

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

### Kent and Joan Bouma Love Living at Menlo Commons

**TGN: Why did you move into Menlo Commons?**

**Joan:** We decided we wanted a condo after living in residences in San Carlos and Redwood City. After searching we found this place, and moved here in 2002. We like the landscaping, the trees, the courtyard, pool. It is paradise! We knew we couldn't have a yard like this if we just had a house. We really like our balcony, and our neighbors probably think we have wild parties, but it is just the two of us enjoying it here. In addition, the people couldn't be more friendly. We have started to attend social events and love them!

**TGN: Your place looks very comfortable.**

**Joan:** Thank you. We painted the walls to look Italian. Remodeled the kitchen, and installed the false fireplace. At first we had two, but decided to just keep just one. We like the comfortable leather chairs in the living room. We even put in a Murphy bed in the second bedroom for a guest. Outside on the balcony we have a small table and some chairs - the two of us can relax out there, eat, party, and enjoy the courtyard view. The trees keep our place shaded and somewhat private in the summer time.

**TGN: Kent, tell us about your early years.**

**Kent:** I was born and raised in Vancouver, Washington. After junior college I came to San Jose State, where I majored in electrical engineering. My first marriage was while I was in college. After graduation, I received a draft notice, so instead I joined the Naval Air Reserve at Alameda. That was in 1962. I went on active duty in 1964, signed up for officer training in Pensacola, Florida. However, I did not become a pilot. I was involved in the air search for a missing nuclear submarine in the Azores. Eventually I was shifted to the Far East tour of duty, including the Philippines, Japan, and Okinawa. When I retired from active duty in 1990 I had achieved the rank of Captain. During this time my family grew to four children. (Now I also have four grandchildren.) I then went to work for PG&E in the transmission line division. I was involved in the Diablo Canyon nuclear power station project. I retired from PG&E and went to work for an electronic microwave communications company which was also involved in cellular phones. I finally retired in January 1995.

**TGN: Joan, what is your background?**

**Joan:** I was born and raised in the Chicago area, and also lived in Cleveland for awhile. I graduated from Purdue, majoring in both elementary education and English. My first marriage was in 1960.



After living in New York, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania, my family and I came to California in 1964. My family had grown to three children during this time, and I was taking care of raising them. (Now I have eight grandchildren, soon to be nine.) We moved to Menlo Park, where I became director of the church staff at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and also was involved in its accounting department. I spent 15 years with the church. Since then I have tutored children with learning disabilities.

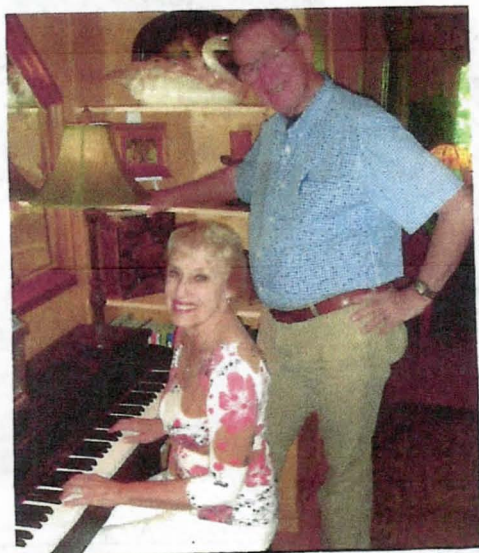
**TGN: So tell us about how you two got together, and what you have been doing.**

**Joan:** It started in 1992, after our respective divorces, when we met while both attending a "singles together" group in Menlo Park. I had been convinced to attend the singles group. I met Kent there at the second meeting of the group. As a result, this led to our getting married in June 1993. We lived in a condo in San Carlos for three years, and a house in Redwood City for about six years. One other thing we did was acquire a vacation cabin near Tahoe City, which we enjoyed for 12 years before selling it about five years ago. We decided we could still visit and enjoy Lake Tahoe (which we still do) without maintaining a house there.

**Kent:** We have enjoyed traveling, including cruises, visiting Norway, central Europe, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. I read a lot. I can visit grandchildren in this area too. Joan's children live on the East Coast. Our favorite pastime and greatest blessing in these Golden Years is simply spending time with our combined "Brady Bunch" of seven children, their spouses, and the 13 grandchildren.

**Joan:** I decided to start taking piano lessons, and I was referred to a wonderful teacher, Cole Dalton. I have a small electronic piano. Even though I stopped lessons a year ago, I can still enjoy it.

**TGN: Thanks for all you have shared with us.**





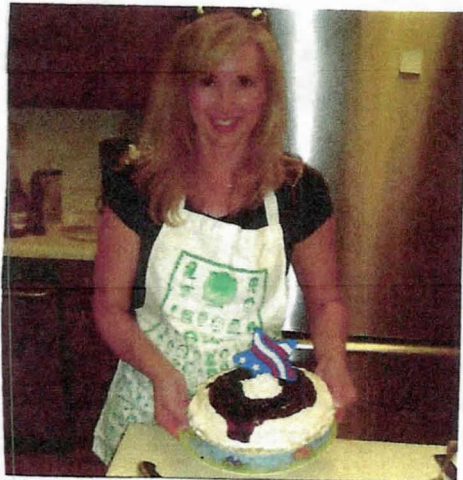
# WAVING THE FLAG FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY!

Menlo Commons residents gathered together for a Fourth of July Picnic and Bar-B-Q. Pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, salads, ice cream and pie, added to the celebration.



*Gwen Leonard serves Dorothy Thomas and Jinqun Chen*

*Ingrid Rodgers and Martha Estrada select their dinner.*



*Kelly Martin (Gwen Leonard's daughter) helps by serving dessert.*



*Chuck and Marilyn Kinney with Zulie Bucar in their midst.*



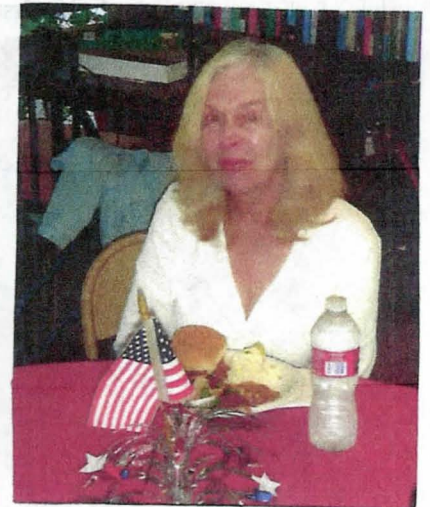
*Sue Marshall, Jim Palmer, and Lois Cardinal ready for the party.*



*Betty Corman eats at a flag table.*



*Betty and Charles Everson join the festivities.*



*Margaret James enjoys her meal.*