

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

CHEE WAH WAH

JUNE 2016 #416

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CA. 90294 • www.venicebeachhead.org • free@venicebeachhead.org • 310-281-6935

INSIDE VNC ELECTION

**Ballona Wetlands Drained
My Candidacy
The Sky Is Not Falling
Letters 2**

**Propaganda 101 3
Tax Breaks for High Tech 3
Cosmo - Spirit of Life 4
A View From The Bottom 5
Glow Flow 6**

**Venice Shangri-La? 7
Sara Omari Returns 7
Food Truck Review 7
Occupy Venice Interview 8**

Mike Chamness

**Poetry 9
Calendar 10**

California Sued for Draining Ballona Wetlands

by John Davis

Oddly, the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is being sued for failing to comply with the request of another state agency, the California Coastal Commission, to stop draining the Ballona Wetlands.

For over three years the Commission has requested that the ongoing damage to the publically owned wetland preserve cease. It is notable that the Commission failed to issue a Notice of Intent to file a Cease and Desist and Restoration Order. As a result, there has been no public hearing.

Fortunately, a local non-profit, Grassroots Coalition, has taken up the cause and filed a lawsuit against the DFW based on letters written by the Coastal Commission to the alleged perpetrators of this major environmental crime.

The California Coastal Act and the federal Coastal Zone Management Act both protect the sparse remaining coastal wetlands in California. Most have already been drained and destroyed to promote development. Wetlands are a valuable public resource because they support plants and wildlife that cannot survive anywhere else but coastal wetlands.

Without allowing rainwater to pool the underlying groundwater cannot be recharged. The sad result is freshwater plants and animals will simply die, never returning to their ancestral homes.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court also names DFG Director Charlton Bonham, Playa Capital (Playa Vista), and other former owners of the wetlands for installing the drains without permits from the Coastal Commission.

The Coastal Act requires "maximum public participation". However, when development occurs illegally, the Commission and the public are cut out of the process and left without a voice. Thusly, the door to destruction of the natural freshwater wetlands ecosystem is outside the law.

The legal action requests the court order the DFW to stop draining the wetlands right away and to remove the illegal development or to stop its damaging function. The lawsuit also seeks substantial fines and penalties to punish all of the perpetrators in accordance with provisions of Coastal Act.

VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION

Developers, Restauranters, and Realtors conspire to control Neighborhood Council.

My VNC President Candidacy

by Lydia Ponce

Some very important questions from the Beachhead and I am honored to answer them. This is a great opportunity to serve our community and shed some love and light to these dark days before the VNC 2016 Election! There are so many fliers promoting lies and hate for specific slates...

Unhoused Venice Community:

- The City should assist with homelessness by securing, protecting, and preserving the Mello and RSO affordable units we have left in Venice.

- We need CD11 Rep Bonin to place an ICO, Internal Control Ordinance, and a moratorium, on every development project that requires a Mello determination. This protects renters and our community. There must be an order to stop all projects that require a Mello determination, which is most of the redevelopment proposed in the 90291.

- The City of Los Angeles must support an ICO because it is disingenuous to say they will solve homelessness and continue to erase the affordable housing in L.A. HCID and City Planning are not holding the letter of the law of Mello to have the units replaced. Not one affordable unit has been replaced! Developers are counting on the land use loopholes to abuse. The process for application approvals and the ZA findings are simply criminal! Isn't it interesting how the developers and realtors have so many projects in Venice or the Westside and they cannot financially - feasibly replace the affordable unit they demolish?

- The City of Angles should account for all the Mello units that Venice lost and replace them. The VNC, HCID and CD 11 need to get on the job and deliver the affordable housing justice the public deserves. Not 50 units here or 30 over there! ALL OF THEM!

- The VNC, VCC, the other business committees and community must organize with the support of CD11 to feed people everyday. The movements and collectives, like Occupy Venice have championed and can teach our community, the Westside, how it can be done. It could very well create jobs that many need. We have so many restaurants in Venice, has anyone calculated the current statistic, the pounds of food thrown away everyday?

My feelings about gentrification are: all of it is inhumane, oppressive and racist. The people currently being displaced are on fixed incomes. In the last year and a half, we have seen senior citizens being bullied, harassed and

continued on page 11

THE SKY IS NOT FALLING

by Robin Rudisill

I am pleased to announce that: The Sky is NOT Falling. That anyone will be losing 50% or any amount of their property rights due to the VNC's draft report on Mass, Scale and Character is a fallacy.

I am very concerned that the information in the draft report circulated for the purpose of collecting public comments on the VNC ad hoc committee mass, scale and character recommendations is being manipulated and distorted in order to use it to attack candidates in the VNC's election. It's shameful that people are misrepresenting this work; it's unethical, and it's fear mongering.

Here are the facts--PLEASE READ THIS:

1. Years of concern about over development and projects that were significantly in excess of the scale of their surrounding neighborhood, resulted in the VNC's establishment of the Mass, Scale & Character Ad Hoc Committee (MSCC) in late 2012.

2. Analysis of mass, scale and character IS a required component of the coastal zone laws, and is included throughout both the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (city ordinance) and our Coastal-Commission certified Venice Land Use Plan (part of the city's General Plan). The law requires that for a discretionary land use decision (such as a Coastal Development Permit - CDP) both quantitative and qualitative standards must be applied. Quantitative standards include things such as height, setbacks, density (# of units), and replacement affordable unit requirements, which are ministerial requirements. But the qualitative standards, which include compatibility of the project with the mass, scale and character of the surrounding area, involve discretionary decisions, requiring personal judgement by the decision maker.

3. One of the goals of the MSCC, specifically driven by developers feeling that there was too much uncertainty in the process, was to add more definition and framework to the qualitative judgements involved in the analysis of the compatibility of the project with the surrounding existing neighborhood.

4. But this is not rocket science, and such subjective, qualitative decisions should not create too much uncertainty. It is quite normal to have subjective, qualitative decisions required in a discretionary land use decision such as a Coastal Development Permit. In fact, such qualitative judgements are a very important part of the planning for and protection of a community.

continued on page 3

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!!!

V E N I C E

COALITION TO PRESERVE
OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY CHARACTER

VOTE JUNE 5, 2016 @ 10AM - 6PM

OAKWOOD RECREATION CENTER • 767 CALIFORNIA AVE.

ANYONE OVER 16 CAN VOTE

BRING A PHOTO I.D. THAT ESTABLISHES YOUR IDENTITY

BRING DOCUMENTATION THAT SHOWS YOU LIVE, WORK, OWN OR HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL PARTICIPATION.
WHATEVER YOU PROVIDE MUST SHOW AN ADDRESS WITHIN THE COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

PRESIDENT
LYDIA PONCE

VICE PRESIDENT
MARK LIPMAN
SUE KAPLAN

TREASURER
HUGH HARRISON

SECRETARY
MATTHEW A BELTRAN

CHAIR OF LAND USE & PLANNING COMMITTEE
ROBIN RUDISILL

COMMUNITY INTEREST/OFFICER
KEVIN KERESSEY

OUTREACH OFFICER
HOLLIE STENSON

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
MIKE BRAVO

AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICER
(YOU GET TO PICK ONE) WE KNOW IT'S LAME...

COLLEEN SARO
GABRIEL RUSPINI
GINA MASLOW
ILANA MAROSI
KATHERINE CONWAY
MARK KLEIMAN

ERIN DARLING
GEORGE GINERIS
GLOJEAN DABBS
JED PAUKER
MARIA TENORIO BRAVO
SHEP STERN

SAVEVENICE.ME



Beachhead Collective Staff:

Eric Ahlberg, Mary Getlein, Krista Schwimmer, Alice Stek, Minister Saffron

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads, sustainers and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. No payment is made for material used.

Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Email: free@venicebeachhead.org
Web: www.venicebeachhead.org

Beachhead Sustainers:

- Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
- Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
- Jennifer Baum
- Irene Bajsarowycz • Beyond Baroque
- Paul Beethoven • Roxanne Brown
- Chuck and Terry Bloomquist
- Bradley Bobbs • Allen Boelter
- Michael Chamness
- Steven Clare • Greta Cobar
- Tina Catalina Corcoran • Maureen Cotter
- Surfing Cowboys
- John Davis and LeAnn Warren
- Joan Del Monte • Joseph Doro
- Aaron Downing • Don't Be A Doormat!
- Robin Doyno • Richard Dry
- Ed Ferrer • Rod Gallardo • Don Geagan
- Jesse Glazer • Phyllis Hayashibara
- Ted Hajjar and Carol Wells
- Dean Henderson • Martha Kaplan
- Nick Jones and Antonette Garcia
- John Kertisz • Mark A. Kleiman
- Ira Koslow and Gail Rogers • Donna Lacey
- Linda Laisure and Helen Alland
- Larry Layne • Marty Leal
- Marty Liboff • Eric Liner
- Mark Lipman • Ethan Lipton and Janet Lent
- Karl Lisovsky • Frank Lutz
- Michael McGuffin
- Ian and Gwen Humble McShane
- Michael Millman
- Susan Millman • Yolanda Miranda
- Sandy and David Moring
- John Mooney • Anne Murphy
- Jacqueline Navas • Earl Newman
- Sherman and Meredith Pearl
- Thomas Paris and Lauren Smith
- Cristina Rojas
- Milton Rosenberg • Bill Rosendahl
- Ron Rouda • Pete Savino • James Schley
- Krista Schwimmer • Linda Shusett
- Jim Smith • John Stein
- Alice Stek • Mike Suhd
- Larry and Kathy Sullivan • Surfing Cowboys
- Tamariska, Inc • Teddy Tannenbaum
- William Taxerman
- The Von Hoffmann Family
- Venice Oceanarium • Occupy Venice
- Brady Walker
- Tim and Nancy Weil • Emily Winters
- Suzy Williams • Nancy Boyd Williamson
- Mary Worthington and Pamela Gruben
- Stan and Roni Zwerling

Help A Free Press Survive:
Annual Sustainer: \$100. Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year Institutional Subscriptions: \$50/year Mail: Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294



Dear Beachhead:

I write to you about Roosterfish, the very popular gay bar on Abbot Kinney. As you are aware, Roosterfish closed permanently this past weekend. Roosterfish, like so many local businesses on Abbot Kinney, was simply “priced out” of being able to “make rent” on the increasingly expensive Abbot Kinney Blvd. This has been an unfortunate trend in which only corporate money can afford leasing on “the coolest block in America” (as referenced by GQ magazine), and that trend is leading to the demise of our local culture. What might replace Roosterfish? Will we see a Hooters going up replacing our funky old gay bar (God forbid)?

I wanted to acknowledge Roosterfish’s contribution to our local culture (and “local color”) in the aftermath of its closure. I am not alone in sentimental tribute. This bar meant something to many. The crowds were strong at Roosterfish this past weekend. Local Roosterfish regulars were getting in their last revelry with patrons spilling out into the alleyway. Inside it was pretty much standing room only.

This Monday night, it was a sad sight to see Roosterfish all closed up. (I have attached a few photos of the lonely Roosterfish.) Even in closure someone took time to pay tribute. A single note was left outside the bar along with a bouquet of flowers and a candle. The note read, “R.I.P. Rooster! Thank you for the memories and cheap booze! To the end of an era We love you! Cheers, (signed) Yana and Andrew.” (Thank you, Yana and Andrew as you express the spirit of Venice.)

Venice devotee, Jim Morrison (were he alive today) might well have attended closing night at Roosterfish. Jim loved a good bar. I like to think that perhaps Jimbo was there in spirit. I like to think perhaps Jimbo and Janis both descended from above on closing night to alight on the bar’s rooftop edge (directly above the Roosterfish mural). Jimbo and Janis, sitting together at roof’s edge, probably then “threw back” shots of Southern Comfort (straight-up!) while raucously toasting all of Abbot Kinney, in happy abandon.

Is there a chance that one of your talented poets over there at the Beachhead might pen a tribute to Roosterfish? Let’s do this ol’ girl right, and retire her with honor.

Having said all this, thank you so much for your coverage of local interests. I enjoy your newspaper a lot! Much love.

- Charles Thomas



Dear Free Venice Beachhead Readers

Please consider dropping our District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, a quick email re: Election Fraud in the VNC Election by C&O restaurants -- here’s an example:

(Jackie Lacey 818-439-3081 - jackie@jackielacey.com or info@da.lacounty.gov or use online form here - http://da.lacounty.gov/contact/email)

Dear D.A. Jackie Lacey:

I am contacting you to let you know of what, I believe, is Election Fraud being perpetrated by a local business in Venice, CA re: the upcoming VNC election on June 5, 2016.

As follows:

A local C & O restaurant chain has offered, by letter, to pay their employees for voting, according to their recommended slate, in the upcoming VNC election: “With your help we would like to support more moderate candidates that are running for a position on the VNC...we will pay you for an hour of your time and even provide a free lunch if you go and vote.”

A copy of the letter is online.

Here’s hoping you will help us to stop this kind of electoral fraud in Venice, which has come under attack by BIG business and development special interests in regard to our upcoming election.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Stakeholder of Venice

Thanks for your generous donations!

ROOFLESS TV

Michael Millman

Tina Catalina Cochran

Michael McGuffin

Linda Albertano

100 FOR THE BEACHHEAD

Help an independent press survive!

Rooster



Become one of 100 Sustainers with a check for \$100!

Rabbit



100 Sustainers can make the Beachhead self-sufficient.

Duck



Jellyfish



Sustainers Receive:

- Your name on page 2.
- 4 business card ads each year.
- The Beachhead in your mailbox.
- A sense of real Venice Pride.

Mail to: Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice 90294

Dear Free Venice Beachhead:

It is high time that the corruption and good old boy back room deals are exposed.

Everyone knows that Greg Shoop signs off on every VSO it is also known that The DA refuses to investigate etc

No resident has been informed in writing before a new construction begins. That is the law so that those impacted have a chance to voice concerns or object within 60 days of posting. That “official business” mailing never came to any of us even though Bonin’s office told me it would come. And anyone adjacent to constructions are supposed to be offered compensation if they are 2 houses on both sides of new construction and directly across and behind construction

That means all affected by builders are owed money.

I call this a conspiracy to defraud residents and tax payers in the almighty name of gentrification while doing an end run around the existing laws on the books.

Time to contact investigative journalists on CBS NBC And ABC and Internet sites.

IMHO the city has been breaking the law for the past 7 years.

Now they are trying to change the laws to cover their tracks.

It is time to expose all of them.

“Abuse and Abuse of The Public Trust”, if found guilty equals prison time.

They think we won’t unite and out them.

Time to do exactly that

- Stephen Grimes

Dear Free Venice Beachhead

I just saw a slate of developer/speculator friendly VNC candidates put out by Mark Ryavec’s speculator front group “Venetians for Venice.” You can count on his preferred candidates rubber stamping ALL development, no matter how big. It couches their agenda to make Venice Miami Beach with code saying: “Vote for these people or 50% of your property rights will be restricted by the VNC’s plan.” The current VNC has NOT passed any such plan, but if it had, what does reducing your property rights by 50% mean to you? It means: you can’t build whatever the hell you want, no matter HOW BIG. Is Venice a commodity or a community, neighborhoods or bank roll to you? I urge everyone to be careful who you vote for, but vote on Sunday, June 5, 10AM-6PM I’ll share the names of people I know who will protect Venice from over development (privately via PM) if you want to know my recommendations- they care about Venice 1st, not as a means to make their fortune. As someone who was elected president twice, also as VP and community officer several times and highest vote getter, I know all the players and their motives. Just ask....

- Linda Lucks



PROPAGANDA 101

by Jon Wolff

The Free Venice Beachhead is the oldest newspaper published of, by, and for Venetians. It has reflected the complex Spirit of Venice for decades. The Beachhead has served as a chronicle of the history of struggle of the Venice Community and is known the world over as the journal of record of Venice.

But there have been other papers about Venice throughout the years. The Ocean Front Weekly was available from the late ‘70s into the early ‘80s. That paper was very pro-real estate development and it cheered on the increasing commercialization of the Boardwalk. It was basically an instrument of the corrupting forces that were infiltrating Venice back then.

There was nothing wrong though in reading the Ocean Front Weekly if one had a discerning eye. In fact, reading it was vital to an understanding of the strategies used by the other side. If you could read between the lines, you’d get a pretty good picture of their agenda. And you’d see through the stuff that we know as “Propaganda”.

Today, the inheritor of this tradition of Propaganda is the paper, Yo! Venice. Don’t let the ridiculous name deceive you into thinking it’s all “Hey dude” and “Let’s party bro”. Yo! Venice often contains articles that communicate a carefully crafted editorial position. A good example of this position is in an article in the May 13 - 26 edition entitled “Paradise Lost: Residents Call for Action on Growing Homeless Numbers”.

The article begins as a sort of human interest story about a woman and her kids and husband fearing the unhoused people in the neighborhood. It lists her concerns about noise, sanitation, and drugs and how these issues are affecting her kids. The article concludes with a call for “action”, although no specifics are mentioned anywhere in the text.

The article would be easy to dismiss because it says nothing new and proposes nothing original. But understand that Propaganda isn’t about content, it’s about style and emotional impact. Consider one paragraph where the woman’s younger daughter refers to the people on the street as having “dookie faces”. By this she only means that they have a kind of facial expression that one might make when performing that particular bodily function. The daughter probably did say the words “dookie faces”; no one can question whether she did or not. But that’s not the point. The point is that the writer of the article chose to include the quote for a reason. The words are supposed to stick in your mind as a lingering vulgarity. They’re supposed to wear down your morale little by little. Nowhere in the article is there any mention of the names of any of the people with the faces. That would add a measure of humanity to them and divert the purpose of the article. The purpose of the article is to create a sense of revulsion and alienation. And it’s a fascinating piece of Propaganda.

The article goes on to remind us that these people without names are associated with drugs. It would be

easy enough to argue against this sweeping generalization. It would even be tempting to counter sarcastically that all the condos in Marina del Rey must surely have nothing but folks conducting Bible study groups in their homes every night. But again, that’s not the point. The article is just supposed to leave you with an open-ended sense of despair that says, “Someone should do something about this.” And indeed, someone, in fact a lot of people, are doing a lot of things about it. But what the article would condition you to want is something very vague and removed from your experience. Namely, you are to want the unhoused to just vanish. Few people would phrase it that way but that’s the general sense of the article. The specifics about how a person might vanish aren’t part of the conversation. Whether provided with adequate housing somewhere or incarcerated in a concentration camp, it doesn’t matter. You, the reader, are supposed to want them to not be seen anymore. The article doesn’t have to be specific. It only has to appeal to your general emotions and wear down your will. And it’s a classic example of Propaganda.

The article concludes by listing the city councilman, the mayor, and a government agency all pledging to do something. But the woman who’s the subject of the article wants “action now”. What would this “action” look like right “now”? Well, right now, some businessmen are trying to create Business Improvement Districts, or BIDs, in Venice. Know that these BIDs always include security officers patrolling the areas defined as districts. They’re basically private goon squads with bicycles and walkie-talkies who wear colored sport shirts signifying what district they represent. If the goon squads are allowed to take over, get ready to be harassed and detained for not being dressed right. You see, the nameless people in the article are just the start. By the time they’ve vanished, it will be the housed, longtime Venice residents’ turn. Picture walking to the store at night in sweats and flip flops and being stopped by two security thugs asking what you’re doing in the area. By then, you’d be outnumbered by those who have been conditioned by the Propaganda.

But this doesn’t have to happen. None of this is inevitable. One can resist the Propaganda and keep one’s own mind focused. For starters, don’t think defense; think offense. Instead of waiting for the other side to make a move and then fighting back, choose the fight you want and win it. Act first and then watch them re-act to whatever you did. Second, get involved; that is, physically get up and go find out what the people of Venice are doing now. There are meetings happening in Venice. The Westside Tenants Union has ‘em every month. And last, expect Victory. Visualize the developers and big money corporations not just backing off but backing out. Completely. Like, out of Venice forever. Imagine the Lamberts and Pardees giving up and going out of business and being reduced to telemarketing jobs because the people of Venice wouldn’t quit fighting.

And believe that the Free Venice Beachhead will be here to report it. While Yo! Venice goes where all the other ex-newspapers go: out of sight, out of mind, and at the bottom of the birdcage of history.

3 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead REPEAL THE 80% TAX BREAK PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE Google, Greed and Political Complicity

By Mark Lipman

Let’s get right to the root of the matter ... it’s greed. For the most part, we all want the same things in life ... a clean, safe environment, good food, stable housing, education, healthcare ... community ... the basic things in life that sustain us so we can lead happy, productive lives ... it really is that simple.

As a society, we can organize it this way. The main function of our government, which by the way is supposed to be participatory, is to ensure that our collective revenue is budgeted to provide the needed public services, so that no one falls below a basic standard of living.

Theoretically, that is how our government is supposed to function, but it doesn’t. It doesn’t because Democracy and Capitalism are fundamentally opposite and opposing forces. Democracy is for, by and of the People, while Capitalism is all about myself.

Some people, no matter how much they have just never have enough. Their unborn grandchildren can already retire in comfort and they still want more. Greed is an illness with cascading repercussions which detrimentally effect our entire society ... and precisely for that reason not only do we have the right – but moreover an obligation to establish the proper checks and balances and affix the necessary restrictions and regulations for the benefit and well being of us all.

Just as breaking up the Big Trusts a hundred years ago and the Monopolies back in the 70’s was necessary for the public welfare, so too today – on the heels of the Great Recession, which has left this country with the largest wealth and poverty gap in history – we must, by force of legislation and public outcry, break up the land and resource grabs by wealthy individuals and big corporations.

For the well being of our very society, we must put limits on to just how much one person, family or entity can own and control. There comes a point where we must put the needs of our people and communities ahead of the profit of a privileged few.

Amassing money, wealth, property and power simply for the sake of having more is an endless unquenchable path towards ruin.

When budget shortfalls lead to mass inequity and the only Department properly funded is the police, we must look long and hard in the mirror to question the direction

continued on page 5

The Sky Is Not falling - From page 1

5. After an extensive review of “best practices,” the MSCC has provided definitions for mass, scale and character, as well as proposed frameworks for analyzing them, such as use of upper story step backs, proportional upper stories and various concepts for articulation of facades, all of which are tools to analyze a proposed development compared to surrounding structures. We have already seen many of these tools in practice.

6. My feeling is that we want to avoid having all quantitative requirements. We value the social and architectural diversity of Venice, which in turn drives the diversity of the character of its numerous unique neighborhoods. We want to allow for maximum creative freedom while staying in the overall scale of the surrounding area. In my opinion, the likelihood of an overall FAR of any number ever being put into law for the Venice Coastal Zone is slim to none.

7. The proposals of the MSCC are proposed frameworks for analyzing projects. Just as is done at the City level for a draft ordinance, the Public Comment on the draft is integral to the MSCC’s process and final recommendation that will be presented to the VNC Board. Also, it has been very clear that nothing in the draft is a final recommendation or is being proposed exclusively for purposes of a specific ordinance or policy. This is not an attempt to modify the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, a ridiculous claim by one developer. Once they are approved by the VNC, the MSCC recommendations could be used for guidance in analyzing projects and as a starting point in the discussion of our Local Coastal Program. For example, the character analysis using Streetscape models and related statistics based on the attributes of the block is already being used as a valuable tool.

8. The moral of the story is that we mustn’t fall prey to the “chicken little syndrome,” aka fear mongering: the deliberate use of fear-based tactics, including exaggeration and repetition, to influence the public in order to achieve a desired outcome. *This scare tactic, indicating that you must vote for certain candidates in the June 5th VNC election in order to stop the loss of 50% of your property rights, is unfounded in reality and is being done with unhonorable intentions.



Venice Spirit of Life

- Paul Tanck

I feel that 2016 is the year of death. Look at the “celebrities” that have left us suddenly and too soon this year so far: David Bowie, Merle Haggard, Glenn Frey, Patty Duke, Alan Rickman, Garry Shandling, Maurice White, Paul Kantner, Sir George Martin, Nancy Reagan, Morley Safer, Prince...

All gut-wrenching losses to us, in many random, various ways.

But the most heart-breaking loss was that of local Venetian Cosmo Goffredo, who passed in the evening of May 5, 2016.

Cosmo had been ill for some time, and was living at his St. Annie Siqueiros’ house when he left. Born on July 24, 1938 in Paterson, New Jersey, he was 77 years old.

For 15 years he and Annie were neighbors on Cabrillo, but before that, Cosmo resided in the canals during the early 70s, and in a panoramic roof-top residence on the Ocean Front Walk during the 80’s. He was an accomplished piano player, a germophobic, a land-owner in Hawaii and New Mexico, a successful entrepreneur, always a giver, a poet, and he always took situations a step above the normal. He became the true Venice spirit of life. And he is and will be truly missed.

Here, to show his true background, is his own life-story...

Carnie Boy
by Cosmo Goffredo

I

It was a hot August night in 1952, just turned 14 years old, some guy offered me five dollars to climb to the top of the Ferris wheel to tear in down. Very dangerous place to be. I loved it. At midnight, I took off with the Carnival. Kept falling asleep in the big red truck around daybreak a loud noise Like a bomb awoke me our first blowout sitting on the side of the road waiting for the gas station to open, this guy driving a car 1935 or so with a rumble seat was screaming and beating this woman behind him. Our truck created a blind spot as he pulled onto the highway and side swiped a 1955 Chevy as I was running towards the cars I heard death moans and saw blood everywhere. I turned ran behind the gas station I saw the whole thing 30 seconds before it happened and was helpless to do or say anything. 3 people died. Our flat fixed on the road to Pa. ...Hours later raising tents and stoking racks of nick naks, plush teddy bears.. “on with the show” was my bosses motto. Italian Greaseball con man trickster, smooth talker he taught me everything he knew about how to get money from the staging suckers that’s what he called people who weren’t Carny folk. All the money I made he got. I was lucky to eat. He would make me empty my pockets at closing time. Joe Gandoso was his name.

II

I met Ruby. My first Teacher. She had a scar from the corner of her mouth to her ear, the mark of a snitch. Always had a cigarettes in her mouth. She moved with grace and confidence. She wore glasses with diamond segue sets, cat eye shaped Turned up, harsh low demanding voice ... Hi Kid Pay attention, I’m only going to tell you things one time. She felt like a Mom, Grandma, and Grandpa all in me person. Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open, first rule, when you say something, mean it. Don’t blink your eyes or twitch too much, always look the suckers in the eyes, stare them down with a smile, then make your moves, got it?

Yes Ruby, I got it. So let’s go through the moves now kid, ok, stand here. I saw behind the faces, fast moving people, street, country, jungle, savvy kind. Wild untamed energy all...

Everything is different here, all the rules have changed. Spontaneity has its full run. Sometimes I talk to the fat people and all they could do is sit there on their backs

I played with Snakes, mail carts, 50 or so in cart covered with wire tops. Got my cherry broke by 18 year old Hoochy-Koochy girl in the back of the big red carnival truck.

IV

She fucked me and left. Her name was Pat. She wanted to take me with her in the caddy convertible, canary-yellow, but her boyfriend said I was too young, he was right. Carny people embrace the world by living in the moment. Some of my new friends were freaks and actual geeks. A geek would bite off a chicken’s head and perform all



kinds of weird acts.

Such odd shaped faces and bodies were all around me constantly. My hair was combed in a Tony Curtis, TC, Ducks Ass, DA, green eyes, 120 pounds soaking wet, a real greaseball punk. Rearing to go. Full of life and spunky as they come. The old gypsy grandmothers would make me stay inside on full Moon nights.

V

They feared vampires and werewolves!! The old gypsy women always threw rocks at me and hollered GoHome! Go back to your family before it’s too late. Sometimes I would be in a trailer on the floor sleeping with about 20 or so gypsies. Some of the other young boys would threaten me with Knives and say if you bother my Sister, I will cut your throat and then we would laugh together, but I knew they meant it.

Coffee and cigarettes first thing in the Morning.

Sometimes we would go to town to do body and fender work. Just a dolly and hammer. There wasn’t any bonds then. We used to make a pile of money in just a few hours. The gypsy boys would steal anything. Money, food, dogs, cats, purses, and pick pocket in between.

By the way, Paterson NJ was where I started out, and traveled all the northeast coast down to Greensboro N.C. About 5 months time.

VI

Coming from up North, I didn’t know about separate rest rooms for the colored, and I never saw a negro who was black-blue-black. The midway was an ocean of Blue-Black facesandbodies, scary as hell, I felt like I was deep, deep in. The middle of Africa trapped with no way out.

I was working the baseball six-cat scam, the set up is either you are either behind canvas backdrop with a peep hole sitting on a seat with a hinge and one pin, so you can pull it out to disappear out of the back of the tent. There are three 18 inch canvas cats that baseballs are thrown at on each side of the tent. 6 total and they are supposed to fall all the way to the bottom, except you are back there pushing a rod attached to a board that stops them half way. It’s all set up as a “blind”, most people like to gamble.

VII

Greed gets to about 30% plus the will to win?? Who knows. Sometimes I would be up front, hawking, conning people, lots of money lost and won. This one time I was in the back peeking through the peep hole and listening for the words niceandeasy, which meant to let the cats fall or the other key words, not too hard, which meant push the rod to not let the cats Fall to the bottom. Sometimes it was confusing about what side was meant, so I would hold both sides up. Your head had to be close to the Canvas, so you could see what was going on so this 6 foot 4 colored guy sees me and throws the ball at my head. Bo-ing, Bingo, stars and stripes and a loud moan to follow.

VIII

All hell broke loose. I saw that eye back there, did you hear that moan? I hit the sucker in the head, the big guy was screaming, it’s a Gyp, it’s a gyp. Give me my money, sir. Give me my money back, sir. Then, they started to jump over the counter, out of control, hey rube, hey rube! I pulled the pin, slipped out of the seat and slid out the back of the tent running for my life. Found the big red carny truck, jumped inside scared shitless, shaking like it was 20 degrees and cold wind on me.

I ran four other games that were just as crooked, all gambling set upon games. No fucking more for me.

IX

That was it. I quit. Joe Gandoso kept begging me all night not to leave. Next morning, early, I was on the greyhound bus, heading home, up north, back to school or work were my options.

So, I choose work, first at the silk mill then at the dye house, then at a coat factory for the next couple of years. Nobody believed anything I told them about my adventures, because they all seemed too outrageous. I came from an Italian family of 10 boys and 4 girls, momand-pop cat and canary.

Lived on a big river sort of like Tom Sawyer environment, plus we had the big 2,000 ft. Passaic Falls, I called it little Niagara. It was the hub of the silk industry for the 2nd world war.

X

Parachutes, bandages and sundry items. When I turned 17 years old, my Mom paid my tuition for Barber School in N.Y.C. I graduated in a year and got into men/women

hairstyling. Thanks MomandPop.

I joined the Navy when I was 18 and did a yearandhalf. No wars in 1956 or 57, so I was released early, worked as a hair stylist in different shops for the next 9 years. I met all the wrong or right people. I had connections for everything. Razor-blades to Cadillacs, botany 500 suits, shark skin shoes, the works. I was living high on the hog, good-looking grease-ball. New cars. Etc. Lots of gorgeous women. I was a real fucker. Always had a mean streak, or you could call it “out of hand crazy”

XI

I sold everything on the side. Cigarettes, perfume, anything. Bet the ponies. I even bet on the 1/4 mile stock car races, what a blast! !!!

One day this guy, some gangster Vito, I used to cut his hair, needed a ride to do something. His car just died outside my shop. So, off we go. The mother fucker tells me to wait outside this Italian restaurant, just like in the movies, 2 minutes later he comes running out, shooting two guns. He kills three people. A mob hit! Take off kid! Move it the fuck out.

To my surprise, this gook hands me \$500 and thanks me. Now, you’re one of the boys, like it or not, ok! Sure Vito, thanks. Now, we both go on the lamb for a while. When I finally came back I’m honored by all. The guineas hex piassone.

XII

Welcome to the family. That’s a goodaboy. Come on, you gotta meet the new Don.

That was the beginning of hard knocks and easy street Life in the fastandfurious lane, no stopping here All of a sudden I felt much more alive, as if the electricity quadrupled. Intensity plus every day drama leaves not too much room for inner calm or should I say everyday trauma. Some of the guys fed off this energy. Meatball heads, half a step up or down from a cro-magnum. Not such nice beings these guys.

XIII

The foot soldiers, enforcers. Low man on the totem-pole. They would kill each other like flies, comes with the territory. So, I took my position in the mob on the East coast. Because I knew many of the head honchos on the E. Coast from when I was a kid in the carnival gambling tent, a direct connection and an innate trust it was easy for me to...

XIV

...climb to the top in just about 8 years. Everything clicked and gelled like a Swiss movement. Senators, vice presidents and the most important heads of government and state officials, including many foreign presidents and government officials. Lots of money and goods exchanged. Ability of it’s own, breeding destruction took top priority. The most brutal people operate within...

XV

... these areas, no one is immune to the reaches of the high officials long arm of injustice plus our mob system of operation, no one escapes, not a good place to be. So many lives wasted, tragedy reigns pure evil and greed for power and control has its own life-force, as if it has a linear direction and thinking ability of its own, breeding destruction at every turn, feeding upon un-suspecting people all over the world...

XVI

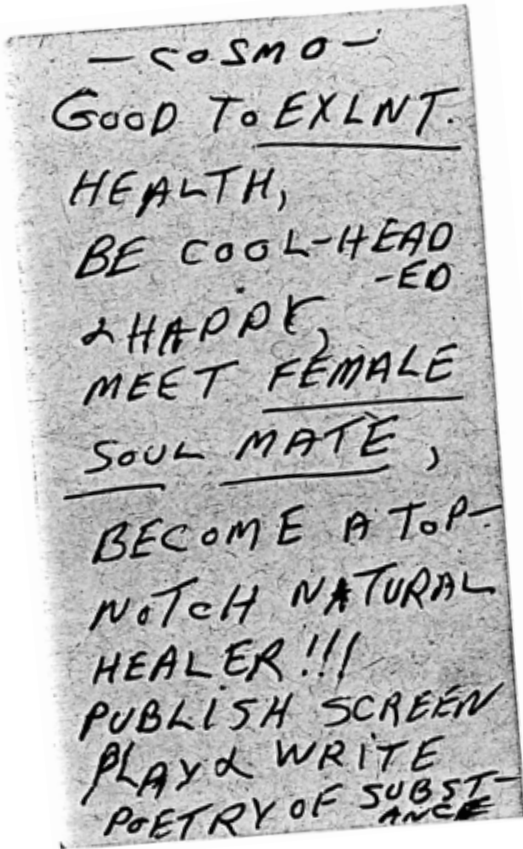
You hear about it in the news, disguised as something other than the truth, a small war?? Somewhere, usually in some S.A Country, Guatamala.

--

Cosmo Goffredo’s funeral ceremony and cremation were sublime yet spiritual. We know his soul and spirit will remain with Venice forever...

Photo captions:

Marcia Stone Tanck with Cosmo Goffredo during his final, luxurious and happy days at St. Annie’s, March 30, 2016. The “Wish Card” of Cosmo, from the 2000’s



A View From The Bottom

by Pat Raphael

One great benefit to the unscheduled life of a Street Person is the hours and hours available to do whatever we choose. It seems that only a person with much time to waste, has time to direct any attention to the clown college audition that some call the presidential race. Many of our friends and neighbors who are too tightly scheduled to see the race as we do, may value a view from the bottom, as we take a look at those seeking the highest office in the land. On June 7th, primary day, California gets their say at the polls. How will we vote?

While many are running for the office (over 1,500 filed intent-to-run paperwork with the Federal Election Commission), our process obviously does not give a damn about ideas outside of the two-sided coin we’ve always been offered -- never mind that it’s the same coin, at least in Republican and Democrat we are appeased with the illusion of choice. For years now, politics in America has grown more polarized, and extremism has fully set in to the political parties. My view from the bottom is clear-eyed, so I won’t fall into the mental laziness of creating a false equivalency to spread blame on all sides. The left has their blame to bear: their timidity that often offers tepid go-along-to-get-along plans in the face of foamy-mouthed screamers of the right. The professor on the left with his facts and figures wants to convince your head, while the ol’ ball coach on the right only has to rouse up your emotions with a fiery speech. The prize for both is the “low information voter”, and it is clear that the pull from the right is more effective at setting the tone, and creating the agenda for both parties. In a primary process that has to contort through this reality, it is no surprise that these are the best from whom we’ll have to choose. [read all about it in this prescient 2012 analysis of our political system: “It’s Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism” by Thomas Mann].

On one side, enjoying all the ink that my pen bleeds -- whether good or bad -- the Drumpf. The king of the low-informations, he has managed to create a political career out of screaming what the party used to whisper in hushed tones. The old tool was a dog whistle, and it took finesse to hear the very deniable tune being blown. The Drumpf has no use for subtleties, and his electorate has rewarded him for it. His new tool is an air-horn, and by not mincing words where a politician would cringe, he is left as the most authentic candidate still standing. Now he enjoys a fact-free-zone, cause even when the press call him on his crap, his supporters only see the ‘liberal media’ coming after their ‘truth-teller’.

On the other side, the decision was made a long time ago: it is her turn... she has waited long enough. She is the type of connected insider that Washington knows and loves -- let the party line up behind her and raise her up as the first female president. Only one little pesky detail standing in the way: the American People and the electoral process. Now this Bernin’ bush is setting the primary process ablaze, and he is showing just how undemocratic the presidential (s)election really is.

These are the exact three people that the process deserves. Not what the American people deserve, because almost any other system would likely result in better candidates, but this is what our primaries produce. As we pay attention, we quickly realize that the whole process requires a page-one-rewrite. Looking first at the private political organizations (Democrats and Republicans),

we see that giving this much power to private entities, creates too many artificial hoops for the candidate to jump through before ever standing in front of the people. Even after jumping through the hoops to get the party blessing, the candidate still has little room to be independent of any parts of the party platform. Then the voting begins, and quickly it becomes clear that the true electorate the candidate should be courting are the delegates and super delegates that are going to do the actual voting at the conventions this summer. Shrillary 2008 will tell you how unfair that this is, but in 2016 it is the Bernin’ bush left with the momentum and the votes, but not the nomination.

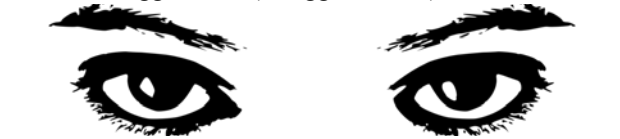
If after all this, you are inclined to cast a primary vote, which clown gets to graduate? Do you choose the biggest loudmouth? At least he’s not a politician. The biggest plus the Drumpf has in his favor is that he is an unknown. He seems to go with his gut, and he is offering his business acumen and marketplace instinct as proof that he deserves the highest office in the land. If you are sick of politicians who only say what you want to hear, he at least sounds like he doesn’t care about niceties. He has already secured his party’s nomination, so this summer be ready to hear about all his failed businesses, that he is lying about being a billionaire, about his father Fred the clansman arrested at a clan rally in central park. Then he will have to answer about the aggressive stance of his company’s real estate developments when it comes to displacing private property through the state power of eminent domain. Undoubtedly we will hear much about his trade policy and how much it will bring back American manufacturing jobs. Just don’t look closely and see where dozens of his products are manufactured. He ‘feels’ right, so it doesn’t much matter what the facts are. He will be the greatest jobs president simply because he says so. Drumpf wins: Trump/Powell 2016.

Or maybe risk is not your thing. You might want the status quo to continue plugging along uninterrupted. Maybe for you it is alright for the free-market policies of our republican-lite president to continue for a third term. In that case, Shrillary is your gal. Something about her sounds like every nagging girlfriend you’ve ever had, and her haters her really hate her. That is why she doesn’t have to move too far right, since ain’t no winning the fox noise crowd to her side. But in this bizarro political cycle that we are going through, this is one of her positives. She has been in the public eye for over twenty-five years, so there isn’t much about her that might surprise us. We either hate her or can tolerate her. It makes no sense to bring up her years of lovin’ (and going along) with every war the neocons have come up with, while throwing in a few of her own. From Libya, to Honduras, to Russia when her foreign policy judgement comes into question, we see just another hawk. The lawyer types may look at her business and all the millions she makes just for being a connected insider, and not see a smoking gun. For those types, that lack of hard evidence mean there’s no corruption. For everyone else, we wonder out loud why being in office suddenly qualifies her for tens of millions of dollars to speak on Wall Street -- then we understand how the shrewd business men on The Street only invest where there is a potential for return on their investment. At that point it becomes clear that since we ain’t bought and paid for her, Shrillary is not our candidate. Shrillary wins: Clinton/Sanders 2016.

Now to the Bernin’ bush. The guy who has had power in Washington for decades. The ideas that have electrified his candidacy are nothing new. If you go point by point, you will see that he basically is restating the issues

5 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead brought up by the occupy movement. In that sense the Bernin’ bush is just like all the other politicians: he is saying exactly what we want to hear (the same way we said it), with little mention of a clear path that will take us to the goals we hear in the speeches. Though I doubt his capacity to accomplish those lofty goals, rhetoric matters. In the same way that we give Drumpf sh/t because of his inflammatory rhetoric, we rightfully ask why does he think that these are the things he must say to attain political power. We are similarly encouraged that the Bernin’ bush thinks he has to mouth the speech of the people as a way into office. The sad reality is that our process does not have a way for a man (or woman) of the people to capture the public sentiment, and ride that into power outside of the blessings of the two party system. In the current state of our “democracy”, power is only granted after first traveling through the current power circuitry and if found acceptable, one is allowed to exist and to grow. It is obvious that the Bernin’ bush has not done so. Had he gone through them (or considered their prerogative), he would not set his sights on eliminating money from politics, or changing the current electoral process, or breaking up the banks, nor reforming their most profitable public-to-private pipelines of money such as healthcare, prison reform, and drug decriminalization. The Bernin’ bush presents an enticing option for those who want their vote to carry the weight of principles. The Bernin’ bush wins if he gets nominated, but we know that the process is not our own, and we are only allowed to play along in their game that they created. So sorry Bernin’ bush, no nomination for you. But as a weak consolation prize, you can at least claim to have advanced the dialogue to include the voice of the people. We’ll keep playing their game, then get pissed that they keep winning.

Most likely, Street People don’t have a damn left to give over this election. Historically turn-out has always been low for primaries, but even lower when by the time we get to the late primary states, and the process has already selected a candidate. Past election data shows that the lowest income segment, also has the lowest election participation rate. Perhaps the reason we do not want to get our hands dirty with so messy a process is because we are paying attention and see it for the undemocratic mess that it really is. My choice, I would pick the only candidate for president who have sat with me and smoked a blunt: Scroggie 2016 (scroggie16.com).



Repeal 80% tax break - continued from page 3 in which we are being led.

Who really benefits from spiraling homelessness, defunded schools and overcrowded jail cells? Cos guess what, someone does ... someone makes a whole lot of money off of things like that and that just ain’t right.

Let’s take this conversation out of the philosophical and put it into the real world, here, today. Let us name some names and talk about the factual numbers.

Here in Venice (and across the entire Los Angeles region) we are facing a major housing and displacement crisis. Homelessness has skyrocketed and it’s only getting worse. Our Councilman, Mike Bonin says there’s a plan for ending homelessness and it will cost \$1.8 Billion over the next ten years. (Currently, he’s looking at putting some sort of regressive measure on the ballot to pay for it.)

Watch out though, because this is standard practice across the political spectrum ... right before cutting a public service, or squeezing poor people to pay more for what they should already have, they first give a big tax rebate to their rich friends – and it usually just so happens to be right about the exact same amount as what they’re trying to stick us for ... we see it all the time.

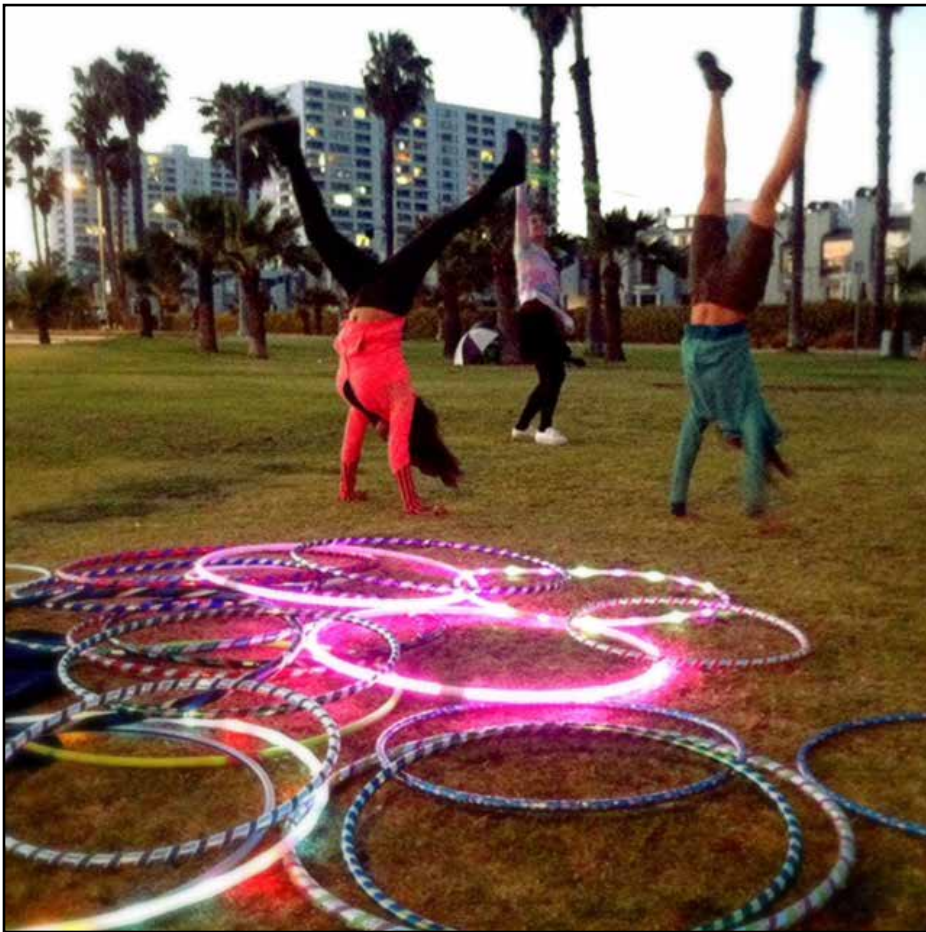
Case in point, in 2011, when Google fled Santa Monica for Venice (Santa Monica wanted Google to pay their taxes ... hint, hint), our late Councilman, Bill Rosendahl pushed through an 80% Tax Break (“incentive”) – which current Councilman Mike Bonin “championed” a 5-year renewal for in 2014.

This Tax Break for “all internet-based companies” (physically-based in Los Angeles) however lopsidedly benefitted a handful of companies – like Google and Snapchat – the most.

To put this into perspective, last quarter Google earned \$20 Billion in profits. On that they will (hopefully) pay the City of Los Angeles \$20 Million in Business Tax (\$1.01 on every \$1,000 gross) ... which sounds like a lot ... but then consider that they should be paying \$101 Million (\$5.07 on every \$1,000 gross). That’s a huge difference and every dime of it – our money – taken out of our budget – not coming back to Venice – not going to pay for our much needed public services.

Now consider that that is only 1 quarter (3 months) out of the year, so that for a full year Google should be paying in the ballpark of \$400 Million a year in taxes and that has been going on for the last 5 years, so that by simple math we can see that we’ve been screwed out of at least \$1.6 Billion --- from one company alone. That could practically pay to end homelessness for the entire city all by itself --- but it won’t – because greed knows no bounds.





Glow Flow

is a community of flow artists who meet every Wednesday evening at South Beach Park on the border of Venice and Santa Monica. We gather together to practice, learn, teach, connect and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Flow arts include: hoop, poi, staff, juggling, rope dart and more. We added the glow for fun after dark. We also have drummers, acro yogis and slack liners who join us often. We practice these arts for many reasons: Physical exercise, moving meditation (calms the mind and boosts your mood), connecting with others/making friends, creative expression, as well as practice for performances. It all started about two years ago with just two of us, myself and Meredith Siler, and has grown ever since. All are welcome to join who are interested in learning and improving in any type of flow art. We are a piece of the amazing flow arts culture in Los Angeles. If you have any questions for me, let me know. Warm regards, Bianca Ernano. Photos by Bryan Lyles. biancocalifornia@gmail.com 510-418-9199

Tarot/Palmistry/Animal Totems
Private Readings & Special Events
www.mysticraven.net

Krista Schwimmer 310.213.5663
email: krista@mysticraven.net

Michael Wamback 310.714.0423
email: michael@mysticraven.net

Entertaining & Insightful Readings

Creative Learning Preschool

Lic. # 197405775
Learning Through Themes

Andrea Rangel
Owner

310.477.3027
2523 Armacost Ave.
West Los Angeles, CA 90064

www.creativelearningpreschool.net
creativelearningpreschool@yahoo.com
We are open Monday through Friday 8am to 6pm

MUNCHIMONSTER - 7

THE KRUDDYS - 0

ACROSS

2 TOMATO IS A
5 A FUN EXERCISE
6 VITAMIN FOR EYESIGHT
10 LUNCH IN THE PARK
11 GROWS THE HEART
12 GET MORE WITH RAW
13 VOTE FOR A

DOWN

1 STRENGTH IN
3 PARK GUARDIAN
4 VENICE NEEDS A
6 GARDEN
7 TEAM SPORT
8 BAD FOR HEALTH
9 MONARCH LAYS EGGS ON

MUNCHIMONSTER.COM



Will Venice Ever Be Shangri-La?

by M. Saffron

Devakinanda Das and I spoke on a beautiful Sunny day at the beach. He is happy to be back in Venice after his 8 month annual stint in Vrndavan India.

While in Venice Devakinanda stays in his van and can't understand why the much needed changes regarding the "houseless" haven't been made here. He feels the solution is very simple." We need to take some tips from India."

BH: Hare Krishna.

DD: Hare Krishna.

BH: Welcome back, did you miss Venice?

DD: No.

BH: Is there any surfing in India?

DD: Yes, in Jagannath Puri.

BH: What percentage of the population in India is American?

DD: About half of 1 percent.

BH: What percentage do you think are "houseless"?

DD: About a 3rd.

BH: How are the "houseless" aided by the government?

DD: I don't know.

BH: How are the "houseless" aided by society and family members?

DD: There is a hospital in india for the poor funded by volunteers. Also everyone is treated based on individual merit. Indians see the soul not the body. To live in false-ness believing we are the body leads to arrogant concep-tions of " I and Mine".

BH: Should "Houseless" Americans try to move to India?

DD: No. Everyone, anywhere is capable and has the ability to transcend.

BH: Even Venice?

DD: Yes!

BH: What does Venice Beach need to do to transcend?

DD: Venice Beach has become the lair of wolves, jackals and hyenas in the form of conglomerates. Google, Snap Chat, fancy restaurants, yoga studios and nail shops on every block. All of which are bodily conceptions of life.

There is no spiritual hub open 7 days a week with classes in the morning and evening. No *prasadam (food) distribution, *harerama sankirtan, singing and dancing, to teach people they are not the body but pure spirit souls.

Venice Beach needs a small *Bhakti House, with 5 or 6 soul oriented people coming in and spreading love and the truth, which is that "we have absolutely nothing to do with material existence, that we are all one yet individual personalities, simultaneously one and different! "

**separation hurts;
greet everyone; happiness
all are suffering**

Until a spiritually minded person with means opens a Bhakti House, Venice will continue to collapse into darkness!

BH: Thank you so much. Hare Krishna.

DD: You're welcome, Hare Krishna.

Self Realization classes are being held outside, in the Santa Monica parking lot C across the street from the basketball court. Look for the groovy blue van.

"Wake up and realize your own inner strength."

email: Chantnbhappy108@gmail.com

**Harerama Sankirtan: activity where the Lord is publicly praised with singing and dancing.*

**Bhakti House: Devotional House.*

**Prasadam: Lords mercy and blessing.*



Welcome back!

Sara Omari retired from the Beachhead in 1989 after 12 years of service and we are honored to have her back as a contributor.

In her columns the 80 + year old who is presently residing in a retirement home will be addressing the topic of elder abuse. Abuse, which we are sad to say she is currently experiencing first-hand.

Sara is a proud veteran that started her career with the Marines as a guard. She was also a clerk and typist before rising to the ranks of Corporal during her last post at Camp Pendleton where she was a buyer.

Welcome back Sara.

It was about 4:30pm that day. I felt a whoosh, a Niagara like whoooooosh.

It was watery below my waist...tada, it was diarrhea. I call it "the trots"!

I pressed the call button, again and again and again.

I rang the nurses station, no one answered.

I realized all the workers were in the dining area.

I waited for awhile, sitting in my mess, maybe 20 minutes, when I called again.

No response.

4 hours went by.

The night nurse came in with my meds and I asked "Please Help me!"

In 2 minutes the RN had a worker there to help clean me up.

I am paralyzed on one side and unable to do so myself.

There is a contraption called a "Hoyer Lift" that pulls me out of my bed in the morning and deposits me into my wheel chair where I stay all day until I am taken out and placed back in my bed at night.

Finally I felt better, but I have not forgotten that.

I am domiciled at the "West LA Home For The Aged". This is a short article in a series on what I would call "Elder Abuse".

The facility here is gorgeous. There are trees with flowers all around. The surrounding streets are canopied by trees reaching out to each other, and providing shade to walk under.

There is a school on the grounds. The Japanese Gardens are supposed to be exquisite and I've been told there is a bird sanctuary.

Sara Omari
Venice Beachhead Collective Member and Writer
1977-1989

Mother by Sara Omari

Do you know the meanings: Mother's Day; Mother Goose; Mother Hubbard; Mother Lode; Mother Jones; Mother-of-Pearl; Mother's Milk; Mother Country; Mother's Fair haired boy; Mother by Gorky; "...doesn't taste like the one Mother used to make...and, lastly, Mother Effer.

Erma Bombeck says that MOTHERHOOD is the biggest on-the-job training program ever.

May 1988

Food Truck Review

If you're looking for a tasty hot meal and a great deal, try Cemitas Poblanas. They serve healthy sized portions of beans and rice for only a dollar each.

But, the real star of this show is their rojo salsa. It is to die for. And it's free! This is some of the best catering truck salsa in L.A. It's so spicy, flavorful and hot! Put it on top of the perfectly cooked beans and rice to make this "struggle" meal even more nutritious and delicious. The truck is usually parked on Lincoln, between Venice bl. and Victoria ave., mon-fri. Add a scoop of Carne Asada for a dollar extra and don't forget to tip. Did I mention the salsa?

M. Saffron



7 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

NOT FOR SALE



COMMUNITY BEFORE PROFIT

It's time for everyone's voice to matter – not just the money.

Defend Affordable Housing

Protect Venice's History, Culture and Diversity

End Gentrification and Tax Breaks for Big Tech. Companies

Mark Lipman for VNC Vice-President

Vote, Sunday June 5th

FOR ALL OF VENICE

Re-Imagine What Venice Can Be

If anywhere in this world can be the example of how, working together as a community, we can overcome any obstacle, with all the incredible talent we have right here, Venice is that place.

By bringing people together and using our creative minds, we can decide, "What is Possible."

The Future of Venice is up to all of us.



Please VOTE for Mark Lipman
VNC Vice-President

Sunday, June 5th, 2016

10am to 6pm

Oakwood Recreation Center

767 California Ave., Venice 90291

To get involved, please visit:

marklipman.blogspot.com/p/vnc.html

Contact:

escalatepeace@gmail.com

A UNITED VENICE



MAKE VENICE GREAT AGAIN! THAT'S A VOTE
FOR LYDIA PONCE, VNC PRESIDENT!

SUNDAY, JUNE 5th, 2016! OAKWOOD PARK VENICE!

VENICEQUANTUM@gmail.com. FOR GENERATIONS NOT GENTRIFICATION!



Occupy Venice Interview Transcript

-- Interviewing **Mike Chamness** at Sector 4, Venice, CA on February 15, 2015 while we were all helping prepare food for the potluck by cleaning and cutting up vegetables. Interviewee: Mike. Interviewers: Greg, Ana, and Erick. (This transcript has been revised by the interviewee and interviewers to make it easier to read & access information examples.)

GREG: What is your name and how old are you?

MIKE: My name is Michael Chamness. I'm 44 & a half.

GREG: When did Occupy Venice start?

MIKE: Around September 23, 2011 or thereabouts.

GREG: How long have you been active?

MIKE: Since September 24, 2011 or thereabouts.

GREG: Can you please tell us a little bit about what Occupied Venice is about, what it does, and why does it?

MIKE: Occupy Venice started up when a handful of Venice locals that had been heading downtown every day to Occupy LA basically organized themselves and decided that Windward Circle (in Venice) was a perfect spot to set up for meetings and to maybe organize a few actions. It's centrally located and very visible and made perfect sense at the time. Some of the core members rallied a couple local artists to make banners and signs and then the crew marched across the street one day and more or less took the circle. Once word got out, people began showing up with tables, chairs, yoga mats, tents and a larger scale public assembly more or less evolved from there, which is something Occupy LA and other Occupy movements had been establishing as a way to make decisions. Code Pink showed up and the press was starting to roll by as well. We adopted the principle statements of OWS as a guide and an orientation for new attendees was set up. Food from local restaurants and coffee shops was making its way over on a daily basis and the support was really incredible. I remember that a huge contingent of the unhoused community joined the circle with a big banner on the second day, which was pretty amazing to see.

Over the first two days it was a bit chaotic, and the police would roll by pretty consistently so liaisons were established to talk with Pacific Division. We broke up into working groups and took on different tasks, from coordinating outreach to food service to facilitating that day's meeting agenda. Bands rolled by to play and DJs set up. There was a crew to stay on top of garbage and recycling duties. Assemblies at the circle were scheduled twice a day, and within two or 3 days were growing from a few dozen people to nearly 75-80 some evenings. A lot of organizing was taking place and we had a couple spontaneous marches around Venice to get the blood flowing. Lots of honking horns and raised fists from cars that were cruising by the circle too. Taking public space to hold meetings and connecting face to face with neighbors was pretty unique. Communities just don't connect that way anymore. It seemed everybody had the same idea at the same time, and now we had the people's attention. Feel free to check out Marco and Alex Mannone's "Occupied Venice Journal" on Youtube. It's a series they created tracking the evolution of OV up to raid night downtown at OLA. It's a great rundown of the origins of occupy and OV. It's a wild set of videos. Uprisings can get wacky.

GREG: Can you tell me about the different issues that Occupy Venice tends to raise awareness about? If there was just one issue you would like to see coming to an end, what would it be ... the number one thing if you had to choose out of all the different things Occupy Venice advocates for? If there was one thing you liked to see change? What would it be?

MIKE: In my opinion I would say probably the elimination of hunger and poverty to start, because poverty is entirely man-made - it is a direct result of public policies and failed priorities. We could stop it tomorrow. Most of the issues Occupy Venice deals with now are rooted in unhoused and homeless rights, food security and fighting GMOs, fighting the illegal boardwalk curfew, organizing civil rights and activist trainings, exposing the impacts of gentrification and pushing for affordable housing, supporting the adoption of the Homeless Bill of Rights, monitoring the monthly sweeps, and generally combating evil. We've coordinated actions and events with Vets for Peace, Code Pink, Occupy Fights Foreclosures, the Venice Justice Committee, LA Community Action Network, and the Black Lives Matter movement and also work closely with Food & Water Watch to expose the evil corporate takeover that is the Trans Pacific Partnership and fight fracking in LA. Frack is wack, by the way.

GREG: Great. Can you tell me whether you consider Occupied Venice to be a protest group in the classic sense of the word "protest?"

MIKE: Protest is one tactic. Depends how one defines it. It's a broad category. But yeah it's important to hit the streets when need be. Early on we made a conscious effort to plan actions and create good stories aka make issues newsworthy, and at the same time get people's asses outside, because revolution is good exercise. Stuff like occupying the Rose Bowl Parade over the last three years has exposed our messages to hundreds of thousands. Rolling our floats in something like that or the King Day

March is damn exciting and gets the fists pumping. But we also make a point to focus on education and ongoing community service projects in addition to organizing protests. Long term movements create options for plugging people in and empowering folks to step up in whatever way they choose to. You really need to turn people on before you can turn them out. Actions are good for getting headlines and reaching people, but they work better when combined with ongoing campaigns. OV created about a half dozen ongoing projects early on to accomplish just that; projects that serve a number of needs in terms of education, outreach, service for the community, and creating "resource streams", to put it bluntly. Those projects include weekly feedings with the People's Potluck, our ongoing Doccupy community discussion events, monthly Feed the People fundraisers, our food growing plots at the Venice Learning Garden, producing the Occupy Illustrated newsletter, distributing civil rights information, giving out donated goods, helping coordinate the free safe storage program with Venice Community Housing, weekly planning meetings and hosting the Community Sleep Out when we can. There's a lot to do.

Occupy originally arose from the need to create opportunities for people to educate themselves, make decisions, and act outside of the dysfunctional systems of government. And they were also huge social events and a method for reconnecting with our neighbors on a grand scale, so in many cases what happened was that public engagement actions on Windward Circle evolved into things like regular outreach events, teach-ins, and feeding people to provide a conduit for things like direct actions, marches, and rallies. One project feeds the other. And the response has been good. For the last two years the Venice Neighborhood Council gave us \$2,000 to help us organize the Doccupy Film Series and town hall discussions at Electric Lodge. Those have gotten big. We average about 70-80 or so now. We've covered about two dozen topics in the last three years, from civil rights to police surveillance, homeless issues & gentrification to alternative economics, urban farming to fracking. The focus is on solutions, on "What do I do the next day to affect change" and by design include local groups doing good work. Public officials and their staff come by them now. Hopefully they're paying attention.

GREG: You just answered my next question. I want to get more specific about it ... can you explain more about the diversity of issues Occupy Venice represents? You are making connections with so many of them ... can you explain the thought process by which you see such diverse issues converging? You are talking about many subjects in terms of poverty being the main concern. How do you go from bank gangsterism to the global financial meltdown, and then to things like fracking and homelessness - all kinds of desperate issues - how do you put them all together?

MIKE: Just by proximity, Venice is at the epicenter of many of the issues we're talking about, from the increasing criminalization of homelessness to fracking along major fault lines in Baldwin Hills. And of course there are significant housing and police brutality issues that impact people in our community, and those are tied into the forces at work with the hypergentrification we see going on now. Environmental racism and water issues come out of the fracking work, and food security/urban agriculture is rooted in access to resources and channels back into GMOs, climate change, self-reliance, and sustainability. And those issues are directly affected by things like the TPP and rapid erosion of our civil rights in all areas. It's all interconnected, and it's critical to address and act on these issues with a systemic analysis of privilege, poverty, race, and economic equity. That's why we need to look at alternatives to capitalism, fight the rapidly commodification of our natural resources, and reverse the ongoing privatization of the commons that drive these inequalities and are very quickly destroying the planet's ecosystems. For the first time in our human history the planet has a deadline. The science is in on that. No planet, no economy. No water, no life. Pretty simple.

As for our members, lot of OV people came from different movements and bring some amazing skills and perspectives. We have had a diverse mix over the years - artist activists, labor and immigration rights representatives, public officials, occupy activists from other parts of the country, authors, local business owners, news reporters, urban gardeners, tech experts, professors, attorneys, clowns, etc. People bring to the table whatever they think we need to explore and organize around.

As for addressing social justice issues like civil rights, racism, and police brutality, the protests regarding the Ron Weekley Jr. incident in 2012 and citywide Black Lives Matter actions have been something of a bellwether for OV. Ron is the teenage son of Reverend Ronald Weekley Sr, a pastor of the First Baptist Church on 7th. In 2012 a Metro police unit decided to detain him for skating on the wrong side of the street. They threw Ron Jr onto the sidewalk and brutally beat him and eventually arrested him, leaving him with a series of ongoing head injuries and serious PTSD that he still struggles with. The arrest was caught on video and a coalition arose in the following weeks that held marches in Venice to demand justice for Ron Jr. OV co-hosted public outreach and civil rights workshops at the church with Reverend Weekly Sr as a part of the community response, resulting in a set of demands that were sent to the LAPD. Working alongside

the church and Ron Sr changed our group in a lot of significant ways and broadened the focus of Occupy Venice. Our ongoing solidarity actions with the Black Lives Matter movement in LA and the emerging fight against police militarization are critical too. It's also served as an example of how OV was more than a group fighting income inequality and Wall Street.

GREG: How do you bring it all together? You're talking about all decisions that are really important. Are they all interconnected?

MIKE: As we mentioned interconnectivity is the truth of it, but intersectionality would be the more appropriate term. It's viewing issues from a wide angle lens. Like fighting institutionalized oppression power at every turn, but focusing on practical and achievable solutions. Building bridges is both the challenge and opportunity, and we need to know that we have more in common than we'd like to admit. It's always been a tough issue to crack for the left or progressive populists. Even in light of the obvious nuances and love of different tactics, how do we approach the inevitable rationalization that we're all in this together? In my opinion, the basic physics of climate change and ongoing resource depletion expose that pretty clearly. But how do you build that coalition?

May Day is a good example. In 2012 OV was part of a huge coalition that co-organized a massive march to downtown LA from four directions throughout the city. Caravans converged from the San Fernando Valley, East LA, South Los Angeles, and the Westside. OV marched from the ocean to Pershing Square with activists from a host of groups like Vets for Peace, March Against Monsanto, the Topanga Peace Alliance, Code Pink, Food & Water Watch, Surfrider Foundation, and POWER, and converged with the massive union and immigration rights marches downtown, creating a day of action that included tens of thousands. It was an absolutely amazing show of solidarity. So many different types of causes coming together simultaneously, and the understanding that while there are tremendous forces at work preserving the spoils of the 1%, at the same time we all need clean air, clean water, food, quality education and basic human rights; needs that are clearly not a priority among the corporate capitalist systems pillaging the planet with the collusion of our government leaders. And that we can act in unison when we want to. We have to. No choice really.

GREG: At CSULA we were exposed to a movie in class called Cowsspiracy. This is a movie that essentially points out that while fracking and other factors contribute to global warming, the largest contributor to global warming is the animal agriculture industry - particularly the raising of animals for meat and dairy - the deforestation that accompanies the production of meat and dairy, and those gases from the animals themselves that contribute up to 51% of the greenhouse effect with the burning of fossil fuels being a relatively small number in comparison of 18%. This movie is having a lot of impact right now, and half of the movie is focusing on the Big Green Nonprofit organization. You know: The Sierra Club, the Rainforest Defense Network, etc. Essentially most of those groups are not addressing the issue of industrial animal husbandry's huge effect on global warming because it is not a popular topic. They have determined from polling indicators that it is not a winner.

MIKE: Are you talking about a specific diet?

GREG: They are essentially looking at different things: the huge demands of the agricultural industry for water and food (used as animal feed) is one subject they go into - that producing minimal amounts of food (meat and dairy) from tons of these resources is not right. And the byproduct of all of this is the overwhelming destructiveness of (deforestation and) all of the greenhouse gas emissions and their effects. Occupy Venice is dealing with the fracking issue, but not this other larger issue connected to greenhouse gases. Why is it that Occupy Venice is not also concentrating on this larger issue?

MIKE: Because nobody has brought it to our GA (General Assembly) and proposed to do it. Feel free to stop by. Our meetings at Beyond Baroque on Monday nights at 8pm.

GREG: Okay.

MIKE: GA is where we create the projects we develop. All that information I am sure is accurate, but you are closer to the detail of that issue. I understand the largest contributor C02 is the generation of electricity by coal-fired plants for cities, and then automobiles and vehicles associated with moving food products. That is the connection I think can be made, but the idea here again is that we do not have a lot of large scale factory farms in LA. If we did, and if it was an issue where we could do something about it, I think we would see more direct involvement. But yeah, I totally agree that the animal production side of global warming is impacting the planet in a lot of ways, and the decimation of rain forest to raise cattle for meat is something people have talked about for decades. It also dramatically impacts water stocks and there are animal cruelty issues. And there are labor rights and trade issues regarding global livestock production as well.

I am here

I am a walker of worlds -
I transport myself to the past
The ground under my feet
is not the ground that was before
The memories are held in the hand, gently
The screams and laughter of an old pier
That is not there, anymore
They tore that pier down
after watching it burn in an unholy blaze
similar to the flames that engulfed Europe
in W.W.II
old vets, they won’t talk about it -
let someone else do it -
or read a book - there are lots of books
How they killed and killed and killed -
6 million Jews, gypsies, handicapped, religious, children
They all had to go ---
They were all related to each other
They were indeed the Chosen People
We miss you ---
We can’t comprehend it -
but our best customers are Israeli -
new bombs and guns and ammos -
excuse me - fresh graves to dig.

- Mary Getlein

The Death of Venice

by Blake Abramovitz

i

Pit bulls kick up dirt engoldened by
the sun, honey to sooth broken
streets of Lexus hybrids and
homeless clowns. Princes sheathed in denim
stagger past out-of- work shamans who hunch
over guitars to rasp their bright
laments: Teenage cops, killings,
a new
apartheid. American

flags jerk, horses’ tongues
flailing, skaters roar radioactive Cool, and I

drive street to street,
dreaming again my old dream of
Venice—Venice, where my
raggedy soul
was born.

ii

A lone festival wind totters through the dusk
under dying palms and the glare of Hollywood
movie shoots. Mad with thirst for
friendship, God, it cartwheels down Rose, up
Windward, over soil of Gashouse, Hopper,
Jim, poets of a
magic bleeding town— searches

between yoga parlors and
cocaine shanties,
gang tags and
one percenters,
between a Bhakti yogi’s prayer and
the embers of our city.

Raccoons peer from crevices
where they huddle in patched sleeping bags,
terrorized,
but when the sky wilts purple they
stride onto the road to stand
naked beneath streetlamps, pale
bruised sentinels.
The wind folds into shapes of
a busker and mandolin,
and together, grieving carolers, they cry:

iii

“O Saints of Exhale, Full Circle, Rama:
Are your seas lagoons for scarred ships?
Are your hearts filled with broken seagulls?

“O crucified poets, meditators, agitators:
Who will stand for adoration?
Who will drive Google and Reddit
from our streets?”

Through chapped whiskered lips the city sings:

“Who are we, who are we, to ask this of you?
We have no names, are only voices,
but still we ask:

“O daughters, lovers, sons;

[morning melody]

You might have stayed up
All night, clicking at every link
To your daydream, searching
For a soulmate in the cyberspace

You might have enjoyed an early dose
Of original sin between sleep and wake
Before packing up all your seasonal greetings
With your luggage to catch the first plane

Or sitting up in meditation
With every sensory cell
Widely open to receive
Blue dewes from nirvana

But you did not. Rather, you have just
Had another long fit of insomnia and
Now in this antlike moment, you are
Imagining a lucky morning glow

That is darting along the horizon

- Changming Yuan

“O ghost pianist of the Sidewalk Cafe, hammering at
your keys till they splinter across the twilight shore,
O Sixth Street painter topless and paintspattered on your
brown lawn not giving a damn,
O exhalation of dispensary weed cohered into
Christ and lumbering across the waves;

“O baroque literati snug in your aeries of words, scribbling onto
paper already incinerated to ash,
O track mark juvie crash landed from I10 dreaming
of an angel to drag you from your grave;

“O dreamers who blundered west from Houston, Boston,
Boise, only to be dashed against toney anterooms of
Paramount and Universal, and then united to
praise strange circus gods here, at the
edge of the crazy water;

“O crystal-chic agents of the New Age selling
fictions to babies,
O streets that we love,
O ink of night crack slinger, scared father of three,
who whistles to actors quivering in used Beemers;

“O Buddhist baby boomers shipped in from Burma and
Cambridge, despairing to reach psychotically texting
strippers and drunkabilly rockers,

“O air bnb profiteers,
O LAPD privateers,

“O black matriarch who squints at
prohibitively hip eateries which you
in any case cannot afford on the
corner where your great grandmother
worked and died,

“O new gentry who have no idea where you are
and could not be expected to care
what miracles have tattooed this ground,
but might still permit it to turn you into a
porpoise or a dying star—

“Who among you will erupt, ablaze
with care for our weird commons?
Who will describe
one circle around us all, proclaiming:
I am the first born soul of a new family, and
this is my city.
Show me one gambler unafraid to stake it all
on Love,
one true child of Venice—
our Jerusalem, the lost Holy Land
of Los Angeles.”

9 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead
TO REACH VENICE BEACH
-marty liboff-2015

**With a broken soul and heart
I try a new start.
I run to the far end of the earth
searching for a rebirth.
After a long trip I reach
Venice Beach-
looking for any wisdom it will teach.
A trip to the West Coast
L.A. is crazy and it is the most.
I've been hurt and sad
tryin to figure out the good from the bad.
Abbot Kinney & Krishna sittin on a bench
homeless pee makes a stench.
Buddha & Elvis strollin the Ocean Front Walk
John Lennon & Janis Joplin talk.
Bob Marley & Marilyn Monroe on a skateboard
Jim Morrison & J.C. praise the Lord.
Prince singin with Michael Jackson
bikin & goin for a run in the sun.
My soul is worn & torn
I've felt scorn
but on Venice Beach I've been reborn.
In the cool ocean night
we'll dream of the wrong and the right.
We can drop our masks and lies
walkin & watchin the starry skies.
We'll swim in the sea
ocean as far as you can see.
Wash our sins away
our hurt can't stay-
we'll heal our souls today.
Seagulls & pigeons flyin above
like angels and a peace dove.
Watch the most beautiful moon & sunset
and soon all your worries you'll forget.
If poetry, art & music are your goal
Venice Beach will feed your soul.
Time becomes an eternity
love is all we see.
We'll make a new start
Venice Beach will heal your heart...**



ODE TO THE RECTUM - Carol Easton

O underrated aperture,
O humble little hole
With what panache you faithfully
Perform your vital role.

You work appalling hours
For insufficient pay
You only get a day off
When I’m on holiday.

Nobody sends you flowers
Nobody writes you verse
Nobody sings your praises
Your name is just a curse.

All hail the lovely asshole
And hope it never closes
And sends us up that famous creek
That doesn’t smell like roses.



10 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

Friday, June 3
8:00 PM – **Mason’s Noise Parlour** Our young adult variety show hosted by Mason Summit. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque
7pm - 9PM – **Venice Pride Sign Lighting & Block Party.** Windward & Pacific ave.

Saturday, June 4
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM **Venice Pride Beach Party.**
4:00 PM – **Hana Ward Art Opening** – Little monsters, babies, animals, and creatures - strange yet kindred - are mostly sad, surprised, and rarely smiling. Free for all. Beyond Baroque

Saturday, June 4
8:00 PM – **Poetry In Motion: A Thousand Kisses Deep** – a tribute to Leonard Cohen’s song: “You win a while, and then it’s done. Your little winning streak, and summoned now to deal, With your invincible defeat, You live your life as if it’s real, A Thousand Kisses Deep.” Carlye Archibeque, Barbara Bottner, Patti Davis, Jon Hess, Jeff Kober, Richard Modiano, Eric Trules ,and Ron Zimmerman. Special Admission: General \$20 or \$15 if you purchase in advance Beyond Baroque at Eventbrite, Students & Seniors \$10, Members \$8.

Sunday, June 5
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM **Venice Neighborhood Council Elections,**Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California
Venice Beach Basketball Summer Series begins.
2:00 PM – **Uncle Dartbag Review** Uncle Dartbag, a band founded by poet David McIntire to explore the extreme possibilities of words and music, with musical guest Hellbat and spoken word artist, Michael C Ford. Admission \$5. Beyond Baroque
5:00 PM – **First Sunday Open Reading** Hosted by Venice Beach personality, Steve Goldman. Sign ups at 4:45pm Beyond Baroque

Thursday June 7th - Primary Election

Wednesday, June 8th
7:00 PM – **Suzu Williams** jazz-blues-Dannys 23 Windward Ave Venice CA, FREE

Friday, June 10
8:00 PM – **4 Poets And A Dash Of Non Fiction: F. Douglas Brown, David Hernandez, Ashak Im. Jackson, Ruth Madievsky, And Sandy Tolan.** Sandy Tolan is the author of Children of Stone: The power of music in a hard life, the story of a young Palestinian musician overcoming the struggles of living amidst the Israel/ Palestine conflict. David Hernandez is the author of the new poetry collection Dear, Sincerely from the University of Pittsburgh Press. His book, Hoodwinked, won the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry. His other books include Always Danger and A House Waiting for Music. He is also the author of two YA novels, No More Us for You and Suckerpunch. He teaches creative writing at California State University, Long Beach. . Mr. Brown, an educator for over 20 years, teaches English at Loyola High School of Los Angeles, an all boys Jesuit school. Ashaki M. Jackson is a social psychologist and poet. She is a Cave Canem alumna whose work appears in CURA, pluck! and Prairie Schooner among others. Writ Large Press published her chapbook, Surveillance, in March 2016. A second chapbook, Language Lesson, is forthcoming from MIEL. She lives in Los Angeles Ruth Madievsky is the author of a poetry collection, “Emergency Brake,” which was named Tavern Books’ 2015 Wrolstad Contemporary Poetry Series selection and was published in February 2016. In 2015 Madievsky was a Tin House Scholar in Poetry and the winner of the Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Saturday, June 11
4-6pm MESS – Photographer-producer **Mark Lipson** interview at unurban 3301 pico
8:00 PM – **¡La Di Dada! 4: Publication Reading For Maintenant** 10 DaDa performance and poetry by leading maverick artists. The event includes the West Coast launch of the internationally-renowned MAINTENANT 10: Journal of Contemporary DaDa Writing and Art (2016, Three Rooms Press), Costumes encouraged. Featured performers include Richard Modiano, Bob Branaman, artist-poet-musician, Doug Knott ,Linda J. Albertano, Mike M. Mollett and Neal Skooter Taylor, BibianaPadilla Malto, Christian Georgescu, Michael Alejandro, and Circuitry & Poetry with Mona Jean Cedar & Jeff Boynton.Dedicated to dada performance

artist Cynthia Toronto. Three Rooms Press co-directors and New York-based performance artists Peter Carlaftes and Kat Georges will host. Regular Admission Beyond Baroque

Sunday, June 12
7:30 PM – **Austin Straus Birthday Reading** Celebrate another year around the globe with Austin Straus and friends. Suggested donation \$5. Beyond Baroque

Monday, June 13
6pm – **Orson Welles Tribute** films & discussion (and FJJ - Free Jazz Jubilee from 7:30 - 8pm = http://www.laughtears.com/freeJazzJubilee.html) at unurban 3301 pico blvd free

Tuesday, June 14
6pm – **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club** MDR library 4533 admiralty way

Wednesday, June 15
7-10pm: **Mom- Media Discussion** at beyond baroque 681 venice blvd venice ca

Thursday, June 16
8:00 PM – **Poetry In The Loft: Aloud & Allowed With Rich Ferguson** Join us at our favorite boutique hotel for an evening of music and word curated by poet Rich Ferguson featuring Alexis Rhone Fancher, Susan Hayden, CLS Ferguson, Nicelle Davis, Celia Chavez, Pam Ward, Michael Ronzon and Amber Tamblyn (schedule permitting). - Hotel Erwin

Thursday, June 16
8:00 PM – **Pop Up Spectacles With Sea Glassman** Celebrate Bloomsday with excerpts from James Joyce’s Ulysses, featuring Stephen Dedalus, Leopold Bloom, and Molly Bloom (in spirit!) Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Friday, June 17
8:00 PM – **Folias Flute And Guitar Duo** Beyond Baroque

Saturday, June 18
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM – **Mavericks & Masters Workshop: Chuck Rosenthal** Novelist and flash fiction writer Chuck Rosenthal turns a laser beam to Sci-Fi writing. Please bring 10 copies of 5 pages from any fiction you are working on for sharing. Visit Eventbrite or contact specialevents@beyondbaroque.org. Class size limited to 15: General \$50, Members \$35, Audit Seats (observation only, limit 5) \$20. Beyond Baroque
4:00 PM – **Robert Scheer: The Great American Stickup** – Robert Scheer, editor in chief of Truthdig, has built a reputation for strong social and political writing over his 30 years as a journalist. Suggested donation \$5 Beyond Baroque
8:00 PM – **Lambda Literary Emerging Writers** Lambda Literary’s summer writers residency for emerging writers attracts the most talented up and coming LGBTQ writers in the country. Doors and reception in the Poet’s Garden at 7:00 PM - , show at 8:00 PM. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque


Sunday, June 19
3:00 PM – **6th Annual Venice Beach Neptune Parade.** Sidewalk Cafe.
5:00 PM – **Voices From The Well Presents: Another Bloomin’ Bloomsday** Celebrate James Joyce and his epic Ulysses through readings, comedy, and music. Featuring the talents of Moynahan Bros, William H. Bassett, Sea Glassman and more. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Friday, June 24
8:00 PM – **Celebrating Anna Akhmatova** Join us for a celebration of Russian poet Anna Akhmatova with special guest and a reading of selected works in Russian. Regular Admission. Beyond Baroque

Saturday, June 25
1:00 -4:00 PM – **F451 Type-In** Community celebration of creative typewriting, the process employed by Ray Bradbury to write his science fiction masterpiece, Fahrenheit 451. Louise Marler in partnership with THE BIG READ LA brings the F451 Type-In to Beyond Baroque again. For more information visit organizer Louise Marler’s website here. Beyond Baroque
4:00 PM - to 6:00 PM – **The Big Read Presents: Fahrenheit 451** The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. www.NEABigRead.org Local writers and poets read selections from Ray Bradbury’s science fiction masterpiece, Fahrenheit 451. Featuring: Carlye Archibque,

Greg Cope White, Anna Urena & more TBA! Free to all. Beyond Baroque
6:00 - 9:00 PM – **F451 Opening Art Reception** A curated group of visual artists whose work centers on literature, language and typewriters will be on display simultaneously. In salute of the author’s work, Marler’s “Ray Bradbury TypOwriter” mixed media art is featured. Bradbury’s 1947 Royal KMM typewriter art features a blazing writing machine surrounded by burnt text, inspired by “Fahrenheit 451.” Select Mexican students, inspired by reading “Fahrenheit 451,” artwork will be included with national and regional known artists. Free to all. Beyond Baroque
7-10pm **Jazz Funk Arts Fest** at unurban 3301pico blvd santa monica

Sunday, June 26
11:00 am - 7:00 pm - **Main Street Summer Soulstice,** Santa Monica.
2:00 pm – **The Nebraska Girl Open** Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. Sign ups 1:45pm. Free. Beyond Baroque
6:00 PM – **La Poesia Festival** – Bilingual poetry salon hosted by Antonieta Villamil Beyond Baroque
7:00 PM – **7 Dudley Cinema - Literature Films** More information at laughtears.com - Beyond Baroque



Ready to fight for your rights?

Join us for the next meeting of the

WESTSIDE TENANTS UNION

Thursday, June 23, 2016 @ 6:30pm


Venice Community Housing Corp.
720 Rose Ave.
Venice, CA 90291

with Displacement Prevention Training

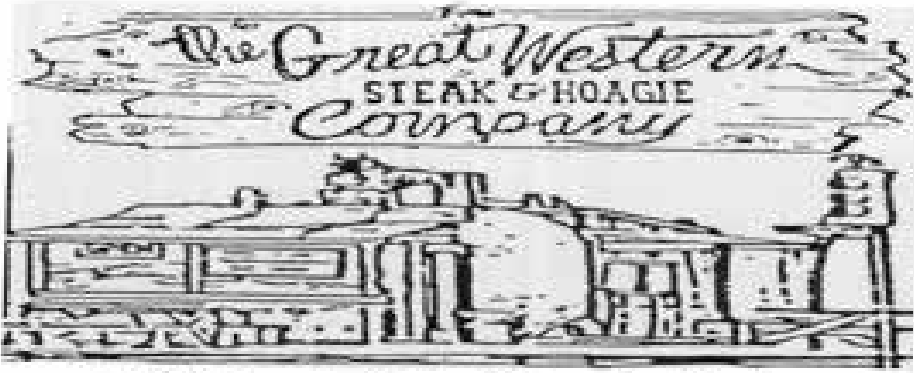
contact: westside.tenants.union@gmail.com
phone : 323-543-5997
www.facebook.com/WestsideTenantsUnion

MUNCHIMONSTERS
TREEHOUSE

june



GreenSceneGardens
Garden Maintenance
All Organic No blowers
Tree work, Irrigation Work
info@greenscenegardens.com
310-210-9085
“a responsible maintenance company”



1720 Lincoln Blvd, @ Superba, Venice
310-450-4545

Ongoing Events

RADIO VENICE

4:20-6:30pm Sundays Live Music Webcast from Breakwater Studios, Venice visit: **www.**

radiovenice.tv/live/
OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

- 8pm Sundays People’s Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777. General Meeting After.

COMPUTERS

- 2:30pm, Mon-Fri. Student/Homework Zone. Computers, iPads, homework resources and a trained computer aide to assist students grade 4-12. Free Printing. Abbot Kinney Public Library.
- Tues/Weds 8:30-6pm, Thurs/Friday 8:30-5pm. Free Computer Use. Vera Davis Center.

FOOD

- Free Food Distribution. Tuesdays 10am, Thursdays 12:30pm, Fridays 1pm. Vera Davis Center.
- Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards). Vera Davis Center. 310-305-1865.
- Free Vegetarian Food Saturdays through Wednesdays 4:00 PM. OFW & Dudley.
- Free Vegetarian Food. Thursdays 1:30pm. OFW & Sunset.
- Mar Vista Farmers Market. Sunday 9:00AM - 2:00PM 3826 Grand View Boulevard.
- Venice Farmers Market. Fridays 7-11am, 500 North Venice Blvd.

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
- 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.
- 1:00-4:00 PM Every Saturday and Sunday Free Live Music, Fisherman’s Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd and 4th Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 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 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free
- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson’s, Electric Lodge, Donation.

AA

Saturdays Midnight at Beyond Baroque
Sundays 9:30am, Beyond Baroque Theatre.
Thursdays 7:30PM Mike Kelley Gallery, Beyond Baroque.

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fov1.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Dannys** 23 Windward Ave Venice 310-566-5610
- **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. sparemurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice Arts** 1702 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291
- **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) 310-606-2016
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

Pacific Resident Theatre
Ongoing Production

My Girlfriend is an Alien. To find “the one” can be a search far and wide, perhaps to other worlds. But when green slime and tentacles become involved, it’s downright hilarious. A new play from the folks who brought you the Fried Meat Trilogy! Running four weekends!

June 3rd – 26th
Fridays and Saturday Nights at 8pm,
Sundays 3pm and also
Sunday 7pm on June 19th & 26th

THE ECCENTRICITIES OF A NIGHTINGALE.

The play centers on the complex relationship between a sensitive and lonely young woman, and a young doctor. Her touching attempts to sway his emotions and his uncertainty as to where his heart should lead him take the audience on a moving journey.

GALA OPENING: June 18th
Show Times: Thu, Fri & Sat at 8pm
Sun at 3pm
Preview June 16 & 17, 8 pm – \$18

LA Louver Gallery

New paintings and sculpture by Los Angeles-based artist Alison Saar uses figuration to weave narratives relating to the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927.
Don Suggs. Entitled Paradise, paintings and archival inkjet prints created over the past three years.

G2 Gallery

Nature and Environmental Photography Supporting Art and the Environment.
100 Years of National Parks: The South
From Earth to Mars a 3-D Journey
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 5:00 pm,
Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm Until June26

C.A.V.E. Gallery

Through June 20: 8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY GROUP SHOW – 1108 Abbot Kinney Boulevard.
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12:00-6:00 PM
Sundya 12:00-4:00 PM

11 • June 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

Candidacy - continued from page 1
without much due process, removed from their homes. This form of genocide – was first reserved for POC, people of color. However as the Westside Tenants Union have met biweekly, we have witnessed that gentrification is happening to all renters. Many do not know their renter’s rights. We have referred to many legal clinics. We hope and we encourage the community stay in Venice, ultimately, it is their decision. Its best decided when the people are informed of both, their legal choices and their rights.

The sign offs are illegal and if people continue to use the term ‘by right’ which is not written into any law, it appears to many in our community that the property owner is utilizing their right. ‘By right’ does not mean I paid so much money for this property so I can skirt or break the law. They cannot be negligent and un-neighborly. Being philanthropic does not mean laws do not apply, last I checked the LA City Planning Department applications do not have a box to check off the applicant is a righteous dude.

A majority of applications have minimal descriptions. The sign offs need to stop. “Remodel.’ This word has been high jacked! The community proved this in many appeals that... “Remodel and adding a second story to an already existing first floor,” now means – demolish! Sign offs cannot be approved because the applicant isn’t asking for variances. The foundation is removed and gone. City Planning is rubber-stamping approvals by employees that do not know what our dual jurisdiction protections are or even what Mello is!! We have 3 miles that is 90291 and we need to preserve our beloved Venice for generations. We need smart, sustainable development and growth for some of Venice, not all of Venice.

_ The VNC Board and Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) is too important in this election. For the next 2 years it is critical in its limited power. There are many who want to strengthen the LUPC advisory recommendations. The VNC has always had the power to stop all this criminal activity of gentrification.

-The VNC and the LUPC can write an ICO. The LUPC ICO that was written a year ago failed at the VNC Board meeting. It’s the right thing to do.

The VNC should host the meetings and public forums: for the LCP rewrite host; hold meetings for the public to participate in the MELLO rewrite; review & weigh in for the STR Ordinance and finally hold regular meetings regarding the Business Improvement Districts, BIDs.

VNC must get involved with the organizations in the Vera Davis Center and support the Vera Davis Center, as it is the heart of Venice; and lastly the VNC needs to serve all demographics and not just select few.

I worked once with a developer, Henry Ramirez, who was planning to convert two spaces into two studio apartments in the Marina. His project failed. I have just repaired my relationships and friendships with my neighbors and peers over that. I will never do that again, simply because it was not worth my word, love and respect from my circle of people.

I have never worked with realtors. As an appellant on several projects, I have met with three different sets of architects. We whittled their plans to something desirable and within the letter of the Venice Specific Plan. For the record: 635 Vernon, one on Rialto and 811-815 OFW this one is not which is not over.

The other 90291 realtors I have noted as I am calling them out as they have not sold or rented any homes to the people we need housed in our community. People employed as teachers, firefighters, police, pharmaceutical technicians, grocery clerks, city and county employees, and all other home service workers. Let’s also note the car emissions.

We are not an environmentally sensitive community when our employees commute more than an hour to get to their jobs. It’s not keeping our community emotionally or mentally healthy as they travel great distances. They should be able to afford a home near their work.

-It is not environmentally responsible to change our flood zone with all this over development.

-What about all that land fill with all of these demos?

-What about the workers removing materials and debris from demolitions without the proper equipment?

It is not neighborly to take a neighbor’s sunlight and delicious ocean breeze. It’s down right not Venice to diminish neighbors’ quality of living with investor greed. It’s not cool for business transplants or realtor flippers to use Venice and pimp her. Real people are living here as community and Venice is not the tourist trap that money is changing her to be... by force and illegally.

My relatives have moved far away; they have moved out of the state of California because they could not afford it. Yes, the struggle IS real.





Photos by Mike Chamness

***** VOTE! *****

Bravo for Venice

Venice Neighborhood Council Elections
SUNDAY JUNE 5TH, 2016
10am-6pm @ Oakwood Park Rec. Center
767 California Ave, Venice, CA 90291

ANYONE OVER 16 CAN VOTE
Bring a Photo ID that establishes your identity.
Bring Documentation that shows you Live, Work, Own, or have Substantial Participation. Whatever you provide must show an address within the council boundaries.

President: Lydia Ponce	Chair Land Use & Planning: Robin Rudisill	Treasurer: Hugh Harrison
Vice President: Mark Lipman	Outreach Officer: Hollie Stenson	Community Officer: Maria Tenorio Bravo
Secretary: Matthew Beltran	Communications Officer: Mike Bravo	Community Interest Officer: Kevin Keresey

www.Bravo4Venice.com | facebook.com/Bravo4Venice



V.NC Election- Voter Reference Guide
At Large Officer:
Erin Darling
Ilana Marosi
Mark Kleiman

Secretary : Matthew Beltrane
Chair Land Use: Robin Rudisill
Communications: Mike Bravo

Outreach: Hollie Stenson
President: Ira Koslow
Vice President: Sue Kaplan
Community Interest: Kevin Keresey

Ad Paid For By Beachhead Sustainer:
'Don't Be A Doormat'
Xxxo