

YES on 1

Upcoming Events

Garden Party

Thursday, Sept. 20

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Home of Edmund Gardner III &
Stephen DiMuccio

Please RSVP by Sept. 13

MainersUnited.org/GardenParty

Engagement Brunch

Sunday, Oct. 14

11:00 a.m.-1p.m.

Grace Restaurant

MainersUnited.org/Brunch

**WINNING MARRIAGE
FOR ALL LOVING,
COMMITTED COUPLES**

Vote "YES" on marriage for ALL
Maine families this November.

VISIT US:

ONLINE: WWW.MAINERSUNITED.ORG

FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/MAINERSUNITED

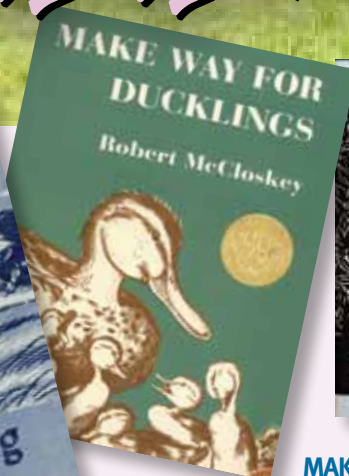
TWITTER: @MAINERSUNITED



Maine writers love to hit you where you live. But where do they live? Here are just a few touchstones.

Scribblers' Cove

BY LEIGH DONALDSON



MAKE WAY FOR MEMORIES

Isn't it charming Maine is still so full of wonder you can pick up a telephone and chat with the eponymous Sal from *Blueberries for Sal* (1948)?

Today, Robert McCloskey's (1914-2003) daughter is 67 years old. A title attorney, Sarah "Sal" McCloskey is softly aware that because she's also a fictional character, part of her will always live outside of time. She still lives in her childhood home—with the feeling her father's just about to open the door.

"We bought [Inner Scott] Island [near Deer Isle in Stonington] in 1946, when I was barely a year old. The boathouse also houses my dad's studio," Sal says. "The view of the sunset looks to the Camden Hills from the front beach."

When her dad died, the house was already in mid-renovation. "The architect was Elliott & Elliott in Blue Hill," Sal says.

"Mom's gardens fell into disrepair during the renovation. I plan to renovate them next year in different form, less

labor-intensive."

Now that summers are flying by without the author of *Make Way for Ducklings* (1941), *One Morning in Maine* (1952), and *Time of Wonder* (1957), Sal finds herself halfway across the pier from then to now. How to make sense of it all?

"No name for the boat. No name for the house," she marvels. "My parents thought that kind of thing was a bit over the top."

"Two paths cross the island from the float, an upper path and a lower path. This [photo above] is the house from the upper path."

"I've been looking all weekend for pictures of the house from before, but I haven't found what I remember."

Literary roots run deep. Along our craggy, windswept shores against the North Atlantic, across the peaceful lakes and beaches, and through the forests, writers have been inspired by our landscape, culture, and history for centuries. Because of our state's singular beauty and personality, we are influenced in unique and profound ways. In one way or another, the stories we tell are Maine stories.

Folia

foliajewelry.com



50 EXCHANGE STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE
207.761.4432
Custom designs our specialty

ROOTS



THRILLER NIGHTS

International best-selling thriller author Tess Gerritsen (b. 1953) says, "My home in Camden is right on the water. It was built around 2002 by a couple who designed it as their dream house, and that it certainly is, with a deck overlooking Penobscot Bay, large windows, and a living room with a cathedral ceiling. The couple had to leave Maine because of his job, and we were lucky enough to be its next owners.

"My writing space is a large room over the garage, and the window by my desk looks out over the bay. I see sea birds, seals, dolphins,

even an occasional bald eagle. It does distract me from my writing, but I'd never give it up. I just have to look out to remind myself how very lucky I am to be in Maine."

Gerritsen considers Maine's spellbound off-season a thoughtful writing partner.

"I attribute it partly to our long, cold winters. When it gets dark so early, when the world turns white with snow, I find that I can create imaginary colors and stories."



CAST BRONZE
WIND BELLS
DOOR
BELLS



WWW.USBELLS.COM

U.S. BELLS

56 WEST BAY RD • PO BOX 73
PROSPECT HARBOR, MAINE 04669
866-963-7184



TO THE RESCUE

This year marks the 50th anniversary of *Silent Spring's* publication. Rachel Carson's best-selling book denounces the "senseless destruction" of Maine's natural beauty. Rare is the environmentalist or ecologist who doesn't say it inspired his or her career.

Mesmerized by local wildlife, Carson (1907-1964) spent summers in this 1953 cottage on Southport Island off the tip of Boothbay peninsula, windows blue with the Gulf of Maine.

"The whole interior is pine board," says Margaret Sisson, Carson's daughter-in-law, who owns the house with Rachel's son, Roger Christie.

"Rachel chose this site for its access to tide pools. She'd collect specimens, look at them under her microscope, and return them to where she found them."

FROM TOP: CAMDEN, MAINE TAX ASSESSOR; BALLENTINE BOOKS (3); COURTESY MARGARET SISSON; (4) TON MIFFLIN; MARGARET SISSON



NO WOMAN IS AN ISLAND

Alix Kates Shulman (b. 1932) stood America on end with her 1972 best-selling *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*, one of the first novels to come out of the Women's Liberation Movement. At 50, Shulman cast aside her life of politics, family, and the literati of New York City to live in this Long Island cottage off Portland with no plumbing, electricity, or telephone.

In Shulman's 1995 memoir *Drinking the Rain*, she writes about spending 10 summers alone here and how she began to discover the delights of meditative solitude as she foraged for seafood and native plants. Says a reviewer for *Houston Chronicle*: "[Shulman] reveals how she routed her fears, came to terms with aging, and eventually integrated her expanded awareness into a mainland life of renewed commitment."

BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) was born in Rockland and grew up in half-a-dozen homes in Camden, including this Victorian at 82 Washington Street, across from the former high school, now the site of Camden-Rockland Middle School. As a high schooler, Millay wrote *Renascence*, a major poem so astonishing that it was published in *Atlantic Monthly* and so durable it appears today in the Maine Mall rotunda. Shoppers surely remember reading it on the way to the GAP and Abercrombie & Fitch: "...The world stands out on either side, no wider than the heart is wide..."



FOX BEWITCHED

Soon after writing 1928's *The Outermost House*, naturalist and journalist Henry Beston (1888-1968) visited his friend, the painter Jake Day, on his houseboat, the *Ark*, at Damariscotta Lake. It was there he learned about Chimney Farm in Nobleboro.



Beston and his wife, poet and novelist Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893-1986), purchased the Queen Anne Victorian and wrote here for decades. Their daughter, Kate Beston Barnes (Maine's first poet laureate and author of *Where the Deer Were*), recalls on henrybeston.com: "[My father] had fallen in love with the landscape and Damariscotta Lake. My mother had never seen it, but when he told her about it, she trusted him, and they bought it."

Still another literary connection: Maine poet Gary Lawless (Gulf of Maine Books) and his wife, Beth Leonard, are caretakers here.

THE LITTLE LADY WHO STARTED THE CIVIL WAR

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) is widely known as an abolitionist and author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, but she also penned a novel about life in a small fishing community called *The Pearl of Orr's Island: A Story of the Coast of Maine*, published in 1862. The book captures a young girl's life



on the rough New England coast inhabited by brawny women, ill-tempered fishermen, sea captains, and gossipy neighbors. Her 1807 Federal Street mansion in Brunswick, now gutted and the property of Bowdoin College, was, for decades, the site of The Stowe House, a legendary steak & deep-fired seafood restaurant.

Her 1807 Federal Street mansion in Brunswick, now gutted and the property of Bowdoin College, was, for decades, the site of The Stowe House, a legendary steak & deep-fired seafood restaurant.

NOW THAT'S A SWORDBOAT CAPTAIN

When she isn't at sea, Linda Greenlaw (*The Hungry Ocean*) drops anchor at her 1997 center-chimney Cape on Isle au Haut. Her studio boasts westerly views of Kimball and Vinalhaven.



After growing up in Topsham and graduating from Colby in 1983, Greenlaw, 52, skipped law school and pursued fishing. Starting as a cook, she worked her way to captaining her own swordfish boat. The world would know her as the real-life model for the role played by Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio in the film *The Perfect Storm*, based on the book by Sebastian Junger. In 1997, Greenlaw started proving she could throw out a line herself. The result? Bestsellers like *The Hungry Ocean*, *The Lobster Chronicles*, and *All Fishermen are Liars*. To read fiction Greenlaw wrote for *Portland Magazine*, visit portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/08/greenlaw. To read fiction by Junger for *Portland Magazine*, visit portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/08/junger. ■

