

## NEWS FROM THE MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Greetings!

Although the summer months are keeping us increasingly busy as more programs offer summer classes, there is follow-up work from the year that just ended, and committee work to prepare for the year coming up, I hope each of you made time to enjoy the wonderful weather and associations with family and friends.

Some thoughts as we begin the new academic year

- I want to acknowledge the contribution the *MAEA Media* has made in helping us stay better connected and informed. A heartfelt thank you is extended to Barbara Goodwin, MAEA past president and Director of Massabesic Adult Education for conceiving the idea and publishing the *Media* last year with the help of Debbie Whitehouse, one of her secretaries.
- Greetings and best wishes are extended to our new colleagues. We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming Directors Meeting, MAEA Conference, trainings, and other opportunities to get together. Please do not hesitate to contact another director or teacher for help or simply to reach an understanding ear.
- Shannon Parker, who recently became director in Rockland, stepped forward at the Directors Academy and offered to assume the editorship of the *MAEA Media* when she learned there was a need. It is that willingness to become involved and support one another that makes working in adult education in Maine such a rewarding experience.

Since we are limited by space, I am unable to list all the good works done by each of you in your communities, as well as while serving on local, state and national committees. Please know that your efforts are appreciated. It is humbling to be counted amongst your number.

Best wishes,  
Gail Senese  
MAEA President  
Co-Director, Portland Adult Education

## WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS

# Welcome

### NANCY ALLEN – RUMFORD/MEXICO

In between chauffeuring three kids to sports, theater, and music events; taking college classes and walking the dog, Nancy has worked at Region 9 as a teacher for three years. She has taught everything from reading to Algebra with a little cooking thrown in on the side. In her past life she was an insurance underwriter, HMO sales rep and a full-time mom. A native of New Jersey, she is getting used to the lack of shopping and traffic in Maine. Nancy is hoping that her business degree from the University of Richmond will come in handy at her new job, but if all else fails she has learned to use power tools renovating her house and can apply for a local construction job! Until then, she will continue to attend St. Joseph's College of Maine as a Master of Education candidate and serve the Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield region's adult education students.



*Nancy can be reached at 364.2012 or [nancyallen@rumford-reg9.k12.me.us](mailto:nancyallen@rumford-reg9.k12.me.us)*

### SHANNON PARKER – MSAD#5 ROCKLAND, OWLS HEAD, SOUTH THOMASTON

I am thrilled to write that I am both the new editor of MAEA Media and the new director for MSAD#5 Rockland Adult Education. Prior to moving to Maine last year, I was an ABE educator in Massachusetts and worked closely with the MA DOE to develop and pilot assessments in the ABE field. In fact, I will be your trainer if you decide to use the BEST Plus ESOL assessment in your program! I have a long-standing commitment to improving post-secondary access for non-traditional students and I am proud to be a part of the progressive work that Maine is doing in this area. My brief tenure in Maine has been a rewarding one. When I am not at work, I am kayaking along Maine's seemingly endless coastline or hiking her inspiring trails. Lastly, in the spirit of lifelong learning, I am working towards my Ph.D in Educational Leadership.

What a wonderful place to live, work and learn!

*Shannon can be reached at 594.9764 or [sparker@msad5.org](mailto:sparker@msad5.org)*



### THELMA REGAN – DOVER/FOXCROFT



I am excited and honored to be the new Adult Education Director for our new, three school district cooperative. I reside in Wellington where my husband and I raised our five children. Books, flower gardening and Labrador Retrievers are some of my favorite pastimes.

I personally know the power opportunity brings. I began my college degree program through adult education at Guilford and continued at the University of Maine, Orono, earning a Bachelors of Science degree in education in 1994 and a Masters degree in Educational Leadership in 2004. For ten years I taught eighth grade students language arts and history. I have tutored GED students at Piscataquis Community High School, served as a director on the MSAD4 school board and various other community committees. Adult education showed me the opportunity to further my education.

As I assist the adult learner, we are able to establish a sense of comfort because I let them know that if it were not for adult education, I would not be doing what I am doing today. I hope to make our cooperative truly expand the opportunities for our community members to feel the joy and power of education and being a life-long learner.

*Thelma can be reached at 564.6525 or [tregan@sad4.com](mailto:tregan@sad4.com)*

## MAEA Update

MAEA is gearing up for another busy year. Decision-makers increasingly see adult education as an important resource for our state as the number of traditional age students in schools declines and the demands for a more educated workforce increase.

Commissioner Susan Gendron addressed the attendees at the MAEA Directors Academy in June\*. She highlighted the need for new adult ed. initiatives connected to the Creative Economy and Tourism initiatives, as well as in Pine Tree Zones, and within sectors such as Forest Products and Healthcare through expanded certificate programs. The 18 -24 year old population should be a target of adult education efforts. She recommended that adult education seek ways to move beyond the basics in technology instruction.

The Commissioner mentioned the College Transitions initiative, as she believes that adult education should be the primary provider of developmental work for adults seeking to enter college. She feels that when General Purpose Aid through Essential Programs and Services stabilizes at 55% in 2009, accompanied by a continual decline in the K-12 population, there will be additional resources particularly for adult education initiatives linked to economic development. The MAEA Executive Committee will be meeting with Commissioner Gendron this fall to continue this dialogue. MAEA will exhibit at the MSMA fall conference and also present a workshop.

Newcomers to the newsletter may be curious as to the location of the MAEA office and the Greenwood address that appears on our correspondence. The office is in the ell of my home on North Pond in Greenwood, which is a "suburb" of Bethel and also goes by the name of Locke Mills. The office has just had a complete clean-up – no more piles on the floor – and is a very pleasant place to work on the days I am not attending meetings in Augusta or elsewhere.



I am a part-time Executive Director and combine my MAEA work with a lot of volunteer work for the Maine Democratic Party. I have been retired from the MSAD44 program since 2002. Howe and Company represents MAEA at the State House. Bob Howe first started representing MAEA in the late 1980's – I was actually President of MAPSAE when his firm was selected. In recent years, Bob's associate Patsy Crockett has ably handled our account. Local programs did a great job in legislative contact at both the federal and state level last year and will be called on again. Otis Smith of Houlton assists with this effort.

The MAEA web site is [www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org) and is managed by Doug Birgfeld of Portland. I am able to do text updates and would appreciate having our members check their information on the [List of Programs](#) and let me know of items needing change. People really do visit our site and I usually receive 5 or 6 e-mail requests for information each week. Most are people looking for courses and I put them in touch with programs in their area.

This year I will be continuing to serve on several University of Maine committees relating to the UMS Strategic Plan, which was the subject of controversy last year. Many of our programs are also ITV sites and feel strongly about the value of the off-campus centers and sites. I also represent MAEA on Maine LEAD, a consortium of educational associations including MEA, MSMA, UMaine, USM and others.

Please feel free to contact me at 875 -2722 or at [maea@megalink.net](mailto:maea@megalink.net) anytime.

Cathy Newell  
MAEA Executive Director



\* View the Commissioner's PPT presentation at <http://www.maine.gov/education/aded/index.htm>

## POWERPATH – ACCOMODATING ADULT LEARNERS

I would like to tell you about an adult basic literacy student whose name is Nan. Nan came to our program through a local agency that hoped she could, “at least improve her reading skills a little.”

Nan struggled for a few months. She made only minimal progress with her reading despite her hard work and dedication to attending the learning center regularly and working with a tutor.



Then PowerPath was introduced to the literacy affiliate and Nan’s learning changed forever. Through the screening process of PowerPath, we discovered that Nan reads better and focuses longer when her work is done on pink paper. She also uses other accommodation tools suggested as useful by the PowerPath screening. For example, she takes home the talking *Homework Whiz* (see the Homework Whiz image at left), which helps her to figure out sounds and meanings of words when there is no one around to assist her.

The most wonderful news for Nan is that she gained 5 grade levels in her reading and the empowerment has given her confidence in all the other areas of her life as well. She has joined community support groups, started working on her own physical health and well-being and belongs to two adult learning programs!

PowerPath is all about basic literacy learners and helping them to discover the tools they need to feel successful in learning in all the arenas of their lives. The discoveries that PowerPath can make do not stop at the classroom. Nan is living proof that PowerPath can make a real difference!

Dr. Laura Weisel, the innovator of PowerPath will be at the October MAEA conference.



### **PowerPath screens for HOW someone processes information:**

(excerpted from Share the Power training materials)

- **PowerPath screens for vision and hearing.**
- **PowerPath screens for how the brain processes objects and shapes – and how the brain hears words and numbers.**
- **PowerPath looks for personal strengths and individual uniqueness.**
- **PowerPath screens for how a person responds to information that is presented to them- in writing, by just thinking and talking.**
- **PowerPath looks at how someone uses the feedback that they get.**
- **PowerPath even helps figure out how different light rays effect your vision and how you do – or don’t- pay attention.**
- **PowerPath screens aspects of information processing that can be made even more effective by using simple accommodation -or- strategies.**

Submitted by:

Beth A. Gifford

Director, Literacy Volunteers of Mid-coast Maine

*Beth can be reached at 594.5154 or bgifford@midcoast.com*

## LET'S TALK MONEY

Women, Work, and Community (WWC) provides free financial literacy training to adults statewide. WWC staff members Janet Smith and Jean Dempster will offer a *Let's Talk About Money* workshop at the MAEA Fall Conference to give teachers and administrators an opportunity to explore financial literacy as a component of Adult and Community Education and to learn the key elements of successful financial literacy education.

Adult and Community Education programs around the state have collaborated with WWC to offer personal money management classes. Many people were never taught money management skills by their parents or in school. An important first step is often to become more comfortable and confident in dealing with money. Learning to create and stick to a budget, set family money goals, and save on a regular basis can insulate families from financial crisis and allow them to plan their financial future. Working on financial literacy helps adult learners develop career goals and reinforces learning in other subject areas such as math and reading.

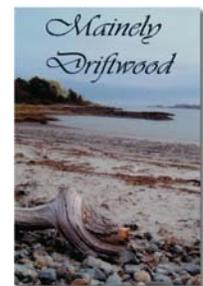


WWC is a statewide non-profit organization committed to improving the economic lives of Maine women and their families. WWC provides training in four program areas: workforce development, microenterprise development, asset development and leadership development. Classes are open to both women and men. For more information contact Jean Dempster, WWC Asset Development Coordinator, at 1-800-442-2092 or visit [www.womenworkandcommunity.org](http://www.womenworkandcommunity.org).

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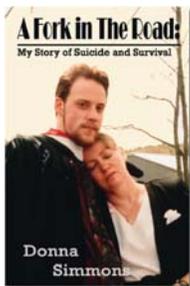
## MASSABESIC ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER BECOMES AN AUTHOR

Donna Simmons from Massabesic Adult Education has published two books in the past year. The first, *Mainely Driftwood*, is a collection of writings from members of the Mainely Driftwood Writer's Group based in York, Maine. The writings reflect each member's travels through life's storms and ever changing tides. Some fiction, poems and non-fiction works express the thoughts and hopes, trials and imaginings of the seven authors contributing to the book.



Donna's second book, *A Fork in the Road: My Story of Suicide and Survival*, is the biographical sketch about the death of a young man and the survival of his mother.

This story takes the reader through the glimpses of a young man's life, sometimes humorous, sometimes not. It reviews the most common causes of suicide and the horrific statistics about surviving the suicide of your child. Through the grief of family and friends, through the dark depression this tragedy often causes, there is **A Fork in the Road**. To the left one can follow in his footsteps into the deep troughs of depression and death; or to the right one can find help, a new life, and begin again.



Both books are published by Trafford Publishing and can be purchased by contacting Donna by email at: [Wildon@psouth.net](mailto:Wildon@psouth.net).

Submitted by: Barbara Goodwin, Director Massabesic Adult Education

## COLLEGE TRANSITIONS RELEASE

### College Transitions Release September 7, 2005

Get  
Ready  
for  
College

The Maine College Transitions Initiative, one of the goals of the Compact for Higher Education, has continued its work through the summer months. Funded for one year by a Lumina Foundation grant, Patrick O'Regan, the project coordinator, is attempting to provide policies and procedures for increased accessibility for adult learners to the post secondary opportunities in Maine. He has continued to travel and review best practices around the State, and completed visits to all Community College Campuses.

A draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the regional community colleges and the local adult education programs was designed by the College Transition Advisory Committee, and distributed to the Community College leadership. The MOU was presented at the Adult Education Director's Academy in June. Follow up visits for negotiations of the draft MOU will occur during the late summer and early fall. First signings of the Memorandum of Understanding defining roles, relationships, assessment, and data collection procedures should occur in September.

Efforts to affect changes in procedure and opportunity for the non-traditional and adult education college applicants have included the MELMAC Foundation and the New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC). The Initiative assisted in the redesign of the MELMAC grant application to accommodate adult education programs, and has begun a dialogue on shared staff development activities with NELRC. The project coordinator has been invited to present the Maine MOU to New England regional programs at the NELRC conference in November.

In order to provide local programs with an appropriate "transition" curriculum, working committees are being formed to address developmental math and language skill needs, as well as a curriculum addressing actual college transition needs such as critical thinking, study skills and the financial aid process. The developmental math curriculum is completed and ready for field review.

A work plan and timeline for the remainder of the year have been established to solidify the objectives and continued efforts of the 2005 Lumina funded activities at the State and local levels. Additional planning is taking place at the State level and with MAEA to generate funding for the continuation of implementation and policy changes. Planning for 2006 includes the initiation of an improved data collection system, implementation of ten pilot programs applying best practices, and a marketing strategy to bring statewide recognition to the increased services and opportunities available through the local adult education programs.



For additional information on the College Transitions project, contact Patrick O'Regan at [por44@suscom-maine.net](mailto:por44@suscom-maine.net) or Becky Dyer at [becky.dyer@maine.gov](mailto:becky.dyer@maine.gov).

## NEW PROGRAM PARTNERS IN LEWISTON



Lewiston Adult Education, in partnership with the Aspirations program at Lewiston High School, is very pleased to have recently received a grant from the MELMAC Education Foundation. In accord with the statewide effort, College for ME, and the local, College

for ME – Androscoggin, Lewiston High School and Lewiston Adult Education are working together to create an encouraging environment for its young adult and adult learners to reach for and attain a college education. In cooperation, our two programs create a seamless transition from high school to college by providing opportunities for students to work at remedial learning, take college preparatory and pre-requisite classes, participate in college visits and mentoring programs, have help with financial aid and college application forms, and overcome the barriers which may be preventing them from



applying and being accepted to a college. LAE's College Transition Program, funded by the Nellie Mae Education

Foundation, has been in place since 2000; and the MELMAC grant will expand our ability to serve students by developing a series of courses entitled, *Intro to College 101*.

### Proposed courses include:

*Financial Aid 101* for parents (Fall 2005)

*Juggling Work, Family, and College*

*Being a Non-Traditional Student*

*Being a First Generation Student*

The goal of these workshops is to provide the necessary information, skills, and motivation for students to take the first steps toward postsecondary degrees. In addition, ESOL students will get some extra attention in the College Transition Program in preparation for taking necessary TOEFL exams. The goal is to create a unilateral change in the community atmosphere from questioning "Will I go to college?" to "Where will I go to college?"

Submitted by: Lisa D. Burch

Community Education & Marketing Coordinator Lewiston Adult Ed  
Lisa can be reached at 795.4141 or [lburch@lewnet.avcnet.org](mailto:lburch@lewnet.avcnet.org)

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Director's Meetings:**

September 30, 2005

April 7, 2006



**MAEA Conference:**

October 20 & 21, 2005

[www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org)

**NAASLN 2005 Conference:**

November 12-15 Denver, Colorado [www.naasln.org](http://www.naasln.org)