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EXPLORATION AND INSPIRATION IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY

by Sheila Jans
It must be at least four years since I attended the Midsummer celebration in New Sweden, a small community nestled in the rolling hills of northern Maine. In my mind’s eye, I still see children dancing with delicate flowers woven into their hair, dressed in traditional costumes. I still taste the delicious food laid out for hundreds to enjoy, and hear the laughter and chatter of friends and family. These images, tastes, aromas, and sights resonate. So, if anyone were to ask me to describe that sunny afternoon in June, I’d say, “Well, it was a celebration of the humanities.” It was a moment in time when people shared, learned, and grew with one another through culture, community, place, language, and identity.

The Saint John Valley, in the farthest reaches of northern Maine, directly on the border with New Brunswick and Québec, is where I call home. My work is about cultural development, notably the creation of an international cultural route for the region. It’s fulfilling to be immersed daily in a wide range of arts and cultural expressions. I’ve discovered that in communities all over rural, northern Maine, people express the humanities in many ways — exhibits at one of the thirteen historical societies in the Valley, a dance performance at the Caribou Performing Arts Center, an exhibition of photographs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, open mic night at Artstreet Gallery in Fort Kent, or painted street banners in Houlton. It’s a collection of Allagash stories by Faye O’Leary Hafford, a piece of music by composer Scott Brickman, or the flow of ideas that come when people get together for an opening at Café de la Place in Madawaska.

How else do we experience the humanities? Ah, it comes large, bold, fierce, and insistent. It comes in the courageous 20-year restoration of a decommissioned Catholic church in the tiny community of Lille. Emerging like an enormous ship in a land of forest and field, this church, now called the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel, is testimony to how believing in something bigger than ourselves, literally and figuratively, can have a dramatic and enduring impact on us all.

Our historical societies, historians and genealogists, and cultural enthusiasts all over northern Maine safeguard our history and cultural memory and in so doing, strengthen our communities. I believe this is an act of civic responsibility at its highest, just as is ensuring that languages and literary traditions stay alive, along with family and community traditions like ballad singing, moon-sign gardening, blacksmithing, or snowshoe-making.

No matter where we live in Maine, we respond to what is true and authentic, and to what grows from our histories. The humanities offer us the opportunity to take pause, reflect, absorb and discover. There are moments like this, one after another, everywhere in northern Maine. What would happen if we were to build upon, nurture, and multiply them? I don’t think I’m stretching it too far by saying simply, our communities would become better places to live. They would celebrate, creativity, innovation, and diversity, not stifle them. We would see possibility in everything.

Sheila Jans is a board member of the Maine Humanities Council, director of the St. John Valley International Cultural Route, and a cultural development consultant. She also is a member of the Governor’s Creative Economy Council for the state of Maine.
**GRASSROOTS GIVING**

**Maine Humanities Council Annual Fund**

Members make a difference for people across Maine, sharing the gift of ideas and books in communities with scarce resources. They inspire the exchange of perspectives that lead MHC constituents to a better understanding of themselves, one another, and the world. MHC members enrich the state through funding the programs described in this report. We are grateful for their generosity. If you would like to become an MHC member, please fill out the enclosed envelope, or contact Diane Magras, Director of Development, at 207-773-5051, or diane@mainehumanities.org.

To all of our members: Thank you. You really do make a difference.

This list represents gifts to the MHC received in the 2005 fiscal year (November 1, 2004, through October 31, 2005).

Key:

- Donors who supported Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care
- Donors who supported Let's Talk About It
- Donors who supported New Books, New Readers

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Merton G. Henry
Sheila & Philip Jordan
Theodora J. Kalikow

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**A LOVE OF READING**

**PROGRAMS THAT BRING BOOKS AND IDEAS TO LIFE FOR AUDIENCES NEW TO READING**

**BORN TO READ**

"I have a very shy 3-year-old. When our volunteer read, this little girl stayed at a distance. Over a matter of months she would inch her way closer to the volunteer. Two weeks ago she sat right beside her. The volunteer continued to read to her after all the other children had gone to do other things. This little girl now sits on the couch to be read to." — Preschool Teacher in Saco

Born to Read serves the Maine Humanities Council’s youngest audiences — children up to age five — to read to the volunteer. Two weeks ago she sat right beside her. The volunteer continued to read to her after all the other children had gone to do other things. This little girl now sits on the couch to be read to.

— Prechool Teacher in Saco

Born to Read helps caregivers stay at a distance. Our role is to provide children with the stimulating experiences needed to take advantage of the important birth-through-three period in every child’s life (during which, brain research has proven, a child learns more than half of what he or she will learn throughout a lifetime).

In 2005, Born to Readfield programs for over 400 people in 50 towns across Maine (serving more than 5,000 children) and gave away 5,328 beautiful books.

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**INSPIRING**

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**INSPIRING**
FOCUS: Skowhegan

Each week, children in child care facilities across Maine receive visits from grandparent figures whose presence makes a huge difference in their lives. Take Tricia Wurpel and the children at Peek-A-Boo Child Care, for example.

Tricia leaves her home wearing one sandal and one sneaker. As soon as she arrives at Peek-A-Boo Child Care in Skowhegan, the children spot this discrepancy and begin to giggle. Soon they calm down, and Tricia knows they are now ready to listen to the picture books she has brought to read. (It is no coincidence that this week the books are all about shoes.)

Wearing something silly is just one trick in Tricia’s repertoire of strategies for bringing books to life at Peek-A-Boo, where she has been a Born to Read volunteer for more than two years. After reading Counting Crocodiles, a folktale by Judy Sierra, she helped the children make puppets out of paper bags and reenact the adventures of the tale’s trickster hero. The puppets—and the presence of a special reader—made the story so exciting to the children that they recalled it almost word-for-word a week later.

Since 1997, Born to Read has worked with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to create a network of older adults who read aloud weekly in child care programs and preschools. Books and early literacy trainings enable volunteers to have a considerable impact on the children they visit.

Tricia Wurpel believes that “the Born to Read program is vital to awakening the joy of reading in our young people. After spending time with the children, I feel like I have more energy and a happier heart.” That belief in the program explains why she drove all the way to Portland in early May to attend a Born to Read conference, where she was inspired by author/illustrator Ashley Bryan “not to be timid in expressing myself through my reading. I now try to bring excitement to the story and breathe life into the characters of the book.”
“What does community mean to you? Who or what creates your own community?”
– a common question from a New Books, New Readers facilitator

New Books, New Readers uses the standard technique of Maine Humanities Council literature-based programs: an MHC scholar facilitates the discussion of a text. Participants in this program are beginning readers, or just learning to read English. Their texts are illustrated children’s books with powerful stories that offer paths for serious discussion and thought.

In 2005: New Books, New Readers reached more than 800 people in 26 locations across Maine, giving away almost 10,000 books.
FOCUS: Portland

Community, a common theme of a *New Books, New Readers* series, is a particularly apt subject for Portland Adult Education’s English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. According to Portland Adult Education teacher Joy Ahrens, in recent years the program has seen an increasing number of students who are not only learning English but learning to read and write for the first time as well. Most of these students are political refugees from rural backgrounds where formal education simply did not exist or was interrupted by forces beyond their control, such as war. Many find themselves having to adapt not only to a new language but a culture that, unlike their own, is heavily based on written literacy. Students who come from a completely oral tradition face even greater challenges.

Students who participate in *New Books, New Readers* delight in the program’s books. Even the simplest texts in a series can present challenges, but students can often understand the story through the illustrations, and this can then help them with the text.

The depiction of family life in Cynthia Rylant’s *When I Was Young in the Mountains*, with oil lamps on the walls and children fetching water from the well, has been familiar for many *New Books, New Readers* participants who are refugees. The experience of many family members crowding into a home in Rylant’s *The Relatives Came* also evokes smiles and an understanding of another connection between their past lives and the lives of people in Maine. With books depicting worlds directly outside of their experiences, students still relate to the human commonality of issues like aging and prejudice through books like *Now One Foot, Now the Other*, Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, and *The Other Side*.

ESOL teachers at Portland Adult Education started collaborating with the Maine Humanities Council in 2000. Over the last two years, participation in *New Books, New Readers* has grown from 30 students to over 150 students. Though some teachers initially expressed trepidation about using “children’s books” as classroom materials, response from students has been enthusiastic.
A LOVE OF READING

MAINE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES PROGRAMS

“Reading and talking about literature is a necessary and significant and pleasurable experience for anyone, not just the young and/or privileged.”
– Robert Farnsworth, Stories for Life scholar

The Maine Humanities Council’s programs in correctional facilities throughout the state serve people who often need the most help in learning about the power and pleasure of ideas. Reading and discussion programs enable troubled men, women, and young people to use literature as a source of new meaning and understanding in their lives.

In 2005: Correctional facility programs reached 133 people in ten sites across Maine, and gave away over 1,000 books.
FOCUS: Windham

Humanities programs at correctional facilities can be tricky to pull off. They require the participation and support of facility personnel, as well as a scholar who feels comfortable working in a prison. The Maine Correctional Center in Windham is fortunate to have staff who are committed to helping inmates learn ways of thinking and behaving in the outside world that will make their return to prison less likely. The MCC is also fortunate to have Robert Farnsworth as its *Stories for Life* scholar.

Rob is a professor in the English department at Bates College. He is a poet, a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry, and he has received awards for excellence in teaching. He is also a very kind and sensitive person who deeply respects the people he works with. In reports to the *Stories for Life* program director, he writes how pleasurable he finds the conversation.

Rob’s students in this setting are prisoners who are on their way out of the system. Housed in separate cottages, they are being primed for life on the outside, with the intent of the MCC staff that they not come back. *Stories for Life* brings these prisoners together to explore fictional situations similar to ones they have experienced. Talking about their reactions to the stories, characters and narrative styles, and listening to the reactions of others, helps prisoners visualize their own situations more clearly.

“*Stories for Life* gave participants the chance to see so much,” Rob told the Council, “from the way we tell the stories of our lives to ourselves, and to others, and why; the ways we conceive of destiny and disaster, the ways we are surprised into seeing into ourselves and others. And it gave them what I see as the precious chance to realize themselves as capable, insightful, engaged readers of serious fiction.”

That is the beauty of the reading and discussion model so important to Council programs: that all participants from all backgrounds are treated as serious readers. It is scholars like Rob who, with the help of such authors as Raymond Carver, Richard Ford, Tobias Wolff, Bobbie Ann Mason, Andre Dubus, and Flannery O’Connor, truly make a difference.
“The difficulty and importance of maintaining a caring and human perspective within healthcare in our era of extreme pressure for efficiency and cost cutting was a great [topic for discussion]. Participation in these discussions was useful to me in keeping my focus on the core reason for our healthcare organization—to serve our patients with humanity.”

— Literature & Medicine participant

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®

In 2005: Literature & Medicine reached 250 people at 15 health care facilities across Maine, affecting thousands of patients; it also reached 37 facilities in 11 partnering states: CT, IL, MD, MA, MT, NH, NJ, RI, SC, UT, and VT!
FOCUS: Ellsworth

Christine diPretoro works at the Gouldsboro Rehabilitation Clinic of the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital as a speech and language pathologist. She is also that hospital’s contact for Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care. The hospital, located in Ellsworth, was one of the earliest to participate in Literature & Medicine, drawing physicians, nurses, technicians, therapists, administrative staff, and even trustees to its monthly discussion group. This group has helped to bring together people at the 500-employee hospital who, due to their job responsibilities, clinic site, or office work environments, may never have otherwise met one another. This relationship building is one of the hallmarks of the program, which, in Ellsworth, “has given us a chance to simply get to know each other and build relationships we might not have had otherwise,” Christine said. “It makes the process of coordinating patient care with these other providers a lot more efficient and comfortable.”

Like other Council programs, Literature & Medicine seeks to use fiction and nonfiction to help its participants grow professionally, in this instance improving communication between colleagues and between providers and their patients. It does this through promoting discussion of serious and diverse issues that link to the kinds of things health care professionals deal with on a daily basis.

“Whether we read something classic, like Frankenstein, or ‘The Book of Job,’ or something about the genetics of Huntington’s disease, or cancer, the broader issues the texts bring up are remarkably similar: Medical ethics, the impact of public health policy, cultural differences and the universal aspects of illness and suffering, grief, relationships, hope, coping and recovery. On the surface, reading about the plague in medieval Europe might seem like a dry exercise in history, until one starts listening to news reports about SARS and bird flu.”

No one program can radically alter the health care environment, but Literature & Medicine has done much to foster positive change. Among its participants, it increases not only job satisfaction but communication and a further understanding of how members of the health care community can most effectively work together.

“The great lesson of Literature and Medicine,” Christine said, “is learning to recognize and respect other people’s perspectives. Sometimes the perspective we can’t wrap our heads around belongs to a character in the text, and sometimes it’s one of our peers. We all have moments in a group when we can’t figure out how twenty-five people—people we might assume are like-minded—interpret one book so differently. It’s the discussion process that helps us examine our own experiences and beliefs to realize how those filters shape how we approach our work.”

Opposite: Dr. Leslie Fernow, a Literature & Medicine participant at Mayo Regional Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYO REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Above: Christine diPretoro with most of the books she has read with her group at Maine Coast Hospital, Ellsworth. PHOTO: MICHELLE DIPRETORO
Major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, the Freeman Foundation’s National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, and UnumProvident

TEACHERS FOR A NEW CENTURY

“I need a lot more education before I feel educated enough to do justice to Native American Studies. I did learn a lot and left with many questions that I will seek answers to.”

– a participant in a 2005 daylong seminar on the history of Maine’s Native Americans

Teachers for a New Century offers content-based professional development programs for Maine teachers K-12 in a variety of humanities subjects. Topics in 2005 have included Watergate, Walt Whitman’s Civil War, Native Americans in Maine, and East Asian Studies. In addition to one-day programs throughout the school year, in 2005 the Council administered a residential Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education (the only one awarded in Maine) and pioneered a History Camp for high school students nominated by teachers from our programs.

In 2005, Teachers for a New Century held programs for 170 teachers from 77 schools, affecting more than 12,000 students this year alone.
FOCUS: Belfast

Bill Murphy is the kind of teacher who, even before the school year begins, meets with his new 11th graders in the gazebo in the Belfast City Park. He asks them to look out over the harbor and try to imagine Verrazano sailing into Penobscot Bay looking for some fabulous city of gold. “It’s farther north, the Native Americans keep telling him,” Murphy says about the mythical Norembega.

This imaginative leap into the 16th century is typical of the innovative, cross-disciplinary teaching practiced by Murphy, an alumnus of five content-rich professional development programs sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council over the past decade. He was most recently enrolled in “Longfellow and the Forging of American Identity,” a three-year institute for 30 Maine and Massachusetts teachers funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“Longfellow has become a touchstone for my teaching of the 19th century,” he said. “His is an eloquent antislavery voice. Students love his poems on slavery from the 1840s, especially the one about the African king dying in an American rice field and dreaming of his lost home.

An English teacher since 1982, Murphy is in his 12th year at Belfast Area High School, where he teaches English for grades 9 to 12 and AP courses called “The American Experience”—a chronological survey linking American history and literature—and “Global Studies”—a subject he said he was able to enrich after the Council’s East Asia seminar a few years ago.

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“And Longfellow is one of us. Kids respond with local pride when he is taught as part of Maine’s heritage.”

What does the institute mean for Murphy personally? “I like being a student again. When you’re a teacher, all the responsibility is on you. In the Council’s programs you can sit back and listen and talk with colleagues and read. It’s a kind of intellectual stimulation that’s difficult to find in the workplace.

“The more you know, the better you teach. I see teaching as part of a great humanist tradition. Every generation takes on its shoulder the task of passing its knowledge to a future generation.”

Above: MHC’s Charles Calhoun leads a tour as Maine high school students take part in a summer institute. Featuring Teachers for a New Century participants as institute leaders, this “history camp” is modeled after other MHC teacher programs.

PHOTOS: DIANE HUDSON
ONE AND ALL
PROGRAMS THAT ENRICH THE LIVES OF GENERAL AUDIENCES

Major support from the Belvedere Fund at the Maine Community Foundation

LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT

“We feel that this offering by the Humanities Council is the most useful program in the state...and are certainly looking forward to having another opportunity to participate.”
– Anna Kiessling, Site Coordinator, Bristol Area Library

Let’s Talk About It is one of the Maine Humanities Council’s oldest programs, offered free to Maine libraries in partnership with the Maine State Library. This popular reading and discussion program makes a real difference, giving residents of communities both large and small the pleasure of gathering with neighbors to talk about good books and the important issues they raise. Each Let’s Talk About It program consists of five sessions with a scholar/facilitator to discuss theme-based books that are loaned by the Council.

In 2005, Let’s Talk About It reached 650 people at 45 sites—libraries, museums, and other community centers— in 40 towns across Maine.

IN-LUOING

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PROGRAMS THAT ENRICH THE LIVES OF GENERAL AUDIENCES
FOCUS: New Harbor

The slender slip of land that leads to New Harbor parallels Boothbay Harbor. It is a long, peaceful drive past pastureland and forest, with vistas of the water along the way. New Harbor offers a glimpse of rural community life among the midcoast’s busy towns. However, as elsewhere in Maine, the pace of life even in this small community makes opportunities for neighbors to gather together to meet and share ideas all too rare.

The Bristol Area Library is one of the centers of the peninsula’s cultural life. “We live in the typical rural community, with limited opportunity for inquiring minds to join together to discuss books that we have all shared,” wrote Anna Kiessling, who coordinated the Let’s Talk About It program at the library. In the autumn of 2005, the Bristol Area Library read the “Individual Rights and Community in America” series with a small but loyal audience to do precisely that kind of sharing.

The audience was a mix of retirees and working-age individuals, some who had participated in a past Let’s Talk About It program and some new to the experience. “[I joined the group] to discover the roots of democracy [and out of] feeling a need to connect with the community,” one told the Council.

In a comfortable, large room around a round table, participants, the librarian, and the scholar/facilitator discussed a range of books that would bring forward questions of history and civic rights and responsibilities that apply to communities everywhere. Texts ranged from Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, to Plato’s Republic, to Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter, which, according to Jeff Aronson, the series scholar, “so moved one participant he admitted to ‘crying by page 50’ of the story. He’d never read it before and never expected to be so moved by the novel.” For that session, Jeff reported, “Participants chose their own ‘scarlet letters’ of socially controversial issues that have huge individual impact; one suggested the ‘A’ today would stand for AIDS.”
CIVIC REFLECTION

The Maine Humanities Council has offered Civic Reflection programs for both the general public and professional groups in Maine for the past three years. “Civic reflection” is the practice of reading and discussing short texts that raise fundamental questions about our life in community and the activities that nourish that life: giving, serving, associating and leading. The project aims to improve relationships between colleagues and neighbors, while deepening participants’ understanding and commitment to civic activity.

In 2005: Through its Thoughtful Giving program and in collaboration with the Project on Civic Reflection (www.civicreflection.org), the MHC’s Civic Reflection programs have reached more than 500 participants in Maine as well as additional audiences with collaborating humanities councils in Georgia and Utah.
FOCUS: Bangor

_Civic Reflection_ projects are tailored to meet the needs of specific audiences. One example is the _Civic Reflection_ discussion held annually since 2004 among members of the Bangor City Council in conjunction with the Bangor Public Library. This group has included not only city councilors, but also members of the planning and school boards, and senior municipal employees.

The nature of a city council is to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions. While this is never easy, officials who have taken time to get to know each other better, and to reflect on their shared beliefs about their city and their work, may then be able to work together more effectively, even under stress.

Geoffrey M. Gratwick, a Bangor city councilor and former chair of the MHC Board, described a recent meeting of “Cit Lit.”

“We started out going around the table with introductions, telling of something ‘other people didn’t know about you.’ Previously hidden passions of white water canoeing, World War II history, local community work, and genomics are not now so hidden. Around-the-table revelations are wonderful and do as much as anything to bring the group to a common space for talking.”

The text was _Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy_, a book for young readers chosen for the Bangor Public Library’s _Bangor Reads_ project for 2006. The story is about the forced relocation of a small group of African Americans from Malaga Island off Phippsburg in 1912 to improve the vista for a new hotel—all in the name of economic development.

“We started off with racism then and now, both along the coast and in Bangor,” Geoff said.

The discussion delved into stories that directly related to Bangor and the councilors’ work. “Despite distinct progress, issues of race, class, economic opportunity and education (or lack thereof) are still very much with us.”

It is not always common to have issues as relevant as these out on the table in an informal and collegial setting. Geoff has been a great proponent for the value of _Civic Reflection_ in helping people discuss and consider their own ideas and those of others. _Civic Reflection_ sessions provide a valuable step in the process of decision-making.
MHC GRANTS

“As I do interviews and conduct research for the audio tour, I keep asking myself, ‘Who knew?’ The scope and diversity of life and culture along the corridor is, well, kind of mind-boggling.”
– Rob Rosenthal, Audio Producer, Shunpike Audio, talking about the Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor’s audio tour

At its inception in 1976, the Maine Humanities Council was solely a granting organization, redistributing funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities to nonprofits statewide. Over the past 30 years, the Council has awarded more than $4,000,000 in grants to Maine communities. Today, the Council gives close to 100 grants each year, in amounts ranging from $500 to $5,000 but averaging around $1,000. In 2005 the Council obtained matching funds from three sources—the Betterment Fund, the Maine Arts Commission, and the Kennebec-Chaudière Heritage Commission—to provide leverage and additional funds for specific grant projects.

These small grants can make a big difference. For many nonprofits with community projects, the simple application and rapid turnaround of the Council’s rolling deadlines fills an important niche. The Council funds programs such as historical exhibits, lecture series, book discussions, school-based projects, and cultural presentations, each helping to enrich communities across the state, many in rural areas.

In 2005: 110 Maine Humanities Council grants were awarded to organizations and groups in 63 towns, reaching thousands of Mainers statewide.
FOCUS: Kennebec-Chaudière Corridor

For an example of the Council’s grants at work, consider this past year’s collaboration with the Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor. Designated in 1997 in recognition of its significance as a trade and transportation route from prehistory to the present, the Corridor extends from Popham to Jackman, then on to Québec City. While the two regions share considerable culture and heritage, the Corridor marks the first large-scale collaboration between Maine and Québec on a cultural tourism issue.

Thanks to the dedication of a number of volunteers, and with the help of a Council grant, the Maine portion of the Corridor is now evolving from a yellow line on a map into a three-dimensional cultural asset that will be interpreted in part through a CD audio tour and guide. The CD will provide context for travelers and will be available at visitor centers. It will offer first-person accounts of the Corridor’s history, natural history, and folkways.

In addition, with the support of matching funds from the Betterment Fund and the Kennebec Chaudière Commission, the Council established a joint small grants program to develop cultural resources along the route. In Bingham, for example, the program is supporting the development of an archive and website to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Wyman Dam, a pivotal regional landmark that has changed both the river and its economics. Marilyn Gondek of the Old Canada Road Historical Society remarked, “This grant is making a significant difference in our ability to reach a broader audience within Maine and beyond. There is strong local interest, evidenced by the fact that turnout for our project’s first event was double that of past events. And development of the Wyman Dam Construction Archive on our Web site has attracted comments and donations of material from as far away as California.”

All of these projects (and all of the Council’s other grants) share one hallmark: an emphasis on community input, whether that be Jackman, Portland, or Lubec.
2nd Annual Native American Recognition Ceremony
$500: A cultural event and public seminar honoring the local Wawenoc tribe and others of the region who traditionally gathered along the mid-coast for fasting and information exchange.
> Pemaquid Coastal Association

30th Anniversary Celebration
and participate in a lecture series at the UMF campus.
> University of Maine at Farmington

Goethe's copy of the and a first edition of Goethe's Faust. Visitors could touch documents and participate in a lecture series at the UMF campus.
> University of Maine at Farmington

Reading Revolutions: Great Minds, Great Thoughts
$2,000: An exhibit of 48 documents from the Remnant Trust collection, including a 14th century copy of the Magna Carta and a first edition of Goethe's Faust. Visitors could touch documents and participate in a lecture series at the UMF campus.
> University of Maine at Farmington

Freeport Historical Society – 30th Anniversary Celebration
$1,000: An anniversary celebration that included an exhibit, two workshops, an open house at Pettengill Farm, and an exhibit catalog featuring an essay by Earle Shettleworth, Jr. (See photographs, opposite.)
> Freeport Historical Society

Bernd Heinrich: The Naturalist As Artist
$1,500: An exhibit on the life and career of renowned author, illustrator, and field biologist Bernd Heinrich, with related programs for the public.
> L.C. Bates Museum (Good Will Home Association)

Bringing Words to Life
$500: Maine children's author Lynn Plourde visited all SAD #55 elementary schools in January 2005 and presented interactive readings and dramatizations of some of her picture books.
> SAD #55

Kennebec-Chaudière Audio Tour
$4,900: Production of a 60-minute CD audio tour utilizing personal and community narratives, soundscapes, and audio art to reflect the region's unique landscape and cultural heritage.
> Kennebec-Chaudière International Corridor

Anne Frank in the World
$500: A collaboration among the Franco-American Heritage Center, Lewiston Middle School, and the Jewish Community Alliance to present a bilingual exhibit about Anne Frank's diary and related writing.
> Franco-American Heritage Center

Signs of the Times: Collaborative Programming for Deaf and Hearing Audiences in Western Maine
$750: A program offering American Sign Language classes to the public and a storytelling festival in both ASL & English.
> Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library

Historical Tours of Lubec and Campobello
$930: A project to develop interpretive tours of Lubec and Campobello Island.
> Association to Promote & Protect the Lubec Environment

50-Mile Health Hike
$1,000: Fourth grade students from Lyman Elementary School and their families trained for and participated in a 5-day, 50-mile hike on the Eastern Trail through New Hampshire and Maine, visiting historical sites along the way.
> Lyman Elementary School (MSAD #57)

Teacher Training for Acadian History and "Evangeline"
$1,000: A project to provide teachers with training and curriculum guides on Acadian history and culture, with special attention to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline."
> Ste-Agathe Historical Society

From Shakespeare to Our Original Musical, "Islands:" 11 Years of Drama on North Haven
$1,500: An exhibit featuring photographs, posters, video and audio recordings and narratives that celebrate the performing arts on the island of North Haven over the last eleven years.
> North Haven Arts & Enrichment

Look at ME
$5,000: A curriculum program with a group of art historians, public school teachers, arts educators, and parents working to encourage reading and arts literacy skills in children K-2.
> Portland Museum of Art

Diversity is Strength Masquerade
$1,500: A week of workshops and a citywide parade and pageant involving masks and large puppets created by local artists, community groups, and the Museum of African Culture.
> Museum of African Culture

Waymouth 400: History Symposium
$5,000: A history symposium, one of several different projects comprising the celebration of the 400th anniversary of George Waymouth's exploration of the Maine coast.
> Penobscot Marine Museum

One Book: One Community
$1,000: A program in March 2005 which included book discussions, events, and activities for all age groups, centered around the book Ernie's Ark by Monica Wood.
> Norway Memorial Library

Musical, "Islands:" 11 Years of Drama on North Haven
$1,500: An exhibit featuring photographs, posters, video and audio recordings and narratives that celebrate the performing arts on the island of North Haven over the last eleven years.
> North Haven Arts & Enrichment
Choose a book, any book, only it must be a powerful one. Then read it—even if it is over 1,000 pages—and come to Bowdoin College in early March for the Maine Humanities Council’s Winter Weekend. Each year, this program offers the opportunity to explore a pivotal text with scholars on hand to discuss different aspects of the book. Don Quixote in the new translation by Edith Grossman was the text for 2005. Past works include Moby Dick and Anna Karenina. Winter Weekend provides an opportunity for devoted booklovers to congregate and luxuriate in the company of great literature and each other.

BARN AGAIN!

In 2005, the Maine Humanities Council brought to Maine a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon. Between April and October, the tour visited the Saco Museum, the Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel in Lille, and the Bethel Historical Society.

The exhibit provided both general information about barns across the United States and Maine-specific panels about topics that included styles, historical uses, and preservation issues. Each local site also added its own stories and artifacts.

The Smithsonian Institution has a unique arrangement with the state humanities councils to make traveling exhibits available for state tours. Besides reaching a broad public, the Smithsonian’s goal for this program is to provide small museums with high-quality exhibits. Feedback from the sites after the tour indicated that Barn Again! had done precisely that.
During FY05, the Maine Humanities Council had operating income of $1,946,442 and operating expenses of $1,848,147. The Council has never incurred an operating deficit.

Over the past decade the Council’s income sources have become increasingly diversified. As recently as 1995, nearly all of its resources came from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. While grants from the NEH still comprise about one-third of the Council’s budget, this support has been supplemented by a diverse range of other income streams, from the individual contributions highlighted elsewhere in this report, to program income, and support from private foundations. Both the income and expense figures reported here include in-kind contributions of time, mileage and materials valued at $276,692.
The Maine Humanities Council engages the people of Maine in the power and pleasure of ideas, encouraging a deeper understanding of ourselves and others, fostering wisdom in an age of information, and providing context in a time of change. The Council uses the humanities to provide cultural enrichment for all Mainers and as a tool for social change, bringing people together in conversation that crosses social, economic and cultural barriers.

Home of the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book

An affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book