



# The Buzz

Rockland Metro Magazine

Issue 244, November 26, 2021, Rockland, Maine



On cable channel 7,  
MaineCoast.tv & Roku

*The Old School*  
Fellowship Education



## Maine author talk at the Rockland Public Library

The Rockland Public Library presents Jack Flowers, Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

Based on a true story, *Rat Six* centers on the character of Clifford Price, who, like thousands of other young men in the 1960s, is drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam. He serves as a “Tunnel Rat,” one of many volunteers of slight build who ferret out soldiers on the opposing side from a series of underground labyrinths. Price lives through a series of breathtaking missions and experiences interpersonal clashes with others in his team in this extraordinary tale.

Jack Flowers grew up in Indiana and was drafted in 1967. While stationed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers near Saigon, he volunteered as a Tunnel Rat; he wrote *Rat Six* as an act of catharsis many decades later. He has lived with his family in Maine since 2002.

For more information, please email [elewis@rocklandmaine.gov](mailto:elewis@rocklandmaine.gov).

## Lies

an essay by Phil Groce

Is it possible to have a truly victimless lie? Would that still be called a lie?

People intentionally lie in order to get something they want, and they do not want other people to know that they are lying. They want to avoid the embarrassment that they are not the outstanding truth-teller they want people to believe they are.

It is becoming more in vogue for people to lie and then admit that sometimes they do lie but that their intentions were of high value (Tucker Carlson comes to mind). That proposition states that the person has his mind right, on the right target in life, but that sometimes he has to lie. That is to say, the person is building something in his life, or is protecting something of great value in life, and that he has to lie now and then to achieve that goal and such is okay. Okay?

If the lie were truly victimless, then maybe that person who is lying is still doing something good and should be respected for it. Tucker Carlson would hope that, collecting his high salary for doing that.

There has to be something in the mind of the person who lies for the ‘good cause’ that he is supposedly building. We build our endeavors with thoughts and acts. We can look on each of these thoughts and acts as bricks in constructing whatever aimed at. That’s his baby, so to speak.

The only problem is that the brick of a lie has no substance. Having no substance, then it cannot serve as a brick. In fact, it is less than a brick. It is a blank, and the structure the brick is supposed to be building, becomes weaker in that spot where there was supposed to be substance.

The liar cries out, “No! I am constructing something good. It is YOU who are lying. The lie may be unfortunate, but it is worthwhile, and it IS a brick.”

Well, if we accept the construct that a lie is a blank brick, and we are told that it IS a brick, then what can it possibly be a brick of—building what? Yes, we all know there is something that bricks of lies build, and it is called fantasy. A fantasy has no substance. Therefore, a person can feel good about using lies to build a fantasy. If you can sell that fantasy and make a lot of money, then you can be considered a success, at least in the minds of some. Congratulations.

Sometimes the person may not make money with it, as that person is seeking an ideal, and whatever is being constructed represents that ideal. Does that lessen that ideal? If the person has based a large segment of life on that ideal, and there is a structure that represents the ideal, and some of that structure was built on lies, is that a problem?

If there truly can be a victimless lie, then perhaps there is no problem, though the person, himself is the victim, and that has its own set of problems within the person’s character. Therefore, there cannot be a victimless lie. Any lying is a dicey proposition from the start, and it most likely results in weakness within structures built. Kindness, I know, is a better measure to live by. You can depend on the motive of kindness to have substance. Tucker Carlson is not a kind man.



## Six Questions with DJ Aaron Britt

by Ron Staschak

I recently had the pleasure of talking with Aaron Britt. He is an interesting young man. Aaron is passionate about music and community radio. Aaron is another wonderful guest.

What do you do at the radio station?

I cohost Ask the Ages with my buddy Josh Builder. We call ourselves the Midcoast’s home for far-out music and that means we hit everything from free jazz to krautrock to new age, ambient, avant classical, and a smattering of the finest dad rock.

How long have you been volunteering?

I’ve had the show since February, 2020, so only nine months.

Why did you decide to volunteer for a show/why did you want to have a show?

I did radio in college shout out WAMH in Amherst, MA where I had jazz and indie rock shows. I loved it so much and when I read about WRFR in the Buzz actually shout out Good Tern for stocking this fine fine publication I immediately got in touch to see if I could join the fun.

Other than the show you host, what is your favorite WRFR show?

There are a bunch of other shows I dig. I really like Scott Sell’s show Random Rules on Mondays, and then the punk show Kalimotxo comes on right before that. But what I really love about community radio is the breadth of programming. I love our Celtic show and our local politics and astrology shows. You just don’t find this cross-section of interests much in our curated, algorithmed media world.

Is there a question I should have asked you but didn’t.

You should have asked me about my music. The music we play on the show really runs the gamut, and most of the fun is exploring and finding new stuff, either through my own wanderings, learning from my cohost Josh, or hearing from the musicians we have on as guests. I’ve had the most fun diving into new age music on the show, and in doing that getting turned on to composers like Kay Gardner, who lived in Bangor for a good chunk of her life.

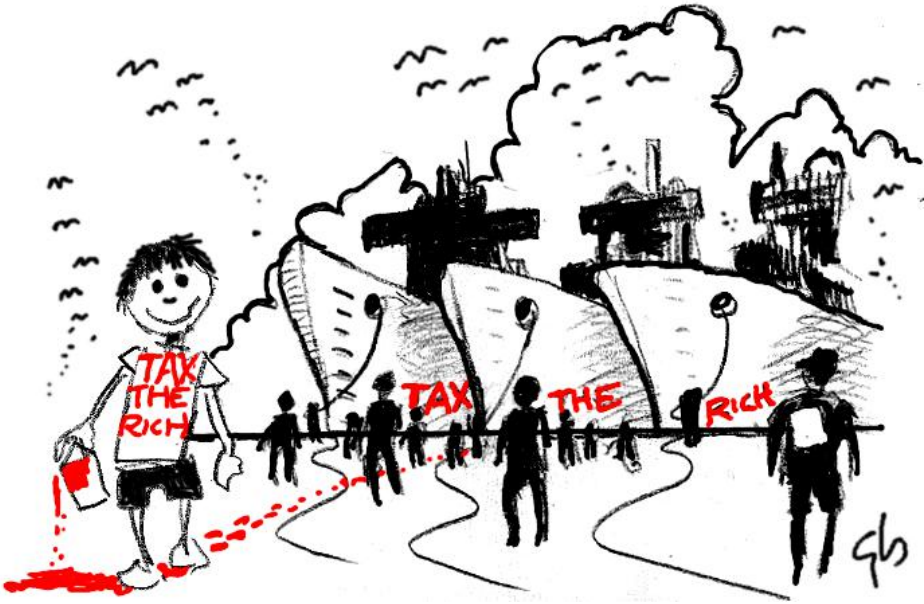
You sound like someone who has traveled a great deal. What is the most beautiful place that you have been?

Gosh, that’s tough. I do fondly recall sitting on a Norwegian fjord at sunset when a big pod of porpoises all jumped out of the water at once. A couple Brazilian beaches rate pretty highly, and my native Northern California too.

**Your thoughts and art are always welcome at the Buzz**

Email Joe: [steinberger@gwi.net](mailto:steinberger@gwi.net), or call me: 596-0731





# Excess

an essay by Hank Garfield

Can we please cool it with the superlatives, just for a while? Can we try for a little perspective? Republicans and Democrats routinely label each new opponent in the White House as “the worst president in history.” Everything’s got to be a new world record of some kind, or an epic battle between good and evil.

I can’t decide whether American politics has become sports or episodic TV, with each episode a cliffhanger and no victory assured until the last possible moment. It’s all breathlessly reported, as if a bill to build bridges and trains were a moral struggle for the country’s soul. There are taunts and chants from the sidelines, and political debates among serious people about mascots.

And I can’t help thinking that our politics has become unserious at least in part because our language has become hyperbolic. In other words, it’s mind-boggling how incredibly over-exaggerated and unceasingly amped-up it all is. Not everything can be “amazing” or “awesome” all the time. Some things are, but do you really walk around amazed and awed all day? Jimi Hendrix may have been an amazing guitar player, but simple competence at one’s job is not cause for amazement.

Everyone in electronic media seems to have become inordinately fond of assaulting us with adverbs-as-intensifiers. You’re totally familiar with them, because you hear and see them every day. You know them terrifically, extraordinarily, fabulously well, from social media, talk radio and TV. My favorite is “exponentially,” which no one should be allowed to write, or say in public, until they understand what an exponent is, and does. If Grandpa gets drunk at the Christmas party, he’s not “unbelievably drunk.” It’s easy to believe, actually, because he got drunk at last year’s party too.

Yesterday I drank a Carlsberg beer, from Denmark. On the back of the can, the largest letters read: “Probably the best beer in the world.” That “probably” might be the most effective use of an adverb since Star Trek boldly launched its first episode. I can’t imagine an American brewer hedging a claim like that. It conveys confidence without the bombast. Our beer is pretty good, it says. There may be a better one out there somewhere, but give ours a try and see what you think.

We need more such modesty, even if false, in our language and our lives. A few judiciously placed adverbs carry more impact than torrents of meaningless ones. Maybe some of that humility will eventually creep into our politics. One can only hope.

## Become a WRFR Sponsor

Sponsoring your local all-volunteer radio station is 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. Your message will play at least once a day, every day of the year. To learn more, email Amie Daniels: [sponsorwrfr@gmail.com](mailto:sponsorwrfr@gmail.com).

## 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 • Bay Chamber Concerts & Music School • Bay Chiropractic • 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 • Home Kitchen Cafe • Jensen's Pharmacy • Jess's Market • K & P Speed Shop • Knox Village Soup • 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 • The Ripple Initiative • Rock City Employee Cooperative • Rockland Family Dentistry • 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 Ichiyangi Tesler, CPA • Viking Lumber • Wayfinder School • Well and Good Natural Medicine • Willow Bake Shop • The Zack Shack

Get *The Buzz* at these Rockand 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)

## WEEK EIGHTY-NINE

### COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

By Phyllis Merriam

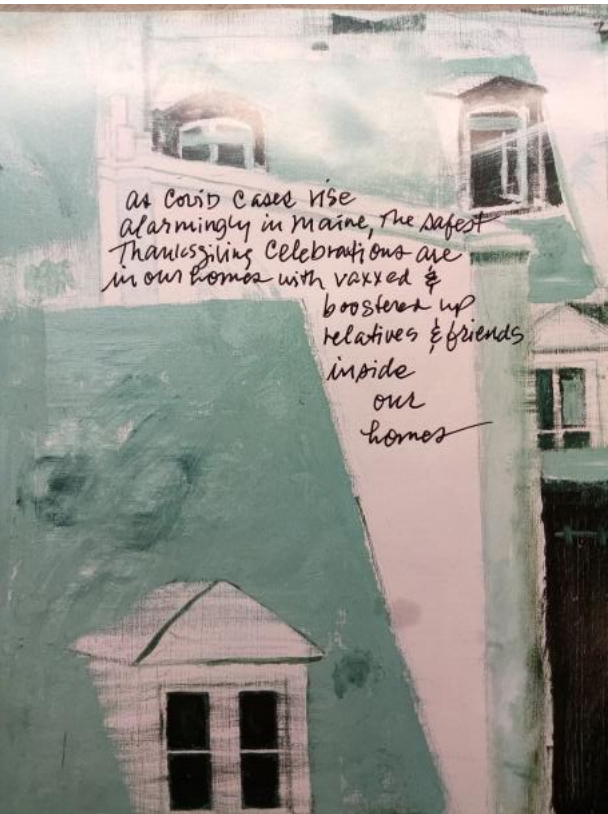
Here it is November 18th and the outside temperature is 59 degrees. If the sun were shining, it would be in the mid-sixties. I have four patio plants still left outside to see how long they last. The first frost had no ill effects whatsoever. The white alyssum continues to bloom. I had to bring in the white geraniums, which at first seemed stunned. But with warmth, watering and plant food, they relaxed in the entryway’s sunlight to spend the cold months of the year to relocate outside in spring 2022.

I never ever thought we would be one of America’s families split by Covid-19. We have three relatives who are adamant they will never be vaccinated. Nothing we have said, can say, will break through their firmly held conspiracy theories, rejections of science and their underlying fears. As the rates of new cases soar in Maine, their denial of vaccines seems even more entrenched. Actually, I think they’re terrified of both Covid and the vaccines. So, where does that leave them? Between a rock and a hard place doesn’t begin to describe it. All three have gotten the virus and luckily hadn’t needed hospitalizations. They now firmly believe they have indefinite natural immunity protection from antibodies and cannot transmit the virus to others and are angry that we, and the rest of the family, have said, “No vaccines. No contact.” I find it beyond understanding they are willing to sacrifice family relationships and risk other family members’ health on the altar of false prophets. We agreed to disagree about our opposing political and religious positions with no problems. We even could joke about it. For a while I was angry at their Covid/vaccine viewpoints. Now I am sad.

The crows had an early Thanksgiving meal of a meaty chicken carcass and one left over sausage they were all over in an avian minute. One of their crow family acts as a sentinel high in the spruce tree to notify its cohort when I’ve delivered their food.

Local Color:

- A wild turkey walked through a neighbor’s yard, tempting fate at Thanksgiving.
- A young woman pushes four toddlers in a cart on the Harbor Trail while they all chirp happily together.
- A southern long haul trucker hit the side of ABC claiming he didn’t know he ran into a building causing structural damage.
- Two crows wait patiently while a squirrel devours birdseed at my neighbor’s.
- Rockland put up Christmas wreaths on Main Street light poles well before Thanksgiving. Maybe we should have a new holiday called, “Thanxmas.”



**Local Talk Radio (and TV)**  
With Hosts Joe Steinberger and Steve Carroll  
Wednesdays, 5-6 pm on WRFR 93.3 and MCTV Ch. 7

## WRFR is community radio in Rockland

We have been broadcasting 24/7 since 2002.

At WRFR we are all volunteers - now more than 60 strong. We play the music and host the talk shows - and we play what we like and say what we think, subject only to the fcc rules against profanity and our own principle that we must treat all members of our community with respect. We serve also as our own administrators and our own technicians.

We are open to all and would very much like to have your help! To learn more, go to [wrfr.org](http://wrfr.org), or tune in to 93.3 fm!