

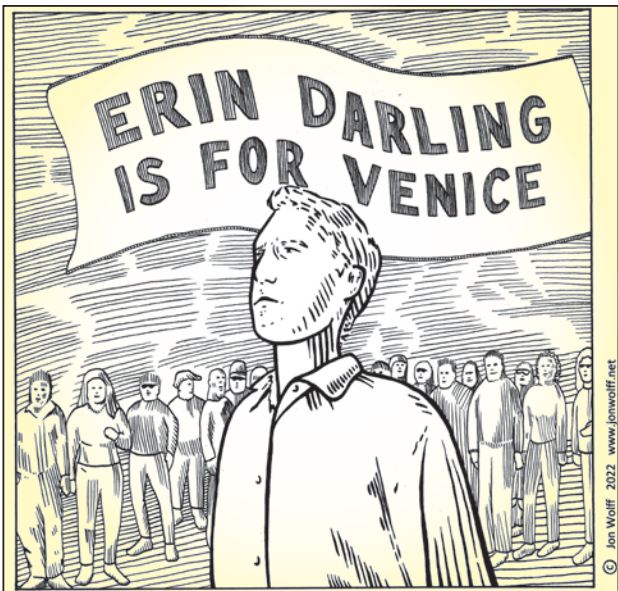
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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

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June 2022 #472



Erin Darling The Best Candidate for CD11

by Eileen Archibald

Erin Darling, a lifelong Venice resident is the best candidate for City Council, CD11, with progressive philosophies covering priorities to address homelessness, gentrification, fight for renters, and climate change. An effective negotiator, he listens astutely, has a team approach and presents solutions.

LA Times endorses Erin, “he would be one of the most informed and determined advocates on the city council for renters.” Mike Bonin noted other candidates have not addressed issues renters are faced with, despite 50% Of district residents being renters. As a Civil Rights Attorney who has focused on many wide range issues, halting evictions, representing BLM activists, people harmed by sheriff’s deputies, Erin has the expert skill set and moral compass to manage CD11. LA Times noted candidate fundraising on May 28, 2022, here are some of the highlights: Park had almost \$39000.00 by third week of May, currently up to 801000.00. The

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Meet Musical Genius and Local Treasure: Stanley Behrens, Harmonica Playing Legend

By Enyaj Pitchford

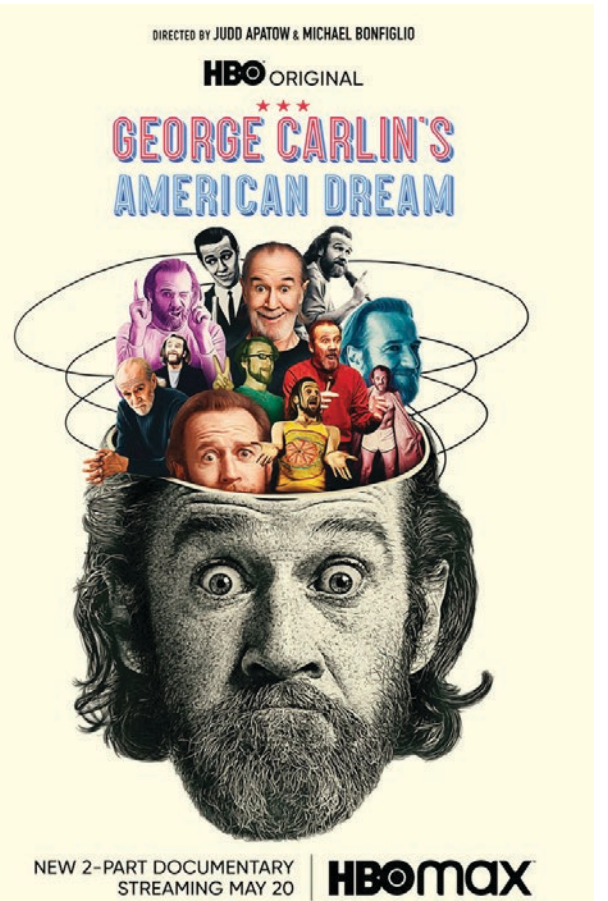
It was one of our magnificent late afternoon sunny days, with a light breeze from the ocean, when I sat to shoot the breeze with the outstanding harmonica player Stanley Behrens. Stanley is from Bronx, NY. He learned harmonica as a little kid playing old Stephan Foster songs. In winter time, his family would drive down to Florida. It was on the car radio he started hearing country and blues music, while passing through the Southern states. When he heard the bands playing harmonica, he was amazed to hear notes and tones he had never heard before. Notes he couldn’t get. He wondered how they did that, and that set him out on a journey for a lifetime.

He played in NYC in night clubs. The Rolling Stone in ‘65 , owned by DJ Scott Muni was one of his clubs, along with the band called the Vagrants. The Rascals, and Leslie West of the hard rock band Mountain, and the whole Steve Paul scene, a club owner and a talent manager who represented, amongst others, Edgar Winter.

He came out west to California to visit his sister Loretta, who was a Roller Derby Queen. She actually got into the Roller Derby Hall of Fame and was dubbed Little Iodine. While he was hanging around LA, his draft notice arrived. He went back to NYC but then he got stationed in the army out in Fort Bragg ,NC. While there, he managed to play in a band six nights a week. From there, he returned to NYC and joined another band.

One time, in ’73 his friend told him he had a 1958 Flying Peak guitar that Johnny Winter wanted to see. He remembered banging on the door of a recording studio, and his friend holding up the guitar to the door window, to be let in right away. Rick Derringer, guitarist who recorded with Steely Dan, was there and Johnny Winter was drooling over the gui-

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George Carlin is Home by Gerry Fialka

By George, our community of Venice is a dream home.

The title of this essay can be sussed out in so many ways:

GC is home (he's in heaven gettin' witty with Lenny Bruce & Lord Buckley)

GC is home (his sensibility reeks of the human condition, humanness, or as James Joyce invented "laughtears")

GC is home (meaning his home was actually in Venice, California, from 1970 to 1972, and from 2002 to 2008)

GC is home (extending GC's great line "Your home is your refuge" to the etymological roots of the word "home," originating from "shelter or protection from danger, assistance in distress, hiding place." George quipped: "In baseball the object is to go home! And to be safe! – I hope I'll be safe at home!")

GC is home (resonating with his answer to the Marcel Proust question: "Where would you like to live?" George wrote: "I guess right there at home would be a pretty good place.")

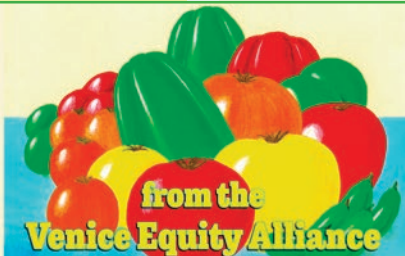
I welcome your translations . . . home is where the heart is, home of the brave, or right here in Venice, the earth is everybody's home, if you gotta say it, how about houseless people, instead of homeless?

Thorton Wilder wrote: "Oh - why can't we have plays like we used to have - good entertainment with a message you can take home with you?" But Wilder got deeper with "Art is confession; art is the secret told. . . . But art is not only the desire to tell one's secret; it is the desire to tell it and hide it at the same time." Revealing the emperor's clothing?

I highly recommend the new documentary George Carlin's American Dream. It probes these hidden psyche effects of George's entire being and our whole culture. "I'm not in show business. I'm a

continued on page 5

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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published 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

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LETTERS

Letter to the Editor: LA City Council Candidate Jim Murez

I am writing this on behalf of an unhoused woman who is afraid of not being believed if she told this story, but felt it was important to share. A few months ago, she told me about an older man with facial hair who followed her for several blocks in a light blue Subaru Crosstrek or Outback. He asked her where she sets up her camp and began videotaping her. She yelled for him to leave her alone multiple times, but he continued to follow her until she got to a more public area.

Thanks to the Venice Beachhead’s last issue, which featured caricatures of some of the LA City Council District 11 candidates, she saw Jim Murez’s drawing and instantly recognized him as the man that she had been describing for months. It was further confirmed when I found a picture of him with facial hair posted [on his Facebook](#) (listed below) and through reading the sexual allegations on him in the same Beachhead.



Although this incident is one of many examples of harassment that this woman experiences in this community, it has added to her trauma and triggers her to see a similar vehicle. As an advocate for the homeless, we have been working on how to make Venice safer largely inspired by this event. It must be noted that such an effort and this article risk further jeopardizing the safety of a vulnerable person. It takes a profound level of bravery to allow this story to be published.

When some of the so-called leaders in the region are among the greatest perpetrators of harm, it is a further reminder that our community is only as safe as its most vulnerable members and a lot needs to change. When we see patterns like allegations against Jim Murez come up, we should take it seriously (along with last month’s article, multiple allegations were listed in a July 2021 Venice Beachhead). He should not be in any leadership role; not in his current position as president of Venice Neighborhood Council and operator of the only farmer’s market in Venice (where many of the allegations take place), nor as a City elected official. He is taking space away from the leaders who could protect against predators like himself and create a society that is truly peaceful.

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Oakwood Recreation Center Is Now Reese-Tabor Park And Recreation Center

By Jon Wolff

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022 the Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee of the Los Angeles City Council approved Agenda Item #4 to rename Oakwood Recreation Center as Reese-Tabor Park and Recreation Center. This significant decision recognizes the legacies of Arthur Reese and Irving Tabor who were the principal founders of Venice.

Arthur Reese was the first African-American to live in Venice in the early 1900s. He worked closely with Abbot Kinney and, as the official town decorator of Venice, he created the image of Venice as we know it today. He served on the election Board of Venice and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Arthur Reese was a founding member of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Irving Tabor was Arthur Reese's cousin. He was also Abbot Kinney's friend and chauffeur. He inherited Kinney's house in Venice but was prohibited from living in the section of Venice where it was located. So he moved the house to the Oakwood neighborhood where it is now a City Cultural Monument. The families of Irving Tabor and Arthur Reese attended the First Baptist Church of Venice.

The Committee took public comment on the motion for the name change. Venice Activist Margaret Molloy spoke in support of the motion. She described Venice as the first intentional and only remaining intentional Black coastal community in the entire state of California. Mr. Reese and Mr. Tabor were the pioneers who led the community. Their role in the formation of Venice and everything that is recognized as Venice culture is completely fundamental and under-appreciated. She emphasized that this motion is a perfect move in the right direction.

The Committee's approval marks another important step in establishing the Legacy of the Black Community of Venice. The historical designation of the First Baptist Church of Venice by the L.A. City Council in September of 2021 was a major win for the group Save Venice Original. Members of Save Venice Original had previously secured city approval in February of 2021 for a mural with the words "BLACK LIVES MATTER" to be installed on Westminster Avenue in front of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

All of these recent achievements by Save Venice Original signal a powerful change in direction for Venice. Gentrification and displacement have been the negative forces in Venice for years. But the victories scored by hard-working real Venetians are evidence that Venice will win in the end.

Considering an alternative to the two war parties?

Green Party of California
(Includes Peace and Freedom Party Candidates)
Vote Green on June 7!
Greens in June 2022 Elections:

California State Offices (6)
Luis J. Rodriguez - Governor (ENDORSED)
Heather Collins - Governor
Gary Blenner - Secretary of State (ENDORSED)
Laura Wells - Controller (ENDORSED)
Dan Kapelovitz - Attorney General (ENDORSED)
Veronika Fimbres - Insurance Commissioner
U.S. House of Representatives (3)
Michael Ernest Kerr - U.S. House of Representatives, District 10
Julio Cesar Flores - U.S. House of Representatives, District 42
William ‘Gunner’ Meurer - US House of Representatives, District 30
US Senate (2)
James Henry ‘Henk’ Conn - U.S. Senator
Pamela Elizondo - U.S. Senator
California State Assembly (1)
Tania Solé - State Assembly, District 21
http://www.cagreens.org/elections/greens_june_2022

June 7, 2022 Statewide Primary Election
State Constitutional Offices

Governor Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Secretary Of State Shirley Weber
Controller Ron Galperin
Treasurer Fiona Ma
Attorney General Rob Bonta
Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
Superintendent Of Public Instruction Tony K. Thurmond

Member State Board Of Equalization
3rd District Tony Vasquez

Federal Office

US Senator (Full Term) Alex Padilla
US Senator (Iinish Term) Alex Padilla
(We Need To Vote For Alex Padilla First To Fill Out The Term Of Office Vacated

US Congressional Representatives

12th District Barbara Lee
20th District Any Democrat Against Kevin Mccarthy
26th District Julia Brownley
District 27 Ruth Luevanos
28th District Judy Chu
District 29 Angelica Dueñas
30th District Adam B. Schiff
31st District Grace Napolitano
District 32 Shervin Aazami
District 33 Ted Leiu
District 34 David Kim
37th District Daniel Lee
38th District Linda T. Sanchez
39th District Mark Takano
43rd District Maxine Waters
District 45 Jay Chen
District 46: Mike Ortega
44th District Nanette Diaz Barragan
47th District Katie Porter
District 49: Mike Levin
District 50: Kylie Louie Vie Benitez Taitano
62nd District Anthony Rendon

California State Legislative Offices

State Senator
8th Senate District Dave Jones
22nd Senate District Susan Rubio
24th Senate District Maria Elena Durazo
District 26 Ben Allen
28th Senate District Lola Smallwood-Curevas

Member Of The Assembly
40th District Annie Cho
District 43 Laura Friedman
District 50 Eloise Reyes
51st District Louis Abramson
53th District Miguel Santiago
57th District Reggie Jones-Sawyer
District 62 Maria Estrada
64th District Elizabeth Alcantar
65th District Fatima Iqbal-Zubair

Los Angeles County Offices
Board Of Supervisors
District #1 Hilda Solis
District #3 Henry Stern
Sheriff Eric Strong
Assessor Jeffrey Prang
Controller—Paul Koretz

LAUSD Board of Education
Board District #2—Rocio Rivas Has A Doctorate In Education Research. She Has The Corner On Information Regarding Independent Charter Schools And Has Helped Jackie Goldberg To Try To Protect Lausd Schools From Being Undermined By These Charter Schools. Jan Also Worked With Her On The Kpfk Lsb And Respects Her Educational Work.

City of Los Angeles

Mayor – Karen Bass Has Her Work Cut Out For Her Against Rick Caruso Who Has Already Spent \$26 Million On His Campaign. Kevin Deleon Has Done Well On The City Council, And We Are Friends And Admirers Of His, But We Do Not Believe That He Has The Depth Of Knowledge, Experience, And Involvement In Los Angeles As Does Congress Member Bass. Mike Feuer Is An Excellent Human Being And Has Good Politics. He, Too, Cannot Beat Rick Caruso. Karen Is Organizer Extraordinaire. She “Plays Well With Others” And So Can Get Things Done By Working Collaboratively With Council Members. Karen Is A True Progressive Leader And We Believe The Only Candidate Who Has A Chance To Defeat Rick Caruso. She Listens To Others And Will Work With Many Important Community Organizations That Want A Humane And Effective Plan To House The Homeless, Keep The City Running Effectively, Provide Police Reform And Who Can Provide The Leadership This City So Badly Needs.

City Attorney—Faisal Gill Is A Civil Rights Attorney Endorsed By Karen Bass, Cfa (College Teachers), Nuhw (Union Healthcare Workers And Nurses)

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Supervisor Holly Mitchell, The Ada, The Black Los Angeles Young Democrats, And By The Minnesota Attorney General Who Was The Man Who Successfully Prosecuted The Murderers Of George Floyd.

LA City Council Officers
Cd 1—Gil Cedillo
Cd 5--Jimmy Biblarz & Scott Epstein (Dual Endorsement)
Cd 9 – Adriana Cabrera (Write In)
Cd 11—Erin Darling
Cd13—Hugo Soto-Martinez Is A Union Organizer With The Hotel And Restaurant Workers Union Running Against Incumbent O’farrell. He Is Progressive And Would Be A Leader In The City Council On Matters Having To Do With Homelessness And Raising The City’s Minimum Wage. Hugo Soto-Martinez Will Provide An Additional Strong Voice For Improving The Lives Of Those Struggling To Survive In Los Angeles.
Cd15—Danielle Sandoval Is A Community Organizer From Wilmington And Would Be The First Latina To Represent A District That Is 63% Latina/O.

Judges—We Are Recommending And Will Personally Vote For The Following: (3 Of Whom Are Part Of A Group Called The Defenders Of Justice, Who Basically Come From Public Defender Backgrounds. You Can Read More About Them And These Candidates At <https://thedefendersofjustice.org/2022/about>).

Superior Court Office
#3 – Sherilyn Peace Garrett
#60—Anna Reitano, Deputy Public Defender
#67—Elizabeth Lashly-Haynes, Deputy Public Defender (Also Lacdp, And Stonewall)
#70—Holly Hancock, Deputy Public Defender, (Zeke, Lacpd, And Stonewall.
#90 – Kevin Mcgurk
#116 – Lloyd Handler
#118 – Klint Mckay
#151 -- Patrick Hare
#156 – Carol Elsewick

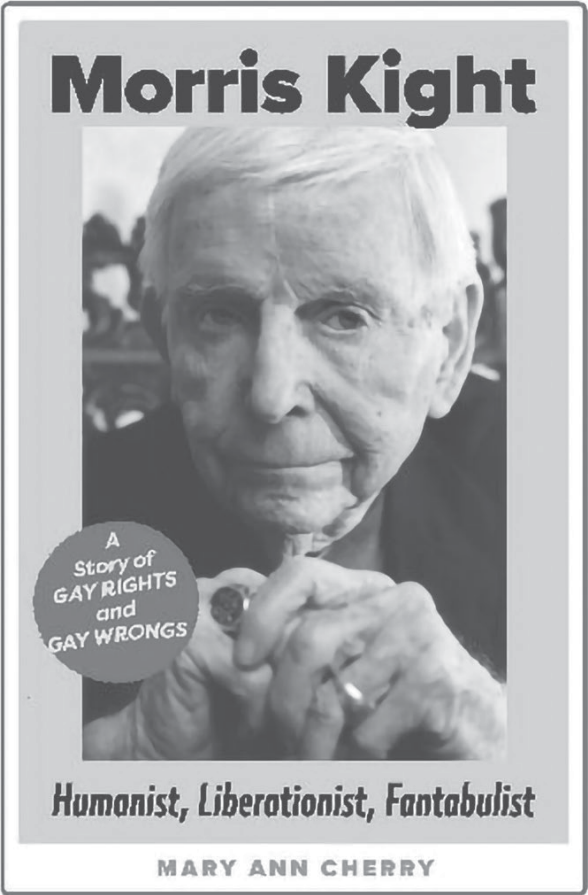
Erin Darling – continued from page 1

magnitude of increase in funding due to infusion of funds by independent community, including one organized by Police union. This has resulted in voters being bombarded by 91 messages, email, snail mail, videos, commercials. Erin has raised \$72,000.00 and does benefit from some of the Westside’s officials Senator Ben Allen, LA Times Editorial Board and others. Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount Director of the study of Los Angeles, was quoted “He believes Westside voters maintain core liberal values. With COVID, homelessness, spike in crime, some have them questioning whether the approach that liberal, Democratic L.A. has been pursuing in meeting the moment and leads to effective governing.”

Encourage everyone to vote! There are many eligible voters who do not vote. Erin Darling has my vote, he is a good choice to manage the bullies to fight the battle we are in. Erin represents the Soul of the Westside.

As noted in “Battle for the Soul of the Westside” (thelandmag.com), Erin is not afraid of bullies: “I feel like that’s what a lot of this campaign is about, is sticking up to bullies-because a lot of the Recall Bonin stuff, people are pissed off at homelessness, but they’re not pissed off because they live in the wealthiest district and it’s characterized by mass homelessness, with homeless down the street. We need to help people. We can’t push people away.” LA Times also had article “Council Race for the ‘Soul of the Westside’ and discussed all candidates for CD11. “Park & Darling occupy opposite ends of an ideological spectrum in the race.” The campaign has become very competitive, and some candidates primary focus has been about homelessness, not addressing all priorities in CD 11. Erin noted to LA Times: “I’ve done the work and am running now to maintain the economic and racial diversity of the Westside.”





Gay pride month celebration, founder of gay pride parade morris kight, humanist, liberationist, fantabulist a story of gay rights and gay wrongs in l.a.

Reading and book signing by author Mary Ann Cherry Thursday, june 23, 2022 from 6:00-8:00pm - Small World Books is locate at 1407 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA 90291.

How did the gay movement, which began as a sedate group of intellectuals, become what is arguably the most dynamic civil rights crusade in America? How did a deviant and marginalized fraction of society evolve into powerful, effective, and respected leaders? The short answer: Morris Kight. A self-aggrandizing, egotistical among powerful egos, Kight’s style of organizing and activism showed the power of the gay community and gay dollars. The Kight biography includes the full story of how against all odds and much resistance, in the eleventh hour they were granted a permit to have a legal parade down Hollywood Boulevard. This parade became an annual event known worldwide as Gay Pride.

“Morris didn’t ask permission, and he didn’t ask for forgiveness either. He was the walking cliché about how one person can make a difference.” - Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor.

In a year which proved to be like no other came the publication of Cherry’s first book, the historical biography, MORRIS KIGHT: HUMANIST, LIBERATIONIST, FANTABULIST: A Story of Gay Rights and Gay Wrongs. Cherry befriended Morris Kight during the last decade of his life. With Morris’ blessing she began researching and writing his biography. Cherry’s wide-ranging work includes television and film production as well as creating and maintaining the historical archives for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation



Douglas Nichols

Los Angeles city mayoral candidate

by Pat Raphael

Last week, as I was having a good laugh at the defaced Jim Murez banner on the corner of Abbott Kinney and Brooks, I had a chance encounter with Douglas Nichols, Los Angeles city mayoral candidate who was in Venice campaigning for signatures to get on the ballot. His grasp of one of the central issues defining this race -- homelessness -- and the lived experience that refine his perspective, intrigue me to want to feature Mr Nichols, and spread the word about his candidacy.

Every hero has an origin story. Nichols' begin forming his perspective from the world of Finance, when he moved west from Denver after his undergrad studies, to go to Stanford in pursuit of a Master's in International Business Management. The few homeless in Palo Alto back then hardly even blipped on his radar. After graduation he lands a big-money job as a "Finance Bro", which should have locked in his life course, where he would only know making hundreds of thousands of dollars every year hocking mortgages. Well, sometimes life gets messy. A bad break-up sets off years of an alcohol-induced downward spiral, degrading until it all hits rock bottom. And as he tells it, he didn't hit rock bottom and then immediately bounce right back up. The years that he spent languishing in that state, before starting his journey of sobriety, taught him to have some compassion for those still dealing with addiction and mental health.

The bulk of Nichols' time spent homeless was in his hometown of Denver, Colorado. That is when he began to see how NOT to handle the problem of a rapidly growing homeless population. At the time, Mayor Michael Hancock pushed for, and was able to get passed an anti-camping law that too broadly defined camping. The Hancock camping bans became city code, and Nichols got to personally experience the reign of terror that followed at the hands of the Denver Police Department. The tactics were so aggressive, and so surgical in its target of the homeless population, that both the ACLU and the NAACP sued the city to stop the harassment. By then, Nichols was already years into his sobriety (he has not had a drink in seventeen years), so this began to focus his activism around the issue of homelessness.

The success the activists had in overturning the total ban, now has Nichols on alert to not see another city go down the same aggressive, hateful path towards the homeless. Then he hears Caruso speak, and all the bad ol' days of terrible policy came rushing back like a mental trigger. Caruso's vision is even more extreme than what they were able to push back in Denver. Experience made it clear when he heard the same creeping tactics being used to move towards the extreme outcome: start with something everyone can agree on -- like homeless away from schools, then it's afterhours doorway sitting, then a ban away from parks, and before long there's an alert to find anyone who "looks" homeless, so that they can be harrassed, and rounded up. This is where Nichols sees the rhetoric is moving towards, right here in liberal Los Angeles, as competing camps attempt to paint themselves as the most aggressive towards the homeless "problem". That was enough to get him off the bench, and throw his hat into the ring as a longshot candidate with real solutions

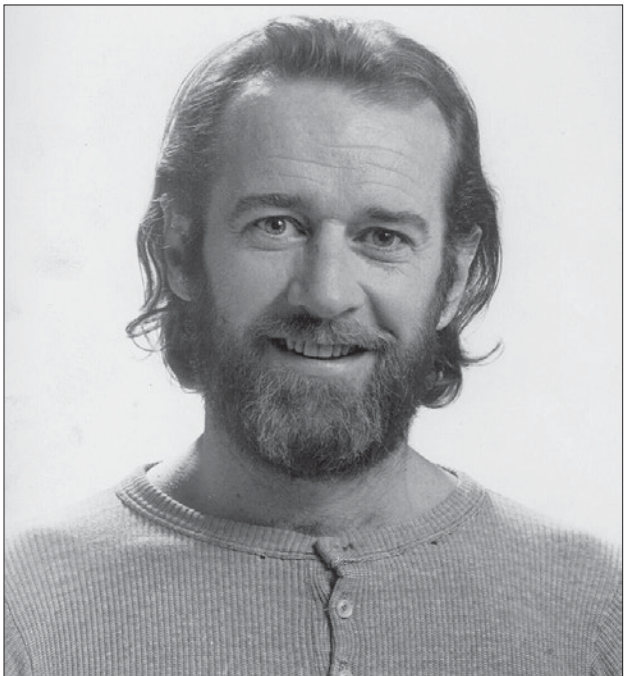
to address the crisis of homelessness in our city.

Nichols begins the conversation optimistically because he highlights that the City Council has already voted and approved a project that would convert or build 222 structures, to create 60,000 units. The problem so far, continues to be that local opposition prevents many of these units from progressing past the planning phase. This is why his approach will acknowledge that the Los Angeles effect is stemming from a national cause, where increasing homelessness throughout the country is driving migration and adds daily to our local homeless population. For this reason, a National State of Emergency must be declared for homelessless here in Los Angeles, and the spending and solutions must be granted emergency powers to streamline the acquisition and planning phase, so that a group of determined neighbors don't hold veto power over the solutions to the emergency. More detail on these plans can be reviewed on his website: NicholsforLAMayor.com

With homelessness the major issue dominating the Nichols platform, a big part of the solution involves getting people back to work. Nichols envision that the skilled labor required for green building to expand the stock of housing, can be supplied by setting up apprenticeship programs aimed at the unhoused. Those jobs can also be a precursor qualifier for some of the final units. Nichols also envision that Los Angeles could have an all-electric vehicle fleet by 2029. This too can be a fertile source of well paying city jobs. The new skills required to maintain this fleet will develop the auto mechanics of the future, and provide middle class jobs that can not be outsourced. Nichols also pledges to not commit to mass displacement to accommodate the Olympic games, while also directing city hiring for the games to pull too from the homeless population.

In the utopia that Nichols hope for, he would be free to bring his big ideas for solving this major issue to the public, who would have just as equal a chance to hear his proposals as anybody else running in this race. But the reality of our system makes it that the biggest home field advantage a candidate can have when running for office, is access to big money donors -- even stronger if a candidate can self-finance. Nichols understands that he does not have the big-money back door to slide in through. For this reason he has to work much harder than other candidates just to have a one-in-a-million longshot. And if at the end, it is not he who gets to deliver a positive solution for the city he loves, he is paying attention to all the major candidates, and considering their platforms. So he says, "vote for me, the only homeless guy in the race, and I can use my lived experience to solve the problem. But if you don't vote for me, consider Karen Bass. At the very least, she is not Rick Caruso."





George Carlin is Home – continued from page 1 comedian," he articulated to Chris Rock. He epitomized "when you are laughing you are learning" and "I should prefer to de-fuse this gigantic human bomb by starting a dialogue on the side-lines to distract the trigger-men, or to needle the somnambulists." - Marshall McLuhan.

This engaging four hour program was partly executive produced by Kelly Carlin and Jerry Hamza, who managed George for 35 years. He calls George his teacher, and best friend.

Please check out my podcasts interviews with each one of them on Youtube:

Kelly Carlin InnerViews#12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUJu7t-DFSE>

Jerry Hamza InnerViews#9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xppxftLO50>

Both of Kelly's parents (Brenda and George) had substance abuse problems. Kelly is so much a part of this documentary. Her memoir, "A Carlin Home Companion: Growing Up With George," and her

Jack Neworth's article on George in the July 1, 2008 issue. Jack also wrote about Kelly's book in the Nov 8, 2015 issue, telling how "When Kelly was 7, the family moved to 3002 Pacific Avenue in Venice where George developed material for his groundbreaking Class Clown and Occupation Foole albums. Brenda hung out at Hinanos Cafe and the family shopped at Dales Market."

Two comic great I booked at Sponto Gallery were involved. Paul Krassner was a long-time resident. George wrote the introduction to Krassner's book, Murder at the Conspiracy Convention and Other American Absurdities.

Boardwalk performer Swami X once read George's astrology chart. He yelled "Sex isn't the answer! It's the question. The answer is, 'Yes!'" Yes, we are proud to call George Carlin a Venice icon. We are especially grateful to Kelly Carlin, Jerry Hamza and all the filmmakers for making George Carlin's American Dream.

Having resided near George in the Canals for years, Venetian/art dealer Philip Garaway writes:

I first met Brenda, George's first wife in the Canals. I had been playing in this avant-garde jazz group. George was a friend and patron of the band. George named the group "Half Way To Cleveland." I was told the reason is that where ever you are in the world, you're half way to Cleveland. I think it's a comedians inside joke, not to be too hard on Cleveland, I don't know. Never been there, I think? The time period is around the early eighty's. Doc Williams was the group leader. Here's a photo of him on stage as a very young boy. I was told he played violin with Mary Pickford on stage at six years old. He was a real character. He and his wife Pat and dog Billy lived in a trailer in my backyard for many years, on Howland canal. They came out of the Beat era time frame. Brenda would come to the canals to play music with us. Across the alley on Sherman canal I had a music studio. Doc and I played there.



same-titled one-woman show probe the family home and all its love and complications.

I am emulating "list-making," a rhetorical technique that Umberto Eco details in his book "The Aesthetics of Chaosmos: The Middle Ages of James Joyce." Joyce retrieved this annotation technique of list-making from the Medieval writers, and it appears all over Ulysses and Finnegans Wake. George Carlin often did the same, compiling and reciting lists.

I was fortunate to be employed by George for one year in the late 90's. I helped him with his mail-order business. We had a few stimulating conversations. One one point, Carlin said to me, "I'm going to learn a lot from you." I responded, "Can I put that on my gravestone?" I continued to supply him with "information," like audio tapes, VHS tapes, printed matter on political activism, philosophy, media studies, music, art and poetry. This was pre-Internet.

I will discuss other Venice residents who have connections to George. And I welcome stories of your encounters. The Venice BeachHead published

Kelly, George's daughter, started working with Doc there. Finally Doc moved to George's guest house in Brentwood. Brenda was the sweetest person. My wife Zoe and I had become fast friends with her. The three of us went to the Hopi Katsina dances in Northern Arizona together. Really one can't buy a ticket to this event (it's been going on literally for a thousand years on the Hopi mesa's) It was a truly memorable trip. George was a very introspective human and generally quiet. He had a sweet demeanor, unlike his stage persona which was basically to kick ass. That is part of a comedian's job, right! George was an extraordinary pertinent word smith, an influencer of cultural critical thinking and to boot funny. Of course I wish George was here now just to hear his take on our present world affairs? Kelly is not only the sweetest person, but extremely smart just like her Dad. She's been married decades to Bob McCall, who's a really a nice man. Another interesting thing, Garry Shandling always said that George got him into comedy. George was a mentor for so many. Funny thing is, Garry lived right above in Mandeville Canyon, a stones throw from George's house on the flats right below him off of

Sunset Blvd. One last thing, George was a really good Boogie Woogie piano player. He is featured playing an original song "Armadillo Blues" at the end of his 1984 HBO Special "Carlin on Campus."

George Carlin helps us all cultivate critical thinking skills while we pursue the American Dream . . . laughing hysterically. . . in Venice, California . . . home sweet home, homespun, there's no place like home, you can never go home again, homey, come home to roast, homemade, when George comes marching home . . .

George did a hilarious routine on "the house is a place for your stuff." Is the home is a place for your soul? He closed one of his many amazing HBO specials by saying: "Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other." That is at the heart of our Venice home.

Please send us your George Carlin stories. Thank you, Gerry Fialka pfsuzy@aol.com Laughtears.com

LAUGHTEARS.com upcoming events:

*** Suzy Williams & Michael Jost at The Trip Tuesday June 28 at 8pm

*** 15th annual LIT SHOW with SUZY WILLIAMS & BRAD KAY – at Beyond Baroque on Sat, July 16 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1244768702677174>THE LIT SHOW's past repertoire has embraced over 100 authors, including: J.D. Salinger, Hafiz, Kurt Vonnegut, Edna St Vincent Millay, Samuel Beckett, Raymond Chandler, Truman Capote, Vladimir Nabokov, Rudyard Kipling. Dorothy Parker wrote a song that Billie Holiday sang. Tennessee Williams wrote a song that Marlon Brando sang as a rambling troubadour in The Fugitive Kind. Lonely House was written by Kurt Weill and Langston Hughes. Jack Kerouac & Allen Ginsberg wrote Pull My Daisy with David Amram. Suzy & Brad have also written tuneful melodies to many a great author's words. You've read the book, now hear the song.

*** Gerry's Venice Walking Tours are now available.

*** Join Gerry's Zoom Salons on James Joyce, Finnegans Wake, Ulysses, McLuhan, Carl Jung.



You can listen to this album here: <https://youtu.be/xV2hViVU2bA>



Stanley Behrens – continued from page 1
tar. So his friend said, I'll let you play the guitar if you let my friend play harmonica with you. " Johnny was so high on everything; he actually played the guitar and fell flat on his face then looked up at me and said, 'Man you play great harmonica; I just suck on the guitar,' " Stanley tells me with a laugh. He was in studioA and the band next door, in studio B, asked him to come along and jam with them. After playing a while a guy comes in and asks Stanley if he's in the union and he wasn't so he kicked him out. He learned much later that they used his track that he recorded on and in an Alice Cooper record. He had to hear it all day long on the radio back then and he never got any money nor credit for it. He plays the track for me; absolute classic sound! Black Sabbath's Ozzie also took credit for his playing on his album 13. But he's still in his early 20's ,at the time. So he starts hanging out in Jazz clubs on Long Island. A club owner liked the way he played harmonica and he had world class jazz musicians playing there, like the masterful Kenny Barron, and he'd



tell the guys to let 'this kid' play on with you. One day he was sitting in with Sonny Til of the Orioles ("Crying in the Chapel") and his friend was sitting at the club with

Ruth Brown. She was working as a maid in Long Island. Stanley recalls how she told him "I'd be playing on the radio while cleaning these people's toilets." She invited him to tour with her band.
Stanley wound up playing jazz with Jimmy Smith and Ruth Brown and country with Cliffy Stone and other bands like the Collins Kids and Dorsey Burnette and The Palomino Riders.
He was playing gigs in Reno and Tahoe. Eventually Mike Post, the biggest TV composer of the day, came to hear Jimmy Smith, and hired Stanley as a studio musician. He started making some real money, with royalties. He's worked on a lot of movies and TV shows, like Armageddon, Renegade theme song, My Name Is Earl and Rockford files to name a few.
Then Stanley met his love and got married. He met her in a country bar in Malibu, when he was lithe enough to jump off stage and leap from table to table while playing his harmonica, making use of his gymnastic skills. He got married and had his

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ROSE APARTMENTS GRAND OPENING

Venice, California – Venice Community Housing (VCH) is pleased to announce the opening of Rose Apartments, a new permanent supportive housing development.

Rose Apartments, located at 720 Rose Avenue, is a 35-unit property providing homes to people who were experiencing homelessness. 50% of the homes are specifically for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) ages 18-24, a first of its kind in Venice. The remaining 50% of the homes are for households with disabilities.

A Grand Opening celebration was held Thursday, May 19th at 720 Rose Avenue. Speakers were Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin, Ann Sewill from the Los Angeles Housing Department, Angie Brooks from Brooks + Scarpa, tenants and staff from Rose Apartments, and other key partners.

“Venice Community Housing is proud to have completed and leased these much needed homes for people who have been unhoused for far too long, and excited that the Venice community is contributing to solutions to homelessness, after a 20-year gap in new 100% affordable housing construction,” said Becky Dennison, Executive Director of Venice Community Housing.

The 4-story building consists of the 35 homes, VCH Administrative Offices, on-site staff office-

es, parking for cars and bikes, laundry room, a large community room and courtyard, and many sustainability features.

Supportive housing helps establish and maintain stability and health, reduces public costs, and contributes to inclusive and equitable development neighborhoods.

Parking is on the street. The press is warmly welcome to attend.

Rose Apartments was designed by architecture firm Brooks + Scarpa Construction by Walton Construction Managed by AMJ Construction Management

Project partners include: Hundreds of local Venice supporters, Bank of America, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, California Community Reinvestment Corporation (CCRC), California Housing Finance Agency, Commonwealth Land Title Company, CSG Advisors Incorporated, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Gubb & Barshay, Kutak Rock LLP, Los Angeles County Development Authority, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Nancy Lewis Associates, Inc., National Equity Fund, Inc., SPA 5 Coordinated Entry System team, U.S. Bank.

Stanley Behrens – continued from page 6
baby, the love of his life. When Chloe was born in 1990, his wife Carol quickly revealed that she had little motherly instinct. Stanley had taken care of his younger brother, so he had the instinct. His wife went to work while he did session work and was the primary caretaker of his daughter. But shortly after, his wife encouraged him to leave music and got him a job through her friend as a limo driver. He did his due but told his boss to never send him to drive to



STANLEY BEHRENS DON PRESTON DALLAS HODGE FITO DE LA PARRA GREG KAGE
CANNED HEAT
www.cannedheatmusic.com

the Grammys. It would just piss him off. But in '87, the Grammys were doing a Blues show, and the company needed drivers. Knowing he loved the blues, they gave him a choice of Blues musicians that he'd want to drive. His list was thick with greats, including B.B. King, but it was Willie Dixon that caught his eye. Stanley says that Willie Dixon wrote all the great blues songs: Hoochie Coochie Man, Little Red Rooster. His songs were recorded by Led Zeppelin, (Gotta Whole Lotta Love, Bring It On Home, I Can't Quit You Babe), the Doors (Back Door Man), Cream (Spoonful) Elvis (Doncha Think It's Time) without giving Willie Dixon the proper credit as the songwriter. I'm so grateful Stanley Behrens has woken us to this vital piece of musical history. What thanks we have to the creative genius of Willie Dixon!

So Stanley drives over to pick up Mr. Dixon for the grammys and the man invites him in his place and they start talking. When he brings Mr. Dixon and his wife to the destination, Willie asks him to play a few bars. Willie was impressed and said, "You got the tone. You can't get that tone unless you've been playing for a long time." Then he told his wife



to give him their number and they became good friends. People magazine had interviewed Willie Dixon and he recounted this classic tale of meeting Stanley for the first time.

In NYC he knew Victoria Spivey, a blues singer whom he met in Cafe' AGoGo. Stanley recounts the great jazz clubs of Dante's at that time. He says the Marina Bistro locally had great jazz and St Marks in Venice had a great swanky club where Stanley was hired to bring in the jazz. Unfortunately it was short lived.

After working with Willie Dixon, in 1999 he joined the band Canned Heat and recorded with them, along with Taj Mahal. He spent 6 years with them and then he got deathly sick. He developed Hepatitis C that stemmed from the inoculations (vaccines) he got in the army. They caused him to
continued on page 10

we are here, to look more closely at how money tries to rule our political choices. The chart below shows a 2400% increase in overall campaign expenditures in the CD11 election, compared to 2017. Most of the opposition money is against Erin Darling, and that and Traci Park's substantial independent support, both come from the Police Protective League. The Police Protective

<https://ethics.lacity.org/elections/#S251>

Summary of CD11 Candidate Election Campaign Contributions, Expenditures, and Independent Expenditures, supporting or opposing

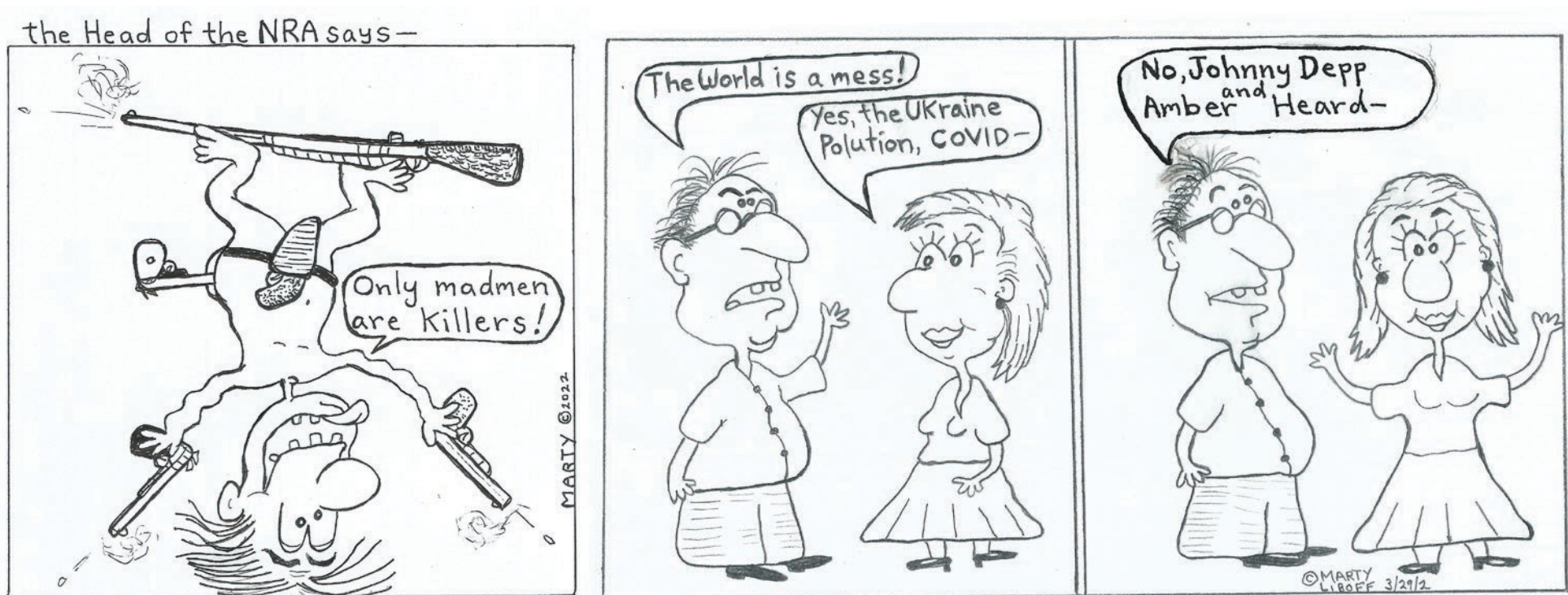
Candidates	Reported through ②	Contributions ②	Expenditures ②	Cash on Hand ②	Matching Funds ②	Independent Expenditures ②		Membership Communications ②	
						(Supporting)	(Opposing)	(Supporting)	(Opposing)
☑ Erin Darling	05/21/22	\$71,773.99	\$68,737.40	\$75,474.59	\$72,438.00	\$1,422.50	\$59,559.06	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Greg Good	05/21/22	\$245,268.01	\$205,383.82	\$175,098.10	\$135,306.06	\$153,335.97	\$10,726.93	\$16,478.07	\$0.00
☑ Allison Holdorff Polhill	05/21/22	\$197,914.65	\$280,647.39	\$67,517.96	\$161,000.00	\$50,884.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Midsanon Lloyd		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	ACCEPTED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Jim Murez	05/21/22	\$106,246.50	\$98,176.70	\$78,497.80	\$70,428.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Michael Newhouse	05/21/22	\$225,576.00	\$220,497.48	\$126,835.53	\$129,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Traci Park	05/21/22	\$389,729.02	\$371,835.74	\$181,317.67	\$161,000.00	\$801,475.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
☑ Mathew Smith	05/21/22	\$25,480.00	\$24,564.75	\$915.25	REJECTED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Details of independent expenditures supporting Traci Park

[illegible]

Details of independent expenditures opposing Erin Darling

Independent Expenditure Communications					
Date Report Filed	Independent Spender	Supporting/Opposing	Spending Information	Contributions Received	Communications
05/27/2022	Los Angeles Police Protective League PAC Los Angeles, CA 90017	Opposing Erin Darling for City Council Member - District 11 2022 City and LAUSD Elections	\$55,020.60	\$0.00	Mailing-87
05/12/2022	Citizens to End the Homeless Crisis in CD 11 Los Angeles, CA 90025	Opposing Erin Darling for City Council Member - District 11 2022 City and LAUSD Elections	\$4,538.46	\$75,000.00	Web Video-15
		Total:	\$59,559.06		



SOLDIERS MARCHING OFF TO WAR
(a rap song) MOISHE MATZOBALLS
Soldiers, soldiers marching off to war
killin and they don't even know what for.
Bombs rain down on the Ukraine
it is a sad pain and insane.
Soldiers taught to OBEY
men, women & children they slay.
Cities burnin down
so many bodies buried in the ground.
The only one who wins in war
is the military industrial whore.
Sellin weapons to every side
not carin how many died.
Off to war again
our children we send.
They say war is hell
the dead rot & smell.
Wars come from propaganda lies
leaders lie and everyone dies.
Government sanctioned murder
a blunder and guns thunder.
Old men love to send our boys away
while in their nice homes they stay.
The world has made artificial borders
so some can be hoarders.
We drew lines on a map
then make up nationalistic crap.
Men see it like a football game
a blood sport and insane.
Soldiers ordered to kill
to many it is a bloody thrill.
A time for killing, plunder & rape
behaving like a mad, killer ape.
Each side say they're right
and the big bullies start a fight.
Satan leads us to battle
dead skeletons rattle.
Vietnam,Laos,Granada,Afghanistan,Iraq
we love to kill and attack.
Soldiers cry it was an order
to murder across some border.
But God judges you for what ya do
so to your own conscience be true.
Each of us has our own mind
so think for yourself and don't be blind.
You have your own soul
so let peace & love be your goal.
If an order is wrong say no
tell the leaders & generals to go blow!
When your commanders yell shoot
kick them in the ass with your boot!
Many vets return sick & sad
some become homeless and mad.
To disobey don't be afraid
instead send food and medical aid.
It is my sweet dream
that we only bomb with pizza & ice cream.
Instead of war find a peaceful way
or our world will end some day.
Try understanding & love
compassion and the peace dove.
Every nation, color, religion can get along
killing is wrong so talk & smoke a bong.
We're all sisters & brothers
fathers & mothers.
We may have a different color or name
but we are really all the same.
The end of mankind is near
unless we end our hate & fear.
So when leaders scream war, war, war
say No, what for!

Day 986 Poetry—David Fewster
HER POETRY LIVES ON BATHROOM WALLS
1.
On Super Bowl Sunday in 2005
I was broke and busted and had returned
to Los Angeles like an elephant
looking for a graveyard.
So of course I was at the
Beyond Baroque open reading,
because years of suffering had
made me a Poet.
I read from my book
"Diary of a Homeless Alcoholic
Suicidal Maniac & Other Picture Postcards."
It went well--
got a lotta laughs.
At the break in the lobby,
a wild-haired old hippie broad
dressed in bag lady chic
said she wanted to buy my book.
Would I take a check?
Sure! I said.
I didn't even have a bank account.
And neither of us had a pen, either.
Someone had a Sharpie, however,
and I got my \$7 check,
nearly illegible, written in
big-assed black marker.
Geez, I hope someone will cash this,
I thought as I stared at it on the porch
while having a smoke.
The name on the upper left corner
troubled me--it was so familiar.
Then it hit me--OMG
John Thomas, Charles Bukowski,
Poet of Venice.
Rushing back into the auditorium,
I threw myself into the seat next to her
and gushed
"Let me just say what an honor it is
to have my book purchased by the
Queen of Bohemia."
Letting out a raucous bark,
she reached over and literally
patted me on the top of my head.
Who the hell even does that
except in 19th-century novels?
Nevertheless, I vowed to never wash
my greasy, pony-tailed locks again
(yeah, like I did that very often anyway.)
Because I had been
Benedicted.
After the reading,
I asked my new friend the directions
to Abbott's Habit, where another
open mike would be starting in an hour.
She told me, and wished me well
on my journey.
When I got to the coffeehouse,
I threw my backpack on the bench to save the seat
and asked the person next to me
to watch it while I went to the restroom.
She was a very old lady with an
astonishing set of whiskers at the point of her
chin,
which made me think of Gandalf for some
reason.
Taking her barely-audible grunt as an ascent,
I went about my business.
Later that night, I just about had a stroke
when she was introduced as one of
the readers.
I had managed to meet both
Philomene Long and FrancEye
on the same February evening.
David Fewster, Poet

9 • June 2022 • *FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD*
Caustic Acrostic *
B elittling earthbound others
I ndulging exhaustively in spacious whims
L iterally made of money
L itigates against "little people"
I nfectious grin & gag reflex
O nanistic
N arcissistic
A trocious haircut
I rritatingly smug smirk
R epulsive prenuptual agreements
E ndless nondisclosure clauses
S appiness

S ome such tech invention
U nctuousness
C lairvoyant fervor
K nuckles of brass; balls to match

Y ou ain't seen nuthin' yet
O rganizing is anathema
U nion-busting man-apes
R ape, behind the curtains

T ime for a new wristwatch
A vid collector of trophy heads & wives
X -ray bikini vision
E xtraterrestrial poon tang
S wiss banker's harbor island crotch-rot yacht.
*No animals were harmed in the making of
this poem.
-- William Bearclaw

A SEAGULL marty liboff
I want to be a seagull
flyin over Venice Bay
life is never dull
eatin sushi everyday.
I want to soar in the sky
give up the human trap
not have to pay & buy
with lies & political crap.
Human hate, racism, bigotry
we poison our planet
cut down every tree
and make wars, damn it!
I want to fly free
see how far I can see
be all that I can be
and be me just me.
I'd fly over our boardwalk
and forget all my worries
poop on people as they talk
& make up bird brained stories.
I want to be a seagull
flyin over Venice Bay
no more human games & bull
I'll play by the surf everyday...



Norm Skolnik :

Boyle Heights Boychik ; WWII Navy Radarman at 17

TV and stereo marketing pioneer; President of Century City Records

Venice Beach bicyclist into his 90s & the 21st Century.

Born Emanuel Norman Skolnik in Chicago on June 1, 1927, Norm wrangled his dad’s signature to join the US Navy early at 17 -- during WWII. From June 1944, Norm served as a Radarman.

Norm left L.A.’s Roosevelt High School, before graduating, so he could train at the Fleet Radar Operator’s School at the Sand Point seaplane base on a lake in Seattle. But then, while the Navy built Norm’s first and only ship, a Patrol-Craft-Escort, the PCE-898, Norm stood guard at the hydro-powered shipyards on the banks of the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon.

Norm sailed the USS PCE-898 down to San Diego and across the Pacific toward Japan. Arriving after the liberation of Guam, Norm went ashore almost once a month. On the island, he used his electronics training to run the film projectors for R&R movie nights. In the waters around Guam, Norm rose in the ranks to Petty Officer 3rd class or RdM3c.

Returning home to Boyle Heights, L.A.’s big Jewish neighborhood, where Norm had started his teens dodging in and out of the candy shops, delis, and ice-cream parlors along Brooklyn Avenue, Norm left the Navy and joined the Navy Reserves in 1946, all before he turned 19.

Outside the gates of the L.A. Memorial Coliseum, Norm sold newspapers and programs at football games, meeting radio stars and movie legends Bing Crosby... Jack Benny. “My shipmate and I, we set up a roadside food stand, selling meat, burgers, tacos.” Outside the Westwood movie theaters, too. “We were veterans, we thought we were privileged.”

Norm started several careers with his Navy training in electronics, radar, and radio waves, first topping homes with antennas to catch the latest craze – television – broadcasting songs and shows – for free – over the air, right in a world capital of broadcasting, L.A., with Hollywood and not just three networks, but soon an unmatched five channels of TV.

Norm and his kid brother Irv climbed all over L.A.’s new post-war homes, down in Westwood Village and up in the hills, too, at the homes of the stars, like Fred Astaire. Also, Kirk Douglas, “a tough, action guy.” Norm recalls Kirk scolding him, “don’t get it dirty.”

Norm went back to school with the G.I.-bill at the still new L.A. City College founded in 1931. He studied broadcasting on Vermont Avenue in Hollywood. Soon, he joined one of L.A.’s brand-new TV stations, KNBC TV-4, on the air in 1946.

As consumers boomed and electronics evolved, Norm raced the early adopters of HiFi, pioneering how to market each advance, notably the first car radios with stereo sound. At United Tape &. Instrument, 5873 Rodeo Road in Crenshaw, UTI’s fresh General Manager Norm met lots of cops, LAPD’s finest, driving in for the hottest gear and coolest music. Norm aided Bill Lear of Learjet in marketing Stereo-8 tape players, soon known as 8-Track. Lear flew Norm along in an early Learjet, the icon for a lofty jet set of mile-high private luxury.

In 1969, Norm launched Century City Records as its president, publishing record albums on vinyl and 8-track. He promoted R&B singer Jimmy Preacher Ellis; late-ca-

reer, jazz greats like Laurindo Almeida & Ray Brown; plus singer songwriters: Malvina Reynolds (already renowned for ticky tacky “Little Boxes”) and UFO-Jim Sullivan, who in 1975 would disappear from a desert-oasis town off Route 66 in New Mexico. Jim remains missing.

Norm remembers working two offices:

- the Whisky A Go-Go, a petri-dish, rock’n’roll bar, along the Sunset Strip;
- the Gateway West Building (1963-2015), 1801 Avenue of the Stars, a 14-story mod glass tower, now buried under the Westfield Mall. In L.A.’s freshest patch of office towers, “We were the first record company to get office space in Century City.”

Norm recalls that a movie friend brought him his first record, a 1969 novelty album by the TV stars of Gentle Ben, about child-star Clint Howard and a big bear, played by 8 or 9 real bears. On “The Bear Facts,” Clint and his TV dad Dennis Weaver sang as part of The Good Time People, an imaginary band made of session musicians from L.A.’s Wrecking Crew, such as Don Randi on keyboards.

[Relatives] Parents Sara and Joseph Skolnik raised sons Bernie, Norm, Irv, Jackie on Cummings Street, just off Brooklyn Avenue in Boyle Height, within walking distance of the Breed Street Shul. Joseph had learned tailoring in Chicago, and Norm remembers his father going to work for the military at the Long Beach port. The oldest son Bernie moved out first, but stuck close, moving in right across the street from the childhood home.

Norm brought his kid brother Irv into his electronics businesses, from putting up aerials to traveling to America’s thriving consumer-electronics markets and stereo conventions. Sadly, as Irv flew home from another electronics sales trip and into a Texas storm, the single-prop plane crashed in 1965, killing all four aboard.

When Venice Beach met Norm in the 21st Century, he still rode his bike like a kid, an 80-year-old boychik on a 10-speed, scattering the seagulls and pigeons along the Ocean Front Walk. Every morning, rain or shine, but mostly shine, Norm gathered his gaggle of guys and gals, the regular regulars at The Bench, in front of the Waldorf Hotel, Groundworks Coffee, the Fruit Gallery, the Wee Chippy, and Zelda’s on Westminster at Speedway. Locals say that Venice makes them go AWOL, Always West of Lincoln. But Norm’s regular regulars went further... Always West of Speedway (AWOS), practically awash in the Pacific Ocean sand and shore.

Norm in 2022, 94, going on 95, June 1st!

Stanley Beherns - continued from page 10

develop Hep C which resurfaced and attacked his liver with a vengeance. Evidently, he was one of a line of men who got this. One day he woke up and was bleeding out from all his orifices; it looked like black coffee. When he’d crap out everything, he’d go do a recording session. It happened again and he recorded once again. He’d been working on a record at the time called the LABluesAlliance. In between the sessions, he ran out to the VA Hospital. He was totally jaundiced when he did this recording. Then, his whole system started shutting down. The VA called him in a week saying that he needed to get there, right now, because “you don't have much time to live”. So he met with his VA Doctor and Dr. Primstone saved his life. He put him on the right medications and then he was sent to Portland, Oregon to get a liver transplant within six months He got his on the same day as Greg Allman. His doctor told him there was a new treatment to get rid of his Hepatitis C (which was necessary before the transplant) and asked him how reliable he was, “because I need you to be totally reliable “. He went on a program for 48 weeks, or as he describes it as 48 weeks of hell. Then, the use of interferon from his treatment created cancer in his liver. His wife, who was then his ex wife, came to the plate to help him through it. After 6months he got his liver transplant. Then it took a year to recuperate.

Mike Post produced this album, the LABluesAlliance, from all his favorite studio session musicians. He wanted to make an original recording that had nothing to do with television. Mike Post told them, “Well, I got nine people and I want each of you to come up with two ideas.” Within a week they came up with 17 songs and made a masterpiece. The band got booked into the House of Blues on Sunset, where Mike Post charged the club 20,000\$ and not one member of the band got a dime for any of their

time. We go on to discuss the crazy greed of the richest people. One of his friends he played with before said he'd give him a couple of hundred dollars to play on a low European low budget student film. He later heard his music used in the blockbuster film called the Bucket List with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. Some low budget European film!

Now, Stanley is feeling good;he’s fit and healthy and all that is behind him. In May of 2011, as he was repairing saxophones, another one of his talents. He repaired a sax from a musician from the band WAR. He knew Stanley’s work and when their harmonica player quit, he asked Stanley to join the band; he’s still playing and touring with them.

Stanley puts on some music for me to see and hear him perform in. There he is jamming “Come On People Now’ from the Young Bloods with Santana on stage. Santana gives him a big hug in pure delight when his harmonica part ends. It’s a classic performance.

Then he shows me footage of his daughter. First, with her listening backstage to Santana playing that night. Then,he pulls out a video of her busking on Venice Beach playing, no, killing it on the ukulele and then singing like a seasoned black blues singer twice her age. She’s a total natural who picked it up from the womb. He then plays a clip of her singing a blues Christmas album. She’s amazing with a powerful voice and presence. But Chloe hates her performance with a passion. She’s just one of those perfectionists evidently, but she’s blazing on stage.

Stanley seems to have played with all the great players. He shows me a picture of Jimmy Smith hugging him, and as he says “ he didn’t hug any white guy.” Jimmy Smith is known as the creator of soul-jazz, and he incorporated the electric organ into the music. Stanley has jammed with Barry Goldberg’s Chicago Blues’ Reunion/ Electric Flag where he played with Eric Burdon from The Animals. He’s performed at events with George Carlin, Sly and the Family Stone, the Hager Twins of Hee Haw, and Bonnie Rait, to name a few. He’s done a recent video with Snoop Dog. Instead of the” Low Rider” the song was changed to “No Lighter”. He even got to see himself turned into an animated hand bone dancer for the King of the Hill show. While working on a session with the guy who does music for the show, he was asked if he knew how to do the dance and Stanley obliged them. We sat and laughed at the clip, but you have to admire his talent! Stanley wears a montagnard bracelet. These were bracelets made by a mountain tribe in Vietnam that were allies of the US special forces, the Green Berets. If you made friends with them, they would give you this bracelet. It was made out of bullet casings. This bracelet would later save his life. When Stanley went AWOL from the army, at around 21, he took off to Hawaii for a while. There he met a guy from special forces who gave him the bracelet. Stanley returned to NY and decided to turn himself into authorities. He was taken to a dingy jail cell in the lower east side. One of the military policemen started beating on him mercilessly when another one saw the bracelet and stopped him saying “ leave him alone, you see his bracelet. He’s been to places you’ve never seen.” And with that, he was left alone. I joked that at least here he got credit where it wasn’t due this time, and it saved his life!

When asked what music he listens to, he says he listens to nothing recorded after 1969; I would say, unless it’s one he’s playing on, which are numerous. As to the sound of pop music today, he says everything is crushed with bass and drums. He finds no art in it. Like the local Venetian he is, when asked about his favorite place to play, he says The Greek. He’s set up there early and deliberately sat in the furthest seat in the house and he could hear guys talking on stage without any outside amplification. Now that’s great acoustics!

The sun was soon to go down and it was time to part. He joked, “Maybe your piece will make me famous.” I retorted “It’ll be something you can share with your friends and family for sure” and with that I was delighted to have spent a lovely afternoon with a gem of a human being.

CALENDAR
beyondbaroque.org

A celebration of new works by poets Kevin Ridgeway, Zara Lisbon, Jose Hernandez Diaz, and Mathieu Cailler

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 7:00 PM PDT
Poets Lisbon, Ridgeway, Hernandez Diaz, and Cailler will read poems that are meant to stimulate, educate, and entertain. By turns, humorous, evocative, and poignant, audience members will walk away with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

The 9th Annual Fine Arts Film Festival (FAFF)
Friday, June 11 and Saturday June 12, 2022

The 9th Annual Fine Arts Film Festival (FAFF) returns to Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center and presents 101 films from 32 countries. Films will be shown for in person audiences June 10 - 11, (7 pm to 11 pm on Friday June 10, and 12 noon to 11 pm on Saturday, June 11, 2022) and online from June 10 - 19. For the schedule, tickets, and more information, visit www.veniceica.org/fine-arts-film-festival.

I Don't Think I Did This Right: An Evening with the Thursday Night Poets

Thursday, June 16, 2022, 6:00 PM PDT
online via zoom

Book launch for 'I Don't Think I Did This Right,' by the Thursday Night Poets, hosted by Brendan Constantine and Dr. Jerry Hoepner.

The Venice West and The Trip are both running pretty full live performance calendars. Here are a few recommendations:

Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd. Venice
thevenicewest.com 424-443-5222 Door Varies
June 11 – Dust Bowl Revival 8pm
The Trip Bar 2101 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica
(310) 396-9010 tripsantamonica.com 1dm
June 21 – Natalie Jacob - Bossa+ 8pm
June 21 – The Mark Leggett Quartet - Jazz+ 9:30pm
June 28 – El Duelo, Rick Boston/Michael Jost 8pm
June 28 – Suzy Williams and Friends 9:15pm
July 12 – Bil Burnett – Leonard Cohen Tribute. 8pm
July 12 – The Nick Mancini Collective (Jazz) 9:30-12

Pacific Resident Theatre 703 Venice Blvd.
310-822-8392

Until June 12 – The Realistic Jones - a play by Will Eno.
SATURDAY, 18 JUNE 2022 FROM 10:00-15:00 PDT
THE VENICE NEPTUNE PARADE & PARTY
1401 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 TH @NOON
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OAKWOOD RECREATION CENTER
767 CALIFORNIA AVE
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Participating Organizations: VENICE 2000/Helper Foundation (Stan Muhammad CEO), Venice Community Housing (Becky Dennison, Executive Dir), Venice Family Clinic, SAVE VENICE.ME, SMVRO (Santa Monica Venice Reunion Organization)
Invited Guest Speakers: CD11 Mike Bonin Mayoral Candidate Karen Bass
Minister Abdul Malik Sayyid Muhammad
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Year Printed: 2017

San Francisco Poster Syndicate