

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

July 9-15, 2021

LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! – Part 8



WARNING: THE “N” WORD LIES AHEAD!

By Wanda Sue Parrott

If you're offended by raw, honest love poems, stop reading after the third question. Or, go for four!

\$600 Stimulus Checks

Q. Governor Newsom promised we'd get \$600 stimulus checks months ago. I'm homeless, unemployed, and need the money. The Department of Aging filed my form with State of California Franchise Tax Board, as a non-taxpayer, on the filing deadline, May 17. I still don't have \$600. Will it come, am I ineligible since I'm 76 and didn't work last year, or can't the governor be trusted?

A. An average time for the California stimulus checks to be processed, filed, and received is about 45 days, so your check should probably arrive within the next week or two. I haven't received my \$600 either. I also filed May 17. I'm in my eighties, and I trust Governor Newsom!

Moratorium On Evictions

Q. I've been housed through Project Roomkey since June 2020. The moratorium on eviction was set to expire June 30. Instead, busloads of male farm workers have recently been staying at the motel where other homeless men and woman still are. Should I plan to be living again in my car, if I haven't yet found permanent housing? Or can I stay here longer?

A. According to Laura Nagle, of Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA), as of July 5: “Excellent news! The #EvictionMoratorium has been extended until September 30th, and the rental relief program has been significantly expanded.” [See: @COPA_IAF @SilValleyIAF @OneLA_IAF.]

For more information, visit [California to extend eviction moratorium through September \(turnto23.com\)](https://turnto23.com); by Anthony Wright, 23ABC, June 28, 2021.**

Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program

Q. *Is the I-HELP program for homeless women and men still active? Before the pandemic, my church hosted them.*

A. According to the I-Help Newsletter, the Men's program resumed operating as a rotating shelter on July 1. The bus delivers the eight men currently in the program to a different church or synagogue each evening for a meal and shelter. New men accepted into the program must be fully vaccinated and agree to follow I-HELP's health and safety guidelines. The women's program is currently on pause, due to lack of participants and other issues.

Pasta with the Pastors fundraiser will be held online, www.ihelpmontereybay.org.

Reprising The N-Word Poem

Thus ends questions from readers. This next item is personal.

My aborted column of June 12, 2020, appeared briefly after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from officer Derek Chauvin's fatal nine-minute knee-on-neck restraint. Images of Floyd's death rekindled racism with rampant Muse-rousing prods like:

Publish that old poem you wrote when you were 27 and torn between becoming a juvenile police officer or a poet. You know, the one that led you to give up policing to be a poet.

I found the poem written in 1962 before I left Bakersfield for the Monterey Peninsula. The column in which it was featured began this way:

Which Are You: Warrior Or Guardian?

“Reacting to the death of George Floyd this week, protestors dominated the news with marches, demanding everything from ending racism to defunding the police. If Black people hadn't inspired me to write a poem almost sixty years ago, I might have retired as a Warrior rather than Guardian...” and progressed to “In 1962, there were no visible homeless women on the streets...”

The column about homeless Black women backfired. Why? Offense was taken by two of my proofreaders, who wisely demanded I halt publication because the “N” word was like gasoline being poured on a fire.

Omigod, I realized, an irate reader might attack Cedar Street Times!

Consequently, before the column had been posted very long, if at all, I e-mailed Marge Ann Jameson, CST's publisher/editor, to delete it. I published a FLASH apology to readers who might have been offended.

See the column on my website at www.homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com. Search for June 12, 2020, IN OUR OWN BACKYARD, Part 33 - WHICH ARE YOU: A WARRIOR OR A GUARDIAN?***

I'm reposting the poem here for three reasons:

First, my fear that *Cedar Street Times* might be attacked apparently happened. A Commentary-Opinion by CST's now-editor, Gary Baley, says: “...A few months ago, some woman, offended by a shamefully racist poem a CST columnist put in her column, tried to shut down this paper by threatening advertisers. A couple of advertisers quit, although they're coming back now.” See July 2, 2021, edition at www.cedarstreettimes.com.

Second, words and letters have no inherent power except that which we assign them. Hate and racism are learned and can be unlearned, as reflected in the love poem by this old white lady with a small percentage of her own Negro DNA whose lower-case "b" is a metaphor for bad, not Black.

Third, by backing down, I became a boondogglor rather than boondoggle-buster. How hypocritical is that!? So here is the poem. May the Muse be with you!

NIGGERS
by Wanda Sue Childress (1962)

*It's four in the morning, and here am I
Writing "Cry, oh cry, you niggers!"*

*You who do the drinking and the driving,
You who do the cheating and the beating,
You who do the mugging and the drugging,
You who do the shilling and the killing,
You who do the selfsame old repeating,*

*You lie and you lie and you cry:
"You motherfuckers, you've got the wrong guy!"*

*A nigger is not a race or a face.
It is anyone who will not turn back,
whose soul is black.*

Final Q. To the unknown woman who tried to attack Cedar Street Times by "threatening" its advertisers to withdraw, which would have killed Pacific Grove's weekly newspaper, why didn't you write a letter or e-mail to the editor? I did!

###

CREDITS: Photo: Clapsed Hands courtesy of Google Free Images.
The Boondogger's Bible—How to Fight Like City Hall to Win!! (\$17 from Wanda Sue Parrott,
P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821) or from amazon.com.

###

Website property of Great Spirit Publishing. Content copyrighted by Wanda Sue Parrott. For details on making contributions to support maintenance of the website, see Contact section at <https://homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com/Contact.php>.

###

"Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and private e-mail lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.

###

**If the link in the "Moratorium on Evictions" section above doesn't work, here is the full-text version – click on it or copy and paste into your web browser address bar:

<https://www.turnto23.com/news/state/california-to-extend-eviction-moratorium-through-september>

***This article will be posted when the Archives for 2020 are completed. In the meantime, a copy can be requested from greatspiritpublishing@yahoo.com.