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THE WORLD  
COMES TO

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# Parker Ridge

**Located along the jagged coastline in the mid-coast region of Maine** sits a charming, picturesque town that has attracted a very diverse group of inhabitants from all over the world. This is Blue Hill.

**F**irst settled in 1762 and incorporated as Blue Hill in 1789, the town became an escape for famous musicians from New York and Philadelphia in the 1900's. Since then the area has continued to lure creative thinkers and artists looking to draw inspiration from the undeniable natural beauty of the area. The people coming to Blue Hill seeking refuge from the hustle and bustle of major metropolitan areas are coming not only from other parts of the United States, but from all around the world.

This assortment of different backgrounds is perfectly illustrated in the community at Parker Ridge. A pleasant and welcoming retirement community, Parker Ridge is ideally situated in Blue Hill on 28 beautiful

acres, surrounded by woods and walking trails and overlooking the breathtaking Blue Hill Bay. With a diverse offering of accommodations that includes independent living apartments, assisted living suites and retirement cottages, Parker Ridge has attracted people from all over the world. Offering this variety of living options and the undeniable lure of the Blue Hill area, it is no wonder why people come here to retire. *We will introduce our readers to seven of the current residents from various countries.*

**Barbara Phillips** was born and spent her childhood in Winsford, Cheshire, England. The youngest of three children, Barbara and her two older brothers lived in a country setting. She loved riding her dapple gray pony and often rode with friends. Both of her brothers became members of the Royal Air Force



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during WW II and one was shot down and survived while the other was shot down and killed in action. This was an especially sad time for the family.

Barbara always had a strong ambition to work overseas. After college she worked for the American Embassy and later transferred to Casablanca to work for the American Air Force. She met her first husband in Morocco. He was French and worked as a civilian on the same base. After emigrating to the United States, Barbara went to work for British Airways in Washington, DC, where her daughter, Dominique, was born. Barbara loved the life Washington had to offer and was able to travel while working for the airline.

Barbara's second husband was a physicist who taught at Rice University in Texas which meant relocating to Houston. They spent time in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Barbara developed a wonderful talent for oil painting and some of her beautiful work is displayed in her apartment here at Parker Ridge. The fact that Barbara became a resident in the community is due to the efforts of her daughter, Dominique, and her husband who had come to Blue Hill the previous year.

**Cliff Mathews** was born in Totton, Hampshire, England. Cliff was the eldest of four children from a conventional English family. When Cliff was just twelve years old, he and his two younger sisters were sent to live in the United States during the blitz when aircraft factories near his home were put on the bomb target by German forces. Cliff and the girls were relocated to Glendale, Ohio where they led a fortunate life with their foster family. The wealthy family offered them a lifestyle they never dreamed existed.

After the war Cliff and his sisters returned to England where he



Barbara Phillips



Cliff Mathews



Hertha Owen



Marjory Chesney

attended Portsmouth College, but was later drafted to the British Army for three years. In 1949 Cliff was determined to return to the United States and travelled by steamship. He attended Iowa State to study journalism. He later moved to New York City where he worked in the travel agency business. It was there that he met his future wife, Ann. Ann and Cliff later moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where the couple's only child, Paula, was born.

Cliff and Ann were attracted to Maine and travelled several summers camping in various areas of our state. Along the way, they found a home on the water in Penobscot. Cliff served on the Board of Coastal Holdings, Inc. which oversaw the community of Parker Ridge in Blue Hill. Eight years ago Cliff and Ann made the decision to call Parker Ridge home and purchased a cottage. Cliff's artistic talents were instrumental in his leadership of the art classes at Parker Ridge and many of his paintings can be viewed throughout the main building.

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**Hertha Owen** was born in Austria and spent the first 23 years of her life there. She attended schools in Bad Voeslau and Baden near Vienna, Austria. Hertha's family relocated to Salzburg and then to Berne, Switzerland. She attended three years of nursing school at the University of Vienna. She then had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to serve as an au pair for a family that had relocated with the diplomatic department.

She met Henry Owen in Washington at Battery Kemble Park and they were married on March 3rd, 1956. Their married life was spent in Washington and they eventually purchased a summer home in Seal Harbor. Henry died on November 5th, 2011. In



September, 2014 she moved to Parker Ridge to be closer to her son Francis and daughter-in-law Cara.

**Marjory Chesney** was a native of Winnipeg, Alberta, Canada. The family later moved to Toronto and then Montreal where she attended McGill University. Marjory met her future husband, J. Duke Chesney, at the United Church and after a six-year courtship they married and moved to Albany, NY where they raised four children (two girls and twin boys). In addition to raising a family Marjory was an avid volunteer in various organizations contributing much of her time to the betterment of her community in Albany. The Chesney family were long time summer residents in

Deer Isle and family gatherings were an integral part of their lives.

Marjory continued her volunteer work here in Blue Hill at the Bagaduce Music Lending Library and until recently was a strong supporter and attendee of the Deer Isle-Sunset Congregational Church. Marjory has been an active resident of the Parker Ridge community. Her father instilled in her a lifelong ethic of learning. When meeting Marjory, people are absolutely amazed that she will celebrate her 106th birthday in October. When asked what she attributes to her longevity, Marjory says, "I consider myself fortunate and I don't worry about heaven because my life has been heaven on earth."



Nellik Doble

The people coming to Blue Hill *seeking refuge from the hustle and bustle* of major metropolitan areas are coming not only from other parts of the United States, but *from all around the world*.

**Nellik Doble** was born and raised in Holland. Her father was Dutch and her mother was Norwegian. She was the youngest of four siblings with three older brothers. Nellik left Holland in 1939 to attend college in the United States. She showed an adventurous spirit to leave her entire family to attend Mount Holyoke just three days after World War II began. In May of 1940 Holland was overrun, and Nellik did not see her parents again until nine years later in 1948.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke in 1942, Nellik was employed with the Rotterdam Lloyd Steamship Company's New York office as a bilingual secretary. A college girlfriend introduced her to Frank Doble in March of 1943. They eventually married. Hingham, Massachusetts became home from 1948 until 1978. It was there that they raised their three children. Nellik's husband, Frank, owned and operated a small printing business in Boston. When the children were grown she joined him to assist in the business.

Nellik and her husband owned pleasure boats from 1974 to 1995; one of which was serviced in Maine. An idea was born to move to Maine in their retirement years and in 1978 the couple bought a house in Brooklin. Nellik was a long time member of the Bagaduce Chorale and has volunteered at the Bagaduce Library since its inception. Many years were enjoyed together in retirement before Frank died in 2009 at the age of 93. Nellik still calls the house in Brooklin home, but is now an active retiree at Parker Ridge.

**Marianne New** has led a most exceptional life. She spent her first twenty years in Geneva, Switzerland where she was born. Marianne attended an international school where she learned many languages. Marianne studied child psychology with Jean Piaget at the University of Geneva. In 1941, while Hitler was ruling



Marianne New



Maggie Tebbenhoff

on the other side of the border of Switzerland, her family decided to leave Switzerland for the United States, very much to Marianne's dismay. Because of having studied with Piaget, she got a job at the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York.

Her mother took a trip along the East Coast and fell in love with Mount Desert Island. In 1943, she invited Marianne for a vacation on Echo Lake. Marianne said to her mother, "If I could live here, I would love to be in America." Her mother replied, "You'll never find a job and never find a husband here." In 1945, Swiss friends introduced Marianne to Eric New who had emigrated from Germany to Berkeley and later to New York. Eric and Marianne were married in 1946. Marianne introduced Eric to Echo Lake which he grew equally fond of. They were summer people until 1964. They had a house built in Bass Harbor and became year round people "from away."

Marianne was a cellist and Eric an excellent pianist. Playing chamber music was their life-long passion. Eric had a Steinway grand piano shipped here from New York which now is located in the living room at Parker Ridge. Marianne chose to live at Parker Ridge because of the plethora of friends living on the Blue Hill Peninsula and Mount Desert Island. She is an admired member of the Blue Hill community.

**Maggie Tebbenhoff** was born in Ayr, Scotland, one of four children. Her older brother is now deceased, and her two other siblings remain in Scotland. Her father was a baker and her mother was a weaver. She was married to Jack Tebbenhoff for 58 years. They were married in 1955 at "the little church around the corner" in New York City. The couple moved several times due to employment changes before settling in Virginia. Maggie and Jack raised three children: Trudy who lives in Blue Hill, Jim who lives in Virginia and Bill who lives in Florida. She and Jack moved to Maine in 1979 to work and live. They decided to own and operate the Heritage Motor Inn in Blue Hill. Maggie's best girlfriend from age 5-21 was a great influence on her life. She met Jack during that time as well and her life changed forever.

Being married and having children was always her lifelong goal. Maggie currently enjoys knitting and embroidery but her main interest is in dance! She would like folks to know her as "an easy going person, non-combative, but strong and independent and one who could be called on for help." Maggie joined the Parker Ridge community in May of 2015.

Parker Ridge and its residents are full of rich history that contributes to a culture that is undeniably unique. Whether from halfway across the world or from right here in Blue Hill, the residents of Parker Ridge all have unique and interesting stories to tell and something important to add to the community. Parker Ridge is about more than just being a beautiful retirement community; it is about a sense of home for people from all around the world. **MSM**

*For more details about this community, please call Marilyn Phinney at 207.374.2306 or visit them online at [www.ParkerRidge.com](http://www.ParkerRidge.com). You can also find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RetireAtParkerRidge](https://www.facebook.com/RetireAtParkerRidge).*

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