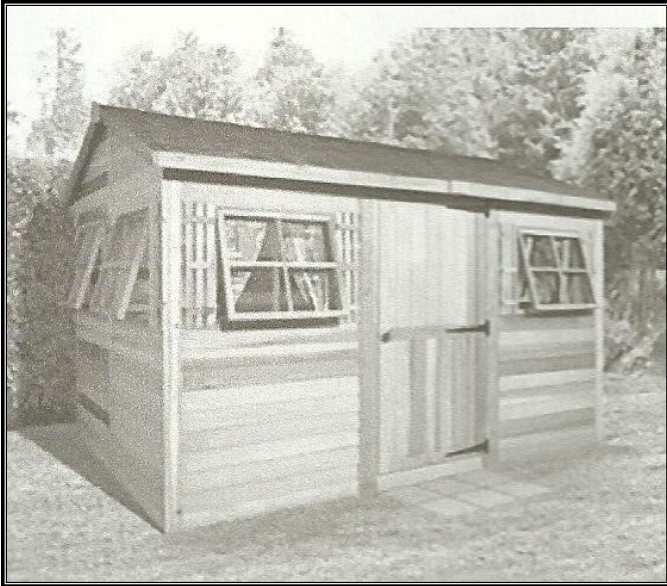


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 24-31, 2018

CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 4



HOMELESS WOMAN ASKS: TO HAVE OR NOT HAVE CANCER SURGERY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

REACTING to last week's column, 68-year-old homeless Summiteer CeliaSue Hecht bristled with indignity.

If emotions of a homeless woman with cancer won't offend you, read on. Otherwise, stop!

The paragraph that piqued CeliaSue last Friday is slightly amended here:

Hadlock's Homeless Ho-Ho-Ho

Whereas Summiteer Hecht calls homelessness of local homeless women "abominable," Summiteer Rick Hadlock, 78, a seemingly snooty absentee Pacific Grove homeowner from Utah, contends:

"Homeless people want the convenience of living in mid-town but don't (or can't) want to pay for it. If I were homeless I'd want to live in the middle of San Francisco, use the street for my bathroom, and have access to city life where handouts are more likely. Why not? You can't get handouts from cows in rural areas, (but the bathroom is roomy.)"

Hecht's spicy retort? Unprintable!

The Right To Have Or Have Not Cancer Surgery

On Saturday, former United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan died. He once said: *"A United Nations that will not stand up for human rights is a United Nations that cannot stand up for itself."*

On Monday, CeliaSue got a biopsy result showing breast cancer has returned after three years, and surgery is recommended, raising another human rights issue.

According to Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation, and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.”

CeliaSue, a professional writer/editor and advocate of affordable Tuff Sheds as tiny houses, has a poor person’s income but a rich personality that’s prone to expression through hair-trigger passion followed by impassionate reflection.

In psychological lingo, she exhibits “mood swings” like the one of hopelessness expressed after a coffee shop asked her to leave the day Annan died:

“I want to know where the nearest bridge is I can drive off now... every avenue is closing on me...”

Hope In A Nutshell

Timothy Barrett, now a Monterey city council member and candidate for re-election, first publicized the plight of women like CeliaSue in May 2013 at his “Homeless and Hungry in Paradise” symposium at Monterey Peninsula College.

Two weeks ago Timothy announced formation of the Neighborhood Housing Fund for Monterey (NHFM), a private non-profit of which he is a board member. Calling the fund “the beginning of a journey,” he said NHFM will first focus on affordable workforce housing, as a way to keep the population from degenerating, but will also include a broad range of housing needs.

Could the following comment by Timothy be describing Summiteer Hecht?

“. . . Though the City of Monterey boasts the highest concentrations of college educated residents in the region, according to the Real Cost Measure Report published by the United Way in 2005, 1 in 2 peninsula residents is challenged to afford the cost of housing and nearly 1 in 3 is living at or below poverty level when adjusted for the regional cost of living.”

Indeed!

Civil Grand Jury

Rudy Fischer, Pacific Grove city councilman and mayoral candidate, is another elected official with a long history of concern about shelter for the peninsula’s homeless. He emailed on Sunday:

“Wanda, I just want to make sure you are aware of the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury report entitled “Who’s in charge? Stepping up on Homelessness: The need for strategic leadership and comprehensive planning. “ The full report can be found online at:

<http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/Documents/GrandJury/2018/Homeless%20Report.pdf>

Also, the City of Seaside is contemplating a village of tiny homes for \$50,000 or less, which is way too costly for CeliaSue, who believes Tuff Sheds for around \$5,000 maximum will work.

How Can You Help?

The Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, aka I-HELP, has been hosting homeless men at local places of worship for more than a quarter century; a nourishing meal and sleeping quarters are offered every night of the year. A similar I-HELP for Women program is in its second year of operation.

I-HELP’s annual Pasta with the Pastors fundraiser will be Thurs., August 30, 4:30 –7:00 p.m. at San Carlos Parish Hall, 500 Church St., Monterey. Adults \$20. Children \$10. Under 6 free.

CeliaSue is ineligible for I-HELP participation because she can't include her dog Cici as a guest.

Which raises the question: If she opts for surgery, where will she call home after her period of convalescence ends?

If she chooses to take a chance on living without surgery, what happens to Cici if CeliaSue dies?

A Heads-Up For Monterey

In honor of UN's "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in Monterey, I am sharing the formerly "unprintable" message from Summiteer Hecht to Summiteer Hadlock, whom she assumes is a wealthy, uncaring snoot:

Dear head up your butt absentee:

from CeliaSue Hecht

1. For you to dehumanize 60-, 70-, 80-, 90-year old women without homes is so classless, tasteless, sexist and clueless that it shows who you are, not us.

2. I said I would be happy to PAY RENT for a tiny home/Tuff Shed and so would most on a sliding scale basis.

We do not beg.

Our income is simply NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.

3. I quadruple dog-dare you to actually walk a few miles in our shoes, take a week or two or three and live/sleep in your car or on the street in SF, and then we will talk. OK?

You think you are immune and so privileged that this could never happen to you, ha ha ha... I worked six jobs to put myself through college.

How about you? Born with a silver spoon?

Rick Hadlock, who once lived in San Francisco, responded that he never realized how poor his family really was until he became educated, worked, learned financial planning and continues contributing to help others less fortunate.

Food Stamps once helped him survive poverty.

He has retired as a Summiteer. Thanks, Rick.

Contact CeliaSue at 702-225-8206

<https://silverliningsandgraymatters.wordpress.com><<https://cshechtwriter.journoportfolio.com>>

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Photo: Tuff Shed Courtesy of Clip Art--In lieu of \$50,000 tiny homes, CeliaSue Hecht suggests a community of \$5,000 Tuff Sheds like this for housing senior homeless women

Contact amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com or call 831-899-5887

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