

YMCA

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“We had a very large class of over 400 and it was divided into groups. You either went to a college prep program or business. I happened to be in college prep and Joe was in the business program, as was Carole,” Kitchenka explained.

All three had very different interests and each had a different circle of friends, yet they all managed to share a lot of the same teachers throughout their years at the high school.

“Remember Ms. Bartlett?” Kitchenka said, in a recent conversation with Pickering. “Oh yes. Ms. Bartlett

was probably five feet at best and in her late 70s,” Pickering answered. “She had complete control of her class through soft voice and was treated with utter respect.”

Saulnier recently shared a painting she did years ago of Ms. Bartlett with both Kitchenka and Pickering.

“With Joe our back-grounds go even further back than the Y. We just lived a street away from each other [growing up],” explained Saulnier. “My husband, who passed away, was in the same airborne division as Joe, and both were shipped out on the Cuban [mis-sile] crisis.”

The three Massachu-setts natives joke often about being from ‘Lynn, Lynn, the city of sin,’ as the old New England say-ing goes, and reminisce

about how much that city and they have all changed over the years.

“I have many fond memories of Lynn,” said Pickering. “It was such a beautiful, blue collar community.”

“I try and get down there once a year,” said Kitchenka. “Lynn was a pretty big city and it was one that declined in the 1950s and 60s.”

The Lynn trio now spend their golden days building new memories at the Bangor YMCA, in the Queen City they all happen to now call home — entirely by happen-stance, but a happy hap-penstance.

“It is very unusual to have three people from Lynn English High here at the pool,” Pickering said.

“It is just amazing that so many of us have migrated to Maine,” Kitchenka added.

Bangor on Tap Brew Fest set for Cross Insurance Center Jan. 16

BY EMILY BURNHAM OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

Last year’s Bangor On Tap event, a massive beer festival held at the Cross Insurance Center in the winter and sponsored by Town Square Media, attracted legions of beer lovers both serious and casual to sample some of the more than 40 breweries present.

This year, there are nearly double the number of breweries — and the event is bumped up a month, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, instead of in February, as it was in 2015. There are two sessions set for this year, up from just one last year, set for noon until 3 p.m. and then from 6 until 9 p.m., with a special VIP hour set for 5 p.m., leading into session 2.

Admission for this beer-centric event is \$35, and includes three hours of sampling and a commemorative cup. A limited number of \$55 VIP tickets, which include specialty tastings during that extra hour, as well as food vouchers, are also available. For designated drivers, there are special \$10 tickets available as well. Organizers recom-mend festival-goers ar-

rive 30 minutes prior to the start of the session, as ID checks will have to be performed on everyone.

Food vendors will be on site, providing an array of eating options includ-ing barbecue, fair-style food and other treats. Live entertainment will be provided by The Crown Vics, an Ellsworth-based rockabilly band popular for playing at bars and festivals throughout eastern Maine.

Bangor On Tap is part of America On Tap, a pro-ducer of premium beer festivals throughout the U.S., the only nationally integrated entertainment series dedicated to show-casing specialty and craft breweries from around the globe. With more than 70 planned beer festivals in 2016, each featuring sought after specialty and craft breweries and their highly anticipated releas-es, America On Tap deliv-ers a unique beer-focused experience filled with live music, great vendors and delicious local food.

The full list of partici-pating breweries for the Jan. 16 event includes:

21st Amendment, Alla-gash, Anchor, Andrews, Angry Orchard, Atlantic, Atwater, Baxter Brewing, Beara Irish, Belfast Bay,

Berkshire Brewing, Best Damn Root Beer, Black Bear Brewery, Blue Moon, Blue Point, Brook-lyn, Clown Shoes, Coney Island, Dogfish Head, Downeast Cider, Found-ers, Funky Bow, Geaghan Brothers Brewing, Geary’s, Goose Island, Gritty’s, Harpoon, Hen-niker, Hidden Cove, Lazy River, Leinenkugel, Long Trail, Magic Hat, Mag-ners Cider, Moonlight Mead, Narragansett, Om-megang, Otter Creek, Peak, Penobscot Bay, Red Hook, Ricker Hill Hard Cider, Sam Adams, Sea Dog, Sebago, Shed, Shin-er, Shipyard, Shock Top, Sierra Nevada, Slum-brew, Small Town Brew-ery, Southern Tier, Stone, Switchback, Traveler Brewing, Two Roads, Uinta, Urban Farm Fer-mentory, Victory, Wood-chuck Hard Cider

Not the Same Old

Carol Higgins Taylor, director of communications at Eastern Agency on Aging, offers advice on life as a senior in Senior Beat

TheWeekly



BDN FILE PHOTO

Allagash Brewing Company brewer and founder Rob Tod tastes an experimental beer in a new storage and aging facility next door to the main building in Portland in 2013. Allagash is Maine’s second-largest brewery and will be one of more 16 Maine breweries among the 70 in total at Bangor on Tap on Jan. 16.

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Hampden voice artist can be heard on planes, trains, other places nationwide

BY ABIGAIL CURTIS OF THE BDN STAFF

You might not know Carolyn Hopkins’ name or face, but if you’ve traveled almost anywhere by plane, train or subway, you have heard her cheer-ful, clear voice telling you what to do and where to go.

Hopkins, who lives in Hampden, has recorded public address announce-ments heard in travel hubs all over the world, including John F. Kenne-dy International Airport in New York City, the New York subway and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. She is the Eng-lish-speaking voice of the Paris Metro, the Incheon International Airport in South Korea and Shang-hai Pudong International Airport.

And the list goes on. “It is not easy, either in subways or in airports,” she said. “I’m trying to be a help to people while they’re traveling. I’m trying to make it a little easi-er, and a little more friendly.”

Her well-known voice has brought the 67-year-old Hopkins a fair amount of fame in recent years. She’s been writ-en about in The New York Times, heard on National Public Radio and was even named one of the 500 most impor-tant people in history in the December 2015 Men-tal Floss Magazine. Hop-kins is No. 349.

“I think it’s quite bi-zarre,” the unassuming, quick-to-laugh woman, who originally was from Louisville, Kentucky, said. “I wonder who it was who picked me?”

By all appearances, fame has not gone to Hop-kins’ head. She and her husband, the Rev. Marion Hopkins, moved to Hamp-den in 2002. She does her audio work in her home studio, where she also is her own sound engineer. There, she records the an-nouncements using her best nondescript Midwest-ern accent.

“That is the industry standard,” Hopkins said. “Though I have been picking up some Maine here and there. I have to watch it!”

She first became inter-ested in voices and radio as a little girl.

“I got into it because my father had a magnificent, deep voice,” she said. “I loved to listen to it, so I liked doing that kind of thing. I would practice. I would create radio pro-



BDN PHOTO BY ASHLEY CONTI

Carolyn Hopkins reads over a script at her home office in Hampden last month. The Hampden woman records voice announcements in her home studio for airports, trains and other public transportation systems around the world.

grams, with intros and segues. I did voices. It was a lot of fun.”

Her childhood hobby eventually led her to radio work in Louisville, where she wrote jingles, did com-mercials and whatever else needed to get done.

“In radio in the 1970s, we tried anything,” Hop-kins said, laughing. “At least once.”

Her voice ability and work ethic landed her a job at Allen-Martin Pro-ductions in Louisville, a full-service audio compa-ny. Hardy Martin, one of the owners, was an elec-tronics whiz, she said, and in the early 1980s became a digital recording pio-neer.

He tapped Hopkins, whose voice has tones in it that carry well, to re-cord announcements for stadiums and amusement parks.

“They said, can you do a Disney-like voice -- very sexy and thoughtful and friendly,” she re-called, adding she gave her best shot for a re-cording destined for Walt Disney World’s Typhoon Lagoon water park. “It worked.”

As digital recording caught on and became the norm, so did Hopkins’ voice, which is now heard in 200 airports all around the world -- more destina-tions, she said, than she will ever get to visit her-self. She records snippets of information that ad-vise travelers about con-necting flights, about what to do in case of an emergency and more. Computers connect the audio takes into an-nouncements that are broadcast to travelers.

“It’s all a big jigsaw puzzle,” Hopkins said of the process.

Being the English-speaking voice of trans-portation around the world definitely has its humorous moments, she said. Once, in Louisville, she was coming home late and found herself stuck on the moving walkway at the airport behind a fellow traveler who would not budge. Her voice came on the public ad-dress system, asking trav-elers to move over so oth-ers could pass. She start-ed duplicating the an-nouncement, so the man had Hopkins in stereo asking him to move over. It didn’t work.

“I threw my hands up,” she said, adding she fig-ured the man was having a bad day.

She also gets calls peri-odically from friends who are happy to hear a familiar voice when far from home.

“I heard you in Cleve-land! I heard you in De-troit!” Hopkins said. “I lead an interesting life.”

You Name It

Then find it in the listings of the Classifieds.

From lessons to help wanted to seasonal goods, the Classifieds have what you are looking for.

TheWeekly

Blogs To Read

bangordailynews.com/maine-blogs

THAT'S MY Baby

Featuring Babies Born In 2015!

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles... Show off your beautiful 2015 baby in the Bangor Daily News, Saturday, February 27, 2016

Hurry! We must have your beautiful baby's color photo and \$38.00 payment by Noon on MONDAY, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Questions? Call Laura at 990-8110.

Jace Richard Oliver  
June 9, 2015  
Brewer, ME  
Parents: Jason & Erika Oliver  
Siblings: Chloe Oliver & Adrienne Barker  
Grandparents: Susan Sweetland, William Sweetland, Richard Largay & Nancy Theriault.

BDN bangordailynews.com Bangor Daily News

☐ Yes, please include my baby! BIRTHDATE: / /

BABY'S NAME HOMETOWN:

Parents Name Grandparents or Siblings Name

Contact Name: Mailing Address: City: Zip Code: Phone Number: (a.m.) (p.m.)

Select your payment method: ☐ Personal Check ☐ Credit Card (Circle one) ACCOUNT NUMBER EXPIRATION DATE: Month Year 3-digit CID#

SIGNATURE: X

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