



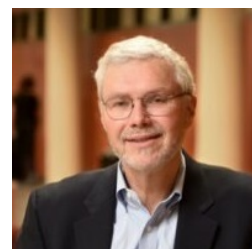
The Midcoast Inquirer

Midcoast Senior College's Newsletter

SUMMER 2023 Volume 18, No. 2

SUMMER AT MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE

Summer is here! (I think.) Time to enjoy the outdoor beauty of Maine. Summer is a relatively quiet time at Midcoast Senior College. But while we catch our breath after a busy year we are already at work on our classes, lectures, excursions, etc. for the Fall. Shortly you will be receiving information about our annual fund appeal. Your support is essential to our success. So on one of those nice rainy, foggy days that are also part of summer in Maine, please take a moment to make your donation to Midcoast Senior College. Then get back to the beach! *Jay Kuder, President*



MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE EXPANDS IN-PERSON



We're busy putting together our Fall Term course schedule and finding great locations to present our in-person classes. A huge thanks to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, UMA/Brunswick at The Landing, Thornton Oaks, Westrum House, The Highlands, Patten Free Library in Bath, and Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick for generously offering to host MSC classes! We will continue to offer a selection of on-line Zoom courses as well. The Fall Term schedule can be found on our website at www.midcoastseniorcollege.org. Be sure that your membership is paid so that you'll get advance registration opportunities. Learn more about our membership period on the last page of this newsletter. *Donna Marshall, Executive Director*

MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE

Midcoast Senior College (MSC) is a non-profit, 501c3 organization, founded in 2000.

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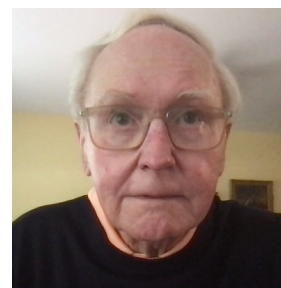
MSC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND GIVES THANKS TO RETIRING TRUSTEES



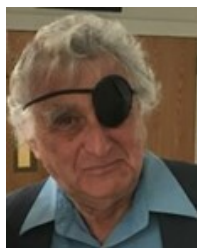
Jaki Ellis

Jaki Ellis will start her first three-year term on the board beginning July 1. She has enjoyed many MSC courses since her retirement. Jaki worked with K-12 schools for more than 35 years, promoting the health of children and healthy school communities. She wrapped up her professional career in Maine as the Director for Coordinating School Health Programs at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. She and her husband raised two sons and operated a beef farm on Woodward Point in Brunswick while working full-time jobs. In 2020 they turned over their farm to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which is managing it as a public preserve.

Also starting a three-year term on July 1 is **George Young**. Known to many MSC students who have taken his classic and Russian courses, George has had a long career in academia. After earning a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literature, he taught at Grinnell, Dartmouth, and the University of New England. In retirement, at OLLI in Portland and MSC in Brunswick, as both student and teacher, he has shared his long-standing love of the great books, especially in Russian and ancient classical literature. He has written extensively on Russian literature and religious philosophy of the late Tsarist period. In a long break from academia, he worked as a fine arts dealer and auctioneer, specializing in nineteenth and early twentieth century American and European paintings.



George Young



Mort Achter



Erv Snyder

After serving on the MSC board for two three-year terms, we say farewell to **Mort Achter** and **Erv Snyder**. Mort Achter will continue with his committee work including co-chairing the Summer Wisdom Lecture Series, as well as teaching for MSC. Erv Snyder, who steps down as Treasurer, also will continue to serve on committees. Our deep-felt thanks for their commitment, time, and energy.

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Freda Bernotavicz

Leona Dufour, Secretary

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George Young

Hearts High! A Bass Voice from the Back Row, by Robert C. Williams

Just because we are getting on in years doesn't mean we can't keep singing. We sing in church choirs, barbershop quartets, community choruses, in the shower -- or in Stuart Gillespie's marvelous choral singing class (not a choir) at Midcoast Senior College. The older adult voice can still blend well and sound good when we harmonize together.

The class began in 2015 as a group of seniors meeting to make music under the direction of our gifted director, his talented accompanist, pianist Nancy Wilkes, and our efficient course facilitator and singer, Kelly Watt. On a good day we divide into sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses and sit wherever Stuart tells us to sit. Stuart has a long career in teaching and conducting, including singing during his military service and choral conducting at Mystic Seaport and the Manchester Chorale. He is a great choral director partly because he is also a singer with a good ear and a sharp eye.



So we can't hide. We are a self-selected group of singers that values previous choral experience but always welcomes newcomers. We warm up. We sing out. We pay attention. Many of us have decent voices, a good ear, and can read music. Our voices blend well. Stuart's mantra "Hearts High," as one singer put it, means "we stand tall and sing with joy." And with mouths open.

Gillespie's class repertoire focuses on formal choral arrangements of well-known Anglo-European, Canadian, and American folk music. For example, we performed everyone's favorite *Home on the Range* recently, but in a quite novel arrangement with new blends and harmonies.

Another favorite from the nineteen sixties, *Four Strong Winds*, evoked the social conscience, liberation, and soul music of that era. So did Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind*. Gillespie enjoys concentrating on a few pieces each semester so that we can go beyond just learning the notes and can make some artistry from our practice. He believes we may be one of very few senior college choral groups active in the eastern U.S.



Stuart provided a special treat in 2018 when he invited Alice Parker, a friend and former arranger for the Robert Shaw Chorale, to conduct us in a singing workshop. She accepted and gave us several hours of musical magic that we still (mostly) remember.

The course provides a good dose of history, too. We learned *Shenandoah* began as a river song ("cross the wide Missouri"), moved around the globe as a sea chantey, and was linked to the Oneida chief John Shenandoah, whose food shipments helped get Washington's Continental Army troops through a long winter at

Valley Forge. The Oneidas also taught American troops how to play lacrosse. Did they sing together? Probably.

Then there is *Charlottetown, Burning Down*, which has nothing to do with any particular Charlotte or Charlottetown, but everything to do with Scarlet Town (from the old English folk song *Barbara Allen*). One U.S. music censor in the sixties thought that sounded too much like the red-light district ("goodbye Liza Jane") so the name was changed to sound less salacious. The MSC singers now have a repertoire of several dozen songs, many of which Stuart arranged himself. Some of us are veteran singers who return each semester. Others are newcomers. We all learn to keep our mouths open when we sing and closed when Stuart is talking. We work hard. We enjoy each other's company. We admire Stuart's musicianship and we love his heart. We age together. And we sing with joy.

Bob Williams is a singer whose education continues with choral, barbershop, and folk singing. He has performed (back in the day) in Oklahoma, The Music Man, and Amahl and the Night Visitors. And he just enjoys singing.

MSC ANNUAL SOCIAL BRINGS MEMBERS TOGETHER

Held on June 13, 2023 at Maine Maritime Museum, the MSC Members Social was the first time since pre-Covid that members had a chance to socialize. Much credit goes to Freda Bernotavicz, chairperson of the Events Committee which includes Sue Kingsland, Bonnie Lundquist, Deb Showalter, Sally Broderick, Bonnie Studdiford, and Sonia St. Pierre for putting together this special event. Special thanks also goes to Arnold Lundquist who was our event photographer!



(Left) Special Musical Guest Jud Caswell played throughout the afternoon. The farewell song was adapted from John Denver's "Country Road" with lyrics re-imagined by Jud to fit the spirit of Midcoast Senior College! All present were provided with printed lyrics for the sing-along.

Stu Gillespie led the MSC Singers in four chorus favorites selected by the chorus for the Spring Term focus: Four Strong Winds - Arr. Larry Nickel, Home On The Range - Arr. Mark Hayes, Shenandoah - Arr. Jeff Funk, and Charlottetown - Arr. Stuart Gillespie.



Kudos to Freda Bernotavicz (above left) and the Events Committee for a wonderful afternoon! Mae's Cafe in Bath, prepared the light snacking fare and delicious beverages. We were honored to have the executive director of Maine Maritime Museum, Christopher Timm (left), make welcome remarks.



Our ever popular Raffle raised nearly \$1,200 for Midcoast Senior College programs! Many thanks to the generosity of the following organizations which donated to the raffle:

Now You're Cooking
 (donated by a volunteer)
 Maine State Music Theater
 Bowdoin International Music Festival
 Cruise with Maine Maritime Museum
 Bach Performances
 DaPonte Quartet
 Theater at Monmouth



Bonnie Studdiford created the unique and meaningful floral centerpieces for each table. A master gardener, Bonnie culled from her Brunswick home gardens with an eye for flowers that conveyed a message. She accompanied the centerpieces with a booklet that included the names and meanings of flowers (right).

Box ~ Stoicism
Laurel ~ Personal Achievement
Chrysanthemum ~ Long Life
Clover ~ Good Education
Lovage ~ Strength
Coral Bells ~ Scholarship
Myrtle ~ Passion
Dandelion ~ Wishes Come True
Rue ~ Begin Anew
Dill ~ Irresistible
Sage ~ Wisdom
Elderberry ~ Zeal
Savory ~ Mental Powers
Feverfew ~ You Light Up My Life
Southernwood ~ Jest
Statice ~ Gratitude
Johnny-jump Up ~ Happy Thoughts
Sweet Cicely ~ Gladness
Parsley ~ Useful Knowledge
Sweet William ~ Memory

Submitted by Harry Hopcroft, member of MSC Senior Scribblers Writing Group

The prompt here was originally "The straw that broke the camel's back." I find those long and explicit things too cumbersome and restrictive, so I changed it to "The last straw" and came up with this.~ Harry Hopcroft

Have A Nice Day

For what felt like a special birthday anniversary, George and Margy decided they would treat themselves to a nice dinner out. Since they didn't do that very often, they had no favorite place to go, so they selected a newly opened restaurant for which they had not yet heard any reviews from their friends, but that billed itself as "upscale." That was a small risk, of course, but they would get to dress up a little more than their usual jeans and T-shirts and act like what they would describe as "civilized people" for a short while, forgetting the cares of the business.

The restaurant was nicely done inside with a warm feeling and quiet music being played at just the right volume to be noticed without being intrusive. The table was neatly set, but with decorative pressed-design glasses for wine, not the cut crystal they were intended to suggest. George and Margy found it amusing, but not important if the food was good.

In due time the poster model of a greasy looking and thoroughly obsequious waiter arrived in the sort of outfit someone seemed to think was expected at an "upscale" eatery. He was complete with the proper white shirt, short dark coat, thin pencil mustache, something between a smirk and a small sneer of presumed superiority, a cheap toupee, and small towel over his arm -- although he didn't seem to know quite what he was supposed to be doing with the towel. George returned the look with his best Public Plastic sort of smile, perfected over many years of dealing with fools and idiots in a public setting.

The waiter took their selection from a distinctly undistinguished wine list and returned shortly with that and glasses of water that matched the design of the wine glasses already on the table. He poured an unusually large sample of the wine for Margy to test and stood waiting for her response.

"You're standing on my foot," George quietly announced, instead.

That caused one of those very long and awkward two-second or so pauses in which the world, and even time itself, seems to stop. "My foot," George dryly repeated as Margy sort of choked on her sip of wine. "You're standing on my foot!" With a start, the waiter jumped back, badly scraping George's newly polished shoe, while trying to maintain balance by putting a hand out and knocking over the second wine glass, which snapped off at the stem. Lunging for the falling wine glass, he then also knocked the full glass of water into George's lap, leaving him looking and feeling, aside from the icy temperature of the water, like the victim of what might be described as an "accident" during early childhood training.

Having discovered one possible use for his towel, the waiter had frantically started to wipe off the table, when he bumped Margy's elbow, causing a substantial amount of wine to splash onto the front of her thin, and suddenly now partially transparent, cotton blouse.

As the waiter abruptly switched his attention towards Margy (but even he not being fool enough to wipe the front of her shirt), his now sweaty bald head let the toupee slip off to drop over the vase of fake flowers and onto one of the lighted candles, where it lay like a sort of pre-historic tarantula as it burst into flame. They burn well, it turns out, but smell rather bad while they are doing that. They are also smokey enough to set off the fire alarm when the sensor is directly above the fire but, fortunately, not hot enough to activate the sprinkler next to the sensor.

As George quickly rose to try to get control of the situation and people at nearby tables began to leave because of the fire alarm, Margy tried to move her own chair back, only to discover it was of a classic design having a "coefficient of safety" less than one. That means it overturned and deposited her indelicately upon the floor.

The waiter dumped the remaining glass of water on the fire as he moved to assist Margy, but was rewarded with a heavy hand from George on his collar that offered no option but to move decisively backwards and away from the table.

Rolling over, Margy quickly recovered her own footing, stood up to straighten her skirt, found the shoe that had come off, and regained as much of her dignity as possible. Taking George's proffered arm, she started for the door, where, as they passed the reception desk, a clearly disconcerted young woman querulously suggested they "Have A Nice Day."

MSC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS YOU & THE COLLEGE

Midcoast Senior College is a non-profit organization and as such relies on the funds raised in our membership drive . Since Covid, membership has decreased but we are happy to report that last year we were near our pre-Covid numbers. We hope that you'll support MSC by paying the annual membership fee of \$35 per person. Our membership period is based on our fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. On July 1, all memberships have ended. Please join for the first time or renew your membership today! Go to our website and click the Membership button (<https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/membership/>) or mail a check for \$35 to Midcoast Senior College, 18 Middle St., Ste. 2, Brunswick ME 04011.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



- Advance opportunity to register for courses and excursions
- Participation in special members-only events
- Reciprocal benefits at other Maine senior colleges
- Eligible for "student rush" tickets at any MSMT performance
- Meaningful connections with area seniors
- Invitation to Members Annual Social Event

Most of all, membership dues support and sustain the programs MSC offers to seniors in midcoast Maine and beyond . . . please, pay your annual membership dues today!

WHAT YOUR PEERS ARE SAYING ABOUT MSC...[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND LECTURES FOR FALL 2023 - SPRING 2024

FALL TERM I - Classes begin week of September 11, 2023; up to 8-week courses
Registration for people who have already paid their membership fee begins August 21, 2023

FALL TERM II - Classes begin week of November 6; up to 6-week courses
Registration for people who have already paid their membership fee begins October 16, 2023

WINTER INTERSESSION - Workshops/courses/lectures between Jan 9, 2024 and Feb 7, 2024
Registration for people who have already paid their membership fee begins Dec 18, 2023

WINTER WISDOM LECTURE SERIES - Free lectures in January and February 2024
Sponsored by The Highlands

SPRING TERM I - Classes begin week of Feb 5, 2024; up to 8-week courses
Registration for people who have already paid their membership fee begins January 15, 2024

SPRING TERM II - Classes begin week of April 8, 2024; up to 6-week courses
Registration for people who have already paid their membership fee begins March 18, 2024

SUMMER WISDOM LECTURE SERIES - Free lectures in May 2024,
Sponsored by Thornton Oaks

MSC THANKS OUR SPONSORS

Midcoast Senior College is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of its members, donors, and community sponsors. Sponsorship represents a significant portion of our budget. We are grateful to have the ongoing support from our sponsors listed below and welcome new sponsors.

Please contact us at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org with your interest in joining us as a community sponsor. We highlight sponsor logos on our website, in printed materials, and at events.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

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The Highlands
Thornton Oaks Retirement Community



Theater Excursion with MSC

Special pricing and bonuses

CELEBRATION OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN

THEATER AT MONMOUTH, Cumston Hall, Monmouth

(transportation not provided)

Sunday, September 17, 2023 - \$35 per person

Enjoy a special Gilbert & Sullivan musical revue, "A Celebration of Gilbert & Sullivan featuring Cox & Box." The celebration begins with a curtain raiser of Cox and Box; or, The Long Lost Brothers, a Comic Triumveretta, composed by Arthur Sullivan and written by F.C. Burnand. Then journey through Gilbert & Sullivan's musical catalogue with songs from your favorite operas, including The Pirates of Penzance, Patience, Ruddigore, H.M.S. Pinafore, and more!

Included in the ticket price:

September 12 at 4 pm (on Zoom)—Talk by Mort Achter

September 17: 1 pm—Premium seating at matinee performance plus a post-performance discussion by TAM staff