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REESE DAVIDSON vs.  
the VENICE NIMBY pt.2

By Lisa Robins

In the August issue of the Beachhead I laid out what I perceived to be the central problem in housing our homeless population: “Everyone wants to help the homeless....but Not In My Backyard!”I also posed the question at the heart of NIMBY accusations: is our councilperson, Mike Bonin, attempting to squeeze most of the Westside’s homeless services and large supportive housing projects into Venice?In this series of articles, I’m focusing on one element of Bonin’s plan to help the homeless, the Reese-Davidson Community, described by Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC) as “An affordable and supportive housing development on the parking lots at Venice-Dell-Pacific”. I’m using it as an example of how various factions of Venice respond to potential housing to ease the homeless crisis, and how this project compares with others moving forward in our neighborhood.

As I see it, there are 3 basic types of Venice residents with regard to homelessness: those who are willing to try anything to help house those on the street; those willfully and blissfully ignorant of the issues, stepping over the sleeping bags and avoiding encampment blocks; and those angered by a perceived infringement on their rights and pocketbooks-who want the problem to go away to another neighborhood. Proximity to the encampments generally exacerbates their concerns: I’ve heard many NIMBYs complain that their property is close enough to feel and smell the direct effect of having a class of people struggling to survive (or scamming the system, as many see it). Giving the benefit of the doubt, I’m going to assume that all factions want to help house our homeless citizens. All want a better Venice. But there are major differences on how to achieve these goals.

As many of you know, *Measure HHH* authorized \$1.2 billion in bond money funded by property taxes, to pay for homeless housing. Approximately 40 land parcels throughout LA have been identified as “opportunity sites”, city owned properties which are underused or vacant. 30 of these 40 have been designated for development to provide affordable housing thus far.

The **Reese-Davidson Community** is the largest “opportunity site” in the District 11 pipeline. Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC), was given a two year option to develop the Venice median into a PSH development. If approved, the development would replace the existing parking lots between Pacific and Dell, bordered by North and South Venice Blvds.

The REESE-DAVIDSON COMMUNITY would contain 140 Apartments:

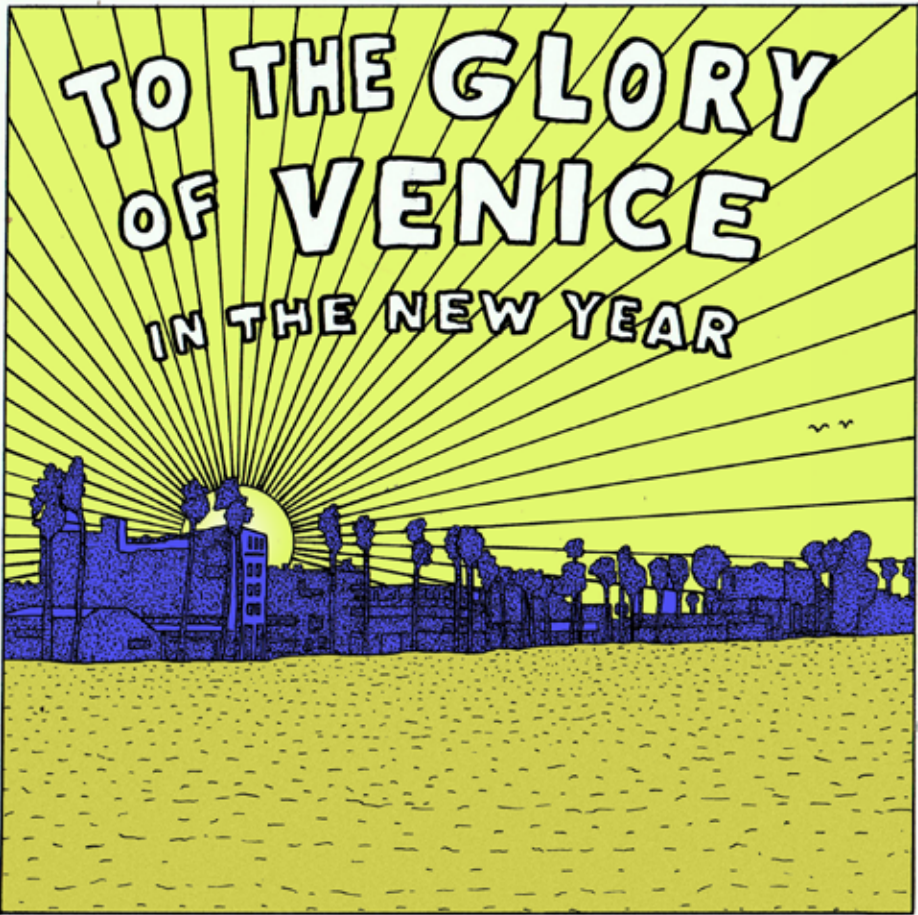
- 68 supportive housing apartments for formerly homeless individuals and families
- 34 low-income artists’ apartments
- 34 lower wage households’ apartments
- 8 On-site trained professional staff apartments
- 3 Community rooms for tenant services and recreational opportunities

Preventing this development, along with stopping the MTA Bridge Housing, and other potential affordable housing solutions (VCHC Rose Ave), is the target of much of Venice NIMBY energy. Their main concern seems to be a lack of fairness and a fear of being overrun by the homeless. And perhaps a dip in property values.

NIMBY Concerns:

- 1) Venice already has too many homeless residents-They fear that Bonin is luring an endless stream of homeless to Venice with too many new PSH units and services..
- 2) New housing will serve too many non-Venetians-They argue there’s no guarantee the residents will be from Venice, and many might come to scam the system.

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NOVEMBER 2018 B.I.D. MEETING  
OBSERVATIONS

By John Okulick

I did attend. I had only two minutes to read a list of questions that I would like answers to, as a CPRA request. After several attempts to get answers, Tara Devine, manager of the BID, said she would get back to me, which really means she will do nothing as usual. She once worked for Councilman Huizar who is now being investigated by the FBI.

The property owners’ board (VBPOA) and Devine then listened to a pitch from Athens cleaning and recycling service offering its services for a fee. Next came Taylor Bazley trying to say how good Bonin is for the area: redoing the bike path, having signs replaced, locks on bathrooms, and improving a parking lot, all of which had nothing to do with the BID. He said, in a dictatorial manner, that the Bridge Housing on the MTA lot will happen, with possibly some retail business being included. Another assumption with no basis of fact. There will be a meeting on the MTA lot on December 1. I’m not sure where. This shows how connected Devine and the BID board are to Bonin, allowing him to do damage control from the town hall meeting of a few weeks ago.

Then came the clean team who walk down my sidewalk with nothing to do. I said that the time it takes to walk is about a minute, and that equates to about \$5,000.00 an hour for a year of non-service. No benefits to my property. The arts person for Venice asked if the BID could clean the public artwork in the area, which she has requested numerous times in the past. The clean supervisor stated that the clean crew did not know what art is, and that it might be damaged. It would also have to be in the BID district. They did not mention that 30% of funds that pay for the BID come from city taxpayers.

Another person complained about the boardwalk not being cleaned enough in certain areas. He said that he spoke with the Parks and Recreation Department and that they did not have enough resources to clean. His location was not in the BID district despite the fact that a portion of his property tax was. Another example of public money being diverted to private services.

Next came Allied Universal who also will not answer questions regarding their published numbers on incidents. They and the BID refuse to give specifics of where, when, and what these numbers correspond to. We have a right to know where these incidents are occurring, and the scope of the problem, for our own safety. They have all learned from Devine and Sokol how to stonewall the community with impunity while collecting millions of dollars.

Then they gave the financial report, which was incoher-

*continued on page 2*

THE FIGHT FOR  
THE FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF VENICE  
RAGES ON

By Jon Wolff

The following is from conversations with Venice Activist Laddie Williams, Venice Elder Jataun Valentine, and Dr. Naomi Nightingale about the recent staff report from the Office of Historical Resources regarding the application for historical designation for the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Jon Wolff: What can you tell us about the outcome of the OHR [Office of Historical Resources] report?

Laddie Williams: Well, I will say that that report looks like it was written by the Penskes’ lawyer, Elisa Paster, because of the fact that the other three African-American churches that are left here in Venice were mentioned. And we turned in a plethora of information showing historical status; the Penskes turned in one page from their historian and none of it was true.

JW: They were saying that there wasn’t any historical value of the First Baptist Church of Venice?

LW: Exactly. And whenever you say that about anyone’s history, you’re “white-washing”. The fact that W.E.B. Du Bois spoke there... that man alone should have brought historical relevance. Mr. [Irving] Tabor and Mr. [Arthur] Reese went there. The other two properties are historical; what’s the reason for not making this historical? This is 108 years of history from both sides of the street. African-Americans had come here from the South, made a way to buy property, and were able to buy the property and keep the property until the charlatan, Horace Allen came in. There’s something wrong with the whole report that they did.

JW: The OHR has granted historical designation to other buildings in Venice with far less historical value.

LW: Far less historical value than the church. And they know it. This is why they didn’t send us the report until Thursday at 5:00. Their intention was to discourage us to the point where we would say that we’re done. But they’ve just revved us up. The indiscretion was there. We were supposed to have ten days to respond and we were given six.

JW: They’re purposely trying to slow us down in our efforts.

LW: It is purposeful. If you read that report, it’s written in a very negative manner from the beginning of the start of this process. OHR gave us paperwork that was outdated. We had to start all over again. If they changed the rules in April, why didn’t they let us know? Why did they give us an old application? Something was wrong from the beginning.

JW: It would seem that the game was rigged.

LW: Exactly. And I believe that the Penskes have rubbed their money in everybody’s faces, including our City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti. But the struggle continues.

JW: Yeah. We’re still meeting there every Sunday. Nothing has changed.

LW: Nothing is going to change. If they think they’re going to hinder us... no. Our ancestors worked hard. Then a charlatan, who they possibly brought in to do this type of dirty work... He stole \$13 million of equity out of that property there. The City Attorney should have been on top of it. It was shown to them that it was done in a negative way. They gave predatory loans to a man, Horace Allen, who they knew couldn’t pay it back. It was a set up from the beginning. No bank loaned it to him. These were personal loans that came from out of nowhere. Why would anybody give him a loan if they knew he couldn’t pay it back? He didn’t have the people at his church who could pay it. The people he got to lie were unhoused people. This was thought up from the beginning to get the property. And all of this has been

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# Staying Alive To Create A Better World: A Trans-National Alliance Invitation

By Pat Raphael

We have made it! We’ve arrived at the end of another year and none of us were taken out by our heart giving up and stopping to beat, or falling to that big C cancer, or going to the doctor and having a well meaning medical professional make a fatal mistake at the cost of our very life. We were also spared from the deadly fires that raged in our county -- killing scores before they were put out. Also none of us reading here were killed in an accident or any of the random acts of violence we hear and read about far too frequently. We weren’t the victims of a robbery gone wrong nor did we find ourselves in the wrong place at the wrong time while a crazy person was shooting up the joint... But having arrived here, at the end of yet another year, we are also at that season when we humans are statistically most likely to do harm to *ourselves* and die by suicide.

This subject became a necessary discussion topic for exploration in this column when I walked by my friend Joey Lucky (y’all know him -- he’s got that cop car on main street that he rents for movie productions -- Joe-Luckay.com), and I saw him upset about something as if he had been crying. I asked him what was up, only to learn the sad news of Jacob Godinez, a well beloved member of the street people community here in Venice, and his death by apparent suicide.

While I only knew Jacob in passing, (his friends called him GreenEyes), what really struck me in the aftermath of his death is the gaping hole of sadness and loss that was left among his friends as they struggled to explain why this happened or went on second guessing whether they could have done anything to prevent this deadly outcome. Green Eyes weighed the burden on my heart that I use my small platform here in the Free Venice Beach-Head to stir up a dialogue and assure that none of my friends feel that they have to carry sadness and despair all by themselves, or think that they are the only one who struggles with guilt, hopelessness, love lost, shame, or any or the myriad ennui of the human experience that makes us feel like it’s time to check our selves out of it all. Stop. No. Don’t do it.

But what is it about this time of year? Why is it that so many of us carry such hurt and despair to the end of the year only to get here and let the hopelessness consume us to the point of suicide? As the holidays approach and the days get shorter, when everything around seem to be vibrating joy joy joy, the stark contrast of internal depression has a way of casting an even darker shadow inside from which to crawl out of. Add to all that, the end of the year’s assessment of the year itself. When we get here, it is time to reflect on all the goals that were laid down in the beginning of the year. Here is when we ask ourselves how we did on those things we said we would do. While we can lie to others and rave success, it is harder for me to lie to me... and knowing that every year that I do not accomplish those things I set out to do, just makes it harder and less likely for them to take place in the future. This can be quite the bummer to process now that December is here. And those short December days -- fewer mood elevating sunny hours to soak in -- and cold nights which might be lonely if you are not sharing your bed. No wonder they can’t shut up about it in Winterfell, and all their days are consumed with the thought that “winter is coming”.

Breathe. That’s one of the best coping tools available to us. When we learn to take in deep relaxing gulps of air, and feel the life-giving oxygen sustain and maintain us, we can slow down long enough to notice and reflect on all the good around us. That’s when we begin to remember that the dark days always pass and we notice that if we only look at the bad, we will only see the bad. Suddenly breathing allows us the quiet we need to re-orientate our perspective. Looking closer, we’ll see community.

The world of friends and family that populate each of our circles, certainly include those who would be devastated at the thought of anything bad ever happening to us. They are out there sending us all their goodwill, full of love towards us. Sometimes these beloved people sending out all those good vibes to us do not always know how to communicate their heart in a way that truly expresses their deep love. And people who have a hard time communicating, often don’t know how to listen. This is where it takes a bit of creative imagination in order to tap broadly into our circle to find those listening ears that can help carry it all. Don’t leave it up to interpretation. Tell someone in your life how you feel. Only one who has unloaded themselves can tell you how good it feels to lay down your burden. Keeping it all bottled up inside can only make the whole thing grow heavier as day by day new things arise to consider and carry. Find ways to unload.

Take time to do what you love. Music, outdoors, long walks, drinks with friends, sports, Hollywood entertainment, a quiet sunset on the beach or whatever else might

suit your fancy. While our lives are all full of pulls from many directions and responsibilities that arise to obligations, we always have to remember that we are no good to anyone else if we are no good to ourselves. This is where the my-oxygen-mask-first rule applies. If I do not learn to decompress and frequently unload my mental burdens (even if I have to pick them up later on), I will wear myself haggard til there’s nothing left... However we do it -- having some great sex, or blazing a fat jay with the homies, going to a comedy show, looking though an old album and recalling some good times -- all options are valid. Balance requires that we manage all of our responsibilities while keeping up a healthy regiment of rest and relaxation. Even almighty god laid out a day to just chill and kick it.

If all of that has not turned the corner and added a nice pep in your step, here is where we remember that everybody is different. What has worked for me, and the next guy over there, doesn’t *have* to work on you. And that’s the point of the human experience. We are all different and have a valid right to exist... each of us bring our own experience and unique perspective to the tapestry of humanity. No true expression is more necessary than someone else’s truth. The goal is to continue growing and moving forward. WE have to define what that means for each and every one of us, and develop the patience to be okay with whatever pace that this growth takes place.

Don’t forget, too, that there are pros out there as well. If your case continue to weigh heavy in spite of all of your own personal effort, and that of your circle of friends and family, maybe it is time to call in some experts. Even though our society is trying to improve in this area, we are still a people steeped in mental heath stigma. But your well-being is too important for such petty considerations. If you have a medical emergency and need to be rushed to the hospital so that a medical professional can intervene to save your life, there would be nobody looking down or calling you weak. How come when the trauma is mental and the wounds are invisible, we allow others to sit in judgement and tell us what we should and should not do for our own mental health? No. Pick up the phone and call the suicide prevention lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255). Or walk into any emergency room. And one day after we train our cops to be less eager with a gun, you’ll even be able to flag one down and get the help you need. Won’t that be an awesome day? That alone is a reason to stay alive... we all gotta work to make that glorious day come to pass. We need your input in creating this great tomorrow. Stick around and help us out. Join us in the Trans-National Alliance.



**BID REPORT– continued from page 1**

ent to most, and the 2019 annual planning report which showed no changes in district boundaries or so-called benefit zones. No changes? After two months of services in 2018, they voted to raise assessments by 5% affecting all of us. If they have the authority to change zones and benefits why have they told us that they can’t remove residential non-commercial use properties?

More disinformation from them. They will receive \$2,237,980.00, with \$457,405.00 going directly to management and administration which, translated, is Devine. And \$162,184.00 for District Identity, which is part of their slush fund.

It was another disgusting meeting with the arrogant BID board and Devine. They decreed that these public meetings will now be held every other month to avoid more questions, as they think it is a waste of time; another violation of their fiduciary duties as a non-profit. I was unable to bring up the subject of replacing board members since it will soon be two years and I think the management plan calls for a change. They don’t seem to care about that and they make up their own rules. I have to look into that.



Reese-Davidson— continued from page 1

- 3) Too Big- They fear the Reese Davidson Community will be too large, with too many units.
- 4) Wasteful and Inefficient-NIMBYs point out the city land is prime real estate and could be sold, with the money used to create far more housing in a less expensive area. And, why build new developments instead of refurbishing existing buildings?

- 5) Cheating –NIMBYs claim VCHC is aiming to skirt zoning laws.
- 6) It Won't Work- NIMBYs fear is that we're enabling people to take advantage of the system asking nothing of them such as sobriety, etc....

Underlying all of it seems to be a POV that if we care for those living on the street it will encourage more to do so. They point out that many have chosen this "lifestyle", and it's unfair to expect us to spend our city funds, and potentially reduce the value of our property, to support them. There's the sentiment that although many homeless people are benign, there are those who aren't, and exposing themselves and their children to this population reduces their quality of life.

Last March I met with Becky Dennison and Linda Lucks from Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC), the potential developer of the Reese Davidson Community (along with Hollywood Community Housing Corp), as well as the Rose Ave project.. I met separately with Will Hawkins, who was at that time an elected official of Venice Neighborhood Council, elected by the VNC to chair the homeless committee (VNCHC). Since then, Hawkins has since resigned. I've been comparing their points of view, with Councilperson Bonin, the "Venice NIMBYs", and my own observations.

**NIMBY Issue #1) Bonin is inviting homeless to Venice-** I wrote extensively of this concern in my August Beachhead article. The gist of the Venice NIMBYs fear is that Venice is set to host more homeless per square mile than any other part of District 11. The NIMBYs charge is that there is an unfair distribution of new PSH units in Venice. They point out four supportive housing projects in the pipeline in Venice: Reese Davidson Community on the Venice Median (140 units), VCHC's Headquarters on Rose Avenue (34 units), Thatcher Yard (proposed senior low income housing), and the MTA Lot Bridge Housing (units TBD).

In fact there are currently 4 properties in CD 11 **approved** for HHH funding. 1) West LA- the former animal shelter on Pico (city owned property). 2 & 3) West LA/Brentwood –VA campus (not city owned) first 200 units are now approved, with a total of 1200 units planned 4) VCHC Administration site on Rose. There are two more sites in predevelopment that will likely access HHH funds sites, Reese Davidson and Thatcher Yard, both in Venice (both city owned). The Metro Bus Depot (MTA) in Venice, currently being considered for temporary Bridge Housing for the homeless is not city-owned. If approved it would host Bridge Housing for the homeless for 3 years, then revert to mixed use- residential,

commercial and affordable housing. Prior to HHH, the last 3 projects **approved** in Council district 11 were in Del Rey, which already has far more supportive housing than Venice.

**Current PSH units-** I tried to find a current list of PSH units and affordable housing units in LA to counter the NIMBY arguments, but found them surprisingly difficult to locate.

Apparently, the VNCHC had the same question. Here's a motion from October 24<sup>th</sup>: "*Affordable Housing Accountability*" (George Francisco, [vp@venicenc.org](mailto:vp@venicenc.org)) *MOTION: The VNC Board will write a letter to Councilman Bonin, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the LAHSA, CDLA and the LA Dept. of Planning, requesting a full and accurate accounting of the amount and location of ALL units of "affordable" housing including but NOT LIMITED TO all forms of covenanted, rent controlled, Section 8, Permanent Supportive, and all other types of housing generally referred to as "affordable" located within the boundaries of the Venice Neighborhood Council's borders AND within a mile of those borders. Recommended by the Neighborhood Committed 7-0-1 on 10/24/18*

I'm very much looking forward to receiving this information. Along with other concerned neighbors, I wonder if Bonin and Garcetti were more proactive in housing the homeless in ALL the communities of District 11, if many of the NIMBY arguments would evaporate. One friend and neighbor who is for all the current proposals says, "It's not just about bridge housing. Venice gets shit on. Income vs population. Tourists... it's an epidemic... a national disaster... we would buy in if they put shelters in the rest of District 11... in Mar Vista, etc..." Bonin's District 11 "is bounded by [Mulholland Drive](#) on the north, the Pacific Ocean on the west, [Imperial Highway](#) on the south and roughly the [405 freeway](#) on the east. The district covers all or a portion of the following: [Brentwood](#), [Del Rey](#), [Mar Vista](#), [Marina del Rey](#), [Pacific Palisades](#), [Palms](#), [Playa del Rey](#), [Playa Vista](#), [Venice](#), [West Los Angeles](#), [Westchester](#) and the [Los Angeles International Airport](#)." <sup>[1] (Wikipedia)</sup>

The United Way's website has some information but it's incomplete. <http://everyoneinla.org/supportive-housing-tracker/>

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

#### Stats as of August 2018

Currently Los Angeles has 6,000 units of permanent supportive housing citywide. Only **42 out of the 6,000** existing PSH units are currently in Venice. The entire Westside hosts only 5% of LA's Permanent Supportive Housing. Venice contains 42 existing PSH units, and less than 1,000 affordable housing units. Santa Monica has around 350 PSH units, and 3000 affordable housing units. Del Rey has 71 existing PSH units. Brentwood's VA

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Baptist Church – continued from page 1

brought to the city's attention and to Mike Bonin's attention. They want to sit there and act like they don't know what's going on but they know exactly what's going on.

JW: There's a concentrated effort to erase the Black History of Venice.

LW: The erasure is there. I've seen no other city where they allow someone to come in and just take over the churches. No matter what the situation is, somebody somewhere with a heart has gotten up and assisted people with their churches. This is a place people go to worship. This church was flat out paid for. There was no reason for loans to be taken out on this church. Absolutely none. We're going to find out who the escrow company is, because that's in question. Whatever went through, it didn't go through legally.

JW: Then we're going to keep on fighting every Sunday afternoon in front of the church.

LW: The fight continues and we will not give up. We've been very good at what we're doing as lay people. We've had to work harder than the city, who's paid by our tax dollars, to do a job they should be doing. This is ridiculous and they know it. But when they want a Community, and they want what they want, and they want their oasis by the sea, this is what they allow to happen. This is how they don't let people worship every Sunday. And the Penskes... They're in it knee deep. Their holding company is in it and we will bring that proof too. He was involved way before the church was even sold. And that proof is coming.

Jon Wolff: I wanted to get your thoughts on the staff report for the OHR.

Jataun Valentine: The First Baptist Church of Venice is one of the oldest Black churches and should be historical. I think the report is wrong and I'm hoping that they will rethink it. The First Baptist Church was the main root of the Black Community and that should be taken into consideration.

JW: It has 108 years of solid Community History.

JV: If any church is historical it's the First Baptist Church, because there are still families here who know the history of it. And I think that should count.

JW: We're still going to meet in front of the church every Sunday.

JV: It's very important. We're not just going to crawl away. We will continue. Every Sunday we'll be out there. One, two, or a hundred; it doesn't matter. As long as someone is out there.

Jon Wolff: What do you think about the recent staff report by the OHR?

Dr. Naomi Nightingale: I think it's another tactic on their part to not only discourage us from continuing with this process but to actually give an upper hand to the Penskes for the approval of their project.

JW: The language sounded exactly like the Penskes' lobbyists.

NN: It sounded like it was a report written for their benefit and on their behalf. It's ludicrous for OHR or [Ken] Bernstein [Principal City Planner] to tell us that we should call the Penskes' lawyer to ask for an extension when the burden of mitigating or resolving this issue is really on them [OHR] and not us. It's their mistake, and their oversight, and their failure to comply with their own policies and procedures.

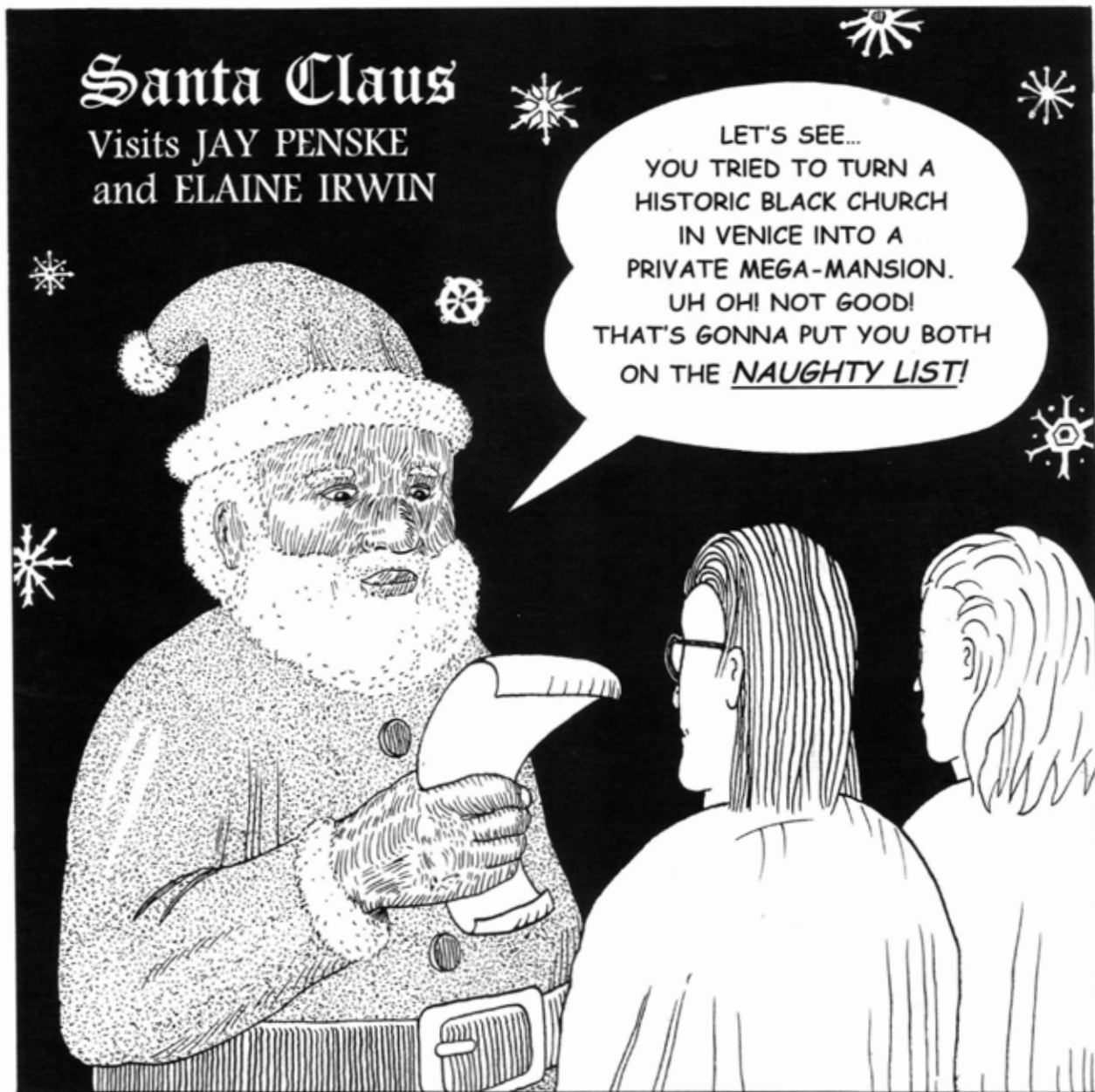
JW: They're trying to make the rules so that we can't win.

NN: Absolutely. And that's been the situation every step of the way. This position that we're out of time unless we can come Thursday without being given the same opportunity and timeliness for preparation that obviously was given to the Penskes... They turned in a report dated November 6. Now how did that happen and we not know that it was a timeline that had been determined for getting in information prior to the staff report? Nobody told us. Even with Bernstein saying that we could have called and asked for an inquiry. Well, we did. And that's the only time we got the response about the staff report, which was too late.

JW: The city offices want the Penskes to have this church in spite of the history that's gone on in this church.

NN: From the very beginning, that has been their position. And we have been the fly in the ointment for them. It seems like they're tired of this pestering group of savevenice.me putting all of the obstacles in the way of them being able to get their project done. So they'll just see if they can take this big leap and say that we don't qualify unless we can come and make a presentation on Thursday. And there's this other rule of the commission having to make a decision within 60 days. We're at the brink of that time frame. They can't, by the rules, give

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## Melvoin Deceives West Side Community on Behalf of Billionaire Privatizers.

By: Soni Lloyd

Two roads diverged in LAUSD, one leads to a mas-sive New Deal style reinvestment in our public schools saving the lives of tens of thousands of students, and the other to layoffs, school closures and reductions in student services. In a series of visits to West LA schools, the billionaire’s candidate, Democrat Nick Melvoin has demonstrated he is sprinting down the second path while trying to manufacture consent for the privatization agenda. LAUSD teachers are critical thinkers so he does not fool us.

From September to October, Melvoin visited Broad-way, Grandview and Venice High to tell parents in English only, the school district could not afford to make vital improvements to learning conditions such as reducing class size, hiring more nurses, counselors and psychologists because there are no resources to do so. This despite the fact the district sits on a record \$1.86 billion dollar surplus, enough to hire 15,000 new employ-ees, give a cost of living adjustment to all workers and have money to spare.

Melvoin did not bring interpretation services to any of these meetings despite the large percentage of parents at each school site who speak Spanish only. All LAUSD parents need to be able to access these vital meetings where education policy is being discussed. Their students are here so their voices matter, and Nick is ignoring them.

At Venice High, administration told teachers prior to Nick’s visit that the school board and the superintendent did not want them speaking to parents on campus about labor negotiations only to then witness Melvoin come to our campus and trash the teacher’s union. Silencing critical voices is undemocratic but teachers have asserted their legal and constitutional right to communicate with parents during non-instructional time on campus about matters of public concern. We produced this written reply to Melvoin’s misleading presentation to ensure we are heard so the public can better discern a course of action. The truth must be told.

The civic institution of public education is under attack by a scheme to privatize the system. Those who support the privatization agenda, like Eli Broad, are the people who backed Melvoin’s campaign, the most expensive school board race in U.S. history. This is the reason public schools are not being fully funded like they used to be and the district sits on almost \$2 billion of surplus funds while schools go without improvements. 10,000 new educators at \$110,000 (total compensation) could be hired now with \$1.1 billion and the surplus would still exist! That would be a serious class size reduction. But how would that benefit the charter schools along with their colocations?

We have super large class sizes, a lack of nurses, psy-chologists, counselors and instructional materials. Par-ents have to constantly fundraise to get things the school districts used to pay for. In less affluent neighborhoods this is an impossibility. We know our at-risk students suffer the most under this neglect. LAUSD diverts close to \$600 million a year from the general fund to private charters. We are in the middle of a long-term plan to pri-vatize public education. The latest contract offer actually calls for increasing class size if anv of 9 economic trig-

gers happen, which is basically a certainty. How can LA charter schools advertise their classes are capped at 30 while LA public schools have no limits to class size? The vast majority of public school teachers believe in a fully funded public system so that every child in Los Angeles has a world class education within walking distance of their home.

Here are a few points VHS teachers would like to make in response to Melvoin’s presentation:

**Nick stated there is a \$15 billion dollar liability for healthcare which handcuffs the district from taking on any new costs.**

He is talking about a 30-year liability like it’s a bill that’s due tomorrow and stating the district’s reserves have to be set aside for those future expenses. That is like someone claiming bankruptcy because they need \$500,000 today to pay for their 30-year-mortgage so they cannot put their kid in college. There is a big difference between the accrued accounting liability and the actual yearly cost of the plans which are accounted for in the regular budget. Plan obligations are paid over many years, thus the system provides time to generate contri-butions (from employees, employers, and the state) and investment returns as well as time to alter related financ-ing arrangements. For example, since 2015, California teachers are now contributing 2% more of their salaries into the retirement system. Discussing a plan’s unfunded liability by focusing solely on a figure that describes a projected price-tag 30 years in the future does not allow the public to benefit from an understanding of how the system actually works.

Instead of focusing on a projected bill 30 years away, lets focus on things that are draining funds away from student services right now, such as the \$600 million a year lost to private charter expansion, or the increasing special education costs due to charter’s selective enroll-ment practices which leaves the public schools with an ever-increasing percentage of special-needs students.

**Nick says LAUSD has a structural deficit in that it takes in less than it spends on a yearly basis.**

Again, this is based on a projection. The very recent historical data shows that LAUSD is actually accumulat-ing a large surplus while the district claims a crisis and schools are left underfunded. An examination of the past five years of LAUSD budgets demonstrates a steadily increasing ending balance from 2013- 2018. The end-ing balance for 2016-2017 was \$1.765 billion and for 2018-2019, \$1.83 billion, which amounts to 26.5% of the budget. UTLA have researchers who have worked hard to study these public budgets. Teachers are not inventing “alternative facts” as Melvoin suggested at VHS. We find it egregious that this money sits in an LA County Treasury account while the students are deprived of badly needed resources. New York Public Schools which serves even more students, only keeps 1% of their budget on reserve. The State of California requires school districts to keep only 1% on reserve, or \$75 million.

**Nick says teachers are being offered a 6% raise that they are refusing.**

This is not a 6% raise, it is a partial salary restoration. UTLA is demanding a 6.5% salary restoration to make up for the last 3 years of inflation in which teachers did not get any cost of living adjustments like most gov-ernment employees. The actual offer from the district

when Mevoin was here last month was 3% and another possible 3% next year if the funds are available. It is now 6% contingent on extra work duties and reduced retire-ment options for new hires. This latest offer is also being misrepresented by the board and superintendent as having no contingencies.

When salaries are not adjusted for inflation each year that means the payee actually takes a pay cut due to infla-tion. All we are asking for is to keep pace with inflation so we can at least maintain our standard of living in this expensive city. We are public servants and do not receive “raises” like those in the private sector. An example of an actual raise that increased buying power is the 174% increase the board voted for themselves last year! The state provides LAUSD with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) monies every year to pass on to the workforce. This is part of state law, yet LAUSD, unlike most other surrounding districts does not pass on this COLA adjust-ment to its workforce. The result is that it becomes more difficult for LAUSD teachers to live in the communities where they work. We have recently lost some good teach-ers at Venice High to the surrounding districts that pay as much as 20% more.

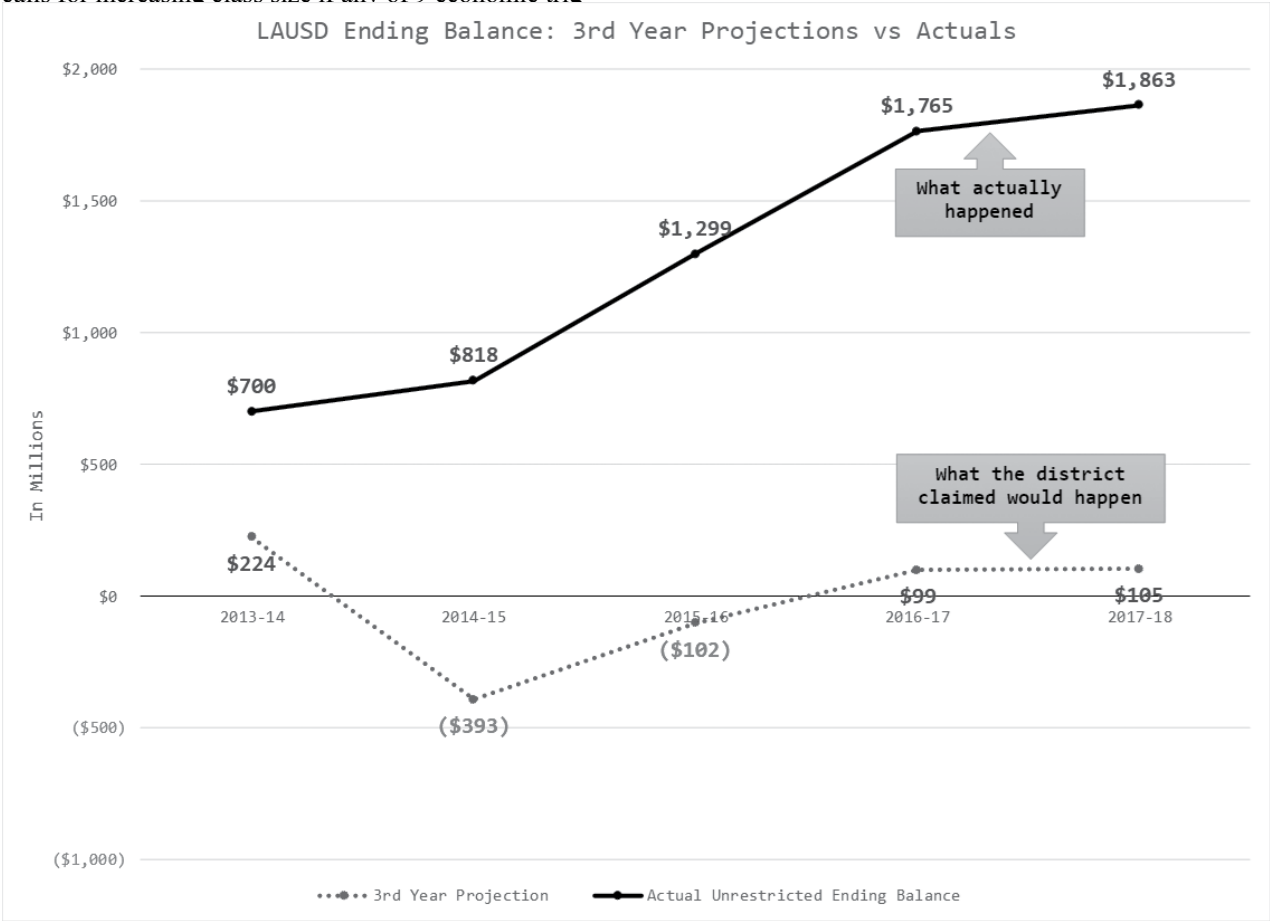
**Nick made an emphatic point that teachers just received a 10% raise in 2015.**

Again, this was a partial salary restoration, not a raise, because it left teachers still way behind inflation. We went 8 years with zero cost of living adjustments from 2007-2015. UTLA’s demand during those negotiations was a 17% salary restoration to make up for the 8 years. The financial strain on teachers was exacerbated by the many furlough days taken during 2010 and 2011. Cost of living in Los Angeles has increased 27% since 2007. In that time, teacher pay has only increased 10%. Currently, LAUSD teachers are 17% behind inflation from 2007. With the district’s 6% offer we will still remain 7% be-hind inflation from 2007. It is reasonable that public ser-vants demand their standard of living does not deteriorate year after year, especially as their workloads continue to increase.

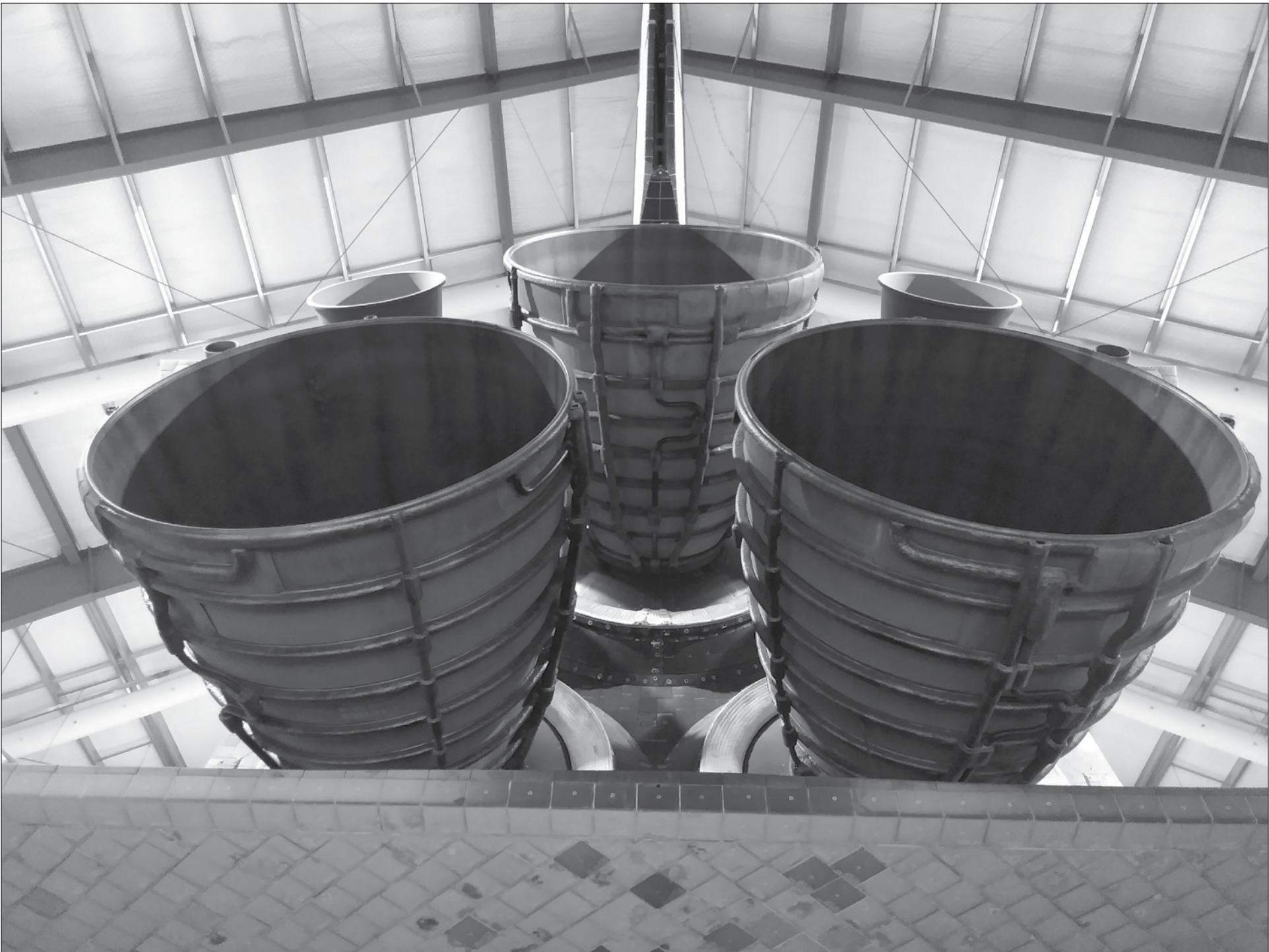
Nick’s major theme was that although teacher’s demands are reasonable, they cannot be met due to the financial situation of the district. A number of UTLA demands will actually save the district tons of money. First is charter accountability. Private charter expansion cost LAUSD close to \$600 million a year [https://www.utla.net/news/charter- schools-cost-laUSD-half-billion-last-year-report-claims](https://www.utla.net/news/charter-schools-cost-laUSD-half-billion-last-year-report-claims). UTLA’s proposals would slow down charter expansion by requiring an Education Impact Re-port as part of the authorization process for new charter schools and the reauthorization of existing schools. The demands also require district authorized charter schools provide annual data on student demographics, dismissals, expulsions and enrollment and ensure co-locations do not diminish the learning opportunities of Public School students.

Decreasing the number of standardized tests would also save the district millions of dollars a year. We are asking that teachers have discretion to determine when and/or what standardized assessments are used in their classrooms beyond those required by the state or federal government. Currently LAUSD mandates many more standardized tests than the state and federal government require. The average LAUSD student will have taken over 100 standardized tests by the time they finish 3rd grade.

Ending the daily, unconstitutional, random searches would also save money and the daily humiliation of our students who we have to teach after they have been unnecessarily pulled out of instruction to have their civil liberties violated. In conclusion, we will work with those who envision a progressive future for LAUSD and public schools in general and fight against those who stand in the way of progress for our schools. We will not settle for anything less than the best this district and state can offer our schools. All of our demands can be met with the current budget of LAUSD with plenty of room to spare. The proponents of privatization from the White House to the State House and at the district level are anathema to our just demands. Reducing class size means less room for charters to expand. Fully funded public schools gives little reason for parents to search for other options. Common sense charter regulation would slow down the privatization of public education and ensure a system of equity for all. We are fighting to reclaim the promise of public education as our nation’s gateway to a strong democracy and racial and economic justice. Stand with LA teachers by calling your school board, writing a letter to the editor and marching with us on December 15th at Grand Park, 10 AM. Please contact [venicehsutla@gmail.com](mailto:venicehsutla@gmail.com) to stand with Venice teachers. Or visit [@utla-now](https://twitter.com/utla-now), [@LAstudentsdeserve](https://twitter.com/LAstudentsdeserve), [#WeArePublicSchools](https://twitter.com/WeArePublicSchools)







# Trust We Will

by Alan Rodman

We rented a portable black and white tv set from a repair shop in the summer of 1968, just in time for me to see the success of the Apollo 8 orbital mission of the Moon.

My dad agreed to pay .50 a day for the rental, which was a week’s allowance for me then, so this was an extravagance. Through the summer I lazed around in newfound luxury watching cartoons and old movies or whatever was on tv back then, and toward autumn I remember hearing about demonstrations and violence at the Chicago Democratic convention and I knew that in the not so distant world of grown-up events there was a wrongful war and an urgent election and I knew by then that people in the streets could make a difference because I had heard about the Civil Rights marches -- and I had viewed and heard of the burial of President Kennedy, of his brother Bobby, and of the inspirational Dr. King, but none of those things seemed very concrete to me. I knew that they had a reality different from the cartoons I was watching -- but nothing was ever as real as those few days I sat attentively on the edge of the bed, alone in our motel room at the Westwood Village Inn, watching the Apollo 8 mission, as it arrived on December 21, 1968, piloted by the crew of Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and William Anders, to improbably orbit the Moon.

I realized at that moment that for once this was something everyone on the whole round world could now feel good about, and I realized I was seeing something that had never happened before, that would change everything. There have been many difficult and sad times

before and since, but this was completely new -- and completely wonderful. I felt that myself and our generations were really a part of it now, and we people now knew for the first time success in our explorations of space, and further into the natural world.

For a moment I felt part of the entire civilization and everything had changed, and I had seen it there with my own eyes, all by myself, and would anyone believe me? But millions had watched with me! My dad was an aerospace engineer in the age of space exploration, and suddenly I was right at the center of the universe of events. On that little tv, while adjusting those rabbit ears antennae, I had followed every detail of that mission, an adventure which felt so different from all the other difficult news of those days. It proved to at least one 11 year old that Man is also a force for hope and advancement and light.

Trust is earned. We just recently had to VOTE as if this may indeed have been our last chance. We proved we are determined to remain democratic and indivisible. Let us trust that we are able to choose the ways we grow beyond the world we already know.

The Zen teacher Jack Kornfield talks about trust, in his 2018 interview with Gratitude Revealed, [<https://jackkornfield.com/patience-is-the-wrong-word/>] of letting our feelings of trusting become more than only a way of enduring events, as we enlarge ourselves to ultimately benefit others:

“Mirror neurons help us learn from one another. The field of interpersonal neurobiology has demonstrated how we are connected in a web of being and influence the consciousness of one to another. When we evoke trust

*photo above: Rocket engines - Alan Rodman*  
through remembering someone who exemplifies trust, we start to feel what it’s like in our own body, in our own heart... We all have access to great possibilities. We can start to trust that we are embedded in something so large and beautiful and mysterious that can display itself as music or art or love or gardening or healing or parenting or creative work. Traditionally young people would get initiated into this self respect, a communication of trust that they are carrying something of value. Each individual has this, each unique person.”

This first manned mission to the moon became that initiation for me into a community of hope. That one great accomplishment fulfilled some vast aspirations of all human history. It appeared to me to be the fact that would surely unify our world.

An Ojibwa poem that i heard years later expressed perfectly how I felt that day:

I go about wailing,  
beating my breast,  
but all the while a great wind  
is bearing me across the sky.

A few weeks later, the motel maid blew in like the wind and wiped the TV screen with some solvent that caused it to fog up and we had to return it to the shop with an explanation and apology, and it probably never entertained anyone again -- but I had seen enough, so I knew by then that space is wide and the Earth is round, but rest assured, impossible dark distances can be crossed.



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# California Apocalypse: Fire and Fury

In today’s America, random mass murder has merged with ecological devastation.

by Harvey Wasserman – November 12, 2018

Fifty years ago, in my twenties, I often hitchhiked the Pacific Coast Highway through Southern California. I slept on pristine beaches, swam in the ocean, and spent endless hours watching seals and dolphins ride the waves just a few yards offshore.

A favorite spot was in Santa Monica, where Sunset Boulevard meets the sea at Will Rogers State Park. This gorgeous stretch of white sand, framed by the Santa Monica pier to the south and the Malibu Hills to the north, seemed like paradise.

Today, fulfilling a lifelong dream, I live in the San Fernando Valley, a forty-minute drive from the Pacific, half of which is through beautiful Topanga Canyon.

This evening there was something else—an unwelcome terror.

This past Friday, I set off for my weekly bike ride along the beach. As usual, I parked at Will Rogers and rode my bike south down the concrete path about six miles to the Venice Pier. The final stretch, through Venice Beach, featured a constant cloud of the cannabis smoke that now flows free and easy in the land of legal pot.

At the end of a peaceful afternoon, I rode north back up to Will Rogers (always into the wind) to watch the sunset and take a dip in the ocean, which was, as expected this time of year, warmer than the air.

But this evening there was something else—an unwelcome terror. Over the ridge, in Malibu and Calabasas, fires were raging, engulfing the entire range of hills and valleys to the north in smoke. The flames were clearly visible as I rode along, all too aware that at that moment, fellow humans were dying, homes and livelihoods were being consumed, and for many people not much different from me, the world was ending.

Earlier in the week, in nearby Thousand Oaks, yet another crazed gunman shot up yet another bar, killing eleven people. Some of the victims were survivors of the Las Vegas shooting a year ago, where more than fifty people died. Now they died here.

I thought about the ocean waves, once so pure, now laced with unseen traces of Fukushima. The March 11, 2011, earthquake there caused three meltdowns and four hydrogen explosions that blew radiation into the air and water far in excess of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki. The three melted cores still seeth underground. A constant flow of liquid carries untold isotopes into the Pacific as Tokyo Electric has failed for nearly a decade to permanently cool them.

That witches brew of some of the world’s most lethal substances has long since arrived here. Years ago tuna caught off the coast of California were found to be carrying significant doses of identifiable Fukushima contaminants.

I swim anyway. I don’t know how much radiation is in those waves. But it’s there, as are the twin nuclear reactors just four hours drive north at Diablo Canyon near San Luis Obispo. Thousands of us have been arrested protesting those reactors, capable of making this entire region a dead zone, especially once hit by the “Big One” earthquake we all know will eventually come.

The awful glow of the deadly fires shine through massive clouds of soot and smoke. It’s like nothing I’ve ever seen, a hellish reality in a paradise I once took for granted.

The following afternoon, I find solace in a few blessed hours with my darling grandchildren, playing in an idyllic suburban backyard under pristine blue skies.

The awful glow of the deadly fires is like nothing I’ve ever seen, a hellish reality in a paradise I once took for granted.

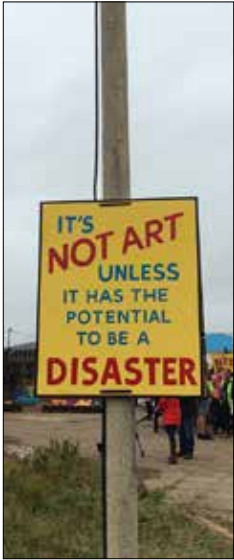
And then it arrives. The soot and smoke of the Woolsey fire smacks us in the face. The flames have already torn through Santa Susana, a toxic wasteland whose lethal pollutants—including radioactive isotopes from ten small reactors—may be pouring over Los Angeles. At least twenty-five people have already died in the inferno, several of them roasted to death in their cars, caught by the rapidly moving flames. Many more are still missing.

Fallout from the fires cover us with a filthy, acrid fallout.

Only fate has thus far protected me and my family from the poisonous contamination and the killings—the sudden death that seems poised to strike at random anywhere we live, work, and play. In today’s America, random mass murder has merged with ecological devastation.

There is much we can do about both of these sources of terror. Meaningful gun control. Limiting fossil fuel and nuclear emissions. Finally switching totally to renewable energy.

But the path to security is narrowing. Breathe the air, look at your kids, think about being in a crowded public room, and know that the need for meaningful, powerful, and effective citizen action is more immediate than ever.



from Dismalland

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Photos from Tina Catilina Cochran circa 1995  
Left: Ray Packard, Tina Catilina Cochran Circa 1995  
Below Left: ? Circa 1995  
Below Middle: Tina Catalina Cochran and Barry The Lion Cornon and his piano..  
Phillip Chamberlain and Tina Catalina Cochran



SPARC is proud to announce that it will be hosting its annual Anti-Corporate Art Sale and is looking for vendors of all types of art, crafts, and jewelry. Support the makers not the corporate takers!

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Contact Dago Perez at [dago@sparcinla.org](mailto:dago@sparcinla.org) for more details



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site will contain 1800 units of PSH currently in development, however this stems from a Federal program specifically for veterans. Pacific Palisades and Malibu host zero PSH units as far as Becky from VCH knows (apart from the many homeless residents camping in the hills and on the streets.)

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

According to **Sam Catanzaro** of the Brentwood News, VNC looked at the following alternate sites in WLA within Council District 11 for a bridge housing facility. **LAPD Training and Operations Center – 5601 Manchester Boulevard.** *City-owned 13.6-acre zoned industrial property currently in limited use. Has open space for tents. Has a high presence of police officers. Residential houses are on two sides of the property.* **West Los Angeles Civic Center – 1645 Corinth Ave** *Currently up for sale, is vacant and on property proposed for a bridge housing site. This large property currently includes the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) West Division offices, a public library, the vacant West Los Angeles Courthouse and a 1.2-acre parking lot. The proximity to the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration and hospital make this an appealing choice but like the Venice MTA site, is nearby to an elementary school and residential apartments.* **Westchester Recreation Center (7000 W Manchester Ave)** *This 27.5-acres-includes office space, a library and men's and women's locker rooms. Available on January 1, 2019, and because the City owns the property, there is no lease required. Close to LAX, the future Rams' football stadium and public parks all offering potential jobs. It is, however, nearby to the KinderCare learning center and the public Loyola Village School.* **USS Enterprise (CVN-65)** *this decommissioned United States Navy aircraft carrier was the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the longest aircraft carrier ever built. Active from 1961-2012 and decommissioned in 2017 and is currently awaiting scrapping and recycling and in Virginia. With sleeping quarters, bathrooms, cooking facilities and office space, this ship can hold up to 5,828 people. Some have discussed a similar idea in San Francisco regarding the USS Peleliu, a decommissioned assault ship. Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos wrote an op-ed for the San Francisco Chronicle proposing docking the boat in the city's port and allowing homeless individuals board at night.*

Let's follow up on these alternative sites. I'd love to see all of them, including the MTA Lot,utilized until every last person has a safe place to rest.

But back to our own community...

Homeless and at risk adults and families are currently served by the St. Joseph Center, and youth are served by Safe Place for Youth (SPY).

**New Venice Solutions and the Venice Neighborhood Council**

**Bridge Housing at MTA** In August, 2018, the Venice Neighborhood Council Homeless Committee (VNCHC) unanimously passed a motion supporting the concept of Bridge Housing in Venice along with executing a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with the city that would allow the community to have a say in what it was and looked like, and would hold the city legally accountable to maintain the facility as agreed to in that contract.On Oct 17<sup>th</sup> there was a raucous town hall featuring Mayor Garcetti, Councilperson Bonin, and Police Chief Michel Moore, which dealt mainly with “A Bridge Home”, the proposed MTA temporary bridge housing. Vocal, determined and many would say rude opponents shouted supporters. Our councilperson and mayor are still convinced that the moderate factions represent Venice, and plan to move forward with the project.

**Rose Ave.**-On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the VNC voted to support the new VCHC Rose Avenue Apartments. This will be a new construction of 35 homes including permanent supportive housing for 34 formerly homeless households (50% for transitional aged youth and 50% for those who have experienced chronic homelessness) and one resident manager unit on the grounds just west of Lincoln on Rose which has housed VCHC administrative offices for about the past 20 years. 9 voted in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstained. The “Everyone In” VCH supporters organized this time, wearing black shirts saying “Yes Bridge Housing/ Supportive/ Affordable, while carrying red roses. The opponents on the VNC council’s main concern seemed to be mass scale and character issues, along with setting a precedent for density and parking issues, which was scoffed by the crowd in attendance who have witnessed so many variances for mini-mansions and businesses, along with the fact that many homeless residents don’t have cars.

**Reese Davidson and Oxford Yard** Previously the VNCHC has been seems to have been opposed to the Reese Davidson PSH development. Not sure if a vote has been taken or where they stand now. The project has been

eclipsed by the proposed MTA Bridge housing and the VCH Rose projects.

**NIMBY FEAR #2-- Too many Non-Venetians!**

A big NIMBY argument is that there’s no guarantee that the potential residents of Reese Davidson (or Rose or the MTA Bridge housing) will be from Venice, and that many more might flood to our community to scam the system.

So who are these Venetians? Who has the right to live here?

At meeting at Beyond Baroque this fall, where we were supposed to have Bonin and Garcetti answer questions about bridge housing, but which was instead usurped by NIMBY agitation, I spoke to several NIMBY protesters. I asked, “What makes a local? How long do you need to have lived in Venice before you’re considered a Venetian?”

One answered “Last housed in Venice. I interviewed 20 homeless people...2 were from Venice”

Another answered, “If someone was living in Venice, paying taxes in Venice for 5 years- then they’re Venetian homeless”.

One thing that’s rarely mentioned is that many residents of Venice lucked into their homes via their family money (trust funds), or some other fortunate set of circumstances. Others ventured here when it was scary and affordable, before gentrification, before it was cool, attracted to the grungy, artsy edgy, inclusive vibe.

**Coordinated Entry System**

The fact is, the city operates with the **Coordinated Entry System** to choose where people who enter the “system” go.(CES <https://www.lahsa.org/ces/>)It’s a matching process- factoring in how successful you’ll be in the community, and what your ties are, like outreach and mental health workers.The effort is to stay local to your community.

“The Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System (LA County CES) facilitates the coordination and management of resources that comprise the crisis response system in the county. CES allows users to efficiently and effectively connect people to interventions that aim to rapidly resolve their housing crisis. CES works to connect the highest need, most vulnerable persons in the community to available housing and supportive services equitably.

The main objectives of the system are: 1) reduce the length of time a family is homeless and permanently house them as quickly as possible, using rapid Re-housing and linkages to supportive services. 2) Build upon existing community-based infrastructures to serve homeless families, leverage resources, and provide more targeted and cost-effective interventions.

Of course, to qualify for any of these potential services or affordable housing, one needs to enter the system. Many currently on the street don’t want to enter this or any other system.

There’s a concern about the quality of the potential residents of Reese Davidson (or any other PSH) - a fear of the mentally ill or criminals. Back in March, Will pointed out “30%-mentally ill, 30% physically ill-they need asylums, treatment centers, putting them in a unit somewhere won’t help....We need a healthcare system-we need national healthcare.” I couldn’t agree more. The whole point of CES is to direct applicants to proper services. The mentally ill would hopefully be directed elsewhere, although there is a vast lack of solutions there as well.

Becky Dennison from VCH noted, “We can’t solely serve homeless from Venice- if we did that we’d never house a person here in Venice. If everybody only served their own neighborhood “nobody would be able to move, ever...All people getting services now get a voucher and are shuttled to housing in SLA or the Valley....Folks need to have some mobility. That said the CES is local to Westside- they sign up in the Westside...Where they were from originally is a different question -doesn’t matter. Because there is large homeless population in Venice, we’re over represented in the Westside....75% in all VCH developments (in Venice, Del Rey and Mar Vista) were homeless from Venice.”VCH hears community concerns and is looking into getting a Master lease program- with the health department that funds Venice outreach team, to keep units designated for Venetians. But most of the proposed housing is going to happen **outside** of Venice, and it would be a shame for our homeless population be unable to be housed merely because they are Venetians. Firm boundaries just don’t work.

Sadly, these potential housing sites are a tiny drop in the bucket compared to all those camping without a solid roof over their heads or facilities or a place to dump their trash. The homeless numbers are so vast it’s a whole lotta hullabaloo for only 140 units of housing. And anyone who thinks homeless folk are just scamming the system to not have to work, should really think long and hard about the reality of spending every single night in a sleeping bag on a sidewalk, scavenging for food and a place to pee. Really? Is that the life you want to scam for?? Think about it, would you really want to be living in a tent or an RV or your car or a bank atm lobby?Even if you were  
*continued on page 8*



Baptist Church – continued from page 3

us an extension on that basis. So they have all these barriers up in front of us. They’re the ones who can make an exception to the rule because the fault is theirs. But saying that they asked the Penskes and they said “No” to an extension, but that we can ask them... as if it’s a favor to us. We’re not asking for a favor; we’re asking for fairness. And due process and rule of law. And that’s not what’s happening here. Just the opposite. The only benefit that’s being extended is to the Penskes and not to the Community.

JW: This church has been at the center of the Community for over a hundred years. How is it that the Office of Historical Resources can casually ignore all that?

NN: It’s more than casual. It’s blatant. It’s offensive. It’s criminal. When you have 33,600 signatures from Community individuals, from members of the congregation of First Baptist Church of Venice, from supporters, from residents, from others who have benefited from the significance of this church, that alone should have been sufficient for them to give consideration and acceptance to this church as a historical and cultural monument in this Community. How can they tell us that it’s insignificant. How can a church of this standing, of this number of years of service to the Community with the

History and the generations of the congregation of people from this Community that have continually supported this church from the 1900s until now, be dismissed as insignificant?

JW: Our efforts are going to continue, and their efforts to slow us down are pointless.

NN: The statement that I made in my email to Mr. Bernstein, that him telling us that we have to find a remedy, when the remedy is not one that really supports our position, is tantamount to giving us a poison pill to ingest ourselves... to giving us enough rope to put the noose around our own necks and choke out the History of the Black Community in Venice. And that’s not going to happen.

Go to [www.savevenice.me](http://www.savevenice.me) to learn about the First Baptist Church of Venice and to sign the petition to save it.





Reese-Davidson – continued from page 7

being fed and had a bathroom? If you had a bathroom and shower and a safe place to sleep wouldn't you be more likely to want to get your sh\*t together?

As Larry Hankin said in his one person show about being homeless, "It's a full time job".

Of course, the bugaboo is that, no matter how well intentioned, the city and local neighborhood councils also have an obligation to their taxpayers and voters of Venice to represent their concerns as well as those less fortunate. While he was on the VNCHC Will said, "Therefore we must drive down middle of issue-Make sure both sides are heard. Sometimes we make a decision that supports the local homeowners and businesses since what's going on with homeless is affecting their lives and businesses – Not trying to hurt homeless, just trying to respect investment so they'll be able to continue on living here." We live in a meritocracy- work hard, sacrifice- you can live how you want. We have a right to have an opinion on what gets built next to us. The role of VNC is not that of a legislative body. The committee provides motions, but City Council chooses whether to take action or not. Will believed "We can't wait for City Hall to solve our problems...as a community we need to take action ourselves... that's how the reunification program came about- We saw need saw how we could make a difference. Our reunification program is expanding throughout other neighborhood councils who are replicating our program... We have housed 30 people...safe parking for 200 Vets...In process of creating a new women's shelter on Main Street for 20 homeless women... We're doing good work. We're trying to save the community." Will pointed out the majority of motions passed by the VCHHC aid the homeless like storage containers for the homeless on 3rd and Rose who are those registered with CES. The council passed a mobile bathroom initiative, but allows homeowners to have a say where they end up- if 2/3 of residents don't want the bathrooms, they need to go somewhere else. But have any of the mobile bathrooms been placed? Or are residents just saying no?

Various factions make up our homeless population: mentally ill, drug addicted, vets, younger runaways, unaccepted gay kids, abused women and children, older women and men, artists, families who lost their job and can't pay bills (sometimes couch surfing or living in cars). And certainly everyone can agree on supporting some-back in March Will said, our "City needs to have support for artists...Also the city should have programs to support teachers, firemen, municipal workers..."

But there are also homeless folk who appear to have chosen this path- those "bumming around"- "millennial travelers" who may come from wealthy families. How much do they need services? , And then there are the scammers: fuel for NIMBY fodder.

However, Becky guessed the latter factions comprise 10-20% of the total, and the odds of one of them getting the much coveted affordable housing is low. Just to get onto the CES requires intensive screening, working with an outreach worker-it can take a couple of months just to get on the wait list. The best case scenario, if you're the neediest person and a housing unit or voucher opens up, is still a 9 month wait. And what makes you the neediest? It's determined by 10 page assessment for the CES- age, disability, health condition, etc....If you're a traveler or temporarily homeless, you're unlikely to even get into the program. And if you haven't been homeless for 5 years, with chronic health problems, you're not likely to rise to top of the list. The CES holds approximately 25,000 people on its list, the odds of scoring an apartment are vast. Therefore the NIMBY fear tactics of saying tourists and scammers are gonna move in next door are completely false.

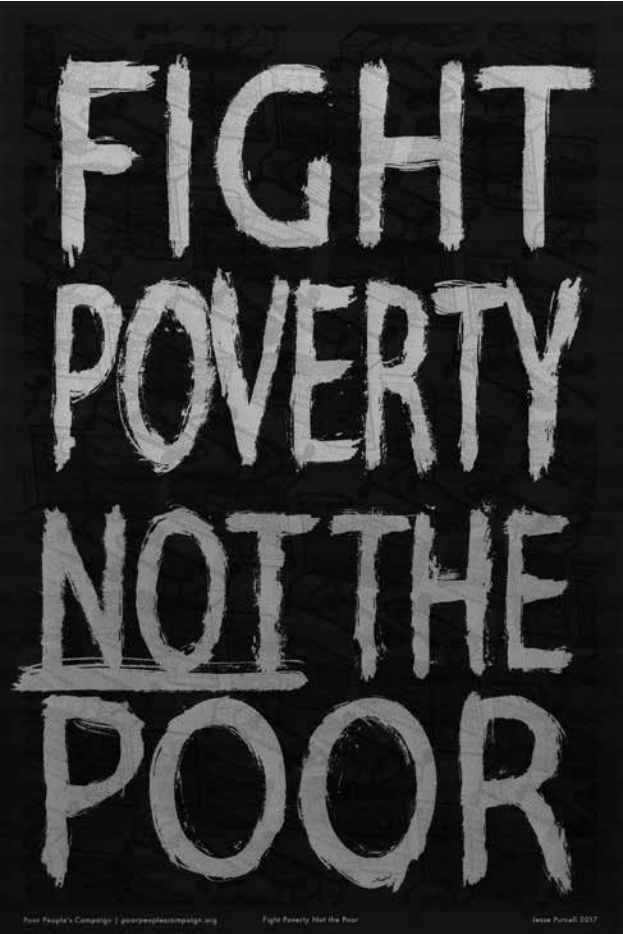
With regards to the mentally ill: symptoms, level of care, and meds are all assessed. It's a long and difficult process, and the applicant needs to have stabilized just to get through it. Those needing more full time care than PSH can provide, would hopefully be referred to a mental health facility, but sadly they're limited too. Many mentally ill people who used to be in 24 hour care who didn't need that much supervision, and permanent supportive housing would provide the middle ground that Regan promised, which was supposed to be there 20-30 years ago. Everyone in the Reese Davidson Community will have an intensive case manager on site- most people have additional mental health care. There would be 4 full time onsite caseworker. Only 68 of the 140 units are permanent supportive housing units- with 3 caseworkers. 1 case-worker would be for the other residents who don't come with as much high needs, and who may have their own case worker from outside. VCHC assures us that each resident would have access to the level of care they need.

**Good Neighbors-** Many NIMBYs claim, if our homeless population had shown themselves to be better neighbors, perhaps our community would be more welcoming. You're in my yard, leaving stuff, stealing bikes-you're being a crappy neighbor-starting fires between encampments- no order, cleanliness. Homeless are guests...show us you want to be here and are responsible -be a good neighbor and part of neighborhood

When I posed the question last March, Becky responded that "Some are good neighbors, but some are not" It's hard to tell however, if the behavior began that way, or is a result of street life (like the Artful Dodger in Oliver). She's worked in the "Housing First" model for 20yrs, and has seen "lives transform when folks are housed". Much of the negative behavior disappears. For 95%, behavior changes drastically when they're in a community they want to live in. For the handful of those who don't change, VCH uses intensive services, harm reduction approaches and other ways to shift behavior, often successfully. And if that doesn't work, they sometimes have to evict people for being bad neighbors – can't be loud, rude, aggressive or abusive.

When I asked Becky how she thinks homeless people can add value to the neighborhood, she responded, "I think they're already adding value to the neighborhood now...For the most part they're warm and caring and giving people ...and they're forced to live under difficult circumstances, yet for me...most have treated me like good neighbors...sweeping sidewalks ...coming to neighborhood council meetings, organizing around issues...once housed they can contribute more...their talents can thrive. Working in neighborhood, artists reengage in their art, instead of constant survival mode, active engaged in school, community. Until then, ideally our homeless citizens can watch out for their neighbor, watch out for our kids...a quid pro quo-security vs. blankets and food. The best education for our kids is to not judge what they look like, but who they are.

**Safety** --There's a basic misunderstanding that residents would be in more danger with homeless housing and/or services located nearby. The truth is just the opposite. Since the homeless folk would be taken care of with services, a place for their trash, and a place to use the



bathroom, the neighbors would in fact, be more safe, not less. Additionally, the city has promised that there will be guards (perhaps caretakers is a more benevolent word?). All this would hopefully clean up the areas in question from our current state of every person for themselves without a pot to piss in.

Becky stresses, "We're on the right side of this ...I just have no doubt...it's the right thing to do...it's the responsible thing to do... We are responsible neighbors ...we will end up with great properties that enhance people's lives both who live in the property and don't, and we're gonna get a lot of crap about it along the way. The homeless population is here-some people say, "it's not gonna solve the problem so let's not do it".... One step at a time...our development is not going to solve the problem ...it's gonna get some lucky, deserving people into housing...But it is part of a citywide effort to do 10,000 units... it will change it substantially, improve it substantially". VCHC can't get involved with politics, but does support Bonin's clear plan and advanced solutions. He won 77% of votes – voters want a more equitable community. Progress moves slow but steady, and Linda Light reassures, "We're not backing down". The VCHC have guested in private homes and small informational sessions, and there is much support for the project -many residents are supportive or won't oppose the progress to care for our homeless population. However the NIMBY opposition is well organized, well- funded, and they lie. Becky states, "Every community benefits from affordable housing and diversity, particularly Venice, which was created from artists and bohemians... goal is to democratize the neighborhood." Additionally, Fair Housing Laws demand a reduction of geographical segregation of affordable housing. In other words, by law you can't just sell prime real estate in order to fund low income housing

in existing low income neighborhoods. VCH is committed to protect affordable housing in Venice, taking the solution to where the problem is.

VCHC states, "Our team continues to work to develop our final land use and planning proposal for the City's approval process, the Neighborhood Council and other public meetings. As this site is City-owned, requires land use amendments, and is a close partnership with the Department of Transportation to preserve and improve all public parking, the process has taken longer than originally expected. We will email as soon as there is a final proposal and include access to all public documents related to the approvals process."

On November 16th, 2018 I received an email from VCH stating

"Reese Davidson Community is moving forward!

This week, Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing filed the Environment Assessment Form, which is the first step in the Environmental Impact Report process. The form is available [HERE](#), as is the overall plan and background information about Reese Davidson Community.

A longer email will follow with the process for review and approval, which is approximately a 16-month process. Two next steps to look out for:

1) The full application for City approvals is expected to be submitted within the next two to three weeks. It will be shared on this email list and on the website.

2) The first public hearing will be the Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Impact Report. This is expected in December or January. It will be announced on this email list, through a 500-foot radius mailing, and other outreach.

**Venice spirit-** Circling back once again to my original question; Is Bonin exacerbating the Venice homeless "crisis", luring more homeless to Venice by providing more PSH and services? As I personally think about this complex issue I realize that although it may be true, I don't care. I embrace the Venice spirit I moved here for, despite the challenge of finding sleeping bags in my bamboo, seeing my homeless neighbors camped out across the street, or watching the SPY kids line up on my block to receive services. I secretly hope they're watching out for me as I share our streets. I wish there was a toilet for them to use so they won't be tempted to use my yard or the gutter or need to hold it in while McDonalds is closed between 2-5am. Our homeless neighbors have arrived. Does it really matter where they last paid taxes or who they ran away from? That's the fascinating individuality of each and every person sleeping on the street.

I had a realization just the other night as I was feeding my stray cat. Shadow was abandoned several years ago by a guy living in his van in the parking lot behind the car mechanics on Lincoln near my house. He had at least a dozen cats living in and outside his van, leaving many of them behind when he split. At least one of them took residence in my backyard and under my house. I would hear terrible cries from my own rescue kitties as he terrorized them and even chased one of them away. I have a mixed relationship with Shadow. I resent him for taking territory from my cats. I resent the fact that although I feed him, he'll never let me touch him. He hisses at my remaining house cat. But he's here. He lives here. And as soon as I accepted that, I noticed how beautiful he is- sleek and black, like a panther, with big round green eyes. And I'm gonna feed him and care for him, because he's a living creature living under my nose and it's the right thing to do. Amazingly, a host of other stray cats have not moved in to take advantage of me. Even the raccoon and possums have been scarce. But Shadow is now most definitely mine.

As Becky said back in March, "Venice is one of the most bleeding heart liberal places in the country- let's put our values to the test". She reminds us, "We can't point to a place where there's more homeless or encampments because of PSH –the opposite is true." NIMBYs ignore the history of our neighborhood – believe nothing existed before them so their vision is the only vision. Some have the sentiment, "I'm here now, so clean it up- I don't like it". But as a colorful supporter of MTA Bridge housing said, "You knew when you bought your 5 million dollar house –you saw the homeless encampments, you were aware they were there. Only after you move in you decided to cry foul...If you wanted white picket fences and Kumbaya, you could have moved to Marina Del Rey, or Santa Monica. I came here for funky diversity. I don't want to see people walking around with colored poodles and spending \$7 for coffee."

Couldn't have said it better myself.



*Are they blinded by the rays of sun and floodlights?  
Do they look the other way  
and cup their hands to fog-stopped ears,  
those scornful sneerers by the Bay?*

*Here inside my heart is where it lies!  
Here laughter rules, jazz wails  
and beats for dancers in the surf.*

*Helene Wolff*  
*1972*

ON LIVING

I.

Living is no laughing matter :

you must live with great seriousness  
like a squirrel, for example-  
I mean without looking for something beyond and above living.

I mean living must be your whole occupation.

Living is no laughing matter :

you must take it seriously,  
so much so and to such a degree  
that, for example, your hands tied behind your back,  
your back to the wall,

or else in a laboratory  
in your white coat and safety glasses,  
you can die for people-  
even for people whose faces you’ve never seen,  
even though you know living  
is the most real, the most beautiful thing.

I mean, you must take living so seriously  
that even at seventy, for example, you’ll plant olive trees-  
and not for your children, either,  
but because although you fear death you don’t believe it,  
because living, I mean, weighs heavier.

II.

Let’s say we’re seriously ill, need surgery-  
which is to say we might not get up  
from the white table.

Even though it’s impossible not to feel sad  
about going a little too soon,  
we’ll still laugh at the jokes being told,  
we’ll look out the window to see if it’s raining,  
or still wait anxiously  
for the latest newscast . . .

Let’s say we’re at the front-  
for something worth fighting for, say.

There, in the first offensive, on that very day,  
we might fall on our face, dead.

We’ll know this with a curious anger,  
but we’ll still worry ourselves to death  
about the outcome of the war, which could last years.

Let’s say we’re in prison  
and close to fifty,  
and we have eighteen more years, say,  
before the iron doors open.

We’ll still live with the outside,  
with its people and animals, struggle and wind-  
I mean with the outside beyond the walls.

I mean, however and wherever we are,  
we must live as if we will never die.

III.

This earth will grow cold,  
a star among stars  
and one of the smallest,  
a gilded mote on blue velvet-  
I mean this, our great earth.

This earth will grow cold one day,  
not like a block of ice  
or a dead cloud even  
but like an empty walnut it will roll along  
in pitch-black space. . .

You must grieve for this right now  
-you have to feel this sorrow now-  
for the world must be loved this much

if you’re going to say “I lived” . . .

Nazim Hikmet

1948

ANUBUS’S CHILDREN

THE DOG HEADED GODS CHILDREN OF ETERNITY

I HAVE LIVED IN VENICE FOR MANY MOONS PAST. NOW BEFORE ME, I GO TO SPEAK TO THE HOMELESS,I LISTEN TO EACH AND EVERY STORY,I HEAR THE WORDS OF THE CHILDREN,I HEAR THE WORDS AND THE WHISPERS OF THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN, I SEE THE GHOSTS OF THERE PAST HAUNTING THEM,THE GHOST OF TIME,I SEE THE TEARDROPS FROM A MOTHER WHOM COULD NOT LOVE,A MOTHER OF HER OWN ABUSE,I SEE THE BOY WHOM WAS FORGOTTEN AT THE BASEBALL GAMES, A FATHERLESS CHILD, I SEE HIS TEARS UNDERNEATH A BASEBALL CAP. THAT ONLY HE COULD LOVE,SOMETHING THAT HIS FATHER LEFT HIM THE DAY HE WALKED OUT THE FRONT DOOR,I SEE THE CHILDREN THAT OTHERS DO NOT SEE, THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS,THE FORGOTTEN FATHERS AND BROTHERS, THE LOST AT SEA,A HEART SO SHATTERED THE CREEKS RUN DRY,NO MORE TEARDROPS,NO MORE RAINDROPS, HOW CAN THE HUMAN RACE SAY THAT THEY ARE A LOVING COMPASSIONATE RACE, WHEN THEY DO NOT SEE, NOR HEAR, THERE OWN KIND AND WEEP FOR THEM,NOR CARE FOR THEM, WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE EARTHS ISLANDS, WE ARE THE RACE OF THE FORGOTTEN AND THE CHARMED, THE KINGS AND THE CASTLES AND THE FAIRIES,WE HAVE NO UNICORNS,WE HAVE NO DANCING ON WINDS NOR CHARMS OF A GOLDEN AGE PAST BY. WE HAVE FORSAKENED OUR OWN RACE. WE HAVE MISPLACED OUR ENERGIES OF TIME, OUR PAST AND ANCIENT CHIMES OF A GRANDFATHERS SWEETNESS AND MEMORIES. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WE TOO ARE MISPLACED AND LOST AND FORGOTTEN CHILDREN, WE HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR HU=MAN RACE.WE HAVE FORGOTTEN EACH OTHERS DREAMS.WE AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL ARE EXPERIENCING EACH OTHER S ENERGETIC FIELDS BEYOND TIMELESSNESS. I HEAR THE STORY OF A MAN RAISED IN THE BRONX,AND HOW HE SAW HIS MOTHER, SHOT UP WITH HEROIN,AND HIS FATHER LEAVING HER IN A CHAIR. THIS MOTHER,ON HEROIN, SHE NEVER GOT UP AGAIN, AND YET A 5 YEAR OLD SON WAS LEFT WITH A MOTHER DEAD, AND A FATHER ABANDONED AND A HOLE IN HIS HEART SO BIG,THAT THE MOON COULD SWALLOW HIM UP INSIDE,A BLACK HOLE SO DEEP THE MEMORIES,HAUNTED HIS SOUL,THIS SON, OF TRAJEDY WAS LEFT, OUT IN THE COLD IN THE BRONX,TO BE USED, ABUSED AND TOSSED OUT LIKE TRASH AND YET, THE HU-MAN RACE,SAYS THEY ARE LOVING AND COMPASSIONATE RACE. I AM SO ETRNALLY DISTURBED BY THE LACK OF LOVE IN THE HU-MAN RACE FOR IT’S OWN CHILDREN, LET THEM BE BIG OR TALL, OR SMALL, ALL CHILDREN NEED A LITTLE LOVE TO GROW IN THERE SOULS, TO HEAL, TO FEEL, TO EXPERIENCE LOVE AND TO BECOME A PART OF AN ENORMOUS COCOON OF ETRNAL LOVE. NO MAN, WOMB-MAN OR CHILD, BIG OR SMALL, NO FUR BABY ,2 LEGGEDS ,WINGEDS OR 4 LEGGEDS, SHOULD EVER BE DENIED A BIRTH RIGHT TO BE LOVED.I AM TRULY DISTURBED BY THE STORIES THE HOMELESS TELL, AND BY THE LIVES THAT THEY HAVE SUFFERED THRU THE HU-MAN RACE AND IT;’S KIND.THIS MAN /BOY FROM THE BRONX,LEFT WITH A DEAD MOTHER AT 5,WAS HERE ON MY STEPS, WITH 2 PITT BULLS,WE FED THEM ,WE WATERED THEM,AND WE TRIED TO ASSIST THEM AND THIS WOUNDED SOUL.WITH MORE THAN 100,000 ON THE STREETS RIGHT NOW,COMING FROM ARIZONA, TEXAS,MASSACHUSETTS,AND UTAH,WITH ANUBU’S CHILDREN AND FUR BABIES, I AM ETRNALLY FEELING HELPLESS AND HOPELESS TO ASSIST THE OVER ABUNDANCE OF HEALING THAT MUST BE DONE FOR THE” ALLREADY BORN”. THE DISSASOCIATION FROM LOVE HAS HARDENED WOMENS HEARTS,THEY ABANDON THE CHILDREN, THEY CAN NOT LOVE AS THERE MOTHERS CAN NOT GIVE LOVE, THIS IS WHERE THE STORY OF THE HELPLESS AND HOMELESS BEGINS.THE HU-MAN RACE HAS FORSAKENED ITSELE. HU-MANS LOVE THE MATERIAL WORLD,THE WORLD OF SMOKING MIRRORS”TEXCATLIPOCA” THE GOD OF ILLUSION. I WEEP EVERY TIME I THINK OF THOSE 2 PITT BULLS AND THE BOY WHOM WAS ABANDONED IN THE BRONX,AT AGE 5. I HAVE HEARD THAT HE WAS SHOT AND HIS 2 PITT BULLS IN THE STREETS OF VENICE. I HAVE NEVER MET SUCH SWEET FUR BABIES AS THOSE 2 PITTIES,THEY GRABBED US BY OUR HANDS AND PULLED US TOWARDS THIS BOY, AND TOLD US , PLEASE, CAN YOU HELP HIM , WE ASISITED HIM AS MUCH AS WE COULD,WE ARE NOT OF WEALTH AND WE ASSIST ALL THOSE CROSSING OUR PATHS,BUT THIS STORY IS NOT JUST A STORY TO BE FORGOTTEN, THIS IS WHY WE HAVE 100,000 ON THE STREETS,IT ALL STARTS WITH LOVE,COMPASSION AND GROWING A HEART FOR YOUR OWN KIND, THE HU-MAN RACE,WE ARE IN THE AEON OF HORUS NOW=WAR GODS,WAR LORDS, UNTIL THE GODDESS OF MAAT ARISE TO REIGN WE REMAIN WITHOUT LOVE, WITHOUT HOPE,AND I AM AWAITING THE RETURN OF LOVE IN WOMENS HEARTS,

1000 YEARS OF PEACE SHALL COME,WHEN WOMEN HEAL THERE HEARTS

WHEN WE KILL ANOTHER SPECIES, WE KILL OURSELVES

“DAUGHTER OF DESTINO”ANUMPESHI

NOV 25TH 2018

9 • December 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

**HAPPY HOLIDAZE**     marty liboff

It should be Christmas every day of the year  
give gifts to the poor and those who are dear.  
Give love, kindness, compassion and joy  
to every man, woman, girl and boy.  
Don't just be good on December 24 th  
every day let your love go forth.  
The homeless, poor and sick need your love  
be like an angel from above.  
The whole world is in need  
but politicians and the rich have only greed.  
Care for the sick, disabled and poor  
and to the children give more and more.  
Be like Santa and his reindeer comin to town  
give gifts and charity and don't wear a frown.  
With a merry ho, ho, ho  
be generous and don't be a stingy shmoe.  
JC wanted us to help and love one another  
all people are really our sister and brother.  
So let it be Hanukah and Christmas all the time  
and I hope you like my little holiday rhyme.

**DAY TO NIGHT**     marty liboff

*My old dad used to say,  
“My day goes from day to night.”  
Now that I am old and alone  
my day goes from day to night.  
My dad when he was old  
had lost his wife- my mom.  
He was sick and at home all day  
watching the same old TV shows  
and watching the sun rise, the sun set.  
Now I am old and sick and stay home  
and watch those same old TV shows  
and watch the sun rise, the sun set.  
Man, when we are young we think  
we are so great and special, but-  
What is Life for?  
What is Life all about?  
Is there any meaning to Life?  
Or do we all really just live our lives  
from day to night?  
In between maybe there is a little bit  
of joy and laughter and a smile or two  
tempered by a bit of sadness and loneliness  
and the rest is from day to night  
day to night, day to night.*

**RUN!**     marty liboff

*A madman with a gun  
A sicko with a gun  
A terrorist with a gun  
A racist with a gun  
better run, run, run-  
Some want to kill Blacks & Jews  
there are so many shootings in the news.  
Some are mad at their girlfriends or mom  
want to blow up the world with a bomb!  
There's a bully at school  
so they shoot up the school or shul.  
They're unhappy, alone and depressed  
shoot and murder because they're repressed.  
Kill, kill, kill  
the news and movies show it's such a thrill.  
Video games make killing so much fun  
with a sword, punch or gun.  
I got a gun, you got a gun, we all got a gun  
so ya better run, run, run!  
Arguments, hate, fighting  
pick up a gun and start shooting.  
Guns sold everywhere  
it is such a scare, bullets rip and tear.  
Mothers and fathers cry  
everywhere children are shot and die.  
Shoot, shoot, bang, bang  
madmen, cops and a gang.  
Another soldier sick from war  
wants to settle some invisible score.  
Everywhere bullets are flying  
innocents wounded and dying.  
So many guns is insane  
blood runs like rain.  
Coffins and graves of the dead  
the innocent's blood runs red.  
Americans won't end their gun love  
the angels cry from above.  
A madman with a gun  
A sicko with a gun  
A terrorist with a gun  
A racist with a gun  
better run, run, run.*



CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

electric lodge

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

DECEMBER 6 THURSDAY 8:00 PM  
WOMEN WHO ROCK: Bessie to Beyoncé, Girl Groups to Riot Grrrl  
A celebration of Women Who Rock: Bessie to Beyoncé, Girl Groups to Riot Grrrl, featuring readings and music by Evelyn McDonnell, Adele Bertei, DJ Lynnée Denise, and Solvej Schou. Regular admission. Members FREE.

DECEMBER 8 SATURDAY 4:00 PM  
DAVID P TABERNA  
David P Taberna brings his collection of work to the insatiable eye. The words may seem less than becoming but remain. Regular admission. Members FREE.

DECEMBER 8 SATURDAY 8:00 PM  
THE NEW SERIES: HARRYETTE MULLEN and J. RYAN STRADAL  
Beyond Baroque's special 50th anniversary programs conclude with an evening of specially commissioned writing. As we move towards our 51st year, we're meditating on INNOCENCE & EXPERIENCE, and we've asked two of L.A.'s most original writers to do the same. The NEW Series features brand new work on a theme by significant authors.

DECEMBER 9 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 welcome.

DECEMBER 13 THURSDAY 8:00 PM  
OUT OF OUR HEADS: ROLLING STONES, BEATLES AND ME  
Pat Thomas interviews Ron Schneider, manager of the infamous 1969 Rolling Stones tour (including Altamont & Gimme Shelter movie) about his new book "Out Of Our Heads: Rolling Stones, Beatles and me" Ron also oversaw the Stones 1965 & 66 tours as well! Along with his uncle, Allen Klein, Ron was there in London with the Beatles as they were breaking up during the 'Let it Be' era. His book is cool because its got tons of candid backstage photos, telegrams, etc including hand-drawn notes from Paul and John to Ron to back up all of his Stones and Beatles stories. Special guest Danny Benair who was at Altamont as a teenager standing next to Meredith Hunter!

DECEMBER 15 SATURDAY 4:00 PM  
MARCI VOGEL & JANET FITCH  
A reading in celebration of the launch of Marci Vogel's new book Death and Other Holidays, winner of the inaugural Miami Book Fair/de Groot Prize. Vogel is also the author of At the Border of Wilshire & Nobody, winner of the inaugural Howling Bird Press Poetry Prize. She's joined by Janet Fitch, the author of the novels White Oleander, Paint it Black and now The Revolution of Marina M., the coming of age of a young poet during the Russian Revolution. Janet's very first reading was at Beyond Baroque. Regular admission. Members FREE.

DECEMBER 15 SATURDAY 8:00 PM  
THE TYPEWRITER UNDERGROUND  
Poet Marc Zegans will read from The Typewriter Underground, offering a literary performance that plunges its audience into the lives of a circle of renegades who have abandoned the Internet for the thrilling physicality and sensual allure of hot type. He will be joined by poet and novelist Kareem Tayyar, founding director of World Parade Books, who will read from his most recent work. Kareem's latest work of fiction The Prince of Orange County, was released by Pelekinesis on November 15th of this year. Marc's La Commedia Sotteranea di Macchine da Scrivere, the first book of verse from the Typewriter Underground will be released by Pelekinesis in Spring 2019. Regular admission. Members FREE

DECEMBER 21 FRIDAY 8:00 PM  
PHOEBE MACADAMS & MICHAEL C FORD  
Phoebe MacAdams Ozuna reads from her new chap-

electric lodge

Rogue Machine Theatre Company presents:  
OPPENHEIMER

"I feel like I've left a loaded gun in a playground."

A man always isolated in the crowd, J. Robert Oppenheimer is chosen to lead the largest scientific undertaking ever. The task? To make sure the Allies win World War II. To make the world safe for democracy. No sacrifice is too much — not friendship, nor love, nor deep-rooted beliefs — but the way he will save the world could ultimately destroy it.  
Dec 15-17, 22, 23, 29, 30 – 8PM, Sundays 3PM

pacificresidenttheatre.com

I AM SOPHIE is an exploration of identity in which you become the confidante to Sophie Carter, formerly known as Kate Carter. Sophie is a changed woman returning to the United States after living in Paris. She comes home to take care of her father and when she arrives, her loved ones meet Sophie for the first time. What follows is an existential adventure. With humor and an aching heart, Sophie has us all wondering – “Who am I?” and “Who do I want to be?” Dec 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 – 8pm, Sundays 3PM

EARTH, FIRE AND ICE by KAY BROWN

Prints, Woodcuts, Monoprints, and Acrylics

Kay Brown, a member of the Arroyo Arts Collective since her return to Los Angeles in 2000, gives homage to the forests where she grew up. Recent California fires inspire a series of images made with monoprint impressions, woodcuts portray the crisped remnants, and a portion of "Gaza 2014" presents the results of fire inspired by careless leadership.  
Soon on view in the AAC alcove at Avenue 50 Gallery, 131 N. Avenue 50, Los Angeles, CA 90042  
Saturday, December 8, 2018 Opening Reception 7 - 10 p.m.

book Every Bird Helps: A Cancer Journal & Michael C Ford reads from his new “double” chapbook Block Island Latitudes/Manhattan Island Suite. Regular admission. Members FREE.

DECEMBER 22 SATURDAY  
CLOSED FOR THEATER MAINTENANCE  
The Scott Wannberg Bookstore & Poetry Lounge will be from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

DECEMBER 23 SUNDAY 7:00 PM  
7 DUDLEY CINEMA  
“The Brother Side of the Wake (BroSide).” Test screening of new experimental documentary about Venice people, evoking the rascality of the Our Gang comedies, probing: “Is the journey more important than the destination?” Hosted by Gerry Fialka.

DECEMBER 28 - 30  
CLOSED FOR THEATER MAINTENANCE  
The Scott Wannberg Bookstore & Poetry Lounge will be open from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Dec 15 Sat 1pm MESS JERI RICE interview PRT 705 Venice Blvd, Venice CA 92091, FREE - Jeri Rice is a first time film director. From a thirty year successful career in the fashion industry, Jeri changed course. In 2002, Jeri was invited to travel to Cuba with 40 influential women from the Pacific Northwest, the University of Washington, and U.S. Senator, Maria Cantwell. The group was met by Fidel Castro and this prompted Jeri to ask the question, "Why does the U.S. still have an embargo against Cuba?" Embargo is the result of fourteen years of research. From fashion to foreign policy and finally to the art of filmmaking, Jeri's passion for truth telling is the final result.

Dec 9 SUNDAY from 1 to 5pm, Black Shoe Polish - avant funk jazz blues music with poetry AT JOHN MOONEY's super cool art studio Moonlight Glass located at Bob Farnham's Hampton Studios of Functional Art", 705 Hampton Dr, Venice 92091, 310-399-0999 free admission, <http://www.johnmooneyglass.com/contact.htm> Join us for free music, fun and ART SALE

Dec 17 Mon Laughtears Salon (rsvp 310 306 7330 for location and time) free - politics, art, culture discussion,

DEC 19 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque FREE 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA

Dec 23, Sun 7pm (6pm preshow) The Brother Side of the Wake (BroSide)  
FREE TEST SCREENING at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA  
Facebook = <https://www.facebook.com/events/426607154536553/>  
More info: <http://laughtears.com/broside.html>  
Gerry Fialka's experimental documentary with Venice, California, as its main character. A remake of the soon-to-be-released Orson Welles film The Other Side of the Wind, it evokes the rascality of the Our Gang comedies, and it probes the cliché: "Is the journey more important than the destination?" BroSide wakes up the psychic effects of direct cinema, abstract animation, and films about films. It was shot in various formats including Super 8mm, Pixelvision, digital video, and hand-painted celluloid. Now in its third test screening, BroSide will involve the audience in call-and-responses, much like a community, out-loud reading of James Joyce's Finnegans Wake. BroSide can empower the audience to go out, have fun, and do their own thing. With VENICE's Boardwalk people, Suzy Williams, Brad Kay, Treeman, Jen the Hooper, DeDe Audet, Solomon Snakeman, Alita Arose, Jeff Michalski, Boardwalk Dancers & more...  
"YOU SEE WHAT YOU LOOK FOR." Watch one minute <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBj0UdpFEWo>

Jan 8 Tues (2nd tuesday) 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, free <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html>

Jan 12 Sat 2pm MESS Musician Rick Frystak interview (rsvp for Venice location 310 306 7330) free  
[www.RicKFryStaK.Com](http://www.RicKFryStaK.Com)

Jan 26 – Poetry Of Venice Photography  
Jan 27 – Venice Film Fest



MOONLIGHT GLASS

Holiday Sale / Live Music  
Black Shoe Polish - avant funk jazz blues music with poetry  
Sunday, December 9th (11am - 6pm)  
705 Hampton Dr. Venice CA 90291



## Ongoing Events

### OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

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

### COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. Latino Resource Center at Vera Davis Center. 4-12.
- Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

### FOOD

- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Sunset.

### KIDS

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

### MUSIC

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

### YOGA AND DANCE

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

### Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, [fovl.org](http://fovl.org)
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, [www.beyondbaroque.org](http://www.beyondbaroque.org)
- **Electric Lodge**, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, [electriclodge.org](http://electriclodge.org)
- **G2 Gallery**, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, [theg2gallery.com](http://theg2gallery.com)
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, [pacificresidenttheatre.com](http://pacificresidenttheatre.com)
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. [sparcmurals.org](http://sparcmurals.org)
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2018
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

# ANNOUNCING The 50th Anniversary Beachhead Bacchanal NEW YEARS EVE

Free/\$20 suggested donation  
Pay what you can to support Beachhead  
\$100 you will be honored as a deity  
Pot-Luck we'll supply the luck  
Dionysian ... Greek....culture....democracy....math/ nude wrestling

WARS WILL END  
CHILDREN WILL BE BEGAT  
CLOTHING OPTIONAL  
DAN & PEE PLAYS  
NO ROOM FOR REGRET  
LET US SPEAK OF BEACHHEAD

Time:  
7pm Social hour Mingle  
8pm show  
9:15 awards  
10:00-1 music

## POETRY

LINDA ALBERTANO • PEGARTY LONG  
MARTY LIBOFF • HILLARY KAYE  
JAN WOLFF • MIKE BRAVO  
YVONNE GUZMAN

## Music

### Beachheaders

### Suzy and the Nicknamers

Alfred Johnson • Leon Rubenhold  
Carol Mc Arthur • Peter Demian  
Greg Cruz • Stephanie Valdez  
Lydia Ponce

NO DEJES QUE ESTO  
TE PASE A TI



DON'T LET THIS  
HAPPEN TO YOU



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

JOIN THE UNION!

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](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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.





# THE NEW POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

STITCHING TOGETHER THE HUMAN RIGHT TO-

