

Fulton Street



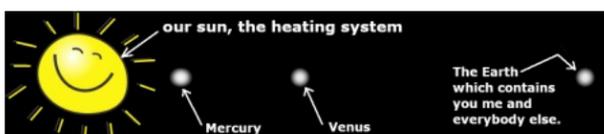
South Street

Dear Joe,  
I have lived on Mechanic Street since 1978. I am a neighbor of Phyllis Merriam. We got talking and she gave me the recent issue of The Buzz. I would love to submit my paintings of the South End. They are my observations of the impending changes I witnessed as I took my early evening walks up and down the streets of the South End. I hope you like them and will consider them for The Buzz.

Thank you,  
Anne Pavalkis

**Editors note:** We are delighted to have these paintings from Anne Pavalkis and hope that her contribution will inspire you, dear reader, to contribute your ideas and your art to the Buzz - and to your community.

Joe Steinberger



Glen Birbeck

"Did you read about such and such", I ask. Something I'd read in the news. Something about Donald or the plague or Mitch McConnell. "No I didn't", she replied, adding, "I've been off news for three weeks". She said it as one would say, Off gluten, or Nicotine, Caffeine or meat or fur. Ya, the "news" is another potentially addictive substance vigorously marketed. A product that only needs a talking head or, more and more, an algorithm.

You can usually tell when it's a software algorithm. That automated news generator has its own set of inhuman errors. In the lab rats are placed in front of computer screens...much as I am now. They have a sugar pill reward when they respond correctly to a stimulus on screen. I self dispense sugar in coffee, also beneath the screen. Both the rat and I are involved in feedback loops. Rats must be helping humans understand what motivates rats. Google and Facebook already understand what motivates humans. They should!, they run stimulus, response, reward experiments on me and a billion other humans 24/7. The rats get less attention but then they don't have our discretionary cash.

Ah, cash. That brings us back to Mitch McConnell. He is today cast as the Grinch who stole our \$2000 Christmas gift. We will get \$600 as the year winds down, but not the \$2000 Santa (Donald) wants to give us. I am recalling a Billie Holiday song, "Rich relations give a crust of bread or such, you can help yourself...but don't take too much" \

Meanwhile, former presidential candidate, Andrew Yang (moto, "Make America Think Harder") is running for mayor of NYC...Donald's home town. Would be mayor Yang had the crazy idea of Washington giving citizens money. He must have figured that since DC lobbyists were helping hundreds of special interests finance themselves, citizens might join that bread line. Now that the US treasury has loosened its grip and money is on its way nobody remembers Yang. But there is apparently a limit for fiscally conservative Republicans. Six hundred is OK, two grand not OK. With their backbones regenerating as Donald's power over them diminishes they can go back to their fiscally conservative roots. Well, conserving money not aimed at the hundreds of pork barrels. So a surreal year is ending with the surreal image of Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden & Donald Trump all pushing Mitch to send me an additional \$1400. I'm not holding my breath. If it happens it happens. Still haven't spent the last \$1200 "gift" from Washington.

The zombie apocalypse hasn't happened. I expected it back in March. Just about everything else did happen. Plenty of zombies but the apocalypse is postponed for a while. A shame really since I bought a ton of garlic. It's in the root cellar with the ton of beans and rice. That's the problem with prepping. You get all that emergency stuff into the bunker and the world DOESN'T end. But, even this dark cloud has a silver (maybe gold) lining. The sun. It's still shining, yes, but more importantly, it's spitting out plasma. No, not the stuff that goes into your arm intravenously. Rather the ionized gas it flings past Venus and toward us. Solar cycle number 25 is heating up. Every eleven years the sun gets indigestion and hurls ions our way. Seems I got my expensive ham radio just in time. Some scientists predict this will be a record cycle with short waves propagating around the world smooth as grandma on greased Teflon.

Who gives a flying ion about radio waves and the sun? You will when a CME (coronal mass ejection) takes down CMP (Central Maine Power). With CMP offline you'll feel powerless. You got to take the good with the bad. Better shortwave propagation, possible EMP shock to the grid. Can't be helped. Besides, I am thinking more and more about investing the \$\$\$ and going totally off grid. Let the zombies run amuck at the generators. I'll be converting sunlight into electricity and electricity into radio waves beamed toward Australia. Have as happy a new year as the CDC protocols allow. See you (at a safe distance) in 2021, Grid willing.



### Christmas Rain

(anon.)

A poem we'll show'em  
in Buzzy detail  
an answer to Prancer  
and Vixen betrayal  
and swimming not sleighing  
with new hope set sail

## Buon 2021! Happy 2021! ¡Feliz 2021! Bom 2021!

Dopo mesi ardui, di paura e parziale reclusione, vi auguro di trovare libertà e coraggio nelle scelte che compirete.

After tough months of fear and partial reclusion, I wish for you to find freedom and courage in the choices you can make.

Después de meses duros, de miedo y reclusión parcial, les deseo que puedan encontrar libertad y coraje en las decisiones que tomen.

Após meses difíceis, de medo e reclusão parcial, desejo que todos vocês encontrem liberdade e coragem nas decisões que tomarem.

--

Ezio Maria Romeo

- Italian language teacher and former English immersion student at Penobscot School

by Phyllis Merriam

Seagulls continue to snag crows' breakfast. But they must be hungry too. I've noticed seagulls don't arrive if I withhold peanuts and just leave dried cat food for crows. I think it's the lighter colored peanuts the seagulls scope out in their fly-overs.

We had a quiet & safe Christmas and will have an equally muted New Year 2021 celebration of HOPE. Good riddance to 2020 A Year of Drone Strikes:

Police brutality against Black people; rising white supremacy; The Pandemic; vast numbers of unemployed, homeless and at risk of evictions; school children either part time or remote; vast numbers of covid victims hospitalized or dead; Pandemic Deniers refusing face masks; wacko conspiracy theories bloom while toilet paper is hoarded; extreme hurricanes, wildfires & floods; businesses closed for good; millionaires & billionaires stuffing their pandemic pockets like Robber Barons; a divided congress mirrors our divided nation; health care workers overworked, overwhelmed, hospitalized themselves & 3,000 dead; more bizarre conspiracy theories threaten the presidential election; cronies'-criminals getting pardoned

Things I'm grateful for during 2020:

- Neither my husband nor I got covid – so far
- Family & friends who have been healthy and so kind
- My husband's VA services which are so helpful
- Living in one of the safest states during covid
- Dr. Fauci & Dr. Shah who give clear CDC info
- Grocery store staff who work so hard
- Scientists who created covid vaccines
- Vaccinations for health care staff & first responders
- Vaccinations for vulnerable nursing home residents
- The end of 2020 – the worst year in my lifetime
- Sane, experienced new administration soon to be inaugurated
- My ability to stay calm & carry on – at least so far
- Reading books that help me travel while I shelter in place
- The good people of Rockland & Maine who help one another
- Local wildlife that are oblivious to this craziest of years

Gazing at 2020's 13th full moon, I wish New Year 2021 will bring hope, peace, the pandemic's end and restored health and economies to Rockland, our state of Maine and across the world. The strangest of years will soon be in the rearview mirror.



Graffiti on the remains of a limekiln in Rockland, messages from children who need more support from their community.



**Become a WRFR Sponsor**

Sponsoring your local all-volunteer radio station is a super deal. It's community service, public relations, and advertising - all for just \$360 a year. We will record a 20-second announcement describing your business or organization and letting our listeners know how to find you. Our promise: your message will play at least once a day, every day of the year. Do the math! It's less than a dollar a day.

To learn more, email Amie Daniels and Ryan McGlashing: [sponsorwrfr@gmail.com](mailto:sponsorwrfr@gmail.com).



**Curtis Way Sports Talk**  
Thursdays 9 - 10 a.m. on WRFR

From the college football field, to the high school sidelines, to the boxing ring Thomas Curtis has been in the sports world his whole life. Thomas Curtis is excited to present 'Curtis Way Sports Hour'. This show will keep you up to date with local and professional sports. There will also be high school, college, and professional athletes and coaches on the show. Are you ready?

**Saturday Night Rocks! 8. - 10 p.m. on WRFR**

The 80's are back every Saturday Night! Join your host, Rich Smalley from 8pm to 10pm, as he plays the best rock songs of the decade. Whether it's classic, punk or glam your rock gods and goddesses of the 80's will keep your weekend rolling with thick make-up, big hair, and fish net stockings and this is just the guys!



**WRFR and The Buzz are supported by these 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 • Eastern Tire • Eric Gabrielsen • First National Bank • 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 • Sammy's Deluxe • Samoset Resort • Schooner Bay Printing • Side Country Sports • Southend Grocery • State of Maine Cheese • Strand Theatre • Swan Restorations • Suzuki's Sushi Bar • Tea Printers • Toshie Ichiyanagi Tesler, CPA • Viking Lumber • Wayfinder School • Willow Bake Shop • The Zack Shack

Get *The Buzz* at these Rockland locations: Good Tern Co-op • Dunkin' Donuts • Jensen's Pharmacy • Rock City Cafe • 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](mailto:wrfr93.3@gmail.com)