# Malibu East Dialogue

August 2003

**Your Communication and Information Resource** 

## Hawaii comes to the Windjammer Room



Frank and Jovita Duran celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a front row seat.



Clockwise from bottom left: Great food, great fun, great entertainers, great costumes

#### Hawaiian luau

#### by Rose Wandel

Did you believe the hula numbers? They were great! And the audience participation — even greater! Our July 27 Hawaiian luau was really a wonderful program. This Social Committee's function, with over 75 attending, was one of the most successful events this year. If you missed it, you also missed the great dancing, the delicious snacks and a wonderful time visiting with your neighbors, new and old. All of us swayed to those South Seas melodies and everyone received a lei, as a souvenir of a really good time.

Plan to come to the next MECA party. If you would like to be in on the planning, come to the Social Committee meetings with your ideas. Leave your name and contact information, for the committee, with the doorman. Aloha!

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## **MECA** board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

#### MECA board meeting Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Attendance: 7 board members, 2 management representatives and 9 residents Not present: Charles Cooper, Marcel Molins, Martina Molins

Presiding: Vice President Richard Strauss

#### **OPEN FORUM 1**

#### Resident comments and questions:

- Resident wants air conditioner put back on her balcony floor (was installed on wall during balcony construction). Advised to send the request to the board of directors.
- 2) A resident commented that the door closer on the door separating the freight elevator hallway and Captain's Walk is defective. Management will inspect. Residents are encouraged to bring these issues to the management office immediately rather than waiting for a board meeting.
- 3) A north side resident said that she had not been contacted for balcony painting. North side balcony painting is scheduled for next year. If you are on the list, you will be contacted next year for scheduling.
- 4) If I have two cars, can I request a tandem parking space for both cars? It is not covered in the rules, but it wouldn't hurt to ask.
- 5) Each year we spend a lot of money on re-sodding the parkway. Can we fence it and keep dogs off the lawn and from burning the grass? We will look in to it. It is on one of the board members' wish lists for the budget.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statement
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,440,424.44.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1) Floor Representatives Tom Vaughan

About 8-9 residents attended the July quarterly meeting.

#### 2) Security

#### **Larry Creter**

Two more bids have been received on cameras for the garage and dog walk. We will now move ahead on this item.

#### 3) Social

#### Sandy Chaet

The luau party was opened to all residents with no cover charge due to a lack of pre-registrations for this event.

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.

#### 4) Commercial Property Richard Strauss

We continue to receive inquiries about the former bank space.

#### 5) Architecture & Aesthetics Larry Creter

A round of applause was given for the fine work on the garage waiting room.

#### **6)** *ASCO*

#### Sandy Chaet

A subcommittee is working on zoning in the Foster to Devon area.

#### 7) Garage

#### Richard Strauss

Another condominium has requested a one-time 24-hour-period of temporary parking while its garage is being resurfaced.

#### 8) Sports Entertainment

#### Neil Warner

We have begun the water aerobics classes, averaging 10-12 people each day at 1:30pm Mon-Sat. Also two evening classes Mon and Thu 6:45pm.

9) Long range plans & special projects

#### Richard Strauss North wall

Close to finalizing the plans. One addition, the curtain wall will be increased from 4" to 6" to meet

## MECA Board directors' meeting attendance

13 meetings, 9/24/02-8/26/03

<b>0</b> ,	Me	etings	Percent
Director A	bsent	Present	Present
Marcel Molins	1	12	92.3%
Richard Strauss	s 2	11	84.6%
Tom Vaughan	0	13	100.0%
Neil Warner	0	13	100.0%
Larry Creter	1	12	92.3%
Sandy Chaet	1	12	92.3%
Charles Cooper	7	6	46.1%
Marcia Fishma	n 0	13	100.0%
Jon Heller	2	11	84.6%
Martina Molins	: 1	12	92.3%
Resigned before	e end c	of term	
JoAnne Meshbo	oum P	4 of 7	57.1%
Janice Krzesins	ki P5	of 6	83.3%
Corner Dialogue hound morting notes			

Source: Dialogue board meeting notes

city specifications. Two of the three driveways will always be open.

#### MANAGEMENT REPORT Items requiring board action

#### Items requiring board action 1) Building survey summary

We are trying to work with copyright issues to expand the variety of elevator music.

#### 2) New interior signage

It was the view of the majority of board members that the proposed hallway signs looked unfinished. A sample of the sign with a frame added was viewed by the board and approved with additional financing.

#### 3) 2003 Annual Meeting packet

The Social Committee requested that a notice concerning "Meet the Candidates Night" be included in the packet. Due to the Illinois Condominium Act this is not possible. The alternative solution of including it in the next assessment mailing was approved. Campaigning rules will be printed on the back of candidate application forms given to candidates. V.P. Strauss was given the authority, by unanimous vote of the board of directors, to extend registration for candidates for the board for a period of one week past the original July 25 deadline, if fewer than six candidates had registered by that date.

4) 2003 patio window program

Action on this program has been deferred until a new, fully staffed board has been elected.

#### **Items not requiring board action**

#### 1) Exterior & balcony project

The scaffold rigs on the north side (doing inspection work) should be gone by Aug. 1 and should not return until next spring.

#### 2) New roof status

The contractor crew is removing the old roof and continually laying a moisture membrane over the worked area. About one-third of the old roof has been removed. (See article, page 8.)

#### 3) Floor painting project

- 4) Completed 34 units. Booked through Oct. Will not schedule any more until next spring. You can still book the current price if you contract with the management office prior to Dec. 31.
- 5) Unit sales

42M \$177,250

#### 6) Garage report

The removal of loose concrete is almost done. Crews are working in the garage when not on outside scaffolds due to weather.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm and went into closed session.

#### **Balcony floor painting**

If you would like your balcony floor painted, you can still book the work at the current price if you contract with the management office prior to Dec. 31.

#### Flood insurance

If you or your lender needs a certificate of insurance, please contact Palmer & Cay at:

1-800-755-8945 x3985 and ask for Lillian. Palmer & Cay can forward a certificate directly to your lender. You may also obtain a certificate via the Internet. Contact the management office for information.



## What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese, MECA Association Manager

The recent summer storms have tested the building staff and it passed each test with flying colors. The staff has been taking care of all of the new landscaping around the building and plays a key role in making sure that the pool is open every day for all to enjoy.

The pool is open every day from 6am—10pm., with adults only from 6–9am. All residents and their guests using the pool shall obey the pool rules and comply with the requests of the lifeguards on duty. The board of directors encourages everyone using the pool to have a safe and fun summer.

The bike rack has been placed outside in the atrium, and bikes on the rack should not be left overnight. All bikes shall be put in the bike room when not in use. The bike rack should only be used for short-term parking.

All residents are reminded to comply with building policies and refrain from parking their vehicles in the atrium. Any vehicle left unattended in the atrium can be towed off the property at the owner's expense. Also, residents shall contact the management office and provide written permission for their vendors to work in their unit when they are not at home. Residents shall also sign in their guests with the garage before they arrive so that they will be allowed to park in the garage.

The balcony floor-coating project is under way in the A, C, E, G, J and L tiers. Anyone in these tiers who would like their balcony floor coated or their railings painted needs to contact the management office to schedule an appointment for the work to be done. The next phase of the project is scheduled to begin in April 2004 and it will include the B. D and F tiers.

The roofing project began on June 30. To date, one-third of the roof has been

removed. If you live on the 45<sup>th</sup> or 44<sup>th</sup> floor, you may want to remove items from your walls and ceiling during the roof project. The work will begin at 8am and will finish sometime after 5pm daily. The roofing project is expected to continue through Sep. 2003, weather permitting.

RCN has still **NOT** corrected the billing errors on some of its monthly statements. Furthermore, it has sent out interruption-of-service notices to residents for delinquent accounts, which were caused by these billing errors. They have been telling residents that our contract has expired, which is **NOT** correct! Our contract runs until the end of Sep. 2004. Therefore, if you have any questions regarding the status of your RCN account, you may contact Ms. Morgan at 312-955-4302 or Ms. Emory at 312-955-4304.

The Annual Owners Meeting will be held Tuesday, Sep. 16, 2003. "Meet the Candidates Night" will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003. There are six board positions up for election. Please contact the management office if you are interested in running for one of the open positions. Applications **MUST** be filed in the management office by 5pm Friday, Aug. 1, 2003.

The association will be filing a real estate tax appeal on behalf of all unit owners. Unit owners are requested to submit a copy of your current real estates tax bills to the management office on or before Friday, Aug. 8, 2003.

If you or your lender needs a certificate of insurance, please contact Palmer & Cay at 1-800-755-8945 ext. 3985 and ask for Lillian. Palmer & Cay can forward a certificate directly to your lender. You may also obtain a certificate via the Internet by contacting the management office.

## **Community** Calendar

by Rose Wandel

#### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

BERGER PARK **CULTURAL CENTER** 

Concert in the park

7pm Aug. 13

**First Bytes Computer Center** Adult classes, beginners/ advanced

4-week program starts 7pm Aug.

Thursday nights, leave your name and phone number at:

773-761-5792

Park District fall programs

Registration starts 9am Aug. 16 6205 N. Sheridan Rd.

312-742-7871

#### **BROADWAY ARMORY**

Fall class registration

Starts Aug. 16 5917 N. Broadway 312-742-7502

#### **EDGEWATER**

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ice cream social

Music by "Sweet Adelines" Have your photo taken with an oldfashioned car

3-5pm Aug. 3, 773-506-4849

Special exhibit

"The Designing of the Chicago Lakefront 2003"

Aug. 14-Sep. 30

Slide exhibit

By Kathy Gemperele

"Historical Development of

Lakeshore Park System"

Refreshments, limited seatings

7pm Aug. 14

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-907-1872

#### EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #2433

Come meet our beat police.

7pm Aug. 6,

(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

**FARMER'S** MARKET

Saturdays thru Oct. 18 **Broadway Armory** parking lot Broadway & Thorndale

#### NORTH LAKESIDE

#### **CULTURAL CENTER**

"The Audition"

The audience picks actors for oneact play.

Thru Aug. 30

(no performance Aug. 8&9)

8pm Fri./Sat., \$15

6219 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-743-4477

#### SWEDISH AMERICAN

**MUSEUM CENTER** 

Sweden's High Coast

Watercolors

Exhibit of watercolors of Swedish

Thru Sep. 6, \$4 adults, \$3 children/ seniors/students

10am-4pm Tue.-Fri.

11am-4pm Sat./Sun.

5211 N. Clark St.

773-728-8111

#### WARREN PARK

Australian rules football clinic

Quantas Chicago Swans

Aug. 9, for ages 9-15

Call 773-763-7561 for details or

log on to www.chicagoswans.com

6601 N. Western

773-743-5015

#### THEATER/SHOWINGS

#### BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER

"Whatever Happened to..."

Music of the '50s & '60s

Thru Aug. 31 \$30, \$32.50

8pm Fri./Sat.

4520 N. Beacon

773-769-4451

#### CHICSPEARE PRODUCTION CO.

"Romeo & Juliet"

Play on Shakespearean language

Thru Aug. 10, \$10-\$12

7:30pm Sat./Sun.

Ebenezer Auditorium

1650 W. Foster

773-769-2056

#### HEARTLAND STUDIO THEATRE

Open mike

Poetry & music

10pm Wednesdays

Sign up at 9pm, \$3

Heartland Café

7000 N. Glenwood

773-465-8005

#### LIFELINE THEATRE

"Trust Me On This"

A comedic look at society's

obsession with scandal sheets.

Thru Aug. 17

8pm Fri./Sat., Sun. 7pm

\$20, \$16 students/seniors

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

#### **MULLADY THEATRE**

"Les Miserables" (school edition)

7pm Aug. 8&9, \$25

Loyola University

1125 W. Loyola

773-743-1579

#### **NEO-FUTURARIUM THEATRE**

"It Came From the Neo-

Futurarium ii"

A series of staged readings

Thru Aug. 6, 8pm Wed.

5153 N. Ashland Ave.

773-275-5255

#### NO-EXIT CAFÉ

Open mike

8pm Mon., \$2

Jazz concert

4pm Sundays

6970 N. Glenwood

773-743-3355

#### **RED HEN PRODUCTIONS**

"The Adding Machine"

Puppet show about man's free will.

Ongoing, \$20

8pm Fri./Sat.

5123 N. Clark

773-728-0599

#### **RED LINE TAP**

Country rock music

8pm Tue., 9pm Wed.

Open mike

9pm Thu.

7006 N. Glenwood

773-274-3239

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS/**

**MEETINGS** 

**Indian Independence parade** 

Devon Ave., Western to California

Noon, Aug. 17

#### MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Dialogue Committee meeting** 

Tuesday, Aug. 19

7:30pm — Community Room

**MECA** board meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 26

#### **ABCDE**

Elevator rules, driveway, entryway and garage

#### by Norm Cratty

From "Fine Living Essentials" and Pamela Fiori, editor-in-chief of Town & Country, come these tips on elevator etiquette:



Modern life offers countless situations that can make people uneasy – being in small, enclosed spaces, being in close proximity to strangers and being in places where they lack control. One scenario that combines all of these possibilities is riding in an elevator. To avoid making yourself or others feel uncomfortable, it's important to follow a few basic rules of elevator etiquette.

## Face forward and don't stare. ... Always make it a point to face forward

when riding in an elevator, and do not stare at other people. Inappropriate eye contact is an easy way to make someone feel very uncomfortable.

**Be patient.** Don't push your way into a crowded elevator. Instead, wait for the next car to come along so that everyone will have enough room to stand comfortably. Be polite and allow others to enter or exit the car before you.

Conversation. If you must carry on a conversation in an elevator, keep it hushed and avoid pointless chitchat that other riders will be forced to overhear. Taking cell phone calls in an elevator can be particularly rude, as others will have no choice but to listen to one half of a conversation they don't care about.

Some of these points are actually quite funny. Stare? Sure, why not, especially if you don't know that other person and find them really attractive! What better way to break the ice and get to know someone, right? Neither of you is going anyplace anytime soon. And conversations in an elevator are fine, especially if you have something in common with that person and need to convey information. I see nothing wrong with idle chitchat. There are people I don't see for months at a time, and the elevator ride is never long enough to convey all

we need to share.

#### **Driveway, Entryway and Garage**

I get absolutely nuts when I see someone pulling up to our front door, temporarily parked incorrectly and with no consideration to other people and vehicles that have to move around them. Too many times I've seen someone pull up to drop something off, and instead of using the 15-minute zone, park right in front of our door. Their excuse: "Oh, it will be just five minutes." In the meantime, they haven't moved as close to our revolving door and curb as they could have, and they've blocked other cars that are attempting to enter our garage.

Or how about the car that moves too close to the garage entrance and blocks cars from entering our garage while he's waiting for his pickup?

I can see why some of our building residents lose their sense of calm and get frustrated or impatient behind the wheel. There is no signage or indication of direction, which makes it extremely confusing for people not familiar with our building. When signage does not exist, you have no other choice but to use common sense.

I'm delighted that our building has outlawed temporary parking in the atrium. Visitors unfamiliar with our entryway don't realize they've entered the wrong way when they enter on the far east curb cut. Or worse, someone who parks on the wrong side when you're trying to exit our garage. They literally block you from making that hairpin turn. I still think some non-garish, understated signage would serve us well to direct traffic patterns appropriately. Having the sawhorse block our Sheridan Road driveway curb cut has been a big help.

Having valet and grocery carts available to us behind the doorman's station is a great benefit, but only if the carts are returned. To track these items down, the doorman needs to insist that residents sign these items out, as is the policy. If it's been two or three hours and someone needs a cart, I'm certain the doorman is permitted to call the resident that has not yet signed the cart back in to find out where it is and why it hasn't been returned. Carts are not to

#### Ice cream social

The Edgewater Historical Society will have an oldfashioned ice cream social, 3pm to 5pm Aug. 3, in the backyard of our museum at



5358 N. Ashland Ave. Ice cream prices will be old-fashioned as well — with old cars and the Sweet Adeline Singers to help make it special. For information call (773) 506-4849.

Source: Kathy Gemperle

be used as laundry baskets, left stored outside your unit door in the hall or left in the freight elevator.

That's on the outside. What about the goings-on inside the garage? Don't you get irritated when you pull into our garage and you're met (bumper to bumper) with a car waiting to be moved only because the driver failed to pull up all the way? You are stuck between the inside doorway and the garage door, and on an incline.

You've got to remember to use your horn while on the up-down ramp. It is a policy that people coming down have the right-of-way, so move over going around the curve.

The other thing that irritates me sometimes about our garage is that there is no designated pedestrian walkway leading to and from the garage doors. How many times have you come home from the grocery store, using a cart, only to find no way to get to the door leading to the elevator? Sometimes cars are parked so close together that it's impossible to even walk between them, let alone push through a small cart. Thanks, Eugene (garage attendant), for being so understanding about this concern. It is much appreciated.

What's your pet peeve? Is there anything you'd like to see me address specifically? I'm always looking for new story ideas. Until next time, see you around the building.

## New Internet café to offer free WiFi

Metropolis Coffee Company, a roaster and retailer of specialty coffee, is opening in the heart of Edgewater.

In addition to coffee, tea, and brewed espresso drinks, the menu will include gourmet sandwiches, soups, salads, and pastries. They will also offer free wireless Internet access (WiFi), fax and printing services, and several computers will be available for customer use.

Metropolis plans to have a sidewalk café and concerts and lectures on its stage. The Dreyfusses plans to have it open by November

Tony and Jeff Dreyfuss 1039 West Granville Avenue Tel. 773-425-6582

#### Making waves

#### by Debbie Warner

Aqua aerobics have made a big splash this summer. The head lifeguard, Lindsay Pramer, leads a group, mostly women, in various aerobic exercises. Water provides added resistance to a person¹s movements. At the same time, it is easier on the joints to exercise in water. Moving foam weights under water is surprisingly effective! It is a lot of fun.

Classes are held at 1:30pm daily, except Sunday, and evening classes are at 6:45pm Monday and Thursday.

Thanks go to Vito Senese and Neil Warner for organizing the class.

## Lily of Thai Restaurant by Betty Mayian

I was at a friend's house about a month ago. We all brought food for the party, and two people brought dishes from Noodle Zone, on Clark Street. The food was wonderful and I said I would have to go. So we went the first time, and I was disappointed. Thinking I tried the wrong dish, we went a second time only to have a similar thing happen. Then Joan, in the MECA office, told me that she has lunch quite often at Lily of Thai, just south of the Dominick's store on Broadway. Not only is it reasonable in cost (with specials all the time), but she thinks it is very good. Well I've ordered from them a couple of times and gone there twice...with no bad meals. In fact, my husband Ara, is so happy with the cashew chicken that he doesn't even try a different dish. He says it has a hint of hot and spicy pepper with crunchy cashews, in a light sauce over all-white-meat chicken. Yum. I liked that one, and a couple of others that I tried, but I am hooked on lemon chicken. The lemon sauce is very tasty and is spooned over lightly breaded and very succulent fried white chicken pieces. The chicken does not swim in the lemon mixture; it is more like an enhancement of the fried meat. I loved it. I will try a noodle dish the next time. I bet it will be wonderful, too. I think it's the sauces that make this restaurant appeal to our tastes.

The lunch specials are substantial and include the soup and appetizer of the day. That way you get to try a variety of appetizers and soups when you pick



from the specials menu that only costs \$4.95 apiece. Where can you get good food for that price?

There are so many items on this menu that I will just give categories and price ranges. Appetizers range from \$2.50 egg rolls to \$5.95 tempura. Salads go from \$1.75 cucumber salad to \$6.25 grilled shrimp salad. Soups are priced from \$2.50 for a small-sized vegetable soup to \$5.75 for a large shrimp wonton soup. Noodle dishes include some at \$5.25 to the \$6.95 hot & spicy seafood noodle. Rice dishes are the basic fried rice at \$5.25 to \$6.75 for the seafood fried rice. Most of the entrées are \$5.75 (including that lovely lemon chicken and Ara's cashew chicken), but the hot & spicy catfish is \$6.75. Curry dishes, with chili paste and coconut milk as a part of each dish, are all \$5.75. Duck specialties come in at \$6.25. Desserts are less that \$2 for the local custard and coconut milk delicacies. Get your drinks of soda or coffee or tea (even Thai iced drinks) for \$1 to \$1.50.

We are so close, only a few steps away from the Dominick's store, so there's nothing stopping you from trying this exotic little restaurant. The decorations are wonderful. It would be fun to go with a group...right?

5951 N. Broadway Ph: (773) 878-1155 Open daily for lunch and dinner: Sun – Thurs: 11am to 9:30pm and Fri – Sat: 11am to 10pm





## Winward crew prepares to lower load of old roofing **Broadway update**48<sup>th</sup> Ward update

#### by Tom Samuels

Broadway, from Foster to Devon, is being resurfaced by E.A. Cox Construction, under contract through the Illinois Department of Transportation. The project includes: the reconstruction of curbs and gutters as needed; the installation of new asphalt; and the remarking of the street. Work began in early July and should be completed by Labor Day. Please note that at all times, at least one lane, both northbound and southbound, will remain open to traffic. Please feel free to contact Tom Samuels at Ald. Smith's office with any questions or concerns at (773) 784-5277.

#### **Bow Wow Luau**

Sunday August 17 from 4-8pm. Best Hawaiian Dog Costume Contest at 5pm.— judged by Ald. Mary Ann Smith, a Tree House representative and a veterinarian. Get a photo of your pet "Riding the Wave" for a small donation, proceeds to benefit Tree House Foundation (a no kill shelter for cats). Lots of food, libations and fun for the whole family!

#### Aloha!

Bark Bark Club, 773-274-7233 1106 West Granville

## **Biking:** The new 2003 Chicago bike maps and lakefront trail maps are available in our office. We also have copies of the brochure, Safe Bicycling, and copies of the half-page flyer entitled

Please Don't Ride on the Sidewalks!

**Trees:** If your block club or organization would like to have public-way trees trimmed in your area, please contact Ernie in the alderman's office to arrange for a walkabout to identify which trees to trim and what type of trimming option to perform.

Source: Ernie Constantino, alderman48@ameritech.net, 48th Ward Alderman's Office, 5533 N. Broadway



Malibu East Association Manager Vito Senese and Mark Rudolph of Winward Roofing & Construction inspect the roof replacement project.

## Malibu East roof replacement project

by John Schultz Operations Manager Winward Roofing & Construction

A lot of planning goes into roofing a project the magnitude of Malibu East. It's just roofing, but when it's 45 stories tall, it makes things a little more challenging. Special equipment is needed to hoist and lower debris safely. Extra care is needed when working at these heights. Safety of our men, along with the safety of all the tenants, is always on our mind. "There is no room for error when working at this height," says Superintendent Mark Rudolph of Windward Roofing.

Windward Roofing and Construction was ready for the challenge. Windward has been in business since 1978, and during peak season employs over 100 workers. We have five divisions at Windward — flat roofing, shingle roofing, a full-service sheet metal shop, a masonry division and a 24-hour on-call service department.

Monday, June 30 was "Mobilization Day." It was organized chaos. A 20-ton crane was positioned in the dock area, and semitrailer load after load of material was hoisted to the fourth-floor deck. Six full semitrailer loads of material, along with two trucks filled with roofing equipment, were delivered. Before any of the material and equipment could be hoisted to the rooftop, two more days would be needed just for safety setup.

Windward Roofing is in the process of tearing off the old roofing system and installing a vapor barrier/temporary roof. Because of high winds only the material needed for that day's operation will be hoisted to the roof. Once the old roof is completely removed, we will install a new tapered insulation system along with a new premium roof system consisting of a double layer of modified bitumen manufactured by Performance Roof Systems.

Once completed, this roof will offer Malibu East many years of leak-free service.

#### **Hicham Chami**

#### by Cindy Infantino

Born in Tetuan, Morocco in 1977, Hicham naturally came to music in his family, where everybody else has an artistic activity.

Hicham started playing Qanun (a hammered dul-

cimer or plucked box zither, a descendant of the ancient Middle Eastern psaltery that has survived in many forms, including the harp) at the age of eight. By the age of 17, he had already won several awards in Morocco, including the prestigious First Prize and the Diploma of Honor, with the distinction of, respectively, High Honors and Honors.

At 22 years old, Hicham landed on U.S. soil, right in Chicago, mainly to pursue his academic education, an MBA at DePaul University, Kellstadt School of Business, after earning a bachelor's degree in marketing from a Moroccan business school — ISCAE (International Society for Comparative Adult Education).



A few months later came the Breakpoint, Simon Shaheen's Arabic Music Retreat — 70 musicians, from

all over the planet, sharing the same passion for culture and music. There, he had the opportunity to meet one of his mentors: Simon Shaheen, a wonderfully accomplished musician originally from Palestine and now living in New York. He also met the musician who later on became his preferred accompanist: Elisabeth Borgerhoff, pianistaccordionist from Maine. At the retreat. he worked under the direction of Jamal Sinno and Najib Shaheen. Some of the people he met there became partners, to name a few: Neal Collen Clark, Alan Shavarsh Bardezbanian, and Yoel Ben-Simhon, Israeli, originally from Morocco, a composer based in New York.

Currently, Hicham plays in three ensembles: Al-Sharq, under the direction

of Issa Boulos, the repertoire of which is mainly composed of Middle-Eastern folk and classical music, along with original compositions; and TiTiko, a Jewish ensemble composed of prominent musicians such as pianist Howard Levy, Indian drummer Kalyan Pathak mandolin player Stuart Rosenberg, and Hazzan Alberto Mirahi. He is also a guest artist in several other ensembles all over the U.S. Hicham also founded the ensemble Mosaic, which includes members of the Chicago Klezmer Ensemble and the University of Chicago Middle East Music Ensemble.

Hicham's latest distinction was the "Best exotic instrumentalist of Chicago," awarded by the prestigious Chicago Magazine. Hicham is the first Muslim Arab ever to win such distinction. Hicham has started a new business, Xauen Music, which is dedicated to preserving the heritage of music from the Arabic, Sephardic, Turkish, and Armenian traditions. His first CD, "Promises," was released in February.

For more about Hicham Chami and his instrument, the Qanun, you may visit his website at www.hichamchami.com.



#### **New Dialogue reporter**

Joan Burke, Malibu East administrative assistant, has joined our Dialogue staff as the "Town Crier" reporter. The staff recommended the change, saying, "Get the news directly from the source."

#### Dear Etta Kitt,

Quite often, the elevator stops at a floor and there is no one present to get on. I realize that this is very often the



result of someone pressing both the "Up" and "Down" buttons in a misguided attempt to grab the closest elevator. These "Mystery Passengers" frustrate me. Is there a solution?

#### Signed, Frustrated

#### Dear Frustrated,

The only real solution is forbearance. Remember the old adage, "God give me ..." This is a lose-lose situation. It's almost impossible to identify the guilty party, and even if you did, would you really want to *confront* the type of person who commits such selfish acts?

#### Dear Etta Kitt,

Why do some dog owners remark when their dog jumps on people, "Oh



he/she won't bite." I feel very uncomfortable being in close contact with dogs, no matter how friendly they are. I'm perplexed that they would have the affront to assume that I want their dog to slobber all over me.

### Signed, Perplexed at MECA Dear "Perplexed,"

You have the right to assume that their dog is not as friendly or behaved as they would have you believe. It is also your right to insist that they have the courtesy to control and keep their dogs' paws off your person. Anyone who doesn't is certainly disrespectful and possibly opening themselves up to legal liability and at least a hefty cleaning bill.

#### 'Town Crier' announcements by Joan Burke

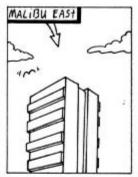


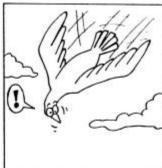
We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

If you have information concerning talented or famous MECA residents, please contact the Dialogue.

### Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



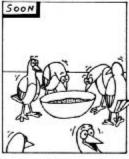


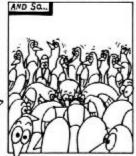




















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#### The Dialogue

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Articles written by and opinions of the MECA Displayer staff and contributors are 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 succinct 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.

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