

South Portland City Council  
***Position Paper of the City Manager***

***Subject:***

**ORDER#166-16/17 - Public hearing on the proposed termination of the Peter H. Debevoise Memorial Scholarship Trust pursuant to 18-B M.R.S. § 414. Passage requires majority vote.**

***Position:***

In May of 1981, Order #156-80/81 established a scholarship trust in the name of Peter H. Debevoise, which the City has administered since then. In recent years, the income from the trust has been minimal resulting in scholarship distributions for as little as \$140 – \$224 to recipients.

In making this request, Finance Director Greg L'Heureux, the scholarship recipient selection committee, and Mr. Debevoise's widow hope to make the annual scholarship award more significant to the recipients by using the principal amount over the next several years until the fund is eventually exhausted.

***Requested Action:***

Council passage of ORDER #166-16/17.



City Manager

# S Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 4

comprehensive legislation and in the face of the Public Utilities Commission's recent rollback of net metering we will continue to fall behind as solar resources change the economic landscape in our neighboring states.

This anti-solar climate leaves small businesses at a competitive disadvantage and discourages the kind of larger-scale municipal project that South Portland has just initiated. It stifles the creation of good-paying technology jobs that might enable many young Mainers, whom we say we desperately need, to work and live close to home.

Recent polling shows an overwhelming majority of Mainers, throughout the state and across party lines, want to see the Public Utility Commission's new rule reversed and more solar resources developed. My representative in District 33, Kevin Battle, has voted for positive solar legislation in the past and has now indicated an intention to support a current proposal by Rep. Seth Berry to introduce "An Act to Protect and Expand Access to Solar Power." This legislation would reopen the door to the type of solar development that so many people hope to see.

I appreciate Rep. Battle's stance in favor of solar power and urge my fellow citizens to make him aware of our support for his position on this important matter affecting the economic health of our state.

**Robert McKeagney**  
South Portland

## Reader wants to clear the air

To the editor:

In response to Mr. William Duffy-Dufres and Mr. Ralph Zeiff on their recent, inaccurate harangue against John Howard in this paper, let me please state a few things clearly.

First, the pair only reaffirmed one of John's main driving points - which was that it is people like them that give too far left liberals a bad name in South Portland or anywhere else. Just because one might

not like something (tar sands or fossil fuels), or mandate driving an issue at all cost like the ongoing slander of Portland Pipe Line, gives us no right to subvert and disregard due process, fairness, mediation, the rule of law and a public vote.

Second, your personal portrayal of John and others who disagree with your implied "any means to justify a super progressive end" is grossly off base. John is even more left of center than myself though you would like to define any dissenters that will not card carry the Cloudy Skies agenda as oily, money hungry Trumpers. Sorry we don't fit your attack mold. Even your beloved current or termed out mayor, whom led the assault on decency, hijacking a democratic vote and dividing us all in a stupid, totally unnecessary and costly law suit with repercussions for decades, could not deny the four star character or positive political positions of people like John.

So lastly, with due credit reference to the late great Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, "I know John Howard, I have served with John Howard, John Howard is a friend of mine, (one piled high with integrity, reason, and intellect) and you sirs, are no John Howard. Not even close. And you know what, nor am I."

**Don Russell**  
South Portland

## Free speech encouraged

To the editor:

My Advanced ESOL Writing class at Southern Maine Community College does a project every semester, writing letters to the editor. It is a great experience for students, especially many who have never experienced freedom of the press. Please take a moment to read their letter and perhaps comment in a letter of your own.

These young men and women from around the globe work very hard to find topics that will be of interest to you, practicing their skills of "writing to persuade." They value your feedback. You can write to the editor yourself or perhaps write to me at rdeangelis@smccme.edu to give your thoughts.

Thank you for taking time to read.

**Rosemarie De Angelis**  
South Portland

## Let food bring people together

To the editor:

How many times did you ask yourself, "How can I solve the miscommunication between myself and others?" Sometimes it feels like there is an ocean separating people. I think that food can be a peacemaker.

There is something comforting in food. When you invite people to your house to eat, it opens hearts and this is a good way to get closure and solve conflicts. When we sit together and eat, we promote better understanding and harmony. Food is one way to express culture and tradition. For example, in many big cities, an area like Chinatown can be found. This brings people from different cultures together. In a similar way we can find Little Italy, a French area and a Middle Eastern area. These are the places in which people from different cultures can interact.

For example, near my previous house in Israel, there is a very good Arab restaurant and we used to eat there a lot. The kitchen is considered to be one of the best in Israel. Arabs and Jews sit together with open hearts. When my parents came to visit me, I took them to "Babylon," an Iraqi restaurant. The aromas, the smell and the decoration reminded them of the country they came from, Iraq. The owners were very kind and welcoming and my father was so happy to speak Arabic, his first language.

I think food brings people together more than any other activity. It can unite people from all parts of life and cultures. "Food brings love, peace and compassion to the table. It brings the races together. It brings religions together," Billy Higgins, 1987.

I know it's true.

**Sherry Siman-Tov**  
Israel

## Standing up for others is important

To the editor:

Why is everything in this world unfair? This is the question that is passing through the mind of humans all of the time whether they like it or not. In some humans this happens more than others. Why is this?

The expression we are talking about is called The Golden Rule. It doesn't matter where you are from or what your religion is or the color of your skin. It's called The Golden Rule because it ensures success. Well, now think about how that adapts to your life? We see the day by day world is getting cruel, like Lou Gehrig's disease, a disease that targets your nerve cells that move muscles when we speak, walk and move our body, and leaves your body like a pile of wax. I think our world is infected with the same diseases that we see in the news. Many innocent people are killed, especially children. Do people infected with the temerity diseases or hate overcome on love. Why is this?

It's because when everything is going well in your life and you have no worries, you never think about people in your community, your country or even your neighbor. Then when you have difficulties in your life, you start complaining.

Someone may respect human rights and say I never did anything wrong and I always respected people and did my best, but that's not enough. If you expect people to defend your rights in an unjust world, you need to stand up for their rights too.

**Obaid Sidiqi**  
Afghanistan

See LETTERS, page 6

**REVERSE MORTGAGE**  
SM

*"We do mortgages - in forward and reverse!"*

Learn about the loan with no monthly payments for individuals 62 years and older.

**BIG HORIZON**  
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

**Call now 1-207-REVERSE**  
www.bighorizonmortgage.com



Sharron Eastman, Owner  
NMLS#985472, NMLS#279028

**WE'RE NOT A BUSINESS. WE'RE A Family.**

In your time of need, why turn to a business when you can lean on a family? As a family owned funeral home, we offer a level of dignity, compassion and personal care you won't find elsewhere. We go above and beyond for each family we serve - not because this is our business, but because it's our way of life.

*Our family is here for yours.*

**CONROY-TULLY WALKER**  
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES

172 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE  
1024 BROADWAY, SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE  
(207) 773-6511  
www.ConroyTullyWalker.com



The Walker Family

**CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY COUNCIL**

The South Portland City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed termination of the Peter H. Debevoise Memorial Scholarship Trust as follows:

**Date of Public Hearing:** Monday, April 3, 2017

**Time:** 7 P.M.

**Place:** Council Chambers, City Hall, 25 Cottage Road, South Portland

**Brief explanation:**

Under the terms of this trust, set up in 1981 in memory of a South Portland High School (SPHS) chemistry teacher and tennis coach, the income of the Trust (approximately \$140-\$224/year) is annually distributed in the form of an educational scholarship to a graduating senior of SPHS. Because the trust principal is relatively modest such that the income generated thereon is also modest, the City Council, as the trustee of the trust, would like to make the annual scholarship award more meaningful to recipients. State statute, 18-B M.R.S. § 414, provides that the trustee of a trust consisting of trust property less than \$100,000 may, after notice to qualified beneficiaries, terminate the trust if the trustee concludes that the value of the trust property is insufficient to justify the cost of administration. If the trust is terminated, the City Council will consider distribution of the trust property in the amount of \$2,000 per year to the graduating senior of SPHS who best perpetuates the values for which Peter H. Debevoise cared for and instilled in others until such time as the Trust property is exhausted.



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

PATRICIA A. SMITH  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY  
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT  
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
ORDER #166-16/17**

District One  
CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Two  
PATRICIA A. SMITH

\_\_\_\_\_

District Three  
EBEN C. ROSE

\_\_\_\_\_

District Four  
LINDA C. COHEN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Five  
BRAD FOX

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
MAXINE R. BEECHER

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

**WHEREAS**, by Council Order #156-80/81, the City Council established the Peter H. Debevoise Memorial Scholarship Trust (the "Trust") pursuant to certain terms and conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 5653, the City Council, as the municipal officers of the City, serves as the Trustee of the Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the current balance of the Trust is approximately \$19,000 and said Trust accrues interest at the annual rate of approximately 1%; and

**WHEREAS**, the income of the Trust has ranged from approximately \$140/year to \$224/year, which is annually distributed in the form of an educational scholarship to a graduating senior of South Portland High School who is selected according to the criteria and procedures set forth in the terms and conditions of the Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Director and the scholarship recipient selection committee desire to make the annual scholarship award more meaningful to recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, 18-B M.R.S. § 414(1) provides that the trustee of a trust consisting of trust property less than \$100,000 may, after notice to qualified beneficiaries, terminate the trust if the trustee concludes that the value of the trust property is insufficient to justify the cost of administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the qualified beneficiaries of the Trust are the inhabitants of South Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 18-B M.R.S. § 414(3), if a trust is terminated as uneconomic, upon termination, the trustee shall distribute the trust property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust; and

**WHEREAS**, following notice to the qualified beneficiaries, a public hearing on the proposed termination of the Trust pursuant to 18-B M.R.S. § 414 was conducted on April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, South Portland City Hall; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby finds that the value of the Trust property is insufficient to justify the cost of administration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, that the Trust be terminated effective immediately, and that the Trust property be distributed in the amount of \$2,000 per year to a graduating senior of South Portland High School who best perpetuates the values for which Peter H. Debevoise cared for and instilled in others, said graduating senior to be selected by the Principal of South Portland High School, until such time as the Trust property is exhausted.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Date: April 3, 2017