



Semi-palmated sandpiper from the Rockland harbor jetty, high tide Sunday 10/10/21 - by Kirk Gentelen

A Right to Food

by Richard King

We are certainly divided by our politics, probably divided by our faiths, but we share a common need for food. Our world is changing faster than we ever thought possible and our way of life is under attack from multiple directions. The plan of those who wish to lord over the masses by intimidation and fear is evident in the legacy media's narratives of climate crisis and pandemic.

A major component of their plan is the control and management of our food supply. As Henry Kissinger said, "Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people." The last century has seen multinational corporations pushing to control global food supplies by absorbing family farms and creating environmentally destructive monoculture mega-farms and CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations). There are also instances of controlling access to seeds and restricting seed saving and sharing by farmers. Even worse, the supply chain is threatened by energy and personnel issues.

In light of the above, the people of Maine are stepping up to the plate and reasserting our ability to feed ourselves. Food sovereignty by local ordinance, which began with five towns in Hancock County in 2011, has blossomed to nearly 100 communities statewide, but the ability of Mainers to feed ourselves could be squelched by the stroke of a legislative pen, which brings me to Question 3 on this year's ballot.

Question 3 is a proposal to amend Maine's constitution to establish a true right to food, adding Section 25 to Article I - Declaration of Rights:

"Section 25: Rights to food and food sovereignty and freedom from hunger. All individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food, including the right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve and consume the food of their own choosing by hunting, gathering and foraging with respect to natural regenerative capacity and sustainability; farming, fishing, gardening and saving and exchanging seeds or by barter, trade or purchase from sources of their own choosing, for their nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being, as long as an individual does not commit trespassing, theft, poaching or other abuses of private property rights, public lands or natural resources in the acquisition of food; furthermore, all individuals have a fundamental right to be free from hunger, malnutrition, starvation and the endangerment of life from the scarcity of or lack of access to nourishing food."

While this addition to our bill of rights does not guarantee that food will be provided by the State or any other entity, anymore than Article 1 guarantees the enjoyment of life or the acquisition of property. It does, however, secure a right for all individuals to make a claim or to have legal standing and to be free from laws or policies that inhibit or prohibit our ability to feed ourselves. It is the first line of defense against the oligarchs and corporatists who wish to pressure us into compliance.

I urge you to vote YES on Question 3.



Wrapping the Arc de Triumph

Paul Chartrand reports from Paris

Last week may have been the last opportunity to see a large public artwork from the late artist couple Christo & Jeanne Claude. They had imagined covering the Arc de Triomphe in Paris since the early 1960's when they met here, but they never achieved it in their lifetimes. Christo & Jeanne Claude are known for wrapping many other monuments including the Pont Neuf in Paris, putting large flags or "gates" in Central Park and other large fabric or "land art" projects worldwide.

Napoleon built the Arc de Triomphe in the early 19th century to celebrate French military victories. Christo's wrapping plan was to finally come to fruition in Spring 2020, but a pandemic got in the way. Then Christo passed away. His foundation, the City of Paris and the French Culture Ministry finally achieved this long planned work over the last month. I was here in time to see the last two days.

Not the best weather while I was here, but a grey sky kind of fit the color scheme and is normal for Paris. Christo imagined his colors matching this Paris sky and cityscape, while at same time lightly reflecting the red, white and blue of the French flag. The Arc fabric was silver/white with blue undertones, with red retaining ropes. Other interesting details were provided by red & blue dressed volunteer "guides" who gave out tiny sample squares of the wrapping fabric.

It was more of a "happening" than I expected, taking place in the Place de l'Etoile, a very large square surrounding the Arc. That this large circular square with 12 streets leading to it, resembling a clock face, closed to all but pedestrians, was amazing in itself. It was a rare occasion; the energy was very upbeat and joyous even though there was no music or anything else going on. Just people, thousands of us, and the huge monument/sculpture so much a part of France and her story, now covered in a unique way which added such an unusual, more casual aspect.

The wrapping took away the military and imperial aspects of the Arc, leaving a large, "tabula rasa" type presence that reminded one friend of Stonehenge and reminded me of the computer monolith attracting apes in 2001 Space Odyssey. The huge public space empty of vehicles, became a celebration of public space and unity, with the Arc standing as a central identity and curiosity which everyone enjoyed, touching and taking photos.

In the center under the Arc, untouched by Christo's drapes, is the military memorial at the Arc, an eternal flame for the WWI Unknown Soldier. It was not covered. Its unusual, temporary accessibility led many to stop, look and ponder its meaning. More folks probably looked at the memorial over the "wrapped" period than ever before, because it was so accessible. Usually one must walk thru tunnels from the side to get to the Arc, which is too much trouble. But this week it was easy and above ground the whole way, through a square filled with bemused and happy people milling about.

All this was much more impressive and enjoyable after the last 18mos. of pandemic living, confined and compressed, separated and lonely. The Arc became a large community event that brought all sides together in joy and silent celebration, yet without any celebratory event or announcement. I think Christo and Jeanne Claude would be happy to know of their success.

Monday Workshop Series

October 25, November 1 + November 8, 2:30 – 4:30PM

Join co-teachers Jared Cowan, Oceanside high school teacher, and Alexis Iammarino, CMCA Arts@Work Mentor, in a three-part workshop introducing the basics of mold-making and casting processes.

Inspired by CMCA's Main Gallery exhibit, Spatial Relations, which includes works made from cast concrete, ceramic, wood, and mixed media—this group show features leading contemporary artists Elizabeth Atterbury, Gordon Hall, and Anna Hepler. Participants will use a combination of plaster, casting wax, and alginate to create basic sculptural forms that can inform and teach techniques to be used in independent projects going forward—or just for fun!

Arts@Work is a free mentorship program connecting high school students across the Midcoast region to arts leadership, career development, volunteer opportunities, and studio practice development. Register today!

Contact Alexis Iammarino, CMCA Arts@Work Mentor
aiammarino@cmcanow.org

Ciao, come va? My name's Ezio Romeo, and I'm a teacher of Italian as a foreign language with over ten years of experience. If you like Italian—this musical and charming language—and want to learn it or improve it, why don't you drop me a line at ezio.romeo@gmail.com? I offer online classes on Skype, tailored to my students' goals and needs. We can have conversations, or lessons where you can learn vocabulary, pronunciation, collocations, idioms, grammar, and aspects of the Italian culture. Send me a message. Ti aspetto!

Common cause is generally thought of as two or more individuals or groups taking different routes towards the same destination. Their beliefs are similar, but each thinks they have a better way to reach the ultimate goal. Each group tries to convince the other they should change their plans to better conform with the other's way. All too often meetings become angry confrontational debates that end with both parties walking away in disgust. If only each party could listen to the others viewpoint and work together for a mutual accommodation - then both could reach a common cause. In our national conversation political parties have now been moulded into two armed camps each refusing even to listen to the others point. In order to return to a civilized society we must find a way to reach across the aisle and find mutual respect. Nothing can be accomplished if we cannot listen to another's point of view. Nothing can be achieved by our unwillingness to listen and to accept that the other person may be correct in their opinion and that it would be mutually beneficial to find common ground. For centuries our conflicts have cost the lives of millions and most people cannot even remember what the disagreements were about. We must all be willing to come to the table with an open mind and to not be frozen in our position. We must be willing to listen to the others point of view and be willing to accept they may have a valid point. With mutual respect and understanding much can be accomplished. So the next time you find yourself embroiled in a conflict..stop..listen..learn..and be humbled by the understanding that you may not be right and that realistically there could be a better way. Respect your opponent and their point of view and work towards a "common cause."

an opinion by Steve Carroll

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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

WEEK EIGHTY-THREE

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

By Phyllis Merriam

Fall weather has been beautiful with temperatures warm enough to sit outside to read, contemplate nature, and doze in the sun absorbing vitamin D3 or just daydream. It's a way for me to pause, keep Covid thoughts at bay and for awhile not think about the pandemic and all the Covid nonsense conspiracy theories by adherents' hospitalized and dying needlessly because they refuse the vaccines.

Autumn leaves seem to be late in turning this season. When we married years ago on September 24 the foliage was bright perfection. Maybe it was just our happy moods but the leaves were luminous. Lately, with climate change, bringing warmer temperatures, fall foliage seems delayed and duller. The few leaves that have turned on The Big Maple are crunchy and blah.

There is an article in the journal Pediatrics, about the tens of thousands of American children under age 18 who have lost their parents or caregivers to Covid and what a toll this national crisis has had on these children's physical health and mental health and what little attention has been given to their tremendous losses and uncertain futures.

ROCKLAND HARBOR GIVE-AWAY:

While we residents have been going about our lives, our city council has been planning to give away large portions of public access to our harbor to Safe Harbor Marinas, a multi-billion dollar corporation, for the access of mega yachts. Residents who have expressed concerns about this historic give-away have been publicly called "whiners" by Rockland's Mayor, Ed Glaser, who clearly does not understand the role and responsibility of a public servant. Neither do the council members, elected to serve the public's interest - not the financial interests of a huge corporation and the 1%. The demographics of Rockland are changing from a working town to a town that caters to the wealthy, to a town where working class people and families cannot afford to rent or buy, where the city council agrees there is critical loss of affordable housing but fail to use available Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for affordable housing assistance.

Yesterday, I got my Pfizer booster jab at Shaw's pharmacy, which is actually a third shot of the vaccine. No side effects - not even a sore arm. Pediatric vaccines are shortly due for approval to the relief of many parents. The Moderna booster for adults awaits federal approval.

Up to ten crows are now coming for breakfast. Broken Wing is always the first to arrive and the last to leave. Her plumage is so glossy and her shiny eyes remind me of Victorian jet beads. After all the other crows flew away, Broken Wing spent some time sitting on the railing just outside the kitchen window, at times looking into the window at me.

I just read that a white crow was spotted in southern Aroostook County. It's not a crow with albinism. Rather, it has a genetic mutation called "leucism" that weakens the crow's wing structures, thus leaving it vulnerable to poor flight or could eventually render it flightless. I'm rooting for its survival. About a year ago, another white crow was spotted in Owls Head.

Rockland's downtown baskets on light poles lining Main Street are filled with dead flowers creating an air of decrepitude and neglect.



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