

On the Prom

Summer Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

July 2010

Summer at Promenade Towers



Talk about curb appeal! The beautiful landscaping at Promenade Towers just keeps getting better. Two years ago new flowering trees and shrubs were planted and pots of flowers were added by our glass front entrance. The flowers and greenery in the pots are changed with the seasons, and the trees and shrubs are maturing. Jerry and Barbara Donahue, who recently returned from their winter home in Florida, commented on the landscaping. "Everything is looking so nice here," said Jerry. Barbara said she is impressed with the grounds and is reminded of a country estate.

The Landscape Committee met recently to discuss projects for our property. Gunnel Hansen, John Rastl and Margie Thomsen toured the grounds and agreed on a plan to work on one area each spring and fall, beginning with the area around the front entrance sign. Margie said, "The committee's goals are that the plantings vary in height, color and texture, be pleasing to the eye year-round and require the least amount of maintenance." Judy Hill, a summer resident, will join the committee when she returns from Texas this month.

On the 4th of July some residents and their guests played on the lawn outside the pool area; a popular spot all day was our sparkling pool. This year's celebration on the Eastern Prom was especially exciting with a Patriotic Pops concert by the Portland Symphony Orchestra. While some watched the fireworks from their units or our grounds, others walked along the Prom to share the excitement with the thousands who came from all over the area to say, "Happy Birthday, America!"

Munjoy Library Branch Closes

The good news in the spring that the Munjoy Branch of the Portland Public Library resumed full services was short-lived. Cuts in the city budget included closure of our branch effective July 1. Though not as convenient, a short drive, bus ride or a walk downtown will take you to the newly renovated Main Library at Monument Square where you'll see changes and expanded services.

If you're looking for a book or magazine to read by the pool, stop by our own condo library. You can also check your email, surf the Internet, and browse our collection of movies to see what's new. The selection of movies and books continues to grow. If you have any you want to donate, just drop them in the basket. While you're there, check out the new lighting. The 1970's fluorescent lights have been replaced with recessed can lights.

Residents Enjoy Scenic Trip to Rockland

"Rockland is a great destination," says Social Committee Chairman Tom Leonhardt. Last month Tom and a group of residents took a scenic train trip from Brunswick to Rockland for a day of sightseeing, lunch at Amalfi on the Water and shopping. "Oh, the shops along Main Street are great," said Aileen Hock. Tom says, "Stay tuned for an announcement about a trip to the Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay."

Know Your Neighbors Contest

Several residents recognized Gunnel Hansen in last edition's Know Your Neighbors contest. The prize went to Karen Winslow, the winner in the drawing. Others who guessed correctly were Pauli Daniels, Stu Peller, Margie Thomsen and Cynthia Widdows. Here is another pretty girl in a photo from the past. Email or call your guess to Judith Rastl (jrastl@earthlink.net or 775-1190).



Quarterly Profile



Bruce and Marion Hopkins - #145/146

Bruce and Marion Hopkins love Maine. “We came here almost every summer during our married life before we moved here,” said Bruce. “I like the ocean, the mountains and the lakes.” Marion, a native of Portland, agrees.

Bruce and Marion met on a blind date while she was a student at Simmons College in Boston and he at MIT. After graduating from MIT, Bruce designed surgical equipment for five years and then went to business school at Dartmouth. His career took them to New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia and Connecticut. He and Marion moved to Maine in 1990 when he bought a printing company in Yarmouth.

While their two sons were young, Marion volunteered her time with Cub Scouts, PTA and their church. It wasn't until their boys were older that she worked part-time and taught piano lessons. “I wanted to be a stay-at-home mom,” she said. Marion's life changed considerably in 2006 when she suffered a stroke. Describing her recovery, she says that mental, emotional and physical exercise will be a lifetime endeavor. “I am learning to accept and be comfortable with the new me.”

In 1998 Bruce decided to sell his business when he was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a type of leukemia that is progressive and untreatable. His status has declined steadily but, he says, “So far I am very lucky to be one of those who decline very slowly.” Bruce's experience with leukemia led him to a new career working with cancer patients as a massage therapist. He

went to massage school for a year and then went to Arizona for additional training in oncology massage. “I feel more useful doing this than anything I've ever done,” said Bruce. In 2007 he founded the Society for Oncology Massage and is webmaster for this organization which has members throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Brazil, Australia and Scotland.

Bruce is also the webmaster for Promenade Towers. He is a past president of our Association and has been on the Board of Directors since 1996. He says, “I like the people and the organization and the way we've been able to turn the building around.” He and Marion both enjoy living here. Marion says, “I like my neighbors. I like the view and being close to the ocean. It's a great location. I can get to almost anywhere I need to go in ten to fifteen minutes.”

Marion and Bruce have traveled throughout the U.S. They've taken a train across Canada, cruised on the Danube and the Caribbean and vacationed in Europe and Israel. Marion visited one of their sons and his family in Hong Kong and traveled with them to Thailand. She laughed and said, “I rode an elephant there.”

Closer to home they spend holidays and summers with family and friends at their camp in Damariscotta. The front porch of their cabin is just sixty feet from Biscay Pond. Looking back on their life and travels, Bruce says, “It's been a grand adventure!”

Poolside Decks

Summer at Promenade Towers is a fine time for outside dining for residents with poolside decks. They may not know that their neighbors who see the decks from their windows also enjoy the flowers, plants and attractive patio furniture and appreciate the beauty they add to our building.

Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: Sunnam Allenda; Tony and Janine Galli; Kirk Varney; Carol Patterson; Ron Hills; and Oscar the Osprey (taking off from a perch on our roof)

