

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 14



“I KEPT ASKING GOD WHY? HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?”

By Wanda Sue Parrott

FLYING Old Glory at half-mast—again—isn’t working!

If today weren’t “The Day of the Dead” in Latinx communities, the pre-election week headlines might pass as coincidentally bad--if not downright fake—news.

But facts don’t lie.

Refugees are migrating north in a caravan as wide as a human river and deep as the Trail of Tears death march that relocated eastern Cherokees to Oklahoma dumping grounds called “The Nations” in 1838-1839.

Fifty years later, feds seized the territory and, in April 1889, staged a day-long Land Rush allowing white settlers to grab acreage, lay claim to it, and, in less than 24 hours, stake out Oklahoma City.

In 1990, Native Americans were relegated to reservations.

Article 8, UN’s “Declaration Of Human Rights”:

Will the caravan wind up as mass genocide, invading thugs, or a vast concentration camp at our border?

Will the president’s sending of 5,200 troops to provide logistical back up for border guards be a threat to refugees’ rights under Article 8 of the United Nations’ “Declaration of Human Rights”? The article says:

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him/her by the constitution or by law.

Speculation about the caravan was interrupted by news of Saturday’s massacre of eleven Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

It revived my memories of standing before two brick ovens in the Krematorium at Dachau Concentration Camp in 1973 and feeling such heat from the terror and helplessness of victims, who faced being shoveled like raw pizza dough into the inferno, that I fainted and awoke sobbing on the ground.

Tour guides advised in German and English: No living persons were cremated.

Unbelievable!

Celiasue Hecht's Version

About then, absentee Summiteer CeliaSue Hecht returned with her own version of true horror.

“A 97-year- old Holocaust survivor was murdered at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh this week. She survived Hitler but not Trump,” CeliaSue wrote. “This is for her.”

JUST SOMEONE WHO CARES

by CS Hecht

Dachau. Bergen-Belsen. Auschwitz. I didn't want to visit ex-concentration camp sites while I was visiting Germany in 1988 but it somehow seemed inevitable...where would I go to find a concentration camp?

I was in the Frankfurt area...working for the Stars and Stripes newspaper.

I decided to call the local library... a librarian told me there were no such things as “konzentrationslager”... a male voice unexpectedly interrupted...gave me a phone number... the phone went dead.

I made the phone call at the appointed time.

Albert “just happened” to be passing by when he heard my conversation with the librarian...and he was eager to assist me. A few days later, we met in Darmstadt, and he gave me a ticket to Dachau near Munich.

The day I traveled was dark and somber, befitting my mood. The leftover snow looked as old and muddy as I felt.

Normally, in Germany when you are in public, everyone speaks German. But on this day, everyone near to me spoke English...a group of New Zealand high school students was visiting Dachau and would take this journey with me.

As the bus stopped so did my heart. Exiting the vehicle slowly, I walked towards the gate. My feet felt like stone. Ahead, there was a building with a sign that said “Crematorium.”

Looking at the barbed wire surrounding the camp, my footsteps faltered. Seeing the sign, a deep sobbing from within me erupted. I could not stop crying.

Normally, I am a suspicious New Yorker so what happened next was inexplicable. A stranger approached and put his arms around me...held me tenderly as my sorrow ran its course.

“Who ARE you?” I asked rudely when I “came to.”

“Just someone who cares, ” he replied softly. This teacher was from New Zealand and offered me companionship for the day. I turned down his kind offer because I needed some alone time. To see the camp for myself. To spend time in prayer.

I had assumed that the only other people who would be visiting Dachau would be Jewish folks from around the world. It never occurred to me that people from faraway places like New Zealand would want to visit Dachau.

While touring the camp all day, I kept asking God Why... How could you do this? I felt angry, sad and many emotions. The photos of stereotypical Jews, the Kristallnacht, and the arm bands... I wanted answers. I wanted peace and understanding.

Hours later...I met the high school girls from New Zealand. They were crying and put their arms around me and apologized to me for what happened during the Holocaust.

I realized this was why I went on this journey. To put to rest the doubts, fears and terrors of the Holocaust. To forgive the Germans and the Nazis for the wrongdoing so that I could still believe and have faith in God...

I had grown up angry and afraid of the Germans. My family and many Jewish people I knew hated the Germans...now, I could finally let go...the bitter hatred I did not even know I had dissipated. And I felt FREE.

What Do Do?

CeliaSue, 68, a spiritual person raised by Jewish parents, shares a van with her dog Cici.

In need of breast cancer surgery and an angioplasty, she hopes to secure a trailer or tiny home, as well as help caring for Cici, before proceeding. If you can help, contact CS HECHT at 702-225-8206;

<https://silverliningsandgraymatters.wordpress.com><<https://cshechtwriter.journoportfolio.com>>

<https://silverliningsandgraymatters.wordpress.com>

As to presidential fear mongering about the caravan, FOX's Shep Smith said last Monday:

"The migrants are two months away if they make it here at all. Tomorrow is one week before the midterm election, which is what all of this is about. There is no invasion. No one is coming to get you. There is nothing to worry about."

How about a 21st-century Border Rush giving asylum to all who enter the US in one day?

Writer Harold E. Grice suggests: if you favor this idea, offer asylum to a migrant in your home, at your own expense.

If you don't like today's politics, you know what to do next Tuesday!

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Photo: Sculpture at Dachau Concentration Camp memorializing Jewish victims from 1933 to 1945, shown here in honor of victims of last week's massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Photo courtesy of Clip Art

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