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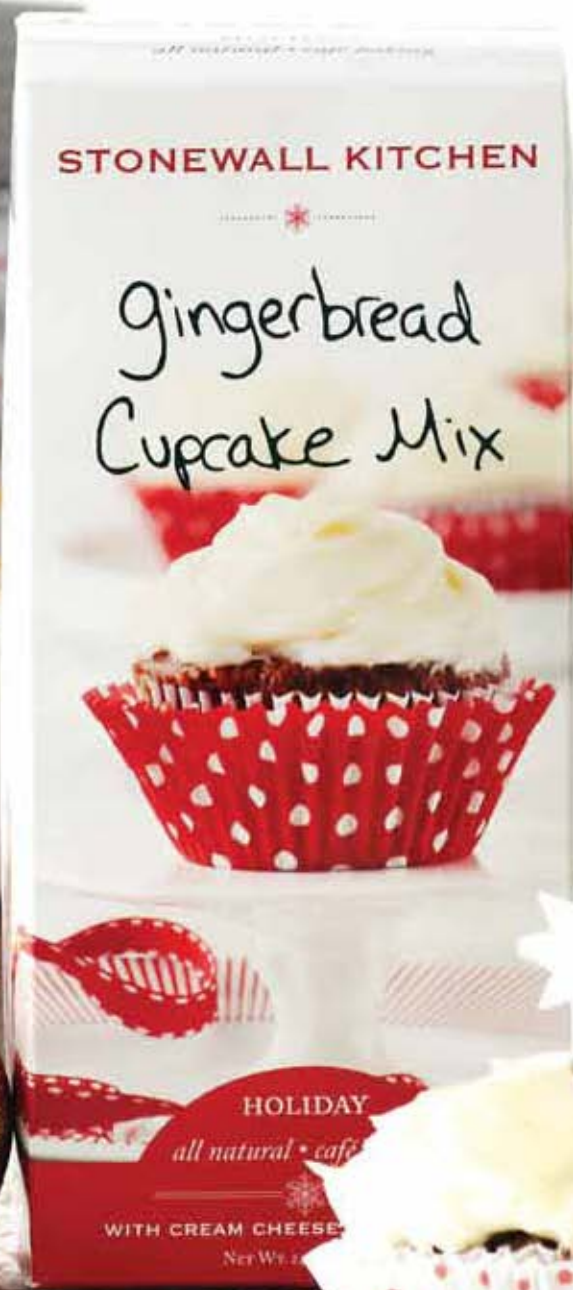
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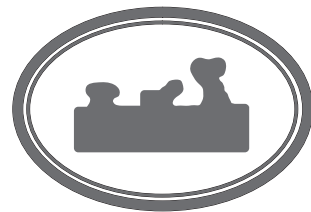
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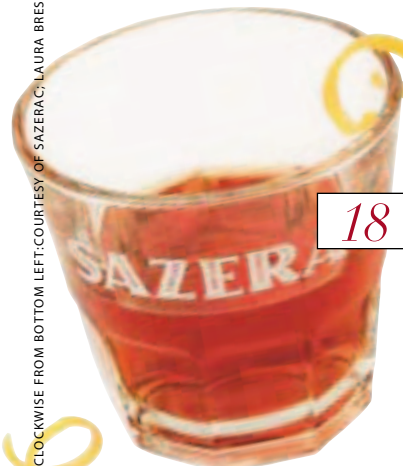
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CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY OF SAZERAC; LAURA BRESLIN; MEAGHAN MAURICE; CYNTHIA FARR-WEINFELD; MOTHER GOOD; COMES TO PORTLAND; FREDERIC W. FREEMAN



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## Rat's Reserve



Now here's a mystery. You're a visiting diner to the Kennebunks. Wine stewards in many of the glittering bistros whisper, with unreserved enthusiasm, "If you want to sample a local legend, try Rat's Reserve."

It is all that.

Eateries as diverse as the White Barn Inn and Nunan's (two favorite destinations rarely mentioned in the same breath) proudly serve it. Sure, but who is this guy, and why have his blends made him such a cult figure?

I guess I have to get the nickname Rat out of the way first, says Paul Carr, a wine expert who works as an executive with Nappi Distributors. My first year at The Shawmut Inn was 1967. I was 15 that summer and at an odd growth stage—large nose, little legs. A girl with a large personality, Tweeze Hunter, thought I

looked like a Dachshund—big nose, short legs—so my first nickname was Ratdog, then Ratboy (Brookie MacDonald from Hurricane gave me that), then Ratman, then Rat, back when no one could remember two syllables in the 1970s. Since then, my face has grown around my nose and it doesn't look as big!

Kennebunkers couldn't resist Rat's charm from 1967 to 1976, when he worked at the Shawmut; 1976 to 1983, when he worked at the Port House; and 1983 to 1990, when he owned Forefathers Tavern with Chuck Reid.

Then fate stepped in and made Rat a star. How do you go from being an oenologist to wine blender? It's always about timing.

Jedediah Tecumseh Steele, or Jed, was the original head winemaker and vice president for the first 10 years of production for Kendall-Jackson wines, Carr says. He went out on his own in 1990. I was invited to work crush for Jed at the Steele Wines winery in Lake County, California, in October of 2006. Carr's life was beginning again at age 54. Possibly out of consideration for his new hire's nearly suffering a stroke due to all the heavy work of crush, Jed Steele told Rat he'd fulfill his dream of making just one barrel (about 25 cases) of Rat's Reserve Pinot Noir on his label.

This first barrel garnered such rave reviews that Steele still commissions Carr to create his special blends even though he chose to return to Maine; Carr creates new blends from samples sent by Steele that he combines with his wife Lynne at their home on Goose Rocks Beach. The only places you can buy Steele Rat's Reserve on Earth are in Cumberland and York counties!

Today, I'm on my sixth vintage of Steele Rat's Reserve Pinot Noir and my fifth vintage of Steele Rat's Reserve Chardonnay. My wife, Lynne, an artist, did the original artwork for the label. It had a rat wearing a tuxedo, as I used to wear at Forefathers Tavern, holding a tray of wine glasses. My tail circled up from the neck of the bottle to the capsule. Problem was, the tail got ripped in the bottling line, so the work was shortened and put on the left side of the label. I now do six barrels of each wine, or 150 cases of each, for every vintage.

Barrel samples are sent to me every December. Jed sends them to me at our home, and we do the blending together. Now for the magic. During blending, it doesn't taste like it will when it's ready for drinking. For example, the Pinot Noir gets 16 months in relatively new barrels. You have to learn how to taste the future.

Just so I don't upset anyone who has stood behind my wine and helped me from the start, I'll list the places selling it by the bottle or by the glass: The Arundel Wharf, David's Boathouse & Marina, Bintliff's, The Colony Hotel, Cape Neddick Inn, Down East Wine Imports, Earth, H.B. Provisions, Hurricane (Brookie was the first person to put both wines on by the glass, and Hurricane in Ogunquit is where I first met Jed), Kennebunk Inn, Linda Beans, Nonantum Resort, Nunan's Lobster Hut, Tides Beach Club, Village Tavern, White Barn Inn.

The former Grissini used to carry it. Also Wells Beach Steak House. Note how Carr's list is in alphabetical order. This is the type of person you want blending your wines. This is one organized Rat.

To see a review of Rat's Reserve, please visit [portlandmonthly.com/portmag/category/editor/](http://portlandmonthly.com/portmag/category/editor/)

*Colin W. Sargent*

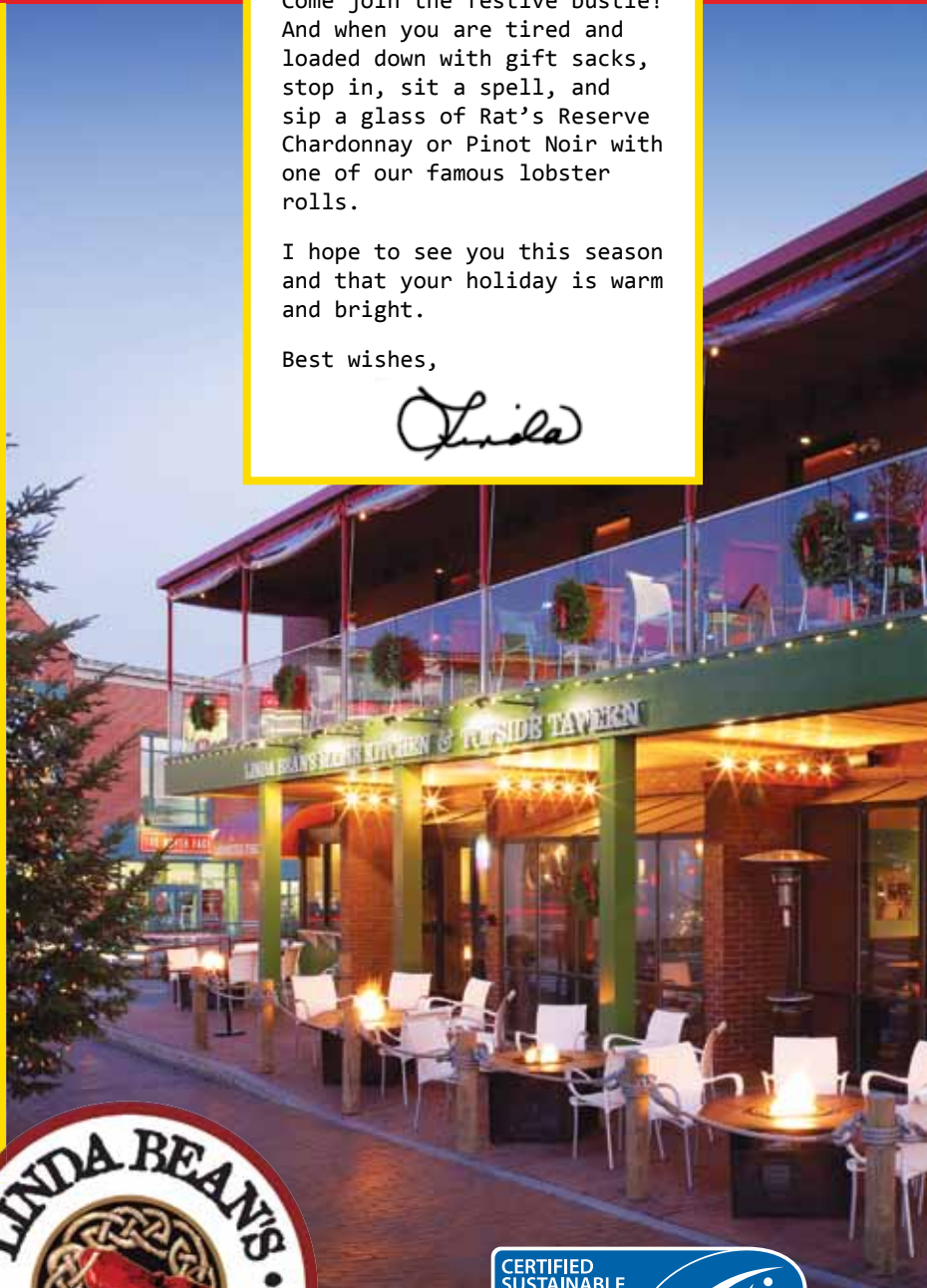
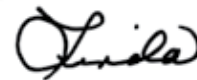
FREEPORT HOLIDAY SHOPPING RELIEF:

# A Glass of Rat's Reserve Wine and a Lobster Roll

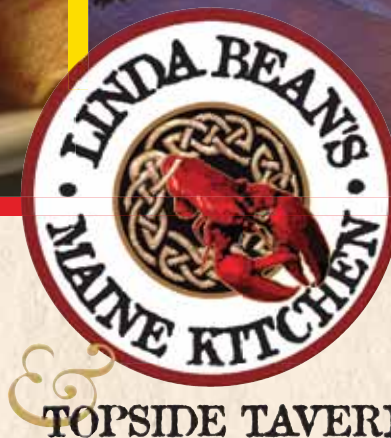
The holiday shopping season in Freeport is wonderful. Come join the festive bustle! And when you are tired and loaded down with gift sacks, stop in, sit a spell, and sip a glass of Rat's Reserve Chardonnay or Pinot Noir with one of our famous lobster rolls.

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### YANKEE CHOW MAINE

Regarding your September 2010 story "American Chop Suey," about Edward Hopper's *Chop Suey* painting, I can put to rest any ambiguity regarding where the restaurant was.

It was most definitely the Far East Garden restaurant on the second floor (indeed above Child's restaurant) at 59th and Broadway in New York City. I know because I have the photograph. I sent it to [Hopper scholar] Gail Levin a few years ago.

[I enclose a copy as proof], a crop from a very wide view of Columbus Circle. You can see the very distinctive windows and the painted signs in the lower part of each window. The exterior signs' letters also match exactly the positions of those in the painting. The location and, for that matter, the street itself, is no longer there. The restaurant was where the Torneau watch store is today, in the Time-Warner center.

John Bartelstone, New York, NY



COURTESY JOHN BARTELSTONE

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# Maine Classics

Out of the past & into the future

## Frankly Scarlet

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## FEAST YOUR EYES

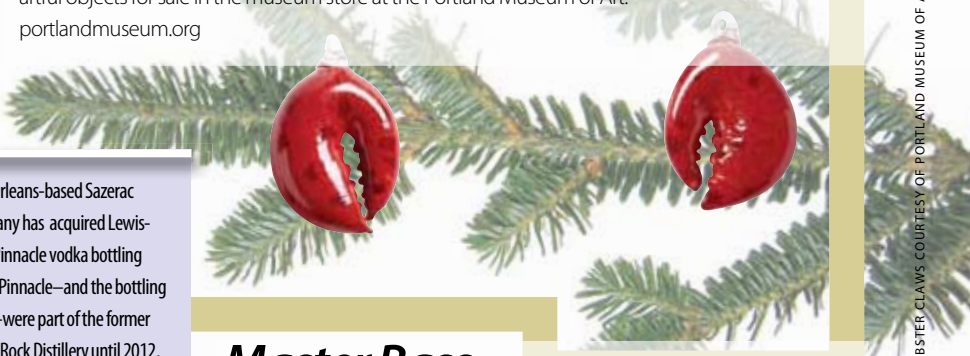
Don't you hate it when you have to choose between taking in an exhibit of exciting new paintings and eating at a five-star restaurant? Now you can do both. Artist/chef Jung Hur is a genius at hitting the spot—both with his exquisite culinary creations at Spread at 100 Commercial Street and with the astonishing one-man show of paintings he's unveiling at the same venue December 6. A Korean-trained artist Hur was previously chef at Fuji before opening Spread in 2012, where he's designed everything from the menu to the chandeliers. Consider yourself part of the exhibit and reserve a table the night of December 12 for a four-course, *prix-fixe* dinner designed to pair with the paintings. "My concept is Yin Yang—the kitchen, studio, anywhere." [spreadmaine.com](http://spreadmaine.com)

## POUR YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS



## Santa Claw

Lovely, lobster, and local glass ornaments (each \$32) for trimming the tree are the pride of Tandem Glass Studio in Dresden. They're one of many Maine-made artful objects for sale in the museum store at the Portland Museum of Art. [portlandmuseum.org](http://portlandmuseum.org)



New Orleans-based Sazerac Company has acquired Lewiston's Pinnacle vodka bottling plant. Pinnacle—and the bottling plant—were part of the former White Rock Distillery until 2012, when Beam Inc. acquired them. Look for Sazerac to arrive when Beam moves Pinnacle to Kentucky in 2014. "The plan is to move some of our Montreal production to Lewiston," says Sazerac CEO Mark Brown, who is "delighted to establish a presence in Maine—it's a lovely state!" And that goes down easy. —Frances Killea

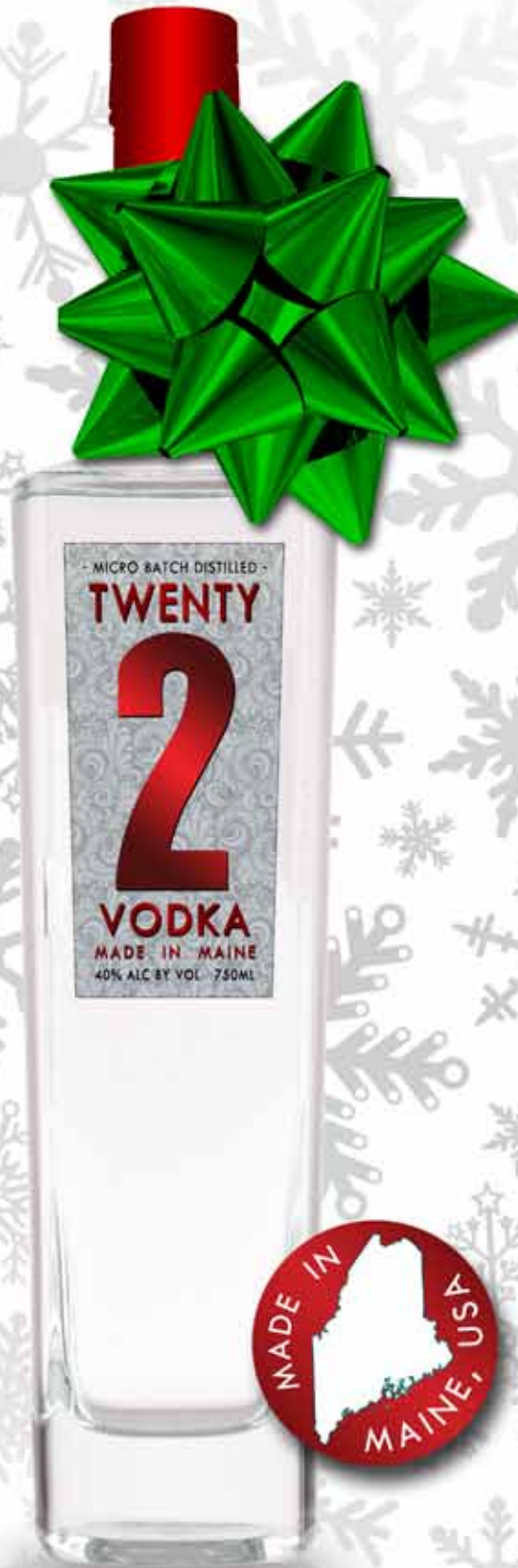
## Master Bass

Finally—the perfect gift to help your master of the universe scuff through the holidays. Just released, this special Made-in-Maine classic edition Weejun harkens to a lost era. Insider tip: They're actually luxuriant products made by Rancourt & Company in Lewiston, but must be ordered through [ghbass.com](http://ghbass.com). \$295



FROM TOP: LAURA BRESLIN; COURTESY OF JUNG HUR; LOBSTER CLAWS: COURTESY OF PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART; CHRIS PROTZMANN; COURTESY OF SAZERAC; COURTESY OF GH BASS CO.

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# Galleries

**Art Gallery at UNE**, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. Joe Guertin: A Graphic Designer Remembered, through Jan. 26. 221-4499 [une.edu/artgallery](http://une.edu/artgallery)



**Bates College Museum of Art**, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Remix: Selections from the International Collage Center, Jan. 17-Mar. 21; How to Make the Universe Right: The Art of the Shaman in Vietnam and Southern China, Jan. 24-Mar. 21. 786-6259 [bates.edu/museum](http://bates.edu/museum)

**Bowdoin College Museum of Art**, 1 Bath Rd., Brunswick. Regarding the Forces of Nature: From Alma Thomas to Yayoi Kusama, through Feb. 9; This Mighty Scourge of War: Art of the American Civil War, Through Jan. 5; Imago to Persona, through Spring 2014; Breakthrough: Work by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists, through Dec. 22; A World of Objects: Art and Artifacts from Bowdoin Collections, through Jun. 8. 725-3275 [bowdoin.edu/art-museum](http://bowdoin.edu/art-museum)

**Colby College Museum of Art**, 5600 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville. Julianne Swartz: Affirmation, through Jun. 2014; Nowhere but Here: Art from the Alex Katz Foundation, through Jan. 5; The Lunder Collection, through Jun. 2014; Jean-Victor Bertin and Landscape Painting

in France, through Jan. 5. 859-5600 [colby.edu](http://colby.edu)

**Farnsworth Art Museum**, 16 Museum St., Rockland. Every Picture Tells a Story: N.C. Wyeth Illustrations, through Dec. 29; American Treasures, through

Feb. 2; A Wondrous Journey, through Jan. 5; The Wonderful World of Oz, through Mar. 30. 596-6457 [farnsworthmuseum.org](http://farnsworthmuseum.org)

**First Friday Art Walk**, downtown Portland. Visit local galleries, studios, and museums, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7. [firstfridayartwalk.com](http://firstfridayartwalk.com)

**Maine Historical Society Museum**, 489 Congress St., Portland. This Rebellion: Maine & the Civil War, through May 2014. 774-1822 [mainehistory.org](http://mainehistory.org)

**Portland Museum of Art**, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Biennial: Piece Work, through Jan. 5; Amy Stacy Curtis, through Jan. 5; American Vision: Photographs from the Collection of Owen and Anna Wells, opens Dec. 21; Fine Lines: American Drawings from the Brooklyn Museum, opens Jan. 30. 775-6148 [portlandmuseum.org](http://portlandmuseum.org)

# Music

**Asylum**, 121 Center St., Portland. Karaoke, every W; Retro Night, every Th; Plague: Goth/Industrial Night, Every F; Men of the Strip, Dec. 12; Beth Orton, Feb. 9. [portlandasylum.com](http://portlandasylum.com)

**Blue**, 650 Congress St., Portland. Open Rounds at Blue, every Tu; Traditional Irish Session, every W; Jazz at the Blue, every F; Barn Swallows, Bluegrass Jam, Dec. 12, Jan. 9; Potato Pickers, The Bloomers, Waterweight, Dec. 13; Kyle Harsy Trio, Hee Hawk, Chris Klaxton Quartet, Dec. 14; Gunther Brown, Dec. 19; Shanna in the Round, Matt Meyer & The Gumption Junction, Andy Fawcett & Ciara Junken, Dec. 20; Zack Ovington, Sean Mencher & His Rhythm Kings, Mark Tipton Duo, Dec. 2, Jan. 18; Samuel James & Dana Gross, Dec. 26, Jan. 23; The Renovators, Lincoln Allen Jazz, LQH, Dec. 27; Hardy Brothers, Dec. 28, Jan. 25; Thomas John Cadrin, Max Garcia Conover Swaps Songs, Jan. 2; Ian Fitzgerald, OKBARI, The Evan King Group, Jan. 3; Robbie Neeb Trio, Mike Beling Trio, Jan. 4; Day for Night, The Dupont Brothers, Acadian Acai, Jan. 10; Ehud Etun, Gideon Forbes Quartet, Jan. 11; Andrew Emmons, Heather Styka, Jan. 6; Shanna in the Round, Eric Kehoe, Jan. 17; The Renovators, Victoria Smith Band, Choro Loco, Jan. 24; Chris Trapper, Jan. 31. 774-4111 [portcityblue.com](http://portcityblue.com)

Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15; The Dapper Gents, Dec. 19, Jan. 16; Bridge Walkers, Dec. 28; Jan. 25; My Bluegrass Romance, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6; Matt Meyer and Gumption Junction, Dec. 7, Jan. 4; Sean Mencher and his Rhythm Kings, Dec. 14, Jan. 11; Feb. 8. 772-5483 [thedogfish-company.com](http://thedogfish-company.com)

**Empire**, 575 Congress St., Portland. Clash of the Titans, every Wed; Classic Album Sunday: Led Zeppelin Houses of the

19; Jon Pousette-Dart Band, Feb. 28. 646-4526 [jonathansrestaurant.com](http://jonathansrestaurant.com)

**Merrill Auditorium**, 20 Myrtle St., Portland. Mannheim Steamroller, Dec. 4; Richard Stoltzman, Dec. 7; Magic of Christmas, Dec. 13-22; Victorian Nutcracker, Dec. 18; Mozart No. 41 "Jupiter," Jan. 26; Sing-Along Grease, Feb. 1; Peter and the Wolf, Feb. 2; Benjamin Grosvenor, Feb. 7; Dvorak Symphony No. 8, Feb. 11; The Mark of



The Other Bones

Holy, Dec. 15. 747-5063 [portlandempire.com](http://portlandempire.com)

**Ginkgo Blue**, 455 Fore St., Portland. Poke Chop & The Other White Meats, Dec. 13; Samuel James, Dec. 14; Flash

Zorro, Feb. 15 - 16. 842-0800 [porttix.com](http://porttix.com)

**One Longfellow Square**, 181 State St., Portland. Yulegrass with Lauren Rioux, Mike Block, Scott Law, and Amanda Kowalski, Dec. 14; Matthew Stubbs Band, Dec. 20; Ellis Paul, Dec. 28; Jonathan Edwards, Jan. 24; Dar Williams, Feb. 1; visit website for more listings. 761-1757 [onelongfellowssquare.com](http://onelongfellowssquare.com)

**Opera House at Boothbay Harbor**, 86 Townsend Ave., Boothbay. See website for listings. 633-5159 [boothbay-operahouse.com](http://boothbay-operahouse.com)

**Port City Music Hall**, 504 Congress St., Portland. Carbon Leaf, Dec. 12; Eleanor Friedberger, Dec. 13; Richard James & The Name Changers, Dec. 14; Bro Safari, Dec. 18; Anna Lombard & The Other Bones, Dec. 21; Stephen Kellogg, Dec. 26; Enter the Haggis, Dec. 29; Rustic Overtones, Dec. 31; Bruce in the USA, Jan. 30; Mason Jennings, Mar. 27. 956-6000 [portcitymusic-hall.com](http://portcitymusic-hall.com)

**St. Lawrence Arts**, 76 Congress St., Portland. Mallett Brothers Band, Dec. 27; 347-3075 [stlawrencearts.org](http://stlawrencearts.org)

**State Theatre**, 609 Congress



The Mallett Brothers

**Chocolate Church Arts Center**, 804 Washington St., Bath. Art Jam, Dec. 13; Sweet-back Sisters, Dec. 14; Sing! It's Christmas, Dec. 23; Darryl Purpose, Jan. 10; Schooner Fare, Jan. 25. 442-8455 [chocolatechurch.com](http://chocolatechurch.com)

**Dogfish Bar & Grille**, 128 Free St., Portland. Acoustic Open Mic, every W; Happy Hour with Travis James Humphrey, live jazz every F; OC and the Offbeats, Dec. 12, Jan. 9; The Silent Sams and Evan,

Allen & Kelly Laurence, Dec. 18; Mike James' Blue Lions, Dec. 19; Travis James Humphrey & The Retro Rockets, Dec. 20; Rick Miller & His Band, Dec. 21; Birdland Jazz, Dec. 26; Marc Chillemi, Dec. 27; Tommy O'Connell & The Juke Joint Devils, Dec. 28. [gingkoblue.com](http://gingkoblue.com)

**Jonathan's**, 92 Bourne Ln., Ogunquit. All Together Now Beatles Tribute Band, Dec. 28; New Years Eve Live Jazz and Dinner, Dec. 31; Marc Cohn, Jan.

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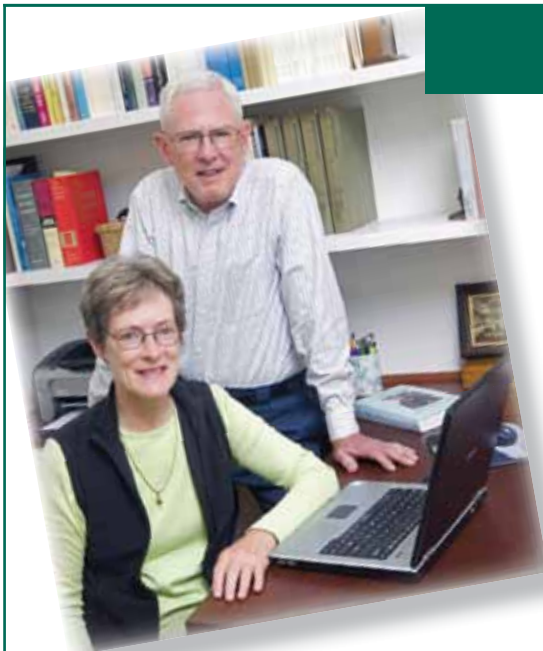
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## Research a Great Retirement

Former Washington DC area residents who own a summer farmhouse in Waldoboro, Carolyn Bryant and Don Sarles bought a cottage at Thornton Oaks in early 2010 as their winter home.

Carolyn says "Bowdoin College provides a fine library that I can use for musicological research (though officially retired, I've continued editing and writing for Oxford University Press). The local public library has also been extremely helpful in finding abstruse journals and scholarly books for me." Don, a long-time choral singer, has joined an excellent choir.

"We especially appreciate the strong sense of community at Thornton Oaks. We have formed close friendships and feel very much at home."

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St., Portland. Metric, Jim Brickman, Dec. 12; Wizards of Winter, Dec. 21; **Rubblebucket**, Dec. 28; Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime, Dec. 31; Walk Off the Earth, Jan. 28; Foreigner, Feb. 18; Jake Shimabukuro, Mar. 25. 956-6000 [statetheatreportland.com](http://statetheatreportland.com)

**Stone Mountain Arts Center**, 695 Dug Way Rd., Brownfield. Stone Mountain Live for Christmas, Dec. 13-14, 20-21; New Years Eve with Shemekia



Rubblebucket

Copeland, Dec. 31; Club Passim Songwriters Retreat, Jan. 11; Paula Poundstone, Jan. 18; Paula Cole, Jan. 24; Don Campbell Band, Jan. 25; Waltzings for Dreamers—Erica Brown and the Bluegrass Connection, Jan. 30; Girls, Guns and Glory, Jan. 31; Tricky Britches, Feb. 8; Waltzings for Dreamers—Leyla McCalla, Feb. 20; Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Feb. 22; Aiofe O'Donovan, Mike and Ruthy, Feb. 28. 935-7292 [stonemountainartscenter.com](http://stonemountainartscenter.com)

**USM School of Music**, Corthell Hall, Gorham Campus. Youth Ensembles Vocal Concert, Dec. 12. 780-5555 [usm.maine.edu](http://usm.maine.edu)

**Waterville Opera House**, 1 Common St., Waterville. Warming Up for Christmas, Dec. 8; *C'est Noel*, Dec. 20; The Holidays, Feb. 14. 873-7000 [opera-house.org](http://opera-house.org)

## Theater

**Acorn Productions**, 90 Bridge St., Westbrook. Shakespeare Conservatory through May 2014. 854-0064 [acorn-productions.org](http://acorn-productions.org)

**Belfast Maskers/Cold Comfort Theater**, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, through Dec.; Call for specific venues and winter dates. 930-7090 [coldcomfort-theater.com](http://coldcomfort-theater.com)

**City Theater in Biddeford**, 205 Main St. *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, Dec. 14 & 15.

642-7840 [citytheater.org](http://citytheater.org)

**Freeport Community Players**, Freeport Performing Arts Center, 30 Holbrook Rd., Freeport. *WFCP Home Time Radio Hour 2013*, Dec. 6-8. 865-5505 [fcponline.org](http://fcponline.org)

**Freeport Theater of Awesome**, 5 Depot St., Freeport. Hilarious Christmas Variety Show, Dec. 13-14, 20-21. [awesometheater.com](http://awesometheater.com)

**Gaslight Theater**, 1 Winthrop St., Hallowell. See website for listings. 626-3698 [gaslighttheater.org](http://gaslighttheater.org)

**Good Theater**, 76 Congress St., Portland. *Becky's New Car*, Jan. 29-Feb. 23. 885-5883 [goodtheater.com](http://goodtheater.com)

**Portland Players**, 420 Cottage Rd., South Portland. *Twelfth Night*, Jan. 24-Feb. 9. 799-7337 [portlandplayers.org](http://portlandplayers.org)

**Portland Stage Company**, 25A Forest Ave. *The Snow Queen*, Nov. 29-Dec. 22; *Santa's Diaries*, Dec. 2-22; *Words by Ira Gershwin and the Great American Songbook*, Jan. 21-Feb. 16; *Veils*, Feb. 25-Mar. 16. 774-0465 [portlandstage.org](http://portlandstage.org)

**Public Theatre**, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 13-15; *Tigers Be Still*, Jan. 24-26, 30-31, Feb. 1-2. 782-3200 [thepublictheatre.org](http://thepublictheatre.org)



**Theater at Monmouth**, 796 Main St., Monmouth. *This Wonderful Life*, Nov. 29-Dec. 8. 933-9999 [theateratmonmouth.org](http://theateratmonmouth.org)

**USM Theater, Russell Hall**, College Ave., Gorham. *Doubt*, Feb. 7-16. 780-5151 [usm.maine.edu/theatre](http://usm.maine.edu/theatre)

## Tasty Events

**Browne Trading Company**, 262 Commercial St., Portland. Wine tasting every first and third Sa, 1-5pm. 775-7560 [brownetrading.com](http://brownetrading.com)

**Flanagan Farm**, 668 Narragansett Trail (Rt. 202), Buxton. Farm Land Trust Dinner: Benefit dinners prepared by local chefs to benefit Maine Farmland Trust. Melissa Kelly, Dec. 8; Masa Miyake, Jan. 26. [flanaganstable.com](http://flanaganstable.com)

**Ice Bar**, Portland Harbor Hotel, 468 Fore St. Annual bash: local food, cocktails and music, Jan. 24-26. 775-9090 [portland-harborhotel.com](http://portland-harborhotel.com)

**Jung Hur at Spread**, 100 Commercial St., Portland. Jung Hur painting exhibit, Dec. 6; *prix fixe* dinner by Jung Hur, Dec. 12. 239-7292 [spread-maine.com](http://spread-maine.com)

**Old Port Wine Merchants**, 223 Commercial St., Portland. Wine tasting every third W. 772-9463 [oldportwine.com](http://oldportwine.com)

**Salt Exchange**, 245 Commercial St., Portland. Bourbon tastings, first F of every month. 347-5687 [thesaltexchange-restaurant.com](http://thesaltexchange-restaurant.com)

**The West End Deli & Catering**, 133 Spring St., Portland. Wine tastings every first F, 6-8pm. 774-6426 [thewestend-deli.com](http://thewestend-deli.com)

## Don't Miss

**20th Annual Freeport Sparkle Weekend**, Freeport Village. Parade of Lights, trees, movies, stories and music, Dec. 6-8. 865-1212 [sparklecelebration.com](http://sparklecelebration.com)



**Merry Madness**, an evening of shopping with snacks, raffles, and souvenirs in downtown Portland, Dec. 12. [Portlandmaine.com](http://Portlandmaine.com)

**Georgetown Historical Society Holiday Art Sale & Signing**, GHS, 20 Bay Point Rd., Georgetown. Dahlov Ipcar book signing—the reissued 1947 *Animal Hide & Seek* and her 2014 calendar sale Dec. 7; local artists' sale: paintings, prints, card, crafts, Dec. 7, 11, 14. [georgetownhistoricalsociety.org](http://georgetownhistoricalsociety.org)

**The Polar Express**, Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, East End, Portland. A magical holiday journey to the North Pole, Nov. 29-Dec. 23. [porttix.com](http://porttix.com)

**Sugarloaf**, 5092 Access Rd., Carrabassett Valley. *Into the Mind* Movie Premiere, Dec. 7; Holiday Gift Bazaar, Dec. 7-8; Demo Days, Dec. 7-8; Christmas Week,

## Picnic

**Gingerbread House Competition**, Marriott Residence Inn, 145 Fore St., Portland. Display Dec. 6-20, finale celebration with music, food & Santa, Dec. 20. 482-2961

**Greater Freeport Community Chorus Many Moods of Christmas Concert**, Performing Arts Ctr., 30 Holbrook St., Dec. 14 & First Parish UCC Church, 40 Main St., Freeport. Dec. 15. [gfccweb.org](http://gfccweb.org)

**Ogunquit Christmas By the Sea**, downtown Ogunquit. Annual holiday celebration with concerts, caroling, Santa's Village, and tree lighting, Dec. 6-8, 13-15; Mardi Gras Weekend, Feb. 15-17. 646-2939 [visito-ogunquit.org](http://visito-ogunquit.org)

**Picnic Holiday Sale**, the Portland Company, 58 Fore St., Portland. Indie craft fair—handmade, fine art, crafts, vintage, Dec. 15. [Picnicportland.com](http://Picnicportland.com)

Dec. 25-31; Norman Ng Magic Experience, Dec. 28; Fireworks, Dec. 28, 31, Jan. 18; Galumphia New Years Show, Dec. 31; College Snowfest Week, Jan. 6-9; Children's Festival Week, Jan. 12-16; Glow Parade, Jan. 15; Charity Summit, Jan. 25. 800-843-5623 [sugarloaf.com](http://sugarloaf.com)

**Sunday River**, 15 South Ridge Rd., Newry. Santa Sunday, Dec. 8; Winterfest 2013, Dec. 13-15; The Tardy Brothers, Dec. 27; Twiddle, Dec. 27; Royal Hammer, Dec. 28; Ian Stewart, Dec. 30; Cirque de Light, Dec. 31; College Week, Jan. 6-10; Children's Festival, Jan. 13-17; Go50 Week, Jan. 27-31; White Out Weekend, Feb 7-9. 824-3000 [sundayriver.com](http://sundayriver.com)



The Polar Express

FROM TOP: CYNTHIA FARR-WEINFELD; COURTESY OF RUBBLEBUCKET; THEPUBLICTHEATRE.COM; MAINE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

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# CHOWDER

A tasty blend of the fabulous, noteworthy, and absurd.

## January *Caliente*

Shannon Bard, chef & co-owner of Zapoteca on Fore Street, has been invited to create a five-course dinner January 27 at James Beard House in New York. Her theme will be "Mexico meets Maine," a festival for the taste buds that will surely knock out the bigshots at the cooking arts center. The invitation is a rare honor—could it be a prelude for Bard surprising this spring as a James Beard "Best Chef Northeast" nominee? "Supposedly one has nothing to do with the other," says Bard. "But the opportunity sure lets you tell your story." [zapotecarestaurant.com](http://zapotecarestaurant.com)



## Maine Squeeze

Tweet the holidays with something warm and fuzzy. Where else but Maine Hardware to discover these stocking stuffers that sing in perfect pitch with Audubon-correct bird calls when you invade their personal space? From left: Our Little Chickadee, and Goldie (Hawn?) Finch, and Claudia Cardinal. \$9.99 ea.



## ISLAND GIRL

Hello, brand-new 110-foot, 399-passenger ferry *Wabanaki* and farewell, 40-year-old *Island Romance*. Casco Bay Lines expects delivery just after New Year's Day. *Wabanaki* is the native Algonquian term for "dawn land"—that is, New England and Maritime Canada. "The school children of Peaks, Cliff, and Long islands chose the name," says Cait Gildart at Casco Bay Lines. *Wabanaki* joins the *Aucocisco*, *Machigonne II*, and *Maquoit II*, bringing to four (out of five) the number of fleet boats with local Native American names. [casco baylines.com](http://casco baylines.com)

## ALPACAS: BUY 2 GET 1 FREE

For those times when one alpaca is not enough. "They need to be in herds," says Waldoboro breeder Terry Gallery of his graceful Peruvian livestock. Short of that, you can still buy undyed yarn in the natural colors of these gentle beasts—white, fawn, brown, black—as well as more colorful garments, blankets and accessories made with alpaca wool, including what he calls a "Julie Christie hat" (\$75). (Female alpacas start at \$2,000.) 99 Old Route One, Waldoboro; [alpaca village.com](http://alpaca village.com)



Julie Christie Natural Fleece Hat



FROM TOP: MOIRA QUINN; LAURA BRESLIN; COURTESY OF CASCO BAY LINES; COURTESY OF ALPACA VILLAGE

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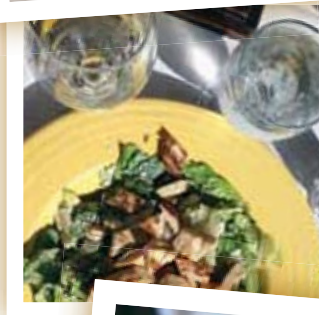
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# Feast of the 7 Fishes

(& other holiday tales)



Local inspirations add sparkle & spice to international holiday traditions in Maine.

BY CLAIRE Z. CRAMER

Christmas Eve is by far, without exception, our single busiest day of the year, says Nick Alfiero at Portland's Harbor Fish Market. It's *crazy*. We have people directing traffic; in the past, we've hired policemen outside.

### I MEAN, WHO'S COUNTING?

The feast of the seven fishes is an Italian Christmas Eve tradition, but at Harbor Fish it's more a point of departure. It's not a rule, but it's a Catholic tradition not to eat meat on Christmas Eve. Growing up, my mother might treat us to *baccal* (salt cod), soak it for three days, and make a salad. Or, she might stuff calamari or serve it with red sauce and linguine. We always had fresh eel—even my Irish wife developed a taste for it. Then we

started to branch out with baked stuffed shrimp and clams casino, but it was never strictly seven.

These days, at Harbor Fish, I couldn't tell you seven *anything*. People buy absolutely anything and everything for Christmas Eve dinner. From gray sole to lobster to salmon. Oysters, for oyster stew, and lobsters for lobster stew are big. In the old days it was the squid and eel, but I've seen it more and more over the years—there isn't a fresh fish that doesn't sell. And nowadays, seafood's not just for Christmas Eve, it goes into Christmas Day, too. It's a real challenge to get enough fresh in here, because we won't put out the frozen.

Harbor Fish's understanding of this holiday is so legendary, every year, one family

drives all the way from Brooklyn, New York, on Christmas Eve to get the freshest seafood—eels, periwinkles, *baccal*, smelts, shrimp, and lobster, Nick's brother Ben Alfiero says. It blows me away.

Just down Commercial Street at Browne Trading Company, the very first festive thing we see walking in the door is a display case of Maine-raised Belon oysters lined up on crushed ice in front of a bowl of gigantic, shiny sea scallops. A lot of our customers order whole sides of salmon because they

**They're here to help you plan your holiday feast (above, clockwise from bottom left): Bogumila Bogusha at Bogusha's Café and Polish food shop; Kelsey Elliott, conversant with caviar and Camembert at Browne Trading; Nick Alfiero surrounded by seafood at Harbor Fish Market; and Liz Demers, manager of Mittapheap international market. All of these shops are in Portland.**

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: LAURA BRESLIN(2); MOIRA QUINN; LAURA BRESLIN

## HUNGRY EYE



cure their own *gravlax* at home for holiday parties. That and our house-smoked finnan haddie are big sellers, says Kelsey Elliott, in a watch cap and white fishmonger coat as she takes orders behind her refrigerator display case. We sell a lot of seafood and cheese at the holidays. People like small, whole wheels of cheese for parties.

Don't miss our annual Christmas champagne and caviar tasting on December 14, she says. We open up a few tins of the good stuff so you can try them and pick out what you like for New Year's.

**Harbor Fish Market, 9 Custom House Wharf, 775-0251.**

**Browne Trading Company, 262 Commercial Street, 775-7560.**

### FRANCO SOUL FOOD

Pork pies are *huge*, says Kari Grant of Grant's Bakery in Lewiston. The traditional French-Canadian *tourtières* we bake year-round become a hot commodity during the holidays. They sell up to 2,500 of them during Christmas week. We don't have enough refrigeration space, so we rent a refrigerated 18-wheeler for our parking lot!

The pies' filling is 100-percent pork, with just a hint of mashed potatoes. The 10-inch pie is \$11.40, and there's an individual size for \$3.80. It's busy at Christmas. People stop by to pick up meat pies and desserts all day long. So just remember, when we're out we're out.

**Grant's Bakery, 525 Sabattus St., Lewiston. 783-2226.**

### SCANDINAVIA IN DEERING

We'll sell every single one of these before Christmas, says Susan Lund Iverson, hauling one of many 3.3-pound white tubs of preserved lingonberries down from a shelf of Swedish jams and preserves, including gooseberry and cloudberry, in the Simply Scandinavian Foods shop on Stevens Avenue. Cloudberry is a superfood; they're full of anti-oxidants. She circles a display of licorice candies from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands—such a Scandinavian staple there are even *uten sukka* (sugar-free) varieties. Holding up a familiar yellow bag of red Swedish Fish candy, Iverson laughs. It's American, but the kids like them.

Look at these beautiful cheeses and herring. She slides open the refrigerator case. *Nokkel-ost* is cheese fragrantly studded with caraway seeds. We just got a shipment of Christmas food. *Pepparkakor* are spice cookies and gingersnaps in tins decorated with snowflakes and reindeer. She raises the lid of a freezer chest to reveal frozen Swedish meatballs, vacuum-packed *lutefisk* (large filets of cured cod), and plump sausage links of *korv*, a holiday sausage of pork and potato. People just love these things at Christmas. And I have five bakers delivering breads, cheesecake, and pastries.

**Simply Scandinavian Foods, 469 Stevens Avenue, Portland, 874-6759.**

Food and drink for holiday feasting is found all around town including, clockwise from top left: Maine Belon oysters at Browne Trading; prosecco at Micucci's; fresh filets at Browne Trading; imported berry jams at Simply Scandinavian Foods; and chocolate stout cakes at the Rosemont Market. Polish pierogies are on the menu at Bogusha's Café; challah loaves glow at Standard Baking; and panettone, the luxurious, imported Italian fruitcake, turns up everywhere, including Morse's in Waldoboro and Micucci's in Portland; it's also made fresh at some bakeries.

### HOLIDAY BAKING

Close your eyes and inhale the fragrance. Our chocolate stout cake is made with Gritty's Black Fly Stout, says Atticus Naylor at Rosemont's Brighton Avenue store. Rosemont Markets baker Scott Anderson adds *stollen* to his line of richer treats, such as glossy braided challah loaves and fresh ginger molasses cake.

We make a good amount of *panettone*, but it doesn't hurt to order ahead, says Victoria Levesque at Standard Baking Co. on Commercial Street. We use raisins, orange zest, candied orange, and there's some rum in there—we bag them up to look pretty. We put raisins in the challah for Hanukka. Our *stollen*'s got dried cherries, dried pears, and dried cranberries, and then we make things like sage-onion biscuits for big dinners.

Portland's Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church holds a huge holiday bake sale every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. *Baklava*, *finikia* (walnut cookies), and *paximathia* (biscotti) are some of the sweets,



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and we have *spanakopita* and *vasilopita* (Basil's bread) for the Epiphany (January 6), says Father Sarantidis, the church's priest. These are all made by talented parish volunteers, and this is a real opportunity for a taste of Greek home cooking.

But if you missed the sale this year, you can find fresh *spanakopita* and a selection of sweets including *baklava* at Lakonia, the shop for Greek food and products in Saco hailed for its delicious imported Pelopponesian olive oil, olives, and herbs. Lakonia has expanded its offerings and now also carries a full menu of prepared foods such as *moussaka*, also made by their Greek pastry baker; in the fridge case you'll find *loukaniko* sausages, bright with spices and a hint of orange zest. **Rosemont Market, 580 Brighton Avenue, 774-8129; Standard Baking, 75 Commercial Street, 773-2112; and Holy Trinity, 133 Pleasant St., 774-0281. Lakonia, 575 Main St., Saco, 282-4002.**

### POLISH OASIS

At the holidays, people want walnut and poppy-seed roulades, cheesecake, and streusel, says Bogumila Bogusha at her cozy combination cafe and imported food shop.

There's a Polish community of about a thousand around here. But I drive down to the really big Polish community in Worcester, Massachusetts to get fresh baked goods. Everyone wants ham and Polish sausage at Christmastime. She shows off jars of imported herring from Poland in various sauc-

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We're for real!

Lobster *fra diavolo* takes a star turn at the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve.



es. Most women take them home and make their own herring salads. She has shelves of spicy Polish mustard spiked with horseradish, and horseradish made pink with shredded beets. The cafe serves two iconic national dishes: *bigos*, a rich stew of sausages, cabbage, and sauerkraut; and *pierogies*, the tender dumplings stuffed with potatoes, mushrooms, or cabbage.

**Bogusha's, 825 Stevens Avenue, Portland, 878-9618.**

**BAVARIAN DREAM**

Everyone thinks of Morse's Sauerkraut and its attendant store and cafe as German, with lots of kraut and sausages. Oh, we're not just German, says Jacquelyn Sawyer, who owns Morse's with her husband David Swetnam.

There's Austria and the Alps, and, really, we're all over Europe at the holidays. Everyone loves *stollen*, she says of the rich holiday bread studded with nuts and dried and candied fruits. We import that, but we have someone local bake our *springerle* [cookies made with traditional presses and molds depicting animals, flowers, and decorative patterns], and they are wonderful.

She rattles off a dizzying list of cookies—*baumkuchen* (tree cakes), glazed *liebkekuchen*, and *pfeffernusse* (ginger snaps) among them—and German Kinder chocolates, Austrian Reber chocolates, and the finest marzipan in the world, which Sawyer says is from Lubec, Germany. We have gingerbreads of all

sorts, too; Dutch gingerbreads are phenomenal. From Italy, we have the most beautiful *torrone*, *panettone* and *panforte*. Even farther from the store's original German sauerkraut mission are the Walker mincemeats and shortbreads from England.

You have to come. We get dressed up—it's like a Bavarian village here.

**Morse's, 3856 Washington Road, North Waldoboro, 832-5569.**

**INTERNATIONAL MARKET**

Our clientele is Asian, but it also includes Central American, Caribbean, and African, says Liz Demers, the manager at Mittapheap Market (pronounced *meat-a-fee-up*; the word means peace or friendship) at the foot of Portland's Munjoy Hill. At the holiday—the lunar new year is in late January but it varies because it's lunar—the Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese, and Cambodians like moon cakes. These are pastry rounds encasing sweetened red bean paste or mung beans; some are green tea flavored.

Mittapheap's aisles are as internationally diverse as the neighborhood the market serves. Dried *chiles de arbol* are stacked next to tiny, fiery dried Thai chili peppers. Crackling packets of skinny Asian rice noodles abut stacked tins of Goya brand sardines in oil and tomato sauce. We try to respond to demand. If people ask us to get something, we try.

The produce section has fresh cilantro, Thai basil, *haba-ero* peppers, Chinese broccoli, green papayas, and lemongrass stalks. Ma-

kara Meng, arranging a display of knobby Chinese eggplants, says, At the holidays, our African customers ask for cassava and semolina flours, palm oil, goat meat, and the African eggplant called garden eggs.

**Mittapheap Market, 61 Washington Avenue, 773-5523.**

**LITTLE ITALY ON INDIA**

We bring in *panettone*, *torrone* in a lot of shapes, and Italian chocolate, amaretti cookies, jars of rum babas in syrup, says Rick Micucci at Micucci Grocery in the East End. Once a year we bring in beautiful, beautiful pastries fresh from the North End in Boston for delivery Christmas Eve—these have to be special-ordered in advance, but you can place your order right up to December 20. There's ricotta pies, napoleons, and what they call lobster-tail pastries. We get in a lot of dried salt cod for *baccal*, and we put out big bins of really best-quality chestnuts for roasting.

Gil Galli leads the way into the stock room, lined with floor-to-ceiling shelves of imported goods with exotic labels. Christmas wine? First we get in a lot of Beaujolais Nouveau, and then *everyone* wants *prosecco*. He opens the top carton on a stack of wine cartons and pulls out a special-occasion-pretty bottle of Jeio *prosecco*. We'll go through a lot of this. It seems to be the one everyone wants.

Just the thing to go with the seven fishes on Christmas Eve.

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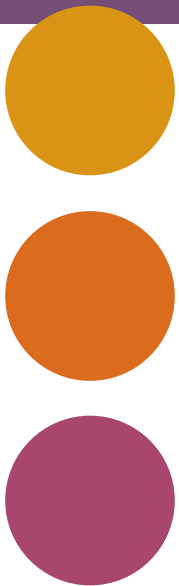
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In 2009 Anne Verrill, owner of the Foreside Tavern, had the vision to restore the old Chestnut Street Church in Portland and turn it into one of Maine's premier restaurants. "It was a huge undertaking," said Verrill. "No bank would work with me on it... and then I went to Norway. I was 29, a female business owner, with two babies at home, but the team at Norway not only took a chance on me, they went to bat for me to make Grace happen." Now, three years later, Grace is one of the leading destination restaurants in Maine. Norway Savings is proud to help entrepreneurs, like Anne Verrill, turn their visions into reality.



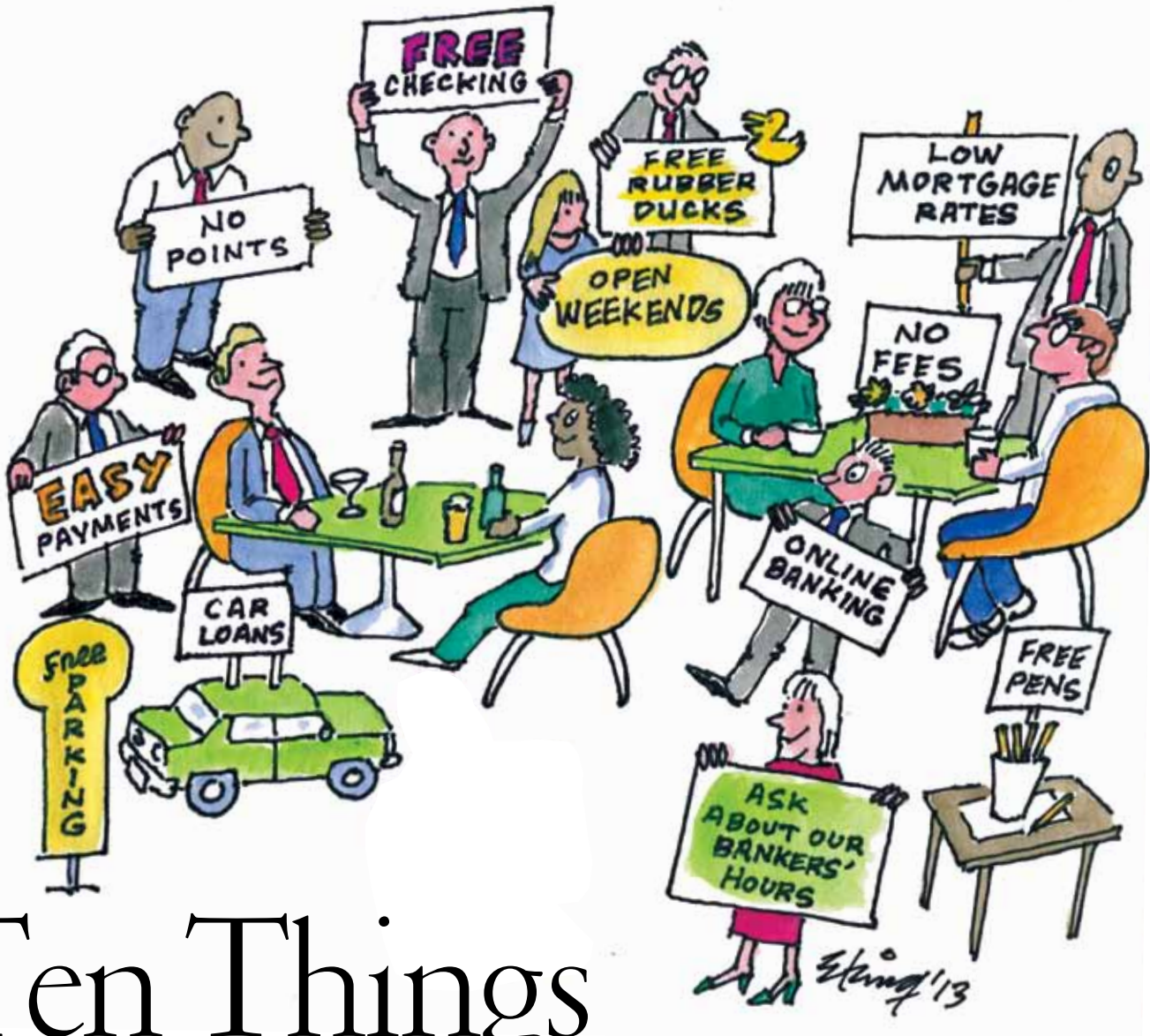
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# Ten Things I Love About My New...Bank

Choosing a new bank is a little like speed dating. It helps when you start the ritual by knowing in advance what's important to you. *Free checking?* Absolutely. *No ATM fees ever?* Yeah, we've got that—or at least some of the banks and credit unions listed here do. *Extended hours?* What do you mean, exactly? *How about a bank that's open till 8 p.m.?* Child's play. *Okay, how about a bank that's open on Sunday?* Yes, and you deserve it! We hope you enjoy this story, because we're your advance team, asking these questions for you. After all, it's in your best interest.

Maine banks and credit unions are anxious to win **you** as a depositor in 2014. Pull up a chair and get to know them, up close and personal. FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

#### ANDROSCOGGIN BANK [androscogginbank.com](http://androscogginbank.com)

**Branches:** 13; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** up to \$6 per month

**Checking account fee:** None with direct deposit and 10 POS transactions per month, otherwise \$10

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** 0.07% with balance of \$100,000+

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 9.99% to 20.99%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 5.17%

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.273%

**Lowest res. mortgage APR & terms:** 3.29% 15 years fixed

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.05%, 4-year Step-Up CD, minimum deposit \$500

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.05%, 4-year Step-Up CD, minimum deposit \$500

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** 0.01%

**Breakout advantage:** A strong reputation in the community thanks to the staff.



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**AROOSTOOK COUNTY FEDERAL SAVINGS**

[yourhomebank.com](http://yourhomebank.com)

Branches: 2; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: No; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes

Checking account fee: \$0 with \$250 minimum daily balance, otherwise \$5

Highest savings account APY & terms: .15%

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 5% on 2012 or 2013 vehicles

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: N/A, 5.25% on a 20-year plan, with 20% down

Lowest res. mortgage APR & terms: 3%, 6-months adjustable on a 30 year plan, with 20% down

Highest APY opportunity: 1.89%, 5-year CD

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.89%, 5-year CD

Best APY for 12-month IRA: 0.46%

Breakout advantage: Helping people buy, build, and renovate their homes since 1936

**AUBURN SAVINGS BANK, auburnsavings.com**

Branches: 2; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$10; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3; Refund ATM surcharges: No

Checking account fee: No

Highest savings account APY & terms: .50%, Maestro Money Market, tiered, over \$200,000

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 7.25%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.832%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 4.074%, 15-year fixed rate, \$500 flat fee

Highest APY opportunity: 1.45%, 5-year special CD

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.45%, 5-year special CD

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .25%

Breakout advantage: They're small enough to know their customers by name.

**BANGOR SAVINGS, bangor.com**

Branches: 57; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes

Checking account fee: No

Highest savings account APY & terms: .08%

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: 9.99%-20.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 4.54%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.210%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.530%, 15-year

Highest APY opportunity: 1.05% CD as a Benefits Plus customer

Highest CD APY & terms: 5-year .94%

Best APY for 12-month IRA: 0.10%

Breakout advantage: Understanding that banking isn't just about money. It's about trust.

**BANK OF AMERICA, bankofamerica.com**

Branches: 33; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3; Refund ATM surcharges: No

Checking account fee: No monthly fee with \$1,500 minimum balance, otherwise \$12

Highest savings account APY & terms: 0.04% - 0.10% APY with \$2500 minimum daily balance

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: 12.99%-22.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 2.29%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.277%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.062%

Highest APY opportunity: 0.30% CD, minimum of 60 mo. and \$10,000

Highest CD APY & terms: 0.30% CD, minimum of 60 mo. and \$10,000

Best APY for 12-month IRA: 0.12% with Platinum status

Breakout advantage: We're here to make the financial lives of those who do business with us better. —Brian T. Moynihan, CEO

**BANK OF MAINE, thebankofmaine.com**

Branches: 33; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$2; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes

Checking account fee: No

Highest savings account APY & terms: .20% \$2,500 min.

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: 9.99%-20.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 7%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.125%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3%, 3 years

Highest APY opportunity: 1.56%, 5-year CD, \$20,000 minimum

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.56%, 5-year CD, \$20,000 minimum

Best APY for 12-month IRA: 0.35%, \$250,000 minimum

Breakout advantage: Banking and financial services with a strong commitment to communities and the people.

**BAR HARBOR BANK & TRUST, bhbt.com**

Branches: 17; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$10; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3.50; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes with some accounts, up to \$25

Checking account fee: \$0 for Simple Choice Checking

Highest savings account APY & terms: .07%, \$25 minimum deposit

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: 9.99%-20.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 4.99%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.419%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.63%, 15-year

Highest APY opportunity: 1.3%, 60+ month IRA

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.2%, \$500 minimum, 60-month

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .23%

Breakout advantage: You're going to know your customers at a small-town bank much, much more than a big out-of-state-owned bank. Customer service rep, Ellsworth.

**BATH SAVINGS INSTITUTION, bathsavings.com**

Branches: 9; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$5; Non-customer ATM charge: \$2 Refund ATM surcharges: No

Checking account fee: \$2, basic checking

Highest savings account APY & terms: .12%, \$500 minimum, \$1 balance req.

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 3.041%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.295%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.026%, 5-year

Highest APY opportunity: .95%, 5.75-year CD, \$500 minimum

Highest CD APY & terms: .95%, 5.75-year CD, \$500 minimum

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .20%

Breakout advantage: Providing exceptional service for a truly a different experience.

**BIDDEFORD SAVINGS, biddefordsavings.com**

Branches: 6; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$2.50; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes for ATMs within our network

Checking account fee: No

Highest savings account APY & terms: 0.25% \$100,000 minimum

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 5.49%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.398%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.414%, 15-year

Highest APY opportunity: 1.56%, \$1,500 minimum deposit, 5-year CD

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.56%, \$1,500 minimum deposit, 5-year CD

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .4%

Breakout advantage: Their slogan is "Treating customers like owners for over 140 years."

**CAMDEN NATIONAL BANK, camdennational.com**

Branches: 44; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes with Anchor and Student checking accounts

Checking account fee: \$0 with eChecking

Highest savings account APY & terms: 0.10% APY, \$5 minimum, must maintain at least \$5 balance

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 2.99%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.75%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 15-year, 3.625%

Highest APY opportunity: 10-years, 1.57%

Highest CD APY & terms: 10 years, 1.57%

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .15%

Breakout advantage: "What's special is our customer service. The people who work here, we do everything we can to help our customers." —Kim Milton, Camden Square branch

**GORHAM SAVINGS BANK**

[gorhamsavingsbank.com](http://gorhamsavingsbank.com)

Branches: 10; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3.50; Refund ATM surcharges: For some accounts

Checking account fee: No

Highest savings account APY & terms: .15%, must open online, must receive eStatements

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: 9.9%-17.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 3.25%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.289%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.098%, 10-year

Highest APY opportunity: .75% Champion Checking \$100,000 minimum with 1 electronic deposit per month

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.25%, 60-month CD

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .3% (premium)

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## DOLLARS & SENSE

**Breakout advantage:** We really are a nice community bank, and you really can have no-fee checking accounts at all levels. –Luke Morrill, Depositor Customer Service Rep

**KENNEBUNK SAVINGS, [kennebunksavings.com](http://kennebunksavings.com)**  
**Branches:** 16; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$3; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes  
**Checking account fee:** \$0 with Breakaway Free checking  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .10%, Breakaway Savings with \$5,000 minimum  
**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** N/A  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 4.79%  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.278%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 10-year 3.363%  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.31%, 5-year CD or IRA  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.31%, 5-year CD  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .4%  
**Breakout advantage:** We are local. We know our customers and are very involved in the community. –Colleen Feeney, Kennebunk Customer Service

**KEY BANK, [keybank.com](http://keybank.com)**  
**Branches:** 56; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$4.50; **Refund ATM surcharges:** No  
**Checking account fee:** No for most accounts  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .02% for \$2,500 minimum  
**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 11.99-21.99%  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 4.88%  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.450%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 15-year, 3.619%  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 0.75% over \$100,000, minimum 10 years  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 0.75% over \$100,000, minimum 10 years  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .2%  
**Breakout advantage:** We have so many branches. And we focus on benefits and the ways we can save and earn you money based on the total relationship. –Regina Booth, Customer Service Manager, Portland

**NORWAY SAVINGS BANK, [norwaysavingsbank.com](http://norwaysavingsbank.com)**  
**Branches:** 22; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge,** \$3; **Refund ATM surcharges;** Yes, up to \$20 with Flexible Solutions checking, minimum \$10,000  
**Checking account fee:** No  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** 0.40%, \$100,000 minimum  
**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** N/A  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.139% for new car  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.519%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.496% 15-year  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.11%, 5-year premium CD  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.11%, 5-year premium CD  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .25% (premium)  
**Breakout advantage:** One of the ways we define the success of our bank is by our ability to give back to the community. Every year, Norway Savings Bank and its employees dedicate time and resources to nonprofits and organizations. We believe that when everyone is

(Continued on page 66)

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Stop Payment	\$20.00	\$27.00	\$21.50
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# THE DRIVE-IN FORCE

Maybe it takes a 23-year-old to rescue a 74-year-old drive-in. **BY COLIN S. SARGENT**

**T**he Saco Drive-In, the second-oldest operational drive-in in the country, gained national attention this summer as one of the winners of Honda's Project Drive-In contest. The win secured Saco an \$80,000 new digital projector, necessary to play the majority of movies coming out of Hollywood, as celluloid film slips out of use. Many distributors announced plans to discontinue film as an option beginning in 2014. This conundrum means that many of America's 360-odd surviving drive-ins—including five in Maine—could be doomed to close in the next couple years.

Enter Honda's PR division, who launched Project Drive-In in a clever attempt to earn free advertising. About 140 drive-ins entered Honda's online contest to promote their cause to modernize and survive. Their success attracting fans to the auto maker's

contest website determined the winners.

The contest has paid off in a big way for Honda. It became so popular that the planned five winners has now risen to nine, and the contest has been extended.

It was salvation for Ry Russell, 23, and his crew at Saco Drive-In.

You could say we were running for this contest before it even started. We'd built up a social media base in the hopes that there would be some sort of opportunity. We've tried to do special events to try to lure people to the drive-in, and show them why the drive-in deserves to come back. We were able to gain the support to win this contest with a mix of traditional low-cost marketing, like sponsoring par-

ties for WPOR that we had 200 cars come to, and with social media. With the Project Drive-In campaign, we made sure to ask our friends and the fans of our drive-in to help us out. We added give-aways in order to reward those who were volunteering to help us.

Russell also believes the drive-in is as relevant as ever.

With the way the economy still is, we're looking [for reasonable ways] to take the whole family out. With [tickets and food from the] concessions, the movies are

80 bucks for a family of four. With us, people can enjoy a night out, for a whole family, for 20 to 25 dollars. We want to make sure nobody gets priced out of a fun night.

*(Continued on page 77)*

**We'd built up a social media base ... what Honda has done is incredible.**

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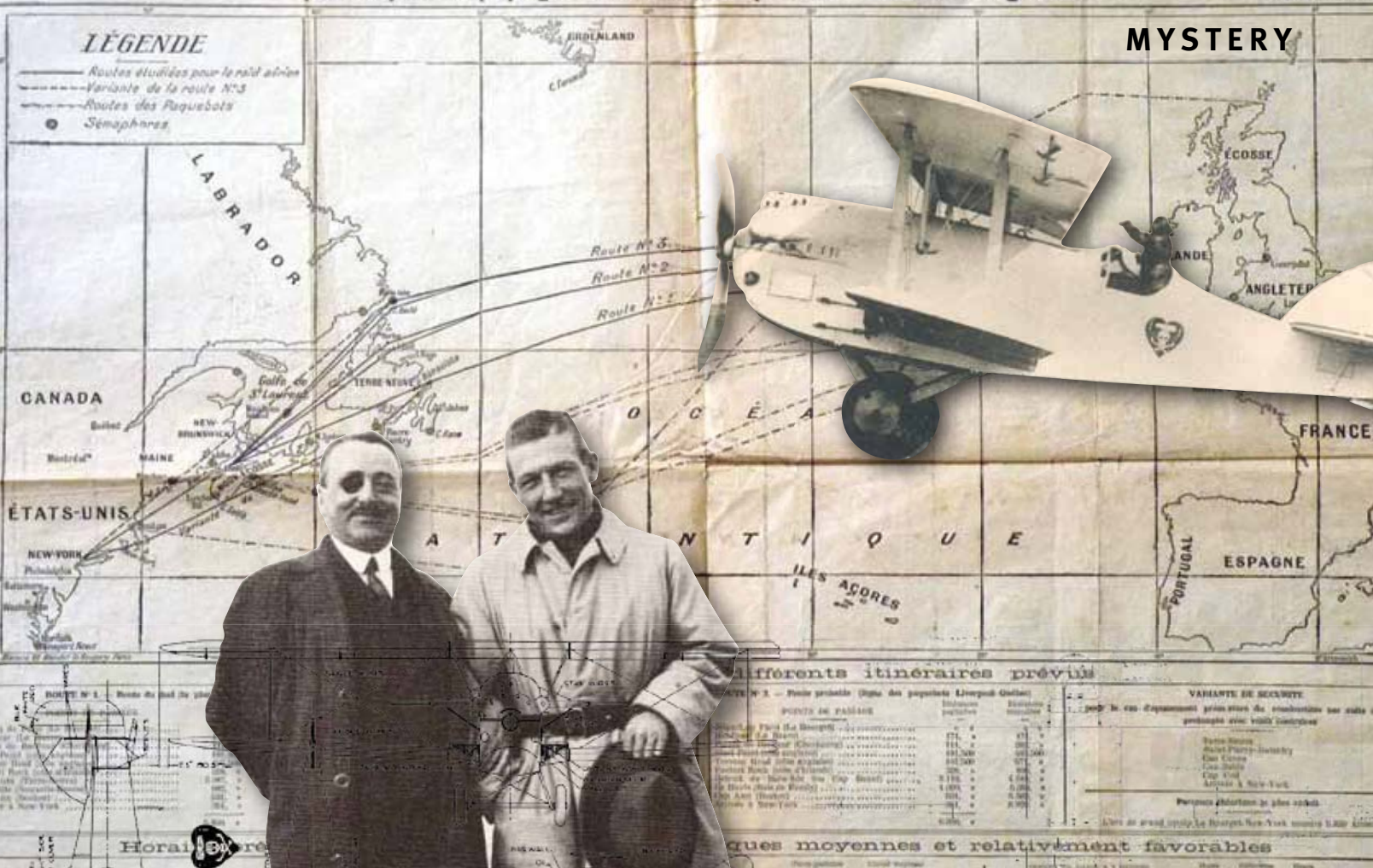
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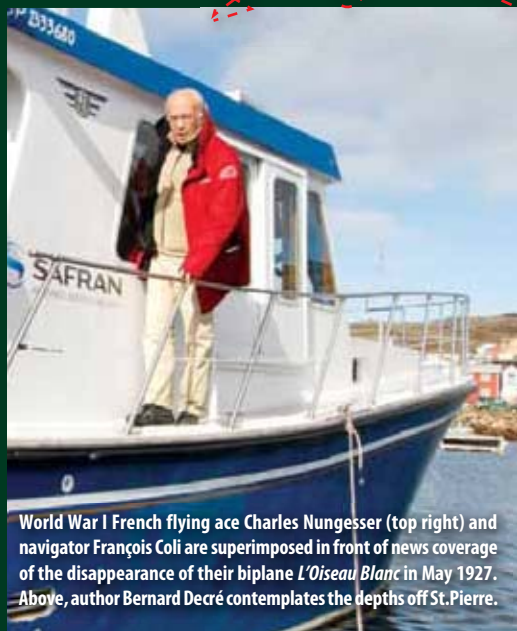
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# MAN ON FIRE



World War I French flying ace Charles Nungesser (top right) and navigator François Coli are superimposed in front of news coverage of the disappearance of their biplane *L'Oiseau Blanc* in May 1927. Above, author Bernard Decré contemplates the depths off St. Pierre.

What ignites my seven-year search in the North Atlantic? How dare I unplug the Lindbergh legend? Before Lucky Lindy there was *L'Oiseau Blanc*...until there wasn't.

BY BERNARD DÉCRÉ

**N**ortheast of Maine, below the threshold of memory, long peninsulas reach deeply into the Canadian Maritimes, with two startling exceptions: the islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, proudly part of France for the better part of three centuries. Beyond taking in the 2000 film *The Widow of St. Pierre*, starring Julia Ormond, few North Americans are aware of these Shangri-las, though many French visitors consider them destination attractions.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF ANGÈLE DÉCRÉ, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE LESPAGNOL

# MYSTERY



In 1927, during Prohibition, these two diminutive islands 12 miles south of Newfoundland became the greatest duty-free shop in the world. Imagine: Hundreds of freighters, schooners, and steamers are coming from Europe and especially from France with the nicest bottles of Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, cognac, Scotch whisky, rum from the Antilles. From this effervescent entrepôt, speedboats were dispatched to smuggle the hooch to thirsty ports in Canada and the USA.

The spectacular fortune that trickled down to the citizens of St. Pierre and Miquelon was dwarfed by the riches these islands brought to figures from Al Capone to Joseph P. Kennedy.

Coast Guard vessels tried to control this huge traffic, but the rum runners and bootleggers were so important it was impossible. Think of a small war between U.S. Coast Guard cutters with machine guns at the ready, Navy ships with speedboats, and bootlegger organizations

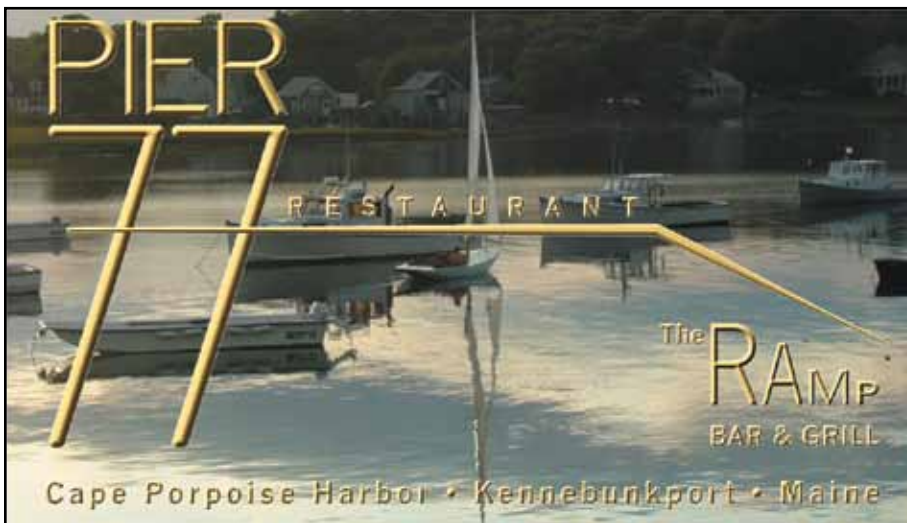
so sophisticated they included high-powered flying boats.

Into the eye of this needle, in a very deep fog, flew *L Oiseau Blanc* [in English, the *White Bird*]-12 days before Charles Lindbergh won the \$25,000 Orteig prize for being the first to fly transatlantic from Roosevelt Field in New York to Paris or vice-versa.

No doubt exhausted from 36 hours of flight and low on petrol after fighting headwinds from a serious meteorological depression en route to their planned destination, the *White Bird* capsizes in that fog cloaking the harbor at St. Pierre.



TOP LEFT: PIERRE-MIQUELON BY GORD MCKENNA, COURTESY OF ANGÈLE DECRE



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## MYSTERY

Shouts ring out: Help, help, help! A fisherman hears; his dog barks uncharacteristically. Unreported dark shapes move swiftly in the fog and then, audibly, the rat-a-tat of a machine guns rips across the water, followed by decades of silence.

### NEW CHAPTER

Until recently. Funded in part by a research grant from the French government, my Paris-based association *La Recherche de l'Oiseau Blanc* (The Search for the White Bird) has pieced together Coast Guard telegrams and letters from fishermen who confirm pieces of wings were discovered after *L'Oiseau Blanc* disappeared from history along the

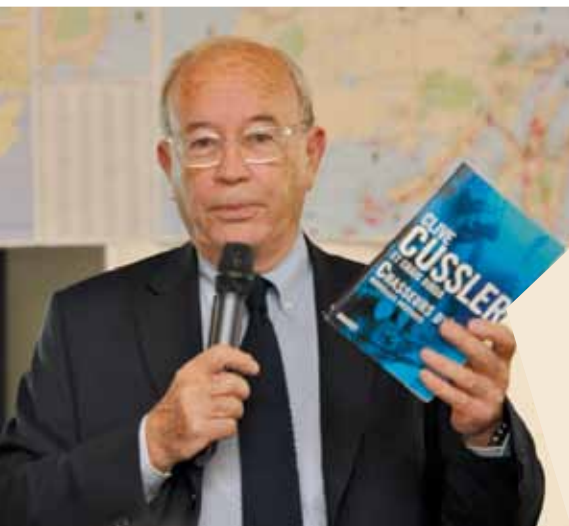
French fliers sponsored by the French Navy; b) we may have shot this plane down in error; and c) honestly, isn't it too late to unplug the Lindbergh legend? He's a dazzling hero, young and at the controls of a shiny, high-tech monoplane instead of the throwback biplane of these two members of the over-the-hill gang—old World War I relics—one of them actually wore an eye-patch! If you don't believe style has a hand in directing history, who do you think will get remembered as the dreamer behind Apple Computers: Steve Jobs or Steve Wozniak?

Nungesser and Coli's plane was a good aircraft but with two wings and heavy—not

Every era chooses its heroes fresh from the assembly line.

### MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

As for the U.S. Coast Guard telegram, nobody gave it to me. I found it myself during a research trip to the NARA (National Archives Records Administration) in Washington to study the logbooks of 12 U.S. Coast Guard vessels whose names I'd earlier found mentioned in the Aix en Provence Archives, which include communiqués from our French colonies, some of them letters from St. Pierre and Miquelon's fishermen who reported to the Governor of St. Pierre in May,



## THE MAN, THE ODYSSEY

A retired businessman from Nantes, France, Bernard Decré, 73, is internationally known as a yachtsman and founder of the ocean sailing race La Tour de France à la Voile. Well connected in Europe, he comes from a legendary family of department store owners.

"My parents had an important store in Nantes: Grands Magasins Decré. Famous before World War II, it was destroyed [during a September 23, 1943 bombing mission], so we very quickly created a new one, very modern, designed by Raymond Loewy, the noted architect, with a helipad at the top, restaurant, cinema, and art gallery." [The store has since

been acquired by Galleries Lafayette.]

Early in his retail career, Decré served as "administrator du Bon Marché in Paris." One special assignment: "I worked with Mme. DeGaulle to furnish every French embassy with our sheets and linens ahead of General DeGaulle's world trip. We had to change every bed in the embassies because he was so very tall!"

Behind it all, he couldn't stop himself from designing yachts and aircraft which he noodles around with to this day. "I'm a modest pilot who specializes in seaplanes. We used a Lake Buccaneer during the Tour de France à la Voile, my race, and a friend of mine has let me fly his PBV Catalina, quite a thrill."

slow-moving and largely predictable currents between St. Pierre and Sable Island (southeast of Halifax).

In absolute quiet, after the worldwide ticker-tape parade has toasted Lindbergh's exciting solo crossing, deeper currents add to the secret script—unmistakable pieces of the French naval aircraft are picked up on board a Coast Guard vessel off the coast of Virginia. Not only one, but two, three. Consider this telegram discovered so many years later by our team:

Despatch: U.S. Coast Guard,  
18 August, 1927, Norfolk, Virginia

FOLLOWING RECEIVED Seven fifty a.m. latitude three seven naught six north longitude seven two four six west[:] Piece of wreckage appearing to be part of airplane wing white in color fifteen feet long four feet wide approximately [STOP]. Similar piece appeared to be attached four feet submerged below floating part no appearances of marine growth...

It is suggested to headquarters that this may be the wreck of the Nungesser Coli airplane [STOP]. search therefore left to your discretion

Translation: Should we discontinue the search because a) these two ghosts were

so quick, not so dreamyÉ

Lindbergh was new technology personified. He himself imagined and directed the customization of a light plane for one man, so it wasn't necessary to have a massive engine, more fuel tanks. Undarkened by war, light as a feather, and sparkling with hope, the *Spirit of St. Louis* was designed for luck and favorable breezes from the West Winds.

More than anything, these two flying machines represented a clash of conception and style: *L'Oiseau Blanc* from the French Navy, 1923 vintage, and the *Spirit of St. Louis* (1927)—so much lighter, and what could be newer? Lindbergh embodied the new era of aviation, and there was no turning back.

Lindbergh was 25 years old, Nungesser was 38 and Coli 45, from another generation.

June, and July 1927: Dear Governor Bensch, we are surprised to have in our French water, all these Coast Guard vessels. They go too fast in the fog, they are dangerous, they cut our lines, are they not here to try to find the wrecks of our French aviators?

Why the swarm in one particular harbor area? The names of the cutters mentioned by the fishermen carried me on a wave of curiosity to Washington.

For me it was easy to navigate the archives, even though so many years had cut the lines of context. I'm a sail racer and pilot. It's fair to say I'd become obsessed with my theory, because everywhere I turn, it becomes more real. Another advantage I have is that I know the Labrador current, which I've both flown over and navigated. It isn't hard to find a needle in a haystack if you have a magne-

**Nobody imagined trying to cross the Atlantic—too dangerous.**



Author Bernard Decré's watercolor depicts the discovery of pieces of the wreckage of *L'Oiseau Blanc* by lobstermen.

tometer, and I dream of sweeping a larger sector of St. Pierre's harbor and south than I did last summer, when funding (including from aerospace giant Safran) and opportunity present themselves.

After the Virginia telegram, I ran into another USCG telegram instructing all craft to recover every white wreck floating on the sea and bring it in— but significantly *not* to submit reports in writing. Please, only by radio!

#### A DAUGHTER'S GIFT

It's so close to Christmas Eve that I can't help but mention my story of searching for *L'Oiseau Blanc* is a holiday tale. I began my investigations Christmas 2006, when Angèle, at 20 my youngest daughter, gave me a copy of Clive Cussler's *Chasseurs d'Épaves*.

Dad, I hope you'll like this book—I didn't know if it will interest you.

Many thanks, my dear. I kissed her.

Designed to keep me warm in my li-

brary, her thoughtful present has done exactly the opposite. It's thrust me to icy corners of the globe. It's touched a nerve. It keeps me up at night.

Cussler unsuccessfully searched for *L'Oiseau Blanc* in Maine, where so many have believed her to have crashed, in uncharted reaches of harsh woods. Would my search take the legend away from Maine and rivet it to St. Pierre?

Not so fast!

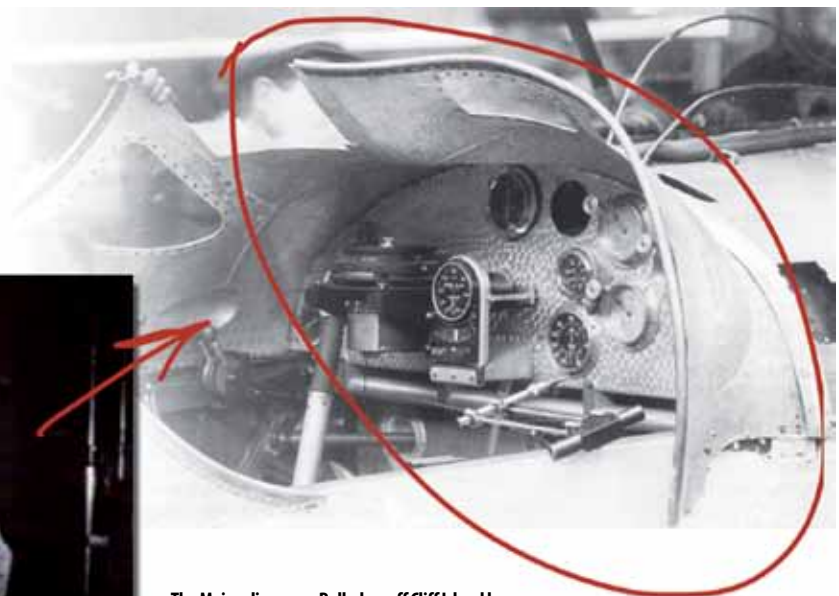
#### MAINE REENTERS THE MYSTERY

During a recent trip to Portland just weeks ago, I found myself racing to pursue a major discovery, paradoxically moldy with time:

the revelation that a Maine lobsterman pulled up wreck fragments from an old airplane near Cliff Island, perfectly situated in the Labrador current along the likely debris path floating from east to west from the crash site.

It was in 1958-59. In 1960, the French Consul and French Embassy put the recovered fragments of the Maine wreck in a case and whisked them to the French *Ministère des Affaires Étrangères* [Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in Paris for evaluation.

We have photos of these fragments, and we know that other lobstermen continued to pull up pieces in the same area, some even diving on the site.



The Maine discovery: Pulled up off Cliff Island by lobstermen, the fragment at left appears to match the windscreen of *L'Oiseau Blanc* (circled in red).

# MYSTERY

Thanks to introductions from my friend Daniel Zilkha, CEO of Sabre Yachts, I got to meet one of these fishermen, David MacVane, such a nice young man (83?), with his charming wife Patricia.

We had lunch together, and of course we devoured a lobster sandwich.

David MacVane told us what he knew but mentioned that Robert, who passed away at age 90, is the MacVane who knew the details.

I was also anxious to follow up on a document I'd turned up that the instrument panels had been taken, perhaps, by a man identified as a collector. Who was he? Patricia MacVane promised me she'd investigate through family connections.

Where did they dive off Cliff Island? It's not too deep: 50 to 150 feet. This summer, we hope to direct a divers' club in a thorough sector search under our control.

There's a good chance the media will be looking in on this. Our recent efforts have been covered in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, the *London Daily Mail*, and *National Geographic*. The early pieces, including a fragment of the windscreen,

include among them parts machined for European screws (in metrics), and the period of creation matches up.

At a memorial ceremony for Nungesser and Coli I helped organize in June in St. Pierre, one of the speakers was Eric Lindbergh, Charles Lindbergh's grandson.

The Lindberghs have Maine connections, too, by the way. Big Garden Island near North Haven was given to Anne Morrow Lindbergh by her father as a wedding present; family members often keep up the tradition of visiting it summer after summer.

## FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Friend and fellow yachtsman Daniel Zilkha has also helped me connect for interviews with historians and entities such as the District I Coast Guard between visits to the Boston Public and Portland Public libraries. All of which has been very satisfying to me because Maine and my family go back a long way.

My parents had very good friends in Maine. In Lewiston, I remember Dr. Begin, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison.

After the Second World War, your

country, via the Rotary Club, helped my hometown of Nantes and other towns in Brittany and the Loire region that had been destroyed by giving us clothes, food, and supplies.

When my children were younger, we conducted them to your clever summer camps, where they learned to speak English. This year, my grandchildren are attending these same camps; they so enjoy them!

Some years ago, I visited Camden with my brother Dominique and other good friends who purchased and rescued a wonderful, historic regatta yacht, an old Herreshoff design—a 30-foot New York Yacht Club one-design. Now she is a splendid lady on the nice, warm water in Italy, Monaco, Cannes, and Saint Tropez; oh, she's fast, and she often wins. She flies the American flag—we're very proud—her name is *Oriole*.

## DEVIL AT THE TILLER

But excuse me, I must come back to my extraordinary investigation.

Yes, you must understand now that I love yachting and aircraft (I've logged time flying in a number of aircraft, including the amphibious PBY Catalina), so how could I not love seaplanes?

*L'Oiseau Blanc* was a sort of seaplane. Let's take off in her and fly toward this story.

We are in 1927. In spite of Kitty Hawk and the Wright Bros., we can honestly say aviation came into flower in France; the First World War developed very quickly the first aeroplanes, ever more strong, more efficient.

With more than 47 official victories (certainly 50 non-official), a dashing Frenchman named Charles Nungesser became an ace! After the terrible war he married a young, vivacious, and very rich American girl, Consuelo Hatmaker. Her father was the private secretary of the very rich man Cornelius Vanderbilt.

So, Captain Nungesser spent a lot of time in the U.S., where he organized a great Flying Circus, recreating his dogfights at altitude against real German aircraft and pilots. Amid smoke and explosions, he became a sensation, hosting more than 50 air shows in the U.S. Hollywood came calling, and he appeared in the movie *The Sky Raider* (1925).

But another dream came.

The first great distance records to be bro-

(Continued on page 78)

## The Coast Guard Weighs In:

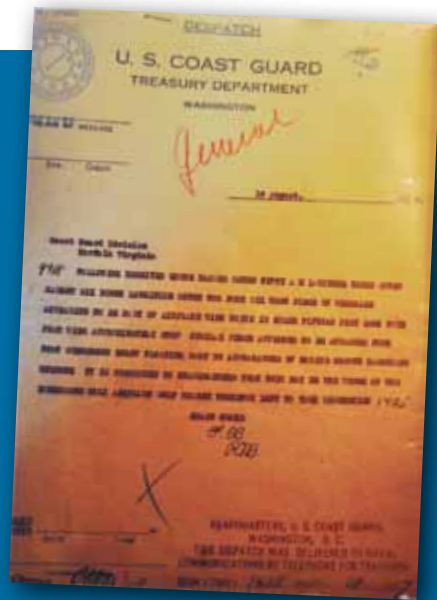
"A couple of weeks ago... I met with Mr. Decré at the direction of Rear Admiral Dan Abel, to help in any way we could.

Mr. Decré's information and research gave us a great head start in terms of understanding the story, but discussions with our own historians and archivists left us (and Mr. Decré) with questions we may never be able to answer. One historian was able to offer Mr. Decré some connections to historians and authors in Maine.

During my conversation with Mr. Decré, I recommended reaching out to the media in Maine to see if anyone could help put together any pieces of the puzzle. Because it is such a close-knit maritime community up there, if there's more information the people of Maine will help him find it.

We're here to help. The Coast Guard has a rich maritime heritage here in the Northeast and the more we can learn about it, the better!"

—Lt. Joseph Klinker, First Coast Guard District Public Affairs, Boston



# *Balance: The Paintings & Cuisine of Jung Hur*



**Jung Hur** was trained as a painter in Seoul, Korea. In 1998, he moved to New York, where he achieved celebrity as a chef while expanding his success as a painter. For more than 20 years, Hur has fermented the idea of combining his talents as painter and master chef into a single art experience: The result is *Balance*.

---

**Public opening:** First Friday Art Walk, Dec 6; exhibition runs through Feb 2  
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**Bull Feeny's** Authentic Irish pub & restaurant, serving delicious scratch-made 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., Old Port, 773-7210, bullfeenys.com

**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 Avenue. 207-878-9511.

**DiMillo's On the Water** serves the freshest lobster, seafood, Black Angus cuts of beef, Italian fare & more. DiMillo's offers fabulous views of the water in Portland Harbor from every table, Famous Lobster Rolls, clam chowder, haddock chowder, lobster stew & delicious salads. Serving from 11am. Commercial St., Old Port, 772-2216, dimillos.com

**Eve's at the Garden** offers an oasis of calm and great food in the middle of the bustling Old Port. Serving three meals a day, it's the perfect spot for meetings, special occasions, and a cocktail. The restaurant uses ingredients from Maine's waters and farms: jumbo scallops, naturally raised pork and beef, sustainably raised fish and shellfish, and Maine lobster. Home to the annual Ice Bar, the garden at Eve's is also perfect for outdoor dining in the warmer months. Happy Hour Monday - Friday; free valet parking with meals. Lunch 11:30-2, Dinner 5-9:30. 468 Fore St., Portland, 775-9090, Evesatthegarden.com

**Fish Bones American Grill** A casual upscale restaurant offering creative American cuisine. Specialties include grilled wheat crust crostones, unique entrée salads & creative dinner offerings. Located in the heart of Lewiston in the historic Bates Mill Complex with off-street parking. Come get hooked! Lunch & dinner M-F; dinner only Sa; closed Sunday. 333-3663, fishbonesmaine.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's** famous Public Suppers have returned every Tuesday night until December 17th. Enjoy your choice of three entrees—all comfort food—for just \$9.95! Buck-a-Shuck Oysters every Sunday night. \$10 off any bottle of wine every Wednesday. Make your holiday party and New Year's Eve reservations now. 29 Dock Square, Kennebunkport. 967-9111, hurricanerestaurant.com\*

**LFK** features New American cuisine, beer, wine & full spirits in the heart of Longfellow Square with a literary theme. Stop in for a drink, bite to eat, or relax with your favorite book. 188A State St., Portland, lfkportland.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, 12-10. 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 w/stunning views of Cape Porpoise Harbor & live music each weekend, while the Ramp is more casual, w/its own bar menu at hard-to-beat prices. Open year-round. 967-8500, pier77restaurant.com \*

**The Pepperclub/Good Egg Café** Two favorites, same location! Pepperclub's (see *Frommer's Guide to N.E.*) world cuisine blackboard menu lists five vegetarian, three fish & three meat entrées, including an organic beef burger. Relaxed, affordable dining on the edge of the Old Port. Free parking. Pepperclub, daily from 5pm; Good Egg Café, Tu-F 7-11am, Sa-Su 8am-1pm. 78 Middle St., 772-0531, pepperclubrestaurant.com

\*reservations recommended



# Striking Back

**Empire Chinese Kitchen** infuses traditional dim sum with a bit of alt magic and Maine soul.

From 1916 to 1953, spanning two World Wars, the famous Empire Chop Suey was a fixture on the corner at 575 Congress Street. Not only was this a soldiers, sailors, and locals attraction, there's even a tradition this luminous corner of the Forest City was one of the inspirations for Edward Hopper's 1927 painting *Chop Suey* (yes, he was in Maine then—see our story in September 2010, and our letter in this issue, page 16, featuring New York's claim).

Fast-forward to today. After six desultory decades, a chic descendent of this historic eatery returns. The Empire strikes back!

It's high concept—think Thelouise Monkfish in Cambridge without the menu blow. The ECK's interior décor is a fusion of Asian notes, trendy industrial, and rustic overtones. The music ranges from rockabilly to gothabilly and R & B. The guiding spirit here seems to be Gordon Ramsay's rule that a restaurant discovers its greatness with a small menu, few ingredients, high quality, and surprisingly low price for that quality.

Because it was our first time here, we asked owner Theresa Chan to give us a sample of Dim Sum and small plates that three of us could devour—and oh, yes, we



## Meet Theresa Chan

"My great-grandfather owned a very large construction company in China. During the Revolution, our family was labeled capitalists," says restaurateur Theresa Chan, 27. "My father, a teenager, saw his family bullied, forced from the city, and 're-educated' as farmers, so he

were in a hurry. Fifteen minutes okay?

Inspired, she brought us her ingenious Empire Eggrolls (local beef pastrami, asparagus, cabbage, honey Dijon), a wondrous solution for East Meets West. Who knew someone could invent a way to enjoy a fried pastrami sandwich without the guilt? (A sharp knife is provided so you can

share.) The Honey Walnut Shrimp are mouth-watering, the Spinach Dumplings in steam baskets so fun and tasty we were already planning our next trip back.

The Green Beans—roasted garlic, salted daikon—roared with color. The Pork Dumplings feature coriander and spring onion, deep and sweet; and there's a special technique for eating the Shanghai Soup Dumplings. First, pierce the dumpling when you bite to sip the soup, then dip the dumpling in a red sauce to complete the experience, which resonates almost three-dimensionally with this block of downtown: While dining, we take in the glassy storefronts of Peek-A-Boo Tattoo, Darkworkz, Otto, Strange Maine, and Springer's Jewelers.

Large plates intrigue with eureka jolts like Lobster Longevity Noodles with Tequila Sauce and Bacon Fried Rice with local bacon, sweet corn, and spring onion.

What a blast—fast, friendly, flexible, able to handle an impossibly quick lunch request. The words painted on the wall, Yum Cha, loosely translate to Drink tea or Tea tasting, though there's a full bar. Who wouldn't

swam to Macau to escape."

Settling in nearby Hong Kong, Chan's father gained sponsorship and a chance to go to college in New York, where he met Chan's mother, who worked in the World Trade Center. "When I was 9, my father got a job at BIW but my mother loved her job in New York, so we commuted for 5 years. After the 1993 bombing, my parents figured it was time, so my mother got into waitressing. Soon she was managing Chinese restaurants here in Maine. So that's how we ended up here! I went to Connecticut College and then to New York myself but ended up returning when my parents wanted to partner with me to open Little Tokyo sushi restaurant in Brunswick. That led to hosting weddings and events on Great Diamond Island, where I first worked with my business partner Todd Bernard, and that's when we came up with the idea of opening a restaurant together."—Colin S. Sargent

want to try the Oolong martinis, along with elixirs like Hu Shangs and Shiso Crazy? Everything feels right about this place, from the inside out. Damages for our memorable lunch for three: \$40. ■

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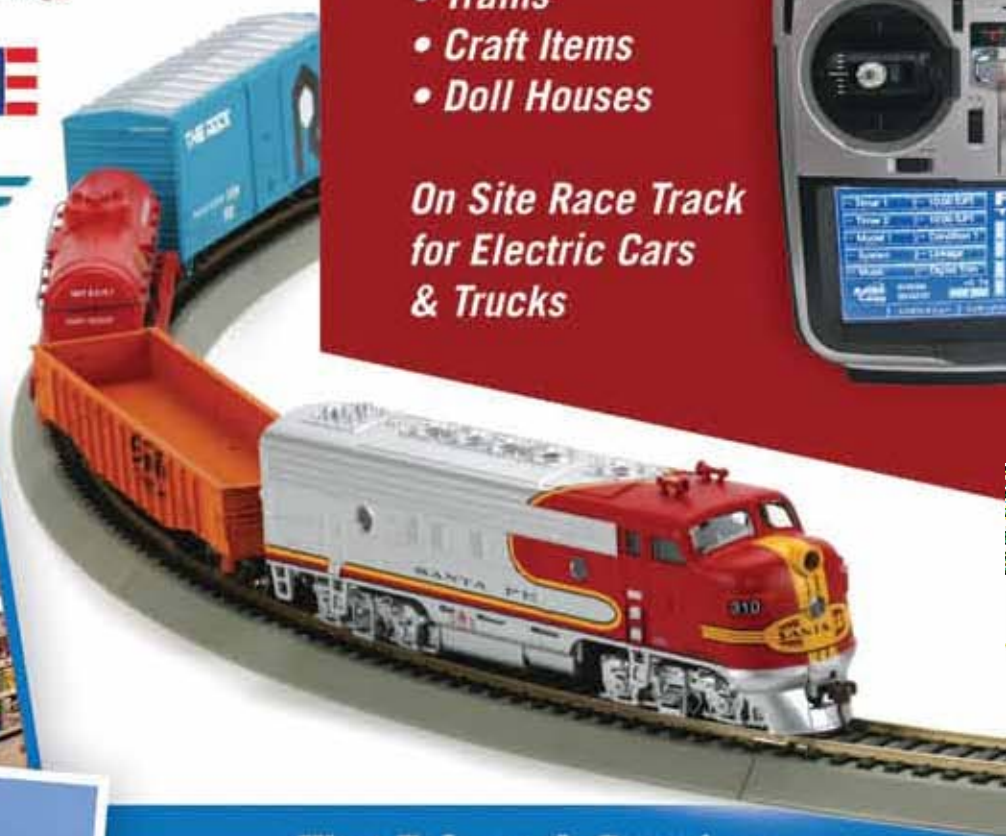
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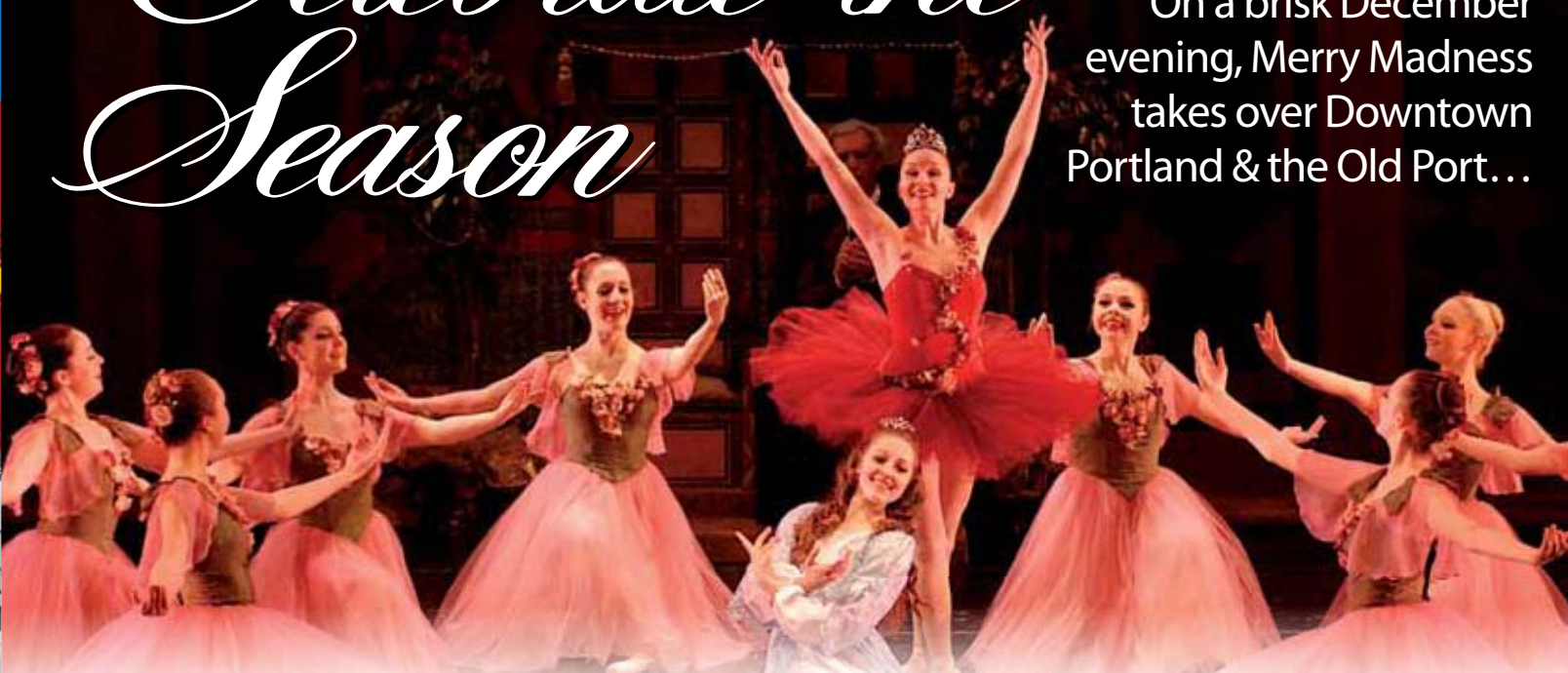
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## DATES FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

### 2013

Nov 27-Dec 5	Hanukkah
Dec 8	Bodhi Day
Dec 21	Winter Solstice
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 26-Jan 1	Kwanzaa

### 2014

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 14	Makar Sankranti
Jan 31	Mahayana New Year
Jan 31	Tet (Vietnam) Lunar New Year
Jan 31	Chinese New Year
March 4	Mardi Gras
March 20	Persian New Year
April 13-15	Thai New Year
April 13	Cambodian New Year
April 14-22	Passover
April 20	Easter

FROM TOP: PORTLAND BALLET COMPANY; OPERATION CARE PACKAGES; JAY'S CATERING CO.

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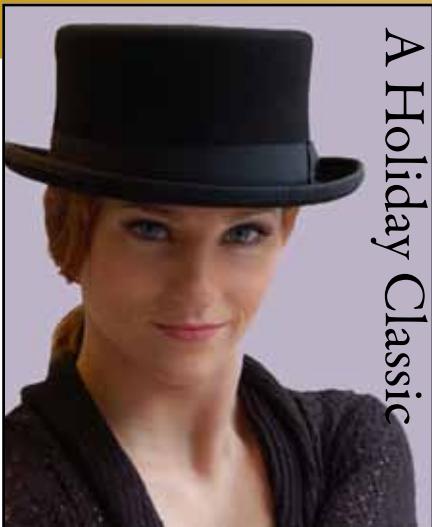
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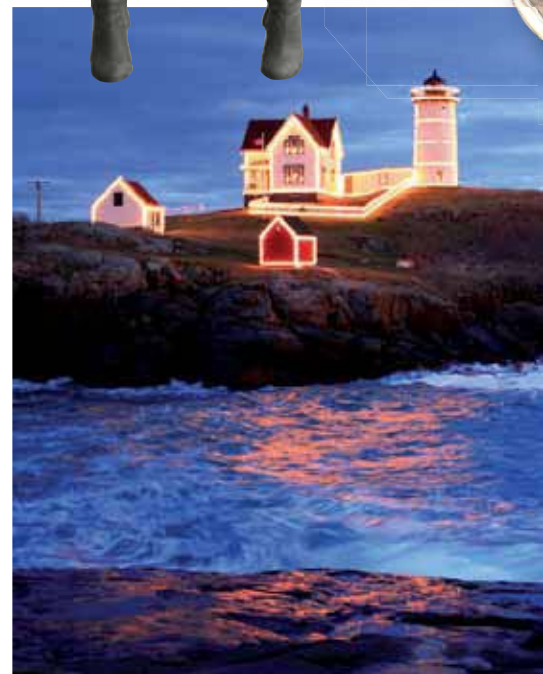
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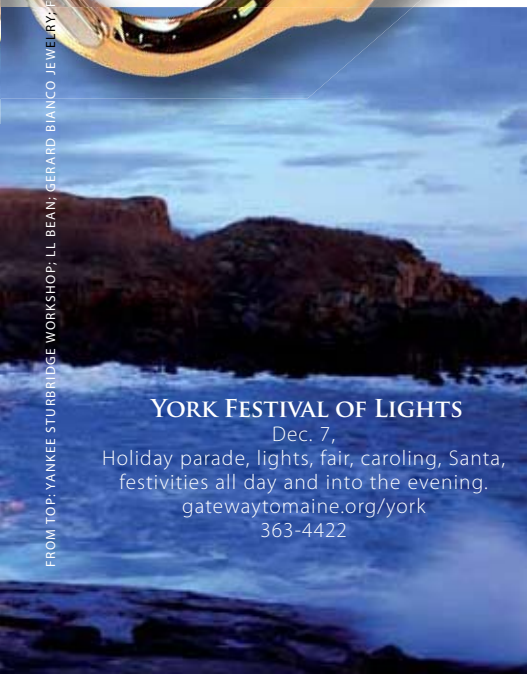
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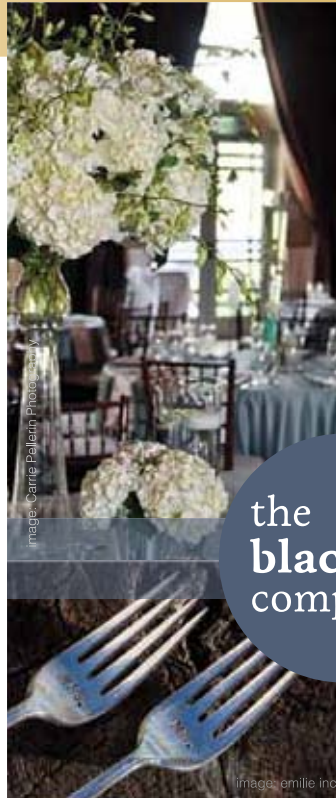


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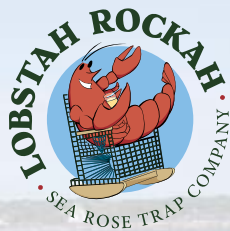
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**So Percussion:**  
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March 13, 2014 • 7:30 pm

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March 22, 2014 • 2 pm & 8 pm

**DePue Brothers Band**  
March 29, 2014 • 8 pm

**"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"**  
April 5, 2014 • 11 am

**Handel and Haydn Society**  
April 5, 2014 • 3 pm

**"Who's Hungry"**  
April 10, 2014 • 8 pm  
April 11, 2014 • 8 pm  
April 12, 2014 • 2 pm & 8 pm

**Bobby McFerrin:**  
**"Spirit You All"**  
April 13, 2014 • 7 pm

**Pilobolus**  
April 25, 2014 • 8 pm

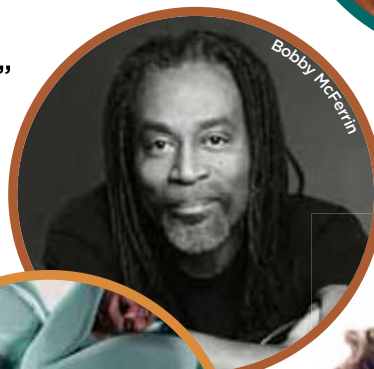
**"The Summer King"**  
May 8, 2014 • 7:30 pm



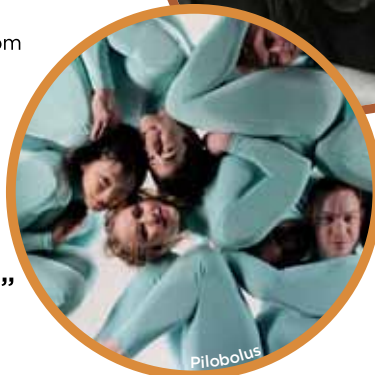
African Children's Choir



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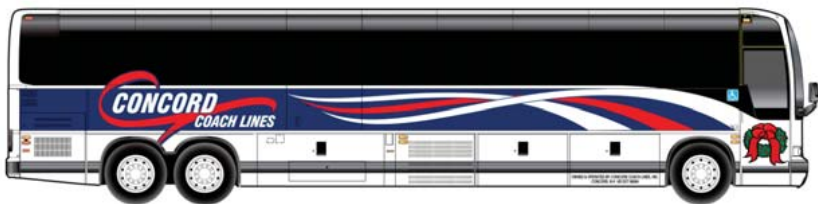
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Ten Things I Love (continued from page 36)

able to live a happy, healthy, and colorful life, we all prosper. Karen Hakala, Norway

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### SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS, [sbsavings.com](http://sbsavings.com)

Branches: 6; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$5; Non-customer ATM charge: \$2-3 Refund ATM surcharges: N/A

Checking account fee: \$0 for online checking

Highest savings account APY & terms: 4% with \$50,000 minimum or the Mainly Preferred account

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: N/A

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 3.5%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.386%  
Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.518%, 15-year fixed

Highest APY opportunity: 1.56%, 5-year CD

Highest CD APY & terms: 1.56%, 5-year CD

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .40

Breakout advantage: We're the oldest mutual savings bank in Maine. We always answer our phones—you'll never get an automated response. There's always someone here to help you. —Katrina Desjardins, Operations Center

### SANFORD INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

[banksis.com](http://banksis.com)

Branches: 9; Minimum ATM withdraw: \$20; Non-customer ATM charge: \$3.50; Refund ATM surcharges: Yes

Checking account fee: None

Highest savings account APY & terms: .10% for balances \$2,500 and over

Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores: \$10.99%-\$21.99%

Best APR for 60-month auto loan: 4.25%

Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR: 4.245%

Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms: 3.339%, 10 year fixed.

Highest APY opportunity: 2.27%, 10-year CD (Silver Link III)

Highest CD APY & terms: 2.27%, 10-year CD (Silver Link III)

Best APY for 12-month IRA: .07% \$5,000 and over

Breakout advantage: When you call, you'll always get a person, never an automated service. —Trudy Teele, Limerick branch. Their slogan is the bank that listens.

### TD BANK, [tdbank.com](http://tdbank.com)

Branches: 55; Minimum ATM withdraw, \$20; Non-cus-

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207-518-6314  
jdeering@androscogginbank.com

## Peggy Anderson, Business & Government Services

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\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Standard APRs for purchases, balance transfers and cash advances will vary based on Prime Rate and credit worthiness and range from 7.99% to 14.99% for the Platinum Card and from 9.99% to 16.99% for the Platinum Rewards Card. Standard APRs for purchases, balance transfers and cash advances for the Alumni Signature Rewards VISA Card will vary based on Prime Rate and credit worthiness and range from 10.99% to 17.99%. The introductory APR for balance transfers is 3.99% for 12 billing cycles from the date of the account opening. After that, your APR will revert to your standard APR for purchases. The introductory APR for balance transfers will apply to transactions posted to your account during the first 90 days following the opening of your account. Rates effective 03/15/2013. Other terms and conditions apply. Contact UCU for details. Membership eligibility required.



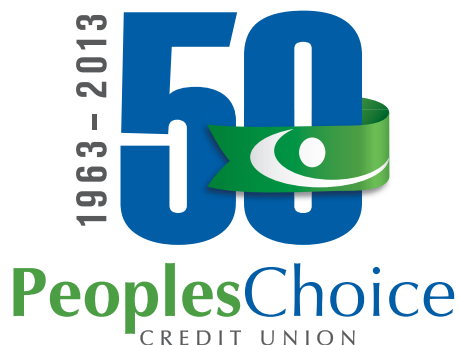
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## DOLLARS & SENSE

**tommer ATM charge:** \$3; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes with some accounts and \$2,500 balance  
**Checking account fee:** \$0 with a daily balance of \$100 (Convenience Checking), otherwise \$15  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .4%, TD Relationship Savings, minimum daily balance of \$250,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 9%-22%  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 4.13% (based on a \$15,000 loan for a 2013/2014 model)

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.538%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.606%, 15-year (jumbo)

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.25%, 7-year CD

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.25%, 7-year CD

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .25%

**Breakout advantage:** We're very convenient because we have so many branches, some open on Saturday and Sunday. —Jordan Bell, Portland Square branch

## CREDIT UNIONS

**ACADIA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**, [acadiafcu.org](http://acadiafcu.org)

**Branches:** 4; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$5; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$1.50; **Refund ATM surcharges:** 3 free per month

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** 1.0%, Kasasa Saver on balances up to \$5,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 10.9%, 11.9%, 12.9%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 2.99%

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 5.64%, with 20% down

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 2.75%, 1-year lock, introductory variable w/20% down

**Highest APY opportunity:** Kasasa Cash checking, 3.0% on balances up to \$10,000

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 2.02%, 5-year CD

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .4%

**Breakout advantage:** We have no service fees. We pay interest on checking accounts. We're easy to work with. —Mary Ann Boucher, Fort Kent

**ATLANTIC REGIONAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

[atlanticregional.com](http://atlanticregional.com)

**Branches:** 4; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$10; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2.50; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes up to \$20/month

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** 1.0%, Kasasa Saver on balances up to \$10,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 13.99-19.99%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.49%, on new vehicles

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.446%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.495%, 15-year, 0-point plan

**Highest APY opportunity:** 2.5%, Kasasa Cash checking on balances up to \$10,000

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.35%, 5-year step-up share

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .4%

**Breakout advantage:** We're a non-profit, which means we have lower loan rates and

lower fees and good rates on checking. –  
Leanne Thompson, Brunswick branch

**BANGOR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
[bangorfederal.com](http://bangorfederal.com)

**Branches:** 3; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$3; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, within network only

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .10%

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 7.9%-16.9%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.49% on vehicles 2010 & newer

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.375%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.75%, up to 75 months

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.46%, 5-year CD (Jumbo), minimum \$100,000

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.46%, 5-year CD (Jumbo), minimum \$100,000

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** N/A

**Breakout advantage:** "No monthly service fees on your checking accounts. –Carol Archer, Brewer branch

**cPORT CREDIT UNION, [cportcu.org](http://cportcu.org)**

**Branches:** 4; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$10; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, with College checking

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .4%, Money Market Plus on balances of \$100,000 or more

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** N/A

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 2.99%

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** N/A; up to 15-year fixed

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.25%, variable, with first 3 years fixed

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.5%, 5-year classic annual CD

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.5%, 5-year classic annual CD

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .20%

**Breakout advantage:** Our investment in our members sets us apart. We like to connect with our members and help them in any way we can. You're a face, not a number. –Brittany Ridge, Portland branch

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CREDIT UNION**

[cumberlandcountyfcu.com](http://cumberlandcountyfcu.com)

**Branches:** 5; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, within network

**Checking account fee:** None for personal checking

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .85% on IRA savings with minimum balance of \$75,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** N/A

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 2.3%-2.5%

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 3.5%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.5%, <48 months, fixed

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.76%, 5-year CD with minimum of \$75,000

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.76%, 5-year CD with minimum deposit of \$75,000

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .60%, minimum \$75,000

**Breakout advantage:** Outstanding member service. VIP Member reward points. We

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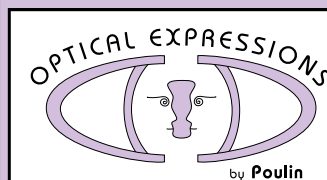
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DOLLARS & SENSE

know you by name. –Melissa Webber, Falmouth branch

**FIVE COUNTY CREDIT UNION, [fivecounty.com](http://fivecounty.com)**

**Branches:** 14; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$20; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$3; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, within network

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .15% minimum \$100,000 balance

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 14.57%; 16.75%; 18.75%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.0%, new models

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.467%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.4%, 10-year fixed

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.06%, 5-year CD on a minimum \$100,000

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.06%, 5-year CD, minimum \$100,000

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .35% minimum \$1,000

**Breakout advantage:** Convenience—we have 14 branches in eight counties, some open until 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. –Matt McCollette, Bath branch.

**KV FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, [kvfcu.org](http://kvfcu.org)**

**Branches:** 2; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$5; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$1; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, within network

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .26%, minimum \$75,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 11.99%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.49% on autos 2007 or newer

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.78%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.7%, 10-year plan

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.75%, 5-year CD, minimum \$500

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.75%, 5-year CD, minimum \$500

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .40%

**Breakout advantage:** Highest CD rates locally.

–Susan Greeley, Augusta branch

**LINCOLN MAINE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

**[lincolmainefcu.com](http://lincolmainefcu.com)**

**Branches:** 1; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$5; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$1.50; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Yes, within network

**Checking account fee:** No

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .25%, minimum \$30,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 7.9%, 8.9%, 13.9%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 2.99% on cars 2009 or newer

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** N/A

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.75%, maximum 15-year plan

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.75%, 5-year CD, minimum \$500

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.75%, 5-year CD, minimum \$500

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** 2.0%

**Breakout advantage:** We listen to our members and try to give them what they want.

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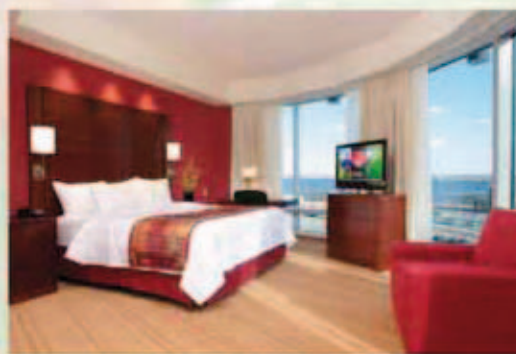
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## DOLLARS & SENSE

€ris Kinney, Lincoln branch

### LISBON COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, [lisboncu.org](http://lisboncu.org)

**Branches:** 2; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$10; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** 4 free foreign transactions per month, \$1 each after that  
**Checking account fee:** Free for \$300 minimum balance, \$1 otherwise with basic checking  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .35%, Money Market account on minimum \$100,000  
**Credit card APR:** 13.9%  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.5% on autos 2010 or newer  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.324%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.498%, 15-year, sold on secondary market  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.51%, 5-year CD, minimum \$1,000  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.51%, 5-year CD, minimum \$1,000  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .35% minimum \$100,000  
**Breakout advantage:** Very few fees.

### PEOPLESCHOICE CREDIT UNION, [peopleschoicecreditunion.com](http://peopleschoicecreditunion.com)

**Branches:** 4; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$10; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$1.50; **Refund ATM surcharges:** No; **Checking account fee:** \$0 with 3 or more bills paid electronically per month, \$5.95 otherwise  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .50%, Money Market Savings, minimum balance \$250,000  
**Credit card APRs for A & B credit scores:** 9.9%, 14.98%,  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.29%  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.61%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 10-year, 3.99%  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 3.04%, 10-year CD, minimum \$500  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.91%, 5-year, minimum \$75,000  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .10%  
**Breakout advantage:** We help all of our members as best we can. We only have a \$5 minimum balance requirement in your savings account, which helps in times like these. —Amanda Marshall, Wells branch

### TOWN & COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION [tcfcu.com](http://tcfcu.com)

**Branches:** 6; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$1; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Up to \$25  
**Checking account fee:** None  
**Highest savings account APY & terms:** .15%  
**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 3.99%-17.99%  
**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 2.49%, to as 1.99% for new cars  
**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.5%  
**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.5%, 10 year fixed  
**Highest APY opportunity:** 3.01% on balances up to \$10,000 (Free Rewards Checking)  
**Highest CD APY & terms:** 5-year, 1.50%, minimum \$500  
**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** .50%  
**Breakout advantage:** Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, or attends school in York or Cumberland County. We're extremely community oriented. —Mike



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## DOLLARS & SENSE

Jackson, Portland call center

**UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION**, [ucu.maine.edu](http://ucu.maine.edu)

**Branches:** 7; **Minimum ATM withdraw:** \$1; **Non-customer ATM charge:** \$2; **Refund ATM surcharges:** Up to \$25 with qualifications met

**Checking account fee:** None

**Highest savings account APY & terms:** 0.76% up to \$15,000

**Credit card APRs for A, B, C credit scores:** 3.99% APR intro rate on balance transfers, otherwise 7.99% -17.99%

**Best APR for 60-month auto loan:** 3.74% minimum \$7,500

**Lowest 30-year fixed rate res. mortgage APR:** 4.236%

**Lowest residential mortgage APR & terms:** 3.260% 10-year fixed

**Highest APY opportunity:** 1.20% minimum \$250

**Highest CD APY & terms:** 1.20% \$250 minimum

**Best APY for 12-month IRA:** 0.300% \$250 minimum

**Breakout advantage:** Serving the University of Maine System and other educational communities in Maine. Our Reward checking pays you 1.44% up to \$10,000. —Brenda Wickett, Orono call center. ■

In-person, telephone, and online research by Laura Breslin, Frances Killea, Gretchen Miller, and Christopher Protzman.

All information is subject to change and is intended as a snapshot of the financial sector at press time.

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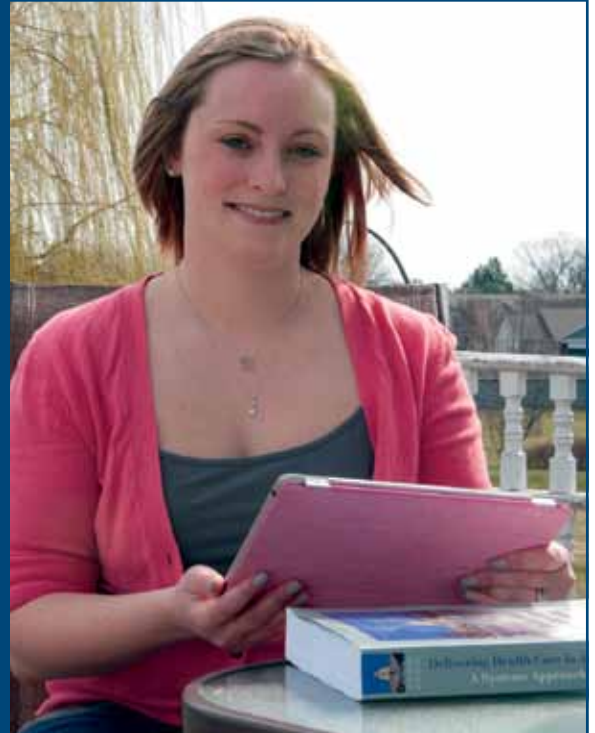
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**#DRIVE-IN FORCE** (continued from page 39)

Russell chuckles. We were happy to do a lot of free marketing for Honda, and that's the point of the contest—whichever drive-in gets the most votes gets saved, but every voter has been introduced to Honda's message. What they were doing was a different application of what I'd done giving out T-shirts and movie passes. They spend X amount of dollars, and get their users to push the message of Honda's corporate responsibility. It allowed them to get in front of so many people in a not-in-your-face fashion.

A couple of the other drive-ins say that we were favored from the start, that it was rigged, that Honda sponsored us. But that's just because we got out in front of the contest. We'd been begging car dealerships all around the state to buy us a projector. We'd have given them free advertising forever. Imagine, a dealer ad, before every movie played at Saco Drive-



In. We couldn't get anyone to cover the full cost of the new projector, but it means we'd already mobilized plans to get support, to demonstrate to the dealers that we'd be worth it, so we had a real leg up because of the work we'd done over the last three years.

Our whole team really bonded, and everyone came up with creative ideas, even painting up their cars with Save Saco Drive-In.

Russell, who works as a loan officer at Primary Residential Mortgage in Scarborough, grew up in Saco, so the drive-in is part of his childhood. He bought the business when he was still in college. He credits the success of the project to his fortunate readiness and to the skills he learned while working and in the business program at USM. I think USM is the best deal around. There's a handful of teachers I had the pleasure to learn from there, and to this day I still

have a good relationship with—I learned truly necessary skills [from]—Fred Aiello, Jeanne Munger, and Johnny Chen. In fact, I still call them with questions. They were the ones who went out of their way and after hours to help me. I tell anyone I know who's going into that program to take one class from each of those professors and they'll be ready for the real world. And while I didn't get a degree, I didn't ever want to send out a resume to some HR manager anyway: I wanted the education. If I'd gone the traditional route, would I be making more money? Sure. But would I be as satisfied? Not even close.

Honda's Project-Drive ends on December 7, and until then there's a chance to save another Maine fixture: Pride's Corner Drive-In, which serves Westbrook and the surrounding area. Check it out at [projectdrivein.com](http://projectdrivein.com). ■

**If the Saco Drive-In, established in 1939, is the second-oldest in the country, what is the oldest? It's Shankweiler's Auto Park in Orefield, Pennsylvania, 1934.**

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## MYSTERY

**MAN ON FIRE** (continued from page 46)

ken at altitude seized everyone's imagination. For the early ones, such as 2,000, 4,000, and 5,000 kilometers, you could have an engine failure, circle in for a landing, and have your craft repaired.

The Atlantic was a more deadly matter. Nobody imagined trying to cross the Atlantic—too dangerous.

Well, that's not exactly true. Two comparatively unheralded English pilots, Alcock and Brown, crossed from St. John, Newfoundland, to Ireland in 1919; for some reason, it just wasn't their turn to become famous. They flew a dual-engine, two-winged Vickers. It was fabulous, but the distance was shorter: 3,500 kilometers (Lindbergh's feat from New York to Paris was more stunning at 5,800 kilometers).

**B**ut when Mr. Raymond Orteig, the French-born hotelier, established himself in New York and recognized the world renown that could be achieved with the first nonstop flight from New York to Paris or Paris to New York, he declared, "I will give \$25,000 to the first aviator or the first crew who will do it!"

A host of countries beyond the U.S. offered up competing crews: Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Germany and, of course, France.

One vexing problem: It was necessary to take off with more than 3,000 liters of petrol, from a field. More than 20 crews tried. More than 10 crewmen died. Think of America's Cup with the devil at the tiller.

We see the same names with the same ambitions at Roosevelt Field, near New York. (Today it's a shopping mall). On the line are *Columbia* (a Bellanca with a lot of money behind it from Congressman Hamilton Fish Jr. the *māne* [patron]), *America*, *American Legion* and a forgettable, lanky Yank, quite unknown, with a smaller airplane: one seat, hard to take seriously in this story. Alone, for more than 30 hours? Here is the *Spirit of St. Louis* and her darkhorse pilot: Charles Lindbergh.

## MIDNIGHT GHOSTS

In France, only one crew is ready to fly the other way: the very well-known Captain Nungesser and his navigator, François Coli. This serious entry is from the French Navy—a strong biplane Levasseur with a 450-horsepower Lorraine Dietrich engine. She's a sort of amphibious plane, taking off with landing

COURTESY OF ANGÈLE DECRE

Illustration by Vladyslav Yerko, from the book published by A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA. Courtesy Anderson House Foundation

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gear but arriving in front of Statue of *la Liberté* in New York landing on the water without it!

At Roosevelt Field, fog and bad weather blocks the planes and delays takeoff.

But at le Bourget, the *météo* [weather report] is perfect, the winds exceptionally nice from East to West for the first part of the flight! So they decide to take off at 5:20 a.m. from Le Bourget the morning of the 8th of May, 1927!

You remember: the take-off was good, *L Oiseau Blanc* was sighted in bright sunlight over *tretat*, in England, in Ireland. The great part of Atlantic flight went without incident, but night came, along with very bad weather from the northeast of Newfoundland to the southeast of Cape Race. People *saw* them at Harbour Grace, and at Cape Race, in Saint Mary's Bay and over Burin Peninsula at the end of the morning of the 9th of May. Things are going so well, *La Presse* cheers that they've already made it to New York in the morning edition, ahead of their arrival: *Nungesser and Coli Have Succeeded*.

Fog rolls in, and all we can hear is sound now. Did we hear other things; is it possible that later we unheard them? The best stories shouldn't be left in the air. Nungesser and Coli deserve better.

One of the first things Lindbergh did when he was mobbed upon landing in France was visit Nungesser's mother. He kissed her hand, and in this courtly gesture all of France now fell in love with the young American. While his sensation grew, the crew of *L Oiseau Blanc* dissolved into obscurity, though even the *New York Times* has recently acknowledged the lost crew was certainly on Lindbergh's mind, quoting the solo flyer's observation that the pair vanished like midnight ghosts.

Until this summer. See you in Maine! ■

▶▶ For more, visit [portlandmonthly.com/port-mag/2013/11/white-bird-extras](http://portlandmonthly.com/port-mag/2013/11/white-bird-extras)



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# The Living (West) End



After a restoration topping \$1M, the Richard Webb House hits the market at \$2.167M.

**W**ith tiara balustrades in Chinese Chippendale on the roof and sun porch, this house at 29 Bowdoin Street, designed by noted architects John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens in 1907, delighted viewers as a crowning achievement at the corner of Bowdoin and Vaughan streets in Portland's West End.

By 1915, the project was known nationally as one of the best examples of the Colonial Style, being very satisfactory in its proportions and detail, and yet not an historical copy of an old house, but a new creation of the same style and with the sure feeling that is evident in the best of

old colonial work, as John H. boasted.

In 2010, the present owner, Irish-born Shane Flynn, 51, commenced repairs from stem to stern to create a home base for his family to enjoy Portland while his daughter attended Waynflete. Flynn, a top executive at MBNA in Maine from 1993 until 2002, was tapped by MBNA America to be its vice president at their national headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware. From there, he was promoted to Chief Executive of MBNA Europe. Afterward,

he founded the private-equity firm Cordjia, LLC, as well as a co-owner of Wayfarer Marine in Camden. From that time, 29 Bowdoin Street has seemed a personal invest-

**Attorney Richard Webb (1836-1919) hosted guests including President William Howard Taft here.**



KEITH ANDREWS, MAINE VIDEO TOURS; TAFT INFO: EARLE SHETTLEWORTH JR.



ment for him.

The only room that hasn't been touched here is the library, says listing agent Christine Pemberton, who is offering the property for \$2.167M.

Sumptuous as it is, the library isn't original to the structure. It was an update by a Coca-Cola executive who owned the house. The Georgian pine paneling was brought up here around 1940, Pemberton says. Located immediately to the left of the graceful stair-

## "John Howard Stevens once told me that this was his father's favorite house in Portland."

way that greets guests as they enter from Bowdoin Street below a handsome glass fan, the library is memorable for its quality of materials, carved pinecones below the panel, and the primavera paneling. Pemberton

pulls open a secret drawer to the left of the fireplace: Here's where they keep the original plans to the house.

Maine State Historian Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., co-author of *John Calvin Stevens, Domestic Architecture, 1890-1930*, has praised the spatial flow of the first floor here, with the large stairwell and the way the rooms radiate off the entry space. John Howard Stevens once told me that this was his father's favorite house in Portland.

The recent restoration has added snap



and high-quality updates to an already remarkable home.

This is a labor of love, Pemberton says. The copper and slate on the roof took five-and-a-half months to complete. The interior woodwork, trim, and paneling was restored and replicated by Rusty Brewer of M.R. Brewer.

The large kitchen with island sparkles with a cream-colored Aga stove beneath a curved arch backed by matching cream subway tiles.

In the dining room, the original coffered ceilings have been illuminated by silvery papers installed in the recessed areas that reflect light between the beams and remind us of the

China room in the West Mansion on the Western Promenade, where hand-beaten linings from China Trade tea boxes glow on the walls.

One of my favorite things is the new wallpaper, which follows the stairway up three floors. You should see it during the different times of day, says Pemberton. It shimmers or glows according to the rest of the house's ambient personality.

Everywhere the original materials are honored or fastidiously replicated. There are

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KEITH ANDREWS; MAINE VIDEO TOURS (3); LAURA BRESLIN

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According to William David Barry of Maine Historical Society, "In 1942, this house belonged to a well-known society woman, Mrs. Virginia L. Jones, and her husband, Turner Jones, president of the local Coca-Cola bottling plant in South Portland. In 1943, the property is listed as vacant by the *Portland Directory*. From 1944-1946, it's listed as the Fleet Bachelors Officers' Quarters."

six wood-burning fireplaces. The egg-and-dart crown molding is show-stopping. The decorating palette for the walls is soothing neutral tones with crisp, clean gloss accents. Baths are adorned in marble. There are a total of nine bedrooms, counting those on the third floor.

New improvements, virtually everywhere, both match the times and offer timeless appeal. Everything is natural gas now. There's a smart new wrought-iron fence and upgraded systems for lawn irrigation and fire protection. Lot size is .2 acres. Taxes are \$21,023. ■

**Restoration Notebook**

"Cordjia Capital Projects Group served as the owner's representative for the renovation of the Flynn residence. Blaine Buck, President & CEO of Cordjia Capital Projects Group, was the principal in charge of the renovation work," broker Christine Pemberton tells us.

"The slate and copper roof were done by The Heritage Co. They used M.R. Brewer for woodwork; Colorworks for the painting; Katherine White of Camden Interior Design; and Morningstar Stone and Tile in Topsham for the kitchen, butler's pantry and lavatories (stone)."

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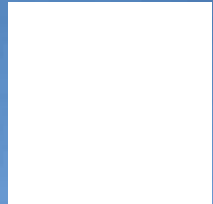
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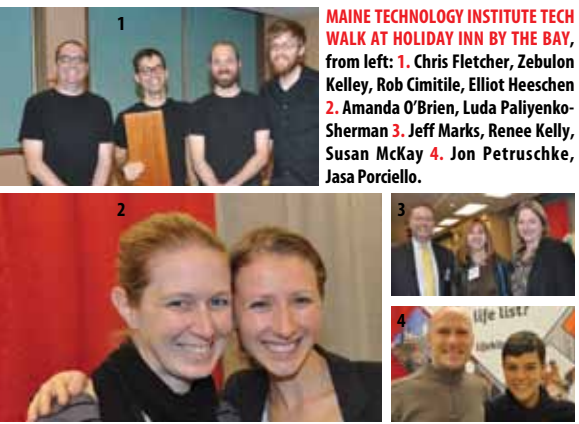
# Skidder & Draw



My stepfather and I went down the hill to the wood lot behind the house, thinking to make firewood from some trees. I manned the skidder while he worked the saw—diesel smoke and two-stroke smoke and the green scent of sawdust hanging bright in the December air—and within the first few minutes, he and I each nearly died at the other's hand. I had hopped down from the machine, tugging a cable from the braid to noose around a felled tree, when a down-sweeping birch whooshed alongside me to the ground. Its topmost leaves brushed down my face, the

length of my chest, my legs. My stepfather hadn't seen me leave the machine. If it'd fallen a moment sooner—if I'd been a couple feet closer—I'd've fallen with it. But it didn't, and I hadn't, so I was fine. We regarded each other wide-eyed from opposing ends of the clearing. Then I noosed the tree I'd come for and ran a cable to the new birch, too; jogged back to the skidder and winched them both in; and it was while I struggled to lock the machine into gear, aiming to drag the pull to the timber pile around the bend, that my stepfather stepped up alongside me. But I didn't see

him there. I jumped the clutch and the skidder stalled, its big back wheel lunging forward just enough to nudge my stepfather's shoulder hard, then roll back. It could so easily have kept moving forward. He staggered a step and stared at the wheel, his expression all askance, like a stranger had come up and poked him unprovoked. Then he looked up at me. It was a long still moment where neither of us said a word. We both knew. In his one hand, the chainsaw burred and coughed. I turned the engine over, and it fired. We both went back to work. ■



**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE TECH WALK AT HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY**, from left: 1. Chris Fletcher, Zebulon Kelley, Rob Cimitile, Elliot Heesch 2. Amanda O'Brien, Luda Paliyenko-Sherman 3. Jeff Marks, Renee Kelly, Susan McKay 4. Jon Petruschke, Jasa Porciello.



**HARVEST ON THE HARBOR**, from left: 1. Brian Rancourt, Nate Lavoie, Ryan Gallagher 2. Laurie Stugnardi, Meghan Gaven 3. Andrew Cantillo, Elissa English 4. Steve & Johanna Corman.



**JACKSON LABORATORY RECEPTION**, from left: 1. Rebecca Ditano, Donald Szlosek, Leah Graham 2. Natasha & Susan Morris 3. Jennifer Trowbridge, Kyle Beauchemin. 4. Jennifer Ditano, Sebastian Devogt.



**BUY LOCAL AT SPACE GALLERY**, from left: 1. Kristen & Dean Bingham 2. Briana Warner, Emily Wright 3. Peter & Rachel Doe 4. Max Mogenson, Tony Cox.



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