

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

January 20, 2017

Column #119

Part 3 – Hasta la Vista!



### IS THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT RESURRECTING IN MONTEREY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**JUDGING** by the biggest such turnout ever held in Seaside, it may be that Monday, Jan. 16, heralded a new Civil Rights Movement.

If it gains momentum, we local 99 percenters could steal the show from real-estate-tycoon/showman-turned-president, Donald J. Trump, and his affable “New Celebrity Apprentice” successor star Arnold Schwarzenegger.

I was inspired by the most divisive political show on earth to create my reaction to the 2017 presidential circus in which, sadly, few celebrities were willing to perform at the new 45th president’s inauguration celebration today. Ouch! That must have hurt Trump!

My sign said:

Aw, shit!  
Trump, quit!!

Quit by resigning? Or quit being brash? Go figure!

### Life, Liberty, Pursuit Of Happiness, Equality For All

The embryonic 2017 Peninsula peace movement kicked off on Thursday with the first Black Lives Matter rally at the Peace and Justice Center, Seaside.

Next, community-wide participation is urged tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Carmel, not to be confused with a protest rally there today.

The “Rally for Peace—Code Pink” is non-violent social activism in support of the Women’s March taking place simultaneously in Washington.

For information, contact presenters H. Shower (831- 224-6514) and B. Harris (831-402-7995).

Meanwhile, in Monterey the new warming shelter, Safe Place, for youths ages 18-24, is operating year-round by the Community Human Services, of which the City is a member and funding source.

Mayor Clyde Roberson says, "Interim, the Salvation Army and Monterey police officers have begun distributing overnight motel vouchers to Monterey homeless individuals on the street, or in their programs, during cold or rainy weather.

"The Salvation Army also distributes bus passes to allow individuals to reach shelter. Individuals, elderly, single parents and children have already been sheltered."

Other issues involving a warming shelter overlay and affordable housing in Monterey will be discussed next week.

### **The Power Of A Few Words**

During his warm welcoming greeting at Monday's 31st celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Seaside Mayor Ralph Rubio cited a word that, to me, summarizes the reason Donald J. Trump incited ire, fear, and resentful reaction from half or more citizens whom he insulted and scared: "rude."

Conversely, Dr. King used words to incite positive responses, like those on the cover of the program celebrating the 31st National Holiday Honoring him at Oldemeyer Center which was organized by Alice Jordan:

Remember, serving is contagious!

Take Action!

A complimentary commemorative collage combining a Happy Birthday wish for Dr. Martin Luther King and Thank You to President Barack Obama was given by Darryl Choates, owner of ORD Market, and Annalisa Mitchell. It said:

Rosa sat so Martin could Walk.  
Martin walked so Obama could Run.  
Obama ran so that our children could Soar.

### **Housing The Homeless**

In his Farewell Address on Wednesday, Jan. 10, President Obama said, "The most important office in democracy is that of Citizen."

Back in 1990, when Bill Clinton was inaugurated as President, an estimated 49,793 were homeless across the country.

Last week on National Public Radio, former President George W. Bush's housing czar, Philip Mangano, said there are over 500,000 unsheltered Americans today.

Thus, Trump takes office with ten times more homeless people than Clinton inherited when inaugurated 24 years ago.

Does Obama still believe our people can soar? His closing words were:

"Yes, we can!"

Can we count on Trump to solve our problems or do we take Obama's advice as citizens and "run for office, show up, dive in" and do it ourselves?

### **Ideas, Anyone?**

Needed pronto: a coalition or committee dedicated to finding a location where people who live in their recreational vehicles, campers and cars can stay. They are no longer allowed to park on Lapis Rd. outside Marina.

Meanwhile, Safe Place, a warming shelter is now open in the City of Monterey, for youth ages 18-24. It is operated year-round by the Community Human Services, of which the City of Monterey is a member and funding source.

Mayor Roberson says, “Interim, the Salvation Army and Monterey police officers have begun distributing overnight motel vouchers to Monterey homeless individuals on the street, or in their programs, during cold or rainy weather.

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According to Roberson, “This includes \$450,000 to the Veterans’ Transition Center, \$200,000 to Interim, Inc. and \$62,500 to Community Human Services this year alone.”

From the grassroots of Monterey Peninsula, thank you, Citizen President Obama, and best wishes.

Or, as Arnold Schwarzenegger would say in lieu of “You’re terminated”:

Hasta la vista!

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