



Arrowsic Writers Read Nancy Brown Stump

On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, nineteen town folk gathered at the Arrowsic Town Hall for the *Arrowsic Writers Read*. This event happens irregularly, but no less than twice annually and has been going on since spring of 2003. To call the *Arrowsic Writers Read* a reading is perhaps misleading, since we've heard songs and watched films and enjoyed memorized recitations. Every read so far has offered diversity of subject as well as genre. At the most recent gathering, we were treated to some interesting town history, invited to a family funeral, sang a song about family even the family has yet to hear. We tipped and dipped and reflected on lost reflections. We laughed at Elvis in Dr. Jeremy Jumper's patient's colon. We witnessed fighting neighbors, wild and urban, and the spring that is transforming all our yards. We sobered when a woman in Bermuda shorts slipped from the Carlton Bridge and quieted for the sound of Tashunka Witco .

But, what am I thinking? The *Arrowsic Writers Read* cannot be understood in summation; we're way more than explanations can convey. We're one of those easy-to-take-for-granted miraculous happenings, like a meteor shower, our transient fiery streaks passing through earth's atmosphere. Whatever it is that happens on those rare nights when we gather at the Town Hall to share stories, it is bigger than the sum of our parts. Try to imagine Aesop, a female Hemmingway, Isak Dinesen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ani Defranco, Rod

Serling, Leslie Marmon Silko, e. e. cummings, and Eudora Welty gathered together in one room. Imagine each stepping up to an improvised lectern to read what they've written in their own distinctive voice. We are not they, but we are as different from one another as they are and as important, perhaps, to the writing culture of Arrowsic as they are and were to where they lived and died. They, like us, are the culmination of efforts of those who preceded them. And some of their continuing success is owing to our support of less lauded writers in our own lives.

So, come next time if not to read, then to listen and laud. Look for a sign on the Town Hall door or tied to the hand rail or tacked to the outside bulletin board or blown under the pines by a strong wind. Web master (and Arrowsic writer), Paul Kalkstein, will also post notice on the town website (www.arrowsic.org). Or feel free to call Nancy Brown Stump (442-7527) for further information.



News Around Town

- ⇒ The Patten Free Library is now accepting reservations online for books from other libraries
- ⇒ Monday, September 21, 7:00 pm **Threats to the Forests of Maine** talk
- ⇒ October 3, 10:00 am, Town Hall Honors ceremony
- ⇒ Please send all Arrow correspondence to Quinn Blaiklock organized@care2.com or put in the Arrow box at the Town Hall
- ⇒ Remember to vote on November 3



William Shuttleworth Report from RSU 1

RSU 1 Prepares for the H1N1 Virus

All schools in RSU 1 have been participating in discussions with state and local officials about the predicted spread of the H1N1 flu virus this winter. The Center for Disease Control and all state officials, including the Governor, have consented to provide free flu vaccines for all school aged children in Maine. To be best protected, medical officials will first provide the vaccine for the regular seasonal flu, followed by the vaccine for the H1N1 virus. Clinics will be held in each school and the intent is to give parents advanced information in order that all families can make an informed choice. No child will be given the vaccine without written parent or guardian permission. RSU 1 is also trying to secure support for having all staff included in this program.

Though it is not possible to predict the severity of this flu, Superintendent William Shuttleworth stated that there are some common sense things all people can do. Washing hands frequently, covering when coughing, staying home when you have a fever and making sure you see a doctor you have flu like symptoms. It is suggested that all children get outside every day and play hard, since fresh air builds strong endurance. Mr. Shuttleworth added that "to date the state does not plan on closing schools, only restricting children who have the flu, but we get new postings several times every day." Parents will begin receiving information about the flu within the next several weeks.

Maine's Budget Woes Could Affect School Funding

The state of Maine announced to all school superintendents that it is very possible that as much as \$60 to \$100 million dollars may be cut from this current year's school funding. That could mean as much as a million dollars to RSU #1 said William Shuttleworth, school superintendents. "Our budget has no contingency or rainy day fund, and a cut like this would have a devastating effect on our system. It could cut into programs and staff, and that hurts children," Shuttleworth said. At a meeting with all superintendents, many ideas were floated, but most of the big money ideas would

require state legislation. Out of that conference, superintendents across the state suggested furlough days for teachers, a single teacher's contract state wide and more emphasis on consolidation and regional cooperation. Maine is heavily dependent on summer tourism for revenue and it was pretty apparent to everyone that traveled Route 1 this summer that the rains dampened the interests of people visiting Maine.

More information will likely to be coming from the Department of Education in the next several weeks.

RSU 1 Focuses on Wellness

With a new wellness policy, RSU 1 kids will see more salad bars, more locally grown food and more fruit on the menu. School celebrations will phase out cupcakes and cookies in favor of watermelon slices and vegetable platters. Exercise is underscored as vital to the health and welfare of all children. All schools will continue the partnership with Mid-Coast Hospital in the 5-2-1-0 Program. (Five helpings of fruits and vegetables every day, no more than 2 hours in front of a television or video screen, 1 hour of good physical activity and 0 sugar drinks). The policy meets the federal mandate that all schools develop clear expectations to improve school lunches and school provided snacks. While the policy encourages that we serve healthy options at sports events and community gatherings held at school, the RSU board felt that it is best to work collaboratively with community groups instead of a heavy handed policies. Parents can help by making sure that they pack a healthy snack for their children to enjoy at school.



A helpful tip from your friendly Animal Control Officer:

Please make sure your dog has a name and phone number on its collar for a fast return of strays.

