Bari puts it, "But ever since we took an Argosy cruise in our first month in Seattle and sailed past floating homes on Lake Union and Portage Bay, we knew we wanted this unique and wonderful situation of life on a floating home. When we coupled that with a great community atmosphere, we knew we had found our perfect next home."

Our final stop on this tour is at the **Brackett Dock** where new owners **Colleen & Jerry Sellers** greet us and Linda and Tom share the story about their new boat. Linda says they bought their little 1959 Dorsett from owners Megan and Jen, who lived on Dock Henderson. After another move to a rental at Gasworks Marina, Megan & Jen headed to Wisconsin, but without the little boat.

Thanks for joining the newsletter crew for another trip around the lake. See you in the Summer issue!

Questions or comments? Contact Marilyn at [isobel.rob44@gmail.com](mailto:isobel.rob44@gmail.com)

## Remembering...

### Jay Gelzer

Jay died on her beloved house boat, departing as she had wished - on her own terms and cradled in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved her. Heartfelt thanks to Drs. Kristine Rinn, Jed Gorden, and Terry Law and to Seattle's Providence Hospice. Everlasting gratitude to Gretchen de Roche of Compassion and Choice of Washington.

Jay was an inspired and remarkable psychotherapist, an extraordinary mother, a writer, a thinker, a poet, a Pea Patch gardener, an interrupted musician, and an ardent lover of life, beauty, and the creative experience. She was a rare and exotic flower - beautiful, ferociously bright, passionate, private, sensitive, and deeply spiritual.

Although hardship and loss dogged the last third of her almost seventy years, Jay gave no quarter, steely in her determination to live life with hope, wonder, and mastery.

Jay was predeceased by her beloved son Connor and is survived by her bereft and loving family, mother, Helen Baker Gelzer, sisters Barbara Perry Gelzer, Helen G. Kupka, Katherine G. Murphy, and dear friend, Jean Star Wald Dinaburg.

When I die

I want my bones to smell like

spring rain

and shine like the moon.

In fact, I want that now.

Sunny morning

even the scraps

beautiful in the bowl.

Here we go, slipping into the last pool of

silence!

*(Published in The Seattle Times on January 20, 2013)*



## Floating Homes Association Membership Form

Help preserve and protect Seattle's colorful houseboat community. Join the Floating Homes Association today! Group memberships available with 10% discount.

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

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

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

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

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

HOUSEBOAT: Rent  Own

MOORAGE: Rent  Own

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, WA 98102

(206) 325-1132



**FLOATING  
HOMES  
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD DUES:**  
REGULAR - \$50:  65 AND OVER - \$40:

NEW:  RENEW:

FLOATINGHOMESASSOCIATION  
2329 Fairview Ave East  
Seattle, WA 98102