

# On the Prom

Fall Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

October 2012

## Promenade Towers Lawn Party



Arla Amara, Margie Thomsen and Pete Smythe at the Party

For some owners at Promenade Towers their condo here is a second home. Since they are only here for the summer and miss out on the holiday party in December, they were especially enthusiastic about our lawn party in July and the opportunity to visit with new and longtime residents. On a perfect summer evening the Social Committee set up the bar right outside the back door with a view of the pool, the trees and a croquet game in progress. The committee hopes to make the lawn party an annual event.

## Field Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts

Also in July, Tom Leonhardt, Fred and Judy Hill and Edith Toegel took the Amtrak Downeaster to Boston and visited the Museum of Fine Arts. Edith said, "To have such a treasure nearby and so easy to reach means everyone can and should make the journey." Tom, who is on the Social Committee and has arranged trips for our condo residents in the past, said, "We had a great time."

## Directors Elected at Annual Meeting

On September 12, Association members held their Annual Meeting and re-elected Jim Zafirson and Dave Mathieu to the Board of Directors. Margie Thomsen, who served on the Board from 2007 till 2010, was elected to fill an open seat vacated by retiring Director Mike Lincourt. Jim recognized Mike and former Director Karen Winslow, who resigned earlier this year, for their many contributions to the Board. Officers elected by the Board were: President Jim Zafirson; Treasurer

John Rastl; Secretary Margie Thomsen; Assistant Treasurer Dave Mathieu; and Assistant Secretary Bruce Hopkins.

## Flowers at the Front Entrance

We get so many compliments on the beautiful flowers in the pots by the front entrance to our building. Every spring Gunnel Hansen (in photo at right) plants colorful flowers in the pots. At the end of the summer Gunnel, who volunteers on the Landscape Committee and is on the Board of Directors, replaces the flowers with fall and winter arrangements.



## New Flooring in the Stairwells

Back in 2008, when one of our elevators was closed off for renovations, a visiting contractor complained, "Why does a brand new building like this have only one elevator working?" "Brand new?"—that was an honest mistake. Our construction project was near completion, and the building did look brand new. He should see it now! Last year the Fitness Room and currently the Community Room are just two of many improvements. Another recent change is the



installation of rubber flooring at each of the three stairwell entrances, landings and stairs. Shown above are before and after photos of the Building 1 entrance and stairs.

## Quarterly Profile



**Neila Smith Rockwood and Mark Rockwood - #252**

Some of you who have lived in Portland for awhile probably remember TV news anchor Neila Smith at Channel 6 News and later at Channel 8. You may recall that she was diagnosed with cancer when she worked at Channel 8 and the story of her “miracle baby.” While she was going through chemotherapy treatments, her viewers were very supportive. “They were amazing,” said Neila.

After finishing the treatments, Neila was the guest speaker at a luncheon at Mercy Hospital. The woman who asked her to speak invited Neila to Mercy Hospital’s Snow Ball, an annual fundraising event. Neila declined, but the woman insisted and said she had an artist friend she would like Neila to meet. Again Neila declined, saying, “It’s really no fun as a public person to go to a public event with someone I’ve never met.” Not giving up, the matchmaker got in touch with her artist friend, Mark Rockwood. Mark says, “I had seen Neila on TV and had a crush on her.” Mark called her one night after she got off the air, and they made a date for brunch. They did end up going to the Snow Ball together, and within a year they were married.

Neila wanted a family, but had accepted the fact that because of her cancer treatments she would never be able to get pregnant. Imagine how surprised she and Mark were when Neila thought she was sick with a virus and they found out it was morning sickness. Her viewers were excited with the news that she was expecting her miracle baby. Mark said, “They were wonderful! They sent cards and gifts, even homemade baby clothes.”

When their son, Cameron, was five years old, Neila stopped doing television. She started teaching cardio aerobics, and that’s what she does now at Foreside Fitness in Falmouth and at Yarmouth Yoga.

Mark is a commercial photographer and has his own business, Mark Rockwood Photography. He has a degree in photography from Southern Illinois University and went to graduate school at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. His studio is up the street from the Sea Dogs’ stadium. As busy as they are, both Mark and Neila volunteer their time at Promenade Towers. Mark will soon be shooting photos for a new feature on our website—a group of photographs of units that have been renovated, giving new and potential owners ideas for their own condos by showing them renovations that can be done here.

Mark was also part of the team of volunteers during the Fitness Room project. Mark works out regularly in the room and likes knowing that he helped make it happen. “That is so satisfying,” he says and adds, “Wherever we’ve lived, we have participated.” They describe themselves as “party people” so it is fitting that Neila chairs our Social Committee. She says, “This is our community; it’s like a small town.” She enjoys living at Promenade Towers and says, “What’s not to love? I love the building. I think the multi-levels are interesting and the common areas are beautiful.”

When asked about their other interests, they say, “Travel, our cat and our kid.” The kid, of course, is Cameron, now a college student in Montreal. Twenty-two years ago he was their miracle baby.

### **Community Room Project Continues**

Have you seen the changes in the Community Room? All new recessed lights have been installed, and after extensive sheetrock repair, the ceiling and walls were repainted by volunteers John Rastl and Einar Juhlin. As the project continues, the old tile floors will be covered with carpeting, which absorbs sound and will be much quieter, and the kitchen area will be renovated.

### **Hello to New Neighbors**

Welcome to new residents: Catherine Burrill; LiWen Chen; Tracy Concannon & Sam Colson; Dan Honan; and Cary & Bette Smart.