

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL



## PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE MAINE STATE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
2007.

**Maine Humanities Council  
Program Evaluation Report**

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## Introduction

*The Maine Humanities Council engages the people of Maine in the power and pleasure of ideas, encouraging a deeper understanding of ourselves and others, fostering wisdom in an age of information, and providing context in a time of change. The Council uses the humanities to provide cultural enrichment for all Mainers and as a tool for social change, bringing people together in conversation that crosses social, economic and cultural barriers.*

As first established, the Maine Humanities Council was primarily a grant making organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities with 98% of its budget coming from the National Endowment. Today, it remains affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, but its income has become much more diversified, and the NEH base grant now comprises less than 30% of its budget. Over the years, the Humanities Council has moved from being a grant-making organization into one that brings an exciting variety of literature, literacy, history and other humanities-based programs to the people of Maine, while still maintaining its grant-making functions. This combination of direct programming and grant making reaches a broad range of audiences with a variety of tested local and regional educational programs that strengthen communities and which have been recognized repeatedly on both a state and national basis, for their excellence.

In 2007 alone, the Council received honors including the 2007 Boorstin award for programming excellence from the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress; a national Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History; a “WOW” award, also from the American Association of State and Local History (a discretionary prize presented to the top innovative public history programs in the Country) and a Schwartz Prize<sup>1</sup> – the top award of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, remarkably, the third such time the Council has been so honored in the past decade.

MHC’s state appropriations have been used since 2001 in their entirety to support matching grants for educational programs in community based organizations around the state. No state funds have been used for administrative costs or overhead. These grants have supported projects in local and regional history, cultural tourism, literature and literacy, and similar topics.

MHC’s non-grant programs are operated under the Humanities Council’s Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book, and are designed to bring people together in discussion around carefully selected books under the leadership of a humanities scholar. These educational programs address a wide range of topics including local and world history, literature, and current affairs, and are held in public libraries, Head Start centers, corrections facilities, county jails, hospitals, and similar locations around the state. The scholar sets the tone for respectful interaction and a full consideration of the text; the participants bring their enthusiasm, their stories and often their own hard work to the group. While each group is necessarily small, independent evaluations have shown that the impact on an individual can be literally life changing. In turn, those effects have impact upon the lives of the people the participants interact with, thus creating a ripple effect.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of disclosure, this award is not related in any way to the Council’s former Executive Director Dorothy Schwartz, or her family.

Through these book discussion programs and grants, the Maine Humanities Council is partnering with community-based groups all over the state

The Council reaches a wide audience with a range of book-based, scholar-led programs:

- *Let's Talk About It* is most often held in public libraries and engages community members in book discussions. (An essential element of this program is a partnership with the Maine State Library, which has generously warehoused and shipped the books for this program. Without their shipping infrastructure, this program would not be possible.)
- *Born to Read* provides training, books and support to childcare providers, parents, home visitors, and volunteers from partner organizations. It provides curriculums based on quality children's literature, and focuses on the importance of reading aloud to babies and young children.
- *Winter Weekends* use the space of a weekend to explore one great work of literature in significant depth.
- *Community Literature Seminars* are scholar-led book discussions held monthly over the winter in Augusta, Bangor, Falmouth, Camden, and Portland.
- *New Books, New Readers* is a discussion group offered through local adult basic education programs and in prisons and jails that is designed to serve the adult new reader, adults with fragile reading skills, and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). It provides reinforcement for reading skills and develops participants' ability for critical thinking.
- *Literature and Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare* brings doctors, nurses, hospital trustees and support staff together monthly to explore literature around issues central to caring for people. Developed by the MHC, this program has been offered in most hospitals in Maine and has since expanded outside of Maine with the Maine Humanities Council now administering programs in 17 other states.
- *Youth at Risk* programs use the humanities and arts to enrich the lives of young men and women in Maine who are incarcerated, living in group homes, or on probation.

*Letters About Literature* diverges from the group discussion format to engage young readers in reflection about their reading and how it has changed their lives by asking them to write letters to authors about their reading experience. The Maine Humanities Council is the Maine sponsor for this national contest.

The Maine Humanities Council also offers the *Teachers for a New Century* program designed to renew and enrich the K-12 teacher's professional experience by focusing on content and scholarship around a particular humanities topic. Recent program focuses have included US history and biography, American Literature, and Asian studies.

The programs that the Maine Humanities Council offers are funded from a variety of sources, which include, but are not limited to, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the US Department of Education, the Maine Community Foundation, and numerous individual contributors and foundation grants. The Council also maintains an active development program to raise funds from individuals and corporations.

## 1. Enabling Legislation and other Relevant Mandates (State and Federal)

The Maine Humanities Council is a medium-sized private non-profit corporation with a volunteer board representing humanities scholars, businesspeople, cultural and library experts, as well as interested citizens drawn from throughout the state. Established under 13-B MRSA sec. 403; the Maine Humanities Council was also granted status as a charitable nonprofit under IRC 501(c)(3) in 1976.

The **National Foundation of the Arts & Humanities Act in 1965** established the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Maine Humanities Council, similar to the councils in the other 49 states, the District of Columbia and the territories, is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Title 27, MRSA, Chapter 18, §553** specifies the Maine Humanities Council as a member of the Cultural Affairs Council which was established to ensure a coordinated, integrated system of cultural resources, programs, and projects and to ensure the support of cultural heritage institutions and activities of the State.

The overall operating budget of the Maine Humanities Council is about \$1.8 million. Cultural Affairs Council funds represent a small **but significantly important** portion of the budget and the work that the Maine Humanities Council does.

Chapter 4  
 Organization  
 Non-Profit  
 Corporations

## 2. Grant Programs with the Cultural Affairs Council

The Maine Humanities Council is a member of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council, which brings together five state cultural agencies and two independent cultural agencies to support community revitalization in Maine through arts and culture. An outgrowth of the Cultural Affairs Council is The New Century Community Program. This program uses state appropriated funds to address a variety of cultural needs in every county in Maine. All of the funds appropriated for the New Century Community Program go out to local communities all over Maine in the form of matching-grants or direct program services; no funds have been used for administration, overhead or staffing.

New Century funds have supported a total of 759 community humanities grants from the inception of the program through October of 2007. These have ranged from \$500 to \$5,000 (in rare special cases up to \$10,000 for certain multi-institutional special projects); with a mean grant size of approximately \$1,000. Projects have taken place in cities and towns in every Maine county.

For an example of the Council's grants at work, consider the 2005 collaboration with the Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor. Designated in 1997 in recognition of its significance as a trade and transportation route from prehistory to the present, the Corridor extends from Popham to Jackman, then on to Québec City. While the two regions share considerable culture and heritage, the Corridor marks the first large-scale collaboration between Maine and Québec on a cultural tourism issue.

Thanks to the dedication of a number of volunteers, and with the help of a Council grant, the Maine portion of the Corridor is now evolving from a yellow line on a map into a three-dimensional cultural asset that can be experienced in part through a CD audio tour and guide. The CD provides context on the history and culture of the region, and is narrated by public radio's Nick Spitzer.

In addition, with the support of matching funds from the Betterment Fund and the Kennebec Chaudière Commission, the Council established a joint small grants program to develop cultural resources along the route. In Bingham, for example, the program supported the development of an archive and website to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Wyman Dam, a pivotal regional landmark that has changed both the river and its economics. Marilyn Gondek of the Old Canada Road Historical Society remarked, "This grant is making a significant difference in our ability to reach a broader audience within Maine and beyond. There is strong local interest, evidenced by the fact that turnout for our project's first event was double that of past events. And development of the Wyman Dam Construction Archive on our Web site has attracted comments and donations of material from as far away as California."

All of these projects (and all of the Council's other grants) share one hallmark: an emphasis on community input, whether that be from Jackman, Portland, or Lubec.

Evaluation: While each grant project includes some evaluation mechanisms, The Mt. Auburn Associates Report documented the work of the Humanities Council as a grant maker, reviewing a total of 175 program grants funded by the Maine Humanities Council in the first round of funding, for a total of \$189,000. The grants ranged from \$125 to \$8,000, reaching many small

humanities projects that were languishing for lack of funds and lack of expertise. The expertise of the Maine Humanities Council has been an important factor in the grant-making process. From the first proposal through the finished product, the Council works with the applicant providing instruction and support that often enables the applicant to continue to find funds for their projects in the future. Some of the projects funded in that round were:

- *Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Oral History Project*  
Fort Kent Historical Society, Fort Kent – Documenting the history of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad in Fort Kent and the lives of the people who worked there prior to the Fort Kent station's closure in 1979.
- *African Women's Literacy Project Planning Grant*  
Portland Adult Education, Portland - A project that engaged African refugee women and their children in creating bilingual storybooks based on their cultural heritage.
- *Community Poetry Events – Series 2000*  
Belfast Institute of Lifelong Learning, Belfast – Held readings of classic and contemporary poetry in various Belfast community settings.
- *130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Founding of Swedish Colony*  
Maine's Swedish Colony, New Sweden
- *I Remember ...Mt. Desert Island Families in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
A Project to Collect Oral History and Artifacts from Island Families

Additionally, a collaborative effort of the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Arts Commission called *Arts and Heritage Grants* funded 67 projects in the first round. Grants funded under this program must have both arts and humanities components to them. This program has continued to the present day, with a brief budget –related hiatus in 2005-6. The Mt. Auburn Associates\* report (p.22) documents 67 projects in the first round of funding with \$121,000 given out in counties all around Maine. Some of the projects funded in 1999-2000 were:

- *The Ruggles House*  
The Ruggles House Society, Cherryfield – Funds supported the development of an art and history educational program based on the Ruggles House for schools in the towns surrounding Cumbia Falls.
- *Center Theater Film Festival*  
Center Theater, Dover-Foxcroft – Presented a weekend classic film festival in the historic center theater building, including a focus on the building's history.
- *Chantons*  
LA Arts, Lewiston – Produces a CD celebrating the Franco-American heritage with traditional French songs performed in both French and English for distribution to schools and libraries.
- *Lewis Hine and the Maine Child Labor Photographs*  
Quoddy Maritime Museum, Eastport and Lewiston – Produced a traveling exhibit of photographs by Lewis Hine, particularly his images of children in the textile and canning industries of the early 1900s.
- *Maine Garden & Landscape Trail*



Pine Tree State Arboretum, Augusta – Supported the Maine Garden and Landscape Trail project, a map and guide highlighting Maine’s designed, historic, and vernacular landscapes.

Mt. Auburn Associates reported that eighty-two percent of the respondents to surveys of the Arts and Heritage Grant recipients said that the grant “increased the profile of their organization in the community, primarily through allowing them to reach new audiences and to get new exposure from the media”; seventy-nine percent said the “grant had helped them to better serve their patrons through documenting community history that was previously under appreciated by increasing access to arts and humanities content through increased programming” and events were well attended with “visitors from outside the region” increasing the attendance. These comments indicate that small infusions of money can help to reconnect communities to a sense of place, bringing new vitality to their efforts and attracting visitors as a result.

While there have not been funds available to continue the work of Mount Auburn Associates to the present day, the Council’s grant program has continued to observe the same characteristics that Mount Auburn cited as being central to its effectiveness. A very brief sample of the grants funded over the past two years follows:

- a substantial traveling exhibit presenting the cultural history of the four Native American tribes comprising the Wabanaki (Penobscot, Maliseet, Passamoquoddy, & Micmac)
- printing costs for a year’s worth of the MAM newsletter, a statewide quarterly publication and central means of distributing information from Maine Archives & Museums
- broadcast-quality media resources about Maine history in schools and libraries
- four evenings of poetry reading and discussion held in conjunction with National Poetry Month
- Civil War reenactments, historic craft demonstrations, wagon ride tours of the historic district, and activities for all ages
- bring film critics and a filmmaker from Kazakhstan for a continuing dialogue with residents of Mid-Coast Maine regarding the complex nature of Central Asia and the nearby Middle East
- conference devoted to exploring how Maine has figured in the nation’s environmental consciousness and the way in which practicing writers think of the state as a symbol, myth, image, and setting for their work
- major exhibit of Shaker art and insights into Shaker life over the centuries

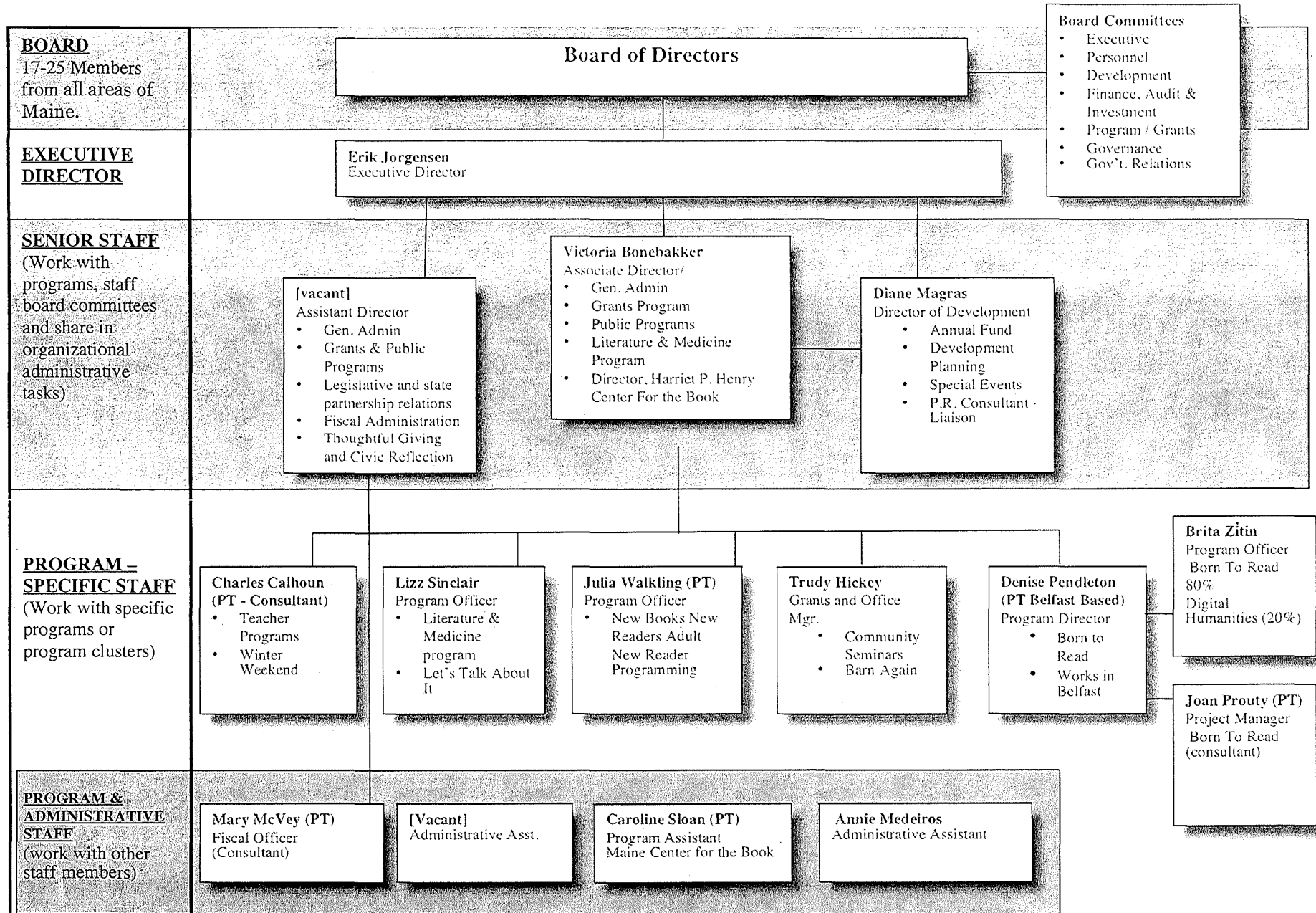
For a more complete look at the grantmaking work done by the Maine Humanities Council through the New Century Community Program see the Cultural Affairs Council report, which covers a broader range of Maine Humanities Council grants to the present.

\*Further information of the first round of New Century Community Programming funding can be found in the report completed by outside consultant, Mt. Auburn Associates, Inc. Siegel, B., et al. *The New Century Community Program: An Evaluation and Case Study of State Arts and Cultural Policy*\*. (2002: Mt. Auburn Associates, Inc., MA.)

### 3. **Organizational Structure**

Organizational Structure follows on the next page. Staff positions with titles are listed. Job classification is not applicable as the Maine Humanities Council is a private corporation.

# MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL STAFF ORGANIZATION, OCT '07



#### **4. Compliance with Federal and State Safety and Health Laws, Including the ADA and OSHA**

The Maine Humanities Council is a private non-profit corporation that receives tax money appropriated by the Maine State Legislature as well as Federal grant monies. Therefore, the Maine Humanities Council, and grant recipients, are contractually committed to abide by state and federal regulations and are mindful of those regulations in the performance of all areas of its endeavors. A summary of several important laws and/or policies follows:

##### **People with Disabilities**

Disability is defined as anyone who has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that no otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States, as defined in Section 7(6), shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 extends protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination in employment based in disabilities, requiring places of public accommodation be accessible to people with disabilities, mandating gradual replacement of buses and railroad cars with equipment that can accommodate people with disabilities, and making telephone services available to people with hearing and speech impairments, nationwide.

##### **Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970**

Section 5 says that each employer will furnish each employee a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to the employees; and each employer will comply with the occupational safety and health standards of this act. This section covers environmental hazards, ergonomics, as well as workplace violence.

##### **Maine VDT Law**

Title 26, Chapter 5, Subchapter 2-A establishes that employers shall educate and train all operators of video display terminals annually.

##### **Drug Free Workplace**

The Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 requires that employees of the grantee not engage in the unlawful manufacture, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances in the grantee's workplace or work site.

## 5. 10-Year Financial Summary

See Cultural Affairs Council Report for summary of New Century Community Program and its distribution.

**7. Areas Where Efforts Have Been Coordinated with Other Agencies or Whether They Should Be**

The Cultural Affairs Council provides a primary and highly successful form of coordination of services for the Maine Humanities Council. The Cultural Affairs Council provides one voice for the seven Cultural Agencies (Maine State Library, Maine Arts Commission, Maine State Museum, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine Historical Society, Maine Archives, and the Maine Humanities Council) to interact with the Governor and the Legislature regarding the accomplishments and needs of the Cultural Affairs Agencies. The Council provides a structure for agency interaction on a regular basis, and greatly reduces inefficiency and duplicated services.

In the past year alone, the Council has enjoyed substantive programmatic collaborations with the Maine State Library, Maine Arts Commission, and the Maine Historical Society within the CAC; elsewhere in State Government it has had a programming relationship with the Office of Childcare and Headstart, the Maine Extension Service, and various elements within the University of Maine system.

Beyond this interaction with the State, all the work of the Maine Humanities Council involved coordination with other programs and organizations throughout the entire state of Maine. Many of the groups that receive programming services or grants are also collaborating with other community organizations in order to receive those services, so the Maine Humanities Council impacts organizations well beyond their direct programming partners.

## 8. Constituencies Served by the Agency, Changes or Projected Changes

*“An Advanced Civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future.*

*Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. It must therefore foster and support a form of education, and access to the arts and humanities, designed to make people of all backgrounds and wherever located masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.”*

-From Sec. 951 of the National Foundation of the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965

These words, from the enabling legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities, represent the civic ideals that guide the Council in its work.

The Maine Humanities Council seeks to engage all the people of Maine in a life-long pursuit of the humanities by engaging people of all ages in the *power and pleasure of ideas*. The Maine Humanities Council develops programs designed both to reach broad audiences (such as the *Let's Talk About It* series in libraries and its various public programs) and for specific audiences (examples include the *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care* program, now active in 19 states; and *New Books New Readers*, its program for adults just learning to read). The work of the Council extends to education by bringing professional development opportunities to teachers, as well as through training volunteers and early childhood providers to read early and often with infants and toddlers.

Through the grant programs, the Maine Humanities Council reaches constituents in small towns and in cities all around Maine. With the cooperative grant process developed with the Maine Arts Commission, the humanities and arts are brought together, often with positive direct impact upon the economic and cultural resources of an area.

While many of its programs are offered directly to the public (such as its 2006 free public humanities festival in Lewiston) The Maine Humanities Council depends on networks of organizations to deliver its services around the state. It will continue to reach out to Mainers in public libraries, correctional systems, childcare centers, health care facilities and beyond so that all Mainers will know the power and pleasure of ideas and will find ways to cross barriers to gain new understanding and growth.

**12. Agency Policies for Managing Personal Information, Implementation of Information Technologies and Evaluation of Agency Adherence to the Fair Information Practice Principles**

- All grant award information is considered to be public information. Funded proposals are a matter of public record; rejected proposals are not made available to the public.
- All personnel information is confidential and is treated as such – personnel records are kept in locked files.
- The Council’s privacy policy for Internet interactions is available to users through a link at the bottom of every web page.
- The Council operates under detailed financial and control policies that cover financial record keeping, financial controls, budgeting, financial management, document retention, access policies, and grantmaking procedures. The Council undergoes an annual fiscal audit by an independent CPA firm, and an annual compliance audit under OMB circular A-133. The Council also operates under a Whistle Blower policy.
- The Council has detailed personnel policies which were reviewed and updated in 2007 covering all matters of personnel management, including applicable laws concerning workplace safety, benefits, conflict of interest, and similar issues.



**13. Lists of Reports and Similar Paperwork Required to be Filed with the Agency by the Public**

- Applications are required for all grants. The complexity of the application increased with the amount of funding requested.
- Assurance Form
- Surveys and reports for completed projects

**Maine Humanities Council Board of Directors  
October 2007**

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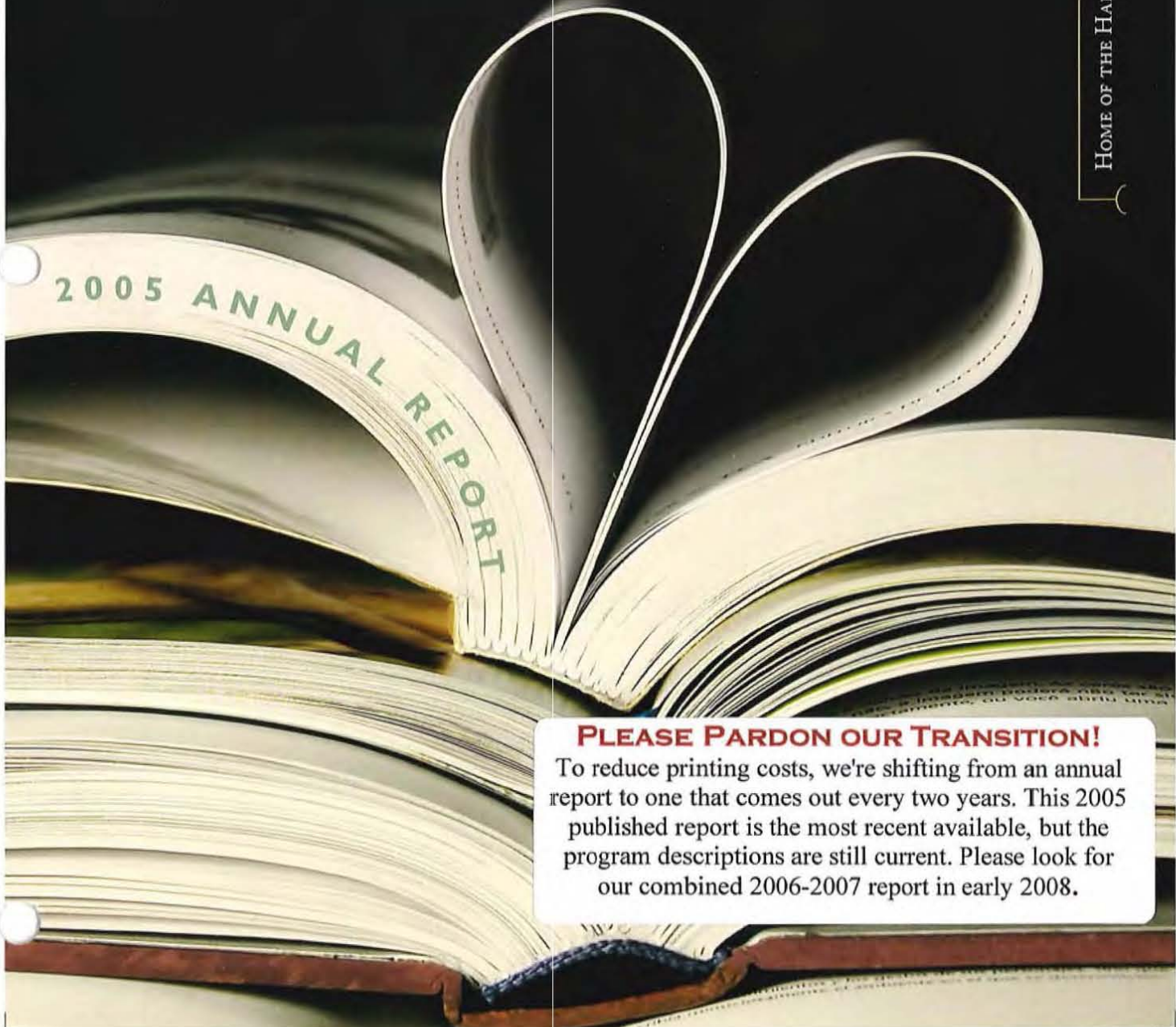
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HOME OF THE HARRIET P. HENRY CENTER FOR THE BOOK



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

**PLEASE PARDON OUR TRANSITION!**  
To reduce printing costs, we're shifting from an annual report to one that comes out every two years. This 2005 published report is the most recent available, but the program descriptions are still current. Please look for our combined 2006-2007 report in early 2008.

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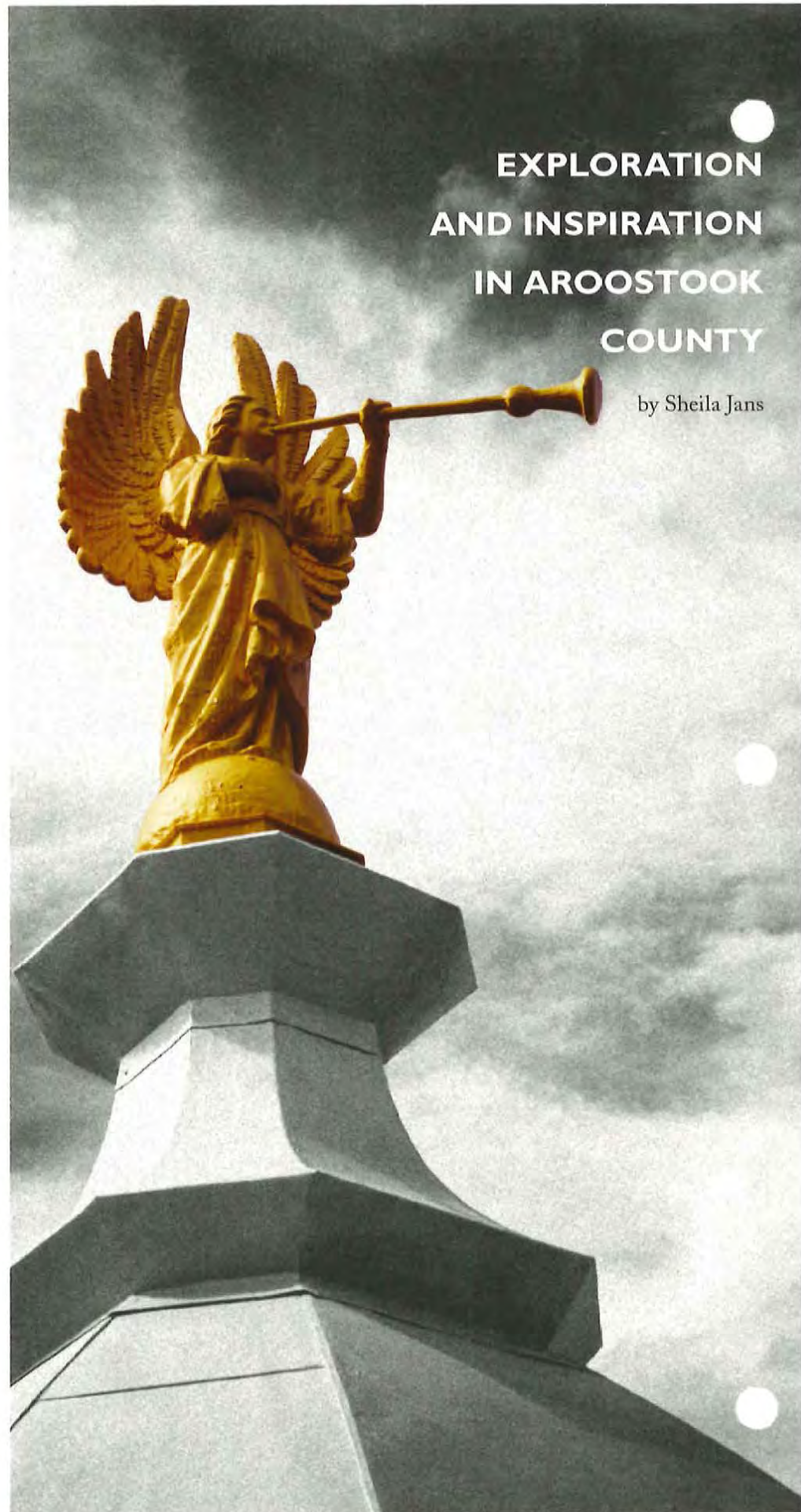
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# EXPLORATION AND INSPIRATION IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY

by Sheila Jans



It must be at least four years since I attended the Midsummer celebration in New Sweden, a small community nestled in the rolling hills of northern Maine. In my mind's eye, I still see children dancing with delicate flowers woven into their hair, dressed in traditional costumes. I still taste the delicious food laid out for hundreds to enjoy, and hear the laughter and chatter of friends and family. These images, tastes, aromas, and sights resonate. So, if anyone were to ask me to describe that sunny afternoon in June, I'd say, "Well, it was a celebration of the humanities." It was a moment in time when people shared, learned, and grew with one another through culture, community, place, language, and identity.

The Saint John Valley, in the farthest reaches of northern Maine, directly on the border with New Brunswick and Québec, is where I call home. My work is about cultural development, notably the creation of an international cultural route for the region. It's fulfilling to be immersed daily in a wide range of arts and cultural expressions. I've discovered that in communities all over rural, northern Maine, people express the humanities in many ways — exhibits at one of the thirteen historical societies in the Valley, a dance performance at the Caribou Performing Arts Center, an exhibition of photographs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, an open mic night at Artistree Gallery in Fort Kent, or painted street banners in Houlton. It's a collection of Allagash

stories by Faye O'Leary Hafford, a piece of music by composer Scott Brickman, or the flow of ideas that come when people get together for an opening at Café de la Place in Madawaska.

How else do we experience the humanities? Ah, it comes large, bold, fierce, and insistent. It comes in the courageous 20-year restoration of a decommissioned Catholic church in the tiny community of Lille. Emerging like an enormous ship in a land of forest and field, this church, now called the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel, is testimony to how believing in something bigger than ourselves, literally and figuratively, can have a dramatic and enduring impact on us all.

Our historical societies, historians and genealogists, and cultural enthusiasts all over northern Maine safeguard our history and cultural memory and in so doing, strengthen our communities. I believe this is an act of civic responsibility at its highest, just as is ensuring that languages and literary traditions stay alive, along with family and community traditions like ballad singing, moon-sign gardening, blacksmithing, or snowshoe-making.

No matter where we live in Maine, we respond to what is true and authentic, and to what grows from our histories. The humanities offer us the opportunity to take pause, reflect, absorb and discover.

There are moments like this, one after another, everywhere in northern Maine. What would happen if we were to build upon, nurture, and multiply them? I don't think I'm stretching it too far by saying simply, our communities would become better places to live.

They would celebrate, creativity, innovation, and diversity, not stifle them. We would see possibility in everything.



*Sheila Jans is a board member of the Maine Humanities Council, director of the St. John Valley International Cultural Route, and a cultural development consultant. She also is a member of the Governor's Creative Economy Council for the state of Maine.*



Opposite: Trumpeting angel on the tower at the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel in Lille, Maine.  
Above: Children dancing to the fiddle music of Lionel Doucette at the Acadian Village in Van Buren, Maine.

PHOTOS: DON CYR

# A LOVE OF READING

PROGRAMS THAT BRING BOOKS AND IDEAS TO LIFE FOR AUDIENCES NEW TO READING

## BORN TO READ

*"I have a very shy 3-year-old. When our volunteer read, this little girl stayed at a distance. Over a matter of months she would inch her way closer to the volunteer. Two weeks ago she sat right beside her. The volunteer continued to read to her after all the other children had gone to do other things. This little girl now sits on the couch to be read to."*

— Preschool Teacher in Saco

*Born to Read* serves the Maine Humanities Council's youngest audiences—children up to age five—through the people who take care of them. With trainings for early childhood professionals and volunteer readers, *Born to Read* helps caregivers use books to provide children with the stimulating experiences needed to take advantage of the important birth-through-three period in every child's life (during which, brain research has proven, a child learns more than half of what he or she will learn throughout a lifetime).

In 2005: *Born to Read* held programs for over 400 people in 50 towns across Maine (serving more than 5,000 children), and gave away 5,328 beautiful books.



## GRASSROOTS GIVING

Maine Humanities Council Annual Fund members make a difference for people across Maine, sharing the gift of ideas and books in communities with scarce resources. They inspire the exchange of perspectives that lead MHC constituents to a better understanding of themselves, one another, and the world. MHC members enrich the state through funding the programs described in this report. We are grateful for their generosity. If you would like to become an MHC member, please fill out the enclosed envelope, or contact Diane Magras, Director of Development, at 207-773-5051, or [diane@mainehumanities.org](mailto:diane@mainehumanities.org). To all of our members: Thank you. You really do make a difference.

This list represents gifts to the MHC received in the 2005 fiscal year (November 1, 2004, through October 31, 2005).

### Key:

- \* Donors who supported Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®
- \*\* Donors who supported Let's Talk About It
- † Donors who supported New Books, New Readers

### MHC Circle

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 Merton G. Henry  
 Sheila & Philip Jr.<sup>†\*\*</sup>  
 Theodora J. K



## FOCUS: Skowhegan

Each week, children in child care facilities across Maine receive visits from grandparent figures whose presence makes a huge difference in their lives. Take Tricia Wurpel and the children at Peek-A-Boo Child Care, for example.

Tricia leaves her home wearing one sandal and one sneaker. As soon as she arrives at Peek-A-Boo Child Care in Skowhegan, the children spot this discrepancy and begin to giggle. Soon they calm down, and Tricia knows they are now ready to listen to the picture books she has brought to read. (It is no coincidence that this week the books are all about shoes.)

Wearing something silly is just one trick in Tricia's repertoire of strategies for bringing books to life at Peek-A-Boo, where she has been a *Born to Read* volunteer for more than two years. After reading *Counting Crocodiles*, a folktale by Judy Sierra, she helped the children make puppets out of paper bags and reenact the adventures of the tale's trickster hero. The puppets—and the presence of a special reader—made the story so exciting to the children that they recalled it almost word-for-word a week later.

Since 1997, *Born to Read* has worked with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to create a network of older adults who read aloud weekly in child care programs and preschools. Books and early literacy trainings enable volunteers to have a considerable impact on the children they visit.

Tricia Wurpel believes that “the *Born to Read* program is vital to awakening the joy of reading in our young people. After spending time with the children, I feel like I have more energy and a happier heart.” That belief in the program explains why she drove all the way to Portland in early May to attend a *Born to Read* conference, where she was inspired by author/illustrator Ashley Bryan “not to be timid in expressing myself through my reading. I now try to bring excitement to the story and breathe life into the characters of the book.”



Opposite: A typical reaction to the *Born to Read* volunteer reader, Linden Thigpen, as she reads to a rapt crowd at Rubber Ducky Daycare in South Portland.

PHOTOS: BRITA ZITIN

Above: Children at Peek-A-Boo in Skowhegan, a child care program served by volunteer reader, Patricia Wurpel.

PHOTO: PATRICIA WURPEL

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Major support from the  
Nellie Mae Education Foundation since 1999

## NEW BOOKS, NEW READERS

*"What does community mean to you? Who  
or what creates your own community?"*  
— a common question from  
a *New Books, New Readers* facilitator

*New Books, New Readers* uses the standard technique of Maine Humanities Council literature-based programs: an MHC scholar facilitates the discussion of a text. Participants in this program are beginning readers, or just learning to read English. Their texts are illustrated children's books with powerful stories that offer paths for serious discussion and thought.

In 2005: *New Books, New Readers* reached more than 800 people in 26 locations across Maine, giving away almost 10,000 books.



George & Harriet Robinson  
Thomas Schulten  
J. Mark Schuster & Charlotte Harrison  
Ann B. & Gordon H.S. Scott  
Elizabeth Scully  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Senior  
Elmina B. Sewall  
Holmes & Didi Stockly  
Carl Toney & Anne Summer  
Judy & Bob Tredwell  
Joseph S. & Diane R. Wood\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Zilkha

Reading Partner  
Anonymous (4)  
William W. Alcorn  
Nancy & Jonathan Aldrich  
John & Petey Ambrose  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlton H. Ames  
Buck, Ricki, & Hannah Avant  
Tina & Bill Baker  
Kit Lunney & Rick Barton  
Charles Bassett  
Edmund and Ruth Benedikt  
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The Reverend Dr. Judith H. Blanchard \*  
Martha & Sidney Block\*  
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C. Stewart & Jean S. Doty  
Mary F. Dunn & Ronald Shapiro\*  
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Daniel Frederick  
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## FOCUS: Portland

Community, a common theme of a *New Books, New Readers* series, is a particularly apt subject for Portland Adult Education's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. According to Portland Adult Education teacher Joy Ahrens, in recent years the program has seen an increasing number of students who are not only learning English but learning to read and write for the first time as well. Most of these students are political refugees from rural backgrounds where formal education simply did not exist or was interrupted by forces beyond their control, such as war. Many find themselves having to adapt not only to a new language but a culture that, unlike their own, is heavily based on written literacy. Students who come from a completely oral tradition face even greater challenges.

Students who participate in *New Books, New Readers* delight in the program's books. Even the simplest texts in a series can present challenges, but students can often understand the story through the illustrations, and this can then help them with the text.

The depiction of family life in Cynthia Rylant's *When I Was Young in the Mountains*, with oil lamps on the walls and children fetching water from the well, has been familiar for many *New Books, New Readers* participants who are refugees. The experience of many family members crowding into a home in Rylant's *The Relatives Came* also evokes smiles and an understanding of another connection between their past lives and the lives of people in Maine. With books depicting worlds directly outside of their experiences, students still relate to the human commonality of issues like aging and prejudice through books like *Now One Foot, Now the Other*, *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, and *The Other Side*.

ESOL teachers at Portland Adult Education started collaborating with the Maine Humanities Council in 2000. Over the last two years, participation in *New Books, New Readers* has grown from 30 students to over 150 students. Though some teachers initially expressed trepidation about using "children's books" as classroom materials, response from students has been enthusiastic.



Opposite: Participants of *New Books, New Readers* at Portland Adult Education's ESOL program.  
Above: Portland Adult Ed teacher Joy Ahrens.

PHOTOS: DIANE HUDSON

Dino W. Gian  
Laurie A. Gibson & Stephen P. Beale  
Roger & Betty Gilmore  
Frank & Ruth Glazer  
Susan & Jerry Goldberg  
Greenhut Galleries  
Polly & Roy Greason  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Haug  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Hawke  
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David Pease\*  
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Marcy & Leonard Plavin  
Shirley & Leroy Raffel  
Lenore & Norman Rapkin  
Rick Rector

# MAINE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES PROGRAMS

*"Reading and talking about literature  
is a necessary and significant  
and pleasurable experience for anyone,  
not just the young and/or privileged."*  
– Robert Farnsworth,  
*Stories for Life* scholar

The Maine Humanities Council's programs in correctional facilities throughout the state serve people who often need the most help in learning about the power and pleasure of ideas. Reading and discussion programs enable troubled men, women, and young people to use literature as a source of new meaning and understanding in their lives.

In 2005: Correctional facility programs reached 133 people in ten sites across Maine, and gave away over 1,000 books.



- David Richards
  - Beverly & Roger Richmond\*
  - Peter & Trudi Riesenber
  - Patricia Sanborn
  - Joseph A. & Eva H. Saunders
  - John Ryan & Jenny Scheu
  - Ann Schonberger
  - Mr. & Mrs. William A. Searle, Jr.
  - John Sebastian
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  - Anne & Jack Thompson
  - Philip Thompson
  - James S. Tucker, Jr.
  - Constantine Valaoritis and Clare Johnson
  - Julia & Robert Walking
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  - Margaret D. Webster
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  - Alice N. Wellman
  - M. Cyrene Wells, PhD
  - Brownell & Betty Wheeler
  - David C. Wiggan\*
  - The Wigobels
  - Nathaniel Wing
  - Melinda and Barry Zitin
- 
- Reading Buddy
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous\*
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  - Mark B. Lapping
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  - Lynne Miller & Anne Simon



## FOCUS: Windham

Humanities programs at correctional facilities can be tricky to pull off. They require the participation and support of facility personnel, as well as a scholar who feels comfortable working in a prison. The Maine Correctional Center in Windham is fortunate to have staff who are committed to helping inmates learn ways of thinking and behaving in the outside world that will make their return to prison less likely. The MCC is also fortunate to have Robert Arnsworth as its *Stories for Life* scholar.

Rob is a professor in the English department at Bates College. He is a poet, a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry, and he has received awards for excellence in teaching. He is also a very kind and sensitive person who deeply respects the people he works with. In reports to the *Stories for Life* program director, he writes how pleasurable he finds the conversation.

Rob's students in this setting are prisoners who are on their way out of the system. Housed in separate cottages, they are being primed for life on the outside, with the intent of the MCC staff that they not come back. *Stories for Life* brings these prisoners together to explore fictional situations similar to ones they have experienced. Talking about their reactions to the stories, characters and narrative styles, and listening to the reactions of others, helps prisoners visualize their own situations more clearly.

"*Stories for Life* gave participants the chance to see so much," Rob told the Council, "from the way we tell the stories of our lives to ourselves, and to others, and why; the ways we conceive of destiny and disaster, the ways we are surprised into seeing into ourselves and others. And it gave them what I see as the precious chance to realize themselves as capable, insightful, engaged readers of serious fiction."

That is the beauty of the reading and discussion model so important to Council programs: that all participants from all backgrounds are treated as serious readers. It is scholars like Rob who, with the help of such authors as Raymond Carver, Richard Ford, Tobias Wolff, Bobbie Ann Mason, Andre Dubus, and Flannery O'Connor, truly make a difference.



Opposite and above: The Maine Correctional Center in Windham, a venue for *Stories for Life*.

PHOTOS: ERIK JORGENSEN

Dolores O'Hig  
Susan C. Ruch  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry W. Saunders  
Pamela Smith  
Penny Stevens  
John F. Sutherland

James Richter  
Reading Friend  
Anonymous (5)  
In Honor of Dr. Geoffrey M. Gratwick  
Susan Abt

Ann Marie Almeida  
Anonymous  
Louis Bachrach, MD\*  
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Peter & Lynn Ballou  
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Heleen K. Brock  
Lee & Jamie Broder  
A. Patricia Burnes  
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Jacqueline & Irvin Cohen  
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Dick & Norma Coughlin  
Linda & Allan Currie

Agnes B. Dailey  
Judy Danielson  
M. Jordan Denning  
Linda Docherty  
Harland Eastman  
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John S. Emerson  
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Susan Emmet  
Kay Evans

Dianne Fallon  
Gordon H. Falt, Jr.  
Agnes E. Flaherty  
Sue & Don Furth  
George & Elizabeth Glover  
Daniel & Diana Godfrey

## PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Major support from the  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
(Public Programming)

### LITERATURE & MEDICINE: HUMANITIES AT THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE®

*"The difficulty and importance of maintaining a caring and human perspective within healthcare in our era of extreme pressure for efficiency and cost cutting was a great [topic for discussion]. Participation in these discussions was useful to me in keeping my focus on the core reason for our healthcare organization—to serve our patients with humanity."*  
— *Literature & Medicine* participant

*Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care* is unique among programs serving health care professionals. In hospitals or other health care facility settings, it brings together people with very diverse roles within the world of medicine, in a setting where everyone is on equal footing, to discuss a reading that has resonance for their work. What began in 1997 as an experiment by the Maine Humanities Council has proved to be an amazing success. *Literature & Medicine* has helped improve communication between colleagues, as well as between professionals and patients. It has also markedly increased job satisfaction among participants. Reading about other kinds of people in other kinds of places, especially when paired with spirited discussion, broadens perspectives, increases empathy and understanding of difference, and fosters greater appreciation of the crucial importance of the human dimension of patient care.



In 2005: *Literature & Medicine* reached 250 people at 15 health care facilities across Maine, affecting thousands of patients; it also reached 37 facilities in 11 partnering states: CT, IL, MD, MA, MT, NH, NJ, RI, SC, UT, and VT!

- Matthew & Lynn Goldfarb
- Connie Goldman
- Pam Goucher
- Ann A. Guild
- Catharine W. Guiles
- Gladys & Myron Hager
- Judy Hakola\*
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur A. Hamblen
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- Margery Y. Irvine
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- Barbara & Clark Johnson
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- Kenneth Read
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- Ursula Reidel-Schrewe
- Barbara A. Rohrbaugh
- Stephen & Wilma Rose
- Susan & Cliff F



## FOCUS: Ellsworth

Christine diPretoro works at the Gouldsboro Rehabilitation Clinic of the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital as a speech and language pathologist. She is also that hospital's contact for *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care*. The hospital, located in Ellsworth, was one of the earliest to participate in *Literature & Medicine*, drawing physicians, nurses, technicians, therapists, administrative staff, and even trustees to its monthly discussion group. This group has helped to bring together people at the 500-employee hospital who, due to their job responsibilities, clinic site, or office work environments, may never have otherwise met one another. This relationship building is one of the hallmarks of the program, which, in Ellsworth, "has given us a chance to simply get to know each other and build relationships we might not have had otherwise," Christine said. "It makes the process of coordinating patient care with these other providers a lot more efficient and comfortable."

Like other Council programs, *Literature & Medicine* seeks to use fiction and nonfiction to help its participants grow professionally, in this instance improving communication between colleagues and between providers and their patients. It does this through promoting discussion of serious and diverse issues that link to the kinds of things health care professionals deal with on a daily basis.

"Whether we read something classic, like *Frankenstein*, or 'The Book of Job,' or something about the genetics of Huntington's disease, or cancer, the broader issues the texts bring up are remarkably similar: Medical ethics, the impact of public health policy, cultural differences and the universal aspects of illness and suffering, grief, relationships, hope, coping and recovery. On the surface, reading about the plague in medieval Europe might seem like a dry exercise in history, until one starts listening to news reports about SARS and bird flu."

No one program can radically alter the health care environment, but *Literature & Medicine* has done much to foster positive change. Among its participants, it increases not only job satisfaction but communication and a further understanding of how members of the health care community can most effectively work together.

"The great lesson of *Literature and Medicine*," Christine said, "is learning to recognize and respect other people's perspectives. Sometimes the perspective we can't wrap our heads around belongs to a character in the text, and sometimes it's one of our peers. We all have moments in a group when we can't figure out how twenty-five people—people we might assume are like-minded—interpret one book so differently. It's the discussion process that helps us examine our own experiences and beliefs to realize how those filters shape how we approach our work."



Opposite: Dr. Leslie Fernow, a *Literature & Medicine* participant at Mayo Regional Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYO REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Above: Christine diPretoro with most of the books she has read with her group at Maine Coast Hospital, Ellsworth.

PHOTO: MICHELLE DIPRETORO

Mr. & Mrs. Ali Meyer Jr.  
 Professors Howard Segal & Deborah Rogers  
 Charlotte J. Sharp  
 David Weiss & Karan Sheldon  
 Dennis & Jane Shubert  
 Kenneth Shure & Liv Rockefeller  
 Edward & Priscilla Simmons  
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 Laura Feych Sprague  
 Marion K. Stocking  
 Eunice H. Stover  
 Linda Tattelbaum  
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 Faith A. Vautour  
 Lois & Richard Wagner\*  
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 Kay White  
 Judy & Norm Wilson  
 Kermit Lipez & Nancy Ziegler

Major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, the Freeman Foundation's National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, and UnumProvident

## TEACHERS FOR A NEW CENTURY

*"I need a lot more education before I feel educated enough to do justice to Native American Studies. I did learn a lot and left with many questions that I will seek answers to."*  
— a participant in a 2005 daylong seminar on the history of Maine's Native Americans

*Teachers for a New Century* offers content-based professional development programs for Maine teachers K-12 in a variety of humanities subjects. Topics in 2005 have included Watergate, Walt Whitman's Civil War, Native Americans in Maine, and East Asian Studies. In addition to one-day programs throughout the school year, in 2005 the Council administered a residential Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education (the only one awarded in Maine) and pioneered a History Camp for high school students nominated by teachers from our programs.

In 2005, *Teachers for a New Century* held programs for 170 teachers from 77 schools, affecting more than 12,000 students this year alone.



- Other Gifts
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  - Zareen Taj Mi



## FOCUS: Belfast

Bill Murphy is the kind of teacher who, even before the school year begins, meets with his new 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the gazebo in the Belfast City Park. He asks them to look out over the harbor and try to imagine Verrazano sailing into Penobscot Bay looking for some fabulous city of gold. "It's farther north, the Native Americans keep telling him," Murphy says about the mythical Norembega.

This imaginative leap into the 16<sup>th</sup> century is typical of the innovative, cross-disciplinary teaching practiced by Murphy, an alumnus of five content-rich professional development programs sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council over the past decade. He was most recently enrolled in "Longfellow and the Forging of American Identity," a three-year institute for 30 Maine and Massachusetts teachers funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

An English teacher since 1982, Murphy is in his 12<sup>th</sup> year at Belfast Area High School, where he teaches English for grades 9 to 12 and AP courses called "The American Experience"—a chronological survey linking American history and literature—and "Global Studies"—a subject he said he was able to enrich after the Council's East Asia seminar a few years ago.

"Longfellow has become a touchstone for my teaching of the 19<sup>th</sup> century," he said. "His is an eloquent antislavery voice. Students love his poems on slavery from the 1840s, especially the one about the African king dying in an American rice field and dreaming of his lost home.

"And Longfellow is one of us. Kids respond with local pride when he is taught as part of Maine's heritage."

What does the institute mean for Murphy personally? "I like being a student again. When you're a teacher, all the responsibility is on you. In the Council's programs you can sit back and listen and talk with colleagues and read. It's a kind of intellectual stimulation that's difficult to find in the workplace.

"The more you know, the better you teach. I see teaching as part of a great humanist tradition. Every generation takes on its shoulder the task of passing its knowledge to a future generation."



Above: MHC's Charles Calhoun leads a tour as Maine high school students take part in a summer institute. Featuring *Teachers for a New Century* participants as institute leaders, this "history camp" is modeled after other MHC teacher programs.

PHOTOS: DIANE HUDSON

Susan R. Moo,  
Richard & Eleanor Morrell  
Nan & Bob Morrell  
Ms. Anita Morrissey  
Jean Nevin  
Lisa Ornstein  
Rosalie Tyler Paul  
Margaret Peacock  
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Jane & Jack Ware  
Brita Kate Zitin  
Deborah Zorach

# ONE AND ALL

PROGRAMS THAT ENRICH THE LIVES OF GENERAL AUDIENCES

Major support from the Belvedere Fund  
at the Maine Community Foundation

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

*"We feel that this offering by the Humanities Council is the most useful program [in the] state...and are certainly looking forward to having another opportunity to participate."*

— Anna Kiessling,  
Site Coordinator, Bristol Area Library

*Let's Talk About It* is one of the Maine Humanities Council's oldest programs, offered free to Maine libraries in partnership with the Maine State Library. This popular reading and discussion program makes a real difference, giving residents of communities both large and small the pleasure of gathering with neighbors to talk about good books and the important issues they raise. Each *Let's Talk About It* program consists of five sessions with a scholar/facilitator to discuss theme-based books that are loaned by the Council.

In 2005, *Let's Talk About It* reached 650 people at 45 sites—libraries, museums, and other community centers—in 40 towns across Maine.



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## FOCUS: New Harbor

The slender slip of land that leads to New Harbor parallels Boothbay Harbor. It is a long, peaceful drive past pastureland and forest, with vistas of the water along the way. New Harbor offers a glimpse of rural community life among the midcoast's busy towns. However, as elsewhere in Maine, the pace of life even in this small community makes opportunities for neighbors to gather together to meet and share ideas all too rare.

The Bristol Area Library is one of the centers of the peninsula's cultural life. "We live in the typical rural community, with limited opportunity for inquiring minds to join together to discuss books that we have all shared," wrote Anna Kiessling, who coordinated the *Let's Talk About It* program at the library. In the autumn of 2005, the Bristol Area Library read the "Individual Rights and Community in America" series with a small but loyal audience to do precisely that kind of sharing.

The audience was a mix of retirees and working-age individuals, some who had participated in a past *Let's Talk About It* program and some new to the experience. "[I joined the group] to discover the roots of democracy [and out of] feeling a need to connect with the community," one told the Council.

In a comfortable, large room around a round table, participants, the librarian, and the scholar/facilitator discussed a range of books that would bring forward questions of history and civic rights and responsibilities that apply to communities everywhere. Texts ranged from Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, to Plato's *Republic*, to Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, which, according to Jeff Aronson, the series scholar, "so moved one participant he admitted to 'crying by page 50' of the story. He'd never read it before and never expected to be so moved by the novel." For that session, Jeff reported, "Participants chose their own 'scarlet letters' of socially controversial issues that have huge individual impact; one suggested the 'A' today would stand for AIDS."



Opposite and above: *Let's Talk About It* participants at the Portland Harbor Museum, which partnered with the South Portland Public Library to offer the "Going to Sea" series in South Portland.

PHOTOS: DIANE HUDSON

### In Memory of

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- Ingfei Chen
- Geoffrey K. Cummings
- Sally J. Dagggett
- Jon R. Doyle, Esq. & Craig H. Nelson, Esq.  
of the Law Offices of Doyle & Nelson
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- Kay White

HARRIET P. HENRY DIED IN 2004.

THE GIFTS ABOVE WERE MADE IN HER HONOR  
IN THE COUNCIL'S 2005 FISCAL YEAR.

Major support from the  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
(Public Programming)

## CIVIC REFLECTION

The Maine Humanities Council has offered *Civic Reflection* programs for both the general public and professional groups in Maine for the past three years. "Civic reflection" is the practice of reading and discussing short texts that raise fundamental questions about our life in community and the activities that nourish that life: giving, serving, associating and leading. The project aims to improve relationships between colleagues and neighbors, while deepening participants' understanding and commitment to civic activity.

In 2005: Through its *Thoughtful Giving* program and in collaboration with the *Project on Civic Reflection* ([www.civicreflection.org](http://www.civicreflection.org)), the MHC's *Civic Reflection* programs have reached more than 500 participants in Maine as well as additional audiences with collaborating humanities councils in Georgia and Utah.

### FOCUSED GIFTS

#### Born to Read

John R. Atwood  
Mrs. Peter C. Barnard  
Carol M. Beaumier  
John & Judith Bielecki  
Michael D. Burke  
Holly Hock Dumaine  
Sharon Estell  
Female Samaritan Association  
Clare & David Fischer  
Phyllis & Alfred Fuchs  
Jane Garris  
Catharine W. Guiles  
Philip C. Haughey  
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## FOCUS: Bangor

*Civic Reflection* projects are tailored to meet the needs of specific audiences. One example is the *Civic Reflection* discussion held annually since 2004 among members of the Bangor City Council in conjunction with the Bangor Public Library. This group has included not only city councilors, but also members of the planning and school boards, and senior municipal employees.

The nature of a city council to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions. While this is never easy, officials who have taken time to get to know each other better, and to reflect on their shared beliefs about their city and their work, may then be able to work together more effectively, even under stress.

Geoffrey M. Gratwick, a Bangor city councilor and former chair of the MHC Board, described a recent meeting of “Cit Lit.”

“We started out going around the table with introductions, telling of something ‘other people didn’t know about you.’ Previously hidden passions of white water canoeing, World War II history, local community work, and genomics are not now so hidden. Around-the-table revelations are wonderful and do as much as anything to bring the group to a common space for talking.”

The text was *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, a book for young readers chosen for the Bangor Public Library’s *Bangor Reads* project for 2006. The story is about the forced relocation of a small group of African Americans from Malaga Island off Phippsburg in 1912 to improve the vista for a new hotel—all in the name of economic development.

“We started off with racism then and now, both along the coast and in Bangor,” Geoff said.

The discussion delved into stories that directly related to Bangor and the councilors’ work. “Despite distinct progress, issues of race, class, economic opportunity and education (or lack thereof) are still very much with us.”

It is not always common to have issues as relevant as these out on the table in an informal and collegial setting. Geoff has been a great proponent for the value of *Civic Reflection* in helping people discuss and consider their own ideas and those of others. *Civic Reflection* sessions provide a valuable step in the process of decision-making.



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## MHC GRANTS

*"As I do interviews and conduct research for the audio tour, I keep asking myself, 'Who knew?' The scope and diversity of life and culture along the corridor is, well, kind of mind-boggling."*

— Rob Rosenthal, Audio Producer, Shunpike Audio, talking about the Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor's audio tour

At its inception in 1976, the Maine Humanities Council was solely a granting organization, redistributing funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities to nonprofits statewide. Over the past 30 years, the Council has awarded more than \$4,000,000 in grants to Maine communities. Today, the Council gives close to 100 grants each year, in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 but averaging around \$1,000. In 2005 the Council obtained matching funds from three sources—the Betterment Fund, the Maine Arts Commission, and the Kennebec-Chaudière Heritage Commission—to provide leverage and additional funds for specific grant projects.

These small grants can make a big difference. For many nonprofits with community projects, the simple application and rapid turnaround of the Council's rolling deadlines fills an important niche. The Council funds programs such as historical exhibits, lecture series, book discussions, school-based projects, and cultural presentations, each helping to enrich communities across the state, many in rural areas.

In 2005: 110 Maine Humanities Council grants were awarded to organizations and groups in 63 towns, reaching thousands of Mainers statewide.



Left: South Solon Meetinghouse, Solon, Maine.  
Right: Abbe Levin, project director of the Kennebec-Chaudière Audio Tour project, with Victoria Bonebakker, Associate Director, MHC.

PHOTOS: ERIK C. JORGENSEN

Middle: *The Skowhegan Indian* by Bernard Langlais (1921-1977), a Kennebec-Chaudière corridor landmark, dedicated in 1969.

PHOTO COURTESY MARGARET CHASE SMITH LIBRARY



## FOCUS: Kennebec- Chaudière Corridor

For an example of the Council's grants at work, consider this past year's collaboration with the Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor. Designated in 1997 in recognition of its significance as a trade and transportation route from prehistory to the present, the Corridor extends from Popham to Jackman, then on

Québec City. While the two regions share considerable culture and heritage, the Corridor marks the first large-scale collaboration between Maine and Québec on a cultural tourism issue.

Thanks to the dedication of a number of volunteers, and with the help of a Council grant, the Maine portion of the Corridor is now evolving from a yellow line on a map into a three-dimensional cultural asset that will be interpreted in part through a CD audio tour and guide. The CD will provide context for travelers and will be available at visitor centers. It will offer first-person accounts of the Corridor's history, natural history, and folkways.

In addition, with the support of matching funds from the Betterment Fund and the Kennebec Chaudière Commission, the Council established a joint small grants program to develop cultural resources along the route. In Bingham, for example, the program is supporting the development of an archive and website to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wyman Dam, a pivotal regional landmark that has changed both the river and its economics. Marilyn Gondek of the Old Canada Road Historical Society remarked, "This grant is making a significant difference in our ability to reach a broader audience within Maine and beyond. There is strong local interest, evidenced by the fact that turnout for our project's first event was double that of past events. And development of the Wyman Dam Construction Archive on our Web site has attracted comments and donations of material from as far away as California."

All of these projects (and all of the Council's other grants) share one hallmark: an emphasis on community input, whether that be Jackman, Portland, or Lubec.

What follows is a small sample of the more than 100 grants awarded to Maine organizations by the Council in 2005, arranged by town. (Visit the MHC web site at [www.mainehumanities.org](http://www.mainehumanities.org) for a complete list.) Many of these projects were made possible in part by the Council's funding partners. Projects are marked as follows:

- ☛ funded by the Council and the Maine Arts Commission through a joint Arts and Humanities grant program,
- ★ funded jointly by the Council and the Kennebec-Chaudière Heritage Commission, and
- ★ rural project funded with the support of the Betterment Fund.

The Council is grateful for the support of these funding partners, which allows us to extend our resources into more Maine communities.

### BAR HARBOR

#### Civil Rights Celebration

\$750: The Martin Luther King Day program at the school included a full schedule of events, highlighted by workshops with three scholars who helped students explore issues related to civil rights.

> *Conners Emerson School*

### BELFAST

#### Belfast Poetry Festival

\$750: The first annual Belfast Poetry Festival ran for three days in October and provided a venue for poets of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience.

> *Festivo*

### BINGHAM

#### Wyman Dam 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project

★ \$1,000: Production of an online and physical archive to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Wyman Dam, which dramatically altered the landscape of the Upper Kennebec Valley.

> *Old Canada Road Historical Society*

### BRUNSWICK

#### Sundays in the Park with Nellie

\$500: Period maps, photos, and ephemera were used to produce a 30-minute DVD tour of Merrymeeting Park, a trolley amusement park that operated in Brunswick between 1898 and 1908.

> *Pejepscot Historical Society*

**DAMARISCOTTA****2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Native American Recognition Ceremony**

\$500: A cultural event and public seminar honoring the local Wawenoc tribe and others of the region who traditionally gathered along the mid-coast for feasting and information exchange.  
> *Pemaquid Watershed Association*

**FARMINGTON****Reading Revolutions: Great Minds, Great Thoughts**

\$2,000: An exhibit of 48 documents from the Remnant Trust collection, including a 14<sup>th</sup> century copy of the *Magna Carta* and a first edition of Goethe's *Faust*. Visitors could touch documents and participate in a lecture series at the UMF campus.  
> *University of Maine at Farmington*

**FREEPORT****Freeport Historical Society – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

\$1,000: An anniversary celebration that included an exhibit, two workshops, an open house at Pettengill Farm, and an exhibit catalog featuring an essay by Earle Shettleworth, Jr. (See *photographs, opposite.*)  
> *Freeport Historical Society*

**HINCKLEY****Bernd Heinrich: The Naturalist As Artist**

☉ \$1,500: An exhibit on the life and career of renowned author, illustrator, and field biologist Bernd Heinrich, with related programs for the public.  
> *L.C. Bates Museum (Good Will Home Association)*

**HIRAM****Bringing Words to Life**

\$500: Maine children's author Lynn Plourde visited all SAD #55 elementary schools in January 2005 and presented interactive readings and dramatizations of some of her picture books.  
> *SAD #55*

**JACKMAN****Kennebec-Chaudière Audio Tour**

\$4,900: Production of a 60-minute CD audio tour utilizing personal and community narratives, soundscapes, and audio art to reflect the region's unique landscape and cultural heritage.  
> *Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor*

**LEWISTON****Anne Frank in the World**

\$500: A collaboration among the Franco-American Heritage Center, Lewiston Middle School, and the Jewish Community Alliance to present a bilingual exhibit about Anne Frank's diary and related writing.  
> *Franco-American Heritage Center*

**LOVELL****Signs of the Times: Collaborative Programming for Deaf and Hearing Audiences in Western Maine**

\$750: A program offering American Sign Language classes to the public and a storytelling festival in both ASL & English.  
> *Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library*

**LUBEC****Historical Tours of Lubec and Campobello**

\$930: A project to develop interpretive tours of Lubec and Campobello Island.  
> *Association to Promote & Protect the Lubec Environment*

**LYMAN****50-Mile Health Hike**

\$1,000: Fourth grade students from Lyman Elementary School and their families trained for and participated in a 5-day, 50-mile hike on the Eastern Trail through New Hampshire and Maine, visiting historical sites along the way.  
> *Lyman Elementary School (MSAD #57)*

**MADAWASKA****A Cultural Stewardship Workshop for Museums and Cultural Groups**

★ \$500: This day-long workshop offered practical tools to the cultural stewards, primarily volunteers, who maintain the thirteen museums and historical societies in the Saint John Valley.  
> *Maine Acadian Heritage Council*

**NORTH HAVEN****From Shakespeare to Our Original Musical, "Islands:" 11 Years of Drama on North Haven**

☉ \$1,500: An exhibit featuring photographs, posters, video and audio recordings and narratives that celebrate the performing arts on the island of North Haven over the last eleven years.  
> *North Haven Arts & Enrichment*

**PORTLAND****Look at ME**

\$5,000: A curriculum program with a group of art historians, public school teachers, arts educators, and parents working to encourage reading and arts literacy skills in children K-2.  
> *Portland Museum of Art*

**Diversity is Strength Masquerade**

☉ \$1,500: A week of workshops and a citywide parade and pageant involving masks and large puppets created by local artists, community groups, and the Museum of African Culture.  
> *Museum of African Culture*

**SEARSPORT****Waymouth 400: History Symposium**

\$5,000: A history symposium, one of several different projects comprising the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Waymouth's exploration of the Maine coast.  
> *Penobscot Marine Museum*

**SOUTH PARIS****One Book: One Community**

\$1,000: A program in March 2005 which included book discussions, events, and activities for all age groups, centered around the book *Ernie's Ark* by Monica Wood.  
> *Norway Memorial Library*

**ST. AGATHE****Teacher Training for Acadian History and "Evangeline"**

★ \$1,000: A project to provide teachers with training and curriculum guides on Acadian history and culture, with special attention to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline."  
> *Ste-Agathe Historical Society*

Opposite, top to bottom: photographic details of Pettengill Farm, Freeport, Maine, taken for "A Window Through Time: Pettengill Farm and the Soul of New England."

*The Eel Fork* © 2004 JOHN G. KELLEY

*Pettengill Saltbox* © 2005 JOHN G. KELLEY

*Lath and Plaster, Southwest Chamber Ceiling*

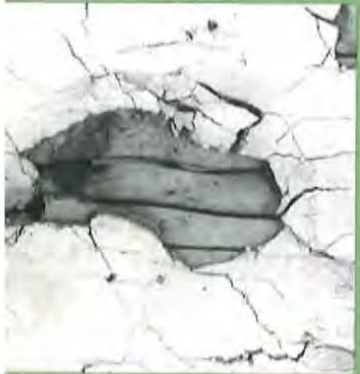
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*Gravity's Pull* © 2004 JOHN G. KELLEY

*Bird's Nest with Shards* © 2004 JOHN G. KELLEY

# PROGRAMS

## SPECIAL



### WINTER WEEKEND

Choose a book, any book, only it must be a powerful one. Then read it—even if it is over 1,000 pages—and come to Bowdoin College in early March for the Maine Humanities Council's *Winter Weekend*. Each year, this program offers the opportunity to explore a pivotal text with scholars on hand to discuss different aspects of the book. *Don Quixote* in the new translation by Edith Grossman was the text for 2005. Past works include *Moby Dick* and *Anna Karenina*. *Winter Weekend* provides an opportunity for devoted booklovers to congregate and luxuriate in the company of great literature and each other.

### BARN AGAIN!

In 2005, the Maine Humanities Council brought to Maine a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*. Between April and October, the tour visited the Saco Museum, the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel in Lille, and the Bethel Historical Society.

The exhibit provided both general information about barns across the United States and Maine-specific panels about topics that included styles, historical uses, and preservation issues. Each local site also added its own stories and artifacts.

The Smithsonian Institution has a unique arrangement with the state humanities councils to make traveling exhibits available for state tours. Besides reaching a broad public, the Smithsonian's goal for this program is to provide small museums with high-quality exhibits. Feedback from the sites after the tour indicated that *Barn Again!* had done precisely that.

The Maine tour of *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon* was made possible by the Maine Humanities Council and funded in part by *We the People*, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

#### National Sponsors:

Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund  
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National Endowment for the Humanities  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

*Barn Again!* is a registered trademark owned by the Meredith Corporation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

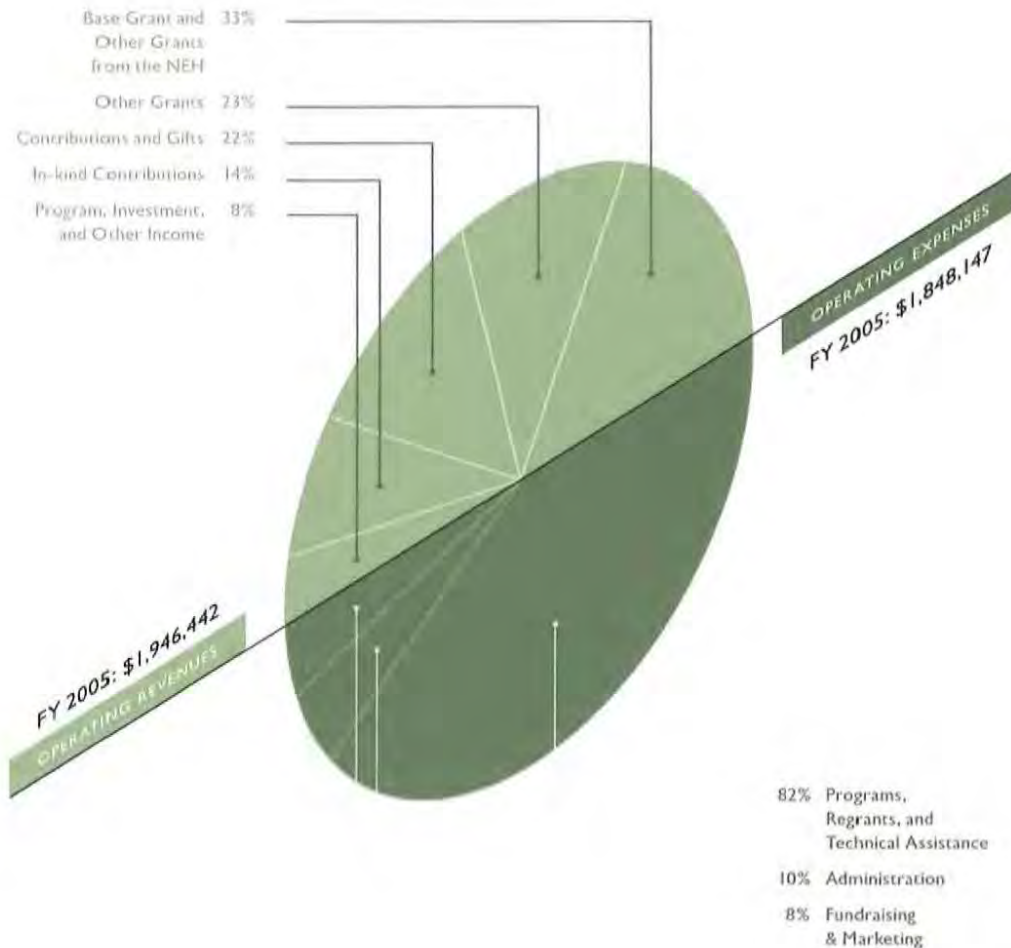
# ACROSS MAINE IN 2005

## FINANCIALS

During FY05, the Maine Humanities Council had operating income of \$1,946,442 and operating expenses of \$1,848,147. The Council has never incurred an operating deficit.

Over the past decade the Council's income sources have become increasingly diversified. As recently as 1995, nearly all of its resources came from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. While grants from the NEH

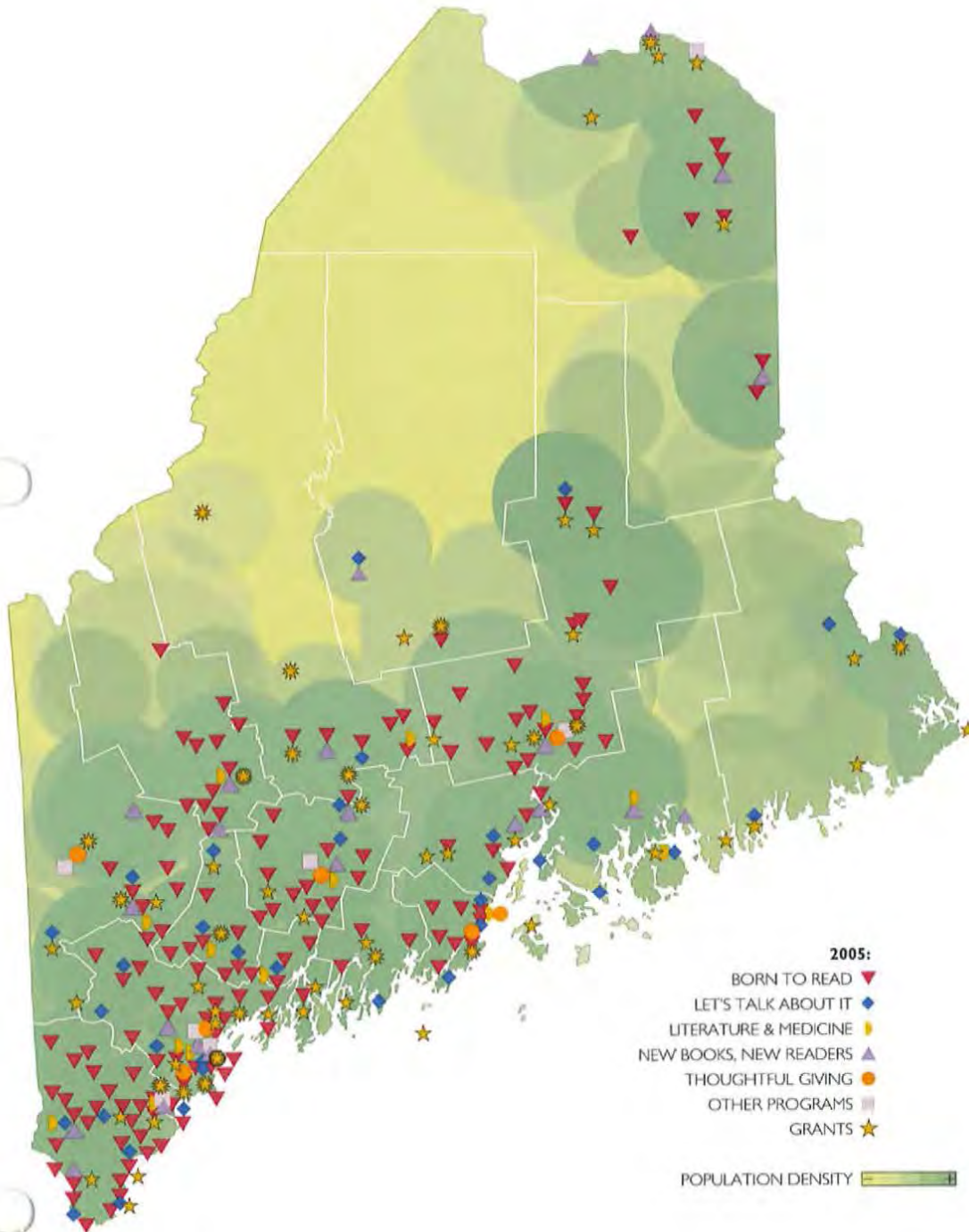
still comprise about one-third of the Council's budget, this support has been supplemented by a diverse range of other income streams, from the individual contributions highlighted elsewhere in this report, to program income, and support from private foundations. Both the income and expense figures reported here include in-kind contributions of time, mileage and materials valued at \$276,692.



The Maine Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



# GRANT AND PROGRAM ACTIVITY



- 2005:**
- BORN TO READ ▼
  - LET'S TALK ABOUT IT ◆
  - LITERATURE & MEDICINE ★
  - NEW BOOKS, NEW READERS ▲
  - THOUGHTFUL GIVING ●
  - OTHER PROGRAMS ◻
  - GRANTS ★
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The Maine Humanities Council engages the people of Maine in the power and pleasure of ideas, encouraging a deeper understanding of ourselves and others, fostering wisdom in an age of information, and providing context in a time of change. The Council uses the humanities to provide cultural enrichment for all Mainers and as a tool for social change, bringing people together in conversation that crosses social, economic and cultural barriers.

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