

# Malibu East Dialogue

November 2012

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Richard Strauss – a voice of reason, experience

By Neil Warner

Twenty-three years ago, Richard Strauss and his wife, Jackee Ames, were looking to move before their lease expired. During their search one day in late August, they drove past Malibu East and, because they didn't see a parking spot, weren't going to stop. However, when they came upon a parking spot on Granville, they decided to check out Malibu East after all. An open house was being held by Ann Pasztor, a realtor and one-time resident here.

After looking at an A unit, they departed the building. Outside, Jackee asked Richard what he thought of the condo they had just seen. Richard could remember practically nothing about the unit, except for one thing – the view.

Exasperated, Jackee asked Richard, "So, what do you think?"

"Let's buy it," Richard responded, to Jackee's surprise.



The rest is history. They bought the unit and moved into the building in September 1989.

It wasn't long before Richard became involved in the management of the building. Although he felt even then that Malibu East was well-managed, he ran for a position on the Board of Directors in 1991. He was elected and was named assistant treasurer. He soon became treasurer, a position he held for many years before becoming second vice president and then first vice president, his current position.

Utilizing his expertise in several areas, the Board has asked Strauss to serve as the point man on many of the major projects it has undertaken during his tenure. He has also been a longtime member of the Social Committee.

Strauss, 74, is a native Chicagoan, having been born at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital, now a part of University of Chicago Medicine. His father owned a commercial printing company, which printed catalogs and advertising circulars for companies such as Sears and Walgreens, and later owned a leasing company. Growing up, Richard helped at his father's printing company, filing work orders and doing other odd jobs.

Richard was a Cub Scout and participated in many sports as a club player. He used his bicycle to deliver the now-defunct Daily News during afternoons, and later the Tribune. He attended South Shore High School on the South Side, and he worked part time during high school and vacations as a shoe salesman for Berland's at 63rd and Halsted and later at the more upscale Joseph Shoes.

Strauss exhibited his classroom smarts, being named valedictorian at South Shore. He also won Wilson Junior College's math contest for individual high school students.

Richard's father agreed to finance his four-year college education and hoped he would attend the University of Chicago. Although Richard was offered a four-year scholarship to attend the prestigious UChicago, he decided to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At MIT, he earned a fellowship and worked as a draftsman on an Anheuser-Busch plant. After 3½ years, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He then worked on an Esso (now Exxon) project en route to earning a master's degree in chemical engineering practice after just one year, also at MIT.



After spending a year as the head of a research group in Chicago following his master's, Strauss landed a job with a textile company in Barre, Mass. About eight years after he was hired, the firm promoted him to general manager. While working for the textile company, he periodically traveled overseas to

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### Malibu East events and meetings

#### Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, November 7

8:00 p.m. - Community Room

#### Special owners meeting

Tuesday, November 13

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

#### Social Committee meeting

Wednesday, November 14

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

#### Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, November 15

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

#### Board meeting

Tuesday, November 27

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

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



# Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

## Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012

Attendance: 10 Board members, 2 management representatives and three residents  
Excused: Maria Damp, Sandy Chaet  
Presiding: President Marcel Molins

### REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Document shredder" added to New Business.
- 2) "Lobby/elevator sound system" combined with "Windjammer Room sound system" under Items Requiring Future Board Action.

### TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner

#### 1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves  
\$2,767,723.09

#### 2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$293,000

#### 3) Audit

The Finance Committee will meet to help finalize the 2011 audit.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1) Security- Sandy Chaet

The committee would like to add a camera to the atrium.

#### 2) Social - Sandy Chaet

Thirty-three people got flu shots from the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago on Oct. 4. The holiday lobby party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 19.

#### 3) ASCO - Sandy Chaet

A motion was made to send a communication to Ald. Harry Osterman protesting the city's attempt to reduce or eliminate the scavenger rebate for condominium associations.

#### 4) Garage - Martina Molins

The Board passed a motion instructing Standard Parking to reduce the number of hikers by at least one at the earliest possible date.

*Standard Parking report as of Sept. 30 - Alex Diakoumis, Mgr.*

#### Claims

Approved:	1
Denied:	0
<u>Pending:</u>	<u>0</u>
Total:	1

#### Waiting lists

Single self-park:	6
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

#### Monthly parkers

Single:	151
Tandem:	15

Valet:	271
Preferred:	1
Tandem/valet:	0
Motorcycle:	0
<u>Engineer:</u>	<u>NC</u>
Total:	438

#### Garage capacity

Single	157
Tandem:	40
Valet stalls:	293
Valet aisles	20
<u>Motorcycles:</u>	<u>3</u>
Total:	513
(Under capacity)	75

#### Changes

New monthlies:	5
Cancellations:	6
Upgrades	1
Downgrades	1

#### 5) Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner

A new yoga class will begin Nov. 5.

#### 6) Satellite TV - Angela Valentine

Reception was accidentally knocked out to some units on one day as a result of work being done in a unit.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT - Angela Valentine

#### Items requiring immediate board action

##### Old business:

#### 1) Captain's Walk HVAC

The Board approved a bid to install a new air-conditioning and heating compressor for the Captain's Walk, to be installed on the boat dock. In addition, the Board empowered the Executive Committee to spend the necessary funds for an electrician to move the power as needed for completion of the new HVAC system on the east side of the Captain's Walk.

#### 2) Captain's Walk elevator

The Board authorized the Executive Committee to approve a contract within stated parameters to bring the elevator up to city code.

##### New business:

#### 1) 2013 budget

A motion was passed to distribute the 2013 budget to owners for their comments before it is considered for approval at the November Board meeting.

#### 2) Scavenger rebate

Malibu East received its 2009 scavenger rebate from the city in August in the amount of \$37,425.

#### 3) Kohlman Chutes

The Board approved the fabrication and installation of a new impact plate in the

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.

garbage chute (completed soon after the Board meeting).

#### 4) Lobby metal polishing

The Board approved a bid from Midwest Signature Building Services to refinish the metal at the main entrance of the building.

#### 5) Document shredder

The Board recommended that the manager purchase a heavy-duty document shredder.

### Items requiring future board action

#### 1) Laundry equipment

Special committee will meet to evaluate proposals by vendors.

#### 2) Main entrance revolving door

Still examining options to repair or replace the door.

#### 3) Windjammer Room and lobby/elevator sound systems

A new sound system for the lobby and elevators was installed in late October.

#### 4) Collection attorney

Nothing new.

#### 5) Loading dock drain cover repairs

Seeking more bids.

#### 6) Laundry Room hot water tank

Seeking more bids.

#### 7) Metal restoration, front entrance/redesign

See "New business" above.

#### 8) Wood refinishing in lobby

Management will address this.

#### 9) Elevator and lobby stone polishing

Seeking more bids.

### RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) None.

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

### Board budget review

Oct. 2, 2012

Attendance: 11 Board members, 2 management representatives and two residents  
Excused: Sandy Chaet  
Presiding: President Marcel Molins

Following an open forum, First Vice President Richard Strauss reviewed the proposed 2013 budget for Malibu East for the benefit of all Board members. Strauss also explained the proposed increases in various fees to take effect Jan. 1.



## What's happening around the building

By Angela Valentine, Malibu East Manager

**Assessments** are due the first of the month. Please mail to Malibu East Condominium, c/o Sudler-80, 8401 Innovation Way, Chicago, IL 60682-8401. The Management Office cannot accept assessment payments.

Did you know you can pay your assessments online, by credit card or by direct debit? You can also view your assessment account history. Register for [SudlerAtHome.com](http://SudlerAtHome.com) today. Further information is available in the Management Office.

**Resident registration form:** We continue to try to ensure that all of our records are accurate, and that a current contact number is on file for all residents. The resident registration form has been sent out several times since August 2011, and about 30% of the owners/residents still have not returned their completed form. This form not only provides us with emergency contact information for our residents, but we are also attempting to confirm the storage lockers numbers. Residents who have not submitted their resident registration forms will have another copy placed under their doors, forms mailed to them again, and they will also receive phone calls. Please turn in your form so that we can conclude this project.

**Storage lockers:** Pursuant to the Malibu East Condominium Rules and Regulations (Section IV.L.4), "Storage lockers are assigned by the Management Office and are subject to reassignment by the Management Office at all times. Any storage locker taken for use without being so assigned by the Management Office is subject to immediate entry, including the removal and disposal of its contents." MECA has a limited supply of storage lockers; therefore, each resident is allowed to have only one locker. There are a few residents who appear to have two lockers. If you have more than one locker, please contact the Management Office as soon as possible. Also, there may be several owners who have placed their personal belongings in lockers not assigned to their unit. Please contact our office if you are unsure whether the

locker you are using belongs to you. We are in the processing of doing an inventory of all the storage lockers. Please check the number listed on your monthly assessment statement. If the number is incorrect, please contact our office immediately.

**Dog owners:** Please pick up behind your pets, and keep them out of ALL landscaped areas, including the rocks around the Captain's Walk entrances. A dog run is provided for ease of walking your pets, but it is NOT the building staff's responsibility to pick up their feces. Please take a bag out with you, pick up behind your pet and deposit the waste in the garbage cans provided. Don't allow your dog on any landscaped areas as its urine kills the grass and other plants and encourages other animals to do the same thing. If your pet has an "accident" inside the building, please report it promptly to the doorman so it can be cleaned up immediately, to prevent permanent staining and odors. Please be sensitive to your pet's needs and do not wait until the last minute to take it out. If you know your pet may have an "accident," please take a dog pad with you to avoid the accident happening on the common-area carpets. If you take your pet out with ample time, your pet will be happier, our building will be cleaner and the building staff can focus on keeping the building in tip-top shape.

**Facade inspection and repairs:** The scaffolding has been relocated to the G tier. We are thankful to all residents of the H, K and G tiers for their cooperation and patience during these necessary repairs. Residents of the E tier, the final tier scheduled for inspection and repair in 2012, will soon be sent a notice advising them of what to expect during upcoming facade work on their tier and requesting they relocate their balcony furniture and other belongings to allow workmen access to their balconies and exterior walls for inspection and any necessary repairs.

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

## Halloween stars, ghosts, ghoulies and four-legged pirates

Photos by Tracy Poyser

Here's a sampling of the strange and mysterious creatures that haunted our corridors during Malibu East's 2012 Halloween on Oct. 31. As always, our residents made it easy for the little ghosts and ghoulies to zero in on neighbors with welcoming "Trick or treat" signs on their doors. We even spotted a five-month-old tiger cub in the elevator! Also, a couple of Malibu East's four-legged residents, accompanied by their doting owners, made a prize-winning showing in Berger Park during an Oct. 27 doggie costume contest co-sponsored by the Bark-Bark Club. See if you recognize Morgan the Pirate Dog, and a Junebug Cub Fan named Sassy!



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## 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

**"Anniversary Year Begins"**

**(10 years as a museum, 25 years as a historical society)**

Thru April, 2013, we will be celebrating the Society's 25-year history by reprising the most memorable of the exhibits held in the museum.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.: The Austin Wyman lecture will be held at the Broadway Armory. Guest speaker Julia Bachrach will talk about the history of Chicago parks.

Regular museum hours:

Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-506-4849

www.EdgewaterHistory.org

#### ST. GERTRUDE'S ANNUAL

##### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and

Sun., Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

St. Gertrude's gym, SW corner of Glenwood and Granville

#### 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

**"Fuddy Meers"**

Claire, an amnesiac, awakens each morning as a blank slate on which her husband and son must imprint the facts of her life.

Nov. 10 thru Dec. 8

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

773-293-3682

citylit.org

#### LIFELINE THEATRE

**"Duck for President" (kid series)**

Pitfalls of Politics – just in time for the elections.

Thru Nov. 25

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

#### RAVEN THEATRE

**"The Big Knife" by Clifford Odets**

An actor's movie career contributes to the slow destruction of his personality.

Thru Nov. 11

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

#### REDTWIST THEATRE

**"Broken Glass" by Arthur Miller**

An emotionally wrought Brooklyn couple try to sort through complicated events in their personal crossroads.

Thru Nov. 18

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

#### STEEP THEATRE

**"Making Noise Quietly" by Robert Holman**

This powerful, poetic triptych of plays portrays the subtle and far-reaching consequences of war and the comfort and strength that we can find in the least expected places.

Thru Nov. 10

1115 W. Berwyn

866-811-4111

steeptheatre.com

### Richard Strauss

(Continued from page 1)

purchase the machinery its factory needed.

As an executive with the largest company in town, Strauss served on the board of directors of a boys' home. Believing he could do better with its money than the home was then earning, he asked if he could have a one-year trial during which he would manage its investments. That was 1976. The boys' home was more than satisfied with his results, and Richard's career was about to change course.

Within a year Strauss chose to become an investment adviser full time. He picked up clients through his friends and family – all referrals. He never advertised. His business grew to the point where he was managing \$70-80 million. After more than 30 years as his own boss, health issues forced Richard to dissolve his business in April 2011, when he officially retired.

Richard has two daughters (living in Georgia and Massachusetts) and three sons (two in Massachusetts and one in New York) from previous marriages. Jackee has two sons, one in California and another in Colorado. In October, Richard became a great-grandfather for the first time.

Richard and Jackee have been married for 27 years. They went to high school together, graduated in 1956 and went their separate ways. Yet, in 1984, a romance was rekindled. After working as an office manager for an ad agency downtown, Jackee joined Richard's investment advisory firm around 1993 or '94.

When asked to identify the biggest changes he has seen during his 23 years at Malibu East, Strauss says, "The building has doubled in age since '89." Among the bigger changes, he identified

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### 2012-13 Board of Directors

Marcel Molins, President  
Richard Strauss, 1st Vice President  
Thomas Vaughan, 2nd Vice President  
Neil Warner, Treasurer  
Carl Stahlheber, Assistant Treasurer  
Arthur Arfa, Secretary

Maria Damp, Assistant Secretary  
Carl Chadek, Director  
Sandy Chaet, Director  
Allan Eckardt, Director  
Martina Molins, Director  
Joan Scholl, Director

**Richard Strauss**

(Continued from page 4)

the makeover of the fourth-floor deck (his first project), the ongoing balcony/ façade maintenance, the multiyear garage repairs, the roof replacement and the rebuilt north wall over the atrium (“We went to great lengths to match the bricks,” he says with pride).

“The building is in better shape than it was in 1989,” Strauss says. “We’ve used the latest technology (for the projects). Our finances have improved (the reserve fund has more than tripled). We’ve had no special assessment.

“I’ve been doing the budget for 19-20 years. We’re envied by other condo buildings.”

What are the major crises Strauss has faced during his Board tenure?

“The city’s constant regulations,” he says without hesitation. Richard cites the city’s façade ordinance, which he says was based on problems with a only few buildings downtown, and the life safety ordinance, which was enacted as a result of a high-rise fire downtown, as examples of city-mandated projects that are not providing any proven benefit to our building and yet are costing our owners substantial sums of money.

“And we have largely nothing to say about our labor contracts,” Strauss adds.

“But most of all, it’s the constant and changing requirements from the City of Chicago, without regard for the impact they have on our owners, that really bother me.”

Richard Strauss is a strong advocate for Malibu East – and a voice of reason, as well.

# Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



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[www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com)

## ‘Town Crier’ announcements

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

# Kitchen and Bath Specials



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**Contact:** Curtis at 773-878-1574

**Email:** [CurtisJacobson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CurtisJacobson@sbcglobal.net)

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## Public art in Uptown

By Neil Warner

It's amazing how we can go about running our errands and traveling throughout the community without noticing some amazing pieces of art being displayed in public places.



My wife, Debbie, and I found this to be true after participating in a free walking tour sponsored by Uptown Walks ([www.schwatown.com](http://www.schwatown.com)) on Oct. 6. Led by Ginny Sykes, a member of the Chicago Public Art Group ([www.cpag.net](http://www.cpag.net)) and an artist whose work was seen on our tour, our group of nearly 20 people viewed 10 pieces of public art in Uptown, in an area bounded by Argyle Street on the north, Montrose on the south, Broadway on the west and Lake Shore Drive on the east.



We began with the Tromp l'oeil mural on the side of a building at Wilson and Kenmore and then moved on to the "Reconciliation Mural" at 4445 N. Sheridan Road, in which artist Gregory King uses a message of faith to combat neighborhood crime. Mosaics decorate the west-facing outside wall of the Clarendon Park Field House at 4501 N. Clarendon.

Meanwhile, at the Uplift School at Wilson and Hazel (900 West), a bricolage mosaic covers several walls of the school. It was created over six weeks by After School Matters students involved in the Green Star Movement.

At 4730 N. Sheridan Road, on the wall of a building occupied by Alternatives Inc., a youth and family agency, artist Tracy Van Duinen's work is inspired by photographs taken inside the agency, and the supporting text completes the title of the work, "I will ... mentor, choose, grow, create, respect, inspire, etc."

The tour concluded at the Margate Park Field House, 4921 N. Marine Drive, where a

50-square-foot mosaic by artist Sykes is showcased on the outside wall. In the nearby playground, a team of four artists and one assistant created an environment of sculptures, mosaics and interactive artworks that enliven the space. Jim Brenner created a series of stainless steel sculptural bugs such as bees, dragonflies and butterflies that are mounted overhead. Roman Villareal sculpted four limestone animals – a fish, frog, snail and turtle – that young children can climb on. Also, ceramic tile work and a ceramic mural are incorporated into planters and retaining walls.

You can find many more examples of public art beyond this tour. The underpasses at Bryn Mawr and Foster have been decorated with bricolage murals, and some of the nearby park buildings are decorated with artwork. In Rogers Park, there is a "mile of murals" being created along both sides of the concrete embankment of the Red Line "L" tracks along North Glenwood Avenue from Pratt (6800 North) to Touhy (7200 North).

Be more observant when you walk around a neighborhood; you never know what you might see. And if you're interested in taking a walk specifically to see such public art, check out either of the two websites mentioned above for a listing of public art sites.

## Halloween photos

(Continued from page 3)



### 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](mailto:orders@usadishtv.com)

### The Dialogue

The Malibu East Condominium *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 Malibu East Condominium *Dialogue* staff and contributors are their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of Malibu East Condominium or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the Malibu East Condominium *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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