

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

January 27, 2017

Column #120



### PISSING OFF GRANDMA

*Pink Pussyhat Project Parades Promote Planetwide Pulchritude*

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**AMAZING!** If you missed last Friday's transfer of power in Washington, D.C., this unbiased mini-cap summarizes the first non-violent worldwide protest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The premiere Social Media Presidential Spectacular featured a supporting cast of millions—mostly women of the worldwide Pussyhat sisterhood.

Things started at high noon on the Capitol steps in a cold-but-gentle rain on Jan. 20, 2017.

After Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas administered the Oath of Office to incoming President Donald J. Trump, who swore to defend the Constitution of the United States, the nation's 45<sup>th</sup> President delivered a gentrified sermonette ala his childhood mentor Norman Vincent Peale's "The Power of Positive Thinking."

In the spirit of an old-fashioned tent revival pitched to poncho-covered people in the National Mall, Trump's speech preached "America First!" Spellbound, audiences listened in hopes of promises that jobs, health care and housing will come true.

But something backfired.

Instead of coming across as a savior, Tom Brokaw and other news analysts reported Trump's words as an insult to his living presidential predecessors, to politicians in both parties, to the press, and especially to women.

### Gentle, Angry People Singing For Their Lives

While expensively begowned and black-tied political One-Percenters enjoyed Trump's inaugural-ball music in D.C., 200 local Ninety-Nine-Percenters in jeans, sweatshirts and tees congregated at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula late Friday afternoon.

The "People's Rally for Unity & Equality" was kicked off by group singing.

The singalong featured “We are an angry, gentle people, and we are singing, singing for our lives” and ended with “America the Beautiful.”

This photo by Robert W. Coble shows (L to R) attorney Phil Crawford, Karen Araujo, and Gary Karnes, local activists who helped organize the rally. Full details can be found at:

[ThePeoplesRally@groups.Facebook.com](mailto:ThePeoplesRally@groups.Facebook.com)

A memorable moment came when constitutional law professor and ACLU activist Mickey Welsh invited participants to raise their right hands and swear to defend the Constitution.



Trump-inspired rallies were held all across America, most highly publicized being the Pink Pussyhat Revolution on Saturday, Jan. 21 in Washington, D.C.

### **The Pussyhat Project Created A Sea Of Pink!**

The Pussyhat Project was launched Thanksgiving weekend in response to disparaging remarks Donald Trump made about a woman’s genitalia.

The news went viral: a Women’s March on Washington, D.C. would be held the day after the inauguration, with the goal of creating a sea of pink hats representing the marchers and those who made the hats.

Knitting instructions and patterns were available; soon, pink yarn sold out across the country.

An estimated 250,000 women were expected to fill the National Mall; instead, more than 1 million turned out, with 600 sister solidarity marches taking place across America and around the world, including a march at CSUMB and rainy rally at Windows by the Bay.

A knitted hat with pointed ears wasn’t mandatory for participation.

Poet Cynthia Beach Guthrie of Pebble Beach said in a Guest Commentary in the Jan. 7 edition of the Monterey Herald entitled “If not for you, President-elect Trump:

“I will march as an Army daughter, Army wife, Army mother, as a 76-year-old grandmother of girls, and as a woman and a citizen.”

Cynthia, her daughter, and granddaughter marched together in Washington, D.C. She wore a black gaucho hat and Old Glory scarf. Cynthia’s sign made national news when an NPR reporter quoted it as being his favorite of the day: “Now you’ve pissed off Grandma!”

Another cited sign said: “If I were a uterus, would I be regulated?”

The event marked the start of a movement in which ten points will be followed to unite women and keep the revolution going toward fair treatment for straight, transgender, and gay women, both housed and houseless.

See details at [Women’s March on Washington D.C.](#) and <https://www.pussyhatproject.com>.

So, what can we do locally to further grassroots governance regardless of how Trump fares in Washington politics?

**CST Addition:** They marched here, they marched there, they marched everywhere. We personally know people (men and women) who marched in 10 cities across the United States. And that’s no alternate fact. Here are some photos from the March.



### **Fund For Homeless Women Seeks Support**

The Fund for Homeless women is calling for supporters to attend the Monterey City Council meeting in Council Chambers, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m., to support its 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money for homeless services.

Monterey City Hall is located at 580 Pacific St., Monterey. The CDBG specifically requests an action plan as to how the city will be “Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons.”

If you can't attend in person, share your ideas by contacting:

- Mayor Clyde Roberson, [roberson@monterey.org](mailto:roberson@monterey.org)
- Dan Albert, [albert@monterey.org](mailto:albert@monterey.org);
- Timothy Barrett, [barrett@monterey.org](mailto:barrett@monterey.org);
- Alan Haffa, [haffa@monterey.org](mailto:haffa@monterey.org);
- Ed Smith, [smith@monterey.org](mailto:smith@monterey.org).

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Grandma with sign photo courtesy of Cynthia Beach Guthrie; Rally photo courtesy of Robert W. Coble; additional CSUMB March photos by Dana Goforth. Photos provided by author or as shown; used for educational/illustrative purposes only; no copyright infringement intended.

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com) or leave a message with

The Yodel Poet at 831-899-5887.