

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word - Martin Luther King, Jr

Loaves & Fishes

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Join us to commemorate:



National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Tuesday, December 21

from 5:00 - 6:00



We will meet at
Trinity Episcopal
Church, Main and
Bridge Sts., Elkton, and march
along Main St. to the Courthouse

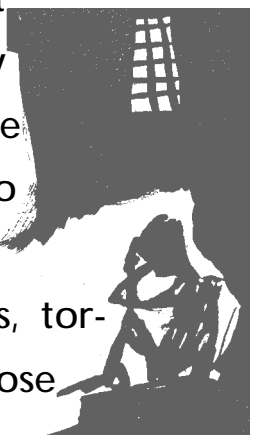


where we will have a vigil and rally to remember all in our community who have experienced homelessness in the past year, and to pledge to do what we can to end homelessness in the year ahead. Each year since 1990, on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, the National Coalition for the Homeless has sponsored National Homeless Persons Memorial Day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness in our society.



Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, his place is with those others who do not belong, who are rejected by power, because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world.

- Thomas Merton



Remembering Betty Crocker: 1914 - 2004

Parking Lot Realities

by Carl Mazza

I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. He will put some things behind, will pass an invisible boundary; new, universal, and more liberal laws will begin to establish themselves around and within him; or the old laws be expanded, and interpreted in his favor in a more liberal sense, and he will live with the license of a higher order of beings. In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness. If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.

- Henry David Thoreau, Walden

At first glance, skepticism and faith appear to be polar opposites. But they may, in fact, be two sides of the same coin. A new idea can be a harebrained scheme or a remarkable vision – without the test of reality, it's sometimes hard to tell. The suspicion which greets most innovations will take some of the wind out of an inventor's sails, but it is always good to test and weigh these ventures for their real substance.

Nevertheless, criticism can be like an avalanche of negativity. To a high-minded idealist, it may seem as if the world were just waiting to crush her. Such a person wonders why their concept is not welcomed with universal acclaim and goodwill. It takes a lot of insight and perseverance to get through these storms, and to honestly recognize what may be valid critique. Good ideas, modified, may become better ideas. Thus the skeptical



Betty, age 90, with daughter Edie and granddaughter Nora

onslaught is also a valuable process – although it usually feels quite the opposite. Doubt is indeed a powerful shaker.

Yet, given sufficient time and human resolve, angels of faith also begin to appear. They often come without notice, and seem insignificant in the chaotic mix of everyday reality. They may emerge as a

half-smile, a small nod, a hand-shake or a touch of the shoulder. Slight they are, yet indicators that others have been able to glimpse the vision and see its possibilities.

I first heard of Betty Crocker when we were living in Massachusetts, and when Meeting Ground was barely an idea on a sheet of paper.

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