

EVENTS

How to write your own obituary

When I sat at Grammy Steeves' side reading obituaries in the '50s and '60s, I thought they were kind of dull. No mention of the deceased's favorite baseball team or the kind of rolls or pie that had the family salivating at Thanksgiving. You sort of had to know the person — or at least the family — to be interested in the scant details.

But as genealogists and family historians, we pore over every word of every obituary, looking for the smallest clue that may point us to the next possible source of information on our family trees.

Moreover, today's descriptions of the person who died often touch us or inspire us or offer us the chance to chuckle. Today's obituaries are longer, a function of the fact that the family pays for the writeup according to its length in many newspapers and so the interesting details don't get edited out.

One obit I read recently didn't just praise the woman who died for her great cooking, it shared one of her recipes. I thought that was wonderful. Talk about family history.

The piece I wrote when my dad passed away in 2002 mentioned hunting and fishing, of course, and his Navy service in World War II, but especial-

ly his faithful participation — in Navy uniform — in three parades every Memorial Day in Sangerville, Guilford and Abbot.

One of my favorite obit paragraphs that still has me laughing described the hobbies of Korean War veteran and Bangor ophthalmologist Dr. Gardner Moulton, who died in December. The paragraph concluded: "He

visited all the continents except one. Having spent more than 70 winters in Maine, four winters on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and one winter living in a tent on the top of a mountain in Korea, he figured he hadn't missed anything by not visiting Antarctica!"

The dry humor of the total paragraph convinced me I knew who had written the obituary for Moulton, the son of Dr. Manning Moulton and the second of three generations of Bangor ophthalmologists.

"You wrote that," I said to Dr. Paul Moulton on my next visit. "No," he said, "he wrote it all himself. Every year or

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so, he'd take it out and revise it a little."

So should we all. I've written a fair number of obits for people and with people, and I've written one for myself, but I confess it might take me more than a few minutes to find it. I don't think my family has a copy, either. Therefore, I should dig it out today — because today is all we may have — or I should rewrite it.

I wrote up my dad's obit about 10 days before he died. I didn't know his life was that near its end, but he had been unwell for much of about two years, and if we didn't need the obit in the near future, nothing lost. When he did die, I was relieved to at least have something for my mom and siblings to look at.

Writing one's obit may strike some people as arrogant. I don't see it that way. The last few hundred words describing one's life, while not necessarily totally accurate, are a part of the historic record even as vital records and documents pertaining to school and work and other areas of our life.

There is no "have to" about

writing an obituary, but I can tell you what I like to see in an obituary.

An example for a married woman would be this: Jane Anne (Brown) Doe died Jan. 1, 2024, in Bangor. If you want to insert a nickname, such as "Jennie," use quotation marks because parentheses are best used for the maiden name.

I think it's important to include birth information. Jane was born July 1, 1776, in Bangor, for example, the daughter of Samuel John and Margaret (White) Doe. Obviously the birth and death dates are not for a real person — I don't want someone to read this column and think there is a real obituary that goes with it. There isn't.

I highly recommend listing the parents in the obit, including the mother's maiden name. In some cases, a person may have been born to a single parent. So our Jane would have been born to Margaret White.

We'll finish the topic of obituaries next week.

For information on researching family history in Maine, see Genealogy Resources under Family Ties at bangordailynews.com/browse/family-ties. Brief questions may be sent to familiyti@bangordailynews.com.

#OscarsSoWhite backlash prompts changes to academy

BY ELAHE IZADI THE WASHINGTON POST

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced major changes to its membership structure Friday after a week of fierce criticism over the lack of diversity among this year's Oscar nominees.

Membership will no longer be a guaranteed lifetime appointment and current members inactive in the industry could see their voting rights removed. The Board of Governors, which unanimously approved the new rules Thursday, will expand. An "ambitious, global campaign" will recruit "qualified new members who represent greater diversity," the academy said in a statement, adding it wants to double "the number of women and diverse members" by 2020.

"The academy is going to lead and not wait for the industry to catch up," academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs said in a statement. "These new measures regarding governance and voting will have an immediate impact and begin the process of significantly changing our membership composition."

The makeup of the academy's membership has long been secret; in 2012, the Los Angeles Times published an analysis showing 94 percent of voting members were white and hundreds of members hadn't worked in movies in decades.

Since then, the academy, particularly under Boone Isaacs, has stepped up efforts to bolster diversity. But increasing the number of invitations and extending them to a more diverse group of people did little to change the overall makeup of the membership. A year after the Los Angeles Times' analysis, the newspaper found that membership was still 93 percent white.

The new rules, which will

be applied retroactively to current members, may alter what critics have described as the insidery nature of gaining membership. Current members can still sponsor new ones, but voting rights will only last for 10 years and members can only retain them after that if they've remained active in the industry during that decade. Members can still get locked in for life if they've had three, 10-year voting terms, or if they receive an Oscar nomination.

The Board of Governors will add three seats "to immediately increase diversity" and add nongovernors to executive and board committees, the academy said in a statement.

This year's Oscars backlash has sparked an outcry far beyond social media as some in the industry have pledged to boycott the ceremony. Spike Lee, Michael Moore, Jada Pinkett Smith and her husband, Will Smith, have all said they won't be attending in the wake of last week's nominations, which were without a single person of color in the major acting categories for the second straight year.

Boone Isaacs — who is black and was once the only person of color on the academy's board of governors — said Sunday that "the change is not coming as fast as we would like" and that "we need to do more, and better and more quickly."

BLOGS ABOUND

Peruse our blogs.

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Things to Do

BANGOR — "The Winter Landscape," pastel and oil works by Barbara Adams, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. through March 3, The Sohns Gallery, The Rock & Art Shop, 36 Central St. 947-2205 or therock-andartshop@gmail.com.

BANGOR — "The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code," 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 96 Harlow St. Snow date, Monday, Feb. 1. barbara@mainewabankireach.org, 951-4874 or Peace and Justice Center, 942-9343.

BANGOR — "Limited Edition: Maine Printmakers," 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, through Jan. 31, Boyd Place Gallery, 21 Boyd St. 941-2820

BELFAST — Cold Comfort Theater hosting stage combat intensive class, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30-31, Belfast Dance Studio. \$50. ColdComfortTheater@gmail.com.

BLUE HILL — Exhibit of colored pencil drawings, "Crystal Gems" by 7-year-old Bean Fitzpatrick, during library hours through February, children's Larchwood exhibit case, Blue Hill Public Library, 5 Parker Point Rd. Libby at 374-5515.

BLUE HILL — "The Art of the Book" exhibit, during library hours through March, Howard Room glass cases, Blue Hill Public Library, 5 Parker Point Road. 374-5515.

BREWER — Brewer Community Service Council hosting free community lunch, noon-1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, First United Methodist Church of Brewer. Free.

BREWER — Relay For Life of Penobscot second annual cocktail party fundraiser, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way. Silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, DJ ZLite, Photobooths of Maine, cash bar. Benefits American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Tickets \$20 available at Fork and Spoon, Nash's Health, Fitness and Wellness, Frank Webb's Lighting and Bath Center and Generations Boutique and Art Studio in Brewer, at the door or relaynighttohope@gmail.com.

BREWER — Schedule a 15-minute Dog Ears appointment to read to canine tutors Copper or Belle, 3:30-5 p.m

Wednesday, Jan. 27, Brewer Public Library, 100 South Main St. 989-7943.

BREWER — Beginner's yoga program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Brewer Public Library, 100 South Main St. Free and open to all. Space is limited. 989-7943.

CAMDEN — Read and chat in Spanish, a Spanish-language reading and conversation group, 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, Camden Public Library, 55 Main St. Lynne Taylor at leerycharlar@gmail.com.

CAMDEN — Camden Garden Club Winter Horticulture Series with guest speaker arborist Bob Cochran, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, Picker Room, Camden Public Library. Continues 10 a.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 23. Free and open to the all. 236-3440.

DAMARISCOTTA — Pie making workshop with pastry chefs from Moody's Diner in Waldoboro, 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25, Spectrum Generations Coastal Community Center kitchen, 521 Main St. Registration required. 563-1363.

DAMARISCOTTA — Lunch and Learn, 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, Spectrum Generations Coastal Community Center, 521 Main St. Guest speaker Elizabeth "Liz" Helitzer, executive director, Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, "Decision Making in Times of Injustice." \$5 those over 60, \$6 others. Reservations required. 563-1363 by noon Monday, Jan. 25.

ELLSWORTH — High-definition simulcast of Puccini's "Turandot," 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, The Grand. Reserve tickets only, \$27, \$25 Grand members, \$20 for students 15 and under. Box office, 667-9500, grandonline.org or Facebook.

ELLSWORTH — 2016 Banff Mountain Film Festival, Friday through Sunday, Jan. 29-31, The Grand. Culture collection, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29; Extreme Sports section, 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30; Best of Festival program, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. General admission tickets, \$15. Box office, 667-9500, grandonline.org or Facebook.

ELLSWORTH — Live, high-definition presentation of National Theatre of London production of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," 2 p.m. Thursday,

Jan. 28, The Grand. General admission tickets \$17, \$16 seniors, \$15 Grand members, \$13 students, \$10 children 12 and under. Box office, 667-9500, grandonline.org or Facebook.

FARMINGTON — "Sing 'til Spring!" family concert and singalong with singer-songwriters and guitarists Martin Swinger and Matt Loosigian, 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, Emery Arts Center, University of Maine at Farmington. \$10, free to children 18 and under and students with ID. 778-3722.

MOUNT DESERT — Pemetic School PTO second annual adults-only Blizzard Bash, 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Camp Beech Cliff, 264 Beech Hill Road. Silent auction, raffles, appetizers, cash bar, dancing and live music. Tickets \$10 available at the door, Pemetic School, McKay's restaurant and Carroll Drug Store.

OLD TOWN — Friends of Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and nature-based educator Deanna Fahey hosting Sunkhaze Cafe, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Old Town Public Library, 46 Middle St. Topic: Nature Fun and Learning. Informal and informative discussion series geared toward adults and students. Free and open to all. Donations accepted.

ORONO — University of Maine School of Performing Arts third annual fundraiser pops concert, Astonishing! The Songs and Stories of Broadway's Best, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Collins Center for the Arts. Reception, 6 p.m., Hudson Museum. \$25. \$12 with MaineCard. Snow date, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. 581-1755.

PORTLAND — Maine Boys to Men presenting free screening of "The Mask You Live In," 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, Portland Public Library, 6 Monument Way. Recommended for age 17 and up. maineboystomen.org or katherineb2m@maine.rr.com.

PORTLAND — Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery 2016 Winter Lecture Series: Emerson "Tad" Baker, author of "A Storm of Witchcraft and the American Experience," discussing connections between Salem witch trials and Maine frontier, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Wishcamper Center, Bedford Street, University of Southern Maine. spirit-salive.org.

ROCKLAND — 12th annual Pies on Parade Pie Tour, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at historic inns and other businesses. Benefits Area Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry and Fuel Assistance Program. Advance tickets \$30, \$15 children 10 and under. 596-6611.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — "The Search for the White Rose," 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, Southwest Harbor Public Library. Reservations required. Discussion will follow. Reservations, 244-7065.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Monday prime time

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	2	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Superstore	Telenovela	The Biggest Loser (N) (HD)			News
	4	CBC	Murdoch Mysteries (N)	Jekyll and Hyde (N)		The National (N)		CBC	Coronation	Rick Mercer
	5	CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	Supergirl (N) (HD)	Scorpion (N) (HD)		(9:59) NCIS: Los Angeles		News
	6	CBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Crazy Ex-Girlfriend (N)	Jane the Virgin (N)		News	Seinfeld	Cougar
	6	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Superstore	Telenovela	The Biggest Loser (N) (HD)			News
	7	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	The Bachelor (N) (HD)			(:01) Bachelor Live (N)		News
	7	WAGM FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	The X-Files (N)		Lucifer (N) (HD)		News	Big Bang
	8	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	The Bachelor (N) (HD)			(:01) Bachelor Live (N)		News
	8	MPBN PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Antiques Roadshow (N)		Antiques Roadshow		Independent Lens (N) (HD)	
	9	IND	Law & Order: SVU		The X-Files (N)		Lucifer (N) (HD)		News-Lisa	CTV News
KIDS	13	CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	Supergirl (N) (HD)	Scorpion (N) (HD)		(9:59) NCIS: Los Angeles		News
	22	FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	The X-Files (N)	Lucifer (N) (HD)		FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		Law-SVU
	33	IND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38	IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU			WBZ News (N) (HD)		Seinfeld
	NICK		Make It Pop	Thunder	Henry	Nicky, Ricky	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends
	DISN		K.C. Under.	Mako	Invisible Sister (2015)	Rowan Blanchard	Girl Meets	Best Fr.	K.C. Under.	Girl Meets
	FAM		(5:30) *** Grease (PG)		The Fosters (N)		Recovery Road (N)		Recovery Road	700 Club
	HIST		War & Peace Pierre Bezukhov inherits a fortune.				War & Peace Andrei returns home from war.			War
	DISC		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud: Revved Up		Fast N' Loud (N) (ESP)	(:01) Diesel Brothers (N)		Fast-Loud
	TLC		Dateline on TLC		Dateline on TLC (N)		Dateline on TLC (N)		Dateline on TLC (N)	Dateline
LEARN	A&E		The First 48		The First 48		War & Peace Andrei returns home from war.			The First 48
	ANPL		Yukon Men		Yukon Men		Yukon Men		Yukon Men	Yukon Men
	CSNE		NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Washington Wizards.				Celtics		SportsNet	Sports
	ESPN		College Basketball Duke at Miami.				College Basketball Kansas at Iowa State.		(N) (L)	SportCtr
	ESPN2		Women's College Basketball Tennessee at Kentucky.				2016 Australian Open Tennis Men's and Women's Quarterfinals.			(N)
	NBCSP		NHL Live (N) NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at New York Rangers.				(:15) NHL Overtime (N)			Blazers
	NESN		NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Philadelphia Flyers.				Bruins		Sports	Sports
	CNBC		The Profit		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	The Profit
	CNN		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Special Program		CNN Tonight	Cooper 360
	FNC		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)	O'Reilly
NEWS	MSNBC		Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		The Last Word	All In With
	AMC		(5:30) *** Top Gun		*** Enemy of the State (1998, Suspense)		Will Smith, Gene Hackman.			The Fugitive
	BRV		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules (N)		(:01) Untying the Knot	Happens
	CMT		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Steve Austin's			S. Austin
	COM		South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Archer	(:28) Archer	South Park	South Park
	EI		E! News (N)		Hollywood Medium		Kardashian		Kardashian	E! News
	FOOD		Diners		Diners		Kids Baking		Cake Wars (N)	GUILTY Pleas.
	FX		(5:00) ** Oblivion		*** Star Trek Into Darkness (2013, Science Fiction)		Chris Pine.		(PG-13)	Oblivion
	GAC		Alaska	Alaska	Alaska	Alaska	Alaska		Alaska	Alaska
	HALL		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle
VARIETY	HGTV		Love It or List It		Hunters		Hunters Int'l		Ellen's Design Challenge	Hunters Int'l
	LIFE		War & Peace Pierre Bezukhov inherits a fortune.				War & Peace Andrei returns home from war.		(N)	War
	MTV		Jersey Shore		Teen Mom		Teen Mom		Teen Mom	(N)
	OXY		Sex-City		Sex-City		(:15) ** Enough (2002, Suspense)		Jennifer Lopez, Billy Campbell.	(PG-13)
	SPIKE		Cops		Cops		Cops		Cops	Forensic
	SYFY		(6:30) ** G.I. Joe: Retaliation (2013)		(PG-13)		The Magicians (N)		(:10) The Magicians (N)	12 Monkeys
	TBN		Rodriguez		Potters		Trinity		GregLau	Franklin
	TBS		Family Guy		Family Guy		Amer. Dad		Angie	Family Guy
	TCM		(6:30) Miracles for Sale		*** Arabesque (1966)		Gregory Peck.		(NR)	*** The Ipcress File (1965)
	TMC		(6:30) Enemies Closer (R)		*** The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992)		(R)		** Basic Instinct 2 (2006)	(ESP) (R)
PREMIUM	TNT		(5:00) GoodFellas (1990) (R)		** Gangster Squad (2013, Crime Drama)		Josh Brolin.		(R)	** The Da Vinci Code
	TRAVEL		Bizarre Foods America		Bargain		Beach Town		I Live There	Bizarre Foods
	TRU		Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers
	TVL		Andy Griffith		Andy Griffith		Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Raymond
	USA		NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW (N)		(L) J			(:05) Colony
	VH1		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop (N)		Stevie J		K. Michelle	Hit the Floor (N)
	WGN-A		*** The Bourne Ultimatum		(2007, Action)		Matt Damon.		(PG-13)	How I Met
	ENC		(5:40) *** Backdraft (1991) Kurt Russell.		(R)	** Guarding Tess (1994, Comedy-Drama) (ESP) Shirley MacLaine.	(PG-13)	(:40) *** The Wedding Singer (1998, Romance-Comedy) (ESP) Adam Sandler.		(PG-13)
	HBO		(6:30) ** Torque (2004) (ESP) Martin Henderson.			*** Kingsman: The Secret Service (2014, Action) (ESP) Colin Firth, Michael Caine, Taron Egerton.	(R)	(:15) ** Unfinished Business (2015, Comedy) (ESP) Vince Vaughn.		(R)
	MAX		(6:55) ** Just Friends (2005) (ESP) Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart.		(PG-13)	** Swimfan (2002, Suspense) (ESP) Jesse Bradford, Shiri Appleby.	(PG-13)	*** X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014) (ESP) Hugh Jackman.		(PG-13)