

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

September 16-22, 2021

LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! – Part 18



Photo by KSBW

*marge ann jameson
founder of cedar street times
shuts her doors this month*

*monterey's premiere
in-print boondoggle buster
never gave up hope*

*ev'ry week for years
marge focused on homelessness
being curable*

*in this photograph
marge appears four years ago
recipient of*

*PG Union Bank's
best woman-owned business here
in pacific grove*

SO, WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ON RECALL-NEWSOM DAY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

Feeling anxious was only one of my experiences on Tues., Sept. 14. If another adjective fits the day, it's "distracted." Why?

The prior weekend's announcement by Marge Ann Jameson--that she was closing *Cedar Street Times*--was still fresh the day our boondoggle-busting governor's recall election led me to revisit this column's birth after I'd read Marge Ann Jameson's post at www.cedarstreettimes.com:

August 19, 2021

Rumours (sic) you may have heard recently are true.

Fifteen years ago, when I founded Cedar Street Times, I told myself that I would sell it and retire when I got to That Age. I got there.

The paper is now 15 years old and I am 70. It's time.

After struggling through bouts of lymphoma and kidney stones and trying to nurse Neil back to health, I need to sell it. The pandemic did a job on our bottom line as well. If

you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing or sharing Pacific Grove's NEWSpaper, please get a hold of me and let's talk. We have a deadline of Oct. 31 to

sell it, bring on a partner(s), or close the door.

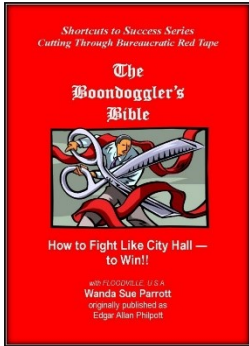
Marge Ann 831-324-4742

A third adjective that defines how I felt the day Governor Gavin Newsom defeated being recalled by an approximate 2/3 majority is "sentimental." Here's why:

September 2014

At around 2:30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, Katie Shain and I lingered outside Scholze Park Community Center after practicing our forthcoming holiday-show dances. We were cast as tap-dancing reindeer in the upcoming Christmas performances of Monterey Recreation Department's troupe of senior hoofers, The Tap Bananas.

As we unlocked the doors of our cars, I noted that Katie was giving the black electrical tape along my windshield a curious once-over glance. "I'm a do-it-yourselfer," I explained. "The car dealer wanted \$1,500 to replace the windshield to get rid of a small spot of rust. I bought a roll of tape at the Dollar Tree and fixed it for about fifteen cents." The box of books I'd picked up from the post office was open on my front seat. "My new book just came out," I said.



"What's it about" Katie asked.

"It's based on how I cut through bureaucratic red tape—that is, did my own boondoggling—and got \$91,000 from the city where I was living in Missouri. It's called *The Boondogger's Bible—How to Fight Like City Hall to Win*. Would you like a copy?"

I extracted a shiny, candy-apple-crimson paperback and extended it to Katie. "It's a revised upgrade of a booklet I wrote under the alias Edgar Allan Philpott as part of my do-it-yourself legal matter known as *Parrott vs. City of Springfield*."

Katie handed it back. "Please sign it, Miss DIY."

October 2014

A few weeks later, Katie approached me during rehearsal. "Marge Ann likes your book."

"Who?"

"Marge Ann Jameson. I shared my copy with her. She'd like you to write for her."

"Who is she?"

Katie seemed surprised, as if everyone knew Marge Ann. "She's editor and publisher of the *Cedar Street Times*, Pacific Grove's hometown NEWSpaper. . . Erika Fiske, a contributor for years, just left and Marge Ann needs a writer. . ."

"To cover what beat?"

"The homeless problem no one else wants to cover."

I shook my head no, but Katie flashed a do-it-yourself-challenge look. So, I gave it a try, and on October 31, 2014, my first CST news story was headlined: *Sunday Brunch to Benefit Homeless Women*. A week later, the first "Homeless in Paradise" column appeared. It ran weekly in CST for the next 344 weeks, following which I went on sabbatical, to self-publish on my new website at www.homeless-in-paradise.yolasite.com.

Barbara Quin, my webmaster, had only published 15 editions of our current "Let the Boondoggle-Busting Begin!" series when Marge Ann Jameson ran this notice on the front page of her September 11, 2021, online edition of *Cedar Street Times*:

September 11, 2021

CEDAR STREET TIMES IS CLOSING

Marge Ann Jameson's Cedar Street Times is closing after 15 years publishing news and opinions about Pacific Grove and the greater Community. The paper also has been a showcase for local school kids, parents, politicians, clergy and business leaders. Our last issue will be Thursday, September 30.

From the beginning, Marge Ann has been active in the community. She was instrumental in forming the First Friday Walk, she served on the board of Feast of Lanterns, and she supported numerous non-profit organizations with free advertising. In 2017, Cedar Street Times was named "Best Woman-Owned Business" by Union Bank's annual Salute to Small Business.

Somehow Marge Ann has been able to knock out an issue of Cedar Street Times every week for the past 780 weeks. However, the pressure of publication has (sic) taken a toll on her health. At 70, she is now ready to retire.

Readers have asked to write farewell letters to thank Marge for her dedication to the community. If you wish to write one, please email it to cedarstreettimes@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 28 so it can be included in our final edition which will be printed and distributed throughout the community September 30.

Cedar Street Times gives warmest thanks to everyone in the community for their support over the past 15 years.

On the day Governor Gavin Newsom's fate was in the hands of California voters, I recalled that in the six-plus years CST published my column, Marge Ann upheld her vow to advocate for ending homelessness. A statewide media blitz by a coalition of publishers and broadcasters had pumped out propaganda designed to blast homelessness off the face of this part of the earth. After it quickly dissolved, CST stayed alone on the bandwagon.

Covid-19 ravaged CST's coffers when advertisers withdrew. Someone sued her. Then, Marge Ann announced closure of Cedar Street Times. She is an original Do-It-Yourselfer and the Peninsula's Premiere Publishing Boondoggle-Buster. Thanks. We'll miss you, Marge!

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CREDITS:

Cedar Street Times' Photo of Marge Ann Jameson by KSBW News (Hearst TV).

Book: *The Boondoggler'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](https://www.amazon.com).

"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.

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