

YOU CAN'T FOOL VENICE

Change is Coming Tenants Unite

by Mark Lipman

Over the past several years we have all noticed significant changes to our Venice community. A pro-big business, pro-development agenda has literally demolished its way through Venice, while rents and eviction rates have skyrocketed. Longstanding neighbors and local residents have disappeared almost overnight as a tourist industry, which brings no revenues back to Venice, has eradicated our affordable housing stock and decimated our existing community in one of the greatest Displacement Crises of modern history. Where have all our neighbors gone?

Big Tech companies like Google and Snapchat receive an 80% tax break from the City of Los Angeles, as they buy up entire neighborhoods, driving up our rents by importing high paid employees, who come here with bags of money and no manners. These public subsidies given to gentrify our neighborhoods directly support real estate tycoons – like Tami Pardee of Pardee Properties, whose entire business model is to implant wealthy elite onto low income neighborhoods, while making boatloads of money, in a 3-step process which involves multiple LLCs, Ellis Act evictions and bulldozers.

All the while all we hear is “long term” lip service when it comes to solutions (i.e. housing) to deal with homelessness from our elected officials. In place of Public Services there are police sweeps to sweep the needs of our community under the rug, so that the business of making a few people extremely rich at the expense of the rest of us can go on as usual.

If things like this happening in our community infuriate you, you're not alone. And Venice is not alone in this struggle. All across Los Angeles the words Gentrification and Mansionization are on every one's lips. Tenants (anyone who does not have control over their own housing) are coming together to organize and stand up for their rights.

Here in Venice, the Westside Tenants Union is a part of that fight. Bringing tenants together from Venice, Mar Vista, West LA, Santa Monica and Culver City, the Westside Tenants Union is a chapter of the regional Los Angeles Tenants Union and together, along with many organizational allies, we are actively working on Displacement Prevention, Eviction Defense and Policy Changes to protect housing for all of us. It is our core belief that Housing is a Human Right.

A real positive change is coming – one where we put the rights and well being of the people in our community above the profit margin of a handful of wealthy elite. It will not be easy. Power never concedes a thing without a fight ... this we know, however when we, as a community, come together and work together for the common

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Ready to fight for your rights?

Join us for the next meeting of the

WESTSIDE TENANTS UNION

Thursday, April 21, 2016 @ 6:30pm

Venice Community Housing Corp.
720 Rose Ave.
Venice, CA 90291

with Tenant Organizing Training

contact: westside.tenants.union@gmail.com

phone : 323-543-5997

www.facebook.com/WestsideTenantsUnion

APRIL FOOLS QUIZ SEE HOW YOU DO?

By Roxanne Brown

APRIL FOOL'S QUIZ HOMELESSNESS and BLIGHT

This photo shows terrible homelessness – the homeless eating off garbage bins and sitting on milk crates?



April Fool's. It's Gjelina's, GTA's, and Gjusta's customers helping to maximize owner Fran Camaj's profits – no cost for permit, no cost for tables, chairs, floors, walls.

This photo shows blight and neglect, abandoned buildings?



April Fool's – it's the hippest street in America, Abbot Kinney – where all of the hippest stores (Surfing Cowboys, Tantau, Zingara, Koko, Mona Moore, and more) have been forced out due to exorbitant rent increases.

Forbes February 5, 2015 article on top Venice realtor Tami Pardee says she expected to make \$417 million in 2014. Press on Pardee says she gives 10% of her net on sales to the charity of her clients' choice. Did she earn \$500 million in 2015 and give \$50 million (less expenses) to help the homeless in Venice?

April Fools: Pardee's website shows \$20,000 went to the Homeless Task Force and \$39,003 to The Teen Project in 2015. That's \$59,003 – not \$50 million. Of course, money goes to her client's choice. However, maybe there's an idea here...

SOLUTION

Councilman Mike Bonin is looking for a tax to help the homeless. When realtors, such as Pardee, sell what was affordable housing, perhaps 10% of the gross needs to go to helping the homeless? There seems to be a direct correlation between these sales, evictions and loss of rent stabilized housing (RSO) and affordable housing.

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IT MATTERS

by Jon Wolff.

If you've never attended a meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council, you should come sometime to see how it all works. The Council discusses and votes on a variety of topics specific to Venice. The Boardwalk, homelessness, business, and culture are just some of the subjects covered at a typical meeting of the VNC.

One issue that comes up at every meeting concerns building owners' proposals to demolish older buildings and build newer and taller buildings in their place. These proposals are often labeled as “remodeling” and they are usually presented as innocuous minor changes with no noticeable impact on the neighborhood. The owners present themselves as humble Venice residents who just want to improve their home to accommodate their kids. Or, if the owners are operating a business, they assure the Council that the enlargement of their building won't significantly affect parking in Venice because they'll include a bike rack to encourage more environmentally sound means of transportation. They sometimes bring the architects along to the meeting to show slides or models representing the changes to the building.

The Council discusses the facts and votes their recommendation on the proposal. But, before they do, there's usually a counter argument from neighbors and concerned Venice activists about the facts not revealed by the owners. We learn that the proposed remodeling will actually be much taller or wider than the owners claimed. Or that the existing laws specifically disallow changes of this kind because they would cause phenomenal damage to the character of the neighborhood. Or, it turns out, the owners are only doing this so they can rent out the new structure as a short-term rental with “Air-BM-b”.

Now, here's where the important part comes in. And it's the reason you need to attend the meetings in person. Because you need to see the thing that a lot of people miss. It happens when the person making the argument against the proposal is speaking from the podium. Don't watch the speaker; watch the building owners. When the speaker is making the counter argument and exposing the real story, check out the owners. Watch their faces. Look at their eyes and you will see their reaction to the



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Beachhead Collective Staff:
 Eric Ahlberg, Anthony Castillo, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, Ronald McKinley, Krista Schwimmer, Alice Stek.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

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To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. No payment is made for material used.

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To the Beachhead and Krista Schwimmer:

Thank you Krista Schwimmer for your article on sexism! It is right on point and calls out the pervasive sexism that exists, even among our more progressive friends, men and women. I am constantly amazed when otherwise sensitive and PC people do not see or get how their mind set and comments about women reek of sexism but who deny,deny, and are offended and defensive when called on sexist attitudes.

Longtime friends, whether they support Hillary Clinton or not, criticize her unbecoming “shrill” voice; her unbecoming “anger” when she really gets mad, the unbecoming color of her outfit, while her opponent literally screams and waves hands during every speech and is far from a fashion plate. No need to mention Republicans. In politics and in life it is still acceptable to judge women on their hair, make up, weight, tone of voice, personal life, in way males rarely are. It is a no- win situation for women- damned if they are too nice and damned if they are to assertive.

I urge every reader to be aware of your thoughts and listen to your own words when assessing any woman and notice other’s words at work, at home and certainly during this election cycle. Change begins with oneself and we all benefit when we are all judged by the same standards.

Linda Lucks Lindalucks@gmail.com

Dear Krista Schwimmer
 I loved Krista’s *Race for the Presidency and Sexism* piece. I am in total agreement with her and was so impressed with how well-researched it was. agreement with her and was so impressed with how well-researched it was.

I might add that it was very bold of Krista, being that many Venice folks are feeling the Bern. Hey, we all like what Bernie’s saying, but Hillary will make a better President. I no longer post support for Hillary on my FB page because of all the haters out there.

That’s why my daughter-in-law started a Hillary Support Group and made me an administrator. We began as 3 members, she, my son and I. Then I began inviting people who in turn invited people and now we have 140 members. We call it The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pantsuits. Again, thank you, Krista.
 Gail Rogers
 (310) 399-5546

March 8, 2016
 Editor, Free Venice Beachhead
 P.O. Box 2
 Venice, CA 90294

Dear Editor:
 I read with interest Mark Lipman’s article about the inventive, courageous and inspired attempt by our Councilperson. Mike Bonin. to dedicate a municipal bus yard into extremely low income and very affordable housing for Venice residents and others.

I support his efforts.
 Now, I think if the community adopts a standard for “low income,” this would be acceptable to the Council Office. Some local residents have suggested that in no event should the rent be greater than one third of the income of the potential tenant. This suggestion probably represents a rental which is 500 times below even HUD market suggested rent or suggested rent under the Section 8 program; however, I think that many of our neighbors have been priced out of the Venice Community, and perhaps we should dedicate one project, which is incredibly inexpensive for renters. However, then I believe the Community, Community Council and others should be thoughtful, considerate and flexible when a developer wants to include bonus units for moderate income, potential tenants. If a bootlegged unit needs to be made legal, allow the current tenant to be protected under the RSO. However, when the tenant surrenders the unit, the owner may, at his or her discretion, offer it for market rent. This is the “grand” Bargain.
 Thank you,
 Michael Millman
 Venice High School Alumnus

Tenant’s Union, continued from Page 1

good, we will win.
 You can be a part of this. Please join us for our next organizing meeting, on Thursday, April 21st, 6:30pm at the Venice Community Housing Corp. 720 Rose Ave., Venice 90291

Thanks for your generous donations!
Bradley Bobbs
Linda Albertano, Marty Leal, Jim Smith, Irene Bajsarowycz, Rod Gallardo

100

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Volunteer with bicycle needed for Beachhead Distribution on Ocean Front Walk.

WE WON’T BE FOOLED AGAIN:

April 1 Day of Action. Friday at 14:00– 21:00 Westminster Senior Center 1234 Pacific Avenue, Venice.

Rally and day of action, education, and mobilization as we uplift true solutions to the city’s homeless crisis - ones that create homes and end the failed policy of enforcement of non-violent, quality-of-life crimes that simply punish homeless people for being poor.

We will also be highlighting the dozens and potentially hundreds of vacant or underutilized public properties - like the Westminster Senior Center - that could be activated TODAY for housing and homeless services!

In LA, the City spends at least \$87 MILLION a year to police, cite, arrest homeless people. That is \$87 MILLION that could and should be going to build housing. Laws and enforcement that make illegal things like sitting, resting, sleeping in legally parked cars, & sharing food do nothing to get folks off the street and in a home. The City should also be spending all new money on permanent housing and utilize already existing public buildings and land to meet the ongoing emergency needs of homeless individuals.

Local Psycho Predicts Future

REALTORS PROVIDE HOMES FOR HOMELESS..

In an astounding feat of government and business cooperation, housing is being provided for all homeless people by the Southern California Real Estate Association. “Our business has been exploiting the Real Estate Market for decades, it’s time we paid something back.” said SCRCA spokesman Sly Shpiel. Homeless people are advised to go to any Real Estate Office or stop any Realtor on the street and ask for their housing. Funds for this program come from Federal Fines against Big Banks and consent agreement settlements of class action suit on banks, the Real Estate Trusts, and Realtors. Monster Mansions and Ghost Mansions which were largely purchased by money launderers for the drug cartels, and fugitive capital, have been confiscated and turned into public housing. “We are so happy we have found a way to do the right thing and solve this terrible problem. “ said local Realtor Spami Fartee, “It’s costing us billions but it’s the right thing to do. We have finally rid Ocean Front Walk of the unsightly mess. Our new residents have cleaned themselves up, taken baths, gotten a good night’s rest. This really benefits us all, and it keeps me out of prison.” President Bernie Sanders said, “We have been victorious in restoring to the american worker, the money that was stolen from them by the banks and investment funds.” “We have set a new standard for social justice!” said Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Warren.
 Amen to that.

Perhaps Bonin could investigate another “homeless tax” on those who are turning RSO’s and affordable housing into short term rentals (STRs).
President of the Venice Chamber of Commerce Carl Lambert has been turning his affordable housing apartments into de-facto hotels. He might pay 10% of gross on his higher profits?

BACK TO APRIL FOOL’S QUIZ - BONIN

Speaking of Bonin. Have you read the press? Yes, Bonin has announced he will end homelessness. He will break ground on an Abbot Kinney parking lot. And, Bonin says acres of prime Venice real estate are now slated for affordable housing.

April Fools. Oops those Bonin promises seem to be part of his campaign strategy. TRIPLE APRIL FOOLS!
Bonin is launching his reelection campaign. Bonin talks and says things and moves people around and the status quo remains. Bonin remains Venice’s invisible elected councilman. His predecessor, Bill Rosenthal, was everywhere and gave easy access to his constituents. Not Bonin.

Bonin got elected because Venetians thought he would be like Bill. WRONG – APRIL FOOLS. Many westsiders are saying “Anybody but Bonin.” #OneTermBonin. Bonin’s been bonin’ Venice – letting property gangsters rule. Brentwood isn’t too happy with him – two lawsuits at least. The Playas aren’t so happy, nor are Westminster and Mar Vista. Perhaps the Palisades loves him. Isn’t that where the developers live?

Bonin is depending on money from developers and their mantra, “money always wins.” APRIL FOOL’S – Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush, Michael Huffington?

If reelected, Bonin would get another 5 ½ years - \$1 million plus perks. Spread the word – stop Bonin – he’s been bonin’ Venice and Council District 11 long enough.

NOW for the **GRAND FINALE of APRIL FOOLS** jokes

Mayor Eric Garcetti, his administration, Councilman Bonin and the West LA Area Planning Commission (WLAAPC) in an appeal approved Fran Camaj’s Gjusta at 320 Sunset for “change of use” from “bakery/take out only” (which it has never been) to restaurant with alcohol thirteen feet from residents’ homes.

It’s a tale of farce and fakery, corruption and collusion. Hollywood, are you listening? Lorne Michael’s at Saturday Night Live, can you hear us? Who will buy the rights and make the movie? Kristen Wiig? Amy Schumer?

MORE APRIL FOOL’S QUIZ

Were the following statements actually made?
Zoning Administrator Maya Zaitzevsky saying, “Gjelina only seats people for an hour – not enough time to get drunk?” YES!

Laurette Healey, Fran Camaj’s consultant said: Unlike other areas, adding a liquor license in Venice brings the

crime rate down? YES she said it and showed a chart as “evidence.” Not an April Fool’s joke!

Jim Murez was an appellant against Gjusta? False – April Fool’s! Jim Murez was an appellant FOR Gjusta. Commission President Donovan said, “It’s a little strange to have an appellant in favor of the project.”

Camaj’s attorney Ben Reznik when not whispering in the ear of the City attorney said: The homeless pee in Gjusta’s alley, not Gjusta’s customers. April Fool’s. Venetians see Gjusta’s customers pee in the alley and near their cars and next to buildings. We’ve even seen women squat in the bushes and pee. Same old problem: too many customers (as fire department codes get ignored) and not enough bathrooms at restaurant.

Murez and Reznik said: Everyone knows the Metro yard (at Sunset and Main) will be turned into a parking structure holding a thousand cars. APRIL FOOL’S!
Bonin says that will be used to build housing, including some affordable housing for the teachers [union] and nurses.

CLOSING APRIL FOOLS REMARKS

In closing, Reznik stated that Camaj has always been a responsible alcohol licensee. APRIL FOOLS – NOT. Concerned Neighbors of 320 Sunset (CNS) had photo and internet evidence of Gjelina/GTA/Gjusta chef and waiters serving alcohol on (unpermitted) patio/alley/walkway and upstairs rental apartment at Gjelina. Google <http://www.nikkisharp.com/2015/06/20/a-birthday-to-remember> to see all the fun.

Neighbors have seen these parties and documented them with evidence 107 times in the last 1 ½ years. Yet, the City looks the other way, has done so for eight years at Gjelina/GTA, and apparently intends to continue to look the other way going forward at Gjelina, GTA, 1305 Abbot Kinney (Black Beast), and Gjusta.

FINAL EXAM - NO MORE FOOLS

Ilana Marosi, President of Concerned Neighbors of 320 Sunset (CNS), and CNS members fought for two years to keep Venice’s historic Oakwood neighborhood safe for the families who live there. As usual, the City chose special interests over tax-paying, voting citizens.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, his administration, and his City Council, including Councilman Mike Bonin, have done more to harm the quality of life for Angelenos than any of their predecessors. Stop the fools.

If you disagree with the actions of the City and want to stop this behavior, please contribute \$5 - \$10 - \$20 - \$20,000. Any and all amounts show that you say, “stop.” <https://www.gofundme.com/helpsavevenice> Do it now, before you get busy.

VOTE MITCHELL SCWARTZ to replace Garcetti: #OnetermGarcetti

VOTE TO REPLACE BONIN: #OnetermBonin

It Matters - continued from page 1

speaker’s words. You’ll see the contempt. You’ll see the contempt for the speaker, the neighbors, the tenants, the activists, and the very History of Venice. You’ll see their plans for a Venice of their own design which doesn’t include any of the men and women who have lived in and struggled for Venice for twenty, thirty, fifty years. You’ll know that their plans are to tear down and pave over all traces of the Venice that drew them here in the first place.

To the owners and companies that are demolishing every building in Venice and replacing them with big ugly boxes, the people of Venice don’t matter. The neighbors who don’t want to live in the shadow of some new concrete monstrosity don’t matter. All the “little people” don’t matter. To a development corporation, the people who speak out at the Venice Neighborhood Council meetings are just minor obstacles in the road. The corporation expects to get its way whether by the VNC’s approval or by some political operator in L.A. City Hall. And the law be damned. You don’t matter.

This happens elsewhere. The people in Flint, Michigan didn’t matter when their environmental regulators were sending them lead-flavored tap water. That pharmaceutical CEO Bozo Shkreli laughed when Congress was on him for charging people \$750 for a pill. To him, the people who needed the pills didn’t matter. And the people out in Porter Ranch who got gassed by So Cal Gas didn’t matter when So Cal Gas knew that gas was leaking from a busted gas valve on their gassy gas pit.

To the developers/destroyers of Venice, you don’t matter because you’re just one lone person with no power. While you work, sit in traffic, and sleep, they’re looking at maps, making contracts, transferring funds, lobbying politicians, and gnawing away at the foundation of Venice. No wonder no one matters to them; there’s no one left to matter. Or is there?

Right now, in the Land of Venice, there are groups of Venice people meeting, talking, planning, and acting. Just as a corporation is a body of individuals acting together to take from other people, a Union of people can act together to take back. The combined talents of many individuals working toward a common goal can match the power of any corporation. And the goal is obtainable for one good reason: there’s more of us than there are of them. We can and will win.

If you heard that people who are working to save Venice were speaking at the next VNC meeting, would you come to listen? If you knew that people were gathering in Venice to stand for the Venice you love, would you be there? If you learned that a group of people like the Westside Tenants Union were getting together in Venice to establish once and for all the truth that Housing is a Human Right, would you help? If you believed that Venice would be free again, would your help matter? Yes it will.



A View From the Bottom

by Pat Raphael

Yes, there’s something in the air. No, not the whiff of pee whenever leaning on a tree -- that’s from all the street people with no access to restrooms ten hours a day -there’s also change in the air. Long-time residents roll their eyes at a newcomer like myself declaring a change ‘a coming. Since this February only marks my first year in Venice, it is legit to wonder if so short a period is enough to see, without the benefit of knowing what came before. Venice originals also remind me that change is always stirring in the air. And that change after change after change, Venice always remains Venice. The people’s beach, the ghetto by the sea, the OFW museum (curated by the hustle and sharp first-come-first-serve elbows) -- the cultural wetlands here are as fertile as ever.

It is my friend David ‘The Love Guy’ Busch that likes to describe Venice as a cultural wetland. In his view of Venice, the value of our community is that the millionaire tech whiz is shoulder to shoulder with the starving artist, who is hanging out with the performers and beach bums, all working for a piece of the big bucks that tourists from all over the globe are bringing to our fair beach. Sometimes the coexistence is tense, but one way or another rich and poor manage to live together as cordial neighbors here in Venice and a balance is maintained.

This cultural wetland is a rich legacy entrusted to all who choose to make Venice their home. Now that I too have this legacy to maintain, I am beginning to appreciate the delicate balance that keeps it all from quickly turning into either Disneyland or Skid Row. Take f walk along the Ocean Front Walk, and the fear is that our community is showing more shades of Skid Row than we care to present. From Navy to Washington, every available spot where a street person can set up an encampment is filled. Venice Originals tell me that the number of street people on the beach is now at all-time highs. Part of the culture here in Venice is that the community is open and welcoming to their population of street people. But as we take in the latest wintertime wave of the nation’s population of homeless escaping cold and seeking community, our little piece of paradise is feeling the strain of so high a population of street people. The delicate balance that maintains this cultural wetland is tipping too high in its population of street people.

As one of the street people here in Venice, I welcome the state of emergency declared in the January issue of the Beachhhead. The heart of care that this call exposes stirs me to offer my own voice among those calling for city leaders to present a positive solution to meet the need for low-income housing in our community. But too often issues of homelessness are discussed without considering the vantage of a person actually living on the streets. Too often we covet a view from the penthouse; today we offer the view from the sidewalk -- a look from the bottom.

How did we get here? True it began with the reputation that Venice spent years to create: we are a community that welcomes and value the contributions of our population of street people. And word gets around among the circle of travelers ... suddenly Venice is a must-see destination for all the kids who have asserted their geographical independence and travel all over the country. But reputation is just one of the many draws. Another

major factor that must be considered in clearly seeing the present state of Venice is the impact of the great recession and real estate crash of 2009.

This greater national trend is not Venice’s doing, but Venice will never fully bring its cultural wetland back into balance until an honest accounting acknowledges the sheer magnitude of the crash and its long-term consequences in adding to the rolls of the homeless.

Consider a household that goes into foreclosure during the peak of foreclosures in October 2010 (peak according to RealtyTrac’s numbers) -- depending on which state, the process can take up to two years. Then that evicted family may downgrade their housing, move into co-habitation, and then go through friends and family after depleting all their savings. All this might take a few years before this family, down on their luck, finally end up on the streets. As we see the exploding population of street people here in Venice, we should see this as part of a bigger national trend.

The crash of 2009 did not only affect the masses, it was also felt in the penthouse too. With over a trillion dollars wiped from the economy, many billionaires endured sleepless nights at the thought of only having hundreds of millions of dollars after the devaluation of their real estate holdings. But the advantage of the penthouse is that after massive losses, when opportunities present, there is always initial investment available to turn everyone else’s losses quickly into gains. Those who are tracking the numbers reveal that all the losses suffered in the economy since the crash of 2009 have been recovered. Let them tell it, Wall Street is at record highs, unemployment is low, and the dollar is the strongest global currency.

But in reality, all that was lost from the economy in 2009 was recovered as a transfer of wealth from the middle class to the investor class. So here in Venice where there are more members of the investor class than in most communities, at the same time we are experiencing record numbers of street people, there is also record amounts of money in the hands of millionaires and billionaires to buy influence and throw their weight around trying to disneyfy Venice. Our delicate cultural wetlands here in Venice need a thriving population of millionaires and billionaires ... only their influence can not overshadow other people’s legitimate right to life in Venice.

Last February I show up in Venice with an awe that made me quickly realize that I too belong here. I’m here in Venice in pursuit of my dream to break into the national media. I spent many of my former lives (prior to my arrival in Venice) cooped up in house cages, and bound tightly by scheduling into cubicles to perform jobs that left my soul unfulfilled. It is Venice that gave me the courage to fully go cage-free, and join the ranks of free-range humans (also known as ‘homeless’ street people). It is the kindness of strangers, the more permissive enforcement environment (in spite of how much we gripe at the cops), the mild winters, and of course the show -- casted by some of the coolest people in America -- that never seems to stop, that is why we’re here. Venice taught me to value the whole by appreciating all the pieces.

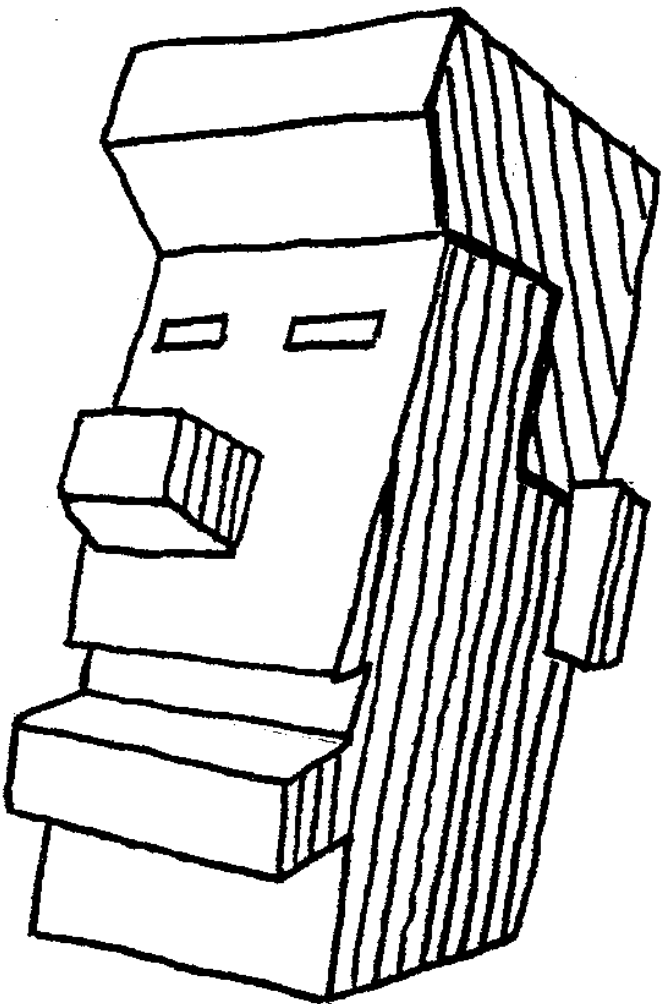
It is here at the ground level that I am gaining the perspective to be a more effective advocate for the Street People whose voice I seek to amplify. My experience on the ground has taught me that here (for more apparent reasons than anywhere else), it is even more important to heed the good advice of not being prejudicial nor to judge the book by its cover. It is here in Venice, amongst the street people, that I’ve found a love and generosity not seen in the other more affluent circles in which I

previously ran. As the population of street people comes into clearer focus, I am beginning to see that the streets are not populated by a homogeneous group. Here in Venice, the street people may fall into one or more of these distinct categories: 1) those who are homeless due to economics, 2) those who are homeless due to mental issues (including addiction and ptsd), 3) those who do not have houses, but have found a home in the outdoors.

As we seek to bring the cultural ecosystem of the Venice wetlands back into balance, there needs to be a deliberate community response to reducing our high number of street people. While there is no short-term intervention that can markedly reduce the number of street people in Venice, the community must recognize that even if we somehow got all our homeless housed, the rolls would quickly regrow, as long as there continues to be a national trend of growing homelessness. The true solution is to support national policy that effectively addresses low-income housing so that not so many poor people are priced out of housing. Only then can we truly start making progress to reduce the high number of street people on our beach.

Imagine a bright future_ when the first two categories of homeless Venetians are significantly dealt with ... a future when whole developments are created to house the mentally ill and to offer treatment to those addicted people who are ready to take steps to build their lives. Imagine a significant community response to the need for low-income housing. Imagine if we learned from the example of Utah, and improved their ‘housing-first’ program to apply in our high-population urban setting. If we make these difficult (and expensive) choices, what we would be left with as street people are those who choose to live outside. It may be difficult for a housed person to make the distinction, but a person who chooses to live outside has a different respect for the environment... this person who sees your yard as part of the great outdoors to be enjoyed, will recognize that your tree is not a toilet. Yes Venice has to be the place where tweakers run the alley for a week without sleep ... but as soon as they get tired of losing their teeth to meth and breakfast in the county, there has to be a loving community with open arms ready to take that tweaker through to the next phase.

I write because I believe that Venice is up to the challenge. There is a heart on this beach that recognizes street people are worthy of human dignity. Opening our community to free-range humans offer us the exposure to see the full spectrum of this population. As such, we understand that you can’t ‘law-enforcement’ street people into fitting your artificial niceties. It is also futile to act like basic and inescapable biological functions cease to be so simply because there’s a sign on the wall. When we’ve taken the time to talk to and get to know a street person, we’ve too often been pleasantly surprised by the depth of understanding and the breadth of academic accomplishment waist-deep in the dumpster, feet flailing, ‘bout to score some brand-new yuppie throw-away. That is when it becomes clear that the street person who chooses this lifestyle pays the cost of sleeping with the elements, for the benefit of total freedom. All of the sudden that bum’s battered cardboard sign made sense: quit your job I stop paying your mortgage I move to the beach I hold a cardboard sign.



Crossword

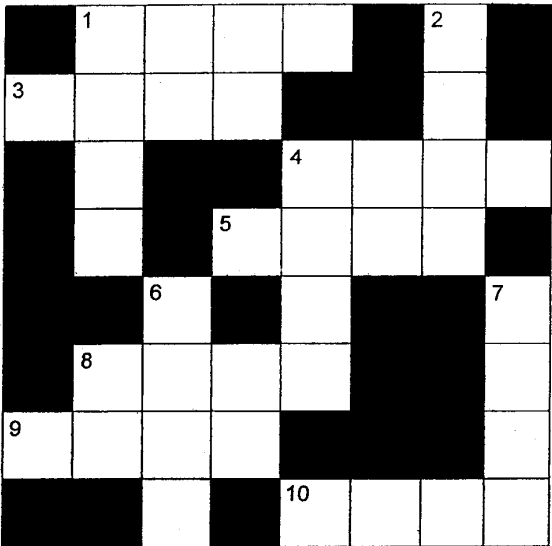
by Jon Wolff

ACROSS

- 1 Have sexual intercourse
- 3 Rhymes with truck
- 4 ____ you!
- 5 Do it
- 8 Uckfay (Pig Latin)
- 9 Sometimes dumb
- 10 Mother____er

DOWN

- 1 The “F” word
- 2 What the ____?
- 4 Not given when it’s flying
- 6 Fertilization under command of the king (acronym)
- 7 Screw





VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT

By Phyllis Hayashibara, member of the VJAMM Committee, 3361 McLaughlin Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 390-1576, phyllishayashibara@gmail.com

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee takes great pleasure in announcing that David Williams, founder and owner of Williams Monument Company in Arvin, California, will supply the solid black granite VJAMM obelisk. David will be ordering the black granite from his supplier in India, known for the highest quality and most absolute black granite available in the world, and will be engraving the VJAMM obelisk at his factory in Arvin. Committee members Phyllis Hayashibara, Alice Stek, and Suzanne Thompson, drove from Venice to Arvin on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 to hand-deliver a deposit check that represents 60% of the total cost of the obelisk, ceramic photo and all engraving included.

A member of the VJAMM Committee, Suzanne Thompson, found the Williams Monument Company online as she searched “granite obelisks” and found an image of a shiny black obelisk that David had engraved for South High School in 2007. Two other members of the Committee, Phyllis Hayashibara and Emily Winters, traveled to Arvin in 2013 to meet David after he expressed interest in the VJAMM project. David took them on a tour of civic monuments in nearby Bakersfield, showing that granite slabs attached to concrete very soon lose their adhesion and must be repaired within a few years after installation. David also showed them examples of uneven engraving, where some letters were deeply etched into the granite, while others were very shallowly etched on the very same monument, something he promised would never occur in his own work. The VJAMM Committee took his advice, which concurred with the advice of other monument makers interviewed, and decided to order a solid granite obelisk.

David also showed some of his own civic work of very high standards, including the Kern Veterans Memorial, for which he completed the engraving of veterans’ names on panels; South High School’s 50th Anniversary Honor Plaza which included the black granite obelisk; and North High School’s large gray granite sign in front of its administration building. He also showed the VJAMM Committee members around his factory, where he does the engraving of granite tombstones, flat grave markers, and commemorative benches.

David Williams founded the Williams Monument Company in 1997, after his wife, Christie, suggested he follow in the footsteps of his father, who worked as an artist and engraver on memorials.

Christie recognized that David’s artistic ability, creativity, and compassion would provide people with higher quality work and better customer service than is typically found in the memorial industry. In

2005, David earned the designation of CM, Certified Memorialist. He has also joined the ranks of Monument Builders of North America, which promises of its members “ethical, honest business practices from someone who is committed to his industry and art.”

Christie Williams works as the Human Resources Officer and Chief Financial Officer for the Kern County Autism Center, a non-profit business whose mission is to provide the very best day care and living facilities for autistic adults in the Bakersfield area. Christie had grown up with a cousin who had been diagnosed as autistic, and as a teen, had come to know several families with autistic children. In fulfillment of what turned out to be her life’s passion, Christie has worked with KCAC since 1991.

The Williams have three children, Jacob now 23 years old, Emily now 20, and Hannah now 8. The family adopted Hannah from China in response to Christie’s dream of rescuing an orphan girl from a country that did not afford the same opportunities for its females as males. In the course of their research, they discovered that they could also help with a “special needs” adoption. Rejected in China for having been born with a cleft lip and palate, Hannah became the third Williams’ child, whose surgery successfully corrected her “special needs.”

David Williams’ interest in commemorating history that should never be forgotten led him to the Veterans’ Memorial in Bakersfield; to a commemorative wall for the Dust Bowl Historical Foundation located in Weedpatch, California, which also features original structures

from the last remaining Depression-era Migrant Camp in Arvin; and to the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker in Venice, California. “I believe that society must hold onto the lessons of historical events in order to not repeat them. So many fine men, women, and children were forced out of their homes unjustly [during the Japanese American internment]. I am honored to be a part of this noble project,” wrote David Williams in an email interview.

The VJAMM Committee recently changed its name from the Memorial Marker Committee to the Memorial MONUMENT Committee, in recognition of the monumental size of the 9 foot 6 inch tall obelisk with a 3 foot by 3 foot base. The VJAMM will be installed on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards, to commemorate the forced removal of some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, about two-thirds U. S. citizens, from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu. They lined up at that intersection with only what they could carry, for bus transport to what would become the American concentration camp in Manzanar, administered by the War Relocation Authority. Many would be incarcerated for more than three years at Manzanar, behind barbed wire and watched by armed military guards.

Estimated expenses for the transport, foundation, and installation of the VJAMM on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards exceed the VJAMM Committee’s previously approved budget. The Committee continues to raise funds for those expenses as well as for future maintenance of the VJAMM. The fifth annual VJAMM fundraiser at Hama Sushi in Venice will take place on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Proprietor Esther Chaing will donate 100% of bento lunch profits and 10% of all dinner sales to the VJAMM Committee. Over the past four years, Esther has donated over \$10,000.00 to the VJAMM Committee, for which the VJAMM expresses great appreciation. “Esther Chaing, Hama Sushi Restau-

rant, Venice, California” will be permanently engraved on the VJAMM along with eight other major donors, in gratitude for their support.

The VJAMM Committee invites supporters to pre-order bento FOR \$20 each, so Hama Sushi will know how many bento to prepare for lunch. Please contact Phyllis Hayashibara with your bento lunch order at 310-390-1576 or email her at phyllishayashibara@gmail.com. Please contact Hama Sushi at 310-396-8783 for dinner reservations.

Today, more than ever, we need to heed the message of the VJAMM, as will be engraved as the final paragraph of text:

**MAY THIS VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN
MEMORIAL MONUMENT REMIND US TO
BE FOREVER VIGILANT ABOUT DEFENDING
OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.
MAY THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT
NEVER AGAIN PERPETRATE AN INJUSTICE
AGAINST ANY GROUP BASED SOLELY
ON ETHNICITY, GENDER, SEXUAL
ORIENTATION, RACE, OR RELIGION.**

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016!
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

\$20 Bento Box Lunch Includes:
Chicken teriyaki, cucumber salad, edamame, spicy tuna & California rolls, shrimp and vegetable tempura, plus water or soda.
(Vegetarian option available.)

LIMITED SUPPLY!
PRE-ORDER BEFORE APRIL 25:
Contact Phyllis Hayashibara
(310) 390.1576
phyllishayashibara@gmail.com

FOR CORPORATE ORDERS:
Contact Esther Chaing
(310) 308.6347
hchaing@yahoo.com

PROGRAM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Speakers and Presentations

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Credit cards, cash, checks payable to “Hama Sushi”
• CURESIDE PICK UP: 310.717.3393; do NOT leave your car!

100% of Bento Box Lunch profits go to VJAMM

RETURN TO HAMA SUSHI FOR DINNER!
6:00 PM - 10:30 PM
10% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO VJAMM.
For dinner reservations:
310.396.8783

Thank you: Tony Kim, Naoko Matsumura, Esther Chaing, Masayo Onuki, and Than Le for your generous support of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker!

Visit VJAMM online:
www.venicejamm.org

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016!
VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MARKER
FUNDRAISER AT HAMA SUSHI RESTAURANT
213 Windward Avenue “on the circle” in Venice

11:00 AM - Program
12:00 PM - Lunch
6:00 PM - Dinner

VJAMM Supporters include:
Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Betty Butler, former Calif Assembly Member
Beyond Baroque
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California Coastal Commission
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Esther Chaing, Hama Sushi Restaurant
Free Venice Beachhead
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Los Angeles City Board of Public Works
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Venice Japanese Community Center
Venice Neighborhood Council
Venice Peace and Freedom Party
Venice Town Council
Voice of the Canals
West Los Angeles JACL
West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
West LA United Methodist Church
Zev Yaroslavsky, former LAC BOS, District 3

For a complete list of donors and supporters visit
www.venicejamm.org

Much-appreciated, tax-deductible
donations can be sent to:
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P.O. Box 993, Venice, CA 90294
Checks payable to “VCHC/VJAMM”
The Venice Community Housing Corporation serves
as fiscal sponsor for the Venice Arts Council and the Venice
Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee.

David Williams of Williams Monument Company in Arvin, California, meets with VJAMM Committee members Phyllis Hayashibara, Alice Stek, and Suzanne Thompson.





Above: From Ayotzinapa - A Roar of Silence. This powerful exhibition about students “disappeared” in Mexico. The exhibition is moving to Art Division, 2460 ws. 6th Street, Los Angeles 90057. Film Screening April 19, 7:30 PM www.artdivision.org

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Entertaining & Insightful Readings

NOTE: the Beachhead Collective has not endorsed anyone for President, we reproduce this poster below to honor Earl Newman, whose art and politics graced these pages since 1967

MUNCHIMONSTER'S TREEHOUSE

ACROSS

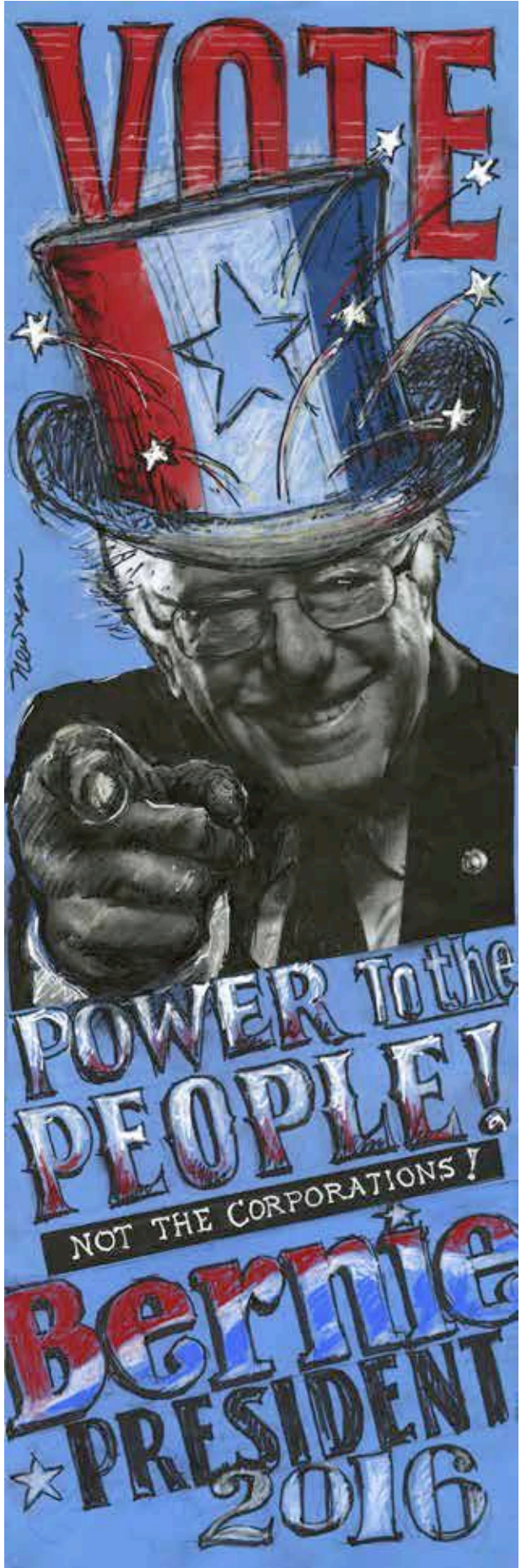
4 COLOR SKY ARCH
5 APRIL ANIMAL
6 EDIBLE FLOWER SEEDS
8 BREAK KIDS LIKE
10 BORN IN APRIL
12 AFTER SEEDS COME

DOWN

1 WARM IN WINTER
2 SOW STARTER IN CONTAINER
3 SOW NOW FOR COB LATER
5 SAVE RAINWATER IN
7 APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY
9 RAIN CLOUD
11 FIRST BLOOMS

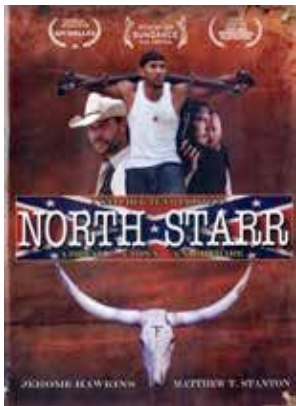
MUNCHIMONSTER.ORG

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FROM CONCEPTION TO DELIVERY, THIS INDEPENDENT FILM CLINGS TO IT’S ROOTS

By Matthew T. Stanton - Independent Filmmaker, Fat Bessy Films, LLC



Thirteen towering palm trees hold steadfast against a mighty coastal El Niño windstorm raging across a sandy mound at the end of Dudley Court and Ocean Front Walk. Commonly known as the “Grassy Knoll,” this weathered Venice sanctuary serves equal parts creative incubator, high ground homeless encampment, and distribution landmark base. Pragmatic in appearance, the open air

artistic space is the birthplace of a thought provoking screenplay and the intentional point of delivery for a powerful, racially charged independent film titled North Starr.

So much has changed during the nearly two decades long journey from when North Starr was first written on the “Grassy Knoll” to become a relevant film presentation today. Long gone is the corner market store off Speedway Avenue. Sponto’s Gallery space and the dilapidated attic apartment rental on 26 Dudley Court which housed the dumpster found typewriter that inked the films’ first screenplay revision, hauled away years ago. Along with the disappearing old guard residents who are now merely a symbolic generation of frayed remnants stitched to the iconically eclectic Venice culture that was once a mainstay here. But as much as things change, things always stay the same. The one constant still prevalent in existence are the creative forces entrenched in this precious environment as displayed along the Venice boardwalk’s westerly concrete tiles that stage the vast displays of artists’ dedicated wares. The most coveted gift of all are the visiting waves of cultural diversity rolling alongside this lengthy platform of signature self expression, lapping at the feet of artistry in search of a token treasure to unearth. It is at this point of intersection, between traveler and tenant, where the uniquely important powers of Venice are the most evident and opportune. Especially for this unheralded indie film being sold here.

Environment is a very important element to a film in order for it to be told truthfully. It is extremely necessary to go into these places that serve the story so profoundly and become primary characters. Being filmed in its entirety in the state of Texas, North Starr follows Demetrious, an aspiring rapper and writer, who is forced to stand his ground in a tiny Texas town after fleeing the badlands of inner city Houston. His journey is compounded with the obstacles of racism, police harassment, and the realization of a towns unspeakable past that quickly comes to the fore upon his unintended arrival. He soon meets up with Darring, a local black ranch hand who takes him under his wing. Together the two men conjure up a plan to rouse the demons that haunt the tiny town and bury them once and for all. Simply put, North Starr is a present day freedom song that focuses on the issues of race and redemption. It’s about breaking the chains that bind

in the search for personal growth and understanding amid human vulnerability. A poetic fish out of water story.

Although a film’s gestation period varies greatly depending on the resources and support available, it was a ten year span covering tireless location scouting trips in Texas to the very first market ready DVD unit sold. For such a slow moving intensive labor of love, one might question the films relevance today considering the rapidly changing times we live in. But timing can mean everything to the life of a film. Expectations were certainly high indeed and deservedly so for this locally produced ultra low budget independent feature film. After earning it’s way into the prestigious Sundance Film Festival (2008) showcasing in the US Dramatic Competition category and earning a Grand Jury Prize Nomination among other high profile festival exhibitions around the world, the film failed to receive a single offer from any legitimate distributors. Screener’s were passed through the black and white hands of some of the most successful and highly recognizable names in the industry but fell through the cracks of their prosthetic fingers, lost to a nearly certain extinction. Caught up in the celebration of a nationally historic political achievement that was sweeping across the nation during the time, North Starr was muted by a Kool Aide swilling Hollywood film critic as being “sixty five years behind the times in our new post racial America.” Timing can be the darnedest thing to a film as well but we have to keep it moving and continue to strive to improve on all levels and aspects of the industry.

Four more labor intensive years elapsed while the fledgling film inched it’s way toward completion. In an incredible twist of fate however, eerily similar to the film titles’ metaphor itself, North Starr traveled north in search of refuge and a desperately needed life line eventually finding a haven in the welcoming arms of The Media Concierge and the Duplium Corporation in Toronto. Canada is the third largest film industry in North America but second to none in recognizing the important value in relationship building and genuine independent film support. It’s a completely different culture up there altogether and Canadians, quite frankly are the best. Finally polished and readied for circulation, a three thousand mile North American sales and promotional journey officially launched from Montreal to Los Angeles in July of 2015. It was Nelson Mandela who famously said “There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.” This wisdom served instrumentally in the decidedly unconventional but necessary self distribution approach to delivery. North Starr needed to voyage back home to the shores of its conception by the means of its original intention. Doing it the hard way. No longer regarded as the festival darling with the high hopes of lucrative offerings recognition often brings, the film would deliver itself back to California humbly by selling one unit at a time out of a van.

Timing has a way of creating relevance. It can shed new light on a voice that has otherwise been silenced and allow it sing again. It’s interesting how the familiar sound of the industry elite scream out today about the racial injustice of being overlooked for award show accolades and are now posturing with calls for self reliance when they too passed on North Starr’s “uncommercial artsy fartsy” racially poetic message so many chapters ago. We’re boardwalk miles ahead of that red carpet campaign and we’ve learned that the best way to make a state-

ment when dealing with such provocative issues is to focus your energies wisely and to exercise your creative muscles resourcefully and the Venice boardwalk serves as the perfect pedestal to be heard from. It may not be glamorous by today’s standards of fashionably obnoxious movie roll outs, but it is a necessary and worthy cause to connect directly with the real people out in the streets and to build your community one story at a time. And besides, lest not forget that filmmakers have been doing it this way since the beginning of cinema after all.

What makes this film so compelling is that you don’t have to be entrenched in the deep southern states of America to understand the significance of racial or cultural intolerance. The thoughts of vulnerability affects everyone in life at some point or another. The universality of the films’ central theme is directly related to the human experience no matter who you are or where you come from and the boardwalk’s dynamic melting pot is a fitting example of this notion. Of course being out there in a public setting doesn’t come without the occasional “It’s never going to happen” quip from a random passerby at times, but it is happening. It’s happening right in front of us and it’s happening all around us because this is Venice Beach and this is why we come here. From the fellow artists who gather up precious change in support of other artists work to the local residents and globetrotting visitors alike searching for a genuine nugget in the sand to value as their own, the artisans on the boardwalk oftentimes under appreciated in this highly valued territory are the real diamonds in the rough. Buried deep inside the treasure trove of creative riches just waiting to be discovered, all good things take time. Born from an idea upon the “Grassy Knoll” so many years ago and returned to the very base of the determined palm trees that are clinging to their own survival, North Starr will always be attached to their roots.

To purchase a copy of North Starr on DVD (a special \$5.00 unit price for a limited time) come down to the Venice Boardwalk between Dudley and Paloma from 11 AM to 7 PM daily or visit fatbessyfilms.com for more information. Please join us on Facebook @ Fat Bessy Films, LLC and follow us on Instagram @ fatbessyfilms.

Let Dr. Karma help you on your path. He knows nothing.

Dear Dr. Karma
I have taken to bouncing around the house and often rant on without finishing a sentence but my you tube videos of this are becoming popular. Why? Why? Why?
- Bipolar in Venice

- Dear Bipolar in Venice
As a Gemini I can appreciate your self-love and self-loathing, it is the eternal dance, the dynamo around which we spin thru the dark and thru the light. About your video, if you desire opera, go deeper into love, and the fall. Humble suggestions: add deeper longer notes, using deeper breaths, all feeling. Go Banshee, wailing is a well established method of channeling inner demons. If you do it right the neighbors will call the cops. Under Free-ways is good. Mountaintops during Santa Ana Winds can work. Quiet tunnels are really good, but they have been walled off to prevent the houseless from camping. (i.e., at Venice BL and Strong's Dr.) It's your pain, embrace it.

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Do you remember “The Garrison” store that was located at 1329 1/2 W. Washington in the late 60’s, or the owner, Rikki Roberts? If so, please contact me for possible inclusion in upcoming self-published book.

Contact: Randy

shoeinfo@icloud.com or 708-710-2990

BOOK REVIEW



“YOU CAN CHECK OUT” by Eli Elliott

I love, love, love this non fiction trade paperback novel, written, drawn and published by the one and only Eli Elliott, a Venice Beach local who is originally from Michigan.

“You can check out” chronicles the Authors time in Venice Beach after a 5 yr. hiatus and the hijinks’ that insue as he

finds himself embroiled in the mayhem that is quite often “Dog Town” day to day.

Traveling and living in his Van enables Mr. Elliott to spend most of his day in public places. Coffee shops, Libraries and “The Lot”, are Perfect settings for new creative stories and ideas (if he survives).

Through it all Eli has a sense of humor, as parking his “buggy” gets more difficult and one story homes are being demolished he mockingly renames Venice to “Venetian Heights” where “IT’LL STILL BE FUNKY, BUT CLEAN, TRENDY AND FRIENDLY FUNKY!” Or his



"TOMMY"

“spot on” hilarious drawings throughout the book that show the reader exactly how things went down.

This should be mandatory reading for middle and high school aged children in Venice. Let’s teach our children that “car surfing” never ends well, the “library” is neutral territory and when someone socks you in the eye just “forgive them”, because “you hit them first”.

I grew up in Venice and it’s always fun to hear about peoples experiences that are visiting or passing through, especially if they love Venice as much as I do and the stories end on a high note! Now, whenever I meet someone from Michigan I think, cool!

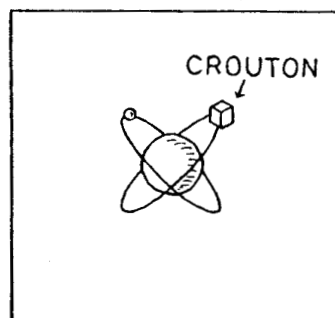
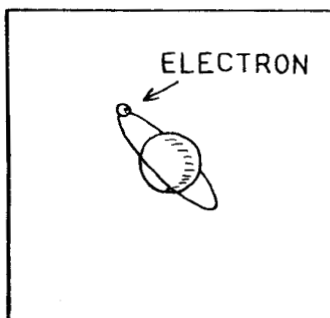
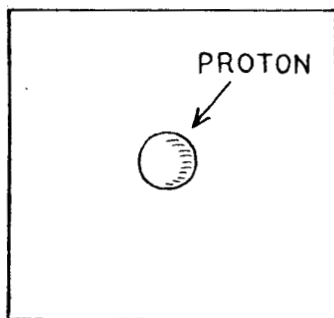
Eli is so dreamy and so are his novelettes’ which will be perfect to read on any lazy Wednesday afternoon.

For more info. on Eli Elliott and his books see, [www. Elienation.com](http://www.Elienation.com) he is also editor and co-producer of Roofless TV, a local community YouTube channel.

-Min. Saffron



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by Jon Wolff

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday April 1

8:00 PM - Bad With Three Rooms Press - Join us for the Official L.A. Launch of **BAD: The Autobiography of James Carr**, the harrowing, brutal, and unapologetic 1972 autobiography by James Carr, a notorious African-American career criminal who went straight out of Compton to a reformatory after burning down his school at the age of 10. A brutal indictment of the American penal system and a primer for the present-day seeds of institutionalized racism in this country, BAD goes where no other book has ever gone before and so did James Carr. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Saturday April 2

8:00 PM - Poetry In Motion: **Fool For Love** - Words of Love, Loss & Memory with Melanie Chartoff, Amélie Frank, Peter J. Harris, Carol Potter, Katey Sagal, Theida Salazar, John Tottenham. Since 1988, Eve Brandstein presents an eclectic array of writers from the literary and Hollywood communities. Special Admission: General \$20 or \$15 if you purchase in advance at Eventbrite, Students & Seniors \$10, Members \$8. Beyond Baroque

Sunday April 3

2:00 PM - Sarah Maclay & Friends: Poetry. Translation. Dream - Let’s blur the imagined boundaries with these three award-winning writers’ books: After all, At the Border of Wilshire and Nobody by Marci Vogel, Literature is not the Longhouse by Andrew Schelling, and Music for the Black Room by Sarah Maclay. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Sunday April 3

2:00 PM - Wide Awake At The Skirball - Offsite Event - Beyond Baroque and the Los Angeles Poetry Festival present Special Guest Poets Lynn Emanuel, David Lazar and Tim Seibles with Wide Awake poets liz gonzalez, Florence Weinberger, Erika Ayon, Ron Koertge, with very special guest, actor Wes Bentley. Tickets at the Skirball Cultural Center’s website: www.skirball.org and at the door: \$12 general, \$10 Beyond Baroque and Skirball members. Tickets are \$10 for Beyond Baroque members with the code: 99852

Sunday April 3

5:00 PM - First Sunday Open - Hosted by Venice Beach personality, Steve Goldman. Sign ups at 4:45pm Beyond Baroque

5:30 -8:00 PM **Venice Electric Light Parade** - We are a group of Local Venice Cyclist that promote safe cycling at night using LED technology to Express our artistic nature by decorating and adding lights to our bicycles. We meet every Sunday at 5:30pm at Windward Circle down from the World famous Venice Sign

7:00 PM - **The Vital Red Suit** - hosted by Brendan Constantine A once-in-a-lifetime line up: Paul Casey all the way from Cork, Ireland, with Mindy NettiFee, Lynne Thompson and Lee Rossi. Beyond Baroque

Wednesday April 6

7:30 - 9:30 PM Live Jazz with **Miss Jessica** at Danny’s.

Thursday April 7

8:00 PM - **Sea Glassman Pop Up Spectacles** - Join us for the debut of our new series with A Celebration of The Grapes of Wrath. The Joads’ passage across a drought-torn America, with music by Woody Guthrie and radio commentary by Will Rogers. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Friday April 8

12:00-6:00 PM - C.A.V.E. Gallery Reception for Ratur and Nawer. 1108 Abbot Kinney Boulevard.
8:00 PM - **Psychosis In The Produce Department:** Laurel Ann Bogen Publication Party - Join the festivities as Beyond Baroque celebrates the publication of Psychosis in the Produce Department: Selected Poems, 1975-2015 by native Angelino and poetry evangelist Laurel Ann Bogen. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Saturday April 9

12:00-9:00 PM - **Venice Green Expo 2.0** - Mark Twain Middle School @ Walgrove Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90291
4:00 PM - **Opening Reception: Mary Woronov** - Warhol Factory actor, artist and poet Mary Woronov shows her art. Free to all. Beyond Baroque
4:00 -6:00 PM - MESS - Film scholar **Jan-Christopher Horak** interview at unurban
8:00 PM - **6th Annual Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest Reading** - The winners of the 6th annual poetry contest read their works. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Sunday April 10

2:00 PM - **Soap Box Open Poetry Reading** - This is your home, share your words. Original acoustic music welcome as well. Sign ups 1:45pm. Hosted by Jessica Wilson. Beyond Baroque
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - **The Backboners** - Santa Monica Farmers Market Ocean Park & Main
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM - **6th Annual Beyond Baroque Awards** - Honoring Holly Prado, Luis J. Rodriguez and Sherman Pearl. Hosted by Brendan Constantine. Off-site at the Church in Ocean Park. Tickets available at Eventbrite or by emailing specialevents@beyondbaroque.org: Admission \$60 members/\$70 general.

Monday April 11

6:00 PM - Francois Miron’s **Paul Sharits Documentary** (at 7:30pm) <http://www.paulsharitsdoc.com/#!about/cjg9>

& Miron Experimental Films (at 6pm) at unurban

Wednesday, April 13

7:00 PM - **Suzy Williams** jazz-blues at Dannys 23 wind-ward

Thursday April 14

7:30 PM - Folk Rock and Blues with **Stefani Valadez and Steve Moos**. Unurban.

Saturday April 16

8:00 PM - **Night Of The Lepus: Celebrating Another Leap Around The Sun** - BB staffers and April babies, Richard Modiano and Carlye Archibeque celebrate their birthdays with a night of friends, cake, liquor and poetry. Featuring Laurel Ann Bogen, Brendan Constantine, Mona Gene Cedar, Stosh Machek, David McIntire and more! Beyond Baroque

Saturday April 16

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM - **Mavericks & Masters Workshop With Steve Abee** - Visit Eventbrite or contact specialevents@beyondbaroque.org. Class size limited to 15: General \$50, Members \$35, Audit Seats (observation only, limit 5) \$20. Beyond Baroque

Sunday April 17

2:00 PM - **Three Generations On A Stage** - Poets & Writers sponsors the first Los Angeles Intergenerational Reading Hosted by the McCrindle Foundation Readings & Workshops Fellow, Melissa R. Sipin, and poet Mike Sonksen The reading features a group of teens from St. Bernard High School and a group of WWII veterans and their family members from the Filipino American Service Group Inc. who will read and respond to one another’s writing. \$5 suggested donation. Beyond Baroque
5:00 PM - **Voices In The Well Present Venice Escapades** - Celebrate the Artistic Legacy of Venice of America through story, poetry, comedy & music. Featuring Frank Strasser, Jeffrey Van Der Byl, Marie Bergenholz, William H. Bassett, and many more! Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Wednesday April 19

7:00 PM - **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting** at Westminster Elementary School Auditorium @ 1010 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291

Thursday April 21

7:30 PM - **The Painkillers** - Unurban
8:00 PM - **Poetry In The Loft: Coiled Serpent Publication Reading** - Offsite Event - Coiled Serpent from Tia Chucha Press, owned by Los Angeles poet laureate, Luis J. Rodriguez, presents poets from Los Angeles writing about LA and all its darkness and light. Suggested donation \$5-10. Beyond Baroque

Friday April 22

8:00 PM - **Jewelle Gomez: The Gilda Stories** 25Th Anniversary Edition with special guest Veronica Reyes The meaning of Vampire Fiction with a Black female protagonist who witnesses two hundred years of slavery and racism in North and South America. We celebrate the 25th anniversary of this groundbreaking work of fiction. 2014 Lambda nominee Verónica Reyes joins her. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Saturday April 23

11:00 am - 3:00 PM - Mavericks & Masters Special Workshop With Jewelle Gomez - Join Jewelle Gomez on a speculative fiction writing adventure, ‘what if?’ in Steampunk, AfroFuturism, Sword and Sorcery, SciFi. Visit Eventbrite or contact specialevents@beyondbaroque.org. General \$50, Members \$35, Audit Seats (observation only, limit 5) \$20. Beyond Baroque
7:00 PM - **Jazz Funk Fest** - Black Shoe Polish with Gerry Fialka, Eric Ahlberg Jazz Workshop, Freddy Ginns Ensemble. Unurban
8:00 PM - **Chuck Rosenthal & Jim Gavin** - James Gavin is the author of Middle Men. Chuck is an educator, surfer and horseback rider with nine novels to his credit. His newly released novel is The Legend of La Diosa, published by Letters at 3 a.m. Press. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Sunday April 24

2:00 PM - **Nebraska Girl Open Reading** - Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. Sign ups 1:45pm. Free. Beyond Baroque
6:00 PM - **La Poesia Festival** - Our monthly bilingual poetry salon hosted by Antonietta Villamil. Beyond Baroque
7:00 PM - **7 Dudley Cinema - Riva Cinema Live: Let Me Be Los Angeles** Multimedia psychedelic art party. Beyond Baroque

Monday April 25

6:00 - 9:00 PM **Laughtears Salon** - 212 PIER Coffee-house, 212 Pier Ave

Wednesday April 27

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Eat for a cause at Hama Sushi! **Support the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker.** Hama Sushi, 213 Windward.

Thursday April 28

7:30 PM - **Terrie Silverman’s Gorgeous Stories** - Graduating students perform their stories cultivated in Silverman’s workshop. Admission \$8. Beyond Baroque
7:30 PM **Audrey McNamara Hosts** - Unurban

Friday April 29

8:00 PM - **Nachoem Wijnberg** - Talmudic tragi-comic novel-in-dialogue The Jews, from which he will read together with his translator Vincent van Gerven Oei. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Ongoing Events

RADIO VENICE

4:20-6:00pm Sundays Live Music Webcast from Breakwater Studios, Venice visit: www.radiovenice.tv/live/

OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

• 8pm Sundays People’s Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777. General Meeting After.

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

• Free Food Distribution. Tuesdays 10am, Thursdays 12:30pm, Fridays 1pm. Vera Davis Center.
• Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards). Vera Davis Center. 310-305-1865.
• Free Vegetarian Food Saturdays through Wednesdays 4:00 PM. OFW & Dudley.
• Free Vegetarian Food. Thursdays 1:30pm,. OFW & Sunset.
• Mar Vista Farmers Market. Sunday 9:00AM - 2:00PM 3826 Grand View Boulevard.
• Venice Farmers Market. Fridays 7-11am, 500 North Venice Blvd.

KIDS

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

MUSIC

• 9pm Wednesdays, Venice Underground Comedy, Townhouse, No Cover
• 11pm Wednesday - Burlesque, Townhouse, 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.
• 1:00-4:00 PM Every Saturday and Sunday Free Live Music, Fisherman’s Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

• 9-4pm, 2nd and 4th Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 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>

THEATRE

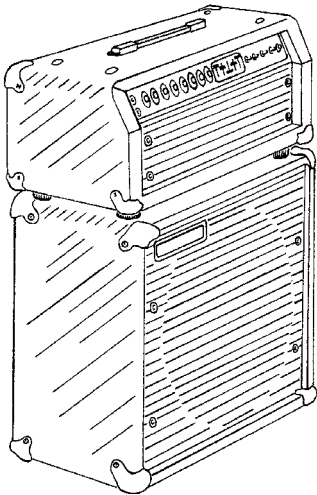
An Evening With Orson Bean, and Autunm and Winter, check www.pacificresidenttheatre.com for showtimes.

YOGA AND DANCE

• Mondays 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free
• Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson’s, Donation, Electric Lodge

AA

Saturdays Midnight at Beyond Baroque
Sundays 9:30am, Beyond Baroque Theatre.
Thursdays 7:30PM Mike Kelley Gallery, Beyond Baroque.



Saturday April 30

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - **Venice Beach Skate Competition, Girls Bowl Event.** Info: 310-399-2775
4:00 PM - **Beyond Baroque Youth Program Reading** - Students from our youth workshop read their work. Suggested donation \$5. Beyond Baroque
8:00 PM - **Urban Word Presents The 2016 Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate** - Join us for the crowning of the 2016 Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

City Lights
Hymn to The Homeless
by Suzzane verdal

Being poor: The Crime
City-wide Penal Colony.
Heaving sighs,
Or eyes left dry
By many tears
We feast on crumbs
From rusty dumpsters
Or stranger tables.
Evicted
From shopping carts
And cardboard boxes,
By hooligans
In uniform.
Even squirrels
And squaby possums
Run for cover.
Enough!
Come out
From hiding.
Upsmack the heads
Of grinning scoundrels!
Oh pagans
And lovers of Jesus,
Carry the SHIFT
For a sense
Of reason!



* Dump the Drumph*
Let's all take a dump on Donald Trump.
His family name is really Drumph.
He is a nasty Nazi grump.
His face looks like a monkey's rump.
He claims he's a genius but his brain is a big lump.
His mouth is a filthy sump pump.
On every question he'll jump.
Anyone who disagrees he'll jail, even Forrest Gump.
He keeps buying younger wives to hump.
Says the U.S. is in a slump.
Claims he'll make us rich again and plump.
But many of his financial ventures went flump.
TV news spawned him by endlessly showing Trump.
The KKK, Nazis and sickos all love that Trump shlump.
His political foes he will scream, lie and bump.
His Nazi storm troopers will kick and thump.
He's got Hitler's hair and he's a brainless tree stump.
We'll all be goose stepping, clump, clump, clump.
He's a racist mugwump.
He'll start an atomic war and we'll all be fried to a lump
He's taking us all for his chump.
In bridge and pinochle he'd be a no-trump.
So better get your passports ready to run and jump.
He'll turn America into a garbage dump.
He'll build a wall of hate around America that evil old
grump So let's all yell, "You're FIRED Donald Duck
Drumph!"
-Moishe Smecklehead-



SEPTEMBER 1, 1939
by W.H. Auden

I sit in one of the dives
On Fifty-second Street
Uncertain and afraid
As the clever hopes expire
Of a low dishonest decade:
Waves of anger and fear
Circulate over the bright
And darkened lands of the earth,
Obsessing our private lives;
The unmentionable odour of death
Offends the September night.

Accurate scholarship can
Unearth the whole offence
From Luther until now
That has driven a culture mad,
Find what occurred at Linz,
What huge imago made
A psychopathic god:
I and the public know
What all schoolchildren learn,
Those to whom evil is done
Do evil in return.

Exiled Thucydides knew
All that a speech can say
About Democracy,
And what dictators do,
The elderly rubbish they talk
To an apathetic grave;
Analysed all in his book,
The enlightenment driven away,
The habit-forming pain,
Mismanagement and grief:
We must suffer them all again.

Into this neutral air
Where blind skyscrapers use
Their full height to proclaim
The strength of Collective Man,
Each language pours its vain
Competitive excuse:
But who can live for long
In an euphoric dream;
Out of the mirror they stare,
Imperialism's face
And the international wrong.

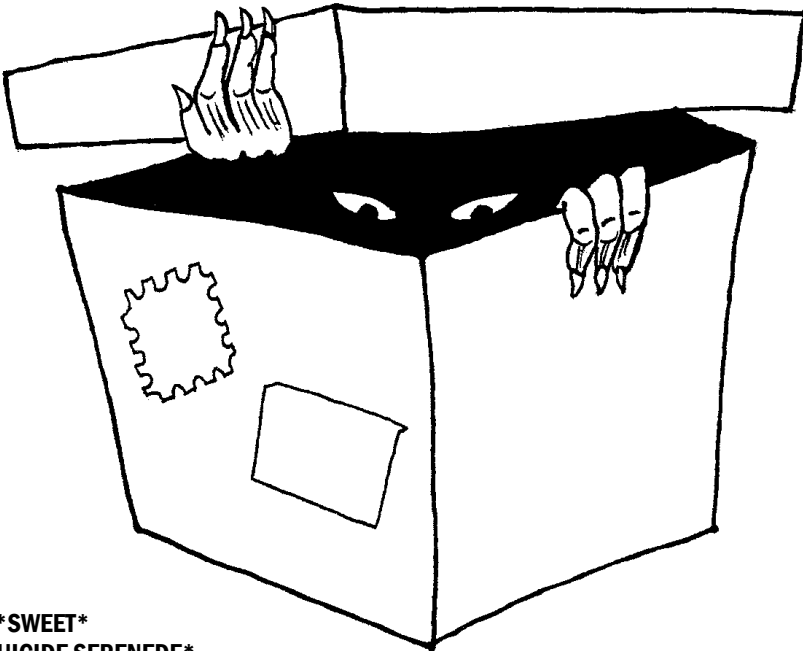
Faces along the bar
Cling to their average day:
The lights must never go out,
The music must always play,
All the conventions conspire
To make this fort assume
The furniture of home;
Lest we should see where we are,
Lost in a haunted wood,
Children afraid of the night
Who have never been happy or good.

The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.

From the conservative dark
Into the ethical life
The dense commuters come,
Repeating their morning vow;
'I will be true to the wife,
I'll concentrate more on my work,'
And helpless governors wake
To resume their compulsory game:
Who can release them now,
Who can reach the dead,
Who can speak for the dumb?


All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.

Defenseless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironie points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.



SWEET
SUICIDE SERENEDE
by Marty Liboff

We've all thought of suicide sometime
when life stinks & nuthin will rhyme ...
When we're in physical & mental pain
with tears fallin like rain
I feel like shootin myself in the brain.
I'd take a gun & shoot myself in the head
but I may miss & not be dead.
Poison they say will end your day
but stomach aches will make you pay
so I guess I'll stay.
I tried to hang myself with a rope
when I ran out of hope
but it got tangled up & I looked like a dope.
I stuck a stick of dynamite up my ass
but it fizzled out and I only farted stinky gas.
Romeo & Juliet were lovers
took poison but coulda just screwed under the covers.
The famous writer Hemingway
took a shotgun & blew his brains away.
I tried to jump off Mount Everest
but I got too tired climbing & had to rest.
I tried to drink myself to death
but only puked & got bad breath.
I can jump in front of a car or truck
but might survive a cripple & that would suck.
Cleopatra used a poisonous asp
although it was said she had a fine ass.
The actor David Carradine died by a perverted fixation during erotic asphyxiation.
I can take a knife & commit hari-kari
but I hate pains in my belly.
A razor blade to my wrist or throat
but I faint seein blood so I'll jump off a boat.
You can drown in the sea
or hang from a tree
but I'd be so scared I'd just pee.
I took a stroll on a freeway
they locked me in a looney bin to stay
said I'd lost my way.
The comic Robin Williams hung himself with a belt
even though he was talented & had lots of gelt.
Nirvana's Kurt Cobain
shot himself in the brain
& left a big red stain.
I can drown in a lake or pool
but bloated with water I'd look a fool.
I tried to stick my face in the oven & breathe gas
but before I died, poop passed out my ass.
I could set myself on fire
but I might burn off my dick & not expire.
I'd jump off a bridge or mountain
but I'm afraid of heights- they frighten.
I thought I'd get drunk & blow my brains out
but I drank so much I just passed out.
Steve Reeves played Superman & thought he could fly
& could be shot & not die
shot himself & he went bye-bye.
The great philosopher Socrates
drank hemlock & then shit & pees.
Shall I feast on steak & pizza before I die?
But I don't want to look fat in heaven in the sky.
Douse myself with gasoline & light a match
but burnin hurts, that's a catch.
If I died who would walk the dog & feed the cat?
If I didn't feed the parakeets I'd be a rat.
Yes, the world is heartless & cruel
but if I killed myself I'd stink & leave stool.
Someday we must all die & be cold
our bodies rotting with mold
until then let's live & be bold.
If I die I may go to a better land
but I hear hell is fire and in shit ya stand.
All these thoughts I know you've had
sadness & loneliness will drive ya mad.
You can try many ways to die
but maybe if ya just say hi
and greet life & try.
So I wake up & see the sun
maybe I'll kill myself tomorrow
but today I'll have some fun ...



JOIN THE VENICE COALITION TO PRESERVE OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY CHARACTER (VC-PUCC) UPDATE ON VC-PUCC'S LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY

The City of LA and developers are irreparably altering Venice's unique qualities. VCPUCC filed a lawsuit against the City to stop the egregious and unlawful practice of allowing Venice Sign-Offs and Coastal Exemptions, which are destroying community character and pushing low and middle-income residents and people of color out of Venice. CASE #BC611549

VCPUCC's attorney will explain (in plain English) what's going on and how we can work together to keep Venice diverse, affordable and beautiful!

Help us win this important lawsuit.

Save Venice

COMMUNITY EVENT

Tuesday April 5 at 6:30pm
2010 Linden Ave. 90291 (CODEPINK house)

PRESS CONFERENCE AND TOUR

Tuesday April 5 at 4:30pm
Contact hollywoodnt@sprintmail.com
for location & details

DONATE

www.SaveVenice.Me