

Black Lives Matter Rally at First Baptist Church of Venice June 7, 2020



photo by Margaret Molloy

AFTER MANY YEARS, MONTHLY BEACH PARKING IS NOW AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

By Mark Rago

When my activist group, the Venice Dogz, was at the height of our battle against Snapchat's takeover in Venice just a few years ago, the building at 909-913 Ocean Front Walk that housed the world-famous Freak Show was at the center of attention. It's by far the biggest single building on the walkway and it was highly rumored to be Snap Inc's (Snapchat's) next flagship corporate office, since their supposed buyout of the parking lot next to the blue house at 523 OFW fell through. The building has over 100 parking spaces, is the biggest on the beach and has two beautiful floors of office space, each with large wrap-around balconies – ideal for Snapchat's many millennial employees.

A book could be written about the history and tenants of the building, plus it's been filled with a spiderweb of real-estate collusion in recent years – much of which is detailed in a Beachhead article from February 2018 titled, "Jerde Leaving Venice, Snapchat Moving In? The Freak Show Still Homeless". In short, the building was built between 1981-1984 and was owned by architect Jon Jerde throughout most the last 40 years. Snapshot Partners LLC took over the building in March of 2016 and shortly thereafter the Venice Dogz witnessed Snapchat employees using the underground parking spaces and walking out to other buildings where their actual offices were. It was later revealed they also utilized the 3rd floor for their Human Resources department and more. The Venice Dogz then uncovered a document from 1981 from the California Coastal Commission that ordered at least 41 parking spaces from the building be made available to residents of the North Venice area on a monthly lease. Given the small community that Venice is, only one resident was known to be using any of those 41 spaces at the time. The Dogz then went forth with a campaign of letters and emails to LA City and the California Coastal Commission, spoke at the Coastal Commission hearings, and even got an article published about it in LA Weekly in June 2017 titled, "Is Snapchat Illegally Snapping Up Residential Parking in Venice?" Snapchat continually states to this day that they have nothing to do with

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Chaka Foreman's Speech at The First Baptist Church of Venice, June 7, 2020

My ancestors are on my back right now, my African ancestors, my indigenous ancestors, my European ancestors, which means my ancestors are on your back right now because our ancestors are all the same.

I'm really, really proud of the youth, they're going to be our salvation, they will save us.

I've only been in Venice for 17 years, all three of my children were born and raised here, Myself I grew up in New York City, Detroit, London, Atlanta, and a few other places. I was thinking about what I might say up here in relationship to black liberation, to our brother George Floyd, to all the other brothers and sisters who have fallen under the guns, the batons, the choke holds, under the foot of the power structure, under the weight and the might of the systems in a country that might not exist as it does today without our free labor.

When I stand here now looking at you all the beautiful diasporic faces gathered I really bounce back and forth between a few different things; anger, frustration and rage on one side; and hope, community and love on the other side and I'm probably going to land somewhere in the middle when it's all done, but bear with me right now because I woke up a little bit angry today. My father was in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He left a good job in Chicago to go down south because, as he told me, he had no choice. He would always tell me "Chaka, our people are in a 10,000 years struggle!", and as I think, as I watched the hundred years of our collective trauma unwinding and unraveling these last 10 days I finally understand what he meant. We have no choice, freedom is a constant struggle.

I was in college when Rodney King was beaten and I would have sworn to you that things would be different thirty years later, but I was young and I was naive and maybe I didn't quite understand the full arc of our peoples history, but it feels like we're still in the same struggle today. When I was a little kid in Georgia we marched in Georgia and North Carolina. Directly on the streets across from us, men in full robes and pointed hoods rifles peeking out from underneath. As a little boy these are my memories of the south and this week I watch as members

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THE TENANTS UNION AND THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Esteban Pulido of the Westside Local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union, which is headquartered in Venice. The Tenants Union is a tenants' advocacy group that fights for the rights of renters in Los Angeles. On Saturday, May 30, 2020 they drove in a mobile protest that concluded in front of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Jon Wolff: You're one of the organizers of the Westside Local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union.

Esteban Pulido: Yes. For about three or four years now.

JW: There was a Tenants Union action yesterday, a caravan protest from Santa Monica into Venice.

EP: We started at buildings where tenants were on rent strikes. And we passed from Santa Monica to Venice by other sites on rent strikes. We spoke to workers to let them know that they have a right to not pay rent if they cannot afford it. We made a stop at the Wurstkuche restaurant that had evicted Patricia Sanchez and her family from their home of twenty-five years. And we did a brief informational action in front of the restaurant about the harmful acts that the owners did to the Sanchez family. We continued down Rose Avenue across Main Street. We passed through Abbot Kinney Boulevard. Then we went through the neighborhood to the First Baptist Church where we continued the action, not just for the Tenants Union, but for the community of Venice and the organizations of Venice that have been trying to keep Venice for everyone. It shouldn't be an isolated community beaten down from its previous self into one form of urbanized living. Capitalism has shown itself to be a failure for people. What it does is just reap wealth for a select few. We see the neighborhoods from Abbot Kinney Boulevard to Oakwood Park where there are low-income homes with people spending the majority of their income on rent.

JW: How does the First Baptist Church of Venice symbolize the struggle? What is the importance of the church?

EP: It's been in a drawn-out process to turn it into a single-family home. It's a place that is crucial to the community that got purchased for a small number

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The VNC - VENICE Neighborhood Circus rep no one but themselves and more haters. LUPC is a side carnival show - lies, fraud and business; favors and deals that will be found out later. LUPC is the freak show of the VNC. Not to insult legit freak shows..

There are people who live with their sense of inhumanity as they are consumed with worry about their property investments and property value. They are just left of center or conservative adding to their colonial settler unhealthy mental living. They believe their property taxes affords them to own everything on sight. They're not healthy for humanity. They are repping colonial settler historical incestual ideologies that most original Venice locals are not down with. Yes it is sad and true - a few locals have gone to the gentrifiers' side and get paid now.

This vote against affordable housing for unhoused - is a crime against humanity. It is : Genocide. The VNC / LUPC cannot have it both ways. For one, they do not care for unhoused community and continue to criminalize the unhoused community. For two, VNC LUPC voted against housing is a bold f.u. to everyone.

So they voted to not house people. So which is it? Streets or housed? You can't have it both ways!

They continue to campaign and say it's too close to schools all day long. The haters have no problem building their homes so big they overlook into neighbors' homes... taking over neighbors' lives and their right to privacy. So no. The VNC LUPC votes are biased, slanted and dripping with conflict of interest. Their circus supporters get what they want; it's a mere formality and process to present to this committee. THE VNC - LUPC is not repping anything but hate, racism, fascism, cruelty investments and profits. #whitesupremacists

VNC - LUPC profiting by hurting people.

I know what I wrote and I approve my own message / post and choice of words.

Before y'all try to bash what I post -

Just to inform you:

My dna is resilient and your words don't hurt me - your behavior is proof under our Creator. God don't like ugly.

If and when an earthquake hits - we're all unhoused and under the sea.

Disgusting people- absolutely fugly!

There. I didn't curse.

¿Y Que?

Chaka Foreman continued from page 1
certain members of the New York Police Department knocking people down while they flash white supremacy gang signs in uniform. I think of the 10,000 year struggle that my father spoke of. When I was in Santa Monica last week with some of you, dodging rubber bullets and getting tear gassed in Santa Monica, California in 2020 with no warning and unprovoked, kneeling with a group of peaceful protesters by the Pacific Ocean exercising our constitutional rights. I think of my dad's words of the 10,000 year struggle as I stood on 3rd and Fairfax with my 16 year old daughter and her friends hemmed in on three sides, while we demanded accountability for the murder of one of our own and the LAPD demanded we disperse, their hands on guns, batons, drones, tear gas, cocked and loaded.

I understand why the fight might be a long one. At the Federal Building a few days ago, staring down the lines in the National Guard, I wondered where were they when I was handcuffed in the middle of Hollywood Boulevard, against the side of my car pleading my innocence, and held against my will because I fit a description, and I knew our struggle wasn't going anywhere as the footage continually comes in from peaceful protesters across the country being brutalized, and when I watched Donald Trump stand up and tell Americans, that he wishes for a

WISH LIST

The murder of a black man in Georgia was the final nail in his coffin of lies I'd been telling myself about this country. The best, the most, the wisest, the freest. I won't get rid of this coffin until I see some improvement in the way we treat minorities, treat poor people and now the middle class.

I start with the murdered man in Georgia. Just think, maybe he would have gone to graduate school, then got a degree in medicine, then made a discovery that freed populations of a dread disease. Who knows how many brilliant people have been put down to nothing so that they can't make their contribution.

I wish to add to the Constitution:

1. Freedom from want- affordable housing, nutritious food, clean water and air free of pollution.
2. Freedom from discrimination.
3. Freedom from lack of education due to funds.
4. Freedom from half our resources going into the hands of a few billionaire families depriving the country of culture. Once the rich were the guardians of society. Now they hoard money and have stopped building colleges and universities, stadiums, theaters, hospitals, museums like they used to. With lowered taxes on the rich, half the foundations are gone. As one wealthy woman cried out on the radio, "Good heavens, now what will I do. No more charities to occupy my time."
5. \$ 15 an hour minimum wage.
6. Medicare for all.

- Anette

return to the days when protesters, and I am quoting, leave on stretchers like they used to.

I know our fight is 10,000 years young I don't I don't really want to go into a history lesson because my man Sunny's gonna drop some knowledge on you and some others and sisters have been there before with some history, although it is this clear to me that a lot of us need a history lesson, but I would like to recognize that where we are today in many ways makes a lot of sense. Racist roots grow rotten fruit, to steal a thing I saw from a little sign from a girl from Venice up on the Pan Pacific the other day. Cornel West said the other day on CNN that the social experiment of America has failed, but today I wonder if actually it is succeeding. I actually wonder if the founding fathers might be getting a little piece maybe of what they wanted, since the ideal of freedom and justice for all had the ominous inscription that branded us three-fifths of a human being, since the land that we stand on is stained with blood and broken promises ripped and stolen from the long and beautiful histories of the indigenous people who called it home for thousands of years, since the very institution that made America the richest country on the planet.

Slavery is the one whose legacy has now created the deepest forms of racism and racist culture so deep y'all that we have become numb to the almost daily videos we see of death and destruction in our neighborhoods, of Karen running around screaming that my existence threatens her, and of another grown man begging for his life saying please I can't breathe.

We spend today in the memory of George Floyd, his senseless murder, but it's more than that. It's the resistance that is rising up from his last breath. Don't talk to me today about why the National Guard should protect the gentrification on the now soulless Abbott Kinney Boulevard from. Don't talk to me about it, not today. From potential looters without talking about why desperation is so deep that people have taken any means necessary to claw and scratch for their little piece of the pie.

Don't talk to me today about slavery ending 150 years ago unless you want to recognize the next hundred years of the stain in American history when black people were brutalized and terrorized by legal lynchings, forced segregation, redlining, look it up, the GI Bill, look it up, mass incarceration, look it up
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up, the war on Drugs, look it up, poll taxes, look it up, and on and on.

Don't talk to me about how I should be satisfied with the right to vote when all the politicians are beholden to multinational corporations and none of them will hire me anyway if my name is Tyrese or Lakeisha or Chaka.

Don't talk to me today about your businesses being looted until you are ready to look at me and tell me why you think I'm a criminal when I walk into your store following me and my friends like we don't belong.

Don't talk to me about LeBron James and fiancé making it, unless you want to talk about the widening gap between rich and poor and the economic structures that purposely and intentionally hold black and people brown people from accumulating the massive wealth that exists in other communities, see the previous notes. Definitely do not talk to me about how the American Dream can be realized until our schools are funded equally, and until poor black and brown children have equal access to preschool education.

Do not talk to me about pulling myself up by the bootstraps because it's the American Way, until we can get access to some fresh fruits and vegetables in inner-city communities, food that will nourish our minds and Bodies, in a way that doesn't leave us depleted more and more every year, don't talk to me About it.

Put me at Erewhon and a Whole Foods who's down in the hood and drop the prices, better yet, come down here and build me some gardens. Don't talk to me about covid only affecting people with pre-existing conditions unless you understand that pre-existing conditions exist because poor people and people of color, look it up, have intentionally been herded into parts of cities where the smokestacks and the garbage dumps and the landfills and the toxins are, and until y'all want to recognize that quality health care in America is currently a privilege of the rich, and not a right of the poor.

Sorry don't talk to me about black politicians and Latin-x legislators until you want to talk about ICE and my brothers and sisters at our borders today who would be split from their mothers and fathers today and denied their basic human rights just as African slaves were split apart bought and sold for the price of groceries. Y'all see I'm living on an angry side right now but... [Applause]

I'll take a deep breath I do circles at Mark Twain middle school and Venice high school we sit in
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Lincoln Apartments: VCHC's latest proposal for supportive housing in Venice

By Lisa Robins

The "Tallest building on the left is a symbol of compassion and love," hopes a Venice citizen with regards to a new plan to house our homeless neighbors.

Venice Community Housing (VCHC), along with Safe Place for Youth (SPY), are proposing an affordable and supportive housing development on the corner of Garfield Ave. and Lincoln Blvd. Here are the basics taken from the VCHC website: "Based on community and partner input, best practices, affordable housing financing requirements, and preliminary land use analysis, we are proposing the following elements for this site: • 40 homes, 39 supportive housing units and 1 resident manager unit • 50% (20 units) for those who have experienced chronic homelessness • 50% (19 units) for transition aged youth (18-24) who have experienced homelessness • Studios (28), 1 bedroom (9) and 2 bedroom units (3) • 3 full-time professional social services staff with offices on-site, as well as multiple service partners, providing comprehensive, integrated services and support for tenants • Open and Green Spaces • Safe Place for Youth offices, social services and community-serving space on the ground floor • Parking for staff. We are proposing zero residential parking, as allowed by local and state codes for supportive housing"

<https://www.vchcorp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Lincoln-Apts-Overview-2.3.2020.pdf>

I attended a Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) meeting on February 20th at Westminster Elementary focused on this proposal. It had been rescheduled from the Feb. 3rd LUPC meeting at SPY's much smaller facility on Lincoln and Garfield, which had to be postponed due to overwhelming neighborhood turnout.

There were passionate pleas both pro and con with regards to support of the potential development.

Here are some of the many observations from our community:

"Yes!" said a Del Rey resident.

"Hold off for a month," suggested a member of St Mark's Parrish, which borders the property.

"Yes!" says a longtime resident.

"I have no problem with SPY" said a father of a St. Mark's student. The "safety of the kids" were his concern.

"They deserve a leg up...to become productive

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members of society," urged a resident of Venice since the mid 80's who supports the project.

"I embrace Venice values of inclusiveness," said a 35 yr. old father of 2 small kids. Noting all the homeless encampments, he feels this would be a "Step in the right direction".

An ex-street person took an ominous tone, saying we "Need more studies". Another man who had previously lived on the streets warned, "Beware"... he claimed to know the type who could be a resident at this place and gives scary warnings.

"VCH always do their projects well...remember we're helping people be proud!" said an 8th generation Venetian.

A Mark Twain and Venice High graduate asks, "What about the kids who haven't had luck?"

"No! Negligence...such a project adjacent to a school! The school was there first!"

An involved and well informed neighbor who lives 5 houses away, gave a measured and mixed reaction. He has 2 young kids. His sister is a heroin addict. He's supported Homeboy...struggles to support the endeavor...he feels it's too large, asking for too many variances. "Reducing the concerns of the neighbors would do wonders". He questioned the property rights of the alley next to St. Marks, and he's against non-sober living...but acknowledged "You've done something for your neighborhood".

A 31 yr. old with 5 kids who attend St. Marks applauded the "Compassionate support", but warned of the "Lack of clarity of the risks involved and clarity...Parrish and school have lots of questions ...need open communication...we need time before recommending the project".

A homeowner in Venice for 33 years thanked the volunteers of the LUPC.

A woman sobbing in her tent caught the attention of a resident on Sunset, concerned about the conflation of poverty and criminality. She pointed out that "Luxury homes abound. And that VCH boasts of 95% retention rate- keep the housing!"

A neighbor who lives one street over is concerned about the perception that opposing people are heartless, saying, "I have compassion, but why put so many solutions to homelessness in Venice?? When does it stop? How many do we need?? It's a national crisis, shouldn't all be resolved in Venice."

A speaker who supports St Joseph's and works with the unhoused said, "We need Permanent Supportive Housing!"

Another was "Surprised that the solution is being sought near school...wants stats, reputation, to learn".

"SPY succeeds" one volunteer assured. "Their clients ...it's working for them ...with hope and love... can get over a lot of stuff and can do a lot of things you don't think."

"We have less than our share of supportive housing," reminded a woman who's lived here since 1974.

"In love with LA...proud of this community...admirer of SPY," says a new resident from S.F.

"VCH does beautiful things in neighborhood ...compassion instead of turning a blind eye," says a 35 yr. old resident.

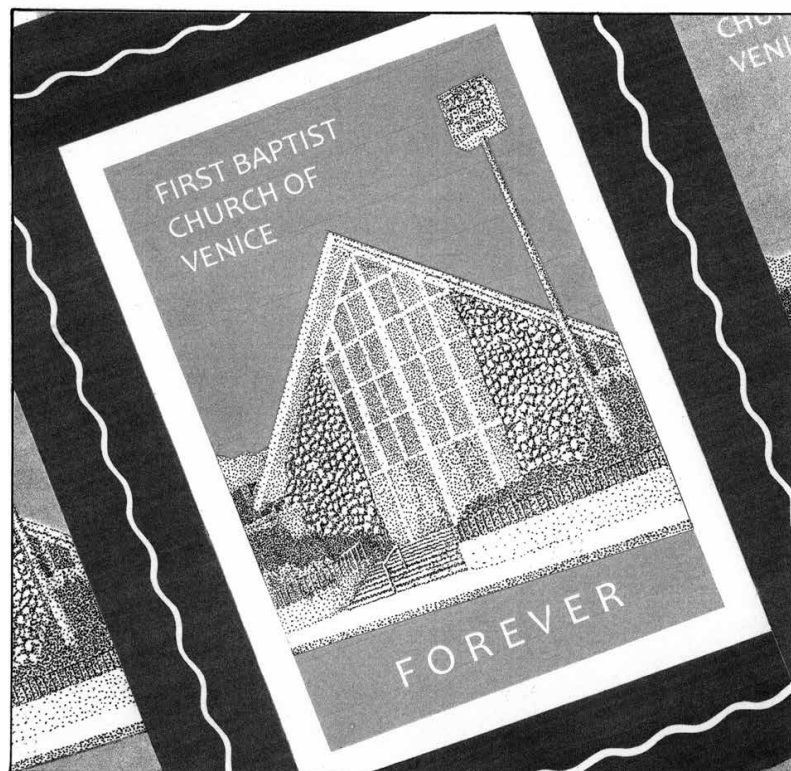
"They can do it well," said a 30 yr. old homeowner who volunteers for SPY.

Our friend and sustainer, Ed (72) says, "SPY and VCHC are doing what they can for a national crisis!"

A former Navy/artist/homeless man has been in supportive housing since 2003. "They're young and hopeless- the thought they could have shelter and a roof..."

"Won't affect homeless of Venice! No guarantees Venetians would be housed!! 9 projects in the pipelines /240 units VCH!!!"

A parent of 2 kids pleaded, "To improve quality of life in Venice we need housing without delay! ... Unsubstantiated fears! ... Studies across the country report there is NO effect on neighborhood crime! Doesn't decrease home values!!!!!"
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"I'm here representing the kids!" claimed a dad of 2 kids who go to school on Garfield (Coeur D'Alene Elementary and St. Marks.) "I understand homelessness...my heart goes out to them...respect for SPY and VCH". But at the same time, "My heart goes out to the kids in the neighborhood...concentration of housing projects in Venice...concerned for their safety...NO!...Could house so many more... somewhere else...overbuilt and too expensive ...3 schools...800 kids!"

"Proud to be member of community,"

A longtime Venice citizen tried to give us a lesson in economics. "LA tops SF for highest rent. High cost of living =supply and demand."

Allison, the proud founder and executive producer of SPY, tells us there are few resources for Venice. With gratitude and pride she points out this would be "One step closer to solutions for those suffering in abject horror". She's seen 1st hand what supportive care can do.

A volunteer speaks of SPY's "Track record...impressive...well run....good neighbors....take a tour!"

Another parent who has a kid at CDA and ST Marks, "Proven solution to homelessness".

Chase, manager of SPY's volunteers, points out, "A lot of youth have problems- drugs...alcohol... but don't fall into homelessness" (maybe have rich parents to save them??)

"Cruel and inhuman to leave the unhoused on the street"

It's "Not a question of helping or having empathy" says a homeowner. "The issues haven't been assessed properly- how much per capita- density..."

A speaker explained, "Not a lack of empathy but concerned about already existing traffic- add construction...there are parking problems now... helicopter in?" He concluded, "Square peg in a round hole...next to school...car break-ins, violence, assaults..."

"Housing is a right, not a privilege," counters the next speaker.

A Garfield resident and St. Marks substitute teacher, who works in mental health and volunteers at SPY, points out housing would bring "order/hope/love to desperate, agitated youth".

SPY is an "Investor in the solution" says a St. Marks parishioner with 4 kids who serves the homeless. He believes this would make the school safer and better saying, "I'm not here to change minds... Visit projects like this in community...I Feel more unsafe with people in tents."

"Humbled and grateful...sad for those who can't have the same things"

But, "What if you're a magnet for homeless...alley behind hotels...drugs/violence/filth".

A 50yr old woman is all for helping people, but is concerned about the height, and parking, "6 spaces is not enough...affordable housing should be built in affordable areas".

Another woman is also concerned about the height, lack of parking, "Dense neighborhood...other buildings will follow...landscape of Venice will change".

A public health researcher who's worked with Allison since they were at the Sr. Center said, "1 year later follow up Studies of the mental physical effects ... for homeless youth who gets housed- housing makes a huge difference."

"In favor...my heart breaks....somebody's sister, brother, etc..." The fear of the unknown is bewildering to her, "Open hearts...show compassion... do our share... Venice is known to be inclusive... has changed tremendously...pricey...help people on streets!"

Neighborhood Youth Association urges us to care for the safety of the schools.

One neighbor, speaking on behalf of like-minded Venetians, "Wants to help, but saying yes is irresponsible...safety of 800 kids who go to school (on Garfield)... problem!" Recounts the time a man



architectural rendering of Lincoln Apartments

wielding chain ran down Garfield. "Magnet for people like that man violence...burglary".

"Not compassionate...corruption!"

"Values...Housing crisis... victims of domestic violence...disgrace! ...richest nation falling behind".

A local architect believes the architects have created a "Well designed, thoughtful project".

"All should be part of solution"

Another homeowner with a 17 month old son, "Fully support".

"A-Okay with high density" says a member of St Marks who lives 3 blocks away. "Thrilled for it... need to move this forward...Catholic social teaching says to "Welcome a stranger."

We learned there are 2 ways to encourage affordable housing through perks: 1) Bonus incentives-greater height, density, etc...2) Bonus waivers-reduce open space, parking...

We also learned that VCHC has never sold a building. They're funded by private investment (who receive tax credits), which fuels public investment. I hope to understand the funding aspect of these projects better, since one of the main concerns is what is perceived by some to be a high cost per unit.

Shep Stern, a new member of LUPC (and a good friend of mine) wants the project to have the surrounding community's support. He spoke to neighborhood concerns include security, a roof top balcony overlooking a school, architecture, courtyard, lack of parking, 100% density increase, etc...

Becky Dennison, executive director of VCHC was clear, "VCHC is going to use density bonus...regarding parking-willing to talk...Landscaping provisions...patio stepped back..." She asked for specific suggestions and input from the community and St. Marks. Speaking to concerns that 50% of the residents wouldn't be homeless youth, but rather chronically homeless individuals for whatever reason and could have mental health issues, she responded, "People with disabilities are a protected class... VCHC can't condition residents." Perks planned for the development include a cafe, healing arts center, micro enterprise, work force, and a barista school. When asked if the Lincoln Apts. would address the needs of our local homeless population, Becky responded that within the CES, (Co-ordinated entry system-the mechanism used to choose residents) match #1 is keeping people in their home community. She reminds us that 75-80% homeless come from evictions. Regarding working with the surrounding community, Becky says, "Happy to do it...Outreach needs to go to those who are most uncomfortable... Not afraid to have difficult dialogue...Never said no...will continue to do it."

All in all, it was the most respectful and thoughtful meeting I've attended in Venice.

LUPC ended up supporting the IDEA of supportive housing, BUT feels there needs to be more community outreach and conversations. They voted on a continuance of the motion with a goal to revisit the issue at the March 12th VNC meeting (which was postponed due to the pandemic).

LUPC posted these conditions in an effort to summarize concerns of nearby residents: Hire 24 hour Security guards - with patrols on Lincoln Blvd at school starting and ending times • Install security cameras around the entire building • Supply a hotline for neighbors to call when there are problems • Have 6 month reviews with the neighborhood, so the neighborhood has a voice • Build a parking gate,

so people don't loiter in the alley • Keep surrounding sidewalks free of feces, vomit, and needles • Screen SPY clients and residents in the sex offender database • Have the main entrance on Lincoln, making sure to keep sidewalk clear • Work with Caltrans to make the crosswalk safer • Maintain contact with a community liaison • Discuss hours of operation with neighbors • Have a Sun Shadow Report done (because St. Mark's may not want a parking lot at that location in perpetuity) • Have a traffic study completed • Sign a liability waiver where VCHC would own the liability for any adverse conditions in the neighborhood, which would also extend to The Board of Directors

In an effort to get the opinion of a nearby neighbor to include in his LUPC deliberations, Shep asked me about my personal reaction to the controversial proposal. As a 26 year Venice resident, and fortunate homeowner for the past 10 yrs., who claims to embody "Venice Values" and lives catty-corner to the location, I'm all for the project. I wish we could spend less time on whether or not to do it, and more time working on solutions to the concerns of the surrounding neighborhood. Both my daughter and I have volunteered at SPY. As a single mom, I raised my daughter in a one bedroom apt whose back door was on Rialto alley. Her exposure to those less fortunate gave her worldliness and empathy. Sheltering isn't going to protect kids. And with regards to parking- we're lucky to have a driveway. I'm strongly in favor, however I do share some of the concerns of my neighbors.

"Has SPY been a good neighbor?" Shep asked. I reply, yes- but with reservations...Others on my block would say NO. There's an accusation of "NIMBY-ism" with the presentation of what I perceive to be valid concerns.

Shep asks about who the kids are who frequent SPY, and are likely to become residents of Lincoln Apartments. I've learned from Alison that some are foster kids who are "aging out", some have been abused, or ostracized from their family because they're gay, some are mentally ill, or became mentally ill from life on the street, etc... And yes, some are drifters, what we used to call, "bumming around". However, the answer to who will win the new apartments is to be found within Co-ordinated Entry System (CES), who (hopefully) will prioritize housing locals who are the most in need.

We discussed size and scale. Personally, the size and scale don't bother me. As a matter of fact, I'm hoping it will muffle traffic noise from Lincoln. However, I am a bit concerned about a complete lack of parking for the entire project, and we share concern about the lack of an Environmental Impact Report. I would like to see the entrance be on Lincoln, although the driveway SPY uses across the street from my home for drop in services doesn't bother me...Somehow it's reassuring, and so nice to see the kids hanging out before or after SPY hours. The vast majority of them are sweet, harmless, talented, and pose no threat. They are the true Venice in my book.

That being said, I'd like to see the project embrace the idea of 24 hour security. In general, I believe that if the city of LA would guarantee additional neighborhood security for every HHH PSH project, NIMBY concerns would be greatly appeased. The developers and SPY could argue that the neighborhoods would be **more safe**, not less. If NYC can have buildings with a doorman, why can't these new homes for our currently unhoused neighbors have an equivalent? In my perfect world, this person would be a liaison between SPY, the neighborhood, and the residents. They would have some expertise

in security, and be chosen for their warm and caring personality. Maybe a psychology graduate student, or a counselor-in-training (or retired), who's studied martial arts. The average annual pay for the job of a doorman in California seems to be around \$15 per hour, or \$31715 a year. Salaries could be subsidized by the government or a private angel supplied by SPY or VCH, or even the neighborhood. Both the neighbors and residents could sleep well, knowing we all are committed to making Venice our home.

Lincoln Apartments Follow Up by Lisa Robins

edited by Eric Ahlberg

After community outreach by Venice Community Housing (VCH), its Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) voted again on Lincoln Apartments, VCH's proposed 100% Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development at 2469-2471 Lincoln Blvd, on May 14. Three voted against, 2 in favor, 1 abstained. The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) voted unanimously against the development at their May 28 meeting (which went until 1 a.m.), taking into account rejection of the project by St. Marks, the Archdiocese of LA, and many of the residents in the surrounding neighborhood. Supporters of Safe Place for Youth (SPY) and VCH gave support to the project, along with the concept of housing the homeless in general, which all could agree on.

The LA City Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the project on May 28. Once again there were passionate voices for and against the project. The conclusions of the VNC, LUPC, and the surrounding neighbors were dismissed as "NIM-BYism" (Not In My Backyard), although the council admitted that the proximity to the school and some neighbors' ongoing issues with Safe Place for Youth (SPY) made it unusual. Some expressed concern about the lack of support by the VNC and the fact that our LA City Councilman, Mike Bonin, did not weigh in on the issue, (at least not publicly). I've contacted Bonin's Venice Field Deputy, Nisa Cove, for comment, but have received no response to date.

During the public comments portion of the Council meeting, I attempted to voice my support for the project. I introduced myself as a nearby neighbor who has supported VCH and SPY for years by writing articles and volunteering. I also felt a need to address some concerns. The prospect of a new 40-unit development represents a big change for the neighborhood no matter who the residents are. When I shared my first point I was muted and labeled as someone who was against the project, despite my longstanding passion for alleviating homelessness.

It was hard for me to fathom that they wouldn't include perspective from someone who lives four houses from the location, and who wants the project to succeed, but has concerns-concerns also raised by several of the Council Members. I'm didn't realize that for commission hearings you need to be for or against-it's not the time to negotiate consent decrees.

Although VCH has met with the surrounding community and made many accommodations, there is still substantial concern with regards to Lincoln Apartments. I'm attempting to separate issues that would be impossible to satisfy (such as cost, general fear of homeless people living in the neighborhood and fear of property value loss), with concerns that are more specific to this location. Here are some issues I discussed with Becky Dennison, executive director of Venice Community Housing (VCH). Please note that the following is not meant to be a comprehensive reporting of the pros and cons of the proposed development.

Security- In the city hearing, Becky remarked, "There's been an avalanche of concern". She responded, "There will be robust security". I believe that specifics on what security would look like could help allay concerns of those who live nearby, or have children who attend the adjacent schools, as well as the formerly homeless residents. An awake, alert, staff member trained in peaceful conflict resolution available 24 hours a day should be a stipulation. Not an armed security guard as a symbol of law and order, but rather someone available to diffuse any potential problems watching over the residents and neighborhood. I've learned that this would be a violation of Fair Housing Rules. There's been talk of increased security at school start and

end times, but I would think the problem time could be anytime, especially at night. I asked Becky about the issue, "Is the overnight security a resident manager? Security cameras? Or someone on staff?" She responded, "Most staff will work across two shifts - day and swing shift. (6pm-12). However, the resident manager, cameras, lighting, and entrance/exit alarms will provide overnight security. The site monitor also works varied hours, depending on the specific needs of each building, and these sometimes include late night or early morning hours."

Parking- Becky tells us 100% PSH developments are exempt from the requirement for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or parking, and most homeless people don't own cars. My opinion is that forty units with a minimum of 43 and maximum of 98 residents, a resident manager, case workers, and staff in an already traffic dense corridor, along with increased SPY services, with only 6 parking spaces (specifically for SPY employees), will have an impact on the surrounding community, I believe even 10 additional parking spaces would be helpful.

Significant neighborhood opposition- I've observed that most people who live within the 500ft. radius have spoken out against the project. I plan to do a more thorough poll and find out where the silent neighbors stand. Perhaps with some assurances, and correction of misinformation, more neighbors could be convinced to support the plan.

Proximity to schools- The sharing of an actual border with St. Mark's School, along with a balcony overlooking the playground is a concern. VCH has made design changes. I asked Becky, "Are you saying the foliage will block the view to the school?" Becky responded, "Both the landscaping, and the distance from the wall of the roof deck to the access area, block views. On any rooftop, the further away you are from the wall, the less you can see straight down and more you see straight out." It's still unclear to me whether the balcony will have a view of the kids' playground, which is the parents' concern.

Who will our new neighbors be? The Coordinated Entry System (CES) chooses. "We use strategic prioritization to ensure that people are connected to housing and services appropriate to their needs and eligibility, and to match those with the greatest needs to limited resources."

<https://www.lahsa.org/ces/about> If we could have some idea of what the vetting process is, it might allay concerns. I asked Becky, "Can you give us any idea how our new neighbors might be chosen? Specifically?" Becky responded, "We can't project who the neighbors will be, beyond the fact they will be young adults, adults, and families with children who have experienced homelessness and will be selected through the CES wait lists for each group."

"Are the apts. subsidized, and when residents begin to earn more they would just pay more of their share of the rent?" Becky responded, "The apartments will be subsidized and yes, rent is based on 30% of income and it goes up or down as income goes up and down."

Back to Security -FBV shows a fear inducing list tracking all LAPD and LAFD 911 responses over two years (from January 1, 2018 to February 25, 2020) to the VCH development at 13368 Beech St. (recordsrequest.lacity.org) It shows 129 calls to the 20 unit VCH development, compared with 11 calls to a non-PSH 28 unit nearby development. I've seen the police blotter, but haven't researched it fully yet. These stats frighten neighbors. The Beachhead is beginning to deconstruct these claims, and I plan to give a more full report next month. Eric Ahlberg, from the Beachhead, reported that although FBV has produced a list of 51 police calls, only 7 show arrests, and the disposition of those is not shown, they might have been released. I asked Becky if she could respond to the stats. Becky responded, "In general, 911 calls do not mean a crime has occurred, or even that a crime was reported. At Beach, there are paramedic calls, for example for people with compromised health. Of course there will be challenges that occur from time to time, there always are in any multi-family building and/or in any community and/or with people of all incomes that face challenges with behavioral health. But they won't be unmanageable, and we will work through them together. As we have for the past 32 years in this community. I have also asked Fight Back Venice

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to substantiate their claims with documentation and they have not responded."

NEXT STEPS-The neighbors who are against the project plan to appeal. In any case, if the Lincoln Apartments development does move forward, (as it appears it will), I plan to be on the front lines as a liaison between concerned neighbors, Safe Place for Youth, and Venice Community Housing. I have a fantasy that we could bring back some old school Venice music parties in this location. Local artists would lend their talents. Neighbors mixed with SPY with Lincoln Apt residents all dancing together..."You may say I'm a dreamer..."I hope all parties will operate in good faith, and take the concerns of each other to heart.

My hope is that both sides reading this will better understand what is What would make a community feel safe and excited about the prospect of hosting a community for the homeless??

Parking - continued from page 1

Snapshot Partners LLC yet EVERYONE says Snap Inc controls the LLC and an article in LA Business Journal from June 2016 titled "Snapped Up" refers to this also.

The building has held back parking for years, even before Snapshot Partners took over in 2016. Many residents complained they've been on a list for over 15 years, while somehow new Snapchat employees were seen parking there literally overnight in 2017. Not only did they refuse parking for residents through Lincoln Property Management, but they in turn forced out long-time Venice architecture firm Jerde from the 2nd floor to move downtown, and then intentionally ended the leases of all the storefronts including the world-famous The Freak Show. That was over 3 years ago and The Freak Show is still homeless to this day. To make it worse, in the second biggest tourist attraction in California, all the storefronts have remained empty for over 3 years now except for a Starbucks they allowed in as a retail tenant in December of 2018. To add insult to injury, their sole tenant Starbucks, has made it hell for nearby neighbors with their noisy early-morning delivery trucks constantly waking up neighbors as detailed in the Beachhead article from December 2019 titled, "Illegal Starbucks delivery trucks reinforce need for ordinance against national chain stores on Ocean Front Walk.". This problem was finally only put to an end after the residents threatened a class action lawsuit and attention from the press, and then it literally stopped overnight after a year of nightly disturbances.

Snapchat finally decided to move out of all their buildings to Santa Monica throughout the year of 2017. After stating they'd still use a few buildings to keep a footprint in Venice, their employees have completely vacated and their former offices are now only used as storage units presumably until their many leases end. Since they've left, the offices on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the ex-Freak Show building have been vacant for over 2 years and the only storefront tenant they've allowed has been the Starbucks on the south end of the building. The underground parking has mostly been available to tourists during the daytime hours with fluctuating daily prices.

Recently, on Dec. 12, 2019, Snapchat Partners LLC applied for a permit from the California Coastal Commission (CCC A-62-81-A1) to construct a rooftop deck, interior improvements, and modify the parking. The virtual hearing was held on May 14th and was attended by Snapshot Partners LLC agent Brian Silveira. Former City Councilwoman candidate Robin Rudisill and I spoke during Public Comment and discussed our concerns. We spoke about the building owners being bad neighbors from having empty storefronts for over 3 years, delivery trucks waking up neighbors in the A.M. hours prompting LAPD to get involved, their many years of violations of not leasing parking spaces to nearby residents, and we asked the questions how this was prompted, how the rooftop is intended to be used, and how the parking will be enforced going forward. Our comments and questions prompted a long discussion (probably 25-30 minutes) within



photo by Ned Sloane

For Venice BeachHead:

Our beloved Andrea Wittenberg died April 22nd, from cancer. A talented artist whose paintings were shown at the Sponto Gallery, T.A.G. and the Lubner Studios where she had a studio herself, a former artist's model and NYC taxi driver, she was raised in New York but adopted Venice as her home in 1974 and seldom left. Gorgeous, game and generous, a loyal friend to many, she supported all things Venetian, especially the artistic, fun and progressive. Andrea lives, at: forevermissed.com/andrea-wittenberg.

... She was beautiful, dressed like the elegant hippy she is, and with that bounteous décolletage! Stylish, wry, cultured, and always at the swingin'est Sponto and other art events, she was always a delight to see... Suzy Williams

... Wicked sense of humor... Ron Birnbach

... She knew how to bathe in the richness of life... Sally Maslon

... Hi Andrea. ... I know you can hear me. You can't see my wet eyes or my trembling chin... You were big in my life... Let's talk again... Larry Villarin

... such a wonderful spirit and always so much fun... Dayna Harary

...Andrea said to me, Do ya want a piece of gum? Here! Take 10. ... Rest in peace... I'll say Kaddish. Ron Grun

... I can see her beautiful smile and how she carried herself - a lovely, put together, intelligent, gifted Classy Lady! Carol Mullins

... Thank you, Andrea, for your friendship, your witty intelligence and your noble soul... Maurizia Dalla Volta

Andrea Love Lives, thanks for sharing your art and laughtears,...

We die with the dying

See, they depart,

And we go with them

See, they return

And bring us with them. (- T. S. Eliot)

... Gerry Fialka and Suzy Williams



paintings by Andrea Wittenberg



Venice businesses got a quick BLM makeover, before the potential looters arrived. We must admit that we like it that Jules Muck is doing some relevant artwork, even if it is intended as riot insurance. Photos by Greta Cobar





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Chaka Foreman continued from page 3

circles and we look at each other and we talk to each other and we don't always agree but we agreed to talk to each other. I'm gonna give you a little piece of love right now. We are a resilient people make-no mistakes about it sister. We have resisted from the beginning of Time. we resisted on the shores of Africa. We resisted at st. Claire, look it up. We resisted at Little Bighorn, we resisted at the Stono River, we resisted with Shaka Zulu, we resisted with Nat Turner, Carlotta Wells, Malcolm X, Ella Baker, Harriet Tubman, and a whole bunch of other names and nobody knows who they Are. We have a history of resilience and we will continue it.

I said in the beginning that the youth is going to bring us to a new place, that they are our salvation, they are going to write a new story, that is centered around our oneness, our deep desire to be in healthy relationships with each other, with our environment, and with the world. As I have walked the streets the last ten days, I am blown away by the collective strength of Generation Z, It's the last alphabet, it's the last letter in the alphabet because the gig is over with generation Z.

[Applause]

They don't need to put their glasses on to see the foam the gig is over. They have taken this tragedy and turned in an opportunity to speak on everything that sickens our country and a lot of things sick in our country although a lot of us are very very comfortable our country is Sick. Racism, sexism, classism, gender inequalities, homophobia, xenophobia, religious tolerance, and any other phobia that you can think of these kids is standing up. I'm almost done. Let us not forget it was not their choices that got us to where we are, but it will be their decisions that take us to a kinder gentler, a return to the world as it was before it was, a more compassionate tolerant and loving world, the American dream as it was meant to be. Make no mistake about it these kids they're out here talk about revolution. They're talking about dismantling the systems that are embedded in the American story and create the systems that are creating our suffering and the students will be the leaders.

[Applause]

So I have hope. I will leave with hope. I will leave with hope that all of y'all in this crowd will walk away from here and look each other in the eyes, look me in the eye, when I am walking down the Street, and we will continue to peel back the layers and layers that are suffocating our humanity. We will get to the worms and the rotten rind and we will together expose the new story, the story of love. I love you George Floyd I love you. I love you Brianna Taylor, I love you sis. I love you

Eric Garner, I love you Trayvon Martin, I love you Pedro Villanueva, I love you Latasha Harlins, I love you a Ahmaud Arbery, I love you black people. I love you brown people. I love you red people. I love you poor people. I love you people. I love all y'all!

[Applause]

Racist roots from rotten fruit. So I need everybody here to leave dig it up and plant some new stuff. Now is the time, after these dudes get arrested and after they get convicted the unraveling will take a long time. Let us not stop until we see the fruits of our digging. Let us not stop until we get it right we are.

America we are America!

Let's go and get it right!

[Applause]

one love one love one love one love one

love one love just one love just one

kind of love love is out

[Applause]

Boogaloo Up Da Boardwalk

by Gerry Fialka

The Venice California Boardwalk is fertile ground for extraordinary street musicians. In my four decades here, I have been fortunate to experience captivating music of all kinds. Since the lockdown, there's been a courageous few that share their talents.

Roots-rocker Dale Rogers has been playing music on the Venice Boardwalk all along. He told me, "I keep the candle on till everybody gets home." Please support this spirited troubadour. Join his fans. Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Lourdes Leon (Madonna's daughter), and Philip Seymour Hoffman have all dropped \$20 in his tip jar. Dale's history is rich. At age 18, he invited Janis Joplin to a party. She responded, "Get away from me, kid, you bother me." In his early 30's, Dale hung with Miles Davis backstage. He even bought his daughter a Fisher-Price PXL2000 Toy video camera in the 80's. The PXL THIS Film Festival has featured Dale, Sunny War, Joe Nucci, and other wonderful Venice street musicians in its 3 decades. Dale has contributed his passionate music to my events over the years. His spirited sonics always come on strong.

James Puton is still providing Rock'n'Roll, Jazz, Cabaret, Punk, Metal, Electronic, Funk sounds on the Boardwalk. His one-man-band, Jimmy Pusher & The Pocket Operators, play hypnotic grooves as the viral & virtual worlds turn. From day one of lockdown, Jimmy's aspirations to bring truth and give people hope have purred. . . with no tip jar, because he is too lazy to carry one. James invents mythological scenarios like GOG (Gangster forms Of the Galaxy) with Cornelius Diamond Afro, the lawyer recruiting burlesque dancers. Jimmy's story evokes Bob Dylan (who just turned 79), quipping, "Life isn't about finding yourself. Or finding anything. Life is about creating your self. And creating things."

Very few have really been able to play on the Boardwalk during the pandemic lockdown. SunSingStar, the roots-bluesman, bravely ventured out and got down with his bad self. These are cautionary times. I yearn for the past. I have encountered so many new wonders on the Boardwalk. Marc ThunderHead, the amazing one-armed-guitarist, blew me away just pre-virus.

I hunger for the good ol'daze when Slavin' David held boogie lessons for Joy Rippel and company. Starla, Uncle Bill Crawford, Butch Mudbone, Joseph Baruch, Miss Daisy, Barry The Lion, Billy Harris, Edwing Sankey, Ted Hawkins, Elton & Betty, Wadada, Jingles, Dr. Geek, Abraham's Drum Orchestra (with Paul Carey, Slim & crew), Carlos Guitarlos, Jack Sheldon, Nathan, Solomon Snake-man, Eddy LaGrossa, Greg Cruz, Petr Hronadko, Wes Parker, Eddie Zarate, Biff, Vinnie Digaetano, and the Italian accordion player (name?) have touched our souls deeply. King Sonny Zorro took us to other harmonic planets. Brad Kay performed with The Mystic Knights of Oingo Boingo who conjured a Cab Calloway glee club on acid. The "Hardest Working Musician in Town" Peter Demian wanted to file a lawsuit for loss of wages against one of the Venice greatest activist because they called the cops every day to complain of "noise." Get over it 'cause "music heals." As we hunker, we hanker for the return of the life-affirming Peter Demian, his talented son, Hailey Demian, and infectious music-makers new and old.

I have been lucky to encounter famous musicians on the Boardwalk including Steven Tyler, Weird Al Yankovic, Vernon Reid, Jack White, Philip Glass and more. They were strolling, but a touching memory of an infamous icon actually playing was Buzzy Linhart, who headed to heaven Feb 13, 2020. Many years ago, I rode my bike up to him as he strummed guitar on the Boardwalk. I said, "Buzzy, I saw you at My Father's Place in NY with Buck Dharma from Blue Oyster Cult, and ya'll were the loudest bar band I ever heard." He bent down to the volume knob on his Pignose amp, and said "I'll turn up." Watch the documentary of Buzzy on Youtube. He was truly a joyous siren of life and music.

Buzzy played vibes on Jimi Hendrix's Cry Of Love album, and co-wrote the anthem song "You Got to Have Friends." Bette Midler and Barry Manilow

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made money rejoicing that tune, and the mob owned the publishing rights. Buzzy was homeless in Venice. It saddened me they could not kick back some money to help him. When Nancy Sinatra was asked, "When did the mob enter the music biz?" She allegedly responded, "Honey, they invented the music business."

Who invented street performing? Busking dates back to antiquity. The word "busker" comes from the Spanish root word "buscar," meaning to seek. Benjamin Franklin, Josephine Baker, Rod Stewart and Marc Bolan were all buskers. Who was the first Venice Boardwalk musician? I know that it does not matter, but it is fun to speculate.

Reimagine new wording for these maxims: "All art aspires to the condition of music" - Walter Pater. "Music is the Mother art" - Frank Lloyd Wright. "The best music does not want to be recorded" -Tom Waits. Boardwalk flutist Freaky Fred Koerner emphasized to me personally that live music is our lifeblood, and not just a leisure activity.

Billy Vera told me that Charlie Christian and T-Bone Walker were street musicians in Dallas and shared one guitar. Imagine two of the most influential guitar slingers of all time starting on the street. Sidewalk hipster PK Dwyer ripped up the Boardwalk three decades ago with his Woody Guthrie-meets-Dan-Hicks ballsy balladry. His witty line echoes: "I went to the same college as Woody Guthrie, 'Folk You.'"

Stories abound. When the virus first started, virtuosic guitarist Michael Jost was walking on the beach after one of his mind-blowing RadioVenice.tv 4:20 Sunday podcasts. The cops came up to him in their car. He expected a hassle and, instead, they said, "Great show today, Michael."

Bob Dylan's "Mr. Tamborine Man" Bruce Langhorne lead us, after Katrina, in a weekly N'Orleans marching band parade to raise funds for people in need. Flip "Make levees, not war" into "Mask It Or Casket." The first hippie Eden Abhez lived at the Boardwalk and Sunset. His song "Nature Boy" was Nat King Cole's signature hit, and celebrates the Venice spirit with this lyric, "The greatest thing you'll ever learn, Is just to love and be loved in return."

Being from Michigan, I acknowledge my roots in revolutionary rock'n'roll like the MC5, who belted "Love is like a Ramblin' Rose. The more you feed it, The more it grows" and Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, who crooned, "I'm lost in the ozone again." For many years, I have dug the liveliness between Rose and Ozone on the Boardwalk with the always astounding maestro Al Robinson and his killer ensembles, featuring the likes of Benny B's euphoric guitar and Steve-Oh's solid bass. They are itching to return to their home base.

Just a block away, the Cheetah Club hosted every major rock group in the 60's. Marty Liboff has documented its essential history in these BeachHead pages. Venice breeds important music . . . now and then . . . Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Jelly Roll Morton, Jesse Ed Davis, Harry Partch, Sara "Sally Piano" Messenger and Alfred Johnson, who wrote 3 songs on Rickie Lee Jones' first album and only got credited for two of them. Captain Beefheart met Lenny Bruce in a Venice pagoda.

Sorry if I did not include you or your favorites, please forgive me. Check out VirtualVenice.info for a comprehensive list. Rsvp to Gerry at pfsuzy@aol.com, 310-306-7330 for an upcoming zoom video chat sessions on Venice Street Musicians, and other topics, too.

I've even ventured out with my bands Black Shoe Polish (aka BSP), The Cardboards and Puke & Liar, who were once pelted with potatoes. BSP featured Dougo Smith, the preeminent Venice artist of all time. He played Hymie, the Puerto Rican Jimi Hendrix, at the Venice Street Festival in the 80's. His performances on the Venice Boardwalk are beyond verbal description. He induces laughtears that transcend all space and time. He extends the Father-Guido-Sarducci-singing-the-Beatles-medley to eternity and beyond. Dougo has sung every bebop song by Charles "YardBird" Parker to me personally with righteous rascality. Dougo ephiphanized that Thelonious Monk heard all the notes Bird heard,

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Being Change
by Alan Rodman

May 22, 2020 "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change."

- Gandhi

"To become the change we wish to see in our world" -- I was reading while in isolation recently, while under the stay at home order, when I found with pleasure that one timely bit of wisdom has often been attributed to India's Mahatma Gandhi, while today we can also discover that this famous idea has now reentered our modern popular conversation, mainly because a disenchanted Bronx high school teacher had once listened to her own wise dream.

It seems to me now that all our expressed thoughts or ideas are something like colors or musical notes, that must all be seen or heard again and again in every new harmonious context, until these notes or hues of color resolve for us into greater meaning. It appears to me that our conscience, our self awareness, is finally the sum of our own noticing, through our choices, that we are each part of this meaning and change, intelligence and light. All that is perhaps what lives on, growing free to persist, even beyond our personal body or lifetime, in the forms of all language and music.

So I was curious to look at various restatements of this old wisdom about choice and change, which in recent years has been expressed newly as practical advice to a troubled teacher.

Mahatma Gandhi, in writings from 1913, recommends being the change you wish to see in others:

"We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do."

The recurring thought of "being change" seems to indicate to me the truth which lives beyond the structures of words that support it.

I became curious about the one idea restated by many -- that we, ourselves, can choose to be the change we wish to see in others. I then found that a number of writers already explored these sort of thoughts on self actualization. I am happy about learning from their writings -- spending some time alone with my own higher nature because of them.

Why don't we all agree? I sure do wish you would all wear a mask and cover your cough. I will. Which news source do you believe? We can save a life. Some will help while others won't.

We know others don't always live up to our standards and when they fail us, we often see it as a personal slight. We may feel such annoyance, because perhaps we came to believe we never would have acted that way, after all we have personally gone through.

But perhaps I only injure myself more if still I'm judging those who may not yet have come through what I have. Perhaps I even have yet to learn what they have already come to be able to see. From a perspective of non-harming and personal responsibility, it seems more in my power to just change myself -- to only first redirect myself.

It seems my responsibility first to set myself straight, before I get all exercised about my disappointment in other people. I must trust myself first to let go of controlling ideas, just as I must allow others to choose for themselves to grow and love (and perhaps also vote) responsibly.

To ever seek or find our personal peace, we have long been advised by the wise to resort to inward reflection -- employing our own most universal and functional organ of insight and simplification, which is perhaps always shining as our individual conscience.

The inner eye revealing our path may be best opened by our own awakening.

In 1974, educator Arleen Lorrance described her

unhappiness while employed at a high school in Brooklyn, New York. Her book chapter was titled "The Love Project." Lorrance was initiator and facilitator of the project.

"For seven years I served my sentence and marked off individual time; I complained, cried, accepted hopelessness, put down the rest of the faculty for all the things they didn't do, and devoted all my energies to trying to change others and the system..."

Lorrance's approach altered radically after remembering her own mysterious dream, gaining her a crucial insight about desired change:

"It came in on me loud and clear that I was the only one who could imprison (or release) me, that I was the only one I could do anything about changing. So I let go of my anger and negativism and made a decision to simply be totally loving, open and vulnerable all the time."

Her friend, Diane Kennedy Pike, described it as "a new way of life based on six principles that Lorrance received in a dream when she was a teacher in a high school in The Bronx."

In 1976, Pike published "Life is Victorious! How to Grow through Grief," which included this list of her friend Lorrance's six dream principles:

Receive all people as beautiful exactly where they are.

Perceive problems as opportunities.

Be the change you want to see happen instead of trying to change everyone else.

Provide others with the opportunity to give.

Consciously create your own reality.

Have no expectations but, rather, abundant expectancy

By listing these principles,

Lorrance seemed to urge us to call on our dreams of hope and abundance. She offers just what many others have taught before her: One truth is spoken in many various languages.

One whole universe of stars reflects in every dew-drop and every tear, whether in the eye of sorrow or awe. We are not alone in our observation of the ineffable greatness of a dawning sky, and we are in good company when we wonder what is really our place here. The big canopy of galaxies and possibility reminds all to take this very moment to consider our individual relation with the totality of worlds; we once again find ourselves in the center of all activity even as the worlds turn without our conscious effort. Yet choice is ours. Our own nature and intelligence may simply reflect the larger nature of all.

We shall all shine like the sun. I want to plant another hopeful seed for worlds of happiness, in each moment I willingly begin to choose to be the change.

Tenants Union and FBCV continued from page 1 of people. That's important to the struggle because it shows the disregard for the greater good of the community in favor of what a few people want for themselves. If this church gets lost, it will no longer be there for everyone else. It will affect what people believe a community can be. If you walk from the park to your house, the beach, school, or work and you see people you know coming out of the church, then that's your community.

JW: Did the photo display that was at the site of the church on Saturday bring people to a better understanding of the history of the community and the church?

EP: Absolutely. We see the struggles against oppression. We recognize that this is something that has been going on for a long time rather than just a one-off case. A lot of the violence against different kinds of people has been going on for a long time. Seeing the history and understanding what Venice was, and how we got to this moment, shows that it's not just this one particular moment. We're under a moment of difficult politics not because of a one-off thing. When you look at the photographs, when you read the information, and when you listen to the Venice Elders talk about Venice history, you understand that there are problems just like this that have been going on for a long time in Venice. And there are people who have been fighting and winning who would feel great pain if we lose the church.

For more information go to: savevenice.ca

Parking- continued from page 5

the many commissioners who then asked many questions of their own. Turns out Snapshot Partners LLC applied for the rooftop modification and then the Coastal Commission said the reported violations need to be resolved before any modifications can be made. Silveira said they only plan to use the 5,355 sq. ft rooftop for office employees down-time and nothing else: No parties, no sub-leasing for parties, no pop-up bars or restaurants, etc. This obviously raised some concerns among the Commission especially after I mentioned their amazing views already in place from the massive wrap-around balconies, in addition to the fact there are currently no office employees that currently work there at all who could've possibly even requested this improvement. It certainly seemed as if something was being omitted in their plans.

The Commission then asked many questions about the parking and how it would be enforced. It was concluded that no system is flawless, but they do plan to keep eyes on this property and enforce it as much as possible. It was approved 10-2 and judging by their comments, the two commissioners that voted against the motion seemed like they only did so because of Snapshot's shady past and the distrust with their rooftop plans. Unfortunately, this motion had both the rooftop modifications and parking on the same agenda item and it was either all or nothing, so thankfully the parking has been rectified.

This is just one of a long list of issues that Venice is still dealing with after Snapchat's tornado-like and inconsiderate arrival from only a few years ago. Not only did they displace beloved businesses and the people within them, but they left empty storefronts and empty offices vacant which were all viable and important assets to the community before they arrived. Not to mention they invited in a Starbucks -- one of only 3 national chain stores on the entire walkway. The Venice Dogz protested the arrival of Starbucks twice in 2019 and are still pushing the City to put in an ordinance to limit the number of national chains on Ocean Front Walk. Not to mention, Thornton Lofts is another huge parking area on the walkway that Snapchat took away from residents who were parking there for years. Those residents are still parking on the street to this day.

Developers in Venice in recent years have done nothing but put up a middle finger to the residents and community, and if there's any building or company that has put up the biggest middle finger and has been the epitome of what's wrong with "Silicon Beach" it's Snapshot Partners LLC at 909-913 Ocean Front Walk. Unless you're a fan of Starbucks instead of our local Groundworks Coffee, there's literally not one positive thing Snapshot Partners LLC has done for the residents, the community, the tourists or the City. If anything, it's been the complete opposite.

Thankfully, in addition to the 41 spaces that are now available on a monthly lease, they also are supposed to post signs and even offer the first 2 hours free for the general public. It doesn't erase previous actions, but it's a start. Could Snapshot finally be doing their part in giving back to the community? Even though "giving back" something that was taken away illegally is hardly the sign of a good neighbor, hopefully it's the start of better things to come from the biggest and most prominent building on our famous Ocean Front Walk.

Anyone that needs a monthly parking space is encouraged to inquire at Lincoln Property Management at (310)393-4848. If you're told "We'll put your name on a list" or have any other issues, please contact the Venice Dogz at veniceactivists@gmail.com.

Dream Late by Rufus T. Firefly

I had a dream that a Groucho Marxist was walking down Abbott Kinney Blvd with a chainsaw drilling big holes in the plywood. The yuppie scum owners of the vanity-ass-stores were trembling inside their capitalistic caves. Suddenly they had transformations, and crawled out into the salvation sunshine of secular humanism. They cast aside the evils of consumerism culture. They were redeemed. Reverend Billy of the Church of Stop Shopping blessed them with sacred holy water. The revolution was Venicized.

December 4, 2014

BEYOND.CLOSED.ORG

MANY BELOW ARE CLOSED CALL FIRST

Ongoing Events
COMPUTERS

• Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free Printing of homework for K-12 students.

FOOD

- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Sunset.
- 5-7pm, Wednesdays, Free Organic Vegetables Giveaway. The Learning Garden 2426 Walgrove Ave

KIDS

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

MUSIC

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

YOGA AND DANCE

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

Events are subject to change, please check with the sponsor and let us know if changes have been made.

Location Guide

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

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

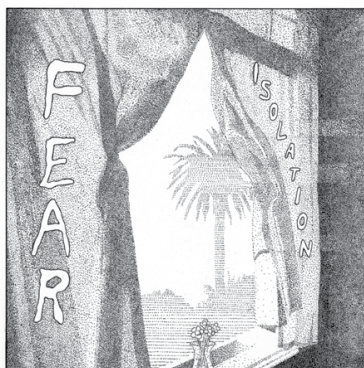
Join in fun zoom video chat discussions. LZS (Laughtears Zoomin' Salons) probes the hidden effects of human inventions, like the "mess," and how to cope. Call Gerry 310-306-7330 or email pfusyz@aol.com.

"The confusion is not my invention...It is all around us and our only chance is to let it in. The only chance of renovation is to open our eyes and see the mess." - Samuel Beckett.

"It's crazy how you can get yourself in a mess sometimes and not even be able to think about it with any sense and yet not be able to think about anything else." - Stanley Kubrick.

"I think art is about tidying up, really. To tidy up, you've got to make a mess." - Martin Sharp.

"Ain't this boogie a mess" - Frank Zappa.

DO YOU NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE
REGARDING YOUR HOUSING?

Receive FREE legal help on the
third Saturday of each month.

Upcoming Dates:
Oct. 20
Nov. 17
Dec. 15

10:00a - 12:00p at Venice Community Housing
720 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291



If you have any questions, please contact the California Women's Law Center at (323) 951-1041 or info@cwlc.org



WANT TO GET ORGANIZED?

OFFICE HOURS

FOR NEW LATU MEMBERS

¿QUIERES ORGANIZARTÉ?

HORARIO DE OFICINA

PARA MIEMBROS NUEVOS DEL SILA

APRIL 2020
12:00-1:00 PM
outreach@latenantsunion.org



Boogaloo conigned from page 7
but only decided to play some of them. That insight inspires me. Nothing but the hoodang in me!

Strolling down to the Boardwalk evokes the Jesse James lyrics for the The Fantastic Johnny Corley '67 song:

So get your partner, get in line,
We're gonna have ourselves a heck of a time.
Baby, oh baby, Boogaloo down Broadway
All day long we're gonna Boogaloo.
But when the sweat begins to fill the air,
We're gonna funky Broadway everywhere.
Join the clarion call into more sing-alongs like,
Function at the junction . . .
Hi-de-ho, Choo Choo Ch'boogie . . .
Singa shing-a-linga . . .
Oolla malla walla dalla . . .
Great googly-moogly . . .
Wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-wop-bam-boom . . .
Rock and roll, Hoochie Koo
Truck on out and spread the news

"So here I am, my people, saying Space Is The Place, while nations around you fight for a place in space. I want to open up to you the regions of the eternal, immeasurable and endless, so you may have a better way of life than you have ever known." - Sun Ra, the jazz shaman who promoted music as being rocket fuel for the present cosmos and future explorations.

Let's flip the pandemic lockdown into pundemic funky get-ups. Let's celebrate our community as a way of dancing the exuberance of being through music on the Venice Boardwalk.

On Tuesday June 2, 2020, I spent two hours engulfed in the engrossing Venice Black Lives Matter March. I protested the Vietnam war in Washington DC in the Sixties. This retrieved the riveting spirit of the communal chorus of protest. Chanting on the street has always been an avenue for in-your-face communication. I thank all of the activists who amplify our people power.

Black Lives Matter!

Say his name,

George Floyd.

I Can't Breathe.

Say her name,

Breonna Taylor.

Hand Up, Don't Shoot.

Convict all four.

No Justice, No Peace! No Justice, No Peace!

Rooted in The Ecstatic Beats of the 1950s, the Blessed Out Students of the 1960s, the Anarchist Yippies of the 1970s, the Cyberpunks of the 1980s, the Hackers & Ravers of the 1990s, the Post Information Hipsters & ParaMediaEcologists of the 2000s, and the Occupiers & Millennial Matrix Dot Commies of the 2010s, the 2020s continue strong with Anarcho-Post-Post-Millennials birthing group morality.



David Healy Photographs Venice Musicians.

