

HOMELESS IN PARADISE
December 21-27, 2018

CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 21



SANTA CLAUS DOES NOT STOP HERE

By Wanda Sue Parrott

FOLLOWING your heart isn't easy if it's also against the law.

If you could vote on the immigration issue right now, would you say yes, no or maybe to the sanctuary issue?

How about allowing asylum seekers into the U.S.?

If you're okay with allowing a selective few, such as the very young, elderly and most-infirm migrants to come in now and take care of legalistic and other asylum-seekers later, welcome to friends of the Love Knows No Border group of caring citizens.

Who are they?

They're peninsulans who ring the symbolic Christmas Bell of Justice all year long.

For instance, a week of action starting December 10 was co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) and Unitarian Universalist Association & Unitarian Universalist Service Committee campaign.

It concluded on December 18, International Migrants Day.

Love Knows No Borders

More than 400 faith leaders gathered at the border in Tijuana to stand in humanitarian solidarity with the migrant caravan and all who seek refuge in the U.S.

Reverends Axel and Elaine Gehrmann of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula were there on Monday, the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations' "Declaration of Human Rights."

According to Rev. Axel, "It was a powerful event that provided us a visceral sense of the tension and human toll of our country's immigration policies, and a heightened understanding of our role in challenging the status quo, and promoting human rights for all, as our first UU principle calls for us to do—at the border and right here in Monterey County."

The protest called on the U.S. to end the detention and deportation of immigrants, respect the human right to migrate, and end the militarism of the border.

Present conditions contravene the principles established in the thirty articles of the Declaration of Human Rights, Article 24 of which states:

"Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay."

Current detention of men, women, and children forces working-age migrants to waste time during mandatory stretches of idle waiting time which break adult spirits and bore youngsters.

On Christmas Eve, will migrant kids wait for a Santa who never comes?

No Hate. No Fear. Refugees Are Welcome Here.

In a "Love Knows No Borders" report to UUCMP congregants, Rev. Elaine Gehrmann says:

"Looking past the Border Patrol Guards in riot gear, through the gaps in the wire fence, we could see people on the other side.

"They could hear us singing 'No hate, no fear. Refugees are welcome here.'"

"Perhaps most striking to me was the intimidating sound of the helicopters circling overhead during our entire four-hour march, and I can only imagine what they must sound like to those migrants who are already living in great fear.

"I am very glad that our presence helped to call attention to our moral opposition to the inhumane treatment and policies being enacted by our government and showed our care and concern for these vulnerable human beings."

Rev. Elaine saw live children at the Tijuana border; elsewhere, one child died.

Dead Girl Had First Pair Of Shoes

Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin was only six when she and her father left Guatemala for their journey to the U.S. During the 2000-mile journey, she turned seven.

Jakelin was wearing her birthday gift, her first pair of shoes, when she died December 8 of apparent sepsis shock while in the custody of the U. S. Border Patrol in New Mexico.

Who'll fill her shoes?

Summiteer Jonathan Shoemaker muses:

A History Lesson

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker, Carmel

Yes, I saw the towers crumble,
Saw them running, heard them cry,
Tasted dust and smelled the smoke,
And wondered why they had to die.
I saw the cloud at Hiroshima,
Heard the cries at Wounded Knee,
Saw them killing all the people,
Wondered why it wasn't me.
How do I deserve to live
When Martin Luther King lies dead?
And when Pearl Harbor was attacked?
And Hitler made the streets run red?
If Japanese are rounded up,
Black children only raised to serve,
And women are just property,
What kind of life do I deserve?
What if we made up some rules
That are observed by everyone,
And we make sure that what we do
Does not spoil other people's fun.
If we respect each other,
Appreciate each other's worth,
And try to see their point of view,
Won't we have a better Earth?

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel
Strongly supports social justice issues. It has been a sanctuary congregation since May.
For details, visit www.uucmp.org or contact office@uucmp.org, 831-624-7404.

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THE NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*Their heads are bowed as if in silent prayer;
a few who sit upright have gone to sleep--
young migrants herded into this small crowd
like muted border cattle gather there--
until the youngest ones begin to weep
and Christmas bells for justice ring out loud.*

Photo courtesy of Nicole Ramos via Facebook. Poem by Wanda Sue Parrott.
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