



Bayside as a Neighborhood: Planned to Death? Or, Like a Phoenix..., Rising from the Ashes?

By Deborah VanHoewyk

For much of the last century, Bayside has been known as Portland's slum, with rates of social distress often three times higher than the rest of the city. Oh, we have other slums tucked here and there, but fixing Bayside always seems to be a staple in this official plan or that collaborative vision—said plan/vision usually on its way to a dusty shelf in the city's Planning and Urban Development Department.

In the beginning, Bayside . . . wasn't. What is now Portland ended at the mud flats north of Cumberland Avenue. Progressive landfills throughout the 19th and 20th centuries pushed buildable land out to the Back Cove we know today. As the land arrived, Bayside came into being pretty much the way it is now—a working-class neighborhood of mostly rental housing, but mixed with a significant amount of owner-occupied Greek-revival and Italianate houses. However, at least until the 1920s, the neighborhood was a more comfortable, efficient place to live than it is now.

According to an *Evening Express* article on June 15, 1971, "19th Century Bayside Area Was a Pleasant, Homely Neighborhood." The ten blocks of Oxford Street (Pearl to Franklin) were lined with elm trees and served neighborhood residents with eight grocery stores, two cobblers, two variety stores, a druggist, a baker, a barber, and a fruit store. The photo [Lisa: at left, or wherever] shows 117 Oxford Street, where the Earle W. Noyes offices and major warehouse now stand.

While the neighborhood remained socioeconomically stable well into the 20th century, problems were waiting. The Great Fire of 1866 had spared most of Bayside, so the rest of the city got spanking new brick homes and businesses. Bayside soldiered on with its wood-frame structures. In 1924, the city reassessed all its real estate; the process included detailed documentation of every structure, right down to occupancy rates and plumbing; on average, Bayside buildings dated from 1869. A few structures were evaluated as being in "good" condition, but the great majority was "fair" or "poor."

THE 1940s: PORTLAND BEGINS TO PLAN BAYSIDE

About twenty years later, Bayside began to pay the piper for this deterioration. The progressive reform movement, which emerged in the late

19th century and aimed to, among other things, eliminate the ills of urban life, had a definite ideology about housing—crowded conditions in old wood-frame tenements were unacceptable. And crowding reached crisis proportions during the early 1940s as shipyard workers, coming to work in the yards in Portland and South Portland, poured into the city's low-rent neighborhoods.

By 1941, Portland had a Citizens' Committee on Planning, by 1942 a volunteer City Planning Board with a paid consultant, Arthur Comey, a product of Harvard and a protégé of Frederick Law Olmstead (designer of New York's Central Park and Portland's Baxter Boulevard). Comey promptly hired Allan Twichell of the American Public



Above, the corner of Preble Street and Kennebec is under consideration as the future site of Bayside's Phoenix Square.

Health Association and its Committee on Hygiene of Housing. Twichell applied the "Twitchell-izing" appraisal method, developed to measure the "Basic Principles of Healthful Housing," to Bayside. The results? The Bayside district was "clearly of the type in which it is unreasonable to expect self-respecting families willing to live and rear families." He recommended that the area between Chestnut and Wilmot, from Cumberland to

See page 6, BAYSIDE PLANNING

IMAGINING Phoenix Square

By Steve Hirshon and Alex Landry.

Saturday September 29 promises to be a busy morning in Bayside. It will be a morning to have a hearty breakfast, meet new friends, and challenge your imagination. The 29th marks the culmination of the Bayside Neighborhood Association's participation in the Meeting Place project—a year-long series of community-building arts projects. The programs have been led by some of the area's foremost poets, musicians, and visual artists. Meeting Place has been guided by Marty Pottenger, through funding from the Our Town initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts.

As the culmination of this, the BNA is putting on "Phoenix Square: Imagining a New Public Space." This event will be an opportunity for neighbors to claim the block of Kennebec Street between Preble and Elm streets for future public space by using Creative Placemaking tools on that day. We will create four temporary places on the block, as teams will come together to reimagine Phoenix Square in their own unique ways.

The morning begins with a family-style pancake breakfast in Phoenix Square at 8:30 a.m. Cost is minimal: \$2/person, \$5/family—for a stack of cakes, coffee, and juice. This is the first re-imagining, which will be as a café. The BNA is bringing tables and chairs, and those will be arranged right before the pancake breakfast, as that's where the meal will be eaten. Then the fun begins.

The second team will set about creating a playground at 9:00 a.m. Kids are encouraged to participate in this, as their imaginations will be needed. Over the course of the morning, several organized and individual children's activities will go on here.

See page 6, PHOENIX SQUARE



Bayside Neighborhood Open House/Celebration Putting creativity to work building stronger neighborhoods

Saturday, September 29, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Kennebec Street between Preble and Elm

What: Explore the *real* Bayside, meet neighbors, hear stories, discover secret spots, learn history, and participate in a new game—"Creative Placemaking in Action: *Imagining a new public space*"—with food, music, and all the props you'd ever need to design YOUR idea of the perfect public space! A community planning event presented by the Bayside Neighborhood Association.

Where: At the new "Phoenix Square," Kennebec Street between Preble and Elm, right next to the *Flea-for-All* and *Architectural Salvage*, kitty-corner from *Bayside Bowl*—where it's all happening!

Don't Miss: Pancake-and-Coffee Kickoff at 8:30 AM—Your weekend bargain breakfast (\$2/person, \$5/family)

Meeting Place is an Art At Work project that's spent the last year in four neighborhoods—Libbystown, the West End, Bayside, and East Bayside—working with artists, residents, businesses, and organizations to revitalize neighborhood connections, civic engagement, and collaborative capacity. We hope this year's Meeting Place inspires other neighborhoods to join and create their own Meeting Place Days.

Welcome to all our Meeting Place Days:

Saturday, September 22:

Libbystown (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, start at Tony's Donuts)
The West End (1:00 – 4:00 PM, start at Irish Heritage Center)

Saturday, September 29

Bayside, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM (start at "Phoenix Square")
East Bayside, 1:00 – 5:00 PM (start at Peppermint Park)

Meeting Place Artists: Annegret Baier/Shamou, percussion; Toney Harbert, photography; Daniel Minter, printmaking; Marty Pottenger, storytelling; Andrea Kelly Rosenberg, choral work; Betsy Sholl, poetry; Kelly Rioux, Jan Piribek, Tim Clorius, Chris Wright, Johnathon Cook, Fence Murals

Thanks to our Meeting Place Partners: Portland Buy Local, Portland Trails, Maine Historical Society, The League of Young Voters, Portland Housing Authority, Portland Adult Education, Portland Public Library, City of Portland. Meeting Place is a *National Endowment for the Arts OUR TOWN* project.



The Real Bayside, by Daniel Minter

Everybody look what's goin' down...in Bayside!

2001	Unity Village, an innovative mixed income apartment building by local developer Richard Berman, opens on Stone Street between Oxford and Cumberland. City announces plans to purchase 14 acres near Marginal Way and spend \$11 million to create a business and technology park . Nothing happens. Their star business, IDEXX Laboratories, is now in Westbrook, and the city is working on a new technology park off Rand Road near exit 47 of the turnpike.
2002	Theodore West, head of Atlantic Bayside Square, completes the 54,000 square-foot AAA Building at 63 Marginal Way on the corner of Preble Street Way (Casco Bay Management now operates the building).
2003	Wild Oats , a natural and organic food chain, opens at 87 Marginal Way, in the same parking lot with Whole Grocer (now Walgreens). Wild Oats puts Whole Grocer on shaky footing, but in 2007, the Whole Foods chain gobbles up the Wild Oats Markets chain, and Whole Grocers sells out to Whole Foods. The Federal Trade Commission sits up and says Whole Foods might be interfering with competition. Although it will take the courts a couple of years to rule, Whole Foods closes the Wild Oats store in 2007 anyway, just as it opens its own store on Somerset Street. Chef Steve Corry and his restaurateur wife Michele Corry open the restaurant Five Fifty-Five , and the Five Point Lounge , at 555 Congress Street.
2004	In August, Avesta buys property and puts up Pearl Place I where the F.W. Webb warehouse once stood at 159 Oxford/180 Pearl. The 60-unit complex is LEED certified. Gorham Savings Bank opens a new branch at 71 Marginal Way, designed by Gawron Turgeon, architects, and built by Allied Cook Construction.
2005	The city has acquired railroad property on Somerset Street, Maine Department of Transportation has released a rail easement in that area, and updated zoning has been enacted for Bayside. Extension of Chestnut Street to Marginal Way completed; it has a small green median where it intersects with Somerset Street and the Bayside Trail. The Developers Collaborative acquires the Chestnut Street chapel building and rehabs the Gothic Revival building for their offices.
2006	Theodore West's Bayside Ventures, LLC, completes the 26,000 square-foot Gorham Savings Bank at 63 Marginal Way (Casco Bay Management now operates the building). Archetype Architects from down on Union Wharf completes the 537 Lofts , 10 loft-style apartments on the top floor of the J.B. Brown Building, originally designed by John Calvin Stevens, at 537 Congress Street.
2007	Richard Berman of the Developers Collaborative completes the Chestnut Street Lofts , an urban-infill project with 37 residential and 2 commercial units on the southeast corner of Chestnut and Cumberland Avenue. The project required brownfield remediation. In February, we said hello to Whole Foods and good-bye to Wild Oats and Whole Grocer (see above). The Whole Foods opening was marked by a controversy with Maine's lobster fishermen about selling lobsters packed in individual vertical cubbies by a New Hampshire-based company. Whole Foods does not sell live lobsters

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.

Carol Hutchins,
Mike Bachelder, Co-Chairs
Midtown Policing 772-1371

BAYSIDER COMMITTEE

Meets regularly at various locations. Writes, collects articles and information. Publishes the Baysider quarterly. Promotes advertising.

Colette Bouchard
Steve Hirshon
Patrick Ledwith
Susan McCloskey
Rob Sylvain
Annie Wadleigh

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
Deborah and John Van Hoewyk,
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 After-School Arts Program and Summer Children's Lunch Programs.

Cindy Bachelder, Chair
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Steve Hirshon

Currently looking for new members. Please call the BNA if interested.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Works on developing and maintaining membership in the BNA.

Sean Kerwin, Chair
Robert Sylvain
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Alex Landry
Patrick Ledwith

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meets as needed.

Steve Hirshon, Chair
Chris Danse
Sean Kerwin

TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Meets as issues arise.

Alex Landry, Chair
Colette Bouchard
Steve Hirshon
Ron Spinella

TREE COMMITTEE

Meets as needed. Works on bringing more trees to Bayside streets.

Robert Sylvain, Chair
Jeff Tarling
Colette Bouchard
Alex Landry

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Meets as needed.

Colette Bouchard
Ethan Boxer-Macomber
Sean Kerwin
Patrick Ledwith
Rob Sylvain, Chair
Annie Wadleigh
Denise Victor
Alex Landry

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Meets each year to recruit and nominate new members for the Board.

Colette Bouchard, Chair
Chris Danse
Cindy Bachelder
Annie Wadleigh

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.



Bayside Neighborhood Association

PO Box 11563
Portland, Maine 04104
207.523.0602

email: Bayside_neighbors@msn.com

Websites: www.facebook.com/Bayside-NeighborhoodAssociation

www.baysideportland.org

BNA BOARD

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

Cindy Bachelder

Chris Bicknell

Colette Bouchard

Megan Entwistle

Steve Hirshon

Carol Hutchins

Sean Kerwin

Alex Landry (Chair)

Susan McCloskey

Rob Sylvain

Deborah Van Hoewyk

Annie Wadleigh

BNA MISSION STATEMENT

The Bayside Neighborhood Association brings members of the Bayside community together. BNA brings conversations about Bayside to Bayside and to the greater community in a way that organizes, informs, and empowers residents, social service and other organizations, local businesses, and city representatives to form meaningful and long-term partnerships. BNA preserves and promotes safety, multicultural diversity, housing, and carefully planned social, economic, and physical development in this unique urban community.

poetry corner

Out of the Rolling Ocean, the Crowd

BY WALT WHITMAN

1

Out of the rolling ocean, the crowd, came a drop gently to me,
Whispering, *I love you, before long I die,*
I have travel'd a long way, merely to look on you, to touch you,
For I could not die till I once look'd on you,
For I fear'd I might afterward lose you.

2

(Now we have met, we have look'd, we are safe;
Return in peace to the ocean, my love;
I too am part of that ocean, my love—we are not so much separated;
Behold the great rondure—the cohesion of all, how perfect!
But as for me, for you, the irresistible sea is to separate us,
As for an hour carrying us diverse—yet cannot carry us diverse forever;
Be not impatient—a little space—know you,
I salute the air, the ocean and the land,
Every day, at sundown, for your dear sake, my love.)

THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA)

Bounded by Forest Avenue, Marginal Way, Congress Street, and the Franklin Street Arterial, we are just minutes from 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 first 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 newspaper on a quarterly 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.

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 ANY-

ONE WHO LIVES, WORKS, OR OWNS

PROPERTY IN BAYSIDE TO BECOME

INVOLVED.

*Neighborhood Illustration in masthead
by Robbie Neil*

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

Community CONTACTS

Government

Portland City Hall
874-8300 | 389 Congress St.
www.portlandmaine.gov

Kevin Donoghue, District 1 Councilor
kjdonoghue@portlandmaine.gov
409-2807

John Anton, Councilor-at-Large
650-8979

Representative Ben Chipman
RepBen.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov
318-4961

Senator Justin Alford
Justin@JustinAlford.com | 828-0277

Police Department

EMERGENCIES: 911

Senior Lead Officer Dan Knight:

Cell: 650-8657
danielk@portlandmaine.gov

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY POLICING
CENTER: **Mary-Ellen Welch/
Officer Dan Knight**772-1373 | 26 Port-
land St.

Police Information Desk874-8479

Non-emergency Dispatch874-8575

Office of the Chief874-8601

Internal Affairs.....756-8351

Patrol Division874-8555

Police Personnel874-8588

Directed Patrol874-8545

Criminal Records874-8570

Traffic Unit874-8532

Detectives874-8533

Social Services

Preble Street Florence House
Amanda Wells, 699-4392
190 Valley Street

Preble St. Teen Center
Chris Bicknell, 874-1197
343 Cumberland Ave.

Oxford Street Men's Shelter
Josh O'Brien, 761-2072
203 Oxford St.

Family Shelter
Jeff Tardiff, 772-8339
54 Chestnut St.

Homeless Health Clinic
Beth Eilers, 874-8445
20 Portland St.

HOME Team (The Homeless Outreach and
Mobile Engagement Team)

MORNING Outreach Team—Mon - Fri 7am to 3pm:
Peggy Lynch cell: 838-8798, Email: plhomet@
gmail.com; or Ryan Searles cell: 233-4543

AFTERNOON Outreach Team—Tues - Sat 12 to 8
pm: John Dana cell: 838-8718, Email: jdhome@
gmail.com; or Jesse Flynn cell: 838-8904

Salvation Army
Major Terry Shaffer, 774-4172
297 Cumberland Ave.
terry.shaffer@salvationarmy.org

Ingraham Youth and Family Services
Tom Dunn, 774-4357
237 Oxford St.

Preble Street
Mark Swann, 775-0026
18 Portland St.

Goodwill Industries
774-6323
353 Cumberland Ave.

Preble Chapel, Still Serving After 160 Years

By Herb Adams

Ever notice the gray stucco building by the busy corner of Cumberland Ave. and Preble Street in Bayside ?

This is Preble Chapel, a church no longer, but one of Bayside's first and oldest social-service centers still hard at work after 160 years. Its beginnings go back to Deering Oaks Park and the frigate USS *Constitution*, "Old Ironsides" itself, and still going strong into the 21st Century.

Originally this site was the garden and orchard of the family of Commodore Edward Preble, abutted by the garden of his next-door neighbors the Longfellows, making a multi-acre greenery that stretched from their mansions on Congress Street far below Cumberland Avenue toward Back Cove. From the front windows of their mansions they could see Portland Head Light; from their back windows they could hear the waves of Back Cove break below today's Portland Street.

Commodore Preble, fresh from his success as commander of the USS *Constitution* in the siege of Tripoli in 1804-1805, chose the corner of Congress Street and what would be called Preble Street as the site for his magnificent brick mansion. The Commodore died in 1807, the same year little Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born to the family that soon moved next door into the brick home that still stands today by the Maine Historical Society.The Commodore's widow, Mary Deering Preble-- daughter of the Deering family that owned the rest of the acres by Back Cove and that would one day donate to Portland the forest we call Deering Oaks Park-- lived in the grand home the rest of her long life.

In 1840 Portland was a bustling town of 15,000 people and over 50 active churches, and Rev. Ichabod Nichols of the First Parish Church Unitarian (the grey granite church still standing on Congress Street)decided that the busy town, filling with Irish immigrants and seafaring sorts, would benefit from a ministry-at-large. First Parish was



Above, the former Preble Chapel at the corner of Cumberland and Preble.

joined by the Park StreetChurch (today the Holy Trinity Greek Hellenic Orthodox Church on Park Street),and services were first held for all comers in the Old City Hall, which stood in today's Monument Square on the site of the Victory Monument.

By 1847 the successful outreach so impressed widow Mary Deering Preble that she declared a proper building was necessary, and she donated the patch of land along today's Cumberland Avenue that cut across her back garden. This was no small gift; the elderly Mary Preble was known to be a tough touch--she was known behind her back as " The Brigadier "--and the Ministry at Large wasted no time in erecting their first chapel here in 1851.

It was an instant success. The Portland school system held its first night classes for adult immigrants and residents in the Chapel basement in the 1850's. By the time of the Civil War the Chapel was famous for its outreach, "The center of a devoted ministry to the poor ... without sectarian or denominational tendencies, to all, and they have resorted to it with great satisfaction and

profit," declared the *Portland Advertiser* in 1862.

"Many have been taken from the by-ways of our city into its sacred precincts, and made happier and better--many inebriates have been rescued from their pernicious habits by the gentle persuasions of the minister ... and the children of these persons have been visited, and clothed, and gathered into the Sunday School; and many girls have been trained to the use of the needle in the admirable sewing school ..."

"No tongue can tell how much good has been done in this community by the steady, quiet,persevering efforts of this unexceptionable charity ... "

During the Civil War, holiday parties, or " Levees," were held at the Chapel on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter to raise-funds to feed Maine soldiers passing through Portland en route to the South, and to care for their children and families, and, regrettably, the "lamentable list of their orphans and widows, which never ceases to grow."

Forthe first 75 years of its existence, Preble Chapel had only four long-lived ministers--Reverends William Hadley, Oliver Tuckerman, William Phelan, and A. G. Pettingill.

The original wooden chapel was replacedin 1899 by the current structure, designed by architect James Kilby of Portland, the only stucco church structure still in use in Portland that dates from the 19th Century.

Preble Chapel officially closed as a ministry in the late 1970s, but the building continued in use as an overflow site for the Evening Adult Ed classes offered by the Portland School System and for various social justice groups that used its mahogany-wainscotted spaces as offices and or-

See page 4, PREBLE CHAPEL

BULKY TRASH? TAG IT!
FOR FREE CITY PICKUP

By Suzanne Hunt

THIS SUMMER, Portland introduced a **Bulky Item Program** which allows *free pickup of items weighing less than 30 pounds*. Items are picked up on your scheduled pickup day and require a sticker. Examples include baby crib mattresses, large children's toys, vacuum cleaners, off-rim tires, grills and small dressers.

Free stickers for this small-item pickup are available by applying on the City website: recycleportlandmaine.gov. A large item such as a couch requires a Large Item sticker, which costs \$40. The bulky item program is for both renters and residential property owners. Electronic waste is not eligible for small item free pickup. These items contain toxic metals and are required to be recycled.

The existing E-Card program is another valuable resource to residential property owners. An E-Card allows the holder to bring items to Riverton Recycle (910 Riverside Street 797-6200) *at no cost*. This valuable card can be applied for at the City website: recycle.portlandmaine.gov, or call 756-8189.

FREE E-CARD DISPOSALS INCLUDE:

✓ **10 gallons of Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous waste is accepted only on the first Saturday of the month April through November. All hazardous waste must be properly contained. Acceptable hazardous waste includes oil-based paint, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, air conditioner refrigerants, gas, oil, rat poisons, herbicides and insecti-

cides. *Non-E-Card holders will be charged 3.50-\$6 per gallon of hazardous waste*. Obtain an E-Card by applying online at: recycling.portlandmaine.gov/ecardprogram.asp, or call 797-6200, or email recycling@portlandmaine.gov.*NOTE: Please do not bring latex paint to the drop-off program—It is not considered hazardous waste. Instead, let it harden in the can, and put it in your regular trash for curb-side pickup. Also, do not bring explosives, ammunition or medical waste. If you have questions about a specific item, please e-mail recycling@portlandmaine.gov or call 797-6200.*

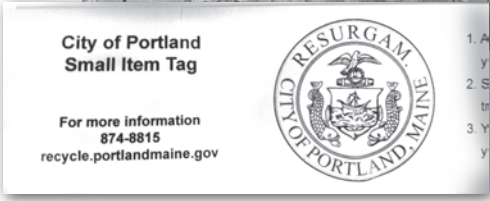
✓ **10 bulky items annually.**

Includes furniture, yard waste, grills, appliances.) Appliances that contain Freon such as freezers, and air conditioners are not included in the 10 free items

✓ **Electronic or E-Waste:** Includes TVs, Microwaves, printers cellphones, computers. These products contain toxic metals such as lead or copper.

✓ **Universal or U-Waste.** Includes fluorescent bulbs and tubes, thermostats and household batteries, and any products that contain mercury.

Proper disposal is an environmental issue that is worth our care and attention. Reusing is always a good option for items in working condition. Check out Freecycle at freecycle.org and or sell the item on Craigslist at maine.craigslist.org. FMI: call Suzanne Hunt at 756-8166, Fall Sanitation Compliance Office.



SUDOKU The goal of Sudoku is to fill the grid by entering 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. www.veryfreesudoku.com.

			8	9			3
				1		8	
				5		7	4
6			5				
				4	3		9
7							
	9						2
				7	4		
	4		2		8		6

The Seven Wonders of Bayside

by Annie Seikonia (with assistance from Adam Lyons)

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD has its “wonders.” These are the ones I continue to find most astonishing!

Masjid

Asalaam Alaykum (Peace be upon you)! The Islamic Society of Portland runs a masjid, or mosque, in an unadorned and unassuming building in Bayside. Men and women in colorful garb can be seen going to and fro in celebration of the annual Ramadan (a time to reconcile differences and seek peace). Bayside is a diverse community with a large immigrant community, a place where neighbors celebrate their differences.

Bayside Bowl

A bowling alley. In Bayside. With great music, great food, and an outdoor patio section. Need I say more?

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army works diligently to better people's lives through a variety of programs. The actual “wonder,” however, is the retail store on Alder Street, a prime spot for treasure hunting and inexpensive wardrobe upgrades. The Bayside store is an “old-school” thrift store, with character, decent prices – and a convenient location. With Goodwill going mall-side and beginning to resemble a giant chain, this retail store is to be celebrated for its pedestrian-friendly neighborhood presence.

Susan's Cats

But you have to be able to name them all: Inkling, Shine, Jasper, Beastie, Stella, Curly, and Patrick. I would have listed Hilda's cats, but I can't name them all.

Bayside Community Garden

The Bayside Community Garden on lower Chestnut Street, managed by the Bayside Neighborhood Association, is an oasis of flowers, herbs, vegetables, and more – a lush, quiet space for bird, beast, and man in a low-income industrial section. Next spring, keep your eyes peeled for a guerrilla garden comprised of iris, daylilies, and other flowering wonders in an off-the-beaten-track location in one of the most industrial areas of Bayside (not affiliated with the BCG)!

Bayside Trail

The Portland Press Herald ran an article this summer questioning the value of the Bayside Trail due to underuse of the trail. Not sure where they get their stats, but I use the trail several times a week. It runs all the way through Bayside and East Bayside and connects with Back Cove (in two places!) and the Eastern Prom Trail. I see runners, bicyclists, dog walkers, and strollers there all the time. The article cited safety concerns as one reason for there not being an army of users. I feel safer on the trail than I do in the Old Port after 8 p.m., that's for sure. It's true some homeless people hang out there – but why shouldn't they enjoy it as well? This trail is the best public project Portland has undertaken in years. The meadowland with the dogwood trees rocks, and the industrial buildings give it something called character.



BNA's Bayside Community Garden inspired this painting by local artist Stephen Giannini (www.stephanni-annini.com). It is 8" x 10", oil on board, available for sale unframed for \$275 or nicely framed for \$335.

Stephen grew up in Chicago and creates public and private murals and decorations as well as commissioned paintings. He attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Chicago's Palette and Chisel Art Club, and The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Besides his own work, he has worked on historical restorations of large-scale decorations and murals in many buildings, including three state capitals and several cathedrals.

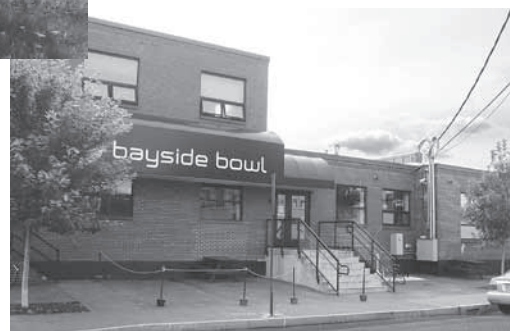
Back Bay Towers

Did the developers get confused and think they were in Boston? It's Back Cove, folks! In any case, high-rise living can be yours with amenities such as an indoor pool, a gym, and a killer view of the cove (depending what floor and what side you're on).

Runners-up for Wonders include: The Big Sneaker at Kennebec and Preble (what? why?); the big cast-iron ball (what? why?) in the same area; Schulte & Herr (Portland's only German restaurant!); Portland Flea-for-All (vintage wares and crafty vendors!); PortCity Bikes (bike repair and supplies!); Grapheteria (awesome!); and many others. *What a “wonder-ful” neighborhood!*



Among the Seven Wonders of Bayside are Susan's cats, Bayside Bowl, the Bayside Trail, and the Salvation Army Store on Alder.



Photos by Annie Seikonia



At right, the Bowling Ball of the Gods, one of the runners-up for the Seven Wonders of Bayside.



Photo by Susan McClosky



Above, a recent Sunday service outside the Living Hope Church on Portland St.

Photo by Steve Hirshon

PREBLE CHAPEL,

continued from page 3

ganizing space. Meetings were held here to protest the Vietnam War and to organize the United Farm Workers boycott of Gallo wines and non-union grapes in the 1970s.

For a time in the 1980s the upstairs chapel was rented rehearsal space for the growing Portland Stage Company, before the theater owned their new facility on Forest Avenue, and the words of Pinter and Shakespeare rang in the old sanctuary. The chapel was an early venue for performances during Portland's New Year's celebrations in the 1980s.

For over a decade the chapel has been the home of the Youth and Family Outreach program for Cumberland County, and now passersby can watch squads of children at its daycare facility pumping swings and industriously digging in sandboxes on the lawn where Civil War soldiers once sat for lunch.

After 160 years Preble Chapel is still proudly serving Portland with a social conscience. One suspects that the Preble family, their mansion and their old Portland long gone, would be proud.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying the outdoors this season! This summer and fall, I will be having barbecues as well as walking and biking around the neighborhood. I invite you to join me. Feel free to contact me anytime. I can be reached at (207) 318-4961 or e-mail: Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov.

—Ben

Standing Up for Low Income Renters

This term I sponsored LD 1341 “An Act to Provide Rent Relief to Low-Income Maine Residents.” I wanted to strengthen the Rent and Property Tax Rebate Program and put more money in the pockets of low-income renters who need it the most. Unfortunately, there was not enough



STATE REP. BEN CHIPMAN

support among members of the Taxation Committee to pass it.

On a positive note, a bill to make it easier to evict tenants was defeated. I also worked to oppose a bill that would have made it more difficult for low-income renters to file and receive a rent rebate. The bill was amended to apply only to those who pay \$9,000 or more in rent for the year, which will have no impact on the majority of renters in our district. This is a victory for low-income renters!



Above, at the State House, Ben Chipman speaks with Betsy Whitman of Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice about funding for social services.

New Anti-Bullying Law

We recently passed a bill that strengthens existing anti-bullying laws in schools. The new law

creates a uniform definition of bullying and cyber-bullying, provides for teacher training, and puts forth uniform guidelines for addressing the issue in all Maine public schools.

This is a victory for LGBTQ advocates and other groups that rallied support for this bill. I support this new law because it will help keep kids safe in our schools and encourage tolerance.

Elections Approach—Register to Vote!

This is going to be a big election year! On November 6th we will vote on marriage equality, who will be the President for the next four years, and a new U.S. Senator. If you have moved since the last election or need to register to vote for the first time please call me at 318-4961. I would be happy to bring you a voter registration card and will even bring it back to City Hall for you!

State Rep. Ben Chipman can be reached at (207) 318-4961 or e-mail Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov.

—press releases—

PORTLAND CITY HALL TURNS 100

City Hall rose from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1908 one hundred years ago

On August 22, Portland City Hall officially turned 100 years old. Constructed after the Great Fire of 1908, the current City Hall building is the third to stand on the site, with the previous two lost to fires. Built of granite from North Jay, Maine, the Beaux Arts style structure was designed by the noted New York City architectural firm Carrere & Hastings. John Calvin Stevens's local architectural firm oversaw the construction, with the laying of the cornerstone in 1909, followed three years later with an elaborate dedication ceremony on August 22, 1912. The design of the building was inspired by the New York City Hall built between 1803 and 1812.

City Hall is four stories high with a full basement and fills almost the entire block bounded by Chestnut, Congress, and Myrtle Streets and Cumberland Avenue. The tower is about 200 feet tall and can be seen from everywhere in the city. Portland City Hall is considered one of the city's most distinguished architectural landmarks.

The Great Fire of 1908 started at 2:23 AM, January 24, 1908, destroying City Hall and causing extensive damage in the downtown. The fire was not contained until after 10:00 in the morning and is believed to have started in the operating room of the city electrician. Dozens of other fires reaching as far as Maple Street were started by flying cinders and brands fanned by a howling storm from the northwest.

The million-dollar blaze was the worst in the state since the Great Portland Conflagration of 1866, when the city's business and residential sections were almost completely wiped out by a fire believed to have been ignited by 4th of July fireworks.

The Portland Fire Department went to great lengths to save City Hall, and the fact that there were no fatalities is remarkable as there were more than seven hundred people attending an event in the auditorium when the fire began. After suffering several serious injuries from a falling pipe, Fire Chief Melville Eldridge continued to command the department from his front windows at the firehouse. City Clerk A.L.T. Cummings ran from his home to City Hall, and with assistance, nearly all

records, dating back to the 1700's when Portland was the Town of Falmouth, in the Clerk's and Mayor's offices were saved.

One of the most valuable libraries in the state, the Greenleaf Law Collection, was completely destroyed, as were many Cumberland County records that were also housed in the building. Mutual aid was requested from Auburn, Augusta, Bath, Biddeford, Lewiston, Saco, South Portland, and as far away as Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

NEW MAPS OFFER BETTER INSIGHT INTO NEIGHBORHOODS

City launches GIS on the Go with maps offering a citywide and neighborhood view of various demographics

Wonder what the median age is in your neighborhood? Population density? Curious to know whether you are in a historic district? Then check out the city's new GIS on the Go (gis portal link). The City of Portland's Geographic Information System (GIS) has launched a new webpage, GIS on the Go, featuring a map gallery of the city with data and information about city parcels, zoning, historic districts, political districts, school districts, and various demographics including population, diversity, unemployment, and median age.

With the simple click of a mouse, the public can get a neighborhood-by-neighborhood or block-by-block view of the city. The page was developed using the latest technology and contains interactive mapping applications with downloadable PDF maps. The map gallery can also be explored on mobile devices. Depending upon interest from the public, additional maps for other topics could be added.

Portland's Geographic Information System (GIS) develops and maintains electronic maps and data for use by staff, the general public, and state and federal agencies. The City of Portland's GIS also provides public service to consultants, developers, the general public, and other agencies based upon GIS product development, maintenance, and/or analysis.

POSTCARDS FROM AWAY Art Quilts Maine 2012 Challenge traveling exhibit at the Portland Public Library

"Create a postcard from a real or imaginary place that you have visited or wish you could visit." With this simple challenge statement, 16 artists gathered fabric,

thread and embellishments and went to work depicting favorite retreats, far-away cities, and places they have dreamt of visiting. The group elected one restriction; all quilts would measure 20" x 30", proportional to a 4" x 6" postcard.

Given the success of last year's tour, there was a unanimous decision to send this year's challenge quilts on tour as well. Their first public exhibit was at Maine Quilts in Augusta on July 26, and plans for touring the state through June 2013 are underway with stops in Saco, Skowhegan and Rockland. The Children's Department at the Portland Public Library has offered their gallery space for a second year where the quilts will hang there from mid-August until the end of September.

Featuring many repeat artists from last year's challenge based on children's books, the quilts depict places as far flung as Hungary, Ireland, and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and as close to home as the artist's back yard. Each is accompanied by the artist's statement describing the inspiration for her or his 'postcard'.

Art Quilts Maine, a statewide guild dedicated to promoting and supporting members in their exploration of contemporary quilt art, meets every other month in Augusta. Their mission is to promote understanding, appreciation, and recognition of contemporary quilters in Maine. Many guild members have achieved national recognition for their work. The guild defines an art quilt using language from the Studio Art Quilt Association: a contemporary art work exploring and expressing aesthetic concerns common to the whole range of visual arts, which retains, however, through material or technique a clear relationship to the folk art quilt from which it descends.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS BASIC SELF DEFENSE CLASS FOR WOMEN IN SEPTEMBER

Rape Aggression Defense course to offer real-life defense tools and tactics

This September, the Portland Police Department will offer its Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Training class. R.A.D. provides women with the tools they need to both avoid dangerous situations and escape them. The course is specifically designed to help women survive situations in which their lives are in jeopardy.

This class is open to all women, ages

13 and older, in the Greater Portland area who would like to develop real-life defensive tools and tactics. The Basic Self-Defense Course consists of a series of four classes and one scenario day. The classes are scheduled for September 11, 13, 18, and 20 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and September 22 from 8:00 AM to noon. All classes must be attended to complete the course. The classes will be held at the Portland Police Department, 109 Middle Street.

A donation of \$25.00 for the course is suggested. All donations support the Amy St. Laurent Fund, which sponsors the R.A.D. trainings. Due to attendance issues, all donations must be paid prior to the first class (send checks to ASLF/PPD RAD Program, Portland Police Department, 109 Middle Street, Portland ME 04101). To sign up for the class or to receive more information about Portland R.A.D., email: ppdrad@portlandmaine.gov or call 874-8643.

PORTLAND VET TO BE HONORED ON 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" BATTLE

US Navy Vet Richard Hill, A Portland African American, to be honored 200 years after Service In War of 1812

Richard Hill was an African American from Portland who fought in the War of 1812, was murdered by his own son, and was buried in a grave long lost in Eastern Cemetery. He was quickly forgotten--until now.

Some 200 years after the War of 1812, and over 150 years after his tragic death, Richard Hill will receive the military honors due a U.S. Navy Veteran and a native Portlander.

This September 15, 2012, Richard Hill will receive a military headstone and full honors in services to be held in Eastern Cemetery in the so-called "Colored Ground," located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Congress Street in Portland's oldest and most venerable burial ground. Services are tentatively set for 11 AM.

Hill has another distinction: "He may well have been in the US flotta in Baltimore Harbor the night of Sept. 13-14, 1814, when the British bombarded Ft. McHenry," says former state rep. and historian Herb Adams.

continued on page 7

BAYSIDE PLANNING, *from front page*

Oxford, be completely cleared.

By the time Comey issued the Planning Board's report in 1946, the war was over and now veterans needed jobs. The report, "Urban Redevelopment for Portland," found that Bayside was "not only unhealthful" but provided "breeding grounds of juvenile delinquency, tuberculosis, and high welfare caseloads." While Twichell and Comey definitely got the ball rolling, it was an *Evening Express* series of articles on Bayside (December 6 -12, 1948) that dramatized the need for slum clearance. Conditions were "shocking and squalid," housing was "unfit for swine." Concern was also rising that blight was encroaching on Congress Street, and would undermine the downtown retail economy.

THE 1960s: URBAN RENEWAL ATTACKS BAYSIDE

Plans to renew West Bayside were back-burnered until the late 1950s as various levels of government worked out policies—there was strong disagreement among Portlanders involved in planning about what to do and how to do it—and financing. But just in case anyone missed it, the idea that urban renewal plans would indeed be finalized, funded, and executed was made stunningly clear on August 31, 1961, when Union Station came crashing down. The old Post Office on Middle Street bit the dust in 1965, as did the Grand Trunk Railway Station at the foot of India Street in 1966. Urban renewal had already started in East Bayside, with demolition in 1958 of the part of Little Italy that extended into East Bayside from India Street, and demolition in 1965 that cleared the way for building Bayside, now Kennedy, Park, which accepted its first residents in 1966.

In 1967, the consultant Victor Gruen, often vilified as the "Father of the Shopping Mall," came to town to help Portland with a long-term plan for traffic. On the landward sides of Portland, the towns of Falmouth, Cumberland, and even Yarmouth to the north, and South Portland, Scarborough, and Westbrook to the south and west, were evolving into true suburbs. South Portland had already started assembling property to put together the Maine Mall, which would open in 1971.

Although Gruen's plan, *Patterns for Progress*, was only partially implemented, it produced the Franklin Arterial, a key part of what would have been a "Ring Road" around the downtown core. The limited-access design of the Arterial destroyed the cross-Bayside connections on Lancaster and Oxford. Gruen also produced schematics for I-295. (Although Gruen obviously adored the car, his plan also included making Congress Street a pedestrian mall from Monument Square to Congress Square.)

At the same time, the Portland Renewal Authority was using eminent domain to carry out its 1966 plan, the "Bayside West I Urban Redevel-

opment Project." The plan included the "Baby Bayside" industrial park, to be built on land cleared between Lancaster and Somerset, from Pearl to Wilmot—this entire area is now occupied by Whole Foods and its parking lots. Also part of the plan were housing—both high-rise and town house, park space, a vocational-technical high school, clearing land to enable construction of I-295, as well as spot clearance throughout what the *Maine Sunday Telegram* called a "dying neighborhood" (September 14, 1969). Tree-lined Oxford Street was now the scene of daily house fires, intentionally set, constant burglaries, vandalism, and random violence; cleared property was to be "ready for sale," including the Oxford Street blocks next to the Franklin Arterial where Earle W. Noyes would locate in 1971, and the corner of Cumberland and Franklin that became Franklin Towers, the high-rise housing for seniors, in 1969.

THE 1970s -1990s: LOTS OF TALK, NOT MUCH ACTION IN BAYSIDE

Even with all the 1960s development, the *Evening Express* was back at it again in 1971, running a new series on Bayside decrying the decline from pleasant and homey to cascading deterioration, insurance "redlining," and exclusion of residents in planning for the neighborhood's future.

But, of course, there was another plan—the Model Cities General Plan, put together by the Portland West Advisory Committee, and definitely not to the liking of the City Council, which wanted bricks and mortar. The PWAC wanted to go with the Model Cities approach, which was a mechanism for implementing the Great Society and War on Poverty programs; Model Cities emphasized not just clearance and rebuilding but rehabilitation, social services delivery, and citizen participation. In its final form, the MC plan included expanding "Baby Bayside" and up to 425 new housing units for "the elderly, for single individuals and young married couples."

Dead and gone by 1974, the Model Cities program did give a boost to neighborhood associations as the vehicle for citizen participation, and the first iteration of the Bayside Neighborhood Association was as a Model Cities "Project Area Committee" that undertook a neighborhood development plan. That BNA had a paid Planning Advisor, whose job was "to see to it that residents aren't getting screwed too often by City officials," coordinating deals "so both parties can walk down that lonesome highway happily—one with his wallet tightly clenched and the other without a pot to pee in" (*Shout*, a Model Cities Publication, 1971).

After Model Cities faded away, the next quarter-century wasn't all that busy in Bayside, with more noise being made about developments in the Old Port and the "financial/legal complex" around Monument Square (the latter was badly

overbuilt and had whopping vacancy rates by the early 1990s). After being approved by the City Council in 1984, Back Bay Tower on Cumberland Avenue finally broke ground in spring 1987, the same year the Back Bay Grill opened.

Also on Cumberland Avenue, the Portland Public Market and attached parking garage, funded by Elizabeth Noyce's Libra Foundation, opened in 1998 (it closed in 2006, but some of its vendors moved into the newly created Public Market House in Monument Square, formerly the old Army-Navy store). Then in 1998, the Libra Foundation, a pioneer in venture philanthropy, offered the city \$20,000,000 and a seven-acre parcel in Bayside for an indoor sports arena to replace the 22-year-old Cumberland County Civic Center (between Elm and Chestnut, from Oxford Street to Lancaster/Kennebec). The city conducted a feasibility study and turned the offer down, fearing that taxpayers wouldn't pony up the additional \$46,000,000 that would be required.

BAYSIDE AT THE MILLENNIUM—LET'S START ALL OVER AGAIN!

At the millennium, Bayside certainly retained its title as Portland's area most-in-need-of-fixing, but the quality of discussion—and action—had undergone two subtle changes, changes still alive today.

The first is that the Model Cities notion of citizen participation is not dead. On December 20, 1999, the city adopted *A New Vision for Bayside* as part of its comprehensive plan. In the summer of 1998, then-mayor Thomas Kane convened the Bayside Task Force, which built on a pilot project to remediate brownfields between Oxford Street and Marginal Way. The Bayside Neighborhood Association was part of the brownfield project and played a key role in creating the *New Vision*. Moreover, as large-scale, top-down federal programs like Model Cities, and then Urban Development Action Grants (a UDAG grant built Congress Square Plaza in 1979), disappeared, federal assistance took on a more bottom-up approach with Community Development Block Grants. CDBGs require cities to identify urgent needs in the community and solicit solutions from citizens to address those needs. (The bottom-up approach can sometimes be "honored more in the breach than the observance.")

The second aspect of Portland planning explicitly recognized in the *New Vision* was the city's more "modern" role in encouraging urban development—public-private partnerships, in which the city provides services and infrastructure to for-profit developers. The goal of the plan is an "integrated mixed-use development" neighborhood with five overlapping districts presented in "future-fantasy" style in the plan:

1. Bayside Avenue, a tree-lined boulevard that used to be Marginal Way, is a commercial corridor with larger stores, hotels, and services useful to those exiting the highway as well as people arriving in Portland to work or play.
2. Kennebec Crossing is a new plaza where Chestnut Street meets the Bayside Trail, a central meeting place with shops, cafes, and services. (Chestnut Street does not continue to Bayside Avenue/Marginal Way.)
3. Bayside Heights offers a compact urban living scenario, giving both renters and owners easy access to jobs, shopping, and community resources; the Heights lies between Cumberland Avenue and Lancaster Street, from Franklin to Parris.
4. Franklin Square is a high-visibility corporate commercial district with major buildings for headquarters, research laboratories, and back office operations, between Cumberland and Somerset, from Franklin to Pearl. (Didn't seem to bother them that this district overlapped with Bayside Heights.)

5. Government Center reuses the main Post Office (moved off the peninsula) as the core building for social services and nonprofits; new buildings appear on the former parking areas around Government Center.

While it's possible to say the city hasn't made the slightest bit of progress on any of these districts, that wasn't their contribution. According to the *New Vision*, the city needed to do six things (*A New Vision for Bayside: Implementation*) that were instrumental to achieving the goals:

1. All development: Acquire the railway property.
2. All development: Get rid of the scrap yards.
3. Housing: Revise zoning, provide infrastructure, and provide financial incentives to housing developers.
4. Transit-oriented development: Conduct a parking study, coordinate parking garage locations, integrate transit-related functions and facilities (public transport, shuttles, etc.).
5. Secure the future of social services in Bayside: Form a social services committee, study social service facility needs, identify and secure resources.
6. Identify and secure land for parks and open space.

Twelve years later, some of these city efforts have worked, and some haven't. Railway property and scrap yards were vanquished on seven lots along Somerset Street, but the city had a couple of failed efforts before the Florida-based Federated Companies came in with "Maritime Landing," a mixed use project including retail, office, parking, and nearly 600 units of market-rate apartments. According to www.mainebiz.com, Federated was "confident" construction would begin in 2012 (February 10, 2012), but on August 22, the Housing and Community Development Committee met in a closed executive session to consider the state of the deal.

Certainly housing has appeared in Bayside, with Unity Village, Pearl Place I and II, the Chestnut Street Lofts, the Oak Street Lofts, and lofts along the north side of Congress Street in the upper stories of old-line department stores. And the Bayside Trail is a major asset to the neighborhood.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

But the real contribution of *A New Vision for Bayside* may be as a catalyst. One of the first things to happen was a major instance of neighborhood involvement. Right on the heels of the *New Vision* came The Bayside Community Design Workshop (April 2000), organized by Architalx, the Bayside Neighborhood Association, Muskie School of Public Service, and the Portland Department of Planning and Urban Development (a follow-up charrette devoted to housing was held in April 2001). The charrette gathered 144 people, the most that could fit in the Chestnut Street Church, and divided them into 12 teams.

All 12 teams recommended extending Chestnut Street to Marginal Way (DONE!). Major suggestions included reconsideration of Franklin Arterial (still in the works . . .), student housing at Kennebec and Forest (there's student housing on Marginal Way), recycling the Public Works General Store into artist live-work space (still alive and kicking), and turning Kennebec into a public greenway (think Bayside Trail!). **[Illustration—kennebec greenway]**

After the two charrettes, three Baysiders--Steve Hirshon, Ron Spinella, and Jay York--organized the exhibition "Best Laid Plans: 200 Years of Developing Bayside," the "rags-to-rags" tale of repeated efforts to revitalize Bayside that ended up on the scrap heap. In thinking back on the exhibition, Spinella recently noted that "there's nothing new—nothing that hasn't been tried before." On the other hand, Bayside's had a pretty busy 21st century so far—just take a look at the summary box *[on front page]*.

continued on page 7

PHOENIX SQUARE, *continued from page 3*

At 10 a.m., there will be three teams competing. Each team will have a 20-minute slot to make the most of one quarter of the block, consecutively, in this Open Square competition. BNA will provide as much in the way of street furniture (chairs, lamps, a fountain, etc.) as we can bring in. Feel free to bring your own. All urban planners, professional and amateur, are welcome, as well as, those who have a thing or two to say about what makes a good open space.

Finally, at 11 a.m. we will create an open-air theater. Here we will have an opportunity to share stories and experiences of Baysiders past and present. Meeting Place workshops have been gathering the stories and visual

representations of many current and former residents. Folks will have a chance to share the panorama of what has been a neighborhood of so many and varied businesses, residents, cultures, and institutions.

So, come for breakfast, stay for the morning. The BNA and Meeting Place are teaming up for some stimulating activities. We invite you to watch or participate, join a team, or bring your own, have fun and create a new public space. Come on down to Phoenix Square September 29, 2012, from 8:30 till noon. We're between Flea-for-All and the Schlotterbeck & Foss building, and right next to G & R DiMillo's and Bayside Bowl, on Kennebec Street between Preble and Elm.

Artists of the Chestnut Street Lofts to Show in September

AT THE PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY'S LEWIS GALLERY

SIX AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS who live and work in downtown Portland will display their talents in a show entitled "INSPIRED BY PLACE: ARTISTS OF THE CHESTNUT STREET LOFTS." The show will open with a public reception on the September 7, 2012 First Friday Art Walk, 5-7 pm.

The group of three women and three men includes an oil-on-canvas painter; a mixed-media artist; and four photographers-- two who specialize in digital, the third in black-and-white film, and the fourth in archival pigment prints. The artists range in age from late teenage to mid-seventies. The artists are: Leslie Anderson, Oil on Canvas; Charlotte Fullam, Mixed Media; Clyde McCulley, Digital Photography; Susan McCulley, Digital Photography; Robert Moran, Archival Pigment Photographic Prints; Savin Mattozzi, 35mm film photography.

Each of the six finds that living and working in a downtown urban environment, in a building that also includes writers, clowns, weavers, and singers, broadens their creative vision and stimulates their professional drive--so much so that the work of each has burgeoned since moving to the Lofts.

∴ ABOUT EACH ARTIST ∴

Leslie Anderson

207-615-8915, www.leslieanderson.com.

Leslie began to paint watercolors to relieve the stress of a high-tech job. Ten years ago, she walked away from that career to organize her life around making art. For this show, she has created a series of paintings called "Low Lights," which is inspired by the quality of light found in Maine.

She and her husband, Dan Nygaard, spend their summers in Sedgwick, Maine. She has lived at the Chestnut Street Lofts for four winters. "My husband and I were attracted to the in-town location, but it was primarily the quality of the light in our corner unit that sealed the deal. We drove our realtor crazy with requests to view the unit at all times of day and night. We love that the building has attracted a wide diversity of interesting people."

Charlotte Fullam,

207-329-1462, charlottefullam@gmail.com.

Charlotte has worked for over fifty years with a range of media, including gouache, acrylics, watercolor, pastel, and colored pencil, on canvas or hot-pressed paper. For this show, she includes work inspired by places in which she has spent solitary time. She researches the history of each place and examines old photographs and maps before creating her own interpretation.

Born in Portland, she spends her summers in Porter, Maine. Charlotte has lived at the Lofts for four winters. "My decision to leave my rural home in winter was difficult, but moving to Chestnut Street Lofts was one of the easier big decisions I've had to make. It was obvious that it was the place I wanted to be from the moment I stepped into the airy, open concrete loft with a view of Back Cove, ideally situated in downtown Portland, within easy walking distance or a quick bus ride to a smorgasbord of offerings."

—press releases—

continued from page 5

"In other words, Hill may have been there the night the poem "The Star-Spangled Banner" was born, and an eyewitness to the birth of the National Anthem. What an iconic moment--and Hill was probably the only Portlander there."

Adams, and military historian Larry Glatz of Harrison, did the research that convinced the Veteran's Administration to issue a white marble headstone for Hill that now stands next to those of other Portland African American veterans who fought in the American Revolution. All were buried in the segregated "Colored Ground" set aside in Eastern Cemetery for black burials. The white stones now stand together in the tall grass, side by side, like a silent line of infantry.

Adams' research turned up a tragic side to Hill's story. Born about 1792, Hill served

in his twenties on US Gunboat 47 during the War of 1812, cruising in the New York flotilla. "The US Navy was not segregated then," said Adams. "It may have been the first time in his life Hill was on equal footing with his comrades."

But post-war, Hill led a hard life as a common laborer and cargo-hauler, living in a number of Munjoy Hill back-alley addresses in the part of Portland informally set aside for blacks. His son, Richard Junior, spent time in State Prison for theft and by his teens was a hardened criminal.

One day in 1861 Richard Junior laid in wait for his father, pulled out two pistols, and shot the 70-year-old man dead on his own doorstep. "It made lurid reading in the Portland papers for a day or two, then Richard Senior was quickly forgotten, and his grave site lost. It could all have ended there, but for his paper trail," said Adams.

Other dusty US records revealed that Richard Senior had been awarded 160

acres of government surplus "Bounty Land" somewhere out West, for his War of 1812 service -- land for which he signed with an "X."

"Richard Hill apparently could not read or write. This land was his only veteran's benefit. Probably he sold it to a bounty broker for a fraction of its value, and that was it. His son may have murdered him for that money. We may never know," said Adams. "But we are lucky these records now have come to light."

"It's a glimpse into the hard life of a common laborer long ago, the story many a Munjoy Hill black man must have known," said Adams. "One who fought for his country, however, and the records seem to show he was witness to the night young America stood up to Great Britain's

navy, and endured." Research continues into Hill's story and what it reveals about Portland, and a Munjoy Hill African American's life, long ago.

But in 2012, the public is invited to celebrate the new headstone and the recognition that Richard Hill never received in life.

The September 15th ceremonies are co-sponsored by the Andrews American Legion Post 17 of Portland and the City of Portland, among others. Admission is free to the public.

Clyde McCulley

506-662-1108, clydemcculley@gmail.com, www.clydemcculleyphotography.com.

Retired Director of Pratt Institute's Upstate Art School program at the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica. New York, Clyde has worked in digital photography for ten years. The painter Edward Hopper, who was such a fine interpreter of the urban landscape, has inspired the work that Clyde is putting in this show.

Clyde and his wife, Sue (see below), spend their summers on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada, where they run SeaCliff Cottage Suites. They have lived at the Lofts for five years and plan on many more because "we love being downtown in an exciting community as well as living in a space with creative people."

Sue McCulley

susanmccu@hotmail.com.

Former owner of a toy store, Sue has worked in digital photography for three years. She hopes the vignettes she has included in the show will trigger viewers' questions and reflections on the meaning of place.

Sue enjoys living at the Lofts because its downtown location "offers a myriad of activities year round, wide-open living space, a creative atmosphere, and creative and vibrant neighbors."

Robert Moran

207-479-5679, moran.photo@yahoo.com, www.robertmoran.com.

Formerly a television cameraman and owner of a retail business in Bar Harbor, Bob has taken photographs for over forty years, professionally for the last four. He will be showing images from his RELICS series in this show. He was inspired to create this series because of an interest in making portraits of vintage objects, which are so redolent of purpose and place.

He and his wife, Dianna, both Maine natives, bought a unit at the Lofts when the building was completed five years ago. They divide their time between Portland and Bar Harbor.

Savin Mattozzi

207-809-9919, fotoluce@yahoo.com, blog - <http://shootprintshare.blogspot.com/>

Savin, a senior at Cheverus High School, works in 35mm film to make silver gelatin prints. Inspired by the work of the great black-and-white film photographers, including Henri Cartier Bresson, Savin has taken photographs for four years. The works he includes in the show document the lives of urban and rural children with whom he has volunteered in the Dominican Republic.

Attracted by the building's contemporary architecture and central location, Savin and his parents have lived at the Lofts since the building opened in 2007.

BAYSIDE PLANNING, from page 6

PHOENIX SQUARE ON KENNEBEC

The BNA is hopeful that the public-private partnership approach of *A New Vision* and neighborhood involvement can come together in transforming Bayside. Another charrette-style event is coming right up, on the morning of Saturday, September 29, when the BNA holds its neighborhood celebration to mark the end of the city-wide Meeting Place project (see poster on front page).

Along with a pancake breakfast, kids' activities, and walking tours, the BNA is having a public event to reclaim "Phoenix Square," the block of Kennebec Street between Elm and Preble, right alongside the new Flea-for-All and the old Architectural Salvage, and across the street from Schlotterbeck and Foss. [see photos below, Portland and Rochester RR]

"Creative Placemaking in Action: Imagining a New Public Space" will give the community a chance to have their ideas heard. What makes a good park or pedestrian mall? How about the greenspace from the 2000 charrette? Do you want an outdoor café? Do you want a place to read your book or the newspaper or, Shades of Bobby Fischer, to play chess? How about your kids?

The city is already planning to extend Somerset Street through to Forest Avenue, and to extend the Bayside Trail through to Deering Oaks—which would make this "Phoenix Square" block of Kennebec unnecessary. Your participation can give the campaign to create Phoenix Square a great kickoff! And who doesn't like pancakes?

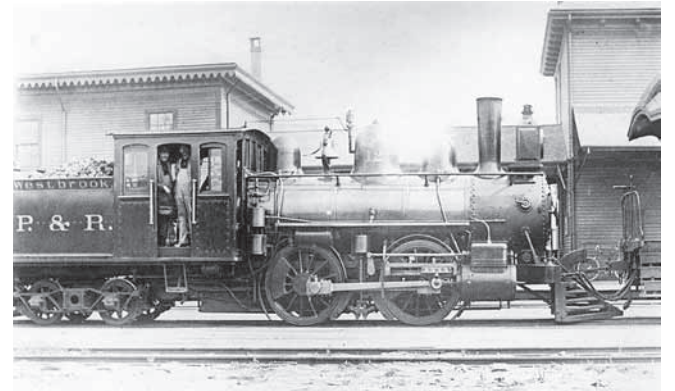


Photo by Annie Sekonia

These two historical photos can be found at [Facebook.com/PortlandMaineHistory1786ToPresent/Bayside](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandMaineHistory1786ToPresent/Bayside).

The top photo shows the front of the Passenger Station of the Portland & Rochester Railroad, built and expanded during 1879-80. The Baggage building to the right and connecting covered passages were constructed in 1886. The building's footprint is partly shared by the Schlotterbeck & Foss building, so this photo is taken from Preble Street, where the south end of G R DiMillo's is today. The two boys on the curb in the historical photo appear to be waiting for the trolley, whose tracks can be seen in front of them.

the lower photo is of the back of the Portland & Rochester Railroad's passenger station; it shows the switcher 'Westbrook' train at the platform. This photo was taken from Kennebec Street, from about the middle of the block. The place where the three tracks can be seen on the ground is now occupied by the dirt parking lot of Schlotterbeck & Foss. That building would be behind the train now.

Tip of the Month
Sept. 2012

- ✓ Guitar?
- ✓ Laptop?
- ✓ Ways to avoid drinking?

f We're on Facebook!

Your influence won't stop when they leave home.

"Pack" tips & expectations for avoiding alcohol.

21 reasons to prevent underage drinking...what's your reason?

21 Reasons is a project of Medical Care Development MCD

www.21reasons.org/parents.php



HERB ADAMS *for* CITY COUNCIL

BAYSIDE BLOCK PARTY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8
1-5 pm

WHERE:: Parking lot by Dyer's Variety Store.

WHAT:: Fun: DJ, karaoke, Moon Bounce, games, yard sale, and more!

SPONSORED BY:: Bayside Neighborhood Assoc., Preble Street, Goodwill, Lost Coin Café, and the City of Portland.



Photo by Lisa Peñalver

Sept. 15, 2012, 11 am: New Stone Dedication at the Eastern Cemetery A ceremony will be held to honor the service of Richard Hill, a Munjoy Hill African-American Veteran who served in the US Navy in War of 1812. Taps, with the colors, bugler, etc. Deering Post VFW 6758 and Harold Andrews Post 17 of American Legion on Deering Street. For details, see Press Release on page 5.

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Caption: Workers repair the facade of one of the Schlotterbeck and Foss building on Preble St.

Credit: Steve Hirshon

DISTRICT 1(?)



Art Quilts Maine 2012 Challenge Traveling Exhibit at the Portland Public Library

“Create a postcard from a real or imaginary place that you have visited or wish you could visit.” With this simple challenge statement, 16 artists gathered fabric, thread and embellishments and went to work depicting favorite retreats, far-away cities, and places they have dreamt of visiting. The group elected one restriction; all quilts would measure 20” x 30”, proportional to a 4” x 6” postcard.

Given the success of last year’s tour, there was a unanimous decision to send this year’s challenge quilts on tour as well. Their first public exhibit was at Maine Quilts in Augusta on July 26, and plans for touring the state through June 2013 are underway with stops in Saco, Skowhegan and Rockland. The Children’s Department at the Portland Public Library has offered their gallery space for a second year where the quilts will hang there from mid-August until the end of September.

Featuring many repeat artists from last year’s challenge based on children’s books, the quilts depict places as far flung as Hungary, Ireland, and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and as close to home as the artist’s back yard. Each is accompanied by the artist’s statement describing the inspiration for her or his ‘postcard’.

Art Quilts Maine, a statewide guild dedicated to promoting and supporting members in their exploration of contemporary quilt art, meets every other month in Augusta. Their mission is to promote understanding, appreciation, and recognition of contemporary quilters in Maine. Many guild members have achieved national recognition for their work. The guild defines an art quilt using language from the Studio Art Quilt Association: a contemporary art work exploring and expressing aesthetic concerns common to the whole range of visual arts, which retains, however, through material or technique a clear relationship to the folk art quilt from which it descends.

[begin Vet Press Release—please put with other PRs]

[Head] PORTLAND VET TO BE HONORED on 198th ANNIVERSARY OF “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” BATTLE

[subhead]US Navy Vet Richard Hill,A Portland African American, to Be Honored200 Years After Service In War of 1812

Richard Hill was an African American from Portland who fought in the War of 1812, was murdered by his ownson, and wasburied in a grave long lost in Eastern Cemetery. He was quickly forgotten--until now.

Some 200 years after the War of 1812, and over 150 years after his tragic death, Richard Hill will receive the military honors due a U.S. Navy Veteran and a native Portlander.

This September 15, 2012, Richard Hill will receive a military headstone and full honors in services to be heldin Eastern Cemeteryin the so-called “Colored Ground,” located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Congress Street in Portland’s oldest and most venerable burial ground. Services are tentatively set for 11 AM.

Hill has another distinction: “He may well have been in the USflotilla in Baltimore Harbor the night of Sept. 13-14, 1814, when the British bombarded Ft. McHenry,” says former state rep.and historian Herb Adams.

“In other words, Hill may have been there the night the poem “The Star-Spangled Banner”was born, and an eyewitness to the birth of the National Anthem. What an iconic moment--and Hill was probably the only Portlander there.”

Adams, andmilitary historianLarry Glatz of Harrison, did the research that convinced the Veteran’s Administration to issue a white marble headstone for Hill that now stands next to those of other Portland African American veterans who fought in the American Revolution.

All were buried in the segregated “Colored Ground” set aside in Eastern Cemetery for black burials.The white stones now standtogether in the tall grassside by side, like a silent line of infantry.

Adams’s research turned up a tragic side to Hill’s story. Born about 1792, Hill served in his twenties on US Gunboat 47 during the War of 1812, cruising in the New York flotilla. “The US Navy was not segregated

then,” said Adams. “It may have been the first time in his life Hill was on equal footing with his comrades.”

But post-war Hill led a hard life as a common laborer and cargo hauler, living in a number of Munjoy Hill back-alley addresses in the part ofPortland informally set aside for blacks. His son, Richard Junior, spent time in State Prison for theft and by his teens was a hardened criminal.

One day in 1861 Richard Junior laid in wait for his father,pulled two pistols, and shot the 70-year-old man dead on his own doorstep. “It made lurid reading in the Portland papers for a day or two, then Richard Senior was quickly forgotten, and his grave site lost. It could all have ended there, but for his paper trail,” said Adams.

Other dusty US records revealed that Richard Senior had been awarded 160 acres of governmentsurplus“BountyLand” somewhere out West for his War of 1812 service--land he signed for with an “X.”

“Richard Hill apparently could not read or write. This land was his only veteran’s benefit. Probably he sold it to a bounty broker for a faction of its value, and that was it. His son may have murdered him for that money. We may never know,” said Adams. “But we are lucky these records now have come to light.”

“It’s a glimpse into the hard life of acommon laborer long ago, the story many a Munjoy Hill black man must have known,” said Adams. “One who fought for his country, however, and the records seem to show he was witness to the night young America stood up to Great Britain’s navy, and endured.”

Research continues into Hill’s story and what it reveals about Portland, and a Munjoy Hill African American’s life, long ago.

But in 2012the public is invited to celebrate the newheadstone and the recognition that Richard Hill never had in life.

The September 15th ceremonies are co-sponsored by the Andrews American Legion Post 17 of Portland and the City of Portland, among others. Admission is free to the public.

[end PR]

[Begin poetry



Caption: Workers repair the facade of one of the Schlotterbeck and Foss building on Preble St.

Credit: Steve Hirshon