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Peaks Island Star : January 2010, Vol. 30, Issue 1

Service Agencies of the Island

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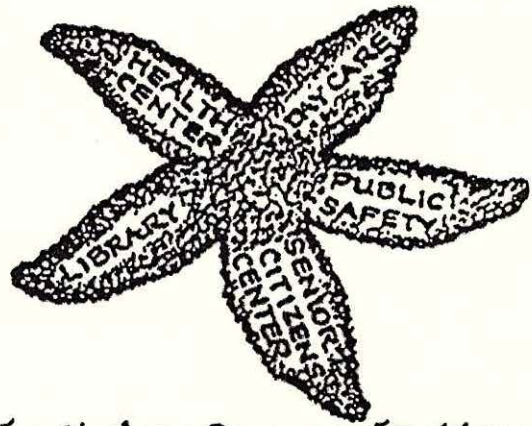
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Peaks Island STAR



Newsletter of the Island's Service Agencies & other Community News

January 2010

Volume 30

Issue 1

Peaks Island School Community News

The Peaks Island School would like to remind the community that January 21st at 6:30 pm is when the "Visioning" process for the Peaks Island School will take place. The event will be held at the school. This is an opportunity for the Peaks Island community, as stakeholders in the school, to have a voice in crafting its future.

When the community met with Dr. Morse in August, many ideas were put forth regarding changes that might be made to the structure of the school in order to better serve the needs of the community and most importantly, the needs of the children of Peaks Island. To that end, this "Visioning" process is being undertaken and the whole community of Peaks Island is invited and encouraged to participate. The session will be run by Sue Steele of the Portland Public Schools and Dr. Morse is also expected to attend. If you plan to participate, please let the school know in advance by calling us (766.2528).

Peaks Island Girl Scout Troop 1977

Happy New Year!! The girls had fun decorating candy houses built by Bobby McTigue. Thank you Bobby -- and a big thank you to everyone at the Cafe, Hannigan's, the Cockeyed Gull and the Brackett Memorial Church for displaying the sweet 10 lb. candy houses during the Holidays.

Believe it or not, the girls in Troop 1977 will start selling Girl Scout cookies on Jan. 11th. Be on the look out for the Girl Scout in your neighborhood. Please contact Diane Ricciotti at 766-5183 or Kathryn Moxhay 766-2756 for more information.

Peaks Island Health Center

www.peakshealth.org 87 Central Avenue PO Box 52 207-766-2929
www.intermed.com

InterMed Office Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am to 4:00pm, Kitty Gilbert, FNP (Adults and children)

Fridays, 9:30am to 2:30pm, Lois Tiedeken, ANP (Adults only)

You will hear a new voice on the phone and see a new face at the desk at the Health Center. Please join the Staff and the Health Center Board in welcoming Mary Grimaldi. A graduate of Westbrook College, Mary has been at InterMed for over 18 years and is excited to be spending some days on the Island. She has very strong clinical skills, including drawing lab specimens, which will help her to partner with the providers during patient visits.

Jim Lausier says this staffing change will be a "win-win" for everyone. He and Kate Cruthers will be working for InterMed on the mainland as Patient Service Representatives. They will fill in on Peaks as the need arises.

Although individual acknowledgments will be going out to donors, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the annual appeal as the Health Center continues to support the provision of health care on the Island.

The Health Center is happy to accept new patients. We also offer blood work and acute care for patients with other primary care providers. Please call the office at **766-2929** for appointments and further information.

When the Health Center is closed, please call **911** for medical emergencies. For non-acute illnesses, call your primary care provider.

Loretta Voyer Fund

The Loretta Voyer Fund was created in December of 2000 to help individuals who are undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment. The Fund will provide tickets for the car and driver plus the patient. When necessary, a car and driver can be arranged for by a group of volunteers.

This program has been endorsed by the Casco Bay Health Center and the Casco Bay Lines. The following islanders are committed to initiating and executing this project: Judy Baldi, Claire Filliettaz, Patty Gardner, Jerry Garman, Deborah Kendall, Monique Levesque, Kathleen McCarthy, Toni Muro, Judy Piawlock, and Suellen Roberts. If you or someone you know needs this service, please contact one of them.

All islanders are invited to participate in this endeavor, be it with vehicle, as driver, companion, or with tax-deductible monetary gifts to help defray expenses. Please call Claire or Monique (766-2220) or write to: The Loretta Voyer Fund, 13 Greenwood Street, Peaks Island ME 04108. Peaks Islanders have always been a generous and supportive group. We look to one and all to help make this needed service a success.

PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP, 71 Herman Avenue, 766-2854

PRE-SCHOOL: It was another great year singing for our Seniors. We exchanged goodies and saw Santa! Check us out on Facebook for pix and videos.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: UPDATE!!!!

Offering some new programs every month for fun-filled afternoons during the school year and summer. Extended care available!!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:

Drop-In Care: Enroll your school-ager and pay hourly only on the days that you need care, including snow days, on a space-available basis. COST: \$25.00 Annual Club Registration Fee. \$10.00/hour on days used. Discounts given for Vacation and Summer Camps.

AFTERNOON EXPLORERS:

Afternoon Specialty Theme Weeks: Five days of after school fun with field trips, cooking, projects, guest speakers and more! December Stargazers was an inter-galactic hit! Coming Soon: March and June Specialty Weeks. COST: Varies per week. Stay tuned!!!

Afternoon Explorer Series: Thu afternoons from 2:30pm-4:30 pm for 4 wks.

FIRST SERIES: *Fiber Arts with Sue Hanley.* Design and create a skirt or pair of pants using sewing machines. Jan 21 & 28, Feb 4 & 11. COST: \$75.00 for 4 weeks including materials. Max: 8 participants. Ages: 7 – 11. School pick up & snack provided. SIGN UP NOW!!

ISLAND ROVERS:

Vacation Camp: Feb Vacation: BLIZZARD CAMP. Apr Vacation: ISLAND ENVIROMENT: Tues-Fri 9am-4pm. COST: \$225.00 per week

Summer Camp: 8 weeks of themed, fun-filled, exploration and friendships. June 28th-August 20th Mon-Fri 9am-3pm. Councilor-In-Training programs and Summer Champs are available. Registration begins in February!!

HOMESTART

Working with Bill Walsh, Walsh Engineering Associates, HOMESTART submitted a conditional rezone application seeking approval to build two additional affordable homes at 18 Luther Street. The application, submitted on December 15, begins the public review process. The City Planning and Zoning Boards will schedule a series of public meetings and hearings to review the request. *The first Planning Board Workshop is scheduled for January 12 at 3:30 PM at City Hall.* After that workshop, a neighborhood meeting to include those within 500 feet of 18 Luther and all other interested parties will be held on the island. Abutters will receive notification of this neighborhood meeting from the City after the New Year. As additional meetings are scheduled, HOMESTART will announce them. The application is on file at the City Planning Office and HOMESTART placed a copy in the Peaks Library. There is an outline of the public process provided on the City of Portland Planning Board site. (<http://www.ci.portland.me.us/planning/drsiteplan.asp>)

The fund raising campaign continues to match an Islands Challenge Fund Grant of \$25,000. We have met the first goal and will receive the initial grant match within the next few weeks. Work to meet the second goal is underway. Thank you to those who have contributed. We appreciate your support!

Updated applications for home ownership and rental opportunities are available at the library, island churches, the school, PICW and the HOMESTART website.

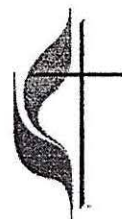
HOMESTART Board meetings are held at 7 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Fay Garman House Community Room. All are welcome.

BRACKETT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds

We are a Welcoming, Inclusive, Reconciling Congregation

*3 Church Street, Peaks Island, Maine, email: brackettmumc@yahoo.com
The Rev. Desi Larson, Pastor; Laura Glendening, Administrative Assistant
Phone: 207-766-5013 On the Internet: www.brackettmumc.org*



Sunday Worship - 10 a.m., with Sunday School and Childcare

Activities in January

P.E.A.C.E., Peace, Ethics, Action, Community, Excellence - our youth group meets Sundays during the Sunday School hour. For info please contact Antonia Winter, 766-2428.

Children's Choir, Mondays 2:45-3:15. Contact Mavourneen Thompson for info 899-0108.

Thrift Shop, Wednesday, January 6, 2-5 p.m. Vestry. Stop by to shop for, or drop off, gently used clothes and household goods. For info call the church office 766-5013.

Thursday Morning Study, "Christian Pilgrimage", 10 a.m. at the Parsonage.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays 1 -3 p.m. Meeting in January at the Parsonage, 9 Church Ave. All are welcome! For more info contact Ann 766-2636 or Rebecca 766-3017.

Thursday Eve Taizé Worship, 7 p.m., January 28. Join us for quiet, low-key worship with candlelight, silence, prayers, gentle music, and ecumenical readings.

Special Events

Open Mic Nite, Friday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. Bring your stories, your music, your poetry, maybe a dessert to share and enjoy a fun-filled evening! For more info contact Sam Saltonstall, 899-0922.

Church Supper, Thursday, January 28, 5-7 p.m. Featuring: Chicken & Beef Dishes, Homemade Bread, Salads and Desserts. All are welcome! Join us on the last Thursday of the month, enjoy food, community, and good company.

St. Christopher's Catholic Church

Pastor: Father Louis Phillips 773-7746

St. Christopher's is part of Cluster 21 serving the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes. Our Parochial Vicars are Father Alfred Irving, Father Kevin Martin and Father Michael Seavey. More information is available at www.cluster21portland.org.

Sunday Mass is at 10 AM followed by lunch and fellowship in the Parish House. All are invited!

Sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation & Marriage: Call Father Lou.

AA: Meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S STAR: Monday, January 25, by 6pm please.

Bring articles copy ready to the library. When the library is closed, put them in the Book Return or under the door. Thank you to an anonymous donor for a generous contribution to the STAR.

January at the Peaks Island Branch Library

in the Community Building

766-5540

email peaks@portland.lib.me.us

Hours Open: Tues 2-8 Wed 10-4 Fri 10-2 Sat 8-12

First Tuesdays Book Discussion will meet on Tuesday, January 5, at 7pm, to talk about *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. Christina Foster will moderate.

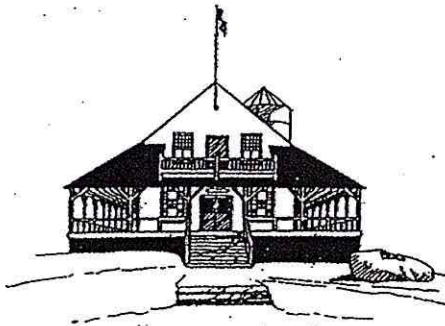
On February 2, the Fourth and Fifth Graders at Peaks Island School will join the discussion of *After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Non-Violent Resistance* by Peaks Islanders Anne Sibley O'Brien and Perry Edmond O'Brien. Annie will be present for the discussion. Families would enjoy reading the book and attending together. If you want to buy a copy, Longfellow Books is offering a 20% discount for those attending the book discussion. Mention it when you make the purchase.

Upcoming books for discussion are *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin on March 2 and *Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh on April 6.

Save the Date – The Mostly Annual Valentine Poetry Read is planned for Thursday, February 11, at 7pm. If it had been Annual, this would be the 16th year. Time to start looking for a poem to read (the library can help with that) or music or prose about love. For details or to help, call Suzanne Parrot (2344) or the library.

After School - It is nice to see children with their friends, parents and caregivers coming in on Wednesdays after early release. Their presence lights up the library. We hope to have some surprises for future visits.

Nursery-Rhyme Time is on Wednesdays at 11 for children 0-3 years old. **Pre-School Story Time** is on Fridays at 10:15. The Children's Workshop regularly attends, but the program is open to all preschoolers.



FIFTH MAINE REGIMENT MUSEUM
P.O. Box 41
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

(207) 766-3330 • fifthmaine@juno.com

The Fifth Maine Regiment Memorial Hall once again greets the new year from its perch overlooking Whitehead Passage. One wonders whether the veterans who built the hall envisioned it still standing some 122 years later or whether future generations would remember the sacrifices they made to keep our country whole. Thanks to the foresight of their descendants and a small group of islanders led by Verna Hurley and Peg Harmon the legacy of the brave men and women who gave so much in a time of need remains alive and well on Peaks Island. Over the years untold numbers of volunteers have contributed time, money, and skills to ensure that the hall is kept in good shape and available for use by our community. We salute you all! And we look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Happy New Year!

Free Museum Pass

The Peaks Island Branch Library has a free pass to the Portland Museum of Art that can be "checked out" by library card holders. The pass is good for a specific day and may be reserved ahead of time. It will admit 2 adults and up to 6 children. Questions? Come into the library, email (peaks@portland.lib.me.us) or phone us, 5540.

Peaks Island Tax Assistance

When a group of Islanders got together to form Peaks Island Tax Assistance in May of 2005 in response to the large increase in property taxes we thought our tenure would be short-lived. We put out our first articles noting "Our mission is to assist island residents to remain in their homes despite extraordinary tax increases." As of December 2010 we have raised over \$43,000 and paid almost \$41,800 to the City of Portland and escrow holders for partial payment of property taxes. We are happy to report that not one family or resident who asked for assistance left the Island or received a lien on their property. In fact, some of the recipients no longer need our assistance. We are grateful for every donation, all your support and your words of encouragement.

As people have left the program, others have found that the downturn in the economy has left them unable to pay all of their taxes. In order to help families our fund needs to be rebuilt. As members of PITA we are in the unenviable position of requesting your help. Funds are needed to offer assistance on property tax payments to those in need in March and September. The partial payments that we offer make the difference between paying taxes and remaining on the Island or having to sell family property and move off Island. Each of us wants to be able to keep friends and neighbors here with us on our wonderful island. If you feel you are able to contribute to PITA, please send you donation to:

PITA

P O Box 126

Peaks Island, Maine 04108

We are grateful for every donation, all your support and your words of encouragement.

Jane Adams, Ralph Ashmore, Diane Clark, Joyce Doane, Christina Foster, Jane Gerard, Georgia Gillette, Sandra Lucas, Judith McAllister, Cynthia Pedlikin, Howard Pedlikin, Teresa Schull, and Doug Smith

Upcoming events:

Chili Loaf and Ladle Dinner on January 19 at the Peaks Island Baptist Church from 5-7 p.m. Menu of different kinds of chili, cornbread, salad, desserts, beverages and maybe a surprise or two.

Spaghetti Loaf and Ladle Dinner on February 16

Peaks Island Tax Assistance - Energy Assistance

The weather predictions for a cold and energy expensive winter seem to be coming true. November has been very cold and windy. Peaks Island Energy Assistance will continue with our program to assist homeowners and renters with their energy bills. Applications are available at the Peaks Island Library, the Peaks Cafe, and the Peaks Island Health Center. Our Island Clergy: Pastor Beau Boyle, Pastor Desi Larson, and Retired Minister and Ruth Williamson assist with the application process and will continue to receive applications through April. Approved applicants may receive up to \$300 for fuel assistance or energy assistance.

Our fundraising efforts over the past spring and summer financially strengthened Energy Assistance. As a committee, we are so grateful for the support we have received over the last year or so.

Senior News

Peaks Island seniors met for their Christmas luncheon on December 14th. Turkey was on the menu. We would like to thank the Lions Club for the turkey they donated and also thank Judith for doing a superb job of roasting and slicing it.

After lunch the preschoolers from The Children's Workshop came to the senior community room to entertain us with poems and songs. They gave a wonderful performance. We love having them come. A surprise visit from Santa added to the festivities, he passed out animal crackers to the children. The children presented bird feeders to the seniors that they had helped make.

After the children left we had our Yankee Swap. Unfortunately (maybe not) there were very few swaps. We did have fun with the gifts.

In January there will be no luncheon as it is usually very cold, snowy or icy. In February we will meet on Monday, February 8th at noon at the senior community room on Central Ave.

CERT Training and Preparation Continue

All are welcomed to our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) monthly meeting at 6 PM Monday, January 18th with training by members of the Portland Fire Department in the Community Center.

Islanders who would like more information about CERT should contact Al Bleau at 766-0007 or other team members.

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Peaks Island Council Notes

The following are the times and places for upcoming meetings and workshops:

January 13, 2010 Workshop – 6:30 PM @ Community Center

January 16, 2010 Public Dialogue- 10:00 AM @ Community Center

January 27, 2010 Regular Meeting – 6:30 PM @ Community Center

The Island Council's website is: <http://www.peaksislandcouncil.info/> For those without computer access, the same information is available in the Library.

At its regular December monthly meeting, the Peaks Island Council elected its Officers for the coming year. Mike Richards will continue as the Chair for one more year only, Lynne Richard will serve as the Vice Chair and Tom Bohan will continue as the Treasurer.

Point persons for the Council's areas of interest were also named at this meeting. They are:

Transportation/Parking: Marjorie Phyfe and Judy Piawlock

Zoning/Housing: Rob Tiffany and Suellen Roberts

Public Safety: Tom Bohan and Lynne Richard

Education: Lynne Richard

Public Services/Environment: Lynne Richard and Rob Tiffany

Finance: Rob Tiffany and Tom Bohan

JANUARY ACTIVITIES on PEAKS ISLAND
Sponsored by Portland Recreation and Facilities Management

To reserve space and/or equipment in the community building, you must contact Denise at least two days in advance. You may leave a message at 766-2970 or via email at d1m@portlandmaine.gov Please plan ahead as Denise works just part-time on the island – Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you leave a phone message and don't hear back from me, please call again as I may not have received the original message. Thanks!

Special THANKS for another great Tree Lighting event!

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered at the "living tree" to decorate and light the tree, visit with Santa, sing and socialize. Special thanks to all who helped make the decorations, to Chris Hoppin and Mike Richards for providing the music, to Public Services for putting on the lights, to Lisa at Peaks Café and all the wonderful bakers who made the delicious goodies – and of course to Santa and his driver. Please share any photos you have with Denise (d1m@portlandmaine.gov).

If you have any ideas for other community-wide events/celebrations, please let Denise know – 766-2970.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! JANUARY'S THEME:
LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!**

January 24 is International "Belly Laugh Day"
All activities this month include laughing. Join the fun!

FIRST MONDAY FUN for

PRESCHOOLERS/ADULTS (community room)

Monday, January 4 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Monday, February 1 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

Fun projects will be made by recycling old greeting cards. If time allows, we will dance and sing. "Drop-in" anytime; no pre-registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

AFTER-SCHOOL CRAFTS – ALL AGES

Thursday, January 7 AND Friday, January 8

Stop by the community room anytime between 2:30-3:30 pm to make placemats, boxes and pins using old greeting cards.

ON-ISLAND ACTIVITIES for ADULTS

AFTERNOON MOVIE: GRUMPY OLD MEN

Monday, January 4 1:00-2:45 pm (com. room)

The long-running battle between neighbors escalates when zesty widow Ariel moves into their wintry Minnesota community (Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau & Ann-Margret)

REMINDER ABOUT OFF-ISLAND ACTIVITIES: If you would like to receive Portland Recreation's monthly calendar, please call 874-8870 and leave your name & address. February's calendar will be mailed by Jan. 19.

**"ARM CHAIR" TRAVELING:
RIVERTON TROLLEY PARK**

Thursday, January 14 1:00 pm – community room
Relive the "good old days" as we step back into time (1896-1920) to experience the beauty and history of Riverton Trolley Park. Get your Portland Recreation "passports" ready for our monthly travels. Denise has passports for all.

OPEN HOUSE: BELLY LAUGH FUN (com. rm.)

Friday, January 22 Drop-in from 11:00am to 3:00pm
Stop by for a good belly laugh or two – and feel better for it! Fun for ALL ages! Bring your favorite jokes, riddles or stories. Old TV (Johnny Carson and more) will be played.

LAUGH-A-MINUTE BINGO (com. rm.)

Monday, January 25 10:45 – 11:45 am
Bring a joke to share - or suffer through one of Denise's - as we play for laughs and prizes too. You may bring your own lunch to eat after BINGO.

**ON-GOING EXERCISE PROGRAMS – ADULTS
MONDAYS and THURSDAYS:**

Walk Program - 8:15 am (meet at com. bldg.)
Indoor stretching when weather doesn't cooperate
Low-Impact Aerobics w/ Weights - 9:30 to 10:30 am (com. rm.)

TUESDAYS:

Ping Pong Tuesdays – 2:00 to 4:00 pm (com. rm.)
Adult Basketball – 6:00 to 7:50 pm (school gym)
\$2 per night – no program on school holidays or snow days



Saturday Night Movies in January



Free in the Community Room – Sponsored by the Friends of the Peaks Island Library

Jan	6 PM	Jan	8 PM
2	<i>Fantasia</i> (1940) G, 120 min	2	<i>Waking Ned Devine</i> (1999) PG, 91 min
9	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> (1983) NR, 78 min	9	<i>Close-up</i> (1989) NR, 100 min
16	<i>Big</i> (1988) PG, 104 min	16	<i>The Day the Earth Stood Still</i> (1951) G, 104 min
23	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i> (2006) PG, 79 min.	23	<i>Crazy in Alabama</i> (1999) PG-13, 113 min
30	<i>Duma</i> (2005) PG, 100 min.	30	<i>Curious Case of Benjamin Button</i> (2008) PG-13, 165