

# The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

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## Town Meeting

Nearly a hundred townspeople came out for a Special Town Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> to consider the purchase of a property at 31 Indian Rest Road to provide boating access to the Back River.

Phine Ewing, the chair of the Conservation Commission, opened the discussion by noting that the town had asked the commission to explore options for water access in 1990. After drafting a priority list, several properties were explored over the years, but none met the town's needs until the Indian Rest property became available this spring. In the meantime, the town has amassed \$91,000 in sequestered boating license fees towards any purchase.



*A Full House (photo Tom Spear)*

After investigating further and negotiating with the owners Phil and Doug Packard, they executed a purchase and sales agreement and conducted formal site visits and inspections of the property and systems, contacted regulatory agencies, and consulted with the neighbors. They then arranged a couple of site visits for townspeople to explore the site themselves.

Supporters of the proposal noted that the property was an exceptional opportunity and that any future prospects were likely to be much more costly. They further noted that the property met nearly all the town's needs, including canoeing and kayaking, birding, picnics, and social gatherings, while management was unlikely to be difficult and its costs could be easily covered by boating fees.

Opponents countered that while possible usage of the property was limited, its development and

management could be costly and management of visitors and parking difficult. Further, there are unknown and potentially costly hazards stemming from possible environmental pollution and liability insurance.

Bob Ater, the leader of the water access subcommittee, then explained that they had developed a spending proposal for the \$200,000 purchase price and \$27,000 cost for removing the house and garage. Bath Savings has offered bridge finance, while the town already has \$91,000 in the water access fund and promises of over \$18,000 in contributions. It could also apply for grants of \$60-100,000 from local and state agencies. Further, existing boating fees would easily pay for annual

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maintenance, and the towns liability insurance would cover the site at no additional cost.

Several people have already volunteered to serve on a water management committee to further explore development and management options for the site in consultation with townspeople.

A secret ballot was called for and resulted in a final vote of 68 in favor and 27 opposed. Subject to a pending environmental assessment test, the town will

now proceed with its due diligence towards the purchase.

Residents also approved hiring a Deputy Treasurer and modifications to the management and financing of the Broadband Authority to accord with the change in funding from the USDA to Connect Maine, and it rejected the sale of town property to help finance the Indian Rest purchase. □

—Tom Spear

## Special Town Meeting - November 20

Keen observers may have noticed a warrant posted on the town bulletin board announcing another Special Town Meeting set for next Monday, November 20 at 6:30 in Town Hall.

Due to an administrative oversight that any number of us could have and should have caught, the financial statement on the warrant article from our October 25 meeting appeared without the Treasurer's signature. Even though he stood up and attested to the numbers at the meeting, the absence of the signature is a

statutory deficiency that can only be remedied at a town meeting.

And so, we will gather again to satisfy the letter of the law. I normally do everything I can to encourage you to show up and make your voices heard, but if there was ever a meeting you could miss with a clear conscience, this is the one. The meeting should be brief and perfunctory.

—Walter Briggs, First Selectman

## Remembering Bill and Noreen Blaiklock

It was hard to learn of Bill and Noreen's passing in September. They were a unique couple that were intertwined deeply within our community and treasured by many. My first meeting with Bill was at a meeting of the Arrowsic Conservation Committee (ACC) which I joined in the mid-1980's. I met Noreen soon afterwards for a tour of their farm; at that time and still today, the only active farm in Arrowsic. Most of my involvement with Bill and Noreen revolved around founding and leading the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust which is now Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

Bill was already a long-term member of the ACC and the Planning Board during those days. In 1988 letters were sent to property owners of larger tracts of undeveloped land in Arrowsic to learn about their interest in land conservation.

Before receiving a single reply, we realized that there was no local mechanism to carry out the conservation work even if people wrote back with interest. There was no land trust focused on this part of the state yet. This sparked the idea of forming a local land trust!

I was closest to Bill, and he was one of the most dedicated, hardest working people I've known. He was dedicated to his family, his farm, his work, and his community, as I know Noreen was as well.

We invited the public to gather at the Patten Free Library in Bath and sent notices to local town governments, conservation commissions, and other groups in the region that might have conservation as an interest.

We also connected with Jim McCarthy, a reporter from the *Times Record* who promoted the meeting in

an article he wrote, titled, “Pair Pushes Land Trust for Lower Kennebec Towns”. The article noted Bill’s concerns about increasing development pressures in Arrowsic and other local coastal communities, and Bill is quoted saying, “What we’re trying to offer is some alternatives and thereby strike a balance between conservation and development.”

The meeting at Patten Free Library was a success with 35 people at that first meeting who shared our excitement about the idea of a land trust for the region. With help from Maine Coast Heritage Trust and fitting a service area centered on Bath between the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, land trust efforts began.

Five people stepped up to take the lead for forming the new land trust, coming together at the Blaiklock’s house at Woodcock Farm. Sitting around the Blaiklock’s dining room table on March 2, 1989, Tom Barrington, Bill Blaiklock, Hal Bonner, John Doane, and I signed incorporation papers for the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust.

While this was going on, Noreen was in the background, listening, adding constructive ideas, and helping to keep us focused. For years she reminded us that we were at their dining room table and NOT their kitchen table as many would say.

Later that year a Board of Directors was created; Bill took the helm as the first Board President guiding the land trust through its inaugural years as an organization. Bill was a stalwart leader who pushed hard to elevate the status of the land trust.

Noreen was always there; she pushed for more educational events and with a friend created a superb script and slide show (with slides in a carousel) promoting land conservation and the land trust. The land trust’s membership passed 100 in 1990 and the land trust’s first conservation easement was accepted the same year.

When Bill stepped down as the president in 1995, his recognition noted, “Your grace, guidance and leadership... has been a vital factor in our success.” Bill stayed on the board and took up the reigns as Secretary, serving in this role through 2005, and

remaining on the board through 2010. He was a mentor to me and many others. He helped to support the 2009 transformation of the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust into the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

As time went on, Bill continued to show his support for KELT through his work as a trustee of The Merrymeeting Bay Trust, a spark that helped KELT grow into the professional organization it is today. Bill continued to collaborate with some of KELT’s current staff as the Chair of the Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee.

Bill and Noreen were both very active members of the Sagadahoc County chapter of MOFGA. Noreen remained active on the ACC for years. She was an herbalist known by many who came to her for healing and guidance.

Some of my fondest memories with Bill and Noreen came from spending time with them on their farm. Like many of their neighbors, we bought eggs and pork from them, and others bought lambs.

They let me make believe I was a farmer and taught me how to help them out. I was occasionally recruited to help them with breeding their cows. It was a scary thrill to be the person holding the cow while the whole process was going on. They owned Devons, a heritage breed of cattle from England, and tried to always have a milking cow around.

Sometimes, when they went away for short periods of time, I became the “farmhand” getting to feed the cows, chickens, sheep, pigs, and herd of cats. Bill truly wanted to be a full-time farmer but somehow couldn’t give up his work at BIW. Even after his retirement, he continued his ship work and still maintained the farm. Noreen was mostly the full-time farmer and was attentive to her many gardens and many other tasks and roles she took on.

Bill and Noreen will be missed by many, and they leave a very large footprint on the lower Kennebec region that will live on in perpetuity. A legacy anyone would be proud of.

—Adapted by Jack Witham from a KELT website article by Jack Witham and KELT staff

## Town Notes

### *Recycle Your Bottles to Aid the Arrowsic Fire Department*

The Arrowsic Fire Department has long recycled our deposit cans and bottles to raise money to buy equipment, but due to a decline in recycling centers, it has arranged with Clynk to handle our returns. The process is simple: just pick up a specially tagged Clynk bag from the recycling shed, fill it with your returnable cans and bottles, and drop it off at the shed or at any Hanniford's store. The AFD will get the credit for the returns.

Here is how it works:

- Pick up a Clynk bag from the recycling shed, Town Hall, or the swap barn. Each bag is tagged, so that its contents are credited to the AFD.
- Fill your bag with your returnable plastic, aluminum, or glass beverage containers, including deposit paid wine and liquor bottles, and tie tightly.
- Each bag should weigh no more than 20 lbs. and include no more than 135 cans, 120 plastic bottles, or 10 wine and liquor bottles.
- Do not crush the cans or tear off the labels from bottles, as the UPC labels must be readable.
- Return your bag either to the recycling shed or to any Hannaford's store Clynk center.

Sit back and relax, knowing that your containers will be responsibly recycled while helping the AFD.

—Dale Carlton, Chief, AFD

### *Education Committee Update*

Following a break in activities due to the pandemic, the Education Committee has started meeting again. The committee is charged with raising money to award graduating high school students who are pursuing higher education a \$2,000 scholarship.

In the past, the largest source of funding was the September yard sale in the parking lot at Town Hall.

Monetary donations have also been a source of funds for the Scholarship Fund. Because the committee has only recently resumed, there wasn't time to plan the yard sale for this month but it's on the calendar for next September.

In the meantime, here's a tentative schedule for upcoming events sponsored by the Education Committee:

- Plant sale & silent auction – early June 2024
- Yard sale – September 2024
- Family fun event – October 2024
- Raffle calendar – February 2025

Are you wondering how you might get involved? Will you have plants to donate for the plant sale? Do you have a good or service to donate for the silent auction (or know someone who does)? Please email Denise Parker at [denise.parker@arrowsic.org](mailto:denise.parker@arrowsic.org) with information. Other members of the committee are Janet Persen and Brenda Wojciechowski.

—Denise Parker

### *Protect Your Home – Prevent Chimney Fires*

This is the season when we spend more time indoors in front of the fireplace and the time of year when most home fires occur. What is the condition of your chimney? Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, clean chimneys don't catch fire. Best, a professional chimney sweep inspects your solid fuel venting system annually and sweeps and repairs it whenever needed. Before lighting a fire, make sure it is safe to do so.

—The Arrowsic Fire Department

### *Town Email*

Sign up for town email if you wish to receive the weekly Monday Blast, the Arrow, and other announcements [here](#).

Sign-up sheets are also available in the Town Hall.

## ***Time to Register Your Dogs***

Dog tags for 2024 are now available. All dogs six months and older are required to be licensed each year. The current year's license expires December 31, 2023.

To license your dog, you must provide a current rabies certificate, along with proof of neutering or spaying, if applicable. You do not need to submit a copy of the rabies certificate if the certificate that was provided for last year's license has not expired.

Licensing can be done in either of the following ways:

- Through the mail by providing the current rabies certificate (if necessary), a self-addressed envelope and cash or a check made out to the Town of Arrowsic. You may also drop your request in the mail slot at Town Hall.
- At Town Hall, by appointment. Please contact Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce at [barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org](mailto:barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org) to request an appointment or call 443-4609.

Fees are:

- Male/Female: \$11
- Neutered/Spayed: \$6
- A late fee of \$25 will be added to dogs licensed after 1/31/24.

Email Barbara at [barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org](mailto:barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org) if you have any questions.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

## ***New Webmaster***

When longtime webmaster, Paul Kalkstein, retired last month, resident Chris Hanson stepped forward to assume maintenance of the site. Chris has made some changes already and will add ADA accessibility in the future. Please browse [the website](#); Chris is asking for

feedback and can be emailed at [chris.hanson@arrowsic.org](mailto:chris.hanson@arrowsic.org).

Thanks to Paul for his creativity and years of dedicated service.

## ***Zoning Board of Appeals - An Appealing Opportunity***

### **What is ZBA?**

Short for Zoning Board of Appeals, the ZBA is a rarely needed but important resource provided for residents and landowners under our Zoning Ordinance. Arrowsic is fortunate to have a Codes Enforcement Officer and Planning Board that do excellent work administering our rules. The ZBA is the group that hears and decides cases in which an applicant either 1) asserts that the Codes Enforcement Officer or Planning Board has made an error or 2) seeks relief from dimensional requirements of the Ordinance. Therefore, the ZBA must be prepared to provide further consideration as part of due process.

### **Why now?**

There have been no recent appeals and over time the Board membership has dwindled. It is important for the ZBA to be fully established and ready to hear and decide cases. The Selectboard recently recruited three new members and together with a fourth longstanding member, the group is undertaking orientation and training. One additional member and two alternate members are needed to establish the Board. No experience is required.

### **Sound appealing?**

Indeed! This is an opportunity to serve the community in an interesting, thoughtful, and important function. It requires little time, and now while the Board is re-forming, is an excellent time to join. Questions and inquiries are welcome. Please contact the Selectboard to volunteer or if you know a good candidate.

—Michael Kriendler

## Elections

### Arrowsic Election Results

#### Referenda & Constitutional Amendments

	Yes	No	Blank
1. Require Voter Approval for \$1b Debt	116	116	6
2. Ban Foreign Gov't Spending on Elections	201	34	3
3. Pine Tree Power	101	137	0
4. Right to Repair	207	31	0
5. Time to Review Citizens Petitions	160	73	5
6. Print Full Constitution	183	49	6
7. Repeal Requirement that Petitioners Live in Maine	85	142	11
8. Restore Voting Rights to People in Guardianship	35	91	12

#### RSU1 School Board of Directors

	Yes	Write-In	Blank
Bath: Jamie Dorr	201	0	37
Woolwich: Jennifer Ritch-Smith	198	2	38

The total turnout was 55%, high for a referendum election.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

### Upcoming Elections – 2024

Big changes coming to the Maine 2024 Primary Elections. Mainers who are unenrolled in a recognized party will be able to vote in the primary elections for the first time,

The Maine legislature passed a semi-open primary bill in 2021, LD 231, allowing unenrolled voters, 32% of all Maine voters, the right to pick a party ballot on election day and vote in a primary election.

#### Presidential Primary - March 5, 2024

The Democratic Party and Republican Party each certified that they intend to hold a presidential primary on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### State Primary Election - June 11, 2024

Primary Elections determine each qualified party's nomination of candidates for Federal offices and State and County offices. Party candidates who are elected at the Primary qualify to appear on the November General Election ballot.

#### Presidential General Election - November 5, 2024

The General Election is held nationally on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November.

#### Maine Political Parties

Maine currently has four qualified parties: Democratic, Green Independent, Libertarian and Republican that may participate in primary elections. (Note: although some unenrolled candidates choose to designate themselves as "Independent," there is no "Independent" party in Maine.)

#### Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV)

Ranked-choice voting will be used in the 2024 State Primary and General elections. Visit [RCV Resources](#) for more information about ranked-choice voting.

#### Arrowsic Needs Poll Workers

As stated by our Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, “The success of our elections depends on the people running our elections. It’s a great way to learn about the process and see firsthand all the checks and balances that safeguard the security and integrity of our elections.” If you would like to support our democracy and be a poll worker (this is a paid position), please contact Barbara Boyce, [barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org](mailto:barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org)

For more information on being a poll worker go [here](#).

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

## Arrowsic Conservation Commission: Waterfront Access

The Town of Arrowsic is closing in on its first public saltwater boat access site. On October 25, residents voted at a special town meeting to approve the purchase by the town of the property at 31 Indian Rest Road, contingent on a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment and clear title.

Though modest in scope, the property will provide access for canoes, kayaks, and other hand-carried boats to the Back River, as well as for other activities such as birding or picnicking.

The approval of this purchase is the culmination of decades of work by the Conservation Commission and dedicated volunteers in town. (For more on the history of this search, see the [Summer 2023 Arrow](#)).

There have been many ups and downs along the way to acquiring the Packard property (and they are not over yet as we write). And without the patience and the generosity of brothers Phil Packard Jr. and Doug Packard, we might not be where we are today. We are thankful they shared our vision for the town, recalling how their father used to take his dinghy up the creek to access his fishing boat moored in the Back River.

The process began with a Purchase and Sales Agreement with the Packard family. This allowed the town to begin its due diligence, while assuring the Packards of the seriousness of the town's intent. Several inspections and system assessments were conducted, regulatory agencies contacted, neighbors listened to, and site visits were made by the ACC and Water Access Subcommittee.

When it appeared, the property would meet the needs of the town, a couple of funding paths were developed and financing negotiated, and an informational meeting and two group site walks were conducted

ahead of the October 25 special town meeting to inform and to hear the concerns of Arrowsic residents.

The Conservation Commission extends a huge thank you to the Packard family. They were willing to hold off listing the property for sale in the spring until we had time to work out a plan and were willing to negotiate a lower price in support of our goals for the property. They also donated proceeds from the sale of their firewood (\$500) to the town's water access fund. The town is truly grateful to have such a willing partner as the Packard family.

We would also like to acknowledge the essential cooperation of the abutters, Sarah Mahoney and Dennis Sayce, and to thank those who have

generously made pledges to the water access fund:

- Angel Braestrup and Mark Spalding
- Clarke Cooper
- Lisa Margonelli
- Bill Savedoff and Amy Smith
- And several others who wish to remain anonymous.



*October Site Walk with Bob Ater*

The final details to owning the property are being completed and it is hoped the sale will be final by the end of 2023. A Waterfront Management Committee, led by Bob Ater, has met several times and they have taken the first steps toward developing plans for the property's use and management. This includes discussions on the removal of the house and garage, as well as with a shoreland use consultant and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for ideas on ways to access the stream. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted the week of November 6 by Beacon Environmental.

The Waterfront Management Committee will be sharing with the community details for a proposed workshop model to garner input for developing the property usage plans.

—Arrowsic Conservation Commissio

## Whitmore's Landing Road Dedicated to Dick Elwell

The Whitmore's Landing Association dedicated Whitmore's Landing Road to Dick Elwell on Saturday, October 21 for his 'masterful work and unwavering dedication to the Whitmore's Landing Association for more than 35 years.' A granite block with bronze plaque was erected in his honor on the Elwell property at the intersection of Whitmore's Landing Road and Route 127.

Held in the maintenance barn that Dick built and co-hosted by Brian and Jen Elwell and Barbara Lakin, the

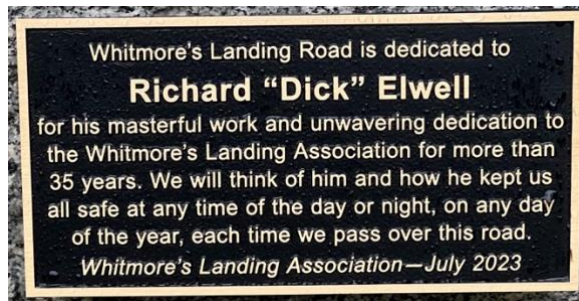
event was attended by about 60 people, including members of the Elwell family, residents of Doubling Point and Whitmore's Landing, and other friends of Dick.

Those who addressed the gathering not only spoke of Dick as someone capable of doing anything with great skill, but someone who was always a good friend and neighbor, and always there to help when needed.

—Paul Schlein



The granite block and bronze plaque erected for Dick on the Elwell property



Dick's plaque (all photos by Mona Schlein)



Jen Elwell speaks of Dick



Every space of Dick's barn was utilized, even his drill press

## Modeling Climate Change

For those interested in the impact of rising sea levels on Arrowsic, there are several online modeling tools available.

The US Climate Vulnerability Index is available [here](#). Arrowsic ranks 272 out of 358 tracts in Maine in terms of risk.

Detailed maps of local sea level rise, wells, and marsh migration can be found [here](#). These are the maps that

are being used by the Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee.

A study of increasing dangers from flooding, wind, heat, wildfires, and precipitation, down to the individual property level by the First Street Foundation, can be found [here](#). These are important factors as Maine now requires evidence of flood risk along with radon for real estate listings and sales.

—Tom Spear



**Featured Artist**

**Andrea Galuza**



*"In Coming"*



*“Finding Serenity”*

### *Artist’s Statement*

My work has evolved over the past 25 years I have been painting. My most recent nonobjective, or non-representational, work is mixed media which starts with mark making, acrylic paints, and sometimes collage. As with this 36 X 48, “Finding Serenity.”

I do not plan. I work freely and let the piece speak its own voice. I keep working until I am satisfied with the values, overall composition, and design. I try new designs and methods continually. I do not want to feel confined in my art practice.

I have been in a Pro Masters course over the past 18 months with artists from all over the world. The first course is “Discover Your Soul”. I have learned and will continue to discover how my life has affected my art and how my art has affected my life.

My favorite master is Henri Matisse. I love his use of color and all the design elements woven into each painting.

I often work in a series. “In Coming” is one of the many seagull paintings I have done. Each bird seems to develop its own personality as I design and paint the piece. Who knows what may transpire next.

I currently exhibit at the Centre Street Arts Gallery in Bath and have shown in numerous galleries in Maine and Florida.

My website is [galuzaart.com](http://galuzaart.com) and my email address, [galuzaart@gmail.com](mailto:galuzaart@gmail.com)

—Andrea Galuza

## Bob's Piece

You remember the TV show, “Kids Say the Darndest Things?” My son several times in our shared lives has said to me, “We live on an island, and we don’t own a boat?” said with an implied guilt. Apparently our old aluminum; canoe didn’t qualify.

But it got me to thinking, why didn’t we own a boat? We’re within a couple of miles of not the sea exactly, not the open ocean, but tidal water that almost laps at our property line. We live on an island connected by road to the mainland, but you don’t hear people who live here use the term “mainland,” which is Woolwich.

I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, just about smack dab in the middle of the country and a thousand miles from the nearest beach. Where the boys are, to quote Connie Francis. Imagine living in the middle of a continent and having your idea of the world one that didn’t include scenes of white sand beaches and people cavorting and getting wet.

This seems to be a long-winded answer to a simple question. I have no problem with boats. What’s not to like? My experience with boats, garnered from half a lifetime of watching from my island hideaway as boat owners passed the time fiddling around with the myriad of activities required of boat owners who seem to spend more time preparing the boat for a brief sail or for a few nights of partying at their mooring, armed with gin and tonics or martinis, than sailing.

I knew little of life on the Seacast when I showed up here fifty years ago, with dreams of buying and fixing up a farm and living outside the rat race. I wasn’t looking for an island to inhabit but it happened, and I’ve been comfortable with how my boat-less life has brought me to this place.

This is the first and only island I’ve inhabited. Artists tell me that islands attract them because of the light, the reflection of the water surrounding the island is a special light that takes an artist to reflect upon.

It wasn’t until I was in the Coast Guard that I experienced the spaciousness of the open sea. the sea at its seductive best. On a training trip to Bermuda on a 125-foot destroyer escort I had the Midnight-0400. watch, hardly able to see where I was going it was so dark and quiet, and I was so small and so aware of my smallness compared to the vastness of the ocean that surrounded me.

At the time I was seventeen years old at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey. Now here I am answering my now-grown- up son’s question: We don’t have a boat because owning a boat takes a lot of time and money to sustain. That simple.

—Bob Kalish

## Arrowsic Broadband Authority

ABA is well into the broadband network construction process! You probably have seen Axiom or Hawkeye vehicles around town hanging fiber and in many cases installing 'drops,' your individual connection from the road to the house. The Central Office - locally known as the Little Barn downhill from Town Hall and the Fire House on Old Stage Rd - is being further upgraded to function as the center for ABA's communications network. Our current completion date is Jan 15, 2014.

We now have over 169 signups, over our budgeted target, showing how poor our current service is and strong community support for the ABA project. If you have not taken advantage of the heavily discounted \$99 early sign-up rate, you should do so NOW, otherwise there will be delay and connection costs of \$400+. Call Axiom at 207-255-0679 to sign up now or ask your questions.

The [ABA section](#) of the Town web site has more information.

—Don Kornrumpf, Chair



*Town Hall, Bath (Acrylic painting by Livy Glaubitz, 12x16.)*

### **My Favorite Artist: Wolf Kahn (1927-2020)**

Wolf Kahn lived to be 92, and was still creating art each day, teaching and living an artistic, prolific life. He was dedicated to creative spontaneity through all his work.

Wolf Kahn was a painter and an educator. As an educator, he religiously refused to talk technique, insisting that if his students let the unconscious take over, their imagination would flow of its own. He relied on the unpredictability of his [restless brush](#). This was also his approach to his work.

Wolf Kahn is my favorite artist because his work was not created to sell or please others or earn a spot in an upscale gallery. Recently in my own work as a painter I have tried to paint and illustrate what I thought might sell and somewhere along the line, I lost my desire to simply “create,” not what arts itself demands.

Looking at his work, I feel like it gives me permission to prime a canvas and reach for my favorite color, lapis lazuli, and just let the workflow from that first stroke of color. Khan’s work was playful, dancing, and spontaneous. It evoked emotions that were created with colors of pure form and shape. The sky was not a basic blue and the land was not a basic green. The finished work revealed the passion of blocks of colors, shaped into representations of the sky, sea and land. “My art doesn’t hurt,” he said, perhaps half-jesting.

For two of my favorite pieces, see [The Lamoille River, 1990](#) and [Midvalue Horizon, 2007](#).

—Jacqueline Johnso

## Stripes on the Highway

I was recently driving over to Brunswick and as I crossed the Bath bridge and merged with the incoming downtown traffic, I was reminded of an experience I had some years ago with our son, Andy, then new to the world of driving.

It was growing dark as we headed to dinner after a day of working framing our house. Andy was at the wheel – new to the world of driving, a few months away from his full license.

He was doing fine as we crossed the Bath bridge, but then came the series of entrance ramps as the Bath traffic merged in from the right. He stayed to the left, but with the sun setting and the white dashed lines that separated the lanes faded from the wear of heavy traffic, my calm driver stiffened.

Instead of looking straight ahead, comfortable with the direction he was going, he looked side-to-side, anxious about what the vehicles around him were doing. We swayed a little to the left and then a little to the right as he tried to find the right spot on the seemingly endless expanse of asphalt before him. He slowed down and had cars coming up close behind him while others flew past us. To his credit (and my sanity!), he did not panic, but clearly, he was startled. He faced a new situation, and just needed to figure it out.

After a brief while, the lines returned. Unsolicited he said to me, “Those white lines really make a difference.” I agreed and we said nothing more about it.

I have always felt that structure is essential in our lives – regardless of our age. The absence of structure creates chaos. The missing “white lines” of our lives prevent us from focusing on what is down the highway and where we see ourselves going. Instead, we end up spending our time vacillating, procrastinating, distracted, and anxious.

But structure can be limiting. It can impede and restrain. Too often schools lose sight of where they are on the pendulum. The structure provided students thwarts creativity, innovation, and original thinking. It

creates a numbing effect that leaves students in a “quid pro quo” status that looks like this: “Teacher tells me something. I tell it back. I get a good grade. All done.”

This is the kind of structure that usurps responsibility from the students. They are being driven, not driving. They are not exploring but instead re-telling. They know little of the depth of the well of their own interests because those interests won’t appear on the test. They know they have to play by the rules of the structure, ending up so trained to do so that any alternative feels foreign, unworthy.

There will be very few other times in their lives that will be built around such a call and response existence. They will need to be self-starters, individual thinkers who can work collaboratively, and creative problem solvers, resilient and adept at adapting.

There will be many lane changes ahead in their lives. There will be miles and miles of open road and opportunity. They will need to know when to move on and when to exit for a change of scenery. Bumps, hazards, difficult conditions are all in their future – and having them develop in a way to handle the frontier that awaits them means that schools need to change.

No longer can schools be “business as usual”. Education today calls for us to maintain the same academic rigors while simultaneously refining the structure within which the academics take shape and form.

Understanding the new role our students must play, the new ownership they must take in their education will require time and will vary from student to student. But it is far better for them to drive with confidence rather than be startled deer in the headlights of their futures. A fast-moving world awaits them and seeks energized, dynamic, and self-directed individuals. Schools today must consider how to adjust to best prepare their students for the challenges and opportunities their tomorrow will bring.

—Nick Stoneman

## Community News

**William C. Blaiklock**, 87, died of dementia on Sept 4th at his home, Woodcock Farm, on Arrowsic Road. Bill received his degree in naval architecture from MIT and moved to Arrowsic in 1974 to work at BIW. Bill was an avid sailor, and he soon became involved in conservation. He farmed, raised animals, and made cider. He served on the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Shellfish Committee. He co-founded the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust (now KELT), served as its first president, and was active in the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. He is survived by his brother, Robert, sons, Peter, Edward of Woolwich, and Jeremy of Arrowsic, daughter-in-law, Kimberly Madden, and three grandchildren, Sebastian, Rowan, and Lucas. His wife of 62 years, Noreen, died a month after him.

**Noreen Blaiklock**, 87, passed away on October 5<sup>th</sup> at her home, Woodcock Farm. Noreen grew up in Phippsburg and graduated from Merrimack College and Boston University. She moved to Arrowsic with her husband, Bill, in 1974, where she farmed raised sheep, created felt art, wrote poetry, and sang in the Oratorio Chorale. She was a serious gardener and community herbalist and was active in the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and the Arrowsic Conservation Commission. She is survived by her sons Peter, Edward, and Jeremy, daughter-in-law, Kimberly Madden, and grandchildren Sebastian, Rowan, and Lucas. She was predeceased by her daughter, Ellen, and husband, William. A well-attended memorial was held at the Bath Freight Shed to celebrate Bill's and Noreen's lives.

**John Brett** married **Susan Giffin** on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Torren David Donohoe** was born September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Callen Edward Dunn** was born on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Doreina Elisabeth** married **Jeffrey Curran** July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Bret C. Gilliam**, 72, of Stonetree Road, died on October 8<sup>th</sup> of complications from a stroke. Bret was a pioneering professional technical diver, with numerous dives, books, and articles to his credit, and he was often called on to provide expert evidence in court cases. Bret graduated from Brunswick High

School and studied history at Bowdoin College before joining the Navy as an already accomplished diver. He later went on to establish several diving schools, yacht charters, and a cruise line while also participating in many underwater films. He is survived by his wife Gretchen.

**Max & Jacob Lichman-Paul** visited with author **Wendy Ulmer**, all from Arrowsic, at the Bath Book Bash in Library Park.



**Karen D. Vitelli**, 79, passed away on September 12<sup>th</sup> at home in Dresden. She was the sister of Senator **Eloise Vitelli** of Arrowsic. Karen graduated from the College of Wooster and the universities of Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and she researched and taught Greek classical archaeology at Indiana University for many years. She was predeceased by her husband, Reg Heron, and brother Jefferson, and she is survived by her sisters, Eloise and Lillie and a brother, Stephen. A private family celebration will be held in the future.

**Ingeborg Reiser von Huene**, 93 of Woolwich died June 19<sup>th</sup>. The mother of **Andreas von Hoyningen-Huene** of Arrowsic, Ingeborg was born in Germany and immigrated to Woolwich in 1954. Music was her life. She played piano, harpsichord, Viola da Gamba, recorder, violin, and viola, sang, made instruments, and was active in the early music world of Boston with her husband, Friedrich. She leaves five children and was predeceased by her husband. A celebration of her life was held in Woolwich in September

**Carla Weeks** married **Brian Christopher** June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Friends of Reid State Park



The Friends of Reid State Park (FRSP) had its genesis in a snowstorm a few winters ago. One of our Age-Friendly Georgetown members called to say that she had trouble navigating the walkways at Reid due to a buildup of snow and

ice and was now hesitant to go to the park in the winter.

I talked to the Park Manager at that time, and he let me know that due to the small staffing during the winter they often didn't have time to do that shoveling. With the Park's permission, and volunteer signups in place, we formed a small band of intrepid shovelers. A couple years in, a local resident donated a snowblower, and that has been a great aid to our efforts.

From that start, we began to organize and recruit "Friends" to join the team. Being a Friend ranges from being interested in the goings on in the park to volunteering for various projects or tasks to providing financial support. Currently, there are 89 Friends.

We created an Advisory Group to oversee the development of the Friends team and that group numbers 16, including the new Park Manager, Haylee Parsons, and Gary Best, Maine's Southern Regional State Parks Manager. We are now working on registering as a 501(c)(3) organization and putting in all the elements required for that.

Last year the FRSP partnered with park staff to clear trees and brush around the Old Stone Schoolhouse on Seguinland Road, which is part of the park property. Eighteen hard working cutters, choppers, and haulers brought the historic structure back into view. One of the crew, Frank Pinkham, is the great grandson of Ida Davis Pinkham, who went to this school 150 years ago.

State maintenance workers will repair the roof and stabilize other parts of the building. It will not be a

visitation site due the lack of a parking area.



Next for the FRSP was an Art Show & Sale, featuring local artists and works inspired by the park. It was viewed by over 200 park visitors and a small commission on sales generated funds for future projects.

We are expecting a big year in 2024. We will

finalize our organizational structure, recruit new members, and assist park staff on various projects and maintenance tasks. Our focus, though, will be working with park staff on a new Learning Center, which will have displays and observation stations housed in the old concession building at Griffith Head.

We welcome new members, especially our friends and neighbors in Arrowsic. If you are interested, you can contact us at this email: [gtagfriendly@gmail.com](mailto:gtagfriendly@gmail.com).

—James Peavey, Georgetown

## Calendar

### *Harvest Supper Fundraiser for School Trip to Washington*



—Dana Bachman

### *Starry Night and Night at the Patten*

Patten Free Library to host Starry Night and Night at the Patten on December 16

The Patten Free Library will once again host Starry Night, a luminary walk in Library Park. On Saturday, December 16 from 4-7 p.m. bundle up to enjoy this annual celebration of light, featuring candlelit pathways, baked goods, and a space for the community to gather.

New this year is A Night at the Patten, a special ticketed event inside the library from 5-7:30 p.m.. For \$25, patrons can enjoy an indoor luminary walk, Tiny Art Auction, appetizers, drinks, and music by Jud Caswell. Tickets can be purchased at the door [or on line](#). Children under 12 are free.

—Hannah Lackoff

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The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published three times a year in March, July, and November. The Arrow is primarily distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic email list or on paper to those who are unable to access them online. The town covers any costs for paper and postage. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. The Arrowsic Arrow Editorial Group: Sharif Elmusa, Karin Sadtler, and Tom Spear. Contact: Tom Spear, [tspear@wisc.edu](mailto:tspear@wisc.edu), 386-1475. Past issues of the Arrow can be found at [www.arrowsic.org](http://www.arrowsic.org).

### *Artworks Redux*

Arrowsic Artworks is back on January 20, 2024, from 10AM – 2PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall. Come see the art making your neighbors are doing. There will be a range of media – drawing, painting, printing, fiber art, sculpture, “mixed-up media” and photography. Arrowsic artists of all types, from professionals to those exploring a new medium or way of engaging the world and viewer, will be showcasing their recent work.

Arrowsic Artworks last gathered over 10 years ago. It is time to get together, to see what everyone has been doing, to get inspiration, to give encouragement, to share with our neighbors and to meet the Artworks mascot.

It is open to anyone who lives in or has lived in Arrowsic. If you have art you would like to show, contact: Phine Ewing at [phineewing@gmail.com](mailto:phineewing@gmail.com).

See you on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

—Karen Robbins

