

INSIDE

Venice Black History – 1
Spring in Venice – 1
Venice Dogz say no chains – 1
Pam Emerson 1942-2018 – 2
First Baptist Significance – 2
Brendon Glenn Memorial – 3
March For Our Lives – 3
True Fake News – 4
The 3-Minute Passover Seder – 4
Why I Fight For First Baptist – 4
Carlos Harlo, Jr. – 6
Women's Day Celebration – 7
Snapchat Subleases – 7
Still I Rise + Ain't I a Woman – 8
Poetry – 8, Calendar – 9
VJAMM Commemoration – 12

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



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VENICE BLACK HISTORY CONTINUES WITH THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

By Jon Wolff

The celebration of Venice Black History continued through the month of March with an event on Sunday, March 25 at Beyond Baroque in Venice. The event included an extensive photo exhibit showing the original African-American families who dug the Canals and built Venice in the days of Abbot Kinney. The accompanying captions outlined the lives and struggles of the members of the Venice Black Community over the decades. The evening's speakers related their personal experiences growing up in Venice. And much emphasis was placed on the History of the First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice.

Venice Activist Laddie Williams opened the presentation with a moment of silence for the people of color and unhoused people who have been shot and killed by the LAPD in recent years. She recalled a time when the threat of police violence prevented people of color from crossing California Avenue, Rose Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard, or West Washington Boulevard (now called Abbot Kinney Boulevard). She spoke about the fact that the Black and Brown History of Venice is absent from the history books of Venice. She tied this fact to the fight to preserve the century-old, historic institution of the First Baptist Church and to the fight against gentrification.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine spoke of her relatives in the original Venice families, the Reeses and the Tabors. These families had built the Venice Canals during the founding of Venice. They had learned various trades in order to own houses in Venice. Arthur Reese was in charge of the gondoliers and he was skilled in the art of decorating. He made the floats for the Mardi Gras in Venice. Irving Tabor was Abbot Kinney's chauffeur and friend. He built a house on Santa Clara Avenue which is now a historic monument.

Ms. Valentine's grandfather Alphonse Joseph Henry was the first black cement contractor. When he moved outside of the segregated area in Venice, the Ku Klux Klan responded by burning a cross on his lawn. Her grandfather Arthur Valentine Sr. was shot in the leg by the police for being on a beach reserved for whites only. Black

continued on Page 5



Laddie Williams - photos by Margaret Molloy

Spring In Venice



photos by Eric Ahlberg



Ocean Friendly Garden at Beyond Baroque



Ocean Friendly Garden at Beyond Baroque



photo by Barbara Lonsdale

Venice Dogz threaten to protest future "National Chains" on OFW

The local activist group The Venice Dogz: An Alliance of the Preservation of Venice, will be sending the following letter to all property owners and realtors regarding the prospect of future openings of "National Chains" on Ocean Front Walk.

To: All property owners, lease holders, land owners and realtors:

Please be advised that any franchise "national chain" store that opens on Ocean Front Walk in Venice, CA is at extreme high risk of being protested daily by The Venice Dogz, Save Venice, and other local activist groups along with their supporters and other members of the community. In addition, replacing retail stores with offices will also not be tolerated.

We, the Venice Dogz: An Alliance for the Preservation of Venice, were instrumental in getting national attention for our protests against Snap, Inc (otherwise known as Snapchat) and we will continue to protect the city from the gentrification and outrageous leases that have already changed other parts of Venice. We are committed to protecting the vibe and unique character of Ocean Front Walk in particular, and we shall protect it from turning into an office park or another plastic amusement park like Universal Studios, Third Street Promenade and The Grove.

Please distribute this message to all affiliated entities of your property(s).

Sincerely,
The Venice Dogz: An Alliance for the Preservation of Venice

One of the foremost members of the Venice Dogz, Mark Rago, stated "You can argue that American Apparel & It'sugar are national chains and the latest Ben & Jerry's, but our statement says it all - we can't let this turn into a Disneyland with nothing but corporate national chains that you see in every other corner of the world. It would be horrible - it's not Santa Monica. It's Venice. Some of the names we've heard of potentially coming on the walkway are shocking. So now there's fair warning and if something like The Gap or a Nike Store thinks about coming in, then their property owners and realtors will have to tell them that they should think twice about it or risk having protesters outside their store every single day. Weekends would kill them. And I'm sure the other mom and pop's and all the vendors would be on board with this also and help each other out. I don't think anyone ultimately wants to see Venice turn into something like 3rd Street Promenade but money talks and I wouldn't put it past any of these realtors or property owners. And it could easily happen if no one steps up and does anything about it. And you can blame Snapchat and the property owners and developers for cashing in the last few years, increasing the rents, kicking out so many popular and beloved businesses and banding the community tighter than it's probably ever been before."

Regarding office space replacing retail stores, one business owner on the walkway who wished to remain anonymous said, "Whether it was intentional or not, Snapchat woke up the community to the damage that one company with a lot of money can do to a small neighborhood. And the realization that one company could literally overpay

Continued on Page 11

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I worked with Pam during my years as a member of the South Coast Regional Coastal Commission and again during my years as Venice's rep on the LA City Council.

- Ruth Langier

PAM EMERSON, 1942-2018

Venice has lost another friend. Pam Emerson, whose long and noteworthy career at the California Coastal Commission included doing the staff reports for many controversial projects in Venice and elsewhere along the coast, lost her decades-long battle with lupus on March 29.

Pam grew up in San Diego, part of the liberal side of a family that included a distinctly conservative side as well. She graduated from Radcliffe College (Harvard) and received her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from MIT. After a few different jobs, including one with the City of LA, Pam joined the staff of the Coastal Commission right at the beginning. She worked first in the Santa Barbara office before transferring to Long Beach, where she served the rest of her career.

Because her area included Venice, Pam was a major force in protecting the Ballona Lagoon and Venice Canals and in reviewing and altering miscellaneous development projects. Pacific Resident Theater, Beyond Baroque, SPARC, and LA Theatre Works, as well as the small shops in the same complex owe their parking lot to Pam's work. But Pam's efforts were hardly confined to Venice. From the early 1980s through the early 1990s, Pam was a part of the Coastal Commission's enforcement program and took on controversial cases in Malibu and elsewhere. This is the woman whose job it was to tell the Trump organization what it could—and could not—do to its golf course on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Pam had a remarkable facility for one of the greatest challenges facing staff of any public agency; she could talk with both firmness and respect to even the most difficult and awful people. She never raised her voice or got snarky, and she never backed off her professional assessment of the matter before her. She also had a wonderful quiet sense of humor, and she eagerly mentored new staff planners and volunteer enforcement staff.

She lived in Venice when her kids were small, then in South Robertson until the lupus took over in her last couple of years.

She is survived by her brother Dr. Carlos Daughaday, her son Nathaniel and daughter Eva and their respective families, a host of cousins, and a bigger host of colleagues, friends, and admirers.

below are two poems by Pam Emerson

Ginger Tea

It is a season when I pretend to know my neighbors, to discuss their medical conditions as we see each other on our walks as if we were old friends. We admire old dogs and newly trimmed unpopulated lawns.

The next day the men come for my garden and I have agreed to pay them to do it

I have stayed up remembering my grandmother

I have only trimmed a little bit of one bush; I do not think they will be able to tell.

I stay inside remembering their dignity

Jaime sees me through the window.

He waves

I drink ginger tea

California Hillside

The mountain moved the width of a nickel

A dry rattle in spring grass

The men who make the mountain flat, Sold her fast

- Pam Emerson. 1984

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By Dr. Naomi Nightingale

So what is the significance of First Baptist Church? That question is no different than asking what is the significance of the African American people to the Venice Community. The answer is as profound as the question. It is the collaborative blood, sweat, tears and hard earned cash of the people who pooled their monies to build the First Baptist Church. They, then, compounded the efforts, time and money to import Pastor and Mrs. Holmes to be the Minister and First Lady of the Church. It is the heart and soul of every individual that is infused in every brick, nail, plank and plaque it took to manifest this place of worship -- this House of God, First Baptist Church. It is the spiritual cornerstone and visual monument that kept a community grounded and protected in times of separatist and discriminatory practices of housing, insurance, employment, education, politics, and social justice. It is a significant historical site of a people and their daily lives no different than Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, founded in 1886, or Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church in Santa Monica, CA founded in 1906 or Santa Monica African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church By the Sea, founded in 1906. All were founded by African Americans in their relegated communities on their relegated, bought or bestowed land. They are all churches built as Houses of Worship by African Americans seeking their own space where prayer, culture, beliefs, social justice, hope and religious freedom formed a collective faith of protection from societal ills. The same is true and thus is also a contributing factor to the historical significance of First Baptist Church.

In 1912 Venice, CA was an evolving community of African Americans who came to this small beach front place to work, live, raise their children and create a place representing their culture, traditions, religious freedom, recreation and social life. In this basically sand and swamp space where they were forced to live due to the redlining and discriminatory practices of the time, African Americans took the least of what was made available to them and made the most of it. They built or purchased homes, owned and operated grocery stores, worked hard for Abbot Kinney or other wealthy business persons or corporations. And, they built churches in which to nurture their religious beliefs, provide a refuge particularly when Ku Klux Klan threats reminded them they had not left the racism of the Jim Crow south in their native states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia or from whatever state they came, but that it was living in its white hooded outfits just as real in Venice as from where they came.

Abbot Kinney began his development of "Venice of America" in 1904-05. The African American pioneers of Venice, Arthur Reese and Irving Tabor, who worked for Abbot Kinney enhanced their lives and built housing for their families from the murky ground while helping Kinney build his dream world of canals, and piers and fantasy lands.

The original African American settlers of Venice cultivated the 1.5 square mile of separate but unequal land that was a part of the then City of Venice, CA. The area boundaries in which African Americans were allowed to live: California Avenue on the south, Washington Boulevard on the west, Rose Avenue on the north and Lincoln Boulevard on the east. Within these boundaries on 7th and Westminster the First Baptist Church was built by the first black people to make Venice their home. Brick by brick, pew by pew, stained glass by stained glass -- dedicated parishioners built it, funded it, owned it. When the membership grew too large to accommodate the Church they pooled their monies, time, talents and energy and erected their renewed First Baptist Church at the current site of the Church -- directly across the street on property owned by the Church. Pastor Holmes, of course, continued in his leadership position of the Church. It was a seamless transition; a celebration and testament for the "burning of the mortgage" signifying ownership of the property.

This was the place that helped represent, unify and strengthen the community throughout the years. From the early 1900s when the first African Americans came to work in Venice and had to cling together, to barter their services, worship together and survive. With First Baptist Church as their rock, the African American people survived through the hardships and aftermath of wars, the great depression, and the daunting years of civil, economic and infrastructure neglect by the City of Los Angeles.

The Church had beautiful stained glass windows, a giant cross that reached towards the heavens accompanied by the scripted signage, "First Baptist Church" that lit up the night as a beacon for anyone who would come for the solace of worship, the comfort of communing and the spreading of the gospel that permeated the community. To subject the Church to sale to individuals who have no regard for its history or for the people who are the fiber and fabric of the very foundation of the Church is reprehensible and blasphemous.

What is the significance? The people and the commu-

continued on page 7



**Brendan Glenn Memorial
On Sunday, March 11-
2 Days After Jackie Lacie
Refuses To Prosecute Officer Proctor**



MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Report From Santa Monica

(On Local 324's public demonstration by those who wished to nonviolently assemble, march, and express their demands for an end to gun violence)

By Henry Rosebuds

Four year old: Mommy, is this the March party?

Mommy: Yes it is...

Grandma: Telling her it would be a party – that's how we got her here.

Grandpa: I haven't seen this big a throng since the Dennis Kucinich rally back in aught-4, I think it was.

Starting from Montana Avenue and 15th Street, this farthest-on-the-Westside "March For Our Lives" had been wrangled by an unlikely rabble-rouser: thirteen year-old Antonella Borjas.

"It was all her idea," said Lincoln Middle Schoolteacher Gretchen Gies McLaughlin, pointing with pride at her 8th grader.

"I couldn't make it to the L.A. march," Antonella explained. "So I organized one here. I thought it would just be my mom and dad and some friends."

Instead, Antonella—with the help of four friends (and her mom)—got more than twelve hundred sign-ups online.

Guy to Cop in Van: There's a lotta folks here. Do we have to stay on the sidewalk the whole way to the ocean?

Cop in Van to Guy: Yeah. We don't have the personnel to shut down traffic.

Even as he spoke, folks were already coming off the curbs. First they covered half the avenue. Soon they were occupying the entirety of it, blocking traffic at all points west on Montana.

No (Saturday Shopping) Business As Usual: Marchers Rule.

"Whose Streets?" came the call.

"Our Streets!" was the louder response. (Call & Responders raising their game to be heard these days?)

Same Guy: I thought you said you didn't have enough personnel?

Same Cop: We don't!

"More Police! More Police!" a goofball chanted in fun. He was immediately taken into custody at Whole Foods and forced to wait twenty minutes for a smoothie.

What a crowd! McLaughlin said she heard it was, "Close to five thousand people." * (Not including the dozens of dogs and at least one bird.)

Reaching Palisades Park, a backpack of high school students chanted: "End The Violence! No More Silence!" (Is this Kurt Vonnegut's "Children's Crusade"?). Gathering on the grass near the cliff's edge overlooking the Pacific, they listened in silence to Donna Brown of Northridge, telling the story of losing her son, Cliff, to gun violence.

Three other speakers followed. Above and behind them, children balanced on tree branches. Bikes remained unchained. And no dogs barked. Then those assembled set off again, hiking the fifteen blocks back along Montana.

Top Five Signs Seen

March For Their Lives

March Because Of The Lies

AR15 = 17

Magazines Are For Reading

Guns have evolved, Why hasn't the 2nd Amendment?

Teach hope to all, despair to none, is an Abe quote in the Lincoln Middle auditorium wall. "Antonella's initiation and organization of the community," Gretchen McLaughlin said, "is just one example of her classmates hoping, not despairing, that they can make a difference."

We didn't want to be killed in Vietnam, and started a movement to stop it.

They don't want to be killed in school, and started a movement to stop it.

P.S. Santa Monica's 3/24/18 was recipient of the "Cutest March" award – for featuring the most adorable toddlers at a political event.

*Santa Monica was founded in 1875. Thus, five thousand is by no means an official anything. Larger gatherings have occurred, no doubt, after WWII, or at a wrestling match.



TRUE FAKE NEWS

By Henry Rosebuds

On Saturday, March 3, LAPD surveillance officers in the area of the 1400 block of Abbot Kinney retorted a report of vandalism. All over the windows of the recently closed Abbot's Habit, someone had large-graphitized: "Antifa Café!" A subject was chased across California Avenue but the poison pen perp appeared to have disappeared into a long line of people waiting inexplicably for ice cream.

* * *

The entertainment industry has been shaken by another accusation of sexual harassment. Shelley Lewis, a puppeteer, has been charged with molesting Punch and Judy. The Imlachs, ageless theatrical icons, said they'd been "felt up from behind" by Lewis for decades. "Everyone just accepts this kind of manipulation as one-sided," said Punch through an interpreter. "But would you like a person sticking their [expletives deleted]?"

Lewis, unlike earlier, more heady abusers, did not "stick his tongue down" Judy's throat. "Who would do that?" asked Judy, adding, "Yu-uck."

Through a spokesperson, the puppets said they would accept a loud and histrionic apology, as was their wont. The puppeteer agreed and said he looked forward to getting back to his "five-skill set of appropriate touching." However, the judge dismissed this out of hand, sentencing Lewis to 3 months with a marionette.

* * *

"Hurry Kushner
Hurry Kushner
Kushner Kushner
Hurry Hurry"
(And get the hell out, I mean c'mon man!)

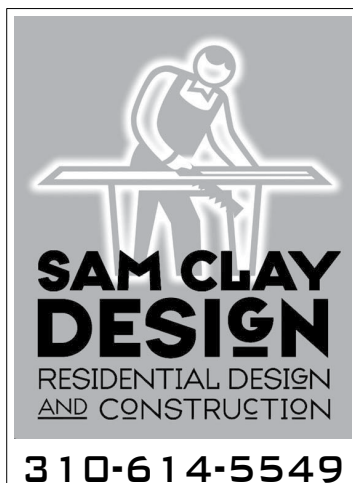
* * *

A break-in was recorded by the LAPD surveillance patrol at Lemonade, a restaurant on the 1600 block of Abbot Kinney at the corner of the 500 block of Venice Boulevard. A customer, asked by coppers what color the suspect was, responded, "Lemonade."

* * *

On March 2, Presley-dented Donald Drumpf twitted: "Trade wars are good and easy to win." U.S. economists reacted quickly, calling this: "Crazy." Blight House insiders revealed that your King Idiot's comments came becoming "unglued."

(Last item is not Fake News, mostly)



The 3-Minute Passover Seder

by Ron Birnbach

In an effort to provide a service for all those who have suffered through Passover seders that seem to go on longer than the 40 years the Jews roamed as nomads in the desert, I have whittled the Passover seder down to its bare essentials, thusly:

- 1) Thanks to the Holy Grape-maker for grapes and drink wine.
- 2) Even though you find it too dry and bland, thanks to the Holy Matzah-maker for matzah. Stop whining and eat some anyway.
- 3) Refill wine cup. Thanks again. Drink more wine.
- 4) Ask 4 random questions:
 - A) What's with the matzah, huh?
 - B) Why are we eating bitter herbs? Don't we know they're bitter and taste funny?
 - C) What the heck is charoses?
 - D) Who told you to recline at the dinner table? It's not meant literally. Where were you raised, in a non-kosher pig-sty?

Answers to all four questions is some kind of mumbo-jumbo about tradition.

- 5) Refill wine cup. Drink more wine. Oh, wait, we forgot to say thanks, didn't we?
- 6) Intro of "Passover Story" through lame device of having 4 sons ask planted questions which are answered by retelling the supposed saga of how the Jews were led out of slavery in Egypt by Moses. Moses was a non-existent entity who was portrayed brilliantly by Charlton "Ben-Hur" Heston, who got them lost in the desert for 40 days while he waited in vain for the GPS to be invented. Eventually the Jews made it to the "promised land" where they were relentlessly attacked by hostile neighbors, raising the question of whether they mistranslated "promised land".
- 7) More wine. Thanks, shmanks. Cut off Grandma's wine if she keeps saying "I'll drink to that".
- 8) Recite a list of the 10 plagues the Holy One visited upon the Egyptians so they wouldn't do that slave thing again -- Blood, frogs, lice, beasts, cattle plague, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and to add a little levity to the situation, the slaying of the firstborn. Really, darkness is a plague? Obviously, the Holy One is not a night person.
- 9) An explanation by Gwyneth Paltrow of why the symbolic foods of the seder will extend your life.
- 10) More wine for everyone except Grandma. Tell her the Red Sea will part before you let her have another glassful.
- 11) Eat matzah and other seemingly food-like substances and pretend to enjoy them.
- 12) Hide a small piece of the matzah. All children and childlike adults at the seder will compete to find it, with the winner being rewarded with a few pieces of worthless chocolate disguised as gold coins, preparing him or her for a lifetime of future disappointments.
- 13) Mention of Elijah the prophet, and also Uncle Robbie, neither of whom ever show up for the seder. What, they couldn't call?
- 14) Much more overdone thanks to the Holy One, followed by the phrase "Next year in Jerusalem", which refers to Trump's plan to move the American Embassy there in the near future. After mention of Trump, A LOT more wine is necessary, possibly even for Grandma.

THE END

Why I'm Fighting for the First Baptist Church of Venice

Venice is Still Indian Land

The fight for the First Baptist Church of Venice is fight for Venice itself. When we say Venice we must remember this is still Native land and there are still Original People here struggling to protect their Sacred Sites against the same forces of colonization that most colonial narrative kool-aid drinkers think are "part of our country's sad history." But the only sad thing about it is that people refuse to see that this mentality which validates desecrating sacred community spaces and history in the name of so-called progress is still alive and well.

I am not Christian nor am I Black. I am an Indigenous man living in the Tongva territory of Kuruvunga-Sa'agna and practice my Native spiritual traditions and the protection and awareness of sacred spaces and history is a primary tenet in our value system. Regardless of these social identity constructs I am a human being with human values knowledgeable in the patterns of American colonization, how it operates, and how it perpetuates itself.

First Baptist Church of Venice is a Sacred Site

To me, the First Baptist Church of Venice is very much a sacred site.

Perhaps not in the Native American historical sense of the word, but very much so in the sense of it being a long time spiritual space. It's history and function is that of a refuge and incubator for healing and prosperity for our Black relatives battling the same system of oppression from White Racism.

What human in their sane state of humanness and with even minimal knowledge of the history of this country would not want to help dismantle these oppressive colonial modes and structures? Perhaps those that still benefit from it.

What human would want to disparage efforts to preserve sacred community spaces? Perhaps those that still benefit from it.

Desecration of Sacred Sites: A Colonial Bad Habit

A common trait of colonizers is to desecrate sacred sites. Quick examples being the "Mt. Rushmore" vandalism of the Black Hills, oil pipelines through Standing Rock, and an example more close to home, the "Playa Vista" death star condo complex built over known Native burial grounds. These are all clear examples of the active spirit of ignorance, disrespect, and disregard, for sacred spaces that have historical community and spiritual value.

Now here we are in my hometown of Venice, CA trying to save this sacred community site. My family goes back 5 generations here. I walk the same streets and sleep in the same home my great-great-grandma did most of her life. The First Baptist Church of Venice was there when she walked the streets, and even in its current devastated state it still stands in structure and spirit for the community by all of us who gather there every Sunday.

The fight for the church is not about religion. It's about respect for people's history, sacrifice, and spiritual space, spiritual community space. That respect is something Columbus never learned, nor any American pioneers learned, and apparently something these "nice" new arrivals to our community have not yet learned either.

The people perpetuating this colonial behavior of desecrating sacred sites have names. They have addresses, businesses, enablers, accomplices, and so forth. They all need to be held accountable but as it turns out they all happen to be "nice and upstanding people." Of course, that's the gentrifier and passive critic being quoted there.

These new arrivals come here claiming how much they allegedly love Venice yet are quick to want to change everything about it. Many of these gentrifiers are quick to express empathy for the gentrification plight we real locals face but will take zero action or stance against the imminent displacement issues we battle nor the people facilitating it in our neighborhood. That time is over. Lines are being drawn. Shit or get off the pot.

The preservation of sacred sites, of which the First Baptist Church of Venice falls into, should be an active concern to any person of conscience living on our indigenous lands, even more so to those who like to espouse their commitment to racial equity.



Black and Brown Unity- Justice for our Relatives

The fight for the First Baptist Church of Venice for me is also a fight for the healing of the wounds we've accumulated in this neighborhood between Black and Brown (Indigenous) families and for justice of all the lives we have lost. It's a fight against the very spirit and system I mentioned in the beginning of this piece. The spirit and system that has manufactured the conditions that have incited our social illnesses of poverty, violence, and drug abuse in our communities. It was never the frequency our ancestors to be in poverty, social & spiritual disarray, and in self-destruction mode.

In June 1983 my dad was killed at a house that sits adjacent to the First Baptist Church. Every day I go to the church on Sunday for our awareness demonstrations or ride my bike pass Brooks Ave. I am reminded of the social and historical elements that led to his death and that of many others. I am reminded of all my family and friends that have died on the westside and am in full awareness of the dynamics that created and perpetuate such negative environments. Those elements still exist today albeit in slicker disguise and performance.

There are intense wounds between the Black and Chicano community. Lot of crazy shit happened and some, understandably, will not be able to get over it. But I know there is still a lot of love in the streets despite some of the old animosities of the past. This is that opportunity to be reminded of that grief and those wounds and channel it towards fighting against the system and mentality that produced and incited that grief in the first place.

This fight for the First Baptist Church is the moment and place to start focusing on the root causes and start working toward and collecting justice on behalf of all our fallen relatives.

Need to Make Colonizer Mentalities Understand

The First Baptist Church of is a beacon of community love and prosperity for our Black relatives in Oakwood. This historical sacred space needs to be fought for. We need to set boundaries with these "nice people" and make those who want to perpetuate those colonizer values know that there will be consequences and formidable pushback from intelligent and strong people. Otherwise these gentrifying forces think they can just walk all over us. It's like any other relationship we find ourselves in, whether romantic, business, or otherwise...boundaries need to be set.

The First Baptist Church of Venice is a historical spiritual community space, sacred site, and beacon of hope and strength that has persevered through eras of white supremacy. This is the spiritual place we are fighting to preserve.

So, no matter how nice they put it or how "nice and upstanding" the Penske family is, at the end of the day, they, all the naysayers, VNC board members with their fake social media profiles, Mike Bonin, and all those in the community echoing and supporting their sentiments are for the destruction of our sacred community space and are active, conscious participants in perpetuating colonial modes of racism.

For the unrighteous, our history and spaces of strength are targets and pivotal points of control. As the saying goes: "Those who control the past control the future..." Our vocal and non-subservient



left, above, speakers at the Venice Black History Event at Beyond Baroque. Mike Bravo, Jatan Valentine, Below Lydia Ponce and Mike Bravo. Photos by Margaret Molloy

Venice Black History, continued from page 1

beachgoers decided to have a beach of their own, which was called Spook Beach. Later, a plaque was installed that called it Inkwell Beach.

Jataun Valentine talked about the fight to save the First Baptist Church and how it relates to the fight against gentrification. The gentrifiers' practice of offering people money for their homes and then demolishing the homes and putting up mega-mansions causes a domino effect that pushes out even more people. If this practice isn't stopped, the gentrifiers can someday rewrite the History of Venice and say that only a few Black People ever lived here. But, Ms. Valentine declared, "Money cannot buy culture and what we stand for."

Jade Walker pointed out that, often, no one even lives in the mega-mansions. The gentrifiers who build them have no History here in Venice and will eventually just move on to the next trendy place. She remembered a time when the Black Panthers, the Doors, and Janis Joplin were here and artists paid \$15 a month for rent. Now, it's \$3000 a month for a condo.

Laddie Williams introduced a series of photos of the First Baptist Church. This is a church that was established 45 years after the abolition of slavery. It's a church that was founded by the People who came to California to build the Canals. Six African-American families, including Reverend Oscar Rhone's grandmother, gave their deeds to the Founder, Reverend Holmes. He built the church, paid it off, returned the deeds, and the church thrived. Now, the current buyer, Jay Penske wants to turn it into a 13,600 square foot single-family dwelling with rooftop parking. And all the old stained glass windows and pews are gone.

But the sale of the church is being challenged. It is believed that the sale was conducted fraudulently. The congregation members are suing the seller, Horace Allen. They're alleging that certain individuals signed the deal without the authority to do so.

The current board of the Venice Neighborhood Council approved this sale. The VNC is largely made up of developers and architects who run it like a business. In fact, business owners who don't live in Venice got their employees to elect these obedient councilmembers to the VNC. It's a case of non-Venetians making decisions for Venice. Not surprisingly, the VNC won't listen to the People in the neighborhood but they're very happy to approve millionaire Jay Penske's purchase of this historic

presence are reminders of their crimes, of what their ancestors did, and what they continue to perpetuate and benefit from.

Fuck a memorial plaque to "honor" us.

We are not dead. We are still here.

We will not be relegated to the past.

We will be respected.

Our ancestors and fallen relatives deserve no less.

This is why I fight to save the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Mousie Jr. signing out.



church.

Laddie Williams reminded the audience that Venice has been under siege for a long time. The City of L.A.'s gang injunction in Venice was recently declared unconstitutional. But it did much harm in the 80s and 90s. Back then, the police could say that anyone was a member of a gang and come into their home and arrest them. Ms. Williams told of her own children being taken three times and of an elderly neighbor being carried out by the police. And this unconstitutional police action was just one of the weapons of gentrification and displacement.

Pro-Active Code Enforcement (PACE) was an effort by the City of L.A. to force out African-American homeowners by exorbitant property fines and fees. But Venice fought against this too and beat it. The People of Venice are well-known in downtown L.A. as fighters.

Laddie Williams stated forcefully that "History has not been kind to our People." And that the ancestors are crying out from the ground to "Save Venice!" She called on everyone to record everything and get it into the history books. And to get a city councilperson who doesn't take bribe money.

Venice Activist Mike Bravo gave the closing remarks for the evening. He said that the fight for the First Baptist Church is a fight for Venice itself. The church is a sacred site that must not be desecrated. The fight for the church is not about religion; it's a fight against a spirit and system of violence. The fight for the First Baptist Church sets boundaries. It's a sacred site and a beacon of hope and strength in Venice. And the People of Venice will not be relegated to the past. Mike Bravo concluded the event by reciting a song of the Indigenous People in honor of the Great Spirit and all those who came before us.

Clearly, the future of Venice will be won in this fight for our historic sacred sites. The event at Beyond Baroque wasn't just for those who attended. You who are reading this and love Venice can also take the call. Go to www.savevenice.me to learn about the First Baptist Church and about what you can do to save this sacred site. And come to the gatherings on Sundays at 1:00 PM on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue to join the People who are making History. This is Venice. This is right now.

6 • APRIL 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead



A Man For All Seasonings ... Carlos Haro, Jr.

by Suzy Williams

What is your favorite restaurant in Venice? My long-time fave has been Casablanca, at Rose diagonally across Lincoln from another iconic Venice Mexican food restaurant, La Cabana. But of the two, Casablanca wins in my heart, because of the elegant menu that includes those fantastic, hot flour tortillas, served with a queso fresca salsa verde. But, even more... the atmosphere! The place is a full-out homage to that great 1942 film. Its Moorish walls and arches are covered with vintage movie posters (many different ones were made), all kinds of memorabilia, letters written at the time by the stars, a suit of clothes that Bogart wore, colorful murals (by Noy, of Peru), depicting scenes from the movie. There even is an exact replica of the "traveling cabaret" piano that Sam played...a small one on wheels.

Recently, I was dining with friends at Casablanca, (...full disclosure...I was wishing to possibly get my boss a job there as pianist), and I asked to meet with the owner, Carlos. A gentle, mustachioed man with twinkling eyes, in his early sixties greeted me. He was very nice, and offered me a copy of his book, *Tequila*. We took it home, cracked it open...and to our delighted surprise, the book was brilliant! I mean to tell you, whether or not you are a fan of the Latin American style of magical realism, this is a wonderful book. Carlos Haro, Jr. has created a whole new immortal character for all of literature ... Fulgencio! I declare that we have a world-class writer here in Venice.

So I arranged to have an interview with Carlos this last Monday. I found out that he was born in Guadalajara, moved to Nogales, became a lawyer (!), practiced for seven years in Mexico, got disillusioned with law, then became a basketball coach, then joined a comedy group(!), came here to work for his cousin and father, (his dad also was a jack of many trades, successful as a movie house owner in Nogales, a disc jockey and as a restaurateur), opened a taco stand on Pico and Bundy, started at Casablanca originally as a dishwasher, then climbed up to owner/manager of this thriving business. At this writing, the place is full to the brim with customers every night, sometimes with an hour-long waiting list. His father had loved Casablanca, the movie, from his old movie-house days, and started it as a theme restaurant here in Venice. But it is Carlos Jr., who carried on the obsession of collecting everything possible to bring it to its current lush state. Fans of the film flock here from everywhere, and he has called as his close friends some of the actors from the movie ... Paul (Victor Laszlo) Heinreich, and especially Dan Seymour, the big guy you remember with the fez (easy to mix up with Sidney Greenstreet).

But it is Carlos Haro's books that fascinate me the most. He has had three published: *Cocula* a tale set in that Mexican city about the beginnings of Mariachi; *Vera Cruz* is about "Danzon," the intimate Cuban dance; and of course, *Tequila*, the easiest book to get a hold of (Carlos sells them at the restaurant). It concerns food, romantic passion, family conflict, and that fragrant, dangerous libation (I want to have a reading group discussion about this...any takers?). Mr. Haro is working on two other books: *Puebla*, about a town near Mexico City that has no less than seventy churches ... and a science fiction book he's naming *The Game*, about Aztec practices that involved killing the triumphant winner of the game.

I asked Carlos a burning question: - about a rumor that there was a feud between him, Carlos, who owns Casablanca (est. 1979), and his half-brother, Carlos Luis, who owns La Cabaña (est. 1963). "Is it true that you and he are not speaking?" Carlos leans back and smiles... "One percent of the rumor is true." Turns out that each of them is so busy running their respective restaurants that they don't see each other much at all - except at the occasional family reunion. See how these vicious rumors take wing?

Señor Haro has been married four times...to the same woman, Yvonne. First at city hall, then at the church, then at Tijuana for fun, and finally in Las Vegas. No divorces! Before we parted, I had one last question: "What gives you the most optimism, Carlos?" I asked. "Living," he answered.



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

7 • APRIL 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead



Photo by Jim Smith. Standing: (left to right) Alice, Suzy, Greta, Mary, Della, Hillary, Joanna, Nikki. Sitting: (left to right): Lisa, CJ, Ms. Cobar, Yolanda, Ivonne, Rebecca, Estara.

A lively group of Venice women (plus Jim Smith) gathered on the evening of Thursday, March 8th, at La Cabana, to extoll the virtues of being a woman. With old school chivalry, Jim gave us each a rose to honor Women's Day, as we celebrated with margaritas and nachos.

Those in attendance included some former and current Beachhead collective members. Former "not the editor" Greta Cobar brought a homemade poster and her mom Natasha, and then read Maya Angelou's "Still I'll rise". Hillary Kaye gave out homemade bookmarks, and Alice Stek was honored for her work as a maternity doctor. The ever brilliant Suzy Williams entertained the entire patio with her Improvised song, "Long Live Women".

Yolanda and her daughter gave each lucky lady present a small gift with a Frida Kahlo card, inspired us with a speech about women around the world, and shared Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I A Woman?".

I'm grateful to be part of this eclectic community!

As Jim said, "Let's make every day women's day! The Time Is Now."



Statement of Significance continued from page 2
nity, in general, would not have survived; would not have prospered to become homeowners, business owners, civil rights activists, community reformers and social leaders without the connectivity with and the support of First Baptist Church, Pastor Holmes and its dedicated members. It is difficult to put to words the significance of something that is infused in the heart and soul of a people. The meaningfulness of sacrifices, the memories etched by generations of family members, the decades of attending services -- weddings, funeral services, christenings and other religious ceremonies -- that are contained within the walls and essence of this monumental historical edifice - all of these things and the people that represent the life and times of First Baptist Church is its greatest significance. For all that it gave and has been to the people of Venice since its beginning, this Church deserves to remain the spiritual legacy that it is.

Snapchat sublease properties: March 2018

Thornton lofts, 619 & 710 ocean walk are permitted as 10 live/work condominiums with community parking.

Snapchat has used the entire property as office space since 2014.

Complaints were filed with LADBS & HCIDLA. The Venice community protested Snapchat & the illegal use of this property.

HCIDLA and LADBS inspectors closed the complaints- no violation.

Snapchat has moved from multiple buildings in Venice. Industry Partners are handling the sublease of those properties

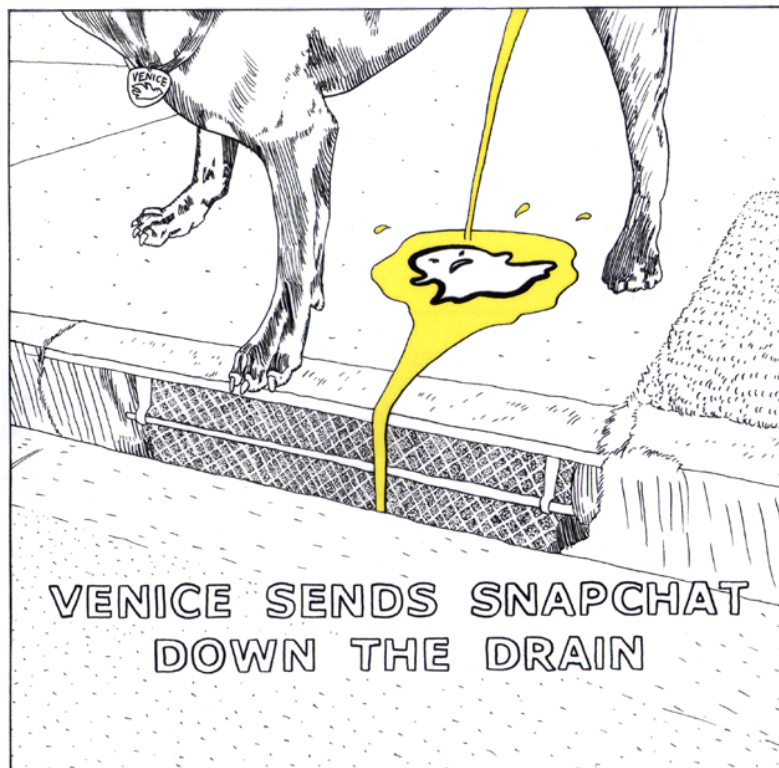
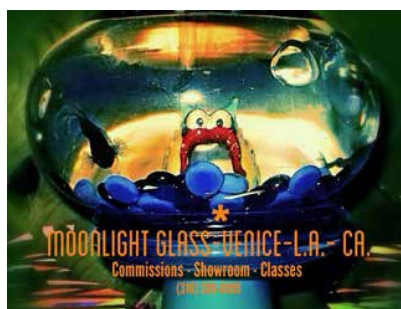
The listing description & photographs for Thornton lofts confirm community complaints.

Industry partners has listed Thornton lofts as: Creative office space in an architectural building. 44,887 Rsf for sublease with 108 on-site parking spaces.

It is not!

Thornton lofts, 619 & 710 ocean walk, is 10 live/work Condominiums over retail with community parking.

This & other snapchat properties must be returned to their Legal permitted use.



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*Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old
Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say. [1]*

Still I Rise

BY MAYA ANGELOU

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise" from *And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems*. Copyright © 1978 by Maya Angelou. Used by permission of Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.

Source: *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (1994)



Among Moe Stavnezer's artifacts was this photo of the Free Venice Beachhead Collective from 1979. That's Arnold Springer, Gerry Goldstein, Olga Palo, Joan Friedburg, Chuck Bloomquist, Lynne Bronstein, Brenda Harney, Emily Winters, Wendy Reeves.



YOUR LANDLORD



YOUR LANDLORD'S
LAWYER



YOUR LANDLORD'S
LAWYER'S
FRIEND

Sojourner Truth (1797-1883): Ain't I A Woman?

Delivered 1851

Women's Rights Convention, Old Stone Church (since demolished), Akron, Ohio

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Moe Stavenazer June 5, 1939 - Dec. 28, 2017

Ode to Moe

Like an erratic rip tide

surging and ebbing
to respond to comprehend
to care
to sadness
to anger
to laughter
to love

He leaves a legacy of compassion
for the pain of our damaged environment for
the pain of our crumbling humanity
a love of wine, women and song

Moe is our proud remembrance of a brilliant
creative
raucous
Venice person
who gave of himself to keep Venice Venice to
keep our coast
to keep us aware

who will be fondly remembered and loved
by all who appreciated his uniqueness and those
who did not

Emily Winters March 24, 2018

friendly

alan rodman

friendly black street fellow
laughing to me
yesterday
you have that Berkeley vibe

i said i am from right here
we are all from here
we are all going home
see you when we get there

oh
he said
you've got heaven
written all over you

can't laugh any more

by alan rodman

can't laugh any more
because i must
breathe

if things stay
this funny i would need
oxygen soon

what with climate
change
and all

stop it
stop you're
killing me

you can't
be serious
quit it

those hilarious hoaxsters
also invented the diabolical
finger finger trapper

so fools rush in
where wise men
fear to tread

any ways don't need
as much health
insuranceinsuranceinsurance

if
you just
stay young

Two Lovers

When Father died
You saw him in your dream:
"Sitting in a garden
He beckoned to me to go inside.
I said no and shut the door."

But today at dawn
You willingly went before Father
And shut the door behind
With no window where I could
Watch the happiness of two lovers.

But I still hear
The sound of your laughter
On that summer morning
When I suddenly woke
On my wooden bed
By the lotus and the pool
And heard the voice of Father
From inside the mosquito net:
"I die for your white thighs!"

You giggled and ran
From the patio to your bedroom
And Father ran after you.
By the pool I could still
Hear the sound of your laughter
Coming from your bedroom window
Where I yearned to watch
The happiness of two lovers.

Majid Naficy
March 11, 2018

THIS PAPER IS A POEM

Down and Out in Venice
by, marty liboff

All I see is Poverty
there is no charity.
I'm down on my luck
can't seem to find a buck.
So down & out
all I do is cry and shout.
It's lonely when you're down
sleeping in the rain and on the ground.
Homeless and hungry
the rich walk right over me
and pretend they don't see.
The rich don't care about the poor
they only want more and more and more.
58,000 homeless in L.A. and nobody to help or try
the rich and politicians just want us to die.
Like phantoms and ghosts we haunt your street
looking for warmth and something to eat.
The police throw away your stuff
and arrest you, man life is tough.
L.A. can be a cold, cruel city
for the houseless and poor a town without pity.
I got nowhere to go
I'm out in the rain and snow.
Poverty is all I can see
the rich and their politicians say nothing is free.
Torment and sadness follows wherever I go
nobody cares or wants to know.
The homeless are sick, desperate and cold
crooked politicians are bought and sold.
Funds are all spent on jails, police, graft and war
while the sick and poor are kicked out the door.
Politicians talk shit while the poor are jailed
the American system has failed.
Many are sick and mentally ill
society has no compassion or good will.
The rich can't see the world is in a mess
everyone is a moment away from being homeless.
You can be rich today and poor tomorrow
so let your compassion grow and show.
You too may be homeless tomorrow
you never know- you never know.

9 • APRIL 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

THE GREAT WALL MOISHE SMECKLEHEAD

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled
masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched
refugee of your teeming shore, Send these, the
homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp
beside the golden door!"

The Statue of Liberty- Emma Lazarus

Keeping out the poor and minorities
are evil bigot's priorities.
Even if you were born here
if you're not legal you better fear.
Except Indians we're all immigrants
even our stupid Presidents.
Our dumb version of China's Great Wall
once Hadrian's Wall also stood tall.
Racists rant, keep out of my backyard!
Made up, imaginary borders we guard.
It is later than you think
we have made our planet stink.
Such a heaven on earth
beautiful home of my birth.
Flowers, rivers and trees
purple mountain majesties-
birds, fish and deer
killed & polluted by greed without a tear.
Wars and hate
it may be too late.
A Great Wall may also trap us in
locked inside a madman's looney bin.
They'll want lists of those they hate
or those they think don't rate.
We are creating a Police State
a fascist evil may be our fate.
Gestapo roundups will come
minorities, Leftists, Muslims and bums.
It's scary times in which we live
seek enlightenment and to the needy give.
The money we save without a wall
we can help the poor and have a ball.
Tomorrow may never come
so love everyone no matter where they're from.
Wars and mass destruction are over the horizon
let your love blaze brighter than the sun.
Love and compassion is the only answer
the only question is can you get closer & nicer?
Raise your Awareness and Consciousness higher
life is tough but please don't tire.
The Last Days may soon be here
Death is hate and fear.
Compassion and caring will save your Soul
Love is Life and Life is Love is the goal.
We are each Unique and Different but also One
so put away your bomb and gun.
The real Wall is between you and me
it is an invisible illusion if you can only see.
Tear down your Wall
We are the All.
We are All Everything
Star Stuff from the very Beginning...
Star Stuff from the very Beginning...

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

APRIL 6 FRIDAY 8:00 PM

C BAIN & BRANDI SPAETHE

C Bain's poetry engages with the body as the site of truth, pleasure, betrayal and shame. As a member of the poetry slam community predating the advent of Def Poetry Jam, C brings an original, unique voice to his work. Brandi M. Spaethe's poems have appeared in The New Engagement (nominated for a Pushcart Prize), Off the Rocks: An Anthology of GLBT Writing, Minola Review, and BLOOM. Her chapbook, To You Who Wants In, was released in December 2012. She is the current administrative assistant for the Lambda Literary Foundation. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 7 SATURDAY 12:00 AM – 4:00 PM

C BAIN WORKSHOP

\$50.00 general, \$35.00 members, \$15.00 auditors.

APRIL 7 SATURDAY 8:00 PM

POETRY IN MOTION 30th ANNIVERSARY!

Since 1988, Eve Brandstein presents Poetry in Motion. This season PIM will feature special events and solo performances. Special General Admission – Advanced tickets \$15 on Eventbrite; \$20.00 at the door, \$10.00 Students/Seniors; Members \$8.00.

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 2:00 PM

CARINE TOPAL & DOROTHY BARRESI

At the Skirball Center. With special guests John Denmore. Co-sponsored with The L.A. Poetry Festival; hosted by Suzanne Lummis. Visit www.skirball.org for tickets: \$12; \$8 for members & full-time students Check the website for details.

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 2:00 PM

SOAP BOX POETS OPEN READING

This is your home. Bring your words. The mic is yours. Sign ups begin at 1:45 PM. There is a five minute limit. Hosted by Jessica Wilson Cardenas. FREE, but donations are always welcome.

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 4:00 PM

STEVE GOLDMAN: THE UNPLANNED CHILD...

The Unplanned Child & the Light Through the Crack of the Door Left Slightly Ajar by Steve Goldman is a cacophony of visceral and sometimes humorous poetry, essays and musings. Within this glass menagerie internal and external wars collide, and readers get a glimpse through the shattered windows of dark reminiscence. In the Mike Kelley Gallery. FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 7:00 PM

WAR & MADNESS

Public Works Improvisational Theatre, Michael Rose Productions & The United States Veterans' Artists Alliance (USVAA) <http://usvaa.org> present an evening of Prose and Poetry with Veterans who've been there and back. Hosted by Michael Rose. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 7:00 PM

IN HONOR OF BEYOND BAROQUE'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

LIBRARY GIRL PRESENTS RAW WITH LOVE A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BUKOWSKI

Featuring: Iris Berry, Annette Cruz, Dennis Cruz, Michael C Ford, S.A. Griffin, Jack Grisham, Susan Hayden, Doug Knott, Richard Modiano, Chris Morris, Keith Morris, Henry Mortensen, Lorraine Perrotta, Joan Jobe Smith, Mason Summit & Fred Voss. At the Ruskin Group Theater. \$10.00 admission includes Snacks & Dessert. Get your tickets NOW at www.ruskingrouptheater.com. Look for Library Girl icon + click on Buy Tickets. Limited seating. Free Parking. \$10.

APRIL 13 FRIDAY 8:00 PM

CAL ARTS MFA PROGRAM READING

Graduates of the Cal Arts MFA Program in writing hold their graduation reading with scintillating original work! FREE.

APRIL 14 SATURDAY 4:00 PM

MOON, LOVER, MOTHER, DOG

4 poets, 4 themes, 4 minute sets, featuring Daniel McGinn, Danielle Mitchell, Mahsa Hosseini and Antonio Appling. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 14 SATURDAY 8:00 PM

WOR(L)D BEYOND: GRONK & GAIL WRONSKY

World-famous artist visual artist Gronk joins brilliant poet Gail Wronsky for a reading, visual presentation, and

discussion of collaborations between artists and poets. Held in conjunction with Gronk's art show in the Mike Kelley Gallery. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 15 SUNDAY 4:30 PM

THE SANTA MONICA REVIEW

Join editor Andrew Tonkovich as he introduces three recent contributors to the West Coast literary magazine. Widely published short story writers Grace Singh Smith, Alex R. Jones and Andrew Nicholls share their work. Free copy of the spring 2018 issue for all attending. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 15 SUNDAY 7:30 PM

FRED D'AGUIAR & SHOLEH WOLPE

Poet, novelist, essayist and UCLA Creative Writing Program Director Fred D'Aguiar is joined by award-winning poet, translator and UCLA Visiting Writer Sholeh Wolpe for a reading and discussion. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 20 FRIDAY 8:00 PM

MARY GAITSKILL & GEOFF DYER

Mary Gaitskill is the author of the novel Veronica, a finalist for the 2005 National Book Award and named one of the New York Times' Ten Best Books of 2005. She is also the author of a short-story collection and the acclaimed novels Because They Wanted To and Two Girls, Fat and Thin. Geoff Dyer is the author of four novels: Paris Trance, The Search, The Colour of Memory, and Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi; a critical study of John Berger, Ways of Telling; two collections of essays, Anglo-English Attitudes and Working the Room; and many genre-defying books. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 21 SATURDAY 8:00 PM

MATT MAULDIN, KERRY TEPPERMAN & DON KINGFISHER CAMPBELL

Santa Barbara poet and former punk rock singer, Matt Mauldin, will read from his debut, Patterns of Reconciliation: poetry with personal, social & spiritual themes. Kerry Tepperman Campbell is an award winning author and educator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the recipient of the 2017 Blue Light Book Award, and the 2016 New Millennium Poetry Prize. Don Kingfisher Campbell, is the founder of POETRY people youth writing workshops, publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Poetry Quarterly, leader of the Emerging Urban Poets writing and Wednesday Afternoon Critique workshops, and host of Monday Night Poetry in Pasadena, California. Regular admission. Members \$2.00.

APRIL 22 SUNDAY 2:00 PM

THE NEBRASKA GIRLS OPEN READING

Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE.

APRIL 22 SUNDAY 7:00 PM

7 DUDLEY CINEMA: LAST DAYS OF CHINATOWN

Nicole Macdonald's (in person) compelling Last Days of Chinatown (2017, 60 mins.) looks at who and what remains in Detroit's Corridor. Hosted by Gerry Fialka. FREE.

APRIL 27 FRIDAY 8:00 PM

JOHN FREEMAN & AMY GERSTLER

John Freeman writer, poet and editor of Freeman's, the "illustrious new literary journal" (vogue.com). John is a former editor of Granta and past President of the National Book Critics Circle Award. Known for its wit and complexity, Amy Gerstler's poetry deals with themes such as redemption, suffering, and survival. Author of over a dozen poetry collections, two works of fiction, and various articles, reviews, and collaborations with visual artists. Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 28 SATURDAY 4:00 PM

POETRY CONTEST WINNERS!

Poets reading from their winning entries! FREE.

APRIL 28 SATURDAY 8:00 PM

RICH FERGUSON PRESENTS

L.A.'s popular spoken word artist Rich Ferguson presents some of the best performance poetry in town as part of Beyond Baroque's 50th Anniversary! Regular admission. Members FREE.

APRIL 29 SUNDAY 7:00 PM

S.C.U.M.: THE VALERIE SOLANAS STORY

On June 3, 1968, famed pop artist Andy Warhol was shot and seriously injured by poet and radical feminist Valerie Solanas, author of the infamous S.C.U.M. Manifesto. Solanas ideas are front and center in "S.C.U.M.: The Valerie Solanas Story," a play by Kat Georges, directed by Peter Carlaftes. Special admission.

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

April 9 MON, 7pm Suzy Williams & Friends - JAZZ at Surfside 23 Windward Ave, Venice, CA 90291 , 424-256-7894 Free Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/406897993069474/>

April 8 Sun 7pm Subversive Cinema at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE Political-Music films

April 14 Sat 4pm MESS Poet Doug Knott interview at 212 Pier FREE

April 18 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA FREE

April 19 Thurs, 7:30pm (to 8:15pm) Suzy Williams and Michael Jost at Genghis Cohen 740 N. Fairfax Ave, L.A. 90046 323 - 653-0640 www.genghiscohen.com \$15 Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/2078935179008411/>

April 22 Sun 7pm Seven Dudley Cinema at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd - Nicole Macdonald's (in person) compelling Last Days of Chinatown (2017, 60m) looks at who and what remains in Detroit's Corridor. <https://vimeo.com/243563283> FREE Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/213125796091771/>

April 23 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free

May 1 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way Read Article

LALOUVER.COM

Until May 12

Alison Saar

David Hockney



SURFSIDE Venice 23 Windward Ave

Monday April 9 – Suzy Williams - Singer/Songwriter is joined by guest musicians the 1st Monday of each month to sing originals and covers in her inimitable style This month's guests: Brad Kay on piano & cornet

www.unurban.com

Weekly Events at UnUrban

Tuesdays: Go Club @7pm, Open Mic Comedy @9pm (sign up at 8:45)

Wednesdays: Velvet Guerilla Cabaret (Open Mic Poetry) @9pm, sign up 5min prior.

Thursdays: Live Music Showcase* @7pm

Fridays: Open Mic Music @7pm, sign up in person at 6:30pm

Sundays: Almost Vaudeville w/Brad Kay @2pm, Mews Small and Company @5pm, "Funny Feminist" Comedy Show @6:30

Saturdays: Live Music Showcase* @7:30pm

Call the Unurban for the Saturday Night Schedule.

April 14 Folk Rock n Blues with Stef & Steve

April 19 7pm Peter Quentin's Variety Night

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. Latino Resource Center at Vera Davis Center. 4-12. Free Printing. Abbot Kinney Public Library.

FOOD

- 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

- 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. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. Venice Farmers Market. 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 AND DANCE

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

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
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse**, 52 Windward.
- **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) 310-606-2018
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

Health & Safety Forum: Is Your Community Safe?

Saturday, April 14
10 am to noon
Holy Nativity Church, Westchester
6700 W 83rd St, Los Angeles CA 90045

Please join us for a Health and Safety Forum where we will discuss the threats posed by the Playa del Rey (PdR) methane gas facility. We will have speakers addressing the **negative health impacts of gas facilities** and provide simple steps you can take to help make you and our community safer. Together we can protect ourselves from the next methane gas disaster.

Light refreshments will be offered.

More information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/16579645074312/>

<http://www.protectplayanow.org/>



"America touts itself as the land of the free, but the number one freedom that you and I have is the freedom to enter into a subservient role in the workplace. Once you exercise this freedom you've lost all control over what you do, what is produced, and how it is produced. And in the end, the product doesn't belong to you. The only way you can avoid bosses and jobs is if you don't care about making a living. Which leads to the second freedom: the freedom to starve."

- TOM MORELLO

VENICE DOMAINS FOR SALE

VeniceTimes.Com	\$5,000
VeniceBeachTV.Com	\$5,000
VeniceSkates.Com	\$5,000
VeniceSurfers.Com	\$5,000
VeniceDating.Com	\$2,000
VeniceFilmFest.Com	\$1,000

For Information Contact: John@CalTraders.Com

11 • APRIL 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

Venice Dogz, continued from page 1
for so many properties and take over all of Venice could very easily happen and instead of a bunch of retail stores for tourists & beach-goers, we could all be a part of a long line of private offices which over time would shy away tourists and everything that Venice has been known for since its inception."

Rago also stated, "Right now, the low and middle-class are getting pushed out of here at an astonishing speed. And the worst part is the corporations, realtors and developers look down on the small business owners and the locals who are the real victims and care more about the community than anyone, and then criticize them for not accepting change, bully them, judge them, push them out and label them just to make an extra buck that they don't even need. In business and residentially. Change is inevitable, and most people can accept that - especially here in Venice, arguably one of the most accepting and open-minded places in the world, but there's a big difference between 'change' and what's 'right and wrong'. I think most people agree, in Venice and outside of it, that our Ocean Front Walk lined up with rows and rows of national chains one after the other with signs that say Starbucks, Louis Vuitton, and Panda Express would simply be wrong."

He also wished to say, "I've asked a lot of prominent people in the community, the City, the Coastal Commission, etc. if there's any kind of ordinance prohibiting a national chain on the walkway and I still have yet to find anything. If anyone knows of anything out there that we can use, please send us an email to veniceactivists@gmail.com or go to our website at www.allianceforvenice.org. Until then, it's up to us as a community to step up and fight for what we believe in."



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU



JOIN THE UNION!

Los Angeles Tenants Union
West Side Local Meetings
1st and 3rd Wednesday; 7-8:30pm
Oakwood Recreation Center
767 California Ave., Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618
Solidarity Casework hotline: 213-986-8266

Get to know your neighbors!
Get to know your rights!

THIS MEETING WILL BE BILINGUAL SPANISH / ENGLISH.



NO DEJES QUE ESTO TE PASE A TI



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

Sindicato de Inquilinos de Los Angeles
Reuniones de la Sección Oeste
1er y 3er miércoles; 7-8:30pm
Center de Recreación Oakwood
767 California Ave, Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618
Línea de apoyo solidario de casos: 213-986-8266

Conozca a sus vecinos!
Conozca sus derechos!

LA REUNIÓN SERÁ BILINGÜE EN ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS.



Thursday April 19, 2018
Commemoration of the
Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument

76 years after the 1942 forced removal and the beginning of incarceration 30 years after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

10:00 am - 11:30 am
 Northwest Corner of Venice and Lincoln



Brian Maeda, Mae Kakehashi, Arnold Maeda, Amy Ioki and the late Yosh Tomita (not pictured) provided quotes for the VJAMM, dedicated on April 27, 2017.

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

Much-appreciated, tax-deductible
 donations can be sent to:

Venice Arts Council/VJAMM
 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 Monument Committee.*

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument
(VJAMM) Committee will hold its 2018 commemoration and
7th annual fundraiser at Hama Sushi on Thursday, April 19.

Commemoration begins at 10 am and ends at 11:30 am on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. Invited speakers will connect the Japanese American community with the African American community during the World War II forced removal and incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry, including discussions of Bronzeville of Little Tokyo. Speakers will also pay tribute to the 76th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, and the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The 7th annual VJAMM fundraiser at Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice follows the Commemoration. Special bento lunch includes chicken teriyaki, cucumber salad, edamame, spicy tuna and California rolls, shrimp and vegetable tempura, plus water or soda for \$20 each. Please contact Phyllis Hayashibara at phyllishayashibara@gmail.com, or call 310-390-1576 to place your bento order. You may pick up your pre-ordered bento at Hama Sushi from 12 p to 2 pm for eating in or taking out. For curbside pick-up, please call 310-717-3393 about one minute before you pull up to Hama Sushi, and your order will be bagged and ready to hand over to you so you needn't leave your car. Esther Chaing of Hama Sushi generously donates 100% of all bento profits to the VJAMM Committee, and 10% of all dinner sales from 6 pm to 10:30 pm. Please call Hama Sushi at 310-396-8783 for dinner reservations. Since 2010, Esther Chaing has donated over \$18,000 towards the completion of the VJAMM, and remains the largest individual donor of all the major donors.

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee thanks everyone for supporting the VJAMM over the years, and will celebrate the one year anniversary of the VJAMM dedication which took place on April 27, 2017. Funds raised now will be earmarked for maintenance of the VJAMM, educational outreach, and contingencies for possible repair, replacement, or relocation of the VJAMM if such a necessity should ever arise.

The VJAMM Committee acknowledges and deeply appreciates the major donation made in December, 2017 "IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHNNY KATSUI SAKIOKA," with part of the donation intended to support the ongoing maintenance of the VJAMM. Engraving on the VJAMM will be scheduled with David Williams of the Williams Monument Company, who will prepare the stencil in Arvin, and sandblast the VJAMM on site. For more information about the VJAMM, please visit www.venicejamm.org.



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 CULVER CITY 310 622 2046**



Saturday April 14th, 2018 from 3-6pm

at
Safe Place for Youth

2469 Lincoln Blvd. Venice, CA 90291

Please enter through side gate on Garfield Ave.

Contact Sarah with questions: sarahb@safeplaceforyouth.org