Getting historic information about who captained a Maine ship when the vessel sailed on a particular voyage is readily accessible through current electronic databases of historic materials. However, gathering information about the rest of the crew, if not impossible, would take months or years of digging and research through handwritten records and ships logs. Maine Maritime Museum has long sought to make it easier for scholars and family researchers of Maine seamen to obtain such information, which is buried among the millions of documents the museum holds in its collections. Now, thanks to a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) that goal is closer.

CLIR announced in December that Maine Maritime Museum was one of 19 institutions nationwide to receive a 2011 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant. Maine Maritime Museum has received $125,600 to fund this project. The 18-month project will uncover information about thousands of men and women who made up the crews of Maine vessels from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth century. The information is contained in hundreds of thousands of pages of documents in 44 separate manuscript collections occupying 133 linear feet of library shelving. The papers include numerous Maine sea captains’ business papers, crew lists and voyage accounts, some ship owners’ and customs house records, and a shipping agent’s records. Collection highlights include important and revealing correspondence between captains and owners, correspondence with families, construction details of ships, detailed documentation of port visits and charter, cargo and insurance information.

Archivists working on the project will first catalog the 44 collections of papers in their entirety, entering the catalog information into a database on the museum’s website, so that future scholars, researchers and the general public will be able to find these collections. Staff and volunteers will then build a second database—the Merchant Mariners Muster—containing information about the individual sailors extracted from documents in these collections. This second database will also become available on the Museum’s website and therefore accessible to the public from any location.

Most of the individuals documented in the collections are merchant mariners, but there are fishermen and naval seamen represented among the materials. Although all of the collections relate to Maine, they document travels to worldwide ports and are therefore a valuable resource for the exploration of international maritime history.

Created in 2008 and supported by ongoing funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives awards program supports the identification and cataloging of special collections and archives of high scholarly value that are difficult or impossible to locate. A list of the 2011 awarded grants is available at http://www.clir.org/news/pressrelease/11hiddenpr2.html. The Council on Library and Information Resources is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning.
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NEXT ISSUE: MAY 2012
Only submissions received by the Editor by March 30, 2012, will be considered for publication.
Jessica Skwire Routhier
Saco Museum, 371 Main St., Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3861, ext. 114
www.sacomuseum.org
Letter from the President

Dear MAM members and others:

By the time you read this, the ball will have dropped in Times Square, the funny hats and noisemakers will have been put away, New Year’s resolutions will have been made (and kept?). In short, all those things that mark the new year will have passed by. But as this issue of the MAM newsletter represents the first opportunity I have had to write to you since last fall, please allow me to say Happy New (MAM) Year to all of you.

Since the last newsletter MAM’s board of directors, committee members, regional representatives, and staff have been working hard to make MAM of ever more value to you, its institutional, service-provider, and individual members. As an indication of being on the right track, I am pleased to report that the annual conference and meeting was well attended and well received. Attendees said they appreciated the quality of the presenters, the participation of the vendors (thanks to MAM’s business manager, Julie Rabinowitz, for recruiting them), and the provision of ample time for networking and peer-to-peer support. Thanks to program committee members, Pat Burdick, Special Collections Librarian at Colby College, and Joanna Torow, Chief Educator of the Maine State Museum, and to Leigh Hallett, Director of the host Newport Cultural Center, for a job well done.

At the meeting, we welcomed Ellen Tenan of the historic Ruggles House in Cherryfield, Peter Cook of the Tate House in Portland, Rachel Degrosseilleurs of Museum-LA in Lewiston, Raney Bench from the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, and independent conservator Teresa Myers of Sebec, upon their election to the board. Pat Burdick and Joanna Torow completed terms of excellent service as board members, and we heartily thank them for their contributions to MAM and the field.

Looking forward, as MAM continues to expand its list of service providers, increase its professional development and technical support, and make you more visible to potential visitors through its finding aid at mainemuseums.org, it is turning its attention to advocating on behalf of its members as the fourth element of its support and promote mission. If we are to be able to advocate (by which we mean speaking for and about the field to the public and the press as well as to elected officials) successfully, MAM needs to know more about its members; the services they provide, the people they see, the kinds of collections they preserve. The advocacy questionnaire recently sent to institutional members represents the first shot fired in this effort. As of this writing, more than 50 of you have responded. We thank you for this and we urge our remaining institutional members to follow your lead. Watch for coverage of the survey results in the spring newsletter. Please understand that the information the survey seeks will need to be updated regularly if MAM is to accurately represent the community of collecting institutions.

What else is in the works? MAM plans to work with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to identify, inventory, and categorize all collecting institutions in Maine. No such list now exists. We plan to conduct and/or collaborate on a variety of regional workshops to supplement the annual conference. We are researching moving our data to the “cloud,” in part to make it easier for members to post, edit, and update their information via MAM’s website. We have begun a conversation with the New England Museum Association (NEMA) to explore possible collaborative/cooperative initiatives. By the time you read this, the board will have adopted a comprehensive action plan for 2012, including the goals above. See the details at mainemuseums.org.

Let me finish by reminding you that MAM’s only purpose is to help its members do what they do—better. To that end, the more members MAM has, the more MAM can do for its members. By now, many of you will have been asked to renew by mail or by e-mail following a more clearly delineated schedule of membership levels and benefits—with no increase in membership dues. If you have renewed already, thank you! If you have not yet renewed, please, please do so. If you have never been a member but still read this newsletter, please join MAM now. We cannot support and advocate for you if we do not know about you. There is strength in numbers. There are benefits to being part of Maine’s community of collecting institutions. You need not feel alone.

Here’s hoping that, with MAM’s help, 2012 will be your best year yet.

Jay Adams
### Maine Archives & Museums

**2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<th><strong>PRESIDENT</strong></th>
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<td><a href="mailto:jbianco@farnsworthmuseum.org">jbianco@farnsworthmuseum.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>BOARD MEMBERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sheri Leahan</strong> (2011)</td>
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<td>Independent Museum Professional</td>
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<td>35 Cummings Hill Road, Temple, ME 04984</td>
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<td>207-779-4445, <a href="mailto:sleahan@hciwireless.net">sleahan@hciwireless.net</a></td>
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<td><strong>VICE PRESIDENT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SECRETARY</strong></td>
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<td>207-762-7200</td>
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<td><strong>TREASURER</strong></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mooseheadhistory@myfairpoint.net">mooseheadhistory@myfairpoint.net</a></td>
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<td>Newport Cultural Center</td>
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<td>24 Shaw Street, Newport, ME 04953</td>
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<td>207-369-2193, <a href="mailto:director@newportmaine.net">director@newportmaine.net</a></td>
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<td>Ruggles House</td>
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<td>298 Tenan Lane, Cherryfield, ME 04622</td>
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<td>207-546-7903, <a href="mailto:etenan@ruggleshouse.org">etenan@ruggleshouse.org</a></td>
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(In parentheses after each name is the year the director began serving his/her term. A director can serve up to three successive two-year terms.)

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**MAM News, continued from page 3**

### Annual Board Meeting and Conference News

**October 28, 2011**

At the October 2011 Board meeting at the Newport Cultural Center directly following the close of the 2011 Maine Archives & Museums Fall Conference and Annual Meeting, the membership welcomed new board members Raney Bench, Peter Cook, Rachel Desgroseillers, Teresa Myers, and Ellen Tenan. The board thanked retiring board members Pat Burdick and Joanna Torow for their outstanding service to MAM.

Treasurer Patty Henner reported that MAM’s budget at the close of the third quarter, including conference revenues and outlays, was meeting expectations. The board discussed the updated Long Range Plan draft that was developed from discussions at the board retreat held earlier in October.

President Jay Adams appointed Patty Henner as Board Treasurer for 2012. Vice President George Squibb thanked Planning Committee members Joanna Torow, Leigh Hallett, and Pat Burdick for organizing the 2011 annual conference.

The majority of the 79 attendees at the annual conference who filled out evaluation forms rated 2011 facilities excellent, and range of topics presented were rated excellent or good. Suggestions included a request for more detailed information about breakout sessions in order to gauge level of new skills acquisition; more consideration of educational concerns; and more focus paid to topics on grants and funding non-profits during our extended recession.

Here are some comments regarding the conference from participants:

- “More resources than expected.”
- “Small but professional and relevant.”
- “Good opportunity to network and to converse with folks who share my values.”
- “Topics well thought out—with ample time to network.”
- “Liked hearing experiences of other professionals: how they solved problems and started projects.”
- “Liked opportunity to think beyond the boundaries of one’s own organization and personal circumstances.”
- “I look forward to attending future sessions and becoming more in tune with MAM.”

---

Jane Bianco (2010)
Farnsworth Art Museum
16 Museum Street, Rockland, ME 04841
207-596-6457 x104
jbianco@farnsworthmuseum.org

Raney Bench (2012)
Abbe Museum
26 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
207-288-3519, educator@abbemuseum.org

Peter Cook (2012)
Tare Shirt Farm
227 Diamond Hill Road, Berwick, ME 03901
207-698-1664, pwcooktsf@aol.com

Rachel Desgroseillers (2012)
Museum L-A
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rachel@museumla.com

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Candace Kanes (2011)
Maine Historical Society
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207-774-1822, ckanes@mainehistory.org

Sheri Leahan (2011)
Independent Museum Professional
35 Cummings Hill Road, Temple, ME 04984
207-779-4445, sleahan@hciwireless.net

Teresa Myers (2012)
Myers Conservation Services
26 Frandy Lane, Sebec, ME 04481
207-564-3910

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Maine Discovery Museum
74 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401
207-762-7200
nparker@mainediscoverymuseum.org

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Moosehead Historical Museum
PO Box 1116, Greenville, ME 04441
207-695-2909
mooseheadhistory@myfairpoint.net

Jessica Skywire Routhier (2009)
Saco Museum
371 Main Street, Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3861 x114
museum@sacomuseum.org

Ellen Tenan (2012)
Ruggles House
298 Tenan Lane, Cherryfield, ME 04622
207-546-7903, etenan@ruggleshouse.org
ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE READFIELD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Readfield Historical Society will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012, beginning at 1 p.m. upstairs in the Town Office on the Old Kents Hill Road in Readfield. The business meeting is first, followed by yummy homemade goodies. So if you are not a member, you can skip the boring meeting and arrive at cookie time, which will be followed by a very interesting program at 2 p.m. Rick Morris of InDepth Archaeology has been studying the buildings and land associated with 34 Church Road, Readfield. Through deed searches, document searches in the Town Office and Historical Society, physical examination of the house and land, and actual digging of test holes in the yard and woods, Mr. Morris has devised a genealogy of sorts for the property. Beginning with the King’s Grant in late 1700’s, through the divisions of that 200-acre parcel, down to the ten or so acres that it is now, Mr. Morris has tracked the inhabitants through the years, in one case even their boarders, and has come up with a coherent story of the property. He will tell that story, explain his methods, and illustrate his findings with maps as well as objects from his digs there. FMI: email readfieldhistorical@gmail.com.

EXHIBIT OPENINGS
AT THE PEARY-MACMILLAN
ARCTIC MUSEUM

Bowdoin College, Hubbard Hall

Museum Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and national holidays.

February 14, 2012
In a State of Becoming:
Inuit Art from the Collection of Rabbi Harry Sky

An exhibition of Inuit transformation carvings recently donated to the museum by Rabbi Sky will focus on the parallels Sky sees between his own teachings and Inuit carvings, in which he parallels life’s changes with Inuit carvings depicting human/animal transformations.

Nor’easter Days is a series of arts and crafts classes for adults, led by locally known experts. Held on the last Saturday of the month, January through April, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is $50 per class ($45 for museum members) and includes all materials, with lunch catered by The Good Kettle. To register, contact Susan Henkel (207-548-2529 ext.202; shenkel@pmm-main.org) at least two weeks in advance of any class:

January 28
Drawing from the Collection
With Nancy Morgan-Barnes. Drawing techniques using the exhibit The Circus Comes to Town and paintings from the museum’s collection as models.

February 25
Maritime Watercolors
Anne Spencer will teach watercolor technique using ship models and paintings from the museum’s collection as examples.

March 31
Sailor Valentines with a Twist
Decorate a frame for a mirror or favorite picture with tiny shells and seeds. Taught by Betty Schopmeyer and Susan Henkel.

April 28
Creating a Bound Journal

ARTS & CRAFTS, FREE TOURS,
EXHIBITS AT
PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Penobscot Marine Museum stays active and open to the public during this winter and spring for:

The Circus Comes to Town, the museum’s free winter exhibit of circus art, memorabilia, photography and hundreds of miniature circus figures, continues weekends through January 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Admission Center at 40 E. Main St., Searsport.

Unidentified Artist. Becoming #1: Muskox/Bird Transformation, Nunavut soapstone. Photo by Dean Abramson.


Penobscot Marine Museum is offering arts and crafts workshops, including a class on making handmade journals, taught by artist Abbie Read. Photo: Abbie Read.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

—continued from page 5

With Abbie Read. Capture your thoughts, poetry, musings and art of the day the way Maine’s Summer Folk did in years past.

The museum is also offering “Overcoat Tours” on the same Saturdays: January 28, February 25, March 31, and April 28. Collections Manager Cipperly Good will guide visitors through the exhibits in the museum’s historic Merithew House at 2 p.m., and the Seabag Visible Storage Center will be open 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tours are free, and visitors are urged to dress warmly, as Merithew House is not heated.


DOWN-MOUNTAIN AND CROSS-COUNTRY: 140 YEARS OF SKIING IN MAINE

Scott Andrews of the Ski Museum of Maine will speak at the Yarmouth Historical Society on Monday, March 19, at 7:00 pm. This program will feature a narrated digital slide show with more than 130 photographs, some more than a century old. The suggested donation is $3.00 for members and $5.00 for non-members. The lecture will be held at the Log Cabin, 196 Main Street, Yarmouth.

FMI: call 846-6259 or email info@yarmouthmuseumhistory.org.

SLAVERY, FREE LABOR, AND THE CIVIL WAR

Adam Tuchinsky will speak at the Yarmouth Historical Society on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm. on his 2009 book Horace Greeley’s New-York Tribune: Civil War-era Socialism and the Crisis of Free Labor. According to the publisher, Greeley’s New-York Tribune had the largest national circulation of any newspaper, and its contributors included many of the leading minds of mid-nineteenth century America. Tuchinsky’s lecture will take place at the Log Cabin, 196 Main Street, Yarmouth.

FMI: call 846-6259 or email info@yarmouthmuseumhistory.org. Suggested donation is $3.00 for members and $5.00 for non-members.

DISPATCHES

Our members report on news, awards, and achievements from throughout the state.

AUGUSTA
Long-time Maine State Museum Director Announces Retirement
Joseph R. Phillips, Director of the Maine State Museum, has announced his intention to retire from his position in the spring of 2012. Major achievements under his leadership include conservation of Maine’s entire collection of fragile military flags and the extensive State House Portrait Collection; excavation of New England’s first English settlement, the 1607-08 Popham Colony at Fort St. George in Phippsburg; a strengthened natural science program; and construction of the 5,600 square foot “At Home in Maine” exhibit on domestic life.

Throughout a period of state budget cuts and staff layoffs, Phillips led alternative efforts to maintain the excellence of museum programs through establishment of a non-profit Friends organization, a membership program, enhanced volunteer and internship programs, active staff solicitation of foundation grants, endowments for artifact purchase and conservation, and the joint purchase with other museums of important artifacts to keep them in Maine.

The Maine State Museum is the only major state-owned museum in New England and has been accredited by the American Association of Museums for nearly four decades. The Maine State Museum Commission has commenced a national search for a new director.

BELGRADE
Belgrade Historical Society is anticipating a vote at the March town meeting giving permission for the group to restore and use the old local Town House. The small building beside the cemetery was finished and first used for a town meeting in 1815. We know of only two older “town houses” in Maine. Are there others, maybe in the southern or coastal areas? Please tell us about yours. Contact Nan Mairs: nmairs@roadrunner.com.

HINCKLEY
L.C. Bates Museum Now Has Virtual Exhibits on its Website
Recently the L.C. Bates Museum acquired software allowing us to create virtual exhibits of the museum collections on our web page, and we are happy to have the opportunity to make educational exhibits available to the public through the internet (especially for those unable to visit our area). Our first online exhibit, “Maine Minerals,” will showcase eight well-known minerals from the quarries of Oxford County. Already in the works are plans for our second online exhibit, which will feature newly-identified birds from the museum collection. Go to gwh.org to see the virtual exhibit on minerals.

NEW GLOUCESTER
Charles E. Rand is the new librarian/archivist at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, New Gloucester, Maine. Chuck most recently worked at the Maine Historical Society, but prior to MHS he was for thirteen years director of the Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma. He holds three advanced degrees.

PORTLAND
The Bank of Maine hosted the Focus on Philanthropy on December 1, 2011, with more than 300 attendees from the Maine nonprofit community. As well as honoring five outstanding directors of Maine nonprofit organizations, the event offered a Q&A session with the keynote speaker, Robert M. Haggett, CFO of Newman’s Own Foundation, and a panel moderated by former Governor Angus King. Panel participants included Robert Gardiner, former President of Maine Public Broadcasting Network; Melanie L. Herman, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Risk Management Center; Prescott Stewart, Managing Director of Development at Harvard Business School; and Lowell Weicker Jr., President of the Board of Directors of Trust for America’s Health, and former U.S. Senator and Governor of Connecticut.

The panel discussion offered tips for organizations that operate with a board of direc-

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tors. They reviewed a number of topics including risk management, vision, and board makeup, noting that successful boards have passionate supporters with a diversity of viewpoints. Former Governor Weicker emphasized the role of the board of directors as a governing body “looking to the future…to regenerate itself and bring in the best people.” Several participants noted that board structure is a key element that potential funders review, and that a board’s commitment reveals the character of an organization. Prescott Stewart reminded the audience that donors and funders will look at your organization and ask themselves, “Is this organization really well managed? Will my gift make a difference?”

Congratulations, Grantees!
Maine Historical Society recognizes all of its 2011 Maine Memory Network grant recipients. A total of 20 organizations and community teams received grants to digitize collections, create online exhibits, or build comprehensive local history websites on Maine Memory. The following archives and historical organizations either were lead applicants or partnering organizations on awarded projects:

- Aroostook County Historical and Art Museum, in conjunction with Cary Library
- Buckfield Historical Society, in conjunction with Hartford-Sumner Elementary School
- Camden Public Library’s Walsh History Center
- Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine
- Kennebec Valley Community College Library
- L.C. Bates Museum (Good Will Home Association)
- Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine
- Maine Island Trail Association
- Maine State Museum, in conjunction with Maine’s First Ship
- Mantor Library at the University of Maine Farmington
- Robert A. Frost Memorial Library
- Sebago Historical Society
- Ski Museum of Maine
- Topsham Historical Society
- Waterville Public Library
- Winslow Historical Preservation Committee

SACO
The Fan Association of North America is an organization with individual and institutional members who have an interest in the study, conservation, acquisition and identification of antique, vintage and collectible hand fans. The FANA Museum Committee’s ongoing project is to help identify museums, societies or organizations with fans in their collections. Assistance is offered, where appropriate, in identification and conservation. During a day-long visit, FANA members photographed and catalogued 35 fans in the Saco Museum’s collection; a highlight was a dark green silk “umbrella fan” from France, dating from the late 19th century. For more information or to let FANA know about your institution’s fans, visit www.fanassociation.org.

SKOWHEGAN
Margaret Chase Smith Library Under New Management
The Margaret Chase Smith Foundation has entered into an agreement with the University of Maine to administer the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan. Since its opening in 1982, the library has been operated under the auspices of Northwood University of Midland, Michigan. On January 1, 2012, the Foundation, an organization established by Senator Smith in 1983 to provide an endowment, will assume ownership and responsibility of the facility. The University of Maine will operate and maintain it. “The university is honored and excited about this opportunity to operate the Margaret Chase Smith Library. The library has an excellent relationship with the university and its Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. This will expand the potential uses of the library by university scholars and continue to contribute to preserving the remarkable legacy of Senator Smith,” says Paul W. Ferguson, president of the University of Maine.

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The Saco Museum was pleased to welcome members of the Fan Association of North America (FANA) on Monday, October 24. From left to right: Linda Rousseau, Eileen Sisk, and Tina Nordstrand.

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Senior Vice President

D.J. Shaughnessy, CFA
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800.356.1781 Portland, ME 04101 flputnam.com
Strategic Action Plan for 2012

AT THE JANUARY 9 MEETING of the Board of Trustees, a Strategic Plan for 2012 was formally adopted, including the following major objectives:

To increase the MAM constituency statewide;

To maintain and strengthen relationships with Maine State and other public and private entities whose goals are supportive of MAM’s mission to better serve its members;

To advocate effectively for the field before the public, the press, and Maine’s policy makers and philanthropists;

To work with local collecting and cultural institutions to host regional meetings and workshops to further professional development and technical know-how;

To continue to print the quarterly newsletter, a leading membership benefit and to disseminate news members can use through the MAM website as well as on a variety of other platforms;

To work with the Maine Office of Tourism to effectively link joint efforts to encourage visitors to the state to explore Maine’s archives, its historical societies, museums, and other collecting institutions.

The board welcomes comments from members regarding the implementation of these goals in the context of supporting and promoting Maine’s collecting institutions.

The Maine Irish Heritage Center
by Matthew Jude Barker
Resident Historian, Genealogist, MIHC

THE MAINE IRISH Heritage Center, founded in the old St. Dominic Catholic Church in Portland in 2002, has made tremendous strides forward over the last two years. It is home to a first-rate genealogical research library, as well as a library devoted to Irish culture. It is also the sponsor of the Maine Gaeltacht DNA Project, a growing database of genealogists and others who have taken a DNA test, most of them with Irish ancestry. It is the only known DNA project in Maine at this time. The library contains over 1400 items, ranging from local history to Irish history, including books, periodicals, old newspapers, yearbooks, old photos, manuscripts, city directories, artifacts, ephemera, and an audio-video collection. Special collections include an obituary collection with thousands of pages of Maine death notices, Irish newspapers dating from 1847, class photos of St. Dominic’s School, and the papers of Governor Joseph E. Brennan’s press secretary. Contributions come in every week and the center welcomes anything and everything relating to history, genealogy, and Irish culture and heritage.

The MIHC, housed in a 120-year old building that was the second St. Dominic Church on the location, focal point of the Portland Irish community from 1828 until 1998, has hosted and or sponsored Irish language classes, ceili (Irish) dance classes, genealogy classes and roundtables, Civil War and other historical lectures, weddings and receptions, Labor Day breakfasts, a gubernatorial debate, the annual Claddagh Award Dinner, a golf tournament, Celtic Christmas fairs, St. Patrick’s Day dinners and parades, book launches, an Irish Mass, open houses, St. Dominic’s School and Parish reunions, and various other events. It is also home to A Company of Girls, the Irish American Club, the Claddagh Mhor Pipe Band, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Portland Hurling Club, and the Portland Winter Farmers’ Market.

Genealogists and historians meet weekly at the center’s library to discuss the latest in Irish history and genealogy. Many visitors to the library have filled in large gaps in their family trees and have connected with long-lost cousins. There is a wide range of resources at the library for those tracing their roots, from computer databases to early Maine Catholic Church records. All donations are graciously accepted. The MIHC encourages people to come and visit and perhaps conduct a little genealogy!

Winter hours are
Mondays, 6 - 8 p.m., Tuesdays, 4 - 6 p.m.,
Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
FMI, call 207-780-0118 or
go to maineirish.com

KEEP New England HISTORY ALIVE
~ PRESERVE THIS HERITAGE ~
Protect your property, its setting and your collections.

NEW ENGLAND INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
P.O. Box 63 - Weatogue, CT 06095 - Phone (888) 844-8288
Fax (860) 844-8274 - www.neisinc.com
MEMBER OF NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
The Maine Arts Commission announces four grant programs:

**Artists in Maine Communities**

**February 24:** Application deadline  
**Maximum grant amount:** $7,500 (with an in-kind and/or cash match)  
This grant supports arts organizations, schools and other community groups that wish to develop collaborative projects that employ Maine artists to benefit Maine communities in innovative ways.

**Celebrate Traditional Arts**

**April 13, 2012; June 22, 2012; Oct. 5, 2012:**  
**Application deadlines**  
**Maximum grant award:** $1,500 (with an in-kind and/or cash match)  
This grant supports traditional artists' fees for presentations in a range of community settings including festivals, gatherings, fairs, museums, tours and other community event.

**SMART**

**April 16:** Application deadline  
**Maximum grant award:** $10,000 (with an in-kind and/or cash match)  
This grant supports schools, arts organizations/institutions and community-based teaching artists as they design and deliver high quality arts learning experiences for K-12 students.

**Maine Historical Society offers “21st Century Skills” workshops** for historical society/museum personnel and librarians. The free half-day workshops introduce attendees to the opportunities that local history, technology, and Maine Memory Network provide to develop professional skills, increase the capacity of their institutions, engage their communities, and deepen collaboration with historical societies, local schools, and other community organizations. The workshop includes an in-depth, interactive demonstration of Maine Memory Network and its many search tools and content offerings. Register at www.maine-memory.net/training.

Workshop locations scheduled to date include:

- Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft:  
  **Tues., April 2:**  
  FREE WEBINAR - in honor of May Day!  
  Cost: $95  
  The Collections Care webinars are designed for those who wish to become better stewards of their collections. These webinars are beneficial to staff and volunteers at institutions, as well as private or family collectors. For complete course information and online registration, visit http://www nedcc org/education/training/calendar php.  
  Contact Donya Conn, NEDCC Education and Outreach Coordinator, at dconn@nedcc.org or (978) 470-1010 ext. 220.

- Carrabassett Valley Public Library:  
  **Tues., October 16:**  
  CARE AND HANDLING OF PAPER-BASED MATERIALS  
  Cost: $95  
  The Collections Care webinars are designed for those who wish to become better stewards of their collections. These webinars are beneficial to staff and volunteers at institutions, as well as private or family collectors. For complete course information and online registration, visit http://www nedcc org/education/training/calendar php.  
  Contact Donya Conn, NEDCC Education and Outreach Coordinator, at dconn@nedcc.org or (978) 470-1010 ext. 220.

**February – May: NORTHEAST DOCUMENT CONSERVATION CENTER COLLECTIONS CARE WEBINAR SERIES**  
**Time:** 2 p.m. EST  
**Cost:** $95 per webinar ($80 Early-bird registration)  
The Collections Care webinars are designed for those who wish to become better stewards of their collections. These webinars are beneficial to staff and volunteers at institutions, as well as private or family collectors. For complete course information and online registration, visit http://www nedcc org/education/training/calendar php.  
Contact Donya Conn, NEDCC Education and Outreach Coordinator, at dconn@nedcc.org or (978) 470-1010 ext. 220.

- Thompson Free Library, Dover-Foxcroft:  
  **Tues., April 2:**  
  CARRYING AND STORING ORGANIC MATERIALS WORKSHOP  
  Cost: $95  
  From church sermons to campaign speeches, there is high anxiety post-9/11 and the Great Recession that the American Dream is unraveling and succeeding generations will see lower standards of living. We invite Maine high school seniors to assess the current state of national affairs and describe their vision of the American Dream for the twenty-first century. The Library will award $500 for first place, $250 for second, $125 for third, and five $25 honorable mention prizes. Prizes will be announced on May 1.  
  FMI: contact the Library at 474-7133 or mcsl@mcslibrary.org.

**May 4:** Caring for and Storing Organic Materials Workshop  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the L.C. Bates Museum, Hinckley.  
Conservator Ron Harvey will provide information on how to care for organic and composite materials—from scientific collections to dolls with real hair, from leather-covered boxes to fur coats, and from tools with wood handles to bark baskets. Participants are encouraged to bring photographs of objects that have been a special concern to get advice about their care from conservator Ron Harvey. Participants will also learn about storage methods for unique objects.

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OPPORTUNITIES

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The workshop is free and funded by IMLS. Door prizes will be provided by University Products. Morning refreshments will be provided. Participants should bring a sack lunch. To register contact Deborah Staber at DStaber@gwh.org.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:
The Institute of Museum and Library Services will launch Comprehensive Online Database and Survey of U.S. Museums with MUSEUMS COUNT in 2012. Contact Erica Pastore at epastore@imls.gov with museum name, location and contact info to receive the update when the site is live and your museum can log on and be counted!

• IMLS is developing a web-based platform to identify the size, distribution and scope of the museum sector in the United States.
• Museums Count will provide the public, researchers and the museum field with quality data that is reliable, consistent and up to date.
• Museums Count is constructed on an expandable open source platform.
• Museums will be able to view and edit records online, in real-time.
• Museums will have access to tools and resources for using data in strategic decision making for planning and providing services to the public.


The National History Day Committee of the Society of American Archivists Reference, Access and Outreach Section announces a new online toolkit featuring a wealth of resources for teachers/students and archivists/librarians about National History Day (NHD) at http://nharchives.pbworks.com. National History Day sponsors annual competitions for middle and high school students using primary sources to create original papers, documentaries, websites, exhibitions, and performances. See the NHD site at: http://www.nhd.org/. This site puts educators, students, and archivists “on the same page.”

Tourism Cares mission includes the distribution of grants “to worthy nonprofit, tax exempt, organizations for conservation, preservation, restoration, or education at tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance around the world.” See http://www.tourismcares.org/grants/grant-application-process.

NEW ENGLAND

As you may have heard, a new community of practice has recently been created: “Cultural Access New England.” CANE is made up of professionals in museums, performing arts centers, parks and related institutions in our region, whose common interest is increasing access to culture by people with disabilities.

Get involved by visiting and “Liking” our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/CulturalAccessNewEngland. There you will find information about CANE’s mission, upcoming training sessions, resources and news about further developments.

As evidenced by the meetings, panels, symposia and conferences held over the past few years, it’s clearly time to organize. A Steering Committee has been formed, made up of representatives of the following organizations:

• The Museum of Fine Arts
• The Museum of Science
• VSA Massachusetts
• Wheelock Family Theatre
• The JFK Library
• Massachusetts State House ADA Department
• WGBH’s Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM)

CANE is here for all of us to use and contribute to. Help it grow by joining in and sharing your news. •

SEEN & HEARD

▶ Maine Conservator Recognized as New England Luminary by Design New England Magazine
Design New England Magazine has recognized stained glass conservator, Robin Neely, as one of the top five design luminaries in New England. Neely, known for her stained glass conservation work in New England museums, churches, and colleges, was featured in the article 5 Luminaries: New England in the Design Limelight in the magazine’s November/December 2011 issue. The article featured parts of Neely’s work—from technical to historical—that after decades still continues to capture her attention, “I feel as though I become very intimate with not only the window, but with the artist, the building, and the time period. They’re right behind me, looking over my shoulder.” The article also featured MIT professor Daniel Nocera, artist Janet Echelman, Eric DeLong of Tremont Nail Company, and Dan Farrenkopf of Lunaform. See the full article here: http://digital.designnewengland.com/designnewengland/20111112/#pg/73.

▶ Children find all the varied hands-on activities at the L.C. Bates Museum engaging learning experiences. Some captured moments of learning include:

ABOVE: Finding the letters of your name to use to set type to print is hard work, but fun for Leila. The L.C. Bates Museum print shop with its acorn press provides an opportunity for children to try their hand at being a printer’s apprentice.

ABOVE: Children using puppets to enhance their exploration of the L.C. Bates Museum Bird Gallery’s birds of prey.

MAINE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

Be a part of Maine Archives & Museums!
Maine Archives & Museums (MAM) is the only professional association representing museums, archives, historical societies, and other collecting institutions in the state of Maine. Our purpose is to develop and foster a network of citizens and institutions in Maine who identify, collect, interpret, and/or provide access to materials relating to history, living collections, and culture.

Our vital services to Maine’s cultural community include:
- Quarterly newsletter, in print and online
- Annual Conference
- Annual professional development workshops through the state
- Listings on our website
- Valuable member discounts on archival products at a variety of vendors
- Research and advocacy

Our members are Maine’s collecting institutions (museums, libraries, historical societies, archives) as well as students, volunteers, paid and unpaid professionals, other cultural organizations, affiliated businesses, and the interested public. The support and participation of our members enable MAM to provide ever-expanding services to Maine’s community of collecting institutions. By working together, we strengthen our collective resources and realize our shared mission.

Membership Categories and Dues
All members receive:
- Quarterly newsletter sent by mail
- Reduced rate for MAM conferences & workshops
- Member rate for ads in MAM’s newsletter
- Discounts at Gaylord, Brodart, and University Products (email MAM for information)
- Free event and job listings in MAM’s newsletter and on MAM’s website
- Regular e-mail updates from MAM

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS
Annual budget $15,000 or less ................ $25
Annual budget $15,001 – $50,000 .......... $40
Annual budget $50,001 – $100,000 ....... $50
Annual budget $100,001 – $500,000 ...... $75
Annual budget over $500,000 ........... $150

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS
Consultant (single-member firm) ........... $25
Corporate (multiple employees) .......... $75

Individual memberships:
- Member rate for all staff and volunteers to attend MAM conferences and workshops
- One free listing on “Find a Museum/Archive” feature on MAM’s website
- E-mail updates from MAM delivered directly to up to four institutional e-mail addresses

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

“Find a Museum/Archive” Information for Institutional Members
MAM’s website features the Find a Museum/Archive search feature for the general public. Please provide information that will be accessible and useful for all.

Name of Institution
Physical address for the general public
Phone number for the general public
E-mail address for the general public

What’s your specialty? Check up to 10 boxes below for your listing in the Find a Museum/Archive search feature on www.mainemuseums.org.
- Academic Culture
- American Indian
- Aquatic
- Archaeology
- Art
- Art History
- Civil War
- College & University
- Ethnic History
- Fire/Police
- Fine Art
- Forts
- Genealogy
- Historical House
- Historic Site
- Historical Society
- Industrial History
- Library
- Lighthouse

Describe your institution:

Business Members (Please select up to three categories for the “Service Provider” feature on our website.)
- General Museum Services
- Historical Research
- Public/Educational Programs
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Digital Services/Archiving
- Professional Development
- Printing

Appraisal Services / Assessment of Collections
- Conservation Services/Preservation Services
- Exhibit Design, Fabrication & Resources
- Fundraising/Development Consulting
- Conservation, Storage & Climate Control Supplier
- Human Resources/Pensions/Retirement
- Architectural Design/Construction Consultants
- Education
- Exhibits

Please make your check payable to Maine Archives & Museums and mail with this form to MAM, PO Box 46, Cumberland Center, ME 04021, or register on-line and pay with a credit card at www.mainemuseums.org.
Maine Maritime Museum has launched an exciting new marketing campaign to mark its 50th anniversary in 2012. Funded by a grant from the Maine Office of Tourism, Experience Maritime Maine! is a collaborative partnership of cultural heritage sites, museums, historical societies, libraries, chambers, non-profits and businesses, working to advance the idea of Maine’s Maritime Heritage as an exciting and alluring, conveniently packaged experience for cultural tourists to the state. The hub of the program will be a user-friendly website where potential visitors can gather information and plan a vacation around the theme of Maine’s extensive maritime heritage.

Experience Maritime Maine! will focus on the breadth of maritime and coastal lifestyle activities such as visits to historic sites and museums, family-fun festivals, celebrations of coastal food, outdoor recreation, art installations, genealogical research and scenic travel. The project will bring information together from these diverse activities and events and present them to the potential visitor in an easy-to-use format. Extensive radio ads throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut will drive visitors to the website where they can plan out their vacation in Maine. Print brochures in visitor centers throughout New England will also promote the program.

“This program will be highly beneficial to many members of MAM,” said Project Coordinator Erin Bishop. “Any non-profit organization which promotes, celebrates and preserves Maine’s rich maritime heritage is eligible to participate.” Participating organizations will be invited to list their maritime-related institution, events, activities or programs on the Experience Maritime Maine! website. Eight to ten of these events will be selected as “signature events” and as such will be featured in the widely-circulated print brochure. In addition, participating groups can use the Experience Maritime Maine! logo to promote their special maritime-related events as part of a larger, state-wide, tourism initiative backed and promoted by the Maine Office of Tourism. While the grant is specific to 2012, there is great hope that this promotion will continue and expand in years to come.

“It’s a win-win situation for everyone,” says Bishop. “Small historic sites or historical societies can benefit from wide-spread marketing at no cost to their organization. And potential visitors have at their fingertips a great resource for planning a unique maritime-themed vacation tailored to their particular interests.”

Through this state-wide initiative, the program seeks to attract the coveted cultural tourists who spend more money and stay longer as well as a broader segment of potential visitors including touring travelers and outdoor adventurers who make up the majority of Maine’s tourism audience. “By packaging the maritime experience into a one-stop shop for visitors, we hope to encourage them to expand the geographic area of their visit, to stay longer in Maine and thereby increase revenues across regions,” said Maine Maritime Museum’s Executive Director, Amy Lent.

The Experience Maritime Maine! website, along with the print brochure, is set to launch in early spring. For more information on the project, contact Project Coordinator, Erin I. Bishop, PhD at bishop@maritimeme.org. •