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April  
2015  
#402



Above: Early 1900s postcards of the three bath houses operating in Venice at the time. Top row: The Venice Plunge exterior and interior - on OFW in front of the Sidewalk Cafe (on the west side of OFW). Bottom row: The Lagoon bath house at Main St. and Windward Ave. (on the north, west side); The Ocean Park Plunge at Navy St. and the OFW (where the Paul and Adda Safron Senior Housing is now). All postcards courtesy of Marty Liboff.

TAKE A BATH YOU STINKER!

By Marty (Shtunken) Liboff

There is an old joke about a little boy and girl taking a bath together and the little girl sees the boy's penis and says, "Can I play with that?" and the boy says, "No! You already broke yours off!" Long, long ago in ancient Rome they built huge bathhouses where people of all classes would go to bathe and mingle. In early Santa Monica and what was to become Ocean Park and Venice, many of the early beach shanties had a toilet but no baths or showers. Sometimes our hotels had a shared bathroom and shower on each floor of a building. As many of you know, our beautiful ocean rarely ever gets warm enough for swimming without a wet suit. Swimming in the ocean in the good old days was dangerous since there were usually no regular life guards. An amazing craze began in the late 1800s with beach bathhouses that had swimming pools filled with ocean water.

In 1876 on the north beach around where Chautauqua Blvd. is today a small bathhouse opened with showers and baths. Soon another bathhouse opened next door with an indoor pool using ocean water. In 1887 the Crystal Plunge opened with an open air seawater pool by what is now the Casa del Mar Hotel at Pico Blvd. In 1890s the huge Arcadia Hotel in Santa Monica had a large bathhouse. In 1894 the North Beach Bathhouse opened just north of the early Santa Monica Pier. It had a large salt water pool and had many dressing rooms and a restaurant. Soon several bathhouses opened along the beach. You could bathe and swim in ocean water without even sticking your toes in the ocean! Most cost about 25 cents, which wasn't cheap in those days.

In the late 1800s, Abbot Kinney and his partners were busy building Ocean Park on Santa Monica's southern border. They sold lots and built a pier and resort with gambling. They faced some opposition from the city and the railroads and Kinney and his partners were not getting along together. His partners were Thomas Dudley who sold his interests to Alex-

- Continued on back page

Venice Fights Back:  
NO Short-Term Rentals

By Mark Lipman and Greta Cobar

On April 1 over a hundred angry Venetians marched down Electric Av. to the Globe Homes and Condos (GHC) corporate headquarters to demand that the largest player in Venice for short-term vacation rentals take some accountability for running an underground hotel in our residential neighborhoods.

As a direct result of this action and the growing pressure from many communities in our area, Airbnb, within hours of the Venice protest, dropped Globe from its service along with a host of other "management companies" in Los Angeles, proving once again the power that ordinary people have when they work together as a community to bring about real change.

A coalition of Venice residents, along with the community groups Keep Neighborhoods First, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE-LA), People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER), and Unite Here, squared off with GHC and launched a city-wide campaign to stop the short-term rentals, like Airbnb, from gutting our affordable housing.

Talking with Sebastian de Kleer, the owner and operator of GHC, he agreed wholeheartedly that "something needs to be done on a city level," and that "short-term rentals do take away our affordable housing ... but not me, it's not my fault." He consistently deflected any personal responsibility for the affordable housing crisis, even though his company manages over 90 units, saying things like, "I pay my employees well and give them health care," but stopped short when confronted by the illegal nature of his enterprise and how he's already been cited by the city for one of the illegal units he's running on Dudley Ave., saying that he established the Los Angeles Short Term Rental Alliance to directly deal with these issues.

However, when speaking to the Director of Operations for LA-STRA, Robert St. Genis, he said,

- Continued on page 10

Time to Take Back Our Post Office  
Joel Silver Runs Out of Money

By Greta Cobar

The owner of our former, historic post office is being sued for close to \$2 million in delinquent payments resulting from his renovation of the 1601 Main St. building. The lawsuits threaten foreclosure if not paid.

Following the purchase of our beloved post office in 2012, Silver's luck in the movie business went south, with his current projects not even earning back their production costs.

Our beloved center-of-town gem has been an eyesore ever since Silver's purchase, covered in scaffolding and graffiti. The re-opening of the building is a year behind schedule.

Silver is currently in violation of the lease between him and the United States Postal Services (USPS), according to which the public should have access to the Story of Venice mural by Edward Biberman for a minimum of six days a year.

The Venice community was vehemently united against the sale of our 1939 Works Projects Administration post office, and was deeply hurt when our community's mural was given to Silver for fifty years at no cost. We have not seen the mural here in Venice since.

The Venice community lost its historical post office as a result of illegal, behind-the-scenes transactions between Silver and the Los Angeles Conservancy (Linda Dishman!), the USPS, and real estate agents (Dianne Feinstein's husband!), all of the above operating under the spell of private shipping companies that want to tap into the more affordable, more available, labor-unionized services offered by USPS.

A lawsuit was filed in D.C. Circuit Court in March 2012 challenging the sale of our post office, and more recently a petition for rehearing was filed August 2014.

When I incidentally ran into Silver during the 2013 Abbot Kinney festival and questioned his unpopular actions in Venice, he replied, with a severe case of entitlement, that whoever has the money controls the situation, and if I want to have a say I should pull out the money. If money is all he has to stand on, and the money is all gone, he'll sink quicker than a piece of shit.





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Dear Beachhead,

I don't know how I missed it, but yesterday I went to Gerry Fialka's event at Beyond Baroque and picked up a copy of the March issue of The Beachhead. I was totally blown away. You people are awesome!!! It was one of the best Beachhead papers I have ever seen. Keep up the GREAT work!!!

Love to you all,  
Therese Daniels

Dear Venice Beachhead,

THANK YOU for being the AWESOME VOICE OF VENICE! Issue 400 and Party were AWESOME! Issue 401 is AWESOME! Can't wait for issues 402 – to issue 420 – which will be so AWESOME!

Love,  
Tina Catalina Corcoran

My Solution: Build a Wall

Dear Beachhead,

I've noticed as of late that many people are not pleased with the direction Venice is heading. With gentrification, parking expansion and the commercial explosion on Rose and Abbot Kinney, our neighborhood is clearly at a crossroads. I have a modest, if maybe a tad extreme, proposal on how to save Venice.

A wall. We build a giant wall on Lincoln, and don't let anyone in (for free).

I know it sounds ridiculous at face value, like I am an extremist conservative lobbying for a 2000 mile wall on the US/Mexico border. But really I just want a two mile wall that runs from Ocean Park to Washington. I think this will drastically cut down on the weekend overcrowding problem. Of course people are still welcome to visit, they must simply pay a fee to cross the wall. As for parking, charge \$100 a space. People will pay it.

What people you ask? The people that then shop at our restaurants, clothing stores and bars ... not the folks that park for free outside our apartments and then walk to the beach with a cooler.

Whether you be old-guard Venice or a USC frat bro that just got a job at Google, we are all neighbors bonding against a common enemy. There is a famous line in the classic scene Green Street Hooligans: "We don't like outsiders." Leave the restaurants on Rose alone, the real enemy is the East Side. Join me.

– David Moeller

THE LAW OF THE LAND

The law can be ANYTHING, ANYTIME. The land is only ONE. It has been here for a long time and will be for a long time to come – contrary to humans.

So what is the land value? Who is dictating the price? Once it was \$60,000, and in no time it was \$300,000 and now \$1.6 million. Seems to me somebody here is joking.

Sitting Bull's proclamation that "People belong to the Earth, the Earth does NOT belong to the People" is certainly a way to put it. Many WARS have been fought over it, lots of blood spilled on the Earth. People are getting buried in the Earth. The man is sustained by the land, he is fed by it, so what is it worth? Is it worth Preservation and Availability for EVERYONE?

But I suppose this is a pretty far-fetched idea anyhow, the thing that whoever takes care of the land is his keeper – because nobody can really own it FOREVER and EVER. Let's Keep it OPEN, FREE, BEAUTIFUL and SACRED. Respect the right of EVERYONE to enjoy it to the fullest extent. EVERY square inch of VENICE is worthy of preservation. Embrace the history of this unusual place. Let's come together on May 2 at 733 Brooks Avenue at 5:00 pm to speak our minds and take back the land.

Let's put the money where our mouth is: let's support the Venice Coalition to Preserve our Unique Community Character.

– Rene Kraus



Thanks for your generous donations!

- Bradley Bobbs
- Nutritional Warehouse
- Marty Liboff
- Joan Del Monte
- Karl Lisovsky
- Eric Liner
- Krista Schwimmer

TEDx Event Review and Feminism

Hello!

I've just been reviewing my first edition of the Beachhead, the March 2015 International Women's Day Issue. As a Venice resident and a woman, I was excited to read more about some local heroines through the eyes of the Venice Beachhead. Imagine my disappointment when I came across this quote in Brad Kay's TEDx Venice Beach article in the same issue:

"The men dressed in T-shirts, jeans, cutoffs, sandals; the women all were in baggy clothes, again, jeans - not a dress or decent pair of gams to be seen - no makeup."

I think it would have been sufficient to simply write that men and women alike were dressed more casually than Mr. Kay felt appropriate. Further noting that the women were lacking tighter clothes, dresses and makeup implies that they should have been dressed that way. And the "decent pair of gams" comment is simply sexist and gross!

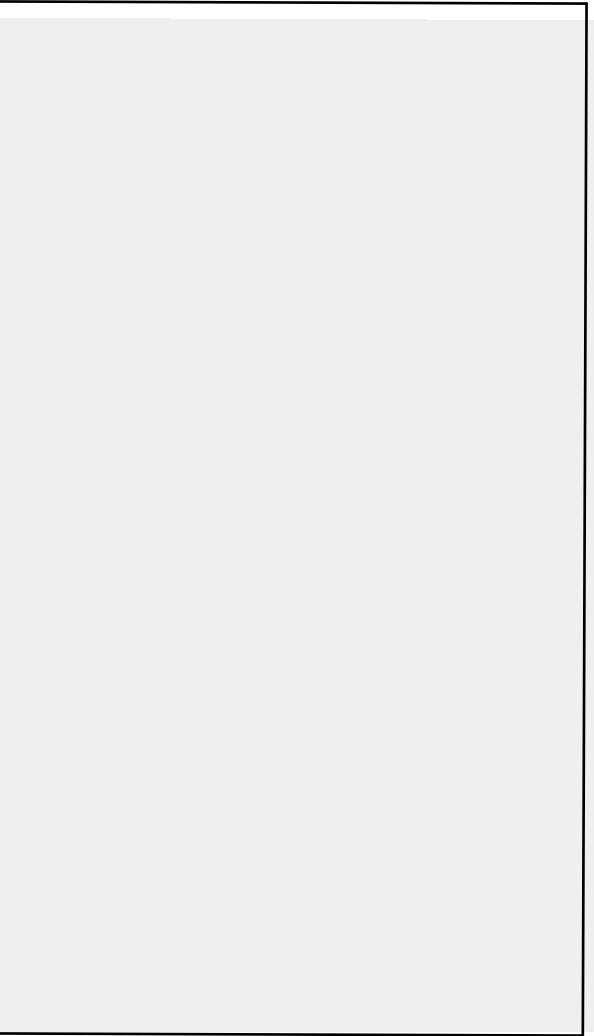
Did no one review that TEDx article and find that offensive? I found it especially troubling to see that sort of a comment about women featured in the International Women's Day issue.

Would Mr. Kay make those same comments about his female guides for the event? Or would he say the same about the women you featured on the Beachhead front page, and imply they should have been wearing more revealing clothing and makeup? I would like to hope he would give them the respect of focusing on their contributions to the community.

The women at TED events, like the men, are there to learn and inspire and build community. Surely he knows they can accomplish that with or without makeup on? TED events are supposed to celebrate brilliant new ideas and forward thinking. Mr. Kay seems to be missing the point entirely, at least in regards to feminism.

The female TEDx attendees, just like the male attendees and the women featured on the front page of your paper, deserve to enjoy a local Venice event in comfortable and event-appropriate clothing. Please inform Mr. Kay that if he would like to see a decent pair of gams and some makeup at a TedX event (or anywhere for that matter), he can wear a dress and put on some makeup himself!

Best,  
Teresa Carney White





# Where Have All the Neighbors Gone?

By Krista Schwimmer

On an evening when many residents were out celebrating St. Patrick's day at local bars, perhaps even "drowning the shamrock" at the end of the night, a small, but vocal group of concerned residents attended the monthly Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board meeting held at Westminster Elementary School.

Chairing the meeting that night was Marc Saltzberg, Vice President of the Board, rather than President Mike Newhouse a.k.a. the Dictator of Time. Without the Dictator of Time, community voices were heard sometimes even going over the normal strict one minute time without any scoldings.

The agenda included important matters such as a ReCodeLA Presentation; a Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) Short Term Rental Presentation; and a motion concerning an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) for the Venice Coastal Zone.

The first of the presentations was ReCodeLA, given by Sharon Cummins, Zoning Advisory Committee Co-Chair. According to the ReCodeLA's website, LA is in desperate need of a "comprehensive revision" of their zoning code which dates back to 1946, and has grown from a "simple, 84-page pamphlet to an unwieldy 600 plus page book."

This update of the zoning code is basing itself around form based code. In form based code, Cummins said, there is a big emphasis "on the relationship of the building to its environment rather than sorting specific uses for specific building types." According to Cummins, "form based code is basically a means of regulating development to achieve a specific urban form." Now in its second year of a five year work plan, ReCodeLA has a cast of thousands, including fifteen consultants who recently recoded Denver.

From the start, Cummins reassured the community that "specific plans will stay specific plans." Although what Cummins shared was somewhat complex, she stated that it was "critically important to be introduced to it" as it would define how neighborhoods looked.

Like the majority of current development through Los Angeles, Venice, and other neighboring cities, ReCodeLA does nothing to address the vulnerable, the displaced, and possibly even the working class. For instance, conflicts have already arisen on how to protect "jobs generating lands". Land grabs have included flipping industrial areas into residential homes, as in the case of Santa Fe Lofts.

When asked by Board members about such issues as "less expensive housing" and the thousands of homeless downtown, Cummins had no answers. Although sympathetic, she said that ReCodeLa was not the answer to these questions. Low income, very low income, and even work force housing would need to be subsidized. ReCodeLA has no inclusionary zoning ordinance. "What ReCode is doing is addressing the Code alphabet soup, the pattern of zones, moving it to a form based zone and creating a website. We are not rezoning the City," Sharon stated.

As for the thousands of homeless downtown? Cummins told the story of how one city planner commented that they "have given away every negotiating tool except for parking" and have not gotten a lot of low income housing or housing for the homeless – just three projects in total. Although Cummins called a potential displacement of the homeless "cruel", her lack of answers was not comforting.

Cummins concluded by saying that Central City and Central City North will be the first to be recoded.

Following on the heels of the ReCodeLa presentation was a brief, powerful presentation on the relationship of Airbnb to the housing crisis in both Venice and Los Angeles.

Judy Goldman, Chair of LUPC's Short Term Rental Work Group, began by stating that "No matter how you might feel about short term rentals, the issue affects us as a community and I believe warrants more education and vigorous debate." Goldman then introduced a video, created from the research of her work group and a recent, 49 page report released by the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE). She also credited James Adams with helping put it together.

Entitled "Short Term Rentals and the Venice Housing Crisis", the video was no more than five minutes; yet, between the staggering statistics and the remade Seeger song, "Where Have All the Neighbors Gone?", it had the punch of a mixed martial art's fighter. Did you know, for instance, that in Venice as many as 12.5 percent of all housing units have become Airbnb units, all without public approval? Or that there are 360 Airbnb units per square mile in Venice?

The majority of these so-called shares are run by commercial management companies. Companies like

Globe Home and Condos (GHC) that has 92 listings; Venice Suites, with 32 entire rental homes; and Air Venice with 60 entire homes!

Shockingly, these "De facto hotels" are even spawned in rent controlled apartments.

Not only is development demolishing low income, and affordable housing, it is also taking away a chunk of what remains: "The 7,316 units taken off the rental market by Airbnb is equivalent to seven years of affordable housing construction in Los Angeles."

Goldman concluded by encouraging community members to let Councilmember Mike Bonin know how they feel.

The third agenda item that night related to development issues and was a motion to draft an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) for the Venice Coastal Zone (VCZ). The motion requests that LUPC immediate draft an ICO "in order to assure that development prior to and during the current ongoing coastal planning effort to prepare the Venice Local Coastal Program (LC) does not prejudice, impede or negate the goals and policies of the ultimate certified LCP."

The motion easily passed. Just eight days later, on March 25, the Los Angeles City Council passed its own ICO, a victory for some neighborhoods, but ironically not for the Venice Coastal Zone. Introduced on May 16, 2014 by Councilmember Koretz, the ordinance helps slow the mansionization happening around the city by prohibiting "the issuance of building permits for the construction of one-family dwellings on RA, RE, RS, and R1 zoned lots in designated neighborhoods where the proposed construction does not meet certain neighborhood specific criteria."

Fifteen neighborhoods were chosen due to the rate of construction in them that is greater than that city wide. Although Mar Vista/East Venice is one of the neighborhoods, despite the proliferation of development West of Lincoln Boulevard, the VCZ is glaringly missing.

With the countless meetings through the past few years regarding the hyper-gentrification of Venice, and the huge outcry by the residents, it is truly perplexing why Councilmember Bonin does not support the community efforts to impede the wrong kind of development. On his website, under "Venice Beach Solutions" Bonin states that "Venice has two big problems – homelessness and crime." Nowhere does he even mention the obscene rate of development. Nowhere does he truly connect the housing shortage with tenants being evicted due to these developments. Nowhere does he acknowledge that the over-saturation of alcohol licenses, connected to the development happening, contributes to the crime he wants to stop. Instead, he continues, "It is cruel to equate the two issues and to criminalize homelessness, but it is foolish to think



March 17 VNC Meeting

the two issues do not at times intersect."

One of the legends connected to Saint Patrick is that he chased the snakes out of Ireland. Taken at face value, this deed makes Saint Patrick a hero. Ireland, however, did not have snakes; the banishment of the snakes refers to Saint Patrick's successful conquest of the Druid people and their pagan ways as snakes were associated once with wisdom, healing, and divination.

Venice is not a Celtic land, but the analogy is fitting. What the City of Los Angeles calls snakes, many long time residents of Venice call sacred. And, if the VNC is truly the Neighborhood Council that everyone looks to, then let's see them take real action in response to the over-saturation of Airbnb short-term rentals and the hyper-gentrification of the coastal zone. Or, we'll all soon be singing, "Where Have All the Neighbors Gone?"

Feel like giving Councilmember Mike Bonin a piece of your mind? email him at [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)

Want to watch the "Short Term Rentals and the Housing Crisis in Venice" video? Go to: <http://youtu.be/lqIRug4jaY4>

Suffer from "Ophidiophobia"? Move to Hawaii, Ireland, Iceland, New Zealand or Antarctica. There are no snakes there – at least, the reptilian kind.

## SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015!

### VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MARKER FUNDRAISER AT HAMA SUSHI RESTAURANT

213 Windward Avenue "on the circle" in Venice  
11 am Program, 12 pm Lunch, 6 pm Dinner

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**EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**  
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# V i e t n a m , V i e t N a m

By Jim Smith

We never even learned the way the Vietnamese write the name of their country (Việt Nam), before we lost the war.

It was 40 years ago, April 30, that TV viewers witnessed our Vietnamese lackeys being kicked away from overloaded Hueys as the helicopters fled from the land our rulers thought they could easily invade and conquer.

It was 40 years ago, that shocked Americans saw on their TV sets those same helicopters being dumped into the sea because our offshore fleet didn't have room to park them after they had disgorged their human cargo who had begged or bribed their way out of Viet Nam.

And, it was 40 years ago that a dedicated people, who wanted nothing more than freedom and independence, regained their country from the blue-eyed invaders.

We Americans are still struggling to regain our country from the bankers and generals who forced on us so many military adventures, then and now.

This "little" adventure in South East Asia cost us 58,303 dead and 303,644 wounded physically. We all know that many thousands more were wounded emotionally. PVS - Post Vietnam Syndrome - is a serious, and often lifelong, malady.

U.S. casualties were small in comparison with those of the Vietnamese who lost more than three million soldiers and civilians. The effects of Agent Orange continue to plague those unfortunate enough to have been in this beautiful land during the Sixties and Seventies. Land mines and defoliation persist through Viet Nam.

The arrival of hordes of racist U.S. soldiers on the heels of departing, and defeated, French soldiers meant that the constant warfare inflicted on the Vietnamese by the Japanese, French and Americans would now stretch 35 years.

After so many years of atrocities, the Vietnamese must be profoundly affected. After all, Vietnamese Lives Matter. Their only consolation is that they kicked out the most powerful country in the world.

On the other hand, nearly every one in America was affected, whether they went to Viet Nam, or not. U.S. draftees in particular, hated the government that sent them through hell in an effort to "stop communism." They found solace in Vietnamese and Thai marijuana, which they promptly imported in duflle bags when they returned home.

Meanwhile, the formerly passive youth of America had a group epiphany that it was better to live a good life here, than be taken away to Viet Nam. Street demonstrations, riots, teach-ins, student strikes, pot, psychedelics, long hair, beards, denim and radical anarchist and Marxist groups can all be traced to the insane decision to send more than half a million conscripts, and the naive, half way around the world to fight a foe that had no designs on our country.

The student strike of May 1970 shut down more than 500 universities and was the largest strike in U.S. history. Perhaps more frightening to our ruling class was the growing unreliability of the army. When the military base, where I was "serving" in 1968, was put on alert to be sent to Washington DC to quell civil disorder, all the anger and frustration of the soldiers came to the surface. In small meetings throughout the base, it was decided by the "grunts," that we would not go, nor would we be a tool of the generals and politicians any longer. Our deployment was quietly cancelled.

We also had some good things coming out of the Viet Nam War including music, films, consciousness raising, improved race relations, and the best new media ever (including the Free Venice Beachhead). For most of the young people in America, the culture flipped upside down, seemingly overnight.

The Beachhead was a dedicated advocate for ending the war, immediately. The April 1971 issue <<http://bit.ly/1IKZpr9>> was one of the best ever. It was a special issue dedicated to the war in Indochina. It even had a people-to-people Treaty of Peace reproduced in full.

By 1973, U.S. forces began to withdraw. No one was surprised when the end of the war came in 1975.

After years of struggle and millions of lives, Vietnam was united. Long time Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh was known for saying, "Nothing is more precious than freedom and independence." The motto still rings true for those of us who care about saving Venice from the assaults of developers, whose treatment of historic Venice dwellings make them look like they were hit by bombs.

After I was "released" from the army's clutches, me and some of my friends tried to think of a place that was the complete opposite of military life. We settled on Venice. We all arrived in the summer of '68. Life was good. We sat on the beach, smoked a doobie or two, explored the world of psychedelics, returned to the beach for 3 a.m. romances, and generally enjoying the life we had been deprived of for two long years.

Also seeking refuge in Venice in the summer of '68 were my fellow soldiers and friends: Johnny Jones, who still lives in Venice; Larry Green, the poet, who moved to Maine a few years ago; Louie Avila, who had a career in concert promoting in the Sixties; and also Nicky Whittle, who came cross country from Orange County and met me at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. This auspicious meeting ultimately led to her becoming the mother of my child.

After a couple of years on the beach, I co-founded the Venice Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Our chapter was active in almost every event in Venice including the Canal Festivals and the 4th of July parades. We were often called on to work security for visiting anti-war dignitaries under the mistaken impression that we must be tough guys. Our chapter's repute rose when Ron Kovic, of "Born on the 4th of July" fame, joined our Venice group. He lived down on Hurricane Street for a number of years.

So what happened to Viet Nam after we ravaged it and left? I went to Viet Nam in 2011 and was greeted by friendliness, not the hostility I was dreading. Due to the millions who died in the "American War" and the population explosion, Viet Nam is now a very youthful country. The war that still haunts the American psyche is called "grandfather's war" by the kids there.

Viet Nam was not "bombed back into the Stone Age," as General Curtis LeMay reportedly urged. The country and the people give an impression of prosperity. They are well dressed and it seems that everyone in the country owns a motorbike. In fact, Viet Nam is number one in the world in motorbike ownership.



When they are in motion or making a turn, the hundreds of closely packed motorbikes give the appearance of a carefully coordinated drill team, all leaning into the curve at the same angle.

Viet Nam, a third-world country, has a lower percentage of people living in poverty than does the U.S., according to the CIA Fact Book. As a country officially building socialism, Viet Nam has a large safety net including health care, housing and pensions. All this has been done without the U.S. contributing a penny in war reparations.

Now, 40 years on from our collective nightmare, we can begin to look at the war from a historical perspective. Has it had a lasting impact on American society? I would say, emphatically yes. Take a look at the oh-so-bland 1950s. Then take a look at the Sixties. There were other major events, of course. The civil rights movement, the women's movement, a Native American movement, the assassinations, the beginnings of an LGBT movement, and many more. But all of them were inextricably linked to the Viet Nam war.

The pro-war faction among the 1 percenters never learned the lesson of Viet Nam. They have continued to trample upon people's lives in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and are now poking a stick at the Russian Bear. The Victory-in-Vietnam group and Lyndon Johnson's so-call "Wise Men" have become today's neo-conservatives - now running the country no matter who is president. They, quite simply, believe America should rule the world. That pipe dream will end up just like the Viet Nam war did, but how many more must die?

Some of the anti-war veterans returned to humdrum lives in the corporate machine, and have bought into the ideology of this dying empire. Others still heed the words of Free Speech leader, Mario Savio: *"you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels...upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop!"*

And make it stop, we will – someday.



Photos above: Huey helicopters; Photo by: Henri Huét, Vietnamese Woman during the war - both photos at the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City  
Photo below: Contemporary motorbike riders in Viet Nam; Photo by: Jim Smith



## Peoples' Victory

By Jim Smith

It was 40 years ago  
On April 30th  
when the people won  
and the military ran.

As the people,  
men and women,  
marched into Saigon  
to claim again their land

The invaders escaped  
from the rooftops  
and threw their helicopters  
into the China sea

The American War  
was won with blood  
just like the French  
and Japanese wars

Today, Vietnam is free  
to make its own mistakes, or not  
There is no fear of sudden death  
from the sky.

The wind whispers through the trees:  
Ho, Ho, Ho





# UPDATE: VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MARKER

By Phyllis Hayashibara

What’s happening with the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker? What’s taking so long? It’s been fourteen YEARS since the idea first came about, to memorialize the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. At this intersection over several days in April, 1942, some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, forcibly removed from their homes and businesses in Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu, reported for transport to an American concentration camp in a place called Manzanar in the Inyo Valley. They came in their best clothes and with only whatever else they could carry. They cooperated with the federal government’s “military necessity” line, in accordance with Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on February 19, 1942 to demonstrate their patriotism. Executive Order 9066 authorized the military to purge the West coast states of Washington, Oregon, and California of U. S. citizens and permanent residents who looked like the enemy that had just bombed the U. S. naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. No due process, no writ of habeas corpus, just a sweeping violation of Constitutional rights based on ethnic prejudice, economic covetousness, and political expediency.

The Venice Peace and Freedom Party first took up the campaign to commemorate the Japanese American evacuation and incarceration in the wake of the September 11, 2001 jet plane attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the one diverted to a field in Pennsylvania. Muslims and Middle Easterners, or people perceived as such, suffered indiscriminate physical harm and property damage, and became targets of demands for their mass identification, imprisonment, or deportation. Alarmed by such prejudice, Venice activists and artists joined the Venice Peace and Freedom Party’s call to remember what had happened to Americans of Japanese ancestry on the West coast at the beginning of World War II. What had happened in 1942 should never happen again, to any minority group, based solely on ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they vowed.

The campaign for a permanent marker stalled without the active endorsement of local politicians on the Los Angeles City Council. Then, the April 2009 edition of the Free Venice Beachhead published the April 25, 1942 photo of well-dressed Japanese Americans and their families with boxes and sacks at their feet, lined up along the north side of Venice Boulevard, just west of Lincoln Boulevard. The Beachhead featured an article by Scott Yuda, Jr. about his aunt Akiko Yagi, his great grandfather George Inagaki, and Inagaki’s friend and business associate Mike Masaoka, and their personal experiences with property loss, stifling heat in desert barracks, and the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which became the most decorated unit in American military history. Masaoka campaigned for the all-Japanese American 442nd, and enlisted volunteers FROM INSIDE the ten War Relocation Authority Camps that imprisoned their Japan-born parents and American-born younger brothers and sisters. In a small blue box titled, “Lest We Forget,” the Beachhead encouraged readers to write to then-Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, 11th District, for his support of the community’s concept of a “marker, monument, or sculpture” at the site where “one of the grossest violations of civil liberties in this country’s history took place,” as an “ongoing reminder of how easy it is to lose our precious democratic rights if we are unaware.”

Scott Pine, while a junior at Venice High School, brought the April 2009 edition of the Beachhead to Mrs. Hayashibara’s 11th grade U. S. History class for a current event discussion with historical relevance to what the class had been studying. Mrs. Hayashibara took up the Beachhead’s challenge to contact Councilmember Rosendahl as a Service Learning Experience, then a high school graduation requirement. Students wrote to Rosendahl, and cc’d their emails to the Free Venice Beachhead, which published the students’ letters in the June 2009 edition.

Councilmember Rosendahl responded immediately, inviting the Venice High School students to a full

City Council meeting to make a presentation, and sending a chartered bus to transport about twenty-five students to City Hall in downtown Los Angeles on May 29, 2009. Student Felix Barron represented the other students by reading his letter to Rosendahl before the City Council. Barron’s letter acknowledged that the memory of the Japanese American internment had slowly begun to fade, but with a permanent marker or monument, the legacy of the Japanese American internment could be remembered, so the same mistakes would not be made again. Rosendahl gave a spirited endorsement of a permanent marker or monument, and on July 16, 2010, entered a motion to support “the installation of a commemorative marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to commemorate the start of the internment of hundreds of Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the Venice community on April 25, 1942.”

The City Council referred the motion to the Board of Public Works, which granted its approval on October 20, 2010. The City Council approved the motion on November 2, 2010.

But wait! There are many other requirements for a nine foot six inch tall obelisk of solid black granite, with a three foot by three foot base, as the volunteer Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker (VJAMM) Committee learned. The VJAMM Committee diligently complied with the various rules and regulations required before the VJAMM could be installed, and researched professional referrals for civil, structural, and geotechnical engineering; prepared documentation and presentations; and submitted applications which resulted in the following actions:

Then-State Assemblymember Betsy Butler, 53rd District, and then-State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District, co-sponsored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 46 in April, 2011, requesting that the California Department of Transportation grant an encroachment permit for the VJAMM. The VJAMM Committee made its initial application to CalTrans for an encroachment permit in April 2012, which was denied, pending additional requirements. On September 12, 2012, the Los Angeles City Council adopted an amendment to Rosendahl’s original motion, proposed by the Public Works Committee, to “INSTRUCT and AUTHORIZE the Bureau of Street Services to negotiate and execute the necessary agreement with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) for the maintenance of this monument/marker within the State highway right-of-way.” Due to the design change from an obelisk with a concrete core with granite slabs, to a solid granite obelisk, the VJAMM Committee submitted its re-application for an encroachment permit in February 2015, also pending additional requirements which the VJAMM Committee is currently working to resolve.

The California Coastal Commission granted a waiver to the VJAMM on November 15, 2012, as the VJAMM will not interfere with views of or access to the coastline. The State Office of Historic Preservation of the Department of Parks and Recreation, concurred on September 13, 2013, with the National Park Service’s conclusion of No Historic Properties Affected by the VJAMM project.

Ralph Stone and Company conducted a soils test at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln on November 20, 2013 and concluded that the “proposed memorial obelisk is feasible from the standpoint of geotechnical practice as the subject site.” Digalert, also onsite on November 20, 2013, found no utilities under the installation site. Sullaway Engineering originally submitted its structural engineering calculations on February 12, 2014. After the Los Angeles City’s Bureau of Engineering’s Structural Engineering Department required changes, Sullaway Engineering resubmitted revised structural calculations, and the BOE’s Structural Engineering Department granted approval on February 24, 2015. In the meantime, the Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of Los Angeles granted conceptual and final approval to the VJAMM on August 21, 2014.

All the while, VJAMM Committee members successfully sought letters of support from various community organizations, including Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Beyond Baroque, Free Venice Beach-

head, King Fahad Mosque, Manzanar Committee, Nikkei Student Union at UCLA, Social and Public Art Resource Center, Southern California Social Science Association, Venice Arts Council, Venice Community Housing Corporation, Venice-Culver Japanese American Citizens League, Venice Heritage Foundation, Venice High School Alumni Association, Venice High School New Media Academy, Venice Historical Society, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Venice Japanese Community Center, Venice Neighborhood Council, Venice Peace and Freedom Party, Venice Town Council, Voice of the Canals, West Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League, West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple, West Los Angeles United Methodist Church.

And of course, the VJAMM Committee embarked on an intense fundraising campaign, beginning in September 2010, which has raised \$100,000 towards the VJAMM’s fabrication, installation, and educational outreach. The National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites Program granted the VJAMM Committee \$50,000 in 2:1 matching funding (the VJAMM had raised \$25,000) in March 2012. Then-Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl became the first to donate \$5,000 towards the VJAMM in April, 2011. Then-Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District, became the first Los Angeles County Supervisor to donate \$5,000 in February 2013, followed by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District in August 2013, and then by Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District in February 2014. Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, 11th District pledged \$5,000 in March 2014, and then-California State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District, donated \$5,000 in April 2014. The Venice Neighborhood Council had voted unanimously to support the VJAMM at the June 15, 2010 meeting; the VNC voted to grant \$1,300 to the VJAMM in Community Improvement Project funds at the May 24, 2011 meeting. The VJAMM Committee held a benefit at Beyond Baroque on October 29, 2011, which raised \$10,000 from VIP sushi reception, entry donations, DVD donations, various raffles of donated goods, and a silent auction of donated artworks from local artists. For a complete list of donors, including in-kind contributors, please visit [www.venicejamm.org](http://www.venicejamm.org).

But the most enduring and successful of all VJAMM fundraising efforts must be credited to Esther Chaing of Hama Sushi Restaurant, “on the circle” in Venice. Since 2012, Esther has hosted the VJAMM fundraiser at Hama Sushi, donating 100% of the profits of the special lunch bento box and 10% of all dinner sales to the VJAMM Committee. Over the past three years, Esther’s contributions to the VJAMM Committee have totaled over \$7,600. Many of the Hama Sushi staff have also volunteered their time to help with the bento box lunch. This year, the VJAMM fundraiser at Hama Sushi will take place on Thursday, April 23. Program begins at 11 am and ends at noon, when the pre-ordered bento box lunches will be distributed through 2 pm. Take out or eat in, but place your orders in advance. Please see ad in this issue of the Free Venice Beachhead.

So, between drumming up support in writing, raising funds, coordinating educational outreach with the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress Committee, which conducted a workshop for educators at the Constitution Day Conference at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley on September 7, 2013 at the invitation of the VJAMM Committee; and patiently wading (and waiting) through the bureaucracies at the city and state levels, with guidance from kindly city and state officials, the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee carries on. The VJAMM Committee thanks each and every supporter for THEIR patience and support, and hopes to see YOU there at Hama Sushi on Thursday, April 23!

**Breaking News:** Los Angeles City Board of Public Works approved, on Wednesday, March 25, recommendations of Office of Community Beautification that would permit installation of VJAMM on public right of way, no-fee Revocable Permit, no-fee A Permit, and no-fee inspection! One step closer!



# Think Community and Grow It

By Eric Ahlberg

Let’s face it you dumpster diving bohemians, you are in a hot property market, millions of investment dollars are aimed ousting you and putting up a monster mansion in the place of your humble abodes where the dudes and dudettes abide. Investment-hungry politicians are not much help, they are lobbied and they lobby where they can, with a handshake and careful campaign donation, without the slightest smell of quid pro quo, until the connections are drawn by their actions.

The Canals became a hot market after the canal reconstruction. Some of my friends had lived there for 40 or more years, in their little bungalows, nearly overgrown with plants. They were very upset by the reconstruction project because each parcel was burdened with a portion of the cost. Now they are best friends with people who live in the 3 story monsters, because, hey, monsters can be your friend. Scarier than monsters however are the ghost mansions. Owned, but rarely or never lived in. Somebody with too much money just not caring whether a house lives in a community, or it is dead.

Tearing down bungalows and building monster mansions, in addition to driving up density and blocking views, is a great burden to the neighbors. Construction noise, debris and traffic in an area without street parking. There is already street congestion on Dell during commuting hours, and often on the weekends, sometimes tour buses. Summer weekends get worse, and hot summer weekends with beach-day radio promotion make traffic in the Canals even worst. There is only one way in and one way out.

When three adjacent lots around the corner from Deborah Groening’s house came up for sale, she purchased them, to keep them from being turned into monster mansions. She has recruited and hired her neighbors to help her rebuild the three lots into an art enclave, bungalow guest house, music studio, fire pit. She digs through the grungy artifacts to find ways to re-purpose them. So Deborah you are my exemplary



Part of Deborah Groening’s three new lots - future home of a stage

community angel for honoring and valuing a beautiful community, and for knowing that it is all about the people who live here.

Bookending Deborah’s three lots are two monster mansions. The first, SE corner of Linnie Canal and Dell, is a three-story metal and glass and concrete



Under construction for the past ten years, unoccupied

monstrosity and 100% exhibitionist. It has been under construction for 10 years, unoccupied. With such a giant jerk-off of a house, somebody should be exposing themselves in it. Every house is a story, beginning with its design and ending in its demolition. Why waste a house? Who can afford to just drag this project out for 10 years? At the East end of the three lots is a big three story white stucco box, also unoccupied. Since tear-downs sell for \$2M now, the affordability goes to the housing rich, because if you are really in the big money, you just can’t own too many houses in hot markets. Maybe you’ll visit it someday.

So look Dicks, see the free market in action,



Part of Deborah Groening’s three new lots - future home of a garden

## Demo

By Sam Clay, Suzy Williams, and Eric Ahlberg  
*Sing to the tune of Day-O*

Demo, De-e-e-e mo  
Bulldozers come and they flatten your home.  
Demo, De-e-e-e mo  
Developer come and a taka you home.

End of month comes your money is spent  
Developer come and a taka you home  
Landlord comes and he raises your rent  
Developer come and a taka you home

1 floor 2 floor 3 floors more!  
Developer come and a taka you home  
why one family when we can fit 4  
Developer come and a taka you home

six foot seven foot eight foot fence  
Developer come and a taka you home  
Maka more traffic and maka more dense  
Developer come and a taka you home

Knock down a craftsman, make a stucco box  
Developer come and a taka you home  
close all de alleys and put on de locks  
Developer come and taka your home

Well the people get together gonna shut them down  
Daylight come we’re gonna own this town  
We are fighting to save it, because it’s our town  
Developer gone because we say "No More!"

Demo-De-e-e-e-m-o  
Developer gone because we say "No More!"

driving the cutthroat wars of the dollars, wasting, wasting, wasting. Then look again, that the spirit of a community lives in its commons.



Unoccupied eye-sore monstrosity  
NOBODY wants to live in one of these!

# No More Fiesta, thanks to Greedy Developers

By Joe Delaplaine

Jasmin Camarena works as a waitress at La Fiesta Brava, which her father owns and runs. Her entire family has worked there for the past twenty-one years at the same location in Venice, on the North-West corner of 4th Street and Rose Avenue.

The restaurant is a small, comfortable, local favorite that has always served great Mexican food at (in my opinion) ridiculously affordable prices, espe-



cially when compared to the recent wave of "up-scale" restaurants attempting to gentrify Rose and Abbott Kinney Avenues. Think "Superba" among others.

Until this year, the property owner, Miriam (unknown last name), also ran "Venice Ranch Market" next door to La Fiesta Brava, sharing the same lot. However, Miriam recently closed the market and sold the entire property to a new developer who already closed the Ranch Market and plans to close La Fiesta Brava and develop the entire property into a larger, new "high-end" restaurant.

This new owner also informed the Camarena family that they will have to close immediately upon his plans being approved.

Jasmin, her brothers and most of her family have worked at La Fiesta Brava for the past two decades and know the local community well. In fact, while working at the restaurant Jasmin's aunt met and eventually married her husband of nineteen years. It

probably helped that he also lived across the street and was a regular customer.

Like other, long-time members of the community, the Camarenas have seen too many wealthy developers relentlessly attempt to "clean up" Venice, first by buying affordable properties in established neighborhoods, then immediately pricing the existing tenants out by raising rents or refusing to renew businesses leases, until nothing of the original neighborhood remains.

Based on the pace of recent development, Rose Avenue seems destined to turn into the next "Third Street Promenade", unless the local community pressures the City to keep long-time, family-run businesses like La Fiesta Brava open. A write-in campaign and petition to both the California Coastal Commission and the Los Angeles City Council has begun, but requires A LOT of community support immediately, seeing as how the new property owner plans to close the restaurant as soon as possible. Copies of the petition are available inside the restaurant and the community's encouraged to contact the City directly.



# Homeless but far From Hopeless

By Jack Neworth

Venice Beach is home to some of the most talented street artists and musicians in the world. In some way it's part of why Venice's fame extends around the world. And it definitely does. In various polls of desired destinations of international tourists, visiting Venice is #2 right behind Disneyland. That one is a theme park and the other is where people work, live and call home, illustrates that Venice's notoriety is just one of many enigmas of life here.

Skyrocketing real estate values have also brought additional pressures here leading to seemingly constant battles between developers, landlords and residents. In the middle are often Venice's street performers and homeless population. With regard to the homeless, to their credit, most Venetians seem to favor compassionate treatment of those less fortunate than themselves.

Among the most respected of the "boardwalk people" is Cornell Smith (AKA "Smitty"), who's both an artist and homeless. Smitty "resides" at Horizon Avenue and Ocean Front Walk in space #30. Each morning Smitty gets up before 6 a.m. or he will get a ticket. Then he must be in his spot on the boardwalk by 9 a.m., with all his possession, or he faces another ticket.

A plumber for over thirty years, as well as artist, film maker and writer, Smitty is most famous in Venice for his unique wheel chair, which has to be the Cadillac of all wheelchairs with its almost magical feel. It took Smitty three years to build. It includes dozens of sections of plumbing piping.

Hooked up to a powerful hose, the wheel chair becomes a fantastic water show. It has 36 separate valves that open in sequence that when choreographed to his music system, creates a breath-taking performance art. (Let's see a Cadillac do that!)

Unfortunately, building the chair cost Smitty his last residence near downtown L.A.'s skid row. Apparently, construction of the elaborate chair violated his lease and led to his homeless condition. He certainly can't afford to store the chair, plus he loves talking to people about it, so Venice is a perfect fit.

Born in Chicago 60 years ago, Smitty was raised with his six siblings, in the dangerous South Side neighborhood with its gangs, drugs and violence. When he was ten his father gave him a Super 8 camera and his dream of being a film maker was born. So it was, that after graduating high school, Smitty wound up attending Columbia College majoring in Film Studies.



Left: Smitty at the wheel of his all-purpose wheelchair. Photo: Julie White

In 1992, Smitty won two film making awards and has continued to write screenplays even while without a roof over his head. Despite his difficult living circumstances and health issues, Smitty remains ever hopeful.

Due to Smitty's diabetes, eight years ago the lower part of his left leg was amputated. He also has a heart condition which often leaves him weak. Add to that the general obstacles all homeless folks face, and you can imagine the day-to-day challenges Smitty deals with.

For example, just sleeping can leave a homeless person vulnerable to being robbed or attacked. Fortunately Smitty has friends on the boardwalk who protect one another. And then there's always the fear of police harassment, though Smitty says for the most part the police make an effort to treat the homeless with respect.

Some of Smitty's friends have created a website hoping to start a new life: [www.cheapestactors.com](http://www.cheapestactors.com) – it includes a profile on many of Smitty's friends looking for work as actors and/or background players for

TV and movies. The community motivates each other and are like family. For example, if someone needs a visit to the doctor's, Smitty gladly drives them in his wheelchair.

Smitty continues to dream that one of his many scripts will ultimately see the light of day. His goal is to have his work read by a Hollywood producer. He's currently crafting a low-budget gangster movie set in the Depression-era Chicago.

As summer approaches, tourists are flocking here in even greater numbers. On any given day, his health permitting, Smitty can be seen lovingly tinkering with his wheelchair like the caretaker of a great work of art. Despite his physical ailments, Smitty is always eager to answer tourists' questions and pose for photos. It pleases him to imagine that, as these tourists return to their homes all across the globe, a tiny part of himself goes with them.

(To find our more about Smitty and or see his magical wheelchair, go to Ocean Front Walk and Horizon Avenue, space #30, or email: [jnsmdp@aol.com](mailto:jnsmdp@aol.com).)

## Evans Haas – Fair Winds and Following Seas

By Ken Haas

Evans Haas, a salty character on the Venice Beach scene, passed away at the age of 83 on March 16. Born in Manhattan and raised in Culver City, Evans spent most of his life in Venice, so much so that he became known as the King (or Mayor –depends on who you talk to!) of Venice Square (AKA Hamburger Square, at Washington and Pacific). A sailor, an artist, a free spirit, Evans fell on hard times, and spent most of the last 25 years without a home. Business owners and other locals took care of him, fed him, gave him rides, clothes, let him shower at their homes, and trusted him to house-sit.

Highly intelligent, articulate, generous and extremely witty, Evans represented vestiges of the old Venice. While homeless, he lived in a van parked in back of the Venice Bike and Skates, owned and operated by Carolyn Andersson, a Venice native. Carolyn's parents owned the Bait and Tackle shop housed first at the end of Venice Pier and later where Venice Bike and

Skates is currently located. Carolyn, a benevolent soul, and Arlene Matteson, another Venice resident and dear friend of Evans, were always looking out for him. Arlene helped Evans secure senior housing at Del Rey Square for the last two years of his life through the St. Joseph Center.

Almost daily, Evans was a fixture at Hinano Café, his throne the third bar stool from the entry. Thanks to local artist Barbara Mastej, Evans is immortalized in her painting in oil, *Carlos Vargas, Bartender at Hinano's*. Evans's signature is etched on one of the original round resin tables in the back of the café.

Evans is survived by his son, Ken Haas of North Bend, WA and his daughter, Tina Odum of Burbank, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations (tax-deductible) be made to the St. Joseph Center, 204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 in memory of Evans Haas/Venice Square. It will make a difference in the community for the homeless. Evans would like that.



Above: Evan Haas at Venice Bike and Skates

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# Community Ferments As Alcohol Licenses Multiply

By Krista Schwimmer

In recent months, violent incidents in Venice have garnered even mainstream media's attention. Some residents claim violence has risen due to transients and homeless encampments. Other residents understand the link between too many alcohol licenses and increased crime rates, a link backed up by numerous studies, according to Sarah Blanch of the Institute for Public Strategies. With a total of 108 alcohol licenses, Venice has reached a tipping point. According to the Westside Impact Project, the density of alcohol sales outlets in Venice — 34 per square mile — is among the highest in Los Angeles County, where the overall average is four outlets per square mile.

To address solutions to this insane number of alcohol licenses, on March 11th, the Institute for Public Strategies held a free public workshop at the Oakwood Recreation Center. Guest speakers included three women from the Institute itself: Brenda Simmons, Executive Vice-President, Sarah Blanch, Westside Impact Project Manager, and Tiffany Burgess, Westside Impact Project Manager. Also on the speaking panel were Tricia Keane, Director of Land Use & Planning for Los Angeles, and Claudia Martin, Neighborhood Prosecutor for Venice.

Simmons began by stating that the Institute works with communities to solve alcohol related problems and are not "alcohol nazis." Funded by LA County, they work in Venice, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica, focusing on the retail availability of alcohol. Blanch stated they were there in response to the community's frustration around the ABC licensing process locally and at the state level. "We think the system is broken in a couple of areas," Blanch said. They were there to talk about ways the community might work together to fix the system. These solutions, she said, were at a local, not state level.

Two main solutions were presented by first Tricia Keane, and then Brenda Simmons.

Keane introduced and explained the Condition Compliance Unit (CCU), a program brought forth by Councilmember Mike Bonin. The CCU would oversee compliance when conditions are placed on permit project approval, making sure that the conditions are being applied and enforced. The unit would also keep track of permit conditions and expiration dates so permits do not lapse. Although compliance would first be around Conditional Use Beverage (CUB) permits and Conditional Use Entertainment (CUX) permits, eventually the CCU would handle all conditions attached to approving permits. "It puts the responsibility of — for lack of a better word — policing the permit conditions on the Planning Department. It does not put it on individuals who have to keep close track of a business because we're supposed to be doing that for you." (One has to wonder how any unit coming out of the same City Planning Department, working with same Building and Safety Department that led Venice to this point, could ever be trusted.)

Keane seemed confident that the CCU would soon receive funding from Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM), where it is slated to go next.

Although penalties would apply for businesses violating conditions, Keane said the businesses would be given a chance to first fix their problems. Claudia Martin added that if there is a criminal element, the penalty would first be probation, followed by fines. For misdemeanors, however, the top amount for a fine is only \$1,000 and 6 months in county jail, hardly a deterrent for successful bars and restaurants.

The CCU's also do nothing to help with current developments, such as 259 Hampton, that have already slipped through the City's greasy fingers.

Simmons introduced a second solution to curbing alcohol licenses on a local level, something rarely used. Called Public Convenience or Necessity, (PCN) it is a state law that places the onus on a business to prove there is a need for such business. If a city denies Public Convenience, ABC cannot grant them an alcohol license. PCN's come into play in high crime areas (120% of the city's average); or, in areas where there is a high concentration of licenses. Simmons stated that almost every tract in Los Angeles is over-saturated.

Two major drawbacks to PCN's are that they cannot be used for restaurants and any criteria for determining them is, according to Simmons, "very arbitrary." So, PCN's would not help the community in its fight against Sauce on Hampton and Gjusta's Bakery. To address this second concern, Simmons announced the creation of a volunteer group to work with City Council to help set conditions for PCN's. A sign-up sheet was then passed around the room.

Simmons also brought up specifics on how individuals can protest an alcohol license. Listed in the free manual given to every participant were thirteen common protest issues. They included being within 100 feet of a residence; being within 600 feet of schools, playgrounds or nonprofit youth facilities; over-concentration/high crime; parking; and traffic.

Due to a previous court decision, Simmons mentioned that the City does not have the authority to put regulations locally on the sale of alcohol, specifically. Jim Mosher, JD, an Alcohol Policy Specialist in California, has recently put an opinion together that could change all of that. After the City Attorney reviews his

March 11 public workshop on liquor licenses in Venice



opinion, Simmons says it will be sent to neighborhood councils.

One community member, Judy Branfman, asked Brenda Simmons for a moratorium on alcohol licensing requests in Venice.

Simmons first replied that she didn't think that was likely to happen, then asked Keane if this is even possible.

"That would be something we need to discuss with the City's Attorney's Office to see if that's even an option," Keane replied. Keane went on to simply promote more delay tactics saying we need more discussion that would include all stakeholders, thus making it a "fair process." She assured the community that she understood their "absolute frustration with the current process as it exists," and once more, promoted the CCU, saying this unit would expedite things.

According to Joan Wrede, and other community members there that night, Bonin is acting too late. "How can you, all of you, expect us to have hope, to have faith, to try and support what you say you're trying to do?" Wrede asked. "The city is not there for us. I don't think anybody can deny that."

As Venice struggles to maintain some kind of connection to her heritage, Bonin keeps serving up bad brew. What about now? How about serving up Councilmember's exorbitant salary, greater even than the governor's salary, somewhere in the future when Bonin actually delivers? Now, I'll drink to that!

Ironically, only hours after the community workshop, a drunk driver plowed into nine cars on Pacific Avenue and Venice Way. This time, no one was hurt. I am a woman who pays heed to such omens. Councilmember Bonin, I hope you do, too.

## COUNCILMAN MIKE BONIN TAKES JURISDICTION OVER A SMALL LOT SUBDIVISION CASE THAT WAS DENIED BY THE WEST LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

By Ivonne Guzman

On February 4, 2015 an appeal was heard by the the West Los Angeles Planning Area Commission for a Small Lot Subdivision case at 758 Sunset Ave in the Venice Coastal Zone.

The hearing lasted over four hours. After much deliberation AND community input the appeal was upheld and the project was turned down.

On Tuesday March 31, 2015 in the Supplemental Agenda of the full City Council Meeting, Councilman Mike Bonin made null and void the hearing held February 4 by the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission (WLA APC) by exercising Charter Section 245 of the City Charter.

The project has been referred to the Los Angeles City PLUM Committee and will be heard on APRIL 14, 2015 at 2:30 pm and move on to the FULL City Council thereafter. This action gives the project an opportunity to move forward and undermines the authority of the WLA APC and the time and effort spent by all those who attended the hearing, sent in letters and participated in the democratic process.

In the matter of 758 Sunset, the West LA APC considered four issues — a Tentative Parcel Map, a Coastal Development Permit (CDP), a Mello Act Determination, and a Zoning Administrator's Adjustment. The commission approved the Parcel Map, approved the CDP, and approved the Mello Act Determination, but denied the Adjustment. The denial of the Adjustment effectively halted the project. However, since then, the Planning Department and the City Attorney have determined that the request for the Adjustment was not required, and the Planning should not have advised the applicant to seek it.

There is no mention of other facts which would warrant denial of the project, such as lack of notice to the tenants, the need for more parking and compatibility with the existing neighborhood.

When the WLA APC approved the Coastal Development Permit and Tentative Parcel Map it was with the understanding that denial of the Adjustment would stop the project. Now it is being made to appear that there was only one issue with the project. According to those interviewed, the Adjustment was only one of many issues raised and discussed.

This action taken by Mike Bonin threatens the future of the Venice Coastal Zone while it fails to enhance the neighborhoods, smart growth, OR the democratic process.

July 19, 2013 quotes from Mike Bonin's Inaugural Speech in Venice:

"I want to keep faith with the people who spend their time and their effort cherishing our neighborhoods, protecting our neighborhoods, and trying to protect our quality of life". "I want to be very clear to the Developers in this City that the purpose of development is to enhance neighborhoods, not to THREATEN them."

FAST FORWARD TO 2015:

Venice has seen more demolitions of homes, loss of affordable housing, and lawless land use in the last two years than in its entire history. The Venice Coastal Zone is being threatened through lack of representation and out of scale development within its neighborhoods. Ven-

ice is rapidly and unprecedentedly being stripped of its resource value, community character and the ability to travel without gridlock.

Another area of major concern not being addressed is the impact these rapid changes are having on the natural habitats of birds, bees, butterflies, etc. This alone warrants a closer look at the long term effects of the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance, which allows development that covers every square inch of a parcel.

Support those who have dedicated their lives to protect our neighborhood and quality of life in Venice.

Please send an email to Councilman Mike Bonin at [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org) and [sharon.gin@lacity.org](mailto:sharon.gin@lacity.org) subject line: Council file 15-0362 ask him to uphold the appeal for 758 Sunset. Most importantly, please attend the April 14 hearing at City Hall, 230 N. Main Street, L.A., at 2:30 pm.



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Mondays 7-11pm 2015 Spring Schedule

MARCH 2 - 30:

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 13 - 27:

3 ROUND QUADS

MAY 4 - JUNE 1:

4 ROUND SWISS



For Juan Carlos

"Transient found dead".  
That is what the papers say.  
Well known transient  
found on the side of the road.  
He was found in Malibu, on the beach,  
they found him alone.

They dont know how he died.  
They dont know where he died.  
The tide had carried him and left him on the rocks.  
The sand and water had become his grave.

But what the papers should have said was  
"Venice Beach local found dead".  
What the papers should have said was  
"Well known Artist was found dead".  
He was not just a transient with no name.

He was born in Costa Rica but for more than 20 years  
the streets of Venice had become his home.  
He earned his living selling art on the boardwalk.  
Using disgarded coke and pepsie cans  
he created recycled tin aeroplanes all made by hand.  
They were spectacular.  
They were original.  
They were one of a kind.

I wonder how many people across the globe  
have one of his aeroplanes somewhere in their home?  
How many have been given as a gift of love?  
or as a distraction for a kid as a toy for fun?  
How many are just a symbol, a souvenir  
An airoplane memory for something special that occurred..  
A tin can treasure they will be kept forever  
made by a man in the sand from the streets of Venice.

He was not just a transient  
found dead with no name.  
He was an artist  
and a free spirit.  
His name was Juan Carlos  
and he was our friend.

– Della Franco

The Price of Doing Business

By Mark Lipman

ATTENTION, Walmart Shoppers:

Somewhere ...  
... in the swollen bowels  
of some dank and dimly lit  
offshore sweatshop ...

maybe in China, or Vietnam, or Bangladesh ...  
the lights are being turned out  
in a young girl’s eyes ...

as she frantically stitches  
her childhood away  
one 12-hour shift at a time ...

without sunlight  
or bathroom breaks  
or a proper education ...

for pennies a day.

It’s just Good Business.

It helps the bottom line,  
when there are no labor laws,  
or health requirements,  
or pesky regulations  
to get in the way  
of the profits.

Make sure you take advantage  
of our 3 for 1 special today.

We’ve got Congressmen for sale on aisle six  
and we do accept food stamps  
but unions are strictly forbidden.

We can’t let little things,  
like human rights  
and national sovereignty  
stand in the way of progress,  
stand in the way of the corporation  
being able to freely trade  
your life away  
for dirt.

There are cargo ships on the horizon  
and dividends to be paid.

So don’t you worry about that fire,  
or the factory that just collapsed  
or that little girl turned to ash ...

that’s just the price of doing business ...  
and we always guarantee the lowest prices ...  
because, we love ... our customers.

u deserve 2

\*2 fight 4 U

All lives matter  
\*All lives matter  
Setting our clocks  
back 60 years  
The grave with Martin  
is filling with tears.

Behind locked doors  
we’re huddling in fear.  
\*accidentally discharged  
8 bullets in the chest  
Even lady liberty’s gasping  
“can’t find my breath!”

Greedy politicians are  
just lying clowns  
calling out the police  
to keep us down.  
This Is How We Shoot Back:

I hear our brother crying  
“I can’t breathe”  
our sister crying  
“I can’t breathe”  
our fathers our sons crying  
“I can’t breathe”  
our mothers our daughter  
“I can’t breathe”  
we’re all being choked  
by political gun-smoke  
“and we can’t breathe”  
till all people breathe-free.  
\*from my voice to god’s ear

Television people are  
just lying clowns  
Calling out the police  
to keep us down.  
\*\*\*Me Mata, me Mata.  
Me Mata, me Mata.

they say  
\*We have d’right to be killed  
please don’t shoot  
Us – murdered by policeman  
please don’t shoot  
When the laws break in,  
please don’t shoot  
will we be lying on d’streets  
crying “please don’t shoot”  
hearing my brother crying “I can’t breathe”  
I’m in the struggle now, I can’t leave  
calling out the violence of racist Police  
aint gonna stop (clap, clap) till people are free  
We aint gonna stop (clap, clap) till all people are free

\*\*Enough/Enough/Enough!  
My hands are up don’t shoot!  
U washed your hands of us don’t shoot!  
We are fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers  
Please don’t shot!

\*is Rapping  
\*\*is Everyone  
\*\*\*Spanish for it hurts/kills me.

– bETO tREE sUN

Love Chat

By Eric Ahlberg

That's what I want too, and you are quite lovely and delicious.  
Can we break all the rules?  
Oh you can't break them all,  
just the ones that chain the heart,  
just the ones that would keep the fool from the unknown.  
Could we put passion on the front burner,  
just to cook it up so fast,  
before we can repeat a single story to each other?  
Then, can we find a patient way  
to where the waterfall of kindness will flow through us?

00:00 Monday, March 23rd, 2015, Adullam, to the Crescent Moon & Venus & to William & Catherine Blake ..... The night's deep dark reserve seems limitless. I feel a little silly. To confess. Part of the endless struggle to announce. The obvious. Perhaps I should renounce. But night time is the season that will yield. My further exploration. In the field. Prospecting for some glittering. Laid bare. Promote investigation. I prepare. To brace myself for impact. Reconciled. With mysteries. A mini-series. Filed. Oblivious. Yet conscious. I pronounce. The ancient syllables. Perhaps denounce. But I go with the flow. Perhaps digress. Attempt to measure the dark limitless ..... Roger Houston, post-beat romantic

Shopping Cart Lady

By Steve Goldman

At eventide  
The houselights of the world are dim in purple silver  
The dried old woman of the street  
Rolling ahead  
Her home of woven steel  
Croons to me in her madness

I sing back

me & d

By Rex Butters

Boulder bored  
and claustrophobic  
broken hearted crazy  
dropped remorselessly hard  
deafened by my heart’s gong  
rung hard  
breathless and defeated  
I answer the phone

she needs people in LA  
no doubt poorly lit  
doomed occult bookstore basement  
poetry reading  
Minuteman  
d.boon  
already booked on the bill  
would I like to yell at people  
in a small room?

1984 arrived  
as predicted very few  
noticed  
the Minutemen  
like Cerberus as Paul Revere  
three headed herald hell hound  
wake the sleeping villagers  
wiry revolution rock

my music savvy roommate’s  
Minutemen collection warmed  
the house  
I needed to flee

yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes

warm 80’s LA  
a free place to stay  
a chance to hang with an old friend  
and read with d.boon

Phoenix Bookstore  
brick walled basement  
flimsy folding chairs  
some demon  
trapped with signs  
chains  
and a big iron door  
behind us

d.boon ain’t coming  
called from the valley  
his van broke down  
the producer  
when she finds out  
quick whisper chats  
to a big guy  
having a great time  
in the front row

many people wearing black  
many poems about  
loss and despair  
but the big guy  
sorta sheepish  
sorta sheep dog bangs  
plain clothes baggy dressed  
some weird glee  
burning in his eyes  
I recognized him  
from a pre-Promenade  
Santa Monica Mall bookstore  
I haunted

he giddy grinning excited  
a bear bounds out of his chair  
unprepared  
spins around  
bounces words off the walls  
like tennis balls  
no one too cool  
for a minute  
go-pro on a bottle rocket ride  
doesn’t have to steal the show  
it’s his

“I’m sorry you didn’t get to meet d,”  
she said  
afterwards

“Forget it,”  
I said  
“Tell me again the name of that guy  
you pulled out  
of the audience”

“Scott Wannberg,”  
she said,  
“wasn’t he amazing?  
He really saved my life tonight.  
He just came for the show.  
He had no idea  
he was going on.”

This Paper  
Is A Poem



# Venice Fights Back: NO Short-Term Rentals

– Continued from page 1

“We go into the neighborhoods and communities and help residents understand how short-term rentals work.”

“So,” the follow-up question was, “basically, you run Public Relations for Globe Homes and Condos?”

“Yes, that’s what I do ... um,” was his response.

Later, when speaking with Judy Goldman, of Keep Neighborhoods First, who has been investigating short-term vacation rentals in Venice for the last three years, she had a much different story to tell. “Airbnb, VRBO, Homeaway, Globe Homes and Rentals and numerous other online brokers profit when commercial ventures stockpile affordable dwellings in residential neighborhoods and convert them into de facto hotels. These practices exacerbate the affordable housing crisis in Los Angeles, disrupt permanent residents’ quality of life, and pose public safety hazards for hosts, guests and neighbors.”

“We do not oppose legitimate home sharing. Rather, we aim to bring together the concerned, ignored, evicted, and deceived community members who are ready to stop commercialized short-term rental abuse,” Goldman stated.

“These guys think Venice is a money-making scheme, but Venice is a place where we have to live,” said Pamela Anderson, a long-time resident and member of POWER.

When pressed by Jataun Valentine, a three generation Venice resident whose family built their home here 99 years ago, concerned with the changes she sees happening in her neighborhood, Mr. de Kleer finally agreed to sit down with her and the community for a meeting to take place in the coming days.

“This is just the first step,” said organizers from POWER, who are working door to door in Venice on these issues. “We’re organizing with our allies around the region to build a city-wide campaign to stop the theft of our affordable housing and we’re not gonna stop until we get those affordable housing units back – every last one of them. It’s time to put our people first.”

Airbnb is a \$20 billion corporation that just last year spent \$100,000 lobbying city officials. Overall, it took 7000 houses and apartments off the Los Angeles market. All of its short-term vacation rentals are in violation of zoning codes, as a business cannot be legally operated in a residential neighborhood. When it does, the quality of life of the residents decreases due to noise, traffic, strangers and other common inconveniences such as bed bugs or theft. But the main culprit of short-term vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods is a significant decrease in affordable housing. Us Venetians have become very familiar with that over the last few years.

As an un-regulated business, Airbnb does not have to pay taxes, follow health regulations, or be concerned with workers’ rights. The low-wage workers it employs for cleaning and management are a slap in the face to the hard-fought victories of hotel employee labor unions.

Venice Management, Inc., a provider of vacation rentals in Venice, stated that vacation rentals have a

“negligible” effect on housing availability, and that the real problem is lack of new construction. The fact is that while Venice constitutes one percent of the city of Los Angeles as far as population and space, twenty percent of all construction currently taking place in Los Angeles is in Venice. That means that Venice is suffering from twenty times more construction than the rest of the city. Meanwhile we also have 12.6 percent of our homes and apartments listed on Airbnb or other similar short-term rental providers, the highest percentage in the city of Los Angeles.

On one end, we’ve got major corporations buying up entire streets and city blocks to jack up our rents and push us out of our apartments through illegal evictions, so that their high-paid employees can sit in our living rooms and homogenize our community.

On the other end, we have illegal underground hotels, like Globe Homes and Condos, operating through Airbnb and other short-term rental platforms, to literally steal our affordable housing. Because of companies like Airbnb, Venice has lost over 1,000 affordable housing units. Think about that ... that’s one thousand families evicted from Venice to make way for the Big Money of short-term vacation rentals. And that ain’t right!

And if you think that’s bad enough, between all of this we have Big Developers and Real Estate Agents – like Tami Pardee – and foreign land speculators, literally bulldozing our neighborhoods to build up mansions for the super-rich.

All the while, our Councilman, Mike Bonin, sits silently complicit – DOING NOTHING – while the theft of our community takes place on his watch.

This is about our community. This is about our housing. And contrary to what they want you to believe, this has nothing to do with home owners versus renters; it has nothing to do with landlords versus tenants. This is, what it has always been, Big Money versus all of us.

So let the politicians and their Big Money buddies be put on notice. Venice is organizing to fight back – to protect our community and take back our affordable housing.

plaining about a rehearsing Tunisian rock musician who moved in as a permanent resident, some of the tenants were told that the only thing the owners cared about was that the tenants paid their rent and minded their own business.

Councilwoman Galanter’s office is busy trying to find an ordinance that covers hostels in a residential zone. The impact on the surroundings are negative: parking, noise, congestion, fights, etc.

The Ellison might be the most spectacular in this new development. It’s not the only one. There are two hostels on Brooks Av., one on S. Venice Blvd., and one in the Oxford Triangle area – all of the above are located in residential zones.

Perhaps the landlords are working on the ol’ bad-driving-out-the-good ploy that many landlords have used to their financial advantage. That is, move out the long-term rent-controlled tenants by moving in noisy and loudish new tenants, thereby chasing out the old tenants without having to pay them relocation funds, and turning more living units into youth hostel rooms or vacancy-decontrolled units.

Besides being a pain to the tenants, there are 60 people more in the Ellison than there used to be. In other words, 15 units have multiplied the tenant population by about 100%. 120 people are living in a space meant to be occupied by perhaps 60-70 people.

The hotel on Lincoln Blvd. is in a commercial zone, as are the hostels on Windward and Dudley & Ocean Front Walk.

Because these hostels have been snuck in, no business taxes or hotel fees or health and safety inspections have been levied or carried out.

Seen a lot of unfamiliar faces in your neighborhood lately? Maybe some entrepreneurial absentee landlord-type is sneaking in a Motel Six up the block.



Above: April 1 Venice rally against Airbnb; Photos: Mark Lipman

## Bed and Beer

By Carol Fondiller

*This is a re-print from the July 1969 edition*

According to the long-term tenants, some of whom have lived at the Ellison for over 15 years, 15 of the 60 units in the Ellison have been “rehabbed” into youth hostel accommodations. So 15 units times \$1,768 a month equals \$26,520 a month. If these 15 units at \$98 per 4 people in a room were only fully occupied for three months out of the year, the landlords would be raking in \$79,580 a year – taking into account the minimum repairs the landlords would have to do, payment of commissions to people who recruit the young travelers and minimum wages to the manager who oversee the youth hostel section only (though law requires a resident manager be in a building with over 20 units).

The building owners have about \$70,000 profit.

The permanent residents of 15 Paloma are not happy with this arrangement, but their rents have been held down by rent control so the building owners can only gouge \$500-\$800 from them for rooms with antiquated stoves and refrigerators, cracked ceilings, etc.

The combination of long-term tenants and transients don’t mix.

“The kids aren’t bad,” said one tenant. “If I was young and was seeing the world on a budget, this would be ideal. But the elevator is out half the time because of the heavy usage, someone is always using the laundry, they party all night, and because they aren’t permanent, they don’t respect the property. They unroll the fire hoses, plants have been killed, the patio is always filled with motorcycles, etc.

When people used to move in they signed a lease promising to be quiet among other things. When com-



### DON'T SIGN ANYTHING!

Has your building just been sold?  
Is your landlord looking to move you out?  
Are you being harassed?

Do you want to protect your housing?

- First step, don't sign anything.
- Second step, call POWER: 310-392-9700

We can help you, once we know who you are.

POWER (People Organized for Westside Renewal) has been working on the Westside since 1999, to protect affordable housing and renters' rights, by training leaders within our community to stand up for their rights. By working together we can win.

Call today: 310-392-9700

POWER is a member of the LA Human Right to Housing Collective and the Renters Day LA coalition.

## The ELLISON Apartments at Venice Beach

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Venice, CA 90291

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Above: 1969 flyer advertising short-term vacation rentals in the Ellison – which is currently renting out just as many short-term vacation units as back then. Time to once again put a stop to this illegal scheme.



# Community Event Calendar

Free Venice Beachhead • April • 2015 • 11

## Saturday, April 4

- 10am – Noon Body Heart and Soul Walk. Take a mystical journey with Lisa Green through Venice, experiencing nature, the beings and the elements.
- 7pm – Songwriters in the Round at Witzend \$10
- 7:30pm Unurban Extravaganza hosted by Gabby at the Unurban, Donation.

## Sunday, April 5

- 2pm – Almost Vaudeville with Brad Kay, at the Unurban, Free
- 5pm – First Sunday Open Reading, Featuring Karin Spritzler, hosted by Steve Goldman at Beyond Baroque, Donation

## Monday, April 6

- 7:30pm – Peace and Freedom Party Meeting in the Library at Beyond Baroque. Free

## Tuesday, April 7

- 6–8pm – McLuhan-Finnegan's Wake Reading Club MDR library 4533 Admiralty Way, Free

## Wednesday April 8

- 8pm – Living in Lotus Land: Reading by J.R. Phillips, a Southern California odyssey from the 60s to present day. Beyond Baroque, \$10

## Thursday, April 9

- 7:30pm – Rock n’ Blues with Stefani Valadez, Steve Moos and friends. \$10 Unurban
- 8-10pm – Dutch Newman and the Musical Melodians \$10

## Friday, April 10

- Noon – Marina del Rey 50th Birthday Bash, Boat Show. Thru Sunday at Burton Chase Park 13650 Mindanao Way, MDR.

## Saturday, April 11

- 8:30 am - 12:30pm Venice High School Beautification Day.
- 4pm – MESS – Noted cartoonist/writer Anthone Mostrom interview at Unurban, Free
- 7pm – Song Night with Still Gandhis featuring Kevin T. Williams, Sam Morrow, Mike Stockdale. Witzend \$10
- 8pm – Beyond Baroque Award Winners Reading, featuring Suzanne Lummis & Elena Karina Byrne. Host: Gail Wrongsy, \$10/6
- 9:30pm – Still Gandhis at Witzend \$10

## Sunday, April 12

- 10:15 am – The Sholem Community hosts a free screening of “The Stars Come Out for Survivors” Ed Asner, Elliot Gould, Valerie Harper. Westside Neighborhood School, 5401 Beethoven Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066 310-666-7319
- 2pm – Soap Box Poets Open Reading Feature Fernando Castro, Host: Jessica Wilson, at Beyond Baroque. Donation \$5.
- 6pm – Beyond Baroque 5th Annual Awards Dinner, Suzanne Lummis , and Elena Karina Byrne. Hosted by Brendan Constantine, with entertainment by Phillip Littell.

## Monday, April 13

- 6-10pm – Documental - Philosophy Films - from Zen to Gurdjieff at Unurban Free

## Tuesday, April 14

- 7-9pm – Songwriters in the Round hosted by Dan Navarro with Steve Postel, John Batdorf and TBA Witzend, \$10

## Wednesday, April 15

- 7-10pm: – MOM - Media Discussion at Beyond Baroque Free
- 7pm – Michael Jost at Witzend \$10

## Thursday, April 16

- 7pm – Westminster Arts Club - Fine Art & Music at Beyond Baroque
- 7pm – Venice Beach Central – Nickie Black and Audrey McNamara-Garcia represent at the Unurban

## Friday, April 17

- 7pm – Roses and Cigarettes, Leslie Bouvais, Annette Conlon, Meghan Andrews at Witzend \$10

## Saturday, April 18

- 8pm – 63 Trillion Premiere. Money makes the world go around and dark comedy is the perfect genre to tackle the business of finance. director Steve Zuckerman, Odyssey Theatre 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. \$30 310-477-2055x2

## Sunday, April 19

- 4:00pm – Rip Rense reads from Always Not There in the Bookstore at Beyond Baroque

## Tuesday, April 21

- 7pm – Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting at Westminster Elementary.

## Wednesday, April 22

- 7pm – Pianomania at Witzend \$10

## Thursday, April 23

- 11am – Program, Lunch until 2pm, Fundraiser for Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker at Hama Sushi 213 Windward Avenue \$20 Bento Box. RSVP 310-390-1576
- 7pm – Alibe and Friends great night of R&B and Funk at the Unurban. \$10
- 9:30pm – Orkestar MeZe' featuring Ellis Hall \$10

## Saturday, April 25

- 3-5pm – Collectors Talk: A Short Essay on Chicano Photography. Discussion about collecting art. SPARC
- 4pm – Holy Barbarians Teen Workshop, Anthology Reading. Donation \$5
- 7-10pm – Jazz Funk Fest, Black Shoe Polish, Freddy Ginns, Eric Ahlberg, ++ at Unurban. Free
- 9:30pm – Brian Auger’s Oblivion Express at Witzend. \$20
- 8pm – Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest Winners Reading. \$10

## Sunday, April 26

- 2pm – Nebraska Girl Open Reading hosted by Wyatt Underwood and Melissa Alvarado at Beyond Baroque, Signup 1:45pm, Donation \$5
- 2pm-4:30pm – Workshop: Know Thy Characters - From The Inside Out, Analyzing Characters' Personalities, Actions, and Reactions, workshop by Aimee Liu at Beyond Baroque, RSVP required. Donation \$10
- 3pm – Folkworks Benefit Concert "Banjo Gal" Donna Lynn Caskey, Rowan Storm, Joe Fontenot & his band, Tom Sauber and Patrick Sauber. at Santa Monica Bay Women’s Club 1210 4th Street, Santa Monica \$20
- 5pm – Amy Uyematsu: The Yellow Door Publication Reading with Special Guest Mong-Lan at Beyond Baroque
- 6pm – La Poesia Festival: Alicia Partnoy, Cesar Vallejo, Antoneta Villamil, Emila Chuquin. Alicia Partnoy is a survivor from the secret detention camps where about 30,000 Argentinian citizens ‘disappeared’, at Beyond Baroque. Free
- 7pm – 7 Dudley Cinema LET'S OWN IT!: The Struggle of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association (1998, 31 minutes) Karen Brodtkin's (in person) inspired film on Venice activism. Followed by rare film on Los Angeles architecture at 8pm. Free Beyond Baroque

## Tuesday April 28

- 7pm – Jazz at Witzend with Nick Mancini, \$10

## Friday May 1

- 8pm – Mason’s Noise Parlor youth program with Charlie Hickey Maya Hernandez and Julian Corbett. Host: Songwriter Mason Summit \$10 Beyond Baroque

## Saturday May 2

- 8pm – Poetry in Motion: Rick Overton at Beyond Baroque, \$20
- 7:30pm – Still Gandhis, James Brown Tribute at Witzend \$10

## Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Electric Lodge**, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- **G2 Gallery**, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- **Hal’s Bar and Grill**, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-396-3105, halsbarandgrill.com
- **Oakwood Park**, 767 California Ave.
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **Robert Berman Gallery**, Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave. B7 Gallery. Santa Monica. 310.315.9688
- **SPARC** - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Typhoon** 3221 Donald Douglas Loop S, Santa Monica, 310 390 6565
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2015
- **Witzend** 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291 - 30-702-6765
- **Winston House** 1285 Electric Avenue.
- **Unurban** Coffee Shop - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

## Ongoing Events

### OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

- 8pm Mondays General Assembly upstairs at Beyond Baroque
- 8pm Sundays People's Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777.

### COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. **Student/Homework Zone**. Computers, iPads, homework resources and a trained computer aide to assist students grade 4-12. **Free Printing**. Abbot Kinney Public Library.
- Tues/Weds 8:30-6pm, Thurs/Friday 8:30-5pm. **Free Computer Use**. Vera Davis Center.

### FOOD

- 10am Tuesdays, 12:30pm Thursdays, 1pm Fridays. **Free Food Distribution**. Vera Davis Center.
- **Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards)**. Vera Davis Center. Call for date and time. 310-305-1865.
- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. **Free Vegetarian Food**. OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. **Free Vegetarian Food**. OFW & Sunset.

### KIDS

- 11:30am-noon Wednesdays. **Toddler Storytime**. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

### MUSIC

- 8pm-12am, Sunday and Monday nights. **Hal’s Bar and Grill** features live jazz. No cover.
- 9pm Wednesdays, **Venice Underground Comedy**, Townhouse, No Cover
- 11pm Wednesday - **Burlesque**, Townhouse, No Cover
- 6-10pm, First Fridays. **Venice Street Legends**. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. No Cover.
- 8pm Saturdays, **Brad Kay Regressive Jazz Quartet**, Townhouse. No Cover
- 2pm Sundays, Almost Vaudeville W/ Brad Kay at the Unurban
- O’Brien’s Irish Pub **Live music** most nights.
- 1-3pm Every Saturday and Sunday **Free Live Music**, Fisherman’s Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. **Venice High School Flea Market**. Antiques, crafts, collectibles, toys, jewelry, clothes. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. **Venice Farmers Market**. Fruits, vegetables, flowers and coffee. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 4:15pm, every Thursday – **Chess Club**. Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
- 8:30am, 2nd Fridays. **Bus Token Distribution**. First 40 people in line will receive a free bus token. Vera Davis Center.
- 5:30pm, Sundays. **Open Mic Night**. Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free.
- 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. **MOM: Meditations On Media**. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 10am Sunday Morning Gatherings of Creative community. <http://goo.gl/BbsDV2>

### YOGA

- Mondays 8-9am **Heal One World: Community Yoga**, The Electric Lodge - Free

### DANCE

- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm **Dancing Through Parkinson’s, Donation**, Electric Lodge

### ART EXHIBITS

- A Short Essay on Chicano Photography SPARC - call for hours.
- Ben Jackel: American Imperium, L A Louver
- Nature Photography, G2 Gallery

### THEATRE

- “Kalamazoo” at Pacific Resident Theatre until April 8.



## Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to: [free@venicebeachhead.org](mailto:free@venicebeachhead.org)



# TAKE A BATH YOU STINKER!

— Continued from page 1

ander Fraser, Henry Gage and George Merritt Jones. Some streets around the beach were named after them. The story goes that in January 1904, Kinney and his three remaining partners all agreed to flip a coin to see who would stay in Ocean Park and who would leave and take over some land a ways south of Rose Ave. This land was considered worthless swampy marsh land. The coin was flipped and Kinney won the toss. To everyone's amazement Kinney took the worthless marsh! He proceeded to clear the land and create his fantasy world that he called Venice of America. Some called it Kinney's Folly.

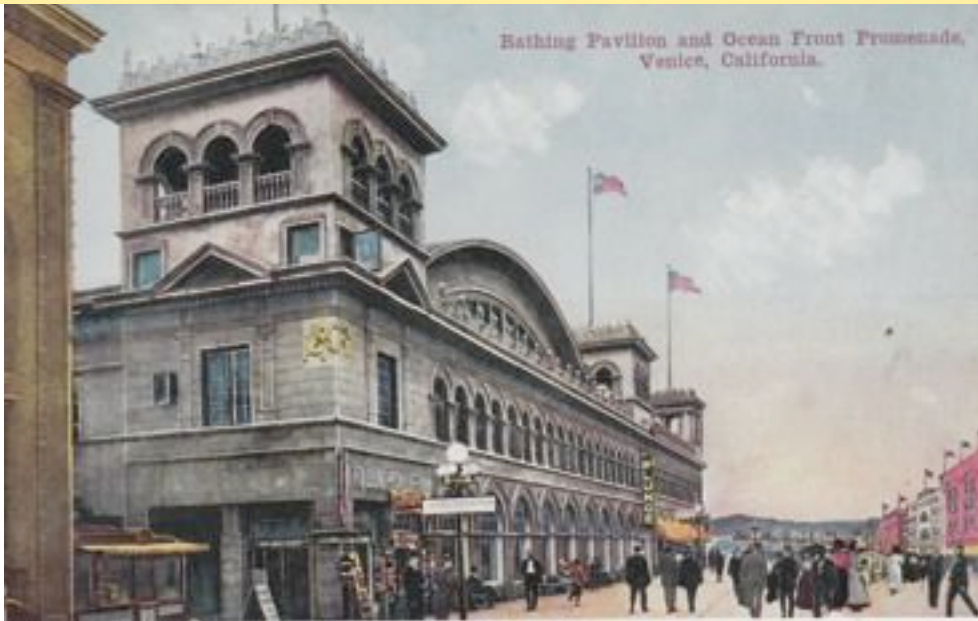
Abbot Kinney's ex partners decided they needed to spruce up their Ocean Park resort to compete with the amazing new Venice with its canals, pier and beautiful Italian Renaissance style buildings around what is now Windward Ave. They erected an enormous bathhouse on the Ocean Front Walk at Navy Street. A.E. Fraser hired builder Joseph C. Newscom to construct it. They spent \$185,000, a fortune at that time. It took 18 months to build. Back then, everything north of Rose Ave. was still considered Ocean Park. Today the Venice border is just north of Navy St. and the bathhouse would be in Venice. The huge bathhouse opened the same 4th of July weekend as Venice of America in 1905. It was the 8th wonder of the world!

Just north of the new bathhouse the large Hotel Decatur was built. The small Denver Hotel just south of it at Ozone Ave. is now the Israel Levin Senior Center. I still remember the Levin Center many years ago with a second floor. The second floor apartments were removed because of earthquake concerns.

The gigantic new bathhouse was made to look like an enormous Moorish mosque. It resembled the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul, Turkey. The indoor sea water pools came to be known as plunges, and this one was called the Ocean Park Plunge. It was also referred to in its early days as the Natatorium in Ocean Park. A “natatorium” is from the Latin and is a building with a swimming pool sometimes enclosed in its own ornate building. It became one of the main tourist attractions in southern California. There were more postcards and photos of it than anything else around here of that era. It had an enormous indoor swimming pool that they claimed was the biggest in the world. The heated salt water pool was 70 by 70 feet. Back then the ocean was much closer to the walkway. They ran pipes under the sand and pumped in ocean water. The water was heated and so you could very comfortably swim all year in sea water. There were filters to clean the sometimes murky sea water that was being pumped in. The filters had to be cleaned regularly. It was like a very early water park with slides, ropes, swinging rings and diving platforms. There was a large staff of lifeguards, matrons, janitors, massage workers and sales and restaurant personnel. After a few years the outside front was lined with shops of all kinds just like the Ocean Front Walk has today. You could buy the latest swim gown and bloomers or buy a hotdog. It was quite an enterprise. Tourists flocked from all over the world to the bathhouse and the Ocean Park Pier and the new Venice of America. At night the bathhouse and the piers were all lit up in a dazzling display of lights.

People have always believed in the medicinal properties of mineral baths and sea water. Tourists were led to believe that basking in the heated ocean water was beneficial to your health. It gave you strength and vitality. Now you could swim all year in warm ocean water. Along with the giant pool, the bathhouse offered lockers and showers. There were hundreds of dressing rooms. You could rent a towel and swim suits so you didn't need to bring anything with you to the beach. There was a sauna and massage rooms. There were individual hot sea water bathtubs to soak in and then you would jump into a fresh water bath to clean your pores. There was a restaurant and bleachers to watch the swimmers. There were fancy lounges to relax. The new trolleys could bring you in from downtown L.A. for an amazing day at our beach resorts.

When Venice of America opened they had the Surf Bathhouse near the beach by Windward Ave. but it just had changing rooms and showers and no pool. Then another bathhouse opened in 1906 called the Lagoon Bathhouse with a 70 foot by 70 foot heated salt water pool like the Ocean Park Plunge. It was about where the northwest corner of Windward Ave and Main Street is today. Most locals are shocked when they learn that back then the Venice Circle was under water in a big lagoon.



*Above:* The Venice Plunge, in front of what today is the Sidewalk Cafe, west side of OFW  
*Below:* The Lagoon bathhouse on Windward and Main - what today is 1501 Main Street



But the Ocean Park Plunge was right on the Ocean Front Walk and looked so awesome. So, not to be out done, Abbot Kinney built another large bathhouse just north of Windward Ave. by the beach. It was about where the the Sidewalk Cafe is today on the beach side. It was called the Venice Plunge and it opened in 1908 and cost \$100,000. He combined the Surf Bathhouse with its changing rooms, showers and lockers with an enormous fancy new building. It had an even larger pool than the Ocean Park Plunge! The large, heated, salt water pool was 150 by 100 feet and could hold 2000 people. It was the biggest in the west. It had filters to clean the incoming ocean water. There was a large balcony with seats for 1500 people to watch all kinds of aquatic events below in the giant pool. They staged water polo and swimming and diving contests. Jeffrey Stanton in his wonderful book describes a stunt man who dressed up in a chicken suit and set himself on fire and then dove from the high rafters into the deep pool! What a show! Jeffrey says there was a heating plant near the lagoon at Windward Ave. that kept the place nice and warm. There were both a deep and shallow end. Over the deep end was a high swing. Also at the deep end was a large diving platform with several levels of heights to dive. There were also diving boards and slides. Around some sides of the enormous pool were small fountains shooting up geysers of water. In the middle of the great pool was a big heated fountain where several people could sit and warm their tushies. Abbot Kinney had built a fun aquarium with all sorts of fish by his pier. In his new bathhouse swimming pool he put a large glass window where viewers could watch the swimmers from under water. It was Kinney's human aquarium! We can imagine this was quite risque for that time watching young men and women swimming underwater in their bathing suits! I wish I could have seen that!

The Venice Plunge had an upstairs that originally had a gym and exercise rooms. Later the upstairs was converted into hotel rooms. In its declining years, the rooms were turned into cheap apartments. It outlasted many of the bathhouses along our beaches and even escaped an arson attempt in 1914 and the great pier fire in 1920 that destroyed most of the original Venice Pier.

From photos and post cards I see there were several bathhouses built within a few miles along our beaches. There was one in Malibu that looked like a beautiful little castle. There was the one by Chautauqua Blvd. and another near Topanga Canyon called the Santa Monica Canyon Bathhouse. There was the North Beach Bathhouse next to the Santa Monica Pier and the one in the Arcadia Hotel. There was the Crystal Plunge and later there was a bathhouse south of Pico Blvd. around Bicknell Street and another around Ashland Ave. on the north side of the Ocean Park Pier. There were Kinney's bathhouses and maybe even more. However, the Ocean Park Plunge at Navy Street in Venice that looked like a giant, ornate Muslim mosque may have been the coolest looking. Beach bathhouses became the in thing for a while. Many were built after this along the southern California coast. Large

ones were built in Redondo Beach and Long Beach. One of the most famous was the Sutro Baths in San Francisco that was built a couple years before our Ocean Park Plunge. The Sutro Baths had both a large ocean water and also a fresh water pool. Some were financed by the new railroads to promote tourism. Soon the fad was picked up on the east coast and large bathhouses were built at Coney Island, New York and in Atlantic City. Soon every beach resort town wanted a bathhouse. All of them were modeled after our bathhouses. Some pools in conservative towns separated the sexes and had one side for women and the other for men.

I don't know if they were segregated, but I only see White people in the photos. The bathhouse south of Pico Blvd. at around Bicknell Street was next to the beach where Black people congregated. I imagine they may have had minorities at that nearby bathhouse? This beach area by Bay Street and Bicknell Street where Black people went was called the Inkwell. There is a historic marker in stone there at Bay Street commemorating the Ink Well.

About this time much of the new construction of homes and apartments began to have baths and/or showers. Locals could then take a bath at home. With the dredging to build the canals and the building of Venice, more sand was left on our beach. A couple of break waters were added to slow beach erosion. The new sewer plant and the combination of several piers began to allow the sand to slowly build up over time and the ocean began to get farther away from our Ocean Front Walk. Much more sand was added years later when the Marina was built and dredged out. This made it harder to pump in fresh salt water. Also by the late 1920s the fad was losing its appeal. There were so many bathhouses that the novelty soon wore off. The flappers or sexy girls from the 1920s and early 1930s began hanging out and strutting their stuff on the beach. Even though our ocean is cold much of the time, people began to venture out into the surf more. Plus it was free to just go down to the ocean and jump in. Life guards were hired and trained to watch out for swimmers on the beach. Thousands of people had flocked daily to our bathhouses until the mid 1920s, but by the late 1920s many began to close from lack of business. Maintenance costs for the large pools was high. Just the heating bills alone were enormous. Then the Great Depression hit in 1929 and business at the piers dropped considerably and didn't begin to pick up again until 1935. By the beginning of WWII most of our giant bathhouses closed from high costs and lack of business. In 1943 the Venice Plunge was closed because the city declared the building unsafe from dry rot. In 1946 the Venice Pier lease wasn't renewed by the city and the pier was demolished.

Time moves on and waits for no one...fads come and go - styles change - tastes evolve - movie stars and singers change every minute. And so went the great age of the dinosaurs - the massive, expensive to operate plun-geasaurus became extinct. The great age of the ocean side plunges was no more...

Our amazing Ocean Park Plunge Bathhouse at Navy Street in Venice was sadly torn down. A new smaller building was put up where different variations of bingo were played. Bingo and gambling had been outlawed in L.A. but they tried to get around the anti bingo laws by creating new variations on the game. They invented funny names like bridgo and tango. Finally in the late 1940s the city closed the last of them down. My mom ran the bakery in Ocean Park and later at the Cadillac Hotel at Dudley Ave., and she used to say that when they closed the bingo parlors the money left the beach. After the bingo parlor closed there I remember it was empty for some time with the big sign up saying bingo. For a while it became a fun slot car racing place where you could rent or bring your slot cars and race them. Unfortunately our beach area kids were mostly poor like me and we couldn't afford to spend much money there. It closed and was vacant again. It was torn down and it became a parking lot. Some years later they built the Adda & Paul Safran Senior Housing that is there now. Their arched front door is the same shape as the old front door of the wonderful old Ocean Park Plunge bathhouse that once stood there. When I tell people today about the bathhouses with heated ocean water many think it would be a fantastic idea today! However, our board of health would probably never allow it.

Why did the robber take a bath? He wanted to make a clean get away! Well, it's time for me to try and make a clean get away until I shower you again with more of our amazing local history!