



Rockland Metro Magazine

"The Buzz"

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On cable channel 7,
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The Old School
Fellowship Education



April Strand on the Air Sunday, April 24, 2022, 5 to 6 PM

Grab the brooms and clean up -- let's go! Spring is here and that means it's time to wash the windows, mop the floor, and pour out a whole new bucket of laughs and tunes as the STRAND ON THE AIR returns with its Spring Cleaning Special, Sunday April 24th at 5pm over WRFR! House Manager Liz McLeod dusts off the Strand Family Players, who find joy in tossing out a few barbs at the World's Greatest Professional Declutterer, show you what not to do when your neighbor messes up your garden, and meet an upcycler with a startling new use for cat hair. And down in Abysmal Point, Mrs. Grunden and Lilita make a startling discovery under the floorboards when redecorating the clam shack. Tidying up the music department, Brittany Parker presents a sampling of the outstanding work done by her students in the Strand Take The Stage Program -- and you'll meet as special musical guest singer-songwriter Trisha Mason, making her first broadcast appearance in the Midcoast after relocating to Rockland. The Strand On The Air, written and directed by Liz McLeod is broadcast over WRFR, 93.3 in Rockland and over the worldwide web at wrfr.org. Each broadcast is subsequently made available on leading podcast platforms and through rocklandstrand.com.



Open Mic Poetry Read

April 26, 6:30- 8:00 pm

Rockland Public Library's Community Room

Celebrate National Poetry Month! Sign-up now to read your poetry aloud, and hear from the winners of our annual poetry contest, BE Outdoors (to be announced 4/20) Depending on the numbers of readers, each will be given 5-10 minutes, and we will accompany the read with a slide show of local nature photography. Please call the Library at 207-594-0310 or email refdesk@rocklandmaine.gov to sign up for a slot.



Ron Huber WRFR DJ

by Ron Staschak

Another great addition to the WRFR dj staff. Ron's love the mid-coast and social justice comes through in his shows Saturday 1-3pm.

What do you do at the radio station?

I produce and host 3 shows in succession every Saturday from noon to 3pm. These are Penobscot Bay Report. Weekend Roundtable and Old Time radio.

Penobscot Bay Report, News about current and incoming threats to the bay, the tidal portion of Penobscot River and their wild inhabitants. And a

look back in time of Penobscot Bay history.

Weekend Roundtable focuses on Maine prison oversight and reform and other issues of social justice .

Old Time Radio treats listeners to spoken word radio storytellers of the 1940s, 50s and 60s

How long have you been volunteering?

Since late 2002

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

I saw that the coverage of bay these issues by local and regional news media was too limited. Stories on TV news, public radio and local and regional newspapers can provide only a small number of brief soundbites from an event to to build their stories around.

For example: a public hearing on a controversial bay issue might have two hours of testimony from the concerned public. Radio and television coverage will supply perhap 5 minutes of those voices. Text media too is constrained by the size limits of each edition

My idea was to instead run the complete audio statements of as many of a meeting's attendees and agency staff there as possible.

Those I can't fit into the show, I post on the Penobscot Bay Blog, which now has links to 100s of hours of bay-related hearings and other events. Many of these are broken into the individual speakers, so that attendees and others can easily review what they said and share it.

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

Some of WRFR's show hosts have died since the station first opened so my favorite show has changed over time. Of those "Pretzel and Beer" by Barry Pretzel, and Paul Cole's "Beam Me Up" were my faves. More recently: Adrian Counce's "Morning Mental Health", and "Rockland Metro" hosted alternately by Steve Carroll and Joe Steinberger.

Is there a question should have asked you?

How could the station be better?

By returning to WRFR's original management style of weekly staff meetings with discussions, motions and votes. These were well attended. Things got identified and got done. Under the current system, fewer programmers find ways to get involved, beyond their shows.

How has Rockland (the city) changed since you started your show? In your opinion, has the exchange been good or bad.

Rockland has changed dramatically since I left Maryland and moved to Maine. I arrived here in 1992. After a short stint in Rockport , Rockland became my home for the next quarter century.

My observations: In 1993 Rockland still fit the description of Midcoast Maine governance described by James Acheson in his 1988 book "The Lobster Gangs of Maine": a town whose leadership and civic functions were firmly in the hands of local extended families that had been there at least since the 19th century. The rest, the seasonal influxes of tourist visitors from other states and places, were of interest primarily as migratory cash cows, coming and then going in their seasons, shedding greenbacks. The idea of outsiders getting a grip on any of the levers of government was mostly unthinkable. From city councils/ selectboards to school boards and harbormasters, longtime local family connections were one of the unspoken, but mandatory qualifications.

That tribal sort of culture still prevails in some of the smaller coastal towns of midcoast Maine. But thanks to the northern migration of lobsters along our coast, spurred by warming waters Acheson's book now more accurately describes the sociology of Downeast coastal towns, as massively increased lobstering brings prosperity to the Maine coastline from Frenchman's Bay to Passamaquoddy Bay

Rockland is no longer bound by those family ties. The breakdown of its groundfish & sardine industries was one of the biggest causes in my experience. When I arrived in Rockland I found three generations of many local families dining together at the Catholic Church's daily soup kitchen. Their jobs cutting & packing those large and small fishes were not transferable to other lines of work. Shortly after, Rockland's last sardine plant was torn down, and the herring fishery focused on the lobster bait market and exports to downeast Maine sardine plants.

(continued on Page 2)

(Ron Huber, continued from Page 1)

Rockland governance has changed too. Global warmer winters have made Maine much more accessible year round, and the influx to Knox County coupled with upgrades to Route 1 reflects that. Most of those, knowing little of "Old Rockland" are not awed by "old families". As the city's wikipedia page notes: "Since the early 1990s, Rockland has seen a shift in its economy away from the fishery and toward a service center city. It has also seen a substantial increase in tourism and the downtown has transformed into one of unique shops, boutiques, fine dining and art galleries."

My role as a bay conservationist is to ensure that development in Rockland does as little damage to the Penobscot Bay ecosystem and her scenic resources as possible. The current conflict over proposed marina expansion is only the most recent of such struggles.

Rockland has and always will keep changing. But helping the bay recover from the terrible pollution beatings it received during the 20th century is equally important. There have been wins and losses. And it will continue so. *C'est la guerre.*



Calf Unveiling

Aldermere Farm, a preserve of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), will open its doors and barnyard to the public during Calf Unveiling Day on Saturday, May 7th to introduce the newest members of Aldermere's Belted Galloway herd.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. MCHT staff and volunteers will give behind-the-scenes tours of the barnyard at 20 Russell Ave in Rockport. Visitors will meet the sixteen spring Belted Galloway calves and see Aldermere's 4-H club in action. The Rusty Hinges will give a musical performance in Aldermere's main barn. MCHT staff will lead activities for kids and share information about the educational youth agriculture programs run at Aldermere Farm and MCHT's nearby Erickson Fields Preserve located at 164 West Street in Rockport. Aldermere Achievers 4-H Club will run a bake sale and sell grilled Aldermere burgers to raise funds for their club's activities. Stone Fox Farm Creamery's ice cream truck and The Uproot Pie Company's woodfire pizza oven will also offer breakfast and lunch fare.

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. For more information about this family-friendly event, call 207-236-2739. Visit www.aldermere.org to find out more.

Safety checks or Snare Traps?

Join the Metro Show Wednesday from 5 to 6 pm for a conversation with Sheriff Tim Carroll



by Metro host Steve Carroll

Our guest on next week's Metro show will be Sheriff Tim Carroll. The Knox County Sheriff's office recently announced the department will be conducting random "Safety Checks" also known as "roadblocks" throughout the summer at various times and locations. This announcement has been met with considerable push back and harsh words by a number of public officials and area legislators. Senator Dave Miramant was quoted in the village soup as saying "The use of checkpoints provides a way for police to make stops without a warrant... This is a common tool in countries with repressive governments and should never become a random occurrence in a free country". Representative Jeffrey Evangelos of Friendship states: "This latest ploy by (Sheriff) Carroll represents local law enforcement's latest attempt to violate our 4th amendment rights by stopping and harassing innocent people on their way to work without probable cause or a warrant".

Sheriff Carroll assures us his "intent is to assure people traveling the roads of Knox County are doing so in a safe manner with properly equipped and safe vehicles". As a public safety officer of course his officers are sworn to enforce the motor vehicle laws of our state. The question becomes are these "roadblocks" an overreach of their authority. Most people I have spoken with feel it is an unwarranted intrusion of their rights and there's where the debate begins. "Safety checks" or "snare traps"? We hope you'll join in on our discussion Wednesday, April 20 from 5 to 6 PM broadcast over WRFR-Radio 93.3 FM or watch us live over Maine Coast TV local channel 7.

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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

WEEK ONE HUNDRED-NINE

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

Life and Death: Took my two year and six months old Mango to his vet for digestive problems and came away \$466 short. Worth it, I reminded myself that when anyone adopts a pet, it's a lifetime commitment. While I awaited test results, a very large old dog was brought in, barely able to walk and breathe. As I was leaving, the owners came out of the exam room minus their lovely old pet and were being consoled by staff. I sidled out with Mango so as not to disturb their private mourning.

Up early with my morning Joe and then off with binoculars to the Weskeag Marsh to see if any migratory birds were around. Three elegant Snowy Egrets, bright white against the dun background, were wading as a trio in the shallows. Their reflections in the water turned them into six. I really know little about birds, especially identifications. But no one can ever miss an egret. If angels were birds, Snowy Egrets would take the prize for ethereal beauty.

90% of covid cases in Maine are due to the highly contagious BA.2 Omicron sub variant. Cases are rising in Knox County with hospitalizations and critical care. Most people are done with the virus. Scientists say we're only in the fourth inning. It's now rare to see anyone wearing a mask. I'm one of the few and get stares from the mask less. Grocery store clerks, who until last week wore masks, are now appearing open-faced. I'm not taking any chances. It's impossible to know, who among the public, is vaxxed and boosted. Even so, vaccines are not 100% protective.

How long will this pandemic continue? No one knows. New coronaviruses keep their secrets.

After a course of antibiotics, Mango is now his clever, playful self again. I need to buy a pet pill plunger - or whatever they're called. Getting 1/4 of a very small pill into Mango twice a day was like nailing jello to a wall. Amazingly, Mango hasn't held it against me. In one of our dosing sessions, he spit the pill out and it stuck to my nose.

The UN General assembly suspends Russia from its Human Rights Council. Why just a suspension? Aren't the crimes against humanity by Putin's Army of rapists, target practice shooting civilians off their bicycles, beheadings, mass graves, thousands of civilians killed, Ukrainian children abducted and sent to Russia, millions displaced and towns and cities obliterated into piles of wood, metal, stone and glass enough for a permanent ban? Irpin, Bucha, Mariupol, Kharkiv; names that history will record for all time. And the children massacred. What about the children? Genocide.

Putin, with his increasingly bloated face and dead eyes says Russia will achieve its "noble aims." This is the same dictator that ground Syria and its civilians into the ground. Putin's newly appointed general is the same Russian general that carried out Assad and Putin's Syrian genocide. America and 30 other countries are sending more military support to Ukraine. I hope it's enough for her fierce fighters.

Easter is almost here. What sort of Eastern orthodox rite can Ukrainians have this year?

