

Malibu East Dialogue

September 2012

Your Communication and Information Resource

How Shadow became Allegra: A tail-wagging story of neighborly love

By Tracy Poyser (as told to Melodie Garcia by Shadow)

It is not often that I have the privilege of being a ghost writer for one of our four-legged Malibu East residents. This story is extra-special because it's a happy one in spite of the sad loss of a wonderful neighbor and friend to many of us. Jacqueline (Jackie) Forshee, who had lived at Malibu East for over a decade, passed away suddenly on July 16 at only 63 years of age. She was almost always seen in the company of her faithful black Labrador named Shadow. Many of you worried and wondered what happened to Shadow. Our own resident dog walker/whisperer Melodie Garcia is fluent in Woof and gained Shadow's trust at this time of



extreme stress. She translated Shadow's sad/happy tale (tail?) for me to share with you. Here it is:

People in Malibu East know me as Shadow. I'm an 11-year-old black Labrador girl dog and belonged to Jackie Forshee, a very kind human with snow white hair and beautiful eyebrows the color of my fur. She rescued me about five years ago from the Orphans of the Storm animal shelter in Deerfield, where I languished after my former owner had died. Because I had been abused as a puppy, I didn't trust humans much, but Jackie took one look at me, and it was mutual love at first sight! I had to get used to a big building with many other dogs and an elevator just for pets and stuff! Some people thought I was scary because Jackie often put a muzzle on me when we went out, but that's because I growled sometimes, just doing my job and protecting her. I'm definitely a one-



Jackie Forshee

woman dog, and I must confess I liked little pooches better than big ones – probably due to some puppy trauma I went through.

So, Jackie and I were living very happily, especially since she had recently retired and was home a lot. Then, on what I think was Sunday, July 15, I tried to get her up to go out and walk me, and she wouldn't wake up. I barked for hours and hours, and got more and more frightened. Finally, I heard someone at the door Monday morning (Melodie told me the date since I don't know calendars). It was a policeman and a couple of other people, and, of course, I didn't think I should let them in, so I growled at them. Fortu-

nately, someone called one of the humans I knew and trusted – a very pretty blonde, curly-haired lady named Melodie who takes many of my dog friends for walks and knows how to talk to us. I was so happy to see her! She must have realized how hungry I was, so when she showed me some treats, I let her take me to her place, where she gave me food and water and took me for a walk. Of course, I couldn't (and wouldn't) have relieved myself in the house – good dogs don't do that.



Shadow/Allegra at her new home with Lisa Aylesworth and Melodie Garcia

When Melodie took me back to my place, Jackie was no longer there, and I learned she wouldn't come back. This made me very sad, but Melodie said she and her friends would find me a new home. Over the next few weeks, Melodie took me for walks by myself so she could get to know me better, and I trusted her more and more. She didn't even use the muzzle on me, and I was pleased to show her what a happy dog I could be, with a personality to match.

(Continued on page 8)

Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, September 12
8:00 p.m. - Community Room

Annual owners meeting

Tuesday, September 18
7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room
(voting between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.)

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, September 20
2:00 p.m. - Community Room
(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

Special Board meeting

Proposed 2013 budget review

Tuesday, October 2

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

Flu shots

Thursday, October 4

5:30-7:00 p.m. - Windjammer Room
\$25; Medicare cards accepted

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

Our condolences to the family and friends of
Edith Lebed



Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012

Attendance: 11 Board members, 2 management representatives and six residents

Excused: Martina Molins

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Units for sale" added to New Business.
- 2) "Channel 101" added to New Business.
- 3) "Email" added to New Business.
- 4) "Tier notification" added to New Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner

1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$2,923,088.71

2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$314,000

3) Audit

The Finance Committee is reviewing the 2011 audit.

Board approved a motion to send a letter of appreciation and a floral bouquet to Angela Cerrillos, who worked as a temporary administrative assistant, on loan from Sudler, for several weeks while management searched for a person to permanently fill the position. Maribel Funes was hired in late August to become our new administrative assistant, and Angela returned to Sudler.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Social - Sandy Chaet

A Meet the Candidates Night will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5 in the Windjammer Room. The Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago will be administering flu shots here on Thursday, Oct. 4; see page 8. The holiday lobby party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

2) Architecture & Aesthetics - Maria Damp

Committee now has three bids for atrium lighting. Board authorized Executive Committee to approve an atrium lighting proposal after the committee has had an opportunity to review all three bids and make a recommendation.

3) Garage - Richard Strauss

Standard Parking report as of July 31 - Alex Diakoumis, Mgr.

Claims

Approved:	1
Denied:	1
Pending:	0
Total:	2

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	3
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

Monthly parkers

Single:	154
Tandem:	7
Valet:	268
Preferred:	1
Tandem/valet:	0
Motorcycle:	0

Engineer:	NC
Total:	430

Garage capacity

Single	152
Tandem:	40
Valet stalls:	298
Valet aisles	20
Motorcycles:	3
Total:	513

(Under capacity)	83
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Changes

New monthlies:	7
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Cancellations:	4
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Upgrades	2
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4) Public & Community Affairs - Sandy Chaet

The 48th Ward will hold a recycling event on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Streets and Sanitation yard, 5853 N. Broadway (see page 22). A fine wine shop will be opening on Broadway near Thorndale. Watch for a pumpkin festival that may take place Sept. 22-23 on Granville. A luxury rental building will be built at 5440 N. Sheridan, with a proposed rooftop garden. The Edgewater farmers market continues each Saturday, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 13, at Broadway and Norwood.

5) Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner

Swimming pools will remain open, without pool monitors, until the weather turns colder. At that time, a new membrane will be applied to the fourth-floor deck. The next yoga class will begin Sept. 10; beginners are welcome. The attempted establishment of a Weight Watchers group at Malibu East has been abandoned because of a lack of interest.

6) Legal - Marcel Molins

We recently closed on two units on which Malibu East had exercised its right of first refusal, and we will close on a third unit very soon. The Board expressed its appreciation to Martina Molins and Art Arfa, who volunteered their time to handle the closings.

MANAGEMENT REPORT - Angela Valentine

Items requiring immediate board action

Old business:

1) Revised charges and fees

Tabled.

2) Atrium lighting

See Architecture & Aesthetics Committee report above.

3) 2012 meeting dates

Dates for annual owners meeting, several committee meetings and Board meetings for the remainder of 2012 were clarified. The December Board meeting was set for Tuesday, Dec. 18.

4) Façade update

Board ratified a motion to lower the amount previously approved for balcony/façade.

5) Boat dock update

Green membrane must be added to boat dock and fourth-floor deck, and ceilings of cantilevered area will be painted.

6) Garage update

More painting of columns must be done, as well as other miscellaneous work.

7) Sauna showers tile replacement

Executive Committee approved the low bid to replace the tile in the shower areas of the men's and women's locker rooms/saunas.

New business:

1) Wood refinishing

Management is soliciting bids for touching up the woodwork in the lobby, elevators, residential hallways and doors, and doorman's desk.

2) Façade repairs 44F

Water leaks in the unit may be partly related to sliding-door performance and/or lack of masonry flashing, according to our engineering firm, with further investigation recommended. However, it's not economically prudent to try to repair this unit this year, as we are committed to working on other tiers.

3) Caddy for dumpsters

Cost of the caddy will be integrated into 2013 budget.

4) Elevator and lobby music

Board approved motion to replace amplifier and CD

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the Malibu East Condominium Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved during the next meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

player.

5) Laundry Room exhaust cleaning

Board approved low bid.

6) Units for sale

A director suggested that the Board reconsider the listing prices for a couple of association-owned units.

7) Channel 101

This informational TV channel for residents has not been updated. Management will add this project to to-do list.

8) Email

Problems associated with using email for official documents and correspondence were discussed.

9) Tier notification

Board acknowledged that residents in several tiers weren't given adequate notice for preparing their balconies for current balcony/façade work and promised that the notices distributed to affected residents would be written differently in the future. Board will make every effort to provide residents with earlier warning, about upcoming balcony/façade work whenever possible.

Items requiring future board action

1) Laundry equipment

Special committee is examining proposals by vendors.

2) Main entrance revolving door

Still examining options to repair or replace door.

3) Collection attorney

Nothing new.

4) Loading dock drain repairs

Seeking more bids.

5) Laundry Room hot water tank

Seeking more bids.

6) Metal restoration, front entrance/redesign

Project awaiting repair of main entrance revolving door.

7) Captain's Walk HVAC

Board seeking replacement options.

8) Hydraulic elevator code compliance

Seeking more bids.

9) Fourth-floor deck painting

See "Boat dock update" above.

10) Pool repairs

Investigating.

11) Elevator roof A/C

Investigating.

12) 2013 budget

Finance Committee has planned two meetings to discuss budget prior to review by entire Board on Oct. 2.

13) 2011 audit

Finance Committee will meet to discuss first draft of audit.

14) Garage drywall ceiling repairs

Investigating.

15) Lift: Aluminum machinery

Investigating.

16) 2013 meeting dates

President will set the dates later this year.

17) Elevator consultant

Board will likely want to hire a consultant.

18) Windjammer Room sound system microphone

Investigating.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) Given the circumstances of this summer, the Board approved a one-month rent abatement for all Captain's Walk tenants whose accounts are not delinquent.

Meeting ended at 10:05 p.m. and went into closed session.



What's happening around the building

By Angela Valentine, Malibu East Manager

Assessments are due the first of the month. The Management Office cannot accept assessment payments.

Real-estate tax appeal: As in prior years, the association's attorney, Worsak & Vihon LLP (W&V), filed an appeal on behalf of all owners against the 2011 real-estate tax assessed valuations. This appeal was again successful, and the total building's residential valuation was revised from \$9,179,268 to \$8,887,912. This \$291,356 AV reduction, the third year of the triennium, will result in estimated tax savings of \$47,410. Your calculated portion of this invoice is 20% of your actual savings, as opposed to the previous 30% rate, and that portion was posted on the September statement. If you have a senior freeze and believe you have been invoiced in error, please bring your tax bill to the Management Office. W&V has been hired to pursue appeals for the 2012 through 2014 tax years at a negotiated, reduced rate of 18% of the actual savings.

Life safety – door closures: Fire doors are fundamental to the integrity of fire barriers because anytime there is an access portal (such as an open doorway) to a compartment, a fire barrier is broken temporarily. To minimize the break in protection, fire doors must be self-closing and have proper latching devices in order to provide as much resistance as possible to the spread of fire, smoke and toxic gasses. Therefore, the city's life safety code places very stringent regulations with respect to fire doors and their closures because of their importance as passive fire-protection devices. Pursuant to the City of Chicago's code, the door closures on each unit must be in good operating condition. Your door should automatically close and latch on its own. In order to comply with the mandate of life safety mandates set by the City of Chicago, please test your door and make sure it closes and latches by itself. If not, please contact a door repair company to assist you with this. Malibu East Condominium unit doors use adjustable, commercial grade (4.5 inch) spring hinges. A suitable replacement model that our maintenance staff found was Everbilt #163 238 with a satin chrome finish. This hinge can be purchased at stores such as Home Depot for

approximately \$17 each. Most doors at Malibu East Condominium need three of these hinges. You can have these installed by a door company. The building staff will not be able to do this work. The City of Chicago will be conducting a building inspection as the compliance deadline approaches. For your personal safety and to be sure we are in compliance with the city codes, we recommend you test your door as soon as possible.

Dog run: New signs have been posted at the dog run. We ask that you pick up after your pet. The run is located in a visible area of the building and, when it's not clean, our building loses some of its curb appeal.

Doggy accidents: If your pet experiences an "accident" or you notice an accident as you walk around the common areas, please notify the Management Office as soon as possible. You are free to remain anonymous. Reporting the mess promptly will allow us to clean the area quickly. Our goal is to keep the common areas as clean and sanitary as possible. Please remember that if you are a pet owner and your pet is left home alone for long periods of time, it is best to make arrangements with a neighbor, friend or relative. Many of the accidents on the common-area carpets occur when the pet has not been taken out for a long period of time, and the accident occurs as the pet is being walked outside. Call the Management Office if you would like some referrals for local dog walkers.

Keys: Pursuant to the Malibu East Condominium Rules and Regulations, Section I.D.3 on page 4, "residents may leave the keys to their units in the Management Office, to be retrieved only during business hours." If you have previously dropped off a copy of your key, it is a good idea to stop by soon and verify we have the correct key. Many owners have changed locks, and the Management Office may not have the most current set. Please note that the Management Office will release keys only to the resident who is on file with a photo ID.

Façade/balcony repairs: Golf began work on drop H-K on Aug. 6, and it will mobilize to the next drop, E-G, around Sept. 7, contingent on the weather. If you leave items on your balcony, it is done **at your own risk**, but please pull all items away

from railings. Any items left on the balcony may become damaged during the project. Golf Construction and the Malibu East Condominium will **NOT** be responsible for **ANY** damage to items left on the balcony. Should you require help in moving heavier items, please contact the Management Office to arrange for assistance.

The work will involve cutting, chipping and grinding of concrete. This type of work may create a lot of dust and vibrations in the walls. The vibrations may knock down pictures, decorations and items on shelving units. The dust resulting from grinding is very fine and will easily find its way into the building. The contractor is not responsible for such occurrences.

The following are steps you may want to take to prevent damage to our property during construction:

- **Do not go out on your balcony for any reason while the contractor is cutting, chipping or grinding concrete.**
- Remove all pictures and decorations from exterior walls and the walls adjacent to exterior walls.
- Keep balcony doors and screens closed during work hours.
- Wind will blow dust and dirt around the outside of the building. Do not assume that your doors can be opened just because the work is being performed above or below your unit.
- If there is air infiltration at the doors or other openings, you can reduce the effects by blocking the flow with rags, towels or tape.

Trash chute: Several owners have reported that residents on their floor are not pushing their trash down the chute, past the rubber flap inside the metal door. This creates a problem for other residents and maintenance. Please be a good neighbor and make sure your trash bag goes down the chute so as to avoid a backup of garbage and possible damage to the chute.

Garbage disposals: Garbage disposals can create plumbing problems. To avoid this, please be sure that only soft-cooked food is being disposed of through the garbage disposal. Don't forget to run water when you turn the disposal on. Do not allow the following items to go into your disposal: uncooked rice, coffee grounds, shells, plastic, trash, pins, etc.

Questions or concerns? Email me at MECAmgr@SudlerChicago.com (new address) or telephone 773-271-1732.



Community Calendar

By Betty Mayian

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BROADWAY ARMORY

Indoor park, six gym floors, trapeze classes, senior activities, athletic equipment, meeting room, computer center, dancing floor, shuffleboard, weights, arts and crafts, aerobics, ping pong, after-school activities and more.

5917 N. Broadway
312-742-7502

tinyurl.com/27YYYN

EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

Library building is closed during construction. A bookmobile is now available in the Broadway Armory parking lot:

Tue-Thu: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2-6 p.m.

Fri-Sat: 9 a.m. - noon, 1-5 p.m.

(closed on Sundays and Mondays)

tinyurl.com/5L55TL

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Greetings From Edgewater"

(Edgewater as a destination place)

Regular museum hours:

Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Thursday evenings 6-8 p.m. (Live music in the garden; refreshments)

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-506-4849

"Highlands of Edgewater Home Tour"

Includes interiors of eight homes.

Sun., Sept. 16, noon-4 p.m. \$25 donation.

Starts at St. Mary Eritrean Church
6350 N. Paulina St.

www.EdgewaterHistory.org

WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER

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

1355 W. Foster Ave.

773-271-9001

whitecranewellness.org

THEATER / SHOWINGS

CITY LIT THEATRE COMPANY

"Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley

Haunting Gothic tale of creation and destruction.

Sept. 28 thru Nov. 4

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

773-293-3682

citylit.org

LIFELINE THEATRE

"The Woman in White"

A dark tale of romance and suspense.

Sept. 7 thru Oct. 28

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

RAVEN THEATRE

"The Big Knife" by Clifford Odets

The story of an idealistic top movie star whose years of compromise with his beliefs for the sake of a Hollywood career have resulted in the slow destruction of his personality.

Sept. 11 thru Nov. 11.

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee

Williams

A critical moment in the Williams family's struggle to survive. These secrets helped form the playwright.

Thru Sept. 16

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

STEEP THEATRE

"Moment"

A darkly comic, deeply moving story of trauma and forgiveness occurs during a family supper.

Thru Oct. 27

1115 W. Berwyn

866-811-4111

steeptheatre.com

2011-12 Board of Directors

Marcel Molins, President
Richard Strauss, 1st Vice President
Thomas Vaughan, 2nd Vice President
Neil Warner, Treasurer
Kim O'Neal, Assistant Treasurer
Marcia Fishman, Secretary
Carl Stahlheber, Assistant Secretary
Sandy Chaet, Director
Maria Damp, Director
Allan Eckardt, Director
Eleida Gomez, Director
Martina Molins, Director

Granville business back on track after Red Line rehab

By Sean Lewis

Even as the construction dust clears at the Granville CTA Red Line station, the businesses closest to the tracks are re-emerging from a dust cloud of their own.

"The construction affected us a lot," said Juan Ramirez, manager of the M. Henrietta restaurant on Granville.

The most obvious sign of the impact came in the discontinuation of the restaurant's dinner service.

"The dinner crowd was OK before construction," said Ramirez, "but once the construction began and street parking was taken over by equipment, we had a big drop in customers. We looked at the numbers and we decided to stop it."

The dinner menu was moved temporarily to its sister location, M. Henry, in Andersonville but stopped there after two months.

Ramirez says the six-week project to renovate the aging Granville station in June and July impacted not only M. Henrietta but other businesses nearby.

Summer Noodles and Rice tells The Dialogue that it was forced to shut down operations for three days at the height of the construction in July because crews had blocked off access to its front doors.

In June, the CTA began an \$86 million stopgap project to renovate the Red Line's north branch. Seven stations are included in the plan, which includes work on lighting and waterproofing on the platform, as well as new floors, doors and windows inside the station. Currently, the Thorndale station is under construction, with vehicular traffic blocked off at times.

Most of the stations are more than 90 years old, although the Granville station was rehabbed last in 1980, when a new station house was built, including an elevator. The repairs are supposed to last until plans are finalized for total reconstruction of the north-side Red Line.

(Continued on page 5)

Flu shots

By Sandy Chaet



It is very easy to get a flu shot this season. Just come to the Windjammer Room on the fourth floor on Thursday, October 4 between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago will again be providing the flu shot. The cost will be \$25. Either cash or check will be accepted for self-pay participants.

Medicare will be billed for Part B participants, but you MUST bring your Medicare card. Any Medicare Part B participant who has HMO insurance will have to pay with a check or cash at the time of service.

The Social Committee will provide refreshments.

Tell us your favorite for food delivery

The Dialogue would like to hear which neighborhood restaurants rate as your favorites for food delivery. We will tally the votes as they come in and, if we get enough votes, we'll publish the results.

Just tell us the name, address and phone number of the restaurant, which dishes you enjoy ordering there, and why you favor this restaurant for deliveries.

Email your vote and explanation to Dialogue@MalibuEast.org or leave a note for the Dialogue editor at the doorman station or with the Management Office. Please provide us with your name and unit number.

Granville back on track

(Continued from page 4)

Now that construction is finished on Granville, business is returning, says Ramirez. He was happy to show me a recent write-up that M. Henrietta received in the Chicago Tribune, praising chef Michael Moorman's newest creation, lemon-mango brioche French toast.

"We're seeing customers coming back in, and I know we're going to get better," Ramirez said with a smile.

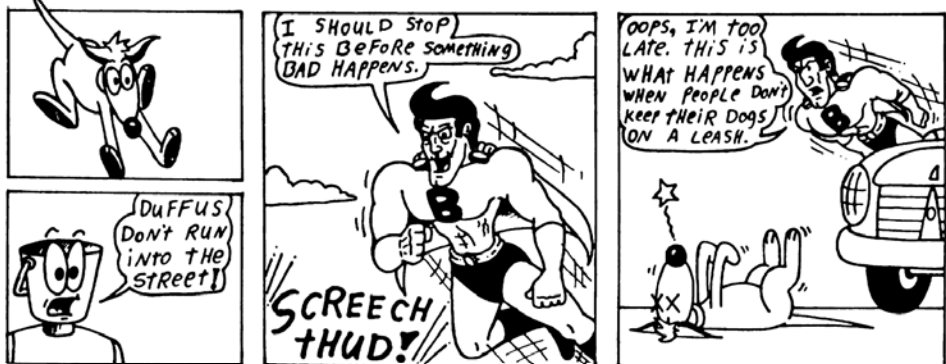
'Town Crier' announcements

by Maribel Funes

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



Kitchen and Bath Specials



Curtis Jacobson's KC Beautiful Dimensions

And

Florin Nistor's

COMFORT HOME
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- Plumbing Repairs, Faucets Installed
- Balcony Screens Repaired

Contact: Curtis at 773-878-1574

Email: CurtisJacobson@sbcglobal.net

www.ComfortHomeRemodeling.com

Community events

Ward recycling event

The 48th Ward will hold a recycling event on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Streets & Sanitation yard at 5853 N. Broadway.

A paper shredder will be on site to recycle paper that you wish to shred.

The following items will also be accepted for recycling:

- American flags
- Bicycles
- CFL bulbs
- Fabrics
- Televisions
- Appliances

- Batteries
- Computer electronics
- Ink cartridges
- Yarn
- Unopened personal-care items (toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- General electronics
- Cell phones
- Eyeglasses
- Printers
- Wine corks

No paints or chemicals will be accepted at this event.

Osterman Beach cleanup

Join the 48th Ward office and volunteers from the Great Lakes Alliance in cleaning Osterman Beach on

Saturday Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. To register, go to www.greatlakesadopt.org.

Panhandling seminar

The North Side Community Justice Center will host a seminar on what businesses and citizens should know if they want to stamp out panhandling on our streets. The seminar will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24 at the Edgewater Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr.

The North Side Community Justice Center is a service of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

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For Sale: 25L, 25M, 6D*
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Helen Wagner

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- We are a home and office cleaning service.
- But more importantly, we are an organizing/cleaning service for people who need that service. Often, cleaning services don't organize and organizing services don't clean, but we can do both and at the same time!
- Please visit us for more information and "before" and "after" photos:

www.ChestnutCleaning.com

Dialogue reprints

Back issues of the *Dialogue* (from 2000 to the present) are available on the Malibu East website for viewing or printing.

MalibuEast.org/dialogue



Don't forget to vote

With a budget of approximately \$5 million, Malibu East is clearly a big operation – one that requires close attention. That is why it's important that all unit owners vote in our annual election of Board directors.

The annual meeting for voting members of Malibu East will be held Sept. 18 in the Windjammer Room. Voting will be open from 7-8 p.m. that evening, although owners are encouraged to mail their proxy forms to Sudler Property Management before Sept. 15 in case they are unable to attend the annual meeting. Even if they mail their proxies, owners can still submit a new ballot at the annual meeting, in which case it will void the original proxy.

Each owner has six votes that can be divided among any number of candidates. The votes are then multiplied by the percentage of ownership for that unit as specified in the Malibu East Declaration.

There are eight candidates for six director positions this year. The candidates are Arthur Arfa, Carl Chadek, Sandy Chaet, David Infante, Marcel J. Molins, Joan M. Scholl, Linda Touchstone and Neil Warner. Chaet, Molins and Warner are current Board members.

Besides the voting and the announcement of results later in the evening, the annual meeting consists of reports by the president, vice president, treasurer and various committee chairs. These are typically followed by an open forum.

After the annual meeting is adjourned, the new Board of Directors convenes for a short Board meeting, at which the principal business is electing officers for the upcoming year.

TV issues?

To add optional TV programming to your account, phone DirecTV at 800-531-5000.

For customer service regarding equipment repair, installation or technical support, call USA Wireless at 800-433-4558 or email them at orders@usadishtv.com

How Shadow became Allegra (Continued from page 1)

My Jackie had belonged to the Church of the Atonement at Kenmore and Ardmore and did a lot of volunteer work there, so people put the word out in the parish that I needed a place to live. But, no one from the church could take me. When I heard someone say they might have to take me back to Orphans of the Storm, I got very worried, because people adopt cute little puppies, not old lady dogs like me (11 dog years equals 77 in people years!).

Melodie made sure I was healthy, and she even found medicine for my hip joints, which helped a lot. Then she and her friends had a great idea: They asked the owners of the Bark Bark Club on Broadway, Patti Colandrea and Brian Koester, to help get the word out about me. So, Patti put an adoption request for me on Bark Bark's website and Facebook, but not without warning Melodie to brace herself for a huge surprise.

It's hard to believe, but more than 950 people emailed Melodie on the day of the announcement, and people spread the word through Facebook and social media (I have no clue what that is, but it sure works!). Even if people

couldn't adopt me, they offered money, food and advice. Responses came from all over the country, and even a couple from overseas! My Melodie (I feel entitled to call her that) interviewed more than 1,000 people via email and phone, day after day.

Finally, another little miracle happened: A woman named Lisa Aylesworth, who lives at Glenwood and Devon, wanted to meet me! After several hours on the phone with Melodie to learn all about me, Lisa and I got to sniff each other out – that is, I did all of the sniffing, and like a good future dog mom, she had brought treats. Again, it was love at first sight – and I'm a happy one-woman dog once more, and such a lucky one at that, although I'll always remember my Jackie. I now have my very own yard, my new name is Allegra, and I bet I'll see you and my Malibu East dog friends in Berger Park or somewhere in the neighborhood quite often.

A big, wet smooch and a grateful paw to Melodie and all of you lovely humans! You give humanity a good name – and you can be assured that this is not the end of my "tail" yet.

Shadow, a.k.a. Allegra 

The Dialogue

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