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### Notable Quotes

"We get a lot done in two hours. We talk, we plan, we build - and we have a lot of fun doing it!"  
*Sanna McKim, project manager*

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## November 4, 2009

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*The home of the future is being built just down the street...*

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*No one works harder at building the social fabric of our community than Elizabeth Garber, our esteemed "Empress of Fun." But keep an eye on her if you go driving...*

- [Why Belfast?](#)

*Arielle Bywater shares a moving account of the power of a place to draw you in and hold you close.*

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*A new Equity Member puts us over the halfway point, and we welcome four new Exploring Members*

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### Frisbee Golf, Anyone?

On Sunday, November 8, at 45 Edgecomb Road, Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage's regular open house will feature a game of Frisbee golf, beginning at 2 pm. Cruise the building site while feeding your inner Tiger Woods! Follow that up with a 3 pm tour of the prototype home being built by G•O Logic, the project's design/build firm, a few miles away on Crocker Road. Peruse the house plans and chat with community members at the farmhouse. The event is free, all are welcome, and delicious snacks - a hallmark of the Belfast Cohousing experience - will be provided.

### Prototype Taking Shape - Steve Chiasson

With serious cold weather nearly upon us, all eyes are on the prototype home being built by G•O Logic a few



miles away on Crocker Road. The building is rapidly taking shape, and community members are very excited to get a sense of what their new homes will look and feel like. The lines and proportions are simple and elegant - attractive even without the finishing touches on the exterior. But the beating heart of it -



what makes this home truly extraordinary - is its super energy efficiency. According to design partner Matt O'Malia, the entire 1,500 square foot home will require 90% less energy to heat than a similarly-sized, conventionally-built home. Put in more concrete terms, this house could easily be kept warm on the coldest winter night with the equivalent of ten feet of electric baseboard heat.

[Click here to view a series of five short videos outlining some of the innovative approaches G•O Logic is taking to achieve this remarkable result.](#)



### **Member Profile - Elizabeth Garber**

In my cohousing life, I organize the monthly Open Houses - Maypole dances, Live Chess Matches, bulb planting - for our community and guests, yet here I want to give a glimpse of my other life.

It's five fifteen am and the sliver of the waning moon is bright outside my back window. I'm wide awake, settled onto my couch, a shawl around my shoulders and knees, cup of hot tea on the table in front of me, my laptop ready to go. I have two hours free to write before I get ready to meet my first acupuncture patient at eight o'clock. I'm a writer and this is my idea of a happy morning.

The summer I was ten, in the 1960's, I decided I was going to be a writer. I opened a new notebook and wrote down the title of the novel about a girl in the 1880's in my village in Ohio. But I didn't know where to begin. At our little library, I read biographies of girls and drew drawings of clothes a girl would have worn. Yet when I stared at the notebook, I couldn't imagine her life or who she was. Finally I tore out the page and began a journal of my summer telling about camping in the backyard with my best friend, getting scared and coming back into the house.

*Editor's Note: To paraphrase the late Paul Harvey, [click here to to read the rest of the story.](#)*

### **Why Belfast? - Arielle Bywater**

When my husband and I tell folks that we got married in an art gallery in Belfast, Maine, or that I gave birth to our son in a small house overlooking the bay there,

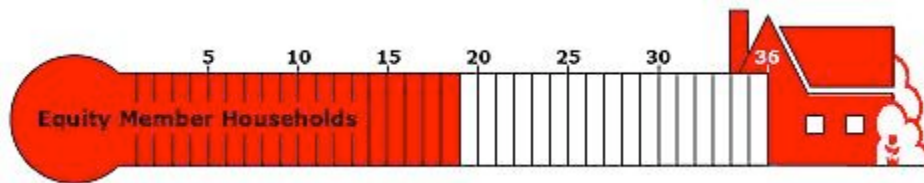


or that this son is buried a bit further north in a pine forest in Orrington, they look at us funny. After all, we live in the Midwest. "You don't have family there, do you?" Nope. "Did you grow up there?" We grew up in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts. "Well, then, why?"



How does anyone obsessed with Maine explain this particular madness? Usually, I say something like, "We started going there on vacation when we were dating because I had fond memories of camping in Acadia as a child. Also, I had once stumbled upon Belfast with an ex, ate hand-made lavender ice cream in an architectural salvage store/cafe, and swore I'd go back. Also, I saw a feature about the Common Ground Fair on TV when I was a teenager, wrote the name down in a notebook and never forgot about it. Also, it's where I took up running, and where, in a used bookstore, I discovered Buddhism..." at which point my eyes start to flash the state seal and my conversational companions politely excuse themselves.

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from a blog entry by Arielle. [To read the full post, click here.](#)*



### Membership Update

We're delighted that former Exploring Member Mitch Henrion has become a full Equity Member, bringing our total Equity membership to nineteen and pushing us over the halfway mark. As our neighbors from "down the road," Mitch and her daughter, Elena, were involved with the project well before they became members. A former resident of Cobb Hill Cohousing in Vermont, Mitch brings a wealth of practical experience to our development process.

Additionally, Since the last edition of this newsletter, four new Exploring Members have joined our ranks: Beth Henderson, Irene Jenks, Penny West, and Linda Buckmaster. We'll let them speak for themselves here...

Beth: "Three islands... North Haven, Peaks Island and Western Samoa, in the South Pacific, were formative in my experiences with community. Islands, by their nature, create community in a unique way, and in living on these islands over the course of my adult life, I've recognized the inherent value in both the challenges and opportunities afforded by community. Currently a practicing artist, previously an educator, I hail originally from Ohio. I hope to find future practical use for my degree in environmental ed and Master Gardener training. I'm pleased to once again be an exploring member and am well on my way to the more committed vantage point of being an Equity member."

Irene: "I am a 52 year-old woman, a wife, and a mother. I grew up in the Boston area and have lived in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire for the past 26 years. Maine is my second home, having spent 46 summers on Lake Sebago and many visits to Mount Desert Island. My husband, Al Jenks, is 63 and we have two sons, Tom, 23, and Andy, 19. Together we run Windblown Cross Country Ski area that Al started in 1970 and is currently for sale."

Penny: "I am a founding member of the Green Store. I have lived three years without phone or electricity. I have lived on a farm with pigs, chickens, cows, sheep and dogs plus a large vegetable garden. I have raised two daughters. I have lived in "community" at Omega Institute where I worked for three seven-month seasons. I am interested in living in a community of like minded people in a sound way! I like travel and last year taught kindergarten in Doha, Qatar for 2 months

*Editor's Note: I don't yet have a bio from Linda, but I do have this, from a recent edition of the Bangor Daily News -*

## **Return**

By Linda Buckmaster

Where the Passy meets the bay, we  
come together, gather like ducks at solstice:  
Barrow's goldeneyes down from Hudson's Bay,  
here once again in sight of the old bridge,  
bobbing and drifting, each small bird complete  
but always swimming near to one another.  
We, too, drift in this bright stream, floating  
a life, returning to light.

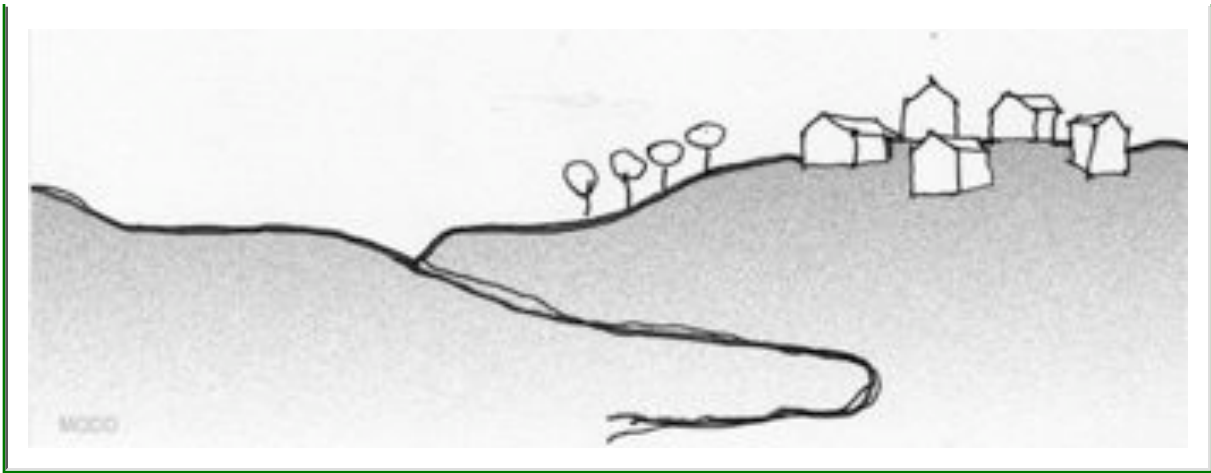
*Linda Buckmaster is poet laureate of Belfast. Her collection of poems "Heart Songs and Other Legacies" was published in 2006.*

## **Membership Information**

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently nineteen of a projected thirty-six Equity members. Exploring Members are those households who have an interest in becoming Equity Members, but are not yet ready to fully commit. Friends are those who are interested in our project, but are not members. See the [Membership](#) section of our website for further details.

## **Our Mission**

To be a model environmentally sustainable, affordable, multi-generational cohousing community that is easily accessible to Belfast, includes land for agricultural use and open space, and is an innovative housing development option for rural Maine.



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