

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

October 6, 2017

Column #156

Homeless Hotspots—Part 5



A homeless hotspot is any place unsheltered people hang in or hang out in order to hang on.

A FORMER PIMPLE ON THE AMERICAN FACE IS NOW MANIFESTING AS ACUTE ACNE

By Wanda Sue Parrott

LOCATING homeless women isn't easy. If you want to hang out with them once you find them, "hold your horses," as Dad would say.

In other words, go slow and easy because, if you don't, you're likely to be given the cold shoulder.

Why? Because houseless women, as they prefer to be called, differ from their male counterparts in one obvious way: Homeless men are visible. Women are almost invisible.

Are men more fraternal than women? Decide for yourself.

Look in the eucalyptus grove across from the Naval Postgraduate School on Fremont Ave. in Monterey. On a sunny day, you'll spot a dozen casually clad men on benches, trading bicycle parts, sharing snacks, and talking.

How many women do you see kicking back, swapping stories and laughing while sporting heavy backpacks? None in groups. Maybe one or two loners pushing heavily laden shopping carts and probably clothed in filthy rags.

Homeless women often look clean, fashionable and so well-groomed they could be dressed for a day at the office. If they do hang out, it could be in a public library.

So, how do you find homeless women?

Introducing The $\Sigma A \Psi$ Sorority

Contact non-homeless women who serve as inadequately sheltered sisters' advocates, sponsors, mental health providers, caregivers, and friends.

Most are employees of, or volunteers for, legal non-profit agencies that survive on donations and grants.

Two local organizations, Homeless Outreach and Friends of Homeless Women, meet monthly and serve as umbrellas under which local legal non-profit agencies gather. They're separate but linked by the $\Sigma A \Psi$ Sorority bond:

Σ =Sigma: Simply;

A=Alpha: Amazing;

Ψ =Psi: Perspicacity

In short, they don't give up or give in even if they're "worn to a frazzle," as my Ozarks mother would say. The contact persons are:

Homeless Outreach, Sandy Larson, slarson2130@gmail.com.

Representatives of religious, social, governmental and public groups, sometimes homeless women, discuss pertinent issues involving the homeless. Open to the public. Next meeting: Mon., Oct. 16, 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 501 Eldorado St., Monterey.

Friends of Homeless Women, Kathy Whilden, wildini@aol.com. This is the social outreach arm of the Fund for Homeless Women, a field-of-interest fund for the Community Foundation of Monterey County that provides grants to qualified non-profits that help homeless women. Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of most months, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church, 146 12th St., Pacific Grove.

What About Non-Qualified Advocates?

People presume I'm paid for "Homeless in Paradise" column that began running in Cedar Street Times in October 2014 and now reaches 5000 readers weekly through Facebook, Nextdoor and other social media mail.

Truth is, it's a free public serve I fund by myself in order to have freedom to speak my mind, such as, "Homelessness is a former pimple on the American face that's now manifesting as national acne."

How much does it cost to produce Homeless in Paradise? Easy. It's \$120 per month."

Can I afford it? Not since my insurance leaped \$110 per month.

For this reason, I'm holding my first private fundraiser and you're invited!

Books For Beds At Book Launch For PG

At Patricia Hamilton's gala all-day celebration of the book launch for "Life in Pacific Grove" tomorrow, Sat., Oct. 7, 2017, I'll give away seven of my titles with a Books for Beds contributions jar available for donations to support my column's advocacy for homeless women.

Table will be located near the potluck from noon to 2 p.m. in Jewell Park, PG.

Suggest \$8 for these little books:

- *A Rosicrucian Mystic's Prayer*—The esoteric meaning of the 23rd Psalm combined with The Lord's Prayer in terms applicable for use today.
- *Guruji's Secret Love Sound*—A peace-producing, protective, love-attracting sound my 200-year-old Indian guru called "the missing link."
- *How to Enter & Win Poetry Contests*—Winning tips for writers drawn from my 21-years as administrator of the National Annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition.

Suggest \$14 donations for these bigger books:

- *How to Build a Penny Pyramid*—Using J. D. Rockefeller's easy, legal money-multiplication formula, convert \$.01 seed coins to \$100 cash yields.
- *The Boondogglers' Bible*—How to fight like city hall to win. Fight bureaucratic red tape with stall-and-delay tactics to win your own case.
- *Legends—Gifts of Great Spirit*—Historical Native American folklore and final White Buffalo Tribe Native American Poet Laureate contest winners.
- *Mind According to Logos*—by A. Irving Rosenberg. A documentary about my interview with my pituitary gland and surprising answers received.

A final suggestion for helping sustain another loyal private supporter of care providers for the homeless: if you're a businessperson, advertise in Marge Jameson's weekly Pacific Grove Hometown NEWSpaper, the Cedar Street Times. Contact her at editor@cedarstreettimes.com or call 831-324-4742

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