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December
2017
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THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

Every Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM, you can see a crowd of Venice People gathering in front of the First Baptist Church on the northwest corner of 7th Avenue and Westminster Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice. They gather there to protest the shameful and illegal sale of this historic church building. There are banners, signs, and photos of the History of the church and the Community of Oakwood. There are neighbors, young and old. There are speeches and prayers and colorful chalk designs on the sidewalk. Each Sunday, the crowd grows and the word spreads. And the Venice People mean to fight for and win back this church.

The fight isn't just for the church building. There's more to it than that. This church has stood for over a century in Oakwood as a spiritual and cultural cornerstone of the Community. Built by the families of the People of Oakwood, it represents more than just a physical structure. It's a symbol of the struggles and perseverance of the original Venice Community. Perhaps that's the reason why the current members of the Venice Neighborhood Council would be so eager to let it go.

At the October meeting of the VNC, there was smiling and congratulating and backslapping by the VNC members and the buyers and their brokers and lawyers. The buyers said nothing about the History of the church. They did say that they would keep a couple of the stained-glass windows in place. And they mentioned, in passing, that the church had some "sentimental value" to some people.

Sentimental value? Does the History of Oakwood and Venice mean anything to these buyers or to the architects and businessmen on the Venice Neighborhood Council? You bet it does. It means the Continuity, Vitality, and Victory of the original Venice Community. It's just these elements that make the First Baptist Church on 7th and Westminster such a prize for them. The building itself is the physical manifestation, but it's the History of Venice that they must erase in order to drive out the last Venetians. It's this History that they omit from the books so that they can rewrite it to justify their illegal occupation.

Over the next few months, you will see stories about the fight for this church in the local realtor-sponsored press. You will find the usual vocabulary of defeatism, with words like "Gentrification" and "Progress". But don't be easily clouded by the propaganda. Read the lawsuit. Yes, there's a lawsuit. Read it at <http://savevenice.me/campaigns/save-historical-black-church-venice-ca/>.

The lawsuit was brought by the Trustees of the church. It reveals how the sale was made without the

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Ocean Front Walk artists speak out against Snapchat



Earlier this year on Nextdoor.com, someone created a subject for discussion about Venice and the artists that set up every day on Ocean Front Walk. It was titled "New Rules for Venice" and asked, "If you could change anything about Venice what would it be?" The author then answered her own question stating, "I'll start: Vending on the boardwalk may be a draw for tourists, however, vending seven days a week diminishes the quality of life for local residents. Allowing vending seven days a week encourages homeless individuals to congregate daily along the boardwalk including setting up defacto camping spots. If vending were not permitted on a daily basis, these individuals would have to find an alternate place to hang out."

There is obviously a lot wrong with that theory and that line of thinking - too much to even write out in this article. And it's no surprise that the author of that has only been a resident for 5 years. She was then rebutted multiple times by a resident of 31 years who basically told her how wrong she was for many reasons - biggest reason being that the vendors shouldn't be crucified because of her dislike for the homeless. Given the timing of Snapchat's arrival in Venice and the current hatred the community has towards them, a valid thought is whether or not this resident of 5 years is a Snapchat employee. Although the answer to that question is not known, this is the mindset that many newcomers of the community have, and an undeniable culprit in that type of thinking is

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SPY Holiday Report

By Lisa Robins

I spoke with Alison Hurst, the founder of Safe Place for Youth, just before Thanksgiving.

Safe Place for Youth (SPY), is a drop in center in Venice which provides access to critical resources for young people ages 12-25 (transition age youth or TAY) experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Spy's street outreach, case management, education and employment, and health & wellness services, help their members meet basic needs; improve physical, mental and emotional wellbeing; and develop meaningful relationships with peers, staff, and volunteers. www.safeplaceforyouth.org

I've always wondered how those down on their luck felt when they were showered with goods and services during the holidays, and then were seemingly forgotten once those with means had their "giving fix". I asked Alison, "Do you sometimes feel the big holiday meal people give to make themselves feel good backfires?" Alison responded, "Any bit of warmth and compassion to those experiencing homelessness is good...but think- why do you have this urge now?" She tells me that SPY is inundated with offers in November and December, but could use the support now and every other day of the year.

When I asked where the kids SPY serves go for the holidays, Alison replied, "Nowhere. We do our best ... holiday parties...faith based communities give meals, but at the end of the day they're still homeless."

Alison reminds me that most of the kids SPY serves are "homeless through no fault of their own". They have been let down by the system at large: be it family; foster care; juvenile detention; etc....and are finding refuge on the street. Their trauma gives them a different lens on life. There are complex needs, and many misconceptions floating around.

It keeps crossing my mind that "the homeless" are not a homogeneous group. I asked Alison what percentage of the kids are: aged out of foster care; abused; addicted; mentally ill; "bumming around"/drifters/travelers. But as we talked I realized my categories were out of touch with reality.

Each and every homeless person is unique. They may have a dominant need- i.e. mental health, drug rehab, etc....however, the crossover is vast. One person can enter the system via abandonment by their family through neglect, abuse, or just aging out (large families with little to no resources- who simply cannot afford everyone- oldest kid has to go). Some become an addict on the streets, the stress triggers mental health problems, and on and on. Alison urges me not to categorize, "It's fluid- the kids

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

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Many of you have come through for us recently, thank you so much. Our financial situation grows more dire. It costs us about \$800 a month to print and mail the Beachhead. The collective is more concerned with articles than fundraising. While we pursue ads, the small businesses we love are getting squeezed by their landlords. Journalism as a profession is suffering under corporate media. We ask the angels of Venice that if you wish to see the Beachhead in print, we need your financial support. We will still publish online, but we need \$2000 to stay in print.

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Dear Beachhead

In case you don’t know but our city has a curfew law restricting access to the beach between 12 am to 5 am. During those hours the shitty law keeps bathrooms closed. This law stinks, is unconstitutional and is full of shit! We have a large houseless population and an outbreak of hepatitis A that is transmitted in poop. This law really pisses off local homeless activists and health officials. The Recreation and Parks Dept. wants to keep the bathrooms closed but where are people to go? They are full of crap! Councilman Mike Bonin has asked to keep the bathrooms open at night but the L.A. Bureau of Engineering has just approved keeping them closed and it will go to the Coastal Commission with the Recreation and Parks arguing to keep this crappy law! If you have been pissed at finding human piss and poop by your door or on the beach then don’t blame the poor houseless but blame this shitty law!

-marty-

TEN THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR IN VENICE IN 2017

by Ron Birnbach

As we enter the holiday season of 2017, we hear a lot of negative things about our beloved Venice, and as I’ve lived here for exactly half of my life, almost to the day, it seems to me that we have to take a glass-half-full approach this year and remember that there is still a lot to be thankful for in Venice. So as a public service to my community, I’ve made a list, and of course I’ve checked it twice, but I’ll let you figure out who’s been naughty and who’s been nice. Here’s my list:

- 1) I am thankful for the smog. Yes, I know it’s slowly killing us all, triggering our allergies, and doing irreparable damage to our trees, gardens, and wildlife. But without the smog, our astonishing sunsets would not be nearly as astonishing. Instead of that bright rainbow of reds, yellows and oranges, they would just look faded and vaguely yellowish, like Trump’s hair.
- 2) I am thankful for the Venice Boardwalk. There are no boards and it’s way too crowded to walk on for most of the Summer, plus it smells bad, has inadequate lighting, and is besieged by bike riders who seem ridiculously oblivious to the fact that the bike path is about ten feet away. But hey, where else are you gonna go when you absolutely must have your name written on a grain of rice?
- 3) I am thankful for the Venice Canals, even though none of us or anyone we know will ever be able to afford to live there. If Abbott Kinney was alive today, I am sure he would be grateful that someone managed to save six of the hundred billion canals he built in 1895 and thus preserved a small part of his dream, now that the street that is named after him is The Most Famous and Least Affordable Street in America. Although come to think of it, if Abbott Kinney was in fact alive today, he would no doubt have much bigger problems than that.

- 4) I am thankful for the many Venice Sign Lighting ceremonies sprinkled throughout the year. Where else but in Venice would the Chamber of Commerce make a big party out of changing the colors of the light bulbs in a sign?
- 5) I am thankful that there are still a few streets left in Venice where the powers-that-be have not yet figured out how to screw up the flow of traffic entirely.
- Since I just automatically blame Google and Snap for everything, I suppose we could blame them for this, too. Or should they share the blame with, I don’t know, the City Council, the City Planning Board, the State government, the Coastal Commission, the DMV, or the Rotary Club? Can anybody here design a bike lane? I forget, is it even months when we want to recall Mike Bonin and odd months when we like him because of his work with the homeless, or vice versa? Is there anyone in charge in Venice who understands that “city planning” should involve some actual planning?
- 6) I am thankful that the owners of Hinano’s, maybe the very last dive bar in Venice, have not yet figured out how to turn it into a brewpub for more profit and less atmosphere. Not that any examples of this awful trend come immediately to mind. (Brennan’s, Waterfront Cafe, Venice Bistro, O’Brien’s)
- 7) I am thankful that there are still wild animals roaming the streets of Venice. No, I’m not talking about the gangs or the Snap security guards. I mean REAL wild animals. Take a walk late at night and enjoy the many sizes and colors of raccoons, possums, and rats, most of which are homeless, just like some of the people. Only difference is no one uses the critters as chess pieces for their own political gains.
- 8) I am thankful that the kids at Google, Snap, and other Silicon Beach mainstays have allowed us old fogies with no technological savvy to continue to exist here in Venice in their brave new world. We know that at any time they could round us up and put us in virtual reality camps, or even worse, just imprison us all in a YouTube video and never let us out. I’m pretty sure they have the technology to do that.
- 9) I am thankful for Venice History. I mean, really, is there anyplace else on earth where they could have shot “Touch of Evil” a mere couple of blocks from where Charlie Chaplin had his studio and made many of his early two-reelers, and which is virtually up the street from where Jim Morrison hung out and the Z-boys invented skateboarding? Venice was Hollywood before Hollywood existed (pre-1910), but without the plastic.
- 10) I am thankful for the artists, writers, poets, performers, actors, rollerbladers, chainsaw jugglers (Remember him?), and other marginalized types (Yes, Harry Perry too) who are still in Venice, even though they were long ago priced out of the area forever. Snap may think they drove the “Venice Freak Show” out of Venice, but the real Venice freak show will still be here long after Snap has been replaced by The Next Big Thing (Maybe when you send an instant photo to a friend, the photo remains but a random Start-Up company disappears?) and has left Venice defeated and demoralized.

Now, that will be something to be thankful for.

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Venice Baptist Church ~ 1922

Baptist Church - continued from page 1

proper authority as prescribed by the church's bylaws. It tells how the sale was made behind closed doors. It shows how the money was dealt and who dealt it.

And the lawsuit was filed two years ago. So why did the VNC and the VNC's Land Use and Planning Committee approve the sale? Because they expect you to not care. They expect you to not do anything. They're hoping to wait this out until the People forget and go away. But clearly, the People of Oakwood in Venice aren't going away.

The gatherings on Sunday are gaining momentum. More and more neighbors are coming and talking. The History of the church is appearing in print and online. Even the L.A. City politicians are on notice.

At a recent demonstration on Windward Avenue, L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin was confronted and informed by Venice activists about the fight for the church. He claimed ignorance of the scandal; but now he knows. Certainly, at this time, he would like more support from voters in his district. What better way for him to get the residents of Venice on his side than to take a stand on the matter of the illegal sale of the historic church on 7th and Westminster. He would love to hear from you. He can be reached at (213) 473-7011 or councilmember.bonin@lacity.org . Or you can try Juliet Oh of City Planning at juliet.oh@lacity.org .

And meanwhile, the gatherings in front of the First Baptist Church will continue. You are welcome to come on Sundays and participate. You can find out more about the fight and learn more about the History of Oakwood and Venice. Hear the History as told by the elder Venetians to the Venetian children whose ancestors dug the canals and built the buildings of Venice. Hear the History and join the fight. Or be forgotten.



Snapchat - continued from page 1

the presence of Snapchat and the Snap-Effect they have created since they began turning our community into their self-called "Corporate Campus".

I'm sure most would agree that the artists, vendors and street performers along Ocean Front Walk are a big part of what makes Venice different than most beaches. In addition to retaining the artistic history of the area for multiple decades, they are the heart and soul of what Venice is today. Removing or limiting their presence would make Venice one step closer to being like every other beach in the world, one step closer to Ocean Front Walk being a home for a Disney Store or a Starbucks, and one step closer to ruining the vibe and attraction that Venice has been so well-known for.

Since the protests against Snapchat earlier this year, many artists along Ocean Front Walk have joined the rally against Snap Inc. and have used their art as a way to express how most of the community feels - with paintings, poetry, signs and banners. The artists and vendors on Ocean Front Walk see what's going on with Snapchat every day. They see it all, they hear it all, and many have more intel on Snapchat's everyday business than most Snapchat employees themselves. In addition, one advantage they have, as opposed to the storefronts on the westside of the walkway, is they have nothing to lose - Snapchat can't do anything to them. They can't buy their land, can't buy their building, and can't push them out. Multiple store owners this year have been hesitant to speak out against Snapchat in fear that they will be pushed out much like many other businesses have - the stores at The Freak Show building and Gingerbread Court in particular. Don Salmon used to have his Rastawear store at Gingerbread Court, but continuously said that Snapchat made his life a living hell after he spoke out against them in an article in LA Times. He had enough of it and eventually moved downtown. The artists and vendors that setup every day along the beach however... Snapchat can't do anything to them, and they show their hatred for this company through their artwork. They, more than anyone, represent what Venice stands for.

Longtime artist Ra said Snapchat employees "never even stop" and revealed one story where a badged employee looked through his paintings, told him he'd be back the next day, and when he came back the next day and looked through his paintings again he rushed through them really fast while muttering "I'm not supposed to be here right now" and ultimately didn't buy anything at all even after Ra allowed him to take photos. "It was like someone told him not to associate with us", said Ra. Todd Ray, owner of the recently departed Freak Show, said that Snap employees wouldn't even look at him when he tried to coerce them into conversation and invite them to see his collection of oddities. Local eateries still complain that Snap employees barely go to their spots because they can get free food from their private commissaries. It's a chain reaction that ultimately kills the neighborhood.

Daniel, another vendor on OFW, also mentioned they continued on page 5

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move in and out of groups".

"The Adverse Childhood Experiment (ACE) Study found the higher the ACE Score, the greater the risk of experiencing poor physical and mental health, and negative social consequences later in life." <http://www.acestudy.org/the-ace-score.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html>

While it's true that there's no homogeneous profile of a homeless TAY (transitional age youth), the vast majority present some degree of mental health issues (although Alison notes that it's tricky to report). The stress of living on the street (including lack of sleep and being preyed on) creates exhaustion, depression and anxiety. Often the process of obtaining help-navigating the system, can seem like an insurmountable mountain. As a person who has tried to get through to a case worker for MediCal, or EDD, I've experienced firsthand the debilitating frustration and degradation that comes with waiting endlessly for a person on the phone to help, only to be told by a machine that there are too many people currently being served, or a form that was turned in too late to qualify for that week. It's depressing enough to fill out these forms, but to attempt to do it without a roof over my head or food in my stomach is unimaginable.

Additionally, the homeless youth's brain is still developing. The emotional part of their brain, the amygdala, still rules. Their pre-frontal cortex, the rational part-which produces good judgement and an understanding of long-term consequences, isn't generally fully developed until age 25 or so. If there's any predisposition for schizophrenia the psychic break generally occurs during college age years from stress and/or 1st use of drugs. A bulletin from the National Institute of Mental Health states "The initial prodrome (from the Greek word prodromos meaning the forerunner of an event) in psychosis is potentially important for early intervention, identification of biological markers, and understanding the process of becoming psychotic." <http://mentalhealth.com>. While this early diagnosis can't always save one from the ravages of schizophrenia, at least the young person might have a chance with early treatment. The Disabled World Website states, "The effects of homelessness on teens can be devastating and lead to violence, prostitution, drug abuse, severe depression and juvenile detention. Because many teens who live on the street do not receive adequate medical care in a prompt manner, many health problems go undiagnosed or untreated, causing pain and sometimes a crippling illness which often times leaves them incapacitated or even dead. Often homeless youth join gangs as they offer kinship and a close-knit community and protection. Dealing with the stress of being on the street in addition to the ordinary issues teens face every day, can lead to violent outbursts and suicide." <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/blogs/homeless-youth>. Complicating the matter are "bad eggs" (of any age), who seem to feel that being down on their luck entitles them to steal or take advantage of those better off. This behavior can greatly sour the compassion and understanding of many in our community, despite the hardships that no doubt led to the behavior.

I asked if Alison believes the kids need to be sober to deserve services. "Years of research show housing first; services first; then sobriety." Housing first is the new standard for providing services to all age groups

Are the city services adequate? I asked, already suspecting the answer.

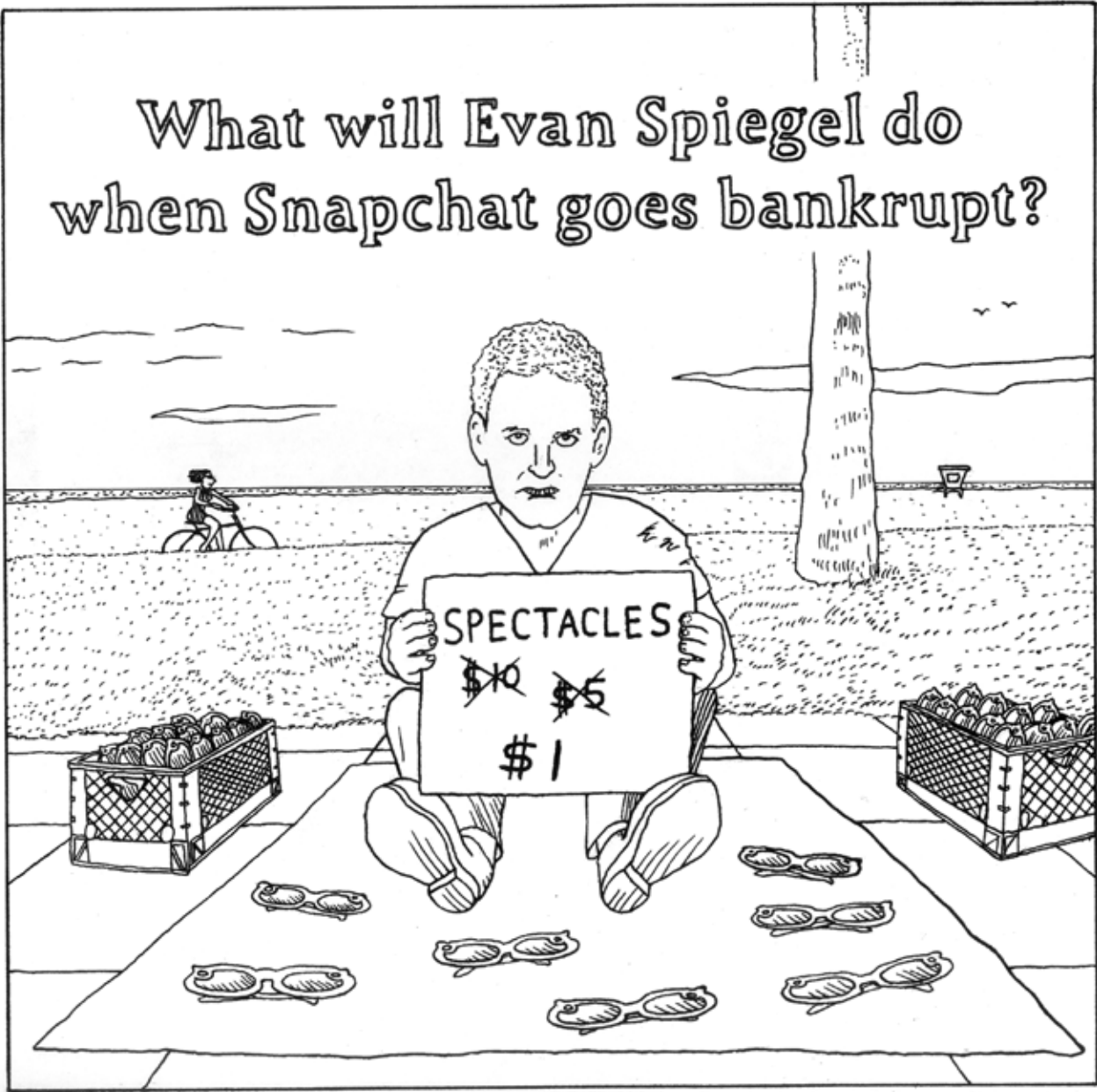
In a word, no. Alison says that "recent data has been released which is shocking: 58,000 unhoused, 6,000 homeless youth...the perception of who our unhoused folks are and what they want from life is myth busting".

The Voices of Youth Count national survey, from the University of Chicago, sought to identify how common, or prevalent, youth homelessness is in America. "At least one in 30 adolescent minors ages 13 to 17, endures some form of homelessness. The prevalence climbs even higher when looking at homelessness among young adults (ages 18-25). 5.2% for explicit homelessness, 4.5% for couch surfing only, and 9.7% overall. The estimated count reveals more than 3.5 million, or 1 in 10, young adults experienced homelessness in a year... particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness, including black and Hispanic youth; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth (LGBT); youth who do not complete high school; and youth who are parents." <http://voicesofyouthcount.org>

But "Kids are resilient. Housing, employment, caring adults can help," the eternally optimistic leader of SPY counters. Optimistic because, "I see every day the miracle that a caring connection can do for a young person". Government agencies, businesses, faith based organizations and the community in our area are stepping up.

November was "National Youth homeless awareness month", highlighted in SPY's and other organization's social media.

The immediate goal is health/food/shelter. Measure H, continued on page 7



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11/28/2017 10:36 pm ET

by John O’Kane

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Published here: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/mining-the-states-of-city-minds-11_us_5a1e2902e4b0f5a162720d17

In “Mining the States of City Minds,” a recent offering here, I introduced my approach to experiencing the texture of city life in Venice, California and writing up the resulting stories with a type of literary journalism. This kind of writing, with roots in the New Journalism of the 1960s, captures these stories as they happen in the streets and other sites of everyday life through scenes that are faithful to the action and events they emerged from. It lets characters speak for themselves, which gives the writing the feel of a fictional short story but also a more truthful approximation of the surfacing event through their differing perspectives or points of view. Like a Surrealist flaneur I amble through the city trolling for stories and find their potential elements in various clusters of activity, sometimes homeless camps, where these voices dramatize their challenging existences. They present the evidence that might lead to a larger story waiting to be told. My resulting scenes mix direct and indirect (playing undercover detective on occasion) observations and the reorganization of conversations. This is the ninth in my series.

In the first I capture the chaos ensuing from a crime in the streets, and especially the actions and impressions of one person suspected of committing it as he escapes. In the second I capture another scene in a park at night where several occupants confront the suspect and force him to move on. In the third I trace the suspect’s continued flight and his securing of temporary sanctuary. In the fourth I track his escape from there to the beach where he meets occupants of a camp who have created a kind of alternative, mini-society, and detain him as an alleged infiltrator. In the fifth I record his continuing experiences at this camp and his eventual escape. In the sixth I record his return to a friend’s place after this escape and his trek to the Dog Park where he encounters a woman who appears to be stalking him. In the seventh I record his reminiscences from the front yard of a house he stumbles on about the limits of street life but also how it helped him nurture a different existence and lifestyle. In the eighth I capture the moments after he surfaces from his reflections when he has a discussion in the house with activists he encountered earlier on the beach about their philosophy and how to improve the city. In the ninth I record his return to a friend’s place where he recharges his batteries and contrives a new appearance before retracing his steps to the scene of the crime, hoping to jar his memory. In the tenth I capture Wyatt’s experience when he returns to this scene. Here I document his continuing journey to another familiar haunt in search of friends he shared experiences with on the street, and who can help him reconstruct important events from the past. He finds someone and they reminisce, while discussing how to get off the street.

Ghost Camp

The Dog Park! There must be some of my mates there, one of the liveliest camps in town. As Wyatt approaches the park from the north along Pacific he sees no signs of life, not even the forms it’s named after. Have the cops swept it? He creeps along the edge, angling between two trees, and spies only an abandoned grocery cart. There’s a bench about ten feet inside the park and he plops down, perplexed by the absence of activity and bodies and feel of his once familiar habitat.

“What’re you doin here?” a voice echoes before splicing with the sound of a wailing animal, which makes the source difficult to locate.

“Who’s there?” asks Wyatt. “I’m just passing by and...I’m looking for a friend.”

“None a yer friends are here so go on bout yer bizness!”

He thinks he recognizes the voice but still can’t pin down where it’s coming from. “Was here a while ago and there were lots of familiar faces.”

“Na, ya got the wrong place...been no one round here fer a while since...”

“...I’m sure it’s the right place...been hanging here for a long time. Why aren’t there other people here? Did something happen?” The voice now seems to be coming from a different direction. Or is it a different voice? Before he can respond the staccato screams of an iron hog doppler by, ripping the veil of silence. As his hearing stabilizes he hears the sounds of what seem like a cart’s wheels beginning to move, then stop and move again, gaining speed and rushing down the slope toward him, the driver in tow, rattling past to rest in a bush at the park’s south edge. This effort apparently exhausts the attacker.

“What’d you do to me?” he asks, while trying to gather the belongings that scattered from the impact.

“What did you do to yourself? I don’t mean you any harm. You angry at someone?”

“They was here yesterday and took my friend...put all

his stuff in the dumpster and...everbody got otta here fast...you finishin’ the job?”

“Don’t know anything about that. My job is to find some friends.”

“You ain’t one a us...never seen ya before. What kinda friends you got that would be around here?”

“One of them is...Willow...know her?”

“Ya...not really...what’s she have to do with...”

“...she’s a good friend...we’ve known each other for a long time. So you know her?”

“I never seen ya round her.”

“You must have. But I look...different...because...”

“...you a cop?”

At the mention of a cop Wyatt shifts back into his vigilant mode, scoping the park’s periphery. “You gotta be kidding. That’s about the last thing I’d ever be!”

“They looking fer someone who offed this guy over on...”

“...so they’re going around and harassing everyone on the streets?”

“Ya, they been doin’ that fer a long time.”

“Lionel, that you? You look different...and your voice too.”

“How ya know me...never seen you before.”

“Yes you have...we hung together over on Indiana for a while.”

“I woulda known anyone who...yer voice sounds kinda familiar but...wait, yer the reason we all gettin’ in trouble!” He now clearly recognizes Wyatt, and steps quickly away from him. “Keep back!”

“What do you mean? What could I have done to cause any trouble?”

“Why ya dressed like that then? Must be guilty a somethin!”

“You don’t seem the same either...you...”

“...had bad coupla days...got separated from some pals was movin’ with when they came through here and put us out.”

“They’re always doing this...remember? It doesn’t take much for them to strut their stuff in victims’ faces.”

“Well, okay...but ya didn’t help matters.”

“What do you mean?”

“Everbody says you had an argument with Medic...they was right there and heard it and...”

“...everybody had arguments with him, and much more heated ones than I ever had as far as I can remember.”

“But ya had one that night when he got it and...”

“...were you there? Did you hear an argument?”

“Member...somethin’ but...don’t think I stayed around.”

“Then how do you know what...”

“...Dingo’s cousin said he heard it from this filpino chick over on California...but there was others too cuz everbody just kept talkin’ about it and...”

“...they see anything though?”

“They musta cuz no one said any different and...why would they make it all...”

“...why wouldn’t they? Did anyone see me do anything that you can be sure about?”

“I...not...you gots a rep now so...but don’t seem like you from what I remember. We had some good times when you was around.”

“Yeah, we did. So...what are you doing here now by yourself?”

“Oh just got some noostalgia bout this place...and...need to catch up with Dingo and a few other pals before I lose touch with ‘em. Thought they might be here.”

“So you must’ve seen Willow then, or Esther for sure. Remember her?”

“Yah, Esther coupla days ago but Willow...not sure...heard she was hangin’ with Pearl for a bit in this shack in the alley off Rose. But no one’s stayin’ put much now...we’s like guerillas, movin’ all over ta beat the heat. What ya want her for?”

“I think she can help me because she was there that night from what I can recall and...well, she’s a good friend and I wanna keep in touch. How do I find Pearl?”

“At that shack if she’s still there...she used ta be at a camp on Brooks once in a while.”

“Well, that’s a start anyway...appreciate it! What you gonna do now, once you find your friends?” A large fairly-new black Ford sedan cruises by along Pacific and makes a sharp turn left on Westminster, slowing for a look into the park. It creeps to Main, turns right and parks on the corner. Wyatt’s not sure if whoever is in the car saw them. He pulls Lionel to the northwest corner, as far away from the car as possible in readiness for an escape. “Here we go again! They won’t leave us alone. Maybe

we can make it to that construction site across from Beyond Baroque.”

“Anything that gets us otta this...and back to sanity so we can live together again like we did.”

“But you gotta get off the street!” Wyatt blurts, keeping an eye on the car, which now moves slowly away from the curb and accelerates down Main. “There’s no future here, especially now with all the heat.”

“Future? I’ll settle for a perty good few days next week where we can all git some a that community spirit back! Would love ta git off the streets if I could do...somethin’ that might git me a better attitude about things.”

“More than that...something that gets you away from the danger and...”

“...well...we all for that but...it gits perty scary sometimes up there too, above ground. Been there and did that as they say.”

“When was that?”

“Last time was a year or so...thought I had a good gig but my shack a cards got bulldozed!” he responds, the pride in his pun reflected in his facial glow, as a black SUV with its base pushed to the pain threshold with AC/DC riffs angles to the curb, its high beams flooding the park, bleaching the foliage and sending them into the shadows for refuge. Lionel’s cart vibrates. Eyeballs dot several dark windows across the street. The vehicle’s lights go out and then return before it blares into the night. They look at each other in disbelief. Wyatt wonders what new form of urban theater they’ve witnessed, and decides it’s the perfect moment to split.

“Maybe it’s time to give it another try,” Wyatt says as they cross Pacific. “Who knows what’s coming at us next.”

“It’s worse ever time I do...no jobs that pay a nuff ta make it for long.”

“What kind of jobs can you do?”

“Got some trainin’ in the military to be a cook...learned how ta burn meat fer a while mostly. Eatin’ in the military is some kinda experience!”

“Hey, tweak that a little and you can start chefin’ at Hal’s!”

“Yah, you got it! I usta hang in the alley behind there fer a while when I came here way back...maybe that’ll git me in the door.”

“Not there...but cooking might be a good bridge to something else.”

“Was thinkin’ that once. Me and this military bud was eatin’ at this burger stand in Inglewood and the dude that owned it musta liked how I took to the product cuz he recrouted me ta do some flippin’. I was perty excited and got big aspirations. I wanted to get a position at Tommy’s number 15 or so on Slauson or somewers where I hung before I went into the military. Kept buggin’ this guy there and had my military reference with me too and he said was no openings. But was a sign right in the window!”

“What about the mom and pop places?”

“Tried, but guess my experience was like some virus. Got in ta Wendy’s fer a couple weeks not long after that and...they got a budget crisis!”

“Maybe the employment office can get you into something better...something different.”

“Went there right after that and they sent me out to the same Tommy’s!...said I had excellent qualifications...shoulda seen the look on that guy’s face!”

“What do you expect from government agencies?”

“Couldn’t git a nuff for rent on just that for my room in this house with these so called artists I met in Downey. They was runnin’ some kinda scam and was always threatenin’ to kill each other anyways. One day all my stuff was sittin’ out on the curb and they wouldn’t let me back in. No way coulda ever got my own pad with what I was makin’.”

“Can you get some new training?”

“Wanna work with my hands...was good at that in high school but got lost in some sorta scene and...”

“...that can happen. You probably got talents that have never been used.”

“I’m sick a tryin’ to be part of all that...not my world...the people ya meet up with aren’t in ta yer way of doin’ things and...well, I miss the community we had before all those spicious characters started showin’ up. I know was problems out here but, well somethin’s missin’ up there that we had.”

“Yeah, know what you’re saying. But where do we get our next meal, and some respect? How do we avoid getting wasted?”

“Stay away from people like you, killa!”

Wyatt’s not sure how to take this. Lionel isn’t known for his irony. He’s still unsure about what happened that night. “You for real? Haven’t you...”

“...hey, wanna git together with some a the folks we *continued on page 5*

How to Help the Homeless

reprinted from
venicepaparazzi.com/2017/12/04/homelessinfo/
– by permission

Snapchat - continued from page 3

don’t buy anything. “They’re into tech, not what I have to sell. I know them to be nice people overall, but they’re caught in a crossfire. It’s not their fault; it’s their CEO’s fault. I’m sure they want to be loved and not go to work every day and be unhappy, but if you take over a community the way they are, people won’t take that lightly”.

The parking lot Daniel works in is at 601 Ocean Front Walk - this lot was also rumored to be the potential headquarters of Snap Inc. and was in litigation for years until this past September when the developers finally dropped their lawsuit against the city to reverse the West LA Planning Commission’s denial of the project. This parking lot is next to the Blue House at 523 OFW, Snapchat’s first office in Venice. Snap, Inc. still uses the Blue House for random meetings and events, and all the nearby artists and vendors hear and see everything that Snapchat employees do there and outside all of their properties. They see Snapchat employees go out to the beach for brief meetings or go out to the walkway to make personal calls given the lack of privacy in their own offices. They knew about the Spectacles Store opening back in March before most people, and constantly hear news about their drones, cameras, and television shows.

The most visible of the anti-Snapchat artwork along the walkway is across from the parking lot. An anonymous source brought a big long yellow banner with a white ghost on it to a group of artists who then painted it in a way that’s hard to miss - it says, “Fuck Snapchat, Unfuck Venice”. The artists said they haven’t received one negative comment about it and the reaction towards it has been only positive, with many people asking what it is and why they are against Snapchat.

Brad Eckhart, a henna artist near Rose, sets up an easel every day displaying the map of Snapchat properties in Venice along with a sign that reads, “Our neighborhood is not a tech park!! #GETOUT”. He says “Many people think it’s about gentrification in general and that’s not what it’s about. Or they wonder why we’re against the app itself with no idea what this one company is doing to our community, so if they take the time to stop I will educate them. If they do just walk by, it’s fine because then they see more of it elsewhere and really start to ask questions and wonder what’s going on. No one even knows they’re here, except for us because we hate them, and I have to educate them. Snapchat thinks they’re cool because they’re here, but they’re NOT cool because no one even knows they’re here. People that use Snapchat don’t know they’re here. There are no signs on any of their buildings. They’re leasing most of their offices, so they’re just pissing away money just to say they’re here and it doesn’t matter to anyone except the community that hates them”. Another local then added, “They can’t be selling enough Spectacles to warrant having that space. It’s almost like they’re losing money on purpose and not caring at all about killing the community or the vibe of Venice.”

Another local stated, “It’s great that the artists are speaking out. It’s gets people asking questions and talking about it. And then they see that hideous Spectacles Store and realize the artists are probably right! Every artist along the walkway should have something that’s anti-Snapchat. It’s too big of an issue in this community not to, and once people learn about what’s going on they sympathize and talk to their friends about it.” Local activist group, The Venice Dogz, has been rumored to be putting together a contest for all the artists and vendors on Ocean Front Walk for the Best Anti-Snapchat Artwork to be had sometime next year in 2018. It will be quite a scene if that happens.

City Minds - continued from page 4

hung with and do a business or somethin’? Pearl was sayin’ there’s some folks that’s buyin’ properties and fixin’ ‘em up ta give ta some of us at good prices and we can be part of it...be partners. And we can live over off Lincoln in those houses nobody’s usin.”

“Heard something about that...excellent idea!”

“Can work with my hands again.”

“Am all for it,” Wyatt says as they reach Speedway. “I’ll see you in a while...need to find Willow and take care of some business.”...

John O’Kane has published over a hundred fifty stories, essays and poems in a variety of venues, blogs regularly on Huffingtonpost, and edits and publishes AMASS Magazine. His most recent book is, A People’s Manifesto (2015). He has a short story in the annual Goose River Press anthology. He has a book of short stories forthcoming in 2018.

Hey there readers! Alex Stowell of Venice Paparazzi here. I was on Lincoln Blvd. the other day, and saw an older woman who lived in her car, and her car was getting towed. She was hysterical, thrashing about screaming, crying and flailing on the sidewalk, and I can see why. With her dwelling seized and likely no money to get it back ever, she was looking at life sleeping outside with the imminent threat of rape, robbery, assault, and murder.

I wanted to help, and not just her, but the throngs of elderly, beat down souls who sleep on the sidewalk, hungry and cold. And I am sure I am not alone in bearing witness to these events, or feeling compassion. So, we at Venice Paparazzi started to compile a list to make it easy for people to act on their kind nature.

So, what can you do to help? When you encounter people you sense really do need, and would accept some guidance, you can give them info. on where to go to receive services from professional homeless helpers!

Thank you to St. Joseph Centers’ Regional Coordinator Lindsay Saunders submitting information for this article.

Homeless

CES Entry Points and Outreach Resources

Encounter a homeless family? Please have the family call: 211

Drop in centers for single adults: St. Joseph Center 404 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, CA, (310) 396-6878

Hours of Operation: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 7:30am-4:30pm, Wed: 7:30am-Noon, Fri: 7:30am-3:30pm

The People Concern, 503 Olympic Blvd, Santa Monica, CA, (310) 450-4050

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun: 8am-Noon

Drop in for Veterans, 11303 Wilshire Blvd building 257, Los Angeles, CA, (310) 378-3711.

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 8am-4pm

Drop in for Youth ages 12-25: Safe Place For Youth, 2469 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, CA, (310) 902-2283

Hours of Operation: Drop in Tues, Wed, Thurs: 1pm-5pm, Appointments Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm

Mental Health Services: Mental Health Urgent Care Center, Exodus Recovery 11444 W. Washington Blvd. STE D Los Angeles, CA 90066-6024

Hours of Operation: 23 Hour psychiatric crisis center open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

DMH SB-82 Mobile Triage Team call (310) 482-6600 to make a referral

Psychiatric Mobile Response Team call (310) 482-3260 Teams have legal authority per Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 and 5585

Info for a homeless person with a pet. Pets do not disqualify anyone from receiving services, but they can be a barrier when someone has an appointment for a service where pets are not allowed. If an individual uses the animal for emotional support, teams will work with them to complete the necessary paperwork. Our winter shelter which opens 12/1/17 should allow pets if they are registered.

The Teen Project’s National Text Shelter Free Cell Service! Youth can text SHELTER and their ZIP code (SHELTER 90210) to the phone number 99000 from anywhere in the nation and receive a response with a local shelter.

WINTER SHELTERS ARE NOW OPEN! Dec. 1, 2017- Feb 28, 2018. Select shelters may operate until March 31. 5:00 p.m- 7:00 a.m. (times may vary)

Clients must utilize the pickup locations in order to enter, rather than going straight to the location. Free rides to the shelters daily in Venice: Venice Beach Boardwalk, North Venice Ave at Ocean Front Walk, 5:00PM, 6:00PM & 7:00PM. First to Serve: (310) 906-7688. View all SPA wide shelters and pick up locations [HERE!](#)

A message from Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA): Here is the list of transportation points to get a ride to one of our Winter Shelters. Only single adults ages 18 and over are eligible to access these shelters. All families are encouraged to call 2-11 for additional assistance.

Winter Shelter Hotline: 1-800-548-6047

Storage Restrictions: Only 1 small bag per client.

WANT TO LEARN MORE OR FIND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED?

Here is a list of homeless resources and services put together by Venice Paparazzi’s Edizen! Let us know if we missed any resources or tips! Thank you!

St. Joseph Center: We empower homeless and low-income people in LA to achieve self-sufficiency through outreach & engagement, housing, mental health services, and education. For more info: St. Joseph Center, 404 Lincoln, Venice, CA 90291. www.stjosephctr.org

CES: The Coordinated Entry System for All Populations aligns the Single Adult, Family, and Youth Systems into a seamless, collaborative, county-wide platform for housing and service delivery to homeless households. For more info: www.lahsa.org/ces

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Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority: LAHSA’s mission: To support, create and sustain solutions to homelessness in Los Angeles County by providing leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding. For more info: www.lahsa.org/about

Venice Homeless Committee: An ad-hock committee of volunteer community members is an arm of the Venice Neighborhood Council and acts as the voice of the community on all topics involving the homeless. The committee has created multiple innovative programs adopted by the city and meets monthly, usually the last Monday of each month. Contact: William.Hawkins@VeniceNC.org

Venice Reunification Program . Founded and overseen by Homeless Committee chairman Will Hawkins, the all volunteer program is funded entirely through donations and works hand-in-hand with area non-profits, city agencies and community members to reunite homeless people with their families in an effort to assist people off the street. Since the program launched in December 2016 over 20 individuals have been assisted into housing saving the city over \$2 million in housing and services. Contact: William.Hawkins@VeniceNC.org

Venice Forward: A community collaborative and coordinated plan to end homelessness in Venice.

Venice Forward is a new collaborative convened by LA City Councilmember Mike Bonin that is dedicated to changing the way civic organizations and private social services approach homelessness. Rather than separate entities providing on-demand services from their individual silos, Venice Forward brings them all together – to collaborate with one another- share resources and best practices – with the common aim of ENDING homelessness.

Member organizations meet many times each month. They hold coordinated case conference meetings where case managers from each of these organizations discuss individual homeless people and collaborate on determining the most effective ways to help them and move them off the streets.

Monthly, representatives of Venice Forward, the community and city and county government meet to review the situation in Venice, share resources and ideas, and learn from successes and mistakes. For Venice Forward resources and more, visit www.veniceforward.org

Meet the Venice Forward Team!

PATH. Making it home. PATH’s mission is to end homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. We do this by building affordable housing and providing supportive services throughout California. Since 2013, we’ve helped more than 7,000 people move off the streets and into their own permanent homes. www.epath.org/site/PATHServices/home.html

The Teen Project:

The College House: The College House is for Transitional Age (18-25) year old young women lacking family support. We provide everything they need to get their lives back on track, education, job training, internships, automobile matching and savings plans. Each young woman has their own bedroom. The average stay is two years. This house was the first of our homes and was built in 2010. Since that time, we have transformed the lives of 59 young women.

The Teen Project’s Rehab for girls: The Teen Project has over ten years experience delivers 21st century solutions to address the unique needs of young women 18-29 years. Our program is not just a treatment center, but rather a full life transformation. Rehab for a girls offer the lowest cost private pay and We are the only center that combines treatment & vocational training delivering a full life transformation for young women in need. When our clients complete the program, they are equipped with an entirely new life. For more info, theteenproject.com

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH): The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, the largest county mental health department in the United States, provides mental health services for Los Angeles County residents. Mission: Enriching lives through partnerships designed to strengthen the community’s capacity to support recovery and resiliency. dmh.lacounty.gov

Foursquare Church: The Foursquare Church is a family of more than 1600 churches that exist to glorify God and advance His kingdom. Find a church near you as well as church and ministry resources for Foursquare church leaders. foursquare.org

Spy. Safe Place for Kids: Our program prioritizes low barriers for entry, harm-reduction, a trauma-informed approach, and the provision of a safe, supportive environment. Basic human needs are addressed through a “safe haven” atmosphere of hope and concern. SPY provides three core areas of service provision: Street Outreach, Drop-in Center, and Case Management. Mission: Safe Place for Youth’s mission is to inspire, nurture, and empower the resilient human spirit of homeless youth by providing immediate and lasting solutions, one young person at a time. www.safeplaceforyouth.org



above mural at Washington Blvd at Ocean Front Walk

“Reach Higher. Reach for your spirit.”

By Fehmi YILDIRIM

Did you see these words in Venice?

These are the words of Mevlana Jalaladdin Rumi, from 744 years ago and 7129 miles away.

To write about Rumi and his contributions today is like sending a drop of water into the ocean. Publications, of varying quality, of selected verses, poems, or commentaries about Rumi’s literary works seem to have increased exponentially over the last years, particularly in North America. Is this a sign of the hidden longing of a spiritually disoriented culture ?

What do we know about Rumi?

Rumi is currently one of the most influential Islamic mystics in the world, despite the fact that his death was more than 700 years ago. He is reported to be the most widely read poet in the United States, appealing to people of various backgrounds.

Jalaladdin Rumi (September 30 1207 - December 17 1273), also known as Mevlana, was an Islamic cleric, philosopher, and poet, who founded the Mevlevi Sufi order, famous for its whirling dervishes, in Konya, Turkey. He was born in Balkh but spent the last 45 years of his life in Konya.

Rumi’s messages speak directly to the heart and transcend the boundaries of time. The universal appeal of his messages have led the pantheism movement to claim him as one of their own, as depicted on the “Luminaries of Pantheism “ mural in Venice below.

Here is what Rumi himself wrote:

“ I am the servant of the Qur’an as long as I have life.

I am the dust on the path of Muhammed, the Chosen One.

If anyone interprets my words in any other way,

I deplore that person and I deplore his words.
“ *

*Rumi, Divan-i Kabir, Quatrain No. 1173.5 See Rumi, Masnavi, Vol. VI, 2900-2904

He also wrote:

“Come, come whoever you are

Wanderer, worshiper, lover of living,
it doesn’t matter;

Ours is not a caravan of despair

Come, even if you have broken your
vow a thousand times

Come, yet again, come, come “

Some more of Rumi’s words:

“Where there is ruin, there is hope
for a treasure”

“What you seek is seeking you”

“Let yourself be silently drawn by
the strange pull of what you really
love. It will not lead you astray”

“And you? When will you begin that
long journey into yourself?”

“The breezes at dawn have secrets to
tell you. Don’t go back to sleep!”

December 17

The Mevlevi dervishes have kept the date he died as a festival, which is called Shab-i Arus, because Rumi, a true devotee of God, defined death as the meeting time, which he described in this poem:

“On the day of death, when my coffin is
on the move,

Do not suppose I have any pain at
leaving this world.

When you see my hearse, say not

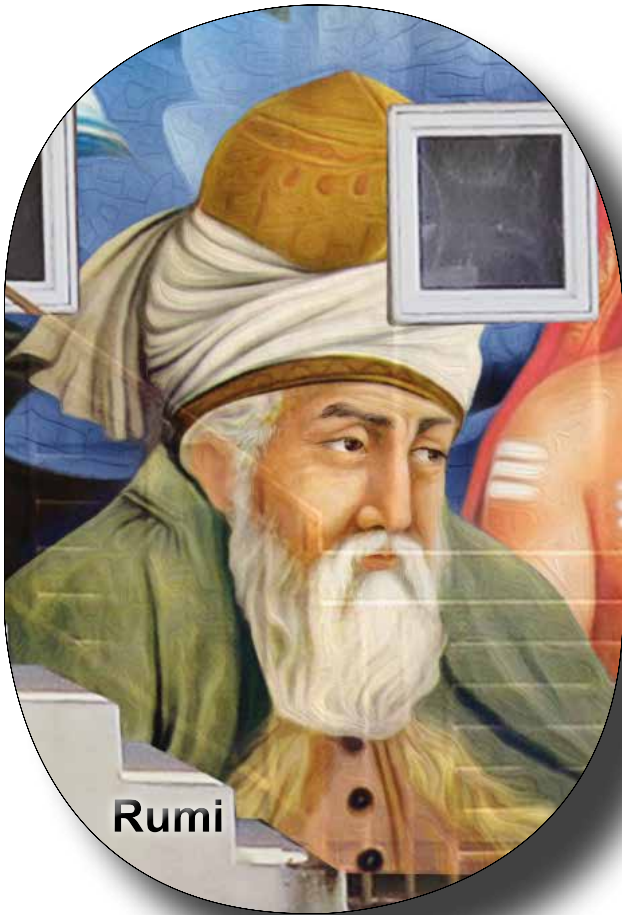
“Leaving! He’s leaving!”

That time will be for me union and
encounter.

When you commit me to the grave,

Say not “Farewell! Farewell.”

For the grave is a veil over the re-
union of Paradise!



Once again, eight centuries later, we need this outstanding poet, a revered mystic renowned for his understanding and wide-reaching embrace, to shed light on the interrelations of human beings. For every word from his mouth is full of LOVE and PEACE. His words are addressed to all humans and to all HUMANITY.



Follow this link to an authentic full 1 1/2 hour Shab-i Arus ceremony on December 17, 2015

(742. Şeb i Arus - Rast Mevlevî Âyin-i Şerifi - 17 Aralık 2015 1:27:04)

<https://youtu.be/ZrMtt2YxwAg>

At this time in history, it is most imperative that we find the time to come together, talk and try to understand one another, to find common ground and shared references.

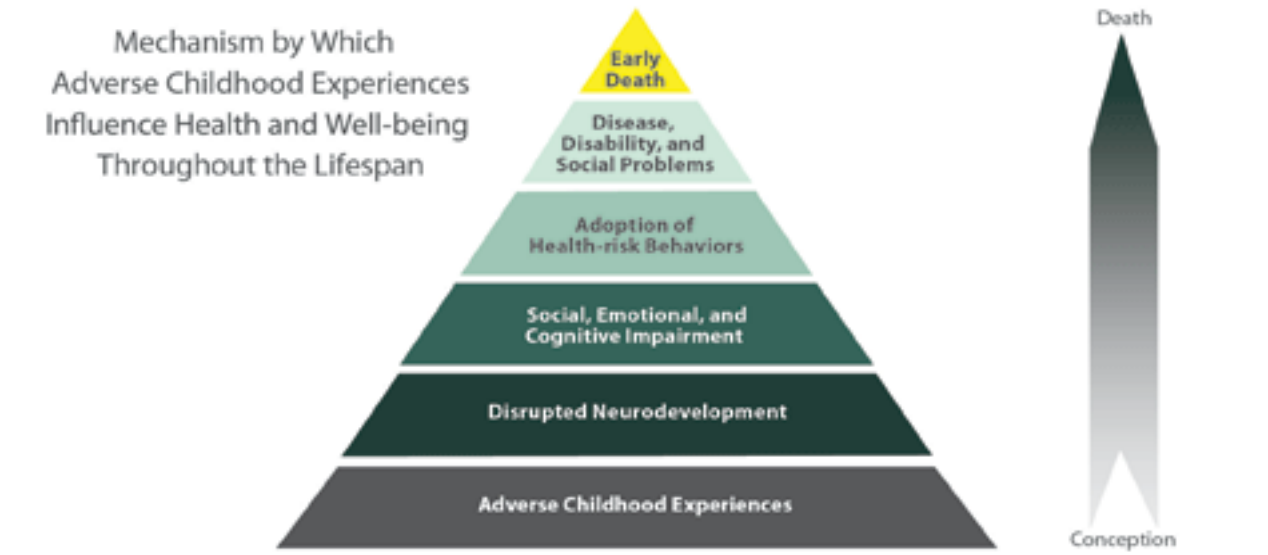
Rumi never looks down on people; he is humble. Just like on the mural below, in Venice, he looks at you from the same level.

Please contact me (F.Y.) via the Beachhead if you are interested in a discussion of this topic.

We recommend the book The Forty Rules of Love, a novel based on the life and teachings of Rumi, by contemporary Turkish author Elif Shafak.



above – “Luminaries of Pantheism” - The Paradise Project. www.paradiseproject.org – Venice Boulevard at Ocean Front Walk



SPY - continued from page 3
which provides funding for services, will make a huge impact, but not enough, there are not enough resources.
Alison and I discussed long and short term solutions for homeless people of all ages, especially youth.

Affordable housing- There’s a severe lack of affordable housing, even for those working multiple jobs. One might think, “Why shouldn’t they live elsewhere where the rent is cheaper?” Alison says, “That breeds a segregated society where the workers – in restaurants, supermarkets, etc....all live elsewhere.” Affordable housing proposals currently span across LA City and County. Alison is 100% in favor of the Venice-Dell-Pacific proposal. It’s “preserving diversity of the community...beautiful building, wonderful architect, Venice Community Housing knows what they’re doing. The alternative is everything gets gentrified and we all get pushed out.”

Host Homes- take young people into homes to help them stabilize
Dorm/youth hostel type accommodations: private sleeping nooks with shared kitchen, bathrooms and indoor and outdoor living areas. Communal living style is appropriate for TAY, confirms Alison.

Tiny Homes
Shelters –emergency housing
Bridge housing- temporary housing

Vouchers for rapid rehousing -However, many are languishing on the street even if they’re eligible for vouchers due to a lack of affordable housing and landlords willing to accept Section 8 vouchers.)

Other potential short term solutions could include campsites with facilities, motels converted into lodging for homeless, empty hospitals opened for homeless youth,

and easing restrictions on car and motor home sleeping. Some of these solutions may feel like an infringement on the rights of the housed, and great effort must be taken to respect all parties.

Reunification -Spy has “reunified tons of youth very successfully”
SPY works together with many other organizations to achieve their mutual goals.

The Westside Coalition’s website defines itself as “An alliance of 46 organizations, public agencies and faith communities committed to working collaboratively on issues of housing, hunger and health through service coordination, public education and advocacy.... Although individual agencies have the ability to provide separate services for people in need, the efforts of the Westside Coalition help coordinate all services on the Westside in order to provide a true continuum of service care for the community.” <http://www.westsideshelter.org>. They host monthly meetings working together for broader, deeper, more coordinated services.

SPY refers to Harvest Home, whose mission is to “transform the lives of homeless pregnant women and their children by providing housing, support, and programs that equip women to become great mothers.” www.theharvesthome.net

SPY works with The Venice Neighborhood Council Homeless Committee’s year old Reunification Program, which has housed 20 people so far this year,

What we as a community can do for the homeless kids of Venice? It’s impossible for anyone- government, neighborhood or kids, to solve everything. Alison reminds me, “It’s going to take everyone in the community to come together to be part of the solution to make a difference.”

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At a recent Venice Neighborhood Council Homeless Committee meeting addressing Councilmember Bonin’s plan for portable facilities, my perception was that the committee was trying to walk the fine line between caring for our homeless brothers and sisters, and the needs of our housed residents. There was talk of better communication to direct those in need with appropriate services. I look forward to following up with more details from the VNC Homeless committee regarding their thoughts on the homeless youth of Venice.

Judging from some of the neighborhood chatter on at the VNC meeting or websites such as Nextdoor, a portion of our community would just like the problem to disappear along with the homeless people. Don’t let them charge their phones, go to the bathroom at night, just disappear. Others express dismay in a system which seems to shuffle people from one institution to another: enriching those employed by the system, but not really making a dent in the problem. And then there are residents who have great empathy and ideas...

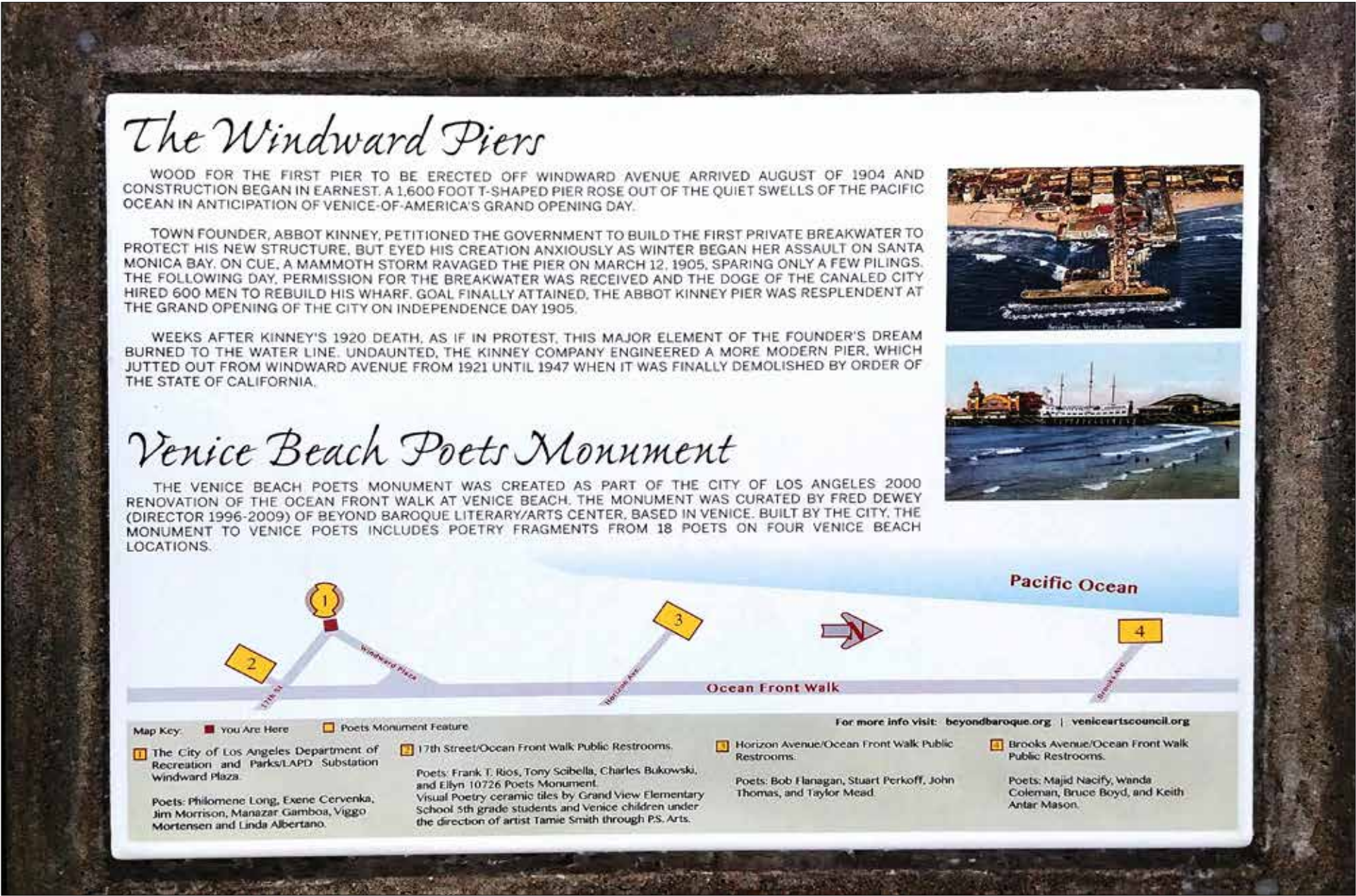
Alison urges a “Buy in from whole community- this is our responsibility”.

This holiday season I invite every Beachhead reader to search our souls how we, as members of the Venice community, can make a difference in the lives of these kids currently living on the street. And make a commitment to follow through throughout the year.

- Some ways to contribute include:
- 1) Volunteer –not just during the holidays, but all year long. Sponsor neighborhood or community lunches. Find a way to share your expertise.
 - 2) Donate goods- clothes, sleeping bags, toiletries are all greatly appreciated.
 - 3) Donate money- For those with lots of money and no time, a financial contribution helps enormously.
 - 3) Affordable housing- Attend meetings-Understand the approval process and help correct misconceptions.
 - 4) Advocate for those who can’t.
 - 5) Educate yourself and then educate others about the root causes of homelessness.

Some of the ways I’m currently looking to help are by educating myself about homeless issues in LA and writing these articles to spread the word. I’m volunteering with our congregation’s social action committee. Hopefully we’ll join the Westside coalition to work together with other like-minded organizations. I’ll attend VNC meetings when I can. I’ll host SPY community lunches and look forward to sharing my talents via play-making and improv with its members. Most importantly, I look our homeless youth straight in the eye, and whenever I can encourage them to partake in the services SPY offers

The Venice Beach Poets Monument now has signage. The monument was created as part of the City of Los Angeles 2000 renovation of the Ocean Front Walk at Venice Beach. The Monument was curated by Fred Dewey (Director 1996-2009) of Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, based in Venice. Built by the City, the monument to Venice Poets includes poetry fragments from 18 poets on four Venice Beach locations. www.veniceartscouncil.org.



Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America



National Estimates

Foundational evidence for understanding the scale, scope, and urgency of youth homelessness in America.

Adolescence and young adulthood represent a key developmental window. Every day of housing instability and the associated stress represents a missed opportunity to support healthy development and transitions to productive adulthood. Voices of Youth Count gives voice to young people across our nation who lack the necessary supports to achieve independence and make their unique contributions to our society.

Through multiple methods and research angles, Voices of Youth Count sought to capture and understand the voices and experiences of thousands of young people. While the deprivation of housing stability was the common thread in Voices of Youth Count research, the stories of youth homelessness—and the opportunities for intervention—rarely centered on housing alone.

Every experience, every youth, was unique. Their experiences ranged widely in duration, sleeping arrangements, safety, and circumstances. With the data gained through Voices of Youth Count, we can better understand the challenge so that we can develop more effective policy and practice.

Missed Opportunities: National Estimates summarizes the results of the Voices of Youth Count national survey that estimates the percentage of United States youth, ages 13 to 25, who have

experienced unaccompanied homelessness at least once during a recent 12-month period. The survey captured homelessness experiences broadly, including couch surfing in addition to arrangements like sleeping on the streets, in cars, or in shelters.

Until now, one major challenge to putting solutions in place has been the lack of credible data on the size and characteristics of the youth population who experience homelessness and a way to track how this population changes over time. Without credible numbers and deeper understanding, it has been difficult for the nation to develop a well-resourced and tailored response to address this hidden problem in our communities.

Voices of Youth Count, in this and future briefs over the coming year, will speak to the evidence while seeking solutions.
No more missed opportunities.

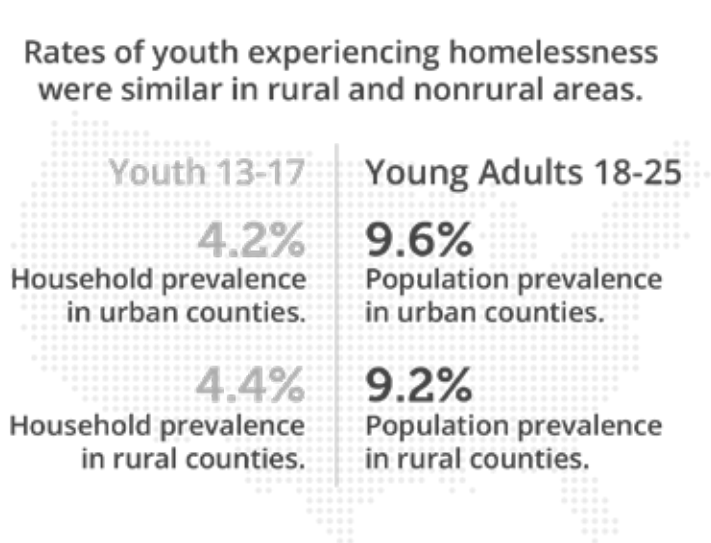
RESULTS SHOW

1 in 10

young adults ages 18 to 25 endures some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

1 in 30

adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.



About half of the youth who experienced homelessness over a year faced homelessness for the first time.

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness

346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk

Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org



GreenSceneGardens

Garden Maintenance

All Organic No blowers

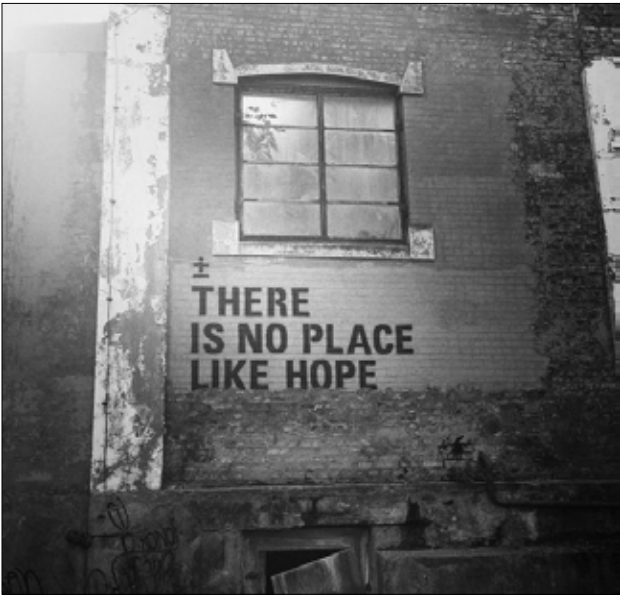
info@greenscenegardens.com

310.699.6119

“a responsible maintenance company”



This being human is a guest house.
Every morning is a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary aware-
ness comes as an unexpected visitor...
Welcome and entertain them all.
Treat each guest honorably.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the
door laughing, and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been
sent as a guide from beyond.
– Rumi



YOU BE THE JUDGE

By
P.S. Barber
Here’s the torrid tale of Judge Roy Moore
A would-be, teen-magnet paramour.
But even back then,
That stalwart against sin,
Conceived of every Adam’s Eve as his whore.
A man-of-God persecuted in a Liberal Press;
Defender of those morals that make-up our American Test:
You know the ones.
Backed-up by guns.
Where all things White (even felonies) are the best.
And hell -- other cultures condone child marriage!
So what’s with, “fondling a 14 year-old,” to disparage?
A Southern thing.
Don’t need no ring.
'Cause the Lord made Judge Roy Moore just as he is.
Why, it’s the same good Lord who made Mary and Joseph!
So why should Roy Moore ignore any girl with no chest?
It’d be sacrilege.
Against the kids,
Doubting the denials of an evangelical mall-pest.
Judge Roy Moore – Christian values superstar, paradigm of Belief!
Besides ya’all, it was 40 years ago and so, “Where’s the beef?”
There’s nothing wrong.
Let’s move on.
Chiefly as, our White House houses the Molester-in-Chief.

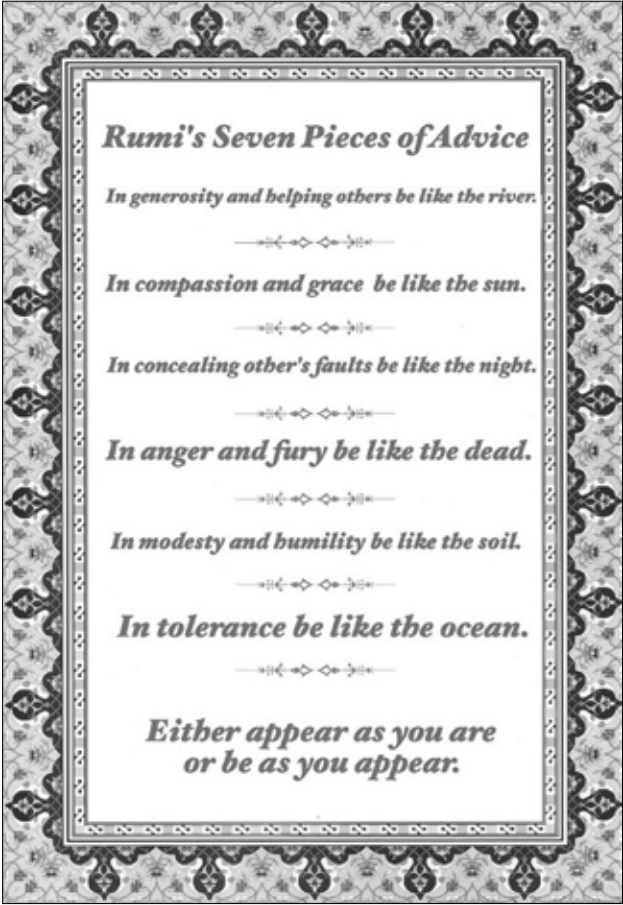
EXSTINKTION by–marty liboff

Everyday a couple species go extinct–
we’re killin our planet and makin it stink.
Oil, overpopulation and cut down the trees–
there go the bees.
Radiation, plastic, pesticides and smog–
there goes the frog.
Heavy metals, cow farts and human shit–
this could be it.
Paradise is covered by another parking lot–
Eden has been sold and bought.
It’s all goin to hell–
we fuck Mother Earth and make her smell.
We’ve ruined the land, water and air–
most watch TV and I phones and don’t care.
Global weather change and warming–
we need nuclear disarming.
Over fishing, poison and sewage in the sea–
let’s get together and save a tree.
This is your wake up call now–
let’s solve the problems and figure out how.
Teach our children to stop pollution–
save our world with a green revolution.

Thus Spoke the Poet

“One who is not in conversation with oneself
Cannot hear the voices of others.”
Thus spoke the poet
Who was walking by the river
And the roar of airplanes
Was not letting him hear
The whisper of the water.

Majid Naficy
November 29, 2017



we asked that king

by alan rodman

*
we asked that king
for rice to eat
but all we got
was an angry tweet
and when we begged
him for some bread
he had us locked away instead
and if we pressed him for a trial
his judges delayed for a while
and since the king
was cruel and base
the people all erased his face

a leaf a bird p&a

by alan paula rodman

*
A leaf, a bird, a tiny sweet song,
Beauty of sunrise at sound of the gong.
May pleasure run free
In your heart and your home,
May the song of the wind shine in your poem.

May the wind from the sun sing wherever you go
May June bring July
May December see snow
May everything come true just as you wish
May your blue oceans swim with magical fish

9 • December 2017 • Free Venice Beachhead
GO ASK ALICE -marty liboff

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the Kings psychiatrists
and all the Kings medical men
couldn't put Humpty together again.
One pill makes ya tall
one pill makes ya small
and the one's mom and your doc give ya
don't do anything at all.
Go ask Alice,
if their pills will make ya cry
and get you sicker and die.
Drug companies want ya sick
it's a big money trick.
Big Pharma wants ya to take this pill & that
but they all make ya addicted, nuts and fat.
You think your doc's pills will give ya health
it only makes drug companies great wealth.
Your doctor can give ya a pill
warning- it can make ya more ill.
You think their treatments will make ya well
it can make you worse & put you through hell.
Pain Killers have addicted the young and old
drug companies laugh because so much is sold.
Doctors and drug makers don't want you healthy
your sickness only makes them wealthy.
It is really up to you to stay well
and decide whether to listen to big Pharma's sell.
We all have our pains
that fall like rains.
We all have our fears
and get hurt and shed tears.
The strong, rich, poor and brave
we all wind up in the grave.
So you might as well smile and get out of bed
because all too soon we'll be dead.
Have courage and stare fear and death in the eyes
because everyone dies.
Life is a dance and a song
sometimes it is short or long.
We all have but a little time to live
so sing and play with lots of love to give.
Live each day like it's the last
be happy and have a blast...

THE 12 DAZE OF A TRUMPED UP CHRISTMAS
(as sung to, the 12 Days of Christmas) – Moishe Cockamoon

On the 1st day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
he lets Putin screw him up the ass and buy our elections.
On the 2nd day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
a Cabinet of crooked billionaires.
On the 3rd day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
a Supreme Court of rotten, right wing fascists.
On the 4th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
a giant tax break for the rich.
On the 5th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
unrestricted oil and mining that poisons our lakes & rivers.
On the 6th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
says his pals in the Ku Klux Klan & Nazis are good people.
On the 7th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
more billions to the military killing babies around the world.
On the 8th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
a repeal of Obama Care so the poor will die.
On the 9th day of Christmas Donald Grinch gave to America
big cuts to social services for the poor, old and sick.
On the 10th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
he begins a stupid wall and expands petty wars in the world.
On the 11th day of Christmas Donald Trump gave to America
he starts World War Three and blows up the world.
On the 12th day of Christmas Donald Grump gave to America
Donald and Putin run to their bomb shelters with 12 hookers.
HAPPY HOLIDAZE TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

DECEMBER 7 THURSDAY 8:00 PM
I READ YOUR BOOK AND...Did It! From Yippie to Yuppie: Jerry Rubin, An American Revolutionary Rex Wiener in conversation with Pat Thomas who discusses his book Did It! From Yippie to Yuppie, Jerry Rubin's eventful life with the likes of Allen Ginsberg, Phil Ochs, Bob Dylan, Timothy Leary, Charles Manson, Mick Jagger, and other iconic figures of the era, and explores the often-misunderstood relationship between Rubin and his partner-in-crime Hoffman, with new insights into their Yippie vs. Yuppie debates. Special admission \$15.00. Members FREE

DECEMBER 8 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
NAKED TO EARTH: SHARON DOUBIAGO
CANCELLED. Sharon will be reading as part of Beyond Baroque's 50th anniversary in 2018

DECEMBER 9 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
RICK SMITH & RD ARMSTRONG
Lummox Press is proud to present Rick Smith and RD Armstrong (Raindog) reading poetry from their respective books, Whispering in a Mad Dog's Ear and Tracking the Rabbit. Rick Smith is a very talented poet and harmonica player, who mixes the two together to present a moving reading experience. RD Armstrong is both publisher and poet who has been devoting himself to quietly serving the contemporary poetry community for some 23 years. Copies will be on sale. Regular admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 10 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
SOAP BOX POETS
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.

DECEMBER 10 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
JOY TO THE WORLD!
Help us celebrate the Holiday Season in Storytelling, Poetry & Song! Public Works Improvisational Theatre presents an evening of lively variety arts programming. Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 14 THURSDAY 8:00 PM
SAM SAX
Celebrate the release of sam sax's debut poetry collection "Madness" (Penguin Books), called "astounding" (Terrance Hayes) and winner of the 2016 National Poetry Series Competition. Regular admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 15 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
DAN BELL, LYNNE THOMPSON, & SARAH MACLAY – New poems from three reunited Squaw Valley Community of Writers alumni: Berkeley poet and translator Dan Bell will read from his latest collection, Deep Well, joined by L.A. poets Sarah Maclay, co-author with Holaday Mason of The "She" Series, and Lynne Thompson, author of Beg No Pardon. The evening will be hosted by David St. John. Regular admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 16 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
THE MAN WITH THE BLUE GUITAR
CD Release Party for The Man with the Blue Guitar by Wallace Stevens and Ross Altman. Hosted by Ross Altman. Regular Admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 17 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
BEYOND WORDS SPECIAL PROGRAM!
Hosted by Jon Hess. Special holiday program!

DECEMBER 17 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
SUBVERSIVE CINEMA
Venice Rock'nRoll Political films, Free admission, donations appreciated, Laughtears.com Hosted by Gerry Fialka. http://www.laughtears.com/documental_subversive.html

DECEMBER 22 FRIDAY 8:00PM
PUNK! \$40th ANNIVERSARY
Special Program.

The Scott Wannberg Bookstore & Poetry Lounge will be open DECEMBER 23, 29, 30, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM, and DECEMBER 24, 31, - 2:00PM - 6:00 PM
31 SATURDAY

To Protect & Serve? Five Decades of Posters Protesting Police Violence

December 16, 2017 – March 2, 2018
A new exhibition from the
Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG)
Durón Gallery @ SPARC 685 Venice Blvd. 90291
www.politicalgraphics.org

To Protect & Serve? Five Decades of Posters Protesting Police Violence, a timely and compelling new exhibition, will premiere Saturday, December 16, from 6-9 pm at the SPARC Durón Gallery, Old Venice Police Station, 685 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291. This bilingual exhibition, produced by the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG), presents 75 powerful posters about a crisis that is more urgent now than ever.



A succession of unarmed African Americans killed by police has catapulted the issue of racist police violence and state repression into the national and international spotlight. The killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson; the choking to death of Eric Garner while he repeatedly cried, "I can't breathe;" the brutal "rough ride" death of Freddie Gray, whose voice box was crushed and spine nearly severed while in the custody of Baltimore Police; the senseless killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice on a Cleveland playground; and the mysterious "suicide" of Sandra Bland in a Texas jailhouse to name a few, have exposed the pervasive brutality and inhumanity faced by people of color at the hands of police in the U. S. Immigrants, the LGBTQ community, the poor, homeless, mentally ill, and political activists are also frequent targets.

But this is not a new problem. The list of documented abuse by law enforcement is long...the list of unrecorded examples would be much longer. Internationally, the story is often worse.

The current struggles against police violence and state repression by organizations such as Hands Up United and Black Lives Matter, are part of a long history of resistance which is often documented in graphics produced by the activists, artists, and organizers engaged in these efforts. Posters are one of the most effective tools used to reveal these often hidden or forgotten stories. They tell of domestic and international efforts to challenge police brutality..

To Protect & Serve? features graphics created during the last 50 years, from Los Angeles to New York, from Mexico to Chile, and from Europe to Africa. The exhibition includes posters about policing as political repression, racial and gender profiling, the school to prison pipeline, immigration raids, militarization of law enforcement, and organizing resistance. To Protect & Serve? continues CSPG's mission to reclaim the power of art to educate, agitate, and inspire people to action.

CSPG is an activist, educational, and research archive with more than 90,000 social movement posters from the 19th century to the present, including the largest collection of post-World War II political posters in the United States.

To Protect & Serve? Five Decades of Posters Protesting Police Violence is funded by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts; California Arts Council; City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs; with additional support from The Getty Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and SPARC.

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

Dec 9 Sat 2pm MESS- Activist/publisher Michael Novick interview at at 212 Pier Ave FREE <http://www.laughtears.com/mess.html>

Dec 11 Mon, 4pm=preshow, 6pm to 730pm PXL THIS 27 Film Festival TOY CAMERA at Unurban 3301 Pico Blvd, free <http://laughtears.com/PXL-THIS-27.html> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/299975280487160>

Dec 17 Sunday 7pm Subversive Cinema at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE http://www.laughtears.com/documental_subversive.html Political-Music VENICE Rock'N'Roll films

Dec 20 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA FREE <http://venicewake.org/Events/current.html>

Dec 25 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free

www.unurban.com

Weekly Events at UnUrban

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

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

Thursdays: Live Music Showcase* @7pm

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

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

Saturdays: Live Music Showcase* @7pm

December 9 – Peter Quentin's Variety Night
December 16 – The Painkillers, Steven Moos and his excellent band including Donny Kirkpatrick, Carol MacArthur, Rick Moors, Al Keith and other guests.

December 23 –Jazz Funk Fest -cancelled
December 30 – Folk Rock n Blues Night with Stefani Valadez and Steve Moos and friends.

A JUST Holiday Sale and Open House!
Sat Dec 9, 2017, 1-5 pm

Peace Center
3916 Sepulveda Blvd
Culver City, CA 90230

Center for the Study of Political Graphics, Common Peace, and Fair Trade are selling posters, books, cards, chocolate, coffee, and more! Great prices.

Tours of the CSPG Archives.
Refreshments!
Screening of "Its a Wonderful Life."
Parking lot and street parking available

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.

Ongoing Events

OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

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

COMPUTERS

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

FOOD

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

KIDS

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

MUSIC

- 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

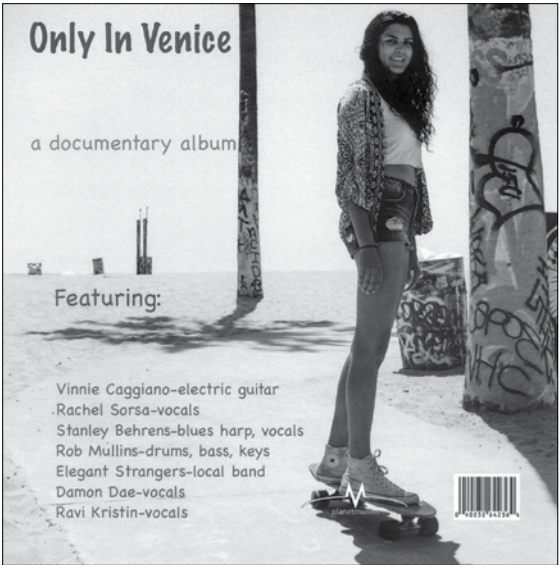
- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. Venice Farmers Market. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 4:15pm, every Thursday – Chess Club. Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. The Venice 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 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free
- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson’s, Donation, Electric Lodge

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Electric Lodge**, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- **G2 Gallery**, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2017
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056



Review: ONLY IN VENICE A documentary album

“Only In Venice” indeed, here are many of our favorite Venice musicians with a full album of original songs and celebrating the spirits of Venice.

It starts with the rocking “Party All Night”, something I plan on doing real soon. Next is blues “Tequila Dancer” and then the nice Reggae-feeling of Prime Minister Chill. “Jim Morrison is Dead” is a fine tribute to our most famous Rock God. “Venice Beach is Not Campus” is a chant and empowerment anthem for those opposed to what Snapchat and other “Silicon Beach” businesses are doing to our community. “Surfer Song” evokes that genre quite well. So lovely it is to hear Vinnie Caggiano’s guitar in the smoky jazz instrumental of “Slow Dance.” “Going Home” has the flute led jazz, played by Rob Mullins, like we have heard over the years from Venice jazz greats like Cookie Harris and Felice. Next is a salute to the Venice “Drum Circle”. “Cool Water” is some cool pop soul music. “Wistful Thinking” is a lovely instrumental. Then Vinnie is back with some power guitar leads on “Anthem”.

I enjoyed the whole thing, and the production, by Rob Mullins is superb. Below is Rob’s own statement about this project, pulled from his website, where you can buy the CD or download the digital version. <http://onlyinvenice.com>. There you will also find more notes about each song on the album.

ONLY IN VENICE

Why I made this documentary album.

By Rob Mullins, Producer.

I really just made this album for my friends. And for the people in Venice who are being badly hurt by what is currently going on there.

I’ve been back in Venice playing club gigs for a couple years now and doing shows with great players and singers every week has given me the opportunity to really get to know some of the talented and interesting performers in Venice.

this randomly happens.

Playing a set on stage, then sitting down together having dinner is how it happens, and during our dinner conversations a lot of topics came up...local life, neighborhood issues, relationship stuff, the Doors, the future of live music, and the history of Venice..

One afternoon talking with Vinnie and Rachel about music and life it just started to make sense to make a documentary album about what is happening in Venice. I starting thinking about what a unique blend Venice is and the quirky things that go on and “Only in Venice” started to take shape in my head.

Windward and Pacific. The gateway to the fun.

I went home that afternoon, and I wrote four songs in a couple of hours. When the music is flowing that fast, it is always a good sign.

So for four months i studied the boardwalk, the Doors, beach life, and stronger bonds with all of my friends grew. I spent a lot of hours in the studio writing and recording everything. It has been awesome.

I wanted to create music that updates many of the classic beach songs into the 21 Century. I wanted to do a song about Jim Morrison’s life and impact on the world since he and Ray Manzarek were locals.. I wanted the flavor of the ukelele girl who just moved to Venice. I wanted some rasta vibe, hard rock, surf, skate, Harry, Nathan, hula hoop vibe, big business vs. the locals, and the sadness of change that can’t be stopped.

THIS.

I’m lucky. To create all of these things, all i had to do was spend time with my friends and write about their lives. The journey has been really really cool.

I hope you enjoy the music that happens “Only in Venice.”

Happy listening!

11 • December 2017 • Free Venice Beachhead



Notes about “Venice Beach is Not a Campus”

by Rob Mullins

VENICE BEACH IS NOT A CAMPUS

For the first time in my career as a composer, I wrote a chant on behalf of my Venice friends. The internet company Snapchat started buying up properties in Venice a couple years ago, and they now own more than 40 key locations in Venice. Most of the locals are being badly effected by this because the vibe of the neighborhoods is changing and it is NOT good for the locals. There are many sides to this issue I am sure but my feelings are in the chant I wrote: “Venice Beach is NOT a Campus. Our Hearts are NOT for SALE.”

Ravi Kristin-my Venice mentor- led the charge in the studio chanting this along with the members of the Elegant Strangers. Vinnie Caggiano plays fiery rock guitar on this and towards the end you can hear the corporations bring in the big guns and destroy the town.

I guess all we can hope for it to slow them down at this point.

In memory of “Gene Griffith”

11/30/1952-10/1/2017

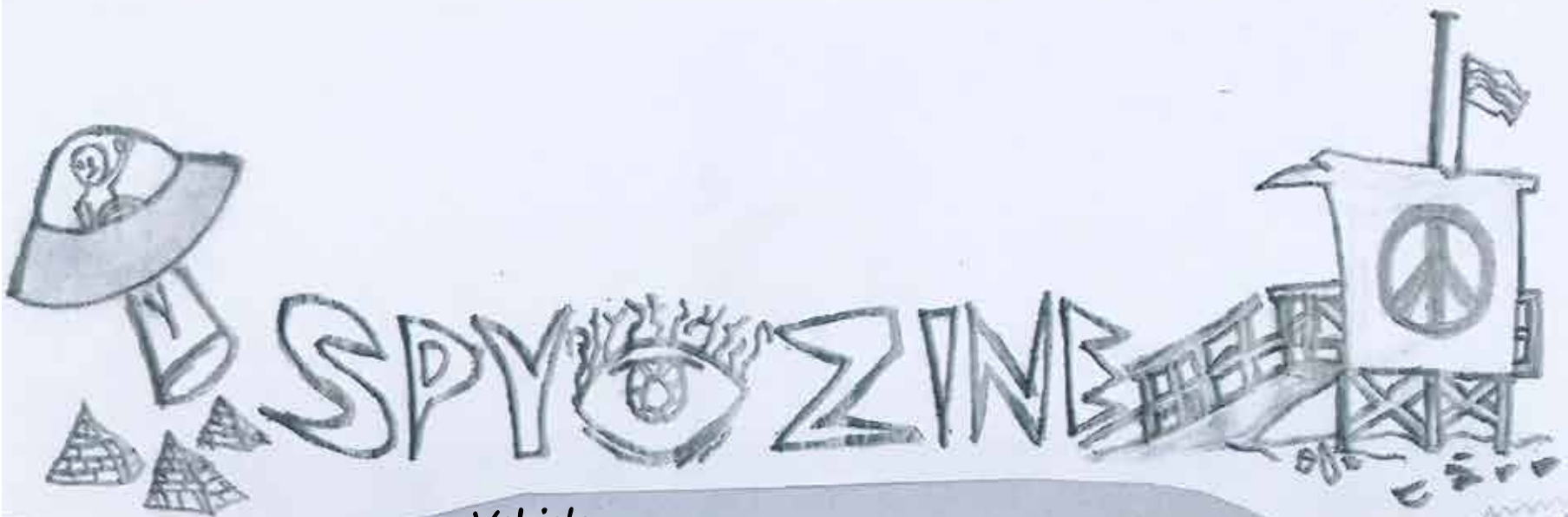
It is with great, sadness friend of ,Gene Griffith announces, his passing from cancer related complications. Former Venice resident passed away peacefully on 10/12017 in Maricopa,Arizona. He lived in Venice for three-quarters of his life .He lived at 15 Rose Ave #2 Venice, overlooking Pacific Ocean. Gene moved to,his Venice apartment during the fecund days of 80s. He was a Coffee aficionado and a regular at Starbucks on Main street and Hill Street. He was a special man, took no gufts from anybody, and ready to stand up for the underdogs. He was very compassionate and an animal lover, and popular on Venice Beach. Every evening he could be seen walking Max, his little dog, for strolls on Boardwalk , always with happy, big, bright, joyful, and sincere smile. Gene was a graduate of GIA school of gemology. He was a certified Jeweller by trade with diamond cutting as his specialization. Gene was very versatile having had many skills, he was an avid biker, self taught martial art expert, and a certified network technician. However his true calling was as a caregiver and helping others. He was also a falun gong (meditations) aficionado. He liked gabbing about computers,and gadgets to his friends.



People spoke of his “equanimity and grace”. Always lauding and loving, he poured into people his philosophy of coming together during the vicissitudes and landscapes of Venice gentrification. He always quoted Ben Franklin, ”If we don’t hang together, we will surely hang apart.”. He made all those around him stronger. Kind ,grateful and wholesome with his talks. He always had his radar fine tuned for injustices in the world and was not intimidated by anything.

I was privileged to know Gene in all these settings and considered him to be a good friend and a great human being. His death was more global than individual,like a death of a polar star.

Submitted by his pal Sam



Vehicle

inspired by Jacinta

Take me away to another space and time
I would like to acquire a spaceship to take me to another frame of mind
I wanna move at light speed my dreams are beyond flying
Because between the hours of 12 and 9

All I hear is helicopters
I wanna be soothed by the repetition of mantras
Or I'd be at peace doing a buck 80 while listening to opera
I wish I could teleport while driving down the 105 backwards

Will the Dodgers ever play the Yankees
Only Lord knows but I wish I could take a jet-ski back east

I would love to pair a glide
around the earths skies
Just to destroy HAARP
To prevent all the Hurricane Harveys and enjoy vanilla skies

-Dolor

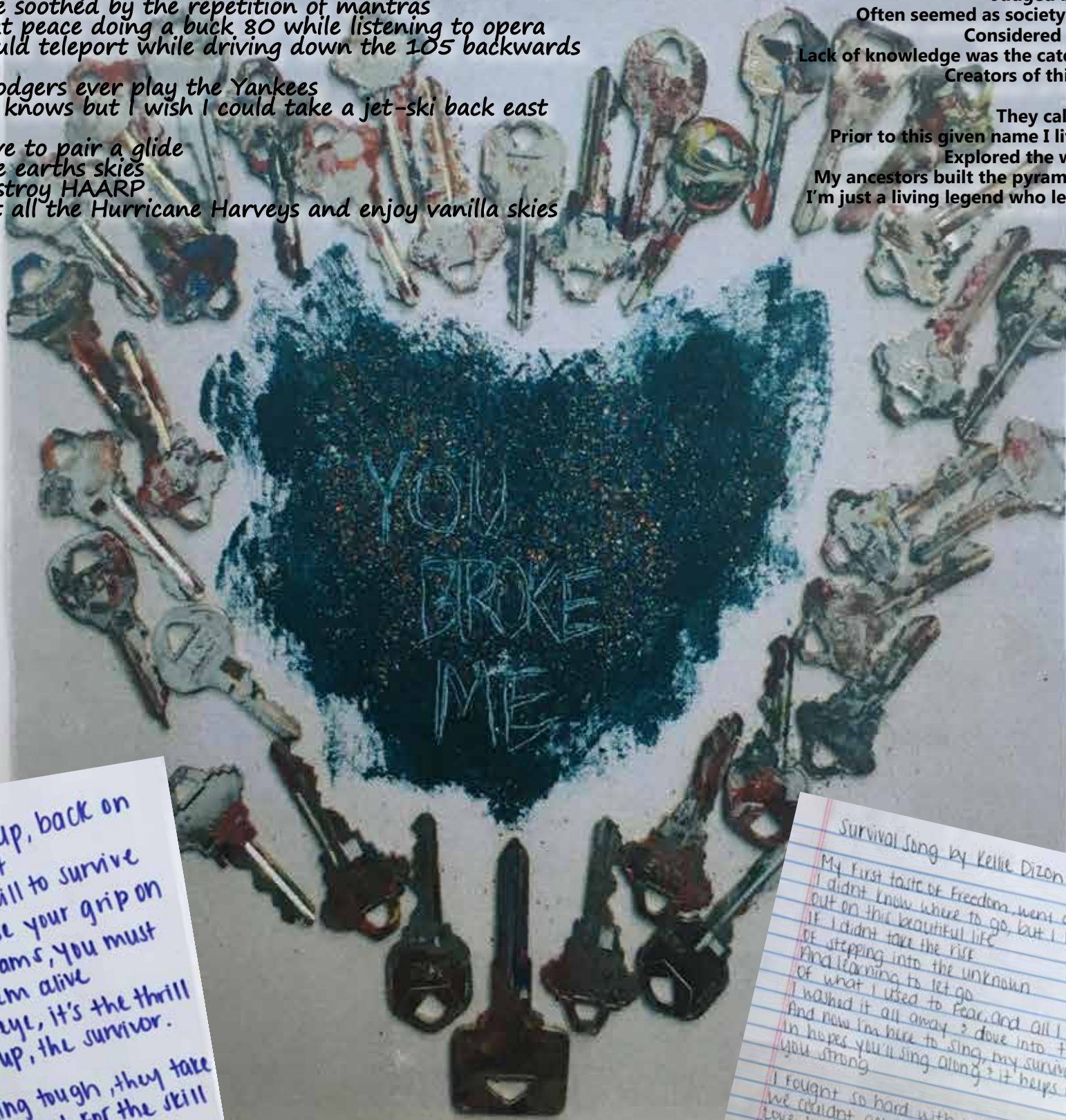
Black

Perceived as ignorant
Light can't be seen in the dark
In the dark images can be figment
Every vessel in the brain is a work of art

Judged by my pigment
Often seemed as society lacked a heart
Considered an experiment
Lack of knowledge was the category given by
Creators of this language art

They called me a Mora
Prior to this given name I lived like a King
Explored the world like Dora
My ancestors built the pyramids and sphinx
I'm just a living legend who left his legacy in
ink

-Dolor



Rising up, back on
my feet
Just a will to survive
Don't lose your grip on
the dreams, you must
keep them alive
It's the eye, it's the thrill
Rising up, the survivor.

Hanging tough, they take
to the street for the skill
to survive
It's the eye, it's the thrill
Rising up to the challenge
Straight to the top, got the
glory. Now I'm not
gonna stop, just a will
to survive
Rising up to the challenge
the survivor with the
eye
♥Kellie

Survival Song by Kellie Dizon
My first taste of freedom, went a little like this
I didn't know where to go, but I knew I'd miss,
out on this beautiful life
If I didn't take the risk
of stepping into the unknown
And learning to let go
of what I used to fear, and all I used to know
I washed it all away & dove into the flow
And now I'm here to sing, my survival song
In hopes you'll sing along & it helps make
you strong.

I fought so hard with my demons,
we couldn't get along.
Love lift me up, help me remain calm
Don't let me fall away from your love & grace
I'll be right here, always giving thanks
I'm always giving thanks
I know I'm never alone, my angels guide me
home. I'm always where I belong
I love this beautiful life, with all it's
lessons to learn
one day we'll fly, away like the birds
by then you'll know, the light always glows
brighter than the night higher than our lows
so keep pushing on. like nothing's wrong
smile everyday & live in awe
Here's my survival song ~