



Cobscook Currents

News from the Cobscook Community Learning Center

Spring/Summer 2012

Dream of Hope & Practice of Democracy

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Penny came to me and said, "I want to do something different with this newsletter. It is great to report on our accomplishments, and important to keep our community connected around important developments, but this is the edition when we acknowledge our supporters and we should use this newsletter to really hold up why their support and the work of CCLC is so important." We decided to invite reflections about the significance of the CCLC from a breadth of perspectives: youth and elders; those living and working in Washington County, and from colleagues half way around the planet; academics and business people; all connected by a common commitment to do the best we can to contribute to community vitality near and far, for ourselves and for the world.

I am composing my contribution from a community center on the shores of Puget Sound in Washington State where I have just completed a four-day retreat with the Center for Courage and Renewal. Thirty-five community leaders gathered from around North America, from Edmonton, Alberta to Abilene, Texas, and, as the old song goes, from Portland east, to Portland west, to kick off a six month pilot program designed to support and sustain these individuals, their work, and their organizations.

The Center for Courage and Renewal grows from the inspirational work of Parker Palmer whose most recent book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*, concludes with a crescendo of insights that illuminate our options and the implications of our choices. Parker's book maps the landscape of social change work so that we can understand and sustain our journeys deeper into the creation of systems worthy of the human spirit. That was the original intention set forth by the founders of the CCLC, a vision sustained and refreshed by those working to forward this important work today, and conveyed in CCLC's mission which is *to create responsive educational opportunities that strengthen personal, community, and global well-being*.

When you take in the collective reflections that comprise this edition of Cobscook Currents (and be sure to include acknowledgment of the many supporters as part of that collective reflection) you will have taken a glimpse into a field of intentional social design work that we are calling *Generative and Restorative Social Ecology*. Colby Lewey captures the essence of this when he names that the CCLC "was created by the dream of hope, founded with hard work and dedication to that dream, and exists to help people keep dreaming, and to act towards a better place to live." Palmer concludes his powerful book with Reinhold Niebuhr's beautiful words, "*Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope.*" The CCLC reflects this new generation of social design. Thanks to all for your many contributions to help carry us to this place where hope can be nurtured and fed. Here's to another year of growth, transformation and engagement.

"The CCLC evokes a kind of passion in those of us lucky enough to have seen or felt its touch, so I realized I wanted to write a love letter."

- Marjorie Withers, in her piece for *Cobscook Currents*

Alan Furth
Executive Director



Alan enjoying his time in Washington.

Read on for more great essays from our community partners.

Thanks to our 2011 donors!

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Successful Program, Successful Students

By Dan Cohnstaedt, Principal, Calais High School

I want to congratulate the Cobscook Community Learning Center for the successful creation and launch of their alternative, experiential high school program, The Community Year (TCY). The existence of this high-quality program is a huge accomplishment, and the staff and teachers at the CCLC deserve tremendous credit for ushering this program into being. It's a hard road to bring an innovative idea to life, and this program now exists as one which is true to its original vision: the right program for the right students at the right time.

The Community Year offers its students a highly customized, self-paced, academically rigorous program, and it's one they can succeed in. It's serving students who



TCY students visiting Fundy National Park.

were not going to succeed in a traditional high school. School systems lose these kids all the time – if they can't engage in school, they drop out. That's what happens. TCY is a place where these students can be themselves, learn in ways that work for them, and work their way through a customized curriculum that meets their needs. I see it whenever I come by the CCLC or when I talk to the parents of these students: these are kids that are excited to be in school again.

My background is in experiential education. Before moving to Maine to take the position as the Principal of Calais High School, I worked for years in a variety of educational settings that relied on experiential approaches to learning and growth. I worked in programs that had kids living outside for months at a time. I led many different types of wilderness experiences, and so I am a believer in immersive, educational experiences like those offered by TCY. When Alan first approached me about the program, I was immediately sold on it, and I loved that it wasn't just a dream. It was a concrete program with all the important factors already in place. We moved ahead, and I haven't regretted it.

The Community Year utilizes nationally recognized best practices and achieves academics that align with national common core standards. Within that, the curriculum is flexible enough to allow for a wide range of student abilities and interests. The curriculum is engaging, fun, and rigorous all at the same time. TCY's teachers have created such a strong curriculum for their program, that I'm certain it will impact curricula across the region. All of the research into what works best supports this kind of program.

Students entering this program get a fresh start. They can express themselves and be comfortable with who they are. This program works because these students are able to build lasting relationships with their teachers and their peers. The work is consistent and integrated.



Trying out skiing with a backpack.



The gear rode in on a sled.

Some kids, for many reasons, aren't able to do well in school for themselves – they have to start with wanting to do it for someone else first, and then they learn to do it for themselves. The setting and philosophies of TCY allow for those inspiring relationships to form, and students take those skills with them when the program is completed. Students who were in the program last year and are back in regular schools this year are showing increased attendance, more self-

esteem, and higher levels of social awareness. They are less likely to get distracted by unnecessary social dramas. With the factors that were mitigating their success removed, they find themselves better able to compete academically.

Wilderness programs don't work just because everyone is outside. Experiential programs remove the constraints of time and space. Being immersed in an experience reduces everything to its most basic level. Groups operating in immediate experiences, whether they are in the wilderness, or building a timber frame structure, or collecting sap to boil into syrup, allow for things to be addressed in the moment. Learning moments are clearer. Behaviors that need to change can be managed as they are happening. Opportunities for inquiry present themselves naturally. Customized education is a buzz phrase that is getting used all across the country, and we don't have much of that here in the US, particularly not around here. But we have it at the CCLC.



Time for in-class studying. One student helping another.



The students in front of Congress.

Now Accepting Applications!

Do you know of a high school student who would benefit from the flexible, experiential curriculum of The Community Year?

We are accepting applications for the 2012—2013 academic year.

Get a full year of high school credit while learning in a unique environment and having a great time.

Visit www.theccclc.org or call (207) 733-2233 to learn more.

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CCLC as Seen From the Heart of Europe

By *Lucie Cizkova, Czech Republic*
 Vice President, Association for World Education

The CCLC – is an abbreviation I first encountered during the Association for World Education International Council meeting in October 2010 in Denmark, where Alan Furth shared his views on learning, where he sang songs and recited poems. That encounter with Alan has led me to get to know the CCLC, and its vision of integrity, honesty, courage, mission, vision, down-to-earth approach, appreciation of what is, striving for the best, being generous, accepting and loving. There are several aspects of learning, education and schooling that are crucial, and are all represented by the CCLC.



Lucie Cizkova

The first one being **relevance**. The CCLC has been built upon the needs and dreams of the local community. What I see a lot these days in my part of the world is the focus on all those latest buzz words that should attract you to the fastest MBA program ever, to the most prestigious high school or the most effective language training. However, what seems to be missing is the long-term relevance for people's lives. The message goes: learn fast, get a job quickly...and be frustrated for the rest of your life by not being in touch with your deeper purpose, with your community or the world at large. This is where CCLC is much more "modern" than many urban training centers in my opinion. It offers what is needed in and linked to a specific region; namely learning opportunities for people whom you listen to, understand and build a future with.

The second aspect is **respect**. One doesn't even need to speak English to sense from all photos in the CCLC online gallery and on Facebook how each and every learner and contributor is regarded with admiration and respect. There's also respect shown for local traditions, for the first nations, for nature and its resources, for diversity and different ways of learning. Through their high school programs, the CCLC not only paves someone's way to a high school diploma – more importantly, it removes stigmas and shows people that it's not solely their circumstances that determine how their life unfolds, it's also their choices, commitment, and courage.

What is the AWE?

Association for World Education is an international non-governmental organization with consultative status in the United Nations and with more than twenty chapters across the world. AWE is a network of individuals, groups, and organizations that work with innovative methods of education, democracy, human rights, and cultural exchange across the globe. CCLC has been a member of AWE since 2007.

And the third aspect is **(re)connection**. No matter what spiritual or religious background one has, it is clear that everything in our world today is connected – in terms of environment, economy or a higher and deeper purpose or a driving force. The CCLC reflects this complex simplicity (or simple complexity?) in a very straight-forward way. It conveys the message that in order to learn effectively, we need to seek the (re)connection with our inner guide, with our fellow humans, with the land that we were born to, with our words and actions and with anything that's beyond our lives here and now – our future generations and their sense of purpose in the universe.

I'd love a similar learning center to exist in my part of the world, a place of engaged interaction, relevant learning opportunities, respectful relations and a strong connection to the best in people, nature, and the world.

A Place of Love and Community

By Marjorie Withers, Director, Community Caring Collaborative



Marjorie Withers (second from right) with Passages students and staff.

I recently was invited to write this article about the Cobscook Community Learning Center. The CCLC invokes a kind of passion in those of us lucky enough to have seen or felt its touch, so I realized I wanted to write a love letter.

I arrived in Washington County 28 years ago, raised my children here, and now watch my grandchildren as they fall in love with this corner of Maine that is blessed with vistas and space and people and at the same time often is seen as lacking. Those who focus solely on its disadvantages have not seen the CCLC. Out on a peninsula, the CCLC is an oasis of learn-

ing and collaboration as well as a center of celebration. I remember my first visit to the campus. It felt like I had arrived at a spot that could be both the emotional and educational center for all of Washington County. It is a place where what you feel and what you think have impact, and what you dream has the potential to become a reality.

The CCLC is dedicated to seeing strengths in all of those who cross its threshold. It is strength-based and welcoming of all cultures. It believes in changing community by helping individuals grow, learn and create. It believes in community and recognizes that the future rests on creating places of attachment and investment that help people dream and bloom.

In my professional life, I am the director of an initiative called the Community Caring Collaborative, which was lucky enough to hold a day of visioning at the CCLC, so I know first-hand its potential as a retreat center where agencies can come together to brainstorm and learn from each other. On a regular basis, I work closely with the Passages Program that is offered in partnership with The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden. The program gives teen parents the opportunity to complete their secondary education. But Passages, like everything at the CCLC, is more than that. It changes lives by supporting parents actively not only in their education but in their role as parents. Bringing them together for workshops and experiences, the program thrives not only because of its outstanding faculty, but also because of the experience of spending time at the center. It is a program that intersects with many of the CCC's partners and it is a model for change. Recently I gave a workshop to Passages parents at the center. Each person there had a baby with them and each baby was being cared for by the whole group as the parents sought new information. In that room, at that moment I saw the magic of the CCLC. It creates home — a place that is safe and invested in helping people to become the best they can be in whatever area they wish to master.

Places such as this do not just happen any more than happy marriages occur randomly. It is a place that works because all its partners work together. It has a vision that belongs to its founders and reflects a world view in which people matter. It is a base for community and individuals. Whether it is an event like Pizza and Music Night and the sharing of music and food, or classes in pottery, drawing, or fiber artists, creating a home in which to create, the CCLC is dedicated to enriching people's lives and being responsive to their needs. I am grateful to have this beautiful place right here in this beautiful region that is my home.

Save The Date!

Join us for graduation at the CCLC on Sat., June 9. This year's graduating Passages students (eight young moms and dads) will march in caps and gowns alongside students from The Community Year.

Congrats to our graduates!

Maine Community Foundation,
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Margaret Kravchuk
Mark and Arlene Wren
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Terry and Cathy Bell

Why Is the CCLC Important?

By Colby Lewey, CCLC Board Member

The CCLC is so important to communities it serves. It was created as a response to problems and out of the desire to help fix a broken system by offering people a chance and a choice. This idea of positive change is important to the local community in a time where hope was and still can be like a fading candle light. The CCLC's thirteen-year (and counting!) history proves that it's more than a few buildings with a few people doing music circles. With every course and



A very young Colby enjoying the CCLC.

class taught at the CCLC there is but one goal - to make people's lives better through learning. But the CCLC doesn't just offer classes, have amazing staff and volunteers, and have an atmosphere of tranquility. It offers something essential that's lacking in this day and age, even to this region and state. It offers hope. The very ethos of the CCLC rests on the premise of nourishing people enough to help them grow, not only as people, but members of a more healthy community. If the CCLC were to vanish, a piece of people's spirit would vanish along with it. The spirit of the CCLC is that of love and acceptance. Here it doesn't matter what walk of life you come from or how much money you have in your pocket, what matters is you.

I was first introduced to the CCLC when I was twelve years old by taking a pottery class with my mom and aunt. From there I spent a few years away from the CCLC, always wondering and imagining what was happening at "that place where I took that pottery class." It wasn't until the start of my senior year in high school that the board president recommended me for service on the board of directors. That was three years ago, and I still serve with the board. As the board and the overall organization expands, so does my commitment.

The CCLC itself is something more than just a beautiful place and a group of wonderful people – they're my motivators who always push me to do my best, they're my mentors who see me through the hard times, they're my heroes, and I look up to them. But most of all, they're my family. The organization itself even serves as a guiding tool for me, the idea was created by the dream of hope, founded with hard work and dedication to that dream, and exists to help people keep dreaming, and to act towards a better place to live.

The CCLC is continuing to prove that people who work and exist in the name of love can and will improve the quality of life in their community. The economic impact of the CCLC will continue to be a positive one that adds to this region's overall sustainability. This will be done by offering more arts-based classes and expanding programming to fit the growing interest and need of the region, and by creating much-needed jobs as the organization grows. In the future, we will all experience the CCLC's impact on the quality of the lives of our young people. The CCLC is creating change in the world through example and meaningful educational practices.



An older Colby in the Jimmy Soctomah memorial park at the CCLC. Jimmy was Colby's uncle.

The CCLC is Good for the Economy

By John Phinney, Chief Operating Officer, Cobscook Bay Company

Education and jobs, this is what the Cobscook Community Learning Center is all about. Education and jobs go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. We have to keep our youngest and brightest here. People in the community partnered up to do something, to create a stepping stone to what we want for the people of this area. I've always loved what the Cobscook Community Learning Center does for the community.

When I was a kid growing up on Campobello, the bay used to be full of hand-line boats. I come from a long line of Cobscook Bay fisherman and fish buyers and have seen a steady decline in the industry. I watched the end of the sardine industry, the beginning and near end of the sea urchin fishery, and a struggling scallop fishery. An economy based solely on resource extraction can no longer be sustained. We need to create jobs here by adding value to the fisheries we have left.

I watched the economic decline here. We lost our school, and with that, a part of our identity. We have to send our kids away to be educated. There are no jobs here so our children have to move away to make something of themselves. Working together with the CCLC I believe that we can give our children the option of success here in Washington county.

When I heard about the business plan that the CCLC had to create a company that would bring back some economic life to the area while supporting a strong social mission based around education, I wanted to be part of it. They needed someone to take it and run with it. I've always been a doer. I jump in with both feet and refuse to fail. I recognized this in the CCLC and knew this was the start of something great. And that was how the Cobscook Bay Company and Maine Fresh were born.

The original plan called for making chowder, but we recognized that seafood pies were a better product. By making the product here in Washington County, we're keeping the value added to our own products. The increased profits stay right here in Maine, not going to out of state processing plants. Besides the seafood, we also use local produce, dairy and whole wheat flour for the other ingredients in the pies. We try to benefit the local economy as much as possible.

Now we make lobster, scallop, crab, and shrimp pies and they're being sold all over New England and down to the Mid-Atlantic States in grocery stores like Hannaford, Whole Foods and Shaws. We just returned from the Boston seafood show where our pies were a big hit. I expect Maine Fresh seafood pies will be nationwide within the year generating many employment opportunities.

I am happy that twenty five percent of the profits from Maine Fresh pies go back to the CCLC to help support their educational programming. We're also creating good jobs here and bringing money into the community. I love to hire people and give them jobs; I've been able to do that here at the Cobscook Bay Company. With education opportunities and good jobs in the area, my kids and everyone else's won't have to leave to make a living.



John Phinney

Updates from Maine Fresh

The good news keeps rolling in!

- Whole Foods Mid-Atlantic region has added pies to their forty-two stores.
- A food service pack has joined the family of Maine Fresh products. This addition was created with help and support from PFG Northcenter.
- In April, Maine Fresh had a booth at the Atlantic seafood show in Boston, and received lots of attention and leads.
- Watch *Maine Boats and Harbors* for an upcoming article about Maine Fresh and the CCLC!

*Thanks to all our supporters.
You make a huge difference!*

To learn more about supporting the CCLC, or to become a donor, please give us a call at (207) 733-2233, or visit our website at: www.theclc.org. Donations of all sizes are needed to make these great programs happen.

Thank you!

Fresh Eyes

By Jack Williams, Provost, University of New England

It has been almost a year since my wife, Beth, and I moved to Maine, where I started as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of New England (UNE). Prior to coming to Maine, our most recent journey has been in the Midwest and the South, with sixteen years in South Dakota followed by four years in Nashville, Tennessee. Our move to Maine was quite intentional; during the last two decades we have occasionally traveled here for meetings or vacations and have come to love its beauty and the generosity and warmth of its people.



Jack Williams, Provost of the University of New England

On my personal and professional journey, I have come to appreciate the special strengths and wisdom of rural America and that of America's First Peoples. So, early in my time at UNE, I asked my newfound friend, Joe Wolfberg, to show me around Washington County. Thus it was that last October, we spent a few hours together with Alan Furth and some of the CCLC leadership. Even before words were spoken, I could sense something special in the place and people that are the CCLC. The energy and the peace were palpable. Early dialogs among us led to the first of many exciting exchanges on possibilities and dreams that could come to fruition as partners. It has been exciting to dream and explore and grow together since.

Since last October (2011), we have accelerated our motions together, with CCLC leaders first coming south to UNE and then during a three-day retreat recently at CCLC. During that last event, we all entered into a circle of trust and had tremendous open and frank brainstorming sessions. This circle included a few members from UNE and about a dozen from the CCLC family at different times.

The most important things that have emerged from our intense times together during the last six months have been the development of trusting relationships and a deep sense of commitment to our shared vision. I have learned through the years that a little extra time in developing solid relationships has huge dividends for action later, so the many hours we have already spent in dialogs will have tremendous benefits as we move forward... building a solid foundation for an enduring partnership in a time where everyone seems to want a quick fix.

Our next immediate steps together are to build on our motion and preliminary planning and continue to identify "access points," areas of overlap of ongoing interests and activities where we can quickly blossom from our current strengths and energies and rapidly multiply towards our shared goals. At the same time, we will continue to solidify the development of longer-term strategic plans towards greater goals that reach far beyond our immediate communities and current activities.

The concepts of generative and restorative social ecology that we all embrace are nothing new in Native American and some other rural cultures, but they seem to be more greatly ignored as the pace of our technological lives rapidly accelerates. What the world sometimes seems to overlook is that the basis for enduring success is the development of networks that tap into collective knowledge and collective wisdom-- the strength of a true community. I am energized by the development of our community and look forward to the service that we can all provide collectively as we work towards making our dreams become realities.

Volunteer Spotlight



Rob Costa

It takes many hands to make the work of the CCLC happen, and we are so grateful to our volunteers for all that they offer. Lynne Hatch and Rob Costa are both tirelessly helping to keep us sailing smoothly. Lynne volunteers during evening hours and offers critical administrative support as well as keeping the place beautiful. Rob is on deck most days and is always ready to lend a hand with whatever needs to be done — from data analysis to grinding coffee, Rob does it all with a smile. We're also graced with WA student Makayla Hatch who is our trusty art camp assistant. We love our volunteers! If you or anyone else you know is interested in volunteering at the CCLC, give us a call at (207) 733-2233. We need help with childcare, grounds keeping, office tasks, and more!



Makayla Hatch (L)



Lynne Hatch

Programs!

By Carrie Callahan, Director of Education & Programs

Winter programming at the CCLC was warm and busy, as our campus bustled with people of all ages. One highlight of the season was a three-day-workshop, with Master Maine Guide Raymond Reitze (www.theoldturtle.com), in which participants each built a pair of snowshoes. Other great courses included a variety of fiber arts techniques, (knitting mittens and socks), computer skills, reading music, writing poetry, art studio drawing, and exploring techniques in bread making and baking.



Spring—coming right up!

Art Studio, Pen & Ink w/ Kat Robertson, Sat 9am—12pm, May 12—June 16

USCG Boater Safety w/ Doug Gaither, Sun 2—4 pm, April 29—May 20

Wool Rug Braiding w/ Beth Roy & Linda Courtney, Sat 10 am—2 pm, May 5, 12 & 19

Nature Poetry Workshop w/ Valerie Lawson & Mike Brown, Mon 6:30—8:30 pm, May 7, 14 & 21

Outdoor Cob Oven & Pizza! w/ Tim Roy, Sat 9 am—2 pm, May 12

Social Security & Medicare Questions & Discussion c/o AARP, Mon 2 pm, May 14 & Tues 10 am, May 15

Scythe Workshop w/ Carol Bryan & Richard Scott, Sat 8 am—3 pm, May 19

Pottery w/ Tim Christensen
Tues 6—9 pm, May 22—June 26

Belly Dancing w/ Kessie Smith-Marengo, Tues 5:30—6:30 pm, May 22—June 26

BYOB (Body!) w/ Samantha Williams
Wed 6—7pm, May 30—July 11

Computer Skills w/ Lisa & Kevin Thompson, Wed 5:30—7:30 pm, May 23—June 27

Plein Aire Nature Sketching & Journaling w/ Patty Vinzani, Sun 2—5pm, May 27

9th Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival May 25—28

Many spring classes have taken place (Grow Your Own Organic Garden), some are in mid-swing—and more about to begin (see sidebars). We have worked with local schools and scout groups to provide custom-designed classes, most recently two days of cooking, photography, and polymer clay workshops for students of Washington Academy's Arts Week.



We've just completed the last Art & Activity Camp of this school year, with kids exploring their talents during a week of pottery. They fired some great pieces, and exploded a few, too! (In fact, I'm certain the explosions will be what makes their experience memorable.) Plans for six weeks of *Birds, Bees; Flowers, Trees* summer camps are incubating. Each week will be designed around a theme, including projects and activities where kids will learn and create. For example, *Music & Motion* will teach kids how to make percussion instruments and beat rhythms while others dance.

Summer and autumn programs are in the making—the menu will include three weekday evenings of health and fitness classes. We will continue to offer sessions of certain classes which are achieving a trusty following, (pottery, belly dancing), and we'd love to hear from you if there is something special you'd like the CCLC to offer!

In addition to the CCLC's signature first-Friday Pizza & Music Night, we've added a Third-Friday Coffeehouse. Katherine Mahon is our team organizer and totally transforms the Commons to a

cool, finger-snapping hangout, complete with mood-setting lights and candles, while Cobscook Bay Music's Fred Pierce seeks out musicians to top the bill. Coffeehouse invites aspiring performers to take the stage during the open mic segment—and we've enjoyed some great new talent of all ages. This event also provides a platform for local groups to sell refreshments as a fundraiser for their organization.

We are currently in the planning phase of holding semi-monthly meditation sessions, also quarterly Solstice and Equinox celebrations with a bonfire and freshly-made marshmallows. Check our website often as we bring you more exciting new programs! And, as always, please spread the word about all the CCLC has to offer our families, friends, and communities.

. . . . summer preview

Raku Pottery Technique w/ Tim Christensen— June 16 & 23

Moving Poetry Toward Music
w/ Gordon Bok, - June 24

Herbal Id & Medicine-Making
w/ Amy Zipperer

Photography Series w/ Pat Open:
Beyond Point & Shoot; Introduction
to Lightroom & Lightroom 101

**Window Restoration & Other
House Projects!** w/ Pat Owen

**Traditional Pack Basket-
Making** w/ Ray Reitze

Canoe Paddle-Making w/ Ray
Reitze

Mushrooms w/ Greg Marley
Cheese-Making w/ Kim Roos

. . . . looking ahead

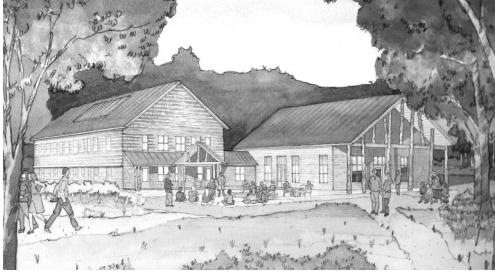
Build Your Own Kickwheel w/
Tim Christensen

Copyediting & Proofreading w/
Gretchen Gordon

Stained Glass w/ Mark Wren
Weaving w/ Linda Courtney

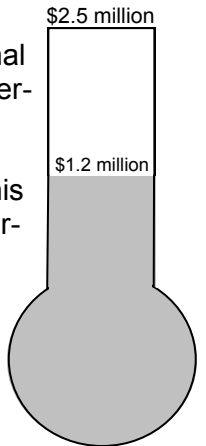
Fiction or Memoir w/ the Maine
Writers and Publishers Alliance

Heartwood Lodge Campaign Making Progress



Our team is still working hard to raise the necessary funds to complete Heartwood Lodge. We're almost halfway there! This LEED-certified facility will add residential capacity and additional classroom space to the campus, and will allow us to offer longer-term, immersion programs.

Please take the time to visit our website to learn more about this coming addition to our campus. There are ample naming opportunities for anyone wishing to leave their mark on this building. We would like to thank all of those who are donating their time to the campaign and to all of you who have already given your financial support. Heartwood Lodge will become a reality, and will help carry the CCLCL to its full programmatic potential and to financial sustainability. Watch for an invitation to the grand opening!



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Three Class Acts: An Evening of Poetry and Performance *All Star Lineup of Poets in Portland for the CCLC* Get your tickets now!!!

On Sunday, June 3 at 7 pm, four-time winner of the National Poetry Slam competition, Taylor Mali will take the stage alongside two Maine favorites, Elizabeth Peavey and Gary Lawless, to raise money in support of scholarships at the Cobscook Community Learning Center. One of Mali's most well-loved pieces, *What Teachers Make*, has inspired a book and made him an internationally-known advocate for teachers around the world. "It's one thing for me to write inspirational poems about the art of teaching and broadening educational opportunities for all different types of learners," says Mali, "but places like the Cobscook Community Learning Center actually do these things year after year." The event will be in Ludcke Auditorium on the Portland campus of the University of New England. Preferred seating is \$35 and includes a pre-show reception with all three poets at UNE's art gallery. Tickets for general admission are \$15 or \$12 for students with ID. For tickets, visit www.theccclc.org or call (207) 733-2233.

