

- INSIDE:
- Letters, Donations - 2
 - News Briefs - 3
 - Prisons, Women - 4&5
 - Judi Bari, 70th Ann. - 6&7
 - Big Wheel, Big Store - 8&9
 - Watergate, Swami - 10
 - Poetry - 11
 - Zev - 13
 - Calendar - 15



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An Open Letter to the Community

By Deborah LaShever

Fellow Venetians,

I am a resident of Venice and a shop owner on Abbot Kinney. I am writing to you from my heart about our homeless crisis in Venice. It has come to my attention that a local man has been sending letters full of blatant lies and hate regarding the people in our community that sleep on our streets out of necessity.

In them he threatens Los Angeles Councilmember Bill Rosendahl that if he does not clean things up in a week he will take matters into his own hands. That was late February.

Many of us are very concerned about these letters from this man who has reached out to many local people and organizations to spread his hateful spirit and personal agenda. They have leaked out and have now gone viral. That is how I, myself, happened to read them.

This hate has been spread throughout our beloved community and beyond. I am appalled at the tone of these letters and the support he is garnering from others inside and outside of Venice who are contacting Rosendahl in support of him and others like him.

Fellow Venetians, do not listen to hatemongers! We are better than that!

Instead of being part of a real solution to these problems, involving humans who *desperately* need our compassion and assistance, people like the man I refer to above are intent on harassing these citizens, who have human and civil rights exactly like we all do. I ask you from my heart, please stay out of this issue if you have nothing constructive to contribute. Do not support and contribute hate. This prejudice, greed and callousness is what is wrong with the world. Do not, yourself, perpetuate it! If this man, and all of us, will use our time assisting rather than being intent on discarding other human beings, we will find the joy of doing something for another rather than being people that live life self-seeking. And Ven-



ice and the world will be a richer place. And we will feel really good about ourselves and our lives.

I, like you, have a deep financial and personal investment in the welfare of Venice and I love Her as much as you do. I firmly believe that we need to create a good, solid solution that works for everyone. If it doesn't work for everyone *it does not work*.

Just to let you know, others of us in Venice are currently working on a viable solution, to propose to Rosendahl in the next weeks, that is a compassionate and encompassing one. Let us do our work. Please stop involving yourselves if you are not intending to contribute to real solutions. Pushing these people around does nothing, as the history of the issue in Venice proves. If you want to help, wonderful! There's a lot

to do! If you have great ideas, fantastic! We'd love to meet and talk with you, let's incorporate them!

But instead of trying to help or going through proper channels, the man I am speaking of evidently took things into his own hands. Per Rosendahl's office, on March 7, an "anonymous" call came in to the Department of Sanitation which began the raid, that occurred with police presence, on the street encampment off 3rd Ave. and Rose Avenue. This man's own letters basically implicate him in being the one to start the raid on the 3rd Ave. encampment and the devastation of about 50 people who lost everything they had, which wasn't much.

Lifesaving medication, which they have no money to replace, glasses and contact lenses, family photos that are irreplace-

able, drivers licenses and social security cards, rain proof tarps, water, pet supplies, their artwork, their musical instruments, blankets and sleeping bags, books, journals, jackets--*everything*--was just taken away from them and thrown in garbage trucks to be hauled to the dump. I was out there myself, that very cold night after the raid, handing out blankets that were provided by the Legal Clinic on Rose for the victims. It was like a war zone. People were literally in shock.

Can you imagine if you came home and everything was gone? *Everything* you owned in the world was gone? And, you had no money to replace anything? What if it wasn't a natural disaster that did this nor a war, but rather another person in your community? Do any of you really want to support that? Really?

For his own mean spirited and perceived personal gain, this man devastated 50 people's lives and cost the city bad press and sorely needed money. He took police and city employees' time for his own personal agenda. This is true criminal behavior. Sleeping on the sidewalk out of necessity is not. The LAPD and the Sanitation Department have better things to do for the whole community than to cater to the whims of one or two hard hearted people. What did they gain, after all? Nothing. The un-housed are back on 3rd Ave *because they have nowhere else to go*. What did *they* lose? Everything. Literally everything. Every shred. And that is no exaggeration.

Why don't people find out how they can help with this issue rather than spending their time making it worse? I hear so much lately about people being up in arms about bullying. Well, what the hell do you think actions like the 3rd Ave raid are? Not just bullying one-on-one, but bullying one part of our community by other parts of our community. That is really horrifying if you stand back and look at it. There are other

-continued on page 4

Future of Venice Skills Center in Doubt

By Charles Thomas

The Venice Skills Center continues to "hang in there," thanks to community activism during the ongoing saga of the school district budget crisis. If you have followed this issue, then you are aware the Los Angeles Unified School District claims to be short of the funding needed to operate the network of adult education centers, the Venice Skills Center being one such location.

On March 13, the school board and superintendent convened in the much-anticipated vote, among other things, to decide the fate of adult education. The result, in full analysis, could be termed a mixed victory, of sorts. The bad part is that the board voted to "zero out" funding for adult ed; that is, that in a worst case scenario, pending further review, adult ed would be illuminated. The board, by majority vote, approved a budget plan in a worse case review of the numbers, leaving no provisions for adult ed, as they claim pressures for slashing the budget. Again, this would mean the end of adult ed and our beloved Skills Center. The good part is that a potential \$180 million has, *interestingly*, been located by the superintendent in his reassessment of the budget, and these funds could keep adult ed afloat. The reassessment left the board and superintendent with a tentative plan keeping adult ed operating, but in a more limited capacity. Only

ten of the district's adult ed centers would continue, the Venice Skills Center being one of those.

The board also voted, in an effort to close further budget gaps, to place a parcel tax on the ballot for the elections this November. Such a levy on property owners, if approved, could raise another \$255 million annually. In both these major votes (as to the budget itself and the parcel tax) the one dissenting vote came from board member Marguerite LaMotte. In LaMotte's dissenting comments, she questioned the absolute need for drastic cuts and instead stated, "Let's stop the wasteful spending." LaMotte's suggestion is a smoking gun. It is possibly a wake-up call as to what the situation really is at the LAUSD. Let's examine wasteful spending going on whether it be a result of politics, or perhaps neglect, oversight and poor planning.

For example, as a student at the Venice Skills Center, I believe there is questionable expenditure with school police staffing. I note there are usually two uniformed school police officers on duty at the Center. The Skill Center campus is about one acre in size and the school grounds can be virtually seen and monitored almost entirely from a couple of vantage points. I'll be the first to recognize the importance of school safety, but I have wondered if it was really necessary to have two

police. One officer is a full-fledged "peace officer" (who carries a gun) and the other what is often referred to as a safety, or patrol, officer. This school term, one of the officers has been away (called up for his military reserve service, I am told) and things have been just fine in the "law and order" department. It has been orderly having one officer on duty, from what I have seen. I believe just a "police presence" is mainly what is needed, and that goes a long way.

The LAUSD budget pays for the operation of the school police. Salary information on the school police web site indicates that the starting salary is in the \$49 to \$59,000 range for an officer. If only one officer is really needed, then it could be wasteful spending having two. The point is, please look for examples such as this anywhere in LAUSD's operations so we can bring them to the attention of board members; things they don't see, or conveniently don't want to see.

There are worthwhile ideas and suggestions to hear; ideas from students, teachers and others. You can come up with some. (Don't leave it all to the school board.) You're probably smarter than you think.

-continued on page 12



Beachhead Collective Staff:

Karl Abrams, Anne Alvarez, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Roger Linnett, Ronald McKinley, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek.

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Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org
Web: www.freevenice.org
Twitter: twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead

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Ocean Charter School

Dear Beachhead,
I am absolutely shocked and appalled at the recent decision of the LAUSD board to deny Ocean Charter School the right to build their new school on the large unused area of Walgrove School campus; a new school which was to happily unite the upper grades at Ocean Charter North (Walgrove campus) with grades K through 3rd presently situated at the south campus on Culver Blvd.

This bewildering vote was taken after the LAUSD staff, who had themselves zealously vetted potential schools wishing to build there, unanimously delivered their recommendation to the board that permission be granted to Ocean Charter, over the rival proposal of the Green Dot charter organization; a David and Goliath scenario with David apparently winning hands down until the whole thing was scotched by the board.

In other words, unbelievably, the LAUSD board voted against the recommendation of their own investigating staff. If this doesn't smack of political shenanigans of the worst order then I don't know what does.

After years of Herculean effort by Ocean Charter staff, children and parents, and who knows how many taxpayer dollars paid to the LAUSD staff to conduct the vetting process, the whole scheme has been voted down with absolutely no opportunity for appeal by Ocean Charter or even time given for questions at the time of the vote.

At the very least the members should have to explain publicly some powerful rationale, other than the usual platitudes about local residents and congestion, for this shocking about-turn and failure to grant the land to anyone at all. One has only to see how much regard is given to the considerations of residents or congestion when a corporate scheme is involved to see how fatuous these platitudes really are.

The taxpayers employ the LAUSD board & the members of that board should have to answer to the taxpayers involved in this particular instance for the apparently complete illogicality of their decision; at least those members who voted 'yes' could perhaps explain to us how it was that their good sense came to be overwhelmed by the majority. It is, on the face of it, one more example of the LAUSD's bureaucracy-gone-mad, too-big-to-fail tradition of profligate waste and titanic inefficiency.

Apart from all the political chicanery involved from Steve Zimmer (whose 'yes' vote is believed by many to be strategic only) and the rest of the board, throughout all the uncertainties and deliberations of various local government and LAUSD bodies to ascertain the future of this school, one giant factor never seems to come into the discussion either in the press or in the halls of power at all, to whit the central one, the welfare of the Ocean Charter children at the center of what has now, for them, become a crisis.

These exceptional children have been for several years, and are presently, housed in inadequate temporary cabin-type buildings on the Walgrove Campus which structures will be, by law, razed to the ground during this summer break. This leaves the Ocean Charter children with the awful uncertainty of not knowing where they will be next year and the desperate feeling that perhaps they won't have a school at all, an insecurity that must inevitably impact their happiness and progress.

So after all this effort by so many well-meaning people, incredibly, the unused area of mostly unsightly tarmac at Walgrove School will be again left to degenerate further with no benefit for the community whatsoever. It is widely believed that the LAUSD board has a bias against charter schools generally, but this latest development would be viewed as farcical if it wasn't made so unutterably tragic by the suspicion that the LAUSD is playing political games with the hearts and minds of our defenseless children.

The Ocean Charter school is a wonderful institution which, through many travails and the overcoming of prodigious obstacles to establish itself, has tried, and succeeded, to amply satisfy the educational standards set by the law while teaching the children in a way that doesn't just turn them into mindless test fodder, who will mechanically regurgitate data, but seeks to preserve the students' thirst for knowledge while enhancing and preserving their individuality as a benefit to the community at large.

One question begs an answer. How is it that the absolutely fundamental right and power of parents and educators to nurture and foster the kind of education that their children receive and deserve is taken out of the hands of the children's community and given into the hands of a small institutionally-entrenched and distant political elite more concerned with their political future than the well-being of the children themselves? I challenge the LAUSD to prove me wrong, and do the right thing by these children; give them a decent place to learn and, by your example perhaps, give them a lesson in impartiality.

Terence Pearce

Thanks for your generous donations!

Michael Chamness
Don Geagan
Larry Hankin
Pete Savino
Jim Smith
Aleen Stein
Ted Tannenbaum
Robert Watts

Venice History Banned From The Boardwalk

Dear Beachhead,
I have been selling my postcards and history books for 33 years along the Venice Boardwalk. Now, I've been shut down by the new Venice Beach vending ordinance.

LAPD Sergeant Rodriquez took a closer look at my stand and discovered that I was selling my Venice photographs on my postcard rack. His interpretation of the new ordinance is that photographs can't be printed and that they must carry a message much like a button or bumper sticker. Obviously my postcards are printed in mass to get the price down so that I can sell them at 25 cents, but they only promote Venice to potential tourists who might show them to friends or even mail them to people. My postcard sales average about \$5 per day, sometimes more, sometimes less. I do it to have a job since I'm 67 years old with too many unproductive days to fill.

As to my books, I can only display one copy of my Venice history book. All other books that I had on my table to attract the occasional customer, aren't allowed. Even with my table full of books I only sold one book about every three weeks and it usually wasn't my history book. Of course I went to the meetings drafting the ordinance and pointed out to the District Attorney that both New Orleans and New York attempted to close down street book vending, and both lost in Federal Circuit Court. She said, "that was 1st and 2nd Circuit Court - 9th may rule against you." If they would, it would have to go to the Supreme Court for it is definitely a first amendment violation and would close book selling down all over the country. We could always find out with great expense how the 9th Circuit Court would rule.

While you might say just display your history book, it isn't that simple since Sergeant Rodriquez says I can't share a spot with the button guy or I will be ticketed and if I persist will be permanently banned from the boardwalk. I have been sharing a space with Jeffrey Kissinger for nearly four years. The police can't cite a section of the ordinance since that states that there can only be one vendor per space. My advantage to share is that I can arrive at noon and work till dusk without having to fight for a space at 9 AM, and if I need to run an errand or go to the bathroom, someone is there to watch my table.

Norman Kula on Councilman Rosendahl's legal staff is trying to get clarification from the District Attorney's office, but nothing has happened in the last few weeks. When the Councilman often visited Venice, he always stopped and praised my efforts to promote Venice and its history through my books and postcards.

Jeffrey Stanton

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David L. Moring
Attorney at Law

4551 Glencoe Ave., Suite 300
Marina Del Rey, California 90292
(310) 578-0009 Fax (310) 578-2229
davidmlaw@aol.com

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Bacon and Eggs? Hungry people get at least one meal a week thanks to an anonymous donor. Serving begins at 8am on Sundays at the Venice Community Housing Corp., 720 Rose Avenue. Next Sunday's meal will be on Ocean Front Walk at Rose. Photo: Reta Moser

Post Office Sale Terms Omit Historical Protection; Rally Scheduled for Tax Day, April 17

By Greta Cobar

The Venice post office is currently for sale for \$7.5 million, and the closing day for bid submissions is April 23. The draft covenant regarding historical preservation would allow the future owner to destroy the mural and the building with no penalty. Venetians have repeatedly demanded that the 1939 Works Project Administration building and the Edward Biberman mural in the lobby be under historical preservation protection in the event of a sale. According to the drafted covenant, however, a future owner would only have to follow the National Park Service (NPS) Guidelines, which are not sufficient to protect the historic resource.

Venice Homeless People File Claim Against L.A. City

People whose personal property was seized without notice and destroyed on March 7 on 3rd Avenue filed claims for damages against the city on March 28, said Attorney Carol Sobel.

The claims seek a minimum of \$4,000 for each person whose property was taken.

In April 2011, a federal court issued an emergency order, which continues in effect, barring the city from seizing and destroying the property of homeless individuals on Skid Row. ☸

Chain Envelops Independent Newspaper

No it's not an April Fools Day joke. The 40-year-old independent newspaper, the Marina del Rey Argonaut, has been sold to a newspaper chain, Southland Publishing, Incorporated.

The Argonaut was founded by David Asper Johnson, who was its owner-publisher until his death in 2006. He willed the paper to Argonaut employee Carol Hector, who ran it until her death in 2010.

Hector willed the paper to her spouse and long-time partner Arlene Ruiz.

According to a Sept. 8, 2010 article in the Argonaut, "Johnson, who founded The Argonaut in November 1971, said he wanted to assure the public that The Argonaut would continue to be locally owned as an independent local newspaper, and new publisher Ruiz says it was Hector's wish to continue Johnson's legacy. Hector had left instructions concerning the future of the paper that would assure its continuing as a locally-owned and -operated independent community newspaper, Ruiz added."

What happened?

Whatever it was, Southland Publishing, Inc. is now in control. The corporation seems to specialize in L.A. Weekly-type tabloids. Its most popular newspaper was L.A. CityBeat, which went out of business in 2006. It continues to publish Pasadena Weekly, San Diego CityBeat, and Inland Empire Weekly, among others.

Whether the Argonaut is facing a make-over or changes in its appearance or editorial policy is unknown at this time. However, it is noteworthy that Southland has appointed its vice president of operations rather than a journalist as its new Argonaut publisher. ☸

The draft covenant states that the future owner must make a written request to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before doing any construction, alteration or rehabilitation to the building. But if permission is not granted within 30 days, the owner can go ahead and perform the work simply by following the recommended approaches of the NPS. Thus, it doesn't matter whether the SHPO grants permission or not.

Furthermore, there is no provision for the SHPO or anyone else to monitor whether the NPS Standards and Guidelines are being followed. Therefore, if the mural inside the building (or the building itself) is destroyed, there is no legal remedy or penalty to the owner. Also, there is no provision that allows any future public access to view the mural.

John Henning, attorney representing the Venice Stakeholders Association (VSA), filed an official request for Section 106 consideration, which mandates a historic preservation review process. According to Henning's letter, sale of the post office under the current draft covenant "would result in an 'adverse effect' for purposes of Section 106."

The sale and closure of the Venice post office is considered to be a relocation, with services moving across the street to what is currently called the Annex. All closures are under a moratorium until May 15, while the Venice post office is for sale because it is labeled "relocation."

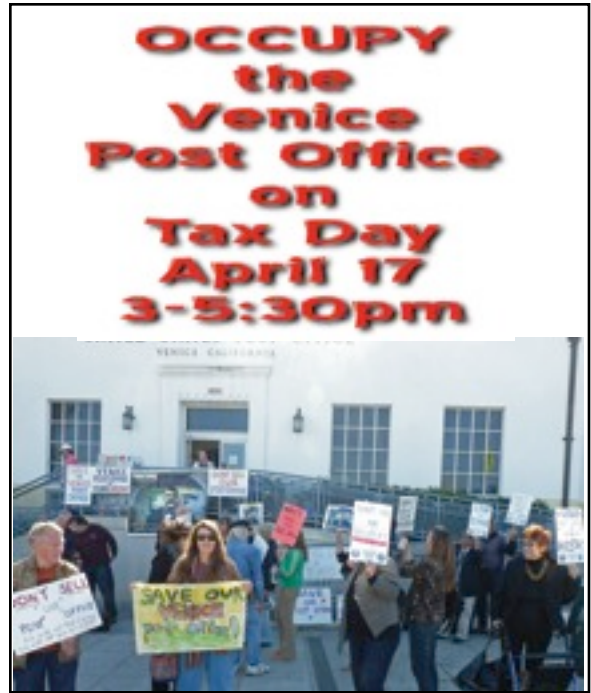
A month ago the Venice community came together and raised the funds to finance an attorney, Elaine Mittleman, in Washington DC, to appeal the sale of the post office. The lawsuit was filed, demanding that the PRC (Postal Regulatory Commission) does have the power to decide whether the sale of a post office be classified as a closure instead of a relocation.

This last lawsuit is our third appeal. The previous one asked that the PRC classify Venice as a closure instead of a relocation. The PRC responded that it does not hold the power to make that decision. The current lawsuit demands that the PRC does have that power.

In a best-case-scenario situation, the court will decide that the PRC does have the power to decide what is or is not to be considered a closure. The PRC would then decide that the Venice post office classifies as a closure. The USPS would then conduct its own investigation, at the end of which they would decide that the Venice post office is indeed a closure. Again, this is a best-case scenario.

Would the Venice post office be saved, then? No, it would just be taken off the relocation list and put on the closure list, which would take the building off

continued on page 13



Where's the Transparency?



By Jim Smith

When City Controller Candidate Cary Brazeman expressed shock that the city of Los Angeles was corrupt, I was reminded of the scene in the film, Casablanca, when Inspector Renault discovers gambling at Rick's as he is handed his winnings. Brazeman was irritated about the city's Ethics Commission changing the election rules in mid-campaign. In fact, "ethics" is about as foreign to city government as "planning" is to the Dept. of Planning.

When I asked Brazeman if he didn't know L.A. was corrupt, he responded: "Well, I liked to think it couldn't get any dirtier ... but was proven wrong!" His reaction is not uncommon. Many of us in Venice have had those moments when we thought it couldn't get any dirtier, only to be confronted with more corruption.

Corruption takes many forms in the city of the angels. It can be the old-fashion kind when money is transferred from a businessman to a city official. This is called a campaign contribution in Los Angeles, where most of the city council is beholden to developers. Corruption also can be rigged elections as in the Venice annexation election of 1925. Corruption caused the dismantling the Red Cars, the most extensive mass transit system in the country at the behest of the oil and auto companies. Corruption can also take the form of changing the rules in mid-stream, as Brazeman points out. Or, in suddenly deciding a city street is actually a park in order to brutalize homeless people. It's no wonder that a popular film exposing city corruption in mid-century was called L.A. Confidential – the opposite of transparency.

I would argue that lack of transparency in government is an example of corruption. Transparency means openness, communications and accountability. Where is the transparency in Los Angeles? The city regime is about as transparent as the governments of Syria and North Korea.

Readers may wonder how the city of Los Angeles can be compared with these boogymen of the evening news? Aren't they corrupt dictatorships (the term is nearly redundant)? If you really think Los Angeles is a transparent democracy, you haven't been paying attention. It has some of the trappings of democracy. You can attend city council meetings, where whatever you say will be ignored. You can attend neighborhood council meetings, which have all the power of a mock legislature in a middle school. The only difference is that a number of uniformed, armed men and women will probably not be lining the back wall at the middle school exercise.

Here are a few examples of the shocking lack of transparency as it affects Venice:

- Not once since he was elected has our Councilmember, Bill Rosendahl, issued an accounting of the Venice Surplus Property Fund. The Fund, which includes money from the sale of city owned property in Venice, is supposed to be used only in Venice. There has been no report on how much has been collected, how much has been spent, what projects it has been spent on, or any other particulars. Our previous councilmember, Cindy Miscikowski, who was imposed on Venice by the city council without an election, routinely consulted with the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council on expenditures. In neither case, however, was a

-continued on page 12

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Plantations of Prisons – California’s Biggest Crop

By Mary Getlein

Jason stood before us, a 30-year-old Latino man. He was here to tell his story of growing up in East L.A. and how he met Javier Stauring, who changed his life. Javier supervises the Catholic detention ministry programs at all juvenile halls and probation camps in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. He also oversees three other restorative justice programs: Ministry to Victims of Crimes, Ministry to Families of the Incarcerated, and Ministry to Formerly Incarcerated.

Jason was raised in the neighborhood around USC. His father died when he was nine and his mother had to work two jobs. Jason’s 16-year old brother was given the responsibility of raising him. He grew up in the streets. His mother’s method of childrearing was physical beatings. He described brutal beatings by his mother and older brother. He started using drugs to numb the pain.

He joined a gang and got involved in an armed robbery. He robbed people and shot people. He wanted to hurt people the way he had been hurt. When he committed an act of violence, he felt like people paid attention to him, he felt powerful.

He related that as a 13-year old, his mother bought a goat and tied it up behind the house. For three days Jason watched the goat. It was a young goat, and Jason’s mother was going to cook it for a family event. So she told Jason to go get his gun and go kill the goat. He couldn’t kill the goat.

Javier asked him why he couldn’t kill the goat, but he could kill a kid on the street. Jason’s response was: “That goat didn’t do nothing to me. It was just a goat, so cute I couldn’t kill it.” But he was accused of killing another boy his age, in retaliation for the kill-

ing of his brother. So inside, there was still part of the child left in him.

Jason was in and out of juvenile halls. He got involved with a girl, and had a baby son. This brought up all the pain he had tried to bury with drugs. The pain of being a beaten child, the pain of being molested as a young child, the pain of growing up in the streets. He had to learn to sit with the pain and truly forgive himself, in order to begin to love himself.

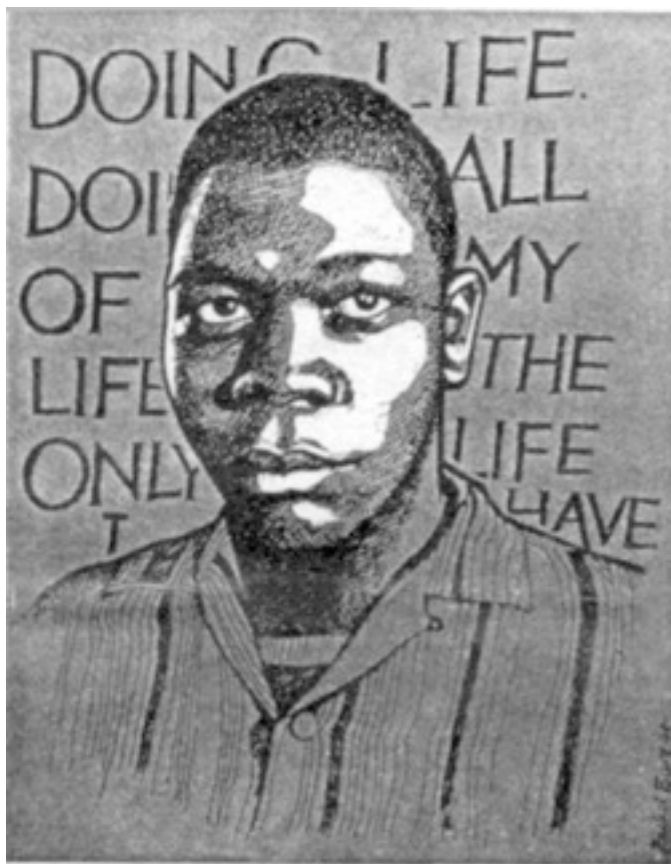
How did Javier help him do this? By “listening to Jason’s stories, accepting his stories, finding God in the stories and accepting the person.” If enough people who are affected by this could come together, they could change the juvenile justice system.

Jason now goes around bringing poetry and writing classes to incarcerated teen-agers. By getting them to write their stories, they can release the pain and anger inside. This is a system of broken kids.

The United States is the only country in the world that tries teenagers as adults. Teenagers are given life sentences in prison, which are really death sentences. The United States has five percent of the world’s population, but it has 25 percent of the incarcerated people of the world. Ten billion dollars a year are used to maintain the prison industrial complex only in California. If only one percent of that budget could be redirected toward prevention, then that money could be used for youth programs so less young people will be drawn to criminal activity.

We need programs to help our youth. There is no infrastructure to fund programs at the present time.

The California prison system is the largest “cash crop” of the state. The prison guard union is one of the strongest unions in the state, with a lot of strength in Sacramento. We need bills in the California legis-



lature addressing these concerns. We need to adopt a culture where we value our youth. There was a bill in Sacramento protesting the practice of shanking women inmates to the gourney while they are giving birth. That bill did not pass. These policies are having a “colonizing effect” on the prisoners in custody. Many of them are more familiar with prison life than life on the outside. This is equivalent to the conditions of slavery, when slavery was legal in most states of the country. In 2012 we have more Blacks in prison then there were slaves in 1850. Blacks are six times more likely to be in prison than whites.

This article is based on a talk given by Javier Stauring, who is co-director of the Office of Restorative Justice. Javier is also Policy Director for the Healing Justice Coalition, a diverse coalition of faith-based organizations in California. They seek to support restorative justice for juveniles instead of divisive, punitive measures that further fracture families and communities. The talk was held on March 11 at the Church in Ocean Park, in Santa Monica. For more information, visit www.restorejustice.com, email jharper@cacatholic.org, or call 916-313-4024. ☸

Open Letter

—continued from Page 1

solutions. Resorting to this crap is just lazy and callous. Where is your humanity? For God’s sake! So you have money and a cool house in Venice, so what? You have no heart, so really, you have no class.

I believe Gandhi said, “A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members,” and Churchill said, “You measure the degree of civilization of a society by how it treats its weakest members.”

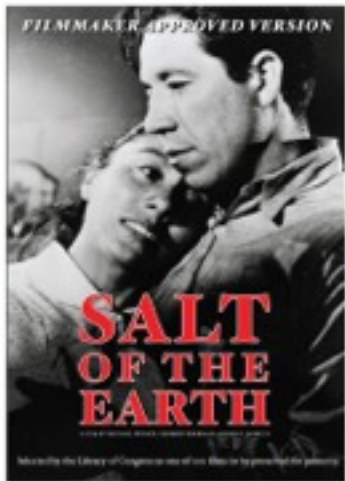
Listen, there are definitely problems surrounding this issue. Of course! No one would deny that! But we do not have to resort to barbarism! I completely stand for the fact that if anybody can find creative, humane solutions, Venice can. We are an incredible assortment of people with amazing talents and resources. We can absolutely do this. Yes, we are just that cool.

Apartheid is officially over in the entire country of South Africa. How hard could it be to stop social/economic apartheid in our small community? It may help to remember that no matter how great things are going right now, you are just one small catastrophe away from you yourselves having to sleep out there on that cold, hard cement, shivering, hopeless. That’s how most of the people you see out there got there, one small catastrophe. And if it were you, think for a moment about how you would want to be treated? Worse than animals?

Good People of Venice, we must each take responsibility for how the most destitute among us is being treated. No longer can we stand by and let these injustices occur! You would step in if you saw someone beating a dog wouldn’t you? (I know you would!) Then, eons worse, how can you let your community’s un-housed be abused time after time after time? *Do not endorse this by doing nothing.* Take a stand with me that we will no longer let this happen in our own community. We are better than this! We want a humane and compassionate solution that works for *everyone* in Venice. Call or email Bill Rosendahl today. It will take five minutes. Thank you! And I truly hope someone helps you when you are in need someday. Because, as you know, there are times in *everyone’s* life when they are needy in some way. Councilman Bill Rosendahl: [310-568-8772](tel:310-568-8772) or cd11.lacity.org.

Deborah LaShever is the owner of the Bohemian Exchange on Abbot Kinney Blvd. ☸

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The War Against Women

By Jack Neworth

Women of Venice (actually, all across the country) it's time to wake up as decades of progress are about to be rolled back. At the risk of sounding like a modern-day Paul Revere, "The misogynists are coming! The misogynists are coming!"

Yes, gals, conservative politicians nationwide are pushing bills that would require you to undergo invasive ultrasounds before an abortion, extend abortion waiting times, allow employers to fire you for using contraception, and require you to tell your employer what you use contraception for. (Draw them a map, perhaps?) And you thought Rush Limbaugh was bad?

Actually, I feel like Rip Van Winkle waking up to a world I don't recognize. I thought equal rights for women had been decided decades ago. Then again I thought the evolution question had been resolved during the Scopes trial in 1925. Evidently not.

So here we are in 2012 and I'm wondering where did this war against women come from? And why? It's so extreme lately that Rep. Richard Hanna (R-New York), campaigning to get re-elected, is telling women to support Democratic candidates if they want their rights protected. Obviously Hanna isn't counting on Tea Bagger support in November.

National attention to this issue hit a peak last month on the disturbingly popular Rush Limbaugh radio broadcast. Seemingly out of nowhere, Rush verbally attacked and tried to humiliate Sandra Fluke, a 23-year-old law student. Why, you ask? Because Ms. Fluke had the audacity to testify before Congress in support of female contraception being covered by health insurance. (By the way, Viagra has been covered since 1998.)

On three successive days Rush called Ms. Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute" and suggested that he'd pay for female contraception in return for "her sex tapes being put online." It's hard to imagine but Rush may have hit a new low in repulsiveness. (In 2008 he mocked Michael J. Fox's Parkinson's disease and accused him of faking it or purposely not taking his medications.)

Frankly, I still can't understand how Darrell Issa's Congressional committee, the one Ms. Fluke wanted to testify before, and which was dealing with women-related health issues, had only men testify. Issa (R-CA) said Ms. Fluke wasn't "qualified." (Because she didn't have a penis?)

Apparently Limbaugh has serious issues with anyone who disagrees with him, but especially women. Just examine his endless references to Nancy Pelosi as the "Botox queen." Attacking someone's appearance is pathetic enough, but in this case, it's also hypocritical when the attacker looks like Rush. (Something about people who live in glass houses.)

After a national uproar, Rush eventually "apologized" saying he used a poor choice of words. So instead of calling Ms. Fluke a "slut" he should have said "tramp?" Or instead of saying she was a "prostitute" he could have referred to her as "a lady of the evening?" Rush actually used his non-apology apology to blame liberals for being overly sensitive. A bully like Rush is never genuinely sorry and, of course, whatever hot water he's in, well, it's never his fault.

Consider, if Rush had been that vile in describing blacks (using the "N" word) or Jews, or just about any minority. He'd be in line at the unemployment office, or maybe he'd send his cleaning woman. (In 2006 Rush was arrested for having purchased 10,000 Oxy-Contin tablets, using his cleaning woman as his courier.)

The question is, how did it become acceptable in 2012 to demean females or make crude jokes about how the best birth control is when they hold aspirin between their knees? Or, as Rick Santorum suggests, that all contraception is wrong. (If anything is wrong it's Rick's sweater vests.)

Is the GOP right-wing purposely trying to alienate 51% of the voters to appeal to fundamentalists who think women's rights ought to be rolled back to the middle ages? (Or at least back to 1952.) That sounds more like the Taliban than America.

Here's a slightly disturbing statistic. (Actually more than slightly.) In countries around the world with the highest percentage of females in national legislatures, the U.S. ranks 69th. That's embarrassing.

And a few weeks ago, Willard ("etch a sketch") Romney said, "Planned Parenthood, we're going to get rid of that." Planned Parenthood provides services to 3,000,000 women, including vital breast cancer screenings.

With his "America never apologizes" attitude, it would seem that wars are likely to continue with Willard in the White House. Somehow there's always money for wars, but breast cancer screenings are breaking the budget.

Frankly, I don't know why women aren't screaming mad. (From personal experience, they frequently are at me.) I'm hoping the women of Venice (and all across the country) speak up to stop this insanity. If not, as Rip Van Winkle might have said, "I'm going back to bed." ☞

The More Things Change...Carol Fondiller Strikes Back from the Archives, March 1985

Free Venice Beachhead • April 2012 • 5

Wombs: *Property of the State?*

By Carol Fondiller

I'm holding a picket sign again, my feet hurt again, and people look past the sign that I picked up from a pile of signs, something about abortion being legal and bombings are not. Yep, back in the ol' fox hole – again.

For the past five years now, abortion clinics have been torched or bombed, doctors have been kidnapped and clients and patients have been harassed and threatened by people who plead, "Oh, don't kill your baby!"

It's a marvel to me how people forget current history.

In one of Reagan's campaign speeches he spoke of how far women had come in his administration – as if he and those of his political ilk had helped them get there. It's as if there were no history of women's right to choose over their biology, no history of suffragists chaining themselves to public buildings, marching, being arrested, no history of women acting in an "unladylike" manner in their struggle for enfranchisement. It's as if someone wiped out all of history.

Before Ronnie was the Void.

It's particularly galling to see women under thirty buying the whole repressive package – "Yes, I'm a doctor, lawyer, policeman, truck driver, C.P.A., miner, general, anchorwoman – but I'm not a women's libber and I got to where I am with no one's help!" And the ever-popular real women don't argue, they discuss. These post-Beatles' era women who can now have "non-traditional" jobs and even THINK of asking for on-site day-care and even think about thinking about comparable pay, think about the same athletic scholarship opportunities offered to women as are offered to men. These women who were born when I was in college are taking for granted attitudes and choices I didn't even imagine when I was in high school. And that goes from the right of access to accurate, unbiased information about birth control.

Well, Goddess knows, there's a saying that those who forget or don't learn about history are condemned to repeat it. And, my dear younger sisters, this is the history Phyllis and Jerry and Ronnie have in store for us. January 22nd was the 13th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision of the Supreme Court.

As I remember, that decision reversed a decision of a lower court's ruling that abortion was murder to the decision that the matter of abortion was a private matter between a woman and her physician. I read Simone De Bouvoir's "Second Sex," and Grave's "White Goddess" in high school, so to me that decision was long overdue. Anyone remember what's her name and the thalidomide baby, and how she went to one of those cold liberal northern countries for an abortion? You do? Well, your 30-year high school reunion is coming up, also.

I'm one of those women who's had a taste of the world when abortions were illegal, and a sample of how it is now that women have the right to their own choice – and I am stating here and now that abortion is not my favorite form of birth control. But what happens if you are ill from the pill and the diaphragm slips? In the past, bar maids, receptionists, dancers, students, teachers did not get maternity leave, and if I may remind you, at this time maternity leaves and benefits are being cut from some of the fringe benefits in some jobs, including the local, state, county and federal agencies which in the past have been the main employers of most of the few jobs where women could get seniority.

And heeere's Ronnie co-opting again – this time from Mao, praising the born-again new feudalists as 70,000 of them assembled in Washington, D.C. on the 13th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision –

praising them "on their long march for the right to life." Well, of course Ronnie would praise the new feudalists, Ronnie needs a constant supply of vulnerable expandable welfare wombs to ensure a steady supply of scab and unskilled labor and cannon fodder to protect his "Shining City on the Hill." That is why there is more concern about the contents of the womb than for the destiny of the fully formed, already exist-

ing sentient female-type human being who if she chooses will be living with it for nearly a year, at least.

Because of the pill and legalized abortion, there has been a decline in Anglo-Saxon babies for adoption by the less vulgarly fertile upper classes.

This same administration which is supporting the new feudalists is also repromulgating the old myths that: 1) women don't hold "real jobs"; 2) if a woman has a job, she doesn't need it as much as a man. Now do you see why I call these people new feudalists?

They're gonna take us right back to pre-Magna Carta days.

Several years ago, I took part in an abortion speak-out sponsored by a pro-

choice group. I was disappointed that other women and I were preaching to the already converted. No high school girls or college women heard the other women's or my histories about coat hangers, green soap, knitting needles piercing uterine walls, being raped by failed doctors on the table, of the men in jail, out of town, dead, or married to someone else, of not having the few thousand dollars to have it neatly and cleanly done in a nice little villa on Doheny Drive by an abortionist-to-the-stars.

Because, believe me younger sisters, if anti-abortion legislation is enacted, it will only affect the middle and low income people as have the inroads on federal funding for abortion for the poor. Well, surely

you didn't think that Reagan would force his cronies wives, daughters, mistresses to have unwanted children, would you? That's different.

It's too bad that no one has told you, younger sisters, about being driven by a panic-stricken lover to County General where, bleeding and in pain, you were questioned by homicide detectives; of being called stupid by a young intern because you nearly killed yourself. No doctor, just poor. Spending three weeks flat on your back talking to other women who were also pariahs. The shady ladies of obstetrics. A 13-year old who didn't know she was pregnant until she was five months along and couldn't remember who did it, much less how; a 45-year-old mother of

six who winked at the other women as she said, "I just slipped and fell, doctor." All of the women were suffering from effects of illegal abortion, not the abortions themselves. The doctor or midwife or neighbor who helped the women abort was also guilty of murder.

A film has been showing around the country called "The Silver Scream." I saw parts of it on television and frankly, it reminded me of those SUNN movie productions, popular in the late 70s. You know, the ones that try to prove there were space ships in King Tut's time, and Jesus and Buddha were all aliens-abominable snowmen; well, this is an abominable snowjob. An ultrasound picture of a three-month fetus is magnified about 1000 times its real-size size, which is about the size of a little finger. It then shows what is purported to be a suction abortion, which works on the same principle as a vacuum cleaner. You are then told by the doctor who is, he says, an atheist and former abortionist, that what he shows you in this blurry ultrasound-wave blow-up is the mouth of a baby. Note: not fetus, baby. What I saw saw a series of vaguely connected horizontal



Carol Fondiller



continued on page 14

Who Bombed Judi Bari?

A conversation With Darryl Cherney, Earth First! Activist And Producer Of Daring New Documentary: *Who Bombed Judi Bari?*

By Margot Pepper

Before global warming permeated contemporary consciousness, Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney popularized protests against clear-cutting in the 1980's.

On May 24th, 1990 in Oakland, California, a bomb exploded in Judi Bari's car and the former union organizer suffered debilitating injuries alongside Cherney.

Who Bombed Judi Bari?, a new compelling and poetic documentary film directed by Mary Liz Thomson and produced by Cherney, explores attempts by the FBI and Oakland Police to accuse Bari of planting the bomb herself and the subsequent lawsuit against the agencies that attempted to silence both environmentalists.

The film, which plays out like a Hollywood drama, offers a surprising and uplifting resolution: in 2002, a federal jury found that 3 FBI agents and 3 Oakland officers were guilty of violating Bari and Cherney's civil rights and ordered the law enforcement agencies to pay \$4.4 million.

Yet, like the killing of J.F.K., the film reveals an unsolved mystery: who then, is the actual bomber of Judi Bari? In 2011, their legal team secured a stop order preventing the FBI from destroying evidence that could contain the bomber's DNA and ordered it turned over to an independent lab for testing. The FBI is appealing the order.

The following interview with Cherney offers his thoughts as to the bomber's identity, as well as insights about perseverance against impossible odds, lessons for today's Occupy movement.

Margot Eve Pepper: Charles Hurwitz replaced Pacific Lumber's sustainable growth policy with one of clear-cutting old growth in redwood forests under Maxxam Inc. How do you feel about Earth First!'s accomplishments with regard to Maxxam?

Darryl Cherney: We drove Maxxam's stock down from \$43 to \$3. And we criminalized Charles Hurwitz, made it difficult to show his face and do anymore takeovers. We rescued some redwoods.

Pepper: Some redwoods?

Cherney: Headwaters Forest started out as a 98,000 acre plan and went down to 68,000 acres, and when the politicians were through with it, it was down to 10,000 acres with only 5,000 acres of standing trees. Often, when you're doing a battle to save forests, you start off trying to save something big and ten years later, there's only a little something left. So it's always bittersweet and meanwhile there are hundreds of thousands of acres of rainforests being cut elsewhere. What I try to remember, in order to keep surfing the impossible tidal wave, is that you can save something little but make a big statement and teach other people, too. It's not just about the issue, it's about the strategy, the spirit. We got 18,000 acres of Cahto, 10,000 acres of Headwaters, or three acres for Julia Butterfly's tree. Even if it was only three acres, it had a big impact on human consciousness. There's a Hawaiian spiritual principle that 'effectiveness is the measure of truth.' So I like to think that activists can be effective, in even a short period of time, by revealing the truth.

Pepper: Like the Occupy movement, that's primarily educating, revealing truth. You're also scattering seeds of this truth and you don't really know where they're going to fall or what's going to grow.

Cherney: Yes and even though we don't know where they're going to fall, we know they're going to fall somewhere. And part of the fun of it is seeing the surprise, seeing somebody who was three years old twenty years ago say, "I followed you guys' campaign when I was a kid and now I'm working to save the environment myself."

Pepper: Are you afraid Maxxam is going to go after you or sue you?

Cherney: Maxxam's old news. This is the case I'm interested in now. Two FBI agents that we sued went on to have show business careers. Frank Doyle went on to *Myth Busters* and Special Agent Phil Sena went on the Discovery Channel's *FBI Files* as a commentator. With help from the Fair Use Doctrine, in the movie we let the public know that *Myth Busters'* expert bomb guy, Frank Doyle, has actually been found guilty of lying about the bombing of Judi and me on his police records. And that this person, who is convicted of lying in civil trial, is now a consulting bomb expert on a television show regularly, a featured guest. Now, "Who Bombed Judi Bari?" gives us the opportunity to challenge mainstream institutions, including media, and to reinvigorate an investigation of the bomber's identity. One of the things we can do to that end, is to challenge *Myth Busters* to solve this myth: was it in fact Frank



Judi Bari

Doyle's voice at the scene just prior to the bombing that said, "This is it! This is the final exam!". Because Frank Doyle testified under oath that that was not him. We maintain that the recording sounds just like him.

Pepper: Your film shows that one month prior to the bombing, the FBI's Frank Doyle was conducting an FBI bomb school training. What you're implying is, he thought the real life situation of bombing you was a 'final exam,' of sorts, the real thing...

That's what we'd like *Myth Busters* to explore. We'd like *Myth Busters* to dedicate an episode to investigating their own guy, using voice analysis techniques. We'd like the film to reinvigorate interest in the bombing. Just like there's interest in *Who Killed JFK?* *Who bombed Judi Bari?*

Pepper: Not too many people succeed in suing the FBI and winning. Are you afraid of retaliation?

Cherney: I know what you're asking. Franklin Roosevelt once said, "There's nothing to fear but fear itself." Fear is situational. It's a good instinct to have. The important thing is to be wise and to prioritize. What I'm much more afraid of is what's happening to the planet. As an Earth First!-er, what I really fear is the destruction of our planet's ability to provide life for us and all of our animal friends. Contrary to expectation, a warrior is somebody who offers their life--not somebody who takes a life--but someone who offers their life for the greater good of the community. Earth First! is a warrior society. We're willing to offer ourselves up for the ability of the earth to sustain us with life. That's part of what makes Earth First!-ers unique.

Pepper: You were considering the title, "The FBI Stole My Fiddle," like the song you and Judi sing in the film. What does it refer to?

Cherney: The FBI seized Judi Bari's fiddle as evidence. But it wasn't just any old fiddle. It was her childhood fiddle. This is not a small matter to a musician. Judi never got her childhood fiddle back to the day she died. Eventually, after her death, it was released. Even without my knowledge at first. So I'm still exploring the condition of the fiddle and where it is and how we go about memorializing it. But it's now free. I think. I haven't seen it. It's like a myth. Like Loch Ness Monster or Big Foot.

Pepper: Maybe you can add a DVD extra: "Where is Judi Bari's Fiddle?"

Cherney: I'm not going to tell you. (Laughing.)

Pepper: Do you see any parallels between Earth First! and the current Occupy Wall Street movement?

Cherney: The similarities between Occupy Wall Street and Earth First! are striking: bottom up leadership; vigorous debates between those who advocate property destruction and those who don't; disruption by the authorities and the ability to catch the attention of the media.

Pepper: What should Occupy activists be wary of?

Cherney: I think the biggest mistake Occupy activists are making is trying to cover too many issues. I also think it is a mistake to camp out at the various city halls around the country rather than at the doors of the corporate interests. Occupy should be camped out and holding vigils at Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Chase Bank, and so on. The tendency to camp at City Halls is that it's government space and they are less likely to be evicted and if they are--it will take longer. But camping there doesn't send the original message: Occupy Wall Street.

Occupy should also be wary of violence. The people who espouse violence discredit the non-violent participants. It's an oppressive act that mimics the dominant paradigm. Many at Occupy Wall Street recognize that the police are part of the 99%. Utah Phillips once said that a cop is a good man (or woman) doing a bad job. To segregate the police from the 99% simply because they are defending the oppressors misses the point. All of us defend the oppressors when we buy packaged food, live on conquered land in an industrially built house made out of old growth lumber, and go to an industrial school reading textbooks made out of virgin paper teaching what is ultimately garbage. So the holier than thou crap has got to go out the window. The police are part of the 99% just as the tea partiers are, just as members of the city council are. And the 1% is not to be destroyed. They simply need to eat a bit of humble pie. For me, the message of Occupy can be summed up in one word: equality.

Pepper: What words of wisdom do you have for the current Occupy movement?

Cherney: You are what we've been waiting for. 🚲



Venice Observes 70th Anniversary of Horrific Incarceration of Venice Japanese-Americans With Memorial Event and Hama Sushi Fundraiser

By Phyllis Hayashibara

Esther Chaing, proprietor of Venice’s oldest sushi restaurant, Hama Sushi at the Venice Traffic Circle, will host three fundraisers at her restaurant on April 25 on behalf of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker (VJAMM) Committee.

On March 22 the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, awarded VJAMM a \$50,000 grant for the 2012 grant cycle. The Park Service grant requires a \$1 match in non-federal funds and “in-kind” contributions to qualify for every \$2 in federal money.

A series of Hama Sushi Restaurant fundraisers will ensure that the VJAMM Committee will top the requisite \$25,000 in non-federal money.

Through Hama Sushi, Esther has been able to demonstrate her appreciation by contributing to a number of causes, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Japan’s Earthquake and Tsunami benefit to which Esther donated almost \$5,000t.

For the VJAMM fundraisers at Hama Sushi on Wednesday, April 25, Hama Sushi head chef Kinya Aota created a special “bento” box lunch that includes teriyaki chicken, cucumber and potato salads, spicy tuna and California rolls, shrimp and vegetable tempura, plus a soft drink for \$20. All profits from the lunch will be donated to the VJAMM Committee. That evening, Hama Sushi will donate 10 percent of all food and drink purchased between 7 and 11 pm to the VJAMM Committee. In addition, Hama Sushi will allow the Venice Arts Council to exhibit art works for sale on its walls from April 25 through June 25. Forty percent of the sale price of an artwork will be donated to the VJAMM Committee, with 40 percent going to the contributing artists and 20 percent retained by Hama Sushi.

Esther Chaing grew up in Taegu, south of Seoul in South Korea, and emigrated to Los Angeles in 1972 with one of her older brothers, leaving her parents, two brothers, and one sister in South Korea. She studied English and art in night school classes, and worked in garment factories in Los Angeles during the day. “I was a trimmer, and worked twelve to fourteen hours a day, six days a week, and brought home between \$60 and \$70 a week when \$1.65 was the minimum wage.” In 1977, Esther graduated from Trade Tech with an AA in fashion design. She worked at Condor as an art designer and pattern maker. She worked at International Costume, which made all the uniforms for the “cast members” in the newly opened Disney World and EPCOT Center in Orlando.

Three years later, eager to become her own boss, Esther opened her own garment factory, borrowing ten sewing machines and renting 900 square feet of space in Carson. Building on her success with her mantra of “quality and on-time delivery,” the next year Esther expanded to twenty machines in 2000 square feet of space.

By the fourth year, Esther bought her own building in Harbor City and employed 120 people. She remembered being an employee in a downtown Los Angeles sweatshop, eating hurried lunches at work stations or on the grimy steps near the employee’s grimy bathrooms.

Esther vowed to improve working conditions, and built an executive-style lunchroom with a refrigerator, a microwave, and a food warmer, using 700 precious square feet of her factory floor, an unheard of luxury for employees entitled to two ten-minute breaks and one thirty-minute lunch hour. Esther also purchased an adjacent property in which she opened My First School, a non-profit day care center for the children of her employees. “I’m living in Palos Verdes, I have a very successful business, and I want to give back to the people who made my business possible,” said Esther.

Competition from China undercut Esther’s sales, so she began to look for another business and property in which to

invest. In 2004, Esther found Hama Sushi in Venice, and when she went to Central Venice to look at the property, she remembered the early days of her courtship on Venice. The man who would become her husband had worked at the Robert Graham studio in Venice, and they would meet in Venice for dates on the boardwalk amid the roller skaters with their big boom boxes and the odor of marijuana everywhere.

Esther purchased the business and the property, and returned to work and live in Venice with her husband and four children. She sold her preschool in 2005 and her garment factory in 2006.

What Esther hadn’t counted on was the 26 years of new regulations that she, the new owner of Hama Sushi, had to comply with, from which the original owner had been exempted. To avert disaster, she called the Health Inspector for much-needed help, and soon brought everything in the restaurant up to code. She kept most of the long-time sushi chefs, including Arthur Takakuwa, who has been preparing sushi at Hama Sushi since 1983.

Many of Hama Sushi’s present staff have had ten or more years of experience preparing sushi, and also have a variety of professional and personal interests. Arthur is an avid golfer, Masayo Onuki teaches Japanese cooking, Masatoshi Shimoda composes musical scores, Akihiro Nobu is a photographer, the very creative Elizabeth Valencia devotes her time to her son, and the second head chef, Kenny Moon, loves and trains dogs.

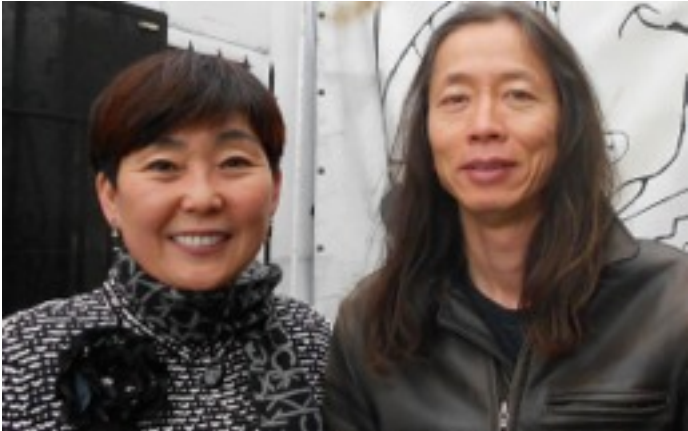
The current head chef, Kinya Aota, practices karate, and had just been hired by the former owner, who had not revealed that he would be selling one month later. In fact, Kinya thought Esther was one of the servers at Hama Sushi, someone with “a great smile,” while Esther, for the first few months, hid in the kitchen and the office, peeking out at her customers and wondering how to greet them or what to say to them.

Today, the very outgoing and gracious Esther is very comfortable amid her customers at Hama Sushi, and loves to give back to her community in Venice. Esther and Kinya joke that they have both been “promoted.” He to head chef, and she from the server-with-a-great-smile to the owner-proprietor of Hama Sushi. Esther adheres to her mission statement for Hama Sushi, to be “fresh, fun, and friendly,” as

exemplified by the freshest, highest grade fish and organic vegetables prepared without MSG, and by her warm and welcoming head server, Athena MacDonald.

Hama Sushi, founded in 1979, was one of the first authentic Japanese sushi restaurants in the U. S. Esther strives to retain the loyalty of long-time customers as well as introduce a new generation of foodies to Hama Sushi by treating each diner as an honored guest. She takes pride in the many “Hama romances,” “Hama marriages,” and “Hama babies” that have emerged from sharing good food and a great time in this icon of Venice, Hama Sushi.

Phyllis Hayashibara is a member of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee. ☺



Hama Sushi’s Esther Chaing and Kinya Aota

Celebrate the Coming of the Marker

A permanent monument commemorating the incarceration of a thousand local Japanese-Americans during World War II will not be installed on the 70th anniversary, April 25, despite high hopes of many Venetians.

Instead an open-air event will take place beginning at 10am, April 25, at the northwest corner of Lincoln and Venice Blvds., the site of the future marker. The event will include an exhibit of the current design of the marker, which is an obelisk. There will also be speakers from the community, including Arnold Maeda, who was sent to Manzanar Concentration Camp with his family when he was a teenager.

The Venice Japanese-American Memorial Marker Committee which is spearheading the erection of a monument received its largest donation yet on March 22, a \$50,000 grant from the National Parks Service. The grant is more than twice as much as has been collected in Venice. Even the city of Los Angeles only contributed \$5,000. The Venice Neighborhood Council also contributed \$1,300, which is going as partial payment for a required engineering fee. Individual contributions are still being solicited by the committee. However, with the new grant it seems certain that the project will end with a permanent marker.

A fund-raising lunch will be held at Hama Sushi on the Venice traffic circle following the event. For more information, go to Venicejamm.org or call 310-390-1576. ☺

SUPPORT VJAMM : Special Bento Lunch at Hama Wednesday, April 25, 2012

BENTO BOX INCLUDES:

Chicken teriyaki, cucumber and potato salads, spicy tuna & California rolls, shrimp and vegetable tempura, plus soft drink.

- \$20
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HAMA SUSHI
213 Windward Avenue "on the circle"
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**Return to Hama Sushi
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**10% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED
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**VENICE ARTS COUNCIL WILL
EXHIBIT ARTWORKS FOR SALE
April 25 - June 25**

**40% of sales to be donated to VJAMM
(20% to Hama Sushi, 40% to the Artist)**

**THANK YOU, ESTHER CHIANG
& HEAD CHEF KINYA AOTA!**

70th Anniversary Commemoration



70 years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the U. S. military to designate areas "from which any or all persons may be excluded"

70 years ago, the U.S. began the forced removal of over 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans from Washington, Oregon and California. Although never charged with any crimes, these persons of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in American concentration camps for the duration of World War II

70 years ago, on April 25, in Venice, Japanese and Japanese Americans from Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu reported to the northwest corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevards for transport to the War Relocation Authority camp at Manzanar

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee (VJAMM) invites you to join us in commemorating this historic injustice and to pledge vigilant defense of our rights under the U.S. Constitution so that this may never happen again.

70th Anniversary Commemoration

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 10:00 AM
(Northwest corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevards)

Presenters include:

Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, 11th District, Master of Ceremonies
California Assemblyperson Betsy Butler, 53rd District
California State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District
Linda Lucks, Venice Neighborhood Council President
Scott Pine, Venice High School grad, Santa Monica College student
The Reverend John Iwahara, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple; Usman Madha, King Fahad Mosque
Jim Smith, Free Venice Beachhead; Alice Stek, MD, Peace and Freedom Party
Emily Winters, Venice Arts Council; Nikki Gilbert, Venice High School Alumni Association
Arnold Maeda, former Manzanar internee; Brian Maeda, Manzanar Committee
Phyllis Hayashibara, Venice High School, retired; Esther Chaing, Hama Sushi of Venice

Soon, a permanent memorial marker will be installed at the northwest corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevards, to remind us to remember our history and to be vigilant about our future.



Big Wheel Keeps on Rollin’ - Over Venice Residents

By Greta Cobar

Do Venetians want a ferris wheel installed in Windward Plaza, between the police substation and the skate park? Judging by the emotional comments made by Venetians at the March 5 community meeting, the answer is NO.

Great City Attractions (GCA), a company operating out of Scotland, is eager to install a 200-ft, 320-passenger wheel providing 14-minute rides for \$15/person. The profits would be split between the GCA and the city of Los Angeles. Venice would get more tourists, less parking, increased traffic and the trash that usually follows all of the above.

Scheduled to operate twelve hours per day, seven days per week, the wheel would be able to accommodate more than 16,000 riders per day.

While locals were firm that Venice is full to capacity with tourists, Nigel Ward, GCA representative, maintained that the wheel will attract only the people that are already here as opposed to drawing in additional visitors. However, according to Ward himself, the number of visitors to the National Railway Museum in York, UK, increased from 700,000 to

900,000 subsequent to the installment of a GCA ferris wheel.

Ward also stated that GCA currently has 5 wheels in operation and that it has completed “over 30 successful wheel projects” in the past. However, their wikipedia page mentions only one operating wheel.

According to the GCA wikipedia page, the company went into receivership in Beijing after breaching the conditions of a loan. The same source also indicates that GCA allegedly embezzled money in Berlin and it was thus named in a report lodged with the prosecutor’s office.

“They are unaware that their wheel is leaving their town,” said Ward when asked where the wheel proposed for Venice is coming from. Although unable to tell us its current location, Ward informed those present at the community meeting that we will not be getting a new wheel.

The wheel would be set on a 75x60 foot platform and it could be installed in ten days and taken down in a week, according to Ward. When asked about strong winds and earthquakes, he said that “if the wheel fell over, there would be nothing left of LA by then.”

While trying to re-assure the outraged audience in his heavy Scottish accent, Ward did not seem to understand basic logistics of Venice. For example, people come to Venice to smell the ocean and escape their air-conditioned cubicles, not to sit in the enclosed, air-conditioned capsules that his wheel would provide.

Furthermore, Ward’s wheel concept would include a VIP wheel capsule serving champagne. When asked how he is planning to obtain an alcohol permit inside a city park, he proved to be unaware that in this country we have such a thing.

Safety-wise, there is a reason why the Santa Monica ferris wheel is placed parallel to the ocean as opposed to perpendicular, like the one proposed for Venice, which would maximize wind resistance and therefore its likelihood of falling over. Also, the Santa Monica wheel is only 82 feet tall, while the one in Venice would be 200 feet.

And why would we need a wheel in Venice when the one in Santa Monica is only two miles away, offering an almost identical view, half of which is the ocean. Why doesn’t the GCA put its wheel somewhere with a better view, more parking, and in need of more visitors? Not for lack of such location.

Piggy-backing on Venice’s coolness to make a profit is not news to Venetians, although the Scots might have felt ingenious to come up with such a popular location, where tourist scarcity is not an issue.

The California Coastal Commission (CCC) will have to approve the proposed ferris wheel, which does exceed the height limits set by the CCC itself. In addition, the wheel would obstruct the view of the ocean, which is also against the CCC’s regulations.

The company proposing the wheel is applying for a 3-year permit, with what many locals see as likely extensions after that. If history is to be learned from, we should remember that the Masonic, V-like sculpture currently standing in the Windward Plaza was supposed to be there temporarily. So was the Eiffel Tower, by the way.

Venice is already overcrowded with shoulder-to-shoulder pedestrian traffic, with Windward Plaza being the most crowded spot in the area. While I understand why GCA would choose to put their wheel here, I don’t see how we will be able to access the bike path and why we wouldn’t choose to live downtown if we wanted to stare at a 200-foot man-made structure instead of taking in the immensity of the ocean.

Please call the CCC at 562-590-5071 to voice your concerns about the proposed ferris wheel. ☺

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Armed Guards at Whole Foods

By M.A. von Pfeiffer

I’ve shopped at Whole Foods stores across the country and I’ve always enjoyed them. I’m willing to pay a bit more for my food in order to have certain quality- and ethics-based assurances. Generally, they are clean places filled with fit people, organic food and new age music your unicorn will love; however, there’s trouble in paradise. My local Whole Foods in Venice, California, has been populated by teams of radio-in-the-ear, uniformed security guards with guns. Not only are firearms allowed, WF pays a handsome sum of money for the insurance and to the third-party security firm to make it so. Why? Is a skilled tactical hit squad of baddies going to execute a brilliantly planned hit, employing heavy ordinance and exotic explosives to blow the vault and grab some rare treasure—the Holy Grail, Munch’s The Scream or a DNA sample from Oprah Winfrey? No. Is a daring criminal mastermind going to choose Whole Foods as the take point in his/her unlikely abduction of a celebrity darling or king-maker CEO? No. The alley behind Fat Burger in Hollywood is a better choice. Lower visibility and bigger targets. Are a group of terrorists going to zip line from the heavens and extract their jihad-style vengeance upon god-less avatar of America: Whole Foods? Doubtful.

Then why? Straight-up safety? Compared to workplaces that prohibit all kinds of weapons, those which allowed guns in 2011 were 6.8 times more likely to have a worker killed on the job. That’s according to researcher Dana Loomis in “Preventing Gun Violence in the Workplace,” a Connecting Research in Security to Practice (CRISP) Report commissioned by the ASIS Foundation. So “no” there, too.

Perhaps the fellows there are strapped as a deterrent to petty theft? It doesn’t take a mastermind to figure out that he/she/it will not be shot for stealing a can of beans—organic or otherwise. Taking more numbers from Loomis: businesses which allowed their security to carry weapons other than firearms were only 1.4 times more likely to experience an increase in the risk of having a homicide. Pause there. Ergo: A can of MACE on the belt of a fit and acutely observant guard—radio headset or not—will be less deadly to the workers themselves and a more realistic deterrent to a shoplifter. Perhaps Whole Foods might consider encouraging menacing hairstyles (mohawk, shaven head), rigorous workout routines, healthy diets, war-painted faces, body oil on muscles and customized or illustrated hip bludgeons in order to truly inspire fear in the hearts of starving criminals. But maybe he/she/it are just THAT hungry.

How about a single misanthropic lunatic choosing Whole Foods’ doors to charge though? Much of the violence in the workplace can be linked to simple or aggravated assault—90%. Homicides are not commonly resultant from assaults, they make up a very low number. Rather, more than two thirds of workplace homicides are committed with guns and two thirds of those deaths result from robberies (Crisp Report). This means? The vast majority of violence at work (and Whole Foods) is non-firearm based and can be combated with simple physical force... or brainwork. The cases where criminals are bringing guns to the party are when they want to take big stuff. Most criminals find grocery stores rather low on their list of places to rob with a gun. But for those who do? One might think that guns are required to combat this, fight fire with fire... were it not for the aforementioned fact that workplaces which allow employees to carry guns also carry with them a nearly 700 percent higher chance of said employees being slain while on the clock. There’s no magic answer here, but to let the police handle it. What’s a little lost revenue when compared to a human life? Not much to Whole Foods, a Fortune 500 monster which boomed 2.4 billion dollars in 2011 sales.

Recent, real instances WF incidents:

Oak Park, Illinois: A man took the money a manager was transferring to a safe (\$7,800).

Dallas, Texas: A woman had her \$90,000 ring stolen in the parking lot—this perhaps has less to do with Whole Foods, and more to do with wearing a \$90,000 ring somewhere other than a fete at the Four Seasons.

Trenton, New Jersey: A robber was thwarted by a quick cashier who slammed his fingers in her drawer.

New Orleans Louisiana: A man brandished a gun, threatening another man over a parking space.

Now. Relax. Sit back in that comfy chair you’re in and let your mind explore. Imagine a gun—or another gun—being introduced to any of these unfortunately very human situations. What happens? Statistics from 2009 a la the US Department of Labor state that 81 percent of workplace homicides are committed with a firearm. Does a firearm make any of the above scenarios better, and if so by how much? Does whatever “good” gained justify risking the 81 percent simply tip that number to 82 percent?

The second amendment, the right to bear arms, was penned with the facilitation of a militia, or civilian army, in mind: “A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” The preceding was written at a time when our standing army was weak. Is it still a good idea? That’s a relevant root question but unfortunately a larger one than that which can be covered here; however, according to the American Bar Association’s website our yearly average of 30,000-ish deaths from firearms is eight times higher than that in it is in our economic counterparts in other parts of the world. As a companion statistic, it is also true that the homicide rate of our “kill-leader” demographic (males 15-24) is 10 times higher than in most other developed countries. The second factoid is taken from a study by former marine and ex-president of the Sacramento chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Dr. Bill Durston. What both of these number have in common is that they suggest that the idea of “threat-nulls-violence,” or mutual assured destruction, as a deterrent isn’t working. It just ain’t.

The armed services are a profession, as are the police. They are also a lifestyle. They are allowed to levy weapons upon other humans after severe training of brain, body and spirit—as individuals and in sympathy with one another as a team. The “it-works-in-movies” idea of arming organized security that are not of a professional-lifestyle grade is whimsical and dangerous. Giving individuals the same uniform and radios does not transform them into a moldable entity with the grace to move with single-intentioned synchronicity. Having a clean background check and an eight—or eighty, for that matter—hour course does not mean the participating individual will treat the ability to kill another human instantaneously, and resultant collateral damage— with the weight it is due.

Again, the threat of the gun isn’t magic and collateral damage in some form is almost guaranteed—death-by-firearm is the second leading killer of children 10-19, and more than a couple of the lower-aged inhabitants of that bracket have someone else to blame. Despite the right to bear arms, perhaps because of it, the greatest crime, homicide, occurs far more in the US than in countries which mirror us in aspects other than gun control with 4.8 people out of 100,000 being shot dead per year in the US, 1.4 in the UK, 1.9 in Canada, 1.6 in France, 1.4 in the UK and 0.9 in Germany. New Orleans has the worst odds, 52 out of 100,000 of its inhabitants slain per year averaged between 1980-2009.

Even members of the armed forces who are operating and living within a disciplined structure and under experienced leadership cannot claim to always use deadly force with the wisdom and unimpeachable



Photo by Julian Gray

discretion it calls for. If they can’t, then can graduates of places with names like the Southwest California Law-Tech Institute for the Implementation of Public Safety and Guard Force Training Center?

What sort of problem at a grocery store, eco-friendly or not, would be better dealt with via firearms? I can’t think of one. Whole Foods isn’t a Mom and Pop joint struggling not to burn down in the hard part of town where you’d stow a shotgun under the counter as a deterrent to the thugs, cutthroats, cheap-jacks and cannibals lurking outside the door, ready to separate life from limb and livelihoods—the company saw quarterly profits jump 35% around this time last year (fiscal third quarter) and their target audience drive current-model German cars. Nor is their vault holding/protecting anything of such intrinsic worth that blood need be spilled over it. And threats are worthless without assured action. But. As the numbers show, with all the “action” we see in the US, if a gun on the hip is the threat, it’s obvious that threats are not only worthless, they’re dangerous to everyone involved.

There’s something ironic, awful and guilt-inducing about armed guards posted at food store in a country where the jobless rates are cresting; but if it is going to be done it must not be done lazily. Bullets and beer bellies are not the way to go. Make sure the guards can make it across the parking lot at a dead sprint, don’t rely on the speed of lead; make certain that in the worse-case scenario the devices you as a business are introducing into the public cannot directly cause the death of a bystander. According to the US Department of Labor more than 70 percent of United States workplaces do not have a formal program or policy that addresses violence in the workplace. Although quite handy with a recipe for gluten free all-natural apple pie, whether Whole Foods does or not, representative Libby Letton did not immediately know.

Perhaps they do and perhaps all employed are required to take it, hopefully so. Certainly they should, as being not shot is easily as cool as being all-organic. 🚲



Jonas Never’s new mural, “Touch of Venice,” on the old St. Charles Hotel is nearly complete.

Photo: Jim Smith

The Coverup continues

Book Review: Watergate - A Novel

By Jim Smith

We live in a world shaped by history. It is hard to escape our personal history - parents, aunts, uncles - and others who want to shape us in their mold. One means of escape that has likely been practiced by many readers is to run away to Venice.

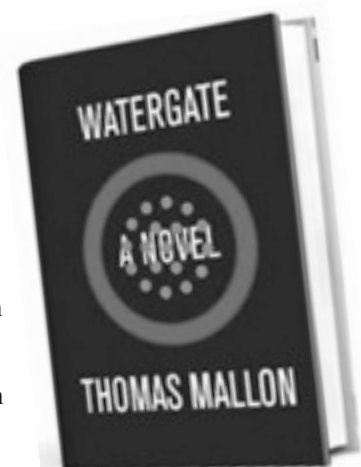
Here, at the end of the continent, we can create our own history, our own personality.

Even harder to escape is social and political history. Like it or not, we are all Americans and we carry considerable baggage, even here in Venice. We live in a country that has been shaped by world-historic events including the atom bomb, Nazism, the Holocaust, the demise of the socialist bloc, terrorism and seemingly endless wars, to name a few. And it is the political history of this country that has brought us to a more and more authoritarian society. These events include the Kennedy assassination(s), Watergate, Iran Contra, and 9/11. No matter when one was born, these events continue to play a role in our everyday lives.

Neither the mass media nor academia seem to have any interest in explaining why events happen and their significance to our lives. Thus we are left



Fred LaRue



with the story that Kennedy was shot by a lone gunman (Oswald), who in turn was shot by a lone gunman (Ruby); Watergate was caused by a bunch of Keystone Kops or Plumbers; Iran-Contra was dreamed up by a crazy fellow named Ollie North, and was not the subversion of democratic government; and 9/11 was done by a bunch of religious fanatics and had nothing to do with U.S. foreign policy.

Thomas Mallon, author of *Watergate: A Novel* (Pantheon, 2012) seemingly has no interest in delving deeper into this pivotal event in American history. Mallon's main interest is character development, which quickly turns into character distortion. Oilman Fred LaRue, who was a highly placed actor in the Nixon administration, was a man without a title or a clear job duty. This undoubtedly made it easier for him to work on Nixon's reelection since he had no bothersome job duties. He was a protege of Mississippi's Senator James Eastland, an unrepentant racist. He was also the architect of the Republican "southern strategy," which gained that party a solid block of electoral votes in the South. In Mallon's treatment, LaRue is a really nice guy with a liberal girlfriend.

Another Watergate conspirator to get a personality makeover by Mallon is the infamous E. Howard Hunt. He was the CIA's point man on the Bay of Pigs fiasco, a failed invasion of Cuba in 1961. He later became a personal assistant to CIA Director Allen Dulles. Shortly before his death in 2007, Hunt made a taped death-bed confession of his involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He named as co-conspirators David Phillips, Cord Meyer, Frank Sturgis, David Morales, William Harvey, as well as a French gunman, Lucien Sarti, who worked for the Mafia, and Lyndon B. Johnson. Sturgis was one of the "Plumbers" who was arrested in the Watergate burglary of the Democratic National Committee's offices.

In Mallon's novel, Hunt is portrayed as a family man who is very much in love with his wife Dorothy, who was also the "bag lady" who delivered hush money to those arrested in the break-in. Mallon says Hunt's life was shattered when Dorothy was killed in a plane crash in 1972, while carrying \$10,000 in cash. All of what Mallon says may be true, but Hunt and LaRue were by no means upstanding citizens. Both had no compulsion when it came to subverting democratic government to get what they wanted.

The real story behind Watergate surfaced with the publication of the best seller, *Silent Coup* (St. Martin's Press, 1991). Perhaps Mallon doesn't read non-fiction. In it, authors Len Colodny and Robert Gettlin show that Nixon was not only paranoid but that people - powerful people - were really out to get him.

As is often the case in real life, there was something even more evil and dangerous lurking in the shadows behind Nixon. For those of us in the anti-war movement, Nixon was the president we loved to hate, perhaps more than Bush. But to the military/covert action establishment there was growing alarm about Nixon's liberal foreign policy, including his efforts to establish detente with the Soviet Union and his unprecedented trip to China and meeting with Mao Zedong. Now that China makes all our cool gadgets, it may be hard to understand just how much the far right hated China in 1972. The rabid anti-communists in the Pentagon and CIA were horrified that the President of the United States would sit in the same room with the devil incarnate. Chief of U.S. Naval Operations, Admiral Thomas Moorer, went so far as to establish a spy operation in the White House.

When the spying was uncovered by the soon to be infamous Plumbers, Nixon and his staff first considered filing treason charges against the ring. However, they later decided to hush up what was known as the Moorer-Radford Affair (Navy Yeoman Charles Radford was the spy in the White House). Even though the spying stopped, the Pentagon unease continued.



Howard Hunt



Nixon and Mao

Moorer had another protege in addition to Radford. His name was Bob Woodward, who stated in 2005, "In 1970, when I was serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and assigned to Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, the chief of naval operations, I sometimes acted as a courier, taking documents to the White House." However, Moorer said that Woodward's role was to brief White House aide, General Alexander Haig. Woodward left the Navy, went to work as a reporter for a string of suburban Washington newspapers and quickly became one of the most famous journalists in history at the Washington Post, where he played a key role in bringing down Nixon.

None of this should excuse Nixon, who was guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, including repression of domestic dissent and war crimes for his bombing of Hanoi and invasion of Cambodia. However, it should remind us that Presidents, including Barack Obama, are often manipulated and coerced by entrenched financial and government bureaucracies that are neither electable nor accountable. These bureaucracies, whether in the Pentagon, Wall Street or even in the Postal Service continue to lead us down a path of less freedom and more authoritarianism regardless of who is in the White House or Congress.

Watergate: A Novel will likely get a lot of publicity as the 40th anniversary of Watergate rolls around. Unfortunately, the book is a fantasy that uses real people's names but alters them beyond recognition. Those who want to know the true story of Watergate should take a look at *Silent Coup* (silentcoup.com), which is available at Powell's Books (powells.com) for as little as \$3.50. Powell's is a fully unionized alternative to Amazon.com. It might also be available at used book shops or thrift stores. Parts of the book are on-line at: nixonera.com/etexts/silentcoup/contents.asp. There have been new developments in recent years, as memoirs are written and files are declassified. Do a little sleuthing on the internet to uncover the facts.

☸



Swami SPEAKs



I never met, however, I remember, vividly, fiercely and formally, Oscar Levant. He was a brilliant pianist, close friend and interpreter of George Gershwin's music, as well as a master wit and raconteur. Jack Paar idolized him and had him on his show many times. Oscar was a Capricorn Horse, with a profoundly sardonic wit. He claimed the height point of his multiple careers was making Joan Crawford cry - not an easy task. In films, where he played himself, the producers and director just let him make his own contributions to the films, charismatically, verbally and musically. He was always charming, delightful and an exciting addition to any film, with or without Joan Crawford.

At this time I request you bow your head and spend a couple of meaningful minutes sending Oscar

some positive, enlightening, and nourishing thoughts. It will make the universe a better place in which to hang out. We will all be wiser and more jolly for it.

For those who are challenged by abstractions, we could say God, Allah, Brahman, Yod, Ahura Mazda is Light - Life - Love Endlessly. Sounds like Fun.

We make our own challenges, problems, aspirations, victories and attainments. Of course, we can get a little help from our friends. Obviously, there are less than perfectly evolved souls out there. When the time is right, it is a spiritual opportunity to give them a hand, as we get a hand, or finger, from others. It's all Karmic, cool and the only way we really learn.

2012: time to realign oneself to the reality of our own Light Life Love, which is God. ☸

I’m visiting Dad
at his bookstore on
dudley - it’s summer
and I’m outta school -
we take the oceanfront
train for 10¢ all the
way down to P.O.P.
I get a fresh pink
cotton candy to eat
and make a spin-art
picture. King neptune
is in the fountain
surrounded by copper
pennies, we go thru
the turnstyle and into
the sea side magic
of rides and sights
In that moment, I’m 10,
holding your hand and
all is well and wonderful.

a milton and kitty memory

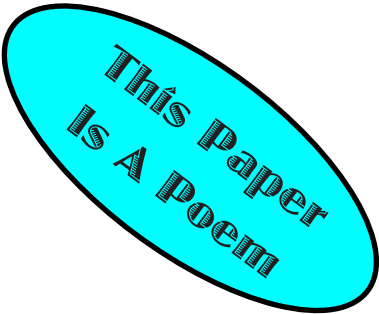
by KL Bratton

Ode to Tom Waits

By L.E. Mintz

Like sandpaper soaked with stolen colors ripped off
an Edward Hopper canvas, the silent piano player
wearing a torn and tattered bloodstained turtleneck
tuxedo drunk from heartaches mouthed his song in
broken tongues while a pencil thin prima-donna
danced, frozen in time. As dawn sliced open the
cover of night, his mind drifted off on a warm sum-
mer breeze and as a young lady laughed hanging up-
side down scantily clad in a pair of transparent ideas,
his body was buried beneath a bed of unspoken lies.

03:11 Saturday, March 24, 2012 The weariness
says “no; just go to bed.” As useless, too, to quote
chillable red. I listen to the Silence, whispering Her
secrets, to unveil some hidden thing. I pause, reflect-
ing on the day’s events For hours; found oasis,
pitched my tents. The night finally wins. My shoul-
der’s pinned Against the mat. Sleep’s fiery furnace
fanned. And in the lengthy interrim, my sense Gets
totally anaesthetized; a dense, Dark hedgerow swal-
lows up my everything. Then, as before, Silence
comes whispering Her secrets. Our prenuptuals are
made. Exchanging vows, Silence and I are wed.....
Roger Houston



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Market pirates snatch

Seconds...

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Needy pockets
Empty hearts

Everybody loses

Written by: Vanessa L., Lexi, Eric, and Frankie

That Woman

that woman worked tenderly around
to clean and fix all of the broken things.
her eyes upon the slivered lives scattered
around, she tried to focus and find.

The lives emerged
and she pulled them together.
it took so long
and it didn’t make any sense.
but lives rarely speak clearly.

in the end
she with heart and love
offered piles of splinters to them
the same as they’d called her to clear.
they said, she protested.

pieces go somewhere
words are woven, colors composed
broken things are mended
lost - even lost, is here, is home. is here.

nobody knew anything.
everybody wondered.
and we are all
and we are all so tired.

–Joanna Silva

Pink Cloud Poem

By Philomene Long

I walk out on the beach –
only one pink cloud
and it above my head –
low in the sky.
Such silence!
I raise my writing book
as if it is a chalice
and pen
for the cloud to give me
a poem
A soft rain fell.
The poem fell
onto the page –
Such silence!

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The Freaks of Venice

the roar of the jets
is the roar of the ocean -
& that’s all you need to know about
God’s plan.

the freaks of Venice Beach
meant to write that down & sell it
in day glow paint -
but they’re too busy, being freaks

chewing the scenery – with the status of
movie-stars, who never sold out
spewing confessional sound bites

which bounce off cruising black & whites
& slide all over the body of tattooed Marilyn –
who leans against walls, everywhere
in assured, iconic empathy.

ah - their screams:
drunk, stoned
or straight as an arrow

they snuggle neatly around that lizard tongue
which still licks Ocean Front Walk
clean of irony.

HERE, YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE & WHAT
YOU KNOW

as you wander around
feasting on coffee & cinnamon rolls;
digging:

that Chuck Norris only ever has two speeds -
walk & kill

how forty bucks can get you a “legal marijuana” cer-
tificate

observations of kinetic malfunction
at Muscle Beach – are free

& the beachfront apartment sign that says
I can make it to the fence in 1.5 seconds – Can you?
is not a joke.

it’s while you’re checking out t-shirts of the dead &
spectacularly
over-rewarded

you realise
fame just might sink into the sea
here at Venice -

leaving fundamental humanity.

but we’ll still have the freaks -
who always have their shit together -
even when they haven’t.

even though their humanity is
a pure karmatic truth of often haunting
pictures -

psycho-derelict shadows, sparkling filth
& shifting registrations
etched deeply into the lens...

they understand that

EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE LED TO WHERE
YOU ARE NOW

& when they’re tired? they just lie down
a little bit harder than most
on the concrete pillows of a system they are deeply
rooted in

the freaks of Venice:
life-splattered players & jittery receptors
playing out their moment, by the waves

beneath that year-round Los Angeles
sun
as if it was some divine beach ball - set on fire
& kicked into the sky -

& because they know
the Pacific Ocean has already
swallowed them all.

–Jeremy Roberts



—continued from page 3

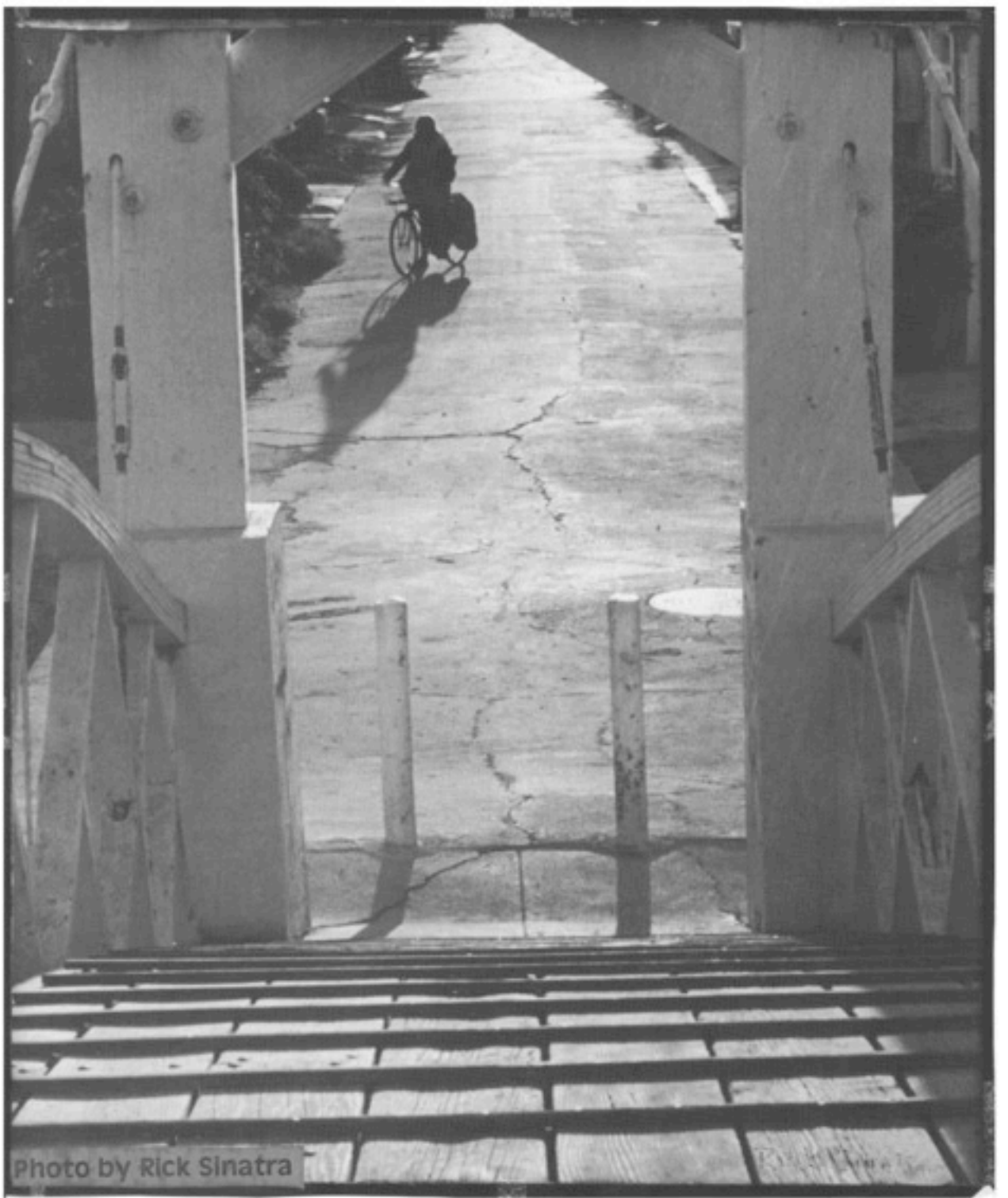
Venice community body trusted to make spending decisions.

- The Big Wheel - that 200 foot tall Ferris Wheel - will be installed on the beach whether residents want it or not. Meetings between the Great City Attractions and the city, including the Councilmember's office, the Recreation and Parks Dept. and the L.A. Visitors Bureau have been taking place without a word to those of us who will have to put up with more traffic, noise and pollution. If it had not been for the Beachhead breaking the story back in September, we probably wouldn't have known about it until it was erected.
- The current City Attorney, Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich, a fine example of today's political animal, has ruled that our busiest street, Ocean Front Walk, is, in fact, a park. Transparency? No. There has been no documentation given to surprised Venetians to back up this astonishing opinion. We await "Nuch's" pronouncement on the existence of UFOs.
- Many streets in Venice now bear large signs that prohibit so-called oversized vehicles, including many that rarely saw an RV. Our Councilmember said that the signs would only be posted if two-thirds of the residents signed a petition in favor of having them. We'll never know if such petitions exist since they are not open for inspection. Meanwhile, owners of RVs have traded them in for camper vans that are not "oversized."
- Let's follow the money that's collected in Venice. Except we can't. Do you know how much money the city extracts from Venice? Do you know how much money is spent here by the city? You won't find answers to these questions from city officials. Even though, in the computer age it would be a relatively simple program that could give us the answer, if they wanted us to know. Of course, the last thing that will ever become is transparent.

This is not an indictment of Rosendahl or Trutanich or any of the other good people who are officials of Los Angeles. They are simply caught up in a corrupt institution. In fact, Los Angeles is just too big to be good. The opportunities for mischief are everywhere, and usually no one is watching. L.A. is also too big to succeed. The average resident or group of residents doesn't have a chance of effecting change in this megalopolis. In the immortal words of County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, "The average person walking into City Hall is behind the eight ball before he ever gets to the first step."

There are probably other cities that are ruled in a dictatorial fashion like L.A. But most are run by shared governance. Greater London is made up of scores of communities the size of Venice or Mar Vista that have local councils with real power. New York City, of course, is divided into five boroughs. It has a city council made up of 51 representatives, of which 18 are women. Los Angeles, on the other hand, has only 15 councilmembers, all men except one. New York City's Council is also much more diverse but members do not receive the broad array of perks that are enjoyed by L.A. councilmembers. The interplay and bargaining between the Mayor, Borough Presidents and the large city council usually ensures that most groups and communities in NYC will have some representation, in contrast to the system of wealth and privilege that is practiced in Los Angeles.

It may sound like a broken record to say that the best solution for Venice would be to restore its cityhood. The much smaller size of Venice would force transparency in a way that we will never see in Los Angeles. In Venice, we would know where the city councilmembers live. We would see them in the grocery store, local restaurants or walking their dog. Meetings of vital importance to our community would no longer take place 20 miles away. Until Venetians start organizing to get out of the cesspool that is Los Angeles, we'll just be some of the chumps they laugh about down at City Hall. 🚲



Old Canal Bridge

Photo by Rick Sinatra

Future of Venice Skills Center in Doubt

—continued from page 1

It is time for meaningful citizen input now as the school budget must be finalized by June 30, and that's probably closer than you think. As to mounting meaningful forums for hearing ideas from the constituency, possibly we might have a friend in LaMotte, the board member with the courage to say, "Stop the wasteful spending."

We thought we had a friend in board member Steve Zimmer. On February 9, Zimmer, who represents our district, came to the Skills Center to speak to students, teachers and others on the issue of budget cuts. A big part of this meeting was the "question and answer" segment. One of the most obvious questions on people's minds was how Zimmer would vote as to the big budget question on continuing adult education. Would he go along with the proposal to gut adult ed, or resist? Zimmer's rhetoric sounded real good. He sounded in support of his constituency's issue at hand. With all said, however, Zimmer never directly responded to the specific issue of how he would vote. As one Skills Center instructor commented, "He managed to wiggle out of that one." This can give pause and concern when dealing with politicians. It's too bad Zimmer didn't join with LaMotte in dissenting from a budget plan that would do away with our school. I am sorry Zimmer couldn't find it in his heart to stand behind what he proposed to us on February 9.

The Los Angeles Times, in its March 14 article on this issue, quotes parent activist Lydia Grant as

saying, "The district has never been good at keeping its promises." Grant's comment underscores what was set forth above. Zimmer again came to the Skills Center on March 28 for a more informal talk with a handful of teachers and a few students. Zimmer reiterated his belief that adult ed will survive for now and to expect the next "board moment" on their May 8 meeting when more significant information will probably emerge regarding what is going to happen. Zimmer himself believes the budget deficit to have been overestimated by about \$40 to \$55 million, explaining "we have a conservative CFO" (at the school district) and that is partly why the numbers skewed in a bleak direction. Zimmer says the availability of additional funds will depend on the success of labor negotiations with the teacher's union. Between the union and district, there is arbitration in progress regarding furlough days, and the outcome could bring in another \$60 million.

The final analysis seems to be a big "we don't know" and "wait and see" depending on whose numbers are to be believed. Again, community activism is paramount to stay on course seeing the Skill Center's survival through, with the least damage. In large part, it's up to the people.

Please visit <http://lastudents.org> and <http://saveadulted.org> for suggestions to contact your elected representatives. These sites also list events and especially the rallies where we have demonstrated our numbers and show of support.

A rally, one was held on March 13 at the LAUSD Headquarters. The rally was yet another exciting event, slightly different from the first one in February in that we were an even feistier collective. The fashion statement of solidarity was a show of red T-shirts and ribbons worn headband style. There was food and a "disco-capable" sound system set up on a platform, with dancing in the street. These activities might induce you to attend a rally on behalf of this issue, as they are enjoyable perks, and besides contributing your presence to a worthy cause, there is also some fun to be had. Again, please see one of the aforementioned websites and join us! 🚲



Zev Comes to Venice

By Anne Alvarez

Have you ever wanted to ask a city official: “Can you provide an accurate accounting of the money generated by the City-Owned, County-Operated parking Spaces in Venice - and where is the money being spent?”

That is what VNC member Jake Kaufman asked Zev Yaroslavsky L.A County supervisor and guest speaker at Venice Neighborhood Council’s (VNC) monthly meeting.

To which Yaroslavsky did not have an answer, however the following day his office sent this response to Kaufman: “ Kerry Silverstrom from (L.A County Dept) Beaches and Harbors said they only manage the three lots in the sand (Washington, Venice and Rose). Those spaces generate roughly \$3.5 million in annual revenue, and is used to offset the cost of operating the beaches.

“The County maintains the beaches the City has jurisdiction over them and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone.

The CCC had this to say about the OFW ordinance when asked about it by the Beachhead in February: “The city does not have any approval from the CCC to implement the ordinance.” And according to Yaroslavsky the city is solely responsible for implementation, in particular the L.A.P.D.

Another prevalent subject at the meeting was the issue of homelessness. Yaroslavsky, known as one of Los Angeles leading political advocates for homeless issues, created a county pilot program in 2008 called Project 50, aimed at identifying and providing permanent housing to the 50 people most likely to die on the streets of L.A.’s Skid Row.

Many criticized Yaroslavsky’s efforts, including his colleagues; however since founding the program,



130 people have been placed in permanent housing and provided with a wide variety of social services including medical treatment, mental health counseling, rehab, job training and placement.

Other cities have replicated similar programs, including Santa Monica, the combined number of people permanently sheltered by all cities is 640 including participants in Project 50. The program’s success inspired the Veterans Administration in coordination with Yaroslavsky to create “Project 60” using the same methods to help homeless veterans in Los Angeles.

According to the Supervisor’s Senior Field Deputy Flora Gil Krisiloff and co-creator of Project 60 “since its inception 120 extremely sick and fragile veterans have been placed in permanent housing.”

All of this has been done in conjunction with Ocean Park Community Center in Santa Monica, St. Joseph’s Center in Venice, Hollywood’s Step Up on

Second, and San Fernando’s Valley Mental Health Center, all of which help to identify and treat the homeless veterans, whom are then housed with VA vouchers.

This January along with Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, Yaroslavsky helped establish The Los Angeles County Interdepartmental Council on Homelessness (LACICH), whose goal is to bring together the County stakeholder departments and agencies to coordinate the County’s efforts to end homelessness in the community.

Yaroslavsky was asked about the recent mistreatment of dozens of homeless people who lost their personal belongings when a homeless encampment at 3rd Ave. between Rose and Sunset Avenues in Venice Beach was raided, he stated that was the city not the county’s doing as he is not a fan of sending in the police to harass homeless people. He added “you’ve got a problem in this community which needs to be addressed NOW” there’s a gentle way to go about this, in a civilized way.

When the county is involved in cooperation with the L.A.P.D, we ask people to decamp and gather their belongings by a certain time, if they don’t, we gather their belongings and store them at a facility in Marina Del Rey where they can later be retrieved.

Yaroslavsky said there are two main concerns pertaining to homelessness: 1. We’ve got to find permanent housing 2. Solving the problem here and now, this is something the community needs to come together and figure out. He made it clear that he thinks transitional housing doesn’t work as he feels the money spent on such services could be applied towards finding the homeless permanent placement.

Other matters addressed to the Supervisor was the gridlock that recent construction has brought to our area as well as the public health issue of broken restrooms, to which Michael Tripp from department of Beaches & Harbors (DBH) responded, “we are in charge of the sand and the parking, the city is in charge of the bathrooms.”

In response to a question about fixing the Venice parking lot, Tripp assured Venetians that “DBH is trying to have repaving complete before summer season begins.”

When asked about a possible run for Mayor in 2013, he replied “I have not made a decision and as soon as I do I will let the world know.”

When asked if he supports the effort to save the Venice Post Office from being moved from its current location, he said yes.

*If you are interested in finding ways to help the homeless in our community, you can contact:
Zev Yaroslavsky at (213) 974-3333 or
e-mail zev@bos.lacounty.gov
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

*For issues pertaining the city (public restrooms, OFW ordinance)
Bill Rosendahl at 310-575-8461
or councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org*

*Beach parking lot issues contact:
Department of Beaches and Harbors at 310-305-9508 Vivian Sanner (parking unit) or
e-mail beaches.lacounty.gov 🚲*

Post Office Sale Terms Omit Historical Protection; Rally Scheduled for Tax Day, April 17 —continued from page 3

the market at least until May 15. It is speculated that the moratorium will extend until after the November elections to avoid delaying absentee ballots.

When asked why the building is for sale while still in litigation, Michael J. Elston, attorney working for the USPS in Washington DC, stated that whether the PRC has the power to decide if it is a closure or a relocation is in no way related to the sale of the Venice post office. However, as already mentioned in the best-case scenario, it could.

Mark Ryavek, of VSA, asked Council District Representative Bill Rosendahl to bring a motion to compel City Attorney Carmen Trutanich to file suit in District Court. The lawsuit was to demand that the USPS obtain building permits for the renovation work currently being done at the Annex.

“The federal government is not subject to city planning and zoning code or city building and safety regulations,” said Norman Kulla, Rosendahl’s legal council. Therefore the USPS is exempt from building permits.

Although probably enacted to prevent the dismantling of the postal service, a service provided for in the constitution, these exemptions are now being used by the USPS to dismantle itself.

Unofficial reports are that the USPS is planning to sell the Santa Monica post office, a 1936 structure, and move customer service to a smaller annex nearby. We hope to consolidate our efforts with Santa Monica and pressure our politicians to step up and take a strong stand reflecting the wishes of the communities they serve. However, Santa Monica has the advantage of city-hood, which Venice does not. It has the benefit of large resources to preserve its historic building.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office has met with representatives in both Feinstein’s and Boxer’s offices, and although the reps were first eager to immediately draft letters of support for our plight, they later backed out. Just another example of our politicians being subservient to the bureaucracy.

There are bills floating through Congress that would save all post offices and postal services throughout the country by easing the requirement that the USPS pre-fund its employees’ health benefits for the next 75 years in a ten-year period. However, the first bill to be debated in the Senate following Easter

recess is S1789, not S1853, the one most favorable to preserving postal services and offices.

Congressperson Janice Hahn wrote a letter to Patrick Donahoe, Postmaster General, asking that the sale of our post office be placed under the May 15 moratorium that all closures are now protected by. However, because of redistricting, she is not too motivated to continue this effort, as we will not be in her district come next elections.

Henry Waxman, who is the most likely candidate representing us and our new district, is not our current representative, and therefore is unwilling to take a stand. As he put it, “I don’t represent Venice.”

However, facilities in Maine, New Jersey and other states are currently being defended in Congress by legislators driven to act by their constituencies. Write letters or emails to your representatives urging them to stop the sale of our post office.

Quite suspiciously, the real estate listing of the Venice post office recently deleted the building’s historical status. Maybe because it would be a deterrent to possible buyers. Creating deterrents for future buyers might be a good strategy right about now.

Are those expressing an interest in buying the building informed about the pending lawsuit and the possibility that they will have to sell it back at cost, minus buying and investing costs?

Do they know how small this town is and how unpopular and hated they will be? Do they really want to move in under these unfortunate circumstances?

We are having a rally Tuesday, April 17, tax day, to occupy the post office. Please join us from 3 to 5:30 pm with signs, slogans and lots of enthusiasm. Let’s let any interested future buyers know how we feel and that we are not ready to give up!

Last but not least, let’s not forget that that post office crisis is a manufactured lie that has the ultimate goal of killing all government institutions in favor of increasing the profits of big, private companies. A survey conducted by the USPS itself regarding its Network Rationalization plan shows that the cuts, such as the closing of our post office, will save the USPS \$2.6 billion, while causing it to LOSE \$5.2 billion. All while the USPS higher-ups take home over half a million dollars each. Common sense is just so outdated. 🚲

**OCCUPY
the
Venice
Post Office
on
Tax Day
April 17
3-5:30pm**



Venice in the 1970s

By Sam Schatz

I moved to Venice when I was 17 years old from freezing cold Pennsylvania. It was the weather, the ocean, and the bohemian lifestyle that made me fall in love with this little part of Los Angeles. Back in the early 70's Venice was the bohemian nexus of Southern California, much like the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco was to Northern California.

During those days, many small California bungalows were for rent. These small homes were originally built as beach homes for people who lived inland. Most of these bungalows were laid out in a plot or two of land in a rectangle grid like configuration, two rows of 3 or more bungalows from street side towards the back of the lot in a row with a strip of grass lawn separating the two rows of bungalows. Due to the proximity of each bungalow, neighbors would get to know one another well. The rent was \$85 to \$95 per month. I remember a single family home on Millwood Ave. and Palms Blvd. selling for \$16,000 to \$18,000. A larger corner house sold for \$28,000. Those were the days.

I lived on California Avenue about a block from West Washington Blvd. (now known as Abbot Kinney Ave.) with my sister, Amy, in 1973. I ended up living in Venice for the next 25 or more years. The local public library was at the corner of California and Electric Ave. Also, at this time, the "Babe Brandelli's Brig" bar was owned and run by the ex-boxer Babe, and his wife Betty. I knew the Brandellis pretty well. Obviously, Abbot Kinney has changed a lot.

Generally, Venice was home for artists, hippies and a good contingent of the gay and lesbian community. Everyone commingled and got along pretty well. In the early seventies, there were drugs, bikers and gang activity. However, all of these elements were what made this area exotic and alluring.

A very interesting area was the canals. The homes there now are 3 story modern designs that cost millions for someone to own. The canals have been dredged, manicured and detailed. In the old days, bungalows dominated the canal area since the canals were filled with sediment and were mildly odiferous from lack of maintenance. Every year, there was a large multi-block "block party" known as "The Canal Festival." Everyone opened their homes for the long weekend party. There were bands and dancing. Artists would display their pieces as people would gather

to party, people- watch, and enjoy. I'll never forget someone made a lot of real grain alcohol at 150 plus proof. That was a first for me. Another first for me was when my friend and I asked this beautiful peacock feather and other elaborate accessories decked transsexual if we could use his restroom. The transsexual owner of the home was leaving and told us, "No problem, go in the door and down the hall." My friend and I were from a conservative town and had never been exposed to gay people. As we approached the bathroom door, we stopped and glanced into a bedroom to our left. There was a large orgy in progress and the participants beckoned us to join upon noticing our arrival. We kind of freaked out and fled from the house and into the afternoon. As I lived, interacted, and made many friends over the years of different races and in the gay world, my homophobia dissipated.

Six months after arriving in Venice, I met Rosa, a wonderfully wild Italian gypsy dancer. Some of you old timers may remember her. We fell for each other and I rented a great large studio apartment right on Ocean Front Walk near Clubhouse. I built a platform bed above the front door. There was a large radius window at the head of the bed. I painted over the window and left an oval porthole unpainted so that we could peer out upon the ocean and people.

Rosa was an amazing dancer and all the people at the beach loved her. There was a group of conga drum players that would gather at the pagodas and pound their tribal beats all afternoon. Rosa made friends with the group and would dance. Sometimes, some of her exotic friends would join in the dancing. Rosa was not into wearing a lot of clothes and she definitely didn't wear underwear. Eventually, as Rosa danced on the Venice Boardwalk, many people would stop and watch her dance. A hat would be passed around, and it was because of Rosa's dancing that the era of the Venice beach performance art was born.

Historically, the beach area had its share of physical and political changes. When I arrived in Venice, the old "POP" Pacific Ocean Park pier was mostly burnt down. The pier was located where Ocean Park Blvd. meets the beach and a bit south. Every weekend more of pier was burner. The dog town boys would surf there and after a few years, I got to know them personally, and especially Bobby Biniac. It was due to my association with the Dog



Town Boys that I was allowed to surf at the old pier. To surf at the burnt pier was dangerous because there were burned out posts sticking out all over the place. Eventually they cleaned up the debris and pulled all the posts out.

Around 1974, a section of the Venice Beach, from the Windward breakwater to the next breakwater south of Rose Ave., became known as the "Nude Beach," a mecca for nudists, straight, gay and lesbian beach goers. This was a wonderful summer with lots of afternoon sunshine, good body surfing waves, and great camaraderie amongst a diverse group of people.

The area of sand covering this part of the beach is very wide from the water to the walkway. This area was relatively remote, so it was perfect for nudist activity. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe the nude beach may have carried on into the summer of 1975. The demise of the nude beach started with the voyeurs. The voyeurs, mostly fully clothed men, would perch and leer at the women. Then some of the nudists got very comfortable with their state of undress and walked to the liquor stores naked! Obviously this was not good. The police and lifeguards had to be commended though. Through this "nude beach" period, the police were very professional and ignored the nudity while still protecting the public. At times, the waves would get so big, some of the nudists, including Rosa, had to be rescued by the county lifeguards. However, like all good things, the nudist beach came to an end as the city council decreed that the nude beach was not legal.

Nonetheless, the 70s were good times in Venice.

☺



Wombs: Property of the State?

—continued from page 5

lines that, when it was pointed out to me, yes, it did look like fetus, pardon - baby. Much like those blobby things in the sky over the Mojave desert looked like flying saucers. Oh yeah, this one's kind of cigar-shaped, though. Anyway, this doctor tells us that the baby's mouth is open in a silent scream of pain, and it's squirming "...in pitiful attempt to get away," in the words of the doctor. Well, fine, but it's still the faintest of faint outlines of a human being, not a fully developed baby. It isn't all filled in with brain cells, nerve endings, etc. It cannot breathe or take nutrition outside of the womb.

And, with our president's blessing, that same president who wants to keep the government out of fixing children's teeth or regulating pollution, wants the Government to stick its snotty pointed nose up women's vaginas.

Maybe that's why Reagan doesn't want sex education in public schools.

Oh, but he loves those bombers and torchers of clinics where abortions are performed. They're from the Army of God, they say. God told them to do it. They say they are protecting the civil rights of the "unborn babies," in the same way that civil rights activists of 25 years ago broke the laws to protect the civil rights of Black people.

Civil rights activists never bombed churches or killed un-armed people.

The Ku Klux Klan did that.

The Klanners also claimed that they had a direct line from God.

I hope, my younger sisters, that you remember my past, because if you don't, my past might be your future. ☺

Community Events – day by day

Sunday, April 1

- 2pm - **Klezmer Band Jam**. Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, April 2

- 7:30pm - **Ten Performances, Ten Minutes** each. Reception following. Electric Lodge. \$10.

Tuesday, April 3

- 9pm-12am - **Live Jazz on Tuesdays**. Del Monte Speakeasy (Townhouse, downstairs). 52 Windward. Free.

Thursday, April 5

- 7-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema**. Rod Bradley's political and experimental films. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Friday, April 6

- 7-11pm - **First Friday on Abbot Kinney Blvd**. Lots of people and open shops. Free.

Saturday, April 7

- 10am-5pm – **Music/fun/food and hand-made goods from 30 booths at “The Venice Meet”** Opening Day. Parking lot of Westminster Elementary School. Free.
- 10:30am-12pm - **Afrocaribe Dance by instructor Kimberly Miguel Mullen celebrates AfroCaribbean culture** through weekly dance and live percussion. Electric Lodge. \$15.
- 7pm – Award winning **Venice poet David St. John with Professor Anna Journey reading poetry**. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students/seniors/children \$5, members Free.

Sunday, April 8

- 1pm - **99 Poets for Occupy Day**. Hosted by Mark Lipman. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, April 9

- 7-8pm - **Occupy Venice General Assembly** every Monday/Thursday. Bring firewood for fire pit. Ananda's Backyard, 1354 AK Blvd. Free.

Tuesday, April 10

- 7-11pm – “**A Modern Vaudeville Comedy Show**” featuring female comedian **Shawn Pelotsky**. WitZend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. \$10.

Wednesday, April 11

- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams sings at Danny's Deli**. Truly amazing jazz/blues on second Wednesdays. Free.
- 7-11pm – **Singer/Songwriters Sam Luna followed by Katelyn Benton and 10pm Vinyl Party**. WitZend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. \$10.
- 9pm - **Venice Underground Comedy**: Local talent & national headliners every Wednesday. Del Monte Speakeasy (Townhouse, downstairs). 52 Windward. No Cover.

Thursday, April 12

- 6:30pm - Venice Neighborhood Council & Venice Chamber of Commerce **Town Hall Meeting on “Silicon Beach in Venice?”** Westminster Elementary School Auditorium.

Saturday, April 14

- 1-7pm – **Art Opening: Paintings** of Bayo, Hellbent, Euth. CAVE Gallery. 1108 AKB. Free.
- 6-10pm – **Grassroots Acoustica**. Talking Stick. Donation.

Tuesday, April 17

- 7-9:30pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting**. Always Open to the Public. Westminster School Auditorium. Free.

Thursday, April 19

- 6pm - **Venice Art Crawl**. Find the maps online or go to OFW and Windward. Free.

Friday, April 20

- 7:30pm - **Spoken Word and poetry performances** by Seraphime Angelis, Rich Ferguson, Joan Gelfand and Christian Georgescu. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members Free.
- 8 & 10pm – **Singer/songwriter Suzy Williams and pianist/song writer Brad Kay and Friends**. Moose Lodge. 1600 Ocean Park Blvd. \$10.

Saturday, April 21

- 10am – **Student SAT Practice Test** complete with Princeton Review administrators. AK Library. Free.
- 11am-6pm - **Venice Beach Surf & Skate Music Festival and Swap Meet**. Venice Blvd. and Dell Ave. Benefits the Boys & Girls Club of Venice. Free.
- 9pm - **Ellyn Maybe's Poetry Rodeo** open reading. Bring five minutes poetry. Band will improvise alongside you. Beyond Baroque. General Admission \$8, students & seniors \$5, members free.

Sunday, April 22

- 8pm - “**Solo Show**” by Venice film/broadway actress **Maureen Teefy** (Grease and Fame). Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members Free.
- 8:30pm – **Seinfeld TV actor/comedian Larry Hankin performs/delights in “Street Fables & Tales”**. Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, April 23

- 7pm - **Bioneers Meeting of biological pioneers** who work with nature to heal nature. G-2 Gallery. Free.

Tuesday, April 24

- 6:30pm - **The Venice Book Club meets** for their selection of the month. Light refreshments served. AK Library. Free.

Wednesday, April 25

- 10am - **Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee** presents the **70th Anniversary Commemoration** for April 1942 removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu. Northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- **Memorial Marker** fundraiser at Hama Suchi. See Page 7 for details.
- 8-11pm – **Singer/Songwriters** Cadence Burns followed by Tatum Reeves and Trey Campbell. WitZend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. \$10.

Thursday, April 26

- 6pm - **Adult Yoga**. Bring a mat and get ready to breathe. No yoga experience necessary. AK Library. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Mikal Sandoval's “Speakeasy”** featuring Dutch Newman and the Musical Melodians. Talking Stick. \$10.

Friday, April 27

- 7:30-10pm - **Subversive Cinema**. 212 Pier. Free.

Sunday, April 29

- 10am-1pm - **The Backboners: Santa Monica Farmers Market**. Ocean Park & Main St. Free.
- 4pm - **Celebrate National Poetry Month** with Poets Peggy Dobrer and Brendan Constantine. Strawberries, chocolate and art provided. RSVP G-2 Gallery. \$5 donation to Sierra Club.

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006.
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny's Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - electriclodge.org
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 310-606-2015.

Ongoing Events

Food

- 12:30pm - 2nd and 4th Thursdays - Vera Davis Center. 12:30pm - 2nd and 4th Thursdays - **Free Food Distribution**.
- Vera Davis Center - **Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards)**. Call for date and time. 305-1865.
- **5-7pm Mondays** - 1st Baptist Church - Hot Meals; Pre-packs: 2-3:30pm Saturdays, Westminster & 7th St.
- **8-10am Sundays** - Ocean Front Walk, near Rose Avenue.

Music

- 8pm-12am - **Hal's Bar and Grill** features Live Jazz, Sunday and Monday nights. Free.
- 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy's “Open Mic”** for comics, musicians. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.
- 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday; **Music at Uncle Darrow's**. 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends**. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Every Wednesday. Free.
- 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock**. Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.

Movies

- 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library** Thursday Movie Night. Call 310-821-1769 for title.
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - First Thursdays at Beyond Baroque. Free.
- Kids**
- 6:30pm -Abbot Kinney Public Library Children's **Pajama Storytime**. Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.

Miscellaneous

- 7-10pm - MOM: **Meditations On Media**. 3rd Wednesdays. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 11:30am-2:30pm – **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber - Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesday of the month. Free.
- 6-8:30pm - **Eco-Yoga**. 3rd Sunday of the Month. Church in Ocean Park, Hill & 2nd St. Bring a mat. Donation required.

Computers

- Venice Library offers a variety of **Free Computer Classes**. 310-821-1769.
- Vera Davis Center offers **free computer use**: M-Th 10am-Noon and 1pm-3pm; Fri 1-3pm.

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 20th of the month. Please take out an advertisement if you charge admission.

*Wash & Fold Service \$1/lb.
Pick up & Delivery Extra
Globe Dry Cleaners
309 Lincoln Blvd. at the corner of Rose Ave
310-450-2845 Environmentally Safe*





Silicon Beach (?) Town Hall

The Venice Neighborhood Council and the Venice Chamber of Commerce will hold a town hall meeting at 6:30pm Thursday, April 12, at Westminster Auditorium, 1010 AKB, to discuss the emergence of “Silicon Beach” in Venice.

Back by Popular Demand

The most popular Venice poster of the 1980s, depicting a big event on the beach on Aug. 16, 1936, is available again.

- Price: 13” x 19” print: \$15; Prices for larger sizes, and/or frames, available on request.
- Send check to: Beachhead, POB 2, Venice, CA 90294.
- Credit cards accepted at www.freevenice.org
- For more information: call 310-396-2525



SATURDAY
April 21

11AM – 6PM
Venice Blvd. & Dell Ave.

Food Court
Beer Court
Locals Only Wine & Dine
Live Music
Vending Midway
Swap Meet
Hand Made Prints
Art Show
Charity Raffle
Historical Exhibits


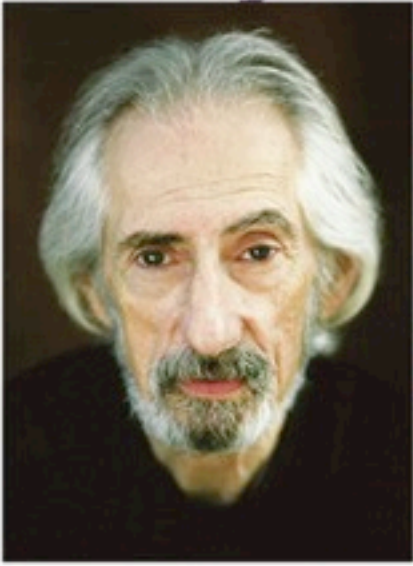


SURF & SKATE
VENICE BEACH FEST & SWAP MEET

"(Sometime Jones)...is a scrappy Hero straight out of folklore."
- Kathleen Kennedy - L.A. Times

"The character of Emmett Deemus is both charming + hilarious."
- Robert Fure - robert@filmschoolrejects.com

Larry Hankin Live
@ The Talking Stick



"Street Fables" Sunday
1411 Lincoln Blvd., Venice
310-450-6052
8:30 p.m. April 22