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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

Support
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 Journalism

December 2021
 #469

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CELEBRATION OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

By Jon Wolff

Venetians gathered with the activist group Save Venice on Saturday, October 30, 2021 for a momentous occasion in front of the First Baptist Church of Venice. Save Venice organized the event to celebrate the L.A. City Council's unanimous approval for historic designation of this church.

The First Baptist Church of Venice is the largest African-American church in Venice. It is located at E.L. Holmes Square on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the heart of Venice. The institution of the First Baptist Church of Venice was founded in Venice over a century ago. But the church building and property were sold fraudulently in 2017 to a couple who intended to gut the church and turn it into their own private me-

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**Unzipped: An Autopsy of American Inequality
 Has Its World Festival Premiere In Newport
 Beach - And Wins!** by C.J. Gronner



When we set out to make UNZIPPED in 2018, we could never have predicted how much the world would change with the Covid-19 pandemic as we were filming ... or how much worse the affordable housing crisis was going to get. We who have lived and loved in our beautiful home of Venice, California (an "INTENTIONAL Beach community of color" -

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ARE YOU HUNGRY? FREE FOOD AT VENICE BEACH

(times and places occasionally change)

***Hope for the Hearts of the Homeless-** Pam & Joel and friends. Coffee, pastries, sandwiches. Thursday & Sunday around 9:45am. At the pagoda near the sand between Dudley and Rose Ave.
***You Matter-** Michael & friends. Tue. & Thur. Around 11 am. Hot dogs, burgers, snacks, fruit. North Ocean Front Walk near Ozone Ave. Also Sat. around 8 am near Dudley Ave.

***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

***St. Mark Church Free Food Pantry**
 Every Saturday from 11am to 1pm
 940 Coeur d'Alene Ave, Venice 90291 (entrance Garfield Av) Vegetables, fruits and other food items. No registration needed. Drive-thru and walk-in options. Call St. Mark Parish at 310-821-5058 or email us at loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com

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

Peter Demian L.O.V.E. (Legend Of Venice Eternal) by Gerry Fialka

"I know nothing, I live in the Eternal"
 -George Santayana

I know one thing after living in Venice California for over 41 years. Walk on the Boardwalk at Sunset and watch Peter Demian sing a song. You'll see alot more than the green dot. You will see Eternity. Guaranteed. He sings the everlastingness of love. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss your fears good-bye.

My wife, Suzy Williams transcribed excerpts here of my recent interview with Peter. Watch the entire 83 *continued on page 9*



VCH staff members Becky Dennison and Dawn Hicks accepting the AIALA award



On Thursday, October 28, Venice Community Housing (VCH) was recognized at the 2021 American Institute of Architects Los Angeles (AIALA) awards ceremony. The organization was honored as one of 15 Presidential Honorees, a group comprised of architects, firms, buildings, and individuals "who have made the most significant contributions to the urban landscape of the region and to architecture as a profession." VCH received the Merry Norris Design Advocate Award.

VCH was uplifted for its commitment to creating inclusive neighborhoods where everyone can flourish. Since the organization's founding in 1988, staff have been dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of unhoused and low-income community members and honoring Venice's history as a diverse and creative city. As homelessness rates rise across Los Angeles, VCH remains focused on ensuring that vulnerable neighbors are stably housed and supported.

Currently, staff are working on the development of several new affordable properties that will make a significant impact on the Westside and beyond. The Rose Apartments, located at 720 Rose Avenue in Venice, will be ready for tenants to move in by January, providing 34 units of much-needed housing for formerly unhoused households. Half of the units will be reserved for those who have experienced chronic homelessness, and the other half will be for transitional age youth (ages 16-24). VCH's architecture partners at Rose are Brooks+Scarpa, who are also local Venice residents and affordable housing advocates.

Residents at Rose Apartments will have access to a plethora of services. A property manager will live on site, and VCH's resident services team will help move tenants in and ensure they feel supported during this transition and beyond. Drive down Rose Avenue to watch the construction progress, and follow VCH on social media for updates about move-in and a groundbreaking ceremony!

LBN: LA LUPC approves the Dell Pacific Project!

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 at
 132 Brooks Ave in Venice

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Beachhead Collective Staff:

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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

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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

Hello!

I am Miles, surfer, musician, sociologist, born and raised in mar vista/venice. Your newspaper is an essential institution and must continue to preserve the old spirit of Venice. Now that I have a bit of money, I would like to become a sustainer.

Thanks, Miles Krumpak

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

Code Pink founder says Venice is Fine

Jodie Evans on the Capitol Police, 'Defense' spending, and calling Venice home for 50 years. By Tony Pierce



Jodie Evans has been fighting for peace around the globe and particularly in Washington D.C. for years. Code Pink, the group she founded two decades ago, is best known as the relentless assemblage of protesters you often see in congressional hearings suddenly chanting and unfurling banners supporting one of their causes.

Their arrests make national news and draw attention to causes rooted in human rights, the environment, and non-violence.

Many years ago when I was driving Uber/Lyft, I happened to pick Jodie up and drove her to her home in Venice. Despite the trip being short, she filled me with inspiration during our brief conversation and I looked forward to running into her again.

That time has come.

Tony Pierce: Do you think people know of Code Pink, but don't really connect it to one particular person?

Jodie Evans: I think it's depends on how you've engaged because some people come through a particular person, but certainly when the media covers this it's Code Pink, which is what we want it to be.

It's not about an individual. It's about the collective, which is how you create change.

So you you're in D.C. right now?

I am in D.C. right now we just launched a new campaign called Cut the Pentagon and it's really just a big umbrella to show that so many groups are about cutting the Pentagon, but Congress isn't listening.

So today we were with one of our coalition members and they had thousands of people in the street for immigration rights.

Erratum: Allison Rose Jefferson photo credit for Oct. 2021 front page photo

Some unelected person, a parliamentarian in the Senate has decided this piece has to be pulled out of the budget that would support immigration rights.

So Congresswoman Ilhan Omar was speaking and thousands marched past ICE in front of the Capitol, and we were there, and Congresswoman Omar was like, "yes, cut the Pentagon.", and "yes, stop making refugees with that money in the Pentagon."

And "stop impoverishing people by taking money and investing in it more instead of investing it in people."

It's called Cut the Pentagon for people, planet, peace and a future. Much of the Pentagon money is going into continuing the U.S. investment in nuclear weapons, which as they aggress on China becomes an existential threat to life on the planet.

Some critics of military spending say it's just not being used for the right things; bombs and planes are passé. They say we should be spending — if we are going to be spending money on defense — on cyber security. Would you agree with that?



Rep. Ilhan Omar with a Code Pink supporter.

Okay. So let's talk about defense because defense is a made up thing that the United States has made up since World War II to make the rich richer, to build weapons and to create a more unsafe world.

So all of this weapon investment is about some fantasies that are drummed up by people in suits behind desks while people are killed every day — murdered every day.

And we watched that murder recently with the drone strike in Afghanistan. That is what happens every single day.

So let's look back at Guantanamo. Bush would say "you're a terrorist, so I'm going to put you in Guantanamo."

And what did we find out? That out of the 900 people in Guantanamo, two were actually possibly creating some kind of resistance to the United States. We forget that the Saudi Arabians, who took down the towers, took them down because the United States would not listen to them and take their base out of Saudi Arabia.

It depends on who gets to tell the story as what the story is.

Well, we've been telling the story from Code Pink for a decade that these drone strikes kill innocent people.

We have been to Yemen. We've been to Pakistan.

We have heard the stories from family members (just like now everybody in the world has heard the stories from family members) that there's nobody from ISIS or Al Qaeda in this strike. There's just a lot of innocent people like the 34 kids in a bus in Yemen.

So "defense," so that's, first of all, a made-up story.

Recently the Institute for Policy Studies found
continued on page 4

VENICE STORYTELLERS

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A staged reading of 3 new, short plays
presented by Cornerstone Theatre Co. and
members of the community.
Informal presentation for friends, family and
neighbors.
Free & 21



photos by Enyaj Pitchford, below – Peter Howard of Cornerstone Theatre

“The Stone That The Builder Refused, Shall be the New Cornerstone”* – A Theatrical Odyssey in Venice by Enyaj Pitchford

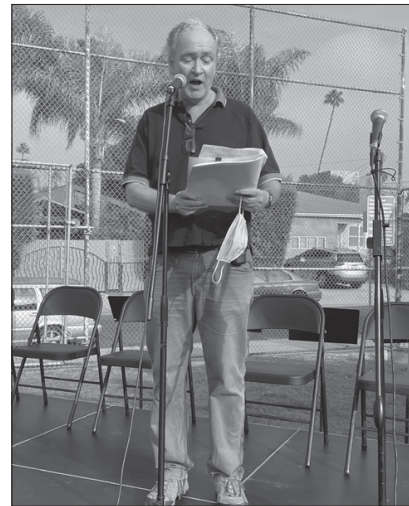
Nearly 100 Venetians gathered on a beautiful afternoon in Oakwood Park to watch and participate in yet another community centered project of “Cornerstone Theatre Co.” A few years ago, they created a play called “Ghost Town” where the homes of Venice bore witness to the great cultural times and the encroaching insensitivity of the real estate market. Upon their most anticipated return, they created three short plays to elaborate on the changing landscape that is Venice with the locals who manage to hang on and still call it home.

Cornerstone Theatre describes their process as a radical engagement that reflects upon the complexities of communicating in a changing cultural landscape. Assumptions are disrupted and differences welcomed, all whilst amplifying joy, to advance a more compassionate, equitable, and just world.

The play process was straightforward. All the local people who volunteered were divided into three groups and a playwright asked them questions about their experiences and basically let them shoot the breeze. Then they took what they heard and three plays were created with their actors and locals performing together. Bahni Turpin, a professional actress, yoga teacher and award winning voice actor, our local musician Greg Cruz of Venice Street Legends and Bridget Graham of ‘Adawee’ fame were amongst the participants of this moving, heart warming experience. The audience was hanging on to every word, and feeling affirmed through the stories reflecting on the great cultural and community losses brought about with the high real estate values. It was a joyous occasion and a voice for the voiceless indeed. Looking forward to their return!

• Bob Marley Song “Cornerstone”

<https://cornerstonetheater.org>



A Rendering of the New SPY Access Center & Apts.

From Safe Place for Youth:

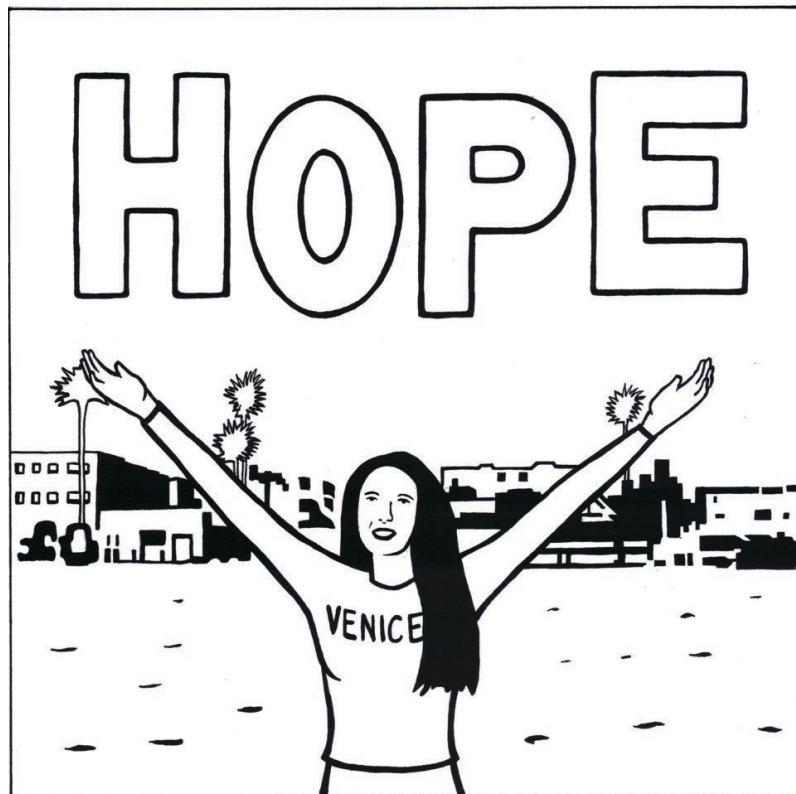
We are excited to share that the Lincoln Apartments project is underway! In partnership with Venice Community Housing, our current site on Lincoln Blvd is being redeveloped to bring 40 units of much-needed permanent supportive housing. It will also include SPY’s expanded Access Center on the ground floor.

This means that SPY is temporarily relocating our Access Center for the next few years! Starting November 1, 2021 we will continue providing wrap-around services to young people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness at our new location: 340 Sunset Avenue, Venice CA 90291.

We look forward to welcoming the SPY community to our new site as we work together to create a safe, caring place for young people to thrive!

Volunteer With Us

There are a number of in-person volunteering opportunities at our new Access Center, such as serving breakfast and lunch to our youth members.



Why Can't We Be Friends? by Gerry Fialka

The free WAR concert in Venice on October 30, 2021 was beyond description. Don't worry, if you missed being there live, watch it on YouTube. Our own Venice homeboy, the blues baron Stanley Berhens, shined on harmonica and flute. This is America's premiere funk-rock-soul band. They can sell-out the Hollywood Bowl, yet still have the down-home roots to celebrate their 50th year with the Venice community and cool-ass low-rider car display. This is what heaven wishes it could be.



'WAR' collage from Rhino Records

Their hits include Spill the Wine, The World is a Ghetto, The Cisco Kid, Low Rider, Me and Baby Brother, Summer and lots more. Writers praise'em - Colin Larkin: "potent fusion of funk, R&B, rock and Latin styles produced a progressive soul sound", while Martin Strong calls'em: "one of the fiercest progressive soul combos." They transcended racial and cultural barriers with a multi-ethnic line-ups. War's leader Lonnie Jordan, the only original member in the current line-up, rendered a master class in social engineering and brilliant sing-along engagement.

Other original members created a new group called the Lowrider Band in the 90's. When this split happened, the harp player Lee Oskar called Stanley, and told him not to play with WAR. Lee told Stanley, "If you join that band, I'll never talk to you again." Stanley went along with his request. Then Stanley had a liver transplant. After this medical problem caused huge bills, Stanley asked Lee if he could do the WAR gig. He needed the money. Lee OK'd it. Stanley adds WAR to his long list of credits: Willie Dixon, Jimmy Smith, Ruth Brown, Alice Cooper, Canned Heat, Suzy Williams, Peter Derman, Michael Jost, GREG CRUZ, and many of the Radio Venice musicians.

I look forward to full interviews with Lonnie Jordan, Stanley Behrens and more Venice music icons. Lots of my interviews on the two youtube channels: "Concerned Netizen," and "I'm Probably Wrong About Everything." Speaking of "being" friends, the amazing friend to all music lovers, Mike Tempo asked Suzy to sing with the Bonedaddys at The Venice West on Nov 21. Thanks Mike! He recalled his own previous recording experiences in this newly opened venue. This very building was Mad Dog Studios from 1980 to 1995. The owner Dusty Wakeman (who I am interviewing on Dec 7) engineered many important acts there including Mike Tempo, Lucinda Williams, Jim Lauderdale, Buck Owens, Metallica, Edith Massey (the Egg Lady from John Waters' film Pink Flamingos), Mojo Nixon, John Trubee & The Ugly Janitors of America (with yours truly on

Jody Evans - continued from page 2

that since 9/11, the US has spent \$21 trillion on militarization. Here's their report.

If we took the money (which in the last 20 years is \$21 trillion) and invested in life instead of death and we made people of the world not so unequal to those of us in the empire, the United States of America — if we took care of the people of our own country... do you know \$25 billion is the amount of money they want to tack onto this year's budget?

That's what it would cost to vaccinate the entire world. That is what I call safe and secure, when 2% of the United States have died from COVID.

We've got to look at what are we investing in.

I call it a war economy: the extractive, oppressive, destructive economy; and it is killing you, our communities and the planet.

But there's also a peace economy. And it is the giving, sharing, caring, thriving, relational, resilient economy, without which none of us would be alive.

And we all learned about that economy during COVID... what is essential to life?

Well the war economy has been starving what is essential to life. It has been privatizing what is essential to life. It has been making toxic what is essential to life.

Look at Line 3 with a pipeline being built to make those lakes and rivers in Minnesota toxic.

So we need to cut the Pentagon and move that money to the needs of the people, the planet, peace and a future.

So when you say, "what should it be spent on?" Defense is a lie told to the people so they can steal your money and make the rich richer.

You're intimately aware of the Capitol Police. You've probably been arrested by the Capitol Police more than most activists.

100 times.

In the wake of the January 6th insurrection, the world is now aware of the Capitol Police, many of whom were victims of that riot. How did you view the Capitol Police before January 6th and today? Is it the same?

I would say today I'm shocked.

"knob"), and many more. I am preparing a history salon on The Venice West and all its incarnations (including Venice West, Sponto Gallery, Honky Hoagies Handy Hangout {aka the 4H Club}, Mad Dog Studios, WitzEnd). I welcome your stories and input. Gerry Fialka Laughtears. com pfsuzy@aol.com 310-306-7330. I recommend Beyond Baroque's upcoming tribute to Jack Hirschman on Feb 5. Check out my 90 minute archive.org interview with Jack, entitled "2012-11-05 Jack Hirschman Interview" (typo has the n as a u) Link= <https://archive.org/details/20121105JackHirschman>

Jack was an active street poet, peripatetic social activist and famed proponent of the Beat Generation. Jack fervently rhapsodized on Finnegans Wake by James Joyce. He was an inspired and inspiring advocate for the rights of the unhoused. Hirschman is profiled in the engaging 2009 documentary Red Poet, which I have screened in the past. He identified as a Marxist-Leninist. He stated in an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, "The most important thing as a poet is that I worked for the Communist movement for 45 years, and the new class of impoverished and homeless people."

I've been arrested since then. In my last arrest I was talking to the cops that arrested me just to see how they were because I knew they must be traumatized.

The Capitol Police, they're always like, "sorry, I love you, I'm just doing my job."

I had an amazing experience with the Capitol Police once. We had taken over the Hart building, we had "No War" banners hanging down.

The Capitol Police had arrested me and a man. And as he was walking us out, he started crying.

He said, "I want to thank you for what you're doing. My son died last week in Iraq. And I'm so grateful that you do this and I'm so sorry I have to arrest you."

"A Vision Takes Form" by Peter Waddell, illustrating the 18th-century construction of the White House as it may have appeared in 1796.

I've had many encounters. One time we had like 10,000 women, we were marching down to the White House. It was the first time the White House was surrounded by fence and there were cops all around us.

And there was a phalanx of cops and we came in and I had like 25 really famous women and one of them was Alice Walker.

We get there and we start singing. And this Black cop lets go of the white cop's hand.

He goes, "sorry, bro, but I can't go home to my wife and say I didn't let Alice Walker into the White House when slaves built the White House."

So you've always had a cordial, professional relationship with the Capitol Police?

I mean, they're always like, "how are you?" And they've been brutal to us and they've arrested us for just holding a banner, or for nothing really — for holding a peace sign.

So I know all sides of them. They can be brutal. They can be kind just like everyone.

It's the universe, as is everything in the universe, so are the Capitol Police.

Do they normally carry guns?

When I was watching on January 6th — I was watching with many other activists as we were having a Zoom call.

And then all of a sudden we're looking at our phones and we're just like, "where are the police?"

I mean, we were there for Black Lives Matter when there was phalanx of them with full-on armor and guns and the Capitol steps full of them.

"Where are the Capitol Police?" We were asking, because we know what it's like.

I was in shock and I was pretty dismayed when I watched a flag pummeling a police officer.

So that whole day was bizarre because nothing like that had ever happened in all the days of my activism.

Jodie, third from the right, in June 2021 at the Poor People's Campaign.

And the behavior — like how it was happening — and why there was no one... There was plenty of time to call out.

When something's happening, they call out everyone. They call out the D.C. Police, they call out the National Guard.

Where was the phalanx that usually show up when there's too many of us? I've been in the streets with hundreds of thousands of people

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PLANNING WATCH

In California every city and county must have a General Plan, and one of its mandatory elements (i.e., sections) is Housing.

by Dick Platkin

Housing Elements are prepared in nine year increments, and they are the only General Plan element that State agencies carefully review. Furthermore, cities that miss the State's deadline or do not meet

Jody Evans - continued from page 4
and they'll call out more and more and more... and they'll arrest us.

I've been outside the White House when 550 of us have been arrested. So that was just bizarre.

The last arrest I had was with The Poor People's campaign. I asked the cops around me, "how are you?"

Everyone had a different story, but one guy had just come back to the force. He'd been really badly hurt and he'd just come back from recovering.

One of the cops said to me, "I'm still in shock. My wife said she'd rather I be a fire-fighter in California than a Capitol Police. My whole family is on me and I'm still in therapy for PTSD.

"Why? Not about what happened, but because I can no longer trust the person next to me in my work... I don't know who to trust next to me anymore. And that is the hardest thing."

In doing this podcast about your neighborhood, Venice, I learned about the rule about how there aren't supposed to be any corporations on the Venice Beach boardwalk.

Oh, Venice Unchained... we had it for a long time and even on Abbot Kinney, but we've lost that battle.

How do you feel that Venice is struggling with the homeless situation in LA more than other neighborhoods?

I have walked down the boardwalk in Venice for 50 years and I call it my church. If anybody visits, I take them to church and it's a walk down the Venice boardwalk. And I walked down it three weeks ago and I said, it's still church.

People want to tell these stories. And I think too often we get caught up in the stories that we hear in the media. They live off of conflict.

And you know what, Venice is Venice. And what's great about Venice's is this Peace Economy project. How do you create a peace economy? How do we recognize who is the largest affected of the war economy? We researched and a few years ago we had 1,500 homeless youth in our community.

So it started out with feeding them out of the backs of our cars. Then the local Baptist church around the corner from me took them in on Thursdays. And then we got the whole community to start feeding them and bringing backpacks and socks and really figuring out what is it to be a homeless youth and being connected to them and falling in love with them and taking care of them and lots and lots of people engaged in that.

Then they created SPY: Safe Place for Youth. And then one of the therapists that was volunteering her time, her husband invested in Snapchat, made a lot of money and then got them a place on Lincoln. Then they got job training and they were taken care of.

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housing goals, in particular up-zoning to accommodate imposed Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA) allocations, can be fined. Compared to other mandatory General Plan elements -- land use, transportation, open space, safety, noise, and conservation, plus two new elements: Environmental Justice and Air Quality -- the Housing Element is the only General Plan chapter subjected to such scrutiny. This may therefore explain why LA's General Plan's elements are so out-of-date -- often more than 20 years old -- and why LA's Housing Element is the only General Plan element that City Hall regularly updates.

LA's current Housing Element expires this year, and LA's draft Housing Element for 2021-2029, also called The Plan to House LA, is on an accelerated preparation and adoption schedule. For example, last week LA's City Planning Commission (CPC) held a 5 ½ hour public hearing, at which the Department of City Planning presented the draft Housing Element, including its 1964 page staff report, prior to an open-ended dialog with the CPC. The public also had a chance to participate, in the form of one minute statements. As for written public comments submitted prior to the hearing, they were not considered.

Having listened to this public hearing, my takeaway is that the new Housing Element is a fiasco foretold. A General Plan element that is based on trickle-down economics through its deregulation of zoning and privatization of public housing through giveaways to private developers is, essentially, dead-on-arrival.

Why? Because the new Housing Element is based on four faulty assumptions:

Faulty assumptions #1: The housing crisis can be successfully addressed by devolving it from the Federal government to cities. First, the Federal government eliminated HUD public housing programs beginning with the Nixon administration, before handing over the responsibility for low-cost housing to the states. Second, the states, like California, then drop-kicked the responsibility for providing low-cost housing to cities and counties. Third, local government then stuck it to private real estate developers to build affordable housing. The result of devolving public housing to private developers should not be a surprise. In Los Angeles, private developers have only proposed about 1000 units of low priced housing per year, and these stats are based on building permits granted, not affordable units completed and rented to vetted low-income tenants.

Faulty assumption #2: The housing crisis results from a housing shortage that will be solved by increasing zoning capacity. This assumption is wrong on several levels. First, there is a shortage of housing, but in cities like LA, the shortage is for low-priced affordable housing, not expensive housing, especially luxury, market, and middle-income apartments. For example, a drive through neighborhoods like Miracle Mile and Hollywood reveals an abundance of apartment FOR RENT signs, much of it on new buildings. Second, despite this apartment glut, the Los Angeles Times reports that 600,000 Angelinos want, but still cannot find and afford, low-priced housing. They need more money to rent available housing, not more housing beyond their financial reach enabled by up-zoning.

Faulty assumption #3: Homelessness and overcrowding result from local policies. The main causes are, however, nationwide: low wages and poverty, not insufficient local zoning capacity. Until wages can be indexed to inflation and poverty reduced, the housing crisis will remain a chronic social problem, often made worse, not better, by local up-zoning ordinances.

Faulty assumption #4: The draft Housing Element is based on a housing investment regression model provided gratis to LA's City Hall by the privately-funded Turner Center, a neo-liberal institute affiliated with UC Berkeley. This model has no paper trail, and Public Records Act requests to determine how LA's Department of City Planning acquired the model have, so far, been rejected. I

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have previously identified the many shortcoming of the Turner model, but here is a condensed list. Like other forecasting techniques, it extrapolates current statistical relationships into the future. As a result, it cannot identify and quickly adapt to unforeseen events that quickly undermine its forecasts. These include likely revisions to interest and tax rates, changing consumer housing preferences, technological breakthroughs, and Biden Administration housing programs.

A Fiasco Foretold: As a result of these faulty assumptions, the Housing Element will be a fiasco foretold. Its outcomes are already observable, and once the City Council adopts the Housing Element, these trends will benefit from a powerful tail wind that will make them worse:

Transit ridership will continue to slide in many neighborhoods. Those who can afford to buy condos or rent market rate apartments also own and drive cars. Even when they live close to bus stops or subway stations, they rarely take mass transit. In contrast, low income residents are transit users because they cannot afford cars. Once they can afford a car, their use of transit sharply drops.

Air pollution and traffic congestion will rise. Because most infill apartments are expensive, and most occupants drive cars, up-zoning results in more driving and more Green House Gas emissions from cars and from housing construction.

Economic and racial inequality will grow. Up-zoning bestows wealth on owners of commercial and multi-residential property. Because recent State legislation (e.g., Senate Bills 9 and 10) and their local counterparts, especially the new Housing Element, allow more rentable housing units on existing parcels, the parcels' market values increase. As a result, many existing owners will flip their parcels to pocket windfall profits, while others will evict existing residents in order to build new, expensive apartments at the same location.

Racial inequality will increase because it is so closely linked to economic inequality. As for racial integration resulting from up-zoning, it will temporarily appear in minority neighborhoods that are gentrified -- but only until existing residents are priced out.

Up-zoning will reduce the percentage of houses and apartments that are owner-occupied. It is part of a long-term process that increases the percentage of the population who rent, now own their homes. This results from housing corporations that buy single-family homes and then rent them out, as well as from houses that developers bulldoze to make way for rentable duplexes, four-plexes, and small apartment buildings.

Homelessness and homeless encampments will increase because up-zoning produces expensive housing. While the overall number of housing units can increase, the new units are pricey. They are far beyond the financial reach of those who market forces have forced into homelessness.

Greenhouse Gas emissions will increase, leading to accelerated climate change. The worst-case climate forecasts have been the most accurate for a simple reason. Economic growth is a powerful predictor of the Greenhouse Gas emissions responsible for global warming.

If you have the patience, I invite you to file these predictions away to see how accurate they are. After all, these trends are already underway, and the new Los Angeles Housing Element is designed to extend housing policies and programs already on the books.

(Dick Platkin is a former Los Angeles city planner who reports on local planning issues for CityWatchLA. He serves on the board of United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles (UN4LA) and co-chairs the new Greater Fairfax Residents Association. Previous Planning Watch columns are available at the CityWatchLA archives. Please send questions and corrections to rhplatkin@gmail.com.)



Pastors and community leaders join with Councilmember Mike Bonin to celebrate the historic designation of the First Baptist Church of Venice, photos by Margaret Molloy



First Baptist Church — continued from page 1
ga-mansion. Save Venice fought hard for four years to achieve historic designation for the church.

The event was directed by Dr. Naomi Nightingale who spoke of the trials and tribulations endured by the community members to reach this milestone.

L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin was the keynote speaker at the event. He remembered the thousands of people who marched through Venice in 2020 proclaiming "Black Lives Matter". He recognized the smaller group that said "Black History Matters" each week in front of the church steps. And he acknowledged that the City of L.A. must do better by the Black Community in Venice. Mr. Bonin presented a framed certificate of appreciation from the City of Los Angeles, which Dr. Nightingale received on behalf of the Save Venice group.

Save Venice member Lydia Ponce gave the opening prayer for the day. She acknowledged the Tongva land that the attendees were standing on. And she made the traditional offering of tobacco to the north, south, east, and west in gratitude to the ancestors.

Evangelist Oscar Rhone declared that "This is the day that the Lord has made." He quoted the verse of scripture that he had cited at the beginning of the struggle four years ago from Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Pastor Vaughn Andrews of Mount Hebron Baptist Church told the audience to come together as a com-



munity and to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

Pastor Marvis Davis of New Bethel Baptist Church spoke of fellowship with the First Baptist Church of Venice. He said that we too shall overcome.

Pastor Dennis Moore of True Faith Missionary Baptist Church reminded everyone that this fight isn't over and to not give up.

Pastor Curtis Williams of God's House of Liberty proclaimed this day to be a day of happiness. He said that the only way this came about was by the people having faith, and that God made it happen.

Pastor Nathan Hood, of Christian Teaching Center Church said that he was a member of the First Baptist Church of Venice from childhood to adulthood. He credited the "foot troops" for getting the job done.

Pastor James Jefferson and Mrs. Rosalyn Jefferson of God's Church of Delivery Ministry talked about the history of the site on which the church was built.

Pastor Leon "Chuckie" Rogers of Higher Ground Ministries C.O.G.I.C. told of how God sent the people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Pastor Alberto Burnett provided Spanish translation for the event.

Kovan Ward from Justice for Bruce's Beach Land Restoration spoke. She said that "There is power in Black women."

Darryl Goode, the Area Director of the NAACP encouraged everyone to keep Venice represented and to build our community.

Rosalind Sagara from Neighborhood Outreach, Los Angeles Conservancy talked about the importance of preserving history in our communities.

Dr. Nightingale read her poem "Revolutionary". [The full text of this poem can be found in the May 2021 issue of the © Beachhead.]

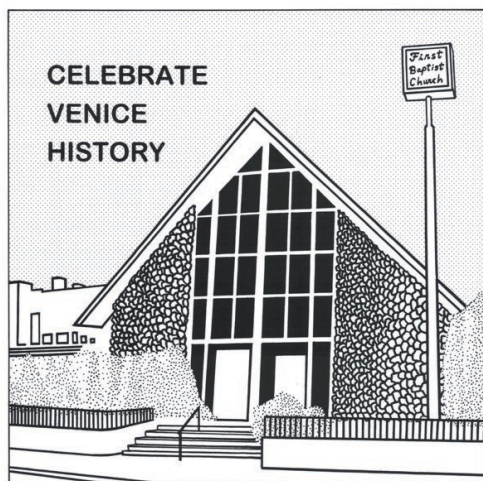


The attendees enjoyed the singing of Vienna Hayes of Calvary Baptist Church, and the music of Peter Demian and Hailey Lincoln Demian, and Carmen Fanali.

Food for the celebration was provided by Gary Featherstone and Homeless Enterprise.

There were tables staffed by local community groups: Venice Justice Committee, Venice Heritage Museum, Los Angeles Tenants Union, Four Corners International Church, H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation, and the Beachhead.

This day marked a significant step in the reclamation of the First Baptist Church of Venice. The hard work and perseverance of the Save Venice volunteers will be remembered when the final victory is won. The women and men who gave their time and labor with no expectancy of material compensation will reap greater spiritual rewards when the First Baptist Church of Venice is returned to the community that built it.





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UNZIPPED — continued from page 1

Naomi Nightingale, as quoted in the film) have been watching the outrageous and growing income inequality and lack of affordable housing (THE issues of our time, along with the climate CRISIS - which are all related) push our friends and neighbors out of their homes for years, all while gentrification continues to demolish the very soul of our town in real time. This isn't new.

UNZIPPED follows the artists and stakeholders of Venice as they struggle to remain both housed and committed to their art, and to their/our community. We interviewed those on all sides who have been impacted by lack of affordable housing, homelessness, and rapid gentrification in our neighborhood. The overwhelming realization upon finally watching the finished film all unfold on the screen is that no matter what, we are all connected. All of us. We are ALL affected by the heartbreaking situation of families living outside on the streets, of people being evicted from their homes, of people struggling to remain in their community - and we can all do far better. We are one human family, and though some in our family are sorely lacking in empathy, it doesn't change that absolute fact.

A fantastic crowd from Venice made the trip down to Newport Beach to see all of our hard work manifest into something beautiful there in the darkened theater of the NBFF. It was a joy to see all of the familiar faces, as well as most of the cast and crew of our movie, led by writer/director, Colin K. Gray. If you have lived in Venice for any amount of time in recent years, you will recognize many people in it, as we filmed in and around Venice for the last three years (including over 55 shoot days, 80+ interviews, and hundreds of hours of footage). It is

a very heated issue, and that comes across in the film. We tried to give voice to the different opinions on these staggeringly complex issues - in search of actual, positive solutions - so that maybe Venice, CA. 90291 can be more than just a cautionary tale of how NOT to let byzantine zoning laws, developers, and divisive rhetoric run roughshod over a town, and possibly find a way to maintain the beauty of its character. There is still time. Time to remember - and honor - that Venice is the PEOPLE'S beach.

Venice is one of the most vibrant and exciting places in the world, with a rich history of pop culture forming within its boundaries. Art, music, surf, skating, style, writers, and eccentrics all combined to be the creative vortex we were all drawn to. I truly believe that will never fully change, but landlords and corporations and just plain greed are trying their very best to wring the cool out of it. Well, we're not having it. Hence, this film. Hence, all the organizations and good people rallying around it to make things a little more righteous ... a hopefully a little more just, equitable, and compassionate going forward. To that end, we filmmakers have teamed up with The Illumination Foundation, an O.C. based homeless advocacy organization, as well as the co-host of our NBFF premiere. We will also be rolling out a comprehensive social impact campaign along side the film release - #RaiseTheRoof - which will support other local and national affordable housing initiatives. We will also be donating 10% of the film's proceeds to leading organizations active in the affordable housing, anti-displacement and homelessness spaces.

We're also excited to announce Cargo Film and Releasing will now be representing UNZIPPED: An Autopsy of American Inequality

continued on page 9



OH WHAT A TIME *Ras Marty
(a reggae song)
Oh what a Time
what a Time
gonna sing my rhyme-
Wars everywhere
it's more than we can bear.
Our world covered in pollution
seems to be no solution.
Weather change
everything has become strange.
Our hearts love only money
corporations think it funny.
Hunger and poverty
what will be?
War, what's it for
trillions for the war industry whore.
The End, Armageddon coming
wars, diseases, H bombing.
Starvation, desolation,
Armageddon-
Jah's will be done.
So sing, dance and let's be friends
before the world ends.
Better love one another
treat everyone like a sister & brother.
Come on lets get together
and love one another.
One Love, One Love
is sent from above
One Love, One Love, One Love...

MOSQUITOES BITE MY TOES *marty liboff
Mosquitoes come out when I turn off the light
they fly around looking for me to bite.
Mosquitoes love to bite my toes
I yell go away then it bites my nose.
Mosquitoes buzz around and keep me awake
please go away for Heaven's sake!
Mosquitoes love to suck my blood dry
if it drinks any more I'll shrivel up & die.
Like vampires mosquitoes come out at night
when you turn on the light
they hide out of sight
damn you, it ain't right!
Mosquitoes give me such woes
goin crazy like nobody knows!
Mosquitoes drive me nuts and I can't sleep
when I hear their buzzing I just want to weep.
Mosquito where are you
if I find you I'll smash you to goo.
You've bitten my cat and my mutt
you've even bitten my dick and my butt.
Itch, scratch, itch, itch
damn mosquito bites are a bitch!
Mosquitoes I hate you so
after you drink all my blood then please go!

HATE

by- MOISHE SHLEMIEL
War, violence, hate
is it too late?
Lies, lies, lies
and everyone dies.
Here's my rap
it's all cultural crap.
Awake! This is your time and day
find your own path and Way.
We are taught what to believe
what evil thoughts we weave.
We indoctrinate our kids
brainwash their minds and ids.
Our delusional thinking & madness
makes our children a mess.
Propaganda programed in our brain
makes us stupid & insane.
We've been conditioned and this is it-
we're told a big pile of bullshit!
Nationalism is schism
pure animalism-
God bless America!
God save England!
Deutschland uber alles!
Each think they're best
better than the rest.
Tribalism is schism
it fosters sadism.
Ethnicity is a pity
it's stupidity.
Racism is schism
we are a colorful prism.
White, Black, Yellow, Brown
some yell stay out of my town!
Color is nothing
doesn't mean anything.
Oppression, exploitation, depression
Capitalism, Communism, Socialism
ism, schism, terrorism!
Those who believe in classes

want to divide up the masses.
Only an ass
believes in class.
War, violence, hate
what's our fate?
Left vs Right
anger, hate, fight.
Hate from both rich & poor
cause revolutions and war.
Religions are words and babble
brainwashing the rabble.
Christian, Muslim, Hindu
Buddhist or Jew
all try and fool you & screw you
none have a clue.
Each one says they're right
ready to kill and fight.
We are the best
so fuck the rest.
America is number One
believe it or be shot with a gun.
Republicans or Democrats
each think the other are stinkin rats.
The LA Dodgers, Galaxy, Rams, Lakers
all the rest are jerks and fakers.
Root for your team
it is all a silly dream.
They've conditioned our mind
we're locked in a bind.
Cultural insanity
the horrors of bigotry.
Prejudice and bias
makes us a blind ass.
Nationalism, religion and race lies
start wars and everyone dies.
Parents, teachers & preachers blab on
kill our spirit and turn us into a moron.
People yell fight, fight, fight
leaders scare with lies and fright.
Please lend me an ear
conflict comes from dogmas and fear.
We've been taught a bunch of crap
caught in a brainwashing trap.
Shit in, shit out
all this bullshit makes a dumb ass fool.
We take all this crap too serious
makes us crazy and delirious.
We are right, they are wrong
we better start singing another song.
They are the bad guys we are the good
we never do what we should.
You may listen to what authorities say
but never blindly obey.
We can only control our own behavior
not your friend or neighbor.
We say they are different, non human
better change or we are done.
All this shit of Nationalist and ethnic pride
we need to forget it and put it all aside.
Hate, violence, murder, sadness
love one another and end this madness.
Be brave, speak out and protest
there's no time to rest.
Discover your own path and trail
into uncharted seas we sail.
Don't follow the crowd
or hateful leaders who yell loud.
Like lemmings we're led off a cliff
instead play music & smoke a spliff.
Stop sucking corporate cocks
and start thinking outside the box.
Don't obey but question teachers

parents, governments and preachers.
Question everything you're taught & told
question anything and be strong & bold.
You might as well be brain dead
if you listen to what some idiot said.
If the blind lead the blind
both fall in a ditch and hurt their behind.
Forget what your leaders say
live your own Life today.
When you let others take control
you lose your soul.
People tell ya what you can or can't do
it's really up to you.
The rich & famous are no better than you are
become your own guiding star.
Free up your mind
seek & ye shall find.
Think and do what you know
and tell assholes where to go!
Find your own Light and Way
search for your own truth every day.
The 4 Horsemen begin their ride
ya better run & hide.
Destroy, kill, kill, kill
the evil find it a thrill.
Hate, hate, hate
what's our fate?
War, violence, hate
is it too late?
Open up your heart
with love we can make a new start.
So let's dance & sing
and do our own thing.

VENICE AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE
-marty liboff-
Got to get out of our old town
it's beginning to get me down.
Venice ain't what it used to be
big bucks own everything but the sea.
Big corporations bought up all the shops
that used to be run by mom & pops.
Everything owned by dot coms & Snapshit
has given us old timers a fit.
All the cool stores are gone
something has gone all wrong.
Artists & the poor can't afford to rent
just to eat their money is spent.
Starbucks, Ben & Jerry's & T shirts
when I see this it hurts.
Expensive restaurants & bars
it cost 20 bucks to park your cars.
Rich NIMBYS own the houses
most are yuppie louses.
I used to rent for a hundred bucks
now they want \$5000 and it sucks.
Jim Morrison was broke and stayed here
lived on cheap tacos & beer.
The poor artists & musicians moved away
they couldn't afford to stay.
Beatniks & hippies used to have a ball
Venice is now just another shopping mall.
Good bye Annie's, Lafayette Cafe
the bakery, L&A deli, Venice Freak Show,
Comeback Inn, Cheetah Club, Venice Pavilion,
Fox Venice theater and so many more-
now Venice is just another stupid bore.
Our world always changes
everything rearranges-
Sometimes good, sometimes bad
sometimes we loved what we had
and it's sad...



NATIVITY NIMBYS

Peter Demian — continued from page 1
minute interview on YouTube, entitled “The Legend of Venice The Peter Demian Interview.”

Gerry Fialka: What first attracted you to pursue music?

Peter Demian: My parents were arguing with each other, falling out of love with one another. And so, when I found a guitar, that guitar became my companion. I’d go quietly, in the house, or somewhere and play to soothe my aching heart. I was eleven when I got into music.

G: How are you hearing music, by what means?

P: I am in a place, Port Ontario, Canada, now it’s called Thunder Bay. As I’m walking around the block, I hear from a distance, the sound of an electric guitar, and I wonder what is it? Where is this? I follow the sound three blocks away, and it’s a cat in front of his house with a guitar. His amplifier is up full, playing for anybody and everybody. It was beautiful. It overwhelmed me! The volume, and the sheer power of the sound.

G: Did you read poetry? What were your influences?

P: I couldn’t read English! I spoke Ukrainian. I said to my mother one day “I’m going downtown to buy a Ritchie Valens album.” I loved his song “La Bamba.” She said: “You can’t even speak English. Whaddaya tryin’ learn this Mexican song?” I didn’t know what the lyrics meant of the songs I began covering. One day I was playing in the kitchen, and my mother ran in and said “Why’re you playing that “Huddy Bolly” music?” She meant “Buddy Holly!” She couldn’t speak English, either!

G: Who were your local influences up in Canada?

P: I saw a big black hearse parked in front of my high school, and I went to the guy who was in it and I said:

“What’s this car doing here? Isn’t it for dead people?”

“It’s where I live,” answered the stranger.”

“Well, why are you parked here?”

“My girlfriend goes to school here.”

“Oh, I see,” I said. “Well, what’s your name?”

“Neil Young. I’m a musician.”

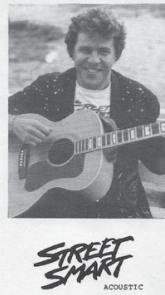
He played me some songs that I liked. I became a follower of him, went to all his local gigs, and learned a lot.

When I got pretty good at rhythm guitar, and got hired by “Tommy and the Tiaras.” I didn’t know what a tiara was and I didn’t realize for awhile that they were a gay group!

One day I went to audition for a group led by Paul Shaffer called “The Fugitives.” I played my rhythm guitar. Paul said “Listen, do you play bass?” “No,” I said. “Well, Peter, go out and buy a bass and I will show you how to play along.” I came over to his house later that week and he went “ping ping ping” on the piano, and said I was to go “boom boom boom” on my new bass. It worked, and The Fugitives ended up opening for famous acts like The Who, and Eric Burdon & The Animals in a big skating rink in (what was to become) Thunder Bay. (Paul Shaffer was David Letterman’s band leader for decades.)

G: So then you went on the road?

P: Yes, then I began going on the road with groups like “Lexington Ave” and “The Good Time Band,” who had a Hammond B3 that I schlepped for years. Others in the group weren’t able to move heavy stuff. (When I met Billy Preston I told him I knew that his Hammond weighed 400 lbs. “How do you know?” asked Billy. “Because I was a roadie!”) I eventually settled for 7 years in Detroit with my girlfriend Bonnie, and did solo gigs that made pretty good money, 100



bucks a gig. I played in Mitch Ryder’s band when Mitch left.

G: What made you come out to Venice?

P: I got tired of 40-degree-below weather! I needed to go somewhere sunny. So I gave Bonnie the house, and crossed the country in my Plymouth Valiant. I found myself parked on Mulholland Drive above Hollywood. A motorcycle cop stopped and asked me what I was doing. “I’m looking at the view. I’m a musician.” “Prove it.” I took my guitar out of the trunk and played him a song. We began a conversation, I learned his name, Robert. “Where should I go to play?” I asked Robert. “Venice Beach,” he told me. Years later I saw Robert on the Boardwalk and thanked him for changing my life by turning me on to Venice.

G: What year did you start playing on the Venice Boardwalk?

P: Roughly, ‘79.

G: How many years did you play without amplification?

P: 30 years, at least. I was unplugged, I didn’t want to offend anybody. But eventually I realized that if you became amplified and had a band, you could stomp like Godzilla. You could be crazy. But if you play acoustically, you’re playing for yourself, which I also love to do.

G: Tell me about your wife, Margaret Malloy.

P: I married her twice, July 7 and July 20 (my birthday) almost 40 years ago. And about 31 years ago, we decided to have a child, Hailey Lincoln Demian.

G: How do you explain your longevity with Margaret?

P: There’s an old expression “Happy wife, happy life.” I’m washing the dishes and cleaning the floors. Love is a heavy cross to bear.

G: What have you learned playing on the Boardwalk?

P: The Beach has taught me to be kind to everybody no matter the circumstances.

G: You are a kind man.

P: I’m compassionate . . . compassionate and sneaky.

G: Sneaky?

P: To me, to be sneaky is like: “If I sing you a song, then oh, you should give me a dollar.”

G: Ah!

P: The Beach is, in itself, a lesson. I don’t know if I have a purpose, but I have a reason to be there. I want to sing. I may be funny but I’m sad in my heart. If I sing, I can chirp like a bird in a tree. After a while, I feel good. But am I a panhandler? A bum? Am I a busker? A clown? It’s all these things.

G: What gives you the most optimism?

P: Well, I’m most optimistic when I play. I’m optimistic that what I sing will give people a boost.

G: What’s the best thing for a human being.

P: Any human being? LOVE !

Listen to this entire interview on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEXyy4vkbaw>

It is entitled “The Legend of Venice The Peter Demian Interview” and will be part of a feature documentary on Peter by myself and the great filmmaker Tim Corvin

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/captaincloudproductions/> <https://vimeo.com/captaincloudproductions>

Peter’s new CD is called “Mother Earth.” Celebrate its release on Dec 11, 3pm at the Boardwalk.

https://www.facebook.com/Peter-Demian_Street-Smart-217519458273952/

We welcome your input. Thank you, Gerry Fialka pfusuzy@aol.com [Laughtears.com](https://www.facebook.com/Laughtears.com)

UNZIPPED — continued from page 7

for both domestic and foreign sales, as we all know that this issue has reached global proportions. Lack of affordable housing is a truly global crisis with over 1.6 billion people living in sub-standard housing. UNZIPPED is a deliberately local lens on this growing national and global issue and we’re excited for it now to be shared with a worldwide audience. We’re also thrilled to announce that Lucy Liu recently came on board as one of our Executive Producers, and that the incredible rap duo Run The Jewels has graciously allowed us to use their music for our opening and closing tracks (“A Report to the Shareholders/Kill Your Masters” and “Sea Legs”, respectively)!

It was so wonderful and emotional to see it all come together in such a heartfelt and beautiful way at NBFF after the eye-opening journey of working on this film. I really hope everyone will embrace our film, and I also really think it can help. The key way to gain progress on any issue is opening up the discussion, and our film is both a provocative and intimate starting point. Once communicating openly, we as a nation can begin to both heal and advance our causes in a humanitarian way. And we MUST.

After the applause died down, and the tears were wiped away, we all assembled at a restaurant nearby to celebrate and catch up, as many of us had not seen each other throughout the pandemic (it was the first indoor movie for many!). The overwhelming feeling was not one of despair, but of hope. Hope that there is still time for America to fulfill its true destiny, as a nation by and FOR the PEOPLE. A nation that cares about ALL of its citizens, including the marginalized, and not just the ones with money. UNZIPPED: An Autopsy of American Inequality holds a mirror up to our country’s collective face - and right now, it’s actually kind of ugly and in need of a total makeover. We have the means, we just need the will. Our planet and its People are dying in front of our eyes. It doesn’t have to be this way. We can do better. We must do better. We WILL do better.

JUST as I was about to send this in for global publication, we got the news that UNZIPPED won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Newport Beach Film Festival! That’s the one that’s voted on by the people in attendance, not the industry panel of judges, which is even cooler, because this is a film for the PEOPLE. YES. Onward. UPward. Until it’s totally normal that everyone has the basic human right of housing. C’mon.

UNZIPPED will next be in competition at the American Black Film Festival November 3-28, 2021, showing virtually from Miami this year. You can register at ABFFPlay.com for free to see the film, as well as a wide range of scripted features, documentaries, and short films. Following that, we anticipate a Venice premiere and national release in early 2022. Tremendous thanks to all involved who helped to make this important film possible. Please see it as soon as you can, and let us know what you think, follow our socials @UnzippedMovie, and get more festival screening, release, and social impact information at www.UnzippedMovie.com. Our hope is that it will touch your heart and move you to become involved in the growing movement to enshrine housing as a human right. Thank you! #RaiseTheRoof!!!

For those of you who remember the old EXALE Yoga Studio on 245 Main off Rose ave, get ready to INHALE it's return. There's a new studio open in its place and it's a true gem. By Enyaj Pitchford.

Shefayoga, owned by yogi Leah Zaccaria,, has been resurrected into a zen, airy, open space full of light, and of course, very clean and sanitary. There are lockers, bathrooms and showers to please the most ardent practitioner, and a great choice of classes by dedicated teachers. It's a great vibe! Shefa is a Hebrew word that means "flow" in Hebrew and "healing and recovery" in Arabic. Shefayoga has an opening deal of 2 weeks for only 25\$, which is not to be missed.

My personal favorite is Maryam Askari's Iyengar classes, given at 12 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. She has honed her skills from discipline and training in India with BSK Iyengar himself, as well as getting certified in Ashtanga by the imminent Patobois Jois. She also studied with the late venerable Matty, the co-owner/creator of Yoga Works. Iyengar yoga is an alignment based practice that makes use of props to assist you going deeper into the poses. Maryam teaches it like none other, bringing deep breathing and meditation to each pose, making each class into a powerful journey of self discovery. Her clientele include Angela Joli and the Princess of Monaco and now you too can get trained like royalty. Come check it out!

Jody Evans - continued from page 5

And that's what a Peace Economy is.

Well, do you know when the neighborhood council election happened there was a group of people on the ballot. They [called themselves] Safe and Secure Venice.

Do you know that like seven times more people voted in Venice than any other neighborhood because, no, safe and secure is about taking care of the homeless because this war economy only survives because there were homeless people.



This war economy only survives because there were poor people and this economy is built because of them. And we need to take care of them. It's not their fault. It's the system. It's the system, stupid.

If somebody is unhoused, it's our job to care for them.

Do you know that the people in Venice — when COVID happened — I was out with everyone feeding people because the restaurants were closed down. How were they going to eat?

So you're saying the scene in Venice is not that bad?

Venice. We're the beautiful place in LA to live. And it's for rich people. It's for poor people. It's for people from all over the world.

Every neighborhood has got, probably, a billionaire and somebody that's on stamps. And

WORRIED ABOUT THE RENT? TIRED OF LANDLORD HARASSMENT? AFRAID OF EVICTION?



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Westside Local**

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month 6:30-8:30pm

<http://bit.ly/westsidezoom>

Email: westsidelatu@gmail.com for more info

¿NO PUEDES PAGAR LA RENTA? ¿PROPIETARIO TE ACOSA? ¿TIENES MIEDO DEL DESALOJO?



**Únete al Sindicato de Inquilinos
Lado Oeste**

1er y 3er miércoles de cada mes

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Beyond Baroque presents:

Jack Hirschman Presente!

a belated birthday celebration and memorial reading

Featured readers to include:

Luis J. Rodriguez, Michael C Ford, Matt Sedillo, Steve Abbe, Doren Robbins, Richard Modiano, Phoebe MacAdams Ozuna, Harry E. Northup, David James, Sesshu Foster, S.A. Griffin, Iris Berry, Mahnaz Badhian, Dorothy Payne, surprises and more...

Hosted by Mark Lipman

Saturday, Feb. 05 @ 2pm

Beyond Baroque 681 N. Venice Blvd. Venice, CA 90291

info@beyondbaroque.org

unfortunately, because of Airbnb and because of gentrification, too many people were buying up houses and flipping them.

We'd been able to stop the flips and we've been able to stop the Airbnbs and we're holding on to the essence of our community. But then you got rich people moving in and they want it to be their Venice, but it's not going to be because Venice is the Bohemian community that has been there for 100 years.

This is not Jodie's house. But it is cool.

My house is 100 years old and built by a Black architect.

So it's a culture and I want to say that unfortunately, the culture of the United States has been invaded by the war economy.

It's a war economy culture and we need to shift that and get the culture back.

We've become robots inside of a culture that makes you transactional and makes you scared and terrifies you.

The Homeland Security Advisory System color chart is gone. Code Pink is still alive.

How did we go to war in Iraq? Because Bush frightened the American people with color-coded alerts, orange, red, and yellow. That's why we're called Code Pink and we need to take our hearts and our minds back. We need to take back our souls.

The only way we survive is by caring for each other.

And so we can't get caught up in the media that has really become entertainment and what it does is it creates conflict and it makes you afraid.

We need to be able to go back to having minds that ask questions, minds that explore, minds that listen — that we listen to each other and have conversations about "why are you afraid? Why is this frightening for you?"

Because until we can listen to each other and find out what the core of the fears are that force these like extreme behaviors — like going to war on innocent people — and being afraid of vaccines and masks that protect us from each other.

What's there? We have to ask each other, "what's there?"

What are we afraid of? And what are we needing to be angry at each other about? Those are the questions we need to be asking.

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While Far Apart

by alan rodman

While we were far apart,
I felt this with my heart,

Joining hands in a circle,
we all take our part.

We, best type of creature,
have all the latest features.

Sometimes I'm unsure (or change my
mind)
whether our kind is being kind.

From all best of the various
creatures, I'm the scariest.

Yet others bare their teeth,
sharp claws give me grief.

While the others sleep
I learn the secret we keep.

But I forget and feel small,
overwhelmed by it all.

Looking on while awake,
I become what I will take.

Others seem in doubt,
language shouts them out.

Without a gift to bring,
how could I join the ring?

Almost one great dance,
if we were to take a chance.

There's one gift I may carry
to serve as a luminary --

Every animal feels small
living in the center of it all,

Only a flower, or a tree,
fears not all we may be.

When on the tides we roll
in rhythm with the whole,

From a first least to our vast last,
welcome circle of our past.

Whether we forget or learn,
begin dancing to return.

Dining Table
by Majid Naficy

How beautiful you are, table!
You let us look at one another's eyes
And taste one another's joy.

Hands and spoons,
Bites of bread,
And sips of water,
And the sound of friendship of glasses.

Round table,
I swear by your bread and salt,
That eating and drinking at your circle
Is the most beautiful moment of our visit.

First Lesson in Freedom

by Majid Naficy

I want
Neither the old titles
Nor the new ones.
Call me
By the same familiar name.

I am a man
A man of yesterday and today
A man of today and tomorrow.

In my eyes, the stars fade away
And in my hands, the setting sun.
In my smile, a child is born
And from my heart, red blood bubbles up.

I am my own god, and yet
I saw myself as a tail
Of a fox with a turban.

I am the mother of creation, and yet
I saw myself as a cog
In the barren wheel of production.

I get up, and from the quiet porch
Look at the dead trees of winter.
I wrap myself in a shawl,
That my niece Marjan knitted for me in
prison,
To give history and nature
Their first lesson in freedom.

December 22, 1985

On the Booksellers' Street of Baghdad

By Majid Naficy

Written after the March 5, 2007 blast on the booksellers'
street named for Mutanabbi, the great Arab poet (915-65)

I saw Mutanabbi returning from Persia.
He had heard the sound of Tigris, by the Kor River
Calling him back to Baghdad.
On his way, he had given his sword
To the Qarmati rebels in Gonaveh
Because he knew that from then on
He would have no friend but the pen.

He had told himself:
"I, Mutanabbi, poet, prophet and swordsman
Moved into the desert from Kufa
With the bedouins of Qarmati revolt
Looking for the secret of brotherhood.
I went to Aleppo with Prince Sayf of Hamdan

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To stand against the Frank crusaders
And traveled to Persia with King Azod of Daylaman
To spread the seed of Arabic poetry.
Now I want to return to Iraq
Only to look from the bridge of Baghdad
At the fishermen in their nutshell boats
Who are gently rowing on the Tigris River.
I want to see the gnostic Mandeans in their white towels
Making ablution in the shallow waters
While looking at the North star,
And from the diners on Abu-Nuwas St.
I want to buy lentil soup and Masqof fish
Barbecued on pomegranate sticks.
How happy it is to walk around
Near the reeds by the river
And watch the kisses of a young couple
From behind a palm tree,
How happy it is to sit by the old harpist
And listen to the story of the Tigris River
Rushing from Mountains to the Persian Gulf,
How happy it is going to the Turkish bath
Before muezzin calls to prayer
And surrender one's body to the caressing fingers,
Cotton washcloth and bubbling soap
And when taking dry towels
Ask the receptionist for a glass of ice water,
Then in a happy mood
Going to the House of Wisdom
And seeing the dazzles of joy
In the eyes of the youth."

Mutanabbi told himself:
"I am becoming a child again
Enchanted with playing words".
Looking down from the bridge of Baghdad
Mutanabbi saw nothing but blood
Running constantly in the Tigris River.
Fishermen were hunting the dead,
Farmers planting human bones,
Mothers giving birth to headless babies
Behind bushes and sand domes,
The beheaded running in the shallow waters
And the water-sellers shouted in the alleys:
"Fresh blood! fresh blood!"

On the booksellers' Row, a red fog
Had covered the sky and the earth.
Muhammad, the binder, was looking in the ruins
For the cut-off head of his brother.
Father of Hussein, the hummus-pedlar,
Was talking to one of his son's shoes.
Shatri, the book-seller, was shedding tears
Running behind the half-burnt leaves of poetry
In the alleys on the east-side of the Tigris River.
He was humming one of Mutanabbi's couplets:
"Even the blind can see the letters
And the deaf hear the sound of my poetry."

Mutanabbi stood.
His robe clung to his skin
And his headdress was wet with blood.
He asked himself:
"People or Books?
Books or people?"
Should he put down the pen
And take the sword again?
The Tigris did not answer.
It was running fast
Like an arrow shot from a bow.

March 19, 2007

this paper is a poem



The City of Los Angeles congratulates you for your tireless work to preserve the First Baptist Church of Venice as a City Historic-Cultural Monument. Established in 1910, the Church long served as a cornerstone for the Black community in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice. The edifice at 7th and Westminster Avenue was built in 1967 through the leadership of Bishop Elmer Lawrence Holmes who served his congregation for over 40 years and nurtured a sense of stability, belongingness, and hope in the community. This monument will endure as a testament to Black excellence and accomplishment and will serve as a beacon of strength and inspiration for the Oakwood community.

October 30, 2021




MIKE BONIN
Councilmember 11th District