9-2010

Island Times, Sep 2010

Kevin Attra

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2010

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2010/8
Takes a Dark Turn

Police are unavailable.

Residents pinned to comJos.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE DOLLARS GONE?

Island resident Joe Kane says that residents pay 56 percent of services reimbursed for the city, while non-residents pay the rest.

A CITY ADVOCATE FOR BIKING & HIKING

Portland has created a new Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator position devoted to improving car-free access to the city.

Back to School

Chebeague Island School begins Wednesday, Sept. 1. Long Island School begins Friday, Sept. 2. Portland Schools start classes Tuesday Sept. 7 for grades one through 12. Kindergarten classes begin Thursday, Sept. 9 (details page 3). But the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop never stops working.

Peaks Island taxi vs. the golf cart

Cab drivers operate taxicabs and other modified conventional automobiles to pick up passengers and transport them, for a fee, to their destinations. It is a vital service for those passengers, many who can’t afford to own their own vehicle. For those who can, sometimes it is more convenient than walking or taking the bus.

It is not routine work. No two days are alike. Some people enjoy the variety and independence of the job. They can set their own hours and take a break whenever they want. They must, however, pick up enough passengers to make a living.

This is where the rub has occurred on Peaks Island. The commercial taxi service, which went into business July 2009, has apparently been out-competed by a teenage college student who uses a golf cart to drive around for tips.

In 2003 over 100 island residents attended a public workshop to determine the most important issues facing the community. A large majority cited a need for a taxi service in the island, and as a result, the Peaks Island Council made it a priority to get one established.

It succeeded in the spring of 2009, establishing the Island Transportation Service and acquiring a used Dodge van for use as a taxi. The van rolled into service on July 6, 2009, around the time that the 17-year-old high school graduate, Matt Rand, came up with a similar idea to make some money for college.

Rand used his family golf cart, a four passenger job, to shuttle people from the ferry to their destinations, for free, with the expectation that they would tip him at the end of the ride. That year, he said he earned $200 a week. and reached his goal of $2,000 by the end of the summer.

On the other hand, ITS operator Jay Desmond couldn’t get a fare to save his life. In February he quit, saying, “I worked hard at it, long hours, met many buses without a lot of results.”

Many people felt the taxi’s $4 to $5 per person fare had stopped people from using it and the succeeding operator adopted a pay-what-you-can policy, similar to the system Rand used on his golf cart.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maine taxi drivers and chauffeurs earned an average of $25,400 a year in 2008, ranging from $17,000 to $28,120.

Those who are self-employed have to provide for their own health insurance.

Rand would have earned closer to $12,000 if he ran his business full time. Though he was happy with the results, there doesn’t appear to be much of a market for livery service on Peaks Island.

“Generally, people on the island walk or have cars,” said Desmond. “The service needs to be more than passenger-based,” said PIC member Lynne Richard. “We knew that from the beginning.”

Julli Sanborn, who took over from Desmond after he left, tried to broaden the service to include commercial deliveries. A previous service that ran on the island in the 1980s and 1990s returned itself by delivering packages for UPS, but in its absence those contracts went to transporting people on the island.

Last July, after just four months with the taxi, Sanborn quit and members of the ITS board of directors jumped in, volunteering to take turns driving. The taxi has been operating in that fashion ever since.

Meanwhile, the PIF was lobbying the City Council to stop Rand from operating his service on the grounds that it violated city ordinances for livery service.

Licensing standards and requirements for drivers are set by local governments, and all require minimum qualifications for driving experience and training. Taxi drivers and chauffeurs must first have a regular automobile driver’s license, and in addition, have a back license, which requires a written examination or completion of a training program.

They must have a good driving record and no criminal record. Many employers prefer to hire drivers over 25 because the insurance rate is lower for older drivers.

Rand had neither a back license nor the required insurance.

Peaks Island Fund Announces 2010 Grant Awards

On Aug. 19, a beautiful Thursday evening, the annual meeting of the Peaks Island Fund was held on Aug. 19 at the Zimmerman home overlooking Casco Bay. Around 90 island residents gathered to hear about the year’s grant awards, which have grown from $4,000 to $50,000 in its six year history. The permanent endowment has risen to $250,000.

It is no secret that preserving beautiful 18th- and 19th-century communities has become more difficult over the past 50 years. In 1995, 100 such communities existed along the Maine coast. Today only 14 remain.

The Peaks Island Fund has been created to respond to what many studies, including those by the Island Institute and the Brookings Institution, identify as three critical elements for sustaining communities on islands: strong schools that attract families, economic development that creates jobs, affordable housing for a diverse population.

In addition to funding some short-term capital and equipment projects and programs requested by island charities, the 2010 PIF grants are shifting some attention and making significant financial grants to more complex projects related to the three challenges identified above. Some of these proposals are still under review. Announcements of additional awards will be made this fall.

2010 Grant Awards

ACORN PRODUCTIONS has been awarded $1,000 to support a presentation of Shakespeare’s Cymbeline at Battery Steele during the June 2011 PeaksFest celebration.

Children’s Museum & Theater of Maine will present a marine science program for students at the museum and a summer program for Peaks Island families on the island with $5,025 grant.

Fifth Maine Museum and Eighth Maine Association will receive $2,550 to support sesquicentennial activities during the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION Society will receive $2,000 to support the 2010 coral reef conservation project.

FIREAPPARATUS will receive $1,000 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

ORSKAN CANOE AND ROWING CENTER will receive $1,000 to support the 2010 Kids On the Water program.

STARS OF PEAKS ISLAND will receive $1,000 to support the summer musical "Roald Dahl’s Fantastic Mr. Fox," which will be performed by 100 students.

STEAMBOAT ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY will receive $100 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

THE MUSEUM OF ART & SCIENCE at Peaks Island will receive $1,000 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

TWO FISH BOOKSTORE will receive $1,000 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

ISAAC SHAW SCHOOL will receive $500 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

JULIUS KOSKI will receive $1,000 to support the 2010 Maine Kid’s Fire Camp.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & STAFF PHOTO

PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

REGULAR FEATURES

Love of Peaks
Letters
Yoga
Pies
The Puzzle
Star Gazing
Fifth Maine
Community Notes
Events Calendar

September 2010
A community newspaper covering the islands of Casco Bay
FREE
A down-the-bay run turns dangerous

New Police and Firefighter arrangement on Peaks Island impacts Casco Bay Lines

By Kevin Attra

During a down-the-bay run on Wednesday, Aug. 25, as the ferry was leaving Little Diamond a passenger became violent towards his traveling companions.

According to an uncorroborated report he allegedly attacked a woman who claimed she was his partner and then attacked a man, putting that person in a headlock. The crew immediately scattered when he arrived, but he managed to get a look at them.

Because he saw no golf cart in the area, he took no action; however, he recognized one of the boys. "One is a girl I didn't recognize at first because she was wearing a hoodie. Two I didn't know at all."

The next morning as he was leaving the island around 8:00 he learned that a golf cart had been found in the water off City Point. The tide was going out and apparently the roof had just become visible at that point.

The owners stated that they saw one of the persons involved and gave a description to the police that matched the boy Richardson had recognized.

The owners offered a $200 reward for information leading to the arrest of the culprits, which motivated several people to help identify the kids Richardson didn't know.

"I feel we have a good chance of solving this one," he said.

He added that the golf cart was a style known as a "club car" which does not require a specific license. "You can start it with a pocket knife."

He said it was the third time that particular cart had been stolen. "I tell people the best thing to do is run a bicycle lock through the steering wheel and attach it to the arm rest, but nobody does it," he said. "It's too much trouble, I guess."

On Peaks Island, a triple auto-theft and joy-riding spree on Aug. 8 ended after two of the vehicles were severely damaged. One was totaled. The other was an island car so it was already totaled when it was stolen.

A witness gave a detailed description of the suspect, who had crashed the car he was driving in the witness's driveway and fled.

The suspect is a repeat offender according to Officer Randy Richardson, and has apparently fled the area. "It's up to the District Attorney's office whether he will be prosecuted," Officer Richards said.

He added that many times the victims do not follow through, either by not pressing charges or by skipping the trial, which is an easy out for the defense attorneys. Without the victim's testimony, there is no case.

In a separate incident on Aug. 8, Richardson said he received a complaint around 2:20 a.m. about a golf cart racing around Avenue. He took the cruiser and spent over an hour looking for it, driving without lights in order to surprise the occupants.

"There was no one around," he said, "I mean no one." At around 3:30 a.m. he spotted a group of four youths down near the ice cream shop. They immediately scattered when he arrived, but he managed to get a look at them.

On Aug. 16, the City Council amended its ordinance concerning for-hire transportation services to include any service that arranges tips or other forms of compensation for transporting passengers, freight or merchandise.

The intent of the PUC's lobbying effort had been to level the playing field so that Rand could not unfairly compete with the taxi service, but the effort may have backfired. As Rand was quoted to say in the Portland Sun, "They're trying to stop me from doing what they want to become themselves."

For instance, it's doubtful that any of the board members now volunteering to drive the car are licensed to do so. Both Diamond and Sandborn endured a rigorous application process to get their bikes before being allowed to operate the vehicle.

And there are other long-standing services on the island that may now fall under the jurisdiction of the amended ordinance. These businesses would face increased insurance costs of at least $5,000 - what the ITS pays each year - significantly increasing their operating costs if required to comply with the new ruling.

On Aug. 26, the Maine Heritage Policy Center announced its intention to file a lawsuit on Rand's behalf in an effort to get the City Council to reverse its amendment to the ordinance on the grounds that it violated due process under the Maine constitution and the 5th and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The City Council has appeared to remain steadfast in its decision. PIC Chair Mike Richard may have come up with the best solution, though perhaps too late, when he said maybe the ITS should've hired Rand to drive the taxi. (See View From The Chair, this issue).
Portland schools opening schedules

FROM SHOSHONA HOUSE
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR FOR THE
PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Portland Public Schools will begin classes for students in grades one through 12 on Tuesday Sept. 7. Kindergartners will start on Thursday, Sept. 9. Detailed information about the opening day schedule for each school is posted on the district’s Web site (www.portlandschools.org). The starting and ending times for regular school days are:

- Elementary schools: 8:55 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

City Announces New Parking Program for Island Residents

STAFF REPORT

On Aug. 9, the City of Portland announced a new parking program for Portland’s island residents to improve access to the mainland. Starting Sept. 1 the program will provide a $30 per month subsidy for year-round City of Portland island residents applicable at the Ocean Gateway Parking Garage (corner of Fore and Hanover Streets). The subsidy is available for up to 100 year-round island residents, and was created as a result of an idea suggested by the Peaks Island Council to respond to concerns raised by island residents regarding the need for additional mainland parking.

Communication director Nicole Clegg said, “Given the city’s fiscal relationship with the Ocean Gateway Parking Garage, this program presents a win-win for all residents as success would mean not only addressing island need for parking but also helping alleviate city financial obligations to the garage.”

The subsidy is available through June 30, 2011. Continuation of the program will be determined through the city’s budget process for the next year. For more information about the program, contact the city’s Parking Division at 874-4444.

To be eligible, year-round island residents are required to present a copy of their driver’s license with a City of Portland island address to the Ocean Gateway Parking Garage manager, 167 Fore St. (772-6327). P.O. Box holders will need to present their voter registration card to verify residency. This verification also applies to those year-round City of Portland island residents currently parking there now, all of whom are eligible for the subsidy.

Golf Cart raffle a big winner for PITA

STAFF REPORT

Raffle winner Matt Weiser sits in his new cart with his daughter after the drawing. The tricked-out 1999 golf cart debuted at the Forest City Landing during PeaksFest Saturday, June 19.

For two months, Sid and Jane Gerard sat inside a candy apple red golf cart parked outside Hannigan’s Market and sold raffle tickets to raise money for Peaks Island Tax Assistance. The golf cart was the prize in a ticket drawing held at the Gerard’s house on Sunday, July 31, but the $25 tickets sold slowly at first.

According to Sid Gerard, at some point last year some people got tired of nickel- and dime fundraising efforts PITA had been struggling with and looked to make a large chunk of money with a big money maker.

Someone anonymously went to Patriot Golf Carts on Rte. 1 in Saucy, bought the 1999 gasoline-powered model and had it restored to cherry condition, with a new back seat, headlights, tires and a candy apple paint job. It was also tuned up and mechanically inspected.

“The Saco dealership went above and beyond to fix up the cart and to make it as good as a new one,” wrote PITA president Cynthia Pendelkin in an email to the community.

In all, 406 tickets were sold. Around 40 ticket holders attended the drawing that Sunday, but Matt Weiser, who was fishing down front with his daughter at the time, drove home with the cart. He had bought a single ticket from Charlie Shull on the first day of the raffle.

“Charlie promised that I was going to be the winning ticket when he convinced me to buy one,” said Matt. When he got the phone call, he walked all the way to the Gerard’s so that he could surprise his wife when he drove home in the shiny new conveyance.

The raffle had generated $8,900 for PITA, a far cry from the maximum $500 from past efforts.

PITA was established in 2004 to provide tax assistance to homeowners on Peaks Island who were unable to pay their taxes. Its companion Energy Assistance organization was established a few years later to help offset heating costs for families and other households.

“A huge thank you to Sid and Jane Gerard for hosting our celebration,” wrote Mrs. Pendelkin. “We are so very thankful to everyone who bought a ticket and supported our efforts.”
A 106-foot meteorological tower (right) rises above the trees near the community garden in Trost Littlejohn Park on Peaks Island.

BY KEVIN ATTRA

On Aug. 23, Mike Watson and Bill Simpson of Bull Moose Systems, a communications tower installation company out of Exeter, Maine, came out to Peaks Island and erected a 106-foot meteorological tower in an open area behind the community garden in Trost Littlejohn Park.

This tower is equipped with two anemometers, a wind vane and a thermometer and is testing wind velocity on the island to determine whether a wind turbine project here might be viable.

Information from these instruments is being collected in an electronic data logger located at the base of the tower, and will be analyzed periodically over the course of the one-year test period by staff from the Department of Electrical Engineering Technology of the University of Maine.

Last fall the University of Maine and Efficiency Maine awarded PEAT the loan of the test tower, which became necessary when the group found it couldn’t set up test equipment on top of one of the World War II naval observation towers because of restrictions in the conservation covenants.

PEAT was able to secure conditional use and building permits, liability and property insurance, and a $1 lease with the City for use of the Trost Littlejohn site for the year.

On Aug. 3, Mike Watson came out and installed three anchor plates used to support the tower on three sides with guy wires. The anchors are buried approximately 4 feet in the ground.

The following Monday, Mick Womescery of Unity College performed pull tests to make sure they met strength requirements mandated in a safety report that PEAT had prepared for the City, according to Womercery, the pull test required that the anchor withstand a 4,000-pound load.

"You can tell in the first two seconds if the anchor is going to move," said Womercery. "Believe me, I've done enough of these tests." The guy wires have been flagged with bright orange, and PEAT members put up a 6-foot fence around the base, and hang a sign on it explaining the purpose of the tower.

"We believe hiking and skiing trails have been avoided in the sitting process," wrote PEAT member Sam Saltonstall in an email to the community on Aug. 6.

"By the end of the testing period, we should know whether wind velocities are sufficient for islanders to further investigate the feasibility of installing a small community wind project here," he wrote.

The data will also add to the body of knowledge about wind resources in the Casco Bay region. The tower and anchors will be completely removed at the end of the testing period.

If you have questions about the tower or the testing, Saltonstall has suggested you call him at 809-0922.

Technician Bill Simpson attaches guy wires at one of three levels on the tower as it is being analyzed.

POLICE LOG August 2010

Provided by Lisa Perron
Planning & Research Coordinator, PPD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:32</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chest Well Being</td>
<td>Whitehead St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Domestic Dispute</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Animal Complaint</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:41</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:35</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Offense</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Theft-Inciting</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Attempt To Locate</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Suspicious Activity</td>
<td>Peaker Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Animal Complaint</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>EOE-Staff Hired</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05:49</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:06</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:09</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04:22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:59</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:41</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Domestic Dispute/Assault/ Animal Complaint</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:36</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Domestic Dispute</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bomb Threat</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:43</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Keep The Peace</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21:32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Suspicious Activity</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:46</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Domestic Dispute</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Vehicle Complaint</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06:13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:55</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Recovered Stolen Property</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Criminal mischief</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:43</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Firewords</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Auto Smeks 4</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>General Disturbance</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:41</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Local Party</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Local Party</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Visitor Of Bus Co</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21:02</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Thres</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Broken Door</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Unknown Problem Mobs</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Unknown Problem Mobs</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Suspicious Activity</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ed Crash</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Person Refusing</td>
<td>Peaks Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Count 7

 Peaks Island Baptist Church

Sunday 10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship Service
Prayer Meetings Wed. 6 PM


Thompson Johnson Woodworks
Serving the Island Communities of Casco Bay

Additions, Renovations and New Construction
For the love of Peaks!

Helene Swarts

BY FRAN HOUSTON

Tom Snyder entertained a standing-room only crowd at the MacVane Community Center on Monday, Aug. 16. He wove his talk around his biography, punctuated with important conversations that impacted his life's direction, and then treated us to videos of his animated series "Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist".

As a boy Tom was fascinated with computers. He built one of his own, which was a simple computer switch that he joined together into complex logic using a clock.

He and his parents decided to send a letter to the president of IBM describing his work. A few months later IBM delivered to their house six huge boxes of computer components with a letter from the president saying, "Think of us when you are older."

After losing a science contest to a nun with a biology experiment, he temporarily lost his appetite for computers and fell in love with Rock & Roll, enough so that he won a contract with Capitol Records.

He went off to college (Swarthmore College and Lesley Graduate School of Education), fell in love with his wife and became a teacher, his wife also being a teacher. He was mentored by some brilliant women who weren't afraid of groups.

In the 1970s, he began using a computer in his classroom to teach his fourth-grade to eighth-grade students. He also began designing computer programs to enhance teaching and support learning as a process. As he says, "There are teachers who love to teach, and teachers who would love to love to teach."

After eight years, a parent of one of his students offered to back him in his continued vision of teaching, and he started Tom Snyder Productions, a leading developer and publisher of educational software for K-12 classrooms. This parent invested $30,000, which much later turned into quite a bundle for the man's widow.

Tom's talents in software design led him to create Squigglevision, a patented method of computer animation in which the outlines of shapes are made to wiggle and undulate. So Tom got busy in his production studio, which to this day he still refers to as the "pantry," creating the animated series "Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist" in 1995.

It was the first of its kind to appear on Comedy Central and ran for six seasons. It has won the coveted Peabody, Emmy, Cable Ace, and Nova awards.

Tom was also awarded a Children's Special Emmy in 1998 for animating an HBO children's special "The Tale of the Watch."

Riding the success of Katz, Tom went to DreamWorks with a pilot video, but when the studio execs wanted to change the show Tom said, "No way!"

Soon after, "Science Court" was born, a humorous courtroom drama with three educational components: science, math, and language arts concepts.

Tom has designed other numerous, award-winning software products including TimeLineer, Fizz & Martina's Math Adventures, Geography Search and Decisions, Decisions - a 1997 winner of the prestigious Codie Award for excellence in technology.

During his presentation at the MacVane Center, Tom shared a couple of interesting stories with us:

When Martin Scorsese mentioned in a magazine article that the only reason he had a TV was to watch Dr. Katz, actors started calling Tom to do voice for it. Two of the clips we saw had the voices of Ray Romano, and Carrie Fisher. Other notables are The Smothers Brothers, and Wynn Ryder.

Tom's comedy writing partner, Jonathan Katz, later developed multiple sclerosis and is now wheelchair bound. They went together to pitch a new show to a network, so Tom rented a wheelchair, too. They told the guy at the gate they were auditioning for "Handicaps". True friends.

In addition to being a best-selling author, Tom is a composer, rock musician, husband and father, and of course, always a teacher. Stay tuned.

YOGA ON PEAKS

REBECCA JONNIAH STEPHANIS

CALL FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE OF CLASSES 766-3017

ALSO OFFERING:
PRIVATE YOGA LESSONS
PARTNER YOGA
HEALING TOUCH

-Heals your contentment from within-

Yoga On Peaks

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time? Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear yours. frcon_houston@hotmail.com or call 766.3286.

September on Peaks

Colors harden into apples, leaves maple, oak. Island bittersweet. The ocean is deeper and walk our dogs into glory.

Tom Snyder was fascinated with computers. He built one of his own, which was a simple computer switch that he joined together into complex logic using a clock.

He and his parents decided to send a letter to the president of IBM describing his work. A few months later IBM delivered to their house six huge boxes of computer components with a letter from the president saying, "Think of us when you are older."

After losing a science contest to a nun with a biology experiment, he temporarily lost his appetite for computers and fell in love with Rock & Roll, enough so that he won a contract with Capitol Records.

He went off to college (Swarthmore College and Lesley Graduate School of Education), fell in love with his wife and became a teacher, his wife also being a teacher. He was mentored by some brilliant women who weren't afraid of groups.

In the 1970s, he began using a computer in his classroom to teach his fourth-grade to eighth-grade students. He also began designing computer programs to enhance teaching and support learning as a process. As he says, "There are teachers who love to teach, and teachers who would love to love to teach."

After eight years, a parent of one of his students offered to back him in his continued vision of teaching, and he started Tom Snyder Productions, a leading developer and publisher of educational software for K-12 classrooms. This parent invested $30,000, which much later turned into quite a bundle for the man's widow.

Tom's talents in software design led him to create Squigglevision, a patented method of computer animation in which the outlines of shapes are made to wiggle and undulate. So Tom got busy in his production studio, which to this day he still refers to as the "pantry," creating the animated series "Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist" in 1995.

It was the first of its kind to appear on Comedy Central and ran for six seasons. It has won the coveted Peabody, Emmy, Cable Ace, and Nova awards.

Tom was also awarded a Children's Special Emmy in 1998 for animating an HBO children's special "The Tale of the Watch."

Riding the success of Katz, Tom went to DreamWorks with a pilot video, but when the studio execs wanted to change the show Tom said, "No way!"

Soon after, "Science Court" was born, a humorous courtroom drama with three educational components: science, math, and language arts concepts.

Tom has designed other numerous, award-winning software products including TimeLineer, Fizz & Martina's Math Adventures, Geography Search and Decisions, Decisions - a 1997 winner of the prestigious Codie Award for excellence in technology.

During his presentation at the MacVane Center, Tom shared a couple of interesting stories with us:

When Martin Scorsese mentioned in a magazine article that the only reason he had a TV was to watch Dr. Katz, actors started calling Tom to do voice for it. Two of the clips we saw had the voices of Ray Romano, and Carrie Fisher. Other notables are The Smothers Brothers, and Wynn Ryder.

Tom's comedy writing partner, Jonathan Katz, later developed multiple sclerosis and is now wheelchair bound. They went together to pitch a new show to a network, so Tom rented a wheelchair, too. They told the guy at the gate they were auditioning for "Handicaps". True friends.

In addition to being a best-selling author, Tom is a composer, rock musician, husband and father, and of course, always a teacher. Stay tuned.

Yoga On Peaks

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time? Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear yours. frcon_houston@hotmail.com or call 766.3286.

September on Peaks

Colors harden into apples, leaves maple, oak. Island bittersweet. The ocean is deeper and walk our dogs into glory.

Tom Snyder was fascinated with computers. He built one of his own, which was a simple computer switch that he joined together into complex logic using a clock.

He and his parents decided to send a letter to the president of IBM describing his work. A few months later IBM delivered to their house six huge boxes of computer components with a letter from the president saying, "Think of us when you are older."

After losing a science contest to a nun with a biology experiment, he temporarily lost his appetite for computers and fell in love with Rock & Roll, enough so that he won a contract with Capitol Records.

He went off to college (Swarthmore College and Lesley Graduate School of Education), fell in love with his wife and became a teacher, his wife also being a teacher. He was mentored by some brilliant women who weren't afraid of groups.

In the 1970s, he began using a computer in his classroom to teach his fourth-grade to eighth-grade students. He also began designing computer programs to enhance teaching and support learning as a process. As he says, "There are teachers who love to teach, and teachers who would love to love to teach."

After eight years, a parent of one of his students offered to back him in his continued vision of teaching, and he started Tom Snyder Productions, a leading developer and publisher of educational software for K-12 classrooms. This parent invested $30,000, which much later turned into quite a bundle for the man's widow.

Tom's talents in software design led him to create Squigglevision, a patented method of computer animation in which the outlines of shapes are made to wiggle and undulate. So Tom got busy in his production studio, which to this day he still refers to as the "pantry," creating the animated series "Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist" in 1995.

It was the first of its kind to appear on Comedy Central and ran for six seasons. It has won the coveted Peabody, Emmy, Cable Ace, and Nova awards.

Tom was also awarded a Children's Special Emmy in 1998 for animating an HBO children's special "The Tale of the Watch."

Riding the success of Katz, Tom went to DreamWorks with a pilot video, but when the studio execs wanted to change the show Tom said, "No way!"

Soon after, "Science Court" was born, a humorous courtroom drama with three educational components: science, math, and language arts concepts.

Tom has designed other numerous, award-winning software products including TimeLineer, Fizz & Martina's Math Adventures, Geography Search and Decisions, Decisions - a 1997 winner of the prestigious Codie Award for excellence in technology.

During his presentation at the MacVane Center, Tom shared a couple of interesting stories with us:

When Martin Scorsese mentioned in a magazine article that the only reason he had a TV was to watch Dr. Katz, actors started calling Tom to do voice for it. Two of the clips we saw had the voices of Ray Romano, and Carrie Fisher. Other notables are The Smothers Brothers, and Wynn Ryder.

Tom's comedy writing partner, Jonathan Katz, later developed multiple sclerosis and is now wheelchair bound. They went together to pitch a new show to a network, so Tom rented a wheelchair, too. They told the guy at the gate they were auditioning for "Handicaps". True friends.

In addition to being a best-selling author, Tom is a composer, rock musician, husband and father, and of course, always a teacher. Stay tuned.

Yoga On Peaks

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time? Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear yours. frcon_houston@hotmail.com or call 766.3286.
Letters

Peaks Island author, Catherynne Valente, is headed down to Australia this month for the Hugo Awards ceremony. Her most recent novel, Palimpsest, has been nominated for the Hugo Awards, the Oscars of the science fiction and fantasy literary world. Her upcoming years adult novel, The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In A Ship Of Her Own Making has just won this year’s Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Literature. Keep your fingers crossed — good luck in Melbourne, Cath!

Taxes, Services and Who Pays

In recent years there has been a great deal of discussion, concern and debate with respect to property tax rates being paid by Peaks Island residents and the corresponding services which we receive. In this letter I’d like to point out two critical points which have not received much attention in these discussions.

The vast majority of the City of Portland’s revenue derived from property taxes. This is dictated by the tax policies set by the Maine State Legislature in Augusta. The legislature has prevented Portland, and other major cities (term service centers because they provide services to thousands of people outside their borders), from implementing a local option of property taxes, which would have helped to reduce their property tax dependence. Such local taxes on travel lodging and restaurant meals are a community service to the nation but is denied cities in Maine.

Well over 40 percent of tax revenue in Maine is from property taxes, larger than income tax revenue and much larger than that from sales taxes. So property taxes are high for all residents of Portland, including those of us on Peaks. An important point of debate is what the relationship is between the services we receive and the property taxes we pay. Approximately 45 percent of the housing tax on Peaks are occupied year round. Most are owner occupied; a small number are rented. Nearly all of the remaining 55 percent are seasonally occupied and are owned by non-residents of Peaks. The owners of all of these properties pay property taxes.

According to figures presented by Portland officials in 2006, Peaks Island received direct and indirect services from the City amounting to nearly 80 percent of the property tax revenue paid by all Peaks property owners (seasonal and year round). Also about that time, the bottom line of a proposed budget presented by the Island Independence Committee for the cost of operating an independent community was very nearly the same number (please see footnotes). As a small and isolated community, Peaks Island residents own the majority of the property tax bills. Therefore, it is important to keep these factors in mind when discussing Peaks property taxes. In particular, since property taxes fall heavily on all Portland residents, we need a shared interest in working to change tax policy at the state level.

Joseph Kane

Notice of Public Meeting

Earlier this month, HomeStart submitted a site review application to the Portland Planning Board. The site review, as required part of the conditional rezoning process to allow building and renovation at 18 Luther Street. The Planning Board Review to reopen the application is noted. The Planning Board meeting will be scheduled after the neighborhood meeting. Meeting dates will be announced in the next Islander.

Mary Jerry, Peaks Island

From the Peaks Island Library

The pile of chewed leaves on top of the inside book return is really a rearing container for tiny baby caterpillars we are raising until they become Monarch butterflies. This project came about through the Portland Public Library’s partnership with Cornerstones of Science, a science literacy initiative located in Brunswick. We received the baby caterpillars via UPS shortly after they hatched.

Many of you have watched them munch and grow. Thank you to all our “export advisors,” including Jocelyn Hubbell from Cornerstones, Cindy Nielsen at the Peaks Island School, summer resident Interns, and Jon Kofoed from the Children’s Workshop and to our various milk weed suppliers. Your knowledge and encouragement have been indispensable. If all goes well, we will tag and release the butterflies when they emerge this month. (September). If you haven’t seen them, come have a look. There are books and other materials for you to check out to learn more about the process and why people are so interested in raising Monarchs.

Circum Breaker, which is designed to protect property tax refunds to year-round Maine residents when property taxes are a large portion of their income. This benefit is specifically designed to help those with low and moderate incomes.

None of these points are meant to suggest that paying property taxes is painless. But it is important to keep these factors in mind when discussing Peaks property taxes. In particular, since property taxes fall heavily on all Portland residents, we need a shared interest in working to change tax policy at the state level.

Joseph Kane

Footnote 1: The Portland and IRC numbers were very close to $4 million and the property tax revenues at that time was about $3.5 million. At that time I argued in this newspaper (Apr 2007) that the IRC budget underestimated the tax revenue by a significant amount. However for this year, I use the IRC figures.

Footnote 2: Using the numbers in footnotes 1, Portland’s share of the total property tax amounts to 0.45% to 0.5% in $2.25 million. $2.25 million is about 56 percent of the $4 million services budget. This remaining 44 percent of the services budget is paid for by non-residents (please see footnote).

ISLAND TIMES

Letters

September 2010

Producer Assistance:

Craig Davis
Mark Shain
Jack Shallow

Fairyland has been nominated for the Luggage Awards, the Oscars of the science fiction and fantasy literary world. Her upcoming young adult novel, Palimpsest, has been well received. Her most recent novel, The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In A Ship Of Her Own Making, has just won this year’s Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Literature. Keep your fingers crossed — good luck in Melbourne, Cath!

Taxes, Services and Who Pays

In recent years there has been a great deal of discussion, concern and debate with respect to property tax rates being paid by Peaks Island residents and the corresponding services which we receive. In this letter I’d like to point out two critical points which have not received much attention in these discussions.

The vast majority of the City of Portland’s revenue derived from property taxes. This is dictated by the tax policies set by the Maine State Legislature in Augusta. The legislature has prevented Portland, and other major cities (term service centers because they provide services to thousands of people outside their borders), from implementing a local option of property taxes, which would have helped to reduce their property tax dependence. Such local taxes on travel lodging and restaurant meals are a community service to the nation but is denied cities in Maine.

Well over 40 percent of tax revenue in Maine is from property taxes, larger than income tax revenue and much larger than that from sales taxes. So property taxes are high for all residents of Portland, including those of us on Peaks. An important point of debate is what the relationship is between the services we receive and the property taxes we pay. Approximately 45 percent of the housing tax on Peaks are occupied year round. Most are owner occupied; a small number are rented. Nearly all of the remaining 55 percent are seasonally occupied and are owned by non-residents of Peaks. The owners of all of these properties pay property taxes.

According to figures presented by Portland officials in 2006, Peaks Island received direct and indirect services from the City amounting to nearly 80 percent of the property tax revenue paid by all Peaks property owners (seasonal and year round). Also about that time, the bottom line of a proposed budget presented by the Island Independence Committee for the cost of operating an independent community was very nearly the same number (please see footnotes). As a small and isolated community, Peaks Island residents own the majority of the property tax bills. Therefore, it is important to keep these factors in mind when discussing Peaks property taxes. In particular, since property taxes fall heavily on all Portland residents, we need a shared interest in working to change tax policy at the state level.

Joseph Kane

Notice of Public Meeting

Earlier this month, HomeStart submitted a site review application to the Portland Planning Board. The site review, as required part of the conditional rezoning process to allow building and renovation at 18 Luther Street. The Planning Board Review to reopen the application is noted. The Planning Board meeting will be scheduled after the neighborhood meeting. Meeting dates will be announced in the next Islander.

Mary Jerry, Peaks Island

From the Peaks Island Library

The pile of chewed leaves on top of the inside book return is really a rearing container for tiny baby caterpillars we are raising until they become Monarch butterflies. This project came about through the Portland Public Library’s partnership with Cornerstones of Science, a science literacy initiative located in Brunswick. We received the baby caterpillars via UPS shortly after they hatched.

Many of you have watched them munch and grow. Thank you to all our “export advisors,” including Jocelyn Hubbell from Cornerstones, Cindy Nielsen at the Peaks Island School, summer resident Interns, and Jon Kofoed from the Children’s Workshop and to our various milk weed suppliers. Your knowledge and encouragement have been indispensable. If all goes well, we will tag and release the butterflies when they emerge this month. (September). If you haven’t seen them, come have a look. There are books and other materials for you to check out to learn more about the process and why people are so interested in raising Monarchs.

Circum Breaker, which is designed to protect property tax refunds to year-round Maine residents when property taxes are a large portion of their income. This benefit is specifically designed to help those with low and moderate incomes.

None of these points are meant to suggest that paying property taxes is painless. But it is important to keep these factors in mind when discussing Peaks property taxes. In particular, since property taxes fall heavily on all Portland residents, we need a shared interest in working to change tax policy at the state level.

Joseph Kane

Footnote 1: The Portland and IRC numbers were very close to $4 million and the property tax revenues at that time was about $3.5 million. At that time I argued in this newspaper (Apr 2007) that the IRC budget underestimated the tax revenue by a significant amount. However for this year, I use the IRC figures.

Footnote 2: Using the numbers in footnotes 1, Portland’s share of the total property tax amounts to 0.45% to 0.5% in $2.25 million. $2.25 million is about 56 percent of the $4 million services budget. This remaining 44 percent of the services budget is paid for by non-residents (please see footnote).
From the HomeStart board of directors

Provided by Mary Terry

On July 19, 2010, the City Council voted unanimously to approve a Conditional Use Permit to allow HomeStart to build two new income-and-energy efficient affordable homes and to rehabilitate or replace the existing home at 18 Letter Street on Peaks Island.

The next step is for the HomeStart Board approval is a review of the site plans by the Portland City Planning Board staff and then approval by the City Planning Board, which will be held at a workshop meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 3:30 p.m., in room 207 of City Hall. Public comment is invited.

In September, a neighborhood meeting will be held on island, followed by a public hearing with the Planning Board. These meetings will be scheduled later and are open to the public.

HomeStart is applying for a $500,000 grant from the National Affordable Housing Initiative for Maine Islands to renovate or replace the existing home on the property in order to make it more energy efficient, secure and affordable rental, which will help defray the cost of building the other two new homes.

One of these homes will be an energy-efficient rent-to-ownership. The other is proposed as an affordable energy-efficient home for sale.

To insure continued affordability of the property, HomeStart investigated building it in a Community Land Trust which would have removed its value from the tax roles, but chose instead to create deed restrictions on the future sale of any of the property in order to maintain affordability for the assessed property taxes.

Thanks to the community members who have supported this project, including board member Ginny Rynning who built the raffle dollhouse with the assistance of local talent.

It has been on display over the summer and ticket sales have been brisk, so take a chance and buy a raffle ticket. The winner will be announced on Labor Day at noon downtown.

Thanks also to those who provided furnishings and decorations for the dollhouse, as well as the ticket holders.

HomeStart board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bay Street Senior Center.

---

CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The combination of good summer weather (some might say fantastic) and CI REDIT's on-going promotion programs has boosted ridership. For example, during Labor Day, CI REDIT attracted nearly 860 more passengers this year than last year, an increase of 37.5 percent over July 2009 figures.

Although Casco Bay Lines and many other enterprises often question the effectiveness of their marketing, the CI REDIT promotion programs in its programs produce direct returns on investments thru directly-accountable increased sales.

---

**View from the Chair**

**By Mike Richards, PIC Chair**

It was real late when I finally got back to the office, and everyone had gone home for the night, even the cleaners. Good, I convinced myself. After that hellish proposition, I needed to be alone.

In the dark, I found my office by touch and memory and, without flicking on the lights, stepped into my chair in the shadows, looking out the window over the city lights. Seven stories below the shadows, looking out the window, it was over.

I put my foot on the drawer near the window and nudged it open, looking for the glint of the bottle inside, and just as I saw it and my spirits rose, the phone rang. I washed it all up before I picked it up.

It was the kid with the taxi on Peaks Island. Seemed an accident happened, and he needed a good defense lawyer. Sure, I'd been doing this for 30 years in this crazy town, but I'm a sap for a sob story, and somehow this one seemed special.

Yeah, anybody can sue anyone for anything, "I told him. He'd heard the wildest tales in my time, enough so I didn't even laugh or cry any more, but, hey, it's a living.

"The kid said he was just sitting there in front of the hydrant -- "no, illegally, when a car came down Welches and had to turn out into the street to get around him. He had her bike tumbled over the handlebars into that car and maybe broke her neck. I asked Fernandez to join me and local leaders in Biddeford asking how we can keep this momentum going and support programs across the state. Building the kind of community partnerships working so well in Biddeford is key, he said, as is keeping an eye toward the future.

"It's not just about recovery, but it's also about accelerating the transition to a 21st Century economy," Fernandez said.

In Maine, we need to focus on both.

"I'm happy to see that more and more businesses are once again filling those beautiful brick buildings that had hummed with manufacturing for years. Over 500 businesses and organizations call the Biddeford area home.

"This is something we're very proud of," said Fernandez. Over the city, the day has been an incredible blow as thousands of manufacturing jobs have been shipped overseas. But the sight of those empty mill buildings has not deterred this community. Rather, they have been its inspiration in creating a number of new jobs.

"It's a small price to pay for the benefits that these new and enhanced marketing programs will bring needed revenue to offset the blow as thousands of manufacturing jobs.

"Several new and enhanced marketing programs are part of these programs.

"Maine Dollar Saver" promotion programs in select local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

---

**Lines from Casco Bay Lines**

**By Chris Hoppin**

Several new and enhanced marketing programs have led to additional revenue for the Casco Bay Island Transit District that operates Casco Bay Lines, according to a presentation of the District's ongoing efforts to find new revenue sources to offset its $5 million operating budget.

The marketing efforts are coordinated by Little Diamond Island's Scott Johnston, chairman of the volunteer Sales and Marketing Committee of the elected board of directors, and supervised by Marketing Manager Caity Baker Gildart and General Manager Hank Berg.

Other committee efforts are board members Dan Doane, Chris Hoppin and Frank Peretti of Peaks Island, public members Rick Franz and Jennifer Fox from Ocean Diamond Island and Emily Jacobs from Long Island.

For many years, CI REDIT relied on a combination of ticket sales, freight charges and government subsidies to operate Casco Bay Lines. As passenger ticket sales and government subsidies shrank, additional revenue is needed rather than raising ticket prices.

Using traditional marketing methods alone are more walk-up day-trippers as well as more charter and cruise passengers who bring needed revenue to offset costs.

The newest program involves advertiser-supported WiFi for open access to the internet. Tests at the ferry terminal have been successful, and plans are underway to test the service on the District's ferries as they sail across the bay.

"This summer, the CI REDIT ferry terminal access service was created in response to numerous islanders' requests and is patterned after similar successful programs in other communities.

The Cockeyed Gull restaurant on Peaks Island, Andy's Old Port Pub on Commercial Street, Clarks and the Wynmouth Portland Airport Hotel will be advertising on the WiFi. After initial start-up costs, the service is expected to pay for itself.

The CI REDIT also enhanced its internet presence through a search engine optimization program that led to an increase in website hits from 121,000 during 2009 to 183,000 during 2010.

Merchandise sales in the ferry terminal also provide more revenue. This year's popular items with tourists and islanders include attractive branded canvas bags, baseball caps and environmentally helpful water bottles. Books by island authors are also selling well.

With limited funds for marketing to continue to keep costs to a minimum, Caity was able to arrange a special "Casco Bay Discount Saver" program in which CI REDIT provided discount ferry tickets through Portland's WPXT-TV and WMPE-TV stations.

That arrangement also led to a series of spot television commercials, station identification spots and website billboards, plus a two-minute infomercial used on TV and the internet to promote trips on Casco Bay Lines.

CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

The CI REDIT also advertises special promotion programs in selected local media including the AAO, Downtown and Portland magazines, which has led to an identifiable increase in ticket sales.

---
YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living
BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS
Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches weekly yoga class and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3017 or yogafuglefish.net.

One of my commitments as a yoga teacher is to teach only what I practice. This intention keeps me honest, because as I speak in class about a particular topic, any disconnect or imbalance in my own practice becomes glaringly obvious. On a regular basis, I have the opportunity to make any necessary adjustments. It is also true that whatever we focus on becomes illuminated throughout the week in delightful ways.

Last week I invited students into an exploration of using yoga practice to awaken their capacity for kindness and compassion. I know from many years of experience that teaching about kindness takes some courage. Whenever this lesson comes around, everything in my being that is not aligned with kindness and compassion shows itself to me.

As I breathe my way through these lessons this year, I am reminded of a time over 20 years ago when I brought darkness into consciousness, moved us out of black and white arts and attended Friends (Quaker) Meetings. I was learning how to practice restraint when provoked and complex, creative middle way.

One of the first Sanskrit prayers I learned includes a call for protection, a willingness to submit to intense transformation. I believe this is why yoga calls for daily practice. Rather than flushing all dark impulses from our beings for the physical yoga postures, "Ha" means sun and refers to our masculine qualities or strengths. "Tha" means moon and refers to our feminine qualities or strengths. Yoga means to yoke together. On the yogic mat, we learn to value and harmonize many pairs of opposite energies, including grounding and elongation, willfulness and surrender, movement and rest, receiving and emptying out.

Embracing and balancing opposites moves us out of black and white thinking and into the more subtle, complex, creative middle way.

Yoga offers a plethora of practices to support the process of awareness, restraint and balance. Holding vigorous postures, students develop the ability to feel strong sensations and impulses without reacting. Practicing self-reflection, we let thoughts, emotions and sensations arise without censoring, judging or criticizing. As deep energetic patterns become evident, we have the opportunity to reinforce the ones we want to express, and soften our hold on the ones we want to release.

Breathing exercises offer an alternative to both suppressing and venting strong emotions. Meditation soothes the mind and interrupts destructive thought patterns. A holistic yoga practice also includes service (volunteer work), prayers, chanting and mantra (repeated phrases that invoke desired energies). One of the first Sanskrit prayers I learned includes a call for protection, an intention to move from darkness to light, and a willingness to submit to intense transformation.

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

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway."

- Mother Teresa

Rest in child with arms across your heart.

Rebecca Johanna Stephens, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 23 years experience in the healing arts.
The Ultimate Lobster Bake

By Jerry Gorman

My introduction to the Maine lobster (Homarus americanus) occurred over 50 years ago on my first visit to Peaks Island. Being born and raised in central Pennsylvania, I had only been exposed to Cuban lobster tails.

Newly wed, I entered the family island cottage and discovered a set tank crawling with live, hissing, sluggish lobsters. Having completed several college biology classes, I knew they were creatures of the sea and required water immediately. Of course, I filled the set tub and caused a premature death to our afternoon feast.

While there was talk of an annulment and branding me with a scarlet "L", my punishment was to start Lobster Cooking 101.

For many years my role at a cookout was to carry the blackened grill and pot and search for driftwood. Five years later I was permitted to traverse the dark, slippery rocks to obtain seawater and seaweed, but also to cook the lobsters that I also had cooked for a hors d'oeuvres/libation stage. He started the fire and consumed our entire wood supply. He was immediately enrolled in Lobster Cooking 101.

I thought I had finally arrived after 10 years of baker supervision until I was invited to an authentic Down East bake on Little Diamond Island. The islanders had dug a large pit in the sandy beach, lined it with stones and filled it with wood.

Sitting atop this blazing infernal was a series of pipes supporting a metal tray filled with sea weed and layers of lobsters, more sea weed and corn in husks, more sea weed and bags of clams, more sea weed and finally three fresh eggs in the shell. This bounty was covered with a heavy canvas requiring constant application of seawater which created steam.

When the eggs were hard boiled the bake was completed and the layered process was reversed. I was so impressed that I pledged to produce my own "Ultimate Lobster Bake" on Peaks Island.

A friend donated a piece of stainless steel, which was fabricated into a 4-foot-square tray. A date was set with invitations noting BYOL (bring your own lobster). Starting a week before the event, the rock fireplace was built, one half a cord of wood staged and five baskets of seaweed collected.

After arriving at 8:00 a.m. to secure the site, I anxiously awaited guests with their lobsters for the 3:00 p.m. bake. With the arrival of the last lobster, the pyre was created and the fire was lighted. When the eggs were hard boiled so was I. I had been in the sun for over eight hours and all arm hair and eye brows had been singed.

There was some bickering over not receiving the lobsters they brought. Everyone ate and departed claiming it was a great experience. It took another two hours to return the seaweed to the ocean and bring the site back to its natural setting and three weeks for my skin and hair to repair. I pledged never to repeat this "Ultimate Bake".

Few islanders have experienced the Ultimate Bake. Today, they involve no wood fires or dirty pots - only propane burners and steamer pots rule the day. Toasting a marshmallow over a propane flame for a s'more is just not the same.

While I now claim to be a Lobster Bake Master, I think that my first Maine lobster bake with a stone fireplace, a driftwood fire and campfire toasted marshmallows was perhaps the "Ultimate Experience".
**ACROSS**
1. Self-righteous
5. Irvine Welsh, for one
9. Fish or fiddle
13. Longest river in Switzerland
14. Professor Tanaka
15. Famous sergeant
16. Richard Loeb, e.g.
18. Stamp suer
19. 4 and 20 black birds?
21. Peach, 1972 rock album
22. First NL player to hit 500
23. _ profits (legal term)
25. Serraglio
30. Rivers or Watson
31. 7-time Best Actress Oscar nominee
33. Used for ban
35. WW2 ship (abbr.)
36. Type of hat
42. Eastern mystery
43. Ethanol and methanol
44. Palace
46. __ Harbor
47. Tiptop
48. French fighter
49. Rats can't do this
50. Juarez specialty
57. Missippi phenom
60. Home permanent
61. Put an edge on
62. Type of car crash (slang)

**DOWN**
1. Scythian tribe
2. Disable
3. Language of Lahore
4. Categories
5. First pope
6. Source of coconut oil
7. 1912 invention
8. Horse racing world (slang)
9. Bugatti made one
10. There ought to be ___
11. Aspen necessity
12. Popular cerveza
15. Big
17. Tain't worth ___
20. C. in VC
23. German wine region
24. Chess cry in Paris
25. High
26. Composer Satie's first name
27. Forest Hills org.
28. LA is its capital
29. Prefix meaning "within"
30. Art movement c. 1920
32. "To the skies" in Hebrew
34. Sacred California mountain
35. Kind of alphabet
36. Harbor
37. Italian word for sand
38. Mississippi pet ranch
39. Prefix meaning "within"
40. Kind of hat
41. Kind of alphabet
42. Kind of hat
45. Crayon color
46. kind of hat
47. Hindu eternal soul
48. Sacred California mountain
49. Last word
50. Trouble!

---

**Ferry Convenient**
Island-baked pizza, great food to travel and only steps away from the terminal.

**Solution to Last Month's Puzzle**

---

**High Crimes & Misdemeanors - by Anna Tierney**
Star Gazing

September 2010 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

September means "seventh month," its place in the ancient Roman calendar. This month, Earth's 23.5° tilt comes to a right angle with the sun, creating the autumnal equinox. At that point, the sun crosses Earth's equator on its way south.

On the equinox, the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west. After that, it rises and sets south of east and west, a little more each day until the solstice in December. The temperature heads south, too, and the shifting mists of warm and cold air collide, blowing storms on Earth you can see from outer space.

Earth is unusually heavy, weighing twice as much as it would if it were solid granite, so it creates a small "tide" in the sun's hydrogen gas. This bulge pulls Earth forward a bit as the sun rotates, and as its orbital speed increases, Earth pulls further away from the sun a few inches each year.

VENUS

Venus is the bright evening "star" you see in the west right after sunset. It's getting lower and brighter as it gets closer to Earth. Usually Venus is too thick to see in a telescope, because its cloud cover is so uniformly white, but as it approaches inferior conjunction (between Earth and sun), you can definitely see it's a thin crescent.

To our line of sight, Mars is just to the right of Venus, but it's on the other side of the sun, so it's tiny. Don't believe the Mars hoax circulating the internet: Mars is not "as big as the full moon" and never will be.

Saturn is now very low in the dusk as it heads toward superior conjunction behind the sun later this month. Looking southwest, mighty Jupiter is incredibly bright and rules the night sky. This month Jupiter is closer to Earth than it has been or will be in decades. Just above it (on our line of sight) is blue-green Uranus. I'll aim my big scope at these gas giants the next crisp September evening. Distant Neptune is also in prime viewing position laster tonight. Venus is the red-giant Amurine I'll aim my big scope at these gas giants the next crisp September evening. Distant Neptune is also in prime viewing position laster tonight.

Autumn nights are perfect for star-gazing, with either your naked eyes or binoculars. Blue-white Vega is directly overhead around 9 p.m., next to the Northern Cross in Cygnus. Vega is burning its hydrogen fuel like mad, and it's spinning so fast that it can barely hold itself together. Red-giant Arcturus is in the west, the tail of the kite-shaped Bootes constellation. You can find it by tracing the "arc to Arcturus" started by the handle of the Big Dipper. Pegasus is rising in the east, with its "great square" forming the horse's body, and the Andromeda Galaxy nearby.

The super-star, however, is red giant Antares low in the southwest, compared to which our sun is a mere dot. In our solar system, Antares' diameter would be well beyond the orbit of Mars. As Crocodile Dundee might have said, "Now THAT'S a star."

ALMANAC

Sept. 1- Sunrise is at 6:03 a.m. and sunset is at 7:18 p.m., but that will change fast. Venus is overt to the sun shining on cosmic dust in our solar system.

The moon is also at perigee, so tides will grow astronomically high. No storms today please, or the FEMA flood maps will come true.

Sept. 1- At 7:30 tonight, a thin crescent moon will hang below and right of Venus just above the western horizon. "Spring" tides today have built up to almost 11 feet between high and low, highest around noon and midnight. The ramp will be quite steep down to the boats around sunrise and sunset.

This weekend would be ideal for hauling boats, as the tide is quite high in the early afternoon, but who wants to do that. September sailing is special and October offers other opportunities to haul on the weekend high tide.

Sept. 11- In the west at dusk, a fatter crescent moon is now above and left of Venus.

Sept. 13- The waxing crescent moon looks like it's about to gobble up Antares to its left, but good thing they're really far apart, or gigantic Antares would have it for lunch.

Sept. 15- First-quarter moon is at sunset and will fall well out of the way when Jupiter and Uranus shine into prime viewing position later tonight.

Sept. 21- The moon's at apogee again, so tides will diminish.

Sept. 22- Equinox today marks the beginning of autumn. See where the sun rises! That's directly east, and where it sets is directly west. Over the bay, a small, nearly-full moon hovers over Jupiter, quite a sight for those on the 7:15 boat back to Peaks tonight.

Sept. 23- Full "Harvest" moon (closest to the equinox) sets behind the city skyline at 6:56 a.m. and rises seemingly out of the ocean at 6:19 p.m.

Sept. 30- Last-quarter moon is the second this month. Sunrise is over to the star and sunset is at 6:25 p.m., so we now get fewer than 12 hours of sunlight.

Fortunately, we've adapted to the swings in temperature. Portland's average low is 11° in January and its average high is 78° in July, a difference of 67°. Rather than dread the changes, we celebrate them. Venus is different!
Good News for Portland's Pedestrians & Bicyclists

The City of Portland has added a new position within the Public Health Department: Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator. His name is Bruce Hyman and I happened to meet him the other day outside of City Hall. I liked his title so much I did an on-the-spot info gathering session about this new position.

This past March the city's Healthy Portland program received $1.8 million in federal stimulus funds for obesity prevention. Part of the money is going to fund Bruce's position for the next two years.

For more details about the stimulus money and other people and agencies involved, check out the news release from July 15, 2010 under the City News section of the portlandmaine.gov website.

The Healthy Portland program has three抓 points in support of nutrition, education, and policy. Examples from the nutrition tier are re-vamping menus in schools so kids can make more healthy choices, and providing vouchers to low-income students and mothers to buy food at local farmers markets.

Portland is simply making it a matter of policy that bicycles and pedestrians are taken into consideration when re-designing or reconstructing a street. Apparently in the past it has not been a matter of policy to do that.

Bruce will be mostly involved with the first tier, infrastructure, which means putting more bicycle and pedestrian pathways in the city so people can safely be more physically active. An example of this is the re-striping of roads last fall to add bicycle lanes and pavement markings on Forest Avenue, Deering Avenue, and parts of Park Avenue.

Around $60,000 of the stimulus money is earmarked to expand the on-road bicycle network. This means more bicycle lanes, new "bicycle boulevards," and considering changes in residential neighborhoods which would result in low-volume, low-speed residential streets becoming priority for bicyclers.

Another $20,000 will be going toward more bike racks, which have not already been installed in many locations. Public facilities and buildings have been the first to receive these "over an example for the private sector," Bruce told me. The day I met him outside city hall his shiny blue bike was locked to one of these new green circular poles.

Bicycles line the street at Bead's Bike Shop on Peaks Island.

For bicycle route signage, $10,000 is set aside. Maybe a Maine company will get at least some of that. Bruce didn't know.

In the response to his new job, constitutents and others he works with has been "overwhelmingly positive" so far. Before taking this job he served as a transportation consultant for 12 years in Portland, so it helps that he already has an established positive relationship with many of the city employees with whom he now works as staff rather than consultant.

Bruce has been a Portlander for around 20 years. When he and his wife first moved to the area from Northampton, Mass., they lived their first year on Peaks Island. Pedestrian matters are a personal passion for him. He has lots of ideas.

"We're re-thinking how streets and how places are designed, so people think of walking, biking, or taking the bus as their first choice."

His office is in Public Services at 55 Portland Street, just down from the post office near Deering Oaks Park. Starting in September he'll also be one day a week at the planning department in City Hall, in order to facilitate coordination between planning and public health.

You can find information about the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator position on the bikeportland.org and portlandgreenstreets.org websites, in the form of the job listing. The greensets site writes: "Recent research confirms that cities with bike-ped streets have much less traffic than cities with more cars, with much less congestion, and more opportunities for residents that walk and bike for transportation."

The city's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee is already meeting on the second Monday of every month in room #209 at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. Those meetings are open to the public. The committee is developing a project-specific website, but for now more information can be found at bikeportland.org.

Bruce said he would also be happy to be invited to any of the islands for meetings or other questions or to get input from islanders. To contact Bruce directly: bhyman@portlandmaine.gov 874-9813.

One last thing about the subject is Kevin Donohue, chair of Portland's Transportation Committee.

I went over to chat with Peaks neighbor Stephen Demos who was happy to hear about Bruce's new position.

Stephen is senior architect at the Boston-based Institute for Human-Centered Design. He was also consultant to Boston's Big Dig project on pedestrian facilities, which basically meant matters relating to pedestrian traffic flow.

Stephen knows a lot and is interesting to talk with. He said he would be open to give his opinion on the best ways Portland may spend this grant money because he had not studied the matter specifically for the city, but asked him to comment on some things anyway. He told me that until about a century ago streets always belonged to the people for walking, commuting, activities, fairs, festivals, "parks were wide spots in the street, markets were wide spots in the street."

That changed beginning in the U.S. in the 1920s. "The car manufacturers bought up all the trolly lines and put them out of business. Streets began to be looked at in ways to accommodate vehicles at the expense of all other activities that took place in the streets."

Surely there was a huge outcry at that time, from people protesting this shift. "No there was not huge outcry. It was 'modern,' the future. People were excited about cars," he said, similar to the way we now feel about internet technology. "The pedestrians were all anxious to get into cars!"

With so many years of car-centric thinking determining how we plan and design streets and cities, we have a ways to go. "It's a process," Stephen says. "Even considering bicycles as a legitimate means of transportation is a step." He said the city's plans for more bike lanes, lanes and signage would work toward that step.

As far as the bigger picture of looking at Portland's bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation future, Stephen thought there were three ways to go.

"One, follow the existing system, tune it, make it better. For example, make bicycles more legitimate, more important. Do the kinds of things you tell me you're doing."

"Two, start on some innovative way. It might start small. Three, 'We'll take a small chunk of the city and do everything right, take all our money and do that. It'll be a demo.'"

"He says that, whatever you do, you need people to support it. It's hard to get a mandate, [so] take the next step against what's conventional wisdom and not be laughed at all the way down the hall, like I was eight or 10 years ago.'"
Can Anybody Sing?
Does everyone have the ability?
I did a little internet research, which was fun. No room here to elaborate on those results but type ‘can anybody sing?’ into Google if you're interested.

My own experience is that while I have heard over and over again phrases such as ‘Oh no, I can’t sing’, I don’t have a car at all’, ‘I sing flat’, ‘I don’t know results but try’, ‘Can anybody sing?’ into come across someone who sounds like they really cannot carry a tune at all.

Peaks neighbors who have been involved to maximize tone, breath control and with teaching others to sing had to say.

I have heard over and over •&• in phrases, and better than they think they can.

After six months of work who couldn’t teaching him to

‘It’s out of tune’. It doesn’t they can’t sing/sing flat/

Which is pretty much what I call music.

I always feel that if you can speak you can train your voice to maximize tone, breath control and overall vocal health. As to whether you can learn to match pitch, that’s a more delicate question. With perseverance and guidance, it is possible to improve pitch-matching.

‘Yes I believe anyone can sing. It’s a skill that most of us pick up in childhood, naturally, like language. Learning technique and learning to read music can improve singing. But the best thing is to give children lots of musical experiences.

‘Can anybody sing? Tricky question. I would say MOST people can and better than they think they can. It involves one verse of

Faith York: ‘Can anybody sing? Tricky question. I would say MOST people can and better than they think they can. It involves one verse of

Kevin Attra: ‘Yes I think everyone has the ability to make vocal sounds that are not words and that feel good to them, which is pretty much what I call music.

‘Pitch is one of the things that makes a sound feel good or bad. Pitch is a cultural decision. Culturally, we train our ears to hear certain scale intervals and tone changes. That’s what we call having good pitch, or being ‘in tune’. If it’s ‘out of tune’, it doesn’t feel good to most people.

Along with telling me they can’t sing/I won’t know how to sing, etc, people often tell me a parent, family member or teacher were the ones who said those things to them.

‘What is that about? An article for another day...

I think we are meant to be interested.

Music is therapy!

The chorale is open to anyone. You don’t have to have the ability and in fact most don’t.

Faith says. She also said she is famous for recruiting people on the dock, the boat, while they’re buying their groceries; she laughs, ‘Usually it goes something like “Happy Birthday”'


Over 120 people came out to enjoy a "Day of Wine and Roses", performed by the 22-member Peaks Island Chorale, director Faith York. It was the season’s last performance in the Wednesday Summer Concert Series held at the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum and presented by the Peaks Island Music Association.

With her usual mix of down-to-earth humor and class, chorale director Faith York created a themed program featuring readings, traditional and modern choral works, choral arrangements of popular songs and even the premiere of an original Faith York composition set to the poetry of Joes Marti.

Your $5 entrance came with a big beautiful white rose, courtesy of Jim Laurier. The printed program promised Morning, Afternoon, Nap Time (Intermission), Happy Hour, then Dinner. They were not kidding on the Happy Hour which arrived as a choice of red or white and was delivered cocktail-waitress-style by chorale members balancing trays as they moved through the packed rows.

The concert featured solos by Stephen Fox, Annie O’Brien, Doug Smith, Robin Beck and Margie Mehlber, and accompaniment by Faith and Jan Thomas on piano, Kevin Attra on bass and guitar, and Josh Reaugh on drums.

There was a sighting of our much-missed ex-neighbors George and Cevita for the peppy little swing number "Java Jive", performed by the a capella group The Uncalled Four.

During "Nighttime", the Music Association’s Barbara Gofman Scholarship winner was announced. The $500 scholarship is open to anyone between the ages of 8-22 with strong musical abilities and a commitment to pursuing musical excellence. This year’s recipient is mezzo soprano Farah Padamsee, daughter of the Reverend David Lamon of Brackett Church.

In addition to the Peaks Island Chorale, the 2010 Wednesday Summer Concert Series included Inanna - Sisters in Rhythm, the annual Island Musicians Concert and Arias from the Grand Opera Repertoire.

The Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

I asked Faith why she takes on the huge task of directing this annual chorale concert; the concert being only a couple of hours at the end of hours and hours of weekly rehearsals in the months leading up to the show. It is a lot of time and energy and she does not get paid for it.

"It’s a blast," she answered, "It feeds me, it educates me, it gives me a creative outlet, it provides social opportunities. It gives people a chance to explore their own abilities and be surprised at what they can actually do - which is very rewarding, for myself and for them.

‘The concert is a great goal but that’s not what it’s all about: the process is more than half the fun. It does take a lot of time and energy, but it gives back much more than it takes.

‘There’s never a rehearsal when I show up without sufficient energy to do it, so I think, and by the time I’m done I’m totally alive and ready to take on the world.

Music is therapy!"
From the FIFTH MAINE
Elephant Avenue

Cottages on Elephant Avenue viewed from the crest of Green Hill.

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

From whence did the name come? Did an elephant reside on Peaks Island? Was one brought to the "menagerie" in Greenwood Garden as a curiosity for visitors to marvel at? Whatever the reason, the answer remains in obscurity.

What’s even more curious is that the residents of that erstwhile street created a kind of association to "govern" the street and arrange social activities. The Official Register of the Officers of Elephant Avenue, Peaks Island for 1880 provides a glimpse into this long-forgotten group.

The officers in 1880 are listed as follows: Mayor: George B. Kimball; Aldermen: William N. Prince, Job T. Sanford, Alpheus Griffin; Councilmen: F.A. Sawyer, Jessie Hartshorn, Thos. L. Kimball, P.H. Rich, J.B. Hughes; City Marshal: Herbert R. Sargent; City Clerk: Harry Hale; City Treasurer: James H. Whitney; Street Commissioner: Herb Sargent; Harbor Master: Howard Knowlton; Superintendent of Schools: Gracie Hughes; Overseer of the Poor: Parker Prince; Inspector of Fish: Jessie Hartshorn, Fence Viewer: Walter H. Rich; Field Driver: Edie Hartshorn.

Meetings of the Board of Government were held the first Saturday evening of June, July, August, and September. Residents of the avenue were appointed to committees that organized these social events.

During the 1870s and 1880s the Elephant Avenue area was transitioning from a camp ground to a neighborhood of Carpenter Gothic cottages. Vacationers usually spent the entire summer season at their cottage, enabling them to develop friendships and social ties with their neighbors. The creation of such a whimsical association speaks to their sense of humor and the value they placed on community relationships.

Elephant Avenue lives on today but with a more pedestrian name—Adams Street.
Cindy Nilsen takes the tiller at Peaks Island School

Cindy Nilsen is a very experienced teacher. She has taught 19 years for fifth- grade, fourth-grade, and mixed classes of fourth- and fifth-grade. She has also taught adult math classes.

Another great quality of Mrs. Nilsen is her experience with technology. For five years she worked as a technology leader for Portland Schools, teaching skills to any and all who wanted, and troubleshooting hardware and software problems. Mrs. N. enjoys working with computers, still cameras and video cameras. She says that she is looking forward to working with the kids of Peaks Island School and sharing her knowledge of technology.

“I look at it [coming to Peaks Island] as a way to move forward in my career and challenge myself. It is a beautiful opportunity for me,” she says.

When she was a young child she lived in Massachusetts. Then, she moved to New York and later to Chebeague Island. When she graduated high school, she moved to Portland and started college at USM. Currently she lives in Scarborough.

She has also used to play an instrument. She played the violin for a few years when she was younger. She has always wanted to play piano and still hopes to accomplish that dream.

In her past years of teaching, she has made friends with Maureen Cott, the first- and second-grade teacher at Peaks Island School, who worked a few weeks at East End Community School, where Mrs. N. was a teacher-leader from 2006 through last year. As a technology teacher, she became good friends with our reading teacher and tech coordinator, Robin Walden. She is “most excited about meeting a whole new group of children,” Mrs. Nilsen says, “I am looking forward to making 57 new friends.”

Cindy Nilsen, the school’s new teacher-leader, meets with members of the J-Club editorial board.

... and technological innovation

BY MAISIE WINTER AND ELISA MEMBRENO, GRADE 4

Mrs. Nilsen hopes that her class likes technology as much as she does. She is eager to share her skills and equipment.

She says that we will be working with a snowball microphone. We can use the microphone to make podcasts. We will learn how to write blogs. There is “a good possibility,” she says, that everybody in the 4/5 classroom will be working with laptops at their desks. And we will have an electronic whiteboard at the front of the room.

What is an electronic white board? Just an everyday white board that takes pictures of whatever is on it and downloads them to the computer.

Why does everybody in 4/5 need laptops? Because the big desktop computers with bulky mouses on tables take up too much space. Mrs. N. likes her classroom to be open, uncluttered and calm.

But is it a snowball mic? A mic that works on and with the computer. It is made by Blue Microphone company. It looks like a little white ball on a silver tripod.

Snowball effect: Cindy Nilsen hopes that students will catch her enthusiasm for technology as a tool for learning. Here she shows a snowball microphone.

Growing BIG

RIGHT: Jameson Childs, a J-Club member entering fourth grade this month, and his cousin, Parker Bell, 9, a summer resident of Peaks Island, show off a pair of zucchini in Jameson’s garden. Behind them are a pair of lima bean plants grown from seeds received on Valentine’s Day (closeup left).

J-Club photo

BY ISABELLA LEVINE, GRADE 3

HomeStart started in 2003, and they are trying to help people by building and making their houses less expensive. Barbara Hoppin, a board member, says, “We are trying to support those who would like to have a home on Peaks Island.” Homes will be available to rent or buy on Luther Street.

To raise money, HomeStart has a dollhouse that they are raffling off. The dollhouse was built and donated by Ginny Rynning, who has experience making architects’ models. She based the dollhouse on the Brackett House on Peaks Island.

If you win the dollhouse, you also get the furniture and a small toy cat. The furniture, art and books that decorate the dollhouse came from members of the community, some were made and some donated. Furniture donors include Scott Nash, Kathy Newell, Paul Martin, Ed and Julie Melon, Lavender Myers, Harvey Johnson, Gail T. Kelley and Marcy Appel.

HomeStart is trying to raise at least $1,000 from the raffle. They have raised $800 so far. If you would like a raffle ticket, call Barbara Hoppin at 766-2593 or e-mail her at bahoppin@aol.com. Tickets are $5 for one ticket or $5 tickets for $20. The winner will be picked Sept. 6 (Labor Day), you don’t need to be present to win. The winner could keep the dollhouse or choose to donate it to a group that works with children.

Now in its second year, J-Club is the journalism club of students in grades one through five at the red brick schoolhouse, Peaks Island Elementary School, established in 1832. The club also includes recent alumni. Members: Kaylin Beck, Fan Tai Bridges, Audrey Byrne, Jameson Childs, Maisie Davis, Diane Deriv, Gabi Damon, Zeke Dupont, Dudley Holdridge, Ilc Holdridge, Isabella Levine, Elisa Membreino, Anna Mitchell, Eddie Sylvester, Jerry Sylvester, Phineas Underwood, Kaethe Marie Wilson, Maisie Winter. Advisers: Diane Lacret, Editor; Lisa Penalver, Art Director. Contact: peaksjclub@gmail.com.
Art Roamings

BY JAMIE HOGAN

Bird Man

Scott Kelley's "Of Birds, Warp and Rock" drew hundreds of viewers on opening night, July 2, to the Dowling Walsh Gallery in Rockland.

Called "The Bird Man of Peaks Island" by poet Carl Little in a recent issue of Maine Boats, Homes, and Harbors, Scott is well-known for his exquisitely detailed paintings of shore birds. The show also included pen and ink drawings of chiseled cliffs on Monhegan and brilliant watercolors of tangled rope used by lobstermen to tether their traps. In the oils of warp, the intricate repetition of precise textures is offset by vivid color washes. Scott described them as "very improvisational exercises in color with a sense of detail."

Scott finds inspiration in many places, poking along beaches to encounter a dead bird, or examining the brushstrokes of a Delacroix at the Louvre. For instance, he noticed in Dune and Vingi Descending into Hell, that the bodies falling into a bear glimmered with drops of water that, upon inspection, were mere dots of yellowish green, white, and orange paint.

"These little things fascinate me. When color is more improvisational, that feels more realistic to me."

Scott recounted an early influential moment in his artistic development: seeing the Andrew Wyeth exhibit in New York City in 1978 when he was 15. The Olsen paintings, in particular, held his fascination. His youthful memories are of the family walking on the shore, and the modeling of forms attracted his eye.

"When something is going on in the illustration, that speaks to me the loudest," said Doug.

Doug Smith's collection of cat paintings.

Douglas, acknowledging the incentive in a good bargain. He couldn't afford to collect expensive art, but it was just as thrilling to find a great film lobby card at a buck a piece. This led to collecting Mexican lobby cards, printed on heavier stock, with funny and hard scores featuring crude graphics. "They're just wonderful!"

His infatuations come and go; some collections are randomly hoarded for only a few months, and then desire fades. For awhile, he collected vintage Halloween items alongside another friend caught by the same bug. He had a six-month fling with lenticular—blinking images of various novelties. During years of foraging for posters, he collected rabbit figurines and dishware.

When moving to Peaks Island, he was struck by the diversity of the island artist population and began collecting art by some of them, such as Suzanne Parrott, Tim Noah, and Denise Wicander. He also collects commercial art. As an illustrator himself, he marvels at the stories told with a vastery of techniques, finding a peculiar magic in how the blank page can be transformed. He doesn't see the same sweat and struggle that goes into his own work, and freely enjoys the mood evoked, whether surreal, mysterious, or nostalgic.

"When something is going on in the illustration, that speaks to me the loudest," said Doug.

For Love of Peaks

Now available at these locations

Gren Gallery
Peaks Cafe
Down Front
The Fifth Maine
Casco Bay Lines
Longfellow Books
Books, Etc.
Maine Historical Society

For more locations, click SHOP on our website:
www.fortheloveofpeaks.com

September 2010

Doug Smith's collection of cat paintings. photo by Jamie Hogan

Doug, acknowledging the incentive in a good bargain. He couldn't afford to collect expensive art, but it was just as thrilling to find a great film lobby card at a buck a piece. This led to collecting Mexican lobby cards, printed on heavier stock, with funny and hard scores featuring crude graphics. "They're just wonderful!"

His infatuations come and go; some collections are randomly hoarded for only a few months, and then desire fades. For awhile, he collected vintage Halloween items alongside another friend caught by the same bug. He had a six-month fling with lenticular—blinking images of various novelties. During years of foraging for posters, he collected rabbit figurines and dishware.

When moving to Peaks Island, he was struck by the diversity of the island artist population and began collecting art by some of them, such as Suzanne Parrott, Tim Noah, and Denise Wicander. He also collects commercial art. As an illustrator himself, he marvels at the stories told with a vastery of techniques, finding a peculiar magic in how the blank page can be transformed. He doesn't see the same sweat and struggle that goes into his own work, and freely enjoys the mood evoked, whether surreal, mysterious, or nostalgic.

"When something is going on in the illustration, that speaks to me the loudest," said Doug.

My most current collection is of cat art. I'm fanatical, but it has to be good. Ninety percent of cat art is too cutesy-wootsy, but I've found some great work.

He claims a life-long attraction to wood and rusty metal objects. Palleys and cogs with their circular designs are also appealing. "That stimulate to have art around, something to look at or hold for the tactile appreciation of weight and form, will never go away!" Doug admits.

Covey's Shack

Three Peaks Island artists—Paul Brahms, Jessica George and Cole Caswell—mounted an exhibit of their work in Covey Johnson's lobster shack at the base of Whale Street on Peaks on Friday, Aug. 27.

"The original impetus happened two years ago, when I was hanging around the shack and did a sketch of Halie Hanson," said Paul. "Covey hung it up and got the idea to have a show sometime."

Jessica George's oil paintings were hanging amongst the vintage bottles, dusty books, and fresh produce all summer. Cole Caswell added tin types and photographs to the mix, with his Paul's paintings of island views and people. The crowd agreed it was a spectacular venue for every taste.

Painting by Jessica George at the opening August 27 in Covey's Shack.

photo by Jamie Hogan

Artists review comic panels during History Comix Camp at the Fifth Maine Museum.

photo by Jamie Hogan
The QuiRk Factor

By Lisa Goell-Sinnick

The first year my husband, Ron, owned Downfront, the ice cream store on Peaks Island, he issued clear instructions to our daughter, Lindsey, who was 8 at the time: “Do not use the cash register,” he said. Of course, if you don’t still an 8-year-old (or any age child) not do something, you’re pretty much issued a date.

That first summer passed quickly. Soon it was October, a week before Columbus Day. Ron and I were behind the ice cream counter scooping huge portions of butterscotch pecan and strawberry ice cream — the only flavors left — in an attempt to sell out before we closed for the season.

After serving several customers, I pulled my head out of the dipping freezer and looked up. A middle aged couple stood at the candy counter with a pile of Peaks Island T-shirts and a Christmas tree ornament of Santa paddling a kayak.

“Let me ring that up for you,” I said, springing across the counter to help. “Oh, we’re all done,” they said. “Your daughter took care of us.”

I looked at Lindsey who had a smug grin plastered across her face. Her shoulders barely came up to the top of the counter and the Downfront Factory, the smallest size we had, hung to her heels.

I glanced at Lindsey to let her know she’d been caught. Of course, I’d be the first to admit that my head shouldn’t be out of the dipping freezer and I knit my eyebrows. “Oh, did she?” I said.

I immediately got a sinking feeling in my stomach, the one you get when you realize that you’ve mixed up the ferry schedule or left the island without your wallet. My head shook side-to-side.

“Can I help you?” I asked the next person in line.

“No, I’m writing for her,” said an older woman with gray curls. She pointed to Lindsey.

I turned to the next person; she declined my offer too.

Catherine shrugged. “They all want to wait for Lindsey.”

In most places, people don’t voluntarily choose the longer line, but most places aren’t Peaks Island. On Peaks Island, we have a Quirk Factor. Peaks is part Mayberry and part Toontown, with sunshine views thrown in for good measure.

Unconventional is built into our daily lives. Residents feel free to fly their freak flags, from dressing ceramic geese in weather-appropriate attire (updated daily, of course) to extramurial home security to a scarify life-like rubber rat. We drive decked cars and paint homes in colors so bright that anyone duplicating these color schemes in the suburbs would be shunned.

Nancy J. Hoffman entertains us with her accordion, umbrella cover museum and numeral-as-a-middle initial. Preschoolers walk to the store to buy candy supervised, not by an adult, but by their 6-year-old sibling. When we installed a new public restroom, we ruffled off the first flush. Eccentric people, oddball characters, unusual events. These are what make Peaks Island unique.

It’s only natural that visitors want to possess their own little bits of Peaks quirky — something that they can take home with them. Having a 9-year-old kid perform their credit card transaction makes a great souvenir, to the point that letting Lindsey operate the cash register could even be viewed as a public service.

Lindsey worked until the line dissipated, exuding a calm and confidence you wouldn’t expect of a fourth-grader. I imagine that when these people got home, they were telling everyone something like this: “This little girl could barely see over the counter, but boy did she know how to work the register.”

We add a couple of pop-ups, the total could reach 1,500. I still take a moment and hope that if this day should come the weather to good.

Why? Why? Why? are all these people crossing Casco Bay to celebrate here when there are so many more convenient places to err.

Many couples have an island connection — some have vacationed here, others have visited and some even live here. For those who come from away, the notion of a wedding on a beautiful island off the coast of Maine is very appealing. The phrase “destination wedding” comes up often, but isn’t always easy. Transportation can be an issue. Having managed to get to the island, guess must somehow be transported to the wedding site.

It gets interesting. I have seen limousines, rented trolley cars, hopping not walkers with umbrellas and golfrellas of golf carts, not to mention the ancient Cadillac convertible carrying the bride and groom to their wedding site on the back bow.

Harborview is directly on the waterfront and Robin Clark, the proprietor, reports that some couples pull up in boats some walk up the docks rather than down the aisle.

Thalia Bussard described her daughter’s wedding at the TEJA as being done the “classic Maine way,” with tables named for island locations, a friend officiating and a reverend dinner lobster bake at the Lions Club. Amanda Grisley and Jimmar Mahuta at the Inn can handle the whole thing under their capacious roof and tent, including coaxing as many as 30 people at the Inn. They are open year round.

The indoor space at the Fifth Maine is a museum upstairs and a spacious covered porch and a space for three dining room downstairs. Cathedral Kim Macdougall reports that they had a wonderful outdoor wedding in July, although bringing in an

The wedding of Peaks Islanders Chelsea Henry and John Kamp at the Lions Club on Saturday Aug. 28 drew over 120 people, mostly from the island, with music by guitar virtuoso Frank Fantusky. The revelry continued for over eight hours.

LIVE MUSIC Thursdays with FLOYDZ BOYZ 6 - 9 pm featuring Peter Donnelly on Jazz piano doors 5pm, pub menu + dinner specials, no cover also open Friday-Sunday thru-out the Fall

For more information, please call 766-5652.
Classes & Instruction

Dance Classes
For class schedule and information contact Sharon at 776-5066 or email sharon@mainecommunityarts.org.

Yoga Classes
Please contact Rebecca Stephens for the schedule at 766-1017 or rpgo069@maine.net.

Weight Lifting
Lift days Mondays and Thursdays, 7 am to 8 am and 6 pm to 7 pm for 12 sessions. Contact John Harrington at 855-1207.

Acting Workshops
Actors Productions free acting workshops, taught by Producing Director Michael Levine, introduce you to the actor’s craft and communicate what it takes to be a fully functioning actor. At the company’s studios in Damariscotta, New Harbor, or Wiscasset.

Call for Art
The Gem Gallery Artists’ Cooperative is calling for young artists 18 years old and under with original, unique, interesting artwork for sale to submit works for the show MENTORING YOUNG ARTISTS, opening reception Sept. 17 from 5 pm to 8 pm, and continuing through Sept. 19, noon to 6 pm. Temporary membership fee $5 to showcase work, which can include painting, sculpture, jewelry, prints and more. Artists set their own prices, the Gem keeps 10 percent for operating expenses. Contact Judith McCullough for more information, 899-9096.
Thursday, Sept 2
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Greenwood Garden (rescheduled from Tuesday, July 6 due to extreme heat). There is a critical need for blood — we need your help! Donors must be at least 17 years of age; there is no minimum age limit. All donors must bring a photo ID. Register on-line at www.givelife.org Walk-ins always welcome.

OLD-FASHIONED PICNICS (BYO) and GAME DAY 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Greenwood Garden. In conjunction with the Wood Drive, Portland Recreation offers a BYO picnic and fun with hula hoops, jump ropes and Frisbees. Parents of children ages 6 and up — your child will be wanted (and kept busy) while you give blood. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Saturday, Sept 4
Thrift Shop at the Brackett Church, 10 am to 1 pm. Stop in to shop for or drop off gently used clothing and household goods. For more info call the church office, 766-9503.

Eighth Maine benefit dance from 8:00 pm until 10:30 pm, with music by Cliff Cooley and the Cool Breeze Band. Adults $7 and Kids $4. Located just around the corner from the Fifth Maine Museum.

Monday, Sept 8
Acorn Productions' Shakespeare Ensemble presents Midsummer MERRIMENT, at 6 pm at the Inn on Peaks Island, with speeches from Shakespeare's plays cued by audience members, followed by an 80-minute collection of changed scenes from all of Shakespeare's plays. That Ends Well, As You Like It, Henry IV, part one, A Midsummer's Night Dream, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, and Twelfth Night, 7 pm, Admission $40 ($5 for kids 12 and under). Take the 5:33 pm Casco Bay Lines ferry from Portland.

Friday, Sept 10
Teen Night in the Brackett Church fellowship hall, 7-10 pm. Drop in for pizza and ping pong. Open to all island youth grades 6-12. For more info call the church office, 766-5013.

Saturday, Sept 18
Songwriters by the Sea continues at the Fifth Maine with another great concert on Saturday Sept. 18 at 7:30 pm featuring Randall Williams, a classically trained singer who, upon graduation at the top of his class from a music conservatory in Moos, Belgium, informed his tutor he was leaving classical music to be a folk singer www.unchannelledwave.com, and Strausse and Company, a local band with a revolving cast of Portland musicians led by Brad Strausse www.strausseandco.com, and, of course, Phil Daligan. Bring your family and friends for an evening of great music and camaraderie in an intimate setting. See you there!

Monday, Sept 20
FREE MOVIE "YOU NG AT HEART" (108 min) based on a real-life chorus in Massachusetts, whose average age is 81, 1:00 pm — community room. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Tuesday, Sept 21
Loaf and Ladle dinner 5:30 p.m. at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall sponsored by Peaks Island Tax Assistance (PITA); the theme is The Farmer's Table. The menu will include locally grown products such as vegetables (corn, squash, tomatoes, greens, and beans) and fruits (apples, peas, peaches, etc.) grown by local farmers. Join us and see what delicious harvest dishes we serve. Adults $6.00 and children $2.99.

Thursday, Sept 23
MEET "YOU NG at HEART" ISLANDERS Share your own secrets of how to stay "Young at Heart". Millie Macisaac will speak on the longevity study her family is involved with. 100 pm — community room. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Friday, Sept 24
"OPEN HOUSE" - "AROUND TUIT" WORKSHOP Bring a project to work on and get "around tuit"! Drop in any time between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Community room. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970). Teen Night in the Brackett Church fellowship hall, 7-10 pm. Drop in for pizza and ping pong. Open to all island youth grades 6-12. For more info call the church office, 766-5013.

Friday, Aug 20
"OPEN HOUSE" - Board Games For All Ages. Drop in any time between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm (community room). Play such games as Scrabble, Chinese Checkers or bring your own game. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Monday, Sept 27
TRA VELOGUE - LABRADOR at 2:00 pm in the community room; Guest Speaker Ken Jackson shares photos & stories of Canada. Light refreshments. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Tuesday, Sept 28
ADULT BASKETBALL BEGINS Held every Tuesday except school snow days and school vacations from 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the PI School Gym. Open to those 18 years and above — $2 per night. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Thursday Sept 30
BINGO FUN 1:00 - 3:00 pm (community room). Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970). Church Supper at Brackett Church, 5-7 p.m. End of Summer Feast, featuring: chicken, ham, salads, fresh bread & desserts. Free. All are welcome! PMT 766-5013.

---

Next Issue
Tlam an Innocent Man

According to Peaks Island resident Claudia Whitman, the percentage of people in prison who are wrongly convicted may be as high as 24 percent. She is the executive director of the National Death Row Assistance Network of CURF which works to prevent wrongful convictions in capital cases and reduce the number of executions. In 1997, Charles Wakefield, Jr., an African American convicted of killing two men in Greenville, South Carolina in 1975, contacted her to help him overturn his conviction. After looking into his story, she believed he was innocent. This is the story of her nearly 13 year battle with the age-old machinery of a South Carolina penal system which won him a parole in May this year. His story is the subject of a documentary film and has received national media attention. It is a remarkable journey to freedom.

---

PRESUMPSCOT WATER TAXI

DAYTIME RATES

Peaks Island $40
Little & Great Diamond $40
Long Is. & Diamond Cove $50
Cliff & Chebeague Is. $70

(9pm - 7am add $30)

Frequent Rider Program

Pay for five rides
get your sixth free!

THE YELLOW BOATS
ACROSS FROM CASCO BAY LINES

PRESUMPSCOTWATERTAXI.COM
The Eighth Maine
A living museum and lodge. Room and hall rentals & tours
Come for a awesome stay or tour
13 Eighth Maine Ave., Peaks Island, ME 04108 off Portland (207)766-5966 • www.eighthmaine.com

Ferry Convenient
Island-baked pizza, great food to travel, and only steps away from the terminal.
94 Commercial Street, Portland 207 874-5604
Serving extraordinary pub fare & pizza from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Seaport Yarn
www.seaportyarn.com
144 Fore St, 2nd Fl Portland, ME 04101 • 207-756-7770
Yarn, knitting & crochet accessories, a short walk from the Ferry

Take a Peak
52 Island Avenue
Peaks Island, Maine 04108
207-766-5969 x2 • 207-766-5584 • www.takeapeaksleakland.com
Maury Chopey, owner
Deborah Kendall, manager

Carpenter
Interior & Exterior
P.O. Box 63
Peaks Island, Maine 04108
Cell: 653-7042

EAN KAMP
House Painting
Interior & Exterior
P.O. Box 63
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

Massage & Rebalancing
Prescott H. Paine, Kripalu Bodyworker
207-615-3296 • peaksmassage@mac.com

Peg's Pots, etc.
www.pegspotsetc.com
CERAMICS GIFTS CLASSES PARTIES
207-766-5997 • pegs.pots.etc@mac.com
8 Woods Road, Peaks Island, ME 04108

SUBSCRIPTION FORM
To subscribe to the Island Times, please fill out this form and send with a check for $25 to Island Times, 120 Brackett Ave, Peaks Island, ME 04108
NAME: ________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________
CITY: ________________________ STATE: _______ ZIP CODE: _______
PHONE: ________________________ E-MAIL: ________________________

Eighth Maine Museum
591 Island Avenue Peaks Island, ME 04108
(207) 766-2026
jkiewley1@maine.rr.com

Michael Larpello
Owner
207-632-8129

Andrea Davis
www.peaksbeads@yahoo.com
10 Island Avenue Peaks Island, Maine 04108

Andrea Davis
941-961-8984 cell peaksbeads@gmail.com

EAN KAMP
House Painting
Interior & Exterior
P.O. Box 63
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

Massage & Rebalancing
Prescott H. Paine, Kripalu Bodyworker
207-615-3296 • peaksmassage@mac.com

RHONDA BERG
Associate Broker
31 India St
Portland, ME 04101
207-766-2633 HM
207-766-3460 Cell
207-766-5220 FAX
rhonda@urbanpropertiestx.com
www.urbanpropertiestx.com

PEG ASTARITA
www.pegspotsetc.com
Professional Land Surveyors
James D. Nadeau, LLC
Certified Floodplain Managers
Contact us with any flood zone questions or concerns.
www.nadaca.com 207-878-7870

FREE EVALUATION