

Mission gala scheduled

BAR HARBOR — Curtis L. Blake and Marianne S. Barnicle will be honored by the Maine Sea Coast Mission at the sixth annual *Sunbeam Awards Gala* on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Bar Harbor Club. Each year the mission singles out two people who, through their philanthropy and work, have helped the communities served by the mission.

Mr. Blake, a summer resident of Northeast Harbor and 35-year supporter of the mission, served for many years on the mission board and is currently an honorary director. He was instrumental in raising funds for the mission's boat, *Sunbeam V*. He credits his success in raising the bulk of the funds to the 58 handwritten letters he sent to friends who generously supported the *Sunbeam V* campaign. He has also supported many other Mount Desert Island nonprofits. Following the 1978 fire that destroyed the Jordan Pond House and its dormitory, Mr. Blake provided funding for a new dormitory. He and his wife Patricia also donated funds to construct Mount Desert's town office. A

plaque recognizing their contribution and support hangs in the selectmen's chambers.

Ms. Barnicle, a resident of Bar Harbor, has spent the last five years as the volunteer archivist for the mission. Her work has resulted in the identification of artwork that had graced the mission's past annual reports and Christmas bulletins. This artwork now serves as the principal graphic for the mission gala's printed materials. Although Ms. Barnicle grew up in Bar Harbor, she moved away to pursue a successful 40-year teaching career. After she retired from teaching in Massachusetts, she continued teaching for two years at a Navajo reservation in Arizona. She returned to Bar Harbor in retirement and served as the lead volunteer for the Bar Harbor food pantry for 10 years before she turned to volunteering at the mission.

As in previous years, the mission gala will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. followed by a program at which the *Sunbeam Awards* are presented. After the

program, Brian Catell and Jump City Jazz will provide music for dancing until 11 p.m. The proceeds from the gala allow the mission to continue its programs to residents of islands and rural Down East communities. The 2009 Gala Planning Committee is led by chairman Shari Roopenian, and vice chairman Helen Caivano.

Business sponsors are vital to the success of the *Sunbeam Awards Gala*. The platinum sponsor is Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Gold sponsors are The First, Jasper Wyman & Son, and Prime Buchholz & Associates, Inc., with Dead River Company serving as a silver sponsor. Bronze sponsors are Acadia Corporation, Cadillac Builders, LLC, Coastal Kayaking/Acadia Bike, Eaton Peabody, Geddy's, The Kimball Shop & Boutique, Machias Savings Bank, The Manor House Inn, *Mount Desert Islander*, J.T. Rosborough, Inc., E.L. Shea, Snowman Printing & Presort Express, and Testa Family.

For more information about the *Sunbeam Awards Gala*, please call Sarah Clemens at 288-5097.