



## Prohibited Topics

by Glen Birtbeck

The safety of Florida's youth was boosted a notch or two recently by the state's governor, Ron deSantis. Through the action of Florida's Education department inappropriate Math text books were rejected before they could infect young minds. Out of 132 up for consideration, 54 were rejected. Reasons given were that the books contained "prohibited" topics. With the governor facing a re election in the fall, it shouldn't be surprising that one of the prohibited topics was "CRT". The state board rejecting the books didn't give any examples. What is CRT?, why its the hot button de jure for the base deSantis wants to impress. CRT is Critical Race Theory, the far out fringe idea that the United States has racism woven into every aspect of its culture. Florida's legislature and its governor are united in their desire to prevent any discomfort for the great, great, great, grandchildren of slave owners. Said discomfort might occur on learning about the history of their state re: an early wave of undocumented (and unwilling) migrants from Africa. Anyway, it's easier pretending there's no problem than doing anything about it. Citizens of our great country of course don't try to fix things, we sweep them under the rug. Inevitably the rug gets lumpy. If someone lifts the rug we deny seeing anything. Its really clean under the rug! The problem is the people who raised the carpet's edge, they hate America! In the magical Trump universe the arrow of time doesn't make effect follow cause. Same logic as the former president's observation that counting covid cases via testing is why the numbers were so high. Consistent in its way but not logical or rational and not right or just. DeSantis and his legislature are also ensuring that the great, great, great grandchildren of the slaves have difficulty voting. If a few Black Floridians do manage to vote the last line of defense will no doubt be found in the mathematics taught in the math book eventually selected. A "word" problem as an example. If X=the votes for the incumbent Republican and Y=the vote count for the Democrat running against him, then, when X is greater than Y, use old math. If Y is greater, apply a fudge factor Z such that the correct solution is obtained, i.e. the Republican wins. My example is just a guess. Can't give any other example because the state provided none. Even the Nazis could and would tell you why they banned or burned books. DeSantis and cabal hope you will accept their evaluation. After all, they do know math. They demonstrated this with the count for the 2020 election. When these learned public servants looked at the vote counts they correctly applied the Z factor to Trumps vote numbers, which produced (drum roll) the "Correct" answer, a Trump win. In more than five dozen court cases our country's judicial system showed it's incompetence in math by rejecting the "Stop the Steal" appeals. Those traitors in black robes may know jurisprudence but they fail at "alternate" math. At least as applied to vote counting. Alternate mathematics being an aspect of alternate facts in the alternate reality these folks inhabit. The problem isn't CRT or WOKE or Mathematics. The problem is that so many people in office or seeking office lack any trace of honesty or integrity. The ones having these core values are now dropping out of the system in a massive purge. Democracy is on a ventilator. As with Covid when you reach the point of needing a ventilator your life hangs by a thread. Democracy's family and friends better visit it now while there's still time.



## Jacinda Martinez, Grounded Local Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. on WRFR

by Ron Staschak

*It is always great when someone can combine seemingly different ideas. Jacinda has combined her love of gardening with reading and music. Her show is amazing and something we should all experience. Listen in on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11am.*

*What do you do at the radio station?*

I have a radio show called Grounded Local Gardening where I talk about all things gardening and plants.

*How long have you been volunteering?*

I started my show in the winter of 2018.

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

During my off season, I catch up on reading, mostly about plants. I wanted to share the amazing facts and information I gather. I pair the show's topic with music that is somehow related. It's incredible how much plant imagery is in music.

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

I do not have another favorite show, but I love tuning in to hear what others are sharing and jamming out to.

*Is there a question I should have asked you?*

What am I reading? Well, let me share - A Backyard Book of Spiders in Maine by Dana Wilde. I know, I know, this is not a plant book, but I encounter so many spiders while working in the garden. I want to have a bit more knowledge and less knee jerking fear ;)

*When and how did you develop a love of gardening?*

My love of gardening actually started with farming. After college, I had a few jobs and then dedicated a full year working on an organic CSA farm in New Jersey. I full-timed farmed on organic farms for the next 7 years. I left farming to start my own edible and perennial garden design business and I am entering my seventh season of full time gardening. When I started farming, I used to joke that I wanted to be a traveling farmer and help with mini farms. So, I basically wanted to be a gardener all along.

*Where else have you gardened?*

I farmed in New Jersey and Maine and I have gardened in England, Scotland, Wales, and Maine.

## THE MAGIC LAKE: A Radio Play A Strand on the Air Special Event By the Winter 2022 "Take the Stage" class Sunday, May 1st at 2pm on WRFR

Tune into this 30-minute radio-play version of THE MAGIC LAKE, a musical retelling of a Peruvian folktale about a quest to discover a magic lake at the end of the world. The play is performed by local middle school students as part of the "Take the Stage" class, a collaboration between the Strand Theatre and RSU #13's Afterschool Program. The play will debut first on the airwaves of Rockland's own WRFR, and will be available to stream afterwards on all podcast platforms.



# Another Woman

by Phil Crossman

The other night my wife, Elaine, ever adjusting course to suit changing circumstances, suggested that we, I nearing eighty and she much younger, seriously consider our two—probable—eventualities. Thinking, typically, of me before herself, she began by suggesting we consider my own options should she pre-decease me, which seemed unlikely, before talking about the more probable alternative. We began by talking about my own circumstances and available options in that event. The reality, my reality, if that happens, is sobering and, illuminated as it was that night, was a humbling reminder of how much of the life I enjoy is only possible because she so continually anticipates my needs and prepares for possibilities. I am very well taken care of. She talked about the importance of cleanliness—clean laundered clothes, clean house, clean bathrooms, a clean, at least weekly, fresh bed, clean utensils and so forth. In other words, our home, the one she cleans and cares for almost entirely and the importance of keeping it that way. And then there were our modest finances, insurance, taxes, suitable seasonal clothing, shopping, health care, medical protocols, a healthy and comprehensive diet, meal preparation, on and on. As she recited the litany of unfamiliar responsibilities that would suddenly be mine if she pre-deceased me, something remedial and far more likely to achieve the desired goals, clearly dawned on her—a far more likely alternative to trying to indoctrinate me so I could actually and adequately take care of myself. She suggested I take up with a certain unattached island woman, with whom I already had a neighborly relationship and for whom I'd recently done a few favors—not unusual give we are on a smallish island, all know one another, all neighbors and all doing favors for one another.

At the landfill a few days later, I found myself a few feet away from that very woman. She was clearly upset about something and engaged in an animated conversation with another island lady. Certainly, I thought, it would brighten her day and her prospects, for that matter, and distract her from whatever it was that she'd found upsetting, to learn that she and I might, if a certain eventuality were to evolve, get together, and so I interrupted their conversation and, pre-supposing her excitement, said, "I wanted to let you know that Elaine has suggested we get together in the event she pre-deceases me." I confess I'd expected a little more enthusiasm and, in something of a snit, was tempted to, instead, make the same offer to her companion

This narrative was published by and appears here in *The Buzz* courtesy of the Island Institute's *Working Waterfront*



**Join the Rockland Metro Show**  
Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm  
Simulcast on WRFR and MaineCoast.tv

The Metro Show is a lively, freewheeling conversation, sometimes serious, sometimes not serious enough, co-hosted by native-born Trumpist Steve Carroll and from-away libertarian socialist Joe Steinberger. This Wednesday we will be talking about housing with our State Representative Valli Geiger, a long-time advocate of allowing greater housing density, and with a member or two of our City Council, which has been grappling with this question. Listen or watch, and call in with your questions and comments. The number to call is 593-0013.



Check out the WRFR website at  
**WRFR.org**

It's full of great local information, not just about WRFR's more than 60 live local shows (amazing!) but also about a great variety of community events that are listed on our community calendar.

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## WEEK ONE HUNDRED-TEN

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

There has been a lot of rain in our mid-coast. But the Philippines and parts of South Africa have had horrific rains with great loss of lives and properties likely due to climate change.

Our mid-coast rain whipped at windows and the wind sounded like moaning.

Both seemed like apt metaphors for all the tragedies Ukrainians are suffering.

News from Ukraine is so hard to watch: Children terrified of bombs and rockets; children crying for lost parents; people burying their dead wherever clear ground can be found; Putin's Army destroying towns, villages and laying waste to Mariupol; Putin's Army raping, torturing and murdering civilians and cutting them off from communications, water, food, fuel, medicine, and escape routes; Putin's Army "relocating" Ukrainian civilians to Russia and Azerbaijan.

Mariupol is besieged and bombed almost out of existence by Putin's Army, where 500 Ukrainian troops are wounded and holed up with about 1,000 civilians in the underground bunkers and tunnels of a huge factory pummeled by Russia. A Ukrainian commander is beseeching western countries to come to their aide before its too late. Ukrainian forces are outgunned and outmanned by Russia in Mariupol. Transporting needed western supplies overland to Mariupol in time seems unlikely.

I hate to even write these words.

Signs of Spring in our Mid-Coast: Violets revealing their purple shyness; bold daffodils; crocuses, blooming forsythia, buds on tulips, trees and bushes everywhere; people washing winter's road salt from their cars; a few brave souls wear shorts; bird migrations are underway; three kite flyers in Snow Marine Park; first green grass that will need mowing in a week or two.

The city council, in its infinite wisdom, has borrowed an idea from a New Yorker, and declared a May moratorium on mowing lawns in Rockland to promote the activities of birds and bees. Council has no authority to enforce their moratorium.

Council seems unaware that high grasses promote tick habitats. A fatal tick bite with the Powassan virus in Waldo County was just reported by the Maine CDC.

Had to take Mango to Harbor Road Vet to get his nails clipped. Despite having pet cats for decades, I've never been able to even consider clipping their nails safely. Mango is too spunky to comply with a DIY-Mani-Pedi. It takes two vet techs who know what they're doing. Mango threw up in his carrier on the drive home. I'm sure I'd vomit too if someone, I otherwise trusted, put me in a cage, drove me to a spa where two very large people held me up in the air while they clipped away.

