



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

6 °F / -14 °C

Light Snow

at 6:53 PM

Advisory!

[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006

Just another day in paradise

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

A truly unique shopping experience - Gifts for that special person! Friendly - Affordable

HERRING BAY MERCANTILE

<http://www.herringbaymercantile.com>

Located in beautiful downtown Seldovia - 275 Main St.



[Current Spotlight](#) | [Spotlight Archives](#) - click year : [2005](#) • [2006](#) •

Seldovia's Realtor- Jenny Chissus

by Mary Glover



Jenny Faye Devin Chissus was born in Seattle, Washington and grew up nearby on [Bainbridge Island](#). Her parents still live in the same home she grew up in. Jenny says her childhood home is on the water with views of Mt. Rainer and Seattle. It is a small community (compared to Seattle) with about 14,000 to 18,000 people. When growing up there, Jenny stated that she knew everyone in her community by name. Trips to Seattle were

Paul Jr. "Sonny" and Jenny did not see each other until many years later! Sonny was working in construction in Fairbanks, and he and his partner, Dave, were remodeling a travel agency, who gave them a package to go to Hawaii for two weeks. When Sonny came to Hawaii, he called Jenny and their adventure started anew. They had a long distance relationship for about a year, as Paul was in Fairbanks and Jenny was in

wonderful events as the family took the ferry across the bay. The large ferry had an upper deck where everyone sat and viewed the scenery. Jenny remembers running around visiting with all the passengers. She said she never made one complete revolution around the boat because she knew so many people. Jenny has found memories of playing on the beach, making sand castles, watching the ferries, climbing trees, and getting sun burned! (Bainbridge Island had one high school, the high school that Jenny, Paul and Cara Kroll all attended.)

Jenny's father, was born and spent his early years in Hawaii and became a graphic designer. He would take the daily ferry to Seattle to run his business. Jenny's parents met when her father was in the U.S. Coast Guard and was stationed in Baltimore. Her mother was an elementary teacher and on their first date he asked her, "If he was the right guy, would she move back to Seattle with him. She said, she would." Jenny said, "He wanted to make sure that she would be willing to move across the country, because eventually he would be going back to Bainbridge Island." The Devins moved to Bainbridge Island around 1960.

Jenny's older brother, Peter, lives in Newport Beach. Peter organizes conventions for sporting shows and his wife runs the Christian library at Mariner's Church (a big church of about 10,000 people). They have two children, one daughter, Chelsea, who just graduated from high school and the older child, Ryan, who has also begun a career in real estate, after graduating from college. Jenny's younger brother, John, lives in Seattle and works for a manufacturing company.

When Jenny was 11 years old her family went to live in Switzerland for one year. At first she was resistant to this major change. She was immersed in a French speaking 6th-7th grade class where French was the only language. Within that one short year, Jenny learned French! Some of the benefits of living in Switzerland were, they went skiing for PE class and got to ride a train to school. Jenny states, "this experience set the direction" for her life.

She continued studying French in high school and she could speak and read comfortably. She has taught French 101 and then in college, she majored in French. Jenny went to five different colleges before she graduated within five years. During this time, she went to Switzerland for an intensive French study, on to college in Iowa and then graduated in Paris, France. She also had the opportunity to work for Avis International in Paris as a marketing and sales director before coming home to the states.

One summer during her college years, Jenny went to work in France at the [Chateau de Garrevaques](#) as a nanny and hostess for the castle and guests. One of the adventurous things she did that summer was learning to fly a glider plane. After graduation and upon returning to Seattle, Jenny worked for Business Careers, which was a job placement service. Jenny liked that job as it parallels her current real estate business. In both instances it is "finding a fit" for the people.

After Seattle, Jenny went to work for the French company, [Club](#)

Hawaii. Another interesting event happened on this trip; Dave met a girl from France, named Mimi, whom he later married! The two partners from Fairbanks got their wives on that very productive trip to Hawaii and both of the ladies spoke French!

Paul and Jenny have three kids, KC, Devin and Marina. While the kids were growing up, Jenny enjoyed being a stay at home mom, and felt blessed to be in a situation where she could be at home with her young family. Sonny was working in construction and later taught vocational education at Ryan Middle School. Jenny worked a few hours a week with a Mary Kay business, and speaks very highly about being a Mary Kay Representative. She likes the part of this business that puts their customers first. She also felt it was a great outlet for a young mom, giving her opportunities to meet other women, which was important, as she was new to the Fairbanks area.

Jenny was not too enchanted by the "interior" of Alaska, and yearned for a home by the sea. Sonny, too, with a 32 foot Westsail under 5 feet of snow in Fairbanks longed to get closer to the water. That is how they came upon Seldovia. After 2 years of sincere looking, talking to folks about opportunities in Seldovia - Sonny was hired by the Boys & Girls Club in October 2002, which made the move to Seldovia a reality!

As Jenny's last child entered the school system, she felt she had the time she needed to dedicate to a career. As many folks know in Seldovia, it is essential to create a position for yourself, as there are not a lot of job opportunities. Because of her marketing and sales background and love for Seldovia, real estate was the "perfect match" for her! She believes that "God has a plan for everybody." She stated, "When clients are purchasing or selling a home or business, they get geared up...it's emotional, scary, ... they are putting themselves on the line." Jenny stated, "I want to help people go through the process so it won't be so intimidating, and I try to give them information that empowers them to make the right decision in their situation, I consider myself a matchmaker. I always say that people date a lot before they marry, and buying or selling a home or business is a very important decision that requires a lot of time and patience to find the right combination. That process is important ... if a sale or purchase doesn't come together, I really believe that there is something better for them. I help people find what they need, and assist them if they need to sell what they have in order to move on. It has been an awesome experience! I also enjoy being on the front end of people coming to town and I like the opportunity to meet new people.." Jenny tells her customers, "I love it here. It was the best decision we ever made. When we got off the ferry my cheek muscles were sore from smiling so much....But, Seldovia might not be the right fit for you." Then people ask her. "Why are you being so honest?" Jenny wants "to put everything on the table.... It is essential that my clients are informed with all the facts, so that they can make the best decision." Jenny wants people to choose her because they want her enthusiasm, integrity and sincere desire to serve their best interests, not because she currently is the only realtor in Seldovia. Jenny is a great realtor as reflected by the plaque hanging in her office. ReMax of Homer honored Jenny as Rookie of the Year in 2005, her first year as a realtor.

Med. This company has over 110 beach and ski resorts worldwide. She worked in Florida for the first season, and then was chosen to be one of four Americans to work on Club Med I, where she was a Hostess/Translator/Excursion Guide on the largest sailing cruise ship in the world, which sailed the Caribbean. Her job involved translating from French into English, checking on people, organizational and fun stuff on the boat. After Club Med, Jenny ended up on the Big Island of Hawaii tending her niece and nephew and came into a job with the Hyatt Regency in a Kids Club program. After 2 years, her Director gave her the opportunity to go to Oahu where she worked with the opening team designing everything about the Kids Club for the Ihilani Resort and Spa in 1993.

It is a long story how Jenny and Paul got together. Briefly, here is it. Jenny and Paul dated in High School on Bainbridge, Paul was a freshman, and Jenny was a Junior! The Chissus family (Paul Sr., Ginny, Cara and Paul "Sonny") had moved from Alaska to Bainbridge as Paul Sr. was a pilot and was stationed out of Seattle. They moved back to Alaska in 1982 after Cara's (and Jenny's) graduation.

What Jenny likes about living here is that she knows so many people in Seldovia by name, and the trip to the post office takes 30 minutes of chat time and 5 minutes of travel time. She likes small town living and that "we are all together in this small community which is very similar to the community I remember on Bainbridge Island." Jenny states "I believe in the future of Seldovia, it is a great place for families, with many opportunities for people who love living in one of the most beautiful locations of the world, without the crowds!" Her real estate business has brought many people into her realm and she thoroughly enjoys this new dimension to her life. Since Jenny and Paul's move to Seldovia, Paul's sister Cara, and her husband, Steve, and 7 children have moved here along with Paul's parents who are now living on Backer's Island as the winter caretakers. The Chissus/Kroll clan adds 16 people to the Seldovia population!



Copyright © 2006 Seldovia.com, Inc. and Seldovia Gazette. All rights reserved. The Seldovia Gazette is published weekly by Seldovia.com, Inc. Contents of this publication may not be used or reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or manner without the express written permission of Seldovia.com, Inc. [Click here for additional details.](#)

