

Real Safety for Homeless Women?

- **Call the CCPVAW at 420-5363:** activate the CCPVAW 1998 and the Homeless Issues Task Force 1999 Emergency Resolutions to End the Sleeping Ban – a threat to vulnerable homeless women.
- **Call the Director Monica Martinez** at the Homeless Services Center [HSC] at 458-6020 to urge her to **protect homeless women** by:



- (a) speeding up access to waiting lists
- (b) advising the police and public that there is literally no walk-in shelter for women at night except after a 2-week delay
- (c) provide receipts for women signing up on waiting lists to show police to discourage ticketing
- (d) advise a HSC volunteer to be available by phone to advise police if shelter is available.

- **Call District Attorney Bob Lee at & City Attorney John Barisone** at 423-6300. Demand they **drop prosecutions** of 72-year old Collette Connolly & former Homeless Issues Task Force chair Linda Lemaster, both of whom face multiple “sleeping” charges and jail sentences for peaceful protest at Peace Camp 2010 last summer in trials slated to begin in May. Drop warrants out for dozens of homeless protesters, some of them women, for “illegal lodging” in the protest that provided a safe sleeping spot for 50-60 people throughout July.



Linda Lemaster

- **Call Take Back Santa Cruz** at 466-0481: encourage a “**no destruction of homeless camps & survival gear**” approach – crucial given bad weather & recent homeless deaths by exposure.
- **Call Police Chief Kevin Vogel** at 420-5810 to encourage police to **suspend sleeping ban ticketing of homeless women** who have no options (a 1999 SCPD report noted homeless people face at least a four-fold greater assault rate than those inside). Urge him to redirect police resources to rape and other crimes of violence against women since the SCPD has the worst record of completed rape investigations in the state according to former CCPVAW member Gillian Greensite.



Linda Edwards
Photo by Gloria J Rovay

- **Call Vice-Mayor Don Lane** 420-4022 (who's also an HSC Board member) to ask that he **end the Sleeping Ban**. It makes homeless women more vulnerable to assault, illness, and harassment by discouraging women from sleeping in safer well-lighted areas, & in groups where security is better. Contacting police also becomes more problematic when you have warrants for past sleepcrimes.