



Metro Zoom!

by Joe Steinberger

Not your corporate media, Rockland's community radio station WRFR, Rockland's public-access television station MCTV, and our weekly volunteer journal The Buzz, are a fellowship of neighbors who help to keep our community informed, and entertained. We are more than fifty volunteers. Our modest expenses are covered by more than eighty local business sponsors.

Is Rockland's local media fellowship unique in America? We would love to have news that there is life on another planet, but so far we know of no other outposts. (Please tell us if you know of fellow organizations elsewhere, we will send a spaceship asap.)

Meanwhile, we go on with our experiment, and, given our meager status, we must do it with a sense of humor and a modest dose of courage. Why courage? Well, while the mission is not really so dangerous (yet), we are living in a time of great fear, a time when avoiding liability is more important than doing good, a time when sycophancy is, for many, more fashionable than independence.

We can confess, in great sincerity, to our limitations. Why not? We have no pretension to authority. What we can do, what we can contribute, is purely a matter of waves in the ether. We have no police, no jails, no means to do more than to express our ideas, to entertain, to question, to tell what truth (or fantasy) we can express.

That expression is our stock in trade. It is not mainly about money, although that, in small amounts, is the essential leavening of all the tasty pastry that we can offer. We live on the kindness of our community, and on our desire to make a creative contribution to our community, our country and our world.

The Buzz you have in your hand. WRFR and MCTV you have on your radio and on your computer, free for the enjoyment of it. However, free as it may be, it is only free so long as you contribute to it.

Just by listening, or watching, or reading, you are contributing. You can contribute also by speaking on the radio, by appearing on the television, by writing in the Buzz, and by helping to organize and produce these media. That is the key feature of our modest enterprise: participation is open to everyone.

So, it is with great pleasure that we announce a new and potentially subversive (in a good way) scheme of the fellowship of the buzz: Zoom Metro! We have been trying it out now for two weeks, and it is way cool.

It is our answer to Covid-19, that cursed virus that is making it dangerous for us to be close to each other. Guess what? That virus cannot be transmitted via the internet! No masks needed, we can converse, laugh, even sneeze. The virus is blocked, the ideas go through.

This last Metro Show, broadcast on WRFR and streamed live, and on demand, at MaineCoast.tv, gave five of us undocumented pundits the chance to tell the truth (or such as it seems to us) to the world that has its center in Rockland, Maine.

Robert Nichols joined us. Bob has, in his retirement, helped make MCTV, and now our new Zoom Metro Show, work. He has ideas about other things too, and contributed them to our discussion. Meanwhile, over in the production studio and out of sight, his co-conspirator Craig Mathieson worked the dials to make this adventure possible.

Also joining us was Steve Carroll, (a.k.a. Chromebook_D4F3) a co-founder of WRFR and native-born Rocklander - a tribe that is nearly extinct, and lately under great pressure to conform to the new religion of the educated "from aways."

An early adapter of a more tolerant approach, the brilliant and modest Chuck Kruger, musician turned politician, several time representative of greater Thomaston of the Maine legislature, and (sort of) Democrat who dares to question the current orthodoxies, joined us too, with the perspective, and courage, of an old man (b. 1950) who has little to lose.

Finally (best for last) we were joined (from Sao Paulo Brazil!) by Mike Mullins, our lone young man, would-be representative of Rockland in the Main legislature (sadly defeated in the late election), real-estate developer, new father, involuntary ex-pat, and (sort of) Republican..

It was fun. And, may I say, Rockland Metro is not the only fun show on WRFR. Get with it, dear reader. We have something tasty brewing here in our little city of Rockland, Maine. Stop conforming to the norm of blaming others, of avoiding responsibility (and liability, cross yourself), and join us in being a part of the solution.

The Metro Show, by the way, is live from 5 to 6 pm every Wednesday.



Birch Point Seaweed by Ron Tesler

A Right to Freedom

by Steve Carroll

Our Country was built on freedoms. Freedom to worship as we choose, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly. and more. These rights to freedom separate us from other countries in the world where freedoms are limited. For generations we have cherished and fought to preserve these freedoms. Now in the aftermath of a hotly contested presidential election our freedom to vote for the candidate of our choosing is being questioned.

Recently, New York progressive representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez appears to be suggesting in a controversial tweet her wish to create an enemies list. In her tweet she states: "is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they downplay or deny their complicity in the future?" This seems to support the belief that Trump supporters should be somehow punished for "voting the wrong way". In another story I read on Thanksgiving Day, an official of the Democratic National Committee suggested the need for "re-education" for a large number of Americans who choose to place their vote for our President. David Atkins an official for the DNC wrote: " How do you re-program 75 million people?"

These frightening Orwellian revelations speak of a world where independent thought will not be tolerated by the ruling class. Even former first lady Michelle Obama criticized voters saying: "tens of millions of people voted for the status quo even when it meant supporting lies, hate, chaos and division,"

75 million people, nearly half of the American voting public disagreed with your vision of the future, so they should be re-programed, punished or blacklisted? Is this the America we want our children growing up in? A country void of independent thinking, where people cannot voice their opinion without fear of reprisal. Let's place the blame where it belongs. The Democratic Party has allowed their support for labor and the working class to grow cold as effort is waged promoting closer ties with corporate donors and wealthy interest. Popular themes such as universal healthcare, a living wage, labor rights and forgiveness of college debt were consistently ignored and rarely even talked about leading up to the national election. It is not the voters fault for putting hope in someone who promised to listen to their pleas and to "make America great again." It's time we all recognize what's going on and take steps to reverse this trend before we all loose our precious rights to freedom.

Join our Buzz and WRFR team.

Host a radio show, contribute your ideas and your art. We are all volunteers and we need your help.

Visit wrfr.org

Email Joe: steinberger@gwi.net



WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

This morning Broken Wing and her crow brood of five dined on a small amount of leftover salmon with the fish skin they quickly ate. Will the crows be satisfied with my more mundane offerings? Do they fly around Rockland rating feeding sites with their version of Michelin stars?

A relative has contracted covid. We have not had any in-person contact since last March. This news is alarming. She is the first person we've known to contract the virus. I've read that millions of Americans will have someone they know or love who will have contracted covid. This Thanksgiving, all Americans should think of their fellow citizens and strangers around the world who will have someone missing from current and future family and social gatherings. The pain of empty chairs at tables.

Covid Has Stolen Thanksgiving. In order to try to remain safe and healthy we will follow CDC guidelines and plan a meal for two with food bought from local stores that need all available support. It won't be the same as past decades when gathering with relatives and friends was more important than the savory, delicious food.

THANKSGIVING COVID COOKING: My husband made his homemade brownies for a Thanksgiving gift for a good friend. As always, they came out perfectly. I removed them from the oven to cool on top of the electric stove and went to watch TV. About mid-way through the program there was a tremendous BANG! And glass shattering in the kitchen. We thought, "Did someone throw a rock through our window?!" I went to the kitchen to discover the 9" x 12" glass baking pan had shattered all over the kitchen floor and the brownies were smoldering. Damn! How could that have happened? Well, it turned out that one of us had forgotten to turn off the burner after melting the dark chocolate and half a pound of butter for the brownies and I had set the cooked batch right on the burner. After laughing hysterically while I swept and vacuumed up the glass and threw out the brownies, I thought this cooking disaster could have been worse. The brownies hadn't stuck to anything and we were not injured. Then, I thought the shattered glass pan could be a metaphor for the females Biden has chosen for his new administration: Kamala Harris, VP; Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, UN Ambassador and Avril Haines, Dir. of Nat'l Intelligence. All who have shattered glass ceilings.

I'm adapting to covid Thanksgiving with just my sweet husband to enjoy an intimate candle-lit dinner: Turkey pie from Home Kitchen Café Bakery; gravy with mashed potatoes, squash, turnip grown by relatives on a Maine Island; pearl onions in a béchamel sauce; cranberry sauce; homemade honey corn muffins using cornmeal from a Unity organic farm, a salad of pears, toasted walnuts, bleu cheese and Boston lettuce with my homemade pesto/vinaigrette dressing and custard pie and Rock City coffee for dessert. Throughout the day we will be phoning relatives and friends as a special kind of Thanksgiving grace.



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