

# BOAT BASIN BULLETIN

Issue 6

All the news that floats we'll print

June 2008

## 2 days until the Boat Basin Alumni Re-union!

**The** weather forecast is 74-81 degrees, 3% chance of precipitation, SE – S winds 9-11 kn, 8-10 % sky cover. In other words, a perfect night for a party on the dock.

Ed Bacon  
S/Y Prelude

Thanks to Hana Tominaga for her contribution to this issue. Need contributions for the next issue.

-ED-

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## PAST

When we recall the past, we usually find it is the simplest things – not the great occasions – that in retrospect give off the greatest glow of happiness.

- Bob Hope

### **Life after the Boat Basin**

*From Hana Tominaga:*

I got the idea to live on a houseboat near the time I was ready to ETS from the Army at Ft Bragg, NC, where I was in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. I had seen a show on TV where four couples were going down a river on houseboats, and I said to myself that that is what I wanted to do – live on a houseboat. I knew there were houseboats in NYC, where I was from, and where I planned to return to after the Army. I found the number and called the Boat Basin. I was told that there was a waiting list to get in, and of course, I did not have a houseboat nor did I know where I would get one. This was the summer of 1983. When I did get back to NYC and was staying in my old apartment in the East Village, I happened to see an ad in the Village Voice “Architect’s Houseboat for Sale”. I could not come up with the \$22,000 they were asking, and apparently no one else could or wanted to either, because I was allowed to rent the boat. The first thing I said when I saw the boat was, “This would be perfect for a sukkah!” The owner, Rick Bell, told me that there was a woman there who built a sukkah every year – Daria Fane. I had actually met Daria some years ago through a mutual acquaintance. Daria was never there when I went over to see her – it turned out she was in the mountains of Afghanistan at the time, making a movie. When she did come back, we became good friends. Over the years, we would build our individual sukkahs, or occasionally share a sukkah that we would build on her boat, the Amu Daria, named after a river in Afghanistan. The sukkahs were a community affair – Kelly Irwin would frequently help us build the sukkahs, and we would go to Manhattan Lumber with her and pick up supplies. Sometimes Daria would drive across to Bergen County in New Jersey so we could buy supplies, as it was cheaper, but unfortunately due to their Blue Laws, we would have trouble buying building supplies on a Sunday. We would go to swampy areas in New Jersey and cut down tall bull rushes, which we call “Fuffies”, for the schach that goes on top of the sukkah. They were a prime element every year, except for one year when we became spooked at a swamp behind a shopping center, and ended up buying ornamental corn stalks. Other neighbors would help with construction, memorably George, of George and Gabriella, and of course, then neighbors would come to visit the sukkahs and to eat and drink. People would walk by on the promenade and see the sukkahs and just drop in. It was always a fun season.

Every day and every season was interesting at the boat basin. Each night at sunset, most everyone would sit on top of their deck and watch the sunset. One night there was a spectacular lightening storm

over New Jersey at sunset that sent huge horizontal lightning bolts across the sky there. You could hear applause coming from the top of most every boat. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was always a big event. It seemed everyone had a party on their boat. One 4<sup>th</sup>, along with people I wanted to attend, I invited a lot of people that I owed invitations to. For some reason, these people were the only ones to show up! My party was so unenjoyable, that I left everyone there with the food and went to another party myself. It was great when the Tall Ships would come down the Hudson on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

I so enjoyed the helicopters that would fly overhead. Once I counted 19 in a formation. Then there were the Goodyear and Fuji blimps with their light shows. They had races one year. And there were jets and fireboats shooting water on occasion.

**Brushes with the famous at the Boat Basin** – once I was walking to the showers at the main building, the ones that were there before they were taken down to make the mail room, and I saw Telly Savalas on the street above the Rotunda, filming an episode of Kojak. One day I was talking to Lone Haskil in the park, and Al Franken purposefully walked between us and said hello. Once I was sitting on the dock outside the office and Harry Belafonte came to the gate with his photographer. I let them in. Another time, a reporter from the New York Times stopped by my boat, but I did not do interviews, so I took them to Daria's boat. While she was busy talking to the reporter, the photographer joined me back on my boat for a bottle of wine. He was Dith Pran, the man whose story was portrayed in the movie "The Killing Fields". His friend Sydney Schanberg, a reporter with the NY Times, had gotten him the job. He said that the real situation in Cambodia was even worse than the movie. Later that year he called me to wish me a happy Rosh HaShana. I was surprised, but he said he knew about it from his friend Sydney. While Googling his name to make sure I was spelling it correctly, I was sad to see that he died this March.

Then there was the time I saw Dick DeBartolo in his boat with none other than William Gaines of MAD Magazine fame. An avid MAD reader since I was 13, one of the first things I had done when I moved to New York City in 1975, was to walk down Madison Avenue and look for 425 MADison Avenue, the long time home of MAD Magazine. Eventually Dick, a celebrity himself and very long time MAD Magazine writer, allowed me to visit the MAD office. I was in total awe being in their office, actually getting to sit in on a meeting wherein they discussed the next magazine cover. Everyone there including William Gaines, Nick Meglin, and Angelo Torres and Dick signed a "What, me worry?" Alfred E. Neuman poster, and it is one of my most prized possessions.

Then of course there were the many good times with neighbors. One time stands out – it was Hanukah, and I decided I wanted a party on my boat, and went around knocking on doors, and said "Party on my boat in 15 minutes". In 15 minutes I had a pot of apple cider and rum heating on the stove, and a boat full of people. Pat[Frank?] Pulley said "Wait a minute", left, and came back with a menorah that he had found on the sail boat he was working on restoring. I have used that menorah ever since. I asked about

Pat, and someone told me he had died. I notice he is on the Missing in Action list, so I fear that that may be true.

There are too many other good times to mention, but it was fun when Doug worked up at the office and would have Tofu Pups and beer that he would serve visitors. It felt like a visit to “Doug’s Bar and Grill”. I liked Emmanuel the guard, and am sorry he died. Once he came to my door and asked for a blanket for a woman in the park. I gave him one that I had on a glass sliding door to keep the cold out. Later I found out that the blanket was for one of the homeless people that lived up in and around the Rotunda, named Gypsy, or Demetrius. She had two names. I got to know some of the people up there, including Gypsy. One night I was walking back from a Torah class uptown with someone, and at the corner of West End and 79<sup>th</sup>, a man was putting a small poster on a pole. He asked us if we had seen the woman in the picture. It was his wife, who had Alzheimers, and had become lost three days before when they were getting on a subway train. I hadn’t, but I said “Let’s go ask Gypsy”. I found her tent in the park, and sure enough, she said she had seen the woman. At the foot of the Rotunda stairs on the walkway, she went off toward the little Park Department buildings, and in a few minutes came back with this woman. There was a joyful reunion as the man and his wife rushed into each other’s arms. He had been offering a \$1000 award and wanted to give me it, but I said that it was Gypsy who had found her. She said that she was going to throw a big party for all the homeless. It never came about, though.

I enjoyed working for Parks Department for a year or so. I was part of a gardening crew that would meet in one of those little Park Department Buildings – about a two minute walk from the boat to work in the morning. One of my co-workers was a guy named Noah who also had a boat on D Dock. The crew would drive from one end of the city to the other, planting rose bushes and bulbs. We got to redo the Fort



Tryon gardens according to its original Olmsted plans. After the ground became too frozen to plant, my last job was picking up trash with one of those pointed sticks and a bag in Washington Square Park.

The Army was something I always missed. I think I knew every recruiter in Manhattan and some in the Bronx. There was a freeze on prior service, and when that was taken off, I had passed the age limit to get back into the Army. By 1990 Daria was in State Department in Wash D.C. It was November 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, and Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was a friend of Daria’s, and whom I had met on her boat once, was murdered. The next day I was in shock, and happened to be down on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. I saw a lot of people in BDUs going into the Armory there, and just followed them. When I got to the door, the guard asked me what I wanted. I told him I wanted to join the Guard, but only if I could be full time. You really don’t walk in off the street and ask for something like that – those jobs are

hard to come by. It was like someone else was talking – I had always hated the National Guard from my time in the regular Army. The commander there liked that I was Airborne, as he also was, and I did join. They found me a full time job in February 1991, just after Desert Storm was over. It was my job to set up 6 family assistance centers around the state of New York. I had been working at the time as a long term office temp on the 45<sup>th</sup> floor of the World Trade Center, Tower One, for Manufacturers Hanover Bank.

After the big ticker tape parade to welcome home the soldiers from Desert Storm, and the big party on the Intrepid Battle Ship (what a great party that was!) I heard they were looking for volunteers to go over to replace the soldiers in Saudi Arabia. I also heard that I might be able to get back into the regular Army. So I volunteered and was over there for 10 months, most of the time in Kuwait. For Passover in 1992, I took leave from Kuwait and went to Moscow. Daria was stationed there, and I stayed with her. There was no Passover food or services in Kuwait, I only had 10 days to get a visa, and it was ironic at the time to be begging to be let INTO the (Former) Soviet Union for religious reasons. While I was there, Daria had to go to Kazakhstan for a meeting they were having to decide what the new country of Kazakhstan was going to do about their national language, the missiles in the desert, etc. I got to go also. We stayed at the President's Guest House. It is a very nice looking country and the people are very nice there. The Lubavitcher Rebbe's father is buried in Alma Ata (now Almaty), and I was able to visit his grave.

I had decided that I did not want to live in New York anymore, but I didn't know where to go, so while in Kuwait, I took a survey and asked everyone I met where they lived and if they liked it. The most enthusiastic responses came from people from Alabama, Montana, and Texas. I immediately ruled out Alabama. I had many pen pals from Montana, as the mail room knew I was thinking of moving there, and everyone said don't come without a job. That, and since I was tired of battling the cold in New York (a kerosene heater against the cold on the boats - turning it off before you go to sleep at night, the frozen bowl of cat water in the morning; I lived in a series of five boats on D and E Dock, owning the last one, a 28 ft Owens cabin cruiser on E Dock) so I decided on Texas.

After Desert Storm, Daria let me stay on her boat for 6 months while I was waiting for a tour to Central America. She was still in Moscow. When I got to Ft Sam Houston in San Antonio, I declared Texas as my state of residence. I was sent to Panama, which was a great place. I worked in the Emergency Operation Center. It was during this time that World Trade Center One was bombed. After Panama, I bought a '62 Mercury Comet and had it towed back to Ft. Sam. From there I headed for the Hill Country. I had picked the town of Wimberley to live in from a book from the Texas Chamber of Commerce that I had received while in Kuwait. When I got there, their Chamber of Commerce said there were no jobs – it was mostly retirees and there were not places for rent, just for sale. So I kept going to Austin, because I knew there was a National Guard post there with billets I could stay in while looking for a job. I kept hearing people say "Austin's nice" (it is nice).

While at the post, I applied for some jobs. I got a temporary one, and then ended up getting a full time military job, called AGR – Active Guard and Reserve. You are paid by the Federal Government to support the state National Guard. It is Active Duty and has all the benefits of the Army. This was in 1994. Since

then I have been back in uniform. Sometimes I would go to Ft Jackson, S.C. for training with the Regular Army, and since it was cheaper for the Army to fly me back through New York City then for a regular round trip, I got to come back to New York a few times. The second to last time was in the middle of August 2001. Simone let me stay on his incredible palace of a boat, and then I also went to stay at the World Trade Center Marriott Hotel for a Dark Shadows Festival that was being held there. That was my last look at the World Trade Center.

So I have been living in Austin – I bought a house, then sold it to go live in a trailer on a very cool street in Austin, Barton Springs Road. There is a big park down the road that has the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, and big musical events. We saw the Stones there in 2006. I bought the trailer because I missed the Boat Basin and the style of life where you know all your neighbors and spend time outside. The trailer really was a great place to live. During that time I also bought a house in the Hill Country, not far from Wimberley.

My job changed in the military, from personnel type work, to computers. Through the legendary wisdom of the Army, I was assigned to the IT Training section, as a trainer. Oddly, I could barely type a letter on one and did not know the difference between hardware and software. The only other instructor there was rightfully disappointed. So they sent me to the Help Desk, and eventually I learned things. I discovered I could make little “movies” in PowerPoint by animating animated GIFS. I had become a huge Pikachu fan (see picture of the aptly named Pikachu Room from my Hill Country house) and made a movie wherein Pikachu battles the Microsoft Clippy. I thought this was pretty good, until I saw a video from a DVD called Animusic, and was so fascinated that they could create an imaginary musical instrument that seemed to play itself, that I e-mailed the people and asked them how they did it. They told me they had used a program called 3ds Max. I went to the website they sent me, and did not understand at all what this program was. I did see that there was a User Group meeting in 2 days, just a couple blocks from where I work. I went and that changed my life. I started learning that program, and have gotten into video making – still on a small scale and as a student, I might add.

My first video was shown on the local Time Warner Cable news show, and on our local PBS station. You can see it if you like by Googleing my name – Diane Tominaga – and going to the first link – the News 8 Austin one. You will be able to see a bit of what the trailer park neighborhood is like. Last March I started working at the Texas Military Forces Museum here at Camp Mabry as my military job, after leaving the computer section. My next movie was about the Museum, and that was also shown on KLRU, our PBS station. I plan to retire at the end of this year with 20 yrs Active Duty. I hope to continue making movies and to do a cable access TV show again. I had one for four years, featuring the local Chabad Lubavitch rabbi discussing Jewish holidays and ideas. I want to focus on getting Torah ideas, including Kabalistic concepts, out into the world.

Maybe the best thing to come out of my trying to learn 3d animation, and the fact that I am not a very quick learner of it, is that I needed a tutor to help myself learn. It was in this capacity that I met Johnny

Luce at a 3ds Max User Group meeting. He was freshly arrived from graduate school at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and was "Willing to teach for food". Johnny quickly found work in his field of Video Game Design – Austin is a major center of video game companies. We have been together for three years now. I sold the house and the trailer and we live in a duplex in a very nice area of Austin. Johnny will be coming for the Boat Basin reunion, so you will get to meet him then. I am glad that he will have a chance to get a feel for Boat Basin living, as Bobby and Jo Ann Ericson, who I have never met, were kind enough through Doug Hynes to let us stay in their boat. I am looking forward to seeing all of you very soon!

Hana

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## PRESENT

Never let the demands of tomorrow interfere with the pleasures and excitement of today

- Meredith Wilson

### Boat Basin Alumni Reunion

The reunion will be on Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 pm on C Dock and will end by 10:00 pm. It will be a simple Sip, Snack and Schmooze party open to all alumni, current Basinites, friends of the Basin and Basin staff. We have 187 intended attendees.

**White and red wine, beers, sodas and bottled water will be provided.** Potluck appetizers or hors d'oeuvres will be provided by those that can provide them easily.

An OPTIONAL suggested contribution of \$20 will be collected at the door to cover expenses. If there are remaining monies after expenses, contributions will be made to the Basin and Riverside Park Fund. If you can't contribute \$20, any amount will do.

All artists and photographers are invited to display their art.

The Boat Basin Café has been alerted to expect that toward the end of the party (10:00), many attendees will be coming up for dinner and/or bellying up to the bar.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help.

- Sign-in table – Frances Gaffney has volunteered to set up the table. Volunteer a half hour of your time during the party to collect contributions, sign in the attendees and assist in filling out the name tags. Frances is donating an acrylic bag for a drawing among the contributors.
- Beer – Raquel and Werner Buhner volunteered to pick up 20 cases of beers, sodas and water. Bill Lewis volunteered his bow for storage until the party. Phil Argiroff volunteered to obtain ice. Chris Williamson volunteered his two large coolers. Volunteer your coolers. The beer drinking Basinites are also encouraged to stock an extra case on board so that the party could buy it if needed.
- Wine – Regina has volunteered for this.
- Potluck appetizers and hors d'oeuvres tables – Need a volunteer to honcho setting up the tables.
- Clean-up – Michael Capozzi volunteered to honcho clean up during and after the party. He'll need help – please volunteer to take any full garbage bags to the dumpster.

Please offer to help the above honchos – this is a community party.

Other volunteers so far:

The Marstens – assist in set up

Meredith Gardner – sign-in table



Joan and Ed Tiffany

Lew and Monique Wood

Doug Hynes

Please do not drive if you have mass transit available. There are only 7 daily parking slips available in the garage and they're usually taken during the summer. The rest have been assigned to specific boat owners and West Side apartment dwellers. The Aphthorp garage is closed for re-construction. On-the-street parking is difficult in the evenings. Use the subway or bus system.

A head is available at the Dockmaster's Office. Yes, old-timers, Parks has built a head, shower, washer and dryer facility, and a mailroom with individual mailboxes. Remember rooting through the common box for your mail? They've even installed an ice machine.

Following is the current list of intended attendees:

6/10/2008

### **Basin Alumni Re-union Enumeration & Attendees Sip Selections**

Intending to attend (NP)	187
White wine (WW)	28
Red wine (RW)	26
Beer (B)	30
Soda (S)	26
Water (W)	4

Name	NP	W	R	B	S	W	Remarks
		W	W				
Lew and Monique Wood	4	2	1				Dan and Janet
Gabriele Barthlen and Dave Coon	1						
Dean and Sue Ferris	2						
Robin Raskin and Carey (sp?)	2						
Naama Manahan	4				3		Ben, Ori and Ron-late
Fay Simpson	1		1				
Susan Argus	1						
Kip and Tiffany Colligan	3						Elsa
Frances Gaffney and Hubert Gee	2		2				
Delta Willis	1	1					
Kendra Hegewald	3					3	Cassandra,Heathe r
Jim and Heather Marsten	5		1	1	3		Christopher,Edward,Kathrine
Frank Marshall	1		1				

Carol and Jeffrey Judd	2	2				
Nat Lichtwar and Linda Mays	2	1			1	
Marilyn and Gary Oppenheimer	3					Leah
Michael Fischer	1			1		
Simone DiBagno	1					
Josh Mandel	1			2		Drinks half his beers
Mike and Heidi O'Rourke	2					
Mel Snyder	1					
Regina Jordan and Ed Bacon	2	1		1		
Neil Robbins	1		1			
Penny Bragonier	2		2			Frank
Ed Tiffany	2	1		1		Joan
Benno van Noort	3	1				Harumi and Mom
Julia Jordan	2		1	1		Doug
Werner and Raquel Buhner	2		2			
Kathy Plotkin	1				1	
Linda Reilly	2	1	1			Tony
Anina Gerchick	4					Stephen, Eli, Michael
Dick DeBartolo	2				2	Dennis
Nathan Chess	1			1		
Bill and Jane Lewis	6	2	1	1		Kirin, Tanner
Tom Rolston	1					
John and Jeannie Doswell	2	1	1			
Meredith Gardner	1			1		
Cindy Kane and Doron Katzman	2					
Ed James	1			1		
Bill Reardin	1					
Hurish Pajeski	2					Tori
Kelly Irwin and Saro	2				2	
Pauline Sklar	1			1		
Leslie Day and Jim Nishiura	2	1		1		
Phil Sherman	1			1		
Joel Willis	1					
John Comatas	1					
Gloria Weiss, Abdel and kids	4					
Andy Sferra	1					
Fred Armbruster	1			1		
Carol Benedict	2		2			Eddie
Mary Henry	4	1		1	2	Raj, Alex, Katie
						Reuven, Alexi, Benz
Daria Fane	4		1	1	2	i

Kazumi and Jan	5	1	1	3	Big D,Naomi,Ken
Josh and Chantal Goldberg	2		1	1	
Miles Pincus	2			2	
Lillian (Torgersen) Kenney	1	1			
Clive and Clodagh Green	2		1	1	
Nice	1				
Todd Bacon	2			2	
Meg and Vince Paul	4				Chas, Anthony
Roger Hegewald	1				
Bill Reardin	1		1		
Jane Clegg	3	2	1		
Renee Mintz	1	1			
George Rosen	1			1	
Glen Gari	1			1	
Harry Magerian	2	1	1		Susie
Chris williamson	1			1	
Philip Argiroff	1		1		
Jasmine Rios	2			1	
Troy	1				
Aurora Caruso	3	2			Aleta, Tom
Lezlee Peterzell	2	1		1	River
Al Spellman	1				
Greg Smith	2	1		1	
Bill Keena	1				
Nate Grove	1				
Keith Kerman	1				
Katz?	1				
Joe Burck	1				
Hana Tominaga	2			1	1 Johnny Luce
Claudia and Ted Howard	6			4	Peter,Jimmy,Ariana,Alex
Gene Greenspan	1			1	
Bonnie and Jimmy Saunders	2			1	1
Peter	1				
Avalon crew	4				Justin, Nate,Colby
Ocean Alexander crew	2				Steve, Cynthia
? Sailboat crew	3				Dave,Kate,Heathe r
Lynn Tonnesson	3	3			
Doug Hyne and Teri Walsh	2				
Ann Schloss	1				
Orlando Rodriguez	1		1		

Mark Rich	1
David Rothstein	1
Linus Coraggio	1
Lettie G. Howard crew	1
Clearwater crew	1

If you're not on the list above or you're on the list and your drinks are not listed, please e-mail me your drink preferences.

Here are some of those still Missing in Action:

Leslie Strauss	Emily and Gambol Lee	Mark the playwright
Henry Cohen & Toni Kline	Helen Mignon	Mike the diver
? Patterson (stage mgr)	Paul Minkoff	Rick, Eric and Thor Field
Pat Pulley	Peter Addis	Lonnie Day
Jerry Schindlinger	Janis Cooke	Jack Lechner
Mark Ross	Bonnie Munchen and kids	Jay Pellicane
Jim Gallagher	Howard and Gloria Chavell	Guessing Julian
Burns Patterson	Ruthie Hammerman	The Cat Lady
Jonathan Asche	Susan and Tanya Octaviano	Bobby Held
Jerry Berton	Paola and Roland Stern	Barry Crawford
Julie and Miles	Beth McCarthy	
Josh Bloomgarden	Mel Appelbaum	Pat Halvorsen
Leslie Smoke	Tanya and Susan Octaviano	Jill Baker
Nat Haft	Pete Trambino	Cliff May
Paul Druley	Eivind Avrum	Cecil Kramer
Ed and Nancy Enright		Jane White
Judy Williams	Dave Betts	Ida Smyer
Ione Haskell	Moshe Davidovitz	Phyllis and Dave
Pat, Mariah and Morgan Carey	Lou Gonzalez	Neil Sendar
Dave – ex-dockworker	Tom Glennon	Laura Zito
Dr. Bob	Tony Germani	Joan and Ed Wood

Hugh Downs

Jerry Fouche

Mike Samuels

John Edelman

Mike Portis

Harry Wilkins

If you'd like to see any of the above, you'll have to track them down and invite them.

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**PFUTURE**

"When you relinquish the desire to control your future, you can have more happiness."

- Nicole Kidman

**Pfantasy Pfuture**

No one at the re-union makes a speech.

**Parting proverb**

Doing nothing on a boat is very hard to do – you never know when you're finished.

- modified Leslie Nielsen quote

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