

MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE



THIS & THAT

APRIL 2018

READ IT HERE!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR
AWARD NOMINATIONS

SUMMER WISDOM 2018

ALICE PARKER &
MSC SINGERS

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN
HAWKING

ABOUT MSC

Midcoast Senior
College
10 Tibbetts Drive,
Suite 210
Brunswick, ME
04011

[msoffice@
midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)

(207) 725-4900

midcoastseniorcollege.org

Like us on
Facebook! ■

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR ...

The Wheeler/Thompson Founders' Award & The Bill Brown Award For Teaching Excellence

THE BILL BROWN AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Bill Brown was a beloved literature instructor at MSC who began teaching in 2000. He went on to offer a course every semester through 2010. His courses were nearly always full, and the subjects ranged from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Ernest Hemingway and Jon Dos Passos. Each year, the Curriculum Committee of MSC seeks nominations for the annual Bill Brown Award for Teaching Excellence to be presented to a past or present MSC instructor who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, and who meets the criteria for eligibility that appear below. The recipient will be honored at the annual membership luncheon in June.

Members: [Submit your nomination for the Bill Brown Award](#) by Friday, May 11, 2018.

THE WHEELER/THOMPSON FOUNDERS' AWARD

The *Wheeler/Thompson Founders Award* was established by the Board in 2009 in honor of the two co-founders of Midcoast Senior College, Nancy Wheeler and Jack Thompson. The Award was announced at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration in November 2009.

The Board of Directors of Midcoast Senior College (MSC) is seeking nominations for the annual Wheeler/Thompson Founders' Award to be presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to MSC. The recipient will be honored at the annual Membership Luncheon in June.

Members: [Submit your nomination for the Wheeler/Thompson Founders' Award](#) by April 27, 2018.

Mission Statement of Midcoast Senior College

To provide non-credit academic courses and other educational events for people 50 years and older to continue lifelong learning.

IT'S A DATE!

SUMMER WISDOM 2018

MORRELL ROOM, CURTIS LIBRARY, WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by Sunnybrook Senior Living Community

June 6: "CAN POLITICAL POLLING BE TRUSTED?"

Political polls are ubiquitous, but they have been wrong in recent years in predicting the outcomes of elections. Why do polls sometimes mis-measure the public's support for candidates or public policies? What characteristics of polls make them more or less accurate? This lecture will review common pitfalls of polls, but also review the many reasons to consider polls useful and valuable. **Michael Franz** is Professor of Government and Legal Studies at Bowdoin College. He studies campaigns and elections, with a specific focus on campaign finance and political advertising. His most recent book is *Political Advertising in the United States*.

JUNE 20: "AVOIDING THE CRACKS—A STORY OF SURVIVAL, 1939-49"

This presentation will follow the ten-year story of the presenter's survival of both the holocaust and the communist dictatorship in Poland after WWII. **Rudy Horowitz** was born in Poland and immigrated to the U.S. after surviving both the Nazi occupation and Polish communism. He lived and practiced architecture in New York until 2000. In 2017 he moved to Topsham, where he now resides.

JUNE 13: "AFGHANISTAN 2005-2017: A PERSPECTIVE ON AFGHAN LIFE AND CULTURE"

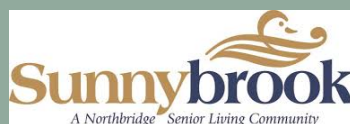
This presentation will focus on the presenter's experiences with and general insights into Afghan society, changes over the past 12 years, and impact of political structures and international presence, especially in terms of aid and development projects, from the perspective of a veterinarian working in the country. **Susan Chadima** is a veterinarian who has spent time in Afghanistan for over a decade. From 2013-2016 she was team leader for the Animal Health Development Programme, which is a long-term project funded by the European Union working directly with the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture's Directorate of Animal Health.

JUNE 27: "SALK VS. SABIN: THE CONFLICT OVER THE ERADICATION OF POLIO"

The eradication of polio is one of medicine's greatest triumphs. However, the development of effective vaccines was marked by infighting, sniping and medical activities that would be banned today. This presentation will outline that fascinating story. **Richard Neiman, M.D.** is Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and of Internal Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine. He has had a longtime interest in the history of medicine.

SPONSORED BY

Sunnybrook Senior Living Community, 340 Bath Road, Brunswick, ME 04011



Alice Parker: A View from the Tenor Section

By David and Priscilla Keith

With energy she rises to her feet, a pretty face framed by graying hair, mouth smiling, chin slightly upward. Facing us, she lifts one arm high and places a finger of her other hand across her lips. But the sanctuary is already hushed, and we singers are alert in anticipation.



From the basses in the back row to the sopranos in front, Alice Parker provided a marvelous conclusion to a stimulating choral singing class.

With a nod to the accompanist, she raises both arms as piano strings vibrate with the opening runs of a traditional spiritual from among the hundreds this woman has arranged. Comes first a solo voice, then enter the basses, and in time melodious four-part harmony sings out to the attentive listeners.

*Take me to the waters,
Take me to the waters,
Take me to the waters
to be baptized. . .*

We turn pages of our score as her guiding hands motion us to raise the soprano, fade the alto. She nods approvingly. And in time she brings our harmonious voices to the music's closing bars.

Her raised arms come down together on her chest, she bows slightly to us who have been singing, and there is but a bare moment of utter silence.

Then, a passionate response fills the chamber, and Alice Parker, widely recognized as a musical legend, turns to the audience, smiling.

Still spry in her nineties, for seven decades this conductor, composer, author, teacher, and song leader has inspired thousands of singers and listeners around the world with her own choral music and innovative arrangements for school, church, and community choirs.

Today Ms. Parker has come from her home in Western Massachusetts to lead us in a choral workshop, thanks to Stuart Gillespie, director of our own Midcoast Senior Choir Singers and friend of this eminent woman once featured on the cover of *Time*.

One singer has written, "To have her energy and gifts and musicality in front of us was truly awe-inspiring." From another, "She brought so much pathos and harmony out of our voices."

A graduate of Smith College and the Juilliard School, Ms. Parker studied choral conducting with the noted Robert Shaw, cooperating with him in widely received arrangements of folk songs, hymns and spirituals. Since Shaw's passing, she continued composing and arranging an exceptional variety of forms: sacred anthems, cantatas, an opera, secular dances, and string quartets, while also arranging and rearranging traditional spirituals and folk songs that our chorus has been singing for several semesters.

From where I stand surrounded by fine voices, I know this afternoon in November will be the season's highlight for those who hold dear the preciousness and beauty of well-coordinated harmony and telling words with a soul.

Hush now! Alice Parker rises again to face us, mouth smiling, eyebrows raised, chin slightly upward.

She raises her arms. And with a nod to Nancy Wilkes at the piano, we hear the opening bars of our next presentation, Stu Gillespie's own arrangement of a traditional Scottish folksong. Ms. Parker wants herself to conduct this charming piece and so more fully appreciate Stu's own contribution to his growing repertoire of fine choral music.

She brings in tenor and bass voices first:

The water is wide, I cannot get over,

Thank you, Alice Parker, for leaving us with your magnificent inspiration.

REMEMBERING STEPHEN HAWKING

A Tribute

Barbara Snapp

March 2018

A towering mind exploring space
with time defined by light's fixed speed,
sits trapped within a metal cage
while numbers swirl and seek release.
A flick of eye sends out the word
that blackness leaks a bit of light –
a notion many thought absurd
and struggle to confirm at night.
Though bonds of flesh constrain and bind
the soul seeks laughter, soaring free,
and sails the seas of math and mind
now floating free of gravity.
Upon a journey immensely far,
he travels now among the stars.

DID YOU KNOW?

Midcoast Senior College has an on-line reader-submitted publication, the *Gazette*.

It provides a continuous platform for our writers and readers consistent with our educational mission. We encourage members and friends of MSC to contribute original writing of interest to other seniors in our community. Such writing may include suggested reading, letters to the Editor, essays under 800 words in the liberal arts such as history, literature, philosophy, science, international affairs, art, music, and poetry. We shall also feature selected articles from past issues of *The Midcoast Inquirer*. *Gazette* submissions may be accepted, rejected, edited, abbreviated, or referred to the *Inquirer* at the discretion of the editors. Accepted pieces will appear online. The side menu indicates the general grouping of materials Writing may be submitted to the *Gazette* in email form or word documents. Please send to: info@midcoastseniorcollege.org You may call us at 207-725-4900 for questions.