

“WHERE HAVE ALL THE HIPPIES GONE?”**5-20-07****REV. SUZANNE PAUL**

THE TITLE OF THIS MORNING’S SERMON “WHERE HAVE ALL THE HIPPIES GONE?” ASKS THE QUESTION “JUST WHERE ARE ALL THOSE FLOWER CHILDREN OF THE 60’S?” WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ANY TIE-DYE? OR PEOPLE WEARING FLOWERS IN THEIR HAIR? IF YOU TRAVEL TO SUCH PLACES AS TAOS, NEW MEXICO, KEY WEST, FLORIDA – OR ANYWHERE IN THE ENTIRE STATE OF OREGON – YOU WILL FIND ALL THOSE HIPPIES THAT HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR NEARLY 4 DECADES. THEY ARE A BIT LONG IN THE TOOTH NOW – BUT THEY ARE STILL DRIVING THEIR MICRO-MINI BUSES AND SPORTING LOTS OF HAIR – ALBEIT GRAY HAIR – BUT THEY STILL HAVE HAIR. ABOUT A YEAR AGO – N. FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GOT PERMISSION FROM THE FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD TO PRESENT THE ROCK OPERA “HAIR” – ALTHOUGH WITHOUT THE FULL FRONTAL NUDE SCENE AT THE END OF THE FIRST ACT. ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS’ KIDS WAS IN THE PLAY – SO I DECIDED TO GO AND SEE JUST HOW WELL THAT SHOW HAS HELD UP IN THE NEARLY 40 YEARS SINCE I SAW IT IN TORONTO IN 1969. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON’T REMEMBER “HAIR” IT WAS AN ANTI-WAR PROTEST MUSICAL. IT WAS EXTREMELY PROVOCATIVE IN ITS DAY. OF COURSE THE WAR BEING PROTESTED WAS VIET NAM. I WAS AMAZED AT HOW TIMELY THE PLAY WAS IN 2006 – AS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ONCE AGAIN BEING ASKED TO FIGHT AN UNCONSCIONABLE WAR – ONLY NOW IN IRAQ. THESE HIGH SCHOOL KIDS FROM N. FARMINGTON WERE WEARING LOTS OF WIGS, TIE-DYE AND FRINGE. AND THEY SANG WITH AS MUCH GUSTO AS A TEENAGER CAN MUSTER ABOUT THE EVILS OF WAR, THE GOVERNMENT AND “THE MAN.” THERE WERE SOME PRETTY TALENTED KIDS IN THIS PRODUCTION – GOOD VOICES, GREAT STAGE PRESENCE AND CAPABLE ACTING SKILLS. BUT TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE – THE SHOW WAS JUST A SHOW – WITH GREAT ROCK SONGS, DANCING, AND A CHANCE TO WEAR THOSE “FAR OUT” COSTUMES. THEY WERE NOT TRYING TO INFLUENCE THEIR AUDIENCE

WITH THE MESSAGE OF THE PLAY. THEY ARE NOT A GENERATION WITH A MESSAGE – THEY WERE, IN LARGE PART, PROJECTING THE MESSAGE OF THEIR – DARE I SAY? – THEIR GRANDPARENTS – NOT EVEN THEIR PARENTS – BUT THEIR GRANDPARENTS. I ADMIT I CRIED WHEN I LISTENED TO THE LYRICS OF SOME OF THE SONGS – ESPECIALLY “LET THE SUNSHINE IN” – IT WAS AN ANTHEM OF THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT – AND IT WAS FILLED WITH SO MUCH HOPE FOR A KINDER, GENTLER COUNTRY. WHAT I WAS REMINDED OF AS I LEFT THE THEATRE THAT NIGHT – WAS HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE 1969 – THAT THE SUMMER OF LOVE WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

IN 1967 SCOTT MCKENZIE’S RENDITION OF THE SONG “SAN FRANCISCO (BE SURE TO WEAR FLOWERS IN YOUR HAIR) BROUGHT AS MANY AS 100,000 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CELEBRATE SAN FRANCISCO’S SUMMER OF LOVE WHILE THE SONG HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN WRITTEN BY JOHN PHILLIPS OF THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS TO PROMOTE THE JUNE 1967 MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL, IT BECAME AN INSTANT HIT WORLDWIDE AND QUICKLY TRANSCENDED ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE. SAN FRANCISCO’S FLOWER CHILDREN, ALSO CALLED HIPPIES ADOPTED A NEW STYLE OF DRESS, EXPERIMENTED WITH PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS, LIVED COMMUNALLY AND DEVELOPED A VIBRANT MUSIC SCENE. WHEN PEOPLE RETURNED HOME FROM THE SUMMER OF LOVE THESE STYLES AND BEHAVIORS SPREAD QUICKLY FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND BERKELEY TO ALL MAJOR US CITIES. THE COUNTERCULTURAL MOVEMENT GAINED MOMENTUM IN WHICH THE YOUNGER GENERATION BEGAN TO DEFINE ITSELF AS A CLASS THAT AIMED TO CREATE A NEW KIND OF SOCIETY. THIS NEW SOCIETY ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO “DO THEIR OWN THING” AND REJECTED THE VALUES IMPOSED BY THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS GENERATION.

THE COUNTERCULTURE OF THE 1960’S BEGAN IN THE UNITED STATES AS A REACTION AGAINST THE CONSERVATIVE SOCIAL NORMS OF THE 1950S, THE

POLITICAL CONSERVATISM – WHICH WAS PERCEIVED AS SOCIAL REPRESSION – OF THE COLD WAR PERIOD, AND THE US GOVERNMENT’S EXTENSIVE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM. AS THE 60’S PROGRESSED, WIDESPREAD TENSIONS DEVELOPED IN AMERICAN SOCIETY THAT TENDED TO FLOW ALONG GENERATIONAL LINES REGARDING THE WAR IN VIETNAM, RACE RELATIONS, SEXUAL MORES, WOMEN’S RIGHTS, TRADITIONAL MODES OF AUTHORITY, EXPERIMENTATION WITH PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS AND A PREDOMINATELY MATERIALIST INTERPRETATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. NEW CULTURAL FORMS EMERGED, INCLUDING THE POP MUSIC OF THE ENGLISH BAND THE BEATLES, WHICH RAPIDLY EVOLVED TO SHAPE AND REFLECT THE YOUTH CULTURE’S EMPHASIS ON CHANGE AND EXPERIMENTATION. THIS WAS ACCELERATED AFTER 1964, WHEN THE BEATLES WERE INTRODUCED TO CANNABIS IN A NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM BY BOB DYLAN, ANOTHER YOUTH CULTURE ICON. A NUMBER OF COUNTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES SPRANG UP WHERE THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE ONE’S POTENTIAL, FREEDOM TO CREATE ONE’S SELF, FREEDOM OF PERSONAL EXPRESSION, FREEDOM FROM SCHEDULING, FREEDOM FROM RIGIDLY DEFINED ROLES AND HIERARCHICAL STATUSES WERE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED. ADDITIONALLY THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WISHED TO MODIFY CHILDREN’S EDUCATION SO THAT IT DIDN’T DISCOURAGE AN AESTHETIC SENSE, LOVE OF NATURE, PASSION FOR MUSIC, DESIRE FOR REFLECTION, OR STRONGLY MARKED INDEPENDENCE. IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THE LARGEST GROWTH YEARS FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM WAS THE 60’S - IF YOU READ THE BACK OF OUR ORDER OF SERVICE YOU WILL SEE A REFLECTION OF THIS TIME PERIOD IN OUR OWN MISSION STATEMENT. “TO COME TOGETHER IN PEACE, TO SEEK THE TRUTH IN LOVE, AND TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.” SO WHILE MANY PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION LOOK BACK ON THE 60’S NOW WITH SOME NOSTALGIA OF OUR MISSPENT YOUTH – LET ME REMIND EVERYONE THIS MORNING OF SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT. IT WASN’T ALL POT SMOKING AND FREE LOVE – ALTHOUGH THAT WASN’T BAD – WE

ACTUALLY DID DO SOME THINGS TO BE PROUD OF. IT WAS THE 1960'S COUNTERCULTURE THAT WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT. THE 1964 FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, WHICH HAD ITS ROOTS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH IS ONE EARLY EXAMPLE. AT BERKELEY A SOCIALLY PRIVILEGED GROUP OF STUDENTS BEGAN TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS HAVING INTERESTS AS A CLASS THAT WERE AT ODDS WITH THE INTERESTS AND PRACTICES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS CORPORATE SPONSORS. OTHER REBELLIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER BEEN COLLEGE STUDENTS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO COUNTERCULTURE DEVELOPMENT. THE BEATNIK CAFÉ' AND BAR SCENE WAS THE FORERUNNER TO THE FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT. OPPOSITION TO THE VIETNAM WAR BEGAN IN 1954 ON US COLLEGE CAMPUSES. STUDENT ACTIVISM BECAME A DOMINANT THEME AMONG THE BABY BOOMERS, GROWING TO INCLUDE MANY AMERICANS. EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERMENTS FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES RESULTED IN THE INDUCTION OF A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF POOR, WORKING-CLASS, AND MINORITY REGISTRANTS. BY 1967, A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS OPPOSED THE WAR. IS ANY OF THIS SOUNDING FAMILIAR? TODAY, WHO IS GOING TO IRAQ? LARGELY THE POOR, MIDDLE-CLASS AND MINORITY CITIZENS OF THE US – WITHOUT THE THREAT OF THE DRAFT – THE MIDDLE AND UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS DON'T SEEM ALL THAT CONCERNED. THEY WERE CONCERNED IN 1967 – AND AS WE HAVE ALL COME TO KNOW – IF YOU WERE RICH ENOUGH AND HAD ENOUGH INFLUENCE – YOU DIDN'T GO TO VIETNAM. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON DIDN'T SERVE BECAUSE HE WAS GRANTED AN EDUCATIONAL DEFERMENT AND PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH DIDN'T SERVE BECAUSE – WELL, BECAUSE HE DIDN'T. PERHAPS THE USE OF DRUGS DURING THE 60'S CANNOT BE VIEWED AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT – BUT THE EXPERIMENTATION WITH LSD AND OTHER PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS CERTAINLY INFLUENCED PHILOSOPHY, ART, MUSIC, AND STYLES OF DRESS DURING THOSE YEARS. KEN KESSEY, TIMOTHY LEARY, ALLEN GINSBERG AND JACK KEROUAC WERE ALL

ICONS OF THE COUNTERCULTURE MOVEMENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STILL INFLUENCED BY THEM TODAY. BEGINNING IN SAN FRANCISCO IN THE MID 1960S, A NEW CULTURE OF “FREE LOVE” AROSE, WITH MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE EMBRACING THE HIPPIE ETHOS AND PREACHING THE POWER OF LOVE AND THE BEAUTY OF SEX AS A NATURAL PART OF ORDINARY LIFE – THIS WAS, OF COURSE, NEARLY 20 YEARS BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF AIDS. BY THE START OF THE 1970S – IT WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR COLLEGES TO ALLOW CO-EDUCATIONAL HOUSING WHERE MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS MINGLED FREELY. THIS ASPECT OF THE COUNTERCULTURE CONTINUES TO THIS VERY DAY. I SUSPECT OUR TEENAGERS TODAY HAVE NO IDEA THAT THEY HAVE THE HIPPIES TO THANK FOR CO-ED DORMS. THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS FULL-TIME HOMEMAKERS IN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY WAS CHALLENGED IN 1963, WHEN AMERICAN FEMINIST BETTY FRIEDAN PUBLISHED THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE, GIVING MOMENTUM TO THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT. THERE WOULD BE NO “VAGINA MONOLOGUES” WERE IT NOT FOR THOSE BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS WOMEN OF THE 60’S WHO PROTESTED THE STATUS QUO FOR WOMEN AND BURNED THEIR BRAS. BELIEVE IT OR NOT – THE COUNTERCULTURE MOVEMENT WERE THE FIRST TO GRASP THE EARLY ANALYSES OF THE REALITY AND THE IMPORT OF THE HUBBERT PEAK OIL PREDICTION. MORE BROADLY THEY SAW THAT THE DILEMMAS OF ENERGY DERIVATION AND WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR GEO-POLITICS, LIFESTYLE, ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER DIMENSIONS OF MODERN LIFE. THE HIPPIES CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE “CLEAN WATER ACT OF 1977. THEY BROUGHT PUBLIC AWARENESS AND CONCERN FOR CONTROLLING WATER POLLUTION LED TO ENACTMENT OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972. AS AMENDED IN 1977, THIS LAW BECAME COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE CLEAN WATER ACT. THE ACT ESTABLISHED THE BASIC STRUCTURE FOR REGULATING DISCHARGES OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE WATERS OF THE US. THE ACT MADE IT UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO DISCHARGE ANY POLLUTANT FROM A POINT SOURCE INTO NAVIGABLE WATERS, UNLESS A PERMIT WAS

OBTAINED UNDER ITS PROVISIONS. CERTAINLY THE COUNTERCULTURE MOVEMENT OF THE 60S INFLUENCED MUSIC IN THIS COUNTRY – WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS VERY DAY. DURING THE 1960S, BRITAIN’S NEW GENERATION OF BLUES ROCK GAINED POPULARITY IN ITS HOMELAND AND CULT FAME IN THE US. FOLK SINGERS LIKE PETER, PAUL & MARY AND BOB DYLAN INFLUENCED THE BRITISH GROUPS, AND POPULAR MUSIC BECAME MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THE COUNTERCULTURE. PROTEST SINGERS LIKE ARLO GUTHRIE AND PETE SEEGER INFLUENCED AN ENTIRE GENERATION – THOUGH NOT UNHEARD OF BEFORE THE 1960S, THE IDEA THAT POPULAR MUSIC COULD AND SHOULD LEAD SOCIAL CHANGE CAME INTO ITS OWN DURING THIS PERIOD. NEW MUSIC THAT HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THIS PERIOD INCLUDES HEAVY METAL, PUNK ROCK, ELECTRONIC MUSIC AND HIP HOP.

IN A 1986 ESSAY ENTITLED FROM SATORI TO SILICON VALLEY, CULTURAL HISTORIAN THEODORE ROSZAK POINTS OUT THAT APPLE COMPUTER EMERGED FROM WITHIN THE WEST COAST COUNTERCULTURE. ROSZAK OUTLINES THE APPLE COMPUTER’S DEVELOPMENT AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE TWO STEVES (STEVE WOZNAK AND STEVE JOBS, THE APPLE’S DEVELOPERS) INTO BUSINESSMEN. LIKE THEM, MANY EARLY COMPUTING AND NETWORKING PIONEERS – AFTER DISCOVERING LSD AND ROAMING THE CAMPUSES OF UC BERKELEY, STANFORD, AND MIT IN THE LATE 1960S AND EARLY 70S – WOULD EMERGE FROM THIS CASTE OF SOCIAL MISFITS TO SHAPE THE MODERN WORLD. THE COUNTERCULTURE HAD REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SCIENCES, THE TRADES, BUSINESS AND LAW. MANY COUNTERCULTURE PARTICIPANTS WERE STABLE, DEDICATED AND PERSISTENT.

MUCH WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE AREA OF HUMAN INTERACTION WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – IN CONNECTION WITH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGIES, COMMUNITY PLANNING, AND PARKS. WHILE AD HOC ACTION GROUPS SPRANG UP FREQUENTLY, USUALLY FADING AWAY JUST AS QUICKLY, SOME ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS ONGOING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION – OR NGOS - DEDICATED TO WORKING

TOWARD PARTICULAR GOALS. THE COUNTERCULTURE GAVE RISE TO MANY LASTING NGOS.

FOR GOOD OR FOR ILL – THE LEGACY OF THE 1960S COUNTERCULTURE IS STILL ACTIVELY CONTESTED IN DEBATES THAT ARE SOMETIMES CALLED “CULTURE WARS.” IN AN ARTICLE FROM THE UTNE READER – ONE NON-COUNTERCULTURE YOUNG MAN WROTE: “FROM THE GREAT GYRATIONS OF THE COUNTERCULTURE WOULD COME A MOVEMENT DEDICATED TO THE GREENING OF AMERICA. WHILE MANY ONCE-ARDENT ADVOCATES OF RADICAL IDEAS NOW LIVE IN THE SUBURBS AND VOTE REPUBLICAN, OTHERS HAVE HELD FAST TO THE DREAM OF CREATING A NEW KIND OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AND THEY’VE BEEN JOINED BY FRESH STREAMS OF YOUNGER IDEALISTS.” I AGREE – THERE MOST CERTAINLY – DURING THE PAST FORTY YEARS – BEEN MANY YOUNGER IDEALISTS WHO HAVE TAKEN UP THE MANTLE FOR A GENTLER, KINDER AMERICA. I LIKE TO THINK THAT MANY OF THEM ARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS. BUT THE YOUNGER IDEALISTS HAVE DIFFERENT BATTLES TO FIGHT – NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS “FEAR.” SECURITY ISSUES ARE VERY REAL. MY GENERATION COULD AFFORD TO BE RISK TAKERS AND BOLD BECAUSE WE HAD THE SECURITY OF THE WORLD WAR II GENERATION TO PICK US UP WHEN WE FELL. OUR YOUNG IDEALISTS DO NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF SECURITY. FOR ALL OF OUR IDEALISM IN THE 60S – MANY FROM THAT GENERATION WHO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE TODAY - HAVE DONE AN ABYSMAL JOB OF CREATING A PEACEFUL WORLD IN 2007. THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR YOUTHFUL GOALS AND DREAMS FOR A BETTER AMERICA. IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO REMIND THEM. SO THIS MORNING – MY SERMON IS A CALL TO ACTION. OLD HIPPIES AND YOUNG HIPPIES UNITE! WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF – AND IT WILL – LET’S MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD. IDEALISM IS NOT A DIRTY WORD. IT WAS – AFTERALL – WHAT THE COUNTERCULTURE MOVEMENT WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT. AND WE’RE NEVER TOO OLD TO DREAM....SO BE IT.

**SOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PAPER:
“COUNTERCULTURE OF THE 1960’S - WIKIPEDIA**