

Harbor Area MARC / MAFCA

Founded in 1957. Torrance, California.

November 2010

The HarborLight Newsletter
was awarded the **MARC**
Newsletter Award of Excellence
2009

Upcoming Business Meetings

The **October** club meeting will be **Friday, October 29th** at 7:30PM. We will have a 6PM pot luck dinner beforehand. A-L bring main course and M-Z bring salad.

Also, nominations for next years board will be accepted.

The **November** meeting will be **Friday, Nov 26th** at 7:30PM. We will vote on next years Board. Come by a little early and help with the set up. This is a good time to chat with your friends and catch up on all the latest Model A info!



Upcoming Tour

After a great tour to the Old Ridge Route in October, we will bring it a little closer to home in November. Elaine is working on a visit to a couple collections of car memorabilia. We will visit Matchbook cars from the designer, Larry Woods', own private collection. This will be on **Sunday, November 21st**.

Also in the planning is a visit to Bob Burchett's private car collection. All of this is in the South Bay. Sounds like fun!
Meet at Mills at 8:30AM, leave at 9AM.

Technical Seminar

A great time was had at Al Avoian's garage. Art is looking for some more projects like the ones we worked on at Al's.
Contact: Art Wagner at 310-374-6113 if you have an idea or a project you think we all might learn from.

Greater Even Than Its Beauty
is the Reliability of the New Ford



Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is **Tuesday, November 2nd** at the home of Art and Daffy Wagner. Time is 7PM. Their address is 2705 Carnegie Lane in Redondo Beach, CA. Their phone is: 310-374-6113.

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Notes
from the
President
By Bob Speaks



The President Speaks!

Howdy

Well members, we had a great month of October. We did the second Model A garage seminar and it was very successful.

Jay Skinner did a seminar on how to install the gas gauge in a Model A gas tank and how to adjust it to make it read accurately.

Then we started repairing some of the members cars. Joe Freitag started harness and speedometer work on his '30 Cabriolet with the help of other members.

Jay Skinner helped Al Avoian fix his tail lights, while the others helped me on my front brakes.

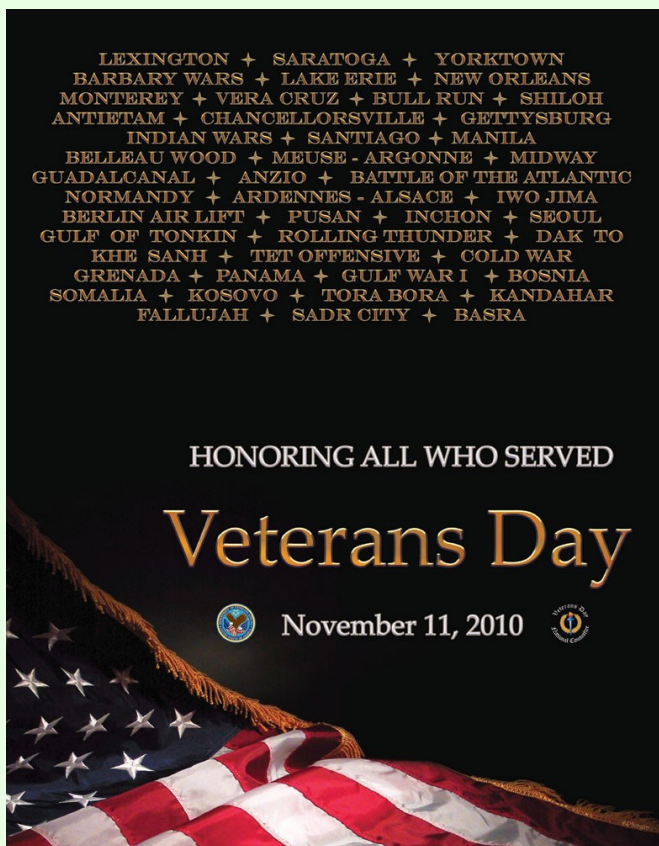
By noon we were all getting hungry so Drain Marshall treated us to hot dogs from his portable hot dog cooking machine. I believe every member had their fair share of food.

The ladies were busy setting up coffee and treats, making sure that the worker bees would have plenty to eat all day long.

At the end of the day all three cars were in better repair then when they came in, and all the members went home with a full stomach. Many were asking when the next garage meeting will be. We're working on that!

We also had a great tour driving on the Old Ridge Route but you can read about it elsewhere in the newsletter.

Your president
Bob Speaks [again]





Sunshine Secretary's Report . . . By Doris Marshall

Paul Larquier is still having good and bad days. Hang in there Paul. We are thinking of you.

November Birthdays

- 5 Paul Jamesson
- 6 Bill Younkin
- 10 Dick Lusk
- 11 Joe Jankiewicz
- 12 Steve Newton
- 17 Wilbur Richardson
- 26 Pat Yacklon
- 28 Jan Wyckoff



November Anniversaries

- 6 Bob & Phyllis DeCrescenzo
- 21 Joe & Linda Freitag
- 25 Rhoda & Paul Larquier
- 28 Al & Georgette Avoian

Editor's Corner by Dick Wyckoff

Many of the club members receive the HarborLight by **email**. I encourage you to do this. Just let me know your current email address. It's that simple. The club saves a little more than one dollar each month per email subscriber. I have an email distribution now of 32 people from the Harbor Club and 21 others. This is close to \$600 per year savings. **AND** it is in **color**! You can print it out in B&W or color if you want, enlarge it, send it to your friends, or save it in your computer files. Again, just let me know your email address. Thanks.

We editors are always looking for articles of interest to put in the newsletters. There must be some interesting Model A stories out there. For instance: How long have you had your car? Have you driven it on some great journeys? Was it a family car? Did you restore it yourself? Do you have before and after pictures? If you have pictures, I can scan them and put them in the newsletter. Also, if you have an item for sale, let me know. I will put it in the **'Wheels and Deals'** section. The newsletter is distributed to many other clubs locally and other parts of the country. See page 39 of the Sept-Oct 'Restorer' magazine, as an example.

Wait, there's more! The Pacific A's Region of MARC had another board meeting to finalize the schedule for the 2011 MARC National Meet in San Diego. Lots of great things planned. We now have raffle tickets for the grand prize of a **long block, stock H&H engine**. Max Jr. has agreed to donate one of his rebuilt engines for the convention raffle. **Thanks, Max!** Dick Wyckoff has some raffle tickets for sale. \$5 for one, \$20 for five, \$50 for 15, and \$100 for 35 tickets. The drawing will be held at the 2011 National Meet, July 1st. Call Dick at 310-322-8863 or email janndick@earthlink.net.

There is still more: Dan Fitzgerald has arranged for another great raffle prize. It is a **free two night stay with a nice dinner** at the very upscale **Meritage Resort in Napa California**. Also included with the stay is a case of fine **Trinitas wine**. (Editor's note: I have stayed at the Meritage Resort and it is awesome. Very classy in a beautiful setting in Napa.) Raffle tickets will be available soon.

There are many committees involved in the National Meet. Both Bob Speaks and Dick Lusk have agreed to head up the Swap Meet and the Event Parking committees. The Board and several committee chairs toured the Town and Country resort recently. It is a super facility for the Meet!

Several members have already said they would help. We will be working on the many committee assignments soon. Thanks to those who have volunteered. If asked, please help out in any way possible. There are many jobs and, like the saying goes, "Many hands make light work".

Check out the website being developed: www.2011MARCmeet.com



The Grand tour of the Old Ridge Route

Story on page 7



Friday Afternoon at Ruby's Diner:

Since March, Ruby's Diner in Redondo Beach by the pier has hosted a weekly gathering of fun cars. This event can bring as many as 150 cars of all types. Classics, Concours, hot rods, antiques, sports cars, motorcycles, and Model As! Many Harbor Club members show their cars and enjoy a great meal in the diner. Check it out. Times are about **4PM to 7:30PM every Friday**. There is a nice raffle and trophies are awarded each week. Parking is free to participating cars. Friday, October 29th is the last meeting until next April. Thanks to those that visited the event all summer. We always had a great time.



Saturday Morning Coffee Gathering:

If you are looking for a little tire-kicking adventure on **Saturday** mornings between 7 and 9AM, check out the Caffeine Cruisers at the corner of Artesia Blvd and Hawthorne, in Torrance, CA. Several of the Harbor Model A club members and other car enthusiasts of all car types meet to talk cars. There are some very nice autos and some nice people there, too! The address is 17400 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance CA. Come on by, have a cup of Starbucks, and get your weekend started in true So. California style.



Weekly Family Food Festivities:

Many of the Harbor members meet at the **Hot 'n Tot** restaurant each **Monday** at about 5PM for dinner. Drain Marshall likes to call it 'Spaghetti Night' because the Monday night dinner special is all you can eat spaghetti with a salad at \$6.25. Join us for dinner. The Hot 'n Tot is located at 2347 Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita, CA. It's about a half mile east of Crenshaw Blvd., north side.





Technical Talk



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2010 Membership, Roster and Club Items:

2010 Phonebooks/rosters are available at all get-togethers. The first booklet is free, additional copies are \$2. They are also available free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail. Contact Ursi Schmidt.

Also available are neat ball caps with the club's logo. Available in many colors \$12. There are a few 50th anniversary T-shirts and pins still available, too. Please call **Ursula** at (310) 539-5391 to place your order.

From Gloria Younkin: **Club jackets** can be purchased at California Pro Sports, 1740 PV Dr North, Harbor City, CA. 310-548-6012. Jacket description: Tri-Mountain 1500 coach jacket, nylon w/lining, color Navy. The embroidery is done at First Class Embroidery, 1526 Anaheim St., Harbor City CA. 310-326-7635.

Back by popular demand: The popular **50th Anniversary Harbor Club Cookbook** has been re-printed. We have only 6 copies left from the 100 printed. They are going fast! They are \$10 each. Contact Doris Marshall or Dick Wyckoff for your copy now. They make great gifts!

Just in from **MARC**: Next years National dues will be \$40. The Harbor Club dues are still \$25.

Harbor 'deLights' or Happenings Around the Club

Doris Marshall is seen working the crowd selling Harbor's 50th anniversary cookbooks at all the Model A events. She sold more at the Frazier Park picnic. Way to go, Doris! We have 6 left!

Dan Fitzgerald and **Dick Wyckoff** are hard at work on the MARC Meet next year. Dick has created the advertisements in the *Model A News* magazine. Check out pages 2 and 3 in the Sept-Oct issue.

Dick Lusk and **Ursi Schmidt** are vacationing all around the country. They drove their motor home across the northern states and ended up at the swap meet in Hershey, Penn. Lots of things to see and buy along the way. **Monty Bates** has filled in for Dick as VP in charge of raffles. Doing a great job, too!

Al Avoian, Drain Marshall, Richard Parrish and Joe Freitag drove their A's on the Old Ridge Route. No one got a flat tire. It was a pretty rough road!

Dan Fitzgerald and **Dick Wyckoff** are working hard on raffle prizes for the 2011 MARC National Meet. We now have some great items, an *H&H engine* and a free two-night stay at the luxury *Meritage Resort in Napa* (with a case of wine, too). See Dick for engine raffle tickets. Added recently is a restored era radio from a collection in San Diego.

Don't forget to thank a veteran for his/her service on **Veteran's Day, November 11th**. Remember: This is the home of the free, because of the brave!

Wheels & Deals:

For Sale:

- Lots of **Model A engine parts**. Blocks, cams, rods, crankshafts, rebuilt starters, good rims, etc.. What do you need? Call Dan at 310-373-8060. Palos Verdes CA
- '30 **Cabriolet** top tack rail. \$50. '30 Cabriolet top bow \$75. Call Bill 310-316-8722. Torrance CA

Wanted:

- A 1928 Model A frame for a special restoration project. Contact Jay Skinner at 562-426-5478. Long Beach CA
- Looking for a usable **28/29** radiator and starter. Also a 28/29 closed car/truck cowl-windshield, tank and hood. Call Steve Preston at 310-701-5542.
- Used greeting cards. (Complete cards please). We will recycle them. **Ursi** (310) 539-5391 and **Doris** (310) 378-5061.



TERRIFIC TOURS by Elaine Pisu, Tour Director

Save the Dates:

- The tour to Larry Woods and Bob Burchett's will be on **Sunday, November 21st**. Meet at Mills 8:30 leave at 9:00.

We will be touring Larry Woods private collection. Larry was a matchbox car designer for Mattel. I am also planning on a second stop that I am waiting for a confirmation on. More to come.

- **Sunday, December 12th** is the El Segundo Holiday Parade. We usually have a half dozen cars show up for the event. Dick Wyckoff will coordinate. Parade is from 1PM to 3PM. We meet at noon.

For those of you in the south end of town, there is usually a Wilmington Christmas parade in December. No information yet, but will publicize it as soon as received.

Harbor Model A's Meet the Challenge of the Old Ridge Route

By **Joe Freitag** (Pictures on Page 4 and 9)

On October 9th, Drain and Doris Marshall led the Avoians, Freitags and the Wagners on an 85 mile drive up the 405 Fwy, through the Sepulveda Pass to the I-5, over the Newhall Pass, and Castaic cutoff, through the Angeles National Forest and Tehachapi Mountains into Gorman. There we were joined by the Parrishs, the Pisu, the Wyckoffs, Jack Gordinier and several members of the Orange County Club. Our hosts, the Ridge Route Preservation Organization, (RRPO) took the day off from their regularly scheduled Clean Up the Ridge Route, (CUTRR) to lead our tour of the Old Ridge Route. A total of eight Model As participated in the tours.

We learned that the Ridge Route concept started in 1895 when 3 commissioners were appointed to determine the feasibility of connecting Northern and Southern California. Before the road, the trip to the San Joaquin Valley was considered so arduous that serious consideration was made to separating Northern and Southern California. The idea with the road was to negate the effort of those trying to create two states. Bond money for the project came from Los Angeles. A team of engineers were sent to Switzerland to determine how to build the switchback roads through the mountains.

Prior to 1915, motorists who wanted to travel from Los Angeles to points north were compelled to either go by way of what is now current U.S. 101 along the coast or by a circuitous route by way of Mojave and Bakersfield over what is now SR-14 and SR-58. To ease tensions, in 1914, the newly formed California Department of Highways took on the challenge of forging a road through the formidable barrier. Mules were used to pull Fresno Scrapers, a primitive device used in grading the road, with grades not to exceed 6 percent, although in several places 7 percent grades existed.

The first highway built to cross the mountains directly was the Ridge Route, which was completed in 1915 and had 48 miles with 697 curves consisting of two lanes with a speed limit of 15 miles per hour. By 1920, the road would be completely paved, in places with four-inch thick concrete. This amazing, curvy little road pacified separation anxiety, making it possible to travel to the Central Valley in a day, thereby uniting California. In 1933 a three lane alternative was built and identified as Hwy 99. In 1947 it was converted to a 4 lane highway that was later replaced in 1970 by the 8 lane I-5 Freeway.

Our Ridge Route road (4100 feet above sea level) tour took us to the ruin sites of the Tumble Inn Sandberg Summit Hotel, the Gorman Hotel and the LeBec Hotel. Docents at each location described the colorful people who created these places. The Gorman Hotel had owners connected with Phineas Banning to establish a stage line between LA and San Pedro. Oscar Ralph of supermarket fame was an owner of the Gorman, and the son of Charles Durant, (he helped establish GM) was also involved as an owner in the LeBec. Ulysses S Grant, Jr. died in his sleep at the LeBec in 1929. Some of these Hotels were the playground of Hollywood people in the 1930's.

We were able to view the infamous Deadman's Curve, a portion of the Route that lived up to its name. Our convoy was accompanied by the local paparazzi that enjoyed the photo opportunity of our Model A's.

In 2005, a terrible storm washed out major sections of the abandoned Ridge Route. A group led by Harrison Scott, (Scotty) a retired Pacific Bell Engineer living in Torrance, previously spent many years getting the road entered into the National Register of Historic Places. His efforts facilitated the repair of the road damaged by the storm. A historical society was formed and a museum created in the town of Frazier Park. A reconstructed Mobil Gas Station provided another photo opportunity. Our group was treated to a lecture at the museum by Scotty summarizing highlights of the several books he has written including "Ridge Route, The Road that United California".

On Sunday, our group joined the Bakersfield Model A Club for a pot luck lunch, 50-50, and raffle prizes. The Parrish's were the big winners in the raffle prize. True to custom, the Bakersfield Club awarded prizes to the dirtiest car, the one with the baldest tires, and ugliest car. Harbor cars did not qualify this year. A fun event for all.



Excerpts from Harbor Meeting Minutes:

September 24th, 2010 Business Meeting: President: Bob Speaks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Salute to the flag: Led by Bill Newell Recognition of Past Presidents: Present were: Doris & Drain Marshall, Steve Preston, Dick Wyckoff and Duane Nead. Vice President: Dick Lusk is on vacation, Monty & Donnis (Vanna) Bates filled in for Dick and matched his \$200 goal on the raffle. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved as presented. Treasurer: Daffy reported the bank account is fine. She has club rosters for \$2. HarborLight Editor: Dick requested pictures and articles by Oct. 15th, he and Jan will be gone from the 18th thru the 24th. His 50th high school reunion is this coming weekend and he's going to drive his '29 pickup truck that he got when he was a senior in HS. They tour the school on Sat. morning. Dick has raffle tickets for an H&H engine to be raffled off at the 2011 MARC National Meet in San Diego. Historian: Sue was on vacation but the Pisu showed a DVD that Sue had prepared of the front end technical on the 11th, plus the club touring the Petersen Auto Museum on the 18th of Sept. Membership: Ursi and Dick are on vacation but Daffy reported we now have 100 family memberships. Membership Drawing: Both names drawn were not present, next month it'll be \$10 each. Bill Knott won \$5 on the clock prize. Technical & Safety: Art announced a gas gauge adjustment seminar at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 2nd, at Al Avoian's garage. Will also include brake adjustment and possibly working on Al's AA. The garage is located at 907 Van Ness, 2 blocks north of Torrance Blvd, across the street from American Honda. Sergeant at Arms (badge money): Bill collected \$1.74. President Bob had his badge this time. Sunshine: Doris said that Paul L. and Thom M. are the same. Phyllis Cooley passed away, and Bob O'Kane is not doing well. Birthdays and Anniversaries: Birthdays were: Rhoda Larquier, Darlene Funk, Jim Beardsley, Bob Olsen, Ursi Schmidt, Terry Marshall, Art Wagner and Thom Marshall. Those who had anniversaries were: Bob & Laura Pahls, Carla & Walt Hibbard, Steve & Becky Preston, Gwen & Dick Valot and Acela & Conrad Garcia. Tools Coordinator: Bobby D. showed two tools from the club collection. Tools are available to be loaned out. He also showed a list of 24 tools available for 5 days with a \$20 deposit. Tours: Elaine Pisu said we had 10 As (9 that made it!) and 2 Ts. Al Avoian will receive the Thumb award. Dick W. announced a swap meet this Sunday in San Bernardino. Oct. 9th Ridge Route tour with an overnight, then nearby Frazier Park meet on the 10th. Meet at Mills a 6:00 a.m., leave at 6:30. It's 90 miles to Frazier Park. We will have breakfast in Gorman. Old Business: Oct. meeting is a pot luck, A-L bring main dishes, M-Z salads. Also in October, nominations for the offices of Treasurer, Tours and Technical with elections in Nov. Various locations for our installation banquet were mentioned; Bluewater Grill, Elks Redondo Beach (Elaine to check out), and Proud Bird (Joe Freitag to check). Planned date is Jan. 22, 2011. Refreshments hosted by: Al & Georgette Avoian Next General Meeting: Oct. 29th, 7:30PM. Pot luck at 6PM. Next Board Meeting: Tues. Oct. 5th at the Marshalls. 7PM. Meeting adjourned at: 8:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted; Jan Wyckoff, Secretary

October 5th, 2010 Board Meeting: President: Bob Speaks called meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Marshall's home. Those present in addition to Bob were: Art & Daffy, Elaine, Dick & Jan, Doris & Drain. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved as previously emailed. Treasurer: Daffy reported the treasury is fine. Vice-President: Dick and Ursi are on vacation, Monty handled raffle at club meeting, selling \$205, better than Dick's record! HarborLight Editor: Send pictures and articles prior to the week of Oct. 11th as he and Jan are out of town from the 18th thru the 24th. Our pot luck club meeting is on the 29th, A-L bring main dish, M-Z salads. Food at 6PM, regular meeting at 7:30PM. Historian: Not present. Membership: Ursi on vacation but Daffy has phone books for \$2. Technical & Safety: Art said it was a great technical on Oct. 2 at Al Avoian's garage, worked on 4 things: Joe Freitag's speedometer and wiring, Al's stop light fix, a gas gauge calibration seminar, and Bob Speaks' front brakes - plus great hot dogs. (Thanks, Drain!) Sunshine: Doris said Paul L. has Parkinson's disease and his meds made him sick, also suffering from memory loss. Tools Coordinator: Not present. Tours: Old Ridge Route tour on Sat. the 9th with an overnight and Frazier Park picnic next day. Meet at Castaic 9:00-9:30, guides will take 2 or 3 groups depending on number of cars. Advertising: No new ones. Bob suggested we try and get Brattons, Snyders, CW Moss. Old Business: Bob has chosen the Proud Bird near LAX as our installation banquet location on 1/15/2011 in the LeMay Room. Dinners are \$30 with choice of sirloin steak, chicken, salmon or vegetarian, includes rolls & butter, coffee and dessert. We have a 5 pm setup time, ending at 11PM. 50 people minimum in the room with a max of 100. There's space for the raffle items. Bob got a \$500 check from Daffy to reserve room. New Business: Do we have an amount for refreshments at technical meetings? Club meeting expenses limit is \$25. It was moved and seconded to allow up to \$100 for food at technicals. Also discussed was limiting number of raffle items at banquet, tho no action was taken. Also discussed was an incentive to get the HarborLight emailed to more members either by giving a \$5 deduction per family per year on dues or raising dues \$5 for those that receive the newsletter. No action taken. Additional discussion on gifting to car-related programs for kids. Perhaps MARC or MAFCA programs. More discussion forthcoming. Refreshments hosted by: The Marshalls. Next General Meeting: Oct. 29th Next Board Meeting: Nov. 2 at Wagners
Meeting adjourned at: 8:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted; Jan Wyckoff, Secretary

The Old Ridge Route Tour (Continued)



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The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Walteria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 242nd St. in Torrance, California. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and 1 block south of Pacific Coast Hwy.) We'd like to invite all interested parties, even if they don't own a Model A Ford, to come and join us. Our goal is to educate the public about Model A's and have fun while doing it.

Board of Directors:

President:

Bob Speaks (310) 542-3315

Email: AudSpeaks@earthlink.net

Vice-President:

Dick Lusk (310) 539-5391

Treasurer:

Daffy Wagner (310) 374-6113

Secretary:

Jan Wyckoff (310) 322-8863

Tour Director:

Elaine Pisu (310) 793-1789

Technical Committee:

Art Wagner, Chair (310) 374-6113

Appointed Officers:

Membership:

Ursula Schmidt (310) 539-5391

Historian:

Sue Hankins (310) 782-0082

Sunshine Secretary:

Doris Marshall (310) 378-5061

Safety:

Dick Lusk (310) 539-5391

Advertising:

Drain Marshall (310) 378-5061

Refreshments:

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Appointed Officers:

Sergeant-at-Arms:

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Tools:

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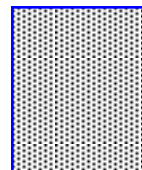
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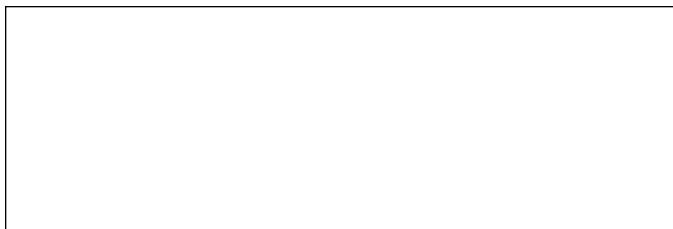


THE HARBOR LIGHT



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November 2010



Give Thanks
this Thanksgiving