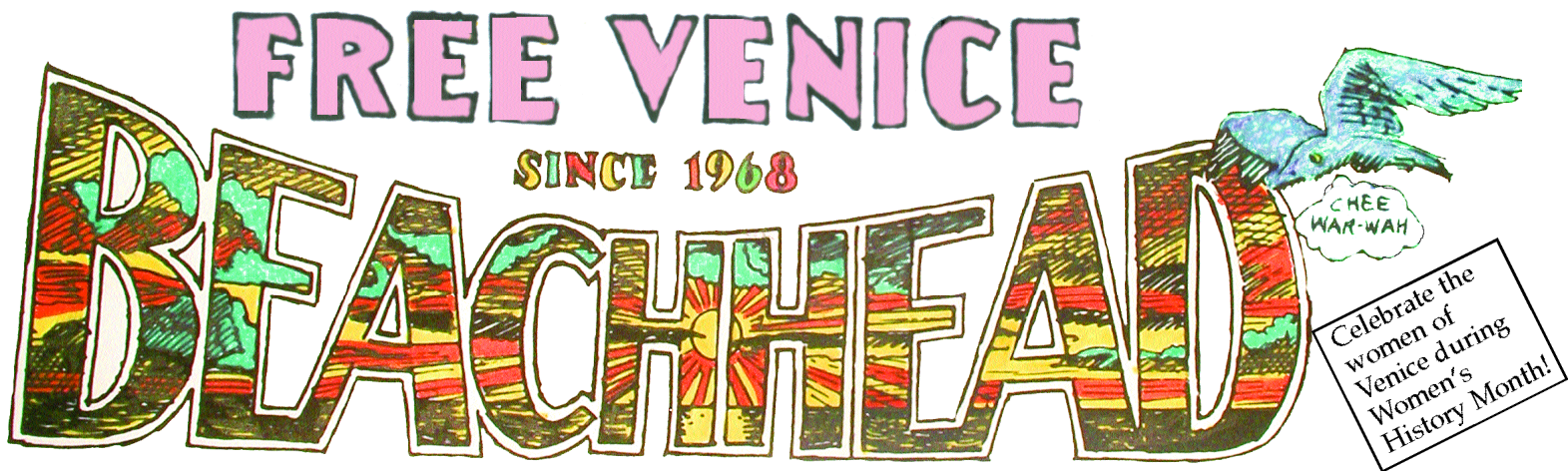


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March 2004

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A proposed Ocean Front Walk ordinance aimed at regulating artists and free speech on the west side of the Boardwalk has triggered an outpouring of opposition. The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council’s Board will consider a motion to oppose the ordinance at either its March 11 or 22 meeting. – Photo by Peggy Lee Kennedy

One Day Longer, One Day Stronger –
**Supermarket
workers waged
fight against
enormous odds**

By Jim Smith

From October 11 until February 28, 59,000 supermarket workers stood up for their rights against three multi-billion-dollar corporations. After four and a half months, with their strike benefits down to barely \$100 a week and no health care, they reluctantly agreed to a new contract that allows Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons to hire new employees at low wages and inadequate benefits.

The Vons strikers, and locked-out workers from Ralphs and Albertsons, turned out for contract ratification meetings the last week of February, still full of fight, but literally out of gas. The corporations had lost half a billion dollars but were still reaping profits from other parts of the country, and ironically, from Ralphs - where the union had unwisely withdrawn its picket-lines - and from other businesses they own, including Food for Less and Sav-On. At that meeting, they looked to me as if they would have fought on another four months - or longer - if they just had the resources.

Not only strikers, but customers stayed strong. When strikers were introduced to 300 people at the Venice Town Hall on Feb. 26 - just days before the end of the strike - they received the loudest cheers and applause of the evening.

Such a long and noble battle, and on the surface, so little to show for it. “These were the

–continued on page 7

Editorial from the Beachhead Collective

**Save Lincoln Place
Affordable Housing for All**

For the past 53 years, Lincoln Place Apartments has been a vital part of Venice. The nearly 800 units, designed by African-American Architect Ralph Vaughn, showed post-war California that low-income apartments didn’t have to be low class. The spacious units, set in a park-like environment between Lincoln Blvd. and Penmar Avenue, helped build a sense of community among the residents.

Even today, there are no fences separating neighbors, except where the owners bulldozed apartments, while government officials and the courts looked the other way. This month, tenant leaders are warning of the possibility of more destruction at the historic site. It’s not yet Condition Orange, but it’s getting close to it. Several hundred apartments now stand empty. Not because the owners cannot find renters, but because they refuse to rent them. While perfectly good apartments stand empty and are under threat of being destroyed, hundreds of Venetians are homeless and thousands more can barely afford their overpriced apartments. These are clear signs of gentrification through developer greed.

Lincoln Place is now owned by AIMCO, an S&P 500 corporation and the largest owner/operator of apartment properties in the United States. AIMCO doesn’t need to destroy Venice’s largest single low-income apartment complex for financial reasons. AIMCO brags about generating superior returns to its shareholders. This corporate giant needs to know that Venice won’t stand for landlord terrorism.

The Beachhead Collective calls for all of Venice to come to the defense of Lincoln Place. The Neighborhood Council’s Land Use and Planning Committee is holding a special meeting at 7pm, Tuesday, March 16 at the Penmar Park. Everyone should attend this meeting and get involved in the fight to save Lincoln Place. We also call for community action to bring about the following:

- Block the destruction of any more apartments in Lincoln Place.
- Sell Lincoln Place to a co-operative ownership establishment made up of its residents.
- Grant official historic status to the one-of-a-kind Lincoln Place Apartments.
- Demand Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski and Mayor James Hahn side with the Lincoln Place tenants. They and other politicians need to become leaders of this fight to save the homes of their constituents.
- Demand that our political leaders implement the right to affordable housing, as recognized by the United Nations: “Personal or household costs associated with housing should be at such a level that the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened or compromised. Housing subsidies should be available for those unable to obtain affordable housing, and tenants should be protected from unreasonable rent levels or rent increases.”

The
collective staff of the

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SINCE 1968

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2003

Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
The Thought Police are rising
It is the Time
for the Beachhead’s rebirth
Now is the Time to get your
thoughts
together
If you care whether
you have a thought of any worth.
Thoughts left of Center
Homeowner or Renter
Put your Head where your Pen* is
Send it to us use your wits
and if we like it
We’ll print or plagiarize it
or tear it into
teeny tiny
bits
– by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word
Processor or Computer

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Send to: Beachhead
PO Box 644, Venice, CA 90294.

Playa Vista

- a view contrary to Moe Stavnezer’s

To the Beachhead:
Contrary and in addition to several asser-
tions made by Moe Stavnezer in regard to the
Playa Vista development:
The area east of Lincoln Boulevard does con-
tain federally-delineated wetlands, as well as
many areas that were wetlands, and/or could be
restored as wetland and adjoining necessary
upland habitat. Playa Vista has been systemati-
cally grading and filling the lands east of Lincoln
for several years, including the central section
which is part of Phase 2 and for which the
required Environmental Impact Report is not yet
finished. There is documentation of willow trees
being bulldozed, marshes being graded and
filled-in, and trees being cut down that were
habitat for hawks, egrets, and other birds.
It is not acceptable to dig up Native
American graves, which would never happen at
a cemetery such as Holy Cross or Forest Lawn.
The count at the current burial site at Playa Vista
is now 122 (6 graves constitutes a cemetery by
state law, except for Indian graves). People in the
Native American community do not support the
desecration of this cemetery, but have asked that
the burials be left in situ - in place in the ground.
There are tribal members who are paid to work
as monitors at the site, as required by law, how-
ever there is complicity by certain monitors in
supporting developers and signing off on proj-
ects.

There has been great damage to burials by
Catellus at the bluff above the wetlands, also part
of the State-registered Sacred Site, Sa’angna.
Catellus used giant earthmovers to grade the
bluff and it is believed that many burials were
destroyed.
A Federal lawsuit has been filed by
Johntommy Rosas, vice-chair of the
Gabrielino/Tongva Indians of California Tribal
Council, enumerating many violations to State
and Federal statutes by both Playa Capital Corp.
and Catellus.
Catellus Development Corp. (whose CEO is
Nelson Rising, formerly of Maguire
Thomas/Playa Vista) is equally at fault for habi-
tat destruction, including a vernal pool on top of
the bluff, and willow riparian habitat in Hastings
Canyon, as well as the widespread poisoning of
small rodents and mammals on the bluff that
hawks and herons hunted.
According to an LA Times article, the
methane alarms at Playa Vista’s Fountain Park
apartments have gone off many times in the mid-
dle of the night, forcing residents to go outdoors.
Residents also state that there is no disclosure to
tenants of potential toxic and explosive gas haz-
ards.
Leslie Purcell

Dear Beachhead,

I understand the city is rethinking
their lottery idea for the allocation of
spaces on the Venice boardwalk.
They shouldn't just rethink it,
they should put it out of their minds
completely. The freedom of speech
guaranteed by the Bill of Rights may
not apply to vendors of sunglasses
but it definitely does apply to the
political activists and artists who
have always been the lifeblood of the
Venice boardwalk scene.
In fact, the merchants that do sell
their sunglasses and t-shirts etc. on
Venice Beach owe their success in
large part to these political activists
and artists who have given Venice the
reputation that has drawn people
from far and wide to its beaches.
Cary Shulman

LETTERS – send
letters to:
Email: Beachhead, POB 644,
Beachhead@freevenice.org Venice 90294

Dear Beachhead,

This letter is in response to the descriptive
narrative on “Ancient monoliths found on Venice
Beach.” Issue 272, Feb. 2004.
The artist of the rock sculptures is Kevin
Morgan. He is academically trained in Fine Art
and studied in Santa Barbara, CA. Mr. Morgan is
a real person, not a mythical, primitive Venetian
who has drug-induced visions.
The rock sculptures are called “Angels.”
They are a memorial dedicated to the victims of
the Santa Monica outdoor market-place who died
a violent death when hit by a car. Also remem-
bered are others who were victims of a senseless
death.
On a technical basis the balance between the
rocks is precise. They rise upward, connected by
a strong yet fragile tension.
Seen from a distance, Kevin Morgan’s
“Angels” are evocative. A deep sense of mystery
surrounds them. Who, what and where are they
from? They appear strong, brave and filled with
hope.
Thank you for reading this letter. Sometimes
the more you know, the more interesting life
becomes.

Mary Bradford

My name is Kevin Morgan, and I’m a Venice
local for some 27 years.

I would like to inform, not only the photog-
rapher, Jim Smith, but also the Venice Beachhead
that on page one (February 2004) you have pic-
tures of some rock statues that are balanced.
They aren’t done by a man out of Ventura
named Stewart Finch, they are by ME! I am the
artist that does these for a memorial for about 94
deceased people that use to live in Venice some
27 years ago that died senseless deaths (the real
locals).
I think you owe me an apology for even
printing my art work and giving credit when in
fact you don’t know the true story behind it. I am
not bitter. Please don’t get me wrong...(only at
the wrong interpretation that was used to
describe my work in a respected paper, I thought.

Why don’t you guys come and meet me? I
want to inform you correctly what it is you all
talk about. Weather permitting, I am there usual-
ly on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays till 3pm.
The other days from 10am till sunset. Been doing
it for some six years there. where you guys been?

Peace and hope to see you,. thank you
kevin morgan

Beach sculptures
by Kevin Morgan

Venice has a Town Hall Meeting

By John Davis

A gathering of Venice stakeholders sponsored by the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council drew hundreds of members to a working meeting where voters could speak out on a variety of topics affecting their lives.

Organizations and committees distributed informative literature to stakeholders while a working dinner began, inclusive of any members who wished to speak.

This was not just a political meeting, it was also a great feast like those in the days of yore. Venetians sat together and broke bread in a ritual that has unified and strengthened societies for ages.

Rich and poor, tall and small, they were all there. And the auditorium provided by a local church had the air of regal castle where decisions are made and food was shared by a communal hearth. Though a hearth was not present, you could feel that a warm fire of empowerment burned within Venice that night.

Hundreds of GRVNC stakeholders demonstrated mutual respect that resulted in a successful meeting. The Neighborhood Council is mature and

now functions to serve the people. Unlike the prior “Team Venice” Board members who locked the Council into an ineffectual state of power hogging, the Progressive Board is sailing into the future with a strong wind filling its sails.

GRVNC is mature compared the

duration. The Councilwoman spoke about her successful efforts regarding the two million-dollar Venice Surplus Fund to a round of applause and then sat patiently listening to each and every public comment. Some stakeholders spoke directly to their appointed representative and while not all comments were positive, that did not deter the Councilwoman from looking at Venice eye to eye, much to her credit.

Naming parks is usually done downtown but in this case Venice grabbed the bull by the horns and has once again shown leadership. A fair voting system called instant run-off (IRV) voting was utilized to determine the name of the park. Though this system takes a bit more understanding, it is indeed fair. The preferred name is now Peace Park. The ballot results also confirmed those new GRVNC Board members filling positions abandoned by previous members.

As the working feast proceeded Dr. Alice Stek, 2nd Vice President of the Neighborhood Council presided over the first topic of discussion. Stek is a committed volunteer for the Council and a medical doctor who delivers children. She is also a candidate for the United States congress. Alice is to be commended for her commitment to the Council and community.

The next topic of discussion was the gargantuan project proposed for Lincoln and California streets euphemistically called the Lincoln Center. stakeholders were overwhelmingly against this project since it would encompass the entire lots where Ross Dress for Less and the Ralph’s Market serve Venetians today.

Concerns were raised about lack of low income housing, the fact that it would be several stories high with underground parking, new air pollution affecting local school children, the gridlock it would cause on Lincoln Blvd., and traffic spillover into surrounding neighborhood streets.

Government Relations Officer Paul Ryan led a balanced discussion about the future of Abbot Kinney Blvd. including new parking lot improvements. The Board of Directors recently approved the lots.

Next was an item of great stakeholder interest, the proposed Ocean Front Ordinance. Laddie Williams, a Board member, moderated this discussion.

Again, the majority of stakeholders spoke against the City proposal to regulate free speech to certain zones that artists would have to rent. One person equated the City’s proposal to President Bush’s idea that free speech exists only in zones of his choosing. The speaker said America is a free speech zone and the City cannot legally rent free speech on the Boardwalk.

GRVNC Government Relations Officer Paul Ryan who is also an attorney enumerated many of the legal problems with the proposed ordinance indicating they would be too numerous to discuss at the Town Hall.

Many artists spoke against the proposed law, citing a prior legal action artists had filed against the City in a similar circumstance. The boardwalk artists won that lawsuit. It appears that the artists and free thinkers of Venice will not allow the City to rent their constitutional rights.

Progressive Board member Suzanne Thompson was instrumental in leading the Outreach Committee to hold this event.

In all, the progressive Venice Neighborhood Council Board decided not to hoard and squander the money it has received from the City. Instead it was spent where it counts most, by reaching out to the stakeholders and giving them the power to shape their own community.



Clockwise from left: John Davis & Don Geagan; Barbara Eisenberg & DeDe Audet; Ibrahim Butler & Laddie Williams; Arnold Springer & Lydia Poncé.



Westchester Playa del Rey Council. Playa Vista developers offered employees free food, transportation and cheap booze to vote in that election. This was an overt attempt by a business to control a Neighborhood Council. But the progressive GRVNC Board of Directors will not let that happen in Venice. The Neighborhood Council will continue to show leadership in Los Angeles and the Town Hall meeting was a perfect example of this commitment.

Long-standing community leader and President of the Venice Council Sheila Bernard chaired the meeting.

Our representative to the Los Angeles City Council, Cindy Miscikowski, was present for the

Neighborhood Council NEWS

- February was a two-board-meeting month. In addition, a growing number of committees met (see box to right).
- Among the decisions of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Board were:
- **Elections:** Half the Board seats are coming up for election in June. The Board appointed Tom O’Meara, Communications Officer, who is not up for re-election, to chair the Elections Committee.
 - **Envision Lincoln Blvd.:** The Board appropriated \$500 to help pay for printing the report of the Envision Venice group which is studying the future of Lincoln Blvd.
 - **No to Lincoln Center:** The Board went on record opposing the massive Lincoln Center project proposed for the area between Lake Street and the 7-11 store on Lincoln.
 - **Yes to St. Joseph’s Center:** The nonprofit, which assists low-income and homeless Venice residents, is building a new headquarters on Hampton Ave. The Board voted to support the project.
 - **Town Hall:** The Board appropriated up to \$4,350 for the Town Hall meeting and a mailing.
 - **Venice Surplus Property Fund:** The Board supported L.A. City Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski’s proposals that funds from the Venice Surplus Property Fund, which is accumulated by selling city-owned lots in Venice, could be spent by city council resolution instead of ordinance. However, the Board differed with Miscikowski on her effort to spend the money for non-capital improvements in Venice. She went ahead and got city council approval anyway.
 - **DWP rate increase:** The Board voted to join neighborhood councils throughout the city in opposing an across-the-board DWP rate increase of 12 percent on water usage.
 - **West Bluff/Burial Sites:** The Board endorsed the preservation and public acquisition of the Ballona Bluffs ecosystem and to protect native American village and burial sites at both the West Bluff and the Ballona Wetlands.

—Jim Smith

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7 PM, at Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. unless otherwise noted.

- **March 15 - 7PM - Monday - Poverty & Homelessness Committee** - Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave.
- **March 15 - 7:30PM - Monday - Communications & Outreach Committee** – Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave.
- **March 16 - 7PM - Tuesday - The Future of Lincoln Place - Special Land Use and Planning Committee** - Penmar Park Childcare Bldg., 1341 Lake St.
- **March 18 - 7PM - Bylaws Committee**
- **March 18 - 7PM - Children, Youth and Families Committee**
- **March 18 - 8PM - Budget Committee**
- **March 22 - 7PM - Monday - GRVNC Board**
- **March 25 - 5PM - Thursday - Conservation Committee** - Abbot Kinney Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd.

Lincoln Center mega-project raked over coals at hearing

By Jim Smith

Although the Lincoln Center project is almost universally loathed in Venice, it's still proceeding on its merry way through the Los Angeles approval process.

Today's stop was in front of Planning Department Hearing Officer Jon Foreman in West L.A. He first heard a well-rehearsed presentation from developer Samuel Adams and architect Jai Paul Khalsa. It was followed by statements from the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) and its Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC). Laura Burns and I were followed by 37 Venetians (some of the approximately 100 people at the hearing), nearly all of whom made cogent and articulate comments about various problems with the project, including its size, traffic, pollution, noise, and its impact on the community.

The latest formulation of the massive project is 99,000 square feet of commercial space and 246,860 square feet of residential. The developer is proposing setting aside 10 percent for low-moderate income units and 10 percent for moderate income units, but only for 30 years. The buildings on both sides of California Ave. would be six stories tall, dwarfing everything on Lincoln Blvd. in Venice.

"We need less congestion, not more," said Stephen Fisk, who went on to compare this Lincoln Center with the cultural mecca by the same name in New York City. In all, 35 of the 37 were opposed to the project by my reckoning. Of the other two, DeDe Audet's comments could have been taken either pro or con, while Darryl Dufay's were clearly in support of the development, with conditions. He noted that LUPC had approved the project with certain minor conditions in October, 2003.

The most eagerly awaited speaker was probably Kevin Keller, aide to Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. In his initial presentation, Khalsa had said that Miscikowski had endorsed the project at 4:50 pm, the previous Friday.

Keller, who spoke near the end of the hearing, began by stating that Miscikowski could not support the project "as designed today." What he said next may be subject to various interpretations. His comments did cause me to look up the dictionary meaning of double-talk when I got home. One of the definitions is "Deliberately ambiguous or evasive language." Fortunately there is a videotape of his remarks.

My notes reflect that he said words to the effect that the zoning change in contention should be approved (this would allow the project to go forward), and that the council office can work with the developer after that to secure changes. I also heard him say that Dufay's conditions from last October would be a good starting point for securing modifications in the development. If this turns out to be the gist of his statement, then Khalsa was correct in saying that Miscikowski had endorsed the project last Friday.

Hopefully, there is another explanation... The record will remain open until the close of business on March 15 for written comments, which can be mailed to Commission Secretariat, Room 532, City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. L.A. 90012. Phone: 213-978-1300.



Santa Monica Airport Report

By Martin Rubin

Homeowners: Rod Merl, Senior Administrative Analyst at Santa Monica Airport reports: “The primary change that has gone into effect as of January 1, 2004 is the additional notification on the state’s required real estate disclosure statement for potential buyers of property in an “airport influence” area. AB 290 which was introduced in this state legislative session and will carry over to the next session, proposes to amend this requirement as of 2005 to suggest, unless a city or county adopts a contrary boundary, that a two-mile perimeter around an airport be the notice area boundary.”

Noise from SM Airport traffic: Jet traffic at the airport for the month of January was up 7% from January of last year. There were “44” night arrivals between the hours of 11pm and 7am, of which, “21” registered on the noise monitors.

At the **next SM Airport Commission meeting, Monday, March 22** at SM City Hall Council Chambers, the “Annual Noise Report” will be given by Vincent Mestre, noise specialist for the airport. There are those of us who feel that many noise impacts from aircraft operations at the airport are completely overlooked by the noise measuring methods now being used. One of many examples is the fact that the planes landing at the airport from the East, often avoid flying over the one noise monitor, placed near the top of a telephone pole, located on Sardis Ave., between Stoner and Granville. This gives a false reading of the actual noise event. If you want to voice your views, the March 22, 7:30pm meeting is the time to do it. Please attend, and bring all your ideas and suggestions. I know I will!

Request to know: As noted in last month’s update, I asked a series of questions regarding noise complaints to the airport and what good do they do. That, and the reply and the follow-up to the reply, are posted at the bottom of the Noise/Fume E-Complaint page at jetairpollution.com.

GRVNC-Conservation Committee-Airport Affairs Sub Committee: welcomes all to attend the next meeting, 7pm, Monday, March 8 at the Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. The meeting after this meeting will be 7pm, Monday, April 12, at the same location. Brainstorming ideas has been ongoing at these meetings. I recommend attending.

Summary of the Febuary 23 SM Airport Commission meeting: The Commission discussed, for the third straight meeting, possible changes to their present meeting agenda format. Several residents spoke in favor of changing the name of the “Noise Management” agenda item to the “Environmental Report.” Airport staff claimed this, “... might mislead the public to believe that staff conducts some sort of on-going air quality environmental investigation...” and that it could, “...create unreasonable expectations by the public...”

Vice chair Airport Commissioner Ofer Grossman, who was chairing the meeting due to the chairs absence, steadfastly argued in favor of the change, but the other Commissioners apparently liked the agenda format just as it is now, and no action was taken.

After more than six years of public input regarding our concerns with toxic emissions from jet aircraft operations at the airport, the city of Santa Monica and airport staff has done virtually nothing to address this crucial environmental issue.

What they have done is make the city a haven for corporate jet-setters with limo services available at the airport, and new developments just a short drive away on Colorado Ave. for office space and more. There is a dark cloud on the South East side of green Santa Monica, and it is growing bigger and getting darker.

Prediction: Pretty soon the drizzle of complaints will become a downpour of protest. As one Santa Monica resident puts it, “it’s Santa Monica’s dirty little secret.” To join Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution: jetairpollution.com 479-2529 – *Martin Rubin is co-founder of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution.*

Iraqi Women Have Little to Celebrate

by Medea Benjamin

On March 8, 2003, international women’s day, Iraqi women had little to celebrate. They were living under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, the weight of onerous UN sanctions and living in fear of impending war. This year, Saddam Hussein is gone and sanctions have been lifted. But Iraqi women face a brand new set of burdens.

Iraqi women, like Iraqi men, wage a day-to-day struggle just to survive: they face a devastating 60 percent unemployment rate, constant shortages of electricity and clean drinking water, a crumbling transportation network, and a crumbling health care system. But Iraqi women also have to cope with an unanticipated consequence of Hussein’s ouster: the breakdown of the rule of law that has led to an unprecedented spate of rapes and kidnappings. Add to that the daily bombings and the travails of living under an occupying force, and it is no surprise that many Iraqi women are afraid to even venture out of their homes. “The situation for women is worse now than before the war,” said Eman Ahmed Khammas who directs the Occupation Watch Center in Baghdad. “Because of the security situation, it’s really very difficult to move around and very dangerous. Families are afraid for their daughters and don’t allow them to be outside on their own.”

Worse yet, in the long view, is a fear that Iraqi women’s rights, won over a century of struggles, are now being eroded by the rising power of conservative Muslim clerics. Many Iraqi women fault the U.S. for shoring up the clerics, while failing to promote women to decision-making positions.

In December 2003, a coalition of Iraqi women’s groups, most of whom had supported the US invasion, delivered a scathing letter to the U.S. Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) denouncing a litany of discriminatory political appointments. The letter noted that there are only 3 women out of 25 on the Interim Governing Council; no women governors have been appointed in any of the 18 provinces, not one woman on the 9-person committee that wrote the just-completed Fundamental Law. There is only 1 woman in charge in one of the 25 government ministries; and there has been no woman appointed governor in any of the country’s 18 provinces.

And remember that one of the few noteworthy achievements of the Iraqi government prior to the invasion was that there were more professional women in positions of power than in almost any other Middle Eastern nation.

The relatively low key struggle between conservative clerics and women activists recently exploded within the US-appointed Governing Council over a Code 137, a reactionary resolution passed by Council but not approved by the US authorities. The resolution would have scrapped Iraq’s 1959 family affairs code (considered among the most progressive in the Middle East) and placed family law under Muslim religious jurisdiction.

Zakia Ismael Hakki, a retired woman judge, said that the new law would “send Iraqi families back to the Middle Ages” by stripping women of equal rights around marriage, divorce, children, inheritance, and property rights. Iraqi women promptly mobilized against the Code, with street protests and petitions that elicited international support. The women garnered a temporary victory when the substance of the code was dropped from the interim constitution approved on March 1. But conservative clerics and political parties like the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq vow to try again once political control is turned over the Iraqis on June 30.

Iraqi women are fully cognizant of the danger and are preemptively organizing to defend their rights in the post-June 30 Iraqi government. They spearheaded a national drive to have at least 40 percent representation in public administration, legislative bodies and the judiciary. The interim constitution, however, calls for a more modest 25 percent representation for women. Moreover, this is only a target, not a compulsory quota, and it only applies to the interim assembly and not appointed positions.

Yanar Mohamed, leader of the Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq who has received death threats because of her battles for women’s rights, sees this as a critical juncture for Iraqi women. “Either we organize and demand our social and political freedoms or we give way to a theocracy and the institutionalized, legalized oppression of women in Iraq.” It would be a sad irony indeed if an invasion that is now being sold as a war of liberation for Iraqis - now that no WMDs can be found - leads to a government that erodes the gains of Iraqi women.

Medea Benjamin is co-founder of the women’s peace group CodePink and the human rights group Global Exchange.

The Future of Lincoln Center

The Land Use and Planning Committee of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council is inviting all Venetians to come to and deliberate on the future of Lincoln Place.

The 795-unit Post-World War II modernist complex was bought last summer by the large real estate investment trust AIMCO. Although an 850-unit condo project had been approved--over great protest from tenant and historic preservationists--by the City Council in November of 2002, nothing has been done on the project thus far.

The project was to include demolition of all 52 apartment buildings to be replaced by 708 condos and 144 affordable rentals. AIMCO has given no indication that it intends to pursue that project. At a conference call with its stockholders in the fall, AIMCO representatives discussed Lincoln Place as having the potential for 1300 newly built units, but also said it might consider selling the 32-acre property. Building 1300 new units would require a zone change, which would require a lengthy public review process.

Rather than wait to see what the new owners have in store for Venetians, the Land Use and Planning Committee hopes to start a dialog between the community and the new owner and thus afford AIMCO the possibly of incorporating the community's desires into its planning process.

"Too often a developer spends a lot of time and money developing plans which then meet with tremendous community opposition. Part of the empowerment of neighborhood councils is to give stakeholders a voice and genuine input on how developments shape their future," said Laura Burns, who represents District 1, which includes Lincoln Place, on the committee.

"Since it appears the condo project is dead and some other project will shape the future of Lincoln Place, we'd like to give the community the opportunity to speak out before, rather than after, a submission to the planning department." Lincoln Place comprises 10 percent of all rental units in Venice. It has traditionally been the largest source of affordable housing in Venice as well.

AIMCO has been invited to participate in the forum to share the range of plans it's exploring, but has declined. With or without the participation of AIMCO, the LUPC, in holding the forum, will be able to provide the GRVNC board with community sentiment and desires regarding Lincoln Place, to provide to the GRVNC board, which advises the City on issues affecting Venice, said Burns.

The forum is designed to be both informative and deliberative. Amanda Seward, Chair of the Residential Council of the LA Conservancy's Modern Committee, will provide an overview of the 56-year history of Lincoln Place, which was designed by African-American Ralph Vaughn and his white partner, Heth Wharton. Seward is currently revising her 2002 nomination of the complex to the National Register of Historic Places, which, although unanimously endorsed by the State Historical Resources Commission, was returned by the National Register Office with the request for additional documentation following intense lobbying by the previous owner.

The forum will also provide a report on how Lincoln Place fits into Venice's housing and income statistics. Experts in affordable housing, a major issue in Venice, will also speak. Lisa Bialac, granddaughter of the project's developer Sam Bialac, will speak briefly as will a representative of the National Organization of Minority Architects. Ron Vaughn, son of the designer and himself an architect, and Edmund Gonzalez, Director of Housing of the Volunteers of America will also attend.

During the second half of the evening, the forum will open the discussion up to questions and comments from the public.

Simultaneous translation of the forum will be provided to Spanish speakers.

Community Forum: The Future of Lincoln Place

Tuesday, March 16, 7-9 pm
Penmar Park Childcare Bldg, 1341 Lake St, Venice



Strolling Buffet Tour of Lincoln Place

Tuesday, March 16,
before the Forum

Time: every 15 minutes
from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Location: Corner of Lake Street and
Penmar, across from the park



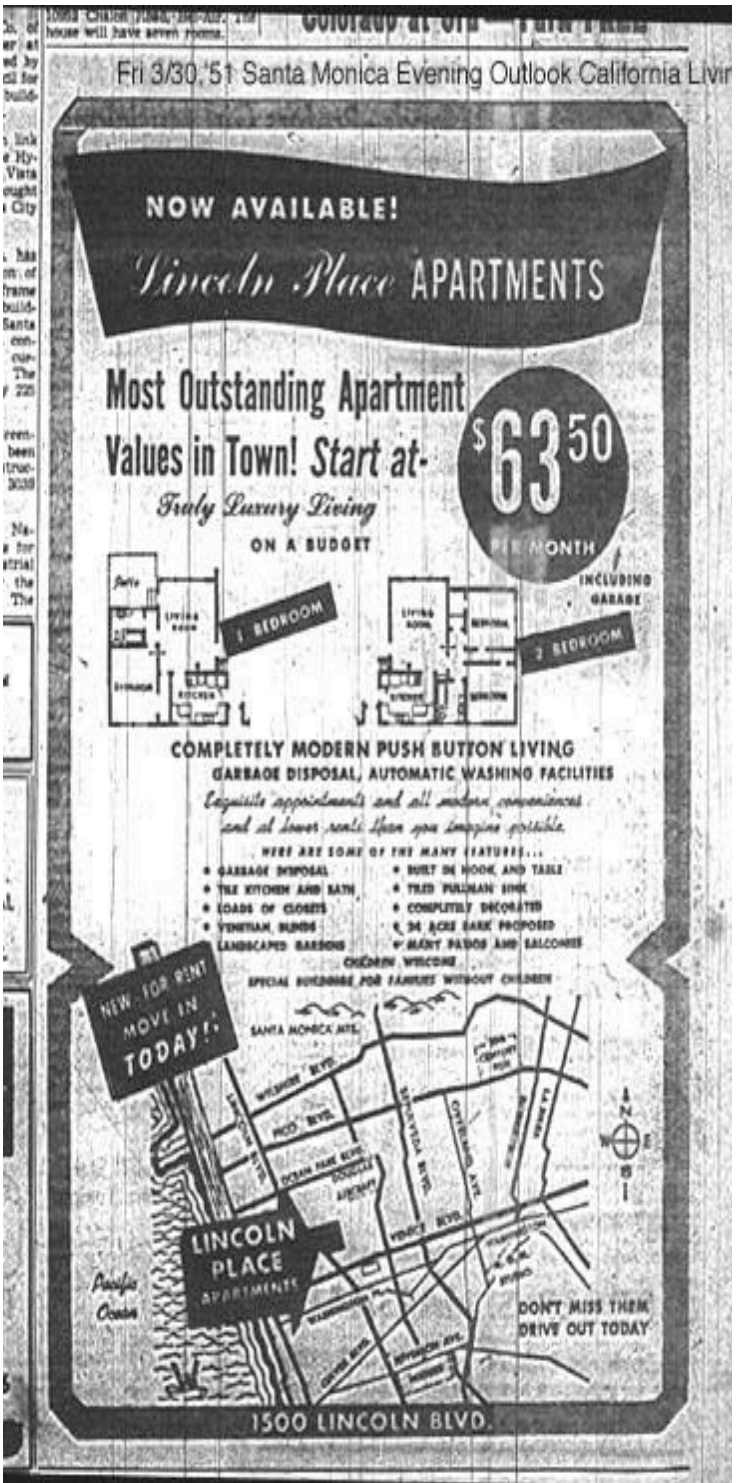
Architects of Lincoln Place: Ralph Vaughn and Heth Wharton. They were partners in the firm Wharton and Vaughn Associates.

Also in attendance will be Viet Tran of the Mayor's office and a representative of Congresswoman Jane Harman's office. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, and State Senator Debra Bowen, all of whom, like Congresswoman Harman, supported the recent nomination of Lincoln Place to the National Register, have been invited to send representatives. Representatives of Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski's office and of Assemblyman George Nakano have also been invited to attend.

The Lincoln Place Tenants Association will host "strolling buffet tours" of the complex just before the 7 pm meeting, leaving every 15 minutes between 5:30 and 6:30 pm from the corner of Lake Street and Penmar. "People in Venice have been hearing about Lincoln Place for years, but many have never really walked through it to discover all the unique gardens and courtyard spaces, the fabulous modernist architecture and the exceptional floor plans. We want to give the community the opportunity to experience that before the meeting," said Sheila Bernard, president of the tenants association, who is also the president of Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

Shortly before the property was sold to AIMCO, former owner Bob Bisno demolished seven of the 52 apartment buildings. In a conversion with Burns, Emily Gabel-Luddy of the city planning department said that, as the owner had said he did not intend to proceed with the condo project, the City had issued the demolition permits without the extra conditions the condo project approval would have imposed.

Although there are rumors that another round of demolitions and evictions are imminent, an AIMCO representative Friday assured LUPC co-chair Laura Burns, that, at the moment, none are "in the works."



Above: 1951 advertisement for Lincoln Place.

Below: Last year's destruction.
Photo by Lydia Poncé.

THIS ARCHITECT WAS A POEM

A Venice Architect, a Venice Food Collective, and a Venice Family Home

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Rick Davidson was an architect and a poet. He first came to live in Venice in 1961 and lived most of his years here in his San Juan Avenue home – then Venice Headquarters for Activism – until he died of breast cancer in 1999. (He said that his breast cancer proved he was a feminist.) Rick was instrumental in the founding of the Free Venice Movement, the Peace and Freedom Party, and the Free Venice Beachhead. He also ran, as the Venice candidate, against Pat Russell for Los Angeles City Council in 1969. More than all that, he was a family friend. Rick, Marvena (my mom), and Bob Wells were sometimes called the Venice “Gang of Three.” And it was probably best not to get in their collective way – ideologically, of course. I was going through a box of Rick’s stuff from the Beachhead and found a formal complaint letter he had written regarding police activity in Oakwood. It was a carbon copy from a typewriter, typos and all. Reading the letter made me feel proud to have known Rick, because he followed his politics into the streets. I mean, good for you if you believe in civil and human rights, but Rick really did something about it. I knew Rick was an architect, except I didn’t know any of his Venice work. So I decided to do a story about Rick Davidson, the Venice Activist Architect. Little did I know what a piece of living Venice history I would be led to. After getting a few leads on some Venice additions that Rick had worked on, I called the one for a house on Cabrillo. Not the dome house, the one next door owned by Cheri and Manny Katz. I had no idea the age or the history of the house before I was inside and saw the pictures. I only called because I understood that the Katz house was used for a Venice Food Co-op and that an architectural addition, which was done by Rick Davidson, involved a food pantry



Manny Katz in his Cabrillo Avenue home.

space for the food collective. In the Katz living room hangs a picture of the dome house and the Katz house sitting side-by-side, with no other houses near, on a Venice canal back in 1904. The dome house is two-stories and somewhat elaborate for those times. The Katz home was originally a one-story, one bedroom home - a typical unpretentious older Venice house. As I said, the original house was a single story. If you look at the house from the street, it does not look like it has been altered. In fact, it is amazing how the architecture was done so no one would notice the alteration. The addition included a new kitchen, a pantry, a laundry room downstairs, and a master bedroom upstairs. The original house extends as far as the dining room. By the way, the living room has a wonderful inner wall fireplace and hard wood floors. The added kitchen is quite well lit and appears very functional. It has bright blue tile,



The compact and functional kitchen, designed by Rick Davidson.

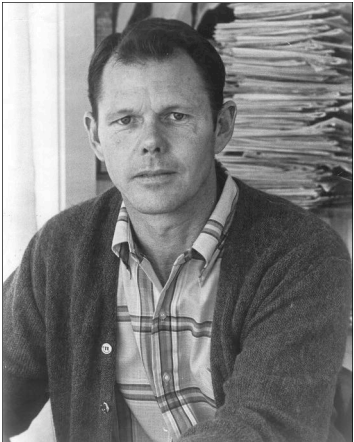


built-in appliances, a side door to the yard, and a cat dish sitting on the counter. The laundry and the pantry rooms are in the very back of the first floor part of the addition. The pantry is well packed, even though the food collective has not been there since the early eighties. Probably the most spectacular part of the addition is the upstairs master bedroom. To the left of the kitchen is the stairway up - with a laundry chute built into a bookcase at the top of the stairs. The chute has kid locks, but Manny said a cat went down it one time. Luckily, it landed on a pile of dirty clothes. The first thing you see turning right from the top of the stairs is a walk-in closet. The bedroom has a beam ceiling and stained glass windows made by a local Venice artist on each side. One of these catches the sunrise. From this added upstairs master bedroom you can cross over to a small door into the attic or crawl space on the original part of the house. This is nice, because this attic space became more accessible after the addition. The bathroom, except for maybe the pantry or the walk-in closet or the stained glass windows, is my favorite part of the addition. It has a whirlpool bath with a Venice view - a true slice of Venice luxury. But this house is not the kind of place where people just sat in a hot tub sipping herb tea. Things have happened in this Venice house. Remember, the pantry was part of the addition because a Venice food collective was operated out of this house. Manny bought the house on Cabrillo in 1970 (back when a high school teacher could buy a house in Venice) and operated the Venice Family Food Co-op out the house from 1973 to approximately 1985. The Food Co-op was really operated like a buying collective. There was an order form for each household member. It had things on it like dried fruit, oils, bread, cheese, flour, pasta, nuts, beans, juices, and other misc items such as nutritional yeast. Everything was pre-paid. Once every month, on Friday, the Collective Warehouse would deliver direct to the Cabrillo street house. On the following Monday, collective members would meet there to sort the items and to fill the orders. First, the collective members that showed up would get to sort each product (like peanut butter) by the needed quantities. Then each family’s order was filled and stacked against the living room wall until it was picked up. There were 100 collective member families on the list and somewhere between 15-20 would



The Pantry – once home to the Venice Food Co-op.

show up to sort the quantities and fill the orders each month. In general, Manny said that there were no leeches on the process. If someone wanted to pay more so they did not have to do any work on the collective, Manny would just tell them to come Monday and try it out. It usually worked and they stayed and became active members. It is hard to say why collectives die in a story that’s just about a Venice architect and a Venice family home. One reason could be that the Venice people who might be interested in community collectivism need to work so very hard to pay the bills these days that they are exhausted. Manny thought Henry Ford had one thing right: you should pay your employees enough to buy your product. Its mostly the well off who seem to be able to afford Venice these days. I think another reason is that so many of us have lost touch with how important community is – we let ourselves be brainwashed with messages that say consuming is what will make us truly happy. Nonetheless, it was wonderful to get to see the Katz home and meet people that do understand charity and community. Even though Rick Davidson and the Venice Family Food Co-op are not around anymore, the Katz family house on Cabrillo remains a living monument to their memory.



Rick Davidson



The master bedroom with stained-glass skylight.

Supermarket Strike

—continued from Page One

times that try men’s (and women’s) souls,” as Thomas Paine said in 1776. And this struggle, like that one so long ago will ultimately end in victory. A fight for justice and freedom from tyranny are common factors in both cases. Steve Burd, CEO of Safeway, and the other economic royalists have inadvertently taught thousands of workers how to struggle and resist. That lesson will not soon be forgotten.

In post-mortems on the strike, writers in the LA Weekly and other publications have implied that the strike was in vain and it was lost because of the ineptitude of the union leaders. The Weekly article quotes a UCLA management professor as saying, “I don’t think it can be read any other way than a defeat for the union. I suppose it could have been worse.” His comments are typical of the many Monday morning quarterbackbacks who see the whole thing as a union screw-up.

One wonders where these pundits have been for the past 20 years? Unions have been getting pummeled ever since that American Idol, Ronald Reagan, put the full weight of the U.S. government behind breaking a strike of the air traffic controllers union, PATCO. Since PATCO, every corporation, large or small has been getting on the anti-union bandwagon. An entire industry of professional union-busting consultants thrives in this land of the free.

Most unions have been intimidated into not striking, but meekly accepting whatever sadistic “final offer” management has cooked up. Most of those who dared to strike were smeared before they got off the line of scrimmage. Supermarket workers, who haven’t struck since the 70s, stayed out, and stayed strong for weeks. They can take pride in the fact that the strike ended in an orderly retreat, not a rout, in spite of the overwhelming strength of their opponents.

Sure there were problems with the union leadership. Most UFCW union officials weren’t around the last time they had to strike. Some of them should follow the lead of their international president, Doug Dority, and go quietly into retirement. But other union leaders and staff were relentless in organizing the strike and boosting striker morale. In our area, Local 1442, was a leader in holding rallies, and engaging in civil disobedience and other non-traditional tactics. Since they broke ranks in the 70s to endorse Tom Hayden and got involved in leftwing Santa Monica politics, Local 1442 has had a reputation in UFCW as being more progressive than the rest of the pack, and in this strike, more aggressive. Elected leaders Mike Straeter and Richard Cowan, staff members like Jesse Gonzales, picket captains like Venice’s own DeDe McCreary, and thousands of strikers gave their all in this historic struggle. They weren’t out-classed, they were out-gunned.

It was Southern California strikers against nationwide corporations. When attempts were made to spread the pickets to Northern California, some unions up there complained that a boycott could cost them jobs. The obvious solution is a nationwide contract so that everyone can go on strike, if necessary, at the same time. But, easier said than done. The supermarket corporations will fight even harder to prevent that from happening.

There is a solution, however. This strike would never have happened in most countries where health care is not tied to a job or a union contract.

In Canada for instance, there is single-payer health

care that covers everyone regardless of where they work, if they work. Union friends in Canada laugh when I describe the hard bargaining over medical benefits that is part of almost every U.S. union contract negotiation. The Washington Post reported recently that for each mid-size car DaimlerChrysler builds at one of its U.S. plants, the company pays about \$1,300 to cover employee health care costs. When it builds an identical car across the border in Canada, the health care cost is negligible.

Likewise for the two-tier, low-wage provision that the union got stuck with. If the minimum wage was a livable wage, corporate competition wouldn’t be based on who can pay the lowest wage. Wal-Mart would be a non-issue. And while it wasn’t an issue in this strike battle, I want to point out that most civilized countries also required a minimum vacation by law. Four weeks is the minimum that employers can give in France. In some other countries, it’s five or six weeks. They have a funny idea that there’s more to life than just working.

So how do we get laws in California and the U.S. that are like those in the civilized world? Well, perhaps it’s time for a boycott on election day of all those politicians who won’t sign on to health care for all, doubling the minimum wage and making everyone’s life a lot better, even if it costs the corporations a pretty penny in taxes.



PHOTOS

- ☞ Near the end of the strike, the union and supporters began engaging in civil disobedience, such as blocking the doors of the Vons Market, Broadway and Lincoln, in Santa Monica on Feb. 18.
- ☞ Cops take away Beachhead Collective member, Jim Smith, who was one of ten protesters arrested.
- ☞ Cops hold back the crowd while more cops arrest their comrades.



Photos: Martin Rubin



Davidson
FOR CITY COUNCIL

CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS,
1727 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD VENICE, CALIFORNIA 399-7681

9 D  cember 1969

STATEMENT FROM RICHARD F. DAVIDSON CONCERNING POLICE HARASSMENT IN
VENICE, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 2 & 3.

About 12:30 pm on Tuesday, 2 December 1969 I received a phone call at my campaign office informing me that the police were running wild in Oakwood. On driving through the area I witnessed what could be called, "police running wild". Police were stopping everyone and anyone. People were insulted, thrown in the car, and taken to the station (the number arrested is unknown). At the Westly House I joined Vermont McKinney and four other community people ***** in driving through the neighborhood witnessing police harassing and arresting anything that moved. Upon witnessing two policemen pick-up, then let go a young girl (who we were later told was high, but informing) we were followed and then stopped for failure to make or give a turn signal...although everyone in the car saw Vermont give one. As we were stopped other police arrived including Capt. Sillings and Lt. Archbold. Also a crowd began to gather. I asked Capt. Sillings if this was his new approach to "police-community-relations". He said, "Yes, we'll arrest everyone of them if need be." When asked how long would it go on he replied, "Till we get everyone of them...it may take go on forever."

From there we drove to the Venice Police Station to see who and how many were arrested. While there we witnessed a youth (black) who was leaving the station jumped and beaten by three policemen and then taken into the station.

This was the action that was typical of the LAPD on the two days mentioned. The community want it to end. The question is what do we have to do in order to get justice in this society of ours?

Richard F. Davidson

A Fertile Ground to Build Relationships
Pastor Tom and the United Methodist Church of Venice

By Suzy Williams

“Hi, Honey, blessings!” greets Pastor Tom Ziegert with a gap-toothed grin, the early March wind riffing through his longish wavy locks. He stands in the little green courtyard holding a handful of papers, and is preparing for a seven o'clock event at the church. “Not quite the conflagration we were banking on!”, he says, letting out his goofy abandoned chuckle that explodes into a cartoon hiccup-guffaw. Behind him, in the stately and huge wooden sanctuary, a small crowd is slowly filing in. They're here to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. hydrogen bomb blast that devastated the Marshall Island people in the South Pacific. Hundreds of people were displaced and women were rendered barren or mothers of “jellyfish babies.”

Pastor Tom and a smattering of sister Methodist churches organized this touching remembrance, brought together by internet video hook-up, courtesy of The Linux Public Broadcasting Network (LPBN), whose base is here at the church. After songs and prayers and a riveting reading of a Marshall Island native's firsthand experience, we gather in the “fellowship room” and write outraged letters to our representatives and empathetic letters to Marshall Islanders.



United Methodist Church of Venice

What makes the world go round? What makes a legend most? What profoundly affects you in a lifetime of tears and laughter? For me, it is Pastor Tom. Yes, something remarkable is happening at the United Methodist Church at Victoria and Lincoln. Ever since Pastor Tom took over the helm there a couple of years ago, an amazing conduit of blissful, humanitarian energy is flowing there. Under the kind auspices of this bright, right-on minister, well, let me count the ways that this church's space has become, as Pastor Tom intones: “a fertile ground to build relationships.” He has helped establish, or expand and encourage the following organizations (not in any order of importance) under the church's inclusive roof:

1. Inside-Out – A wonderful arts program for at risk and underserved Junior High Schoolers. About 125 youth utilize drama, painting and music to help cope with today's pressures. Much of the colorful murals, giant painting and odd-shaped two-dimensional sculptures now seen in the “Peace with Justice Center,” the enormous hall across the parking lot from the sanctuary, are made by these kids.

2. Easter Seals – A program for building social and working skills to developmentally-challenged folks in a kind learning environment. About 50 people learn and have fun here throughout the week.



Pastor Tom Ziegert and Aaron Anderson, church youth coordinator

3. Head Start – The non-profit preschool. Lots of art, stories and games, and teaching kids to enjoy reading. Forty or so darlins, with great big eyes.

4. Food Not Bombs – The politically motivated hungry person's food program. The ample, shiny kitchen is a fantastic step up for FNB volunteers from the tiny kitchen we worked out of before for chopping and cooking fresh, mostly organic vegetarian food to serve the hungry (about 200 each week) on Venice Beach and the Palisades in Santa Monica. It's a pleasure.

5. City At Peace – The High School version of Inside-Out.

6. The Indo-American Cultural Center – Cooking and language classes and a place to schmooze for folks from or interested in India.

7. Linux Public Broadcasting Network (LPBN) – Ray Steding's brain-child. The goal is to provide free access to information and entertainment around the world. A potential of millions!

8. The Spiritual Growth Group – Headed by Pastor Tom, this program seeks to integrate personal experiences with the Biblical tradition.

9. The Diversity Fest – On December 7 every year, an entertainment, arts, crafts, and food festival. Local organizations are invited to have a booth, the Fire Department brings a truck, and everything!

10. The Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council Town Hall – Many readers have come to know the welcoming Peace with Justice Center as the latest place where the GRVNC met and broke

bread with the community at the Town Hall meeting Feb 26. The big, equipped kitchen was a swell place to launch a delicious meal from, made by St Joseph's Culinary School.

11. Code Pink – Recently Jeff Norman helped organize a couple of swell anti-occupation-of-Iraq events in the dramatic sanctuary of the church, one with Dustin Hoffman and two Iraqi ladies, and one with Michelle Shocked and Medea Benjamin.

12. Narcotics Anonymous – They've been meeting at the church for a long time.

Hundreds served over the years.

13. On the agenda: The University of Venice. Pastor Tom is fascinated by Jim Smith's revival of the idea of an educational forum for the general public to learn about bills before Congress, the propositions on the ballot and for studying the pros and cons of our representatives and potential representatives in the local, state and federal government. He envisions a study program of issues of racism, sexism, gender identity, and living wage and healthcare entitlements, all U of V staples.

Yes, it is all really, really beautiful. Ah, but what I would love to proselytize is that you come to church to hear Tom Ziegert speak! No kidding, he is inspiring, even to an old pantheist like me.

Pastor Tom has the humor, the homilies, and the Big Stuff to move the least God-fearing amongst us. He always tells a joke each sermon (usually good!) He's apt to throw in some quarks from his knowledge of physics, oh, yes. From him I learned “Time is a figment of our dimension.”

He is the most politically savvy minister I have ever come

A little history of Pastor Tom:

Born Catholic in Wilmington, Delaware, he went to college there, studying Political Science. He took a trip to Geneva in his last year and found that being a diplomat wasn't going to jive with his newly outed lifestyle; the field was not conducive to honesty. (Being closeted in the international diplomacy community was then de rigueur.)

So he came back to the States, settling in Southern California, looking for a more accepting profession, and worked various jobs: managing a fast food restaurant, being a telephone operator, installing cable systems, and owning a travel agency in Silverlake.

While mourning his true love's death from AIDS, he was called upon to make a two-minute speech about accepting gays into the ministry and while writing it, he had a spiritual epiphany. An honored colleague heard his brief rant and recommended that Tom get himself to a seminary. So he did, and found his proclivities leaning Methodist, the more liberal of the protestants. After graduating, he headed up a parish in Palm Springs, expanded the congregation considerably there, and then was invited to administer to the Venice parish.

“I'm a pastor of Venice, not just pastor of this church,” he tells me in a manner of confidence. And it's true, he's bringing in musicians, like the brilliant Alfred Johnson, pianist/songwriter, and Peter Ludwig, toncellist. Also appearing are poets, like the dynamic Carmen Vega, and speakers, like Ched Meyers, an expert on the Marshall Island bombings, and other secular artists to help make the services come alive, and make the reasons to come “worship” irresistible.

“The founding principle of the United States,” expresses Tom, “was that there were to be three major players: government, business and church. (We've since added unions.) The role of church was to be the conscience of the other two. Not to be in bed with them, but to show if there was something wrong with any moral connections. It's supposed to be a sort of counter-intelligence. That's what I'm trying to bring back.” Bring it on, Tom, bring it back. And “blessings.”

across. His philosophy is anti-fear and pro-humanity. And now he is doing his sermon in a service that compassionately starts at a less un-Godly hour – 10:30am, instead of 10:00am.

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“As for me, I delight in the everyday way,
Amidst wrapped vines and rocky caves.
Here in the wilderness I am completely free.”
Han Shan, Cold Mountain

Silver days at the Ellison
Longest rainstorm in ten years
Beneath the slippery sky
The Ellison glistening
Dangling raindrops
Silver sounds

Sunset
I slip out to the sea
I am the only person
On Venice beach
Grey sea, grey sky, grey sea gulls
I am wearing a bright pink raincoat
The seagulls believe I am the sunset
They turn their backs to the sea and face me
They assume their sunset viewing positions
Chests forward
Motionless. Except for
An occasional scratch of the ear
The flutter of a wing

We watch each other
I act like the sunset for them
I raise my glowing pink arms
I stand motionless for a long time
Kneel, then recline upon my heels
Alone on Venice Beach
It is all so slow, so simple
Being a sunset

Back at the Ellison.
Alone at the black iron gate
I look up
Soft rain sliding
Over the red bricks
Two red brick wings open
As if to embrace me
Two ghostly shimmering red wings

We watch each other
I look at the Ellison
As the sea gulls looked at me
I love this old building!
I love this old building!

Ah! yes, Kukai, the gulls and
Yes! Even these stones
Will become Buddhas

– Philomene Long

(from QUEEN OF BOHEMIA
Poems by Philomene Long)

American Scream

I missed the peace march
to see Zac
 off to Iraq
to fight a war
 for a core of elected
 oil executive
 cowards
a cartel that smells
 like death by greed
 deaf to the pleading
 of a million children
 slowly embargoed to death
a hierarchy of hyenas
cracked crusaders
freedomphobes
led by a lop eared cowboy clown
deserter-in-chief
election thief
third generation career politician
elitist east coast college cheerleader
 pr reborn Texas rancher
Hitler money fortune
cocaine maim brain
DUI dumb guy
like a chimpanzee
with a chip on its shoulder
a spoiled boy playing
at playing soldier
unfazed by lack of facts
using meat and blood troops as photo op props
ringmaster of fear
to the media zombies
his hypno sleep sheep flock
jolted to submission with terrorist alert shock
slip slide skate to pay police state protection
surrender their minds to Asscrost and Rummy
Orwell’s oil well a gusher
unattended elections held
ballots stolen
and the fainthearted media raising
their ad rates and the fainthearted
Democrats watching their
polls roll
over on their backs
oh, shake the old vampires
off the throat of my nation

Zac,
when you get back
we’ll laugh
at how expensive your cheap education became
I’ll show you this poem and
you can teach my son
your best skateboard moves
anti-gravity flip boards and jumps
and your lucky way of landing
 lucky way of landing
 you have a lucky way of landing
 lucky way of landing
 lucky way of landing you

home

– Rex Butters

POETRY

Letting Go

By Adrian DeSimone

A boy sits, relaxed and calm
Looking for what he loves
Searching for a good omen at heart
But he stays still, confused and melancholy
Nothing but dark, unfortunate thoughts circulate within his veins
And his heart pulses, no emotion, but the truth stays hidden
Finally, a dim light flickers in his head
A good thought is resurrected
He remembers back to a warm place
One with friends and family
He realizes his life is flashing before him
Panic and shock are also fabricated
Could this be his end?
He sits wondering once again
Pondering this thought, this nightmare-come-true
His blood has now run cold, realizing he's almost reached the finish line
As though a quick power surge has erupted, that once dim light shines again
Brighter than before
His Panic melts and his icy blood unfreezes
He has found new hope, new meaning
And with this comes a poor technician, and the slide show breaks down
He becomes aware
And as though someone has taken a flash picture, a harsh light explodes in his face.

Weapons of mass destruction
homeland security
bio chemical drugs
destroying our youth
Our war is right here
 in our homeland
dealers in death and doom
if we don’t help our youth
we have no future
the devils in the courtyard
drummin up some doom
bio-chemical warfare
take ya to yr tomb
the judges in his chambers
face is full of gloom
the people in the court
scared cause
 God has left the room
In God we trust
is on our doller bill
spend it on our future
our youth
terrorized by chemicals
sneakin in
making them old
a nation of old people
and throw away children
Homeland security
save our future
our country
wake up mr president
homeland security
our dollers mispent

– shanna baldwin moore in 2004

Red Rover in Venice

Sindi Misc says "Jump"
n' Venice says "How high?"
Sindi Misc says "You're not
jumping fast enough!"
n' Venice says, "You're right,
we must do more n' more 'n more!
Syndi Misc says "Now, you're getting
the idea!"

Carol V. Beck

Darkness as the Light

by Hillary Kaye

Six men carried away the bodies
but the smell was not something that could be gotten rid of that easy.
Six strong men carried on and yet the future seemed so dark around them.
Their strength was hailed in newspapers and around the world they were known.
They were tall and handsome and spoke the common tongue.
A mother who had born one said she never did really understand his work.
She still thought of him in all the nakedness of life's beginnings and didn't see that something was not right.

Four more years they got for themselves to drag the world through a dream.
They thought they had one that was good for everyone they said.
Still someone had to take care of the bodies, drag them out and bury what did remain.
A small child wrapped in a blanket, the blue black beginnings of growth now dead to hope and happiness.
There is no way to find these six men now for they regard the darkness as the light.

HEALTH CARE WITH A HEART
HEALTHCARE IN OUR HANDS

YOUR DONATIONS CAN SAVE OUR MARINA HOSPITAL!

On April 8, 2003 Tenet announced that they would keep our Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital open indefinitely. Less than nine months later - here we are again.

Tenet announced plans on Jan. 28, 2004 to sell and close more than 27 hospitals in the United States, 19 in the Southern California region – **15 in Los Angeles County!** The impact of Tenet’s decision is devastating to our health-care system. It is like being hit by an 8.5 magnitude earthquake with no plan of action for the aftermath. There are no guarantees that all of these hospitals will sell and/or stay open.

The Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital and ER is on this list. We are the closest hospital to LAX, which is the #1 terrorist target in the State of California. Together in Phase I, we made history by Saving Our Marina Hospital from closure. We will make history again in Phase II with a plan of action that calls for conversion of our hospital to community ownership.

We CAHRE – Community Action for Healthcare Reform and Education, was created to continue the work of SOMH - Save Our Marina Hospital. We CAHRE is about helping to save lives and we care about your health and our children’s health care future!

We CAHRE has applied for a 501(c) 3 designation to be the non-profit public benefit corporate arm of SOMH.

We CAHRE’s mission has had two goals since our inception:

We CAHRE has educated and exported our SOMH experience to others in need across the country to help them protect their healthcare delivery systems, saving lives and vital health care jobs from for-profit hospital corporations.

We CAHRE has a business plan in place to take over ownership, operations and management of the Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital on behalf of the community, in anticipation of Tenet’s plans to abandon the hospital, emergency room and medical office building.

With the full cooperation of legislators, medical staff, hospital employees and the community, We CAHRE will create a model health center for Los Angeles and for the nation. Our team of healthcare professionals and community leaders who have been working on this plan for the last two years, will reinstate this hospital to its former non-profit status, and improve it to serve the needs of our rapidly growing population. Projections indicate that that there will be six million more residents in Los Angeles by the year 2025 - a dramatic increase that will require 66% more acute care beds beyond what now exist in Los Angeles. (Source: Solucient Studies 2002)

Tenet’s decision to divest itself of its community hospitals, including ours, will result in a higher morbidity rate in the community. Without our Marina Hospital, residents requiring ER care may die while en route to a more-distant hospital – and that is a tragic possibility! And even the more-distant Westside hospitals will not have the bed or ER capacity to handle the flood of patients. Most likely many physicians will be unable to continue to practice in this area due to the lack of hospital beds!

HOW YOU CAN DIRECTLY HELP – We CAHRE needs EMERGENCY donations of any amount. We, the community, own our hospital and control our destiny.

If each person in the 350,000-population area served by our Marina Hospital generously donates just \$54.00 or more per person and becomes a stakeholder in We CAHRE, this will provide sufficient funds for acquiring the hospital, ensuring its operation during the transition, and having the reserves necessary to provide proper stability and steady growth. We will need a few years to complete the transition, and will need funds set aside for major equipment upgrading and careful program additions to fit the growing needs of our community. Seismic retrofitting will also be a part of our capital improvement plan.

Here’s an opportunity for each and every member of our incredible community to participate and take pride in the future development of our Marina Hospital. If ever there was a time to donate generously to a cause so vital to our well being, it is now. With all of your help and hearts we will achieve this monumental challenge together.

Please contact us through our website (www.somh.org -- Save Our Marina Hospital) to add yourself to our email database (so we can keep you informed) and visit our website daily for updated information.

PLEASE MAKE TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

We CAHRE, P. O. Box 5393, Playa del Rey, CA. 90296

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING TO MAKE HISTORY!

Julie Inouye, Executive Director

We CAHRE – Community Action for Healthcare Reform and Education

Founder SOMH – Save Our Marina Hospital

www.somh.org • 310.306.1487T • 310.306.5045F • JulieInouye@WeCAHRE.org



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Aerial view of Grand Canal and Rialto Avenue in Central Venice, circa 1920

ART

Beachhead would like to give special thanks to BRAD KAY & SPONTO GALLERY for our fundraiser held on Feb 21.

• SPONTO Gallery @ 7 Dudley Ave.is seeking contributions for its 7 Dudley Cinema Series, call 306-7330.

“Erotic Mannequins” a New Work by Artist Stephanie Hunter on display March 28-April 1. Opening reception March 27 7-11 PM call 399-2078 for more info.

MUSIC

- Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street (Santa Monica) 323-468-9938 Thursdays 7:45 PM - 9:30 pm Sacred Spaces Workshop Open to ALL \$15
- Venice Bistro 323 Ocean Front Walk 663-4673
- Townhouse 52 Windward 392-4040
- Sidewalk Cafe 1401 Ocean Front Walk 399-5547 Acoustic music Wednesday- Friday /karaoke on Sundays

FILM

- March 19-21 - The Other Venice Film Festival @ Electric Lodge *306-6261 Gary Ellenberg Abbots awards, discussions, workshops & tributes to local filmmakers. Weekend movies & mayhem! www.veniceOfilmfest.com or gary@veniceOfilmfest.com
- March 19-25 - 1 week of OIL-WARS FILMS at the LAEMMLE Theater, 1332 2nd St., Santa Monica

“PLAN COLOMBIA: Cashing-In on the Drug War Failure” In Colombia, the U.S. loses the “war-on-drugs” but is it winning a war-for-oil ?

“HIDDEN WARS OF DESERT STORM” - Was Bush’s 1991 Gulf War the seed for today's bloody war for Iraq’s oil?

7 Dudley Cinema - 8PM @ Sponto Gallery 306-7330 - Admission Free! March 17- Experiments in Terror (*03, 70m) A montage of rare film artifacts exploring the cinematic language of fear. The Untitled Star Wars Mockumentary (*03, 45m) Damon Packard’s spoof of George Lucas’ space saga.

POETRY

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Boys and Girls Club - 2232 Lincoln Blvd. 390-4477.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd. <www.beyond-baroque.org>
- Food not Bombs - POB 2881, Venice 90294 - 892-8799
- Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - 610 California Ave. <www.grvnc.org> - 821-6030.
- Inside / Out Community Arts - 2210 Lincoln Blvd 397-8820 www.InsideOutCA.org
- LAFCO (L.A. film coop) 2210 Lincoln Blvd. 574-4733
- LPBN (Linux Public Broadcasting Network) 913-3483

Saturday *Stop War and*

MARCH 20

Global Day of Action

End Colonial Occupation from Iraq to Palestine & Everywhere!!

LOS ANGELES

ASSEMBLE 12 NOON HOLLYWOOD & VINE

Bring the Troops Home Now!!

- ✓ Stop the Attacks on Immigrant Rights & Civil Liberties!
- ✓ Stand Against Racism Here & Abroad
- ✓ Money for Jobs, Health Care, Welfare & Schools - Not for War!

March 20th National Coalition

www.ANSWERLA.org answer-la@action-mail.org 213.487.2368

Initiators and endorsers include: A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) Coalition; Al-Awda, the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition; Arab Muslim American Federation; Free Palestine Alliance; Muslim American Society-Freedom Foundation; Muslim Student Association; National Lawyers Guild; Minutemen; BAYAN, ADC-LAOC; International Action Center; Palestinian American Women's Association; CAIR-LA; Latino Movement USA; Garment Workers' Center; Korean Americans for Peace; Women in Black-LA; Coalition for World Peace; Office of the Americas; South Asian Network; Ron Kovic; Rev. Richard Byrd; Rev. Louis Chase; Global Women's Strike; Los Angeles Greens; U.S. Labor Against the War/LA Veterans for Peace LA & OC and many more.

Community Events



readings

- Mc Luhan Finnegan’s Wake Reading Club Call 306-7330 for info or jesgrew.org/wake/
- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821.1769
- Midnight Special Bookstore Events 1450 Second St. Santa Monica 393-2923 or 394-6123 -March 14, Sunday 2PM Author: Nancy Snow & her book, ‘Information War- American Propaganda, Free Speech & Opinion Control Since 9/11’

Seniors

- Israel Levin Adult Senior Center, 201 OFW, 396-0205. -Movie matinee, 1 pm, Mondays -Line dancing, 11 am, Tuesday -Israeli dance, 10 am, Wednesday -Current events discussion, 11 am, Wednesday -Weight management workshop, 1pm, Thursday, 6 weeks for \$20.

Yoga Info-

- Congregation Mishkon Tephilo - 201 Hampton Dr. 392-3029 Yoga with Yiddishkeit Sundays 3 PM, Free
- Vera Davis Ctr 610 California Ave. 305-1865 Hatha Yoga classes Mondays & Thursdays 6:30 PM, Donation
- Karmakulture 1305A Main St. 399-1904 Emphasis: Body alignment Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30PM to 9PM, \$7
- Yogatime/Pilate Studios 621 Palms Ave. 827-5144 Group Kundalina yoga Tuesdays 7PM, \$15

Venice Organizations

- Oakwood Recreation Center - 767 California Ave.- 399-9621
- St Joseph’s Center - Rose & 4th - 396-6468
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or <www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice High Alumni Assoc. - www.venicehighalumni.com

Aris Anagnos, Jan Goodman, Casey Peters, Gary Phillips, Lydia Poncé, Anne Marie Staas, Suzanne Thompson

Invite you to a:

PEACE PARTY

After the March and Rally

5-9pm, Saturday, March 20 at 176 N. Highland Ave. (between Beverly Bl. & 1st St.)

★ Food, Drink

Come after the Rally

★ Music by the Fizzies

\$10 donation no one turned away for lack of funds

SUPPORT THE PEACE CANDIDATES!

Jim Smith for Assembly (53AD)

Dr. Alice Stek for Congress (36CD)

More information and to RSVP: 310-399-2215 • jsmith@igc.org

Check out: www.SmithforAssembly.org

Send checks to POB 644, Venice CA 90294, payable to: Smith for Assembly • Stek for Congress

Jim Smith is running for an open seat in the Assembly.

Dr. Alice Stek is running against Cong. Jane Harman.

POLITICAL

What’s Wrong With Election 2004!?!

4-7 PM Saturday, March 13 - Presented by KPFK 90.7 FM A discussion of the issues you won’t hear anywhere: The invasion & occupation of Iraq, what happened on 9-11 & it’s aftermath, Peak Oil & Gas, the Democratic Party, the Draft & Electronic voting. Featured speakers will be former five-term Georgia Congressmember Cynthia McKinney, Publisher/Editor of the ‘From the Wilderness’ newsletter Michael C. Ruppert, & KPFK General Manager Eva Georgia, in a three-way dialogue ! @ Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd. (Wilshire & Berendo- not in Venice) Free parking, \$25 or 2 for \$20 or more. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Students 1/2 price, kids under 12 free. 818-985-2711 Ext 214

- Venice Peace and Freedom Party meeting. 7 pm, Wednesday, Mar 31. For more info: 399-2215
- Midnight Special Bookstore Events 1450 2nd St. Santa Monica 393-2923

COMMUNITY

- Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings (see page 3 for listings and info.)
- Bhagavad-gita (The Song of God) Hare Krishna Ctr. - 111 Dudley Avenue FREE 450-5371
- Food Not Bombs - -822-2771- Volunteers needed! E-mail: venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm -Tuesdays 5 pm - Santa Monica Peace Picnic FREE Vegetarian meal - Pacific Palisades Park & Venice Peace Swoop Dudley Hill, Rose Parking Lot -Sundays 11 am Venice Peace Breakfast -Hot Breakfast ‘neath the pagodas at Rose Ave. Parking Lot

- Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts 2210 Lincoln Blvd 397.8820 Call for info-
- Venice Historical Society presents: Kendrick Kinney Abbot Kinney’s grandson- Tuesday, March 16 7pm Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Blvd. Slide show- DVD format: Kinneloa (Abbot Kinney’s citrus ranch, circa 1880- now East Pasadena; The Founding of Venice, 1904-1919.

- Open Mic at Abbot’s Habit - 7PM Wednesdays & Sundays, 1416 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 <www.veniceofamerica.org>
 - Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 - <pfp@freevenice.org>.
 - Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153.
 - Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.
- (If your Venice organization is not listed, please contact us at Beachhead@freevenice.org or 399-8685

Sábado *Stop War and*

20 de MARZO

Día de Acciones Internacionales

¡Fin a la Ocupación Colonial desde Irak a Palestina y en todas partes!

12 del Mediodía en LOS ANGELES

MARCHA y MITIN en Hollywood y Vine

¡Por el Regreso Inmediato de las Tropas!

✓ Dinero para trabajos, cuidado de salud, escuelas, No para la guerra

✓ Nos levantemos en contra del racismo aquí y en todas partes

✓ Alto al ataque de los derechos de los inmigrantes y libertades civiles

Coalición Nacional 20 de Marzo

www.ANSWERLA.org answer-la@action-mail.org 213.487.2368

Organizadores y endosarios incluye: A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) Coalition; Al-Awda, the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition; Arab Muslim American Federation; Free Palestine Alliance; Muslim American Society-Freedom Foundation; Muslim Student Association; National Lawyers Guild; Minutemen; BAYAN, ADC-LAOC; International Action Center; Palestinian American Women's Association; CAIR-LA; Movimiento Latino USA; Hermandad Mexicana Nacional; Garment Workers' Center; Korean Americans for Peace; Women in Black-LA; Coalition for World Peace; Latinos Contra a la Guerra; South Asian Network; Ron Kovic; Rev. Louis Chase; Global Women's Strike; Los Angeles Greens; U.S. Labor Against the War/LA Veterans for Peace LA & OC y mas

You can't have a community without a community newspaper.

SUPPORT YOUR FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Advertise, write, distribute, draw, donate, critique, enjoy!



Envision Venice!