

Malibu East *Dialogue*

September 2013

Your Communication and Information Resource

Bob Solone - a Malibu East musical treasure

By Tracy Poyser

If you look at our Laundry Room bulletin board, you will find a flyer with the smiling face of Malibu East's very own pianist/singer/entertainer Bob Solone. Since we have many music lovers in our building, I wanted to interview him for the *Dialogue*. I'd met Bob frequently in the elevator alone or with his girlfriend Jennifer, looking suave and elegant in his tuxedo. Little did I know his life story so far could be a movie script or amazing novel and fill way more than just one eight-page newsletter.

Bob was born in Chicago but grew up in Cicero. His Italian parents – a dad from Calabria and a mom from the Puglia region – were married for 75 years. At age 23 during a long trip to Europe, Bob visited his mother's small hometown unannounced and managed to track down relatives who not only still had the bed that Bob's mother was born in, but a photo of Bob as a kid on their dresser. Within 10 minutes, word



got around the village, and feasts were prepared for the proverbial prodigal son. Bob's mother just turned 100, and a rousing celebration was held at a local Italian restaurant.

Bob's love for all things music started early. As a kid in fourth grade, inspired by old Marx Brothers movies on TV, he wanted to play the harp but settled on the violin, because the lessons and the instrument were more accessible at that time. His earliest influence at age four or five was Liberace – and he now



has what he calls "a bit of a scary photo" with Liberace's arm over his shoulder, taken when Bob played in a Rush Street piano bar. In eighth grade, he got his first piano, and that turned out to be the love of his life. Since 1974, he's owned his Mason & Hamlin grand piano, built in 1928, which has moved with him wherever he lived. His studio/office in Malibu East also houses keyboards and recording equipment for his own compositions.

In high school, Solone was an art major and violinist in the orchestra, and knew he wanted to be a musician. He is mostly self-taught and often took vinyl records out of the library six at a time

to teach himself. He did study classical piano and had a brief adventure sitting in with the rock band The Ides of March. At age 18 while at Morton College, he landed his first five-nights-a-week piano gig. He was also working at UPS at the time, so he had to bring his tuxedo to work.

The high point of his four years in New York was performing a concert at Carnegie Recital Hall of original music for piano and string orchestra. Classical music was and remains Bob's biggest passion. So, I asked, why didn't he pursue a concert career? He feels it would have eaten up too much of life, required single-minded ambition and distanced him from direct contact with the audience, which he so loves.

So, Bob found a niche for his considerable talent in piano bars and other entertainment and restaurant venues. In the early 1970s, he began performing at some of the best clubs in Chicago and internationally, in Europe and Mexico, with extended winter engagements in the Canary Islands, as well as Acapulco, Cuernavaca and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico. In 1975, he played at the MGM Grand Hotel and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. He got his gigs mainly by word of mouth and referrals, together with his sunny personality and charisma when asking for a chance to play and sing.

During gigs in the heart of New York's theater district and elsewhere, he got to rub shoulders with a bunch of celebrities, including Lana Turner and Cesar Romero. One memorable impromptu event was accompanying Debbie Reynolds as she perched on top of his piano and sang for about an hour. The extensive black and white photo gallery in Bob's hallway at Malibu East is testimony to numerous celebrity encounters, but he tells me he much prefers regular people, and especially Midwesterners, who are grounded in

(Continued on page 8)

Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 11

8:00 p.m. - Community Room

Annual owners meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 17

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

(Board election voting from 7-8 p.m.)

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, Sept. 19

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

Board meeting - budget review

Tuesday, Sept. 24

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

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



Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

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.

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013

Attendance: Eleven Board members, two management representatives and 10 residents

Excused: Martina Molins

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Reimbursement for payments" was added to Treasurer's Report.
- 2) "Golf final payment for garage painting" was added to Items Requiring Board Action.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner

1) Financial statement

Operating and reserve cash
\$2,977,467.88

2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$336,000

3) Audit

A first draft of the 2012 audit has been received and will be reviewed.

4) Reimbursement for payments

Management will try to develop a system that provides quicker reimbursement for Social Committee events.

PURCHASE OF UNIT 23L AND SALE OF UNIT 41K

- 1) The association's purchase of unit 23L has been delayed because of contract issues.
- 2) The association's sale of unit 41K closed earlier today under terms approved by the owners and the Board at meetings on July 23.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Social - Neil Warner

The white elephant sale was a success, with 16 residents renting tables. A new Belly Dance for Fitness class will begin Thursday, Sept. 12 from 7 to 8 p.m.; five classes cost \$50. The Zumba class continues on Sunday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Racquetball Court; participation is free.

2) Aesthetics & Building Maintenance - Maria Damp & Carl Chadek

The committee is working on a number of projects, including the Laundry Room renovation, new shelving for the Community Room, new chairs for the garage waiting room, and painting of the Receiving Room, Teen Room and Children's Playroom. The Board authorized the Executive Committee to

approve a change, if warranted, in the amount of an electrical contract for the Laundry Room, for which a portion of the work had been delayed.

3) ASCO, Public & Community Affairs - Sandy Chaet

Don't forget to write/email Mayor Emanuel and/or the City Council regarding the proposed energy benchmarking ordinance (see article, page 3). The water main work on Sheridan Road between Thorndale and Devon will be completed soon after Labor Day, to be followed by resurfacing and curb repairs on Sheridan Road from Hollywood to Devon. You can continue to expect a reduction in lanes and restrictions on left turns during the project. Check the bulletin board in the Laundry Room for updates.

4) Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner

The swimming pools will remain open as long as the weather permits. A new yoga class will begin Sept. 9. Beginners are welcome.

MANAGEMENT REPORT - Violette Deschamps

Items requiring immediate Board action

1) K & H balcony investigation

The Board approved final payments to Klein and Hoffman for its balcony/façade investigation.

2) Loading dock trench work

The Board voted to reclassify this work under the operating contingency fund.

3) Elevator traveling cables

The Board voted to use a pair of traveling cables in one elevator to install a speaker and determine how well it works before proceeding with the other elevators.

4) Unit 23L remodeling

Tabled.

5) Real-estate brokerage services

Moved to closed session.

6) 22.1 disclosure form

The Board approved the revised form for distribution to prospective buyers.

7) Final payment for garage painting

Tabled.

Old business

1) Laundry Room

Discussed during committee reports.

2) Voice communication system

We're waiting on additional quotes for ancillary work.

3) Captain's Walk plumbing

We're waiting on additional quotes for lining a cracked drain pipe.

4) Boat dock stairwell project

An architect has been hired.

5) Façade report

Work continues on the D tier.

6) State fire marshal's sprinkler mandate

The fire marshal withdrew his proposed new rules on Aug. 2.

7) Association-owned units - repair protocol

Nothing new.

8) Garage

Moved to closed session.

9) Restaurant project

Nothing new.

10) In-house TV channel

Nothing new.

11) Malibu Condominium requests

On hold.

New business

1) J tier clean-outs and rodding

The Board authorized an expenditure for installing clean-outs in the J tier for the purpose of rodding the kitchen drain line from the base of the drain to the 45th floor.

2) Sale of unit 23K

Moved to closed session.

3) Façade/balcony individual inspections

The Board authorized the repair of a C unit's balcony as recommended by our engineering firm.

4) Painting of small balconies

Management will investigate our cost of painting the small balconies and make a price recommendation to the Board.

5) Pool attendants

Director Neil Warner recommended that management seek to hire older adults as pool attendants beginning next year.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) The Board voted to issue a small rebate to a tenant in an association-owned unit where some equipment failed to operate properly.
- 2) The Board denied an owner's request for an exemption from the property tax protest fee because the owner benefited from a lower assessed valuation.

The meeting ended at 10 p.m. and went into closed session.

What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

Malibu East is encouraging everyone to recycle, and recycle more. However, even a simple task such as recycling needs to be done in a way that it will not become a nuisance to the property and its residents.

Examples of items that should be avoided when recycling:

- Dirty containers will attract bugs and release odors fumes, usually unpleasant;
- Bugs will follow food and organic matter left in containers; pest infestation on a floor is extremely detrimental to all;
- Drippings will stain the floor, which may become slippery and cause accidents;
- Broken recyclables may cause severe injuries to other residents or the maintenance staff;
- Medical equipment and syringes are prohibited, posing risks of contamination and contagion;
- Cat litter is toxic and untreatable by the City of Chicago and therefore should never be tossed into the blue recycling containers; instead, it should be wrapped securely and placed on the floor of the bulk room);
- Batteries, fluorescent bulbs and electronic equipment can damage the environment and should not be recycled in the association's regular recycling program;

Items you should recycle:

- Plastic bottles and jugs - water, soda, milk, detergent, etc. (rinsed out)
- Aluminum foil products (rinsed out and flattened)
- Scrap metal (flattened)
- Tin or bimetal cans (cleaned out)
- Juice and milk cartons (rinsed out and flattened, if possible)
- Glass bottles and jars (rinsed out - do not break)
- Cardboard boxes (completely flattened)
- Office paper
- Magazines

- Newspapers
- Junk mail
- Envelopes
- File folders
- Computer paper
- Card stock paper

Do NOT recycle the following:

- Food waste
- Styrofoam
- Pizza boxes
- Paint cans
- Cat litter

Contact specialized recycling services for:

- Medical equipment and accessories (syringes, etc.)
- Printer cartridges
- Cell phones
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Batteries
- Computers/electronics
- Toxic materials

Note: The 48th Ward alderman's office periodically organizes recycling days, at which such items as batteries, computers and other electronics can be safely recycled. Contact the alderman's office for details (773-784-5277).

Items not specifically identified as suitable for recycling should be bagged and sent down the garbage chute. However, if they are too large or pose a hazard (toxic or hazardous materials), they should be carried to a dumpster on the lower level near the Receiving Room. If you need assistance in disposing of an article, contact the Management Office.

A few more items **MUST** still be carried by hand to the lower level. These include paint cans still containing paint/varnish, glass jars with contents still remaining, any form of unsecured toxic material, or any material that could pose a hazard or cleanup problem.

If you're in doubt, contact management. Please participate and help us to become an example of excellence in recycling.

Energy ordinance

The Chicago City Council is expected to consider a proposed "Building Energy Use Benchmarking" ordinance when it meets Sept. 11. As explained in the August issue of the *Dialogue*, passage of the ordinance could have a profound effect on owners and renters at Malibu East and other city high-rises.

According to William O'Leary, president of ABOMA, the Apartment Building Owners and Managers Association, the proposed ordinance would require all condo and apartment buildings of at least 50,000 square feet to report to the city how much energy they are using, not to mention how much energy is being used by each individual unit in the building.

A failure to comply with the ordinance, which would take effect in 2015, would result in a fine. The requirements of the ordinance would ultimately cause condo associations to raise assessments to cover the new responsibilities placed on them, according to O'Leary.

If you wish to voice your concern about the added financial burden that this proposed ordinance would place on you, you should contact your alderman, Harry Osterman, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel. You can email the mayor at letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org, with a copy to mayor.emanuel@cityofchicago.org.

You can email Ald. Osterman at Harry@48thward.org.

For more details on this issue, read the article on page 7 of the August *Dialogue*. Past issues can be found at www.malibueast.org/dialogue

Sheridan Road work

With the water main work on Sheridan Road nearly finished, more construction work is scheduled for the busy street. By mid-September work will begin on the curbs, gutters and driveways from West Sheridan/Devon to Hollywood. After all of this work is completed, the street will be resurfaced.

As with the water main work, some lanes will be closed and other traffic restrictions may be in effect. The City is hoping to finish this work by Thanksgiving.

A community meeting about this project will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan Road.



Community Calendar

By Betty Mayian

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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312-742-7502

tinyurl.com/27YYYN

EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

Now open for business at:
6000 N. Broadway
Mon. and Wed.: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tue. and Thur.: noon - 8 p.m.
Fri. and Sat.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(closed on Sundays)

tinyurl.com/5L55TL

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Anniversary Year Treasures of Edgewater"

(25 years as a historical society)

The current exhibit is the Treasures of Edgewater. The 25th Annual Home Tour is in Edgewater Glen, starting from Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Elmdale, Sunday, Sept. 15, noon until 4 p.m. \$25 per person.

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

THEATER / SHOWINGS

LIFELINE THEATRE

"The Killer Angels"

Gen. Robert E. Lee leads his army into the North, and the Army of the Potomac has no choice but to pursue. Over the course of three historic days, a remarkable group of soldiers wrestle with their doubts, their fears and their hopes for a shattered nation.

Sept. 6 thru Oct. 27

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

RAVEN THEATRE

"The Trip to Bountiful" by Horton Foote

The poignant tale of an elderly woman hellbent on returning to her beloved home in Bountiful, Texas, after being forced to live with her hen-pecked son and resentful daughter-in-law in a cramped apartment in Houston.

Sept. 27 thru Nov. 17

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"The Beautiful Dark"

Can a mother stop her depressed teenage son from doing the unthinkable?

Thru Sept. 8

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

RUM & COKE COLLECTIVE

"Apples & Roofies"

Awakening in a jail cell after a vicious assault, Rachel finds solace in her only cellmate, a developmentally delayed 15-year-old.

Thru Sept. 8

City Lit Theater

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

rumandcoketheater.wix.com/rumandcoke

The 'other' Hollywood

By Nick Blea

When people think of the motion picture industry, one city comes to mind: Hollywood, Calif. But there was a time when the epicenter of the industry was right here in Chicago. And one doesn't have to venture far from our building to see signs of a bygone era.

The year was 1908, and a Chicago company formerly known as the Peerless Film Manufacturing Company changed its name to Essanay and moved north to 1333-1345 W. Argyle St. in the Uptown neighborhood.

One of the foremost silent film studios and production companies at the time, Essanay boasted a roster of film legends such as Wallace Beery, Gloria Swanson, Harold Lloyd and its most famous star, Charlie Chaplin. After the decline of the silent era, the studio was acquired by independent film producer Norman Wilding and produced mostly industrial films. Since 1970 the building has housed a variety of tenants and today is home to St. Augustine College. The main entrance of the building still bears the name "Essanay" with its ornate design, just as it did in 1908.

George K. Spoor, one of the co-founders of Essanay, realized that he needed housing convenient to the studio for his stable of stars. So he developed a lavish apartment building
(Continued on page 5)

'Town Crier' announcements by Caitlin Gilman

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

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

The 'other' Hollywood (Continued from page 4)

on the shores of Lake Michigan and named it the Aquitania. Located at 5000 N. Marine Drive, this magnificent building rivaled the famous apartment houses of New York, such as the Dakota. The Aquitania, named for the famous Cunard ocean liner, was completed in 1923. It operated as an apartment building until 1949, when it became a co-op. The building still stands today. While strolling by the building, one can imagine Gloria Swanson exiting the lobby and traipsing through the courtyard on her way to the studio.

In 1910, four Chicago businessmen founded the American Film Manufacturing Company, located at 6227 N. Broadway. The building was primarily used for editing and manufacturing motion pictures filmed at their studios located at Devon and Western Avenue. As with other film production companies, they relocated to California in the late 1920s. The original building on Broadway no longer exists, and the site is now occupied by a McDonald's.

I have always been fascinated by the motion picture industry and was amazed to discover that Chicago, and particularly our neighborhood, was the motion picture capital when Los Angeles was mostly farmland. After all, Hollywood Avenue still runs through the center of Edgewater, doesn't it?

So, before you plan that trip out west to see TCL Chinese Theatre or the Walk of Fame, put on some comfortable clothes and walking shoes and take a walk through the "other" Hollywood.

[Note: Some information in this article was derived from "Hollywood on Lake Michigan: 100+ Years of Chicago and the Movies" by Arnie Bernstein.]



American Film Company (1917 postcard image from Illinois Digital Archives)

Board election begins

The annual meeting of unit owners at Malibu East is set for Sept. 17 in the Windjammer Room, having been moved from Sept. 10. It is important that owners participate in the election of the Board of Directors, since the Board makes decisions that influence how our building is being run and how assessments are being spent.

The six Board candidates who submitted their applications prior to the Aug. 2 deadline are Carol Beatty, Maria Damp, Allan L. Eckardt, Carl Stahlheber, Richard Strauss and Thomas C. Vaughan. All but Mrs. Beatty are incumbent Board members, and Mrs. Beatty previously served on the Board. There are six Board positions to be filled in the election.

Given the write-in campaign by incumbent Martina Molins, several owners present at the Aug. 27 Board meeting posed a number of questions to the Board about the unusual circumstances surrounding this election. Several questions revolved around the procedure for write-in candidates, including the concept that a write-in candidate's name could be preprinted on a new proxy form. Election rules permit owners to offer themselves or another owner as a write-in candidate at any time after the application deadline through the evening of the annual meeting. They can send to the other owners their own proxy form, listing any candidate or slate of candidates, but they must do it at their own expense.

In this election, an owner can mail either the original proxy form or the one provided by the write-in candidate's group, to Dean Lerner, our property supervisor at Sudler Property Management. (There is also a box for depositing proxies at the doorman station.) With either form, an owner can cast a maximum of six votes, allocated as the owner sees fit among one to six candidates, or any number in between.

If an owner submits more than one proxy form, the proxy cast with the later date written on it will supersede the other. Likewise, an owner can submit a ballot in person at the annual meeting, and it will supersede any

proxy previously submitted by that owner.

A Meet the Candidates Night, organized by the Social Committee, was held Aug. 28 in the Windjammer Room, with candidates Beatty, Eckardt, Stahlheber and Strauss attending, along with a dozen or more interested residents. An informal Q & A session was held, followed by a discussion of how to get more residents involved in building activities.

The annual meeting will feature the Board president's State of the Association address, reports by officers and committee chairs, questions from the audience, and a report of the election results.

Winning caption

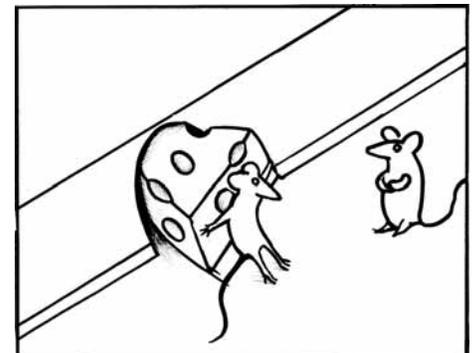
"How many times did I tell you - 'Measure twice and cut once'!"

That's the winning entry in our cartoon caption contest, which appeared in the past two months' issues. It was submitted by longtime resident Betty Mayian.

Bob Solone, the subject of this month's page 1 feature, submitted the entry voted as runner-up - "What cheese?"

Honorable mention goes to Lori Gentry's submission: "I heard it's going to be another long & hard Chicago winter this year."

The *Dialogue* thanks those who participated in the contest.



How many times did I tell you - "Measure twice and cut once"!

Edgewater library - more than just books

By Lori Ziesmer

After many years of planning and two years of construction, the Edgewater branch of the Chicago Public Library is open and will certainly impact the quality of life in our neighborhood in a positive way. I had the opportunity to tour the library and speak with several staff members, who hope to see all of us at Malibu East utilizing the amenities in their new building.

The library comprises over 16,000 square feet on two floors and was awarded silver LEED certification for using recycled products in the construction, variable heating and cooling systems, dozens of windows throughout that adjust based on the available sunlight, and a 50% green rooftop. If climbing stairs is difficult for you, the library has an elevator to take you to the second floor and back down.

Over \$13 million was spent on the construction of the building, and another \$500,000 was spent on new books for the shelves. You can find the latest offerings from the New York Times best-sellers list, as well as books for children, travel, foreign languages, science, computers, nonfiction, etc. If you own a Kindle, or similar reading device, you can download up to six books at a time for up to three weeks from the library's vast list of e books. The library has a large selection of both CDs and DVDs that you can check out for your listening and viewing pleasure.

Are you interested in going to the zoo

or one of our major museums? The library has complimentary or reduced-price passes for up to four people that you can check out for up to a week at a time. If you don't own a personal computer, the library has 54 new desktops, each programmed with the Microsoft Office suite. The computers can be utilized for homework or research of any type. There is also Wi-Fi throughout the building in case you need to check email on your smartphone or want to download a book while you are there.

If you need help navigating the Internet, have email questions, want to learn a computer program, need assistance with downloading an e-book, or have any other technical issues, sign up for a session with the Cyber Navigators. The one-on-one session is free and is offered 20 hours a week, Monday through Thursday (Tuesday and Thursday until 8 p.m.). Contact Jorge at 312-742-1929 or by email at jgarcn@gmail.com.

The library has several meeting rooms that you can reserve. Two rooms hold up to four each and have televisions for watching a DVD or projecting a PowerPoint presentation from your computer. The Teen Lounge has a capacity of eight and can be reserved only until 2:30 p.m. so that the teens can use the lounge after school. The Community Meeting Room holds a maximum of 80 people. This room can be divided into smaller spaces and must be reserved for use two weeks in advance. All the meeting rooms are complimentary. Each patron may have up to four hours per week of usage,

based on availability.

I was impressed with the programs that have been rolled out in the short time the library has been open, and the ideas for future programs the staff shared with me. Programs for children, teens and adults, including book readings, film screenings and author events every two months are in the works. The library will have Tuesday night book discussions, and film watching followed by discussions on Saturdays. They already had a local scientist from Northwestern University speak on climate change and the environment. For fall, plans are being made for chamber music concerts, local Edgewater thespians will be reading plays, and Meditation Chicago will be offering free meditation sessions. The library will be bringing in speakers to discuss community gardens, co-op gardens, and school and church garden projects.

The new library should be viewed as much more than a building housing books, events and computers. It will be the catalyst for positive community activity in and around the neighborhood. I signed up for a new library card during my visit with the Edgewater library staff. I am looking forward to browsing the stacks of new books and bringing many of them home.

Edgewater branch library
6000 N. Broadway
Mon., Wed. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tue., Thu. 12 - 8 p.m.
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday closed
www.Chipublib.org

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Chicago, Illinois 60641
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Cell: (773) 520-1945
PSmith6033@sbcGlobal.net

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- Disposals Replaced
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 Cell: 773-425-2239
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Call for a Free Estimate

"NO JOB IS TOO SMALL"

Bob Solone*(Continued from page 1)*

reality and just plain friendly.

Bob moved from New York back home to Chicago 30 years ago. One of his most generous mentors and personal heroes on our local music scene was jazz pianist Buddy Charles, who played at the bygone Acorn on Oak for 18 years and died in 2008. After living in Ravenswood Manor and Lakeview, he bought his condo perch on Malibu East's 42nd floor in 2002 and would like to stay here for the rest of his life.

Of all the countries he's visited, Bob loves Mexico the most. For many years, he spent two or three months each year playing in Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas and other sunbird destinations. At 21, he drove to Mexico on a whim, after ending a contract in Elmhurst. He had never been outside the Midwest and was hoping to find work in Acapulco. On his way, he stopped for what was supposed to be an overnight stay at the Hotel del Parque in the historic small city of Zacatecas in the north-central part of Mexico. A small boy showed him to a restaurant, and sure enough, when Bob spotted a piano and agreed to play a few songs, the owner invited him to come back the next evening and entertain the guests. Of course, Bob agreed – and when he stepped out on his hotel balcony the next morning, there was a truck with a great big banner and a loudspeaker going by, announcing that the famous American “Bob Solone, pianist de Chicago” would be the featured attraction at Restaurante La Troje. Bob stayed for six weeks and didn't make it to Acapulco that time.

He finds great contentment and joy performing in Chicago's piano bars – a dying breed on the entertainment scene. To see him in his natural habitat, I stopped at Maggiano's on Aug. 28 with my Malibu East friend Margo for an early dinner. Maggiano's piano bar fills the southeast corner of the restaurant's bar area, with floor-to-ceiling windows providing a gorgeous backdrop of city lights. Every single seat at the piano was filled with adoring members of what was clearly a Bob Solone fan club

of regulars. Except for one short break, he played and sang his heart out, from classical potpourri interludes to golden oldies, '60s rock, jazz and duets with a 93-year-old female vocalist with an absolutely amazing voice. Listening to him takes you back to nightlife in Chicago when it was at its best – and I can only judge that starting in 1972 when I moved here. Hearing him give a spot-on rendition of Procol Harum's “A Whiter Shade of Pale” sure made me nostalgic for my 20s in London, England.

So, to hear Bob yourself, stop in at Maggiano's Littly Italy at Clark and Grand in River North on Wednesdays and Fridays between 6 and 10 p.m.; at Gibson's Steakhouse at 1028 N. Rush on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; or at the East Bank Club on Thursdays from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Of course, Bob takes requests – so just ask for your favorite, and I bet he'll do it more than justice.

For more information and a sampling of Bob's music, check his website, www.bobsolone.com

Jewish High Holidays*By Barbara Abarbanell*

Rosh Hashanah, the generational New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, are known as the Jewish High Holidays, and they occur in sequence, 10 days apart. Actually, there is a third holiday within this sequence. There is the weekly Sabbath, the one in the Ten Commandments. It's a special Sabbath when it occurs between the High Holidays, and there is a recalculation of Rosh Hashanah's date so it can't occur on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. It can occur on the eve of Yom Kippur.

The concept of High Holiday distinguishes these two holidays from all other holidays in the Jewish lunar calendar, which varies in length from 353-380 days. Following a lunar calendar means the day begins at sundown, not sunrise. Both address the reaffirmation of the one-god concept, so they are elevated in importance from all other holidays and festivals in the Jewish calendar. This elevation occurred in medieval times.

This year Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Sept. 4; the Special Sabbath begins at sundown on Sept. 6; Yom Kippur and another Special Sabbath begin at sundown on Sept. 13.

The Dialogue

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