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From: Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization <info@munjoyhill.org>

To: ": Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization <info@munjoyhill.org

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 09:15:33 AM EST

Subject: Friendly February on Munjoy Hill

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

92 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
info@munjoyhill.org
February 1, 2024

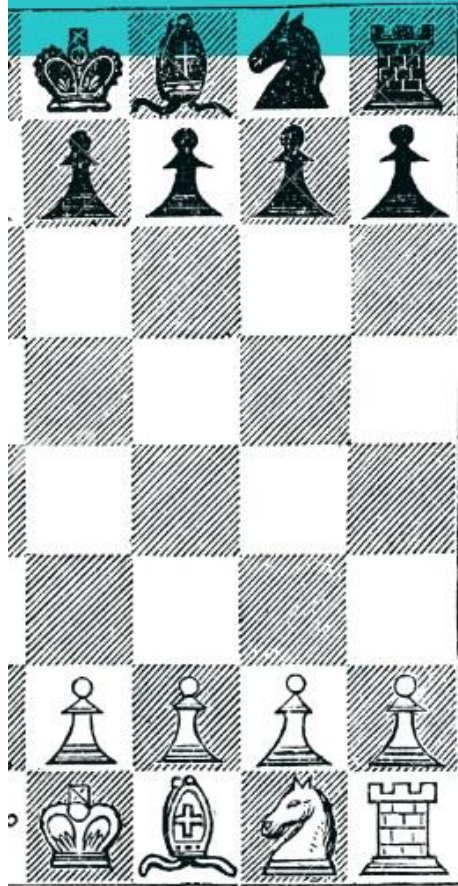


*Proudly serving Portland's Munjoy Hill neighborhood since
1979.*

MHNO Kicks Off Monthly Chess Meetup, Sunday, February 4th, 5:30 - 7:30

Chess players are invited to come to the Hill House, 92 Congress Street, the first Sunday of each month from 5:30 until 7:30 pm to play casual chess with your Munjoy Hill neighbors. Bring your chess board and your chess skills. All ages and all levels of play are welcome.

The first meeting will be February 4, 2024. Please text Peter Blackstone @ (207)939-9167 if you have any questions.



ARE YOU A CHESS PLAYER?

BRING YOUR CHESS
BOARD AND YOUR
CHESS SKILLS.

MEET YOUR
NEIGHBORS AT THE
MHNO HILL HOUSE!

FIRST MEETING IS
SUNDAY, FEB 4, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH FROM
5:30PM - 7:30PM
MHNO HILL HOUSE
92 CONGRESS ST.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.
ALL LEVEL OF PLAYERS WELCOMED
ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT PETER
BLACKSTONE AT (207)939-9167

Portland Works

Portraits of Portland Workers

Opening Friday February 9, 5:00-8:00 PM
92 Congress Street



Tom Bloom

Munjoy Hill Photographer

Hosted by Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

Please join us for the opening reception on **Friday, February 9th** at the Hill House, 92 Congress Street, from 5 to 8 p.m. for Portland Works by photographer Tom Bloom. The show may also be viewed on Saturday, February 10th from 9 a.m. to noon at the Good Munjoy Morning coffee.

Maine Art Scene described the show as "an exhibit of portraits of residents of Portland, celebrating the nobility of hard work. All of the personalities in the show work at jobs which most of us pass by without noticing but which are essential to the special character of Portland."

Tom Bloom is a professional photographer living in Portland ME. For more than fifty years he has had studios in Boston, New York and Portland. He has photographed major

performing companies such as Boston Ballet, American Repertory Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, many others. He has recorded the work of many fine artists' painting and sculpture, and has specialized in table-top advertising photography and archival copy work.

Mr. Bloom is also a professional actor and director, working on Broadway, Off-Broadway and extensively in regional theatre across the country. Mr. Bloom's photography can be seen at www.tombloom.com.



M **GOOD MUNJOY**
orning

Saturday February 10th

9:00-12:00

Drop by for free coffee, tea and cookies.
Chat with neighbors. Meet new friends.
Enjoy Tom Bloom's Photography Exhibit
Let's celebrate community!

**Munjoy Hill
Neighborhood
Organization
92 Congress St**

Monthly Highlights:

MHNO SUSTAINABLE LIVING

By Mike Dixon, MHNO Vice President, m.dixon@munjoyhill.org

What a meteorologically mind-boggling month it's been. The announcement of winter's arrival in this space in early December was perhaps a bit premature, as the holiday season passed without a snowflake or sub-freezing day, but now, suddenly, the Maine winter we all remember has come and gone multiple times.

On a personal note, I'm still stunned by the whipsaw effect of watching, in a single month, my children's eyes open wide to see [cars floating through the Scarborough Marsh](#) and [canoes paddling over a Commercial Street wharf](#), then squint shut while sledding through stinging sideways sleet and snow with scores of neighbors down the Eastern Prom hillside. Just days after they joined neighbors in sweatshirts cleaning up the debris washed up on—and over--East End Beach by those record tides, they were trying their first “wild” skating on the fully frozen Stroudwater River. As I write this, snow is falling picturesquely outside, but the forecast warns that it will all melt within 48 hours or less.

[Torrential rains](#), [full-throated nor'easters](#), wave-whipping and tree-splitting [winds](#), [record king tides](#), and more. The climate crisis is hitting closer and closer to home. As Chellie Pingree [observed](#), Maine has endured not one but three devastating storms in a single month, wreaking tens of millions of dollars of damage to both inland and coastal communities, downtowns, and working waterfronts—including ours. Also on display was plenty of classic Mainer grit and resilience, but it was a wake-up call nonetheless. As Maine Climate Council co-chair Hannah Pingree [put it](#) after announcing the Council's expedited meeting to address these storms: “The last month has made us all feel like, ‘Oh, wow, these climate impacts are really here. I didn't think these things would happen so soon.’”

But happen [they did](#). Happening [they are](#). Happen [they will](#)—with increasing frequency and intensity.

What can we do here on our little hill in Portland?

Well, with the turning of the new year comes a [new Mayor](#), [new City Council](#), and new [Sustainability & Transportation](#) Committee with a new Chair. (The next meeting of the S&T Committee is scheduled for February 14th.) In its [2024 Council Goals](#) statement, the full Council has identified implementation of the City's [One Climate Future](#) plan as a top priority. In case you missed it, the City Planning Department recently articulated its focus on [climate resiliency zoning](#) in the [ReCode](#) process, including updated “hydrodynamic” flood maps.

December's [COP28 in the United Arab Emirates managed to conclude with a resolution to phase out fossil fuels](#), and so can we. In your home: switch to renewable energy sources. On the streets: get an EV instead of a gas-guzzler, reduce or eliminate use of the car altogether, walk, bike, roll, or take the bus.

The [Portland Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#) (BPAC) works to improve conditions for active, people-powered transportation and meets monthly, next on the evening of February 12, 2024. Efficiency Maine is poised to deploy [\\$15 million worth of EV charging](#) infrastructure throughout the state. EV driving in Maine was the recent featured topic in the Coffee & Climate series, which will tackle Jetport Sustainability via Zoom on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Meanwhile, the [Portland Climate Action Team](#) continues to advocate for accelerated implementation of the One Climate Future plan, including establishment of a city “Sustainability Fund,” and will hold its next, in-person meeting in late February.

For its part, [GMRI](#) continues to monitor increasing temperatures, acidification, and sea levels in the Gulf of Maine, and is seeking volunteers for a [community science project](#) to

help document the extent and impacts of our astronomically elevated high tides, next anticipated to hit the second weekend of February.

All of these efforts admittedly pale in comparison to what state and federal governments, multinational corporations and billionaire investors could and should be doing in response to the climate crisis, but our actions might just have some incremental effect, inspire more collective action, keep the sense of futility at bay, and connect us to other kindred-spirited neighbors.

In that vein, please share with us and your neighbors your photos, stories, tips, and ideas about how we can improve our neighborhood's resilience in the face of the escalating climate crisis. They can be sent to m.dixon@munjoyhill.org or to info@munjoyhill.org.

**SINGERS/SONGWRITERS INVITED TO JOIN MUNJOY
HILL SONGWRITER CIRCLE STARTING SUNDAY, FEB. 18TH,
5:30 PM**



**ARE YOU A SINGER /SONGWRITER
LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY FEEDBACK?**



**COME JOIN A MUNJOY HILL
SONGWRITER CIRCLE**



- *PLEASE BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT AND TWO OF YOUR SONGS TO SHARE.
- *BRING COPIES OF AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE SONGS SO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CIRCLE CAN TRY TO PLAY AND SING ALONG.
- *IF YOU DON'T WRITE YOUR OWN SONGS, FEEL FREE TO COME TO PLAY AND SING ALONG WITH OUR LOCAL SONGWRITERS.



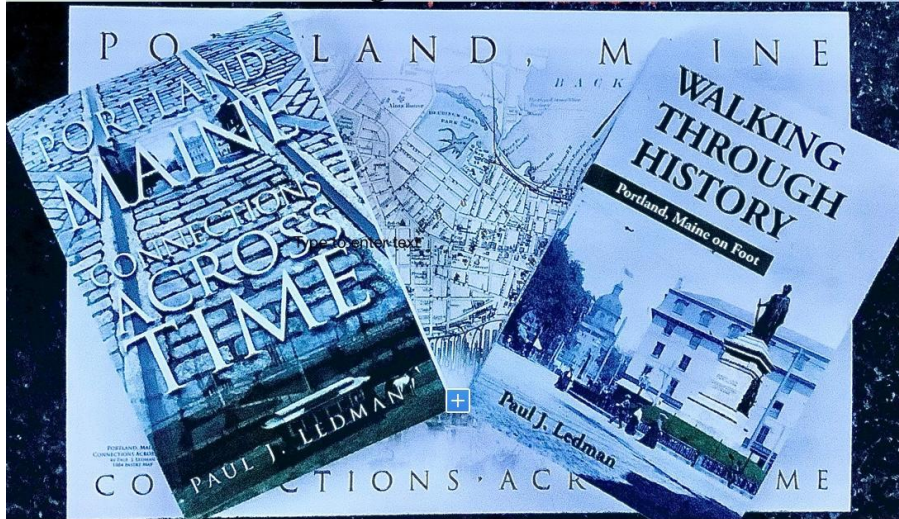
**3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 5:30PM - 7:30PM
MHNO HILL HOUSE, 92 CONGRESS ST.**



**First Meeting is Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024
Text Peter Blackstone with
questions at (207) 939-9167**



Presenting
Munjoy Hill Author
Paul J Ledman



The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization invites you to drop by, meet the author, enjoy refreshments and hear about Paul's latest book. Portland Maine: Connections Across Time.

Sunday February 25th

5:30 - 7:30

92 Congress St

Please join Munjoy Hill resident and author, Paul Ledman, on Sunday, February 25th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Hill House, 92 Congress Street to meet the author, enjoy refreshments and hear about his latest book: **Portland Maine: Connections Across Time.**


Paul Ledman, historian and author, has also pursued careers in geology, law, teaching and real estate. He is the author of other books, including the well-known 2016 walking guide, **Walking Through History: Portland Maine on Foot.**

The newest book, **Connections**, was published in 2023. It explores connections to national and international trends as it examines the context for the development of Portland and its neighborhoods. The author cites national and global historic, social and political trends over hundreds of years as he makes observations about development in Portland, including Munjoy Hill, within that context.

A few Munjoy Hill nuggets from the book: Do you know how Fort Sumner was affected by US neutrality as between France and England in 1795? What were "Cow Rights" on Munjoy Hill before the mid-1800s? How did Moses Gould, 1854 North Street resident,

shape the typography of Munjoy Hill by extracting tons of sand and gravel to use as fill in creating land in Bayside? Come to learn how these fit in with larger patterns and trends.

WARNING: MUNJOY HILL TRASH AND RECYCLING TO BE CURBSIDE BY 6:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY MORNINGS



Solid Waste Management Program
TRASH & RECYCLING CORRECTIONS
24-hour Code Violation Warning to Correct

- Late Set Out:** Trash was set out after 6:30 AM on your scheduled collection day. Please remove & retain until your next scheduled collection day
- Official City of Portland Trash Bag required.** Remove illegal set out and place them in an **Official purple City trash bag**
- Bag weighs more than 30 lbs.** Please lighten the weight to under 30 lbs.
- Early Set Out:** Please remove your trash until after 3 PM the day before your scheduled collection. Clean all litter generated by this violation
- Waste Not Contained:** Bag torn, unsuitable condition & litter warning
- Contamination:** Recycling cart contains trash/non-recyclables
- Other:** _____

Created in accordance with the City of Portland Chapter 12 Code of Ordinances
Questions call [REDACTED] or visit <http://portlandmaine.gov/533/Trash-Recycling>

The City of Portland Public Works Department is now apparently enforcing the standing requirement that all trash must be set out by the curb on your scheduled collection day **by 6:30 a.m.** If it is set out after that time, it might not be collected, you may be given a "warning to correct", and you will be instructed to take your trash back inside to hold it for another week.

People may be accustomed to putting trash out for pickup much later than 6:30 a.m. based upon the time the trash truck has usually arrived on their block. But please be aware that for many areas **schedules have changed.** Due to a shortage of Public Works personnel, trash collecting runs are now starting much earlier than in the past in order to avoid traffic and fit in the same collections with fewer workers.

If setting trash out by 6:30 a.m. on collection day doesn't fit into your morning schedule, trash may be set out as early as 3:00 p.m. the day before your scheduled collection. Any earlier than 3:00 p.m. is a violation.

Of course the longer the trash is out by the curb, the greater the chance of the trash bag being torn open by seagulls, raccoons, dogs or other critters. Then you are vulnerable to a litter warning because the waste is not contained. It is always a balancing act.

MHNO ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Handcrafters -- Needlecraft Sundays Every Week, 3-5



**Knitters!
Crocheters!
All hand needlecrafters!**

**The MHNO welcomes you to our
Needlework Sunday afternoons!**

**Sundays from 3-5
92 Congress St**

For more information, contact:
info@munjoyhill.org

IMPROVED MHNO WEBSITE PROVIDES MORE CURRENT INFORMATION

Please check out the improved Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization website at www.munjoyhill.org.

- It now contains a Calendar of Events in the link: <https://www.munjoyhill.org/calendar-of-events> to help you keep track of our many activities and events.
- The posters for the current events are featured in link: <https://www.munjoyhill.org/future-events>,
- Past MHNO events are archived in link: <https://www.munjoyhill.org/events>.

- The MHNO newsletters are posted in the archives in case you want to go back and check on a certain newsletter in the link: <https://www.munjoyhill.org/mhno-newsletter-archives>
- A big thank you to data organizer Karen Snyder!



A Few Volunteers Still Needed for Senior Snow Shoveling

Will you volunteer to shovel the sidewalk for a Munjoy Hill senior? You will be paired with one senior for the season. It may give service providers safe access. There are already many long-time volunteers in this City-administered, neighborhood-facilitated program. But a few more volunteers would help spread the workload so nobody is responsible for more than one property. For more information, please contact Karen Snyder at k.snyder@munjoyhill.org.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

Greetings Munjoy Hill Friends and Neighbors!

MHNO Vice President Mike Dixon notes January was a “meteorologically mind-boggling month.” That is all too true for those of us who experienced it. There is lots of information packed into Mike’s first monthly sustainability column. As the torch (or more accurately, the pen) passes to Mike, I want to thank MHNO Board member Maggy Wolf for all her well-researched contributions in past MHNO Sustainable Living columns and for keeping us abreast of issues that are growing to have a major impact on our lives, whether or not we are ready.

On a different unsettling note, in mid-December some of our Munjoy Hill neighbors reported finding anti-Semitic flyers and racist flyers left on sidewalks or stairs just outside their homes. This is, obviously, contrary to the sort of diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just community the MHNO is working to promote. Munjoy Hill is a diverse neighborhood, which is a source of pride and strength. MHNO is committed to keeping our neighborhood safe for all, for the benefit of all.

While it is possible that the flyers did not cross the line into actual criminal behavior, the presence of these flyers on our doorsteps feels threatening and damages our collective social fabric. If you encounter similar flyers, please consider response options. There are entities that are interested receiving information about these incidents as part of their effort to stay apprised of what groups are active where. Among entities you may contact are Cumberland County District Attorney Jacqueline Sartoris (through her executive assistant, Abbey St.Clair at stclair@cumberlandcounty.org), who may forward the information to the investigations division of the Maine Attorney General’s Office; the Portland Police Department (general non-emergency line: 207 874-8479 or East End Community Policing: 207 553-9863); and/or the Southern Poverty Law Center’s tip line (<https://www.splcenter.org/send-us-a-tip>). While your first instinct might be to get rid of the offensive flyer as soon as possible, consider taking a photo for documentation

purposes. You may also seal a flyer in a plastic bag and deliver it to Ms. St.Clair in the District Attorney's office at 142 Federal Street, Portland, with information about when and where it was discovered, with a request to deliver the information to District Attorney Sartoris.

On a more positive, community-building note, the MHNO is offering many different opportunities to connect with your neighbors this month. See details above. All events are held at the Hill House, 92 Congress Street. We hope to see you at many of them! Make your February Friendly.

Chess players, please consider coming to the inaugural monthly gathering on Sunday, February 4th at 5:30 p.m. All levels welcome. Come and find another player who is a good match for you. Or watch for a while and admire the nuances of the game.

The following Friday, February 9th is the opening of the **Tom Bloom's photography show**, Portland Works: Portraits of Portland Workers, from 5 – 8 pm. It features portraits of some of Portland's hard-working folks. You will probably recognize some of the subjects. It will be a good chance to connect with the multi-talented Mr. Bloom, now a resident of Munjoy Hill, but with a national audience as a photographer and professional actor.

The next day, Saturday, February 10th, 9-12 is the monthly gathering for **Good Munjoy Morning Coffee**. Drop by for coffee, other refreshments, and an opportunity to view Tom Bloom's Portland Works show. While you are chatting with your neighbors, please also admire the "spiffed up" interior of the Hill House, with walls painstakingly prepped (by Karen Snyder) and painted by volunteers (Mary Casale, Carol Connor, Maggy Wolf, and Deb Murray, with generous assistance from Tom Bloom).

It will be interesting to see what happens on **Valentine's Day**, February 14th. It will be the first Valentine's Day after the April 2023 death of Kevin Fahrman, who was revealed to be the much-loved secret Valentine Bandit. For over 40 years, he headed up a covert operation. Portlanders would wake each February 14th to be surprised and delighted to find red hearts taped all over the City, usually accompanied by one or more huge hearts hung in very challenging locations. This year his family is offering downloadable copies of the original red heart at www.BeAKevin.com so others can pick up the torch. Will any Munjoy Hill folks rise to the occasion?

Singers and songwriters looking for friendly feedback will gather for the first monthly **Songwriter Circle** on Sunday, February 18th, 5:30 to 7:30. Organizer and MHNO Board Member Peter Blackstone gets the ball rolling. Musicians are invited to bring their instrument and two original songs to share. It sounds like a great opportunity for feedback. If you don't write your own songs, you are still invited to play and sing along with local songwriters.

Please join local historian and Munjoy Hill resident, **Paul Ledman**, on Sunday, February 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 to meet the author and hear about his **newest book, Portland Maine: Connections Across Time**. This book explores how the development in Portland was influenced by national and international political, social and historical trends over hundreds of years. Two hours will probably barely allow him to scratch the surface, but should offer a fascinating introduction.

And for all creative people, **handcrafters gather every Sunday afternoon**, from 3 to 5, to work on their own projects, exchange crafts tips, sip tea, and engage in good conversation. Some weeks a dozen or more enjoy this low-key gathering.

Engaged neighbors enhance the quality of life for all of us. Please fight the mid-winter urge to hibernate. Join us for one or more of MHNO's Friendly February events!

Hope to see you around the neighborhood.

Barbara

Barbara Vestal, President
Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization
92 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101
b.vestal@munjoyhill.org

The next monthly business meeting of the 13-members of the Board of Directors of the MHNO will be held on Monday, February 5th at 5:00 p.m. Monthly meetings are held in person at the Hill House, 92 Congress Street. If you are a member of the MHNO and are interested in sitting in on the Board of Director's meeting, please join us in person.

The MHNO is a membership organization, with our work supported by annual memberships (\$20 for an individual, \$35 for a household). For more information or to join or renew, or to make a much appreciated donation, please visit www.munjoyhill.org.

Join MHNO

Visit our Website

Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization | 92 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101

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Sent by info@munjoyhill.org