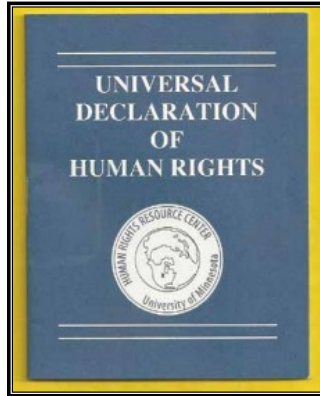


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

March 31, 2017

Column #129

Hear Our Voice – Part 9



POLITICAL BASEBALL'S SEASON OPENER: STRIKE ONE! TWO TO GO!

By Wanda Sue Parrott

PLAYING Washington politics is like a baseball game full of chawing, spit-balling and crotch-hitching.

If the team that's up gets more hits than strikes, it wins; but three strikes is an out.

Players on the Presidential Powerbrokers team are like rookies in spring training. If they strike out, will the metaphorical People's Party team automatically win? No. They'll get their turn at bat and might steal home like runners steal bases.

Besides powerful pitchers, the teams need fans like you. If you're unsure, answer these questions before choosing your team.

Am I comfortably sheltered now?

Might I become uprooted if the wrong team wins?

Will I feel better if the Presidential Powerbrokers or People's Party wins?

Stats: The Presidential Powerbrokers

Today is day 70 of the "honeymoon period," meaning the new administration is in the top of the 1st Inning, with 30 days left until sluggers come out swinging.

The new cabinet is at bat, with one strike and no runners on base.

Last week's defeat of Trump's campaign promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) also called Obamacare, failed to pass. Strike one! Next!!

Strike Two?

On Mon., March 27, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the administration's threat to push Immigration Reform by punishing states, counties and cities declaring themselves "Sanctuaries." He said if Sanctuary Cities don't cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in deportation of undocumented aliens, federal funds to them will be curtailed.

Such bully-pulpit manipulation is fearmongering. Will this week's action result in strike two or a home run?

You, a fan, can help determine the outcome to this form of March madness traditionally called America's favorite game."

Stats: The People's Party

This team is comprised of everyone not on the other team: states, counties, cities, churches, schools and individuals coming under the umbrella word "Sanctuary," which refers not only to the houseless or unsheltered communities of America, but to all refugees and displaced persons who have been unjustly victimized and/or are under threat of punishment by unjust laws.

During the bottom of the first inning, the People's Party will play to win the right to give sanctuary without loss of funding; this right includes but is not limited to physically sheltering one or more immigrant(s) in danger of immediate deportation.

The city of Seaside is already acting as a sanctuary city here on the Monterey Peninsula. At the state level, California is moving toward becoming a legal precedent-setting Sanctuary State, meaning it will defy the Presidential Powerbrokers in a possible no-hitter win.

The ball being pitched in this inning is known as Senate Bill 54. If it wins, California will be the first state to oppose federal law. Will others follow?

If you are moved to stand against bully-pulpit tactics, welcome to The People's Party team of supporters.

If not, good luck.

How to Get Your Season Ticket

This symbolic season ticket will help you follow your conscience and vote with your heart: "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," a passport-sized booklet published by the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Resource Center.

It encapsulates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948, 30 Articles which, if practiced internationally, would ease the suffering of countless victims of man's inhumanity to man and let both sides win this hypothetical ballgame in which the UN now stands to lose.

The Presidential Powerbrokers threaten to cut \$132.8 million in annual aid to the UN.

Strike Three?

Before this potential third-strike issue comes up to bat, get your copy of "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" by contacting: University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center, N-120 Mondale Hall, 229 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-626-0041, or e-mail humanrts@umn.edu.

The Unitarian Universalist Church Association's 38-page toolkit "Resistance and Solidarity: Sanctuary Congregations in an Era of Mass Deportation (revised February 2017) defines sanctuary as: "A way to provide safe space for those who are victims of unjust laws," It also states:

"At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society."

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula sanctuary justice contact is Laura Nagel at lauraonagel@gmail.com.

That's it for chawing and spit-balling. Now comes crotch-hitching:

Last week's column calling for 24/7 public toilets in Monterey inspired artist/ activist Darby Moss Worth of Carmel Valley to suggest: "Make them compost toilets so that after people go, things can grow."

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