

Malibu **East** Dialogue

February 2010

Your Communication and Information Resource

Ifti Nasim

By *Kim O'Neal*
kim@malibueast.org



Ifti Nasim is a unique individual who has done so much for so many. Ifti was born in Faisalabad, Pakistan, as a lonely kid who was skinny, dark, and short, and whom the other kids were not drawn to, so Ifti escaped to books. He was always drawn to modern American literature. Ifti would go to the U.S. Consulate, where he would read Life and Time magazines and read about people living happily ever after. The books he read opened up a new world for him.

Ifti had hope and wanted to come to America. It took him five years to get acclimated here, but he loves America and knew this was home. He gave his youth to America, writing and being an activist for human rights, AIDS awareness gays, and women, for as long as he can remember. Ifti said, "You can't live without hope. You can live for days without food and water, but not without hope."

Ifti started writing in English and it became popular. He brought '60s style "beatnik" poetry to the cyber age as a free expression person. He wrote a book with the backdrop of the '60s, '70s, and part of the '80s bar scene where there was an AIDS strike. Ifti also wrote a book of poems "Myrmecophile"; it means an organism living in an ant colony. This book was taught at Truman College. Not only did Ifti lecture a short time at Truman, but he also lectures on sexual diversity among South Asians in diaspora at different universities in the U.S. and abroad.

Ifti was a poet before he became a writer. His first poem was called "Love." It was when he started to go to school that he got noticed for his different writing. Ifti became a popular poet and writer in his own language, Urdu. Other than Urdu, Ifti writes in English

MECA notable, writer, activist



Ranjaved, A Salman Aftab and Ifti Nasim with President Obama

and Punjabi. He writes extensively in the form of poetry, short stories and weekly columns. Ifti hosts a two-hour show on WSBC 1240 AM and WCJF 1470 AM on Sunday from 9 to 11pm.

He is also the president of the South Asian Performing Arts Council and is co-founder of the organization Sangat/Chicago — a South Asian les/bi/gay/transgender organization and support group. Ifti has received numerous awards for his achievements, including receiving an honorary doctorate in literature from the World Peace Academy of Delaware, and an induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1996, to name two. There are four documentaries on Ifti, including one by the BBC, as well as "8 Billion Lives" by film student Dustin Nakao-Haider, at New York University. His poems are taught at UCLA.

Ifti is pictured above with President Barack Obama, when Obama was a senator. He helped raise funds for presidential candidate Obama. Ifti said "he might disagree with some of his

(Obama's) policies, but this is part of the democratic society." Ifti said, "He is very cool."

Ifti prefers to take his time to get to know others, and prefers a quieter life. He says, "he wants the young generation to study and read. "You have to be studious and extraordinary." Ifti is very happy in this life, and in America.

If you would like to listen to Mr. Nasim, you can listen to past taped shows at <http://www.sargamradio.us/>, or listen to his shows on Sunday from 9 to 11pm. Do a Google search of Ifti Nasim and pages upon pages of articles on him will come up.

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MECA board meeting notes Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010



By Elaine Winans

Elaine@MalibuEast.org

Attendance: 11 board members, 2 management representatives and 15 residents
Not present: Cass Buscher

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) Replace the wastebasket missing in the Community Room.
- 2) Appreciation for the new Fitness Room.
- 3) Bike room needs straightening up, hard to use.
- 4) Excessive air pressure in Fitness Room, need a bigger handle.
- 5) Request for bench by lower level elevators for packages.
- 6) Thanks to the board for a smooth and courteous TV taps process.
- 7) Thanks to the building manager for quick responses to hallway repairs.
- 8) Report of too many residents in a unit.
- 9) How are we progressing on obtaining access to all units for the TV taps? **Only 11 more units to go.**
- 10) Did the board select the 18 Lifeline channels? **No, came as a package.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Neil Warner

- 1) **Financial statement**
Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$2,576,444.92
- 2) **Delinquencies**
\$126,323.96
- 3) **Holiday fund**
Down 2% from last year. Distributed \$29,000 to 42 employees.
Three employees were recognized for length of service:
10 years: Yonan Zaya, garage
15 years: Eugene Burwell, garage
20 years: Noel Raboza, maintenance

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Commercial Property**
Richard Strauss
Potential investors for restaurant/coffee house in the mall and on the boat dock. Need city permit, staircase to the boat dock, ventilation, plumbing, etc. A feasibility study approved at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

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.

- 2) **ASCO report**
Sandy Chaet
Stimulus money will be available to rebuild Sheridan Road from Foster to Devon.
- 3) **Garage**
Martina Molins
All cars are currently valet-parked.
Standard Parking report
Syed Haider, Mgr.
Claims
Approved: 1
Denied: 3
Pending: 0
Total: 4
Monthly parkers
Total: 446
Garage capacity
Total: 534
(Under capacity) 88
 $\$116 \times 88 = \$102,008$
in potential income.
- 4) **Sports and Entertainment**
Neil Warner
Good reviews on the new Fitness Room. An air vent may be installed above or in the door to relieve air pressure problem.
- 5) **Communications**
Neil Warner
Dialogue financial report
The Dialogue closed 2009 \$46.41 in the black. A quote from a new printer should save us between \$700 and \$900 in printing expenses in 2010. A critical drop in advertising revenue continues.
- 6) **Building Maintenance & Services**
Eleida Gomez
Canvassing building for needed repairs (residential hallway painting, doors, Windjammer Room and kitchen, etc.). Done through 23rd floor.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Chris Chiodo

Items requiring immediate board action

- 1) **Electric quotes for the Laundry Room**
Dean Lerner

Management report

Chris Chiodo



Parking garage repairs

2010: A work progress board has been set up outside the management office. We are on schedule and have not run into any problems that would lengthen the project.

15-minute parking: The entire staff has been instructed to enforce the 15-minute parking in the atrium during the garage construction project. Once your 15 minutes have expired, any failure to remove your car from this area will result in your car being towed away at your expense. No exceptions. Lincoln Towing is on 24-hour call service and will be making more visits to the building.

Cancellation of parking: The garage manager must receive a written cancellation plus the decal NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS PRIOR to the proposed date of cancellation. Cancellation forms are available from the garage manager.

Cable TV: For Cable TV questions, please contact the following: Installation of taps, contact Brian in the Receiving Room at 773-271-2601; questions on installation of boxes, channel package purchases, or problems with your bill, please contact USA Wireless at 847-831-4561. The only charge you will receive on your assessment statement for cable TV is \$28.65. All other cable TV charges will come directly from USA Wireless or Direct TV. **The management office does not do any of the scheduling. Any questions pertaining to scheduling, please contact USA Wireless.** Please note it is necessary for USA Wireless to gain entry to your unit for installation of the taps. The MECA declaration and the Illinois Condominium Act allow management to gain access to units to make changes for the benefit of all owners. If MECA is forced to seek a court order to enter your unit, all costs, including legal fees and court costs, will be charged to you, in accordance with the Illinois Condominium Act. Condominium living requires cooperation and accommodation. We hope and believe that, as a resident, you will want to cooperate in completing this project.
malibueast@awbworld.com

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Community Calendar

By *Betty Mayian*

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7pm.

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5358 N. Ashland

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edgewaterhistory.org

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THEATER/SHOWINGS

LIFELINE THEATRE

"Mrs. Caliban"

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Feb. 5 thru Mar. 28

Call for hours & prices

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773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

LOYOLA'S MULLADY THEATRE

"Katrina: The 'K' Word"

This docu-drama chronicles the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina,



following the journeys of 12 individuals before, during, and after the storm.

Feb. 11 thru 28

7:30pm Th-Sa, also 3pm Su

1125 W. Loyola Ave.

773-508-3847

luc.edu/theatre

PROFILES THEATRE

"Killer Joe"

Texas clan of greedy siblings hire

Killer Joe to kill their mother for the inheritance.

Previews Jan. 8-13,

Run Jan. 14 – Feb. 28

8pm Th-Sa, & 5pm Sa, 7pm Su

4147 N. Broadway

773-549-1815

profiletheatre.org

RAVEN THEATRE

"12 Angry Men"

Courtroom dram where a jury of 12 men decide the fate of a teenager accused of murder

Feb. 16 thru Apr. 17

8pm Th-Sa, & 3pm Su

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"The Pillowman"

A spellbinding drama with dark humor about a writer accused of doing the very acts depicted in his murderous stories.

Thru Feb. 6

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Social Committee meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 10

7:30pm — Community Room

Dialogue Committee meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 17

7:30pm — Community Room

Thursday afternoon

discussion group

Thursday, Feb. 18

(every 3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 23

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

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

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

February 2

Groundhog Day

A holiday that anticipates the end of winter.

Pagan: Imbolc/Brigid's Day

The first glimpse of spring, also dedicated to the Celtic goddess Brigid. Begins at sunset of the previous day.

Candlemas: Christian

Also called "Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple"; celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the temple.

February 14

St. Valentine's Day

Celebration of St. Valentine; a day for lovers to give Valentine greeting cards, flowers and candy.

Tibetan: Losar New Year

Tibetan New Year; a time to cleanse oneself of last year's negativity and begin anew. Festivities continue for a week and include visits and resolutions.

Hindu: Makar Sankranti

Festival marking the day the sun begins its northward journey and enters the sign of Makar. Celebrants traditionally bathe at the Prayag and Ganga Sagar.

February 15

U.S.: Presidents Day

Celebrated on the third Monday of February, recognizing the birthdays of several presidents.

February 16

Christian: Shrove Tuesday

Sometimes known as Fat Tuesday; Christian carnival day on the eve of Lent.

February 17

Christian: Ash Wednesday

Begins the six-week season of Lent, a time of repentance and reflection.

February 26

Baha'i: Intercalary Days/Days of Ha

Known as Ayyam-Hi or Days of Ha; a time for rejoicing before the period of fasting.

Jewish: Purim

Celebrates the rescue of Jews in ancient Persia. Begins at sundown the previous day.

February 28

Islam: Mawlid an-Nabi

Observance of the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.



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Thursday	9:30-6:00	CHICAGO, IL 60660
Friday	9:00-7:00	
Saturday	8:00-5:00	TELEPHONE: (773) 561-6595
Sunday by appointment only		(773) 561-6596

CLOSED MONDAY

Realtors get real

Malibu East directors meet with brokers

By Jack Winans

Five of our directors met with invited real estate brokers on Jan. 5 to air concerns and discuss ways of diminishing obstacles in order to facilitate the sale and closings of Malibu East units.

Present were five directors: President Marcel Molins, Marcia Fishman, Leon LeRoy, Eleida Gomez and Daniel Denton; and six realtors: Percy Smith, Helen Wagner, Jennifer Johnson, Evelyn S. Fred, Ivy Torres and Mike Checuga.

The consensus of the realtors present was that although Malibu East is an exceptional value with its many amenities and extremely sound financials, it could be challenging for a realtor to work in this building. The main complaint was that it sometimes takes too long to get to the final closing.

The possible reasons behind the brokers' opinions were clarified and at Molins' suggestion, a volunteer committee of brokers was organized with the object of reviewing our admissions procedures and package, and presenting suggestions to



the board for streamlining and updating the process in order to ensure that Malibu East would remain competitive in selling units.

We currently have four Malibu East-owned units rehabbed and ready for sale. 18D is already represented by a realtor; the other units — 36E, 41K, and 28E — were offered to the realtors present and a lottery was held that distributed these three units.

The winners of the lottery discussed the possibility of having cooperative open houses.

Don't wait to seek help

Neil Warner, Treasurer

The economy has had a crushing impact on many homeowners recently, and Malibu East residents haven't escaped the effects. The board of directors is cognizant of this fact and is willing to work with owners whenever possible, while continuing to apply its procedures for dealing with delinquencies in a fair, consistent manner.

If you find yourself in arrears in paying your assessments but believe you have the ability to catch up, given some time,

please write to the board, explaining your situation and how you propose to rectify the delinquency. The board will consider your proposal and, if warranted, may propose a payment agreement whereby you can repay the deficit in a defined period of time.

A payment agreement will stop the recurring late charges and give you some time to bring your account current. On the other hand, failing to address a delinquency can lead to the loss of your garage privileges and the filing of a lien against your unit.

If you have any questions about these procedures, contact the management office.

Property tax relief program

This program will provide relief of between \$25 and \$200 to some Chicago homeowners who received increases in their 2008 property tax bill for their primary residence, based on a combination of the homeowner's income level and the amount of the tax increase.

Applications are available in the management office.

5128 W. Irving Park Rd.
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**Contract pending on
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BOARD NOTES from page 2

Sievert Electric bid for \$90,372 accepted to upgrade our switching equipment to increase amperage in Laundry Room.

- 2) **Directors and officers insurance**
Travelers' bid for directors and officers insurance approved, with \$5,000 deductible.

Items not requiring board action

- 1) **TV status**
Copies of the new TV lineup are available in the management office. **You are now being watched on MECA TV through the camera in the laundry room.**

- 2) **Façade ordinance repairs**
Money will be saved with the changes to the façade ordinance. Fewer drops and inspections will be needed.
- 3) **Unit sales**
- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 27A | \$375,000 pending |
| 15E | \$167,000 pending |
| 13B | \$225,000 |
| 25H | \$270,000 |
- 4) **MECA-owned units update**
18D, 36E, 41K, 28E
(See brokers report, page 6.)
- 5) **Garage construction report**
Richard Strauss
Repairs proceeding on schedule.

- Now working on the third floor.
- 6) **6)Update on fire remediation**
Dean Lerner
All of the 27th floor hallway work, outside of the unit that had a fire, has been done (other than carpeting), along with cleaning of air ducts. There are reports of units that may contain excessive amounts of paper. Inspections for this fire hazard may be necessary.

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

Dear Etta Kitt

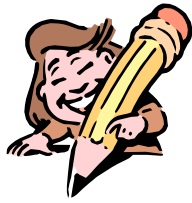
It was a damp, chilly Sunday morning. Only a few dog-walkers and joggers were out on Sheridan Road. As I walked a few blocks south of our building, a distraught woman ran up and told me a sad story. She said that her car, parked for only a few minutes, had been towed. She also explained that she had been mugged the night before, that she lived in the suburbs and could not reach anyone for help because her father was having a pacemaker implanted that morning. She asked me to write her a check for \$170 or to contribute any amount that I could spare.

It sounded like a scam, so I said no. Did I do the right thing?

Signed, Doubtful

Dear Doubtful

At this time of year in particular, we think about helping others in need. So it is sometimes difficult to walk away from a stranger who appears to be facing a difficult situation. I've talked with others



who have received similar requests in other neighborhoods. A friend gave a few dollars to a man dressed in pajamas and an overcoat who claimed that he had locked himself out of his apartment and needed cab fare to go to the hospital where his wife was in labor. It seemed suspicious, but he didn't want to wrestle with his conscience if it turned out that he was, in fact, a distressed father-to-be.

The good instinct to empathize with our neighbors and support our community is what makes us vulnerable to appeals based on personal stories of need. So spread good cheer but also be wary of those who may take more than their fair share.

Thanks to staff writer Beth Robinson for this Etta Kitt.

**Malibu East Condominium**

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Chicago IL 60660-3033
773-271-1732

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The Dialogue

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

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

Letters to the MECA *Dialogue* Committee are encouraged. Its staff reserves the right to edit those letters which it sees fit to print and to print only those with constructive content.

Letters to the *Dialogue* Committee may be left at the management office.

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Your Malibu East
Newsletter

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Malibu East Dialogue