

## Is She Your Favorite Poet?



Millay House Rockland is embarking on the final phase of restoration of the double house at 198-200 Broadway where American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay was born. Millay grew up in Union and Camden and after her poetry won national recognition, she was given a scholarship to Vassar. She went on to publish poetry, plays, and the libretto for an opera. In 1923 she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. During the 1920s and '30s, her national poetry reading tours made her the most popular woman in America.

The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "Singhi Double Cottage" in recognition of its significance as a fine example of the double houses built in Rockland during the nineteenth century to provide affordable housing for the working class. In 1935, the Woman's Educational Club placed a bronze plaque on the house to mark the birthplace of "the loveliest voice in American poetry;" and in 1966 the Sunday New York Times featured the house in a story titled "Landmarks along a Literary Trail in Maine."

In 2016, Restoration Resources restored the exterior of the house, and Maritime Energy replaced the heating system. In 2018 Phi Builders & Architects gutted both insides. In 2020 Kirk Rouge of K R Construction restored the North Side interior, and Green Leaf Roofing donated the labor for a new roof. Hammond Lumber provided a discount for kitchen cabinets and building supplies. Kelsey's Appliances provided a discount for kitchen appliances.

Millay House Rockland will rent the completed North Side beginning this winter. Renting the North Side will add to the housing stock of Rockland and produce income to cover building expenses, including property taxes for the City of Rockland.

With money in the bank, the nonprofit will start work on the South Side of the double house in March of 2022. The South Side is a mirror image of the North Side, so the planning will be easy. Millay House Rockland hopes to raise the final \$45,000 needed with donations from local residents, local businesses, and Millay lovers.

When the south side is restored, it will be used for a writer-in-residence program in partnership with the Ellis Beaugard Foundation. Donna McNeil, director of Ellis Beaugard, says the foundation will provide a stipend for the writer-in-residence because the foundation's mission is to support artists in Rockland. When the restoration is completed Millay House Rockland will work with other literary arts organizations to sponsor classes, workshops, and author events to celebrate Maine poets and authors.

The houses in which American authors were born or lived and worked are taking on greater significance as society assigns importance to the impact that "place" has on the creativity of artists. Millay's upbringing by a single mother in reduced circumstances, in a small seacoast town in Maine had a profound effect on her life and her poetry. Throughout her life, Millay used imagery from those years in her poetry.

To make a donation toward the final goal – for kitchen cabinets or appliances, for bathroom fixtures, for dry wall or paint, send a check to: Millay House Rockland, P. O. Box 831, Rockland, ME 04841.

Or visit GoFundMe, and search for "Millay House Rockland."



## Six Questions with DJ Hafeez Saheed

by Ron Staschak

I am amazed at the travel experiences of our WRFR deejays. Hafeez is a world traveler. His show explodes with his enthusiasm. WRFR and Rockland are lucky to have Hafeez.

### What do you do at the radio station?

I produce and host Feezable Tracks at 11pm on Thursdays, reliving growing up with radio and my college days of alternative music with a touch of reggae.

### How long have you been volunteering?

For WRFR since February, 2021. Feezable Tracks has been airing on WHPW 97.3 FM Harpswell since July, 2018 and at WBFY 100.9 FM Belfast since August 2020.

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

I grew up in South America. I grew up with radio: BBC and local radio and went to the cinema since we did not have a television. My love for radio prevailed. I started taking vinyl records and a turntable to Maine on holiday around 2015 and met some radio enthusiasts.

I volunteered at WLIR/WDRE on Long Island and was Music Director WHCS at Hunter College in New York City.

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

I rarely listen to the other shows and if I do it would be excerpts. I loved listening to Steve Wright in the Afternoons on the BBC and Capital Radio along with Laser 558 and Caroline 558 Pirate Radio when I spent time in England in the 80's.

### Is there a question I should have asked you but didn't?

What my week was like?

### What was your week like?

I saw the Rolling Stones on November 15th for the first time What a superb show. My wife and I are flew on the 18th to Scotland for Thanksgiving to visit our daughter at University of Edinburgh. I am seeing The Polis, Scotland's number one Police tribute band.

### What is the most beautiful place you have been?

Tough Question. I just moved to Michigan so looking forward to explore and loving my time there currently. Maine is the most beautiful place for holidays. I loved the summers there. I enjoyed filming in New Zealand for work which I was lucky to have done three times and explored a lot there. I got married in Antigua and grew up in South America so still love British Caribbean. I am loving Edinburgh at the moment.

Your thoughts and art are always welcome at the Buzz  
Email Joe: [steinberger@gwi.net](mailto:steinberger@gwi.net), or call me: 596-0731





photo by Steve Carroll

### The Jews of Rockland

Join co-hosts Joe Steinberger and Steve Carroll on the Metro Show this Wednesday from 5 to 6 pm on WRFR 93.3 fm. We will be joined by some special guests.

Jews have been a part of our Rockland community since the 1700's and for over a hundred years have numbered greatly among our leading citizens. If you know something about this history, call Joe at 596-0731. Perhaps we can talk you into joining us in the studio, or on zoom. Or tune in, and call in to the show at 593-0013.

### Rockland Library's Wednesday Walkers club still going strong



Since 2018 walkers of all ages and abilities have been meeting at the Rockland Public Library every Wednesday morning for a 60 minute or less walk around town, and everyone is invited! Walkers meet in the parking lot entrance at 10:30. Walks are led by librarians Jessie Blanchard or Patty King, as well as occasional special guests, and no walker will be left behind. The walking club is intended for adults; children and teens are welcome if accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Bring a friend or make some new ones! Participants of this program will be asked to sign a waiver of liability. We generally walk in most types of weather, so come prepared! If we do decide not to walk it will be announced on the Library's website and Facebook page.

The Rockland Community Thanksgiving Dinner (RCTD) had another successful meal. This year we served 125 take-out meals. RCTD would like to thank everyone who helped make this Thanksgiving special for all the members of our community. Thank you to St Peter's for providing the space in which the dinner was prepared and served. Also, thank you to the turkey brigade: Denise Anderson, Joe/Jake/Rebecca Cox, Lucia Elders, Jim and Peg Field, Marty Rogers, and Lael Sorenson. To all the volunteers who prepared and served the meal: Marjorie Arnett, Jane Chatfield, Joe and Jake Cox, Andrea and David Daniels, Lucia and Wanda Elders, Melissa and Patrick Gallance, Brigit McMullen, Debbie Taylor, and Scott Tilton we offer our sincere thanks. A special thank you to Ginger Lane and the Riley School who contributed 18 pies and 20 pounds of mashed potatoes and squash. Our community meal was further enhanced by the donations from Hannaford Markets and Pen Bay Medical Center. Our community is stronger because we all work together. We should all be thankful that we live in a wonderful community.

--Ron Staschak

### 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).

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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)

## WEEK NINETY

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

By Phyllis Merriam

It is hard to believe I've been writing these Random Notes now for 90 weeks. The prolonged virus, its power and variants, homegrown conspiracies, fake news about vaccines, transmissions, masks, social distancing, political divides about all of these topics and Americans' inability to come together as families, political bodies and as a nation to protect one another and find the stamina to sustain the courage to outlast Covid and its variants makes me very anxious. Instead of finding their inner super hero to manage this pandemic, too many Americans cannot even find compassion toward themselves and their fellow citizens to get vaccinated. This all seems so un-American.

Thanksgiving turned out to be a beautiful 50 degrees sunny day to gather over a shared bountiful homemade meal with vaccinated and boosted family members.

I give thanks this holiday for Covid vaccines and all those who chose to protect others.

Meanwhile, a new highly contagious variant has been discovered in Botswana and around Johannesburg, South Africa. Just a number: B.1.1.529. Now it has a Greek letter designation: Omicron which has spread to South Africa and seven other southern African countries and Great Britain. Belgium, Israel and Hong Kong have cases and there are suspected cases in Germany and the Czech Republic. Travel to USA from these seven African locales is banned. It's in Canada, so it looks likely to reach our shores, if it hasn't already. Word from the virologist's, "Don't panic, yet." (The "yet" is not confidence-inducing...) Maine's health care system is already overwhelmed with the highest spike in cases since the onset of the pandemic. With less available testing and Maine counties with low vaccination rates, Mainers are spreading the virus. The deniers and anti-vaxers continue to feed the virus. It's reported that now Omicron has been detected in 16 countries. As I write this, a case has been discovered in California.

I discovered Mango's favorite toy is loose catnip inside a knotted sock. He leaps way into the air with it, turning somersaults and chasing it around the house. Toys I bought at Petco turned out to be uselessly boring. The catnip sock and a large aluminum foil ball are his best homemade amusements. Mango's morning energy levels can be challenging. He loves to have me play with him, then like a toddler, takes a nap. His high energy levels return at bedtime. Since we're asleep, we have to be careful not to leave things around he'd play with. Recently, I awoke to a noise in the kitchen only to discover Mango found my husband's partials the best thing for middle of the night floor hockey. Luckily no damage was done.

Local Color:

Over 90% of the crowd at the Rockland Elks Club Christmas Fair wore masks.

Twenty customers lined up outside at Wasses were all masked.

People are hoarding canned cat food if Hannaford's bare shelves are any measure. Thank you to the South End Grocery that always has cat food.

A young man sporting a mullet was spotted at Hannaford's checkout. (I thought mullets went out with the '80's but are now one of the most popular hairstyles of 2021. Who would have predicted a covid coiffure?)



### 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!