



ESTABLISHED 1992

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

NON-PROFIT • NON-POLITICAL • NON-SECTARIAN

An affiliated member of Welcome Clubs International, Inc.

The aim of the club is to foster friendship and understanding among people of different nations and to support charities that assist women and children.

# NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1992 by Anna Kristina Sawtelle

VISIT OUR WEBSITES - [WWW.IWCNE.NET](http://WWW.IWCNE.NET) - [WWW.WELCOMECLUBS.ORG](http://WWW.WELCOMECLUBS.ORG)

Volume 18 / Number 2 / February 28, 2009

## Message from the President

Rather than a message from me this month, I thought it would be appropriate for all of you to be able to read the note of thanks from our major recipient of this year's award. The other two letters will be published in future newsletters.

### York County Shelter Programs, Inc.

January 27, 2009

International Women's Club of New England  
P.O. Box 351  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902  
Attn: Mrs. Ellen O'Toole

Dear Ellen:

What a wonderful experience for me to meet you and so many of the club members during your annual banquet at Rudi's last Saturday. I thoroughly enjoyed myself talking with so many of the women, learning more about the IWC and discussing programs with the other award recipients.

York County Shelter Programs is very grateful to the IWC for its generous grant to help winterize our family welcoming centers. The family welcoming centers-multi family homes-will enable us to intake families directly into the centers without a shelter stay first. The hope is that moving into a home instead of shelter will be less traumatic for the families who find themselves homeless. A case manager is on site to council and guide the families. Now, with your assistance the homeless families will be able to live in a warm, comfortable place while we help them find permanent housing.

Sincerely,  
Joan Sylvester, Director of Community Relations

## Today's Program



### Warmth and Wildlife in the Middle of Winter

World traveler Ann Adjutant has been to just about every corner of the globe, from the North Pole to the South Pole. On February 28, she will share with us the highlights of her 2008 African Safari.

A native of Maine, Ann grew up in the York area and currently lives in Yarmouth. She has taught science in Maine and Texas over the years and worked as a researcher for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in Connecticut at one time. Now, Ann travels every chance she gets. She has delighted audiences for years with slide shows of her many trips to exotic places. So come join us in the middle of a New England winter as we travel vicariously to a warmer climate and view animal life in Botswana and South Africa.

### Reminder!

Please mail your completed Membership Survey to IWCNE, P.O. Box 351, Cape Neddick, ME 03902. If you need another copy, email [dorothy.healy@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.healy@gmail.com). We do appreciate your ideas and comments. Thank you.



## Birthdays



Susan West March 9  
Gwen Knowlton March 19  
Anna Christina Sawtelle March 9  
Marjorie Weiner March 22  
Marilyn Herbert March 22  
Carol Gronquist March 29

Ladies of March.... If somehow your birthday was not included, it is because we do not have the information. But we hope you all have a Wonderful Day!!

## Executive Board of Directors 2009

President: Ellen O'Toole-USA/Ireland/Scotland  
(207)439-3172

Vice-President: Lee Regan-Jacks-USA/Italy  
(207)363-7182 rbunty4@msn.com

Secretary: Barbara Carmer-USA  
(603)334-6486 barb53C@aol.com

Treasurer: Marie Kelleher-USA  
(207)967-3950

Fundraising: Jeannine Kolb-USA/France  
(207)439-5705 jsskolb@webtv.net

Programs: Pat DuBois-England  
(603)964-7449 dubois@comcast.net  
Paula Sable-Canada/Poland/Russia  
(978)462-6718 readwrite@comcast.net

Lunch Coordinator: Micky Robinson-USA/Ireland  
(207)363-8074 krobinson@ttlc.net

Membership: Susan West-Austria/Russia  
(207)646-7270 Westbythesea.mac@mac.com

Activities: Betty Williams-USA  
(207)646-5772

Publicity: Pat Dateo-USA/Ireland  
(207)251-4402 rdateo@maine.rr.com

Historian: Regina Godfrey-Poland  
(207)363-7547 regal1207@aol.com

Newsletter: Margarete Driver - Germany  
207-967-3580 margaretedriver@gmail.com  
Mary Lee Pons (May-Nov.)-USA/Germany  
England (207)985-6273  
MaryLee\_Pons@yahoo.com

WCI Liaison: Kirsten Ivancevic-Denmark  
(207)967-3232 (239)591-2854  
waltivan@adelphia.net

IWCNE Founder: Anna Kristina Sawtelle-Sweden  
(207)361-1508

Deadline for the March 2009 Newsletter is Monday, March 9, 2009. The Newsletter will be mailed the week following the Saturday luncheon. If you cannot attend and do not receive your newsletter in the mail, please leave a message for Ellen O'Toole at 207-439-3172. Items submitted are subject to editing, due to space.

### Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



**Susan Heckaman**  
Financial Advisor - AAMS

469 U.S. Route One  
P.O. Box 809  
York, ME 03909  
Ofc. 207-363-1640  
Fax 877-678-1667  
www.edwardjones.com

## Reminders

For all of the activities we enjoy, everyone needs to remember to do their part to make arrangements easier for the coordinators.

**Luncheons** - Luncheon reservations and payment should be made by the date listed on the sign up sheet. Refunds cannot be given. The luncheon coordinator has to give the number attending to the restaurant, and the club has to pay whether you're there or not. No reservation can be made without a check.

### Potluck Suppers

**Hostess** - The hostess chooses the date and the number she can accommodate. She is not expected to cook, but does provide water, coffee, tea, and dishes and silverware. Potlucks are buffet style. Guests do not have to be seated at tables. Most of us do not have space for this, and we're all very flexible!

**Guests** - Reservations are made with the potluck coordinator, Betty Williams, and she needs to know what you are bringing. If you are unable to come, she should have at least 48 hours notice in order to find replacement food. If you have to cancel at the last minute, you should try to send your dish-she's counting on it as part of the meal. Also, you should still pay the \$10-our charities are counting on it! We often have a waiting list, and if you call in time someone else has the opportunity to come.

Spouses or other guests are welcomed, but each one is expected to bring food or wine and to pay the \$10. Remember, potlucks are a lot of fun, and also one of our best fund raisers.

## Upcoming Luncheon

### It Takes a Village

March 28, 2009

#### East Oriental Restaurant, Wells, Maine



Jack Driscoll has been a news reporter, sportswriter, a copy editor, and editor for 43 years, seven years as top editor of the Boston Globe but also for weekly and daily newspapers and the United Press. He is currently Editor in Residence at the MIT Media Laboratory and author of a newly published book *Couch Potatoes Sprout*. The book shows how local people who care about their communities have helped others reconnect with their communities.

Driscoll will share his ideas about the digital age and reporting and relate the mission of IWCNE to digital media. "It Takes a Village," Driscoll's title for the program, suggests that one person alone cannot succeed, that it takes a community to solve problems. Driscoll will explain how he sees digital media as part of the solution.

Driscoll, now retired and living in Rye, New Hampshire, concentrates on electronic publishing and community computing. He founded Rye Reflections in 2005, an on-line magazine for the seacoast. He also acts as adviser for several online publications, published both by seniors and by students.

Photo by Ed Boyd of the Melrose SilverStringers

## IWCNE Activities

**Please note:** We are asking that members give a call to the hostess or facilitator when an event is in someone's home, by no later than the day before for **all** scheduled activities, including **Book Club and Foreign Film Discussion** evenings, so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Also in case of poor driving conditions, we are then able to telephone those expected if it seems best to cancel an event.

### Foreign Film Discussion Evening

(1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month)

Barb Poulin, Coordinator

Date: Monday, March 2 Time: 6 pm

Place: Yorkshire Commons Community Room in York (just off Route 1A)

#### Film: Strike

A Polish film with English subtitles, 108 minutes in length. The Polish meaning of the name "Walczak" could be translated as "Fighter" and so was the heroine of the movie "Strike" who became the "Mother Courage" of the Solidarity that eventually put the end to the communism in Eastern Europe. In real life her name is Anna Walentynowicz who was initially enchanted with communism and became a super-quota worker in Gdansk Shipyard. Disillusioned with the Polish communist party and striving to survive the hardship of life under their corrupt rules, Anna (movie's Agnieszka) began her campaign for justice and worker's rights. She symbolized the opposition movement and contributed to the collapse of communism may be more than Lech Walesa (movie's Leszek) who is portrayed in the movie almost as an accidental leader. Anna parted with Lech Walesa and accused him for betrayal of the ideas along with collaboration with secret police. In the interview for Arizona Republic that I acted as interpreter she called him a traitor. The publisher decided not to run this interview at the time when Walesa was considered a hero equal to John Paul II. Anna's resentments to former colleague, Trade Union and various political parties in now-free Poland remain. It is quite sad to hear the closing statement of the movie, 25 years after acceptance of the worker's demands by the then communist government, in the "Third Polish Republic", members of European Union, NATO and other world organizations, that we lost solidarity, we lost the soul that guided genuine inspirers of the movement that saved people of many nations.

Light refreshments will be served. Please call/leave message for Barb Poulin at 207.363.8731 or her cell 207.337.2623 if you plan to attend. All are welcome to bring friends, neighbors.

Barb Poulin, coordinator

Date: Monday, April 6 Time: 6 pm

Place: Yorkshire Commons Community Room in York (just off Route 1A)

Film: Yanks, a British film



### Book Club

(1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after club luncheon)  
Around the World with Women

Coordinators: Julie Stathoplos and Barb Poulin

Date: Tuesday, March 3

Time: 7 pm

Place: Ellen Farber's Home (646.8666)

Book: Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Date: Tuesday, March 31

Time: 7 pm

Place: Pat Dateo's Home (646-4402)

Book: School on Heart's Content Road by Carolyn Shute

Please call the hostess if you plan to attend the Book Club meeting.



### Les Chanteuses

Les Chanteaux will meet on Thursday, March 5th - 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ellen Farber followed by a night out on the town for dinner.

## Mystery Trip

Wednesday, April 22, leave Wells Transportation Center at 9:00 a.m. Return to Wells by 5:00 p.m. Transportation and lunch: \$54.12, includes round-trip bus fare and lunch - all inclusive. Checks payable to: Betty Williams, **MUST** be received by **March 1, 2009**. One space remaining.

## Directory Update

Please make the following change to your directory.

#### Address Correction

Charline Ludgate

2 Barbers Creek Road

Kittery Point, ME 03905

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## WCI Corner

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At this time the WCI Executive Board is busy preparing for our upcoming meeting February 17-19. in Orlando. The members of the Executive Committee are happy for the arrangement which was made for us to stay in Time Share Condominiums, as all travel, hotel, meals etc. are paid for by the individual EC members.

As I said in my last "WCI Corner" article, I want to tell you what the advantages are for a club to be a member of WCI.

The President and Liaison of your club have the opportunity to attend the Board of Directors Meeting which is held each year and hosted by one of our member clubs.

This gives your President and Liaison the opportunity to hear and learn what other clubs are doing to promote better understanding and knowledge of other cultures, which is a vital step in the progress toward peace among nations.

The International Conference is held every two years and also hosted by an Affiliated or Member Club in their own country, and it is open to all members of the individual clubs and to their spouses. I have had the good fortune to attend several Conferences over the years and I feel much enriched by the experience. When I receive more information about the Conference to be held in may of 2010 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, I will relay it to you. Attending a Conference is unlike any trip you can take on your own.

Other advantages for your Club of being a member of WCI will come in your next newsletter.

In Friendship,  
Kirsten Ivancevic, WCI Liaison

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## Greetings from Bill and Friends

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Bill Dayer from his son's home in Minneapolis, "This is me having an afternoon nap with two of my friends!"

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## Pot Luck Dinners

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### In Retrospect

Many thanks to Pat and Bob Dateo for hosting a wonderful old fashioned Sunday Dinner on February 8, 2009.

What a menu it was! Everyone enjoyed wine, cheese, assorted goodies and lively conversation along with wonderful water views from their beautiful home. For dinner we had roast pork, roast potatoes, rice, mashed pumpkin enhanced with peas, onions, bacon and other surprises, acorn squash with mushrooms, roast tomatoes and, of course, Bob's marvelous homemade bread. Coffee and Anne Gately's cupcakes frosted in pink and topped with a small candy heart along with chocolate and vanilla ice cream completed the meal.

All agreed this dinner was a special treat - a perfect mid-winter meal.

Ellen O'Toole

### For Future

- March 22nd - St. Patrick's Pot Luck - Charline Ludgate's home. Traditional corned beef dinner and music by the York River Ramblers. \$15.00 - reservations filled.
- April 16th - pot luck will be at Kristine Slater's home in Portsmouth. More info and time to be announced.

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## Annual Awards Luncheon

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We do owe Rudi's Restaurant in Portsmouth many thanks for accommodating us on January 24th on such short notice.

While the weather was brutally cold, the sun was shining. While the parking lot was a sheet of ice, there was a parking lot as well as a parking garage close by. Also, let's not forget that the month was January and the location was Portsmouth, N.H.!

Our President, Charline Ludgate, welcomed all to this annual awards meeting, thanked the outgoing Board and committee chairwomen for having helped to have made it such a successful year. Each outgoing Board member was given a rose.

The meeting was then turned over to the incoming President, Ellen O'Toole, who spoke briefly on the reality of the present economic problems and what they may mean for us as well as for all charitable organizations.

After lunch, Charline Ludgate presented the checks to the representatives of the three charities chosen by the Fundraising committee last spring. Julie Perreault represented the Southern Maine Agency on Aging Money Minders Program. Joan Sylvester spoke for the York County Shelter Programs while Tracey Tucker and Becca Pawling represented New Heights of Portsmouth - "The Whole Thing".

Each spoke briefly about the goals and accomplishments of their individual agencies and thanked us most sincerely for the awards.

Our last speaker was our founder, Anna Kristina Sawtelle, who shared some of her family's experiences while attending the Presidential Inauguration in January. You can read all about them in the article she has written for this edition of our newsletter. Enjoy!

## Betty Dixon Memorial



This is a special day, when we welcome our new Board members and show our deep appreciation to the outgoing officers — I know that it reaffirms the reasons we belong to this unique Club - there are many!! But one in particular is the ability to meet and make lasting friendships with members who are not only interested in World Affairs but in learning more about each other's diverse backgrounds and histories. Just such a member was our dear friend Betty Dixon who passed away on January 6th at the age of 99 years. Betty had been a member almost since the inception of the Club, joining when she was a resident in the village of Ogunquit. For the last six years she had resided with her daughter in York when my "journeys with Betty" began. We had known each other as long time members, but the last six years we had travelled together to our monthly luncheons whenever we could each attend - those journeys became so very special to me.

I should explain for those of you who perhaps do not know that I am of Welsh heritage, and Welsh people I can safely say with very few exceptions quickly develop a very deep affection for people who admire Welsh culture, Welsh music, their poetry - and so on and so on!!! - and how wonderful that I soon discovered that Betty was such a person! - Instant love and affection! Betty explained that she had lived all her early years in a Welsh community in Scranton, Pennsylvania - her Church had a Welsh minister, the choir was "Heavenly" she told me, the schools had Welsh teachers and on one visit to her home she showed me telephone directories she had saved from those years, many pages filled with Welsh names.. You can only imagine what a pleasure it was for me to share those memories with her.

But Betty was interested in all things, had a wonderful sense of humour, up on all the latest news, and a joy to all lucky enough to be called her friend.

She was the true "people" person - her husband was the technical director at the Ogunquit Playhouse for many years, and her daughters began their theatre interests as young children in programmes held there in the summers. Betty was part of the summer playhouse community, meeting all the actors and actresses (many of them famous on stage and screen) in town in summer plays. A new book recently published and co-authored by Betty's daughter about the 75 year history of the Playhouse (listed as one of the finest in the country) has many quotes in it by Betty with some of her observations about people and their activities there. She told

me a story once about a director being short of extras for a particular play, and that Betty and some twenty locals (many non-actors!) sportingly filled in. She had enjoyed that immensely!

Tiny in stature, barely five feet tall, she could always be recognised even in the most crowded room by being the only lady in the room wearing a hat! - a very tasteful hat, beautifully coordinated with impeccable outfits.

In one picture I saw in the Playhouse History book I mentioned - taken probably 60 or so years ago, there, sitting on an enormous rock on Ogunquit beach, her two little girls playing in the sand beside her, surrounded by many of the actors and actresses enjoying a day at the beach, was Betty in a summer dress with the perfect little hat in place, calmly reading a book! And so it was always, Betty and her hats.

Independent always, calling for her for our journey to the monthly Club luncheons always followed the same pattern, she would emerge from the house, right on time, approach the deck steps leading to the garden path, the comments would always be the same "I can do it!" and only when she reached the garden path would she take my arm to walk to the car. I would open the car door and there would be another "I can do it!"

She could do it, she could do it all, and along the way found a place in our hearts as an inspiration on how to live a long life with such spirit and dignity. We will miss her so very much but we should feel so blessed to have had her with us for so many memorable years.

Her friend, Gwyneth Wykes

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## Memorial Donations

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Memorial donations in honor of Betty Dixon have been received from Rita Gaughan and Cynthia Raymond.

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## WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

FILM      DISCUSSION      TEA

Saturday, March 7, 2009  
1:00 to 4:00 PM

Wells High School\*  
Route 9, Wells, ME

### FILM: CHASING FREEDOM

Inspired by a true story this film starring Oscar and Golden Globe nominee, Juliette Lewis, tells the story of an ambitious lawyer who takes on a pro-bono case of a woman seeking freedom in the United States. After barely escaping the horrors of her Taliban controlled homeland, Meena arrives in the US only to find her freedom stripped away once again.

DISCUSSANT: BETH STICKNEY

Lead Attorney, Immigrant legal Advocacy Project

TEA: HOSTED BY MEMBERS OF IWCNE

JOIN WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD  
WHO WILL BE  
CELEBRATING WITH US!!!

PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO  
pschwartz@maine.rr.com  
to let us know you will attend.

Telephone reservations may be made  
after March 1st at 207-361-4097.

Directions: Take route #95 to the Wells Exit, turn left at light. You will pass the Wells Elementary School, then look for the Wells High School sign on your right next to the Municipal building. Driveway will lead you to the school. Parking is available next to the school building; follow parking signs.

From route #1 north in Wells, turn left at light by Cumberland Farms follow route #9 towards #95. Look for the Wells High School sign on your left in about 1/2 mile.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

### ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT INCOME/EXPENSES\*

DUES	\$4,325.00
LUNCHEONS*	-\$103.00
LUNCHEON RAFFLE	\$648.00
NEWSLETTER PRINTING	-\$3,593.00
NEWSLETTER POSTAGE	-\$468.60
NEWSLETTER ADS	\$160.00
BROCHURE	-\$161.00
WEB SITE	-\$620.00
WCI DUES	-\$50.00
CONTRIBUTIONS & CHECKING INTEREST	\$65.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**	-\$371.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$169.34</b>

\* luncheons for speakers

\*\*postage, printing, paper, copying, etc.

### CHARITABLE ACCOUNT

BREAD BAKING DEMONSTRATION	\$90.00
FASHION SHOW*	\$4,784.00
FASHION SHOW RAFFLE	\$1,741.00
FLEA MARKET	\$384.00
GARDEN PARTY	\$575.00
HOLIDAY FAIR	\$3,143.00
HOLIDAY FAIR RAFFLE	\$891.00
PIN SALES	\$226.00
POTLUCK DINNERS	\$2,365.00
50-50 RAFFLE	\$545.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	\$295.00
OTHER DONATIONS	\$55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,094.00</b>

\*deduct fashion show deposit of \$675.00 11/07

### CHARITABLE DONATIONS

CHIDRENS INTERNATIONAL	\$528.00
MONEY MINDERS( York Co. Services on Aging	\$6,000.00
NEW HORIZONS (Seacoast Mental Health)	\$4,000.00
YORK COUNTY SHELTERS PROGRAM, INC.	\$4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,528.00</b>

\*all figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

## Charity for 2009

The Fundraising Chairman for 2009, Jeannine Kolb, will be in Africa January-March. Until her return, if you have charities you would like to have considered for our 2009 charity donations, please send the charity names with addresses to: Charline Ludgate, 2 Barbers Creek Road, Kittery Point, ME 03905, ccludgate@comcast.net, 207-439-8884.

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## IWCNE Luncheon Registration Form

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International Women's Club of New England  
**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_

**East Restaurant and Lounge  
Route #1 (636 Post Road)  
Wells, ME 04909  
207-641-8788**

**Deadline: March 18, 2009**

RSVP: Please send your check for \$20 per person to Micky Robinson, 5 Meadowlark Drive, York, ME. 03909 or call 207 363 8074. Pre-registration only. No refunds. Send someone else in your place.

### Luncheon Menu

**Choice of Soup or Salad:** (A.) Egg Drop Soup (B.) Hot & Sour Soup (C.) House Garden Salad

**Choice of 9 Entrees:** (1.) General Tso's Chicken, or (2.) Sesame Chicken, or (3.) Beef with Broccoli, or (4.) Beef with Mushroom, or (5.) Buddha's Delight, or (6.) Pork Fried Rice, or (7.) Chicken Lo Mein, or (8.) Pork Lo Mein, or (9.) Vegetable Lo Mein.

**Please specify Soup or Salad and an Entree.**

No selection: you will automatically receive the first menu items, i.e. Egg Drop Soup and Tso's Chicken.



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## International Women's Club of New England Program for March 28th, 2009

**East Restaurant and Lounge  
Route #1 (636 Post Road)  
Wells, ME 04909  
207-641-8788**

11:00 a.m. Luncheon

**— Special Invitation to a Super Meal. —**

East Restaurant in Wells has been selected for the March 28th (Saturday) luncheon. "East" has been honored as one of the top ten Chinese restaurants in the United States. Once more, it received first prize for décor and atmosphere.



# IWCNE - March 2009 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> International Film Discussion Yorkshire Commons 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> Book Club 7:00 pm Ellen Farber's	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Les Chanteuses 5:30 pm Ellen Farber's	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Board Meeting 4 Wheelhouse Way Kittery Point 5:30 pm Deadline for newsletter	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> French Club Luncheon Members to be contacted by J. Mangion	<b>18</b> Deadline for Luncheon Signup/Payment	<b>19</b> York Library Holiday Fair Meeting 10:00 am Volunteers Needed!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> St. Pat's Pot Luck Charline Ludgate's 5:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Luncheon East Restaurant York, ME 11:00 am
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Book Club 7:00 pm Pat Dateo's	<b>Looking Ahead:</b> April 6 - 6:00 pm - International Film Discussion April 16 - Pot Luck at Kristine Slater's - time tba April 22 - 9:00 am - Mystery Trip			



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# INAUGURATION 2009 (when American history took a big leap).

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To be part of history, any countries history when the books later on will “tell it all” is something to cherish. I was living in Nigeria with my husband and three children when Biafra 1966

was declared a new country. The thrill of being able to tell “Friday” our gardener that he had a new country as he was the first one I met arriving home after a visit to the local clinic. There over the radio I had heard the announcement of a new country and the National hymn with music based on Jean Sibelius “Finlandia” being played That feeling of having been part of something so enormous, something new, can not be explained. Only in the Biafran case the country went back to be part of Nigeria again.

This was my fourth American Inauguration in DC. It is always a time of celebration - like a wedding or a birthday party. For a few days the Capital of USA is celebrating, people in the street are smiling. There is a festive mood and we all seem to be equal. This time was no different in so far that preparation had to take place far in advance if you wanted to be part of the celebration. Membership in State Societies had to be taken out in order to try to secure tickets either for the Swearing-in Ceremony , balls or other events. Lodging had to be secured. All of this some 18 months prior to the Inaugural week, unless you happened to have certain connections.

There was a difference this time as there was a possibility that USA would for the first time elect an African American President. My brother and his family from Sweden wanted to also be part of this celebration. We did all the things above far in advance. We all became members of the States of Arizona, Illinois and Texas. Whoever won would appear at some of the events. Texas State Society we had been members of before and their food was always fabulous whatever event they put on.

Rooms were secured, tickets were bought at nominal fees, airplane tickets bought etc. We were supposed to be 10 in our family group. The closer we got to the Inaugural days the more changes there were. It became very obvious that some tickets we had could not be used for logistics reasons. Trying to sell them on EBay became a nightmare. But people who got them at very reduced prices were happy.= As months progressed we became aware that tickets were delayed being sent out, rooms became” In case Secret Service needs them, you are not in luck any longer” Our lodging was very close to Pennsylvania Ave. Then there were announcements, of road closures, blocks closed off, only certain entries to Penn Ave, parking garages closed, no cars to leave once parked. Secret Service had a disclaimer that they could if they felt for security reason any of the above needed to be changed, they had the authority to do so with a moments notice. As we know, there were 5000 people trapped in one tunnel for 4 hours, people

with tickets never got to their destination.

It was bitter cold on the day of the Inauguration as Metros started to run at 4 AM. As I looked out of our window from the 8th floor I saw the mass of people streaming down the road only to be stopped by the police and roped off waiting for 8 AM security points to open. My estimates were at the time around 20,000 people below me standing absolutely still, as there was no space to move. I do not believe that anyone would have jeopardized his or her space by misbehaving. As we know 1.8 million people watched the Inauguration on the Mall and not one arrest. That just shows what we can do if we want to. The euphoria was so special, everyone was greeting each other, everyone was smiling, everyone was freezing but everyone realized that they were part of something extraordinary, and that the future will never be the same again.

Most of the Inaugural Balls, and there were many, took place around where we lived. There were such festive sights - men in their Tuxedos, ladies in their lovely gowns with walking shoes and a little bag in hand with their evening shoes walking up and down the streets. This included people who were just watching and being part of the celebration. This was of course due to no cars; taxis etc and only a few Metros were allowed to run. I wore the same outfit I had worn for three earlier Inaugurations.

The gift stores were filled to the brim with buyers, anything from T-shirts, to President Obama look alikes to slogans, “I was there but I wasn’t there” meaning you couldn’t see or hear, but you were breathing the same air as the President and his family and you were there in spirit for a few days.

We all have special memories. For me, as it became very obvious the day before the Swearing-in that I could not join my family on the ground with the crowds, standing and waiting, I had rented a wheel chair for the occasion. (However I was there, I saw the crowd below, I saw the Inauguration on the TV and as my window was open I could hear the people, so “I was there”).

My ticket was now available. The building we stayed in, is where I for the past 12 winters have rented a small one bedroom flat. I set out to go down in the lobby to give the ticket to someone working there that day at the front desk. I didn’t know who it would be. I arrived and the lady who was manning the desk I hadn’t seen since last March greeted me with my name. I asked her was she working tomorrow? She said, “No” I asked her if she wanted my Swearing-in Ticket. She became silent she raised her hand to her mouth and from her beautiful brown eyes the tears started to flow, she didn’t say a word. I then realized the enormous task and responsibilities President Obama has in front of him. I started to cry and left. I saw the lady the day after and she quietly said. I will never forget what you did for me. That story will likely be passed on in her family for generations to come.

Everyone in my family dispersed the day after and I traveled by train back to Maine and enjoyed the company of a gentleman who had been part of Caroline and Ted Kennedy’s entourage being seated more or less next to the “Royal” family during the Swearing-in Ceremony. I came home to snow and water damage but with many memories like no one else’s.

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## Pictures from Last Month's Luncheon

