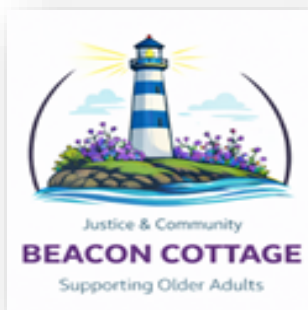


# THE BEACON ADVOCATE



Welcome to the Beacon Advocate, a bi-monthly newsletter from the Beacon Cottage informing, empowering and supporting our older adults.

## Introducing the Beacon Cottage! Home of Maine's Elder Justice Investigator and the York County Elder Abuse Task Force!

*The Beacon Cottage provides a safe, welcoming space where area older adults connect, learn, and gain the tools and support needed to prevent elder exploitation, fraud, and abuse. The cottage represents the true meaning of collaboration. With the Town of Ogunquit donating the building, various local partners contributing needs, volunteers donating their time/expertise/support and an investigator sponsored by Kennebunk Police Department/Maine Dept of Public Safety...it is a remarkable collaborative effort hosted by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force.*

### Cottage Updates

**Come visit!** 102 Main Street \* Open Mon-Wed 9am-1pm



### IMPORTANT MAILING UPDATE

The York County Elder Abuse Task Force  
now receives mail at:

**PO Box 1672**  
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Please use this address for:

- Donations
- Correspondence
- Resources and Inquiries

**All mail!**

Thank you for supporting our mission

*Taking care of those who once took care of us.™*

[www.yceatf.org](http://www.yceatf.org)

- B: Belonging
- E: Education
- A: Advocacy
- C: Community
- O: Outreach
- N: Networking

## **The Stroll Patrol: Walking Club**

Weekly, starting April 27- Mon & Weds  
at 8am

First mission: Walk across Maine!

Maine is approximately 210 miles wide.

It is one of the largest states in New England! We will be logging the miles we each walk on the bulletin board and once we reach this goal...we will have a brunch together to celebrate. We have marked out miles along the route and will let the group know when they have hit a ½ mile mark so walkers and turn back around based on their desired mileage!

*This is an intergenerational activity! All welcome.*

## **Stitch & Serve Club**

Tuesdays at 10am  
Weekly, first meeting April 14th at 10am

First mission: Comfort Wrap Replenishment

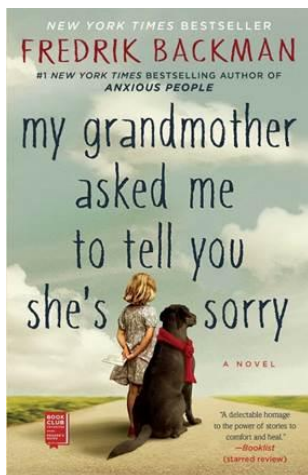
Come knit, quilt, sew or crochet with us to help with the mission of the quarter. It is fun to get together to make a difference. Join us as we connect with others from around Southern Maine who have a similar interest and shared heart! Bring your supplies and we will have coffee, tea and snacks ready! We also have a limited number of supplies as well.

## **Beacon Connection Book Club**

Monthly, First Wednesday of the  
month-10am First meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>

**First BOOK will be:** *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal.



When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

**Great News!!! Our COTTAGE BOOK NOOK is FUNDED!**

**Thank you Huntington Common Charitable Fund for Seniors of the Kennebunk Savings Bank Foundation!!** The Book Nook will provide a comfortable, inviting environment that promotes literacy, relaxation and social engagement. It will include:

A curated collection of books, including large-print, fiction, nonfiction, wellness, and locally relevant topics. A simple lending system to encourage ongoing use and engagement

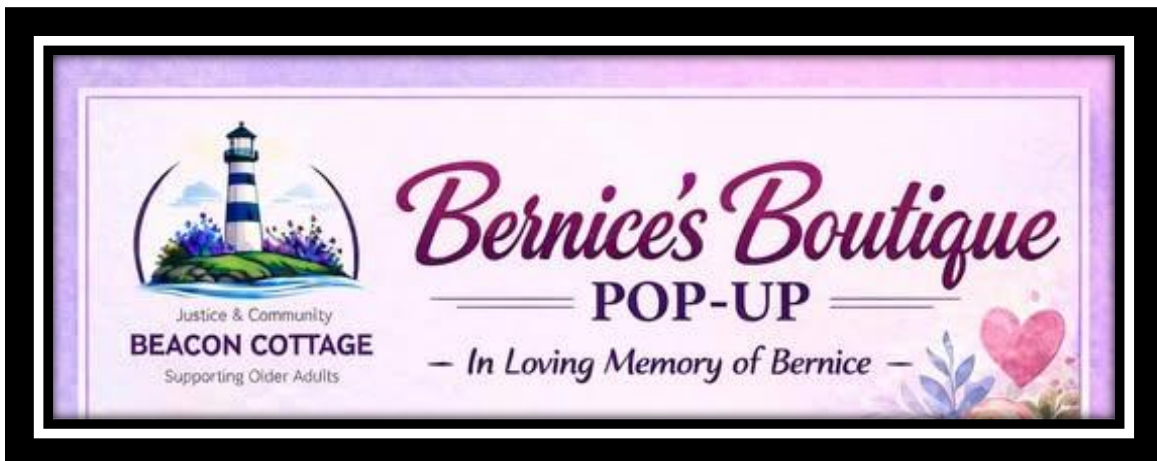
This space will encourage lifelong learning, conversation, connection, cognitive wellness and support our Book Club!



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*Mark your calendars! (events happening soon)*

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**April 25, 2026: Bernice's Pop-Up Boutique! 9am-2pm**

**Join us as the Beacon Cottage converts into a Boutique for a day!**

**Women over 60 can shop the racks for a new outfit!**

**Up to two may be selected for FREE! See you there!**

**Also accepting donations of gently worn, clean clothing!**

Join us!!

Lunch & Learn at the Cottage  
**Travel Tips & Safety!**

**April 22 11-12pm**



102 Main Street,  
Ogunquit



Justice & Community  
**BEACON COTTAGE**  
Supporting Older Adults

**Scam awareness**  
**Travel tricks**  
**Hints**  
**Safety tips**  
*Lunch provided!*

Tracey Williams  
Travel Agent

207-608-9987

Travelwithtraceyw  
@gmail.com



*Mindfulness & Meditation*  
with Nicci

*"Taking care of those, who once took care of us."*



Transpersonal Psychologist

Join us for a calming and restorative session designed to help you de-stress and find moments for yourself:

- Designed for:
- Older adults
- Caregivers
- Those who work with older adults

**Beacon Cottage**

**May 20 at 10am**

BEACON COTTAGE PRESENTS  
**VOLUNTEER VA SPECIALIST**

★★ *Meet Meghan* ★★

**SUPPORTING OLDER  
VETERANS &  
THEIR FAMILIES**

We are proud to welcome Meghan to Beacon Cottage, where she will be offering guidance, support and education to help navigate VA benefits and available resources.



★ **WHAT SHE OFFERS** ★

**GROUP SESSIONS**

- ★ VA benefits education
- ★ Resource awareness
- ★ Understanding available services

**PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS**

- ★ One-on-one support
- ★ Benefit questions & applications
- ★ Personalized guidance

*Join us!*

**MEETINGS & OFFICE HOURS**

**FIRST SESSION IS MAY 7TH**

Group meetings the first Thursday of every month from 10-11am for office hours until 2pm

*All programs at the cottage are free!*

★ *You served. Let us serve you.* ★

## Meet Investigator Candice Simeoni...here is a bit about her.



Officer Candice Simeoni is a U.S. law enforcement officer and recognized expert on elder justice and elder abuse prevention, primarily serving in Maine. She is a police officer with the Kennebunk Police Department, where she specializes in elder crimes, community liaison work, court duties, and elder justice investigations. Simeoni began her law enforcement career in 2004 and graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's 9th Law Enforcement Training Program in 2005.

Simeoni is the Founder and President of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force, established in 2005 to address elder abuse, exploitation, and fraud. She is also a lead instructor at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, teaching elder justice investigation courses to law enforcement officers.

Nationally, she has spoken on elder abuse issues and has testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging regarding senior fraud and financial scams.

She holds degrees in Business Administration and Organizational Leadership Studies from the University of Southern Maine and recently obtained her Women's Leadership certificate from Yale University.

In 2025, Simeoni was appointed by the Maine Department of Public Safety as the State of Maine's Elder Justice Investigator, a pilot position focused on strengthening investigations, mentoring departments, and promoting best practices in elder crime response statewide.

Beyond law enforcement, Simeoni is deeply involved in community outreach, providing fraud prevention education and organizing mission-driven events and initiatives. She is widely recognized for her dedication to protecting vulnerable populations, particularly older adults and individuals with disabilities. She is currently working on her first book, reflecting on her experiences in this field. Outside of her professional work, she participates in community service efforts, including donating custom cakes to chronically and terminally ill children.

### **Candice L. Simeoni**

Investigator, State of Maine – DPS Elder Justice & Kennebunk Police Department

President, York County Elder Abuse Task Force

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[yceatf@gmail.com](mailto:yceatf@gmail.com)

**JUST HANG UP!!** Every second you spend on the phone with a scammer, they are collecting information. From the sound of your voice to the time of day you answer to the things you say....You are giving more and more info out.

**JUST HANG UP or better yet....DO NOT ANSWER unknown calls.**

...because beauty doesn't fade — it evolves.

Calling all women 60+



# GOLDEN BEAUTY PAGEANT

Celebrating grace and wisdom in Maine women

SPONSORED BY



YCEATF  
York County Elder Abuse Task Force

Live event set for  
2 PM Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026  
Sanford Performing Arts Center

APPLY HERE



In memory of Joan Fricke, The Golden Beauty Pageant celebrates the radiance that grows with age — beauty shaped by experience, compassion and wisdom. We empower older women to embrace their stories, uplift one another, and shine brightly as role models to their families and in their communities. Please join us.



[yceatf.org/2026-golden-beauty](http://yceatf.org/2026-golden-beauty)

Have you heard about the Maine Golden Beauty Pageant? Its and event shining a spotlight on women 60+ who radiate wisdom, strength, style, and timeless beauty.

“The Golden Beauty Pageant celebrates *the timeless elegance, resilience, and spirit of women aged 60 and above. Our mission is to honor the beauty that grows with age—beauty shaped by experience, compassion, and wisdom. We empower older women to embrace their stories, uplift one another, and shine brightly as role models to their families and in their communities.*”

Applications accepted until May 1!

[www.yceatf.org/2026-golden-beauty](http://www.yceatf.org/2026-golden-beauty)

Be sure to like us on  
**Facebook!**  
Beacon Cottage  
&  
York County Elder Abuse Task Force  
&  
Maine Golden Beauty

## Healthy & Wise Living

Monthly sessions related to healthy aging, safety or general wellness starting in May. Be sure to visit our Facebook pages or stop in for updates!

**NEW!**

Recipe and health tips starting in our next episode!



## THANK YOU!

The York County Elder Abuse Task Force is dedicated to protecting our older population from abuse. From projects that lift them up to educating in various ways, the group is determined to make a make a difference. The mission is to provide resources, education and ways to help eliminate victimization and empower our older Mainer's.

They strive to take care of those who once took care of us.