



Another Rewarding **Black Frame Art Sale**

Thanks to all the artists, sponsors, patrons and volunteers who supported the event, the sixth annual 2009 Black Frame Art Sale was once again a huge success! As one of the primary fundraising events for the Bayside Neighborhood Association, it raised over \$6,000 to support the Bayside community. **Save the Date: the 2010 sale will take place on Friday, Octo-**

ber 8. If you would like to become involved as an artist, sponsor, patron or volunteer, please contact Annie Wadleigh, 2010 Committee Chair, at awadleigh@meca.edu or 207-332-0253.

See photos from the '09 Black Frame Art Sale on page 3. Photos by David A. Kamila.

The nonprofit Bayside Neighborhood Association hosts the event and splits all sales with the artists. The money raised by the Bayside Neighborhood Association is used to support children's art programs, neighborhood clean-ups, the community garden, an annual health fair, and other community activities in this downtown neighborhood.

Grapheteria is on the Move

Grapheteria, one of Bayside's most creative businesses and a stalwart BNA supporter, has moved across the street from its old Preble Street location to 143 Kennebec street. Grapheteria offers a frame shop, digital imaging services, and photo restoration. Owners Jim and Lisa Castonia have worked on marketing and presentation graphics with some of the best-known companies and artists in the area. Be on the lookout for their open house later this winter.

Portland Post Office 75th Anniversary Celebration Set

The Portland Post Office, the longtime landmark at the corner of Forest Avenue and Portland Streets, is planning a celebration in 2010 to mark the 75th anniversary of its construction and opening.

The John Calvin Stevens-designed brick and granite building was constructed from 1933-1934, with finishing touches in 1935. Funded as a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project in President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" era, in its day it was one of the largest WPA projects in Maine and among the very largest U.S. Post Offices in New England, second in size only to Boston's.

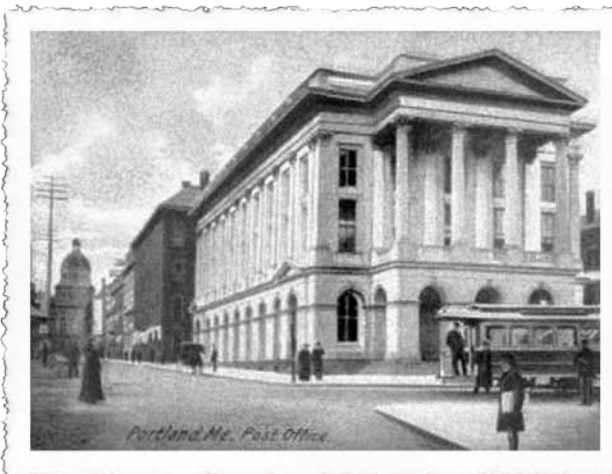
Its construction shifted the city's massive mail center from downtown—the former post office is today the site of Post Office Park on Exchange Street—to the junction of the Parkside and Bayside neighborhoods, then a district of single-family homes and industries like the Portland Stove Foundry.

Postal officials and State Rep. Herb Adams are organizing ceremonies, photo exhibits, and events with descendants of the laborers who built the structure. A celebration in late January is on tap.

"It's been an honor for the Portland Post Office to be an institution in these neighborhoods, and in this beautiful building, for the last 75 years," says Tom Rizzo, spokesman for the Northern New England District of the U.S. Postal Service, who works out of the Forest Avenue building. "We look forward to serving our busy city—and to being good neighbors in growing Parkside and Bayside—in the next 75 years."

The Post Office lobby at 125 Forest Avenue features two massive canvases featuring Maine coast and mountain scenery, painted in 1934 by Henry E. Mattson of Woodstock, N.Y., some of the very first WPA art placed in a public building in Maine. The new building's first postmaster was Portland's first—and so far only—woman postmaster, Helen C. Donahue, a political appointee and close friend of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

The structure's granite facings and decorations were quarried on Maine's coast and shaped by Maine stonecutters. Relays of bricklayers worked through the fierce Maine winter of 1933-34 to erect the walls on the site



Above, the Portland Post Office on a vintage postcard, circa 1905

of former tenements that once faced Deering Oaks Park.

The huge project snarled trolley traffic but was, noted the Portland Press Herald, "welcome relief work for hard-pressed families in these difficult days."

"The Portland Post Office was the visible 'Stimulus Package' of its day, says State Rep. Herb Adams, who lives nearby. "And it still stands to remind us of the Maine and American spirit to look forward and endure, no matter how difficult the day."

Eyes on the Streets BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Steve Hirshon

The Bayside Neighborhood Watch had a productive year in 2009. New members brought enthusiasm and energy that allowed the group to move past some of the barriers that had stymied it in the past. Two of the year's highlights included a visit by Police Chief James Craig shortly after his arrival in Portland in May, and a community meeting at the end of September that featured representatives of the District Attorney's office, police department, social service agencies, and local alcohol retailers. More than forty Bayside residents also attended the meeting, hosted by the Lost Coin Café.

One factor that has led to the new-found momentum by Neighborhood Watch was the suggestion by Chief Craig that the group take a multipronged approach to combating quality of life issues in the neighborhood. Retailers selling cheap, high-alcohol-content products have been asked to stop selling those products and to stop selling to obviously intoxicated people. Agencies who provide services to chronic inebriates have been asked to be stricter and to enforce their own rules more consistently. Citizens have been asked to be more vigilant and report incidents.

The BNA and Neighborhood Watch have advocated for these steps for several years, but

only in the past few months has momentum really begun to take hold to see some follow-through on these and other measures, such as the so-called "sundown van, which will provide services to intoxicated individuals and will eliminate some of the drain on police,

EMTs, hospital emergency rooms, and the county jail. The van promises to bring more compassionate care to those who need it at a lower cost to us all.

After several frustrating years of trying to address neighborhood "nuisance" issues in a sensitive but impactful way, Neighborhood Watch is making some real headway.

Many thanks to Ed Simmons and Jeff Goldman, chair and chair pro tem, Community Policing officer Mary-Ellen Walch, Senior Lead Officer Dan Knight, BNA member Ron Spinella, and Preble Street Resource Center Associate Director Jon Bradley for their leadership and willingness to move towards solution-oriented, constructive discussions. Special thanks, too, to West End News police reporter Marge Niblock for the special perspective she has brought to the meetings.



HOMELESS VOICES FOR JUSTICE GROUP FIGHTS FOR HOUSING

By MJ, Homeless Voices for Justice

The City of Portland has something called the Housing Replacement Ordinance, which says that if a development is taking rental housing off the market, the housing has to be replaced. Homeless Voices for Justice has always stood up for the Housing Replacement Ordinance. A few years ago when the YWCA was torn down, the developer applied for an exemption from replacing the housing. HVJ testified against this exemption, and the City voted in our favor and did not grant them an exemption—the housing had to be replaced.

Recently, HVJ found out about another development that applied for an exemption from the Housing Replacement Ordinance. A developer bought the building at 660 Congress Street (up by Longfellow Square, across the street from Joe's Smoke Shop), which had 7 apartments in it, and had applied for an exemption from replacing the housing. We went to the City of Portland Housing Committee and testified against the exemption, just like we did with the YWCA. Unfortunately in this case, the City did not vote in our favor and the

HOMELESS VOICES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

INSIDE BAYSIDE

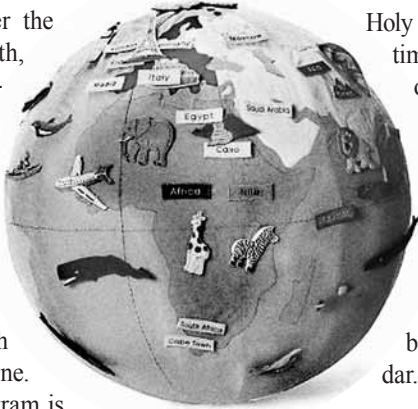
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HOLIDAYS ALL AROUND

by Annie Seikonia

In 2009, the Islamic New Year fell on Dec. 18. It is a cultural event which Muslims observe on the first day of **Muharram**, the first month in the Islamic calendar. Many Muslims use the day to remember the significance of this month, and the Hijra, or migration, Islamic prophet Muhammad made it to the city now known as Medina. Recently, in many areas of Muslim population, people have begun exchanging cards and gifts on this day, though this is not commonly done.

For Shia Muslims, Muharram is a month of grief and sorrow because they mourn the death of Imam Hussain and his companions on the day of Ashura.



Ras as-Sana is the Islamic celebration of the new Hijri year. The term is similarly used in the Arabic language to mark the start of the new Gregorian year. The word literally means "Head of the year," and is cognate to the Hebrew term Rosh Hashanah. *Source: Wikipedia*

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one

additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a shamash (Hebrew: "guard" or "servant") is also lit each night for the purpose of lighting the others, and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. The "shamash" symbolically supplies light that may be used for some secular purpose.

From the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration", Hanukkah marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the forces of the King of Syria Antiochus IV Epiphanes and commemorates the "miracle of the container of oil." According to the Talmud, at the re-dedication following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate fresh olive oil. *Source: Wikipedia*

At left, giant cloth globe from The Conran Shop: "Give your children the world!"



Bayside Neighborhood Association

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Portland, Maine 04104

207.415.0769

email: bayside_neighbors@msn.com



BNA Steering Committee

Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the community room of Unity Village, 24 Stone Street (Behind City Hall). This is a great way to see all that is going on in Bayside. Reports from all the subcommittees are given regularly. *The public is welcome.*

Alex Landry, **Chair**

Rob Sylvain, **Vice-Chair**

Chris Danse, **Treasurer**

Colette Bouchard, **Secretary**

Ethan Boxer-Macomber

Cindy Bachelder

Mike Bachelder

Tom Blackburn

Karl Gregor

Adam Hill

Steve Hirshon

Michel Joncas

Patrick Ledwith

Susan McCloskey

Ron Spinella

Susan Sylvain

Tom Trott

Susan Violet

Annie Wadleigh

Donna Yellen

THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA)

REPRESENTS ALL THOSE WITH

A VESTED INTEREST IN THE

BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD.

OUR MEMBERS ARE MADE

UP OF RESIDENTS, PROPERTY

OWNERS, BUSINESSES, AND

ORGANIZATIONS IN THE

NEIGHBORHOOD. WE WELCOME

ANYONE WHO LIVES, WORKS, OR

OWNS PROPERTY IN BAYSIDE TO

BECOME INVOLVED.

For more information on the Black Frame Art Sale, see www.blackframeartsale.com, call Melinda Titus at 671-5196, or e-mail: blackframeartsale@yahoo.com

Layout & design by Lisa Peñalver, PenartOne Design,
penart1@alaska.com

B.N.A.

COMMITTEES

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Meets on the second Tuesday of every other month, starting in January, in the community room in Unity Village, unless otherwise posted, at 6 pm. Please contact the BNA or Mary-Ellen Welch at Midtown Policing if you have an issue to bring to a meeting. The public is always welcome.

Ed Simmons, Chair
Midtown Policing 772-1371

SOCIAL SERVICES WORK GROUP

Meets the third Tuesday of each month for a brown bag meeting at noon. Meets in the community room in Unity Village, unless otherwise posted.

This is a group of neighbors and social service providers in Bayside, working to make the neighborhood a safe, clean and welcoming place. We are seeking ways for all to co-exist in a positive atmosphere. *Call BNA for more information.*

BAYSIDER COMMITTEE

Meets regularly at various locations. Writes, collects articles and information. Publishes the *Baysider* every other month. Promotes advertising.

Colette Bouchard
Annie Wadleigh
Rob Sylvain
Patrick Ledwith
Susan McCloskey
Alex Landry

Seeking new members with an interest in writing or graphics. No experience necessary. *Call the BNA for more information.*

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Organizes and runs the Bayside Community Garden on Chestnut Street.
John Affleck
Kate Pendleton & Robert Sylvain, Co-Chairs

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm in the community room at Unity Village. Plans events and community gatherings. Helps with Afterschool Art Program and Summer Children's Lunch Programs.

Sue Sylvain, Chair
Chris Danse
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Karl Gregor

Currently looking for new members. *Call the BNA if interested.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Works on developing and maintaining membership in the BNA.

Robert Sylvain, Chair
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Sue Sylvain

Currently looking for new members. *Call the BNA if interested.*

Ron Spinella and Steve Hirshon, Co-Chairs
Tom Toye
Donna Yellen
Jay Waterman
Wendy Cherubini
Michael Morrissey

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meets as needed.
Steve Hirshon, Chair
Tom Blackburn

TRANSPORTATION/ PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Meets as issues arise.
Alex Landry, Chair
Colette Bouchard
Steve Hirshon
Ron Spinella

The BNA exists to serve you, our neighbors, and to make Bayside the best place to live and work in Portland! ***We want to hear from you.*** Attend a meeting or event, send an email, or call. Let us know your thoughts, dreams, and concerns.

THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA)

Bounded by Forest Avenue, Marginal Way, Congress Street, and the Franklin Street Arterial, we are just minutes from the Downtown, the beach, the working waterfront, and the bay. Historically, Bayside has been home to warehouses, scrapyards, manufacturing, small businesses, and many families that go back generations. Today, it is a mix of families and singles, young and old, immigrants and Mainers, old and new development, social services, businesses, offices, and an active neighborhood association.

We have monthly Steering Committee meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, which are always open to the public. It is a great way to hear all that is happening in the neighborhood. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place in the community room at Unity Village, 24 Stone Street. Check out the committee page to see all the active subcommittees and what they are doing.

*The BNA also produces the **Baysider** newspaper on a bi-monthly basis to keep members and the community informed on issues and events of interest. We have special meetings and host forums as the need arises to get people together to discuss issues impacting our neighborhood.*

HOMELESS VOICES..., CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

developer was granted an exemption from replacing the housing.

Many people who are homeless are incredibly talented. With a little support and stability this talent could really thrive. The meeting was full of people who are successful artists with lots of money, and I could easily be in any of their shoes if I had my ducks in a row. I'm still working on getting to where I want to be, and working on my art in the meantime.

An artist friend of mine died a few years ago, and he had a house that he would hang art in that he liked. He would hang anyone's art regardless of who they were, and that's just one example of someone who knows art and has some money and recognizes that many artists do not. Maybe we need to think about arts in a different way—everyone should be included regardless of homelessness, housing, mental health, or money. It shouldn't be just the "haves" that can be successful artists. *What about the rest of us?!*

We were very disappointed in the City Council's decision, even though many of the Councilors had a hard time deciding and three did vote in favor of housing. Ultimately, though, this developer was allowed to turn housing and arts against each other, and seven apartments are being taken off the housing market without replacement. It made me feel like the developer was drawing the line, and poor people should not be the bottom line. It feels like discrimination—it's hard not to take these situations personally.

The whole time we were hoping to meet with the developer so she could understand the reality of what housing means to our members. We would love to meet with her, and she might be surprised when she meets with us and better appreciate the work we do. In the meantime, we hope the City Council will reevaluate the Housing Replacement Ordinance to make it stronger, so this can't happen again. The Housing Committee will take this up at a public workshop on January 5 at 5:00 in Room 209 of City Hall. All are welcome to attend, and we'll be there!

Solstice Musings

Illustration and
essay by Annie Seikonia

Emily Dickinson called November the "Norway of the year." Though I love autumn, November is cold and bleak, leading to the quintessential endless Maine winter. That's one reason the solstice has always held extraordinary emotional and spiritual significance for me. The solstice is a celestial marker, a symbol of rebirth more powerful than any other time of the year. The shortest day marks the time when the dwindled fire begins to regain its strength, warmth, and light. I envision the onset of winter as a dark tunnel, the light diminishing with each day, until the magic time of the solstice, when the nadir is reached and the tunnel begins to open up again. Come what may, the daylight lengthens, the fire strengthens, and the miracle of spring grows more probable with each day. Celestially, the winter solstice occurs the instant that the earth's axial tilt is farthest from the sun, signifying the reversal of light deprivation, the restoration of melatonin to the body, and the return to normalcy of the circadian rhythms that govern sleep. In Maine, the moment of winter solstice occurred this year at 12:47 p.m. on December 21 (check out www.archaeoastronomy.com

for all your important pagan dates and times!). Besides the annual National Public Radio broadcast of Paul Winter's music concert at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City (2009 was the event's 30th celebration), I've long sought opportunities to celebrate the solstice. This year there were a number of solstice-specific events in the area. My personal favorite was the December 18th "Solstice Dawning: A Night of Celestial Poetry" held at the USM planetarium (they also host "Beltane Fires" in early May and "Lammas Celestial Poetry" in early August). This year I joined other poets in reading seasonally themed poetry while basking under a luminous celestial sky and munching on delicious cookies.

The female drumming group Inanna played a solstice concert at One Longfellow Square on December 19. Maine Pagans held a fundraiser called "The Longest Night: A Solstice Celebration" at the Portland New Church on December 12 that included belly dancing, song and poetry. The Universalist Unitarian Church on Allen Avenue hosted a Winter Solstice Service on December 21, featuring a large chalice made from ice, performers in masks, chant,

bagpipes, harmonium music, and spoken word. On December 20th, Maine Audubon at Gilsland Farm celebrated by lighting candles, listening to stories about wildlife and the season, and creating a seasonal craft. Finally there was "Winter Solstice Love-In: Planets Around the Sun," an event on December 20th at Hogfarm Studios Annex in Biddeford that included a four-course meal, music performances, tea, and tarot readings.

There are many interesting historical solstice traditions, such as the late-7th-Century Japanese festival, Requiem of the Dead, celebrating the reemergence of the Japanese sun goddess Amaterasu from her secluded cave (I can relate to that). Indigenous Fins, Swedes, and Norwegians honored Beiwe, sun goddess of fertility and sanity (that makes sense, too), who traveled the sky in a vehicle of reindeer bones. The Kalash people of Pakistan celebrated Chaomos by taking purifying ritual baths. Men and boys were not allowed to sit on chairs until evening, when their faces were sprinkled with goat's blood, followed by a feast of goat tripe (no thank you). In Korea a sweet red bean porridge called Patjook was sprayed around houses to repel sinister spirits as part

SOLSTICE MUSINGS, continued on page 5



Noteable Moments
2009



BLACK
FRAME
ART SALE



Photography by David A. Kamila.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH LOTS OF CHEER

On Saturday, December 12, the Lost Coin Café hosted a wonderful Christmas party for the neighborhood. More than 100 people came in over the course of the evening to enjoy a large buffet of food, live music (courtesy of Bob of the Lost Coin Café), and the company of friends from the neighborhood. Wayside Food Rescue generously provided lots of donated food, including fried chicken and numerous casserole dishes, and the Bayside Neighborhood Association (BNA) purchased food as well.

Principal organizers for the event were Bayside residents and BNA Steering Committee members Cindy and Mike Bachelder, who also organized the summer block party. Volunteers at the Lost Coin Café—Daryl, Robin, and Terry—helped staff the party, and additional help was provided by BNA member Colette Bouchard, Community Services Coordinator Mary-Ellen Welch, and Dyer's Variety. Senior Lead Police Officer Dan Knight attended.

The Lost Coin Café is a mission of the Living Hope Assembly of God Church.



As a special treat for the kids, Santa Claus paid a visit and distributed gifts (from Toys for Tots). It was an enjoyable evening all around!



The Parris Review will be a regular column written by Annie Seikonia, who lives on Parris Street in Bayside. Ideas and comments may be sent to aseikonia@hotmail.com

"If I need a cause for celebration
Or a comfort I can use to ease my mind
I rely on my imagination
And I dream of an imaginary time."

—Billy Joel (*American Pianist, Singer and Song Writer, b.1949*)

THE PARRIS REVIEW By Annie Seikonia

Shopping at Sally's Finding Treasures Galore at The Salvation Army

THE EXCITEMENT of the holiday season can be contagious. Even people such as myself, who can scarce afford it, come down with a case of Affluenza. Fortunately for us Baysiders, there is something far better for affordable treasure hunting than the Old Port or the Maine Mall: we've got the Salvation Army retail store at 49 Alder Street.

Long before the buying of thrift store duds became chic, "Sally's" (as it is known to aficionados) was a mainstay to people looking for bargains. Long before recycling was morally repackaged as "eco-friendly shopping," smart shoppers have been chasing down the deals here. These days, shopping at Sally's is win-win-win: practical, eco-friendly, and chic. Not only that, but you're supporting an active social service, helping out your neighbors while you shop.

The Salvation Army stores seem to have retained their funky personalities reminiscent of the old-time thrift stores. On Alder Street, the old country music has shifted to classic rock, creating a nostalgic backdrop for cruising the aisles of clothing, shoes, books, kitchenware and miscellaneous electronics, and tchotchkes. The manager and employees there know all the regulars and keep up a good-humored banter that is very entertaining.

Top purchases from Sally's in the last year include—but are not limited to—matching purple feather pillows edged with beads for a mere \$1 apiece; a stunning CD recording of Matins for the Virgin of Guadalupe, written in 1764 and performed by Chanticleer; a full-time American classical vocal ensemble for \$1.99; a 100% cotton orange Flax dress for \$3.99 and a full-length brown billowy J. Jill skirt for \$2.99; a long blue cotton Indian shirt made in Bangladesh for \$1.99; a gorgeous brand-new-looking pink and white frilly winter scarf for 99 cents; a Newbury Comics The Early Years Vol. 1 1977-1984 compilation CD featuring Iggy Pop, The Specials, XTC, The Misfits, and Stiff Little Fingers, among other legendary bands, for 99 cents; and a gorgeous hardcover reprint of Edith and the Duckling, an amazing children's book of doll photographs by eccentric author Dare Wright.

I believe that it might be possible to find everything you might ever need at Sally's. It may take years, but eventually that item you've always craved will float to shore like jetsam on the beach of Unwanted Things.

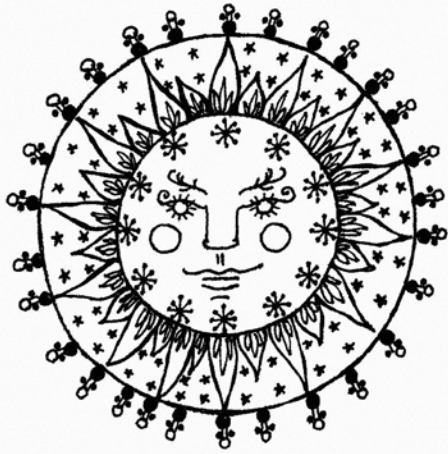
According to the Northern New England Division, which oversees Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, the Salvation Army is often "the last refuge for someone facing a

life-challenging situation." A compassionate organization, they are evangelical, but their ministry's mission is "to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination." Though not religious in that way, I have no problem with that. An intriguing footnote: The organization began in 1865 when London minister William Booth took his religious message to the streets to help the destitute and homeless after he realized most Victorian churchgoers, rather than welcoming poor people into their congregations, were appalled by them.

Shopping at Sally's also provides an opportunity for spiritual enlightenment. The trance-like rapture I associate with treasure-hunting is akin to a deep level of meditative



calm. It's a worldly pursuit, but therapeutic as well. Naturally, all this stuff can lead to clutter. But it also leads to unique gift opportunities and a healthy closet of recycled stuff. If you're judicious in your choices and obsessive about your hunting, you can strive for a balance (difficult, but possible). If you wind up discarding some things (you can always donate them back!), at least you're only out a few dollars. In this world of planned obsolescence, where most products aren't made to last, the Salvation Army is close to heaven on earth.



SOLSTICE MUSINGS,
continued from page 3

of the Dongzhi Festival. The Scots spread out their Hogmanay yuletide celebrations for an entire month (December 18 to January 18), closing with a troll-chasing ritual.

Even the Incas celebrated the solstice, tying the sun to a special hitching post to keep it from escaping. In the Bahamas, participants of Junkanoo dressed up as cows, hobby horses, wild Indians, and the Devil in a parade accompanied by fifes, drums, and coconut graters. Early Germans baked shoe-shaped yeast cakes they filled with gifts and decked their houses with fir in honor of Hertha, or Bertha, goddess of light and domesticity, to whom they built an altar of fir boughs, which they set on fire. Hertha would then descend through the smoke and foretell fortunes through a medium. Saturnalia, the week-long ancient Greek and Roman feast in commemoration of Saturn, prompted gambling and the exchange of gifts, thus launching what would later become the biggest commercial holiday of the year. The late Vikings combined a bunch of European celebrations called Mitwinternacht, Modrasnach, and Midwinterblot (a fine word for seasonal affective disorder, if you ask me) into Juletid or Yule celebrations honoring Thor, the god of thunder. Modern Wiccans celebrate the Yule as the rebirth of the Great God in the form of the newborn solstice sun (but what if it snows or rains?). In ancient Latvia, “the season of ghosts” took place in the two weeks leading up to Ziemassvetki, a festival feast with a table reserved for the ghosts, who arrived on a sleigh (I’ve been to parties like that, haven’t you?).

A particularly brilliant modern festival was launched in Brighton UK in 1993 as an antidote to the commercial excess of the holiday season. Each year local bands lead a procession of lanterns and people dressed in costumes (usually including a clockface) made from withies (willow canes) and white tissue paper (can you say “rapidly dissolving costume”?). They traipse to the seafront where they have a bonfire and fireworks. This brings us full circle to the original Latin origin of the solstice, which comes from “sol” (the sun) and “sistere” (to stand still). Local colleges participate, reportedly “enjoying seeing their work go up in flames.” It’s very much worth checking out their website (www.burningtheclocks.co.uk).

Speaking of which, I think Portland is way overdue for a citywide winter solstice celebration or winter festival of some sort. I picture a daylong (or weeklong!) holiday featuring a costumed processional bearing burning yule torches along Congress Street to the Eastern Prom trail (might have to ply the Fire Department officials with nog for that one), startling the Narrow Gauge Christmas train riders. We could call it Portlandtide and it could end with a feast and masked ball somewhere on the waterfront. Just a thought. I’ll start organizing my ideas for this soon! In the meantime, I do believe it’s time for a nap, another favorite solstice tradition.

Sources: Wikipedia



CHRISTMAS 2009--SUZANNE, JOHNNY,
AND LILY SYLVAIN AT HOME

Ring Out, Wild Bells

By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

‘Tis the Season to Be Grateful!

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of springtime in Bayside is the annual **USM Nursing School Health Fair**. The fair is an opportunity to learn, reconnect with neighbors after a long winter, and have some fun. The fair kicks off with a 5k run that honors the life of Laura Vogel, a Maine nurse who died while on a humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic in 2006. The run leaves Oxford and Chestnut Streets and winds around Back Cove and ends where it began. In 2009 the race raised several thousand dollars for different organizations, including \$1750 for the BNA, which has been put to work on projects like rebuilding garden beds in our community garden and supporting activities like the summertime block party and Christmas party.

The driving force behind the run is Amanda Stevens, a nurse who organizes the race single-handedly. **This year’s race needs your support.**

If you can run or walk and raise some pledges, great! If you are willing to be a flagger or help with registrations or any of the other day-of tasks, let us know. The race’s URL is: <https://fundraising.mmc.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=291> or contact us at Bayside_neighbors@msn.com.

Another October, Another Harvest Feast

Seen at the BNA Harvest Feast.
Top down: Colette Bouchard and Mabel Dunsmore; Herb Adams presents document bestowing formal recognition of the BNA by the State of Maine; Kevin Donoghue and Steve Hirshon enjoying a conversation; families and friends enjoying pumpkin pie. Photos by Annie Seikonia.



—press releases—

REP. ADAMS REMINDS CONSUMERS OF 'WINTER DISCONNECT' RIGHTS

By Jodi Quintero, Communications Director, Maine Legislature House Majority Office, www.housedemocrats.maine.gov
Oct. 13, 2009 AUGUSTA – Mainers who find it hard to make ends meet have strong protections from disconnection of lights, gas and electric heat this winter, said Rep. Herb Adams, D-Portland.

"There are many dark weeks of winter coming this year, but there's good help and good hope for all consumers," said Adams, who serves on the Legislature's Utilities and Energy Committee.

By state law, the winter heating season officially begins Oct. 15 and extends until May 15. All rented units must receive heat between those dates.

Additionally, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) rules bar utilities from shutting off power to any customer between Nov. 15 and April 15 without explicit permission from the PUC's Consumer Protection Division. The PUC will work with customers to find financial assistance to pay electric and gas bills during that period, as well.

Rules also require a full information packet explaining consumers' rights and options be mailed or delivered to homes which have lost heat or light service since last April 15.

Letters from the power company, phone calls and in-person attempts at contact are all required before a winter disconnection can take place, said Adams. A customer can contact the PUC's Consumer Assistance Division toll free at 1-800-452-4699 to work out a payment schedule and get free help to seek ways of meeting the bills.

These include:

- A year-round **Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP)** that provides utility bill discounts or credits to challenged families.
- An **"Energy Crisis Intervention Program"** for eligible families who get disconnection notices and still cannot negotiate or honor an existing payment plan.
- **"Emergency Assistance"** from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services when a disconnection is imminent.
- Eligible customers on oxygen pumps and ventilators at least eight hours a day may qualify for **a utility credit to cover the cost of electricity for life-saving equipment.**

Customers should contact their utility company first – in Portland, likely CMP or Northern Utilities – and if not satisfied call the PUC Consumer Assistance Division for free help.

Mainers may call the Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-452-4699, or Rep. Herb Adams toll-free in Augusta at 1-800-423-2900.

REP. ADAMS PETITIONS FOR FAIRPOINT 'BANKRUPTCY BACKUP PLAN'

Petition submitted to PUC asks for plan to protect Maine consumers

By Lori Eschholz, Legislative Aide, Maine Legislature House Majority Office, www.housedemocrats.maine.gov
Sept. 29, 2009, AUGUSTA – Rep. Herb

Adams, D-Portland, today presented a petition to the Public Utilities Commission asking that the agency require FairPoint Communications to submit proof that it can maintain vital services to its Maine customers should it need to file for bankruptcy.

"There has never been a single utility bankruptcy this big in Maine history, much less in three New England states," said Adams. "Mainers must be assured their communication link to the world won't be broken."

The petition stipulates that the "Bankruptcy Backup Plan" show that FairPoint has the resources adequate to continue LifeLine phone service to Maine's qualified low-income and elderly; continue protection and fulfillment of all employee pension and health plans; continue expansion of DSL service into Maine's rural areas; continue installation, maintenance and repair of all current business and residential services; and continue review and resolution of customer complaints.

The petition would require that Maine's "Bankruptcy Backup Plan" kick in if FairPoint files for such status in Maine, or New Hampshire or Vermont, the New England states it serves.

Consumers may present such petitions to the PUC requesting policy action on Maine utility matters at any time.

FairPoint began the \$2.3 billion purchase of telephone land lines in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from Verizon in 2007. After many delays and complications, the change over was completed in February 2009. The purchase affected 1.6 million phone customers and 230,000 Internet subscribers.

Since FairPoint completed the takeover, it has been plagued by technical snags that have left thousands of customers without service and complaints from customers with billing errors and other service problems. Earlier this month, FairPoint was notified that its stocks would no longer be listed on the New York Stock Exchange because its price had been less than \$1 for 30 days. Soon after, the company announced it may be filing for bankruptcy.

Adams said FairPoint awarded about \$520,000 plus stock awards in corporate bonuses to just seven of its corporate officers in 2008, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Adams is the longest-serving member of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, which reviews telecommunications matters.

For more info., call the office of Rep. Herb Adams toll-free in Augusta at 1-800-423-2900.

REP. ADAMS TO FEDS: OPEN BOOKS ON MAINE'S 'LOST' WORLD WAR II WAR BONDS

Mainers may still be owed \$70 million in unclaimed WWII cash—Maine plan to avoid ongoing state/federal lawsuit over lost bonds

By Lori Eschholz, Legislative Aide, Maine Legislature House Majority Office, www.housedemocrats.maine.gov

Nov. 9, 2009, PORTLAND – State Rep. Herb Adams has asked the U.S. Treasury Department to release the names and addresses of thousands of Mainers who never cashed War Bonds bought to fund World War II, so that efforts may begin to contact their rightful owners or descendants.

More than \$16 billion in WWII war bonds remain unclaimed, say U.S. Treasury officials. Of these, an estimated \$65-\$70 million still belong to Mainers, lost or forgot-



Photo by Annie Seikonia

Bayside Community Garden—Forecast

LOTS OF CHANGES ARE AFOOT for the Bayside Community Garden. Thanks to the Bayside Neighborhood Association, funds have been made available to reconstruct some of the failing wood surrounding the garden plots. This fall, one of the beds was completely redone with new 2" x 12" lumber as a prototype for fixing up most, if not all, of the beds in the spring. The results were impressive, leaving lots more room to build up new soil while providing a stronger foundation for fencing, which is shaping up to be the best anti-nuclear solution to the groundhog problem. Right now, the beds are frozen in and sleeping tight, waiting for the spring thaw.

There usually is a waiting list for new gardeners, but there is always some turn-over, and there may be room for new beds, so anyone interested should contact John Affleck by email: fieldofstones@gmail.com or leave a message on the BNA phone at 415-0769.

Below are a few photos of **Chris Danse** and **Rob Sylvain** pulling apart the old rotting wooden frame and constructing a new pine box for Kate and Clint's plot. *Well done, gentlemen!*



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ten across the years, said Adams.

"Patriotic Mainers bought these War Bonds with a 40-year maturity date," said Adams. "Across the years they were left in bureau drawers, lost in the attic, forgotten when our parents and grandparents passed away. But the bonds are still valid and belong to the purchasers or their descendants today. In a sense, these War Bonds are among the last legacies of World War II."

Lemoine agrees. The state treasurer's "Unclaimed Property Division" reunites millions of dollars annually with the rightful Maine

owners of unclaimed checks, stocks and property turned over to his office. Maine's return rate is among the best in the nation.

Both officials say that with the help of Maine's active veteran's associations the official U.S. Treasury list of War Bond buyers could be matched with families and descendants still living in towns all across the Pine Tree state.

World War II sparked an unprecedented bond buying campaign to fund the war

continued on page 7

City Report *Kevin Donoghue*

Meet the New Council (SAME AS THE OLD COUNCIL)

I had fallen asleep early and missed a call the previous evening from Nick Mavodones. It was Inauguration Day, December 7. Nick had already been selected as the incoming Mayor, but he had not yet proposed any committee appointments for the incoming City Council. He had probably called to finally tell me the committees on which I would serve and with whom. As I had forgotten his number, I checked on the city website. To my delighted surprise, I found that the city website had listed me as the Mayor alongside the rest of the City Council. Alas, the keystrokes of a rogue webmaster did not make it so. I returned the call to Nick and learned that I would be appointed to the same exact committees as I had been last year. Indeed, the new City Council was the same as the old City Council. Nick, Dave Marshall and I were inaugurated to another term. Nick and Dave were unopposed and I had a strong win. As Mayor, Nick does not serve on any committees but convenes workshops of the City Council. Dave continues to serve as chair of the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Committee and I continue to serve as a mem-

ber of the Housing Committee and the Public Safety Committee as well as chair of the Transportation Committee and a director of METRO and Casco Bay Lines.

I return to office at the midpoint of a two-year term as President of METRO and as a veteran of Casco Bay Lines, where Mayor Mavodones also serves as an interim General Manager. As the Chair of the Transportation Committee, I will see the return of Cheryl Leeman and the replacement of John Anton with Dave Marshall. Dave also serves with me as a director of METRO. This year promises to implement several key aspects of the recent Peninsula Transit Plan, including policies that encourage developers to invest in city streets rather than parking garages. We will consider policies that offer downtown developers an option to either pay to build parking as required or pay to build commuter projects that relieve our dependency on automobiles. The Housing Committee sees the replacement of John Coyne with John Anton, who will serve as chair, and the return of both me and Dave, who had served as chair of the previous committee. John Anton brings a breadth



and depth of experience to the committee. He is both a former director of the Portland Housing Authority and former member of the Portland Planning Board. John is President of Northern New England Housing Investment Fund

and successfully lobbied for an affordable housing bond in Augusta as chair of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition. We will consider policies that remove zoning barriers to residential development and reconsider policies that have sent inconsistent messages about city commitments to protect housing. Public Safety Committee sees the return of me and Dan Skolnik, who will serve again as chair, and the replacement of Dory Waxman with John Coyne, who works in juvenile corrections. The committee was the center of controversy last year after discussions of excessive noise from motorcycle exhausts and the issuance of stun guns to the Portland Police Department. Pending issues involve the issuance of liquor licenses and entertainment licenses and the question of striking the proper balance between down-

town residential uses and urban nightlife.

When Nick finally called me before the inauguration, I had hoped that he would return me to the Community Development Committee, to which he had appointed me three years ago. While public safety is very important to District One, the effectiveness of the Police Department and Fire Department are determined largely through the budget and the respective chiefs. The Public Safety Committee can enact key ordinances around public safety issues, but much more can be done with a directed disbursement of the Community Development Block Grant, which funds both important physical improvements to make our streets safer and the community policing offices found on Munjoy Hill, in Bayside, and soon finally another in East Bayside. Like the Community Development Block Grant, the Community Development Committee has the capacity to uplift neighborhoods by promoting housing and investing in public infrastructure, particularly in those chronically underdeveloped areas of District One such as Bayside. Thankfully, the Community Development Committee is augmented by John Anton and Dory Waxman, who bring both the aptitude in dedication that our downtown neighborhoods deserve. District One deserves my close cooperation with them, the mayor, and the rest of the City Council.

—press releases—

effort, spurred on by one of the largest advertising campaigns ever seen, and wrapped in patriotic pleas from politicians and celebrities like Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Grable and Lowell Thomas, who pitched to bond buyers at the busy South Portland Shipyards, said Adams.

U.S. Treasury officials claim the original list of buyers is archived in a long-neglected West Virginia warehouse and not easily recovered.

"Everything is keyed to getting the long-buried official list of names and addresses of Maine buyers," said Adams. "Maine's state treasury can then provide the machinery and our veterans can provide the wheels. We did it for the war effort and now should do it for the peace we won. I'd hate to think the last legacy of World War II is lost in some government warehouse like the one in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark.'"

Adams has addressed a letter to each member of Maine's bi-partisan Congressional delegation urging them to assist in having the U.S. Treasury release the original WW II list of names and addresses of Maine's bond buyers so a coordinated search can begin using the state treasurer's office and local veteran posts across the state.

Alternatively, the attorney generals of six states have filed suit against the U.S. Treasury Department for return to all states of the unclaimed WWII bond money itself, claiming no effort was ever made to find the rightful owners. Maine is not a member of the suit, which will be heard in U.S. District Court in New Jersey in December, but would benefit as all states would if the lawsuit is successful.

However, the lawsuit – argued over constitutional issues between the federal government and state's rights – is expected to be expensive and protracted and is likely bound to the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead, Adams and Lemoine said Maine's plan is simple and direct.

(A clear, brief explanation of the lawsuit can be found in the Oct. 7, 2009, Washington Post at: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/07/AR2009100703681)

WALKER MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

by Herb Adams

One of Bayside's most familiar modern landmarks still stands at 45 Casco Street, full of memories for students of another era, more than a century after it replaced an equally beloved building.

The Walker Manual Training Building, built in 1901 and opened as a school in 1902, stands today on the site of the ancient Casco Street Baptist Church (see its photo and story in a previous Baysider issue), a hotbed of abolitionism in pre-Civil War days and a sanctuary where African American orator Frederick Douglass spoke several times in the 1850's. Its transition from place of inspiration to place of useful education marks the change in eras from the 19th to the 20th Centuries.

Although the Casco Street Baptist Church, built in the 1830's, had a long and beloved civic legacy, by 1900 it was dilapidated, shorn of its once-grand steeple, and used as a carriage factory and storage shed. That year the historic site, close by bustling downtown, caught the eye of the trustees of the estate of the late millionaire Joseph Walker (1800-1891).

Walker was a self-made man, one of Maine's first manufacturing millionaires, who confidently built in 1838 one of the Pine Tree State's very first large-scale lumber manufacturing factories by the roaring waterfalls in the tiny town of Saccarappa—today's Westbrook. Soon boundlessly rich, he spent his life quietly—and often anonymously—giving large sums of money to institutions to help the poor, the young, and the friendless—people like the boy he had once been. In this he found a kindred spirit in Portland's outgoing mayor, James Phinney Baxter (1839-1921). Himself the son of a Gorham country doctor, Baxter was also a self-made millionaire, whose fortune arose from can-

ning Maine lobster and sweet corn for a hungry country. Quietly generous himself (later his family fortune, in the hands of his son, Maine Gov. Percival Baxter, would buy the Katahdin treasure, Baxter State Park), James P. Baxter donated his annual mayor's salary of \$2,000—about \$22,000 in today's currency—with Walker toward the building of "a school for the useful arts."

The architect was Portland's prominent Frederick A. Thompson, whose other works include Westbrook's turreted Walker Memorial Library and the nearby Castle-in-the-Park tower by the pond in Deering Oaks Park.

In an age when only the very fortunate went beyond 8th grade—and only the very rich went to college—Baxter, and Walker, believed that a public school education in the "mechanical, skilled, manufacturing, and useful arts" would benefit the great mass of city students bound for lives from bookkeeping to hammering, sawing, welding, casting and generally building the things that a booming city—soon to hit population 70,000—needed in the 20th Century.

The Portland Public School system took to it seriously. Photo pages in the City Directories from 1902 to 1910 display illustrations of banisters, woodturnings, and metalwork proudly cast and lathed by boy students within the walls of Walker Manual Training School—and clothing and bread loaves made by their sisters, presumably bound for an in-home life.

Walker Manual Training remained part of the Portland Public School system well into the late 1940s and early 1950s, a feeder school from Portland High, "attended by manual training and eighth grade home economics classes from the city schools," says one 1940 account. Many graduates, now city elders, can remember their days in the halls of Walker.

The building was sold by the city in the 1970s and sat dark for a time, until revived as an office building in the '80s and much of the '90s.

Today, it is the busy home and factory for Maine-based designer Jill McGowan's line of popular fashion merchandise, produced by hand on machines by skilled workers illuminated by the same high bright windows that once framed young men and women learning how to make their way in the world by making good things. One hopes that Walker, and Baxter, would be proud.



Captured in a postcard image in 1907, this is how the then-new Walker Manual Training School at 45 Casco Street appeared to its earliest graduates. The school was built in 1901 and opened in 1902. A century later, it still remains much the same, on the street that bridges Bayside and Congress Street in a very different city.



UPDATE: CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS on the Bayside Trail



PHOTO CAPTIONS

- Trail running along Elm Street, looking towards Preble Street
- Mainway Landscaping installing bricks at the connection to the Elm Street sidewalk, looking towards Chestnut Street
- Railroad artifacts stored on City property abutting the trail, for future public art and/or historic railroad installations.
- Installing geotextile and clean fill to provide a protective barrier over the existing rail yard soils
- Franklin Street Plaza, Looking from DHHS towards Franklin Street
- Soil berm for amphitheater seating at the Franklin Street Plaza
- Installing pavement as a base for bricks at the connection to the existing sidewalk running along Franklin Street
- Installing gravel and geotextile to provide a base for the trail, looking northeast from North Boyd St towards Diamond St
- Excavating for stormdrain infrastructure at Diamond Street, looking northeast across Diamond Street
- Gravel and geotextile to provide a base for the new Bayside Trail, looking north from Diamond St. towards Cove St.
- Osprey surveying the construction progress from the roof of Peak Performance Sports.
- Installing gravel and geotextile adjacent to U-Haul.
- Gravel for the trail and new pavement on Plowman Street, looking north towards Tukey's Bridge
- Parking area for the trail on Marginal Way adjacent to Sunny Breeze Snowboards, salvage granite curbing was used
- Regrading the Washington Street embankment to make way for the new trail
- Looking under the Washington Ave overpass and towards the connection with the Eastern Prom Trail

By John I. Mahoney, E.I.T., LEED, A.P. Project Engineer, Oak Engineers

We are pleased to report that Shaw Brothers is well ahead of schedule to complete the trail by June of 2010! The underground work, including drainage infrastructure and conduit for trail lights, is nearly complete, and the majority of the gravel for the trail's base has been installed.

Shaw Brothers is currently grading the areas adjacent

to the trail to create landscaped earth forms and to ensure adequate drainage. As you can see in the images below, the process of installing bricks for the trails surface is under way.

The images below begin at the intersection of Elm and Somerset Street and proceed northeasterly toward the trail's connection with the Eastern Promenade Trail and the Back Cove Trail just past the Washington Avenue overpasses.



Head Game **SUDOKU** The aim of Sudoku is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of the grid. Each row, column, and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. © Web Sudoku 2010 - For the solution, see www.websudoku.com

Medium Puzzle 5,217,972,122

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