

Maine Media Women  
Minutes for November 7, 2009

The November meeting was held in the sanctuary at Rockland Congregational Church, and attended by 17 members and 8 guests.

President Carol Jaeger called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Carol read the Treasurer's Report:

\$7,056.40 in the checking account  
\$2,407.73 in the MMW scholarship account  
\$ 945.00 in the KVA scholarship account  
with another \$1,000 at Maine Media Workshops  
\$ 183.00 in another KVA account

Carol said we'll talk more about the KVA scholarship at the January meeting.

She made several announcements:

- Our January Members' Showcase for Damariscotta is full, but we still have spaces in the February program in Rockland.
- Nancy Griffin will sign her new book, *Maine 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About Maine and Were Going to Ask Anyway* at the Personal Bookshop in Thomaston on Saturday, November 28.
- Sally Pedrick's new exhibit, "Boundmarks," opens at her Library Art Studio in Round Pond on November 14 and runs through December 15. We're invited to her opening reception on Sunday, November 15, from 1 to 5 p.m.
- Our Christmas party will be at Noreen O'Brien's house on Saturday, December 5 from 11 to 2. Noreen lives at 109 Lewis Hill Road, Newcastle.

Kathy Brandes introduced our speaker, Lee Schneller Sligh who talked about "Japanese Gardens, Ancient and Modern." Lee is the author of *The Ever-Blooming Flower Garden: A Blueprint for Continuous Color* (Storey, 2009). Lee has studied in both Japan and China, has taught English in Japan, and has degrees in Asian history. She was living in Maine, working as a Japanese translator, when she decided to change careers and combine her interests in gardening with her background in Asian culture.

Lee showed slides of traditional Japanese gardens, the oldest of which dates from the fourth century. She also showed gardens she has designed using traditional Japanese principles. She explained that Japanese gardens have a spiritual dimension, meant to draw people into an intimate connection with nature, whereas Western gardens represent an attempt to control nature. Japanese gardens feel safe and comfortable. Buildings are often designed to blur the distinction between inside and outside, so that low eaves create a framework for looking out at the garden, and people inside have the feeling of being in the garden. Japanese gardens are "naturalistic" -- not natural, but made to look natural; for example, old trees are pruned regularly to accentuate the ancient and weathered look. When Lee designs Japanese gardens for New England homes, she uses local plants and materials, as they do in Japan.