

Malibu East Dialogue

February 2013

Your Communication and Information Resource

Distant tragedy resonates close to home

By Tracy Poyser

Barely two months since Dec. 14, the heartbreaking tragedy of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Newtown, Conn., has all but disappeared from the front-page headlines and TV reporters' radar. Not so for one of our Malibu East neighbors, Janet Zaslow.



I hadn't known that Newtown, and specifically the dreamy little village of Sandy Hook, had been Janet's home for 15 years prior to her relocating to Chicago three years ago. To her, our condo community – with its wonderful mix of families, seniors, animals, friendly staff and beautiful lakefront setting – was reminiscent of a village community. That's why she felt comfortable enough to talk to me recently to share her personal thoughts and feelings with you in the Dialogue. Also, she hopes her story will help us stop and reflect on the nature of community and the healing power of compassion, even in the face of horrendous violence.

In Janet's photo, she holds a lovely

coffee table book published in 2005 for Newtown's 300th anniversary, a growing but still very picturesque town of close to 30,000 people. The wall above features a print of the town center and its prominent flagpole, which showed up frequently in the TV cameras. A former American Airlines flight attendant, Janet moved there with her ex-husband in spite of a long commute and no prior taste for country living. They got married there, and she fell in love with a house just down the street from the Sandy Hook Elementary School, at a time when the village was still independent from the Newtown municipality.

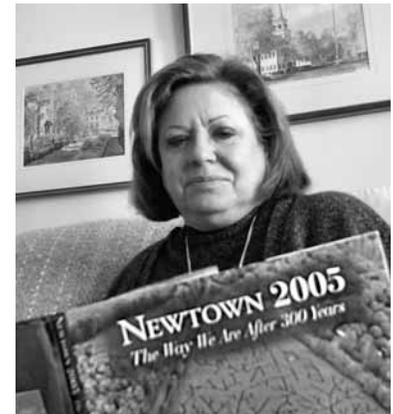
"It took me awhile to get used to living on Johnny Appleseed Drive," she told me, "but I managed to adapt real fast. It's so odd that I can't name all of the merchants and shops in the one block of Michigan Avenue where I work, but I sure remember every single store in Newtown, together with their owners. It was so easy to make friends!"

Janet had visited Newtown just one week before the tragedy, for the traditional tree-lighting ceremony and start of the holiday season. She visited with friends who own a local favorite, My Place Pizza & Restaurant, which ended up as a gathering place for many during the unfolding tragedy. She remembers that weekend as such a joyous one, with the streets lit up by luminaries and holiday lights in every window.

When the shootings happened, a girlfriend called her from Connecticut and told her to turn on the news right away. What she saw and heard was surreal for her, and still is. "The children who lost their lives were just about born or babies when I left – and they all lived within a mile or two from each other," she told me.

She kept getting updates from her stunned friends over the next hours and

days. One is a deputy chief of police in a neighboring town. She learned that state troopers were posted in the driveway of every affected family to keep intrusive members of the media from getting too close. The little local post office with just a few employees was soon inundated with condolence messages, toys, teddy bears and gifts from all over the world.



Just as the memories and helpless anger of 9/11 still haunt her as a former American Airlines flight attendant who lost very close friends and colleagues, she realizes that her Newtown friends and neighbors will not be able to forget for decades, if ever, and that her own fond memories of her Sandy Hook home are forever changed. Her hope – and that of her Newtown community – is that the renewed focus on the need to curb gun violence will result in lasting, positive change.

Janet couldn't say enough about the Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company – entirely staffed by volunteers and funded largely by donations. Literally all of them were among the first responders. You can learn more about them at www.sandyhookfire.com. Also, she wants us to know about a grassroots non-profit group created by Newtown residents and organized

(Continued on page 5)

Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 6

8:00 p.m. - Community Room

Weight Watchers meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 20

7:00 p.m. - Windjammer Room

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, Feb. 21

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

Board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 26

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

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



Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013

Attendance: 11 Board members, one management representative and five residents

Excused: Maria Damp

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Date of March Board meeting," Lobby and Management Office heat" and "Document shredder" were added under Old Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Neil Warner

1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$3,106,033.34

2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$209,376

but report didn't show former owners, so this amount can't be compared to larger totals from recent months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Social – Sandy Chaet

A Weight Watchers meeting will be held on Feb. 20 (see page 8). An Easter egg hunt will be held on March 30, and a potluck dinner is planned for April 7, with details to come.

2) Garage – Martina Molins

Standard Parking report as of Dec. 31 – Ali Saeed, Mgr.

Claims

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Approved: | 0 |
| Denied: | 0 |
| Pending: | 0 |
| Total: | 0 |

Waiting lists

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

Monthly parkers

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Single: | 156 |
| Tandem: | 17 |
| Valet: | 258 |
| Preferred: | 1 |
| Tandem/valet: | 0 |
| Motorcycle: | 1 |
| Engineer: | NC |
| Total: | 433 |

Garage capacity

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Single | 160 |
| Tandem: | 42 |
| Valet stalls: | 284 |
| Valet aisles | 20 |
| Motorcycles: | 3 |
| Total: | 509 |
| (Under capacity) | 76 |

Changes

| | |
|----------------|---|
| New monthlies: | 1 |
| Cancellations: | 8 |
| Upgrades | 0 |
| Downgrades | 0 |

3) Sports & entertainment – Neil Warner

The next yoga class will begin March 4.

4) Finance & insurance – Neil Warner

The Board approved a quote to renew the directors' and officers' insurance.

MANAGEMENT REPORT – Violette

Deschamps

Items requiring immediate Board action

1) Bad debts write-off

The Board voted to write off \$14,500.52 in bad debts from five former owners, as discussed in closed session at the December Board meeting.

2) Atrium lighting

The Board authorized management and a member of the Executive Committee to negotiate an acceptable resolution to one remaining issue of contention.

Old business:

1) Membrane recoat/Golf warranty

Final payment of the invoice for the recoating of the garage floor membrane is being held back until we receive a new warranty.

2) Captain's Walk HVAC

The new HVAC equipment has been successfully installed.

3) Captain's Walk hydraulic elevator

A contract has been signed with the vendor, and the project has begun to repair the elevator.

4) Voice communication and smoke detectors

The Board discussed various options for installing speakers and wiring in the residential hallways to comply with the city's life safety ordinance.

5) Basketball backboard proposal

The Board rejected this proposal (see page 3).

6) Lobby metal polishing

Nothing new to report.

7) Façade

The E tier was inspected, and make-safe repairs were made. Work will resume in the spring.

8) Garage repairs

Golf is finishing the checklist items.

9) Boat dock

The anticipated repairs have been completed, except for bringing the membrane around to the fourth-floor deck.

10) Association-owned units

31E has been rented for two years at \$1,600 per month.

11) Date of March meeting

The Board meeting date was changed to March 19.

12) Lobby and Management Office heat

Management needs to find a solution for the lack of heat in the Management Office. The lack of heat in the lobby during frigid weather is a separate issue but also will have to be addressed.

13) Document shredder

The Board approved a vendor for periodic pickups and shredding of sensitive

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.

paperwork.

New business:

1) 2012 Standard Parking additional hiker cost

Hiker salaries for 2012 were over budget because of the disruption in the garage caused by the painting and other work being done there.

2) Surveillance cameras and DVR replacement

The Board approved a vendor's bid for a new digital video recorder for security purposes.

3) 22.1 disclosure

Management will prepare a proposed disclosure statement to be approved by the Board.

4) Sprinkler repairs

Management will take care of this.

5) Bedbug policy

The City Council is considering a new ordinance that addresses the growing problem of bedbugs. The Board considers it imperative that residents notify management immediately if they suspect the presence of bedbugs.

6) D & O insurance coverage

See the Finance & Insurance Committee report above.

Items requiring future board action

1) Laundry Room

After reviewing proposals for new laundry equipment from four vendors, a special committee has distributed questionnaires to all residents, seeking their preferences and suggestions. Once the results of the questionnaires have been tallied, the committee, in conjunction with the entire Board, will decide on the type of equipment it prefers and then get new bids from the vendors on that configuration. Then a vendor will be chosen.

2) Main entrance revolving door

Nothing new to report.

3) Windjammer Room sound system

Director Carl Chadek will get proposals for the Board to consider.

4) Loading dock drain cover repairs

Nothing new to report.

5) Laundry Room hot water tank

No action will be taken until the room is re-equipped.

6) Fourth-floor deck coating

Nothing new to report.

7) Wood refinishing in lobby

Nothing new to report.

8) Elevator and lobby stone polishing

Nothing new to report.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) No action.

Meeting ended at 10:30 p.m. and went into closed session.

What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

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

Your apartment and life safety

Please be aware that automatic closer or spring hinges on the unit doors opening on the corridor is a fire safety NECESSITY. Remember that the last fire in a Chicago high-rise in 2012 killed one person because the door of the unit in which the fire originated was left ajar during the evacuation. Automatic closer or spring hinges on your corridor doors SAVE LIVES.

There is more: You must have the necessary smoke detectors (battery-operated) in your unit that are properly installed and in working condition. These also SAVE LIVES.

Late charges and other fees

Management has implemented the 2013 budget and fee schedule adopted by the Board of Directors. The budget and fee schedule were mailed out to each unit owner in the fall of 2012. There are significant changes to the fees and charges compared to last year's budget: The late payment charge is now \$60; the work orders carry a minimum charge of \$25; unit sale and lease processing fees are now charged to both the unit seller and purchaser, or the lessor and lessee; there are now move-in and move-out fees in addition to the damage security deposit required for all moves; to list a few.

Bedbugs

- Do you know that Chicago has earned the dubious national title as the city with most bedbug treatments in 2012?
- Is the City of Chicago getting ready to act on bedbugs with a special ordinance?
- Do you really know what needs to be done when you suspect bedbugs in your unit?
- Should you treat the bedbugs yourself?
- Would bedbugs travel from one unit to another, from a unit to the Laundry Room, from a unit to the hallway?

- Do you know how long bedbugs can survive with no food (blood)?
- How do you think they get into an apartment in the first place?
- Can you imagine how a bedbug infestation would affect all residents at Malibu East?
- Is it advisable to follow the advice of a non-professional to exterminate them?
- Do you feel a sense of urgency when we are talking about bedbugs?
- Why would we have to treat a unit twice within six months?
- Is there a special preparation to properly treat a unit for bedbugs?
- Would you talk to the property manager if you suspected bedbugs in your unit?

Please immediately contact management should you suspect the presence of bedbugs in your unit. Pass the word to the occupants of your unit, as well.

Email blast

Management is in the process of completing a comprehensive directory. For some of you who didn't return your contact sheet yet, please do so to help us in the completion of this project. We will eventually email-blast documentation to owners, onsite and offsite, to facilitate dissemination of information.

Parking

The Board of Directors would like to hear your opinion about self-parking vs. valet parking in the garage. As you are aware, self-parking necessarily reduces the capacity for parkers in the garage, which isn't a problem at this time, and requires a higher monthly fee than valet parking. Please share your opinion with the directors during the Q & A at the Board meetings.

Storage lockers

Storage lockers are assigned only by the Association and its agents.

A resident cannot and should not take possession of a storage locker without the property manager's direction.

Only one storage locker free of charge can be associated to a unit, notwithstanding the number of persons

living in the unit.

Any person moving out of Malibu East must empty and clean his/her storage locker and contact management to secure the locker with an Association padlock. No locker should be left unlocked as it will get squatted faster than you can anticipate.

Several units in the building are deprived of a storage locker free of charge. The Association is in the process of auditing the storage lockers to rectify this situation. Therefore, be aware that in the coming months, any storage locker used in violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Association will be repossessed by the Association, which will cut the padlocks and dispose of the belongings to a charitable organization. Please come to the Management Office to report the number of the storage locker(s) you are currently using, if you haven't already done so and it doesn't appear on your monthly statement from Sudler.

Any storage locker used without being documented on your contact sheet, or so assigned by the property manager, is subject to immediate entry, including the removal and disposal of its contents.

Basketball backboard proposal

After studying the pros and cons of a resident's proposal to install a basketball backboard in the Racquetball Court, the Board of Directors rejected the proposal at the January Board meeting. Directors expressed concern about the ability of management to maintain good security in an area of the building where there is very little foot traffic. Directors also expressed concern about their ability to adapt the court into a multi-use venue that would be safe for a basketball game. The Board remains receptive to the concept of a basketball hoop if it can find an area of the property that it deems conducive to that purpose.

Questions or concerns? Email me at MECAmgr@SudlerChicago.com 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

"Anniversary Year Begins"

(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. Watch for special speakers and programs.

Regular museum hours:

Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-506-4849

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

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- 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

THEATER / SHOWINGS

CITY LIT THEATRE COMPANY

"Peyton Place" by Grace Metalious

Story of small-town USA and the sexual escapades involving several women. Hypocrisy, social inequities and class privilege are recurring themes – a generic label for a community with sordid secrets.

Feb. 22 thru March 31

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

773-293-3682

citylit.org

LIFELINE THEATRE

The Kids Series: "The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost"

Infamous pirate Blackeye Doodle is at large and the prime suspect of a burglary. Great spooky fun and swashbuckling.

Thru Feb. 17

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

RAVEN THEATRE

"Boy Gets Girl" by Rebecca Gilman

A blind date turns into a living nightmare.

Thru March 2

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

RIVENDELL THEATRE

"American Wee-Pie" by Lisa Dillman

A middle-aged textbook editor returns to his hometown for a funeral and finds himself on an unexpected journey of self-reinvention.

Thru Feb. 16

5779 N. Ridge

773-334-7728

rivendelltheatre.org

STEEP THEATRE

"Luther" by Ethan Lipton

The story of a traumatized war vet who, upon returning home to the States, is adopted by a pair of earnest urbanites.

Thru March 2

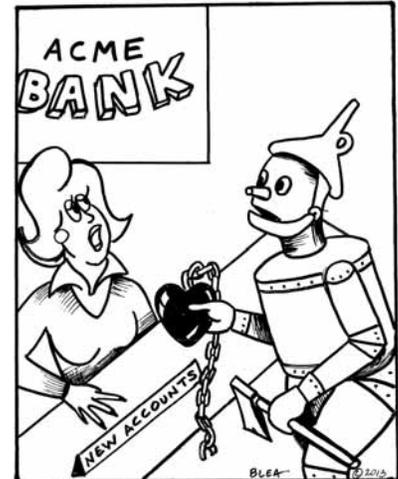
1115 W. Berwyn

773-649-3186

www.steeptheatre.com

Nick Blea cartoon

Beginning in this issue, the Dialogue will periodically publish cartoons by Malibu East resident Nick Blea. Although cartoonist isn't his full-time profession, Nick produces a cartoon for the monthly newsletter at the bank where he works.



"I'm required to tell you that your heart won't be available for three to five business days"

✂ Clip & Save ✂

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Doorman's Station | 773-271-1769 |
| Garage Office | 773-271-5193 |
| Management Office | 773-271-1732 |
| Receiving Room | 773-271-2608 |

CAPTAIN'S WALK MALL

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Ahmad Bastani | 773-506-9600 |
| Drs. Jack & Kerstin Horbal | 773-275-0110 |
| First Commercial Bank | 773-564-4122 |
| Sheridan Hair & Body Studio | 773-561-6595 |
| Malibu Cleaners | 773-728-6023 |
| Malibu Convenient Store | 773-769-5440 |
| H. M. Wagner Realty | 773-334-0200 |

CITY SERVICES/UTILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Aging & Disability | 312-744-4016 |
| Alderman Harry Osterman | 773-784-5277 |
| Assessor's Office | 312-443-7550 |
| AT&T | 800-288-2020 |
| AWB | 312-951-9600 |
| Chicago Transit Authority | 312-664-7200 |
| Chicago Park District | 312-747-2200 |
| City Hall Inquiry & Info | 312-744-5000 |
| Com Ed | 800-334-7661 |
| Consumer Services | 312-744-4006 |
| 48th Ward Streets & San | 312-744-2130 |
| Edgewater Branch library | 312-744-0718 |
| Police (24th Dist.) | 312-744-5907 |
| Police/Fire Emergency Only | 911 |
| Police/Fire Non-emergency | 311 |
| RTA Travel Information | 312-836-7000 |
| USA Wireless | 800-433-4558 |

M Kafé on Thorndale: Tiny space with mighty taste

By Tracy Poyser

Up to now, the north side of Thorndale between Winthrop and Broadway had a couple of serviceable fast-food options, but great Thai dining certainly wasn't one of them. But, now there's M Kafé – just a couple of doors west of the brightly renovated Thorndale Red Line stop. The tagline on its carry-out menu proudly describes its offerings as “super healthy, delicious, fast, Asian gourmet.”

I didn't realize until Neil Warner suggested we check it out for the Dialogue that M Kafé is a reincarnation of the former Bunz Bakery, which just hadn't been able to survive the lack of pedestrian customer traffic exacerbated by the Red Line construction last year. Neil and Debbie Warner and I, together with Beth Robinson and her husband Freddy Flores, made the short walk to the restaurant on a balmy January evening – and none of us was disappointed!



The tiny storefront space was rebuilt from scratch and used to perfection. The décor is simple, understated and classy. The four or five nicely spaced, black lacquered tables and simple chairs are offset by deep red open display cases along the entryway and on the front counter holding art glass and live plants. There are fresh flowers on every table, and the lighting is soft and inviting.

Our group was greeted by Bunz Bakery's former owner, Minh Khan Li, a close friend of the new owners/chefs who is determined to help them succeed.

We decided to share a number of

appetizers and main courses from the extensive, nicely organized pan-Asian menu. Like several other Vietnamese/Thai eateries in Edgewater, the offerings range from hot and cold appetizers, Vietnamese set combos and hot signature entrées to maki rolls and sushi. What set M Kafé apart are its extensive vegan options, with over 40 choices. All of its sauces are vegan and homemade.

With Minh's help, we started with a combination of vegan and chicken egg rolls (nice and light!), a delightfully crunchy and fresh papaya salad with a nice, spicy kick. For our main courses, we opted for Korean sesame beef with green onion and sesame sauce (yummy, tender and full of flavor); drunken spinach noodle featuring broad and slightly chewy noodles, baby spinach, tomato, basil, green bean, green onion and bell pepper (tasty but not my personal favorite, mainly because I prefer the thin noodle varieties); spicy red coconut curry with bamboo shoot, bell pepper, green bean, basil and eggplant (just fiery enough for those of us who prefer it that way); and, for our adventurous tastes, a Red Dragon roll with spicy tuna, BBQ eel, shrimp tempura, cucumber, avocado, carrot and fish roe. Sounds like an odd combination, but it's delicious, although we couldn't quite get the balance of all of the ingredients.

Our tummies didn't have space for dessert after all this, but they do have three options, including Thai pumpkin coconut custard, which sounded interesting. The restaurant is BYOB, with a nice choice of smoothies, teas and soft drinks. Prices are very reasonable – our shared bill for five ended up around \$12 per person, including a generous tip.

I haven't (yet) tried M Kafé's delivery or on-line ordering service, but a friend of mine treated me to some carry-out on a recent Saturday night. The aroma green coconut curry, with the addition of shrimp, is definitely my M Kafé favorite so far, but its Kung Pao chicken was a bit lackluster, with crunchy veggies that were very fresh, but the sauce was a bit thin and lacked texture. I'll stick to the Thai and Vietnamese specialties in the future.

So, give this brave little, new neighborhood jewel a try on a cold winter day or night. Just taking a peek from the outside will make you want to come in and check it out (no reservations). We can guarantee it'll warm you up, as will the smiles of its friendly staff.



M Kafé

1136 W. Thorndale, Chicago, IL 60660

Phone: 773-878-8060

Online ordering: www.mkafe.com

Mon.-Fri.: 3-11 p.m.

Sat.: 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Sun.: closed

(Hours subject to change)

\$10 credit card minimum

Distant tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

under the banner “The Sandy Hook Promise.” Check it out at:

www.sandyhookpromise.org/mission.

It's a remarkable testimony to how good may ultimately come from tragedy.

Close to home, Janet is saddened because so many young victims of violence in our own Edgewater/Uptown/Rogers Park neighborhoods and all over Chicago often warrant just a footnote in the news, forgotten the next day. We mused that Sandy Hook's population probably is not much bigger than the total number of Malibu East residents in our vertical village.

In that spirit, I think that one way to pay tribute to both victims and heroes of tragedy far and near is to care for each other, get to know the neighbors on our floors so we become aware if they need help or comfort, and participate in local community action as best we can. I know Janet will.

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- Please visit us for more information and "before" and "after" photos:

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*.

Elected officials discuss pension reform

By Beth Robinson

Pension reform was the topic of the town hall meeting convened by four local elected officials on Jan. 16 at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. State Sen. Heather Steans, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Ald. Harry Osterman and Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer discussed the need to take action to resolve the troubled financial state of our public pensions in front of a standing-room-only audience.

Public pensions are funded through employee contributions, employer contributions and investment income. State, county and city pension funds now have large unfunded liabilities – that is, gaps between the promised benefits and the funds available to pay those benefits. Public pension funds cover firefighters, police, teachers, employees of public universities and community colleges, as well as state, city and county agencies, members of the General Assembly and others. The Illinois Constitution protects members of public pension systems from diminishment of benefits.

Steans and Cassidy said that the five state pension systems are underfunded as a result of a shortfall in employer contributions, lower-than-expected investment returns, benefit increases, changes in actuarial assumptions and other factors. The share of state spending going to pensions is increasing while decreases in spending for education and human services are projected. Illinois' bond ratings have been lowered, which means that the state pays more for its debt. Some proposed solutions are reducing the cost-of-living adjustment for retirees; increasing the retirement age; requiring retirees to choose between benefits; increasing employee contributions; altering the payment schedule to fund pensions; shifting the cost of teachers' pensions from the state to local suburban and downstate school districts; identifying new sources of revenue; and establishing a funding guarantee to ensure that the state pays its retirement fund contributions.

Though the county has never missed a payment to the pension, Gainer said, the



Cook County pension fund is only 57% funded, a drop from about 90% funded 12 years ago. Options for addressing this gap can be found online at OpenPensions.org.

Osterman stated that without reform of the six public pension funds in the city, the quality of life in Chicago would be affected because less funding would be available for city services.

A number of audience members asserted that the pension shortfalls should not be resolved by drastic cuts in retirement benefits. Seeking new sources of revenue and restructuring debt payments were suggested. Some in the audience urged elected officials to work with public employees and retirees to seek solutions and to keep in mind that public employees have paid into the pension funds in good faith. Pensions have a positive impact on the state economy, some suggested, and reductions in benefits would create hardship for many retirees with relatively modest pensions. Most public employees are ineligible for Social Security.

Officials said they would continue to share information with the community as new proposals are introduced.

Weight Watchers

By Sandy Chaet

After the Floor Representatives Committee repeatedly tried and failed to get enough people to join a Weight Watchers class, the Social Committee is making one more effort to get the necessary participation.

There will be a meeting of Weight Watchers at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20 in the Windjammer Room.

Lee Scheier, who lives at Malibu East and has lost weight using Weight Watchers, will explain the program and answer questions. At this class, participants will sign up for 12 weeks, at a cost of \$156, so bring cash, check (payable to Weight Watchers) or credit card.

We need a minimum of 15 people or else we cannot hold the class here. If you can't attend the meeting, yet want to participate, please contact me prior to Feb. 20.



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The Dialogue

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