



# Rockland Buzz

## Local Journal

Issue 144, December 27, 2019, Rockland, Maine

**MAINE COAST.tv**  
COMMUNITY TELEVISION  
On cable channel 1301,  
MaineCoast.tv & Roku.

*The Old School*  
A Community of Fellows

*Around Town* calendar, page 2

## Do Something

by Phil Groce

“Yes, as a sociologist, I try to teach my students how to observe carefully, to ask questions, make their own decisions, and then do reliable research to answer those questions, to see through the blinders built into our own culture. All people have blinders.” says James Cook.

We were conversing in a quiet room at the University of Maine at Augusta on the 4th floor of the old Van Baylen building in Rockland. For me, it felt good to be in a learning space, listening to a man who talks directly from the head and the heart, clear eyed, and in the prime of life.

“Tell me something about Maine culture.”

He thought for a moment. “Mainers have a reticence to interfere with others and never to push to disagreement, always live and let live. Most of us like that. But there are times, like now, where we cannot let that reticence keep us from action. We can see the powerful hurting those people with less power--all with a wrecking bar.

“The President openly says that he can assault women and get away with it. Stripping women of their rights. Making fun of people with disabilities. Splitting up immigrant families. Defending white nationalists. Making Journalists targets. Calling the FBI scum. On and on. I thought I understood people, but what is going on now? Why are people going along with this?”

“Due to your frustration, you and others started an organization. Correct?”

“Midcoast Maine Indivisible was started by a number of people to guide people into ACTION, not to sit at home on their hands or simply talk about what should happen in the world. This whole idea came from two Congressional staffers of the previous administration who wrote a position paper stating that with the last presidential election, the levers of power were all in the hands of the President and one party, and those who oppose their policies have to organize and speak out.”

“How are you doing that?”

“We have about 1500 people in the organization up and down the coast who receive our calls to action, and we have been demonstrating every Friday, up until the weather changed, on the corner of Park and Main Street in Rockland. We also have an organizational meeting every 3rd Wednesday at the UU church in Rockland at 7:00 PM.”

“How do you demonstrate?”

“We have signs, some like to sing, others ring bells. We watch the people going by, and some of them honk their horns in agreement. Everyone is welcome, just show up, and we have signs for them, or they can bring their own.”

“Is that scary?”

He shook his head. “Just remember you are in a large group, and you do not take it personally. In fact. The atmosphere is more like a party, people enjoying themselves, expressing themselves, getting to know other like-minded people.”

All that brought back a memory of mine when I decided to do something back in the Bush administration when they were deciding whether or not to bomb Iraq. I made a large sign saying, “Don’t Bomb Iraq.” I decided to

stand on the Common in Union one afternoon. Lots of people drove by and saw my sign, some honked; and there were many, nearly all men in pickups, who would throw me the finger, open the window and tell me go find another country to live in. I just stood there, tried to smile, and I would wave. No big deal, I thought.

“You were alone?” James asked.

“Indeed,” I replied. James groaned. “For some reason I did not have a car there, and my wife with one of our children picked me up at the Common. She asked me, ‘How did it go?’ I looked at her and burst into tears. I was not used to verbal abusers, and I guess I internalized some of it.”

“You have to be in a group,” James said.

“I know that now,” I replied.

I told him that I was in a demonstration this year in a group, and we got the usual responses, but I had fun with the others there. “We all felt we could get our point across, and those getting angry at us were only hurting themselves.”

“We had a demonstration last Tuesday,” said James, “in a snowstorm in Rockland and even had a lighted sign that said, ‘Impeach Trump.’ A good time had by all, and we even had a little press coverage.”

“What do you see as common thinking by the people who demonstrate for the Indivisibles?”

“They are serious about our losing our democracy through mis-guided thought,” he replied. “Again, it’s all about culture. People begin to believe things, out of reach from logic, from hearing something over and over again. It sits like cement inside them.”

“For instance?”

“It has been said so many times that immigrants are dangerous criminals. Not so, Immigrants are less dangerous and land in jail less than the regular population. Yet, many people believe that error, regardless.”

We then discussed how the majority of people, ‘normal’ people, merely observed while Nazi Germany carried off the Jews to death camps, and the ‘normal people’ took the opportunity to buy at bargain prices their belongings left.

“Essentially 80% of the people will go along with power,” James said, “and 10% percent will do wrong, and only 10% will do right. In our organization we want to make it harder for good people to look away.”

What do you see as the larger picture here in Maine?”

“I see a large mass of people with good hearts who stay home, who stay quiet or only whisper their opposition. If those good people would only make themselves visible and public . . . .”

“How is it going with the Indivisibles?”

“We have a wide range of participation, between 20 and 150 who help with demonstrations at different times, but the range should be wider. With what’s happening, there should be 1500, even 15,000 spilling into the streets. As individuals, we are small, but together, there’s power. Now is the time!”

## Christmas 2019 by GB



**Aunt Sue came early. She'll never grow up. Uncle Joe forgot his meds and stayed in a corner. Mostly he was quiet and sober, mostly**



**Betty tried to keep all from falling into chaos. I broke in a new pipe and talked to grandpa. Our neighbor Maud organized the gift thing a Double Dutch blind auction.**

## A Midwestern Gothic

by Samuel Nash

Ted had more in common with those that graced the angry bumper stickers on the back of his minivan than he'd ever care to admit. This is the car I saw at family gatherings, and parked outside his house, but not the one he took to work—a beat up truck, proportionally as old as he was. His hair greyed, and the truck rusted, but still they soldiered on.

This is not to say that Ted left his politics at home, but at the auto shop prejudice was a given, there was no need to advertise it. In Blanchester, Ohio the men, with their immigrant wives and single digit retirement funds, who drank the day away hammering on fenders, thought of themselves as ‘Real Americans.’ Whether consciously or through intuition, they knew what that was. They knew they were it.

Real Americans drink and smoke, Real Americans deride minorities over family barbecues because they're afraid of losing their jobs, Real Americans are hateful, and delusional, and they don't care. Life is grease and liquor and cars and steak, it's cornfields and family dinners and shuffling their aging mother between siblings because everyone else is struggling too, no one has a spare room, and how dare you assume I have the means? Soon enough she's put in a nursing home, it's just easier everyone agrees, and Ted can rest. He has to now, what with his heart attack that he won't exercise for. “Money is tight,” he says, “Besides, I gave the bike to my brother years ago.”

His daughter, with her Colombian mother, must struggle to tolerate his words of hate and derision. She's in college now. “My,” he thinks out loud, “How times have changed.” College was never a discussion between Ted and his parents, but he wasn't the type anyways. His brothers travelled, and some were even successful, but the clan as a whole was plagued by attitudes dating back to their mother's upbringing. It would take two entire generations of distance to erase the malaise of depression era essentialism that had woven its way into Ted's blood, like thread through grain sack dresses. Now his daughter, who he loves dearly, buys her clothes near the campus that she commutes to an hour each day, refusing to move out because even the best and brightest of Blanchester suffer that familiar Ohio curse. Your hometown is safe, backwards and horrible, maybe, but safe: a nest more needle than haystack.

free and open to everyone.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27:

• "Little Women," 6:30 p.m. in Thomaston Public Library's Friday Night Films. December features holiday favorites. The March sisters — Meg (Janet Leigh), Jo (June Allyson), Beth (Margaret O'Brien) and Amy (Elizabeth Taylor) — struggle to make ends meet in their New England household while their father is away fighting in the Civil War. Despite hard times they cling to optimism, often with neighbor Laurie (Peter Lawford) as a companion. As they mature, they face burgeoning ambitions and relationships, and tragedy, all while maintaining their unbreakable bond.

• Friday Open Mics, in Warren, Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street, second and fourth Fridays, at 6:30 p.m

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29:

• Sunday Jams in Rockland, Sail, Power, & Steam Museum, 75 Mechanic Street, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30:

• Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m. Catinka Knoth leads the free Monday classes – with a focus on drawing in color – open to all, with materials provided. Students will draw woodland animals, wild turkeys, and Native American motifs this month.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31:

• Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1:

• Submissions Window for CMCA Biennial 2020 opens Wednesday, January 1, and closes Friday, April 3. The show at Center for Maine Contemporary Art, in Rockland, is open to artists at all stages of their career who have a strong connection to Maine. Work in all mediums will be reviewed. Jurors are Kate McNamara and Nina Johnson-Milewski. For guidelines on how to enter: CMCAnow.org.

• New Year's Day Open House Atop Beech Hill, with everyone invited to ring in the New Year with a hike at Beech Hill Preserve in Rockport. Coastal Mountains Land Trust staff will open Beech Nut, the sod-roofed stone hut on top of Beech Hill, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 1, where there will be a toasty fire, lit chandeliers, hot chocolate, and cookies (if you have leftover cookies, bring them up). Dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear. No spikes or crampons are allowed in the hut (they scratch the tiles). Look for parking signs on the road if the Beech Hill Road lot is full. The 295-acre preserve is managed to maintain its scenic beauty, historic value, grassland bird habitat, and organic blueberry fields.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2:

• "Maine's Home Movies: Treasures from Northeast Historic Film," will premiere on Maine Public on Thursday, January 2, at 9 p.m. and Saturday, January 4, at 2 p.m. The one-hour premiere by Northeast Historic Film marks the start of Maine's bicentennial year with scenes of Maine life in home movies that offer a unique and intimate window into the minds of the Mainers who captured them.

• Thursday Jams in Warren, Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street, 6 p.m. and Friday Open Mics, second and fourth Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.

Around Town is compiled by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr.  
An expanded listing is online at wrfr.org  
Please submit calendar items to gowrfr@gmail.com  
Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.



## The Flipside

with Spike Hyssong

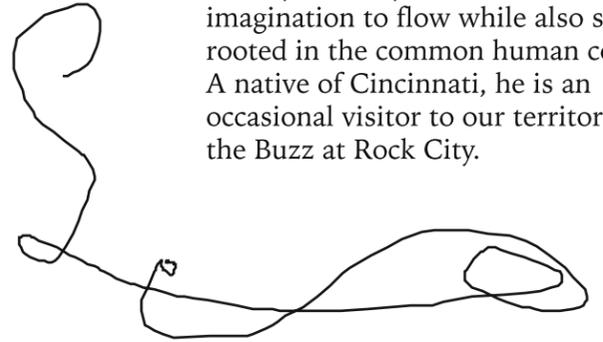
Sunday 11am-12"

A tour through my collection of sound recordings that are kept in my innersanctum known as 'The Flipside'. Sound recordings are in the form of 78 rpm records, 16-inch radio transcriptions, reel-to-reel tape, etc and include things from jazz, big band, classic radio broadcasts, novelty, rare, unusual and/or forgotten goodies!"

A Midwestern Gothic, continued from Page 1.

Occasionally he adds another sticker to the back of his car, and when he does he always stops and looks down at the elder ones, scraped and damaged, some having fallen off leaving only ghosts of adhesive, and it serves to add a smile to his face. A smile of pure smug satisfaction, a smile of armor so when he sees poor Latinos and African Americans struggling against the system, struggling the same way he does, the truth simply skitters off. The truth is, when he looks down at the poor and disenfranchised all he can see is a mirror, and he hates what he sees, hates himself, but he's sixty years into this life path and there's no going back, he can only double down on his hate and enjoy fleeting moments of racism by the vending machine. Besides, there's always grease, and liquor, and cars, and steak. To him, life could be worse, and won't last much longer anyways.

Samuel Nash Krimmer is a student of Psychology and Creative Writing at the University of Cincinnati. He writes fiction and poetry, "to blend genre and literary in a way that allows one's imagination to flow while also staying rooted in the common human condition." A native of Cincinnati, he is an occasional visitor to our territory, and got the Buzz at Rock City.



## Kalimatxo

Mondays 5-6pm on WRFR  
Join Jo and Todd as they resurrect punk from Spain and Latin America as a voice against authoritarianism, misogyny, militarism, and police brutality.



## Random Rules

Mondays 6-7pm on WRFR. Random Rules is an exercise in spontaneity. A longtime mixtape maker and playlist fine-tuner, host Scott Sell will cast aside any semblance of a plan in favor of making song decisions on the spot. Will Glen Gould playing Bach's "Goldberg Variations" sound good after psychedelic 1970s Zamrock? Only one way to find out!

## Contribute yourself to The Buzz & WRFR

We are all volunteers, and you are invited to join us. email steinberger@gwi.net or call Joe at 596-0731

WRFR and The Buzz are supported by our local business sponsors. Please give them your custom!

American Legion Post 1 • Apache Boat Works • The Apprenticeshop • Astrology with Ananur • Bar Harbour Bank & Trust • Blues Festival • Brio Promotions • Brooks Trap Mill • Bufflehead Sailing Charters • Burpee, Carpenter & Hutchins Funeral Home • Cafe Miranda • Camden Conference • Camden Harbor Cruises • Camden National Bank • Camden Opera House • C'est la Vie Consignment • Chartrand Imports • Courier Publications • Dead River Company • Dowling Walsh Gallery • The Drouthy Bear • Eastern Tire • Eric Gabrielsen • First National Bank • For His Glory- Bible Baptist Church • Frantz Furniture • The Free Press • Genuine Automotive • Gilman Electrical Company • The Good Tern Co-op & Café • The Grasshopper Shop • Guini Ridge Farm • Hall's Funeral Home • Hoffman's Thomaston • Home Kitchen Cafe • Jensen's Pharmacy • Jess's Market • K & P Speed Shop • Knox Village Soup • Lyman Morse • Maine Street Meats • Maine Coast TV • Maritime Energy • Mountainside Services • Mid-Knight Auto • Monhegan Boat Line • Peaceful Passage • Pen Bay Pilot • Pen Bay Medical Center • Red Bird Acupuncture • Rhumb Line Restaurant • The Ripple Initiative • Rock City Employee Cooperative • Rockland Savings Bank • Rockport Charters • Sammy's Deluxe • Samoset Resort • Schooner Bay Printing • Scrimshaw Cannabis • Side Country Sports • Southend Grocery • State of Maine Cheese • Strand Theatre • Swan Restorations • Suzuki's Sushi Bar • Tea Printers • Toshie Ichiyangi Tesler, CPA • Viking Lumber • Wayfinder School • Willow Bake Shop • The Zack Shack

Get The Buzz at these Rockland locations: Rock City Cafe \* Dunkin Donuts \* Camden Nat'l Bank \* Main Street Market \* Jensen's Pharmacy \* Willow Bake Shoppe \* Offshore Restaurant \* Good Tern Coop \* Rockland Library \* City Hall \* Jess's Market \* Southend Grocery  
The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com