

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

March 4, 2016

Column #73



MOVE OVER, OSCAR!!

Hollywood-style glitz and glamour help Monterey's homeless

By Wanda Sue Parrott

PREDICTING winners is America's favorite pastime. If you watched the Academy Awards last Sunday, you know the Best Picture category of nominees was dominated by science-fiction/fantasy films. One was even entitled "The Martian."

The wake of the annual Academy Awards week in Hollywood coincides with the Oscar Effect's wake-up round of charitable spring fundraisers starring local off-screen stars strutting their stuff.

First two organizations to be producing special showmanlike events to benefit the homeless community share the same initials: CHS.

Here is their agenda in the order in which they will appear. Mark your calendar for one or both show-stopping events.

Community Housing Solutions



Our e-mailed poster featuring these performers urged us to share the invitation with everyone, male and female, to see this bevy of beautiful belly dancers putting on their act live for a worthy cause.

Community Housing Solutions, formerly known as Shelter Outreach Plus, is headquartered in Marina. It sponsors various programs that help the homeless help themselves, including transitional housing for women in Marina and a temporary recovery facility in Seaside for recuperation following release from the hospital. The invitation says:

"Come join us for a free performance of live belly dancing, with great food and fun, Sat., March 5, 6:30 p.m., at Pajaro Street Bar and Grill, 435 Pajaro St., Salinas."

Donations will be accepted, with all proceeds going to Community Homeless Solutions. Reservations aren't required. Details are available from 831-384-3388 and 831-384-1308 and info@shelteroutreachplus.org.

Community Human Services

Rumor has it this unidentified alien will make a cameo appearance at the 10th Annual All Women's Ball sponsored by the other CHS organization, Community Human Services of Monterey.

The best all-girls' party in town, started a decade ago as the idea of Deborah Smith. It caught on and grew. This year it will be held on Fri., March 11, 8 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Dr., Monterey. All women 21 and older are invited. A \$25 donation is suggested.

Proceeds will benefit Safe Place, a Runaway and Homeless Youth program located on Pearl Street in Monterey.

CHS recently opened an Emergency Shelter for youth ages 18-24 to stay overnight in inclement weather. The shelter is acting under a temporary use permit but hopes to open every night regardless of weather, starting in July.

Monterey's Version Of The Martian?

Purpose of the alien's visit will be to return the Golden Cup—the event's answer to Hollywood's Oscar—from last year's winner to the yet-unknown 2016 recipient of the award for Best Outfit.

By definition, "outfit" can mean "whatever you want to wear." CHS spokesperson Rob Rapp says, "A couple of years ago a woman in her 90's had a hand-sewn burqa that was just amazing!" He says costumes are a cool part of the event.

Last year's ballgoers wore everything from jeans and cowboy boots to floor-length ball gowns and high heels. They kicked off shoes and danced to rock music played by a disc jockey. Finger food and desserts, along with wine and other beverages, were served. The same basic menu is planned this year. Making her disc jockey debut will be Andi.

Silent auction prizes will include gift certificates to local restaurants, art, funky knick-knacks, women-centric books, clothing, and wine packages. To donate items or ask questions, contact Lenina Sanchez, Communications Coordinator at 831-658-3811 or lsanchez@chservices.org.

Last year ladies came in fright wigs, Afros, and a pinned-on ballerina's bun. Most sported their own natural hairstyles. They wore old prom dresses and costumes with accoutrements like Little Bo Peep's staff.

I wore an 18th-century muslin bridal apron which I made by hand. It took one month of sewing in December 2000 and I wore it at a book trade show in Orlando, Fla. in 2001. It won the 9th Annual All Women's Ball's Golden Cup and is currently on display in the *Cedar Street Times* office in Pacific Grove.

If anyone asks if the Oscar-effect alien at the All Women's Ball is The Martian, I'll never tell.

To predict the next Golden Cup winner, why not attend the ball. If you go in costume, you might be the winner!

For information, call Deborah Smith at 831-624-0683.

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