RENTERS’ RIGHTS
what to do when the landlord’s wrong

strictly kosher... pg. 3
dressed to kill... pg. 4
contra culture... pg. 16
teed off... pg. 27

MARCH 27, 1997  ■  VOL IX, NO 25  ■  GREATER PORTLAND’S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION  ■  FREE

Casco Bay Weekly

Lord’s strictly kosher...
A CONVERSATION WITH

GARY BERENSON

"We just got a new rabbi; he's a little more strict than some of the others. He's orthodox. He just abides by the [Jewish] laws and he needs a man in to watch us cut the meat all the time."

---

If you need to stock up for Passover, you might want to pay Gary Berenson a little visit. He and his parents, Barbara and Jack, keep their Penny Wise Deli on Ocean Avenue, stocked to the max with almost every kosher edible under the sun. We're talking Manishewitz borscht and macaroons - coconut, chocolate, chocolate chip. Manishewitz matzos - egg, whole wheat, plain. 32-ounce jars of Mother's gefilte fish and matzo ball soup; Streit's potato pancake mix; and a cold deli case stuffed with potato and beef knishes, Zion salami and bologna, Hebrew National hot dogs... enough already.

The Berensons opened the little kosher shop (reportedly the only one of its kind in Portland) 45 years ago in the same spot it stands today. Gary, a 47-year-old bachelor, was caught working the deli solo the other day. And an unusually busy one it was, he said: "Passover's only three and a half weeks away. Do you get a lot of Jews in here? Yeah, we do, we get them from all over the city and throughout the state of Maine, and as far as Bangor. We even have people come from Canada when they're here in the summer."

Other things have changed, too. Forty-five years ago, your parents didn't have to compete with the Christy's of the world. What do you do to stay alive? We just have to come up with new gimmicks - just getting people in with the sandwiches, giving different names to the sandwiches. Like what? My political sandwich was the Ross Perot sandwich. That was on wheat bread, with turkey, ham, beef, cole slaw, lettuce and tomato. I did this because I liked him as a businessman and so I made the best deli-type sandwich I could.

What's the worst thing that's ever happened here? I suppose the biggest thing is, just last month, some kids walked out with some beer.

Interview by Sharon Bass; photo by Colin Malakie

---

Celebrate the joys of spring. Easter is Sunday, March 30. Enjoy the beauty and magic of spring with a charming Tiffany & Co. Keepsake Bouquet. Send these unique heirlooms to anyone in the U.S. or Canada, call or visit our shop.

Tiffany, Marty & Toni

Now Appearing At
Topcoats & Co.
303 Commercial St., Portland, ME
Call for an appointment: 874-0392
**Out My Way**

**Lucinda's NAVIGATION / SKIN CARE / BODYCARE / COLOR ANALYSIS / MAKEUP**
839-9000
Hours: 9-9 Mon-Sat (Located at Dunstan Corner)

**LIVE HEARING PROBLEM?**
Call David Lourie, Esq.
207-799-4328
311 Beech Ridge, Scarborough

**LAND USE PROBLEM?**
Call Michael Cady, Esq.
799-4922

**Wear the look you love**

**Fashion victims**

No one could be more spoiled than I, frittering away my inheritance on M. Chouinard and Betsey Johnson, trying to find out what the rest of the universe is like. CBW Best of Portland: "Locally primary with the most avowed worshippers" category. I didn't realize anyone thought I had a personality. The first thing I did was sprawl on the floor. I ran my hands down my subsection memoir. These kids are not tough to get off of. I bought a hairbrush, a lipstick, an electric shaver, and a bottom half of my old flannel. My makeshift bag was made from the head of my own black cat's tail, my wool regatta had holes in the bottom.

One word: heroine. I looked for. So far...

"Why not try our some of your fashion successes with the world?" And because I finally could try to give the world the emptier than I was, I decided to decorate this column to wear what my "fashionable" look is.

CBW wrote to me at Elizabeth At The Register: "What a creative look today! Poison. You pair crack me up, you really do. Yes, most of my clothes are black. Big deal. You, for this, I take an enormous amount of grand.

For example, I made up the combo a month ago, having been on the verge of throwing it all away. My friend Boyd, who often refers to me as "Boyd of the valley" and every disposition, insisted on my getting rid of the dress, he loaned the hat, and he loaned my blouse. I didn't wear the blouse as my dress. I made the dress as my blouse. I made the black shirt. I made the black skirt. I made the black shoes.

And I said to myself, "Who are you like some of your fashion successes with the world?" And because I finally could try to give the world the emptier than I was, I decided to decorate this column to wear what my "fashionable" look is.

**CLASSES**

**Adult & Teen**

**Testing" look is all about.**

find it easier to cede to the woman in control of the room. In a way, it's the perfect solution to every single problem. I wish.

Marcus Knott

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Laura Conaway

Senior Graphic Designer

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Illustrator/Graphic Designer

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Publisher

**WHERE ELSE TO FIND US**

Casco Bay Weekly is also on the World Wide Web. Feature articles, employment opportunities, classifieds, and more can be found at http://www.maine.com/cbw

**Entire Contents**

This is also the second last local law on the new law, which created a "Clean Elections" fund using public money to pay for gubernatorial campaign fundraising activities.

The MCLU’s is also an on a national level on the new law, which creates a "Clean Elections" fund using public money to pay for gubernatorial campaign fundraising activities.

EAT GOOD FOOD AND THINK GOOD THOUGHTS.
Rocking the boat

Some CRL board members are trying to force management to walk the plank.

LAURA CONWAY

Recent controversy over whether to increase ferry prices for Elegant Portland and the Casco Bay Islands brings to mind the issue of whether the board should be able to increase rates without a full board vote. This is an issue that has been raised many times over the past year, and is one that the public is concerned about. People want to know if the board is making decisions that are in their best interest or if they are making decisions to benefit themselves.

Over the past few months, there have been many discussions about whether to increase the ferry rates. The board has been trying to figure out a way to balance the budget and keep the ferry service running smoothly. However, some board members have been pushing for an increase in rates to cover the deficit.

The public has been concerned about the increase, and many have written to the board expressing their opposition. However, the board has not been swayed by these concerns and has decided to increase the rates.

The issue of whether the board should be able to increase rates without a full board vote is an important one, and it will be interesting to see how this situation plays out.

CITY

The city of Portland is facing some difficult decisions in the coming months. With a projected budget shortfall of $3 million, the city will need to find ways to cut costs and increase revenues. One option being considered is to increase utility rates. However, this would be a difficult decision for the city to make, as it would affect many people in the community.

Another option being considered is to cut services. This would be a difficult decision as well, as it would mean reducing services for some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The city will need to carefully consider the impact of any changes they make before making a decision.

The city of Portland is working hard to find ways to address its financial challenges. It is important for the community to support these efforts and to work together to find solutions.

THE BRIDE, BRIDESMAIDS AND MOTHERS

MEMORABLE DESIGNS FOR TUXEDOS FROM VESTIMENTA, MONDO AND TALLIA.

THE BRIDE, BRIDESMAIDS AND MOTHERS
Renters' rights

Maine law is balanced. That doesn’t make things easy for tenants—or landlords.

Meet Mr. Cockroach
Debbie Jackson received a panicked call late one night last summer from an apartment building owner in her home town of Biddeford. Someone had reported seeing a very large cockroach, and she had to come over and deal with it. As Jackson, the pest control company’s local representative, arrived at the building, the owner greeted her with a wide grin and said, “Hi, Debbie! You must be here to take care of the cockroaches. I heard you had some great stories about the ones in my building.”

Jackson smiled and assured the owner that she was indeed there to deal with the cockroaches. She then proceeded to examine the building to determine the best course of action. After inspecting the premises, Jackson recommended the use of effective cockroach-killing materials and provided instructions on how to apply them properly.

The owner was grateful for Jackson’s expertise and thanked her for taking care of the problem. She was relieved to know that the cockroaches were under control, and she expressed her appreciation for the service.

Jackson left the building with a sense of satisfaction, knowing that she had done her job well. She was pleased to have been able to help her client and to have made a positive impact on their environment.

In conclusion, dealing with pests can be a daunting task, but with the proper knowledge and expertise, it can be managed effectively. By following the best practices and consulting with experts, such as Debbie Jackson, one can ensure a pest-free environment and maintain a healthy, comfortable living space.
GRAND OPENING

April 2

Offering Fine "Hip" Seafood & Many Other Delicious Selections

Dinner Seven Nights 5-10pm
Saturday & Sunday Brunch 9am-2pm
Please Call for Details & Reservations
21 Pleasant Street, Portland • 774-5360

Who ya gonna call

Renter's rights

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Page 19

The Pavilion
196 Middle St., Portland, ME

March 31
9pm doors 9pm show All ages $10

Special guests: Snack Mojo & Drone

April 13
6:30pm doors 7:30pm show $15 All ages

DINOSAUR JR.

April 20
9pm doors 9pm show All ages
On Sale Friday 10am

The Original PORTLAND HOME SHOW

APRIL 4-5-6
PORTLAND EXPO PORTLAND, MAINE
FRI SAT SUN 10am - 5:30pm
PUBLIC FREE

March
On Sale Friday 10am - 7pm doors 8pm show All ages

Hair removal safely, comfortably & permanently
Debra S. Lamson, L.C.D.D., Est." 
Volunteer Lawyer Project, 774-4348. Refers qualified low-income people to private agencies who give legal advice and can help prepare documents.

Legal Services for the Elderly, 800-750-5353. Specializes in legal problems of those age 60 and over. There are no income guidelines. The hotline is staffed by attorneys, who give legal advice and are available to participate in group meetings.

Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, 780-4370. Low-income people can get free legal advice from third-year law students. The clinic is located in the law school on the premises of the University of Southern Maine campus.

Maine Human Rights Commission, 606-4049. Investigates complaints of housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, physical or mental impairment, veteran status, being a single parent, being pregnant or having children.

Portland Building Inspection Office, 874-3200. Investigates reports of housing code violations. If violations are confirmed, orders landlords to correct them promptly.

Portland Housing Authority, 773-4353. Provides housing for low-income families in subsidized private apartments and public housing projects.

Holly Innocents Housing Program, 871-7071. Assists low-income people with mental health issues in finding housing.

Preble Street Resource Center, 874-6800. Provides a variety of housing referral services to low-income people.

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Preble Street Resource Center, 874-6800. Provides a variety of housing referral services to low-income people.
Is That A Rabbit? Peter coming too soon.

Free 15-minute consultations with experts.

If you love your old house, you won't want Interior Designers.

34 Exchange St. Portland. 772-0219

Old House Trade Show

Greater Portland Landmarks

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

Joe's Car Wash

COME AND SEE WHAT'S SPRINGING UP AT SERENDIPITY

34 Exchange St. Portland • 772-0219

Renters' rights

COMPLAINTS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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Finally, there's the annoying problem of evictions. Complaints are supposed to be filed if you don't have a lease, even landlords can't use this to get rid of tenants.

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Home free

The majority of the citizens of Portland have not yet realized the alleged
dangers of owning the place where they live. 86 percent of the
city’s housing stock is rental units. Some people rent because they can’t
scrape together the capital and credit necessary to buy, but for many,
renting is a positive choice. They could opt to buy a domicile, enjoy the
mobility and lack of responsibility renting affords.

When you’re a renter, though, it’s easy to feel you have
no control over your own home. It can be difficult to get a
landlord to turn up tepid heat, replace broken appliances, squash virulent vermin or hush up obnoxious
neighbors. Renters live with conditions that are
visiting or downright dangerous simply because they
are worried that by calling attention to such problems, they’d somehow
endanger their status with the landlord and end up on the street. And in
the last few months, there’s been a lot of talk about how tight the housing
market is here in Portland. Bette to live with the desultious landlord you
good, the thinking, than to find yourself out in the cold.

We suggest that all such terrorized renters read this week’s cover story (‘Renters’ rights,” page 8), clip and save it for help in troubled times.
Renters in Maine have a decent amount of legal protection, but very few
people know what their rights (and responsibilities) actually are. That’s
why the simple brochure available from Pine Tree Legal Assistance is such
a valuable resource.

But Pine Tree’s budget has been hacked away to the point that the legal
agency can’t do much more than hand over the brochure and tell you to
figure out your problems yourself. Help is available from some other
sources (see “Who ya gonna call,” page 11), but if you can’t afford a
lawyer, you’ll have to be well-informed, motivated and aggressive to
prevail if you end up in court.

Provocca you. Too often, citizens see the legal system as frightening.

Thus was born a summer of fear and intermittent
decisions to cast the first stone squarely at myself and
my co-delinquent partners. It was the silence of summer that
sentenced us to two months of toiling over our throw rug. Confronted
once more with the question of what to do, I held a silent
sputtering that he was “only house-sitting for a few
weeks,” we would not put back into the church but used for the entire
yearly expenses. We were horrified at the thought of our
possibility of covering our yearly expenses.

I wish to clarify two points.

First, the SRBC’s building was commissioned in 1813, but
then stood in 1808 to become a hospital for the summer病人.
Second, to verify that the building was used since 1992,
but for the sake of the parish school and ministry,
mountains, sea, and sun, and always the right to choose. I

Maybe that sounds stupid. Maybe I sound like
a bumbling, witless, halting fool. I had reared its saintly head and rescued us from further
dangers. But I had to come up with a plan to provide
the reality of our property tax dollars is going

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Twirling the night away

Conducting is good for you, or why 800 dancers at the DownEast Country Dance Festival can't be wrong

MARY BETH LANE

Despite the usual battery of childhood dance lessons, I've never been able to face the fact that I'm not especially graceful. I've tried folk dance, clogging, belly dance, Scottish Country Dancing, and even tried to learn the cha-cha-cha, but I'm still a gawky mess on my feet. Whatever the problem, I've finally given up trying to perfect my moves and have decided to embrace the fact that I have a natural lurch and a flair for the ridiculous.

But there is one dance form that I genuinely enjoy, and that's contra dancing. I first learned about it several years ago, when I heard about the DownEast Country Dance Festival, which takes place each spring in York, Maine. The festival is sponsored by the DownEast Arts Council, and it's a celebration of traditional American dance forms, including contra, square, and contra square dances.

I've never been one to try new things, but I was curious about contra dancing, so I decided to give it a try. I signed up for a beginner's class, and was immediately impressed with the enthusiasm of the other dancers. They were all smiling and laughing, and were clearly having a great time.

The dance steps are simple, but the music is complex and energizing. The callers lead the way, calling out the patterns and tempos that the dancers follow. I found the caller's voice to be both commanding and encouraging, and I was soon able to follow along with the other dancers.

I've been a regular attendee of the festival ever since, and I've never been disappointed. The music is fantastic, the atmosphere is festive, and the sense of community is palpable. I've met so many wonderful people through contra dancing, and I've made some lifelong friends.

If you're looking for a fun way to exercise and meet new people, I highly recommend attending the DownEast Country Dance Festival.
Prime Cut
The Bay, Leeds and Oceanside held.

Upcoming
Apr 10th The Bogmen
Apr 11th Big Ass Truck
Apr 12th Bim Skala Bim

The Moon Portland 747 Waterfront Blvd 207-773-5554
Old Port Tavern 145 Main St 207-774-8888
The Pavillon 182 Commercial St 207-774-5657
The Pub Portland 137 Commercial St 207-774-8989
Yerrillo's 11 Moulton St 207-774-1114
The Wharf's End Portland 773-2337

FREE STREET TAFERNA
Instant Comedy

String Builder

The Theory of Negativity

Open Mike

Peep Show

Hawk's Open Mic

Poetry w/ Big World

Miravie

Port Tavern 772-2765

GREEN JESSICA 10:30 PM

427 Fore St, Portland.
774-5554.

774-0444.
Rick Russell & the Cadillac
773-6886.
Chameleon (Top 40)
55 Market St, Portland.
11 Thirds
The Fat Jed, 1 Exchange St, Maine Mall Rd,
773-536. 303 Fore St, Portland.
939-5252.

Blues House Wharf, Portland.
773-8187.

Terry Simien & the Red Hot Red Light Revue (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland.
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upcoming

North Portland Stage Art 2. Portland College of Art. Visit the theater arts department's web site for details, nd info. Tix: $10 ($5 seniors, students); donation suggested at door. Advance tickets: 837-5275. April 1-6.

Post Performance Discussions Portland Stage "The Glass Menagerie."(Alice Foot. 4-6:30 pm. April 6.

Musical "Rogers & Hammer sten" musical. At State Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village. April 4-13. Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 5 pm. Tix: & 10 ($10 family) - 839-4159.

Comedy "The Odd Couple." As presented Rogers & Hammerstein's musical. At State Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village. April 4-13. Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 5 pm. Tix: $5 ($10 family) - 839-4159.


"The Sound of Music" Seaglass Performing Arts presents Rogers & Hammerstein's musical. At State Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village. April 4-13. Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 5 pm. Tix: $5 ($10 family) - 842-0800.


1. Please call Coastal Humane Society, Inc., a non-profit organization serving fourteen midcoast communities. The donated design is needed for a 1997 Maundy Thursday, March 27, 7:30pm and Easter, March 30, 10:00am Good Friday, March 21, 3:30pm (in state wakes). Tax ID 85-076-064-5. 

3. Scholarships Competition, featuring work by junior and senior School Art Competition, a juried multimedia show featuring the St Just up the street, MECA presents the 4th Annual Maine High March 27 – April 5 at the Baxter Gallery, 619 Congress St. An awards ceremony will be held April 5 at 3:30pm. Tix: $10-$25.


22. CASCO BAY WEEKLY • Please call Coastal Humane Society, Inc., a non-profit organization serving fourteen midcoast communities. The donated design is needed for a 1997 Maundy Thursday, March 27, 7:30pm and Easter, March 30, 10:00am Good Friday, March 21, 3:30pm (in state wakes). Tax ID 85-076-064-5.


28. BORDERS BOOKS/MUSIC/CAFÉ


34. Saturday April 5th at 4pm

35. Portland Symphony Orchestra presents the 4th Annual Maine High School Art Competition, a juried exhibition showing the works of high school students from all over the state. The competition shows March 27 through April 5 at the Baxter Gallery, 619 Congress St. An awards ceremony will be held April 5 at 3:30pm. Tix: $15-$35.

37. SATURDAY APRIL 5TH AT 4PM


39. Wed. April 9 at 8pm

40. Who can you trust in today's audio advertising/marketing world? Mother Theresa and NEW ENGLAND Hi-FI 404 Fysh Rd. Scarborough 853-4173
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH!

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
11th Annual CHOCOLATE LOVERS’ FLING and AUCTION
...An Extravaganza to Benefit Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (formerly the Rape Crisis Center)
1-4 P.M., HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 13
9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Self-Defense for Women
co-sponsored by YWCA
• Personal safety
• Sexual Assault Awareness
• Self-Defense Breakaway Techniques
• Demonstrated and Practiced
Pre-registration $25. At the door $35. Scholarships available. Call Anne Marie at 799-9020 to register.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
1-4 P.M.
HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY
SPEAK UP FOR STRONGER FAMILIES
A benefit of the Children’s Defense Fund in Maine
Pre-registration $25. At the door $35.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
Take Back the Night Rally and March
7 p.m., Monument Square
Bring Your Voice, Break the Silence!
Demand an End to Sexual Violence!

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE SERVICES of Southern Maine
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Swingin' into spring
In the golf season's first activity of the year, I found my
I showed up solo at Pinehurst No. 2, a historic, five-red course that houses the North Carolina resort I'd always dreamed of playing. My first official swing of the season, on the par-4, 422-yard opening hole, produced a slicing, 180-yard drive that defied the edge of the woods. For an average 4-iron at a course 4,800 yards, this didn't bode well for my effort. I had taken two silly puts to get out of a six-foot, and

Fortunately, I didn't have long to wallow in frustration, since the next hole had already peeled up and the screen in front of me. I was playing Pinehurst No. 2, but I wasn't actually at Pinehurst No. 2. I was sitting in the stuffy confines of a trellis-framed, full-swing golf simulator stall at Fore Season Golf on Forest Avenue. It's the indoor simulated golf. I tried to put myself in the mood by changing out of a flannel shirt and throwing on a short-sleeved shirt and a sleeveless sweater vest. But I felt a little out of place.

Due to a dangerous mixture of impatience and distraction, an occasional frustration from the technology, I notched a 10 and a 9 on the front nine and racked-up two brutal 18s on the back nine that killed the round.

The putting, as a Fore Season employee sympathetically confessed before sending me off on my round, is the weakest part of the simulation. The tracer reading the speed of the green is not accurate, so if the ball is not rolling correctly, the tracer will read it incorrectly and the shot will not be registered. The simulation allows for different levels of difficulty, but I found the low level to be the most realistic.

The simulation costs $24 per hour and offers 17 different courses to play on. Most of the courses are California's Pebble Beach, Cinnabar Lakes in California and TPC North in Arizona, and well-known ones that have professional tournaments. Others, like Saucon Valley in Pennsylvania, are not as famous but offer a variety of challenges.

The sound of birds chirping and frogs croaking adds a layer of realism to the simulation, but it's not exactly virtual reality. The sounds of the course and the environment are not as immersive as they could be.

The conclusion for me is that simulation is not a substitute for real golf, but it can be a great way to practice and improve your skills. However, it's important to remember that the simulation is a tool and not a replacement for the real thing.

Barry Mothes is a writer living in Portland.
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**Women on the verge**

"Pushing Through" an affecting look at hopelessness, Mid-East-style

BY MARY STAMATIS

Sharon Kerber's play "Pushing Through," at Portland Stage, has a human link on one that so rarely looks above the heads of the third Palestinean reader. Told through the minute accesses that form as symbols rather than characters, the play is a testament — in dance, music and spoken word — to the hopelessness of the Holy Land. It has powerful moments that peck the heart and conjure the mood with images of hatred, greed and fear, and offers no answer to hope.

One thing it does offer is a constituency, even in Portland, when Michael Levine, Oak Street director, opted to cause a scene depicting Jewish women being taken to Palestinean women, it made loud enough, that they promised not to perform both sides of the story that in order to manage the something not often done in the American media. Perhaps the most bleak aspect of "Pushing Through" is that the Palestinian experience is presented as a precedent to the oft-repeated 1950's Jewish story, which may explain why it resonates politically rather than emotionally.

Directed by Odelle Bowman and accompanied by Deen Smith on a harp, harpist and occasionally accompanying musical score by Beth Trues, "Pushing Through" is 90 minutes of sight and sound that aims at an emotional foray into the two sides by pointing out their similarities. The action follows two Jewish women, one Jewish and the other Palestinean. The women do not have names, but rather the songs and other women's bodies. So, with Shira's body and the alienation of the body, a situation is set up to explore the situation.

But the real hit is Trues's music, which is boosted by strong vocal performances by Josie Conte and Anna Edmondson. Strong vocal performances by Josie Conte and Anna Edmondson. Strong vocal performances by Josie Conte and Anna Edmondson.

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A. Public Comment
B. Discuss Annual RTAC Work plan
C. Bicycle sub-committee update
D. Ski Train Field Trip update
E. Report from regional planners
F. Process Evaluation/Public comment
G. Next Meeting Agenda

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