

Herschel Tovsky

Roger by Herschel Tovsky

Founding Father, Thomas Paine, once wrote “These are the times that try men’s souls.” He could have very well been talking about today.

Today, one is reluctant to turn on TV lest we hear of one more senseless shooting, the addled tweets of the unhinged “leader of the free world,” the activities of the State Police whose motto is to “Steal and Collect“ rather than “Serve and Protect.“ It makes one long for the day that some TV station will devote 24 hours a day and seven days a week to showing nothing but “Law and Order“ reruns.

But, just when you think all hope is lost, there enters your life a completely unexpected ray of sunshine in the body of an eight month old puppy named “Roger.”

After 14 years, my daughter and son-in-law, Susan and John, lost their beloved dog, Nikki. Without going into a long explanation, they adopted a rescue dog, part Pointer, Lab, and a hint of Jack Russell, named “Ruger.” A Ruger is a type of German automatic gun, hence the change to “Roger.”

We first met Roger about a month ago. When he bounced into our apartment, he ran straight to me, jumped up on my lap, and started licking my face. Soon after, he did the same thing to my wife, Annette. His joy was boundless, as if to say “Boy, am I happy to be here and be with all of you wonderful people - ain’t life grand!“

I did mention that Roger was a rescue dog. I don’t mean to imply that he had been mistreated, but was just a victim of circumstances.

The moral of the story is that even in the darkest of hours, there is someone or something or possibly a little animal that is the epitome of “unconditional love.“ Roger gives us his all and all he expects in return is a pat on the head or a rub on the belly and a little treat every now and then.

Do you think this could work with Vladimir Putin and his best buddy