Roosevelt High School, the long-struggling neighborhood high school for St. Johns and nearby communities graduated only 58% of seniors in 2008. It is the most ethnically diverse high school in the state of Oregon with almost equal numbers of black, Latino and white students and many other ethnic minorities as well. As part of a major turnaround, the school established a Writing and Publishing Center three years ago to help students gain proficiency in writing, offer tutoring, help with college applications and encourage use of college writing centers when they continue their education. The project also seeks to create a vibrant community of writers and publish books regularly. Teacher Andriana Alexis heads up the writing program, while Kate McPherson and her mother Amanda. Laura’s last forty years had not been kind to the mansion in 1938, the beautiful Anne Victorian Mansion. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Boone/ Cole family splintered and went different directions. Amanda Boone /Cole married a Holgate, but was allegedly had built for his wife and mother Amanda. Laura’s time in the mansion was random, as it seems certain she was not there permanently. Where else she might have lived is a mystery, but it looks like she may have lived with her father. Clearly, the aging David Cole was not a resident of the mansion.

The last year David Cole is known to have lived was 1998, and he was employed in real estate. Cole died in 1996, and he was 78 years old. There is no record of Laura W. Boone/Cole remarrying, but because of the confusion over the name alteration from Boone to Boone, there might be a different conclusion. There are some records that suggest Laura may have taken the name Boone after the death of her husband, but records are not clear.

The Alburas family, (Alburas, Alburaz, or Alburez) lived in the neighborhood bought most of their groceries. It was also a meeting place; a location where neighbors shopped. All proceeds from the book (cost is $15) go back to the Roosevelt Writing and Publishing Center. To learn more, go to www.rooseveltroughwriters.org. The book makes a perfect gift for the holidays.
From the St. Johns Main Street:

Cover Oregon Uncovered:
What you need to know as a small business owner about the Affordable Care Act and Cover Oregon!

The Affordable Care Act and Cover Oregon (the Oregon State health insurance exchange), have been in the news quite a bit over the last month. But even with all that media buzz, it can be hard to understand what the ACA is, and how it will affect you as a business owner.

Don’t worry. St. Johns Main Street has you covered!

Come to the “Cover Oregon Uncovered” Build a Better Business seminar offered by the St. Johns Main Street Coalition and the Boosters on Wednesday, November 6 to talk with the Main Street Alliance of Oregon about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the benefits to small business owners. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a discussion with other small business owners and the ACA and Cover Oregon and ask questions of the presenters.

The Build a Better Business seminar will be at 8:30 am in the morning at Proper Eats, located at 6538 N Lombard St. in downtown St. Johns.

After a brief mixer, the seminar will begin at 8:45 am. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

The Main Street Alliance of Oregon is a coalition of over 1600 small business owners from across the state that works to provide small businesses a voice on the most pressing public policy issues in Oregon and nationally. Our advocacy promotes vibrant businesses and healthy communities, and fosters leadership development of socially responsible business leaders.

The Build a Better Business seminar is brought in by St. Johns Main Street Coalition and the St. Johns Boosters and is sponsored by a grant through Venture Portland. Visit them at ventureportland.org or call 283-2767 for more information or to register.

Contact Sharon at 503-490-2889 or robnew@stjohnsmainstreet.org.

UP receives $2.2 million RISE gift to establish a professorship at Shiley School of Engineering

University of Portland has announced a $2.2 million matching gift of $1.1 million to create the Margaret M. and Vincent P. Aquino Endowed Professorship in Engineering. The funds will enable students to undergo undergraduate and graduate classroom instruction in the Donald P. Shiley School of Engineering.

The fund was established by the late Vincent Aquino, who graduated from University of Portland in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree in general engineering. He established a bequest in honor of his parents, neither of whom attended college but were determined to help their children do so. Three of their four children graduated from University of Portland and the other from Marylhurst University.

Vincent passed away in July 2013, and his estate has been handled by his brother Robert Aquino, who graduated from University of Portland in 1960 with a bachelor’s degree in physics. Robert currently serves on the University of Portland Engineering Advisory Council (UPEC). Vincent was among the early members of the advisory group.

After graduating from UP, Vincent joined General Electric Nuclear at Hanford, Washington, where he worked for three years as an engineer. In 1962, he earned a master’s degree in nuclear engineering from Cal Tech. He worked at Westinghouse Naval Reactors and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command at Argonne National Labs, both in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The rest of his career was spent at Argonne National Labs, where he rose to the Directorship of Quality Assurance.

Vincent earned an MBA from the University of Idaho in 1974. He then taught night school courses in management and also nuclear regulatory law. A long-time member of the Idaho Falls Catholic community, he served as St. Ignatius for a Boy Scouts troop for more than 30 years, among his many community service activities.

The faculty member who will receive the endowed professorship will be announced during the upcoming Faculty Awards Gala, set for May 6, 2014. The objective of the gift is to provide students a complete education that is ethically based and technically sound.

The gift is part of the University’s RISE Campaign, which was announced in December 2010 and seeks to raise $175 million by 2014. The RISE Campaign, which was launched with more than $163 million to date, is one of the largest development campaigns ever for a Pacific Northwest private college or university.

The campaign’s goals are divided into four major themes, each with funding targets: (1) Pursuing academic excellence and faculty funding – $50 million; (2) Ensuring academic excellence and a world-class campus – $70 million; (3) Developing faith and service – $45 million; and (4) Developing faith and leadership – $10 million; and $50 million. University.

UP has a $2.2 million matching gift from business leader Vincent Aquino.

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University of Portland plans Veterans Day ceremony with Brigadier General Steven R. Beach

Brigadier General Steven R. Beach will be the featured speaker at University of Portland’s annual Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11 on the University’s campus, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. The ceremony, sponsored by the University’s Air Force and Army ROTC programs, will recognize campus members who have served during times of war, including WWII and Vietnam veterans.

The Veterans Day ceremony will take place after a 24-hour candlelight vigil with Air Force and Army cadets standing guard beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10. The vigil ends at the conclusion of the ceremony, close to noon on Monday.

Beach has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his career, which include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with four bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with three bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with bronze star), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Ranger Tab Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, among others.

The 24-hour vigil and Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Praying Hands Memorial located in the quad between Kenna Hall and Christie Hall on campus. The Praying Hands Memorial was built by the University’s Class of 1948, in honor of the 69 University of Portland students killed during World War II. The addition of each brick wall surrounding the memorial represents four different battles: World War I, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War.

For more information, please contact Master Sergeant Eric Chastain at (503) 943-8065 or chastain@up.edu.
to the building, but for the Alburas family it had a variety of desirable attractions. It was close to the store and had plenty of room for their five kids. They made many changes to the location more “family friendly” as large sitting rooms and verandas were converted to bedrooms for the kids and the attic was built out to make a play area for the children in the winter. A person going through the mansion today can see passages and doorways that now lead to nowhere! These are remnants of what was once a different house. Through the years, the owners have chosen to keep these interesting gems in place and the current owner can easily identify where the doors opened and where changes occurred. It’s fun to close your eyes and try and recreate what the original design of the building must have been. It truly conjures up the notion “if these walls could talk.” A location like this is always a work in progress and because of the long and venerable history, new discoveries about the mansion are not uncommon; just when you thought you knew it all, something new and revealing jumps out.

During WWII the mansion had an odd, yet marvelously distinctive interior. This was done to make the mansion more “family friendly” as large sitting rooms and verandas were converted to bedrooms for the kids and the attic was built out to make a play area for the children in the winter. A person going through the mansion today can see passages and doorways that now lead to nowhere! These are remnants of what was once a different house. Through the years, the owners have chosen to keep these interesting gems in place and the current owner can easily identify where the doors opened and where changes occurred. It’s fun to close your eyes and try and recreate what the original design of the building must have been. It truly conjures up the notion “if these walls could talk.” A location like this is always a work in progress and because of the long and venerable history, new discoveries about the mansion are not uncommon; just when you thought you knew it all, something new and revealing jumps out.

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In North Portland we have a building that spans/connects three centuries of history, rumor, innuendo and fascination. (I purposely excluded the ghost stories so many people begged me to include. I did so because there is zero evidence of any such phenomenon taking place in the mansion. My gut feeling is some people want the location to be haunted, and because of the architecture of a Victorian home, it lends itself to memories of old Vincent Price movies. Sorry to say, you ghost busters will have to embellish those stories on your own, I can’t help!) The names associated with the location are iconic to American history. The events which took place in the mansion are (sometimes) as illustrious as they are mysterious. Few spots can boast of such distinction, and fewer yet have had the loving attention to detail and restoration of the Queen Anne Victorian Mansion.

So, as the holiday season approaches, don’t hesitate to look to the “Queen of Kenton” to announce the coming joy associated with Christmas. Her guiding lights will send the special emotions that will cover our area. Be courteous and kind, and treat our “Queen” with dignity and respect.

The end of drafts, cold spots, and chilly rooms begins with a home energy assessment from Clean Energy Works Oregon, a non-profit group dedicated to restoring the comforts of home to everyone. We help pinpoint where energy is wasted in your home, then resolve those losses once and for all. Join a few thousand of your neighbors who finally have the livable home they’ve always wanted. contus.org/comfort

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About the Author:
Jim Speirs is a lifelong resident of North Portland, fourth generation. He is a published author and enjoys writing about North Portland's history. He was a teacher of Political Science at Portland Community College and Chemeketa Community College and taught the politics of China, Vietnam, and Korea at both colleges. He still lives and works in North Portland. Jim has seven published books: Death in Spades, Flood of Change, and Tales of North Portland: Volumes I, II, III, IV, and V. All are from his many articles in the St. Johns Review newspaper throughout his years as Historical Editor. The Tales series are available for purchase in several locations in North Portland. Contact Jim @jtspeirs@yahoo.com to find out where.

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