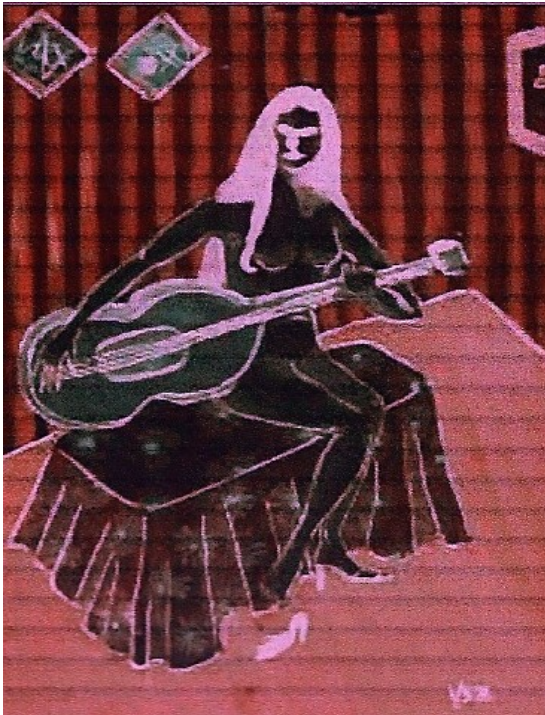


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

January 15-21, 2021

MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS – Part 3



*beatnik poets sang
of the world after the bomb
when we could perish
pulverized like steam
hissing from a tea kettle
cooling—clearing—gone
so we hit the now
living on the road like jack
most of us came back
i was one of them
as seen in this self portrait
singing “we’ll survive”
don’t give in to doubt
you’ll rise from this crisis too
we’re Americans*

~ Wanda Sue Childress-Parrott, 1958

WHAT TO DO WHEN QUESTIONS HANG LIKE OLD GLORY AT HALF STAFF?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

WONDERING what’s next? If so, welcome to transition week!

By this time next week, Joe Biden should be the 46th President of the United States, Kamala Harris should be Vice-President, and Democracy should pick up where it froze on January 6, 2021 when the eyes and ears of the world focused on the U.S. Capitol under siege.

What questions were you asking that remain unanswered?

Mine included questions from potential donors interested in ten local homeless women for whom Todd Sondgroth’s “Change a Heart Foundation” was acquiring cars in which they could sleep.

Cars For Homeless Women Questions

As of Monday, Jan. 11, Todd announced via social media that he was moving ahead with acquisition of cars 6, 7 and 8, and gave recipients the opportunity to donate to help cover expenses. For instance, he indicated around \$500 was needed. Nothing was said to answer a reader’s question about what happens if more than \$500 is received.

In return, I sent these yet-to-be-answered questions directly to Todd:

1. How do you meet the women to whom the cars are given? That is, do you work with the Dept. of Social Services or other legitimate agencies to meet women in need who qualify for ownership of cars?
2. Do you help them find safe parking places? If no, once a woman gets a car, do you just turn her loose with it? If yes, where are they parking, since they are not with One Starfish Safe Parking?
3. Do you plan to follow through on the women who get the cars to help them with expenses and legal problems that might arise because they have the cars?
4. Do you have liability insurance?
5. How do you earn your living in order to support your wife and several children?

Where To Sleep During The No-Parking-Allowed Pandemic?

Other questions still pending response are these, to which I received the answers from Monterey's mayor, Clyde Roberson, and city manager, Hans Uslar (they ran last week) and acknowledgment without answers from Carmel's mayor Dave Potter.

1. Are homeless people who live in their vehicles allowed to park overnight on public streets if no shelter is otherwise available in your city?
2. If yes, are there any specific places you can name where they may or should park? If no, what happens if a woman or man is caught sleeping in a car parked illegally?
3. During Covid-19 Quarantine periods, people are advised to stay 14 days at home; how does this 14-day stay in place order conflict, if it does, with the 72-hour parking limitations on most public streets in which cities' municipal codes prevail? That is if someone parks more than 72 hours in the same spot, and the person is homeless, will the 72-hour rule be waived?

As the answers come—if they do—you'll find their answers in future columns.

Homelessness In Marina

My intent this week was to focus on where the homeless sleep in Marina. Since answers hadn't arrived by press time from Marina's mayor Bruce Delgado, I'll summarize what I do know.

Orphan Productions' One Starfish Safe Parking & Support Program is full to capacity at the Marina parking lot of former Monterey County District 4 Supervisor, Jane Parker, where individuals and families who live in their vehicles have now been permitted to park for slightly more than two years.

One Starfish also operates safe parking for women in church lots across the Monterey Peninsula.

However, since the Covid-19 pandemic caused shelter-in-place and 14-day quarantine orders to be issued periodically across California since mid-March 2020, numerous women from One Starfish are now sheltering in a Project Roomkey motel in Marina, where they were under mandatory 14-day quarantine between Jan.2-14, 2021.

I was unable to ascertain whether any or all of the women who received cars from change a Heart Foundation are participating in Project Roomkey.

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CREDITS:

Self-portrait in 1958 and haiku quintet by Wanda Sue (Childress) Parrott

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“Homeless in Paradise” is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and *The Cedar Street Times* at www.cedarstreettimes.com and on private email 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.