

**"Aren't we lucky to live here? We don't know  
what else a person could want from a community."**

A brief conversation with Ron and Shirley Jarvella

Ron and Shirley Jarvella met while Shirley was attending Lake Erie College thirty miles from Ron's home town of Ashtabula, Ohio. Ron was working in New York City at the time. Coming home for a visit, he decided to drive over to the college to see former Army buddy and architect, Zane Yost. "Living in that part of Ohio, we had always assumed that the college was 'way above us' but Zane was dating and told me that Lake Erie was the happy hunting ground and I should take my pick." Ron says this with a chuckle and a grin.

After Ron and Shirley were married, Ron went back to Ohio State to finish his undergraduate degree in American history. His army service qualified him for the GI bill and veterans' housing provided shelter for a family which now included a baby girl. Since Shirley had a degree in music, she was hired at the Columbus Public Library to work in the fine arts division. "Probably my favorite library job," Shirley adds.

After Ohio State, Ron taught high school history for 5 or 6 years in Ohio. Following a one year teaching position in New York state they moved to Arizona, where Ron's brother lived, to try living out their

"wild West dream." With two daughters who were young enough to be uprooted, they decided the time was right to try something different. Ron applied to 15 different schools. Finding himself without an offer, he enrolled in the master's degree program at Arizona State, and Shirley once again found a library job at the Tempe (Arizona) Public Library. After graduation, knowing they wanted to live on the East Coast, Ron flew back to Connecticut, applied for work in several larger cities and was offered positions in all of them.

Ron wanted to work in an inner city school, so he chose Bridgeport, Connecticut, and they moved back East. It was during this time that Shirley earned a Masters in Library Science at Columbia and went to work as a high school librarian. She had fully intended to get an advanced degree in music but found that all her job experiences were in libraries so the natural choice was library science.

In addition to teaching, Ron coached the boys' soccer team for twelve years. They lived in Bridgeport, and Ron got his daily exercise by walking the 7 miles to and from work. During that time he was very active in the teachers' organization.

When their contract negotiations bogged down, the teachers voted to strike, then an illegal job action in Connecticut. The result was the jailing of several hundred teachers in a National Guard camp. "All of us, including the librarian and nurse went to jail. The president and officers of the union were taken to the state prison, to put pressure on them." The matter was settled after 2 weeks, and the next year, Ron was on the state legislative committee for the Connecticut Education Association. "We lobbied and got a binding arbitration law passed, which eliminated the need for striking or going to jail because it set timetables for mediation." Within 3 years, Ron's salary and the salaries of most teachers almost doubled, including Shirley's who was then a high school librarian. Again they both laugh as we did many times while I was there.

While living in Connecticut, they had begun going to Matinicus Island with the same friends who had introduced them. Megan Yost's parents owned a place on Matinicus Island and Shirley, Ron and their girls were invited to come up. At that time, it was easier to get out to the island because there was a ferry 3 or 4 times a week. They continued to vacation on Matinicus for 25 years, joined by children, and recently by their grandchildren, ages 3 and 5.

When it came time to retire, they moved to the coast of Maine, partly to be within striking distance of Matinicus. They had been to Shelter Institute in Bath in the 80s where they met Doug Hufnagel, a classmate who was then a real estate agent in the Belfast area. They knew they wanted a place with a barn, so Ron

could have storage for his 35,000 books until he could set up a book store. "We saw lovely homes, with barns that weren't suitable, and lovely barns, with homes that weren't suitable," explained Ron. They found their home in Northport, with barn and space for his book store.

Ron retired in 1991, and Shirley stayed in Connecticut as a school librarian, retiring in 1992. During that year Ron built a book store addition on the back of the garage. "This was before the Internet, so we were attempting to sell books the hard way, and spent most of that next year dragging books around, going to book fairs," Shirley adds.

Early on Ron discovered the Camden Conference, and has been attending since 1993. He served on the board of the conference for 6 years. He also attends the Midcoast Forum on Foreign Relations. The forum has an open membership, and currently has 150 members. They have monthly meetings at Samoset, with invited speakers. During the winter they also have "the Lunch Bunch" and get together informally to discuss a topic of mutual interest.

Not ready for full retirement, Shirley briefly filled in as the librarian at Troy Howard Middle School. When the University of Maine in Augusta started a Library and Information Technology Degree program taught almost exclusively online, she joined the founding faculty lineup as Practicum Coordinator. This provided an opportunity to visit student librarians working in many types of libraries all over Maine.

Shirley never gave up her music, and continues giving concerts. After moving to Maine she decided to take lessons again, something she hadn't done since college. "I gave myself one year to see if I could practice and improve." Ten years later she is still taking lessons. She will be performing her 7th solo recital in late winter to celebrate the end of the renovations in the old section of the Belfast Free Library, a program which will include a piano duet with her teacher, Patricia Stowell.

The first year MBNA was here in Belfast, Ron heard they were starting an Education Grants Committee to provide money to schools for projects they couldn't afford. While Ron was in Bridgeport, he served on several grants committees. "Being brazen, I found out who was in charge of the MBNA program down in Camden, and went to see him." He explained his background working on the committees in Connecticut. They interviewed him for an hour, and later called to say he was on the committee.

During one of these committee meetings, Charles Cawley, then CEO of MBNA, announced he was going to donate money for a school. When it was discovered he was thinking of Belfast or Camden, some members, including Ron, jumped at the chance to encourage him to make it Belfast, since the town could use the help. Cawley had some difficulty recruiting employees in Belfast, and he had gone to Fred Hutchinson, then President of the University of Maine. Fred gave him quite a bit of help, even adding courses to the new school's offerings that would benefit those wanting to work in the financial industry. The Hutchinson Center was

named after him.

When they broke ground for the Hutchinson Center, Cawley said they would be open by spring. When they announced that they were going to have an advisory board for the Hutchinson, Ron went to Bob White, and said he'd like to be on the board. "We had hopes that the Hutchinson Center would become the center of Midcoast Maine, and it has."

Ron enjoys teaching and not getting paid for it, more than when he was getting paid. As Shirley said, "In Bridgeport, Ron's job was more about saving souls than just teaching his subject matter; here, he can pick his subject matter and enjoy it." Ron added, "Many of the courses that are offered at Senior College are not offered anywhere else and we have all benefitted from the high quality of instruction."

Before I left, I received a tour of Prescott Hill Books, a business now conducted mainly over the Internet. Ron has not stopped buying books, and Shirley has not stopped playing piano. They are here, loving their life on the coast of

### **Internet Technology Workshop**

A workshop on internet technology for the classroom will be held on Thursday, January 8th from 10–12 am at the Hutchinson Center. Instructors, classroom assistants and any Senior College member who would like to learn more about the technology in our classrooms and how to access internet resources specific to your area of interest are invited to attend. For more details please call Ron Jarvella at 338-6346.

## From Our President

Greetings in the New Year!

Well, this is a New Year and we have some new names! Before I introduce them to you, there are some very important volunteers who have spent many years chairing committees and doing many things beyond expectation! On behalf of all of us, I send a very special thank you to Cathy Bradbury, co-chair of Curriculum, Mary Frenning and Geordie Squibb, co-chairs of Public Relations and Vicky Sears, chair of Special Events. Each of these volunteers has brought exceptional leadership abilities and dedication to Senior College. "We will not miss them" because they are still very involved and will continue contributing their talents in other ways!

Dale Kuhnert will now join Charles Courant, as co-chair of Curriculum, Dereka Smith will chair Public Relations and Marilyn Caron will chair Special Events. Our college is full of talented members and we appreciate Dale, Dereka and Marilyn for their willingness to contribute their time and leadership skills to keep Senior College exciting!

We have also created two subcommittees to give visibility to two specific areas at Senior College. One will focus on ways to better publicize our scholarships/gift opportunities to non-members. Our membership is the second largest in the state, however we want to remain welcoming, inclusive, and invigorated! We will need your help, so you will be hearing

more! The second is enhancing the Speakers Bureau. (Please note in this newsletter the exciting speakers that have been invited!) These programs are free thanks to a grant we received. We invite you to bring friends and neighbors to these informative and social events!

Well, I am writing this before the celebrations for the Holidays begin but I can say that I am not "Dreaming of a White Christmas" The snow has come with force and the cold may have us "Dreaming of a Green Spring" on March 21<sup>st</sup>!

Meeting friends at Senior College classes and events will bring cheer through the winter months. So see you soon,

Dianne

### **A Note from the Schleicher Family to those who contributed toward the auditorium seat named for Eunice Schleicher.**

Dear Senior College Friends,

We want to extend a great thank you to all the Senior College friends and members for thinking of our mom, Eunice Schleicher on her passing. Even as a senior citizen she retained a vibrant excitement toward life, people, and learning. Your contribution toward naming a seat in her memory and honor would have made her proud. We don't think that anything could have been more fitting.

Thank you all [those who contributed], and with great appreciation.  
The Schleicher Family

## Health Care (Online) Survey for Waldo County

Do you want to be heard? Community input is vital to surveying the needs of the community. In an effort to better understand the healthcare needs, concerns and experiences of the residents of Waldo County, Maine Primary Care Association is inviting community members to participate in a health care survey.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Szw8BD\\_2bsgnd7XeBrt2kygw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Szw8BD_2bsgnd7XeBrt2kygw_3d_3d)

[The survey is being done online, on *Survey Monkey* and the link is long. If you are interested in participating, email me at [dmitch2663@msn.com](mailto:dmitch2663@msn.com) and I will send the link back to you.  
Debbie]

### A Thank You

Thanks to Mike Nickerson of Nickerson Professional Associates, for his help and expertise in reviewing the year-end Federal Tax Report for Senior College!

### Membership Year

The Senior College membership year is from July 1st to June 30th, regardless of when you join. If you pay in January, you will need to renew at the end of June.

### Calendar at a Glance

**Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.**  
*Investment and Money Management for Turbulent Times* with Dr. Robert A. Strong  
Hutchinson Center Auditorium—Free

**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30–3:00**  
Winterim Classes Begin  
HC—various

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-3:00**  
Last Class of Winterim  
HC—various

**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.**  
*Depicting the Pain of a Nation: Civil War Painters and Photographers*, with Roger Dell  
Hutchinson Center Auditorium—Free

**Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.**  
*Fear No Art: Maine Contemporary Art*  
Hutchinson Center Auditorium—Free

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.**  
*Fear No Art: Maine is a Garden*  
Hutchinson Center Auditorium—Free

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Camden Conference  
Various Locations—Registration & Admission charged

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.**  
*Fear No Art: Altered Books*  
Hutchinson Center Auditorium—Free

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** (Time TBD)  
*Fear No Art* Trip to CMCA  
Rockport—Free

## Camden Conference

February 20-22<sup>nd</sup>

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Camden Conference, devoted to balanced and informed discussion, will present a weekend focused on **"Global Leadership and the U.S. Role in World Affairs"** beginning on the evening of February 20, 2009 with a keynote address by **Brent Scowcroft**. National Security Advisor to two Presidents, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, Scowcroft is widely considered by foreign policy experts of both political parties to have been one of the most effective and widely respected holders of that key office.

The conference, which will again be moderated by Graham Phaup, convenes at the Camden Opera House from February 20-22<sup>nd</sup> and will be streamed live to satellite venues at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, the Strand Theater in Rockland, and the Hannaford Auditorium in Portland. **Tickets are still available** at all venues. For more information or to register, please visit [www.camdenconference.org](http://www.camdenconference.org) or contact the Camden Conference office at (207) 236-1034 or (877) 214-8579.

Flyers with more information will be available in the Atrium on the first day of class.

[ Ed. Note. Brown Bag lunch discussions on Camden Conference topics will be held in the break between morning and afternoon sessions during Winterim Term. Look for topics and articles on the first day of classes.]

## "FEAR NO ART" SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

**With Cathy Melio from**

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art  
Thursdays, 10-11:30 Auditorium

**FREE**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** : "Fear No Art: Maine Contemporary Art"

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**: "Fear No Art: Maine is a Garden"

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** : "Fear No Art: Altered Books"

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**: We wrap up the series with a visit to CMCA in Rockport

Cathy Melio is an artist, educator, and radio producer. She has been education director at CMCA since January, 2005. CMCA is a nonprofit organization advancing contemporary art in Maine through exhibitions and educational programs.

"Fear No Art" presentations are made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

## Distinguished Speakers Coming to Senior College

Look for the enclosed flyer, explaining the new Distinguished Speakers Series.

This is a free series and not to be missed! The first two dates are also listed on the Calendar on page 5.

**Winterim Promises  
Some Great Courses!**

(See Course catalog for full details.)

**Morning—9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**The Greatest Anglo/American  
Poet—T.S. Eliot**

Baird Whitlock, Instructor

**Flops, Failures, Follies and Fiascos:  
The Worst Foreign Policy Blunders  
of the Post-WWII Era. Part I**

Bob Rackmales, Instructor

**The American Short Story—  
Ongoing (Limit 15 students)**

Charles H. King, Instructor

**A Photographer's History of  
Photography**

Paul Sheridan, Instructor

**It's Snowamazing... The Wild Side  
of Winter**

Mike Shannon, Instructor

**Afternoon—1:00 p.m. TO 3:00 p.m.**

**Circling the Fire**

Roger Ptak, Instructor

**Mini Memoir—The Personal Essay**

Ellie O'Leary, Instructor

**Breaking into Bridge (For the  
Beginner)**

Sheila Nickerson, Instructor

**Getting to Know Your Computer**

Todd Zoroya, Instructor

**Try Something Different—Watercolor  
Workshop**

Nancy Blatz, Instructor

**A Meeting of Minds**

William Taylor and Joanne Boynton,  
Instructors

**Basic Fly Tying**

Bob Blatz and Jim Cunningham,  
Instructors

(Limited to 10 students)

**ONE-DAY SEMINAR –**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Making the Most of Google—a  
Hands-On Seminar in Using Google™**

Cheryl Fuller, Instructor

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**Scholarship aid is available. See  
Dianne Smith for information!**

**Senior College Presentation  
Leads to Translation of a Book**

In May of 2006, Senior College co-sponsored with the Belfast Free Library a presentation by Professor Danielle Bailly of the University of Paris VII-Denis Diderot. She is the editor of a collection of interviews with French Jews who, as children, were hidden by other French citizens and saved from deportation to the camps, as was Professor Bailly herself.

Betty Becker-Theye has now completed the translation which is to be published in 2009 by the State University of New York Press as *The Hidden Children of France, 1940-1945: Eighteen Interviews*.

# **senior** COLLEGE

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Senior College admits members regardless of race, color, sexual orientation,  
and national or ethnic origin

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