



Rockland Metro Magazine

"The Buzz"

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The Old School
Fellowship Education



The Rockland Bicycle Club announces the Ride of Silence

RoS is a memorial ride for killed and injured bicyclists and pedestrians. This international event is held on the third Wednesday of May. This year it is on May 18th. We will meet at Harbor Park

and ride silently and slowly twice around downtown. Please join us for this remembrance.

For more information call: (207) 691-7578

WAR GAMES

by Steve Carroll

In the 1983 science fiction thriller "WAR GAMES" starring the young Mathew Broderick, a military super computer engages in a game of "thermonuclear war" with a teenage computer hacker. Only problem the computer isn't aware it's a game. In the exciting conclusion the computer learns there can be no winner to this competition and reaches the conclusion: "THE ONLY WINNING MOVE IS NOT TO PLAY". Apparently no one inside the Washington beltway has seen this classic film or has any realization of the devastating consequences playing such a high stakes game can have on the world. Congress just passed another funding bill shipping a whopping \$40 billion in aid to Ukraine. With unquestioning support a military & humanitarian spending package passed 386 to 57. This brings the total amount of aid to Ukraine roughly \$53 Billion in just two months and amounts to the largest foreign aid package to pass congress in two decades. At a time when both parties have been unable to agree on any investments to domestic programs. As history has shown, there can be no winners here, only losers. Ignoring the media hype, this is nothing more than another US attempt to bring freedom & democracy to a world that may not even want it. If we should succeed in disposing Putin or crushing the Russian empire, what will we have achieved. Ukraine has been destroyed, its people who are not already dead are homeless refugees. If Putin is removed from power Russia will fall into chaos much like the other countries we have helped like Libya Iran, Somalia and Afghanistan. Certainly those countries are in worse shape now and what happens when Putin is pushed into a corner, certainly he'll come out swinging. A man who has nothing to loose can be very dangerous, but of course that doesn't matter to anyone inside the beltway. They can smell victory even as their own country falls deeper & deeper into despair. Their people's screams of help go unheard amongst the hawkish shouts from those that wish only to benefit from each new conflict. In the game of war there are no winners only losers and the only winning move is not to play.

Maine Radio History with Michael Socolow

The Rockland Public Library presents Michael Socolow, Thursday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community room., free and open to all.

Michael Socolow's talk, "The Pine Tree State on the American Airwaves: The Interplay of Local, Regional, and National Network Radio in Maine," examines the outsized role that Maine played in early national radio in the United States. National network radio stars on NBC – such as Rudy Vallee, star of the popular "Fleischmann's Yeast Hour" and Phillips Lord, creator and star of the hit program "Seth Parker" – created an image of Maine in America's earliest radio imagination. National publications such as The New York Times, The New Yorker, and Collier's published features on Maine and its national network radio presence. At the same time, within the state, local operators often ran into commercial difficulties, regulatory obstacles, and other issues that made developing the local radio industry difficult. In the case of stations such as WLBZ, Bangor, affiliation with a national network (WLBZ was an original CBS affiliate) proved essential for survival. But tension and conflict with network management over program clearance issues, and low remittance for airtime, persisted within the relationship between Maine's local stations and the national networks for years. Socolow's talk looks at how national and regional networks (such as the Colonial and Yankee Networks) intersected with local broadcasting on Maine's airwaves in the 1920s and 1930s.

Michael J. Socolow is a media historian whose research centers upon America's original radio networks in the 1920s and 1930s. He is Director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine.

For more information or to join from home via Zoom, please email elewis@rocklandmaine.gov.



Liz McLeod Strand on the Air

by Ron Staschak

What do you do at the radio station?

I write, produce, direct, and act in "The Strand On The Air," a bimonthly original radio variety show presented by the Strand Theatre. We feature original comedy sketches satirizing both the passing scene and life in a small Maine town, as well as music by fine local independent talent and our own Strand education coordinator Brittany Parker. All our actors are past or present members of the Strand's operations staff who have shown remarkable talent as radio performers.

How long have you been volunteering?

We began "Strand On The Air" as a live broadcast from the Strand stage in 2018, and once the pandemic took hold we converted to a pre-recorded program assembled remotely.

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

Before I came to the Strand in 2006, I worked in various levels of broadcasting for nearly twenty years, as a performer, a writer, a reporter, and an editor. In addition to this, I've written extensively for publication about the history of American radio, with an emphasis on the programs and techniques of the 1930s and 1940s. And I used to do, a long time ago, a standup/Maine storytelling act, in which I performed in my native dialect -- the Abysmal Point characters and settings we feature in Strand On The Air I originally created for that act over thirty years ago. We'd talked about doing some type of radio show for the Strand for years before actually deciding to do it, integrating elements of my old act, as well as a few new ideas, and it caught on!

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

I always enjoy Chris Wolf's wide variety of guests.

Is there a question should have asked you?

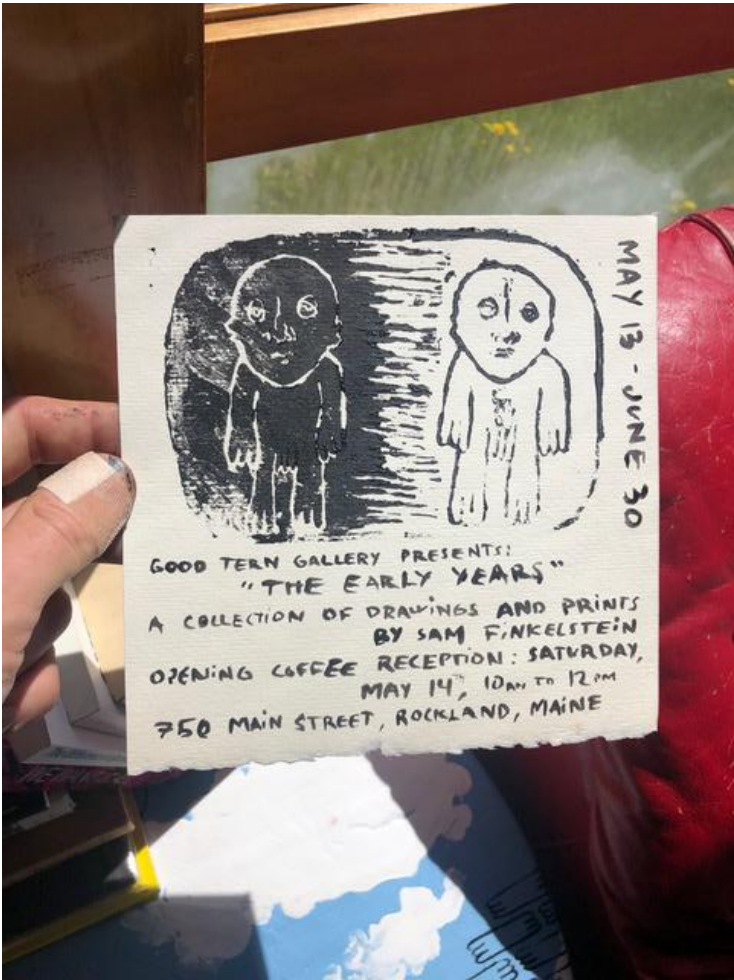
"Is Abysmal Point a real place?" Well, it's based on people and situations I knew growing up in a small coastal town not far from here. Of course it's a comic exaggeration, but anyone who knew that town then knows that it's not all that *much* of an exaggeration. All the characters have definite antecedents in real life.

As a writer would you consider yourself very creative or the beneficiary of a diverse life?

I think as a writer, I'm more of an observer -- I don't so much make up stories as I do observe the characters I've got and chronicle what they do. Because they owe so much to actual people, I feel like I all I have to do is give them a situation, and then just write down how they react to it. I often have no idea how a sketch is going to turn out when I come up with the premise -- as I write out the dialogue, I find that Mrs. Grunden and Lilita and Gertie and Edith will all react to that premise according to their own specific personalities, and all there is for me to do is put it all down in a script. I think the lesson for any writer is that if you think of your characters as real, if you know who they really are, they'll do the work for you!

In your opinion what qualities make a writer successful?

Don't just write what you want to write. Write what you *don't* want to write. I spent years writing anything anyone would pay me to write -- advertising copy, news stories about sewer committees, corporate press releases, you name it. None of that stuff inspired me at all, I never looked at any of it and said "boy, I'm glad I wrote THAT, you betcha!" But turning out all that stuff for all the years that I did -- thousands and thousands and thousands of pages of it, day after day after day -- I got so that the process of writing ceased to be an obstacle to expressing whatever it was that I had to say. I don't puzzle over words, or wrangle paragraphs anymore. It just happens, because I'm used to doing it. I could give you fifteen hundred words, right now, on a topic that I care absolutely nothing about, as long as the check clears -- and being able to do that makes it that much more rewarding to write what it is that I *do* care about. Don't talk about writing, don't think about writing, don't go to school to study writing. All you have to do is WRITE.



A cooking tip from Chris Wolf:
The pizza was great, but now there are left over pieces in your fridge so what’s the best way to reheat a slice of pizza?

You have a few gadgets at your disposal. Your oven, toaster oven, air fryer, and microwave. They all work for a reheat. A food blogger — Farwin Simaak at Love and Other Spices — says the air fryer is the best way she’s found to reheat the leftover.

Simaak missed it by a mile. If you want the perfect piece of leftover pizza, grab your frying pan. Put it on the stovetop with a medium heat and lay the slice in the pan. You can move it around a little bit with a spatula to keep it from developing hot spots. When it’s heated 8/10ths of the way, turn the heat off and cover with a lid for anywhere from 30 to 45 seconds. This will really melt in the cheese and flavors.

Serve it up and get ready for some of the most amazing crust you’ve ever had in your life. If you want a serving suggestion, cut the pizza into thirds, (long triangles). Two or three slices will feed three to four people as an appetizer. Arrange it on a small plate so it has a stacked appearance, or in a small basket. It’s a great bread alternative.

And a great way to use up leftover pizza. Bon Appetit.

No Mower

No mower is needed in NoMow May
No scythe or sickle to gather hay
No stubble fields to fallow lay
Give bugs and butterflies their summer's day
Else all will turn to dust and blow away
For nature always has the final say
- Glen Birbeck



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

On the Metro Show we try to have the conversation America needs today, Co-hosted by Steve Carroll and Joe Steinberger, the show features lively, friendly and constructive conversations between people from different backgrounds and political perspectives. Listen or watch, and call 593-0013 with your questions and comments.

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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

WEEK ONE HUNDRED-THIRTEEN

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE
by Phyllis Merriam

REVULSION FACTORS:
Eliot Cutler, multimillionaire lawyer, and almost Maine’s governor, was found to have thousands of pornographic images of children under ages 12 on his electronic devices. With the criminal case pending, the judge is allowing Cutler access to his laptop and one smartphone despite alleged “longstanding child porn addiction”, according to the DA. Rich white guys seem to get a pass in our judicial system.

Tucker Carlson, FOX News Cable King, and stoker of fear-based white nationalism, has Maine connections. The NYT has done a lengthy piece on Carlson’s rise, his appeal to mostly old white viewers and the possibility he may run for president in 2024. Most nights Carlson broadcasts from a converted town garage in Bryant Pond where he has a summer home. We don’t need more air pollution in Maine.

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Mainers are experiencing the highest numbers of covid cases per capita in America.

Covid deaths in America have reached close to one million.
Worldwide covid deaths have reached 5 million.
This fall & winter Americans are likely to experience a wave of covid & its variants.

CDC is giving out mixed messages. Get your 4th booster now or wait til the fall surge.
Heating oil prices are soaring. Gas prices for cars make my eyes smart.

Former Maine governor Paul LePage’s voice is even raspier during his re-run.
Another Ocean Street house has been leveled. Land is more valuable than old homes.

City council intends on making dense neighborhoods denser with tiny houses.
My neighbor’s spring flower abundance lights up the hearts of passersby with joy.
This is the tenth week of Putin’s war on Ukraine. My Russian-American friend says Putin, the non-entity, is the avatar of non-entities - the best descriptive yet. Putin is looking even more puffy-faced than ever. Speculators claim its steroids; maybe its just venom.

Putin’s atrocities in Ukraine continue with a vengeance. Civilians and some Ukrainian soldiers remain cut-off from help in the Mariupol steel mill underground tunnels with undrinkable water, moldy bread and little else to eat. Putin has secured much of Eastern Ukraine. What will the outcome of this land war in Europe be? Those old enough find it reminiscent of WWII. Worldwide bread shortages are predicted because Ukraine has been the world’s breadbasket – until Putin’s attack.

Driving through the intersections of Routes 17 and 90 in West Rockport, I noticed a billboard with the following: “If you’re stimulated, I’m motivated.” A phone number was included. I wasn’t tempted to call.

Out onto the side porch with my morning coffee when I noticed a Queen bee lying on her back on the porch. There was some movement but she was clearly in distress. I went out later to see how she was doing and she was gone. Maybe the cold night air weakened her and the sun revived her? Hives cannot survive without their queen.
I’ve since seen other queens feeding from my and other homeowners’ dandelions, which bees need this time of year. I hope “my porch Queen” survived.

The local landmark, Dorman’s Dairy Dream, is entering its 71st season under new ownership. The nearby Shepherd’s car dealership will be dipping cones with the same Dorman’s family recipes and has big undisclosed plans for the future.

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