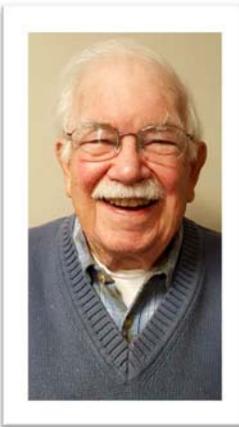




**University of Maine
at Augusta
Senior College**

Winter 2018 46 University Drive Augusta, Maine 04330 www.umasc.org

View from the Chair: 2018



Back in 1938, when I made my first appearance, little did I think that almost eighty years later I would be writing this note to start a new year. Of course, back then, little did I think about anything because I was just a little baby. Now that is not unique because we were all little babies once upon a time. It is just that time passes like a rolling river and bears all our sins away.

So, here is the view from the chair: if the evil that men do lives after them, while the good is interred with their bones, I would hate to be in charge of the legacies of some of our big men of the present. It does not look good for them.

On the other hand, I have no worries about our fine members in Senior College. They are good people.

2018 will be quite a year for us. We have a good lineup of courses for the spring semester and a good-looking start to the year with the Brown Bag talks. The Concerts at Jewett are set for the spring, as are the Forums, and both committees are already at work for the fall term.

As usual, we need some new faces on our committees. If you are not on one, just ask some of our older members about them and plan to pitch in. There is always plenty of work to do. There are a couple of jobs that will need to be filled, and I know that you all will step up. In particular, we need more help on the Arts and Presentations Committee (which works on our concert series and Forums on the Future) and on the Office Committee (which would include work on the course catalog).

In conclusion, may peace be with you.

Best wishes,

Tom Feagin, Chair

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Churchill, Britain's Right Man for Time of Wrong

Our UMA Senior College is an education lab, for sure—given the considerable variety of classes offered. Take, for example, the recent Beatles course led by Mike Bell. Like you, I was around when John, Paul, George, and Ringo were the most significant music creators of the twentieth century. But possibly, you like me, didn't realize that they achieved, despite some ups and downs, the impressive record of twenty-seven number ones in barely eight years. Their shared journey was, pun intended, a long and winding road.

This fall Mike Bell's class studied an historic English statesman whose shadow stretched beyond England's

shores! Winston Churchill was a multifaceted character: soldier, parliamentarian, prime minister, orator, painter, writer, husband, and leader. Mike Bell, a seasoned and sought-after instructor, provided his two Churchill classes with a double-bill feature. Churchill's life was



illustrative and instructive. He aimed high, worked hard, never allowed mistakes to get him down, never shifted blame onto others, and was happy with people. In his ninety years, Churchill spent fifty-five years as a member of Parliament, published nearly ten million words, and painted over five hundred canvases. His final days were painless and without incident. His last words were: "I'm bored with it all. The journey has been enjoyable and well worth making—once." On January 27, 1965, over 300,000 people filed past his casket. Time now to retire my t-shirt depicting the famous photo of Churchill wearing his signature homburg and bow tie, and sporting a cigar and a tommy gun! Our major story plot pitted Winston Churchill against Adolf Hitler—at



war! Churchill never lost his humanity. His jokes were often repeated in ever-widening circles like stones dropped in a pool. He once announced, in answer to a question of the daughter of the then chancellor of the exchequer: "We are all worms. But I really think I am a glow worm." He glowed so ardently!

John Benoit

An Unintended Activity

The One-in-a-Million Boy and a celestial event met on August 21 when the Monday Book Group watched the solar eclipse together after our discussion of Monica Wood's novel.



Thanks to Ann Rosenthal's initial interest, the group collected a variety of viewing devices—from Ritz crackers and colanders to welding goggles, viewing glasses, and a pinhole box. Sharing the experience was great fun, and it attracted others from the UMA community who had also gathered in the quad to watch the eclipse.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of vital lifelong learners in our group. Whether choosing books to read; participating in discussions; supporting each other; or branching out at the suggestion of one member or another, the Monday reading group is a most special community of learners!

Marcia Tyrol



Made in Maine Sudoku Puzzle

One of the best ways to exercise your brain is to solve puzzles like Sudoku. It requires logic, memory, and concentration, and provides a mental challenge, a calming effect, and other benefits. Let's look at a Sudoku puzzle. The objective is to fill the empty cells with

numbers from one to nine; each number can only appear once in each column, row or box. Any cell can see twenty other cells: eight in the box, six in its column and six in its row. If a cell can see at least eight different numbers, then that cell must contain the ninth, and it is referred to as a naked single. In this puzzle a naked single is in cell H2. After placing that number, you will see two more naked singles in H5 and E2. Continue placing naked singles and other numbers. Find the solution on page 5. Good luck!

Frank MacKenzie

MADE IN MAINE SUDOKU 19-Nov-17

Puzzle difficulty 37 MGH/GHE/FDM

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A					1				
B			4	5		9	3		
C		8			2			9	
D		6	1				2	3	
E	3		7	2		8	1		6
F		4	2				7	8	
G		2			4			7	
H			3	1		7	5		
J					6				

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Vassalboro Senior Services Fair

The Senior College Public Relations Committee – and others – continue their efforts to explain the many benefits of UMA Senior College (UMASC). Vassalboro had a Senior Services Fair May 25th to provide an opportunity for its citizens to become aware of the numerous and varied services available for senior citizens. Eleven organizations were present during the four-hour event to explain their services.

UMASC was represented by Duane Prugh, Elizabeth Humphrey, and Gene Moreau. Our table had information consisting of several informational placards, a PowerPoint presentation consisting of about 60 photos, and various handouts. We also provided packets of information to the other presenters.

The fair was well attended. Considerable interest was expressed at the UMASC booth. We continue to find that UMASC is one of the best kept secrets in the area. The Public Relations Committee provides speakers to large or small groups to explain the many advantages of UMASC.

Gene Moreau

Imagining Mill Park

Gail Brown's class (Intuitive Health) "adopted" Mill Park on Augusta's waterfront as a project...to "project" our concerns about its usefulness and appeal to the community.

When I visited the park during the winter, it was cold, drab, and littered. Yet the ice on the river was beautiful, the birds active, the sun weak but unobscured. I picked up trash, saving some for my quilt, observed the topography and imagined what the barren fields would look like, or **could** look like, in spring.

"Winter" (on the left) depicts the park's topography, actual trash, and the coolness of snow and ice. "Summer" (on the right) is how I envisioned it might look and feel in spring—with trees leafing, grass greening up and the Kennebec River flowing.



Penny Ackley

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu

Who knew there were bad-ass librarians in Timbuktu? Or that there were forty-five libraries in Timbuktu, Mali? Attracted to the catchy title, the members of the Thursday Senior College book group launched bravely into what proved to be a rather complicated book.

So, exactly where exactly is Mali? Here, the book is no help. The book's map of Mali shows neither the surrounding countries, nor the Niger River which plays a significant role in the story. Another difficulty that readers face is the considerable number of names, many of them long, and most of them unfamiliar to the English-speaking reader. The author, Joshua Hammer himself, admits that this is a problem. In an interview in *The Atavist Magazine*, he says, "I've got a tendency to overload a manuscript with foreign names and places. . . . As someone who has been a foreign correspondent for two-and-a-half decades I tend to lose perspective and I rely on my editors to help me."

So, you may very well ask, why are these librarians "bad-ass"? The backdrop for the story involves the work of Abdel Kader Haidara whose lifelong vocation has been the rescuing and preservation of thousands of manuscripts which had been kept hidden since around 1600 when Morocco invaded the Songhai Empire and ended Timbuktu's run as an important commercial and intellectual center. The city hosted numerous universities which each contained libraries full of manuscripts, mostly written in Arabic. To protect these manuscripts from Moroccan marauders, the citizens took it upon themselves to hide them.

Haidara's activities took him on numerous adventures, some more hair raising than others. Probably the only one that truly earns him the title of "bad-ass" was one that led him to the Mali—Burkina Faso border. Carrying a suitcase full of money, he wanted to appear ordinary, so he usually traveled by camel or donkey. But this particular destination was five hundred miles away near Burkina Faso, so he hitched rides with truck drivers. Towards the end of his journey, however, he joined a caravan of fifty camels transporting salt to Burkina Faso. Arriving at a lake, their paths diverged. The camel driver left him out in the middle of the desert with a half-liter of water in near hundred degree temperature and with instructions to follow the lake. It wasn't far, the camel driver said. Eight hours later, Haidara reached his destination... That surely qualifies as "bad-ass."

Truthfully, the title of "bad-ass" was earned by

volunteers who were actually not librarians; many of them were teenagers, and they spirited 350,000 manuscripts out of Timbuktu to safety in Bamako after the city was taken over in March 2012 by Islamist and Tuareg rebels. If caught, these heroes faced severe punishments. The jihadists had begun to impose Sharia law; anyone convicted faced execution or dismemberment. The young men were repeatedly stopped at security check points by Kalashnikov-carrying combatants, but amazingly, not one manuscript was lost.

This insurrection is the real story that Joshua Hammer wanted to tell in *Bad-Ass Librarians*. How does one become a jihadist? Obviously, there are many pathways, and certainly not everyone who fits a given mold becomes a militant Islamist. But crushing poverty and political repression often seem to be an element. A great deal of the book is dedicated to a description of the early lives of the three major militants responsible for the takeover of Timbuktu. Abou Zeid, the most violent of the three, grew up in Algeria where "he had known only poverty, desperation, and ridicule." He joined the Armed Islamic Group of Algeria immediately after the Algerian army killed his beloved older brother.

Mokhtar Belmokhtar too was born in Algeria, in a small town where unemployment was rampant. When Belmokhtar was 16, the government repressed with violence and torture an uprising which protested the single-party system, the tightly controlled and mismanaged socialist economy, and the tyrannical secret service. However, additional political parties were eventually allowed as a result of the protest, and reforms were initiated—one of which was the promotion of a policy of Arabisation in Algerian society and public life; previously, business matters and schooling took place in French, Algeria having been considered a province (not a colony) of France until 1962. To accomplish this Arabisation, Arabic-speaking teachers were brought in from other Muslim countries, and this had serious unintended consequences. The teachers spread the traditional Islamic thought of places such as Saudi Arabia and sowed the seeds of a return to Orthodox Islam. Like many young people, Belmokhtar was attracted by this Salafism, a strict orthodox Sunni Muslim sect advocating a return to the beliefs and behavior of early Islam.

The jihadist who most aroused Hammer's curiosity was Iyad Ag Ghali, a Tuareg from an important family. Ghali came from the Sufi tradition, a moderate form of

Islam common in North Africa. Two years after Mali's independence from France (in 1960), the Tuaregs rebelled, looking to form their own country. Ghali's father sided with the Malian government and was killed by a Tuareg rebel when Ghali was six. Ten years later, driven by poverty, he ended up in Libya where, having seen the cruel abuses of the dictatorial Malian military government, he became involved in the movement to seek Tuareg independence from Mali. Qaddafi provided training for these young rebels, and they fought alongside the PLO and Qaddafi's Islamic Brigade in Lebanon in 1982. By 1990 Ghali was back in Mali where he participated in a rebellion to gain independence for the Tuaregs who, in his view, were treated unfairly by the Malian government. Although they were not successful, the Tuaregs, under Ghali's leadership, did win some concessions from the Malian government. As a result of this successful diplomatic effort, he received several government positions over the years. He was an unofficial security advisor to the president and often traveled with him. At this time, he smoked, drank, and never prayed or went to the mosque.

The rebellion over, Ghali met up with his friend Mohammed "Manny" Ansar who described him as "Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, and Che Guevara rolled into one." The two were fast friends and spent a lot of time together. Ghali was a talented poet and songwriter, and he joined Ansar's efforts to promote a Woodstock-style *Festival in the Desert* in Mali in 2001. The festivals became an annual event and attracted the likes of Bono and Robert Plant as well as local talent such as Tiniwaren and Ali Farka Touré.

In 2002, a group of Pakistani fundamentalists from the group Tablighi Jamaat came to Mali where they began to proselytize. Ghali was interested, so interested, in fact, that he soon traveled to Saint-Denis, a suburb of Paris where many poor North Africans live; at a mosque there he continued his study of this very conservative form of Islam which makes a concerted effort to attract young men involved in delinquency, drinking, and petty crime and promises to help them lead a better, more fruitful and satisfying life. They emulate the life of the Prophet Mohammed down to the smallest detail in an effort to recreate the kind of lifestyle of the earliest Muslims. Although the Tablighi Jamaat claims to be an apolitical and pacifist organization, Michael Heimbach, Former Assistant Director, FBI Counterterrorism Division, observed, "We have significant presence of Tablighi Jamaat in the United States and we have found that al Qaeda used them for recruiting."

Over the course of the next eight years, Ghali became more and more involved in the fundamentalist movement,

renounced his rich diet and fancy clothes, gave away his Rolex watch, and each time that he met up with his old friend Manny Ansar, he lectured him on the value of the Tablighi Jamaat way. In 2008 he took a diplomatic post in Saudi Arabia, but he was expelled from the country within the year, purportedly for having established contacts with radicals. Hammer commented on what he considered the tragic ending of the nearly lifelong friendship between Ghali and Manny Ansar: "Ghali stared at him with contempt, offering an unspoken rebuke to his former friend for continuing his passion for music. It was the last time the two men would see each other, but it wasn't long before Ansar realized how fully his friend had immersed himself in his fundamentalist faith and violent Islam."

Joshua Hammer resisted the notion that the main insurgents, especially Ghali, simply used Islam to achieve their own ends. It's evident that Ghali's actions were demonic, but Hammer believed that his incredibly cruel behaviors (possible involvement in massacres, stonings, and dismemberments) reflected what Hammer clearly considered Ghali's sincere belief in Islam.

How can this be? It's very hard for us to understand, and it was hard for Hammer as well. In an interview in *The Atavist Magazine* with Ronen Bergman, Hammer was asked what questions he'd ask Ghali if he had the opportunity. He said that he'd want to know at what point exactly Ghali had made the decision to take up violence. Ghali had repeatedly told his friend Manny Ansar that his fundamentalist beliefs were peaceful. What then made him change? He'd want to know of the extent of Ghali's involvement in atrocities and if he had any regrets. Especially, Hammer would want to know what had happened during Ghali's stay in Saudi Arabia, whom he had met, and how his thinking about Islam had changed.

Joshua Hammer makes the point that of the three insurgents, Ghali was the most dangerous. What, then, is finally clear, is that the most dangerous terrorist is the one with the strongest religious beliefs. He or she is the one who will never give up, who will fight until victory or death overtakes him.

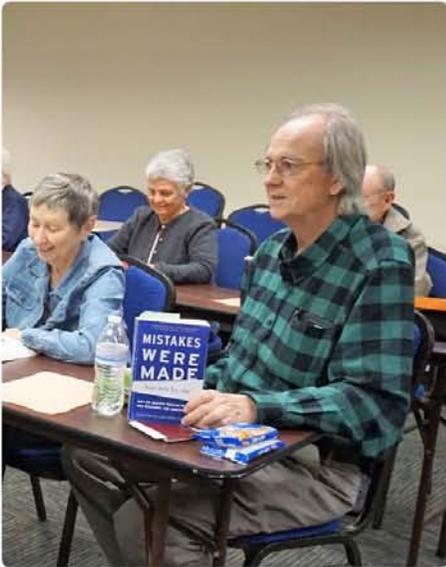
Ann Sullivan

Solution to puzzle on page 3

MADE IN MAINE SUDOKU 19-Nov-17
Puzzle difficulty 37c MGH/GHE/FDM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
a	2	3	9	8	1	6	4	5	7
b	6	1	4	5	7	9	3	2	8
c	7	8	5	4	2	3	6	9	1
d	8	6	1	7	5	4	2	3	9
e	3	5	7	2	9	8	1	4	6
f	9	4	2	6	3	1	7	8	5
g	1	2	6	9	4	5	8	7	3
h	4	9	3	1	8	7	5	6	2
i	5	7	8	3	6	2	9	1	4

Senior College Students Are Studious and Active!



Elizabeth Humphrey

Brown Bag Schedule

UMA Senior College members and friends are invited to bring their lunch to each free session at 12 noon on Tuesdays at the Michael Klahr Center Rotunda (connected to UMA's Katz Library). Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. The length of each lecture will be 60-90 minutes. For any questions, please call 621-3551. Snow dates are Thursday, January 25 and Thursday, February 22.

<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
January 16	Bob Woodbury	My Life in the Media – a Conversation
January 23	Peter Rosenberg	A History of Card Games
January 30	Mike Bell	Bigfoot: Yes, He's Out There
February 6	Nina Andersen	Aging Well Through Music (Snow Pond)
February 13	Elizabeth Reinsborough	Patagonia: Wild and Wonderful
February 20	Patrick Paradis	John F. Kennedy at 100: Why His Presidency Still Matters
February 27	Dick Duncan	Speech: A Magical Extension of the Arms
March 6	Art Ray	Clyde, Jackie & #42 (Major League Baseball)

Concerts at Jewett

Sunday, January 14, 2018, 2PM — The Don Roy Ensemble. Don Roy is a champion fiddler with depth in many styles of fiddling; his wife, Cindy, is well known for her step dancing piano accompaniment. The Roys' musical passion lies with the French-Canadian tradition, followed closely by Celtic music. Their ensemble will keep your toes tapping!

Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2PM – (snow date Feb. 25) – Augusta Symphony Orchestra Ensembles. In a new venture, two ensembles of ASO instrumentalists will present a series of classical pieces. Concerts at Jewett and ASO are excited to feature this latest ASO innovation on the Jewett Hall stage.

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 2PM – (snow date Mar. 18) – Maine-ly Harmony and Back Bay Four. These two a cappella groups were very well received when we featured them in 2015, and are returning with even more performances and awards to their credit – a feel-good afternoon of skilled harmony and opportunities to sing along with over thirty talented vocalists!

Sunday, April 8, 2018, 2PM – State Street Traditional Jazz Band. The second of our jazz offerings features traditional New Orleans jazz. Led by their founder, John Page, every member of this band has a passion to play and preserve traditional New Orleans jazz by capturing the original “Preservation Hall Jazz Band” era of music – a lively afternoon!

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 2PM – Chiharu Naruse. A classical pianist, Chiharu holds master's degrees in Music Performance and Music Instruction from the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin. She has toured in France and won the silver prize in the Hyogo Piano Competition in Japan. She is currently on the Applied Music Faculty (Classical Piano) at Bates College.

Concerts are Sundays 2-4 pm at UMA Jewett. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students, 12 and under free. Tickets are available at Pat's Pizza of Augusta, Dave's Appliance in Winthrop, and at the door. Subscriptions (7 or more concerts) at reduced rates are available by mail. Be a PATRON – contribute \$100 or more to the Community Presentations Fund and attend all concerts free.

The series, sponsored by local businesses and private contributions, features talented Maine performers representing a variety of musical forms. Profits will be used to subsidize present and future lectures and concerts to benefit the community.

For further information call 621-3551, email umasc@maine.edu, or visit our websites at umasc.org or concertsatjewett.com.

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Attention, Veterans!

Are you aware that a veteran can be identified as such on his or her driver's license with a small flag and "Veteran" noted under it? One only has to show proof of the honorable discharge (form DD 214) to include this identification. There is no charge at the time of renewal of a license, but there is a fee of \$5 if done at any other time. Businesses that provide a veteran discount accept this as proof.

Book Groups

Senior College has two book groups. One meets on the third Monday of the month, and the other on the fourth Thursday. The groups include both men and women. We read a variety of books chosen by the group itself, and the discussions are enthusiastic and lively. For more information, leave a message at 621-3551, and someone will respond.

Contribute to the *Illuminator*!

To be considered for the spring issue of the *Illuminator*, please send your articles, stories, poems or artwork to the editor, Ann Sullivan, at asullivan47@outlook.com. The deadline is May 15, 2018.

UMASC Website

Are you wondering when the next Concert at Jewett will be held? Who is performing? Have you signed up for an upcoming class, but would like to know more about the instructor? Lost your copy of the latest issue of the *Illuminator* before you finished reading it? All of this and much more is available on the UMASC website—www.umasc.org.

Our website is just another wonderful benefit for being involved with Senior College. Check out the slide show. Is a class you participated in featured there? There is a page for recent news releases, information regarding the mission statement, bylaws, and board of directors. You can learn how and when to register for classes and check the weekly course schedule. The best part, like all else on the Internet, it is available 24/7!