

## inside

### SPECIAL VENICE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Venice yesterday - 4, 5, 10  
Venice today - 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10  
Venice tomorrow - 8  
Venice poetry - 9  
Venice calendar - 11

★ Free Venice Beachhead  
Summer Dance Party with  
the Bonedaddys - 12



July 2003

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### Neighborhood Council Elections

## Venice Votes...and votes...and votes



photo by Lydia Poncé

### Killer Machines Eat Lincoln Place

—see page 7

Happy 98th  
Birthday,  
Venice



### Abbot's Got Gas

By John Davis

Not that kind of gas, at least not from that source. Whew. We are talking about Abbot Kinney Blvd. In what may spell doom or perhaps boom for major new developments, the City is requiring mitigation for what it terms "Explosion/Release (Methane Gas)."

This part of Venice is in a former oil and gas field, just like Playa Vista and Marina del Rey. Deep underground there are gases that can slowly rise to the surface through old abandoned well bores and underground cracks in hard rock called faults.

When the gases migrate from sources thousands of feet below they mix with the groundwater just a few feet under the surface.

Areas where the gases have mixed with the sub-surface groundwater are called gas seeps. Playa Vista is full of them and apparently so is Venice.

Like the gas of the real Abbot Kinney, part of the oil field gas is methane which is lighter than air. The City ordinance is designed to prevent explosions and releases of methane gas.

Well, that seems wise enough. When you get too much methane in the basement and the alarms go off you get the hell out and run far enough away to be safe if it explodes.

At the skeletal Playa Vista Development, residents who purchase homes are informed that there are methane alarms there too. Who would want a million-dollar plus house that didn't have the latest in windows, toilets, and methane alarms?

The City does not require Playa Vista to inform poorer people living at the Fountain Park Apartments about the methane problems and alarm failures. They have had to find out the hard way. Repeatedly, false alarms have been triggered sending residents to stand outside

— continued on page four

Around 600 Venetians turned out to vote on June 28 for candidates for 10 positions on the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) Board. No one knows who won.

Absentee balloting, continuing until July 22, was added at the urging of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), which oversees the more than 70 community councils in Los Angeles. The election result won't be known until July 25, according to the League of Women Voters, who count the ballots.

Two slates dominated the campaigning. The Progressive Grassroots Candidates, which is endorsed by the Beachhead, fielded 10 candidates, while the Team Venice slate presented eight hopefuls. (see page 4 for the entire list)

The election process quickly became controversial. The GRVNC Elections Committee held no public meetings as required by the state's Brown Act. Even so, it presented elections proposals to DONE, which included absentee voting. DONE officials claimed they were under the impression that the rules, and absentee voting, had been discussed in public and approved by the GRVNC Board.

However, Chris Wood, 2nd Vice President of GRVNC, filed a complaint with DONE, stating that the process was kept secret even from her. Most candidates, including the Progressives, found out about the absentee voting when they read about it in a city flyer that was distributed in some parts of Venice on June 6-7. The close of absentee voting was noon, June 15. Somehow, more than 300 people requested absentee ballots during that short period. Wood, and the Progressive Candidates, cried foul, accusing Team Venice of having been tipped off about the absentee voting.

At a special meeting of the Elections Committee on June 25, an Elections Committee was finally appointed by Chairperson Greg Fitchitt. An angry and boisterous crowd demanded that the election be either postponed or absentee balloting be reinstated. Because of popular demand and at the urging of DONE representatives Jamiko Bell-Potts and Jon Martinez, the committee reinstated absentee voting, with the provision that requests for absentee ballots had to be made by midnight on July 5 and ballots had to be postmarked by July 22.

### Beachhead Endorsement

In June, the Beachhead endorsed the 10-candidate slate of the Progressive Grassroots Candidates.

They are: Elena Popp for secretary, Jim Smith for treasurer, Tom O'Meara for communications officer, and all seven at-large board candidates: Elinor Aurthur, Sheila Bernard, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Lydia Poncé, Suzanne Thompson, Sabrina Venskus and Laddie Williams.

Last month's Beachhead endorsement editorial noted that the candidates were selected at a public community meeting, rather than being self nominated. Their extensive platform, which includes emphasis on affordable housing and community control of development, sets them apart from the rest of the pack (of candidates).

Recently, the pages of the Beachhead have been full of BIG development proposals and BIG opposition from the community. It would be nice to see the neighborhood council take a stand in support of the community. We believe that would happen if the Progressive slate is elected.

In addition, more and more tenants are being driven from Venice because of rent increases and no affordable housing alternatives. The on-going attempt to evict Albert Dunne, the 88-year-old veteran is one just one such example. This is just one more big reason for supporting the Progressives. ☺

### Election Timetable

**July 5 - Requests for absentee ballots due** (Email: elections@grassrootsvenice.org)  
**July 22 - Ballots must be postmarked**  
**July 25 - Votes are counted**

### Is Venice becoming a Banana Republic?

No, not a clothing store. But one of those third-world countries where the rules for elections are played fast and loose by those in power — like Florida.



First was the scandal of an election committee of the neighborhood council conducting its deliberations in secret, and avoiding one of the top officers of the council, Chris Wood.

Then there's the first round of absentee voting, which one side apparently knew about, and the other side didn't. If you blinked, you missed the deadline for making an absentee ballot request.

Then there were reports of eyewitnesses who allegedly witnessed Team Venice candidates Raiding coffee houses and cafes for supplies of campaign material from the Progressive slate, and dumping it in the trash, while replacing it with their own brochure.

Another low point in the campaign was reached with a Team Venice "hit piece," on the day before the on-site election, which claimed that Progressive candidate Sheila Bernard had stated her opposition to ALL development in Venice. On the contrary, Bernard is known for coining the term "elegant density," in advocating for affordable housing development.

She is absolutely not a Banana advocate (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone!).

Just as silly was the attack on Progressive candidate Peggy Lee Kennedy, who has taken it upon herself to feed hungry people

— continued on page four





## BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

A Clover, Carol Fondiller, Hillary Kaye, Vessy Mink, Yolanda Miranda, Lydia Poncé, 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 ads 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.

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## Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit

The Thought 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

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## LETTERS

— send letters to: Beachhead  
POB 644  
Venice 90294

Email: [Beachhead@freevenice.org](mailto:Beachhead@freevenice.org)



Drew McSherry

## Thornton Avenue Development

Dear Beachhead Readers:

The city has approved two Ocean Front projects fronting on Thornton Avenue. The present city code amendment states a 28 ft. maximum on walk street buildings. These new buildings have been approved at a height of 35 feet and have improper setbacks not in exact line with the rest of Thornton Ave. Sunshine and views for the residents would be cut off, not to mention the community feeling of Venice.

The walk streets and Ocean Front Walk are a part of Venice. Why would tourists or anyone want to stare at \$2 million condos, just like every other place? This cannot happen. This would set a very poor precedent for all future buildings built here. I have gathered 269 signatures and other people are gathering signatures as well. Within 75 days, the matter will come to a public hearing. Please Help!

Write to:  
Emily Gabel-Luddy  
Planning Dept  
200 N. Spring St 7th floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Joyce Haskell  
Thornton Avenue resident

**Thornton Avenue Towers (below):  
A familiar sight from the Ocean  
Front Walk, but not for much  
longer (see letter, above).**



Dearest Beachhead, All:

You honor me with every issue. "Thank You"-  
Much- (I Really Miss You!)

Love,  
Tina Catalina Corcoran

Dear Beachhead,

Venice Beach was the first place I visited when I arrived to this country from Guatemala. Every year it is a ritual for me to go there and feel free walking and relaxing, like I did then twenty years ago.

Edwin Vásquez  
Rosamond, California

Dear Free Venice Beachhead,

On June 17, I attended a C-PAB (Community Police Advisory Board) Homeless Outreach meeting at the LAPD Pacific Division (Venice's police station). I saw an employee of the City Attorney's office present a paper to the LAPD, which was supposed to be list of license numbers of Venice homeless folk who live in their vehicles. These vehicle license numbers were collected prior to the meeting while driving through Venice neighborhoods with the supposition that these vehicles were being lived in.

Call me foolish, but I thought that the criminalization of homeless folk was a bit more random than this and I also wonder if this kind of license collecting is part of the City Attorney's budget. Compassionate Venice residents should attend such meetings and discourage the laughing when someone slips and says, "No Homeless Sign," instead of "No Parking Sign!" This is so not funny.

Just in case Beachhead readers didn't already know - some of the major causes of homelessness are: the lack of a [family] support system, lack of affordable housing, economic hardships, and declining social services. One nice peanut gallery comment I heard at the meeting was about shipping the homeless to Barstow.

I could say much more and I will, but I ask readers not to support the needless harassment of Venice homeless folk. To quote a critic of the Free Venice Beachhead and the author/editor of the Watchdawg, "The future of Venice is depending on all of us to take part and point the powers that be in the right direction."

The next Homeless Outreach meeting for Venice is July 15, 6:30 PM at the LAPD Pacific Division. For more information on attending Homeless Outreach meetings, contact LAPD Pacific Division Officer Mathews at 310 202 4524.

Peace,

Peggy Lee Kennedy

Dear Beachhead,

The June issue looks great. I loved learning about Abbot Kinney and the story about the Beachhead and the Mao's Kitchen restaurant is hilarious.

Please accept the enclosed check as a first attempt on my part to partially defray Beachhead collective production costs.

Thanks again and I hope to see you at a poetry reading or other cultural event soon.

Ivan Smason

Dear Beachhead,

Here's a History question for you:

At the time of John Haag's Venice West coffee house, in 1959, there was a coffee house up in West LA, on Sawtelle near the VA. It was called the Blue Couch. What was the name of the man who ran that one? I think he might have been a relative of John Haag's, but I'm not sure.

Any info you can provide will be appreciated.

Thanks,

Marty Samps

Rich Mann





*Silvia in her Venice Free Theatre days*

## Silvia Kohan

1948 - 2003

**S**ilvia Kohan died in Venice on June 28, 2003. She was born in Argentina in 1948 to parents of Rumanian Jewish descent. The family immigrated to the United States when Silvia was 10. Silvia began singing all the show tunes she learned from listening to the radio.

By high school, she was active in the school chorus and musicals, and was a member of the Los Angeles All-City Choir. In 1965 she joined the musical revue "Up With People," and spent the next five years touring Europe, Asia, and the United States.

In 1971, Silvia returned to Los Angeles area and became one of the lead performers singing, dancing and acting in the Venice Free Theatre where she created the song "Moon Over Venice", by David Scott, thought by many to be the definitive song about Venice.

She also performed in many of the more notable cabarets and clubs such as the Troubadour and the Blah Blah Cafe.

She recorded several albums with jazz pianist Mary Watkins.

Recently, she returned to Venice, where she became well known to a new generation of fans when she sang jazz, blues and tangos on the Ocean Front Walk at Rose Ave.

She recently completed a sound track for a movie, and was going to sing "Moon Over Venice" at the July 4th 98th Venice Birthday Parade.

Silvia is survived by her sister, Venice resident Feliza Kohan and their Mother, Sofie. ☺



*Silvia and Chloe on the Ocean Front Walk, 2003*

### MOON OVER VENICE

By David Scott (1973)

Ain't got a nickel or a dime  
Ain't got a watch to tell the time  
Ain't got no job  
Ain't got a prospect in sight  
But I'm not feeling low  
I've got no place to go  
But there's a Moon Over Venice tonight

Ain't got no friends in city hall  
Ain't got nobody I can call  
Ain't got nobody who I helped  
when times were tight  
But I've no need to fear  
I know the coast is clear  
Cause there's a Moon Over Venice tonight.

I've got my eyes - to watch her shining  
I've got my ears to hear the ocean roar  
And there's a big bed of sand for reclining  
Who could call for anything more?

Repeat 2nd Verse

### Silvia's Voice

a large round balloon of sound  
filling the sad heart with warm  
full notes

a petulant god said  
why should they have all the fun?  
the goddess said

you need her heart her soul  
to get you through the never  
ending songs of praise of the  
flawless falsettos of feathered angels  
you need her to get you through  
the boring Hell of endless

Paradise  
she'll come up here and rumble through  
your choir with her

contralto  
and pieces of heaven will shake  
loose

down to savage Earth.  
They need it down  
there.

- Carol Fondiller

## NO EXIT: The Trammel Crow Project in the Oxford Triangle

By Barbara Eisenberg

In spite of and in the faces of approximately 260 Venice residents, the Grass Roots Venice Land Use and Planning Committee, for the most part, temporarily delayed the proposed monster construction planned for 3224/3226 Thatcher Avenue and 3221 Carter Avenue in the Oxford Triangle.

This project, for which Trammel Crow (a huge commercial real estate services development company) has not yet acquired the property, would be 375,000 square feet, of a French Vocabulary design on 5.8 acres. It would be a two to four story, multi-family facility with 670 parking spaces. The suggested rents of the luxury units would be from \$1800 to \$3700 per month. The traffic pattern would be directed through the completely residential Triangle to Washington Boulevard.

In spite of the fact that the Oxford Triangle Specific Plan was set up to not allow any increase in traffic through this area, the developer attempted to ignore this.

Since the residents of Venice are referred to as an "audience" at these meetings, tempers flared and many persons showed great frustration, with frequent outbursts.

Unfortunately, this "audience" title which has been put on the residents, creates an air that those who "should" be making the decisions are all but excluded by the "Royal" flavor the board has imparted upon itself. "Thou Shalt Not Speak Unless Spoken to First."

In spite of a very poorly estimated traffic study, by Crane and Associates, which shows an increase from 110 trips through the Oxford Triangle to 185 trips, just in the morning. With this addition of 298 units some with three bed-

rooms (which in some cases would probably house at least three roommates with an automobile each) somehow seems flawed in correspondence to the fact that there are presently 367 single-family dwellings in the entire Triangle. This traffic study claims that there would be "no significant impact of traffic on side streets."

Other outlandish suggestions from the developer to reduce auto traffic through the neighborhood were to provide free bicycles for the residents of the project to use for grocery shopping or to ride to work, and have plans to make arrangements with delivery providers, such as UPS, FedEx, and USPS, to coordinate and make one delivery time.

One has to take a deep breath, here, to try to imagine someone who can afford a \$3,700 rent even considering riding a bicycle to run errands or go to work. This type of person would most probably drive a very expensive car and want to be seen in it. This type of person would, also, most likely, have a maid or housekeeper, bringing more traffic through the side streets.

Sadly, the Los Angeles City Planning Department has checked off the traffic increase as having "no impact" on the neighborhood.

Beyond all this, the Board hastily approved to send the plan back to the developers until such time as they would find a way to redirect the traffic routes to Lincoln Boulevard instead of through the Triangle to Washington Boulevard.

After the extensive presentations had taken up one hour and forty-five, since Darryl Dufay, the Land Use and Planning Committee Chairperson, began the meeting late, an announcement came over the loud speaker to clear the room. Not many people, it seemed,

heard Dufay tell the Board that in order to accommodate the architects and developers, he would "meet with them on the curb, if necessary." As a result, almost everyone left, except for about ten individuals who noticed the Board convening in the parking area. In this new location they continued to hear presentations for 1210/1212 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, which they approved and 1345 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, which they also approved. More artist-in-residence units and 4000 square foot units and residential over commercial units.

In spite of the rules of the Ralph M. Brown Act, GRVNC continues to flagrantly do as they please and not follow those rules as it suits them.

One of the biggest violations of the Brown Act is to not find enough time to allow for public comment or input on any subject on the agenda. The Trammel Crow Project had 90 "speaker cards" submitted of which a "yes" or a "no" was allowed with 100% opining a negative choice, while the Board only requested a change of traffic flow.

The movement of the meeting to a parking lot and then refusing to allow the female members of the community to make comments after three and one half hours of patience, while chatting up male persons is an outrage.

This is a grave lack of respect for the community and citizens of Venice at large.

In spite of GRVNC's own Policy: "to RESPECT the Community Stakeholders as the ultimate authority and controlling force of GRVNC. To respect the autonomy of all individuals, groups, and organizations within the community."

In spite of... ☺



## Venice Neighborhood Council candidates:

Timetable: Absentee Ballot requests due by July 5. Ballots must be returned by July 22

### Secretary

Sonja Eshell Mata -  
Elena Popp - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Carolyn Ward - Team Venice

### Treasurer

Jeff Miles - Team Venice  
Jim Smith - Progressive Grassroots Candidates

### Communications Officer

Chris Bedrosian - Team Venice  
Tom O'Meara - Progressive Grassroots Candidates

### At Large

Elinor Aurthur - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Sheila Bernard - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Phyllis Des Verney -  
Marta Evry - Team Venice  
Rick Feibusch - Team Venice  
Barbara Gibson - Team Venice  
Clabe Hartley -  
Peggy Lee Kennedy - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Amy Nation -  
Lydia Poncé - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Phil Raider - Team Venice  
Stephanie Reich -  
Suzanne Thompson - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Jataun Valentine -  
Sabrina Venskus - Progressive Grassroots Candidates  
Laddie Williams - Progressive Grassroots Candidates



## Abbot's Got Gas

— continued from page one

waiting in the cold for an all clear. Wow.

Remember the fable of the Boy who cried Wolf? Imagine a dad sitting with his son at the Fountain Park Apartments, and the Gas Alarm sounds, again. Dad might then say don't worry son, it is just the methane alarm failing again. Or is it?

But there are other gases coming to the surface too and they are extremely dangerous.

Gases known as BTEX, Benzene and Toluene are on the list of Proposition 65 chemicals that are known to cause cancer and birth defects.

Deadly hydrogen sulfide can also accompany oilfield emissions. It is primarily known to cause brain damage in small concentrations and is one of the substances listed by OSHA as a primary cause of employee injury and death in the workplace due to exposure. This gas has the smell of rotten eggs.

The old City code is only for methane. It does not consider the fact that some of the dangerous oil field gases are heavier than air and cling to the ground level, invading structures and lingering, sometimes as people work, shop, eat and sleep.

The City should ensure the public's health and safety by first analyzing the soil and groundwater at these proposed developments on Abbott Kinney Blvd. by conducting Environmental Impact Reports required by the California Environmental Quality Act. It is quite possible that digging two levels into an oil field may cause a release of gases that would otherwise not take place. So if you see the bulldozers digging two levels of underground parking hold your nose. Whew, these large ugly fart lofts really do stink up the neighborhood. ☺

## A lonely Ocean Front Walk, circa 1971



— continued from  
page one

in Venice. Instead of being applauded for this, words were put in her mouth that she wanted the homeless to take over some streets in Venice, and that people in campers have the right to dump their sewage on city streets. The hit piece asks, "Will it be your street she gives away or turns into a public health hazard?"

Unfounded smear campaigns unfortunately are commonplace in political campaigns. But why would the Team Venice stoop to them in a neighborhood council election where office holders are not paid, and where winners and losers will frequently see each other around Venice after the election is over?

It was a short step from verbal smears to physical intimidation. That barrier was crossed the day of the election, June 28, when Chris Williams, supported by Rudolf Axford and Rick Feibusch, attempted to physically intimidate homeless activist and Food not Bombs leader, Calvin Moss, who

was passing out Progressive Candidates literature.

Williams, Axford and Feibusch, who are not exactly "wee folk" failed to intimidate Moss, and promptly called the LAPD. When they arrived, Williams complained that Moss was intimidating them! The officers, after interviewing all concerned, chalked it up to "politics" and urged the parties to leave in separate directions.

While these antics directly affect only a few candidates and supporters, what happened next affects all of us.

At the June 25 Elections Committee meeting DONE rep Bell-Potts pointed out that the GRVNC would be without an effective quorum after July 1, the date when the terms of 10 incumbents expired. Since the identity of their replacements won't be known until late July (barring challenges), she suggested that the Executive Committee meet immediately to frame a bylaw revision that would keep the 10 in office until their replacements took over.

All agreed and a meeting was set for two days later. However, at that meeting on June 27, the Executive Committee was unable to achieve a quorum when Team Venice supporters failed to show up. As a result, Venice will be without a neighborhood council board for at least the month of July and possibly longer. ☹

— The Beachhead Staff



# The Vanishing of Venice (1938)

By Charles Harris (Brick) Garrigues

The Santa Barbara earthquake of 1925 lasted forty seconds. The Los Angeles quake of 1933 lasted about eighty seconds. The Saint Francis Dam disaster was over in seven hours. The Santa Monica Bay disaster has lasted twenty years and will last another twenty unless steps are taken to stop it.

Sand is an interesting thing. Each week between May and September approximately a million residents of Los Angeles County drive or ride from five to fifty miles to spend an hour or two or three lying upon it or in the water. Nobody ever thinks of where it came from or where it is going. It is just there. And then some season they find that their favorite beach is gone.

In the mountains and steep cliffs to the north of Santa Monica Bay the sand is made. Each winter, tons of it are carried down from the canyons between Topanga and Point Mugu. Day after day, night after night, the waves shift the sand southward, an inch at a time, past Santa Monica, past Ocean Park, past Venice, Del Rey, the South Bay Cities, until it is dragged into a huge subterranean chasm off the coast at Redondo.

Watch the waves rolling in, at a forty-five degree angle, but they roll out perpendicularly. As a wave strikes the beach, it stirs up the sand, holding it for a few minutes in suspension. During those few seconds, the entire mass of water has moved an inch or two southward; when the sand is deposited again, it has moved infinitesimally down the coast.

Not many remember the magnificence of the Playa Del Rey of thirty years ago -- the pavilion built on the sea, the long, broad lagoon, protected by locks, where the "smart set" of the day came (driving down in carriages) for boating, canoeing and swimming.

That pavilion, with its piling and its jetties, started the destruction of the Del Rey beach. For the piers created a "dead area" in the surf -- an area the waves did not empty. And so the sand began to pile up north of the pier, and the beach to the south began to suffer a "sand famine" as its own supply was swept southward.

Not many, for that matter, remember the Venice of a few years later -- the model city of the day, laid out by that strange old romantic realist, Abbot Kinney, in an attempt to incorporate into one American town the best, the most colorful, the most glamorous -- and perhaps the worst -- of half a dozen of the most colorful cities of the New World.

Upon the completion of Venice, something happened to the Venice beach, exactly the same thing that had happened in Playa Del Rey: The construction of the Kinney pier and breakwater cut off the supply of sand south of the pier. For two miles, waves gouged at the narrow sand bar which is the city of Venice, biting further and further inland.

In 1916 the first disaster came. Twenty-eight houses were swept into the sea. Thousands of feet of beach were destroyed. The physical disaster of Venice had begun -- a disaster without loss of life but surely destroying a city. For Venice is not built upon solid earth, but upon a sand bar. Let that bar be eaten away and the sea will sweep in, pouring into the lagoons and canals below sea level and backing up the swamps half a dozen miles toward Culver City.

In 1933 another major step in the tragedy: Santa Monica built a yacht harbor. A long breakwater was thrown into the sea three miles north of Venice. A new dead area was created at the Venice beach, a vast sand trap sufficient to hold all the sand moving down the coast for fifty years to come.

Such is the slow destruction of Venice. About Venice future generations will not ask "Why didn't somebody tell somebody?" but "Why didn't somebody do something?"

And the answer to that, of course, is Greed.

If Venice had been a wealthy city like Santa Monica, it is probable that somebody might have done something. But the mistake of Abbot Kinney, the failure to foresee the effects of the automobile, took its toll. Cut off from the rest of the world, with no better highway than a twenty-foot alley, Venice became a city of Poverty.

Unlike Santa Monica or Santa Barbara, it did not have scores of wealthy influential citizens ready to battle for its future. The hundreds of thousands who came weekly to bathe on its beach did not live in or own property there. And so Venice slipped backward while its people vainly attempted to find some way of blasting a road through the city.

Here, too, they were defeated by Greed. But it was their own, dog-in-the-manger sort of Greed.

Everybody was agreed it should be built on one of three routes:

- Along the Trolleyway where the interurban railway ran.
- Along the narrow alley (known with official humor as the "Speedway").
- Or in the middle of the block between the two.

The problem was that from 415 to 432 parcels of private property would have to be condemned -- and paid for -- if one of these routes were chosen.

The city and the county of Los Angeles joined to study the problem. The federal government weighed in. They came up with an answer:

- Run the road right down the ocean front, along public property.
- Between Santa Monica and Del Rey, build a series of groynes (narrow, semi-submerged piers) into the sea, to prevent the sand from being washed away.
- From the dunes south of Del Rey, where Uncle Sam was dumping four million cubic yards of sand into the sea to construct a sewage treatment plant, pump enough sand to fill out Venice Beach to the desired width.

The entire project could be completed by this method for two million dollars less than it would cost to get a highway, plus beach protection, by any other route.

The money was provided in the county budget. And then, from a new quarter, there bobbed up our old friend, Greed.

The years had brought to Venice a different atmosphere. Sideshows and ten-cent amusements had given way to a new industry -- the tango business. (Tango is one of those amusements on the borderline of the law -- sometimes legal, sometimes illegal, depending on the interpretation of the statutes.)

Into the plan to protect Venice was injected a war between those who controlled Venice -- the tango operators -- and the heirs of Abbot Kinney.

The Los Angeles City playground department wanted the site of the Venice pier for a major recreational area, with baths, solariums and concert halls. The Abbot Kinney Company wanted to sell to the city.

But that would have meant the destruction of the tango kings determined to keep their pier.

John Harrah, former mayor of Venice when it was an independent city, was one of the top tango operators. He knew how public officials can be controlled. He knew that Supervisor John Anson Ford, a bitter foe of

the tango kings, couldn't be touched by threats or promises. But he had a plan.

Very quietly he retained an attorney named Gilchrist who happened to be a relative by marriage of District Attorney Buron Fitts. Harrah promised him a fee of ten thousand dollars if he succeeded in blocking the program.

And so --

The county grand jury, always under the influence of the district attorney, suddenly announced an investigation of the proposed sale.

But it was never begun. It didn't need to be. The announcement alone was enough to convince Supervisor Ford that something was wrong. He announced that he would oppose the entire program and indicated that anybody voting for it was probably working for the "corrupt interests which control Venice."

His announcement was enough to swing Supervisor Herbert C. Legg also into the opposition. Legg was running for governor and could not afford to take a chance.

Supervisor Gordon McDonough, who gets the jitters every time the grand jury is mentioned, slipped out of town on one of his junkets just before the purchase was to be consummated.

The pier purchase was permitted to die -- and with it there died the whole Venice protection program.

It was not until several months later that the real method by which the tango business was perpetuated began to come into the open.

For Harrah refused to pay Gilchrist his promised fee. Gilchrist went to court and sued the tango king. Harrah based his defense on the claim that the fee was to have been for the improper "influencing" of public officials and was consequently illegal.

The case is still being fought in the courts, and the testimony is revealing the whole story of how Greed blocked the protection of Venice.

And the Vanishing of Venice continues. Only when it is too late will the cry go up: "Why didn't somebody tell somebody?"

*Abridged from Why Didn't Somebody Tell Somebody?, a pamphlet published by Los Angeles newspaperman Charles Harris (Brick) Garrigues in May 1938 and republished in January 1939. ☉*

## Venice Statistical Review - 1936

**Name of City:** Venice

**Slogan or sub-phrase:** California's All-Year Playground.

**Form of Government:** Part of City of Los Angeles

**Population:** Gov't census 10,260 (1936) Local est. 22,000

**Average Temperature:** 66, Rainfall: 10 inches

**Financial:** 2 banks with \$2,000,000.00 total deposits

**Telephones in service:** 2,653

**Churches:** 10

**Industry:** Employing 2,000 men and 300 women, paying wages \$13,000,000 annually, and having products valued at \$11,000,000 annually. Approximately 4/5 of this activity can be attributed to oil development. 225 wells employing 2,500 men. About 15,000 barrels daily production.

**Trade:** Territory (retail) serves 50,000 people within the trading area covering a radius of 3 miles. Jobbing territory serves 100,000 people within a radius of 6 miles.

**Newspapers:** Venice Evening Vanguard

**Hotels:** There are 10 hotels, with a total of 500 rooms.

**Transportation:** City served by Pacific Electric Railroad, Bay Cities Transit Co., Culver City Municipal Bus and Motor Coach Co., and Pacific Greyhound.

**Amusements:** There is 1 theatre with a total seating capacity of 1500 persons.

**Education:** Number of schools: 9, including one high school, one parochial school. Number of pupils in public schools: 3,000. Number in private schools: 600. Total of all teachers: 150. Value of all school property, private and public, approximately \$2,500,000.00. University of Loyola, 600 students.

**Libraries:** One with 13,000 volumes

**City Statistics:** Total street mileage 250, with 80 miles paved. Miles of sewers 65, electric street railway 10 miles. Fire Department employs 46 men with following equipment: 5 autos, 2 engines, 1 hose and chemical wagon, 1 hook and ladder truck, 1 rescue company, 1 Foamite company, in 2 station houses. Police department has 63 men with 1 station and 6 pieces of motor equipment.



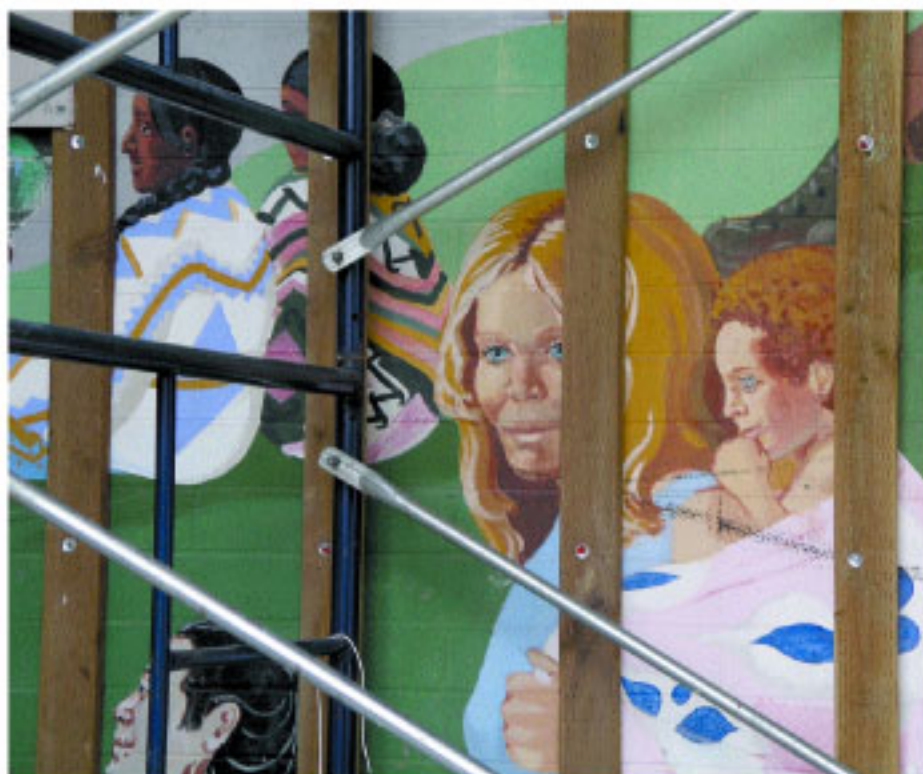
Grand Canal in the 1930s





Rally photos by Theresa Hulme

Several thousand people "welcomed" George W. Bush to California, June 27. He was here to collect more than \$3 million from right-wing fat-cats who have not yet moved to Idaho. Complaints with Bush ranged from the occupation of Iraq, his tax cut for the rich, and the small detail of not having been elected by a majority of the voters. ☺



## Cover-up on Venice Blvd.

For months it looked like the mural at the Venice Health Center, 905 Venice Blvd., would survive the remodeling and expansion of the clinic. It had been an outdoor mural that was being surrounded by the larger building.

A short time ago, however, 2x4s were drilled into the mural, apparently in preparation for being covered up.

Calls to the Venice Family Clinic, which operates the Venice Blvd. facility were not returned.

Hopefully, the cover up is temporary. ☺

## Whales under attack

# TURN THAT DAMN THING DOWN!

In the name of national security the U.S. House of Representatives has passed an act that would enable the Pentagon to eviscerate environmental regulations that protect sea life.

The National Defense Act Range Preservation Initiative gives across the board immunity from the Clean Air Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and all other environmental statutes.

The National Defense Act would allow the Navy to re-implement the high tech sonar underwater testing that was stopped by federal judges. This testing was stopped when it was found that the sonar waves were causing whales and dolphins to hemorrhage and bleed to death.

The Navy sonar testing has a range of over 300 miles. The sound also breaks the sea animals' ear drums, disorienting them, so that they are unable to find their feeding and breeding grounds. Several hundred whales have already died.

The Senate has not voted on this act yet, but will vote as soon as possible after the July 4 recess.

Please call your senators immediately - our senators are Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein. They can be reached at 202-224-3121 (Washington switchboard).

For more information contact the National Resources Defense Council at 212-727-2700 or [www.nrdcwildplaces.org](http://www.nrdcwildplaces.org). ☺



## Dear Beachhead readers and contributors:

Thanks to you, we are beginning our second year anniversary in this most recent incarnation of the Free Venice Beachhead.

Your letters, poems, articles, photos, art, work, and money have helped us spread the news about whose agenda is on the burner and why.

We appreciate your support and the Beachhead will work for free, but paper and the printer cost money.

We're having a benefit on July 27th (see page 12) to raise funds for the Beachhead and the Venice Peace and Freedom Party.

You can also become a sustainer for \$100 a year - installments accepted!

With your help, we will be here for years to come "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable."

Checks can be made out to the Beachhead and sent to:

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD  
P.O. Box 664, Venice, CA 90294

Thank you and Chee Wah-Wah!

- The Beachhead Collective





**CARNAVALE:** The Leela Dance Troup performed at this year's Carnavale, held on June 14, at Ozone Avenue and the Ocean Front Walk. It was the second annual celebration, but Carnavale was a traditional event in pre-World War II Venice. ☼



# Developer launches preemptive strike against Lincoln Place

By C.V. Beck

Even as the tenant union's attorney went to court on Monday AM, June 23, early-bright, for historic preservation of these Lincoln Place buildings, the crew (who had apparently crept in the day and night before), managed to knock down all the buildings which were the subject of the court appearance before Judge Yaffe that morning downtown. American Wrecking began their dirty deed before lawful starting time (they started at 6:30 AM, not 7) and by the time court convened at 8:30 AM, the buildings were mostly down already.

Present on Lake Street at 7:15 AM, was Eric Hoffman, who identifies himself sometimes as the controller, other times as the vice-president in charge of development of Transaction, the corporation that owns Lincoln Place, and the American Wrecking supervisor, who refused to identify himself when I asked; (told me it was none of my

business, in a very hostile and threatening manner) and approximately six or more security thugs of the owner, one wearing full battle regalia, including Kevlar vest, gun, handcuffs, baton, two ammunition belts and jack boots. (I was told yesterday that about 20 sleeping homeless persons were rousted from these buildings by security immediately prior to demolition!)

When the judge heard our case by 9:30 am, the buildings were flattened. American Wrecking had four dozer-excavator things, were working fast and furiously. In their zeal to have this despicable deed done ASAP, they neglected to shut off the gas mains to the buildings and also knocked down telephone and cable lines to adjoining buildings. I called the gas company who came out on Tuesday, as I was smelling gas everywhere I went.

Shouldn't they have notified us that this demolition was going to take place so we, the people, (the residents and the surrounding

neighborhood) could protect ourselves from the toxic materials spewed out into the air? Was this an illegal stealth attack with no due process? I did buy hearing protectors the next day. I was getting a long-lasting headache, as the loud beeping from the excavator/dozer went on and on all day long at the loudest possible volume!

The stench from the diesel fuel in the air was overpowering, also contributing to my headache and Tuesday morning, 3:30 AM, I woke up with chest pains, as if I had a sunburn inside my lungs. Many of the residents here are elderly and frail. They should keep the windows closed to protect from the noise and dust and toxic fumes being generated, and should be wearing masks and hearing protectors when they go out. ☼

*Job Satisfaction: (below) Eric Hoffman of Transaction Corp. and an unidentified supervisor with American Wrecking view the destruction of more Lincoln Place affordable housing units.*



Lydia Ponce



C.V. Beck



C.V. Beck



# On the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of Venice

*The following manuscript was given to me by a rather odd-looking person I met at Abbot's Habit recently. He claimed to be a time traveler from the future, who wished to remain anonymous. I don't know whether his account of these events 102 years in the future is accurate or not. But, he was honest enough to admit the Beachhead Collective had rejected his article when he submitted it in 2110. — Jim Smith*

**T**he Abbot of Venice took a long sip of her cappuccino, and sighed. This would be the longest day of her life, thought Shelly Cabrera. Not only was it the 200th anniversary of the founding of Venice, but the Doge of Venice - that one on the Italian peninsula - was in town, and she was expected to make a momentous political decision. And it had only been a year ago that her party, the Dolphins, won a majority in the Venice Assembly and installed her as Abbot. Now she had to fill the shoes of a Venice icon, the late Bill Sawyer of the Justice Party.

She looked out at the surf from her third floor apartment where the Grand Canal entered the Bay. They called it Brooks Avenue in the old days, she mused. Then, right on time, Chester Sims walked in with the day's itinerary. "How did you sleep, dear Abbot?" he purred. "Chester, no amount of small talk is going to soften the blow of this day. Let's get to it." Then, feeling a little guilty for jumping on her secretary, Shelly added, "I'm fine. How are you?"

"I'm wonderful as usual, considering I had to lug all these paper up three flights of stairs. The elevator's not working again," he moaned. "And you should be feeling good. Your friend Marco, the Doge is coming." "There's nothing between Marco and I, Chester. It's just politics," retorted Shelly.

"As you like it," said Chester. "It's just that we Venetians love to gossip. Oh, yes, and you had a few visitors downstairs."

"I hope you told them this was a holiday," Shelly asked hopefully. "I did," Chester responded. "There was a delegation demanding better conditions in the slums down on the Strand. They'll be back tomorrow. But your Justice Party friend wouldn't take no for an answer. She's still waiting."

"Why does Christina Li have to torment me today?" Shelly asked no one in particular. "Oh well, show her in, please."

"Christina, how nice of you to visit." The words were hardly out of the Abbot's mouth when her sometimes friend and elder roared her disapproval at having to use the freight elevator. "Do you know that there are laws, Shelly, laws to protect those of us who cannot walk? When are you going to fix that thing?"

Shelly seems to be whispering in response, "Christina, unless you've come to make a citizen's arrest, tell me what you want. I've got a million things to do today."

"Yes, I know, Shelly. Bill Sawyer told me a thousand times that it's not easy being Abbot of Venice. I just want to make sure you that you use this celebration to announce the declaration of independence. You know that Bill worked all his life for this day. What would he think if you passed up the chance of a lifetime? The Doge is here and our 'dear friend,' the California Prime Minister is not. If you don't act, we may be forced to call for a vote of confidence in the Venice Assembly, and some of your Dolphin Party delegates may defect over independence."

"Christina, stop," Shelly interrupted. "First of all, Bill Sawyer is dead. Bill's will asked the Assembly to consider me, not you, to succeed him as Abbot. The delegates agreed, and here we are. Besides, I haven't decided what I'm going to do. You know how I hate to make these kinds of decisions."

Shelly could see Christina preparing for a long harangue, when Chester rushed in, exclaiming, "Shelly dear, you're going to miss your speech at the Pagan Parade. It is the 4th of July, you know."

"Chester, do I have to? There's so much to do today," complained Shelly.

Chester made a face, "Now you know you do. The Pagan Party holds the balance of power in the Assembly. If you desert them at the parade they may desert you in the Assembly, Goddess forbid. And, you know I'm a proud member," smiled Chester. Shelly surrendered, "All right. But I'm not going to wear that silly cape with the moon and stars."

Shelly descended the stairs and caught the first municipal launch heading down the Grand Canal. She arrived at the start of the parade - the old city hall museum - to the cheers of the pagans. The short trip down the canal followed a diagonal line of what was once called Abbot Kinney Blvd. in old Venice. That was before the great subsidence.

In the early morning hours of July 26, 2065, the residents of Venice were tossed from their beds by one

of the largest earthquakes ever to hit a populated area. Because of the hour, only a few thousand people in the Los Angeles megalopolis were killed. But then thousands more died in days of aftershocks nearly as large as the first giant quake. Less than a week later, the first evidence of the subsidence was discovered. Los Angeles was sinking. Not rapidly, but steadily. The evacuation began in earnest. Most Angelenos trekked to the north, never to return.

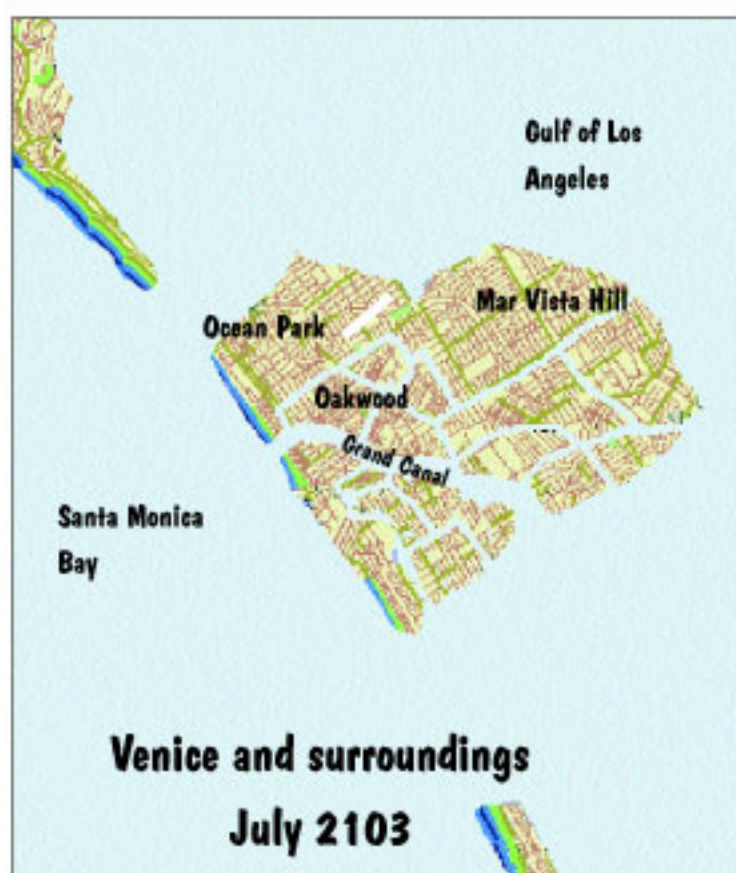
In the mass chaos, no one outside of Venice noticed that their sandbar was not sinking. In Venice, the evacuation was from the lower parts of the city to the sandbar that runs parallel to the beach and rises a few feet above sea level. Others set up camps on Mar Vista hill, which had seceded from Los Angeles and joined Venice a few years ago.

Venice had finally restored cityhood following the 2048 law passed by the United Nations General Assembly that prohibited outside intervention in any people's decision for self-determination. Within a few weeks Venice voted for cityhood, and a few months later, the nation of California came into being.

Meanwhile, on the Italian peninsula, the Serene Republic of Venice was proclaimed. Later, under the leadership of Marco Zitelli, it became a leader of the small nations caucus in the United Nations. The small, but historic, country became a trading power by sending its giant cargo airships throughout the world, when the petroleum crisis made jet airplane freight prohibitively expensive.

In Venice, California, its Abbot, Bill Sawyer, worked like a mad man, rallying Venetians to stay put. Those who still had homes above water took in those who had become homeless. Boats that broke loose from their moorings in the now submerged Marina were commandeered to find food and fresh water to keep the bedraggled Venetians alive. Sawyer seemed to be everywhere, using his great bulk to help Venetians move their meager belongings to higher ground, or to upper floors of submerged houses. "Now I know why I spent all those years pumping iron," Sawyer supposedly said after a particularly strenuous day.

Sawyer knew that California was in chaos, and couldn't help. Although a great deal of aid poured in from Pacifica in the north, the Rocky Mountain Alliance and Mexico, little of it found its way to what



had become the island of Venice. In recent years, the town of Venice had established cordial relations with that other Venice, in Italy. In desperation, Sawyer sent a plea to the first Venice asking it to remember its stricken namesake. Three days later, when the situation was growing desperate for the Venetians, and even Sawyer was almost without hope, the refugees raised their eyes to see three giant red airships emblazoned with the Winged Lion of Venice hovering overhead.

As every school child knows, those airships bore food, medicine, earth moving equipment and pylons upon which to base new buildings. Within days, canals were being dug and the dirt and mud was piled up to create little islands surrounded by streets of water. Before long, 30-foot steel pylons brought from Italy were driven into the ground to make sturdy foundations for new buildings. Venice spread out, incorporating the remnants of the Palisades and Ocean Park. But few of the shell-shocked former residents of Los

Angeles wanted to take a chance on living on an island bordered by a new inland sea full of sunken buildings. Sawyer and a few thousand hardy Venetians were left to build a new society, much to their own choosing.

After the parade, Shelley walked north on Ocean Front Walk from the Windward Plaza, past Jim Morrison's tomb. Workers were busily installing the loudspeakers and holographic projectors that would carry tonight's festivities - and her talk - up and down the Ocean Front.

Lost in thought about her big speech, Shelly didn't notice Chester rapidly bearing down on her. "Shelley dear," he said breathlessly. "The Doge is here. He wants to see you."

Ignoring his impatience, Shelly mused, "You know Venice has changed so much, yet somehow it remains the same. I wonder if someone from Abbot Kinney's day - or even John Haag's day - would recognize the place?"

"I'm sure they would," Chester responded, forgetting his mission to rush Shelley back to the municipal hall. "You of all people should know that Venice is magical," he continued. "Time goes by, but the magic remains. Why even the gods spared Venice during the great subsidence, he exclaimed!"

Marco Zitelli, Doge of Venice and the Lagoon, surprised Shelly as she entered the lobby. Instead of an official handshake, Zitelli flung his arms around her and kissed her passionately. Fortunately Chester had gone off to see if the elevator was fixed. "I've missed you so much mio amore, Marco whispered."

Shelly drew back in shock. "Now, Marco. I told you that night in your Venice that we couldn't continue our romance. It's impossible."

"Yes, yes, I know. You have your Venice, and I have my Venice. But please humor my fantasy," he pleaded.

Just then Chester returned with bad news. The elevator was still out of order. After an embarrassing silence, Marco said excitedly, "Shelly, I saw you at the parade when we were coming down the canal. You looked magnificent in that cape with the moon and stars. How daring!"

"Marco," Shelley changed the subject, "the Assembly has gathered to meet you. Would you mind saying a few words?"

Hours later, the Ocean Front Walk was jammed in both directions with Venetians. It seemed that the entire city of 125,000 had turned out to celebrate its 200th anniversary. Venice musicians had been performing on nearly every block until the holographic projectors flashed on, showing Abbot Shelley Cabrera approaching the podium on the second floor terrace of the municipal hall.

"My fellow Venetians, Doge Zitelli, honored guests, it is my great pleasure to speak to you at the beginning of the third century of our great and unique city. Venice is more than buildings and canals. It is a state of mind. Throughout our history we have been trying to define this state of mind, through poetry, painting, song, sculpture and lifestyle. Even today, we do not have the words that describe exactly what is Venice. But we will keep trying, and by so doing, create more and more art."

"If you were not born in Venice, you came here and went through a transformation that made you a Venetian. It made you more thoughtful, more cordial, more excited by the small pleasures of life. How could we better define the difference that being Venetian makes than to listen once more to the words of our great, and sorely missed, Abbot, Bill Sawyer." He said: "Before I came to Venice, I would walk down the street of some strange city and see fear in peoples' eyes when they saw me. Even 200 years after the end of slavery, I was not accepted. But when I walk around Venice, people see me and grin...and I grin back. This is truly my home!"

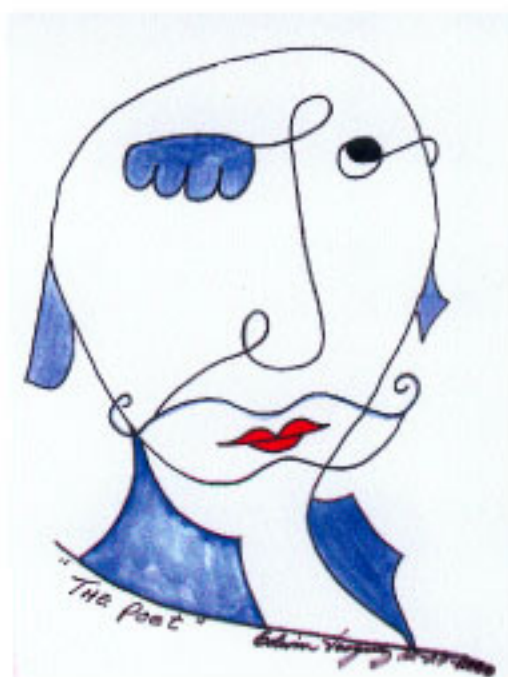
"Fellow Venetians," Shelley continued. "Today we are faced with a difficult decision about our future. I have dreaded offering my opinion about our future relationship with California and with the world. But walking around Venice today, seeing thousands of you and talking with hundreds of my friends has given me confidence that we are in a better position to determine our destiny than is anyone else. Therefore, I have decided to call a special session of the Venice Assembly to consider placing a referendum before our community. I am recommending that the referendum declare our intention of joining the 500 sovereign and united nations of this planet. My fellow Venetians, Venice has come of age."

Suddenly Shelly felt that yet another earthquake had come to strike her down at her moment of decision. Then she realized that it was the deep roar of conga drums and thousands of Venetians applauding her words. Shaken, she stepped back from the podium and was quickly replaced by Venice's finest salsa band. The party of the century had begun.

Chester was almost the last person to see Shelly that night. He glimpsed her and Marco climbing the stairs to her third floor apartment. Then, he turned, yelled "Viva Venice" at the top of his lungs and waded into the celebration. ☺



# POETRY



## VALEDICTORY

By Lance Diskan  
July 4

Oh Venice  
My beloved friend,  
How can I ever leave you?  
Do I leave you;  
Or do you leave me?

You who have sheltered me  
Through all these years,  
Dazzled and inspired me,  
Surrounded me with friends,  
My community;  
The home where I grew up,  
Learned to live,  
Struggled through the many years  
Of tears and laughter?  
Too many memories to remember!

Here on the ocean's edge  
We have walked and danced,  
Eight thousand sunsets shared  
Caring for one another;  
Lover,  
Companion from boyhood to parenthood,  
How good it's been  
To watch the passing days in your embrace,  
Knowing of those who came before,  
An unending arcade parade of souls  
Living out their dreams,  
It seems just yesterday I arrived  
And now I must tear myself away from your show  
And go  
Into the soft, quiet mountains.

My mind cannot recall  
All my heart's fill:  
The ones who've come and gone,  
The moments savored  
Flavoring my poignant, pungent brew;  
You!  
You have changed so constantly -  
Just a never-ending stream  
Of visions, voices  
Vanishing now like the western horizon  
As my life moves into a new dawn.

I am but a single tale in your proud and profane history;  
But oh, dear town,  
You are the magic in my life,  
The very time when life was full  
Of friends, places,  
Faces that will haunt my days.

Oh, Venice  
My beloved friend,  
I can never leave you.  
We are together  
Now and always  
One.

## Taking It

By Hillary Kaye

O.K., I'll stand here for a million days,  
taking it  
taking it  
coming and going  
just like everybody else  
taking it  
taking it as if I cared  
taking it as if there was a way out of it  
no more pretending that there is a way  
not to take it one way or the other.  
oh taking it,  
acting like I never took it before.  
O damn I guess I'll have to be a lady,  
and take it like a man.

## For Hippie John

By Tina Catalina

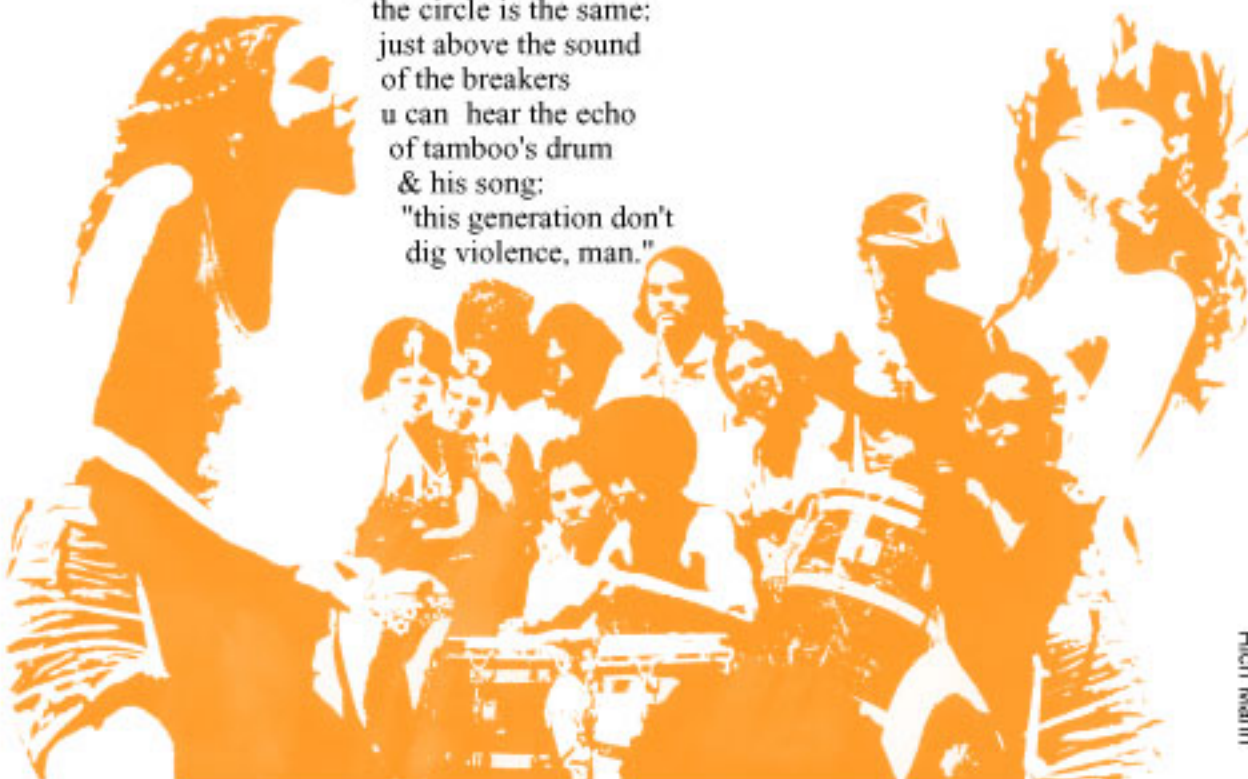
There ain't no "Hip Song"  
HIP enough,  
To sing- for HIPPIE JOHN.  
There ain't no "BIG WORDS"  
BIG enough,  
To bring - for BIG BAD JOHN!  
There ain't no "FAREWELL"  
FAIR enough  
To play- Farewell my Friend...  
There ain't no "SWEET WORDS"  
Sweet enough,  
To whisper...

Amen

## First Venice Beach Drumcircle

By Bill Fleeman

the first venice beach  
drumcircle happened  
the magic summer of '59.  
u'd see tamboo  
a.k.a. curtis smith  
kneeling seven feet tall  
head thrown back black  
against the red ball sky  
out on the sand  
way down by the surf  
where the cops wouldn't go  
on account of sand  
in their shoes.  
u'd hear the conga drum  
crash boom sound  
clear from the  
venice west cafe  
door ajar or not  
where sponto is now.  
sondra t u said it took  
5000 signatures to  
save the drum  
from dying like  
a grunion in the sun.  
listen so u know  
the circle is the same;  
just above the sound  
of the breakers  
u can hear the echo  
of tamboo's drum  
& his song:  
"this generation don't  
dig violence, man."



Rich Mann

## MONDAY MORNING AT THE 7-11

By John Haag

The alcohol addicts  
arriving at six o'clock,  
buying their beer or  
bumming for wine,

Everybody waiting  
for the morning deliveries  
of milk and newspapers  
or something to start

The day with, hoping  
that nothing goes wrong;  
but, of course, the  
outside newspaper rack

Swallows their quarters  
without recompense.

## VENICE

by Edwin Vásquez

It is a sea  
where rivers of people  
flow unaware of the surprises ahead.

It is a place  
where the constant interaction  
of colors, shapes  
forms and languages  
creates a venue like no other in the world.

Venice is  
a multicultural ecosystem  
on its own.

The ecliptic style  
the uniqueness of the community  
is the perfect formula  
to fall in love.

For me, a simple mortal  
is a diamond in the Pacific  
where a blue silk ocean  
reflect the spirit  
of thousands of tourists  
smiling,  
walking,  
absorbing,  
the energy and the light  
of the California sun.

Venice is pleasure  
Venice is freedom.



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Carol Fondiller

interviews

Ruth Galanter



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Rich Mann



# POETRY

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- Every Sunday Night, 7:00 pm Open-Mic Poetry at Abbot's Habit (Abbot Kinney at California)
- Jul 24, Thursday **Club MOSAIC** 7:30 pm signup (Every 4th Thu) at the Yard 1414 Lincoln Blvd (Santa Monica Blvd) **FREE** - Poetry to beats, DJ Gann in the attic all night 795.0953 [mosaic@earthlink.net](mailto:mosaic@earthlink.net)

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email: [venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm](mailto:venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm)  
\*\*\* Venice Peace Picnic afterward at Dudley Hill (Rose Parking Lot in Venice)
- Thursdays 7:30-9 pm **Dharma** at The Clubhouse - Buddhism Study and Meditation Group. Daily life principles. in Douglas Park 2439 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica plenty of parking no fee 451-4368 [www.santamonicaaksg.org](http://www.santamonicaaksg.org)
- Sundays 11 am **Food Not Bombs** Cafe on the Beach - Hot Breakfast "neath the pagodas at Rose Ave. Volunteers, call 892-8799 or email: [venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm](mailto:venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm)
- July 1 and Aug 1 **CAR FREE DAY** - all day - make Venice a better place to live by parking those cars! **Meet 6 pm with your bike at the Venice Circle** (Main & Windward) for a short group ride around the empty streets of Venice.
- July 15 6:30 pm **Homeless Outreach Meeting** - **LAPD Pacific Division** - Officer Darell Matthews 310.202.4524 ext 3 (press 3 and #)
- July 15 7-8:30 pm **Yo San University** - Help for High Cholesterol: Chinese Medical Solutions - HDL, LDL, Triglycerides - What do the numbers mean? 13315 Washington Blvd 310.577.3000 x13

## GRASS ROOTS VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- July 16, Wednesday, 7 pm **Parking Committee** Vera Davis Center, 610 California [veniceparking@yahoo.com](mailto:veniceparking@yahoo.com).
- July 21, Monday 7 pm **Land Use & Planning Meeting** - Boys & Girls Club of Venice 390-4477.
- July 31, Thursday 6 pm - **Conservation Committee** - Abbot Kinney Library.
- July 25 - Vote Count for GRVNC Board - 9:30 am - Location to be announced. 280-3411.

# Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Boys and Girls Club - 2232 Lincoln Blvd. 390-4477.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. [www.beyondbaroque.org](http://www.beyondbaroque.org)
- Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - [www.grassrootsvenice.org](http://www.grassrootsvenice.org) - 281-1943.
- LAFCO (L.A. film coop) 660 Venice Blvd. 574-4733
- St Joseph's Center - Rose & 4th - 396-6468
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or [www.vchc.org](http://www.vchc.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](http://www.veniceofamerica.org)
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave.
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 - [vpfp@freevenice.org](mailto:vpfp@freevenice.org).
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.

# Community Events



# FILM

7 Dudley Cinema - Sponto Gallery 399-2078

- July 23 **Uncensored Cartoons II** - Film historian **Jerry Beck** of [CartoonResearch.com](http://CartoonResearch.com)
- August 6 **Tommy** - **Ken Russell's** visionary interpretation of **The Who's** rock opera with **Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret, and Oliver Reed.**
- Jul 6, Sunday - **Shortie Challenge** 7 pm \$3  
Monthly short film festival (24 days to create a film)
- Jul 18 - Aug 2 **Latino Film Festival** 323.469.9066  
Gorka Urzaiz, volunteer coordinator; Enrique Pinerua Festival Venue Manager [www.latinofilm.org](http://www.latinofilm.org)
- July 26, 7 pm **Warner Grand Theatre** - "The Life & Times of **Harry Bridges**" 478 West 6th Street, San Pedro \$15 & up [reception, limited seats - \$100; post performance street party \$25, etc] proceeds support The Harry Bridges Project Film & Harry Bridges Institute for International Education & Organization  
Reception/Party: 310.664.1142 Suzanne Thompson; Performance: 310.831.2397 Shannon Donato

# THEATRE

- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd.  
**A Delicate Balance** - By Edward Albee (through Jun 15)  
THU, FRI & SAT 8 pm - SUN 3 pm  
Call Box Office at 310.822.8392
- Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave **An Evening in Bed three new plays** written by **Maurice Chauvet, Patricia Cotter** and **Sharr White** produced by **Lance Richter**; directed by **Sue Hamilton, Peymon Maskan, Michael Angelo Stuno** - July 10 - Aug 3; Thu, Fri, Sat 8 pm; Sun 7 pm \$15 DRC members, seniors & students Reservations: 306-1854 free on-site parking
- Friday, July 11, 7:30 pm & Saturday, July 12, 3 and 7:30 pm - The Virginia Avenue Project - **Novel Ideas** 9 short two-person plays **UCLA's** little Theatre \$5 suggested donation 310.264.4224

# POLITICAL

- Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm - Homeless issues - **Side by Side**. Community group on homeless issues for beach area. The Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.
- July 23, Wednesday 6 pm - **Venice Peace and Freedom Party** meeting For more info: 399-2215
- Jul 11, Friday, 7:30 pm **Civil Liberties in times of Terrorism** - **Federal Appeals Judges Stephen Reinhardt** and **Alex Kozinski** moderated by **Stephen Yagman** \$7, \$5 students/seniors at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice.
- Every Sunday, 2 pm - **Venice Peace Movement** march and rally - No new war, End mass detentions and attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk, followed by an open-mic rally.



# readings

• **Beyond Baroque** 681 Venice Blvd. \$7 general admission; \$5 Seniors/Kids; members free 310.822.3006

- July 12, Saturday 7:30 pm - **B.H. Boston**, managing editor Poetry International in San Diego and **Reed Wilson**, teacher and Director of the Undergraduate Research Center for Humanities and Social Science at **UCLA**
- July 20, Sunday 7:30 pm - Works by **Elliot Baker**, hosted by **Amelie Frank**
- July 26, Saturday 7:30 pm - **Brendan Constantine, Sarah MacLay, Frank Giampietro** and **Meredith Davies Hadaway**

# ART

- July 19 7-11 pm opening reception **SPONTO** Gallery 7 Dudley Ave. "North Beach, 90291" An exhibition of photographic surrealism by Venice artist **Rich Mann** - By appointment through July 24. Contact: **Mark Kornfeld** - Director 310.399.2078
- Through July 4 Universal Art Gallery - **Michael Ochs** Archives of a century of classic pop images 2001 Lincoln Blvd 302-8909.

# MUSIC

- \$2 Tuesdays at **Club Sugar** 814 Broadway in Santa Monica (1/2 block East of Lincoln) Moontribe DJs spinning desert techhouse/rautancelectro... 21+
- Wednesdays - 7-11 pm - Come hang with the **V-Rock girls** at the Venice Bistro, 323 Ocean Front Walk.
- Thursdays 7:45 PM - 9:30 pm **Sacred Spaces** Workshop **Church in Ocean Park** 235 Hill Street (Santa Monica) Open to ALL \$15 323-468-9938
- Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm **Twilight Dance Series** at Santa Monica Pier - July 10 - **Afro Celts w/ Electric Skychurch** - Celtic Folk, African "Talking" drums and Techno Beat Tribal Trance Music. Check it out!!! [www.twilightdance.org](http://www.twilightdance.org) & [www.santamonicapier.org](http://www.santamonicapier.org)
- Thursdays & Fridays AM Mommy and Me Dance classes for Toddlers w/ Instructor **Natasha Maidoff** The Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave - 358-6769
- Fridays **Sensa** at **Club Sugar** 814 Broadway in Santa Monica (1/2 block East of Lincoln) DJs Liza Richardson & Raul Campos (KCRW) Deep House two-step and more 21+ w / ID \$5
- Saturdays 8:30 - 1 am **TONEHENGE** - DJ **Gabriel** Live world, Tribal and Electronic dance music. Free before 10 pm when band performs \$5 - at **Dance Home** 522 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica West of Lincoln - Freestyle, barefoot dance jam Info: [dancehome@tonehenge.com](mailto:dancehome@tonehenge.com)
- Sundays, 2-5 pm - **The Unurban Coffee House** - **Brad Kay** - Entertainer at the piano-Hot Jazz, Blues, Ragtime and Hilarious songs. 3301 W. Pico Blvd, Santa Monica 315-0058.
- Sundays 5 - 9:30 pm **The Rebel Soul Band** at the Venice Bistro - psychedelic groove jam - 323 Ocean Front Walk. - 663-4673
- Jul 5, 10 pm **The Lovesick Lunatics** at Fais Do Do 5257 West Adams Blvd [www.veasy.com](http://www.veasy.com)

Send free calendar listings to

[Beachhead@freevenice.org](mailto:Beachhead@freevenice.org)

or

Beachhead, POB 644, Venice 90294

Preference given to events in Venice.



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