



Citizens Offering New Alternatives
www.conamaine.com

PO Box 649, Newcastle, ME 04553
FALL 2006

CONA BOARD PLANNING RETREAT - AUGUST 30, 2006

Report to the Membership

We spent a productive time at a recent Planning Retreat, brainstorming completions of the sentence, "In the next year, it would be great if CONA..." Then we "voted" for our preferences. The top two vote-getters were: "Focused on climate change," and "Planned a program to raise money to respond to local poverty." But there were many other good ideas which we will keep in mind:

- Doubled membership
- Would be instrumental in getting newly eligible voters to vote.
- Devoted full energies to fall political campaign.
- Had midday lunch meetings also.
- Had a Seeds of Peace program in the spring.
- Had a program series on peace and democracy at the Teen Center.
- Hosted a broad-based group meeting, including religious/spiritual leaders, environmentalists, and any others interested in global warming, climate change.
- Represented peace groups at the Common Ground Fair.
- Used positive language and attitudes instead of negative.
- Focused on Olympia Snow and her pro-administration record. How can we influence her?
- Resumed study circles.

If any of you receiving the newsletter would like to work on any of these exciting possibilities, please let me or another Board member know. The Board will be able to address three or four of these priorities, but we'll need help to do more. Thanks for considering this.

Michael Stevens, for the CONA Board

RATIONALE FOR A SOBERING WARNING AND FOR A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

From *Turnaround: Musings on the Earth's Future*

By Edward A. Myers

Sermon, 30 June 2000

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, now at 260-some million humans and working toward 400 million by 2025, is headed for some trouble. The world, at 6 billion as of October 1999, is working toward 8 or 9 billion by 2020, and is also headed for some trouble. No one can predict the extent of it. About 98 percent of the people are not paying attention or haven't a clue about what is coming or simply deny that any trouble is coming.

Any or all of those opinions held by a vast majority are unwise.

The earth is engaged in a gigantic chemistry experiment:

How many tons of carbon particulates, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, dioxin, chlorofluorocarbons, polychloride biphenyls, nitrous oxide, and many other pollutants can be presented to the earth's atmosphere before the entire living Creation is suffocated?

If the people wait for the final answer, the answer will be very final indeed. As T. H. Huxley said,

The chessboard is the world; the pieces are the phenomena of the universe; the rules of the game are what we call the laws of Nature. The player on the other side is hidden from us. We know that his play is fair, just, and patient. But also we know, to our cost, that he never overlooks a mistake, or makes the smallest allowance for ignorance.

With this warning in mind, we know from the paleontologists and the geologists that a self-healing and self-correcting planet goes through long cycles. Perhaps 3 billion years ago, the liquid of the world

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ocean became a saturated solution of carbon dioxide. What life there was, probably microbial, was suddenly presented with oxygen, a deadly poison gas, to which they adapted, invented photosynthesis, and eventually made humankind possible.

A smaller example of the self-correcting strength of the earth is the 1815 eruption of Tambora in the East Indies, which produced worldwide dust clouds, resulting in snowstorms and killing frosts in every month of 1816 in the northern hemisphere. But again, the earth corrected the problem.

Two major sinks preserve breathable air from destruction by carbon: the world's oceans and the world's forests. In ecology a sink is a receptacle for certain elements of the system. No one knows how much carbon these two sinks can absorb. Both are beset.

In the ocean plankton are the basic photosynthesizing bio mass, absorbing CO₂ and releasing oxygen. The plankton may be doing their best, but they are weakened by the effects of the ozone hole, which cannot be repaired before mid-century; by the melting of the Ross and Larsen B ice sheets; by persistent organic pollutants; by harmful algal blooms; by oil spills; and by invasive species transferred from ships' bilges. On land trees absorb CO₂ yet they are being cleared at the rate of 47,000 acres per day, a rate which, if not increased, will reach the world's last tree in 2101. These two sinks are currently being asked to absorb 6.75 billion tons of CO₂ per year.

The U.S. won't sign the Kyoto Protocol. Same for Russia and China. The governments talk about lack of political will and are mostly irrelevant, particularly the U.S. Congress. In 1992 former President Clinton promised to reduce greenhouse gases by 15 percent before 2000; in the ensuing eight years, U.S. total emissions of CO₂ have grown about 20 percent. The primary increase has come from SUVs and light trucks, both exempted from pollution controls by Congress. China says it will build 5 million vehicles per year beginning in 2005. Powering the manufacture will be soft coal, creating a major leap in greenhouse gases. India has passed 1 billion humans in population and so will continue its position as a top polluter.

Whether or not the world is proceeding toward a horrible catastrophe, there is now a magnificent opportunity to leave the industrial revolution-fossil fuel era behind in favor of renewable energy, pollution free. There are good indications that we have begun:

- Enough sunlight reliably falls on the earth from 10 degrees S. to 10 degrees N. to supply the energy

needed for all the world.

- By report, there is sufficient wind power on American Indian reservations in the U.S. to supply the whole country.
- Wind power produced 13,840 megawatts of electricity world wide in 1999; in 1980 it was 10 mgw. Germany leads in production; the U.S.A. is second, then Spain, Denmark, Italy, and Greece.
- Power from photovoltaic modules grew from 0.1 mgw in 1970 to 201 mgw in 1999. Their price fell from \$5.50 per watt in 1987 to \$3.50 per watt in 1999. Royal Dutch Shell operates a 25-mgw cell factory in Germany.
- Honda and Toyota are marketing electric-fossil fuel hybrid cars now. A Honda hybrid traveled from South Boston to Wiscasset on three gallons of gas—approximately the 70 per cent reduction of greenhouse gases suggested at Kyoto—averaging 55 mph door-to-door.
- Daimler Chrysler has chosen Iceland as its test area for a fuel cell/electric car. The fuel is electrolyzed hydrogen; the only exhaust is pure water.
- William McDonough Associates has a \$2-billion budget from Ford to turn its River Rouge automobile plant into a zero-emissions plant.

The above are a few indications that the next quarter century can deliver the most exciting transition from a dangerously polluting society to one in harmony with the planet.

There is little to worry about economically—the transition can provide enough work for everybody in hundreds of different fields. The 1999 installations for wind power alone supported the creation of 86,000 jobs.

The most important and most difficult change will be the embedding of the idea of total energy transition in the minds and hearts of the populace. No reliance can be placed in elected and other governments until the people, now lulled by prosperity, inertia, and denial, provide the political will to urge governments to cooperate with one another in a crisis that is without boundaries.

It no longer matters whether or when the world will run low on petroleum, or coal, or any other fossil fuel. What matters is making the transition to the natural power of the sun as soon as possible.

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THE FALL PASSAGES

A reflection on the changing season and our place in it

By Belva Ann Prycel

In these northern latitudes, sometime near the end of September one becomes aware of a subtle change, a nuance in the quality of light, a seasonal shifting of patterns suddenly remembered as if anew. It is the beginning of that great transition, the procession of life and color that plays out along the coastlines, in the gardens and borders, and settles quietly among the minute accommodations that weave through the autumn grasses.

Along the fields near the Sheepscot, summer lupine, tiger lilies, and white clustered daisies have given way to giant pluming goldenrod and tall stands of wild asters. Swaying patches of vibrant purple, pink, and blue color fringe the shores. Six varieties of wild aster are growing along the path through the field, part of the nearly thirty varieties of aster that fill the forests and oceanic borders of Maine—companions to hundreds of varieties that range from the eastern seaboard to the high plains and mountains of the West.

In the vividness of the asters, one finds as well the bright visitations of monarchs, those nomadic butterflies whose hemispheric journeys follow a long overland flight from the far north to the forests of the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. Legions of these bright orange wings drift above the asters, pausing to drink the sun-drenched centers then moving southwest in streaming bands. Driven by an immense undertaking for a creature as fragile as a leaf, the monarchs are compelled by an ancient mission and timetable to traverse the continent. Yet no single monarch will complete this incredible round-trip journey. Three generations will pass in a brief season, each beginning with an egg on a milkweed host, transitioning to a caterpillar, a chrysalis, and finally metamorphosing into an adult butterfly. Only the fourth generation of monarchs in this changing dance will live more than a few weeks and make the arduous migration south, hibernating for 6-8 months in Mexico, laying eggs, dying, and beginning the cycle anew.

The flights of these amazing and tenacious butterflies are joined in the fall by other migrants of the air. On the confluence of the Sheepscot and the Dyer Rivers, the resident gulls have returned from summering on the coast. They now pick among the detritus for small mollusks and worms, while restless shorebirds and flights of geese pass overhead, some traveling from nesting grounds in the Arctic to wintering territories as far south as Tierra Del Fuego on the

tip of South America. All the able fliers fill the skies of autumn with a diverse procession, following the call of some ancestral longing carried in the waning light.

As the weather grows cooler, black crickets jump in the field in exuberant expectation as I pass by, and the waddling woodchuck occasionally crosses my path or emerges from under the barn studio to survey his domain. The red fox is often seen looking for meadow voles and crossing the field at dusk under the huge halo of an autumn moon. In the garden, every plant is divesting itself of seeds—the globes, cones, hairy pods, and pointed spheres breaking open and shooting seeds like stars into the wind.

Walking the fields by the river I am lost in these greater passages, the comings and goings, beginnings and endings that are part of the familiar sequence of autumn. I am aware again of all the life of the land that exists in its own right, no more or less great than my own. It has predated my coming and will continue after. This is the source that roots us where we stand and confirms our participation in a community of life, one from which we, in our obsessive need to subdue and control, are becoming increasingly detached.

In the autumn, I am gratefully reminded of my humble place in things. Perhaps this is why I always seek the path in the field again, and why I watch and listen for the old acquaintances, the old conversations. It is here that I find the wider horizon and the presence of eternal, changing form. It is the knowledge that John Muir spoke of when he observed that “our going out is really going in.”

UPCOMING CONA PROGRAMS

November 19th, Sunday, 7PM, Skidompha Library, “THE GODS OF OUR FATHERS”, a film on patriarchy, the way we live, whether warlike or peaceful, democratic or authoritarian, and about how changing the way we live may also change our behavior toward one another.

December 17th, Sunday, Skidompha Library, (Elm St. entrance), “HOWARD ZINN: YOU CAN’T BE NEUTRAL ON A MOVING TRAIN”, a film about how to be a catalyst for progressive change from the inspiring Zinn... shipyard laborer, bombardier, academic, historian, and citizen leader.

COLIN WOODARD ON THE LOBSTER COAST

By Belva Ann Prycel

"Exactly four hundred and one years ago, on the shorelines not far from here, the first English vessels began exploring the coast of Maine." So began author Colin Woodard in his CONA talk on October 11th at Skidompha Library.

A prolific writer and animated speaker, Woodard is immersed in both history and ecology. He is an award-winning international journalist for his global reporting on the environment. Holding a Pew Fellowship in International Journalism and fellowships from the Institute for International Education, the United States Antarctic Program, and the 2004 Jane Bagley Lehman Award from the Tides Foundation, his writing has covered issues from ethnic conflict in the Balkans to peacekeeping in Guatemala to the destruction of coral reefs and the effects of global warming.

In his CONA presentation, Woodard focused on the topic of *The Lobster Coast*, his popular book about the history of Maine, transporting his audience from the time of those first primitive fishing stations of Popham, Damariscove and Pemaquid, to the present development concerns facing a new generation of Mainers. In his panoramic historical view, the past of the region continues to subtly shape the attitudes of the people, a past formed by those first colonists of a very different strata of English society than that of the neighboring proprietorships.

Woodard states, "In contrast to the early Puritan utopian society of self-ruling congregational settlements in Massachusetts—those societies of capitalistic and Calvinistic leanings with ordered town greens, local governing bodies, and small enterprises—Maine was viewed as a vast region of dangerous, harsh, and in some ways suspect wilderness."

Early on, Maine settlers rejected the overly restrictive utopian vision of the Puritans, and later rebelled against the aristocratic concepts of the land proprietors. Instead they claimed dubious ownership to the land, traded with local Indians, and freely foraged, farmed, and fished in coastal waters.

Woodard described how during the post-colonial period when Maine was a "colony within a colony" of Massachusetts, there was great upheaval and politi-



cal unrest as Massachusetts instigated an 80-90 year war with the Indians of the region, one which Woodard called "a killing fields conflict" in which every settlement west of Wells was either burned and or wiped out. As a result of this strife, Maine never developed like the rest of the country, and remained largely a wild eastern frontier.

There were a mere three decades of "good economic times" which began after statehood in 1820—decades which saw the development of granite quarries, salted fish, a pond ice industry, and extensive coastal shipping.

However after the Civil War, with changes in technology and transportation, these industries collapsed, and at the turn of the century, Maine once again struggled as an impoverished backwater.

But this dynamic was soon altered as wealthy vacationers—some of the richest families in the country—began to discover the merits of unspoiled coastal wilderness. For them, Maine was an idyllic summer retreat, one to which they brought their values and their wealth and influence. Yet this influx had its price, for the cultural relationship between families that lived in the area and had worked the land and sea for generations, and that of the newcomers who possessed very different attitudes and lifestyles, created a unique source of division. Woodard sees this as a "tension" still prevalent today, one in which "one side wants preservation, solar panels, land trusts, and parks; and the other side wants jobs, highways, and development." This is seen in current issues from Wal-Mart, to shoreland development, to the Wiscasset bypass.

Yet because of this blend, Woodard also sees the character of Maine as

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Some resources for information about climate change, and actions everyone can take:

- Environmental Defense, www.environmentaldefense.org
- Natural Resources Council of Maine, www.maineenvironment.org
- www.sustainabletravelinternational.org

independent and resilient. It is a character sustained by a sense of regionalism, by places where many of the same family names dot the tax maps and coastal islands as they did 350 years ago, by an emphasis on local government and local accountability, by a high level of civic engagement, and by a cultural milieu that Woodard finds "more characteristic of a European nation than a small state." In *The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier*, Woodard explores all of these themes, along with the changing sea and its effect on the lives of the people.

A second book, *Ocean's End: Travels Through Endangered Seas*, is a broader and distinctly sobering account, one of the devastation of the world's oceans. Woodard writes, "After 365 million years ashore, we are only beginning to explore the watery kingdom from which all life sprang. Sadly, those explorations are revealing that our power and ignorance are rapidly destroying the living oceans."

Of the planetary destruction of sea and land resources, he cites studies showing that extinction rates have increased one-thousand fold during the twentieth century, and that 50% of the earth's species will vanish in the 21st century due to the demands of unfettered population and consumption. Woodard writes, "Humankind now uses 40% of the energy available to sustain life on Earth, leaving little to power the ecosystems that maintain the planet's atmosphere, climate, and other life support functions. That percentage will increase with population growth, imperiling not just other creatures but ourselves."

Yet Woodard is far from pessimistic, either about his home state of Maine, or about the earth and the world's fragile seas. Seeing man as capable of using his technologies, stewarding resources, controlling population growth, and developing an ethos toward the earth and sea that offers solutions—if we will take them—he concludes eloquently in *Ocean's End*:

"One day perhaps we'll end our self-imposed exile from the natural world and accept that all species share the same fate, riding together on a great blue ball through the inky darkness of the cosmos, the only ocean that may be truly without end."

With people as informed and dedicated as Colin Woodard, one has the hopeful sense that changing our course may be possible after all.

CHANGE A LIGHT – CHANGE THE WORLD: THE FACTS

- Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) give off high-quality light using a fraction of the electricity traditional incandescent lights use. In fact, CFLs are four times more efficient, use 50 to 80 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- Traditional incandescent light bulbs were patented in 1880 and are inefficient dinosaurs. They waste energy and money and are responsible for millions of tons of greenhouse gases and pollution.
- Replacing a single traditional incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. If everyone in the U.S. used energy-efficient lighting, we could retire 90 average size power plants. Saving electricity reduces greenhouse gases including CO₂ emissions, sulfur oxide and high-level nuclear waste.
- If every Maine home changed one light bulb, more than 210 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be kept out of the air—the equivalent of taking 2,500 cars off the road.
- In 2004, Maine residential energy consumption resulted in the release of over 3,761,300,000 pounds of greenhouse gases. The amount of greenhouse gases resulting from Maine's energy consumption has grown more than 10 percent in the past ten years.

Last year, the Efficiency Maine Residential Lighting Program helped place half a million bulbs in homes saving 24,500,000 kWh—enough electricity for 4,000 homes—removing 14,700 tons of CO₂ from the air, the same as taking 2,600 cars off the road. CFLs are available with instant rebates through a network of some 300 participating retail stores throughout the state, and at Hannaford and Shaw's at reduced prices with buy downs. You can find a store close to you to purchase the product at <http://www.energymaine.com/maps/retailers/index.htm>

CONA's mission is to provide opportunities to address the evolving problems of peace and social justice locally and globally. Our programs include education, discussion, political action, and celebration to encourage the community to become active, involved citizens. We work in collaboration with other regional organizations sharing concerns for pressing issues such as poverty, overpopulation, war, and environmental protection.

CONA HISTORY * PART FOUR * 2002 TO 2005

By Julia Myers

In November '02 Gretchen Hull developed a new "Bridges for Peace" movement in our community. Beginning in Wiscasset and expanding first to Damariscotta, the effort eventually grew to over 40 bridges around the state. Many of us withstood cold, windy, snowy or rainy Sundays on the Damariscotta Bridge. Fellow citizens who supported the Iraq war or wanted to express support for our troops stood on the opposite side of the bridge. Photojournalist Olive Pierce of Rockland came to take pictures of "bridge" participants. Gretchen then set up an exhibition of Pierce's photographs of people on both sides of the bridge, as well as her photos of children of Baghdad at the American Legion Hall. At a reception Legionnaires and CONA members had good exchanges, thus building toward another bridge.

Spring 2004 found members thinking about the upcoming presidential election. The electorate seemed increasingly polarized as the gap between rich and poor widened. Lisa Pohlman of the Maine Center for Economic Policy spoke to CONA on the "Great Divide", noting that the life of the poor had become measurably more difficult since the rise of the conservative movement in America, beginning with the Reagan administration's broad cuts in programs for the poor.

The Spring '04 CONA News carried an excellent article on the environment by editor Sharon Crosbie, deploring such euphemisms as "Clear Skies," "Healthy Forests," and "Clean Water," used by the Bush administration to give us the impression that their environmental policies were sound, when in fact quite the opposite was true. Just one example of hypocrisy gone rampant was the EPA's revised regulations for emissions from coal-fired power plants replacing the 90% reduction in three years with a 30% reduction in 15 years.

Reg Gagnon, home from Haiti, wrote in a Newsletter a poignant tribute to that small country, whose burgeoning democracy collapsed while trying to overcome the forces of unchecked capitalism. He and Suzanne gave much of themselves in the time they were allowed to be there.

The fall of 2004 seethed with pre-election emotion. Never within this writer's memory had divisions been so extreme. Quoting CONA President Tom Schmidt:

"This election will decide whether or not we have the democratic opportunity to rethink our positions or whether these decisions will be

made by the radical right." After the election he gave us three simple suggestions for post-election attitudes and behavior in a splendid letter entitled "Dear Mr. President". His message to us was: " 1. Don't be discouraged. We are and remain a resilient nation; 2. Get smart about the resources we have, and 3. Listendo you know any folks who voted for 'the other guy'? What are their concerns?"

Board member Kay Liss led a study group on Democratic Ideals, at Round Top, covering writings of Solon, Lycurgus and Pericles, Plato's *Republic*, Machiavelli, John Locke, and Thomas Paine. Alexis de Toqueville's *Democracy in America* served as a core text.

In November 2004 the Midcoast Co-Housing Community became a reality, after one and one half years of intensive planning. They began by sharing a large house on 37 acres in Edgcomb, until each family is able to build its own home on the property. David and Linda Pope, as well as several other CONA members, are part of this community. Today there are nearly 90 functioning co-housing communities in the country, two of them in Maine.

At that time Guy Marsden began donating his time and design skills to revitalize our website www.cona-maine.com.

Former Maine Governor Angus King was the highlight of our June '05 annual meeting, presenting "Travels with Molly" a lively and interesting illustrated tale of his family's cross country RV trip.

Question #1 on the November '05 election ballot asked Mainers if they wanted to overturn an antidiscrimination law passed the previous March. Before the election, a CONA forum presented three members of Speak-Out, a group opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation. A lesbian, a gay man and a trans-gendered male spoke of their personal experiences of discrimination based on sexual prejudices. The measure failed, ensuring all Mainers would continue to be protected against discrimination in employment, housing, credit, accommodations and education.

To close this history of CONA to 2005, I want to mention members who have given of themselves so graciously and generously toward perpetuating the goals of the organization:

Following two successful terms as president, Tom

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HISTORYCONT'D FROM PAGE 6

Schmidt was pressed into service for a third term. In midterm, he and Robin found it necessary to move to Brunswick. Tom left his mark of quality, good organization, interesting programs and well-run meetings. We are grateful for his continued participation even from the sidelines.

Jenny Begin, with myriad demands on her life, took on the presidency until family illness forced her to step down. Fortunately, for everyone, she continued leading our successful Peaceful Beginnings.

Jo Clauson stepped into the president's vacancy until she, too, was forced by a family illness to resign, but she continues to serve on the leadership team

Thanks go also to Sharon Crosbie for three years of dedicated and skillful work as Newsletter Editor.

We are grateful to Paul Kando for continuing his tireless work, bringing excellent, informative films to Skidompha Library.

Kay Liss has provided outstanding programs and is a valuable member of the leadership team.

Belva Ann Prycel, artist and author, and the third member of the leadership team, is providing both excellent organizational skills and great inspiration for the group.

Of necessity, I've left out many events and neglected to mention names of hardworking, effective members. I recognize them now: Alfred and Molly Eipper, John and Florence Field, Enid Sharp and Robert Marshall, Arthur Hamlin, Jean and Dick Harris, Edward and Julia Myers, Ruth Pope, Joan Beauregard and David Ellis, Dick and Sally Snyder.

CONA speakers through 2005 included:

- Dr. William Caldicott, husband of Helen Caldicott, both renowned anti-nuclear activists
- Buzz Fitzgerald, former President of B.I.W.
- Thomas Watson, former President of I.B.M.
- Robert White, former Ambassador to El Salvador
- Donald Kennedy, former President of Stanford University
- Admiral Eugene Carroll, Deputy Director of C.D.I. on the C.T, B.T.
- Tom Andrews, former US congressman

I've not recorded here each and every event on CONA's calendar, for obvious reasons of constraint. Nor have I recognized all our members who have given time, skills and support. We are forever grateful, and pledge to continue to make CONA a strong and useful organization.



Kay Liss of the CONA Board of Directors, right, presents checks to Nancy Ault, Director of the Round Top Center for the Arts, left, and Connie Best, president of CHIP, Inc. (Community Housing Improvement Project) Aug. 8 at Round Top in Damariscotta. The total profits from CONA's recent Helen Thomas Event were contributed because CONA's events and programs are supported by membership dues and contributions. The Thomas event was a benefit for the two community organizations.

CONA also has given financial support to Heifer International, and National Peace Demonstrations.

CONA BOARD MEMBERS

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Carolyn Hardman
Belva Ann Prycel

PEACEFUL BEGINNINGS

January 1, 2007, Skidompha Library, Noon until 3:00 p.m.

We call it Peaceful Beginnings because it is! It's a peaceful way to start the coming year, and CONA is all about peace. Everyone, of all ages, is invited to attend the Peaceful Beginnings celebration of community on New Years Day.

The first Peaceful Beginnings was organized during the first Gulf War more that a decade ago as a way to bring people together to reflect, create, foster kindness, get to know our neighbors and focus on the joyful. Years later, our country is still engaged in aggressive military action around the globe and during Peaceful Beginnings, on this first day of the New Year, we can come together to affirm the peaceful aspects of our society through poetry, music, art, food and conversation.

Everyone is encouraged to bring finger food to share during the informal potluck throughout the afternoon. Check with local newspapers for a complete listing of the events and musicians at the end of December.



One of the events at Peaceful Beginnings 2006

If you would like to help out in any way email Caroline Walker at revcarln@midcoast.com or call Jenny Begin at 563-3781. We hope to see you all on New Years Day. Invite your friends.

POTLUCK AND POETRY

Sunday, December 3, 6 pm at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle.

We're honored and excited that Gary Lawless will again read some of his poetry for this ever popular gathering. Bring a dish and selection from one of your favorite poets—and that may be you—to share. We encourage you also to bring a few extra copies of the poem you will read for the rest of us to savor again later.

Chimney Farm

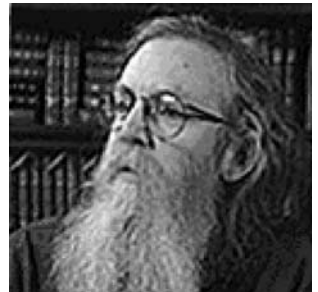
Stars, tonight there are
many stars and Mars,
Mars is the closest
in 60,000 years old
war god, above
the horizon and
east of the moon.
The loons are startled.
I wander the dark
farm, planet lit, old
red god, sacred to
the horse, the wolf, night
walkers and thieves, god
of the fields, the crickets
sing the songs of the dead you
rise red, turning
to gold.

Untitled

I have become afraid of language,
the sentence, the phrase, the word -
Their words say "We are at war".
I am not at war.
I do not stand united with
bomb, bullet, gun.
What god blesses us and not others?
My gods bless the earth,
sing old, beautiful songs,
and form their words
in the fire, in the heart.

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FMI go to <http://www.mipoesias.com/September2004/lawless.htm>



Gary Lawless is co-owner of Gulf of Maine Bookstore in Brunswick, Maine, and is editor/publisher of Blackberry Books. Over the last few years he has read poetry in Italy, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Cuba. He currently edits the embar-go poets poetry blog.

EFFECTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE IN MAINE

Recently Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) released the results of a comprehensive new study of how sea-level rise, caused by global warming, could affect Maine's coast. We undertook this study because scientists have become increasingly concerned about melting glaciers and accelerated warming and sea-level rise. What was found was troubling—our coastal economy, environment and many treasured places could be devastated if more is not done to stop global warming. NRCM identified 20 highly vulnerable communities and created detailed maps of some of the most at risk parts of our coast. You can see the maps and learn more on a new section "Effects of Sea-Level Rise in Maine" on their website, www.maineenvironment.org

Some the losses of major sea-level rise would include:

- Statewide, between 20,000 and 128,000 acres lost,
- Popham Beach and Reid State Park devastated,
- 1,000 acres of downtown Portland wiped out,
- Bath Iron Works is submerged,
- Scarborough Marsh completely ruined,
- Hundreds of millions of dollars of property lost, AND
- President Bush's family home on Walker's Point is totally flooded.

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CONAMAINE.COM**

"The enormous power of private capital cannot be effectively checked even by a democratically organized political society. This is true since the members of legislative bodies are selected by political parties, largely financed or otherwise influenced by private capitalists who, for all practical purposes, separate the electorate from the legislature...under existing conditions, private capitalists inevitably control, directly or indirectly, the main sources of of information (press,radio, education). It is thus extremely difficult, and indeed in most cases quite impossible, for the individual citizen to come to objective conclusions and to make intelligent use of his political rights."

Selected by Julia Myers from Ideas and Opinions by Albert Einstein, ed. by Carl Seelig and other sources, Bonanza Books, New York, 1954.



Peaceful Beginnings 2006

CONA 2007 MEMBERSHIP

*** KEEP CONA STRONG.**

Your support will expand our activities.

- I am/we are renewing CONA membership for 2007
- I/we would like to join CONA

Suggested contribution: \$15 individual; \$25 family;

\$50-\$100 patron; or what you can afford. \$ _____

Your additional contribution to the Julia Myers Speakers

Fund allows us to bring important speakers from farther
away. \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Please include your e-mail address: it's the fastest, least costly way we can keep you informed of CONA events and other community activities of interest.

Name _____

e-mail _____

phone _____

Address _____

May we call on you to help with a mailing? YES!

to help set up a program? YES!

Please suggest program topics or speakers.

Please mail to CONA, PO Box 649, Newcastle, ME 04553



Peaceful Beginnings

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