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Peaks Island Star : January 2015, Vol. 35, Issue 1

Service Agencies of the Island

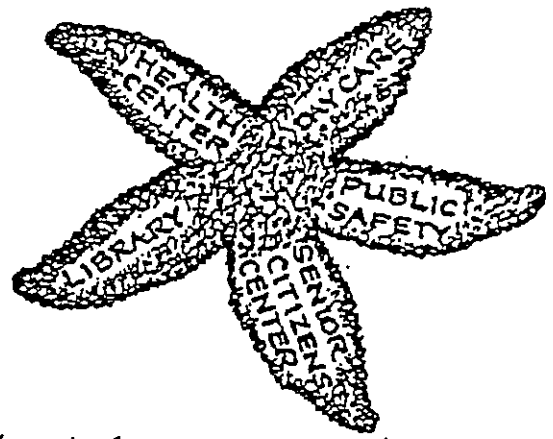
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Peaks Island STAR



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

January 2015

Volume 35

Issue 1

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

NEW at the Library: a Lion's Head, sculpted in wood by the noted artist Bernard Langlais, is literally hanging from the rafters at our branch library. You can view it from below or eye to eye from the stairs. Whether it reminds you of Disney's Lion King, or the Wizard of Oz, or the New York Public Library lions, or ..., it is fun, fun, fun. The sculpture is one of 10 pieces from the Langlais estate that have come to the City of Portland as a gift from Colby College and the Kohler Foundation. We are grateful to Jack Soley, former chair of the Portland Public Art Committee and a neighbor of the Peaks Island Branch, who selected this piece for us and installed it.

Middle School Book It was great to end our first year of the Middle School Book Club with everyone sharing and reading aloud their favorite picture books. Along with cookies, hot chocolate, pajamas and laughter it was a fun evening. Yes, it has been a whole year since the idea was formed and Middle School Book Club was created. **Join us on Tuesday, January 20th at 5:45pm** and begin our second year with us.

Recently, everyone contributed titles of books that they thought others would enjoy reading. Those titles were mixed together and everyone randomly chose a title that they wouldn't necessarily read. Suggestions are good! Not only did I pick and read one of those books, and enjoyed it, I gave Priscilla the book to read and she enjoyed it too! If you are new, feel free to join us, we are always welcoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Food will be a surprise!

First Tuesdays Book Discussion: meets at 7 pm in the Community Room. Books for the next few months are January 6, *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion; February 3, *Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff; and March 3, *Mr. Emerson's Wife* by Amy Brown. Books are available through the library. All are welcome.

Young Children's Weekly Programs: Infants and Toddlers are welcome to join their friends from the Children's Workshop at the library for a program of nursery rhymes, songs, and board books on Wednesdays at 10:15. Story Time for Pre-Schoolers is on Fridays at 10:15. Island children, their guests, and island visitors are all welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S STAR: Sunday, January 25, by 6 pm. Please bring your articles copy ready to the library. When the library is closed, you may put the articles in the Book Return or slip them under the library door. Happy New Year!

PEAKS ISLAND TAX AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE

As we enter 2015 PITEA is geared to fulfill the missions of Tax Assistance for permanent island residents and Energy Assistance for all island households. Our column this month will give us the opportunity to give a progress report based deposits and expenditures since July 1, which is the beginning of our fiscal year. Energy Assistance funds cover the broadest range of the expenditures. We allot \$300 for every application however, last year we did increase the amount to \$400 per request because the price of energy increased so much. The Current balance in Energy Assistance is \$5,311.32. The cost of energy has gone down so recipients are getting almost 100 gallons of oil and more propane, etc. for the money. Since October we have been writing checks for energy assistance.

We paid out \$3,200.00 for tax assistance and there is \$1,491.48 remaining in the tax account to be used in March, 2015.

Our members have contributed many hours of their time and energy to raise money. Combine that with their donations of food, paper goods, and kitchen supplies and then add in some wonderful donations and we have a formula for success. Property taxes were raised once again and some families needed a little bit more assistance to meet their tax obligations. Once again our clergy made the decisions based on applicant information including earnings and tax return info.

The overall figures are astounding. Our committee membership is small but our fund raising efforts are very big. Once an application is approved by the Clergy, then we are prepared to give immediate assistance. It is a record that gives PITEA a sense of pride.

On Sunday, January 18th we will hold a Loaf and Ladle Dinner. The menu revolves around soup and salads plus wonderful desserts. Join us for a steaming bowls of homemade soup to warm up on a cold January day. The cost is \$7 per adults and \$2.50 for each child. The dinner runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall.

Just a reminder – we would welcome you as a member of PITEA. Just talk to one of the members listed below.

Our dinners will continue each month from January through May. We hope to see you there!

Mary Arnold, Ralph Ashmore, Linda Capone, Newton, Aviva Golan – Vice President, Heather Kannianen, Sandra Lucas, Linda Murphy - Treasurer, John O'Brien, Cynthia Pedlikin - President, Howard President – Secretary, Judy Piawlock – ad hoc, Val Simeneau

Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Our CERT Team is planning a refresher course on a January Saturday morning to update those who have been CPR certified. For more information, call Al Bleau at 766-0007 or 781-962-2662.

Due to the generosity of the Peaks Island Fund, our CERT has four portable generators for emergencies. Although not meant to be used to replace private contractors, our priorities are to provide emergency power for any shelters that we set up that do not have a generator, for individuals who are disabled, frail elderly who cannot relocate to a shelter, individuals who have medical appliances that need power to operate and for other island emergencies.

If you need assistance, call Al Bleau or the Peaks Island Police or Fire Department who will contact CERT.

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PEAKS ISLAND LAND PRESERVE NEWS

The Peaks Island Land Preserve is delighted to announce that it acquired the Ice Pond on December 31! This acquisition was made possible by the generosity of islanders, the City of Portland, the Peaks Island Fund, and the Bunton family. 218 islanders contributed money to the purchase. \$151,434 was raised against the \$60,000 purchase price. The balance (minus closing costs, surveying costs, etc.) will be used to repair the dam.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Peaks Island Land Preserve Board of Directors

John Whitman, Michelle Brown, John Freeman, Johan Erikson, Robert VanDerSteenhoven, Laura Glendening, Marty Braun, Ella Jenness, Robert Villforth

SENIOR NEWS - NO LUNCHEON IN JANUARY

The Seniors enjoyed a wonderful luncheon in December and want to thank the Lions Club for their donation of the turkey for our meal. The side dishes were delicious. The desserts were plentiful and fantastic! Before lunch we were entertained by the preschoolers from the Children's Workshop.

There will not be a Potluck Luncheon in January. We will resume our monthly luncheons on the second Monday in February.

VOA Senior Housing

The Brunswick High School Action Team, sponsored by Volunteers of America and the Major League Baseball Players Trust, extended the range of their volunteerism to Peaks Island back in November. Fifteen students and three adults caught the ferry out of Portland and met with VOA staff and residents of Fay Garman House, VOA's affordable senior housing program on Peaks Island, to transform the grounds and gardens around the facility.

The flower and vegetable gardens are the pride of the neighborhood and residents were excited to have students eager to learn and to help. The students trimmed perennials (and dug up the dahlias to be stored for the winter), mulched the rhododendrons and blueberries bushes, raked and bagged leaves, pulled out the annuals (veggies and flowers), spread straw over the flower beds, and filled a truck with leaves and trimmings which then made a run to the recycling facility.

Volunteers of America Northern New England sponsors High School Action Teams in Poland, York, Saco and Brunswick. Most of the students of Brunswick High had never been to Peaks Island. Now, they know that it only takes 20 minutes to enter an island community full of strong, interesting and independent people.

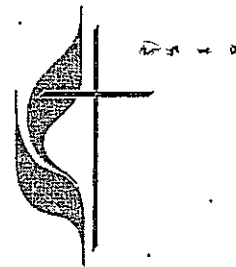
Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

We are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Reconciling Congregation

9 Church Ave., Peaks Island, ME 04108

Rev. Angela Tarbox, Pastor

207-766-5013; www.brackettmumc.org; brackettmumc@yahoo.com



Anyone is welcome to join any of our worship, fellowship, or mission opportunities.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10am. Followed by an informal time of food and fellowship in the church hall.

Adult Scripture Study Thursdays, 10-11:30am at the parsonage (9 Church Ave.).

No Bible Study on January 1, 2015.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fridays 10:30am – 12:30pm at the parsonage (9 Church Ave.).

Peaks Island Food Pantry at Brackett Church Mondays, 3:30-5pm. If you would like to donate non-perishable food, there are drop-off locations at the Community Center and Brackett Church.

After School Bible School Wednesdays, 12:30-2:30pm. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us for some fun, snacks, and games as we learn through the Bible how to recognize God in the world and to treat one another with love and compassion.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JANUARY:

Sunday, January 11, 10am: Special Worship Service to Celebrate the Brackett Church's commitment to living out our Reconciling Statement of Purpose: As an open and affirming community of seekers, our purpose is to provide a nurturing spiritual environment through worship, witness, education, fellowship and service to the glory of God. Recognizing that everyone is of sacred worth, we welcome people of every age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, economic reality, and diverse ability, in the full life, work and membership of our church.

Friday, January 23, 5:30pm and 6:30pm: Community Dinner & a Movie. Come at 5:30 to join us for a free community supper and then stay to watch a movie beginning at 6:30 in our newly renovated Church Family Room. Bring your family for a fun, free, community night at Brackett Church. This month, we'll be watching *Winter's Tale* (Rated PG-13; Starring Colin Farrell, Jessica Brown Findlay, and Russell Crowe). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

CVLI LICENSE# 503894391

St. Christopher's Catholic Church

Rector: Father Michael Seavey at 773-7746

Sunday Mass is at 10 AM followed by fellowship in the Parish House.

All are welcome. Details for other Masses at www.cluster21portland.org.

For questions concerning Baptism, Reconciliation & Marriage, please contact Father Mike.

New Year's Eve Mass is at 4 PM December 31st.

Share Scripture with Islanders from 9:30 to 11 AM each Thursday in the Parish House.

Cancer Support Group meets from 7 to 8 PM on Tuesday, January 20th in the Parish House.

AA meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Parish House.

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Peaks Island Health Center

87 Central Ave.

Hours: Monday and Thursday: 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Kitty Gilbert, Family Nurse Practitioner, provides care for all ages.

Please call either **766-2929** or **874-2466** for an appointment.

Now that winter is upon us, and traveling to Portland when we are sick is even more of an inconvenience, we thought it would be helpful to remind Peaks Islanders, once again, of the following service our Health Center offers:

*** The Health Center can provide acute care (short-term treatment of an injury of illness) to patients who have Primary Care Physicians in other practices.**

* If you wish to have the option of using the Health Center and are not affiliated with MMC, please check with your insurer before an incident arises, to avoid any coverage issues. As a rule, Medicare patients may see whom they wish.

* Patients who have no insurance coverage are also welcome to use the Health Center. The Peaks Island staff can give you information regarding contacts at Maine Medical/Partners who can assist you with payment options. And they will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Stop in when the Center is open.

As we look forward to 2015, we are grateful for the commitment of such a dedicated professional staff and for the solid resources of Maine Medical Center in support of our Health Center on Peaks Island. And we would like to take this opportunity to thank Peaks Islanders: those who use the Health Center, and all those who have responded to our Annual Fund request. Island support is vital to our continued success.

PEAKS ISLAND COUNCIL (PIC)

-January 2015 Meetings-

January 14, 2015, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center – The PIC board members are hosting this meeting to request input from the Peaks Island community on how the PIC 2015 budget should be allocated. We welcome and seek everyone's ideas and suggestions on what they believe the PIC priorities should be for 2015.

January 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center – This will be the regular meeting of the PIC. One of the agenda items will be a discussion of the community's input for 2015 PIC budget priorities collected from the above meeting. All are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend!

Regularly scheduled PIC meetings for 2015 will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

“Need Based” Tickets for Casco Bay Lines Ferry

The Peaks Island Council has allocated transportation money for ferry tickets for year round Peaks Island residents in “financial need” i.e. buying tickets creates a financial hardship for them.” The tickets should be used for emergency situations or unforeseen circumstances, that would justify receipt of a free ferry ticket. That decision will be made by the organizations listed below to the best of their judgment. **THESE TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.** The organizations that have “need based” tickets for distribution are: 1) FOOD PANTRY, 2) PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP, 3) HEALTH CENTER, and 4) ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH (Susan Hanley 332-2443).

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

To reserve space and equipment in the community building, you must contact Denise at least two days in advance. Contact Denise at DLM@portlandmaine.gov or leave a message at 766-2970. Please plan ahead as Denise works just part-time on the island – Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Denise is not on the island on holidays; please check calendar on bulletin board as you enter the community building for Denise's schedule. If you leave a message and don't get a reply, please try again as messages may get lost

THANKS to all the islanders (and friends) who make Peaks Island very special!
Without community support, the annual TREE LIGHTING and KNITTING for CHARITY would not be a success. Thanks to ALL who participated in these programs. Details and photos will be on Denise's bulletin board on Jan. 5

RESOLUTION #1: MORE LAUGHTER IN 2015

Friday, January 2 Drop in from 11am - 2pm (com. rm)
Laughter is the best medicine – so start the year off right!

**WEEKLY THURSDAY GET-TOGETHERS:
KNIT/CROCHET, CHAT and LUNCH (com. rm.)**

Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 10:45am-12:00pm
We start our 5th year knitting for charity. Everyone welcome

RESOLUTION #2: GET ORGANIZED IN 2015

Friday, January 9 11:00 am -1:00 pm (com. room)
BYO project to work on while socializing - get it done NOW

RESOLUTION #3: EAT LOCAL – PEAKS CAFÉ

Monday, January 12 Meet at Peaks Café
Enjoy a late breakfast (11:00 am) or early lunch (11:30 am)

On-going exercise programs for Adults
Low-Impact Aerobics w/ Weights:
Mondays and Thursdays – 9:30 to 10:30 am (com. rm.)
Adult Basketball (\$2 pp/per night):
Tuesday evenings – 6:00 to 8:00 pm at PI School Gym

RESOLUTION #4: BE MORE CRAFTY IN 2015

Thursday, January 15 12:30 pm – community room
Learn basic knots to make a plant hanger; instructor is PI crafter Debbie Fletcher. All are welcome! Pre-registration required; deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 9. Sign-up sheet and supply list are on Denise's bulletin board. Fee is \$7, payable at class - plus supplies

MOVIE: FATHER GOOSE (118 minutes)

Thursday, January 29 1:00 pm* (community room)
Life gets complicated for a beachcomber living on a south sea island during WWII when he rescues a ship with a teacher and 7 schoolgirls on board. Starring Cary Grant and Leslie Caron. *If you'd like to have company for lunch, bring your own and come any time after 12:00 noon.

OFF-ISLAND SHOPPING TRIP

KOHL'S, BIG LOTS, CVS, JOANNE'S, LOWE'S

Friday, January 30 10 am boat/3:15pm
Spend time browsing the aisles at Kohl's (Shaw's is in the plaza). We'll also go to the Pinetree Shopping Ctr. to shop and eat. Transp. fee is \$5 (min. is 6). Register by Jan. 29

January Movies – Saturday Nights – FREE			
<u>6PM</u> 3	<i>Muppets Most Wanted</i> , 2014, PG, 107 min	<u>8PM</u> 3	<i>Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom</i> , 2013, PG-13, 141 min
10	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> , 2014, PG-13, 120 min	10	<i>My Left Foot</i> , 1989, R, 103 min
17	<i>Despicable Me 2</i> , 2013, PG, 98 min	17	<i>Juno</i> , 2007, PG-13, 92 min
24	<i>Skellig the Owl Man</i> , 2010, PG, 104 min	24	<i>Michael Clayton</i> , 2008, R, 120 min
31	<i>Escape From Planet Earth</i> , PG, 2013, 89 min	31	<i>Most Wanted Man</i> , 2014, R, 121 min
<p>Saturday Night Movies are a program of the Friends of the Peaks Island Library and are shown on a large screen in the Community Room by volunteers. Children must be accompanied by adults.</p>			