

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

February 3, 2017

Column #121

Hear Our Voice – Part 1



Honeymoon Watch—Days 1-10 WHAT'S YOUR FOCUS ON FLOTUS, POTUS, AND COTUS? By Wanda Sue Parrott

FEELING aghast, aflounder, or agog at the rapid-succession salvos fired by America's new POTUS during his now-14-day-old presidential "honeymoon"; or are you enervated, enthused, or exhausted from media chat about the Twitter-tweeting Trump?

If you answered yes to any or all the above, this new series on White House Honeymoonery 101 (WHH101) will give pointers on how to react as a COTUS which, in Twitter Talk, means Citizen of the United States.

FLOTUS, in the event you haven't yet guessed, now means First Lady of the United States.

In this case, the new POTUS and FLOTUS are separately domiciled. He is in the WH while she is in New York in TT, one of her billionaire-husband's monumental residences formally known as Trump Towers.

The fact the 99-percenters POTUS and FLOTUS are spending the WHH apart may be particularly helpful to us 1-percenters, especially homeless and/or sexually abused women who feel unnoticed, uncounted and unappreciated.

All us COTUS types, including men, can now participate, starting with a "Hear Our Voice" postcard movement that's an extension of last month's Pink Pussyhat march that made the cover of TIME Magazine this week

Hear Our Voice Postcard Project

There will be ten active-citizens projects, one announced every 10-days, over Trump's first 100 days in office. This column will cover them all.

The current "Hear Our Voice" postcard project is currently in progress. Suggested guidelines are:

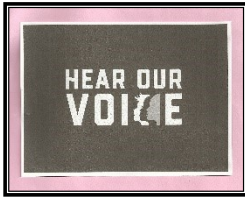
- Send 3 postcards each day to three elected representatives of your choice.
- Include your name and address.
- Write a message about an issue that is meaningful to you on each postcard.

According to Kathy Whilden, co-founder of the Fund for Homeless Women, who bought a box of 150 postcards from Amazon, "I mailed my three postcards at noon today to my two senators and one representative.

"The message was 'Open our country to refugees from all countries.' I signed my name and address and said, 'We are paying attention and we vote.' Do I think it will help? It makes me feel better and it is something I can do."

Inspired by Kathy, I sent two messages to my three elected representatives in Washington, DC: "Housing First!" and "Please vote no on- - -."

If you are on a tight budget, be flexible. Send only one postcard per day and send to various selected officials such as your county supervisor or governor. Monterey's Washington representatives who deal directly with the POTUS are:



- **Senator Kamala Harris**
B40b Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein**
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
- **Congressman Jimmy Panetta**
228 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

One 34-cent stamp is required per postcard.

Maximum allowed postcard size is 4-1/2 in. x 6 in.

You can make postcards by cutting one piece of cardstock into four cards, then using one side for the address and the other for your message.

"Hear Our Voice" details and postcard templates are available at www.womensmarch.com.

International Women's Convocation Coming To Asilomar

More than one million women marched internationally on Jan. 21 to send the message that women's rights are human rights. To build on the success of the march, several hundred liberal religious women will be coming together at the Third Women's Unitarian Universalist Convocation in Asilomar, CA (February 16-19, 2017).

According to Arlene Johnson, Board President, "There is a pall hanging over American women at the moment and it has spread like wildfire through both conventional and social media. It has touched a raw nerve in women around the world.

"Sexual assault is on the minds of millions of women who, heretofore, buried their feelings of embarrassment, shame and pain related to their experiences.

“The US presidential campaign has opened these raw wounds and now that the media is paying attention, several brave women have broken their silence and come forward to publicly relate their painful experiences.

“In the US according to RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network www.rainn.org), it is estimated that one in six women has experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives. This is an astonishing figure.

“Speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and small group work will offer important advocacy and action resources for issues such as reproductive justice, economic opportunity, and gender-based violence.

“Make plans to be there! Let's channel our individual powers into one collective voice!”

For information, please contact Laura Nagel, lauraonagel@gmail.com.

Traditionally, “Honeymoon” (HM) was a settling-in period during which the new POTUS got respect from Congress and the press, usually around six months. By 2009, the 180-day HM had shrunk to 100 or fewer days.

Now, according to “Number of Days to Reach a 50% Disapproval Rating after Inauguration” (www.DemocraticUnderground.org), Trump has set a world record: 4 days.

Not even Twitter can tweet that tweak!

###

TIME cover photo by Danielle Amy Staif; photo provided by author; used for educational/illustrative purposes only; no copyright infringement intended. Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com or leave a message with The Yodel Poet at 831-899-5887. © 2017 Wanda Sue Parrott.