

# Malibu East Dialogue

February 2014

Your Communication and Information Resource

## A long life well-lived despite scary obstacles

By Neil Warner

Imagine finding yourself in a strange, new country at the age of 16, suddenly living with a new family and encountering unfamiliar customs. Just imagine.



This was the scenario gripping many Jews faced with a difficult choice as the Nazis rose to power before World War II: stay in an increasingly polarized, anti-Semitic Germany ruled by Adolf Hitler, or leave everything behind and flee to another country where the future was equally uncertain. This was the scenario faced 74 years ago by the family of Ilse Siegler, a Malibu East resident for the past 33 years.

It's a familiar story, and yet one that is not recited often enough today, as many survivors of these catastrophic events have died.

Ilse grew up as an only child in Öhringen in southwest Germany. Her father, Julius Thalheimer, and two uncles owned a chemical/paint factory there. Her father was imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp following the so-called Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass") on Nov. 9, 1938, when Nazi supporters vandalized Jewish homes, synagogues and businesses. An estimated 30,000 Jewish males were arrested in the days following Kristall-

nacht, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with many transferred to concentration camps. Julius was released from the camp several months later for unknown reasons ("My father never talked about it," Ilse says), but he lost his ownership in the family factory, and the family moved to Stuttgart.



Sadly, daily life for Jews was rapidly deteriorating in Stuttgart and elsewhere in Germany. "We couldn't sit on park benches, we couldn't go to movies, we couldn't have housekeeping help in our homes," Ilse says. Jews were allowed to attend school only up to the eighth or ninth grade, she recalls. "My uncle took me to Munich to attend cooking school, but I wasn't the housekeeping type."

So, Ilse moved to Berlin to attend a girls' school in 1939, where they had to cover the windows with black curtains and everyone was assigned to a bomb shelter. In the meantime, her parents were seeking a way to get out of Germany. The United States had an immigration quota, meaning that those seeking a visa to immigrate there needed an affidavit from a U.S. citizen stating that the citizen would be willing, and had the financial wherewithal, to provide room and board for the immigrants even if they were unable to find a job in the U.S.

Ilse's family received an affidavit

from an uncle in Chicago, but the American embassy denied the application because the uncle was considered too old to be a reliable long-term sponsor for Ilse and her two young cousins. The family had distant relatives in Little Rock, Ark., but they weren't in a position to host anyone else. However, they referred Ilse's family to very distant relatives in Greenwood, Miss., who indeed sent an affidavit, which the embassy accepted. Unbeknownst to Ilse at the time, the Mississippi family planned to adopt her and her two cousins if everything worked out as planned.

Ilse's family hurriedly made plans to leave Germany. They had to surrender nearly all of their assets to the Nazis, including stocks, bonds and even diamond engagement rings. Her father had \$30 in his possession when leaving Stuttgart by a train bound for Holland, but because that was above the allowable limit, \$20 was confiscated by the authorities. The family was able to ship some furniture and other personal belongings to the U.S., but part of it never arrived, supposedly lost at sea. They took the last train to leave Holland before the Nazis invaded the country, traveling to Le Havre, France, where

(Continued on page 5)



Front row: (L to R) Katie Heffernan, Ruth-Betty Spilky, Jovita Duran. Middle row: Barbara Murphy, Dorothy Doherty, Sandy Chaet, Ara Mayian, Ilse Siegler, Aida Calvopina, Adeline Kalant. Back row: Mae Johnson. Photos by Tracy Poyser.

### Malibu East events and meetings

#### Thursday afternoon discussion

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

#### Board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 25  
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. 28, 2014

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

Excused: Joan Scholl

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

### REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Cable consultant" was added under New Business.

### PURCHASE OF UNIT 9L

The Board voted 9-1, with one abstention, to exercise its right of first refusal on the purchase of unit 9L at a price of \$117,000 plus or minus credits and prorations.

### TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner

#### 1) Financial statement

Operating and reserve cash  
Numbers not yet available

#### 2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$329,000

#### 3) Audit

The Finance Committee and management have begun preliminary work on the 2013 audit.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1) Communications & Cable - Thomas Vaughan

The committee is investigating the options for our next cable/satellite TV contract with various vendors (see article, page 6).

#### 2) Employees' holiday fund - Neil Warner

The holiday fund saw a 17% increase over 2012, with a record \$34,000 being distributed.

#### 3) Garage - Martina Molins

There's a waiting list for single self-parking, but tandem spaces are available. **Standard Parking report as of Dec. 31 - Ali Saeed, Mgr.**

#### Claims

Approved:	1
Denied:	2
Pending:	0
Total:	3

#### Waiting lists

Single self-park:	7
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

#### Monthly parkers

Single:	161
Tandem:	16
Valet:	262
Preferred:	1
Motorcycle:	1
Nonresident:	34
Engineer:	NC
Total:	475

#### Garage capacity

Single:	161
Tandem:	42
Valet stalls:	284
Valet aisles:	20

Motorcycles:	3
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Total:	510
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(Under capacity)	35
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#### Changes

New monthlies:	8
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Cancellations:	7
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Upgrades:	1
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Downgrades:	0
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#### 4) Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner

A new yoga class begins the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. in the Windjammer Room.

#### 5) Social - Sandy Chaet

A meeting on residential high-rise safety will be held at 10 a.m. March 29 in the Windjammer Room. A chocolate feast has been planned for March 9, with each attendee being asked to bring something chocolate, and an Easter egg hunt is planned for April 12. A free Zumba class continues every Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Racquetball Court. A new Fitness Through Belly Dance class will begin Feb. 13.

#### 6) ASCO/Community Affairs - Sandy Chaet

Whole Foods has purchased the Dominick's store at Broadway and Glenlake and will open it in early 2015. An ASCO general meeting will be held Feb. 19 at Shoreline Towers, 6301 N. Sheridan Road.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT - Violette

#### Deschamps

#### Items requiring immediate Board action

##### 1) D & O insurance renewal

The Board approved the new directors and officers insurance policy, with a premium 3.4% above the previous year's.

##### 2) Bedbug policy

The Board authorized the mailing of a bedbug policy to owners for their review and comments before it is adopted.

##### 3) Conceal-and-carry law signage

Tabled.

##### 4) Captain's Walk mechanical projects

Tabled.

##### 5) 22.1 disclosure form

Approved.

#### Old business

##### 1) Voice communication

Work is nearly complete.

##### 2) Penthouse repairs

Tabled.

##### 3) Garage lighting

Tabled.

##### 4) Garage membrane repairs

Necessary repairs will be done.

##### 5) Plumbing lining/Captain's Walk

Management continues to work with the City to get a permit for lining a drainpipe.

##### 6) 2014 facade work

A meeting will be held with our engineering firm to discuss the scope of the project and a schedule for future years.

##### 7) Captain's Walk restaurant

Nothing new.

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.

#### 8) Painting of small balconies

Nothing new.

### New business

#### 1) 33L list of work

Walk-through of Association-owned unit 33L revealed it is in very good condition.

#### 2) Caulking and balcony membranes

The Board will consider these additional types of repairs in planning future work.

#### 3) Elevator cab consultant

Management is seeking proposals from consultants to advise the Board on the aesthetic improvements to the elevator cabs.

#### 4) Camera/Captain's Walk north entrance

New camera will be installed.

#### 5) Garage drain maintenance

Installation of new electrical outlets will enable the staff to clean floors without washing debris down the drains.

#### 6) Garage general maintenance

Management is looking into the purchase of a sweeper that will pick up debris from floors.

#### 7) Lobby & Captain's Walk doors and windows

Management will seek ways to minimize the air infiltration into the building through the Captain's Walk and the Lobby.

#### 8) Captain's Walk elevator maintenance

Service outages of this elevator have been excessive.

#### 9) Cable consultant

The Board approved the hiring of a consultant for evaluating our TV and Internet services and to assist with the bidding and vendor selection processes related to a new contract beginning in 2015.

### RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) None.

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

### Special meeting of unit owners

#### Jan. 28, 2014

Attendance: Eleven Board members, two management representatives and 11 residents

Excused: Joan Scholl

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

This special meeting of unit owners was held immediately before the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Following an open forum to discuss the pros and cons of exercise, the owners overwhelmingly approved a motion authorizing the Board of Directors to exercise its right of first refusal on unit 9L at a purchase price of \$117,000, plus or minus credits and prorations. President Molins voted the proxies in favor of the resolution to exercise.

## What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

**Life safety:** Commercial Alarm is at the phase of troubleshooting our brand-new voice communication system. The system will be inspected by the City of Chicago, probably in March 2014. Management has received requests to install spring hinges on unit doors from about 40 unit owners thus far. To clarify, the requirement of installing automatic closer devices (spring hinges) on the unit doors is NOT a new city ordinance. This requirement has been in place since the construction of the building in the early 1970s.

**Elevator modernization:** Management has launched the bidding process for the interior cab renovations. The Board of Directors will discuss this matter at its February Board meeting.

**Database:** Please make a small effort and stop by the management office to fill out your contact sheet. It will take you barely a few minutes to oblige.

**Construction/improvements in units:** All condominium associations have rules governing construction work in units – all of them. Whether they are enforced or not is another matter. Please take note that management enforces the construction rules at Malibu East. Numerous owners apparently are not aware of our rules governing construction, improvements, alterations and repairs in units. This leads to stress, frustration, loss of time and money, and unnecessary chaotic situations.

**Garbage chute and recyclables:** *Would you leave your waste bag stuck by the rubber flapper inside the door for the garbage chute so that the next resident has to push it down the chute for you?* We would think not.

*Would you drop your shredded paper loose down the chute when, in fact, it is perfect for recycling?* We would think not, as the shredded paper should be placed first in a bag and then recycled.

*Would you dispose of your recyclables (metal/glass/plastic/paper) in the chute because it takes a few more minutes to clean and drop them in the recycling bin?* We would think not.

*Would you leave your leftover food or drink in its plastic container and drop it in the recycling bin?* We would think not.

*Would it smell and leak on the floor if perishables and liquids are left in the recyclables?* Yes.

*Would you expect infestation as a result of perishables being left inside recyclables?* Yes.

*Would it be a lot of trouble for our residents to get rid of an infestation?* Guaranteed.

*Do you think that the Association would pay less for waste-hauling services if we were recycling more at Malibu East?* Absolutely.

Help us keep the building in good, clean condition by recycling responsibly.

**SNAPP:** Sudler's No-Check Automatic Payment Plan is one of the best, most reliable methods to pay your monthly assessment. Your payment will be processed on the fifth or sixth day of each month, with no tasks needed from you other than a one-time application. You won't have to worry about slow delivery by the U.S. Postal Service or online payment delays. SNAPP will only take from your designated bank account the exact amount that is due for a particular month. You won't ever have to worry about a \$60 late charge. You can enroll in SNAPP online or in the Management Office.

### '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*.

## Polish sausage: two ways

By Barbara Abarbanell

Friend Charlie comes from the old Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago, where both his mother and father worked at the Stockyards. So did everyone who was able-bodied in his extended family, including Charlie and his brothers and sisters, part time after school from the time they were 13, as did his aunts and uncles and cousins.

All were frugal people, Polish in origin, traditional in family ways. In other words, Charlie's mother and all the women in his family not only worked like dogs full time, but also grocery-shopped, cooked, cleaned ... you get the picture.

Charlie was a war baby. He and his first cousin, Wayne, another war baby, were the first white-collar workers in their large families. They were close growing up and are close to this day, 74 years later. Both were in outside sales in the same industry, and I was in an allied industry, advertising, where Charlie and Wayne were my suppliers. We three became chums, and our friendship lasted for about 25 years, even when I left the advertising industry, if I recall correctly.

They were second-generation Americans, educated, sophisticated, well-traveled, and yet, their eyes became dreamy and distant when they talked about Polish sausage with sauerkraut as their favorite meal. Memories of food eaten and enjoyed in childhood will do that to you.

It's no wonder that their favorite family recipe memory contains three-plus-one ingredients and can be made and served in 15-20 minutes. This is desperately tired, frugal mothers' cooking for large families.

### Ingredients

- 4 -6 Polish sausages (Kielbasa), cut in rounds.
- 1 large chopped onion.
- 1 can sauerkraut, drained.
- Idaho potatoes, peeled, sliced thin or chunked.

(Continued on page 4)



## 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

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

tinyurl.com/5L55TL

#### EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Current exhibit: "Gems from Our Collection" (thru June).  
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

www.whitecranewellness.org

### THEATER / SHOWINGS

#### CITYLIT THEATRE

*"The Tempest"* by William Shakespeare

We are such stuff as dreams are made on. Shakespeare's final play.  
Thru March 16  
1020 W. Bryn Mawr  
773-293-3682  
citylit.org

#### NEWHART FAMILY THEATRE - LOYOLA

*"From the Mississippi Delta"* by Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland  
The civil-rights movement acts as a

catalyst for this memoir. Harrowing episodes are tempered with humor and tenderness.

Feb. 20 thru March 2  
1020 W. Sheridan Road  
773-508-3847  
blogs.luc.edu/artsalive/newhart-family-theatre/

#### RAVEN THEATRE

*"Playboy of the Western World"* by John M. Synge

What happens when a handsome young stranger saunters into a Dublin pub telling grand tales and boasting of dark deeds?

Thru April 5  
6157 N. Clark  
773-338-2177  
raventheatre.com

#### REDTWIST THEATRE

*"Happy"* by Robert Caisley

An offbeat comedy/drama about the life choices we make – and whether they make us happy... or not.

Feb. 15 thru March 16  
1044 W. Bryn Mawr  
773-728-7529  
redtwist.org

#### RIVENDELL THEATRE

*"Rasheeda Speaking"* by Joel Drake Johnson

Tensions rise between the races in a white physician's office, as co-workers in a once-cordial workplace battle.

Thru Feb. 15  
5779 N. Ridge  
773-334-7728  
rivendelltheatre.org

#### RUM & COKE COLLECTIVE

*"Endlings"* by J.W. Brewer

A manic dark comedy.  
Thru Feb. 23  
Berger Coach House  
6205 N. Sheridan Road  
rumandcoketheater.wix.com/rumandcoke

#### STEEP THEATRE

*"Strangers, Babies"* by Linda McLean

What happened to the monster who emerged from a park 20 years ago – could it still be here?

Thru March 1  
1115 W. Berwyn  
866-811-4111  
steeptheatre.com

### Polish sausage

(Continued from page 3)

- Reserved bacon grease from other meals, stored in the fridge in a coffee can.

#### Directions (Charlie's memory)

1. Heat a heaping teaspoon of bacon grease.
2. Sauté onions until translucent.
3. Lay sausage on top of onions.
4. Peel and slice potatoes thin; cook them with onions and sausage until crisp and done.
5. Drain but don't wash sauerkraut; lay on top of onions.

#### Directions (Wayne's memory)

1. Heat a heaping teaspoon of bacon grease.
2. Brown (almost burn) the sausage.
3. Sauté onions, almost burn some.
4. Add sauerkraut with liquid.
5. Boil potatoes in separate pot; add them to dish.

#### Comparing the recipes

Sauté onions in reserved bacon grease, until onions are translucent. Wayne says burn them a little; Charlie says don't. In fact, Wayne says to start with the sausage on the bottom and burn it a little. Charlie says don't burn the sausage or start with it.

Layer the sauerkraut on top. Charlie says drain but don't wash the sauerkraut. Wayne says don't drain or wash; rather, dump the whole thing into the pot.

Cover and cook until sausage and kraut are heated (and potatoes are done).

Add boiled potatoes, if you have the 20 minutes to boil them.

Both agree on potatoes, but Charlie says don't boil them; rather, peel and cut them in thin slices, then cook them with the onions, first. Apparently, Charlie's mom was a better time manager than Wayne's mom. Unfortunately, I never got a chance to meet either mother. Both died young.

Serve with good Polish rye bread and spicy European mustard.

## A long life well-lived (Continued from page 1)

they boarded a ship to America. "We all had to stay below deck while sailing through the English Channel (to the Atlantic Ocean)," Ilse says.

After arriving in the U.S., Ilse and her two cousins, Lisl and Inge, went to live with their sponsors in Mississippi, while her parents, who were determined to support themselves, went to live in Chicago. At 16, despite being one of the few Jews in town, Ilse had to blend into the local high school and quickly get up to speed with her academics. She took four American history courses simultaneously, but "I got things mixed up," she says. Ilse prepared meals at home along with her cousins and worked in her guardians' jewelry store after school.

Not long after her arrival in Mississippi, Ilse's guardians, who were childless, asked her to sign papers that would have allowed them to adopt her. This came as a shock to Ilse, whose parents were living in Chicago. She wrote to them, and when they replied that they had no intention of giving her up, Ilse told her guardians that she wouldn't sign the adoption papers. (Neither would her two cousins.) The relationship between her and the guardians deteriorated after that.

Two of Ilse's high school teachers urged her to attend college, and she was awarded a scholarship to the University of Mississippi, with an eye on a career in social work. However, her guardians insisted that Ilse and her older cousin, Lisl, become nurses instead "to help the war effort." Despite her disappointment, Ilse went to nursing school at Methodist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where she and Lisl earned their nursing degrees in 1945.

After getting her degree, Ilse was reunited with her parents in Chicago for the first time in nearly five years, save for a brief visit while attending a nursing convention in Chicago as a trainee. She went to work at the now-shuttered Michael Reese Hospital on the South Side, where she lived on-site in a nurses' dorm. "I had a day off for the first time in years," she says. "They treated me well."

Ilse met her future husband, Allen, when they played a game of Ping-Pong in the recreational area of a German-Jewish temple they both attended in Chicago. After their first date, Ilse told her mother, "This is the man I'm going to marry." Her mother scoffed at the idea, but in 1947, they did marry.

Ilse quit her job at Michael Reese when she was pregnant with her oldest son, Robert.

*Robert is now Teresa Heinz Professor of Cognitive Psychology at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and the author of several textbooks, focusing on children's mathematical and scientific thinking. His books have been translated into many languages, and he lectures at symposiums around the world. Ilse's second son, David, is a fundraiser for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and lives in San Diego. Ilse has five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, including two sets of twins.*

Ilse's husband became ill when the family was living in Evanston and her sons were in high school. So, Ilse returned to work during the school year as a registered nurse at a hospital on Howard Street. She later went to work at Three Oaks Nursing Home in Evanston, where she stayed for four years. She then was hired by a pharmacist, working as a consulting nurse and troubleshooter. After 17 years in that job, the onset of glaucoma prevented her from driving, so she began a new career teaching nurses' aides at Truman College and at a private school downtown, which she continued for 4-5 years before retiring.

After 27 years of marriage, Allen passed away in 1972 following a long illness. With both boys in college, Ilse was living alone in Evanston, and one night while attending a party, her home was burglarized. She decided she would no longer live by herself.

With her mother, Irma, living at The Selfhelp Home on Argyle Street in Chicago, Ilse moved to Malibu East in 1980. She soon became a fixture on the Social Committee, which organizes our parties and other social events under the direction of longtime chairperson Sandy Chaet.

One day it occurred to Ilse that the Community Room wasn't being used,

despite its nice amenities. Realizing that many residents, especially retirees, were often spending their days alone watching television, Ilse came up with the idea of a Thursday afternoon discussion group, which she and Ruth-Betty Spilky co-chaired for many years before passing the torch to Aida Calvopina. (The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.; residents of all ages are invited to attend.) Ilse and Ruth-Betty always planned a topic to discuss at each meeting and brought refreshments.

"I wanted everyone to have a chance to participate in the discussion," Ilse says. "Otherwise, some people tend to dominate. ... My hope was that people would make one or two new friends by coming to the discussion group."

Ilse and Ruth-Betty were also fixtures at the annual Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony. They would make latkes (potato pancakes) and bring applesauce to accompany them. "There were always just as many non-Jews as Jews at the candle lighting," Ilse says.

When asked to recall the highlights of her 33 years at Malibu East, Ilse mentions the annual holiday party in the Lobby, the Social Committee events and the discussion group meetings. She also loved to swim in our pool, and she likes the convenience of the many businesses in the Captain's Walk.

Despite being in her 90s, Ilse is an avid theatergoer, having been a subscriber to the Goodman Theatre for a number of years.

Unfortunately, Ilse will be leaving us in February. She is moving to an independent-living facility in San Diego, 10 minutes from the home of son David. She'll live in a two-bedroom apartment, with meals provided for her, along with entertainment, discussion groups and much more.

"My son's family has been trying to get me to move to San Diego for 10 years," Ilse says. "I think it's time."

Ilse will be missed not just by the Thursday discussion group, which gave her a rousing farewell at its January meeting, but by all of us who were lucky enough to have crossed her path.

## TV, Internet wiring upgrades considered

By Bob Whaley

The Communications & Cable Committee, under Board of Directors 2nd Vice President Tom Vaughan, has begun another important project to make Malibu East more attractive to residents and prospective buyers alike. The committee has agreed that, to remain competitive, Malibu East needs to provide access to flexible packages of high-quality, modern electronic business and entertainment capabilities at discounted prices. To accomplish this would require upgrades to our building's 40-year-old master television and telephone wiring.

Our current television provider, USA Wireless, utilizes DirecTV's satellite capability to deliver both analog and digital signals to our residents. As many will remember, the current master TV system is constructed on a "loop" sharing basis where multiple units are on the same loop of cable.

A "home run" configuration, on the other hand, delivers signals directly to each unit and allows a much greater array of products. DirecTV has introduced its

Genie® HD/DVR technology, which can only run with upgraded cable wiring in a home-run configuration. DirecTV has been exploring how to bring our building up to the necessary standard for this product.

Because all new services that are now available need a very high-speed data stream, an alternative may be brought to our building via underground fiber-optic cable that is unaffected by weather conditions. This will provide residents with the capability for high-definition, smart TV and Internet access that is many times faster than currently provided, together with high-quality Internet phone service (VOIP), bundled at a much lower cost than standard residential rates. This bundling of services is offered by several vendors, including AT&T, Comcast and RCN. Many new tablets and other devices are now able to connect to the network via local wireless (WiFi).

As one of the vendors being considered, AT&T is also reviewing how to improve cell phone service within our building. If AT&T were chosen, residents could add AT&T cell service at package discounts. Thus, residents may wish to hold off on signing up for new long-term cell or Internet contracts until the ultimate

vendor is chosen by the Board, likely by April.

Based on the committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors has approved the hiring of a well-respected industry consultant to assist the Board with a needs assessment, construction of the request for proposal, bid review and vendor selection.

**Installation:** The chosen vendor will likely have to rewire our entire building. This will be a three- to six-month project that should be completed by the end of this year. There will be some accompanying noise and disruption, as well as the need for the vendor to gain access to each unit to install the upgraded wiring. Upon completion, though, the project will bring many of the benefits of 21st century information technology to Malibu East and provide an upgradable system with the capacity to support new services in the future.

**Residents' input:** Residents' desires, priorities, advice and concerns will soon be solicited via a survey to be distributed in February. Please be sure to respond by the deadline. The Board wants your input to help it make a decision that will provide you with the top-quality communication services that you deserve.



Omnibus Services, Incorporated  
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*Sandy Chaet*

*"A personal touch"*



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**No Job Is Too Small**  
 References Available



## Laundry Room follow-up

By Carl Chadek

Now that our new Laundry Room is up and running, some questions and details need to be addressed.

This was truly an enormous undertaking, with the need for significant ventilation, electrical and plumbing work. Once again, committee members, the Board of Directors and management worked very hard to supply our beautiful building with a state-of-the-art facility.

Here are some follow-up items for everyone's consideration:

### Can I use powdered laundry detergent?

Yes. It MUST be HE (high-efficiency) and MUST be added inside the washer drum with the laundry and NOT into the detergent dispenser cup on the machine. Be sure to use the correct measurement. Be sure to read the instructions on the machines and the label instructions on your detergent container. Some studies have indicated that liquid detergents work better.

### Can I use detergent "packs" or "pods"?

Yes. They MUST be HE and MUST be added inside the washer drum with the laundry and NOT into the detergent dispenser cup on the machine, just as you would do with a powdered detergent. Again, be sure to use the correct measurement, reading the instructions on the machines and the label instructions on your detergent container.

### Why didn't all of the laundry detergent rinse out of the detergent dispenser cup during my wash cycle?

Be sure to use HE detergent. Be sure not to overfill the cups. Too much detergent will cause the machine to perform below its capabilities. If you use detergent "packs," detergent "pods" or powdered detergent, it MUST be added into the drum with the laundry and NOT put into the detergent dispenser cup on the machine. Also, be sure to add liquid laundry products to the correct dispenser cup. For instance, if liquid detergent is put into the softener cup, the machine will not perform properly. Be sure to read the

instructions on the machines and the label instructions on your detergent container.

### We have room for another folding table. Why don't we fill up the space?

When the folding tables were ordered, we were not completely sure of where a very large electrical box was to be located. Of course, that's now been resolved and another folding table has been ordered and should arrive soon. Commercial-grade furniture sometimes takes a while to get delivered. There will be some additional furniture now that we know where everything fits.

### If there is a problem with a machine, whom do I call?

If you experience a problem, minor or not, use the intercom phone and call the doorman. Our staff will contact Family Pride. Our staff can also "unlock" a machine to remove your laundry in case of a malfunction during a wash cycle.

### The lint traps on the dryers are great because my laundry does not fall into them when I open the door. However, the bottom one might be difficult for some residents to clean out. What should we do?

Yes, the new lint traps are far superior to the old ones. Although it's

best to clean the lint trap after you are finished using the dryer, it's not quite as imperative as with the old dryers. They are all cleaned out by maintenance every evening. Use your best judgment or ask a fellow resident for assistance. Also, you may find that it's easier to remove the lint from the filter if you use a paper towel.

### Do we really have a website for monitoring the washers and dryers? How does it work?

Yes! Go to their website: [www.familypridelaudryaware.com](http://www.familypridelaudryaware.com) and sign up. To locate our Laundry Room, enter our zip code, 60660, and then click on Malibu East. All of the washers and the six large-capacity dryers can be monitored. The double stack dryers cannot be monitored because they share a card reader. To monitor a machine that's in use, simply click on your choice of email and/or text in the machine's box and you'll receive an email and/or text message as soon as the machine completes its cycle. The machines are identified by their number and price.

Just a couple of details to go and the renovation will be complete!

Carl Chadek chairs the Aesthetics & Building Services Committee.

## The Dialogue

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