



EdGE Interim Director Isaac Marnik

EdGE Summer Camp, Adapting to Conditions

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- The Mission has decided to offer a much modified version of EdGE summer programming. The top priority for summer camps is to keep children, families, and staff healthy and safe. With that in mind, the Mission will offer children and youth in grades 2 through 8 who attend schools with EdGE after-school programs the opportunity to attend camp at our Cherryfield campus. Based on current guidelines, we plan to offer 80 students four weeks of camp at no charge, divided into two separate locations on campus.

As with all Mission activities in this COVID-19 environment, we strive to maintain essential services that support the needs of our community while taking every precaution necessary to protect the health of our community and staff.

While not without challenges, we look forward to providing a variety of engaging activities, many of them outdoors, for our campers. The benefits of a quality

summer camp experience are manifest and the Mission is committed to doing what we can to support Downeast families.

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Maine Seacoast Mission Housing Rehabilitation Program Manager Scott Shaw

Housing Rehab Program Going Forward

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- Earlier this year, Housing Rehabilitation Manager Scott Shaw wrote with a "heavy heart," a letter to year 2020 Housing Rehab volunteer groups. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Scott said, Maine Seacoast Mission was not providing stay over accommodations for Housing Rehab volunteer groups this season. This year, for safety's sake, volunteers should stay home, said Scott.

The 2020 Housing Rehab program, however, is still going forward in a modified version. You might say we've rebuilt the Housing Rehab program. Temporarily.

Houses and mobile homes in Washington County are often old and hard to heat,

especially on limited budgets. Through the Mission's Housing Rehabilitation program we normally fix or rebuild twenty houses a year. Repairs and renovations range from painting to insulated mobile home skirting to new roofs.

In a normal season, this very worthwhile work is done primarily by our great volunteers from all over the country. This summer, without these traveling volunteers, Housing Rehab is focusing on homeowner applicants who have their own help available -- family, friends -- to do the home improvement tasks, as well as some local volunteers. Housing Rehab will vet the projects and supply the building materials. We look forward to working with households to make needed improvements to their homes!

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Mission workers Starley Moffit, Joe Ocampo, Levi Shaw, Stephanie Moores and Wren Wakeman packaging foods for distribution.

Adding New Ingredients!

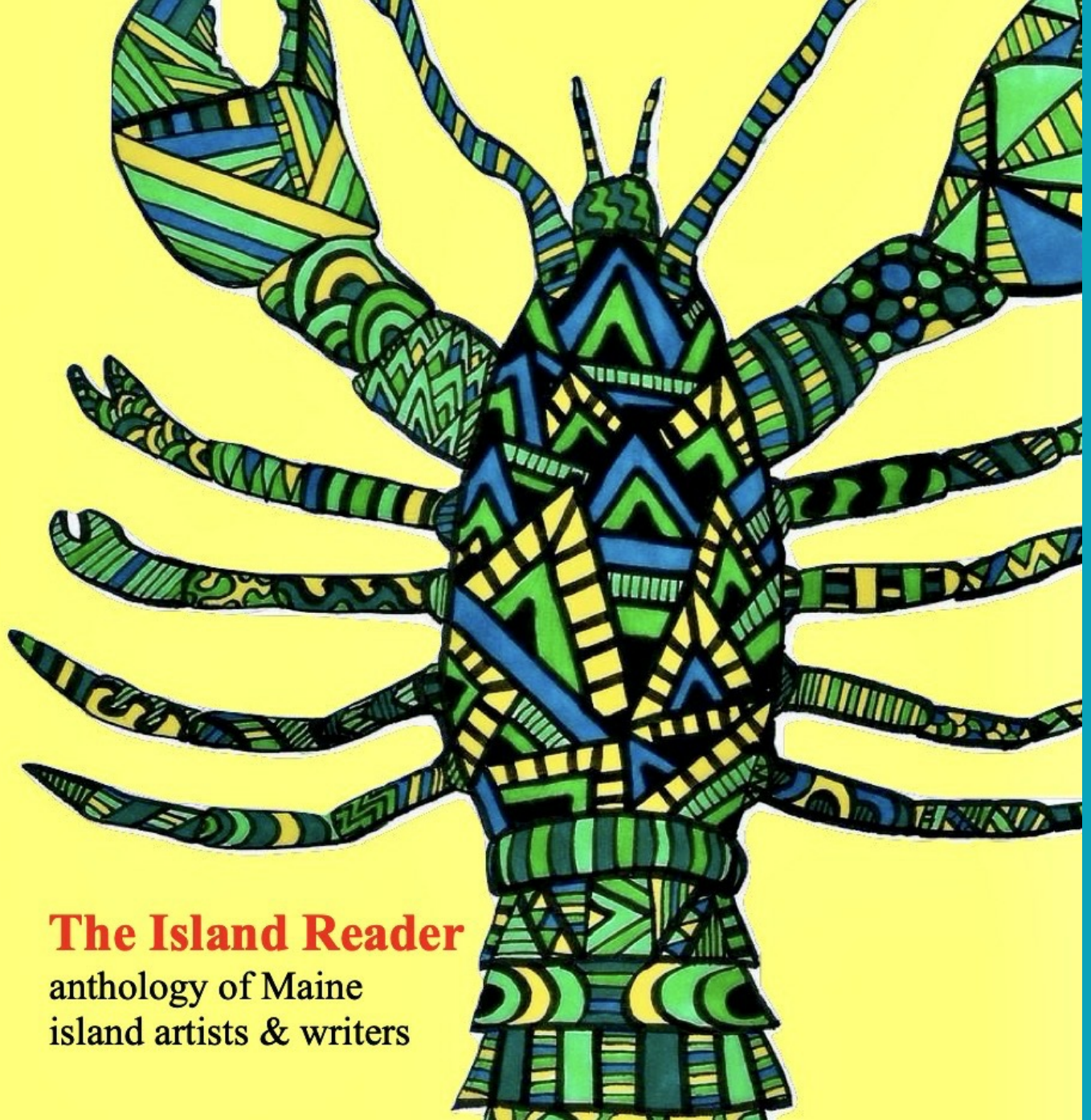
CHERRYFIELD, ME - A few weeks ago, the Mission heard the good news from Downeast partner Mano en Mano that they had received a grant from the Good Shepherd Food Bank to provide culturally specific foods to the Downeast Latinx community. A series of online meetings and an outpouring of community collaboration produced a terrific result for local families: lots of hard to source foods were available for pickup at the Mission's Cherryfield campus. Over 40 volunteers, several nonprofits (the Mission, Mano en Mano, GSFB) united in mission, and local business Vazquez Restaurant, pulled off a great logistical feat to make delivery from a supplier in Boston happen over Memorial Day Weekend.

These foods, which were then boxed up individually for families, were made available at the Mission's Food Pantry last Thursday. Megan Smith, Mission Community Resource Coordinator, gives Thursday's distribution a big "Wow!" In a follow-up email, Megan said:

"What a wonderful amazing day. The partnership and camaraderie I saw today was beyond compare. We were able to serve culturally relevant food to 105 families! Adding the number of families served yesterday for our regular food pantry day brings the total families served to 163. We are all exhausted but happy that we were able to fulfill so many requests.

I want to say thank you to all the staff and volunteers from Mano en Mano and Seacoast Mission who made this possible. Without you we wouldn't have been able to turn this around so quickly."

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A portion of the 2020 The Island Reader front cover.

Whatever Floats Your Boat

BAR HARBOR, ME -- *The Island Reader* is a multi-arts anthology, a showcase for Maine's unbridged island writers and artists. It's published annually by the Mission through the *Sunbeam V's* Island Outreach program. The editorial team is a dedicated group of island volunteers working diligently each year to solicit and review submissions, lovingly crafting them into a beautiful anthology reflection of island life and culture.

This year's editorial team is Gary Rainford (editor-in-chief) from Swan's Island, Douglas Cornman from Mount Desert Island (also the *Sunbeam's* Island Outreach Director & Chaplain), Kendra Chubback from Isle au Haut, Ingrid Gaither from

Great Cranberry Island, Toby Martin from Islesboro, Kim Peabody from Matinicus, and Sally Rowan from Islesford.

This is *The Island Reader's* fourteenth edition. The theme for this year is *Whatever Floats Your Boat*. The editorial team encouraged islanders to capture the wit and whimsy that is so important to embrace when facing the sometimes harsh realities of living on one of Maine's outer islands.

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A Mission Moment - Spring 2020 *The Bulletin* is Here

BAR HARBOR, ME -- Our newly published Spring 2020 issue of *The Bulletin* is titled, *A Mission Moment*. The Spring 2020 stories and photos show many ways Mission staff, volunteers, and programs are adjusting to doing their work under coronavirus restrictions.

In his opening *From the President* letter, John Zavodny, in part, tells *The Bulletin*

readers, "COVID-19 is quickly becoming the defining moment of this generation. Lives, economies, and routines have been upended on a global scale. Nothing like this has happened before in our lifetimes, and we long to know the path forward.

"With this uncertainty comes anxiety and restlessness, but also an invitation: to be present and to help.

"When people comment on all the Mission is doing to help during this pandemic, I have found myself saying, "All we can do is all we can do." That's what I love most about the Mission: we adapt. Our food pantry becomes a drive-thru. EdGE becomes Zoom-based. Hundreds of phone calls to our communities make sure they have what they need."

We invite you to take in President Zavodny's full message, and all *The Bulletin* photos and stories for Spring 2020. [Read or download your free PDF version here.](#)

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Bulletin"



Mission Staff Sing-A-Long

ELLSWORTH, ME — “Let us be brave and let us play nice.” Mission staff offers its sing-along adaptation of Warren Zevon’s *Don’t Let Us Get Sick*. We think it is a fitting prayer for our times and a reminder for all of us to be brave, smart, and nice during these challenging times.

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