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Service Agencies of the Island

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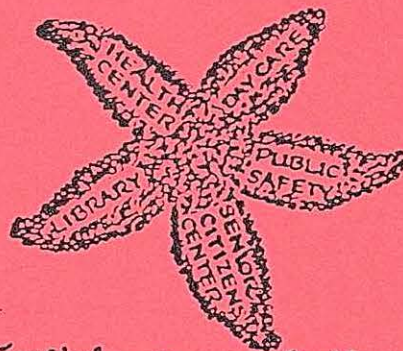
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Peaks Island STAR



Newsletter of the Islands Service Agencies & other Community News

DECEMBER

1999

VOLUME 19

ISSUE 12

PEAKS ISLAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Peaks Island Music Association will host the annual island holiday concert and sing-along on Sunday, December 12. This year's concert features the Peaks Island Chorale under the new leadership of Faith York. Also the Maine Squeeze accordion ensemble, songs by Annie O'Brien and Ted Haykal, as well as some new island performers. The concert features Christmas and Chanukah songs, along with other seasonal numbers. This year's performance will be a benefit for the Refugee Resettlement Program. Concert times are 2:15 and 7:00 p.m. at the Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church. Donations are requested at the door.

A note from the Peaks Island Music Association: Renaissance Voices, a Portland-based *a cappella* ensemble that performed at the Fifth Maine last summer, will be featured on Maine Public Radio (90.1 FM), Tuesday, December 7th at 11 a.m. Peaks Islanders George and Cevia Rosol sing with the group.

Community Island Walk
New Year's Eve
Friday December 31st
12 Noon

Can you imagine a better way to celebrate the start of the New Century!! Gather with friends and neighbors at the Community Center and walk around Peaks in a clockwise circle.... or join in at any point. Everyone is invited to share in refreshments immediately afterwards in the Community Room which have been donated by TEIA. Contact Stephanie Castle 766-2254 after December 14 for further information.

** STAR News **

DEADLINE for next month's STAR is Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25. Please bring articles copy-ready to the library on or before that day. THANK YOU to the Peaks Island Lions for their generous contribution to the STAR. We appreciate their hard work in support of so many island activities. And THANK YOU to all who have worked to put out the STAR this year, especially team leaders Judy Piawlock and Kay Taylor. With this issue the STAR will have been published for 19 years.

UMBRELLA COVER MUSEUM

The Umbrella Cover Museum be open for holiday viewing on Saturday, December 4 from noon - 5:00. New exhibits will be on display, and the Y2K calendar will be available. The museum is at Tower View, 105 Brackett Ave. Admission is by foreign currency. A \$2.00 U.S. donation is also requested. For more information call Nancy 3. at 766-4496.

Peaks Island School Basketball Team

Our Peaks Island fourth and fifth graders will compete again this year in the Portland Parks & Recreation Basketball League. This will be our eighth year of participation. Our practices will begin in December with a ten (10) game schedule beginning in January and finishing up in March. Our games are usually played at Riverton or Reiche school. A schedule of the games will be posted when available for those who may wish to see our kids in action.

We are a developmental team, which means the focus for the team will be on learning how to improve skills and how to play as a team, and not so much on winning.

I'd like to thank the Peaks Island Lions Club for helping with financial assistance again this year as well as Lionel Plante & Assoc. for their financial contribution. Together, they have covered the league fee, and we are most grateful.

As always, I am pleased to be coaching again this year. I trust that, together, the children will learn something new and enjoy being a part of this team.

Sincerely, Brad Burkholder

CASCO BAY GARAGE 54 Commercial Street P.O. Box 7525 Portland, Maine 04112 (207) 761-9591

November 22, 1999

Dear Casco Bay Garage Patrons,

The garage staff would like to thank everyone for their patience during the last few weeks. We have installed new equipment and are now ready for the new year. We would also like to remind people to use the rubbish barrels provided at each elevator landing.

We are currently updating the waiting lists for year round parking (over 80 people). Anyone on the waiting list that did not receive our information letter should call me as soon as possible. The deadline for confirming your continued interest in staying on the list is November 30th.

Winter parking began on November 1st. We still have several winter spaces available—please call if you would like more information. As usual, call or email to update vehicle information, or inquire about current accounts and waiting lists. Our office is open from 7:30 to 4:30, or you can leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Happy Holidays!
Ruth Demers, ruthd@maine.rr.com
Casco Bay Garage

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

9 Church Street — Peaks Island, Maine

telephone: 766-5013 e-mail: RevDame@maine.rr.com

Rev. Johanne Dame Roberta Deane, Lay Leader

Worship Service — Sundays, 10 a.m.

Coffee Hour following the service, Childcare Available

Jinglebell Fair and Chowder Luncheon — Saturday, December 11th

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; the luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m. Cost of the luncheon is \$4.00. Gifts, crafts and baked goods available for sale. It's not too late to reserve a table to sell your crafts. Call Cheri Goguen at 766-5792 for more information, to reserve a table, to work at the fair or luncheon or to donate something to sell.

Blue Christmas Service — Sunday, December 5th, 4:00 p.m.

For some people the Christmas season can be a difficult time. Many may find this time of year painful due to loneliness, loss, and depression. This Blue Christmas service is designed to meet you where you are and help move you into Advent. Come begin the season with us in this short quiet service.

Annual Presentation of Christmas Story — Sunday, December 19th.

As part of the worship service our Sunday School Classes will present the Christmas Story. This lively presentation is always fun for everyone! We will have a potluck luncheon immediately following. Please join us!

Christmas Eve Service — Friday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.

A traditional service of Carols and Readings.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

766-2585

Our new Parish Center has been put to good use. Monday the Senior Citizens play cards during the morning. Tuesday Mass is held at 9:00 am and Religious Education in the afternoon. Wednesday Blood Pressure is read between 10:00 am and 11:00 am, and Weight Watchers meets 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Thursday Mass is held at 9:00 am and AA meets 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We are happy to have so many community activities held in this building. Sunday Mass is held at 9:00 am in St. Christopher's Church with a "Coffee and" social time following the Mass, in the Parish Center. Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held at 9:00 am in St. Christopher's Parish Center Chapel. Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:30 pm in St. Christopher's Church. New Year's Day Mass will be fulfilled by the Sunday Mass obligation. We wish everyone a peaceful holiday season, and hope all can take the time to enjoy friends' and neighbors' company. Often times a friendly visit is the best gift you could ever give.

Peaks Island Elementary School

The Peaks Island School *Connections Council*, under the leadership of Barbara Hoppin, Principal met for the second time on November 8. Participants brainstormed answers to the following questions: how does the community support its' school? and how do we support the theme of *The Stewardship of Peaks Island*? The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at 6:45 in the school library. Please come.

Thank you to the Island Institute for sponsoring the fourth and fifth grade trip November 10 to The Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset. Students participated in team building and ecology activities. This kicked off program LEAD: Learning Expectations Addressing Decision Making/Problem Solving, where fourth and fifth grade students will participate in programs under three modules: decision-making/problem solving, effective communication and involved citizen, throughout the year.

Kindergarten students and their teacher Heidi Farr continue to study a "letter of the week." Students read books, play games, and even bring in an item from home, all beginning with that week's letter of the alphabet. They will soon begin a weather unit.

First and second graders and teacher Wendy Litchfield made two dishes for the "Tastes of Thanksgiving" held at the Peaks Island branch library last month. They will study the Southwest, Plains and Northwest Native American tribes in December. First, second and third graders spent November 10 at The Portland Museum of Art, sponsored by the PTA. Students made a group mural of Peaks Island, now displayed at the school. Guest readers are always welcome, Monday-Friday from 12:30-1:00. Please call the school at 766-2528 if interested.

Martha Gross and her third and fourth graders will continue to study North American tribes through December. The fourth graders will be busy taking the MEA (Maine Education Assessment) test from November 30 through December 10.

The fifth graders and teacher, Roberta Deane will study Colonial America and simple invertebrates this month. The class will visit The Maine Center for History on December 17. Congratulations to Math Team members, Paul Gross and Wesley Norton who tied with others for fifth place for top individual scores, among Portland Elementary Schools. Roberta Deane coaches the Math Team.

The Peaks Island and Longfellow chorus groups, along with music teacher Betsy Webber, will be singing at The Portland Museum of Art on December 14 at 12:30 and at The Black Point Inn in Scarborough on December 20 at 12:30. The Peaks Island student "millennium" music concert will be held at the school gym on December 21 at 6:45. All are welcome to attend these music events.

Thank you to:

- The PTA for sponsoring a Gift-Making Fair for students on December 7 and Monica Grabin's *Singing History* program on December 9.
- The Lions Club and Lionel Plante Associates for sponsoring the fourth and fifth grade basketball team.
- Dottie Larkin and Kris Demetros, our Coast Guard Volunteers and business partner, who will be at the school on December 8.
- Don Perry for taping events at the school for TV3, the local public access cable television station managed by the Portland School Department. Schedules will be posted on the bulletin board by Hannigan's before events are aired.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE
PEAKS ISLAND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
P.O. Box 7 • 71 Herman Avenue • Peaks Island, Maine 04108-0007
Phone: 207-766-2854 • Fax: 207-766-2739

"Soup from a stone. Fancy that." With additional ingredients contributed by our community of families, we indeed had a delicious harvest celebration with a banquet table spread for 37! We are now looking forward to our visit to the Seniors' Luncheon on December 13 to share good cheer and more community spirit!

We'd like to share some information about Kristen Chalmers, an important member of our teaching team since 1982. Kristen is currently on a Family Medical Leave, as she is with her sister Katie Chalmers McGrath at the James Brady Institute in Queens, New York. Kristen has touched the lives of many children and families and we hope you'll join us with strong and positive thoughts towards Katie's recovery. During this holiday season, we feel strongly that the best gift you can give your child and family is your time and presence and we truly honor Kristen for being such a strong support for Katie and her family. We'd also like to share that Mariana Rowe, Kristen's grandmother and the founder of the Peaks Island Branch Library, is now living at the South Portland Nursing Home. We're sure she'd enjoy hearing from her Peaks Island friends.

PLAYGROUP..we hope to reactivate Playgroup in December..please watch for signs or give us a call...thanks for being patient about this cancellation in November..we have needed all our staff resources directed towards our child care programs.

The **FOOD PANTRY** remains available for any family or individual that may need some extra help..just give a call or stop by. We also can arrange to purchase perishable items at Hannigan's.

As we approach the New Year, we especially want to thank our community for your support of our program efforts.

News From the Peaks Island Branch Library

129 Island Avenue " in the community building" 766-5540
Library Hours: Tues: 2-8 Wed: 10-4 Fri 10-2 Sat 8-12 noon

Two Peaks Island Houses have recently been featured in the news. The Trefethen House was in the November 14th Boston Globe magazine, and Twin Chimneys was in the Holiday 1999 issue of Traditional Home. These articles will be available for you to look at in the library during December.

Weekly Children's Programs: Preschool Story Time, Wednesdays at 10:15
Lapsit and Toddler Time, Saturdays at 10:00

Family Night: Julie Goell has offered to make "dancing goats" with anyone who comes to the library between 6 and 8 PM on Tuesday, December 7. The idea comes from a book by Patricia Polacco, "The Trees of the Dancing Goats," "written in memory of an incredible winter on her family's farm just outside Union City, Michigan." Either before or after they make the goats, families might like to read together this story, which celebrates two distinctly different holidays and the miracle of true friendship.. This program is for all ages.

Adult Book Discussion Group will read Corelli's Mandolin for the meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 7 PM. Kay Taylor will lead the discussion. Then on January 4, 2000, Helen Denham will lead the discussion of Robert Louis Stevenson's Amateur Emmigrant. She has located three copies of the book and the library has one. Book Discussion is the first Tuesday of each month. Please join us.

P.I.N.A. Pumpkin Path 1999

Total of 58! 6 more than last year

Many thanks to everyone who carved and worked to make this a big success!

Winners this year:

\$5 to the SMITH Family – Diana – Todd – Sophie – Lilly & Emmett
With the most (6)

\$5 to Kimberly – Dexter Morse and Dad!

\$5 to Alexis Waycotte

\$5 to Tim Cott - grandson of Kathy Montanese

\$5 to Steve Demos

NEXT YEAR WILL BE EVEN GREATER FOR THE MILLENNIUM!!!!

P.I. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

At the Steering Committee Meeting on November 9, there was much discussion about proposing a change to the current zoning code, particularly the IB (Business) Zone on Peaks Island as relates to residential construction within the business zone. There will be a meeting in the future to focus on zoning issues.

Also discussed was the current status of the Deer Management Plan which needs to be substantially in progress prior to the ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife initiating a culling of the deer herd on the Island as voted by a majority of Peaks Island voters and the Portland City Council. The plan is to convene a committee representing all points of view to formulate an ongoing management plan for future control of the herd, and to have this plan in place by the end of January, 2000.

A number of break-ins into dwellings was reported, and in response Public Safety has been stepping-up their watch. There was a suggestion that "neighborhood watch" groups be organized. This will be the main topic of discussion at the next General PINA Meeting, where Sergeant Betters will be present to discuss public safety concerns.

Next General PINA Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 PM at the Community Room.



If ever you've lived on an island
if ever you've lived by the sea;
You'll never return to the mainland
once your spirit has been set free.

If ever you've smelled the ocean
or tasted the salt in the air;
You'll know you've discovered a haven
that is uncommon, precious and rare.

If ever you've seen the whales play
or watched the eagles in flight;
You'll remember, again, why you live here
and why it feels so right.

If ever you've seen the sunset
as the ferry passed the shore;
You've seen the beauty of the Island
that will be with you forever more.

If ever you've heard the seagulls
the waves, a foghorn, the winds;
Then you've heard the song of the island
and the peaceful message it sends.

Indeed, if you live on an island
if you're lucky to live by the sea;
You'll never return to the mainland
as your spirit has been set free.

J. Earnhart © '92

December at Peaks Island's Health Center

26 Sterling Street

PO Box 52

766-2929

Mercy-Maritime Family Practice:

Please Note Change in Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 to 4:30

Monday, 8:30 to 8:30; visits 5:30 to 8:30 by appointment only

In December there will be an early closing at noon on Friday, December 10; and the center will be closed for two weeks, beginning December 24. It will reopen January 10, 2000.

Other Services at the Health Center

Dental: Dentist, Friday, December 17; Hygienist: Wednesday, December 22. Call Robin at Center for Community Dental Health, 874-1025, for an appointment.

Dr. DeGrinney will have island office hours Wednesday, December 8. Phone the Health Center (2929) for an appointment.

Podiatrist: Dr. Dorsey will be here Wednesday, December 1. Phone 761-3889 for an appointment.

Casco Bay Health Center Board Notes

The board is most grateful to those who already have responded to the Health Center's **Annual Appeal**. If you did not receive a letter but would like to contribute, please make checks payable to Casco Bay Health Center. They may be mailed to PO Box 52, Peaks Island ME 04108, or they may be left at the Health Center.

Also, the cookbook, "**Island Cookin' on the Rocks, Casco Bay Recipes of the Finest Kind**," is still available and makes a great gift. If you are new to Peaks Island and have not purchased a copy, you can find one at the meat counter at Hannigan's or at the Peaks Island Mercantile. Proceeds benefit the Health Center.

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM PEAKS ISLAND SAFETY

The holiday season is here, and we want you to have a happy and safe time. Here are some suggestions for you to consider.

If you use a real Christmas tree, be sure it is well watered. When you are looking for that tree, look for a tree that is fresh cut. You can tell that a tree is fresh cut if you bend one of the needles, it should not be brittle, and it should bend. Check those lights that go on the tree. Look for broken wires or bulbs. Don't try to repair broken light strings, replace them. Be sure that the tree is well away from heat sources, like stoves and registers. Keep cords under rugs, and be sure they are away so people don't trip over them.

Candles are parts of the holiday celebration, watch out for combustible materials and children.

Are you looking for that special gift? Try a smoke or carbon monoxide detector, these run around \$10.00 and are a gift that keeps giving all year.

When attending parties, don't let someone drive home who is intoxicated, make sure they get a ride from someone who is sober.

Mike Barter

Senior Citizens' Christmas Pot Luck

Senior Citizens enjoyed their October pot luck lunch at the Brackett Memorial Hall, and are now looking forward to their annual Christmas pot luck lunch and party on December 13 at noon.

The children from the Peaks Island Children's Center will be our guests. It is always a time of big smiles, songs, mittens and turkey! Mark the date!

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES on PEAKS ISLAND

Sponsored by Portland Parks and Recreation

To reserve the Community Room, you must contact Denise (766-2970) at least two days in advance. If Denise is not available, please leave a message at 874-8793 during regular business hours.

* ISLAND HAPPENINGS *

CRAFT WORKSHOP (decorations for the Community Tree)

Friday, December 3 in the Community Room

1:00 pm: Preschoolers, parents and adults 2:45 -3:30 pm: School-age children

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING (at the "Living Tree" near the dock)

Saturday, December 4 4:00 pm

Santa arrives at 4:00 pm, followed by caroling and the tree lighting.

Refreshments courtesy of the Bakery on the Bay. Co-sponsored by City of Portland & P.I.N.A.

TEEN PROGRAM (Com. Ctr.): Mondays & Wednesdays (6:30 pm)/\$.50 per night

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who helped make this year's "Spook Walk" a huge success.

Over 40 kids enjoyed this event - the largest ever!

ADULT BASKETBALL (School Gym): Tuesdays (6:30 pm) / \$2.00 drop-in fee.

Next session begins January 3. Payment is due by Dec. 21. Ten paid members needed by 12/21.

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS-with videos (Com. Ctr.): Mon. & Thurs. (9:30-10:30 am)

*** OFF-ISLAND TRIPS ***

Pre-registration required. Sign-up sheets are on the brown door in the Com. Ctr.

Phone registrations begin on Dec. 6 (leave message at 766-2970 or 874-8793). Programs canceled due to inclement weather may not be able to be re-scheduled. All trips have van fee.

VICTORIA MANSION and LUNCH

Friday, December 17

8:15 am boat/no later than 2:15 pm return

Approx. cost: \$7 (lunch extra)

Payment due on December 8

MAGICIAN MICHAEL-Oak St. Theater

Wednesday, December 29

12:45 am boat/no later than 5:30 pm return

Approx. cost: \$12 per person

OPEN TO ALL! An adult must accompany children. Payment due on December 20