

# On the Prom

Winter Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

January 2008

## Promenade Towers Holiday Party



Marion Hopkins and Jim Zafirson at the party

“It was a wonderful party,” said Edna Harris. “I was happy to see such a good turnout.” Over forty people enjoyed food and drinks by the fireplace at our Holiday Party in the Front Lobby on December 11. Several new residents took the opportunity to meet their neighbors, while longtime resident Ed Jones said this was the first party he has been to in all the years he has lived here. Ed enjoyed the get-together and said he plans to come to more. Kathleen Conneely said, “It was a lovely party. The room was inviting, and it was a good crowd.” Thank you to all who shared the evening with us.

## New Look in Common Areas

In November, ballots were sent to owners with three choices of paint color schemes for hallways and other common areas. Starting on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor painters are applying the colors that received the large majority of votes. New door hardware compliments the fresh new paint, and residents now have convenient keyless access to their units. Matching satin nickel door knockers/viewers and numbers will be next.

Rich and Janet Smith describe the new door hardware as very distinguished looking. Janet says, “We absolutely love the digital door handles. We can open the door so much more easily. No fishing around in the pocketbook for a key.” They also love the new paint colors and say, “The hallways are light and airy looking now.” Visit the 5<sup>th</sup> floor sometime and check out the progress toward our new look.

## Neighborhood Restaurants

When you don't feel like cooking and you don't want to drive, you can put on your snow boots and walk to one of several neighborhood restaurants. Just a few blocks from Promenade Towers you'll find Blue Spoon, The Front Room, Bar Lola and Silly's. For takeout you can go to neighborhood stores such as Colucci's, Fasulo's and the new shop across the street from Blue Spoon, Fat Baxter's. Margie Thomsen said The Front Room is the first neighborhood restaurant she and Steve tried when they moved here. She said, “The food is consistently excellent.” Margie is also a fan of Blue Spoon. She loves their red wines and says, “The menu is creative, and their chocolate tart is to die for.” If you can snag a window table, you can't beat the people watching on Munjoy Hill.

## New Board Member

Jinnie Delano recently resigned from the Board of Directors and nominated Leonard Ney to fill her position until the next election at the Annual Association Meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Len to fill the vacancy.

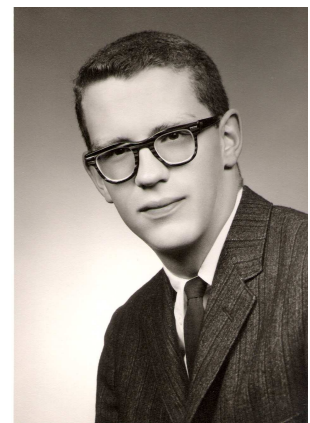
## Know Your Neighbors Contest

Yes! That was Pauli Daniels' photo in last edition's “Know Your Neighbors” contest.

Congratulations to all who sent in the correct guess: Ed Collins; Kathleen Conneely; Jinnie Delano; Nan Dewing; Tom Erskine; Gunnel Hansen; Jim Lannon; Lillian Lopes; Leonard Ney; and Carol Reynolds.

At the Promenade Towers Holiday Party, Pauli drew Lillian Lopes' name from this group of winners for the contest

prize, a jar of Wild Maine Blueberry Jam. Here's another photo from the past. Guess who this is and email or call Judith ([jrastl@earthlink.net](mailto:jrastl@earthlink.net) or 775-1190). Winners will be entered in a drawing for a bottle of Maine Maple Syrup.



## Quarterly Profile



**Renee Boyle – Unit 158**

Cairo, Egypt! That's where Renee Boyle was born and grew up and where her French father worked for the Egyptian government. "I came to New York on a freight boat in 1945 right after World War II," said Renee. She remembers her first night in New York, "It was wonderful!" As much as she loved New York, though, she was only able to stay a few days before taking a train to Texas where she would live with an American family she had known in Cairo.

Renee worked for an oil company in Houston for about a year before returning to New York. She interviewed for a job and was hired when her prospective employer learned that besides English, she spoke Italian, French and Arabic. Eventually, though, Renee left New York when her mother persuaded her to move to Washington, D.C. and live with her in Georgetown.

It was at the United Nations Club in D.C. in 1949 where Renee met her future husband, John Boyle. At the time, John (who Renee calls Jay) was taking Arabic lessons at Georgetown University. During the war Jay was an Air Force bombardier. After the war he went to Harvard, where one of his professors told him about a new government agency in Washington. Jay decided to go for an interview and soon began his career with the CIA.

Renee became a U.S. citizen after living in the country for five years. She said, "I loved being in America, and I was very happy to become a citizen." Renee and Jay were married in 1950 and have four children—Vanessa, Christopher, Andrea and Mara. Besides Washington, the family lived in Germany, Iran, Tunisia and Spain. After Jay

retired in 1969, they lived in France and Switzerland before returning to Washington.

In 2001 Renee and Jay sold their home in Washington and moved to Portland to be near their daughter, Mara. Renee says, "I like being near the water, and I like the Promenade so much," but being near Mara is what she likes most about living here. Renee and Jay have a penthouse unit, so it's not surprising that she answered, "The view," when asked what she likes most about living at Promenade Towers. Then she added, "The people mostly, everything really!"

Renee's kindness is appreciated by many residents at Promenade Towers. Some who pick up their morning papers from the mail table may not know that Renee is usually the one who puts them there. She's an early riser, and when she goes down for her paper around 5:30 in the morning, she brings in all the papers and places them on the table. She gives Tom Erskine credit and says sometimes he gets there first and brings the papers in. Neighbors like this are a blessing, especially to those of us who live in Renee's hallway. She delivers the morning paper to our door. What service!!!

## Travel Notes

Einar Juhlin and Gunnel Hansen recently returned from a week in New York City. John and Judith Rastl enjoyed a snowy Thanksgiving at an inn in Vermont, while Tom Erskine and Edna Quinn escaped from the snow to Florida and a cruise to South America. Steve and Margie Thomsen traveled by train to Washington, D.C. where they spent time with family in November, and Nan Dewing flew to Denver to spend Christmas with her daughter.

## Library News

Check the movie shelves for new arrivals. In the last edition of *On the Prom* we requested movie donations, especially DVD's. We want to thank Fred and Judy Hill who dropped off several DVD and VHS movies. Also, thank you to all the residents who donate magazines and books. Although we no longer accept non-fiction books, we welcome current fiction.

## Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to Jennifer Thomsen (134).