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Kevin Attra

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**Children's Workshop loses city funding**

**BY KEVIN ATTRA**

For 29 years the Peaks Island Children's Workshop was operated by Catholic Charities of Maine, but broke away in November 2000 to become a fully independent, non-profit organization. Since then it has relied on funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the city's Community Development Block Grant program to support its after-school and daycare services. Over the past two years these funds have been shrinking. Last year the state DHHS money disappeared. Just last month the Workshop lost the CDBG grant as well.

There are currently around 17 families with working parents who rely on the program for child care, and it's a struggle for some of them to afford it. The Workshop is a co-pay program and uses the state and municipal grants to provide scholarships for families with low to moderate incomes.

"Now I have two families I don't know what to do with," said Lori Fried Moses, who took over as interim director last fall. "They can't come without this money. If we don't find another source, I don't know what will happen."

The Workshop requested $34,000 to meet the demand for scholarships this year. When that was denied, City Councilor Kevin Donovan apparently tried to get $5,000 for the most critically needed, but the grant was restricted to amounts over $50,000, "so we couldn't even get that," said Fried Moses.

"The city changed the rules this year," she said, "although I'm not sure that would have made a difference."

Grants were awarded to programs that scored the highest points based on the perceived demand for and quality of the services provided as well as other criteria spelled out in the application.

"I think we improved," said Fried Moses, "I think we were a strong application and got more points than last year." Among the Workshop's strengths are its accreditation by the prestigious National Association of the Education of Young Children, and its collaboration with community resources like the elementary school, the Bracker Church and the Fifth Maine. This year only eight programs having the highest scores were funded, but they were each awarded 100 percent of the money they requested, which was unprecedented. Previously, almost all the programs who applied would be awarded something, similar to handing out grades based on a curve.

According to Fried Moses, this year Community Policing got fully funded, with $169,000. All of the $552,000 available for the grants has been spent. The children's Workshop will have to find ways to make up the deficit with other possibilities, such as reducing staff, seeking new funders and relying on fundraising events, which Fried Moses said are coming up soon and individual donations to fill the gap in student aid.

**Federal disaster relief approved for Cumberland County**

On March 25, President Obama approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Maine for storm damage that occurred between Feb. 23 to March 2 in five counties including Cumberland County. As a result, agents of the Federal Emergency Management Agency will meet with representatives of municipalities (fire chiefs, public works directors, town managers) and non-profit organizations such as hospitals and the Water District in April to fill out applications for federal assistance.

"I call it a kick-off meeting, the way it's worked in the past," said Coleman Clarke, who, as Long Island's fire chief, will represent the town at the briefing. FEMA will then meet with each representative later to do a focused assessment of damage. "It should go fairly quickly," said James Budway, director of the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency. "FEMA does this a lot. They're very good at it."

According to Budway, the federal government will pay 75 percent of the remediation costs, and the state will cover another 15 percent. The local community pays the rest.

"Then it's a matter of completing the work — project specific — in order for there to be a reimbursement," he said. Ultimately it ends up being a year or two years.

On Long Island during the 2007 Patriot's Day storm, "a considerable amount of trees blew over just like dominoes," said Chief Clarke. The town was able to get a mitigation grant and hired logger, Rene Noel, from Southern Maine Forest Service to consult.

With his guidance, the debris was hauled and sorted by size and species. The trunks of downed Spruce trees were sold to a lumber mill, the tops were chipped separately and sold as bio-fuel and the Sippie plant in Westbrook, and the hardwood was sold to the International
Hate Me Rose

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Long Island boat builder Steve Johnson found something warm and roomy to ride around the bay in during the winter when he came across a friend’s GMC van. “It was going to the dump. We wanted something we could put more people in,” he said. “I saw it was a nice van.”

He took the wheelhouse off the Hate Me Rose, a 28-foot lobster boat he used to run when he was a lobsterman, and mounted the van on the hull. He had to widen her to 12 feet with two 18-inch sponsons on either side. “She wanted to roll,” he said.

He put her in the water in February to try her out, but the weather stayed so nice he kept her in and has been using her to get around the bay and into town on errands.

“She’s got plenty of heat,” he said, “and the headlights show up market buoys good.” Equipped with the original 255 HP Isuzu diesel engine, the van-boat will do 10 to 12 knots, a little slower than it did on the road but with probably about the same gas mileage.

She has four captain’s chairs and a bench seat across the back to hold six people comfortably, and typical accessories like running lights and windshield wipers, plus some not-so-typical options like Venetian blinds, satellite TV and radio.

For a trip into town she has the Autocisco III hands down for comfort and convenience, but on warm summer days he still has the convertible Pontiac Sunland-boat he built a couple of years ago. With its twin 200 HP outboards, the Ca-boat will do over 40 knots.

Right now the Ca-boat’s down in Florida, but you can expect to see her in June when she comes back for the lobster boat races in Boothbay and Rockland.

Johnson quit fishing to take over the family boatyard on Long Island in 1994. Besides converting automobiles into boats, he builds large fiberglass cruisers at the boatyard, including Long Island’s 36-foot rescue boat, a fully-equipped sea-going ambulance.
Complaint says boats on the beach down front are unsafe

BY KEVIN ATTRA

A letter written in mid-March to members of the Peaks Island Council, City Council and City Manager's Office complaining about boats stored on the beach down front has started an investigation into use of the waterfront on Peaks Island.

"There are a number of boats with different stories, none of which are apparently allowed to be there," said City Councilor Kevin Donoghue, "but the city has left well enough alone absent an islander complaint."

According to PIC member Lynne Richard, the letter was written by a long-time summer resident of the island. In it the writer complained that the boats were a hazard, citing an incident where a young boy apparently hit his head on one of the propellers.

Island Administrator Mike Murray, who also received a copy of the letter, wouldn't say what action, if any, the city will take because it is too early in the investigation.

"We are doing research on the nature of the complaint, looking at the historical perspective, speaking with people - long time residents - about accepted practices on Peaks and other islands. We're taking into account the different fishermen and trying to put it in perspective."

There are currently four fishing vessels on cradling above the high tide line on the beach. Three of them have been there for several years and are in various stages of being repaired (photo below).

After discussing the issue at the regular meeting on Wednesday, March 24, PIC members decided that the Council could not enforce any rules, but it could address language and advocate for changes, according to Councilor Richard.

"It's kind of necessary for fishermen to have a place to beach their boats," she said. "I've been interested in exploring ways of making it a designated working waterfront area, but it's a very complicated process."

She said it would be much simpler to keep children away from the boats than to have the boats removed. "It might create a hardship," said Richard. "It's hard enough being a fisherman."

Two of the boat owners said they were aware of the complaint but had not been approached yet by anyone from the city. Said one, "What I'm most interested in is how the City Council is going to handle this. Are they going to support the lobster industry?"

If the City Council were to have the boats removed he said, "I would consider that a real quantum shift in what the island has become."

PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Peaks Island Tax Assistance faces possible shortfall

This is the first year since it was established that Peaks Island Tax Assistance may come up short in its efforts to help permanent homeowners pay their property taxes, and may need another $2,000 to meet the demand for assistance. If you feel you are in a position to help, please send your contribution to PITC, PO Box 126, Peaks Island, Maine 04018.

Another way to help is to attend the Loaf and Ladle Dinners, usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. Our cooks are wonderful and Charles Burr, our eminent dessert maker, surprises us every time with his masterful desserts. All of the proceeds will go to Peaks Island Tax Assistance.

We will begin other fundraising as the warmer weather sets in. We hope to have some events that will be crowd pleasers. If you have any questions about PITC please call Cynthia Pedlikin, 766-0067, or speak to one of our committee members.

Jane Adams, Ralph Ashmore, Michelle Boyle, Diane Clark, Joyce Doane, Christina Foster, Jane Gerard, Georgia Gillette, Sandra Lucas, Judith McAllister, Howard Pedlikin, Teresa Schall, and Doug Smith
Wind test tower for Peaks Island on final clearance

BY KEVIN ATTAR

In early March, Sam Saltonstall, a member of the Peaks Island Environmental Action Team looking at wind energy on the island, put out an email thanking residents for contributions to cover insurance costs for a test tower.

"The wind group of PEAT believes it is back on track now to have the tower set up by early spring in Troit Littlejohn Park," he wrote.

He said later, "We had about 20 people make donations for the insurance, which includes liability insurance to be shared with garden policy of $500 annually, and property insurance required by the University of Maine to protect their test tower ($750)."

The 100’ tall meteorological tower being supplied by UM will record wind velocity, direction and air temperature for one year.

It has taken nearly two years to reach this point, but wind power may now get to be studied in order to determine how much is actually available on the island.

According to Saltonstall, obtaining the necessary permits to install the tower took up much of the time, but the project was also significantly delayed in August 2009 when Efficiency Maine, which actually funds the testing towers, designated UM as the administrative agency in charge of doling them out to communities.

Before that, Unity College had been the intended supplier, and all of the groundwork for permits with the city had been based on plans designed by Unity engineering professor Mick Wormsley who conducts wind energy research for the college.

When UM got involved, Unity was thrown out of the picture and the Peaks Island project essentially had to start from scratch. In fact, there was a long delay before UM even made applications available for the towers.

"In light of Unity's loss of fund, UM chose a different test tower model," said Paul Villeneuve, a UM Electrical Engineering Technology professor managing the project. "The safety report was no longer valid and all that stuff had to be resolved."

PEAT was eventually awarded a tower, "an Ametower 25," said Saltonstall. "If 100 feet, a little shorter than expected - the higher you go the more velocity you get. The real question is how high the turbine will be."

Villeneuve said that the original conditional rezoning agreement with the city, which would have expired on March 3, was renewed by the City Council on Feb. 18.

At that meeting he said he learned that a letter of protest had been lodged over the proposed wind tests due to concern over healthy effects of wind turbines, but that hasn't impacted the project yet.

He added that the Feb. 25 storm delayed installation five to eight weeks. In early March he said that Peaks was number four in the queue of applicants for a testing tower.

According to Saltonstall, the latest delay was over a dispute about the time frame for removing the tower after testing is complete. Apparently the city would have allowed a test tower to remain in place for up to two years, but the university wanted it back within 90 days after the tests were complete. UM got its way.

Now, all that remains is a "p Pul test" to make sure the ground can hold the guy wires which keep the tower from falling over. The tests are expected to be done sometime this month.

"We're waiting to hear from the city that everything is clear," said Saltonstall. "Then we'll get put into the queue."

Local restaurants collaborate on homeless project

Inspired by a 24-hour feature about homelessness in the U.S. that aired on radio station WMPG in February, a group of local restaurateurs have begun a program to get excess food from their kitchens to the homeless.

"There's so much waste in the restaurant business," said Sherry Livingstone, a chef at the trendy Old Port Books & Wine Grill. "People never finish what they order."

Diners are able to donate a portion of their meal to the program in any amount they choose. "It's so easy," said Livingstone. All of the collaborating restaurants have reported great success with the program, called "Are you gonna eat that?"

A day in the life of 19th century students is reenacted at Peaks Island School

ABOVE: Hoops as it was played before the invention of basketball. Children at Peaks Island Elementary School (from left) Anna Mitchell, Rowan Daligan, Annissa Carey, Eric Conrad and Maisie Winter enjoy the age-old pastime of hoop rolling on "1800s Day." With help from island volunteers, among them Mandy Davis, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders spent a day experiencing 19th-century foods, fashions and folkways. The day capped an integrated studies unit on the Civil War and westward expansion.

BELOW: Skirting the edge of action, Annissa Carey, Maisie Winter and Anna Mitchell, in pioneer attire, follow the game of hoops. 

photos by Dequon Simms
For the love of Peaks!

Tom Bohan

Here was this little town out on an island. They had sidewalks built by the WPA. They had houses that didn’t look like island houses. I came out here on an August afternoon in 1980. I’ve heard a lot of other people say the same thing. It reminded me of a short story by Ray Bradbury. I read when I was a child, about people going to Mars and finding this town, just like this town in Iowa where they grew up, from another century. And that’s the impression I had. I decided then I wanted to live here the rest of my life, that first visit. So that is how I came to Peaks.

I moved out September 1st of 1980 to a very small house on the backshore. There were three houses occupied on the backshore in the winter back then. So it was very quiet. And I would leave work, and I remember in particular the winter time, walking through the woods and coming home and thinking to myself about all the stories my father had told me—like everybody’s father—about how far he had to walk to school, you know barefoot. I’m thinking, ’I’m 45 years old and I’m walking a mile and a half through the snow to take a boat to go to work!’

I had figured that when winter came

So I started riding my bike again, but I’d walk and lady, Betty Bean, was a member of the San Souci Square Dance Club. We would meet on their porch. Every Saturday night I’d be square dancing from 8:00 to well over 11 o’clock. I was the youngest person by 20 years. I moved in, I happened to look in the mailbox. There were letters for me! They had heard I was coming back so they would say, “Good to see you home!” and “Good to see you’re back!” and “I’m glad you’re home!” It was a Peaks Island-type thing.

The first few years I was here my landlady, Betty Bean, was a member of the San Souci Square Dance Club. They were always short of males so the got me to start going. Doreen and Al McCann were part of it and we would meet on their porch. Every Saturday night I’d be square dancing from 8:00 to well over 11 o’clock. I was the youngest person by 20 years. I would sit there and listen to them talking with those sonorous voices, like when you’re little and you’re lying in bed awake and listening to the

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I had figured that when winter came
Dear Concerned Citizen

I received a copy of your note to the city in support of roadside mowing. I noticed a common theme in the three or four letters sent to the city, and since you and I have never spoken on this, I thought you might be interested in my point of view.

I agree with you that roadside mowing is necessary for the safety and protection of drivers and pedestrians, and for the road itself. We have miles of roadside that need to be maintained, and due to the lack of snow our island Public Services crew has been able to get them with their new mower this winter.

(In my opinion winter is an excellent time to do the large scale mowing for a number of reasons: wildlife not yet migrated, less disruption to visitors, spring growth will cover cuts, etc.)

What concerns me and others who have complained to the P&K, and the city, is something different. At the edge of our shore is a strip of land called the "buffer" that protects land from erosion and the water from polluting runoff from the roads.

Because that buffer strip is so important, it is protected by state and city regulations that prohibit clearing within 75 feet of the high water line. The buffer strip has strayed into some protected areas and caused damage to the vegetation there.

Roads of the plan hold the shoreline and keep stable. Removal of the buffer causes erosion of the bank. We could lose valuable shore land, which is especially dangerous and potentially very expensive when the road is as close to shore as ours is.

My only goal is that all concerned know, understand and work within the rules so that we protect our island shoreline for our own enjoyment and for that of future generations.

To be clear: I am not against roadside mowing. I am for protection of the shoreline, and I am certain that both can be accomplished at the same time.

I have recently learned that the city wants to address the overgrown invasive species—especially bittersweet—on our city-owned shoreline. I'm very happy to hear that, and will offer support and assistance.

As an environmental professional, I know that with invasive species, it is important to carefully select control methods that work, or risk wasting time and money. Some methods have proven to actually worsen the problem in the attempt to solve it.

Again, I will work actively with the city to come up with a plan that will use city resources (our tax dollars) as efficiently as possible to address the invasive species problem on Peaks Island.

I believe that we can understand our challenges, share goals, and work together to do what is best for the island in the coming years. Many coastal communities have developed strategies to balance citizens' safety with environmentally sound practices, and we can, too. This is what I am committed to.

Sincerely,

Lyune Richard

Thank you from the PTO

The PTO would like to thank the community of Peaks Island for supporting our recent fund raisers—the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction, and the Peaks Island Improv Troupe (PIT) on Feb. 12. The turnout for both events was fabulous and will allow us to fund enrichment events in and out of the classroom. Special thanks to Kim Dervis for organizing the silent auction, to all who made silent auction donations, and to the members of the PIT for donating their time and talents.

Susan Hanley

My Hero on Peaks Island

Recently I became very ill. Suddenly, I was very weak and could not retain balance on my legs. When I left the hospital, I was given a "walker". However, this stabilizer could not help me when confronted with stairs.

In order to keep my doctor's appointments on the mainland, I called the Island Taxi. Jay Desmond, the driver, became much more than a driver. He came to my door, placed my arm firmly under mine, and together we descended step by step down the stairs. Even though I was terrified of falling, he never released his grip. He reassured me on every step.

When I returned from my visit, the Taxi was waiting. Jay helped me from the cab to the stairs. Going up step by step was difficult because I wore large boots which hurt the soles of the shoes. Jay, while holding my arm under mine, had to reach down and bend his knee to make the steps.

I must admit, however, I miss that wonderful guy, Jay Desmond.

Sincerely,

Mary Stimson
Peaks Island resident since 1985

from Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

As we head into spring, the urge to put winter behind us is oh so tempting. Flowers are coming up. Who wants to think about the cold nights we spent in our homes listening to the furnace run (and run and run)? I certainly don't. But before we put the heating-bill blues behind us, we should consider the many programs out there to help us make our homes more efficient—the clock's ticking on them.

Right now there are more programs than ever to help homeowners tighten up their homes to save energy and money. Rebates on efficient appliances, tax credits for insulation, and money from your utility bills are just a few. Some of these programs end this year, giving good reason to the do the work before winter's oil bills start coming in.

On March 8 in Westbrook I hosted a workshop to connect local residents with some of these resources. Along with a certified energy auditor, we had representatives from several state and local agencies talk about how homeowners can access thousands of dollars in incentives.

One point was mentioned over and over: the importance of getting an energy audit. Having your house analyzed by a certified professional is the best way to launch into your home improvements. The information and advice they give on your home's insulations and air gaps can save you thousands of dollars by focusing your efforts on what will have the biggest impact.

After some persuasion from my daughter, Hannah, I finally had an energy-auditor come to my 1930s-era home on North Haven. Like many Mainers, I love my old house and thought the drafts and chills were just an inevitable part of the package. But I was really surprised when the energy analyst told me how much I could cut from my energy bill by taking some inexpensive steps. Using caulk to fill in gaps here, stuffing more insulation there, putting a heavy drape on that window—these simple fixes would add up to hundreds of dollars of savings every year.

The workshop attendees—myself included—listened closely to the
Lines from Casco Bay Lines

BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Past columns have discussed rates, finances, committees, trips and ferry boats. I think we’ve touched on many of those topics, but on Friday night, it was time to go sailing on a boat named Peaks Island from Portland.

Six full-time employees, called the Casco Bay Lines staff, ticket the office in the Old Port building seven days per week. They sell tickets, ship freight and both the operations as they work as early as 4:45 a.m., to as late as 11:30 p.m. each day, depending upon the season.

Each week, they normally work four 10-hour days or five eight-hour days, and their schedules include a range of duties, from handling phones to picking up and delivering empty spaces, so the PIC has asked the city to rent islanders some of these spaces at a reduced cost. The city could make money and islanders would have a understandable parking option.

We also had some complaints and offers from a variety of sources about the island’s road crew cutting the backshore bushes, so for our last ticket office we met with Mike Robinson, Jeff Talting, Al Alves, and numerous islanders to discuss the matter. It has been a perennial issue on Peaks, and it involves safety issues and invasive plants, shoreline zoning and PILE easements, aesthetics and even safety issues.

We’re assembling a group of people with a stake in the matter to outline a long-range plan for Peaks, with broad islander consensus and city, state and federal laws.

The Island Safety Services report is coming soon and will work as a policy guide for future action. In the process, we learned a lot about how good our professional and volunteer island responders are and how they’re gaining experience.

In fact, islanders response time to the last two fires on Peaks was much faster than the norm for the city. To augment the island’s rescue responders, three Peaks Islanders are taking an EMT course on Cliff Island, which requires a demanding schedule of study until June, and we appreciate their commitment.

The taxi is starting back up again after a new business plan, building on the success of Island Transportation Service’s first contractor. We’re planning another trip to Peaks Island to celebrate the city’s 40th birthday, even though the staff’s more difficult tasks: dealing with islander consensus.

In April, we’ll be working on two new single-family homes on the adjacent site. The proposed plans for the two homes are available at the library, island churches, the school and the Peaks Island Community Center. They range from $7 you ever made. $1,500.

Energy auditors Bill Najapa and Charles Chellenger, many others to comment, we councillors will continue to work on our professional and volunteer island responders are in this year’s hire, and we appreciate their collaboration.

It’s the third hearing on a series on the HomeStart board of directors proposal. On Tuesday, April 13, the Portland Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Chambers to consider a HomeStart proposal for three residential single-family dwellings on the property at 16-18 Luther Street in Portland.

The proposal calls for the rehabilitation of an existing single-family home at 18 Luther Street and construction of two new single-family homes on the adjacent site. The proposed plans for the two homes are available at the library, island churches, the school and the Peaks Island Community Center. They range from $7 you ever made. $1,500.

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YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 767-3017 or jsstephan@wan.net.

When I left my corporate job in 1983 I launched a three year exploration that eventually lead me to studying massage therapy in Portland. One of the jobs I held briefly during that time was assistant to the recreation director at a nursing home. My two favorite activities were reading the newspaper aloud every morning and an exercise class we developed called, "keep fit while you sit!"

There I was in my chair, 25 years old, in a circle of white haired folks in wheel chairs and we had a blast. That class not only inspired the residents, but it gave me very valuable lessons in making exercise accessible to all, and not underestimating the fitness or capability of people with physical limitations.

Those days I bring that awareness to my strength training class - which also was developed in a nursing home - and to my yoga classes. I have witnessed the courage of many students with compromised abilities, including seniors and people with MS, cancer, fibromyalgia, frozen shoulders, broken bones and joint replacements. One of my teachers was fond of saying that if you could breathe and move one finger, you could practice yoga.

In the west, yoga classes often emphasize the vigorous physical practices, so it is understandable that some folks would feel intimidated, or simply dismiss yoga as an impossibility for them. However, in the holistic practice of yoga the physical postures are only one category among eight distinct practices. With some creativity, many yoga poses can be adapted to varying abilities.

The other seven practices are fully accessible to anyone with the desire to learn. Two of them are restraints and observances, the ethical practices of yoga. I will write about these next month with a focus on care of the environment. Another is the breathing exercises, called "Pranayama" in sanskrit. Finally, there are four levels of meditation. In Kripalu yoga, the meditation and yoga poses are woven together in a practice we call "Meditation in Motion."

In addition to physical fitness, yoga practice encourages mental clarity, emotional maturity, and spiritual awakening. On the yoga mat we practice returning to the simple grace of a single breath, the rich gift of the moment we are currently experiencing, the pure energy waves of sensation that accompany moving gently past our comfort zones. Sometimes the physical obstacles folks are managing prevent them from getting onto a yoga mat on the floor. In that case a chair becomes your "yoga mat". You can enjoy a very satisfying yoga practice either sitting on the chair, or standing and using the chair for support. Once you begin to think outside the box, anything is possible. I taught yoga lessons for a man with cerebral palsy who used a walker for support.

Chair yoga also comes in handy when you work a desk job, or have very limited space and can't unfurl your yoga mat. For some reason that is still a mystery to me, many of us are swimming upstream against a tide of resistance to practices that enhance our well-being. Learning to practice yoga in a chair eliminates the objection that you can't practice because you don't have room, don't have time, are injured or you forgot your mat.

As with any other discipline practice, the first step is the most challenging. I suspect that once you sit towards the front edge of your chair and receive your first full breath, while raising your arms if you are able, your delight will be so compelling that you will continue. On numerous occasions I have guided five or ten minutes of chair yoga during meetings, and the shift in the energy in the room is palpable.

Now that you have no excuses left, pull up your favorite chair and start breathing. The postures below include a range of challenges. For assistance adapting yoga to your particular abilities, I recommend my chair yoga class in Portland, or one that is in planning stages on Peaks. As the light and warmth of spring revive the earth, may your natural wisdom, light, and joy awaken.

Intention: Begin your practice with a moment of stillness in which you affirm your intention to practice with compassion and mindfulness.

Seated Mountain
Strengths muscles all along your spine and stimulates digestion. Sit toward the front of your chair with feet flat on the floor and lengthen your spine to your full seated height - without strain. Optionally lift your arms overhead.

Upward Boat
Strengthens abdominal muscles and thighs. Start with seated mountain. Lean back slightly without rounding your spine as you lift one leg. Hold the chair seat or stretch your arms out in front of you. Optionally lift both legs together.

Seated Half Moon
Opens up the side of your torso, strengthens your neck and shoulders. Start with seated mountain, then with your gaze on a fixed point, bring your right hand to the chair and your left arm overhead. As you stretch, press your left sitting bone firmly into the chair. Repeat on the other side.

Seated Warrior 2
Strengthens your back and opens your heart. Start with seated mountain. Hinge forward slowly from your hips as you lift your heart and sweep your arms back and wide.

Seated Warrior Angle
Same benefits as Warrior 2 plus intense side stretch. Start with warrior 2 and then sweep the forward arm down towards the floor and the back arm up towards the sky.

Seated Twist
Strengthens your back and opens your heart. Start with seated mountain. Hinge forward slowly from your hips as you lift your heart and sweep your arms back and wide.

Pause
Sit with your back supported by the chair back and your feet flat on the floor. Rest one hand on your belly and one hand on your heart. Close your eyes, breathe slowly and feel the effects of your practice. Offer yourself gratitude and compassion.

Rebecca Johanna Stephens, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 22 years experience in the healing arts.
Island Swingers

BY JERRY GARMAN

Other than our first fall, which taught us about gravity, the swing may have been one of our earliest scientific experiments. As we evolved from hanging onto a vine to using knotted ropes, to swinging on a board, a disk or a tire we were actually riding a pendulum and testing Galileo’s Law.

Rollins painted hers with a colorful snake design. Some have chosen wooden, metal or plastic swing sets, miniature playgrounds.

An accurate swing count would provide a children’s census for the island.

Rose Ann Walsh remembers two of her favorites: a Tarzan rope swing (perhaps she was Jane?) once located behind St. Christopher’s, and the curved branch of an oak tree which she could manipulate side-to-side and up and down (it is now supported by a wooden brace, having shared most of its swinging energy).

For five summers Mary Ellen Harmon supervised swings located in our parking lot until they were displaced to the Lion Club by a proposed ice rink.

Now, only the public swings located at the school playground are in constant motion, producing gravity-defying rides up to six feet high. Three are starter swings with holes for little legs and three are for swingers of all ages. This limited number has even aided parents in teaching the concept of sharing. You may see parents and grandparents there with attached to a wondrous thing, we lovingly call a swing.”

The Moxhay children, Nikolai, Olwyn and Imogene enjoy three swings: a conventional plank, a horizontal tire and a sculpted black rubber stallion. photo by Jerry Garman

But our first ride was in our mother’s arms as she sang “Rock-A-Bye Baby.” Early pioneer, the Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed, was rocked by his grandmother in a yellow rocker made by his great grandfather in the 1800s (this chair can be seen at the Fifth Maine Museum).

Later we were cautiously placed in an enclosed seat and gently pushed back and forth. Soon we swung from two ropes hanging from a tree branch attached to a seat. The height of our travel was limited to the length of the ropes and the strength of the pusher. Note: The National Swing Association posts a record of 20 feet.

We all secretly wondered if we could completely encircle the branch holding these ropes.

Only two commands were necessary: “hold on” and “higher”. On that magical day when we learned to lean back at the high point of our arc and kick out our legs with a pumping motion we increased the amplitude of our swing, and with our downward velocity finally approached weightlessness and a silent freedom.

There are over 50 swings on Peaks Island, some with up to four attachments to the same tree. Most are plain but Liz

The 2010 Island Phone Directory is here!

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1. Complain
5. Slaves
10. Delicate stroke
14. Pound in Italy
15. Pennsylvania town
16. Tennis great
17. Larger computer maker than Dell
18. WW2 aircraft carrier
19. Cereal grain
20. First part of quote
23. Notsweet
24. Long-delayed Const. measure
25. Pakistan town
28. Sun
31. Prefix meaning clean
32. Pick-me-up
33. Advised
34. Found in the wind section
35. Hag
36. Change, colloq.
37. Your way
38. Horton or Duncan
39. Prefix with minus or mite?
40. Use up
41. Organic compound
42. Famous English village
43. Character in Peter Pan
44. Bare
45. Site of 2009 murders
46. Adjective describing 5 Down
47. Born
48. Prefix with minus or mite?
49. Hath
58. Silica, another name
59. Franchitti, Indy 500 winner
60. The Great or the Terrible
61. One of the Shah's names
62. Famous U.S. defeat
63. He executed his mother
64. Prepared to drive
65. Vexed
66. Fat in Bordeaux

DOWN
1. Scratch
2. Oped columnist
3. Bld/2, for example
4. Farm outbuilding
5. Address
6. Orient
7. Hebrew for "head"
8. Founder of Red Hot Chili Peppers
9. Sweet
10. Prime grazing land
11. Employer
12. Popular cuisine
13. Poker clue
14. Deep lake
15. British burn
16. Tennis great
17. Larger computer maker than Dell
18. WW2 aircraft carrier
19. Cereal grain
20. First part of quote
21. Larger computer maker than Dell
22. British burn
23. Notsweet
24. Long-delayed Const. measure
25. Pakistan town
26. Sonnet part
27. TV character played by Jay Silberheels
28. Employment
29. Waste product
30. Man's name
31. "Mother" astrologer
32. Pick-me-up
33. Archie's better half
34. Kind of partner
35. Author of "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men"
36. Famous English village
37. Your way
38. Horton or Duncan
39. Prefix with minus or mite?
40. Use up
41. Organic compound
42. Famous English village
43. Character in Peter Pan
44. Bare
45. Site of 2009 murders
46. Adjective describing 5 Down
47. Born
48. Prefix with minus or mite?
49. Hath
50. Olympic event
51. Level
52. Ankle bones
53. Adjective describing 5 Down
54. Clock
55. Finished
56. Storied mansion
57. Adam's grandson
April 2010 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

"April" comes from the Latin word *aprīrus*, "to open," referring to the opening of buds on trees and flowers. The Earth’s north pole is now inclined by more than half the day. In fact, this month alone, we’ll gain almost a full hour of sunlight. It is also the month of Easter (April 4), the end of Passover (April 6), Buddha’s birthday (April 8), Easter Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 30), and “opening day” for Major League Baseball (Red Sox home opener against the Yankees on Easter Sunday at 8:05 p.m.).

PLANETS

In the first half of April, speedy Mercury is barely visible just above the western horizon at about 7:45 p.m. It’s best seen as a retrograde planet to the sun, so it sets soon after the sun does. Brilliant Venus is a little higher above the horizon than Mercury, as it comes around the back of the sun toward Earth. By lining up the two planets, you can see the 45° slant of the ecliptic ridge here in Maine. Ruddy Mars is overhead at sunset, just above M44, the Beehive cluster of stars, but Earth’s inside orbit is taking us ahead of Mars, and it will fade in brightness noticeably this month.

Jupiter is a morning star on the eastern horizon an hour before sunrise and will continue to climb in our sky as Earth catches up with it. Saturn was just at opposition last month, so it’s in prime position for telescopic viewing now. Its rings are still nearly edge-on to Earth, so good luck finding the dark Cassini division between the inner and outer rings.

STARS

Because it’s so close (only 8 light years away) white Sirius, the eye of the “Big Dog” Canis Major, is the brightest star in our sky, low in the southwest. Yellow Cappella is a bit higher in the northwest.

I see Cappella as the back of the cap of Auriga, the Charioteer, and the star that is the peak of the cap has faded in brightness now and will stay that way for 2 years, part of a 27-year cycle. Astronomers now think a companion star with a large dust cloud is passing slowly in front of it. Nearby overhead are Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins, with Mars to the southeast of them, and Regulus the bright star in Leo to its southeast. Arcturus is the red star in the east and is easy to identify, as the Big Dipper’s handle arcs right toward it.

Spica, the alpha star in otherwise dim Virgo is low in the southeast. The Beehive star cluster is almost directly overhead. The Bode Galaxy, M81, is just off the front of the Big Dipper, in line with and the same distance away as the diagonal corner of the dipper’s cup. M3 is a big globular star cluster above Arcturus with a half-million stars.

Our sun is too remote to let us travel to habitable planets around other stars, but star clusters may allow inter-stellar travel for its denizens.

ALMANAC

April 1: Sunrise is at 6:23 a.m. and sunset is at 7:08 p.m. This is April Fool’s Day, apparently invented in Persia (now Iran) in the sixth century BC. Highest tide “spring tide” this month is at 1:03 a.m., 12.7 feet above the lowest tide this month at 7:23 a.m. In fact, the tide won’t be this high and low again until July.

April 3: The waxing gibbous moon is less than a pinky’s width above Antares, the red super-giant star in Scorpio. Compared to our sun, Antares is 800 times wider and 10,000 times brighter, but its mass is only 18 times greater, so it’s much less dense than our home star.

April 4: Easter Sunday mixes the pagan tradition of eggs and bunnies with the Christian tradition of rebirth. Tonight just after sunset a quasicoincident of Venus and Mercury: they’re only 3° apart — the width of your index finger at arm’s length.

April 6: Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise, and it will appear smaller than usual, because...

April 9: The moon’s at apogee, its furthest away from Earth this month.

April 14: New moon means no moon to wash the night sky with light, the better to hunt for stars, clusters, and galaxies. Christian Huygens, Dutch astronomer, was born this day in 1629. In 1655 he discovered Saturn’s moon Titan, and he determined that Saturn’s “ears” were really thin rings that circled above the planet’s equator. These days the man-made satellite Cassini-Huygens circles Saturn, peaks in at foggy Titan and sends amazing pictures back to Earth (see saturn.jpl.nasa.gov).

April 15: Take your binoculars down front tonight around 8:15: elusive Mercury sits over the city, just below a day-old, thin crescent moon. While you’re at it, you can also see the zodiacal light, that faint red rectangular pillar of light on the horizon above the sun.

April 16: Tonight about 8:30, the Pleiades star cluster floats over the crescent moon in the western sky, with Venus blazing well below them.

April 21: First-quarter moon is high at sunset, and tonight the moon and Mars bracket the Beehive cluster. This would be a great night for the telescope, or even just binoculars, but of course every clear night is.

April 22-23: Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks today and tomorrow, with best viewing around 4 a.m.

April 24: The waxing gibbous moon’s at perigee, its closest to Earth this month. That’s Saturn above it.

April 28: A big Full “Egg” moon rises out of the ocean at 8:23 p.m., quite a sight for those on the 815 beat back to the island tonight.

April 30: Sunrise is now at 5:35 a.m. and sunset is at 7:41 p.m., giving us almost 14 hours of sunlight each day. For those on the early boat to town this Friday morning, a big Full “Egg” moon rises out of the ocean at 8:23 p.m., quite a sight for those on the 815 beat back to the island tonight.
Sacurday Night Movies show on Fe b.
something facetiously, the first annual animated films by six young Peaks
and that's exactly what happened at the cartoon before rolling the feature film,
Island actors in what was billed, a Character 27.
Brun and Paul Conley, volunteer
roundly started off each show with a Friends of the Peaks Island Library's
the audience was treated to original
formed the Peaks Island Lyceum in
lot, always eager to keep up with national
Ehuive land singer Andrew Fisher.
PAGEu ISLANDTIMES April 2010
The event was organized by Many
Our island forebears were an inquisitive
Peaks Island's first ever animated film festival
WHAT'S SPECIAL
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Earth is a truly special place, with its rocky
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Join today! Help protect what we love about Peaks.
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to save the peaks island lyceum

FROM THE FIFTH MAINE
Civic Engagement Island Style

Got Animation?
Peaks Island's first ever animated film festival

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Once upon a time movie theaters routinely started off each show with a cartoon before rolling the feature film, and that's exactly what happened at the Friends of the Peaks Island Library's Saturday Night Movies show on Feb. 27.

Showing that night was "Candy with a Chance of Meatballs, but before it ran the audience was treated to 11 original animated films by six young Peaks Island artists in what was billed, somewhat facetiously, the first annual Peaks Island Animated Film Festival. The event was organized by Marty Braun and Paul Conley, volunteer

projectionists for the Saturday Night Movies program who called themselves the Peaks Island Film Academy for the occasion.

"It was a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants thing," said Marty. "We had no submissions until one week before the deadline."
The show included some amazing shorts by Zev Eisenberg and Sara Connor, both college students majoring in film and media, as well explorations of clay, toy and food animation by Daisy Braun, 13, Imogen Moxhay, 11, Arthur Thompson-Johnson, 10, and Maximilian Eaton, 7.

Zev's first film, Spell, used a technique called kinetic typography to animate the recording from a Honeymooners episode in which Alice bets Ralph $32,000 that he can't say antiseptic, use hokum, lucid, hysteric, and at least 10 words with 'r' in a row.

Sara Connor's films featured her own artwork, hundreds of sketches, line drawings and rich colorful paintings that she used to create images that walked, flew, expanded, flickered, vibrated or morphed into something entirely new.
The future of the Peaks Island Film Academy is uncertain at this point, but there are hopes that the Animated Film Festival will become an annual event.

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**A look at secession - Part 2**

**BY KEVIN ATTARA**

"Ed. Note: This article was originally scheduled for last week, but was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances."

In April 1982, looking for drugs and illegal aliens in Florida, the U.S. Border Patrol blockaded U.S. Highway 1, the only road into the Florida Keys from the mainland. At first the islanders protested, but when that didn't work they decided to secede from the United States and declared themselves the Conch Republic.

Apparently one minute later Key West's mayor surrendered to the U.S. troops in charge of a nearby naval base and requested $1 billion in foreign aid and war relief, which was never paid.

In 2006, an article in the Concord Monitor quoted officials in the town of Sanegue, New Hampshire, who chose April to "abandon Sullivan County and join Mexico," saying, "We execute our tax burdens will be lower."

The article stated, "The town's 2,700 claims it uses only 2 percent of the county's services but pays about 25 percent of its taxes." Allegedly, secession has been a topic there since 1981.

When the Peaks Island secession effort failed in 2007, the Portland Press Herald ran an in-depth article on the idea, called "Our View," which stated, "One matter clearly settled in the 7.5 month controversy is that Peaks residents have no inherent right to secede."

On the other hand, Thomas Jefferson argued the issue because "it is a fundamental condition in a democracy, the will of a majority to be statistically recognized. Early Ohio legislation permitted incorporation of villages with a minimum of 30 inhabitants, so Beachwood Village, formerly part of another township, was able to secede in 1913 when township officials decided to close one of the schools. Chebeague seceded from Cushing and Cumberland in 2007.

A July 2007 NPR story quoted Chebeague residents Carol White, a Macrole and mother of two, as saying, "We had to look at the question of how we protect the school. . . . We were very certain that if we lost the school, we would lose the year-round community." It said Maine islands have historically lost year-round populations when schools fail. At the point where students must be sent to the mainland, young families typically move away, something that many Peaks Islanders are still concerned about.

Island resident Frank Piretti, a former member of the Island Independence Committee, said, "The hardest issue was the school." Peak Island Councilor Lynne Richardson in Martland for the same reason in 2007.

"We've lost so many great folks, the Rosses, the Goguen's, the Mayos - victims of excess transportation and tax costs," wrote Peaks Island Councilor Linnell Richardson in an e-mail interview. "Even some strong pro-Portland people have moved off the island - interestingly, most chose not to live in the city."

"I've always viewed the city as between a rock and a hard place," said Kane. "The city is a victim of the state tax policy. It has no means to raise money other than property taxes."

Philosopher Allan Buchanan has written that there are six types of arguments typically used against secession. Three of them are routinely used in the case against Peaks Island independence:

- "Protecting legitimate expectations" - those who are tenants in a territory, even if it was stolen, would be hurt by secession.
- "Soft paternalism" - secession will be bad for secessionists.
- "Distributive justice" - wealthier areas cannot secede from poorer ones.

Next month we will conclude our series on secession with a critical look at how these arguments have been applied to Peaks Island.
The Gem — The Gem Gallery is an artist/craftsperson cooperative of over 25 individuals in media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, assemblage, fiber arts and writing. Solo and small group exhibitions change weekly and bi-weekly from June through October with larger themed members show off-season and a holiday sale each year. Please call the gallery at 766-5600 for more information.

At the Dodwell — Artworks by South Portland artist and teacher Serena Waskien in her solo exhibition: April & May — Your heart will not be still when you enjoy her still life water colors and oil painting. Reception Sunday May 7, 7pm to 9 pm, to celebrate the artist and her birthday. Annual Student Show opens in June, followed by Beaches for July and August. Artist submissions welcome, limit 2 per artist. April — new oil paintings by Serena Waskien. The Long Island Dodwell Gallery is located at the Long Island Learning Center on Germain Ave and is open April — December. Please call 766-2530 or visit online at http://thethery.LI.ltkns.com for times. Curator Maggie Carle accepts@ maggiesunrise.net or 766-3440.

Addison-Wooley at Studio 203A New Work for a New Season! works by Victor Romanyshyn, Diane Hudson, Alan Sockloff, Andrea van Vorst van Beest, Jan Pieter van Vorst van Beest, Norm Promoul, Jane Banquer, Astaraka Bukasalis, Darrell Taylor, Dave Wade, Dan Dow and Ronnie Wilson. Running April 2 to April 30. Artists’ reception Friday April 2 from 5 pm to 8 pm. Gallery hours are 11:30 am to 5 pm each day, including Saturday and Sunday. Addison-Wooley at Studio 203A, located in the Bakery Building at 61 Pleasant Street, Portland, curator Susan Porter. Phone 450-8499, website www.addisonwooley.com.

The Fifth Maine Teaching & Interpreting the Civil War Saturday May 1, 10 am to 3:30 pm, the Fifth Maine Museum, Peaks Island. Workshop for teachers and heritage resource volunteers and professionals interested in enriching their knowledge of the Civil War and Maine’s involvement as we approach the Sesquicentennial Commemoration in 2011. Topics range from Remembering the Civil War in a Thirteenth Century to Hands On and Minds On: Using Primary Sources to Teach the Civil War. Fee: $15 per person.

The Eighth Maine — a living museum and lodge built in 1891, providing accommodations for individuals and families. Currently closed for the season. For reservations or more information call 766-5086.

Brackett Church — Sunday Worship — 10 am, with Sunday School and Childcare. Peace, Ethics, Action, Community, Excellence (PACE) youth group Sundays during the Sunday School hour. For info contact Anthony Winter, 766-3282.

Children’s Choir, Mondays 2:45-3:15. For info contact MaryAnn Thompson, 787-0108.

Thrift Shop, Saturday, March 13, 10 am-1 p.m. and Thursday March 18, 6-6:30 p.m. in the vestry. For info call 766-1013.

Thursday Morning Study, “Christian Pilgrimage,” 10 am at the Parsonage, 9 Church Ave. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursday 1 pm to 5 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome. For information contact Anne 766-3636 or Rebecca 766-3017.

Holy Week/Easter — Thursday, Tenebrae, April 1, Patlock 6 p.m., Worship 7 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 4, worship with Special Music, 10 a.m.; Ecumenical SUNday Service, 6 a.m., Backshore at Whaleback. Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast following SUNday Worship, at Brackett Fellowship Hall. Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church, 9 Church Street, Peaks Island, PILGRIM. 4 May 15 — “Lugh Awaj Tax Day” Yoga, April 29 – Needle Walking (maybe outdoors).

Walk Program — Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 meet at community building. Indoor stretching when weather doesn’t cooperate.

Low-Impact Aerobics with Weights — Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10-10.

Ping Pong Tuesdays — Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-4:00.

Adult Basketball — Monday evenings, 6:00 to 7:50 at Peaks Island School gym. $2 per night. No program on Dec. 29 or on snow days.

No program during school vacations, holidays, school snow days. For more info, contact Denise Macaronis, Recreation Programmer, at 766-2970 or e-mail dmacaroni@portlandmaine.gov Additional activities and updates can be found on island bulletin board.

Patty's Old Books — Free delivery to Peaks Island residents. Contact by email at palipen@gmail.com or call 233-0107.

Recycling Electronics — To recycle your old cell phones or music players, drop them in the collection box by the Island Library Office, or call 766-2854.

To register toll-free (888) 382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov. If registering by phone, you must call from the number that you wish to add to the list. It's free and does not expire. Only residential line lists may be added. The FCC enforces the Do Not Call Registry. To file a complaint, email feedback@federaltrade.com or phone (888) 222-5555. You can also use the online complaint form at http://www.complaints.fcc.gov/.

Food Exchange — The Food Exchange is an informal group of families looking to exchange and share food. If you are interested in participating, please contact Shyann at 766-5711.

Furniture & Building Materials Exchange — If you are discarding reusable furniture, cabinetry or building materials, please don’t leave them at the transfer station to go into the landfill. Contact one of the two island email lists (E.Vincent@cgw.com or choppie@cgw.com) and describe what it is and where to pick it up. It’s free, be sure to say so. These folks provide a wonderful opportunity to recycle and reuse. If you have smaller items, donate them to the rummage sale held at the Brackett Church on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month from 2 pm to 5 pm. And if all else fails, wait for a sunny day and put things in front of your house with a free sign. Nearby everyone’s trash is somebody’s treasure!

Classes & Instruction

Dance Classes — For class schedule and information contact Skrocco at 776-6046 (cell) or email skrocco@gmail.com.

Yoga Classes — in Brackett Fellowship Hall. Please contact Rebecca Stephans for the schedule at 766-3017 or rstephans@ge.com.

Weight Training — Mondays and Thursdays 5 pm to 6 pm in the Community Room, ankle and hand weight training for strength and to encourage strong bones. Call Rhonda (2883) for more information.

Cooking for Crowds — Kathy Savory, MS, RD, University of Maine Cooperative Extension. To be held on Thursday, April 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Brown Memorial Library in E. Baldwin, Monday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Legion Post in Gray; Friday, April 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the St. Maximillian Episcopal Church in Scarborough. $10 per person. Register call 776-7125 or 800-327-3471 (toll free in Maine). Please bring your lunch box.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday April 1
APRIL FOOLS' DAY FUN and LAUGHTER
Share a favorite prank or be the victim of one! Play Bingo for "foolish" prizes; BYO lunch to enjoy afterwards. Drop in anytime between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm at the community room.

Friday April 2
First Friday Comedy Night at The Inn on Peaks Island with host Mike Sylvester. Kicking off this monthly event of stand-up comedy are comedians Louis Avert, Kate Ochilie and Quinn Collins. House band: Steve Dumphy and Pete Witham of the Committ Zombies. Doors open at 7:30, tickets are $6. Proceeds will go to Peaks Little League. Reservations 766-5100. Take 7:15 pm ferry from Portland, 9:40 p.m. or 10:55 p.m. ferry home. Headlining May 7 is Joe Riches.

Easter Sunday April 4
Ecumenical Sunrise Worship, 6 a.m., Backshore at Whaleback, with Pancake Breakfast afterward at the Brackett Church in the Fellowship Hall. Easter Sunday Worship with Special Music, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt afterward.

Monday, April 5
Portland Recreation First Monday Fun: Preschoolers/Adults from 11 a.m to 12 pm in the community room (children must be accompanied by an adult). Drop in any time, no pre-registration. Be creative as we make some Springtime crafts/gifts. PEAT meeting at 6:30 p.m. at 25 Crescent.

Tuesday, April 6
Peaks Island Library First Tuesday Book Discussion - at 7 pm at the library, 129 Island Avenue, on Sea of Poppy's by Anita Gosh. All are welcome. In May moderator Patrica Erikson has chosen The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins for its appeal to both young adult and adult readers, male and female. In June, the book will be Black Lace by Monica Ali, moderated by Mary Douglas. To reserve a book call 766-5546 or email peakslibrary@portland.lib.me.us, and include your library card number. Please contact the library if you have a copy to share.

Tuesday April 13
Leaf and Laddie Dinner at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Social Hall from 5 pm to 7 pm, $6 for adults and $3.50 for children. The menu will feature dishes that were enjoyed by our families in good times and bad. This night of nostalgia comes two days before the taxman visits!

Saturday, May 1
Carmen the Mopera with Julie Goell (right), Directed by Avner Eisenberg at 8 p.m. A hilarious solo version of Bizet's "Carmen" with vocal highlights, spontaneous sketches and nautical physical comedy at the Old Port Playhouse, 19 Temple Street, Portland (next to the Nikelodeon Theater) Call 773-0333 or visit www.oldportplayhouse.com.

Friday May 7
First Friday Comedy at The Inn on Peaks with host Mike Sylvester. Stand-up comedian Joe Riches headlines. Doors open at 7:30, tickets are $6. Proceeds go to Peaks Little League. Reservations 766-5100. Take 7:15 pm ferry from Portland.

Special Notice
PLANNING BOARD HEARING
The Portland Planning Board will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor to consider a proposed conditional rezoning agreement for the property located at 16-18 Luther Street on Peaks Island to allow the three (3) residential single family dwelling units with carports and the rehabilitation of an existing single family home at 18 Luther Street. The developer is HomeStreet. All of the residential units will be marketed as affordable housing. The public hearing is an opportunity for the applicant to present a plan to the Planning Board in a formal session which is open to the public. Public comments will be taken at this meeting.

Summer Programs
Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp After-school program begins March 26, on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; thru May 7 (no session April 21). For 899. Please contact Laura Gledinning at 766-7905 or by email at lgledinning@yahoo.com.

Friends of the TEIA Registration for "Campships" begins in May for Peaks Island children who want to attend the club's sailing, tennis and kids' camp programs. All fees are paid by Friends of the TEIA. Registration forms will be available at the Peaks Island School. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor either by volunteering or contributing financially should call Stephanie Castle at asklight99@hotmail.com or Barbara Hoppin at 802-459-7907.

Next Issue
Questioning Patriotism

"As a child, I equated Memorial Weekend with opening our cottage, visiting with 'Uncle' Doug Mac Vane and viewing the Peaks Island Memorial Day parade.

"As a child of the 60's, I questioned authority. I believed protests and peace went hand in glove. I argued vehemently with my dad — a WW2 Veteran— against the Vietnam war.

"Next month, special contributor Jo Israelson will explore the nature of patriotism in honor of Memorial Day, the last day of May, opening day for the summer of 2010.

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