

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

April 2-April 8, 2021

MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS—Part 14



homeless natives built
mission san juan bautista
still celebrate mass

DO YOU BELIEVE CONVERSION CAN SAVE SO-CALLED “SAVAGE” SOULS?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

CONFESSING my Pfizer vaccine acted like truth serum created a storm. If a metaphor defines what happened, I'd say clouds parted like the Red “See” and a wave avalanche almost drowned me.

Sorry. Poor-but true-metaphor at a time sacred to both Christians and Jews.

Easy-English interpretation: *I was overwhelmed by responses to last week's a-poetical political posit that “Homelessness be federally declared illegal” and “Martin versus City of Boise be revised, rescinded or reversed.”*

Readers' discourses are still arriving from locals, as well as people in Canada and Germany.

Translated, it means guest columnists are coming up!

My goal will be to try running responses in the order they were received, but I tweaked that rule for this edition because of timing.

Easter/Passover Celebrations

We celebrate both the end of Passover and Easter on Sun., April 4, so I rearranged the order of this week's topic to coordinate with Easter. I'll start with a recap.

The week began benignly with a zip trip to 490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel, to glimpse new “Black Lives Matter” and “Unitarian Universalists Side with Love” banners at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula.

As I cruised the lot of our local spiritual think tank, Mark Corwin materialized like Monterey Moses in the parking lot. Mark is a driver for Interfaith Emergency Help Lodging Program (I-HELP). Mark told me I-HELP endured the pandemic; however, both men's and women's I-HELP participants are low in number, there being only 8 of an original 25 men, and even fewer women.

Mark Your Calendar: I-HELP

Back home, I read the latest I-HELP newsletter that said plans are to transition to the pre-pandemic schedule in which homeless guests of I-HELP sleep in various houses of worship around the peninsula on different nights of the week. They'll receive nutritious meals while hoping to return to work and/or find housing, both impossible while sheltered in place.

A Community Forum Zoom Meeting for I-HELP will be held on Thurs., April 8, 12 p.m., featuring questions and some breakout sessions for discussions. The public is welcome:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87012600040?pwd=cHNENG5zWnRUT2pZZH1hcklsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1260 0040, Passcode: 878144, or contact www.ihelpmontereybay.org.

Easter at a Church Homeless Indians Built

I selected San Juan Bautista artist Darlene Boyd 's response as this week's feature after she shared her original poster of the Mission San Juan Bautista in response to reference to the Amah Mutsun tribal band's current efforts to gather signatures on a petition to halt approval of a gravel mining operation on their sacred land west of Gilroy. <http://www.protectjuristac.org>

The Amah Mutsun are among Ohlone Costanoans made homeless by Spanish colonizers who used them as forced laborers during the 18th-century colonization of California.

Eye-opening coverage of descendants of the early indigenous people of Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties appears in this "Poppy Jasper Film Festival" feature by *Benito Link* reporter Robert Eliason dated March 21, 2021. The online film festival kicks off April 7.

For best results, copy and paste this link in your browser:

https://benitolink.com/poppy-jasper-film-festival-highlights-local-contributions/?fbclid=IwAR0OSA8PUfG4gjOrgPnD7Ke_U-QKUJXVLRA9P_EqSErIgm2E-o8ZHaY4E6g

Details about services and events at Mission San Juan Bautista are at

<https://www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/about/the-mission>.

Highlights of the Mission's History

According to Wikipedia, Mission San Juan Bautista in San Benito County was founded June 24, 1797, by Fermín Lasuén of the Franciscan Order. Named for Saint John the Baptist, the mission is the namesake of the City of San Juan Bautista.

Wikipedia says, "The Ohlone, the original residents of the valley, were brought to live at the mission and baptized, followed by Yokuts from the Central Valley. Mission San Juan Bautista has served mass daily since 1797, and today functions as a parish church of the Diocese of Monterey."

Other facts: By 1803, 1,036 Native Americans lived at the mission... The remains of more than 4,000 Native American converts and Europeans are buried there.

Darlene Boyd's original acrylic on wood painting of Mission San Juan Bautista is 2 ft. x 4 ft. It also is available in poster format at her online store/gallery <https://www.darleneboyd.com/store/p75/bbtuxshirt.html>. Or contact her directly at www.darleneboyd.com.

Homelessness Here at Home

Homelessness is far from being federally declared illegal. It's rising on the Monterey Peninsula and the immediate challenge is how to control it.

Community Human Services (CHS) has just announced receipt of a surprise grant of \$27,927 from the Women's Fund Endowment of the Community Foundation for Monterey County in support of Casa de Noche Buena, the first homeless shelter on the peninsula for women and families with children.

Located in Seaside, the shelter opened in January 2021 and recently celebrated its grand opening. Details at <https://chservices.org/homelessness/casa-de-noche-buena>

Sneak Peek at What's Coming

Next week will feature an essay from Pacgroviaian Doug McLain. He offers persuasive arguments about how a Universal Basic Income (UBI) might not only help stave off the deleterious effects of homelessness, but such money for everyone is, he predicts, coming within the next few years.

Could the stimulus checks we're now receiving in the wake of hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic serve as a federal tryout of such free money for all?

If this idea appeals to you, I suggest you secure your own copy of the pragmatic manifesto for improving the lives of the 99 percent today by ordering your copy of "Utopia for Realists" by Rutger Bregman. It's 314 pages but is an easy and enjoyable read. Copy and paste this link in your Amazon search bar to find out more: <https://amzn.to/33h3S6M>.

Meanwhile, do you believe enforced conversion rituals can save so-called "savage" souls?

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CREDITS:

Photo of mission poster courtesy of Darlene Boyd. haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott.

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"Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and *The Cedar Street Times* at www.cedarstreettimes.com and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.