

Celebrate Christmas with Us!



Join the Mission for two Christmas events in December. Visit the Mission's Colket Center on **Saturday, December 7** during the Northeast Harbor Christmas Festival to make crafts, enjoy a festive atmosphere, and welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to town. Then travel Downeast to Cherryfield on **Friday, December 13** to celebrate Christmas with cookie decorating, games, crafting and...

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Christmas at the Colket Center 6 Old Firehouse Lane, Northeast Harbor

Saturday, December 7

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Noise maker craft
3:30 p.m. Welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Sunbeam at the Northeast Harbor Marina
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Holiday Open House with lite refreshments

Downeast Christmas Celebration 36 Weald Bethel Lane, Cherryfield

Friday, December 13

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Crafts and games, cookie decorating, photo station, lite refreshments, hot cocoa bar, and s'mores station

The Mission has 15 spots on the Sunbeam if you would like to join the boat for a cruise and bring Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Christmas Festival in Northeast Harbor (weather permitting). Registration is required.

Community First in the *Bulletin*

“*Community First* is part oath and part rallying cry. It is both Mission history and Mission plan. A prayer and a promise.” Mission President John Zavodny shares when explaining how the phrase *Community First* was a central tenant of the Mission’s 2023 planning and listening sessions. The phrase also became the theme of this **Fall/Winter *Bulletin*** which hit mailboxes last month

As part of this “Community First” focus, the *Bulletin* shares more about...

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When a vaccine clinic is much more



A few minutes after the *Sunbeam* tied up on Frenchboro, islanders made their way onto the boat. They were there for Covid and flu vaccines. While some islanders just stopped by to get their shots and maybe grab a cookie, others stayed to enjoy lunch or dinner and chat with the crew and other islanders.

In less than 48 hours, the *Sunbeam* visited four islands to provide vaccinations: Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan. During each stop, a steady stream of people came by to check in and...

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Community Profile: Derrick Sibbald of Isle au Haut

The Mission’s communities are vibrant and diverse and they span a nine-thousand-five-hundred square mile area that more than ninety-thousand Mainers call home spanning from southern Maine to the Canadian border. We are sharing the stories of these people and their communities, in their own words. Meet Derrick Sibbald who lives on Isle au Haut.

How long have you been on your island, or coming to your island?

I moved out to Isle au Haut in 1993, when I was a kid, and we moved off in 1996. I moved back in 2013.

What's special to you about your island?

I think my favorite thing is...

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Knitting for the Mission for more than a century



Last year, the Mission received more than 2,000 handcrafted hats, mittens, scarves, socks, and lap blankets from around the country. While it is not clear when the first knitted item was given as a Christmas present on the Maine coast, as early as 1910, the Mission noted in its Annual Report that knitted mittens and hats were donated to its Christmas Program alongside clothing, dolls, and books. Now, more than a century later, a knitted item is included in...

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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.



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