

## Rosegarden Funeral Party to headline all-ages show

LEWISTON, ME – Rosegarden Funeral Party has been making their mark on the international post-punk/goth scene since the release of their inaugural EP, the Chopping Block, in 2018. The band has garnered critical acclaim from Post-Punk.com, LA Weekly, SF Sonic, Dallas Observer, and more. And now they're coming to New England to headline a rare, all-ages show at LA Arts in Lewiston, Maine, on Wednesday, April 30th.

Rosegarden Funeral Party blends traditional gothic sonic stylizing with modern pop sensibility that supports emotionally evocative and relatable lyrics about heartbreak and healing. The band heavily focuses on spreading a message of kindness and loving oneself and others.

Since their debut, the band has released another EP, At the Stake (2020), and three full length albums: Martyr (2019), In the Wake of Fire (2021),

4.30.25

*Rosegarden Funeral Party*

Doors at 7pm  
Music at 7:30pm  
Tickets \$20  
All-ages

168 Lisbon St. Lewiston, ME  
laarts.org/performances/

and From the Ashes (2024). Rosegarden Funeral Party's music and message have earned them a devoted fanbase that continues to grow.

With support from

Massachusetts doom pop band Trigger Discipline and dark synth pop duo Summore, the out-of-town headliners lend gravitas and a new layer of stylis-

See *Rosegarden*, page 14



## Sexual Assault Awareness Month Pages 7-9

## Teens can make an impact at St. Mary's Health System

MAINE -- St. Mary's Health System is now accepting applications for the 2025 Junior Volunteer Program. Open to teens ages 14 to 17, this unique opportunity allows young people to spend part of their summer in a professional healthcare environment. They'll gain real-world experience while

giving back to the community.

Volunteers commit to at least one full day per week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., supporting staff, patients and residents at St. Mary's and d'Youville Pavilion. Along the way, they'll build confidence, develop valuable skills and earn service hours that can

support college and scholarship applications.

The program runs from June 17 through August. Applications are due by May 11.

Learn more and apply at [stmarysmaine.com/volunteer](http://stmarysmaine.com/volunteer).

Adult volunteer opportunities are also available.

## Lewiston Farmers' Market prepares for summer season

LEWISTON, ME -- A year-round, family-friendly farmers' market right in the heart of Lewiston-Auburn, the Lewiston Farmers' Market offers visitors a chance to connect with one another

and shop for a wide variety of fresh, delicious, local foods and goods while fostering a vibrant downtown and building a strong community and local economy.

Held every Sunday,

May 11th-November 23rd from 9:30am-1:00pm, located at 2 Oxford St., Lewiston

\*Hours change to 11:00am-1:00pm beginning first Sunday in November

## CMCC's Central Maine Education Foundation to host annual awards

AUBURN, ME – On Wednesday, April 30, 2025 the Central Maine Education Foundation Board of Directors will host its Annual Awards fundraiser on the campus of Central Maine Community College starting at 3:30pm. This event is the Foundation's major annual fundraiser and is slated to raise more than \$30,000 in funding for student scholarships.

The program will include welcoming remarks from Foundation Board Chair Jennifer Hogan; updates on the College's projects and activities delivered by CMCC President Dr. Betsy Libby; The event will conclude with the presentation of awards to students, employees, and supporters for their achievements or contributions to the college.

The list of award recipients highlighted in the event's award presentations include Emma Dionna of Auburn, Ivy Hutchinson of New Vineyard, Logan Levesque of Greene, and Zulma Lizarazo of South Portland who will be named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Maine Academic Team; Victoria Wile of Gray being named CMCC Student of the Year; Camila Cateriano

of Lewiston receiving the Community Spirit Award; Ernesto Kinda of Angola receiving the Courage to Rise Award recipient; Mindy Joseph of Lewiston receiving the Yes, I Can Award recipient; Faustina Harriet of Livermore Falls receiving the Triumph Over Adversity award; Justin Mason of Greene receiving the Student Veteran of the Year; Kelvin Boateng receiving the

Student Employee of the Year; Ella Lavigne of Fort Collins, CO receiving the Female Athlete of the Year and Jeremiah Gomez of Old Orchard Beach receiving the Male Athlete of the Year. Community awards include the President's award being given to Steve English, a long-time supporter of CMCC Athletics and MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital will be named the Community Partner

of the Year. Employees will also be recognized for their contributions; Maria D'Auria of Lewiston as Faculty Member of the Year, Halene Mansir as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year, and Brian Landry as Staff Member of the Year.

Members of the community are welcome to purchase sponsorship at various levels or tickets to attend this celebratory event. Proceeds from the event are added to the CM Education Foundation's unrestricted scholarship fund to directly benefit CMCC students.

The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial support to CMCC and its students, to advocate on behalf of the college, and to nurture relationships with the community and constituencies. The CM Education Foundation has raised more than \$1.5 million dollars in scholarships for the college and holds an investment portfolio of nearly \$2 million dollars.

For more information on the event and the CM Education Foundation, visit [www.cmcc.edu/annualawards](http://www.cmcc.edu/annualawards).

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Trek Across Maine kicks off June 13-15

**MAINE** – The American Lung Association has officially opened registration for its 41st annual Trek Across Maine. The event, which takes place over Father’s Day Weekend each year will also be debuting a new starting line at Pineland Farms, located in the rolling hills of New Gloucester, Maine. Over 1,000 participants are expected to turn out for the event, which will take cyclists through Maines beautiful landscapes, spanning 180-miles over 3 days, from June 13-15. The Trek Across Maine is a fully supported route, complete with music, games, beer from local breweries, a baked potato bar, a finish line dinner, and more.

Dr. Peggy Pennoyer, Chair of the American Lung Association Maine Leadership Board and long-time Trekker said,

“Every cyclist on this ride is more than just a participant—they’re a change-maker. With every mile pedaled and every dollar raised, we are funding critical research, advocating for cleaner air, and supporting those battling lung disease. Many ride in honor of a loved one, in memory of someone lost, or simply to create a healthier future for all. No matter the reason, every ride brings us closer to a world free of lung disease—and we hope this year even more changemakers will join us on the journey!”

Since its debut in 1985, the event has raised in excess of \$32 million dollars and aims to invest \$750,000 annually to support lung disease research, clean air, and tobacco-free advocacy efforts. It also aims to host programs and services that educate



C.A. Smith Photography

our friends and neighbors about the importance of lung health, the dangers of vaping, the importance of lung cancer screening, and the need for asthma education and control in our schools, among many other programs.

The Trek Across Maine is unique in its optionality, allowing riders to choose from 1, 2, or 3-day options. This year, over-

nights are to be at Bates College and St. Joseph’s College of Maine, and 3-day riders will return to Pineland Farms on Sunday for the finish line celebration. Other highlights include a baked potato bar at Bates, pizza from Portland Pie, Trek Marketplace, and music from both live bands and DJs. Attendees will find activities, entertainment, and food at each

stop.

The event is suitable for cyclers, aged 7 and up. Children between the ages of 7-12 must ride a tandem or tag-a-long bike with an adult guardian. All children under the age of 18 must always have an adult guardian with them on the route.

For those who prefer to participate without a bike, there are volunteer opportunities available.

Sarah Brown, Senior Development Manager with the American Lung Association said, “In addition to our incredible cyclists, the Trek Across Maine wouldn’t be possible without the amazing volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to making this event a success. From route support and rest stops to event logistics and cheering squads, volunteers play

a vital role in ensuring a safe, fun, and rewarding experience for all. Whether you ride, donate, or volunteer, you are making a direct impact in the fight for lung health and clean air.” To join the event as a volunteer, email Emily at [Emily.Lewis@Lung.org](mailto:Emily.Lewis@Lung.org).

Participants can also join in virtually. Trekkers can simply sign up on the website, record miles from the comfort of their own neighborhood or stationary bike at their own pace, and raise their minimum by June 30, 2025 will earn a commemorative t-shirt and medal.

Online registration is open until May 20. To register as a Trekker for the Trek Across Maine or to support the event by making a donation that can save lives, visit the event website at [TrekAcross-Maine.org](http://TrekAcross-Maine.org).

## Winners crowned for 2025 Maine State Science Fair

**PORTLAND, ME** – Winners of the 2025 Maine State Science Fair (MSSF) have been announced. After more than 200 entries were judged on Saturday from 27 schools and three homeschooled students, three grand awards were made to students from Falmouth, Brunswick, and Bangor High Schools.

The Grand Award winners are:

- 1st Grand Award  
Ryan Werthmann, Falmouth High School  
A Data-Driven Ex-

ploration of Albumin-Creatinine Ratio as a Biomarker for Myocardial Infarction Risk: A Multivariate Analysis

- 2nd Grand Award  
Zelda Anesko, Brunswick High School  
A Computer Model for Efficient Offshore Wind Farm Siting in the North Atlantic
- 3rd Grand Award  
Sofie Rueter, Bangor High School  
Improving the Effectivity of Nitrate Removal in Biosand Filters Using N.

oculata

The Grand Award winners are eligible to attend the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Columbus, Ohio this May.

In addition to the Grand Awards, first, second, and third place prizes were awarded in 17 individual categories, including Microbiology, Computer Science & Mathematics, and Biomedical & Health Sciences. Several special awards were also awarded to students, including the

JAX Innovator Awards, Association for Women Geoscientists Award, the Regeneron Biomedical Science Award, the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance Reach Award, and hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of scholarships to Maine higher education institutions including a total of 17 four-year full tuition scholarships between the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine. Since 2017, the program has offered more than \$7 million

in college scholarships to Maine high school students.

Due to the early spring storm, the fair was held virtually this year, with dozens of judges making their determinations based on the students’ research and findings.

MSSF is open to all students from public, private, parochial and home schools (grades 9-12) throughout Maine and is jointly organized by The Jackson Laboratory and the Maine Mathematics &

Science Alliance (MMSA). MSSF offers Maine high school students the opportunity to pursue their interest in science and engineering and present results of their projects to fellow students and expert STEM professionals.

The Maine State Science Fair received support from Maine Technology Institute, Reny’s Department Stores, Texas Instruments, Puritan Medical Products, Verizon, Machias Savings Bank, and Cross Insurance.

## MaineCF scholarships available to business students

**PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME** — Applications are currently being accepted for the

Maine Community Foundation’s (MaineCF) Patriot Education Scholarship Fund.

This renewable scholarship supports graduates of Maine high

schools who are enrolled part-time (minimum of nine credit hours) or full-time in pursuit of a business degree and entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or

senior year at a Maine college or university. Preference is given to applicants who have a demonstrated interest in personal and commercial insurance profes-

sions.

The application deadline is June 1. For more information or to apply, visit [www.mainecef.org/scholarships](http://www.mainecef.org/scholarships).

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# Letter to the Editor:

## A responsible, governing budget, free of new taxes

By: Rep. Michel La-joie, D-Lewiston

Over the six non-consecutive terms that I have spent representing Lewiston in the Maine House of Representatives, I have learned a great deal about the core issues that regularly impact our community – including rising property taxes that are making it difficult for older Mainers to remain in their homes and for young Mainers to purchase their first homes.

That’s why, when the Legislature passed a continuing services budget on March 20, I was glad to know that Mainers in our community won’t face any new taxes or lose access to the critical services that help to ease the financial burden of every-

day life.

The final vote was 76-66 in the House and 18-17 in the Senate.

First and foremost, this budget fulfills the state’s obligation to provide 5% municipal revenue sharing to every city and town in Maine. Without this critical state funding, the burden of municipal costs for our local services would directly fall even more on Lewiston residents and lead to an even bigger increase in property taxes, which our community simply cannot afford.

This budget also covers 55% of K-12 public school funding and provides breakfast and lunch for all students, a crucial program that has recently undergone cuts by the federal government. For

many communities in Maine, public education is often the largest financial commitment municipalities make. Having the state step in to help offers much needed support to our local taxpayers.

This responsible continuing services budget also ensures the state pays its bills to our hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies, making sure that patients can continue getting the care that they need.

While I am incredibly disappointed that we were unable to pass a bipartisan measure, the alternative would have resulted in a subpar budget that would harm many Mainers. If we passed nothing at all, we would have faced a government shutdown come July 1, which would have put

our entire state in immediate crisis.

In the coming weeks and months, the Legislature intends to take up another budget bill to address additional important policy discussions. We still have a lot to do, and I’m looking forward to continuing to work to make life better for working families here in Lewiston and across our state.

This governing budget contains a core set of

commitments to the betterment of all Mainers. During a time of deep uncertainty in Washington, D.C., I am focused on providing the financial predictability and stability our community needs.

As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding the budget or if you have ideas for future legislation, you can reach me directly at Michel.Lajoie@legislature.maine.gov or call my office at 207-287-1430. If you need assistance navigating state services or have ideas to improve our community, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Rep. Michel La-joie, D-Lewiston, represents House District 96 in the Maine House of Representatives. He serves on the Legislature’s Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Agree or disagree?  
We want to hear from you!  
Send your letter to the editor for publication to editor@twincitytimes.com. Deadline every Friday for following Thursday’s publication.

## Special Olympics medalist welcomed at Maine State House

AUGUSTA, ME – On Tuesday, April 1, Sen. Rotundo, D-Lewiston, hosted Special Olympics Bronze Medalist Ashley Stasulis of Lewiston and presented her with a legislative sentiment in recognition of her achievement in the Special Olympics Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

Stasulis represented Team USA in snowshoeing at the 2025 World Winter Games in March of this year. On March 13, she competed in the 200-meter race, placing third and earning the bronze medal. On March 14, she competed in the 100-meter relay and the 4x100-meter relay race, finishing in fourth and fifth place respectively.

“Ashley is a remarkable young woman who not only brought home an Olympic medal for the U.S. last month, but also plays an important role in our Lewiston community,” said Sen. Rotundo. “When she’s not training or competing, Ashley works at John F. Murphy Homes, a local nonprofit that works to improve the lives of those with intellectual disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Lewiston could not be luckier to

have her.”

Stasulis was the only snowshoe competitor from Maine out of 30 total competitors from the United States to compete at the international level.

Ashley has also competed in basketball, bocce, bowling, soccer and tennis in the Special Olympics.

A legislative sentiment represents a significant expression of the entire Maine Legislature in recognition of civic and public achievements.



Ashley Stasulis (center) and Sen. Rotundo, D-Lewiston (center left), with Ashley’s family and friends and other members of the Lewiston delegation to the State Legislature.



Sen. Rotundo (right) presenting Ashley Stasulis (left) with a legislative sentiment.

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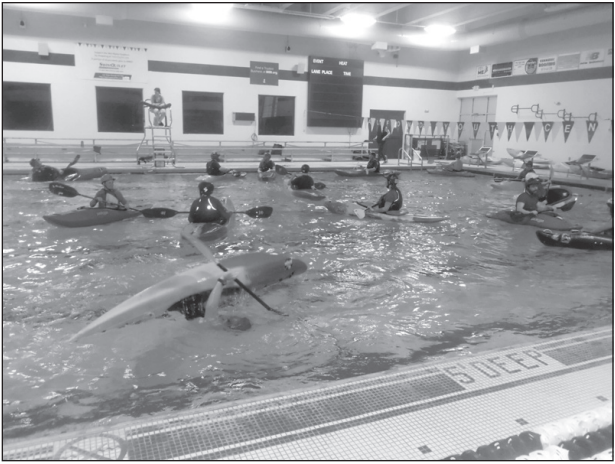
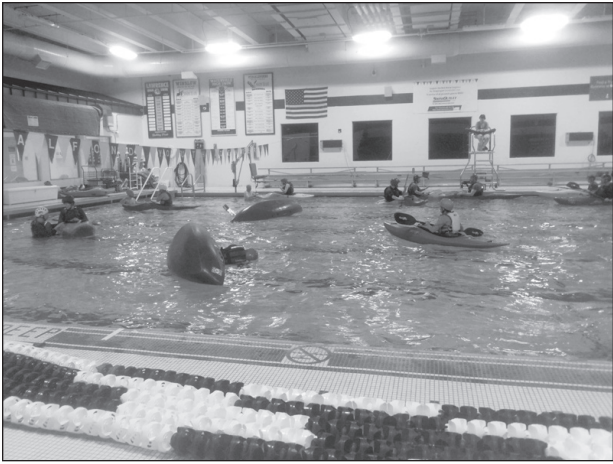
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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

## Rolling Kayaks and Canoes for Safety



The ability to roll a kayak or canoe in white-water or the ocean is a great asset. A successful roll can make the difference between a very enjoyable paddling experience and an unpleasant swim. A failure to roll risks the loss of boat and paddle or worse.

The kayak roll was developed by Inuits for use when hunting seals and other marine mammals. Although first documented by European sailors during voyages along the coast of Greenland in the 1500s; the life or death survival skill likely evolved centuries before.

When the sport of kayaking gained popularity in Europe and the

United States in the 20th Century, rolling became increasingly important. Rolling is often included in kayak instruction courses and many serious whitewater and sea kayakers learn the invaluable maneuver. For most kayakers, possessing a reliable roll is an important factor in determining the difficulty level of the paddling they're willing to attempt.

People are usually surprised to learn that canoes can be rolled. In fact, canoes can't be effectively rolled without the aid of floatation bags filling much of the boat. Even if a paddler is able to roll an empty canoe, it's rendered essentially unnavigable when filled

with several hundred pounds of water. The origin of canoe rolling is unclear, but a Georgia paddler named Nolan Whitesell is generally credited with popularizing the technique in the early 1980s.

When I began paddling difficult whitewater in a canoe in the late 1980s, I was very fortunate to associate with a group of paddlers who had perfected rolling solo whitewater canoes. The realization that I could capsize and roll up without the need to wrestle my canoe ashore and empty it was a game changer.

From my viewpoint, rolling a canoe is more difficult than a kayak. Canoes are gen-

erally larger, navigated with single-blade paddles and operators must be strapped in. Kayaks are normally sleeker, propelled with double-blade paddles, and have spray skirts. I find rolling a sea kayak more difficult than a whitewater kayak primarily because of the difference in size. However, I know sea kayakers who have superb rolls that are extremely reliable. Tandem kayaks and canoes can also be rolled but require near perfect teamwork.

No one has a roll that is 100% reliable and turbulent conditions can make executing one very difficult. Based on my experience and that of several friends, the quality and effectiveness of the roll seems to diminish with age. Practice is important.

In the past, my outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS), organized rolling sessions in pools around the state. However, for the last two years, Skowhegan Outdoors has sponsored rolling practice and instruction at a pool in the Alford Youth and Community Center (AYCC) in Waterville during the month of March. The timing is important because white-water paddling in Maine

generally begins in March and sea kayaking soon follows.

Many Chowderheads with the PPCS were anxious to participate in the Skowhegan Outdoors' scheduled rolling sessions this spring. Some wanted to learn to roll, others were trying to improve their skills, and a few of us older members were attempting to regain an effective roll we'd seemingly lost. A couple of very unpleasant cold water swims at the beginning of the past two paddling seasons has motivated me to improve the quality and reliability of my kayak roll.

For many people, rolling is counter-intuitive and difficult to learn. The first challenge for paddlers is to discipline themselves to remain in their boat when capsizing. Once that fear is overcome, the process of twisting the body to elevate the paddle above water is next. Rotating the hips in harmony with using the paddle as leverage to move the boat upwards is the final step. It's not easy. Having assistance is the best way to learn or practice.

A large group of paddlers assembled at the pool at AYCC in late March. Skowhegan Outdoors manager, Amber

Albe, organized the event and provided instruction for those who needed it. Canoeists, kayakers and sea kayakers practiced their rolls. Some were successful while others struggled and needed help; most came away more confident. Now, we have to execute when it counts.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates the nine most exciting whitewater escapades in Maine.

*Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at [www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco) or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England." Visit his website at [www.ronchase-outdoors.com](http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchase-outdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchase-outdoors@comcast.net)*

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# Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps serves community



**MAINE** -- Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps members contributed 20,619 hours of service across 49 community organizations in 2024. Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps programs strengthen communities in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont by placing volunteers in local non-profits, municipalities, and schools. These AmeriCorps members support the long-term health of communities through their selfless commitment. Goodwill NNE has opportunities for additional nonprofit, public and municipal organizations to receive AmeriCorps members to help advance their organizational initiatives this year.

“We’re excited to be able to offer more local agencies the opportunity to host AmeriCorps members,” said Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps senior program manager Steve Niles. “Our members are dedicated, hardworking individu-

als who genuinely want to make a difference in their communities.”

There are many benefits to being a host site, said Niles, including utilizing members to expand programming, increased access to resources, and having an additional fully funded team member for a whole year.

Goodwill NNE has over 100 AmeriCorps member slots to grant out to partner agencies across Maine and New Hampshire due to successful funding requests. With programs focusing on youth development, public health, and organizational development (for efforts to reduce poverty), many organizations could benefit from an AmeriCorps member serving at their organization for 11-12 months. Examples of the work members are doing at existing organizational partners include:

Grant writing and



fundraising

At the Intercultural Community Center, in Westbrook, Maine, member Lian Joseph raised over \$156,000 in grant funding and in-kind donations. This funding allowed the ICC to provide additional programming for youth to increase their academic enrichment and provide their parents additional language, computer and parenting classes to improve their job readiness skills.

“Lian has done an outstanding job helping move our organization forward,” said Beatrice Mucyo, director of the ICC. “With the funding she was able to help us raise we can now serve an additional two schools and 200 kids with our programs!”

Other ways members can help with organizational development include improving volunteer recruitment systems, doing research on evidence-based solutions, creating dynam-

ic social media accounts and more.

Providing Public Health Interventions

Members support efforts to reduce youth substance use, strengthen existing efforts to offer housing and programs to people in recovery from opioid/substance misuse, provide evidence-based education programs to reduce widespread preventable conditions such as diabetes, obesity, etc.

“Through efforts of Public Health AmeriCorps members, we have developed a systematic approach to tracking progress among our residents,” said Executive Director of An Angel’s Wing Inc, Deb York. “In the last two years, around 70% of our residents have shown measurable progress in their recovery journey, evidenced by decreased substance use and increased engagement in therapeutic activities. This partnership has helped fa-



cilitate the establishment of our recovery homes. With Public Health AmeriCorps support we have opened and now operate three homes, which has allowed us to accommodate 24 individuals in need at a time.”

“Without Goodwill’s partnership An Angles Wing Inc. would not be able to open our newest home which will house another 18 women and children providing a safe and supportive environment for those in recovery,” said York.

Mentoring Youth

AmeriCorps member Meghan Daly serves in rural Maine supporting the Maine Seacoast Mission’s Journey program, a youth mentoring program. Journey aims to raise and sustain the social emotional development and aspirations of youth, grades 4-12, who have been impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). As a

mentor, Meghan provides targeted youth development interventions to increase social and emotional skills, improve academic engagement, promote responsibility of individual health and wellness, raise student aspirations, and contribute to the development of strong and nurturing family relationships.

To begin the process of becoming a Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps host site, visit [goodwillnne.org/programs/ameriCorps/](https://goodwillnne.org/programs/ameriCorps/) and fill out the interest form <https://forms.office.com/r/6Bf5gZ2scT>. Goodwill NNE staff will reach out to provide relevant information on specific funding opportunities/programs available including links to reserve a slot in an information session with staff and the application to receive a member(s).

Visit [linktr.ee/goodwillamericorps](https://linktr.ee/goodwillamericorps) to learn more about Goodwill NNE AmeriCorps programs.

## Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents final concert

**TOPSHAM, ME** — The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra concludes its 35th season with a concert entitled “Ethereal Weaves of Air” on Saturday, May 17, 7pm, at the Franco Center in Lewiston, and Sunday, May 18, 2:30pm, at the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham. Under the baton of MSO Music Director Rohan Smith, the orchestra will play Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson’s Allegro Furioso from his Sinfonietta No. 1, Franz Josef Haydn’s Sym-

phony No. 83, and Sergei Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 5. Individual tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, with free admission for anyone 25 and under. Complete concert and ticket information is available at [midcoastsymphony.org](https://midcoastsymphony.org) or by calling the box office at (207) 481-0790.

Music Director Rohan Smith is excited about the program for the concert which contains pieces that have been on the MSO’s to-do list for quite some time.

He states “all of the compositions contain exuberant melodies and elegant lyricism” along with a finale that speaks to “the resilience of the human spirit.”

The African American composer Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004) was named after the Black British composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor, whose “Ballade” was played by MSO on its March concert. Perkinson wrote “Allegro furioso” when he was only 22. Smith describes it as

“an incredibly refreshing piece with dynamic syncopations.” Haydn’s delightful Symphony No. 83 is known as “La Poule” or “The Hen.” It received its nickname from the clucking sounds played by the oboe in the first movement, as well as other melodies that suggest chickens scratching.

The entire second half of the program is devoted to Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony, written in 1944. Smith calls it “one of the most extraordinary and well-known

pieces of the 20th century. It is a uniquely significant piece that is a great crowd pleaser with its triumphant quality, rapturous melodies, and sardonic humor.” Prokofiev himself called his composition “a hymn to free and happy Man, to his mighty powers, his pure and noble spirit.”

As usual, the audience is invited to arrive an hour early for the pre-concert events in the “More with Midcoast” series. On Saturday at 6:15 in Franco’s

Heritage Hall, Mt. Ararat High School student Ryan Sweet performs several of his original solo piano compositions; on Sunday at 1:30, Maestro Smith and a section of the orchestra will demonstrate some of their rehearsal strategies in preparing for the concert. Also, at the Franco Center during intermission, two prize-winning high school musicians, cellist Ronan Sands and violinist Linnea Turesson, will perform music by Handel and Piazzolla.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Garden Party Murder Mystery at LPL

**LEWISTON, ME** -- The Lewiston Public Library is hosting “Garden Party Murder Mystery,” an after-hours event on Saturday, April 26th to benefit the READY to Grow Campaign. This will begin at 5 PM in Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library, with tickets costing \$50 per individual or \$90 per pair.

This program will include dinner, raffle prizes, and team based competition to solve the fictional murder of Lily Pine, found dead at her grandmother’s annual garden party. This is sure to be a night of

fun for aspiring amateur sleuths. Garden party attire is encouraged, and an award will be presented to the team that solves Lily’s murder the fastest.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the READY to Grow Campaign to renovate the Children’s Department of the Lewiston Public Library. The mission of this campaign is to renovate this space in the library in order to provide generations of Lewiston’s youth with an inspiring place to play, grow, and explore while remaining respectful of our rich history and reflecting

the cultures and traditions of modern-day Lewiston. Learn more about this project at <https://givebutter.com/DONATE2LPL>.

Registration is required for this event and costs \$50 per person or \$90 per pair. Reserve your ticket(s) at <https://givebutter.com/LPLGardenparty>.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on Garden Party Murder Mystery is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3134 or email [rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov).



**GARDEN PARTY MURDER MYSTERY**  
SAT. APRIL 26, 5:00PM

This after-hours event at the Lewiston Public Library includes dinner, raffles, and a team based race to solve the fictional murder of Lily Pine, found dead at her grandmother's annual garden party.

**Garden party attire encouraged. All proceeds benefit the READY to Grow Campaign.**

Register at: <https://givebutter.com/LPLGardenparty>

**\$50/INDIVIDUAL  
\$90/PAIR**

## Romantic comedy *Now and Then* on stage at The Public Theatre

**LEWISTON, ME** -- Share a laugh, shed a tear and warm your heart with the magical romantic comedy *Now and Then* playing May 2 – 11 at The Public Theatre in Lewiston.

They say there are no

“do-overs” in life, but if you could get one, would you take it? Late one night in an Irish pub in Chicago, a young bartender and his girlfriend receive an intriguing proposition from a mysterious last-minute

customer offering them \$2,000 to sit and talk with him for an hour. What follows is an unexpected emotional time-warp filled with laughter, romance, tears and a valuable life lesson. Don’t miss this

magical and wise romantic comedy about listening to your heart.

Featuring a fully professional cast of actors with Broadway credits, *Now and Then* is a deeply romantic, thought-provoking and satisfying play offering humor, heart, and a mystery that will keep the cleverest theatregoer intrigued. Artistic Director Janet Mitchko says, “*Now and Then* looks at love through the eyes of a couple in their 20’s as well as in their 60’s and offers an important piece of advice for audiences of all ages.”

Starring as the mysterious old man is MITCH POULOS. Mitch appeared in the National Tour of *Billy Elliot* as well as on tv in *Curb your Enthusiasm*, *The Office*, *Criminal Minds* and *Arrested Development*. Playing the equally mysterious older woman is LINDA MARIE LARSON. Linda has appeared on Broadway in *Vanya*

and *Sonia and Masha and Spike*; *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus*; *Deuce and Jackie: An American Life*. Her television credits include *Succession*, *House of Cards*, *Blue Bloods* and *Masters of Sex*, among others.

Playing the romantic piano-playing young bartender Jaime is DYLAN S. WALLACH. Born in Maine, Dylan has appeared on Broadway in the Tony Award winning play *Leopoldstadt*, and *Betrayal* with Tom Hiddleston. His delightfully spirited girlfriend Abby will be played by ALLISON ALTMAN. Allison appeared on Broadway in *Birthday Candles* starring Deborah Messing and recently performed in the Huntington Theatre’s hit *Triumph of Love*.

*Now and Then* will be directed by MARK ROUTHIER. Mark directed and ran new play development at The NOLA

Project in New Orleans, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, Magic Theatre in San Francisco, and was Lit Chair for the National New Play Network.

The Irish pub in which the plays takes place is created by Courtney Smith, lighting by Michael Reidy, sound design by Charles Coes and costumes by Frederica Jepson.

Filled with humor, heart and romance, *Now and Then* makes the perfect gift to bring your mother to on Mother’s Day. Don’t forget to visit the Silent Auction happening in the lobby during the show as well as online.

*Now and Then* will be performed at The Public Theatre, Lewiston’s Professional Theatre May 2 – 11. Showtimes are Thurs & Fri at 7 pm, Sat at 3 pm, Sun at 2 pm and Sat May 10 at 3 & 7:30 pm. For tickets call 782-3200 or visit [thepublictheatre.org](http://thepublictheatre.org). The Public Theatre is located at 31 Maple St., Lewiston.



**NOW and THEN**  
by Sean Grennan

**May 2-11**

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Send all items for What’s Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.



# April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## Is sexual assault a problem in Maine?

Yes. One in five Mainers will experience sexual assault at some point in their lifetime. [1] Each year, 19,000 Mainers will experience sexual violence. [2] However, in 2019, only 514 rapes or attempted rapes were reported to Maine law enforcement. [3]

**CHILDREN**  
In a study of girls who were committed and/or detained at Maine's Long Creek Youth Development Center between December 2001 and September 2002, 20% of the girls reported a history of sexual abuse or rape. [4]

In 2019, approximately 50% of calls to Maine's sexual assault crisis and support line related to child sexual abuse. [5]

According to the Children's Safety Network and Data Analysis Resource Center, the comprehensive costs of sexual abuse of children in Maine in 2004 were \$138,057,000. This estimate takes into consideration future earnings, medical and mental health expenses, and public

programs, among other things. [6]

Approximately 7.5% of Maine high school students (10.8% of girls and 4.0% of boys) report that they have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse. 11.9% – 18.4% of girls and 5.6% of boys – report having been forced to have sexual contact in any way in their lifetime. [7]

18.4% of Maine high school students – 26.4% of girls and 10.6% of boys – report having been the target of offensive sexual comments at school or on the way to or from school in their lifetime. [8]

In FY 2018 and FY2019 combined, Maine's sexual assault crisis and support centers provided prevention education sessions to almost 70,000 Maine K-12 students. [9]

**ADULTS**  
A recent study found that nearly one in five adult Maine residents reports that they have been the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetime; 35.7% of female respondents and 10.1%

of male respondents have experienced this devastating crime at some point in their lives. [10]

Roughly 14,000 Maine residents may be the victim of rape or unwanted sexual activity during any 12 month period. [11]

In 2019, about 20% of callers to Maine's sexual assault crisis and support line were men. [12]

Preble Street Resource Center, located in Portland, Maine, reports that 44% of women interviewed for their report Women and Homelessness reported being a victim of sexual assault since becoming homeless. [13]

**MENTAL HEALTH/ SUBSTANCE USE**

48.6% of adult Maine sexual assault survivors report that they have ever been diagnosed as depressed, as opposed to 17.5% individuals who have never been sexually assaulted. [14]

38.3% of adult Maine sexual assault survivors report that they have ever been diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, as opposed to 14.2% of individ-

uals who have never been sexually assaulted. [15]

28.7% of women sexual assault survivors in Maine report they drank heavily in the past month (compared to 4.4% of individuals who have never been sexually assaulted). [16]

Of Maine youth who experience forced sexual contact OR forced sex, 35-37% consider suicide, as compared with only 9-10% of their peers who have not experienced sexual violence. [17]

Citations 1-17

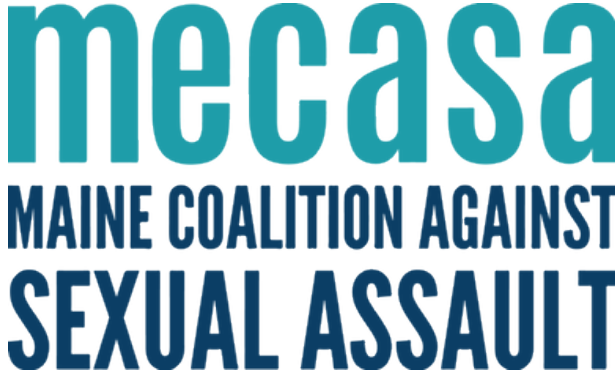
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## Tips for talking with survivors of sexual assault

Contributed by RAINN

It's not always easy to know what to say when someone tells you they've been sexually assaulted, especially if they are a friend or family member. For a survivor, disclosing to someone they care about can be very difficult, so we encourage you to be as supportive and non-judgemental as possible.

Sometimes support means providing resources, such as how to reach the National Sexual Assault Hotline, seek medical attention, or report the crime to the police. But often listening is the best way to support a survivor.

Here are some specific phrases RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline staff recommend to be supportive through a survivor's healing process.

"I believe you. / It took a lot of courage to tell me about this." It can be extremely difficult for survivors to come forward and share their story. They may feel ashamed, concerned that they won't be believed, or worried they'll be blamed. Leave any "why" questions or investigations to the experts—your job is to support this person. Be careful

not to interpret calmness as a sign that the event did not occur—everyone responds to traumatic events differently. The best thing you can do is to believe them.

"It's not your fault. / You didn't do anything to deserve this." Survivors may blame themselves, especially if they know the perpetrator personally. Remind the survivor, maybe even more than once, that they are not to blame.

"You are not alone. / I care about you and am here to listen or help in any way I can." Let the survivor know that you are there for them and willing to listen to their story if they are comfortable sharing it. Assess if there are people in their life they feel comfortable going to, and remind them that there are service providers who will be able to support them as they heal from the experience.

"I'm sorry this happened. / This shouldn't have happened to you." Acknowledge that the experience has affected their life. Phrases like "This must be really tough for you," and, "I'm so glad you are sharing this with me," help to communicate empathy.

There's no timetable

when it comes to recovering from sexual violence. If someone trusted you enough to disclose the event to you, consider the following ways to show your continued support.

Avoid judgment. It can be difficult to watch a survivor struggle with the effects of sexual assault for an extended period of time. Avoid phrases that suggest they're taking too long to recover such as, "You've been acting like this for a while now," or "How much longer will you feel this way?"

Check in periodically. The event may have happened a long time ago, but that doesn't mean the pain is gone. Check in with the survivor to remind them you still care about their well-being and believe their story.

Know your resources. You're a strong supporter, but that doesn't mean you're equipped to manage someone else's health. Become familiar with resources you can recommend to a survivor, such as the National Sexual Assault Hotline 800.656.HOPE (4673) and [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org), y en español a [rainn.org/es](http://rainn.org/es).

It's often helpful to contact your local sexual assault service provider

for advice on medical care and laws surrounding sexual assault. If the survivor seeks medical attention or plans to report, offer to be there. Your presence can offer the support they need.

If someone you care about is considering suicide, learn the warning signs, and offer help and support. For more information about suicide prevention please visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or call 800.273.TALK (8255) any time, day or night.

Encourage them to practice good self-care during this difficult time.

If you or someone you know has been affect-

ed by sexual violence, it's not your fault. You are not alone. Help is available 24/7 through the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE or visit the Online Hotline, y en español a [rainn.org/es](http://rainn.org/es).

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual As-

sault Hotline (800.656.HOPE, [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org) y [rainn.org/es](http://rainn.org/es)) in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.



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# April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## Sex trafficking and exploitation assistance in L-A

There are an estimated 300-400 victims of sex trafficking in Maine every year. If you or someone you know needs support or resources, SAPARS advocates are here to help! 1-800-871-7741

Warning Signs for Trafficking May Include:

- A controlling and dominating partner who

the victim has to frequently checks-in with

- Sexually explicit profiles on websites
- Prepaid/multiple cell phones; key cards
- Frequent STIs, pregnancies, abortions
- Unusual tattoos/brandings/scars
- New clothes/accessories/gifts with no explanation;

unexplained shopping trips

- Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, etc.
- Hyper-vigilant or paranoid behavior
- Secrecy about whereabouts; unaccounted-for time; vagueness or defensiveness in response to questions or concerns
- Late nights and/or unusual hours

A sex trafficker can be:

- A supposed professional modeling agent, photographer, or filmmaker
- An older boyfriend or partner who pretends to be loving but passes their victim on to other people for sex, or to other traffickers
- A relative or family friend who wants the victim to "give back" to the family

What can SAPARS Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Advocate do?

- Crisis intervention and ongoing support services
- Accompaniment and support for survivors during forensic medical procedures, police interviews and/or court proceedings (civil and criminal)
- Follow-up assistance and support to survivors
- Assist survivors with developing and implementing a comprehensive safety plan.
- Assess the needs of survivors
- Referrals and warm hand offs to other social service agencies as appropriate

Help survivors file for victim compensation whenever appropriate

Establish regular office hours in the Sex Trafficking Safe House to further assist survivors in reaching their identified goals

Supporting survivors during their stay, work with survivors after they have ended their stay, in the Sex Trafficking Safe House, providing continuity and ongoing assessment and referral, and helping to modify their safety plan as needed.

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## Healing through SAPARS support groups

SAPARS offer support groups to people of all, regardless of gender identity. Groups function as mutual-help, peer-support groups where participants take as much responsibility as possible in their own healing process. Groups offer the opportunity to regain some of the power and control that was taken during the assault. Each group is facilitated by experienced staff whose role is to provide structure, guidance and a safe environment. Before beginning a group, individuals may need to meet with the facilitators to discuss the group, talk about personal goals, and ensure the group is the right fit.

We offer a variety of free and confidential groups for survivors and concerned others, such as traditional groups, outreach groups, skills based groups, and creative healing groups. For more information please call one of our offices below.

Lewiston: 207-784-5272

Farmington: 207-778-9522

Norway: 207-743-9777

Upcoming Support Groups: For our next support group, reach out at 207-784-5272

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# April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## SAPARS: Maine 24/7 helpline is 1-800-871-7741

You don't have to report, to get support, we are here for you!

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS) mission is to prevent all forms of sexual violence and to empower all people affected by sexual violence to find a path to healing.

Since 2011, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SA-

PARS) has been supporting survivors and providing prevention education in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties and the towns of Bridgton and Harrison. Our free and private services include:

A 24/7 Helpline for people who have experienced sexual violence and the people supporting survivors.

One to one support

(by phone, over zoom, and/or in person)

Support groups

Support and advocacy at the hospital, reporting to the police, filing for a protection order, and accessing civil legal services.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties

Prevention education

programming in schools and communities

Connection to other local supports and resources

A free, confidential\* 24-hour Helpline with advocates who are understanding and ready to help (Call 1-800-871-7741 to speak to an advocate now: TTY #1-888-458-5599)

Daytime text or online chat support

Accompaniment for survivors who go to the hospital, police, or court

Training for local agencies and organizations

Community and school-based education

In-person and online peer support groups

Information and referrals to different resources

Urgent support to survivors and their families and friends anytime

\*We are mandated reporters. That means we have to follow Maine state reporting laws. If we think you are under 18 or an adult dependent on care from others, and you tell us any information that makes us think you are being abused or neglected, we may have to share this with other adults to help keep you safe.

## SAPARS supports local schools through prevention education

SAPARS provides school-based prevention education that works with all grade levels to help create a safer school environment. We provide both classroom educational presentations to students, as well as specialized training to help teachers and administrators recognize and respond to sexual harassment, acquaintance rape, and child sexual

abuse.

Children ages 12 to 17 years of age account for approximately a third of all reported rapes, with teens 16 to 19 years of age being three and a half times more likely than the general population to be the victims of rape or sexual assault. Through our school-based programs, school students can receive on-site support.

Face-to-face communication and advocacy helps young victim-survivors cope and heal.

Educators also provide Drop-In Services, within the school building for students to access should the need arise.

Comprehensive in scope, our presentations include, but are not limited to: "Space Ships" - Personal Space Curriculum

Personal Body Safety

Friendship Issues

Positive and Healthy Boundaries

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Recognizing and Responding: A Workshop for Teachers

Technology Safety

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# Waterville author receives major science fiction award

**WATERVILLE, ME**—Sharon Lee, a Maine-based novelist who wrote over 100 works of fiction with her late husband, Steve Miller, has won the 2025 Robert A. Heinlein Award. This honor is awarded annually by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society to acknowledge an author or authors with “outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space” (from the BSF website). A majority of Lee’s space-themed work takes place in the Liaden Universe® and features merchant families trading across the galaxy. The next Liaden Universe® novel, *Diviner’s Bow*, is forthcoming from Baen Books in April 2025.

The award will be formally presented during opening ceremonies on Friday, May 23, 2025 at 8 PM for Balticon 59, the 59th Maryland Regional Science Fiction Conven-

tion. Balticon will take place at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore Maryland. Balticon and the Robert A. Heinlein Award are both managed and sponsored by The Baltimore Science Fiction Society, and the family of Dr. Yoji Kondo provides funding for this award.

Sharon Lee is best-known as co-author, with the late Steve Miller, of the Liaden Universe® novels and short stories. The initial installment, *Agent of Change*, was first published as a Del Rey Original mass market paperback in February 1988. The twenty-seventh Liaden® novel, *Diviner’s Bow*, will be published by Baen Books in April 2025. Under her own byline, she’s written two mystery novels (*Barnburner* and *Gunshy*) and a contemporary fantasy trilogy (*Carousel Tides*, *Carousel Sun*, *Carousel Seas*) both set in Maine. She’s also authored several dozen short stories.

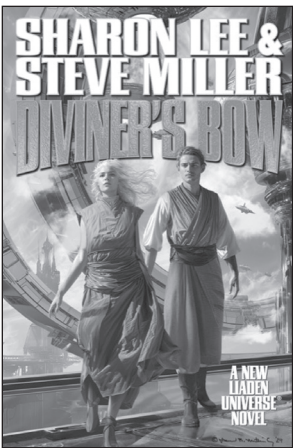


In 2012, Steve and Sharon were jointly awarded the Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (aka the Skylark Award), by the New England Science Fiction Association. During their long and storied career, Lee and Miller were celebrated as guests of honor at more than two dozen science fiction conventions across the country, and were frequent panel-

ists and guest speakers.

Praise for the Liaden Universe Series:

“I love the Liaden Universe® books for their complex weaving of cultures and manners and the dangers of space travel. I was fascinated by *Ribbon Dance*’s focus on the careful work of establishing trade with a long-isolated world where psi powers are common. At play are the differences between



offworld procedures and the traditions and suspicions of the planetary society. And an elderly, politely demanding noble.” —Kathryn Sullivan, *Talking to Trees*

“Time spent with the *Tree and Dragon* is always a joy. *Ribbon Dance* is a marvelous tale, a feast for Liaden fans. And everyone should be a Liaden fan.” —#1 New York Times Best Seller Patricia Briggs

“Space Opera as finely crafted as a *Tree-and-Dragon* trade deal. Lee and Miller always deliver the goods.” —Jack

Campbell, author of *In Our Stars* and *Implacable*

“Breathtaking, innovative, and absolutely charming!” —Lawrence M. Schoen, award-winning author of *Barsk: The Elephants’ Graveyard*

“A brilliant entry in the Liaden series, with romance, intrigue, new friends and old, and a new world to test Clan Korval!” —Ryk Spoor, author of *Choosing the Players* and the *Demons of the Past* trilogy

“Starts fast and runs hot and true. Perhaps Lee & Miller’s strongest work to date. Space opera the way it should be.” —James D. Macdonald, coauthor of *The Price of the Stars*

“Deftly written, with politics, passion and power winding together to create an incredibly satisfying story that spans generations, cultures, and worlds. What a treat. Sure to satisfy long-time readers and newcomers alike!” —C.E. Murphy, author of *The Walker Papers* series

# Preliminary report released on Maine Industry Partnership

**AUGUSTA, ME** - The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) is pleased to release the following report - “Maine Industry Partnership Program: Preliminary Impact

Snapshot” in partnership with the Catherine Cutler Institute, which lead the evaluation through their Data Innovation Project.

“The Industry Partnership Program is part of

Governor Mills’ workforce strategy and a key priority to Maine’s long-term economic growth,” said Christopher Quint, Director, SWDB. “These partnerships unite businesses,

## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

that are critical to Maine’s success,” said Vaughan Woodruff, Chair, SWDB. “The work of the Industry Partnership Program to define career pathways, make these careers more visible to current and future seekers, and provide valuable training opportunities demonstrates an effective solution to Maine’s unique workforce challenges.”

The SWDB recently launched a series of webinars, open to anyone who is interested in learning more about Maine’s Industry Partnership Program.

The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) is an employer-led board whose purpose is to ensure that Maine’s workforce development system helps Maine people and businesses compete successfully in the global economy. The SWDB advises the Governor on workforce policy and the development and evaluation of the Workforce Development System (WDS), which includes public and private agencies such as Maine employers and workers, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Community College System, and the University of Maine System.

industry associations, education and training providers, and community-based organizations to recruit, retain, and advance workers in meaningful careers.”

The Industry Partnership Program, a \$3.7 million Maine Jobs and Recovery Program launched in 2022, funded six pilot projects in key industries throughout Maine – Forest Products, Hospitality & Tourism, Retail, Oral Healthcare, Healthcare, and Social Services. As hubs of excellence that grow and attract local talent, the Industry Partnership Program aligns with Maine’s 10-year strategic economic development strategy and the 2024-2027 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified

State Plan.

The report highlights several emerging themes from the Industry Partnership Program pilots:

1. Creating employment opportunities for Maine workers
2. Exposing workers to critical industries in Maine
3. Positive impacts on Maine communities and the Maine economy
4. Providing cross-industry learning and support
5. Continuing public and private investment to yield results

“This report highlights the value of collaboration between industry and community partners to serve the needs of workers and employers in sectors

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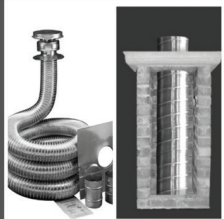
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# Stanton Bird Club presents wildlife of Ecuador lecture

**LEWISTON, ME** -- On May 5th, the Stanton Bird Club will be hosting the sixth in its 2024-25 lecture series presenting "The Amazing Wildlife of Ecuador: The Andes, the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands" with Ed Robinson.

Enjoy this photographic tour of the lofty Andes mountains, mid-elevation cloud forests, the Amazon Basin, and the storied Galapagos Islands. The talk chronicles a three-week trip to some of the most diverse and unspoiled habitats on Earth, opening the door to the vast array of wild creatures that live

there. Writer and photographer Ed Robinson of Orr's Island, Maine is a widely traveled naturalist and will share his knowledge of the region and its beautiful creatures. The presentation will entertain and educate using 150 stunning photos, biological facts, and stories with a Q&A session to follow.

Ed grew up in the lovely Finger Lakes region of western New York and developed a deep love for the natural world. Since moving to Maine from England in 2007, he has been exploring and writing extensively about the

creatures that live here. Ed has written two books in a series titled Nature Notes from Maine, with a third book on the way. All profits from his books support public education and conservation of the environment around us.

The talk will be held on Monday, May 5th from 4-6pm at the Auburn Public Library. The public is welcome. The lecture series is free of charge.

The Stanton Bird Club, a leader in environmental awareness, owns and manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary in Lewiston as well as the Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield. More information about other activities of the Club can be found at [www.StantonBirdClub.org](http://www.StantonBirdClub.org) and on its Facebook page.



Hummingbird by Ed Robinson



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# Maine makers take a stand for sustainability in fashion & craft

**PORTLAND, ME** – As fast fashion faces scrutiny for its environmental and human costs, Maine’s makers are proving there’s a better way. STITCH: Maine Designers on the Runway, hosted by the Maine Crafts Association, is a one-of-a-kind fundraising event celebrating designers, makers, and craftspeople who are leading the charge in sustainable, locally made fashion and craft.

Taking place on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 5 PM – 9 PM at Maine Studio Works (170 Anderson Street, Portland), this highly anticipated fashion fundraiser features a runway show at 7:00 PM, where some of Maine’s most innovative designers will showcase handcrafted and domestically made, high-quality pieces that support both artists and the environment—offering a stark contrast to today’s throwaway fashion culture.

This event is more than a fundraiser to support the Maine Crafts Association—it’s a chance to back the people in our community who are putting real care into what they create, from clothing to household items, to art and everything in between. With data showing the staggering impact of textile waste and a growing consumer shift toward ethical, sustainable choices, STITCH 2025 is a call to invest in quality over quantity. Every ticket, donation, and purchase helps keep Maine’s creative spirit alive, supports local jobs, and builds a community that values craftsmanship and environmental responsibility.

At a time when the global fashion industry generates over 92 million tons of textile waste annually (Ellen MacArthur Foundation), STITCH 2025 champions an alternative: garments, textiles, and craft objects made with care and intention.

A Movement Toward Ethical & Local Consumption

Consumer demand for sustainable fashion has never been stronger, with 73% of global consumers willing to pay more for products that are environmentally responsible (McKinsey & Company, 2024). STITCH 2025 taps into this shift, encouraging consumers to buy better, buy local, and support the hands behind the craft.

This year’s event will feature:

- A curated runway show spotlighting Maine designers who incorporate upcycled materials, locally sourced textiles, and ethical production methods. The featured designers bring a distinct approach to sustainable fashion, from innovative textile recycling to handcrafted, small-batch apparel.
- A keynote address by acclaimed Maine designer Jill McGowan, who has been a cornerstone of Maine’s fashion scene for more than 30 years. Renowned for her timeless, high-quality garments and commitment to sustainability, McGowan built her brand with a mission to create ethically made, long-lasting apparel that transcends trends. As one of Maine’s most respected designers, she continues to be a leader in sustainable practices, advocating for craftsmanship and thoughtful production in an industry dominated by fast fashion.
- Live maker demonstrations and exhibits, showcasing handcrafted work from apparel to home goods, each piece telling the story of the artisan behind it.

In a special collaboration with Maine Needs, a community-driven nonprofit supporting Mainers experiencing hardship, guests are encouraged to contribute to a clothing donation effort. Attendees are invited to bring clean, gently used summer clothing or shoes for men, women, and children to donate to a local individual in need.

**Featured Designers**

- Adele Masengo Designs
- A.W.D. Textile Designs
- Cece and the Seams
- Katie Rose (Flowbot)
- K. Becker Designs
- Kerry Goulder of Kid Giddy
- Portland Trading Co.

**Strengthening Maine’s Creative Economy**

The craft and design sector is a major driver of Maine’s local economy, sustaining hundreds of independent makers and small businesses across the state. According to the Maine Arts Commission, creative industries contribute \$2 billion annually to Maine’s GDP (MAC Annual Report). STITCH 2025 not only raises funds for the Maine Crafts Association’s artist development programs, maker workshops, and sustainability initiatives, but it also underscores the critical role of artists and makers in Maine’s economy.

“Maine makers aren’t just preserving traditions—they’re innovating, finding new ways to create sustainably, and proving that craftsmanship has a place in a modern, eco-conscious world,” said Whitney Gill, Executive Director, Maine Craft Association.

Join the Movement

STITCH 2025 is more than an event—it’s a movement. As industries worldwide grapple with the consequences of mass production, Maine’s makers are demonstrating that local, sustainable craft is the future.

Tickets are available now at [mainecrafts.org/programs/stitch](http://mainecrafts.org/programs/stitch).

# Artists wanted for ag-focused calendar

**MAINE** -- The Maine Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) is soliciting original artwork for its 2026 wall calendar and notecards with a submission deadline of May 20. The 2026 materials, which showcase artwork by Maine-based artists, will celebrate the theme of farming and tending to the land and sea throughout the seasons.

The annual wall calendar and notecards feature artwork in all mediums except photography. Submissions should be scanned high-quality images of 300 dpi or greater with a 2:1 aspect ratio. The final printed image will be 8 inches wide by 4 inches high. Artists’ submissions are limited to two (2) entries and each artist selected for the calendar will receive up to 3 free copies of the calendar and 10 free notecards.

Artwork must be in a file size no larger than 25 MB and submitted via e-mail to [maineagmediation@maine.edu](mailto:maineagmediation@maine.edu). Submissions must include the artist’s name, title of work and description of the medium, and can also include a brief statement about the story of the piece. For a detailed list of submission requirements, visit the calendar webpage.

To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Shiela Leonard, [maineagmediation@maine.edu](mailto:maineagmediation@maine.edu), 207.955.1977. All proceeds from calendar and notecard sales directly support the Maine Agricultural Mediation Program and its efforts to assist farmers and promote sustainable agriculture in Maine.

MAMP works with land and sea producers and agricultural community members to help them navigate difficult conversations and develop sustainable, self-created solutions. Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process guided by trained neutrals. MAMP staff and co-mediators work with participants to address conflict and concerns around agricultural loans, conservation programs, wetland determinations, pesticides, family farm transition, lease issues, neighbor disputes, worker/employer disagreements and more. Visit the program website to learn more about agricultural mediation and other MAMP services at UMaine Extension.

MAMP, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Mediation Program, is locally managed by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The program aims to support and promote the state’s agricultural community by providing services in mediation/conflict resolution, contract and lease co-drafting, and personal financial coaching, as well as through the PFAS Navigator Program.



Photo of artwork from 2024 courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

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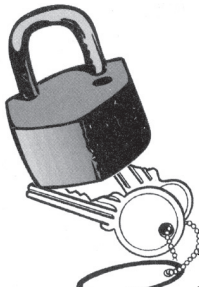
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**Wednesdays**  
GORHAM – Story Hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at North Gorham Public Library.

**Thursdays**  
LEWISTON -- Baby Sensory Playtime in the Lewiston Public Library’s Children’s Department every Thursday morning from 10am to 12pm.

Drop-in and join us for Baby Sensory Playtime! Babies and their caregivers will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of sensory toys and socialize with other families with young children. Playtime with sensory toys contributes to a baby’s cognitive development, fine motor skills, social and emotional development, creativity, and language development.

Recommended for babies ages birth-18 months and their caregivers. Siblings are always welcome. This program is free, open to the public and no registration is required.

**Saturdays**  
AUBURN -- Books! Books! Books! The Auburn Public Library Bookstore is now open on Saturday mornings. from 9:30-1:00. Choose from hundreds of gently used books, with most prices under \$3. We have books for children, teens, and adults, fiction and non-fiction. We often have puz-

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

zles, CDs, and DVDs, too. Stop in and browse our ever changing selection! Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street.

**Apr 24-26**  
LEWISTON -- Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for Make an Owl Friend in the Children’s Department on the 3rd floor from April 22nd-26th. Come create your very own owl friend out of paper and feathers. Make an owl to take home or create one for display at the Lewiston Public Library. Use crayons, colored pencils, feathers and glue to decorate your paper owl. All materials are provided. Free. In person. For more information contact the Children’s Department at 513-3133 or LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov

**Apr 24**  
LEWISTON -- At 12PM at the Lewiston Public Library, don’t miss SPRING BREAK STEM: DISSECT AN OWL PELLET. Owls swallow their food whole but cannot digest bones and fur so these are separated by the owl’s gizzard. After several hours, the owl regurgitates a pellet of the undigested material. The pellets have been professionally sani-

tized and arrive ready for dissection, offering participants the chance to identify the bones of the owl’s previous meals. Free. No registration required. Gloves and dissection materials will be provided, as well as one owl pellet per participant. This activity is recommended for kids ages 8 and older.

**Apr 25**  
LEWISTON -- 10:00am at the Lewiston Public Library: SOME BUNNY LOVES YOU KEEPSAKE. Use your young child’s footprints to create a spring bunny keepsake. Free. No registration required. Recommended for caregivers and their children between the ages of birth-5 years old. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

**Apr 26**  
LEWISTON -- The Alabama Singing Men part of the Alabama Baptist Churches and the Alabama State Board of Missions, Prattville, Alabama will be touring New England with a scheduled performance at Thomas Memorial Baptist Church, 62 Strawberry Avenue, Lewiston on April 26, 2025, 6:00 pm with a fellowship to follow.

**Apr 26**

BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, April 26, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

**Apr 26**  
TOPSHAM -- “All Aboard for the 2025 Great Falls Model Railroad Club Train Show! 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Mt. Ararat High School, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086 (Handicapped Accessible). Admission: Just \$5 per person (kids under 12 free with an adult.

Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of model railroads at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Train Show in Topsham, ME! With over 100 tables featuring new and used trains, tracks, buildings, books, and more, you’ll find something for every enthusiast. From N to HO, S, O, and G scales, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

**Apr 26**  
GRAY -- The First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans & Red Kidney, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages.

**Apr 30**  
LEWISTON -- LA Arts is pleased to present a mid-week, post-punk/goth show featuring Rosegarden Funeral Party with guests Trigger Discipline & Summore in our Lisbon Street performance space. This rare, all-ages show on Wednesday, April 30, is the next event in our 2025 Downstage Music Series.

**May 3**  
BRUNSWICK — Get ready to set sail for an enchanting night at St. John’s Catholic School’s annual auction, “Treasures of the Deep”! Dive into the enchanted seas into the transformed St. John’s Community Center as year’s event promises to be an unforgettable celebration featuring incredible auction items, delectable cuisine from Cook’s, and top-tier entertainment-all in support of our students and school community. This much-anticipated gathering promises an enchanting evening under the sea!

May 3, 2025 at 5:30PM at St. John’s Community Center

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LYMAN -- 5th Annual Drumming Up Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish Maine at Funky Bow Brewery, Lyman, ME on Sunday, May 4, from noon to 6 p.m. Donations requested for admission

**May 9, 10**  
AUGUSTA -- Home-schoolers of Maine’s convention returns for another year as the Maine Home-school Exchange—May 9th and 10th in Augusta. This is HOME’s 35th year providing encouraging and informational workshops, family-friendly activities, and fellowship for homeschool families.

Bring the entire family for a full range of experiences for all ages! You won’t want to miss the opportunity to come together and connect with fellow homeschoolers throughout Maine and beyond! For more information, see [homeschoolersofmaine.org/events-services/annual-convention/](http://homeschoolersofmaine.org/events-services/annual-convention/)

**Sundays, Starting May 11**

LEWISTON -- Lewiston Farmers’ Market held every Sunday, May 11th-November 23rd from 9:30am-1:00pm. Hours change to 11:00am-1:00pm beginning first Sunday in November. Located at 2 Oxford St., Lewiston

**May 15**  
BUXTON -- Thursday, May 15, 5PM Buxton Town Hall, 185 Portland Road. Buxton Library Writers’ Presentation Melody ML Norris, Author, Designer & Photo Preservationist Presents The Fine Art of Creating Attention Grabbing Book Covers; Sue Cassidy, Author, Discusses her journey to publishing a children’s book: Ladybugs and Ellie Go Camping. “Campfire Tales and Trails” A kids guide to reading and activities in the great outdoors. Light Refreshments. Free. FMI: Lorraine Lindstedt [lindcabin@gmail.com](mailto:lindcabin@gmail.com)

**May 17**  
LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- “Ethereal Weaves of Air” Saturday, May 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston and Sunday, May 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: Rondo: Allegro Furioso (from Sinfonietta No. 1); Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 83 “La Poule”; Sergei Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 in B flat, Op. 100; Tickets are \$25 in advance for adults; \$30 at the door. All concerts are free for anyone 25 and under.

Student Musicians in the Heritage Hall at the Franco Center (part of the “More with Midcoast” series) Saturday, May 17, 6:15pm - pianist Ryan Sweet; Saturday, May 17, intermission - cellist Ronan Sands and violinist Linnea Turesson

Open Rehearsal with Music Director Rohan Smith (part of the “More with Midcoast” series) Sunday, May 18, 2025, 1:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

For more information about the concert or “More with Midcoast,” visit [MidcoastSymphony.org](http://MidcoastSymphony.org), call 207-315-1712, or e-mail [info@midcoast-symphony.org](mailto:info@midcoast-symphony.org).

**Rosegarden**  
*Continued from page 1*  
tic diversity to the 2025 Downstage Music Series at LA Arts’ downtown Lewiston venue at 128 Lisbon Street.

Tickets for the 4/30 show are on sale for \$20 at [laarts.org/performance](http://laarts.org/performance), General Admission, all ages. Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase at the event for ages 21 and over.

LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture since 1973. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools, and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community. Learn more at [www.laarts.org](http://www.laarts.org).



## Finding meaningful work that’s flexible and close to home

### Direct Support workers help Mainers stay connected to their communities

From her earliest memories, Kathleen’s mother, Alice, has been independent. Having raised four children largely on her own, Alice worked until she was 85 and is a fixture in their island community.

But as Alice aged, her vision began to deteriorate. She wanted to continue living independently in the home and community she loved, but she and her kids knew that she needed a helping hand to remain safe and happy.

For the family, that helping hand came from Jim, a Direct Support worker, who lives nearby, and now visits Alice for a few hours, several days a week. He supports her with a variety of household tasks, including shopping and preparing meals. Often, the most valuable support is the conversation and camaraderie he provides.

“Jim is my godsend,” Alice said. “I look forward to him every single week.”

Jim is part of the growing field of Direct Support, ensuring that Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual and cognitive health needs have the support they need to stay safe, independent and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

For Jim, this is the ideal encore career. At 65, he retired from his full-time job; but after two years, he began to feel restless.

“If you have too much time you can overthink things and feel like you’re missing out on something,” he said. “But when you’re helping somebody, it feels like you’re in exactly the right spot. And that’s such a good feeling.”

For Dakota, 24, the steady presence of a Personal Support Specialist, Sonya, has made all the difference in the world. Dakota, who lives with intellectual and developmental disabilities, says that Sonya’s support has allowed him to gain the independence and a sense of connection to the community that he didn’t have before. In addition to assisting with activities of daily living, her support allows him to go to the movies, go to bookstores and do many other activities he loves.

“It makes me feel so happy to be a part of society,” he said. “With her support, I really feel like I’ve been able to flourish.”

To learn more about full-time, part-time and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to [Mainecareerswithpurpose.org](http://Mainecareerswithpurpose.org). Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.



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**SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 2025 - THE GRAND CANYON OF PENNSYLVANIA** - Trip includes 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners including the historic Peter Herdic House and The Carriage House. Highlights of this tour are Susquehanna River Cruise, Pennsylvania Grand Canyon Wagon Tour, Millionaires Row Tour, Thomas Taber Mu-

seum, Historic Rowley House and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Price of this trip is \$769.00 pp double occupancy and \$918.00 for a single. Final payment is due July 17, 2025.

**OCTOBER 6 – 10, 2025  
– ATLANTIC CITY,  
CAPE MAY, & PHILA-  
DELPHIA** - Trip includes  
5 days and 4 nights lodg-  
ing, 4 breakfasts and 4  
dinners and a free casino  
bonus for those who want  
to gamble.  
Guided tour of Philadel-  
phia including Liberty  
Bell, Independence Hall,  
Betsy Ross House, the  
Federal Reserve and  
Mint. Then off to Cape  
May with a Trolley Tour of  
the Victorian Mansions of  
Cape May and a walking  
tour of a historic Victori-  
an Home. We travel to  
Cape May Point and the  
famous Cape May Light-  
house. Our next day is a  
free day in Atlantic City to  
do as you please. Take in  
a show, do some gaming  
or just stroll down Atlan-  
tic City's Famous Board-  
walk. A **\$75.00 deposit  
per person is due upon  
signing up. The price  
for this trip is \$849.00  
per person double oc-  
cupancy. Add \$210.00  
for single occupancy.**

**Final Payment is due 7/30/25.**

**NOVEMBER 16-26, 2025**  
**– CLASSICAL GREECE**  
 - Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers and all transportation while on tour. Trip also includes 16 meals (9 breakfasts, 1 luncheon, and 6 dinners).  
 Highlights of this tour are Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon, Delphi, Olympia and Ancient Mycenae. You will visit a Greek Farm, have a Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, and visit two remote monasteries. We will also have a tasting of local wines, olive oil and sweets.

**APRIL 14 - 22, 2026 - HOLLAND AND BELGIUM SPRINGTIME CRUISE** - Trip includes 9 days and 20 meals. Highlights are 7 Night River Cruise, Amsterdam with Canal Cruise, Keukenhof Gardens, Middelburg, Belgium Waterways, Scenic Sail, Bruges, Antwerp, Kinderdijk Windmills. Ship is the MS Amadeus Brilliant. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$898.00 pp plus \$699.00 if you

want travel protection. Rates vary depending on the cabin category you choose.

**SEPTEMBER 20 - 28, 2026 - DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST** - Trip includes 9 days and 11 meals. Highlights are Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Country. Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

**If you are interested in any of these trips or for more information, please contact Claire at 784-0302 or Cindy at 345-9569.**

**Send all  
items for  
What's Going On  
to the Editor.  
Deadline is  
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**CLASSIFIED  
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# Tickets on sale for Maine's Got Talent

**LEWISTON, ME** - Tickets are now available for Maine's Got Talent 2025, a live music competition presented by Maine Community Bank and hosted by Andwell Health Partners. The event will take place on Saturday, May 3, at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston.

Now in its latest season, Maine's Got Talent showcases eight performers from across the state, each competing for cash prizes. Winners will be determined by a combination of judge scores and audience votes.

A reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the show at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [mgt2025.eventbrite.com](https://mgt2025.eventbrite.com).

This year's lineup includes:

- Jen Schultz & Erin-Margaret Libby – Vocal duo from Norway
- Russell Kaback – Guitarist and vocalist from Southern Maine
- Elaina Hubble – Singer and pianist from Portland
- Lindsay Hamilton – Vocalist from Biddeford
- Amy Stacey Curtis – Ukulele artist from Lewiston
- Vexica – Alt rock band from Auburn
- Dylan Medlin – Country/bluegrass singer from Old Orchard Beach
- Larnie Rose Lytton – Vocalist from Lincolnville

Proceeds from the event will support Andwell



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Health Partners' pediatric programming and services, which provide essential care and early intervention for more than 650 children and families throughout Maine.

For more information, visit [www.andwell.org](https://www.andwell.org) or contact Leslie Ogilvie, Community Relations & Development Manager, at (207) 330-0777 or [leslie.ogilvie@andwell.org](mailto:ogilvie@andwell.org).

Sponsors include Maine Community Bank, Northeast Fuel Pay, Emerson Chevrolet and Maine Chevy Dealers, Geiger, MatrixCare, New England Cancer Specialists, The Fortin & Pinette Group, First Choice Printing, and Praxis Motion Pictures.

## Alabama Singing Men performing in Lewiston

**LEWISTON, ME** -- The Alabama Singing Men is composed of music ministers, staff members, and laymen who are involved in music ministry. The group has been in existence since 1973 and was conducted by Dr. Paul Stewart, State Music Secretary at the time. Other conductors have included Dr. Paul Hall (1974-1995), Dr. Timothy Banks (1996-1997), and Rev. Ray Burdeshaw (1997-1999, serving as interim). In 1999, Dr. Thomas R. Smith, Department Chair and conductor of the Auburn University Concert Choir and the Auburn Singers, became conductor of the Alabama Singing Men. He served in that capacity for 25 years, retiring from that position this past year. During this present interim time, the group is under the dual direction of Dr. Roger Walworth of First Baptist Church of Fort Payne, Alabama and Rev. Ed Cleveland of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. Pianist for the group will be Debbie Anderson of Selma, Alabama.

Since its formation, the Alabama Singing Men has ministered to hundreds through appearances for Baptist functions, 24 national and international mission tours, concerts in Alabama churches, and special appearances at Ridgecrest Conference Music Week, the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Choral Directors Association, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, and at Praise Sing I and Praise Sing II.

This will be the second time for the Alabama Singing Men to visit the state of Maine. The group did mission work and concerts in April of 2017, aided by Maine collegiate coordinator Marilyn McClendon. As we come once again to this beautiful state, we look forward to another successful...and meaningful...experience.


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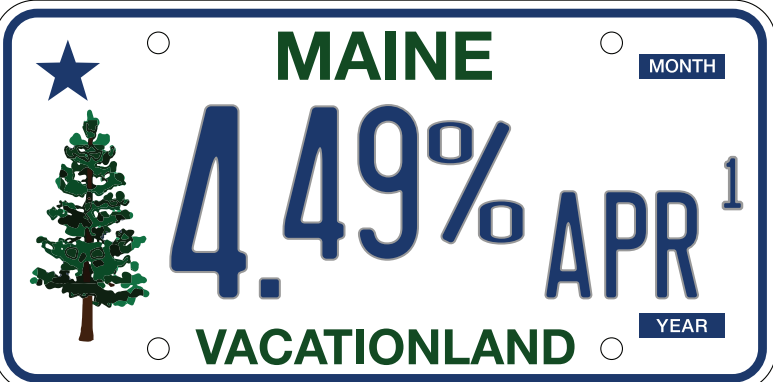
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