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January  
2012  
#363

It's 2012 – Ready or Not!



The Isle of California - Painted by the L.A. Fine Arts Squad (Victor Henderson and Terry Schoonhoven), 1971-72

Get Ready for the Doomsday Year

Not since 1000 AD has there been so much apprehension about the new year. It's the end of the Mayan Calendar, the lining up of the sun with the galactic core, the sun is entering a dust cloud in this part of the Orion Arm of the Milky Way. Not to mention global climate change, war, earthquakes, tsunamis, pestilence, epidemics, erupting volcanos, bad haircuts, asteroids, comets, exploding calderas, high rents, and seven billion people crammed into this little planet.

But then again, maybe it's the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, which means:

Harmony and understanding  
Sympathy and trust abounding  
No more falsehoods or derisions  
Golden living dreams of visions  
Mystic crystal revelation  
And the mind's true liberation

The Beachhead's wishes for the coming year include more power to the Occupy movement, the mind's true liberation, a happy and free Venice, and a prosperous (in all ways) new year to all our readers and supporters. ☸

This Year's Boardwalk Ordinance

By Greta Cobar  
A new ordinance regulating vending on the West side of Ocean Front Walk (OFW) is set to take effect in the next few weeks. It was signed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on December 16 and will take force after a 30 day posting on OFW. It is intended to replace the resale of merchandise now taking place with performers and artists selling "inherently communicative" objects of "nominal value or utility." The ordinance was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles City Council on Dec. 13. Besides eliminating the lottery system of allocating spaces and getting rid of all resale merchandise

such as clothes, accessories and toys, the ordinance also prohibits the sale of all types of jewelry, pottery, incense, oils and crystals. Doing henna tattoos, massaging and "the completion or other partial creation of visual art" are also going to be prohibited as soon as the ordinance takes effect. Items that will be allowed to be sold include paintings, photographs, prints, sculptures, books, bumper stickers, buttons, audio and video recordings. There will be two spots designated for food distribution, and all spaces will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first version of the current ordinance was drafted by City Attorney Carmen Trutanich on July 12 and as a result tens of Venice public meetings took

place during the summer months to voice concern and give input to the downtown lawyers holding power over the ordinance. Venetians supported allowing handmade jewelry to be sold on OFW, asked that the First Amendment be mentioned, opposed artists being called "vendors" and the free speech zone divided into "designated" spaces. Sadly, the approved version did not incorporate any of the suggestions put forward by our outspoken citizens. Furthermore, there was strong community consensus against the proposed punishment for noncompliance. Disregarding community input, the final ordinance still threat-

–continued on page 4





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The Venice Mummy

Dear Beachhead,  
Waaaayyyy back in the late fifties-early sixties, there was a bar on Lincoln blvd, just south of Washington. There was a hole scratched in the whited out window where kids could look through and see a wrapped up mummy. My friend and I used to check it out once and awhile, because that’s what kids do. Rumor has it that it turned out to be a murder victim, and was removed by the police.

I’ve been trying to find something on it, but so far nada. I’ve emailed a couple of Venice historians, but never received a reply. Sound like something you all might want to look into? It was supposed to have been a big story when it hit, but I was overseas then, so I lost out on the biggy. Just really a curiosity thingy.

Raised on Garfield Ave. for 15 years, I remember when McDonalds went up, and I bought 15 cent burgers back then.

My best friend got polio from the canals they lived on. The whole place smelled of oil and the marina was just a dream in someone’s head. Long time ago.

John D Ekstromer

Save the Post Office

Dear Beachhead,  
Your P.O. “Suspension” story, by Greta Cobar, made me stand up and cheer!! Right here in Blue Lake- “Thank You!”-I wanted to hop on the first Greyhound for the ride to Venice-to be there...yet-I was there-at the original screening of Feeding The Sparrows by Feeding The Horses in 1978-once again-I remember:asking “Where Have I Arrived?” Here, 33 years later- “HUMBOLDT” - Where I have arrived!

P.S: Beachhead, “THANK YOU”-ALL!  
Love,  
Tina Catalina Corcoran

Thanks for your generous donations!

David & Sandy Moring  
John Stein  
Joel Issacs  
Mike Sudh  
Lauren Smith  
Thomas Paris  
Nancy Boyd Williamson

and special thanks to O.T.

Who’s Poisoning the Leaders of South America?

Dear Beachhead,  
According to news reports, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has expressed his “suspicions” over the number of left wing Latin American presidents who have acquired cancer recently.

“It’s difficult to explain, at this point, what is happening to some of us in Latin America,” Chavez said. “It’s strange that [Paraguayan president Fernando] Lugo, [Brazilian president] Dilma [Rousseff], and then myself, and a few days later [ex Brazilian president Luiz Inacio] Lula [Da Silva] and now Cristina [Fernandez] have contracted cancer”.

Intriguing because it is true, the statistical possibilities/probabilities are beyond my deduction, what isn’t is history and knowing the criminal nature of the US power elite; it would be intellectually dishonesty to think otherwise. And this would be under a regime that states, “Nothing is off the table” and that as we know includes the use of nuclear weapons, so why wouldn’t smaller doses be covertly used to poison by food, drink, or directed energy beams. “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

Bill Mitchell



Political Cartoon by Khalil Bendib



# Arrests On Third Street

By Mary Getlein

The who, what, where, when, and why of it is! Who gathered long time residents of Venice, mostly artists. What? The LAPD showed up at 5:30 in the morning of December 17. Where? 3rd St.

Ibriham Butler heard a sound which was the sound of a tow truck operator, wrapping the chains around the van’s axle to tow it away.

Diane Butler was still I’m the car asleep and her husband, Ibriham, had to persuade the tow-truck operator not to tow the truck until Diane got out. Leaving Diane on the street, with her four dogs at 6am. It took \$260 to get the van out of impound. The same thing happened to Jeff Hirsch, a Venice artist.

Ibriham Butler alerted other residents and most of them got away. They were yelling back at the police what a fucked up thing this was, to persecute harrass and steal their vehicles away from people at Christmas time.

Butler and Lisa Green were shaming the cops and telling them they made the wrong choice. Eventually, one police officer looked at Butler and said they were not going to do anymore towing. They handed out citations for height violations. The artists are all disabled and have disabled plates, which are supposed to be exempt from the seven foot height law imposed on vehicles.

I spoke to Butler later that day and he said his wife, Diane, was still upset about it. “They tow your van, and all your stuff is thrown together and upside down and who wants to wake up that way? It’s scary and frightening.”

As to why? Why? That’s what I want to know, these people, that they are picking on, they have been artists and musicians, for their entire lives. They are free spirits who have found a way to live without paying rent. Why is this so bad? So you step out of line and go to the other side of the tracks where no bills dog you around. So why? Don’t know/Don’t Ask?

L.A. City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl has done such a good job of “cleaning up” Venice of

eccentric, different artistic types- one by one, over and over again. Google, Whole Foods, and the Movie industry types all want homeless people to disappear.

Once again, we are people, not cock-roaches. Poverty is not a disease-sometimes it’s a lifestyle change, some people are happy living off the grid. It’s a threat to see people living “For Free.” It awakens an anger in all the 9-5 types, who cling to their jobs.

Why? Police up and down the coast of California have been harassing homeless people and taking all their stuff. It’s not just Venice, it’s also Fresno and other towns.

It’s an assault on the poor, which reminds me of the way the cops in the 1930s would harass homeless people. They would burn down their “shanty towns” and beat up people who were trying to escape. Homeless people are at-risk for violence inflicted upon them at any given time. Why does the L.A.P.D have to go out of their way to make people’s lives miserable? 🚲



*Towing and harassmt earlier in the year led many mobile campers to exchange their RVs for nondescript vans, to no avail.*

# Health Care Coming This Year!

By Roger Linnett

The following is part of a continuing series, summarizing the benefits that will go into effect in 2012 as part of the Affordable Care Act. Unless otherwise noted, benefits take effect as of Jan. 1. As in the previous article, benefits are categorized under three headings:

## Increasing Access to Affordable Care

### Accountable Care Organizations-

Any patient who has multiple doctors probably understands the frustration of lost or unavailable medical charts, duplicated medical procedures or having to share the same information over and over with different doctors. ACOs are designed to lift this burden from patients, while improving the partnership between patients and doctors in making health care decisions.

Medicare beneficiaries whose doctors participate in an ACO will still have a full choice of providers and can still choose to see doctors outside of the ACO. Patients will have access to information about how well their doctors, hospitals or other caregivers are meeting quality standards in five key areas:

- Patient/caregiver experience of care
- Care coordination
- Patient safety
- Preventive health
- At-risk population/frail elderly health

According to the analysis of the proposed regulation for ACOs, Medicare could potentially save as much as \$960 million over the next three years.

### Alleviating Disparity in Healthcare-

Not all Americans have equal access to health care. Low-income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities often have higher rates of disease, fewer treatment options and reduced access to care. They are also less likely to have health insurance. The Affordable Care Act will help reduce disparities by making improvements in:

### Preventive care

1-Medicare and some private insurance plans will cover recommended regular check-ups, cancer screenings and immunizations at no additional cost to eligible patients.

2-New investments for community health teams to manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease and cancer.

3-New funds for home visits for expectant mothers and newborns to reduce Infant mortality and post-birth complications.

### Diversity and cultural competency

Health plans will be required to use language services and community outreach in underserved communities, particularly in Hispanic communities, which have high numbers of uninsured.

### Health care providers for underserved communities

Increased funding for community health centers, which provide comprehensive health care for everyone no matter how much they are able to pay. The new law will support 16,000 new primary care providers.

### Improving Quality and Lowering Costs -

1-For those enrolled in Medicare Part D, in 2012 the lower limit of the “donut hole” increases from \$2840 to \$2930, after that Medicare will cover 50% of brand-name drugs and 14% of generics until your total out-of-pocket cost reaches \$4,550. Medicare then covers 95% of all further drug expenses until the end of the year.

2-The law institutes a series of changes to standardize billing and requires health plans to begin adopting and implementing rules for the secure, confidential, electronic exchange of health information, reducing paperwork and administrative burdens, cut costs, reduce medical errors and, most importantly, improving the quality of care. Effective October 1, 2012

3-The law also establishes a hospital Value-Based Purchasing program (VBP) in Original Medicare. This program offers financial incentives to hospitals to improve the quality of care. Hospital performance is required to be publicly reported, beginning with measures relating to heart attacks, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, health-care associated infections, and patients’ perception of care. Effective October 1, 2012

4-The law creates a voluntary long-term care insurance program – called CLASS -- to provide cash benefits to adults who become disabled. According to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius implementation of this program will be delayed,effective October 1, 2012

### Insurance Company Accountability

Insurance discrimination will be banned, so people who have been sick can’t be excluded from coverage or charged higher premiums. Women will no longer have to pay higher premiums because of their gender. New funding will be available to collect information on how women and racial and ethnic minorities experience the health care system, leading to improvements that will benefit these groups.

*Information for this article was compiled from: whitehouse.gov., kaiserhealthnews.org., and healthcare.gov. 🚲*

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Boardwalk Ordinance  
—continued from page 1

ens all repeat offenders with misdemeanor charges that carry \$1000 fines and six months in jail. This is the sixth revision of the Los Angeles Municipal Code 42.15, first introduced in 2004. The last revision, of 2008, established the lottery system of allocating the 205 designated spaces on OFW. It was deemed unconstitutional by U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson in October 2010 on the grounds that it violated the First Amendment.

For the past 14 months there have been no regulations imposed on the vending taking place on OFW. As a result long-term Venice artists were driven away by out-of-town merchants looking for a place to resell merchandise bought cheaply downtown. Fights over spaces, people camping out all night to reserve spots and then sell them in the morning, and vendors claiming ownership of spots have been the norm on OFW for the past year.

Although five other versions of this ordinance have been dumped on Venice in the last eight years, every one of them was poorly enforced and for a short period of time. Those of us who have witnessed the shortcomings of the previous versions do not have high hopes for this one either. Most seasoned Venetians expect enforcement to fade by summertime.

At the Dec. 15 Friends of the Boardwalk meeting Lieutenant Paola Kreefft stated that the LAPD does not have a plan to enforce the new ordinance going into effect at the end of January. According to Norman Kulla, who was also present at the mentioned meeting, signs announcing the changes have to be posted along OFW 30 days before the ordinance can be enforced. Kreefft plans to educate and warn the vendors of the changes before they take effect, but as of December 15 there was no plan to assign extra police officers to the tasks of education or enforcement.

Venice resident Stephen Fiske has a vision of appointing a team of ambassadors as informational advisors who would mediate minimal conflicts and aid with space management. “I see the boardwalk as a human stage of expression that needs management,” he said. His plan is to set up a team of individuals who are trained to be helpers and to ensure a positive experience for artists, tourists and residents with the ultimate goal of “getting rid of the danger in Venice,” he said. Although he currently has the support of the Boardwalk Merchants’ Association, the LAPD, numerous artists and performers as well as property owners, he is still in the process of finding sponsors to finance his program. His immediate plans are to put together a proposal with three budgets, from what is minimally needed to what would be adequate and finally to what would be ideal. Although all funds would be matched by city grants, the best possible option for the time being would be to raise enough money for a pilot program that would cover part of the boardwalk in order to test its effectiveness.

Stan Mohammed, who was also present at the Dec. 15 meeting, has run a successful anti-gang program in Venice since 2008 and can now provide, contingent on funding, the personnel to function as OFW ambassadors. According to him, the employees would be “trained Venice folks” serving as advisers and mediators. However, it all comes down to funding, as his anti-gang program was annihilated after only three months, when the funds ran out.

Although Fiske and Mohammed have a more strategic plan than the LAPD currently does, chances are that the higher-ups will continue to invest in their own police force. Community involvement and sovereignty have once again proven to be last on the higher-ups’ list, as the ordinance itself was dumped on Venice by downtown lawyers unfamiliar with the issues surrounding OFW. Venice was once again ignored and marginalized as an unwanted stepchild deemed too stupid to be able to take care of its own business. A new ordinance is needed, but not another failure in a series. If Venetians were allowed to manage their own business as opposed to taking orders from downtown, a lot less time and resources could be spent to produce an ordinance that suits our community and that could actually solve the issues on OFW.

Questions Persist As To US Arms Treaty Compliance

By Janet Phelan

Geneva, Switzerland -- Questions concerning the compliance of the United States with the international treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, came to a head recently during the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention, which is being held now in Geneva, Switzerland at the United Nations.

The most recent compliance report, listed in the BWC catalogue as BWC/CONF.VII/INF.2/Add.1, has failed to quash concerns as to the reliability of statements made by the United States as to its compliance with obligations under the BWC.

The specific concerns focus on the United States’ lack of disclosure of a law which amends the prior biological weapons statute. The original statute is entitled the Biological Weapons Statute--Title 18 Chapter 10 Section 175 of the U.S. code. The amended law, which is entitled The Expansion of the Biological Weapons Statute (Section 817 of the USA PATRIOT Act) radically changes the legal culpability incurred by agents of the US government for violating the statute, granting them immunity.

While this most recent report submitted to the BWC by the United States does mention that the original law was indeed amended by the USA PATRIOT Act, The U.S. has once again failed to disclose the revolutionary nature of this amendment, and is instead persisting in reporting the text of the older statute without coming clean about the implications or even the wording of the amended version. The critical amendment to 175 literally removes U.S. agents from liability for violating legal prohibitions for possessing and transporting biological weapons. The implications are serious and deserve careful scrutiny.

Questions have also been raised as to whether or not the U.S. ever reported this legislative landmine on the CBM (Confidence Building Measures) Form



E’s. The CBM’s mandate that state parties report the status of their labs, research projects and other matters of concern to the BWC. The form E mandates the disclosure of new legislation relevant to biological weapons and is considered to be politically binding.

Section 817 was passed along with the rest of the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001. What is publicly available for this time period reveals that the U.S. reported that there was nothing new to declare for both 2001 and 2002. This is revealed at the following link, on page 97 (<http://bit.ly/sVwgOY>).

United States Ambassador Laura Kennedy and the CBM unit of the U.S. State Department have been repeatedly contacted with questions as to whether the U.S. ever disclosed Section 817 to the other parties to the Convention. No response has been forthcoming. A United States delegate to the Seventh Review Conference, Chris Park, recently offered assurances that the requests for information about CBM Form E had been received and were being researched. He also admitted that “there may have been an oversight.”

Here is the complete text of Section 817 of the USA PATRIOT Act, with the questionable subsection underlined: <http://bit.ly/tYv3S4>.



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# The Last of the Red-Hot Potatoes

By Jim Smith

Old Venice traditions die hard. In this case, Cafe Benice, which was slated to close on New Year's Eve. A crowd of us descended on it for one last bite of our favorite meal. When we arrived we learned that closing day had been extended to the following Wednesday, thanks to the landlord, Jose Bunge.

Heelan (Benice) was all smiles at seeing so many people who cared about the place. Also bearing up well were the staff, including Avery, Jina, Andrew, Josh, David, Keith, Leslie and Lattie.

Cafe Benice opened in 1985 at Pacific and Horizon, under an existing sign, "House of Teriyaki, Donut," which became the de facto name of the restaurant, and was an immediate hit.

The Lafayette Cafe had just closed after years of serving Venetians with cheap, but good, food. The cook, Manuel, got hired by Heelan, and began whipping up some of our favorite dishes from the old Lafayette. Some of them were still on the menu at Cafe Benice 25 years later, including Huevos Rancheros and Veggie Rancheros.

Is this the end of an era? Without Benice it will be hard to find a cheap breakfast place near the beach (although her prices have steadily risen along with the rent). The two cafes, Benice and Lafayette, represent nearly 50 years of morning meals for Venetians.

Going to breakfast was a social event for a lot of us in Venice when it and we were poor. It was the place to meet other Venetians. There were no hot bars or nightclubs in Venice, only alky bars for the confirmed, and older, drinkers. Most of the restaurants were small and crowded. You had to converse with your neighbors at the counter or the next booth. There were no TVs on the walls, no laptops to hide behind, just the occasional Beachhead which engendered more conversation.

At one time - the 60s through the 80s - there were many choices for breakfast on and around Ocean Front Walk. There was Alex's cafe with 50 cent breakfasts; Ammoon's, which also served falafels; Cheese and Olive, now C&O's; Cleopatra; the Meatless Messhall; Suzanne's Kitchen, and of course, Juergens.

Juergen Roscher, and his family, which included Mama, brother Gene, and the beautiful sister, Crystal, had a following that rivaled the Lafayette. In the late sixties, he started a hole-in-the-wall cafe across from the paddle tennis courts and under an old sign that said, "Da Driftwood," which quickly became what we called the restaurant, as in, "Hey, let's walk down to Da Driftwood."

With an almost constant line out the door waiting to eat, Juergen knew it was time to move. The new place at 1611 Pacific - now occupied by Santi-

nos - even had a dining room. A sign spilled over from the health food store next door, that read: Nu-Pars. And Nu-Pars it was called. For a time, Juergen opened a more upscale (but not much) dinner restaurant in Hamburger Square, at Washington and Speedway. But the action was always at Nu-Pars. And still there was a line out the door.

Finally, the work got to Juergen and the rest of the family. It wasn't easy feeding hundreds of hungry Venetians day in and day out. The Roschers called it quits in the early 80s. It was another sad day when we lost the best potatoes in the world. Does anyone know what happened to Juergen, Crystal and the rest of the family? Did they go back to their native Germany? Are they living nearby? The Beachhead wants to know.

It was 17 years ago that the H.O.T. moved to its current location at 1715 Pacific. The shabby building that once housed the Saucy Dog and, later, the Pelican's Catch, was beautified with paint, art and repairs. Outdoor seating was added in the front, while the patio in the rear was mostly enclosed with tables seating around 50 people. Long tables in the restaurant proper seated more diners.

Full disclosure: My pal JD and I created H.O.T.'s first typeset menu for Heelan. I wish I had a copy of it. I remember the prices were stunning for their reasonableness.

As a vegetarian, I'm not qualified to give a culinary review of all the dishes at Cafe Benice. I do know that even for a vegetarian or a vegan, it's hard to decide what to order. There are so many options, including omelets, potatoes, burgers, curry dishes, etc. My mouth is watering as I write this.

It's no mystery why restaurants that only open for breakfast are disappearing from the beach vicinity.

Even in 1985, the Lafayette faced a tripling of its rent.

We're living in hard times for many, who are unable to go out to eat. At the same time, rents keep rising.

Today, upscale restaurants litter the area from the beach to Abbot Kinney Blvd.

The search for breakfast-only places has had to move farther east around Lincoln Blvd., an area where we can find Maxwell's, Cafe Buna, Cafe 50s (which also serves dinner). The Firehouse at Main and Rose has a breakfast-only room, but it's attached to a bar, which probably pays the rent.

Let's hope Cafe Benice rises from the dead, or a new Venice Hang-out for breakfast appears. In this long-term depression, we need it as much as ever.

If you have a nominee for best breakfast in Venice, please send us a letter. ☺



## Let's Go To The Hot

*As the coffee shops go,  
And clothing stores grow,  
And grow, and grow, and grow-  
"Thank God" For The Hot!  
Lafayette's It's Not!  
The flavor mix is friendly with Slow,  
The curtains are yellow,  
The ladies are mellow,  
While Manuel makes huevos just so...  
The spirit is Alive!  
Gil's gallery does survive!  
And locals gather round  
To say "BRAVO"!*

— Tina Catalina Corcoran  
(circa 1985)



Above: Heelan wraps it up on New Year's Eve.

Left: Edizen Stowell of Venice Paparazzi shoots some diners.

Below left: Typical fare at Cafe Benice.





# Boats Parade in the Venice Canals

By CJ Gronner

One of the most adorable things you could ever do in Venice, California is attend the annual Holiday Boat Parade in the Venice Canals. This year was the



30th one, and I think it might have been the best yet. I say that because the mood of the boating participants and the attendants that packed every narrow sidewalk and bridge was sheer buoyancy ... and there is no pun intended there. There were plenty of to-go cups in gloved hands (it was beach chilly), but even without that help, everyone seemed to be in stellar spirits as they cheered and caroled under the clear, full moon evening. The Epstein-Mayers hosted the pre-party I attended (Thank you, our gracious hosts!), and we got our group gathered and canal-side just in time to see the first boat sail by, poled along, appropriately enough, by some old-style gondoliers (and “Mr. & Mrs. Abbot Kinney” that I didn’t know). Perfect.



Right on their tail was a militant duck contingent bearing signs like “Duck-U-Py The Venice Canals”



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and demanding their just nest eggs. Venice always has a sense of humor, and we love it.



There was a fully-amped rock and roll band made up of both Christmas characters and Super Heroes. This may just have been my favorite, for fun, enthusiasm and, of course, rock.

You can be as elaborate or as simple as you like in this parade, a big pontoon-type deal, or a single kayak for one, as long as you’re having fun.

The crowds lining the bridges and sidewalks shouted their approval the whole time, and the number of people only increased as the sun began to set. It was so pretty out, people were just gasping ... locals and visitors alike.



Pop culture was well-represented, from vessels celebrating Barry Manilow (yes it was ) to Snoopy’s doghouse and the Starship Enterprise.

A darling little family of reindeer? More gondoliers? Fire people? were led by the exuberant patriarch in singing some rousing Christmas numbers, with the little kid barbershop quartet on the choruses. I thought I might explode from the cute factor. Happily.



Hanukkah was given many shouts out by the happy Rabbi in his Menorah/Dreidel (that spun!) boat. He was a big hit, especially with the kids shouting out for candy (chocolate gelt). It’s funny, the parade is like the new trick or treating, or Mardi Gras ... kids seemed to expect the boats to throw out candy ... Noted.



Even the dogs got into the act, as seen by this little reindeer dog, though his coat did say “Bark Humbug”. Hmmm.



Robin the Snow Queen sailed by with a real fire burning in the bottom of her boat. Very cool. It gave me ideas for the Viking Ship we plan to set sail next year.

The sunset turned the whole sky pink and the lights of the homes and bridges (and boats) began to twinkle in a breathtaking twilight you couldn’t even make up. Everyone looked beautiful ... mostly because everyone looked so happy. Truly, even if it was just forgetting about regular life stuff and problems for the moment, and being present and appreciating life and fun and Venice and NOW, while we had it.

I think that’s because you couldn’t help but feel the HOLIDAY CHEER everywhere you looked, especially on this boat, with the coolest, happiest Snowflake Man (with his Christmas Tree friends on back-up vox) riling up the onlookers and getting them/us/me to join him in Karaoke Carols.

As the sky darkened and became more moon and star-lit, the boats wound their way around the canals, with more applause and cheers at every turn. The parade ended and the house parties around the canals began (though many looked not to be at home ... are they crazy?! Those houses were MADE to be home on this night more than any other!), we paraded on foot back to our party, but not before being greeted and embraced and invited in by just about every friendly face you’ve ever encountered in town. Right up until this night, I hadn’t been feeling the holiday swing so much yet, with so many other things going on all the time, and time itself flying so fast. But then, as you see, the holidays were jump-started right in front of our faces!

The rowdiness eased into a full moonlight serenity after a while. We rode our bikes back through the canals later on, and I had to pause to soak up the



simple loveliness of a Christmas-lit bridge with its reflection upon the water. I gave myself the moment for my own reflection, and with that, BANG! The Christmas Spirit was fully upon me. I’m feeling it! And I hope you are too.

With all the hubbub of the Season ... remember to reflect. Appreciate. Have FUN! 🚲



# Can we all just get along?

By Jim Smith

Rodney King, who uttered that famous question – “can we all get along?” – after being brutalized by police on video, would be proud of the unity displayed by many Venetians who have come together to save the post office. But lately, some discordant voices have complained that some of us are working with people they have identified as the enemy.

Here’s what’s going on. Back in October the Beachhead sponsored a showing of the film, *Brush with Life* about Edward Biberman, the artist who painted the mural in the post office lobby. Nearly everyone who was concerned and involved in keeping our post office from being closed and sold was there. The audience included Amanda Seward, who heads the Neighborhood Council’s task force on the post office; Mark Ryavec, founder of the Venice Stakeholders Association; Debra Padilla, executive director of SPARC (the mural project); Karl Abrams, chair of Venice Peace and Freedom; Linda Lucks, president of the Venice Neighborhood Council; Jonathan Kaplan, who works with the Los Angeles Conservatory; Suzanne Zada, head of the Biberman Estate; Jeff Kaufman, the producer of *Brush with Life*; and many more, including several Beachhead Collective members.

We proposed that the group continue to meet, and set a date for an initial coalition meeting, which most of the above attended. A short time later muttering began that we shouldn’t be working with certain members of the coalition, specifically Mark Ryavec and/or Linda Lucks.

Most of the fire directed at Ryavec was because of his role in having “no oversized vehicles” signs put up around Venice, and his presumed role in pushing Rosendahl and others to begin police towing of RVs.

The Beachhead has long argued that homelessness is a social problem, not a police problem, and that a solution must include housing, jobs, medical care, income, etc.

However, on the issue of saving the post office, Ryavec’s position corresponded to that of the Beachhead and the other members of the Coalition. He had the lawyer for the Venice Stakeholders, John Henning look into the legal rights of Venetians to their post office.

The attorney filed an appeal, which the post office told us couldn’t be done, but which was accepted by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Several of us followed with our own appeals, which were also accepted. The USPS took the Venice Post Office off the market.

Without Henning’s appeal it might have been sold by now. Ryavec then secured the pro-bono involvement of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, one of the largest law firms in the country.

Meanwhile, other community personalities, who have not been involved in the effort to save the post office, began telling me that we should have nothing to do with Ryavec in the coalition. One person even told me that it would give him prestige (as if). Oddly, none of the naysayers have clean hands. One takes money from the Bank of America and other 1 percent corporations for his social service organization. Another gladly accepts food from Whole Foods Market, an \$8 billion corporation that tried to torpedo Obama’s health care plan, does not believe in pensions for its employees, and hates unions.

Some people would say that it’s ok to wheedle money and sustenance out of big corporations, and



## Fight to Save the Post Office Continues

More appeals were sent to the Postal Regulatory Commission in early December to save the Venice Post Office. It is not known at press time when the appeals will be heard.

Individuals in Venice and the law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher are handling the cases for our side. One of the issues is whether the sale of the Venice Post Office constitutes a closure that can legally come before the Commission or whether it is simply a relocation to the Postal Annex. Arguments from Venice are that of course the post office is being closed, and sold, no matter where the service is being moved. We are contending that the closure will cause irreparable harm to the historic building and the historic mural within, as well as to the Venice community which would lose its center of gravity.

The mural, painted in 1941 by renown artist Edward Biberman is now on a stamp (above), produced in Venice. The stamp which is legal first class postage is being sold at cost by the Save the Venice Post Office Coalition. Members of the Coalition have set up a table in front of the post office on several days a week, where they are collecting petition signatures against the closing and selling sheets of 24 stamps for \$12. The price of a first class letter is increasing from 44 cents to 45 cents in January. Stamps can also be obtained by calling 310-396-2525 or emailing [savevenicepostoffice@freevenice.org](mailto:savevenicepostoffice@freevenice.org). 🚲



maybe it is. But by the same token, shouldn’t it be ok to try to unite everyone in Venice around a cause with which we all agree?

We are living in the age of the 99 percent, an ingenious way of looking at the world. According to the 99 percent doctrine, we have more in common than we have separating us. This doesn’t mean that we have no divisions or differences of opinion, just that our differences with the ruling elite are much more profound.

I’m convinced that much of the division in Venice comes from our old friends in Los Angeles. They have a vested interest in keeping us divided so that we don’t decide to act in our own interest and rebel against the downtown oligarchy.

Even the hubbub with the RVs, which nearly tore Venice apart, can be traced to the city’s Dept. of Transportation which moved on its own to establish overnight parking districts. The resulting publicity made Venice a Mecca for RVs, who began making Venice their home. Attitudes on both sides hardened

as the city bureaucracy and its elected officials took punitive actions against the hapless mobile campers. Today, we’re back to pre-frenzy numbers of people living in RVs, many of whom are long-time Venice residents.

No one in Venice benefited from this division among neighbors more than the city of Los Angeles which is more than happy to keep looting Venice of its tax revenue while giving little in return to compensate for the glut of tourists we welcome every day.

Greater unity in Venice is not impossible. It should be obvious to any impartial observer that the only beneficiary of old grudges alive among Venetians is the city of Los Angeles, which can claim that we are incapable of governing ourselves.

Since this is the month that we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., we should ask what he would do. A partial answer might be found in his quote: “We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.” Indeed, we’re all in the good ship 99 percent, now. 🚲



# Fear of Drumming

Ronald K. Mc Kinley

The current Venice Drum Circle is about twenty-two years old. I say current because the VDC has origins before I came to Venice. When I came to Venice there was no circle. The VDC of the 60s and the 70s was finally beat down. I talked with players of the old VDC, seen the Beachhead of the 70s about the assault on the old VDC. This new VDC is under assault.

Twenty-two years ago Randy Banks, Rasta Randy, fathered this new VDC into being. Randy and I and Deon, I can't remember his last name, played on the boardwalk for money, that was the idea.

Randy would do capoeira, the Brazilian dance of African origin that incorporates martial arts, Deon would play drums, I would play the agogo, a double-coned bell joined at the tip of the cones, played with a small metal rod.

The police had other ideas. We were always stopped. We played from Rose to Windward. We were very good. We loved what we were doing. The complaint was of noise, most times we could not be heard above the din of recorded Muzak on the boardwalk. Randy took us to the hill just we three.

The hill at Breeze became our church. Randy would preach, I just wanted to play. We three would meet every Sunday Randy would start the circle with a prayer. It started with two drums, and a bell, and three black men from different parts of the country. We would form a circle join hands and pray. Alcohol was not permitted We would stop playing until the person left or stopped drinking.

This lasted for years. We asked people not to smoke in the circle. We didn't stop playing for that. No stick drumming was allowed. What a difference twenty-two years make. Skin on skin the real drumming. The drumming of birth, death, harvest, marriage, war. The stick drummers just play loud not better.

A friend of mine died while I was playing, 15 years ago, bled to death. I was in the zone playing on the hill. There was a big crowd that day. His throat was cut by a jealous boyfriend. I saw the paramedics when they arrived. I found out the next day.

There are new residents in Venice who move here for peace and quiet. The quirky and colorful that make Venice, Venice, are a problem to them. We can't be turned off like an iPod or mp3 player. "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

There are fissures and factions inside the VDC. Players with very little talent or schooling and loud stick driven drums give the Sunday VDC a rave-like quality. Circle within circles, within circles make the drumming a wall of noise. Egos bumping egos don't make good drumming.

The police come at sunset and stop us from playing. The drumming on the original spot is stopped at

two or three pm. We are told that there are complaints of noise. The music from the businesses overpowers us.

I have in my twenty-two years drumming in VDC met and played, with drummers and dancers from all places on earth that have drummers and dancers. Music brings people together. Dance frees all who dance. Children are the best indicator of the effect of drumming. They sway, hop, jump and whirl about.

In New Orleans, my place of birth, drummers got together in Congo Square, the only place in America that displaced Africans could play drums. On week-ends the slaves where allowed to dance, sing, speak their mother tongue. Several different languages were spoken music united them all. Music from the west coast of Africa. Jazz was born from the mixture. Mainland America still thinks the slaves are going to revolt it's the drums, alas this is not true.

Rasta Randy moved to Hawaii. He bought some land. He finally got his money from the VA and may still be living in a tree house. Deon moved back home I don't remember where. Yours truly still goes to the VDC. A friend of mine loaned me a drum. The police impounded my car with my drums inside. I could not get them back. I was house-less and peniless at the time.

I see different factions trying to gain control of the VDC, some want to make it commercial. Some have darker reasons. Most of them can't play. I go to commune with nature. I don't go to get laid. If you play well this is a given.

I am so present in my drumming, so in the moment I miss most women. I don't go to get wasted. No drug can replace playing. I am back in Africa.

Little by little the police are stopping, cutting our actual playing time. The first amendment to the constitution gives us freedom of speech and the right of assembly. The police come blast their sirens. Sometimes the police helicopter flies overhead, met with hundreds of middle fingers raised to the sky. The sand patrol stays until there is no more drumming. A friend of mine once kept playing and was cited. They did not take his drum. They use this as a threat. I always say to the crowd "welcome to America" as we walk through the sand, back to the boardwalk. Is this America?

A couple of years ago they rushed the VDC and ran over a young man. They chased everyone away before most people knew what was happening. The ambulance was parked at Rose. I saw them load the injured man on a board. I still to this day don't know if he lived. They would not talk to me or to the man's cousin, whom I talked to. There were 15 police lined up ready for our reaction.

People with money have moved into the red brick building at Breeze and the Boardwalk. They don't like the drumming. The Highway Patrol once came and stopped us from playing. The police where busy with real crime. The patrol car parked on Breeze. A very large, black patrolman walk over to me and told me that the people in that building pay three thousand dollars a month to stay there. Money trumps rights. It is time for the slaves to revolt. ☸



Photo: Venice Paparazzi



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Yudell



Let's try to get to some head, heart, and soul. Janice Yudell



Wordless Whisper

By Karl Abrams

While the foggy mountains of San Jacinto,  
still wear their early morning winter clouds  
like misty half darkened haloes,  
I still wait to see you again.  
Usually you’re just too far away to see  
except in foggy sacred dreams.  
It is there that a transformative glow of some prehistoric dawn  
mixes with changeless ever-changing waterfalls  
that then roll away in awe and splendor  
leaving a soft pine smell in a cold starry night  
that first speaks in thunder and vision  
and then guides as a wordless whisper  
of where yet to start again.

What Makes America, America?

Is it a wild ideal? Is it a fair square deal?  
Is it a mountain of dough? Is it a cool free throw?

Is it the pet rock craze? Is it the summer days?  
Is it an ice cream scoop? Is it the pigeon poop?

Is it a riot girl? Is it the Tilt-a-Whirl?  
Is it the bold bebop? Is it a new damp mop?

Is it the zoot suit gas? Is it a deep morass?  
Is it the edge of night? Is it a chick delight?

Is it the Jesus shtick? Is it an Exxon slick?  
Is it a B-52? Is it Siouxsie Sioux?

Is it a matchbox car? Is it a steel guitar?  
Is it the Wolfman Jack? Is it the future back?

Is it a punctured lung? Is it Mao Tse-tung?  
Is it a coiled rope? Is it undying hope?

–Hal Bogotch

The Return

It is true, then:  
there is a kind of holiness  
that stalks you  
when your heart,  
stoned & pitted by  
everyday acrimony & atrocity  
seeks the Cave of Dissolution.  
Then, the Holy hounds you  
on certain, strong paws  
startling you with a snarl  
as she easily strides through  
the heavens & hells concocted by you  
to block the entrance to your final lair.  
As she leaps at you, she becomes  
the aurora borealis blazing  
through even your bones to reveal  
at last, the Wondrous Self!  
And so, the treasure is gained.  
The cave dissolves.  
There is nothing left to do  
but Return.

–krista schwimmer

All You Are

By Ronald K. McKinley

One particle at a time  
Arrange yourself  
Place your beliefs  
around your kin  
Nest your loves  
far from any void  
The smallest part  
of who you are  
can not be lost  
You are more  
than what you see  
The light and significant  
The words on this page  
Sent you out  
Flux and Flow  
Pulsed to your step  
The Sun has set  
Rises somewhere else  
You slow down  
But do not stop  
Some is revealed  
not what is lost  
Born here  
Dead somewhere else  
Hear all you can  
but do not listen  
What you know  
can not be taught  
Lost is sometimes found  
Start before you begin  
You will never be behind.  
All you Are  
is more than enough

Almost There

It’s only a year or two  
until it all falls apart  
You walk through the darkling streets  
away from the tiny mountain village  
as the lasts streetlamp illuminates  
an apron of falling snow  
unfurling in the oval amber glow

No one has walked this way for hours,  
maybe days  
There are no tracks to follow  
no signs to let you know  
if you’ve really strayed too far this time

The world here is solitary  
its secrets lie buried  
you can’t tell where the street ends  
and the woods begin  
everything has fused  
into a great, glistening way

and you know too much  
and you now what that means  
in times like these

Every step takes you further  
and deeper  
and stronger  
experience peeling off  
and melting away  
leaving you light  
condensed to the crystalline form  
of what you must do

A nearby spruce groans  
a branch splintering off  
under its icy white weight

No one would ever know  
if you didn’t turn back

Somewhere, a tight knot is loosened  
your last restraints fall away

The wind scissors your breath  
the sky gathers its folds around you

you are almost there

–Janet Phelan

Sacred Places

By Jim Smith

There are sacred places in the woods  
first recognized by the Tongva people  
and revered to this day.

And who would not stand in awe of a mountain spring  
or a mighty rock thrusting towards heaven  
amid the woodland silence, and the subtle sounds.

The sacred is where you find it.  
Here in Venice, the hidden Redwood,  
Japanese gardens and impossible flowers.

And walking toward the center, the Circle,  
there is a Temple on a rise of ground,  
Inside is a space like the Greeks once knew.

In ancient times they looked up in awe at the mighty Apollo,  
or the wise Athena, until their calm places  
were pulled down by Barbarians, blind to the sacred.

Inside our Temple, the deified Abbot looks down  
and watches us through the journeys of our lives  
as we embrace the Sacred, or turn away.

LAPD Why Did You Tow?

Late November morning before the sun was up  
Heard a motor running wondered what the fuck  
It was two cop cars not hard to mistake  
Flashing lights on top four cops just in case

I opened the door and the man said Hey  
Get your things get out we’re towing it away  
Not my motorhome I need it every day  
Get your things get out we’re towing it any way

LAPD why do you hate me so  
LAPD something I gotta know  
Was it something that I said or did  
Hey I’m a legal citizen

Said you were only doing your job  
Taking your orders from the rank above  
I wouldn’t ever want your job  
Your little tow cost me over nine hun

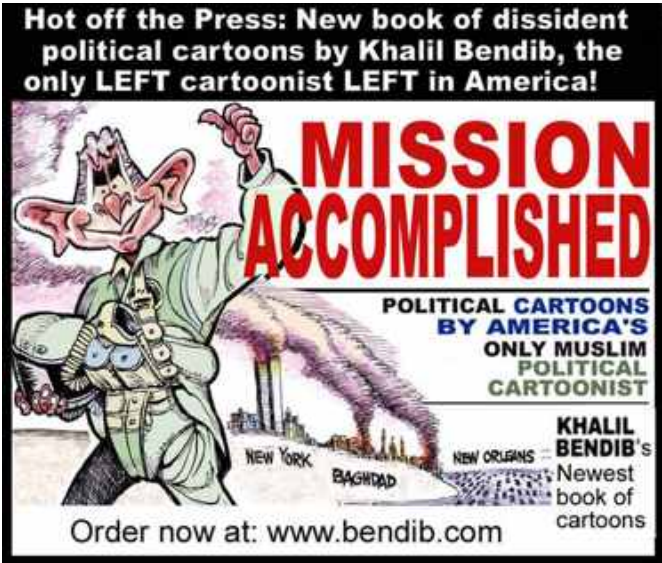
You didn’t have to tow me away  
Didn’t want to hear what I had to say  
That anger on your face is not ok  
You didn’t have to tow me away

LAPD why do you hate me so  
LAPD something I gotta know  
Was it something that I said or did  
Hey I’m a legal citizen

Why do you hate me so  
Your attitude has got to go  
You never smiled at me ya know  
I paid taxes forty years or more

Why do you hate me so  
Something I got to know  
Why did you tow  
Why did you tow  
Why did you tow  
Why did you tow

–Ray Chase



This Paper  
Is A Poem





# Martin Luther King, Jr. – The Unknown Anti-War Activist

On April 4, 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke from the pulpit of the Riverside Church in New York City and called for an end to the Vietnam War. Exactly one year later, King was assassinated in Memphis.

King's speech in New York set the tone for the last year of his life. Inside the church, he was hailed for his brave, outspoken stance against the war. Outside the church, he was roundly condemned - by the mainstream press, by other civil rights activists and, most decidedly, by President Lyndon Johnson.

King's opposition to the war placed him well to the left of the American mainstream. The anti-war movement was just gathering steam and it was not yet common to call for a total withdrawal of American troops.

King's speech at the Riverside Church was not the first time he criticized the Vietnam War. But it was the first time he made a major policy speech voicing his condemnation. King did not mince words:

If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read: Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over.

Read the full text of this speech at:

<http://bit.ly/7E55A>

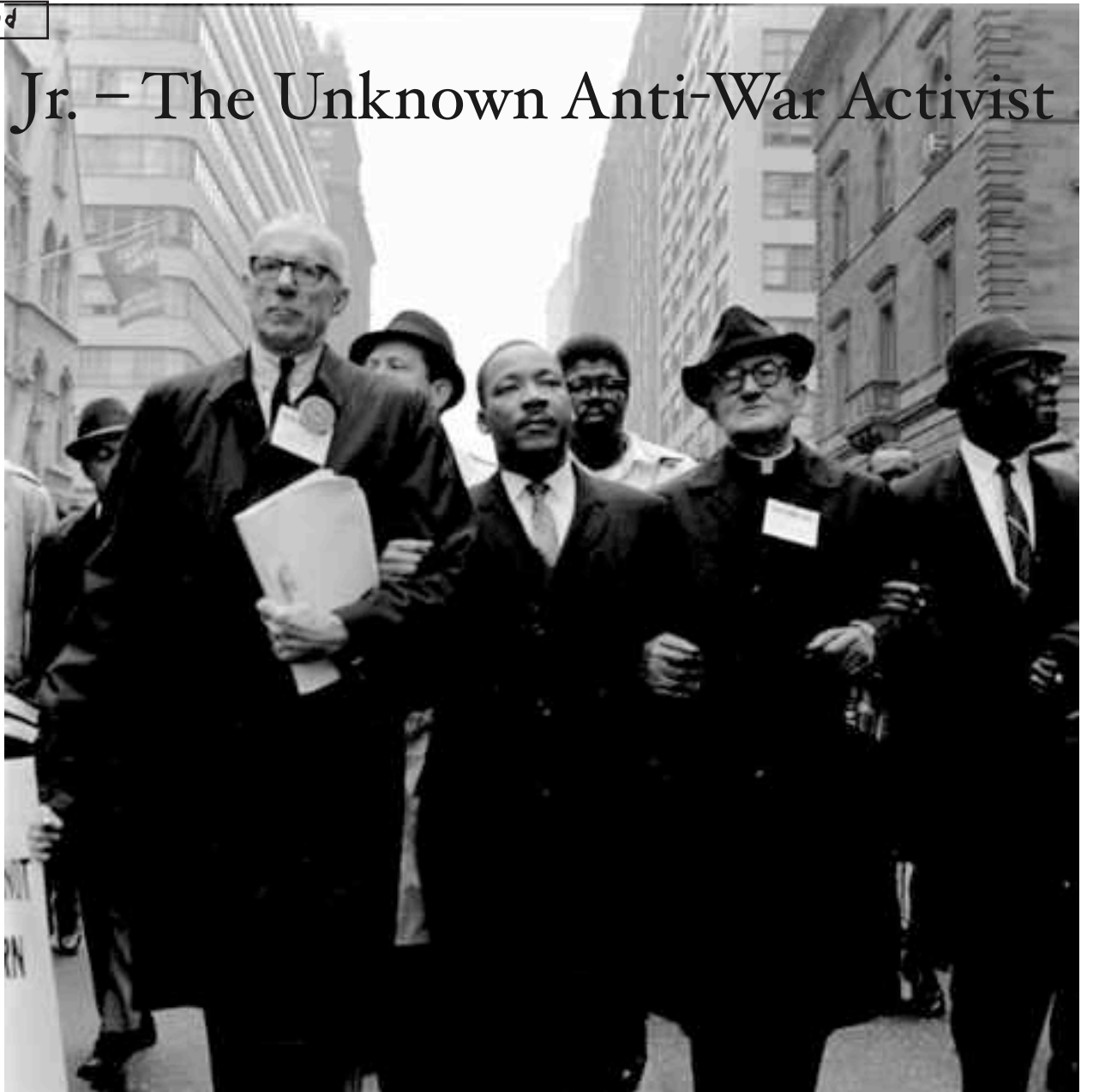
By 1967, King was convinced that the nation's struggles with racism and poverty were inextricably linked with the war. Critics within the civil rights movement accused King of sacrificing their domestic aims by speaking out against the Vietnam War. King felt he could not do otherwise. "The war," King told his New York audience, was "doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home." It was sending poor black men "crippled by society" to fight and die for democracy in Southeast Asia when they were still denied basic liberties at home. "I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor," King said.

King paid a price for speaking out. An editorial in the April 6, 1967 Washington Post said King "has done a grave injury to those who are his natural allies ... and ... an even graver injury to himself." The Post continued, "Many who have listened to him with respect will never again accord him the same confidence. He has diminished his usefulness to his cause, to his country and to his people. And that is a great tragedy."

To Vincent Harding, the civil rights activist and historian who helped draft King's Riverside speech, the criticism smacked of racial paternalism. Harding says it was as if these critics said:

"Martin Luther King, you have forgotten who you are, and who we are. You should be very, very happy that we have allowed you to talk critically about race relations in this country. You should be very happy that we've allowed you to talk about Negro things. But MLK, when it comes to the foreign policy of this country, you are not qualified to speak to these issues. These are our issues. Our white establishment [is] in charge of such things, and you are absolutely out of your place to enter into this kind of arena."

Dorothy Cotton, a close, long-time aide to King at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,



says the criticism stung King. "My sense is that Martin was very much pained by the criticism. He really took notice of what people were saying," she says. But she says it didn't hold him back. "My very clear impression is that the criticism made him delve even deeper into the way of nonviolence."

King went on to make numerous speeches opposing the Vietnam War in the last year of his life. On May 17, 1967, King spoke to a large, welcoming crowd at the University of California, Berkeley. "This war has all the dimensions of a Greek tragedy," he said, and went on:

I see so many fine, bright, promising young men taken out of society, taken out of school, and sent away to fight in this unjust war. And what we are saying is we are our boys' best friends because we want them to come home. It's time to come home from Vietnam!

When talking about the war, King often answered his critics directly by first quoting their doubts.

"Now, Dr. King, don't you think you're going to lose your influence as a leader? And don't you think people who once respected you are going to lose respect for you if you continue to speak out against the war in Vietnam? Isn't it going to hurt your budget?"

King would then give his response, which often began, "I'm very sorry, but you don't know me."

As King intensified his criticism of the Vietnam War in the last year of his life, the FBI stepped up its campaign of surveillance and harassment against him.

Historian David Garrow says King's opposition to the war, along with other public criticism of the Johnson administration, made King a far greater political threat to the reigning American government than he had ever been before. "As the fortress mentality of the Johnson White House continued to increase, the FBI's heightened sensitivity to political dissent aimed at the policies of the Johnson administration went hand in hand," Garrow says.

King insisted his criticism of the United States stemmed from love, not hate. He wanted to reform American government, not overthrow it. Speaking to parishioners at Victory Baptist Church, King said, "Something's wrong" with America. "And somebody's got to have the nerve, however difficult it is, to say, 'America, I love you so much that I'm going to tell you when you're wrong.'"

—American Public Media



*Noted pediatrician and child-rearing philosopher Dr. Benjamin Spock encouraged Dr. King to join the Peace movement several years before his Riverside Church speech.*

*In 1967, activists encouraged King to run for president as a third-party candidate in the 1968 election with Spock on the ticket. They didn't run, but Spock remained an outspoken anti-war activist and ally of King.*

*According to the Los Angeles Times<sup>1</sup>, Spock asked an interviewer at the time, "What is the use of physicians like myself trying to help parents bring up children, healthy and happy, to have them killed in such numbers for a cause that is ignoble?"*

*In this image, Dr. King marches arm in arm with Spock and other anti-war protesters from Central Park to the United Nations building in New York City.*

*Photo: John C. Goodwin*

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# Community Events – day by day

## Wednesday, January 4

- 7-10pm - **Miss Jessica and the Sugar Shack Attack** sing at Danny’s Deli. Free.

## Thursda, January 5

6pm - 7 Dudley Cinema Presents: **The 9th Annual Venice Film Festival. History of films made in Venice, and celebration of the legendary Venice West Gallery.** Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students/seniors/children \$5, members free.

## Friday, January 6

- 7-11pm – **First Friday on Abbot Kinney Blvd.** Lots of people and open shops. Free.

## Sunday, January 8

- 2pm - **Klezmer Band Jam.** Talking Stick. Free.
- 5pm - **Open Reading.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

## Monday, January 9

- 3-5pm – **Homework Center for grades 4-12.** Venice Library offers supplies, computers, resources for grades 4-12 **Monday and Wednesday 3-5, Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-5:30.** Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

## Tuesday, January 10

- 7-10pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness,** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.

## Wednesday, January 11

- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams sings at Danny’s Deli.** Truly amazing jazz/blues. Free.

## Friday, January 13

- 8pm - Opening one act of “**Awake in a World that Encourages Sleep.**” Weekend performances to 2/26. Electric Lodge. \$25.

## Saturday, January 14

- 1-6pm - **Martin Luther King “Peace In” featuring “Drums of King” performance with music/celebration.** Talking Stick. Free.
- **4-8pm - Eve Brandstein’s** art show narrative/reflections. Beyond Baroque. \$7 for members/ \$10 for non-members.
- 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica.** Talking Stick. Free.
- 8pm - **Poetry in Motion** with Eve Brandstein. Beyond Baroque. \$10 non-members.
- 8-10:30pm - **Kay Martin at Santino’s.** Tapas, pizza, wine and music. 3021 Lincoln Blvd.

## Monday, January 16

- **Martin Luther King’s Birthday.** “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.”



- 7:30-11pm – **MoZaic Open Mic.** Talking Stick. Free.

## Tuesday, January 17

- 6 and 8pm showings – **Maryjane’s Rare Slide Show of Venice Photographs, 1955-2000.** RSVP 823-3878. Canal Club. 2025 Pacific. Free.
- 7-9:30pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting.** Always Open to the Public. Westminster School Auditorium. Free.

## Wednesday, January 18

- 7-10pm - **Meditation on Media** at Beyond Baroque. Free.

## Thursday, January 19

- 6pm - **Venice Art Crawl at Hotel Erwin.** Find the maps online or go to OFW and Windward. Free.

## Friday, January 20

- 6-9pm - **Artist Reception** welcoming Photographer Clyde Butcher. G-2 Gallery. \$5 donation.
- 7pm - **Lectures from Beyond: Poetry as Divine Roulette.** Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students/seniors/children \$5, members free.
- 8pm- 12am - **Suzy Williams, Brad Kay** and special guests at The Moose Lodge, 1600 Ocean Park Blvd, SM.

## Saturday, January 21

- 12:30-5pm - **Underwater Parks Day.** Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Book Release:** Harry Northup and Lewis McAdams reading newest works. Hosted by S.A. Griffin. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students/seniors/children \$5, members free.

## Wednesday, January 25

- 7-8:30pm - **Green Living Workshops** that will help reduce your energy and water usage, save on utilities and cut landfill waste. G-2 Gallery. Free

## Thursday, January 26

- 7:30pm - **Ellyn Maybee’s “Poetry Rodeo” Open Reading** with Ellyn Maybee’s Band. Beyond Baroque. Bring 5 minutes of poetry, the band will improvise. General \$8, students/seniors \$5, members free.

## Friday, January 27

- 7:30-10pm - **Subversive Cinema.** 212 Pier. Free.

## Tuesday, January 31

- 7pm - **Bioneers Meeting** for environmentalists. G-2 Gallery. Free.

## Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

The Beachhead Calendar is a public non-profit service to the community of Venice. Our goal is to list free events within Venice. If you charge for your event, please consider taking out a \$25 or larger advertisement.

## Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006.
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - electriclodge.org
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
- Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 310-606-2015.

## Ongoing Events

### Music

- 8pm-12am - **Hal’s Bar and Grill** features Live Jazz, Sunday and Monday nights. Free.
- 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy’s “Open Mic”** for comics, musicians. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.
- 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday; **Music at Uncle Darrow’s.** 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends.** Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Every Thursday. Free.
- 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock.** Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.

### Movies

- 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library** Thursday Movie Night. Call 310-821-1769 for title.
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - First Thursdays at Beyond Baroque. Free.

### Kids

- 6:30pm -Abbot Kinney Public Library Children’s **Pajama Storytime.** Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.

### Miscellaneous

- 7-10pm - MOM: **Meditations On Media.** 3rd Wednesdays. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 11:30am-2:30pm – **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club.** Lloyd Taber - Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesday of the month. Free.

### Computers

- Venice Library offers a variety of **Free Computer Classes.** 310-821-1769.
- Vera Davis Center offers **free computer use:** M-Th 10am-Noon and 1pm-3pm; Fri 1-3pm.

### Food

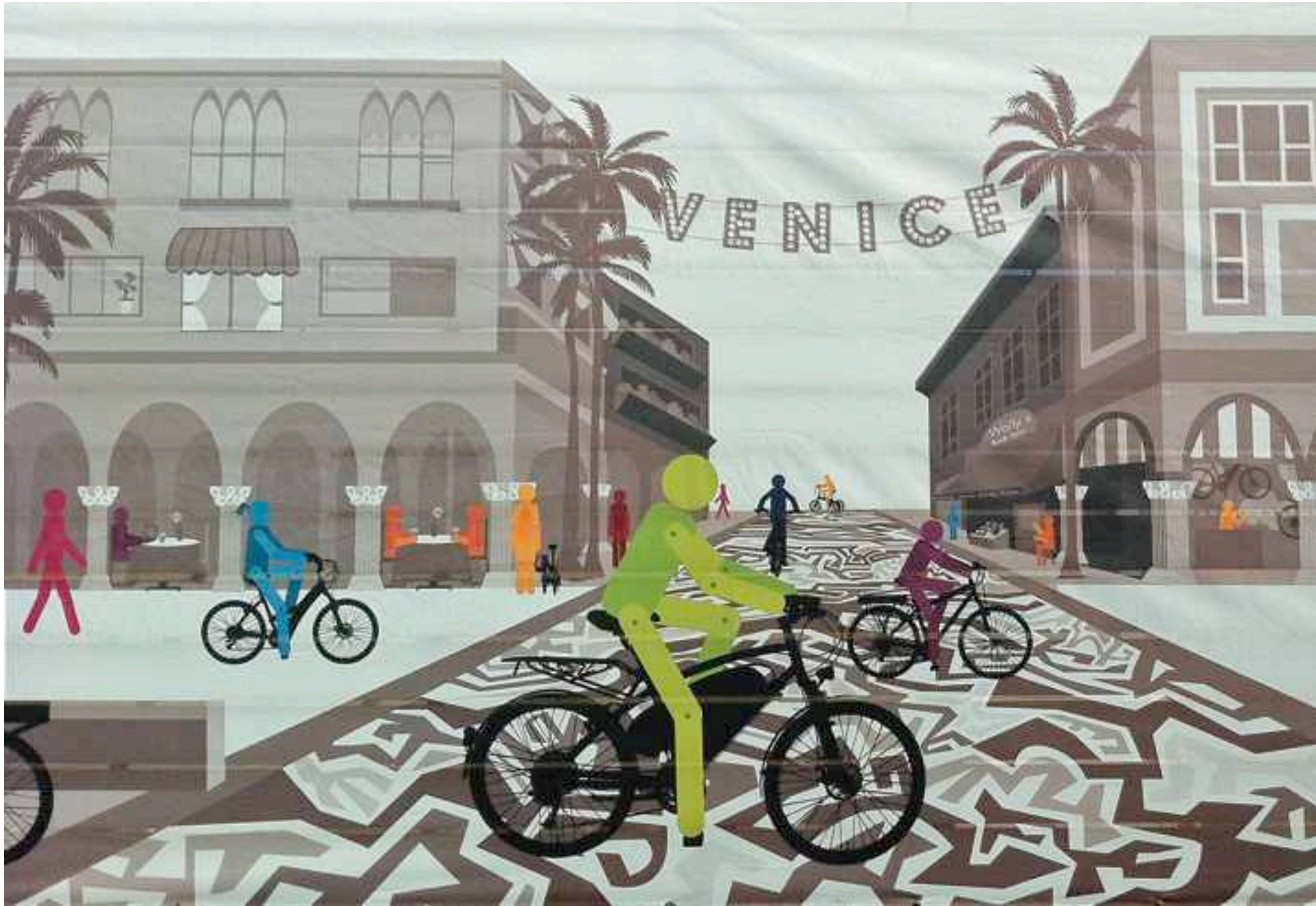
- Vera Davis Center. 12:30pm - 2nd and 4th Thursdays - **Free Food Distribution.**
- Vera Davis Center - **Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards).** Call for date and time. 310-305-1865.
- 1st Baptist Church: 5-7pm Mondays - **Hot Meals; Pre-packs:** 2-3:30pm Saturdays, Westminster & 7th St.

## Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to [Calendar@freevenice.org](mailto:Calendar@freevenice.org) by the 20th of the month.



# What do you do to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day?



iZip Mural  
by Jonas Never