

—Slug:..... COMM-0859.bratt.NoKings3.0_Bratt
—Contributor..... Joyce Marcel
—Contributor email..... joyrand@sover.net
—For section..... News
—Format..... News - byline and dateline
—Dateline..... Brattleboro
—Article Number:..... 43402



Notes from editor (not for publication):

Thanks, Joyce.



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Still no kings

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Brattleboro march draws thousands in nationwide protest
3 — and calls for deeper community connections beyond the
4 streets

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 “Good trouble” is the phrase coined by the late U.S. Rep.
7 John Lewis to describe the kind of protests designed to bring
8 about positive social change.

9 Close to 3,000 people gathered in Brattleboro to do just
10 that on March 28, joining in a No Kings National Day of
11 Nonviolent Action march on Main Street, part of a worldwide

12 protest against the corruption, cruelty, war-making, racism, and
13 fascism many people believe President Donald Trump's
14 administration has brought to America.

15 They were among more than 8 million people who
16 participated in 3,300 protests across the nation. This was the third
17 national No Kings rally and was the largest day of protest in U.S.
18 history. Approximately 50 protests were organized in Vermont
19 alone.

20 People of all ages and from all walks of life gathered in
21 the sunny cold on both sides of the muddy Whetstone River,
22 which separates the Preston Lot on Flat Street from the
23 Brattleboro Food Co-op parking lot. As a drone hovered overhead
24 documenting the activities, they listened to rousing music by
25 Bard Owl, jumped and danced to directions from Peter Gould,
26 and sang protest songs with the Good Trouble Street Choir.

27 Then, led by musicians, they formed a long line and
28 marched across the Whetstone, down Main Street, and circled
29 back again.

30 One way to measure the size of the march? Those at the
31 head of the parade began walking across the pedestrian bridge at
32 10:26 a.m. Those bringing up the rear didn't finish passing by
33 until 11 a.m.

34 Some of the marchers wore costumes. Many were draped
35 in U.S. flags. Most carried protest signs. They ranged in age from
36 babies and toddlers to nonagenarians.

37 Some marchers wore leg braces, some came on crutches
38 and canes, some were pushed in wheelchairs, some leaned on
39 walkers, some walked in groups, some pushed strollers filled with
40 young children, and some men carried toddlers on their
41 shoulders.

42 No speeches took place, but the signs carried by the
43 marchers told the whole story — and then some.

44 One protester held a sign with no words — simply a
45 photograph of Trump and his wife, First Lady Melania Trump,
46 socializing with notorious sex offenders Jeffrey Epstein and

47 Ghislaine Maxwell. Another's sign read, "Arrest the Pedophile
48 King."

49 "No Wars" was a popular message. So was a photo of
50 Trump with the caption, "He is the enemy within."

51 And Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) got
52 plenty of attention with signs like "Crush ICE."

53 One man's sign featured a cartoon by Vermont illustrator
54 Shaun Braley depicting the Statue of Liberty lying on the ground,
55 shot and bleeding, while a thug wearing an ICE armband stands
56 over her with a smoking gun saying, "Fucking bitch."

57 (The phrase called back to a reaction by federal agents
58 captured on body-cam footage after ICE Officer Jonathan Ross
59 shot Renée Good in the face on the street in Minneapolis.)

60 One man carried a large sign with the headline "Know
61 Your Parasites," above three photos labeled "Deer Tick," "Dog
62 Tick" and, under a picture of Trump, "Luna Tick."

63 A sign spelled out "MAGA" — the acronym for Trump's
64 slogan, "Make America Great Again," replaced with the phrase
65 "Morons Are Governing America."

66 Another man carried a sign offering "free balls for
67 members of Congress who lost theirs."

68 One sign, maybe tongue-in-cheek, simply said, "You
69 know things are bad when a straight white man makes a sign."

70 Another said, "If Kamala had won, we'd be at brunch."

71 A man in a blown-up Trump suit fought a pretend sword
72 battle with a man in a blown-up American eagle suit.

73 And someone carried a poster with a quote from Thomas
74 Paine, a hero of the American Revolution, reminding the
75 protestors that "in America the law is king."

76 **A search for common ground**

77 After the march, protestors were invited to join one of six
78 breakout community discussions held around town. Among
79 them: "Is Brattleboro Ready for ICE?," "Protecting Elections,
80 Saving Democracy," and "Young People and Political Power."

81 State Rep. Emilie Kornheiser (D-Windham-7), now in her
82 ninth year in the Legislature, led a group discussion on
83 “Relationships and Conversations: Politics in Small-Town
84 America.”

85 Keyed up by the march and in tears for much of her
86 introduction, Kornheiser explained that new activists have been
87 joining activists from the 1970s up through more contemporary
88 protest movements like Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter,
89 and #MeToo to protest Trump and fascism.

90 But it is not enough to simply come out, protest, and
91 then go home, Kornheiser said — activists need relational
92 organizing, “because it works.”

93 “We need to be learning from each other,” she said.
94 “Through this last, very intense year, I think there have been a lot
95 of opportunities for solidarity and for us to come together.”

96 She said that when she is “despairing of the world,” she
97 has a plan.

98 “I come into town, or I go for a walk on my dirt road and
99 I see my neighbors, or I see the tulips which are coming so soon,
100 and it all feels possible again because we have each other and
101 we’re here,” Kornheiser said.

102 Building communities and hashing out community
103 relations present a great opportunity for people to come together
104 and figure out the next steps.

105 “There was definitely a period this fall where I would
106 wake up and feel so filled with doom that [I’d say to myself] ‘I’m
107 just gonna cook for two hours instead of working,’” Kornheiser
108 said.

109 One thing that’s hard about the fear is “that we totally
110 forget that we’re all neighbors,” she added.

111 “We put up lawn signs, and we wear t-shirts, and we
112 forget to talk to each other,” she said.

113 People also stop going to some shops and severing
114 connections with car mechanics because “the people who own
115 [these businesses] might feel differently politically than we do,”

116 she added. "And we have long-standing friendships that might
117 fray at the edges."

118 "We can't afford to act like that," Kornheiser said.

119 She asked participants to join in small groups and speak
120 deeply to one another about why their political convictions
121 moved them to gather in Brattleboro that morning.

122 "I want to remember joy," Kornheiser said. "I want to sit
123 down and eat dinner with people and be there the next morning
124 when someone needs me.

125 "I don't want to just meet at the protest and then go
126 home again, because I'm lonely," she said. "I can't afford to be
127 lonely anymore. And I don't think any of you can either, right?"

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

128

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

129

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

130

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

131

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

132

###END LOGLINE###