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Peaks Island Star : January 2018, Vol. 38, Issue 1

Service Agencies of the Island

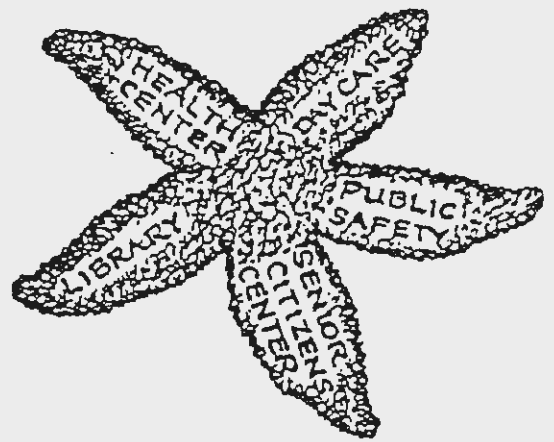
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Recommended Citation

Service Agencies of the Island, "Peaks Island Star : January 2018, Vol. 38, Issue 1" (2018). *Peaks Island Star*, 2018. 1.
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Peaks Island STAR



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

January 2018

Volume 38

Issue 1

News from Peaks Island Elementary School

By Renee Serio, Teacher Leader

Peaks Island Elementary Winter Concert, January 16th 6:15

Please join us at Peaks Island Elementary School for our **Annual Winter Concert on Tuesday, January 16th**. All children from PIES will perform. Music teacher Kara Laroche and Chorus director Faith York have been working hard preparing the students of Peaks Island for this event. I don't want to reveal too many of the night's surprises, but Faith has added a new feature to her morning chorus.

For more information, please contact me at the school at 766-2528.

Peaks Island Land Preserve

January is a great month to visit the properties we hold -- to see the crisp winter views and walk the many trails. With snow on the ground visitors have an excellent opportunity to observe the tracks and footprints of animals that travel across and make their homes on the land. As pond ice skating season is here we want to let folks know that we are moving forward with plans to have the Ice Pond dam repaired in this new year and that families and friends will again find this a lovely skating pond with a view!

To see some of the birds that visit Peaks from the warmth of your home please see the wonderful Bird Blog at our website. At our website you can also become a member, and donate to the Ice Pond fund. Happy Winter! www.peaksislandlandpreserve.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S STAR: Thursday, January 25. Bring articles copy ready to the library. When the library is closed, you may put them in the book return out by the gate. Each organization should have a designated person who will turn in copy for the STAR. Please let us know at the library who that person is so we know who to call if there are questions. Thank you and Happy New Year!

SENIOR NEWS

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

The preschoolers from the Children's Workshop entertained us with holiday songs accompanied by Faith York on her ukulele. Thank you to the Lions Club for providing the turkey for our December feast. Good food and good fun were enjoyed by all.

Chair Yoga will continue in January at the Fay Garman House every Tuesday starting at 4 pm for about an hour. Chair yoga is a great way to relax from head to toe without the stress of getting out of your chair. There is no charge for these yoga sessions and are open to anyone who wants a quick way to stretch their body and relieve tensions.

PEAKS ISLAND TAX AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE

People all over the world are hoping that 2018 will be a year of peace, prosperity, joy and goodwill for everyone. Here on Peaks we are very fortunate to live in the midst of a hopeful, generous and thoughtful community. Along with many other charitable groups PITEA continues its work of tax and energy assistance because of the generous donations we have received from the Lions, the City of Portland through the PIC, businesses on Peaks, and Islanders – year round and summer. The need is still great as taxes continue to rise, the very cold weather which will increase the amount of energy we must use to stay warm and the fact that wages don't always keep pace with the increased cost of living. Every donation, large or small, means an island family can receive the assistance to get them over the hump.

Our next Loaf and Ladle Dinner will be held on Sunday, January 21, from 5-7 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Brackett Church. The menu will include Soups, Salad, Corn muffins, bread, and those Yummy Desserts! We do hope to see you there. It is a wonderful opportunity to see neighbors and friends who reside here year round. The cost is \$7 per adult and \$2.50 per child.

Tax bills will be sent out in February. Applications for assistance are at the Library, which is housed in the Peaks Island School while their building is undergoing renovations. As always, neighbors or friends may fill out energy or a form or contact a member of the Clergy if they believe that a neighbor needs assistance. Each request is given to our clergy, Pastor Angela Rotherham, James Flagler, retired Episcopal Priest, or Ruth Williamson, retired Methodist Minister. They will recommend an amount of assistance given to help the applicant with their property taxes.

Thank you for all for your help. It takes all of our villagers to make Peaks such a great place to live.

Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance

Mary Arnold, Ralph Ashmore, Linda Capone Newton, Peter Eckell, Toookie Harris, Linda Murphy, John O'Brien, Cynthia Pedlikin, Howard Pedlikin, Randy Schaeffer, Megan Selby, Timmi Sellers, and Val Simoneau

January at the Peaks Island Branch Library

766-5540 email: peaks@portlandpubliclibrary.org

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

Happy New Year! The library has been handing out beautiful bookmarks, given by Fred and Betty Ann Rainbow, who had a bookstore in Florida and wanted to share the bookmarks with the community. They are free. Please come choose one while they last. If you have not visited the library at the school yet, come in the front gate, turn right, go around the building to the ramp, and come on up. If you have any trouble and have a cell phone, call us (766-5540) and we'll come out to guide you. Meanwhile, please spread the word that we are here and open the same hours as before. We are still seeing people who do not know the library is open and at the school.

First Tuesdays Book Discussion will meet at St. Christopher's parish community room. All are welcome. Meetings start at 7pm.

January 9 – *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder. February 6 – *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. March 6 – *A Sudden Great Country* by Karen Fisher. If you need a copy of the books, call, email or come to the library.

Middle School Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 16 at 5:45 pm in the Brackett Memorial Church Hall. We will be celebrating our 4th birthday. We began meeting in January 2014. Come join us, share what you will be reading in 2018 and have some birthday cake..

If you search using the link below, it will take you to the library's webpage. As you scroll down you will see a description of Middle School Book Club and our upcoming meetings.

<https://www.portlandlibrary.com/locations/peaks-island-branch/> Hope to see you in 2018!

Weekly Children's Programs:

Preschool Story Time, Wednesday at 10:15

Infants and Toddler Time, Friday at 10:15

Friends of the Peaks Island Branch Library

Please join us for a program by Dr. Chuck Radis, *Making a Difference on a Shoe-String: The Tragedy of South Sudan: A Glimmer of Hope from Uganda*. The talk will be on **Tuesday, January 23, at 7 pm**, at St. Christopher's parish community room on Central Avenue.

Chuck will be speaking about the work he is doing in the Kiryandongo United Nations Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda with South Sudanese who have fled their country due to tribal warfare. Many of the refugees he works with have relatives who now live in Portland. The good news is that Uganda and the United Nations are doing a remarkable job in sheltering, feeding, and schooling tens of thousands of refugees and their children. His work is in partnership with Robert Owot, a coordinator in the camp who is one of the board members of the local organization, Maine-African Partnership for Social Justice, started by Dr. Radis. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Peaks Island Branch Library. It is free, geared both to both adults and families with children. There will be refreshments.

If you're on Facebook, you can see library renovation construction pictures and keep up with Friends and other library related events and information on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePeaksIslandLibrary>



**THE PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED
JANUARY 15TH IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**

We would like to say thank you to our friends over at the Fay Garman House for once again inviting us to sing our favorite holiday songs during their senior luncheon.

Last month brought the snow and the bitter cold but our students still enjoyed spending time outside and playing with their sleds. Inside our pre-kindergarteners were busy "making" delicious baked goods at our Sweet Shop center and using their construction skills and imaginations to assemble and decorate their very own gingerbread houses. They have also continued building on their letter and number recognition by working on the letter "E" and creating number books for 1, 3, 5 and 7. This month our students will be focusing on winter and winter animals as well as continuing to take adventures around the island and playing in the snow.

PICW is accepting applications for part/full time care on our WAIT-LIST. Contact Katie at office@picw.org for an application. The Board of the PICW is always open to suggestions and communication from the community. Please contact us through Board Chair, Judy Nelson at kirshajak@maine.rr.com

Eighth Maine Memorial Association Scholarship

If you are a graduating High School senior who resides on Peaks and are planning on furthering your education, please apply for the Eighth Maine Memorial Association (\$500.00) Scholarship. Applications will be available at the Peaks Island Library as of December 1, 2017, and must be submitted by March 1, 2018. Questions? Contact Carol Knapp, email: mainecamp@icloud.com

Cancer Support Group

The Cancer Support Group will meet on Tuesday, January 16th in the St. Christopher's Meeting room from 7-8pm. If you or a friend are dealing with cancer or have ever been diagnosed with cancer or lost someone you love to cancer this is an opportunity to share your story or just rest, relax and remember with refreshments at this holiday season.

Any questions? Please contact Anne Marie O'Rourke
207 615-5825 or Barbara Hoppin 207 766-2593 or 207 232-6641.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

We are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Reconciling Congregation

9 Church Ave; 207-766-5013; brackettmumc@gmail.com; www.brackettmumc.org

Rev. Angela Rotherham, Pastor



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 Tuesdays, 10:30-noon in our Church Family Room.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fridays, 10:30-noon in our Church Family Room.

Peaks Island Food Pantry at Brackett Church, Mondays, 3:30-5pm.

Weights with Rebecca Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-8:30am. To register contact Rebecca: 776-5547.

Yoga with Rebecca Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-10:30am. To register contact Rebecca: 776-5547.

Tai Chi with David Wednesdays, 10:30am-noon. To register contact David: dshandwerker@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JANUARY:

Cribbage Fun – Join us on **Thursday, January 11** from 10:30-noon in the Brackett Church fellowship hall for some cribbage fun. Beginners and experts are all welcome for a morning of friendly games.

St. Christopher's Catholic Church

Rector: Father Greg Dube at 773-7746

New Years' Day Mass will be at 10 AM - All are welcome !

Sunday Mass is at 10 AM each week throughout the month. Details for other Masses in Portland, including for New Years' Eve, are at <http://www.portlandcatholic.org/> For questions concerning Baptism, Reconciliation & Marriage, please contact Father Greg.

Rosary: The Scripture Studies Group invites all to pray the Rosary for special intentions and world peace at 9:30 AM before Mass each Sunday.

AA meets Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 PM in the Parish House.

Share Scripture with Islanders from 9:30 to 11 AM each Wednesday in the Parish House on Central Avenue.

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CERT Works To Help in Winter

The Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been practicing to assist in Island disasters and other emergencies. The team is also looking for more team members. For more info, call Al Bleau at 766-0007 or 781-962-2662.

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PEAKS ISLAND LIONS CLUB



The Annual Peaks Island Lions Club Holiday Party

This yearly celebration took place after school on December 22nd at the PIES and was again an enjoyable event for those who attended. All island children from newborns to those in grade 5 were presented with gifts from Santa himself, followed by refreshments and sweets. Santa later commented, before he "rose out of sight", that the children in attendance were very well behaved especially regarding their instruction beforehand that **no** presents could be opened until **all** were handed out. Once given the word, the wrapping paper flew.

Many thanks go out to all who helped and/or donated to the festivities, including:

- PI American Legion Post 142
- The staff of the Peaks Island Elementary School
- Hannigan's Market and Peaks Island Café
- Parents, grandparents, and caregivers
- The children themselves,
- And of course: **Santa** and his helpers

Lions Club Grants

The Peaks Island Lions Club recently allocated funds to numerous community organizations including energy assistance and/or maintenance for the two Peaks Island churches, various Lion Portland and Maine programs for the blind and other worthy Lion causes, the Peaks Island Little League, The American Legion, Energy Assistance, the Taxi, the Eighth Maine, the Fifth Maine, the Fay Garman House Garden Project, the P.I. School Edible Garden Project, the P.I. Music Association, the the annual Christmas and Halloween parties, Thanksgiving baskets, the Travis Mills Foundation, Camp Sunshine, Camp Discover, the Iris Network, the Food Pantry, Hurricane Disaster Relief and the Star. Grant funds will be distributed shortly if not already done.

The above grants total \$30,000

Additionally, \$1,500 scholarships for 15 Peaks Island students who are attending a college or a technical school during the 2017 - 2018 school year has been allocated. Additionally, \$5,500 is to be split among those same students who also participated in community service. All in all, \$28,000 will be going to Peaks Island students. These are to be distributed in time for their second semester.

We had another banner year, (lots of hard work by our members) and have, or will soon, be distributing \$58,000.

Scholarship and grant funds were obtained from Lion's volunteer and fundraising activities including: lobster bakes, the variety show, the road race, club rentals and private donations.

NEWS FROM THE TAXI



WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL!

The final count is in and we now have \$47,000 in the taxi replacement fund -- \$5,000 more than our goal!

A giant **THANK YOU** to all who contributed and to all who support the taxi by using it on a regular basis.

Almost half of the replacement fund is due to Peaks Island Council support over the years (\$22,000). A large share of the newer contributions (\$8,500) came from our anonymous Challenge Grant funders and the matching contributions from individual donors (\$8,500). We received 120 individual contributions from islanders, businesses and island organizations.

January and February will be devoted to narrowing down a list of vehicles meeting our needs and March should have us ready to make a choice and place an order. We hope to have a new vehicle running around the island in April.

Thanks to the island's sustained and generous support of the taxi, islanders and visitors alike will continue to have access to public transportation capable of moving them around the island at reasonable rates and in a comfortable, reliable vehicle. This is certainly an excellent example of your commitment to our community.

Best wishes from the Taxi Board and all of the ITS drivers for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Peaks Island Health Center

87 Central Ave. P.O. Box 52
www.peaksislandhealthcenter.org

Hours* Monday, Wednesday and Friday
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.

*

Holiday Hours

The Health Center will be closed Monday, January 1.
The Health Center will be open Monday, January 15,
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JANUARY ACTIVITIES on PEAKS ISLAND

Sponsored by Portland Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

During the renovation of the Peaks Island community building, all programs for adults sponsored by Portland Parks, Recreation and Facilities are being held in the community room at St. Christopher's Church. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Denise at DLM@portlandmaine.gov or leave a message at (207) 766-2970. Messages are checked on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays (not on holidays). Please note: Denise will be back on Peaks Island on Thursday, January 4.

THANKS to all the islanders (and friends) who make Peaks Island very special!

Without community-wide support, the following programs would not have been successful:

TREE LIGHTING – Many thanks to Santa (and Santa's driver), the leaders of the singing, everyone in the crowd who sang, all those at the Peaks Café who made and served the delicious goodies, people who made the tree decorations, Public Works crew who put the lights on the tree, & the ukulele players. A GREAT time for all! Please send any photos DLM@portlandmaine.gov

KNITTING for CHARITY – Over 400 hand-made items (hats, scarves, dish/wash cloths) were donated to charity. Thanks to all the knitters & to those who bought items. Much needed gloves, socks & personal items were purchased and donated to a variety of agencies. Email Denise at DLM@portlandmaine.gov if you want specifics.

THURSDAY KNITTING/CHATting GROUP

(at St. Christopher's)

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 10:45-11:45 am

Now entering our 8th year, join us as we knit hats, scarves and dishcloths to donate to a variety of agencies. All are welcome, however we do not provide lessons. Needles/yarn available. During the year, items are sold; proceeds buy socks, gloves and other items to donate; also replenish yarn.

LAUGHTER YOGA CLUB (at St. Christopher's)

Monday, January 8 AND February 5 10:45-11:30 am

Beat the winter blues with a good laugh (or two or many!). Join the fun as we laugh for no reason at all and gain all the benefits that laughter has to offer. All welcome! FREE!

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR PARTY

Monday, January 8 11:45am-1:00pm @ St. Christopher's

Start the New Year off right with friends, both old and new. Bring your lunch – look back at the old year(s), share your New Year's Resolutions, participate in a Yankee Swap (optional; re-gifts accepted!) and enjoy some laughs.

BREAKFAST OR LUNCH AT PEAKS CAFÉ

Monday, January 22 Meet at Café (see below re: time)

Enjoy a late breakfast (11:00 am at Café) or lunch (11:30am at Café). Another great way to beat the winter blues with good friends, good food and good conversation.

TRAVELOGUE – “MYSTERY” LOCATION

Thursday, January 25 1:00 – 2:00 pm @ St. Christopher's

No time for the January Blues as we explore a “mystery” location via photos and stories. Come be surprised as we escape to a different climate, beauty and customs!

NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, January 29 11:45am-1:30pm @ St. Christopher's

Join in the fun as we test our skills with word puzzles, brain teasers & Scattergories. Keep your mind sharp in 2018!

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS with WEIGHTS

At St. Christopher's Community Room

Mondays and Thursdays – 9:30 to 10:30 am

No program on January 1 and January 15

Free Magazines and Books

The newly remodeled American Legion Post 142 on Welch Street is now the temporary home for the Peaks Island exchange of free magazines and paperback books. They are located at the entrance to the Post, which is open from 4 PM until closing every day except Tuesdays.

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