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LA Tenants Union Rallies to Save the First Baptist Church

By Jacob Woocher.

Jacob Woocher is a member of the Westside Local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union.

On Wednesday, December 4 of 2019, the Westside Local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU) held an evening rally with the Save Venice coalition outside of the First Baptist Church of Venice. We hope this is just the beginning of a continuing partnership to fight the forces of gentrification, capitalism, and white supremacy in Venice.

The efforts by billionaire heir Jay Penske to convert this historic church into a mansion for his family must be seen as a further declaration of war on the Black community in Oakwood. We in the tenants union recognize that community and cultural institutions like the First Baptist Church can be just as important to tenants as stable housing is. In fact, the two are intimately related: clearing out these types of institutions make it all that much easier for developers and gentrifiers to continue their settler colonial project of an exclusively white Venice.

The fewer remnants of Oakwood's Black history remain, the more the developers want to invest, the less stable low-rent housing becomes for Venice's Black and Latinx and otherwise vulnerable population.

We are particularly disappointed in the role that City Councilmember Mike Bonin has played, first saying he would do all he could to save the church; then facilitating a meeting with the Penskes where all that was proposed was a plaque to commemorate the church's significance; and finally literally walking out of a meeting with Black elders of the community.

This roughly tracks with our experience with Bonin during Patricia Sanchez' struggle against the Wurstkuche sausage bros trying to evict her through the Ellis Act. We were in communication with Bonin towards the beginning, and he even sent a letter to the landlord trying to persuade him to halt the eviction. Ultimately, however, Bonin's office offered no more support than that, despite being fully aware of our protest actions at the restaurant and the Mello Act issues that would come before the various government agencies.

The politicians will not save us, only an organized and militant community can do that. In the tenants union we're seeking to build just that, and are honored to work with the Save Venice and Venice Equity Alliance folks to organize this protest.

Venice is not for sale!



photo of Venice Sign above at night by Robert Tusler.

Horace Allen And The First Baptist Church Of Venice

By Jon Wolff

The First Baptist Church of Venice is an historic African-American church in the heart of Venice. This church was founded over a century ago to serve the citizens of the Black Community of Venice. The building that housed the congregation since the 1960s sits at the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice. Many members of the congregation still reside in Venice, with descendants of those who built the church still very active in the Community.

The church building was purchased in 2017 by a wealthy White couple, Jay Penske and Elaine Irwin. The Penskes have planned, for two years now, to gut the church and turn it into their own private mega-mansion. The Penskes have no regard for the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice or the history of the Black Community that built it. They intend to treat the building as they would any other piece of property. One may wonder how it was possible for an historic Black church, with a profound legacy for the People of Venice, to be sold to a couple who have no connection to Venice at all.

Meet Horace Allen. "Bishop" Horace Allen,

as he calls himself, was the last pastor of the church. It was he who sold the building to the Penskes. It was he who saw the church as merely an asset to be traded in the real estate marketplace.

Mr. Allen became pastor of the church in 2006. At the time, the church was a familiar part of Venice. Nothing was owed on the building or the property. And the congregation had been blessed with honorable previous pastors, such as E.L. Holmes, for whom the intersection at Westminster and 7th is named.

In 2011, Horace Allen's adult son was arrested for misconduct with an underage girl while he was serving as a youth pastor in the church. Horace Allen took out loans on the church property to pay for his son's legal defense.

The Bylaws of the First Baptist Church of Venice would have prohibited Allen from taking loans without the proper authority of the Trustees of the church. But in 2012, Allen obtained a loan of \$400,000. In mid 2014, Allen took out a loan of \$800,000. And in late 2014, another loan of \$105,000. In early 2015, he borrowed \$980,000. In October 2015, Allen called for an unofficial meeting to announce his plans to sell

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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.

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NEW STATEWIDE RENT CONTROL LAW

Here is the Legislative Council's digest of the new statewide rent control law, taking effect January 1 2020. Assembly Bill No. 1482

CHAPTER 597

An act to add and repeal Sections 1946.2, 1947.12, and 1947.13 of the Civil Code, relating to tenancy.

[Approved by Governor October 08, 2019.
Filed with Secretary of State October 08, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1482, Chiu. Tenant Protection Act of 2019: tenancy: rent caps.

Existing law specifies that a hiring of residential real property, for a term not specified by the parties, is deemed to be renewed at the end of the term implied by law unless one of the parties gives written notice to the other of that party's intention to terminate. Existing law requires an owner of a residential dwelling to give notice at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of termination, or at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of termination if any tenant or resident has resided in the dwelling for less than one year, as specified. Existing law requires any notice given by an owner to be given in a prescribed manner, to contain certain information, and to be formatted, as specified.

This bill would, with certain exceptions, prohibit an owner, as defined, of residential real property from terminating a tenancy without just cause, as defined, which the bill would require to be stated in the written notice to terminate tenancy when the tenant has continuously and lawfully occupied the residential real property for 12 months, except as provided. The bill would require, for certain just cause terminations that are curable, that the owner give a notice of violation and an opportunity to cure the violation prior to issuing the notice of termination. The bill, if the violation is not cured within the time period set forth in the notice, would authorize a 3-day notice to quit without an opportunity to cure to be served to terminate the tenancy. The bill would require, for no-fault just cause terminations, as specified, that the owner, at the owner's option, either assist certain tenants to relocate, regardless of the tenant's income, by providing a direct payment of one month's rent to the tenant, as specified, or waive in writing the payment of rent for the final month of the tenancy, prior to the rent becoming due. The bill would require the actual amount of relocation assistance or rent waiver provided to a tenant that fails to vacate after the expiration of the notice to terminate the tenancy to be recoverable as damages in an action to recover possession. The bill would provide that if the owner does not provide relocation assistance, the notice of termination is void. The bill would except certain properties and circumstances from the application of its provisions. The bill would require an owner of residential property to provide prescribed notice to a tenant of the tenant's rights under these provisions. The bill would not apply to residential real property subject to a local ordinance requiring just cause for termination adopted on or before September 1, 2019, or to residential real property subject to a local ordinance requiring just cause for termination adopted or amended after September 1, 2019, that is more protective than these provisions, as defined. The bill would void any waiver of the rights under these provisions. The bill would repeal these provisions as of January 1, 2030.

Existing law governs the hiring of residential dwelling units and requires a landlord to provide specified notice to tenants prior to an increase in rent. Existing law, the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, prescribes statewide limits on the application of local rent control with regard to certain properties. That act, among other things, authorizes an owner of residential real property to establish the initial and all subsequent rental rates for a dwelling or unit that meets specified criteria, subject to certain limitations.

This bill would, until January 1, 2030, prohibit an owner of residential real property from, over the course of any 12-month period, increasing the gross rental rate for a dwelling or unit more than 5% plus the percentage change in the cost of living, as defined, or 10%, whichever is lower, of the lowest gross rental rate charged for the immediately preceding 12 months, subject to specified conditions. The bill would prohibit an owner of a unit of residential real property from increasing the gross rental rate for the unit in more than 2 increments over a 12-month period, after the tenant remains in occupancy of the unit over a 12-month period. The bill would exempt certain properties from these provisions. The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to submit a report, on or before January 1, 2030, to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of these provisions. The bill would provide that these provisions apply to all rent increases occurring on or after March 15, 2019. The bill would provide that in the event that an owner increased the rent by more than the amount specified above between March 15, 2019, and January 1, 2020, the applicable rent on January 1, 2020, shall be the rent as of March 15, 2019, plus the maximum permissible increase, and the owner shall not be liable to the tenant for any corresponding rent overpayment. The bill would authorize an owner who increased the rent by less than the amount specified above between March 15, 2019, and January 1, 2020, to increase the rent twice within 12 months of March 15, 2019, but not by more than the amount specified above. The bill would void any waiver of the rights under these provisions.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires the owner of an assisted housing development in which there will be an expiration of rental restrictions to, among other things, provide notice of the proposed change to each affected tenant household residing in the assisted housing development subject to specified procedures and requirements, and to also provide specified entities notice and an opportunity to submit an offer to purchase the development prior to the expiration of the rental restrictions.

This bill would authorize an owner of an assisted housing development, who demonstrates, under penalty of perjury, compliance with the provisions described above with regard to the expiration of rental restrictions, to establish the initial unassisted rental rate for units without regard to the cap on rent increases discussed above, but would require the owner to comply with the above cap on rent increases for subsequent rent increases in the development. The bill would authorize an owner of a deed-restricted affordable housing unit or an affordable housing unit subject to a regulatory restriction contained in an agreement with a government agency limiting rental rates that is not within an assisted housing development to establish the initial rental rate for the unit upon the expiration of the restriction, but would require the owner to comply with the above cap on rent increases for subsequent rent increases for the unit. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030. The bill would void any waiver of the rights under these provisions. By requiring an owner of an assisted housing development to demonstrate compliance with specified provisions under penalty of perjury, this bill would expand the existing crime of perjury and thus would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The Full Text of AB1482 is available here:

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20190200AB1482



Childhood Memory from the 60's

By John McNally

It is always dark under there, old and strange, somehow feeling in itself like a living thing. The pilings are like an ancient forest breathing and moaning. Even a good distance from the shore the wet spray fills the air. The scarier parts of being under there are the people, the so called bums, winos, and hoboes that reside under there. In some places down there we saw areas that were totally furnished with carpets, a bed, pictures hanging on a piling. Home sweet home? Some of these guys we knew, many were unfriendly, and especially to us kids and we had to be careful to keep our distance from most of them. However in the day time they were usually out scavenging for thrown out treasure's or pan handling for wine money, so then we would have an uninterrupted path to the catwalk, which leads to the secret opening.

I always hated the catwalk even more than the ride we have to enter, once we get in, because on the other side the hatch opens into one of those spinning rides, you know, round and round and round, ad nauseam. Anyway, as we walk along the narrow shaky boards the catwalk rises higher and higher above the sea. Roaring waves below crash into broken pilings with ferocity. The catwalk was so old and rickety. Every time we did this I felt like I would fall right through one of those broken down boards that were holding us up. As we shuffled along, way up high and far from the shore in a place not many ever see. I wondered; "Is this worth it?"

Finally, there it was the secret doorway to the top side of the huge pier. We crawl through the little hatch above us to the back end of that amusement park ride. As we crawled through we jump behind a group of tourist who had just given their tickets to the attendant out front. Following this crowd we enter a large round room with all the other folks. The room begins to spin around slowly. Then faster and faster, like some kind of endurance test for astronauts. As we stick to the wall the floor lowers until we are all up in the air. Not my favorite park ride, but it is the one we had to go through in order to get into the amusement park.

Today is no different than any other day walking out of that spinning room, I head to a trash can because I'm about to get sick. The reward for all this; we are in the middle of Pacific Ocean Park! The bright sunlight and laughter, fun rides, the smell of hot dogs and caramel corn is the exact opposite of where we just came from, the dark underbelly of the gigantic pier, a very different kind of amusement park below. But for us kids, both were free!

You Can't Stop Change

By Mike Bravo

Gawd. That gentrification mantra annoys the hell out of me.

I've been wanting to write about this for a long time. I heard it a number of times in the beginning years of my anti-gentrification activism, but the empty adage finally got to me when I was at a West LA Planning Commission speaking defending La Fiesta Brava from displacement (circa 2016.) As I recall it was the original building owner's grandchildren and a couple other entitled gentry making their appeal in favor of displacing La Fiesta Brava to the commission.

"You can't stop change any more than you can stop the suns from setting."

Or some bullshit like that. It's always the beneficiaries of gentrification saying it too. Whether it's developers, property owners gouging long time businesses forcing them to close, gentrification apologists, your average closet racist, or other property gangsters who financially benefit from displacing Black, Brown, and other low income residents of all backgrounds, this is their favorite go-to mantra. And of course they would use it, no one has ever challenged their beloved mantra. Let it be known that the emperor has no clothes and the "inevitable change" gentrification mantra is meritless.

Gentrification agents like to declare this "inevitable force" right before they give a systemic racism reinforcing decision or appeal. "You can't stop change." It's always delivered in pompous or patronizing spir-

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it accompanied by a tone of disingenuous empathy. They wield it as though its Mjölmir (Thor's hammer) or some other force of nature with the intention of giving the impression that it's an unstoppable power. Drunk in their privilege they akin themselves to demigods. They are only godly enough to show us the mighty "change-is-inevitable hammer (or train)" yet they are still naïve mortals that have no control over it and have no choice but to yield to its mighty power, or so they act. Of course, they would never admit to this.

These gentrification proponents are "really sorry" though, if they could stop this implied inevitable force of nature they surely would. But they "can't" so "regrettably" they are "forced to" make a shitty decision and go along with the path of destruction and displacement. But let's keep it 100. These people are fully conscious of the heartless trend they are partaking in when they do this.

When I contemplate the true sense of the adage in critique I think of true poderios, true natural forces and processes. Change is: Birth and death, night and day, ebb and flow of the ocean tide, waters carving out rocks over thousands of years, volcanoes making islands, earthquakes making things fall crumble.. THAT is inevitable change. I will tell you what is not inevitable or unstoppable: when LAPD disproportionately targets and murders Black and Brown people; when low income and traditional Venetians of color are targeted with broken windows policies; when gang injunctions are implemented in neighborhoods that do not merit them; when that developer turns a triple duplex affordable units to a single family dwelling and doesn't replace them; when that neighborhood council member, city staff, or area planning director co-signs or facilitates the shenanigans of the latter, when the city council won't enforce the Mello Act, when generational families get displaced from the community they created, etc.

Those are not inevitable forces. They are an accumulation of human decisions. The people reinforcing these unfavorable social scenarios have names, addresses, and businesses. They are not gods evoking unstoppable powers and inevitable realities. Like Leonidas' spear that flies to cut Xerxes face so it is that these culprits high and low can get touched. Let us remember our power to affect change. So as we steer Venice away from gentrification culture and toward one of equity, justice, and accountability, as we restore balance to the Venice force, as the unrighteous newcomers whine and move away, we shall remind them..

You Can't Stop Change.



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Materials for the History of Venice of America

By Arnold Springer Ph. D

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Venice Boardwalk People Photos by Gerry Fialka,
35mm film developed by Dave Healey (no digital),
Feb 1, Saturday, 2pm - 6pm, 10th annual POETRY OF VENICE PHOTOGRAPHY show at Beyond Baroque

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"...Every town, like every person, has spirit, and if we haven't that spirit, it is for us to create that spirit." - **Abbot Kinney**

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Review by Sue Kaplan | *Local Venetian* of over 20 years. UCLA graduate with a Master's in library science focusing on Special Collections and the History of the Book | July 03, 2019.

"The inclusion of original Mongolian art gives the text a dimension that transcends time and space."

Steve Simmons | *Australian tourist in Venice* | June 08, 2019



AUTHOR: Arnold Springer, Ph.D. (UCLA, '72); Emeritus Professor of Russian History California State University, Long Beach 1968-2004. Resident of Venice for 55 years; well-known community activist with Venice Town Council, Neighborhood Council, and the Beachhead newspaper.

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History of Venice of America Series, Book Number Two Materials for the Popular History of Venice 1850 - 1939

Everyone who has lived in Venice for more than a few months has an opinion of its character and history. However, very few, even those of us who have lived here for a half-century or more have a living memory of our area before 1939. Dr Springer has exhumed these memories in three books spanning the period from 1850 to 1939 comprising over 1500 pages of well documented "memories" organized into volumes or chapters each covering a separate subject. Book Two includes New Venice or Venice on the Pacific, South Santa Monica and Ocean Park as well as the surrounding areas of Santa Monica, Ballona and Sawtelle. Separate volumes in Book Two cover the area's amusements, art, curiosities, and vice. Brief epilogues in each volume bring the reader up to the present day.

The Venice History Project has been compiled by Dr Springer, Professor of History at California State University Long Beach Emeritus, and published by the Ulan Bator Foundation. Book Two, which is now available is a work of beauty—the paper it's printed on is carefully chosen and delightful to touch—the graphics and photos contribute to the impact of the book. It is indeed a work of art. Books Three and Four

are in the final stages of preparation.

All content has been researched in depth drawing on extant publications of the time including the Venice Vanguard, the Evening Outlook, the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Herald and U.S. Census records of our communities.

A typical vignette from the volume on Santa Monica as recorded in the Evening Outlook of January 21, 1905 follows:

"Mrs. Margaret Jacoby was found dead in a hovel just off Utah Avenue. She had been living there for some time but was in good health. She was 55 and worked for a time for S.V. Sound, the bootblack. Those who knew her say she was addicted to liquor and tobacco.

Several days later, at an inquest, her daughter from Los Angeles showed up but did not appear grief stricken and only wanted the several rings on her fingers."

I am a board member of the Ulan Bator Foundation and have had a very minor role in its activities from the beginning, including the preparation of the Venice History Project generally and Book Two particularly. Therefore, I know the hard work and creativity that has gone into its production. Book Two can be viewed at Small World of Books and ordered there. It is an invaluable contribution to Venice history and its worth will only increase with time.

Chuck Bloomquist
Venice resident since 1959
Beachhead volunteer 1977 -1981

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L.A. NATIVES

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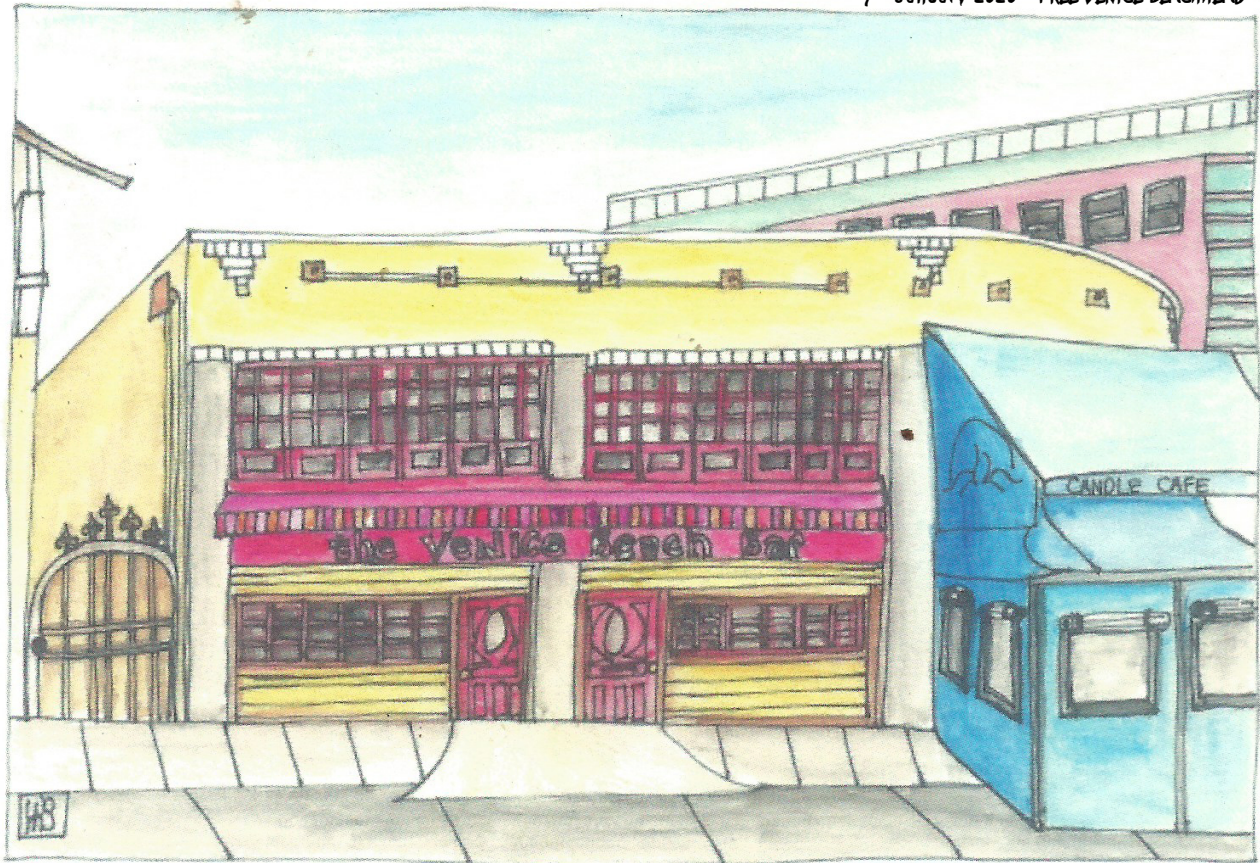


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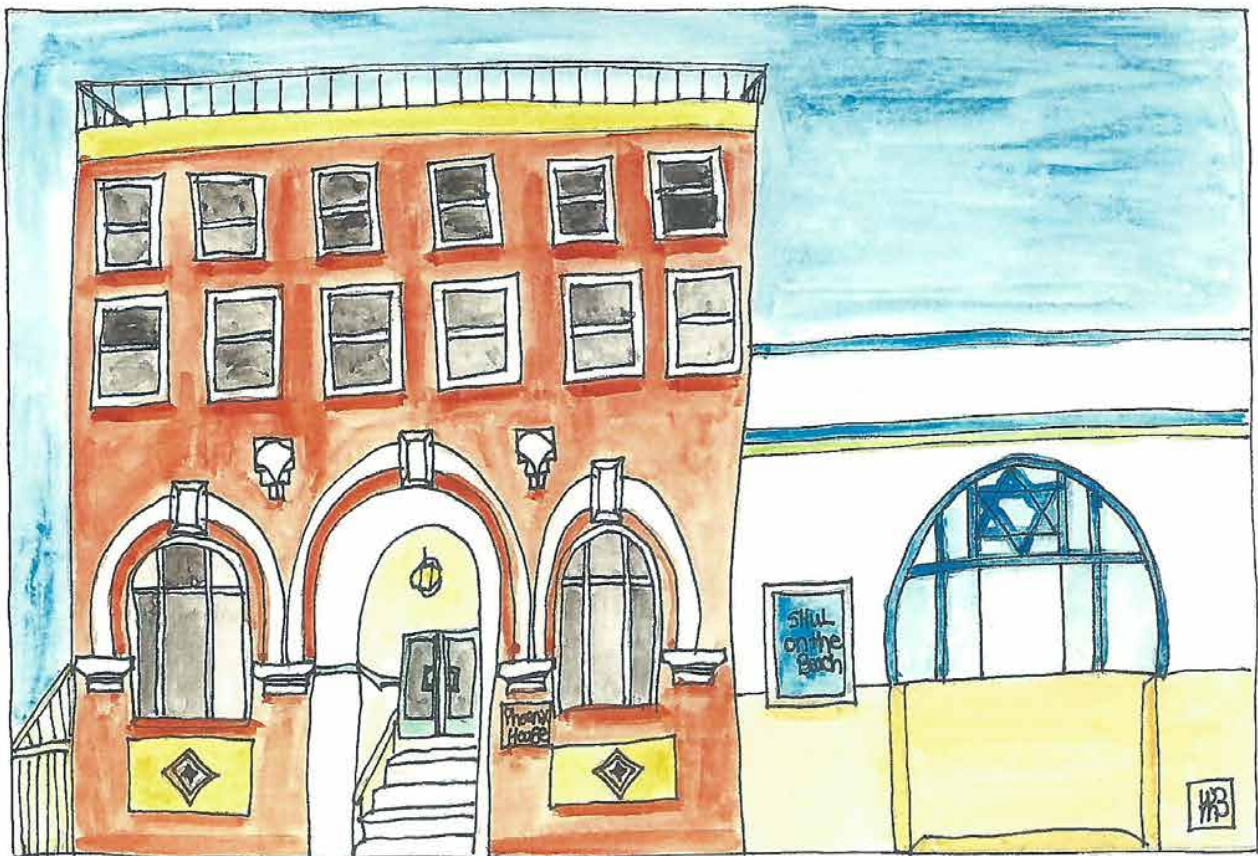


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Drawings by Wendy Brown on the Ocean Front. Below is the Shul on the Beach. Above is the Venice Beach Bar.



Wendy Brown
#1/50

Get Ready For A Roaring '20s

By Hank Rosenfeld

Last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. T.S. Eliot

Dear Fellow Beachheads,

Hey! Are you as excited about the new decade as I am? Because I'm convinced the 2020s will be the best decade of the century! (I hear you saying, "Well, they couldn't be worse than the first two decades!")

Remember the 1920s? Nobody does. Not even Jimmy Carter. My mother used to call them, "Those dear dead days beyond recall." But did you know, the 1920s were not only the first decade to get a nickname – "The Roaring '20s!" "The Jazz Age!" – but they were a time that transformed this country forever with incredible cultural leaps? The air was filled with fresh radio waves. Newspapers and magazines were king. And these were the media responsible for publicizing a never-experienced before explosion of art and music: mind-bending artwork and body-bending sounds. Human consciousness evolved. Females became "flappers," taboo-breaking, freewheeling spirits. They hung out with a variety of fedora-wearing gentlemen and drank illegal booze until dawn in "speak-easy" establishments (alcohol was outlawed from 1920 to 1932). The first independent American woman lived in her own apartment, emancipated, sexually free. She danced the night away, in short(er) skirts, alongside another new invention, the "jukebox." She sat in dark booths smoking, contemplating jazz and James Joyce's Ulysses (1922).

It was a decade where consumers bought the latest refrigerator (In the '70s, my oldest relatives called it the "ice box"), washing machine, electric razor, and a dazzling new instant camera. Modernist Poets were already sensing the emptiness of western souls in the Wasteland (1922). The new "Dada" art movement grew wild out of antiwar outrage: in World War One (1914-18), death came from the sky for the first time in history. 1920s artists needed something as outrageous as that madness, so came up with mad, absurdist, shockingly creative works of art. Dadaists were original thinkers, evolving into dreamy Surrealists and practitioners of automatic writing – was this decade dense or what? They dreamed big. In 1924, André Breton wrote an antifascist/surrealistic manifesto, and asked: "Can't the dream be used in solving the fundamental problems of life?" (The nightmare of the Depression, October, 1929, lasted the entire next decade.)

Now, isn't it time to roar back, a hundred years later? You may say I'm a dreamer. And you're not the only one. But when I think of the alternative, this has to be the best of all possible decades!

"Hello!", your eyes roll again. "Like I said, couldn't be worse than the previous two."

Okay. Yeah. You're right. Forget about it; I must be kidding myself. After all, who hasn't been beat down by the "low, dishonest" decades of this farcically disastrous century? The deep dive into my own private rabbit hole began on December 12, 2000, the day of "Bush v Gore." (Of course, everything since 2001 has been like never-ending mindlessness training.

So how about a "Boring '20s"? An unexciting time period. A resurgence of mellow. Where things get really quiet...shhh...maybe they'll

go away. Because I can't spend another tenth of a century in full-frontal-lobe panic attack mode! Can you, dear Beachheads?

Perhaps we can let go of those decades. Continue to take deep breaths, yoga, anger management, and the art of aging responsibly. And, if we maintain our freedom, have a shot. Imagine the technological advances of the 2020s: Cures for diseases (old and new diseases), more people and politicians taking action against climate damage, new moves to end poverty and homelessness. Just to name a few. Cowless porters! "A clean windshield, and a shoeshine!" (Firesign Theater reference) Creation of a new art, ala Dada, to match the madness coming down. And think of how many billions of minds will be enlightened when the ETs introduce whatever-they-are to us. And some, no doubt, see a '20s 2.0. The most digitally-accelerated decade ever – at least until the '30s...

In 1920, F. Scott Fitzgerald published an article called "Gatsby's Girls."

"It's all life is," he wrote. "Just going 'round kissing people."

Ten years of that please! Plus, one additional change? Something everyone can do. Say, "Twenty-twenty," instead of "Two-thousand-and-twenty"? Who's got time? Every new decade passes faster than any we've lived before.

The end



D.O.T. Marceo

D.O.T. Marceo

D.O.T. Marceo

D.O.T. Marceo



Three Sholem Community Leaders Celebrate 250 Trips Around the Sun; 200 Years of Activism!

Honored with Commendations by

Senator Ben Allen and Congressmember Karen Bass

On Saturday, December 7th, the secular Jewish Sholem Community hosted "MAGIC, MUSIC & MENTSHN: A Birthday Celebration & Fundraiser." Three community leaders - Hershl Hartman (90 yrs old), Sheila McCoy (90) and Jan Goodman (70) - were honored for their decades of service to Sholem and other progressive organizations and causes.

Commendations from California State Senator Ben Allen and Congressmember Karen Bass were presented to each celebrant honoring their "commitment and contributions as a leader and advocate for education, peace, economic equity, democracy and social justice in the community and the world." (Senator Allen represents the 26th Senate District, which includes Santa Monica where Goodman resides and the event took place. Congressmember Bass represents the 37th Congressional District, which includes the Los Angeles neighborhoods where Hartman and McCoy reside, and Culver City, where Sholem is based.)

Tributes were given to Hartman by Caroline Luce, Associate Director of the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies; to McCoy by Doreen Gehry Nelson, Professor of Design-Based Learning at Art Center College of Design; and to Goodman by Greg Palast, filmmaker and investigative journalist for the BBC, The Guardian and The Nation; among others. The sold out event also featured writer and comedian Allan Katz, magician Brandon Scott, and live music by Nina Goldin, Barry Fisher, Elliot Caine, David Gordon, Amy Miller, and Will Ryan.

The Sholem Community also received a commendation, "Honoring its history as a secular and progressive Jewish educational, cultural and social institution serving the Los Angeles area since the 1950s, and building a community that stresses the historic, cultural, and ethical aspects of Jewish identity..." (For more info about Sholem's secular Sunday school and other programs for secular Jews and intercultural and non-traditional families, visit: www.sholem.org.)

*Mensch / mentshn (or mensch / menschen) are Yiddish for a good person / people of integrity and honor.

Corpse of the Revolution

By Majid Naficy

I do not wait for poetry
But go in search of it
Because my wings are broken
And I am left far from my nest
Where my sister
For the last few days
Has remained home with her granddaugh-
ter
Because air pollution
Doesn't let her go to school;
Where my brother-in-law
For the last few days
Has remained in ICU
Because the sanction
Doesn't let him find his heart medicine;
Where in the demonstrations
For the last few days
Thousands of people have been arrested
And hundreds have been shot;
Where the corpse of the Revolution
For the last forty years
Has remained on the shoulders of our
people
And the earth does not accept it.

December 27, 2019

A Lady Named Popper

By Jeffrey Moss Charles

December 2019

When I first spotted her crossing the street,
I thought she was crying,
It was those green-hazely watery eyes,
Looking right at me,
Like she had a question.

Her red and white, faded t-shirt read,

"Rawhide Down"

That was Reagan's nickname, and what they
said,

When Hinkley shot him,

So I asked her if she was okay,

And if she needed any help,

She said she was a truck driver,

Her name was "Popper."

I said, "breaker, breaker 1-9"

She laughed, it looked like she was crying,

She was cute, but not my type,

I asked her if she wanted to be friends with
benefits,

She took off one white top-sider boat shoe,

And threw it at me. She missed,

I kept it and occasionally sniff it,

It smells kind of gross,

This is a cautionary tale,

Be careful what you wish for, and,

Don't talk to strangers,

The beginning of the end times two.

AmeriTerror

By Jim Smith

America

where the poor come to survive,
a Death's Head has gripped our land.
Immigrants raise their eyes and ask
why they must suffer
such a criminal's fate.

Concentration camps

Plled with dark-skinned folk.
Babies and children torn away
from loving mothers and fathers
who journeyed thousands of miles
to escape dictators and death squads.

They, the Salt of the Earth,
are repelled by European ICE men
whose fathers stole this land
from Mexico.

There is no border,
only stolen land.

There is no border,
for the rich and powerful.

There is no border,
for their wealth.

But the poor, the poor,
lift their eyes
and ask
why their search
for a better life
is met only with suffering,
exile and jail.

From "The Dinner Party Before the Revolution"

Keep whole

Crowed p&a

by alanpaula rodmanhirsch

p- Those funny crows in my front yard
put a pine cone in the birdbath!

a- How do you know
it was crows?
maybe it was
an itinerant evergreen
enroute to an engagement
with destiny's sawmill

all's not as it seems

crows are the wise clowns
crows are the coyotes of the clouds
clouds are the exhalate of dragons

a dragon this makes my nose furl
and my teeth begin to sing
another drag and I'm miles away
in the hollow of the palm fronds

with quiet old coyote
that unexpected pinecone
and a black knowing crow

9 • January 2020 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Wedding Night

On the day of my death when my coffin is going by, don't
imagine that I have any pain about leaving this world.

Don't weep for me, and don't say, "How terrible! What a pity!"
For you will fall into the error of being deceived by the Devil,
and that would really be a pity!

When you see my funeral, don't say, "Parting and separation!"
Since for me, that is the time for union and meeting.

And when you entrust me to the grave, don't say,
"Good-bye! Farewell!" For the grave is only a curtain for
hiding the gathering of souls in Paradise.

When you see the going down, notice the coming up. Why should
there be any loss because of the setting of the sun and moon?

It seems like setting to you, but it is rising. The tomb seems like a
prison, but it is the liberation of the soul.

What seed ever went down into the earth which didn't grow
back up? So, for you, why is there this doubt about the human
"seed"?

What bucket ever went down and didn't come out full? Why
should there be any lamenting for the Joseph of the soul" because
of the well?

When you have closed your mouth on this side, open it on
that side, for your shouts of joy will be in the Sky beyond place
and time.

Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi (1207 - Dec 17, 1273)
From The Dīwān-e Kabīr of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi.
Translation by Ibrahim Gamard

* the Joseph of the soul: refers to the story of how Joseph's
brothers threw him into a well (trying to get rid of him), and how
he was delivered from the well by a caravan of travelers who
discovered him when they lowered a bucket into the well (Qur'an
12: 10-19). Joseph was proverbial for his beauty (Qur'an 12: 31),
therefore a symbol for spiritual beauty.

MUSIC MARTY LISOFF
MUSIC CAN LIFT YOU UP TO THE STARS
UP OVER THE MOUNTAINS
UP OVER THE CLOUDS
FLYING ACROSS RIVERS
LIKE A BLUE BIRD FLYING HIGH
SINGING LIKE ANGELS IN HEAVEN
BEYOND THE CARES OF THE WORLD
FREE, HAPPY, ECSTATIC
FREE OF ALL SORROWS
DANCE AND SING THROUGH ALL THE PAIN
BEYOND THE MISERY
MUSIC WILL SET YOU FREE
YOUR ART WILL FREE US ALL
LET YOUR CREATIVITY FLOW
MUSIC AND ART CAN CHANGE YOU
AND CHANGE THE WORLD
SHARE YOUR ART
SING YOUR SONGS
DANCE FOR YOUR FREEDOM
FREE UP YOUR SOUL
AWAKEN THE SOUL OF THE WORLD
IF WE DANCE OUR LIVES WITH LOVE
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE
WE CAN SAVE THE EARTH
TURN US FROM THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION
SPREAD LOVE ACROSS THE WORLD
LAUGH, SING, DANCE
PLAY YOUR MUSIC
SING OUT IN JOY!

THE FINEST OF THEM

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

DECEMBER 22 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
THE NEBRASKA GIRL OPEN READING
Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood.
FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 3 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
SUZANNE LUMMIS: TWEETS FROM HELL
A party to get in the spirit for the election year and the fight ahead. Suzanne Lummis debuts her COLA fellowship supported opus, "Tweets from Hell."
Regular Admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

JANUARY 4 SATURDAY 7:30 PM
POETRY IN MOTION
Since 1988, Eve Brandstein has presented an eclectic array of writers from the literary and Hollywood communities in this literary performance series. Join us on Saturday, January 4th for Is Truth Dead? with Eric Trules, Ron Zimmerman and Carrie White.
Special Admission: \$15 on Eventbrite; \$20 at the door; \$10 Students/Seniors; \$8 Members. Advance Tickets

JANUARY 5 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
DUENDE NIGHTS OPEN MIC
A poetry performance experience for the multicultural, underground poets and artists of today. Bring original poems, short stories, songs, and music. Organized by Americas Poet Society founder Antonieta Villamil. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 5 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
FIRST SUNDAY OPEN READING
Our popular monthly open reading. Features this month, TBA. Hosted by Steve Goldman. Sign ups begin at 4:45 PM. Five-minute limit. In the Scott Wannberg Bookstore Poetry Lounge. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 11 SATURDAY 1:00 PM
TEMPLE OF MAN 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Founded by Robert Alexander in 1960, The Temple of Man celebrates 60 years of creative joy with members from across the country. Free, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 11 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
HOLADAY MASON, DAVID ST. JOHN & MARIANO ZARO
Holaday Mason is the author of five full-length collections. In celebration of the release of her most recent book, *The Weaver's Body*, she reads with acclaimed poets David St. John and Mariano Zaro. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

JANUARY 12 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
SOAP BOX POETS
This is your home. Bring your words. The mic is yours. Sign ups begin at 1:45 PM. There is a five minute limit. Hosted by Jessica Wilson Cardenas. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 12 SUNDAY 7:30 PM
PUBLIC WORKS IMPROV PRESENTS: NEW BEGINNINGS
Public Works Improvisational Theatre presents an evening of lively variety arts programming celebrating talented writers, storytellers, poets, musicians and comics. Every month, we explore topical themes for your pleasure and enjoyment! Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular admission. Members FREE.

JANUARY 17 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
MATTHEW ZAPRUDER & AMY GERSTLER
Nationally acclaimed poet and former New York Times Magazine Poetry Column editor Matthew Zapruder reads from his latest book, *Father's Day*. He's joined by legendary Los Angeles poet Amy Gerstler. Regular admission. Members FREE.

JANUARY 18 SATURDAY 4:00 PM
PAUL CUMMINS & JEFFREY GRAHAM

Lawyer Jeffrey Graham and renowned educator and activist Paul Cummins read from their respective books, each of which compiles decades worth of dedication to the art of poetry. Regular admission. Members FREE.

JANUARY 18 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
WHEN WHERE YOU'RE FROM HAS A BAD REPUTATION: WRITING ABOUT THE INLAND EMPIRE

Five women poets and writers from different parts of the Inland Empire share their work and discuss how it reflects their experiences and amplifies our marginalized voices in this region. With Liz González, Juanita E. Mantz, Ruth Nolan, Isabel Quintero, & Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera. Regular admission. Members FREE.

JANUARY 19 SUNDAY 1:00 PM
WRITERS RESIST IV
This year it's not Writers Resist—it's Writers Attack! The finest literary voices in Southern California feature together to inspire political action and social change. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 19 SUNDAY 5:00 PM SALIENT SUNDAY OPEN READING
Hosted by Radomir Luza & Patricia Murphy. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 25 SATURDAY 4:00 PM
BRADLEY BOBBS: LECTURE ON PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY PT. I
Quantum physics has revolutionized our understanding of the universe, our role in it, and the nature of reality itself. Dr. Bobbs presents the science, history, and controversies behind the philosophical mysteries of quantum physics in a way that is understandable to any adult. Part I covers the ultraviolet catastrophe, quantum leaps, wave-particle duality, changing the past, quantum uncertainty, and antimatter. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 25 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
TOWARDS A TOTAL POETRY
A release party for the latest LP from Sean McCann's Recital label, a collaboration with L.A. luminary Paul Vangelisti. Featuring multimedia and sound poetry performances from Vangelisti and others. Regular admission. Members FREE.

JANUARY 26 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
NEBRASKA GIRL OPEN READING
Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted.

JANUARY 26 SUNDAY 4:00 PM
KELLY GRACE THOMAS
Kelly Grace Thomas celebrates the release of her debut collection, *Boat Burned*, a book about blazing limiting beliefs and building something better, brighter. Featuring readings by Brendan Constantine, Tanya Ko Hong, Arminé Iknadossian, Victoria Lynne McCoy, Jeremy Radin, and other special guests. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

JANUARY 31 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
FILM SCREENING: HOW I WRITE A POEM
Premiere screening of "How I Write a Poem," a documentary featuring poets interviewed by Mariano Zaro for his Poetry.LA series. Featuring live readings by several of the poets included in the film. Regular admission. Members FREE.

Ongoing events - Food
Free Organic Vegetables Giveaway
Date: Every Wednesday
Where: The Learning Garden
Time: 5-7pm, first come first serve
Entrance to garden is at
2426 Walgrove Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90066

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

Jan 7 Tues Dec 3 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club free at Pacific Resident Theater 705 1/2 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291 <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html> & <http://laughtears.com/playground-article.html> (Our regular location Marina Del Rey Library is being remodeled for awhile)

Jan 8 Wed Laughtears Salon (rsvp 310 306 7330 for location & time) free - politics, art, culture discussion "How about technologies as the collective unconscious and art as the collective unconsciousness?"

Jan 15 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION free at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice <http://venicewake.org/Events/current.html>

Jan 26, Sunday - 7pm 17th Annual Venice Film Fest at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice - FREE - Celebrate the colorful history of films made in Venice California, and the otherworldly happenings at the legendary Venice West Gallery (birthplace of the Beats), aka Sponto Gallery with live performances. Experience the essence of Spontification Rituals - art, music, poetry & the freedom of creativity. FEATURING RARE films of Venice icons- Investigative Satirist Paul Krassner, Political Bill Mitchell, Snakeman Solomon Turner, Motown bass great David Waller and more. Bonus= Sneak peek of award winning filmmaker Mark Steven Shepherd's new Venice doc. Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/255701683438827/>

Feb 1, Saturday - 2pm - 6pm 10th annual POETRY OF VENICE PHOTOGRAPHY show at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice FREE 2-4pm=panel discussion, and 4-6pm=Opening/party for PHOTO SHOW with 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. Facebook= <https://www.facebook.com/events/473088560080585/>



DO YOU NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING YOUR HOUSING?

Receive FREE legal help on the third Saturday of each month.

Upcoming Dates:
Oct. 20
Nov. 17
Dec. 15

10:00a - 12:00p at Venice Community Housing
720 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

CALIFORNIA
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER

If you have any questions, please contact the California Women's Law Center at (323) 951-1041 or info@cwlc.org

Ongoing Events

COMPUTERS

- Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

FOOD

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

KIDS

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

MUSIC

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

YOGA AND DANCE

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

Events are subject to change, please check with the sponsor and let us know if changes have been made.

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
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. sparemurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. under remodeling.
- **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

Howard Allen — continued from page 1
the church. Then he obtained yet another loan of \$2,625,000.

Despite repeated requests by Trustees, Horace Allen refused to disclose the documents for the loans. He was sued in 2015 for fraud by a Trustee and a Minister of the church. He was accused of hiding the existence of the loans, and converting the money from the loans to his own personal use and benefit.

It was alleged that Allen held unannounced meetings to sell some properties and buy another property. Allen's family members were said to have assaulted, intimidated, and harassed voting church members to keep them from the meetings. Horace Allen's loan documents were kept hidden from Trustees. His dealings on behalf of the church were unauthorized according to the church's Bylaws. And his tactics for carrying out his acts were nefarious. With multiple loans unpaid, the First Baptist Church of Venice was sold. A century of Venice Black History was sold for common real estate by Horace Allen.

In 2018, the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles issued a permanent injunction on Horace Allen to com-

ply with the governing documents of the church in all financial matters, and to provide receipts for his corporate expenditures. None of this can repair the harm that Horace Allen brought upon the First Baptist Church of Venice. But all is not lost.

The building still stands. The Venice congregation still exists. And the Save Venice group has been fighting to return this historic church to the Community that built it.

For two years, the Penskes have been held back from desecrating the church and turning it into their own plantation house. Save Venice has battled in court and in Planning Commission meetings to get the City of L.A. to do the right thing and recognize the First Baptist Church of Venice as more than just a building.

You too can join this fight. Come to the gatherings in front of the church on Sundays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM to learn about the history of the church and the Community. And then spread this knowledge to others. The fight to save the First Baptist Church of Venice is the fight for Venice itself. Be a part of the Victory.

For more information go to: savevenice.me



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



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

Sindicato de Inquilinos de Los Angeles
Reuniones de la Sección Oeste
1er y 3er miércoles; 7-8:30pm
Center of Recreation 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!

LA REUNIÓN SERÁ BILINGÜE EN ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS.



**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!

THIS MEETING WILL BE BILINGUAL SPANISH / ENGLISH.



THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD
PRESENTS
A NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

2020

AT BEYOND BANQUET
AND ON INTO 2020