



November 13, 2009

Maine Senior College Network Meeting of the Minds conference reports

Christina Diebold said, "It's hard to imagine anything more enjoyable – staying at a nice hotel, being fed delicious meals, and attending interesting class sessions – which then can be discussed over the meals. At the Meeting of the Minds Senior College Conference in South Portland November 4-6, we had a great choice of sessions to sign up for – from "Planning Programs, Finding Faculty and Creating Community" to "Women in Ancient Mythology." I particularly enjoyed a talk given by our own John Bear Mitchell – "Respecting Our Elders: Traditional Wabanaki Teaching." He had us laughing, nodding and clapping as we learned about hair braiding, clan mothers and the first storyteller. For a mini-vacation, you can't beat Meeting of the Minds – I recommend it."

Dick Eustis chaired a panel discussion on "Senior College Board Operations" with a panel representing Senior College University of Maine Hutchinson Center (Belfast), Western Mountains Senior College (Bethel) and Lewiston-Auburn Senior College. With varied board structures, the panel focused on common concerns: "Getting the Work Done by Volunteers", the "Importance of Bylaws and Board Policy", "Selection of Committees and Efficient Committee Meetings" and "The Value of Long-range Strategic Planning". The question and answer portion of the session found many senior colleges are looking for ways to improve board member participation as well as deciding at what point they should consider hiring part-time employees. Dick reports, "I found the conference very worthwhile in both the opportunities to learn and the related social opportunities and would encourage anyone interested to participate if they have the opportunity."

AARP Tax-Aide program seeks volunteers to prepare free income tax returns

The AARP Tax-Aide program is the largest **free income tax preparation service** in the U.S. providing tax returns for more than 1,000 Bangor area residents each year. The service is available from February 1 to April 15 five days a week at a half dozen area locations to anyone with low to moderate income. The Tax-Aide program prepares tax returns that include such tax benefits as itemized deductions for medical expenses, taxes, and contributions, and new tax law features such as Making Work Pay, excise and sales tax credits, and energy efficiency credits. However, to make the program successful volunteers are needed to become tax counselors. Tax counselors are trained at Husson University during the first week of January using IRS and Maine tax publications and pass an IRS test. All volunteer expenses are reimbursed by the AARP Foundation. If you are interested contact District Coordinator Richard Jung, 667-5936.

Friday, December 4, 2009
Eastern Maine Community College
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Guided Tours with Fabulous Culinary Arts Luncheon at Rangeley Hall

EMCC offers 27 programs to over 1,000 students with one-year Certificates, two-year Diplomas and associates degrees. The college prepares technicians and skilled workers for careers suited to our local economy. Fields of study include mechanical engineering and construction industries; health and business occupations. Training and re-training courses are available to businesses, industry, and communities.

On December 4th the Culinary Arts students, renowned for their talents, will devote the Rangeley Hall dining room to our members (and guests if space becomes available). A reservation is necessary along with a check for \$15 (non-refundable) for a complete luncheon, including coffee or tea and gratuity.

Reservations must be called in to the Senior College message phone and followed by sending a check for \$15/person to Penobscot Valley Senior College, 25 Texas Avenue, Bangor, ME. 04401. (Space for guests will be determined after the deadline for the receipt of checks, November 23, 2009) (No check = No reservation)



Penobscot Valley
Senior College

December 9, 2009
University College of
Bangor
Campus Center
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

in the beginning ... Genesis 1
The Book of Genesis – from several points of view
Rabbi Darah Lerner, facilitator
Congregation Beth El – French Street, Bangor

This special one-time program combines lecture, video recording, and discussion about the beautiful and challenging biblical text, Genesis 1: The Story of Creation. This event will include clips from the video "Genesis Now," produced by the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, and a live panel of speakers from a variety of backgrounds sharing their thoughts on the Book of Genesis. Panelists who are clergy of diverse faiths, scientists, and professionals from divergent backgrounds will reflect on the lessons, interpretations, and meaning of this Creation narrative. They will explore questions the biblical text raises and try to answer "What does the text say to us today?" Senior College participants will be invited to ask questions and share their perspectives as well.

The program will be facilitated by Rabbi Darah Lerner of Congregation Beth El in Bangor. Rabbi Lerner teaches at the University of Maine, Orono, "350 Years of Jews in America" and a variety of classes on Judaism at Bangor Theological Seminary. She is a transplant from Southern California and is active in inter-faith dialogues and social justice causes.

This program is offered to members of Penobscot Valley Senior College **and includes an opportunity to invite guests to gain an understanding of the College's programs. To register, please call the Senior College message phone at 262-7927 and leave your name and phone number.** Registrations will be acknowledged by mail about December 1.