

Community Volunteers clean up the First Baptist Church of Venice property



photo by Clay Claiborne. More photos on Page 7

**The Community and the
First Baptist Church of Venice**

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Timothy Jones, a lifelong member of the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Venice. The First Baptist Church of Venice is an historical African-American church located at E.L. Holmes Square in the heart of Venice. The building was sold in 2017 by Horace Allen to a wealthy White couple, Jay Penske and Elaine Irwin. The Penskes plan to gut the church building and turn it into a mega-mansion for themselves. The activist group, Save Venice has been fighting to reclaim this sacred space for three years now.

Jon Wolff: What can you tell me about your experiences as a member of congregation of the First Baptist Church of Venice?

Timothy Jones: Well, Pastor E.L. Holmes was my grandmother's brother. So, he was my great-uncle. My grandfather was a superintendent of Sunday school and my grandmother was a deaconess. And all their names appear on the headstone. I got baptized in that church. I got saved at that church. I was there at the groundbreaking. My uncle truly could preach. He really was inspirational. He was a great guy for the community. So many people in Venice mortgaged their homes to get the loan to build that church. He paid the church off in record time. He was just a good man and a God-fearing man. And my experience at the church was great. My entire family went there. My uncles, my aunts, my cousins... At one point, we were all members there.

JW: How would you describe the importance of the First Baptist Church of Venice to the Venice community?

TJ: It's the largest church in our community. I can't tell you the countless weddings and funerals we had there. The building is there for the people in the community who need it for whatever they need it for. People have had anniversary parties in the recreation room. We had

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*Oasis Network Inc. with Dan & friends- various groceries, bread, fruit, vegetables. Sat. & Sun. around 9am. Ocean Front Walk by Dudley Ave.

*Venice Equity Alliance- fruit & vegetables. Wed. 12:45pm. 132 Brooks Ave.

*St. Joseph Center- their clients, To-Go Meals. M-F 9:30am-12pm. 663 Rose Ave. Also weekly food if you register at (310)396-6468 ext.313

:(These organizations all need your donations and help):: THANKS

Hunger makes a thief of any man.


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

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LETTERS

Who will save me, when you go, who will watch out for me when you go, this is one of so many in Venice that needed our help, who will save them now, i am so frightened for the thousands of homeless and helpless divine canine in Venice, i will miss you my sacred brothers and sisters, my prayers are for other hearts to open in Venice to take our place in Venice, as homeless dogs hit the streets of Venice without food and water, i am known as the water lady here, i am going to miss you so very much and prayer for others to step into our shoes and rescue you. I am so worried about the canines in need now, with so many on unemployment, so many jobs gone, who will start a soup kitchen in Venice for the canines in need????????????????Is anyone out there listening?, The canines need soup kitchens too, we r being gentrified and pushed out for condos in Venice, so who will hear your prayers now, i weep, someone in Venice please start a soup kitchen for the divine canines, the innocent ones who know that money is not more important than life nor love, and will die for you, will stay with you, weep with you, till the end of time and forever,

Who will be the one to step up and assist and love the heavenly doggies from above

Anumpeshi Aduddell

A POT LOT

Mary, a houseless pal from Venice suggests that an area on Venice Beach be designated a pot smoking area. Pot is legal but smoking on the Ocean Front is not legal. There is even a pot shop there yet it is still illegal to smoke on the Ocean Front Walk. Cops routinely harass houseless people for any reason and often warn them about smoking. Housed people can always go home but with no home to go to and toked up it can be a worry for houseless people.

Mary (Mary Jane) thinks the little hill by Dudley Ave. by the pagoda be named Flower Power Hill and we be allowed to fire up our doobies there without fear of the police. Signs can be put up designating Flower Power Hill as a smoking area. We can even grow pot there and also plant some pretty flowers and plants and make it into a beautiful garden. Maybe put a couple benches and some ash trays. We can raise up a pot flagpole and proclaim it a free zone. We can ask some stoners to help keep it clean and do some gardening. The city will probably have to give the O.K. Maybe Councilman Mike Bonin can be persuaded, especially if he gets stoned.

The police are all too busy with crime to continually bother pot smokers on the beach. A smoking area would free up their resources for actually chasing real criminals.

So far this is only a new pipe dream. Maybe we can come up with other ideas and suggestions. There are other ideas for names too like Stoner Hill, Bob Marley Hill, Weed World, Puff the Magic Garden, Wacky Tobaccony Hill, the Pot Lot, Mary Jane Hill, the Ganja Garden or just Pot Hill, but Flower Power Hill is nice. I'm sure after we smoke a bowl we can come up with other great ideas and ways to implement and create a pot smoking area on Venice Beach.

Dank you, marty

*You know
you're
from Venice
if/when..*

Photo by Gary Gallerie ©Venice Beach Products

.. you remember Skeeter or the Lafayette Café (RIP) c1980

JUSTICE FOR MAURICE

Maurice Brown Jr. was recently sentenced and will be serving 9 years in prison.

During his arraignment we learned that Maurice was attempting suicide by cop by committing some robberies, but not all of the ones that the DA was accusing him of, because of his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. He never wanted to hurt anyone; he just wanted to end his own pain.

We want to thank the communities of Venice, Santa Monica, Culver City and Marina del Rey for their support.

We'd also like to thank Bob's Market, Treats, Rose Cafe, Win-dow Restaurant, Salt and Straw, Save Venice, our lawyer Matthew Lombard and all the volunteers for their support as well as the officer who would like to remain anonymous who fought for the DA to be fair to Maurice. It means so much to us.

If you would like to write Maurice, email his mom at zekaia-smith@gmail.com and she will email you his address.

She is still seeking to raise \$5000 to cover what she owes to Maurice's lawyer. Any amount helps. Thank you so much.

TO DONATE
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PayPal - paypal.me/fightformaurice
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Cash App - \$fightformaurice
To learn more about his case: fightformaurice.org
To volunteer email - zekaia-smith@gmail.com

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a really good choir growing up. The building is just important to the community. It's historic.

JW: What's your opinion about the idea of it becoming a private mega-mansion?

TJ: I think that anybody who wants to live in the House of God outside of Heaven has issues. I mean, to tear down a church takes a special kind of evil, in my opinion. That church is part of the community. And they [the Penskes] are not and have never been a part of the Venice community. They're part of gentrification. Just because you have millions of dollars doesn't give you a right to destroy what the poor people of Venice built. You can't come in there and tear it down just because you can afford to. That's not progress, that's "degress".

JW: What do you think of the prospect of regaining the building for the Venice community?

TJ: I think it would be the greatest thing that's happened to Venice. It's kind of our last hold on something that's ours, other than the African-American-owned homes here. Venice stood for a hundred years without anyone wanting it. Now, it's the last great frontier.

JW: Do you think that there's hope for the Venice community to achieve this goal?

TJ: Yes I do. I think anything is possible through Christ.

JW: Recently, there was a fire in back of the church. What do you think of the outpouring of community support to clean that up?

TJ: I think it was amazing. When you have faith, you can do anything. I was surprised to see the progress they made. I used to look at the church and see how beautiful it is. And then I watched it decay under Pastor [Horace] Allen and his whole group of minions. They're just horrible people. You know, Christians don't treat God's building like that. They just don't.

For more info go to: savevenice.ca

December 2020 Update on First Baptist Church of Venice

By Mike Bravo

First off, thanks to all supporters who've stuck with us throughout the ups and downs of the past few years. As of August 2020, the fight for the reclamation of this historic space known as the First Baptist Church of Venice (FBCV) turned three years. There's been a lot of action over at E.L. Holmes Square the past few months which I will briefly cover here.

National Geographic exclusive— On October 15th National Geographic ran an exclusive article on the FBCV fight based on photographs and interviews with core FBCV defenders by photographer Rachel Bujalski a few months earlier. Rachel took some amazing photos of all the "FBCV All-Stars". The article narrative was pretty ok but articles about the FBCV by more mainstream publications always fall short in my opinion. Suffice it to say this was a super great blessing and window of exposure that we are very thankful for.

FBCV Fire— Suspiciously, on October 22nd, about a week after the Nat Geo article, someone set fire to the backside of the Church edifice. It is understood that it was set by a suspicious unhoused person who moved on to the property shortly before, and left directly after, the fire was set. This alleged unhoused culprit used the accumulated garbage in the north parking lot to start the fire. The damage was not extensive but did do significant damage to the electrical and gas infrastructure in the corner of the property. This fire incident garnered a handful of media articles including major publications. While very concerning ultimately we felt it as a blessing in disguise.

Church Cleanups— Frustrated with the deliberately unkempt grounds of the FBCV's 7 lots and concerned about the mass dry overgrowth during fire season, on August 23rd we initiated a guerilla cleanup of the church grounds. On October 11th we commenced with a second cleanup, this time tackling the perimeter of the southside FBCV parking lot. On October 24th, just a couple days after the fire, we had

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an emergency cleanup of the northside FBCV parking lot. It was a great turnout and it was then that we realized the fire to be a blessing in disguise. Finally, on November 29th we turned again to tackle the inside of the southside parking lot and it was another great, sunny, and fulfilling day of service to our space and for the spirit of our beloved Venice.

Historic Designation Re-entry— On November 10th, 2020 L.A. City Council unanimously approved CD11 Councilperson Mike Bonin's motion to re-initiate cultural monument status to the First Baptist Church of Venice. This becoming move by Bonin is a stark contrast from what we felt were his previous unhelpful action and inactions. While garnering a lot of attention many in the public thought the historic designation was complete because of this motion passing, but is not. What this means is that it gets re-submitted for consideration but this time with the added support of Bonin's office. Bonin's office expressed commitment to assist us with creating an enhanced and more comprehensive submission. We are confident that the FBCV will achieve Historic Designation status. We would like to thank Mike Bonin for his becoming support and hope you will thank him and encourage him to follow through as well (mike.bonin@lacity.org). Even when we achieve the historic designation status for the FBCV it is not the end-all be-all. While a highly significant win that grants us much leverage there is still finding the way to recover the 7-lot FBCV property back to the community. Which brings us to..

Save Venice Non-profit Status— We've been talking about this for the last 6 months or so and now it's complete. This non-profit status will allow us to be a better conduit for receiving financial support for many things, but most importantly to get the FBCV properties back by any creative means necessary. Please stay informed at our website: SaveVenice.ca and our social media channels, IG/Twitter/FB: @savexvenice

—V—

2020 VISION

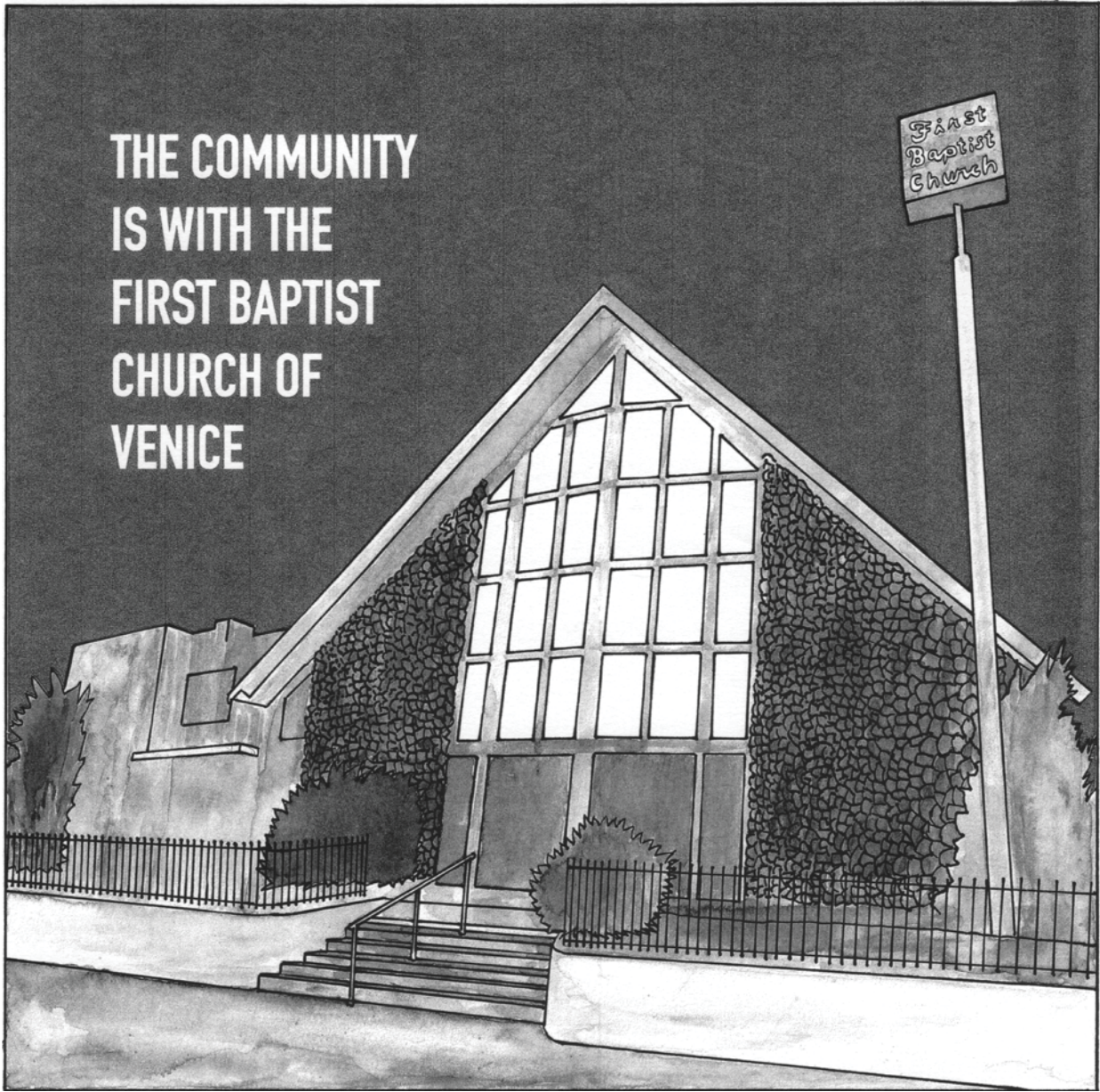
What an Awesome Year of Clarity

by Pat Raphael

Wow! ...it's okay to take a breath. You've made it all the way to here, December of 2020 -- a memorable year like no other. We all remember coming into 2020 with a bang of so much hope, happy to be rid of the bummer that was 2019... boy oh boy. If only then, we could see ourselves now, 73 years later (Dec2020), fondly looking back at the 'normalcy' of 2019, hoping for a lil' dose of that regular we had back then, before the clarity of 2020 up-ended every 'normal' that we never should have allowed ourselves to get accustomed to -- even back then... but here we are. It is what it is. And having made it here, it's important for all of us to take a moment, and run our own personal In Memoriam reel, to take time and fondly look back at all those whom we personally know, among our friends and family, who for whatever reason did not make it to here. We go forward on behalf of all of these beloved that can not be here, and take them with us.

2020 will forever be the year that many of us got too many undeniable answers to ever again exist in externally imposed obscurity. This is the year that we were given the time and space to dig deep into our search for answers. Many for the first time, had the time to give closer consideration to big issues of government and politics and history

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Death In Venice As "Be Nice Beachtown"

by Gerry Fialka, photos by Noah Klein



How do we Venetians flip crisis into catalyst? Easy as pumpkin pie. Here are a few examples of our resilience, courage and street smarts transforming breakdowns into breakthroughs. Jump back and kiss yourselves, Venice.

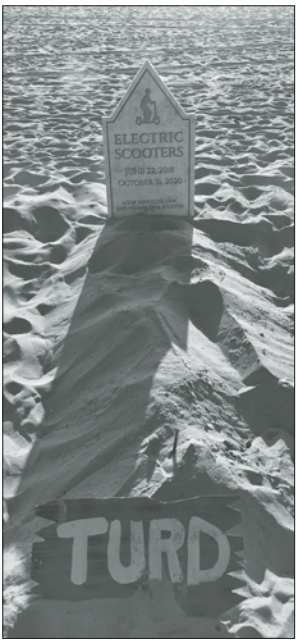
Death is often thought of as blackness. Mean and cruel. Yet, the people of Venice are nice, cosmic and compassionate. We can flip darkness into light. We resonate with Thomas Mann, who wrote in the 1912 novel Death in Venice: "We artists cannot tread the path of Beauty without Eros keeping company with us and appointing themselves as our guide." Love leads the way, homey.

The human condition may be falling and getting back up. Up, up and away. A new way. Righteous rascality rising from the ashes. Salvador Dali called it "phoenixology," the science of reincarnation - die and rise in perpetual motion from the ashes of death.

An early example of the resurrection theme involved a woman who fed the homeless in L.A. It's a wild story. In 1926, evangelist super star, Aimee Semple McPherson, faked her drowning death after leaving her room at the King George Hotel, which is the tall building at Rose Avenue and the Boardwalk.

At this very corner, many have lived and died. Legendary Beach-Head co-founder and iconic character Carol Fondiller lived and died in that building. Also, magical sage Walter, who befriended Lead-belly. Another stellar example is the great Motown bass player David Waller, a sweet and talented man who was homeless for years, living and dying at that same location in the parking lot. He played the Apollo and toured with many Motown stars, including David Ruffin, the lead voice on such famous songs as "My Girl" and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg." The music doesn't stop there. Check out my film of him on YouTube called "David Waller Interview Motown Bass Player Venice CA Pixelvision"

Currently the community group known as "Venaissance," has birthed a new social movement at that very corner of Rose and the Boardwalk. They are engaging activists working with unhoused community members to brainstorm solutions. I have talked with them. You can too, so get involved. They touch me with their dedication to love and peace. One of these folks, Noah Klein, shot these accompanying photos of the Venice Cemetery, which appeared near Navy and the Boardwalk around Halloween. This guerrilla art project stimulated a lot of discussion on various issues. The spirit of revival



lives.

We are lucky to share our Beachtown with many diverse people. One woman (I think her name is HP), who sometimes sells t-shirts at this creative crossroads, told me that we have the potential to change Venice into "Be Nice."

We all have the potential to flip Dreams That Money Can Buy into Dreams That Kindness Can Procure. Non-commodity aspirations.

Venice leaks into (and on) Hollywood, which is televising the revolution again. Aaron Sorkin's The Trial of the Chicago 7 is teaching new generations about the services of agitprop activism. Sacha Baron "Borat" Cohen stars as Abbie Hoffman, who was highly influenced by Marshall McLuhan, who broke the Finnegans Wake code with Menippean satire. Venetians have probed the Wake for over two decades reading it aloud with a group of people as a kind of comedy seance. James Joyce's 1939 novel invented Zoom & Your Daily Dose of Internet and disguised it as a book. The Wake hoicks up this death and rebirth theme of falling down and getting back up. Indeedy do do, it is grounds for further research.

Memewhile, back to our screampalay . . . when Sorkin wins the Oscar, he should evoke his own film's ending and say, "How much time do I have for my acceptance speech?" Then he can read the entire Paul Krassner recollection of tripping on acid at the trial. Former Venetian Krassner is the hidden ground of the political satire movement. Long live the Krass! Tune in, drop up and turn around!!!

Another preeminent Venetian is Jeremy Kagan, who directed the 1987 docudrama Conspiracy: The Trial of the Chicago 8, which examines the same event. It is currently being re-experienced online. Streaming of the living dead? No, this is alive and kicking. Kudos to Jeremy! Another character in the trial and Black Panther co-founder, Bobby Seale praised Kagan's film, "It reminded me that we captured the imagination of America. The 60's protest movement established a lot of constitutional rights."

The youth of today can learn from another revolutionary pioneer of this important trial, Fred Hampton. He helped develop the multicultural Rainbow Coalition, which united various civil rights organizations.

Speaking of rainbows and the full spectrum of colors, a friend recalled this happening on November 7, 2020. He was rained (and even hailed) on early that Saturday morning right here in Venice, California. Then he heard the good news on the election and the sun broke through. A breathtaking double rainbow appeared in the sky. Another friend said "It was raining heavily this morning. Just as I found out that Biden had won, the rain turned into crazy hailstones. All I have to say is 'Hail to the Chief.'"

I am moved profoundly by Eric Ahlberg's suggestion to have the First Baptist Church of Venice building be a facility to preserve Venice history and become the home for a Venice

Gospel Chorus movement, resonating with the inspired accomplishments of Sweet Honey in the Rock. The October issue of National Geographic magazine has brought more attention to saving this 100 year old Venice monument. Revivification!

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/10/fight-to-save-one-hundred-years-black-history-gentrifying-los-angeles/>

Kudos to Eric for his dedication to helping publish this very newspaper. Mr. Ahlberg is our medium widening the message. We are grateful to him for spreading good doctrine, glad tidings, opinions, poetry and all the news that is fit to Venicize. We are grateful to the entire Beach-Head crew.

The local newspaper is dying all across America. I give thanks that our own Venice Beach-Head continues to give birth to new ideas, new questions and new metaphors. The first newspaper in America, Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick" was published in Boston in 1690. Even though only one edition was published before the paper was suppressed by the government, it started a trend to enable communities to communicate.

David Brode summarized it in his 1973 Pulitzer Prize acceptance speech: "The newspaper that drops on your doorstep is a partial, hasty, incomplete, inevitably somewhat flawed and inaccurate rendering of some of the things we have heard about in the past twenty-four hours — distorted, despite our best efforts to eliminate gross bias, by the very process of compression that makes it possible for you to lift it from the doorstep and read it in about an hour. If we labeled the product accurately, then we could immediately add: But it's the best we could do under the circumstances, and we will be back tomorrow with a corrected and updated version."

So don't let the bad news of human fragilities and failings get you down, flip them into rejuvenating "Be Nice in Venice" as a reawakening of rockin' soulful solutions, like "When Death Comes A Knockin' - Stand up and Sing!"

"Let us pry" - Shame's Choice. And let us ring in the new yearnings with an etymological crescendo. The word "nice" comes from the Latin "nescius," meaning "not-knowing." Like The Firesign Theatre quipped, "Everything you know is wrong." Duh!

But for Venice deep "see" divers, it is bottomless. "Nice" comes from ne- "not" (from PIE root *ne- "not") + stem of scire "to know" (see science). "The sense development has been extraordinary, even for an adjective" [Weekley] -- from "timid, faint-hearted" (pre-1300); to "fussy, fastidious" (late 14c.); to "dainty, delicate" (c. 1400); to "precise, careful" (1500s, preserved in such terms as a nice distinction and nice and early); to "agreeable, delightful" (1769); to "kind, thoughtful" (1830). What's next "being nice" for Venetians in 2021?

I welcome your feedback & feedforward. Join in our Zooms on Venice Film History on Jan 23 & Venice Photo History on Jan 30, 2021. Laughtears.com pfsuzy@aol.com Germy Folk-wayZ



WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 8?

By Henry Rosebuds

Wars are fought twice, first on the battlefield and second in history and memory. Viet Thanh Nguyen

A week after the October 16th 2020 premiere of the Hollywood movie, The Trial of the Chicago 7, several of the courtroom’s original characters gave a webinar: defendant Rennie Davis; defendant David Dellinger's daughters; and, founding member of the Yippies, Judy Gumbo. Defendant Tom Hayden’s son also appeared, Here are some excerpts (edited) from their takes on writer/director Aaron Sorkin’s film.

Rennie Davis, co-founder of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), organizer of demonstrations at the 1968 Dem Convention

This trial was really putting the Vietnam War on trial. There were thirty U.S. Marshals in the courtroom—the tension was unbelievable. I was on the stand for three days. The Bobby Seale trial went on for four days. Marshals stuffed gauze in his mouth. Eventually, his whole head was wrapped. They bound his arms so tight to the chair he was losing circulation. I could see blood coming out of the side of Bobby's mouth. Still, he could be heard by the jury when he said: "I demand my Constitutional rights!" And not just heard by the jury, he was heard by Africa, Europe...They learned about a black man gagged and chained in an American courtroom. The whole world was listening to this. There is no sense of that in the movie.



Michele McDonough, daughter of David Dellinger (1915-2004)

Aaron Sorkin turned me into a boy! Who knows why? Went better with the Boy Scout character of my father, I guess. I didn't like it, but I was glad it was made. I turned 13 at the trial. When the whole thing was happening with Bobby Seale, I was taking care of his son, Malik. Bobby had been given these balls to squeeze because his circulation was cut off, and Malik kept asking me to play with the balls. It just broke my heart. Just awful. I sat there crying. Abbie [Hoffman] came up and comforted me. I've always loved him for that. I think the movie is very timely and I hope it spurs conversation. Raises consciousness. You should also read Nancy Kurshan's piece in Counterpunch about being in the room.

Natasha Singer, daughter of David Dellinger

It just pissed me off. My father was one of the most radical people... He was looked up to by the defendants. A scene of him hitting a marshal? My father was a lifelong pacifist—he would never hit anyone! He was a follower of Gandhi. He was never in the Boy Scouts, we never lived in a suburban house... we had a very strong family at that trial. Just to have my father in the movie like that was upsetting. The government at that time was out of control. I grew up with FBI tapping our phones. Chicago was a police state during that trial, they were follow-

ing everyone involved. I worked for and with the defendants. They were all very loving. They had arguments, of course, but agreed on: "We must get out the message what this is about." Our young men were dying in a war that had no purpose for us...Communism coming to our country? Huh?Afterwards, I moved to D.C. and got into the feminist movement. We were totally committed to changing the world. What would it take to change the way the government worked? How do we begin? I don't know if the answers are there yet. But it happens through the people. And since 2016, I can't get my mind around it: the country moving in a fascist direction. I hope we all continue with the work we are doing. It fills my heart to see everyone here...

Judy Gumbo Albert, (yippiegirl.com), of whom the FBI reported in 1972: The subject Judy Gumbo is considered to be the most vicious, the most anti-American, the most anti-establishment, and the most dangerous to the internal security of the United States.

I think Sorkin's movie is terrific. It focuses all of us on taking down the bad guys: John Mitchell and the Nixon administration. Yeah, Sorkin plays fast and loose with the facts: overlooked was the role played by the Vietnamese, the connection we had—this movement— with the Vietnamese... Schultz [Prosecuting Attorney] was portrayed much nicer in the film than we experienced him. He was portrayed as having a conscience. We didn't believe he had a conscience. Why did Sorkin make him more complex? That's his privilege. He made the movie he wanted, not we. It's not a documentary. If Abbie had seen it, he may or may not have liked it, but it was the major motion picture he always craved... Jerry Rubin did not have a relationship with a cop—his girlfriend was a Yippie. No bras were burned. In 1969, I was a woman of no importance... [William] Kunstler made me manager of the conspiracy trial office. I lasted three weeks, I was replaced by a male. I went on to type and mimeograph and snail mail transcripts of the trial across the world. She Who Disseminates History Can Rule the World! I learned to stand my ground... resist... all to become a free woman. I am still a Yippie. The movie is a gift to all resisters. How it raises the issues of racism. The audience is forced to pay attention: a man chained and gagged is relevant. There were pictures of slaveowners on the courtroom walls... Bobby [Seale] said, "What can happen to me more than George Washington and Ben Franklin did to me?" Despite its flaws I think it will inspire protest... I ask you: Who is more a friend, the liberal Sorkin or the fascist Trump?

Troy Garity, son of Tom Hayden (1939-2016). Troy plays Hayden in Steal This Movie, in 2000, and was the only family member of a defendant Sorkin contacted.

I am in possession of all correspondence between my father and Aaron Sorkin. Sorkin hadn't heard about the trial until the animated film Chicago 10 came out in 2007. I know how long he’s been struggling to get it made. Lot of boulders had to be pushed in organizing to get this done. I found the film very moving. On the other hand, I found it very disappointing. The portrayal of my father suggesting that Abbie didn't want to end the war and Tom just wanting to win elections? That’s just not true. Tom wrote that Abbie wanted to end the war and fight the cultural revolution. I never would've questioned that Abbie was antiwar. That's Sorkin's words... I found the defendants’ intelligence and dedication lost. Sorkin criminalized them, Every march, he had the protestors attack the police... we are watching defendants who are guilty of promoting a riot! I found that very irresponsible. So I think the film is a missed opportunity.

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No Labels

By Cheryl Eckford

Musicians and film makers, Griffin Wright and Jarrett Amier Willis of Los Angeles are making music and film to reflect today’s social climate. After the death of George Floyd, Willis and Wright released their video titled “No Labels.” The video actually shows peaceful demonstrators protesting against police brutality. The video also highlights Willis rapping and Griffin singing and playing guitar.

When asked what does, “No Labels”, mean Willis said, “No Labels,” means you can’t put a label on who we are and especially not just by looking at us,” Willis stated. The duo call themselves “Swoosh X g.” Willis is nicknamed Swoosh and Griffin is g. Both musicians have other projects they do individually but the two both came together to preform as “Swoosh X g.” Wright also performs with a rock band called Hearts and Minutes. Willis has done rapping on his own as well. “No Labels” can be seen on YouTube under “Swoosh X g.”

The duo met on a construction site they were both working at in February of 2019. Willis described the pairs music as a fusion between hip hop and a space never discovered. Both describe themselves as self taught musicians. “I play guitar, sing, and play the bass and keyboard,” stated Wright. Willis plays the saxophone and drums.

The two have produced a movie entitled “The List.” “The movie explores how politician’s often take advantage of power and how people have to call politician’s out when they do wrong,” said Willis. We have had a few screenings and actually went out to senior housing properties to show the film to seniors and we practiced social distancing as the film was shown outdoors and seats were spread out. We plan to have screenings in Los Angeles, Atlanta Georgia and Salt Lake City, Utah,” the duo both stated. “The List,” features the actors, Jarrett Amier Willis, Casey Larios, Ana Lefebvre, Lester Mills, Gihae Hong, Griffin Wright, Keira Adams, Branden Flynn and Jerry Pizzichillo. Wright states he took some film classes at one time. If anyone is interested in viewing the film or contacting Willis and Wright they can be reached at thelistfilm00@gmail.com.

The peace movement was marginalized and left out. Today marks four years since my father died. He would be real turned on by today's climate... Black Lives Matter and other radicals of today, they're really the vanguard of change. Twenty years from now they will be heroes. Like Rennie. And there would be no evolution of individual consciousness without people like Judy Gumbo. They met massive resistance. That history needs to be told and respected... The Chicago 8 broke open America. And Rennie, you are the most humble person in the world!

(The complete two-hour webinar can be watched on YouTube)

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Photos above by Clay Claiborne show the aftermath of the tremendous cleanup that the volunteers performed, and the piles of trash they removed from the property. We hear that the Penskes are no longer interested in the property, and it is owned by a broker now.

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LOST— Ruby Slippers

Last seen in Venice on both California Ave. and W. Washington (Abbot Kinney) in 1970. Covered in dark red sequins, jeweled bows, yellow felt on red painted leather soles. **REWARD OFFERED.**

If you have information please visit: www.therubyslippers.info or call/text (424) 235-7160

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"Fialka is a meteor shower in the contemporary media arts discourse. He's blowing my mind." —Craig Baldwin

Chick Strand
Lynne Sachs
George Manupelli
Jay Rosenblatt
Tom Gunning
Martha Colburn
Robert Nelson
Nina Menkes
Larry Gottheim
Gene Youngblood
Evan Meaney
Mike Hoolboom
Theo Anthony

Gerry Fialka, artist, writer, and para-media ecologist, lectures on experimental film, avant-garde art, and subversive social media at NYU, MIT, USC, UCLA and Cal Arts. He has been called "the multi-media renaissance man" by the *Los Angeles Times* and a "cultural revolutionary" by the *LA Weekly*.

LAUGHTEARS PRESS

STRANGE QUESTIONS

EXPERIMENTAL FILM AS CONVERSATION

GERRY FIALKA

EDITED by RACHAEL KERR • FOREWORD by DAVID JAMES

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Is There Fascism in our Future?

James R Smith - Nov 30

Is Fascism Coming to America?

No, it’s already here. Fascism has existed in this country, for poor people, especially Blacks and Latinos, for more than a hundred years.

It is fascist to be driving-while-Black, and be pulled over by a cop, and possibly shot?

It is fascist when a mother has to worry if she will ever see her son again when he goes to a grocery store or out on a night on the town?

It is fascist when the prisons are filled with Blacks and Latinos, many of whom spend the majority of their lives behind bars?

Fascism thrives on racism. The two go hand-in-hand. We will never get rid of the threat of fascism as long as racism infects millions.

It is true that fascism has been gaining ground. We can attribute this to the decline of the unions, and the lack of good-paying jobs with benefits, such as pensions, sick leave, four-week vacations, holidays, maternity leave, family leave, and 50 other decent conditions that are bound up in a written and grievable contract.

Unions instill a feeling of belonging in working class people of all races, nationalities and genders. The absence of union solidarity opens the door for racism and nationalism, which are two hallmarks of fascism. It also opens the door for division within the working class where millions feel along, underpaid and under appreciated, and are easy prey for Trump and others of his ilk.

Anyone who wants to stop fascism should do everything she/he can to promote unions and labor solidarity. If we want a democratic society, it must extend to the workplace, by means of unions.

If you haven’t directly experienced fascism in America, congratulations. You are most likely white, middle class, well educated, and possibly wealthy.

If you are part of the upper-middle class, then the policeman is your friend and your government is trying to do its best to bring order to a chaotic world.

Never forget that our community is a thing of beauty and our neighbors are our friends, ready to do anything to help us out. Since the space age began, more and more people have come to understand that our community is the whole world, and all the people in it are our brothers and sisters. Others have yet to grasp the changing nature of our modern world where scarcity is being replaced by moral, spiritual and material abundance. Let’s do everything we can to convince them to share our vision.

Two worlds, divided by class. One white, male, rich, and liberal democratic. The other dark skinned, female, poor and always being watched by the brutal and fascist-minded agencies of government.

Yes, some of us live our lives in a dangerous blade-runner movie, while the rest of us live in musical comedies, that always end well.

What is Fascism, exactly?

There are many definitions of fascism. Two are the best are by Mussolini, who said: “Fascism is the merging of the state and corporate power.” In a little more detail, Georgi Dimitrov, an anti-fascist socialist and communist said, “Fascism is the open, terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, the most chauvinistic, the

2020 Vision - continued from page 3

in ways that our everyday life often does not call on us to do. We who made good use of this time, receive a year of full clarity -- 2020 vision. But all of that was the internal journey -- coupled with the big external journey that the country traveled as a result of the CoVid, then add the blatancy of the public execution in Minnesota, all while the process of vying for power between left and right was playing out in a national campaign. Suddenly we arrive at a place where too much was clear for that bullsh!t to get run anymore... It's like a critical mass of the whole nation has had the scales fall away, and with what we see, a deeper understanding beyond mere words have kicked in -- like when your gut aligns with your head. For me, it was right around August when I realized the journey ahead. That was around when my own process of clarity assured me I am ready for the storm I now jump into: Pat Raphael for California's Thirty-Third. Nowhere else to make this announcement than the Peace and Freedom Party's very own neighborhood paper, The Free Venice Beachhead. My winning campaign is simple, I will stand in clarity together with all of

most imperialistic elements of finance capitalism.” This became the most commonly accepted definition for those on the left.

Both of these definitions refer to fascism as a state system of government and control, like Nazi Germany, Mussolini’s Italy, and Franco’s Spain. But there are also people who have fascist tendencies, whom I’ve coined “Little Hitlers.”

Trump May Be Leaving, but Fascism Remains

There are many fascist-minded people in the USA, often in police departments, the military, and other institutions where force is a factor. Certainly, the cop who killed George Floyd is one of these, as are those responsible for all the other brutal killings of Blacks and Latinos.

“Normal,” people don’t go around killing other people, even if they have the authority, the weapons and the force of law behind them. Fascism, in this context, is a social deviation. (Please don’t call people with fascist tendencies, “deviants,” they’ll probably kill you.)

What’s happening to this country? Are we in the throes of fascism? Lately, there’s been a lot of discussion on YouTube talk shows about how rude some people, even anti-fascists, have become. Some angry commentators have gone so far as to “cancel” people with whom they disagree. Just like the “blacklist” of the 1950s, such behavior contains elements of fascism.

I’ve been taken to task by some friends for not being sufficiently anti-Trump, as if 90 percent anti-Trump isn’t good enough. The hostility, and the lack of amiability, is probably due as much to the stress of the pandemic as to creeping fascism. However, the “perception of fascism” has caused a huge group of liberals to turn their backs on another huge group of Americans.

Now there are people calling for unity in the country, including Biden. But unity based on what? Unity without principles is a prescription for fascism. Hitler brought Germany together. Do we want that kind of unity? Probably not.

We do need unity, but it should be based on class issues, economic issues, to which most of the country already agrees.

Polls show large majorities for medicare for all, for free tuition, for a \$15 minimum wage, and more progressive ideas. America will work better than ever when all its people enjoy these fruits of their labor.

us here in the 33rd, and upon examination, that clarity will make sense to both our guts and our heads. Then the choice will be easy -- I'm going to congress y'all, Distinguished Gentleman style.

Pat! you're f^cken crazy, and a little full of yourself.

Exactly! That's kinda who it takes to jump into this mess and give themselves through to this insane process we've created for going to D.C. What person of family and good sense will put themselves through this money-fueled, media-driven high wire act of running for office? I know many in the 33rd who might even be better at the job than myself, but none are similarly positioned to be able to run. My job in winning is to pull down some of these barriers so that the best of us who would excel in governing positions are not prevented by process. It's me, running for y'all because along the way I have come to realize that it's not about me, it's gotta be for we... It's me running for y'all because I'm still here and have not been bought off by any of the big moneyed interests who are in a better position to draft and put forth their candidate -- with those candidates explicitly understanding who they owe in getting into office. Lucky for us here in the 33rd, my win will come from the ground up. None can walk through my door and say I owe them, other than the voters of the 33rd. I am not for sale, I am not bought and I am not paid for -- so how can I win in an arena where money often determines the outcome? Without money, I have to devise other creative ways of getting the attention of the thirty-third's voters, and once I have their attention, deliver unto them a clear choice.

The key that opens all these doors that I will walk through, was given to me right here in Venice. Along the way, in my dialogues and discussions I have come to profoundly understand the value of balance. It took piecing it all together from many sources, but if you look close enough, it will become clear that a very well-oiled control mechanism is being implemented upon all of us by the political elite of the two-party system. Effectively taking the two halves of our divine make-up -- our masculinity and our femininity -- and then splitting these two valid pieces of our psyche between the two political parties, leaving us divided and fighting amongst each other. So in the masculine, there are many things to conserve: a good foundational framework, disciplined budget of fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense, personal freedom and rugged individualism, governance by non-intrusion. The trick is to convince us that these qualities can only come from one side of the two-sided coin. Which means the progressive instincts in the feminine such as equality, Labor's access to wealth creation, care for the environment, maintenance of the social safety-net, global non-intervention -- as valid as these are, we are taught if you want one set of priorities, you can not have (or should even be hostile) to the other set of priorities. Here in Venice, the neighbors I have spoken to see this for what it is: divide and conquer. I am committed to embracing both sides of our divine nature as that is the only way to overcome this artificial separation.

There is a toxicity that has metastasized into a deadly cancer in our body politics. This cancerous growth is rooted in history, infected from our unaddressed race-based past of colonial white-supremacy, and has continued all the way to 2020. This is a condition that has previously threatened the very existence of our nation, but generation after generation has risen to the occasion, and have embraced the ideals of our national creed, and forced us (at times kicking and screaming), to continue on a sometimes choppy march forth to progress. Thank God for all they who came before and delivered unto us, this American wonder-

DING DONG DUMMY! MOISHE SCHMOE
(sung to, Ding Dong the Wicked Witch is Dead)
Ding dong Trump is crazy in the head!
Which Grump, the wicked Trump!
Ding dong Trump is crazy in the head!
Ding dong the wicked Grinch has lost!
Which Grinch, the wicked Grinch!
Ding dong the wicked Grinch has lost!
He lost the Presidential race!
The Dummy with his fat, ugly face!
Let's send him to outer space
without a trace!
Ding dong the wicked Trump is out!
It was an election rout!
Of that big mouthed lout!
Ding dong the worse Prez ever!
Let's hope he's gone forever!
Ding dong pray we see him never!
Ding dong Donald lost the election!
Now he can have an erection!
Having porn stars for fornication!
He's gone where goblins go.
Below! Below! Below!
Yo-ho! Yo-ho! Yo-ho!
Let's open up and sing!
Let the Liberty Bell ring!
Ding dong the merry-oh!
Sing it high!
Sing it low!
Let them know.
The wicked wacko has lost!
This is a day of independence
for all Munchkins and their descendents!
If any!
Ding dong Trump is crazy in the head!
Which Grump, the wicked Trump!
Ding dong Trump is crazy in the head!

Oh, I remember Keith and Bill
And I ALWAYS WILL!

“They” got and kept us on the road -
to where, in Humbolt, we are still!

Nick/Henry “sold”/“gave” me a car
“... that takes me real far...”
(for \$28 Dollars - in Venice!
The price of a “street cleaning ticket”
back then

After 15 trips to Florida and back
It still loves to go 80+
on the “299” and the grand “101”
and wants to “cross country” again!!

Oh, It still “runs like a top”
“Thanks” to Keith and Bill’s Shop!

P.S. And to all the other mechanics
- So Kind!
- Tina Catalina



DUDLEY AVE. PAGODA

Under an uncaring moon
Chemiical cowboys
Voodoo gear shift
The hour glass of life
Hollow eyed angels
Soul mining the edge of ruin

b. meade

Averted

by alan Rodman

A casual look upon you
and then averts his face
Whitman leaving it to you
to prove and define it
expecting the main things from you

was this the face
that launched a thousand
ships? crowed Marlowe
make me immortal with a kiss:
her lips suck forth my soul

all alone bewEEP
my outcast state the Bard replied
not fade... so long lives this
and this gives life...
so Frost's leaf subsides to leaf

so the sun goes down today
nothing gold can stay
of his bones are coral made
those are pearls
that were his eyes

nothing of him that does fade
but does suffer a sea change
so shines a good deed
in a nasty world
rich and strange

THIS PAPER IS A POEM

Little Hitlers in the garden.
Little Hitlers in the kitchen.
Little Hitlers at the dinner table.
Little Hitlers in the classroom.
Little Hitlers in the Black and Whites.
Little Hitlers at the bank.
Little Hitlers in the church.
Little Hitlers in the government.
Little Hitlers on the job.
Little Hitlers everywhere I go.
Little Hitlers listening, watching.
Little Hitlers full of hate.
Little Hitlers fighting other Little Hitlers.
Little Hitlers off to war.
Little Hitlers in my brain
–Jim Smith

9 • December 2020 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD
VENICE, THE OUTDOOR INSANE ASYLUM!

For Joseph (sung with a reggae beat) *marty liboff*
Welcome to the Venice Ocean Front Walk
geniuses & morons talk
pigeons & seagulls poop & squawk.
Venice, the outdoor insane asylum
life can be wonderful or grim
a joy or Bedlam.
It's a jungle out there
bald heads & long hair
beautiful sunsets & clean air.
A crazy zoo
you can be happy or blue
everything old and new.
Madmen rant & yell
dogs & bums shit & smell
it's Heaven & Hell.
Billionaires, assholes & movie stars
scooters, skateboards, bikes & cars
cheap food and expensive bars.
Crazies smokin pot, crack & meth
many with alcohol breath
suicide, murder & death.
Whores, bores & people on tours
the Beachboys and Jim & the Doors
drinkin Bud and Coors.
Lonely men & women searchin for love
devils and angels from above
hippies and the peace dove.
Tourists from every place
people of every race
even Martians from outer space.
People walkin their mutts
dot-commers & nuts
G-strings and big butts.
Vendors sellin their stuff
hookers sellin their muff
gangs tryin to be tough.
Cops arrest, shoot & beat
crooks all over the street
better run from the Heat.
\$4000 apartment rent
houseless sleep in a tent
a gal Heaven sent.
Dumb T-shirts, bad pizza and the sea
dogs and the insane pee on a tree
spirits tryin to be free.
Everywhere the smell of pot
everything is sold and bought
Life is learned but not taught.
Stinky, smelly bathrooms
a surfer on a wave zooms
expensive hotel rooms.
Photographers, dancers & artists paint
talented most ain't
druggies & drunks puke & faint.
Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews
the unknown and famous make news
my dog humps & screws.
Zombies, vampires & snakes
crooks, bullshitters & fakes
the old & dead on wakes.
Musicians playin Blues, rock, rap & reggae
most sound lousy and can't play
the crowds are straight & gay.
Many want to be a star
most don't go far
instead become drunks in a bar.
Our great newspaper the Free Venice Beachhead
the sand and stars are my bed
beatniks, hippies, the Grateful Dead.
Venice is a poem, a song, a dance
the beach & sunsets are made for romance
the moon and the ocean put me in a trance.
Broke with nuthin to lend or spend
hearts broken but in time mend
Jim sang, "this is the end my friend."
Venice Beach has every kind of shit
a flop, a hit, a big dick or tit
this is that and that's it...

CALENDAR

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THE POETRY STAGE REDUX
2020 L.A. Times Festival of Books
Poets & New Writers
Part II
Thursday, December 3
6 pm PT
Francisco Aragón, Sarah Arvio, Shonda Buchanan, Maxine Chernoff, Tiana Clark, Timothy Donnelly, Karen Kevorkian, Judith Pacht, Arthur Sze, Imani Tolliver, Mariano Zaro

THE POETRY STAGE REDUX
2020 L.A. Times Festival of Books
Poets & New Writers
Part III
Thursday, December 10
6 pm PT
Kazim Ali, Jubi Arrioloa-Headley, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Travis Denton, Katie Ford, Sally Wen Mao, Sandra Meek, Deborah Paredes, Eleni Sikelianos, David St. John, Chad Sweeney

THE POETRY STAGE REDUX
2020 L.A. Times Festival of Books
Poets & New Writers
Part IV
Thursday, December 17
6 pm PT
Joshua Bennett, Gillian Conoley, Heid E Erdrich, Forrest Gander, Carmen Giménez Smith, Mark Irwin, Didi Jackson, Elizabeth Jacobson, Patricia Smith, Page Starzinger, Tess Taylor

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
6:00 PM PT
Rex Weiner speaks via Zoom with Lynell George, about her new book on the life and world of acclaimed writer Octavia E. Butler.

A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky: The World of Octavia E. Butler (Angel City Press) offers a blueprint for a creative life from the perspective of award-winning science-fiction writer and “MacArthur Genius” Octavia E. Butler. Written by award-winning author Lynell George, this book was drawn from her time researching the Octavia E. Butler archive at the Huntington Library as the recipient of the library’s Alan Jutzi Fellowship. A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky draws the reader into Butler’s world, creating a sense of unmatched intimacy with the deeply private writer.

More than a biography, A Handful of Earth, a Handful of Sky is a collection of ideas about how a writer looks, listens, and breathes—how to be in the world. This book is about the creative process, but not on the page; its canvas is much larger. George not only engages the world that shaped Octavia E. Butler, she also explores the very specific processes through which Butler shaped herself—her unique process of self-making. It’s about creating a life with what little you have—hand-me-down books, repurposed diaries, journals, stealing time to write in the middle of the night, making a small check stretch—bit by bit by bit. A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky draws the reader into Butler’s world, creating a sense of unmatched intimacy with the deeply private writer.

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Join in our Zooms on Venice Film History on Jan 23 & Venice Photo History on Jan 30, 2021.
Laughtears.com
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Chris Cook,
one of the Best Skaters of the 80's / early 90s
Photo & Words: by Josh “Bagel” Klassman
Chris “Cooksie” Cook is without a doubt one of the best skaters to come out of the 80’s / early 90’s era. He is so underrated it’s a crime. He was a part of the infamous underground Team THC (Thomas, Hartsel, Cook). Look at that nose pick he is doing, it’s as on point as can be. His whole style is so bad ass. Every person is giving Cooksie their full attention and rightly so.

Then you have the graffiti, the ramp and walls are riddled with it like bullets in a drive by, both being such a common thing during that time. You can almost smell Big Daddy’s Pizza and Danny saying “Come get a slice” with his floppy hat on. I would walk down there at 8am praying that he was open to get two chili cheese dogs with grilled onions and a large soda to help cure my hangover, either before or after surfing.

Every name on that ramp and wall has a story of their own that is as unique or equal to the next person. An urban wonderland with it’s own rules and rough terrain, with a people and culture that defined it to it’s very core.

Chris “Cooksie” Cook
Venice, CA 1988

2020 Vision - continued from page 8

land for us to enjoy. Our legacy in this moment when the major institutions of our democracy are under attack, is to once again arise as patriots, each of us from our own station, and save the republic. This is why I'm here, and I've accepted the calling to bend with the arc of justice, and take us forth towards our promised More Perfect Union.

So let us address this cancer, that threatening us all... on the net it sprinkles the comment section as CWII, or 1776.2, but whatever we call it, we can not ignore that this is a threat of political terrorism. This latest outgrowth is the continuation of a political lineage that puts the accumulation of wealth and power as the ONLY outcomes of value, and anything is permitted in pursuit of the primary goal of wealth and power. These are the greedy few, who created the Frankenstein monster that even they may lose control of. For too long, there has been too great a value in maintaining the low-information voter. Spend a few generations maligning the intellectual elite and the liberal media and the deep state bureaucrat, all in an attempt to blunt the power of these competing tugs on the wheel, soon we're here. With too many in our nation who believe that the other side is made up of pedophiles who drink baby blood in league with satan. And if all you want is some votes, you will stoke these sentiments, even past the point where some loon shows up at the pizza joint and shoots up the place.

Thank God for the clarity of 2020. We got to see for ourselves who hears Black Lives Matter, and have a freak out fit. Thank God for the clarity that we all got when we saw how fast we can move 2.2TRILLION dollars from the national treasury. It took 2020 and the death of ol' RBG for us all to see how morally pliable and intellectually inconsistent power can be, in moving toward ends that justify the means. In 2020 we got to really see who it is at the frontlines of wealth creation, when it was time to go back to work, and the bosses stayed home while pumping y'all full of "essential worker". In 2020 we can take something that was never controversial, like mask-wearing as a pandemic response, then politicize it, and watch people not just be gullible, but grow aggressive in their ignorance. Here in Venice, we have always known that there are homeless everywhere, but it seems like in 2020, ain't no hiding it anymore. Here and nationally, homelessness has become so in our faces, that some neighbors are becoming less welcoming. All of these are outcomes from greed that is out of control, and lust for power. I'm going to D.C., full of 2020 clarity, to address the failure of the two-party control apparatus to rein in the greedy, who right now are making all of us their b!tches.

If you've been paying attention up to here, it is clear that my analysis sees our negative political outcomes mostly as a result of the greedy who are using the two-party system to stuff themselves with all the wealth and power. If we're not down with all that here in the Thirty-Third, what is our representative, Congressman Ted Lieu, doing to undo the plutocracy that is solidifying all around us? Good 'ol Ted Lieu is a safe centrist not here to rock the boat. And we love him for it... we could do much worse in the 33rd. He's a great politician with a nice go-along-to-get-along like Barack Obama, an acceptable choice for the greedy bankers like Galvin Newsom, a fund-raising hero racking up all that sweet wall street fundraising dollars like Cory Booker, all the while justifying it all by telling themselves that they have to play the game to get the power, to help the little guy.... but somewhere along the line, as all the steps gotta get checked off, the little guy is forgotten. These mild centrist don't really have the fight in their hearts, to stick their necks out for the little guy. He ain't no Katie Porter. Still we

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love him, he's reliably awesome. He can bring home some bacon, he can be reasonably expected to tow the "liberal" line, he fits the mold of wanting a better world for us all. We could do much worse. Until we need much more. Now we need a neck that will stick way out -- not safely like the centrist Waxman who stuck his neck out just a little, when empire started to roar right after 9/11 -- he was replaced by Lieu, who learned to not speak up too much. We need a broad shoulder who can carry the insistent truths of 2020 with us, when we make governing decisions. Off to Washington to stand up to the Republicans and Democrats who are selling us out to the greedy.

This is a real what-do-we-have-to-lose moment... we can see that so much is at stake, we need a true outsider we can count on. I have been writing in these pages of The Beachhead for many years, not knowing that I was contributing to the public record for a lot of my policy positions. Truly I'm as out there as it comes. I am freely in Venice, soaking up all that we have access to, from the ground level of activism and organizing. I live in my car and don't do drugs (tho I smoke hella blunts), I've developed a clear mind that allows me to spend my days in the close observation that only an unencumbered perspective can grant. Now that we've arrived at the moment when enough of us can see the value of this outsider point of view, I am ready. I am nimble and imaginative, a blank slate who came out of nowhere. This becomes tremendously valuable when it is time to define myself and there is little prior baggage clouding perceptions. And doesn't America love an underdog story? The 33rd's forte in story-telling helped solidify this into our national psyche. Well I'm that underdog. Imagine all the first that I will be upon winning... the first member of congress to come back home to his van (by then it'll probably be nicer than my current Pontiac Aztec), has there ever been a member with dreds?, the first to run and win on such a minimally financed campaign not requiring all my energy going to fund-raising. I am ready. And with the ace card of being balanced, my hands are not tied to left and right, leaving me open to consider policy solutions from both conservative and progressive liberal positions.

But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. How are we gonna win? Good ol' Ted Lieu does not know what he is in for, but he's no push-over. In Venice we understand the value of holding attention. We understand that MySpace was a billion dollar company -- until all the people left and took with them their attention. We understand the value of creating a positive spectacle. If you get enough eyeballs, the passerby can then decide if they will pay attention or not, and if enough are paying attention, it just causes others to wanna see too. That is the secret to our campaign. shhhhh, don't tell the media.... cause they won't even start covering us until we become an undeniable force. Then it will be known that we were here all along, reaching voters spectacle after spectacle, until traditional media is fighting themselves to get to our next spectacle... As a student of Venice this will come very easy... Upon publishing of this announcement, this becomes my job for the next two years. We win because I am committed to the outcome, and I am ready to work as hard as it takes to bring forth our clarity. Send ol' Ted Lieu a heads-up... he seems like a cool guy who doesn't need to get blindsided by our campaign which is gonna blossom out of nowhere. Clip him a copy of this article and send it to his office. Let him know to not take it personally, cause in winning we are going to need big chunks of his staff and governing apparatus. We need all the help we can to take on the greedy... I'm sure his insight will prove quite valuable when I make it to D.C.

Douglas Faithful

by Alan Rodman

My good friend Douglas was a gentle, faithful and heroic black man, who had once worked in Alaska in a lumber mill, after he had studied Japanese No theater and Kabuki at Stonybrook College. There, he met and in time married a beautiful Jewish student of ballet, and they had a shining bright daughter. Over the years he developed into an advanced black belt in Shotokan karate. He was also an excellent landlord, and a professional working actor, greatly beloved by his playwrights.

For a long time he ran a booth on the Venice boardwalk, offering great stuff like wonderful Indonesian shirts that reversed into a backpack, and here he became a friend to everyone.

At the same time, he biked and hiked intensely whenever free, to explore a hundred forests and winding back roads with me.

When we came to that proverbial fork in the road, he told me, sure, we should just take it.

He would often grin hugely, and flash his gleaming white teeth when we were a little lost, and then he would remind me of his favorite method for finding our way home. I just discovered, today, that he must have heard this advice years back, on Sesame Street, from his daughter's early days of growing up. The story is actually a little song, titled, "Behind Your Face:"

Boy: ...and then you came along. Can you help me get unlost?

Yo-Yo Man: Try to remember everything you passed. But when you go back, make the first thing the last. Ha ha! (The background sucks him up, yo-yo last.)

Boy: Wow!

Yo-Yo Man's Voice: Yeah!

Boy: Try to remember everything I passed. But when I go back, make the first thing the last. I get it! I just go back past all those weird things again until I'm home. That's it! (Begins pedaling in the opposite direction, passing the things he saw and some others besides. Among them is a hippo in a dress and bonnet, sitting on the ground and holding a flower. As the boy rides, a voice sings these words.)

Voice: Behind your face There is a place That's called your brains or your mind. If you could sneak a peek inside, Oh, what wonderful things you'd find!

One day, in the heat of summer decades back, we had been out riding our bikes, and had taken a detour through a neighborhood up in Bel-Air, where the little streets twist and turn, and it's easy

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to lose your way there. That may have been when he remembered this little song, from back when his daughter was growing up, explaining the secret of how to find your way home.

We did find our way back from the hills that day. On many journeys, we used the same routine on the complex network of trails in tangled Rustic Canyon. We found our way home each time, following our own footsteps and those landmarks we recognized, to always be able to get back out. Using that same good advice we walked deep into Santa Ynez Canyon to see the hidden waterfalls, and over time we explored like that, all around Topanga State Park, Solstice Canyon, and the whole Malibu Creek area, where we even visited the old M.A.S.H. location way out past the rugged "Jungle" beyond Goat Buttes. We even once or twice went pedaling past the ancient forgotten Chumash village of Talapop, in the place now called Las Virgenes. Then, though we were far flung and all turned around, sure enough we remembered "all we passed," and were able to find our way home.

I guess maybe it must turn out to be just like that with a person's full lifetime, and their whole story too. He was never lost, we always felt found.

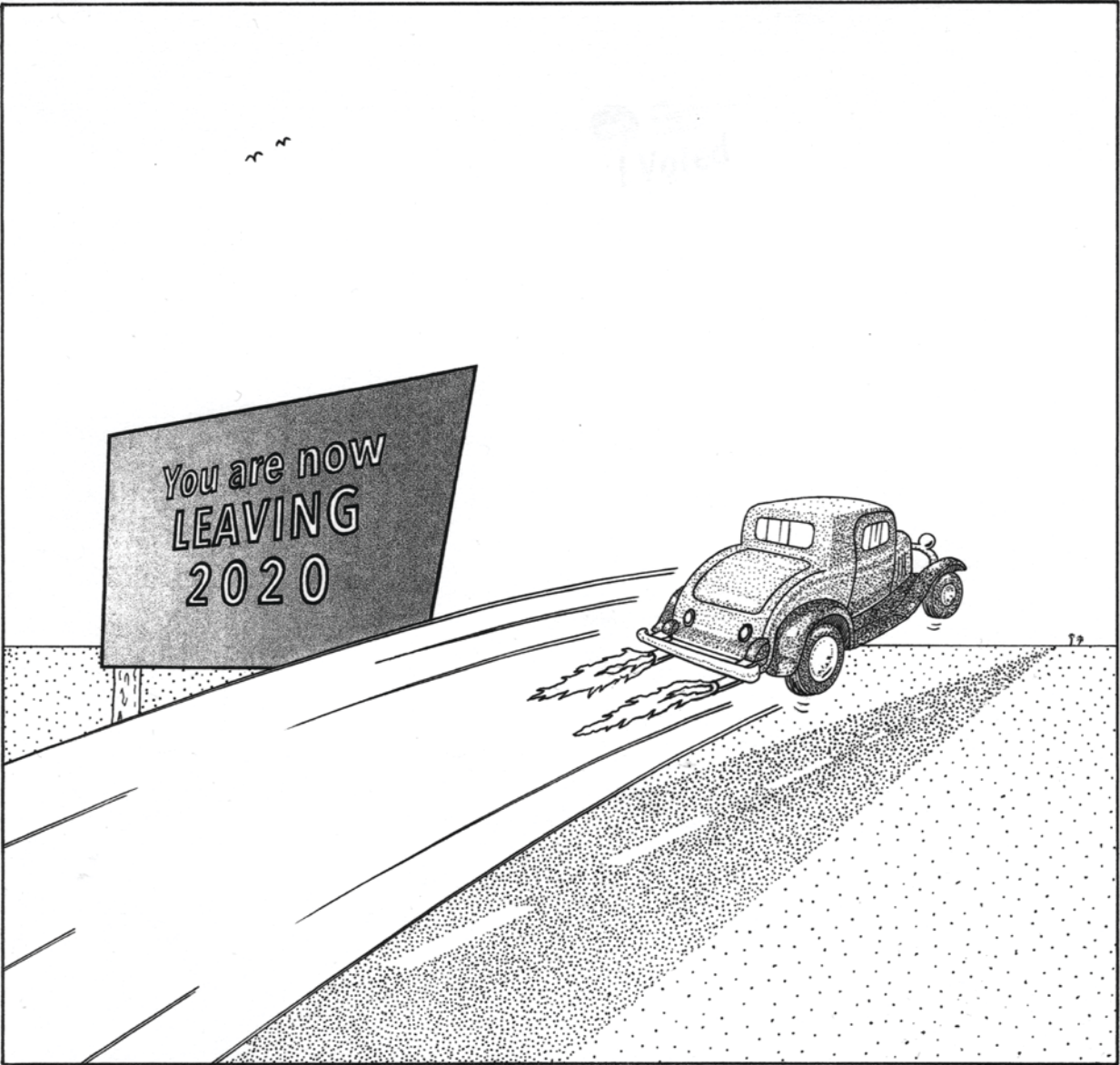
Dear wise and kindhearted Doug grew older, as we will do, then at length had a couple of years of struggle with chemotherapy, before recovering well enough to come with me and a friend and her Catahoula hound, on one more improbable, miraculous victory hike up to that vast secret Labyrinth of prayers hidden up at the old Clark Ranch Tank Road, crowning the pinnacle above the Pacific, at Tuna Canyon near Saddle Peak. Many people's remembrances and hopes are still evident in the loving stones and crystals or offerings placed all around that huge circle or arranged carefully at its very center.

We were above the clouds that day, and then returned back down the way we came. Less than a year went by before Doug's life too had come full circle. He perhaps truly arrived at his own center.

He finally had found his way home once again, moving from his origin at Alpha to the great Omega, then making good his return. We will each be able to follow one day. He already told me just how he did it:

Doug left this guidance, for a safe return: "Remember everything you passed, then as you go home, just make the very first thing last."

Make it last and last...





Good Things happened in 2020

Last Year the Beachhead's NYE Party
blasted way past midnight into 2020.



We have gained reconition for the importance of
saving the First Baptist Church of Venice



Bernie Sanders, and AOC spoke to thousands



Black Lives Matters were in the streets and the parks and at the



First Baptist Church of Venice



Be the change that's gonna come.

STOP!
POLICE BRUTALITY AND RACIAL INJUSTICE
WE CAN'T BREATHE
WE WILL OVERCOME

I'm Black &
I'm Proud!

**A CHANGE
IS GONNA
COME**