



Ukraine: Say No to the Warmongers

by Joe Steinberger

The northeastern border of Ukraine is less than 300 miles from Moscow. We want to put nuclear missiles there, aimed at Moscow. The Russians do not want that. This is what the current standoff is all about - although you won't get this from our corporate media, which is dominated by the posturing of our politicians.

I am reminded of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. President Kennedy had launched a failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. In the aftermath, the Cubans had asked the Soviets to help them defend the island. The Soviets sent ships with nuclear missiles to station in Cuba. Kennedy sent the U.S. Navy to blockade the ships. Kennedy was willing to risk nuclear war to prevent the placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba.

This extremely dangerous standoff was resolved by a secret deal: if the Soviets would not put missiles in Cuba, we would remove our missiles from Turkey. Why was this deal kept secret? Because Kennedy wanted to save face. To save face, Kennedy put the survival of civilization at risk.

And it is about the survival of civilization, now as it was then. We and the Russians have thousands of nuclear missiles ready to launch against each other at the push of a button. It could happen, but we have become complacent. It hasn't happened in 75 years, so probably it won't ever happen, right? Wrong. And the result if it does happen will be truly catastrophic for mankind, worse than the worst plague ever, worse by far than the worst that global warming can do to us in a thousand years.

The key to solving this problem, and all the problems we face, is to get along with each other, to work together rather than to work against each other. Is this possible? Of course it is. Look at Europe today. Countries that were almost perpetually at war for a thousand years, France, Spain, England, Germany etc., are now at peace. None are amassing troops on their borders, none are aiming missiles at each other. And we, the Americans, and the Canadians, and much of the rest of the world are getting along fine with them too.

If this has been possible just in my lifetime, why is it not possible for us to get along with the Russians, and the Chinese too? Oh, I hear some of you saying, but the Russians and the Chinese are horrible dictatorships, cruel tyrannies, aggressive threateners, etc. And to some extent this is true. But it is even more true of Saudi Arabia, for example, a close ally that is not only a sexist and racist tyranny, but has close ties to the Wahhabist terrorists who bombed the World Trade Center. We have clearly demonstrated some degree of flexibility in these matters.

Some flexibility is necessary. Our current posturing has pushed the Russians and the Chinese closer together, and made it harder for us to engage constructively with them. Like it or not, great as America is, we must share this world with other nations.

We used to claim that our dangerous lose-lose contest with the Russians was about Communism. It wasn't, obviously. It goes back hundreds of years to the clash between British and Russian imperialism. Remember the Charge of the Light Brigade? That was in 1854, part of the British attempt to capture the Crimea, 4000 miles by sea from England, and to cut Russia off from the Black Sea. We Americans have simply taken over the British ambition to control the world.

It is time to say no to the continuation of this nonsense. We need to look for win-win solutions to world problems. Putting nuclear missiles in Ukraine is no part of such a solution.

Virtual talk with Maine author Gregory Brown

The Rockland Public Library presents Gregory Brown, Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m., calling in via Zoom. This event is free and open to all.

Brown will discuss and read excerpts from his new novel, *The Lowering Days*.



The novel tackles issues of land ownership, the interactions of protection and stewardship among different communities, our reliance on extractive relationships for industry, and cycles of hurt in families and communities. An audience Q&A will follow the talk.

For a link to the Zoom event, please email elewis@rocklandmaine.gov by 4 p.m. on February 10 with the subject line "The Lowering Days."



Seven Questions with DJ Peter Bradford Cooke

by Ron Staschak

Peter is another interesting WRFR dj. He has a diverse background and a love of life. His show "Pete on the Street" is a mixture of music (all types) and talk.

1) *What do you do at the radio station?*

I host a radio show called "Pete On The Street".

2) *How long have you been volunteering?*

I started in the summer, took a break for the fall, and I plan on resuming in the new year.

3) *Why did you decide to volunteer/why did you want to have a show?*

I am a big sharer. I find music, stories, and tid-bits of information that I just have to share with whoever will listen.

4) *Other than the show you host, what is your favorite show?*

I like all the talk radio shows, because I like to hear what people have to say, especially the people around me.

5) *Is there a question that I should have asked you?*

What is my favorite part of Maine?

6) *What is your favorite part of Maine?*

I love Maine for its people. I love our lyrical accents, our independent way of thinking, and our resilience.

7) *What can the listener hear on "Pete on the Street"?*

From "Pete on the Street", one may expect to hear DJ sets featuring dance, hip hop, and world music. I would like to incorporate talk radio but that is still in the works.

Paid Internship for Teens at Erickson Fields Farm

ROCKPORT – Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a state-wide land conservation organization, is offering teens ages 14-18 paid internships through the Teen Ag Crew program at Erickson Fields Preserve (164 West St., Rockport). Interns will gain hands-on experience in sustainable agricultural practices and learn about their local food system from food production, processing and distribution to consumption and waste management. The produce they raise will supply food pantries, public schools, and restaurants. The internship will be part-time and offered during three sessions: spring (4/19-6/16), summer (6/21-8/26), and fall (9/6 - 10/27). The stipends for the fall and spring sessions each will be \$260 and the stipend for the summer session will be \$1,300. Interns will receive training for COVID-19 safety protocols and be provided PPE.

MCHT's Teen Age Crew has been an open door for many teens entering the workforce. No previous farming experience is required, just a desire to be outdoors, work hard in a team and learn new skills. The work is both challenging and rewarding and contributes to the Midcoast community by partnering with Good Shepherd Food Bank and other hunger relief agencies to address food insecurity. Last year, the Teen Ag Crew distributed 26,235 lbs. of produce from their 4-acre garden.

"Teen Ag Crew is a great first-time job," remarked Aaron Englander, Erickson Farm Manager. "It gives teens the opportunity to make a positive impact on their community, develop their resumes, and expand their social circles beyond the walls of their schools."

The application deadline is Monday, March 7. Interested teens may apply online at aldermere.org/teen-ag-crew or call 207-236-2739 to request a paper application.



By Phyllis Merriam

Rising Water Levels

by Phil Crossman

Standing at the toilet early one recent morning was a little startling. It's not usually. I'm customarily quite at ease. Anticipating the great relief I am accustomed to experiencing at this time each day I was taken aback briefly and my effort stalled when I realized the water level in the appliance's basin was advancing toward me at an alarming rate. Before it had reached the rim, however, and to my great—albeit different—relief, it began an equally energetic retreat and then repeated the cycle such that I felt reasonably secure in resuming my business.

From the modest heights of Skin Hill, an intriguingly named granite rise, the standpipe occupies a lofty perch overlooking the village some sixty feet below. The standpipe is the town's water tower and ultimate source of that precious commodity. The water from our town's reservoir, some three or four miles away in the island's interior, is pumped regularly to the standpipe to maintain a dependable level—a huge column of water—which in turn gravity feeds several hundred of our homes below via an underground delivery system, some of it still functioning well after over a hundred years.

This "historic" storm was such that the gusts of wind screeching sporadically over the top of the tower created wildly irregular water pressure throughout the village. When winds reached sixty or seventy miles per hour, as they did yesterday and continue throughout the day, the vacuum created in that space between the wind and the water within causes the level of that huge column to rise which, in turn, creates a lessening of pressure in the town below. During intermittent windy intermissions the water column subsides and the sudden but brief added weight of the water column falling, just a tiny bit, causes an increase in that pressure down here in my bathroom and elsewhere. As the water column falls the corresponding level in the toilet rises; as the former rises, the latter falls. It was a little disconcerting early that morning, the time of day when faculties, mine anyway, are not at their sharpest.

I don't know if this storm was "historic" or if weather folk are just hysterical. The latter often seems to beget the former. Just a few years ago our own snow removal people were standing on Main Street drifts that were above the second story of some of those businesses. In the thirties the snow on Main Street was so deep the townspeople simply tunneled through and strung lights within, rather than try and remove the vast accumulation. Meanwhile I will approach my customary business tomorrow morning with less trepidation.

Visit my blog at philcrossman.com for more Observations and to learn about or purchase any or all of my four books.

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

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, or tune in to 93.3 fm!

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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

So many ant-Vaxxers have died on the altar of false gods when three free vaccines could have saved them and their survivors from such needless suffering. I will never be able to understand this denial of science and purposefully imposed jeopardy to oneself and others. America's political divides and outright craziness are the drivers of covid repudiators. One of Bobbie Kennedy's sons is a vociferous champion of the anti-Vaxxer movement.

I must be in a sort of denial myself. Today I filled out a rare check and wrote the year as 2020. I must have subconsciously wished we were pre-Covid-19 instead of in the midst of what seems to be the most transmissible period of this unending pandemic; more anxiety, different recommendations on masks, ever changing CDC advice as variants evolve, so many pre-vaccine deaths, deaths of vaccine refusniks. Then my husband and I got covid's omicron even though we had our three jabs and were extra cautious. Though our symptoms were mild, it felt like a defeat, a failure of will, succumbing to the invisible enemy, letting down our guards, and feeling stupid.

Saturday's blizzard brought high winds and more snow accumulations to our mid-coast than ever this winter but not as much as predicted. A TV meteorologist held up a handful of snow and commented on how light and fluffy it was. He didn't seem to know how the snow gets packed hard and heavy by the winds and a real workout to shovel. Luckily, a friend came with his ride on plow to clear our driveways, especially the Great Wall of China the town plows created.

Sunday is the perfect Maine winter day with glorious sunshine. All day, into the evening, children, teens and their parents are enjoying the best sliding on Snow Marine Park's slopes – the most popular and best named winter recreation in town.

Mango got up on my lap to be mesmerized by YouTube videos of birds, fish, mice, squirrels and snakes. Since he's an inside cat, he'll never be out to hunt. Birds are especially vulnerable to pet cats. He tries to bat at them by touching the screen, purring and twitching his tail. He makes his friendly, trusting trills when I feed him, which may be too much. Mango has the feeding yen of a cat that experienced food insecurity. I have to figure out a way to feed him less since he's gained too much weight, without increasing his food insecurities he must have experienced wilding before being trapped and brought to Pope Memorial Humane Society.

In less than a week, we mid-Coasters should be prepared for another wallop of snow on Friday. Wednesday's heat wave of 37 degrees has slumped snow banks and melted ice.

My forced Paper Whites and Hyacinth bulbs are beginning to unveil themselves with the house heat. But weak, inconsistent sun makes progress slow. I love these flowering bulbs as harbingers of spring, even though the actual Maine spring is many weeks away.

I try to avoid going to the Rockland post office because it's a place one could easily catch covid. The clerks used to wear masks but haven't for many weeks now. The small Plexiglas barriers are not effective against viral aerosols and most customers – at least during my few visits to mail packages – don't wear masks or wear cloth masks, which are useless. When mask less customers come too close, I politely ask them to step back and always get a snarky response. Just evidence any number of the mask less ones are not even thinking of others. I know everyone is tired of covid but covid isn't done with us. America has the most covid deaths and lowest vaccination rates of all the developed countries.



Check out the Rockland Metro Show on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 PM for a conversation with local doers and thinkers. Also on mainecoast.tv Call in with questions and comments: 593-0013