

TOURIST & TOWN

FREE

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From the Publisher

"I'm settling down here someday," she says with great regularity, sometimes adding, "Well, maybe Ogunquit. That seems like a really cool town . . . but still, I'm definitely not going far." I smile that my daughter lives somewhere that inspires her to feel this way. I'm a bit incredulous, in fact, that at an age when kids often want to get as far away as humanly possible, my 14-year-old actually wants to stay close. It's a testament to this special part of the world in which she lives – and the special way she lives life within it.

I remember reading somewhere, 'Live a life you don't need a vacation from.' After feeling initially annoyed by the sentiment, one which must have struck me for a reason, I realized it wasn't actually telling me to get daily massages (rats), drink drinks with umbrellas or lounge daily by a pool. It wasn't telling me to live life like a vacation. It was saying live a life you don't need a vacation from, a life you actually like. . . and one that's as low-stress as possible.

When "I just have to get out of here!" or "Kids, we're going on vacation! NOW!" plays regularly on my own mental loop, I know it's never a good sign. (It's also an illusion that vacationing with kids is actually relaxing).

Times are strange and unpredictable – and stress is hard to escape. My hope nonetheless is that each of you weaves just a little vacation - whether mind, body or spirit - into your day today. . . and into the days to come.

Just yesterday, Daisy said it again. "I never want to leave this place."

"Neither do I, honey."

"Neither do I."

Kingsley Gallup, Publisher

Congratulations to our wonderful Tourist & Town team for winning BEST LOCAL PUBLICATION third year in a row!



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Through the Lens

with photographer Bob Dennis

Welcome to October, our most glorious of months! Other regions enjoy beaches in summer, snow in winter, and tulips in spring but there's a reason why people from all over the country—and the world—flock to New England in the fall. We have the most dazzling fall foliage, seen against the prettiest of backdrops. And here in southern Maine we enjoy something even more special—the beauty of fall colors along our coastline and harbors. In our area, colors are visible throughout the month and typically peak around Columbus Day weekend. One of the hundreds of colorful autumn images I've captured over the years, this photo is of Kennebunkport's South Congregational Church framed by yellow maples. We're about to receive a very special and inspiring gift from Mother Nature. Enjoy the show!

Cover Artist Danielle Lehoux

Danielle (Losier) Lehoux was born and raised in Cape Neddick, Maine. Her passion is creating graphic artwork akin to a block print style that is loosely inspired by the vintage "See America" posters of the National Parks. Being a native Mainer (8th generation), she loves her home state and enjoys creating artwork that reflects the beauty of her surroundings.

Danielle always loved to create art and spent many hours of her youth drawing with markers and pastels, shaping clay into pots, dabbling in printmaking, and painting. During college, she started exploring graphic design and found that creating digital paintings really spoke to her for many reasons. This medium quickly became her favorite way to create art. She uses a stylus as her "paintbrush" and her computer screen as her "canvas" as she creates her digital artwork. She works in layers, usually starting with the foreground then moving backward, creating shapes that, when viewed together, make up the entire finished piece.

Danielle currently lives in Wells with her husband, Aaron, and two cats, Smokey and Bandit.



www.lehouxart.com Danielle@lehouxart.com

Getting to know this issue's contributors just a little bit better...



Faith Gillman is sad to be picking the last tomatoes of the season but is looking forward to the arrival of crisp autumn air. Almost time to break out the cozy sweaters and sip some hot mulled cider. Yum!



With the weather turning colder, Val Marier is thinking SOUP and would appreciate a good recipe for beef veggie soup (valmarier@me.com) and she will thank you in her blog (Wandering With Val).



Since I was a wee lass, have loved the color purple -- it makes me happy. Purple is the color of royalty -- I think it's fitting that I am a direct descendant of the last high king of Ireland, Rory O'Connor -- yep, just an IAP -- Irish American Princess.



Dana Pearson writes for the very magazine you are holding in your hands (or viewing online), which explains why you'll find pieces within with his name on them. His other scribbles can be found at amazon.com/author/danapearson

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Fun fall shopping at West K Best Days outdoor market

by Faith Gillman

According to Kyle Neugebauer, fall is the “best time to do anything in Maine.” Neugebauer, of Tidal Force Creations and one of many vendors at the Sunday “West K Best Days” outdoor market in Kennebunk, is enjoying the crisp feel to the air and the slower pace.

“The weather is cooler and there are smaller crowds than over the summer, so outdoor craft shows are amazing to visit,” he said. “Plus, you can get a jump start on Christmas gift shopping.”

Neugebauer offers photography, pottery, and punch needle patterns at his booth. A native of Missouri, he moved to Maine in 2013. He divides his time between craft markets and working as a library assistant at Kennebunk Free Library helping kids “find books and other resources of interest...they still have so much spark and curiosity about the world.”

While he only began selling his crafts this summer, he has been creating them for some time.

“I’ve been interested in photography since I was a kid. When I moved to Maine, I did a lot of exploring and brought my camera along to capture the beauty I found,” he said. “Out of those trips I collected some really cool shots that highlight the best of Maine’s scenery.”

Inheriting his interest in fiber crafts from his mom, Neugebauer discovered punch needle at a craft shop in Maine a few years ago.

“After finishing my first

piece, I looked for a new pattern to work on but wasn’t totally enamored with the “primitive” style that most punch needle patterns fall into. I wanted something more realistic and scenic and decided to make my own patterns based on photos I take. Creating a punch needle pattern is the most challenging to make of the things I sell. It’s tricky to express the colors and nuance of the photograph using only embroidery floss.”

Neugebauer started in pottery several years ago, which has become his favorite medium.

“There is something magical about creating something beautiful and useful out of a lump of clay using only my hands and a wheel,” he said. “I feel a human connection spanning through the thousands of years and countless cultures that humans have created ceramics. I don’t have a lot of formal training in most of what I craft, which means trial and error, sorting through shots to find that one photograph, seam ripping to adjust the thread choice or placement in a pattern, and lots and lots of pottery thrown. Over time, my hands and eyes get better at expressing the vision I have in my brain.”

Neugebauer connected with the West K Best Days Market through a co-worker at the library.

“I’d started selling my work and liked the idea of getting in on a new market just starting. I’ve done other shows and will continue into the fall/early winter. The best part of being a vendor

is getting to travel around Maine to see new places and meet new people. It’s great to talk to them and hear how something I’ve created makes a connection to their life.”

Another vendor displaying their wares at the market is The Cellar Co, comprised of mother/daughter team Lynne Stewart and Paisley Hanson. Stewart has lived in the Kennebunk area for 30 years and has four daughters who all live in the area.

“My daughter Paisley heard about the market. We share a booth,” said Stewart, who has a BFA in textiles and has been sewing since she was nine. “We have done the East End Vendor craft fair in Portland and have an Etsy shop together.”

Stewart’s studio, Lynne Stewart Designs at 1 High Street in Kennebunk, offers home decor and alterations.

“I love making soft sculptures and use a lot of upcycled materials fabric, clothing, sheets, etc. I also work for Kate Nelligan of Local Color,” she said.

In addition, Stewart creates jewelry, draws and crochets and teaches at River Tree Arts. Her work is sold in local shops, including Minka and Uptown Curl Boutique.

Daughter Paisley Hanson has a BFA in Studio Arts with a concentration in ceramics, photography and digital art. While she pursues her art full time, she also works at Minka in Kennebunkport.

“I have been a ceramic artist for almost 6 years. I love how hands on my art

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Paisley Hanson and her mom Lynne Stewart have combined their crafts to create The Cellar Co. Photo by Faith Gillman



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– continued from previous page
 can be creating physical objects with an alive material,” she said. “My favorite creations are wall pieces. I create angel wings that are very floral. Most challenging is that clay has a mind of its own being a living material, so you have to work with it collaboratively and expect that things may not be how you intended.”

Bella Smith, owner of Goose Rocks Goods, studies business at York County Community College and launched her company – which features an array of handcrafted soaps, personal care items and candles – in January 2021.

“My family, which has lived in Kennebunkport for generations, got beehives and I started brainstorming on what I could make with the honey and beeswax. I love being able to take raw ingredients and turn them

into products you can use every day,” she said. “My favorite creations are my Artisan Soaps. [They] are also the most challenging product to make since it requires time and attention to detail.”

Smith handcrafts all of her items in Kennebunkport and is looking to grow her business.

“I have a part-time job right now,” she said, “but hope I can turn my small business into my full-time career.”

She got involved with the West K market through networking.

“Participating in craft fairs allows you to meet other crafters who know about other markets and groups,” said Smith. “I enjoy meeting new people and sharing my craft. I have passion for what I do and it’s a plus to meet all these wonderful people at the markets.”



Kennebunkport native Bella Smith of Goose Rocks Goods handcrafts an array of soaps, personal care items and candles, which she sells at several outdoor markets, as well as online. Photo by Faith Gillman



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Paisley Hanson offers her colorful and stylish ceramic wares, while mom Lynne Stewart crafts fanciful fiber works for sale at the outdoor market. Photos by Faith Gillman



Kyle Neugebauer of Tidal Force Creations creates pottery pieces, punch needle kits (using his own photographs as a pattern) and framed photographs which he offers at his booth at West K Best Days outdoor market. Photo by Faith Gillman

West K Best Days outdoor market at the Infinity Center parking lot, 1 Alewife Park Road, Kennebunk runs on Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM through Oct 17 with rotating vendors displaying handmade goods, gifts, jewelry and more. <http://infinitycentermaine.com/events/west-k-best-days>. FMI on vendors in the article: www.tidalforcecreations.com, etsy.com/shop/TheCellarCo and www.gooserocksgoods.com

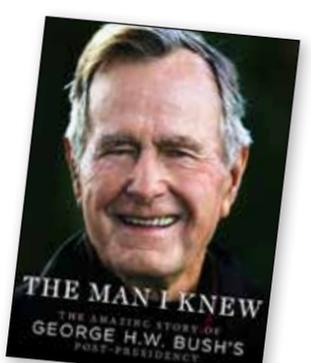


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**The Man I Knew:
 The Amazing Story of
 George H.W. Bush's
 Post-Presidency**
 by Jean Becker



A heartfelt portrait of President George H.W. Bush – and his post-presidential life – by a confidante who knew him well.

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 **PACK MAYNARD**

The man she knew: George Herbert Walker Bush "41's" Chief of Staff Presents a Personal Perspective of his Post-Presidential Years

by Valerie Marier

For 25 years, Jean Becker served as chief of staff to President George Herbert Walker Bush after he departed the White House and leapt into a "never say never" life filled with humanitarian outreach, public and political appearances, even skydiving on his 90th birthday. Spending winters in Houston and summers in

Kennebunkport, Becker became an intricate and intimate ingredient in the sunset years of George and Barbara Bush and has penned those special memories in *The Man I Knew: The Amazing Story of George H. W. Bush's Post Presidency*.

Becker opens the book with a caveat: "If you are expecting deep, dark secrets or tabloid gossip, put the book down now," she

says. "I have read both of their diaries and there were no deep, dark secrets. I also steer clear of politics." But she certainly was, as the song from "Hamilton" goes, in the room where things happened.

Consequently, *The Man I Knew* resonates with poignant, humorous and sweet recollections that only an insider like Becker would know. She worked,

dined, shopped and traveled with George and Barbara Bush for two-plus decades, and states unequivocally that, despite their fame and privilege, the Bushes were "amazingly normal" people with identifiable life rituals.

Like the summer in the late 1990s when Becker was working with Mrs. Bush at Walker's Point. She recalls, "We heard President Bush's voice calling out to her as he walked into the house. Her first instinct was to immediately look into a mirror and pinch her cheeks so that they had a little more color." Becker treasured having a front-row seat to their 73-year love story.

Becker writes about "George and Bar going off to Sam's Club" to stock up on food and books, and about him signing up for a Caribbean cruise with 1600

other passengers "simply because he liked the Royal Caribbean advertisement." She recounts the summer night in Maine when the Bushes woke up and discovered a child they didn't know sitting on the bedroom couch in front of their television. Turns out he was a friend of a grandson "who wanted to watch a different program."

But as a President and scion of an illustrious family, George H. W. Bush's life and experiences are eons from our everyday events. Historical references reverberate through the book. Becker says, "I was a fly on the wall sitting in a room with Mikhail Gorbachev, or Helmut Kohl, or Bill Clinton, or James Baker, and think: what am I doing here?" She admits she was never "intimidated" because meeting celebrities "went with the job. But at

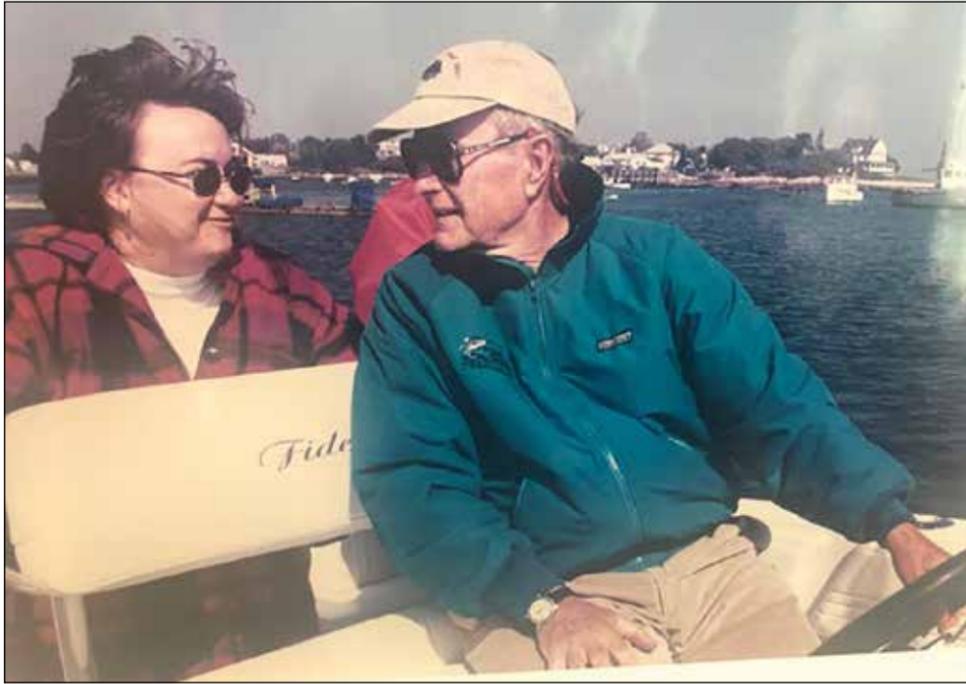
times it did seem surreal." Becker never forgot her role. She says, "Whenever George W. called his father, that discussion was none of my business so I always left the room."

She also didn't hesitate to offer former President Bill Clinton advice.

After Bush "43" tapped his father and former President Clinton to travel to Southeast Asia following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, Becker took Clinton aside. She says, "I told him to watch out for '41.' Because of his Parkinson's, he'd lost a step or two and was unsteady on his feet. I was quite stern with President Clinton about that."

Near the end of "41's" life, President Obama asked for a short visit. Bush agreed, "I would like to

- continued on next page



Jean Becker still laughingly recalls many summer afternoons in Maine, bouncing over the briny off Walker's Point as "41" pushed the throttle to max!



"No one was more fun than George Bush," Becker states. "Every day working for him and Mrs. Bush was a joy."

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see Barack." Historian and biographer Jon Meacham happened to be in Houston visiting Bush at the same time and Jean was choreographing their visits. When Obama requested to speak privately with Bush, she and Meacham left the room.

A few minutes later she spotted Meacham creeping "back down the hallway. He was trying to eavesdrop at the door. I gave him the devil, to which he argued, 'I am a historian and this is history.'" Becker's strong admonishment won the day.

Becker's early life was spent on a farm in Missouri where her parents were "Democrats but not into politics." Ambitious and bright, she was named valedictorian of her high school graduating class and, in 1978, graduated with a Bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from the University of Missouri.

Over the next 10 years, Becker worked as a news reporter, culminating in a stint on *USA Today's* 1988 election team. After the election she was asked to be Mrs. Bush's deputy press secretary. In 1993 when they left the White House, she joined the family in Houston to research and edit *Barbara Bush: A Memoir*. Serendipitously while there, "41's" chief of staff resigned. Bush asked

Becker to take over as acting chief until he "decided what to do. I thought I was just a seat-warmer but he never chose anyone else."

As Chief of Staff, Becker and her crew of 10 oversaw President Bush's travels, causes, projects and correspondence. They were assisted by a large group of 15 to 20 female volunteers who opened mail and sent out Eagle Scout and military retirement congratulatory letters. While *The Man I Knew* includes descriptions of Becker's job, the book primarily telescopes how Bush overcame his heartbreaking loss to Bill Clinton in 1992 and, over the next 25 years, rebuilt his life and legacy.

Shortly after George Bush died in November 2019, she sensed, "I have a book in my heart." She emailed his children (George W., Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Doro) and received their "100% support." She then met with editor Sean Desmond of Twelve (a division of Hachette) in mid-March 2020 and handed him a 100-page draft. Becker had no idea what to title the book until Desmond said, "Jean, this is your story. I was going to ask you to interview lots of people but I simply want you to write about the man you knew. Whoa. WAIT! That's the title!"

"For me, Covid was a mixed blessing," Becker

says. Being quarantined at home in Houston, she sat at her Dell laptop and wrote "like a mad man during those next few months. I wanted people to know that George Bush was the ultimate gentleman but he was also fun. So I included stories about him buying a potato gun to playfully shoot at tourists standing on the sea wall in Kennebunkport, and how he kept detailed lists of people who fell asleep during day-long important meetings."

The Man I Knew takes the reader behind the scrim curtain. Becker remembers "swooning" during her 2005 trip with "41" and Hollywood mega-star George Clooney when they traveled to Louisiana to offer relief after Hurricane Rita. She recalls shedding tears while sitting with Bush in a golf cart in June 2012 when he "proudly spotted" the aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush (CVN77) cruise past Walker's Point.

She recounts the morning he asked, "Jean, what exactly IS a Kardashian?" She reminisces on the day she stood on the grassy surround of St. Ann's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Kennebunkport and witnessed "my boss" skydive on his 90th birthday. And sadly at the end, she helped plan his funeral and was with him when he died.

"I feel so grateful and

blessed to have been part of George and Barbara Bush's lives. Working for them was like unwrapping a big Christmas gift at least once a week," Becker says.

The Man I Knew is truly a year-round gift for all readers.

The Man I Knew: The Amazing Story of George H. W. Bush's Post Presidency by Jean Becker is available at Fine Prints Booksellers and on Amazon.



Becker says, "This photo was taken on the Bush's 70th wedding anniversary. They shared so much love for each other."



Jean Becker spent 25 years working for George H. W. Bush, and was with him when he died. "He adored his dog Sully who was there until the very end," Becker says.



President George H. W. Bush and Jean Becker, his Chief of Staff, talking and sitting on the rocks by Walker's Point.

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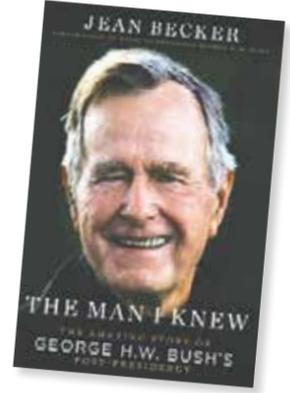
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DIY on the Fly: 6 Ways to Paint Like a Pro

by Jo O'Connor

Whether you are painting an accent wall or an entire interior room, experts know that taking a paint brush in hand is one of the most cost-effective ways to update a space. In this issue, I queried paint master Shane Poppas, the owner of Prismatic Painting of Scarborough. With 26 years of painting experience, Poppas shared some top tips to for painting your space well.

1. Wait for the perfect weather – dry: Humidity means drips, so avoid painting on a rainy/humid days. If you must paint when it's humid, know that the drying time will take longer. Good ventilation and the use of fans can help. Please carefully read the dry and re-coating times on the paint can (usually between 4-6 hours, but paints differ).

2. Prep, prep and more prep: The primary reason do-it-yourselfers don't like to paint is taking the time to prepare a space. Poppas suggests that prepping a space properly is roughly 65% of the project, and that it definitely makes a difference for a great result.

That means a thorough visual inspection, necessary repairs/fillers and cleaning the space. And use putty or epoxy where holes or cracks are visible on the surface. Any cracked, flaking or peeling areas need to be lightly sanded or scraped before applying new paint because the new coat won't adhere to the surface.

"You'll be wasting your time and money if you don't prep properly," said Poppas.

You may need to wipe down the walls with a damp cloth so that paint will have

a clean, dust-free surface to stick to. Measure the walls to be sure you have enough paint for coverage, then calculate the total square footage.

3. Use high-quality brushes, rollers and painter's tape: If you're splurging on great paint, you definitely don't want to skimp on the quality of your application tools. Good brushes and rollers give excellent coverage so that you don't waste time, and high-end painter's tape is the real deal when it comes to sealing out drips.

4. The big cover up: You will never regret the time you spend covering floors, furniture and hardware before you begin a paint project. Poppas suggests rosin paper to cover the floor parameter and cloth drop-cloths covering the middle of the room and furnishings.

Plastic coverings can go underneath your paints. Note that plastic drop cloths are slippery to walk on. Even worse, paint spills on plastic stay wet, and they can end up on your shoes and get tracked through the house.

Small plastic sandwich bags secured with tape are an easy way to protect door-knobs.

But even with canvas or rosin-paper drop cloths, large spills still need to get wiped up right away or they could seep through.

5. Don't forget to remove light switches/outlet covers: Remove outlet covers and use a small piece of painter's tape to secure the screws. This way you will paint over the old wall color. Plus, this will give you a chance to clean or replace the covers. If you're impatient, you'll be tempted to skip this five-

minute step. Please don't.

6. Paint from top to bottom – Ceilings, then trim, then walls: After you've cut in your edges at the ceiling and baseboard using a brush, use your roller to apply paint from the ceiling downward. Once an area starts to dry, it's best to leave it alone. Going back over

it can leave marks and color streaks in the paint's surface.

FMI: Contact Prismatic Painting at shane.poppas@gmail.com, or find on Facebook or Instagram.

With DIY on the Fly,

Tourist & Town is querying local experts for special tips for do-it yourselfers. Have a tip, a hack, an invention or want to know answers to your DIY questions? Email jfboconnor@gmail.com.



Shane Poppas of Prismatic Painting ready for another client. Photo Credit: Jo O'Connor

Paint colors that will sell your home

Planning on selling your home? Marie Conti of HGTV suggests the best interior and exterior paint colors to sell your home in 2021. Nothing should surprise you – generally, you want to keep it in neutral.

As you might imagine, selling a home with a hot pink bathroom won't cut it anymore. Your property may sit on the market for quite some time if you don't chill down the vibe. The reality is that paint color packs a serious punch in the real estate game.

HGTV teamed up with Fixr.com, a home remodeling guide and contractor liaison website, who surveyed 200 interior design pros and influencers to uncover the upcoming paint trends for owners to keep in mind before selling their home. (Oh yeah, hot pink didn't make the list).

- The Kitchen: white or warm gray
- The Bedroom: white or taupe
- The Bathroom: pale blue
- The Exterior: white or gray

"When asked what interior color palette will be most popular this year, 57% of Fixr's surveyed design experts agree that cool neutral tones will remain the go-to hues in the coming year. Neutral hues also enable potential buyers better visualize themselves living in the home," said Conti.



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The Maine Classic Car Museum proudly presents The Maine Sock Hop – a Rock 'n' Roll Dance Party on Saturday, October 9, from 7 to 10 PM.

Enjoy inspired performances by Hope Farm Theater, with singers and dancers performing amongst a world class car collection, sip a signature cocktail and indulge at a dessert bar.

Vintage 50s attire is welcomed and "Best Dressed" prizes will be awarded.

The Maine Classic Car Museum is the perfect mix of sophistication and vintage Maine charm. Come take a tour of this world class car collection and delight in a bevy of vintage automobilia and cultural curiosities. The museum is sure to entertain.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available on Eventbrite or through the Museum. Call Event Manager Peter Farrell at 207-550-7199 or visit the museum's website: www.maineccmuseum.com

The Maine Classic Car Museum adheres to the Maine CDC guidelines for COVID-19 masking.

Come dance the night away at a classic rock 'n' roll dance party!

Don't quit your daydream: Manifesting financial freedom

Life doesn't happen TO you, life happens THROUGH you.

In a new workshop at Hopespring Health Holistic Institute, financial expert Kerry Keating and life coach Emily Clement invite you to shift from living a life by default to a life by design.

Two sessions of this interactive workshop will be held at the Alfred campus at 1013 Old North Berwick Road on Tuesday, October 5. One session will be held in person from 10 AM to 12 PM and another will be held from 6 to 8 PM via ZOOM.

Each of us has free will and choice, and we are constantly creating our own reality with our thoughts,

feelings and behaviors. If we want to change our life, we need to change our story.

In this workshop guests will learn to shift their attention from problems to solutions, and from giving away power to owning it. Learn how to create an extraordinary life by improving the quality of your emotions in regards to finances, define your desires regarding financial freedom and recognize how day-to-day decisions impact your financial vision.

Registration fee is \$50. To register, visit www.hopespringholistic.com.

Maine Craft Weekend is October 2 and 3 – and there is something for everyone

Ocean Fire Pottery, at 23 Woodbridge Road in York, is hosting a pop-up with Lehoux Art and Allison Donohue on Saturday, October 2, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Shop a locally made selection of original artwork, prints, cards, coasters, trivets, mugs, vases, bowls, jewelry, and much more.

Although this is an outdoor event, the organizers ask that everyone wear a mask and practice social distancing. Additional parking is available in the lot across the street, and 20 yards down from the shop. Event is rain or shine.

FMI at Lehoux Art: <https://www.lehouxart.com/>

Sweetgrass Farm Winery & Distillery, producer of wines and spirits, will be hosting local artist Linda Brissette, whose colorful, unique paintings communicate how precious life in Maine truly is.

Sweetgrass Farm Winery & Distillery is open 11 AM to 5 PM. Tastings, wines by the glass, and cocktails are available inside and out. There is no charge to visit Brissette's exhibit and sale. Sweetgrass Farm Winery & Distillery is located at 347 Carroll Road, Union. FMI sweetgrasswinery.com



Art by Linda Brissette



For all events, see mainecraftweekend.org/events/

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The Southern Maine Saltwater Fishing Report – excellent fall fishing

by Captain Greg Metcalf

2021 has been an outstanding saltwater fishing season. Striped bass fishing has been fantastic. It has also been the best year for jumbo sized stripers in many years with many fish over 40 and even 50 inches. Another high point of this season was the return of bluefish. They were here in catchable

numbers for several weeks in August and thrilled saltwater anglers during the hot mid-summer months.

September is a great time for fishing enthusiasts along the shoreline. Fishing has been excellent from York to Saco. Striped bass of all sizes have been on the move and eating everything in their path as they begin their an-

nual southern voyage. Fishing should remain excellent into early October.

Kennebunkport: Anglers fishing between Cape Porpoise and Parsons Beach had a great week catching both mackerel and striped bass this week when the weather permitted. Stripers can be found lurking in the rocky shoreline boulder fields as well as on the sandy beaches and river mouths. The Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers were particularly hot this week. Mackerel are back in full force and very easy to locate and catch. Anglers aboard the *Striper Swiper* even got in on the short one-month cod season with some great catches of Atlantic cod.

Wells, Ogunquit: Brandy from Webhannet River Tack-

le reported fantastic fishing for mackerel and striped bass all week long. She told me they weighed in several fish that measured over 40 inches this week, a few of them approaching 50 inches. Anglers fishing from shore or from boats close in tight to the beaches from Ogunquit to Parsons have enjoyed the most success.

Goose Rocks Beach and Biddeford Pool: Captain Steve Brettell told me it was another good week of fishing at Goose Rocks. Stripers of all size including some bigger fish were caught off of Goose Rocks Beach and Timber Island this past week. Mackerel are still plentiful and the stripers are hungry.

York: Captain Phil Breton from Breton Charters told

me fishing has been picking up along the shoreline between Ogunquit and York. There are plenty of nice fish being caught from Cliff House to Long Sands Beach and bigger fish with moving in and willing to bite. Most of the fish have been taking fresh chunks of mackerel. Bait fishing for mackerel has been very steady. There was a very hot bite of jumbo stripers off of Perkins Cove over the weekend.

Saco River and Saco Bay: Pete from Saco Bay Tackle reported fishing has been steady off the beaches of Old Orchard Beach and

Biddeford Pool. Eels have been working using just a swivel on dead low tide near Goosefare Brook in Ocean Park and by University of New England. Birds are still working the waters off Wood Island and Pete's son caught a bluefish while they were out near the three-mile mark. Customers are still coming in mostly for bait and chunking off the shore, but some other lures that have been popular this week are the Atoms popper 1 1/4 ounce blue and white and the Bomber black and purple 7 inch. September has been a great month for fishing.

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Chris Henchey from Goose Rocks Beach caught this beautiful Atlantic cod aboard the Striper Swiper on September 25.

Tide Chart September 30 – October 14

Thursday, September 30 Low 12:39 AM 1.70 High 06:57 AM 7.27 Low 12:46 PM 2.40 High 07:06 PM 8.13 Sunrise: 6:38 AM Sunset: 6:26 PM	Tuesday, October 5 Low 04:41 AM -0.04 High 10:55 AM 9.49 Low 04:57 PM -0.07 High 11:13 PM 10.02 Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM	Sunday, October 10 High 02:24 AM 9.76 Low 08:21 AM -0.23 High 02:38 PM 10.83 Low 09:00 PM -1.02 Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 6:08 PM
Friday, October 1 Low 01:37 AM 1.58 High 07:54 AM 7.44 Low 01:45 PM 2.19 High 08:03 PM 8.37 Sunrise: 6:39 AM Sunset: 6:24 PM	Wednesday, October 6 Low 05:21 AM -0.41 High 11:35 AM 10.09 Low 05:42 PM -0.67 High 11:58 PM 10.24 Sunrise: 6:45 AM Sunset: 6:15 PM New Moon: 7:06 AM	Monday, October 11 High 03:21 AM 9.30 Low 09:15 AM 0.23 High 03:34 PM 10.47 Low 09:59 PM -0.58 Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 6:07 PM
Saturday, October 2 Low 02:30 AM 1.28 High 08:46 AM 7.79 Low 02:38 PM 1.79 High 08:55 PM 8.74 Sunrise: 6:40 AM Sunset: 6:22 PM	Thursday, October 7 Low 06:03 AM -0.64 High 12:16 PM 10.59 Low 06:28 PM -1.12 Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 6:13 PM	Tuesday, October 12 High 04:22 AM 8.85 Low 10:15 AM 0.72 High 04:35 PM 10.02 Low 11:04 PM -0.13 Sunrise: 6:52 AM Sunset: 6:05 PM First Qtr: 11:26 PM
Sunday, October 3 Low 03:17 AM 0.88 High 09:32 AM 8.28 Low 03:27 PM 1.24 High 09:43 PM 9.20 Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 6:21 PM	Friday, October 8 High 12:44 AM 10.27 Low 06:46 AM -0.70 High 01:00 PM 10.91 Low 07:15 PM -1.34 Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 6:12 PM	Wednesday, October 13 High 05:30 AM 8.51 Low 11:22 AM 1.12 High 05:43 PM 9.60 Sunrise: 6:53 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM
Monday, October 4 Low 04:00 AM 0.41 High 10:15 AM 8.86 Low 04:12 PM 0.60 High 10:29 PM 9.64 Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 6:19 PM	Saturday, October 9 High 01:32 AM 10.10 Low 07:32 AM -0.56 High 01:47 PM 10.99 Low 08:06 PM -1.30 Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 6:10 PM	Thursday, October 14 Low 12:15 AM 0.21 High 06:40 AM 8.39 Low 12:34 PM 1.29 High 06:55 PM 9.34 Sunrise: 6:54 AM Sunset: 6:02 PM

Note: The number for each high and low tide indicates the height in feet above or below sea level. This chart shows tides for the mid-coast of York County; tide times are a few minutes earlier to the north (Old Orchard Beach) and a few minutes later to the south (York Beach). Tides are affected by the weather and cycles of the moon; the actual times and tide heights can differ slightly from the predictions above.



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Simply Stunning – A one-woman show with Liz Hoag

“The simplification, abstraction, and color choices come together to give it an open but also warm and comforting feeling of place,” said artist Liz Hoag.

Hoag’s one-woman show is underway at The Gallery at Maine Art Hill, 14 Western Avenue, Kennebunk, and will run until October 7. The doors open every day at 10 AM.

Hoag’s current work is a refining of her ideas about composition, color, and light. In this work, she sheds realistic or narrative detail while retaining ideas. For example, more than depicting a detailed image of a place, the work retains a sense of place, but the most clearly defined ties to a specific location are absent.

“I use the woods as a starting point for an abstract idea. Then, by intentionally cropping the view, I con-

sistently retain a substantive structural focal point within the composition,” shared Hoag. “I use other elements that guide the audience to look around the space and return to the focal point. The forms from nature I choose to retain are weighted and colored in a way that make the viewer feel sure of their footing, feel balanced, feel comfortable.”

Hoag’s use of color and value gives depth to the realistic space at the same time it aids in the abstract two and three-dimensional balance. With different palette choices in each work, there is often a sense of season and time of day as well. This adds to the comfort the viewer experiences and a feel of a defined place.

“My use of negative space between trees or other elements enhances the push and pull of both the depth of

the imagined landscape and the flat plane of the canvas,” explained Hoag. “It helps us travel through the space in more than one dimension. And I love the interplay that often comes off like stained glass.”

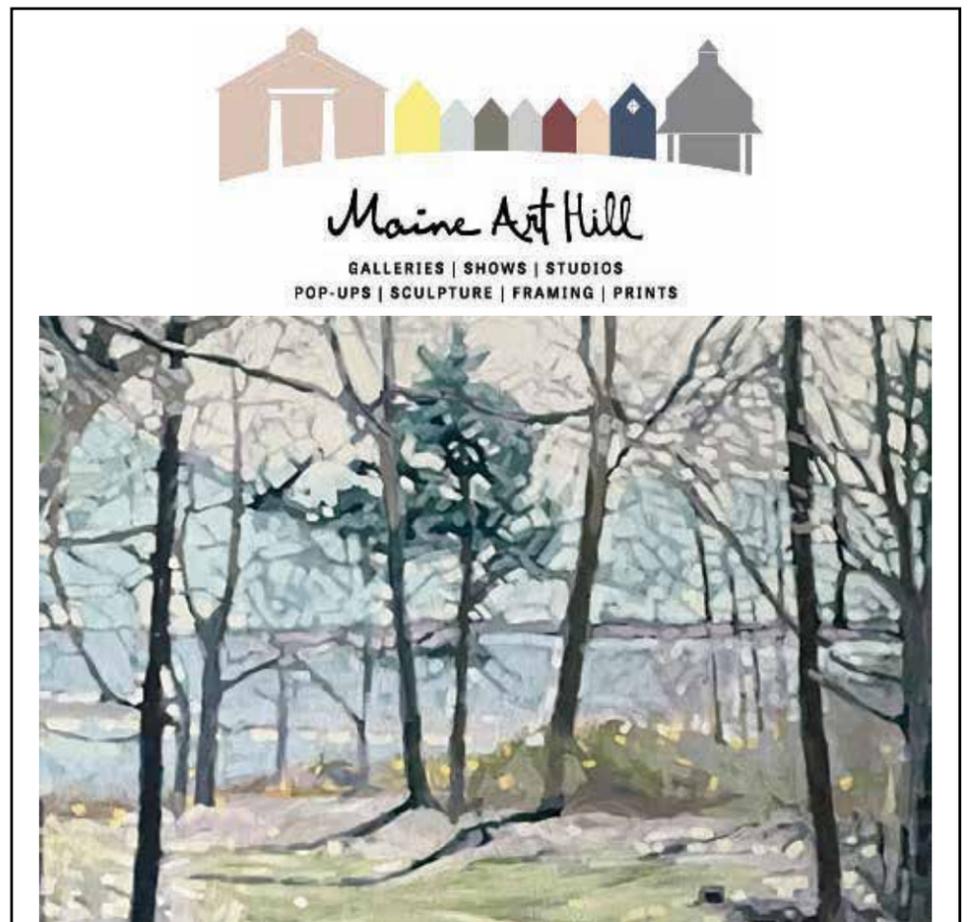
Artists learn to make forms turn in space and mimic what we see. Hoag is growing out of that system of seeing. She is looking for a connection to the real world that is more sensory and abstract than constructed.

“I still retain a feeling of solidity in wood or tree without the constraints of super-realistic painting. The work is not impressionist but contains impressionist elements,” said Hoag. “It maintains a solid base structure with light and color as interrelated collaborative elements.”

FMI 967-2803 or www.maine-art.com/shows.



Out to Sea by Liz Hoag



Liz Hoag

September 25 - October 7

Shows on Maine Art Hill

Show opens at 10 AM or take the Virtual Tour online!

maine-art.com

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Monday, October 4

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\$30 per person.

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www.rivertreearts.org

Acrylic Paint Pour Workshop

Saturday, October 9

11 AM-1 PM Adults

Saturday, November 6

11 AM-1 PM Teens

\$50 per person.

Registration required.

www.rivertreearts.org

"Zentangle" Workshops

Thursday, October 28

10 AM-12 PM Adults

Thursday, December 2

6-8 PM Adults

Registration required.

www.rivertreearts.org

Gnome Sweet Gnome Workshops

Friday, November 12

3:30-5:30 PM Teens

Saturday, November 13

10 AM-12 PM Adults

\$40 per person.

Registration required.

www.rivertreearts.org



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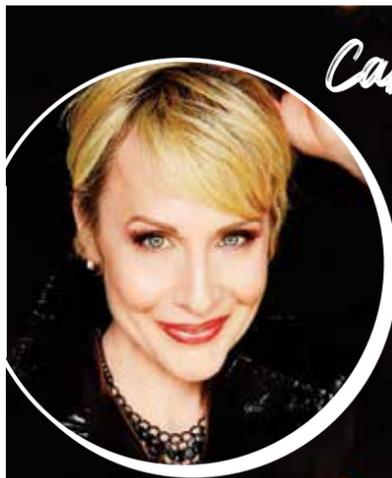
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SEP 24, 25, 26

Sprinkled with "making it in the biz" stories and rollicking behind-the-scenes anecdotes, she delivers a musical tribute to the divalicious ladies of music in a show entitled *Viva La Diva*. Floating effortlessly between Broadway, Pop, American Songbook, R&B, and Country, Carter delights audiences with the award-winning songs of Patsy Cline, Judy Garland, Carole King, Barbra Streisand, Peggy Lee and more!

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Thursday, September 30

Weekly Conversational French Language Group, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 6:30 PM. Informal approach to practicing or re-learning French in person and also via Zoom. Anyone with a French Language interest is welcome. FMI and for Zoom invitation email cappleby@wellstown.org. FMI also call the library at 207-646-8181.

Basic and Advanced Coastal Erosion Control Practices, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 8 AM-4 PM. Learn effective techniques for controlling erosion in coastal areas. This course, offered at the Wells Reserve, is primarily for contractors but is helpful to municipal code enforcement officers, consultants, engineers, and public works employees. The course is necessary to become certified in erosion and sedimentation control practices by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. \$50. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Wonderful Weeds, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10 AM-12 PM. Discover the medicines and foods underfoot on the Laudholm campus of the Wells Reserve, so you will recognize them as you explore your own yard or other local lands. Individual \$8/\$6, family \$20/\$15 plus site admission. Registration required at linda@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 ext 128. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Friday, October 1

Virtual Nighttime Stories on Facebook, hosted by Kennebunk Free Library. Starting on October 1, nighttime stories with Miss Emmaline will be offered virtually. Find a video every week sharing some relaxing stories for bedtime. The videos will be posted on the library's Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/KennebunkFreeLibrary>. FMI www.kennebunklibrary.org or 985-2173.

Ogunquit Performing Arts Piano Festival - with Frederick Moyer, The Dunaway Center, 23 School Street, Ogunquit, 7:30 PM. The next show of this festival will feature Boston Chamber Music on October 9, followed by a student concert on October 17. Free parking is available for audience members behind the Dunaway Center. Concert tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$5 student, and may be purchased online at www.ogunquitperformingarts.org.

Friday Afternoon Teen Gaming, hosted by Kennebunk Free Library, 3:30 PM. This group for ages 10 and up meets Friday afternoons for a variety of games from Boomerang F to Overcooked to Gang Beasts, sometimes even Minecraft, come join us and build. See the library's event calendar for the Zoom link at www.kennebunklibrary.org.

Saturday, October 2

Dress a Girl Around the World, Kittery Lions Club, 117 State Road, Kittery, 9 AM-12:30 PM. Bring your sewing machines and a yard of dark washed cotton fabric to make a dress for a girl living in impoverished conditions. FMI Dressagirlsmaine@gmail.com

Book Signing with Jean Becker, author of *The Man I Knew*, Hurlbutt Designs, 51 Western Avenue, Kennebunk, 11 AM.

Auditions for *White Christmas*, 10 Main St, Ogunquit, 10 AM-1 PM. Ogunquit Playhouse announces local auditions for the role of Susan Waverly in their upcoming production at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Auditions are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact Joyce A. Presutti, Education Manager at 251.9815 or jpresutti@ogunquitplayhouse.org.

12th Annual Family Jamboree, Wells Harbor Park, 331 Harbor Road, Wells, 11 AM-3 PM. This event is sponsored by the Wells Chamber of Commerce and features "free family fun" including crafts, games, activity booths, pumpkin decorating, an obstacle course, a sand drawing workshop and more. The Wells Democratic Party will have a pinwheel making table at their booth and the Wells Republicans will have a "pin the tail on the elephant" game at their booth. For detailed information, visit www.wellschamber.org or call 646-2451.

Monday, October 4

Take and Make Kits for Children, Kennebunk Free Library, 112 Main Street, Kennebunk. Starting October 4, the library is offering is offering take and make craft kits with all the materials to make a craft or two. No registration required, available while supplies last. Kits will be available in the library and curbside by request. This month, the library is offering crafts to celebrate Halloween. FMI www.kennebunklibrary.org or 985-2173.

Wednesday, October 6

Nonfiction Book Group, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 4:30 PM. The pick for this month is *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy. FMI cappleby@wellstown.org or 646-8181.

Friday, October 8

Fiber Arts, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 10:30 AM. Join in every Friday at the library to show off your latest knitting creation, get tips on your crochet technique and chat with old friends and make some new ones. All ages & levels of ability are encouraged to join for ideas, inspiration and lively conversation. FMI sclaydon@wellstown.org or 646-8181.

Saturday, October 9, 7 to 10 PM

A Steve Riley Hope Farm Theater Production

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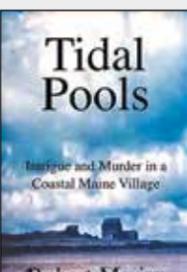
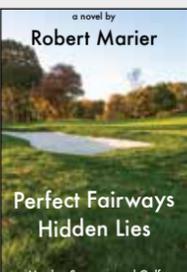
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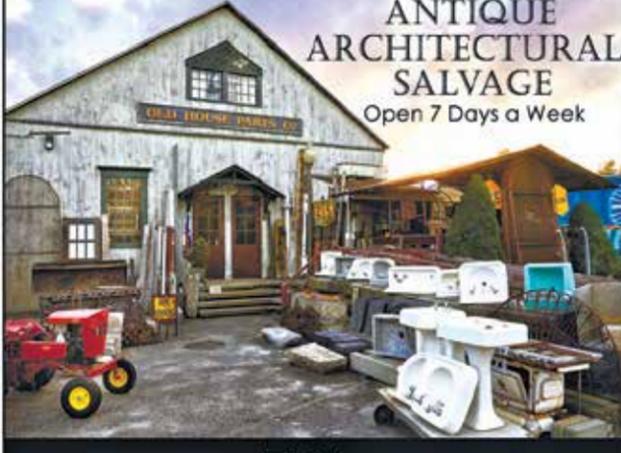
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Andrea and Adam Mitchell felt disappointed by the super shiny Big Box sconces that hung in their bathroom. They removed them and replaced them with these adorable vintage sconces. The patina lends itself to their charming style. The couple enjoys the warm light of the modern Edison bulbs, and they particularly get a kick out of the tiny pull chains on each piece.



Secrets of the Salt Marsh Walk, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10-11:30 AM. Learn what is special about the productive ecosystems found between seashore and upland. This walk at the Wells Reserve covers about 1 mile. Free with site admission. Registration required at caryn@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 ext 110. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Secrets of the Soil, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 2-3:30 PM. Play in the dirt at the Wells Reserve with Maine Master Naturalist Linda Littlefield Grenfell. Learn about the

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 13

origin of soil and its necessity for all life. Individual \$8/\$6, family \$20/\$15 plus site admission. Registration required at linda@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 ext 128. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Friday Afternoon Teen Gaming, hosted by Kennebunk Free Library, 3:30 PM. This group for ages 10 and up meets Friday afternoons for a variety of games from Boomerang F to Overcooked to Gang Beasts, sometimes even Minecraft, come join us and build. See the library's event vent calendar for the Zoom link at www.kennebunklibrary.org.

Saturday, October 9
Fall Foliage Walk, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10 AM-12 PM. Ages 12 and up. Individual \$8/\$6, family \$20/\$15 plus site admission. Reservations required at 207-646-1555 ext 116 or suzanne@wellsnerr.org. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

The Maine Sock Hop – a Rock 'n' Roll Dance Party, The Maine Classic Car Museum, 7-10 PM. FMI call evrnt manager Peter Farrell at 207-550-7199 or visit www.mainecarmuseum.com.

Saturday, Sunday & Monday, October 9, 10 & 11
Country Peddler Annual Open House, Harbor Road, Wells. Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM-5 PM and Monday, 9 AM-12 PM. FMI 646-6576

Monday, October 11
Estuary Discoveries, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10-11:30 AM. Meander along the accessible trail at Wells Harbor Park to learn about the value and importance of estuaries, where rivers meet the sea. Free. Registration required at linda@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 ext 128. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Wednesday, October 13
Ways of the Wabanaki, Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 2-4 PM. Reflect on life in this area before Europeans settled here, first by examining artwork by Penobscot artist James Francis, then by walking to the salt marsh. \$8/regular, \$6/member. Registration required at linda@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 x128. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar

Coming Attractions
Thursday, October 14
Public Safety Panel with Wells Police, Fire, and EMS, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 6 PM. What do I do about a downed power line? Where do I get my flu shot? The Wells Public Library is hosting a panel discussion with representatives from Wells Police, Fire, and EMS to answer community questions about basic safety. FMI sclaydon@wellstown.org or call the library at 207-646-8181.

Saturday and Sunday, October 16 & 17
Harvest Cottage Crawl: Family Fun, Food & Festivities, Shops at Morning Walk, 2 Morning Walk Lane, Lower Village Kennebunk, 11 AM-5 PM both days.

Monday, October 18 (and October 25)
Teen Dungeons and Dragons Adventures, Kennebunk Free Library, 112 Main Street, Kennebunk, 3:30-5 PM. Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of D&D. Open to new and experienced players alike. This group will meet every other Monday. Open to Teens ages 10 and up. FMI www.kennebunklibrary.org or 985-2173.

Thursday, October 21
Vitual Lunch Conversation with New York Times Bestselling Author John Grisham, hosted by Graves Memorial Public Library, 12 PM. Mr. Grisham has authored over 40 books, nine of which have been made into feature films. Tickets will be available soon through Eventbrite (\$50pp includes the link to this special event and a copy of The Judge's List - available in stores and libraries on October 19). FMI 967-2778.



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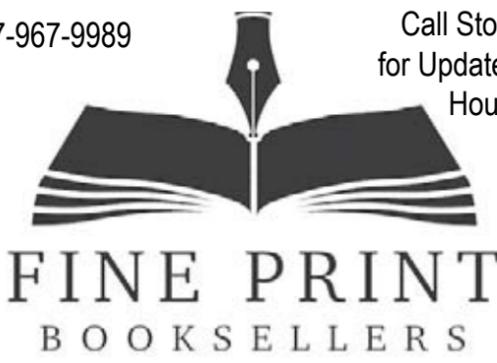
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KENNEBUNK RAMS YOUTH FOOTBALL 2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE/TIME
WEEK 1	Gorham @ Kennebunk Sun 9/5, 10:30 AM 8-14
WEEK 2	Kennebunk @ Somersworth Sun 9/12, 1 PM 30-14
WEEK 3	Biddeford @ Kennebunk Sun 9/19, 1 PM 6-14
WEEK 4	Sanford @ Kennebunk Sun 9/26, 2:30 PM 7-6
WEEK 5	Kennebunk @ Westbrook Sat 10/2, 10:30 AM
WEEK 6	York @ Kennebunk Sat 10/9, 7 PM
WEEK 7	Kennebunk @ Noble Sat 10/16, 6 PM
WEEKS 8 & 9	PLAYOFFS




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- Erika A., Kennebunk



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MAUREEN ADAMS, ASSOCIATE BROKER




Live Music Highlights

Bentley's Saloon
1601 Portland Road, Arundel
October 6: Open Mic Night 6PM
October 13: Open Mic Night 6PM
Live Music Wednesday through Sunday
www.bentleyssaloon.com | 985.8966

The Brunswick
39 West Grand Avenue, Old Orchard Beach
Live Music Friday 2PM-midnight,
Saturday 2PM-midnight, and Sunday 3-7PM
www.thebrunswick.com | 934.4873

The Colony Hotel
140 Ocean Avenue, Kennebunkport
October 7: Michael Corleto 5PM
October 16: Live at The Colony
Season Finale - Solo 5PM
www.thecolonyhotel.com
967-3331

Congdon's After Dark
Route One, Wells
October 2: Taylor Marie 5PM
www.cadfoodtrucks.com

Feile Restaurant & Pub
1619 Post Road, Wells
Live Music Every Wednesday & Saturday
www.feilerrestaurantandpub.com | 251.4065

The Front Porch
9 Shore Road, Ogunquit
Live Music seven days a week.
Monday-Friday 4PM until late night
Saturday & Sunday 11:30AM until late night
www.thefrontporch.com | 646.4005

Funky Bow Brewery and Beer Company
21 Ledgewood Lane, Lyman
Live Music every Fri-Sat-Sun.
October 3: Beer Yoga 11AM
October 3: Jake Perron & Dave Shaffer 1PM
October 8: CC & Friends 5PM
October 10: Beer for Books Fundraiser 1 PM
www.funkybowbeercompany.com | 409.6814

Hurricane Restaurant
29 Dock Square, Kennebunkport
October 6: Ocean Ave. 5:30PM
October 13: Duo 5:30PM
Chris Joseph on Sundays 12-3PM
www.hurricanerestaurant.com | 967.9111

Inn on the Blues
7 Ocean Avenue, York
Live Music on weekends
www.innontheblues.com
351-3221

Nikanos Mediterranean
173 Main Street, Ogunquit
Live Music on weekends
www.nikanos.com | 646-1112

The Nonantum
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www.nonantumresort.com
494-1270

The Pilot House
2 Harbor Lane, Kennebunk
October 1: Radio Revival Unplugged 5PM
October 8: Radio Revival Duo 5PM
www.thepilothouseme.com | 204.0709

Ryan's Corner House Irish Pub
17 Western Avenue
Lower Village Kennebunk
Live Music Wednesday through Sunday
October 2: The Barmen 6:30PM
967.3564

Vinegar Hill Music Theatre
53 Old Post Road, Arundel
October 1: Studio Two
Beatles Tribute Band 8PM
October 8: The Band Band 8PM
October 9: Live Bullet:
Bob Seger Tribute Band 7PM
www.vinegarhillmusictheatre.com
985.5552

City Theater in Biddeford pulls out all the stops for its production of *The Ghost Train*



Masks will be required to attend this performance. Visit www.citytheater.org for a list of COVID19 Protocols.

It is late at night and six travelers find themselves stranded in the waiting room of an isolated railway station outside of Rockland, Maine. The station master is closing the station for the night, and he tries to persuade them to leave. He warns them of the supernatural danger of a ghost train that sometimes haunts the line at night, bringing death to all who set eyes upon it. With nowhere else to go the 6 travelers are left to spend the night...

Written by the British playwright and actor Arnold Ridley, *Ghost Train* was first produced in London and on Broadway in the 1920s and inspired several film adaptations. It offers some scary moments along with plenty of laughs.

A long running success in London and on Broadway *The Ghost Train* is packed with thrills, chills and laughter and as many plot twist as an Agatha Christie mystery. For sheer, creeping mystery, it's a play without a peer. The show runs October 15-31, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. (There is no performance on Sunday, October 17.)

Tickets are \$25 and are available at www.city-theater.org/tickets or call 207-282-0849

Ride the Pumpkin Patch Trolley this fall

There are two more weekends of the Seashore Trolley Museum's 23rd Annual Pumpkin Patch Trolley, so don't miss out. In addition to the weekends of October 1-3 and 8-10, you can ride the trolley now on Monday, October 11 (Indigenous Peoples' Day). The event runs from 11AM-3PM on these dates, rain or shine.

Guests are treated to heritage railway rides on antique trolleys, where they are delivered to the museum's pumpkin patch to select a pumpkin. Families can paint their pumpkins and enjoy a cookie walk, photo scavenger hunt, craft-in-a-bag, fall photos and more. Lunch service features finger-licking good BBQ by the Texas Grace Kitchen food truck. Costumes are encouraged! A social media costume contest will take place following each event day.

All activities will take place outdoors. Families will be socially distanced and masks are required on the trolleys and indoors. Trolleys are disinfected before and after each ride.

Admission is \$14 for adults, \$12 for adults 60+, \$11.50 for youth 6-16, \$7 for youth 3-5, and \$2 for youth under 3. Purchase tickets in advance at <https://pumpkintrolley.eventbrite.com>. Located at 195 Log Cabin Road in Kennebunkport, Seashore Trolley Museum is the world's first and largest electric railway and transit museum. FMI visit www.trolleymuseum.org or contact Patti Chase, (207) 967-2800 x104 or email events@trolleymuseum.org.



Robby MacLeod of Kennebunk poses with his pumpkin at Seashore Trolley Museum's Pumpkin Patch Trolley.



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Restaurant Round Up
by Jo O'Connor

Great news: the wildly popular Broadway style cabaret is now extending its run through October 9 on Fridays and Saturdays at 6 PM at the Kennebunkport Inn. This should be on your must-see list. <https://kennebunkportinn.com/club-cumming-on-the-coast/>
courtesy photo

The Wine Beat - with Bonnie

Bonnie's new favorite wines are the Daou wines from California. The four wines that she has picked to have in the store are Cabernet, Bodyguard, Pessimist and Sauvignon Blanc. So, what's so special about these wines, you ask? First, the vineyard is located in the beautiful area of Pasa Robles, California, which has an exceptional growing climate for these grapes. Second, Bonnie enjoys the full flavors of each of these wines. The Cabernet is very silky and juicy; Bodyguard is a Petite Verdot/Petite Sirah blend with bright big flavors; Pessimist is a blend of Petite Syrah/ Zinfandel and has a much bigger, bolder flavor; and lastly, the Sauvignon Blanc has a citrus flavor that is light and crisp. The wines range in price from \$21 to \$63 and are found on Bonnie's wall of favorites!



Bonnie Clement, owner of HB Provisions, has been carefully developing the wine selection at HB Provisions for the past 20 years. Be sure to ask for her current recommendations. At HB's, you will find an array of wines priced from \$2.29 to \$449 per bottle. The selection is predominantly Californian with a strong assortment of old world wines. HB Provisions, 15 Western Ave., Kennebunk ~ 207.967.5762 ~ hbprovisions.com

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Teaching Springsteen, and learning from his music

by Dana Pearson

He crossed the Hudson River to catch Chuck Berry at the Paramount Theatre in Manhattan, and loved Buddy Holly's music. But for John Massaro, rock and roll was mostly background. He was an athlete, a college-bound Jersey boy, a future political scientist, not some greaser, not some typical late-1950's teenager who lived for the next hit coming over the radio. In fact, he admits to having enjoyed the watered-down Little Richard interpretations sung by Pat Boone, crediting the white-bread crooner for helping spread rock and roll to the masses.

So how is it that someone who didn't live for rock and roll as a kid come to love Bruce Springsteen in middle age and write a book about him, after having taught a college course on how the Boss's songs address politics and other important matters?

As with most things, it was timing. Massaro didn't need to embrace rock music as an adolescent; he wasn't compelled to collect 45s or memorize song lyrics or follow musicians' every move; rock and rock just didn't matter much to him – then. But when he experienced a crippling bout of depression in his mid-40s, he found that a Springsteen live box set given to him by his sister unexpectedly proved restorative (along with help from family, friends, and his therapist).

"I felt better listening to the music," he says in the sunroom of his Wells home, adorned with photos of family (and Bruce), where he's lived with his wife Kim since their retirement in 2009. He wondered why the music resonated so deeply. Digging below the catchy melodies and amazing musicianship of such songs as "Thunder Road," "Badlands," and "Hungry Heart," Massaro studied the lyrics, and found that many of the themes Springsteen wrote about were ones he could identify with and cared about. So began his passion.

That passion, which led to the publication of *Shades of Springsteen: Politics, Love, Sports, and Masculinity* (Rutgers University Press, 2021), had its origins in the 1983 closure of Nasson College in Springvale, where Massaro had taught since 1971. Two sabbatical replacement years at the University of Southern Maine kept him afloat emotionally, but in 1985 he was unemployed with three children, one of them preparing for college.

"I went into a deep, deep depression," he says. Though unemployment provided him with the novel joy of his first wide-open September in which he says

"I could read what I wanted to read, and got to clean out the basement, which was nice," by that winter, he had sunk into darkness.

It took a while to crawl out. When offered a teaching position at SUNY Potsdam that would begin the fall of 1986, he was hesitant about accepting. He remembers telling his wife and then his therapist that he would refuse the gig. He also remembers that "the look in their faces told me that wasn't a good idea." He took the job.

A gift from his younger sister Jeanne for his first Christmas in New York that year was *Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band Live/1975-85*. She was a fan, but she had no idea how consequential that box set would be.

While he liked the music of other Garden Staters, like Jon Bon Jovi and Frank Sinatra, it was fellow Jersey-an Bruce Springsteen who provided a salve to Massaro's bruised soul. It was only later, while reading Springsteen's memoir *Born to Run* (2016), when Massaro learned about his favorite musician's lifelong battle with depression. It only made sense that Springsteen would often sing about overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Speaking of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, while at SUNY Potsdam, Massaro came to teach a course on Congress.

"I hated it," he says. "But then a new colleague wanted to teach it, so I handed it over. That left a gap, so I went on sabbatical and created a course on politics and basketball." By treating basketball as a country, he was able to address commercialism, racism, and other issues in a creative way that interested students who otherwise might not be jazzed about politics. After a few years teaching that course – which Massaro says his department supported but the board of trustees was not thrilled about – he decided to take another creative approach in teaching politics by incorporating the songs of Bruce Springsteen. Again, his department was cooperative, the trustees apoplectic.

However, the students were engaged in this original approach, which began in 2000. With Springsteen's political awakening happening in public view over the course of decades, Massaro was able to present his songs of social injustice and political chicanery (while all the while remaining optimistic in Americans' ability to forge ahead) to his students, who would often offer fascinating connections to their own lives.

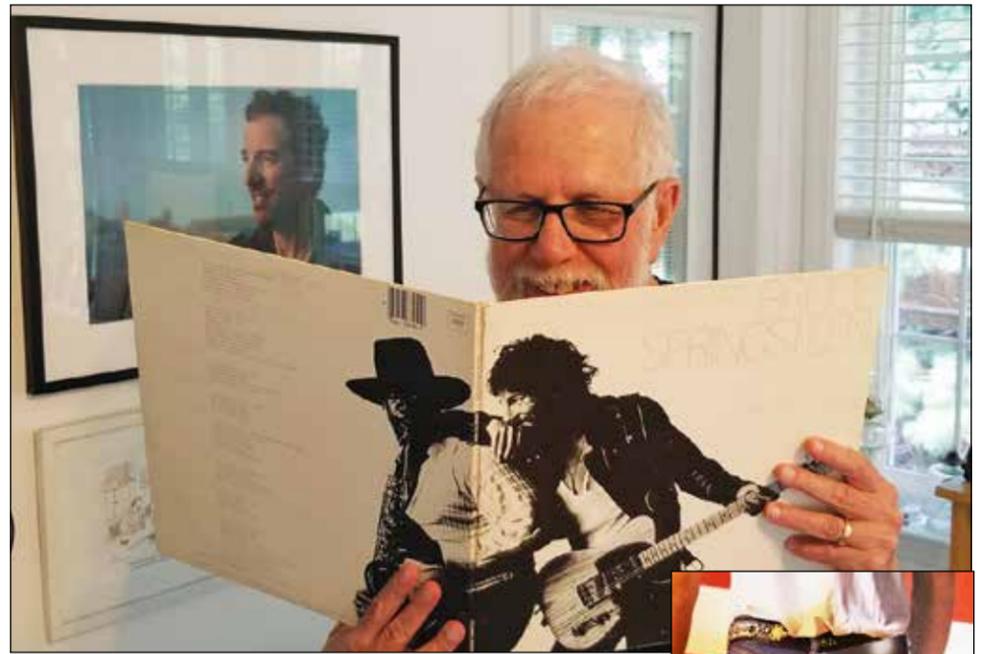
"It was the first time a full-semester course on Springsteen was ever offered," says Massaro. "And

I believe I became a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2005 because of the Springsteen course, not in spite of it."

One song discussed in his course was "Born in the U.S.A.," which many people misinterpreted at the time as a jingoistic rah-rah pro-American anthem, including President Ronald Reagan, who played it during his re-election campaign rallies in 1984. Massaro doesn't entirely fault people for missing the point of the song, as its powerful chorus – the part most people can quote – doesn't suggest the disappointment of the returning war vet expressed in the lesser-known verses. Still, as Massaro notes in his book, "Even with the obvious anti-Vietnam War sentiments of the song and its criticism of the system's treatment of its returning veterans, an element of patriotic pride remains."

Upon his retirement, Massaro promised himself he'd write about basketball and Springsteen. Calling himself "a one-track guy who can do only one thing at a time," he first tackled the sports book, *Deflated Dreams: Basketball and Politics* (BookBaby, 2015), before compiling essays and writing new material for *Shades of Springsteen*.

"I didn't want to write just another book on Spring-



John Massaro of Wells has written a book about how Bruce Springsteen's lyrics have touched upon politics, love, and other matters in an intelligent and evolving way over the decades. Photo by Dana Pearson

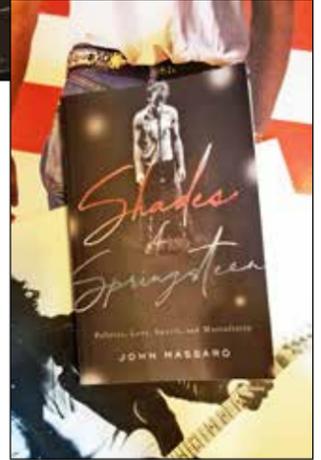
steen analyzing his work," says Massaro. "I wanted to show the influence he had on me, not just tell it." To that end, he has drawn several comparisons between his life and Springsteen's, including their bouts of depression, patriotism, and stances on masculinity.

"My generation was brought up believing in the strong, silent type," he says. "We were supposed to fight. Springsteen had that persona, but he also had the sensitive poet in him, too. In his album *Tunnel of Love*,

he shows that you can be tough in love."

When asked if he'd feel any differently if Springsteen had been born in Detroit or Scranton, yet still wrote the same type of songs, Massaro said, "When I was 18, I left New Jersey and New York and never went back. Springsteen is the Jersey connection, my way back home, I suppose."

Massaro, who also enjoys Carly Simon, Neil Young, Billy Joel, and Leonard Cohen, first saw Springsteen perform during his 1992 world tour. He noticed that many concertgoers were upset that the Boss was playing without the E Street Band (for the first time), but he thought the show was great – and has seen him 20



Shades of Springsteen: Politics, Love, Sports, and Masculinity has been published by Rutgers University Press. Photo by Dana Pearson

times since, including his Broadway show in 2019.

"I once drove out to Michigan and Ohio to see him two nights in a row, Detroit one night, Cleveland the next," he says, starting to laugh. "I was doing research."

Dana Pearson can be reached at dana@touristandtown.com

According to John Massaro:
Bruce Springsteen's Five Essential Albums
Tunnel of Love
Born to Run
Darkness on the Edge of Town
Nebraska
Born in the USA

Bruce Springsteen's Five Essential Songs
"Thunder Road" - My wife Kim loves Roy Orbison, she had a front porch, and there are lines in there that she can connect to – that's our song.
"Born to Run" - Obviously.
"New York City Serenade" - It's operatic, majestic. The theme: if you're gonna be in New York City, you gotta be tough, and it's not going to be easy – like life.
"Racing in the Street" - You have to find your passion somewhere (if not in your job).
"Cautious Man" - I love the imagery of the song that in trying to be the person we want to be in life we must fight a battle between the "Love" and the "Fear" that will always exist within us struggling mortals.



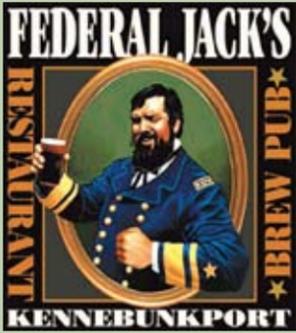
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