

# Social Ways of DC

## Exhibit Topic

Margaret Chase Smith's role as the wife of a congressman in 1936 required her to follow certain social protocols. As told in an anecdote in the collection, MCS said, "As the wife of a Representative in Congress and at the suggestion of Mrs. Brewster (wife of Representative Owen Brewster), I became a member of the Congressional Club, a club for wives of Members of Congress located at 2001 New Hampshire Avenue.

Mrs. Brewster had been very thoughtful and helpful in getting me started out right and had taken me with her when making official calls. In those days this was a must socially and politically. She had a large car and chauffeur which made it much easier. Each day of the week was designated for a certain group—Monday for wives of other Representatives, the husband's committee members' wives first; Tuesday for Senate wives;

Wednesday for Cabinet wives; Thursday for Supreme Court and Friday, Foreign Dignitaries—the calls to the White House and the Vice President's wife were always made first.

Seldom was anyone at home so it was just a matter of leaving engraved cards, one Mr. and Mrs. and one of my husband's. Because of this, it was hardly necessary to go around personally, but if one did, the right corners of the cards were turned down, meaning a personal call. This was a long process which few followed. I did the first year but tapered off until I became a member of Congress when I discontinued this altogether, but I believe as

long as Mrs. Brewster was in Washington, she was faithful in her social duties and was well known as one of the Capitol's most gracious and perfect hostesses.

Mrs. White, the wife of the Senator, was socially prominent but more selective with her calls and her guests. Mrs. Carl Moran, wife of the man my husband followed, was very popular—they having come in with the Roosevelts and knew everyone as he was very active in New Deal circles. Since I was a Republican and didn't know anyone, it was a real privilege to be (Cont. p. 5) **(Social Ways—Cont. from cover)** taken by Mrs. Moran to teas

*Margaret Chase Smith shown adjusting hat in late 1930s.*

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## ***UMF Student Uses Facility***

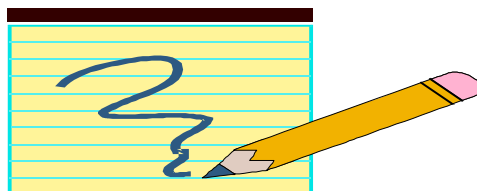
Jacob Sincyr spent considerable time and effort in his quest to find information for his course requirements at the University of Maine in Farmington. Why did MCS become interested in politics? What was her support base here in Maine while she was running for office? What propelled her to become one of the greatest politicians of the era? These are the questions Jacob answered during his study. Majoring in history at UMF, Jacob hopes to pursue a career in a field involving the history of the Civil War. Since graduation, he and his wife have relocated to Ohio.

*Jacob Sincyr*

## ***Maine Economy Topic of Study***

Skowhegan Area High School Social Studies teacher and football coach, Bob LeCours, made use of the Library archives as part of his study on the economy of Maine. How and what did Margaret Chase Smith do for Maine during her tenure in Washington? By reviewing the "Service to People" file, LeCours was able to cite specific instances when MCS assisted her constituents. LeCours undertook this research in order to fulfill the requirements of a teacher re-certification class at Kennebec Valley Technical College.

*Bob LeCours*



## ***Widows Carry On***

Dr. Clark Olson from Arizona State University and graduate student Alisa Kessel from Duke University are conducting a study to determine how political widows make reference to their husbands and craft their own political agenda to establish their own unique political careers. Through rhetorical and content analysis of speeches made by political widows such as Margaret Chase Smith, Mary Bono, and Jean Carnahan, Olson and Kessel are seeking to determine whether the issues of interest to the husband continue in the agendas of the widows. While at the Library, Olson and Kessel reviewed many of the more than 7,000 speeches made by Smith. They focused on speeches following Clyde Smith's death and those in subsequent years which reinforced Clyde's interests but allowed Margaret to chart her own course. Funding from the Ada E. Leeke Fellowship allowed Olson and Kessel to come to Skowhegan to conduct their research.

*Alisa Kessel and Clark Olson study the Statements and Speeches of MCS.*

## ***Students Use Primary Resources***

Students from Shane Gower's Advanced Placement U. S. History Class at Maranacook Community School in Manchester were quickly entrenched in the methods used when doing primary source research at an archival facility. Following a tour of the museum and house, the young men and women were given case studies to review and summarize. From this material, they developed document-based questions for use in classroom discussion and for preparation in the upcoming AP exam. Topics relating to the Cold War period were of primary interest. Excited by what they found, the students quickly moved on to other subjects. They were grateful to view original, historic documents.

*Maranacook students spent a day touring the museum and researching in the library.*

Dr. Theiss-Morse and Dr. Keyssar were adversaries of a different sort when addressing the issue of “Democracy’s Discontent: Our Contested Civil Culture” at the annual Maine Town Meeting on May 30. Realizing her comments might not be popular, Theiss-Morse began by quoting MCS, “Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk.” Theiss-Morse said, “I take issue with the claims that increased participation in government produces better decisions, a better system, and better people. I think it is fallacious to believe that pushing people into participating in politics will lead to all sorts of positive outcomes.” Even though Americans say they want democratic decision making, they do not believe in the standard elements of it, such as debate and compromise, and are quite drawn to what Theiss-Morse describes as “stealth” democracy. She believes that people’s willingness to settle for stealth democracy is based on their misunderstandings of democratic politics. “We need to teach people through the education system that Americans legitimately disagree on many important issues. People need to be convinced that while elements of the common good, such as low crime rates and good education, may not be up for debate, the best method of achieving the common good is,” says Theiss-Morse.

*Dr. Elizabeth Theiss-Morse says people are willing to let others make political decisions.*

Professor Alexander Keyssar approached the democratic process in quite another fashion, what he calls the “Project of Democracy.” He spoke specifically about the 2000 election and some of the lessons voters learned in that election: (1) voters do not have a constitutional right to vote in presidential elections; (2) the principle of one person/one vote does not apply in presidential elections, thanks to the structure of the electoral college; (3) if you are registered to vote, your name may or may not appear on registration lists; (4) if turnout in an election was ever really high, we would still be in line; (5) if you vote, your vote will probably be counted, but maybe not; millions of ballots will be tossed because of improper markings and machine malfunctions; (6) if you are black, the odds that your vote will be tossed are four to ten times greater than if you are white; (7) if you are poor or have only a high school education or less, the odds that you will vote at all are less than half that for people who are wealthy or better educated; and (8) if, for whatever reason, you are deprived of the right to vote, you can trust that a political party will help you if its leaders are convinced that they will benefit by doing so. “The Project of Democracy is the project of opposing those anti-democratic forces, of taking many steps, big and small, to insure that all voices are heard and that all carry equal weight,” says Keyssar.

*Dr. Alexander Keyssar comments on the 2000 election.*

Associate Professor Elizabeth Theiss-Morse is currently working on a book project with John Hibbing on peoples’ expectations of democracy and their perceptions of its current shortcomings. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Alexander Keyssar is the Matthew W. Stirling, Jr. Professor of History at Harvard University.

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## Essay Contest Winners Announced

Students selected as the 2002 MCS Essay contest winners were: Jonathan Baker of Gray-New Gloucester High School (First Place, \$500 prize); Ashley Frechette of Lake Region High School (Second Place, \$250 prize); and Elizabeth Charles of Skowhegan Area High School (Third place, \$125 prize). Honorable Mention awards of \$25 were also presented to Erica Bonenfant, Dean Deschenes, Tristan Brand, Erin Rhoda, and Tiffany Verdell.

The theme of the 2002 contest was how the U. S. should respond to international terrorism.

Jonathan Baker will be attending the University of Pennsylvania with a triple major in politics, philosophy and economics. He describes himself as a “big fan” of history and would like to get involved in public service, perhaps as an attorney specializing in environmental law.

Passionate about horses, Ashley Frechette has been a dressage rider for 13 years. This fall, she will be attending Johnson & Wales

in Providence, Rhode Island, majoring in equine studies. Actively involved in Civil War reenactments at Lake Region H.S., Ashley feels “it is important to study history to honor the past and the sacrifices of those who came before us, as well as to understand our origins as Americans.”

Elizabeth Charles has been accepted at the University of New Hampshire where she will major in performance music with a minor in education. She has consistently maintained A’s during her high school career and received the highest score possible on the national Advanced Placement U. S. History exam. A member of the Mid-Maine Youth, All State, and All Eastern Orchestras as well

as the school band, her instrument is the flute. She is also involved in the Drama Club, Speech Team, Student Council and National Honor Society.

*Jonathan Baker*

*Ashley Frechette*

*Elizabeth Charles*

## ***Jamie Wins for Fourth Time***

Fiber Materials in Biddeford, Maine, has announced that Jamie Andrews is the MCS Scholarship winner for 2002-2003. The award was established in Senator Smith's name to assist students attending the University of Maine system. Criteria for selection are the applicant's scholastic abilities, extracurricular activities and community involvement. Jamie will be entering his fourth year at the University of Southern Maine where he is pursuing a degree in Information Technology Computer Applications.

Fiber Materials established the scholarship in recognition of Margaret Chase Smith whose lifetime contributions to education and leadership personify the spirit and intent of this award. Congratulations, Jamie!

*Marion Knight playing Tom Thumb piano in 1996. The piano was a gift to MCS from Secretary of Defense & Mrs. James Forrestal.*

## ***Town's Music Ambassador Dies***

Marion Knight, long-time friend of Senator Smith and pianist at Clyde and Margaret's wedding in 1930, passed away at the age of 100. Marion will long be remembered as Skowhegan's Ambassador of Music, having taught piano to thousands of area students during her lifetime. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

## ***Women, Work and Community Honor Maine Women***

Danielle Sincyr, a volunteer at the Skowhegan office of Women, Work and Community, prepared a display for National Women's History Month. It featured Senator Smith along with other prominent Maine women. MCS Library staff person, Angie Stockwell, joined Laurie Hilton, a work study student, and WWC Director Lorna Doone for a "Brown Bag" lunch discussion series examining the role of women in society.

*Lorna Doone, Danielle Sincyr and Laurie Hilton pose in front of the display celebrating prominent Maine women.*

## ***Shirley is a Treasure***

Volunteering at the MCSL for ten years brought special recognition to Shirley Nutting from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Accompanied by Administrator Lynnette King, Shirley and more than seventy-five volunteers, including her husband, Linwood, enjoyed a Recognition Luncheon on May 15 at Ken's Banquet Center in Skowhegan.

Congratulations, Shirley, and thanks so much for making the MCSL a part of your volunteer effort. We couldn't do all that we do without your help and assistance.

*Shirley Nutting*

## ***MCS Clothing Travels Far***

To spread the story on Margaret Chase Smith's remarkable career, the Library has loaned clothing from the MCS collection to Northwood University. Last November the clothes worn by MCS at official Washington functions were displayed at NU's Distinguished Women's ceremony at the Ritz Carlton in Phoenix, Arizona. From there, the exhibit traveled to the Midland, Michigan campus. As part of Women's History Month in March, the display moved to the Midland Mall. Accompanying photographs were used in the display as well as posters explaining the legacy of Maine's first United States woman Senator. Included in the display were: a gown worn at a BPW function in 1927; a suit worn during the 1964 Presidential campaign in San Francisco, California; a military uniform worn during active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force; a dress worn in the 1940s; a dress worn in Thailand in 1959; and an honorary degree gown and hood worn at one of the many commencements she attended during her lifetime.

## ***Library Sponsors History Day Plaque***

Teacher Marita O'Neill accepted a plaque on behalf of Scarborough High School as the first place winner in the Senior Division of the 2002 Maine History Day competition. Presenting the plaque was Maine Secretary of State Dan Gwadowsky. The team from Skowhegan Area Middle School, led by Social Studies teacher Laura Richter, won the Junior Division. The MCSL was pleased to sponsor the plaque awarded to Scarborough H.S. and to co-sponsor MHD.

*Lynnette G. King reads to students at North Elementary School in Skowhegan*

## ***Administrator Moves Up in MFWC Ranks***

Recently elected to the position of Vice President of the GFWC/ Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, Library Administrator Lynnette G. King is pleased to follow in the footsteps of Senator Smith in her work with women's service organizations. At the local level, Lynn is co-founder and past president of the GFWC/ The Dove Society.

*Secretary of State Dan Gwadowsky presents plaque to Marita O'Neill.*

and now and then an Open House of the wives of the Vice President and Cabinet as well as other high officials.

One day I decided to make some official calls by myself including leaving cards at the residence of Mrs. Hamilton Fish of New York. I parked my car, went to the door, rang the bell to hand my cards to the butler. To my surprise, he said, "Won't you come in, Mrs. Fish will want to see you." This was my only experience of this kind and I was alone to face what, I did not know. They lived in a town house on Kalorama Road, N.W. by the Taft Bridge. I followed directions and found myself alone in the drawing room, somewhat uneasy, when Mrs. Fish, a very pleasant lady came in, greeted me and asked that I sit by her. At this time the maid brought in a large round cake and tea. After a half hour (I could not seem to break away sooner), I thanked her and left, feeling that there were some people, at least Mrs. Fish, who took the calls seriously and personally rather than mechanically.

With all of the social requirements as outlined by Mrs. Brewster, I was kept more than busy as I was working full time in my husband's office. I was on the payroll for \$3,000 a year and had to work into the night on mail when away from the office during the day, as the mail, according to our policy, had to be answered immediately and not briefly. I continued as an active member of the Congressional Club and when Mrs. Brewster's term as Treasurer terminated, I was elected to the position. This required attendance at Board meetings and considerable bookwork, paying of bills, etc. This was all at the time the Club voted to refurbish, redecorate and change the Club House at the cost of nearly \$200. The drive was on for the funds, committees were appointed, but all accounts and bill paying were in my hands as Treasurer. (The receipts from the sale of the **Congressional Club Cook Book** were used for this project.) It was a fine experience for me, gave me an opportunity to know the membership on a first-name basis and since my background had been business, I could do this in more of a business-like manner than some predecessors had. It was a great responsibility, however, and the handling of such funds required bonding.

I have always believed that these

contacts and my work as Treasurer had something to do with the general attitude toward me when I went into the House of Representatives after my husband's death and my election. My colleagues had heard their wives talk about me and my work at the Club, efficiency perhaps, and had known me personally—so because of my association with their wives, it was not as difficult as it would have been otherwise. I said this once to a colleague, Jessie Sumner, Judge from Illinois, to which she replied, "I don't want them to be good to me because their wives tell them to be." I was grateful for whatever reason.

***To learn more about the social ways in Washington during Senator Smith's tenure, and to read the entire text of the anecdote, visit the MCSL. Coming in June is "Building Social Capital, Margaret Chase Smith: A Lifetime of Civic Engagement."***

*Teacher Iver Lofving (r) here with students from Skowhegan Area High School. They have devoted much time to improving human rights through Amnesty International projects.*

*Advisor Steve Maines (r) here with students involved with Empower Maine Youth. Serving as peer counselors at Piscataquis Community H.S., they will be taking their skills to Guatemala this summer.*

*Service Learning students from Poland Community School, under the direction of Mr. Gurney and Ms. Simpson, raised over \$1,000 for September 11 relief efforts through their school store. They also collected over 800 cans of pet food for the local Humane Society.*

*Priscilla Conner (c) here with Future Business Leaders of America students from Mt. Blue H. S. in Farmington. The FBLA undertook many service projects, most especially providing a meal for a family at Thanksgiving.*

*Advisor Jeff Dee and members of St. Dominic High School's Key Club in Auburn, were here to tell about their community service work in Lewiston/Auburn and as part of their annual "Mission Mississippi" trip.*

*Staff members Vanessa Caron and Lynnette King recently traveled to Northwood University's Midland, Michigan, campus to speak to students about the MCS Fellowship program which begins each September at the MCS Library. Shown above at a dinner for Fellowship alumni are: L-R: Dan Kushner, Sarah McLaren, Vanessa Caron, Kevork Tanielian, Stacy Caron, Dr. Catherine Chen, Ruth and Professor Tom Luptowski, Lynnette King, Mary Willemse, and Michel Click.*

# GIRLS IN THE VAN

## Lecture Draws Enthusiastic Audience

Beth Harpaz's view of New York politics and the decision by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to run for political office was an entertaining and enlightening topic for the forty listeners at the MCSL on April 6. In discussing her book, **Girls in the Van: Covering Hillary**, Beth gave the audience a look into the professional responsibilities of being a reporter for the Associated Press and the personal responsibilities of being a wife and mother. Did covering the campaign of a woman, indeed the First Lady of the country, pose any different problems for reporters? Why is the American public more interested in Hillary's hairstyle and clothing than her view on issues? Does anyone care about the suit or hairstyle of a male opponent? Would Harpaz have shared her "potty-training" story with a male candidate? Probably not.

Harpaz drew several fascinating comparisons between MCS and HRC. For instance, both Clyde Smith and Bill Clinton were "womanizers," both thrived in the political arena, both supported and served as models for the candidacies of their wives. Margaret served for over thirty-two years in the U. S. Congress and Hillary as the First Lady and then the first woman Senator in New York.

During a question and answer period, Harpaz agreed that as a journalist, it is often difficult to separate personal feelings. As a New Yorker herself, Beth often questioned the sincerity of Hillary. "I didn't vote in that election...I had mixed feelings about her. Margaret Chase Smith is part of the reason I couldn't vote for her." Being raised by parents of opposing political parties, Harpaz remembers that a picture of Margaret Chase Smith hung on the wall in their home, right next to photos of her grandparents.

Correspondence between Smith and Harpaz's mother, Anne Jackendoff, clearly showed Smith's concerns about

*Author Beth Harpaz pictured with MCSL Director Gregory Gallant prior to lecture.*

running for the presidency in 1964. "Is a woman acceptable?" said Smith. "If I were all that you say that I am I would certainly try to do something to get us back on our feet again, but in this game one must be realistic and remember that presidential candidates are nominated by convention and vice presidential candidates are chosen because the Number One man requests the one he wants. If this all came about by direct primary, there would be a chance perhaps, by convention, none."

The lecture concluded with a book signing and refreshments. Those interested might wish to check out the Beth Harpaz web site: [www.girlsinthevan.com](http://www.girlsinthevan.com).

### ***Winslow Students Assist Worthy Causes***

Hospice of Waterville, Voice for Animals, Charley's Strays, Make-a-Wish, Waterville Humane Society, Cantor Fitzgerald families, and needy neighbors next door—all of these have been the recipients of the kindness and generosity of the students in the classes of Linda Voss. These junior high students raised well over \$2,000 to assist those in need. They also contributed their time by shoveling sidewalks for the elderly, spending time with Alzheimer's patients, and tutoring special education students. "Community service becomes infectious," says Voss, who, like Margaret Chase Smith, hopes that this vital element of civic education will be expanded to classrooms throughout the state.

### ***From Armenia to Skowhegan***

As coordinators of Project Harmony in their native country of Armenia, Ani Harutyunyan and Narine Vardanyan came to America to promote international understanding. English and computer science teachers, respectively, Ani and Narine have been excited to be a part of this State Department-sponsored program in which schools in Eastern Europe are provided with internet access to reach across the oceans to the students of the United States. Skowhegan Area High School is the only school in Maine selected to join in this effort. Lisa Cronin-Comeau of SAHS was pleased to bring Ani and Narine to visit the library during the early part of this year. Project Harmony is part of a program called Armenia Connectivity, 2000.

*Armenian teachers, Narine Vardanyan and Ani Harutyunyan visit the library with SAHS teacher Lisa Cronin-Comeau.*

## ***Benton & Atwood-Tapley Join Forces***

Under the direction of teachers Brandi Ames, Linda Pawlick, and Megan Grace, boys and girls from Benton Elementary School and Atwood-Tapley School in Oakland undertook a special community service project. It involved assembling Kid Kits filled with personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, conditioner, and shampoo, along with notes from the students. The students collected free samples from hotels and leftover supplies from school dental programs. The kits were presented to the Red Cross for distribution during disasters.

*Students from Atwood-Tapley School and Benton Elementary School.*

# ***Great Kids, Great Projects***

*Students from the Marti Stevens Learning Center, along with teacher Rhea McGinley, review one of the more than 500 scrapbooks with Assistant Director David Richards.*

*Winslow H. S. Service Club with teacher Holly Siviski recently toured the Library. The students assisted the Red Cross, Shriners, Save the Children, Meals on Wheels, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters among other projects.*

*Norridgewock Central Grade School students*

*Dr. Richards talks to Judy Benson's Maine Studies class from the Mark Emery School in N. Anson.*

*Clinton Elementary School students*

*Maine Studies students from Mt. Blue Junior H. S. in Farmington visited the Library with teachers Anne Trefethen and Rachel Austin.*

*Brownville & LaGrange Elementary School students*

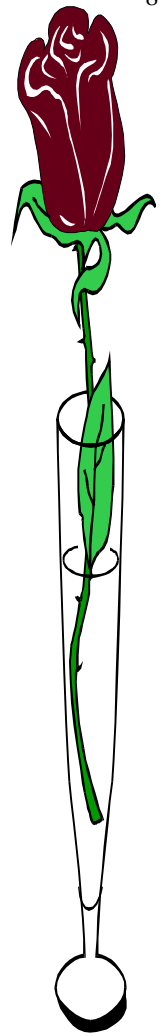
*Teacher Alice Haiss poses with students from Madison High School.*

### ***Just In—Update***

After eight months of hard work, teenager Kelly Davis is pleased to announce the passage of LD 2090 by the Maine Legislature. Signed into law by Governor King on April 11 at the Maine State House, the bill will pave the way for third-party groups such as Maine Vest-a-Dog ([mainevestadog.homestead.com](http://mainevestadog.homestead.com)) to fundraise on behalf of law enforcement. About thirty-five police dogs in Maine still need protective vests. Readers may remember that young Kelly started this worthwhile project on her own.

*Students Rick Billian, Eddie Hastings & Aaron Gordon from the Foster Regional Applied Technical Center from Farmington, came to the MCSL to tell about their volunteer EMT and firefighting work that earned them the Governor's Points of Light Award.*

**“Trivia” Answer from April Newsletter**—The answer is on page 5 in the smiling sunflower (lower right). Congratulations to Pauline Kimball of Skowhegan. Also responding were Angela Dionne, Lyndon Johnson, and Phillis Russakoff. The June trivia question is: In 1967, Senator Smith attended Opening Day between the New York Yankees and Washington Senators with a U. S. President. Who was he? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter. Be the first to respond with the correct answer and **where you found it in the newsletter. You might win a prize!**



### **Advice Still True Today!**

#### **Stop, Look, Listen and Think!** One of the

basic causes for all the trouble in the world today is that people talk too much and think too little. They act too impulsively without thinking. I am not advocating in the slightest that we become mutes with our voices stilled because of fear of criticism of what we might say. That is moral cowardice. And moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character. The importance of individual thinking to the preservation of our democracy and our freedom cannot be overemphasized. The broader sense of the concept of your role in the defense of democracy is that of the citizen doing his most for the preservation of democracy and peace by (1) independent thinking, (2) making that thinking articulate by translating it into action at the ballot boxes, in the forums, and in everyday life, and (3) being constructive and positive in that thinking and articulation. The most precious thing that democracy gives to us is freedom. You and I cannot escape the fact that the ultimate responsibility for freedom is personal. Our freedoms today are not so much in danger because people are consciously trying to take them away from us as they are in danger because we forget to use them.

*Margaret Chase Smith, 1959*

*MCS Clothing Display at the Midland Mall in Michigan, March, 2002. See story p.4.*

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Friends of the Library Newsletter

**Margaret Chase Smith Library**  
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