

# Maine Ties

Spring 2004  
News from the  
Maine Community Foundation



## Maine Community Foundation to receive MECA's 2004 Arts Philanthropy Award

The **Maine College of Art (MECA)** will present the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) with its **2004 Art Honors Award for Leadership in Arts Philanthropy** at its annual dinner on May 6. "We are pleased to shine a light on the Maine Community Foundation's innovative arts philanthropy," said **MECA President Christine Vincent**.

The Maine Community Foundation supports the arts in Maine through a wide range of endowed and donor-advised funds. Last year, the foundation awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to arts and cultural organizations; in its 20-year history, over 1,600 grants totaling more than \$5 million have been made.



Photo courtesy Meetinghouse Theatre Lab

The one-act play "Acorn" by David Graziano starred Shelby Howe and Jeffrey Greene from Addison.

"With this leadership award," said Vincent, "Maine College of Art recognizes the vital role played by Maine's philanthropists and donors to nurture the state's artists and arts organizations."

MCF was one of only ten community foundations in the nation selected to participate in a special five-year **Lila Wallace/Reader's**

### **Building Community with the Arts**

A recent grant from MCF's Maine Expansion Arts Fund went to the Meetinghouse Theatre Lab, a part of Schoodic Arts for All in Winter Harbor, to establish an ensemble of performance artists to present community theater in Hammond Hall. In addition to "Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol," the group hosted the first annual Meetinghouse Theatre Lab One Act Festival, titled "The Dance."

Since its establishment in 1988, the Maine Expansion Arts Fund has awarded nearly \$700,000 in grants to organizations involved in indigenous, ethnic and rural arts programs and projects around the state, particularly those that serve areas with limited access to arts events. ☼

**Digest Fund** initiative, which supported grant-making to bolster local cultural organizations, artists and community audiences for the arts.

"We know that strong, healthy communities are those that support and nurture cultural activity," said **MCF President Henry Schmelzer**. "Arts and cultural activities are integral to the economic health of Maine," he added.

The other MECA honorees are Vinalhaven Island artist **Robert Indiana**, who will be recognized for his achievement in visual arts, and **Julia's Gallery for Young Artists at the Farnsworth Museum**, honored for leadership in arts education. ☼

## Maine Community Foundation

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## Knox and Waldo County Committees Team Up for Challenge Grant

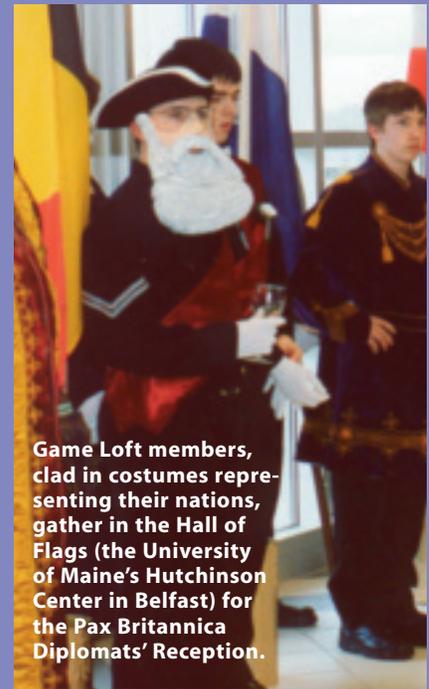
Thanks to a challenge grant from the **Betterment Fund**, the **Knox and Waldo County Funds** of the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) will receive a dollar for every two dollars they raise—up to \$100,000—through September 2004.

"We're excited and thankful to have this opportunity to build charitable funds for our communities," said **Alice Cheeseman**, chair of MCF's Waldo County Committee. **Polly Saltonstall**, chair of the Knox County Committee, added, "This challenge grant is an affirmation of the work we are doing to support nonprofits in our counties."

**Anne Collins**, MCF board member from Northport, and **H. Allen Fernald**, a former MCF board member who lives in Rockport, will serve as honorary co-chairs of the campaign.

The Waldo County Fund has grown from \$500 in 1990 to more than \$350,000 today. Since its inception, the fund has awarded more than \$130,000 in grants to nonprofits and public agencies. The Knox County Fund, established in 1993, began with \$25,000 in assets and has grown to more than \$250,000. The Knox County Fund has awarded over \$90,000 in grants.

The Knox and Waldo County Funds are two of the nine funds (covering ten counties) managed by the Maine Community Foundation. For information about making a gift to the Waldo and Knox County Funds, please call Peter Taylor, program officer at the foundation, at 1-877-700-6800 (toll-free).☼



Game Loft members, clad in costumes representing their nations, gather in the Hall of Flags (the University of Maine's Hutchinson Center in Belfast) for the Pax Britannica Diplomats' Reception.

Photo: Courtesy of the Game Loft

In 1997 a shop opened in Belfast selling non-electronic games. It instantly became a favorite hang-out for young teens. Two years later, the owners moved the store to a new location where there was room upstairs for a youth center.

Today, the Game Loft is open 362 days a year and provides a safe, structured environment where kids can interact, do homework and work on community projects. With 70 teen "member-owners" and an annual budget of \$100,000, the Game Loft is a model for innovative youth programs.

Recent and upcoming programs include "Foreign Policy Simulations" at the Camden Public Library, co-organized by the Game Loft and the Camden Conference, and the annual Pax Britannica, a look at foreign policy in the pre-World War I era.

The Waldo County Advisors awarded grants to the Game Loft in 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001.☼

# Three Legacies for Piscataquis County

## Aspirations Fund Honors Warren "Pete" Myrick

Pete Myrick reads to his grandson William.



Photo courtesy Elizabeth Myrick Sharma

The Warren L. Myrick Aspirations Fund honors the memory of **Warren "Pete" Myrick** (1944-2002), an educator and community leader from Guilford.

A graduate of the **University of Maine**, Myrick was a greatly admired teacher and coach in School Administrative District No. 4. "His extraordinary sense of community and civic involvement stood out," recalled **Laura Reed, vice chair of the Maine Community Foundation's Piscataquis County Committee** and a graduate of Piscataquis Community High School.

In 1990 Myrick became full-time director of SAD 4's Adult and Community Education program, building it into one of the most highly enrolled, successful adult education programs in Maine. Myrick also promoted economic growth in Piscataquis County. He was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Economic

Development Council and served as its president when the group successfully organized a funding effort for the **Penquis Higher Education Center** in Dover-Foxcroft. In addition, he was a founding member of the **Guilford Historical Society** and a trustee of the **Guilford Memorial Library**.

Thanks to gifts from family and

friends, former students, colleagues and classmates, businesses and foundations from across the state and around the country, the Myrick Aspirations Fund now totals over \$10,000. Income from the fund will benefit adult education programs in SAD 4 and other charitable purposes.

## Melvin Bequest Supports the Piscataquis County Fund

"He was not a person who wanted to be recognized," said **Ann Manuel** about her father, the late **Harold Melvin** (1921-2000) of Guilford. Born in South Paris, Melvin graduated from Bentley College and served in the U.S.



Harold Melvin enjoyed the Maine outdoors.

Photo courtesy Ann Manuel

Navy. After receiving his CPA degree, he was hired as controller for **Guilford Woolen**, now known as **Guilford of Maine**, where he worked until 1990. Melvin served on the advisory committee for the **H. King and Jean Cummings Charitable Trust Fund** at the Maine Community Foundation.

Through a Charitable Remainder Trust in his will, Melvin left a \$125,000 bequest to the **Piscataquis County Fund**, a permanent endowment supporting projects in Piscataquis. The Piscataquis County Fund is one of over 650 funds managed by the Maine Community Foundation to provide charitable support to nonprofit organizations around the state.

## Monson Resident Gives Back To Her Community

The Piscataquis County Fund was also the beneficiary of a \$100,000 bequest from the late **Anne Urban** of Monson. "I understand that Mrs. Urban wanted to give something back to the area and chose the Piscataquis County Fund as a broad-based means of doing that," said **Stephanie Bunker**, chair of MCF's Piscataquis County Committee. "We were not aware of Mrs. Urban's intention to leave a bequest to the Piscataquis Fund and are extremely grateful for her generosity and commitment to our county."

Mrs. Urban passed away in 2003. She and her husband, John, were from New Jersey, but vacationed and owned property in the Moosehead Lake area early in their lives. Upon their retirement, the couple moved permanently to Monson. Anne was predeceased by her husband and an only child. She and her husband loved the Monson area and Piscataquis County. ☼

# Professional Advisor

## What To Do With That CD—The Charitable Gift Annuity Revisited



Jennifer Southard is Maine Community Foundation's Director of Donor Relations for Southern Maine.

Wasn't it just yesterday that CDs were earning an 8% return? For better or for worse, times have changed and that 2% return isn't quite what you hoped it would be. And you still have nonprofit organizations to which you eventually would like to give larger charitable gifts.

If this sounds like your situation or that of a client, then please take a new look at the option of a charitable gift annuity at the Maine Community Foundation. It's nothing too fancy, just a promise to pay an individual (and a spouse if desired) a fixed payment for a lifetime based on the initial gift

value, the age of the individual who is to receive the benefit and a federal discount table. After the person's death, the remainder of the initial gift (often estimated to be about 50% of the original gift) becomes a permanent fund at the Maine Community Foundation with payments benefiting the charitable organization(s) that the individual selected. (see sidebar)

A charitable gift annuity at the Maine Community Foundation can also be an opportunity for you, as a board member or volunteer for a nonprofit, to expand the ways in which people can give to your organization. We can jointly offer the charitable gift annuity option to your donors, with your nonprofit ultimately receiving the distributions from a fund set up at MCF. It saves you time and eliminates your risk.

The minimum to establish a charitable gift annuity at the Maine Community Foundation is \$25,000 and the person who receives the benefits must be 60

or older. You can contribute cash or stock, or roll that old CD over to increase your income.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Southard in the Portland office (207-761-2440) or Ellen Pope in the Ellsworth office (207-667-9735). ☼

*JANE SMITH (age 70) gives \$100,000 to the Maine Community Foundation to establish a charitable gift annuity. After receiving \$6,000 (6% annuity rate) annually for her lifetime, the remainder of the gift (estimated to be around \$50,000) becomes a permanent fund at the foundation, with 5% (or approximately \$2,500) of the fund going to Jane's favorite nonprofit every year into the future. Of her original \$100,000 gift, about \$32,000 can be taken as a charitable deduction in the year it was given. About \$3,500 of her annual payments will be tax-free. ☼*

## 2003: A Banner Year for Maine Community Foundation

The Maine Community Foundation assets grew more than 25% last year, to an all-time high of nearly \$125 million. Contributions in 2003 nearly doubled over 2002 gifts, from \$12 million to \$23 million.

"It's a terrific way to mark our 20th anniversary year," said MCF President Henry Schmelzer. "Even with uncertain times in 2003, we saw individuals, families and businesses making major long-term commitments to philanthropy."

Wendy Penley, chair of the MCF board, called 2003 "a spectacular year" for growth. The economy's upturn helped, but Penley noted that the foundation

has also been striving to work more effectively with donors. Many donors chose to add to funds already established at the foundation. At the same time, 44 new funds were created, bringing the total under MCF management to 675.

The foundation also was named as the beneficiary of 17 bequests totaling more than \$8 million. Part of the boost in last year's giving is attributable to the foundation's efforts to work with attorneys, accountants and financial planners who advise clients on making charitable gifts.

In its 20-year history, the foundation has awarded more

than \$50 million in grants and scholarships, including more than \$9 million last year. The foundation also manages endowments and special funds for nearly 50 nonprofit organizations in Maine.

Through careful oversight of its assets, MCF successfully weathered the rocky markets of the past several years. Its annualized investment return for the three years ending December 31, 2003, was +3.5%, putting it in the black for the three-year period.

"We are planning for further growth this year," said Schmelzer. "If our first quarter is any indication, we should be looking at another strong showing in 2004." ☼

# Legacies for Maine

## Ken and Katharina Keoughan: Believing in a Second Chance

Even on a snowy day, Ken and Katharina Keoughan's rambling farmhouse in Friendship is suffused with light. Perhaps it's the strong color that brightens everything, from Katharina's verdant flower paintings to Ken's luscious turned wood bowls and vessels. Perhaps it's the spaciousness they have created in their home, as if to echo the exploration they enjoy in their lives.

Ken and Katharina arrived in Maine about a dozen years ago. At the time, the two were running successful businesses in Miami, both related to the advertising world, but, as Ken says, "we were looking forward to finishing the marathon, to retiring." They considered homes from Kennebunk to Cherryfield before falling in love with an old farmhouse in Friendship, where a community of artists soon engaged this active and elegant couple. (Katharina teaches painting at the Round Top Center for the Arts in Damariscotta.)

The two have explored Maine with gusto, visiting farms, taking gardening classes, going to festivals and concerts, getting to know the creative people in the region. Driving them is their excitement about their adopted state along with the pleasure they take in each other.

More soberly, Ken explains how difficult parts of his life have been. Though he grew up near Chicago, he can remember going to only one football game and one baseball game. His family just didn't have the money. What he has now, he has earned, struggling through alcoholism, serious health issues and the tragic death

of his one son when the boy was in his twenties.

These issues began to loom large when the Keoughans moved to Maine. "I began thinking about our purpose in life. I felt that one central principle is to live as an example to others," says Katharina. What they did with their money should also be an example, she realized.



Photo: Bill Thuss Photography

Through their bequest to the Maine Community Foundation, Ken and Katharina Keoughan will help people in Maine overcome adversity.

As part of their immersion into all things Maine, the couple attended a talk about Common Good Ventures, a supporting organization of the Maine Community Foundation. "As business people," says Katharina, "we were interested in the idea of nonprofits having a for-profit aspect." Henry Schmelzer, MCF president, was in the audience. "We became so impressed with the foundation that we asked if Hank would meet with us and tell us more about it." They admired the way the foundation was run, but what really mattered was the congruence of the goals, objectives and strategies that they found as businesspeople and as potential donors. They decided to

leave the bulk of their estate to the foundation.

Adds Katharina, "We became involved because we wanted to do the right thing." When they began thinking about the focus of their philanthropy, the Keoughans wondered whether they could start a fund right away and thereby establish a history of giving. To do so, they had to come up with ten thousand dollars. "That was not easy," Ken recalls. Although the couple knew they'd have money to leave at the end of their lives, they didn't have much extra. Still, they decided it was important. By cutting back a bit, hoarding a little and directing tax refunds and any extra money to the cause, they were able to gather the requisite sum.

As to where grants would go, that was clear. Despite their passion for the arts, Ken and Katharina have a vision that to them seems absolutely fundamental: to provide others with the opportunity for a second chance. Ken knows he owes his life to the second chances he's been given. "I firmly believe that there are people who can overcome adversity and build prosperous lives," he says. "They have to want it and work for it."

To name their fund, the Keoughans reached into their beloved art world, choosing "Tucay," the title of a resplendent dark wood bowl that Ken turned and Katharina embellished. The vessel has already garnered some fame in *500 Bowls*, a new volume published by Lark Books that honors the inventiveness of contemporary artists.

The Tucay Fund celebrates the spirit of renewal embodied by the Keoughans' lives. Together, Ken and Katharina are creating a legacy for Maine. ☼

# Spotlight on Nonprofit Endowments

## The United Way of Eastern Maine

Since its inception decades ago as a local “community chest,” **United Way of Eastern Maine** (UWEM) has engaged the community in successful annual campaigns to raise funds for many deserving area nonprofits.

While UWEM continues that long tradition of support in a region that now includes communities in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington and Waldo counties, it is the new work they are doing to tackle some of the region’s most challenging issues that excites **Judy Horan, chair of the 18-member volunteer board.**

“Using a community assessment, funded in part by the Maine Community Foundation,” Horan explains, “United Way is now focusing on more complex community issues.” The assessment helped UWEM identify three focus areas:

seniors, basic needs and children and families. “We have since worked to form three Community Impact Councils that are working to identify, prioritize and address community needs in these areas,” says Horan.

While funding vital community programs will continue to be a key strategy, **UWEM President Jeff Wahlstrom** says this work will be just part of the picture. “If we are going to create lasting community change,” he states, “we must engage partners throughout the region and collaborate with others who share a similar vision for Eastern Maine.”

When UWEM launched an effort to build an endowment to support its

new work in the community, placing those funds with the Maine Community Foundation was “a natural,” according to Wahlstrom. “MCF not only has expertise in managing endowment funds, they have proven to be a great partner as we address issues here in Eastern Maine,” he says.

As the largest non-governmental funder of health and human service programs in Eastern Maine, building an endowment is also an important strategy in helping UWEM to better weather the ups and downs of the state, regional and local economy. “A solid endowment, managed well, can only make the United Way of Eastern

*Tackling Community Issues through Assessment and Partnerships*

Maine even more successful in its work in the region,” notes **Henry Schmelzer**, MCF’s president. “Any time that the foundation and United Way work together, good things happen,” says Schmelzer.

If you would like to learn more about United Way of Eastern Maine and their programs, please contact them at 207-941-2800 and visit their website: [www.unitedwayem.org](http://www.unitedwayem.org).



**Jeff Wahlstrom, President of United Way of Eastern Maine, leads a recent capacity-building workshop focused on board development.**

Photo courtesy UWEM

## New Directors Add Energy and Expertise to MCF Board

The Maine Community Foundation has elected three new members to its Board of Directors. They are **Anne Collins** of Northport, **William Kieffer, III**, of Bethel, and **Calvin True** of Brewer. "These individuals are already bringing energy and expertise to our board," said **MCF President Henry Schmelzer**.

Photo: Jim Geary



Left to right: **William Kieffer, III, Anne Collins and Calvin True** at a meeting of the MCF Board at the Maine Historical Society.

Raised in Belfast and Farmington, Collins lived in several countries including Lebanon, Iran and Japan before retiring to Maine and Florida. Active in community affairs and volunteering, she served on the Junior Board of **Delaware Hospital** and was chair

of the **Delaware Antiques Show**. Collins is chair of the House Committee of **Buchanan Alumni House at the University of Maine**.

A graduate of **Middlebury College**, Kieffer served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. He worked for **State Street Corporation** in

Boston from 1973 to 2002 when he retired as Vice President and Senior Consultant for **State Street Analytics**. Kieffer serves on the board of **Gould Academy**, Middlebury College and the **Middle Intervale Meeting House** in Bethel.

Calvin True is an attorney at **Eaton Peabody** in Bangor. He is a graduate of the **University of Maine and Northeastern**

**University School of Law**. He has served on the boards of **Acadia Hospital, Community Health and Counseling Services** and the **Bangor Public Library**. True is a board member of **Bangor Savings Bank** and **Eastern Maine Charities**. ☼

## *New on the MCF Website*

### Grant of the Month

Starting this past January, MCF is featuring a "grant of the month" on its website, [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). The foundation will highlight some of the many grants it makes each year, featuring projects and programs from around the state.

A grant to the **Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance** (MIBA) is currently highlighted. MIBA is the only all-Native organization in the Northeast to represent Indian artisans. The organization was formed in 1993 when all of Maine's 55 existing Wabanaki (members of the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot) basketmakers joined together to form an inter-tribal, all Native, nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve

traditional ash and sweetgrass basketry, Maine's oldest art form. In late 2001, MIBA opened the **Wabanaki Arts Center Gallery** in Old Town.

MIBA received a grant from MCF last year to support a series of five two-day-long tribal community basketry/language workshops, one in each of the reservation communities. The program encourages access to the traditions of ash and sweetgrass basketry. Tribal linguists organize and encourage speaking of native languages during the workshops.

For more information, visit the MIBA website, <http://www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/miba/>. ☼

Seventeen-year-old Gabe Paul (Penobscot) weaving a basket.



Photo: James Francis

# Teens Monitor Loons with Web Camera

Last spring Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville and the BioDiversity Research Institute in Falmouth received grants from MBNA and the Maine Community Foundation to set up a loon Web camera on a lake in mid-coast Maine. The first of its kind to monitor common loons, the camera sent live video of a nesting loon pair to the community internet site VillageSoup.com 24 hours a day.

"The loon Web camera is an unprecedented opportunity for both loon research and education," said Dave Evers, director of the BioDiversity Research Institute. "Not only will the camera give local teens a unique chance to engage in real research, it will also help scientists answer previously unknown questions about loons, such as how the pair shares incubation duty at night."

The Web cam was made possible by broad community support from such individuals and organizations as mid-coast science teachers, lake residents, Megunticook Lake Association, Coastal Telco Services, VillageSoup and SeeMore Wildlife, based in Homer, Alaska, as well as financial support from Florida Power and Light.

The BioDiversity Research Institute is a nonprofit research group dedicated to progressive environmental research and education that furthers global sustainability and conservation policies. Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center is a program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, which provides environmentally-focused summer camps and school programs for Maine youth. ☼

Photo courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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