

INSIDE
Reese Davidson vs NIMBYS – 1
July BID Meeting – 1
SAVE VENICE CHURCH – 1
Letters – 2
VNC Supports Bridge Housing – 2
Venice Original Matters – 3
Review: Dr. Wu – 4
Review: The Lit Show – 4
Give Them The Bird – 5
SPY GALA – 6
The Lincoln Squeeze – 7
Poetry – 9
Calendar – 10
Community – 11



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activists hold prayer circle in front of the historic church in Oakwood. - photo by Margaret Molloy

REESE DAVIDSON vs.VENICE NIMBY pt.1

REESE DAVIDSON vs. the VENICE NIMBY pt.1

By Lisa Robins

“Everyone wants to help the homeless. ...but Not In My Backyard!”

This is the overwhelming challenge facing the implementation of HHH, the LA City measure approved by 77% of voters providing funding for housing for the homeless.

Several months back, there was an opinion piece in the Argonaut titled “Confession of a Venice Nimby”. The self-appointed NIMBY, a founding member of the community group Venice Vision (fightbackvenice.org), seemed to have some convincing arguments.

The Venice NIMBY argues that oversized housing projects and an over concentration of services will exacerbate the impacts of homelessness in our community. “Venice is world-famous for its big heart and open mind, and we want to continue doing our part to help address homelessness with both services and housing. WE ALL WANT TO HELP, BUT SQUEEZING MOST OF THE WESTSIDE’S HOMELESS SERVICES AND LARGE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECTS INTO A SINGLE NEIGHBORHOOD JUST ISN’T FAIR”, he says, (direct quote, including caps), in the Argonaut article.

So, is our councilperson, Mike Bonin, attempting to squeeze most of the Westside’s homeless services and large supportive housing projects into Venice?

Bonin represents District 11, covering all or a portion of the following: Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Palms, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Venice, West Los Angeles, Westchester and LAX.

The scope of issues surrounding the homeless population in our city are vast. And there are many aspects of Councilperson Mike Bonin’s “Plan to End Homelessness,” which greatly irk a small but very organized, well-funded, and vocal population of Venice.

In this series of articles, I’m going to focus on one element of his plan, the Reese-Davidson Community, a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development currently in the pre-development stage. PSH is a category of affordable housing designed specifically for chronically homeless persons.

Since I’ve started amassing information in an attempt to answer this question with regards to Reese Davidson Community, much has happened to overshadow this potential project. Currently, the biggest issue is whether to allow the long vacant Metro lot on Main St. to be used for temporary bridge housing. A report on the VNCHC vote is found elsewhere in this issue.

Meanwhile, here are the basics...

Measure HHH is a ballot initiative authorizing \$1.2 billion in bond money funded by property taxes, to pay for homeless housing. HHH will provide 10,000 units in a city whose estimated homeless population is 28,000. (As a side note, a friend of mine told me he just read that FORTY percent of children are at or below the poverty rate in LA. This, after the Trump regime stated the “War on Poverty” is over, because it is: A SUCCESS!) As part of a program designed to implement HHH, and address the overall housing crisis, approximately 40 land parcels throughout LA have been identified as “opportunity

Reese-Davidson – continued on page 8

THE JULY 2018 BID MEETING

By John Okulick

After two months of partial services, and little to no benefit to property owners, the self-appointed Venice Business Improvement District Property Owners Association’s six members have voted to increase, by 5%, property assessments to those in the BID. This means that six individuals, several who do not even reside in Venice, have been given the authority, by Bonin, to raise our taxes. Which, in turn, raises the rents and cost of living of all involved.

With seventeen months of no services from January 1, 2017 to mid May of 2018, there have been only four public meetings and no services. August’s meeting has been cancelled. However, Tara Devine, the mastermind behind the BID, was paid a \$150,000.00 salary and given \$1,800,000.00 of tax money collected by the city in 2017.

At the July meeting, this unrepresentative board decided to change the rules once again. So, now you have one minute at the beginning of the meeting and no comments after the meeting starts. Another undemocratic and divisive move by Board President Sokol and his minions to silence property owners. When a vote is made, it appears they frantically read what they are voting on as all hands go up automatically. Do any of these people really care about what is going on in Venice? Rats, hepatitis, crime, assault in the streets, garbage, the crimes against Venice?

At the meeting, a “master services agreement” was voted on between the BID and Devine’s company allowing her to avoid “performing services at any particular time” or “location” and by her “method, details, and means”. In other words, a part-time manager sworn to confidentiality with limited liability and who owns the works of the BID which may be sold to others. All for a mere \$175,000.00 a year for five years!

Another resolution voted on was to agree to pay \$700.00 an hour for legal services. Another was to secure a baseline services agreement with the city of L.A. It’s called privatization of public services for profit when BID tax assessments replace general services with a private contractor. Also \$13,000.00 was spent on a website.

They, Bonin and Devine, took away funding from our public elementary school, library, parks and recreation, senior center, all community assets, and are giving those funds to a handful of business owners. Even the MTA lot is being used for political purposes and is assessed a tax, even though there are no persons on the property, in an effort to rig voting that established the BID.

\$2,000,000.00 (two million) of your (citywide) tax dollars are being removed from the community and given to a group with no oversight. In all, \$10,000,000.00 over five years. We don’t have enough trained police. Their numbers patrolling Venice are a mystery and, when called, they may or may not show up in a timely fashion. Sanitation is poor, traffic is horrendous, and crime is on the increase with more shootings and attacks on citizens. Now Bonin, behind closed doors, is supporting multi-story developments on Lincoln.

Another insight to the last meeting was the use of the safety patrol by property owners to complain about someone or a neighbor, and having the patrol person report the complaint to the police. This secret informing to police is a tactic to intimidate others and it is reprehensible.

In the end, Sokol, with his usual punitive attitude toward comments, laid praise on the nefarious Devine for seventeen months of nothing and deceiving property owners about their rights, but was satisfied to discriminate against the poor, the elderly, the homeless and those on fixed incomes, and those they feel are undesirable to Venice.



YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE HISTORIC BLACK CHURCH IN VENICE

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with the Reverend Oscar Rhone, of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, on the upcoming appeal to the L.A. Planning Commission to oppose the proposed change of the historic First Baptist Church in Venice into a mansion for a rich couple.

Jon Wolff: You’ve been a part of this fight from the beginning. I remember you speaking very early in this struggle.

Reverend Rhone: My reason for being a part of this is not just because I want to be a part of it but because I was brought up in that church. However, I have another goal: I want to see the right thing be done. We know who all the players are, and what he said and what she said. But I want to see the right thing be done. Pastor [Horace] Allen had his part, the Penskes have their part. I have my part. At the time that Pastor Allen came along, the church was going through a transition. They couldn’t agree on who the pastor would be. The gentleman that Pastor Holmes had brought up and had in his tutelage wasn’t received well. Now, he should have stayed. Because, any time you enter into a calling, you’re going to have opposition. But this young man didn’t stay. He was prepared to be the pastor and he stepped up into it. But he left. They tried to get him to come back but, ever since that point, they fought about who was going to be the next pastor. So, what did they do? They did what the children of Israel did; they went out and made one. They made the golden calf. Remember that? Moses was up getting the Ten Commandments and they weren’t satisfied with Moses being away from them and they wanted a god. They came up with a golden calf. Pastor Allen is the golden calf they came up with. He had ulterior motives when he came to pastor the church. It wasn’t about him pastoring. It was about him being powerful and pacified. Everything is about money. So they go out and they find this guy. They show him the plans, they show him the budget. And they show him the people. He realizes that this congregation is not going to give him the opportunity to work out the goal that he has in the back of his mind. He’s one of those guys that wants to be up front. He wants to have the Cadillac, the rolls Royce, and all of the nice things that come along with being pastor. The nice suits, all those things that draw you away from God rather than draw you to God. I just want to see the right thing be done with the property.

JW: Do you suppose that the Penskes saw this vulnerability and took advantage of it?

RR: Well, it was said that the church had been for sale and nobody knew it was for sale. Nobody was

SAVE VENICE– continued on page 3



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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.

The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads, sustainers and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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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The Bar Center on the Beach

The Israel Levin Center at 201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice is to be demolished. The Jewish Federation plans on building a new, three story community center called the Bar Center on the Beach. They are thinking about changing their design plans and may retain one wall and a piece of the old mural. Usually developers keep a wall or part of the frame so it can be called a remodel and not new construction and get a break on the tax assessment and on the building permits. The JF is a non profit so there is no tax. It would be nice to keep a bit of the old mural but most construction managers advise to not retain a wall or frame because it restricts the new construction. Construction people generally think that leaving an old wall or frame on building a larger structure can restrict the new building's design, vision, dimensions and structural integrity. The JF may still change their plans so we'll have to wait until it is done to see what the new building will be?

MOISHE

Dear Beachhead

Every single soul, man woman and child, dog,cat and parrot, has a right to live in peace upon planet earths islands, who gives mankind a right to say whom is a better and wiser and more valueable soul than another? How would an average man know this? How would a Rothschild know this? Not by the clothes of a man, nor by his shoes, but only thru the soul would one know of another,. There is no man whom has this right to destroy the lives of 5000 peoples in the city of lost angels,over any other city. Already thru gentrification Venice is being harrassed,over crowded, with humans, and big trucks of dirty electricity. This is a horrific way for the city of angels and artist to live,after so many years of living in an artist commune of peace. I have fed the homeless,taken a homeless woman in to my home, i feed and care for homeless dog=gods every day that i can. Many walk thru this alley way and we always provide fresh water for them. I can not understand why humans can not grow hearts and live in compassion and harmony. Why not assist one another. Grow communities of luv by planting seeds of harmony in your gardens. We have enuff sacred ground to feed many armies, many animals and many un homed living beings. And yet we have allowed a system that constantly fails us to rule as dictatorship over us. How can we continue to live as the walking dead and do no thing of greatness for the situation is at a critical state in la . We can not allow anymore un homed, to starve, to die, to go without showers and restrooms. Why hasn't la put in public restrooms for the public? Every single person in la. No person should have to squat behind a car to do his business. The animal kingdoms have no homes due to over populace. La must revise now and reclaim her freedom as the peoples do have the power in numbers. We must all remember that we are each other, one step away from homeless. When we remember the matriarchal clans we will have no un homed. We can live as communities of love. We are all just visitors here, may we all share her womb as sisters and brothers of destino, remembering that animal clans luv us unconditionally,they are the masters and the teachers,may we all become adepts of the sacred and the divine among us.

May we all leave a gentle paw print, foot print and effigy upon her womb

Daughter of destino

Anumpeshi

Dear Beachhead

I live in Venice now for 20 years. My husband has been in this same home for 40 years. We used to go on runs, go for walks,drives to the Santa Monica mountains in solstice canyon,we used to get up in the day, and say hey,to fellow Venetians strolling by . Now we get up, to noise from 7 am to 7 pm,from a large international car rental,smog shop and mechanic shop,and car wash. So, industry has taken over. We have now no peace, no sleep, no clean air to breathe, we are dizzy, spinning, slurred speech,teeth aches,bloody noses,and know no peace here. Someway the city of la has over rid the community of Venice,for Rothschild's agenda with the electric companies genocide. I have been an activist against smart meters since 2011.In 2012 the electric white trucks came to install them all around us. When they showed up here, i had plastered the house with signs,no smart meters,and as they walked towards our house, i called to my husband and my sacred god=dog,baby Choctaw,200 roman war dog=mastino napolitano! They instantly turned around and sprayed us with an aerosol can and jumped into trucks and left. Since the Rothschilds/Rockfellers own the electric companies,and they are above the law,now we know no peace here and we have not been able to find an attorney willing to confront this issue. Of over abundance of industry, noise pollution, air pollution, and dirty electricity.. For the elite they could get up and

move, they have 3 or 4 homes. But we have made this our home. Why allow the industry and the gentrification to destroy the original artist of Venice for a few condos and restaurants? Is it for money? Power? Builders? I am not against the idea of Venice growing in a creative way, thru recycled materials of clay earth and stone, i am not against earth ship homes or cal earth homes, non toxic and violent to the wounds of the earths islands. Now they want to put in a 77 apt sky bldg here where the car wash is with 2 restaurants! How in the world is all this going to be managed in an alley where we have traffic flying thru from Lincoln an already over crowded hwy? Has any one builder decided to actually use solar and no electricity? Go off the grid? Think of the future of the next generation if we survive this one? La should be the number one leader in saving the earth by the use of what is already here. Not by cutting down and de-foresting all our air. We can not breathe without trees. Humans can not survive without air, water,food. And shelter. Gentrification should have been 100% recycled materials and solar or off the grid. It is not the idea of just the tall bldgs being an eye soar to an artist community, but it is the idea that we are loosing a momentum in history that we can not get back. Why are the gentrifiers in use of all dirty electricity/smart meters,and transformers which are causing an epidemic of brain cancer and brain tumors? These are truly crimes against humanity. I know several Venetians that have died in my neighborhood and 20 dogs. Humans are also energy and electricity. We can not survive in a robotic, toxic environment and nor should any of this be allowed in any home or environment. Why is Santa Monica going underground and Venice still power poles everywhere? Fire hazards are being put in homes here daily. Condos and apt bldgs. Please i ask you to look to nature , and grow a heart, for we are all just visitors here,may we leave a gentle paw print on her womb.

Get off your cell phones and create beauty and talk to your god -dogs and neighbors,and fight for justice and crimes against humanity as well as crimes against all life's breath

This is our home,we are all together,we are the homeless, we are the lost , we are the forgotten,we are one with the animal kingdoms,live in gentleness and the divine,healing hearts thru holy arts

We are in search of attorneys

Industry,environmental,real estate

13 Thank yous

Daughter of destino

Anumpeshi aduddell

June 2018



VNCHC Passes Bridge Housing Motion

The Homeless Committee unanimously passed a motion to support the concept of Bridge Housing in Venice along with executing a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with the city that would allow the community to have a say in what it was and looked like, and would hold the city legally accountable to maintain the facility as agreed to in that contract. Many people showed up to protest the motion, but seemed confused about what the content of it was. There was no mention of a specific location as that would be part of the agreement with the city, but that didn't stop angry NIMBYs from shouting the idea down. Prior to the vote Committee chairman Will Hawkins told the room that he met with many Venice residents who told him that they weren't so much against bridge housing, but they didn't trust the city, and that this motion was written specifically to answer their fears and create a legal binding contract that would protect the community during the program's proposed three year run. Ira Koslow chaired this portion of the meeting to allow committee chairman Will Hawkins to speak freely in support of the motion. In order to conserve time Koslow had ten people for each side speak and then asked the room for a "raised hand vote" which caused a little chaos. Things started to get out of hand and ultimately Koslow abandoned the idea because there were too many people in the room to get an accurate count. But from where I sat I counted 55 people in support of the motion and 36 people opposed to it, clearly showing a majority of the room in favor bridge housing and the CBA. The board then had an opportunity to debate the merits of the motion and voted unanimously 7-0 to support it. The motion will now go to the VNC to be voted on during the next meeting on August 21st.

Why Being a Venice Original Matters
Why (Venice) History Matters

By Mike Bravo

“People don’t need your approval to move to Venice”

“Who cares how long you’ve been here.”

In the same arrogant spirit of their colonizer archetypes and ancestors, dismissive gentrifier remarks like the ones above should come as no surprise. Ironically, many of them even have their Westward Expansion styled mustache and hairstyles to go with such mentality for additional colonizer effect. In fact, most of the injustices you see happening here In Venice are right in pattern with the ill mindset that landed on this continent in 1492, albeit, in a more deceptive and adapted form.

Gentry responses such as the above usually come after Venice natives like myself question other “locals” who claim our heritage or when we voice our displeasure about unfavorable behaviours displayed by the gentry. “Who cares how long you’ve been here.” Those are the types of things Columbus said to the Arawaks, that Cortez told the Mexihca (Aztec), that Pizarro told the Incas, and now what gentrifiers tell Venice natives.

Being FROM Venice is a beautiful honor, especially for people like myself who’s roots run deep. Whose ancestors created the beauty, culture, and essence of the Venice community as opposed to those who now come to usurp and exploit it. It is only natural that us Venice Originals are critical and protective of our legacy, especially in the midst of this colonizing wave that has adversely affected our beloved town since the 90s.

These gentrifiers always exclaim their arrogant sentiments in a very upset tone. They infer that the problem lies with us “emotional natives.” But more accurately,

SAVE VENICE - continued from page 1

privity to the information but Pastor Allen and the Penskes. However, I came to find out that pastor Allen had people that were working on his side in advance too, which was wrong. The way the church is set up, if you can get enough people to vote with you, being the pastor... If you have something that you want to do, and you can get enough members of the congregation to give you an “Amen” on it, you can go ahead with it. And this is what he did with the homeless people. He went and gathered people from anywhere and everywhere and brought them right there, made them comfortable, started feeding them. Then, at the same time as he was feeding them, he was also brainwashing them.

JW: In order to vote in his favor.

RR: Right. He found out that the congregation wasn’t big but that the facility was a nice size and something could be done with that. But you have to grow a congregation. You can’t just come and expect the congregation to be there. You have to get out into the community. This was something that he wasn’t willing to do because

they become triggered because they are forced to think about where they come from, their lack of roots.I feel something affects their intuition, whether or not they are consciously aware of it, and gives them a comprehending feeling for the dishonorable context which cleared out the neighborhood and enabled them to secure their Venice home.

Much like this current wave of colonization in Venice triggers historical traumas of previous waves of displacement my ancestors faced, perhaps, and hopefully, our continued expressions of pride in being Venice Originals will trigger and chisel away the colonizer spirited contingent of our Venice community toward some heartfelt and honest retrospection and atonement.

In times of colonization (gentrification) history is not a valued asset by the colonizers. In fact history is an enemy to their efforts. It is why the Spanish burned the codices of the Maya, why the U.S. made it a point to bomb the historical museums of Iraq (Sumeria), why gentrification forces try to rebrand and change the name of our streets, and why the Penske’s with their gentrifier (read colonizer) neighborhood council clowns like Will Hawkins and George Francisco, among many others, wish to neutralize the historical First Baptist Church of Venice.

Everyone loves the Indian or Venice Native that speaks of culture, unity, and spirituality. But most don’t like the Native that reminds them of the historical pattern of White colonizers and capitalists that lied and manipulated their way across this continent to get what they wanted. Nor do the really care for the Natives reminding them that they continue to do so. We need to call out these neighborhood colonizers and their actions for what they are. If we fail to make historical connections, we will fail to fix problems. I dunno about you but I’m tired of this shit, come help a Native out.

that wasn’t in his plans. He wanted a ready-made church where he could come in and start ordering things around and getting things his way and it just didn’t work like that. When this Penske situation came about, it surprised everybody. Because it was done in a shady way. And I just didn’t agree with it.

JW: You have a personal history in this church.

RR: Yes. I was ministering there when Pastor Allen was there off and on, because most of the community didn’t even know who he was. A lot of times, there were funeral services and other services that people wanted. But Pastor Allen was so busy doing what he had planned, he didn’t really want to communicate with the people. It just turned out to be a bad thing.

JW: The situation, as it is right now, has brought much of the community together from all different places in Venice. We look forward to being able to restore this church to the community itself. But we’re fighting a billionaire couple who can afford lawyers and lobbyists. What do you suggest that we hope for?

RR: We’re fighting the good fight of faith. We’re

3 • August 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

showing up. If we can get more people to show up and have more of what we already have, if we can get more people to come and be a part of it...

JW: To be present at the Planning Commission hearing.

RR: And to really see what’s going on. Most of what people know outside of the media is second hand. I just think that if they could get down there and be a part of it, they could see the serious side of it.

JW: They would see that this is more than just a property question. It has to do with the history and the spirituality of the community.

RR: Most of them know that. But it’s the money.

JW: What would you say to the Penskes at this point?

RR: I would ask them to reconsider what they’re doing, because of the spiritual nature of it. Of course, I know that they probably don’t care, but I’d still ask them to reconsider what they’re doing. And how many lives that they’re affecting. Whether they realize it or not, it has affected a lot of people, young and old. What would be the drawback to the Penskes getting their money back?

JW: Well, they’re billionaires. I don’t think it could hurt them in any way. Whatever they do, they’re not going to go hungry. And the value of this goes beyond just a piece of property. Anybody with a sound mind can see that. Now, I can’t imagine them being able to carry through with a conversion into a single-family dwelling in this atmosphere. I can’t imagine them continuing, with all of the outpouring of community support we’ve received. I have to assume that they’re reconsidering somewhat because... how can they go forward? How can they possibly go forward in this world, in this community, the way it is right now?

RR: That’s why we need to get more people involved. There’s been growth but we need to get more. That’s what I’m trying to do; get more people involved to show up at the [Planning Commission] meeting. I’m even willing to drive people there.

JW: We have hope for the future for this. We’ve fought hard for this and we’re on the right side.

RR: That’s why I’m here with you because I believe that what we’re doing is right. And I really want to see the church restored to its original use. People will come and support it once the church is put back in its original use. I’ve already had people say, “Whatever you guys need us to do, as far as construction, we’ll come and we’ll donate the time and materials,” and so forth and so on. So, there are people that are willing to get involved. They just have to get past the meeting. That’s the core right there. If we can get them to the meeting...

JW: To convince the Planning Commission that this is a right and just cause.

RR: The way the community is, you have young and old. You have the old-school community, which I am. Then you have the new-school community, which are the ones you saw on Community Day. They care.

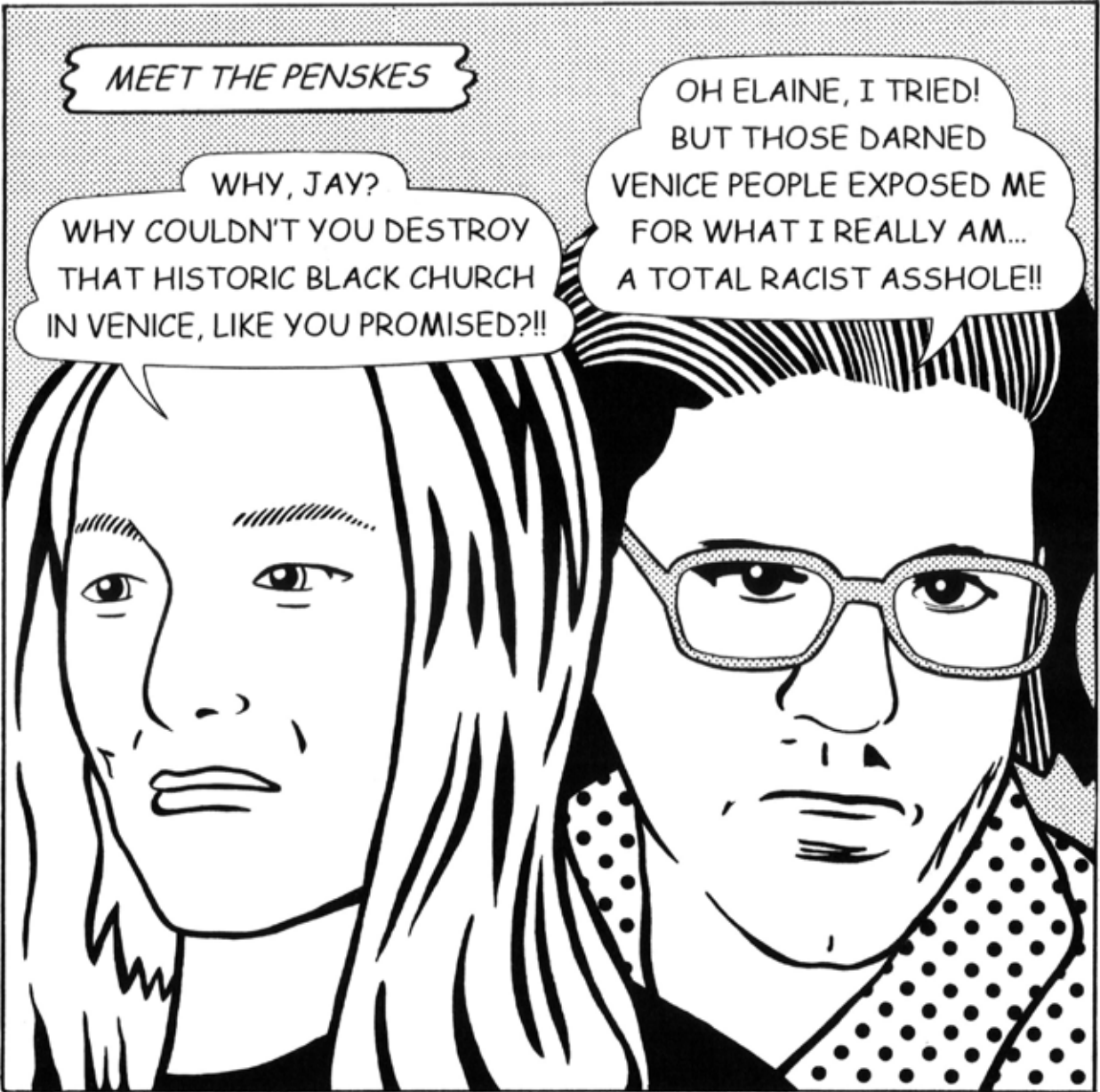
JW: They signed the petition.

RR: We can’t read anybody’s mind but we can say, because of their actions, that they care. If people show up at the meeting, that will show that they care.

JW: Much of this is in the hands of the people in the community and the supporters of the fight.

RR: It looks like a David and Goliath thing. The Penskes being the Goliaths. But David had that one little stone and he hit him in the right place and he fell. This is where we’re at. We have to look at it in a spiritual sense ‘cause it’s a spiritual fight. You’ve got these attorneys and these well-schooled people. They’re going to continue with their lives and go to the next project. But then you’ve got a whole community in Venice, of people that are going to be affected for the rest of their lives. I think that the Penskes thought that they were going to just go ahead and go about their business. But it’s deeper than that. It’s much deeper than that.

Come to the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 4:30 PM at 11214 Exposition Blvd. in West L.A. to show your support for this historic Black church in Venice. For more details, go to www.savevenice.me.



4 • August 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead
Review: Dr Wu at Soulstice Festival,
Santa Monica (June 24, 2018)

By Henry Rosebuds

Dr. Wu may be the best Steely Dan Tribute band in L.A. There are others— unique artistry inspires terrific guitarists, singers up front and back up, and kickass horn section. Pretzel Logic are really good impressionists, Green Earrings is okay,Bodhisattva just bad. (All band names taken from song titles/lyrics.) The original name came from William Burroughs’ term for dildo in Naked Lunch: a naked lunch is that frozen moment in time, when everyone can see what is on the end of everyone else’s fork. Kinda like today. Musicians speak their three chords of truth to power, but Steely Dan’s method subtly reveals the madness of the USA.Here’s what Dr. Wu played:

The Royal Scam: A song about Puerto Rican refugees arriving by the thousands to NYC: “And they wandered in from the city of St. John, without a dime.” More than forty years on, asylum seekers from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala et al wander in. And what do they get upon arriving? A “Royal Scam” of detention camps.

Barrytown: This view from the right (in early 1970s) is paranoid of those people (Refugees? Hippies?) in the next town who “do things rather strange.” I mean, “I can tell by what you wear/And the way you cut your hair.” The singer is from a different generation, “We like the way things used to be.” Did the boomers and their elders ever reconcile?

Hey 19 and Peg: When I produced shows on WXRK (K-Rock) in New York, we played these two hits, arguably Steely Dan’s top-selling tunes—others being “Rikki Don’t Lose that Number, “Reelin in the Years,” and “Do It Again.” We had to play the hits, on programmed, corporate radio in the ‘80s, that played these played them OUT by repetition. At WXRK in midtown Madison Avenue (“K-Rock, Howard Stern in the morning, the other jerks the rest of the day.”) So naturally, the deejay (“Coyote”) and I were suspended for playing “Rose Darling” from the Dan’s “Katy Lied” (Containing lines about heroin and pregnancy and was deemed “unsuitable for airplay. And later suspended for playing the wrong song from Lou Reed’s “New York” LP, which they (corporate bozos) busted us for being “out of the format.” During the interview to promote the comeback record, Lou Reed told us to play, “Busload of Faith” (“it takes a busload of faith to get by... Yeah!”), which wasn’t thehit they were pushing, “Dirty Boulevard.” Lou was a great on-air interview, telling a story about Andy Warhol—who gave Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground—would ask, “How many songs did you write today, Lou?”

Lou answered, “I don’t know Andy. Two, three maybe.”

And Andy says, “Why not six? Why not seven, eight songs?”

Lou said people cut down Andy Warhol’s persona, but really he was an instigator (disrupter!) who taught: Anyone can be the catalyst of anyone else’s creativity.

And still, they threw us off the air.

How did corporation backlash smash a cultural revolution that had lifted so many up? (TO BE CONTINUED)



photos of BIRDS by Fehmi Yildirim and Krista Schwimmer



Review:The Lit Show – Beyond Baroque, July 21st

by Henry Rosebuds

The world is a wild place, and the writer’s role is to bring some portion of that anarchic carnival into focus thru an artistic prism. Robert Coover

The Lit Show unfolds like a focused anarchic carnival. Even 13 years on, it is completely fresh. And this year’s model flipped my lid.

If you really want to hear about it, I was in a bad mood before I got to Beyond Baroque. You know: the close-to-tears all the time lately on account of an unending feeling about the unending destruction of all we hold dear about our democracy? This is a given, I realize. But also bumming me, that new bugaboo: getting old. (I’m 63. I fell off my bike. It happens.)

So thanks gosh for a 2018 Lit hit parade! Which, as presenter, Gerry Fialka said: “... enables Suzy Williams and Brad Kay to put on an entertaining, witty and emotional show merging theater, literature and music.’

Is there another emergent work like this? I’ve seen Jeremy Iron’s O’Neill and Tom Hanks’s Shakespeare this summer, but the Lit Show is something else entirely: writers’ writing put to music for the first time anywhere.Never heard sung before passages, paragraphs, phrases & clauses, words words words. A newly-mixed re-punctuated concoction of yum punch, cooling off fire-frightened theater-heads; we’re so thirsty for a little lyricalness amid such impending deadness!

Philip Roth, Tom Wolfe and Harlan Ellison may have just died, but what lives they left the Lit Show-stoppers to sing out about! How about:a mini-rock opera, an alchemical extract from Tom Wolfe’s Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test. Wolfe brought light to the San Francisco ’60s scene surrounding Ken Kesey, better than they could themselves. (How could they; they were lit on acid, man.)

This and the rest of Lit’s witty translations from texts to melodies were set by a fanatical group of players called, The Blurry Newsprint Jazz Band: Musical Director Brad Kay on piano; Carol Chaikin on alto sax & flute; Oliver Steinberg on bass; Brion Tajiri, drums & “frivolities”; and Mark Fletcher, guitar. Sound & Light by Eric Ahlberg.

Plus, Prix de Beaute as “provocative cheerleader.”

Williams & Kay (Suzy & Brad) were sublimely riotous, riotously sublime. Ginger Smith rocked Robert Louis Stevenson, and joined S. Williams as the erotical-poetical “Bookworm Backup Babes.”

Fancy some Steinbeck? Frost? Dylan Thomas, Lewis Carroll? They were hilariously jiving and kicking, as were the words of Linda J. Albertano – she, very much alive. Bringing down the joint, grand pianist Kay, delivering song spiels of his close encounterings with Groucho Marx (satirically, of course), and Harlan Ellison (musically-enhancing the “Performing Writer’s” audio short story of all things.).

The takeaway? May the cover be blown off your cloak, like this unwoke reporter, by next summer’s 14thsoiree, good lord willing and the flames don’t you-know-what. Resist=Create! Emily Dickinson, Lit Show alumna, put it this way: “Tell the truth but tell it slant.”

(In June, the wonderful poet, Donald Hall, died. He wrote from the hospital that the TV didn’t get MSN-BC: “I got my news from processing Fox News backward.” Imagine our intrepid troupe making that line sing!)

“The purpose of writing is to astonish, to blast away smugness,” Terry Southern said. And here’s where the Litfolks do their darnedest (“No-Simple-Ditties-Done-Here”), showing all to delightment:By reducing the world’s woes to a community in love with Suzy Williams (as always), thanks always to Brad Kay. And friends.



GIVE THEM THE BIRD!

A few people at the beach have asked me to write something about these damn Birds, and I don't mean the pigeons and seagulls! We used to be able to take a nice peaceful stroll along the Ocean Front Walk but now you have to dodge scooters, bikes and skateboards. We used to worry about being run over by a bike or skateboard on the walk but now the electric scooters are racing around and zooming between pedestrians, children and dogs nearly hitting them.

It used to be the only birds we worried about were the seagulls pooping on us. Now the Bird and Lime scooters have taken over our walkways and especially the beach front with no regard for pedestrians. One pal was flattened and went to the hospital. The lady who used to own Seagull Clothing on the Ocean Front Walk in Venice was run down by an electric scooter and broke her hip. She decided to give up her shop after that. A couple vendors have said their stuff have been knocked down a few times. Our local hospitals report that they see injured scooter riders and pedestrians injured by scooters almost everyday.

Years ago an old woman was run down by a bike on the beach front and died. Then the city made the no bike law for the Ocean Front Walk. I know others on the beach front who have been hit by bikes and injured also. Now the scooters are beginning to out number the bikes and skateboards and usually are going faster. Most of these riders have never been on a scooter and don't know how to ride. Two young riders were racing by the other day on the walk between people and the girl yelled to her boyfriend, "How do you stop this thing?!"

The police just ignore the scooters and bikes on the Venice, Ocean Front Walk and sidewalks. A friend a couple weeks ago stopped a police cruiser driving along the Ocean Front and asked them why they don't ticket the scooters and bikes and they just laughed and kept going. I asked another police cruiser going by a week later about stopping and ticketing the scooters and bikes on the walk and the two cops also laughed and said, "We don't want to bother the tourists. They are having a lot of fun!" It won't be fun for some poor baby run down and injured.

Recently both L.A. and Santa Monica police have said the bike path is not for scooters and they may begin enforcing the law soon. Santa Monica did put a flashing sign and a couple other signs up and ordered riders off the bike path for a few hours but right away scooters were back. The worse part is that some scooter riders did get off the bike path when they saw the signs and then rode on the sidewalk making things even worse! The Santa Monica police need to tell them to get off the bike path and more importantly off the walkway.

Beverly hills outlawed scooters. Santa Monica keeps talking about doing something but they got paid off by Bird and get a piece of the action and so are only doing PR stunts. So far it seems Venice has been ignoring the problem.

The bike rental shops who many also now rent scooters all rent their bikes and scooters and off people go riding on the Ocean Front Walk. Some hotels also supply bikes. None of them direct their riders to walk them to the bike path. Part of their supplying and renting the bikes and scooters should be directing bikes to the bike path and scooters on the roads. Of course this would slow business because both riders like riding on the walkways and scooter riders also like the bike path.

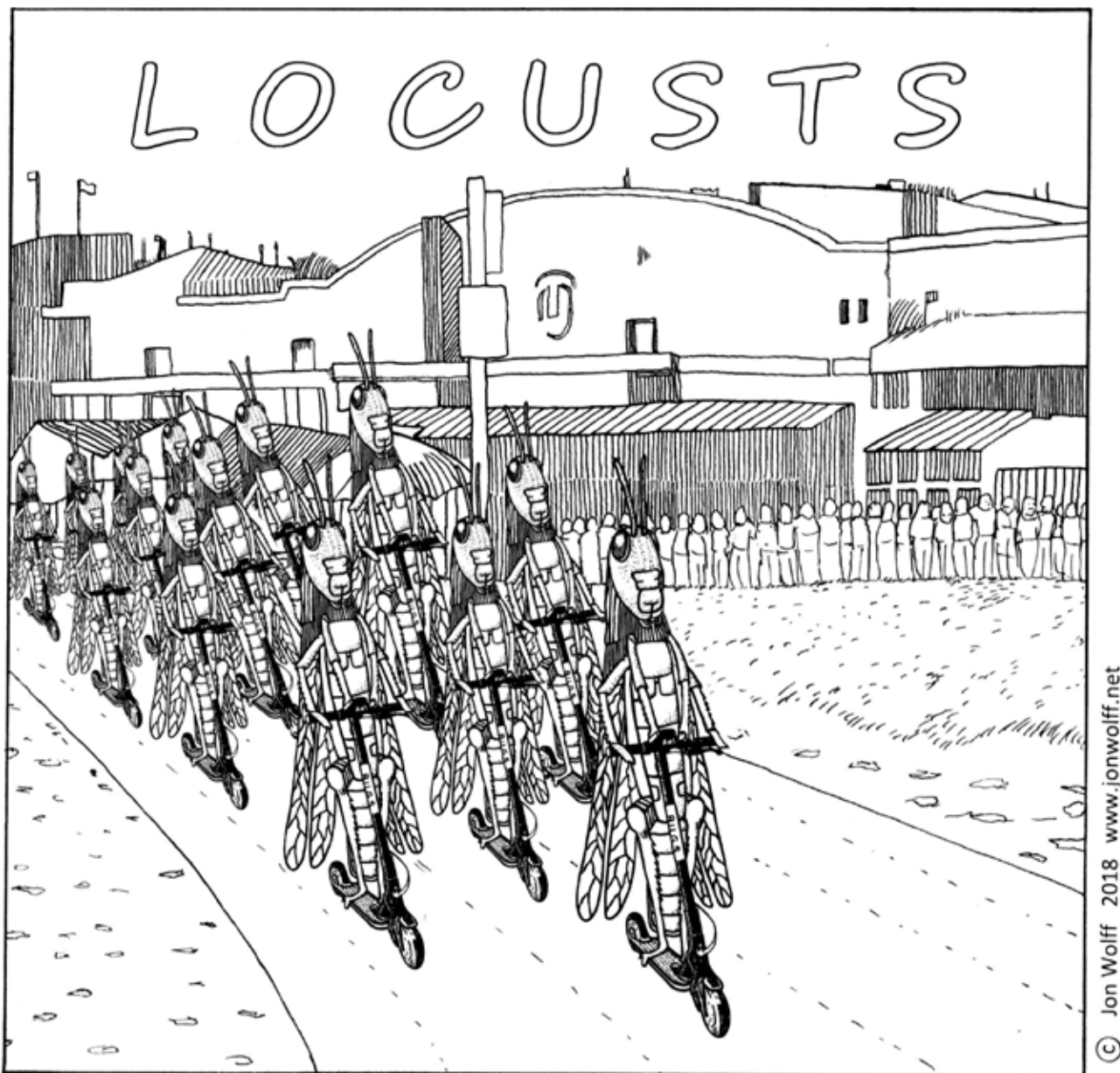
The scooter riders are almost all breaking several laws. They are supposed to wear helmets. Maybe one in a thousand is wearing a helmet. You're supposed to be over 18. Probably one in ten are children riding them. They are not supposed to have two people on one yet many ride with two people. They are supposed to ride on the streets and not sidewalks yet MOST people are zipping around on our sidewalks. You are supposed to have a license or permit but I doubt the 7 year old kids riding them have a license? They are supposed to park them in out of the way public areas yet they are left EVERYWHERE blocking sidewalks and on private property. A couple blocks from the beach an old blind friend was walking home with his cane and tripped and was badly hurt by a Bird parked in the middle of the sidewalk.

I see people riding scooters while texting on their phones and even parents holding toddlers while zooming about town. I've seen a couple kids riding on one scooter and even riders holding dogs. None of these riders were wearing helmets, not even the poor dogs. It is just nuts that in a car parents will lock their baby in a baby seat and strap their kids in but then they let them zoom about our dangerous streets without even a helmet?! I have read that a 4 year old was already injured.

The city of L.A. has their Metro bikes and Santa Monica has their Hulu bikes for rent and they went to great expense to put in racks around town yet they have allowed these scooter companies to let their riders park anywhere. So why did our cities have to put up racks and the Birds can land anywhere and poop and the Limes can leave their slime wherever they like?

Some scooter riders I've encountered on the sidewalks seem to think they own the walkways and don't bother to stop or get out of the way. I see close calls on the beach every day from both scooters and bikes. I've seen a couple angry people almost getting into fights because of the scooters and bikes almost hitting them.

5 • August 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead



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I used to ride motorcycles when I was younger and I had to take a special written motorcycle exam at the DMV and a difficult riding test to get my motorcycle license. Now any fool with a phone can rent a scooter and jump on without any training at all!

I have heard that the Bird Company may be valued at close to two billion bucks now?! Maybe after there are some giant lawsuits against our cities and the scooter companies from accidents then they will listen? Probably not.

The scooter companies keep claiming they are not at fault and it is the riders who have the liability in accidents. When you sign on you are supposedly agreeing to obey laws and have liability in accidents. However, everybody can see that NOBODY is obeying the laws or are driving safely and despite what they say they are not supplying helmets. Nobody ever reads the fine print on things we rent or buy anyway.

If the scooter companies are getting rich and our cities are profiting also from them then maybe they could fund making another path next to the bike path for scooters? Or even just widen the bike path for scooters. Many will still probably ride on the Ocean Front Walk but at least they will have an alternative.

The scooter companies could also supply helmets along the path, maybe in major access points of our cities. Or helmets can be locked to each scooter for use? Maybe helmets can have some sort of chain attached to the scooter? The scooter companies say they will supply a helmet on request but reports in the news have said that either they forget to deliver it or it takes forever to get it delivered to riders. Recently the Bird company sponsored a bill to make it legal to ride scooters without a helmet if you are over 18. It already cleared the State Transportation Committee. It is a wonder what money can do in politics! Our local hospitals are treating head injuries from riding scooters all the time yet our Bird brained politicians have sold out and gave us the Bird!

The Ocean Front Walk has just gone crazy! Sometimes besides scooters, bikes and skateboards there are also lines of Segways cruising along. There was even some jerk riding his Harley motorcycle along the front! I guess he saw all the other scooters riding and figured it must be O.K.! I was just hit from behind by an out of control skateboard on the walk and my ankle was cut and bruised. So much for a peaceful walk!

Many people have signed up with the scooter companies to pick them up for charging at \$5- \$10 each depending on where they are. Most of them really drive crazy. Sometimes they are driving a scooter on the walk carrying as many as 5 or 6 other scooters as they dodge in between pedestrians and bikes! They should also not be riding them on the sidewalks and should park them out of the way of people walking and not on other peoples private property. I saw one guy carrying about 4 scooters on the Ocean Front Walk and he hit the sidewalk with a scooter he was carrying and had a pretty bad fall and almost hit a pedestrian.

There were several letters in the Argonaut from disgruntled drivers who say they are impeding traffic and have almost hit them with their cars because they drive all over the road. So even when the scooter riders do ride them in the

street where they are supposed to be they are still a problem.

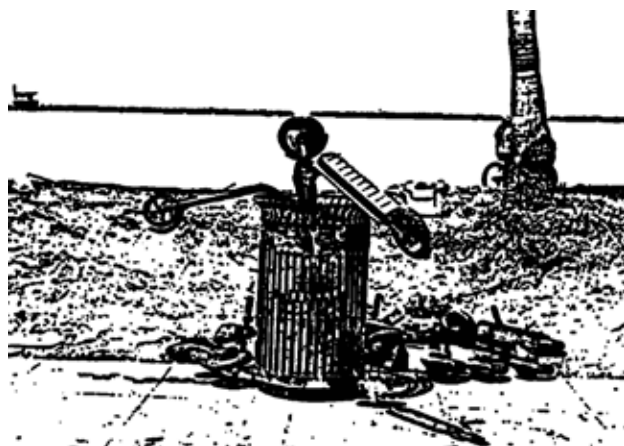
Unfortunately there may have to be many more injuries and a death before our politicians try and do something about this. However even after that poor old woman was killed by a bike years ago on the Ocean Front Walk and laws were made there has been no enforcement. One of the regulars on Venice Beach said, "All they need is one cop out there walking along and telling them to walk their bikes and scooters or go on the bike path." Even some big signs would help! L.A. hired some security people with the BID taxes along the beach but they too are also breaking the law. They are only regular citizens and yet they are also riding bikes illegally along the Ocean Front Walk at tax payer expense!

Some people have said I am anti scooter. I think they are fun and handy to use. They save gas and are small and easy to park. If idiot adults want to ride without helmets that is their lives. Parents however need to also be responsible for their kids. The sidewalk at the beach is called the Ocean Front WALK and scooters, bikes and skateboards need to be kept off where people are trying to walk.

Recently one L.A. city councilman has proposed banning scooters. In Long Beach they have just allowed scooters and have put in special scooter zones like bus stops where the scooters must be left. The scooter zones keep them from being left anyplace cluttering the sidewalks. With the rapid proliferation of this scooter craze cities are rushing to find solutions to the problems. In the following months we will see what evolves.

Every day something changes with the scooters and crazy stuff at the beach. What will be the next fad on the our walkways? I can think of a few new fads for Venice Beach; hover crafts, elephants, rocket skateboards, dog sleds, atomic powered go carts, aardvarks pulling rickshaws, gasoline run roller skates, giant drones carrying people, flying surf boards, ostriches with passengers, rocket pogo sticks, wind sailboats with wheels, penguins pulling wagons, jet packs, bouncy spring shoes, zombie towed tricycles, robotic rocket Iron Man suits, kangaroo carts, fart powered unicycles, giant mechanical dinosaurs, Martian aliens in flying saucers or chariots with a bunch of wild horses?! YOW, watch out on your walk, and especially watch out for the elephant and ostrich poop coming soon!

– MOISHE YUKEL





above – performers at the *Safe Place for Youth* Annual Fundraiser

HOME

By Lisa Robins

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) held their 3rd Annual Gala on June 14th at Playa Studios in Culver City. “HOME” was the event’s theme, as 350-400 of Los Angeles’ most influential and caring leaders and top executives in the technology, advertising, and entertainment industries gathered to raise funds to support SPY, the only organization on the Westside dedicated to services for homeless and at risk Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 12-25.

The evening began with amazing cocktails (like home-made Pimm’s Cup with fresh ginger) by cocktail chef, Matthew Biancaniello, and a silent auction. Somehow it just doesn’t seem fair that some are choosing what to do with their discretionary money, gleefully bidding up the prices of luxury items, while others don’t have enough for a roof over their heads, medicine or food, but that’s a much deeper investigation. With regards to the donated items for the silent auction- when I went door to door on Abbot Kinney for my daughter’s high school silent auction, I discovered the sad fact that no matter how cool their facades may look, most shops in Venice have corporate headquarters and other branches of the stores. You see the same shops in Soho, Chicago, S.F., etc.... Where are Venice’s one of a kind boutiques? Are there any left?That being said, I give high praise to the merchants who donate goods and services for the greater good, (even though part of the reason they’re doing so is to create good PR). Some of these generous merchants: Food-including Tasting Kitchen, Sahm Night and Market, etc; Beauty and Fitness- including Abbot Kinney Shopping and Lunch Day, Butchers Daughter, Margaret O’Leary, John Fleuvog Shoes, Rejuvena;Vacation- including destinations like Casa Del Mar, Napa Valley, NY, Lake Tahoe, Paris, Buenos Aires Getaways; Music and Entertainment- including The Improv, Jimmy Kimmel, Elton John at Staples; Fashion Retail- such as Alexis Bittar, Logan Hollowell, Shoes up to 200, Rag and Bone NY, Alternative, Jigsaw/London, Warby Parker; and finally, Sports and Memorabilia- which included Lakers tickets, One on One with LA Sparks Chelsea Gray plus 3 tix for LA Sparks 2018/19 games. There was a signed Hamilton poster, a super cool surfboard which probably had meaning for someone in the surf world, and a signed Harry Styles album.But the best item was the HUGE Shaq sneaker. At first I thought it was a joke! Until I realized that a mere mortal could actually fit a shoe made for a giant.

A wall featuring 9 striking portraits of homeless youth jolted us out of shopping and people watching mode into the reality of why we were there. After we loaded up our plates with delicious salmon or pasta, checked out gorgeous jewelry for sale designed and made by SPY youth, and had a poem created on the spot for us, we focused on the presentation honoring Safe Place for Youth’s efforts and supporters.

Rachel Stitch, Deputy Director at SPY, introduced Christine Adams, the MC.Ms. Adams is a spunky, outspoken, black actress from the UK, who’s lived in Venice for the past 15 years. She informed us that sponsors donated the beer and wine and the many silent auction items.

She then introduced Alison Hurst, SPY’s Executive Director, “The wind beneath my wings”, to offer this year’s awards. Alison informed us that \$135,000 had already been raised! Alison spoke of the theme, “HOME”, and what that represents to her- friends/ teammates who work to create a home for the incredible young people who walk through SPY’s doors. She reminded us that decades of neglect and lack of resources produced the homeless crisis, currently leaving approximately 50,000 people without homes.Over 1,000young people walk through the doors of SPY’s Drop-In Center annually, (this is the case for 2017 and 2018), fleeing abuse; thrown away by those meant to protect them.Previously there were no youth-based centers. This year SPY has supportednearly 200 youths with exiting the streets, proving that when provided support to meet their needs, homeless youth can thrive.

A tearjerker film came next, featuring Outreach and Engagement Manager Rob Hanna, in the community

connecting with homeless youth. He informs them of the Drop-in center, offers showers, IDs, a nap, and the road to permanent housing or shelter. The message of the film is to “Be a part of the solution!”,and certainly the crowd took that message to heart.

20 year old Erica, striking with her bright blue hair, spoke next. Homeless at 14, abused and neglected, the message she received was, “It’s your fault, no one should help you”. Erica told us, “The system tossed me aside”, so she slept in parking structures where her main challenges were getting to school on time and staying clean. She later moved from the valley to the city, met her partner, and gave birth to a baby. SPY provided her with showers, help in finding a job at a local restaurant, clothes from their clothing closet, and case management. She now has a permanent position at SPY. Traveling all over the country doing advocacy for homeless youth, Erica tells us that she shares her stories to help make change. Her siblings remain her source of inspiration as they’re still wrestling with some of the experiences that she endured as a youth. She wants to inspire them and is so grateful to SPY. Erica has been housed for a year.

SPY Board President, Barbara St. Thomas, focusing on gratitude, presented an award to SPY Board Member and Entertainment One’s Chief of Strategy Peter Micelli and his wife Jennifer Lang. A couple who “care deeply about the world we live in”, they were looking for a way to give, and wanted it to be local, about kids.Jennifer, who would stay at SPY with their own children for hours, “shaping (or sharing) up, stepping up, lifting up”, says the “glue” is food, socks, underwear. Homelessness seems too big, leading many to ask, “Where do I start?” Their advice to potential activists is to “do whatever you’re comfortable with”. They began by ordering 20 Dominos pizzas. Involved with SPY for 7 years, this is Peter and Jennifer’s 6th year opening their home for SPY’s annual family friendly carnival event. Filled with emotion they said, “every parent knows what I’m feeling ...when you think of children on the streets without...” they urge-“do what we can to make their lives better.... You’re miracles.”

The Community Support Award went to the St. Matthews Community. Its church and thrift shop have been volunteering and supporting SPY since its inception. Church members cook, grill, and serve food. The David Miller Endowment Fund donations go to support case management, portable play centers, as well as the huge refrigerator and freezer which feeds the kids. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas there’s a bounty. Holidays are a vulnerable time and there is a “grace in the way they serve”. David and Jocelyn were, “honored to be honored....humbled...privileged...” “You will not say no to anyone”.They’ve been with SPY since before SPY had a home.Kathy, their angel, preps homemade food; something every week. They gently remind us, “Love is not what you say, it’s what you do.” Then she vows, “I’m gonna help Alison by bringing a check for \$60,000!” Alison eagerly steps up as Joclyn declares, “God bless SPY”!

In the past year, SPY moved almost 200 young people to safety off the streets. Many more still struggle to survive. Alison shared recent partnerships with developer and faith based organizations. Other new opportunities include “Bridge housing”, “Transitional housing” and “Host homes pilot”. Launching housing and resources,“Now is the time”, she declares. “Partner with us to transition,” to “Thrive, not just survive”.

After giving a big shout out to Rachel and Cody, Ms Adams took the stage, declaring that she’s “The only one brash enough to ask you to give a shit load of mon-

Justice for Jamal "Shakespeare" Warren

MURDERED AUGUST 30, 2015 in VENICE

MEMORIAL: 6pm, Thursday, August 30, 2018

at Dudley Pagoda, 401 Ocean Front Walk

Jascent-Jamal Warren

August 9, 2015 ·

#BlackAugust if a pound sign could be transformed into a hashtag.. Maybe the minds of America can be transformed into universal consciousness.

Justice 4 Shakespeare

<https://soundcloud.com/shakespeare253>

ey....I Googled a lot of you, and you can.” These events highlight the haves and have nots-Those that finance, and those that benefit from funds raised. But that’s the way it is in our current society and one would need be hard of heart to not appreciate the generosity of the lucky ones. Alison reminds me, “None of the youth we serve would have housing or access to employment opportunities and school without them. It’s difficult to witness the extreme differences between the wealth and poverty in our community, but the people attending our gala are the ones willing to share that good fortune.” Manicured, coiffed, with clear skin and confident smiles, the well-heeled crowd delighted in spending their hard earned or inherited money, buying items to support those less fortunate, and in many cases, offering time, ideas, and cold hard cash to attempt to make a difference in the lives of the homeless youth of Venice. Ms. Adams helped them along, teasing, “I’ll get that money out of you if I have to reach into your pockets!”It worked... The net revenue for the event was \$145,000!

We were then treated to a moving, original song titled, “Home”, sang live by 3 earnest, hip, talented SPY kids performing a faith-filled rap. “I’m gonna be as true to me as I can be...I am on my way...let the music take control....Go place to place....studio to studio...speak it into existence...I ain’t lost”.A live performance from the Shrine followed.

The capper of my evening came as I made friends with a lovely, formerly homeless woman sitting at my little table. Wiping her tears away she murmured, “This is a lot to handle...remembering... I don’t drink, and could use a drink now!” In her gorgeous satin gown, long dark hair, and sparkling eyes, she was the epitome of a success story made possible by the hard working folk at Safe Place for Youth.

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Above are photos of the Save Venice community activists. Photos by Margaret Molloy

THE LINCOLN SQUEEZE

By Daniel Guerrero

It's bad enough for any old-time Venetians that these unconstrained developers and their realtor cronies shove Big Box projects down our throats on every corner in Venice. It seems that we have no choice but to tolerate the ridiculous millennial hipster boutique district of Abbot Kinney, with its "look at me" crowd and its \$300 T-shirts, knowing that it was once West Washington Boulevard. It's the western border of the Oakwood neighborhood, home base for so many of our original Venice families that are disappearing due to corporate gentrification. It's hard to swallow that the salt of Venice is being replaced by arrogant tech companies that gulp up huge swaths of our town, and their millennial zombie workers that arrive here daily to enjoy the "vibe" of Venice. A "vibe" that they have all but extinguished!

If you really know Venice, it's easy to feel the change in the love that used to permeate the atmosphere here. The mind-numbing street traffic, the gridlock of Lincoln and now Venice Boulevard, the constant sound of hammering and pneumatic nail guns firing away, cement and lumber trucks blocking the avenues, Bird and Lime scooters dominating the bike paths, interlopers walking their toy poodles and shih-tzus while texting -- this all contributes to the dissolution of our Venice.

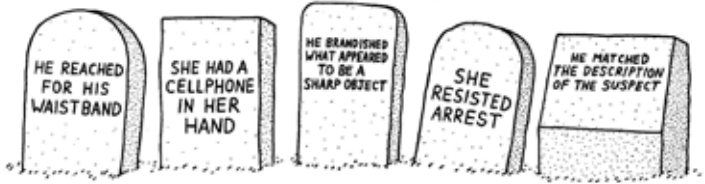
Now, with the approval of both L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin and the Venice Neighborhood Council, developers are trying to transform Lincoln Boulevard itself. Plans for the 6-story tombstone at Lincoln at Marco Place, across from the neighborhood parking nightmare Superba restaurant (why do they call it "Superba" when it's off Marco? Hoagie's is off Superba!) are well under way. But that's nothing compared to the monolithic 10-story Dokeo Apartment complex slated for 2454 Lincoln at the current Millennium carwash site across from McDonald's. That's correct -- 10 stories and 77 units on what is arguably the most traffic-congested stretch of boulevard in L.A. 100 feet of steel, concrete, and glass! So much for "quality of living". You may be thinking, "Hey, there's nothing taller than 4 stories anywhere on Lincoln in Venice." Not to mention that there are actually no apartments or condos anywhere on Lincoln Boulevard for the entire length of Venice, from Washington to Warren. The developer's design hinges on the fact that Lincoln Boulevard is considered a transit corridor due to the frequent Santa Monica Blue Bus schedule and the project's close proximity to the Red Line at Colorado and Lincoln in Santa Monica. Huh! These conditions supposedly allow the builder to maximize the project to its bloated size. They also tout the inclusion of 8 "affordable" units -- 8 out of 77!

This is an SOS to true Venice. We need to stop these projects in their tracks before it's too late. The East Venice Neighborhood Association (EVNA) is the body to get information about the status of these projects and how we can combat them.

My outspoken passion concerning Venice comes from the fact that my grandparents bought the house at 2463 Penmar in 1938, and then my parents built their house across the street in 1948. I've lived in and around that house for my entire life, treasuring this wonderful Venice. These new projects, and the attitude that encourages them, threaten a way of life that people have valued, sought, and even mythologized. Venice life. True Venice life!

To voice your opposition to the project, please contact:

William Hughen, Planning Assistant (213) 978-1182
william.hughen@lacity.org,
200 N. Spring St., Room 763 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Planning Case # DIR-2018-917-CDO-WDI
Environmental Case # ENV-2018-918-EAF
2454 Lincoln Blvd. (at Millennium Car Wash)
10 stories, 77-unit mixed use project
includes 8 Extremely Low Income (ELI) units



Larry Hankin's

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The Fanatic Salon Theater
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Ca, 310.622.2046

Reese-Davidson – continued from page 1

sites”, city owned properties which are underused or vacant. 30 of these 40 have been designated for development to provide affordable housing thus far.

The Reese-Davidson Community is the largest “opportunity site” in the District 11 pipeline, and has not yet been approved. Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC), who was given a two year option to develop the Venice median into a PSH development, will submitted their formal application to the City this summer, and is now starting the public approvals phase.

Formerly known as Venice-Dell-Pacific, or the Median Project, the rebranding of the development as the Reese Davidson Community, “Honors two amazing leaders who were instrumental in building and maintaining an inclusive and innovative Venice: ARTHUR REESE was a Venice resident and community leader from 1905 to 1963 -- a decorator, inventor, entrepreneur, and more. Among the founders of Venice and first African American homeowner, he helped establish a diverse and inclusive Venice. RICK DAVIDSON was a Venice resident and community leader from 1961 to 1999 -- an architect, poet, activist, and more. Among the founders of Venice Community Housing, he helped promote a diverse and inclusive Venice,” according to the VCH website.

Jim Smith, previously on the Beachhead Collective, writes, “Rick (Davidson) was a friend of mine. I got to know him well in the early 70’s when he opened his house on San Juan Ave for meetings of our Venice Vietnam Veterans Against the War chapter. He was one of two founders of the Free Venice movement, along with John Haag. When we revived the Beachhead in July 2002, we dedicated the first issue to him. Rick was born in Florida, but spent most of his life in Venice. He ran for L.A. City Council in the 70s on a platform of cityhood for Venice. He was involved in every struggle in Venice during the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Rick was a people’s architect. There are many examples of his work around Venice. He was a poet for most of his life. Lots of them turned up in the Beachhead”.

If approved, the development named for these illustrious men would replace the existing parking lot between Pacific and Dell, bordered by North and South Venice Blvds.

The REESE-DAVIDSON COMMUNITY would contain 140 Apartments:

- 68 supportive housing apartments for formerly homeless individuals and families
- 34 low-income artists’ apartments
- 34 lower wage households’ apartments
- 8 On-site trained professional staff apartments
- 3 Community rooms for tenant services and recreational opportunities

Preventing the development, along with stopping the MTA Bridge Housing, is the target of much of Venice NIMBY energy. Their main organization appears to be Fight Back Venice”, (previously also known as “Venice Vision”), whose members are furious at Councilmember Bonin, sponsoring a “Recall Bonin” campaign. Labeling Venice-Dell-Pacific the “Monster in the Median”, their main concern seems to be a lack of fairness and a fear of being overrun by the homeless. And perhaps, a dip in property values.

- NIMBY points:
- 1) Venice already has too many homeless residents-“Unfair!” They fear Bonin is luring homeless to Venice with too many new PSH units and services. .
 - 2) New housing will serve too many Non-Venetians-“Unfair!” They argue there’s no guarantee the residents will be from Venice, and many might come to scam the system.
 - 3) Too Big-“Unfair!” They fear the development will be too large, with too many units.
 - 4) Wasteful and Inefficient-“UNFAIR!” NIMBYs point out the city land is prime real estate and could be sold, with the money used to create far more housing in a less expensive area. And, why build new developments instead of refurbishing existing buildings?
 - 5) Cheating –“UNFAIR!” Venice NIMBYs claim VCH is aiming to skirt zoning laws.
 - 6) It Won’t Work-“Unfair!” NIMBYs fear is that we’re enabling people to take advantage of the system asking nothing of them such as sobriety, etc....

Underlying all of it seems to be a POV that if we care for those living on the street it will encourage more to do so. They point out that many have chosen this “lifestyle”, and it’s unfair to expect us to spend our city funds, and potentially reduce the value of our property, to support them. There’s the sentiment that although many home-

less people are benign, there are those who aren’t, and exposing themselves and their children to this population reduces their quality of life.

I met with Becky Dennison and Linda Lucks from Venice Community Housing Corporation, the potential developer of Reese Davidson (with Hollywood Community Housing Corp). I met separately with Will Hawkins, an elected official of Venice Neighborhood Council (an unpaid volunteer position), who was elected by the VNC to chair the homeless committee (VNCHC).

Our conversations were several months ago, and some of their sentiments (particularly Hawkins’) have evolved, (such are the hazards of working as an unpaid volunteer journalist!). But it’s precisely the turnaround that’s the most exciting and contains the most potential for change.

I’ve been trying to compare their points of view, with Councilperson Bonin, the “Venice NIMBY”, and my own observations. I’d like to boil our opinionated community down to two factions, “Bleeding Heart Liberals”, and the “NIMBYs”, but it’s more complex than then that, and tricky since many NIMBYs are generally liberal... they just have a vastly different POV of how to get the homeless off the street.

Mission statements:

Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCH): “To reduce homelessness, maximize affordable housing, empower residents, provide social services, and advocate for public policy that protects and strengthens the economic, racial and cultural diversity of Venice and other neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles.”

Venice Neighborhood Council Homeless Committee (VNCHC): “To reduce homelessness via a three pronged attack (the three R’s)”

- 1) Reduce the influx of Homeless
- 2) Reunify homeless with family or prior community whenever possible
- 3) Rehouse with priority existing homeless

City Councilman Mike Bonin’s “Plan to End Homelessness”: “Preserving Affordable Housing, Building Affordable Housing, Building Homeless Housing, Coordinated Entry System, Enhanced Outreach, Enhanced and Expanded Services, Street Strategy”

“We must do everything we can to end homelessness throughout Los Angeles by providing those who need it and want it with housing and appropriate services. That is going to take collaborative effort, innovative approaches, A LOT more affordable housing, and implementation of our countywide ‘Housing First’ strategy. It is a daily focus for me and my team, and I’m not going to rest until we get it done.” (11thdistrict.com/issues/homelessness/)

Venice NIMBYs: “Committed to informing, engaging, empowering and mobilizing our community to ensure the equal application of the law for all who live, work and visit in Venice.”

I’m seeking common points of view as well as where they differ.

From what I can tell, the NIMBY POV seems to be in opposition to VCHC, VNCHC, and Bonin’s plan; although some on the VNCHC share some common NIMBY concerns.

Giving the benefit of the doubt, I’m going to assume that all factions want to help house our homeless citizens. All want a better Venice. But there are major differences on how to achieve these goals. I’m planning to have an ongoing conversation, using each of the following issues as a starting point. I’ll be circling back as I learn more, and I invite letters to the editor shedding light on these complicated matters.

Issue #1) Bonin inviting homeless to Venice-Too many developments.

The Venice NIMBYs claim Venice is set to host more homeless per square mile than any other part of District 11. They point out that the LA City Council reversed the “policy of containment” that gave rise to Skid Row on the grounds that it is not good for communities or the homeless. To NIMBYs, Venice is already an established homeless hub, therefore reversing “containment” and ensuring “geographic equity”, should apply to us.

The NIMBYs charge is that there is an unfair distribution of new PSH units in Venice. They point out four supportive housing projects in the pipeline in Venice: Reese Davidson Community on the Venice Median (140 units), VCHC’s Headquarters on Rose Avenue (34 units), Thatcher Yard, and the MTA Lot (units TBD).

I asked Becky from VCH, “Is Bonin shoving all the homeless in District 11 into Venice? Is he ignoring Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, and Mar Vista?”

Becky told me that there are currently 4 properties in CD 11 approved for HHH funding.

The first is a city-owned property: the former animal shelter on Pico in West LA. The next three are not city-owned properties, on the VA campus within West LA/ Brentwood, and the VCH Administration site on Rose

There are two more sites in predevelopment that will likely access HHH funds - two city owned sites in Venice (Reese Davidson and Thatcher Yard).

The Metro Bus Depot (MTA) in Venice, which has sat vacant for many years, is currently being considered for temporary Bridge Housing for the homeless. This is not a city-owned property slated for development for the homeless, contrary to reports from Venice NIMBYs. Becky clarifies, “The MTA Lot is not a supportive housing site. MTA allows for all kinds of housing levels, and only requires 30% affordable. There is no priority or requirement for PSH.”

Prior to HHH passing, and the city-owned land programs, the last 3 projects approved in Council district 11 were in Del Rey, which already has far more supportive housing than Venice; VCH and P.A.T.H’s (People Assisting the Homeless) last development, along with a Tom Safran mixed supportive and affordable/senior development containing 30 low income units for homeless seniors- for a total of 71 units.

The numbers of PSH in Mar Vista are low, and VCH and others will pursue development there.

Playa Vista contains 83 new units for low income seniors which opened a year or two ago.

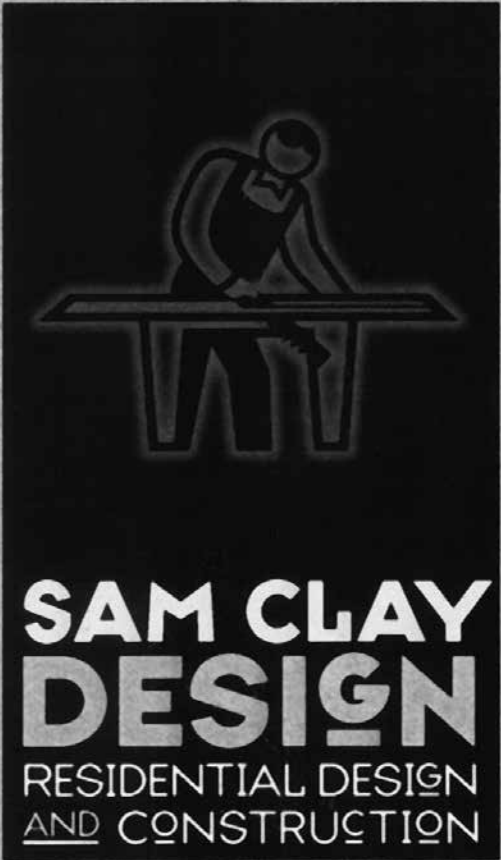
I’m still working to amass data on current affordable housing numbers, but Becky can confirm that only 42 out of 6,000 existing PSH units citywide are currently in Venice.

Previously, the VNCHC position has been that Bonin’s plan is not fair. The council was concerned that Bonin doesn’t seem to have any PSH planned for Pacific Palisades or Brentwood, even though they are each more than five times larger than Venice. But when I mentioned that during my conversation with Becky, she countered that Brentwood is slated to have more supportive housing than any other area; New Direction for Vets and others on and near the VA campus. The first 200 units are now approved; with a total of 1200 units planned. She tells me a master developer is being considered now.

With regards to the VA Campus, Will stated “We have an obligation and moral responsibility to make the most vulnerable on the street have services and housing.” One of his actions has been to negotiate placement of 200 motor homes on the Veterans Administration grounds for housing homeless men and women who served in America’s armed forces. The child of a military man, Will deplores the fact that there seems to be “No plan to serve when they come back...they are 16% of those on the street...shameful tragedy”. He claims the new VA facility has the ability to house 5,000 people – and they have been renting out the building. I recently was on the grounds to see a play, and was horrified and astounded by all the gorgeous, empty space. Unoccupied buildings. Lush grounds. What the hell?? The city of LA is looking for places of worship to host safe parking, but Will points out the VA has 1,000 parking spaces. He urges the VA to “take care of what it was meant for...they fought for our freedom”. According to <http://everyoneinla.org/count/>, there are 3,910 unhoused vets countywide, with a 21% decrease in chronic homelessness. We also spoke of the many mentally ill homeless, a large percentage of those on the street, but that’s for another article.

Hawkins takes pride in trying to be fair, and points out that being a centrist doesn’t make everyone happy. The fact that homeless advocates feel he’s not doing enough,

Reese-Davidson – continued on page 11



**SAM CLAY
DESIGN**
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION

310-614-5549

Little Girl

I come and stand at every door
But none can hear my silent tread
I knock and yet remain unseen
For I am dead for I am dead

I'm only seven though I died
In Hiroshima long ago
I'm seven now as I was then
When children die they do not grow

My hair was scorched by swirling flame
My eyes grew dim my eyes grew blind
Death came and turned my bones to dust
And that was scattered by the wind

I need no fruit I need no rice
I need no sweets nor even bread
I ask for nothing for myself
For I am dead for I am dead

All that I need is that for peace
You fight today you fight today
So that the children of this world
Can live and grow and laugh and play

Nazim Hikmet (1955)

Loosely translated from Turkish by unidentified translator

Unspeakable Name

I try in vain
Not to say its name.
From behind the leaves of a hemlock
I can see the head of its “s”
Staring at me
And I feel its weight
On my tongue.

I saw it for the first time
Under a shade tree
And realized that I was caught.

Now, it shakes its tail
Under dried leaves
And pretends to be a fledgling sparrow.
No! My ears do not deceive me
And can differentiate its dull rustle
From the happy flap of a chick.

There, in the dark
Shine its silver scales and golden crown.
I close my eyes
And open my arms.
I know
It will coil around my neck
And drink from my skull.

Majid Naficy
March 27, 1994

Where is Utopia

Vision of Paradise
Every day, warm sun shines upon this small town
Neither fear exists, not hatred practiced,
Independent thought is always welcome,
Can we safely say,
Equal rights respected daily?”

Behold, a gently swelling ocean,
Early morning dew illuminates golden sand,
Artists and crafters quietly sell their wares,
Can we truly say,
“Harmony of manb and nature preserved?”

Utopia is here,
Protected from pillaging gentrification,
ravenous corporate takeovers,
Hollywood hype,
– and villanous Snapchat!

Only Time will tell...

– Lynette

HOMELESS CRISIS
MOISHE CHAZER

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow
nor reap nor gather in barns;
yet your heavenly father feeds them” JC

Everywhere in L.A. there’s homelessness
it’s a terrible mess
in Venice it’s a horrible crisis.
In L.A. 58,000 homeless walk the street
no place to sleep & nuthin to eat.
Many more thousands are housed in jails
politicians and capitalism fails-
they throw us in jails and garbage pails.
Abandoned by parents and family
hurt, broken, sad and lonely.
Mom & dad threw you out to rot
cause the rock music was too loud, no job & pot.
No compassion and nobody wants to know
meanwhile homelessness will grow & grow.
High rents have sent many on the street
no where to go just walkin on their feet.
We need safe places to sleep & store our things
food, clothing and everything love brings.
Public bathrooms are closed at night
so poop & pee makes a smelly blight & sight.
Many are sick and mentally ill
instead of help they give ya some nasty pill.
Homeless are kicked out of our parks & rivers
leaving them cold, sick and with the shivers.
The police confiscate your stuff
arrest ya and treat you gruff and rough.
Too much money for courts, jails & police
this is the Mark of the Beast.
More and more money for the military
makin the world frightening and scary.
No money for social services to help the poor
just more money for police & war.
They criminalize the homeless in the U.S.A.
jails are big business so taxpayers pay & pay.
Politicians and the government turn their back
they just tell the cops to harass and attack.
We have been fed a phony work ethic
soon robots will do all the work so it is stupid & sick
and a bullshit Right Wing trick.
If Jesus and his homeless pals were here today
they’d be in jail for tickets they’d have to pay.
Have love & compassion for the poor and homeless
it could be you so God bless.
So let us pray
for our deliverance today.
“Oh, a storm is threatening, my very life today.
If I don’t get no shelter I’m gonna fade away...
Gimme, gimme shelter or I’m gonna fade away.”
(Rolling Stones)

THIS PAPER IS A POEM

LITANY (She is the Mountains)

SHE IS THE MOUNTAINS
formed by cruel carvings,
her flesh burns with its bleeding,
Her wounds are blinding.
She has been fed by her nourish-
ings,
Her breasts are stone,
Her rage is solid,
Her touch is not cold,
Her hands reach deep into the earth
to touch the Lip of balance,
She listens,
She will be heard.

-- Philomene Long

SHE

THE WHITE MIST
came over the sea
like seed
from an unknown god.
While over the smoothe sea
the grey gulls hung
motionless
in the thick air,
and the soft sea sung
she she she
and the soft sea sung
as they stared at a small child
curled like a newborn
pushed from the sea.

-- Philomene Long

9 • August 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

Cheap and Dear a&p
by alan paula rodmanhirsch

p:
Three little girls in bright pink hats,
Fog on the hills like great grey cats.
Sleepy city rumbles to coffee,
Another day working ‘cuz lunch ain’t free.

a:
Lunch ain’t free but dinner is cheap
the whole city soon fast asleep
hilly cats in magic rings
serenade three silent kings

p:
In our city so cheap and dear,
There’s lots of love, yet lots to fear.
We fight like dogs for a scrap of space,
Rush like mad for a parking place.
‘Round we go one more time;
Pause a moment to enjoy sublime.

a:
Burning bush of grace and peace
may our people be released
no love is lost or ever wasted
once the wine of time is tasted

Hotel Kalifornia
(sung to-Hotel California) marty liboff

On a dark L.A. freeway
stinky smog in my hair
warm smells of pot
rising up through the air.
Up ahead in the distance
I saw a shimmering light
my drunken head grew heavy
& my sight grew dim
I had to stop in Venice for the night.
Then we’re stuck on a freeway
with car exhaust smell
and I was thinking to myself
this could be heaven or this could be hell.
Then she lit up a doobie
and she said in L.A. you’re goin to pay
there were homeless down the beach
and I thought I heard them say-

Welcome to Hotel Kalifornia
such a lovely place
such a crazy place
Plenty of room in Hotel Californicate ya
anytime of year
if you’re rich you can find it here.

Her mind is drug twisted
she's into all the dumb trends
she got a lot of beach boys
that she calls friends.
How they dance on the sand
smelly summer sweat
some dance to remember
some dance to forget.
So I call the bartender
please bring me my wine
she said, I’m drunk on spirits
would ya like to 69?
The drum circle & crazies are calling
from far away
wake you up in the middle of the night
just to hear them say-

Welcome to Hotel Crapafornia
such a lonely place
the police punch ya in the face
Yuppies livin it up at the Ho Hell California
what a bunch of lies
politicians with alibis.

Fears & tears we’re feelin
the cheap beer on ice
and she said, “We’re all wannabe movie
& rock stars and we all sell out for a price.”
And in L.A. jail’s cold chambers
they gather for a shitty feast
madmen stab it with plastic knives
but they just can’t kill Satan’s Beast.
Last thing I remember
I was running for my car door
I had to find the passage back
to the place I was before-
“Relax, said a homeless man
We’re brainwashed to believe
you can check out anytime
but you can never leave
& the President will deceive.

Welcome to Hotel Kalifornia
such a lovely place
such a crazy place
Plenty of room in Hotel Califuckya
anytime of year
if you’re rich you can find it here.
*(Plus 5 min-nuts of guitar...)

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

AUGUST 10 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
AN EVENING OF WORDS & MUSIC
From Detroit, L.A. & Seattle with acclaimed NYC and Four Way Books Poet and Writers Community Founder Laurel Blossom, Ukulele Punk Rock musician and lyricist Carmaig de Forest performing pieces from his recently released Omnivore Record I Shall Be Re-Released. Carmaig has performed with The Violent Femmes and others, plus Rex Weiner star of Hollywood screening writing fame and the page and author of the recent The Original Adventures Of Ford Fairlane, award winning Detroit poet M. L. Liebler with his Los Angeles Coyote Monk Poetry Band featuring Dave Soyars, Willie Aron, John Bardy & Pat Thomas and other surprise guests. Regular admission. Members FREE

AUGUST 11 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
DAUGHTERS OF BABALON
Celebrate Daughters of Babalon Volume I: An Anthology of Thelemic Writing with readings by eight contributors and get a sneak peek of Volume II! Copies of the book and prints from cover artist, Quinn Parsons, will be available for purchase at this event. Regular admission. Members FREE

AUGUST 12 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.

AUGUST 12 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
HERE COMES THE SUN
Public Works Improvisational Theatre presents an evening of lively variety arts programming - celebrating talented writers, storytellers, poets, musicians and comics. Every month, we explore topical themes for your pleasure and enjoyment! Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular admission. Members FREE

AUGUST 18 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
MAUREEN COTTER’S STORY TELLING EXTRAVAGANZA!
Special admission.

AUGUST 19 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
THE NEBRASKA GIRL OPEN READING
Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

AUGUST 19 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
THE PHILOMENIA!
CANCELLED

AUGUST 25 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
ORPHANED WORDS
RD Armstrong’s new book of poems carries the sub-title Forgotten Poems from a Haphazard Life. Come hear what he’s talking about. Brendan Constantine will be on hand to fill you in if you don’t get it. Regular admission. Members FREE

AUGUST 26 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
THE NEBRASKA GIRLS OPEN READING
FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

AUGUST 26 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
7 DUDELY CINEMA
Hosted by Gerry Fialka. FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2
CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE

SEPTEMBER 3 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
FIRST SUNDAY OPEN READING
Our popular monthly open reading. Features this month, TBA. Hosted by Steve Goldman. Sign ups begin at 4:45 PM. Five-minute limit. Free, but donations always appreciated. In the bookstore.

SEPTEMBER 3 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
LA POESIA FESTIVAL
FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

SEPTEMBER 7 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
BEYOND BAROQUE WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORKSHOP TRIBUTE
Beyond Baroque’s poetry workshop, founded in 1969, provided instruction and encouragement for several generations of poets. Poems by some of the Workshop’s best-known alumni will be read by contemporary poets. Regular admission. Hosted by Lynne Bronstein. Regular admission. Members FREE

electric lodge

Jim Morrison Psychedelic Light Show Experience
Sunday August 26, 5pm – 8pm \$25.00
Along with an incredible light show provided by Alternative Lighting Solutions, Inc., Peace Frog: Tribute to the Doors performs hits like: L.A. Woman, Light My Fire, & Riders on the Storm! The Electric Lodge located in Venice Beach where Jim Morrison wrote his poetry and lyrics provides for a magical experience unlike any audience has ever witness! A must for doors fans or anyone who appreciates the doors and the genius of Jim Morrison!

L A LOUVER

20 Jun 2018 - 17 Aug 2018
L.A. Louver is pleased to present EVOLVER, an ever-changing exhibition of painting, sculpture, drawing and photography that reveals unexpected relationships and currents of connectivity. Considering an array of thematic motifs and material elements, the exhibition includes over 100 artworks by more than 60 artists from all generations and backgrounds. Beginning with figuration and culminating with abstraction, the works will alternate at varying intervals to create renewed viewing experiences week by week, or even day by day. Towards the end of the exhibition’s run, the show will have completely transformed many times over.
The rotation of works is not beholden to a set agenda, but will spontaneously evolve through the summer. Follow us on instagram (@lalouver) for real time updates.
Partial list of artists:
Terry Allen, Kevin Appel, Sarah Awad, Rina Banerjee, Georg Baselitz, Tanya Batura, Whitney Bedford, Jake Berthot, Linda Besemer, Tony Bevan, Mary Beyt, Domenico Bianchi, Zander Blom, Matthew Brandt, William Brice, Rebecca Campbell, Enrique Martínez Celaya, Max Cole, Mark di Suvero, Lydia Dona, Gajin Fujita, Charles Garabedian, Frederick Hammersley, David Hockney, Salomón Huerta, Ben Jackel, Edward & Nancy Kienholz, R.B. Kitaj, Alex Kizu (Defer), Sharon Kopriva, Leon Kossoff, Olga Koumoundouros, Richard Kraft, Laura Krifka, Chen Man, Heather Gwen Martin, Jason Martin, Suzanne McClelland, John McCracken, Michael C. McMillen, Yunhee Min, Jiha Moon, Ed Moses, Therese Oulton, Alex Prager, Lucas Reiner, Steve Roden, Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, Alison Saar, Eduardo Sarabia, Peter Shelton, Katharina Sieverding, Grant Stevens, Don Suggs, Euan Uglow, Juan Uslé, John Virtue, Leslie Wayne, Matt Wedel, Tom Wudl
Summer Screenings:
SHORT FILMS: ROGUE WAVE PROJECTS
Wed, 8 August, 7pm

LAUGHTEARS
Established 1953

Aug 7 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading ClubRead Article (moved to Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd for temporarily, instead of the regular Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way)
Aug 9 Thurs 8pm (doors 7:30) The Brother Side of the Wake test screening at <http://www.echopark-filmcenter.org/> 1200 N Alvarado St, Los Angeles, CA 90026 FACEBOOK= <https://www.facebook.com/events/338890146634883/> More info: <http://laughtears.com/broside.html> The Brother Side of the Wake (BroSide) is Gerry Fialka’s experimental documentary with Venice, California, as its main character. A remake of the soon-to-be-released Orson Welles film The Other Side of the Wind, it evokes the rascality of the Our Gang comedies, and it probes the cliché: “Is the journey more important than the destination?” BroSide wakes up the psychic effects of direct cinema, abstract animation, and films about films. It was shot in various formats including Super 8mm, Pixelvision, digital video, and hand-painted celluloid. Now in its third test screening, BroSide will involve the audience in call-and-responses, much like a community, out-loud reading of James Joyce’s Finnegans Wake. BroSide can empower the audience to go out, have fun, and do their own thing. With VENICE’s Suzy Williams, Brad Kay, Treeman, Jen the Hooper, Dede Audet, Solomon Snakeman, Alita Arose, Jeff Michalski, Boardwalk Dancers & more
Aug 11 Sat 2:30pm MESS - Artist Lance Miccio interview - for location rsvp 310 306 7330, FREE
Aug 15 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA
Aug 26 Sun 7pm Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice WE GOTTA GO: LOUIE LOUIE - Eric Predoehl (in person) of LOUIELOUIE.NET and producer/ director of the upcoming Meaning of Louie documentary, screens rare film clips and probes the history of the world’s coolest rock’n’roll song. Local music icons will perform unique versions of “ultimate party song” written by LA’s Richard Berry in 1955. The Kingmens version caused controversy in 1963. With SUZY, BRAD, BSP & more
Aug 27 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion
Sept 4 Tues 6pm- McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd temporarily



FREE MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL IN VENICE BEACH
VENICE BEACH MUSIC FEST 13
Saturday, August 25, 2018

VENICE, CALIFORNIA –The annual Venice Beach Music Fest celebrates its thirteenth year of totally free entertainment at the beach on Saturday, August 25, 2018, from 11:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. in Windward Plaza Park (1 Windward Avenue, between the boardwalk and the bike trail). The full day of art, music, and dance is headlined by Big Brother and the Holding Company. Also performing are Moonalice, The Venice Philharmonic Orchestra, Looner, Maureen and the Mercury 5, Boa, and Disreputable Few. Performances by ArtQueen’s Great Planet of Apparel Art & Fashion Show and dance troupes Arthur Murray, Ya Harissa Bellydance Theater, Samba Soul round out the day. An aftershow will be held immediately following the festival at Hinano Café.
This year’s visual art show includes work from RaRa Superstar, William Brun, Audrey McNamara, Gabby Tary, and Violeta Moreno-Gomez. Rainbow on a Mission will host a DIY public art project, “Marble Your Own Bandanna.” Eclectic Hoops will be on hand with hoops for play and sale, and DIABOLO Beverages and Honest Tea will be sampling. Humboldt soil producer Royal Gold’s booth will be staffed by a horticulturist to make product suggestions and give gardening advice. County of L.A. Registrar will be on hand for a non-partisan voter registration drive.
Venice Beach Music Fest 13 is proud to be a community partner with the Westside Food Bank. The event will feature an on-site canned food drive. The first 50 concertgoers who bring 5 cans of food will receive a free event poster. Volunteers from local realty group Fineman Suarez will work the booth. The Westside Food Bank is currently accepting tax-deductible monetary donations on the festival Web site, www.venicefestivals.com.
The free Venice Beach Music Fest 13 is made possible by generous donations from these local and national sponsors: Maui and Sons Marina Del Rey, Fineman Suarez, Royal Gold Potting Soil, Fresh Brothers, Venice Beach Suites & Hotel, The Sidewalk Café, Surfside Venice, Hinano Café, Marina Del Rey Marriott, Free Venice Beachhead, The Argonaut Newspaper, Otto Printing & Entertainment Graphics, DIABOLO Beverages, Honest Tea, Eclectic Hoops, Volcano Tea House, Animal House, Surfside Venice, and Zelda’s Corner.

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.
- Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

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

Reese-Davidson – continued from page 8

and NIMBYs feel he's doing too much, might prove his point. The VNCHC currently supports the temporary Bridge Housing at the MTA lot, and is working with Bonin and Mayor Garcetti to bring it to fruition. They face much NIMBY ire for their efforts. The VNCHC is sponsoring a big Town Hall on homelessness in Venice planned for September to inform the community about affordable housing, and to "correct misinformation". Will bemoans the "super polarized name- calling...unproductive".

NIMBYs claim Bonin is selling off city properties in other areas to fund building in Venice. Taylor, from Bonin's office, says that's false. I wrote to Fight Back Venice, to ask them to get specific, but have received no response. Until proven otherwise, I'll consider it a rumor.

Current PSH units

I tried to find a current list of PSH units in LA but found it surprisingly difficult to locate. . Becky tells me the United Way is working on amassing the statistics and led me to the following website which was interesting but incomplete.

<http://everyoneinla.org/supportive-housing-tracker/>

The website states that each LA councilperson has committed to providing a minimum of 222 new supportive housing units. District 11 has 190 of 222 approved, and 63 existing units. However they don't specify where the units are.

Some current statistics for Permanent Supportive Housing in LA are as follows:

There are currently 6,000 units of supportive housing citywide.

The entire Westside hosts only 5% of LA's Permanent Supportive Housing.

Venice contains 42 existing PSH units, and less than 1,000 affordable housing units.

Santa Monica has around 350 PSH units, and 3000 affordable housing units.

Del Rey has 71 existing PSH units

Brentwood's VA site will contain 1800 units of PSH currently in development, stemming from a federal program specifically for veterans.

Pacific Palisades and Malibu host zero PSH units as far as Becky knows. However there are many homeless residents camping in the hills and on the streets.

Venice, Mar Vista and Del Rey currently host 216 units of VCH affordable housing. (<http://www.vchcorp.org/housing/our-properties>)

Previously, the stance of VNCHC has been that no other city (in District 11) has been asked to carry the weight. At a meeting a few months ago, VNCHC asked "How many shelter beds are currently in District 11? Where are they?" The 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless County states that in Venice there are 121 sheltered homeless, and 854 unsheltered. Mar Vista has 4 sheltered homeless, and 174 unsheltered. Malibu 0 sheltered homeless, and 155 unsheltered. Westchester/Playa Del Rey has 16 sheltered, 318 unsheltered. Marina Del Rey has 0 sheltered, 12 unsheltered. Pacific Palisades 0 sheltered, 107 unsheltered. Brentwood 0 sheltered, 34 unsheltered. For more complete results check out their website --<https://www.lahsa.org/dashboards?id=13-count-by-city-community>

Becky tells me that there has been no new affordable

11 • August 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

housing development in Venice for 20 years, but Will says that being built and created are 2 different things. There have been units created, but not built from scratch. He feels we should take the existing buildings and convert them-subsidize and integrate into the community. There are other plans backed by the VNCHC which I'll cover in the future.

I asked Becky the NIMBY question, "What gives you the right to house homeless people a block from the beach, while others work their butts off and don't get to live here?"

Becky responded, "The city owns property where they own property. They have to use city owned property... Every city owned property is being considered for one of these developments". But more importantly, she says that low-income people also work hard, and that income diverse neighborhoods are important, and the City Land Program is designed to help develop PSH in a wide range of neighborhoods.

Becky points out that there are homeless folk all over the city and county of LA. There aren't more here than parts of SM, parts of Downtown or South LA. Santa Monica has well over 1000 homeless, some housed now. She points out that Santa Monica sets a good example. There's been a concentration of homeless in SM for many years; they invested heavily in services (far more than Venice). SM has 350 units of PSH compared to 42 in Venice. There are fewer homeless on the street now. She tells me "SM is bigger, but a similar beach community with tourists and welcoming to homeless folk... But Venice has very little housing now- so the idea that people are drawn here for shelter or housing isn't true... People move around, they're drawn to neighborhoods... go where there's community.... We can't point to a place where there's more homeless or encampments because of PSH –opposite is true."

To circle back to my original question; Is Bonin exacerbating the Venice homeless "crisis", luring more homeless to Venice by providing more PSH and services?"

I believe the Venice NIMBY would say yes. Betsy, on behalf of VCH, would say no. Will Hawkins, on behalf of VNCHC would try to walk the middle - there are other ways to help our homeless neighbors rather than building new housing, including temporary shelter. Mike Bonin would say no, but I intend to find out why he doesn't seem to be focusing on housing in areas outside of Venice. Are there city property "opportunity sites" in other areas of District 11?

I would have to say...it's complicated. The homeless population is already here, and what we do about it determines our character. As our NIMBY states, "Venice is world-famous for its big heart and open mind", and I would add "Our Bohemian spirit." I believe that's what's drawn people of all sorts to our city, not the promise of easy housing and services. The homeless population is comprised of many different types of people and circumstances which require many different types of solutions. And I strongly believe we must work together to treat all our residents, including those living in the streets and vans, in a generous and courageous manner that reflects who we are, the greatest city on earth.

To be continued....

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

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.



August 25, 2018

Windward Plaza

1 Windward Ave

Venice 90291

11:00 am to 7:30 pm



**BIG BROTHER AND THE HOLDING COMPANY,
MOONALICE,**

THE VENICE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, LOONER,

SAMBA SOUL, YA HARISSA BELLY DANCE THEATER,

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCERS, MAUREEN & THE MERCURY 5,

ARTQUEEN'S GREAT PLANET OF APPAREL ART,

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