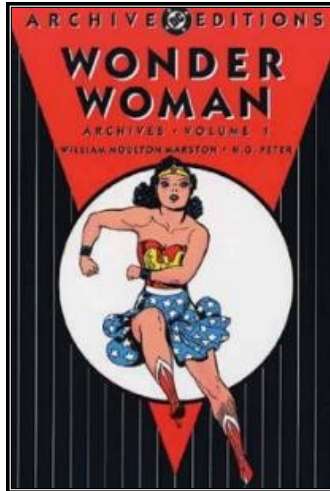


# HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 5, 2016

Column #95



## **Part 1: MOVE OVER, WONDER WOMAN! *As Old Glory Comes Down, New Glory Is Flying High* By Wanda Sue Parrott**

**COMPETING** as Wonder Woman was a miserable flop at the 1960 Artists & Models Ball in the Hollywood Palladium. If I'd known 56 years ago my patriotic creation wouldn't merit a single point for best costume, I'd have saved my money, time, and energy.

Instead, I stitched dozens of red, white, and blue satin hair ribbons onto an expensive strapless corset. Final touch to the patriotic costume was a flared net train sewn with double loops of boiled white cotton thread. The skirt's front was open, revealing sexy fishnet stockings and black patent high heels.

I paraded in the Grand March with Jim, my escort who stole our thunder as an unidentified Greek God.

Memories of that youthful social injustice were resurrected last week when the first woman in American history was named candidate for President by a major political party.

### **Raising New Glory: The Flag Of Pulchritude Pride**

Hillary Rodham Clinton's nomination as the Democratic party's candidate for president evoked a fresh image of Wonder Woman in chic white pants suit. At that moment, I visualized Old Glory sliding down, and New Glory rising up, the Flagpole of Pulchritude Pride.

*The timing was wrong way back when. It's right now! Go, girls, go!*

Thus, this mini-series evolved to shine the spotlight on women who have already been going more than the proverbial extra mile here in Monterey, starting with Marge Ann Jameson, publisher/editor of the Cedar Street Times.

### **Wonder Women Of Monterey**

For at least six years, Marge Ann Jameson has focused attention on a social blight that threatens to mar the peninsula if Mainstream Monterey continues treating it as back page, or at least second-rate, news: *homelessness*.

Long before I joined the Cedar Street Times staff of volunteers in 2014, Marge Ann was the sole media representative in our area who consistently, week after week, featured at least one item about homelessness in her one-woman-wonderful hometown newspaper.

This is Column #95 in my series of Homeless in Paradise contributions. During the time I've been privileged to offer this column as a public service, homelessness has increased exponentially rather than decreased.

Now, at this fortuitous time for Wonder Women everywhere, the first-ever report about homeless women on the Monterey Peninsula has just been completed. It was spearheaded by wonder-worker Judy Sulsona, speaker at the July meeting of Friends of Homeless Women, outreach arm of the Fund for Homeless Women (a field fund of the Community Foundation of Monterey County).

For details about meetings, contact another wonder worker, Kathy Whilden, at [wildini@aol.com](mailto:wildini@aol.com).

### **“Homeless Women On The Monterey Peninsula—Key Findings”**

Judy Sulsona presented facts from “Homeless Women on the Monterey Peninsula Key Findings,” an 8-page summary of key data specific to homeless women of the Monterey Peninsula.

It was funded by a donation to the Community Foundation of Monterey County for specific research to help the Fund for Homeless Women.

“Purpose of the survey is to document the primary causes of homelessness for women,” Judy said. “We live in a very expensive area... Some women stay awake at night and gather recyclables to sell... A cell phone is important because they don't have a physical address. It is important for their safety and is a critical expense.”

More than sixty homeless women were interviewed by Judy and her partners, Brooke Silveria, and Larry Imwalle. “I will be eternally grateful for their candor,” Judy said.

Many stories will appear in the online report; statistical highlights appear in the booklet.

Judy said, “Based on research, it is estimated that there are over 400 homeless women on the Monterey Peninsula.”

(Ed.: Following the April 2016 sweeps in Chinatown, Salinas, estimates have risen to 500 homeless women on the peninsula.)

Judy says immediate action needed is opening a day care center between Seaside and Monterey.

Potential next steps include: Establishing a central one-stop resource center; creating a team of system navigators/advocates; creating opportunities for peer mentorship; supporting community education; provide sustained long-term funding.

The full report will be posted online next week online at [www.cfmco.org/FHW](http://www.cfmco.org/FHW).

By combining pulchritude, practicality and persistence, the Wonder Women of Monterey will succeed in furthering social justice for homeless women because it's now rather than never!

So, back to my failed foray into the fickle field of 1960 fashion. Jim wore a tiny flesh-colored thong and draped his head in a wreath of ivy ripped from the wall of his old Pasadena mansion.

Undiscovered by us as Wanda Woman coated Jim's body with white grease paint in the parking lot of the Hollywood Palladium was the fact the costume store erroneously sold Jim a pot of mustache wax.

By the time we paraded down the runway, his body heat had melted the wax and transformed Jim from unidentified Greek God into Michelangelo's Nude David.

He stole the show. Some things never change!

###

Photos provided by author or as shown; used for educational/illustrative purposes only; no copyright infringement intended.

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com) or leave a message with The Yodel Poet at 831-899-5887.