

INSIDE

Fiercely Independent Women – 1
Wurstkuche Boycott – 1
Venice Dogz Protest Chainstores – 2
First Baptist Church – 3
Venice as an Intelligence Hub – 5
Hecho En Venice – 6
Tamara's Tamales – 7
Reese-Davidson Update – 8
PRT "Smart Love" Review – 8
Poetry – 9
Calendar – 10

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



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



Jataun Valentine and Novelette Tabor Bailey

Both ladies are direct descendants of Irving Tabor, Abbot Kinney's chauffeur and confidant. Although Novelette passed away in 2010 at the age of 96, Jataun continues to bear witness to the rich history of the origins of Venice, especially in regards to its early residents of color and Kinney's evolved attitude of racial equality.

The Fiercely Independent Women of Venice

By Barbara Mastej

In honor of Women's History Month, I am elated to have a few of my portraits included in the March edition of the BeachHead. The Venice ladies depicted are from a body of work entitled, "Vestiges of My Venice" I created to pay homage to the people and places that touched me, as well as to document a fading place in history. Some may not be household names, but each has that kind of unique, often unorthodox, spirit that collectively shaped our community.

I moved to Venice in 1988, when it still had a ragged, often dangerous, edge. As a former Detroiter, this didn't bother me. As an artist, I found beauty in its imperfections. I met some of the most colorful people I have ever known who lived off the beaten path, outside the norm. Many became my friends. Even though, I had a bourgeois life in comparison, I felt simpatico. I didn't grow up in Venice, yet I was accepted as part of the community. Money or station in life didn't factor into the equation. Fitting in was defined by your spirit and energy. Being a Venetian was in your genetic code.

Today, Venice is a branded commodity. There are only a few of the authentic nonconformists left and the rest are finding it hard to afford to live here. The influx of money has inevitably blunted the edges, and the raw energy of this place has evaporated. However, just as Abbott Kinney's initial high brow dream of creating a cultural center mutated into the "Coney Island by the Sea," change is the one constant. Yet, it's important to be aware of the ebb and flow of the community. This place will never stop evolving.

continued on backpage

WURSTKUCHE BOYCOTT



On the night of February 8th someone posted their confusion on Reddit about a visible commotion outside
continued on page 4 – photos by Margaret Molloy

**Beachhead Collective Staff:**

Eric Ahlberg, Alice Stek, Fehmi Yildirim, Logan Mote, Suzy Williams, Lisa Robins, Marty Liboff, Jon Wolff, Mike Bravo

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

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

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

Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.

Email: free@venicebeachhead.org

Web: www.venicebeachhead.org

Beachhead Sustainers:

Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
Susan Hayden Allport
Christine del Amo • Eileen Archibald
Jennifer Baum
Irene Bajsarowycz • Beyond Baroque
Chuck and Terry Bloomquist
Bradley Bobbs • Allen Boelter
Steve Clare • Greta Cobar
Tina Catalina Corcoran • Maureen Cotter
John Davis • Joan Del Monte
Joseph Doro • Aaron Downing
Robin Doyno • Loraine Ebbins
Steve Effingham and Tina Morehead
Peter R. Force and Nancy Richards
Ed Ferrer • Don Geagan • Gail Gordon
Gregorio Humberto Gomez
Ivonne Guzman • Phyllis Hayashibara
Ted Hajjar and Carol Wells • Gloria V Hickok
Dean Henderson • Joel and Anne Isaacs
Martha Kaplan • John Kertisz
Mark A. Kleiman
Ira Koslow and Gail Rogers • Donna Lacey
Linda Laisure and Helen Alland
Larry Layne • Marty Liboff • Eric Liner
Ethan Lipton and Janet Lent
Karl Lisovsky • Nancy L. Loncke
Peter Lonnie • Frank Lutz • Robert Menken
Michael McGuffin • Michael Millman
Susan Millmann • Ian Milne • John Mooney
Shelagh Moriarty • Sandy and David Moring
Holly Mosher • Anne Murphy
Occupy Venice • Earl Newman
Sherman Pearl • Meredith Gordon
Barbara Palivos • Thomas Paris
Milton Rosenberg • Bill Rosendahl
Ron Rouda • Pete Savino • James Schley
Krista Schwimmer • Laura Shrewsbury
Linda Shusett • Jim Smith • John Stein
Andrea J Stern and Sheppard Stern
Alice Stek • Mike Suhd
Larry and Kathy Sullivan • Surfing Cowboys
Tamariska, Inc • Teddy Tannenbaum
Jim Talbot • William Taxerman
The von Hoffmann Family
Venice Beach Oceanarium
Brady Walker • Joe and Nancy Ward
Tim and Nancy Weil • Emily Winters
Suzy Williams • Nancy Boyd Williamson Mary
Worthington • Stan and Roni Zwerling

We Thank Our Sustainers
Eileen Archibald
Celia Williams
Tina Catalina Corcoran

Help A Free Press Survive:

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



Dear Beachhead

At the Sunday meeting on March 3rd at the Church in Ocean Park, the Reverend Janet McKei then had some very sad news for the congregation. The leadership of the United Methodist Church at their recent conference has ordered the ministers to stop marrying gays and transsexuals. The Church in Ocean Park at 2nd Street and Hill Street has been a non denominational and progressive church under Janet's leadership. It is possible she may lose her position. It is possible the Bishops of the Church may sell the property or replace Janet with some traditional bigot who hates gays and other minorities. This is a complete disaster for our community! The Bishops will again meet in January to decide more about how to deal with the more liberal and progressive ministers in the Church. The Church in Ocean Park has been a leader for civil rights for all. Reverend Janet has been a wonderful minister and has welcomed people all faiths, beliefs and colors. The members of the Church in Ocean Park have asked for solidarity and unity behind Janet and we hope and pray she will be allowed to stay.

marty liboff

Valentine's Day, 2019

Dearest Beachhead,

Bravo! Cheers! and "Thank You" –
for the Golden 50th Year Issue!

Is there Life after Venice?

You Betcha'

Tho' — You know I can Never

Forgetcha'

Not the Redwoods, The Rivers, the Snow,

Or dementia

Will keep me from Loving You All –

In absentia!

With Love

Tina Catalina Corcoran

VENICE DOGZ PROTEST NATIONAL CHAINS AGAIN



On Saturday, February 9th, the Venice Dogz held their second protest against national chains on the Ocean Front Walk. It was held in front of Starbucks at 909 Ocean Front Walk and included a march down to Ben & Jerry's at 1307 Ocean Front Walk and back to Starbucks again. It'Sugar, at the south end of the walkway was not marched to, but was included in the protest as the third and other national chain to be boycotted and protested. When asked why It'Sugar wasn't protested when they first opened Mark Rago, leader of the Venice Dogz said, "They opened five years ago and I didn't even know they were a national chain until someone mentioned it to me last year. They're at the far end of the walkway and kind of went unnoticed by many until last year when Ben & Jerry's opened and we started hearing all the rumors about a bunch of other national chains potentially coming in like Starbucks and Skechers." Rago mentioned the latest rumor from a reliable source is a 7-11 going into the space formerly used by The Freak Show. Regarding the ordinance that our City Councilman Mike Bonin is preparing to prohibit future national chains, Rago said "I'm being told we're still months away but it will be this calendar year." An ordinance can't come soon enough - other stores being mentioned to open are Chipotle, McDonalds, Subway, Nike, and Adidas. Apparently Skechers is already committed to open this year at 1023 Ocean Front Walk, one block south of the Freak Show building.

Said Rago, "The biggest misconception is that bringing in national chains will magically clean up the walkway, which is utterly ridiculous. Apparently, the people that think this have never been to the McDonalds, Coffee Bean or Chipotle on Hollywood Boulevard. Many people think these national chains have a magic wand and will magically end homelessness, vagrancy, drug use, and theft... I wish! If they did I'd be all for them, but that's not rational thinking or common sense. Again, the goal of the protests and boycotting them is so the City puts in an ordinance to prohibit more national chains to open in the future, like so many other cities have done all over the country to protect and preserve their character and uniqueness. If San Francisco can do it for areas like Chinatown, we can do it here for Ocean Front Walk. No one comes to the walkway to go to a Starbucks or a Ben & Jerry's, and no one loves Venice because they have a Skechers or It'Sugar on the walkway, if anything people love it because it's not homogenized like that. And if nothing is done who knows what we'll be seeing 10 years from now: Sidewalk Café could be a Denny's, Big Daddys Pizza might be a Dominos, the Figtree Cafe might be a Jersey Mikes... Who knows?" A date has not been set yet for their next protest.

To help and support the Venice Dogz in their venture:

- 1) Discuss this with your friends, neighbors and visitors and tell them to boycott these establishments.
- 2) Join the Venice Dogz mailing list at www.venicedogz.org to join them in future protests.
- 3) Sign the online petition at: <https://www.change.org/p/venice-dogz-no-more-national-chains-on-ocean-front-walk-in-venice> and forward it to others.



photo by Gerry Fialka

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE IS THE LIVING HISTORY OF VENICE

by Jon Wolff

The Black History display at the Abbot Kinney Library in Venice will be up until the end of March. In recognition of Black History Month for 2019, an exhibit and discussion session was held on Saturday, February 16 in the meeting room of the library. The discussion featured speakers born and raised in Venice, and it focused on the importance of preserving the legacy of the Black History of Venice.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine was the first to speak at the event. She spoke about the life of Arthur Reese who was the friend of Abbot Kinney at the time of Venice's founding. Kinney had willed his house in Venice to Mr. Reese but not the land where it stood. So Arthur Reese moved the house on a flat bed truck to 6th and Santa Clara in Venice. Ms. Valentine also talked about her grandmother who was the last Tabor to come to Venice, and of her grandfather Alphonse Joseph who worked for Abbot Kinney and was the first Black cement contractor.

Jataun Valentine was asked by her daughter Jenny whether the changes in Venice are bad or good. She replied that it is bad that houses in Venice are being torn down and turned into mega-mansions. And it's bad that newcomers build illegal fences over six feet high, when Venetians have always been used to knowing their neighbors. But she noted the positive things happening, such as the efforts of people to save the First Baptist Church of Venice. She told of how the church started out very small, and how Irving Tabor's wife Ethel, and others in the Community, put up their house deeds to build it. She said that the church institution is 104 years old and must be preserved.

Dr. Naomi Nightingale spoke of the Black Community in Venice as a self-contained community and how African-Americans were not, at the time, welcomed outside this community. In the 1950s and 1960s, the women did domestic work in Pacific Palisades. Later, they found employment at Douglas Aircraft. Dr. Nightingale told of the First Baptist Church of Venice that was originally built in 1912. She described how the Reverend E.L. Holmes walked the congregation across the street to the new church which still stands at Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue. She explained how there is no separation from the old church to the present church.

Dr. Nightingale talked about her activism in the 1960s for job training, education, and housing. In those days, there were strategies enacted by others hostile to the Black Community to kick Black People out of the rent-stabilized housing in Venice. By

the mid-1990s, the gang injunction did even more harm. With big families, it was impossible to not be associated with someone who was accused of a gang affiliation. This advanced the process of Gentrification. Those who move to Venice today don't come to assimilate but to change Venice. Their glass and concrete box houses are built to make good people move out. The high fences they put up are a code violation but the city officials ignore this fact.

Dr. Nightingale challenged those who don't want to listen to the History of Black contributions to Venice. She questioned how a Culture can exist for a hundred years and not have anything said about it. The area bounded by Lincoln Boulevard, California Avenue, and Rose Avenue was Venice for African-Americans. In the 1960s, it was understood that this was discriminatory and racist. And the Community had to fight hard for justice. Recently, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was effectively nullified because it was considered by some to be unnecessary. There are policies and barriers put in place now to obstruct the African-American vote. Dr. Nightingale said that everyone has a responsibility to call out the individuals who say that they don't understand any of this. She said that this struggle goes on into the future without an end date. And it's a sacrifice. But when one is driven, one has a calling. She told everyone to stand and make a difference.

Mr. Raphael "Spud" Anderson knew Venice as a once vibrant Black and Latino neighborhood. He spoke of musicians and athletes that came from Venice. He asked those who would wear black face makeup why "You want to be me, but you hate me." And he wondered why those who would applaud him on the field of play would boo him in public.

Mr. Anderson talked about his grandfather who worked at the P.O.P. [Pacific Ocean Park] amusement pier. He said that his family has nine pieces of property in Venice, and that the properties have no trees. This is because his grandparents had witnessed lynchings in their lifetime. Mr. Anderson said that when he told this story at a meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council, they laughed.

Mr. Anderson said that the books written about Venice left out the Black and Latino History of Venice. He saw such omissions as an attempt to erase this History. He questioned why the Survey L.A. project used these books as their references. One individual present at the event claimed that his friend wrote the books and asked, "What's wrong with them?" This brought on a heated debate in the meeting room. Venice Activist Mike Bravo clarified how a lot of harm is caused by the negation of non-White History. He called for a proactive effort to build on

3 • MARCH 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

this History for the sake of future generations and to honor our ancestors.

Mike Bravo is a 5th generation Venetian and Native. He is part of the Save Venice coalition. He elaborated on the old tactics of marginalizing People of Color and he spoke of the importance of having the omitted narrative included in the history books. To answer the oft-repeated charge, "Why don't you just write your own history books?", Mr. Bravo pointed out the hoops that the Save Venice team has had to jump through in the effort to save the First Baptist Church of Venice. Clearly, it's not always easy to "just write" one's own history.

Mike Bravo remarked that, in what is otherwise a liberal neighborhood, there is still a conflict over the deep Black History of Venice. But he stated that things grow from a seed. He felt that the attacks on the Spirit in Venice make him stronger, as well as more tender to the History of his ancestors. Mr. Bravo said that the group that meets in front of the First Baptist Church of Venice every Sunday represents the true embodiment of Venice. The group is composed of different racial backgrounds. Even the tourists that come by support the fight. Everyone is stronger and more united and more rooted in the neighborhood. It's not a top-down movement. It's made of the "Living History" in the meeting room.

You too can live and learn the History of Venice. It happens every Sunday in front of the First Baptist Church of Venice, on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the heart of Venice. The group meets between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to save this historic Black church from becoming a private mega-mansion. You can go to www.savevenice.me to find out how you can help. And how you can be a part of the History of Venice.

Legal Fund to Save Historic African American Site <https://www.gofundme.com/legal-fund-to-save-historic-african-american-landmark>

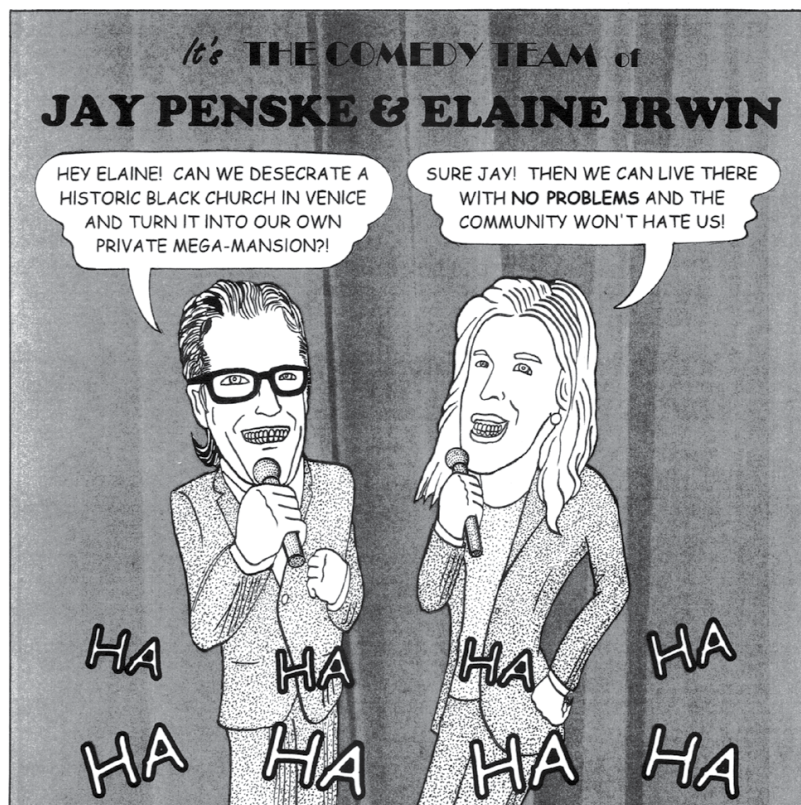
Be a part of making history. The Oakwood community of Venice, CA is home to a rich and beautiful African-American legacy. Our flagship battle is centered around a 110 year old African-American landmark called the First Baptist Church of Venice (FBCV) which has been the heart of this community for over 110 years. Our unique historic community is also known as "the last community of color on the California coast." We are entrenched in defending our community, which is quickly homogenizing, from predatory real estate speculation and displacement.

This fund will benefit the legal defense to save the FBCV which is the heart of the corner properties ceremonially and legally dedicated as E. L. Holmes Square. We have been effective in our organizing thus far. However, we are in a new stage of political battle and up against big money, millionaires, and illogically apathetic political leaders.

By supporting this fund you will be a part of history when we claim victory in saving this rich historied African-American community landmark. You will also indirectly be investing in supporting the historic community that has been a driving force in helping shape the world famous Venice Beach culture. You will be investing in reinforcing inclusive community values and sending a message to our political leaders that people and community come first, and yes, the common people can be successful in holding big money and apathetic politicians accountable.

Many of us leading this fight for this community landmark are multi-generational residents of Venice, CA. In a political climate where the fight for economic and racial equity is threatened it would mean the world to us to have your contribution and support.

We have over 32,000 signatures on our petition. If everyone invested \$1 right now we would energize the defense of this historic community, site, and world-famous culture.



4 • MARCH 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

WURSTKÜCHE – continued from page 1

of infamous wiener shop Würstküche, on Lincoln Blvd. “Why are people picketing/protesting Würstküche in Venice right now? ...Marching & signs with a bullhorn yelling ‘shame on you.’”

Someone else linked to an LA Tenants Union post to explain what was going on. It began:

“Patricia Sánchez and her family have lived in their apartment for 21 years. Both her children have lived at the house their whole lives. Her daughter attends Venice High School. Her son, who lives with autism, has had the same medical and support team his whole life, minutes on foot from their home. Patricia herself is a well-known leader in the Venice neighborhood, involved in the every-day lives of the vibrant monolingual Spanish speaking community. The Sánchez family successfully fought back against numerous bad-faith eviction attempts by previous owners, until Tyler Wilson bought the property.”

The problems for Patricia under Tyler Wilson’s ownership go beyond her impending Ellis Act eviction.

When Tyler Wilson bought the building, the problems began immediately. For one, Wilson removed the front gate to her yard, while also removing the security he had previously used in front of her apartment to prevent his drunk yuppie patrons from throwing bottles, cans, and cigarettes into her yard. This behavior had been a problem when Würstküche first moved in, and when the security was removed all the same problems returned. Wilson also began to further violate Patricia’s family’s privacy by sending people into Patricia’s apartment without her permission.

Other strange behavior included Wilson beginning to use the other apartment in Patricia’s duplex as a place for his employees to store changes of clothes. Neighbors saw them walking back and forth from Würstküche with clothes on hangers. Being subjected to this kind of harassment is exhausting and dehumanizing. The LA City Council is finally considering a tenant anti-harassment bill that, if written correctly, could potentially protect tenants from some of this behavior. But, as the law is now, the city views this kind of landlord abuse as a private issue and will do nothing about it.

And now, she’s being kicked out of her home of 23 years.

But just because Wilson’s eviction is legal doesn’t mean Patricia and her neighbors are standing by. Instead, LA Tenants Union (LATU), of which Patricia has been a member of the Westside Local for over five years, has taken to the streets to show Tyler, and anyone else who is even thinking about messing with Venice, that the community does not stand for that kind of predatory behavior. Besides the picket on February 8th, LATU returned on February 22nd with bigger signs and an even more passionate drive for housing justice. LATU has also instituted a boycott of both Würstküche locations (Venice and the Arts District). Mainstream and local media have begun paying attention, and the pickets have successfully turned away patrons. Wilson is so spooked that he recently told Curbed LA that his wife has been sleeping elsewhere, despite the entirely nonviolent nature of these protests. Must be nice to have another place to go, on top of the home they recently purchased.

The responses to the February 8th Reddit post are heartening. One commenter replied: “They picked the wrong people to fuck with. The [Latinx] community is tight knit as fuck.” Another wrote: “I’ve got zero sympathy for people who have so much, and are willing to make someone homeless so they can have marginally more. I hope this boycott and bad press hurts his bottom line so much that he can see that he’d never have made that amount with whatever he wanted to do with her apartment. Maybe teach him a lesson in the language he understands.”

It’s unclear if Wilson is actually dumb, or just playing it. He’s told LATU and the media several times that he “doesn’t want to be a landlord” -- despite making a decision to buy a property inhabited by a tenant. Plus Tyler Wilson also apparently knows very little about the land-use laws controlling the property that he owns. Since Patricia lives in a state-defined “coastal-zone,” the Mello Act requires that any developer seeking to demolish affordable housing must replace it with more affordable housing. As such, it’s going to be very hard for Wilson to expand his restaurant, put a parking lot, or even just build his weekend home (one idea he suggested when he talked to two LATU members a few weeks ago, Tyler does already own one home).

LATU asks that Venice neighbors boycott Würstküche and spread the word. We all also need to learn more about the Mello Act, a piece of California legislation that has the potential to protect many affordable units if we use it. Lastly, all renters should join the Westside Tenants Union, which meets every first and third Wednesday at Oakwood Recreation Center. Patricia’s story is unfair and infuriating, but it is also an inspiring message. Patricia joined LATU when she saw her neighbors’ housing under attack. Now, across LA, LATU is fighting for Patricia. Tenants have power when we stick together and when we fight. Venice is stronger than predatory landlords like Tyler Wilson.



photos by Margaret Molloy

Venice as an Intelligence Hub

A Note To All the NIMBYs

by Pat Raphael

Chances are, if you're in Venice, your back yard is in a pretty hip and happening neighborhood. And that neighborhood is in one of the coolest cities of the storied and historical Los Angeles County, a county that stands as one of the brightest jewels crowning the magnificently powerful golden state of California. And Cali, as the richest state, holds its own when we look at all the states that make up our nation. Together we fifty (plus Puerto Rico, Guam, the Samoan Islands, can't forget the Virgin and the District), we make up the most powerful nation on the planet.

Like it or not, such a great and powerful nation requires a capable and functional intelligence network with reach inside and outside of the many imaginary lines that we've created to define our country. It is with the function of this network in mind that it becomes clear why Venice must exist exactly as it always has been. In seeing the intelligence value of setting up a spot within our country, where street people and travelers of their own free will make it a destination to come and hang out near your backyard, we would be pretty shortsighted to listen to all the selfish haters who do not know how to coexist and only know how to yell NO! not in my back yard!... For the sake of these shortsighted people, we will lay out a few lines explaining why it feels like we here in Venice are now being overwhelmed by street people.

First -- and it should go without saying, but I'll say it anyways -- I am not speaking with any more knowledge than comes from direct observation. What most informs my perspective is reasonable logic. Also, the case I am laying out is open to dialogue if more clarity can be accumulated on the record, from more certain sources than the circumstantial evidence I now present.

To see the solution that Venice created for a national intelligence network, we must first understand the problem faced by such a network that made this solution the logical outcome. The first problem (as far as national intelligence is concerned) is that our rhetoric came back full circle and bit us in the butt. We claim rights and freedoms that as we (the country) try to live by them, we leave strategic and security openings for bad actors to move within these freedoms. And bad actors need somewhere to hide -- what better place than among the most disdained and overlooked members of society? People who have already actively chosen to live on the margins of society -- outlaws, travelers, artists and wanderers -- all of these people provide excellent human cover. As a result, what must happen is that a set of pushes and pulls must be in place to allow intelligence to know who moves among us.

The biggest push is geographical. Ever try to be an on-the-margins, outside-of-the-matrix, bohemian camper or whatever other cool name you wanna call it -- some just say homeless -- in Seattle? or Chicago? or Boston? It just take a few cold nights, with your bohemian balls freezing, for you to end up in that shelter line... right where they need you to be, so you can be properly ID'd and classified. This push covers most, but some will never go into that shelter line... for them you need more than a cold night. How will you eat from out of the matrix? What will you do for money? Pretty soon you are flying a sign at the on-ramp or showing up at the day-laborer site or at the local mission scoring a meal. Gotcha. You are on the radar -- free to be your quirky outsider self -- but at least we know who you are and you've been classified. Easy solution for most, but there still remains they who will never be on that on-ramp nor will you ever see them in that sandwich line. Who are those people? and how do you find them out? These guys don't get pushed easily. You can't just make it hard for them and have them end up where you want them to be. For these cats you need a pull.

Which is where Venice comes in. Among that outsider population, word gets around: go check out Venice. The way it is described, our status is legendary. People know about the culture of arts and music and Hollywood fame that our beautiful beach has already produced... some are here just chasing that dream. Of course there's the no-brainer of SoCal weather, but also the knowledge that around here if wait long enough, someone will roll up on you and just hand you some food, or some Bombas socks, or a blanket when you need one -- you can almost plan your day by it. Then there's also our drug reputation. People know they can come here and get lost filling their days with the high of their choice. Not to overlook the cherry on top of it all: tons of money to be made from all the tourist out here -- so guys will juggle, dance, tell jokes, give sh*tty advice, make art, read palms -- all while anonymously hiding within the bigger crowd.

But really, the crowd is an illusion. The throngs

of humanity from all over the globe who are just passing through on a vacay can swell to hundreds of thousands. But when you strip them all away, it's just a small fraction of us whom you see on the regular. Which leaves Venice perfectly set up to do the important work of intelligence that can only be done where there is time and space for close observation. Those eyeball art murals all over Venice is a reminder that around here, watchers are seeing. They are looking for answers to those many questions that's gonna create a profile, and give them that sweet sweet classification they seek to put you into.

Questions like where did you come from? with whom? how did you travel here? are you on drugs? what is your sexual preference? your political views? What are your hopes? fears? What do you seek to accomplish while in Venice. What do you do when you are frustrated? angry? happy? How often do you blow up or have nervous breakdowns? Of the people who've already been classified, whom do you hang out with? (birds of a feather). Are you a leader? a follower? What is your relationship with the sellers? the users? the police? Do you have a fascination with guns? How do you react if you feel like you are being followed? Are you a procrastinator or a person of action? a liar? an exaggerator? carrying a messiah complex? Whom do you blame for all the world's problems? All these questions and more can be answered with enough time and observation.

And why do they want to classify everybody so damn bad? When you look at the big picture long enough, you stop seeing the details of individuality and start seeing people just in their broad categories. You start to broadly see the "people on drugs" basket, and the "mental issues" basket, the "poor people" basket, "politically active" basket, and on and on and on. All innocuous categories of harmless members of the community living their lives for good or for bad. Broadly, the category that captures the largest segment by a wide majority is the category of "no significant intelligence value" (a category which is nimble enough to change -- cause they watchin' and they'll update if they need to). Being able to quickly see what you're all about and putting you in that "he's harmless" basket is Venice working at its most efficient. And if you can not be categorized quickly, Venice offers time for that close look to know if you need to be put in that basket that says you might be a threat. We don't want to look up after a threat and see that the signs were all around, and if only we had paid attention, we could have made a difference. By then it's too late for such considerations. Venice allows us the time and place to have that looky we may need to know who's who.

The problem is that we are a victim of our own success. At the same time we were getting better and better at attracting out-the-matrix types to our beach side paradise, the matrix was crumbling under the strain of the housing crash of 2009, ready to thrust vast new swarms into the ranks of our country's homeless population. So yes the effects we feel are very local, but make no mistake, the causes are national. The reason why we can't prick a pin in any open space in our community without poking a street person who has set up an encampment, is that as soon as we exert all the effort and resource it takes to help one person off that shady spot in the park, there are five others ready to move in and take their place. And seeing that process happen over and over without an end in sight, is enough to start rooting some NIMBY sentiments.

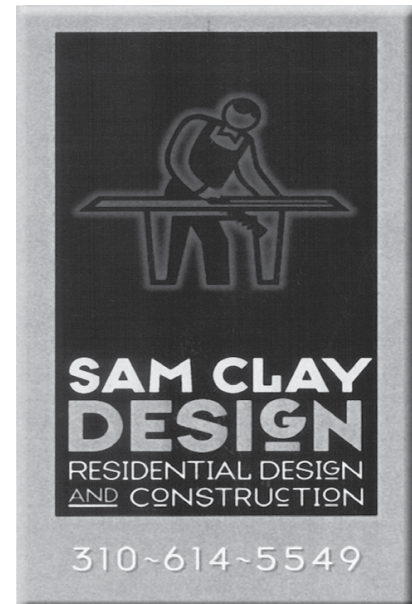
The Trans-National Alliance has been thinking about this thorny problem and have dialogue some ideas to present here as possible solutions. It begins with developing the big picture point of view that seeks to proactively address housing on a national level. From that perspective we will see that there needs to be, at the lowest level, a nationwide minimal housing standard widely available with as few hoops to jump through as possible. We will call this the Utah Model, as this was the first place in the country where it was studied and shown that the cost of housing on a no-questions-asked basis is cheaper than letting someone fall into homelessness, then having the broader society bear the cost of their homelessness. And in this model, you get what you pay for (or don't pay for)... so the housing is very basic, all on one side of town serving a ghettoized population. This very minimum must be replicated all over the country wherever a significant homeless population exist. People who need (or want) an easy housing solution should have a no frills minimum available to them. This plan only makes sense if we also couple the minimal level of housing at this rung of the income ladder,

5 • MARCH 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

with significant improvements on the next level of the housing stock. If you are willing to work and take personal agency in funding your housing cost, the next level of supported low-income housing, that is not just given away for free, should be significantly better than the bare minimum that we give away with no questions asked. While this will require macro-economic interventions like rent control, and increased funding for low-income housing subsidies to match the higher demand that will arise. However, desirable living conditions at this level will create the positive incentive for people to invest in themselves for the benefit of improved housing.

Moving up the ladder, the next set of housing policy actions aim to stabilize the middle class housing stock. This group represents the largest segment of the housing population, so whatever cause that must effect them will require a deliberate and sustained hand of government in view of big picture economic patterns. This view will show that housing security in the middle class requires a stable market with prices on a measured and steady growth, not the wild swings of bubble economics that leave housing prices yo-yoing all over the place. We understand that these wild swings will only invite speculation. And as the homie Don likes to say about speculators in the housing game, "they're in it to ride out the next bubble for a few years while mom and pop are in it for a thirty year mortgage." It's with this in mind that he offers the policy proposal that everyone's first home be tax-free. Proposing that if government wants to encourage home ownership, the first property that someone works hard to earn should be securely theirs once they finish paying it off. The policy remains progressive -- we begin to tax the second home, but only slightly. The third a little more, even more on the fourth, and so on, until we achieve a robust taxing consideration that dis-incentivize the purely speculative foreigners and hedge funds from using their size to manipulate sharp rises and falls in our housing prices.

Yes, such a taxation scheme will hurt the Spammy Fartees at the tippy-top of the real estate game, and some mortgage writers may see less action. However, these policy considerations are not aimed to only offer benefits at the very top, but are focused as broad-based solutions that can have the most cross-class impact. And in that regard, haven't we in Venice, always been a model for the rest of the country? on how the very rich and the very poor can have cordial coexistence? Vocal minority aside, we are not the type of community to only see the change in our property value, and remember that line buried in the addendum of the appraisal report, about the neighborhood "showing signs of a persistent homeless population", then deciding that all financial ills are the fault of the homeless. No. We as Venice understand that the outta town Appraiser can never 'get' our city like we do. Most of us see our Street People neighbors as the colorful characters who offer that unique flavor which makes Venice such a cool place to plant our back yard. Putting some positive energy toward fulfilling the policy proposals discussed here will go much farther towards reducing the sheer volume of street people in the backyard, than all the hating and NO yelling at the neighborhood council meeting. Just as ol' Abbott wanted, these travelers and street people will always have a place in Venice.





by C.J. Gronner

You can't go very far in Venice without seeing someone wearing something with "Hecho En Venice" on it, and that clothing brand starts with Oscar Galan. I've wanted to know this story for a long time, so I called him up and we made plans to meet at his "office" - which was the tailgate of his truck parked in front of Hinano's. We sat and chatted in the sunshine as a constant stream of friends went by shouting greetings and stopping for a handshake, and I saw firsthand just how much a part of Venice this cool cat is.



Galan was born in El Salvador, but his family with six kids came to Venice in 1979 for a better life. He attended Venice High, where he fell asleep in class a lot due to a dish washing gig his brother got for him, keeping him up late. Whenever he wasn't working, he was hanging out at the Breakwater, learning to surf. One day a local asked him to fight him for being a kook, and Galan shrugged and said "Sure". His confidence probably prevented that brawl, and gained him the respect of those locals who then deemed him to be cool (and still do).



Circle Skate (now what was Subway by Windward Avenue) hired Galan to work at the skate shop, and after a while of owing him money, the owners gave him the shop instead - complete with their inventory - as they wanted to hang it up. The name was changed to "Venice Extreme" (then "Venice Breakwater") and it became a hangout in its own right, where local kids learned to surf and skate and hang out with those kinds of dudes vs. the gangs. Galan moved the shop across the street to what is



now the poké spot under the Venice sign, and all the while kept working at restaurants, now as a chef (which he still does in addition to running his own business!).

While working at the Venice Breakwater shop, Galan had spied a girl looking for change for a parking spot out in front of the shop. She wouldn't give him her number, but he went back inside the shop and said, "I'm gonna marry that girl."



As it goes, once he blew her off, she was interested, and gave him not her number, but her address. And he showed up. That was Galan's wife, Rita, and they've been together ever since (and just finally got hitched last year!). Two sons came along - Isaac and Jason - and soon thereafter, Galan closed the shop. He didn't want to, but he had to cut the overhead, and that was the end of his brick and mortar shop.



The surf/skate culture was in Galan's blood by now, and when he saw the "Hecho En Mexico" logo, he thought, "Hmmm, I could change that to Venice", and quickly taught himself to sew on YouTube. He created a bunch of shirts and hats with the new "Hecho En Venice" logo, and they've been in hot demand ever since. "I do this for fun," says Galan, and you can tell that he means it. I've always been kind of reluctant to don this apparel, as I was NOT made in Venice, but when I expressed this to Galan, he answered, "I wasn't born here. But I grew up here, and became who I am here." I guess I did too, so now I feel like maybe I can sport these duds. The only thing Galan asks is that you wear the almost always navy blue items with PRIDE. No problem.

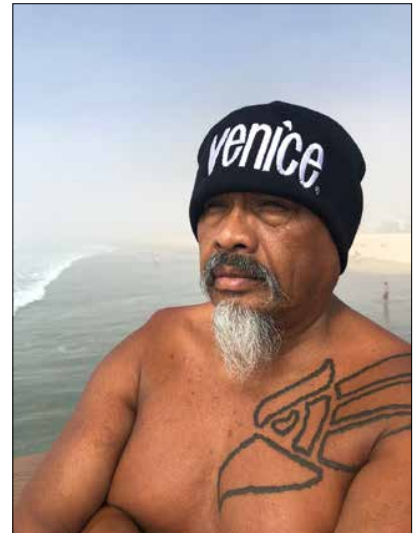


"Real locals that know me get the secret stash."

Before it was if you didn't know me, you can't have a t-shirt. Now, everyone knows me, so they can all have a shirt!", laughed Galan. That certainly seems true, as the respect and friendship continued to be shown to Galan the entire time we talked by everyone going by that knew him - and several were already in Hecho En Venice gear. "The people of Venice is what it's all about. Be friendly. Support local businesses." Yeah. For Galan, that also applies to sticking up for people. You may remember the brawl on the pier a few years back between the lifeguard and drunk tourists. Galan had been dining with Rita in Washington Square, and said, "I'll be right back". Those tourists soon found out what it meant to mess with a Venice lifeguard, as Galan came in swinging - and they left hurting. Venice will have your back.



With all the cool stuff in Venice, Galan's favorite thing about it is still "The water. Go surf!" And he's out there all the time. You can find him out in the lineup, having coffee at The Cow's End, or in his truck office. You can find Hecho En Venice all over town, but for sure at Maui & Sons on the Boardwalk, Rider Shack, Titanic, District, Rip City, Bay Street Surf Shop, Principessa, or at their online store, ShackedStore.com.



Oscar and Rita Galan are the real deal, and it's an honor to know them, and now their story. Their Hecho En Venice line (now including everything from shirts to hats to coffee mugs!) have given all of Venice a way to show their pride - worldwide. Get yours!

*All photos (after the first one) are courtesy of the Galan family.



Tamara's Tamales

- C.J. Gronner

Tamara's Tamales first came on to my radar a bunch of years ago when the Free Venice Beachhead was hosting a celebration for International Women's Day and so many people came that they ran out of food. Tamara's Tamales swooped in to the rescue, donating dozens and dozens of the Westside's best tamales and making a whole bunch of Venetians happy.

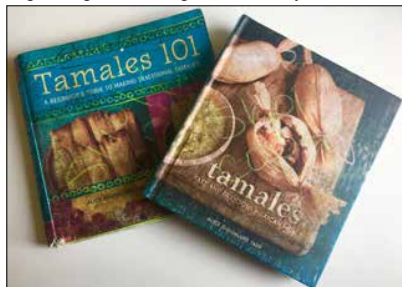


I've been wanting to know the story behind Tamara's Tamales ever since, so thought when better to do a feature on a women owned and operated business from a born and raised Venice girl than for this year's International Women's Day? Thankfully, Tamara Tapp agreed, and we sat down for a nice chat in one of her rare quiet moments at her restaurant in a tiny strip mall with Sakura House, Celadon, etc ... on Washington Boulevard.



Tapp is a native Californian, and has spent her whole life in and around Venice. As a teenager, she waited tables at various classic Venice restaurants like Hama Sushi and Maxwell's, and also worked at Conroy's Flowers (at the location that is now Deus Ex Machina). Tapp's family is from Mexico (Sinaloa and Chihuahua) and their main family tradition in cooking was always making tamales together. Alice Guadalupe Tapp is Tamara's mother, and the author of two books on tamales, Tamales 101 and Fast & Delicious, so she knows what she's talking about. Alice Tapp finally said one day to Tamara, "Let's do something" - meaning with tamales - and after a brief search, they found their spot on Washington, and have been open for business in the same location for 27 years now.

"It's really taken on a life of its own ... It's really hard work, but I do love it. We love our community and it feels so good to give something from our family's tradition



back to our neighborhood. Everyone is welcome here, there's something for everyone, and I love people to come and sit and talk and love food together," explains Tapp.

"We get new people every day. After 27 years, people are still discovering us." I know this to be true because someone at Christmas time (their busiest time of the year, when business quadruples) was on Facebook asking where to get good tamales on the Westside, and I chimed in with "Tamara's Tamales, of course!" - which several responders had never heard of. Until then.



"I get a lot of Costco people - especially the tire guys - and a lot of people stop in on the way to or from the airport." - both to bring an edible souvenir back home, and as their first stop when they land in town. Business has grown each year, but as Tapp does everything herself with a small staff - the shopping, the cooking, all of it - she can only do so much. They make up to 10,000 tamales each week at the high season, and could easily sell 50,000 - "I just do what I can do". And that's a lot, as in addition to all the tamale making, they donate to two events a month, preferably for organizations and events dealing with kids, women, and mental health. There are volumes of photo albums containing all of the thank you letters and honors from the many various groups Tamara's Tamales has helped in the community. It's a lot.



There are 25 kinds of tamales available each day, with the most popular ones also being Tapp's favorites - the red pork chili for savory and the pineapple raisin for sweet. There are seasonal dessert ones, like lemon in the summer and pumpkin in the fall, and a special "Family Chicken" one at Christmas. There are vegetarian and vegan options, and even a King Crab one that needs to be eaten by me asap. All are extra authentic, all are extra delicious, all are made with love that you can taste.

Tapp has done all the food shows, and no less than Wolfgang Puck wrote the blurb for her Mother's books, calling them "The best tamales in the world!" High praise, indeed. "I want to offer a healthy alternative to people in my community that is still fast to get. There are less and less Mom and Pop (or Mom and Daughter) places like this, so I think that people really appreciate it, from the feedback that we get." About that change happening all around, Tapp says that as a native, the change hurts. But as a business, it's good. "I just want to make the best tamale every day. I love tamales. I try them everywhere. If I see a lady on the side of the road, I pull over to try hers. People bring ME tamales from their families to try ... I just love tamales." And proof of that love is in the pudding - or tamale.



7 • MARCH 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

www.DaleNewmanDesign.com

Dale Newman Design
Landscape Architecture
&
Garden Coach
310.392.9863

well baby center[®]
A NON-PROFIT PARENTING & COUNSELING CENTER

Parenting Groups

Well Baby Center
12316 Venice Blvd.
Mar Vista, CA 90066
310.402.2229 ext 105
www.wellbabycenter.org

People ask for special orders, so Tapp has found herself making a jalapeño and cheese or a nutella and banana for those with special cravings. Tapp herself has two daughters, who both went to Couer D'Alene Elementary, and have grown up helping in the shop. Both are now pursuing other career avenues, so it's pretty much all Tapp - and that caused her to cut back on hours finally, after being open 10-10 every day for years. Tamara's Tamales is now closed Mondays and closes at 6 pm, and they close for the entire month of January so everyone can have a life after the back-breaking work of the holiday season.

As much as Tamara loves tamales, "I love a taco!" She gets her taco fix at El Abajeño on Inglewood Boulevard (which I'd never heard of so am now looking into that!), is obsessed with Rainbow Acres, and thinks that Venice is in dire need of some good Chinese food after the closing of Szechuan on Washington Boulevard (agreed). Tapp is also a big fan of sushi, and credits the original owner of Hama - Toshi, who now owns Hyama Sushi on Sawtelle - for teaching her a lot about the restaurant business. There is a big community within restaurants, and Tapp has friends at nearly every place in town, peppering our conversation with comments like, "Oh, Karen from Café Buna is my friend from elementary school!" ... giving her a street cred borne from a lifetime in Venice.

Tapp and her family have given a lot to our community over the years and decades, and I raise my glass to them in thanks on this International Womens Day. Women working hard and being dedicated to their communities - and the world at large - truly make it all a better place. Thank you to Tamara and her tamales for sharing their traditions, delicious food, and love with us all ... Viva Tamara's Tamales!

Tamara's Tamales
13352 Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90066
#310-305-7714
www.tamarastamales.com

Update on Reese-Davidson Community

An affordable and supportive housing development on the parking lots at Venice-Dell-Pacific

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Requirements and Update

Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing have been committed to completing an Environmental Impact Report for Reese Davidson since our initial analysis of this property, which is the most extensive process required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process is moving forward, analyzing potential impacts from the development of Reese Davidson Community. A Scoping Meeting was hosted by the City at the Oakwood Recreation Center on January 14th and the EIR scoping period ended on January 21st. Many comments were received in person at the Scoping Meeting and in writing by email and other submissions. Thank you to everyone who provided input! All relevant environmental comments will be incorporated into the scope of study for the Draft EIR. The study, analysis and preparation of the Draft EIR will occur over several months under the direction of the City of Los Angeles. The Draft EIR is expected to be published for public review and comment in Fall 2019.

Common Questions about Reese Davidson

Will Reese Davidson decrease property values in the surrounding neighborhood?

Studies show that affordable housing does not lower surrounding property values in cities like Los Angeles (see graph below from a study by Trulia). On the contrary, the existing properties that are owned and operated by Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing are a testament to the positive impact that affordable housing can have on a neighborhood. If you would like to see first-hand how responsible owner/operators of affordable housing enhance both the built environment and the safety of a community, please let us know and we will arrange a property tour.

Is Venice developing too much supportive and affordable housing right now?

Currently in the predevelopment process in Venice, there are 150 supportive housing units and 116 affordable units, as well as 7 on-site units for live-in staff, for a total of 273 new homes at Rose Apartments, Reese Davidson Community and Thatcher Yard. Rose Apartments is the only development with funding and/or land use approvals. 150 new supportive housing units represents 1.5% of the City's total goal of 10,000 new units. The 34 units approved for HHH funding at Rose Apartments represent less than 1% of the 3,711 units approved for HHH funding to date. The 273 new homes represent less than 2% of the 15,455 homes in Venice now. Among those, just under 1,000 are currently affordable, so even with these new additions, only about 8% of housing in Venice will be affordable. The City's housing element shows that 45% of all households living in our City earn incomes below 80% of the median, which is generally the group of people in need of and qualified for affordable housing. Therefore, the outcry that Venice is or is going to be carrying more than its fair share of either supportive or affordable couldn't be further from the truth.

Affordable and supportive housing have primarily historically been built in other communities. There are more than 8,000 permanent supportive housing units (PSH) operating County-wide, and only 42 units, or 0.5%, are in Venice. In other Westside communities, Santa Monica has more than 350 PSH units, Del Rey has at least 85 PSH units, and more than 1200 units are existing and planned on the VA campus near Brentwood. However, the large majority of PSH units have been produced in communities in Downtown/Central Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, and the Valley. There hasn't been significant affordable housing production in Venice since the 1990s. The City-owned land program allows for housing to be built in all neighborhoods, which makes sense because every community is negatively impacted by the lack of affordable housing and the rise in homelessness.

Modern Love (and Ambivalence)

by Suzy Williams

Son loves Father. Father loves Son. Father loves Wife. Wife is ambivalent. Father dies. Mother takes a Lover. Son creates new bionic Father. Mother freaks. Intrigued? You should be! Brian Letscher has created a scenario that, as we head into a artificially more and more brilliant world, is not so unlikely a situation. I mean, what could go wrong with all these new life size, compliant, silkily-textured robots? The acting, scenery, lighting, choreography are all superb in the Pacific Resident tradition. Melissa Weber Bales is unforgettable in her portrayal of a sophisticated and terribly torn woman in a tug-of-war between passion and loyalty.

Pacific Resident Theatre
703 Venice Blvd.

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 3:00 (thru at least March 24th)

For reservations , go online to: WWW.PACIFIC-RESIDENTTHEATRE.COM or call: 310-822-8392

Geographic distribution of affordable housing development is shown below, from a map of LA City Affordable Housing Trust Funded Developments, 2003 - 2017:

Also, please note that Navy Blue Apartments is not new or planned supportive housing in Venice. This 14-unit building has been owned and operated by Venice Community Housing as affordable and supportive housing for the past 25 years, and 9 of the existing 42 supportive housing units in Venice are at Navy Blue. VCH did receive a grant from the City of Santa Monica in December of 2017 to rehabilitate the units.

Isn't this development too expensive?

There continue to be comments and statements about the cost and value of building new supportive housing. We simply cannot end homelessness unless we build new homes and at the same time preserve every existing affordable home we have in our City and region. This includes building and preserving supportive housing, extremely low-income housing, other affordable housing and rent stabilized housing. New construction and preservation must happen in small, medium and large scale in combination - there is no one solution to this crisis. And while it's true costs have risen for new supportive housing in recent years, there is still substantial cost savings and other positive human impacts in ensuring people have a place to live versus leaving people on our streets and sidewalks. One recent study showing cost savings is here: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1694.html and many others can be found at www.csh.org.

Is Reese Davidson similar to the Cabrini Green public housing community in Chicago and should we be worried about "concentration" of low-income units?

Cabrini Green has a complex history, with a wide variety of opinions as to its contributions, successes and/or failures. Regardless, the comparison of Reese Davidson to Cabrini Green regarding the scale of housing or the "concentration of poverty" are not based in fact. The original Cabrini Green community had over 3,600 homes and about 15,000 residents, in comparison to 140 homes and a maximum of 381 residents (though expected at approximately 285 residents) at Reese Davidson. The scale is simply not comparable. Other critique of Cabrini Green focuses on high-rise buildings creating management difficulty; Reese Davidson is not a high rise as it plans two 2 to 3 story buildings. Lastly, Reese Davidson will not increase or create any concentration of low-income people or force low-income people into low-opportunity neighborhoods, as the critics of Cabrini allege. In fact, Reese Davidson will restore a degree of income diversity that has benefited the Venice community in the past because it will encourage inclusivity and creativity.

Please email reesedavidsoncommunity@vch-corp.org for any further questions or to continue to provide input.



Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award Winning Director helms Pacific Resident Theatre's West Coast Premiere of "Smart Love" written by Brian Letscher

Opening at 8pm on Saturday, January 12, 2019
Thursdays - Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm
through February 24, 2019 at 703 Venice Blvd. in Venice, CA 90291 Venice, CA

- A contemporary comedy with a scientific twist, Pacific Resident Theatre presents the West Coast Premiere of "Smart Love" by Brian Letscher. The Wachowski household is turned upside down when their son makes a surprise visit home, from MIT, with an unexpected guest. How far will human beings go in order to salvage love? "So MUCH in this brave new world of technology! No doubt I am severely over-stimulated," says playwright Brian Letscher. "Irony apparent, I turn on my TV and click through a half-dozen streaming services trying to find the perfect viewing pleasure that will help me feel better and send me off to sleep. Further down that meta-hole, I find a documentary on the xplosion of technology and the possibilities moving forward in this brave new world. I cannot fall asleep, but a year later I have this play."

Brian Letscher's play When The Lights Come On premiered at Jeff Daniels' The Purple Rose Theatre Company where Smart Love had a sold-out run in 2017. As an actor Brian appeared as "Tom Larsen" on the hit show Scandal among several regular and recurring roles.

Elina de Santos (Director) received the LADCC Career Achievement in Directing Award (2012) and she is Co-Artistic Director of at Rogue Machine Theatre. Selected World Premieres: Hostage (MK Brooks), In the Valley of the Shadow (K. Cortez), Dirty Filthy Love Story (R. Mersola), Razorback (J. Pollono), Church & State (J. Williams). American Premiere: Daytona (J. Cotton). LA Premieres, Stop Kiss (D. Son), Falling (Jent), New Jerusalem (Ives), Albee's A Delicate Balance and Mamet's Speed the Plow. PRT, Odyssey, WCJT: Miller's All My Sons, Death of a Salesman, & Broken Glass, Odets' Rocket to the Moon, Awake & Sing!, & Williams', Orpheus Descending - LADCC Direction.

Pacific Resident Theatre is nationally recognized as one of the top regional theaters on the West Coast. The company presents works of the highest quality, in order to entertain, inform and educate its multicultural community. In addition to the company's commitment to rediscover the rarely performed classics, PRT is focused on fostering and developing new works through the collaboration of an artistic ensemble influenced by societal relevance, past, present and future. Pacific Resident Theatre promotes the theatre arts by providing opportunities for artists and craftsmen to develop and enrich their skills.

Our Cast includes Melissa Weber Bales (Rhinosceros, A View from the Bridge - LA Weekly Award nom - Leading Female Performance); Scott Conte (Big Love, Golden Boy, Anna Christie, Lulu, Rocket to the Moon, Lions, The Cherry Orchard); Zachary Grant (Rogue Machine's Oppenheimer, Skylight Theatre's Hostage, Odyssey Theatre's Punk Rock. Film: Being Charlie directed by Rob Reiner); Michael Mantell (The Model Apartment at Geffen Playhouse, Broadway Bound at Odyssey, A Small Fire at Echo, The Tenth Man at Lincoln Center).

Produced by Marilyn Fox, Terry Davis, and Tania Getty. David Mauer (Set Design), Leigh Allen (Lighting Designer), Chris Moscatiello (Sound Design), Elizabeth Cox (Costume Design).

If your son asks you
When was the best day of the Revolution
What will you tell him?

Will you say instantly: February 11, 1979?
The day you opened the gate of Evin Prison alongside the people
And saw huge colanders of steaming rice in the kitchen
Which old jailors had rinsed for their lunch
And new jailors cooked for their dinner,
And you with your lover Ezzat Tabaian
Stepped into a labyrinth of solitary cells
And for a few endless minutes
Were trapped behind an electronic door
From where Ezzat three winters later
Was sent to the execution field.

Perhaps you will say: January 16, 1979
When the Shah fled Iran for the second time
And the statue-breaking rebels at a Tehran square
Dismounted his father from his horse
And in the dark, you picked up a piece of his hat
From the ground as a keepsake
And told Ezzat at your side
That you did not know if you were awake or asleep
Just as the night when you made love
For the first time
And you rubbed your eyes in disbelief.

No! No!
You miss neither of these two days
Because the new prison is more horrific than the old one
And the new tyrant more ruthless than the previous one.
You miss only one night
When in October 14, 1977
At the fifth night of Ten Nights of Poetry
With your novelist friend Hooshang Golshiri
You walked to the Garden of Goethe in the rain
To listen to "Songs of Prison" of Saeed Soltanpour
Who had just been released from prison
Roaring like a wounded panther.

In those bright ten nights
Sixty members of the Iranian Writers' Association
Gathered from four corners of the country in Tehran
To speak of truth and beauty polyphonically.
Omrn Salahi read a poem in Turkish
And Tahereh Safarzadeh an ode to Islam.
Neither the first enraged the Persian speakers
Nor the second provoked the leftists.
Thousands and thousands of lovers of poetry
Had gathered there from across the country
To testify that poetry
Demands freedom of expression.

In those ten bright nights
Did the novelist Islam Kazemiyeh know that two decades later
He would suffocate himself in Paris?
Did the scholar Mostafa Rahimi foresee
That years after suffering torture and prison
He would jump off the roof of his house?
Did the novelist Behazin predict that after arrest
He would incriminate himself on state TV?
Did the poet Saeed Soltanpour know
That on the night of his wedding
He would be arrested and executed soon after?
Was the poet Siavash Kasrai aware that at his end
He would perish powerless in Kabul...no, in Vienna?
In the Nights of Poetry the discourse was freedom and equality
And nobody spoke of the "divine" law of stoning.
No one knew that on January 7, 1978
The clergy would raise their flag in Qom
And gradually the slogan of Islamic Rule
Would replace the slogan of Housing and Freedom.

Come, return to the Garden of Goethe's Poetry
Sit again under rain-laden trees,
Oblivious to riot police
Talking to each other on their walkie-talkies
Behind the walls of the Garden,
And listen to Maryam, the daughter of the translator Mohammad Qazi
Who is reading her father's speech for you.
Alas! A surgeon's knife had severed her father's vocal cords
But thankfully did not remove the essence of his speech.

Come, return to the house of science and art
And regard only the heart of the individual
As the House of Faith.
Come, and from the refreshing Garden of Goethe
Return to the best days of the Revolution.
Perhaps in this journey
Your son will accompany you.

Majid Naficy
November 17, 2011

ALONE with LEONARDO da VINCI's MONA LISA in the LOUVRE, PARIS

REFLECTIONS BY IRINA AZAROVA July 13, 2018

I am looking at her, her relaxed pose, her
arms, hands □ right over the left.

I see the young skin of her chest and
neck, her face with this magical kind of
smile.

But eyes! She is everything - the lov-
er who is waiting for her beloved, virgin
waiting to become impregnated.

She is a woman who knows the myster-
ies of love, a mother with her innate under-
standing of life itself.

She sees you, understands you. She
knows where you are coming from and
what your desires are.

She can give all you've ever wanted, -
and even more. She embraces you with
her wisdom and love, gifting you with the
depth and darkness you need so much to
feel secure, safe and loved. She is an arche-
type of a woman who is also a Goddess
with her never-ending story that touches
everyone who has lived, loved, suffered,
been lost, who has been a seeker of truth,
wisdom, love and compassion.

She is an eternity with no end and no
beginning...

She is young, vibrant, innocent, mature,
old, ancient, wise, all at the same time.

I hugged the tree

I hugged the tree I hugged the tree
I fell in love....
This smell this touch, its sexy juice
I fell in love
You are my man, you are the one
I fell in love
I hugged the tree, I hugged the tree
It was divine...

— Irina Azarova

Free

In the cold, damp dreariness of a late autumn morning,
Stands a desolate tree.

Leaves, crinkled and brown,
scorched by the Indian Summer Sun,
Where will you go?
Fall...

"Wherever the wind takes me..."

📍 Lynette 📍 October 15, 2007

9 • MARCH 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

TAKING A TRIP marty liboff
Taking a Trip to the other side
I just realized I did.
Across the River Styx I row
to where I don't know?
Will I meet Jesus, Moses, or Krishna
Mohammed, Satan or Buddha?
Will I be an angel with a harp
or be reincarnated as a monkey or a carp?
Or down in flames or hell I may burn
or be reborn so I can learn?
Maybe there won't be an afterlife at all
into darkness and nothingness we fall?
Whatever may be when we die
at least in life- love, be happy and try.
Don't just trust that the gods will save your soul
you may not be on the gods honor roll.
Our Time is the Eternal Now
life is the existential Wow! Wow! Wow!
Or as my dog explains it, Bow Wow!

HOLY MOTHER EARTH marty liboff

Holy Mother Earth
Mother of us all.
Oh, Dearest Earth Goddess
please protect us and teach us to Love You.
Your sacred streams and valleys.
Your magical Mysteries.
Rainbows of Love.
Your divine trees and forests
speak of Her blessed wonders.
All your beautiful animals
both large and small
whales, elephants and a mouse.
Your birds fly above watching over
your wonderful works.
Rivers, lakes and seas are your Blood
and are our Blood flowing in our veins.
Your rains nourish the flowers and crops.
She has created this amazing planet for you.
She gave us Her Treasures to cherish and Love.
Delight in all Her colors of the Rainbow
and the beauty of Her sunrises and sunsets.
Yet we ignorantly rape and pollute Her and us.
As we walk through Her Creation
our journey from Birth to Death
a child of Mother Earth
we must remember to protect, respect and Love Her.
What a wonderful world she has created for us to
enjoy.
We are One and Together in Her.
Our Holy Mother Earth
Our most sacred Mother...

I LOVE "THE LOGGER BAR" A TOAST

I LOVE "THE LOGGER BAR",
I LOVE THE LOGGER AT THE BAR,
EVERY LOGGER NEAR AND FAR,
I LOVE "THE LOGGER"!
I LOVE THE SAWDUST AND THE SWEAT
OF ALL THE LOGGERS I HAVE MET,
AND ALL THE ONES I CAN'T FORGET,
I LOVE "THE LOGGER"!
I LOVE THE PICTURES ON THE WALL,
THE BIGGEST SAWS I EVER SAW,
AND ALL THE HARD HATS HANGING TALL,
I LOVE "THE LOGGER"
HERE'S TO "THE LOGGER" – BUILT TO LAST!
(THAT STEAMIN' DONKEY'S SUCH A BLAST!)
HERE'S TO THE FUTURE AND THE PAST!
HERE'S TO "THE LOGGER"!

— TINA CATALINA CORCORAN

CALENDAR

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

MARCH 8 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – POETRY READING HAPTICS, WITH STEPHEN VINCENT AND DOUGLAS MESSERLI – Poet, book-maker, and visual artist Stephen Vincent presents Poetry Reading Haptics, a multi-media program that integrates Vincent's poetry and his haptic drawings. These drawings, conceived as poetry by other means, function as a visual score for Vincent's writing by creating a simultaneous visual language intent on revealing an alphabet of shapes, one that is both counter-representational, unreadable in any conventional sense, yet surprisingly familiar. Vincent is joined by poet, writer, and publisher Douglas Messerli. Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 9 SATURDAY 8:00 PM – WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE – Women of a Certain Age Comedy is a show straight from the unfettered mouths and uninhibited minds of the funniest, most daring, most experienced people in comedy: the women that have seen it all. Trust us, they have A LOT to say, and they say it hysterically. With Cathy Ladman, Felicia Michaels, Roz Browne, Bernadette Pauley, and special guests. Hosted by Carole Montgomery. Special Admission \$20. Members \$15

MARCH 10 SUNDAY 1:00 PM – JACK GRAPES & RICHARD JONES – Jack Grapes is an award-winning poet, playwright, actor, teacher, and the editor and publisher of ONTHEBUS, one of the top literary journals in the country. He has won several publishing grants and Fellowships in Literature from the National Endowment for the Arts. Jack will be reading from his new book. Richard Jones's prodigious volume travels the wide arc of a lifetime in detail. He has published eleven books of poetry and his poems have been featured on NPR's "All Things Considered." He is the founder and editor of Poetry East, and he teaches at DePaul University in Chicago, where he lives with his family. Special Admission.

MARCH 10 SUNDAY 2:00 PM – SOAP BOX POETS – This is your home. Bring your words. The mic is yours. Sign ups begin at 1:45 PM. There is a five minute limit. Hosted by Jessica Wilson Cardenas. FREE but donations are welcome. In the Mike Kelley Gallery

MARCH 10 SUNDAY 5:00 PM – JIM NATAL & DOROTHY BARRESI – Jim Natal debuts Spare Room, his new collection of poetry in haibun form. He is the author of four previous collections, including 52 Views and Memory and Rain. He is joined by American Book Award-winning poet Dorothy Barresi, whose most recent collection is What We Did While We Made More Guns. Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 10 SUNDAY 7:00 PM – VOICE IN THE WELL: CARRY ON – Public Works Improvisational Theatre presents an evening of lively variety arts programming – celebrating talented writers, storytellers, poets, musicians and comics. Every month, we explore topical themes for your pleasure and enjoyment! Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular Admission. Members FREE

MARCH 15 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – JEFF MCMAHON SIX MONOLOGUES – Six of McMahon's works that span across socio-political, queer and historical frames of discourse: Discontents, Scatter, City of God, Heel, Honorable Discharge, Failure to Thrive. Provocative, witty, daring and compassionate, these works are a testament to McMahon's singular vision. FREE

MARCH 16 SATURDAY 4:00 PM – BEYOND SPANISH – Poetry in Basque, Catalan, Galician and Spanish with Josu Baque, Mónica Comas Rodríguez, Jennifer Holmes, Unai Nafarrate, Jurgio Valinhas and Mariano Zaro. Sponsored by the Education Office of the Consulate General of Spain. FREE

MARCH 16 SATURDAY 8:00 PM – OVER-POPULATION & ART – Please join S.A. Griffin, family and friends as he celebrates his 65 birthday at Beyond Baroque with a performance of Overpopulation & Art by American composer, music theorist, conceptual artist, poet and performance artist John Cage. No admission, however, there will be a sub-

mission charge of \$6.50 for anyone attempting to leave the performance early. FREE

MARCH 24 SUNDAY 2:00 PM – THE NEBRASKA GIRL OPEN READING – Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE but donations are welcome.

MARCH 23 SATURDAY 4:00 PM – VALERIE WALLACE & BRUCE WILLARD – Join us for a reading with Valerie Wallace (House of McQueen, Four Way Books 2018) and Bruce Willard (Violent Blues, Four Way Books 2016). The Chicago Review of Books describes House of McQueen as "a gorgeous translation of reality into something mythical and timeless." Library Journal says that "many readers will identify with Willard's quietly troubled thoughts and small-town settings" in Violent Blues. Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 22 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – ROBBIE NESTER: NARROW BRIDGE – Robbi Nester reads from her new collection of poems, Narrow Bridge (Main Street Rag, 2019). Sonia Greenfield says of this book: "Nester's poems in Narrow Bridge are either huge in scope as they needle at the very meaning of existence or they're faded snapshots sharpened by language into clear renderings of a girl's life. Once you read a Nester metaphor, you can't imagine any other way to see a thing..." Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 23 SATURDAY 7:00 PM – NTOZAKE SHANGE TRIBUTE – Shonda Buchanan hosts a special tribute to the great Ntozake Shange, who passed away in 2018. Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 24 SUNDAY 7:00 PM – 7 DUDLEY CINEMA – Experimental films with fiery discussion & live music. FREE but donations are welcome. Laughtears.com Gerry Fialka host

MARCH 28 THURSDAY 8:00 PM – IN CONVERSATION – Memoirist, poet and performance artist David Mura in conversation with playwright Valina Hasu Houston. Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 30 SATURDAY 8:00 PM – TRUE STORIES: TALES FROM A GENERATION OF A NEW WORLD CULTURE – Garrick Beck, son of Julian Beck and Judith Malina co-founders of the Living Theater, reads from his memoir True Stories, a rollicksome ride from the Beat 1950s through the passions and protests and psychedelics of the 1960s, and onward into environmental and cross-cultural arts and political movements, and a special rare performance by the Living Theater in person! Regular admission. Members FREE

MARCH 31 SUNDAY 4:00 PM – LAUREL BLOSSOM & PATRICK DONNELLY – Longevity, Laurel Blossom's sixth book, which Per Contra called "one of the important book-length poems of the 21st century," is a book-length narrative prose poem, a story about sisterhood told, in fragments and in the heightened language of poetry. Patrick Donnelly reads from his fourth book of poems, which Ilya Kaminsky called "a book of revelations of what it means to be human, to be hurt, to be awed, to be stunned by our world." Regular admission. Members FREE

LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

March 5 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, free <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html>

March 13 Wed Laughtears Salon (rsvp 310 306 7330 for location & time) free - politics, art, culture discussion Laughtears.com

March 20 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA 90291 Laughtears.com

April 2 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, free <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html>

April 10 Wed Laughtears Salon (rsvp 310 306 7330 for location & time) free - politics, art, culture discussion Laughtears.com

April 17 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA Free Laughtears.com

April 28 Sun 6pm - 7 Dudley Cinema - Gaia Goddess - Celebration of the Primal Mother of all life: beauty, love, fertility with films, dancers, poets and music at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA Free Laughtears.com



LA LOUVER
David Hockney – Something New in Painting
(and Photography)
[and even Printing]... Continued

Alison Saar – Grow'd
Through March 23



www.electriclodge.org for classes and workshops and events. Tae Kwon Do, Jazz Dance, RAW acting, Samba, 5Rhythms Dream Waves, Hula for Healing, Yoga, Improv, Shakespeare, Moo Moo Musica dance and play for infants and toddlers.



photo by Margaret Molloy

Ongoing Events

FOOD

- 4:30pm Sundays People's Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777.

COMPUTERS

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

FOOD

- 4pm Saturdays through Wednesdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Dudley.
- 1:30pm, Thursdays. Free Vegetarian Food. OFW & Sunset.

KIDS

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

MUSIC

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

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-4pm, 2nd Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am, Fridays. Venice Farmers Market. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 4:15pm, every Thursday - Chess Club. Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. The Venice Oceanarium (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
- 8:30am, 2nd Fridays. Bus Token Distribution. First 40 people in line will receive a free bus token. Vera Davis Center.
- 5:30pm, Sundays. Open Mic Night. Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free.
- 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. MOM: Meditations On Media. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 10am Sunday Morning Gatherings of Creative community. <http://goo.gl/BbsDV2>

YOGA AND DANCE

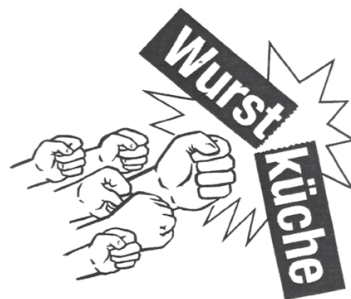
- Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson's, Donation, Electric Lodge

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Electric Lodge**, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- **G2 Gallery**, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2018
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056



photo by Margaret Molloy



¡BOICOTEA A WURSTKÜCHE!

¡PON UN ALTO AL DESALOJO DE UNA FAMILIA DE VENICE POR EL DUEÑO TYLER WILSON!

El dueño de Wurstküche Tyler Wilson inició un desalojo predatorio sin causa en contra de una familia de Venice. ¡Únete al boicoteo ahora para anular el desalojo!



BOYCOTT WURSTKÜCHE!!

STOP OWNER TYLER WILSON FROM EVICTING VENICE FAMILY!!

Wurstküche owner Tyler Wilson is initiating a predatory, no cause eviction against a Venice family. Join the boycott NOW to rescind the eviction!!



Instagram: @latenants
#homenotusausages
#peopleoverprofit



NO DEJES QUE ESTO TE PASE A TI



¡ÚNETE AL SINDICATO!

Sindicato de Inquilinos de Los Angeles
Reuniones de la Sección Oeste
1er y 3er miércoles; 7-8:30pm
Center of Recreation Oakwood
767 California Ave, Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618

Línea de apoyo solidario de casos: 213-986-8266

Conozca a sus vecinos!
Conozca sus derechos!

LA REUNIÓN SERÁ BILINGÜE EN ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS.



Instagram: @latenants
#homenotusausages
#peopleoverprofit



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU



JOIN THE UNION!

Los Angeles Tenants Union
West Side Local Meetings
1st and 3rd Wednesday; 7-8:30pm
Oakwood Recreation Center
767 California Ave., Venice, CA 90291

westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com
424-272-1618

Solidarity Casework hotline: 213-986-8266

Get to know your neighbors!
Get to know your rights!

THIS MEETING WILL BE BILINGUAL SPANISH / ENGLISH.





**Paintings
by
Barbara Mastej**

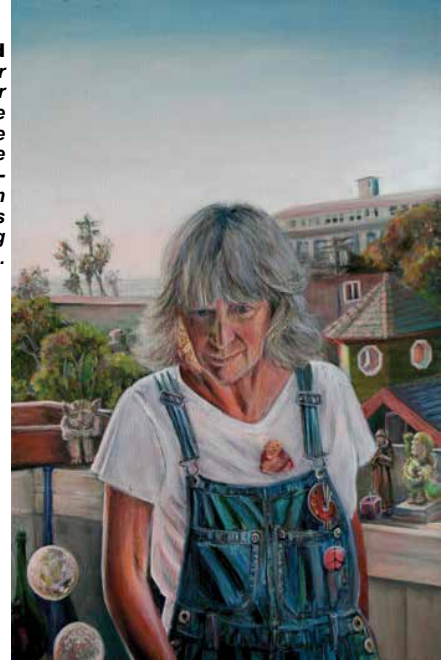
Susie Williams
THE free-spirited and soulful chanteuse of Venice, Susie has an extraordinary fashion sense and an incurable addiction to bright red lipstick. A muse to many of us.

Vance Arquilla
I first met Vance when she was reading tarot cards on Ocean Front Walk. She is also an accomplished astrologer. A singer and a dancer, Vance has a keen eye for fashion and presents herself in dramatic and evocative clothing and poses.



Doran Marold
Artist and healer shown on her former balcony at her home on Dudley Avenue where she lived since the early 70s. Her melancholy expression reflects the sadness she feels at leaving Venice.

Denna Felix
Back in the day, Denna was a singer and burlesque dancer in Los Angeles. You never caught her without her glamorous make-up, jewelry and head-to-toe outfits in hot pink, cobalt blue, oh, and yes, black. And never without her fluffy white stuffed dog purse.



Francine Danieri

Longtime unofficial social director and ambassador to the Venice Canals. She was our "go to" person when it came to any sort of animal rescue, she saved the lives of innumerable birds and other creatures who were injured or just dumped in the Canals. Another resident of the Canals stated when Francine moved away that the "DNA of the Canals" had left the area.

