Reflections and Changes after (Almost) Three Decades On the Air
by Dr. Bob Hieronimus, Ph.D.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of 21st Century Radio®, I find myself reflecting on my approach to the program that I have hosted and produced for so long, and deciding to make some changes. Nothing drastic, like taking the program off the air or anything like that! Just changing my approach to the insane amount of preparation I do for each guest, which limits the total number of guests we are able to feature on the show. I’ll explain my decision after first reviewing some of our history.

George Noory, host of Coast to Coast AM, said to me a few years ago: “Thank you for the format you’ve given us for years -- WAY longer than me. Without you around, WE wouldn’t be the same.”

When we began this show way back in 1988, it was a year after our daughter Anna was born, and we were the only radio show introducing unexplained and alternative subjects to the mainstream. At that time, we were the only show in town -- or in the country, to be more precise. To the best of our knowledge, 21st Century Radio® is the longest-running paranormal-themed radio show on the air in the history of the United States. Long John Nebel’s show on WOR in New York ran for 24 years, and we are closing in on 30. A few years after we launched, a handful of other shows like ours followed, like Laura Lee and Jeff Rense. Art Bell had been on the air earlier than all of us, but he did not turn to the paranormal theme until the mid-1990s. In these early days, we were one of the very few outlets in radio where researchers in the paranormal and unexplained felt welcome to express their views and detail their research without ridicule. As George Noory, host of Coast to Coast AM, said to me a few years ago: “Thank you for the format you’ve given us for years -- WAY longer than me. Without you around, WE wouldn’t be the same.”
21st Century Radio® is unique in numerous ways, only one of them being our longevity. First we have the unique partnership between my wife Dr. Zohara Hieronimus and me. We both have extended experience in radio and TV, starting out as guest experts on hundreds of programs dealing with the paranormal, UFOs, alternative healing, alternative energies, etc. during the 1960s, 70s and early 80s. Both of us are students and researchers of the fields we report on, and those early contacts led to personal relationships with the leading researchers laying the foundations of knowledge in these areas. Almost all of those dear friends and co-workers have since passed into spirit, but that doesn’t mean we don’t still hear from them with more lessons!

21st Century Radio® is often a family affair. Above is my teenage daughter Maré making her radio debut while Anna and I listen at the American Radio Networks in 1990.

The AUM Is the Foundation of 21st Century Radio®

The second unique feature of 21st Century Radio® is its foundation in the AUM Esoteric Study Center. Created in 1969, AUM was the first study center in the country to achieve state certification. Both Zohara and I were founders and teachers at AUM, which was approved by the State of Maryland to grant certificates in the Occult Sciences, Mystic Arts, and Religious Metaphysics. The significance of the establishment accepting an institute of higher learning in “new age” instruction made headlines all over the world, as can be seen in the illustration below. Needless to say, in order to achieve state approval, we had to devise a very challenging curriculum. Of the many thousands of students who took courses with AUM, only 14 ever earned a full certificate of graduation! The AUM Esoteric Study Center remains active today with a small online course offering in holistic healing (www.aum-center.com), but its core curriculum was transferred into the programming mission of 21st Century Radio®. Thus, the AUM is alive and well 46 years later, with all of the same subjects still being discussed and debated on our radio program.
Breaking Paranormal News: Egyptian Age

In the early years of 21st Century Radio®, we were cognizant of being one of the only outlets for actual news on the strange and unexplainable, and we started to keep a tally of how many stories we broke. One year we counted over 100 stories that no one else in the media would touch. One of our favorite examples is the first time Dr. Robert Schoch appeared on our show in 1991. He has since returned over 15 times and become a dear friend, but on May 12, 1991, it was on 21st Century Radio® that he went public for the first time on the air with his geological findings that have changed the historical view on the age of the Sphinx, pre-dating it to before the accepted beginning of the Egyptian civilization thought responsible for building it. Dr. Zohara and I were particularly attracted to this research as we had recently returned from several expeditions to Egypt in the 1970s and 1980s to establish Baltimore’s Sister-City relationship with Luxor and Alexandria Egypt. We worked under the sponsorship of Baltimore’s Mayor William Donald Schaefer and Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat. In our meeting with President Sadat just before his assassination, we had the chance to personally discuss with him the importance of the pyramid and eye in the triangle symbolism on the Reverse of America’s Great Seal -- an image that interested President Sadat a great deal, and the subject of my newly-completed doctoral dissertation.

Zohara and I traveled to Egypt and Israel several times, as seen in these photos from our 1981 trip. Top and bottom photos show the courageous and athletic Zohara with our hundreds of pounds of metal equipment luggage, and heavy 1970s-era film and video gear. Note my Orioles baseball cap in the middle photo as we pose like tourists on a camel in front of the pyramids.
Today on 21st Century Radio® we continue to not shy away from topics other hosts consider too controversial, as long as we see substance behind them. A more recent example was our program on January 25, 2015 when we proudly unveiled Nick Pope’s disinformation campaign against Peter Robbins and Larry Warren in an attempt to obfuscate their version of the Bentwaters Air Force Base UFO encounter. After former British Military of Defense employee Nick Pope politely declined our several invitations to answer Peter Robbins’ accusations in a live forum, we instead sought out two other critics of Pope’s disinformation tactics, Colin Andrews and Robert Salas, who joined Peter Robbins in reviewing the deliberate deception of the MOD and people like Pope from their first-hand experiences.

Breaking Paranormal News: UFOs

Tackling Uncomfortable Topics: The Coming Climate Catastrophe

Another topic that was a cause for ridiculing 21st Century Radio® in the early days was our insistence from the beginning that coming weather and earth changes were a serious threat. Now known as “climate change” this topic dominates the mainstream news, but back in 1988, we were labeled as extremists by our colleagues in the media for putting any credence into the claims that human pollution was going to change global weather patterns. Our certainty of these coming wide-scale changes can be dated back as far as 1968-1969 when I completed my “Apocalypse” mural at Johns Hopkins University based on dreams and waking visions I’d had of the destruction coming. Zoh and I had close friends in the CIA and former OSS who warned us that those in the upper echelons of government knew for certain, as early as the 1970s, that wide-scale destruction was imminent if humanity’s patterns of consumption and waste were not curtailed while there was still time. They were not curtailed. Today climate change is undeniable and reported on daily, much to the dismay of Exxon who provided millions of dollars to deny global warming. Exxon’s profit-driven goal of delaying the policy changes that would cut into their fossil-fuel business effectively prevented America from preparing for the flooding and fires that are currently consuming the shores of our country.

We became known as survivalists and extremists because we advocate preparedness for weather changes. We were “preppers” decades before the term became trendy. Here is one of many similar-sounding thank you letters we received from our listeners who appreciated that they were learning about these coming great changes only from us.

February 6, 2011
Dear Dr. Bob and Zoh,

“I first tuned into your 21st Century radio show in the late 1980s and listened every Sunday until I made the decision to leave Maryland in 1997 and build my residence in West Virginia. I still listen to you on occasion via the Internet. One of the reasons for this decision to move was all the info I heard on your programs regarding upcoming “earth changes.” I knew that if these things were to come to pass I wanted to be away from low-lying areas and places with lots of people. Thus I chose where I eventually built my home.

“Unfortunately, these predictions are coming to pass and I have no question more negative things are in our immediate future. I believe Edgar Cayce termed this the “birth pangs” of a new age for earth.

“So in essence, I wish to thank you for being one of the few mediums for broadcasting topics that others won’t even consider touching. I especially am interested in the U.F.O./Alien topic and we all know what the traditional press has to say about that enigma. Keep up that good work.”

The Statue of Liberty going down in flames as the flood waters rise up. The black man reaches for the torch of liberty before it is extinguished, and the American eagle transforms itself into a phoenix. This is a small detail from my 1968-69 mural “The Apocalypse” located in Levering Hall at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Fully restored in 2015, this 2,700 square foot mural is full of the dreams and waking visions that plagued me in those days, resulting in an extensive exploration of the theme of the cyclic nature of history. Great and advanced civilizations have risen and have fallen before on this planet Earth. They will rise and fall again, and again. That is the message of “The Apocalypse.” History is not linear; it is cyclical, and far, far older than we are currently being taught in school.
Giving Away Knowledge For Free

Soon after the beginning of 21st Century Radio® we adopted the motto “Where Knowledge Comes First.” From the very first program, we made a point of awarding careful listeners with free prize copies of the books we were discussing on the air. A few years later we started treating the scholars and researchers who joined us as guests with the same kind of prize libraries of reference books. Recognizing that most scholars are poorly paid, and especially those in the “fringe” areas of research that we focus on — where most experts are actually spending money to pursue this research — we began a consistent effort of sharing all the books, videos, and DVDs, etc. with our guests as well as our listeners. We give everything away free, and we even pay for the postage. Over the decades we have awarded library-sized prizes to hundreds of our guests and members of our listening audience. Some of those libraries contained well over 100 items. Have you ever heard of any other radio show doing that? Our extreme generosity is simply in answer to a need: everyone needs to be educated, pure and simple, and we happen to be a storehouse for a vast amount of educational materials that are hard to find elsewhere. It is our mandate to share. See below for a sample letter detailing the packages that go out to guests after they appear on 21st Century Radio®, and one of the largest Prize Libraries we ever awarded, at 124 items!
Giving Away Our Radio Show For Free

Another way 21st Century Radio® is different from most other new paradigm programs is our insistence on providing the audio files of our programs on the Internet for free. Most of the other radio hosts who have developed national followings have turned their popularity into a successful business venture that includes charging a subscription fee to listen to their previous programs on the Internet. Here’s how one listener described her appreciation that 21stCenturyRadio.com has not gone this route:

June 7, 2012:
To Bob and Zoh Hieronimus:

“I am sending a letter to you and several other radio talk show hosts and newsletter writers. I have been listening to your free audio files and have to say “God Bless You” for keeping it free for listeners/readers. I am speaking not just for myself, but for others like me. I am a disabled woman who is living under the poverty level. I struggle with providing heat for myself, have no automobile, and I go to two Food Banks a month just to survive. Some people may say “Well, that’s not my problem, is it?” but isn’t it if we’re all working towards compassion for those who are less fortunate?

“Whitley Strieber and George Noory used to provide free broadcasts and archives but not any longer. Some talk shows hosts who charge complain of bandwidth costs, but would they still have to worry about bandwidth if listeners had to download the files instead of listen live? And there are some hosts who charge just to access the articles on their website.

“A few years ago, I Emailed paranormal host Jeff Rense and stated that a few radio talk show hosts had begun to charge for their audio files. Jeff’s words to me were “We here at the Jeff Rense show feel it’s a travesty to charge listeners to listen to the shows.” Two months later he began to charge. Nowadays, he does provide audio archives… from three years ago.

“Thank you and God bless you again, Dr. Bob and Dr. Zoe for the great shows hosts/writers who have compassion for people like us.”

What you may not know is that we avoid sponsorship of our radio show in order to remain in control of our programming. Paying for our show gives us total freedom. Indeed it is costly to produce a weekly show on a 50,000 watt station in the Baltimore/Washington market, but sponsors affect programming and water down controversial topics, and we are dedicated to providing a quality alternative education to our listeners and guests, no matter the cost.

Multiplex of Outside Interests

As I enter my 73rd year on this planet, hosting and producing 21st Century Radio® remains just one of my many “jobs.” I am first and foremost an artist, with scores of exhibits and murals around the Baltimore region, most recently, the 2015 restoration of the 2,700 square foot “Apocalypse” mural at Johns Hopkins University. I am a baseball fan and educator, and together with Zohara, reintroduced the history of Negro League Baseball to the media. We arranged the visit of an all-star team of former professional Negro League Baseball players to the White House where they met Vice President Gore, and on an earlier visit to meet President George Bush the First. We also assisted in persuading the Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame to belatedly elect a representative few of them to the HOF status they earned as professional baseball players.

I am a historian of America’s founding and the special symbolism chosen at that time. I am a supporter of the Native American influence on the founding fathers and Constitution, and my books on these subjects have been translated into Russian, German, Japanese, Spanish, and French, as seen in some of the book covers on the left. Most recently, our Lady Liberty radio interview series has been turned into a book for autumn 2016 release. Written with my co-author Laura E. Cortner, it’s called The Secret Life of Lady Liberty: Goddess in the New World.
Born a Rock and Roller at Heart

I was born a rock and roller at heart, and throughout high school and college, I sang all the time. From singing while delivering papers on my newspaper route, to pick up doowop groups on the neighborhood corner, to folk groups like The Blackwood Singers, The Vibratones, and The Hunters (the only names I can remember of the many groups I sang with), I have always loved to harmonize and been attracted to the free spirit and rebellious nature of rock and roll. Over the years, I have formed relationships with Jimi Hendrix and his family; Bob Marley’s family, especially Ziggy Marley; Graham Nash from Crosby, Stills, and Nash; Willie Nelson (yes, I got invited on the bus!), the Lovin’ Spoonful’s Steve Boone and John Sebastian; and the Beatles through my book *Inside the Yellow Submarine: The Making of the Beatles Animated Classic*. Speaking of George Noory earlier, while he may not provide his radio show audio archives for free, I know that many of my friends in the world of rock and roll are very grateful for his live on air overnight programming. Coast to Coast radio has provided many hours of interesting listening in the wee hours of the morning, a time when many rock and rollers are criss-crossing the country on their tour busses. Noory’s dedication to his work is admirable indeed, and that time slot is truly arduous to maintain.

**Ziggy, Graham and Willie**

Just a few of the extraordinary creative souls I’ve been privileged to meet in this lifetime. On the right Willie Nelson is looking through the mural guide to my “E Pluribus Unum” mural at the Lexington Market in Baltimore. To the right, some of the few relics I still possess from my folksinging days. To the right is our band shot for the Blackwood Singers. That’s me in the center with the big black nerdy eyeglasses, when I was still a “clean cut kid and been to college, too.” Above that is an article about our upcoming performances, and an ad in the newspaper for our appearance at the Blue Dog Cellar coffee house. In the overlay photo of me performing in full beard at the Grand Hall at Johns Hopkins University in 1975, you can see I’m no longer the clean cut kid!
Apocalyptic Warnings

I have often been accused of being a workaholic because I work 12-16 hours a day. It’s true that I work until I drop, but it’s not because I want to. I work around the clock because I have seen what is coming, and I am determined to do what little I can to save what I can. 21st Century Radio® was not created as a means of making a living. It was created to awaken our fellow sleeping humans before it is too late. Actually, I’ve known for a long time that it was already too late to reverse course, but I believe it may still be possible to prevent mega loss of life, down from hundreds of millions to maybe millions. Our focus is to inform as many as possible regarding the means for survival and recovery in the new world, coming in the decades ahead.

By the age of 23 I had discovered my reason for being on this planet in this lifetime. By the age of 24 I had completed my most important work, the “Apocalypse” mural at the Johns Hopkins University, which documents the visions revealed to me that our nation was well on its way to corporate takeover. The beautiful democratic republic established at our founding has become a corporate oligarchy. This “quiet” takeover, in which our corporately-controlled media has been complicit, has occurred simultaneously with the periodic climate and earth changes that Earth was due for. These changes have only been exacerbated by the mega-pollution of our waters, air and land by the corporate domination driven by profit over compassion and sustainability. All coastal cities are in serious jeopardy as Mother Nature begins to defend itself from humanity’s abuse. History is cyclical, not linear, and we can learn what is to come by looking at the past. “The Apocalypse” Mural Guide pictured above shows how humanity needs a wake up call to prepare for great climate changes.

Working On My Memoirs Ain’t Fun

For nearly a decade I have been slowly working my way through a re-reading of the daily journals I have kept since 1963. Keeping a journal is a habit I learned from Benjamin Franklin, and even though it is one of the tasks I dislike most about my day, I still recommend it highly to anyone. Journal-keeping is one of the best means of discovering who you are and why you have been privileged with the gift of a physical body in this lifetime. Journaling allows you to discover your purpose in life and assess the quality of your life journey. Reviewing your journals allows you to know whether you are growing or just sitting on a shelf. Students of the esoteric sciences are taught to do a daily life review where in the morning you resolve what you want or need to accomplish during the next 24 hours and by the end of the day you review the day’s progress. Consider whether you accomplished what you planned to in the morning and what you could have done better. In time you will see your progress and build on that. Repeating this process daily you will grow spiritually and learn how to live by the Golden Rule, and advance into higher consciousness.

Journaling is a daily struggle that never gets easier, but by doing it consistently for decades I’ve been allowed to see my long and short-comings. Without my journals I would have forgotten so much that I had -- and had not -- accomplished, and when I did and didn’t follow through with my life reviews. My journals are a real ego-leveler and have inspired me to work harder on becoming what Jesus Christ was all about, unconditional love—the key to his teachings and the way all humanity is evolving toward. In the future when humanity becomes the master over our emotions, we will become one people on one planet, and peace on earth will finally come about. Life reviews, meditation, and prayer, plus unselfish service to others will eventuate a peaceful world. The first step is establishing peace within ourselves before we can expect peace in the material world. One naturally gives birth to the other! Through the process of meditation (listening to God), prayer (talking with God) and service to others, we are doing the job we are here to do in our physical bodies. We need our physical bodies, and should treat them as our temples. Our physical bodies are the hands and feet of the deity, and we need them to serve on God’s behalf.
Past Decade Passed In a Blur

As revealed in my journals, the past ten years have been a blur. As soon as one major project was completed I’ve immediately begun another, with many overlapping. The publicity from one book, starts the ball rolling, and I can’t seem to keep up with the attention anymore. In 2005 my co-author Laura E. Cortner and I completed our book Founding Fathers, Secret Societies, the same year I designed and painted the first biodiesel artcar called the “Founding Fathers.”

These works attracted the attention of the History Channel, History-2, National Geographic, Discovery, Syfy, BBC, der Spiegel, FOX News, Persian BBC, German, Russian, Canadian TV and hundreds of radio shows around the planet where I’ve been interviewed about this best selling book that has been translated into German, Russian, French, and Spanish (see page 10). Our 2008 book United Symbolism of America continued this trend in the media, while simultaneously I worked on restoring my mural “A Little Help From Our Friends.”

In 2006 I was contacted by the Sunstar Diecast company to create an exact model of my VW bus that went to Woodstock and became an icon after being photographed there by the Associated Press, Life Magazine, and Rolling Stone. This limited edition collectors model was completed just in time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Woodstock in 2009 (see WoodstockBus.com).

In 2008 the “Founding Fathers” artcar was in an accident and required some redesign and renovation. When completed it was rechristened the “We the People” biodiesel artcar.

In 2012 and 2013, after many years of negotiating with the community, we successfully restored my 1974 “Bicentennial Mural.” We also enlarged and it and with the new design renamed it to become the “We the People” mural. Seen in the photo on the right, the “We the People” is on a five story building, and is approximately 1500 square feet. On the heels of this restoration, we immediately began negotiating with Johns Hopkins University to restore my 1968 “Apocalypse” mural at Johns Hopkins University, a task that took several years to navigate through all the red tape! We finally completed this renovation overhaul in the summer of 2015, while simultaneously completing the manuscript for my latest book with Laura E. Cortner, The Secret Life of Lady Liberty. Also simultaneously, my “Historic Views of Baltimore” mural needed a quick restoration before going on a year-long exhibit at the American Visionary Art Museum. The reproduction below shows the entire mural, which measures 24 feet long by four feet tall.

Artwork, Writing and TV Slicing Into Prep Time for Radio Show

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Negotiations are now in the works to restore my “E Pluribus Unum” mural at the Lexington Market, but first we have to complete a fully illustrated booklet interpreting the symbolism in the giant “Apocalypse” mural at Hopkins that has to be published in time for the April 2016 official tour. As you can see, there is never enough time to clean up, organize, and set aside finished projects. Chaos has resulted, and there is no end in sight.

As soon as there is an opening, I will return to writing my memoirs, which is why I began re-reading some of my journals in the first place. My next big book project will be my autobiography, and with the reflections and insights that came with my 73rd birthday, I realize I must prioritize my projects. This seems the opportune time to change my Virgo demands for perfection in regards to my self-imposed requirements of thoroughly reading, highlighting, and analyzing each and every book we discuss on 21st Century Radio®. It’s time to make some changes in how we prepare for the radio show.
When we first launched 21st Century Radio® in 1988, we were in the last 12 years of the 20th Century, and the name we chose for our futuristic radio show aptly described that we were way ahead of our time. As we reflect back today, 15 years into the 21st Century, our radio program is just one of hundreds of other radio shows online and on the airwaves talking about the unexplained and alternative subjects we specialize in. We are no longer the only show in town, but because of our decades of leadership in these subjects and our perfectionist approach, we remain unique. We will continue to strive for excellence and provide this educational service for as long as we can. Now that the radio show is one of many mediums in which we are operating, however, it makes sense to loosen up a bit on the rules and regulations of reading every single word before we talk to the author on the air. We’ll keep you posted on our progress as we make this adjustment. Stay tuned!

This brings me finally to the point I started at the beginning of this article. I am determined to try a new approach to how I prepare for 21st Century Radio® after all these years. With our intention being to give more authors an opportunity to appear on 21st Century Radio®, we have decided to try a more relaxed approach to a select number of books. While many of our guests will continue to receive the same exact thorough treatment described in these pages, I’m willing to try simply skimming other books, allowing us to feature more guests on a weekly basis presenting their unusual findings to the mainstream. Allowing some books on the air without giving them the thorough treatment, unfortunately, means I will not be learning quite as much as I have been used to. The fact that I love to learn is the ulterior motive I have always had in producing this show, and the reason I have taken so long to come to this decision. But the prospect of featuring many more guests on 21st Century Radio® makes me very happy. Some of these people have been waiting to get on the show literally for years. Changes in consciousness and climate are accelerating at exponential rates, and at this point, the more ideas and opinions we get out there circulating on the airwaves, the better. I don’t know if I’ll be able to stick to this new plan of preparing less for the radio show -- I am a perfectionist, after all! -- but I am determined to give it a try.

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