By Kevin Attra

This has been called the worst economy since World War II, and it may be why voters made a decisive shift in favor of the Republican Party on Tuesday.

In the island districts, Republicans swept the Maine House and Senate seats for Chebeague and Long Island, while Democratic incumbents held on elsewhere.

In the House race, Howard McFadden (R) won District 30 with 64 percent, Meredith Strang-Burgess (R) won District 108 with 60 percent, and Peter Stuckey (D) took District 114 with 57 percent.

In the Senate race, incumbent Justin Alfond (D) swept the District 8 race with 79 percent. Richard Woodbury (U) took District 11 in a close heat with Republican candidate Gerald Davis, and Douglas Thomas (R) won District 27 with 60 percent.

At the Casco Bay Island Town District, Chris Hoppin lost his seat on the board of directors to Peaks Island resident Charles Buzz. “I appreciate the support I had from many islanders and wish Charles all the best,” said Buzz.

Meanwhile, the results of this election were not well predicted in the polls, as New York Times journalist Nate Silver wrote in his paper’s blog Wednesday morning, “The performance of polling firms was something we'll take up in the coming days. While it was not wildly off-balance, it was somewhat more erratic than it might appear on the surface.”

Final meeting of the Peaks Island Council

BY KEVIN ATTRA

The last ever PIC meeting was held Wednesday, Oct. 27. It was perhaps fitting that the night was cold and dreary, with a hard rain that fell throughout the evening.

Chair Mike Richards rapped the two-hour meeting to order with a gavel made for the PIC by the late Dave Adams, and suggested that the council might return to his widow after the November elections.

All seven councilors were present as well as 14 residents, which made it one of the better attended meetings in its history.

Richards began by stating that he had decided to make his own resignation effective as of midnight, Nov. 1. He had previously left it undetermined. “I don’t want people to think that, if people run for office, I’ll still be on the council.”

The last orders of business concerned the operation of the island taxi under its umbrella corporation, ITS, the allocation of the annual discretionary fund for parking and transportation - originally $50,000 but reduced to $30,000 in the last two years - and the dissolution of the council after November.

Though there had previously been discussions about incorporating the island as a village, this will apparently go no further than an initial meeting between some of the island council members and city officials that took place Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Richards said that without the PIC there is no formal body to represent the community in advocating for it, if in fact the community even wants to become a village corporation.

“I was feeling a little out there on Wednesday because I didn’t feel a whole lot of support for this village corporation,” said Richards.

Said Councilor Rob Tiffany, “It’s crystal clear to me the only way this will happen is if the city is interested. They’ll talk but they’re not interested. I’m not willing to spend one more minute going down that road.”

The consensus among the councilors was that the community will have to show

Autumn Edition The last full moon in October, shot by Peaks island photographer Chris Cassidy from Whaleback on the back shore. Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 7. Turn your alarm clock back an hour and get some more sleep.

IN THE NEWS
CERT train in new CPR skills
Peaks Island’s emergency response team updated to CPR training and preparedness by those skills in the community.

In the News
I am an innocent man
Part 2
Peaks Island artist Claudia Whiteman seeks to overturn a wrongful conviction and end a man’s 35-year ordeal in prison.

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CERT Updates CPR Training And Plans Island-Wide Program

BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Ten Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members upgraded their CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) capabilities Monday, Oct. 18 with help from three Portland Fire Department trainers.

PFD firefighters Aaron Bridges, Caroline Harden and Chris Thompson took the volunteer CERT members thru three life-threatening emergency scenarios to enhance their CPR skills.

CERT team members also upgraded their CPR skills, using the new methods that call for 30 quick chest compressions followed by two breaths. These new CPR techniques have shown to be more effective than previous methods that took extra time during emergencies.

The Portland Fire Department and CERT team plan to offer more CPR training for all islanders in the winter.

Scenes of Halloween on Peaks Island

BY KEVIN ATTRA

PHOTOS BY NANCY J. HOFFMAN

As you approached Scott and Nancy Nash’s house on Halloween - a cold windy night - the first sounds you heard were drum beats. The sky was blank, mostly cloudy with occasional streaks of deep purple in the late evening, but the Nash’s house glowed through the trees like a fallen meteor. There you found yourself in a world inhabited by robots who were dancing wildly to some of the cheesiest disco music ever. Illustrator Tim Nihoff, in a weirdly disturbing kind of Darth Vader costume - welder’s helmet spotty with blinking lights, collapsible light saber - tried to run me ever. Illustrator Tim Nihoff, in a weirdly disturbing kind of Darth Vader costume over the island, and I was so overwhelmed by it that I went straight home and didn’t use tape and AA batteries. "This was just one of many strange scenes taking place inhabited by robots who were dancing wildly to some of the cheesiest disco music glowing through the trees like a fallen meteor. There you found yourself in a world inhabited by robots who were dancing wildly to some of the cheesiest disco music ever.

ABOVE: Horror inside the haunted house at the Lions Club.

RIGHT: A prize-winning collection of gourds and pumpkins, all carved jelly with a knife.

BELOW: Horror inside the haunted house at the Lions Club.

According to Garry Fox, president of the Peaks Island Land Preserve which owns Battery Steele, organizers of the annual Sacred & Profane performance art show finally installed portable toilets for the event. He said PILP has been concerned about sanitary conditions for some time, and was relieved to have the issue resolved at last.

Now in its 15th year, Sacred & Profane uses the World War II gun battery as a gallery of interactive art installations and performance. Among the highlights this year:

A swing made in the shape of an airplane and covered with cardboard signs like those held up by homeless people at traffic intersections. An aviator would give it a push and then run around dragging a tiny, useless parachute behind him while a woman begged for money from the crowd. As many of it would fly.

A pitch dark room hung with plastic sheets so that visitors had to blindly feel their way through them while stepping on goopy patches of seaweed strewn on the floor. "I think we’re not supposed to walk in there," said one person.

A ton of delicious ice cream in unusual flavors, like cinnamon, handmade over the course of a few weeks by Arabin Conley, an operations agent at Casco Bay Lines, who used dry ice and other tricks to keep it frozen for the event.

ABOVE: The traditional parade from the 2:15 p.m. ferry arrived at the Battery Steele where costumed performers and something like a blue Pac-man character danced for a while to drums and trumpet music. The event was so popular this year that half of the crowd was left behind in Portland to wait for the 3:15, becoming a parade of their own an hour later.

LEFT: The effigy of a bride, held upright by heart strings attached to a wall, glowed in an eerie installation deep inside the battery.

Sacred & Profane cleans its act

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KEVIN ATTRA

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LEFT: The effigy of a bride, held upright by heart strings attached to a wall, glowed in an eerie installation deep inside the battery.
an interest in pursuing that avenue, and a new group will have to come forward to work on it. "If people are interested in making a change, it will demonstrate itself in some obvious way," said Co-chair Lynne Richard.

Concerning the taxi, Council Treasurer Tom Bohan said, "The ITS, as a child of the PIC, will continue." He said the taxi "did very well" during the summer under its new system being operated by members of the board, which took place after the latest manager quit unexpectedly in July.

With the vehicle needing brake work and new tires this fall, estimated to cost around $750, the ITS board is anxious to see how well it fares in the off-season. The company plans to expand the service to include package and pizza delivery, among other ideas.

The council formally adopted a resolution to the City Council asking it to perpetuate spending of the parking passes, ticket vouchers and subsidies to the ITS and the Children's Workshop as the PIC had allocated in the past.

If the fund remains at $30,000, this would mean about $2,500 in vouchers to Cliff and Great Diamond residents, $11,500 for middle and high school student summer passes, $6,500 for private students, $4,300 for the ITS and $5,000 to the Workshops.

On Friday, Oct. 29, the Peaks Island Fund also awarded a grant for $4,900 to the ITS to pay the salary of a coordinator who will schedule drivers and promote the services of the island taxi, according to PIC president, Bill Zimmerman.

"I'm pleased to continue to work on the taxi, which I think is a great thing," referring to his intentions after the November election.

In the closing minutes of the PIC meeting, after the council had made a checklist of things to do before shutting off the lights - turn in keys to the Community Center, archive the website, take down the bulletin board, write a closing paragraph in its Wikipedia reference - the councilors said some last words.

Given the history of community organizations like the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association and the Island Independence Committee, Bohan said, "I think it was a great step forward to have representation by an island-wide election. I'm sorry to see it pass."

"We all came into this with the hope to do something," said Lynne Richard. "We did a lot with a little. I hope the community decides to do something different."

"We're not called whiners yet," said Rob Tiffany, "It's been a very unique three years for me. In-town has yet to figure out what to do with us. We constantly had to remind them we're an elected body."

He added, "We're not called whiners, nothing - we're good at it. We whine because we care."

Perfect records in both directions

ABOVE: Peaks Island's US soccer team finished the season 0-6, in what Coach Daligan describes as "a building year." She says the record does not reflect how hard the kids worked or their smiles show how much fun they had. Front row (left to right): Neill Underwood, East Underwood, Griffin Conley, Elisa Eisenberg, Atticus Wasklewicz, Alexey Sereadin, Julia Peterson, Isabella Levine, Sam Dupont. Back row (left to right): Calder Davis, Coach Daligan. Missing from picture: Eleanor Johnson, Kaethe Marie Wilson.


photos courtesy of Susan Hanley

He can't speak yet, but he can help improve the lives of thousands of children in Maine.

By taking part in the National Children's Study, he and other Maine children will change the course of health for future generations. This study is the largest of its kind in the United States and aims to expand what we know about children's health and development. Eligible residents in Cumberland County have the opportunity to be part of something that will affect not only their children but their grandchildren as well.

If you're interested in learning more, call (207) 662-1488.

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY
HEALTH GROWTH ENVIRONMENT
CUMBERLAND COUNTY


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Lines from Casco Bay Lines

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPPIN

The Casco Bay Islands Transit District relies on its professional staff and groups of volunteers, community committees as well as its board of directors to operate Casco Bay Line ferries between Portland and the six islands it serves.

The board includes 13 members elected by voters and two members appointed by the Portland City Council and the State of Maine. The board meets each November and also appoints members of eight committees:

- Executive
- Finance
- Government Relations
- Operations, Pension, Personnel
- Rate Structure and Sales & Marketing
- Pension
- Executive, Pension and Personnel committees include other volunteer members of the public. They hold their meetings, which are always published and open to the public - in the ferry terminal. And, they are always looking for more volunteers.

Islanders who wish to serve on committees should contact any board member. Contact information is on the CBID website at www.cascobaylines.org.

Committee issues discuss and make recommendations to the board for formal actions, including possible recommendations to CBID management. Although some of the committees' purposes may be obvious from the names, this month's column will focus on only one, as an example: the Operations Committee.

Chaired by Dan Drown of Peaks Island, the Operations Committee discusses how Casco Bay Lines plans to ferry between its two islands in the terminal and on the bay. This committee held special public meetings, for example, to review proposals for available federal funding to acquire a new ferry to replace the aging Island Rover. The new customized ferry is to be built in Portland and delivered in 2011.

When they met Oct. 21 at 7:45 a.m., the Operations Committee discussed a range of topics that are fairly typical committee issues, including proposals for "E-Ticketing," automated ticketing, which would use technology to speed up purchases and ticket use which would allow ticket data for the Bay Lines about travel. They also reviewed statistics generated by additional trips to Diamond Cove in July and August.

Ticketing affects all the owners and customers of Casco Bay Lines, so that subject requires considerable attention. Since the ferry is public transportation, government regulations prohibit special prices for year-round islanders and residents. However, quantity discounts are allowed, leading to the five-pass commuter book as well as lower prices for monthly and annual passes.

Of course, the primary discounts for year-round residents are the considerably lower prices during the months of October through April. Those discounts are available for all ticket buyers, including day-trippers and other visitors.

However, several members of the board and committees as well as public citizens like Operations Committee member Mac McKee of Cliff Island, have been searching for some legal additional discounting methods to assist frequent riders like year-round residents.

Eventually, the electronic system might be able to provide legal quantity discounts similar to "E-Pass" and retail outlet cards with stored value.

The Committee's "E-Ticketing" discussions first centered around an automated book that can accept credit cards and dispense tickets. They hope that using the book would reduce lines at the terminal's three ticket windows during busy and hectic times when last-minute ticket buyers delay passengers.

As the District tries to maintain its operating costs and avoid ticket price increases, all discussions include consideration of where grants might be obtained to pay for new systems. CBID has an $80,900 Federal and the Portland Area Transit System (PACTS) additional $115,000 for electronic ticketing.

Other ticketing discussions at the October meeting included possible use of hand-held ticket scanners on the ferries to capture data required by the U.S. Coast Guard. However, committee members expressed concern about costs to the District and its customers as well as customer convenience, so more research is planned.

Committee members heard from board member Mary Hoffman of Little Diamond Island, who presented an analysis comparing special rates or trips to Diamond Cove and Long Island that were introduced in July and August this year.

He reported that total outboard traffic from Portland to the islands increased in July and August of 2010 compared with July and August of 2009. Traffic to Peaks Island increased 14.8 percent and traffic to the other islands "Down the Bay" increased 5.5 percent.

Those summer season increases were welcome news as the District approaches the quieter off-summer season.

Peaks Island Baptists
Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday Nov. 20
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
FREE

LovePeaks.com

Online shopping service benefits Peaks Island Tax & Energy Assistance

BY CYNTHIA PEDLIKIN

Peaks Island Tax Assistance and its more recent Energy Assistance program are now combined under one heading, PITEA, to reflect the reality that both tax assistance and energy assistance are managed by our small group of 13.

PITEA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that distributes funds which are donated by the community to assist qualified Peaks Island residents in paying property taxes and heating bills.

We have separate bank accounts for Tax Assistance and Energy Assistance, and will honor the donors who wish to have their contribution go to one purpose or the other.

Just as we were gearing up for the new energy season, PITEA was offered the opportunity to join a new program being offered by Market America to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Susan Marie Thomas, a qualified independent "Unfranchise" owner, met with us in August and explained that the program is an online retail service that allows purchases to benefit PITEA directly. Market America also offers individuals the opportunity to create a second source of income.

With Susan's help, enthusiasm and patience we launched our portal, www.LovePeaks.com, which leads into the Market America website where you will see our PITA name in the upper right-hand corner.

From there you can find products which Market America sells or you can click the Partner Store tab where you will find an alphabetized list of all of your favorite online shopping destinations. PITB will benefit from 100 percent of your shopping through LovePeaks.com. Susan has offered us a way to ease fundraising, including an additional out of pocket cost to you, our supporters, while offering you cash back for your support.

We hope you will take a few minutes to browse the site and see what Market America is all about.

The number of partner stores makes it easy to find any product you may be thinking about. This is a chance to shop online through a reputable portal and to know that your email account will not be given to any other group.

We hope you enjoy the service and convenience of shopping online, while helping to contribute to our community tax and energy assistance fund.
For the love of Peaks!
David Sterling

Well, I was born in 1940 at a hospital in Portland. I lived on Peaks Island, on Luther Street, at the top of the hill. That Street is named Luther Street because of a gentleman named Luther Sterling who built the house I lived in. Prior to my living there, my grandfather, Captain Herman Ingalls of the lighthouse tender Hikuma, and his wife, Maria, or Marfa as she was spelled then, lived in the house. My mother and father were born there. My grandfather's name was Ingalls! Not too many people lived on the island I guess. My mother and father were something like sixth or seventh cousins. My father's family were the ones on the lower end, towards Trefether's Landing and they run the Oceanic House, which burned I believe in 1950 or 51. It was a hotel, a quite large hotel, where people from Montreal came and stayed all summer.

They'd come down by train, the Grand Trunk Railroad, which had a terminal in Portland. They would land there and then their steamers or trucks and whatever were loaded on the Casco Bay boats and taken off the boat on Trefether's Landing, which had a large wharf that extended out into the harbor, because it was fairly shallow there. In fact the wharf had a bend in it, it wasn't straight. My father said that he grew up as a boy carrying steamer trunks up to the Oceanic House, which was about a block up the street on the hill.

In the wintertime, in my memory, they didn't have a snowplow, they had a big bolter that they had behind horses that rolled the roads down, and you could walk on top of the snow. Then they had a snowplow machine when I was 5 or 6 years old, maybe around the end of the war in 45 or 46, and they plowed the streets. They didn't allow all of them to get on the course because most the houses below Trefether's Landing were summer homes. The water pipes to most of those buildings were on top of the ground and people that those off in October.

There have been many stories about a submarine coming to Peaks Island that I remember, and according to something that I read recently this didn't happen. But I can remember seeing it, being taken over to Fort Totten Point by my mother and watching a German sub being escorted into Portland Harbor. We were allowed to go out to see it. It was about two weeks later. Of course, in the battleship Portland, a World War II battleship, we toured that. That was quite an experience for someone maybe 5 or 6 years old.

We had a lot of fun growing up on the island. There was really quite a lot you could do. In the wintertime there were three or four ponds that would freeze over and there always was a hockey rink which we set up in the parking lot where the sewer station is now. It was maintained by a fellow named Gene Temple who was the captain of the fireboat. He had access to hydraulics and he would resurface the ice every day when it was cold by spraying water on it.

We had a lot of fun skating there. In fact, hockey has quite a history on the island.

When I was younger, back in the late 40s, my father and other people -- this is probably right after the War -- would get together and either go fishing or go to one of the frog ponds on Peaks Island.

One of the things that I wanted to tell you about, we played a form of baseball which was geared to Peaks Island, because it didn't take a lot of space, although there was a baseball diamond on the island. Each island in Casco Bay used to have their own baseball team and there was a game on Sunday, every Sunday, at the ballfield, which is off the end of Luther Street. You walk through the woods and probably the ballfield is still there.

Our form of baseball was played with a tennis ball. It was usually a bat that had been whiffled off and made flat on two sides and the deal was you really couldn't hit the tennis ball a long way, it just didn't travel that far. We'd set it up, usually in the street in the top of Luther, and we'd set up bases that were not quite as long, or were even shorter than Little League. Boys and girls together -- because there weren't a lot of us -- would play. And one of the rules, which probably has not survived, was if you swung at a ball and missed, and the catcher, who was just standing behind you, could catch it after it hit the ground once, you were out.

We also played baseball in a field down where the power company was. We played baseball all over the place. Where the school is now we actually had a diamond set up, on the side of the hill, but it worked out pretty well.

There was a feeling -- which I get now when I go over to Peaks Island -- that you had as a kid and that was looking back at the city of Portland and saying to yourself "That's where the world is. I'm in a great place -- Peaks Island and I'm not in that world."

I remember, when I was working in Washington, D.C. for the federal government I took my family out and I got off the boat and looked back towards Portland and I said -- I had three children at the time -- "Look back there. See, that's the world, and now you're in uphoria on Peaks Island."

Death on an island

BY JERRY GARMAN

An African proverb states that "The ladder of death is not climbed by only one person". Death seems to restate our relationship with each other, our community and our natural surroundings. As we have shared each other's joys we also share their losses.

On an island one is quickly aware of missing family members, friends, colleagues, neighbors, pets and even objects. We solemnly pass the dead islander waiting to be transported on the island ferry. Even a missing tree or seashore rock formation is noted.

Nature is always reminding us of the "circle of life". Our personal lives go to sleep while our annuals die. The falling leaves and snows also demonstrate this ever recurring cycle. The winter storms cause the release of many dead branches.

The constant roar of a chain saw accelerates this natural cycle of aging and dying. We have all experienced that resounding thud as a small bird dies in our wining tree, either changing its image or trying to escape it.

Recently I talked to a young girl who had just seen the dead whale, which was grounded in the Evergreen end of the island. She was most excited to be wearing a whale's tooth that her father had removed from this large mammal as a momento of the event. Several times a year officials are alerted to dead seals and seagulls who suffered the same fate. In 2000 we were all a party to the removal of over 200 deer decapitated by yearly predation hunts. Sometimes, even nature needs help.

I have given eulogies, been a pallbearer, conducted burials at sea for islanders, and also have scattered cremains of both loved ones and pets in meaningful places. The red collar of my blind and deaf English Setter, Black, is permanently displayed in a garden where he used his fabulous nose to find bags and snakes. "All creatures big and small" have become a part of this island.

I recently helped Timma Bell move a granite stone that memorialized both his mother Christina Winter and his younger sister Winter. It would shortly find a permanent home in a pet cemetery where they would be united with her beloved Bichon Frise, Peter. Ruth Mistar's recent death demonstrates the impact of her life on three islands (Cliff, Peaks and Chebeague).

Four cemeteries, dating back to the 1700's, confirm the need to memorialize our predecessors.

Memories of absent islanders are preserved with dedicated benches, trees, plaques and buildings.

The Fifth Maine and the Eighth Maine offer places for people to recapture the Civil War battle that started almost 150 years ago. Some cemeteries are still known by its deceased owner's name. At the TELA clubhouse you will find a row of rocking chairs, empty, but slowly moving in the ocean breeze, perhaps occupied by former members who really liked the view and never really left.

Death on an island can be sudden and unexpected, or peaceful and anticipated. To die on an island you love, your life being surrounded by people you love seems to be the perfect way to end one's journey. This type of "attended death" permits the public safety officers and funeral personnel to quietly perform their official duties. Perhaps even offer a last trip around the back shore and personally a ride on the fireboat. Life is good and death is a part of life, even on an island.
Letters

Dear friends and neighbors:

Thank you for your trust and faith in me during my 3-year term with the Peaks Island Council. It meant the world to me to be elected and I took very seriously the task of representing islanders' interests to the city of Portland. Of course, we can debate the success and the eventual outcomes, but in any case there were many high points throughout the experience.

I am grateful to those city employees that took the time to share information with me and other councilors. I specifically worked with Mike Bobinsky, Fred LaMontagne, Joe Gray, Alex Jaegerman, AJ Alves, Dave Pendleton, Denise Macaronas, and of course our ally and advocate Mike Murray. We have many excellent people working for the city. They deserve leadership with vision and I hope they get it someday.

I have a deep respect for all of our island safety officers. Each being, a high degree of professionalism, dedication, and common sense to their work. They need our support to continue their outstanding service.

Thank you to those folks that kept coming to the meetings. I appreciate the many kind words and supportive emails from you; they really made a positive difference. I enjoyed our conversations on the boat, at Saturday dialogues, and on the street. Even those of you who don't agree with (or like) me were usually polite and reasonable — thank you for that. It truly was my pleasure to work on behalf of Peaks Island. I would gladly continue if there was good reason to do so.

I am reminded of my teaching mentor's words whenever a student was frustrated by failure: "Build character," he used to tell them. I must now have character to spare! I have to admit that I am already enjoying evenings at home with Steve rather than at the community center, new comfy chairs notwithstanding. In the future I'm sure I'll be involved in some aspect of island life, hoping to preserve that which drew us newer folks here in the first place. Meanwhile, thanks again for your support and assistance to the PIC.

Lynne Richard

* * *

Peaks Island Check-in Line

Following in the footsteps of numerous Maine towns, we will begin a Check-in Line program for those who live alone, for those who have recently had medical issues or surgery, and for those who are house-bound for any reason.

As of Nov. 5, participants will call 766-0067, wait for the answering machine to pick up and leave your name and let us know all is well. Those who sign-up will agree to call the answering machine every day, Sunday through Saturday. Anyone we do not hear from by 10 a.m. will be checked on. If for any reason a participant cannot call us everyday, we will be happy to call them every other day.

If you are interested in being part of this program, or know others who may want or need this program, please email us at stanyhow@maine.com or call us at 207-766-0067.

We will need to have certain information from participants such as: emergency contacts and physicians' phone numbers in case of an emergency. We will ask each participant to fill out a very simple form. We do not wish to intrude on anyone's privacy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call us. We have a small group of others to participate and get the messages off the line.

Howard and Cynthia Pedllkin

* * *

FROM ROBERT LAUTERBACH
PORTLAND POLICE SENIOR LEAD OFFICER, PEAKS ISLAND

Greetings

With the weather changing and the snow soon to fall, I wanted to stress the importance of making sure our streets are clear of vehicles during inclement weather so DPW can plow. Also, the other officers and I have observed a handful of vehicles that have been parked on the street with expired island tags. These particular situations have been addressed, but I just want to give a friendly reminder to make sure your vehicle is properly registered.

To help remind us of the importance of fire safety, I would like to thank the children and staff of the Children's Workshop for stopping by and meeting one of our firefighters. Firefighter Sean Donaghue did a great job entertaining while educating the young on basic fire safety.

Enjoy the rest of the fall while it's still here and brace yourself for the winter, and remember you can reach me at 233-0995 or email me at robert@portlandmaine.gov or stop by if you have any concerns. Thanks.

By Mike Richards, PIC Chair

View from the Chair

As the PIC proved too weak to be truly useful to islanders in dealing with the city, the next step may be a village corporation. It makes no sense to consider it on Peaks unless the city considers it too, so we met recently with a contingent from the city to gauge their interest.

Mayor Nick said he'd heard from islanders on both sides of the issue and wasn't sure most islanders wanted it. If we agreed, most islanders wanted to pursue independence, and they may want to do so again, now that the city unilaterally cut our cops in half and exposed the PIC, as powerless, hence our resignations and no islanders running to replace us.

Ellen Sanborn, finance director, said she thought we wanted more paramedics and that's what the city gave us. I said: 'We asked you for them; we didn't want or need this program, it wasn't if one considers that lowering the police force would result in a downtown street. Nick said the village corporation won't reduce taxes and might raise them, so islanders may not support it. In fact, it may be better for the city than for islanders, as the city will get money for nothing and won't have to make the tough decisions about the island as much. The only way for islanders to avoid city taxes is to become independent from the city, and even that may not reduce island property taxes, especially in the short term.

We know the largest cost driver for islanders (aside from taxes) is the ferry, and it's especially expensive because the city won't help fund it. If we're within the city limits and paying city taxes, the city should help fund CRL, as it does (i.e., we do). Mayor Nick thought that on this topic he had a conflict, being both city mayor and CRL manager, but he actually doesn't if one considers that lowering the cost of public transportation would benefit both Portland and Peaks Island, who knows the City and the Bay Lines better than Nick, and maybe Kevin Djenoghu, who's also on the Metro board.

Nick said the village corporation idea merits consideration, so they'll research it and put it on their agenda when they can. Nick said they have a full agenda already, and elections are coming soon which will change the council, so maybe in December. Unless this wacky write up in PIC election works, the PIC is done, so (Nick asks) who will represent Peaks on this village corporation talk? I said a group of islanders could form, like the IDC, did, if the island contains a 'critical mass' of interest.

We'll just have to see what transpires, but I continue to believe that Peaks Islanders should be allowed to decide what happens on Peaks Island.

By Mike Richards, PIC Chair

* * *

ISLAND TIMES

Put the experience you've had in the past behind you. Focus on what can be done now and in the future. Be proactive, be positive, and be prepared. Island Views

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YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephans teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or columna letters to 766-9077 or yogaforlife766@gmail.com.

Life is precious and often shorter than we wish. There is so much that we cannot control that it makes sense to take responsibility where we can make a difference. In these two columns, I explored our capacity for cruelty and our ability to listen clearly. One rather simple way that we can dramatically affect both of these dynamics is by making wise choices in how we feed ourselves.

You have probably heard the expression, “You are what you eat!” I wonder if you have really considered what it means or if you notice your food choices. Every morsel we ingest either enhances or sabotages our well-being. The food you eat can leave you feeling energized or exhausted, renewed or heavy, relaxed or anxious, strong or achy, clear or fuzzy, or exhausted, renewed or heavy, relaxed or anxious. Eating well is like living on an island. There is a vast difference between simply having food, but well worth the effort. There is a similarly vast difference between temporarily assuaging your hunger by ingesting calories, and truly nourishing yourself.

Island dwellers sleep. We work hard and become creative and cooperative as we deal with the joys and challenges of living in Casco Bay. Eating well requires effort, too: scrubbing and chopping fresh vegetables, slow cooking whole grains and beans, baking bread, mixing vegetables, packing healthy meals. When you work for your food, not only do you monitor the quality of your ingredients, but you also reap the satisfaction and empowerment that comes of creating something wonderful.

There is an immediate, evident cost to living on an island and eating healthy food. If you have your own garden, the cost shows up in your labor and the energy it takes to process, can and freeze your produce. If you are buying your produce locally, organic foods grown on small farms tend to be pricey. Although most retail foods are initially cheaper, factory farming and long distance shipping of produce exact a cost on your body and the land far beyond coastal property taxes.

Many folks who choose not to live on an island mention the ferry schedule as the deciding factor. Indeed, getting to the boat often means leaving an event early or forgetting it altogether in favor of staying home. There are sometimes sacrifices involved in eating mindfully, too. If you are paying attention to the quality of your food, you can’t just drive thru for a quick pop, or pop a frozen dinner into the microwave (No worries, Phil – Leslie’s meals are fine!).

When you change your eating habits, your friends and family will have to adapt, too.

Island living and mindful eating both offer a direct experience of the rhythm of the seasons. The year that I read Barbara Kingsolver’s book, “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle,” I experimented with eating only locally grown food in season. With the help of a winter share in community-supported agriculture I ate quite well, but I desperately missed fresh greens. Now, you can get local greens year round in Portland, which indeed feels like a miracle.

One of the pleasant surprises of island living has been an expanded awareness of the sky and weather. Eating locally grown foods brings the weather right to your dining table. Last year’s abundant rainfall was excellent for prolonging the flowering, and disastrous for potatoes and winter squash. This year’s weather brought vibrancy and variety to the farmer’s market even though some produce suffered in the early drought. Not being able to eat unblemished peaches year round may seem limiting, but it is real and waiting only increases the pleasure.

Sensuous pleasure abounds in coastal living and healthy eating. Fill your nostrils with tangy salt air, feel the fog on your eyelashes, feast on rosehips and fresh seafood, fall asleep to the drone of waves and fog horns, and fix your gaze on the sparkle of sun on water.

At the farmer’s market, burry your nose in a rosemary plant, run your fingers over the silky soft skin of a deep purple eggplant, wake up your taste buds with a burst of flavor from an heirloom tomato, and enjoy the crunch of a recently picked green bean.

Michael Pollan, author of several books about whole food, has an elegantly simple recipe for nourishment, “Eat food, not too much, mostly plants.” Jeff Woodward of Traditional Cooking Arts advises that we procure excellent quality ingredients and do as little to them as possible. His cookbook is, “The Healing Power of Food,” and his recipes are simple and delicious.

Just like adjusting to island living, changing your eating habits requires time and willingness. At first, you may feel over-whelmed and wonder what happened to your social life. You may go hungry rather than compromise your commitment to eating whole foods. Initially, some foods may even taste bland while your taste buds adjust to the reduction in sweets, fats and salts.

If you persist, however, a bite of plain brown rice or a juicy, raw salad turnip will send you into ecstatic bliss, and even the simplest meals will taste uttely delicious. Thanksgiving will still be special with its rituals and traditions, but meanwhile with just a bit more effort, you can feast every day and feel terrific.

Here are four of my favorite meals. I do not measure much, so I will leave you with quite a bit of creative license.

These recipes are dedicated to Sarah 10/12/1943 - 10/27/2010. It was a pleasure cooking and caring for you my friend.

**Multi-grain Breakfast Cereal**

You will need a coffee grinder – preferably separate from the one you use to grind coffee. Miso comes in many varieties. I buy Miso Master Red or Mellow White. Chop one red onion or large shallot. Chop a few of your favorite vegetables: delicata squash, kohlrabi, carrots, parsnips, mushrooms, rainbow chard stems, etc. Add to the cooking onions.

Boil about a quart of water. Put a large spoon of miso in a mug and pour boiling water over it. Stir until miso dissolves. Add miso and the rest of the water to the pan of vegetables. Chop your favorite greens: chard, kale, spinach, etc. Add to soup and turn heat to low. Serve as soon as greens are lightly cooked. For a richer soup, add an armful of tofu or nut butter. For 2, add your favorite hot sauce. For fun, add a handful of rice noodles or drop in an egg and stir with a fork.

**Tahini Dressing**

Miso comes in many varieties. I buy Miso Master Red or Mellow White. Chop one red onion or large shallot. Add the kale stems to the onions. When onions are translucent, add about a pound of your favorite fish (I often use cod, and recently tried halibut). Sprinkle with tamarind and grated fresh ginger. When fish is almost cooked, cut it into bite-sized pieces, add the kale, and cook on low heat until greens are lightly cooked. For variety, add miso and tahini dissolved in a cup of water. For 2, add cayenne pepper or your favorite hot sauce. Serve as is or over your favorite whole grain.

**Healthy Bowl Salad**

You will need a good strong "tower" grater. I have one with a round rubber ball on top (much easier on your hand than a metal handle) and a rubber feel. Scrub your vegetables and rinse salad greens. Get out your favorite medium or large bowl. I use a wooden bowl. Put some leftover brown rice in the bottom of the bowl. Add your favorite salad greens. Add grated carrot, salad turnip, beet, or/or zucchini. Arrange slices of avocado and boiled egg around the edges. Sprinkle toasted sunflower and/or pumpkin seeds on top. Eat as is or add your favorite dressing. I use olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

**Tahini Dressing**

Miso comes in many varieties. I buy Miso Master Red or Mellow White. Chop one red onion or large shallot. Add the kale stems to the onions. When onions are translucent, add about a pound of your favorite fish (I often use cod, and recently tried halibut). Sprinkle with tamarind and grated fresh ginger. When fish is almost cooked, cut it into bite-sized pieces, add the kale, and cook on low heat until greens are lightly cooked. For variety, add miso and tahini dissolved in a cup of water. For 2, add cayenne pepper or your favorite hot sauce. Serve as is or over your favorite whole grain.

Rebecca Johanna Stephans, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 23 years experience in the healing arts.
November 2010 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

November means “ninth month,” but it’s the eleventh because Roman King Augustus added January and February to the front of the calendar in 713 BC, rather than continuing to ignore the winter months for the sake of convenience. They also occasionally ignored days in the “months” because the moon’s orbital period is not quite 30 days (annoying!).

Eighteen centuries years before Copernicus, in a strictly geocentric religious-political environment, Archimedes’ friend Aristarchus had suggested the Earth may revolve around the sun.

It was not well received, either then nor in the Renaissance, nor were the unauthorized reports that the orbits of heavenly bodies were not actually round (gas!), and that the planets sped up and slowed down and were to some small extent unpredictable (heresy!).

Now scientists seek out earth-like worlds among the many planets known to orbit our neighboring stars, and amateurs around the globe sit a mouse-click away from the day’s photos taken by robots wandering over the surface of planets scattered throughout our solar system, and telescopes orbiting Earth capture light beyond our eye’s capacity to behold, some of which is almost 14 billion years old.

STARS

Daylight Saving Time ends on the seventh, which will give us more light in the morning and more dark at night, the better to see Vega, the bright blue-white star in Lyra high in west. Vega is a relatively new star, with few heavy metals and spanning so fast it’s twice as wide as it is tall. Vega used to be Earth’s North Star, but precession has spun our pole around so now it points to dim Polaris. Vega is in the constellation Lyra, and the most studied star after the sun. At the other end of the lyre, between two stars, is the Ring Nebula, a ghostly blue donut floating in the sky, the remnant of a supernova eons ago.

Next to Lyra is Cygnus the Swan, with its distinctive cross-shape, and bright Deneb bringing up the rear. Altair in Aquila the Eagle is to the southwest, and these three bright stars form the “summer triangle”, appropriately setting in the west. Overhead is the Great Square of Pegasus the Flying Horse, with his head pointing westward toward globular cluster M15, and the Andromeda galaxy, Milky Way’s sister, hiding dimly below.

Rising in the northeast is yellow Capella in Auriga the Charioteer, and lower in the east is red giant star Alderamin in Taurus, so you know Orion is right behind it on the horizon, trying to reach Pleiades, the “seven sisters” star cluster, or so the story goes.

PLANETS

Jupiter is so bright-white and perfectly positioned for viewing now that you really can’t miss it, about halfway up the southern sky in early evening. Even with just binoculars you can see the four Galilean moons shifting position throughout the night. Golden Saturn is just coming into view before sunrise and will be in better position for viewing in a few months. Blue Uranus is still just a thumb’s width away from Jupiter, and greenish Neptune is now a bit further to the west of Uranus. Ruddy Mars is getting lost in the ruddy sunset, and speedy Mercury’s eclipsit is too low to let it get far above the horizon, even at greatest elongation. Ah, but Venus is a beautiful sight! Early in the month it starts as a thin crescent low over the bay in the dawn’s first blush, but as the month progresses it will fairly leap up into the morning sky and grow unmistakably bright.

ALMANAC

Nov. 1- Sunrise is at 7:16 a.m. and sunset at 5:33 p.m. Those on the early boat have another week of darkness before we change our clocks. The Taurid meteor shower runs the few weeks, but best viewing is late at night.

Nov. 3- The moons at perigee, close to Earth and close to new so it teams up with the Sun to bring tides higher and lower than normal, with nearly 13 between them.

Nov. 4- A thin crescent moon rises over the bay at dawn, with crescent Venus below and left of it.

Nov. 5- This morning the crescent moon has fallen below Venus, so if I wake up and see stars, I’ll have binoculars on the back deck of the early boat.

Nov. 6- New moon means no moon, so the contrast will be as perfect as the streetlights allow, the better to find the Andromeda Galaxy overhead, a mere 500 million light-years away, but close enough.

Nov. 7- Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks “fall back” to EST. This morning sunrise is at 6:24 a.m., and sunset is at 4:25 p.m., better fitting our biological clocks.

Nov. 13- First-quarter moon is high at sunset.

Nov. 15- The moon’s at apogee, farthest from Earth this month and just past quarter, so its grasp has weakened, moderating tides and slowing currents. That’s Jupiter down below and to the left of the moon. Their relative positions will have changed by tomorrow, as the moon orbits earthward about 12" each night (~30 days = 360°).

Nov. 18- The Leonid Meteor Shower peaks early this morning, but the near-full moon will spoil our view of all but the biggest meteors.

Nov. 21- Full “Hunter” moon seems to rise out of the ocean at 5:36 p.m. and sets over the city at 4:23 p.m., with the Pleiades star cluster just above it.

Nov. 28- Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise and will reach perigee again in a couple of days.

Nov. 30- Sunrise is at 6:52 a.m. and sunset is at 4:06 p.m., giving us just nine hours of sunlight, and we’re still a few weeks away from the winter solstice.
Christmas comes but once a year, but to make a neighbor’s wish come true, Halloween came twice.

Betty Sterling had been in her house on Peaks Island for more than 60 years. She celebrated her 97th birthday in October. She knew she was going to be moving to a nursing home on the mainland. Her last wish while she was on the island was to hand out candy to the kids on Peaks. She was going to be hanging on until Halloween. But the person who was in charge of her said that she could only bring her to the nursing home on Fridays. She thought it wouldn’t be safe for Betty to stay for Halloween, a Sunday, and the following week. Betty said that she understood why she had to go, but she really wanted to stay for Halloween. My dad, Pastor Beau Boyle of the Baptist Church, heard about it and he told our Sunday school class.

As this goes to press, about seven children, among them a medieval knight, an army caped and helmeted figure, and scary Bergh kids all in black, were making plans to trick or treat on Thursday, Oct. 28, for Betty Sterling’s last Halloween on Peaks.

With support from the Peaks Island Fund, fourth and fifth graders from Peaks and Cliff Island schools attended The Leadership School at Kieve this fall. As he hauled his gear home and headed for bed, one tired but exhilarated kid described his experience in a word: “Epic!” Later, he and his classmates recalled their time at Kieve, on the shores of Damariscotta Lake, at greater length. Here are excerpts:

“Everyone was excited as we were leaving, but I was a little scared. I went anyway and I am glad I did!” — Phineas Underwood

“As we arrived, I knew this trip would be amazing. And, I was right.” — T. J. Flynn

“I learned a plethora of new leadership skills, such as, don’t tear people down, lift them up.” — Danny Haukey

“Through teamwork you can accomplish many things.” — Anna Mitchell

“Because we supported each other, everyone reached their goals.” — Elisa Membreino

“Step by step, I inched my way up. Finding a hold here, almost falling there, and finally, my arms trembling with exhaustion, I reached the top. I had done it!” — Luna Soley

“I highly enjoyed the Flying Squirrel because when you ascend you feel like you’re walking on air. Coming down, it’s like you’re a bird with a broken wing.” — Nick Boyle

“I learned that people can climb as high as they are able, and you should never be a mockingbird.” — Dianne Dervis

“Finally it was lunchtime. Little did I know that this lunch would change pizza eating for me forever!” — Eddie Sylvester

“I felt shy because I had my hair up in crazy ways. I soon realized that it doesn’t matter what you look like, it only matters what’s inside you.” — Audrey Byrne

“It was an extraordinarily cheerful place, yet it was school! I still am questioning how that was possible.” — Eric Conrad

“Every moment will be engraved in my memory forever. I learned that leaders must first trust their group in order to lead well.” — Maui Davis

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. Members: Madison Alves, Nick Boyle, Audrey Byrne, Jameson Childs, Calder Davis, Maisy Davis, Dianne Dervis, Gabi Dumas, Dudley Holdridge, Ilia Holdridge, Eleanor Johnston, Isabella Levine, Elisa Membreino, Anna Mitchell, Eddie Sylvester, Ishmael Sylvester, East Underwood, Phineas Underwood, Karthe Marie Wilson, Maisie Winter. Advisors: Diane Luceti, Editor; Lisa Pelahive, Art Director. Contact: peaksjclub@gmail.com.
Primary students put Peaks on the map

Brochures with maps of Peaks Island points of interest feature 14 different covers, each created by a kid in Ms. Cott’s first and second grade class. A local ad agency, CDM Communications, printed the pieces pro bono, and Casco Bay Lanes graciously made them available on their brochure rack. A group of visitors to the island was recently spotted using the maps. Said one, “We love them.”

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Alternative Healing - Spotlight On SHAMANISM

WHAT DOES THE WORD MEAN, WHAT DOES A SHAMAN DO, HOW DO THEY DO IT?

I’ve been on a quest for ‘alternative’ healing help (no drugs or surgery) in the current autoimmune condition struggles, and it has been recommended to me that I see a shaman. What IS a shaman? How do you pronounce it? What do they do? How could they help with autoimmune problems? How do you find one? How do you know if they’re authentic healers?

In the several sources I have referenced, it is pronounced either SHA’MAN or SHAMAN. According to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, a shaman is a spiritual leader or medicine man who uses trance from the Turkish word šaman, the term for such a practitioner, which also gained currency in American English. The term is derived from Siberian and Mongolian languages. (Wikipedia is great in that it either offers references or links to other articles to consult, so you can check sources for yourself, or they tell you just something does not have any or enough citations. All info below which cites Wikipedia as my source can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Shamanism)

Wikipedia illuminates that the term shamanism is not of American origin, I had thought in my vague understandings of the word:

“Though many Native American cultures have traditional healers, ritualists, singers, criers, and sacred leaders, a spiritual practitioner from the Turkish word šaman, the term for such a practitioner, which also gained currency in American English. The term is derived from Siberian and Mongolian languages. In cultures around the world, their spiritual practitioners are described by words in their own languages that mean ‘healer’ (or ‘shaman’) and are not taught to outsiders.”

Wikipedia includes a section on specific examples of the term ‘shaman’ or ‘shamans’. The criticism centers around some anthropologists’ ideas that New Age and modern Western forms of Shamanism “may not only misrepresent or ‘dilute’ genuine traditions, but also create a way that … reinforces racist ideas such as the Noble Savage.”

Oscar Maheca (pron. moORKMAHEHKAH), Peaks Island resident and director of the Museum of African Culture in Portland, further explained that the term is not part of every indigenous culture’s vocabulary. I went to interview Oscar at the Museum of African Culture because I had heard he in fact is a shaman.

“I call myself a healer-practitioner,” Oscar told me. He said he helps people who are in transition.

“I guide them as they go through change. Sometimes it’s not a client, but a colleague or a friend, someone who is on a spiritual path to have a personal growth process. I ask them, ‘What is it you want to be, and what will it take for you to get there?’”

Oscar is of the Igbio tribe of Nigeria. He said they too use the term ‘Medicine Man’ or ‘shaman’. For more details on his lineage go to the museum’s website, museumofafricanculture.org/about/.

“Recently archaeological evidence suggests that the earliest known shamans - dating to the Upper Paleolithic era in what is now the Czech Republic - were women.”

When I asked Oscar, he mentioned if in his culture they had female healers he answered, “Of course! There is a Council of Healers, and within that are men and women who are healer-practitioners.” He said they have different terms for them besides Medicine Man.

Continued on next page
Composting Tip - Shredding leaves

Leaves make good compost and if you shred them they'll break down much quicker. No need to buy special equipment. Just shredding leaves in a big garbage can and weed-wack them. Wear safety goggles of course.

Go Green Expo
Saturday Nov 6, 10 am to 4 pm at Mount Aarne High School in Topsham. Info on how to make your home greener, hybrid cars, recycled building materials, products and services. Food, children's activities, prizes. FREE.

FMI www.midsystemmaine.com/events, then enter search date Nov 6.

Local Permaculture Group www.meeup.com/portlandpermaculture

Wind energy on the islands
by Sam Saltonstall

Monday evening, Oct. 25, a small group of Peaks Islanders gathered in the Mack Maine Community Center to hear a presentation on wind power and island energy issues in the Gulf of Maine by Susan Pude, Island Institute.

Pude spoke of the high energy costs which motivate islands to investigate wind generation and the process of community wind efforts go through in order to decide whether a wind project is feasible, using the up-and-running Fox Islands wind project as an example.

She also spoke about the status of wind development efforts on Monhegan, Swans Island and Frenchboro.

In spite of negative press around a small group of neighbors unhappy with the noise they perceive from the three turbines on Vinalhaven, the project remains extremely popular with islanders there. Electric rates have dropped substantially and the turbines have generated the equivalent of electricity anticipated.

Pude discussed the value of using community wind to match community electricity needs and suggested that smaller turbines might be more appropriate for smaller islands interested in wind power.

She described a turbine built in Vermont called the NorthWind 100 which has a direct drive with no gears. Placed only 250 feet from bedrooms at the Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa in the White Mountains and at a garden center on a suburban community on Cape Cod, this turbine type has generated few if any complaints about noise.

An overview of the offshore wind test sites along the Maine coast and some of the other energy initiatives the Island Institute has undertaken made up the balance of Pude's talk, which was sponsored by PEAT, the Peaks Environmental Action Team.

PEAT is two months into wind testing on Peaks Island, making use of a meteorological tower on free loan for a year from Efficiency Maine. The program is administered by the University of Maine and wind testing results will be made available quarterly.

Since testing began in late August, no data has yet been received. When it is, the data will be posted on the group's website, greenpeaks.org.

Poetry Sequences by Ann Hindener (Peaks Island)

Past friends warm my heart
Alive always in vibrancy
Lilies dancing dawn

Paper Whites bending high
Gorgeous blooms pressed away

Tomorrow's gift

Lifeboat island beckons
I climb in gratefully friend
Comfort always waits

Yellow blossoms glow
Orange frozen mounds dipped
Foristy graces

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From the FIFTH MAINE
Does anyone remember Project Oceanside?

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

Prior to the Peaks Island Land Preserve’s acquisition of the site, a number of proposals had been put forth to redevelop Battery Steele. One of those was the creation of a conference center and vacation retreat for United Nations personnel and their families as a part of Project Oceanside. In 1962 the Casco Bay Island Development Association participated in a program called “Down East Diplomacy” which sponsored weekend-long visits to Casco Bay Island homes for foreign correspondents attached to the United Nations. The goal of the program was to provide a venue for an exchange of international friendship in a relaxed social setting. After several successful summers, the CVIDA decided that a permanent facility to accommodate the correspondents, their families and other UN people was in order.

But where to build such a facility? Surely it would require an extensive amount of land. The answer lay in the abandoned World War II Peaks Island military reservation. In 1957 the federal government had auctioned the property to the highest bidder – a businessman from Massachusetts. He had done nothing with it. The CVIDA was able to purchase 167 acres from him. The site was then divided into three parts: 25 acres for private development, 100 acres for public parkland and 22 acres for the proposed international conference center. Seashore Avenue was returned to the city of Portland as a public road.

Plans were drawn up showing the conference center divided into two parts, meeting facilities atop the northern end and lodging atop the southern end. The meeting area was to include a lecture hall, circular forum, 13 conference rooms, a library, dining room and lounge. The lodging would have 31 double rooms and 43 two room suites to accommodate a total of 245 people, connected to the meeting area by a covered walkway. There was even talk of an outdoor theatre on the site.

Like all proposals on Peaks Island, Project Oceanside was not without controversy. The 1960s were a time of excitement about space exploration and landing a man on the moon. Some islanders thought the design for the conference center “too futuristic”, like something from outer space. One person likened it to the Starship Enterprise from the Star Trek television program.

Ultimately, the conference center was not built, primarily because of lack of support from islanders, but other parts of the project did move forward. Many new homes have been built on the 25 acres and the 100 acres reserved for parkland remain for the public to enjoy.

Peaks Island is fortunate that the CVIDA and PILP had the foresight and commitment to prevent overdevelopment of the former reservation land and preserve it and Battery Steele for generations to come.

Update on...

Peaks Island
Children’s Workshop

BY CHRISTINA FOSTER, BOARD MEMBER

The Peaks Island Children’s Workshop (PICW) is an integral institution for year-round island living. We provide educational opportunities for preschoolers, school age children and summer camp programming in addition to housing the Food Pantry and serving as a CERT emergency shelter. We are working towards offering programs for adults and have instituted a pilot program to offer babysitting one night a month to coincide with the Peaks Island Lecture Series.

The Workshop has been functioning on the island for over 30 years allowing parents to work while giving island children a safe, fun space to build a foundation for their education. The future of the Workshop is still unfolding, but we are looking for ways to expand our services to a wider population.

Up until very recently a large portion of the operating budget came from numerous sources, including the City of Portland, the State Department of Health & Human Services and the United Way, as well as various other private entities. This financial support allowed the Workshop to run an exemplary program while keeping costs affordable for parents. Fewer families with young children living year-round on the Island, coupled by the drastic reduction of our funding from these outside sources, require us to make budget reductions and seek a different business model that will increase revenue in order to stay solvent.

Towards this effort, in the past year we have hired an experienced leader and interim director in Lori Freid Moses. With Lori’s guidance and the dedication of our board chair, Gail Kelley, the Workshop has succeeded in a number of new and exciting pursuits towards our goal of sustainability. These include a successful summer camp program expansion, as well as collaboration with other island camps under the umbrella of Island Adventure Camps supported by the Peaks Island Fund.

HELP PRESERVE
WHAT’S SPECIAL
ABOUT PEAKS.

Peaks Island is a true special place, with its rocky shores, its woods, and its wetlands. Your membership (only $15 annual or $5 family) and your donations are crucial in helping us maintain open space.

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ISLAND TIMES
November 2010
Charles Wakefield, photographed by Claudia Whitman as he left the Kirklann Correctional Institute in Columbia, South Carolina, on being freed on May 18, 2010. "When he was released in May, I got a great shot of him as the bars opened from the prison, and he gave a beaming smile," the photographer said. "Staying away from this was a sixtieth day because, although he was free, he remained behind the rest of the life fighting to prove his innocence."
Art Roamings

BY JAMIE HOGAN

Randy Reiger’s “Toy-Gantic” sinks in a Maine lake.

Photo courtesy of Randy Reiger

The Peaks Island Lecture Series launched to a hearty crowd on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at the Inn on Peaks Island. Painter Scott Kelley and designer Eric Eaton coordinated the program in the hopes of invigorating “the cultural wasteland that is Peaks Island in the winter,” as Scott put it. Artist Randy Reiger (www.randyreiger.com) debuted the series, with a talk about his winding path to a sunken ship in Maine.

Eric Eaton introduced Randy by saying, “To call him a toy maker, a builder of robots and space ships, a spinner of yarn, is in itself as misleading as the very fictions he implies through his works. He deals in enigmatic nostalgia, drawing from Eastern block and Western mid-century pulp iconography, running it headlong into button-down consumerism.” Eric passed the podium to Randy with this warning, “I caution you. While he’s seducing you with tales of his midwestern upbringing, modest beginnings working in an auto body shop, crafting his Masters of Fine Art from MECA, ask yourselves; would a time-traveling toy thief really want you to know where he actually comes from?”

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Randy grew up with a fascination for robots. He makes a box for the 8’ by 2’ toy, with a small image of the bow plug figure, advertised by Kid King Industries, Inc. He made a box for the 8’ by 2’ toy, with a small image of the bow plug figure, that he had made this all up. And indeed, he tested the waters of fabrication, as found photos revealed.

For any boy too impatient to wait for the plug, disaster ensued. Having conjured an object as real as a dream but as inaccessible, Randy headed, a year later, to the pond in Maine to retrieve his creation. “My heart was in my throat,” he admitted.

The boat was found, with most of the paint still intact, encrusted with pond scum, and missing a few parts. It is now installed at the Beech Museum, with all its ephemera for display, in Manhattan, Kansas.

In what felt like a Peaks moment, a woman in the audience commented that she had seen the Toy-Gantic in Kansas.

Elaine Jones, an artist and poet who splits her time between Peaks Island and the small town of Matfield Green, Kansas said, “My first impression was that it was a nice antique toy, and I drifted on, as one does in a museum. But I noticed a zip code on a coupon on the box, and went back to look. It was so surprising and overwhelming and perfect, coming up from the depths of some pond. It dawned on me that he had made this all up. I studied his toys and loved the great playfulness and fanciful stories.”

Elaine, to the Peaks Island and Matfield Green similar places, home to a pocket of creative folks. She said, “The prairie there is soft, and rolling, and trees in a way that connected to the ocean. They both have the same rolling expanse.”

That he had a witness to the real thing was gratifying to Randy. He answered questions from the crowd, and discussed his current project, the Nu Penny Store, an installation of monochromatic toys in a closed shop. The work has traveled from Watervliet to Portland and now Sanford, Maine. “You can’t get in. You enter it with your mind,” said Randy. He quipped, “It’s a horrible business model.”

The Peaks Island Lecture Series will continue through May, on the third Wednesday of the month. Next up will be Phoebe Tran, owner of Tsunami Tattoo.

Scott said, “He will hopefully be followed by Hannah Pingree, and we have Nathan Schenker and Thomas Eisenberg waiting in the wings, as well. Our biggest concern is getting Eva Murray in from Matinicus, hopefully January or February, if the weather cooperates. She wrote Far Out to Sea, a frequently hilarious collection of tales of living on Matinicus.”

The coordinators are open to floating any ideas for possible speakers. Contact them at peaksislandlectureseries@gmail.com. Donations can be sent to PII at 16 Street Street, Peaks Island.

“We want people who really want to do it. For now, we’re offering a boat ticket and a beer. But if we survive this winter, we may get sponsorship or a grant to continue. The Peaks Island Inn has graciously offered the room, and the Peaks Island Workshop is offering baby-sitting for $5/hour. We’ll pass the hat at the next one to drum up some funds to fly Eva Murray from Matinicus. But hey, it’s free, what more could you want?” laughed Scott.

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CYNTHIA PERRINS FOR PRINT 266-0067

The Nu Penny Toy Store, a traveling installation of sculptures by Randy Reiger.

Photo courtesy of Randy Reiger
The man crouched and lowered in front of the red brick house on Island Avenue. His hands were placed on either side of his face and his mouth stretched wide open as though some invisible demon was descending upon him from the sky. It was Edward Munch’s painting “The Scream” come to life.

Something weird was going on. And not regular Peaks Island weird. This was beyond someone pushing a dog stroller or painting their house chartreuse. A skinny guy with dark hair who I’d never seen before in my life was standing in front of my friend, Jean Hoffman’s, front door cowering in fear of...could only guess...what. But then again, it was a summer Sunday afternoon. A Reggae Sunday afternoon. There was no telling what this guy’s story was going to be.

I accelerated my pace to make sure this odd drunk wasn’t doing anything. But when I got closer, I realized that the guy wasn’t drunk at all. He was the subject of a photo shoot. His companion, a 30-something blond guy, was poised at the curb holding a digital Nikon. A third companion, a woman, stood between them, off to one side. She had Jean’s son’s foot-tall plastic Godzilla grasped firmly in both hands and was extending her body and into the view of the camera.

It took me several seconds to piece this together. When I did, I laughed. This imaginative threesome were taking pictures that showed Godzilla in epic proportions looming over the much smaller screamer.

This was the most unique use of Godzilla I’d ever seen, which is saying a lot. Few can resist interaction with Peaks Island’s biggest movie star resident. Godzilla and his smaller dinosaur cousins are posed by islanders and photographed by visitors almost daily. Typically, Godzilla and crew find themselves lined-up as though in preparation for a battle. Other times they are circled-up for a pre-historic hootdown. Often an unfortunate small dinosaur hangs out of Godzilla’s mouth. But I’ve never seen anyone capture Godzilla’s photo in nearly so continuous fashion.

Godzilla has resided year-round on Peaks, and stood guard in front of the Hoffman’s house, since 2000 when he relocated from town. He served the community as a photo opportunity, a conversation piece and a directional landmark. “Go by the Godzilla house, then continue past the library,” people say. He’s manned (or should I say monitored?) his post 24/7, with the single exception of a few months in 2009 when he took a sabbatical. “One day he was just gone,” recalls Jean.

After Godzilla’s disappearance, Jean asked around to see if anyone had any information on his whereabouts. Even the teens (who usually know everything) pled ignorance. After a couple of weeks, a dinosaur about half the size of Godzilla showed up. He held a note that said, “I’m Back.” His whereabouts have never been revealed, but people have guessed his suspicions.

Some say it was a teen prank. Others think a young kid with a kicks case of monster envy “borrowed” him. Others say Godzilla decided “late night bash at Battery Steele and was too hung over to return home right away. A long-time friend of Godzilla’s who asked not to be named called this third theory ridiculous — Godzilla has absolutely no history of alcohol abuse.

While foul play seems likely, I hope that Godzilla’s disappearance was voluntary. Maybe he visited his old friend, Mother, to reminisce about their days as Japanese film stars. Or perhaps he attended a reunion with other cast members he’s worked with over the years such as Astro-Monster, Ghidorah the three-headed monster and Matthew Broderick.

We may never know exactly where Godzilla had been, but I for one am glad that he returned. Once again, islanders and visitors can “go by the Godzilla house” on their way to and from down front. And they do, often stopping to create some really innovative photo shoots.

Lisa is a freelance writer who will be celebrating her 10th anniversary as a Peaks Island resident in February. Read her previous Island Times column on her web site at www.isthewithapen.com.
Christmas with Renaissance Voices Saturday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Luke, 143 State Street (between Congress and Spring), Portland. See calendar listing, next page, for details.

The Gem Gallery is an artist/craftsperson cooperative of over 20 artists, glyizers, painters, sculptors, potters, photographers, metalsmiths and fabric artists. We maintain an ever-changing display of our work and are open from Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with special hours during the last week in December and the first week in January. We are located in the Old Port, Leake Square, 80 Commercial Street, Portland. For more information, please contact Susan Harvey at 766-2970 or GemGallery207@comcast.net.

Dowdell Gallery sculptures from Found Objects by Long Island artist John Burke, thru November. Artist's reception Sunday, Nov. 7, 1-5 p.m. Call for Art: any mutable subject and displayable media using a minimal pallet of color tones and lines with a maximum of 10 colorants. Contact Maggie Carter for more information, 766-2940 or www.maggiecar.com. The Dowdell Gallery is located at the Long Island Learning Center on Guahan Avenue, Long Island, hours follow the library schedule (766-2970, http://www.liborg.island.lib.ri.us) Call Maggie Carter at 766-2940 for more information.

Addison-Woolley Coastal Suite is an exhibition of photography by Jane Baquer. Accomplished and emerging artists, including Richard Bois, will exhibit a wide range of work. This is an opening reception: Thursday, Nov. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. Show runs thru Nov 27. Addison-Woolley Gallery, 112 Washington Avenue, Portland. Call 207-450-8499, www.addisonwoolley.com Gallery Hours: Monday thru Saturday, Noon to 5 p.m. Curator: Susan Porter.

Richard Boyd Gallery PERSPECTIVES, a group exhibit of pottery and oil painting showing work by gallery artists Pamela Williamson, Joanna O'Tools Hayman and Richard Boyd. Runs thru Dec. 19. Gallery hours: Monday thru Saturday, Noon to 5 p.m. Please call 207-775-1079.

The Fifth Maine The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum is a non-profit museum and cultural center housed in the 1839 Fifth Maine Regiment Memorial Hall. Its mission is the preservation of Civil War and local history. To that end, the museum offers a wide variety of lectures, concerts, tours, youth educational programs, and community activities. Membership is open to the public. For more information please contact Kimberly MacEachan at fifthmainehistory.com or call 207-772-1079.

The Eighth Maine As a living museum and lodge built in 1891, as a summer retreat for the Civil War veterans. It features 12 rooms over 2 stories, hand-carved details and history filled, guided tours daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. www.8thmaine.org Closed for the season.

Brackett Church 9 Church Street, Peaks Island. Pastor: Rev. Dan Lassen, 766-5013 is located on Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Scripture Study, Mondays 9:15 a.m. in the parsonage. Children's Choir, Mondays, 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Call for information. Please contactaus for more information. Please contact Maureen Thompson for more info, 899-0198. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays in the parsonage, 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome! For more info call Rebecca Stephans, 766-8017. Twilight Night, Friday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., fellowship hall. Drop in for pizza and ping pong! Open to all island youth grades 6-8. For more information, please call 207-775-7253 or visit www.portlandislandmaine.com.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, Nov 1
FIRST MONDAY FUN for PRESCHOOLERS: Drop in anytime between 10:15 am and noon (in the community room on Peaks Island) and have some Fall fun making crafty "treasures" - we may also dance and sing! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

Tuesday, Nov 2
First Tuesdays Book Discussion will meet in the Community Room on Peaks Island (bring your book, discuss and share!). First book is Gregor the Brave (review by Jean Kwok; Christina Kriest). Moderated by破坏. For November, the book is Gigi (review by Jean Kwok; moderated by Kathy Hatley). The December book will be "Painting for Dummies" by Abraham Verghese. Moderator is Cheryl Higgins. Call (766-5540) or email the library (books@portland.lib.me.us) to reserve a book. Please include your library card number. Open to anyone interested.

Monday, Nov 15
BINGO FUN - ALL AGES (with "prizes" to be thankful for) 10:45 - 11:45 am AND 2:00 - 3:45 pm in the community room on Peaks Island. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

Wednesday, Nov 17
Peaks Island Lecture Series, hosted by Eric Eaton and Scott Kelly presents Pue Trox of Tsunami Tatttoo, who will speak about the art of tattooing and its colorful history at 6:30 pm in the Peaks Island Community Center. 766-2970.

Saturday, Nov 20
LADIES ONLY BOWL GOWN PARTY at Jones Lending. $50. All proceeds to Senator Chellie Pingree's campaign. Fundraiser to help her in her campaign for Congress. Women only. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

Friday, Dec 3
"OPEN HOUSE" - GETTING AN EARLY START (Peaks Island community room, 10:00 am to 11:00 pm) - Drop in anytime, all ages welcome. Start your holiday "to-do" list early - get ideas for gifts from the kitchen, bring cards to write or help make decorations and ornaments. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

Saturday, Dec 4
ANNUAL COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING on Peaks Island (in case of inclement weather, this event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 11, 4:30-5:30 pm) - "Down from", at the living tree near the dock. Visit with Santa, decorate the tree, sing carols and then join in the count down to the lighting of the tree. Refreshments at Peaks Cafe after the outdoor celebration.

Sunday, Dec 12
The Peaks Island Music Association Holiday Concert and Sing Along - Two shows, at 3:15 and 7:00 pm, Island singers, and musicians performing holiday and seasonal favorites. A special feature this year will be the "Quatt' Motets" composed during "A Christmas Carol". The program is co-sponsored by and held at The Brackett Memorial Church. This program really starts the holiday season for Peaks Island families. Watch the Island Times for details and all the details. Musicians who want to play in the "Hallowholf Chorus" please email jbrown16@gmail.com.

Monday, Nov 22
AFTERNOON at the MOVIES - 100 pm - "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" (25 minutes) at 3:00 pm. "Return of the Pink Panther" (rated G/113 minutes). Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

Tuesday, Nov 23
Turkey Tales and Harvest Activities at 6:10 pm, in the Community Room on Peaks Island. Mrs. Crowley-Rockwell will offer the program, geared for children 5-7 years old.

Thursday, Nov 25
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

** ISLAND TIMES **

Monday, Nov 29
MAKING DECORATIONS/ ORNAMENTS for "LIVING" TREE 10:45 am to 3:15 pm - Drop in anytime (Peaks Island community room), all ages welcome. Using recycled cards, we'll make ornaments for "the living tree" as well as home decorations. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2790).

HOMESTAR PROJECT UPDATE 18 Luther Street, Peaks Island

Subtle changes continue as HomeStart moves toward completion of development plans for 18 Luther Street. The Portland Planning Board unanimously approved a site review of the planned subdivision in a public hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 12, which was the last step of the public process. HomeStart is now applying to the Maine Housing Authority for a $350,000 grant from the 2010 Affordable Housing Initiative for Maine Islands Program for construction of two new rental homes on the property. Additional funds are provided by foundation grants and community donations. A construction loan from Peoples United Bank, who maintains a branch office on Peaks Island, will fund rehab or replacement of the existing home for sale or rental as preferred by housing applicants. So, where are the changes? While the Maine Housing Program provides substantial grant support for affordable island housing, its guidelines specify that they be rental property only. HomeStart does not have a long term goal to manage rental property, so it was natural to look for a like-minded nonprofit to take on this function.

After some consideration, the best solution was found to be a partnership with Community Housing of Maine (CHOM), which already developed 519 units throughout the state, over 300 being "workforce housing." CHOM is currently creating six such new rental units from former commercial space on Vinalhaven, and owns and manages housing for some of the most vulnerable residents of our state, in broad collaboration with over 33 providers agencies for support services as needed.

While planning is in the early stages, HomeStart will sell the two new houses to CHOM while retaining the essential deed restrictions and taking care to insure that the HomeStart core goals are maintained, such as priority consideration for current residents or applicants with historic ties to Peaks Island.

We remind you that applications for housing can be found at the library, elementary school and churches for consideration by a review committee that is fully separate from the HomeStart board. Monthly business meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Garvan Senior Center and as always, the public is invited to participate.

Respectfully, the HomeStart board of directors

Jane Bancroft - president; Ellen Mabury - vice president; Sue Kone - secretary; Melissa Childs - treasurer; Nicole Etna; Harvey Johnson; Chris Pozy; Richard Rech; Chris Roberts; Virginia Rysning; Barry Shaw; Barbara Huppin & Don Webster.

Next Issue

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THIS HOLIDAY Season let your fingers do the shopping with our new Holiday Shop Real/Localsection for great gifts and gift ideas from island artists, artisans, practitioners and businesses. Books, jewelry, artwork, gift certificates and more all conveniently located right here, in the next issue of the Island Times! For information on how to include your business, please email tromen@homen Lincoln times. com.

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