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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

July 2018
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Venice BID Meeting June 13, 2018

By John Okulick

Once again, the fraudulent Venice Business Improvement District Board held court. This time, Mark Sokol, in his usual speak-but-don't-be-heard meeting, announced the BID was beginning services after 17 months of nothing. In that time, the BID has spent more than \$470,000.00 tax dollars from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. This does not include the first four and a half months of this year with no services.

Tara Devine, the manager of the BID, once again stonewalled the property owners about when we would receive a partial refund for 2017 and why we were not getting a refund for the first four and a half months of 2018 when no services were provided. She is as devious as Bonin is clever. This is her and Sokol's way of doing business. Just don't answer them. We asked about the second lawsuit against the BID for not providing CPRA records required by law. The Board has been keeping lawsuit information from us. We eventually found out that, to date, \$175,000.00 has been spent on lawyers by the Board for litigation. Dialogue between the Board and property owners at these meetings is virtually non-existent, intentionally.

One homeless man spoke and, to not look bad, they gave him more than one minute to speak. He said that it was bad that the city confiscates their property and moves it downtown and, when they go to retrieve it, they cannot find it. He asked for lockers in the area. A reasonable request, but of no consequence to the Board. The Board is more concerned with pushing the homeless into the residential neighborhood.

We also learned about a racial incident at BID Board President Sokol's Erwin Hotel, which occurred recently, where several men of color were asked to leave in a disruptive manner. It turned out that they were paying guests at the hotel. The BID security force was sent to the hotel looking for agitators. Fortunately, nothing serious happened. This is a reminder of what could happen and the liabilities that exist with the BID.

In another incident relayed to me, a couple walking on Speedway with children were confronted by someone looking for drugs. When they said that they had none, the person hit the husband, breaking his nose, in front of the wife. The BID personnel arrived and pepper sprayed the poor guy who was hit. Clearly, this was an unprovoked assault by the BID people on an innocent victim of violence by both the criminals and the BID personnel. These were violent acts against a family.

Ms. Devine, who has never lived in Venice, and several others on the Board who do not live in Venice nor own property here are making decisions that raise our taxes and disrupt our community. But that doesn't matter since they are self-appointed with no open feedback or discussion from the public or property owners, and no oversight by the city who supplies them with funds. They are doing Bonin's bidding for favors. A total imbalance and non-representation of the community.

Devine, after considerable prodding, was asked what her salary is. She responded at first saying that she did not know, and then said that it was \$175,000.00 a year. With the \$8,000.00 a month office and many upgrades to the office that the landlord would not provide, the costs continue to climb.

The real issue came out when Steve Heumann, the Treasurer, said there was not enough money to cover labor costs over the year. He said there was a \$175,000.00 surplus but failed to elaborate on exact numbers. I spoke to one of the BID men cleaning the street who said he made \$12.00 an hour and expected a dollar raise in the future. My impression of this issue is that they have spent more than they have taken in. A few hundred dollars would cover a one dollar raise. The real reason they do not want to talk about finances are legal costs which have been close to \$200,000.00 and climbing. This is where your tax money is going, taken from our public recreation parks and Westminster schoolchildren's education in a malicious way.

Then it was Devine's turn to propose a 5% increase in our tax assessments starting this month. This was the last straw. After 17 months of no services and barely one month of services, unseen by me, she is telling the Board to raise our taxes 5%. The reason: increased salaries. After one month, they do not have enough revenue to pay

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Elaine Irwin, and Jay Penske, a wealthy couple who seek to build a private mansion on historic Black church land in Venice.

Winning Round One for the Oakwood Church

By Jon Wolff

Venice's Juneteenth event was held in Oakwood Park on Saturday, June 16, 2018. An estimated 2000 Venetians turned out for this day of celebration in the heart of Venice. There was music and barbecue food. There were T-shirts and various fashionable clothing items for sale. There were hundreds of large photographs on display in memoriam of beloved Venetians, old and young, who have passed on. And there was an extensive exhibit of pictures and documents that told the History of the church across the street from Oakwood Park. This, of course, is the First Baptist Church on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue.

The First Baptist Church has been at the center of a controversy for some time. It's been the subject of many articles in the Beachhead since November of last year. Besides the Beachhead coverage though, little media attention has been paid to the Legacy of this historic African-American house of worship in Venice. Until now.

News cameras and reporters were on the scene on Wednesday, June 20, to cover the West Los Angeles Planning Commission meeting in the Henry Medina Facility in West L.A. The Planning Commission met this evening to hear an appeal from the Venice Community to oppose the conversion of this historic Black church into an 11,760 square-foot single-family dwelling with a rooftop deck and attached four-car garage.

A protest rally was held before the meeting with signs and speeches against the violation of the sacred sites and History of the Black and Brown Communities of Venice. The meeting room was filled, with Venetians opposed to the project on one side, and the current owners and their collaborators on the other side. Present on the Commission were President Esther Margulies, Vice President Michael Newhouse, and Commissioners Heather Rozman and Adele Yellin. Absent this evening was Commissioner Lisa Waltz Morocco.

The proceedings began with Venice's Lydia Ponce giving prayers and offerings in the tradition of the Indigenous Tongva People. She reminded all in attendance that they were sitting on Tongva land.

The designated speakers spoke first. Venice Activist Laddie Williams clarified an error made by Juliet Oh from the City Planning Department about the number of lots involved in the proposed project. Juliet Oh had identified the property as three lots when, in fact, it consists of five lots, with two more across the street. This will be significant in the Commission's decision as it pertains to the standards of Mass, Scale, and Character for the zone in which the building is located. A conversion of an historic church building into a single-family dwelling would not be the same as a 24-unit dwelling. She also spoke of the church's role as a beacon of light in the Community.

Dr. Naomi Nightingale addressed the issue of the proposed conversion being defined as a "change of use". She pointed out the trivializing intent of this term and how it ignores the History of the Black Community of Venice. She reminded everyone that the building is called the First Baptist Church of VENICE; built by senior architect Henry Williams; to serve the Community in the 1.5 mile area bounded by Lincoln Boulevard, Rose Avenue, California Avenue, and Main Street; and how this Black Community has been under attack for decades to make

Oakwood Church – continued on page 5



Everyone In

Words and photos by Carol Gronner

“The power of storytelling is exactly this: To bridge the gaps where everything else has crumbled”

- Paulo Coelho



Venice came together as a community again last night at a lovely event in The Brig parking lot, to try to do something to help end homelessness. We just our fantastic fundraiser last Saturday for our documentary 90291: VENICE UNZIPPED about just this, so the collective consciousness of Venice seems to be on the same page. There was a big door inviting everyone in, both to the parking lot venue, and symbolically into homes for those without them.

A big crowd was already gathered when I arrived, and Harry Shearer (um, Spinal Tap! The Simpsons!) was making his introduction speech. We were going to hear stories from those on the frontline of the homeless issue, both those who have been homeless, are currently home-

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Brian Ulf’s secret plan to rescue Elaine Irwin and Jay Penske

By Ahuman

Presented as Modest Proposal...For Malibu:

Here in trendy Venice beach is something, I recently think I overheard at Tom’s: from some guy here named “Ryan Bulf, if I recall. It’s a bit of Venice conversation --and that I think just may be the answer to our burgeoning, and now off-the-hook Los Angeles homelessness crisis...

“Well, what I would really prefer--as far as homelessness goes --is just to see here, for Venice for instance, that, finally Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel Air start taking in their fair share of Venice’s: soon to be displaced and soon-to-be-suffering real estate speculators, Airbnb promoters, Mega-mansion dwellers; and all the about-to-have-the-boom-lowered-on-them Boardwalk, and Abbott Kinney corporatizers!

“Why, I tell you, it is just shameful!

It is actually now more expensive per-sq foot to house them here in Venice -- than in any of these other areas!

Shameful! What it costs now, these days, to house a greedy rich person --or Cadillac dealership heir --here in Venice!

Can you believe it????? Why, I hear that Bel Air folks is already fuming’ !!!!!!

That we in Venice are stealing all their mega-narccicists --those with the cash stuffed in every pocket; and who used to sit out on Sunset in front of their Lambergos; and snort the wads o’ Benjamins’ right there on the sidewalks.

Yeah, there was even that church here: that used to get them all they plane tickets back to Dubai and Tel Aviv --but, well, I guess Ol’ Jesus took that Saint....

Yah know, that guy was a blessing: To all those billionaire’s wayward Cuban exile’s chillin’, ‘specially! Also!

But now, I tells you: I, for one, am just sick of that Mike Bonin... Mike Bonin!!!! Why --he’s just allowing them to flood in here!

He’s literally making it now impossible to house any working people here; or any of the former residents who were set up by the CIA with crack; because they were black or brown; and only now are coming out of prison -and want their three and fourth generation houses (after that attempt here at government-enabled genocide, against them, to drive them out of the American middle-class) and want their right, here, to come back:

To here in Venice.

And all these greedy rich: that they --and we --just need to get real with; in order to kick all they filthy, privileged, lay-about rich squatters --that Bonin has been catering to.... Out.

Yeah --so I’m just soooooo siiiiiicccccccccck o’ this!

But I guess until then --well, all the homeless folk and these shelters for the poor; and all the working-class here increasingly also in them shelters; an’ a pilin’ up here in Venice: --are just the price we have to pay: Until we drive all these horrible, rich, squatters out.

Look, I’ve certainly got feelings for those who work hard for an honest living --but hey, those lazy ones --that just want to collect rent; and then lay about on the beach all day, or up on their rooftop decks, sipping mimosas and jaggermister shots all day; choppin’ on avocado toast and do nothing else all day.....

Those --that refuse all of our kind and generous offers --of affordable housing here in this Coastal Zone:

Why, I say, ‘Let them go raise the price of beach property up in Malibu!’

And with a nice shelter there for them all: You know: Carl Lambert, Tammi Pardee, George Francisco, Melissa Diner, Rick Swinger, Mark Ryavec, Brian Ulf and Will Hawkins....

Jus’ so we won’t have to keep increasingly housing the all the Boardwalk vendors, and all those street performers --that draw millions of tourists here --and all these other hard-working people here in Venice increasingly in their cars: Or they shelters.

And we can house these other folks, instead --who really need treatment for their greed addictions --in some nice transitional housing:

We’ll also build: Up there in Malibu.

With a big donation from Google and Univision....

‘Cause, well, these folks --just need to understand that Venice cannot any longer jus’ be Bonin’s dumping-ground: for ALL the world’s greedy.

BID - continued from page 1
salaries.

I cannot fathom the incompetence, deceit, and arrogance of Devine and this Board. At the end of the meeting, I almost got into a fight with Heumann and Moore and was told to get out after calling Devine an incompetent liar, arrogant, and a few other things. These people had just raised my taxes again! I was mad, and we should all be, for the theft of our property rights. The Board decided to vote on the matter without discussion from the public, against the Brown Act. After consultation with a CPA, they let us talk and then passed the increase with one NO vote whom they tried to coax to abstain.

The lack of leadership and oversight of this committee of property owners, six in all, just raised my taxes. It was undemocratic, obnoxious, and unlawful. A blanket increase with little to no explanation. I suggested they work within their budget or refuse to accept their refunds, but Devine said it was to improve services. How can this be, after only one month? She and the Board have discriminated against the community in so many ways. The YES votes were made by Jack Hoffman, Steve Heumann, Matthew Moore, Jeremy Weinstein, Mark Sokol, and Jay Goodfader. These self-appointed individuals are trying to push out people who live on a fixed income, retirement, savings, the elderly, artists, and others who live in commercial buildings. Renters will see a spike in their rents. Others will be caught in this web of false taxation for the benefit of a few business interests.

If the courts were interested in justice for this sort of crime, we would be better off as a community. But politics and corrupt leadership, along with favors to business interests and judges who fear judicial judgments against the city, are promoting inequality. Citizens without huge sums of money are voiceless adversaries in an undemocratic system which is just promoting further criminal behavior for self-enrichment.

Dear Beachhead

Until just recently I considered myself somewhat knowledgeable on the plight of homelessness. I myself have either by choice or circumstances, been homeless in spurts since the late 70’s. Having lived in Los Angles, I was pretty familiar navigating the terrain of Los Angeles’ Skid Row; or so I thought.

Just recently, I paid a visit to Los Angles, my first extensive stay in the city since 2011. While there I was bombarded with the joyous news of how there had been a decrease in homelessness. I thought it only my duty to do a brief survey of Skid Row on my own. I only viewed, from the periphery, what I presumed now to be only a small segment of the encampment area. I was shocked that it now extends so far outside of the traditional boundaries of the Skid Row I knew in the past. And this does not take into account underpasses, parks, and wooded areas.

This is bad, If the interior of encampment area is still there and as I remembered, than that would mean that total skid-row area is now at least 3 to 4 times greater than it was back a mere 7 years ago.

There is a certain degree of embolden criminality that seems pervasive in just the small sector I was able to survey and, subsequent research bears this out. The homeless is no different than any other segment of society in that people are getting angrier and they are feeling more embolden and entitled to express as much. How long before those words turns to action ?

. Also there was a time when the folks that the homeless encountered most would have been people just a few rungs up the ladder from them. Now with the recent prosperity of downtown Los Angeles, those folks have either been priced out or reduced to homelessness themselves. In their place we now have the nuevo-rich, dripping with privilege and attitude ostracizing the homeless at every corner and turn.

This is a powderkeg. If drastic remedy and resolution is not reached in the near future, I fear just the tiniest spark could blow this thing wide open.

All should have a contingency plan, just in case. Meanwhile I will continue to develop expand and elaborate on my ‘cautionary tale’ observations and present it to various Los Angeles entities.

Peace

Ghelove

And ALL their toadying Succubi!

Why --they really all do deserve a shelter up in Malibu: A really nice one.... One they can have pets at... One that they can come and go... One with nice landscaping...and guards.... and money-management classes. And a nice organic garden. “

And, after overhearing all this --recently, at Tom’s --all I can say is: Sounds like a good idea; all in all --to me.

(:

http://robbreport.com/shelter/spaces/venice-beach-homes-selling-for-more-than-beverly-hills-2725984/

No More Sam Jam Mom, Please.

Penske sanctioned gentrification party desecrates First Baptist Church; takes over Oakwood Park for the day.

By Mike Bravo

Sunday July 1, 2018— What was supposed to be another one of our weekly three hour Sunday spiritual gatherings at our First Baptist Church of Venice ended up being a 6 hour protest and public outreach session. Our weekly gathering was disrupted by an event called “Sam Jam: Annual Venice Block Party.”

Apparently, this is the third Sam Jam to take place in Venice but the first at Oakwood Park. It was organized by two “local” organizers, Winston House and 2332 Collective, which as far as I’ve gathered appear to be individual promoters. The Penske’s hands were in the mix for sure because the entirety of E.L. Holmes Square on 7th and Westminster was turned into a Beer/Vodka garden for (mostly) out of town hipsters. The Venice Chamber’s name popped up on their online event media but I can’t confirm to what extent they were involved, if any, this year.

Sam Jam promotion media says they donate all proceeds of the event to an L.A. wide non-profit called Inner City Arts. Sounds innocent enough right? Of course the devil is in the details. I had to trust my gut when I first saw the Sam Jam flyer for the event a few days before the event and it read “Inner City Arts” which, along with the design of the flyer, instantly gave off a white-savior vibe to me. Even more so when no one in my circle confirmed they had ever heard of it or knew what it was I knew it couldn’t be good. In briefly researching Inner City Arts I did find that a woman by the name of Vera Campbell is on their founder’s board and happens to be a key adversary of the Defend Boyle Heights coalition because of her substantial involvement in displacing families in that area. I have also received more than a few testimonies that they are predominantly gentrifer ran organization.

The organizers and whatever community agencies they were working with did a terrible job of informing the community about the extent this event would infringe on their public space. The Sam Jam event closed off the street perimeter of Oakwood Park, plus 7th Ave & Broadway (the event entrance) all the way to California, and every one of those streets in between was closed off to 6th Ave. A handful of residents I spoke with stated that the “No parking/towing” signs didn’t go up until Friday and that many of the signs were merely hand written. When I arrived on the scene about 11:45 am I received word that at least 20 cars had been towed. I’m sure the numbers had to be at least double that by the day’s end.

How do you have a block party and not invite the block? Anyone who walked in could see the mostly Black and Brown -real locals- posted up on the apartment lawn at 7th & Broadway. Most had been kicked out of the park that morning from the benches on the northside of the park they always frequent. What made it even more messed up is that the whole duration of the event they didn’t even use that space. About half way through the event, and probably in attempt to quell our protestive energy at the entrance, they sent a local sister to give us wristband passes. By this time most of the couple dozen or so locals were upset and just chilled on the lawn on the entrance corner, only occasionally cruising in to

the event to check it. The after-the-fact gesture to give us wristbands was a step in the right direction for the moment. However, the disrespect was already firmly set. It was clear that the Black, Brown, and non-gentry only earned an after thought because of our protesting.

Since the whole Oakwood Park perimeter was blocked off from even sidewalk traffic, we couldn’t access our Church for our weekly Sunday prayer gathering In fact, that day the entirety of E.L. Holmes Square was intentionally designated as an alcoholic playground for hipsters. (vog.news/penskejuly1) The steps of the First Baptist Church of Venice was turned into a vodka bar, the ultimate disrespect.

This, of course, was sanctioned by the “nice” Penske family who are the current title holders of the church properties. The “Vodka Garden” and playground obviously could not be set up without their permission and the Penske trucks helping with logistics just reaffirmed the obvious. This is how the Penske’s and everyone organizer involved in this event “respect” and regard Black history/legacy and spiritual space in Venice. We took it as nothing less than a deliberate middle-finger to our church and to the ancestors who’s legacy we defend.

Considering the negativity and mess that was SamJam, our Save Venice crew decided to make the best of it and set up shop at the event entrance (7th/Broadway) with our banners, flyers, petitions, and our megaphone. Our crew distributed at least 500 flyers and got about 400 signatures as I was educating the incoming crowd about the gentrification dynamics they were walking into and surrounding the First Baptist Church of Venice. I would say about 15% of the crowd was polite in receiving the information we were offering them.

The words we expressed revolved around the sentiment of: “Welcome to Venice- Enjoy yourself, but please respect our church and our community..take notice of what you’re seeing here.. The lack of diversity at the event, generational residents, mostly Black & Brown posted outside the event, unwelcomed.. The 109 year old church being desecrated as a vodka bar and playground for mostly out of towners.”

Security was laid on thick, I noticed 3 tiers: The “yellow t-shirt” crew of mostly younger hefty dudes, a little more serious mannered and older black polo shirt crew with stitched logos, and an undercover dude in a grey hoody that wasn’t fooling anybody and who just happened to look like Mark Sokol’s unconfirmed racist nephew at the Hotel Erwin protest in May. L.A.’s finest was also present.

I also observed that in the morning when I was there with David Busch, as he was arguing with a couple of the black polo shirt security officers, and at different times, they had their “Will Hawkins (VNC) church arguments” down good. They were repeating, almost verbatim, the same false points and narratives that were first publicly uttered by Hawkins, then by Jay Penske, and now by all their other anti-Black supporters advocating to destroy the church.

People with the privilege of not being affected or seeing the issue might ask “Whats wrong? It was good music and for a good cause.” Anything wrapped in a good intention buzzwords, in and of itself and devoid of context,

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Reese Davidson Community and the California Environmental Quality Act

by Becky Dennison

“The PSH Ordinance does not apply to all supportive housing developments, and it does not apply to the Reese Davidson Community.”

Reese Davidson Community is a proposed 140-unit affordable and supportive housing development, to be built on the City-owned parking lot between North and South Venice Boulevards and Dell and Pacific Avenues. Reese Davidson will contribute to the Citywide efforts to build 10,000 new supportive housing units, providing affordable housing and support services to people who are homeless when they move in. The City will retain ownership of its land, and the development team of

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#DELETESNAPCHAT

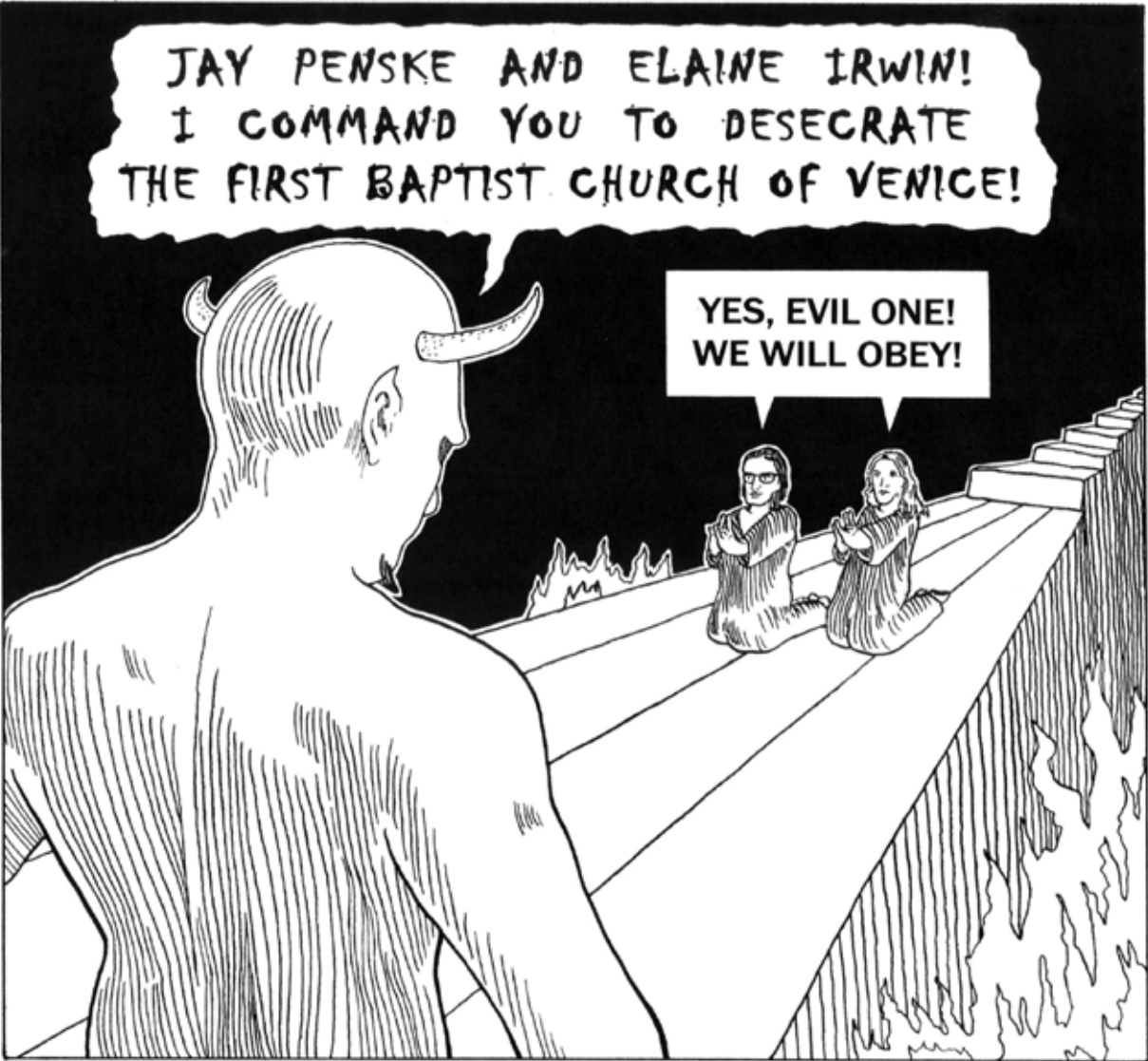
On Saturday June 16th, right in the middle of summer, our not-so beloved Snapchat decided to rent out one of LA’s most popular landmarks, the Santa Monica Pier, for its annual event for employees and their families. During their party, the local activist group The Venice Dogz once again rained on their parade by sending an airplane overhead for almost 30 minutes with a banner that read...



These incidents should come as no surprise given the many times this childish company has either put their foot in their mouth or simply made horrible decisions, in addition to the many times the Venice community was right there to immediately taunt them. After forcing out many local Venice businesses and residents who then protested the day they went public, their CEO verbally dissed “poor countries like India”, Kylie Jenner and Rihanna slammed them, their dancing hot dog and many fumbling of redesigns have been easily belittled, their stock price has been utterly shameful, and they commercialized the Santa Monica Twilight Concert Series leading to its demise among many other things. This company has been far from any kind of asset to the Venice community and just about everything they do fails miserably. And the Venice Dogz are always there after every mishap to reiterate how the community feels about them and the pain felt from the damage they’ve done to Venice.

The party on Santa Monica Pier went for 5 hours, from 11am until 4pm with an open bar and almost 2 dozen tents. Snapchat also paid for all Uber/Lyft rides to and from the event. It’s unclear what the total tab was but renting out the historic pier usually cost around \$100,000 in addition to covering costs for every vendor. This all comes a few months after Snapchat instituted a third round of layoffs as part of its “strategic restructuring.” It seems layoffs and community hatred towards them is crushing employee morale and this was their weak attempt to boost it... by annoying thousands of other visitors and tourists on Father’s Day weekend, many of which came from very far away and were then turned away and told they’re not allowed on the Pier because of Snapchat’s egotistical splurge. It begs the question why this bash wasn’t thrown during the week which would limit the tourists who were ultimately turned away from the Pier and also would’ve given their employees a real day off from their Monday through Friday work-week.

The Santa Monica Pier isn’t like Disneyland where most people buy tickets ahead of time. People go to the pier expecting it to be free and open all the time as it probably has been every single day since it opened back in 1909. Snapchat’s decision once again is simply childish and selfish. And it’s similar to their New Year’s Eve event when they dropped about \$4 million to rent out L.A. Live downtown. Everything was shut down to the public after a Clippers game where over 10,000 people had nowhere to go after the game. On New Year’s Eve! It’s astonishingly easy to see the waste of money this company spends and their insensitive mentality that has ultimately justified the community’s strong and hostile backlash towards them. It also asks the questions if they have a public relations department or community liaison at all whatsoever and what ill-advised decision they’ll make next! Only time will tell. Said one of the Venice Dogz, “Hopefully the next party they throw is a going-away party for themselves.”





less, or were working to help the homeless. Heroes all.

Marilyn Wells spoke first, and as an advocate for homeless neighbors, she set the tone of concern and empathy. “Finding homes for everyone is the defining issue of our times,” she stated, and I fully agree (and is also why we’re making our documentary). Any of us could end up homeless at any time (and I still pretty much am, so all of these stories very much hit home), and Wells asked, “What would YOUR homelessness look like?” Moving encampments away a few blocks does nothing. Putting up fences does nothing. Harassing the homeless does nothing. “Each of us has the power to do something about this. Please listen to these stories and decide what your something is. Be inspired to take action.” With the stories that followed, you couldn’t help but be fired up.



Motique Alston, an outreach worker with the wonderful Venice St. Joseph’s Center, shared her own tale of homelessness, and the truth that “Permanent AFFORDABLE housing is almost impossible to find in Los Angeles”, and that “there are SO many people in need.” One only had to walk a short way down

Abbot Kinney afterward to see people sleeping in the doorways of the fancy shops, sharpening the focus on our nation’s income inequality. St. Joe’s helped Alston, so now she helps them. And so will we. There was a big food spread set up, a bar, and booths showcasing the organizations that helped everyone telling their stories on this night. They were rightfully receiving major kudos from everyone there, and the hope is that folks will stay involved now that the know all the good that they are doing. To truly be IN.

Erika Herod is a peer navigator at Safe Place For Youth (S.P.Y.), and told about how she was in an abusive home, which led to her living on the streets. Going to school is hard when you sleep outside. Hard to get clean. Hard to have clothes to wear. Hard to get there. But she did it. And we applauded her for it, loudly. “Not many people care about the homeless because of the assumptions that they have about them,” Herod said, and that’s sad but true. Events like this help to erase those assumptions, but looking around made me concerned that it wasn’t the people that need to hear it. We were all in already ... it’s the NIMBYs that need to hear these stories ... Now. Herod closed by saying that she has been housed a year now, garnering happy cheers from her listeners.

I was told that Snapchat CEO, Evan Spiegel, skulked in to the event in a hoodie, dropped off by his limo. I wish I’d seen him, because I would have told him that he had a lot of nerve being there, when his company has caused the displacement of so many. But then, he and people of his ilk, are exactly who needs to hear these stories ... though I’m sure his appearance was just that - for the appearance.

Shearer lamented the fact that much of the huge development going on is for people that will never even live in the homes, they’re just money havens for wealthy, and then cracked, “And now a representative from our Government,” earning laughs. Councilman Mike Bonin is another local figure I’ve been mixed on (mainly due to his failure to secure a position for Jesse Martinez and his maintenance of the Venice Skatepark, and glad handing of people like Spiegel), but after hearing his own personal story, I’ve softened my stance a bit. It’s rare for a politician to be so forthcoming, as when Bonin said that he used to be a meth addict, sleeping in his car with only bologna and whiskey to sustain him. Whoa. “L.A. can be tough, but it’s also a City of Angels,” and he was picked up by some angels that got him off the streets and sober. He closed by saying, “We’re all broken, we’re all holy, and the way to heal is together. That’s why I’m in.” O.k., Bonin. Thank you. We’re gonna hold you to it.

There was a musical interlude by a trio of young people from The Healing Arts Program at S.P.Y. They called themselves “Denim On Denim” and sang/rapped a song about letting the music take control. “Let’s hear it for Venice!” they shouted at its end, and we cheered them on. The guy in the group said, “L.A. is the fast lane, let’s do it faster!” Yes. Let’s. It always bugs me when government entities say things like “By the year 2025, we’ll do whatever.” No. Let’s do it NOW.

Mahalia Jean-Pierre is a young mother and singer-songwriter who lived on the beach in a tent with her one year old baby after leaving a domestic violence situation. “But I always saw myself in my dreams.” It was again St. Joseph’s to the rescue, who found her and her child

a hotel room. While hopping from bug-infested motel to motel, Jean-Pierre was also pursuing her musical dreams and performing for thousands at the WNBA Finals at Staples Center. No one would have dreamed that she was dealing with homelessness on the side. When she finally drove down VICTORY Boulevard to her own apartment, she felt exactly that. Victory. Which compelled her to want to help others, to encourage them to follow their own dreams, and to help others do both of those things. She is succeeding at all of the above, and we cheered her on for it.

Shearer came back up and said, “She used that magic word, ‘Community’ ... it means getting involved.” Which is what I write in basically every story about Venice I ever do. Because it’s true, and SO needed, especially now, when we’re dealing with a homeless crisis like never before. Get. Involved.

Daniel Chavez got involved. A native Angeleno, Chavez is a recovering addict currently living in downtown L.A.’s Mission shelter. Drugs and violence got him kicked out of his family home, and he found himself living on the streets with nothing. Fighting almost landed him in prison, but they gave him a substance abuse program instead. He began working with the Venice Youth-Build program, helping store homeless peoples’ personal items. He didn’t want that to be him again, and has now managed to stay clean and sober for a year and 9 months. He asked that we support these super important organizations, and drew cheers when he said on the way to this event he found out that he got an apartment that he can move into today! Out of the Mission! I choked up, and I was not alone. These are the stories that change perceptions, and spur others into action. (I hope).

“When I found Venice, I was in love.” So said Sue Gallagher about her arrival into Venice from Chicago three decades ago. She lived happily among the artists and hippies until her landlord (all these jerk landlords, Come ON!) decided to mow down her apartment to turn into a parking lot. Great. Without affordable housing nearby, she became homeless, living on the streets around UCLA among a bunch of other homeless women. She kept telling herself, “This is only temporary.” and kept her faith. “Homelessness is a 24 hour gig,” she explained, finding shelter, food, and staying safe. She somehow managed to

stay sober on the streets, and a psychiatrist from Venice Family Clinic helped her get into affordable housing in East L.A. Not Venice, because we’re still working on landlords being cool here. I hope she gets to return one day soon ... and I hope I can stay. “Have some kindness and empathy. We ALL need your help,” Gallagher closed with. Yes. PLEASE.

United Way CEO, Elise Buik, explained that homelessness is a core priority of the United Way, and they’ll be doing #EveryoneIn events like this all over the city. “I used to spend my single days at The Brig, so this is full circle,” she said, cracking everyone up. She explained that, “The only way we can transform lives is by being all in.”

Buik thanked all the great organizations that are truly on the frontline of this crisis: St. Joseph’s. S.P.Y. Venice Community Housing. She thanked our gracious hosts, David Paris and Nancy Cohen.

She thanked the storytellers for inspiring us all. She thanked us all for being there (though we are the choir they were preaching to. We need the less involved people to hear - and care about - these stories). She hoped that we’d been moved (we WERE. Several people had been in tears, I know I was). Then Buik asked is we could all commit to do three things: 1) Join the “Everyone In” movement - Done. 2) Take a step to help someone - Of course. 3) We have millions set aside for housing the homeless, but whenever it comes time to do something about it, the NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard people) come out to protest. It’s time to say YES, we’d love any of these formerly homeless storytellers to be our neighbors. They are wonderful people, who had just fallen on hard luck, as could happen to any of us (and has). I’ve mixed it up with people who have said they don’t want their kids going by homeless housing on the way to the beach ... but they’d rather have their kids see them sleeping outside on the sidewalks? What lesson is that teaching our future leaders? It’s disgusting. As Shearer closed by saying, “Let’s change it to YIMBYs!” Yes.

I use this quote all the time, and always will ... “

Remember your humanity and forget the rest.” - The Russell-Einstein Manifesto

UGLIEST BUILDING PHOTO CONTEST

Big Ugly Boxes are popping up everywhere in Venice! Send your photo of the UGLIEST BUILDING in Venice to the Beachhead. The top three best photos of the ugliest building will be published in the August Beachhead. The best photo of the top three best photos will win a FREE 6-month subscription to the BEACHHEAD!

Address all photo submissions to: BEACHHEAD, P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294
or Email to: free@venicebeachhead.org

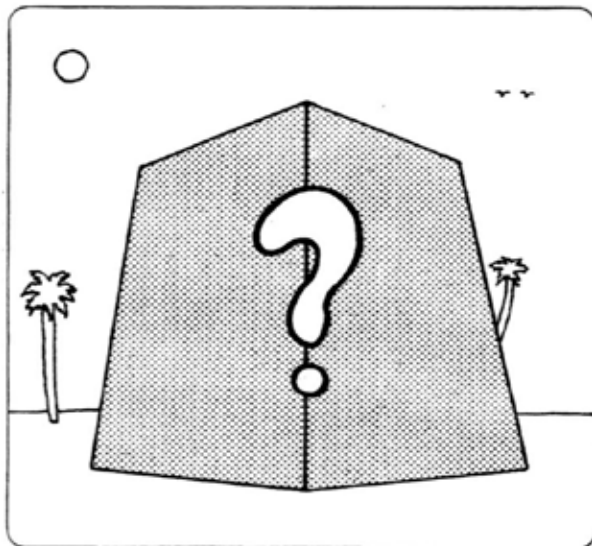
Name (withheld on request)

Your mailing address

City, State, Zip

Email address

Address of Ugliest Building in Venice



Limit one photo entry per person. Photos must be received no later than July 26, 2018. All entries will be judged by the Beachhead Collective for publication by the Beachhead. Paper photos will not be returned. The Beachhead assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen photos, errors in submissions, or unforeseen delays in subscription delivery.



This is how “nice” Jay Penske and Elaine Irwin are. This is how they and their political lapdogs regard and have respect for Black Legacy in Venice.

This is how “respectful” they are to our community.

We were not notified or able to attend a ceremony on the church steps like usual because they had a Vodka bar on the steps of the church and drunken Beer garden playground for outsiders all up in E.L. Holmes Square.

Oakwood Church – continued from page 1

way for the infiltration of the wealthy who have no regard for History or Culture.She talked about the destruction of the contributions made by the African-American pioneers of Venice and how important it is to see that this church means more than just 11,000 square feet.

Speaking for the other side was lawyer Elisa Paster.She spoke disparagingly of the building itself, as if to say that the current owners will upgrade it from the state of neglect that they’ve caused since purchasing it.She mistakenly said that no application had been submitted to deem it an historic structure when, actually, that application is now being processed.

Then spoke Elaine Irwin, the ex-underwear model and current wife of the current owner Jay Penske.She talked about doing community outreach and receiving emails and letters of support from residents.She said that she had 100 signatures from the individuals that she had met. Of course, none of this “outreach” had reached to the Venetians in the meeting, or those in the Community, or those who had signed the 1000 signatures on the petitions opposing the conversion that were circulated at the June-teenth event in Oakwood Park.

Many people in the room spoke out against the proposed conversion.Lydia Ponce talked about the lawsuit that is challenging the legitimacy of the sale of the church, and how one broker had handled both the sale and purchase of the church.

Margaret Malloy said that historic photos had already been submitted to the Office of Historic Resources.Also, she told of the pastor, Horace Allen, receiving rent money from low-income tenants in the church building.Under the Mello Act of 1982, this would restrict a conversion in the Coastal Zone and would require a replacement of affordable units in the building.

Beth Allyn let Ms. Penske (Irwin) know that she had never received or seen any notification anywhere in Venice about the proposed conversion.

David Ewing called the project a “crime wrapped in a court case, complicated by a contested land sale, all wrapped up in a City Planning case, a CEQA case, a Coastal Development case, and a Mello case.”

Soni Lloyd, a teacher at Venice High School, said that the teachers would be ready to fight this.

Bertha Williams said that when the Penskes sent a man around the neighborhood to find support for the conversion, the man himself was unaware that the building was a church.

David Busch pointed out that the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue has historic designation as E.L. Holmes Square.He invited the Penskes to come to the ongoing gatherings in front of the church on Sundays to pray with the People there.

Pamela Anderson, a seventh-generation Venetian, talked of her grandfather’s work in building Venice.She called attention to the fact that none of those sitting on the Penske’s side of the room were black.

Judy Branfman, the documentary video producer, described how the City of L.A. indiscriminately awards fast rubber-stamp approvals, called Venice Sign Offs, for these conversions.And she asked Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse to recuse himself from this hearing because of his extensive relationships with developers.

Holly Mosher said that a conversion of this size would exceed the standards of Mass, Scale, and Character for the area.She told the Commission that if they approve the conversion, they would take it with them forever as a shameful act.

Mairym Llorens of the L.A. Tenants Union spoke of how working people are being pushed out of Venice.She boldly told the Penskes that it is a sickness to want to go into a Community and care more about your own dreams to have a huge mansion than about a neighborhood.

Dawn Hicks from Venice Community Housing wondered how this church would not be an historic landmark and be considered just a building.She talked about institutional displacement and the taking away of a part of African-American History.

Edward Ferrer said that the title was in dispute and that the broker didn’t do his due diligence.

Sheperd Stern called the 11,000 square-foot project

too ostentatious for even Bel Air.He said that the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) who approved it are all white, and how the architect for the project (Robert Thibodeau) is a member of the VNC, which is a violation of the Brown Act.

A man identifying himself as The People of California called the Venice Neighborhood Council the “Vichy” Neighborhood Council, in reference to the French government that collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

Mike Bravo saw all this as just a matter of “Money versus a sacred historic site”.He defined Gentrification, not as a force of nature, but as a system of patterns and practices that include Jim Crow laws and gang injunctions. And he spoke of the resilience of the Venice Community whose ancestors had built Venice.

Ingrid Miller reminded everyone that she and the other tenants from the Lincoln Place Apartments were helped by the People of the Oakwood Community when the tenants struggled to keep their homes.She said that she would now do the same in return.

Robin Rudisill spoke of the “adverse cumulative impact” that a project of this size would have on the area. She said that the Coastal Act exists to protect against such projects.She recommended that the Commission defer their decision until the lawsuit over the sale is settled.

Mary Jack talked about the hypocrisy of governments regarding housing and how millionaires don’t need more housing options.

A frequent speaker at city meetings, known as Wayne from Encino, brought his hand puppet to the meeting. The puppet did the speaking.It asked why anyone would need an 11,600 square-foot house.It called for the money changers to be thrown out of the church. And it accused Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse of supporting the project for his own gain.This performance won applause and laughter from the Venetians opposed to the project.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine spoke.She told the Commission that a vote in favor of the conversion is a vote against Black History.

The Reverend Oscar Rhone recalled Pastor Holmes’ original vision for the First Baptist Church.

Larry Williams told of his grandfather who had lived 104 years and had brought in Pastor Holmes at the beginning.He suggested that everyone look into the allegations surrounding the sale of the church.

Ivy Beach pointed out how the Penskes’ side of the room was all white and called the church “a landmark threatened by racism”.

Community organizer Adolfo Alzuphar talked about L.A.’s reputation for not preserving historic buildings.

Asia Carr said that this “change of use” would spit in the face of 100 years of the Black Community.

Sabrina Venskus, an environmental land use attorney, said that the Director of Planning had erred in exempting this project from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.She explained how the project conflicts with the Land Use Plan by being out of Mass, Scale, and Character.

Dr. Judith Goldman asked the Commission if they had supported the historic designation that was granted to Temple Mishkon Tephilo, a Jewish house of worship in Venice.

Sue Kaplan implored the Commission to not make a premature decision but to wait until a settlement is reached in the lawsuit regarding the sale of the church.

Those who supported the Penskes’ proposed conversion of this historic Black Church into a single-family dwelling also spoke.

Jim Murez, a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council, denied that the project would set a precedent in the area.

Will Hawkins, Chair of the VNC’s Homeless Committee, did not think that the project would be out of Mass, Scale, and Character with the neighborhood.

Matthew Royce, VNC member and architect, claimed that the Penskes had done outreach to find support for their project.When asked by Commission President Esther Margulies how he knew that their outreach effort had had reached anyone, he mumbled that they had had many meetings.

George Francisco, Vice President of the VNC, called the Penskes “assets to the community”.He labeled the People of Venice as being too emotional.

Charles Gorten said that he would rather have a single-family dwelling on the site than a... a... a...Here, he stumbled for words when he realized that he was about to say, “church”.

Vivian Lee saw no need for this historic church building and declared that people can have church without any walls.

Antoinette Reynolds unwittingly mentioned transitional housing for the low income people who had lived on the church property.This admission would certainly raise the issue of Mello Act compliance for the project and its

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requirement to replace affordable housing onsite.

Tim Grey commended Jay Penske for starting a work program for volunteers.But no one asked Mr. Grey why a billionaire should need volunteers.

Nelson Anderson approved of growth and development.

Carl Walter believed that the Penskes will revitalize the building.

Raul Nuñez thought that the project would improve the quality of life in the area.

Rose Spanlock said that the project would honor Venice.

Cesar Rodarte called the Penskes wonderful people.

Sofia Hastings called the Penskes creative and respectful.

Louise Falconer said the Penskes are a loving family.

Eric Schiff said the Penskes love Venice.

Karin Anderson called the Penskes great people.

Gabriella Fasch called the Penskes kind people.

Lauren Krasny supported the project.

Hud Mellencamp, Elaine Irwin’s adult son, also supported the project.

And Lauren Gullian just felt the emotions in the room that night.

Also present at the meeting was Lambert Giessinger, with the Office of Historic Resources.He confirmed that he is working closely with the Venetians who are seeking historic status for the First Baptist Church.He explained that he is waiting for the application to be finished.When it is finished, all permits for the building’s conversion will be frozen until the process is completed.Then the matter will be sent to the L.A. City Council.

Commissioner Heather Rozman called the proposed project an anomaly unlike any other, in terms of Mass, Scale, and Character.She declared that she would not approve the project.

Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse, a real estate lawyer and former VNC President, pretended to have sympathy with the People of the Community.He called the loss of this historic African-American house of worship a tragedy and a shame, but said that nothing could be done about it.He did not believe that the project would be out of Mass, Scale, and Character.He intends to vote against the appeal and allow the Penskes to build their single-family dwelling on this sacred site.

Commissioner Adele Yellin agreed with Mr. Newhouse for now.

Commission President Esther Margulies commented on the recent concerted effort to recognize the Black Community in Venice.She felt that the cultural issue should be factored in to the decision.She agreed with Commissioner Rozman on the question of Mass, Scale, and Character. She made clear that this is not a standard case and that this building has always served as a church.She forecast that, if the project were to be approved, there would be no guarantee that the building would stay up.The Penskes might decide to move out later and the next owner might demolish it completely.Ms. Margulies mentioned another church building in Mar Vista that was bought by a religious community and kept “as is”.

With the Planning Commission having only four commissioners seated for this appeal hearing, a tie vote was reached.Ms. Margulies and Ms. Rozman were for the appeal; Mr. Newhouse and Ms. Yellin wanted to deny the appeal.The tie resulted in the decision being postponed until the next meeting scheduled for August 15.By that time, Commissioner Lisa Waltz Morocco will be the tie breaker.Or perhaps Commissioner Yellin will see the landmark significance that her vote will have and choose to save the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Upon hearing the decision to postpone the vote, the Venetians on the side of saving the church erupted with applause and singing.The delay gave new hope to the People of the Community.Not surprisingly, the Penskes and their cohorts, including their pet VNC members, were not happy with the outcome.They sat with stone faces resenting Venice’s Victory.

Now there is work to be done. The Community is coming together more than ever.A press conference was held in front of the historic church on Westminster and 7th on Sunday, June 24 to gather more signatures and spread the news to the watching world.Will History in Venice be saved?Only if good people work for it.As the ancestors of the Black Community of Venice built the First Baptist Church of Venice, the People of today will work to save it.You too can lend a hand.You can sign the petition to save the church at <https://vog.news/fbcv-petition> .You can stay informed at www.savevenice.me . You can attend the next Planning Commission hearing on August 15, 2018 to stand with the Venice Community.This is Venice History. And you’re in it.

GRAND DAMES AND DIVAS



Linda J. Albertano by Alexis Rhone Fancher.



Jacki Apple by Sophia Alvarado.



Anna Homler by Gloria Orenstein

Jacki Apple and Anna Homler join the fatally fabulous Linda J. Albertano for an evening of performance readings, vocals, and sonic excursions, raves, prophecies, healings, and words of warning for dangerous times. Some old, some new, a little blues, and a dash of dark humor delivered with a silver tongue, sharp teeth, a seductive smile, and great style. Back together for the first time in twenty-five years the three artists will have a lot to say about the things that keep us up at night.

Anna Homler with Michael Intriere: Transmissions from Inner and Outer Space “Improvisations for voice, toys and cello in invented languages.”

Jacki Apple with guest Linda J. Albertano: You Don’t Need A Weatherman “Climate change blues. Read the signs, listen to the wind, and watch the skies.”

Linda J. Albertano & guest performers: Broken Dada Outlaw “Broken hearts, broken bones, broken nation.”

**Sunday July 22, 2018 One Night only! 7:00 PM
Beyond Baroque, 681 No. Venice Blvd. Venice, CA 90291
310-822-3006**

LINDA J. ALBERTANO is a performance artist, poet and musician who has appeared in galleries and festivals in Amsterdam, London and Edinburgh, as well as the USA. She has accompanied West African musician Prince Diabate at the Getty and Royce Hall. Her writing has been published in the Dada journal *Maintenant*, and *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond*. She is represented on the Venice Poetry Wall with Wanda Coleman and Charles Bukowski.

JACKI APPLE is an interdisciplinary artist, audio composer and writer whose work has been exhibited and broadcast inter-nationally since 1971. She has explored the confrontation between nature and culture, matter and consciousness, historical memory and geologic time, political and social issues, through multilayered sound, images and non-linear narrative. She writes a critical column *Peripheral Visions: Perspectives on Culture, Media and Performance* at <http://thisisfabrik.com/peripheral-visions/>

ANNA HOMLER, is a vocal, visual and performance artist based in Los Angeles. She has performed and exhibited her work in venues around the world. With a sensibility that is both ancient and post-modern. Homler sings in an improvised melodic language. Her work explores alternative means of communication and the poetics of ordinary things. She creates perceptual interventions by using language as music and objects as instruments.

info@beyondbaroque.org

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO 5 VENICE SUMMER PROBLEMS

by Ron Birnbach

Problem #1: Too many damn unregulated Bird scooters everywhere

Problem #1-a: Unregulated chaos caused by Trump and his gang

Solution to BOTH problems: Send everyone in the Trump administration a Bird scooter with no helmet. Hopefully some won’t be able to resist and will ride around Washington helmetless. Some will no doubt get injured or worse (Maybe the Donald himself?), ridding us of at least a few of the bad guys, and Trump will of course sue the Bird company and have them shut down.

Problem #2: Loud parties and other annoying behavior at unregulated Air BnB’s all over Venice.

Problem #2-b: Not enough shelters for the homeless and no way for them to earn money to get off the streets

Solution to BOTH problems: Give a really nice tent to each homeless person and allow them to list the tents on Air BnB and rent them to vacationers, thus bringing in enough money to get them off the streets. Plus if the tents were really nice and a lot cheaper than most overpriced Air BnB places, tourists would want to stay in them to enjoy a “gritty down-and-dirty” way of experiencing life in L.A., and the more expensive places in good neighborhoods would have to go back to being hotels.

Problem #3: Big Developers moving into Venice in ever-increasing numbers

Problem #3-a: Too many obnoxious young people with their own tech start-ups in “Silicon Beach”

Solution to BOTH problems: Have the people who run SNAPCHAT take over all future development in Venice. As we know, these guys are such bad

planners they completely ran their company into the ground, came up with a new platform that everyone hates (especially Kylie Jenner), and overbought so much property in Venice they had to immediately sell off a lot of it and flee to SM. They’re so toxic that while they screw up all future development plans in Venice, maybe they could also set back the whole tech start-up industry ten years.

Problem #4: Nothing but over-priced trendy restaurants opening in Venice

Problem #4-a: Does every restaurant in Venice now allow pets? I love dogs, but do I really have to eat every meal with 30 of them gazing at my food and salivating?

Solution to BOTH problems: If you don’t watch your dog VERY closely in the restaurant, the chef is not responsible for what ends up in the “meatless” stew. No, PETA, I’m not advocating eating dogs -- I’m merely saying keep your dog under your own table or anything goes. And if this does happen once or twice, a few of these restaurants will close. See? A win/win for all of Venice, unless it’s your dog.

Problem #5: Way too many snarky commentators and columnists who write columns like this one.

Problem #5-a: No summer TV shows to watch because they’re all either on hiatus (Bill Maher, etc.) or in re-runs.

Solution to BOTH problems: Get ready for the new summer blockbuster Fox series “Everything is Hannity!” in which Sean Hannity comes up with thousands of ridiculous new right-wing conspiracies and assorted gobbledegook guaranteed to dumb down the whole country, even if you don’t watch it. After being strapped down and forced to watch the first 2 episodes, I could barely remember that two plus two equals five!

And on that note, enjoy this summer like it was our last, because it just might be.



July 19, 2018 (Venice, CA) -- When She Rises, a 10-week women-driven arts exhibit highlighting social issues such as ecology justice, immigrant rights and women’s equality, will be on view at SPARC in Venice, CA from July 7 until September 15. Programming includes public art workshops, discussions and screenings to inspire knowledge sharing and community building between generations, social movements and artist disciplines. The kick off event on Saturday, July 7th, 2018 from 3-8pm is the “Ladies Love Project” pop-up shop, curated by New York City artist Toofly, providing a space for over 100 womxn artists from Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Canada and all over the world to celebrate, display and sell their art, fashion and music creations.

“Women are empowered to create the future we want to live in,” affirmed Erin Yoshi, curator of When She Rises. “We are eradicating the myth that competition breeds progress; we believe in working collaboratively. Our goal is to create lasting intergenerational relationships to share knowledge, like best practices in the field and entrepreneurial hustle. We hope participants walk away forging new partnerships and collaborations and continue to do their work safer, with increased capacity alongside a large network of creative comrades.”

When She Rises is also focused on raising the visibility of womxn artists across sectors and increasing equity in pay and institutional representation. According to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 51% of visual artists working today are women yet full-time women artists only earn 81 cents for every \$1 made by male artists. Only 5% of artworks on major museum walls in the U.S. are by women artists, and women hold only 30% of art museum director positions and earning 75% for every dollar earned by male directors.

When She Rises officially launched this year on March 8th International Womxn’s Day, at SPARC with a 5 banner series by Nancy Pili and Harmony Lambert (RESIST), Favianna Rodriguez (Occupy Sisterhood), Nisha Sethi (When She Rises), Erin Yoshi (7 Generations), and Gloria Muriel. The SPARC building, formerly the Venice Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, was an active jail from 1929 until the early seventies. SPARC made the jail its headquarters in 1977 and has loved to say they have “liberated” the space for the arts. It is currently run by Judith Baca, a world renown queer Chicana artist and Carlos Rogel.

The Ladies Love Project pop-up shop on Saturday, July 7th (3-8pm at SPARC, 685 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA) supports the global and local advancement of women artists entrepreneurs through collaboration and pays homage to market life as a staple of community building. Featured artists represent art and design, fashion, self-care and home, tarot and henna art, live art exhibitions and music.

“There are not enough arts and culture events curated by women and women of color that help nurture these type of celebrations,” asserted Toofly. “Our communities have less money, less spaces to thrive in the arts but we continue to resist, and persist. Many warrior women help empower others through these creative projects like When She Rises to inspire the individual and the heart of a community to rise up.”

Music curator, Angela “Spiñorita” Ramirez, a Los Angeles-based Xicanx DJ and a radio host on NTS Radio has curated an all-womxn line-up for the art market event and has brought in Serato as a supporting sponsor. “The tide is changing and we are no longer waiting for validation, but instead working together to display who we are as artists without any lasting resistance or hesitation.”

Interested attendees can RSVP at <https://whensherises.splashthat.com>. Sponsors of When She Rises exhibit include CodePink, Greenpeace, International Association of Art, and Tonal Studio. SPARC is an accessible space and organizers are working to make sure the event is accessible for all abilities.

JUNETEENTH AT OAKWOOD PARK

photos by Margaret Molloy



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Reese Davidson Community – continued from page 3
Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing (VCH/HCH) will lease the land and build and operate the housing. In addition to much-needed housing, Reese Davidson will include all existing public parking, community rooms, a Gregory Hines Community Arts Center, and open and green space.

Several layers of public approvals are needed for this new development. The City of Los Angeles will have to approve all proposed uses, which includes changes in the current designation of the land, known as the entitlements process. The Coastal Commission will have to approve a Coastal Development Permit, because the location of the site is within dual jurisdiction of both the City and Coastal Commission. Additionally, the development must meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a state law that requires the study and identification of significant environmental impacts of the planned Reese Davidson Community and efforts to avoid or lessen those impacts if feasible. Each of these three processes includes public meetings, public testimony and other community input, and public votes by the City Council and Coastal Commission.

The most comprehensive method of complying with CEQA requirements is to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). An EIR will be prepared for the Reese Davidson Community, and the first step in that process will be to file a public Notice of Preparation. That Notice will be filed about one to three weeks after the application for City approvals is filed, which is expected this summer. The first public meeting will be a Scoping Meeting, held by the City of Los Angeles and focused on public education and input about the specific areas to be studied and reported in the EIR. Preparation, public comment, and approval for an EIR generally takes between 12 to 18 months in Los Angeles, though the process can be shorter or longer than that.

The City of Los Angeles recently passed a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Ordinance to streamline and shorten the approvals processes for supportive housing, to bring solutions to homelessness online faster and respond to the crisis more urgently. The Ordinance provides for compliance with State environmental requirements without the preparation of an EIR. However, the PSH Ordinance does not apply to all supportive housing developments, and it does not apply to the Reese Davidson Community. VCH/HCH are not utilizing the Ordinance for the approval process at any point in this development and, as stated above, are pursuing environmental review compliance through the most comprehensive path.

Sam Jam – continued from page 3

will always sounds like a good thing. Aside from the burden on the community, the numerous cars getting towed, and what was probably an illegal public sidewalk closure it was another disappointing display of gentrifier arrogance.

Planting the event smack dab in the heart of the historically Black and Brown community without ensuring they were welcome as you pimp out their neighborhood is rude. Setting up an alcoholic playground on a historical spiritual landmark and a highly contentious area of Venice at that, clearly reveals the spirit of arrogant settler-colonialism still ever prevalent in the behavior and tactics of gentrification agents. Whether the organizers were conscious or not, and I believe they were, after all, if the security guards were thoroughly versed on how to “argue” that the church no longer exists, surely the organizers had to know about the value of the church. Whether they were conscious or not one thing is certain. They didn’t give a fuck. Not enough fucks to consider, ask about, or to research the community they are going into. It’s typical top-down white-savior crap. The “inner city” doesn’t need charity. We need SOLIDARITY. Solidarity in our fight against displacement, gentrification, and it’s accompanying forces. The people have the solutions, we don’t need anymore top-down saviors. If one really wants to help the “inner city” then check your privilege, support what we are demanding and be an ally on our terms, not yours.

One last but important observation: the recent Venice trend of having parties in politically contentious areas. This event reminded me a lot of the graffiti art event that took place on Rose & Third a few months ago that pitted the homeless community against the Chicano graffiti art community. Third & Rose is one of the biggest politically contentious spaces in Venice, as is the First Baptist Church of Venice which, in its desecration as a Sam Jam alcoholic playground seemed to be the center of the event. Let’s keep an eye on these type of events shall we?

We need to scrutinize such “well intentioned” “good causes” by “nice people.” Especially if they are gentrifiers, or as most of them call themselves now, “locals.” It is in these seemingly innocent areas and good causes that agencies of displacement and marginalization go unrecognized and unchallenged, often serving as a prime hiding place for those looking to advance their gentrification goals behind a skillful guise of (fake) altruism.

8 • July 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

A LITTLE TASTE OF LEVIN

This is a follow up to the June article about the closing of the Israel Levin Senior Center on Venice Beach. The Levin Center is the 100 year old building with the beautiful mural around it at 201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. It was closed for demolition and a new community center is to be built there. The staff of Jewish Family Service of L.A. have been working very hard to make things better for us old farts after we were evicted from our wonderful, old senior center. I understand that our move to the Oakwood Recreation Center has become more favorable to the oldsters from Oakwood. Most of the seniors from the Oakwood Center have come to accept us and our kosher food a little more.

Most of the old members of the Levin Center still don't go to the Oakwood Center. Some go to other senior centers around town and some just stopped going altogether. Some say it is too far and others complain that the old members of the Oakwood Center don't want us there. The Oakwood seniors were not used to our Jewish style, kosher foods like kasha, kugel, Israeli salad and no more Porky Pig. Some complained that our kosher food was tasteless. Hopefully after a little more time they will all get used to the food and us and everything will be fine. I personally love this kosher food since I grew up on kasha knishes, potato latkes and krepla and Jewish penicillin or chicken soup. However I must confess to my rabbi that my favorites now are shrimp, bacon and barbeque pork short ribs. YUM, YUM EAT EM UP!

Jewish Family Service (JFS) has set up a great Friday Shabbot service and lunch now at the Shul on the Beach on the Venice Ocean Front Walk. They will continue some of the classes and services we enjoyed at the Levin Center. They will have art classes with Amy and exercise classes with Phylis and Shifra. Some classes will be in the Adda & Paul Safran Senior Apartments next door to the old Levin Center on Venice Beach. Rosemary will continue her Tai chi classes at the Oakwood Center. All seniors are welcome to attend these fun, free classes.

Gustavo the band leader of the world famous band Klezmer Juice will again entertain the seniors once a month at the Shul on the Beach. Sometimes I may join in. My great grandparents had a klezmer band in Poland and it is a tremendous honor to play music with such a fantastic talent like Gustavo! Please come by and dance.

It was just wonderful for a lot of our old members to get together again on Friday for the Shabbot service and lunch. Many of us haven't seen each other since the Israel Levin Senior Center closed. It was like seeing our family we love again. Our old members are still sad about our senior center closing but these things have made it a little bit better. We old timers would like to thank Sherri and Mandi and the others from JFS for trying so hard to make things nicer for us. Thanks to Scott for working so hard trying to get the food service running smoothly.

Some people at the Friday Shabbot and lunch were still upset about the Levin Center closing. One senior woman sobbed, "I'm so sad that they closed the Levin Center. I miss it so much!" Another older lady asked, "They haven't started to tear it down yet. So why couldn't they have left us there until they finally begin tearing it down?" Another man complained, "They promised us transportation to the Oakwood Center and that never happened?" A few asked about having our everyday lunches at the Shul on the Beach in Venice? The JFS workers said that it had been very hard for them to just get our Friday Shabbot there but maybe someday?

It was actually JFS's partner and beneficiary organization the Jewish Federation who made all the plans for closing and demolishing the Israel Levin Senior Center to build a new all age community center. JFS staff had no part in the decision making for replacing the old senior center. However, the JFS could have spoken up in behalf of us old, sick members of the Levin Center and made it clear to the Jewish Federation that we didn't want our senior center taken away. It may have been difficult for the JFS to intercede though because a lot of their funding comes from the Jewish Federation.

Jewish Family Service of L.A. does many great things for our community. They help children, adults and seniors with food, counseling and housing. They help people with disabilities and the poor and sick. They teach various classes and help with job placement and they do many other great things around our city. They work with their fellow groups like Art of Elysium and Nu Roots to do art, acting and music programs, charities and many other activities. With all the care and work from JFS the transition for us old timers has been a little easier. Thanks again.

The new building will not be called the Israel Levin Senior Center anymore. It will be called the Bar Center on the Beach community center. No, it is not supposed to be a bar, but who knows? Maybe there will be kosher wine? A message I got said, "The Bar Center may not be the best name but if you had donated 20 million bucks you could have named it ANYTHING you wanted!" Maybe I'd call it A Challah of a Place, The Farshlugginer Center or It Tuchus a Long Time Butt Here We Are!/? The design for the new building will have big, white walls

like a white canvas. I'm sure our local Venice artists, pigeons, seagulls and dogs will want to decorate it.

It may be that the new community center could be good for Venice? They may have many programs there that benefit people around the area. They say they will have lectures, classes, concerts, art shows and other events. There may be programs for children and women. We seniors are supposed to be back there also. Maybe they could help our local homeless too? We'll have to wait and see.

The bigger and newer building could offer more room and use for the space. I hate to see the old building gone but the bigger and newer replacement could offer more room for more activities that could benefit the entire community instead of just a few of us seniors. Unfortunately our attendance at the old Levin Center had dropped considerably on some days. The new Bar Center on the Beach community center may offer something for everyone, even movie stars, kids, pigeons, us old people, rock stars and houseless people otherwise known as the homeless. Joseph, an old pal and deceased member of the Levin Center used to say that, "Venice has the Rich and Famous and the Poor and Unknown."

Maybe we seniors can add a little to the lives of the young people who will be at the new Bar Center? Our culture or at least Hollywood and most business advertising is only about youth. Most advertising only shows young, healthy and beautiful people. Most of these perfect models make the average young person feel ugly and worthless. If you are over 35 in our culture you are over the hill. If you are over 40 then you are considered an old fossil.

We have been brainwashed by our media to believe youth is everything. I remember my teenage and young adult years as being fun but also confusing and painful. We are suddenly faced with all sorts of heavy life changes and pressures like sex, work, college, moving away from home, marriage, children, making money, loneliness and questions about living. So many young people commit suicide or attempt suicide or are thinking about it. The mother of one the Columbine shooters thought her murderer son really wanted to commit suicide and take out a few others with him. So youth may not always be all that our media wants us to believe.

Maybe we old timers can show the youth that even when you are old and broken down you can still have fun, be happy and have a meaningful life. We can try and show young people that our culture's commercialism and consumerism that target youth is mostly a lot of crap. To Wall Street we are all only a market to exploit. Owning the newest phone or driving a cool car and wearing the latest shoes are nice but what is really important is love, compassion and friendship. You don't have to believe our media's and culture's bullshit and you can make up your own minds and invent your own culture and meaning in life. As Frank Sinatra once sang, "I did it MY WAY..."

Maybe we seniors can share with young people that what is important is becoming self aware and helping others and following your dreams and not only the dollars. Would you rather have a \$1000 lunch with some jerk you can't stand or eat a bagel with a loved one? You can still be vibrant and happy even if you don't look like those perfect models you see on TV and in all the ads. Women don't have to be thin and have big boobs and men don't have to be tall and buff and have a 12 inch dong to be beautiful. Just love yourself for what you are.

Everything in the Universe is transient. Everything has a beginning and ending. Our car, a carrot, the Earth and all of us will die sooner or later. Even the good old Levin Center. You might as well try and be happy and have a little fun along the way and not hurt others along your path and to help others all you can.

Life always has its good and bad, ups and downs no matter your age or how rich you are. You must learn to deal with the good and the bad, happiness and sadness. Give thanks and love to others and the entire universe. Buddhists say you can change your entire life in one instant. It is never too late to change. We can get off that road to Hell anytime and get on your road to Heaven. We can learn and change every day and every moment of our life whether we are a child, a teenager or are very old. So don't give up! I was taught by a very wise, ancient guru high in the Himalyas the MOST important thing of all I've ever learned in life and that is ah, oh I forgot? I think it was something about taking a good poop in the morning or being very careful after you pee when you pull your zipper up?

I hope maybe we old farts can still be meaningful to the youth of today? And I'm sure young people can make us old people's lives more fun too! The older you get sometimes the more like a kid you want to act and play. I still love to read comics and watch old Looney Tunes cartoons like I did when I was a kid. We begin life as a baby and we usually end life like a baby, helpless and in diapers eating formula. I had another message, "Your writing is boring, stupid and too long and you're full of gas!" Thanks, and I completely agree with you!

After our great new Friday Shabbot and lunch at the Shul on the Beach with my alte cocker (old shit) pals, I decided to celebrate and went to the bar down the street for a drink. A very sexy, young gal sat down next to me

and whispered in my ear, "Old man, do you want to have some SUPER sex?!" And I said, "I'll have the SOUP. Especially if it is matzo ball soup!"

– MOISHE KIBBITZER



I was just reflecting on this photo of me and my wife Marissa standing outside the Israel Levin Senior Center on the Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk.

The courtesy photo was taken July 4, 2017 on the 50th anniversary of when I first came to Venice from my hometown Philadelphia on July 4, 1967.

Marissa and I had taken a nostalgic walk along the Venice boardwalk and our last stop was the wonderful Israel Levin Center, where I once worked doing community service.

I'm sad in many ways knowing the Center has recently closed and will soon be demolished.

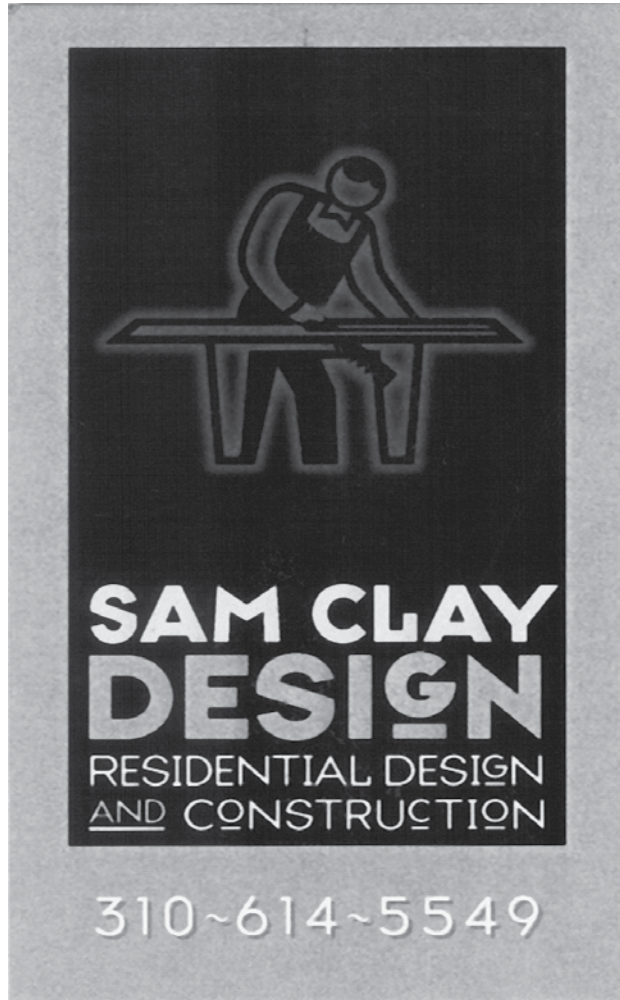
I have so many memories when I worked there back in 1981 for their late director Morrie Rosen!

But I am hoping, and expecting, that the new Jewish Family Service center that will be built there will be positive for the community.

Still there is a deep sadness....

Peace,

Jerry



Sydney Ward

I want to be happy
I want to be wild
I want to be free
And if I’m truly Gods child
Like you so righteously
Affirm all men to be
Then why treat them or me
Anything but heavenly?
As if this Earth has any flaws
You police and girth
With fools gold and laws
Under your spell and your command
We’ve got more jails
Than fertile land
Sociopathic power hoarders
With jaws prognathic
Give the orders
No man or child
Too big or small
In Jesus name you’ll enslave them all
I want to be happy, wild and free
God, if you exist
Please desist
The powers that be

VENICE, VENICE ITS A WONDERFUL TOWN
(sung to, “ N.Y., N.Y.” from the musical,
On the Town) marty liboff

Venice, Venice it’s a wonderful town
Rose is up and Windward is down
the beat goes from bums and pigeons
pooping & peeing on the ground-

The famous places to visit are so many
or so the guidebooks say
most have become yuppie rip-offs & greedy
so I don’t go to any
cause you’re gonna have to pay and pay
we’re gonna see the whole town
from Jim’s mural to the Pacific bay
in just one day
Venice, Venice is a hell of a town-

Venice & L.A. are a visitors place
where only the rich can afford to live
because of the pace
to the poor no one will give
18 million are screaming for space
people come from every country and race
with the gals in bikinis and lace
vendors sell crap all over the place
musicians play guitar & bass
Venice & L.A. are a visitors place-

The Ocean Front Walk
women are dressed to kill
and if you’ve got a \$100 bill
they like to talk
or so the fellas say
the important thing is to pick up a date
when you’re on your way
even if you’re gay
or maybe 7 or 8
in just one day
Venice, Venice is a hell of a town-

We’ve sailed the 7 seas
and been the world over
Venice rents are high to pay
in the seas everyone pees
& you’ll step in dog poop from Rover
and we can safely say
the most fabulous sight
is Venice in the light
of a smoggy day
and the sunset at night
even for only one day

Venice, Venice is a hell of a town
Rose is up and Windward is down
the beat goes from bums and pigeons
pooping & peeing on the ground-
Venice, Venice it’s a WONDERFUL town!

FORGET ANGEL WINGS-GIVE ME BARBEQUED WINGS!
marty liboff

In the last three years
4 of my 5 childhood pals died-
The one who is still alive is younger than me
and living far away and I never see him
but we talk on the phone now & then.
The scary part is 3 of the 4 who died
were a few months younger than me.
They say when you get older
you can expect everyone you know
to begin leaving on that midnight train to heaven.
As that kid in the Sixth Sense said, “I see dead people!”
Everywhere I go I see the ghosts of love ones.
I hear them whisper in my ear.
Every time I walk to the beach with my old pooch Pharoah
I think, “Let’s stop over and see Teddy.”
Then I remember he is gone.
Every time I walk up the hill with my dog I think,
“Let’s go over and visit Norm.”
Then I remember he sleeps in a graveyard now.
Sunday comes and I think, “Oh I wonder what my pal Leroy
is cooking on the barbie for us today
and what are we gonna watch on TV?”
Then I remember he is eating barbeque ribs & chicken
with the angels while watching Dr. Who on TV.
For his sake I sure hope
we get barbeque up in heaven!
Leroy and his barbeque and TV
still live on in my dreams-
Sometimes he still takes me and his wife Jackie
for a very fast drive
to a reggae concert where we still dance
as we did so many times,
now so long ago...
Gary, my bud from elementary school
I only saw occasionally since he moved
to the other side of L.A.
because the high rents by the beach
forced him away.
But when we hung out
it was just like we were back in the 3rd grade
laughing & blabbing about silly, stupid stuff.
All through elementary school we would draw
dinosaurs fighting and the battle of the Alamo.
Today kids just live inside their video games.
Back then in the B.C.
(Before Computers & video games)
our video games were our imaginations
and a sheet of blank paper and some crayons.
Our other elementary school pal, George
went to Veetnam
and came back sick and died young
in what seems like a lifetime ago.
He was the best athlete in our class
and we thought he would far out live us.
Most of us thought we would die young-
incinerated by an H bomb
or died from alcohol and drugs
and fast cars and crazy women
before 30 like Jim, Jimi, Kurt and Janis.
Well, maybe Janis had crazy men.
I still dream about my mom & dad
but that is another poem...
They say that our loved ones always live on
inside our hearts and souls...
The stars watch over the heavens
and it is comforting to feel
that our old friends & relatives
are watching over us....
A large percentage of people on Death’s doorstep
report talking to their dead relatives and friends.
A new, younger friend said,
“You should get off this Death kick!”
Well, is it a kick or a kick in the head!
An old song went,
“Enjoy yourself its later than you think!
Enjoy yourself while you’re still in the pink!
The years go by as quickly as a wink-
Enjoy yourself, enjoy yourself
its later than you think!”
An old girlfriend I haven’t seen in years used to say,
“At Death Everything is revealed
and you’ll know the answers to Everything....”
Wow, the Meaning of Life in our last moment!
Quite a lot to grasp!
Will I know if the Lakers will win
or how will Game of Thrones end?
To me Life is a Mystery
and Death maybe our biggest Mystery?
When I finally leave on that Midnight train
I’ll try and come back and write you a poem about it.
When I croak or kick the bucket
whatever the hell that means
I hope I get my harp
to play rock & roll and reggae
and my angel wings-
barbeque chicken wings
and also ribs, burgers and pizza
hangin out with my old pals
watching dumb TV shows again
as in the days of old...

9 • July 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

Talisman
To Mahmoud Dowlatabadi*

No! This red tie
Cannot protect you
As a talisman would
And cannot make you a secular intellectual
At the breaking-fast dinner of a sharia state,
Nor turn the bloody table of the theocracy
Into the simple dining cloth of Aunt Belqays.*

Being secular
Is not simply shaving a beard
And wearing a tie.
It is belief in separation of mosque and state.
It is respect for freedom of religion and nonreligion.

While in front of the mirror
Shaving and wearing your tie
Did you ask yourself why
With a blade as sharp as your razor
They tortured Soltanpour*
Before executing him
And with a rope as long as your tie
They squeezed Mokhtari’s throat?*

I wish you had broken
Your fast at home,
Although I once said:
“In a country where religion
Is a tag on state crimes
To break fasting laws
Looks more meaningful
Than fasting itself.”

Majid Naficy
June 6, 2018

* An Iranian writer who recently was invited to a
breaking-fast dinner with President Rouhani.
* A matriarch in the novel “Kelidar” written by
Dowlatabadi.
* Saeed Soltanpour, a poet and playwright executed
by Khomeini in June 1981.
* Mohammad Mokhtari, a poet murdered by the
theocracy on December 3, 1998.

WITH DEEP SORROW
NO ONE CAN KNOW
THE WAY LIFE CAN GO
NO ONE CAN KNOW
TILL TOMORROW....
NO ONE CAN KNOW
THE PAIN ONE CAN KNOW
NO ONE CAN KNOW
THE SORROW....

NOTHING IS WORTH
MORE THAN THIS DAY
REJOICE! REJOICE!
IN HIS/HER LIVING....
IN ALL YOU DO
IN ALL YOU SAY
REJOICE! REJOICE!
IN HER/HIS GIVING....

GIVE WITH YOUR LOVE
GIVE WITH YOUR PRAISE
GIVE WITH YOUR LIFE
FULL OF SINGING....
SING OUT YOUR LOVE
SING OUT YOUR PRAISE
SING OUT YOUR LIFE
FULL OF LIVING....

WITH DEEP LOVE,
TINA CATALINA COCORAN

THIS PAPER IS A POEM

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

JULY 6 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
WALL OF MEAT
Join the adventures of President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Pence E. Verga, and miscellaneous Bible thumpers, Russian hookers, evil little minions, and hang-ers-on as they construct, and much more slowly decon-struct, a wall of meat around the White House. Randy Cauthen, author of four books of poetry and nonfiction, is Poet- in-Residence at CSU-Dominguez Hills. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 7 SATURDAY 3:30 PM
SEX, RATED G
A personal trip across Hollywood’s unsettling sexual landscape told with such candor that, in the end, SEX will no longer be a four-letter word. A Solo-Show work-shop performance by Lisa Verlo, developed in Terrie Silverman’s Solo-Show Master Class. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 7 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
NOIR IN OUR AGE
Video, reading, and discussion with the Marquess of Noir, Alan K. Rode, and Suzanne Lummis, the Dispos-sessed Contrarian Baroness of Noir. Alan Rode is a writ-er, film scholar, and director-treasurer of the Film Noir Foundation. Suzanne Lummis teaches a course through the UCLA Extension Writers Program, Poetry Goes to the Movies, and hosts the web series They Write by Night. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 8 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
FIRST SUNDAY OPEN READING
Our popular monthly open reading. Features this month, TBA. Hosted by Steve Goldman. Sign ups begin at 4:45 PM. Five-minute limit. Free, but donations always appre-ciated.

JULY 8 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
LA POESIA FESTIVAL
FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

JULY 8 SUNDAY 7:30 PM
KEROUAC ON RECORD
Jack Kerouac’s musical legacy goes well beyond the studio recordings he made himself: his influence infused generations of music makers who followed in his work – from singer-songwriters to rock bands. Some of the greatest transatlantic names – Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead, Van Morrison and David Bowie, Janis Joplin and Tom Waits, Sonic Youth and Death Cab for Cutie, and many more – credited Kerouac’s impact on their output. Music producer, contributor and critic Pat Thomas hosts. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 14 SATURDAY 2:00 PM
RAISED BY WOLVES
How growing up with a dog sled team was the perfect preparation for adulthood. A Solo-Show workshop performance by Marla Black developed in Terrie Sil-verman’s Solo-Show Master Class. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 14 SATURDAY 3:30 PM
MAL COUPE
How a young ballerina becomes her own woman by Julia Vally, developed in Terrie Silverman’s Solo-Show Master Class. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 14 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
THE DARK HUSH
As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Beyond Baroque The Dark Hush Poet’s Theatre inaugu-rates a series of readings of plays by poets, curated and directed by Beth Ruscio and Darrell Larson, first up are: BOWL, CAT AND BROOMSTICK, by Wallace Stevens; CHANGE YOUR BEDDING! A Noh Play, and selections from THE GENERAL RETURNS FROM ONE PLACE OR ANOTHER, by Frank O’Hara; THREE WOMEN by Sylvia Plath; and THE NEW STEP by Leonard Cohen. A rare opportunity to experience a neglected aspect of these great artists bodies of work. Regular admission. Mem-bers FREE

JULY 15 SUNDAY 2:00 PM
SOAP BOX POETS OPEN READING
This is your home. Bring your words. The mic is yours. Sign-ups begin at 1:45 PM. There is a five minute limit. Hosted by Jessica Wilson Cardenas. FREE, but donations are always welcome.

JULY 15 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
WILL ALEXANDER & ANDREW JORON
Andrew Joron’s work shows a fascination with sound, with syntax, and other properties of language as a specu-lative substance. Will Alexander is the winner of the 2014 American Book Award and the 2016 Jackson Prize. The domain of his nervy curiosity ranges from the icy Hima-layas to the African savannahs, from physics, astronomy, and music, to alchemy, philosophy, and painting. Orishas, angels and ghosts all sing to this poet, instructing him in

their art of verbal flight. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 20 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
YOUR GOLDEN SUN
Californians reading from the San Francisco anthology, Your Golden Sun Still Shines: San Francisco Personal Histories and Small Fictions (Manic D Press) -- and other recent works -- on the connections and contradictions be-tween San Francisco and Los Angeles, hosted by editor, Denise Sullivan with Peter Case, Lynell George and San Francisco Poet Laureate, Kim Shuck. Regular Admission. Members FREE

JULY 21 SATURDAY 4:00 PM
STEVE MCDONALD & JUDITH PACTH
Steve McDonald’s second full-length collection, Credo, was a finalist in Brick Road’s poetry contest, and his chapbook Golden Fish / Dark Pond (2014) took first place in the Comstock Review chapbook contest. He has also published the full-length book House of Mirrors and the chapbook Where There Was No Pattern. Judith Pacht’s Summer Hunger, won the 2011 PEN Southwest Book Award for Poetry. Her chapbooks, User’s Guide and St. Louis Suite were published in 2009 and 2010. Her first collection, Falcon, was published in 2004. Judith reads new work from her manuscript The Year of the Heart (of the House), a collection of political and person-al poems. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 21 SATURDAY 7:30 PM
THE LIT SHOW
Featuring Suzy Williams and Brad Kay in the 13th annual edition of this hugely popular program. Celebrating au-thors who wrote songs. \$20

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

JULY 22 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
GRANDE DAMES & DIVAS
Jacki Apple and Anna Homler join the fatally fabulous Linda Albertano for an evening of performance readings, vocals, and sonic excursions, raves, prophesies, healings, and words of warning for dangerous times. Some old, some new, a little blues, and a dash of dark humor deliv-ered with a silver tongue, sharp teeth, a seductive smile, and great style. These three artists have a lot to say about the things that keep us up at night. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 22 SUNDAY 7:00 PM
7 DUDLEY CINEMA
FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

JULY 27 FRIDAY 8:00 PM
PLANT PERSPECTIVES: A READING & DISCUS-SION
Writer, curator, and editor Janice Lee leads a multi-disci-plinary reading and discussion on the knowledge gained from trees, and the importance of that knowledge to language and creativity. Featuring noted poet and homeo-path Amanda Ackerman; herbalist and medicine-maker Saewon Oh; and farmer, chef, and poet Stephen Alton Lewis. Regular Admission. Members FREE

JULY 28 SATURDAY 8:00 PM
SONIA GREENFIELD, DONNA HILBERT, & MAR-TIN OTT
Sonia Greenfield’s book Boy with a Halo at the Farmer’s Market, won the 2014 Codhill Poetry Prize, and her work has appeared in the 2018 and 2010 Best American Poetry. Donna Hilbert’s latest book is Gravity: New & Selected Poems from Tebot Bach, and her work is widely anthol-ogized, most recently in Poetry of Presence, Grayson Books. Martin Ott has published eight books of poetry and fiction, most recently Lessons in Camouflage, C&R Press, 2018. Regular admission. Members FREE

JULY 29 SUNDAY 4:00 PM
GREEN TARA PRESS
Green Tara Press is dedicated to publishing works that promote compassion, healing and love, and awaken and inspire readers to enlightened action. With Jerry Garcia, Sandra Sloss Geideman, Margaret Drewry Walsh, Bob Alonzi, Cynthia Gregory, and Catherine Auman. Includes reading of Holly Prado’s GTP book. FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

LAUGHTeARS

Established 1953

July 14 Sat 3pm MESS - Artist John Mooney inter-view (rsvp for location 310 306 7330) FREE

July 18 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA FREE

July 21 Sat, 7:30pm The LIT SHOW - Suzy & Brad’s celebration of song and literature at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd, \$20 Facebook = <https://www.facebook.com/events/1298275640274881/>

July 22 Sun 10-1pm The BackBoners at the Santa Mon-ica Farmers Market, Main & Ocean Park, free

July 22 Sun 7pm Seven Dudley Cinema Beyond Ba-roque 681 Venice Blvd free

July 23 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free

Aug 7 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Read-ing Club (moved to Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd for temporarily, instead of the regular Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way Read Article

Pacific Resident Theatre presents

The Sunday Concert Series

PERFORMING THIS JULY



SUNDAY, JULY 22 AT 7PM
Chris Mulkey
Chris Mulkey Trio returns to PRT, playing Texas jump and Louisiana blues. Chris just returned from Mississippi playing the Delta Blues festival. You can find his music on ChrisMulkeymusic.com

SUNDAY, JULY 29 AT 7PM
Penny Safranek
Penny Safranek, sings the songs she wrote while living on a barge in the Hudson River, where the land meets the sea with a view of the New York City skyline next to infinity. Penny will accompany the songs, reading from her book, "The Book of 33 Vines - Life on a Hudson River Barge . 1972 - 1982"



The Electric Lodge Presents

ARTHUR TRACE: The Artful Deceiver
(July 21, 8pm – 9:15pm)
Saturday, 8:00 pm - 9:15 pm
Organizer: Arthur Trace \$40-\$55

Highly acclaimed by his peers as “one of the most unique acts in the world of magic today,” Arthur Trace is the eighth magician in the his-tory of magic to be awarded The International Brotherhood of Magicians Gold Medal. You may have seen him on Masters of Illusion or Penn & Teller’s Fool Us. This time he brings his creative conjuring to the intimate Electric Lodge Theater.

Jim Morrison Psychedelic Light Show Experience
(July 29, 5pm – 8pm)
Sunday, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm \$25

Along with an incredible light show pro-vided by Alternative Lighting Solutions, Inc., Peace Frog: Tribute to the Doors performs hits like: L.A. Woman, Light My Fire, & Riders on the Storm! The Elec-tric Lodge located in Venice Beach where Jim Morrison wrote his poetry and lyrics provides for a magical experience unlike any audience has ever witness! A must for doors fans or anyone who appreciates the doors and the genius of Jim Morrison!

Ongoing Events

OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

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

COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. Latino Resource Center at Vera Davis Center. 4-12.
- Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

FOOD

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

KIDS

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

MUSIC

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

YOGA AND DANCE

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

Location Guide

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

IT'S THE LIT SHOW!



In their annual celebration of song and literature - **THE LIT SHOW**, LA's Diva Deluxe **SUZY WILLIAMS** and songmaster **BRAD KAY** perform songs with lyrics taken from classic literature. You've read the book, now hear the song!

THE LIT SHOW repertoire includes the likes of J.D. Salinger (see video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyMKVLBqse4>) Hafiz, Kurt Vonnegut, Edna St Vincent Millay, Samuel Beckett, Raymond Chandler, Truman Capote, Vladimir Nabokov, Rudyard Kipling and more. Dorothy Parker wrote a song that Billie Holiday sang. Tennessee Williams wrote a song that Marlon Brando sang as a rambling troubadour in The Fugitive Kind. Lonely House was written by Kurt Weill and Langston Hughes. Jack Kerouac & Allen Ginsberg wrote Pull My Daisy with David Amram

SUZY WILLIAMS has played Carnegie Hall with Stormin' Norman & Suzy, performed with Pilobolus Dance Company, and has worked with Van Dyke Parks, Buster Poindexter, Marc Shaiman, and film director Nicholas Ray. Bette Midler, Horace Silver, Roosevelt Sykes, Ann Magnuson, Eubie Blake, Odetta and Hadda Brooks have praised her passionate singing and vibrant energy. Suzy's voice is vibrant and lusty...great gusto and bold emotion." - Nat Hentoff, Cosmopolitan. "Williams' energy must be seen to be believed...a natural performer." - Robert Palmer, New York Times. Suzy's bio can be found at http://laughtears.com/suzy_bio.html

BRAD KAY, composer, pianist and historian, has led bands in Los Angeles since 1965. He has collaborated with Danny Elfman's Mystic Knights of the Oingo Boingo, Firesign Theater's Phil Austin, jazz pioneer Gerald Wilson, writer Harlan Ellison, director Tim Burton, and Suzy & Her Solid Senders. Kay plays cornet and piano with Janet Klein & Her Parlor Boys. "No one I have ever met is more dedicated to music than the great pianist Brad Kay...he is ever searching for infinite harmonic variations, love and a soulful sense of humor in his music." - George Winston. Brad's bio can be found at <http://www.janetklein.com/web/bios/brad.htm>

21 July at 19:30-22:00
Beyond Baroque

No advance tickets, First come, first served.

We encourage you to get there early, as This event usually sells out.

Doors open 6:30pm, Admission \$20

Plenty of free parking in lot to the east.



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU



JOIN THE UNION!

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

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

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

THIS MEETING WILL BE BILINGUAL SPANISH / ENGLISH.



11 • July 2018 • Free Venice Beachhead

VENICE METAL ARTS

- NEW ARTIST WORKSPACE & GALLERY - TO OPEN IN VENICE THIS SUMMER

Venice, California - Local Venice artist Leila Levi, and Brad Smith, have announced the launch of a new artist space, Venice Metal Arts, to be unveiled at an open house on July 19, 2018 from 6pm - 9pm at 18 N. Venice Boulevard.

Focusing on the craft of metalsmithing, the intimate studio will offer classes, as well as workspace for those interested in a full range of metal arts. our passion in this extraordinary medium. [facebook/VeniceMetal/](https://facebook.com/VeniceMetal/).

IDEAS FOR REBOOT OF "ROSEANNE" REBOOT

By Ron Birnbach

With rumors running rampant that ABC is going to try to bring back the "Roseanne" show in a new format without Roseanne, we thought we'd help them along with some suggestions:

1) John Goodman (Dan) wakes up in bed with Suzanne Pleshette (Emily) and realizes that he is still on the OLD "Roseanne" show from 15 years ago which was never cancelled. The new show is all a bad dream. Even stranger, someone named J.R. has apparently been shot and everyone is convinced he was shot by Dan, who now has only one arm.

2) With a nod to "Bewitched", the "Roseanne" show returns with Melissa McCarthy as Roseanne, and nobody in the cast acknowledges the change, even when Melissa/Roseanne constantly breaks into her Sean Spicer impersonation.

3) When "Not Roseanne" reboots with the entire cast except Roseanne, the entire town of Landers, Illinois is baffled by her sudden disappearance. Has she met an untimely end? The cops claim there are too many suspects -- basically everyone she ever knew or worked with -- and refuse to investigate. No one sees Roseanne again until she turns up as Trump's new Ambassador to Wakanda.

4) The entire cast of "Roseanne" is jailed and put on trial when Roseanne manages to insult the heritage of every single person in Landers at the same time. Roseanne gets the electric chair for this, but the rest of the cast escape with the help of a kindly Baptist Minister (Morgan Freeman), who leers at Darlene and says he "wishes he had been there" when she decided to co-produce the reboot.

5) Roseanne wakes up in bed with Kanye West and Kim Kardashian, and Roseanne and Kanye have a confrontation over who is the bigger Trump supporter, after which they realize they have a lot in common and become BRF's (Best Racist Friends). Kim gets bored and heads off to the White House for an intellectual discussion with President Trump on "The Merits of Big Butts". On the way out, she passes Samantha Bee, who arrives with a cake for Ivanka which reads "You are so NOT feckless".

6) Charlie Sheen and Roseanne star in the new sitcom "Two And A Half Schmucks" as a coke-addled/sex-addicted couple who manage to convince some dummies at an adoption agency that they are responsible enough to adopt an adorable multi-cultural kid. Hijinks ensue, and through cutting-edge interactive wizardry the audience gets to vote constantly on which one is the worst parent.

7) In a tearful send-off, Roseanne bids farewell to her TV family and heads off for a massive world tour as the Ambien spokes-bigot.

NO DEJES QUE ESTO TE PASE A TI



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

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

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618

Línea de apoyo solidario de casos: 213-986-8266

Conozca a sus vecinos!
Conozca sus derechos!

LA REUNIÓN SERÁ BILINGÜE EN ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS.



