

March 29, 2012

TRAVELIN' MAINE(RS): Mainers are surrounded by great art, theater, music and writing

George and Linda Smith

Maine is awash in great art, theater, music and writing. Recent trips to the Portland Museum of Art and the new Emery Community Arts Center at the University of Maine at Farmington reminded us of this. And we'll soon be making another visit to Stone Mountain Arts Center in Brownfield, the best place to listen to music in the state. Last Friday night we enjoyed Red, winner of the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play, at the Public Theater in Lewiston. Portland hosts the Maine Festival of the Book on Saturday. And we're pouring through Janet Mendelsohn's very informative book, "Maine's Museums: Art Oddities & Artifacts," making a list of places to visit this summer. Join us!



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A GOOD RESOURCE

Ever visited Margaret Chase Smith's Library and Home in Skowhegan? How about the Poland Spring Museum?

If you need an excuse to visit beautiful Peaks Island in Portland Harbor, how about the Umbrella Cover Museum?

We've got museums featuring Moxie, black stoves, whales, logging, Acadian life, Cryptozoology, Rufus Porter's exquisite murals, Indian baskets and artifacts, electric streetcars, music boxes and player pianos and more.

Lots of historic homes are open to visitors too — and have you ever seen an ice house?

You probably know about the Maritime Museum, Shaker Village and our many art museums. You know the Farnsworth Museum is in Rockland, but did you know the Lighthouse Museum is located in that city, too? And the Puffin Project Visitor Center?

All of this and more is catalogued in Janet Mendelsohn's wonderful guide, "Maine's Museums — Art Oddities & Artifacts," published in 2011 by The Countryman Press. We're using Janet's book to plan our summer explorations. You should, too!

— *The Travelin' Maine(rs)*

Visit George's website: www.georgesmithmaine.com for travel tips, book reviews, outdoor news and more.

The Travelin' Maine(rs), George and Linda Smith of Mount Vernon, have spent their lifetimes enjoying all that Maine has to offer. Now they'll tell you all about it — their favorite inns, restaurants, trips, activities, experiences, and travel books and websites — in their own personal style. They'll be offering anecdotes, tips and all the details you need. So join them in exploring, experiencing and enjoying the great state of Maine.



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