

The Midcoast Inquirer

Newsletter of Midcoast Senior College
June 2018, Volume 13, No 2



Challenges Ahead for Senior College

Midcoast Senior College is open! Providing educational opportunities to people age fifty and older, MSC is in full swing for the 2018 – 2019 school year... as promised. The Fall 2018 course brochure will soon be available, offering nearly thirty different courses.

The Board of Directors faced a major challenge when notified last November that it must vacate its current site. The board worked diligently after the notification so MSC could continue providing educational opportunities in the coming school year. Board members immediately established search criteria and worked to narrow down options by interviewing real estate agents, college directors/administrators, and site managers. We visited numerous sites. Monthly updates were presented at Board meetings and board members listened to reports, studied data, and exchanged opinions and ideas. The result is that MSC is in a new building and classes will be in session this fall.

The Board of Directors through its Finance Committee will continue to monitor MSC's budget so that it realistically reflects shifting economic conditions. Yes, it costs money to operate Senior College. Our rent has increased.

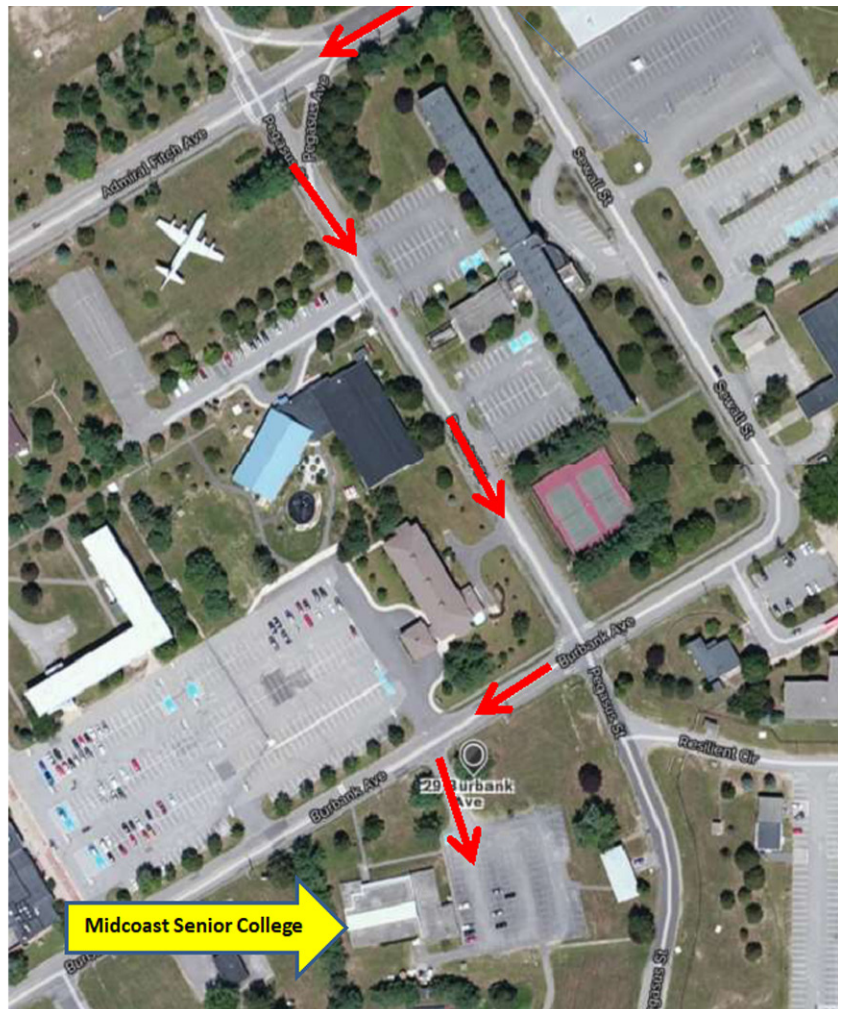
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Mission Statement of the Midcoast Inquirer:

The Midcoast Inquirer articulates the academic spirit and educational mission of Midcoast Senior College to offer lifelong learning for older adults. To this end, we provide a bulletin board that announces course offerings, lectures and special events, and a literary forum (or virtual classroom) of essays, reviews, interviews and commentaries written by faculty and students.

--Robert C. Williams, Editor

MSC's New Home at the Brunswick Landing



At the Brunswick Landing entrance

- enter on Admiral Fitch Boulevard,
- go left at first stop sign onto Pegasus Road,
- then turn right onto Burbank Avenue, and
- left into parking lot at 29 Burbank.
- Follow interior signs to MSC offices and classrooms.

The Midcoast Inquirer

is the newsletter of

Midcoast Senior College
29 Burbank Avenue, Suite 6
Brunswick, Maine 04011

midcoastseniorcollege.org

(207) 725-4900

mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

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Midcoast Senior College is one of seventeen Senior Colleges in the State of Maine. We serve the area from Freeport to Waldoboro and inland up to Augusta. Most of our classes are held at 29 Burbank Avenue, Suite 6, Brunswick, Maine. This past Fall we offered 33 courses and enrolled 590 students into 750 spots. Class schedules and *The Midcoast Inquirer* are available on our web site for each semester. Students may also register on line at midcoastseniorcollege.org.

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We are no longer teaching as we did eighteen years ago. For example, new technology keeps emerging. Communication is more important than ever. As educators, we must constantly change to reflect the world in which we live. If we do not provide the kind of educational opportunities you expect, then we have failed in our mission to deliver a quality liberal-arts education.

Three challenges must be met this coming year: to maintain quality, to continue to demonstrate fiscal accountability and sustainability, and to keep our mission statement relevant. If we meet these challenges, we will increase the quality of Midcoast Senior College's education program and widen the experiences of our students.

Yes, Midcoast Senior College is open. Education is important to adult learners ... and we welcome the opportunity to offer excellent courses and provide talented faculty to teach them and help them learn.

James Wilkes, President

Dante, St. Lucy and the Stones of Venice

By Gary Lawless

In January, 2018, I gave a talk for Midcoast Senior College called "How the Stones Came to Venice." I spent a month last fall in Venice, with a writing residency from the Emily Harvey Foundation. My project was to explore how the stones came to Venice – white Istrian stone, marble, sand, salt, lapis lazuli, sediments, polluting particulates and more. I would frequently pass by the church in which Saint Lucy's body rests, and I developed a particular love for the care and blessing of Saint Lucy.

*Gondola sunset
pink to the Dolomites
limestone sky
where the walk ends
in water we
wet our feet
pray to Saint Lucy
to go, to see –*

We walked to the Cannaregio, to the Church of Saint Geremia, just off the Strada Nuova, where the body of Saint Lucy lies in a glass case, silver mask across her eyes. We come to honor Lucy, and to honor Dante. Dante avows himself to be a "edele", a devotee of Lucy. In Canto Two of the Inferno, the Virgin Mary speaks to Lucy,

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Continued from Page 2: St. Lucy

seeking some help for Dante. Lucy urges Beatrice to come to Dante's aid. Later, in Purgatory, Lucy carries the sleeping Dante up the lower slopes of Mount Purgatory. In Paradise, Dante will seat Lucy on a throne with John the Baptist on her right, and on John's right, Saint Anne, the mother of Mary.



The Crypt of St. Lucy in the Church of St. Geremia, Venice

Lucy is "the enemy of all who are cruel". She is the patron saint of illumination and sight, both outer and inner. Dante may have credited her for relief from an illness of the eyes. She is often portrayed as "Divine Wisdom", carrying a lighted lamp in her hands.

Santa Lucia, the saint of light, was originally from Syracuse, Sicily. One version of her story has her consecrating herself to Christ after a visit from Saint Agatha, in a dream, – renouncing matrimony and giving all of her belongings to the poor. This did not go over well with her husband-to-be. She was imprisoned and tortured. Her eyes were dug out, but she put them back into place. (Another version of her story has her removing her own eyes to discourage a suitor.) Lucy is often depicted carrying a silver tray, on which rest her eyes. In the end, she was decapitated.

Her relics traveled to Constantinople, and when the Fourth Crusade sacked Constantinople the Venetian Doge Enrico Dandolo brought Lucy's bones to Venice. In 1981 thieves stole all of her bones, except for her head, but they were recovered five weeks later, on her feast day. Miraculously, other relics of her body are claimed in Rome, Naples, Verona, Milan, Lisbon, Germany, France, and Spain. Her feast day originally corresponded with the winter solstice – a celebration of the return of light.

We have come to pay our respects to Lucy, to Dante, to illumination; to go, to see, to seek the light of Divine Wisdom.

Gary Lawless is the owner of Gulf of Maine Books

in Brunswick, Maine. He has taught a number of courses for Midcoast Senior College and has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Humanities in Maine.

Eclipses of the Sun and the Great American Eclipse of 2018

Kate Bracher

On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse was visible in the continental U.S. for the first time in 38 years. The path of totality crossed the entire country from Oregon to South Carolina, and the weather in most places was clear, providing a spectacular view. So why is this such a rare event, and why did so many people travel long distances to see it?

An eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon, in its orbit around the earth, passes in front of the sun, blocking it out. But the moon does not cover the sun every month, because its orbit is tilted to ours. There are only two periods, six months apart, when an eclipse can occur. Of course, the moon is much smaller than the sun, but it is also much closer to us. In fact, the sun and moon appear to be about the same size in the sky. The moon moves along in its orbit at a speed of about 2,000 miles an hour, so it goes past the sun pretty quickly. For the brief time when it covers the sun, the daytime sky goes dark and the sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, blazes forth around the black disk of the moon, providing a very dramatic spectacle. Scientists use this opportunity to learn more about the corona, which is very thin yet has a temperature of about a million degrees Celsius.



Time-lapse photograph of the 2017 solar eclipse.

As the moon passes in front of the sun, it casts a shadow on the earth; but this shadow is quite small, perhaps only 75 miles wide or so. The shadow moves across the earth, at a ground speed of at least a thousand miles an hour; it does not remain over any given place very long, but traces out a narrow path across the earth's surface. Within this path, a total eclipse is briefly visible; in the

Continued on Page 4: Eclipses

Continued from Page 3: Eclipses

case of last summer's eclipse, the longest that totality lasted anywhere was just over two minutes. All these factors combine to make your chances of being in the right place at the right time rather slim.

Eclipses were long regarded as omens; more recently, they have been the focus of scientific expeditions to study the corona and the sun's lower atmosphere, the chromosphere. In 1780 Harvard University sent an eclipse expedition to Penobscot Bay; unfortunately, the expedition had miscalculated the path, and the location just missed totality. The last coast-to-coast eclipse was 99 years ago, in 1918. In 1932 a total solar eclipse crossed Maine (including Brunswick); the last one to be visible in Maine occurred in 1963, but there were mixed results due to the weather, and not all the expeditions were successful. Recent attempts to solve the problem of clouds have included the use of airplanes to get above the clouds, and to chase the moon's shadow, thus prolonging totality.

My first attempt to see a total eclipse was in 1959, when we were rained out near Boston. 1972 was my first success, on Prince Edward Island, where we had to make a last-minute dash to get out from under clouds but made it. We watched the black shadow of the moon race down on us, a thrilling sight. In 1979 a total eclipse crossed Walla Walla, Washington, where I was teaching; but it was completely cloudy. I saw another eclipse through hazy clouds from my uncle's back yard in Hawaii in 1991, then was clouded out in Austria in 1999. So last summer's eclipse was my next big chance.

We went to Fossil, Oregon, to avoid the huge crowds and traffic farther west in Oregon, and we had a fine view. The quality of the light changed and seemed to sharpen up as we neared totality. On the ground you could see little crescent-shaped images of the partially covered sun shining through the trees. Then in the last 30 seconds or so the sky darkened dramatically, and we saw the diamond ring effect (the last little bit of sun still showing before the moon engulfs it), and then the corona. We had a little over a minute of totality, and then all too soon the diamond ring again as the sun peeked out. It was an exhilarating experience.

We don't have to wait too much longer for another chance; the next eclipse to cross the U.S. will occur on April 8, 2024, only six years away. And this one will cross northern Maine — north of Bangor, over Jackman and Houlton, with three minutes or so of totality. Brunswick is outside the path of totality, but will have 97% of the sun eclipsed; however, the difference between 97%

and 100% is huge, and it is best to head for a spot in the path. One might also note that this eclipse crosses quite a few major cities, like Austin, Dallas, St. Louis, Cleveland and Buffalo, before reaching Maine. Of course, as we know, the weather here in April can be anything, from clear and sunny to snowing! After that, the next U.S. eclipse is not until 2045, coast to coast from California to Florida; coastal Maine gets one in 2079. I think we'd better aim for 2024 — good luck!

Kate Bracher is a resident of Brunswick, Maine, and an eminent astronomer who taught at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, for many years. This article is adapted from her February 21, 2018 Winter Wisdom lecture sponsored by Midcoast Senior College.

Note: Selected Winter Wisdom lectures are also available on the MSC web site.

CASE OPEN: The Kennedy Assassination

Robert C. Williams

Our MSC course this past Fall delved into the vast literature and many complications of the November 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The concurrent release of hundreds of JFK assassination documents, as mandated by Congress and the Assassination Review Board, happened simultaneously with our course. The release helped us realize some of the truths about the most egregious American national intelligence failure between Pearl Harbor, and 9/11.

We learned that the CIA has been covering up its knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald ever since his attempted defection to the Soviet Union in 1959, if not before. James Jesus Angleton, the paranoid mole-hunting CIA counterintelligence chief, controlled at least five separate files on Oswald at the CIA, including his personal off-books collection of files in his office that later included unreleased JFK autopsy photographs.

John McCone, CIA director in 1964, wrote that Oswald had been trained by the CIA and sent to Moscow as a false defector. His memo is still being authenticated.

Oswald's 201 CIA personnel file filled eight file drawers. The CIA finally released the file in 1992 and later made it available on-line.

Continued on Page 5: Case Open

Continued on Page 5: Case Open

TO: HEADQUARTERS, RI

FROM: 01/SIG - Ann EGERTER 1408 J (222) 1/6

DATE: 9 December 1960

PERSONALITY (201) FILE REQUEST

INSTRUCTIONS: Form must be typed or printed in block letters. SECTION I: All known aliases and variants (including maiden name, if applicable) must be listed. If filing data varies with this alias used, a separate form must be used. Write UNKNOWN for sources to complete. SECTION II: Cryptonyms or pseudonyms will be entered in Headquarters. SECTION III: To be completed in all cases.

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW CONDUCTED ON 16 APR 1976 BY 22 JHDET CL BY 0432/CP

NB: HARVEY!

Defected to the USSR in October 1959

Document Number -1B

For FOIA Review on APR 1976

PERMANENT CHANGE RESTRICTED (U) 201-289248

FORM 0318 (10-57)

SECRET RECORD COPY

First Page of Oswald's CIA file dated December 9, 1960.

Angleton was fired in 1974 and died in 1987, but never got over the fact that his trusted friend and mentor in British intelligence, Kim Philby, was a Soviet spy who fled to Moscow in January 1963. Angleton failed to spot Philby. But he thereafter suspected every CIA employee of being a mole, ruined the careers of many, disrupted the agency and made some believe that Angleton himself was the Soviet mole.

Angleton later confiscated the diaries of Mary Meyer, mistress of JFK and wife of Cord Meyer, another CIA agent, after Mary's 1964 murder. He also removed the entire file of Winston Scott, the CIA station chief in Mexico City, from his garage after Scott's death in 1975.

Scott had reported directly to Angleton on Oswald's October 1963 visit to the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City. Photos and tapes related to that visit were flown to Dallas on the evening of November 22. Oddly enough, they have disappeared.

In October, the FBI removed Oswald's name from its watch list. Had it remained on the list, the ex-Marine with the Soviet wife might never have been allowed near a presidential motorcade in Dallas a month later.

On Saturday, November 23, President Lyndon Johnson, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and deputy attorney general Nicholas Katzenbach agreed that a commis-

sion should be set up to conclude that Oswald was a disturbed lone gunman who had killed JFK unaided by Cuba or the Soviet Union. Otherwise there would be World War III. The investigation started with a conclusion and ended with a "magic bullet" theory.

Thus, the cover-up began, CIA director Allen Dulles (fired by JFK) joined the Warren Commission, and the commission never heard mention of New Orleans mafia leader Carlos Marcello (who later boasted he had JFK killed) or the top-secret U-2 spy plane whose secrets Oswald threatened to share with the Soviets. Today a significant majority of Americans simply don't believe the lone-gunman theory of the Warren Commission that Hoover thought would never stand up in court. Why should they?

The CIA, FBI and U.S. Naval Intelligence knew all about Oswald, perhaps even before he defected to Moscow. But the CIA cover-up is directed less at some sinister conspiracy than at the agency's own failure and incompetence. The agency's continuing reluctance to release files on CIA employees like David Atlee Phillips, William Harvey, or J. Walton Moore (all involved with Oswald) suggests they still have something to hide. And they failed to stop a killer they had been monitoring for four years before he murdered the President.

Truth in the wilderness of mirrors is hard to come by. History is an argument without end. Neither is satisfied by another data dump into the reservoir of two million documents and hundreds of books that deal with the JFK assassination.

We may never know the entire truth about Kennedy's murder. There are too many unanswered questions. But the case remains open, not closed, and we will continue to suspect that whatever the U.S. government shares with us on this matter may be yet another deception, cover-up, or misdirection following the pattern set in November 1963.

As the spies like to say, trust no-one. But keep on looking, researching, and arguing. Our MSC course on the JFK assassination did just that.

Robert C. Williams is a retired professor of Russian history who lives in Topsham and teaches at Midcoast Senior College (and edits this newsletter). He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and was working in Cambridge MA on November 22, 1963. One of his office mates, Priscilla Johnson, was the one person who knew both JFK and Oswald personally, having worked on Kennedy's Senate staff and interviewed Oswald in Moscow soon after his 1959 attempt to defect. She later wrote a book about Lee and Marina Oswald.

Alice Parker: A View from the Tenor Section

David McKeith



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.

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.

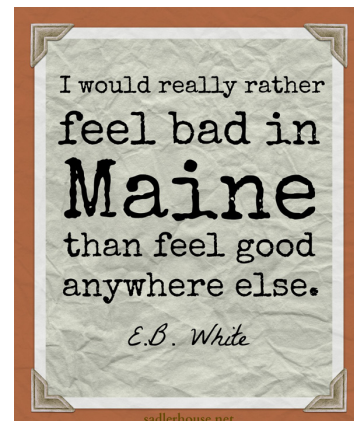
She raises her arms. And with a nod to Nancy Wilkes at the piano, we hear the opening bars of our next presentation, Stu Gillespie's own arrangement of a traditional Scottish folksong. Ms. Parker wants herself to conduct this charming piece and so more fully appreciate Stu's own contribution to his growing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

She brings in tenor and bass voices first:

*The water is wide, I cannot get over,
and neither have I the wings to fly. . .*

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

David McKeith is a long-time member of Midcoast Senior College and the founding editor of this newsletter, the Inquirer.



News from the Board of Directors.

Your board of directors meets monthly and continues to oversee a financially sustainable educational institution for older adults. We have established the Bill Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching to recognize our outstanding volunteer faculty.

We approved the lease of a color printer/copier machine so that we can do more of our printing in-house. We are also eliminating our traditional book budget that provides free books to students, but at a cost of twenty thousand dollars every year. Faculty and volunteers will continue to help students acquire their own books for class if they wish. All other senior colleges in Maine follow this pattern now, thus they have ceased to provide books free to students.

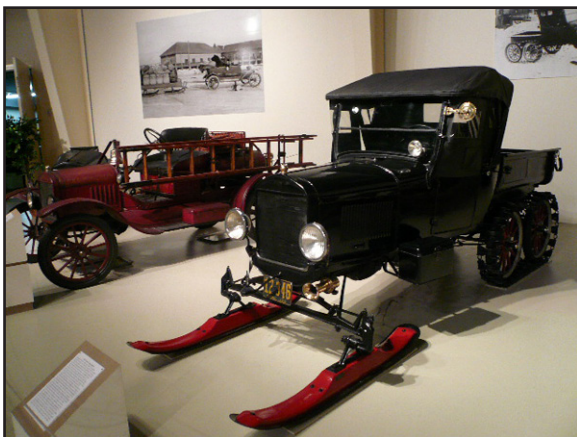
With the lapse of our present lease arrangements at Cook's Corner, we are planning our move to a new campus site this summer: 29 Burbank Avenue, Suite 6, on the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Our offices and several classrooms will operate from this address. We will also continue to have an off-campus remote classroom system in place for specific classes.

A greatly increased rent has compelled us to establish \$35 as an annual membership fee, \$60 as a fixed course rate (\$40 for additional courses taken in the same term), and a \$20 fee for the annual luncheon starting in 2019. We still believe MSC prices are among the best bargains in town!

We have directed our executive and finance committees to bring to the board in September a plan to establish a long-term capital fund campaign. Stay tuned, we can always use your support to sustain ourselves financially.

Where in the Midcoast?

Do you recognize this place?



Calendar.

June 14: Annual Luncheon, Bowdoin College, Thorne Hall.

Summer Wisdom, 2018

7:30 P.M. Morrell Room, Curtis Library

Sponsored by Sunnybrook Senior Living Community

June 6: "Can Political Polling be Trusted?", Michael Franz

June 13: "Afghanistan, 2005-2017: A Perspective on Afghan Life and Culture", Susan Chadi-ma

June 20: "Avoiding the Cracks—A Story of Survival, 1939-49", Rudy Horowitz

June 27: "Salk vs. Sabin: The Conflict over the Eradication of Polio", Richard Neiman

September 9 Beginning of Fall Classes

Thanks to our MSC Sponsors for their Support!

- Atlantic Federal Credit Union
- Bath Savings Institution
- Eaton Peabody
- The Highlands
- Highland Green
- Just Framing
- Legacy Properties Sotheby's International Realty/Botany Place
- Maine Pines Racquet & Fitness
- MW Sewall
- Norway Savings Bank
- Now You're Cooking
- Rhumbline Partners
- Riley Insurance
- Sunnybrook Village
- Thornton Oaks

Here is where you can learn about the various ways of getting from one place to another, whether by walking, by car, by plane, by bicycle or as pictured here by snowmobile. The answer is elsewhere in this issue.

Where in the Midcoast?

Owl's Head Transportation Museum

Founded in 1974, The Owls Head Transportation Museum is an operating, nonprofit museum with a strong focus on educational initiatives. Located on the Maine coast near the Knox County Regional Airport, the Museum is a place where machines of a bygone era are celebrated through conservation, preservation and demonstration.

Unlike many transportation museums, the Owls Head Transportation Museum operates our collection of aircraft, ground vehicles and engines at a number of special events conducted throughout the year. Care and maintenance of these historic vehicles requires the attention of a large volunteer workforce that, under the supervision of a professional staff, ensures that our collection is in operating condition. While the Museum is open all year, the summer event season offers an unparalleled opportunity to see our collection in action during scheduled airshows and ground vehicle demonstrations.

<http://owlshead.org>

There's a quality
of life
in Maine
which is this
singular and unique.

I think.
It's absolutely
a world onto
itself.

- Jamie Wyeth

sadlerhouse.net



...because learning never ends.

(207) 725-4900

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Midcoast Senior College
29 Burbank Avenue, Suite 6
Brunswick, Maine 04011

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