

Morgan's Moment...

I'm lucky to hear from readers...
I don't report them
but this one made me think.

*"Me thinks, like many theological things,
that the 'Ten (10) Things to do
before seeing a Counselor'
were verbally espoused long
before they were officially
written down in 1984.*

*The concepts have stayed with me
all of these years.*

***It's kind of a Mathew, Mark,
Luke, John...
and Art thing."***

I had to re-read that...
chuckle...
then wonder a bit.

Imagine the audacity of the thought...
one's words compiled
and deemed sacred.

I doubt that Matt, Mark, Luke and John,,,
(if that's who they were)
planned to be gospel-writers.

My suggestion to all readers of "gospel"
mine or anyone's...
read with brain in gear.

And I appeal to you for God's sake...
don't use my words
to run out and start a church!
— Art Morgan

SHE DID IT BECAUSE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

I watched her interview on YouTube, done not long before she died. She was asked how she did what she did with her life. "I did it because it was the right thing to do."

What did she do? She devoted her life to opening doors for people with disabilities. She drew together the people who founded what was first called "Association for Retarded Children." That name was dropped but the letters ARC became the name of the local organization, then the state and national organizations that followed.

She had 8 children, which include three that her husband brought into their marriage. One of their children was born with Down's Syndrome. Go back 55 years and recall what things were like for people with that and other disabilities. In a nutshell, they were isolated from the mainstream of society.

Compassion was not enough. Too many years had been spent feeling sorry about such conditions. She wanted the child she loved to be as welcome into society as she was in their family.

The story unfolds with parents gathering with their differently abled children. The children saw others who looked like they did, and parents met other parents who were at a loss to widen the possibilities for their children. They encouraged one another and addressed needs for socialization and education.

It was not an easy sell to get school boards to acknowledge the responsibility to all its constituents. But one mother's passion for her daughter found expression before school boards, legislative committees and other places where compassion was an emotion but not and action.

What was hidden 55 years ago is now part of community life. We see these children in classrooms, on playgrounds, riding to events on special transportation, working productively at some jobs, living independently in special housing. American Disabilities Act was one outcome from this movement that has spread across the country and world. It was truly a civil rights movement.

She told me "We are not religious, but we are spiritual." I could care less. Her memorial service was held at the Unitarian Church. It was full to overflowing. Plenty of differently abled people. Some in special wheel-chairs. The grieved one they knew to be their advocate.

Hands went up when the "open mike" part of the service began. I've never been in a service like it. Without hesitation one after another stood and articulated what their hearts felt. One read a lengthy piece she had written herself. We didn't have time for them all. I told them that their presence said it all.

One of the speakers at the service was a State Representative. She is mother of a Down's child. She has been a school board member and active campaigner for this group of citizens. She told us that a few weeks ago her son entered High School. He walked proudly into the school along with all other children. He was welcomed and accepted. It would not have happened 55 years ago, she said. It's happening today because of a mother who did what she did because it was the right thing to do, religious or not. Her name? Not important, she would say, but it is Barbara Sackett.

BOOK CORNER

***ROGER WILLIAMS and THE
CREATION OF THE AMERICAN SOUL
Church, State and the Birth of
Liberty by John M. Barry***

Read about those early years of the 1600's when the very ones who fled religious persecution in England soon set about creating an equally oppressive system. Roger Williams was driven out of Massachusetts by Governor Winthrop and founded the colony of Providence (later Rhode Island).

He set the direction for a democracy free from obedience to the church.

