



## Groundhog Karma

*From the desk of John Zavodny, President*

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - Every Groundhog Day I think about karma. I used to teach a class called “Eastern Thought for Western People.” It was pretty much what it sounds like. The version of karma that made the most sense to my students (and me) was a lot like the movie *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray and Andie McDowell. In the film, Bill is trapped repeating the same day—Groundhog Day—until he learns whatever it is he was supposed to learn.

The lesson his character eventually grasps seems to be something like “Don’t be selfish.” He was really selfish at the beginning of the film. Along the way he uses his knowledge of what will happen to manipulate circumstances and he often ends up pretty miserable. But he also learns to make ice sculptures and play the piano. That

was nice. When he grows out of his selfishness, he is released from the Groundhog Day trap. Oh, I should have said “spoiler alert” for anyone who hasn’t seen the movie. I haven’t seen it in a long time, but I bet it holds up.

So, one version of karma—the version that doesn’t have anything to do with reincarnation—is that we keep repeating the same mistakes over and over until...

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## 2021 Impact at a Glance

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - With immense gratitude to our donors, partners, and community members, we are pleased to share our [2021 Impact at a Glance](#) statement. Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, the Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health. Our [2021 Impact at a Glance](#) shows how we do just that. with your help and the talents of our amazing staff.

The [2021 Impact at a Glance](#) is an interactive, PDF document. To learn more about a particular program, click directly on its title. It is downloadable as well, so feel free to keep a copy and to share it with your community.

[View Our Impact](#)



## Journey's Winter Plans & Call for Mentors

CHERRYFIELD, ME - The Downeast youth who participate in EdGE Journey explore the outdoors and their communities to develop the tools needed to successfully transition to high school and through higher education and career pathways.

Journey Program Manager Dakin Hewlett shared what's coming up for the students' cohorts, grades 7-12 as well as invites volunteers to serve as Adult Mentors. This winter, students went bowling to strengthen personal relationships with one another. During winter break later this month, each...

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## Beat the EdGE Virtual Escape Room

CHERRYFIELD, ME - Looking for something fun to do indoors on these very cold days? EdGE has the answer! EdGE Director Isaac Marnik and MSAD #37 Information Tech Specialist Ed Latham paired up to build a virtual [Escape Room](#) to challenge families in the comfort of their homes.

Try it for yourself! Team up with your whole family. Enter the Escape Room online, search for clues, and see if you have what it takes to break free.

Enter the Escape  
Room

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*Sunbeam Steward Jillian (left) with Chris Stelling (right)*

## Bon Voyage, Chris Stelling

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - This January, we wished a fond farewell to Chris Stelling. During three successful years as Director of Development, Chris made an enormous positive impact on the Mission. Her talents in forging meaningful relationships, knowledge of foundations, and passion for programs grew the Mission's overall impact. Although it is not unusual for development professionals to move on after a few years, we are thankful for an impactful fundraising period during Chris' tenure. Her passion and spirit will be missed.

Despite this news, we are excited to welcome a new, amazing professional into the Mission family. We are now accepting applications for the position of Director of Development. The [job description and posting](#) can be viewed on our website. Please feel free to share it in your circle. With high expectations for a seamless transition, we know an outstanding year is ahead for the Mission, our work, and our communities.

Share the  
Job



Sunbeam *Steward Jillian at home*

## People & Places - Jillian

CHERRYFIELD, ME - My name is Jillian. I am the Steward on the Maine Seacoast Mission's beloved *Sunbeam*, a job I love. To steward is a pleasing verb meaning to look after. I am proud of the title. As steward, I am responsible for stocking the boat with food and provisions for our trips to islands. Besides making meals for my mateys and guests, and welcoming visitors, I keep things tidy, and bake a lot of cookies.

There are so many Maine spots so close to me I cherish. The many hiking and skiing trails on our road endlessly entertain us. There's the neighborhood swimming hole on balmy summer days. Behind our house we love to explore the Narraguagus River in canoes and kayaks in summer; on foot, skates, skis and snowshoes when the river is frozen.

My favorite place in Maine is central to all these options: our house.

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