

----- Forwarded Message -----

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

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 07:00:40 AM EST

**Subject:** Happy Valentine's Day from the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization!

# Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

92 Congress Street

Portland, Maine 04101

[info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)

February 14, 2024



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

---



## **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM THE MHNO!!**

The MHNO salutes the memory of Portland's long-time Valentine Bandit, Kevin Fahrman, in this first Valentine's Day following his untimely death in April 2023. A community-builder extraordinaire, Kevin's identity, and the identity of his helpers, was a closely held secret for over 40 years.

The heart artwork (above), courtesy of The Fahrman Foundation, [www.BeAKevin.com](http://www.BeAKevin.com), has this year been made available by his family for those who want to pick up the torch.

The image (below) of a Fahrman heart flying above the Observatory (year unknown) shows one of the improbable locations festooned by Fahrman and his clandestine crew. For more than four decades, as the sun came up every February 14th, Portlanders delighted in finding hundreds of small paper hearts taped on windows throughout the city, and marveled at the physical daring (or secret negotiations?) that must have been involved to hang the large signature banners in a variety of prominent spots.

Look around you! Have any of our community-minded neighbors picked up the torch?



---

**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.



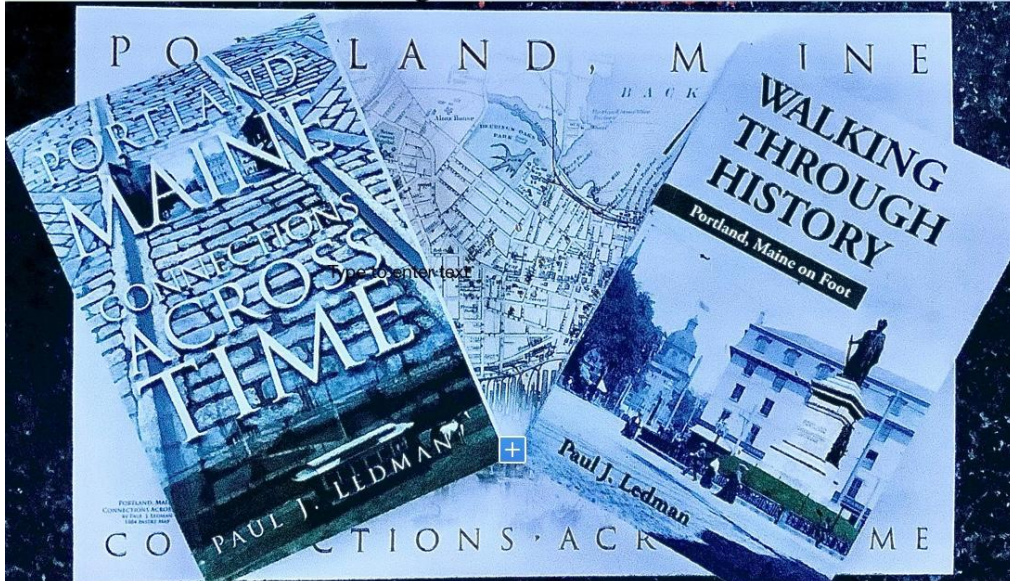
**3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 5:30PM - 7:30PM  
MHNO HILL HOUSE, 92 CONGRESS ST.**



**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.

---

## CITY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS MAY ASSIST CERTAIN SENIOR OWNERS AND RENTERS

The long City and school budget process has just started. There are indications that some difficult choices are going to need to be made. As we follow the evolving budget deliberations, residents should be aware of tax relief programs aimed at senior residents.

One local program, Portland Senior Tax Equity Program (P-Step), requires residents to file a new application every year. The City Treasury staff has mailed new applications to residents who were approved for the program last year. [This local program](#), approved in 2017, provides tax relief to low-income seniors in Portland by providing property tax or rent rebates for qualified applicants. Additional information is available in [a program overview and frequently asked questions here](#): <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/259/Tax-Relief>

---

## RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FACE STAFFING CHALLENGES: WHAT TO DO IF MISSED COLLECTION



The graphic is a dark teal square with a white flag icon containing a blue 'P' in the top left corner. To the right is a yellow recycling bin icon with a circular arrow symbol. The text is centered and reads: 'ALERT' in large white letters, followed by 'Trash + Recycling Collection May Not Be Finished \*\*Each Day\*\*' in light blue. Below this is a paragraph in white text: 'Due to staffing challenges, in addition to staffing for winter operations, our DPW crews may not be able to complete each day's collection.' This is followed by another paragraph in white text: 'If your recycling is not collected at the end of your normal collection day, please leave it at the curb and we will attempt to collect it the following day.' A final paragraph in white text states: 'If you still have a missed collection following the next day, please contact our staff with your street info: solidwaste@portlandmaine.gov, or 207-756-8122.' At the bottom, the URL 'portlandmaine.gov/trash' is written in white.

**ALERT**

**Trash + Recycling Collection May Not Be Finished \*\*Each Day\*\***

Due to staffing challenges, in addition to staffing for winter operations, our DPW crews may not be able to complete each day's collection.

If your recycling is not collected at the end of your normal collection day, please leave it at the curb and we will attempt to collect it the following day.

If you still have a missed collection following the next day, please contact our staff with your street info: [solidwaste@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:solidwaste@portlandmaine.gov), or 207-756-8122.

[portlandmaine.gov/trash](https://www.portlandmaine.gov/trash)

---

## 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](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)

---

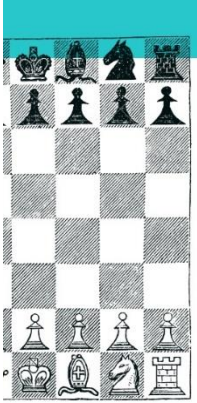
**MHNO Monthly Chess Meetup,  
Sunday, March 3rd, 5:30 - 7:30**

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 second meeting will be Sunday, March 3rd. Please text Peter Blackstone @ (207)939-9167 if you have any questions.



Peter Blackstone and Dillon Richardson play a hard-fought game during the February 4th kickoff meetup event. Peter reports playing a fair amount of online chess, but noted that it is a significantly different experience playing in person.



### ARE YOU A CHESS PLAYER?

BRING YOUR CHESS BOARD AND YOUR CHESS SKILLS.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE MHNO HILL HOUSE!

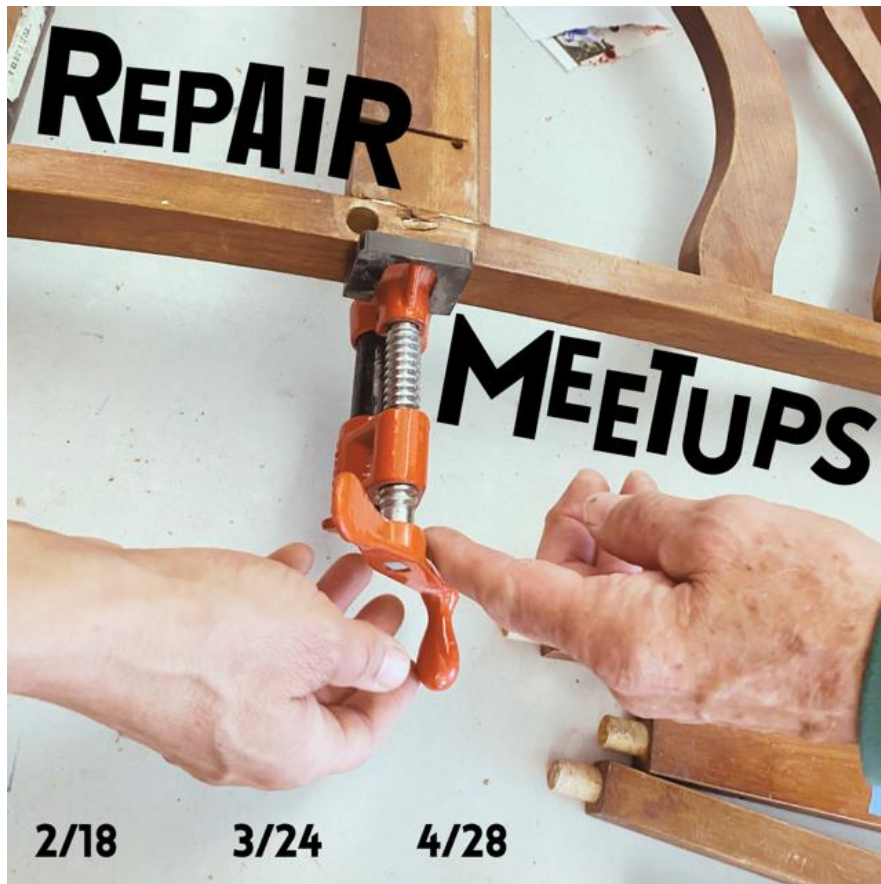
SUNDAYS-MARCH 3RD, APRIL 7TH, MAY 5TH

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

## MHNO to Host Repair Meetups Sundays Feb 18, March 24 and April 28





MHNO will be hosting Repair Meetups on three upcoming Sundays: Feb. 18, March 24, & April 28, each from 12:30pm-2:30pm. Grab your broken toaster, holey jeans, busted clock, and join us!

Repair Meetups are free, community events where people come together to help each other fix broken small home appliances, as well as mend textiles with patching, darning, and even glue. Meetups are about celebrating under-appreciated skills and learning new ones, and holding onto things that take a lot of resources to make but could otherwise quickly end up in a landfill. They're also fun & snack-ful. We'll have some expert fixers in attendance, and always welcome more, so please come whether you have skills to share or not.

See @ripe\_for\_repair on Instagram for more info, to ask questions, or to RSVP. Or text 207-347-1878 for the same.

(No broken phones or computers, please.)

---

# 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

If you missed the opening reception for Tom Bloom's Portland Works show, you still have a chance to see it. His portraits will remain on display for the month of February. Come to another MHNO event at the Hill House and enjoy the photography show before or after the event. Or the show may be viewed Sunday February 18th and Sunday February 25th from 3 to 5 pm (during the weekly handcrafters gatherings). Or email [info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org) to request a viewing by appointment.



Photographer Tom Bloom poses with Moira, Actor, in front of her portrait.



Many people commented that It is exciting to see the "Hill House" coming back to life.



Lamar, of Mobil Convenience Store, discusses the inclusion of his portrait as part of the show.



Old neighbors took advantage of the opportunity to talk with new residents about the experience of moving to the Hill.



Surprise guest appearances by several of the portrait subjects, including Karen, Designer, (above) added to the fun.



Tom Bloom delighted admirers throughout the evening with the background stories associated with particular photos.

## President's Message:

*Greetings Fellow Munjoy Hill Residents:*

*Just a brief heads up about coming attractions. The usual complement of Saturday morning monthly coffees, Sunday afternoon weekly handcrafters, and monthly repair meetups, chess nights, and songwriter circles will continue. But there are also some special seasonal events planned. For all events, more details will follow in due course.*

*Volunteers are always welcome to help. If you are interested in assisting with a particular activity, please email [info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)*

*In celebration of National Youth Art Month, the second annual East End Community School Art show will take place at the Hill House in March. Always popular with student artists and their families, this show is also a source of inspiration for creative people of all ages.*

*April will again feature the annual MHNO-sponsored Earth Day, Monday April 22nd clean up of Eastern Prom Park. This effort to get all hands on deck usually attracts a multi-generational work force. Depending on the focus of the City's Parks and Recreation staff, there may also be special projects like targeted efforts to eradicate particular invasive species.*

*The MHNO's experienced gardeners are already discussing the May Hyper-Local Seedling and Perennial Sale. Folks are figuring out when to start their seedlings so that they will be at prime readiness for this late-May event. They are also scoping out what Hill perennial beds could benefit from plants being separated, with the divided plants to be offered for sale to other local gardeners. More green thumbs are always welcome to share the work.*

*The Annual Meeting of the MHNO is always in June. This 45th annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27th. If you have any interest in running for the MHNO Board of Directors, you need to have been a member in good standing for at least 6 months, and need to throw your hat into the ring by June 20th. Half of the seats are up for election each year. Current Board Members would be happy to hear from any neighbors who are considering serving on the Board.*

*It promises to be a busy next few months. We hope you will find ways to connect with your Munjoy Hill neighbors.*

*Best,  
Barbara*

Barbara Vestal  
MHNO President  
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, March 4th 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 per year). For more information or to join or renew, or to make a much appreciated donation, please visit [www.munjoyhill.org](http://www.munjoyhill.org).*

---

[Join MHNO](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@munjoyhill.org](mailto:info@munjoyhill.org)