

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

October 2-8, 2020

### IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 49



Jane Parker's pink hat  
symbol of her caring heart  
reflects her own muse  
Wendy Root Askew  
aide to Jane for many years  
hopes to carry on  
after Jane retires  
if Wendy should win the seat  
as supervisor  
do not be surprised  
to see Wendy in Jane's hat  
sharing loving muse

*Photo courtesy of Jane Parker, 4<sup>th</sup> District,  
County of Monterey Board of Supervisors  
haiku quartet by Wanda Sue Parrott*

### VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES WHO SEEM GUIDED BY THEIR MUSES!

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**PREDICTING** winners of the Nov. 3 election is easy. If the final votes match last week's tally for winner of the 2020 America's Got Talent contest, a muse-driven candidate should win every conceivable race, from local city council/county commission to the national presidency.

That means poets should, but probably won't, win.

Why predict that poets should win public offices?

Because the AGT winner was 27-year-old Brandon Leake, spoken-word poet, from Stockton, California. He is Black, his wife is White and they have a beautiful 6-month old daughter who was the subject of the ode that won him the top award in AGT. He adores her and wasn't afraid to say so! He spoke as the muse for the multitudes.

The other three poems that led Brandon to the finals touched the hearts of everyone who ever felt loss. The first poem, which drew the golden buzzer from veteran AGT judge, Howie Mandel, was about the loss of Brandon's younger sister.

His second winner was a heart-wrenching narrative poem about estrangement from his father.

Third winner was about the Black Lives Matter issue.

In the arena of poetry vs. politics, millions of viewers chose the young student adviser at Delta College-- who cut his eye teeth by performing original odes and dirges, by memory, in live poetry slams—to win the \$1 million prize and a potential performance contract in Las Vegas.

The talent contest's winner is only symbolic, like the Muse, of deeper desires and needs of the People, for the People and by the People, and most politicians aren't filling that need, which boils down to one word: LOVE.

Is the electorate loving? Do the People feel loved by their elected representatives?  
Why should the People elect a poet? Isn't it obvious? All poems are basically love poems!

### **Poets Care But Politicians Don't?**

Making the People genuinely feel cared about is lacking among most of today's politicians.

For instance, look at Tuesday's presidential debate! Two old white men stood on the stage to hypothetically debate important issues of the day. Never mind that Homelessness was not a topic on their agenda, although it stands as the second threat to the nation, coming in just behind Covid-19.

President Donald J. Trump blew in like a hot desert scirocco, his fiery bluster hellbent on searing the very brain waves of his opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden, and slaying him by slander if not outright slaughter. Biden, attempting to look directly into the camera and speak to the People, was fazed but not felled.

The event was both laughable and tragic.

I was waiting and hoping one of them would speak as eloquently as poet Vincent J. Tomeo of Flushing, New York does in this brief 8-line, 45-word free verse:

#### *FIRST IMPRESSION*

*I did not want to run away.  
So, I read a poem to a homeless lady  
by a water fountain in a park.  
"Thank you," she said,  
"It was over forty years since anyone  
read a poem to me."  
She started to cry.*

Vincent J. Tomeo, like Brandon Leake, is an educator. Unlike Leake, Vincent, whose work is posted at [vincentjtomeo.com](http://vincentjtomeo.com), is retired. The voice of the Muse is needed. Now. Among elected representatives of today's generation.

Amy Kitchener, one of my muses said:

### **A Nation Without Poetry Is Doomed To Fail**

How can you help keep America great?

Pay heed to the voice of your own inner muse. It's called by many names: God, Master, Jesus, Great Spirit, Inner Self, to name a few. Or, how about Goddess, Higher Self, Lord, Soul, Buddha?

You might be more familiar with your muse as Conscience.

It will always lead you toward a beneficent thought, deed or act that might even seem to contrast with the general flow of public opinion or political expression.

When it comes to the election, vote for the candidates who seem guided by their muses. They may not write verse, but they are Poeticians!

My own muse gave me this advice back in 1960. It works.

*And be—above all else—Bold!  
Be bold enough to cry the tears of humanity  
without drowning in the vast salt seas they create. . .  
And dare to spread the Light  
Of the sunflower seed and the stars. . .  
And fear,  
But fall not long in fearing.*

Brandon Leake said of his award, “This is a huge win for the spoken-word community. For an art form that has not been on the mainstream ever to have a chance to win *America's Got Talent* is bigger than anything.”

You can view his performance at <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/09/24/stocktons-americas-got-talent-winner-brings-spoken-word-poetry-to-the-masses/>

May the Muse be with us all!

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About this Column: “Homeless in Paradise” is a free public service self-funded and produced by the author. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this column appears regularly on the last week of each month in the Cedar Street Times at [www.cedarstreettimes.com](http://www.cedarstreettimes.com) (and as periodic FLASH columns).

It also appears on Facebook, in Next Door and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

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