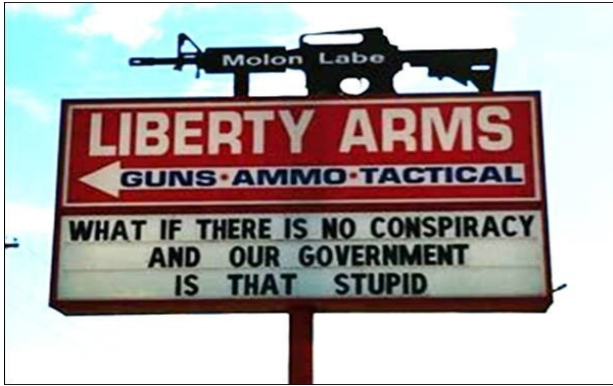


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

March 5-11, 2021

MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS - Part 10



*no one wore a mask
until just one year ago
government stepped in
homeless-covid fears
combined with conspiracies
revised religion
how do folks believe
as the pandemic spreads forth
in its second year
virus versus voice
which will proclaim victory
how do you believe*

WILL THE FORTHCOMING RELIGIOUS REVIVAL SAVE OR SINK AMERICA?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

WRITING about homelessness isn't the same as solving it. If I could resolve it, I'd be nicknamed "Savior" instead of "Peeper Parrott."

As a nose-for-news snoop, I exercise America's 1st Amendment Right - Freedom of Speech - by asking lots of questions. Trying to be non-judgmental has led to meeting articulate Americans on both sides of the philosophical/spiritual aisle, both housed and unsheltered.

Using an "everyone is right" approach, I glimpsed a future that probably won't unfold with full clarity for two to four more years, if it happens at all: a spiritual revival in which political parties, not houses of worship, prevail as religious institutions in which people place faith.

Will a new savior arise?

If yes, will he/she be left, right or in-the-middle?

Or will the political party that runs things be a proverbial golden calf (meaning a substitute for the real thing)?

Readers of this column express multi-faceted views that reflect a cross-section of today's society, so a few of their comments follow. They coincide with America's observation of the first anniversary of the Covid-19-pandemic and affect the housed as well as unsheltered communities with equanimity.

Conspiracy versus cinammon

As of last week, 500,000 Americans had died from Covid-19.

While the religious-revival cloud was fomenting on the distant horizon, such questions took precedence as "Should we take the vaccine?" and "Shall we all wear masks?"

Ron Libert, Micco, Florida, shows religious conviction in excerpts from his e-mail this week. “Several doctors have been screaming for a year that this is a manmade virus from China; that mask wear is not only futile but is causing people to weaken their lungs by excess intake of their own carbon dioxide.

“...I never wear one. Why am I not getting sick at age 90? ... Years ago, I developed a system to quickly attain and maintain immunity. . . You simply drink half an ounce of crystal-clear Colloidal Silver that you make yourself every morning and every evening. You won't even catch a cold...

“The shots you took are not a vaccine--they are definitely a DNA experiment and in some cases a population control, since many women of child bearing age will become sterile, depending on which formula they received. A great effort will be made to mandate the shots. It will not succeed, but like gun control, it may cause a civil war.

“This is dumbed up population. . . that only God can fix--and will fix. It's coming so soon I will probably live to see Armageddon--and beyond. Looking forward to escaping from this sick society, despite the many good people.”

Conversely, poet Faye Adams, 86, and her husband, retired minister Billy Adams, 88, of Cherokee Village, Arkansas, are cheerful despite the devastation Covid-19 has brought. In a recent letter, Faye says: “Covid-D19 didn't slow us down much. We took advantage of drive-through aisles at restaurants, shopped in our masks, and had Parking-Lot Church.

“The gym closed for a few months, but is now back in operation. We wear our masks in, and simply pull them under our chins while working out so as not to breathe in carbon monoxide.”

PARKING LOT CHURCH

*We're staying car-bound
as we drive into the lot
and park, facing the East
Portico, where waits an
open-bed pickup truck.
Pastor and Musicians
stand behind a microphone
in the bed of the truck
facing Chevys, Fords,
Buicks and Caddies
(no horses or wagons
as back in my day).
No dress code.
Come as you are.
“Honk if you can hear me,”*

*the pastor says. Horn music
resounds across the lot.
Through radio transmission
we pray together, sing hymns,
wave at one another,
hear God's Word illuminated
and perhaps sample nut bread
or cinnamon rolls, still warm
from the oven, lovingly
prepared for us in the
Family Life Center.
Who wouldn't treasure
Parking Lot Church
in a nationwide lockdown
such as this?*

Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, Arkansas

In our own backyards?

How would you identify Todd Sondgroth, founder of Change a Heart Foundation, who gave cars to homeless women in December and January?

I recently reported hearsay that he loaned a car to a homeless woman who tried to give it back and he wouldn't take it. She corrected my misunderstanding by saying Todd did, indeed, lend her the car until she could get her own vehicle replaced, but she planned to return it so he could give it to another homeless woman in need.

Is he like Buddha, practicing right intention? Or a so-called liberal the radical right feels is a threat to democracy because he will turn the U.S. into a socialist country?

As a former performing poet and server from Carmel Valley, Todd Sondgroth speaks for himself at *Todd Sondgroth YouTube*. Scroll down for his "Cars for Homeless Women" video.

As to the cloud of religious revival on the horizon? It's a metaphor that came from former President Donald J. Trump's appearance as keynote speaker at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida last weekend. Since its launch in 1974, CPAC has been bringing together conservative organizations, activists, viewers, and influential conservative leaders. The crowd hailed Trump by shouting "We love you!" as if he were God reincarnated.

Beware of any political party becoming a national house of worship!

What's at stake?

The separation of church and state!

Reader Harold E. Grice, Salinas, shares this poetic metaphor he gave fellow engineers to ponder before it's too late:

**"As an engineer,
you can't hold up a bridge with BS,
but you can get elected for it."**

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CREDITS:

Sign from Liberty Arms gun shop sent via e-mail by Ron Libert. haiku quartet by Wanda Sue Parrott.

Poem "Parking Lot Church" reprinted with permission of Cona "Faye" Adams, Cherokee Village, Arkansas.

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