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Our Privileged Children

When I told a friend of mine about the feature of this month's community newsletter, she said, "Children! Wow, that is great! It's your passion." She was right, but what she nor I realized was the difficulty I would have coherently expressing my passion into words worthy of thought.

For days I have tossed ideas around in my head. As I quietly watch my child sleeping in the private shade of our backyard, I realize how privileged we are to live on this island in the middle of the ocean. I realize how fortunate my child is to live the first years of his life in a place where, for the most part, the clock has turned back to a time gone by. A time of unlocked doors and hopscotch afternoons. Community suppers and bicycles. Face-licking puppies and raindrops. Dump trucks and whitecaps. Rocks and seagulls. Rubber balls and helicopters. Forts and tulips. Deer and laughter. Books and sliding boards. Yard sales and tap dancers. Rustling leaves and sailboats. Lobsters. Green grass and swings. Sea captains and lollipops. Marimbas and mine. Kites and snails.

My son is privileged and so am I. Each day I watch him discover. Each day I relive a part of myself I never knew.

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Education and Cultural Diversity: Our Special Opportunity

When I tell out-of-state friends and colleagues that I supervise graduate interns in a student teaching program whose theme is "cultural diversity," they invariably raise their eyebrows. "Diversity? In Maine?" Even fellow Mainers are often surprised to learn that students at King Middle School and Portland High speak at least a dozen languages and come from all over the world. Portland's role as a refugee resettlement center means that students in our public schools bring the language and culture of their home towns in Ethiopia and Viet Nam, India and Bulgaria, to out home town of Portland, Maine.

At King Middle School and Portland High, up to 20 percent of the students are the

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Peaks Island Opinion...

A place where we can agree to disagree: this is the intellectually open environment we value in our community, and hope to nourish in this forum. Two heads are better than one: This project is a collaborative effort of Jenny Yasi, Kathy Caron, Kim Norton, our writers, cartoonists and illustrators. We depend upon sponsors for funding. As the paper grows in size and number of copies, we especially thank you for making this forum financially possible.

Contributor Guidelines: All articles are published unedited; please be concise. Authors write their own heading and subheadings. Cartoonists should use black ink, not pencil. We welcome Poetry, Recipes, Helpful Hints etc., for our Island Home Page.

Deadlines: By the first of each month please send material or hand deliver to Jenny at 7 Central Ave. Ext, Kathy at P.O. Box 1, or Kim at 21 Island Ave. Submissions must be signed; please include your phone number.

Sponsorship: $15 per issue.

Upcoming themes: July/August, Island Ecology, Water and Waste. August/September, Taxes, Services and the Cost of Island Life. September/October, Life on Peaks Island in the year 2000 [Visions of the Future]. These suggestions are intentionally broad, to inspire, not limit your writing and cartoons. We're happy to accept material on any topic. The Peaks Island Opinion is a monthly publication of, by, and for the people of Peaks Island.

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It's How We Play the Game

Children watch adults handle anger and frustration, and solve problems. They observe interactions in families, and in the wider community. What do we teach them about anger and divergent views? Do we express ourselves with integrity, so they may benefit from observing our struggles toward self-refinement? Do we teach our children (and ourselves) to respect differences of opinion, and to integrate such differences productively?

I saw a boy having an argument with another boy in the playground recently. One went running to his father, complaining, "He hit me!"

"Well, go kick his butt," was father's advice.

Either Dad didn't have a clue of how else to end the fight, or that he was too preoccupied with his own concerns to take the time to promote understanding among these kids. Maybe Dad figures kicking butt is macho and cool, and that macho and cool is what men and boys need to be. Maybe he was just repeating the words learned from his own father or grandfather.

At the legislative hearings, I sat next to a man wearing a Union! button I was wearing

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It's How We Play the Game

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the 'right to vote' button). He said to me, "There's gonna be trouble around here if this thing ever comes to a vote." "Well, what do you mean?" I say. "If there's a vote, then Islanders will have made their will known through the democratic process...."

"All I can say, is if this thing passes, there then's gonna be real trouble," and he said this with a decidedly unpleasant tone of voice.

"I know you don't intend to sound threatening," says I. I'm leaning over my lap. "But you sound like you're saying you're going to punch me in the nose." The gentleman, his bluff called, hurried me into his legislation, and had nothing more to say. Later, I wondered if I had been employed by him, wearing this unfavored button, would I have been fired? Is he trying to scare me from speaking my mind? I'm not pointing fingers here: this kind of overenthusiasm is equally horrifying when it originates in the Secessionist (or any other) camp.

Difficult ideas (or the people who hold them) won't just go away. We can't make them disappear however we might try.

Since we are fated to live with conflicts all our lives (whatever the issues, from sewage treatment and succession to playground etiquette), we might as well cultivate ethics of cooperation, responsive with tolerance and skillful listening. Anger can be seen as a beginning point, not an endpoint, which we can move beyond towards understanding. I'm curious if other people agree with the following 'codes of conduct,' and the values they represent. This is what I teach my children:

1. Speak up, say what you think. Don't be limited by anyone who tries to tell you what you may or may not think, or say. None of us deserve to be punished (in any way) for speaking our truth. Otherwise, how could the full truth ever hope to be heard?
2. We are not 'whatevers.' We are all human beings learning how to love, and that is the bottom line. If we are afraid to even consider opposing viewpoints (this means listening with a truly open mind), it is only because we have mentally imprisoned ourselves.
3. We have an obligation to question ourselves just as rigorously as we question our neighbors. Questions are not the enemies.
4. There is no enemy. The challenge is to support resolutions in which everybody wins, and that should be our intent. We need to cultivate patience and compassion. We need to be open to the creation of 'middle ways,' rather than cement ourselves into untenable positions. How can we say it isn't possible when we haven't yet sincerely tried?
5. A Quaker value, which I hold dear, is that each person holds a piece of the truth. When we put all the pieces together, like a puzzle, a larger image takes shape which no individual could have seen by himself/herself. We value all the pieces of the puzzle.
6. High emotions do not legitimize any cause. The Ku Klux Klan feels very strongly too, but that does not make them right. We shouldn't let strong feelings obscure our ability to listen. Besides, anger and fear grow old more quickly than the brave and forgiving heart.
7. When all else fails, it's o.k. to breathe deeply and relax, then scream into our pillows. These skills are worth cultivating now, because when this issue is over, there is sure to be another which will raise the hair on our necks. On the day we die, will it matter that we 'won,' or that we had the patience to encourage understanding amongst one another? Jenny Yasi

Education and Cultural Diversity Our Special Opportunity

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children of parents who have come from all over the world seeking a better life in the U.S. The presence of these newcomers makes our schools a true laboratory for democracy. I have visited an ESL (English as a Second Language) class where a young boy was learning to write an essay in English about his native Russian village with the help of a Portland High senior who had never been out of Maine. I have seen the children of Cambodian farmers teach the children of New England Yankees how to eat with chopsticks at a multicultural food festival. Walking the halls of King and Portland High I have marveled at the multilingual posters and paintings that remind all of us how varied and interesting the world really is.

And as I have listened and talked with Portland's students and teachers, I have thought about how all of us learn our place in the world. In kindergarten and first grade, we draw pictures of our family, our pets, our houses. As we grow older, our world broadens and we learn about our country, our culture, our bio-region. Finally, as we grow into adulthood, we learn that there are other families, other villages, and other cultures, and that the people who live in those villages have hopes and dreams much like our own.

Our Peaks Island children grow up surrounded by the woods and the water, cared for by families and neighbors who love them, free to explore their island village in safety and security. Later on, they learn that there are other worlds to explore - first the city across the bay, and then, eventually, the world beyond Portland and Maine. Even if they never travel to far away places, they learn that they are connected to the people who live there. If they are lucky enough to attend the Portland public schools, they can learn firsthand that these different "others" are not so different after all.

We adults, too, love our island home. It is the place where we greet our neighbors and plant our gardens and watch our children take their earliest steps into the world. And, like our children, we have learned that we are part of a wider community where civic responsibility is balanced by the benefits of diversity. By keeping our connection with the City of Portland, we can continue to teach Peaks Island's children that they are citizens of the world even as they honor their home - whether that home is a village on the Russian steppes or an island in Casco Bay.

Rita M. Kissin
What Price Education?

I don't have any kids. But, I do care about my community, and I'm a taxpayer, too. Frankly, if it meant affordable taxes and I did have kids, I'd keep them at home and educate them myself. They'd probably get a better education, too.

My parents are first generation Americans. My dad had to drop out of school when he was 17 to support his mother and younger brother and sister after his father died. My mother grew up in Yugoslavia (Slovenia) and was only able to attend school through the equivalent of our 8th grade. She didn't have the money to go to the "big city" to continue her education.

But, my parents valued education. When I was just a toddler I remember them reading to me from Mother Goose. We had a bookcase full of Golden Books, Grimm Fairy Tales, atlases of all sizes and shapes, the World Book Encyclopedia...well, you get the picture. My parents read to us. As soon as my big sister learned to read, my parents had her read to me, too. Once we started school, my parents helped us with our homework, attended PTA meetings, and kept on buying books.

My sister was the first person on either side of our family to attend college. I was the second.

Where did I live? In a working class town in Ohio. If you lived there, you worked in the tire factory, the chemical plant, or the boiler manufacturer. Only 25% of the high school graduating class entered college; about 10% got a degree.

The point I'm making is that money does not equal a better education. It seems to me that this point has been proven. Kids in the United States are lacking in both skills and knowledge when compared to kids in poorer countries, including my parents' native land of Slovenia.

It's my opinion that parents are the most important factor in a child's education. Money can not buy parental interest and involvement. However, maintaining an economically viable community for people of all income levels does encourage and enable people to get involved in their childrens' education.

Here on Peaks Island we have a unique opportunity to provide the very best educational environment for our children. An educational environment money can't buy.

Let's face reality. Let's face ourselves. More money is not the answer to our country's or our community's educational problems. We are.

Kathy Skerl Caron

Open Mouth, Insert Foot

I want to apologize to Dr. Rudenberg, and the Health Center Board. While it's true as stated in the last issue, serum lead tests are not 'money-makers', I did not mean to imply that our Island Clinic is a money hungry practice. Au contraire, our beloved Dr. Rudenberg, backed with a very hard working Health Center Board, clearly operates out of the desire to serve, and not to profit.

I could have said, the lead test is too expensive for the clinic to affordably offer, especially in comparison to the City subsidized program offered through Munjoy Hill Health Center. A nurse practitioner visits Peaks every other month, to do immunizations and other well child services at low cost. If you call Munjoy Hill Health Center in advance of the Nurse Practitioner's visit, they will bring a lead test out for your children. The next visit from Munjoy Hill is scheduled for June 18. Call 874-8869 to set up your lead screening.

"If the Island succeeds from Portland, we'll find a way to offer the test here," says Dr. Rudenberg. Well before that could be the case, the Child Development Center is rumored to be planning a lead screening clinic. One in 5 children screened for lead at the Munjoy Hill Health Center test positive, proving lead screening programs are very necessary. For update on lead screening clinic, please see related article on page 6.

J.Yasi

Congratulations to Peaks Island Graduating Class of 1993:

Marcie Alves   Zachary Hamilton   Matt Serapis
Erin Bayly     Chris Moore      Brian Vail
Jennifer Callow   Jake Sawyer   Matthew Voyer
A Glimpse of the Legislative Hearings

"Portland only does what it downright has to for Peaks Island. Each year I have had to write to George Flaherty and ask if he will repair the road in front of my house for a distance of about 300 to 400 feet. Two years ago he said he planned to repave it but it is still a series of one big puddle after another. The Portland City Council imprudently spends our money and over-taxes us and if I die of malnutrition it will be largely their fault.”

Mrs. Veronica Foster.

"Thirty years ago I purchased my home on the shores of Peaks Island. My valuation has been high, but the city services have been steady. When a piece of equipment breaks down, the City of Portland replaces it with another while it is being fixed. This is true of the police, fire, ambulance, snowplows, backhoes and many other pieces of equipment. They also rotate equipment to the island as needed. These include rubbish trucks, dumpsters, grass cutters, chipping machines and graders, to mention only a few.

Peaks Island has received thousands of dollars from Portland’s Housing and Community Development grants over the last seventeen years for street and sidewalk improvements, historical improvements and various welfare improvements. The City provides such a number of services that it would be a very long report indeed if they were listed here.”

John Flynn.

"Town meetings are important to voters like us, who are attentive to the welfare of the community. We attend, well prepared and informed in the issues that are of concern to us, and we attend because we know we have a vote, a voice, and we can effect the direction and decisions being proposed for our town.”

Norm Proulx.

"I am opposed to secession on many grounds but I am not opposed to a referendum. Indeed, I think that a vote might help to bring this matter gracefully to a close so that we can begin to heal the deep wounds on the Island — at least until the next property revaluation. But if there is to be a vote in November, then this (State and Local Government) Committee must be willing to address one thorny issue: namely, the new sewage treatment plant.”

Brian J. Martin.

"I feel it (the sewage treatment plant) demonstrates the way in which Portland typically deals with issues involving the Island. We are not REPRESENTED, we are dictated to, and we are dictated to, for the most part by individuals who have rarely if ever visited our Island. I have to believe that a far different result would have occurred had the City Council been asked to consider the placement of a sewer treatment plant in Monument Square or next to City Hall. I know a far different result would have occurred if Peaks Islanders had been able to make the determination for themselves.”

George Clark.

"In these brief remarks, I wish to stress the philosophical not the practical reasons for remaining a part of Portland. Secession, it seems to me, is a form of disengagement from the concerns of urban life that help account for the decay of many of our cities. A good deal of what is wrong with this country is this fragmentation of community, as citizens insist on forming their own little enclaves of government, narrowing their sense of civic responsibility only to their own immediate needs and concerns."

John Romanyshyn.

"...I believe the islanders should have the chance to vote on the direction of their own future. The birthing process is always traumatic for both mother and child, and the birth of a new town is similarly somewhat painful for both Portland and Peaks Island.

But it is important for all the people here involved to settle the question of separation and to do so within the framework of the fairest bill we can devise. The bill before you represents the best effort of a lot of people.”

Michael Richards.

"I would like to point out that support for or opposition to L.D. 1448 should not be a right-to-vote issue for Peaks Island year-round residents. Each must feel free to speak his or her conscience. It is, however, a real issue for the summer residents who are the majority of Peaks property owners, as well as for the residents of Portland who stand to lose what is now part of their city. They have no right to vote on this issue.”

Kay Taylor.

"Peaks Island will be perfectly satisfied if when all is said and done the debt and asset issue is a complete wash and we remain a part of the Portland region for sewer treatment. We do not believe Portland should be penalized if we separate nor do we recognize any inherent right of the City to continue to use us as a cash cow. By the same token Peaks Island should not be penalized if it elects to subsidize Portland no longer.”

Russ Edwards.

"What becomes immediately obvious about the secession movement are its three main elements: mandates, mirrors and smoke. First, the mandates: Our legislators can no longer mandate local action without providing at least 90% funding. Second, the mirrors: Which..."
reflect all undesirable costs and penalties to another class of citizens (especially those without a right to vote).

Third, the smoke: Which is the right-to-vote issue. No one denies this right, but not at the expense of so many."

Jerry Garman.

"Our research group has always been very open at all weekly meetings and have had constructive suggestions from a few of our opposition (the Union Party). Their weekly meetings have been closed to us and they have refused our request to attend them. They have only had 4 public meetings."

Judy Piawlock.

"...What will change, though, will be our involvement in making the City a better place. We will have no voice and we will shoulder none of the burden. We won't have representation in Augusta, or on the school board, or on City Council, or on the Planning Board. And we won't share our taxes or share responsibility for keeping this a great city."

John Carroll.

"Peaks Island offers Preschool and Child Care programs through the Peaks Island Child Development Center, a non profit Center which offers eligible preschool children a fair start, head start and healthy start. The Center currently serves 33 children, sponsors a Community Playgroup, houses the Island's Food Pantry, and provides Parent Education and referral to mainland family resources. Portland currently contributes 15% of its annual operating budget as well as numerous inkind resources. There is no other municipality in the state that supports area child care programs to this extent, especially small towns. They simply cannot afford to do so."

Janine Blatt.

"....In January 1985 we bought the Avenue House Hotel. An old run down turn of the century hotel and renovated it. I believe this to be an asset to the community, as local island craftsmen returned this delapidated building back to original beauty, keeping its original architecture. Every year for the past seven years I have asked them (the city) to replace the crumbling sidewalk and for the last seven years they have said NO. They do not have the money. Bear in mind we have paid in excess of $40,000.00 in taxes on that building. It also seems funny that there is surplus money generated from the taxes paid on Peaks Island, yet they do not have enough money to put in a sidewalk on a major street on Peaks Island."

Robin Clark.

"Secessionists accuse us UNIONists of being afraid of change. I'm not afraid of change IF I can see improvement down the road, but change just for the sake of change, I cannot see. I've had the same wife for nearly 46 years because I saw no room for improvement. I'm a great believer in the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

W. Stanley Foster.

"The sad thing to see is the number of people who have put their homes on the market because of the high taxes.... People who planned to stay in inherited properties or who bought or built homes hoping to stay on the Island for retirement are often heartbroken to see their dreams destroyed by high taxes. Some homeowners have been so depressed by worry over their Real Estate that medical attention has been required."

Howard Heller.
**Corrections re-Health Center**

In the hustle, bustle, concern and confusion of the Union/Right to Vote issue some misinformation regarding other matters was printed. I would like to correct several statements made in the May/June issue of Opinion - The Health Center-An Overview.

The small home on Sterling Street which now houses the Health Center was not donated to the community. It was purchased from the Herrick family with monies raised thru a building fund drive conducted on the island by a committee of many volunteers. Summer and year round residents gave generously - some by a one time donation, others by pledging amounts over three years and several donations by bequests in wills.

Volunteer crews did much of the tearing apart in preparation for professional licensed carpenters, electricians and plumbers paid for by those same fundraising campaigns. Many, many hours were given by the islanders in shingling the building, putting on a new roof, painting inside and out, pressing and hanging drapes, setting up the rooms - whatever needed to be done and could be done by volunteers was done - eagerly and cheerfully.

Various articles of need were donated by interested islanders in lieu of money. Equipment was purchased with HCD (Housing & Community Development Federal Agency) funds via City of Portland and channelled thru Maine Medical Center purchasing.

Marge Erico was not the administrator as printed. Her function as nurse practitioner was to give health care and to educate patients in preventative primary health care.

The administrator was Philip Nelson, Director of Outpatients Clinics of Maine Medical Center and Medical Director was the Chief of Family Practice Unit at India St. location; the first director was Robert True M.D. and assistant director was Robert E. Caven M.D. to whom the nurse practitioner reported.

Several events such as a bottle drive, Valentine Dances, along with the July Dinner Cruises helped thru out the years to defray expenses along with another fund drive in 1982.

The health center is very dear to my heart and is essential to the well being of Peaks Island and needs your help in continuing the services offered.

If you haven't seen the office please don't wait til you are ill to visit - drop by on Mon. or Wed. 8:30 am - 1:30 pm and Thurs. 1 pm - 4 pm. Appointment may be made by calling Karen Fridkman R.N. at 766-2929. If the office is closed please leave your name, telephone number and brief message and your call will be returned.

Dr. Rudenberg is accepting new patients as well as attending to the medical needs of all island clientele.

In case of emergency call - 911- help is just a dial away.

And remember this - your body is a beautiful and mystifying creation. Don't abuse it! Give it good maintenance-nourish and cherish it! If properly cared for your body will last a l o n g time!!

Marjorie Erico R.N.F.N.A. (Rel.)

(Family Nurse Associate)

Nurse Practitioner

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**Spring**

Flowers grow in the garden as summer passes.

Pools, flowers like pools.

Dogs trample in the gardens.

Breaking flowers is sad.

flowers that grow on mountains, window box flowers, any kind of flower at all.

Sophia E.Y. Presgraves (5 years old)

**An Opinion**

There's been a lot said lately about individual rights, self government, fear of change, isolation and alienation from Portland and the mainland "way of life." That Maine itself was built on "islands of isolation," that our heritage of rugged individualism and "go it alone" is the key to our future. I simply just don't get it.

I've spent 20 years advocating for children and forging partnerships with those who can make a positive difference for kids and families. I've participated in neighborhood, city, state and national coalition building efforts. Quite honestly, the city of Portland is one of the best champions for children we have. I say this in a country which has not signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; has no national Child Care standards; has yet to offer universal pre and post natal care... in a state where 52,000 children lived in poverty in 1992 and 4800 children were homeless. My experience has been that "city" officials listen and respond, that when "we" are organized and clear about our needs, "they" do understand and work with "us."

And who is the "city," "we" and "they?" Rugged individuals... all of "us," working democratically, binding our individual rights and efforts collaboratively, to provide the best we can for our children, our future.

By the very level of our own individual involvement we are participants in a democracy, in shaping the direction of a neighborhood, a city, a state, a nation. By fragmenting these efforts, as current secession movements are doing, we only contribute to the decay and dissolution of efforts to support children and families, and our future as a community and nation.

Janine Blatt

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**Lead Screening Clinic**

As reported in the Peaks Island Star, Newsletter of the Island's Service Agencies & other Community News, Portland Public Health, in conjunction with the Child Development Center and the Island Health Center, will be holding a lead screening clinic at the Island Health Center on June 18. All parents of preschool children are urged to have this lead screening done. Please call the Child Development Center (766-2854) if you are interested in screening for your child and for more details.
Fire Protection

Until recently, I have kept my opinion to myself on how the fire service is on Peaks Island because the job us volunteers have done the past several years shows the kind of department that most islanders I have talked with are very proud of. The boys of Engine 12 Call Company deserve praise not ridicule. I have been a member of this Department going on twenty years, currently serving as Chief the past two years.

The so-called run of the mill truck that Portland replaced our old one with is something we had asked for, not just handed down. It may not be the prettiest truck, but it has much more capabilities than our old one. We have had our differences with the City of Portland but they usually see to our needs most of the time.

As far as secession or not secession, our Island Department will do our best as always. Maybe the people in charge of secession will ask our opinion next time, and not speak out against a department that works well with the City of Portland as well as with the police officers (EMT's) on the Island.

David Foss
Peaks Island Fire Chief

The Opinion

All newspapers have an opinion.
Their opinion.
The publisher’s opinion.
The editor’s opinion.
The reporter’s opinion.

We have an opinion, too.
Your opinion.
Your individual opinion.
We are all individuals.
With individual opinions.

And each individual opinion is important.

We value your opinion.
And we want to hear it.

We want to think about it.
We want to argue about it.
We want to laugh about it.

And we want to learn from it.

We want you.
We want your opinion.

You are an important individual.

To us.
To your community.
To your country.

Peaks Island.
A place where you count.

The Peaks Island Opinion.
A place where your opinion counts.

Come laugh, come cry, come argue, come discuss.
Come learn.

The Peaks Island Opinion.

kathy skerl caron

Our Privileged Children

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Yes, he is my passion. Children. "They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself," Kahlil Gibran - The Prophet. This island offers a wealth of opportunity for each of us to look around and relive a part of ourselves we never knew. Through the lives of our children, we are privileged.

Paula Suttle Gagne

News Bites:

Officer Hogan removed 2 barrels of oil that mysteriously washed up on the southern shore during the first week of June.

Lassie can testify that yes, there is a skunk on Peaks Island.

Due to popular demand, a copy of the Peaks Island Opinion will be kept available at the Peaks Island Library for viewing. We will be printing 500 copies of this issue, more than double our initial distribution.

Contributors

Pat Gardner

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Tom Morse, Barbara Strout and Kimberly who have a new baby Thomas Dexter Morse V, born June 1.

Karen, Kevin, Spencer and Jessie Hawkes have a new addition to their family, Ian, born May 24. Congratulations!

Our Sponsors

Island Herbalist
7 Central Ave.
766-2604

Herbal medicines
wholesale and catalog,
counsel and workshops
Bulletin Board
Marsha, David, Kip, Trent & Dale! We will miss you, and we all wish you well on your new adventures on Isle au Haut....

AA Meetings - Open: 6:15 pm Wednesday evenings, Brackett Memorial Church.

Fresh organic salad mix of herbs, lettuce, edible flowers $8.00 lb. Island Herbalist 766-2604

Experienced Sailor/Cruiser seeking weekend sailing/cruising opportunities. Casco Bay...and beyond. (USPS - Piloting, Small boat sailing from SW Harbor, ME to Block Island, RI) Call: Kathy Caron 766-5054


Recipes
Cooked Playdough
Combine 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt and 2 tsp. cream of tartar in a large saucepan. Gradually stir in 1 cup water mixed with 2 tbsp. oil and 1 tsp. food coloring. Cook over medium to high heat, stirring constantly until a ball forms. Remove from heat and knead until smooth. We usually double the recipe and it keeps well in an airtight container.

(from the Peaks Island Child Development Center)

Basic Bubbles
1 Clean pail
1 cup of Joy (or Dawn)
10 cups clean, cold water (up to 50% more on dry days)

Measure 10 cups water into the pail. Add 1 cup of Joy or Dawn dish soap. Stir, but not too much. You don't want froth on the top because it tends to break the bubbles. If you get any, skim it off with your hand.

(from The Unbelievable Bubble Book)

Calendar and Bulletin Board: $3.00 for up to 20 words. Bulletin Board includes things like rideshare, swap and barter, for sale, calendar. Sponsors contribute $15.00 (or more) for the issue in which their panel appears. Thank you for your support.

Recycle this paper - Pass it on to a neighbor!