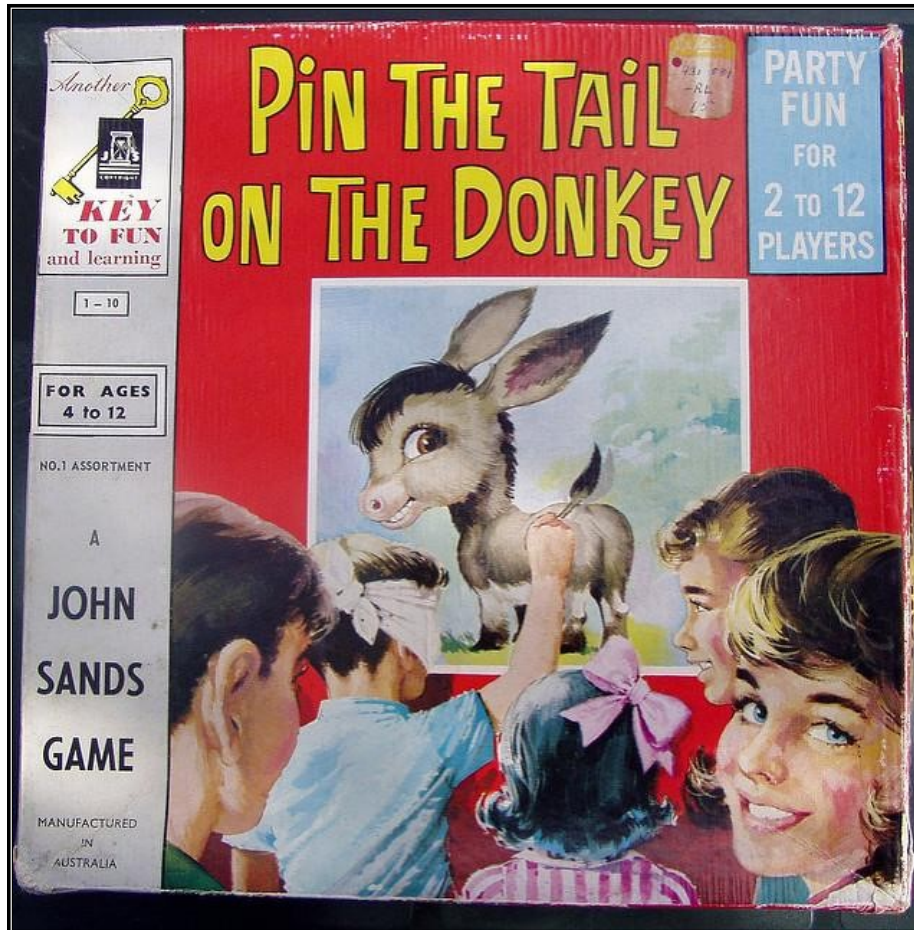


## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

March 29-April 4, 2019

### PENINSULA PULCHRITUDE--Part 13



### IS THERE A FUTURE FOR HOMELESS “PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY GIRLS” OF MONTEREY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**GUESSING** games are fun, easy and can be rewarding.

If you were born before the digital age, your game-playing probably included such outmoded party activities as Pin-the-Tail-on-the Donkey, Drop-the-Clothespins-into-the-Bottle, and Guess-the-Number of Beans-in-the-Jar games.

The explosive communications revolution markedly affects the 600-member community of homeless women the Monterey Peninsula whom I call in this column the “Pin the Tail on the Donkey Girls.”

This moniker is positive, not negative, and points out strengths younger generations of game players might lack. Why?

#### Tamer Gamers

Unlike today’s video age of instant shoot-‘em-up, bowl-‘em-over or knock-‘em-down games, which can mold kids into skilled unsympathetic sharpshooters before they’ve graduated from kindergarten, yesteryear’s

tamer gamers slowly developed bases from which survival skills, life-saving techniques and humanitarian empathy could and did evolve as they matured.

This community needs to organize soon, while there is still time to unite.

So, what makes the Pin the Tail on the Donkey Girls unique?

### **Intuitive Insight From A Donkey's Tail**

Seeing with one's mind's eye while mentally measuring spatial objects and distances helps strengthen one's keen sense of intuition which, in animals other than humans, remains a foremost life-navigating system.

Our so-called "sixth" sense is the animals' "first" (primary) sense.

Whereas we are taught to think before we feel, creatures feel before they think.

Electronic and digital game-playing and other social media forms of communication, which pass for relationships among today's youth, lack the fundamental physical element we old-timers gained through our game playing: The common touch of humanity.

### **The Common Touch Of Humanity**

Feeling isolated from, or losing, the common touch of humanity is a pain most frequently voiced by homeless women.

The security they miss is less a house, more a home, for home is where the heart is.

Home stands for love.

Homeless women are like the tailless donkey waiting to be properly pinned.

Organizing into groups by their talents and skills can help these women survive.

Every woman is an expert at something!

So, finding the missing donkey's tail and re-pinning it in place is an art and a start. A non-profit would need to kick such a project off. How?

### **A Donkey's Tail Booth**

Start by forming a committee that enlists women of the homeless community.

Choose the name of a booth or outlet where participants' homemade and handmade items will be sold, or services may be offered.

If I were starting such an enterprise, I'd name it "The Donkey's Tail." Each participant's contribution would be promoted as a "tail" and profits would be split among the contributors and the organization sponsoring the project.

For instance, Jane home schooled her children. Her tail could be tutoring kids with reading.

Mary used to knit sweaters for her late husband. Her tail could be cute little dog sweaters.

Felicia made strawberry jam, pie and salads. Her tail? A strawberries cookbook.

To speed up forming such enterprise, practice the old clothespin-in-a-bottle technique.

## Community In Clothespins

Remember how we squinted as we attempted to drop one clothespin at a time into the open neck of a milk bottle? We focused our concentration and fostered hand-and-eye coordination, never dreaming as children that we'd become old, homeless and in need of all the mental strength we could muster.

Unlike social media's interruptive onslaught of data, the moments an older player focused on aiming a clothespin on the goal hole were concentrated in contemplative meditation. This kept our minds centered in the present moment on what needed to be done.

Being homeless and distracted today skews the senior woman's mind.

She needs a bottle into which her clothespins can drop.

She needs affordable housing, and lacking that, shelter such as I-HELP for Women provides through its overnight indoor sleeping accommodations at 30 local houses of worship, and the One Starfish Program offers to women who sleep in their cars at night at local churches.

And she needs the comfort, guidance and service like the Gathering for Women provides, as well as shelter such as will be available in Seaside if its application for HEAP funding, filed before the April 1 deadline, is approved for rehabilitation of the old mobile health clinic at 1292 Broadway.

Mostly, she needs to be needed.

Sharing her expertise will help fill that need.

## Like Beans In A Bottle

Guessing how many beans were in a container helped broaden our equativity from one-dimensional selfhood to four-dimensional calculation of human community based on height, breadth, depth and mindfulness of the metaphorical beans.

If a woman is now worn out, weary at heart and wondering where to turn next, the beans-in-a-bottle metaphor can inspire and guide her through the monstrous maze as a homeless individual.

It also helps to know how other women of all game-playing generations have surmounted victimhood by combining pulchritudinum, which simply means: Feminine beauty both inside and out.

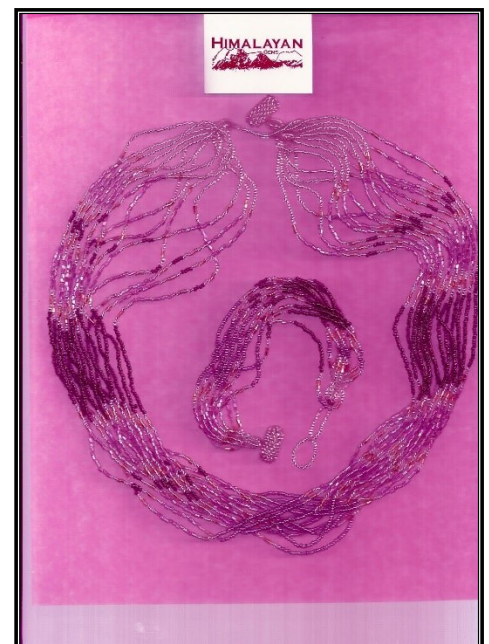
## Prevailing With Pulchritude

Don't miss the next meeting of Friends of Homeless Women, outreach arm of the Fund for Homeless Women, Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m. at St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church, 146 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Pacific Grove where "Learning from Thistle Farms" will feature Heather Davis and Kelsey Davis.

The women worked at Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tennessee, where items handcrafted with love by female survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction are selling worldwide in a program that's working so well the women live there.

Details at <https://thistlefarms.org>

As to how many beads are in the majestic purple, gold and white handcrafted necklace and bracelet shown above, made by poor women of India and marketed as Himalayan Gems through the Home Shopping Network, I combined pinning my mental donkey's tail to a hand calculator and came up with a 24-inch necklace with 15 strands



containing 20 beads per inch, a 6-inch bracelet with 10 strands, and two clasps, for a total of 8,800 beads.

I dare you to challenge my answer by dropping clothespin calculations into your own bottle brain to see how many beads you count!

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CREDIT: Photo: Himalayan Gems beadwork--Can you guess how many beads are in this handcrafted jewelry by impoverished women in India? Photo by Wanda Sue Parrott

Photo: This photo of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey, a John Sands game manufactured in Australia, is published courtesy of Clip Art.

This column appears in the Cedar Street Times, weekly hometown Newspaper of Pacific Grove, California, online at [www.cedarstreettimes.com](http://www.cedarstreettimes.com).

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