



Born in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 15, 1929, Ed Asner became hugely successful as an actor playing lead roles in the immensely popular series *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *Lou Grant*. He won Emmy Awards for both shows. In the later years of the *Lou Grant* series, Asner became known for speaking out on numerous social and political topics, especially in opposition to the US involvement in Central America and animal rights. The show was cancelled in 1982. Some, including Asner, have speculated that the actor's activism may have influenced the decision to end the series. Subsequently, Asner became a spokesperson for 911truth.org and he is

also the star of the short-film hit *Architects & Engineers – Solving the Mystery of WTC 7*. *Common Ground* publisher Joseph Roberts spoke to Ed Asner about his passion for uncovering the truth about what really transpired on September 11, 2001.

Joseph Roberts: Ed, you've been in hundreds of movies and TV programs. You acted in a TV movie called *Common Ground*, which happens to be the name of our magazine. You were a character named Ira. The script was about a gay person coming out. Another film was *Pope John XXIII*. I hope you had fun

Ed Asner

I'm already against the next war

An interview by Joseph Roberts

playing this important Pope who actually worked closely with the Kennedys averting WWII against the wishes of the hawks and the military people who lusted after a nuclear first strike against the USSR during the Cuban Missile Crisis. You also acted in the film *JFK* in 1991.

Ed Asner: Yes, I was Guy Bannister. He was a brutal figure, an ex-FBI man, a drunk, who was down in, I think, New Orleans. He was one of the provocateurs designed to create bad images of Cuba.

JR: *JFK* was such a great movie.

EA: It was brilliant. I think Oliver Stone can never surpass the result.

JR: So what twigged you on to thinking that 9/11 was more than it appeared to be, more than the official line? Was there something that made you rethink it?

EA: It's an interesting flashpoint you ask about and I can't really say for sure what it was. It's a history of provocation on the part of our military engagements, the immediacy of the information, the flaws in the official reporting at the time of what happened and immediate doubts expressed by observers. And it just grew and grew until I finally... I was still carrying a jones on the first Iraq war.

JR: From Bush Senior's Operation Desert Storm?

EA: Yeah. The proof on Vietnam having been phoned up, long existing accusations on Pearl Harbour, which I deal with in my performance as Roosevelt. I even knew of great doubts as to the provocations that took place with Korea (1950). So much is unknown about Korea: the fact that Russia controlled all of Korea by the end of the war and that they then decided to let the US have S. Korea. Then the fiddling of the 38th parallel and drawing N. Korean forces across the border and then chasing them back creating the conflict as we know it. And every war we've had. Granada, another stupid venture.

So finally it all just built up such bile in me that I was a hard sell from the

beginning on 9/11.

JR: The provocations for these wars tend to be emotional and they tend to hook people in. If only people could understand the process by which they get deceived into believing a lie that creates a delusion for which they then blame someone else who they turn into an enemy. The face of the enemy is then created and the war proceeds from that. The propaganda machine seems to be very good at conditioning people, softening them up, slipping these ideas into their brains so they will believe what



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the government or the people that run it want them to believe.

EA: Hello. We're conditioned from the beginning. You go to the goddamn fairy tales that we're raised with. The big bad wolf. I belong to Defenders of Wildlife, which is concentrated on introducing and protecting wolves in the lower 48. The wolf is the constant Nazi in the eyes of Americans. I suppose even the world. It gets a lot of bad raps, so that if you allow the existence of any wolf to occur, every rancher and shepherd in the world will rise up and want to kill every wolf they see. It's a constant battle and constant murder. And it's a bad rap, but they're not the villains.

The same applies to any diplomatic situation. We're *continued p.22...*



Shortcuts to growing food

Contrary to general belief, growing food doesn't have to be a lot of work. Cognizant that most of us lead busy lives, this planting month of March I'm going to share some shortcuts for growing the maximum amount of food in the minimum amount of time.

Successful soil building: Mulch the garden with generous layers of compost, leaves, manures and seaweed. Make top quality compost using a diversity of materials that are well decomposed. Bacteria that decompose compost depend on air, water and heat so get oxygen and moisture into the pile, turning it to generate heat.

Tree roots penetrate widely through topsoil and deeply into subsoil taking up valuable nutrients, which are then stored in the leaves. When leaves break down, they return these nutrients to the soil. Stockpile leaves of tall trees such as oak, maple and chestnut in fall in circular wire cages or large piles and mulch with them once a year.

Find a source of animal manure that has not had inputs of growth hormones, antibiotics or genetically modified grains in livestock feed. Animal manures should not be added to food gardens when still fresh; they should be composted or aged first. You can also add nitrogen to the soil using green manure crops of fall rye, pea, fava beans, barley or wheat in winter and ploughing this under in spring. Tip: In summer, grow green manure crops using vetch, clover, buckwheat, alfalfa or *phacelia*.

Seaweed contains micronutrients and trace elements essential for healthy plant growth and can be added as mulch directly to the garden or layered as an ingredient in the compost (or use purchased powdered kelp).

Lasagna gardening: This is about growing soil and food at the same time! Build the bed any size or shape by adding two-inch layers of any of the following (uncontaminated) materials to a height of 12-inches: Manure (cow, sheep, horse, llama, goat or chicken), leaves, spoiled hay, grass clippings, woodash, sawdust (not cedar), seaweed, compost or topsoil as the top layer.

The high fertility of this growing medium as it breaks down means it's possible to

plant rows close together which keeps weeds down. It takes one cycle of production for the bed to decompose six inches so before planting the following crops renew the bed with another six inches of layered, organic waste. You can transplant or seed into the top layer the same day you build the bed.

Cool weather crops for now: Lettuces, chicory, leeks, onions, endive, parsley, peas, spinach, Swiss chard, kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, rutabaga, celeriac.

The pea gutter trick: Plant peas into recycled rain gutters filled with organic pot-

Bacteria that decompose compost depend on air, water and heat so get oxygen and moisture into the pile, turning it to generate heat.

ting medium. Sow pea seeds one-inch deep and one-inch apart into the gutters. When well rooted, peel the strip of pea seedlings out of the gutter and place directly into a soil furrow, made using a hoe. Once the peas are nestled into their furrow simply scrape displaced soil back over the furrow to cover.

Hoe a row in five: The secret to growing other vegetables the 'pea gutter' way is to sow seeds sparingly into individual packs filled with potting medium. When established, tip the block of well rooted seedlings out of the pack, without disturbing the roots, and settle end to end into the furrow as described above. 

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raised with fairy tales. Communism is "terrible." Where did it get such a terrible indictment? Well, this is the land of capitalism. What else would you expect? We'll build the case up no matter what. To a Jew, the Muslim is painted as the holy terror, no matter how many fine Muslims there are and how much difficulty the religion itself creates when rigorously following some of the laws of Sharia. We're fed at the tit of all of these monsters and unfortunately all too often the monsters are paper tigers.

JR: My daughter has a t-shirt that says "I am already against the next war!"

EA: That's lovely.

JR: When I started to really research 911, it brought a whole lot into question. What got to me is how was it possible those three strong steel buildings fell down in their own footprint so quickly, as if nothing was underneath them.

EA: At the rate of gravity.

JR: And that Building 7, the third building, was never touched by a plane, went boom and collapsed again into its

perfect controlled demolition footprint. The official report on the collapse of the World Trade Center certainly did not do justice to the whole events of 911. So what does it take to get through to people when they've been given a lie that was accepted unquestioningly?

EA: We have the problem that I



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find constantly in trying to talk to people; I don't try to talk to people anymore about the perfidy of 911. People, for the most part, react in one of two ways: They think I'm a wacko looking for ways to substantiate a conspiracy theory and that I spell trouble no matter what. It doesn't matter how many scientific facts I may present to them, which are undeniable – such as falling at the rate of gravity, the fact that the third building was not hurt to any appreciable extent by the planes crashing into the other two buildings. It doesn't matter. They don't want to hear it because it is too radical, too unpatriotic.

That leads me to the people who believe in the myth of America and its cleanliness and holiness no matter how many other crimes you can cite in terms of its provoking wars. They just can't admit that America would do that. The fact that it enslaved millions of black people and removed the rights of Indians. That gets in the way of the myth of America.

There's probably a third factor that

says "So what? I can't do anything and if I'm identified, I could get into trouble."

JR: What are your thoughts on Syria and Iran? They're on the USA target list next.

EA: We seem to be patching things up with Iran pretty good. We've resisted the Israeli attempt to poison that well and Kerry is moving ahead, and I heartily approve those efforts.

JR: Recently, Obama actually acted in a way that was good for humanity by not being pushed around by the military lobby, which works through the various different members of the senate and house.

EA: Syria, I don't have an answer. Russia and Iran are keeping the governments supplied and the US is keeping certain of the rebels supplied so I don't know how that will end.

JR: Neither do I.

EA: The *New York Times* seems to be filled with pages of dying and dead children killed by the Syrian government so they're still *continued p.35...*

on the march of indicting Syria. That to me was the greatest triumph of the people in the US to finally wake up and embody that t-shirt you were talking about (“I am already against the next war!”). Due to public opinion, Obama and the government currently decided not to go to war over Syria. Where it will end, I don’t know.

JR: You are involved in the autism awareness movement.

EA: Yes, I don’t do it much but my son is the CEO of Autism Speaks in California. His two-year-old son is heavily autistic and his brother, my youngest son, is autistic and will be getting his degree in the spring. He’s a high-functioning autistic. So we’re involved as a family.

JR: In the long arc of history, what do you think 911 represents?

EA: I don’t see it as a long arc, other than the exposure of the truth. By the time the American people believe it was a put-up job, all the miscreants will be dead. Even if it gets written about then, which is highly doubtful because as I say Americans don’t want to read about the destruction of their myth, at the time it was used to hype George Bush’s administration, which was failing by that point, to create an easing into war. First against Afghanistan, then Iraq and other countries.

JR: I have studied Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense 1776* and what happened then, when people in the American colonies rose up against the British Empire and their royalty. Now we’ve got this new royalty, the people that run the banks and control the economy and we need a different kind of revolution where we open our minds and hearts, connect with each other, find common ground and get our common sense back to make this a more peaceful and kind planet.

EA: Well, I certainly applaud your wishes. I fear a revolution is in order but I would be concerned that, given the make-up of America and what it tends to foster and believe in, it would first produce a fascist government. The fear of fascism in this country is quite high. No matter what the constitution says.

JR: Corporatism is another way to say fascism.

EA: I would liken it to Spain after Franco, after 50 to 60 years of dictatorship Spain then gets a socialist government, which is long overdue and passes needed reforms. But they’re in trouble now and what will Spain end up becoming? What is normal? I really



don’t know. Is Britain normal? You’re a Canadian – you tell me about life in Britain.

JR: I think life in Britain has shrunk. My dad was from Wales. I went over there and noticed, from my perspective, that people have been sucked dry. The empire is thirsty and truthless. The psychopaths that want to run the world just don’t know when enough is enough. Sometimes, wealth becomes crystalized suffering on the backs of common people. I’d like to see a society that’s into sharing and doing things for the social good.

EA: A true communist society?

JR: I think a cooperative society. Cooperatives might be a third way

out of the mess we’re in. Using credit unions instead of banks, supporting organization and businesses where decisions are made by the members... communal cooperative democracy. I hate to use the words of the enemy like ‘consumer,’ ‘moving forward’ or ‘homelessness’. For one, we’re human beings. Mother Earth is the home of every person born on this planet. They might not have a roof, i.e. ‘roof-less,’ but they’re a human being so Earth is their home. We need to use language that liberates rather than condemns us into believing their bullshit.

EA: Language is really important. I was baiting you when I said ‘communist.’

JR: Well, I’ve been around the block, started this magazine 32 years ago and have had the good fortune to learn as much I can from people like you and others. I’m looking forward to the upcoming reThink 911 tour in Canada this month. The keynote speaker is Richard Gage, president of Architect & Engineers for 911 Truth, an organization with over 2,000 professionals who demand a real commission of inquiry into 911. An inquiry that is open to all evidence, not just selective evidence and run in a transparent manner. The reThink 911 tour starts in BC and goes right across the country. It seems to be easier to get people to imagine rethinking 911 in Canada than in the States right now. But there’s going to be cross-pollination and there will be large audiences listening to this. 911 is the foundation of so much of what’s happening now and if the foundation is a rotten lie then the house isn’t going to stand.

EA: That’s for sure.

JR: 911 was an inside job and I’m hoping more and more people will come to understand the official report on 911 is incorrect and demand getting down to what is true. If Thomas Paine were alive today, he would want the truth on 911 to come out.

EA: What percentage of Canadians think that?

JR: I’d say it’s growing. I think it started small, but now it’s over 50%. We’re getting closer to a tipping point where people will demand a real inquiry. It is not about blaming or accusing any one for doing it, but rather the official report is bogus, and to honour those affected by 911 we all deserve a real investigation with subpoena powers. Neither by Henry Kissinger, nor his replacements who ran the official commission. Those with oil interests in Afghanistan or Iraq ought not to be chairing a real commission dedicated to uncovering the truth of how the building actually came down.

EA: I think we’ve gotten to the heart of the subject. Sometimes, you can talk or write too much. When we quote, we quote the simplest phrases, don’t we? Like your daughter’s t-shirt, “I am already against the next war,” God love her.

JR: Thank you so much, Ed.

EA: A pleasure talking to you. ◀

The reThink911.ca “The Evidence Might Surprise You” cross-Canada tour starts on March 13 in Prince George, BC, and finishes in Halifax, NS, on March 31. For more info, visit the following websites: AE911truth.org and reThink911.ca