

# Malibu East Dialogue

April 2010

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Cass Buscher

An interview with MECA's 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president Communications Committee chairman

By Kim O'Neal

What is entailed in the responsibilities for your role(s) on the board throughout the year?



If Marcel or Richard is not available at a meeting, then I am empowered to make decisions. I also interface with different attorneys.

What do you like about the role you play for MECA, and enjoy most?

Maintaining an active role with what is going on, and being able to explain what is more complex than what people understand is going on. It's very easy to think about the problems and not know all that goes in to accomplishing what needs to get done.

What are the challenges for your role?

There are various projects the building is working on. Such as, we just finished the cable contract, which took a lot of time to review survey information, and I had to continually communicate with our provider to understand problems. I have one e-mail account for all of us to send concerns on our cable provider, so I can stay in touch with the vendor. Such concerns we can assist with will be long ongoing problems, channels disappearing for long periods of time, and items that the cable company can't resolve.

What are the spikes in responsibility during any given year?

Spikes in responsibility come with being on committees, such as the Admissions Committee — depending on the number of new residents, or being involved with grievances. It depends on what is going on in the building. One project I am not involved in, that is a large project, is the garage. Also, redoing the rules and regulations took a while.

Are there any past experiences in positions in your life that have helped you in your role?



By being an attorney I have the skills to look at issues from the legal point of view to ensure that the association limits legal risk. It also allows me to look at issues from multiple sides to help me understand where different residents might be coming from on any one particular issue.

What advice can you give to anyone thinking about volunteering their services, and taking on the responsibilities of a board role such as yours in the future?

It seems like a daunting task when you work a full-time job, and it is important that people understand not only how serious the responsibility is, but the time commitment as well.

Is there anything more you would like to add?

The responsibility is a time commitment, but it is important to have people actively concerned in one of their biggest assets, the time involved, a large budget, and employees responsible for. Get involved in committees to understand more.

Also the association and the building is a major asset of every owner, and the more involved you become, the more likely you are to understand and hopefully accept the decisions made by the board.

Cass is an attorney with the Attorney Registrations & Disciplinary Commission for the Supreme Court of Illinois. We are very fortunate to have his experience and voluntary input for our condo association.



## Horbal in Haiti

Jack Horbal, Captain's Walk dentist, returns from Haiti duty

Dr. Jack Horbal returned to work March 22 after two weeks in Haiti. He was among a number of professionals from around the country deployed in response to the earthquake. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' agencies, the HHS National Disaster Medical System and the U.S. Public Health Service, assisted in the identification and return of victims' remains to their families and provided information to assist in the identification of the victims.

Dr. Horbal is a forensic odontologist with DMORT-V and has been a DMORT member since 1998. Dr. Horbal's previous deployments include the Bourbonnais Amtrak derailment, World Trade Center attack, and Hurricane Katrina.

Source: Horbal press release

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## Special owners/ board meeting

By Elaine Winans

Elaine@MalibuEast.org

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives and 20 residents

Not present: Sandy Chaet, Eleida Gomez  
Presiding: President Marcel Molins



### II. Approval of agenda

No changes

### III. Approval of minutes

Approved

### III. Discussion of 7M right of first refusal

**Marcel:** The board is in favor of exercising its right of first refusal on 7M.

**Owner comment:** Could we instead spend this money on building improvements?

*No, the unit purchases are considered investments, not expenses.*

*Building improvements are planned in coordination with the annual budget.*

**More owner comments:** Thanks to the board for protecting the value of our units.

Complaints of night noise from maintenance.

Compliments to our maintenance staff.

### IV. Vote on exercise of right of first refusal on 7M

Motion to buy the unit passed.

### V. Adjournment

8:10pm

## MECA board notes

Tuesday, Mar. 23, 2010

Attendance: 9 board members, 2 management representatives and 18 residents

Not present: Sandy Chaet, Eleida Gomez, Richard Strauss

### OPEN FORUM 1

*Resident comments and questions:*

- 1) Suggestion that the lobby be kept warmer with an air curtain in the winter.
- 2) How many units are in foreclosure? *About 12.*
- 3) Another condominium has instituted annual unit safety inspections. *The board has considered a similar policy.*

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the MECA Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved at the following meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

- 4) The bike room needs cleanup. *We are behind on this project.*
- 5) Complaints of dirty carpeting due to construction on 19<sup>th</sup> floor.
- 6) Resident found an intruder in his unit cooking a pizza. The intruder was caught and arrested. *He was getting in on the lower level following behind residents. Do NOT let anyone whom you do not know into the secure areas of our building. Demand to see a job. Always lock your unit doors. We may institute intermittent job checks at our entrances.*

*(Attendance of residents dropped to 5 at this point.)*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Neil Warner

#### 1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves  
\$2,610,359.01

#### 2) Delinquencies

\$139,662.45  
\$113,000.00 over 30 days

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1) Floor Representatives

Mark Golden

No buzzer for re-entrance at delivery dock door. Carpet. Door to freight elevator in lobby still hard to open. *Management is looking at proposals.*

#### 2) Security

Sandy Chaet

April 14 meeting.

#### 3) Social and Educational

Sandy Chaet

*(See page 6.)*

#### 4) Commercial Property

Marcel Molins

Ongoing discussion about restaurant on boat dock.

#### 5) ASCO report

Sandy Chaet

6151 N. Sheridan park will open at end of April.

#### 6) Garage

Martina Molins

*Standard Parking report*

*Syed Haider, Mgr.*

### Claims

Total: 0

### Waiting lists

Single self-park: 2

Tandem self-park: 5

### Monthly parkers

Total: 445

### Garage capacity

Total: 534

*(Under capacity) 89*

### Changes

New monthlies: 3

### 7) Sports and Entertainment

Neil Warner

Working on moving some of the old equipment to the auxiliary fitness room.

### 8) Long Range Plans & Special Projects

Leon LeRoy

Suggestions of redoing the lobby to improve security. Need more activities on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor deck.

### 9) Communications

Cass Buscher

Will schedule cable meetings to educate our residents.

### 10) Building Maintenance & Services

Chris Chiodo

Several lobby mirrors needed to be remounted. Need Day-Glo strips and treads in the stairwells. Need new carpet runners for the lobby.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT

Chris Chiodo

#### Items requiring

#### immediate board action

#### 1) Supplemental insurance for association-owned units

Authorized for MECA-owned and building engineer's units.

#### 2) Building property insurance

Approved

#### Items not requiring board action

#### 1) Garage construction project

Chris Chiodo

On schedule for completion at end of May.

#### 2) Laundry Room project

Contract should be ready soon.

#### 3) Unit sales

7M \$102,000 exercised

#### 4) 18D, 36E, 41K, 28E update

The real estate committee has suggested a Welcome Committee to meet with new residents.

The meeting ended at 9:45pm and went into closed session.

## Artists in Motion

By Kim O'Neal



“Edgewater Artists in Motion” is pop-up galleries in Edgewater, which have been a very creative way to help the local community and artists, by having vacant local storefronts display local artists’ work. This is something much more creative than just paper, blacked-over windows, or graffiti, something that in turn beautifies our neighborhood. “Edgewater Artists in Motion” (EAIM), has created these pop-up art galleries all over Edgewater.

Rae Ann Cecrle (pronounced Sir-lee), EAIM chairman, is a local real-estate owner who cares about the local community and has donated her time and personal funds to support this program. Tracy Poyser, MECA resident is also an EAIM co-chair, Dialogue committee member, and displayed photographer. Rae Ann came up with this idea after using the vacant windows to advertise for assistance with a Edgewater community cookbook. She began asking for displays of local artists, and this is how she met artists John Garrison, Stephany Hill and Poyser. Rae Ann’s idea to creatively use the vacant storefronts for the benefit of the community, existing businesses, and to attract new business grew with ideas from the foursome. David Rees and Partner was one of the first buildings to participate. EAIM now has 32, and counting, “pop-up” galleries in Edgewater.

Even after the first display window started in July of 2009, Rae Ann continues to receive many daily calls about the program. She has about 120 contacts with approximately 100 people who want to participate in the program. Bill Platt, developer of the large Clarovista building at the corner of Granville and Broadway, has generously permitted the artwork displays in his vacant storefronts. The program kept growing. Tracy’s display started July 18, 2009, and rotated (artist in motion) to north CTA vacancies. The displays in the window fronts have been well received by the community. One of the challenges, says Rae Ann, is that local storefront owners hesitate to turn over a key, as necessary, to allow entry to clean and display artists’ work. To offset this problem, the EAIM offers strict control of the keys, all prep work of the loca-

tion at no cost to owners, and a “hold harmless liability form, to be signed by the artist that has been reviewed by local artist and attorney Kathryn Ingram.

Tom Robb, executive director of Care for Real, recommended volunteer Marcus Smith from Care for Real to assist Rae Ann with preparing the storefronts. Marcus has been a wonderful nominal-fee volunteer. He is a great help to Rae Ann, as he troubleshoots the vacant space, removes debris as necessary, and cleans the area, including all windows. With private funds, Rae Ann purchases easels, grids, and lighting to display the artists’ work. Local artists are popping up all over for this opportunity to display their artwork.

The New York Times published an article March 11 by Kelly Kleiman that stated, “One of the largest collections of pop-up galleries is in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. Rae Ann Cecrle, a real estate agent, spearheads Edgewater Artists in Motion that features the work of more than 100 artists in 25 storefronts, including many that she manages.” *(The article states Rae Ann is an agent, which she has clarified she is not, nor does she manage any buildings but her own residential real estate.)*

Tracy Poyser’s current art display at 1111 Bryn Mawr has netted her participation in a show at Edgewater’s Unity Church on Thome, where an additional one-woman show for her is planned in June. She also exhibits at a special art fusion showcase at Julian Marc on Broadway and has had commissions from a Loop business. “I sure hope our residents will support and enjoy this amazing community initiative,” she said.

Developer Bill Platt, of the Clarovista, will host the “Pop-Up Gallery” event in the available exterior space, including the plaza area, with interior rainy-day options, on July 17. The gallery will include other businesses along Granville, extended east from Broadway to Kenmore and from Broadway west to include Granville Gallery. The event will be a link to the second year of Third Saturdays events organized by the East Edgewater Chamber of Commerce CEO Jay Delaney, who is also an artist in filmmaking and photography. The goals of the events are to attract people to Edge-

water, attract Edgewater residents, and assist the businesses in a troubled economy, which will result in helping the local artists. A committee of experienced gallery artists is steering the Pop-Up Gallery event. It is desired to have 40 to 50 art displays along Granville with tents, patio umbrellas, tables, and music, creating a festive European setting where great artwork, crafts, and photography to be seen and purchased. The cost will be minimal to artists, only to help cover part of the artists’ expenses for the event. The entire Third Saturday event is designed to add no cost to businesses and allow them to profit from the event.

You can find all of the pop-up gallery location listings and information on the East Edgewater Chamber of Commerce site at [http://www.edgewater.org/Edgewater\\_Artists\\_in\\_Motion.aspx](http://www.edgewater.org/Edgewater_Artists_in_Motion.aspx).

Edgewater Artists in Motion is a joint initiative supported by the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, Edgewater Community Council, Edgewater Development Corporation, Edgewater Special Service Area #26 (SSA #26), along with the generous donation of storefronts.

## Shopping surprise

By Jack Winans

An outstanding grocery shopping experience is a few extra blocks away at the Damen and Ridge Dominick’s. Recently reopened after being closed for a few years, this store is practically unknown to those living east of Ashland as the grand-opening advertising went only north and west of the store.

Differing from the local Dominick’s narrow display-filled aisles, the Ridge store’s aisles are wide and uncluttered. The Starbucks sitting area at the Broadway store is almost non-existent as it uses customer tables for special displays. The Ridge store has soft benches and over two dozen tables with flowers. The restrooms are huge and immaculate.

Also, a few of our old friends from Broadway are at Ridge, tall Bob in the meat market, Carlos in liquor (walk-in cooler) and store manager John.

The only thing lacking at Ridge is customers — it’s never crowded — and that worries me as that’s the reason this excellent store was closed previously.

## Community Calendar

By Betty Mayian  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



### EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Chicago "L" exhibit and book.

Speaker and author Greg Borzo will do a program about his book; signing follows program.

Sa, Apr. 17, noon.

#### Those Were The Days Radio Players

An hour of comedy

Sa, Apr. 24, 2pm.

Museum open Sat. noon to 4pm

5358 N. Ashland

773-506-4849

edgewaterhistory.org

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### THEATER/SHOWINGS

#### GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY

"Stage Door" by Ferber and Kaufman

Set in 1930s New York City in a boarding house for aspiring young actresses.

Apr. 3 thru May 23

#### Theater Building Chicago

1225 W. Belmont

773-327-5252

griffinthatre.com

### LIFELINE THEATRE

#### "Neverwhere"

About a nightmare shadow-world beneath the City of London.

Apr. 30 Thru Jun. 20

Call for hours & prices

6912 N. Glenwood Ave.

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

### LOYOLA'S MULLADY THEATRE

#### "Little Women" (The Musical)

Apr. 15-18, 22-25

1125 W. Loyola Ave.

773-508-3847

luc.edu/theatre

### PROFILES THEATRE

#### "Killer Joe"

Texas clan of greedy siblings hire Killer Joe to kill their mother for the inheritance.

Thru Apr. 11

8pm Th-Sa, & 5pm Sa, 7pm Su

4147 N. Broadway

773-549-1815

profilestheatre.org

### RAVEN THEATRE

#### "12 Angry Men"

A must-see; Jeff recommended.

Thru Apr. 17

8pm Th-Sa, & 3pm Su

6157 N. Clark St.

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

### REDTWIST THEATRE

#### "The Pillowman"

A spellbinding drama with dark humor about a writer accused of doing the very acts depicted in his murderous stories.

Thru Apr. 18

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

### STEEP THEATRE

#### "Harper Regan"

This is a family drama, complete with secret revelations and hard-earned truth telling.

Thru Apr. 25

1115 W. Berwyn

866-811-4111

steeptheatre.com

### MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

#### Social Committee meeting

Thursday, Apr. 1

7:00pm — Windjammer Room

#### Easter egg hunt

Saturday, Apr. 3

10am — Meet in Community Room

#### Thursday afternoon

#### discussion group

Thursday, Apr. 15

(every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

### Dialogue Committee meeting

Wednesday, Apr. 21

7:30pm — Community Room

### MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 27

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

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



### APRIL HOLIDAYS

#### Autism Awareness Month

#### April 1

*April Fools' Day*

#### April 2

*Christian: Good Friday*

#### April 4

*Orthodox Christian Pascha/Easter*

*Christian Easter*

#### April 11

*Jewish: Yom Hashoah*

#### April 13

*Sikh: Baisakhi*

#### April 21

*Baha'i: The Feast of Ridvan*

#### April 22

*Earth Day*

#### April 30

*Arbor Day*

'Town Crier'  
announcements  
by Rodica Ilc



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## Edgewater Beach Café

By E. J. Mullin

The Edgewater Beach Café, located in the Edgewater Beach Apartments at 5545 N. Sheridan Road, is a real gem, serving well-prepared food, such as fish, chops, duck, chicken and steaks. Owned and operated by Zung Dao, his wife, Kim, and his son Quan, it is open evenings except Sunday, when in lieu of dinner, the family serves a fine brunch until 2pm. The restaurant is closed on Monday.

The food is of exceptional quality, prepared with care by Kim, and served with equal care by Zung or Quan. The ambience is lovely; dinner is served on tables covered with white linen with a small vase of fresh flowers. The restaurant is newly decorated throughout. There is lovely soft recorded background music, and sometimes a regular guest is invited to play the piano as a treat. In all, the hosts do all to make restaurant dining delightful. A full bar is available, also.

Importantly, prices are very reasonable. Appetizers — salads, shrimp dishes, and escargot — range from \$6 to \$10. Entrees includes Kim's special soups (wonderful, whichever one might choose) or her salads, potatoes or rice, and a side of vegetables, all delicious. Prices range from \$12 for a superb catfish dinner to \$29 for filet mignon. Although not listed on the menu, desserts, including excellent apple pie, are available.

For those who would rather drive, there is parking available on Bryn Mawr in front of the Edgewater Beach Apartments. One can access the restaurant through the lobby, and well as the Sheridan Road entrance.

## The Laundry Room

Cable channel 2

If you have a TV hooked up to cable without the DirectTV box, you can get the Laundry Room on channel 2 and the management announcements on 101.

Currently, to get these two channels on TVs hooked up to a DirectTV box, you must turn the power off on the box and then use your TV remote (not the box remote) to select channels 2 and 101.

## The wish list

By Jack Winans

It seems that everyone here at Malibu East has their own pet project or secret wish, and they seem to find my ear.

### Basketball

A lot of men and some teens have approached me about sponsoring a basketball court here. I've even heard it discussed at board meetings year after year as a subject for the directors' "wish list" when budget time rolls around. The proposed location of a "half court" has always been the boat dock — an area used only during construction for assembling and storing supplies and equipment. As there is interest in this area for a full service restaurant, I'd nix its use for basketball.

There is an alternative — the racquetball court. Its use as a racquetball court can not be taken away, as it was an original common area\* amenity. But I believe that the addition of a "fold down" basketball backboard with hoop could be installed in the observation area. This comparatively small investment would greatly increase the use of an underused large common area.

### North side fourth floor deck

When friends and relatives stop by, they are astounded by the beauty and size of the north fourth floor deck — and dismayed that it gets so little use. Our most popular amenity is, of course, our swimming pools at the other end of the deck. Our Social Committee has had and will be planning future events to take place on, and make use of, this other wonderful space. But it is use by individual owners that would and could further its popularity. Some have suggested that the board authorize and install permanent charcoal grills like those found in many parks. This would perhaps allow our residents to entertain their summertime guests in these beautiful surroundings.

If you have ideas that could enhance life here at Malibu East without "breaking the bank" during this economic downturn, please contact the Dialogue. Remember, any increase in the value of Malibu East Condominium creates a further increase in your investment.

Malibu East Declaration Article VII (page 14) (p)

## Easter egg hunt

By Sandy Chaet

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, Apr. 3 for children under the age of 10. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

We will begin the activity by meeting in the Community Room at 10am. The hunt for eggs will start promptly at 10:15am in the Windjammer Room. Please bring a basket/bag to hold eggs collected. Refreshments will be served.



## Clean & Green and Earth Day

Mayor Daley's "Clean & Green" Spring Clean-Up is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 17, and the North Lake Shore Earth Day event is taking place the same day at Loyola University.

"Clean & Green" offers both individuals and groups the opportunity to help make neighborhoods cleaner and more attractive. The city provides brooms, rakes, trash bags and other tools; the people give a little time and a lot of spirit.

Call 3-1-1 for more information and to register.

Source: Ernie Constantino

A free all-day Earth Day seminar will be held at the Loyola University Quinlan Life Sciences Building, 1050 W. Sheridan. Workshops, panels, art projects, cooking demos, and films furthering a healthier food system while living green.

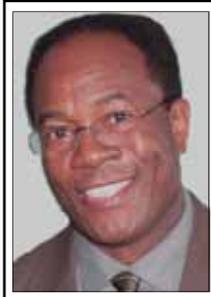
Saturday, April 17 from 9am to 4:30pm.

Source: ECC e-mail

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## Senior Fair

Rep. Osterman holds 10<sup>th</sup> annual free Senior Health Fair

By Jack Winans

This year's fair appeared to attract more booths and seniors than previously, probably due to the upper 60s temperatures. Slated at the Broadway Armory for 9am to noon; a crowd waiting for refreshments donated by Dominick's had already gathered by 9:30am.

Mayor Daley's opening speech welcomed the Armory's new senior center.

A higher number of booths providing health checks — blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar — were present along with the usual state, city and private senior care and welfare organizations. The Secretary of State's mobile unit was there to renew state identification cards.

Many gift bags were available along with the usual refrigerator magnets, coasters, bag clips and pens.



Osterman has cholesterol tested at the 2010 Senior Health Fair

Entertainment included bingo with prizes, arts and crafts, the Inaside Chicago Dance Company and a live performance by local Di Bella Duo.

Among the distinguished guests were:

14<sup>th</sup> District Rep. Harry Osterman, Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago Department of Family Commissioner Mary Ellen Caron, Edgewater Community Council Executive Director Jason Liechty, Joanne Tohei from the Edgewater Satellite Senior Center, Illinois Senior Health Policy Advisor Michael Gelder, 49<sup>th</sup> Ward Ald. Joe Moore.

## Malibu East Condominium

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Chicago IL 60660-3033  
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## The Dialogue

The Malibu East Condominium (MECA) *Dialogue* is published by resident volunteers to promote communication among owners, residents, the Board of Directors, management and staff of Malibu East Condominium, 6033 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660.

Articles written by and opinions of the MECA *Dialogue* staff and contributors are their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of MECA or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the MECA *Dialogue* Committee are encouraged. Its staff reserves the right to edit those letters which it sees fit to print and to print only those with constructive content.

Letters to the *Dialogue* Committee may be left at the management office.

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