

Inside
Moe Stavnezer – Presenté – 1
MLK March For Humanity - 1
Fight for Oakwood Church - 1
Letters –2
Ballona Drains Stopped by CCC – 3
Trans-National Alliance – 4
Tacos por favor – 5
Saving Our Urban Forest – 5
20 Reasons Snapchat not cool – 6
OFW Benches Replaced – 6
Al Franken Post Mortem – 8
Legalized It: Happy CAnnibis Diy – 8
Poetry – 9
Calendar – 10-11

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CA. 90294 • www.venicebeachhead.org • free@venicebeachhead.org • 310-281-6935



January
2018
#432



Moe Stavnezer - Presenté

Moe Stavnezer was a tireless fighter for a Venice which is now gone but not yet forgotten. It was a Venice which was a counter cultural mecca, a community of small individual two story or 24 foot high homes and duplexes, of homeowners with small incomes, working stiffs, professionals and students who voted Democrat or Progressive, or Peace and Freedom , of a community which was tolerant and supportive of dissent and outright opposition to moneymaking, greed, exploitation and racial and gender chauvinism. He wanted to see a Venice embedded in the City of Los Angeles, not an independent municipality of Venice (he had no faith that such a model could long survive in a hostile political environment where property rights trumped what he saw as ‘human rights’), but one with very significant autonomy, particularly in the crucial areas of physical development -- de-emphasize new commercial construction, emphasize existing rent control on existing housing, and construction of new affordable housing. Moe was instrumental, along with Lance Diskan, Jim Bickhart and myself in creating the North Beach Planning Task Force (about 1972), an alliance of small holders and Venice activists who were associated with the Beachhead, the Venice Town Council, and an amorphous group called ‘Free Venice (Steve Claire, Bob Wells, Rick Davidson, Barbara Avedon, and others) who focused on trying to stop the re-development and gentrification of the North Beach area of Venice by actively working within the public planning process of the City of Los Angeles to set and hold to standards which restricted such redevelopment and also extensively and incessantly used the Coastal Act of 1976 and appeals to the Coastal Commission to stop the juggernaught of over-development. This North Beach Planning Task force was very successful and soon became the chief vehicle which the Venice Town Council (pre-cursor of the Venice Neighborhood Council) used to hold off gentrification and over-development all over Venice. This Venice political alliance was very successful between 1976 and 1990 in ‘keeping Venice Venice’ and for about 15 years we all worked shoulder to shoulder to make this happen. In the end however this effort proved unable to hold back the tide and energetic vitality of real estate speculation (the lure of ‘filthy lucre’) particularly in the coastal zone of the westside. Moe of course was also a big time environmentalist and well known among environmental activists in Southern California, and a big time supporter of rent control (I was not one of those people) but I will leave it to others to paint that picture of Moe and flesh it out. Moe is now gone, but he will not be forgotten. When Jim Smith finishes his work on Venice (focused on ‘gentrification’ I hear), Moe will certainly occupy an important place.

Arnold Springer Venice

More about Moe on page 7

THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH CONTINUES



photo by Margaret Molloy

March for Humanity on MLK’s Birthday!

Show your determination to resist police brutality, war, anti-Black, anti-Brown, anti-Muslim, anti-Indigenous and anti-Immigrant hatred, attacks on women, the LGBT communities, the poor, the homeless, the elderly, working people, youth and the environment!

Mark one full year of mass resistance to the Trump regime’s efforts to roll back civil and human rights across the board in the interests of racism and corporate power!

Join with the Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles and other civil and human rights advocates in expressing our on-going commitment to establishing and maintaining full social, economic and political justice for all!

Help us to alert our communities, at large, to the coming of the New Poor People’s Campaign and Moral Revival Movement this spring! More details will be posted soon!

-- MLK Coalition Coordinating Committee.

Endorsing organizations to date:

MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Global Women’s Strike, Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace LA, Topanga Peace Alliance, San Fernando Valley Peace Alliance, LA Laborfest, SoCal350, Common Peace, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence, CODEPINK

The MLK Coalition’s Justice Agenda for 2018 includes the following:

1. End Excessive Use of Police Force: Prosecute Killer Cops (Black Lives Matter!)
2. End Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color: We Want Education, Not Mass Incarceration!
3. Healthcare Access for ALL: We Support Medicare, Medicaid, Single Payer Healthcare and Expanded Public Health Services!
4. Decent and Affordable Housing for ALL: Expand

continued on page 5

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Venice Activist, Naomi Nightingale about the fight to preserve the historic First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood Community in Venice.

Naomi Nightingale: The church has always been a part of Venice. It’s been here ever since I was a part of Venice. The church, which was across the street, was a smaller church of Reverend Holmes. I visited that church on a number of occasions. The church and its members were people who lived in Venice, residents. The congregation outgrew the church and moved across the street and it’s been there ever since.

Jon Wolff: The location of the present building.

NN: Right. So, it was just like stepping from one side of the house to the other side of the house.

JW: The church has been there for over a century now. The Foundation of the church has been there for that long.

NN: Right. 1912, I believe.

JW: What is going on right now?

NN: I know Reverend Horace Allen. I know him from when he started working at the church because he was involved in a lot of the community meetings that I was involved in. We worked on the Police Community Relations Committee, so I know him from there.

JW: He’s the pastor of the congregation that met in the church building?

NN: Right. Now he’s called a bishop. I don’t know how that name change occurred but I knew him as Reverend Horace Allen. He came out of Los Angeles. I think the Compton/Watts area. And he was initially requested to be the pastor of the church. There were many pastors at the church after Reverend Holmes passed away. Mrs. Holmes was the CEO of the church and she’s the one who made the decisions about who the pastor would be, along with the Board of Directors of the church.

JW: And the current situation with the church is that it was sold to new owners?

continued on page 3



photo by Margaret Molloy

SAVE VENICE



Beachhead Collective Staff:
Eric Ahlberg, Alice Stek, Fehmi Yildirim, Logan Mote, Suzy Williams, Lisa Robins, Marty Liboff, John Wolff

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly 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.

The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads, sustainers and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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.

Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Email: free@venicebeachhead.org
Web: www.venicebeachhead.org

- Beachhead Sustainers:**
- Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
 - Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
 - Susan Hayden Allport
 - Christine del Amo • Jennifer Baum
 - Irene Bajsarowycz • Beyond Baroque
 - Roxanne Brown
 - Chuck and Terry Bloomquist
 - Bradley Bobbs • Allen Boelter
 - Steve Clare • Greta Cobar
 - Tina Catalina Corcoran • Maureen Cotter
 - John Davis • Joan Del Monte
 - Joseph Doro • Aaron Downing
 - Robin Doyno • Loraine Ebbins
 - Steve Effingham and Tina Morehead
 - Peter R. Force and Nancy Richards
 - Ed Ferrer • Don Geagan
 - Ivonne Guzman • Phyllis Hayashibara
 - Ted Hajjar and Carol Wells
 - Dean Henderson • Gregorio Humberto Gomez
 - Martha Kaplan • John Kertisz
 - Mark A. Kleiman
 - Ira Koslow and Gail Rogers • Donna Lacey
 - Linda Laisure and Helen Alland
 - Larry Layne • Marty Liboff • Eric Liner
 - Ethan Lipton and Janet Lent
 - Karl Lisovsky • Nancy L. Loncke
 - Peter Lonnies • Frank Lutz
 - Michael McGuffin • Michael Millman
 - Susan Millmann • Ian Milne • John Mooney
 - Shelagh Moriarty • Sandy and David Moring
 - Holly Mosher • Anne Murphy
 - Occupy Venice • Earl Newman
 - Sherman and Meredith Pearl
 - Barbara Palivos • Thomas Paris
 - Milton Rosenberg • Bill Rosendahl
 - Ron Rouda • Pete Savino • James Schley
 - Krista Schwimmer • Laura Shrewsbury
 - Linda Shusett • Jim Smith • John Stein
 - Alice Stek • Mike Suhd
 - Larry and Kathy Sullivan • Surfing Cowboys
 - Tamariska, Inc • Teddy Tannenbaum
 - Jim Talbot • William Taxerman
 - The von Hoffmann Family
 - Venice Beach Oceanarium
 - Brady Walker • Joe and Nancy Ward
 - Tim and Nancy Weil • Emily Winters
 - Suzy Williams • Nancy Boyd Williamson Mary
 - Worthington • Stan and Roni Zwerling

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

Help A Free Press Survive:
Annual Sustainer: \$100. Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year
Institutional Subscriptions: \$50/year
Mail: Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294

Local Businesses to Save the BeachHead
by Pat Raphael

Your beloved local paper needs one of those sitcom moments. Yeah, the sitcom moment when the whole community participates in some grand gesture to save the local ice cream shop or the old radio station or some other last piece of authentic past from the inexorable march forward of time. In thirty minutes or less, the community bands together and recognizes how much they love that piece of authentic past, and in an outpouring of love and financial gifts, the dollars get raised right in the nick of time, and that beloved piece of the past gets to exist securely for the future... roll credits.

Yeah, we need one of those moments. Of course we who labor in this dying medium understand that the tide we swim against swell bigger than your dear Free Venice BeachHead can ever reverse on its own. Now we go out to create our own sitcom moment, but a ‘Venice’ sitcom moment, so that with it we save our oldest local paper. We’re gonna bomb the pavement, and go to all the local businesses to find they who can feel our spirit, and see our contribution to the community, and offer them positive association with this paper on our pages (also known as advertising, Pat). But like we know, the trends are such, that spending thin profit dollars in a dying medium, to capture eyeballs that maybe aren’t even there, just to maintain a nostalgia that glows warm in the chest...? business dollars and cents are way too cold and calculating for all that. It’s gonna take another powerful trend to create an anti-trend for the Free Venice BeachHead to ride itself into a few more years of security, as the unique voice we need to continue being for the good of our community..

****cough*cough**** floating a cloud of pungent exhaled incense, slides in 420. Did someone say powerful trend? And right when we need one too -- how sitcomesque... Part of how we are going to raise our advertising dollars, is to make a concerted effort to go after and offer all the local pot shops (who are gonna be rollin’ in all them sweet sweet legalized dollars), a chance to set themselves apart from their local competitors. Our paper is right there as must-read for all the local smart 420 folks. There’s already stacks of them at the 420box and at all the trendy coffee shops, now we put them in the waiting rooms of all the local bud bars. Offering our rebel air, our view away from one-percentism, to other rebels who have elbowed their way into one of the biggest prize that the Golden State has had to offer since the orange groves became studio lots, will be the way we create the anti-trend that the Free Venice BeachHead needs to ride, to keep ourselves going for a few more healthy years.

We can go the extra mile by offering reviews from a dedicated 420 editor and adding enough value to the reader, that the 420 advertising finds it’s loyal audience coming to the paper as much for the content than to compare specials from all the local herb spots.

This timely anti-trend has come right in time for the Free Venice BeachHead to take advantage of where cannabis legalization has brought us. At a time when many of the local businesses are too scared to associate with rebels like the Free Venice BeachHead, yet they pledge their support secretly as anonymous donors or as faithful readers -- now we have supporters who will be proud to have us prominently display their advertising in our paper. And since all of us here at your beloved Free Venice BeachHead are in it for the ideas, and not for the dollars, we will be good stewards of your bucks. So yes, this paper will continue being a poem. It will continue raising the difficult questions and speaking for those who would otherwise have no voice... cause that’s just good reading, and good reading is the best thing on which to break up the nugs and roll a blunt. Happy 2018!



A peeve or Two

Venice is “Venice Beach” only to Real Estate people and other vultures and to tourists. Venice has no “Boardwalk” although it does have a wonderful Ocean Front Walk. I urge the FVB editors to flag these errors whenever they occur. E.G.: “... yesterday on the boardwalk <sic> in Venice Beach <sic> ...”

Thanks,
Ted Wray

indeed... - nte

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Safe Place for Youth was broken into and vandalized on December 1st. We are so grateful that no one was onsite when it happened, and that this was a unique occurrence in our organization’s history. As we move forward, our main focus is to continue keeping SPY a safe space while providing life-saving support to the 1,000 young people who walk through our doors annually.

Many of you have asked how you can help...

While insurance is covering a portion of the damages, there are still a considerable amount of costs from the incident. Any amount that you can contribute to Safe Place for Youth will make a difference!

Thank you for your continued support in our mission to provide a space where homeless and at-risk youth can thrive, not just survive.

With Gratitude,

Alison Hurst
Founder and Executive Director

Hello VENICE BEACHHEAD,

How can you allow a factually inaccurate bogus story into your paper? What about fact checking? Do you care about the verity of your publication? I am not sure if you care or not but this article is a very poor reflection on the VENICE BEACHHEAD. Would it be possible for me to speak with the person that green lighted this article for publication? I am very curious as to what the process your paper went through to fact check this article before publication. Would you please refer me to the correct person on your staff that I can discuss this matter with? I sincerely hope that there can be a constructive dialogue about this & that it is the intent of the Beachhead to publish articles that accurately inform your readership. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Kevin Keresey

– we would ask that if “facts” are being disputed, it would be useful to list the alleged falsehoods and specifically refute them. Otherwise you just sound like you are ranting and dissing. - nte

Mr. Venice sez...

Support your

FREE VENICE
SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

because it

unclogs the news

for YOU!

Send checks to:

BEACHHEAD

P.O. Box 2

Venice, CA 90294

Draining Ballona Wetlands Stopped by Coastal Commission

By John Davis

Finally, after decades of environmental abuse, the California Coastal Commission put a stop to draining the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The proponents of the gargantuan Playa Vista Project installed the illegal drains over a decade ago.

It appears the developer wanted to degrade the value of one of the last vestages of freshwater coastal wetlands in the State by drying them out so it could build a private flood control system. The claimed reason was the wetlands were so badly damaged, they would have to be restored. But restoration was not the true plan, it was to build a private flood control system, euphmisticlay named the Freshwater Marsh System, and it was not finished.

Now, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is recycling the same sorry lie again in its current plans. This is the case of a fireman starting a fire and then reporting it. It should not happen this way, and the public should not be duped again. What is currently being branded a wetlands restoration is not that at all, it is a creation of something new that was not there before, and it is illegal to do that according to the California Coastal Act.

The State purchased the land West of Lincoln Blvd from Playa Vista, but then allowed the massive development to continue using it for a private purpose, with no benefit to the public. It was cleverly disguised as a benefit to nature. In reality, the Playa Vista Development has been draining the wetlands upstream by pumping public ground water into the sewer and directly into Ballona Creek, disallowing recharge of the water table.

It is illegal to draw down groundwater beyond its historic average according to the State Water Code, but this appears to be exactly what the developers and elected officials have been hiding from the public. In long droughts such as the one California is now experiencing, groundwater can be used for public purposes, but not if it is flushed down the sewer by a private business to the detriment of the owners of the water, the people of the State of California.

The sad truth is elected officials, like LA Council Member Mike Bonin, who was there at the beginning in 1991, acting as Chief of Staff for then Council Member Ruth Galanter, have perpetuated this legacy of deception into real-time.

Other elected State representatives have all helped hide it too. Currently, paid employees of the State Lands Commission (SLC) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) are deeply involved in the cover-up. Both agencies own part of the flood control project. And, both are now trying to assist the developers in doing it again, in order to complete the unfinished private flood control system on purpose on public land.

In order to accomplish this despicable act, SLC Executive Officer Jennifer Lucchesi is remaining quiet and DFW Executive Director Charles Bonham claims that the

wetlands are so degraded they need to be restored. Both are now responsible for maintaining this false claim to the public.

After a local non-profit, Grassroots Coalition, sued and beat DFW in court, the agency was forced to apply for a Coastal Development Permit to cease the drainage. To avoid the inevitable, Executive Director Charles Bonham’s staff lied on the application claiming the drains were not in a wetland. Adding insult to injury, the Developers of the Playa Vista Project submitted fraudulent methane, groundwater, and wetland delineation reports to the Commission.

The Long Beach staff of the Commission, Teresa Henry and Mandy Revelle did everything they could to assist the cover-up by claiming the Developers submitted those reports on behalf of the State, which was patently false. Staff of that office have been directly engaged in the deception since 1991. This is the power of money speaking.

However, in December, the Coastal Commissioners recognized the nefarious assertions of its own staff and ruled against what DFW Director Charles Bonham wanted. They unanimously required the offender to immediately place a cap on the drains to stop continuing damage to the resource and to prepare an Environmental Impact Report in 180 days, so the drains could be completely removed.

Kevin Taki, the attorney for DFW begged the Commission to wait until the new process to “restore” (DESTROY), the wetlands was under way and then take them out.

Commissioners then asked him how long it would take, and all he could do was trip over his own tongue, trying to provide an answer.

All Commissioners then agreed that draining the wetlands for over-twenty years was enough, and the structures had to be removed. This has rocked the plans to finish the private flood control project on public lands because the DFW failed to even acknowledge the drains were there in its current proposal.

Now, this new honest process will legally interfere in the dishonest plans the Playa Vista Developer, SLC, and DFW have worked so hard to promote for the last five years, by revealing the truth to the public. The proposed “restoration” constitutes a gift of public funds prohibited by the State Constitution and the Coastal Act disallows creation of a big hole and 40ft levees along Lincoln and Jefferson Blvd to replace existing wetlands.

DFW then tried to foist its last desperate argument, and said it would cost too much to comply with the law. None of the Coastal Commissioners bought it. The Executive Director of the Commission, John Ainsworth, finally said what was on his mind, that the DFW should sue the Playa Vista Developers to get the money to pay for removing the drains, since that private business built the illegal pipes in the first place. In this case, speaking truth to power really worked.

Grassroots Coalition Website – SaveBallona.Org

3 • January 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead Oakwood Church – continued from page 1

NN: As I understand it, the church has been sold. Fraudulently sold, because Horace Allen did not have ownership or legal authority to sell the church.

JW: The legal authority... That would be with the Trustees?

NN: With the Trustees. With having the deed. With having the legal authority that was granted, not only by the Trustees, but by Mrs. Holmes.

JW: And in the bylaws of the church itself.

NN: Right. And when did the transaction occur? How did it occur? Was it legal? I understood, that because they were feeding homeless people there, that Horace Allen had some of the individuals sign as if they were on the Board, that they were members of the church. And that was one way that he was able to move through some of the legal processing. But I don’t know that they ever did any title changes or looked into the titles to find out who the legal owners were. I understand that this is something that the court is looking into now. My position about the church is from its historical, social, and legacy standing in the Community. I don’t know who they want to say owns the church. The fact to me is that the church should not be torn down, demolished, or... what’s the other word?

JW: “Re-purposed” is the word they use.

NN: “Re-purposed” for residential use or a use other than that which serves the Community, which is why it’s there in the first place.

JW: Absolutely. How it got there in the first place.

NN: And so, any movement on the part of anyone to make this into a residential building or a commercial operation or to remove it and put anything else there is what I am fighting against. That’s my ultimate position: that the church needs to still be there for the purpose for which it was built in the first place. I see too much of Structure, Culture, and Legacy of the Black Community, and other people who built this Community, simply removed as if it never existed, and substituted by a two-story or three-story concrete glass-fronted building and, most of the time, sold. There’s the footprint, the imprint, the Legacy of those people, like my grandparents and other people’s grandparents, that worked hard to build this Community. They made a Legacy here to give us stories to tell about how we grew up here and the things that we went through, the schools that we went to, the events that we had. The annual activities became a part of where we are, and many of them occurred right here in this church.

JW: Do you think that some individuals would like to erase all that right now?

NN: I think they don’t care. I think they don’t have a clue. It doesn’t matter to them. And that’s the real crime. Another real crime is from Horace Allen because he knows all of that. He was here in this Community for a number of years. He served on committees. He interacted with people. He knows those things. So, for him to set them aside, and for him to sell out the Community in the way that, apparently, he has, is disgraceful.

JW: And, most likely, fraudulent.

NN: Fraudulent. That’s the reason why it’s in court right now.

JW: It looks like the people on the side of preserving the church, the good guys, have a good chance of having the sale declared fraudulent.

NN: Oh, I believe they do. My understanding is that there is no document that legally says that Horace Allen had a right to sell the building.

JW: In the meantime, there have been gatherings in front of the church every week, every Sunday, plus the big one that happened on Saturday a couple of weeks ago.

NN: December 9, yes.

JW: We had a number of speakers that day.

NN: We did. We had some great speakers that day.

JW: You spoke yourself.

NN: I did speak that day. But I speak just about every Sunday. That day, Dennis Moore spoke.

JW: And Pastor Rhone.

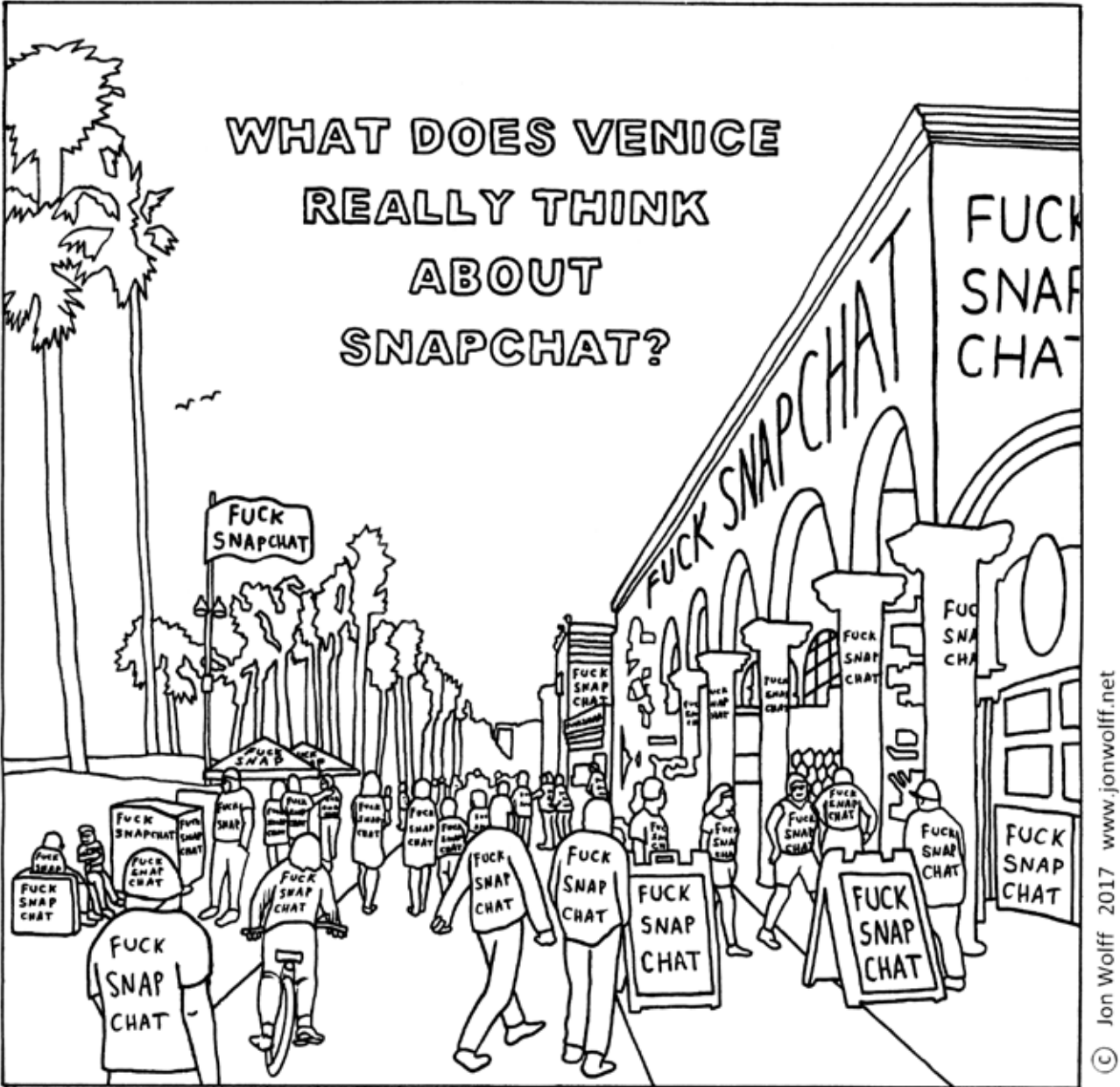
NN: Yes. Pastor Rhone was our keynote speaker that day. Pastor Rhone grew up in this Community, and so he had a lot to say. I remember the key part of his address was that: if the Foundation be destroyed, then what can the righteous people do? That resonated with me deeply because I think that those of us who continue to come out every Sunday are representing the righteous people. Because our effort is to ensure that the Foundation of that church still remains, that the church still stands.

JW: And, in turn, the Foundation of the Community.

NN: Absolutely.

JW: Do you think that this is part of a larger picture? Is this happening because it’s part of a larger effort to upset

continued on page 5



4 • January 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

The Trans-National Alliance Constitution

by Pat Raphael

...then we saw Venice, and it was a good land, so we said let’s take this land. All while blazing a jay at the 420Box with a bunch tactical thinking strategists, spending more of the day than you might imagine, in deep thought about how to earn and keep their lot of this good land. These earnestly searching neighbors are creating the Trans-National Alliance, as a means to offer their great talents to Venice. Our creation is such a locally scalable way for the people to reclaim their inherent powers, that our conversations soon began to refer to the TNA as the fourth branch -- the people’s branch. And that’s when the true strategy really became clear to me -- it is “we” who are the “people”. That’s when I came to know that seeing the vast goodness of Venice, and desiring to be part of it, is not enough to have our lot in this good land. We also have to identify the great strongholds and powerful chiefs who now reign and occupy within the land, and as overcomers, wrest from them their grip that is leading our paradise away from it’s history and course of goodness.

The true strategy is to see what (or who) the vast and good land, over-flowing with such awesomeness, really is. Once we understand that great awesomeness is gushing out of every block of our seaside paradise because of people who fill these blocks, it becomes clear that the vast goodness of the land is contained within the vast goodness of Venetians. There was goodness in Abbott Kinney, a vast goodness in his vision to creating a cool and unique place for families to come and have a good time. History shows that the exact vision did not materialize as ol’ Abbott saw it, but he still left us a vast lineage of goodness as we see Venice morphed into becoming the people’s beach, highly influenced by the middle class black folks of Oakwood. The lineage was kept by these hard-working professionals and service employees (many in the swanky hotels and beach resorts of Santa Monica), who maintained and cultivated the vast goodness they inherited, by keeping a different character alive on this beach than the “feel” of SaMo to the north nor the vibe of that monied yacht life to the south in Marina del Rey. Then came the artists, the musicians, the poets and loud talkers, along with freaks from A to Z. And they brought with them their own vast goodness too; not finding a place anywhere else, yet here in Venice we found a spot for every misfit. It took years, going on like this, before they with all the dollars decided that they just had to buy up Venice. But the roots of goodness run deep here. So deep, that dollars can not come and easily transform or corrupt what generations of good people have built with their lives.

So if it’s the people who make up all that is good about Venice, we squeeze the greatest good out of Venice by creating conditions for more of the people to come together and act in unity. Pursuit of this unity, have left me sensitive to the influences and mindsets that make it impossible for us to achieve this unity. We are too often bound in powerlessness, and recognize that as long as we remain divided, we can never grow into any sort of effective operation of the great potential for good contained within our TNA. And this was the overarching goal of our alliance right at its inception -- to unify our voice into a positive execution of our goodwill: an app that can tap into our power to do better, together. Standing in the way of this great good from taking place, are the great strongholds and powerful chiefs (now choking the good land with their occupation), that we must identify and overcome, so that in their absence, we can fully occupy and inherit this vast and good land of Venetians.

These powerful chiefs and strongholds now choking the good land, really do fully occupy the whole land. They have such a full lock on they land that they work together to support each other in maintaining a solidified grip over the whole land. Say a growing Venetian works to take ground of their good land, and begins to overcome some of these powerful chiefs... their reign is such that this growth is noted, and quick reinforcement is sent in other areas, so the land can continue and remain in full control of these powerful forces. Don’t forget, the land is the people, so the stronghold forces we describe here are mental conditions that reign as chief over how (even good) people think.

The first of these powerful forces, now choking the good land so that its vast goodness is not available for us to enjoy, reigning as chief over much our land is KING FEAR. This truly is the first strongholds to overcome. And these cats at the 42Box, a bunch of strategic tacticians, understand what a military stronghold is: it’s a fort from where the king’s Generals deploy their troops. So just imagine coming at you: fear of dying, fear of getting hurt, fear of missing out, fear of looking stupid, fear of the government coming to take your guns, fear of the white supremacist agenda (which deep down, is the fear of a black planet). Don’t forget the pesticides in the food chain, infections that resist antibiotics, the U.N. Troops, FEMA camps, climate change, and that angry orange finger on the button. Add to that, the fear of not being liked, fear of getting old, fear of making the wrong life choices, and on and on and on... The list of fears (as a negative emotion) that can occupy our mind, and leave less of

our essence available for positive considerations, can go on forever. This truly is a hard stronghold to overcome, since fear keeps itself rooted in our psyche by making us feel like our survival depends on it -- and we continue in fear, perversely thinking we would not be here, if we didn’t go around all scared... thus fulfilling a negative feedback loop. Fear leaves our nerves on edge, and keeps our minds working overtime as we seek a strategy to assuage or counter the involuntary live wire of negative poison fearfully flowing into our soul. And fear-rooted calculations to solve our problems, never seem to add up. Like fearful people talking loud and beating their chest about what they can do. More often, the louder the braggadocio, the more scared the shouter. And scared people are dangerously unpredictable -- how often does that loud talkin’ actually makes a hearer afraid, and their reaction catches the loud talker off guard? It takes a level head to come out from under dominion of KING FEAR, but since much of what moves fear may be involuntary, the only attack on this chief, is to rightly place our fear on a proper outlet. All other fears begin to recede, when we learn to only fear God, and missing out on what God is doing in the land today. That one little adjustment in our outlet of fear will start us on a path of wisdom -- the will to DO what we KNOW is right.

With fear reigning over much of the land, and nerves on edge from an endless stream of frights flowing in, we quickly cede some of the good land over to KING ANGER. Walk around afraid enough, for long enough, you will eventually become a mean and angry person. How can the Trans-National Alliance ever work together as a unified group of activists, if we are all short-fused and continually in angry contention with one another? I’ve seen first hand, in dialogue, how members who are on the same “team”, get so angry with one another that they start speaking to each other in the worst, most biting language they can come up with... then later to see them come back, and say they didn’t mean those angry things. Even if apologies are exchanged and we go on together, too often the shattered remains of anger can never fully be repaired. Just like fear-rooted calculations never seem to add up, you also can not think clearly, when thinking in anger. This is how we overcome our good land: we learn to take true stock of our mental state, and put positive effort to our intention of addressing the shortcomings we see. Dealing with anger, we’ve come to see that this is a chief that can best be defeated with time on our side. When we get a stimulus that triggers our anger, growth in this area will teach us to do a mental 10-count before we respond. After that 10-count, even if we use the same initial words that came, a ‘lil time buffs out some of the sting in the delivery... and sometimes a 10-count gives us time to do a 20-count, which then tell us to sleep on it, before reacting. A response in the right time is often more measured and well thought out, then the blurt exploded out in anger. And don’t let one of these angry outbursts blow up when it is clearly seen that we are rightfully angered... if we’re not measured, nothing will survive our megatons of wrath... but in the aftermath, it’s never as satisfying as we sort through the rubles, huh? That’s why even when we are right, we gotta learn to forgive each other, rather than that easy, satisfying blow up.

Now we growin’! we are starting to rightly place our fears, and are taking control to properly react when anger stirs. We takin’ back more of that vast good land for positive use! Venice who have grown in these areas begin experiencing enough positive outcomes from their growth, that it is easy to get all puffed up, and think ourselves such exalted hot sh!t. This hard-to-spot stronghold manned by KING PRIDE is an operation obscured by deploying from behind the cover of perspective. Our I (our eye), can be so big, that we only see our own point of view -- becoming egocentric. From there, it is just a few short hops, (like not being able to listen to others or only thinking about our own need), before ending up inside of everything-I-do-is-right town, a place where we are of little value to Venice... captured by this able General, deployed by KING PRIDE. This is also the tricky part of the good land, because it is so difficult to see our own I, from there we might get ambushed with thinking we are more special to God than anyone else, or have an indispensable piece that only I can deliver to the universe, or are connected to an inside track that gives special knowledge. If any ONE of us, have ALL that is right and good and true, we have no need for a TNA. We can only work together, if we can learn to overcome the instinct to only see me me me, and see we we we, through the humility of service.

We are not likely to overcome all of our land’s strongholds in one swoop, because there is just so much of that vast good land for us to grow in to. It takes patience time, for her to do her perfect work. As the TNA grows forth in Venice, we will come against, and defeat the stronghold of KING SELF-INTEREST. And we are an awesome good land, so we have tons of interest to man this fort. Our personal beauty, our personal possessions, our money, our houses, our cars, our kids, that killer smile, our opinions, our personal safety, our reputation, our self-respect... how dare they! don’t these asses know who I am! Real clear here we see, how troops from this barrack, man and reinforce the stronghold of pride, just when we thought humility had razed that high place low. Suddenly all of our identity is tied to the rise and

fall of our personal self-interest, and we cut off much of the good land’s energy to occupy the pursuit to save this fort, using endless troops of worry on assignment from king fear, with our imagination in overdrive, all about how to keep the petty interests that we have accumulated. If fifteen of us join the alliance, and pursue fifteen sets of interests, we will probably get one-fifteenth of all those goals accomplished. We’ve come together to take the good land, because we want to be a part of the next greatness to happening here in Venice. By learning the balance that it takes to develop a measured equilibrium with all that we have accumulated, we will never be so tied to our small personal interest, that we lose sight of the big point of it all, which is to effect a greater good, together. The genius of the TNA is that it is a freewill association with no dues or taxing system, yet every service we seek to offer is totally free of charge. This model would be insolvent before it ever got established, if we were not in such a vast and good land, overflowing with so much excess capacity. In this the common interest grows, as members freely volunteer to the alliance, every need supplied.

The next stronghold to defeat is way out there, with a 360 view from every vantage to see any advancement and dig in a resistance: the stronghold of KING HYPER-INDEPENDENCE. The growth it takes to even have this as a foe, means that there is access to great capacity, since without that great capacity, we could not for long, think that we can do it all by ourselves. An overcomer who is gaining ground in their land -- or whose soul is in the process of growth -- attains a proportional personal gravitas that causes people to be drawn to that overcomer. In essence, growing leaves even more of the good land within our reach, to have and to manage. The trap at that point is to take a little clique of adoring fans, and make yourself a closed circle, and start building a kingdom unto you. But right from its start, the spirit that attracted me to the Trans-National Alliance, is its emphasis on the little guy, a branch for the people. We saw that the big corporations and the one-percenters had enough allies and outlets for their voice. We recognized that the only way for our voice to register is if we speak it together. But the price of tapping in to that invaluable synergy, is putting up with one another. And we are all here in Venice cause we grown... so who the hell can make us stay together if we don’t want to? In spite of all the great benefits we gain communally, who is willing to put up with the fiery stings that come with coexistence? It takes vision, learning to keep loving our thorny neighbors. But putting up with those stings lets us use each other as mirrors to see ourselves and measure our spiritual growth, granting our I the potent force of community, in the face off all that seeks to blindly keep us weak and separated.

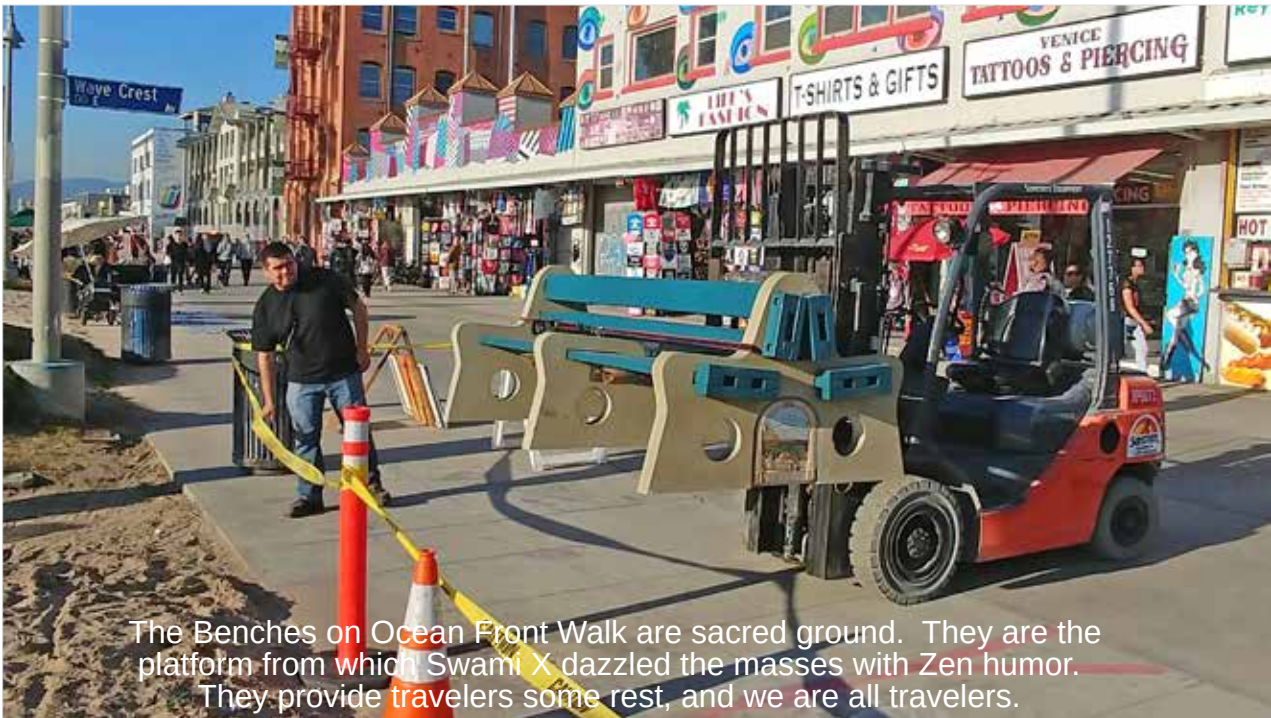
The vastness of this good land can only be conquered by a people whose intellect is vast enough to contain the eternal wellspring flowing in abundance here. When life and experience has cause a person to become narrow, they bring that smallness with them to every outlook their perception conceives. With no vision (or a small vision) our mind creates a stronghold for KING IMAGINATION. Consider the imagination as an extension of the dream world, where we are master and creator and have every single power that real life does not now grant... what fun is it to live in THIS real world where life is stepping all over me, when I can remain in that mental place of my own creation where I reign supreme? In our imagination we can be in the past, in the future, in outer space, under the ocean, in the senate chambers -- all while our full essence is needed right here, right now. Add to imagination pride or fear, we can make in our own mind, all types of preoccupations to lead us off a productive course. When our learning, and life experiences are all that informs imagination, keeping to our own counsel denies us access to valuable ideas that can broaden our own perspective. That’s why we have to replace the idle churning of imagination with the focused determination of a common vision. Just like an imbalanced attachment to my small personal interest leads only to me me me, a narrow focus only on the mental movie that I am directing will only shows I eye I. When we crack a blunt at the 420Box, and begin to dialogue about where we see this Venicessance that we envision is taking us, the disparate divergence of our imagination which forks into so many branches begin to converge into a common vision... Only dialogue can.do this work, but only if we learn to listen and open ourselves the value of each other’s counsel.

We advance on, to arrive at the stronghold of KING LOGIC. A mind full of reason, will justify their every action with that slippery self-centered logic. All of the sudden, faults that we would crucify another for, finds a logical reason for why it’s okay, when they are found in me. This fort becomes even more secure when it is operating in the mind of a high IQ. Logic is a product of our preconditioning, and is powered by the judge of our conscience. A lifetime of thinking for our own good may leave us unaccustomed to thinking for the common good. When logic is thinking for self, we are unable (or become unwilling), to make that faith leap into seeing why “we” should matter to “me”. It gets downright counter-intuitive and illogical (in our selfish mind), to develop the pure reasoning that informs us to take care of our own small needs, by devoting our energy to solving our bigger collective needs. And this last fort to overcome, can not

continued on page 5 Column 1 at the bottom >

20 REASONS WHY SNAP-CHAT IS JUST NOT COOL... AT ALL.

1. They have a dancing hot dog meme and their employees think it's so awesome! Yes, a Dancing Hot Dog...
2. They thought it was so great they followed it up with a Dancing Hamburger! LOL yes, a Dancing Hamburger!
3. Everything they do is done better by Facebook, Instagram & Spotify.
4. The app was made popular by sexting and dick-pics and then they continue to market to teens and underage users.
5. It's the #1 app used by sexual predators that use it to prey on young children.
6. They're an embarrassment to investing and probably never should've gone public in the first place. Their stock plummets every 3 months and continues to lose money for investors.
7. They fail in every entity they try - Spectacles (lost \$39 million), TV shows (CNN has ended its daily Snapchat news show), drones (have been non-existent), and their augmented reality is... you guessed it- a Dancing Hot Dog.
8. They took down "Beach Access" signs at Gingerbread Court. This says it all! How uncool is that? It's epitomizes everything they've done here in Venice. Like they want to control the entire community, the beach, and all the properties just for themselves.
9. They ruined the Santa Monica pier concerts and now they may be gone forever.
10. It's destined to be the next Myspace after children grow out of it.
11. They can't keep any of their employees. Top executives continue to leave- "Head of Engineering" Tim Sehn, "Vice President of Human Resources" Robyn Thomas, "Vice President of Security" Martin Lev, its "General Counsel" Chris Handman, "Senior Human Resources Executive" Kathy Mandato and "Director of Global Security Operations" Kyle Faust, etc.
12. Their CEO apparently doesn't care about his employees getting heckled every day from Venetians given it seems no one has moved to Santa Monica yet, despite the rumors they created.
13. Their security guards take their jobs way too seriously. Just hang out on Market Street or try to sit down at the picnic table in Gingerbread Court around lunchtime!
14. They block their own images from their New Year's Eve party, while the whole company was built as an app where the images vanish! What makes it more ridiculous is that anyone can just go on Instagram to see the pictures... and no one cares about seeing them anyway LOL!
15. The company is run by egotistical children who can't even run a Quarterly Earnings Report phone call let alone the rest of the company. They're clearly one of the most hated companies on Wall Street.
16. They spend \$4 million on a New Year's Eve party while that money could be used for a thousand other things- their employees, the community, etc.
17. Their employees use motorized electric skateboards. Seriously they do! Just hang out on Market Street and wait for it.
18. They are undoubtedly in panic-mode looking to redesign their entire app after their pitiful 3rd Quarter Earnings Report.
19. Any company that tries to take over a community and call it their "corporate campus" is certainly far from cool and most of their own employees realize that themselves.
20. Did I mention the Dancing Hot Dog???



Urban Forest – continued from page 5

reflective properties. The concrete and asphalt heat up during the day, and magnify and radiate that heat to the surrounding area. Have you ever walked by The Disney Concert Hall on a hot summer day? That's the heat island effect. Trees help to mitigate the heat island effect by providing shade.

So now that we understand why trees are so important, let's look at what's happening to them.

The USC study concluded that "one third of the existing green cover of each single-family residential lot is lost during the average home expansion in the Los Angeles Basin." The study also cites that "the trend towards increased densification," i.e. the subdividing of lots as in an effort to weaken single-family zoning and densify multi-family zoning in cities with maximum housing pressures such as L.A., "seems likely to continue..." and "without regulations that specifically protect existing tree and green cover the ability of cities to maintain a healthy and ecologically vibrant urban landscape will be hampered."

Venice is over 100 years old, and many of the lots were scaled to provide outdoor space to smaller buildings. A 40ft. by 90ft. lot might have a single family cottage-home, about 1000 sq. ft. in area, sitting on a foundation two feet off the ground, with hardwood flooring and ample, yet modest space for outdoor living both front and back. The off-ground design left plenty of open earth for adequate drainage.

Both public and private trees planted all over Venice are now mature and majestic. We are in danger of losing these giants that are so essential to our survival, and we're losing them on many fronts.

With existing homes aging and in need of repair, a preference for larger homes and the real estate market rewarding speculative development, many homes are being developed that are out of scale with their surroundings. This "lot line development" where the new building takes advantage of squeezing every last inch of square footage allowed by building codes for maximum profit, leaves no room for mature vegetation.

Developers put greenery into their plans, usually beautifully rendered artistic impressions of the future home, but the truth is that it takes decades for trees and shrubs to mature.

Large, mature trees provide greater benefits than young trees and that's why it's so important to save our big trees.

The older trees often get bulldozed away when it suits the purposes of the developers.

Then comes the concrete. For every ton of concrete manufactured, the process creates and sends one ton of new carbon dioxide directly into the atmosphere. Trees that naturally remove CO2 are cut down and replaced by a process that artificially creates even more CO2.

The concrete footprint that is created by modern, oversized homes is non-porous and storm water must flow around it - usually downgrade to the neighbors, creating flooding.

Older trees, especially ficus trees, tend to uplift concrete sidewalks. The City of Los Angeles Dept. of Urban Forestry then swings into action and usually just cuts down the tree. But if the trees are given space and have regular root pruning, ficus can make breathtaking street trees.

Instead of cutting the tree down, the city could rebuild the sidewalk around the tree, and some cities around the world have even built elevated walkways over tree roots.

Tree replacement plans, such as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's "Million Trees LA" in 2006, which merged with "City Plants" in 2010, didn't work because it failed to recognize how fast the tree canopy was being depleted due to construction hardscape. Many plans call for a two-for-one replacement of removed trees, but once

continued on page 11

The Venice Arts Council and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks have worked together to restore Five Benches that house ten Venice Art Tiles on the Ocean Front Walk on Venice Beach.

January 3, 2018, The Venice Arts Council is proud to announce the replacement of five benches on the Ocean Front Walk in Venice. The original double sided benches were made of concrete supports that housed an art tile on each end, with green wooden boards for the seat and back rest. The concrete has been crumbling making them unsafe to sit on, thus the Department of Recreation and Parks removed those that were the most damaged. The high fire ceramic tiles have endured.

These tiles designed and created by Noel Osherhoff and Tamie Smith, depict a graphic history of Venice, using some designs by local artists Augustin Gonzalez and Emily Winters. These eleven benches housing 22 Art Tiles were designed for the renovation of the Ocean Front Walk in the year 2000, located on the cross street corners from Horizon to Dudley. The damaged benches were on Wavecrest, Breeze, Brooks, Park, and Sunset. The Wavecrest and Brooks tiles were missing when the benches were removed and were remade by the original artists in 2015. The Breeze, Park and Sunset tiles were removed from the old benches and reinstalled into the new. The new benches with the tiles in place on the sides, were installed on the Ocean Front Walk on December 19, 2017.

In 2013 the Venice Arts Council recognized the disaster of these benches being removed and the tiles disappearing thus founded the Art Tile Rescue and Restoration Committee. Venice Arts Council has worked with the Department of Recreation and Parks and are grateful for the support of Robert Davis, Venice Beach Superintendent, and the local residents near Ocean Front Walk and in Venice. The replacement of the four missing tiles was funded by the Venice Neighborhood Council.

Venice Arts Council developed and published a book "The Art Tiles of Venice Beach, A Graphic History: 1904 - 2001". This book is a fund-raiser for the project and was sponsored by the local businesses on Ocean Front Walk in Venice and individual supporters. Proceeds from the book raised the funds to pay for the concrete cutting to remove the tiles from the old damaged concrete and to install all the tiles into the sides of the new benches. Book sales will still be raising funds to restore the remaining six benches.

The book is available for \$20 located at:
Beyond Baroque...685 N. Venice Bl...Venice...richard@beyondbaroque.org ! (310)439-1507
Hennessy and Ingalls...300 S. Santa Fe Ave. M..LA 90013....(213)437-2130 ! info@hennessyingalls.com
Just Tantau...5740 W. Adams Bl. LA 90016 (310)392-4646Mystic Journey...1624 Abbott Kinney Bl....Venice..... (310)444-6258
Skylight Books...1818 N. Vermont..LA 90027... (310)660-2360 ! www.skylightbooks.com
Small World Books...1407 Ocean Front Walk, Venice...(310)399-2360 ! mary@smallworldbooks.com
Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) 685 N. Venice Bl....Venice ! debra@SPARCinLA.org (310)822-9560x13
Venice Vintage ..1701 Lincoln Bl... Venice....VeniceVintageParadise.com
!! (310)968-9904 ! or by calling
Emily Winters! ! ! ! Co-founder and Chair ! ! !
Suzanne Thompson ! Co-founder and Chair of the
! Venice Arts Council! ! ! ! Endangered Art Fund (310)306-7372!



Venice Community Housing Board of Directors



Olga Palo and Moe Stavnezer



Moe's Family



Moe was a Pharmacist at Val's Pharmacy

Moe Stavnezer - 1949-2018

Activist, former Beachhead Collective member, and VCH founder, has passed on.

He was Treasurer of Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. Below we quote from their website.

“Moe Stavnezer’s activism in California began as a member of the Venice Town Council and with the passage of Proposition 20 (The Coastal Act) in 1972. He appeared before the Coastal Commission numerous times as an advocate for affordable housing, coastal access, community preservation, and the protection of natural resources. For that work, in 1978, Moe was honored with an “Award of Merit” by the State of California. He was also a founder and board member of two statewide coastal organizations, PACE (People, Access, Coastal Environment) and the League for Coastal Protection that advocated for a variety of issues before the Coastal Commission and in the courts, most especially regarding the Ballona Wetlands.

In the 1980’s, Moe was a founder and board member of Heal the Bay, where he served as Vice President, and the Venice Community Housing Corporation, where he served as President. He also served on various boards of the Liberty Hill Foundation, including the Environmental Justice Board and the Board of Directors. Moe was also a founder of the Santa Monica Fair Housing Alliance, and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights which advocated for and won rent control in that city. In 1987, he was a member of the steering committee in the successful campaign to elect Ruth Galanter to the L.A. City Council. Moe has served on the LALCV board for over 20 years, including five years as President and currently as Treasurer.

Moe graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1963 where he earned a Bachelors degree in Pharmacy and still works as a Pharmacist. He earned a Masters degree in Political Science from California State University, Los Angeles in 1972. In 1992, Moe was selected to participate in the UCLA Community Scholars program where he co-authored a paper on manufacturing products from recycled materials.

MOE STAVNEZER, YOUR SPIRIT IS FREE

by Olga Palo

Moe Stavnezer, Venice resident, dedicated community activist and former Beachhead collective member during the 70s-80s died on December 28, 2017.

Moe came to Venice around 1970. As an energetic community activist, he contributed to the local Venice anti-development, affordable housing activism of those decades. In fact, his true dedication was to preserve Venice as a California coastal community that afforded poor and working class people accessibility to coastal living. In support of that vision,

he also organized local support for the passage of the California Coastal Act which established the California Coastal Commission. He also worked for rental control in Santa Monica.

He was the pharmacist at Val’s Pharmacy on the Windward Circle for at least a decade.

As an avid writer, his articles appeared regularly on the pages of the Beachhead, informing readers of the activities of the many people who, at that time, tried to stem the impending tidal wave threatening to drown the funky kaleidoscope of humanity which was Venice. Moe’s perspective was always an endorsement of diversity, environmental preservation, affordability.

“Venice, your spirit is free” Moe would recognize that graffiti sentiment from an era of people’s struggle in Venice. Now Moe, your spirit is free.

8 • January 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

AI FRANKEN POST MORTEM

By Lisa Robins

As someone who came of age during the 70’s, and moved to LA in the early 80’s, I’m appalled and saddened by the resignation of my favorite senator, Al Franken.

Although I never met him personally, I worked at the “World Famous” Improv on Melrose as a waitress back in the day, and was definitely part of the scene. And oh what a scene it was...many of the top comedy names (to be) were doing their 20 minute sets – Jay Leno, Ric Overton, Bill Maher, Paula Poundstone, Paul Reiser, Jerry Seinfeld, Carol Leifer, Taylor Negron, Jimmy Valley and Jonathan Schmock, Steven Wright, Richard Lewis, Ritch Shydnier, and on and on...

Cocaine was freely flowing, and we partied hard. I was lucky enough to be spared the love of coke (it made my already hyper personality tired), but it was everywhere anyhow, along with everything else. We were at the tail end of the sexual revolution, and we did what we wanted, when we wanted. Flirting was everywhere...it was the game we all played. And it was a relief to be bawdy...to enjoy the era of the “zipless f*ck”.

AIDS had just hit ... and we couldn’t believe what was happening. I used to dance in musicals, and my gay male friends were dropping like flies.

Yet we still believed in the principles of our time. We were not in the 1950’s – we were free, of age – wise, jaded folk. Honesty was my biggest principle...not purity. Acceptance of human urges, thoughts, feelings.

Not that there weren’t problems with this mentality. I never “settled down”, enjoyed a one-on-one, long-term monogamous relationship. Not that I didn’t want to -- it’s just that the few men I wanted to do that with, didn’t want to do that with me. Oh, they liked me...a lot...but not that way. Maybe I didn’t know the rules for how to play the commitment game. Or maybe they were just out

Legalized It: Happy CAnnabis Diy

By Henry Rosebuds

“California Bureau of Cannabis Control, this call may be monitored, how may I hemp you?

I’m looking for a farmacy near me?

“CBCC controls 100 dispensaries, sir. What is your zip code so I can check for the closest outlet...”

Uh-uh. You wanna know where I live? That is bureau-cratc bullshit, man. No way.

“Well, I see from the area code that you are on the west side. Are you holding?”

What?

“May I put you on hold?”

Go for it.

HOLD MUSIC: The Moody Blues’ “Legend of a Mind (Timothy Leary’s Dead)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EXCIWlm1fs>

“Sir? I am unable to find anything in Santa Monica what-soever.”

You don’t say.

“I am showing dispensaries in Oakland, Berkeley, all of Siskiyou County. And I have some outlet stores in San Diego, which, if I’m not mistaken, is within a 100-mile radius of your sector.”

Am I gonna have to deal with long lines?

“Not anymore, sir.”

And it’s free weed, right?

“Every guest receives a first time gift, that’s right.”

Smell the flowers.

“One pinner per customer.”

Cool.

“Or a watermelon kiss.”

That’s cool.

“Imported from Colorado.”

Colorado?

“The state leases a stockpile at a cooperative in Crested Butte Colorado called, Crested Shit. It’s a joint effort to educate Californians over 18 about ending 105 years of Prohibition.”

I read Jack Herer, man...

of my league.

But the point is, we took responsibility for being in rough waters with no raft. You wanted to be those waters....you laughed at the jokes (which were FUN-NY), you looked hot, you danced the dance. We wanted to dance the dance. Matter of fact, the Improv hosted “Dance Night” every Monday in the front room, which was cleared of its usual tables and chairs -- even the coveted round table at the bottom of the stairs, which seated the current crème de la crème. I’d get high, and dance my heart out with stars and stars-to-be, managers and agents, writer/producers, and other actor/waiters, bartenders and general party people. People hugged, kissed, and patted your butt... all the time. All in good fun.

This was the scene Al Franken rose in...only he already was super, super successful, and was in NYC doing SNL -- the coolest show on TV.

The comics I knew were not only funny, but INCREDIBLY, WICKEDLY smart. They not only had to know the issues, but also how the issues would be perceived and related to by their audience, which is generally how they got laughs. Of course, each funny person had a unique angle – but most all were getting laughs by telling the truth.

Al Franken strikes me as a stand-up guy (pun intended, although the reality is that he started his comedy career as a duo with Tom Davis). My friends who worked with him on SNL vouch for his honesty and integrity. He’s married to his college sweetheart, has two kids....and grandkids.

If he tried to get some thrills from a stolen kiss, I just don’t think that’s worth resigning over. Or having your own team (in this case the Dems) asking for your resignation. In my day, that was called “making a pass”, but I don’t even think that’s what this was. And even if it was, you just said no. Now, if someone says f*ck me and I’ll give you this job, or suck my d*ck or you’ll be fired, or grabs you and forces him (or her) self on you...you get the picture...not so good...in fact...really, really bad!

“This is a limited time offer, as Governor Brown leaves the building in November.”

And there’s gonna be like, a long line?

“Not anymore, sir.”

I don’t need a license to re-ups my vapes?

“Not anymore.”

How about for “hash-tag-hash-tag-hash”?

“I believe so.”

(Laughs) I’m just messin’ with ya. Tag!

“That’s very funny. But I will need to know, approximately, your place of residence.”

How about ‘over the border’? In the vicinity. Borders can be tense you know. You should see all the un-housed around here between O.P. and North Snap. There’s a freakin’ Boninville a block from me! Some Baha’i come by in a food truck giving out free burritos on Thursday nights, but otherwise it’s a zip zone, a real nowhere area, know what I mean?

“And where is that again?”

I used to find kind bud down there but now I just walk on the other side of the street.

“Sir, I am showing one business opening soon...on Rose Avenue. Two actually. Make that three. On the border between Venice and Santa Monica. Would you like the GPS?”

NO RESPONSE

“Then is there anything else the Bureau can do for you today?”

Yeah. Where am I calling?

“Gerlach Nevada.”

And what is your name?

“Sunshine.”

So your parents were from the 60s.

“My grandparents were from the 60s, yes.”

Right. Whatever. Okay, thank you Sunshine.

“You are welcome. Have a nice day. You may hang up or press 2 if you’d like to take part in a stoner survey...”

SOUND OF SCREEN DOOR BANGING SHUT

Smoky? Smoky! Here boy...you little smokula you...who’s a good doggie...yes you are. Come on, we’re off to see the wizard of Rose. Wait...where’s your green bandana? Shit, I had it around here somewhere...

But nothing that Franken has been accused of (that I’ve heard of) comes anywhere near that.

The initial complaint was a total joke if you ask me. It’s common to kiss during a rehearsal, and sometimes people French (a bit rude...but certainly not worth resigning! 12 years later...when he was in show biz...on a USO tour for chrissake)! And the picture?! Classic burlesque. The joke is that he can get nowhere near her boobs cause they’re armored by the flax suit.

Let’s not even get into the possible motives of this original “victim”, a former Playboy model who, according to the Washington Post, “appeared semi-regularly on Fox News’s Sean Hannity Show...and voted twice for George Bush”. The other complaints -- taking pictures and copping a feel of a waist, or god forbid, a clothed butt in public!?, I just don’t see how that’s so traumatic, and if it is, maybe you need therapy. Just to put it into perspective, my 90 year old mom tells me that when she was young and hot, if the guys she came in contact with didn’t make a pass, she was insulted. We’ve come a long way, baby. Nowadays, someone can appreciate someone else without making a pass, or either sex can make a pass if they’re the type. And if the passee doesn’t welcome it, just pass on the pass. People still have people by getting naked and having sex. People have urges that don’t always conform to the “rules of society”. They are still going to have the urges. What are we gonna do next? He looked at me, and I know what he was thinking. Leering, a fire-able offense.

Now, before all my feminist friends (of both sexes) throw me off the cliff- let me just say, let’s be real. Back in my day, women fought to be free to have sex and follow our urges without shame. You want to sleep with someone you don’t know? Be careful, but have fun. And we were nothing compared to the gay scene. There, you just could go to a bar and if you’re attracted to someone, just get it on then and there...in the bathroom, back room, out the back door.

And most importantly, if you don’t want to have sex, no matter who he (or she) is, or what he (or she) can do for your career, YOU DON’T. I’m talking about personal power. I’m talking about consent. I suppose you could say Franken’s victims didn’t give consent. They didn’t want to be kissed. But they wanted to be near Al. And that’s who he is. And in my book, who he is ain’t so bad.

I admit I may be biased. My daughter discovered a couple of Franken’s books, Lies: and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, and Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot..., on our bookshelf, and has read them cover to cover. On our road trip to Oregon to see the eclipse, we splurged on the audiobook of his latest, Giant of the Senate, and listened with bated breath for miles and miles as Al regaled us with stories of how his comedy life morphed onto a larger political stage. How he had been advised to hide his humor for fear of political repercussion. We hung on his every observation, every turn of phrase, grateful that he was representing the people of Minnesota -- wishing and hoping he might someday be our president.

I believe that instead of urging him to resign, The Dems should’ve de-muzzled him. His wicked humor could be the only chance we have of recapturing the imagination of the masses. Let him rule with humor, disarm with truth -- instead of all this BS holier than thou crap.

There needs to be a shift in the paradigm of power between men and women. The lopsided balance in the domains of employment, earnings and sheer societal power needs to be addressed and corrected, and I’m excited about the prospect of that revolution. But punishing some of our finest minds for ancient “sexual improprieties” is not the way to achieve those worthy goals. It’s like removing a shiny little leaf on the top of a tree, when it’s the roots that have been constricted and need to be given space to grow and flourish. This action reeks of an opportunistic, self-righteous faction of the Democratic Party throwing their own under the bus in a desperate attempt to take the mantel of the “moral majority”. There’s a puritanical, prudish core that reminds me of Abigail and her friends’ witch hunt in “The Crucible”, a thinly veiled reference to the McCarthy era. A smear campaign ending in death, or the death of many careers -- murdered by a mob mentality. This was a feeding frenzy. I don’t think he should have stepped down. I don’t buy the argument that “we need to take the higher moral ground”, and “how can he keep his authority on such issues as climate change, healthcare, and keep attacking Trump appointees, when he’s been so soiled...I just don’t believe that given the current climate we can have people like that represent us?!” The argument that it’s hypocritical for the Dems to stand by Al Franken while getting angry at the GOP for sexual misconduct is terribly misguided, due to the vast discrepancy of the accusations. I believe he should have gone in front of the Senate Ethics Committee like he said he was going to do, and taken his chances with the facts. I just don’t think any of this was worth losing AL FRANK-EN’s voice in our Senate!



GreenSceneGardens
Garden Maintenance
All Organic No blowers
info@greenscenegardens.com
310.699.6119
“a responsible maintenance company”

A SHOPPING WE WILL GO

marty liboff

Consume, consume, consume
until our day of doom-
We’re constantly told we need to buy
work and slave to buy
buy, buy, buy until we die.
TV and media want you to buy more and more
you’ve become a consumer whore.
A Jag, swimming pool and yacht
makes ya feel like you’re somebody
by what ya got and bought.
The newest i Phone, smart phone and TV
you want to buy everything you see.
Sexy gals, champagne and expensive wine
and fancy places to dine.
Liposuction, plastic surgery & a Lamborghini
makes ya think you can have a model in a bikini.
Ya buy bigger tits and Botox
a nose job and bigger cocks.
We want a mansion in Beverly Hills
then have a heart attack worrying about the bills.
We’ll slave, steal and murder for a buck
there’s never enough so the whole world we fuck.
Our ancestors survived so we could buy worthless
shit and crap
the media twists our minds into a consumer trap.
We’re told we need lots of guys and gals for sex
maybe the world would have been better
if we had been eaten by a T Rex.
Our monkey relatives just needed a banana and a tree
we want mansions and a million dollar toilet to pee.
Shop, shop, shop to ya drop
see all the crap ya bought.
All our money and stuff we think we need
all we need is simple shelter and food for the kids to feed.
Our culture is fucked by Wall Street tellin us to consume
while the environment and earth we doom.
When inside ourselves we need to go
that’s the truth we need to know...

HAPPY NEW YEAR FEAR

marty liboff

It’s another New Year
the world is in so much fear.
Nuclear bombs ready to blow
pollution with nowhere to go
and our leader is such a shmoe.
Global weather change
cows dying home on the range.
Everywhere there’s drought and rains
giant fires, floods and hurricanes.
Forests turn to desert
crops not growin in the bad dirt.
Armies marchin off to war
to avenge some imaginary score.
Diseases and plagues kill so many
starvation even when there’s plenty.
Politicians and rulers rob and lie
while everywhere children die.
The rich won’t care for the poor
leading to revolution and war.
Religious intolerance breeds hatred
leads to wars with millions dead.
The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse ride
the poor and rich have nowhere to hide.
Volcanoes and earthquakes rock the earth
Lucifer laughs with mirth.
We must see everyone as family
act kindly and fatherly and motherly.
Treat each other as a sister and brother
and love one another.
Take care of Mother Earth
she is who gave us birth.
Turning hate to love is the only way
or the earth will end any day...

everybody’s faking by rex butters

blood thirsty christians
and greedy politicians
anemic patricians
abusing their positions
impoverishing policies
threadbare corporate fallacies
easily led minions
with implanted opinions
too busy to bother
can’t pay attention
believe what they tell you
buy what they sell you
living to die
too busy to cry
devastated earth
devastated lives
can’t see the connection
thinking in hives
feast on the pies of lies
that they’re baking
media/leaders/bankers/bleeders
everybody’s faking



some tell

by alan rodman

some tell of high
Himalayan caves
or other lofty
secret places
hidden in sky
over seas of cloud
some name Mount Meru
holy mountain
of the red beacon Arunachala
even on nearby watchful peaks
the compassionate
the bodhisattvas
simple poor quiet holy ones
repose in active creation
emanating global lovingkindness
a deep silence so still
that their own heartbeats sing
in cavern recesses
bringing every day into the twist-
ing worlds
this prayer of peace

9 • January 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

Trees.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
- Joyce Kilmer

step lightly

by alan rodman

step lightly on the earth
you may well listen
for a blossom song
taste the wind
drink this cup of peace
journey forth renew



Azad in Dubai

My son Azad has gone to Dubai
With Zhu, one of his artists.
I tell him: “Go to Khalifa Tower
And see if from its roof
You can spot the lights of Iran.”

He was born in Santa Monica
And every day I took him to the beach
To tell him the tales of Sinbad the Sailor.

Now he has gone to the Persian Gulf
And I remain in Santa Monica.
May he sit by the Gulf
And cry on my behalf.

Majid Naficy
December 4, 2017

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 4 PM – PACIFIC COAST POETRY SERIES PUBLICATION PARTY FOR CARINE TOPAL WITH GUEST POET LAURE-ANNE BOSSELAAR – Carine Topal debuts her new book, the third publication of the Pacific Coast Poetry Series/Beyond Baroque Books, In Order of Disappearance. These poems, Dorothy Barresi says, “live in the present, asking with their fierce beauty if we are paying attention to the world, if we are ready to tell the truth.” Carine’s previous collections include God as Thief (The Amagansett Press), and In the Heaven of Never Before (Moon Tide Press). Carine now lives in La Quinta, CA, and conducts poetry and memoir workshops in the Palm Springs and Los Angeles area.

Laure-Anne Bosselaar, one of the West’s most beloved and treasured poets, has several books of poetry, including Small Gods of Grief, which won the Isabella Gardner Prize. The American Library association selected A New Hungeras Notable Book for 2008. With her husband, the late Kurt Brown, she edited the anthology Night Out: Poems about Hotels, Motels, Restaurants and Bars. Laure-Anne grew up in Belgium and now lives in Santa Barbara.

CELEBRATING JAMES BALDWIN
HERE AND NOW AT SKIRBALL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018, 2:00 PM

The Skirball and LA’s oldest literary arts organization, Beyond Baroque—celebrating its fiftieth anniversary—present an afternoon of readings and discussion focused on the life, contributions, and legacy of writer-activist James Baldwin. Acclaimed actor, producer, and political activist Alfre Woodard hosts the program, which includes remarks by LA poet laureate Robin Coste Lewis and performances of Baldwin’s work by actor Jussie Smollet (Empire).

Books featuring Baldwin’s work available for purchase. A reception follows the program.



**DON'T LET THIS
HAPPEN TO YOU**



JOIN THE UNION!

Los Angeles Tenants Union
West Side Local Meetings
1st and 3rd Wednesday; 7-8:30pm
Oakwood Recreation Center
767 California Ave., Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618
Solidarity Casework hotline: 213-986-8266

Get to know your neighbors!
Get to know your rights!



Krista Schwimmer
January 31st, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
The Mystic Journey Bookstore
1624 Abbot Kinney Boulevard

Krista Schwimmer will be signing her poetry chapbook, “The Lady Still Resides Here.” In this debut book, inspired in part by the quirky, artistic, gritty life in Venice, the author uses the poetry of place to explore the landscapes of her mind. A walk along Ocean Park recalls favorite, dead poets; the passing of a raven invokes an Ancient Celtic Goddess. Following the book signing, there will be refreshments and an open mic where guests can read a poem. FREE.

**Writing for Bliss: A Seven-Step Plan for
Telling Your Story and Transforming
Your Life**

January 6th – 12 – 2 p.m.
Mystic Journey Bookstore
624 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
Venice, CA
310.399.7070
Register online: <https://www.mysticjourneybookstore.com/events/writing-for-bliss-workshop> Price: \$45

Writing in The New Year! Have you always wanted to write, but were unsure how to start? Come get inspired by author Diana Raab for an introduction to writing.

This two-hour workshop will inspire you to put together the story, poem or memoir you always wanted to write. You will be gently guided through the writing process and learn to pay attention to the messages of your heart by tapping into your authentic voice. Join Diana Raab on the journey of self-discovery that cultivates your path to bliss. Appropriate for all levels. The workshop will inspire you to express yourself through the written word in a profound and meaningful way. Guaranteed that you will leave with an array of writing ideas and inspirations. Bring a journal and pen.

It’s highly recommended you purchase Diana’s book for this workshop: Writing for Bliss, which can be purchased here: <http://a.co/7TOada>

STOP SENIOR SCAMS ACTING PROGRAM

Wednesday, January 10 at 12:30 pm
Israel Levin Senior Center
201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice

The Stop Senior Scams Acting Program mission is to educate older adults and the community about Senior Fraud Awareness and Prevention through dramatization of various scams against seniors with song, dance and humorous skits. All skits are performed by seniors who volunteer their time to empower audiences to take a stance against Senior Fraud. FREE

For more info contact Sherri Kadovitz (310)396-0205, skadovitz@jfsla.org

**NO DEJES QUE ESTO
TE PASE A TI**



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

Sindicato de Inquilinos de Los Ángeles
Reuniones de la Sección Oeste
1er y 3er miércoles; 7-8:30pm
Center de Recreación Oakwood
767 California Ave, Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618
Línea de apoyo solidario de casos: 213-986-8266

Conozca a sus vecinos!
Conozca sus derechos!



LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

Jan 13 Sat 2pm MESS- Dancer Paula Perlman interview at 212 Pier Santa Monica FREE <http://www.laughtears.com/mess.html>

Jan 14 Sunday 7pm MAKE IT FUNKY at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd - Gerry Fialka hosts an evening of live music and rare film clips of James Brown, Sly Stone and PFunk. Featuring SHAWN ATKINS at 8pm with a dynamic solo set evoking Marvin Gaye, Curtis Mayfield, and Al Green. Super Heavy Funk jam at 8:45. Free your mind and your ass will follow. Free.

Jan 17 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at beyond baroque 681 venice blvd venice ca FREE <http://venicewake.org/Events/current.html>

Jan 22 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free <http://www.cafe212pier.com/>

Jan 27, SAT - 8th annual POETRY OF VENICE PHOTOGRAPHY - at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE, 2-4pm: panel discussion , 4-6pm: Opening for PHOTO SHOW in Gallery, free admission Para-media ecologist Gerry Fialka hosts a panel discussion of award-winning Venice photographers, who explore landscapes of the human psyche and push pictorial representation beyond! Examine the trance-inducing transforming power of cameras in our community by way of McLuhan. With B MEADE, MARGARET MOLLOY, DAVE HEALEY <http://www.davidhealeyphotography.com/> (Time Magazine, NY & LA Times), TODD VON HOFFMAN, TRISH ELLEBRACHT and more
Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/303302340078160/>

Jan 28 Sunday, 7pm 15th Annual Venice Film Fest at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE Celebrate Venice with rare film clips (including never seen 1947 Venice film footage) and live music. Facebook=<http://www.facebook.com/events/1966842396864835>

Feb 6 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html> Read New article on WAKE 22nd year <http://argonautnews.com/decrypting-finnegans-wake/>”Finnegans Wake is more than a book...it contains the world. So owning it is like having the essence of everything. I feel like it might just as well be a Sumerian text.” - Patti Smith

Suzy & Brad in Venice
Public · Hosted by
Suzy Williams - Singer/Songwriter
Sunday, 7 January 2018 at 20:00–22:00
Surfside Venice
23 Windward Ave, Venice, California 90291

www.unurban.com

Weekly Events at UnUrban

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

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

Thursdays: Live Music Showcase* @7pm

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

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

Saturdays: Live Music Showcase* @7pm

January 6 –Showcase from open mic.

January 13 – Folk Rock n Blues with Stef & Steve and other guests.

January 20 – Peter Quentin Variety Night

January 27 – A little indie night music.

Ongoing Events

OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

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

COMPUTERS

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

FOOD

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

KIDS

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

MUSIC

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

YOGA AND DANCE

- Mondays 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free
- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson’s, Donation, Electric Lodge

L A L O U V E R . C O M

Heather Gwen Martin – Currents
THROUGH 6 JANUARY 2018

Heather Gwen Martin continues to evolve color and spatial relationships in her lyrical abstract paintings. The exhibition features more than a dozen new works in bold and subdued palettes, from small-scale intimate pieces to her largest painting to date, approximately 8 x 10 ft. (2.4 x 3 m).

Deborah Butterfield – Three Sorrows
THROUGH 6 JANUARY 2018

For Deborah Butterfield, found materials are a constant source of inspiration. In her recent horse sculptures, Butterfield incorporates marine debris from the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami to create some of her most powerful and poignant works to date.

ELEMENTAL
24 JANUARY – 4 MARCH 2018

The exhibition brings together sculptures by established and emerging artists, whose works focus on essential materiality and form.

Featuring Peter Alexander, Carl Andre, Josh Callaghan, Richard Deacon, Toshikatsu Endo, Richard Long, Nathan Mabry, John McCracken, Richard Nonas, Yoko Ono, Adrian Paules, Fabrice Samyn, Peter Shelton, and John Zane Zappas.

Henri Matisse – Works on Paper, 1913-1948
24 JANUARY – 4 MARCH 2018

We are pleased to present a rare selection of works on paper by celebrated artist Henri Matisse. Created between 1913-1948, these etchings, lithographs and linocuts reflect the artist’s devotion to figuration.

Urban Forest – continued from page 6

again, new trees cannot replace mature canopy cover.

In November of 2017, 11th district councilman Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz, the Councilmember of the 5th District, motioned that the “the City Council instruct the Urban Forestry Division to work with the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety to convene and consult with stakeholder groups including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, arborists, community groups, environmental groups like Tree People, members of Community Forestry Advisory Committee and the Mayor’s expert biodiversity group, and report back within 75 days regarding recommendations for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance, including but not limited to: determining methods to preserve overall native tree cover and habitat areas, limiting damage to trees retained during development, and possibly adding protected trees based on circumference and species notability.”

This motion, seconded by San Fernando Valley councilmember Bob Blumenfield, is a great first step to preserving what’s left of our urban forest, but it’s not enough, and it’s future is uncertain.

In the meanwhile here’s what you can do:

Get involved with tree groups such as Tree People.

You can start by going online to <http://arbordaynow.volunteermatch.org/> to find a group in your area.

Speak up to save the tree. Talk to the owner or developer or city official and make it known that you are objecting to the cutting down of a healthy, mature tree. When you see a tree getting cut down, the first thing to do is talk to the person doing the cutting and find out why it’s being cut down. It could be damaged or diseased, or it might just be getting cut down because it’s encroaching on a structure. It may even be for aesthetic reasons such as a blocked view. In that case, it’s important to point out that many neighbors share the view of that tree, and see if that makes any difference to the owner.

In other cases, the trees are being lost over spec projects. The new owners never know that they had a magnificent, mature tree on their property.

Architects can incorporate mature trees into the overall design of the home. Great homes can be built around majestic, mature trees. There is nothing more beautiful than having a mature tree on your property. Yes, they require care and upkeep, but the benefits far outweigh the chores.

Plans for a “green-roof,” which is a vegetative layer grown on a rooftop, can be substituted for roof decks.

The green-roof has been used for centuries to protect roofing membranes from extreme temperature changes. In the summer, a green-roof provides shade to the building from solar radiation, and once again, through evapotranspiration can reduce if not eliminate any heat gain. Keep Venice cool? Build a green-roof!

In the winter, the green-roof provides insulation and decreases the amount of energy required to heat the building.

Likewise, building off-ground, as can be found in



older craftsman style bungalows, keeps homes cooler in summertime and provides ample drainage for storm water. Discourage the use of concrete flooring and sinking “basements” or recessed patios. Basements are starting to become a trend in newer California homes, but the environmental impact of the construction, months of the noise polluting ground water removal process adding over a year to the construction schedule (and what is the longterm effect of the removal of all that groundwater?), and long-term effects of the concrete footprint on storm water management all need intensive project-by-project discussion.

Take a look at what Santa Monica has done to raise awareness and maintain its urban forest. <https://www.smgov.net/Portals/UrbanForest/contentWithSidebar.aspx?id=5462>

Of course, Santa Monica is not L.A., but it would help L.A. to take a page from their playbook, which is quite extensive, and anyone who’s been to Santa Monica knows how lush and beautiful their urban forest is.

Lastly, in an attempt to increase awareness about the ongoing degradation of our Urban Forest throughout the City of Los Angeles, a small group of concerned Venetians have been working together to help establish a comprehensive plan to measure progress towards the goal of establishing and preserving these life giving wonders.

Trees are a common resource. Their health and preservation is a matter of concern for the community at large, not just the property owner, and even though current laws may not as yet provide them with the protection they deserve, we must try to save them for the benefit of all living things.



GEOBENDER.COM

Location Guide

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

