



Ocean Front Walk photos  
circa 1977-78  
by Rich Mann

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# FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



June 2003

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BEACHHEAD EDITORIAL:

## A lot's at stake in the Venice Elections

On June 28, Venice will vote for candidates to fill 10 positions on the neighborhood council.

We urge a vote for the entire slate of Progressive Grassroots Candidates who are campaigning on a platform of more affordable housing and community control of development.

Readers of the Beachhead know that these are topics near, and dear, to our hearts. Over the past year, no less than six of these candidates have expressed their opinions in the pages of this newspaper. They, and their fellow slate members, are known quantities in Venice. They attend meetings, hearings and other public forums where they speak up for the interests of all of us.

Since the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) was formed a year ago, there has been a rash of new development proposals for Venice. The current board majority seems almost paralyzed with fear of incurring the dis-

pleasure of these developers. It took a crowd of 200 people at a meeting to get the massive Lincoln Center project derailed, at least temporarily. Now, it seems, the current president,

### VOTE

**10 am - 2 pm, Saturday, June 28  
at the Westminster School**

(enter on Main St., between Westminster & Brooks)  
All Venice residents, 18 and over, are eligible.

Tisha Bedrosian, who is not up for reelection this year, is trying to skirt the opposition to the project by hand-picking a small committee to meet with the developer.

Affordable, and low-income, housing is a pressing need for most Venetians, 70 percent of whom are renters, while more than 4,000 of us live under the poverty line. Again, the majority

of the current Board seems unable to address this issue in any meaningful way.

We expect this to change with the election of the 10 candidates who together with the two continuing Board members of the slate will provide a progressive majority on the Board.

We're impressed that the Progressive Grassroots Candidates Slate made their selections in full public view. At a public forum on May 31, they refined their platform and voted - by secret ballot - for their candidates (See page 7).

We believe the result is worthy of our support on June 28. We urge a vote for Elena Popp for secretary, Jim Smith for treasurer, Tom O'Meara for communications officer and votes for all seven at-large board members: Elinor Aurthur, Sheila Bernard, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Lydia Poncé, Suzanne Thompson, Sabrina Venskus and Laddie Williams.

## Venice Independence Day Parade

- continuing a great tradition -  
See Back Page for Details

## WHOLE LOTTA SHAKING GOING ON

By John Davis

Well, the City hopes not. As the Planners rubber stamp yet more and more permits for monolithic structures in Venice they are failing to comply with laws that protect public health and safety.

While the entire Los Angeles basin is prone to earthquakes, some places are more dangerous than others due to liquefaction damage.

When the shock waves from quakes pass through areas with high water tables (underground water)

intermixed with sand and gravel, the stability of the ground is compromised and reacts like mud with a liquefied surface.

Sometimes large surface ruptures occur like they did at Mothers Beach in Marina del Rey during the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Large heavy buildings sometimes sink and collapse.

Luckily small wooden homes tend to float like small boats and are far less prone to catastrophic failure.

The California Seismic Hazard Mapping Act is supposed to protect people and the economy by requiring large developments in Seismic Hazard Zones to produce geologic reports and file copies with the State Geologist prior to issuing permits for development.

Most of Venice is located in the Venice Quadrangle Seismic Hazard Zone.

When the City of Los Angeles issues permits they are known as the Lead Agency. It is responsible for ensuring large developments in the hazard zone produce geologic reports before issuing permits. And the public is entitled to read these reports.

So where are the geology reports for the proposed large developments like the one proposed for Abbot Kinney and San Juan Avenues?

The Environmental Review Section of City Planning is claiming ignorance. The City issued permits without the geologic report. It seems that the City may have been grossly negligent on other recent large projects as well.

- continued on page four

By Carol Fondiller

According to the weekly newspaper The Argonaut, May 22, the Catellus Development company has devised a plan for evicting long-term residents of a 45-acre site situated on a Playa del Rey bluff.

The original plan was to poison the long-term bluff residents with an anti-coagulant, which would cause the residents to bleed to death, but would prevent the residents from invading the surrounding homes.

Catellus Corporation wants to eradicate the residents that have inhabited the bluffs for eons in preparation to build 114 homes on the bluff. The development was about to eradicate the residents by adding the killing agent to the soil when Councilwoman Miscikowski ordered the developer to "re-evaluate" the plan.

Several community organizations and environmental groups had sprung into action to prevent this holocaust.

The developers then countered with the proposal of relocating the inhabitants to the Ballona Wetlands.

The developers were treating them like long-term tenants. Except these are not tenants, they are Rodents, rats, vermin, who have lived on the marshes forever with the exception of the European Rattus Whateverous,

which the Europeans imported at great expense to the Americas, and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and Gophers that are indigenous to the Wetlands.

Environmentalists and safety groups were concerned that the rodents—which are midway in the food chain in the wetland ecosystem—if poisoned would kill off birds and other animals who feed on the rodents, and could pollute the wetland ecosystem.

The Diaspora of the rats to the wetlands was frowned upon by environmental groups because it would upset the delicate balance of the Ballona Wetlands.

Some groups of the conservation community see this as an opportunity to purchase the bluffs to ensure the viability of the wetlands below the bluffs.

Unfortunately, efforts to dislodge developers from the bluffs so far have been futile, because they won't go, and as for using anti-coagulants on developers—well, it just won't work.

Developers don't bleed.

## Oh Rats!







The  
collective staff of the



#### BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

A Clover, Carol Fondiller, Screaming Mimi, Vessy Mink, Yolanda Miranda, Lydia Poncé, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large.

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 644, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org>. Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>. Copyright 2003

### Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit

The Thought Police are rising

It is the Time

for the Beachhead's rebirth

Now is the Time to get your thoughts

together

If you care whether

you have a thought of any worth.

Thoughts left of Center

Homeowner or Renter

Put your Head where your Pen\* is

Send it to us use your wits

and if we like it

We'll print or plagiarize it

or tear it into

teeny tiny

bits

— by the Slumgoddess

\*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor or Computer

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Become a Beachhead  
Sustainer

Dear Everyone,

The Midnight Special Bookstore has found a new place! It's at 1450 2nd Street in Santa Monica, not far from the old store.

We are planning a grand opening season with great events to invite you back; and we are thinking of trying some new things, so you'll have to come help us work them out. For those of you who can, we will need help with the move. I'll write again with details, as soon as we have an opening date.

I believe these are very dangerous times to be without every possible avenue of real information; it has been hard not being able to be there when we are needed. It has been even harder not being a part of the most exciting peace movement our world has ever seen. We look forward to re-joining you all!

Thank you for the phone calls, thank you for the letters, thank you for the e-mail, thank you for leaving notes on the old storefront, thank you for the words of support on our website. Thank you for reminding us that the Midnight Special is still here. WELL SEE YOU SOON.

Looking forward to hearing from you and having you back in our store.

Margie Ghiz, Midnight Special Bookstore

Dear Beachhead,

I strongly urge the peace movement to use nonviolent methods to bring about lasting peace in the world. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him."

Just like Bush cannot liberate the Iraqi people through destructive means, the anti-war movement cannot bring about peace through shouting, anger, hatred or violence. This will only bring about more of the same. These negative methods are rooted to the same techniques used by the Bush Administration and Saddam Hussein, which can only have negative consequences.

Negativity breeds negativity.

Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." What is the change we want? We want peace. So find peace within yourself first, then we will be able to bring about peace in the world.

We can say "No" peacefully and powerfully. We can exercise civil disobedience while being centered in love. This is very effective. Using these techniques, Gandhi won freedom for India from British Imperialistic rule.

To access your own center of love and peace, think of someone you truly love and care about. Focus on that feeling while going about your daily life, going to peace rallies, thinking about Bush, visualizing world peace.

To be centered in your own peace and love is the most powerful force for change possible. It takes dedication and hard work, and yet it is so easy. We can do it. Doing this, we are now ushering in a new way of life on this planet — one of love, peace, cooperation and unconditional respect.

Marea Boylan

Hi, I was reading the Beachhead (March, 2003) online and saw the list (page 9) of "Notable Women in Venice History", and I read the invitation to submit nominations. Well, I nominate Carol Fondiller. I have not seen or spoken with Carol for many, many years ... but I remember her contributions to Venice. I remember her articles in the Beachhead ... years back ... and I'm delighted to see her involvement continues. Carol really cares about Venice ... she always has. She was, and still is, a wonderful activist, a great writer, a very cool person ... and a truly notable woman in Venice History.

Keep up the great work!! Lotsa Love to Carol !!!

Peace,

John P. Jones

Dear Beachhead,

I am very disturbed to read that a councilmember could even think about licensing or permitting political tables (*Licenses for artists and free speakers?*, *May Beachhead*).

My partner and I just moved here from Berkeley - there for 12 years tabling on Telegraph Avenue with a free speech/sticker table - now in Venice just north of Rose Avenue on the weekends. I would like to know more about who else is willing to go up against this councilmember re: permitting political tables and artists, ridiculous, doncha think?

I would also like to set our anti-bush anti-war bumper stickers/buttons literature tables at the Carnevale, June 14. Abridging my civil liberties is an 'act of terrorism'? There's a terrorist behind every BUSH!

John Vance

Dear Beachhead,

In your May '03 issue you perpetrate the old canard of a "renown" dancer having lived at the Thornton Towers. This letter is an attempt to put that myth to rest, though it will probably not succeed; as the saying goes, "When the myth becomes legend, print the legend!"

I lived across the walk from that building, at 21, from about '67 through '76, and the building manager, a Mrs. McGurk, had lived there "forever" having owned a house which when she sold it, it was stipulated that she would manage the building which replaced it.

She assured me that it was not Isadora, whom she had never heard of, but one or both of the Duncan Sisters, a popular vaudeville act of the day.

Isadora was born in San Francisco in 1878 and moved to Europe early in the 1900s, dying in 1927. She only returned to the U.S. for infrequent *troups de danse*.

Incidentally, I am totally with you in opposition to the monstrosity which is proposed for the parking lots.

Love,

Eddie Medard

## LETTERS

— send letters to: Beachhead  
POB 644  
Venice 90294

Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org

Dear Beachhead,

I am the first to admit I am terribly absent minded and forgetful. Can anyone help me find ....

1. Osama Bin Whatsisname?

Or his corpse.

2. Saddam Hussein?

Or his corpse.

3. Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction?

Don't look in North Korea, they're not there.

4. The Bill of Rights (actually being observed)? 4th Amendment especially.

5. The real Florida elections results from 2000? Along with authority for the US Supreme Court to decide on matters of the Florida Constitution.

6. A big chunk of my paycheck?

The part that goes to pay war taxes....

7. My keys?

8. There was something else, but I forgot.

Happy hunting.....

Paul Frankel

Dear Beachhead,

I often participate in Sunday's Venice Peach March, which meets at 2 pm at Rose and the Boardwalk. At the conclusion of our May 11, 2003 march (on Mother's Day), a friend mentioned that she planned to meet others for a drink at the Outback Cafe on the Boardwalk. Fellow marcher John and I decided to join her.

When we arrived at the Outback with our various peace paraphernalia (e.g., signs, buttons), some Outback customers verbally assaulted our political position; I responded in kind. John and I proceeded up the steps to the Outback, whereupon the manager and her assistant blocked our entry; these two informed us that the Outback allows no solicitation, that we must leave. When I responded that we planned to eat at the Outback; the assistant softened somewhat, whereupon my friend surfaced. I retreated down the steps to the Boardwalk in front of the Outback.

Several and sundry Outback "patrons" entertained themselves by throwing pennies, wadded-up soiled napkins, and insults at me.

Meanwhile, another friend spontaneously developed a "Boycott Outback" sign (which one Outback patron attempted to swipe from her); she walked up and down the Boardwalk with it. Several Venice "peace" officers scratched their heads in confusion at the quandary confronting them at the Outback; at which point, we proceeded to the Waterfront Cafe, where patrons displayed my "Evict Resident Bush" sign in full view. We partied!

Naomi Snyder





## Daniel Freeman Hospital: Battle may be won but war is far from over

By Theresa Hulme

The Marina's Daniel Freeman Hospital announcement that it will remain open is a huge victory for local activists and community members. The good news came in April that the Daniel Freeman Medical Center will remain open for an unspecified amount of time. The Marina hospital provides much needed emergency and non-emergency services to the rapidly growing areas of the Del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, and Westchester communities. The Medical Center found itself suddenly gasping for air and fighting for its life as it was nearly bulldozed to the ground to make room for yet another hotel and parking lot in its place.

The Daniel Freeman Hospital is owned by the second largest hospital chain in the nation, Tenet Healthcare Corporation. The scandal-ridden Tenet purchased the hospital in December 2001 from an order of Catholic nuns who operated the facility as a non-profit entity. The for-profit Tenet, a Fortune 500 Company and favorite on Wall Street, has a pattern of buying up hospitals all over the U.S., trimming costs then shutting them down.

Thanks to a committed group of local activists and volunteers, a community organization called SOMH (Save our Marina Hospital), the closure has been staved off indefinitely. SOMH leader and Playa del Rey resident, Julie Inouye was instrumental in the battle to keep the hospital open. Tenet first announced it had no plans to close the Marina hospital but within weeks the property was put up for sale. Community members concluded Tenet to be as untrustworthy as their stock price. Inouye immediately formed SOMH with help from friends and neighbors and even summoned the powers

of State Attorney General Bill Lockyer onto the scene. Lockyer declared that Tenet had not fulfilled the requirements of a hospital operator seeking to shut down a hospital and filed a lawsuit. The Attorney General stated that Tenet had not fulfilled its obligation to the community to allow for an open forum of debate regarding the closure. Lockyer ordered Tenet to keep the hospital open.

A little research on the part of SOMH peeled back the layers of fraud and lawsuits the hospital chain has plagued itself with for many years. Echoing the corporate gangsterism that has typified the U.S. economy in the last few years, Tenet was recently sued by the U.S. Justice Department for allegedly over billing Medicare to inflate its revenues from 1992-1998. The government said Tenet overcharged Medicare for certain procedures by using improper diagnosis codes for hospital stays.

Also, federal authorities raided a Tenet owned hospital in Redding where doctors were knowingly performing unnecessary heart surgeries and engaging in other bill padding techniques.

A Tenet hospital in San Diego was also raided by authorities for doctors reportedly recruiting patients into the hospital. These allegations are only the beginning of a recently "restructured" corporation. In 1995, National Medical Enterprises changed its name to Tenet, hoping to erase the sordid history of scandal and fraud that shook the company a few years earlier. The name

change dramatically increased bottom line profits and a successful turn around strategy was born thus setting off the trend of buying and selling hospitals around the nation. NME posted a \$425 million loss in 1994 to a \$302 million profit by 2000. Corporate CEOs and shareholders know the public has a short-term memory, unfortunately.

Claims of doctor deception and insurance fraud once again shed light on the company that chose its new name because officials said it represented integrity and shared values: Tenet Healthcare Corporation.

Headquartered in Santa Barbara, Tenet executives compensated by bottom line profits and shareholder revenues were taken by surprise as the small hospital in Marina del Rey fought back and survived its own near-death experience. Thanks again to the efforts of local citizens who realize that a hospital closure

could mean many lives lost to the benefit of a CEO's yearly bonus.

Once again, the powers of a committed citizenry derail the soulless corporate agenda of shareholder profit at the expense of human interest. As Margaret Mead once said "Never doubt that a group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

For more information on getting involved with Save our Marina Hospital visit the website at <[www.somh.org](http://www.somh.org)>.

### New Corporate Preamble to the U.S. Constitution:

*"We, the economic elite of the United States of America, in Order to secure our future wealth, to form a more perfect disillusion, establish oppression, insure no domestic uprising, provide for the common good of us, promote no General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of the Liberty to ourselves and our Prosperity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for us, the economic elite of the United States of America."*

— Lydia Poncé

## Neighborhood Council votes, over opposition, to support Albert Dunne and Lincoln Place

By Jim Smith

A divided neighborhood council (GRVNC) board voted May 28 to oppose the eviction of 88-year-old World War II veteran, Albert Dunne. Last month the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to evict the purple-heart winner. The board resolution asks L.A. Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski.

Later in the meeting, the board voted, again with opposition, to oppose further demolitions at Lincoln Place.

In support of Albert Dunne, 2nd Vice President Chris Wood said, "this is what a neighborhood council is all about."

Board member Laddie Williams added that she was "elected by senior citizens in Oakwood" and supported their rights.

Jeff Miles stated that the neighborhood council represents the city and shouldn't take sides.

Lydia Poncé responded that we represent the neighborhood first.

However, Chris Williams - who ultimately voted against Dunne - said that property rights gave the landlord the right to evict.

In fact, it was Dunne's previous landlord, Michael Sant, who got a hardship exemption to a no eviction moratorium when remodeling costs less than \$10,000. Whether that exemption could be transferred to the current landlord, Todd Flournoy, is a matter of some dispute. Dunne has lived at the same Rose Avenue address for the past 46 years.

The Board resolution asks that Dunne not be evicted while a lawsuit filed by Legal Aide is underway.

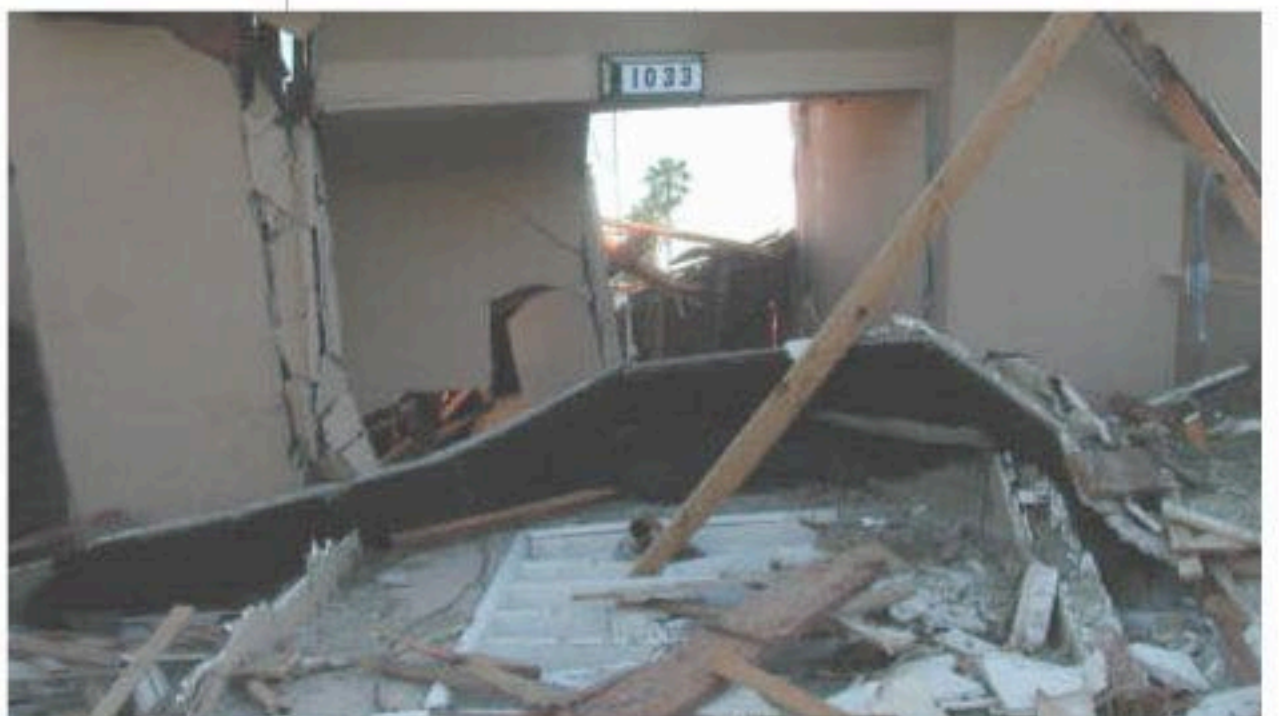
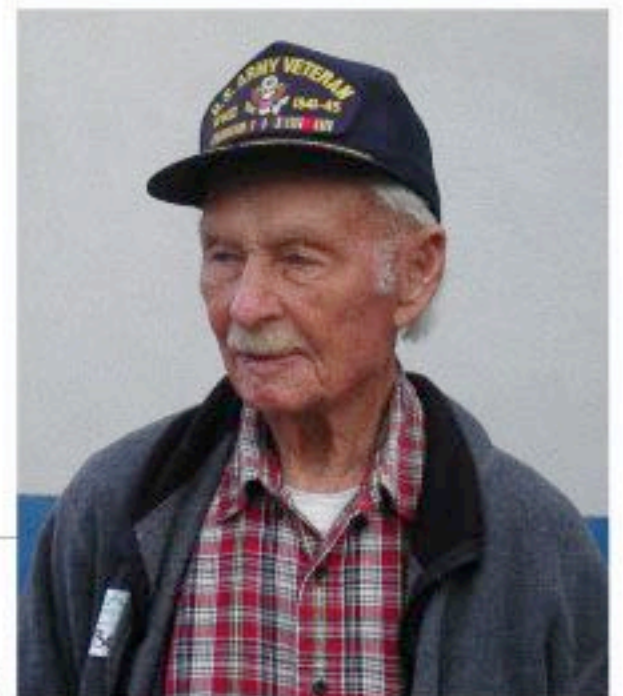
Chris Williams was the lone vote against the resolution, however, Chris Bedrosian, John Caldwell, Jeff Miles and Barbara Gibson abstained. Elena Popp, who supports Dunne, also had to abstain since her law office is han-

dling the suit.

The Neighborhood Council took up the preservation of Lincoln Place for the first time. Last month, two of the garden-style apartments were bulldozed (See May Beachhead's front page). At its May meeting, the GRVNC, approved a resolution directed at L.A. City Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. It urges her "to do anything and everything in her power, legally and political, to accomplish the preservation of the historic Lincoln Place apartments." Two Board members, Chris Williams and Barbara Gibson,

voted no. Two others, Rick Feibusch and Jeff Miles, abstained. The rest of the Board voted yes.

**Symptoms of a problem:** 88-year-old Albert Dunne (right) is facing eviction, while more units of affordable housing at Lincoln Place (below) are threatened with destruction.







Dear Beachhead:

The Adult School graduating class of 2003 cordially invites everyone to attend its high school and adult eighth grade commencement exercises on June 13th at 6:00 pm. The graduation ceremony will be held at the Venice High School Auditorium, 13000 Venice Blvd. Our graduates studied at our combined campuses, including University and Venice Community Adult Schools, the Venice Skills Center, and our Alternative Education Work Centers for at-risk youth.

Our students represent a wide range of backgrounds and life stages, and their stories are as varied as they are:

*"I started in English as a second Language, Level 2, in Adult School. I studied very hard and within a year was able to complete my ESL studies and earn my 8th grade diploma. I wanted a challenge and now I'm graduating from high school. My goal is to go to college and get a better job. I'm concerned about job discrimination for older people and I feel that more education will give me a better chance of being hired."*

-Manuel Jesus, age 66

*"I made a terrible mistake in high school and I'm so thankful that adult school has given me the opportunity to graduate and get my life back on track."*

-Brandi Miller, age 18

*"I started in English as a Second Language in 1998: we were studying the alphabet. I'm so happy being here because of the many opportunities I've had to achieve my goals. In Romania people can't go to school at my age. I plan to go to Santa Monica College to get an Associate Degree in accounting and then on to college for a Bachelor's Degree."*

-Dumitra Ioan, age 47

*"The Alternative Education and Work Center is so important to me because it gave people like me a chance to break away and start a new life. If not for this program, violence would have consumed me. These people gave me choices and I love and thank them."*

-Christopher Ramey, age 18

We would be pleased if you would show your support by attending our commencement exercises. Please RSVP by Thursday, June 5, to Susan Archibald, 310-477-2084.

Sincerely,  
Marguerite Siegel

## Whole Lotta Shakin

*continued from page one*

I explained to the planners that if I tried to tell a cop that I was unaware of the necessity to stop at a stop sign he would obviously laugh at me while penning a ticket. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

It is quite clear that the City is simply letting developers violate the State Act. The City allows developers to profit by saving big money in the construction process and prevents the public from examining the required geologic reports.

Who loses? The Seismic Hazard Mapping Act helps separate California from other countries where shoddy building practices are permitted, causing collapse of buildings, loss of life, and economic hardships resulting from earthquakes.

But if the City fails to enforce the State law there is no difference.

It is clear that the City has routinely sacrificed public safety so developers can put a few more pieces of bloody silver in their already fat red pockets.

## KPFK & THE BEACHHEAD: Free Radio & Free Press

By Lydia Ponce

Every morning I find myself NEEDING to listen to KPFK because I have found my validation through their program. FM 90.7

Recently they've had excellent guests that spoke on topics ranging from a controversial radio anchor's return, a review of the program's mission statement...and what direction the 'Peace Movement' should head. It was consistently informative day after day.

The returning radio anchor was accused of being a racist and the morning show conducted a review of these claims. Labeling is extremely dangerous! If discussing issues of any "ism" on the air makes someone "uncomfortable" then that is a personal issue. Perhaps it is a discomfort or a threat to that person's sense of privilege; they feel there is no need to change things. They ultimately fear change, or simply, they fear.

Perhaps the radio programming should have a disclaimer that might include, "If someone feels any discomfort or upset over the material presented please look into yourself and ask, 'WHY?' 'Why am I having feelings about this?' I believe it is not the radio station's responsibility to tiptoe around such an emotionally charged subject! How can anyone un-plug the emotions of 500 years of oppression, genocide, isms, and cultural rape? When discussing these social ills it is difficult to not speak without outrage, disgust or upset.

I will only list three current concerns I have breaking my spirit and they are ones that KPFK has addressed: 1) when the oppressed gain power I always hope that they do not become oppressors... that is a social and spiritual disservice to all. 2) Will our children ever learn of the real powers that be? 3) I am sick of being "tolerated". I want understanding for my family, everyone and me! People will now take a quick second to tolerate another person but now we need to start to understand one another. How about a "Museum of Understanding"? It takes more than one second to understand another; do we have the time to invest? Since we live in a 24-hour a day-services-open society, we're supposed to have more time on our hands, are we not worth that priceless understanding? Then we

can honor cross-cultural differences. We'll give and receive respect... feel integrity... have peace. Will 'understanding' and 'acceptance' of one another ever be packaged and sold by corporate America and corporate media to the greater populations? Does anyone out there know

about the FCC and June 2nd?

Hey, here's a new one on all of us- the FCC now stands for 'Federal Clear Channel'!

Beachhead is the free press! Send in a donation! Call KPFK with your donation! Keep the 90.7 airwaves and our press available!

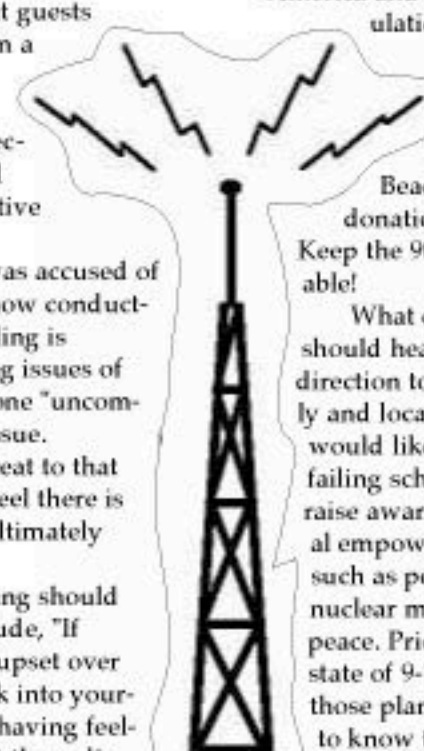
What direction the Peace Movement should head? I feel an easy solution and direction to cure all social- political ills, globally and locally- is through EDUCATION. I would like to see \$75 billion spent on USA's failing schools! Through education we can raise awareness and give individuals' personal empowerment! We could solve problems such as pollution, hunger, homelessness, nuclear madness, and perhaps achieve global peace. Prior to 9-11, our country was in a state of 9-1-1- an emergency! It did not take those planes to hit the twin towers to for us to know that!

What about a walk out? One day in September, a day when all students and teachers, from preschool to college, walk out and demand this government 'find' \$75 or how about \$150 billion dollars for education? We walk peacefully, calmly and invite everyone to join us and let the powers that be know, "We know that we are worth it. Our children are worth it". We can rally and demonstrate in front of the various Board of Education Offices throughout Los Angeles. Let us reclaim our future and so what if we pose a threat to the economic elite and the current powers that be, corporate America!

If the Peace Movement does walk out- maybe 9-11 is the date to do it- we'll hear about it on KPFK and read about it in the Beachhead.

I knew there was such a thing as were free radio waves, free speech and free press, and I hope to continue to have KPFK. Don't you? Call 818-985-KPFK.

KPFK needs your donations! The Beachhead needs your support, too! There are plenty of truths to be heard and read!



**OK GW, we'll warn Iran and North Korea, but you change the fries back to French.**



Montage by  
John Mackeyman



## Sue Nelson 1927-2003

By Carol Fondiller

Sue Nelson had a tiger's heart.

She was ferocious in her dedication to preserving the mountains and coastline of California. The Los Angeles Times ran an obituary on May 22 listing the accomplishments of her efforts of over four decades. They included getting legislators to preserve our natural resources by purchasing the land to conserve it for future generations, and protecting urban landscapes.

She had the tenacity and focus of a suffragist or an abolitionist.

Not only did Sue believe in the preservation of undeveloped land, she believed in the preservation of neighborhood and, by implication, community.

It is no surprise to me that she had a degree in Urban Planning. She had an almost instinctual grasp of the concept that a sense of community is the basis for stability; if you have a sense of belonging, of responsibility to the area in which you live, you're not likely to throw trash on the street.

If, on the other hand, an 88-year-old neighbor is treated like an intrusive scumbag because he won't vacate the apartment he's

lived in for nearly 50 years to make way for progress, i.e., someone who is willing to pay more rent, then you might feel that putting down roots in the neighborhood and investing time and effort into your surroundings might be tenuous at best because hey; I might be forced to move also. Why should I show up at a meeting to protest a freeway going through my town, because it's been made very clear to me that this town ain't my town. To paraphrase the great Woody Guthrie, "Hey, Venice is a Garden of Eden, a beautiful place to live in or see, but believe it or not, you won't find it so hot, if you ain't got the dough re me."

Unlike some environmentalists Sue Nelson was not a metrophobic snob. She was urbane in the most positive sense of that word.

And, Hell, she bailed me out of jail. To show my gratitude, I lost her jacket.

I truly forget for what I was arrested, illegal distribution of leaflets on the Ocean Front Walk, harassing the police (according to the police), whatever.

When I was sprung from the joint, as we ex-cons like to say, Sue was pointed out to me as my benefactor. She was a slight unprepossessing woman. She was wearing well-cut jeans, some folk jewelry and a down jacket—L.L. Bean or J.J. Crew type of jacket. A rock climbing, camping out type of jacket—yes, the very jacket I lost! I don't come cheap.

She reassured me later that it wasn't hers; she had borrowed it from a member of her fami-

ly. She had a wicked smile that generated warmth and humor.

Sue registered Peace and Freedom and when she wasn't busy trying to get the Coastal Commission on the ballot and, after the commission was set up, keeping the commissioners straight as to the job of preserving the Coast for all Californians, she was advocating change in the way the cities dealt with their surroundings, badgering local officials to include green space and, oh yes, to keep and preserve the diverse mix that keeps a community vibrant, truly urban and alive.

We would see each other at various political events over the years, we'd hug each other, play catch up—tell me what you've done in the past 10 years in 20 minutes, exchange numbers until the next time.

Thank you Sue for keeping those mountains, so we can see the changing SoCal seasons, yes SoCal does have seasons: lion-hide brown in the high hot summer, grey and soft in winter, green and sweet in spring, dry and fire-orange in fall.

We owe a lot to you and people like you Sue, for showing us that not only can you fight City Hall, sometimes you can win and change how people relate to government, development, and how residents can be listened to and taken into account.

The urbanites and environmentalists lost one Hell of a Dame.

## Saul White, Artist and Poet, Dies at 70

By Susan Landauer

Saul White, the poet who with Kenneth Rexroth and Kenneth Patchen brought Beat jazz-poetry to Los Angeles in the late 1950's and went on to distinguish himself as an abstract expressionist painter for more than 40 years, died on May 20. He was 70 and lived in San Pedro.

Born in Boston in 1932 to Russian-Jewish immigrants, White moved to Los Angeles in 1945 and attended Fairfax High School, where he befriended artist Wallace Berman, often considered the spiritual leader of the Southern California Beats. In his senior year White developed a serious interest in music and met the songwriters Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller, who wrote Elvis Presley's "You ain't Nothin' but a Hound Dog" — contacts that helped land him a position as record librarian at KFWB, one of Los Angeles' earliest jazz radio stations.

After serving in the Korean War, White abandoned his career in the music industry to become a painter. He studied at the Otis Art Institute on a fellowship in the mid-1950's and took a storefront studio in Venice Beach on Ocean Avenue, which became a gathering place for artists Berman, Edward Kienholz, and John Altoon.

Venice was then Los Angeles' counterpart to the North Beach Beat scene, and White began writing poetry and became a regular at Lawrence Lipton's Sunday evening "literary salons," where poetry readings and wide-ranging discussions were attended by poets such as Stuart Perkoff, Bruce Boyd, Tony Scibella, and Charlie Foster. White became one of the figures on which Lipton based his best-selling book, *The Holy Barbarians* (1958), which

became a primer for aspiring Beatniks.

In 1957, White was invited to read and record his poetry at Ruth Witt-Diamond's San Francisco Poetry Center. The rhythms of his jazz-inspired work caught the attention of Rexroth and Patchen, who invited him to read with them in North Beach. Perhaps the height of White's poetry career was his participation in a series of ground-breaking jazz-poetry performances in 1957 at the Los Angeles Jazz Concert Hall, where he, Rexroth, and Patchen read poetry accompanied by Shorty Rogers's jazz band. Although White continued throughout his life to write poetry, publishing sporadically, he concentrated on painting and printmaking. In 1958, he moved to New York, where he befriended the luminaries of abstract expressionism Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline and became a familiar name in Greenwich Village artistic circles. In the early 1960's de Kooning invited him to live and work with him in East Hampton, where he helped build the older artist's studio.

It was at this time, under the mentorship of de Kooning, that White became convinced of the permanent viability of expressive abstraction, regardless of the dictates of fashion. In the ensuing decades, even though painting itself became anachronistic in the eyes of the art world, White continued to explore his chosen style. White affirmed his commitment in the late 1990's when he wrote, "I've always felt that the language of Abstract Expressionism is a lot like jazz — open to infinite variety, extension, and refinement." White is survived by his son Aaron, daughter Rachel, and grandson Ethan.

Services will be private and a public celebration of his art and poetry will be held at the San Jose Museum of Art in August.



MAY 3, 2003

MILLION MARIJUANA MARCH NYC

**Former Venetian Yippie Aron Kay  
Carries On in NYC**





## Gentrification Marches On

## REPORT ON THE MAY MEETING OF THE LAND USE &amp; PLANNING COMMITTEE

By Barbara Eisenberg

Another slap in the face of Venice was brought before the Grassroots Venice Land Use and Planning Committee, on May 19, 2003.

The approval of the request for "zero setback," which means building to the edge of the property site, on the lot at 419 S. Ocean Front Walk went through the Committee with minor discussion about the the 55 foot height and a balcony which would extent toward the Speedway. This would be a new construction of a two unit condominium structure with unit A being 2067 square feet and Unit B being 3790 square feet. The existing building to be demolished is a two unit apartment over retail: Gentrify the current residents to cater to those who can buy large condos of a "Cubist" style design.

There was also approval of the destruction of five existing bungalows at 713-717 N. Venice Boulevard (Oakwood and Venice Bl.) to be replaced with a 30-foot-high Cubist design, with zero setback along some of the property lines and the death of large trees at the back of the lot. The five units would be replaced with a three unit residential loft building: Gentrify the current long-time residents to cater to those who can buy large condos for an estimate of something just under \$1 Million each!

The last item on the agenda that evening was a review of 1345 Abbot Kinney Boulevard. This is to be demolished. The new construction is to be a three story, 35 feet, artist in residence building, again with zero setback all the way around: Gentrify the current residents to cater to those who can afford expensive condos...

This is a continuing trend on the part of developers and others with cartoon dollar signs in their eyes. In spite of protests opposing these massive eyesores which cast shadows upon the neighboring homes and yards, sneaky tactics are some how processed and approved by the the City of Los Angeles. Of the few who attended this meeting the only happy faces were those of the Developer/ Architect/ Owner group.

And Gentrification Marches On!



419 Ocean Front Walk - Affordable Housing on the Boardwalk going...



713-717 Venice Blvd. - Classic, and affordable bungalows to be destroyed.



1345 Abbot Kinney Blvd. - Street life on the boulevard will take a hit if an "artist's loft" instead of commercial mixed-use is built.

## The Land Use Committee and how it got that way

By Jim Smith

The Land Use and Planning Committee of the Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) is touted as an exercise in grass roots democracy but lately has been a target of grassroots frustration. While it is made up, mostly, of Venice residents, it has an advisory-only role in the Los Angeles bureaucracy. In addition, it is not elected by the community, but appointed by those on the neighborhood council who got the fewest votes in the last election (compared to board officers and at-large representatives). It's members cross the political spectrum from David Moring, who is an advocate of affordable housing, to pro-development real estate agents and Republicans.

Each GRVNC District Representative gets to appoint one member. Here are the June, 2002, election results (candidates and number of votes) for those who get to appoint someone to the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC):

**District 1** - North Penmar area  
David Moring - 18 (ran unopposed)

**District 2** - North Beach / Rose Ave.  
Bonnie Cheeseman - 59 & Bridgett Gonzalez - 59  
(Tie-breaking coin toss won by Cheeseman)

**District 3** - Oakwood  
Naomi Nightingale - 67 (ran unopposed)

**District 4** - Penmar South  
Chris Williams - 60 beat Pete Savino - 32

**District 5** - Milwood, Central Venice  
Kelley Willis - 30 beat Jamie Schwartzman - 13

**District 6** - Oxford Triangle  
DeDe Audet - 20 beat Challis Macpherson - 12

**District 7** - Canals, Peninsula  
Alice Stek, M.D. - 104 beat Diane Bush - 47

Except for Progressive Grassroots Candidate Alice Stek, no candidate came close to getting 100 votes. Full election results are at:

[http://home.attbi.com/~venicecandidates/Election\\_results.html](http://home.attbi.com/~venicecandidates/Election_results.html)

Here is who they appointed:

Dist. 1: David Moring appointed David Moring  
Dist. 2: Bonnie Cheeseman appointed Phil Raider  
Dist. 3: Naomi Nightingale appointed Richard Carter  
Dist. 4: Chris Williams appointed Chris Williams  
Dist. 5: Kelley Willis appointed Dan Valenzuela  
Dist. 6: DeDe Audet appointed DeDe Audet  
Dist. 7: Before Alice Stek could make an appointment, Board President Tisha Bedrosian announced that Darryl DuFay would be the appointee, an action seemingly at odds with the bylaws of GRVNC.

Greg Fitchitt and Barbara Gibson were added to the LUPC in contested appointments from the GRVNC Board.

None of the LUPC members are tenants, even though more than 70 percent of Venetians are renters, not home owners.

In Sept. 2002, the Progressive Grassroots Candidates circulated a petition to add six elected members to the LUPC. The six would be elected by all stakeholders of GRVNC. The required number of signatures was collected on the petition and it was presented at that month's Board meeting. Here's an excerpt from the GRVNC Minutes from last September's Board meeting (full minutes are at: [www.grassrootsvenice.org/min\\_board/092302\\_minutes.html](http://www.grassrootsvenice.org/min_board/092302_minutes.html))

*After some discussion, Jim Smith presented a petition to the Board asking for the expansion of the Land Use and Planning Committee by election. . . Chris Williams also suggested that we should avoid changes to the bylaws until we have had an opportunity to try them out.*

The issue was placed on the agenda of the general meeting of GRVNC in December. After debate, it was defeated. The opposition had done a good job mobilizing for that meeting, and many supporters had left before it was taken up.

In the Sept. 23 minutes, Chris Williams is quoted as saying we should avoid changes to the bylaws (like making them more democratic -JS), until we have had an opportunity to try them out. We've now had that opportunity, and have found them lacking.

Judging from the reactions of Venetians to the surge in new, unwanted building projects, it would seem that most of us want community control of development. In that case, two things have to happen. Venice residents by the hundreds have to turn out on June 28 to elect a GRVNC board majority committed to community control, and continue to demand that the city of Los Angeles give the neighborhood council decision-making authority on new building proposals in Venice.

## And still they come...

June 2003

## Notice of City of Los Angeles Public Hearings

Office of Zoning Administration - (213) 978-1318

Date of Hearing - June 18, 2003 after 4:30 PM

Location: West LAParking Enforcement Facility, 2nd Floor, 11214 West Exposition Blvd.

Notice for Appeal of conditions

Case Number - ZA 2002-3777(ZV)ZAD)-A1

Applicant Chuck Arnoldi/The Tiger Co/Nieves &amp; Assoc.

Property Address - 15 Brooks Ave (at Speedway)

Office of Zoning Admin - (213) 978-1318

Date of Hearing - June 19, 2003 at 9:30 AM

Location: West LAMunicipal Bldg., 2nd Floor Hearing Room, 1645 Corinth Ave.

Notice for Continued use conditional use permit approval

Case Number - ZA 2003-1630(CU)

Applicant - Peter s Marina Motors

Property Address - 800 South Lincoln Bl. (at Indiana)

Proposed: Conditional use permit to permit the continued use and maintenance of a 1,911 sq. ft. addition to an existing 902 sq. ft. 2-bay automotive repair, service & restoration facility having hours of operation from 8am to 6pm M-F and 8am to 2pm Sat; and temp stor-

age of partially dismantled automobiles or used parts. The specified deviations requested relate to recycling area or room landscaping-general, setback, parking areas, irrigation system, screening wall, transparent exterior windows and signs.

## Pending:

The attached list is very early in the review process. There has been no staff analysis, nor recommendations. If you have questions about the list or the review processes, you should contact the following Neighborhood Council support staff in the Planning Department.

Rita Schack - 818/756-8126

Sarah Rigamat - 818/756-8512

Property Address - 709 S 5TH AVE

Proposed - 2-story condo building

Property Address - 1322 S INNES PL

Proposed - Single story live/work artist

Property Address - 1905 S OCEAN FRONT WALK

Proposed - Change office-artist studios to retail.



By Sheila Bernard

On Saturday, May 31, we held the first ever community nominating meeting for Grassroots Progressive Candidates. We formed our slate for the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council elections to be held Saturday, June 28. We'd like to share a little about how we embarked on this journey and where it might lead.

## Why Progressive Grass Roots Candidates?

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) began almost three years ago as an outgrowth of the new City Charter for Los Angeles. Enthusiasm ran high as we gathered by the hundreds for those first few meetings at the Boys and Girls Club. Something wonderful was being born in Venice.

Then began the grueling work of creating bylaws, learning about the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order, learning that people should line up at the microphone for public comment, and figuring out which if any issues would be considered by the new neighborhood council. During almost a year of painstaking three-hour-plus meetings to settle these matters, attendance dwindled somewhat, but many stalwarts kept on coming until finally GRVNC was ready for certification.

It was during that first year that some of us got a little nervous. We saw bylaws discussions engaged in by fewer and fewer people. We saw one bylaw passed and then rescinded by a process we considered questionable. We heard some of the leadership express reluctance to consider controversial issues, and preference to emphasize information sharing and networking. We decided to put forward an alternative view of the purpose of GRVNC. We wrote a platform that included planks on housing, transit, health care, homelessness, development, the arts, and other issues. There were about ten of us who worked on the platform over a series of months. We ran a slate of candidates for most of the positions on the board.

We received some criticism from friends over the fact that the process of writing the platform and choosing candidates was not an open public process. We had intentionally kept our group small so that we could manage to write a document together. However, many of us took our friends' criticisms to heart. Below, where we discuss how this year's nominating meeting went, you will see how we attempted to make this year's process open and public.

One interesting consequence of the creation of the Grassroots Progressive Candidates slate was that an opposing slate was created, called the "Groovenic" slate. This opposing slate included every candidate who was not a member of the Progressive slate, including Tisha, founder and president pro-tem of GRVNC.

In the first GRVNC election of June 2002, Grassroots Progressive Candidates won seven seats on the 21-member board, in spite of the fact that the opposing slate included the founder of the organization and many of the people who had been most visible in the bylaws discussions during the formative year of the organization.

In the first year of GRVNC meetings, our seven slate members on the board brought many important issues to the board and added much to the liveliness and depth of the discussions. Several members of the GRVNC board who had

not been members of our slate voted with us in some instances, and several have proven to be independent voters who vote on the merits of each issue rather than by slate.

Occasionally, however, we have had trouble getting items onto the agenda or trouble getting them passed. This is in the natural order of things; you win some and lose some. But since we feel that the Grassroots Progressive Platform expresses the views of the majority of Venetians, protects the interests of the majority of Venetians, and protects the character of Venice while advocating positive change, we decided that this year we want to obtain a majority of Grassroots Progressive Candidates on the GRVNC board.

## What Happened on Saturday?

**Publicity:** Saturday's meeting was advertised for over a month in the Beachhead, in flyers distributed in local stores and organizations, and to many email lists. The meeting was completely open. No observers were turned away, including one member of last year's opposing slate, who took copious notes on everything that was said, including campaign strategy. We challenge the opposing slate to be as completely open to public and opposition scrutiny as was the process on Saturday, May 31.

**Signing in:** When people came to the meeting on Saturday at Vera Davis Center, those who agreed in principle with the Grassroots Progressive Candidates Platform signed in and was given a card to use in voice votes, much as we have done in GRVNC meetings.

**Platform discussion:** During the meeting, the platform was reviewed and some changes were suggested, such as the following:

- We should more specifically define the terms "low-income" and "very-low-income."
- We should include language on assisted living, transitional housing, SRO's (single-room occupancy residences), lockers, hostels, and other measures which address homelessness.
- Since about 14 percent of Venice residents live below the poverty line, including hundreds of children, we should add language about poverty.
- We propose that GRVNC have an education committee to advocate for tutoring and services for special education students.
- We should oppose any permit process that would compromise freedom of speech and expression on the boardwalk.

We discussed the fact that our platform is a living, breathing document which can be amended over the years. A committee was constituted to work on changes to the platform.

At the conclusion of the platform discussion, we stated that the most basic elements of the platform, the elements which were fundamental to all the others, are these two:

- The protection of existing affordable housing and the building of more affordable housing; and
- The control of all development in Venice by the community.

We asked for a voice vote on whether the assembly agreed in principle on these two elements. Two members had objections, which were resolved in discussion, so that a consensus was achieved on the platform in principle.

**Campaigning:** We discussed which organizations and individuals could be counted upon to campaign and vote for our slate on June 28th. We discussed a Venice-wide campaigning effort. We agreed to meet at the Vera Davis Center next Saturday morning to distribute canvassing materials to those who agreed to go door to door on their streets or in their neighborhoods.

**Nominating:** Nominations were taken from the floor. Each nominee gave a one-minute speech and was allowed to answer three questions from the floor in a minute or less. In some cases, candidates received endorsements rather than questions from the floor.

**Voting:** Voting for the three executive committee seats (secretary, treasurer, and communications officer) were conducted in the conventional manner, because two of the offices had candidates running unopposed, and the third had only two candidates running. (If any of these seats had more than two candidates running, we were planning to use instant runoff voting, which would have allowed each voter to choose a first choice, a second choice, and a third choice, etc.)

However, for the at-large seats, there were fourteen people running for seven seats. We used cumulative voting. This means that every voter was allowed to cast seven votes any way he or she wanted. For example, the voter could cast one vote for each of seven candidates. Or, the voter could cast all seven of his or her votes for one candidate. Or, the voter could cast three votes for one candidate and four for another, etc.

The votes were counted twice while meeting participants watched the counting or chatted in other parts of the room. Our nominees for the executive committee are Elena Popp for secretary, Jim Smith for treasurer, and Tom O'Meara for communications officer. Our at-large candidates are Lydia Ponce, Sheila Bernard, Suzanne Thompson, Sabrina Venskus, Laddie Williams, Peggy Lee Kennedy, and Elinor Aurthur.

**Separation of Church and State:** We have become aware that the observant Jewish community will not be able to participate in GRVNC voting, since observant Jews are not permitted to engage in commercial or political activity on Saturday, which is the Jewish sabbath. Neither GRVNC nor Grassroots Progressive Candidates have made provisions for absentee ballots. Many of us feel that in the interest of fairness to all Venetians, we must schedule future GRVNC events and Grassroots Progressive Candidates events on secular days only, or provide another way to see that no one is excluded from our process.

**Highly conscious behavior:** I came away from the experience with great hope for our slate, our neighborhood council, and for Venice. I had seen examples all day of very open and loving behavior, but one incident topped it off. In one contested race, the losing candidate immediately approached the winning candidate with an offer of cooperation, support, and sharing of knowledge. I view this as the noble act of a selfless individual who practices his democratic values, and I congratulate him. (You know who you are!)

And congratulations to all participants, on a highly educational and successful experiment in local politics. If we can spread the spirit of Saturday's meeting to large numbers of Venetians, we can increase local participation and contribute to the revitalization of our democracy.

Photo by Ingrid Mueller



Progressive slate nominates candidates, May 31



## ANCIENT VENICE

# Abbot Kinney, Tobacco and the Founding of Venice

By Charles Harris "Brick" Garrigues

A curious blending of the romanticist and the realist was old Abbot Kinney. In his youth he had travelled Europe, the Levant, and Asia Minor, buying tobacco from Greece and Turkey, shipping whole shiploads of it to England or America and selling it again to the tobacconists of the Old or New World.

In the Greco-Turkish war, he got the break for which he had been waiting. Coming from Greece with a shipload of perique — a strong, harsh tobacco, essential for blending but grown only in the East — he learned of the outbreak of the war and learned, too, that his ship would be the last tobacco ship to leave the

Mediterranean. When he arrived in London, he found that the news of the war had not yet reached the tobacconists of England.

For three days he hurried from warehouse to warehouse, buying every pound of perique tobacco in the British Isles. On the fourth day the news of the war broke out and Kinney had cornered the perique supply of the world. Without him, no man in England or America could smoke his favorite brand — and Kinney sold back his perique at a price which made him a multi-millionaire.

So much for Abbot Kinney, the realist. Abbot Kinney, the romanticist, came back to America and determined to found, on the shores of the Pacific, a town which should be peculiarly his own and which should include all of the best that he had found in the Old World.

Here — with a sweep of his hand — a bit of Venice, Italy. Here — with a crooking of his finger — a bit of Ostend. Here, with curious disregard of the Comstockian America that was to come, a bit of a red-light district modeled after a street in Naples.

A central steam plant which was to provide not only steam, but also hot salt water to every room and apartment in the city. A pier for pleasure, the baths, and beyond all, the widest, safest beach on the coast, where the people could come in the trains of the day or in carriages — or lumber wagons — to spend a few hours in the shockingly brief bathing costumes of the 1920s. Romantic, glamorous, a city for pleasure, but in those days nothing cheap, nothing tawdry.

There was a curious flavor to the Venice of those days — an intense local patriotism which had nothing to do with chambers of commerce and the price of real estate. Soft lights on the lagoon, soft Italian music, gondolas drifting by night through limpid canals. The children used to sing to the tune of "The Good Old Summer Time":

*Venice, Venice, that is the place for me*

*That is the place for the human race*

*Down by the sea. . .*

— And they used to hate Long Beach, which was also trying to be a beach city in a commercialized fashion.

If you knew Avalon on Catalina Island in the days before the crowds came, when the band closed every concert with the song that Al Jolson made famous while the crowd stood with bared heads as though listening to a national anthem, if you knew the Laguna of twelve years ago, you know how it was in Venice in those old days.



Section of the mural in the Venice Post Office

There were three things that Abbot Kinney did not know. One was that the twentieth century was here. One was that you couldn't transplant a culture and have it grow. One was that the pier which he had built was causing the sand to be gouged from the shore and dragged into the abyss at Redondo.

The twentieth century brought many things for which the old man had not prepared. Chief among them was the automobiles. In all of Venice there was not a single street worthy of the name. From south to north a narrow alley, barely twenty feet wide. From east to west, narrow alleys, blind at both ends. Promenades to walk on, trains to ride on — but no streets.

The culture of the Old World never quite took root. When Prohibition came there was little left of Venice except plaster dolls in sideshow concessions, and when Prohibition left, it left behind it not a trace of what Abbot Kinney — then dead — had planned.

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



## Capitalist Roaders holding Chairman Mao prisoner

The voice on the phone sounded tentative and embarrassed. "This is so-and-so. I work at Mao's Kitchen. I'm sorry to call but my boss said to tell you that we won't carry the Beachhead any more because it's too political for our customers."

I thought it was a joke at first. The only place in Venice that won't carry the Beachhead is a fundamentalist thrift store on Lincoln Blvd. But, Mao's Kitchen.

Is the Beachhead as threatening as those posters on the walls at Mao's, showing the Great Helmsman leading the peasants to overthrow capitalism?

Well, yes. We are more threatening. Mao's dead, and the Beachhead is alive and well, and hopefully leading the Venice peasants to overthrow. . . let's see. . . greed, consumerism and conformity that infects our current day capitalist society.

But just for decency's sake, shouldn't the capitalist-roader who runs Mao's Kitchen take down those posters of people in struggle, and put up something more appropriate. Perhaps he could change the name of the joint to Chiang Kai Shek's Kitchen (the leader of the anti-revolutionary forces fighting Mao).

By the way, the waitress took the Beachheads next door to the Cafe Collage where they share space with those right-wing papers from Santa Monica.





## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Cool, evening sea mist touch my face,  
Sun of the beach warm my bones,  
Loving people of Venice strengthen my heart,  
and help protect our home.

—John Davis

After we talked  
about freedom  
and dreams  
everyone left  
to go make a living.

—Hillary Kaye

### Lasso your Love

By Vessy Mink - [www.vessy.com](http://www.vessy.com)

One life  
Yours for the molding.  
Water forming, foaming dirty beaches.  
Lately running from one place to another.  
Calling out for Silence and soft touch.  
The people, the people.  
Their hungry belly's swollen.  
Who is responsible for your actions?  
Venice, California... community of progressives.  
A day in the dream of a better tomorrow.  
Wanting the children not to be forsaken.  
Their resilience has a "best if used by " expiration.  
The U.S.A. leading the world with the most hungry...  
Hungry for Art and JUSTICE... not justification for the  
Cuts in funding a more colorful tomorrow.

### Zorba etc

By Pano Douvos

The worlds oldest 20 year old is interrupted  
State phones offering in-home-support service  
he needs no stinking service

All's under control forget one blurred eye-ball  
content in studio apartment over-looking main  
street  
the Venice boardwalk his back-porch  
the beach and broad Pacific his back yard

friend of sun-bathers seagulls and street-peo-  
ple  
a competent voyeur our struggling artist diversi-  
fies  
writes poetry swimming-with-dolphins stuff

a helpful earth-bound friend suggests a will  
could be timely  
but the young oldster says no to nay-sayers  
leaps a mighty ocean-shattering leap  
knows life is a grand feast to savor

## Changing Seasons

By Miranda

Your weather-beaten body of past toil and sweat reflects in your face.  
Memories within me of changing seasons and how you changed with them.  
Picking the land for harvest, the smell of earth on you, fall, winter, spring and summer.

Your listless bed-ridden body lying now against sterile, white hospitals sheets.  
The seasons come and go.  
But I can no longer smell the earth on you or see the fall, winter, spring or summer.

*Dedicated to my father, Guillermo Miranda: Jan. 11, 1090 - Oct. 20, 1979*

### Venice, California

By Bill Fleeman

like paris,  
a woman.  
not elegant.  
far from elegant.  
faded old dress  
run-down shoes.  
without makeup  
so beautiful  
strollin along the  
promenade, wind  
in her hair in the  
early morning  
light.

POETRY

### Impressionism

By Ivan Smason

Take a few steps back with me  
The picture becomes clearer  
Eduoard Manet and Claude Monet were both  
Impressionist painters  
Manet and Monet  
Manet and Monet

They got hip to what Jean Baptiste Camille Corot and  
Gustave Courbet were painting  
Corot and Courbet  
Corot and Courbet

They loved to paint in the great outdoors  
Painting their impressions of the  
sunlight's effects on landscapes and panoramas  
Manet and Monet got it from Corot and Courbet  
Manet, Monet, Corot, Courbet

Take a few steps back with me  
The picture becomes clearer  
Manet and Monet were different  
Manet had more stylistic range  
Monet was the ultimate Impressionist

Claude Monet, Edouard Manet  
Manet impressed Monet  
Monet impressed Manet  
Corot and Courbet impressed Manet and Monet  
Manet and Monet impressed Corot and Courbet  
Take a few steps back with me  
The picture becomes much clearer

### Almost Indigenous

By Sheila Bernard

I came to a place. I lived there.  
I loved the place.  
I did what I had to do, to stay.  
I had to pay rent. I paid it.  
I had to keep my music down. I  
kept it down.

One day, they said I had to  
leave.  
I asked, "Why? What did I do?"  
"You did nothing," they said.  
"You are a good person," they  
said.  
I said, "Then why do I have to  
leave?"

They said, "Because another can  
pay more  
Than you are paying," they said.

So I said, "Do you need me to  
pay more?  
I can pay more," I said.  
"No, you don't understand," they  
said.  
"Not just more, but much more,"  
they said.

So I asked, "How much more?  
What do you need from me?"

"More than you have," they said.  
"Much more."

They said I had to go.  
But I could come back later  
If I had enough to pay them.  
I knew I would never have  
enough.

I had two choices,  
To go, or to stay.  
"If I leave this place,  
Will I find peace in a new place?  
Or will I have to leave that place  
too?"  
I asked myself.

"If I have to fight for a place,"  
I said to myself,  
"Let me fight here.  
This is my home."

So I stayed and fought.  
Months became years.  
Years became decades.  
Still I fight.  
My children grow.  
My hair becomes gray.  
Still I stay.  
It's a good fight.  
It's a good life.



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*Happy Birthday*



**36 years - June 23**

For information: 399-2215  
Venice Peace & Freedom Party



## "Mahi Mahi" and "The Cove"

The jet setting Mahi Mahi (named after a Hawaiian fish) at the internationally famous P.O.P. (Pacific Ocean Park), a renowned amusement park in Venice, Calif., (famous with its relaxed personality, was one of many sites that provided an atmosphere of peace as a consequence of the war and the celebration of life's beauty. POP provided the modern standard of life into a party scene's production.

"In down and hold on" you were instructed, for a spine-rattling gymnastic-like experience. The all time of this popular ride would return, give enough momentum for the three cars with fish cars attached to unstopably rise and with increasing speed allow the cars to tip at the end. To reach the end and head for Venice and POP was the most terror education of its time. In 1967, due to a series of destructive fires and the young entrepreneurs that owned the park's operations, POP closed forever. Longtime attempts were made to remove POP, but the Mahi Mahi success, and the poor profits, kept it from being removed as a monument to its previous life. Fifteen years of planning were made on what surfing environment, eventually being really demolished in 1979.

"The Cove" named for this security was named, progressed by the way, adopted a "no trespassing" warning, growth attitude, for locally only. This monthly self-respect, keeping handback, was regularly called and decided locally by an established group known as the ZEPHYRUS SURFING TEAM who originated from 1971 (it's a surf shop on Main St. in Santa Monica. While the surf was flat, skateboarding became a diversion and eventually a new sport. When the regular boarders "DOGDOWN" (an extreme class of rider) ruled, the new generation of surfers and skaters arrived, and the old school culture was born.

Viva La "Mahi Mahi", Dogdown, Zephyrus, and the Cove

*Rich Mann*

©2003 Rich Mann

## TIRED OF BEING A UNILINGUAL GRINGO?

By Suzy Williams

Take Spanish classes with Letha! Venice native Letha Worden has been offering weekly classes for a song (fifteen dollars for a whole term) at Venice High School adult education on Wednesday nights, and much to her students' relief and joy, will now continue over the summer.

She teaches with charm, patience and humor, and in no time at all will have you speaking in an actual Mexicano accent and singing Spanish songs con mucho gusto. A UCLA graduate, Letha lived in Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Spain for several years, and has extensively traveled in Latin America. She digs this poem by Stephano Morelli:

*Hacer un Amigo es un Don  
Tener un Amigo es un Gracia  
Con Cerveza un Amigo es un Virtud  
Ser un Amigo es un honor*

Stop by the Adult Education Center on the south side of Venice High at Venice Blvd., just east of Walgrove and plunk down a puny amount of pesos for this truly fun class. Esperamos verles. Que Vive! For more information, call Letha at 310-831-2325.





## POETRY

**Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006  
FREE WORKSHOPS & READINGS

Since 1969, Beyond Baroque has provided a free workshop program and gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, and build new communities. Bring copies of your work. [www.beyondbaroque.org](http://www.beyondbaroque.org)

- **MONDAY NIGHT FICTION** - 8 pm  
Workshop focuses on short shorts, stories, and novels. With Steve Pitkin and Matthew Byllos.
- **TUESDAY NIGHT CREATIVE NON-FICTION** - 8 pm  
Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. Led by Cindy Bailey and Wayman Barnes.
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT POETRY** - 8 pm  
The West Coast's longest running, free workshop and a legendary gathering of poets.
- **THURSDAY NIGHT POETRY** - 8 pm  
First and last Thursdays of the month. Bring poems you're thinking about (yours or other poets'); with Jenny Factor and Jessica Goodheart.
- **THURSDAY ALT.SCREENPLAY** - 8 pm  
Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Non-commercial only. Moderated by Peter Coogan.
- Every Sunday Night, 7:00 pm Open-Mic Poetry at Abbot's Habit (Abbot Kinney at California)
- Jun 26, Thursday **Club MOSAIC** 7:30 pm signup (Every 4th Thu) at the Yard 1414 Lincoln Blvd (Santa Monica Blvd) **FREE** - Poetry to beats, DJ Gann in the attic all night 795-0953 [mosaic@earthlink.net](mailto:mosaic@earthlink.net)

## COMMUNITY

- Tuesdays 5 pm - **Food Not Bombs** Palisades Park at Ocean and Arizona Ave in Santa Monica - FREE Vegetarian meal
- Thursdays 7:30-9 pm **Dharma** at The Clubhouse - Buddhism Study and Meditation Group. Daily life principles. in Douglas Park 2439 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica plenty of parking no fee 451-4368 [www.santamoniacaksg.org](http://www.santamoniacaksg.org)
- Sundays 11 am **Food Not Bombs** Cafe on the Beach -Hot Breakfast 'neath the pagodas at Rose Ave. Volunteers, call 892-8799 or email: [venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm](mailto:venicesantamonica@fastmail.fm)
- June 1 and July 1 **CAR FREE DAY**- all day - make Venice a better place to live by parking those cars! Meet 6 pm with your bike at the **Venice Circle** (Main & Windward) for a short group ride around the empty streets of Venice.
- June 8, Sunday **Neighborhood BBQ** at LAFCO 660 Venice Blvd **Free ICE CREAM** \$2 Hot Dogs \$1 Drinks 3:30 - 6:30 pm featuring **Soccer Mom** Bring your family 574-4733 or 581-1142
- June 14, Saturday 2 - 10 pm - **Carnevale** - Costumed Celebration by the Sea West end of Ozone Ave. at Ocean Front Walk - Performances, Music & Dance 396-7229 [www.carnevale.us](http://www.carnevale.us)
- June 19, Thursday 6:30 pm Venice Birthday Celebration Parade Planning Meeting, Vera Davis McClendon Center - 396-0811

### GRASS ROOTS VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

- June 16, Monday 7 pm **Land Use & Planning Meeting** - Boys & Girls Club of Venice 390-4477
- June 26, Thursday 6 pm - **Conservation Committee** at The Venice Abbot Kinney Library
- **June 28, Saturday 10 am to 2pm, Election for the Board of Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council** - Westminster School, between Westminster and Brooks - enter on Main Street.

## Organizations

- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Boys and Girls Club - 2232 Lincoln Blvd. 390-4477.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. [www.beyondbaroque.org](http://www.beyondbaroque.org)
- Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - [www.grassrootsvenice.org](http://www.grassrootsvenice.org) - 281-1943.
- LAFCO (L.A. film coop) 660 Venice Blvd. 574-4733
- St Joseph's Center - Rose & 4th - 396-6468
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or [www.vchcorp.org](http://www.vchcorp.org), 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or [www.veniceofamerica.org](http://www.veniceofamerica.org)
- Venice-Ocean Park Food Co-Op. - 839 Brooks Ave.
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 - [pfp@freevenice.org](mailto:pfp@freevenice.org).
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.

## Community Events



## FILM

7 Dudley Cinema - Sponto Gallery 399-2078

June 18, Wednesday 8 pm **Light and Dark** and **Great Uncle Jimmy** Supreme surrealist Karl Krogstad, one of America's most notorious avant garde filmmakers will appear live with his latest works.

• Jun 27, Friday 8 pm **Free Admission - Culture Jamming & McLuhan** with media ecologist Gerry Fialka at LAFCO - 660 Venice Blvd - an evening exposing corporate manipulation of America's media mindshare 574-4733 [www.lafco.tv](http://www.lafco.tv)

## THEATRE

• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd.  
**A Delicate Balance** - By Edward Albee (through Jun 15)

THU, FRI & SAT 8 pm - SUN 3 pm  
Call Box Office at 310.822.8392

• Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave Fri & Sat Jun 13-14 8 pm - **Rudy Perez: Past & Present** 25 years in Los Angeles - works by ensemble members & guest artist **Victor Quijada** \$20 general admission \$15 DRC members, seniors & students Reservations: 306-1854 Info: 213-483-4079 free on-site parking

## POLITICAL

**June 27, Friday 6 pm**  
**Greet George W. Bush**  
- **End the Occupation!**  
- **No New War!**  
- **End the war on the poor and working people!**

**Century Plaza Hotel**  
**2025 Avenue of the Stars**

• Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm - Homeless issues - **Side by Side**. Community group on homeless issues for beach area. The Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.

• June 25, Wednesday 6 pm - Venice Peace and Freedom Party meeting For more info: 399-2215

• Every Sunday, 2 pm - **Venice Peace Movement** march and rally - No new war, End mass detentions and attacks on our civil liberties - March starts at Rose & the Boardwalk, followed by an open-mic rally.



## readings

• June 21, Saturday 7:30 pm **Making Book** - **Barbara T. Smith** reads and performs and auctions small books created by her Project Room visitors at **Beyond Baroque** 681 Venice Blvd. \$7 general admission; \$5 Seniors/Kids; members free 822-3006

## ART

- Sat, June 21 4-10 pm SPONTO Gallery 7 Dudley Ave. Diane & Ibrahim Butler present **CIRCLE OF COLOR Summer Solstice Art & Music Celebration** - in honor of **Sonny Zorrow** - music by Elton & Betty, The Boners - featuring Suzy Williams and Bill Burnett, Sea Monkey Tetrad, with Gerry Fialka and Robin Carter, and much more.
- Through July 4 Universal Art Gallery - **Michael Ochs** Archives of a century of classic pop images 2001 Lincoln Blvd 302-8909
- Saturday, June 21 Festival del SOL 10 - 7 pm MacArthur Park, LA - 6th Annual Human Rights Celebration - Art Workshops, open mic, puppet making, poetry & movement - FREE - Suggest donation \$5 [www.solfoundation.org](http://www.solfoundation.org) 495-0545

## MUSIC

- \$2 Tuesdays at **Club Sugar** 814 Broadway in Santa Monica (1/2 block East of Lincoln) Moontribe DJs spinning desert techhouse/raucouselectro... 21+
- Wednesdays - 7-11 pm - Come hang with the **V-Rock girls** at the Venice Bistro, 323 Ocean Front Walk.
- Thursdays 7:45 PM - 9:30 pm Sacred Spaces Workshop **Church in Ocean Park** 235 Hill Street (Santa Monica) Open to ALL \$15 323-468-9938
- Thursdays & Fridays AM Mommy and Me Dance classes for Toddlers w/ Instructor **Natasha Maidoff** The Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave - 358-6769
- Fridays **Sensa** at **Club Sugar** 814 Broadway in Santa Monica (1/2 block East of Lincoln) DJs Liza Richardson & Raul Campos (KCRW) Deep House two-step and more 21+ w / ID \$5
- Sundays, 2-5 pm - **The Unurban Coffee House** - **Brad Kay** - Entertainer at the piano-Hot Jazz, Blues, Ragtime and Hilarious songs. 3301 W. Pico Blvd, Santa Monica 315-0058.
- Sundays 5 - 9:30 pm **The Rebel Soul Band** at the Venice Bistro - psychedelic groove jam - 323 Ocean Front Walk. - 663-4673
- June 13, Friday 8pm - Exquisite Accordionist **Nick Ariondo** with **Suzy Williams** and guest Vibraphonist **Kahlil Sabbagh** at Genghis Cohen 740 N Fairfax Ave 323.653.0640 8 pm \$10 Info: 306-7330
- June 14, Saturday 9 pm - **Joselyn & Wild Roots** at The Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd 393-6611 \$10 [www.joselynwilkinson.com](http://www.joselynwilkinson.com)
- June 14, Saturday Midnight - **The Stevie Natale Band @ The Cat Club** on Sunset & Clarke (next to The Whiskey).
- June 14, Saturday, **Moon Fest** - The Entertainment Design Complex - 2 pm - 12 am Fashion show 8:30 pm. Food, Music & Art w/ Mama Sutra. Vinylicious DJ's, Soccer Mom, 1042 Princeton Dr, Venice \$15 [www.minawear.com](http://www.minawear.com)
- Sat, June 21 4-10 pm SPONTO Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave. Diane & Ibrahim Butler present **CIRCLE OF COLOR Summer Solstice Art & Music Celebration** - in honor of **Sonny Zorrow** - music by Elton & Betty, The Boners - featuring Suzy Williams and Bill Burnett, Sea Monkey Tetrad, with Gerry Fialka and Robin Carter, and much more.
- June 21, Saturday 3 pm - 2 am **Queendom of Hearts Summer Solstice Festival!** Multimedia performance event with **Nova Blue & Friends** ~ where dreams and magic are real - 660 Venice Blvd 574-4733 \$20 email: [arnold@lafco.tv](mailto:arnold@lafco.tv)
- June 27, Friday **Maetar** at Bar 1160, The Ramada Inn Hollywood, 1160 Vermont Ave. 323-660-1788. \$5





## **JULY FOURTH VENICE 98TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION MARCHES ON!**

The next meeting of the July 4th Venice Birthday Celebration Planning Committee will meet at the Vera Davis McClendon Center at 610 California Ave at 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 19th.

So far, the parade route is as follows: assemble at 10 am July 4th in front of Venice City Hall (Beyond Baroque), 681 Venice Blvd. From there, we'll march, walk, skip or dance to Abbot Kinney Blvd., then on to Brooks Ave., and Ocean Front Walk, south to Windward Ave. and the Ocean Front Walk Plaza for a very Venice celebration of the history and mystery of Venice.

After that, we'll disperse to our barbeques and football games with families and friends. Form your own group and parade with us!, i.e., the Anti-gentrifiers Squad, The Canine Collective, etc. For more information, call 310-396-0811.