



Douglas Cornman is the Mission Director of Island Outreach and Chaplain

Profoundness of *Sunbeam* Funerals

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME – I officiate over weddings and funerals. When I started this work, I thought I would find weddings to be more profound than funerals, but it's the other way around.

I find officiating a funeral or a celebration of life really to be one of the most profound aspects of my work. I really get to know families. I listen to their stories, their grief, their memories. Then we come together. The time we take is really powerful. There's something really special about walking alongside a family honoring the death of a loved one.

Even if I don't intimately know the person who's died, I find myself joining in the family's grief. I think it's the depth of emotion that families share with me that's really profound. It's a gift and I feel fortunate to receive it.

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A short video celebrating seniors in our communities, shown at the Gala

Sunbeam Gala 2021 - Festive Evening of Friends

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - The Mission's 2021 Sunbeam Award Gala was a great success. It was a joy to gather to honor Acadia Senior College (ASC) and Sigma Kappa, organizations which make great contributions to building strong communities.

The weather cooperated as we returned to an in-person celebration, adapted to current public health protocols, outside on the lovely terrace of the Bar Harbor Club and under a big tent. Platinum Sponsors, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, represented by Board Chair, David Woodside, and Wyman's, represented by President, Tony Shurman, introduced videos honoring the impact of the honorees. In accepting the award from former Mission President Scott Planting, Linda Dunn, ASC President, related the history of the organization and pointed out that the room held dozens of Gala guests who had been ASC instructors, supporters, and students throughout its 20-year history. The full board of Sigma Kappa was able to attend the Gala, allowing the Mission to honor our long relationship - over 100 years of service and philanthropy. As he presented the honor to Ann O'Connell Adams, National President, and Dawn Copple O'Connor, Foundation President, Mission Board Chair, Dan McKay, noted that Sigma Kappa's persistence in "living with heart" was extraordinary.

The Mission is grateful to all of the sponsors, benefactors, supporters, and special guests who made the evening a joyous occasion.

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Walgreens Presents - *In Our Words*

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - We invite you to watch this video portrait of the Mission medical team's Covid vaccination work on remote Maine islands earlier this year. This video is part of a Walgreens public service announcement series depicting Covid-19 responses in different parts of the nation.

This story features Island Health Services Director Sharon Daly, RN - who co-led the Mission's Covid-19 medical response team, with Douglas Cornman, Island Outreach Director and Chaplain - and supporting nurse, Maureen Griffin.

[Watch Video](#)



Journey Program Manager Dakin Hewlett (right) tends a campfire and shares stories with a Journey student.

Journey - Front Row Seat to Grit and Creativity

CHERRYFIELD, ME - Reflecting on the past three months I've shared with students in the Journey program I found myself rooted. Rooted to what, I'm not exactly sure. You most likely don't know my name. We probably haven't met since my arrival in Maine from Pennsylvania to step into the role of Journey Program Manager in late May.

I didn't know what to expect from this dense landscape I was moving to, or how I would engage with the community as an individual from away. My story isn't new. People often move to different places and must learn to navigate the "first time" feeling. An activity as simple as ordering a drink at the local coffee shop turns disorienting while figuring out where to stand in line.

Learning about a community and your place in it takes time. I wondered how I would connect with Downeast students, how to begin building relationships, and how to lead programming that would resonate with their life experiences.

[Full Story](#)



People & Places - Isaac Marnik

CHERRYFIELD, ME - I joined the Mission in 2005 as a Site Coordinator for the EdGE Program, worked until 2008 when I pursued other adventures, before returning to the Mission in 2011. I have worked here since. Currently I am Director of the EdGE Program. The strength of the relationships and connections the Mission makes with children, families, and communities brought me back to Maine and the Mission.

Having grown up in Maine, there are many beautiful places that I have enjoyed. Recently my favorite place is simply getting outside with the family, being able to see the excitement of my toddler as he explores. From looking at birds in the backyard to discovering what is underneath seaweed near the ocean. His excitement makes those places my favorite place to be.

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