

# Malibu East Dialogue

December 2001

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Winter holidays celebrated at Malibu East

### December holidays

December is the time for many holidays. As your friends and neighbors at Malibu East celebrate their particular holiday and customs, greet them with the warm spirit that this time of year brings to all of us.

#### The Story of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the festival of lights that is celebrated for eight days, starting on the 25th day of the month of Kislev (Nov/Dec), to commemorate the victory of the Jews over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 BCE. Following their victory, the Maccabees, sons of the Priestly Hasmonean family which led the Jews in their revolt against the Syrian overlords, entered the Holy Temple in Jerusalem defiled by the Syrian invaders, cleansed it and dedicated it anew to the service of good. Then, in memory of the festival, the Maccabees celebrated the 1st Hanukkah. (Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for dedication.) The most important observance associated with Hanukkah is the lighting of the Hanukkah lights on the Menorah, a seven- or nine-branch candelabrum. On each night more and more lights are lit, beginning with one candle on the first night of Hanukkah, and ending with eight on the final evening. The lights are accompanied by the saying of blessings and the singing of songs.



#### Happy Kwanzaa

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Kwanzaa, a cultural festival during which African Americans celebrate and reflect upon their heritage as the products of two traditions. During this weeklong holiday they focus on traditional African values



of family, community, responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither religious nor political and despite some misconceptions, it's not a substitute for Christmas. It is just a time of reaffirming African American people, their ancestors and their culture. Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest," has come to be observed by more than 13 million people in the United States, Canada and throughout the world since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga.

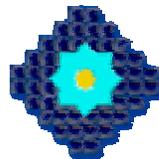
The celebration starts Dec. 26 and lasts for seven days. Kwanzaa is based on seven principles that are called Nguzo Saba. They are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Each day of the holiday one principle is highlighted.

#### General Christmas traditions

Christmas is very popular worldwide. About 1.5 billion people observe it, and the numbers get bigger every year. Christmas is one of the most powerful and oldest traditions in our history, known everywhere by both kids and adults. Christmas to many of us is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. That is where the word Christmas comes from.

#### Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The month of Ramadan is also when it is believed the Holy Quran "was sent down from heaven, a guidance unto men, a declaration of direction, and a means of salvation."



It is during this month that Muslims fast. It is called the Fast of Ramadan and lasts the entire month. Ramadan is a

time when Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their everyday lives. It is a time of worship and contemplation.

During the Fast of Ramadan strict restraints are placed on the daily lives of Muslims. They are not allowed to eat or drink during the daylight hours. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden during fasting. At the end of the day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called the iftar. In the evening following the iftar it is customary for Muslims to go out visiting family and friends. The fast is resumed the next morning.

*Reprinted from the December 1996 Dialogue*

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*Our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Burton Rovens of 34K, who passed away in November. He was one of the original owners at Malibu East.*

# MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

Tuesday, Nov. 27

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives and 15 residents

Not present: Ila Chaiken, Jo Anne Meshbom

## OPEN FORUM 1

*Resident comments and questions:*

- 1) The letter to residents requesting donations to the employee Christmas fund mentioned "other service people." Who would that be? *This year, it would be Howie Stahle, who has been of great benefit to the building.*
- 2) Is there any effort being made to relieve us of some of the expense of the city's exterior repair ordinances? *Right now it is a political reality. Possibly after November 2002, when all buildings are scheduled to come up to specifications, the act may be amended.*
- 3) Inflation is only 2% and we are getting a 9% increase in assessments this year. Will we be getting this large an increase in coming years? *We do not anticipate future annual increases of 9%. We do have some substantial expenses coming — garage repairs, a new roof, the garage brick wall, and also the cable contract is up in 2003.*
- 4) The outside crew damaged my patio door screen. *Report it to management right away.*
- 5) When can I wash the outside of my windows? *Soon, we will put out a letter. The exterior work has gone on longer than expected due to the nice weather.*
- 6) What is the status of voluntary window replacement and repairs? *We have a 50-50 split on the north and south sides. The contractor wants to wait until he can do both sides at once. The notice will be sent out again 90 days prior to the work. If anyone does not want to wait until then, call the manage-*

*ment office to make arrangements for earlier repairs. There are several options that range from replacing just the weather stripping to the entire window system.*

- 7) Will the board's CISA insurance change affect individual unit owners' insurance? *No, if CISA is your agency, they should still be responsible for coordinating your insurance coverage.*

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the MECA Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved at the following meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Financial statement*

Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,717,249.13

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1) Floor Representatives

At the Nov. 13 meeting, 12 members discussed a perceived possibility that materials describing owners' responsibilities are not being distributed to all new owners. They recommend that the board re-examine the admissions policy and request that the Floor Representatives Committee pass out this information at the end of each admissions session.

Sudler will look at the admissions material and the welcome wagon packages and make recommendations. All board members will also receive copies of this material to peruse and comment on.

### 2) Social

All residents are invited to the lighting of the first Hanukkah candle Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 pm. Wine and refreshments will be served.

The annual holiday party will be held in the lobby Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm. Residents are encouraged to bring finger foods. Also on this date, Mary Assim will

be honored, as she will be 100 years old in January.

### 3) Commercial Property

The Fit For Life lease is moving forward. Dec. 4 is its starting date.

### 4) Architecture & Aesthetics

The new lobby oriental carpet, new chairs and a new tabletop have been installed. The rug will be re-sized after a few weeks of wear. The old carpet is being cleaned and will be stored and used as a replacement when the new oriental carpet needs cleaning. We have new, larger plants that have been rearranged with gro-lights installed to keep them healthy.

### 5) ASCO

The SW corner lot at Thorndale and Sheridan is being purchased by the CPD. Possible uses being considered are making it an adult park, possibly dog-friendly. Sheridan Road signal lights have still not been retimed.

### 6) Holiday fund

The distribution to employees is based on tenure and salary level. We look forward to generous contributions from the residents.

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

### Items requiring board action

#### 1) 2002 proposed budget

Approved as submitted to the owners.

#### 2) Commercial property issues

Lobby access: Allan Eckhardt and Sandy Chaet will work together to get this project moving.

#### 3) Umbrella insurance policy renewal

Approved with renewal dates now coinciding with our other insurance coverage.

#### 4) Employees' holiday party

Dec. 21, noon. Management and board members are requested to attend.

#### 5) Board committee appointments

Two new committees were formed. A Security Committee to be chaired by Larry Creter and a Communications Committee that will be responsible for the Dialogue, the Malibu East web page and information communications to residents. The complete list will be

available for the next issue of the Dialogue.

6) **Exterior repairs for the L & C tiers**

L & C unit owners will be given the opportunity to leave some things at their own risk on the balcony during balcony edge construction. Owners will be given the particulars in a letter before construction starts.

**Items not requiring board action**

1) **North wall repairs**

Additional temporary repairs at a cost of \$7,600 will allow us to defer the major repairs to the north wall to 2003.

2) **Laundry room remodeling update**

The laundry room reopening was delayed by the need to replace dryer heater elements, which were of the wrong voltage. There has also since been excessive dryer downtime. Many residents have also complained about the wallpaper. The Aesthetic Committee is reviewing possible décor changes.

3) **Unit sales**

18M \$122,400

4) **Collection of emergency data**

265 units have turned in the questionnaires. A second round was sent to residents.

5) **Garage report**

**Claims**

Approved:	1
Denied:	2
Total:	3

**Waiting lists**

Single self-park:	87
Tandem self-park:	1
Second car:	10

**Monthly parkers**

Valet:	331
Tandem:	70
Single:	144
Preferred:	2
Engineer:	NC
Motorcycle:	2
Total:	549

New monthlies:	2
Cancellations:	7

6) **New copier update**

A Konica copier has been identified that meets our specifications. References are now being investigated.

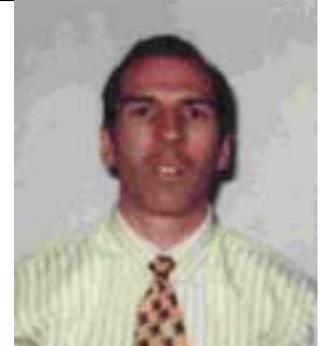
The meeting ended at 10:20 pm and went into closed session.



## What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese

MECA Association Manager



The building staff has been very busy over the past few weeks decorating the interior and exterior of the building for the holidays. They also played a significant role in the remodeling of the laundry room and the lobby. As you may know, Kathy Katz has been recuperating at home. On behalf of the entire Malibu East family, we extend our best wishes and we look forward to seeing her back in the Receiving Room very soon.

The exterior fascia and balcony project is progressing, and residents can check the chart in the lobby next to the ramp door, for an update of the progress on their tier. The project is currently in the forming, cement pouring, grinding, and caulking and tuck-pointing stages. The crews are also planning on working through the end of November and on Saturdays, weather permitting.

Residents with questions concerning the project are encouraged to call the management office. If your balcony door is not locked off, please stay off your balconies and keep your doors closed during the day when the construction is taking place.

The laundry room remodeling is almost complete. All the new washers and dryers have been installed, and Coinmach will be installing the new chairs during the first week of December. Coinmach will be announcing a grand opening special for all the residents after the chairs are installed and all the work has been completed.

The holiday season is just around the corner, and a letter will be issued to all building residents and owners regarding the Annual Holiday Building Fund for

all the building staff. When you receive the letter, please take a minute to read it and hopefully you will be willing to contribute to this fund that is distributed to all the members of our building staff. Your consideration and generosity will be greatly appreciated.

The Board of Directors is working on additional new policies that would enhance the current measures being taken regarding deliveries to the building. Once the new policy is finalized, all residents will be given a written copy of the policy and a time frame when it will be implemented.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

**The Receiving Room does not have a refrigerator. Please pick up all perishable deliveries as soon as possible.**

Due to the events of Sep. 11, the Board of Directors and the building staff have demonstrated their resolve to continue to improve the quality of life at Malibu East despite our nation's loss. The Malibu East family is as committed as ever to serve its members at the highest level possible, and I want to thank them all for their hard work and dedication over the past year. I consider myself very fortunate to be part of the Malibu East family and to be able to work alongside such loyal and motivated people. I look forward to continued success in 2002 and I want to extend my best wishes to everyone for a great holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

# Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel



## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### **BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER**

#### **Holiday concert "Peace on Earth"**

Chicago School of  
Professional Singers  
Dec. 17, 7:30 pm - \$5

#### **Register for winter classes**

Registration starts Dec. 1, 9 am  
Winter classes Jan. 7 - Mar. 24

### **FIRST BYTES COMPUTER SCHOOL**

#### **Free Time**

Watch computer training videos or  
use our computers for free. Call  
First Bytes for details.

#### **Computer Club**

Free for children ages 9-13. Meets  
10 am to noon Sat. Call Berger  
Park to register your child.

#### **Internet access**

DSL fast Internet access available  
for a minimal charge. Call First  
Bytes for details.

#### **Adult classes**

Classes in Windows and Microsoft  
applications will be offered soon.  
Call First Bytes for details.

6205 N. Sheridan Rd.  
First Bytes 773-761-5792  
Berger Park 312-742-7871

## **EDGEWATER**

### **MEDICAL CENTER**

#### **Senior Center programs**

5700 N. Ashland Ave.  
773-797-1095

## **EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **CAPS 24<sup>th</sup> Dist. Beat #33SD**

Come meet our beat police.  
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7 pm  
(1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of every month)

#### **Internet basics**

Learn mouse skills, www, e-mail  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of month  
1210 W. Elmdale  
312-744-0718

## **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY**

### **"The Life of Christ thru Art"**

Martin D'arcy Museum of Art  
Guided tour \$5  
Sat. Dec. 1, 1-2 pm  
6225 N. Sheridan Rd.  
773-508-2679

## **NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER**

### **Ars Musica**

Holiday music program  
Dec. 2, 3 pm

### **Creative writing workshop**

Dec. 3, 7-8 pm

### **Renaissance exhibit**

Thru Dec. 20

### **From author to actor**

Dec. 16, 3-5 pm  
6219 N. Sheridan Rd.  
773-743-4477

## **NORTH PARK VILLAGE**

### **NATURE CENTER**

#### **Winter Solstice concert & festival**

Sample roasted chestnuts, make  
edible ornaments for preserve  
animals, walk trail with luminaries.  
Sat. Dec. 15, 6-9 pm FREE  
5801 N. Pulaski  
312-744-5472

## **SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM CENTER**

### **Xmas bazaar**

Dec. 1, 10 am -5 pm

### **Genealogy research**

Dec. 1-10, 12 noon

### **Breakfast with Tomten**

Swedish pancake breakfast/  
program.

Dec. 8, 9 am

\$10 members, \$12 non-members

### **Lucia celebration**

Dec. 13, 4:45 pm

Procession in Andersonville starts  
in front of center at 5 pm; program  
at Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650  
W. Foster Ave. at 7 pm.

5211 N. Clark St.

773-728-8111

## **WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER**

Adult day wellness programs for  
60 and over. Gentle yoga, tai chi,  
music exercise, socializing, lunch  
and snacks. Transportation  
provided within boundary area.

1355 W. Foster Ave.

773-271-9001



## THEATER/SHOWINGS

### **BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER**

#### **"The Other Cinderella"**

Thru Dec. 31 - \$30

Fri./Sat. 8 pm, Sun. 3 pm

773-769-5516

#### **"The Jackie Wilson Story"**

Thru Jan. 6 - \$30

Thu. & Sun. 7:30 pm, Sat. 3 pm

4520 N. Beacon

773-769-4451

### **BOXER REBELLION THEATRE**

#### **"Night Sky"**

Story of an astronaut who cannot  
communicate after an automobile  
accident.

Thru Dec. 22, \$15 - \$10 students

1257 W. Loyola

773-465-7325

### **GRIFFIN THEATRE**

#### **"Ah Wilderness"**

Eugene O'Neill comedy

Thu.-Sat. 7:30 pm, Sun. 3 pm \$15

5404 N. Clark St.

773-769-2228

### **LIFELINE THEATRE**

#### **"The Return of the King"**

Thru Dec. 9, \$20 student/senior-  
\$16

Fri./Sat. 8 pm, Sun. 5:30 pm

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

### **NEO-FUTURARIUM THEATRE**

#### **"H20"**

Comedy with three actors/dancers,  
music of the '50s.

Thru Dec. 22, \$12 - \$8 students/

seniors  
Thu./Sat. 8 pm  
5153 N. Ashland Ave.  
773-275-5255

**PEGASUS PLAYERS**

**"Bronzeville"**  
Chronicle of south side  
neighborhoods from WWII &  
Vietnam.  
Thru Dec. 16, \$16 – \$19  
Thu.–Sat. 8 pm, Sun. 3 pm  
O'Rourke Theatre  
1145 W. Wilson  
773-878-9761

**COMMUNITY EVENTS/****MEETINGS****Alzheimer Assn.**

Support group meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat./  
month, 10:30 am  
1415 W. Foster Ave.  
847-933-1000

**Friends of Battered Women and Children**

Support group  
800-603-HELP

**Breast cancer support group**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the  
month  
Ven-Cor Hospital  
6130 N. Sheridan Rd.  
773-381-1222

**MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS****Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony**

Sunday, Dec. 9,  
5:30 pm — Lobby

**Holiday party**

Thursday, Dec. 13  
5:30 pm — Lobby

**MECA board meeting**

Tuesday, Dec. 18  
7:30 pm — Windjammer Room

**Thursday afternoon discussion group**

Thursday, Dec. 20  
(every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of month)  
2:00 pm — Community Room

**Employee holiday party**

Friday, Dec. 21  
Noon — employee lunch room

**Dialogue Committee meeting**

Friday, Dec. 29  
7:30 pm — Community Room

Leave event and meeting notices at the desk for the Dialogue.

**Holiday social activities***by Sandy Chaet*

Hanukkah lighting will take place on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 pm in our lobby. Come and light the first candle with your neighbors.

Our annual holiday party will be on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm in the lobby. It is a finger food, appetizer and dessert party. We will supply some refreshments, yet the past success of this party has been the contributions brought by our own Malibu East residents. This is what makes this party so special. The appetizers and desserts donated are what make this a delicious celebration. It is a party of sharing and mingling with your neighbors. Please remember to label the back of your tray or serving dish with your name and unit number so it can be returned to you. Supervised children are encouraged to attend.

Also this evening, a special celebration will take place to honor Mary Assim, whose 100th birthday will be coming in January 2002. Mary and her son, Michael, would like her neighbors and friends of Malibu East to come and help honor her that evening. Congratulations and good wishes to Mary!

**Restaurants open Christmas Day***by Betty Mayian*

**The Angus**, Prime steaks, seafood  
7555 North Western Ave.  
773/262-8844 fax 773/262-2444

**Deluxe Diner**, 24/365 diner  
6349 North Clark St., 773/743-8244

**Ethiopian Diamond**, African  
6120 North Broadway, 773/338-6100

**Fireside Pub**, American  
5739 North Ravenswood,  
773/878-5942 / fax 773/878-7615

**Mei Shung**, Chinese & Taiwanese  
5511 North Broadway  
773/728-5778 / fax 773/728-6962

**Reza's**, Persian  
5255 North Clark St.  
773/561-1898 / fax 773/561-9896

**Standees**, 24/365 diner  
1133 West Granville, 773/743-5013

**The Twelve Days of Christmas***by Norm Cratty*

There is one Christmas carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

## Christmas traditions

by Norm Cratty

### • Christmas cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. Christmas cards were produced in large numbers from about 1860. They became even more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one-half-penny — half the price of an ordinary letter.

### • Santa Claus

'Father Christmas' has become the human face of Christmas, the old man with a long white beard, red coat and bag of toys. He brings presents the night before Christmas (or in some countries on Dec. 6, St. Nicholas' Day, as was the custom in my Czech/Bohemian heritage). In most countries, it is said that Santa lives near the North Pole and arrives through the sky on a sledge (snow-cart) pulled by reindeer. He comes down the chimney at midnight and places presents for the children in socks or bags by their beds or in front of the family Christmas tree. It was custom in my family celebration for an adult to dress in a Santa outfit, go out the back of the house, down the alley and then saunter up the sidewalk ringing his bell. There was a mystery and awe of seeing Santa come to our house to deliver the goodies. As a child it was truly magical.

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name 'Santa Claus,' from the Dutch 'Sinterklaas.' Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the 4th century AD. He was very shy and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking that a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

### • Boxing Day

In English-speaking countries, the day following Christmas Day is called

'Boxing Day.' This word comes from the custom that started in the Middle Ages by which churches would open their 'alms box' and distribute the contents to poor people on the day after Christmas. The tradition continues today — small gifts are often given to delivery workers such as postal staff and children who deliver newspapers.

*Here is a sampling of the abundance of information on Christmas traditions on web sites.*

### • France

In France, Christmas is always called Noël. Everyone has a Christmas tree, sometimes decorated in the old way with red ribbons and real white wax candles. Fir trees in the garden are often decorated with lights on all night. Father Christmas is called Père Noël. The Christmas meal is an important family gathering with good meat and the best wine.

### • Germany

Germans love to decorate their houses at Christmas; many will have little wooden frames holding electric candles in their windows, and colored pictures of paper or plastic which look beautiful from outside at night. Often they will have an 'Adventskranz' — a wreath of leaves with four candles. On each Sunday of Advent, another candle is lit. Most will also have nativity scenes.

Father Christmas brings presents in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve after people have been to a church meeting. One person in the family will ring a bell and call everyone to come to the room. Fish or goose will be cooked on Christmas Day.

### • Latvia

Latvians believe that Father Christmas brings presents on each of the 12 days of Christmas starting on Christmas Eve. Usually the presents are put under the family Christmas tree. The special Latvian Christmas Day meal is cooked brown peas with bacon sauce, small pies, cabbage and sausage.

### • Russia

During communism, Christmas was not celebrated very much. New Year was the important time — when 'Father Frost' brought presents to children. Un-

der democracy, Christmas is openly celebrated — either on Dec. 25 or more often on Jan. 7. This unusual date is because the Russian Orthodox Church uses the old Julian calendar for religious celebration days. Special Christmas food includes cakes, pies and 'meat dumplings.'

### • Sweden

The most important day is Christmas Eve. A special Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve — ham, herring, and brown beans — and this is the time when families give presents to each other. Many people attend church early on Christmas Day.

### • China

The Christian children of China decorate trees with colorful ornaments. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains and lanterns. They also hang muslin stockings hoping that Christmas Old Man will fill them with gifts and treats.

The non-Christian Chinese call this season the Spring Festival and celebrate with many festivities that include delicious meals and paying respect to their ancestors. The children are the main focus of these celebrations; they receive new clothes and toys, eat delectable food and watch firecracker displays.

### • Egypt

Mainly only Christian Egyptians celebrate Christmas. The majority of the Egyptians are Muslim (mostly Sunni), but several million Egyptians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church. They celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7 after fasting for 45 days. From Nov. 25 to the night of Jan. 6, they don't eat any meat or milk.

### • Greece

On Christmas Eve, children go carol singing, playing drums and triangles as they sing and sometimes carrying model boats decorated with nuts painted gold. They might be given money or nuts, sweets and dried figs to eat. There is a tradition called kalikantzeri, where the mischievous goblins appear from the earth during the 12 days of Christmas. At Christmas very few presents are given to each other. Instead, small gifts are given to hospitals and orphanages.

• **India**

Christmas is a very small festival in India due to the small portion of the population, 2.6%, that is Christian. The family will walk to mass, and this will be followed by a massive feast of different delicacies (mostly curries) and the exchange of presents. Churches are decorated with poinsettia flowers and candles for the Christmas Eve midnight mass service. Instead of fir trees, a banana or mango tree is decorated.

Bombay households display a nativity scene in their window. Families hang giant paper lanterns in the shape of stars between the houses so that they float above you. Father Christmas delivers presents from a horse and cart.

• **Iran**

Christians are less than 1% of the population; it is not a legal holiday. Christmas is called the 'Little Feast.' Easter is the 'Big Feast.' The month prior to Christmas is a period of fasting during which no meat, eggs, milk, or cheese may be consumed. Christmas is a religious and family celebration. Gifts are not exchanged, however; children are usually given new clothes.

• **Japan**

There is no official celebration of Christmas in Japan. It is known more as a time to spread happiness rather than as a religious celebration. There is widespread secular observance of Christmas due to American influence and Japan's Christmas industry, which provides decorations and trinkets for Christian nations. As this industry grew, the Japanese absorbed some customs into their society, including the tree and turkey with all the trimmings. Hoteiosho, a Japanese pantheon god, brings gifts. With eyes in the back of his head, he observes the behavior of the children in Japan.

• **Mexico**

Most people take off the last two weeks in December to party, spend time with the family, visit old friends and make new ones. A big fiesta, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways. Common is the posada, a re-creation of Mary (on donkey) and Joseph searching for a "room at the inn," accompanied by a choir of small children knocking on

doors asking for lodging for the weary couple. Later the children get to enjoy a festive piñata party.

• **Pakistan**

In Pakistan Dec. 25 is a public holiday; it is, however, in memory of Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. In Christian homes they celebrate by exchanging gifts and cards, wearing new clothes and visiting friends. A church service called Bara Din, the big day, is packed on Christmas Day.

• **Poland**

Customs to ensure a betrothal or good harvest were a major part of rural Polish Christmastime traditions, and some survive as family fun. Christmas Eve is a night of magic; animals talk in a human voice and people have the power to tell the future. The belief was born with ancestors who claimed that Dec. 24 was a day to mark the beginning of a new era. Today, few treat the old traditions seriously, but 'maidens' interested in their marital future and older people who try to predict next year's weather sometimes cling to past superstitions.

• **Romania**

Carols, an important part of folklore, are not simple songs but wide windows through which they are allowed once in a year to go by the immaculate snow toward the evergreen Heaven and to even touch God for an instant, in order to receive power to surpass life's obstacles. Carol singers walk in the streets of the villages and towns, holding in their hands a star made of board and paper with biblical scenes painted in watercolors.

• **Ukraine**

Christmas is celebrated Jan. 7. The communists tried to substitute Christmas with the holiday of New Year. With independence in 1991, Christmas was celebrated officially. In most parts on Christmas Eve, people create 'Vertep' (cave nativity scenes) and people usually cook some tasty foods. There should be at least 12 different foods on the table.

• **Spain**

In Spain the winter solstice is observed by people jumping over fires as a symbolic protection against illness. At mid-

night the ringing of bells calls families to The Mass of the Rooster. Christmas dinner is never eaten until after midnight. Christmas Day is spent at church, at feasts and in merrymaking. A custom peculiar to Spain is that of "swinging." Swings are set up throughout the courtyards, and young people swing to the accompaniment of songs and laughter. Not Santa, but the Three Wise Men come bearing gifts. They are everywhere at Christmas, visiting hospitals, orphanages, etc. On Jan. 5 children place their shoes on the doorstep or balconies, and in the secret of the night, the Three Wise Men fill them with gifts. Spanish children especially like Balthazar.

• **Korea**

Christmas is distinctly a 'Christian' religious holiday. On Christmas Eve the youth of the churches have a Christmas pageant, then from midnight until 5 am Christmas morning, they go caroling. Carolers are invited into homes for hot drinks and snacks. After an hour or two of sleep, the sleepy teens and sponsor are back at the church at 11 am Christmas Day for worship, followed by the baptism and the reception of new members into the church and dinner in the church. Usually the meal is a hot bowl of rice cake soup served with kimchi (spicy pickled vegetables), a tangerine and perhaps a cookie or two. Sometimes gifts are given at home, but not in the same quantity that most Americans give. One might hear Christmas music on the radio and TV during Christmas Day or even a couple of days before.

*Sources: [www.soon.org.uk/christmas.htm](http://www.soon.org.uk/christmas.htm) and [www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com) and [www.christmas.com](http://www.christmas.com) and [www.santas.net](http://www.santas.net); [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) is an excellent search engine for Christmas traditions in other countries.*

## Your holiday traditions

### *From the Dialogue staff*

We have tried to include all of the ethnic holiday traditions that reflect the diversity of our Malibu East residents. If your particular traditions were not included, please notify the Dialogue with the details for inclusion in next years' December issue.

## MECA garage rates

Effective Jan. 1, 2002

### New monthly rates

1 <sup>st</sup> motorcycle	\$38.50
1 <sup>st</sup> single self-parking	93
1 <sup>st</sup> tandem parking	88
1 <sup>st</sup> valet parking	77

### Monthly surcharges

Preferred	\$20
2 <sup>nd</sup> vehicle	20
3 <sup>rd</sup> vehicle	35
4 <sup>th</sup> vehicle	60

### Guest parking rates

Up to 1 hour	\$2
1 to 2 hours	3
2 to 4 hours	6
4 to 6 hours	8
6 to 12 hours	13
12 to 24 hours	17
Weekly	66

### Parking coupons

\$30 value for	\$25
\$50 value for	\$45
\$60 value for	\$50

Available in MECA office in \$1, \$2 and \$5 denominations.

**NOTICE:** There are no new third or fourth vehicles permitted while there is a waiting list for second vehicles.

See our new garage manager, Paul Rosado, to sign up or to check the status of the waiting list or for any questions on the garage rates.

Don't forget, you must register your guests for garage parking privileges.

### Dear Etta Kitt,

The lobby seems to be an extension of some residents' living quarters. I sometimes see people sitting eating a sandwich, drinking soda or reading. With smoking prohibited, this type of activity to dropped off for a while. However, lobby activity that seems inappropriate seems to be increasing. I often see nannies with small children using the area as a playroom, and a few of our residents just seem to "hang out" there. Often they stand at the doorman's desk and distract him from his duties with conversation. I'm perplexed at to what is our rule about proper lobby use.

## Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



### Dear perplexed,

The rule about lobby use is pretty straightforward.

### V. CORRIDORS AND LOBBY

The corridors and Lobby may not be used for storage of any kind. No meetings, loitering, running, roller-skating or playing are permitted in the Corridors and Lobby ...

The area is designed for "in and out" traffic, the waiting for and/or welcoming of guests and the delivery of food, flowers, small packages and official Malibu East events. But definitely, this is not a play area or an extension of your living room. Please keep in mind that the lobby is everyone's "front door" and use it with common sense and consideration for your neighbors.

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## Winter holiday decorating contest

by Jack Winans

The second annual unit door and residential hallway winter holiday decorating contest is coming. Decorations must be displayed by noon Sunday, Dec. 16 to be eligible for judging. Floor decorations are not acceptable.

Management requests that all decorations be hung with no damage to the unit doors. The cost of repairing nail holes will be passed on to the unit owners. Please hang decorations from the door knocker, the doorknob or from a strap over the top of the door.

If you would like to be a judge (your anonymity will be preserved), please contact the Dialogue staff by Dec. 10. Judges must be willing to inspect all 42 residential floors.



## Get your Dialogue in color

Jack Winans, Editor

We have trimmed the cost, to our owners, of the Malibu East Dialogue newsletter by aggressively seeking out new advertising revenue. Unfortunately, printing costs are constantly rising, and the 2001 cost per copy averaged 90¢. You can help us cut this cost substantially by opting to receive the Dialogue via e-mail or downloading it from our web site: www.MalibuEast.org. There are several advantages to getting the Dialogue by file download.

- Often available before mail/door delivery.
- Web copy is in COLOR.
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- Back issues available at web site.
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Contact the management office or e-mail the editor for further details.

Jack@Winans.com  
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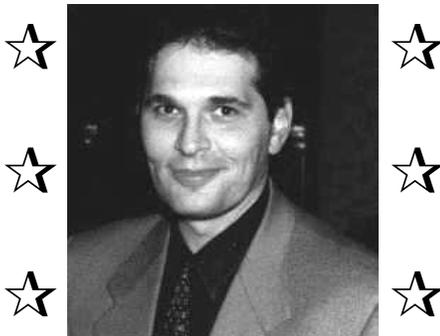
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It is not my intention to solicit the offerings of real estate brokers.

### The Dialogue

The Malibu East Condominium Association Dialogue is published by resident volunteers to promote communication among owners, residents, Board of Directors, management and staff of the Malibu East Condominium, 6033 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660.

Articles and opinions by the MECA Dialogue staff and contributors are presented as their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the association or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the MECA Dialogue Committee are encouraged. Please be as brief as possible. The MECA Dialogue staff reserves the right to edit letters to fit available space and to print only those with constructive content. Letters to the committee may be left at the management office.



### MECA MARKETPLACE

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# Malibu East Dialogue

Malibu East Condominium Association  
6033 N Sheridan Road  
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Your Malibu East  
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