

# The Good Neighbor

October 2013

A Monthly Publication for Menlo Commons Residents

No. 4

**Vote for Your Board of Directors - Ballots Due Before 4 p.m., October 28**

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

## An Interview with Eugenia Von Salza



**TGN: Tell us about your background, Eugenia.**

**Eugenia:** I was born in Estonia. At the beginning of World War II when I was 9 years old, I fled with my family to Poland. Then four years later in 1945 we fled west to Germany, and then after many attempts we ended up in the British Zone near Hamburg. Having had 4 years of English in school and studying at a Language Institute, I was able to find a job at Scandinavian Airlines in Hamburg. In 1950, I immigrated to the US and met my husband who studied for a PhD at the University of Wisconsin. We had four children - two girls and two boys. We lived in New Jersey and then Connecticut where I studied Advanced Russian language, I got a job at the University library there,

**TGN: What languages do you know?**

**Eugenia:** As a child, I learned to speak Swedish, German, Russian, Estonian and Finnish. I learned English in school.

**TGN: When did you come to California?**

**Eugenia:** In 1983 I first came to be with my mother in Mountain View. Then I moved to Menlo Commons in 1985 to my present unit. So I have been here 28 years now.

**TGN: What have you been doing?**

**Eugenia:** I worked at the Acquisition Department of Hoover Institute of War, Revolution & Peace at Stanford University from 1983 to 2001. My job was to assist the curators build their library collection, acquire, search and create records. Very interesting

work as I love books. I also saw many interesting people in the Hoover Tower. Since retirement, I spend time reading, doing crossword puzzles, and walking with friends. I do swimming pool exercises too.

**TGN What do you enjoy about Menlo Commons?**

**Eugenia:** I love the swimming pool., It has really helped me recover from arthritis. My hips are healing because of the pool exercise. I have made many friends here and enjoy them. I love the beauty of the trees outside my window here in A-209. I feel I am lucky to have such nice neighbors. However, I have a hearing problem (even though I have hearing aids) so I have given up attending meetings and social events.

**TGN: Do you use a computer?**

**Eugenia:** Oh yes. My daughter has me on Facebook, but I still need help to handle pictures on it!

**TGN: Where are your children now?**

**Eugenia:** Three of my children and five grandchildren live in Maine, and my other child lives in New York.

**TGN: You have lots of nice pictures and even a boat model here.**

**Eugenia:** Yes. The boat is from my father in law. I enjoy the art work.

**TGN: Thanks for the interview, Eugenia.**

The Good Neighbor is written and published monthly for residents of Menlo Commons by Jim Palmer, E-303; [jdpalmerjr@aol.com](mailto:jdpalmerjr@aol.com). You are invited to send your comments and suggestions for articles to him.

## Menlo Commons Resident Travelers

**BACK HOME!****From Alaska, Russia and Japan**

Marilyn and Jim Palmer took a 19 day cruise to Tokyo via Alaska and Far East Russia on Silversea line, staying over two nights in Tokyo before returning home on October 1.

"It was a fantastic trip," said Marilyn. "We had much better weather than expected - sunshine in every port of call. It only was stormy a couple nights across the Bering Sea."

The Palmers enjoyed Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Kodiak in Alaska before sailing over and through the Aleutian Islands into the Bering Sea to Petropavlsk, Russia. Then down to Northern Japan and winding up in Tokyo.



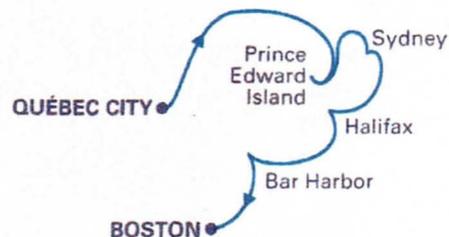
Shore excursions including a fishing resort out of Ketchikan (a crab lunch was rolled out on the table for them, with corn cobs, sausage, mussels and shrimp). They walked through the rain forest there. They visited Alaskan glaciers. At Kodiak they were treated to a Russian style musical group in costume playing and singing Russian songs while having lunch.



At Petropavlsk, they visited a Russian "dachau" summer cabin complex in a rural area outside the town and gazed at a chain of ice capped volcanos, had tea, and some in our group dressed in old Russian dresses. At Hakodate, Japan, a group of school children accompanied them during their walk through the town, and as the ship pulled away from the dock that afternoon, the children entertained them with dancing and singing.

Tokyo they spent two nights at The Peninsula Hotel and visited the Imperial Palace and its grounds, and the Ginza shopping center.

The flight home was via Seoul, Korea. "It was a long trip, since we crossed back over the International Date Line and had two Tuesdays." They actually arrived the same day they left (Tuesday, Oct. 1), having had a double Tuesday.

**From Eastern Canada, New England**

Jagoda and Gene Brown took a 12 day cruise from Quebec to Boston on Holland America line, staying over a few days in Boston to see Gene's cousin and their old stomping grounds near Harvard University, where Gene had attended Business School and taught in the early 1960s. They returned from their trip October 7.

"The weather was sunny and dry," said Gene. "We particularly enjoyed our visit to Bar Harbor, Maine, where we visited the Village Commons. I found out that the "Commons" park concept was originally established for use by the public as a free park in New England towns. We also enjoyed fresh Maine lobster along the way."

Other ports of call on the cruise were Prince Edward Island, Sydney, and Halifax. The Browns flew into Montreal and took the train into Quebec before the cruise.

"We were a week early for the foliage, which was one of the reasons we scheduled this trip," Gene commented. "However, we had a pleasant cruise since Holland America caters to the senior citizen"

The Browns take 3 or 4 cruises a year to a variety of places in the world. "We have enjoyed a trans-Atlantic cruise before, with about 5 days at sea. The ship fills up the time with such things as enrichment lectures, and trivia pursuit contests.. "Jagoda and I even won trivia a couple of times. It's amazing how many things you can learn that you did not know before."

## **Come to the Neighborhood Get-Together: Sunday, October 20, 4 p.m. in Menlo Commons Room**

Light Autumn supper will be served. This is your chance to meet new residents and also meet with your other neighbors.

**RSVP Pat Galvez, 650-561-4343, or email at [Imanana210@me.com](mailto:Imanana210@me.com)**

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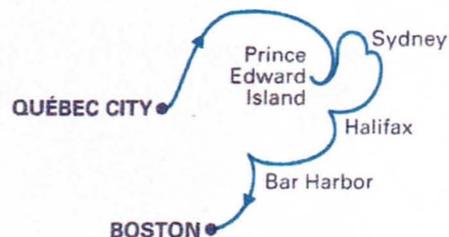
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