Our Pledge: To continue providing high quality choices for the Midcoast region

All practices are open to new patients

Midcoast Region Primary Care Providers

Bath Family Medicine

765 High Street, Suite 4, Bath 443-4471

Brunswick Family Medicine

33 Bath Road, Brunswick 721-9323

Brunswick Primary Care

329 Maine Street, Suite H, Brunswick 729-6162

Lisbon Family Practice

2 Bisbee Street, Lisbon 353-6721

Topsham Family Medicine

4 Horton Place, Suite 101, Topsham 798-6200

Topsham Specialty Services

Topsham Medical Building, 4 Horton Place, Suite 201, Topsham

Coastal Plastic Surgery

798-6262 www.coastalplasticsurgerymaine.org

Endocrinology & Diabetes Care, including Nutritional Counseling

795-7520

Infectious Diseases

795-2729

Neurology

795-2927 or 800-308-0460

Obstetrics-Gynecology

795-5770

Pediatric Cardiology

795-5730

Pulmonary and Sleep

795-5544

Urology

795-5767

Vascular Surgery

795-8260

Brunswick Specialty Services

329 Maine Street, Brunswick

Central Maine Heart Associates

729-5720

Hematology-Oncology

319-1847



Here for you... Here to Stay



OCTOBER **2015** 57





ARTIST AT WORK

Over the course of a week of packing and moving her to an assisted-living facility, I encountered little-known facts about my neighborhood, my hometown, my heritage.

Sitting in the middle of the room were the boxes of unsorted and unlabeled photographs. My mom picked one up:

"This is a photo of the synagogue your great-grandfather started."

Etz Chaim? My great-grandfather, Philip Levinsky. Why don't I know I this?

A week later, while kayaking in Casco Bay, my guide remarks:

"House Island was known as the 'Ellis Island of the North.' In November of 1923, 218 immigrants were diverted to Casco Bay, Maine."

House Island-immigrants detained and quarantined. Why don't I know about this?

I stumble across this paragraph researching House Island.

"When immigrant ships landed in Portland in 1923 and 1924, and the passengers were maintained on House Island, the Portland Council of Jewish Women set up kosher kitchens there... They also assisted immigrants in entering this country..."

Kosher kitchens? Immigrant assistance? Why don't I know about this?!

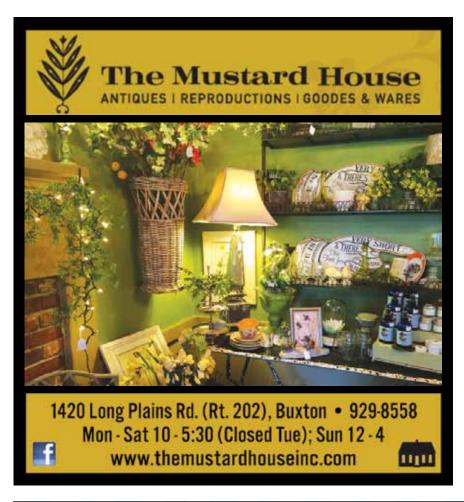


COINCIDENCE, PART 2

he Etz Chaim Synagogue at the bottom of The Hill has recently been restored. Changing demographics, changing politics, changing economics led to the shuttering of its doors. It reopened as an "inclusive" synagogue and the Maine Jewish Museum.

I make an appointment to meet with the curator, Nancy Davidson. I tell her I am an artist. I tell her about my great grandfather. I tell her about House Island. I broach the idea









ARTIST AT WORK

tion of textiles, sound recordings, and floor coverings. *Weave the Tent* events occurred throughout Portland to create the concurrent community exhibit and accompanying public events.

Sarah's Generosity presents the history of the Jewish women who created a kosher kitchen on House Island. Each woman's story is told in images transferred onto aprons.

Habeas Corpus presents the modern-day stories of immigrant cab drivers in Portland. Their voices will tell the story of all immigrants—current and past—and told from a taxi cab.

n my way to my studio, I walk along the same streets where the Irish, Italian, Greek, and Jewish immigrants lived when they first arrived in Portland. They were asylum seekers and refugees–escaping a life of persecution and poverty to provide their families a better life.

Today, new Mainers live on those same streets. They too are asylum seekers and refugees—who follow in the footsteps of those early immigrants.

I am a storyteller. I tell stories through my art.

I create artworks about small moments in history that reflect larger issues within a contemporary context. The role of the House Island quarantine station and those who welcomed the stranger may serve us as we find our own ways to welcome the stranger today.

Visit the "Welcoming The Stranger" exhibit at the Maine Jewish Museum at 267 Congress Street in Portland (773-2339, mainejewishmuseum.org) through October 26. Portland native Jo Israelson is a multi-media installation artist and stone sculptor with a degree from the University of Maryland.





