

## inside

Jazz at Palm Court - 2  
this paper is a poem - 3  
Food Co-Op - 5  
Lincoln Place - 6  
Shut up! - 6  
Calendar - 7  
Beachhead benefit - 8

FREE VENICE  
SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

FREE

July 2002

ISSUE NO. 253

P.O. BOX 644, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294

PHONES: 396-0611 or 399-0605

Happy Birthday  
Venice!  
87 years young  
on July 4!

### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## Venice sprouts its Grass Roots

by Jim Smith

After decades of struggle by Venetians to restore cityhood, Los Angeles has declared officially that Venice is - a neighborhood!

The Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) was sanctioned by the city of L.A. in March (nearly 10 years after the Venice Town Council ceased to function) and held elections for its Board on June 13.

More than 600 "stakeholders" showed up at the Venice United Methodist Church to vote on 21 board positions, most of which were hotly contested thanks to two competing slates of candidates. Under the new L.A. charter anyone who lives, works, volunteers, worships or can think of some remote connection with a "neighborhood" is a stakeholder and can participate and vote in the council.

I was one of 12 "Progressive Grassroots Candidates" who ran on a detailed platform <<http://home.attbi.com/~venicecandidates>> to preserve a diverse and affordable Venice. Our candidates (see box below) were tenant activists, community and union organizers, who have deep roots in Venice. Politically, we were Democrats, Greens and Peace & Freedom members.

GRVNC had been initiated by Tisha Bedrosian - who was elected president without opposition - and a core of other residents who had been active in the Rose Avenue Working Group and/or the Venice (Re)Action Committee (which Beachhead writers have railed against for years).

The Rose Avenue Working Group's claim to fame was trying to get the "bums" (homeless) out of Venice. Others among them took aim at the low-income Holiday Venice buildings in Oakwood.

When I wrote a letter to the Argonaut opposing the "Homeless Abatement Program," the game was afoot. Letters appeared in the Argonaut and the L.A. Independent attacking my stance in support of homelessness and on other issues.

In addition to writing responses, opponents formed their own slate, "Groovenik" (one way to pronounce GRVNC). The Grooveniks quickly claimed the mantle of incumbency and baited us as the Peace & Freedom slate.

According to one document, entitled "From the Desk of Tisha Bedrosian," the Grooveniks "...followed our vision - it's about community service and connecting people through their commonalities and not political posturing."

Our Progressive Grassroots slate was certainly guilty of political posturing if its definition is stating, in writing, where we stood on the issues affecting Venice.

Prior to our issuing our platform in early May, there had been two dreary years of GRVNC "process" with nary an issue coming before the council-in-formation.

Voters - even those who supported the Grooveniks - still don't know for sure where the other candidates stood on development and gen-

trification, or any other issues.

Nevertheless, most contests were close. Groovenik fielded 24 candidates, sometimes without asking if the candidate wanted to be on their slate. Of these, 12 were elected. Where they were opposed in one-on-one contests by a Progressive, they won only four contests, one of which was by a coin toss after a tie.

Progressive Grassroots Candidates put up 12 people, of whom, eight were elected. In head-to-head contests with Groovenik, the Progressives won three elections (I lost my election to Tisha Bedrosian's sister, Chris). In addition, all five Progressives finished ahead of the pack for the seven at-large seats.

The election results show that there is still strong sentiment for progressive or left politics in Venice. This confirms the outcome of the 2000 presidential election in which Ralph Nader got more votes than George Bush in a number of Venice precincts.

The vote also demonstrated the power of slates - both of the left and the right. Only two candidates not on a slate - Naomi Nightingale and David Moring - were elected - and both of them ran unopposed. Nightingale had been on

**Venice Sprouts**  
*continued to page 4*

## The White Whale Leaps for the Sky

by Marvin Klotz

The 92 room Best Western Marina Hotel (1697 Pacific Avenue) opened for business more than a quarter century ago. In those days, looser zoning restrictions allowed the hotel to soar to a height of 52 feet, and enjoy a 2:1 density ratio—that is, its usable floor space is twice the size of the lot. It was then, and still is the tallest and the largest structure in its region. Under the old rules, it could have been taller and larger still.

Beginning in 2000, after monumental debates and a good deal of pushing and pulling among residents, business interests, developers, landlords, and government, Los Angeles adopted a series of Area Specific Plans that established new zoning constraints for various parts of the city. The Venice Specific Plan (VSP) has become Ordinance Number 172,897.

That plan ordains that developers may not build above 35 feet in the area the hotel occupies. Further, the law limits density to 1.5 to 1. The existing hotel is, of course, grandfathered—it continues to operate as a "legal nonconforming structure."

Three underdeveloped lots (two to the south, one to the east across Pacific Avenue) lie close to the hotel. We'll get back to those lots later.

Now comes the bad stuff. The hotel wishes to add 30 rooms by building a fifth floor. This project is supported by the business community (it would be good for business), Councilwoman Galanter (it would provide access for more beach visitors and be good for business), and Mayor Hahn (it would enhance tax revenues). The white whale would leap to 63.5 feet, and further violate the density constraint of the VSP.

You have to feel a little bit sorry for develop-

### The Beachhead's Back

Oh Holy Shit  
The Though Police are rising  
It is the Time  
for the Beachhead's rebirth  
Now is the Time to get your thoughts  
together  
If you care whether  
you have a thought of any worth.  
Thoughts left of Center  
Homeowner or Renter  
Put your Head where your Pen\* is  
Send it to us use your wits  
and if we like it  
We'll print or plagiarize it  
or tear it into  
teeny tiny  
bits

—by the Slumgoddess

\*Pen: Antique Term for Word  
Processor or Computer



ers and business folk. The City has always made them jump through hoops, sit up and beg, perform a variety of circus tricks in order to get the permits they need. Then came the Coastal Commission to torment them even more. But hey—that's what expeditors and facilitators are for! That's what campaign contributions are for.

It is difficult enough to get City approval for wholly legal, fruitful, truly welcome development. It is, as you might expect, much more difficult to get around the law—and a significant industry emerged to deal with those pesky laws. No ordinary person could do the massive paperwork required to request a Specific Plan Exception, pursuant to Section 11.5.7.H of the

**White Whale**  
*continued to page 4*

**This issue of the  
BEACHHEAD is dedicated  
to Rick Davidson  
- see page three**

The  
collective staff of the

## FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

dedicates this issue, the first in many months, to:

### Rick Davidson (1930-1999)

architect, activist, artist, and author; who was instrumental in the establishment of the Peace and Freedom Party and the Free Venice Beachhead (see page three).

### BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Chuck Bloomquist, Mimi Bogale, Sherry Chovan, Carol Fondiller, Vessy Minkovski, Yolanda Miranda, Calvin Moss, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams.

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 ad donations.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 644, Venice, CA 90294 or Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>. Web: <www.freevenice.org>.

Special thanks to Olga Palo, Marvin Klotz, Tina Moorehead, Venice P&F for their donations to make this issue possible.

## Jazz at Palms Court

The Venice Community Housing Corporation is holding its tenth annual celebration of Jazz at Palms Court (733-743 Palms Boulevard) on Sunday, September 22, 2002. Jazz at Palms Court is VCHC's major yearly fundraising event, with all proceeds supporting ongoing work, including programs to develop affordable housing and help "at risk" youth.

The bill for Jazz at Palms Court this year features internationally acclaimed Cuban conga drummer Francisco Aguabella, jazz and blues vocalist Barbara Morrison, and jazz guitarist Thomas Tedesco. All these exceptional artists will play during the afternoon concert which begins at 2 p.m. Pianist and vocalist and local treasure Howlett Smith will perform during the brunch again this year. Brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Howlett "Smitty" Smith has done it all. He is known to many Westsiders for his years at Bob Burns restaurant and before that at Sterlings. He is currently appearing at Spazio in Sherman Oaks and Ca' Del Sole Ristorante in North Hollywood.

Barbara Morrison has performed with Tony Bennett, James Moody, Etta James, Terence Blanchard, Mel Torme and Keb'Mo among many others. Of Barbara Morrison, Zan Stewart of the Los Angeles Times has said, "Years ago, they used to call Dinah Washington the queen of the blues. Well, these days that title could very easily go to the dynamic persuasive Barbara Morrison."

Francisco Aguabella has played with Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri and Carlos Santana. He tours internationally and often appears at the Conga Room in the mid-Wilshire district. In the movie "Sworn to Drum," Latin percussionist John Santos says that Francisco is "...one of the strongholds of our music, and has always kept the commitment to our Cuban rhythm."



Thomas Tedesco has a Master of Arts Degree in Music from California State University at Long Beach and is a music instructor, author, and inventor. He performs with various musical aggregations at venues throughout the Los Angeles Basin including the Canal Club and Hal's.

In order to allow more people to attend Jazz at Palms Court this year, the 700 block of Palms Boulevard will be closed off, and food service and the popular silent auction will be moved from Palms Court into the barricaded street. A patio area will be created with tables and chairs to provide additional comfortable space for people to enjoy the all-day event.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Brunch tickets are \$75 and include the afternoon concert. Call VCHC at 310-399-4100 x 103 to buy tickets, to make donations to the silent auction, or to place advertisements in the program. ■



Dear Beachhead,

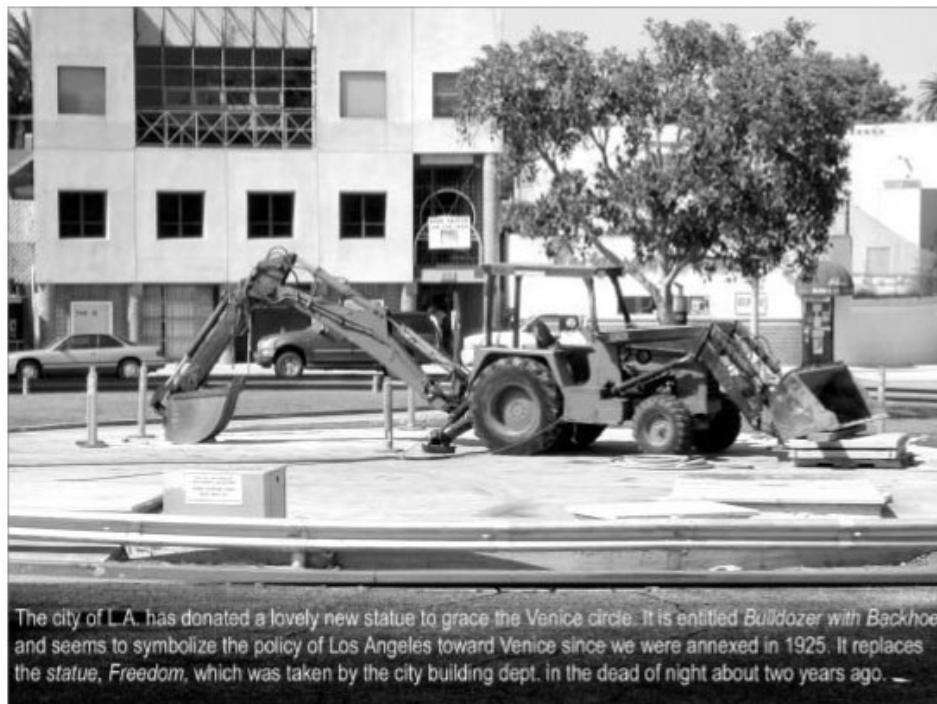
It is with great joy that I welcome back the Free Venice Beachhead. I was a member of the original Beachhead Collective when it formed in 1968.

I wondered that such a fragile volunteer institution survived for more than 20 years. I was saddened when it faded away.

But here it is, again. Here's to another 20 years!

Gratefully,

John Haag



The city of L.A. has donated a lovely new statue to grace the Venice circle. It is entitled *Bulldozer with Backhoe* and seems to symbolize the policy of Los Angeles toward Venice since we were annexed in 1925. It replaces the statue, *Freedom*, which was taken by the city building dept. in the dead of night about two years ago.



# this paper is a poem



**Rick Davidson**

For newcomers or those too young to have known Rick, know that, among many other accomplishments, he designed Tabor Courts low-cost housing at 345 4th Avenue and the new Ash Grove on the Santa Monica Pier. He worked tirelessly against the Vietnam War and went to Nicaragua to help repair the damage caused by U.S. policy. He created paper collages with intricate but subtle patterns that adorn many a Venice home. He was editor, publisher, and contributor to Griot: A Journal of Native Consciousness, wrote and staged the play *An Internal Trilogue*: talking with myself, and wrote numerous other works of prose and poetry.

## AFTER

by Rick Davidson

Who will look after us  
when we are gone?  
Not our bodies  
they will decompose faster  
than last week's  
shopping list.

No,  
not the material us...  
the spiritual us.  
The essence we developed,  
nourished, tested,  
and would like to  
pass-on.  
Who?

Just memory, I guess.  
Our ideas, actions, writings, stories,  
songs  
will also be gone  
sooner or later.  
It's what we deposit  
in the hearts  
of others.

But what—when they're gone?  
Who cares? What difference  
will it make—that's the truth  
of universe.

Do you miss the stars that are gone?  
Even the ones you see  
are not really there.  
Does that matter?  
The pharaohs, even their pyramids  
will eventually  
return to dirt.

You see,  
life's secrets reinforce  
the Now, the Present,  
Life—not  
what comes after.  
It's one of the great religious secrets  
of all time ■

## Lovers Frost

by Vessy Minkovski

Like eyes are always crying  
From the beauty that the other  
Doth possess  
In a momentary understanding of another  
Like eyes do love possess  
And in this realm  
A pain so deep in me awakened  
I grieved and lost another moments worth  
So shaken as a ship in stormy weather  
Forgetting that a new love  
Had been birthed  
And to the night I gave all my confessions  
As dawn then found me wavering  
So weak from only seeing what I'd lost  
The cold air chilling me with lovers frost  
Like eyes are always crying  
From the beauty that the other  
Doth possess  
In a momentary understanding of another  
Like eyes do love possess. ■

## Playa Prophecy

Washington and Lincoln beloved presidents both  
honored by street names together in Venice at  
a corner to be as buried as the presidents  
come the year 2005—it has been so written

madly 30,000 new people with their 20,000 cars  
will strangle Playa Vista Land  
realtors and building-trades applaud, carpet sellers shiver  
peoples lungs and none of the birds will applaud  
look close see tears in the eyes of the birds  
who watch the thieves of the Indian lands—  
the "cement-heads"—paving over our last open space

in Los Angeles comes now The Last Traffic Jam  
a final car noses out of Playa Vista and  
Grid-Lock! no going back, forward, around or  
over...city-wide everything stops

Disaster Relief reacts finally...says, bury the cars as is  
dirt-fill the crevices, grade everything level  
start over clean...just car-size higher  
plant grass, orange trees, shade trees  
rescue the LA river...allow the return of fish  
animals and flocks and flocks of birds

shortly, small soundless electric cars appear in  
limited numbers with bicycles on park-and-share basis  
all is tranquil...noise and air pollution gone  
clean lungs return to the aroma of orange blossoms  
and strong hearts beating to the chirp of grateful birds

Venice now becomes the hub, the most  
people-friendly place in the world  
full of people speaking to one another...

it has been so written ■

—Pato Dourvos



Artist:  
Sherry  
Chovan



## Venice Sprouts - continued from page 1

the Progressive slate, but withdrew.

The election also showed the power of women. Out of the 21 elected Board members, 14 are women. Six of 21, or 29 percent are Venetians of color. In zipcode 90291, nearly 40 percent are other than white.

Will the new neighborhood council help preserve Venice from rampant development? That remains to be seen. L.A.'s rush to give some decision-making power back to its residents (excuse me, stakeholders) was intended to head off secession.

However, big developers lobbied and won concessions which turned the councils into advisory-only bodies.

This being Venice, we would expect the neighborhood council to aspire to much more. After all, the old Venice Town Council remained a powerful force, even after City Councilmember Pat Russell disowned it.

The other factor is whether the new Board members will stand up against development and gentrification. There are presently several big development projects pending - the Marina Pacific Hotel expansion and projects in the Oxford Triangle and on Abbot Kinney Blvd., among others.

Many Venetians are barely hanging on to their homes because of out-of-control rents. Low and affordable-income housing is being replaced by luxury condos and big, ugly box homes. These trends will continue unless there is government action to preserve the racial and income diversity of Venice. This is where a strong, assertive neighborhood council (or cityhood) is needed.

In this regard, the disappearance of our L.A. Council District and Ruth Galanter (last seen driving around the East S.F. Valley) will probably make "saving Venice" more difficult than it's been.

Our new - and unelected by us - city councilmember, Cindy Miscikowski, is reported to have a pleasant personality. The question is whether she will be more pleasant to her husband, Marina developer Doug Ring, or to Venetians and our new "advisory-only" council.



## The law and how to avoid it

Applications for exceptions from the law will surely make the reader's head spin. They use a peculiar jargon, and delight in pursuing to numbered sections of Ordinances, the Municipal Code and the Coastal Development Plan, Mitigated Negative Declarations, and on and on. But it is not rocket science after all - and if you want to (especially if you have access to a computer), you can be vigilant and, perhaps, save your neighborhood from inappropriate development. Here is a beginner's primer:

The Venice Specific Plan is Ordinance No. 172897. You can find it at [www.ci.la.ca.us/pln](http://www.ci.la.ca.us/pln). Click on "General Plans," then click on "Venice Coastal Zone." Now you can check all those section numbers the expeditors use.

If a developer applies for an exception from the rules laid down in Ordinance 172897, he or she must justify the request by responding to the conditions laid out in LAMC 11.5.7 F2 (a-e). You can easily access the "Los Angeles Municipal Code" - use a Google Search (and remember to put the quotation marks in). But everyone who wishes to be armed in the struggle against inappropriate development should know what the Code conditions are. For a specific plan exception to be granted, all 5 of the findings mandated in Section 11.5.7 F2 must be made in the affirmative [ugh - legalspeak!] What follows is not a snappy read - but one blunt instrument deserves another.

(a) That the strict application of the regulations of the specific plan to the subject property would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of such specific plan.

(b) That there are exceptional circumstances or conditions applicable to the subject property involved or to the intended use or development of the subject property that do not apply generally to other property in the specific plan area.

(c) That such exceptions from the geographically specific plan is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property within the geographically specific plan in the same zone and vicinity but which, because of special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships is denied to the property in question.

(d) That the granting of the exception will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements adjacent to or in the vicinity of the subject property.

(e) That the granting of such exception will be consistent with the principles, intent and goals of the geographically specific plan and any applicable element of the General Plan.

As you can see, there is some room for subjective response and honest disagreement - the area planning commissions are charged with resolving such disputes. But you will also see, as did the City Planning Department, that the enlargement of an already oversized Marina Pacific Hotel, satisfies none of the 5 conditions. On what, one wonders, did the West Los Angeles Planning Commission base its decision? ■

- Marvin Klotz

White Whale  
- continued from page 1

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) . . . . The hotel hired an expeditor; the hotel hired an architect; the hotel paid over \$18,000 to the city in fees just to have its request considered.

Then disaster struck! A City Planning Department hearing officer listened to those who extolled the virtues of the hotel's owners, and the benefits of this wholly illegal proposal; he listened to those of us opposed to the project on very simple grounds (requiring no expeditors or facilitators). The hotel already seriously violates the height and density constraints of the VSP; it could not be built to its current height today; therefore, it should not be permitted to further violate the VSP and give legal precedent for adjacent developments to soar skyward.

The Los Angeles Planning Department issued a 46 page report. It reviewed the hotel's application for exceptions from the VSP in excruciating detail. To every "finding" contrived by the expeditor who prepared the application, it responded with closely reasoned arguments based on ordinance 172897, and the appropriate Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections (LAMC 11.5.7 F2 (a-e) for the scholars among you). It recommended DISAPPROVAL of all the exceptions to the law requested by the hotel.

Wow! The good guys won, right?

NOT.

Four folks, called the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission, get to decide the issue. One of the statutory five commissioner seats is vacant, and, in fact, one of the four went home early. The final decision was made by three folks (again, for the scholars among you, Matthew Rodman, President, Flora Gil Krisiloff, Vice President, and Robyn Ritter-Simon).

The Hotel owners, their hired consultants, a small knot of friends, representatives from the Councilwoman's office and the Mayor's office all showed up. They all spoke about the good character of the owners and the economic benefits of the project. Not one addressed the law.

I did - but I, along with the lengthy Planning Department report that surely took scores of hours to prepare, were ignored.

Before my astonished eyes, the Commission accepted the hotel's wholly illegal assault on the VSP, and invited the white whale to leap.

It ain't over yet, though. First the Commission will have to deal with a request to reconsider and limit the discussion to the law. Second, its decision can be appealed to the City Council. Finally, there is always the Superior Court where, presumably, the law will take precedence over all the pious irrelevancies, and this attack on the VSP will be defeated. We have to turn this argument, or the center of Venice will be turned into a dense enclave of five story buildings. Stay tuned. ■

Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council  
Official Election Results - June 13, 2002

Total Votes 621  
(winners in boldface)

## President:

**Tisha Bedrosian** - 416 Groovenik slate  
(unopposed)

## Vice President:

**Greg Fitchett** - 396 Groovenik slate  
Geri Lewis - 23  
(Dr.) John Michel - 74

## 2nd Vice President:

**Chris Wood** - 283 Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Jeff Miles - 259 Groovenik slate

## Secretary:

**Elena Popp** - 298 Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
John Davis - 248 Groovenik slate

## Treasurer:

**Mark Van Gessel** - 262 Groovenik slate  
Andre Delattre - 251 Progressive Grassroots Candidates

## Communications Officer:

**Chris Bedrosian** - 285 Groovenik slate  
James Smith - 236 Progressive Grassroots Candidates

## Government Relations Officer:

**John Caldwell** - 260 Groovenik slate  
Mindy Meyers - 210

## Board Members At-large (7 elected):

<b>Laddie Williams</b> - 315	Progressive Grassroots Candidates & Groovenik slate
<b>Sheila Bernard</b> - 302	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>Phyllis Des Verney</b> - 271	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>Lydia Ponce</b> - 237	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>Yolanda Miranda</b> - 235	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>Rick Feibusch</b> - 200	Groovenik slate
<b>Barbara Gibson</b> - 190	Groovenik slate
<b>Carolyn Ward</b> - 189	Groovenik slate
<b>Nancy Silverman</b> - 182	Groovenik slate
<b>John Kertisz</b> - 173	Groovenik slate
<b>Ed McQueeney</b> - 167	Groovenik slate
<b>JR Dzubak</b> - 158	Groovenik slate
<b>Amy Nation</b> - 124	Groovenik slate
<b>James Murex</b> - 110	
<b>Dave Shebby</b> - 46	
<b>Jeremiah Day</b> - 38	
<b>Sheila Borders</b> - 19	
<b>Frederick Bloomquist</b> (write in)	

## Board Members Elected by District:

<b>District 1</b> - North Penmar area	
<b>David Moring</b> - 18	Groovenik slate
<b>Rick Selan</b> (write in)	
<b>District 2</b> - North Beach/Rose Ave.	
<b>Bonnie Cheeseman</b> - 59	Groovenik slate
<b>Bridgett Gonzalez</b> - 59	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
(Tie-breaking coin toss won by Cheeseman)	
<b>District 3</b> - Oakwood	
<b>Naomi Nightingale</b> - 67	Groovenik slate
<b>District 4</b> - Penmar South	
<b>Chris Williams</b> - 60	Groovenik slate
<b>Pete Savino</b> - 32	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>District 5</b> - Milwood, Central Venice	
<b>Kelley Willis</b> - 30	Groovenik slate
<b>Jamie Schwartzman</b> - 13	
<b>District 6</b> - Oxford Triangle	
<b>DeDe Audet</b> - 20	Groovenik slate
<b>N Challis Macpherson</b> - 12	
<b>District 7</b> - Canals, Peninsula	
<b>Alice Stek</b> - 104	Progressive Grassroots Candidates
<b>Diane Bush</b> - 47	Groovenik slate

# RE-GROOVING THE CO-OP

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD July 2002 5

**Interview by Suzy Williams with Morowa Washington, Goddess and Manager of the Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-op.**

When I first met Morowa Washington across the wooden counter of our lovely local co-op on Lincoln Boulevard and Brooks, across from The 50's Cafe, I was struck by her openness and kindness and incredible knowledge of food and nutrition.

For instance, in two minutes, I had learned that bananas and molasses, high in potassium, are good for those pesky leg cramps one gets in the middle of the night, and that lung-shaped greens (like parsely and kale) are good for your lungs, and the summer savory sprinkles in your beans can stop flatulence!

She delivered this information with such enthusiasm that I vowed to become a member as soon as I could afford it. When I finally did, Morowa came out and blessed my bike. Gladys. Now THERE'S a co-op manager for you! I found out that when she recently went to Arcata at the Co-op manager conference, both the Eureka and the Arcata co-ops had asked her to manage their stores. And I noticed that all the staff are particularly friendly and helpful, as well.

**Suzy:** Welcome, Morowa! First of all, how would you describe yourself?

**Morowa:** I'm a Mother and a Daughter, and a manager, and what happens with being a manager in my mind is providing an environment that is healthy, that is safe, that gives people what they need and want and are excited about.

**Suzy:** How long have you been managing the Venice Co-op?

**Morowa:** I started as a trainee in February and began managing in April.

**Suzy:** That was fast! Did you have it in your mind that you wanted to be manager?

**Morowa:** I always said that I wanted to run a co-op. It's been years and years. I live in Los Angeles but I went to the Santa Monica Co-op. It was the nearest one.

**Suzy:** How do you like the progress you're having with the Venice co-op?

**Morowa:** Well, my first week there, during the training we were audited by PCGA, which is Pacific Co-op Grocers Association, where all the co-ops buy collectively with. They came into the store and told us everything that was wrong and everything that they liked.

**Suzy:** Were they nice?

**Morowa:** Yes, I took it as Love. They are managers, also, of co-ops and they've been in business for a long time. They gave all their notes. I'm seeing more now the financial position for the store, and the need for rebirth and growth.

**Suzy:** Give me an example of what has changed since you started.

**Morowa:** Well, when we were audited, there was this big pallet in the front of the door. It was full of boxes. And when I moved the pallet, everyone said "Wow, it looks really good in here." I had the driver take it back, and put away the boxes right away. Also, cleanliness. And I'm getting rid of a lot of stuff that was just floating around in there. We're actually about to get new shelves, donated from another co-op, and do a complete re-vamping. The new shelves will arrive 4th of July weekend. They'll be off-white, and our shelves were a battleship grey. Products look better on certain color shelves. It'll give the store a brighter look. And we're getting some glass counters. And one other thing I came up with... We have that little kitchen, it's about seven by seven feet, I went in there, looking back and forth at the walls, and... I saw my Deli! So I'm gonna do a deli.

**Suzy:** Yeah! So people can have a sandwich, a nice organic, delicious sandwich!

**Morowa:** Yes and juices, and a soup pot, and hot tea ready. People can call in early or fax their order in and can have their sandwich made to order, with their name on it.

**Suzy:** That's the new way to do fast food! That's groovy!

**Morowa:** Once I was going to do a catering truck, that's what made me think of it. I just have to find out what the Health Department requires. The co-op donated a hand sink, and I need a mop sink, which I'm hoping to put outside. We've had a two compartment sink.

**Suzy:** Who influenced you in regard to nutrition?

**Morowa:** I have two sisters, and one, back in the sixties was... a hippy. She was a vegetarian, and everyone thought she was weird. She gave me a book: BACK TO EDEN, a very detailed herb book. Then my other sister gave me HERBALLY YOURS: you can look up a problem, and it will tell you what's good for that.

**Suzy:** Do you guys carry health herbs?

**Morowa:** We do have some in that corner, I want to broaden that area and carry some books.

**Suzy:** Maybe some recipe books?

**Morowa:** Yes. Oh, and in our newsletter, I want to include at least one recipe. Yes, and an educational crossword puzzle. And questions, like: what would you do if your trashman didn't come anymore, different ways to recycle, composting, etc.

And we will have a silent auction with donated items, like a dinner for two, or a quilt, or a massage up for bidding in the newsletter. It will come out every two months. And we'll have the items also posted on the co-op board. I'm working to revamp the co-op board to make it exciting, so people will come to it wondering, "OK, what's going on now?"

**Suzy:** So many ideas!

**Morowa:** Oh, and we're doing a food fest in July, where people can come out and eat and eat, and enjoy themselves. I want to make it more community oriented, because they need to understand what a co-op is, and that it is people working together collectively, and coming to the meetings, because they have a choice in what happens in there.

**Suzy:** I remember one time I came to a concert that was held in the co-op's parking lot: Peter Dinklage, the very Venice songman, with his guitar, put on a wonderful show, and tho it wasn't the most glam-

orous venue, it was very charming, somehow.

**Morowa:** We need performers to donate, too. Like The Boners!

(Laughs)

**Suzy:** Deal!

Now, an

interview

with Morowa

Washington

would not be

complete with-

out some of the

helpful hints that

you have given me

and other grateful cus-

tomers. Tell tales of garlic.

**Morowa:** Oh it's good for so many things. It lowers

the blood pressure, if it's up there. It's a natural

antibiotic. You should eat it with some green

stuff, otherwise it comes through the pores. If some-

one's sick, you can rub garlic on your palms and

then rub it on their feet, and it helps to bring any

parasites out of the areas that is making them sick.

**Suzy:** You mean, even if it's rubbing their feet, you

can help them with their earache.

**Morowa:** Yes, but if you're talking about earaches,

try an enema. Acatnip tea enema is great for chil-

dren who have earaches, much better than commer-

cial antibiotics because that can cause ADD. Also

it's good for fevers, and it

helps children relax.

**Suzy:** How about that! Catnip, every-

body! Now how about skin?

**Morowa:** Flaxseed oil. It helps to

prevent prostate and colon cancer,

and balances your hormones.

You can put it in your oatmeal,

your smoothies, salad dress-

ings, everything.

**Suzy:** Oh my Gawdness,

Morowa, there is so much

much more to talk about, let's

make this a habit.

**Morowa:** It's been real. (Laughs)

**Suzy:** With you it is! (Laughs) Thank

you so much, Morowa Washington. ■

The V-OP Food Co-op is located at 839 Lincoln Blvd. (at Brooks

Ave). Suzy Williams is a singer, sometimes with The Boners.

## Peace and Freedom Party Registration Drive

by Y. Miranda

I was recently elected to the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council as part of the Progressive slate of 12 people. I want to thank the open-minded community in Venice that supported our candidacies. It's great honor for me, to be of service to the community I love so dearly.

The Peace and Freedom Party has a deeply rooted history in Venice. It was here that the party started in 1968. The community activists, war resisters and veterans of the Vietnam war believed that the two party in this country had no intention in ending the war or addressing the issues of working people in this country in improving the quality of our lives.

The Peace and Freedom Party had been on the ballot for 30 years, but in 1998 we were unable to obtain the 2 percent of the vote to keep our ballot status. We are currently on an intense registration drive to increase our total by 10,000, to more than the 86,212 needed to return to the ballot. Do third parties have a right to be on the ballot? Many people have responded affirmatively by registering Peace and Freedom.

If you believe in any of these goals: double the minimum wage; free, quality health care for all; good paying jobs for all; free education for all; free public transportation; affordable housing; bring the troops home (No More Vietnams); community control of the police; decriminalize marijuana; end homelessness; support affirmative action, end the death penalty; and instead of funding wars, spend money to find a cure for AIDS which globally will kill 56 millions people in less than eight years. Register P&F to provide an advocate for a better world.

Please contact Venice P&F at 399-2215, if you would like to help our registration drive.

You are invited to attend the Venice Peace and Freedom meeting, held once a month. Call me for details.

I also encourage you to join us in our every Sunday peace march at 2pm on the boardwalk. We start at 5 Rose Ave. At the end of the march we have an open mike where anyone can speak their feeling concerning peace, mass detentions and attack on our civil liberties. ■

Yolanda Miranda is co-chair of the Venice Peace & Freedom Party

# Register

# Venice



# California

# to Vote

# TURN THAT DAMN THING

by Carol Fondiller

In the Old Days, O.K., O.K., no one wants to hear about the Old Days and besides my old days are not your old days even if we might be contemporaries.

Maybe you're hearing impaired because you spent your salad days with your head up a giant woofer in anticipatory preparation for a pre-orgasmic copulatory carnavales with all the Rockers from the Palladium to Woodstock.

But, in my old days, I could hear the surf at night when I lived east of Pacific Avenue. Now I live one small room away from Ocean Front Walk. When I moved to my present digs, I could hear the surf.

Now the sound of the surf is drowned out by the neighboring café's faulty air conditioning going all night long.

Recently I notice that every Friday I get headaches. My stomach turns. My neck stiffens. I know the weekend looms.

## Lincoln Place Struggle Continues

by Sheila Bernard

People are eager to engage in a struggle that either tangibly improves their lives or expresses their values. The battle waged by the Lincoln Place Tenants Association (LPTA) does both. The tangible need is obvious. The philosophical foundation of our movement is less obvious, but equally important.

*"Doesn't the owner get to do what he wants with his property?"*

Yes, within limits. Our struggle at Lincoln Place, on the surface, does not challenge the rights of private property owners. We rely mostly upon existing law, and we fight for more law, which prevents abuses of private property such as our landlord engages in.

*"Won't Lincoln Place deteriorate if you prevent the landlord from rehabilitating it?"*

The landlord does not seek to rehabilitate. He

Years ago, I got arrested for passing out leaflets notifying people about a rally.

Other people and myself got arrested for sitting on the Ocean Front Walk with a small card table with Peace and Freedom literature, buttons and a coffee can marked FREE VENICE DONATIONS. We didn't make a big deal if you didn't drop in money for a bumper sticker or a button.

We were out there to spread the word, not make a profit. Although we were delighted if we made enough money to cover printing.

We fought the arrests and we, the Free Venice Organizing Committee won the right to express ourselves Politically, and in doing so won the right for anyone else to express themselves artistically politically or spiritually.

My apologies.

Now, every weekend begins at 5 a.m. when the trucks and campers line up at Rose Avenue county parking lots. The people laugh, play their radios, and rev their engines until 6 a.m. when the lot opens. What ensues is a rush to grab the Choice Spots near the Ocean Front Walk. It

rivals the Oklahoma territories land rush that one sees in old pre-PC movie westerns.

The street performers are equipped with enough amplification to blow the roof off Staples Convention Center. The performers have egos to drown out any respect for the residents. They have the attitude of Vegas lounge performers, some of them ending each set with "Thank you very much." And they Bitch and Moan if they don't make \$\$.

And they pound and they drum and they sing and the dogs bark and I am held hostage by their noise. Unlike Vegas, I didn't pay for this. I live here. I've lived here for nearly forty years. I can't afford to leave every weekend.

I've seen Venice change from a Village to a Venue.

Recently the Department of Recreation and Parks decided to permit a radio station to program a corporate sponsored Mega-high decibel event that could be heard miles away.

Ironically, the stage, bleachers and sound systems were 30 feet high (well within the Local



seeks to alter the buildings so he can evict long-term tenants and charge more to new tenants. Re-piping and electrical upgrades could be done without evicting anyone, because natural attrition provides for significant profit. However, the owner does not want significant profit. He wants maximum profit, regardless of the social consequences.

*"Isn't it better for people to own their housing than to be renters their whole lives?"*

Theoretically, we would have a stronger society if every household had ownership and the resulting sense of place. However, the history of our economy has had the opposite effect. People have been driven off of family farms. This has put ownership outside the capacity of millions of people, except for collective ownership.

*"Isn't collective ownership of property messy?"*

Yes, collective ownership of property, collective work on a document, collective decision making is time-consuming, contentious, and often frustrating. But so is democracy. Collective ownership of property can work for some low-income people who do not have the economic or personal resources to own individually.

*"How could Lincoln Place be owned collectively?"*

Our vision for the eventual ownership of Lincoln Place involves a non-profit organization with an elected board consisting mostly of tenants, but including housing professionals and other community members. The non-profit is charged with keeping the property permanently affordable. The housing remains rental housing. People pay monthly, contribute no financial equity, and take no equity when they leave. This is because if some residents contribute equity, they become more powerful than others of less means who have no equity to contribute. With no equity contribution, everyone has an equal vote, and the property is controlled democratically.

Participation on the board from housing professionals and other community people provides an additional safeguard against betrayal of the mission of the organization.

With collective ownership comes the opportunity to introduce environmental and social sustainability to the property. We can plan for solar energy, water recycling, drought-tolerant landscaping, more trees, community gardens, and social facilities. We can start small cottage industries. When mortgages are paid off, we can self-subsidize our seniors and others in need, taking some burden off of other taxpayers. The only limit is our consciousness and our imagination

*"Sounds good. So why don't you guys own Lincoln Place yet?"*

We do not own Lincoln Place because the owner does not want to sell.

*"So looking deeper than face value, does your vision challenge private ownership?"*

Eventually, but not yet. Right now our vision challenges US. Collective ownership calls upon all our reserves of cooperation and self-discipline. We have no illusion that we can challenge the social or economic order of this country without a major increase in the personal responsibility born by every member of the society. Each of us can start where we live. ■

Sheila Bernard is President of the Lincoln Place Tenants Association. Lincoln Place is the 795-unit complex just east of Ralph's and Ross at Lincoln and California.

**Rent THIS SPACE**  
**\$25.**  
MORE INFO CALL 399-0811  
**VENICE • BEACHHEAD**

WWW.LOVESICKMUSIC.COM  
**COME TO**  
**LOVESICK FRIDAYS**  
**THE COWS END 8-11 PM**  
WHERE THE SHIT HITS THE FAN  
LOCATED IN VENICE CALIFORNIA  
ON WASHINGTON JUST OFF OF PACIFIC  
THE VENICE BEACHHEAD IS BACK  
ASK ABOUT ENTRIES, ARTICLES, YOUR VOICE

**THOMAS TEDESCO QUARTET**  
Thomas Tedesco (Guitar) Elad Tarmu  
(Vibraphone) Roberto Miranda (Bass) William  
Jefferies (Drums)  
at the  
**POWERHOUSE THEATER**  
Sunday, July 21, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
3116 2nd Street, Ocean Park  
310-396-3688  
\$8 Cover - No Minimum

**Nonviolence Works**  
Join the Venice Peace Movement on the  
Boardwalk, Sundays at Rose Ave. 2pm  
VPT (Venice Pacific Time)  
Join the Los Angeles Network for a  
Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.  
[www.NonviolenceWorks.com/NCPN](http://www.NonviolenceWorks.com/NCPN)



# DOWN!, please

Coastal Plan height limits) at the Windward Center, effectively blocking the view of the ocean that the rusting Mason's symbol obscured. One of the reasons the old Pavilion was torn down, was that it blocked the view of the ocean.

Now, running shoes made in East Wharvestan for 30\_ a day can buy the View and deafen us at the same time.

Some city representatives claim they permit this to attract more tourists.

Heretical thought: DO WE NEED MORE TOURISTS?

The county parking lots are filled usually by 2 p.m. on weekends. The Cafés, restaurants, Boutiques that sell made in Taiwan native American handicrafts and Pakistani manufactured U.S.A.-flag T-shirts all claimed they did not need additional parking because they only cater to the tourists who are here anyway.

Perhaps an ordinance should be passed that once a restaurant or store's parking lot is filled, they should stop serving or selling. No hardship since they only serve the people who are already there, etc., etc.

I used to be able to peacefully enjoy my living space and have the benefit of the ocean breeze.

But amped up free expression has changed that. I close my windows and turn on an energy consuming fan. I use ear plugs.

## POETRY

- 2pm, Saturdays - Poetry Readings - Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd.
- 8pm, Most Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - Poetry Readings and Workshops. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.
- 7:30pm, July 12 - Amy Gerstler and Albert Goldfarb - Beyond Baroque.
- 4-6pm, July 14 - Poetry Readings from the AIDS Writing Workshop - Beyond Baroque.

## COMMUNITY

- 4:40pm, Wednesday, July 17 - Planning Comm. 11214 W. Exposition Blvd. - Marina Pacific (White Whale) Hotel expansion.
- 6 - 8pm, Wednesday, July 17 - Emergency Medical Services Commission hearing on Daniel Freeman Hospital closing. Boys & Girls Club, 2232 Lincoln Blvd., Venice.
- 9am, Friday, July 19 - Planning Commission on Abbot Kinney & Venice Blvd. projects. 1645 Corinth Ave. W.L.A.
- 7pm, Wednesday, July 31 - Neighborhood Council Conservation Comm. - Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave.

## Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Public Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. <www.beyondbaroque.org>
- Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council - <www.grassrootsvenice.org> and 310-281-1943.
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or <www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or <www.veniceofamerica.org>
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave. (at Lincoln Blvd.).
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 or <vpf@freevenice.org>.
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.

It cuts down on the noise except for the bass of the aforementioned amps and the drummers who are kicked out of the drum circle. The Hucksters on the west side of the walk park and have their car CDs or radios (complete with commercials) blaring all day long.

The west side hucksters claim they have to turn their music up because the merchants on the east side turn their music up. I'm not defending the east side merchants, but at my end of the walk, there are no stores blaring out music. But the west side Vegas Actwannabes crank up the volume regardless.

I don't want an ART Police board probably set up by the same people who selected that rusting pile of iron that decorates (desecrates?) the Windward Center. And I don't want to be an Art Police.

At a recent meeting sponsored by the Police and City Attorney, Residents were told that an ordinance was being worked on.

Many of the residents heard that song before (amplified?).

Not one of the residents made any comments on Quality or Content of the performers or artists. All they wanted was the freedom to open their windows to let the breeze in without being murdered loudly by performer's songs until 11:30 p.m.

## Community Events



## POLITICAL

- 10am-4pm, Sunday, July 14 - Not In Our Name mass meeting - Japanese American Cultural Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., L.A.
- 7:30pm, July 19-20 - The Great Silence: Where In The Hell Are We? - 10 years after the acquittals of the LAPD officers who beat Rodney King. - Beyond Baroque.
- 7 - 9 pm, Tuesday, July 23 - Is a Smaller L.A. a Better L.A.? - Townhall on Secession. Loyola Marymount University. 827-7411. (see flyer at <www.freevenice.org>).
- 2pm Every Sunday - Venice Peace Movement - No new war, End mass detentions & attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk. Open Mic Rally near Market St. & the Boardwalk.



It would be nice to see the beach again. Now all I see are the paint by numbers Henna Tattoo Tents and The Portable Massage Parlors.

I would like them to realize that the Ocean Front Walk is a public area, not for their privatization of six yards of art or handicrafts. People who aren't selling their wares have a right to be on the west side of the walk and on the beach without searching for a space between the all alike smell incense sellers and the PicN'Sav reject unicorn art glass sellers to get to there.

I'm an Anarchist at heart. So why am I talking rules, regulations, police, etc.?

Because in order to be an anarchist one should have respect for other people. The Artists and Performers, etc., have shown no respect for residents.

I don't want to, and am not able to, go downstairs every 15 minutes to ask yet another Performer or Car owner to turn it down or off. I would think they would have enough sense to realize that not everyone wants Bob Dylan, Puff Daddy, etc., sounding as if they're sitting right next to them performing at full amp right into their ears. The aforementioned usually charge much money to hear them. I ain't payin'.

And maybe the entrepreneurs who pay no rent to no one on the west side should be aware that some nerves are shot and tolerance is wearing thin, and a new layer of regulations might be required reading before they set up their altars to their Great God Greed. ■

## ART

- 4:20pm, Saturday, July 20 - Brett Woods Nucleus Art Jam opening. Music by The LoveSick Lunatics & Louise Fraser. Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave. <space31@hotmail.com>.
- 2 - 5pm, Sunday, July 21 - Venice Historical Society Exhibit. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. <www.veniceofamerica.org>

## MUSIC

- 9pm Wednesday, July 10 - Sophie Tucker recreation starring Venetian Suzy Williams. Gardenia Club, 7066 Santa Monica Blvd. Reservations of dinner - 323-467-7444. More information about Suzy Williams events - 310-306-7330.
- 8pm, Friday, July 19 - Roy Zimmerman and Kristina Olsen in concert. Benefit for the Free Venice Beachhead and Venice P&F. \$10. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. 310-399-2215. <www.freevenice.org> See back page of BEACHHEAD.
- 8-11 pm, Friday, July 26 - Lovesick Fridays at The Cows End in Hamburger Square (Wash. & Pacific).
- 6-8:30pm, July 21 - Thomas Tedesco Quartet - Powerhouse Theater, 3116 2nd St., Ocean Park. 396-3688. \$8.

## THEATRE

- 4pm Sundays - The Merchant of Venice 8pm July 13, 20, 21, 28 - Animal Farm \$14-\$22. Theatricum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon BL, Topanga
- 8pm July 17-20, 3pm July 14 - On Approval - Pacific Resident Theatre, 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. \$20-\$23.50. 822-8392.

## readings

- 7:30pm, July 13 - Songs From The Borderline. Ruben Martinez & The Border Balladers. From his book, Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail. - Beyond Baroque.
- 6pm, First Monday of the month - Marshall McLuhan - Finnegan's Wake Reading Club, Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd.

# In Concert

## Roy Zimmerman



Zimmerman displays a lacerating wit and keen awareness of society's foibles that bring to mind a latter-day Tom Lehrer - **L.A. Times**

I congratulate Roy Zimmerman on reintroducing literacy to comedy songs. And the lyrics actually rhyme, they don't just 'rhyme'. - **Tom Lehrer**

Roy's lyrics go beyond poetry and become perfection. - **Joni Mitchell**

.....  
**Roy Zimmerman created and wrote all the material for the comedy folk quartet The Foremen, whose two albums for Reprise Records inflicted satirical pain on politicians from Bill Clinton to Oliver North, and causes from school prayer to the militia movement.**

**Kristina Olsen is one of the most entertaining and compelling performers on the international folk circuit.**

A fine instrumentalist (acoustic guitar, steel-body slide guitar, saxophone, concertina and piano) as well as a powerful songwriter with a big bluesy voice, Kristina has audiences around the world coming back for more.

Her mix of strong songs in the troubadour tradition, some jazz-inspired sounds and powerful bottleneck blues (as well as her hilarious storytelling) makes for a diverse and satisfying musical experience, on stage and on disc.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Haight-Asbury during the 1960's, Kristina's approach to music and life was formed by that environment of vital cultural expression, social activism and diverse musical influences.

She now calls Venice home but rarely sees it from touring ten months a year.



**Kristina Olsen**

Food,  
Drinks  
available

## 8pm Friday, July 19

\$10  
donation

**Venice United Methodist Church**

2210 Lincoln Blvd. (1 Block N. of Venice Blvd.)

### A Benefit for...

Venice's  
own  
community  
newspaper  
is back!



and

The Venice Peace & Freedom Party



More information: 310-399-2215 • [pfp@freevenice.org](mailto:pfp@freevenice.org)  
[www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org)