



Remembering Captain David Allen

Starting in 1971, Captain David Allen made thousands of trips to islands along the Maine coast, first aboard the Mission's *Sunbeam IV* and later *Sunbeam V*. David and his wife Betty, who joined him aboard the *Sunbeam* as the steward in 1978, were the personification of the Mission for many islanders. David captained the boat until his retirement in 2007. David passed away on October 3, 2022, with his family by his side.

Sunbeam's current Captain, Mike Johnson, who started at the Mission as Allen's engineer, shares his reflections on his time with David...

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Need Fuels Visits to Mission's Food Pantry

Beginning in October of 2021, Megan Smith, Food Security and Sustainability Programs Coordinator, started seeing familiar faces more often at the Mission's [food pantry](#). As everyday costs, such as home heating oil and rent, continue to rise, many must adjust their budgets to make ends meet. This decreases the amount of money they can spend on other necessities, like food, and can present real challenges for many Downeast families.

"Most of the general public thinks people utilizing pantry services are people in deep poverty, but that isn't true in today's economy. The average pantry recipient today is working—usually more than one job..."

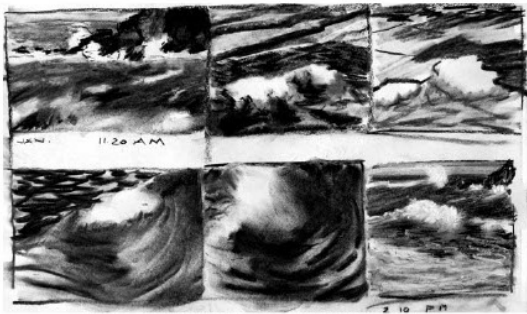
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The Island Reader

Volume One

April 2006

Edited by Livka Farrell & Erica Millette



Southeast Wave Studies. Susan Gilbert. Monhegan.



Library of Congress Archives *The Islander Reader*

In 2006, a thinly bound, black and white collection of pages was stapled together, and copies were given out. Inside the cover, beautifully crafted poetry, stories, and artwork leapt off the page. What today looks strikingly similar to a 'zine, *The Island Reader* began as an opportunity for artists on four of Maine's unbridged islands to share their work. Over the years, *The Island Reader* evolved into a beautifully produced, perfect bound publication featuring the work of artists and writers from 16 unbridged islands. *The Island Reader* serves as a meditation on islanders and their creative spirits.

As of this fall, all 16 editions are archived in the physical collection of the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world.

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300+ Flu and Covid Vaccines Administered to Islanders this Fall

With the *Sunbeam* out of the water for its yearly painting, Sharon Daley, RN, Director of [Island Health](#), had to find different ways to travel to the islands this fall in order to administer flu vaccines and Covid boosters. To reach each island, Sharon and Director of Island Outreach and Chaplain Douglas Cornman, as well as the nurses who helped in the effort, traveled by five different boats and one plane...

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Community Events Are Back at Mission Downeast!

Community dinners, yoga, open mic nights, and more are happening at Weald Bethel Community Center in Cherryfield this fall and winter. These programs are all open to the public. "I always feel that Fall is a season of renewal and rejuvenation, so it's fitting that we are beginning to reconnect and reengage with community..."

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People & Places - Hunter Billings

My name is Hunter Billings. I am Multimedia Specialist at the Mission. My family and I live in Corinth. October marked three years since I started my work at the Mission. I create all the videos and many of the photos seen across all Mission platform

outlets.

My favorite spot in Maine would have to be looking at our gardens in the height of summer. After a long winter, it is lovely to have so much color and not have to go far to enjoy being outdoors.



In the News

Check out our some of our favorite pieces in the last few months:

- The *Mount Desert Islander* featured a story about the Mount Desert Island Hospital recognizing the Mission as their Healthcare Partner of the Year. The Hospital selected the Mission because of it's telehealth program and vaccination efforts during the height of the pandemic. - [READ NOW](#)
- The Maine Lobsterman's Community Alliance's monthly publication *Landings* highlighted the Mission's work during the pandemic including "Project Reach Out" an initiative at the beginning of 2020 which included making more than 4,000 phone calls to community members. - [READ NOW](#)
- News Center Maine went to Harrington to interview a couple who benefited from the Mission's Housing Rehabilitation program. Mission volunteers made updates to their home that enabled the Mission's partner organization [Downeast Community Partners](#) (DCP) to then weatherize the house. - [WATCH NOW](#)
- *Mainebiz* also covered our Housing Rehabilitation program. This summer 182 volunteers worked on 14 houses in Washington County. 10 of those houses

were then winterized by DCP. - [READ NOW](#)

- *The Ellsworth American* shared information on how to donate to the Mission's Christmas program which provides presents to more than 1,200 residents of Downeast Maine each year. - [READ NOW](#)
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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.