



Socialism, Capitalism, and Democracy

Can we agree that our goal is a free and just society in which people have equal opportunity to pursue their happiness?

If we agree on this goal, then what is the best way to get there? Answering this question wisely is our critical task as citizens of a democracy. What is your take, dear reader, on how well we are doing at finding our way forward?

My take is that we are not doing well, and that the crux of the problem is that we are wasting our energy, and destroying our potential for united action, by arguing over whether the best way forward is to go to the right, or go to the left.

It is a foolish fight, but it serves the interests of those who sell us wars and donuts, college degrees and chemotherapy. The conversation we need to have as Americans is being drowned out by the opposing chants of the millions cheering their political super bowl teams - the Republicans and the Democrats. It works well - for those who are making us fat and bankrupt, and using their winnings to convince our representatives to protect their interests at our expense, and to tax us to subsidize their operations.

“Socialism for the rich, capitalism for the poor,” it has been called.

With wealth and power more and more concentrated in the hands of a few, the majority of us are less and less able to defend our interests. It is not about right or left, it is about corruption. For the most part, it is perfectly legal corruption.

If we the people are united and clear we can elect politicians who will serve us, and who will not join the elite club that profits at our expense. But our potential to take back control is destroyed by division. As long as we the people are divided, the special interests will continue to pay themselves from the public treasury, and make laws that protect their bureau/industrial complex from competition.

We the people are all different, and in different situations, but we share important interests. Banding together can be a super win-win if our principal demand is for a fair share of resources, and a fair field on which to work and build. If we are united, there is no reason why we cannot achieve that.

We are divided by region, by class, by ethnicity, by sex, and so on, but these divisions do not prevent us from finding common ground. There is one division that does, however — the ideological divide between “left” and “right.”

Ideas about how best to run government cannot all fit along a continuum from “far left” to far right.” That is one-dimensional nonsense, but it is nonsense believed by too many people, including by the majority of educated intellectuals. Reason, unfortunately, is often defeated by the demands of conformity.

The argument between the left (the Democrats) and the right (the Republicans) comes down to two words, one representing the left ideal and one representing the right ideal: “socialism” and “capitalism.” Capitalism is the problem and the solution is socialism, according to the left. On the right, problem and solution are reversed.

The reality is that we need both capitalism and socialism, in a healthy mix well designed to serve the public interest. Those who call themselves socialists know perfectly well that this is true: an economy in which everything is owned and managed by government is bound to be incompetent, and oppressive, as history has shown. “Pure”

capitalism is also a fantasy, An effective market economy cannot function without effective government. Few capitalist purists are prepared to argue against public roads, public schools, anti-trust laws, air and water protection, and much more that we know is the essential function of government.

There can be no freedom without laws, but laws can be the enemy of freedom. It is all a matter of what the laws are. We the people must control what the laws are, and insist that they be effectively administered. To do this effectively we must respect each other and listen to each other – and rise above today's absurd partisan divide.

Gosh dad! Didn't we just have a presidential race? Wasn't somebody elected? Do we have to do it all again? Can't we just have a dictator or something?

You might have a point there son. With a dictator everything is their fault. In a democracy if we don't like the government it's our fault - we elected 'em



by Joe Steinberger

Imbibe the Vibe

Tuesdays 7-8 pm on WRFR 93.3

Imbibe the vibe, hosted by Amie and Ryan, is a radio show encompassing a variety of live sets and albums of modern-day jam bands who have been influenced by earlier musicians of classic rock, funk, soul, jazz, reggae and blues. The vibe of live music can be a very sacred exchange between the musicians and the audience, where the band plays off the energy of the crowd and vice versa. It is our duty to highlight and share these experiences with our listeners and introduce new bands and musicians who sometimes don't receive the attention they deserve. Sit back and let the vibe do the work.



Cheech's Radio Hour

Tuesdays 8-9pm. Cheech's Radio Hour focuses on creative and community projects. Host Rachel has interviewed Maine artists, writers, musicians and members of local community organizations. She has also interviewed musicians and artists outside of the Mid Coast including John Flansburgh of They Might Be Giants and Dave Gutter of The Rustic Overtones. Cheech has regular guests including Rockland's own roller derby league The Rock Coast Rollers, artist and writer Wilder Oakes, and singer songwriter Tom Albury.



photos above and top left by David Long

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25:

- 2020 Maine Lobster Festival Poster Contest, with a \$1,000 prize. Email samples of your work – preferably lobster images – and a bio by Friday, November 1, to jbrickel@midcoast.com.
- Tech Tools at Rockland Public Library, 10:30 a.m. Librarian Jessie Blanchard will introduce users to CloudLibrary, a free eBook/eAudiobook app, and its new look and new features. Bring your devie.
- Pumpkin Palooza at Camden Public Library, with the pubic invited to bring a carved pumpkin to the amphitheatre between noon and 6 p.m. – or carve one there between 4 and 5 p.m. Creations may be entered into the family, teen and adult contests. They will be lit at 7 p.m., then carvers can take them home.
- Spooky Songs with Igor the Cat, 6 p.m. at Saint George River Cafe in Warren. Acoustic, folk, country, blues.
- The Blue Cafe Presents Hiroya Tsukamoto, Friday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m. Camden Opera House welcomes the acoustic guitar stylist to its intimate third-floor space. The Kyoto native and Berklee grad has played at the Blue Note and on Japanese National Television. Blue Cafe shows are free; 40 Paper provides the cash bar.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26:

- Meals of Hope Food Packaging Event Seeks Volunteers from 9 to 11 a.m. at Rockland Elks Lodge, 210 Rankin Street. West Bay Rotary seeks help to pack up to 25,000 meals for midcoasters in need, to be distributed to food pantries and other local organizations. Email EtiennePerret@gmail.com or call 632-4057.
- Cash for Clothes Sale in Camden, the 90th and the last, at American Legion Hall, 91 Pearl Street, to benefit nonprofit Coastal Opportunities, on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday, for the bag sale, from 7 to 11 a.m. Affordable, gently used clothing, shoes and accessories for the whole family.
- “Boos and Brews” at Maine Sport Outfitters, 115 Commercial Street in Rockport from 5 to 7 p.m. The free public event will feature scary stories read by Maine authors, beverages from local breweries and wine from Cellardoor Winery, and door prizes.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27:

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28:

- Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m. Catinka Knoth leads the free Monday classes, open to all, with materials provided.
- Fish Fertilizer Workshop at Herring Gut Learning Center, 59 Factory Road, Port Clyde, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Educators will make fertilizer out of older tilapia from the center’s aquaponics system. Bring a three- to five-gallon bucket with a lid (the center will provide buckets upon request) for fertilizer to take home. Email info@HerringGut.org, 372-8677.
- “Hermit: The Mysterious Life of Jim Whyte,” 5 p.m. at Thomaston Public Library. Author Jeffrey Ryan on his book based on the true story of Jim Whyte, a world traveler fluent in six languages, who arrived in Monson in 1895 with sacks of money and a fierce desire for privacy, which was interrupted when the FBI came looking for him.
- Monday Jams at St. George Grange, at Wiley’s Corner, 7 to 9 p.m. through October. Country, gospel, folk, bluegrass.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29:

- Pumpkin Storytime at Rockland Public Library, for prechoolers and toddlers, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Following the stories, kids will get the chance to paint mini pumpkins to take home
- Five Weeks of “My Next Career Move” at Camden Public Library, offered from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, October 22 to November 19, by New Ventures Maine. Learn how your current skills connect to future careers, identify high-growth job fields, explore education and training options, and strengthen your resume for a job search. Registration: NewVenturesMaine.org, 593-7942.
- Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30:

- DEP Course in Erosion and Sediment Control, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Union Town Office, 567 Common Road. Registration with payment is required by Friday, October 25: 596-2040, knox-lincoln.org/contractor-certification.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31:

- Trunk or Treat at Vose Library in Union, Thursday, October 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the library parking lot. Kids and families are invited to wear costumes and gather treats at featured Halloween-themed vehicles.
- 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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2:

- 2nd Annual Fall Craft Fair at Union Masonic Lodge 31, 149 Sennebec Road (just off Route 17) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Photographers, artists, potters, knitters and crafters will display and sell their works.
- MOFGA Offers Farmer to Farmer Conference, Saturday to Monday, November 2 to 4, at Point Lookout, Northport. Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association’s annual conference will feature 40 education sessions and 60 speakers. Saturday will include tours of Snakeroot Farm, which grows veggies, fruit and herbs; and Balfour Farm, an off-the-grid, 100-acre dairy farm. Details: mofga.org.

Around Town is compiled each week by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr.
Please submit calendar items to gowrfr@gmail.com
Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.

The **KNOX** Lobster Boat

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