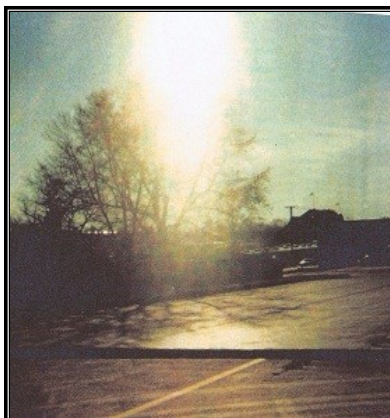


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

May 1, 2015

Column #27



Part 1: THE SEASIDE SUICIDE

Exploring the *psi*-side of Homeless-Heart Death

By Wanda Sue Parrott

(This short series explores the question “What really happens at death?” as it relates to suicide and dying in general. From philosophical, scientific and religious viewpoints, glimpses into the after-death experience will be shared by Monterey Peninsula residents who have both survived their own suicide attempts and witnessed them by others.)

Amy Kitchener, alleged Iowa farm woman (1820—1889) was subject of a 40+-year investigation into soul survival via automatic writing. This only known photo (above) of Amy was taken by Wanda Sue Parrott in 2001. Photographers call such light images “ghosts,” but Amy described human spirits as:

*“We are the ascended race,
Wearing—sometimes—human face.”*

IF MATTHEW BACHELDER, 30, could comment about his successful attempt to commit suicide, what would he say? Blowing part of his brain away in Seaside at approximately 7:15 p.m., Tues., April. 7, had left him alive but unable to say anything.

Although transported to a trauma center and placed on life support pending harvest of his organs, Matthew died Thurs., April 9.

I was one of the last people who talked to him in the duplex where I live and he, a guest, was cat-sitting my vacationing neighbor’s pet.

On Mon., exactly 24 hours before he put the gun to his temple, phoned 911, and requested that the police stop him, Matthew had been searching for the cat and I showed him she was safely snuggled on a corner of my couch.

“I love that cat,” Matthew said. “I’ve known her for 11 years and can’t imagine life without her.”

As he reached out to embrace the cat tenderly with both hands. I noted prominent capital letters tattooed across his knuckles in indigo ink: E-V-I-L covered Matthew's left hand and G-O-O-D covered the right.

"What are they? The opposites? Like Yin and Yang?" I asked.

Matthew nodded.

"You'll have to live with the tattoo ink the rest of your life, unless you have them removed." I commented.

"I'm sorry. I wish I hadn't done it," Matthew said.

He let the old cat stay with me that night, and I never saw or spoke to Matthew again.

As officers arrived around 7:15 p.m. the following night, the fatal shot rang out approximately 25-feet from the computer on which I was writing my weekly Homeless in Paradise column. Coincidentally, it was about Bonnie Schumaker, I-HELP hostess, who had choked to death the week earlier and had been kept on life support pending harvest of her organs.

Nic Coury of the Monterey County Weekly posted the attempt suicide story about Matthew online on April 7 at [Seaside Suicide Attempt](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/seaside-suicide-attempt/image_87141360-ddb9-11e4-997a-8fd46670bbe2.html); if link doesn't work, copy and paste the following into your browser address bar:

http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/seaside-suicide-attempt/image_87141360-ddb9-11e4-997a-8fd46670bbe2.html and http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/seaside-suicide-attempt/image_7e45e632-ddb9-11e4-94d5-efeea79b61c0.html

Nic Coury's follow-up story appeared in the online version of the Monterey County Weekly on April 14 at [Seaside Suicide More Details](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/details-emerge-about-police-response-to-a-man-s-suicide/article_cbd5fcea-e2e4-11e4-b2fe-a353e4be2076.html); if link doesn't work, copy and paste the following into your browser address bar:

http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/details-emerge-about-police-response-to-a-man-s-suicide/article_cbd5fcea-e2e4-11e4-b2fe-a353e4be2076.html

No one else except me was on the scene from the press as the Monterey County SWAT Team, investigators and most of the Seaside Police Dept. responded throughout the night.

I spent three-and-a-half hours in various police vehicles as a well-protected observer of everything from sharpshooters lining the roof of the building across from the house to a young officer with a bullhorn who repeated, about every ten minutes, "Matthew. This is the Seaside Police Dept. . . . Please respond by. . ." There was no response.

Outcome was that rubber bullets were shot through two windows, and blinding flash flares were sent into the house through the holes. Fine glass fell like powdered sugar onto my computer, office furniture and the terrified old gray cat, who crouched under my desk.

Once the interior had been illuminated, officers could see into the house and Matthew was spotted on the bed, handgun on the floor, breathing but unconscious. He was transported to Salinas.

Near midnight, the SWAT armored vehicle departed, leaving shattered windows, broken picket fence and a hazardous toxic apartment as part of the legacy of a young man I learned to know better after death than during life.

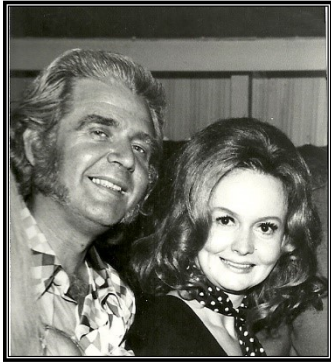
The most-memorable part was his final words to me, "I'm sorry. I wish I hadn't done it."

"Why did you do it?" I thought, just before I tried to fall asleep that fateful night.

Matthew's face and voice appeared as if in a dream: "I was homeless in the heart."

One of his friends later confirmed that Matthew, while not actually homeless, had recently fallen out with his girlfriend and was adrift, depressed and haunted by old demons. This was not his first suicide attempt; it was his last.

Is Suicide Caused by Homelessness of the Heart?



I e-mailed this question to my longtime friend Clarisa Bernhardt, shown (left) with her late husband, Hollywood actor/playwright Russ Bernhardt, in 1970.

At that time, I was the only investigative journalist in America with a major metropolitan newspaper whose beat earned me the popular title “California’s Psychic Reporter.” In 1969, I covered parapsychology (also known as psi) as legitimate news for the first time in a major metropolitan newspaper, the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. Clarisa and I met during that rich awakening period of American Metaphysical Metamorphosis that ended abruptly when President Richard M. Nixon resigned after the Watergate scandal.

Clarisa, a former television writer and newscaster, became known as “The Earthquake Lady” after the title was given to her by the USGS for her earthquake predictions and she was featured in worldwide news, including the San Jose Mercury and national tabloids.

After reading the reports of The Seaside Suicide, Clarisa sent an unexpected comment along with photocopy she printed by using her own investigative techniques that re-raised the age-old question: Is there survival after physical death?

“Looking close, one can easily see the subject soul attempting to depart...” Clarisa wrote. “And one can see through the figure. . .”

The location on the outside wall near the window, through which area the ascending upright ghostly figure seems to be streaming, is the approximate spot where Matthew Bachelder shot himself indoors a few minutes earlier. Clarisa had no idea where the body was located.



To be continued next week...

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