

On the Prom

Winter Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

January 2013

Unit Renovation Photos on Our Website



A Renovated Kitchen at Promenade Towers

When owners at Promenade Towers consider renovations, it's helpful for them to see other condos here that have been renovated. Thanks to a new feature on our website, they can view renovated units without leaving their computers. The above photo of a renovated kitchen is one of many in a collection that can help new and potential owners visualize the possibilities.

Visit our website www.promenade-towers.org and go to the *Property* page to find the link to the photos. They were shot by Mark Rockwood, an owner at Promenade Towers. Mark is a commercial photographer who is volunteering his time and talent for this project. Many new photos will be added to the site as the project continues.

Community Room Renovations

The carpet, new paint, baseboards, recessed lights and kitchen cabinet have transformed the Community Room. The final touch—the granite countertop, sink and faucet will complete the project.

Recently, a realtor was overheard talking to clients about the great job that Promenade Towers had done last year with the Fitness Room and now the Community Room which can be reserved by residents for parties and meetings. The realtor and the prospective buyers were impressed with these amenities.

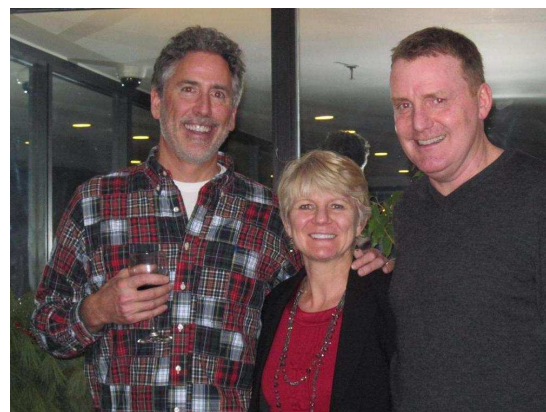
Annual Holiday Party



Peter and Social Committee member Sarah Burke

Thanks to the Social Committee, our parties just keep getting better. The annual holiday party on December 11 was no exception.

Cary Smart, who is on the committee, and his wife, Bette, bought their condo at Promenade Towers last summer. At the party, Cary said, "There's no better place on the Eastern Prom. It has the feeling of a neighborhood." He said his friends, Michael and Tammy McDade (in the photo below) who just bought a condo here, told him that they've enjoyed everyone they've met. Tracy Concannon and Sam and Christian Colson also moved in last summer and had similar comments about the people here. "They've gone out of their way to be welcoming," said Tracy.



Cary Smart and Tammy and Michael McDade

Longtime residents noticed many new faces at the party and appreciated having another opportunity to get to know their neighbors.

Quarterly Profile



Margie Thomsen #134

Margie Thomsen has a smile that lights up a room. That's one of the things you'll notice when you first meet Margie. She and her husband, Steve, bought their condo at Promenade Towers in 2006, and they became part of our community even before they moved here permanently in 2008.

Margie was on our Board of Directors from 2007 until 2010. She was on the Landscape Committee and the Decorating Committee during the building renovations, and Steve was a volunteer on Association projects. They traveled back and forth from Hampden, Massachusetts where they owned a home and Steve worked at Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield.

Traveling is second nature to Margie. She was born in her grandparents' home in Berlin and from the time she was eighteen months old, she traveled between Germany and the United States so many times that she really could have racked up some frequent flyer miles if they'd had them back then. She was living in Germany when she was ten years old and says, "I was there when the Berlin Wall went up in 1961." She eventually went to live with her mother in Los Angeles when she was fourteen.

Margie met Steve in California while they were students at Santa Barbara City College. Two weeks after he graduated they got married. Steve was accepted into UCLA's Child Amputee Prosthetics Project, and while he was at UCLA, their daughter, Jen, was born. When Steve completed the program, they moved to Pennsylvania for his first job and then to Springfield, Massachusetts where Steve worked at Shriners for 25 years.

Margie has worked as a pharmacy technician, a tour guide and a Special Education teaching assistant. While working full-time, she went to school at night and got her degree in Education. She worked as a teacher, then at Shriners and finally at Hampden Public Library before moving to Portland.

Margie said Steve was 49 years old when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. After four years of treatments and a stem cell transplant, he was in remission for five years. It was around the time he started a new job in Portland that his cancer returned. Margie said, "He fought it for 11½ years and finally lost the battle." "After Steve died," said Margie, "I was just overwhelmed and needed to step back from responsibilities."

Though Margie took a break from her volunteer work, there are many other things she has always liked about living at Promenade Towers. One is the feeling of security. She also likes the view and being close to the water. "I like being able to go out the door and walk anywhere," she says, and then adds, "I've shoveled a lot of snow. I like **not** doing that." It's easy for her to get away, and once again she's a world traveler. In the last couple of years she's been to Austria, Germany, France and Italy. "In February I'm going to Tahiti," she said.

When not traveling, Margie finds time for other interests and says, "I spin yarn, I enjoy knitting, quilting and walking, and I love my cats." She's also back on our Board of Directors; that's a plus for us. Best of all for Margie is she now has a beautiful one-year old grandson. His name is Eli, and when Eli is around, that's when Margie's smile shines brightest.

New Rooftop Exhaust Fans Installed

New fans that exhaust air from unit bathroom vents were installed on the roof this summer. The old fans that were original to the building rattled in the wind and were starting to come apart. The new fans are quieter, yet more efficient. They are direct-drive and, unlike the old ones, require no periodic maintenance. The first new fan tested at 40% better airflow. Each of the eight fans exhausts air from the bathrooms of ten units.

Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: Michael and Tammy McDade; and Andy Roy