

UMaine, Bangor Library to celebrate 100 years of Pulitzer Prizes

COURTESY THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

To celebrate 100 years of the Pulitzer Prizes, the University of Maine’s Department of Communication and Journalism along with the Bangor Public Library will host three winners of journalism’s top award.

Amy Ellis Nutt of The Washington Post, Kathleen Kingsbury of The Boston Globe, and Jim Sheeler of Case Western Reserve University will visit UMaine journalism classes throughout March 24–31, as well as lead public presentations on campus and at the Bangor Public Library.

Organizers say the event offers an unprecedented

opportunity to bring multiple Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists to the Bangor-Orono area to participate in public forums, educate students and engage residents on topics of public interest while impressing upon the community the essential civic role of quality journalism.

The public events from 3–4 p.m. at Wells Conference Center on campus and 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Bangor Public Library will be tailored to the specific theme of each journalist’s award-winning or chosen work. The talks offer opportunities to consider how journalism interacts with the public on important social issues.

The library presentations

will be introduced by journalists from The Bangor Daily News, including Erin Rhoda, editor of Maine Focus; and Anthony Ronzio, director of news and audience.

Nutt, a health and science reporter at The Washington Post and author of “Becoming Nicole” will speak on campus and at the library Thursday, March 24. The 2011 award winner will discuss her book about a Maine family that triumphed in a landmark discrimination case for transgender rights.

Kingsbury, a 2015 award winner for editorial writing and deputy managing editor of The Boston Globe, will speak Tuesday, March 29. The author of the award-win-

ning series “Service Not Included” will discuss labor and exploitation in the restaurant industry.

Sheeler, the Shirley Wormser Professor of Journalism and Media Writing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, will give a presentation Wednesday, March 30 on casualty notification, the topic of his 2006 award-winning feature for the Rocky Mountain News titled, “Final Salute.”

In addition to visiting journalism classes, the guests will have lunch with the Department of Communication and Journalism’s Honor Society and participating faculty.

The experience of learning directly from

veteran practitioners awarded journalism’s highest honor represents an invaluable opportunity for UMaine undergraduates, organizers say.

Pulitzer Week is made possible by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council with support from the University of Maine Humanities Center and the UMaine Department of Communication and Journalism’s Alan Miller Fund for Excellence in Communication and Journalism. Community partners include the Bangor Public Library, Bangor Daily News and Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine.

Since 2007, the Department of Communication and Journalism has brought respected journal-

ists to campus through the Alan Miller Fund for Excellence in Communication and Journalism. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists who have previously visited campus courtesy of the fund include Bettina Boxall of Los Angeles Times and Mark Feeney of The Boston Globe.

Pulitzer Week allows the department to expand upon the success of the Alan Miller Fund program by increasing the number of visiting journalists and adding more public outreach and community engagement.

More information about Pulitzer Week is on the UMaine Department of Communication and Journalism website, as well as The Pulitzer Prizes website.

My Friend's Place celebrates 15th anniversary

My Friend’s Place, a day program serving people with Alzheimer’s and dementia and providing respite for caregivers, on April 30 will celebrate 15 years of providing a safe, friendly environment for participants and for caregiver respite.

The program is based on the Brookdale National Group Respite Program, which encourages community-based agencies to develop low-cost, high-quality respite service.

My Friend’s Place is a social “grassroots” program which partners with local and statewide organizations such as, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, University of Maine School of Social Work, Husson University Occupational Therapy Program, the Alzheimer’s Association and United Way.

In-kind support is provided by Bangor First United Methodist Church, in which the program is housed. My Friend’s Place is the only day respite site for people with memory loss in Bangor.

In 2009, My Friend’s Place opened the Memory

Joggers program to serve those who are in early stages of memory loss. Memory Joggers is the first of its kind in the state of Maine.

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor sponsors high tea fundraiser

On Sunday, April 3, the auditorium at John Baptist High School will be transformed into a magical literary wonderland. The occasion is the fourth annual Literacy Tea, set for 3 to 5 p.m. This one-of-a-kind fundraiser, hosted by Literacy Volunteers of Bangor, entertains guests at uniquely decorated tables, each celebrating a memorable children’s book.

There will be myriad snacks and pastries, and tea from TeaMaineia of Winterport. Maine author and illustrator Mark Scott Ricketts will be performing his book, Adventures in Vacationland.

This dress-up occasion is the perfect tea party for parents or grandparents to bring a child to, but adults can have plenty of fun with or without kids.

Tickets to this fundraiser are \$20 each and are available only with advance purchase. Tickets are available by calling 947-8451 or by visit-

ing lvbangor.org/literacytea.

The Tea is Literacy Volunteers’ largest fundraiser. It is supported by nearly 50 local businesses, including the University of Maine College of Education, the Bangor Daily News, NTension, Darling’s Auto, and Eastern Maine Community College.

Camden National Bank distributes food, other necessities to area organizations

Camden National Bank employees have been busy delivering a little extra “hope” to area homeless shelters and charitable organizations over the past week. In conjunction with its Hope@Home initiative, all of the Bank’s 64 locations hosted a company-wide drive during the month of February to collect urgently needed items for Maine’s homeless. Each of the “Hope Kits” included personal items, toiletries and non-perishable food items that the shelters can provide to people in need. Due to an outpouring of support from employees, customers and local businesses throughout the state, Camden National Bank was able to deliver 2,000 kits to

help close to 50 area shelters and organizations that provide vital assistance to those in need in Maine. In the Bangor area alone, more than 200 kits were donated to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, and in the Downeast region, kits were delivered to Emmaus Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth and Next Step Center in Machias among others.

“We are so thankful for the response we had to our collection efforts,” said Greg Dufour, president and chief executive officer of Camden National Bank. “No matter where I traveled or the communities I visited, there were stories about businesses and individuals who went out of their way to bring items into our banking centers or donate funds to help with purchasing additional supplies for them. It was truly overwhelming, and it speaks to the generosity of the people in our state and their willingness to help their fellow neighbors.”

In coordination with its Hope@Home initiative, the Bank created the Hope Kit collection drive as another means to raise awareness around the issue of homelessness in Maine and provide assistance to the state’s homeless population and the shelters and organiza-

tions that support them. Camden National Bank worked with these organizations to identify some of the most urgently needed items for individuals and families, both sheltered and unsheltered, in area communities. Items included toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and deodorant; personal items and necessities such as hand and foot warmers, bandages, antibacterial wipes, socks, and winter hats, scarves and gloves; and non-perishable, high protein food items like energy bars, trail mix, peanut butter, instant soups and cereals, and beef jerky.

“We are thrilled by the support we’ve been receiving from Camden National Bank through the Hope@Home program,” said Rowena Griffin, executive director of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. “Our staff and guests were amazed by the recent donation of 203 Hope Kits filled with personal hygiene products, snacks and other goodies. The individuals we serve are very aware of the Hope@Home program and appreciative of all the support we receive from it. We can’t thank Camden National enough for everything they do in this community.”

Seabird guano bottle from Penobscot Marine Museum at Smithsonian

A bottle filled with colored seabird guano (droppings) from Penobscot Marine Museum’s collection is currently on display in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The bottle is part of the exhibit The Norie Marine Atlas & Guano Trade which runs now through January 2017.

“This is a very rare object. I know of only one other like it,” reports PMM’s Collections Manager Cipperly Good. “When I heard that the Smithsonian was looking for guano objects for their exhibit, we were pleased to be able to loan them our bottle.”

The bottle may have been made by Chinese guano miners to commemorate a voyage by the Searsport-owned ship HENRIETTA to Peru around 1880. Many Maine ships sailed to Peru for the guano trade in the early 19th century. Guano was thought to be the best fertilizer in the world. Several Penobscot Marine Museum staff are travelling to Washington, D.C. for a special tour of the exhibit with National Museum of American History’s curator Paul Johnston.

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