

On Mon, Nov 12, 2018 at 7:12 AM Pebbles Trippet <pebblestrippet@gmail.com> wrote:
PT - Can we begin with a little thumbnail sketch of your life?

LC - I was a quiet, introverted book worm, socially awkward and drawn to adults, rather than other children. These days I still like the shadows. I call myself a storyteller. I'm a grandmother now, and have been blessed with a wonderful partner, my husband Rocci. We hope to have our permits for a small dry farm in Warren Creek this season, our little piece of "Mom & Pop" Heaven, where I can watch the plants grow and write stories while I'm not watering. And I want to set up a Veterans Retreat in Humboldt County, the Fox House.

PT Where did you grow up and what were your influences?

LC I was born in Eureka 1960. My parents bought the home I live in today in 1967. Rocci and I bought it from my mom in 1996, just as Prop 215 was about to pass. Within a few years we had 3 children and a 10 x 10 indoor grow.

We were close with our neighbors, Len and Nita, a WWII paratrooper and his wife, a true "War Bride". Growing up with a war hero as a surrogate grandfather under the shadow of the Vietnam War brought to our lives as children many of the big conversations sometimes best saved for more mature souls. I remember in high school when a couple of students first learned of The Holocaust in history class. I'd known about it all my life.

Len and his "Band of Brothers", Fox and Easy Company, would always talk about the war, recounting each battle, finishing each others' sentences, paying respect to those that didn't make it. I especially remember Roy Zerbe -- he had taken a bullet to the face and lost part of his jaw. He was so very kind and friendly that the gruesome injury was never noticed. As a child I wondered why such a nice man had to be a soldier. As an adult I know that soldiers have many qualities, kindness just one of them.

PT What are the most memorable things that happened to you early in life?

LC The Vietnam War. Only now do I fully realize the impact of The Nightly News. In 1967 when we settled in this house, the big living room became our vortex and when the news came on we knew to be quiet and pay attention, and when it was over, the adults talked about the War.

By this time, the War was 12 years along, and I was 7. I learned words like draft, lottery and deploy. I saw Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy get assassinated and the first inter-racial kiss happened on Star Trek -- that gave them something to talk about.

For the next 8 years the War raged on. I read The Red Badge of Courage, The Pearl, To Kill a Mockingbird, and everything by Pearl Buck. My favorite still is The Living Reed, about Korea. I was a bookworm. Steely Dan was my jam.

In 1975, the War was officially over. I was 15 and the Moscone Privacy Act was passed, decriminalizing or reducing small amounts of cannabis to a misdemeanor from a felony. Soldiers were returning. Everyone knew someone who died, or was still missing, just left, or was coming home, and nobody came home the same as when they left for Vietnam. I went on to have three relationships with Vietnam Veterans throughout my 20s. I loved them all.

There was also the death of my best friend's brothers. It was such a heavy time, but eventually love got her through. This was my first memorable experience as an empath.

PT Can you explain empath and how that quality relates to you? Isn't empathy where you can put yourself in another's situation?

LC The emotion of feeling another persons pain, past the point of sympathy, and hold in your heart the intention to care, to love, to help or to bring about change to relieve that pain.

PT Was your first experience with cannabis positive, how did that influence you?

LC Like many teenagers in Humboldt County (Class of '78), I got high a few times in high school. The quality was sketchy and alcohol was much more available. If cannabis had been more accepted, like it has been with my children, alcohol would not have had such a presence in our lives. I still have a drink occasionally. But I smoke cannabis every day and generally all day.

My regular cannabis use started with my first post high school relationship, 1979. He'd been in Special Operations in Vietnam; the war had been over 4 years by then (for some). He and a buddy had some monster plants behind their house. It was medicine, for sure. The relationship was fairly short, but a lifelong influence.

In 1982 I met and fell in love with another Vietnam Vet. I spent the next two years with him on a small island in the South Pacific. We were getting our weed from Northern Cali and our sticks from Thailand. This was a very spiritual time and a lifelong influence.

PT Who has been your greatest influence as an adult?

LC Dennis Peron. He honed me as an advocate. He inspired me and motivated me to be a better person. He mentored me to use my resources to support marginalized patients, people who would get no cannabis if not for the compassion of farmers. He gave me guidance that I would have never gotten from my Father. We became family to one another. He counseled with me on legal matters, and with his guidance, I managed to get charges dropped after being arrested in Los Angeles about 8 years ago, and subsequently my confiscated property, a pound and a half of water hash, returned to me. He gave me the courage to insist on a jury of my peers, and not plea down. "Trust in the jury. You didn't commit a crime."

And he gave me the spirit in my garden. My backyard gardens are inspired by Dennis Peron's "Garden of Social Change". During my travels and adventures with Dennis, we made a conscious effort to spread his garden, piece by piece, around the community, up and down the State. I brought many people to see Dennis, and among them he found a truly loyal and devoted friend, Cara Cordoni, who helped us both through an amazing chapter. I had the honor to share Dennis' last decade, and I am better for it.

I'm sure that many people reading this now can say they have a piece of Dennis Peron's Garden of Social Change. Dennis' home in San Francisco, the Castro Castle, has been a catalyst for Social Change for over 5 decades. The outdoor garden walls are covered with fresco style murals of cannabis pioneers and the oval oak table in the kitchen has seen so much action it should be on a historical register.

The Garden of Social Change is not one place, it is every place. It is not mine, it is everyone's. We must tend our spiritual gardens or they too will die. Nurturing the path of Change so that those who follow us will have smooth transitions to a fair and safe society is the responsibility of us as elders.

PT Who do you see beyond Dennis, carrying that spiritual torch?

LC Only the celebrity, charisma and heart of someone like Willie Nelson, Tommy Chong or Don Carlos can fill those shoes. Dennis had a magic about him...I liken it to a reverse reiki, you just got near him and you felt like being a better person. With so much anger and hate in our world, we should be rejoicing in our artists, the brave celebrities who weren't afraid to write a song, make a movie, or go to jail for cannabis. We should all be thanking the Old Folks, we should be celebrating their sage, and appreciate their role in the front lines of cannabis use. We should be celebrating not their celebrity--they already have fame--we should be celebrating their soul. These three gentlemen together can reach almost any demographic, and that gives them the wings of angels. Cannabis is the common denominator, the human endo-cannabinoid system makes it so, regardless of race or sexual choice. And I do believe, as the green tide moves across the planet, everyone from housewives to historians will be reading about the roots of cannabis, the fight to keep compassion alive, and the spirit of the sages.

PT How do we keep the culture alive, in transition from criminality to regulation; compartmentalization; cultural cleansing; zoning bans; new misdemeanors; etc?

LC I am truly at a loss. Things we were promised would happen, didn't. Things we feared would happen, did. I'm really grateful that people were released from prison, but equally disappointed at all the new ways to break the law. A law that fails to protect patients dependent on the compassion of others should have never been drafted.

PT Current cannabis laws--all of them--are not protecting qualified patients or small farmers, considering the 6-plant personal use limit, widespread cultivation bans, and

new misdemeanors buried in cannabis tax law. How do we secure Ma & Pa small family farms comprising a majority of home grows whose whole way of life is threatened?

LC Only by grandfathering them in. These Farmers deserve to be considered individually, based on criteria to be determined by a Council. These folks should not lose their way of life.

Our government has slammed the door on cannabis for decades, encouraging prohibition behaviors that made our country unhealthy. Our government has created a profitable business of persecuting people of color to support their privatized prisons. Our government has allowed its people to suffer from a multitude of treatable illnesses. Our government has denied our Veterans the one medicine that can help the most. Now our government wants to destroy a community of people who pioneered the supply of desperately needed cannabis for hundreds of thousands of patients for the last 60+ years. Our government should be celebrating these pioneers, giving them historical register for their small gardens and permitting variances not allowed to new corporate cannabis. Instead our government fucked the small farmer by eliminating the Five Year/ One Acre Delay on Corporate Cannabis Registrations, promised in Prop 64. Now something needs to be done about it.

Allowing these small traditional farmers to cultivate compassion gardens, operated on sponsorships, is my best idea, but that is.....against the law.

PT Yeah, how ironic. Just last month Governor Jerry Brown vetoed the new Compassion Law passed by the CA Legislature, supposedly because it was inconsistent with some aspect of state law. He probably doesn't know enough to realize he just killed the bill that the community universally rallied around and would keep the lifestyle of the little people alive.

PT What are the most important decisions you've made in your life?

LC To choose love. To marry my husband and create a beautiful family. To follow my instinct as an empath to provide my resources to less fortunate. To embrace change. To re-evaluate the use of my property and put it to use in the service of others.

For instance, I want to host Veterans for respite. I'm remodeling the house next door, The Fox House, for that purpose. My vision is to open my doors for one week, possibly two, every month for Veterans from everywhere to visit Humboldt County. I want to offer a warm and welcoming environment for Veterans with PTSD and associated issues to potentially explore their options with Cannabis, especially as an alternative to opiate use.

If we had just two visitors per month, we could change hundreds of lives. Not just the 24 visitors that year, but all the partners and children, the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, bosses and best friends and even the home community of these Veterans who can benefit from a week away in Humboldt County.

I am also considering the families. In many circumstances a spouse, sibling, parent or even adult child of a veteran may need to accompany them on their visit, not only as a caregiver, but as a companion on retreat with all the potential to extend the healing experience after returning home.

I'm not suggesting that I'm qualified to run a 'program'. What I'm putting in place is an opportunity for a break, a semi peaceful respite in Humboldt County for people who've served their country. Surfing, fishing, forests and beaches included. That's the really good medicine I have to offer. I can't do it alone. No person succeeds without support. I'm going to need some help from folks like Ryan Miller, Sean Kiernan, Stephen Mandile, Pierre Carbonneau and the local Veterans to make The Fox House come alive, but I know it will.

PT What about guns and cannabis?

LC I cant help but think that many, many teenagers would be alive today if cannabis was an acceptable alternative to the gun obsession and violent video games that our youth are allowed to immerse themselves in. I believe that many of the mass shooters may have reevaluated their decision if they had taken the time to smoke a joint, calm down, and have a moment to reflect on what they are thinking they will do. I also believe that many of our precious Veterans would be alive today if they could have picked up a joint instead of a gun in times of despair.

I would like to see the LAPD.... or any community, hold a gun buy back.... where they collect neighborhood guns in a parking lot somewhere and give out grocery cards in return.... but this time they take all that confiscated cannabis that they are sitting on and offer it out as the trade-in incentive for the guns..... and let there be Peace on Earth

PT Recently you hosted a small gathering here in the Garden for Social Change with Grow Sisters doing an Interview, Skunk Mag preparing for the Emerald Cup issue, Yoshi from Japan with his 'Free the Nipple' button, several artist-activists, Veterans, etc. A Cannabis Council came up as something needed to fill the void. We likened it to the unifying force of Native American Councils. What is your take?

LC I guess we are back to Square One, creating a grass roots organization to serve the people. We desperately need to take care of our seasoned farmers and compassion patients. By creating a legitimized system of compassion gardens and providers, both could be served. The Big Guys aren't going to be able to sell anything to these patients anyway, because these patients can't afford cannabis. So we need to find a way to grow what is needed and get it to the people who need it. The New World Order of Cannabis is only for people with disposable income.

Every community should be seeking to create their own Cannabis Council, preparing for the future when once again communities can influence government. Each community should be readying themselves for a Statewide Council, where we can be represented

in a manner that the current system has failed to provide. Every community should be recognizing and supporting their own heritage farmers and seeking out those farmers who can and will take the risk to grow a few plants for the poor folks, because poverty makes you no less of a patient in need. More than 6 plants is considered commercial. But this is for compassion, not commerce.

PT What is your perspective going forward?

Last February a week after Dennis Peron died, I had a heart attack. Luckily I arrived at the hospital just in time to die in front of a cardiologist. We were discussing the procedure when all of a sudden I was watching from above and I remember the doctor saying, "There she goes." I watched as they worked on me without ever thinking I better get back in my body. I was just savoring the moment, the out of body euphoria--my "soul bubble"--until the shock! After the resuscitation I was out. Over the next few days in the ICU I meditated on my experience. I set new boundaries so that I can own more of my time to fulfill creative and philanthropical desires. I work intently on my stories so that my children have them. I make a conscious effort to be the woman I want to be, not the woman people expect me to [be.pt](#)