

Malibu East Dialogue

February 2002

Your Communication and Information Resource

Our original Malibu East homestead revisited

The Strom Mansion

By Paul Vandehey

Reprinted from the September 1981 Dialogue

Those who attended our 10th Anniversary Birthday Party on June 7th may recall the display of light fixtures and paneling, which had been retrieved from the Strom Mansion before it was demolished to make way for what is now Malibu East. Because of the interest expressed in the mansion, one of our residents, Elaine Sundin, prevailed upon a friend of hers, Paul Vandehey, to write the following article about his experiences in salvaging some of the beauty of the old mansion.

By the time I met the old Strom mansion, it was ready to be demolished. A friend told me "You could buy some stuff before they wreck it." With that introduction, I spent the next three days working with the Franciscan Brothers and a few other avid junkers and antique nuts to remove as much of the beauty of the old mansion as possible. Mr. Strom had eclectic tastes. Art Nouveau influenced everything although each room had a special period flavor. A small drawing room was Louis X?? with silk padded wall panels, deeply mullioned windows with art glass roses and ornate plaster ornamentation on the ceiling and cove moldings. The dining room was round, with art nouveau painted ceiling (sightless eyes and dripping snakes/ vines, so I remember), tiled floor and all the woodwork done in oak and rosewood. The breakfast room was English country with oak paneling and marble wainscoting. Off this room there was a small office with marble tiles in the floor and an ornate but small marble fireplace. The living room was vaguely baronial, with mahogany panel-



ing, large mahogany box beams and an enormous red marble fireplace with surprisingly plain lines for the early 1900's. I still have a tabletop from that marble.

On my second day, I was still working on the dining room built-ins. The man taking out the marble from the breakfast room had lost the interest and assistance of his wife. She wandered in to watch me and saw the ceiling. In short order, she borrowed my putty knife, someone else's stepladder and was engaged in removing the ceiling. It was painted in slices like a pizza and then glued up into the dome. As she worked, articles of clothing fluttered to the floor. The artist who dressed the art nouveau nymphs had not painted the original canvas. Instead, he made clothes and glued the flowing robes in place. The saints and virgins became slightly more exotic as she worked. She left the room with an armful of canvas rolls shouting, "John, John, we have to remodel the

bathroom now.

Everything in the mansion was ornate. The "candleholders", which were on exhibit at the MECA party, were actually the ceiling fixtures from the downstairs closets. The front hall powder room had Tiffany gardens for windows. The third floor ballroom had originally been done in red velvet and rosewood with a small widows' walk facing Lake Michigan. Rather than have something as mundane as a brick chimney to disturb the lines of the green tile roof, each chimney flue was covered with a copper art nouveau baffle with raised quatrefoil decorations on all sides.

The final revenge of the Strom house came when they tried to raze the foundation. The walls were extra thick to help moderate temperatures for the wine cellars. Two cranes had to lift the foundation at the corners with cables until it cracked — nothing less worked.

MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Attendance: 9 board members, 2 management representatives and 9 residents
Not present: Marcel Molins, Tom Vaughan, Scott Young
Presiding: VP Richard Strauss

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) When will the missing elevator readout numbers be fixed? *They are on order and should be installed within two weeks.*
- 2) What is the status of the racquetball court door? *The delay is in trying to replace the door hinge, which is a hard-to-get older style.*
- 3) When will the heater units for the Windjammer Room be fixed? *The repairs and parts are on order.*
- 4) The floor indicator numbers on elevator #3 are malfunctioning. *The elevator company has been notified.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,635,496

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Security**
Specifics of the committee's recommendations will be discussed in closed session.
- 2) **Architecture & Aesthetics**
The laundry room bulletin board will be up soon.
- 3) **ASCO report**
The fence around the Thorndale/Sheridan lot is down. The CPD has started work on the lot.
- 4) **Holiday fund**
\$23,740 was disbursed to employees. An average of \$74 per unit was donated by 320 units. Donations ranged from a low of \$10 to a high of \$750.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action

- 1) **Commercial property issues**
The lease for our new tenant, Live Life Fit, was effective as of Jan. 21.

2) **Insurance policy renewal**

Due to worldwide terrorist concerns, insurance rates and contracts are undergoing drastic changes. We will get the best rates available, but they will be considerably higher.

3) **Emergency plan**

Details will be discussed in closed session.

4) **New interior signage requirements**

A new city rule was passed by the Chicago City Council Dec. 19 and became law on Jan. 1. Along with the requirement for an emergency evacuation plan, the new rule mandates the installation of specific signs in lobby areas and at elevator exits. The rule requires that the evacuation plan be filed by Jan. 31 and the signs to be installed by Feb. 20. A committee composed of board members Tom Vaughan, Allan Eckhardt, Sandy Chaet and Martina Molins was assigned to prepare the details for implementation by the board. A motion was made and passed unanimously: "The committee will work with due diligence to meet the city requirement."

5) **2001 unfinished project list**

Life safety program study, \$4,000.
Exterior balcony/façade repairs, \$900,263.03.

Items not requiring board action

1) **Exterior/balcony project**

The contractor is done with concrete repairs and grinding except for the A, C, and L tiers. The C and L tiers and the east end should be done by May 30. That leaves the A tier and membrane and painting of the south side of the building. The A tier work might go on until the end of August unless a plan, which would require multiple moves of personal property back and forth from the A south and A east balconies, is approved by a 60% majority of A tier residents. A motion was passed allowing management to survey A tier residents concerning this plan.

2) **Garage report**

Claims

Approved:	1
Denied:	2
Total:	3

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	87
Tandem self-park:	1
Second car:	12

Monthly parkers

Valet:	328
Tandem:	70
Single:	143
Preferred:	2
Engineer:	NC
<u>Motorcycle:</u>	<u>2</u>
Total:	545
New monthlies:	0
Cancellations:	4

3) **Building survey progress**

The committee will eventually publish some of the results. The survey will also be the basis of an action plan.

4) **Collection of emergency data**

The request was reissued Jan. 11. To date 277 units have responded.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm and went into closed session.

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.



What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese, MECA Association Manager

Your building staff is facing several new challenges as we enter this new year. Your staff is prepared to deal with our new world and they appreciate your cooperation and support as we implement new policies and procedures in the building. We consider all the residents members of our team and we are all working very hard to make Malibu East a better and safer place to live in 2002.

The exterior balcony and façade repair project is currently on hold due to the weather. We expect the crews to return to the project some time in March, weather permitting. You can review the status of the repairs in your tier by looking at the updated construction chart located in the lobby next to the ramp. The entire project is estimated to be completed in October, weather permitting. Although the work has stopped, please do not put anything back on your balcony.

Recently the management office sent out emergency request forms to residents in the building. If you received one, please fill it out and return it to the management office as soon as possible. Additionally, all residents are encouraged to leave a set of keys for their unit with the management office for use in an emergency other than lockouts when the office is closed.

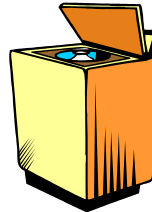
This is the time of year when unit owners will be getting requests from their lenders for a certificate of insurance. The management office does not issue certificates of insurance. However, a unit owner can obtain a certificate of insurance by calling our insurance agency, CISA, at 847-870-7000 and ask for the certificate department. CISA can issue a certificate of insurance directly to your lender.

Finally, on behalf of the entire building staff, we want to thank everyone who contributed to the holiday fund. We appreciate your most generous and thoughtful gifts.

Help!

by Rose Wandel

We are fortunate in having a diverse community in MECA, but I have discovered that some of our new residents need assistance — especially in using the laundry room. I have been witness to some “strange” use of our equipment because some people do not know how to use it. Some come from foreign countries where they have never had the opportunity to become acquainted with American machines. Here goes...



When you enter the laundry room, the machines that are stacked one on top of each other on the right hand side are the driers, which are used when the clothes have been washed and are ready to be dried. The numbers on the machines indicate the amount of money to be inserted (25¢ per load) for about 35 minutes. You need to set heat setting for your clothes — hot, warm or cool. Usually 25¢ will take care of a washing machine load of clothes. If your clothes need longer drying time, you may add another 25¢.

The washing machines are on the left side of the laundry room. They cost 50¢ to operate. Your detergent and water softeners or bleach should be put into the machines first so that when the water begins to flow in, the washing chemicals will have a chance to mix. Your clothes should be separated — white from colored, do not put them into the same machine together. After the machine is about half full of water, add your clothes. Do not overload as it will jam the machine or create an imbalance so that the machine cannot work. After the washing cycles are complete, put the clothes in the driers. (One of the mechanics from our equipment company told me that he had found someone — not in our building — who did not understand the uses of the equipment, and had put her

clothes, detergent, bleach, etc, into a DRIER — instead of a washing machine.)

If you see someone having problems and not understanding how to use the machines, please be a good neighbor and assist them. And please — do not take your frustrations out on the equipment by banging the doors. As Malibu East residents, we all pay for the privilege of having a great laundry room. Treat each piece as if it belonged to you — it does!

So now you own a condo, what next?

by Jack Winans

This is a continuing series of owner responsibilities. (See the Jan. 2002 issue for the first 13 items in this series.)

14. Keys

It happens. You forget or lose your keys, you leave them on the counter, you drop them down the elevator shaft.



You've always really meant to leave a key with a neighbor for emergencies like this, and you did leave one at the management office. But it's Saturday night, the office is closed and you're on the way to a theater downtown where you have tickets to a play. The only choices you have are to call a 24-hour locksmith and pay exorbitant prices or try to force your way in with some tools from the car.

Leaving a key with the office is obviously only a partial solution. The keys ARE NOT available when the office is closed, and the office is closed 70% of the time. Leave a key with a trusted neighbor, preferably someone who is liable to be home when you or the maintenance staff needs those keys in an emergency (remember that leaking water heater).

Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER

Life is a Cabaret

Dance, music, drama by the Berger Park Acting Class
Feb. 15, 7pm
6205 N. Sheridan Rd.
312-742-7871

EDGEWATER MEDICAL CENTER

Senior Center programs

5700 N. Ashland Ave.
773-797-1095

EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #33SD

Come meet our beat police.
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7pm
(1st Wed. of every month)

Internet basics

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

FRANKIE J'S

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Sat. 10:30pm
4437 N. Broadway, 2nd Fl.
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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Bernini: Sensuality, Ecstasy & the Baroque

Free public lecture with Dr. Paolo Giordano
Feb. 6, 3:30-5:00pm

The Art of Courtship, Marriage and Family

A guided tour of the museum
Mar. 2, 1-2pm
Call for reservations

Martin D'arcy Museum of Art
6225 N. Sheridan Rd.
773-508-2679

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM CENTER

"Between Cultures: Children of Immigrants in America"

Photo exhibit by Gina Grillo
Thru Mar. 17
Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm
Sat./Sun., 10am-3pm
\$4 adults, \$3 child./stud./sen.
\$10 family
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

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST

Book reviews/discussions

"Wide Blue Yonder"

Feb. 6, 7:30pm
"The Vine of Desire ..."
Feb. 7, 7:30pm
"The King of Limbo ..."
Feb. 13, 7:30pm
"The Poisonwood Bible"
Feb. 19, 7:30pm
"Breaking Clean"

Feb. 27, 7:30pm
5233 N. Clark St.
773-769-9299

THEATER/SHOWINGS AMERICAN THEATER CO.

"Flung"

Four adult children gather to scatter their father's ashes.
Feb. 6 - Mar. 17
1909 W. Byron
773-929-1031

CITY LIT THEATRE COMPANY

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

Oscar Wilde comedy
Thu.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 3pm

1020 W. Bryn Mawr
773-293-3682

GRIFFIN THEATRE

"Point-Click"

Docu-drama, aftermath of school shooting
Thru Mar. 3
Call for time and cost
5404 N. Clark St.
773-769-2228

LIFELINE THEATRE

"Somebody Loves You"

For kids: About a man who discovers himself loved.
Thru Mar. 3, \$8
Sat. 1 & 3 pm, Sun. 1pm
6912 N. Glenwood
773-761-4477

LOYOLA STUDIO THEATRE

"Curse of the Starving Class"

Fri. 8pm, Sat. 2 & 8pm, Sun. 2pm
Studio Theatre Mertz LL12
1125 W. Loyola
Loyola University
773-508-3847

NEO-FUTURARIUM THEATRE

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"

30 plays in 60 minutes
Fri./Sat. 11:30pm, Sun. 7pm
\$6-\$11, (\$5 plus roll of a die)
5153 N. Ashland Ave.
773-275-5255

PINTIG CULTURAL GROUP

Filipino-American theater group
"Sister Outlaw"
\$10/\$15 Thu.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 3pm
Preston Bradley Center
941 W. Lawrence, 5th Fl.
773-293-2787

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Dialogue Committee meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 19
7:30pm — Community Room

Thursday afternoon

discussion group
Thursday, Feb. 21

(every 3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 26

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Dialogue collating meeting

Thursday, Feb. 28

2:30pm — Community Room

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

Our condolences to the family and friends of two original residents of Malibu East:

Alma Roeder passed away Dec. 21. Her twin sister, Selma, also a Meca resident, died 5 years ago. Alma and Selma were the very first to purchase a unit in Malibu East.

And

Marika (Mary) Assim, who passed away Sunday, Jan. 20. She was 100 years old and was also an original resident of Malibu East.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Remember to vote in the primary election on March 19th. In order to vote you must be registered. The last date to register is February 19th. Registration may be made at the office of the Board of Elections in room 600 at 69 W. Washington, at any branch of the Chicago Public Library, or watch for a volunteer deputy registrar near you.



A Month After Christmas

submitted by Norm Cratty

Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste

At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!

When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The cakes and the pies, the bread and the cheese

And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt

And prepared once again to do battle with dirt

I said to myself, as I only can —
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,

Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished

Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.
I'll only chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,

I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore...

But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

from: <http://www.jokefiles.com>



Holiday fat

by Jack Winans

I don't know what else to call it but holiday fat. It's innocuous, it's prevalent, and it's almost inescapable. In spite of your best intentions, your willpower and past history of restraint, the accumulation of holiday fat seems to be inevitable. The worst kind of food seems to be everywhere, your home, your work, the parties, the shops, and every reception desk — EVERYWHERE! Candy, cookies, salted nuts, cakes, donuts and sweet rolls cry out to you, "Eat Me!"

So now the holidays are over and the bathroom scale has confirmed your worst fears. Whether it's five or 15 pounds, it's there and it's there to stay unless you buckle down and go back to the beginning and redo all that terrible hard effort that it took to get rid of those pounds to begin with. But you have no choice, because Easter is coming with its own "battle of the bulge" to contend with.

Good luck to all and to all a good weigh. Hope to see you on my daily walk of the building.



Assistance for driving Lake Shore Drive

by Rose Wandel

The city has a new 24-hour radio station, AM 1650, to assist motorists driving on L.S. Drive. It provides traffic, street closing and parking information, specifically for Soldier Field, the Museum Campus, Navy Pier, Grant Park, etc. IDOT has installed traffic sensors along L. S. D. to measure driving times to destinations. City officials hope this will help during festivals and other events. The yearly cost is estimated to be minimal.

Corrections

Jan. 2002 Dialogue page 6 — the article "the Festival of Lights" incorrectly identified the recorder player, it should have read, "Ruth Shorr."



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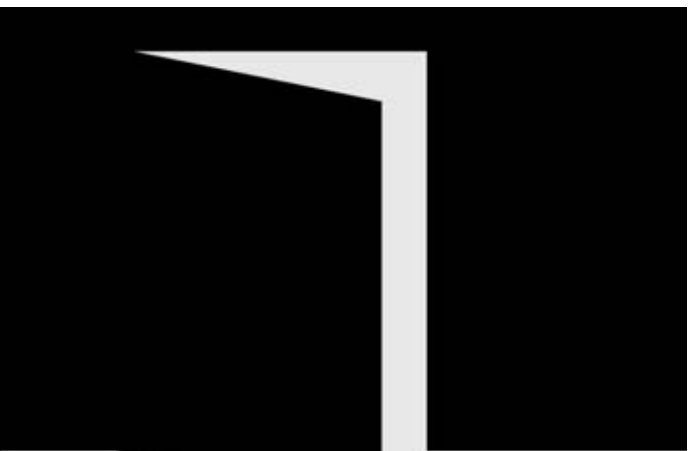
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