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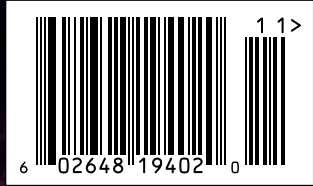
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A chocolate snow shovel and a pair of red gloves are shown on a snowy background. The shovel is made of milk chocolate and has a white filling in the blade. The gloves are red and made of chocolate. The background is a snowy landscape with evergreen trees under a blue sky.

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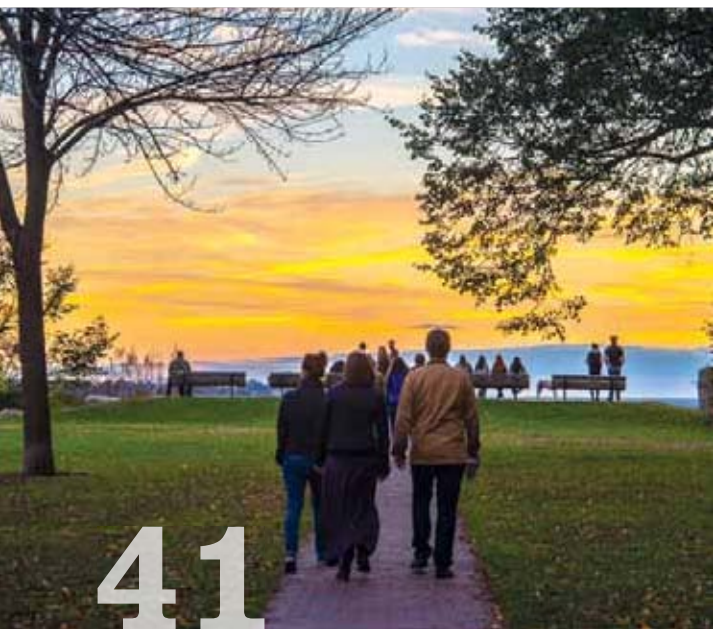
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PORTLAND

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by Sylvia Dyer, 8x10 oil



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EDITORIAL Colin W. Sargent, Editor & Publisher

Scorpio Nation

Welcome to Scorpio Nation. Actually, that's not true. It's more like, "What do you think you're doing in Scorpio Nation?" Because there's nothing like November in Maine. And to make sure nobody truly enjoys it, there's nothing like a Scorpio.

From Pablo Picasso to Katy Perry to Drake to Kendall Jenner to Leonardo DiCaprio and Tyga, Scorpios are "mysterious, secretive... demanding individuals and are driven by the burning passion to lead from the front." On the negative side (yes, those first traits were listed as positive by a Scorpio online!), "they are tremendously possessive and egotistical and have a temperamental nature. Also, their revengeful attribute is an exception for none."

Attribute? Really?

Let's meet some more Scorpios, if you dare. As you can see, nothing whatsoever connects them together: Edith Head, k.d. Lang, Teddy Roosevelt, Stanley Tucci, Bill Gates, Caitlyn Jenner, Pele, Emma Stone, Christopher Columbus, Roy Rodgers, Sam Shephard, Evelyn Waugh, Maria Shriver, Robert Mapplethorpe, David Petraeus, Bobby Knight, Meg Ryan, Marie Curie, Rene Magritte, Chris Noth, Parker Posey, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Hilary Clinton, Benjamin Guggenheim, W.C. Handy, Joni Mitchell, Sam Waterstone, Dorothy Dandridge, Roberto Benigni, Erwin Rommel, Robert Kennedy, Alfre Woodard, Erasmus, Roseanne Barr. Winona Ryder: Was there ever any doubt? Kevin Kline, Rachel McAdams (I mean, did you see her in *Mean Girls*?) Barbara Boxer, Ethan Hawke, Carl Sagan, Jodie Foster, Joaquin Phoenix, Kathy Griffin, Alan Shepard, Dylan Thomas, Robert Louis Stevenson, Ignacy Paderewsky, Ezra Pound, Indira Gandhi, Sylvia Plath, Marie Antoinette, Neil Young, Richard Burton, Kurt Vonnegut, Martin Luther, Ruby Dee, Grace Slick. Rise, my Scorpio brothers and sisters! Ted Turner, Gordon Ramsay.

Gulp: Aaron Hernandez, Lorena Bobbitt, Charles Manson, Mikhail Kalashnikov, Joseph Goebbels, Ike Turner. Yikes.

I was born on November 5. Born on that same day (I'm just sayin'): Tilda Swinton, Vivien Leigh, Kris Jenner, Pele, Art Garfunkel, Sam Rockwell. The Scorpio list goes on, but I'm told that a few Scorpios go a long way. Write to staff@portlandmonthly.com and tell us about the Scorpio who's been getting on your nerves. [For fairness, *Portland Magazine* employees and their families are restricted from participating. Void where prohibited.]

Feel the sting of November. Take a Scorpio out to lunch.



Colin W. Sargent

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double delight. What a good job the curators and the magazine have done.

Wendy Kindred, Portland

THE HUGH McCULLOCH HOUSE

A sincere thank you for [writing about] our home [see "Endangered Species," House of the Month, 160 Summer Street, Kennebunk, September 2015]. We examined your magazine quite thoroughly. It's very impressive—true scholarship.

Thank you for bringing out the house's nickname—The House With The Ballroom—one we've used countless times but never thought of putting in the listing.

Enid and Arthur Thoms, Kennebunk

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Thank you so much your coverage of my exhibit [see "Linked In," October 2015]. It was great to have the support during the second month of the show—I think it reached another audience.

Jo Israelson, Portland

A SIP OF FIVE-YEAR-OLD STEW

Just went through your feature on lobster stew [See "Creme de la Crustacean," September 2010]. This should have only reflected slight variations on traditional lobster stew, not some of the ridiculous concoctions that are listed! With many of them, you would never get the flavor of the lobster which is critical to this wonderful dish. Very disappointing for a product of Maine.

Karen Hall, Mystic, CT

Editor's note: To read this story for yourself, visit <http://www.portlandmonthly.com/port-mag/2010/08/creme-de-la-crustacean/>

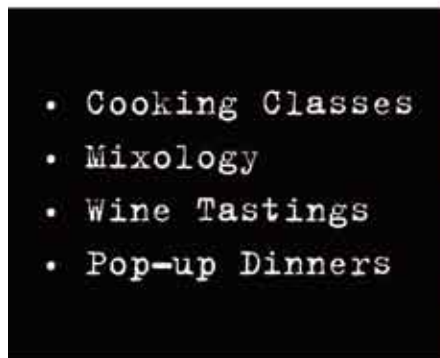
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE, MAINE

[Did you know that *Wave, Night* was painted by Georgia O'Keeffe in 1928 during her stay at York Beach?]

"I did not know that." *Jessie Timberlake*

"That's a neat thing." *Jane Kelloway*

"Very cool!" *Shelley Sproul Ide*



Maine Classics

Cassie Sighting

If it wasn't bad enough that the Whole Foods parking lot in Portland's Bayside neighborhood was swamped in the record rainstorm September 30, look who showed up as a mini-meme... Cassie the Casco Bay Sea Serpent is a nickname coined by this magazine in 1986.

100 Years & Counting

The **Portland Exposition Building** is celebrating its centennial. Fun Fact: The **first East Coast concert of the Beach Boys** took place here in 1963. Other Expo headliners: Rudolph Valentino, Babe Ruth, Rocky Marciano, John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, James Brown, Dolly Parton, the Monkees, Janis Joplin, Ani DiFranco, Paavo Nurmi, and Natalie Merchant.

Ladies' Night Out

Police have concluded "there is no evidence to support" that the schooner **Wendameen** and topsail cutter **Frances** "were released intentionally." These two classic harbor-cruise sailing yachts became mysteriously untied and set adrift from their berths in Portland Harbor around 4:30 a.m. on October 1. Fortunately they were quickly located and damage was minor.

Does this corset make the detector go off at Cumberland County Jail?



Whale's Tale

Although she removes jewelry to avoid setting off the metal detector when visiting clients at the Cumberland County Jail, Attorney Amy Fairfield drew the line when she was asked to remove her underwire bra.

"They are just inviting a lawsuit," Fairfield said to the *Press Herald*. "It's harassing, and it's a constitutional issue."

This wouldn't have happened 150 ago, when cetaceans were being hunted to the brink of extinction, the better to keep women laced into confining foundation garments made of whalebone. (But it might happen today, now that corsets, some reinforced with metal, are in style again, as reported by the *New York Times*.) Maine's whaling industry sputtered out in eastern Penobscot Bay in the mid-19th century. Cumberland County Jail's underwire bra policy sputtered out immediately.

Warm Your Ears

Chester Greenwood (1858-1937), a Farmington tinkerer and entrepreneur, invented earmuffs at age 15, patented them at age 19, and in 1936 shipped 400,000 **Champion Ear Protectors** worldwide from his Farmington factory. The tireless teetotaler also invented the steel rake in his workshop. The Maine legislature officially declared Dec. 21 Chester Greenwood Day in 1977. On December 5, Farmington will hold a parade in his honor.

panache

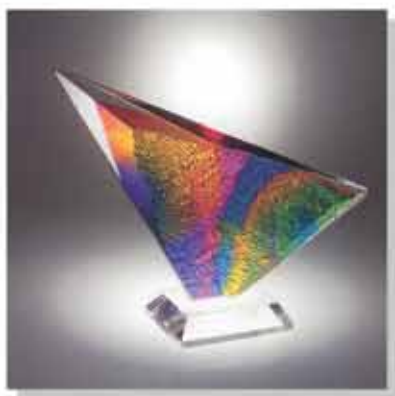
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THEATER

Belfast Maskers/Cold Comfort Theater, see website for locations. *How the Grinch Stole Happiness (or Tried To!)*, Dec. 930-7244 coldcomforttheater.com

Children's Museum & Theater of Maine, 142 Free St., Portland. Stage stories, daily; Santa's Reindeer Present: *The Nutcracker*, Dec. 10-22. 828-1234 kitetails.org

City Theater in Bidd-eford, 205 Main St. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Dec. 4-13. 282-0849 citytheater.org

Freeport Community Players, 30 Holbrook St., Freeport. *WFCP Home Time Radio Hour: 1950s Holiday Edition*, Dec. 4-6. 865-2220 fcponline.org

Maine State Ballet Theater, 348 U.S. Rte. 1, Falmouth. *The Nutcracker*, Nov. 28-Dec. 6. 781-7672 mainestateballet.org

The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Irving Berlin's *White Christmas The Musical*, Dec. 9-20. themusichall.org

Portland Ballet, at Westbrook Performing Arts Center. *The Victorian Nutcracker*, Dec. 12, 13; Dec. 16 at Merrill Auditorium. 772-9671 portlandballet.org

Portland Stage, 25 Forest Ave. *The Mountaintop*, Nov. 4-24; *The Snow*

Shaping Sound - Dance Reimagined
Merrill Auditorium, November 13, 8pm



Queen, Dec. 5-24. 774-0645 portlandstage.org

Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus—Live*, Nov. 6-8; *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 11-13. 782-3200 thepublitheatre.org

Schoolhouse Arts Center, Rte. 114, Sebago Lake Village. *Disney's The Aristocats KIDS*, Nov. 6-8; *It's a Wonderful Life The Musical*, Dec. 4-20. 642-3743 schoolhousearts.org

GALLERIES

Art Gallery at UNE, 716

Stevens Ave., Portland. *Portraits of the Artist*, Nov. 7-Feb. 7. 221-4499 une.edu/artgallery

Bates College Museum of Art, Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. *Maine Collected, The View Out the Window (and in his mind's eye)*, thru Mar. 2016. 786-6158 bates.edu/museum

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, 1 Bath Rd., Brunswick. Gilbert Stuart: *From Boston to Brunswick*, thru Jan. 3; *Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts in Africa*, thru Mar. 6; *Olive Pierce: Photographing a Maine Fishing Community*, thru Jan. 17; *To Count Art an Intimate Friend: Highlights from the Bowdoin Collections 1794 to Present*, thru June 5. 725-3275 bowdoin.edu/art-museum

Colby College Museum of Art, 5600 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville. *Aesthetic Harmonies: Whistler in Context*, thru Jan. 3; *Whistler and the World: The Lunder Collection of James McNeill Whistler*, thru Jan. 10. 859-5600 colby.edu

Farnsworth Art Museum, 16 Museum St., Rockland. *The Wyeths, Maine and the Sea*, thru Jan. 3; *Maine Collects: Treasures from Maine's Private Collections; Picturing Maine*,

thru Mar. 27. 596-6457 farnsworthmuseum.org

First Friday Art Walk, downtown Portland. Visit local galleries, studios, and museums, Nov. 6; Dec. 4. firstfridayartwalk.com

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Me, Mona, and Mao: Art, Fame and Visual Culture An interactive installation exploring the celebrity status of images opens November 20 at the Portland Museum of Art.



Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress St., Portland. See website for coming exhibitions. 774-1822 mainehistory.org

Maine Jewish Museum, 267 Congress St., Portland. Rich Entel, opens Nov. 5. mainejewishmuseum.org

Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. *Rose Marasco: Index*, thru Dec.; *You Can't Get There from Here: 2015 Portland Museum Biennial*, thru Jan. 3; *Me, Mona and Mao*, Nov. 20 – Feb. 21. 775-6148 portlandmuseum.org

Katastro, Nov. 7; Buckcherry, Nov. 20; Machine Head, Nov. 27; Vanessa Carlton, Dec. 5; Jon Pardi with Brothers Osborne, Dec. 19. portlandasylum.com

Blue, 650 Congress St., Portland. Acoustic Jam, Every Tues.; Irish Music Night, Every Wed.; See website for more listings. 774-4111. portcityblue.com

Boothbay Opera House, 86 Townsend Ave., Boothbay Harbor. Rhiannon Giddens, Nov. 14; The Dough Ball Fundraiser, Dec. 11; Annual Gingerbread Spectacular,



The Ballroom Thieves—Martin Earley, Calin Peters, and Devin Mauch—perform at H.O.M.E., 25 Temple St., Portland, with Brothers Landreth, November 20. Original, live music for \$10! 805-0134 portlandhouseofmusic.com

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Dec. 12-13; Holiday Potluck and Carol Singing, Dec. 21. See website for more dates. 633-5159 boothbayoperahouse.com

Cross Insurance Arena, 1 Center Street, Portland. Shinedown and Breaking Benjamin, Nov. 24. 775-3458 crossarenaportland.com

Dogfish Bar & Grille, 128 Free St., Portland. Acoustic Open Mic, every Wed.; Jazz Happy Hour with Travis James Humphrey & guests, every Fri.; Live music Wed.-Sat. every week. See website for more listings. 772-5483 thedogfishcompany.com

Empire, 575 Congress St., Portland. The Couch open mic, every Sun; Clash of the Titans, every Wed. See website for more listings. 747-5063 portlandempire.com

Portland House of Music, 57 Temple St., Portland. Mama's Boomshack, Nov. 4; Micro-mass, Nov. 18, 25; Ballroom Thieves, Nov. 20. 805-0134. portlandhouseofmusic.com

Jonathan's, 92 Bournes Ln., Ogunquit. The Legends Live On! Allman, Neville, Pitchell, King, Charles Show!, Nov. 13; The Weight, Nov. 14; Madeleine Peyroux, Nov. 21; Paula Poundstone, Nov. 28; Judy Collins, Dec. 5. 646-4526 jonathansogunquit.com

Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland. Enchanted Favorites, Nov. 10; Shaping Sound, Nov. 13; Carol Williams, Nov. 17; Portland Symphony Orchestra presents *Brahms' Second Concerto*, Nov. 22; Polar Express, Nov. 27-Dec. 23; Big Band Holidays, Dec. 2; Magic of Christmas, Dec. 11; Christmas with Cornils, Dec. 22. 842-0800 porttix.com

One Longfellow Square, 181 State St., Portland. Parsonfield, Nov. 13; Big Sandy and his Fly Rite Boys, Ben Caplan and the Casual Smokers, Nov. 14; July Talk and Little Hurricane, Nov. 17; Steve Forbert, Nov. 18; Portland Jazz Orchestra, Nov. 19, Dec. 17; Aztec Two Step, Nov. 20; Decompression Chamber Music, Nov. 23; Mr. Sun, Nov. 28; Jerry Foucault, Dec. 2; Delta Rae, Dec. 4; Anais Mitchell, Dec. 5; Ronnie Earl, Dec. 11. 761-1757 onelongfellowsquare.com

Port City Music Hall, 504 Congress St., Portland. Diarrhea Planet, Nov. 11; WinterKids Presents: 4th Annual License to Chill feat, The Awesome, Nov. 12; Carbon Leaf, Nov. 13; Bronze Radio Return, Nov. 14; Robert Earl Keen, Nov. 16; Papadosio, Nov. 17; They Might Be Giants, Nov. 19; Dead Sessions, Nov. 25; Pardon Me, Doug, Nov. 27; Start Making Sense - Talking Heads Tribute, Dec. 27; Mallett Brothers Band, Dec. 31. 956-6000 portcitymusichall.com

State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland. Dave Rawlings Machine, Nov. 13; Nate Ruess, Nov. 15; Bo Burnham, Nov.

Vanessa Carleton
December 5 at Asylum.



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16th Annual Santa Sunday at Sunday River December 6

16; Cooder-White-Skaggs, Nov. 18; Dark Star Orchestra, Nov. 19; David Grisman & Del McCoury, Nov. 20; Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Nov. 22; 13th Annual Beatles Night, Nov. 28-29; The Fogcutters present Big Band Syndrome Volume 5, Dec. 11; Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime, Dec. 26. 956-6000 statetheatreportland.com

Stone Mountain Arts Center, 695 Dug Way Rd., Brownfield. Waltzings for Dreamers: Dietrich Strause and Band, Nov. 12; Della Mae, Nov. 13; Joyce Anderson and Devonsquare, Nov. 20; Jubilee Riots, Nov. 21; Robert Cray Band, Nov. 22; Girls, Guns and Glory, Nov. 28; Stone Mountain LIVE for Christmas, Dec. 11, 18, 19; New Years Eve with Shamekia Copeland, Dec. 31. 935-7292 stonemountainartscenter.com

TASTY EVENTS

Browne Trading Company, 262 Commercial St.,

Portland. Wine tastings, one or more Sat. every month, 1-5 pm. 775-7560 brownetrading.com

Craft Beer Cellar, 111 Commercial St., Portland. Craft beer tastings every Fri. 956-7322 craftbeer cellar.com

Flanagan Farm, 668 Naragansett Trail (Rt. 202), Buxton. Benefit dinners prepared by local chefs to benefit Maine Farmland Trust. Andrew Taylor and Michael Wiley of Hugo's and Eventide Oyster Co., Nov. 1; Jason Loring of Nosh and Slab, Dec. 4; Benefit for Full Plates, Full Potential, Dec. 6. flanaganstable.com

Local Sprouts, 649 Congress St., Portland. Music Brunch with Sean Mencher and friends, every Sun.; Local Foods Networking Breakfast, Nov. 17. localsproutscooperative.com

Lolita Vinoteca + Asador, 90 Congress St., Portland. Tapas Mondays, every Mon. 3-11, wines paired

with small plates. 775-5652 lolita-portland.com

Maine Brewers Festival, Portland Expo. Craft beers from all over Maine, Nov. 1. Mainebrewersfestival.com

Maine Harvest Festival, Cross Insurance Ctr., Bangor. A delicious celebration of Maine's small farms and their bounty, Nov. 14-15. maineharvestfestival.com

Old Port Wine Merchants, 223 Commercial St., Portland. Wine tasting every third Wed. 772-9463 oldportwine.com

Sweetgrass Farm Old Port Tasting Room, 324 Fore St., Portland. Maine-made wine, bitters, and spirit tastings all the time. 761-8446 sweetgrasswinery.com

The West End Deli & Catering, 545 Congress St., Portland. Wine tastings every first Fri., 6-8pm. 774-6426 thewestenddeli.com

DON'T MISS

Christmas Boat Parade of Lights, Portland Harbor. Casco Bay Lines presents the annual boat parade, celebrating the holidays and Portland's maritime history, Dec. 12. Cascobaylines.com

Cross Insurance Arena, 1 Center Street, Portland. So You Think You Can Dance Season 12 Live Tour Nov. 14. 775-3458 crossarenaportland.com

Festival of Lights, Down-



Susan Maasch Fine Art, 4 City Center, Portland. Small Works, opens November 30. susanmaaschfineart.com

town Kennebunk. Local merchant sales, refreshments, carriage rides and ice skating, Nov. 28. gokennebunks.com

Festival of Trees, Downtown Saco. Decorated trees and wreaths to ring in the holidays, December. Sacomaine.org

Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude Celebration, Kennebunkport. Tree lightings, entertainment, shopping, craft fairs, caroling, and Santa in a boat. Dec. 1-13. Kennebunkport.org

Lighting of the Nubble, Sohler Park, York. Annual

lighting of Nubble Lighthouse with music, cocoa, cookies and a special appearance from Santa, Nov. 28. Nubblelight.org

Sugarloaf, 5092 Access Rd., Carrabasset Valley. Holiday Gift Bazaar, Dec. 12-13. Sugarloaf.com

Sunday River, Sunday River Rd., Newry. Tin Mountain Roundup, Nov. 21; Thanksgiving Weekend, Nov. 26-29; Demo Days, Nov. 28-29; Santa Sunday, Dec. 6; Winterfest Weekend, Dec. 11-13. Sundayriver.com

—Compiled by Jeanee Dudley

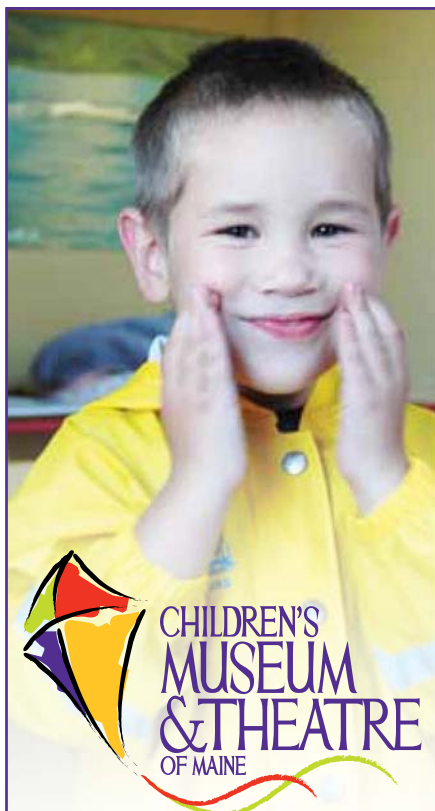


Get pumped for ski season! Warren Miller's "Chasing Shadows"—his 66th ski and snowboard film—at the State Theatre, Nov. 21. warrenmiller.com, statetheatre.com



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Micro Raves

Nobody asked us but...Percy Spencer (1894-1970), a Raytheon engineer, was the Howland native who invented the microwave oven. Spencer popped his first corn kernel 1945; in 1967 the first "Radarange" became commercially available. Above, Jennifer Lawrence in *American Hustle* (2013).

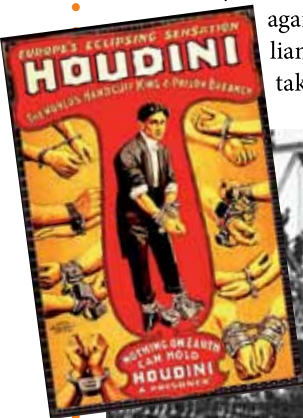


Endless Summer

No one told the indoor/outdoor cart **Highroller Lobster** that food truck season is over! Catch them at TheHighroller.me for their latest location. Try the chipotle mayo and wasabi toppings.

Houdini Selfie

Before the Casco Bay Bridge was the Million Dollar Bridge. Before the Million Dollar Bridge was this wooden Portland Bridge. And that arm coming out of the water? That's Harry Houdini in 1911, pulling it off again. Who's to say the brilliant escape artist didn't take this picture himself?



Brand New Tardigrade

You know you've really made it as an artist when they name a microscopic organism after you. Because it was discovered on Allen Island, property of the Wyeth family, Unity College professor Dr. Emma Perry has named this new member of a species of tardigrade ***Echiniscoides wyethi***. Any resemblance to a *Star Wars* character is purely incidental.



Just Too Good To Be Crewe?

No—it's true! The late songwriter and Scarborough resident **Bob Crewe** has left a \$3 million grant to **Maine College of Art** to establish the Bob Crewe Program In Art & Music. Because of this gift, MECA's main Porteous building on Congress Street will house a 25,000-square-foot classroom and sound equipment space in its lower level. Crewe is best remembered for mega-hits of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You." He also wrote hits for Roberta Flack, Patti LaBelle, Michael Jackson, Oliver, Mitch Rider and the Detroit Wheels, Lesley Gore, and Bobby Darin.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GALLERYHIP.COM; MEAGHAN AMURICE; THEROUNDPLACETHMIDDLE.COM; EYE OF SCIENCE; SCIENCE SOURCE; FILE PHOTO.

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NOT Home for the Holidays

Push yourself away from the table, baby, and hit the town.

BY OLIVIA GUNN

It's that time of year again, folks. The leaves are ditching us, snow has fallen, and the city's even started the search for the perfect tree to shine brightly in Monument Square. All of this adds up to cozy nights by the fire, festive parties with friends and neighbors, and holiday cheer. It also means you'll be expecting visits from everyone and their mother, including, possibly, yours.

So where do you take your family in a town with a choice for everyone? If yours is anything like my family, deciding where to eat or drink can mean rolling out a lot of baggage. The holidays are stressful enough without the never-ending family feud between Aunt Sis and Grandma Dot. So here are some suggestions for you and yours that may get you through. Happy Holidays!

UP FRONT

While you can always expect a bit of a wait, the Front Room is an easy choice for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Most likely, you'll find something on the menu that suits all three. My parents arrived around 1 p.m. They'd driven from Pennsylvania, stayed overnight in Connecticut, and finally arrived on Sunday afternoon, wanting to waste no time.

The Front Room gets nice natural lighting during the day, and though it is usual-

ly full, it never feels overwhelming. We're seated after a few minutes, and mom and I waste no time scoping the drink menu. "Two Apple Cider Mimosas coming right up."

Our meals are a good size, and we end up doing a family buffet. Little mac and cheese here, a little pulled-chicken sandwich there.

Maybe brunch isn't your thing? The Front Room is still a great pick for dinner, though I wouldn't suggest a large group, as the space just isn't cut out for it. It's perfect for a group of four.

OTTO, OBVIOUSLY

Everyone has his or her favorite location, whether 576 Congress or 225 Congress—usually, it just depends on whether you're in the West or East End at the time. Since moving to Munjoy Hill, I've found myself with fewer options for a happy hour but also completely satisfied with Otto's "slice-for-a-beer" special. Go in between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and you can sit at the bar and enjoy a dreamy draft with a slice of mashed potato, bacon, and scallion, or maybe a vegetarian slice like the Margherita.



The Gideon Forbes Band comes to Blue on November 28.

The 225 Congress location is a great escape from the busy streets of downtown, and it's large enough for a big group of cousins, grandkids, and siblings. Just you, your honey, and the in-laws? Grab a snug little booth, and share a whole pie. The bar is large enough that even on a crowded evening, you're bound to find seats. When visiting with my own parents, I couldn't tell what my father liked more: seeing meatloaf on a slice of pizza or Sophia Loren hanging

on the walls. You won't find liquor at Otto, which, when family is involved, isn't always a bad thing, but the beers, wine, and ciders go down quite nice.

BLUE AFTER DINNER

Nothing makes my dad happier than Grey Goose on ice and some good blues. Seeing as it was his first visit to Portland, I wanted nothing more than to make him fall in love with the city that stole my heart. After a day of lighthouses, breweries, and a quick nap, it's time for Portland after dark. We head into Blue, my dad with a clean-shaven head topped with a fedora and my stepmom Mary standing 6'3" in heels with flaming red hair. Fil and I smile as the two draw looks from all corners of the room. We accepted it some time ago that my parents are much cooler than us.

Walking into Blue is a bit of a shock.



Out & About

Shay's Grill Pub in Monument Square is known for its tasty \$5 martini.

Since I've last been here, the place seems as though it's nearly doubled its size. Now there is much more space for the musicians, with seating between the stage area and a back bar. We take a seat there and happen to run into a good friend of mine and local musician, Viva. She joins our table with her



A prettily garnished Blueberry Fields at Vena's Fizz House.

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date, and the six of us—a number that would have been a squeeze before the renovation—sit back with our nightcaps and enjoy the performances by Samuel James and Dana Gross. Dad is impressed, so much so that he buys another round before the day catches up with all of us.

MIXING IT UP

Cocktails and mocktails are his game, and Steve Corman is his name. After a Sunday afternoon stroll in the Old Port, we're looking for a place to stop, refresh, and beer is not on the menu. After a weekend out, we want simple, quiet, and non-alcoholic, please.

At the intersection of Silver and Fore Streets, Fil spots Vena's Fizz House and wants to take a peek, as he's started creating bit of a bar at home and working his own cocktail magic for friends. The man makes a mean margarita.

The front house is a shop of potions, mixers, and elixirs, and we're having a field day going through the tiny bottles. We even start pretending we're in Diagon Alley,

prepping for Hogwarts.

Eventually, a friendly-faced man in square-rimmed glasses makes his way over and asks if we have any questions. Fil seizes the opportunity to inquire about bitters, and so it begins. Steve Corman, who owns the place with his wife, Johanna, whisks us to the back, where an entire bar is set up. We take seats and are offered sodas on the house. As Steve concocts the fizzing brews, he tells us the story of how Vena's began when Johanna woke up one morning with a really, really good idea.

We end up spending nearly an hour as Steve explains and describes different flavors and techniques. The two of us sit there, giddy like children, mesmerized by Steve's showmanship and storytelling.

Before long, another group joins, and Steve tends to their drinks. We say our good-byes and promise to return with every visitor we have. Fil buys us souvenirs. Two mason jars of dried fruits, cinnamon, and crystal clumps of sugar will become Blackberry Maple Lightnings—we simply have to add bour-



bon. And, on Steve's recommendation, we buy a tiny bottle of Dashfire bitters. Let's just say, we've never had more friends wanting to stop for happy hour at our house. ■

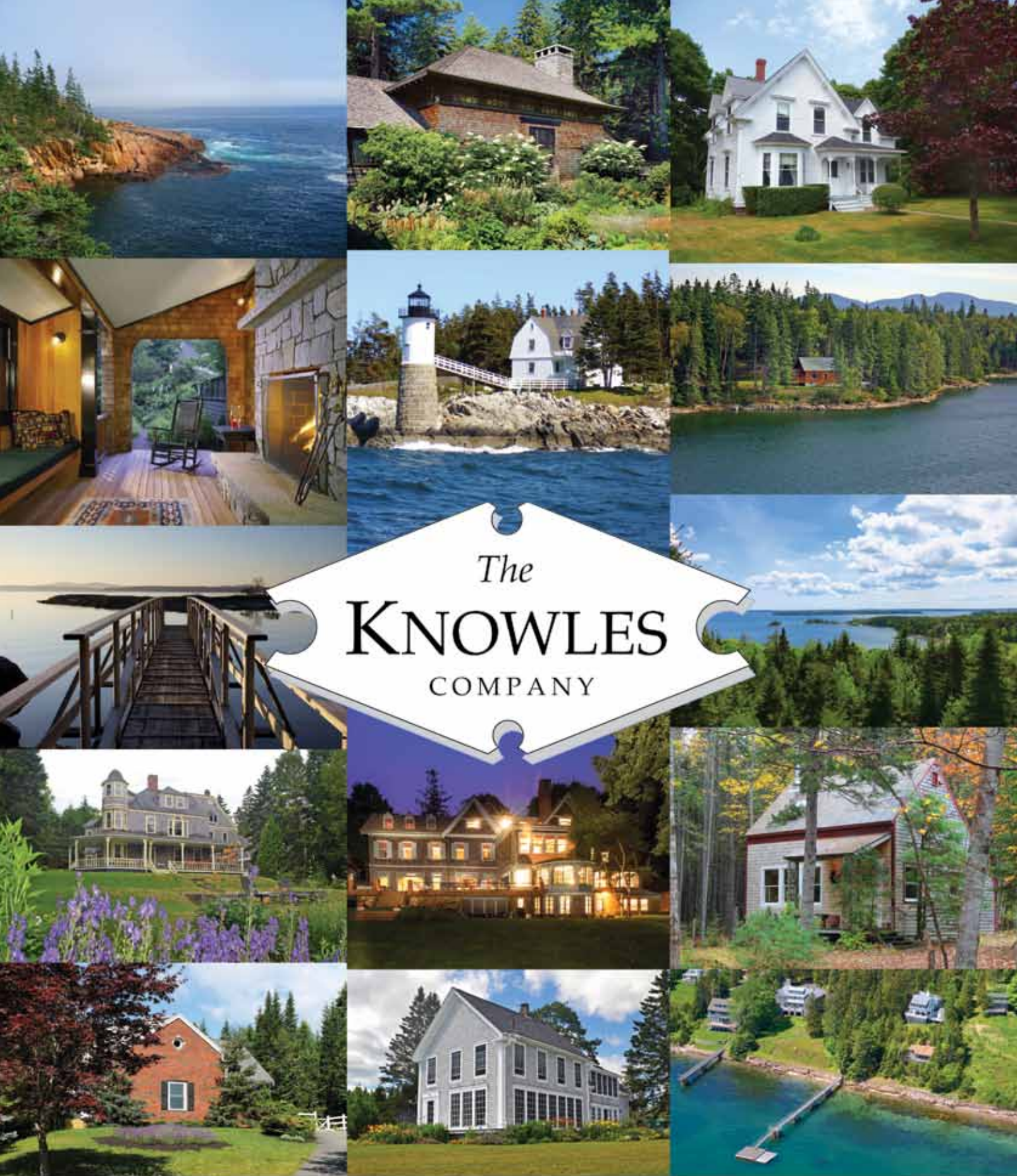
FROM LEFT: VENA'S FIZZ; INSTAGRAM @GLOWANDGLITTER; @BAIIS

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10 MOST Intriguing

These Mainers dared to be different.



Les Otten,
Dreamweaver
Bethel

INTERVIEW BY COLIN W. SARGENT



We know him as the Man From Sunday River. How about The Man Who Saved Fenway Park. This year, Les Otten is also The Dreamer Who Is Quintupling the Balsams to Become an International Destination on the Order of Banff. We reached Otten at his home in Bethel by telephone:

The Balsams is etched into memory as a Shangri-La run by Steve Barba. You've dared to think bigger about this wilderness resort to put it on the map as a huge attraction. The scale is astonishing. Can you tell us about your original vision and how it was essential to dream differently than others might? The opportunity was once-in-a-lifetime. We've had the chance to envision a year-round destination resort from scratch, with no limitations on how you could imagine the project. We rethought everything: real-estate ownership, skiing, yoga, fat-tire biking, water sports, how it all comes together. Our model is more like a college campus than an Olympic Village, and it goes like



this. In a student union—in the 1960s sense of a student union—you slept in one place, in the hub. The other attractions, such as classes, athletic facilities, the library, were on the outside of the wagon wheel. We liked that. The thing that was cool about the original Balsams was that lake right outside your front door and the ability to have a hot-spring sauna at your back door. The Balsams had great food, ice-skating, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, but the route to making it universally known wasn't as available to Steve and Neil Tillotsen. Now you can see that we'll have world-class skiing available. It was exciting to envision what a 21st-century resort would look like. We're well on our way to at least get our permits. The launch is underway.

With the lodging we are contemplating in the first phase, that figure is \$143 million. That will leave us with three hotels, Hampshire House, Dix House, and the Gloriette House. The key component is the gondola. The gondola will take guests right up to the downhill skiing, right from the hotels. Most ski resorts were not designed as summer and winter. You'd have the parking lot, the base lodge, the lifts that get to the ski lodge, and then the skiing. If you're going to go paddlewheeling or skimobiling, etc., you'd have to get in your car. With us, everything we're doing is within walking distance. Hot spring spa. Walking distance. Gondola. Walking distance. Cooking school. Walking distance. Starting from scratch, we could design to let people walk from their bedroom. 'If I want to go to cooking school and you want to go cross-country skiing and our wives want to go four-wheel driving, there doesn't have to be a transportation plan.

I've known and loved The Balsams for a long time. I played golf when I was a member of Rotary, maybe 35 or 40 years ago. With The Balsams of the past, the food was always great, the cross-country ski great, the alpine skiing...ehhh. We will have guests who will come to the enjoy the spa and cooking school and the spring, ride the gondola just to go up to lunch, and they're *never going to ski*. They need not. We're the full component. We don't need to have hotel partners. We don't share in revenue—we are the revenue stream. If there's a dollar being spent, it's being spent with us.

How much bigger can The Balsams possibly get?
We've got it up to 11,000 acres.

When you think of The Balsams, you think of politics, because the first few votes of a presidential election are tallied there. You've ventured into politics before. Are there any politics in your future?
The politics of life. I have not ruled out being an astronaut, either. I have no present plans about politics.

How about your romantic life? Do you have a significant other?
I'm out of the significant other category. I'm dating a wonderful aesthetician from Freeport right now.

You're not afraid to diversify. Tell us about ventures of yours that some Mainers might not connect with you.
We're doing very well with our renewable energy business, wood-pellet boilers. Our wood-pellet furnace just made it through EPA testing with flying colors. Largest manufacturer in the U.S. of wood-pellet furnaces, made in Maine. We've been in the business eight years.

In our indoor-golf business, we've had a breakthrough. Most ball spin golf systems are priced in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range. Ours is going to hit the \$3,000 range. Dramatic decrease in price that

puts it in somebody's home. That's pretty cool.
Then there's the drumbeat at Sunday River. I got together with Joey Kramer from Aerosmith. He and I are presenting Joey Kramer's Rockin' & Roastin' Cafe & Restaurant," transforming a restaurant at the base of Sunday River and roasting coffee. It's going to be a fun venue. Think Battle of the Bands.

When you see the Red Sox play, what one part of your part of being on the \$700M ownership team on December 21 of 2001 comes back to you?
Fenway Park. When I entered the fray in October of 2000, there was a plan to remodel Fenway Park, with a \$625M pricetag. The plan was to move the park cross the street. I couldn't understand why someone would want to tear down a ballpark like Fenway. It would have been an exacting model of it, the same dimensions of it. With a single thought, we launched the purchase of the Red Sox around Fenway Park. Six of the other seven bidding groups were going to move it across the street. Or to the waterfront. Or to Suffolk. I was the guy who said no. It wouldn't be there if I hadn't debunked the myth of it sinking in the Fens. I hired Leslie Roberts & Assoc., the prestigious engineering firm who had done the evaluations of the World Trade Center repairs needed when the bombs went off in the WTC years before 9/11.

You create dreams for vacationers. Where do you go to get away?
Paris, London, and Holland. But it's not a matter of going on vacation. That's not tourism. I'm not generally a tourist. That's visiting family. I'm one of the lucky Jews. How many can say I have surviving relatives in London, Paris, and Holland? Also related to luck, I certainly appreciate the ability to be intriguing after all these years. 🦋

See "Art On Ice," on page 51 for more on Les Otten and the remarkable Albert Otten art collection.



Otten teams up with Aerosmith drummer Joey Kramer, above, at their new Sunday River restaurant/café.

Susan Collins,
U.S. Senator

Caribou

INTERVIEW BY OLIVIA GUNN

On September 17, Sen. Susan Collins cast her 6,000th consecutive vote in Washington—18 years without ever missing a roll call. While not all of the votes were easy, and at times crossed party lines, Collins votes her conscience.

Do you miss Olympia? Can you give us an example of “How I wish she were here, right now.”

I very much like working with Senator Angus King, but of course I miss Olympia. I miss her most when we’re in the midst of a vigorous debate in the Republican caucus, and I wish there was another strong, centrist woman who can speak up and underscore the point I make.

Will you feel any of the fallout, good or bad, from House Speaker Boehner’s retirement?

My concern about the Speaker’s retirement is that it will slow negotiations on the budget. This is a critical time of the year for those negotiations. To have such chaos in who is going to be the leader of the Republicans will make those negotiations go more slowly, and it’s absolutely critical that we reach an agreement to avoid shutting down the government or defaulting on the debt. I am also concerned because of the disruptive nature in the leadership elections and how it highlights what separates us rather than what unites us, and that’s not good for the country.

What did you think of Rep. Kevin McCarthy stepping out of the race?

I was extremely surprised. I had seen him just a few days before, and he was looking forward to serving and confident he would be elected. It certainly came as a huge surprise to all of us on the Senate side.

What was it like to be the first Republican senator to be re-elected after supporting same-sex marriage?

In Maine, same-sex marriage had been passed by referendum, and it had become increasingly accepted. It wasn’t as much of a factor in my race as you might think. I’d



gone to a wedding of dear friends of mine before my election and was actually a reader in their wedding. They’d been together for 23 years, and I saw the extraordinary happiness on both their faces and the support they’d received from friends and family. I was delighted to participate in that wedding.

What is the most difficult vote you’ve ever made away from the party line? Can you take us closer to that decision?

That would be to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. Five years later, in 2015, that looks like a no-brainer, an easy vote. But back in 2010 there was not at all a consensus for that. And indeed, when I was serving on the Armed Services Committee at the time, I was the only Republican on the committee to vote during the committee mark up and to speak in favor of repealing Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. There were members of the committee who

had served in the military, and they were very angry at me because of my vote. I felt that it was the right thing to do, but I was clearly a minority. I’m very proud to have introduced the bill with Joe Lieberman that finally became law and ended that discrimination. To me, we should be expressing our gratitude to people who are willing to serve in our military regardless of their sexual orientation, not trying to drum them out because they are gay or lesbian. But five years

“Senator Barbara Mikulsky has taught me so much about how to be an effective senator.”

ago, there was a lot of opposition. I had to work extremely hard to get the other eight votes that allowed us to overcome a filibuster and pass the law to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. At the time, for example, the Commandant of the Marine Corps testified very strongly against the repeal. There were military leaders for the repeal and leaders very much against it.

Bath Iron Works—what shipbuilding program do you hope they’ll land next, and how can they do it?

The next program I hope BIW will be successful bidding on is for a series of Coast Guard cutters. These would be essential for replacing the old, worn-out cutters in the fleet. The advantage of this work is that it would help fit very nicely into the work that BIW already does for the Navy, and it would help fill in some of the gaps between building naval ships and keep a more consistent



She got to the church on time, too. At ease with husband Thomas Daffron, whom she married in 2012, and at work, above, on a visit to the White House.

PEOPLE

work flow, and that means avoiding layoffs and keeping jobs at BIW. That's my hope. To win those contracts is going to be a challenge. We will be competing against smaller yards that have been building cutters for the Coast Guard for years, and that's not a line of work BIW has been in. BIW employees and managers are going to have to work together in a cooperative spirit to make sure they can win that very important contract.

Drawing on your Caribou experience, what missed opportunities have there been for Maine as a border state with Canada? How could we make more out of our geographic advantage?

We could do much more to collaborate with Canada on energy production. In particular, off-shore wind energy where collaboration with Canadian firms might allow us to produce energy together that could serve both of our countries but particularly the electricity needs of the East Coast in the United States, where so much of our population lives.

We haven't collaborated very much with the Canadians on alternative energy, and I think that offers great promise. So far, it has been a missed opportunity. It's also an opportunity for us to secure power through Hydro-Quebec.

You're famous for attending every vote. Is there a perfect-attendance plaque on the wall in Caribou? Have you ever skipped out of anything? Did you ever cut a class in college, and if so, which one?

My parents were pretty strict about missing school. They always stressed the importance of it, and unless you had a fever, you most likely went to school in my family. In college, I went to class because I found that if you went to class, you didn't have to do all of the reading. I'm but sure it was out of the best motivation rather than a practical realization. I will confess that I have left early, sneaked out of the endless social events that we have here in Washington. They go on for hour after hour after hour. Many of them are interesting, some of them are glamorous, occasionally they are fun, but mostly they are just too long.

Who are your inspirations today?

I very much look up to Pope Francis, and I was so thrilled to be a part of the official escort committee when he addressed the joint session of Congress during his trip to Washington. His face radiates joy. He is so welcom-

(Continued on page 86)

Chris Poulos
Rising Star
Portland

BY JEANEE DUDLEY

With his dazzling grin and preppy, almost Kennedy-like, demeanor, you'd think Christopher Poulos was a role model. And he is—after a stunning turnaround. Today, he is a third-year law student at the University of Southern Maine, an advocate for criminal sentencing reform, and a proponent of treating substance use disorder as a public health issue instead of a moral failure. He works in Maine and in Washington, D.C., with fellow advocates and policy makers to challenge and remedy the war on drugs, accomplishments that would have seemed all but impossible in 2007 when Poulos began a three-year sentence in federal prison for felony drug charges.

Triumphantly, his criminal record has taken a back seat to his accomplishments in the last eight years—a possibility he believes should be open to all people dealing with substance use disorder.

"My past does not define who I am as a human being," he explains. "What I have done and what has been done to me is part of my path but not who I am. That's why I'm able to walk into these places and work with the people I work with. I reject being defined as a junkie, a felon, or a former addict; I'm a human being, I'm a person in long-term recovery, and I'm just staying on this path."

His work in Maine and D.C. aims to help others in recovery stay on their paths. Beyond staggering incarceration rates for people dealing with substance use, Poulos remarks that there is a severe dearth of support services both for people in the prison system and those who have been released.



A hike to the summit of Mount Katahdin is the way Chris Poulos celebrates his birthdays since he's turned his life around.

"When someone goes into a correctional facility, the idea is to correct the behavior that led them there," says Poulos. "There is a significant lack of services in most places when you're incarcerated and when you get out. This leads to people who give up hope and return to the behaviors that led them there." While a lack of support both within the prison system and outside it is a primary detractor to successful recovery, Poulos says there is more to the issue.

"The collateral consequences are often more severe, such as not being able to rent an apartment, not getting a job, or, in some states, being unable to access public assistance with a criminal record. A lot of the work I do is to remove these barriers. It makes sense for everybody."

While barriers still exist, Poulos has some words of advice for people in recovery. "If you want to go to college, apply," he says. "If you want to work in government, go for it and let them say no if they want to. For me, it's been a matter of not believing anyone who tells me I can't do something or that I can't go somewhere because of where I've been. Instead of believing that, I work to the best of my ability and show them how it can be done. Small, definite, concrete steps on a daily basis has been the key—I didn't wake up and come out of alcohol and drug use or federal prison to the position I'm in now. It's been years of small steps every single day."

Those baby steps have left big footprints. Poulos says he is seeing progress locally and nationwide in the way the justice system and government perceive and treat substance

(Continued on page 86)

Nancie Atwell

Educator

Edgecomb

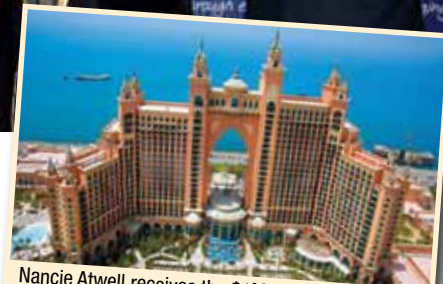
BY JEANEE DUDLEY

Well-behaved teachers rarely make history. In 2015, Nancie Atwell was awarded the first Global Teacher Prize of \$1M for her outstanding dedication to research-based teaching. Her Center for Teaching and Learning, a K-8 independent demonstration school she founded in Edgecomb in 1990, emphasizes teaching students to be critical thinkers and teaching instructors to establish methods and curricula that encourage effective learning.

Atwell and her colleagues at the Center rail against Common Core standards. "In the last few years, the Common Core has really taken control of what happens in schools—especially, from my perspective, in writing and reading instruction," she says. "The Common Core has set us back de-

CADES in terms of what people learn about authentic, purposeful literacy. I was a high school student in the 1960s, when all you ever wrote were five-page essays. We're back there again, with kids reading one book the whole class, parsing and discussing every sentence—most kids might read four whole class novels a year."

Atwell's students read as many as 50 books



Nancie Atwell receives the \$1M Global Teacher Prize at Atlantis The Palm Hotel in Dubai from former president Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Sunny Varkey of the Varkey Foundation.

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PEOPLE

per year. “My students read deeply and widely across many genres. They become avid, habitual, critical readers. The whole emphasis on kids and teachers being engaged in what they’re doing has been lost to this set of standards, with no research basis. As someone who reads and conducts literacy research, this is especially upsetting because it’s contradicted everything that good teachers know about how to help kids become literate in the richest sense of the word.”

Atwell came under criticism in March for remarks she made to CNN, advising people who want to teach to seek an alternate course. “I’ll say the same thing again,” she says. “There is an alternative audience for methods that invite kids to engage as real writers and readers.” Her best-selling book, *In The Middle* (Heinemann, 1989) explores research-based educational methods and has sold more than 5 million copies.

“To new teachers, I say look for public schools where administrators are enlightened and will support teacher autonomy and research-based methods,” she says.

“Maine is a great place to be an innovator. It seems to invite it.”

“Or seek out independent school experiences. Although we’re on the fringe geographically here in Maine, the work I’m doing has had broad mainstream acceptance.”

Atwell has chosen to apply her winnings from the Global Teacher Prize directly to her school. “We’re not doing anything extravagant—we’re a nonprofit operating in the red for all time,” she says. “The Varkey Foundation [which awarded the prize] is writing checks directly to the Center for Teaching and Learning, which we are using to replace our boilers and some old carpet and to fund tuition assistance.”

The award ensures the continued operation of the Center for the next 10 years—an institution that will stay in Maine. “My husband and I moved here from Buffalo in 1975, and it has been wonderful,” she says. “Maine is a great place to be an innovator—it seems to invite it.”



Glenn Cummings
USM President
Portland

BY JEANEE DUDLEY

What a horror show. Students and faculty were demonstrating. USM seemed to be self-destructing. Then Glenn Cummings was appointed president, and in short weeks a complete reversal has taken place amid an atmosphere of eerie calm. Next stop, unbridled optimism. Who is this guy, and is he for real?

“My brother and I were the first in our family to get four-year degrees,” Cummings says. “But my grandmother got her two-year degree in teaching at the Maine Normal School in Gorham, which is now the University of Southern Maine campus.”

Cummings was inspired to follow a similar path. In the course of his career, he has served on the Maine Joint Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs, as an assistant professor of educational leadership at the University of Southern Maine, as president and executive director of the Good Will-Hinckley organization, and as deputy assistant secretary within the U.S. Department of Education under President Obama. He also served eight years in the Maine legislature, including two as Speaker of the House, before he term-limited out in 2008. A consummate academic, he has a BA from Ohio Wesleyan, an MA from Brown, a masters in public administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School, and a doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Cummings stepped into his role as USM president in July. This followed a year of significant budget cuts resulting in faculty layoffs and program cancellations—an unenviable starting point for new leadership. According to the *Press Herald*, Cummings arrived to a

13 percent enrollment slump, or a \$2.5 million shortfall. But just before Labor Day, enrollment was down just seven percent.

“In terms of strategy, first you have to acknowledge those last few years as being difficult and acknowledge that pain,” Cummings says. “Then you can look at where you are today and position yourself for the future you want. We set high goals for ourselves because I think our assets are extremely strong. The City of Portland is certainly an asset, but not our central asset—that’s our people, particularly faculty, who create the experience for the students.”

The end game—part of an integral five-year plan for the university—is to create an environment where students feel welcome, known, and appreciated by all their faculty and the staff. Cummings is also working to improve retention and increase alumni giving.

Cummings also has community and professional support goals for the future of the university. The school’s strong and growing community engagement program places students in professional settings in Portland. “We want experiences for students in the real world to be contributing to resolving our region’s problems and challenges. At same time, students are able to learn skills like problem solving, communication and executive function—things that are essential and hard to teach in the classroom.

“The new administration team understands USM, understands Maine, and has deep respect for our faculty and staff,” he says. “I think that sets context for future success for students and the university. The pragmatic aspect to this is that if we are conservative about expenditures and bold about increasing support and commitment to students and student success, then our university will begin to thrive again.”



Pam Erickson
Leader
Freeport

BY CLAIRE Z. CRAMER

Twice a year, a new crop of 10th-grade girls arrives at the “little yellow farmhouse” at Wolfe’s Neck Farm in Freeport, to attend a rigorous residential school semester focused on Science and Leadership at **Coastal Studies For Girls**.

“I dreamed of a semester school for girls for many years,” says Pam Erickson, founder and executive director. Semester schools, which include such programs as Chewonki in Wiscasset and the Mountain School in Vermont, are just what the name implies, a single, high-intensity high school semester. All but CSG are coed, and most are designed for juniors and seniors. “We opened in February 2010 and have been running this transformational one-of-a-kind school for 12 semesters now. It’s the only semester school for girls in the entire United States.

“For us, the decision to work with 10th graders was very intentional—I wanted to have an impact...while they’re still young...and open to the possibilities of what they can become.”

How do 10th-graders learn leadership skills? “Positive role models 24 hours a day for four months,” says Erickson, who studied biology and envi-

ronmental education at the University of Wisconsin, where she’s from, and has a masters in education from UNH. “We begin the semester with a 10-day ‘Communication Moratorium’ where there is no technology and no contact in or out of school. The girls are issued a pair of muck boots on their first day.” About those cell phones... “They can only be used for music or as cameras.”

This sounds like quite a shock to the teenage system, but she explains that it enables the girls to “settle into themselves, their community, and their environment.” Every day, regardless of weather or season, begins with a “Solo” on the shore of Casco Bay. “We walk in silence down a

“The girls are issued a pair of muck boots on their first day.”

gravel road through a farm with fields of cows, to sit and set our intention for the day. We’re out all the time on field trips. We’re an academically rigorous school, and while we focus on marine science and leadership, the girls also take English; history of the Maine coast; French or Spanish; and algebra, geometry or pre-calculus. We end each day with a closing circle, citing successes and challenges from the day. And the leadership skills, as we build a ‘toolbag’ for them to take with them, sit underneath all of the hands-on science.”

A new partnership with the College of the Atlantic benefits CSG alumnae who may later apply to COA. “A CSG student who is accepted to COA is eligible for \$10,000 a year in scholarship money. We have four CSG alumnae in the freshman class right now—two from Maine and two from out of state—these are the first students putting this affiliation to use. It’s exciting.”

Pam’s guiding principle: helping girls “reach for their goals and make a positive difference in the world.”



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PEOPLE



Mark Eves
Speaker of the House
-North Berwick

INTERVIEW BY OLIVIA GUNN

Once the word was out, it seemed headline after headline followed. “Speaker of the House Files Civil Suit Against Governor...” “Eves Accuses LePage of Blackmail...” “The Good Will-Hinckley Fight Deepens...” On and on until Governor LePage, Speaker Mark Eves, and charter schools were household topics state-wide. While he admits the distraction of the lawsuit takes up a lot of energy, Eves remains convinced the legislature did a lot of bipartisan work avoiding a government shutdown and passing a middle-class tax cut. He says that, unfortunately due to the lawsuit, a lot of what was accomplished in the House and Senate has gone unnoticed.

How is the lawsuit against Governor LePage going?
Right now, we’re waiting for the Governor to respond to the lawsuit. We made a decision at the end of July to move forward with a federal lawsuit based on the decision that, really, this can’t happen again. The Governor clearly abused his power and the office of the Governor to retaliate against a political opponent. So right now, we’re just in a holding pattern waiting for the governor to respond.

You’re the first person since 1975 to sue a sitting Maine governor as an individual...
My wife and I did an awful lot of thinking about whether we should move forward or not. But we came to the conclusion

COURTESY PHOTO

that somebody has to stand up to the Governor and say, 'Enough is enough.' He clearly, through his own admission, used taxpayer dollars to retaliate against a political opponent. We have a citizen's legislature. I need to provide for my family outside of the legislature—it doesn't pay the bills. I've got three kids at home. If the Governor can do this to a political opponent, he can do this to anybody who disagrees with him. We aren't just doing this on behalf of my family, but on behalf of every Maine business or individual in Maine, so they don't have to live with the fear of the Governor's retaliation. It is very important that the Governor is held accountable.

How did you learn that the governor scuttled your appointment at Good Will-Hinckley?

I heard about it during a legislative session after the board had made a decision unanimously to hire me. First, I thought it was unfortunate because I was looking forward to working with the Governor. I know how much he cares about Good Will-Hinckley. I don't think anybody ever imagined that he would follow through on his threat to withhold money from the school... When the board ultimately decided to rescind their decision, that was a bit shocking—that the Governor could have the influence to dictate the outcome of a private employment matter.

What is your position on charter schools today?

My opposition to charter schools has primarily been around the funding mechanism in which public school systems have really struggled with how to make ends meet when a kid goes to a charter school. It's really a funding piece, which we were able to address this last legislative session where charter schools have their own allocation now so you don't have the tension between the public school district and the charter school. For me the siphoning off of public dollars from our local school districts was really the objection to charter schools. [As for why I applied] for the position as president of Good Will-Hinckley, I knew a bit about what they've done over their history for more than 100 years. For the past 15 years, I've worked with at-risk kids, I've made a conscious decision to work with kids who live in poverty, who have not had the start the rest of us had. It was a natural transition as I was ending my term in the legislature. I'll be turned out next year. This

(Continued on page 87)

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Amber Wilson
Wish Fulfiller
-Kennebunk

8

BY JEANEE DUDLEY

Everybody has dreams—but residents of Atria Kennebunk Senior Living have help fulfilling them. Amber Wilson is the community's Engage Life Director, heading a program that helps senior residents achieve lifelong goals.

"When people join our community, we have them fill out our Atria Resident Discover survey," says Wilson. "One of the questions is, 'What is something you've al-



"What is something you've always wanted to do, learn, or try?"

ways wanted to do, learn, or try?' Some of our residents say they've done everything, which is fine, but we want to offer our residents the opportunity to do something that

makes them feel important."

Some of these bucket-list items are tame, such as learning embroidery or having a family gathering at Atria's Kennebunk facility. Others are wilder. In August, 91-year-old resident Joyce Pompeo took her first flying lesson at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport. Accompanied by two friends from Atria [Joyce's sister wouldn't go up with her!], Joyce took the controls of the small

Katsuaki Suzuki
Restaurateur
-Portland

9

BY CLAIRE Z. CRAMER

"I moved to Maine a year ago from New York," says Katsuaki (Kei) Suzuki, standing in the sun-washed dining room of **Ramen Suzukiya**, his restaurant on Congress Street. When asked if he worked in Manhattan restaurants, he twinkles.

"Actually, no. Cooking was my hobby. I worked in television for almost 40 years in New York. I cooked on the weekends to relax.

"I was the New York bureau senior executive producer for a Japanese TV channel. My territory covered the Arctic to the North Atlantic to Central America; it was a lot of travel. We also broadcast baseball games to Japan. We'd be in Yankee Stadium with 20 cameramen." He laughs. "So I thought running a restaurant would be easier.

"It took longer than I thought to get this open. This space was a retail store before we arrived. My son Cory and I did a lot of the work ourselves."

The snazzy, stylish, yet homey restaurant is all polished wood and sleek, clean lines. "I found a guy in Raymond to build these



Exactly where you want to be on a blustery day: Kei Suzuki's one-time hobby has blossomed into a charming East End restaurant. Rich chicken soup and fresh, house-made noodles form the base of his delicious ramen bowls.

tables." Two enormous planks with rough bark edges form a dramatic communal table in the center of the dining room. The chairs are antique wooden folding chairs from South Paris. He considers them: "I like to see people meeting strangers and talking to each other. I'm amazed how many people have come in who can speak Japanese."

Suzuki removed the wooden ceiling tiles, took them home, scrubbed them, and painted them white. "Here and there, I painted Japanese characters. He points to the ceiling, where the strokes jump off evocatively. "They mean things like *ours* and *friend*."

Ramen Suzukiya's menu is concise—four ramen bowls and three rice bowls. The noo-

dles are all made with a mix of whole wheat, all-purpose, and bread flours—all King Arthur. The stainless ramen machine is hand-cranked. "Most big places have electric ramen makers. This is very manual."

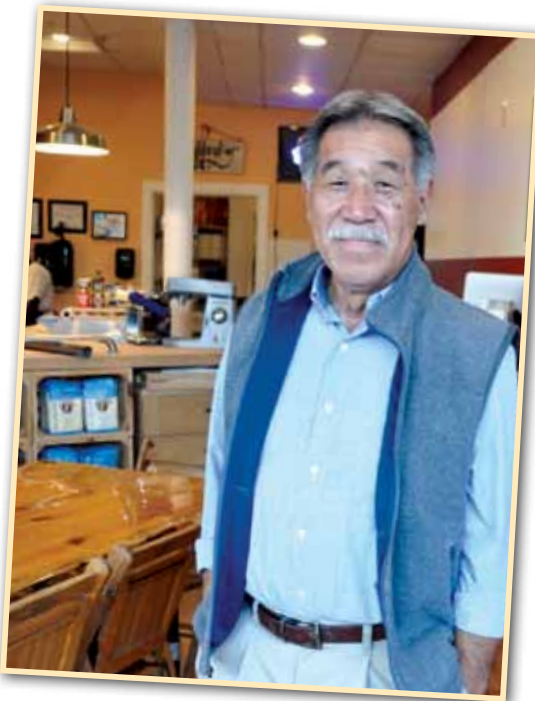
The staff is energetic and happy to learn. A young man works in the spotless back room; another measures out nests of freshly cut noodles into individual plastic bags. "Ramen needs to rest in the refrigerator a few days, so we make it every day to keep ahead." Behind the counter, Susan Zackaria, a 15-year Portlander originally from Darfur, slices scallions. "My chef," says Suzuki, introducing her. Although all the recipes are his, his role is as host during restaurant hours.

PEOPLE

Cessna mid-air, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

"Every request is different," Amber says. "One of us always wanted to travel to China. Of course we'd love to be able to get everyone a vacation experience, but budget-wise, that's not practical. So we worked with our culinary director, who provided the cuisine. I supplied the music and decorations." Other residents' accomplishments include a helicopter ride for resident Carolynne MacDonald, 80, and a virtual tour of Nova Scotia for another.

"I was raised by my wonderful grandfather," says Amber, 29, "and he could do absolutely anything, so I am totally at home here." She has her own bucket list, too. At the top: parasailing at the pyramids of Giza. "I've always loved ancient Egyptian history and I've always wanted to go parasailing," she says. 🦋



"We're working toward having as many things from Maine as possible. My son's been farming. He took the year off to work with me, but now he'll raise our vegetables."

Suzuki commutes to the restaurant from Naples, which seems odd for such a city person. "When I moved, I didn't know Maine, so I signed a lease in Naples. But I like it out there. I had a wall of TVs in my old office. Now I never even watch TV. I hit a deer last week driving, though. It was so sad. I called the police and the first thing the officer said when he got there was, 'Do you want to keep it?' I had no idea what he meant!" 🦋



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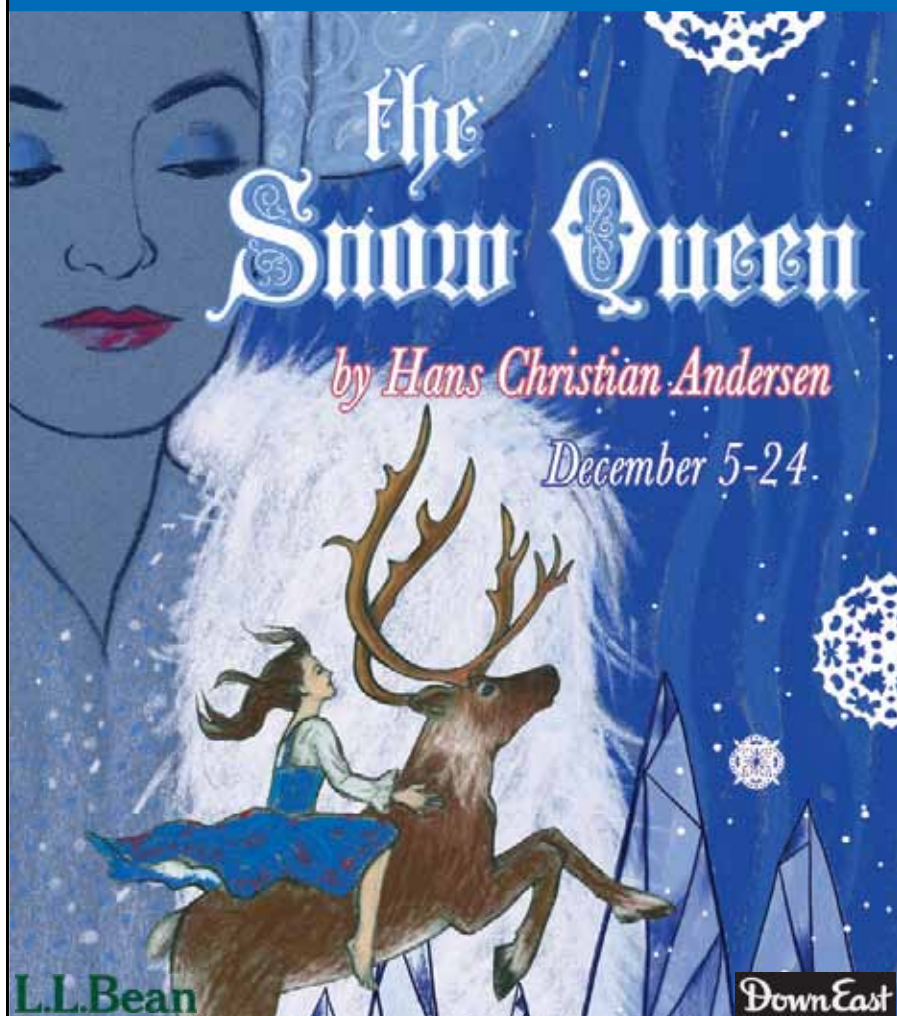
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PEOPLE



Tanja Alexia Hollander
Photographer

-Auburn

BY CLAIRE Z. CRAMER

Portlanders can't help but take it personally when they discover *Are You Really My Friend?*, Tanja Hollander's photography exhibit, the basis for a startling show at the Portland Museum of Art in 2012. In 2017, the sprawling Mass MoCA museum in North Adams, Massachusetts, will mount the entire installation—626 of these 'friends'—an interactive digital and analog mix of images, video, sound, and data.

"I'll be working on this until it opens," says Hollander by phone from New York, where she is meeting more of her 626 friends, a study of distance and intimacy. "I've met about 450 so far." Her life is now consumed by the obsession to travel to meet the rest. "The farthest I've been is Greece. I have a friend in Athens, but he had a friend on Hydra, so I was able to go there, too."

Hollander's website contains this strange entry: "I hear a knock, and there is a young fellow on my doorstep. He introduces himself, and I stare at him blankly. Then he says he has an Airbnb reservation for the next three days. I correct him. 'No, it's for next Thursday.'"

"We both take out our phones to check, and sure enough, I screwed up. I saw the reservation come in that morning but assumed it was for next Thursday, while I was gone. [I talk a bunch about trust in this project. Mostly I talk about blind faith and humanity while traveling. I haven't had to make a split-second decision about trust—in my own house.] I tell him that he is welcome to stay as long as he doesn't mind that I'm also here, working until I leave on Saturday morning. He agrees that it's better than a sleeping bag on the floor of his new office."

When asked if this really happened, Hollander says, "Silas? Yes. He's still there." ■

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Take a [City] Hike

Zip up your fleece, grab the dog, and hit the trails.

BY MOLLY PARENT

Maine autumn—temperatures with mood swings, mums, jewel-toned foliage—catches us off guard every year. Seasonal wonders have a short shelf-life, so we must get out there and grab them. Seek a path. While it may seem as though the Forest City is more brick than forest, it's actually home to 60 urban trails. Discovering them has been an eye-opener for me. Come and see.

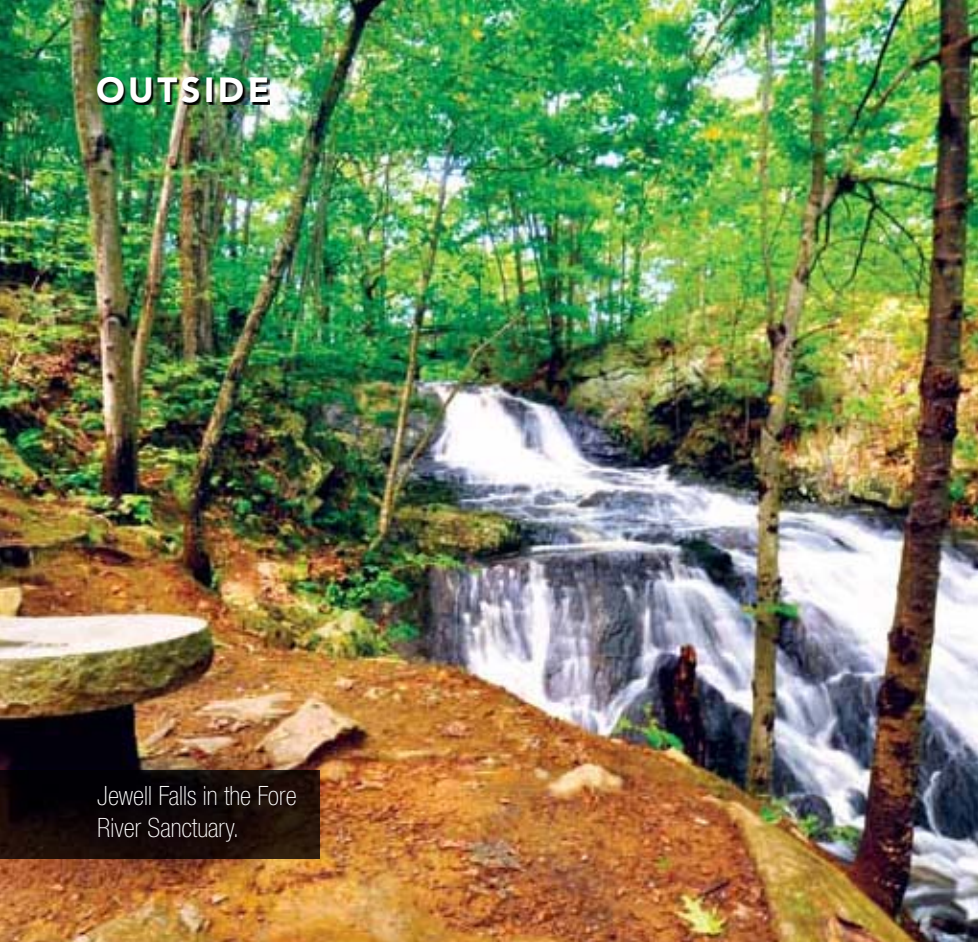
CAPISIC BROOK TRAIL

"I found some raspberries here the other day," says Paige Button, Portland's recently appointed full-time park ranger, who joins us at Capisic Brook Trail. Measuring just half a mile, this walk passes through Capisic Park, an 18-acre, city-owned nature preserve that contains Portland's largest freshwater pond. There are entrances on the north end of Capisic Street and from



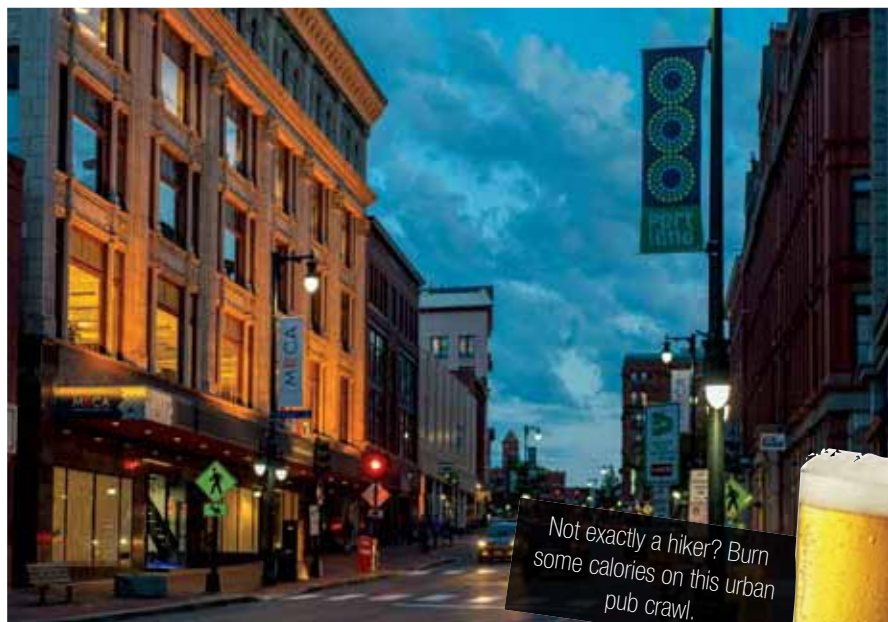
Park Ranger Paige Button spends her days outdoors protecting the interests of Portland's urban hikers.

OUTSIDE



Jewell Falls in the Fore River Sanctuary.

"People forget how therapeutic it can be to get in nature," says Paige Button, "especially in fast-paced city life."



Not exactly a hiker? Burn some calories on this urban pub crawl.

Rockland Avenue. "It's a great trail for a quick break," Button says. "I often eat my lunch here." As we walk from the dirt path to stomped-down grass, the pond seems to grow as we approach. Though all the city's hikes are owned by Portland Trails, a non-profit land trust, Button and another part-time ranger patrol the areas for the department of Public Services. "My office is actually in Evergreen Cemetery," she says. As we complete the short walk to the pond's edge—including a few side paths

Button recommends—we encounter dogs off-leash with their owners. A yellow lab repeatedly brings us his stick, while a wolfhound mix approaches us and receives a greeting from Button—"I remember seeing you before!"—as he sniffs around. Dogs have proven to be the biggest wild card the rangers encounter on all the trails, as leash laws aren't always followed—or even known.



Cross the Bridge

GILSLAND FARM

It's a five-minute drive to **Gilsland Farm**, a 65-acre sanctuary along the Presumpscot River estuary, featuring 2.5 miles of trails, maintained by **Maine Audubon** since 1974. Enter from Rt. 1 in Falmouth, just south of the Rt. 88 intersection. Follow paths through meadows and orchards, and past a pond. Climb to high bluffs overlooking the estuary for fantastic views of Portland's skyline and keep an eye out for roaming and comically bold wild turkeys.

MACKWORTH ISLAND

100 acres of land preserved and maintained by the Maine Department of Conservation. The 1.25-mile perimeter path has great views of Casco Bay, fairy house sightings, and a pet cemetery where former Maine Governor Percival Baxter's beloved Irish setters rest eternally. Access the island just north of the Martin Point Bridge.

FORE RIVER SANCTUARY

Not far from Capisic is the Fore River Sanctuary, 85 acres with a two-mile trail through

The sky's on fire at the Top of
the World on the East End.



marshy lowlands and wooded uplands. Enter the south end of the sanctuary from the corner of Frost and Congress streets, or the north end near Jewell Falls by taking Brighton Avenue to Rowe or Hillcrest avenues.

This particular hike I take un-Buttoned though she's identified it as a favorite of Portlanders. Crossing the first wooden bridge into the sanctuary, it's easy to see why. Salt and freshwater meet at the marshes, providing habitat for wildlife—I spot a blue heron poking her way through the marsh. Signs along the way comment that these lowlands were once the site of the former Cumberland and Oxford Canals that went all the way to Sebago Lake; grown-over canal beds and towpaths are evidence of this. Further along, I ascend to the forested uplands, cross railroad tracks, and at last reach the gem of the sanctuary—Jewell Falls, Portland's only natural waterfall. A bridge at the height of the falls delivers a breathtaking view.

RIVERTON TROLLEY PARK

Next stop, follow Forest Avenue to Riverside Street and the ghostly remains of Riverton Trolley Park. From 1896 to 1920, the park was a destination for city-dwellers and at one time featured an outdoor amphitheater, croquet court, boat rides, a trout pond, a rustic casino building by John Cal-

PHOTOS BY COREY TEMPLETON



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vin Stevens, and scenic pathways. Little remains now of this enchantment, save the vague layout of an amphitheater and grand, crumbling stone steps that once welcomed visitors. Photographic images of Riverton's former glory are spread along the two-mile loop trail, allowing hikers a glimpse into the past as they walk through the present. "It's my favorite of the trails," says Button. "The history still blows my mind."

FORT SUMNER PARK

Also known as Standpipe Park, or the Top of the World, this small green space opens up to a huge universe of urban panorama. From the East End's commercial district, a steep climb up stone steps leads to what could very well be one of the finest views Portland offers. Visit at sunset as the day's last rays hit the peninsula's tallest buildings or glitter in Back Cove, and perhaps even catch sight of the White Mountains.

Thirsty? Try the urban hike known as Congress Street, and make an evening of it. As the days grow shorter—and colder—explore a different kind of trail the city



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is lucky to have. You might start at Loli-ta for a tapa, or Blue Spoon for wine time. Make your descent down into the Arts district. Consider a cocktail at 555 lounge, or a brew and some fancy fries at Nosh. To really cover this trail, you'll want to cross High Street, which makes a stop at Congress Bar & Grill a possibility. Once you cross State Street, you have the temptations of Local 188 and Hot Suppa. Your final destination might be the brick-walled, candle-lit Bramhall, or, if you've held off and are now famished, draw your finish line at Salvage BBQ. Riff as necessary. The best hikes are what you bring to them. ■



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She's All That

Paula Poundstone's sincerity keeps showing behind all the joke-cracking. See why she's a perennial favorite at Jonathan's in Ogunquit November 28.

INTERVIEW BY NINA LIVINGSTONE

I lost my sight ten years ago, and I also have a hearing loss. I guess you could say I am a "deaf blind journalist." How would you describe yourself to me?

Yeah, and let's see, what else... I have blue eyes that are usually red now, because I have glaucoma and I take those stupid drops.

You have glaucoma?

I do, and the drops make your eyes red. And I'm in the midst of a bunch of eye stuff now.

I have kind of high cheek bones; my head's sort of squaring out over the years. I'm about five seven, but I have terrible posture, so I look shorter.

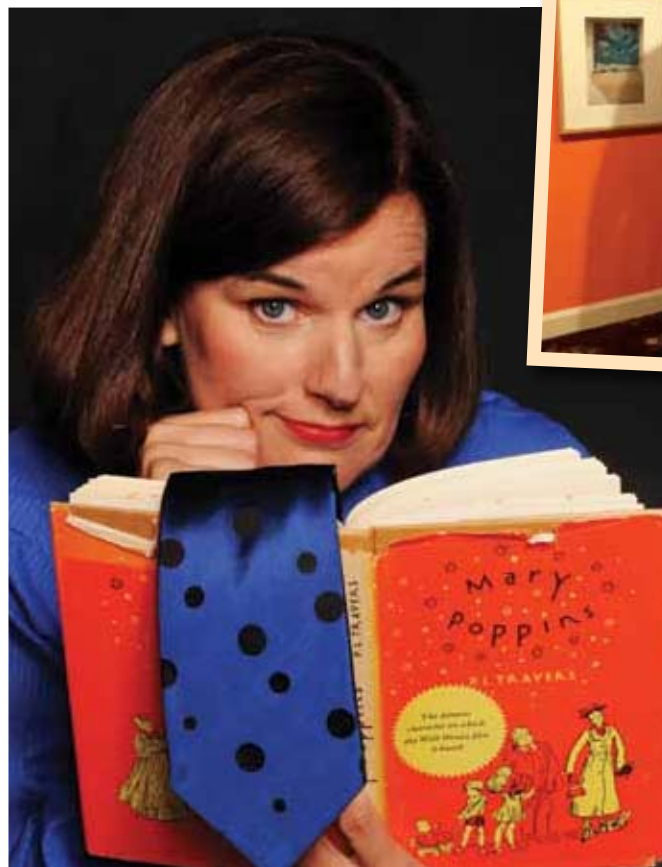
When did you first feel you had it in yourself to become a comedian, and that you had a gift of humor?

You know, I'm not sure there's such a thing as talent, exactly. In *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell dispels the myth of talent, and I really agree with him. If you get to be good at something, it's because you love it. It's not just practice, it's a particular attitude, also access and opportunity. He says it takes 10,000 hours of practice to be an expert at something. I don't know if I have 10,000 hours on stage—I would doubt it, because I'm not putting in eight hours a day on the stage, or 10 or whatever, so I don't know if I've practiced enough in

that regard. I was lucky enough to be living in Boston in 1977 when the stand-up comedy renaissance took place. The scene started up, and I kind of jumped in and joined up with that. There were places to go work; there weren't a lot of us performing at that time.

Whatever it is, did it come to you naturally?

I've always loved making people laugh. In May of 1965, my kindergarten teacher said, "I have enjoyed many of Paula's humorous comments about our activities." So at least in



Mrs. Bump's eyes I was what I aspired to very early on.

Did you have a lot of support after that?

Not exactly. I started when I was 19, and people used to say to me, "Well, what do your parents think? Do your parents like it that you're a stand-up comic?" And I used to say, "I have no idea—I didn't ask them."

Where do you feel you found your strength and your courage to be up there?

Well, the great thing about stand-



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up comedy is, it's an endorphin producer, both for the audience and the performer. So you literally get a chemical boost from doing it. It's something I thought I'd like, and boy, once I did it, once you taste that elixir, it's hard to go back. I'm a stand-up comic through and through.

When you're in New England, where's your secret place?

Some of the family I lived with when I was a teenager living in Manchester, Mass.

What's your connection with Maine and Jonathan's?

I did Jonathan's for the first time, gee, like 10 years ago or something. The first time he picked me up at the airport, I fell in love with him the minute I met him. He's just a salt-of-the-earth maniac—a great guy, funny and practical. Jonathan's itself has been there for a very long time; it's a family-owned business. It has great food and a lovely atmosphere, a great venue. He mostly has music, and then occasionally he'll have somebody like myself. The thing is, Maine crowds are so much fun to work to; the combination of the two makes it one

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Poundstone is a regular guest on NPR's hilarious news quiz show, "Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!"



of my favorite jobs I do all year. I always say when I work in Maine, I look out over a sea of gray hair sometimes, and it's not because they are any older than the people I work to in other venues in other states, but I think that people for the most part don't dye their hair. So there's something about them that's very real. And I don't dye mine often enough, so there's always a gray streak down the middle. I'm not fooling anybody.

After my shows, I come out and take pictures and hug people and talk and hang out. I don't do it every time, but I do

PERFORMANCE

it at Jonathan's.

After all the experiences you've had over the past decade, tell us a highlight.

Well, this last year, I voiced a character—a “forgetter” named Paula—in the movie *Inside Out* from Pixar, because I love Pixar. They are a remarkably brilliant movie-making company. I got to work with Pete Doctor, who is a genius—he's a writer and director. It was pretty delightful.

Do you consider yourself a spiritual person?

I am an atheist, a devout atheist. Sometimes people make the mistake of thinking if you're not Catholic or Christian or Jewish or a Muslim or whatever, your beliefs are not strong or important to you. I feel as strongly about atheism as somebody else might feel about Catholicism. I believe in you, I believe in us, and that alone. I don't need a God illusion to tell me it's important to take care of one another and to take care of the earth. I thought the Pope's visit was lovely—I don't have a bad thing to say about it—but I think it's a little embarrassing we need a Pope to come over from Italy to tell our Congress we're supposed to work together to take care of one another and take care of the earth. I assumed they knew that already. I mean, if they didn't, then that's an American tragedy.

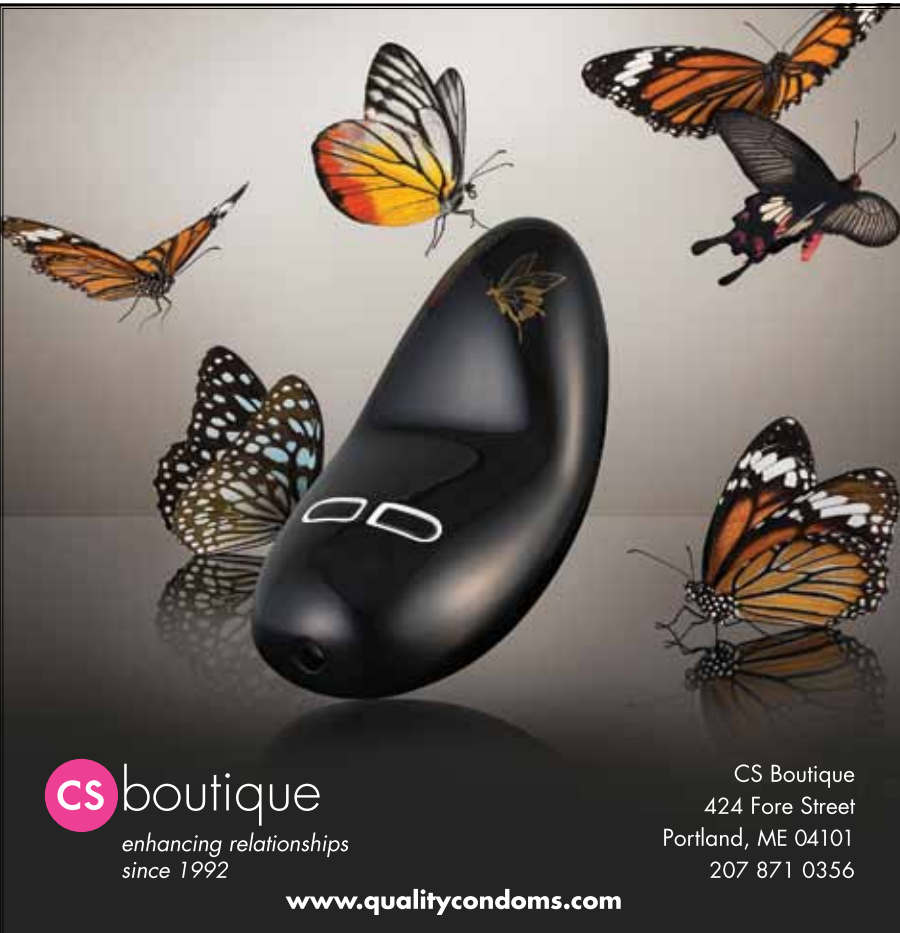
What do you hope to accomplish in the next 10 years?

I'd love at some point to do more comedy acting, but you know what, if I never did anything but what I do right now, I'd consider myself the luckiest performer in the entire world. I love my job—it's so much fun. Especially now, when I feel like the entire world is in a mental health crisis, it just feels really great to be a part of why people are having a good time. Certainly it's a good time for me.

What's your favorite season in New England?

Oh, my favorite has always been fall. It's a beautiful time of the year. It's comfortable, you know; you're not trying to get in or out of the heat or cold. Fall is really the beginning of the year. People say it's January first, but in truth, back-to-school season dominates the beginning of the year, even when you're not a student anymore. ■

Nina Livingstone is a Boston-based freelance writer and novelist.



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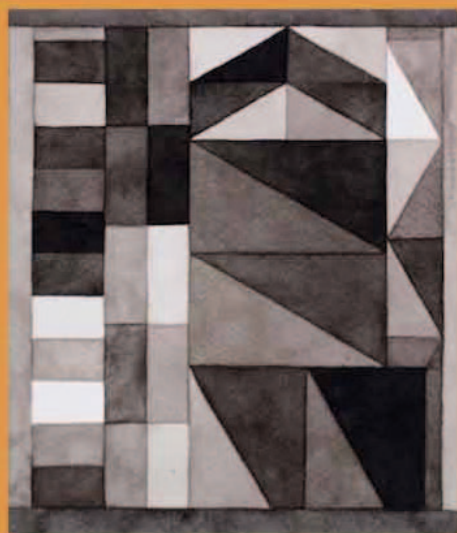
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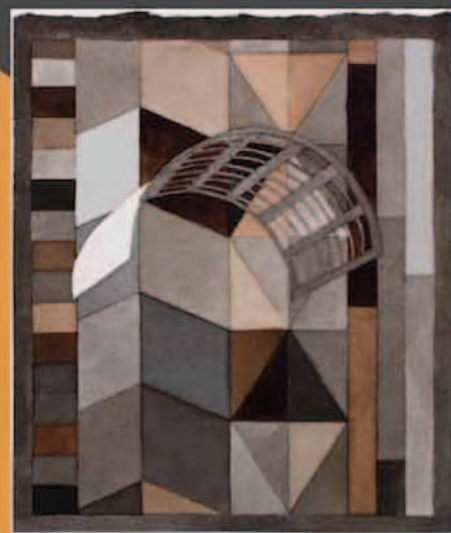
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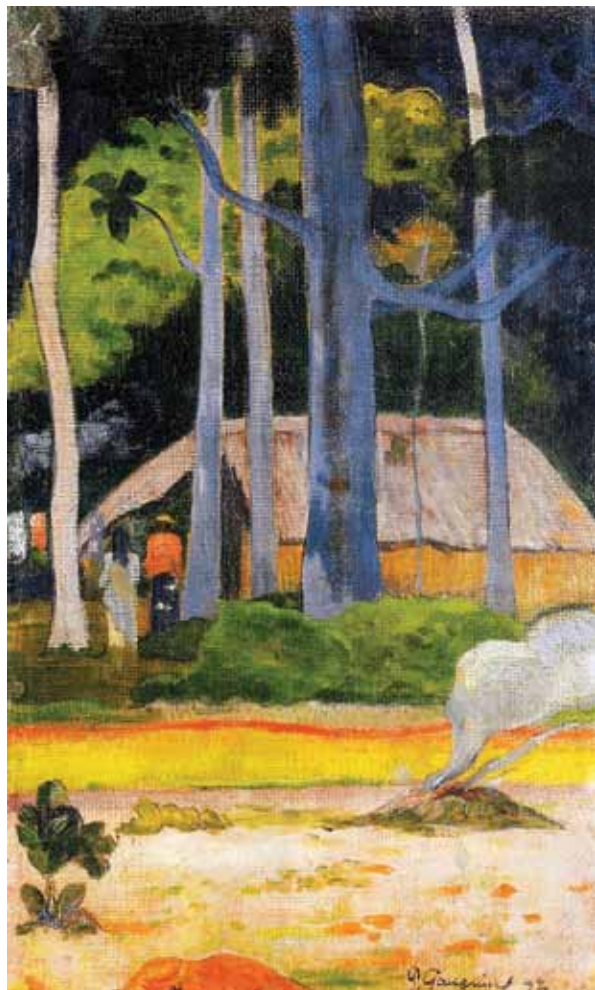
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Art on Ice



Sorry, Third Reich looters. The priceless **Albert Otten Collection** is the one that got away.

BY COLIN W. SARGENT



Dear Nazi war criminals and your very quiet descendants: While you were heartlessly confiscating priceless works of art across Germany, at least this stunning collection of paintings and sculptures escaped your grasp. Disappearing overnight in Cologne, Germany, in 1937, it vanished to a wisp in Switzerland, spent decades on ice in Canada, and when the coast was clear, resurfaced in Scarsdale, New York and Teaneck, New Jersey.

Where is this collection today, comparatively unknown and unshown since 1987, dancing with Kandinskys, Munchs, Gauguins, Klees, Dufys, Miro, and Signacs?

Last year, the world stepped into the darkness of movie theaters to watch Helen Mirren star in *Lady in Gold*, the real-life story of Maria Altmann and her quest to restore Gustav's Klimt's shimmering *Portrait of*

Adele Bloch-Bauer to her family. The movie throbbed with chase scenes, exotic settings in Vienna, and leering Nazis. The director's genius was to make the past sizzle to meet the present. But it has nothing on the Albert Otten collection, which lives among us now in Portland, Maine.

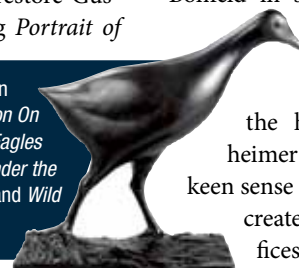
Many residents of our state recognize Les Otten as the man behind Sunday River, the man who saved Fenway Park in Boston, and the dreamer who is turning The Balsams into a blue-chip world resort. But this story begins a generation earlier, with his father, ironmonger and steel industrialist **Albert Otten**, who himself couldn't resist big dreams and objects of beauty.

Albert Otten was born Albert Ottenheimer to a German-Jewish family in 1886. Soon, his hometown of Bonfeld in southern Germany was

too small to keep him down. He surfaced in Cologne as

the head of Albert Ottenheimer ironmongery, where his keen sense of timing guided him to create branch plants and offices across Germany and

Treasures in the Otten Collection include, from top: *Fourth Position on Left Leg* by Edgar Degas; *The Eagles* by Carl-Gustav Carus; *Cabin Under the Trees*, *Tahiti*, by Paul Gauguin; and *Wild Goose* by Francois Pompon.





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DISCOVERIES

Holland after World War I. His fame and fortune grew to the point where he was making significant charitable donations in 1929 to the poor of his home town. His love for art—traditional at first—was kindled around this time, and soon he was a member of the Cologne Museum Association, according to a translation of his Wikipedia entry under his original last name, Ottenheimer. Not that you can be a bigshot in steel without irony: “Until 1937 he was also the major shareholder in the iron and steel works AG (EHW) in Thale am Harz, a company that since 1934 had a monopoly in the production of steel helmets for the German Wehrmacht.” As the horror of Hitler’s agenda rose in the 1930s, Albert “was forced to sell [his share of his many business interests] under pressure from government agencies, the proceeds of which were [then seized by the German Reich], with the Reich Flight Tax charged.” As the Holocaust closed in on him in a myriad of forms, there was no time for art collecting as he faced life-and-death danger and with crystal-ball prescience dis-

BELOW: WASSILY KANDINSKY (RUSSIA, 1866-1944) STRAMM (STRONG), 1929, OIL ON BOARD, 26 X 15.5 INCHES. PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART, MAINE. LENT BY LESLIE B. OTTEN, 10.2002.21. IMAGE COURTESY OF PILLAR DIGITAL IMAGING.





Clockwise from above: *Early Morning* by Max Pechstein; *Head of Auguste Renoir* by Aristide Maillol; *Street In Kragero* by Edvard Munch; and *Stramm (Strong)* by Wassily Kandinsky.

appeared from Germany in 1937, the year before Krystallnacht.

ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL

Gambling everything, he fled to Switzerland and shipped his growing art collection to Canada, a stunning act of forethought.

Here's where the movie of his life would follow lavishly across a landscape of fright in which he is threatened and pursued through harrowing border crossings and safehouses: "Ottenheimer emigrated via Switzerland, from where he dissolved his last German assets, and Canada into the United States. There he worked as an entrepreneur in the iron and steel trade until the 1950s with the Albot Industries in New Jersey."

THAWING OUT

The family home was in Scarsdale, New York.

For years and years, the Impressionist paintings and sculptures were on ice in Canada, kept in hiding in storage, waiting until the world was safe. Finally, when Albert Ottenheimer had built up a fortune a second time, they were uncovered, shipped to New York, and then, as the family grew to love our state, to Maine.

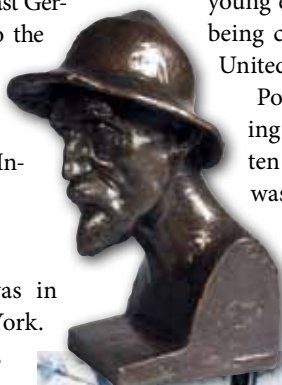
"I inherited, and was able to add to, my father's Impressionist art collection," Les Otten says. "My dad was

born in 1886. He was 63 when I was born. He immigrated from Germany, lost his fortune, but he was able to save his art; the Nazis cared very little for art early on. He shipped his collection to Canada early on. The Degas *Dancer* statue was bought in the 1960s by my father. I was able to add to it as well. That collection is on loan to Portland Museum of Art, but it is only semipermanent."

Among priceless objects thirsty for an audience is *Street in Kragero*, by Edvard Munch. "One recurring motif in many of his compositions, the stark and divisive tree in the left corner, serves to pull the composition forward. This is in direct conflict with the exaggerated perspective of the road leading to the houses. In turn, the faceless group of figures in the lower right recall many of Munch's works and, through association with these, one can almost hear a muffled scream," writes William H. Gerdtz in the catalog of the 1987 PMA show, the last time these objects came to light.

Did Les ever dream of becoming an artist himself? "I certainly have a passion for it, but as a profession it's skipped me to a new generation. I'm proud to say my son owns an art gallery in Palm Desert. He still lists me as consigliere. His gallery features young emerging American artists who are being collected by many museums in the United States."

Portland Museum of Art's not having a major show of the Albert Otten collection while *The Lady in Gold* was lighting up the movie screens just deepens the mystery. "We do expect several pieces to be on display in 2016," says Erin Damon, Assistant Registrar at the Museum. ■



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Let's Meet *For a* Drink

And how about we shake it up a little?

BY CLAIRE Z. CRAMER

On a golden Saturday, the Old Port is hopping. Cocktail hour is already in full swing. Late-afternoon sun streams through the plate glass into **Portland Hunt + Alpine Club** on Market Street, illuminating the austere decor: long communal tables, filament light pendants, and a long bar lined with backless metal stools. (What's with all the uncomfortable barstools in this town?) A few stools away, a patron picks up his glass of amber liquid garnished with a lime wedge.

"Plantation rum. You could spend an hour sipping this drink—it's that good." He knocks it back instead.

The bartender—a friendly sprite in a plaid shirt—is straining a cloudy concoction into a pair of old-fashioned glasses. "These are **Green Eyes**," she says. "Gin, chartreuse, lime, and a bit of egg white." With a toothpick, she impales a marinated cherry into the center of

a wheel of lime and perches it jauntily on the rim of each glass—green eyes stare back at me.

Plaid-shirted bartenders are part of the tightly curated alpine motif here, as are the folded, faded vintage aerial charts of



Above: Lolita does a brisk Monday Tapas trade, offering a glass of wine with a tasty bite for \$5.

Below: Hunt + Alpine is the place for precision cocktails.





Moosehead Lake with the menu printed on the back, and angular wire sculpture busts of wild game mounted on the walls. You can order popcorn with butter, green chile, and parmesan for five dollars, or brown bread with mushroom butter for three. I ask for a Fernet Branca and soda because I've been told by people half my age that **Fernet**—once considered little more than show-off biters—is all the rage from here to Buenos Aires. The drink arrives in a tall skinny collins glass. It's \$8.50. Hmm.

Next to me, Tatiana and Kate, visiting from Boston, are debating the cocktail menu. "We're eating and drinking our way through Portland this weekend," says Tatiana. They have a small map of the downtown peninsula, with stars on the places they've been. "**Hugo's** last night, we had lunch at **Duckfat** and just had amazing oysters at **Eventide**, and we know we have

to go to **Central Provisions.**" They settle on their drinks, a **White Noise** ("adult soda," \$8.50) and an **In Cold Blood** (whiskey, sweet vermouth, salt, \$11). "Portland is a really popular destination for people in Boston." When I ask whether they're keeping a journal of what they're eating and drinking, Kate says, "We're taking pictures," and holds up her phone.

EXTRA POINTS

If you're going to meet for a drink, it's always a little tastier if it comes with a bonus. **Lolita** has Monday Tapas. With every glass of the day's designated wine selection—on our recent visit they were from France's Rhône region—you're given a surprise tapa on the house. Our group sampled two reds and a rose and shared such dazzling treats as marinated eggplant crostini, slices of chorizo braised in cider, spicy meatballs in red

sauce, and patatas bravas drizzled in paprika aioli. To break it down: One person can enjoy two glasses of very decent wine, and enjoy two excellent tapas, for \$10.

The **Little Tap House** on the corner of High and Spring streets calls its signature inducement the B&B—a glass of the featured beer of the day with a free treat for \$5. They're not just free, they're liberating, from braised brisket over corn chips to a quesadilla to a wedge of flatbread pizza.

Three of us arrive to a roaring crowd and manage to grab the last high-top barrel table. But wait—there's been a tap-takeover by a Long Island brewery that has canceled the day's free snacks. We recover from this ghastly setback once our towering goblets of today's special \$4 pinot noir arrive.



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The B&Bs at Little Tap House are always a surprise. In this instance, it's a BBQ pulled-pork taco paired with Bissell Brothers Baby Genius for \$5.

BY THE BOOK

"Do you know the *The Cocktail Club*?" a colleague asks.

She's talking about the 2014 hit book by Maureen Christian Petrosky. Petrosky takes the book club concept—and its logical off-spring, the wine club (coincidentally also the title of Petrosky's previous book)—and amps it into an empowerment manifesto to bring women together to taste hard spirits.

"We're a group of professional women, and we meet once a month at one of our homes," my friend says. "The book chooses the liquor for each calendar month—gin, whisky, pitcher drinks—and provides cocktail recipes and some food-pairing ideas. Women are doing this all over the country." How do we join here in Maine? A pause. "We have to ask you. Or you could start your own!"

...OR CONSULT AN EXPERT

"I like the **Blue Spoon's** wine time for happy hour," says Kate McCarty, author of *Distilled In Maine* (History Press, 2015) and *Portland Food: The Culinary Capital of Maine* (History Press, 2014).

"Hunt + Alpine has a great cocktail happy hour, and I love their **Saffron Sour**. I love the Mai Tais at Eventide—I've really gotten into tiki drinks lately. **East Ender** also has great cocktails—I love the **Haitian Divorce**, a delicious dark rum and juice thing." East Ender's happy hour runs 3:30 to 5:30 with a special small-plates menu and specialty drinks.

If you like the idea of a women's group, McCarty's got that covered, too. She's a co-founder of the **Portland Spirits Society**, an "appreciation club" for women. Recently, they met "at **Grace** for a bourbon tasting with a Dean's Sweets chocolate truffle pairing, and **Liquid Riot** for an American whiskey tasting—both theirs and others." Check blueberryfiles.com for updates and ticket info.

HUNGRY EYE

AND THEN THERE'S SUNDAY

Ricky Nelson greets us at the door—he's listening to the rhythm of the falling rain, and thinking about what a fool he's been—as we walk into **Crooners & Cocktails**, having just spotted the "\$3 Mimosas" sign in the window with the brunch menu. The soundtrack here is tons of fun, if way too loud, and the place is a trip. Cushy barrel chairs, lush cranberry walls, Rat Pack posters, black & white TV, thick table linens, old-time hotel china—and a diverse clientele, most with huge bloody marys (\$5) before them. We decide to split an order of pork belly eggs benedict while sipping bargain mimosas. Tunes like "Eleanor Rigby," "Be My Baby," "Dock of the Bay," and "Do You Love Me?" dance all over the oldies spectrum.

We hear not a single Rat Pack crooner on this visit, although we spot an item on the menu called the "Sinatra Breakfast Sandwich." We snicker, imagining Frank ever in a million years holding an English muffin stuffed with scrambled eggs, pork belly, red peppers, and gruyere. Ring a ding-ding. ■



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Moi, Enfin

It's time to thaw our frozen identities.

BY RHEA CÔTÉ ROBBINS

In a word, modern. Where does one go to be a modern, French-heritage woman when one is being held captive to stereotypes, and how is one supposed to exist in stereotypes?

"My can of worms opened when I took a writing class for a degree program. When revealing my essay topic, I learned my native New England classmates didn't know what a Franco-American was, let alone who. Two-thirds of their names were French. What the heck was happening?"—Ann Marie

All fine and good, but the truth remains somewhat buried, even when we thaw our frozen identities, almost self-parodies. With self-interrogation comes self-discovery: *"I concluded I was part of the problem. With the help of others, I'd put our memories and culture in mothballs to protect them until there was a place to safely air them. Then the Franco-American Women's Institute jumped to the top of my Internet search. Women with memories like mine! Some written in French, some in English, some in both. Both!"—Ann Marie*

Ever feel you had to deny your Franco-American heritage during your youth?

"Yes, if I did not want to be laughed at (French jokes). I'd pretend I wasn't French... [Until] people asked my mother's maiden name (Roderique). Then they'd know I was French and make fun of me."—Marie Claire

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"Some memories I can only recall in French. Life events embedded in my bones can't be revisited in any other language."—Ann Marie

"People today are fascinated when I tell them I can speak French; for years it was a negative. Now it's a positive. I never expected this to happen."—Marie Claire

Learning one's culture beyond the boundaries becomes an obsession, a constant companion who cannot be denied, the truths, the deep longing to know more and go on a journey beyond the stereotypes becomes a quest. ■

Rhea Côté Robbins is the author of *down the Plains*, and is on her quest.

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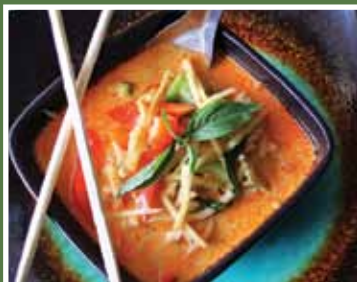
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DINING GUIDE

Bayside American Café (formerly Bintliff's) has been owned and run by Joe & Diane Catoggio since 2003. Their craveable menu includes simple to decadently delicious items like house-made smoked salmon, corned beef hash, crab cakes, sandwiches, salads, Benedicts, and more. Come enjoy the food and drinks, and discover why customers love Bayside American Café. Breakfast, brunch, and lunch are served daily starting at 7 am. 774-0005 . 98 Portland St., Portland, baysideamericancafe.com.

Brea Lu Cafe has been serving up breakfast & lunch for 25 years! Favorite menu choices include 12 speciality omelettes, build-your-own breakfast burritos, Belgian waffles with fruit, eggs Benedict & homemade corned beef hash. Enjoy a pint sized bloody Mary, mimosa, or Irish coffee while you feast on your favorite breakfast. Open daily, 7am-2pm. 428 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-9202.

Bruno's Voted Portland's Best Italian Restaurant by Market Surveys of America, Bruno's offers a delicious variety of classic Italian, American, and seafood dishes—and they make all of their pasta in-house. Great sandwiches, pizza, calzones, soups, chowders, and salads. Enjoy lunch or dinner in the dining room or the Tavern. Casual dining at its best. 33 Allen Ave., 878-9511.

Bull Feeney's Authentic Irish pub & restaurant, serving delicious from-scratch sandwiches, steaks, seafood & hearty Irish fare, pouring local craft & premium imported brews, as well as Maine's most extensive selection of single malt Scotch & Irish whiskeys. Live music five nights. Open 7 days, 11:30am-1am. Kitchen closes at 10pm. 375 Fore St.,



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Old Port, 773-7210, bullfeeneys.com

DiMillo's C'mon. Now through December, relax and enjoy Head Chef Melissa Bouchard's masterful creations. Every day, she offers something new and delicious. Try our Early Dinner Specials, Monday-Friday or our wonderful Port Side Lounge, Portland's getaway for grownups. Happy Hour includes a special menu Monday-Friday, 4-7pm. Open daily at 11am, Commercial St., Old Port, 772-2216. Always FREE PARKING while aboard.

Eve's at the Garden, an oasis of calm and great food in the middle of the Old Port. The perfect spot for meetings, special occasions, and a cocktail. Ingredients from Maine's waters and farms: jumbo scallops, natural, sustainable pork, beef, fish, and shellfish, and Maine lobster. Home to the annual Ice Bar, Eve's garden is perfect for outdoor dining in season. Happy Hour Mon. - Fri.; free valet parking. Lunch 11:30am-2pm, Dinner 5-9:30pm. 468 Fore St., Portland, 775-9090, evesatthegarden.com

Great Lost Bear A full bar with 70 beer taps of Maine & American craft breweries & a large Belgian selection. Menu features salads, burgers, a large vegetarian selection & the best nachos & Buffalo wings in town. Discover where the natives go when they're restless! Every day 11:30am-11:30pm. 540 Forest Ave., in the Woodfords area of Portland, 772-0300, greatlostbear.com

Hurricane Restaurant features the finest seafood and New England cooking on Maine's coast. Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week. Sunday Brunch 'til 3:30pm. Discover our award-winning wine list, enjoy \$10 off every bottle of wine on Wednesdays. Wicked good house-made pastries, signature cocktails, and extraordinary five-star New England cuisine. Reservations strongly suggested. Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 967-9111, huricanerestaurant.com

Kon Asian Bistro Steakhouse & Sushi Bar is upscale Asian with modern flair. Japanese, Sushi, Thai, Chinese—or try our hibachi tables. Our private party room accommodates groups from business meetings to birthday parties. Choose fresh, delicious items and enjoy our entertaining chefs preparing your meal in front of you. Family friendly; open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-10pm, Fri. to 11pm, Sat. 1pm-11:00pm, Sun. 11:30am-9:30pm. 874-0000, konasianbistrome.com

Maria's Ristorante is Portland's original classic Italian Restaurant. Greg and Tony Napolitano are always in house preparing classics like Zuppa de Pesce, Eggplant Parmigian, Grilled Veal Sausages, Veal Chop Milanese, homemade cavatelli pastas, Pistachio Gelato, Limoncello Cake, and Maine's Best Meatballs. Prices \$11.95 - \$22.95. Tue.-Sat. starting at 5pm. Catering always available. 337 Cumberland Ave. 772-9232, www.mariasrestaurant.com

Pedro's focuses on simple yet full-flavored Mexican and Latino food. Offering tacos, burritos and an impressive array of margaritas, sangria, beer, and wine. Especiales de la semana (specials of the week) keep the menu varied and fresh and showcase different Latino cultures. Seasonal outdoor dining available. Open daily, 12pm-10pm. 181 Port Rd., Kennebunk, 967-5544, pedrosmaine.com

Pier 77 & The Ramp Bar & Grill are owned & managed by Kate & Chef Peter Morency. Pier 77 has a formal dining room with stunning views of Cape Porpoise Harbor & live music each weekend, while the Ramp is more casual, with its own bar menu at hard-to-beat prices. Open year-round. 77 Pier Rd., Kennebunkport, 967-8500, pier77restaurant.com *

*reservations recommended



Re:Union

Hot off the Press! The news is delicious at Portland's new hotel restaurant.

“Definitely different,” says my companion as we sit down at Union in Portland's Press Hotel. He worked for the *Maine Sunday Telegram* at this location for 27 years.

The restaurant occupies an airy space on the ground floor of the former Gannett newspaper headquarters, now one of Marriott's upscale Autograph Collection hotels.

We begin with the charcuterie plate (\$17), a substantial offering of three locally cured meats accompanied by good grilled bread, fennel mustard, and pickled veggies. This, with a fine IPA (like Baxter's Stowaway, \$5 can), could serve as a satisfying repast. We opt, however, for a wonderfully satisfying wine, Michel Picard Vouvray (\$30).

The chef's tasting menu (\$55 for three courses, \$79 for five) leaps off the page with three headliners. The first, *pâté de foie*, is beautifully presented. Accompaniments include incredibly tasty tiny pickled mustard seeds, black truffle vinegar in little drops on the pretty black slate, and a tasty brioche crouton.

Next up, native beet salad—a bountiful bowl of perfectly cooked red and golden beets glowing atop a delectable dressing of

local yogurt, curry oil, and ginger emulsion. This dish alone is proof the Union lives up to its self-described “farm to table hotspot.”

Our carnivore lust is indulged by Chef Josh Berry's smoked sirloin of beef with a nice rare middle. The whole plate works wonderfully with the smallest, tastiest baked potatoes (again, farm freshness), exquisitely browned cauliflower, red cabbage puree, and a sinfully rich blue cheese glacé.

Desserts, like everything at Union, are a sight to behold and devour. The chef outdoes himself again with a gorgeous array, including autumn squash pudding, cinnamon gelato, burnt sunflower butter, pumpkin puree, and whipped maple syrup.

We finish by plunging into the Bee's Knees (\$9), a light pistachio cake with heavenly lavender gelato, honey brown butter, honey powder, and local bee pollen.

A memorable experience, on all counts. Be sure to make reservations well in advance, though the full menu is also available at the very comfortable bar seating. ■

Union Restaurant, 390 Congress St., Portland. Open 7am-10pm daily, Sunday brunch, 12-3, 808-8700 or thepresshotel.com



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2015: Diwali, Nov. 11 • Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 • Hanukkah, Dec. 6-Dec. 14 • Bodhi Day, Dec. 8

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2016: New Year's Day, Jan. 1 • Epiphany, Jan. 6 • Makar Sankranti, Jan. 14

Mahayana New Year, Jan. 24 Chinese New Year, Feb. 8 • Mardi Gras, Feb. 9

Persian New Year, Mar. 20 • Easter, Mar. 27 • Thai New Year, Apr. 13

Cambodian New Year, Apr. 13 • Passover, Apr. 22-30



Heat Things Up

Not too hot. Extra chocolate. Shaken, not stirred. Why is it that the people with the special orders are always standing in front of us in line? Spice things up with an **Aztec Hot Chocolate** from Dean's Sweets (\$10.50 for 9 oz., 475 Fore St., deanssweets.com).

Celebrate the anniversary of December 16, 1773 with a **Boston Tea Party blend** from Dobra (\$5 a pot, Dobra Tea, 89 Exchange St., dobrateame.com), or get your caffeine fix in a festive way with holiday coffees from Coffee by Design, featuring flavors such as Frosty's Favorite and **Jingle Bell Java** (\$15.50 for 16oz., Coffee by Design, 1 Diamond St., coffeebydesign.com).



Don't Miss

• **Monument Square Tree Lighting** - Nov. 27, 5:30 pm

• **The Nutcracker**,
Maine State Ballet
Nov. 28 & 29; Dec. 4, 5, & 6

• **The Nutcracker**, Atlantic Ballet
Company, Camden Opera House, Dec. 3

• **Sparkle Weekend**,
Freeport, Dec. 4-6

• **Christmas Prelude**,
Kennebunkport Dec. 4-13

• **The Snow Queen**, Portland Stage
Company, Dec. 5-Dec. 23

• **Copper Beech Tree Lighting**,
Portland Museum of Art, Dec. 5

• **Merry Madness**,
Portland, Dec. 10, 5-10 pm

• **The Nutcracker**,
Bossov Ballet, Dec. 11-13

• **Magic of Christmas**,
Portland Symphony Orchestra,
Dec. 11-13; 18-20

• **The Victorian Nutcracker**,
Portland Ballet, Dec. 12, 13 & 16

• **Christmas by the Sea**,
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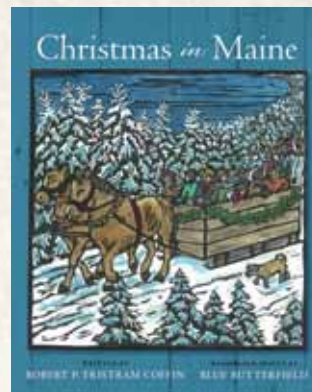
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Holiday Inspiration



Robert Tristram Coffin's 1941 New England holiday essay receives a fresh treatment with **Blue Butterfield's** intricate woodcut illustrations in the new book from Islandport Press (\$17.95). Celebrate **Christmas In Maine's** release on a Free Friday evening, Nov. 20, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Portland Museum of Art, including Portland Stage veteran Daniel Noel's dramatic reading. Coffin (1892-1955) was a Pulitzer Prize winning poet and Bowdoin alumnus; Maine native Blue Butterfield, Bowdoin '92, is a woodblock artist known for her "A Year In Maine" calendar. Refreshments provided.

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Mighty Little Oak Purse

Sturdy and pleasantly lightweight, this little wooden handbag measures 7-1/2" x 5-1/4", just right for your phone and cards. Matte-finished oak crafted by Bellota, available at Portland Trading Co., \$85. portlandtradingco.com



Maybe Just a Sip...



In the mood for something a little stronger? Cuddle up next to the fire and drink like a Norse god with a **HoneyMak-er Elderberry Mead** from Maine Mead Works (\$17/ bottle, Maine Mead Works, 51 Washington Ave., mainemeadworks.com).

Or enjoy **Rising Tide's d'Hiver winter saison-style ale**, brewed with rye and spices to produce a rich mahogany pour (\$3 for a 12 oz. bottle, Rising Tide Brewing Company, 103 Fox St., risingtidebrewing.com). Ring in the holidays with **Cranberry Smash from Sweetgrass**, a customer favorite cranberry brandy-fortified cranberry wine (\$17 for 375 ml bottle, Sweetgrass Winery, 324 Fore St., sweetgrasswinery.com).



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A No Brainer

Tim Sample meets Stephen King in this new release from Maine-based author, Marsha Hinton. **Zombie Moose of West Bath, Maine** follows an infected moose on the hunt for tourist brains and features a cast of characters with all the local color you'd expect, plenty of **Maine-isms**, and references to genuinely relevant state issues; \$11.49, 276 pages, newmeadowsmedia.com.

Draw Me a Bath

Plunge into the tub with these **Lavender Bath Salts** from the Salt Cellar. Antiseptic lavender helps to soothe dry skin that comes with a Maine winter (\$10, Salt Cellar, 172 Middle St., salt-cellar.com). **Add a warm glow** with a soy candle from **The Primitive Keeper**, hand-poured in Maine and available

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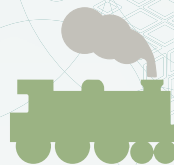
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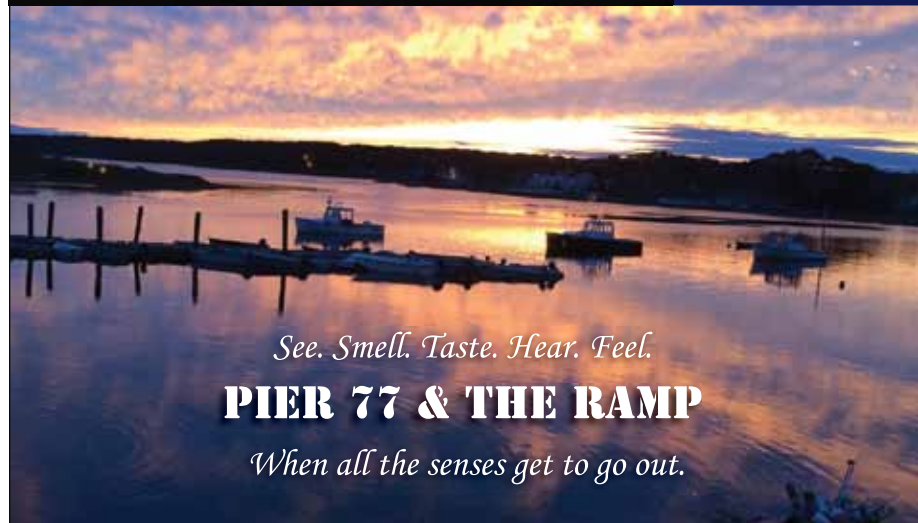
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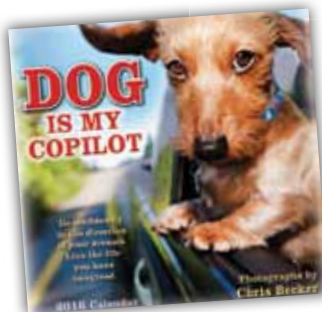
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PEOPLE

Senator Collins (continued from page 30)

ing and inclusive. He is my favorite Pope since Pope John XXIII swept into the Vatican decades ago. In politics, there were a number of senators who took me under their wing when I first arrived. Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island, who has since died, is certainly one. Judd Gregg and Joe Lieberman were real mentors to me. I've always loved Papa Bush, as I call him, for his courage and integrity and for being an excellent president and an even better person. If I had to pick someone in the current senate, it would probably be Senator Barbara Mikulski. She is the senior woman in the Senate and has served longer than any woman in history. She has taught me so much about how to be an effective senator. From the very first days I was in the Senate, she taught me the appropriations process. To this day, because she is the senior Democrat and I'm the Senior Republican woman, we work together on a host of issues. She is probably the person who I learn the most from today. 🐦

Christopher Poulos (continued from page 30)

use. Maine is adopting Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion—known as the LEAD Program—which has seen success in Seattle, Santa Fe, and Albany. Instead of arresting and charging identified substance users, the LEAD Program connects them with substance-use disorder treatment resources and community support. The result in Seattle has been a 60-percent drop in recidivism.

Poulos is also involved with Young People in Recovery, a non-profit that offers workshops, seminars, one-on-one, and group counseling for recovering youth. The organization is a national network that also

Chris Poulos suits up and curtails a camping trip to head to a Drug Control Policy meeting in Washington.



connects people with housing, education, and employment opportunities. "It's hard to stay sober with no home, job, or education," says Poulos. "Young People in Recovery seeks to remedy that." 🐦

Mark Eves (continued from page 35)

aligned perfectly with what I've been doing the past 15 years.

Has the lawsuit compromised your effectiveness in Augusta? Are you treated differently?

Absolutely not. In fact, there has been a real recognition by both Republicans and Independents and Democrats in the legislature that the Governor crossed a line. If anything, it has strengthened the relationship within the legislature and our ability to work together. I think it's further isolated the Governor and his ability to be effective for our state.

Tell us about your education, from California to Kentucky to Maine. What family therapy techniques do you think should be used in the Maine legislative family right now?

I was born in California and was about three months old when we moved to Oregon for about five years before we moved to Tucson until I was 11. Then we moved to Louisville, Kentucky. I went to the University of Louisville and graduate school at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Then my parents retired to Maine, [so] after graduate school my wife and I decided to move to Maine to be closer to family and also because of what we knew of Maine—all of the recreational activities, great public schools, small communities. It sounded like a place we wanted to be. We moved here and have fallen in love with it. We've had three kids in the last 14 years.

My background training in marriage and family therapy has been an asset working with the legislature. It's a systemic approach where you look at the impact of not just individual behavior and decisions between two individuals but how that impacts a larger group. Working with committees or the legislative caucus, or with coalitions, it has really helped me bring a set of skills to the legislature that has been really effective.

What does the future hold?

I plan to stay focused on my job as Speaker until my term is up next year. I keep an open mind and never close doors. I've loved the time I've been able to serve in the legislature; if there weren't term limits, I would continue to do this. It really does energize me, and I feel very good about the work we've been able to do to address some of the major issues. So, I don't know. Stay tuned. ■

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Supreme Digs

The Senator Prentiss Mellen House shines in the heart of historic State Street.

Down the hill from the statue of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—now awash in trendy restaurants and a new crowd wearing beards—is a time capsule all its own. Built in 1838, the Senator Prentiss Mellen House, a.k.a. The Deanery or Mellen-Winslow House, at 153 State Street, cuts a striking image just to the north of St. Luke's Cathedral.

Does this lady ever have a past.

Her original owner, Prentiss Mellen (1767-1840), was nothing less than a United States Senator. A 1784 Harvard graduate, he was a lawyer by 1788, practicing in his native Sterling (Massachusetts), Bridgewater, and Dover, New Hampshire, according to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, citing Simon Greenleaf's "Memoir of the Life and Character of the Late Chief Justice Mel-

len." By 1791 he'd bounced north to Biddford, entering the Portland scene in 1806. He was "a presidential elector in 1817, trustee of Bowdoin from 1817 to 1836, and was elected to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Eli P. Ashmun," serving "from June 5, 1818 to May 15, 1820." Why? Maine had just become a state. He'd just been named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine—the first. After he resigned in 1834, he commissioned a lovely home to be his soft landing. This house.

If there were such a thing as a Portland Parthenon of Greek Revival structures, this is one of the killers, with its shiplap façade and smart shutters in lamp-black. The porch on the left side perpendicular to the street makes a gracious entrance in this ur-

ban setting. The front door invites with lovely sidelights.

Not to mention, it's a rare bird. "The Deanery hasn't been offered for sale for 135 years," says listing agent John Hatcher. So you can be assured it's not a flip. "Imagine the privacy held intact here since 1880." (If you're keeping score, the Longfellow monument wasn't built until 1885. Talk about bragging rights—the Prentiss Mellen House knocked people out here before it was cool. Or, more correctly, when it was cool before. State Street is a who's who of ship captains' stately mansions.

"There are six bedrooms and three full baths," with much of the original molding intact throughout the house, according to Hatcher. The classic woodworking is hypnotically simple on the antique fireplace mantels (two major fireplaces on the lower entertainment, including an enormous kitchen hearth with original bean oven in what was likely the former kitchen, now the dining room with built-in cabinets), windows, and doors. If there's a decorative motif, it's the carved pyramid. Ghosts of other fireplaces, some possibly coal, are in virtually every other room in various stages of discovery, some behind radiators. The floors were updated in the 1920s to beautiful hardwood. The kitchen needs, and doubtless will receive, a sweeping update by the delighted new buyers who fall in love with this 4,004-square-foot blank canvas. With a paint job, some inexpensive cosmetic touches—okay, a major restoration—and a few understated bits of flash in the entertaining spaces like *Dead Pearl Diver* on loan from the Portland Museum of Art, this will be stunning.

Interest well beyond beauty and nostalgia is generated by the long green rectangle/garden that comes with the property and abuts the back parking lot used by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. If this approach can be opened up from that side, 153 State Street could really jump in value, well beyond the asking price of \$529,500. Taxes are \$7,510. ■

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LOST DOGS

Walter Rhodes watched a man get out of a trumpet-orange rag-top Jeep in the hayfield in front of his farmhouse. The engine-idling bass drum kicked one-two, one-two, one-two... Wind blasted the old man as he drew near, with muscular tan legs sticking out of khaki shorts, biceps pushing at the short sleeves of a faded red T-shirt. The guy had to be in his 70s, carrying a magazine in his right hand, walking toward Walter's screen door with a side-to-side gait that said *I don't fall or stumble*. Sea legs.

Walter caught a glimpse of the cover of the magazine. There was a one-page interview in there. Walter read it months ago and read it again as it blinked once at the back of his eyes.



Walter Rhodes Hears Beats And Does Not Run Over Neighbors

Since his graduate show secretly sold out at The Art Institute of Boston (now the College of Art and Design at Lesley University), the prolific and reclusive Walter Rhodes has attracted avid collectors first in Boston at The Liis Holmes Gallery, then in New York for McRoan and Theodore, and now at Justin Hallgate Gallery in New York and London. His early figurative work seemed like frame captures from an unknown movie you suddenly needed to see. His new work manipulates popular and found images with text that feels absurdly real.

After your "Lost Dogs" solo show sold out this spring at Hallgate London, Justin Hallgate joked that the buyers were all sad dog owners.

Have you met him? He's a comedian. It's the perfect gallery for me.

Do you have a dog?

I couldn't handle the responsibility.



Lucinda Agan of *The New York Times* said your show at Hallgate New York was hilarious and oddly moving. Did you use flyers and posters of actual lost dogs for the paintings?

People have come into the gallery adamant that their missing dog is the one in a painting, like I'm hiding it in the studio or had it stuffed as a model. Dogs control people willfully. Ever been in someone's home and a dog walks into the room and the conversation stops while everyone pets the dog and makes dog baby talk? The dog seems almost ashamed of its power.

Bernard Rossi has said he did lost dog portraits before you and you are ripping him off.

I am embarrassed to say I don't know who he is. I don't reject other artists. I am a minnow. I got to 1990 in art history and stopped. I can barely get out of the studio, cross the yard, and get into the house for a sandwich. I am borderline agoraphobic, maybe not so borderline. I heard someone say there are two kinds of baseball players, those who know

the statistics and follow every player and every team. They play great and make great coaches and teachers. Then there are those who can only play. That's me. I'm going to die in the studio.

Not from old age anytime soon. You're 29 years old. Maybe you will get out more later.

I'm 30. I don't see that happening. I am not going to name the small town where I live, but I am the last house on a three-mile spit of land between two tributaries of the Dead River. There are four other houses on the road. Sometimes my neighbors stand in middle of the road so I have to stop. It's like talk to me or run me over. Justin calls to check on me or schedule a pickup, but mostly I don't answer and he leaves a message. A carpenter comes in and builds frames and stretches canvas for me in the barn. She orders paint and supplies and hauls them in. I don't see her much, but I hear the whine of her saw and it bothers me. I am at the maximum amount of people I can bear.

The descriptions you wrote under the dog's portraits are humorous in a weird, sad way. I loved the line under the portrait of a not-so-smart looking poodle: "Last seen following a turkey into the woods. Please help." I could see it as a full-page cartoon in *The New Yorker*. Have you thought of writing comics or films?

I journal at night, but I don't think in stories. I look at an image and I hear beats. I'm not happy unless I get four, five beats in a frame. That's why I add the words and exaggerate the way they look, like scratches from a felt tip marker or ballpoint pen smears but magnified so your eye knows it can't be right and gets pulled around the words and you hear them differently. I need more beats or I get bored.

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FICTION

It has been reported there are over a hundred of your large lost dog paintings and as many studies. You are prolific. How do you do it?

I don't consider myself prolific at all. I wish I had a voice like Basquiat. He could rip through canvases, roll around on them on the floor, and they sang. It took me about ten days to do a large dog painting, and I had five or more going at once. I averaged a finish about every two weeks. A study took me a day or more. Three years of lost dogs is enough.

I have to ask, did you lose a dog when you were a kid?

I had a dog who was taken from me by my mother. I could have made that up to make this interview interesting, but it happens to be true. An autobiographical nugget for graduate students. I did the dog series because I want to run away, but I'm too scared.



The old man walked toward the screen like he was going to walk through it and then stopped. "I'm Billy Haig," the man said, "a friend of your father's. I'm here to take you to him."

"To Tom?" Walter said, squinting down at him.

"That your stepfather?" Billy said. "No, your real father. Robert Rhodes."

"We don't talk. How'd you find me?"

"We don't...? For Christ's sake," Billy said. "Like it's a mutual thing. He's written to you hundreds of times. Okay. I have to keep in mind you're a little special. You told people where to find you in here." He rolled up the magazine and pointed it at Walter. "Not many places on the Dead River like you described. I brought it to make sure I got the guy in the photo, and I do. Pack some clothes. We'll be gone for a few days, and I'll bring you back safe and still nutty."

"I'm not going anywhere. I get sick."

"I'm a doctor, and you'll be fine. Invite me in." Billy pulled the screen door open and pushed past Walter into the house. "Looks like a flea market. Nothing in here a good fire wouldn't fix. Get your toothbrush, whatever."

"You leave."

"You're coming with me to say goodbye to your father who is dying and never stopped caring about you. Because you want to." Billy was walking toward a chair and lowering himself as he approached it. He was almost fully sitting before his rear hit the seat and he

dropped the magazine to the floor.

"No," Walter said.

"Yes. Because I have something you want. Actually many things you'll want to add to your fuck-all collection in here. You come with me and be kind to your father and you'll get them."

Walter was standing at the screen door, turned only slightly sideways to watch Billy, and because he could very often accurately predict the next note in even the most dissonant of compositions, a grimace seized his face like rock lichen.

"I have your graduate thesis paintings," Billy said, "most of the work on wood panels that sold at Holmes and a good portion of your early New York canvases. After that you were selling on your own well enough so I could stop buying. Couldn't afford to continue, anyway. I drove the prices up too high."

Walter felt displaced. That's what a therapist had called it long ago, "Displacement." He floated around in an anxious dream most of the time. Nothing he could do about that. But this, this was knees sickly weak, mind crashing through possible outcomes, all of them painful. He set his feet wider apart.

"Your father is the best man I have ever known," Billy said. "You have no idea what he has done for you. It won't kill you to say goodbye to him, to let him see your face. I never had kids so I don't know why the hell he gives a shit about you, but he does. Now get your stuff and I'll explain in the car."

But no explanation was necessary, was it? The one thing that lifted him above his peers at the Institute—the one solid undeniable artistic truth—was that Walter Rhodes sold paintings. One after another. Anonymous collectors. Private buyers on the phone. Strangers walking in the gallery and walking out cash-and-carry. Gallery owners looked at him and turned their heads sideways as if hearing a tone others could not. He had the farm, the studio, time to work, all due to that phenomenon. He should be grateful or mad or something, but instead he felt an acidic hunger. He wanted his paintings back, and the man who had them was sitting slouched in his favorite fat armchair, watching him.

Walter walked into the bedroom and pushed underwear, socks and shirts into a pink princess backpack. The rhinestone sparkles gave it a calming tinkling melody. He slung it on his shoulder and walked through the house toward the rumbling Jeep.

"Good boy," Billy said. ■



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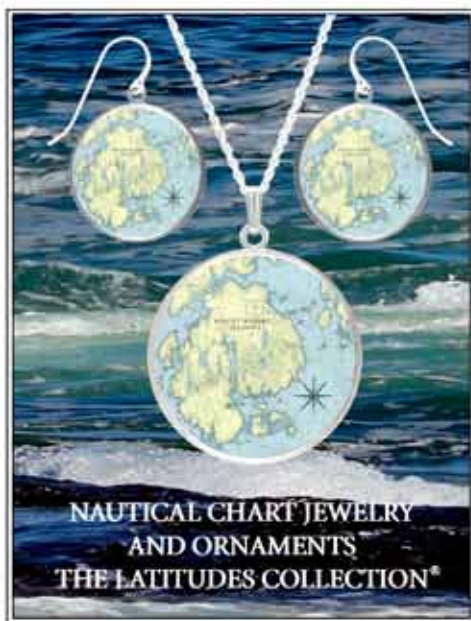
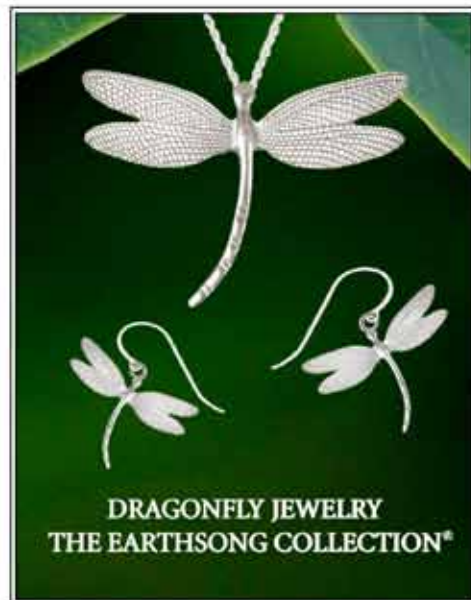
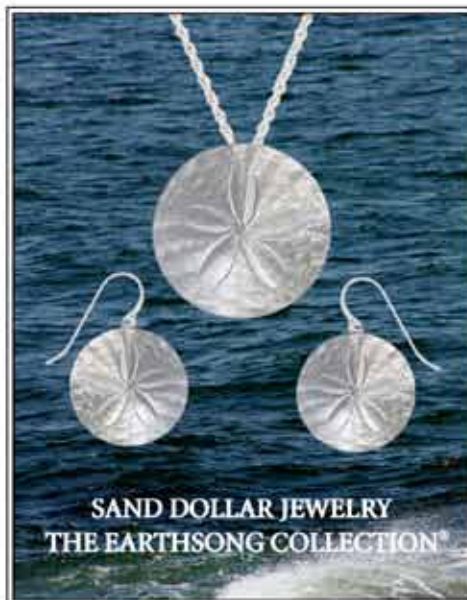
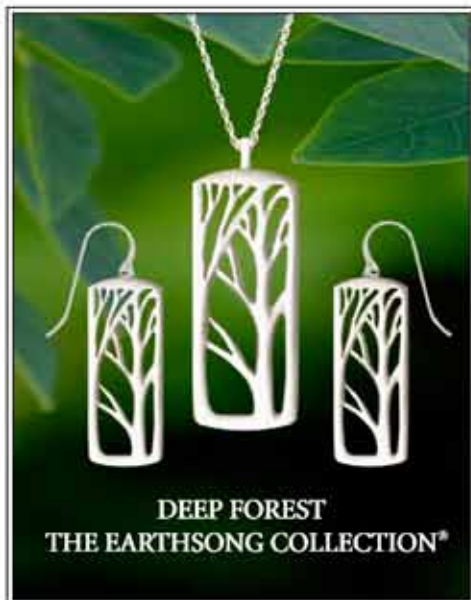


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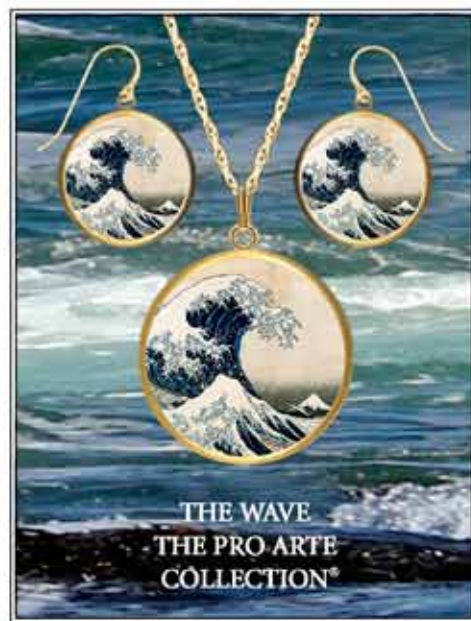


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