

Paper Mache for 3-28-25 by David Read

I was reminded on a couple of occasions this past week about the power of music to elevate, enhance, deepen or amplify the emotions of special moments in our lives if we open our hearts and allow it in. At our last Yuba Sutter Rotary Night Club meeting, one of our members shared a story about something he'd recently experienced. It had to do with profiling someone and then learning that maybe we don't know everything there is to know about that person. Someone who seems one way and demonstrates an abruptly negative attitude who then shows a random act of kindness. During a discussion about current events, my friend tied it all together by performing an old Kris Kristofferson song called "Here Comes that Rainbow Again." It's a simple song, with the following lyrics:

The scene was a small roadside café. The waitress was sweeping the floor. Two truck drivers drinking their coffee and two Okie kids by the door. "How much are them candies?" They asked her. "How much have you got?" She replied. "We've only a penny between us." "Them's two for a penny," She lied. One truck driver called to the waitress After the kids went outside. "Them candies ain't two for a penny." "So what's it to you," she replied. In silence they finished their coffee
And got up and nodded goodbye. She called, "Hey, you left too much money."
"So what's it to you," they replied.

The song had a calming effect on the group who had been discussing the madness we see every day in the news like wars, the cost of goods, and politics. It reminded us to do our best, in these challenging times and to be good to one another. Kindness and civility are all around us as if we look for them.

Also, this past week, I had the difficult experience of comforting one's child following the loss of the other parent. My children's mother passed away and, on my way to see my daughter who lives in Oakland and give her a comforting hug, I was listening to Jackson Browne's live acoustic album. He's well known for his introspective songwriting, often weaving themes of love and loss into his music with poetic depth and emotional sincerity. Some are meditations on mortality, the fleeting nature of human connections, the pain of saying goodbye, and the longing for what once was. Every song seemed to have a message suitable for the occasion and the unadorned performances left me teary-eyed as they triggered so many memories.

We met up at Nut Tree Plaza in Vacaville for lunch. We sat in the central playground area talking while watching the wonderful carousel go round and round, just like in the song "Circle Game" by Joni Mitchell. I popped it up on my phone to share with my daughter.

And the seasons they go round and round, And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time, We can't return, we can only look behind
From where we came, And go round and round and round In the circle game.

Life imitating art imitating life imitating art. Ah yes, the circle game that, like it or not, we all must play. More tears flowed. It was cathartic. Gotta love those singer/songwriters. Maybe only

kindness matters after all. Leave it to music to elevate the emotions of the moment. It triggers memories but helps us organize our emotions. Leave it to music to accent and expand those special moments in our lives.