

Ten Most Intriguing Mainers

No boundaries. No limits.
These Mainers are
shaking up the
status quo.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON-IN-LAW—Founding OkCupid and selling it for \$50 million pales in comparison to Chris Coyne finding the love of his life, Jennie, who saw more than a little of her father in her new beau. As Coyne told the *New York Times*, “I then learned about a series of coincidences between our families, including that her father, when he was at Harvard in the 1960s, was a founder of what I think was the first computer dating service, called Operation Match, for which applicants would send in a paper form, which would be turned into punch cards and six weeks later you would get a list of names and phone numbers.”



Chris
Coyne



To see more on our 10 Most Intriguing Mainers, visit
portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2011/10/10-most-intriguing-extras.



Cupid's Okay!

The dating gamer from South Portland has \$50 million reasons to be happy, now that he's sold his brainchild, OkCupid, to Match.com—and he still has a day job!

INTERVIEW BY COLIN STERLING SARGENT

South Portland native **Chris Coyne**, 34, is co-creator of TheSpark and OkCupid, which receives over 1.3 million different visitors every month. After graduating from South Portland High School, Coyne went to Harvard University to earn a degree in mathematics. While there, he started his first business. With classmates Sam Yagan, Max Krohn, and Eli Bolotin, he created the humor website thespark.com in 1999, offering study guides called SparkNotes. In 2001, Barnes & Noble purchased SparkNotes for \$3.55M, and hard-copy versions of Coyne's study guides displaced perennial favorite CliffsNotes in all of their stores. Not content with this success, he reimagined a personality test and matching service from thespark.com to form OkCupid, a dating site with a strong focus on using mathematical algorithms to match people. Nine months ago, Coyne and his partners sold OkCupid to the operators of Match.com for \$50M. Now that he's made his fortune, we're curious about how much his memories of Maine are starting to tug him back.

SparkNotes and OkCupid are being used by millions upon millions. How does it feel to be in the running for 'most influential Mainer,' based on how many people actively use your work?

I'm flattered, but I think it's crazy. Stephen King is my Maine hero. His best books will

be read for decades to come. Meanwhile, everything on the Internet changes fast.

Design and function have always been an important part of both OkCupid and SparkNotes. They are expressions of your creative and mathematical sides. Which side is stronger?

I think of myself as a designer. Design is about building something intuitive, stylish, and constrained by a purpose. Math has always been a strength, so I tend to attack design problems that require math. Like matchmaking. I'm very proud of how we match people at OkCupid—I think it's a great design, and the math behind it makes sense.

What could Maine do to keep its talent, like you, closer to home when they start their first businesses?

I'd love to see venture money go to high-school students with great tech ideas, so they can pursue them during their summers and throughout the school year. Some real businesses would come from this. Who knows, maybe the next Facebook. And a lot of high-school grads with great ideas in progress would skip college entirely and build something great for Maine's economy. I personally would invest in such a program. The state could support it either by investing, too, or by some kind of tax break for that kind of investment. I think this is better than trying to convince

PERSONALITIES



LOVE ONLINE, OLD SCHOOL—According to the *New York Times*, “When [Chris] Coyne and [Jennie] Tarr met in November 2002, they were standing in line at Lotos, the Manhattan club.”

“But when I got home, I looked her up in Harvard’s online alumni guide,” [Coyne] said. “That launched an exchange of e-mails that lasted a month until our first date.”

“She chose the place, he said—a bar called Sweet and Vicious in lower Manhattan—‘because she thought it made her sound really nice, but also exciting.’ (It did, he said.)”



GENERATION NEXT?—Coyne’s father-in-law, Jeff Tarr, noted to the *New York Times*, “It’s a strange world that our daughter ends up marrying someone with his own computer dating service—someone who even attended the same Boy Scout camp in Maine that I did.”

both at Java Joe’s on Exchange Street.

Is Java Joe’s still your most romantic spot in Maine, then?

There’s a rock at Portland Head Light that is up high but surrounded by water on three sides. It’s beautiful at night with the waves crashing all around. You have to sneak in after dark, though. We used to go there a lot in high school and college. When I think of Maine at its best, it’s the ocean at night.

How did you meet your lovely wife?

Jennie and I went to college together but never talked. Later we recognized each other in line at a bar.

What makes you think of moving to Maine now? What does Maine mean to you?

Maybe I’ve over-romanticized my childhood, but it’s like a Spielberg movie. BMX bikes, firecrackers, freedom, building forts in the woods. Summers in Sebago and Higgins Beach. My dad was a lifeguard at Old Orchard Beach, and sometimes he’d take us to work with him for the whole day. Maine means family and being near the water. Jennie and I are looking for a house in Maine now, but we can’t decide between the lake and ocean. Either way, it’s important my kids grow up spending a lot of time there.

What would your advice be to yourself, if you were able to speak to yourself when you were a sophomore at South Portland?

Learn to sail! I still don’t know how. Someday.



Chris’s father, Jack, was a popular Deer-ing High School English teacher.

businesses to pack up and move to Maine.

How do you think Maine could improve mathematics education?

Every high school in Maine has a handful of bored, smart kids. So at least Portland and Bangor should have magnet schools. There’s one in Limestone, right? That’s not an ideal location. I’m guessing it was chosen for political reasons, not educational. A magnet day school in Portland would be great.

Where was your favorite place to take a date in high school?

The two dates I had in high school were

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Snap Judgment

INTERVIEW BY ROBERT WITKOWSKI

With an eye for presidential detail, Camden native Samantha Appleton puts a whole new frame around the idea of Maine quality. As a White House photographer, she's captured some of the striking images that keep the entire world focused on the First Family and current events.

Where did you study photography?

I started by taking a workshop at what was then the Maine Photographic Workshop, now the Maine Media Workshop, and then learned by practice at my college newspaper, the *Daily of the University of Washington*. I studied Comparative History of Ideas, an interdisciplinary major, and am thankful I did so because learning the technical aspects of photography is the easiest thing. Learning historical context, influences, finding inspiration, and creating a style is most difficult and often has nothing to do with photography, per se.

Which photographer is your greatest inspiration?

Robert Frank (b. 1924) has the ability to draw you in, not by quick-of-hand or simplistic eye-catching graphic style, but by presenting complex-yet-subtle imagery out of everyday situations. A picture that can sit on your coffee table for years and still be compelling.

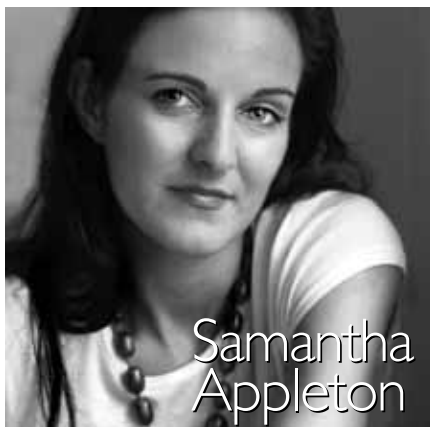
Do you connect with other White House staffers from Maine (i.e., director of advance Emmett Beliveau, et. al.)?

As all Mainers know, it's always fun to connect with fellow Mainers wherever you are in the world. Emmett called me to his office one day. When I walked in, he had this massive, framed map of Maine from the 1800s. I'm sure I was more excited about it than anyone else who will ever walk into his office.

What's the best single image you've ever taken—the one of which you're most proud?

I'm proud of certain bodies of work including Iraq and Nigeria, but it's not a word I'd associate with a single image. The one I feel is most lasting in that Robert Frank way is a photo I took of Iraqis playing dominoes in a tea house [see photo, lower right]. My whole experience in Iraq can be read in those dozen faces. It's simple but can tell a million different, changing stories. It meets that coffee-table test.

What do you think is the most underappreciated photogenic image in Maine?



Everyone loves Maine during its eight best months, but I think to find a way to its gritty soul in its darker days is an interesting challenge. Scott Peterman's series of [stark, white, and isolated] ice-fishing shacks in Maine and New Hampshire and the [subtle, realistic winter] landscape paintings of Tim Lawson do that beautifully.

Working with the First Family, what surprising incidents surpassed your expectations?

The First Lady participated in the first pitch at the 2009 World Series between the Yankees and the Phillies. I was on the field of Yankee Stadium with her. It was one of the most intimidating moments of my life. They told me to just be aware of the FOX cameraman who was streaming live, but when we walked out on the field, there were several cameramen and I couldn't figure out which was FOX. When I finally did, I had to sprint out of his way—right across the pitcher's mound. I was convinced that's why the Yankees lost game one.

The White House hosts an Official State Visit a couple times a year. When the weather allows for it, the arrival ceremony—like for the China State Visit—is outdoors. It's a monstrous, protocol-heavy affair. Very ceremonial, scripted, and predictable. It was fascinating to see that no matter what country we visited or hosted, from Ghana to Germany, a State Arrival ceremony is remarkably similar and probably has been for generations.

What shoot have you been part of that was so overwhelming you had an "I can't believe I'm part of this" moment?

I was able to meet Nelson Mandela when I traveled with the First Lady, her girls, and mother-in-law, Marian Robinson, to South Af-



rica in June this year. Never in a million years did I think I'd even be at an event with him, let alone meet him. I was there merely to photograph the situation and was trying to be as low-impact as possible, but as I was leaving the room, I simply mouthed "thank you" to him. He closed his eyes, nodded, and smiled as he mouthed back, "You're welcome."

What's the best "accidental" photo you've ever shot in this job, and exactly how did serendipity step in?

The great "accidental" photographs are the ones behind the scenes. The staff working, Secret Service having a light moment, the White House residence staff preparing for an event.

What are your favorite Portland haunts?

I love a little of everything in Portland. I love eating lobsters at Two Lights, having a Guinness at Rudy's, and tucking into one of those great big chairs in the lounge of Fore



Street on a snowy, winter night.

Are the Obamas aware you're from Maine?

I think they are. Although during a taping once, a cameraman originally from Maine was trying to tell someone to move the shot to the left and said "lefter." The President smiled and said, "Lefter?" The cameraman said, "Sorry, sir, I'm from Maine." I kind of never brought up being from Maine again.

How has your life changed in Washington? Are you romantically attached?

My life in Washington has probably been the most stable since I was a teenager in Maine. That said, I still travel every week and have a fierce restless streak.

Single.

Do you root for the Red Sox, Yankees, or Nationals?

When I went to the World Series, I wore a



red hooded sweatshirt beneath my coat. Of course it's Red Sox. But having lived in New York for much of my adult life, I've been to more Yankees games than Red Sox.

What's your security clearance?

Suffice to say I photographed most things at the White House. One picture of mine that was released publicly on Flickr is at the National Counter Terrorism Center.

What's next?

After two-and-a-half years, I'm leaving the job to write a book about Iraq.

It's not going to be a photography book.

I spent a lot of time in Iraq during the first three years of the war...[traveling] around the whole country with my driver/translator/fixer friend, covering the effects of the war on civilians and the rise of militias that led to the civil war within the greater occupation.

PERSONALITIES

Ashley Hebert did more than make 10.6 million Americans hold their breath on the final episode of ABC's *The Bachelorette*; she taught us how to pronounce her name. And with this new-found appreciation for language, we are inadvertently discovering the history of a culture stretched from the far north in Maine down to the oak-hemmed roads of Louisiana. With Ashley's star ascending, so too are we celebrating the contemporary Acadian woman.

In capturing our imaginations, she follows the footsteps of the heroine in Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline." Just as Evangeline searched for her long-lost love, Gabriel—separated from her by the British in 1755 at the time of the Grand Derangement, the Acadian Diaspora—so too does Ashley Hebert light a path through 21st century cynicism with her rose.

It's all the more extraordinary for Longfellow to have chosen to tell the story of this culture with a woman as the protagonist and a member of a minority culture.

Evangeline: *the strong woman, feminist, looking for the one she loves.*

Ashley Hebert: *retelling the Acadian love story to her modern audience.*

Are you of Franco-American or Acadian heritage? I am of Franco-American heritage on both my mother's and father's side. My mother is a Pelletier, and my father is a Hebert.

Do you speak and understand the French language? Did you study it in school?

I studied French from elementary school up until high school. I actually won a French speaking contest in 9th grade. I can speak French conversationally, and understand completely. I didn't have bilingual schooling growing up, but wish I did because it would have really helped me keep up my knowledge of the language. All my grandparents speak French, and it was their first language, as it was my mother's.

Are there any special foods, recipes, celebrations, or rituals that you and your family love and that you believe help define you?

My mother makes the best chicken stew with dumplings and ployes. This is the go-to meal she makes anytime we bring someone home for dinner. No one can make chicken stew like my mother, but my sister tries!

Was there any evidence of the French-heritage culture in your community while growing up? Was this important to you as a young woman?

In this mirror interview, two very different sisters surprise us with their answers to the same questions.

Acte

Now that I'm away from home, I have to say that the biggest showing of French heritage culture is less obvious than you may think. There's a sense of family within our small French town that makes it like none other. Madawaska's being a

small town is a part of it, but there's something about French Acadian culture that makes you feel like everyone is family. Everyone's so warm and welcoming. People of our heritage are very proud,

(Continued on page 72)



Ashley Hebert

ABC/CRAIG SJODIN

de Soeur

INTERVIEWS BY RHEA CÔTÉ ROBBINS

Chrystie Corns is teaching the country a thing or two about making ends meet. As TLC's *Extreme Couponing* superstar, she's clipped a page right out of Acadian history. In 1797, the Year of the Black Famine in Madawas-

ka, Tante Blanche risked her life to provide neighbors with provisions during an eight-day snowstorm. While Chrystie doesn't have to strap on her snowshoes, she is reaching out to the community at large to guide them with

money-saving tips—a sensational update of the legendary Acadian tale. Is Tante Blanche braving the storms of history once again? Is this modern Franco-American our saving grace?

Tante Blanche: the community legacy of the Acadian woman.

Chrystie Corns: contemporizing goodwill in an instant across the country.

Are you of Franco-American or Acadian heritage?

I am Franco-American on both sides. My father was a Hebert and my mother was a Pelletier.

Do you speak and understand the French language? Did you study it in school?

I understand French much better than I can speak it. But, I do try to speak French to my children, mostly to make them laugh. They get a kick out of hearing me speak French.

In school, I remember having French classes at an early age. The French language was a big part of our schooling and home life. When 'out-of-towners' would move to Madawaska and question some of our common phrases, that's when I realized how much of our dialect had a French influence.

Are there any special foods, recipes, celebrations, or rituals that you and your family love and that you believe help define you?

As far as foods, I love ployes and chicken stew with dumplings, although we called them poutines. There is nothing that says home like a homemade pot of chicken stew and Bouchard's ployes. (I like to put sugar on my ployes.) I've integrated this recipe into my family's menu, and my kids just love this meal. I hope for them it becomes one of the family dinners they remember after they've grown.

Was there any evidence of the French heritage culture in your community while growing up? Was this important to you as a young woman?

I think the most impressive quality I've picked up while growing up in a French heritage was a strong work ethic. I can say everyone in my family, from parents to grandparents, are some of the hardest-working people I've ever met.

I'm very grateful to have inherited this quality because it's been the foundation of my own personal success. I'm frequently complimented by peers and bosses about how hard I work, and I'm very proud of that. I attribute this quality all to the hardworking Franco-American work ethic that was instilled in me at a young age.

What role does your French-heritage culture define you as a modern-day woman? Can a person hold both traditional and modern, popular cultural values at the same time?

(Continued on page 72)



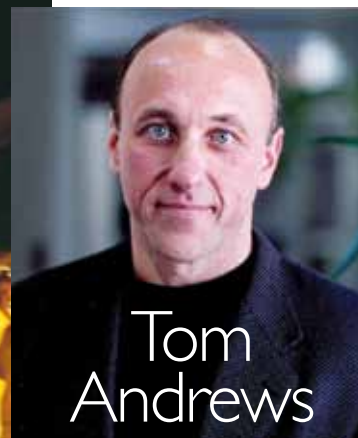
"I've lived in Portland on and off for the last 15 years. I can always count on walking around the Old Port to give me that 'I'm-back-in-Maine' feeling. Some of my favorite places are Local 188, Bard Coffee, El Rayo, the Eastern Prom, and all of Congress Street."
—Chrystie Corns

Chrystie Corns



Brave New World

INTERVIEW BY DAVID SVENSON



Tom
Andrews

The 193rd member of the United Nations, South Sudan is the world's newest country. "There's a connective tissue between us and the world," Andrews says.

community and world better. The fact is, there is not a generation alive who hasn't lived through a genocide or tragedy. And yet these

Next time we drink to world peace, we should lift a glass to **Tom Andrews**, too. No other Mainer, and few Americans, if any, have had more to do with the recent independence of South Sudan, prompting millions to celebrate. As President of **United to End Genocide**, our former First District congressman is clearing the way for all our futures.

How'd you find your way here from Massachusetts early on?

A big part of my father's farming business was a hatchery. He'd be in Maine every week, delivering baby chicks to farms, and I'd go with him as often as I could. That's when the love affair started. When I graduated high school, I went to Bowdoin and stayed. I have a camp in Winthrop. I spend most of my time either on the road or in Washington D.C., but my home will always be Maine. When people ask me where I'm from, I always say Maine. Maine is home.

What sparked your involvement with public service?

I've been an organizer my entire life. Everything I've done, including service in the Maine Legislature and Congress and the work I do now, has all been part of my work as an advocate and an organizer. It all began when I was 16. I found myself flat on my back, fighting cancer. It's a moment in life that really shakes your fundamental experiences. I thought, "I could die," and began asking fundamental questions about my life, who I was and what I was doing at that time.

In high school I started organizations that helped local poor kids and the isolated elderly, and I worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters. We opened a storefront in downtown Brockton. I talked to every high school, junior college, and middle school. We held a walkathon, 25 miles in the pouring rain! By the time I was a junior in high school, we'd raised \$160,000 dollars.

How have your college studies in philosophy and religion shaped your future?

I was fascinated with philosophy. The thinkers asked the fundamental questions. The ideas these people had tilled the fields before me. It's absolutely fascinating. My studies, then, were intertwined and led me to a double major. My father asked me, "What? People are going to pay you to think? You don't even go to church." My goal was to learn how to think and communicate orally and in writing. I could use these skills in a number of ways.

It was the major pioneers of thought I was interested in: Plato, Socrates, Buddha, Gandhi, Martin Luther King. These people were trying to live the authentic life, a manifestation of their life through actions.

When most of us feel so distanced from world events, how do you stay grounded and focused on the world at large? How do you handle the relative notion of distance?

This is us. This is humanity. The world is quite close, and it's getting closer to everyone. The ramifications are more relevant to everybody. This work matters to us, to who we are as a people. There's an obligation to make our

things continue to occur in front of our eyes. There's an obligation to step up and create a world where these atrocities and murderers no longer exist.

What would we want our neighbors to do if we were facing a mass murder or genocidal condition? We'd want them to stand up, take action. This is especially relevant in the era we live in, the era of global communication.

I attended two memorials in Rwanda this summer. It was devastating to see the conditions. And what was particularly horrifying was, I was serving in Congress when these atrocities were taking place. I had to ask myself, "Where was I? Why did we not act?" It's all too familiar. Mogadishu and *Black Hawk Down*. It's the same thing. Our economy was reeling then; we had very competitive and polarized election years. There was less and less political space to consider our role in the prevention of the Rwanda genocide. And now with Iraq and Libya still very fresh, we're entering another extremely polarized political climate—these are precisely the conditions we encountered during the Rwanda genocides. But our political climate will deflect attention from these horrors happening today.

At the Iowa Conference for Democratic Transformation in the Sudan, you emphasized the need to recognize the political climate before organizing a strategy. Where does Maine stand?

I think Maine is very fertile ground for this

(Continued on page 73)



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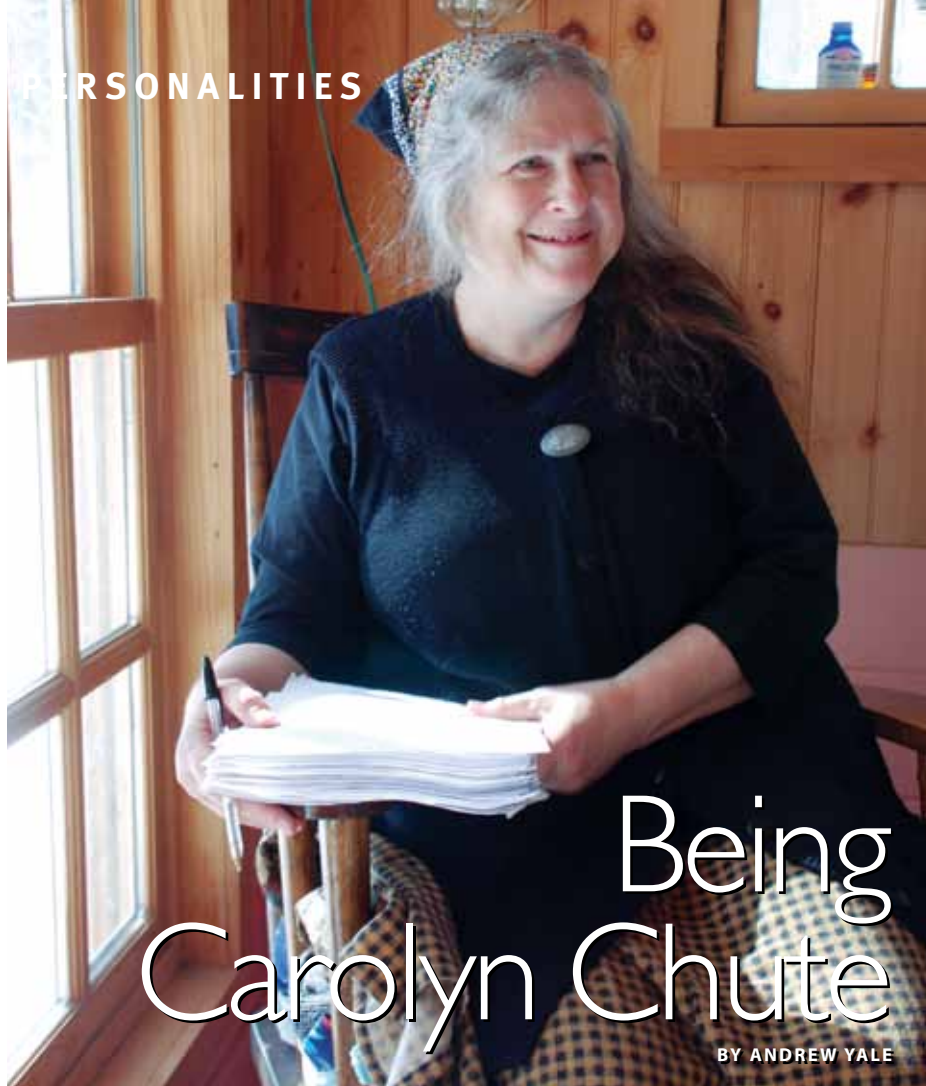
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Being Carolyn Chute

BY ANDREW YALE

Carolyn Chute wanted to be a farmer's wife. When she asked her high school guidance counselor for advice on this goal, he laughed at her. Chute went home discouraged and took solace in the novel she'd secretly been writing since childhood. Although she spent several seasons as a harvest hand, Chute never attained her early dreams of agrarian connubial bliss.

She did, however, gain national recognition in 1985 for her first novel, *The Beans of Egypt, Maine*—a descendant of her childhood work about the working poor in a small, rural Maine town, depicting the struggles against “inner demons, hardship, and societal ignorance.” In the 26 years since that volume first made the best seller list, Chute has published four additional novels: *Letourneau's Used Auto Parts* (1988), *Merry Men* (1994), *Snow Man* (1999),

and *The School on Heart's Content Road* (2008). All are strongly rooted in a gritty Maine milieu which many identify with the rural township of Parsonsfield, where Chute and her artist husband, Michael, have lived since 1985.

Born in Portland, Chute was raised in a working-class household in Cape Elizabeth. Her father was an electrician, her mother a housewife. She grew up with two younger brothers. An imaginative and sensitive child, she was always ill at ease with power

relationships, especially those she encountered at school. Even today, she retains her indignation: “Public humiliation is what school is all about,” she says. “Grades—you grade slabs of meat, not children.”

Increasingly alienated by the educational system, Chute married at 16, then dropped out of school,

“TV was traumatic for me. My family used to sit around the table and tell stories, my parents, grandparents, and uncle. Then they got a TV set, changed the furniture to face the TV, and nobody sat at the table and talked anymore...”

finishing her diploma at night. Night school taught Chute that she enjoyed learning, once she was treated as an equal.

After her first marriage broke up, she supported herself and her young daughter with whatever work she could find in factories and on farms, meanwhile taking courses in literature and psychology at USM in Gorham. A professor got her work as the Gorham correspondent for the *Press Herald*. Chute remembers this job as “doing stories about lost snakes, and follow-ups when they were found.”

PALISADE 30 SECONDS WITH

Jamie Wyeth once received a free computer from a company that asked him to try it out. His response then was, “They make a better mooring buoy.” What human qualities have been lost in the computer age since the publication of *Beans*?

All of them. A computer is not human. Face-to-face relationships.

How do you feel about *The Beans* being offered as an e-book through Kindle?

I never think about computers or e-books. They're not part of my life.

Have people who don't understand you tried to marginalize you for your political beliefs? If so, how has that affected your literary career?

I have a lot of good company.

Maine has more violent deaths from guns each year than Japan and Britain combined. Is that an oversimplification?

There is more child suicide by hanging in Japan than in the U.S.

She continued to write, expanding a number of novels she'd been developing since childhood. Encouraged to join the fledgling Stonecoast writing program, her first publication, a short story, “Ollie, Oh,” was anthologized in 1983's *Best American Short Story* collection. “All kinds of agents began to call me after that, wanting a novel. And I'd been working on something forever—it eventually became *The Beans*.”

Chute is adamant *The Beans* has nothing to do with Parsonsfield. In fact, she states none of her characters are modeled from

life. She begins work with something inef-
fable, she says—an image or a feeling—and
follows it to see how it will develop. “I’m
interested in both the mythical and the real.
And I like to have a little fun with my char-
acters, especially when I’m writing about
real life, which to me is suffering. The only
time it’s good is when you have a tiny, ten-
minute break from suffering. So you have
to try to have fun. For me, that’s putting my
characters together to see what they’ll do.
I’m always watching how people are and
how they interact.”

OF TRUTH CAROLYN CHUTE

**Your images are so strong they are poetic (i.e., “tar pa-
per the color of a submarine”). Do you write poetry?**
Only in college as an assignment.

**What’s the best inspiration that a non-writer gave
you accidentally?**

My grandma always gave me a pencil box when
I was a kid.

What’s the title of your latest book, and what is it about?

A 1,000-page manuscript called *His Son*. I can’t
really say what it’s about. Life.

**What’s your readership outside the U.S.? Have you ever
been approached by people from other countries? If so,
which ones, and what do they say?**

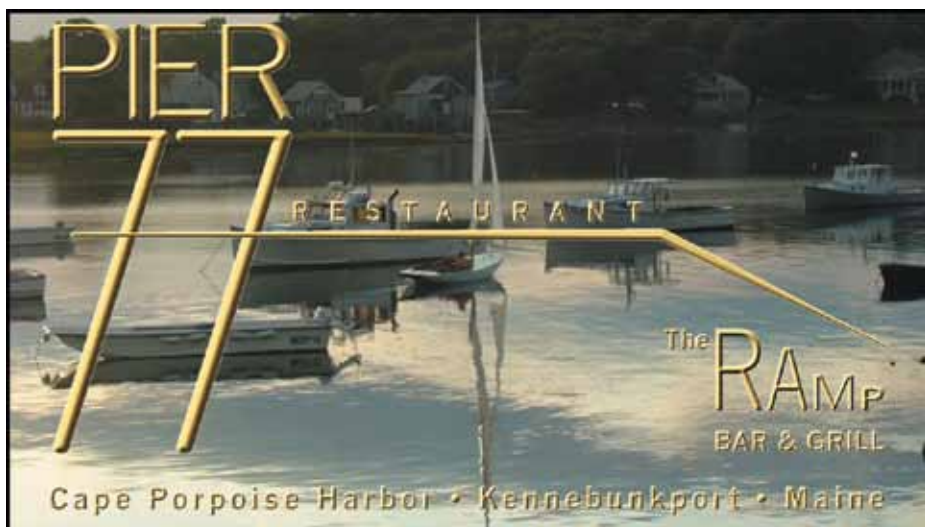
I don’t know.

What’s the future of the book?

If the humans are all dead, there won’t be
much use for books. I don’t think there’s much
future for the humans.

Chute experiences writing as entering
an “altered state,” driven by lots of
coffee and concentration. The slightest
distraction can throw her off track, so there
can’t be anyone else in the room. “It’s just
pouring out, I’m not plotting it. You get a lot of
stuff out and then go back and edit it 50 times.
At least! Move this around, throw this out and
throw that out—all these revisions until it fits. It
isn’t even anything I can describe. I’m going by
feeling, all feeling. The way people play piano
by ear, that’s how I write—by ear.”

(Continued on page 73)



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Donald Sussman at his North Haven home with Robert Indiana and his iconic sculpture.

INTERVIEW BY DAVID SVENSON

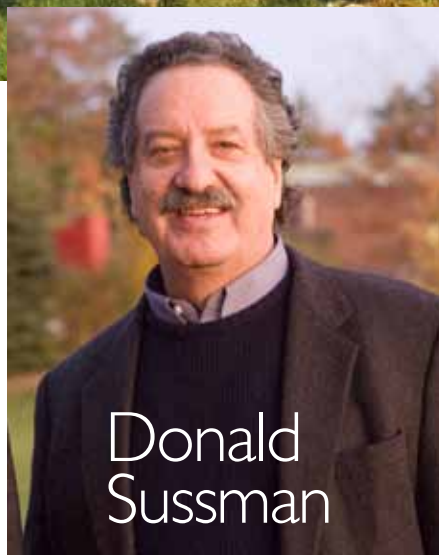
In the headlines he's a hedge-fund billionaire with a controversial private jet, but the reason **Donald Sussman** is intriguing this year is far more personal. While these stories fill the blogs and newspapers nationwide, Sussman is moving very quickly to follow up his keen interest in contemporary art and culture. All of a sudden, he's taken bold steps to increase his visibility as a prime mover at Portland Museum, a benefactor for local artists, a sponsor of local shows, and friend to pop-art icons like Robert Indiana. Hey, what's up?

As a member of the Board of Trustees at the Portland Museum of Art, you have a unique opportunity to watch the collections grow. How would you describe your relationship with the artwork at the museum?

The Portland Museum of Art is an extraordinary resource and an integral part of our creative economy. There are no specific works at PMA that I'd consider my favorites. What I truly love is seeing the changing exhibits that continually educate my eye and expose me to Maine art and expand my prior art knowledge.

You're part of PMA's "1882 Circle" group of highest-paying donors. What's your pet project?

I love "Circa"—a changing exhibit of the amazing and diverse work of Maine's young contemporary artists—and I am very happy to support it.



Donald Sussman

"Circa" recently showcased the photography of Madeleine de Sinety. What connected to you about this powerful show? Have you ever dabbled in art? What Maine artists do you and Rep. Pingree know and collect?

We are fans of many Maine artists and have collected the works of both Louise Nevelson and Eric Hopkins for a long time. I would occasionally encounter Louise when she and I both lived in SoHo, and Chellie and Eric have known each other from early days on North Haven. I'm an avid photographer although not a collector. I do have a secret fantasy that someday I'll be a student in the back row of a MECA class—in either oil or acrylic painting.

Your initiative to convert a number of houses in the Hampshire St. Corridor of Munjoy Hill into live-in studios for artists is certainly great news and something we'd like to follow.

I believe building Maine's creative economy is an investment in our future. The work of ArtSpace and many local developers has shown that creating more affordable living and studio space for local artists is critical to this process. The Hampshire Street neighborhood has a rich history of cultural diversity and great potential for a vibrant future. I'm thrilled to be working with the community to design a use for these properties that best supports local artists, craftsmen, and the Hampshire Street neighborhood.

What's your idea of an urban utopia for artists?

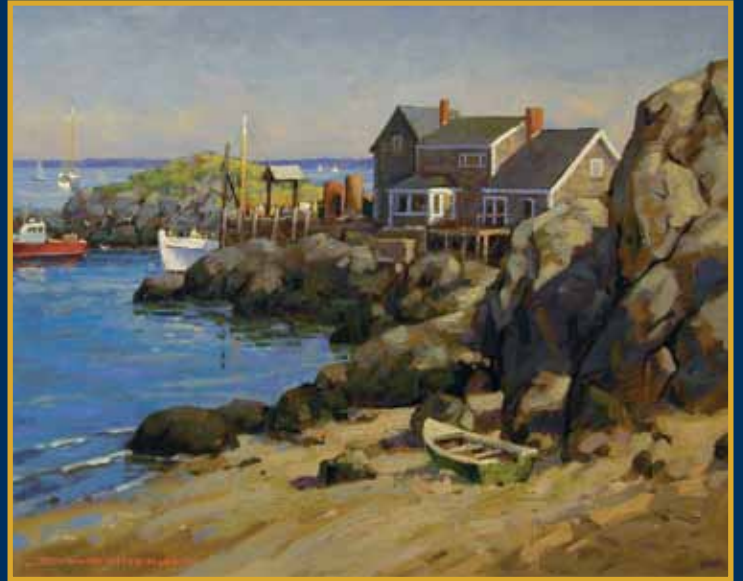
SoHo was this way in the Sixties—a thriving mecca for artists with affordable studios and residences and strong support in the community. It was a creative place that attracted buyers and was wonderful for the artists of the time. Portland has many of the same possibilities—all with the backdrop of a working waterfront and a practical, working city.

What do you like about the gallery scene here, and what would you like to see in the future?

We love the First Friday Art Walks. We always find a new place or learn of the work of a new artist—and we've purchased several wonderful pieces. Both June Fitzpatrick and Andy Verzosa have been very welcoming, showcasing many excellent contemporary artists and always alerting us to work they

(Continued on page 73)

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Clockwise from Top Left: "A Lupine Morning" by Thomas Adkins, 24" x 24", "Monhegan Dock" by Donald Allen Mosher, 24" x 30",
"The Elms of Castine" by Ken Knowles, 24" x 30", "Holiday in Harpswell" by Marieluise Hutchinson, 5" x 7"



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PERSONALITIES

The fresh Wikipedia entry on famous English Channel swimmers lists Pat Gallant-Charette, 60, as the oldest woman in the world ever to successfully accomplish this feat. Most of us can only imagine this task.

"It was pitch dark outside" at 4 a.m., August 22, in Dover. The water looked black, numinous—a sensory deprivation booth? Pat slipped in and started her 15-hour, 57-minute swim.

"I don't rub motor oil all over my body the way Diana Nyad does," the Westbrook native says. "I trained in Maine, so there was no worry about hypothermia. The water temperature when I hit the water was 63 degrees."

Any other considerations?

I don't wear any metal on me to attract fish.

There's a story here...

They bump! In my 2008 Channel attempt, when I came within a mile and a half from the shore of France [but had to stop due to deadly currents], I was bitten by a three-foot-long something-or-other. It was too dark to see what it was. It had no teeth but somehow grabbed me with its mouth and shook back and forth. I've been 20 feet from a shark and stung by jellyfish. They're pretty, but it hurts as much as a bee sting. In 2008 I had all these yellow glow sticks on the boat and on my back, and you wouldn't believe how many fish were attracted to it! This time around I had a green strobe light mounted on my swim cap.

At least 100 jellyfish [seemed to follow me during the successful 2011] swim, two or three feet below me. Fortunately, it was choppy enough for the waves to push them down from the surface.

What other things have you bumped into, swimming?

A headless seal coming in with the tide. A condom. The Channel is full of trash—potato-chip bags and candy wrappers. After my swim in 2008, my tongue turned white for a week—diesel fuel.

What else were you thinking in all of that darkness? On an emotional level, is it true nobody ever swims alone?

I come from a big family in Westbrook. My father worked at the paper mill. My mother was a nurse's aid. Our friends referred to us as the poor Kennedys—we played football together.

My first brother, John Gallant, passed away at 17. I was 21, going to the Maine School of Practical Nursing. He was a junior

Channeling History

INTERVIEW BY COLIN W. SARGENT



Pat
Gallant-Charette

at Westbrook High School. He had to do a presentation on the oscilloscope. Someone's brown book bag must have turned the power on when both John and the science teacher didn't think it was on. He was electrified in front of his class. He collapsed, stood up, and collapsed again. It was a horrible shock to his heart.

John broke the state record in the two mile run two weeks before he died. He was an all-American boy. He carried newspapers for the *Press Herald* and served mass on Sundays. At his service in Westbrook, St. Hyacinth's was packed. There were track team captains from 20 different schools. All the nurses wore their white caps. At every intersection there was a police car for the motorcade to go through. It was the first funeral I'd ever been to where there were photographers as you came out of the church. Johnny's one of the people I carry with me when I swim.

Then there's my brother Robbie. When I swam Peaks to Portland the first time, it was for him. He went to Northeastern, where he broke several swimming records. He won

the Peaks to Portland swim in 1981. I was in my 30s, and I asked my doctor if I should try it. I'd just had a baby. I wasn't serious about it. I'd swum for Westbrook High School; this was just in passing. He laughed: *'No, the water's too cold.'*

Losing Robbie was extremely painful. He was the youngest of the eight of us. The night before he passed away, he was at my house. He'd been out jogging and had very minor chest pain. Before that, my brother Tom had a heart attack at 36, David at 40, and they both

Between continents, Pat swims through the Strait of Gibraltar in 2010.

Her 2011 English Channel swim cost her "\$2,500" for a chase boat to accompany her with her family aboard.



pulled through.

Robbie had high cholesterol, very, very high cholesterol. But we never thought he'd die young at 34. It was so much like David and Tom, until it was different. When we went to Maine Med, I told my kids, 'This is going to be very hard on Robbie.' Then we got to Special Care and saw the rest of my family and I knew. They were all crying.

He'd just taken his CPA exam. Two weeks after he died, the exam came in: he passed.

Robbie did great freestyle swimming at Northeastern, and butterfly. He used to swim in Boston Harbor. I would say, 'How could you swim in that water?' Which is not to say I don't love open-air swimming. When I tried the Peaks to Portland swim, I loved being among the seagulls, lobster boats—I found I liked this! This is a lot of fun! I swam harder and harder, getting stronger and stronger. I was in my late forties.

What is your resting heart rate?

My resting heart rate is low—50s. My average blood pressure is 120/60. Cholesterol: 194. HDL: 65. I'm on Lipitor because 13 years ago my cholesterol was over 200.

In the Lipitor commercials on TV, they ought to include, "Don't swim the English Channel if you're on Lipitor." How much sleep do you get?

Eight hours. But on the day before this swim, I didn't sleep at all. We had to get up at 2:30 in the morning. I'd gone to bed the previous evening but just stared at the ceiling. We stayed at a place designated for Channel swimmers—Varney Ridge Trailer Park. It isn't easy to book a Channel swim.

What was different this successful time around from 2008?

In 2008 I was so focused. This time around I was just going to enjoy it. Each mile was dedicated to someone who's inspired me. My first

(Continued on page 74)



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PERSONALITIES

Malone's Maine



BY DONNA STUART

When the purchase of one million acres of Maine forestland catapulted cable television mogul John Malone to the top of the list of the biggest landowners in the U.S., many Mainers began to worry.

How could this Colorado-based businessman, so little known in Maine, own nearly one-twentieth of the state? Who is he, and what are his intentions?

In the weeks before this magazine went to print, 70-year-old Malone was named number 69 on the *Forbes* 400 list of the richest people in America—with an estimated \$4.5 billion and 2.2+ million acres (approximately the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined) to his name—and to *Vanity Fair's* 2011 Hall of Fame for the Powers That Be. (Just a year earlier, *Forbes* ranked him 100th, with a more modest \$3 billion. His Liberty Media—which owns stakes in Sprint, Nextel, Expedia, and pro baseball's Atlanta Braves—

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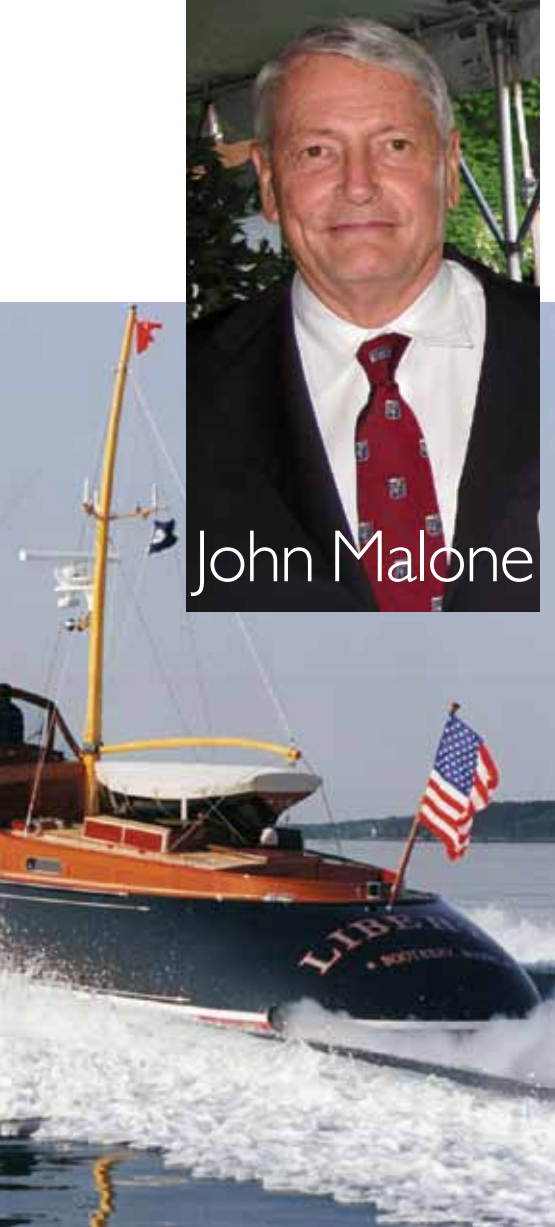
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John Malone

along with Liberty Global and Discovery Communications, have all had a very good year.) He's gone up against Rupert Murdoch, partnered with Barry Diller, and counts Ted Turner as a close friend.

But when the purchase was announced, the notoriously private Malone granted no interviews, only releasing a two-sentence statement: "My interest in land conservation is well known, and this pending land purchase in Maine will further enhance these efforts. I intend to continue the forestry operations consistent with prior practices."

Not exactly a billet doux to the Pine Tree State—nor did this terse communiqué calm the nerves of those who fear the closing of the land to recreation—or worse, its future development.

In March, Malone did open up to *Forbes* about the purchase, saying, "It fit our interests in land conservation and sustainability.

(Continued on page 74)

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PERSONALITIES

Cindy Blodgett had stood before the press many times in triumph. As an undergrad, she was a rock star in women's basketball. A four-time Kodak All American, she led UMaine to its first four appearances in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. After graduating in 1998, she was a first-round draft pick by the WNBA's Cleveland Rockers.

But on March 31, 2011, two days after being fired as coach of the UMaine women's team, Blodgett faced the press in anger. "I've been fired without cause."

The online message boards lit up. "Now that the University has shafted one of it's (sic) most popular athletes and replaced her with 'some guy,' I'm pretty sure that I will once again completely lose interest in the program," one former fan wrote—and others quickly

Abbott sent Blodgett packing. On May 9, he announced 42-year-old Richard Barron would be taking the \$110,000-a-year job.

Barron definitely has the coaching chops: After posting a 77-48 record in five seasons as the women's coach at the University of the South, he was hired by Princeton. There he inherited a team that had gone 2-25 before his arrival and had the third-worst RPI [Rating Percentage Index] in the country. (RPI is used by the NCAA to help determine post-season at-large bids and tournament seedings.) During his first season, the Tigers went 11-16; in 2006 they won the Ivy League title.

At Princeton, Barron met and married his wife, Maureen, who was the school's head softball coach. With the birth of their children—twin daughters, Lane and Rae,

Loaded for Bear

BY DONNA STUART

posted their approval. (Apparently loyalty to Blodgett, whose coaching record was 24-94, ran deeper than their desire to see their team win.)

Instead of asking, "Why did UMaine fire Blodgett," a better question might be, "Why did UMaine extend Blodgett's contract the previous fall, given the team's results?" During a SportsNation! online chat just after the contract extension was announced, women's basketball writer Mechelle Voepe opined, "Maybe Maine is looking at this and saying, 'Realistically, how good of a coach do we think we can get? Are we sure we can find someone who's better than our program's most famous alum?' In other words, I think the benefit of the doubt goes a long, long, long way when it comes to [Blodgett] and Maine."

By the spring, any benefit of the doubt had run out, and one day after he was confirmed as Athletic Director, Steve

and son, Billy—and knowing, "You don't get the time back," Maureen became a stay-at-home mom and they moved on. Their first stop: Waco, Texas, where he was assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Baylor for two years. Next was a two-year stint in Raleigh as assistant coach at North Carolina State that ended when Orono called.

"Why not a woman coach?" UMaine fans asked. After all, prior to Barron's hire, there had been only two male coaches in the team's history.

With the exception of his first year in Sewanee, Barron has spent his entire career coaching women.

The quiet-spoken and charismatic Southerner says there are differences in coaching women—and that's he's different now, having coached them.

"Men want to be the king of the mountain. Women are more sensitive to their teammates and want everyone to feel included;

and they're less likely to come in and take over a team. There are advantages to both. Regrettably, in sports, one way to challenge a man is to challenge his manhood—to say he throws like a girl. But it doesn't work the other way; you can't flip it around and tell a woman she plays like a man. Instead, with women you have to figure out their motivations and use that to try to reach your goal."

Some blamed the University for not supplying Blodgett with better players—ignoring the fact that recruiting was part of her job. Recruiting is also where Barron excels; at Baylor, he landed the nation's top recruit, Brittney Griner. According to Barron, "In today's athletics, being the head coach is like being a CEO. If any department isn't functioning well, you're not going to have a very successful company. Recruiting is like R&D. It's so much more than X's and O's. It's really all about managing people."

While some have decried the loss of top Maine high school players to out-of-state colleges, Barron says, "Our first priority is to improve the team measurably. If we come up to the past record, players will want to come here. It comes down to the individuals, their ability, and the likelihood of their coming to Maine. If the good player is in Bangladesh,



Rick Barron

With "a big pair of shoes to fill," as one observer kidded, Rick Barron finds himself in a position to redefine what it means to be a coach.

that's where we're going."

Whatever the fireworks around his predecessor's departure, Barron says Blodgett—who's now assistant coach at the University of Rhode Island—is always welcome back. "Cindy has done so much for our program. She was such a fantastic player, and her legacy is well established. I'm sure it was a tough time; she put so much into the program. To have that reaction is perfectly understandable. That said, it really doesn't affect my job going forward." Neither is the team's recent record what it's about for him. "I'd approach it no differently if they'd won the national championship. I have to coach the way I think is best."

Barron believes the program has a lot of potential. "What really excites me is the idea of 5,000 or 6,000 people in Alford watching women's basketball. It's like the chicken and the egg: Which comes first, the wins or the fans? I promise we'll have a team that will play hard; they'll be enjoyable to watch, extremely competitive and physical. Their efforts may not be the prettiest initially, but we'll get there."

In the end, the Black Bears did get a woman coach. Days after arriving in Orono, Maureen Barron was hired as interim softball coach. ■

FROM TOP: UNIVERSITY OF MAINE; FILE PHOTO

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PERSONALITIES

10 Most, Ashley Hebert (continued from page 34)

and every year in Madawaska we have the Acadian Festival, where we celebrate the heritage of one family. People travel from all over the country to come back to their roots.

What role does your French-heritage culture define you as a modern-day woman? Can a person hold both traditional and modern, popular cultural values at the same time?

I definitely feel like times are changing, and the way of life and traditional roles my grandparents upheld have been modified as time moves on. I grew up in a household that was rooted from a French heritage and traditional family roles but was very modern. My mother was the breadwinner and caregiver. I do believe it's possible to have both traditional and modern values. My personal belief and hope for my family is a traditional foundation with a modern-day twist.

I see you as a representative of the Maine French-heritage culture, which helps to grow the definition of what it means to be a modern French-heritage cultural woman. Do you see yourself as representing the French-heritage culture, and if so, how do you see yourself in that role?

I wouldn't consider myself as a good representative of French heritage, because as time moves on, generations are unfortunately losing the influences of this culture. I believe my parents' generation was the last to really have a strong French influence. My generation has much less, and I believe the next will be the same. It is very unfortunate.

As modern-day Evangeline, how do you see yourself in defining/fashioning the changing roles for women?

I think it's important for not only women, but individuals to be independent and self-sufficient. This is where my desire to move away from traditional values stems from. As a modern-day woman, I will strive to be the best doctor and mother I can be. It can be done!

Our cultural archetypes may appear set in stone, but they accommodate every generation.



10 Most, Chrystie Corns (continued from page 35)

I consider myself a modern woman with very traditional values. I believe a woman can have everything she wants and needs. I believe women should always speak up for themselves and fight to remain on a level playing field with men. But, I also believe in traditional male/female roles within a family. For example, I like that the man is the breadwinner and the female tends to the children. I believe men should mow lawns and shovel snow while women should wash clothes and dust.

I grew up in Madawaska, but went to school at USM, so Portland has always felt like 'home' to me. Even when I was living in Hawaii, I longed for the amazing autumn days of Portland.

I see you as representatives of the Maine French-heritage culture, which helps to grow the definition of what it means to be a modern French-heritage cultural woman. Do you see yourself as representing the French-heritage culture, and if so, how do you see yourself in that role?

I wouldn't say I represent the entire French heritage culture, but what I do see is a sub-culture of emerging young people within French-Heritage culture who are redefining what that culture means and who those people are. I'd like to say that I do feel I belong to that group.

As modern-day Tante Blanche, how do you see yourself in defining/fashioning the changing roles for women?

I believe that Franco-American women are stepping out of the shadows of their male counterparts and utilizing all of the great gifts that were given to them growing up in Franco-American culture. I'd like to think that I'm the epitome of the woman who voices her opinion (even though it may not be shared by most) and stands by that word. I'm also the type who is open to suggestion and willing to learn from other people and see different points of views. The modern day Franco-American women has these qualities.

Any last thoughts you would like to share on the influence you have in today's popular cultural world?

I think my sister and I are bringing a little celebrity to a sub-culture of Franco-Americans who share the same French last name. Hopefully we come across as girls with good heads on our shoulders.

10 Most, Tom Andrews (continued from page 36)

kind of activism. People in Maine give a damn. There's a strong community of faith and a strong sense of community activism. People care. Times are tough, people are focused on the bread-and-butter challenges, but Maine is filled with people who want to take action to save the lives of thousands of people. It's a great place to get traction, to get a more useful U.S. response.

When I was in South Sudan, it was like being in *Alice in Wonderland*. All these people were coming to me and describing what Omar al-Bashir and his forces were doing.

Within 24 hours of being back on Capital Hill, I set out and described what I saw and heard South Sudan. I started working with Congress to draft legislation about the points I've made to get something done.

What we need to do is reach out to the religious community here and the women's groups, child advocacy organizations, and present facts to create a movement here. All these groups are being attacked in Sudan. It's hitting home.

George Clooney is backing a surveillance operation of Sudan and South Sudan called the Satellite Sentinel Project. The aim is to keep an eye on any further conflicts in the region. Have you had worked with Clooney on this project?

The Satellite Sentinel Project is a resource that is very important, and we'll use the information they provide. We work very closely with the organizations and people involved, like the Enough Project and John Prendergast, but I haven't had any contact with George Clooney.

In your work and travels, have you ever been in a dangerous situation?

The moment that comes to mind where I was particularly nervous was when I was on my way to meet Aung San Suu Kyi at her home in Burma. I entered the country quietly as a tourist. I met her party's deputy, and he arranged for me to meet her later at night. When the call came, I hailed a cab to be as nondescript as possible. As we're driving along the road, soldiers came out of the woods, telling us to pull over. Somehow they were tipped off. They pointed their AK-47s at my head. They were yelling and said the best thing I could do was turn around. I thought I was going to be taken into the woods and shot. We were able to leave, but I never made it to see Aung San Suu Kyi.

10 Most, Carolyn Chute (continued from page 39)

Oddly enough for a writer, Chute doesn't feel entirely at home with words. She's always experienced the world in pictures and feels "what goes on in my head is more complex than speech." When she writes, ideas often outstrip her word recall—she leaves blanks for certain words, filling them in later. The process seems analogous to translation, with English a second language into which she transposes a liquid flow of images.

She does most of her work in long hand. "I'm perfectly happy writing on paper with a pen, in a rocking chair by the window," she says. While she used typewriters and early word processors in the past, the computer presents a special problem for her. "I look at the screen, and it reminds me of TV. And TV was traumatic for me. My family used to sit around the table and tell stories—my parents, grandparents, and uncle. Then they got a TV set, changed the furniture to face the TV, and nobody sat at the table and talked anymore—they all watched *Lawrence Welk*. Now we've got these computers—there's a jillion writers out there, and they're all on the computer."

Chute sees a changing literary scene providing writers diminishing rewards. She notes books getting shorter and advances smaller. With publishers largely interested in what she calls "kiss-and-tell books," Chute feels serious writers have been relegated to the role of window dressing. Each publishing house supports a few to maintain their literary cachet. She doesn't see the situation improving.

Chute says her stint as Gorham correspondent for the *Press Herald* involved "doing stories about lost snakes, and follow-ups when they were found."

"Anyone who wants to write today, my advice is they really should get training to be a nurse or a cop or join the military. Why would I want anyone to have such a miserable life, being a writer? It's lots of grueling work for very little reward."

Chute laughs when she says this, for she's currently working on another novel, *His Son*, and like everyone who suffers from art, she recognizes there's no contending with the Muse that has called her.

Andrew Yale is a freelance writer and photographer based in Parsonsfield. *Letter from an Empty Valley* is his latest book.

10 Most, Donald Sussman (continued from page 40)

think we'll like. We'd love to see David Wilson, a marvelous contemporary artist with a summer gallery on North Haven, featured in Portland as well.

You kindly donated \$250,000 to the Etz Chaim Synagogue to help complete work on their emerging museum of family histories. Portlanders will see their cultural background further chronicled and appreciated. What was your inspiration for this extraordinary gift?

I was strongly drawn to the neighborhood nature of this synagogue, as well as its powerful history of taking on social change in this once very Jewish part of Portland. I love the philosophy of the Temple—all are welcome, there is no fee to join, and community outreach and a very welcoming garden in front are all part of the mission.

With an emphasis on ancestry, this museum is sure to spark the genealogical explorer in a lot of people. Have you ever traced your family history? What did it mean to you?

Both sets of my grandparents are fairly recent immigrants, and this gives me a sense of my place. I want to have a plaque to my father at this synagogue.

What future projects for the art and culture of Portland do you have?

Maine and Portland are in the forefront of so many movements that support our culture and history and could be increasingly good for our economy. I am a strong supporter of local agriculture, renewable energy, and the creative economy. I hope I can continue to do more to see them grow.

We can be most inspired by those closest to us. How has your marriage to Rep. Pingree influenced your cultural and personal philanthropy?

There can be no denying that my life has changed enormously since Chellie and I became a couple. I have long been a Maine summer resident (since 1993 in Deer Isle) and a Maine philanthropist but always lived a quiet life and went mostly unnoticed. Things change dramatically when you're married to someone in public life. I'm now a Maine resident and taxpayer, and I believe deeply in the future of Maine. I continue to support many of the same things—living on an organic farm on North Haven, supporting even more Maine causes, and adding to my collection from the work of Robert Indiana, who is a fascinating neighbor and friend.

PERSONALITIES

10 Most, Pat Gallant-Charette (continued from page 43)
mile was dedicated to my neighbor Sherri Kelley, a young mother who has a brain tumor and lung cancer. She's undergoing chemotherapy and doing well.

Do you ever dream that you're swimming?

In dreams and nightmares. In one nightmare I'm swimming from Catalina Island to the California coast, and I meet a great white. The thing is, I'm actually about to make that swim. It's 21 miles, and even though it's very safe, I've hired John Pitman of the *Outrider* to watch over me because I'll be swimming at midnight. You think of the opening frames in *Jaws*.

Don't you wish you'd come in late for that movie!

My focus won't be on sharks. If mother nature's on my side, it will be a world record.

[We interrupt this interview with a POSTSCRIPT FROM THE EDGE OF THE CONTINENT at press time]:

"Yesterday, October 18, 2011, I broke the world record for the oldest woman to swim from Catalina Island to mainland California. I had two Catalina Swimming Federation officials on board to monitor my swim.

"Please read my posting on my blog patgallant.blogspot.com.

"We took pictures and videos. Most amazing video was the ending when I was escorted to the finish line by at least 100 dolphins. What an experience!"

Since swimming the English Channel, have you ever experienced age discrimination locally, like "Out of my way, grandma. That's my parking spot at the Maine Mall?"

Not in words, but I get looks. I'll be introduced to swim teams with younger athletes, girls in their teens. And maybe their eyes will be saying, 'You've swum the English Channel?' Because I'm a big girl. I always say, 'Don't underestimate the grandmother from Maine.'

Sometimes a younger co-worker of mine will say at the end of the day, 'I'm beat. I'm just going to go home and crash.' It's all I can do to keep from saying, "Yeah, I remember those days."

In addition to this and her Channel record, she swam across the Strait of Gibraltar, from Spain to the coast of Africa, on June 16, 2010. She was the third-fastest woman to pull this off since 1928 and set the U.S. women's record for any age. She's the fastest for anyone over 50, man or woman, worldwide at this 9-mile distance.

10 Most, John Malone (continued from page 45)

From a financial point of view, it's a pretty decent hedge on devaluation of currency. It's a commodity-based asset, a hard asset, an asset that could see a tailwind if in fact the U.S. construction industry comes back... All of it will be operated as sustainable forestry. I think private ownership is generally superior to public because you care about the land more and it doesn't get trashed.... There's an emotional and intellectual aspect of walking the land and getting that sense of awe and the feeling that 'wow, this is neat.' I own it, sort of, for my lifetime. But I'm really just a steward."

Deep breath. It wasn't a Plum Creek kind of deal. Still, that begs the question: Why Maine?

As the French say, "cherchez la femme." At the center of Malone's life—even his universe—is his wife, Leslie. The pair met when she was fifteen and he was about to enter Yale; they married after he graduated in 1963. She focused on raising their two children, daughter Tracy and son Evan, and more recently on riding horses and enjoying their grandchildren, while he was all about business. He realized along the way that she felt she always came in second, so he resolved to change.

The Malones have been coming to Maine since 1982. Author Ken Auletta, who wrote about Malone in his 2011 book, *The Highwaymen: Warriors of the Information Superhighway*, quotes Malone as saying, "When I'm in Maine, I'm a different person. I smile. I sleep well. I'm more fun." Maine also reminds the couple of where they grew up in Connecticut, before the state became overbuilt and overcrowded.

Part of their life change was the purchase of Burleigh Hill, a 1904 Stanford White-designed home in Boothbay. Its meticulous restoration took two years. Originally, the property had just 63 acres; today, it's set on 220 acres on the Back River and is complete with pond, apple orchard, and vegetable gardens. (The Malones also own the Mosquito Islands in Penobscot Bay, Tibbett Island in the Back River, as well as other land in the Boothbay area.)

The couple stays in Maine as much as four to five months a year, typically making the trip from Colorado twice—in late June and late January—not in a corporate jet, but in a luxurious motorhome, as Leslie won't fly. The drive, which they make with their passel of prize pugs, takes as much as forty hours.

In summer, the semi-retired Malone rises early to walk the dogs, then attends to business for an hour or so before having tea with his wife. While she paints in her studio, he may row two hours to the boatyard; later, they might go antiquing. An avid sailor—and owner of the Boothbay Region

Boatyard—Malone pilots his 80-foot yacht, *Liberty*, alone; often it's their preferred mode of transportation when going out for dinner. Dreaming of simplicity, the pair makes a point of living without a cook or driver either in Maine or Colorado.

In winter, the Malones skate on the farm pond, watch movies, or pack up and head for "a personal retreat" they've owned for a dozen years, Falcon Lodge: a seven-acre compound on 15,000 acres around Spencer Lake, near

Jackman and the Quebec border. Malone bought another 53,524 acres nearby in 2002. Once called "the wilderness equivalent of the Ritz-Carlton," Falcon Lodge was previously run as a hunting and fishing camp for the ultra-rich, catering to a maximum of a dozen guests who wanted to fly fish, mountain bike, and shoot skeet.

Despite the Malones' penchant for privacy, he told *Forbes* when asked if he intends to allow public recreation on his recent purchase of Maine forestland, "We've kept the lake on which we have our personal getaway open to the public at no charge. We've never had a problem in 12 years. It works."

Careful stewardship aside, what does the future hold for Malone's Maine and other properties? Malone told *Forbes*, "I'm putting most of the land in conservation easements which are hopefully supposed to be perpetual. But I'm not going to kid myself and think that 500 years from now, with population growth, that the government won't start putting people on the land. But at least I tried." ■



Above: The sumptuous interior of Malone's 80-foot Hodgdon Yacht *Liberty*, which he keeps at his Boothbay Region Boatyard. Malone's U.S. land holdings are as large as Delaware and Rhode Island combined.



63 Pleasant Hill Road • Scarborough
P: 885.1499 • F: 885.9410
info@easterncarpetcleaning.com



"Clean Up Cancer"

For well over a year now many of us have seen the pink van of **Eastern Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning** driving around York and Cumberland counties, and we may have asked what's it all about. To clear up this question I spent some time with Diane Gadbois at her home and asked her some very personal questions that I am sure were difficult to answer. You see, George and Diane Gadbois are private people who give more than their share back to the community, and the last thing they want is to be noticed for their generosity. They started Eastern Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning 40 years ago on a wish and a prayer and now have the largest family-run carpet cleaning and water damage restoration company in the area.

Back to the pink van! If you notice on the rear side panels are the words Susan G. Komen for the Cure. This national foundation has brought forth women's cancer awareness, promoted extensive cancer research, and although not exclusive to the cause, is nationally recognized by the color pink. The cost to place this name on the van will not be discussed here, but let us say the

yearly donation is significant and the proceeds all go to the cure for women's cancer.

Diane was introduced to breast cancer early in life when her mother had a radical mastectomy. She remembers her mother's doctor telling her sister and her "one of you will have cancer." Not a pleasant thought at the time, but it stuck with Diane and saved her life. Twice, after the normal tests and screenings for cancer, Diane received a clean bill of health and relatively soon after, while doing a self-examination, found a lump. Not once but twice! Fortunately they were found in time, and Diane is doing fine, but she wants to get the message out that as important as it is to get regular screenings, it is equally as important to be your own advocate and make double sure with a self-examination.

So when you see the pink Eastern van go by, remember it's just Diane reminding you even if you have had the tests be your own advocate and make a regular self-examination part of your life because it could save it. It did for Diane!