

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

August 26, 2016

Column #98



Part 4 – AND THE WINNERS ARE?
Wonder Women Who Vibrate In The Key of K
By Wanda Sue Parrott

WINNING races was Lois Marie “Shug” Cain’s low-hurdle passion before she quit running in Missouri track meets and ran off to marry my dad, William R. Childress, in 1932; two-and-a-half years later, I was born, and last week Mother woke me in a dream by k-k-k-k-ing like a wood-pecking jackhammer on a pine tree.

If I didn’t remember Shug’s penchant for accurately predicting race winners, I’d have dismissed the early-morning wake-up vision, but the imagery wasn’t forgettable since my young red-haired, finger-waved mother said, “Dreams, like poetic imagery, are mental metaphors you need to figure out. They’re more interesting than a game of solitaire and often more important.”

“Is this one important?”

“Do you have a column to write?”

So, I listened to the voice as Mother clicked her tongue and sang words to the infant I’d reverted to being while the rest of the world was focusing its attention on sprinters at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. I was back in my crib in the 1930s absorbing vibrations in the Key of K:

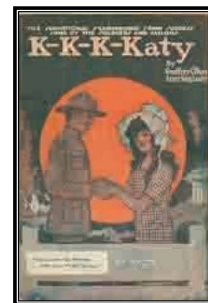
*K-k-k-Katy, beautiful Katy/
You’re the only g-g-g-girl that I adore./
When the m-m-moon shines over the cow shed/
I’ll be waiting by the k-k-kkitchen door. . .*

My newspaper columnist’s mind intruded. “Is this possible?”

“Shush,” Mother said. “Listen and learn.”

“Why? I’m curious. Is that song for real? I mean, do I really remember it?”

“What do you think-k-k-k-k?”



Clues In The Key Of K

With eyes shut, I clucked k-k-k-k sounds and wandered to the computer, turned it on and entered “k-k-k-k-Katy.” The screen filled with a music sheet showing a World War One doughboy and young milk maid. The 1917 composition of **Canadian American** composer Geoffrey O’Hara was called the “Sensational Stammering Song sung by soldiers and sailors of World War One.”

By then, I was back in 2016, parsing the dream for its true meaning.

Analyzing A Dream

Dream analyses begin by following one obvious clue that leads to mysterious mental metaphors in which one thing stands for another.

I analyzed Mother. After she exchanged her running shorts for a Betty Crocker cookbook and apron, her interest turned from foot races to horse races. She followed ponies on the radio. When she went to the track, Mother never bet more than \$2 on a “sure thing.” Thus, her only wealth lay in the millions she made on paper.

Why? Psychic stuff scared her. So did gambling. Her father had bet the family farm in a poker game in which his losing hand was “a sure thing.”

Mother grew up poor, so picking winners was only a game to her.

I take it seriously, and also, having great trust in my Super Psyche, let intuition be my guide.

Predicting The 2016 Wonder Women Winners

Mother jotted her winning picks on pads of paper, and 99 out of 100 times she was right.

“I play my hunches,” she said. “Then I figure out their significance.”

She once dreamed of a hypothetical field of ripe plants she called “skunk cabbage.” Next day’s line-up included a two-year-old longshot named “Scent of Musk.” The plant’s name was metaphoric for the odor of skunk coupled with ripeness that represented fulfillment.

Scent of Musk won by a nose and paid 40-1.

“So, what’s your dream appearance saying?” I wondered.

“You’re writing about Wonder Women in the 2016 political race?”

“Right.”

“Write it! As if the winners are named like me.”

“Shug Cain?”

“Pronounced K-k-k-k-kane.”

I got it!

As a start, here are a few Wonder Women whose names vibrate in the Key of K who are dedicated to helping local homeless women. I’ll name them. Cast your own votes!

Casey Lucius, Pacific Grove, candidate for Congress; Kay Cline, Seaside, candidate for Mayor; Kayla Jones, Seaside, candidate for City Council.

Others are volunteers like Karen Araujo, Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women; Kim Bui-Burton, City of Monterey’s matching funds challenge program; too many Carols to list so here’s one: Carol Greenwald, CEO of Gathering for Women.

Meet Mibs McCarthy, chair of “Super Flea,” the Peninsula’s most-popular flea market, Fri., Aug. 26 & Sat., Aug. 27, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel. Admission free.

Meet Elizabeth Caraker, Principal Planner for City of Monterey, at the Housing Issues Workshop Open House, Wed., Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monterey Youth Center, 777 Pearl St., Monterey. The event welcomes ideas about affordable housing and related issues. Admission free. 831-646-1739.

Speaking of Wonder Women on the stump, in the national Key of K there’s a candidate for president. Remember her name: Hillary Clinton.

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