

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

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INSIDE
INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
SUSPICIOUS MOTORHOME FIRE
BUSINESS AS USUAL
THE UNHOUSED SLEEP
LETTERS 2
A VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM 3
1969 & 2016 3
THE ALIENS HAVE LANDED 4
A SNAKE IN THE WHEATGRASS 4
JUDGE GARLAND STUMBLE
OVER THE VENICE POST OFFICE 5
GREEN FENCES 5
GONE TOO SOON 6
REVIEW: FLAKED 8
POETRY 9
CALENDAR 10



Photo above by Molli Cody, right by Margaret Molloy

MOTORHOME DESTROYED BY A SUSPICIOUS FIRE

David Garcia's 1978 Dodge Eldorado Sportsman could be seen for blocks as it burned out of control in front of spectators (Lincoln and Machado) that did not bother to call 911 but instead took selfies and video footage for social media (google fire footage @ venice motorhome fire on lincoln).

David grew up in Venice not more than a block from where this happened, and he believes it was arson! The

continued on page 7



Under Our Collective Shadow The Unhoused Sleep

by Krista Schwimmer

Each night, as the southern sunlight dissipates in the City of Angels, a shadow takes its place. This shadow sneaks across every sidewalk, through every street, and into every neighborhood. It is a collective shadow that includes our unacknowledged fears, hatred, shame, and greed. Many of us scurry from this shadow into our waiting beds, refusing to share in any part of its making. Others take to the street, stand up in the courts, and call out at community meetings, carrying the light of conscience to illuminate not only the shadow's causes, but its effect. For, underneath the thread worn blanket of this shadow, over 30,000 human beings sleep each night -- sleep without shelter, without protection, without purpose. In the Greater Los Angeles Region, homelessness has exploded into a shocking humanitarian crisis.

On March 29th, Councilman Mike Bonin held a Town Hall meeting at Westminster Elementary School. To a packed house, he presented county, city, and Venice strategies to bring homelessness to what he termed "a functional zero". In his opening statements, Bonin said that homelessness was probably going to get worse before it gets better. He called dealing with homelessness controversial and divisive. Inaction was worse, however, than divisiveness. "I can't wait any longer for consensus before we take action."

Bonin said that Los Angeles County and City are working on the plan in "an unparalleled cooperation." All three plans depend on a data based Coordinated Entry System, (CES). According to "Home For Good", one of the developers of the system, "coordinated entry is an approach to end homelessness that requires comprehensive coordination of all housing and service resources in a community to better match people experiencing homelessness to appropriate permanent housing placements." (i.)Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) is now mandating that communities receiving HUD housing funding implement this kind of system (ii.)

Bonin said there is "no one type of homelessness, no one cause of homelessness, no one solution." Ending homelessness in Venice, he said, required ending it in Los Angeles, too. The majority of the night, he detailed first the City, then the Venice plans. This article highlights the Venice plan.

Before introducing the Venice plan, Bonin showed some results of a Venice community survey. This survey showed significant support for: safe parking; building housing on City owned land; expanding voluntary storage; reforming and expanding the shelter system; mobile restrooms and showers; and dedicated police officers trained to address homeless issues. The nearly 800 people surveyed were largely opposed to inaction.

The Venice Plan has three main components: preserving affordable housing; increasing services and outreach; and implementing a street strategy.

To preserve affordable housing, Bonin laid out five steps. The first two recommendations are to reform the Mello Act and to legislate short-term rentals. For the last few years, local activists have claimed that it is exactly because of Mello Act violations and illegal short-term rentals that Venice has been rapidly losing its affordable housing in the first place.

The other three steps are to build more affordable housing; to build housing specifically for the homeless; and to implement a rapid housing program. So far, Bonin is working with Metro to use the Metro Yard to build at least 35% affordable units. For housing the homeless, the city is looking to use the Dell/Pacific parking lot.

As part of the outreach and services strategy, Bonin launched the CES, Venice Forward, a year ago. Although this collaborative network consists of over thirty commu-

continued on page 4

WE NEED AN Interim Control Ordinance.

by Lydia Ponce

For the love of Venice and for how kooks call themselves locals after paying millions of dollars and living here 4 years... We need an ICO. We need an Internal Control Ordinance on all proposed projects that require a MELLO determination. Mike Bonin can pen one in an hour... He can have it voted on in one week.

The housing crisis in our City of Angels calls for it and is deserving of having FEMA here to assist in California. We need to feed hungry people. We need to house them.

While there is so much posturing in current events, like at the townhall at Westminster Elementary to 'combat' the Homelessness in Venice. Ask yourself, what great timing this is as the BID, Business Improvement District Ordinance is finished for the Ocean Front Walk, (OFW) one mile stretch of our public beach, presented by... Carl Lambert, Venice Chamber of Commerce President. Timing is everything!

Hey what about that open sewer problem at OFW? There's a private company trying to fix the shit problem because the pipes burst and can't handle all the offices and crap thru our city sewage system. It's being pumped into the ocean directly! There's a reason for an ICO, a health hazard! Gajillion dollar properties and the human waste stench, priceless!

There are enough reasons to have an ICO for Venice for all MELLO determinations, all within our coastal zone. The biggest reason is 99 % of these MELLO determinations are decided by the owner affidavits. The Renter's information is typically not in the file or available to determine if there was an affordable unit to be replaced. The renter's information to decide this is the rent amount they were last paying and or their income verification. Can you imagine, not one unit recently has been decided without an appeal... has been found affordable? We're talking extremely low, low and or moderately priced? When was the last time it was determined that a replacement unit was financially feasible to replace within the two miles it was demolished? Within the coastal zone? Never! We all know how very affordable the 90291 was and just recently!!!! So it's been 15 years and counting these MELLO determinations have been corruptly decided and typically favorable for the person applying to build a new single family dwelling. For all the Venice love we have for people over profits, for humanity and not just talk about it but being about it, we require an emergency ICO on everything MELLO.

After all, there is zero requirement for anyone to be a nice person on the applications for the faux 'remodels' as described on recent applications, spare us all, it's a freakin' demolition. All the volunteer and kind hearted work that anyone does is not part of the application process... If the current laws were enforced we, locals, wouldn't have our displaced friends and neighbors vanished from our community. Where is the humanity when people lie on their applications?

Speaking of new laws, the new MELLO Ordinance is

continued on page 8

Business as Usual

by Mark Lipman

Maybe you've noticed this, maybe you haven't? A lot of very dramatic changes are happening around Venice. It seems like overnight entire neighborhoods have been transformed. Family businesses have been forced to close, while high-end trends and tourist boutiques pop-up in their place. Seniors, disabled, long-term fixed income tenants are being displaced faster than you can say "The Ellis Act," while luxury fortresses are being constructed at breakneck speeds. Just walk down Abbot Kinney on the First Friday of any given month and ask yourself how we got here and if this is really the Venice that we want as a community?

It has already made several rounds through the press how on Monday, April 18th, the Westside Tenants Union, along with several ally organizations in the community worked together to say, "Enough," and shut down a private, "Invitation Only" meeting with the City Planning Department, a room full of Real Estate Development interests and a few hand-picked "representatives" for the community for the purpose of re-writing the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP).

The following evening, we heard the Venice Neighborhood Council falling all over themselves, once we exposed the situation, saying how these secret meetings to determine public policy and decisions, which affect all of us, should never take place ... yet that is the very root of the problem.

What we as a community shined the light on -- and why this is so important -- is that this is not a unique occurrence ... it happens all the time.

At that very same meeting Odysseus Bostick, of Assemblywoman Burke's office, reported that their office is trying to fix the Coastal Act to give the Coastal Commission the ability to weigh "affordability" as a measure when deciding on Coastal Development Permits and to add 3 Environmentalist Seats to the Coastal Commission ... things that were originally omitted, as all the affected voices weren't represented around the table during the original decision making process.

Then, at the very same meeting, Debbie Dyner-Harris, from our Council Office, gave an update on a BID (Business Improvement District) reporting that meetings have been taking place for the last two years by Business Owners to create a BID along our entire coast from Venice Blvd. all the way to Santa Monica, that the community really doesn't have a say on this and that the City Clerk's Office will be signing off on it soon.

This in itself is completely outrageous and deserves a series of articles to talk about all that is wrong with this plan ... put up to the public with a false narrative of "they have to because the government isn't providing the needed public services." However, in the same breath, it is never brought up that companies like Google and Snapchat, some of the richest companies on this planet -- are given an 80% Tax Break by the City of Los Angeles --- that's our money -- money taken out of our community -- money that is not -- and should be -- going to our public

continued on page 5



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Eric Ahlberg, Mary Getlein, Krista Schwimmer, Alice Stek.

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.

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To the Venice Beachhead,
Today I attended a boisterous rally in Eugene, Oregon, for Senator Bernie Sanders. He addressed the prime issues facing America today; the mass incarceration of the poor and people of color, police brutality, wage equality for women, a fifteen-dollar minimum wage, health care for all, the end of fracking, marijuana decriminalization, a carbon tax on the Big Oil and gas-polluting industries, free college tuition (so the youth aren't burdened with thousands of dollars of debt), political electoral reform, and taxing the corporations and Wall Street their fair share, in order to pay for the enactment of these programs. No other candidate in the race (being a bunch of billionaires) has the decency or courage to speak the hard truth, and expose the lies and corruption inherent in the system. Bernie is the voice of the Occupy movement, against the 1% hoarders of wealth in this country, and has called for a vast political revolution, involving everyone.

Jump back to the founding of the Beachhead, in 1968, by members of the Peace and Freedom Party. Going on fifty years, the Beachhead has represented the will of the people against a fascist and racist status quo. What is the reasoning of the current Beachhead to take no part in the political discussion being raised in the ongoing election primaries? As a former writer for the Beachhead, I respect its focus on local events in Venice, especially overdevelopment and escalating rents. Yet to carry nary a word on the primary issues and debates, and, specifically, to refuse to champion the policies set forth by Senator Sanders, is, in my opinion, a gross and negligent failure to uphold the Spirit of the People of Venice, and the guiding light of fifty-years worth of Speaking Truth to Power, as exemplified by the dedicated work of thousands of writers and contributors to the Beachhead. Sitting on the fence is a lame position, helping none and betraying all. Beachheads of the past would have joyfully jumped into the fray, and would encourage Venetians / Californians to be fully informed of the issues, and all the candidates' political histories, stance, and credibility.

Thank-you,
Erica Snowlake

So
You Want to
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to the
Free Venice Beachhead
Here's the Scoop:
The Beachhead
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PO Box 2, Venice,
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Deadline for submissions is
the
20TH OF THE MONTH

Try not to bombard us with all of your masterpieces at once! (i.e. fellow poets, start with one or two poems, not twelve) We are a Venice-centered paper focused on social issues such as houselessness, gentrification, racism, police brutality, women's rights -- to name a few.

We seek ORIGINAL, UNPUBLISHED works, not even seen on the likes of Facebook, Twitter, Personal Blogs, or scrawled on the naked body of a streaker.

There is no pay for any of us. But the Free Venice Beachhead is the longest running underground, collective newspaper in the United States. Your work will be read!

Thanks for your generous donations!
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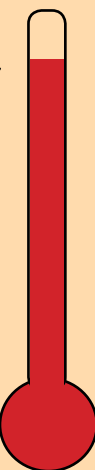
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Indeed our core collective has lost 2 members in the last month, and we have one new member pending.
ALWAYS
WE ARE YOUR VOICE VENICE.
So Write your guts out
investigate and tell
your community
what is really going on.

A VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM

by Pat Raphael

When cooking up a bum stew, you quickly learn there has to be at least three rocks around your fire -- saves your teetering meal from ending up all over the ground right before it's done. The experience to learn such lessons grants the Street Person a clarity on fundamental truths that translate and apply in other life conditions. Suddenly it becomes clear that if the Venice community has to come up with policy considerations to affect and diminish the high number of people living on the streets, it is not enough to only make this a conversation between the government agencies with millions to throw at any feasible solution, and the local organizations & non-profits cooking up proposals to receive these grants. There has to be more than just pro-forma input from the street people these decisions will affect. When more stakeholders are in on the decisions, solutions that come out will be balanced and will gain legitimacy with a greater segment of the community.

Governments function best when their great powers (that we the governed grant them) are clearly defined and reflect the consent of the people. The view from the bottom is that a majority of this community seeks positive co-existence with the street people living on the beach. The will of these neighbors is to see the powers of government functioning within that same spirit. When we empower welfare agencies, our police department, and other government functions to enact policy that deals with street people, it is clear that these policies will more practically implement when they are created as a conversation that involves government, NGOs and input from the homeless.

During the past few weeks, I had occasion to be in audience while two significant members of government performed outreach to the constituency in the Venice area. The first of these -- the Coastal Commission's three-day stint in Santa Monica last month -- totally ignore the heavy load that the community is bearing as we deal with our overpopulation of street people. At that meeting no discussions dealt with homelessness, and the Commission proposed no solutions. The latter -- Councilman Mike Bonin's big plan on homelessness -- was heavy on promises and future considerations, but seemed to do little to intervene in the short-term with any significant impact. The crux of Councilman Bonin's plan puts a high premium on access to shelters, and storage for personal belongings, but has no answer when it comes to increasing affordable housing. While Bonin's plan proposes future development to specifically increase low-income housing, these developments are years away, and seem poised to be mired in bureaucratic red tape. Bonin's meeting to announce his plan (which has the unrealistic goal in its title of "ending homelessness"), seems less like an opportunity for the councilman to get input from the community to formulate a plan, and more like a chance to sound very self-congratulatory that homelessness is being fixed.

In the meantime, as government throws its hundreds of millions of dollars toward solutions, and NGOs open wide their coffers to receive these lucrative grants, caught in the midst of it all (and feeling very much unheard), are the street people that these hundreds of millions are supposed to help. Yes, many of these NGOs provide exceptional service. And in addition, we recognize that social service agencies and NGOs that serve in these very necessary roles must pay the men and women that do these jobs a decent wage. The whole of the community can expect more widespread excellence if the norm of how homeless services get delivered includes true dialogue with the men and women that these services will benefit. Such dialogue would create opportunities for the Street Person, and the first candidates to fill roles within the relevant agencies would naturally be the street people being served. What a two-fold opportunity to deliver services AND raise someone out of poverty.

Additionally, real and sustaining dialogue with street people in formulating policy, means that governance will experience less resistance in implementation. When powers are not responsive, and seem to only be functioning with the force of might, the resistance that mount up every step along the way can be very costly, and will require more and more force to maintain its operation. Imagine the black-hole of cost if the police are our primary interaction with street people? How much less would we have left for significant interventions that could positively affect a Street Person's life, if more and more of our "homeless" allocation goes to the police budget? This defies logic. Instead of needing scores of cops to pound the street people into compliance, what would make more sense is to find that happy medium where the community serves all of its population.

We end with solutions that my own dialogue with street people have uncovered. First and foremost, never discount the human dignity of your neighbor just because his home is in the outdoors. Whenever possible we do not want just a handout (that includes GR), but an opportunity to earn for ourselves. Street People need places on and off the beach to store personal belongings. Solutions include first-come-first-serve locker banks at every bathroom location, and turning the shuttered senior center on Westminster into free storage. Instead of cluttering our neighbor's sidewalks with lines of our bodies at night, it

continued on page 5



1984 and 2016

by Jon Wolff

In April of 1969, a Venice activist by the name of Helene Wolff presented a prepared statement to Los Angeles City Planning Commission. It went something like this: The City's study of Venice is founded on the idea that it is desirable that property values go up and that everything else is incidental to that. I believe that this is neither necessary nor desirable to many homeowners in Venice. We have bought homes - on lots we consider "just right" not "substandard" - in neighborhoods we consider varied, interesting, loving, changing, and challenging.

Varied

Venice may be unique in the whole world - neighborhoods that are truly integrated. My block has homeowners and renters, very old people and very young, hip and square, young families and middle aged families, married and unmarried, schizophrenics, trouble makers, peace makers, recluses, busybodies, cats, a St. Bernard dog, beautifully kept gardens, unkempt yards, at least one racially mixed couple, a millionaire, welfare recipients - and many people I do not know. I am speaking of one block.

Interesting

Like most streets in my Venice neighborhood, mine is a walk - you cannot drive on it. The fronts of the houses are not merely impassive facades. We tend to live in the front as well as the back. Neighbors can lean over front fences to talk or fight or observe. With a variety of people, a variety of things happen and when they happen most neighbors will help, or hinder, or at least watch.

Loving

Phone calls - "your car was home - are you all right? - you are usually at work"... "I smell smoke"... "where did the fire engines stop"... "Bill died"... "has his cat been taken in by anyone"... "may I borrow just one cup of rice"... "the battery is dead? take my car"... "go ahead, I'll watch the kids"... "would you like some coffee - the night was so cold and you slept outside"... "I'll leave the key"... "the kids were busted? I'll feed the dogs." Christmas Day: a young man with a flute stopping by the gate to serenade the cats.

Changing

The average age on the block was 80 when I moved in six years ago. Many friends have died. Many people have moved in. Trees are taller. So are the children. With Washington Boulevard [West Washington Boulevard which is now called Abbot Kinney Boulevard] as a gateway there is a chance of understanding between

3 • May 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

black and white communities - a chance for more blacks to move from Oakwood into other parts of Venice if they want to - and for whites to move into Oakwood (many do). Change Washington's zoning and still the busy sounds, the joyful music, of an art renaissance.

Challenging

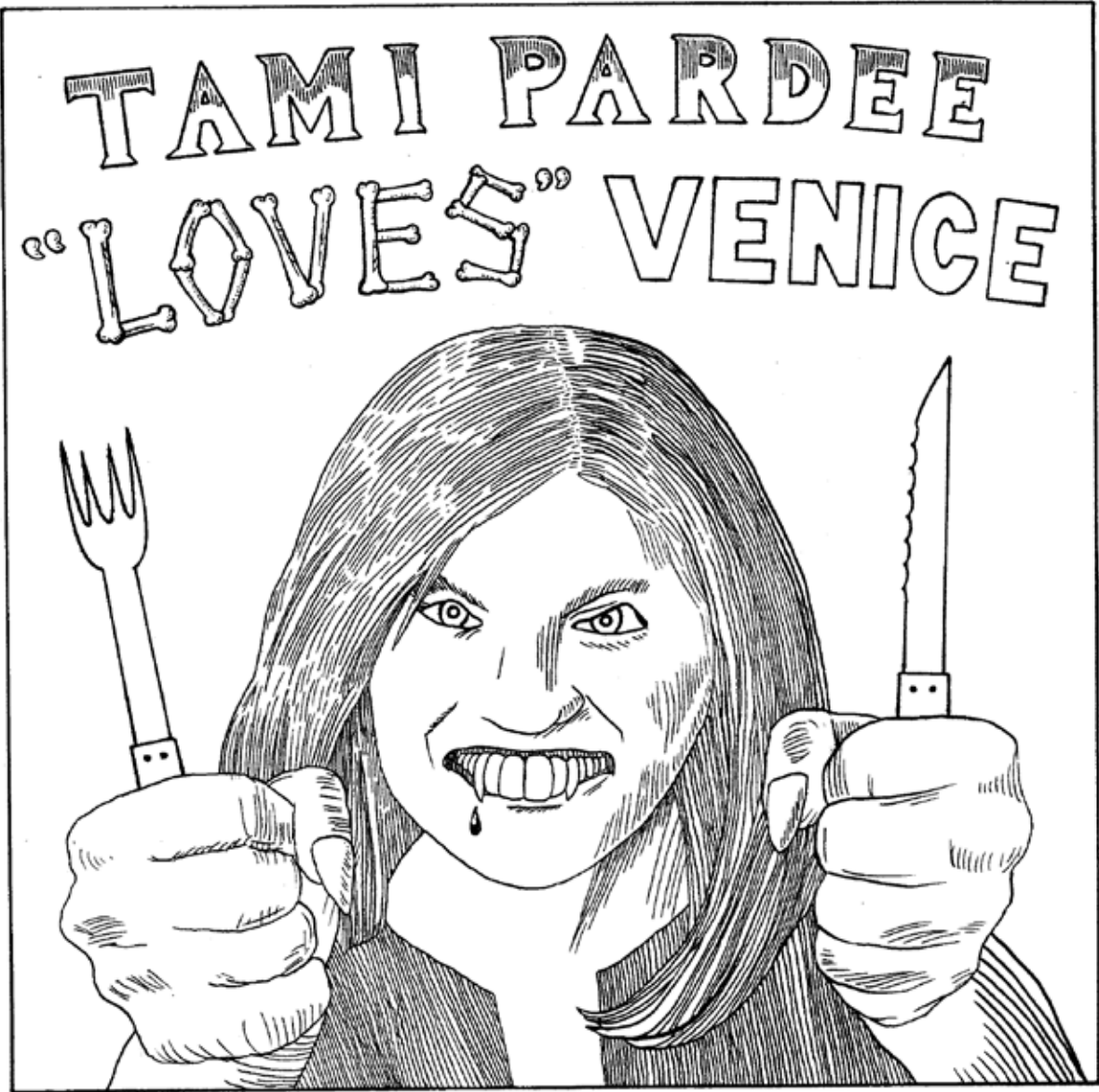
Challenged to open up Oakwood.
Challenged to live with people different from one's self - perhaps difficult people -- old, alcoholic, mean, rebellious, -- perhaps braver, gentler people - all people.
Challenged to learn from them.
Challenged to teach them.
Venice challenged to decide its own fate - make its own plan.

"Property value" is relative. You cannot raise my property's value to me - only lower it. Lower it by forcing my neighborhood to reflect one social or economic or moral or racial strata of society. Lower it by raising its monetary value so that I am forced out by developers. Lower it by buying it to build a freeway or parking lot. Lower it by building a freeway as a wall dividing Venice - or dividing the ocean.

Helene Marie Wolff passed away some years ago. If she were alive today, she would be 85. But her words create a sort of mirror's reflection of the struggles facing Venice in 2016. What she referred to as "Varied" we now call Diverse. She spoke of Venice as being "Interesting" with people interacting at their front fences; difficult nowadays with ten-foot-high fences on some streets. She told the Commission that Venice is "Loving" because of the way neighbors care and look out for each other; may we be so blessed this day. When she said that Venice was "Changing", she meant that the people were growing and aging; now, Change means evictions and demolitions. She declared that Venice is "Challenging", but that the challenges are Venice's own challenges. And she showed that Venice's real value is in its strength as a Community.

Today, Venice faces ever more sophisticated threats from malevolent outside forces. But can a renewed strength of Community bring a new hope of Victory? And can we imagine that we stand at a point on the journey that we could not see in 1969?

There is strong talk in Venice of Secession. Is this possible? Could Independence be imminent? Understand that if Venice breaks free from L.A., one of two things will happen: either the money classes will rule or the people will rule. But are the people ready to rule? The strength and sophistication of the Venice Community activists of today say "Yes". Simply stated: The People of Venice are ready. We are ready for the Day of Independence that was dreamed of by our Venetian forebears.



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4 • May 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

The Aliens Have Landed

By: Eino Hill

Are people my age allowed to have fun in this town anymore?

Now this could be a 1/3 life crisis thing, with me turning 33 (or as I like to say, thirty-free), but something deeper is happening on the Westside. Something far worse, and sadly out of my control.

The aliens have landed, colonized, and have officially taken over. They even renamed our beloved sand: Silicon Beach.

Tech geeks, turned superheroes, turned super villains overnight. A town so deeply rooted in the art of fun and the fun of art, slowly dissipating to this silicon sludge. This, “too-cool-for-school” poison that has infiltrated the border along the beach, most terrifyingly personified by the infiltration of this filth found on Abbot Kinney. A street that once symbolized the heart of Venice, named after its founder, has since transformed to this new age Rodeo Drive. You almost have to fit the rich hipster dress code just to be seen walking past the overpriced retail outfits that have quickly replaced the long standing staples of the street that could no longer keep up with the egregious rent spikes forced upon them by the economics of supply and demand.

Five plus years ago, I welcomed the gentrification. I thought Venice could use a little touch up. The streets were rampant with homeless, who, on the surface, I don’t have much of a problem with, until they turn dangerous. And they did. Multiple times. At least in my little Venice bubble. What I didn’t want, nor could anticipate, was an entire facelift.

Complaining about the Silicon Beach wave is nothing new. But what may have slightly gone unnoticed, with their rise to power at the expense of the locals being forced east in a form of perverse reverse manifest destiny, is this town’s fun being torn down with it. Its flare. Its spirit. Its refuge from reality. You can still feel it on the boardwalk strip, but it has been mainly relegated to the teens, the performers, the drifters, the tourists, who come from all over the globe, that would never know the difference.

But if you’ve been around the past decade to watch your increased rent price you out of the entire Marina 90292 zip, Venice and Santa Monica being taken over by kids in their 20s making well into six figures for the Googles and the Snapchats of the world, and landlords opting for short term instead of long term leasing to try to keep up, regular locals like us, trying to keep up with the Joneses, now have to ride bikes form Mar Vista, or Westchester, or West LA to get that ocean breeze we used to willingly walk to each day. God forbid we get pushed so far we have to call the other side of the 405 our home. The line of demarcation used to be Lincoln.

I saw somewhere that the 60s generation might be the last generation where people were really free and true to themselves to have actual fun. We have quickly let technology turn us into robots instead. And it’s getting exponentially worse each passing year.

I was disgusted by how many people had their phone in their hands, up to their face, eyes pierced with frowns of forced attention, when they were panoramically surrounded by a visual stimulation overload of ocean, beach, locals and tourists from every degree in the 360 spectrum. A technological addiction, for which I, too, have fallen victim to the sticky trap of its World Wide Web.

The zombie apocalypse is here. Technology is the virus. We have become slaves to it, and the ring leaders of this crusade have decided to plant their flag on our land to spread the infection faster in order to make it their backyard for good.

So cheers to you guys, for taking your tech money and pushing us to the proverbial edge of the cliff with no drop. Congrats on finding a perfect name for this place you have invaded and colonized as well. Silicon Beach, because you douchy, hipster yuppies couldn’t be faker and less authentic if you tried. Your homogenized co-dependency for what it is to be cool is the exact antithesis of what this town used to be about—freedom of individuality and expression.

I’d join you for a snooty cocktail at Scopa, but I told my friends I’d meet them at Nikki’s to watch the game. Oh wait...the company that makes it easier to send nudes without having to delete them in front of your boyfriend took over that space instead.

I guess I will have to find somewhere else to snap my story.



We’ve all seen the Cryptic Ballerina Clown atop CVS, proudly throwing up “666”, or the “OM” or “AUM” symbol (depending on your perception), at the corner of Main and Rose.

And I’m sure we’ve all also seen the eerie serpentine eye slits or three 6’s adorning 3 sides of the Taco Bell on Lincoln.

Just recently I noticed that Whole Foods has decided to join in on the occult symbolism trend. This trend consists of blatantly Gaslighting the public. Gaslighting* is a system that is based on subliminal brain washing. So it’s basically on the sly, or snake like. Take a good look at the letter “O” in “Whole”.

The Serpent.(Sssssssssssss)

The snake is a symbol of both evil and divinity in different cultures. One has a mission to deceive and the other, to uplift. My question to Whole Foods is, are you wholesome or venomous? Don’t hide your intentions under the guise of an “Apple” or a peach. Which side are you on? One way or the other Venice will find out the truth!

Do I have something personal against Whole Foods?

Yes I do! I want to shop high end and occasionally ask an intelligent food related question without having to feel like I’m not “HOT” enough for an intelligent response. I’m also done with S.W.A.T. following me around the store. The cashiers are usually friendly, but oops, here’s

The Unhoused Sleep - continued from page 1

nity partners, some long-time homeless activists stated they have been shut out of the entire process. Calvin Moss, activist with “Food Not Bombs” and Co-founder of the Venice Justice Committee sited three organizations Bonin should reach out to: the Venice Justice Committee, Food Not Bombs, and the Occupy People. These people in these groups, Moss continued, are not only doing the outreach, but are not afraid of the homeless.

The outreach plan also includes requesting a \$50,000 grant for the LAPD Chaplains Regina and Steve Weller and increasing training for first responders.

As part of the street strategy here in Venice, Bonin proposed a variety of specific actions. The first is to use the Westminster Senior Center for a voluntary storage facility for the homeless. Chrysalis would serve as the non-profit partner to manage the facility. In his overall city plan, Bonin said Los Angeles needed at least fifteen voluntary storage facilities. Right now, there are only two: a small trailer here in Venice; and a warehouse on Skid Row.

The second action is to either find funds or buy a trailer for the non-profit group, Lava Mae, to bring mobile shower units to Venice. A third action Bonin is proposing is to increase restrooms. Two ways to do this would be to keep Ocean Front Walk bathrooms open later or round the clock; and to bring Porta Potties to the community.

Although Bonin’s survey showed significant support for safe parking, Bonin simply called it a missing piece. In the public comments, both Peggy Kennedy and Margaret Molloy reminded Bonin that safe parking was promised by Councilman Bill Rosendahl in 2010. At the time, Bonin was Chief of Staff.

How much would the City and the Venice plan cost? 1.8 billion dollars over a period of ten years. To fund the plan, Bonin is proposing some kind of ballot initiative in November.

Following his presentation over forty-five community members were given up to two minutes each for public comments.

The community received Bonin’s presentation with a mix of enthusiasm, distrust, and anger. Three consistent concerns were funding, expediency, and de-criminalization of the homeless. John Raphling, a civil rights and criminal attorney, feared that the ballot idea for funding would be a dodge. Where would the money come from if the ballot issue does not work? He said that de-criminalization was not discussed in Bonin’s proposal. “We need to stop criminalizing people for being poor and living in the streets,” Raphling stated.

Linda Lucks, former Venice Neighborhood Council President, and Peggy Kennedy, Co-Founder of the Venice Justice Committee, thought Bonin was not acting quickly enough. Although Lucks was thrilled with the proposal, she pointed out that it had taken four years to get here. “It has to be on a fast track. We’re in an emergency.” She said that there were over 400 parcels of city owned land just in CD11 alone that could be used. She called for Mayor Garcetti and Bonin to step up.

In an emotional voice, Kennedy called Bonin to “put tents, bring trailers, and open toilets, for God’s sake. It’s an emergency. People die! Do you know people die from

the same security guard that was following me while I shopped at the entrance, on my departure. I’ve been frequenting this location (Lincoln and Rose) for over a year and a half, so when is it ever going to become my friendly local neighborhood market? Never!

Does High End equal illuminati?

No. “Gelsons” just opened on Lincoln and Ocean. The space seems a little bare right now but the service is on point.

Coportunity is at 1525 Broadway, Santa Monica and has organic GMO free local food.

And let’s not forget “The Farmers Market’s!”. We are so very fortunate. We happen to be in the food Makkah* You can find, Organic fresh vegetables, fruits, nuts, tonics, spices, herbs and good advice in Venice.

I can’t control what people put into their bodies but I can spread aware- ness so that we don’t become enslaved by the beast.

-Min. Saffron

*Makkah is the birth place of Mohammad and a city in Saudi Arabia. It is spelled Mecca when referring to the city. Wikipedia

*Gaslighting is a form of mental abuse, in which information is twisted or spun. The term owes its origin to the 1938 play “Gas Light” and also it’s film adaptation’s. The term has been used in Clinical and research literature. Wikipedia - Minister Saffron

being homeless . . . It’s a horror story.” She also stated that unless there is a violent incident, armed police were not necessary.

Since the Town Hall meeting, the City has made four motions that support some of the specific goals in Venice. The City, however, also passed Ordinance 184182, amending Section 56.11, Article 6, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to regulate the storage of personal property in public areas. Now, other than tents, belongings of the unhoused must fit into a 60 gallon container or they will be confiscated and stored in a distant location. This motion was passed, 13-1, the day after Bonin’s Town Hall. Only Gil Cedillo opposed it. Is it any wonder that Venice activists and some residents do not trust Bonin?

As the meeting started winding down, a voice in the back of the room rose, addressing the LAPD directly. It was Calvin Moss. “LAPD, you should be ashamed of yourself . . . how many more people are going to be murdered in Venice?” He was referring to the three men killed in 2015: Brendon Glenn; Jason Davis, and Jascent Jamal Warren. Both Brendon Glenn and Jason Davis were shot by LAPD officers. Twice that night, Moss brought up the fact that no one had talked about these deaths tonight, but they should have.

Moss, along with Peggy Kennedy, then left the meeting. In an instance, the calmness of the meeting changed to aggression, at least in the back of the room. Senior Lead Officer Theresa Skinner appeared agitated by Moss’ words. She looked across the room at two other female officers in the back corner and, in unison, without a word exchanged, the officers charged out after the two. Moss and Kennedy had not only left, but had done nothing to warrant their action.

The Beachhead reached out to Calvin Moss after the meeting. Asked about the officers’ behavior at the meeting, Moss replied that “the LAPD and City of LA are well aware of the activities of the activist groups that work independently of the city and have referred to us as ‘Carol’s Cadre,’ in the past. Carol Sobel is the Civil Rights attorney that has supported the unhoused in Venice and LA. The LAPD have repeatedly tried to intimidate these activities.” Also, on February 17th, the law office of Carol Sobel and John Givensbn, filed a civil lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles on behalf of the Venice Justice Committee and Peggy Kennedy. The lawsuit seeks to challenge the sunset provision on Ocean Front Walk. Currently, this provision does not allow solicitation of donations for free speech activities after sunset.

The officers’ sudden and aggressive display demonstrates the surprise nature of the unacknowledged, collective shadow. Until we acknowledge the dark emotions that we project on the unhoused, movement towards ending homelessness will be at a snail’s pace. And, each night, when the sun goes down over the City of Angels, our collective shadow will continue to claim dominion over its most vulnerable citizens.

- (i.)<http://bit.ly/1SEJZ0C>
- (ii.)<http://bit.ly/24cthYn>

Business as Usual continued from Page 1

services. Instead of making those who are profiting the most pay their fair share, their solution is to give these Private Entities even more power over our Public Spaces.

What we are seeing is not just one isolated incident, we are seeing an entire pattern and practice of major decisions being made behind the scenes and behind our backs, without proper community input, while those with the financial influence receive access to the policy writing process.

Now, when we confront our public officials about what, by all appearances, are grave Conflict of Interests concerns, our questions are brushed aside. We are told to believe that “This is the way things are done all the time. Everything’s fine.”

When we then point out that “This is the way things are done all the time. This IS the problem,” there is suddenly a mental disconnect. Those who work within the system have great difficulty understanding that Business-as-Usual, the very way decisions are made across the board – at every level – for decades – where we listen to the moneyed interests first and the community last, if at all – is the fundamental problem with our government.

If we do not include all the voices from our community – especially those who are most affected by the decisions we make – from the very beginning of the process – then how can we be surprised when we see Venice spiral into greater and greater inequity?

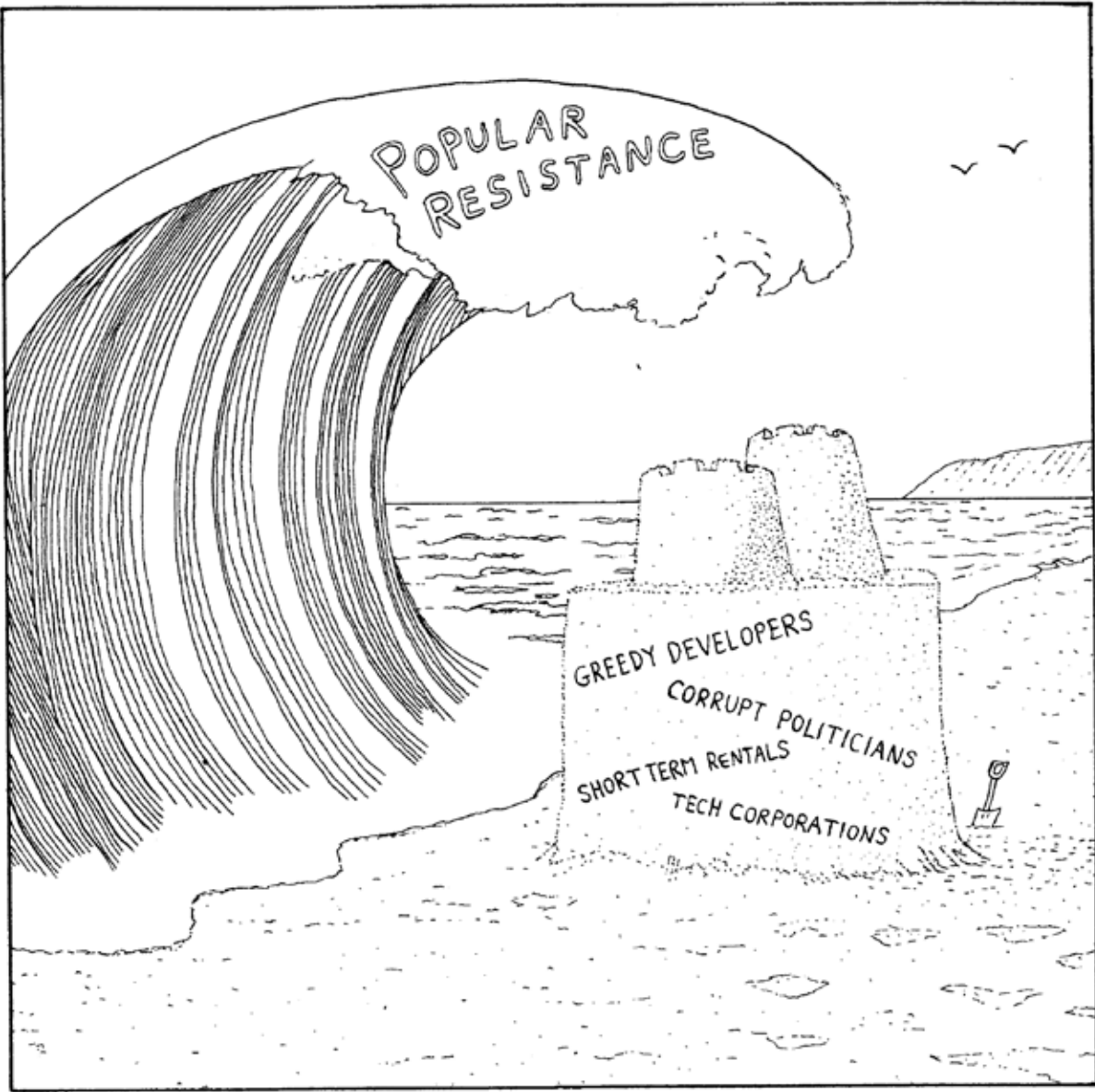
Perhaps there are those who don’t know, or even just don’t care, there’s plenty of money to be made for those who never have enough. For those of us though who really do care about the future of Venice, we need to think long and hard about the direction we are going in, of what is being built and all the people who are being left behind.

We’re all in this together. Business-as-Usual will not solve our problems. Together though, by including all of our voices and perspectives, we can decide for ourselves, as a community, what our future will be.

A View From The Bottom - continued from Page 5

is time we are allowed legal, nighttime camping on the beach within a few designated areas. In addition, city lots that are going unused during the overnight can be open to parking for RVs and street people living in vehicles. We are asking, too, for a tad more privacy at the beach showers.

There are many communities in this country that are much farther than Venice in having these kinds of dialogue with their own population of street people. As the heart of our community shines forth in how we solve these problems, we have an opportunity to be a national model of what a balanced, community-centered approach looks like in dealing with street people. I look forward to what Venice comes up with.



Judge Garland Stumbles Over The Venice Post Office

By Jim Smith

When President Obama nominated fellow Harvard Law School graduate Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court on March 16, he thought he was picking the least controversial judge he could find. Garland has been a judge, and then the chief judge, for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, since being appointed by President Bill Clinton 19 years ago.

After carefully vetting the judge, Obama knew there would be no scandals such as pot smoking, a boyfriend or other social alarm bells that would drive Republicans crazy. And, Obama knew that the judge had never addressed issues such as the death penalty, abortion or gun control. The D.C. Circuit deals mainly with reviewing decisions of federal government agencies, including the U.S. Postal Service. Garland kept his head down while plodding rough federal regulations.

What the President didn’t know was Garland, in at least one case, was either unable to read or understand the plain language in a federal statute, and consequently made the wrong decision on the case. One attorney, in a polite response, said the decision was “deeply flawed.” In the legal world, incompetence is worse than having political beliefs or puffing on a joint now and then.

What does all this have to do with Venice? Well, the case that Garland fumbled had to do with the Venice Post Office. When word leaked out, in 2011, that the historic Venice Post Office would be up for sale, several individuals and organizations came together under the umbrella of the Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office. The classic Roosevelt-era building with its equally classic mural, The Story of Venice, had been a regular stop on the rounds of generations of Venetians.

Now it faced an unknown future because of a decision made 3,000 miles away.

The Coalition mobilized Venetians with flyers, rallies, and meetings. Since all the decisions were made in Washington D.C., we formulated an appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), which summarily denied the appeal without holding a hearing.

The Coalition then made contact with a D.C. attorney who had expertise in the byzantine world of federal regulations and requirements. A petition for review of the decision of the PRC in allowing the sale to go forward was filed with the District Court and ended up in the lap of the chief judge, Merrick Garland.

Attorney Elaine Mittleman, acting on behalf of aggrieved Venetians, pointed in her petition to “the plain language of a statutory provision, 39 U.S.C. § 3663” which requires a court review once the petition is filed.

Since this section of the U.S. Code is the heart of Garland’s mistake, it is reproduced in full: A person, including the Postal Service, adversely affected or aggrieved by a final order or decision of the Postal Regulatory Commission may, within 30 days after such order or decision becomes final, institute proceedings for review thereof by filing a petition in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The court shall review the order or decision in accordance with section 706 of title 5, and

5 • May 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

chapter 158 and section 2112 of title 28, on the basis of the record before the Commission.

Judge Garland, in his decision of July 8, 2014, discounts the 2006 law, above, and claims it does not supersede a 1974 provision that exempts post office closings from judicial review until the PRC has made its ruling. Garland took this to mean that no court review was necessary even after a PRC ruling.

Mittleman told the Beachhead, “I can’t overstate how flawed this opinion is. Agencies must know that their final orders can be reviewed in court – that is part of what should make agencies operate properly. Judge Garland missed this very fundamental point?”

A post office closing, for many people, is the most important decision the post office can make since they are reliant on its services. Judge Garland may not be aware that there are many postal patrons who need a full service post office within walking distance, and many more who take civic pride in the stately, and massive, design that says, “here is a city worth noting.”

Meanwhile, as the legal filings, pro and con, continue, what has been the effect of Garland’s decision to disallow a court review, and a possible reversal of the PRC’s decision to sell the Venice Post Office?

Today, the once-beautiful building looks like an abandoned ruin. An advertising and graffiti-laden plywood fence surrounds the property. No work appears to have taken place in a long while.

The Postal Service sold the building to Hollywood Producer Joel Silver, who said he would remodel the building for use as his company office. Meanwhile, several of Silver’s recent films did poorly at the box office, according to Variety magazine. Contractors’ bills went unpaid, resulting in liens against the property. Little or no work has been done since the lawsuits against Silver were filed a year ago. If the suits are not settled, one result could be a forced sale of the property to pay the bills.

In addition, the mural that greeted postal patrons in the lobby has gone missing. The Story of Venice painting by noted artist Edward Biberman had hung in the post office since 1941. At the time the building was sold to Silver, he also leased the mural from the Postal Service. The lease agreement required the mural to be on public display at least six days per calendar year. Concerned Venice organizations did not learn about this provision until after the fact, nor were they provided with a copy of the lease agreement.

In any case, Silver has not complied with this provision, weak as it is. A number of people have told this reporter that they would prefer to have the mural on display at the Venice/Abbot Kinney Library where it could be seen by many library patrons during regular hours.

The sad story of the Venice Post Office has been due to the lack of concern by Postal officials, Judge Garland, Joel Silver and his creditors. The lack of support for the postal system by the U.S. Congress in favor of private corporations like UPS and FedEx is behind the shrinking role of this public service. The USPS is prohibited from “competing” with these private entities, and must pay them to ship its parcels.

The reestablishment of a postal savings bank was floated by both the Venice Coalition and Sen. Bernie Sanders, among others. Such a bank would attract low-income earners that the commercial banks don’t even want. Instead, the Venice Post Office ran into a meat grinder of fiscal and social irresponsibility which was then continued by Supreme Court Nominee Merrick Garland.

Green Fences

The Westside Tenants Union held a meeting at the Venice Community Housing Corp. (720 Rose). 39 people were in attendance and some of the issues discussed were:

- Causta Hawkins: state law that should be overturned
- Stopping evictions for seniors and handicapped
- Taking pictures or calling 311 when you see a green fenced property
- The importance of showing up for meetings
- Historic Preservation Overlay Zones
- Pattern impractice lawsuit
- Crashing secret meetings (page 1: Business As Usual)
- Needing bloggers

There was also an exercise on how to make important points in under a minute when speaking to the media or to city officials.

The W.T.U. also held a Rally earlier last month at the abandoned Senior Recreational Center (Westminster & Pacific), the dog park, is also located here. The building has been vacant for over 3 years and could be used as a storage facility for the “houseless”.

Coincidentally, there are three members of the W.T.U running for Venice Neighborhood Council!:

Lydia Ponce: President

Mark lipman: Vice President

Matthew Beltran (sp)- Secretary

Mark and I spoke during a campaign garden party on April 24th held by he and his wife at Beyond Baroque (681 N. Venice blvd.) Although optimistic about the Senior Center expansion the project is still pending after 3 years of trying. - Minister Saffron



“Butterfly Mural off Abbot Kinney Boulevard, south of Broadway. Artist: Brian Farrell, www.brianfarrellart.com; Photo by Krista Schwimmer”



Drawing of Prince by Audrey McNamara

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Gone too soon...
Venice Beach Angel “Frankie”

Red- I met Frankie on the boardwalk many years ago. We knew each other at least 3 years before we became friends, after that we were inseparable. My last day with Frankie was miraculous!

O.G.- Frankie was happiest when she was with her son. She was too young to die and full of life. She would give her heart and expect nothing in return. O.G. also recalls being punched in the arm every time they crossed paths. Now he fondly calls them love taps.

Shadow- I knew Frankie for about 8 yrs. Her death was out of the blue and blew my mind. She was cool.

T.Z.S.- Warm people, with an open heart and mind. She was everyday people! Frankie was born Ann Elizabeth Eagan in Memphis Tennessee. She was 43.



Frankie - photo from Red.

Robert Clifton Burket

Rickey Pettyburket- Bob and I met in ‘91’ at the “Pink Elephant” in Santa Monica. Bob was my hero! Shed no tears for Bob his glory lives on forever. and every step I take in life Bob takes it with me. And so I step into my life without Bob. This is what I know Bob would want for me. God bless you Bob and rest in peace. I’ll see you when I get there Honey. I love you Bob and I miss you more than anything on earth in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Robert’s academic pursuits enabled him to travel all over the country. After receiving a degree in Geology from El Camino in Sacramento, he headed to Santa Monica and attended Cal Tech in Pasadena. Mr. Burket worked for thirty-five years as a computer programmer. Born in Kansas to Stan and Nada Burket (deceased), Bob is survived by one brother Bruce Burket.



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Painting by Mark Lipman

Motorhome Destroyed - continued from page 1

vehicles wiring was not set up for lights or cooking and was only used for sleeping and storage of personal belongings for him and his girlfriend Tammy. The vehicle was insured with basic liability coverage which does not extend to fire damage. Although they've lost everything, their lives were spared.

A very good friend of David's noticed the fire and rushed to help. With lightening reflexes he told his girlfriend to dial 911 as he pounded on the cabin of the camper with his keys. He banged hard towards the top where he knew Tammy and David slept and got no response. After calling David by phone repeatedly and still not getting an answer, he had no choice but to sit and wait for the Fire Dept. to put out the blaze. He had no idea that David and Tammy were on vacation enjoying their Granddaughter's first birthday.

Although thankful for their lives, Tammy and David can't stop thinking about cherished keepsakes like a guitar autographed by "Bad Company" and Dental Partials. David who is a semi retired plumber also lost valuable tools of his trade.

Social Services and St. Joseph's haven't been of much assistance. He feels that if it hadn't been for the help local Venetian Erin Darling who set up a gofundme account (<https://www.gofundme.com/helpdavidgarcia>) he would feel let down. Also adding to insult David got a \$68.00 ticket from an officer Shirley (badge#3099) just before being towed. The camper was parked on Lincoln Boulevard for 2 weeks while he tried to get an arson investigation. He could have sold the parts for scraps if given more time. He feels like the system has failed him but the community hasn't.



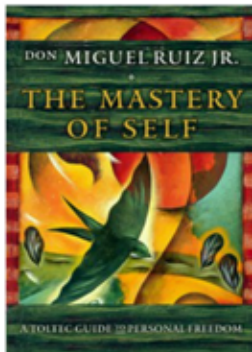
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Vote, Sunday June 5th

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VNC Vice-President**

Sunday, June 5th, 2016

10am to 6pm

Oakwood Recreation Center
737 California Ave., Marion, IA

767 California Ave., Venice 90291

To get involved, please visit:

marklipman.blogspot.com/p/vnc.html

Contact:

escalatepeace@gmail.com

A UNITED VENICE

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2016 11-6 PM

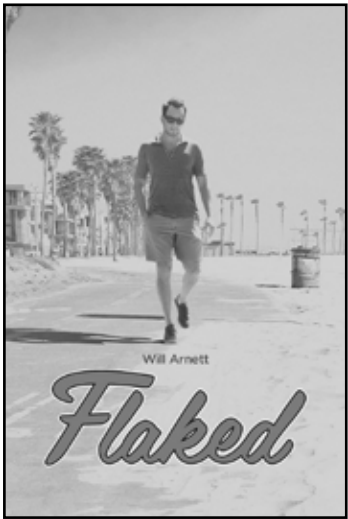
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REVIEW: FLAKED
by Eric Ahlberg

This 10 part Netflix series takes place mostly around Abbot Kinney Bl.

SPOILER ALERT – I am going to critique the entire season, including late season reveals.

Go watch it first, because after this you will see it with different eyes.

Marxist Summary: a lumpen bourgeois fakes everything, Save’s Venice, and gets the Girl. It lacks any activist perspective, and dwells on the corruptions and frailties and exploits of its characters. It is a bourgeois story because it is all about individuals, and not about collective action. It is a funny and writerly piece, with a quite complicated plot and a lot of deception and mendacity, which I liked, in the end.

The Lead, “Chip”, played by Will Arnett is a slacker/self-help guru(?) with a storefront on Abbot Kinney where he makes stools. Chip has used it for 10 years, but it seems obvious that he is not really running a business, he is just hanging out at AA meetings at the Dog Park to pick up women. Chip fucks a few women but none of them seem to really want to hang with him. Chip is a piece of work. Chip lives major lies. Chip hams it up for the AA Meetings where he goes to pick up chicks. He took the blame for a manslaughter charge for his ex-wife in exchange for tenancy in the studio. Her dad wants to sell the studio now, the deal being limited to 10 years. Chip allies with the “Save Venice” movement, who want to prevent a large hotel being built on the property. But for him it is really all about his ex’s family who he is trying to manipulate. He drips sincerity when sharing his pain, but things are not what they seem.

Overall the plot has a wicked layering of duplicity, sequenced into reveals. It takes our community struggles as backdrop to a existential and dark comedy. Knowing as many of the real-life players as I do, this feels like a bit of a rip-off.

Many have criticised the awkwardness, even the unbelievability of the major hook-up between Chip and London. I believe this is deliberate because Chip and London are both enormous liars, hiding secrets. London (she is using a fake name) is seeking the man who killed her brother (publically Chip, privately, his ex-wife), and fleeing a wedding. Chip really didn’t do it, but he can’t tell her. Yet she seems to want to cling to him like a broken person. In this existential mess swims Chip’s motivations

to support “Save Venice”....really?

The Lead character, Chip, saves Venice, in a monologue before the Venice Neighborhood Council, going on far longer and with more melodrama than anyone would tolerate at those meetings. This is what heroes and anti-heroes do in mythology and screenplay, fair enough. This reduces the gentrification issue to a dispute with Chip’s Ex-wife’s family. Putting Will in the center of the anti-gentrification movement does a dis-service to that movement. The Hotel is stopped because Chip manipulates his wife’s family, but his ex-wife’s father evicts him anyway, for spite. In a final reveal of his despicable character, Chip has been stealing his best bud’s wine (he is a high end wine seller), and drinking it, and not telling his AA Sponsors.

At one point a lot of (staged) anti-gentrification demonstrators march down Abbot Kinney (on the sidewalk, they probably couldn’t get street closure for the shoot).

The location shooting is nice because they utilize many of the older bungalows as the residences of the characters. It looks funky, like funky Venice. Perhaps too much Venice lore and jargon is used because I can’t imagine most people getting the jokes about streets.

The AA backdrop to the story is appropriate, there are up to seven AA meetings in Venice per day, and we have a lot of Halfway Houses and rehab clinics.

There is one Black character, a policeman, with a perverse sense of humor. At one point he bursts into his friend’s apartment in uniform and with gun drawn, just for fun. It’s disturbing to see Police portrayed as dangerous clowns, however, from reports I have heard, this is how police joke with their friends, privately.

One flaw so obvious it must have been on purpose, is that the characters would leave their bikes and skateboards out in the open without locking them up.

There is an slimy evil nerdlly Silicon Beach Billionaire dickhead caricature, which we like to see, but we are easily pandered to. He and his ex-wife’s lesbian fiance turn out to be the financiers behind the Hotel.

This is broad humor and dark satire and ultimately does more harm to Chip’s character than to the “Save Venice” movement. Still it feels weird to see our community’s struggles fictionalized.

The Marxist Critical Razor asks

Does it portray the oppression of the working class. – negligible

Are the Workers shown to be aware of their oppression. – a little

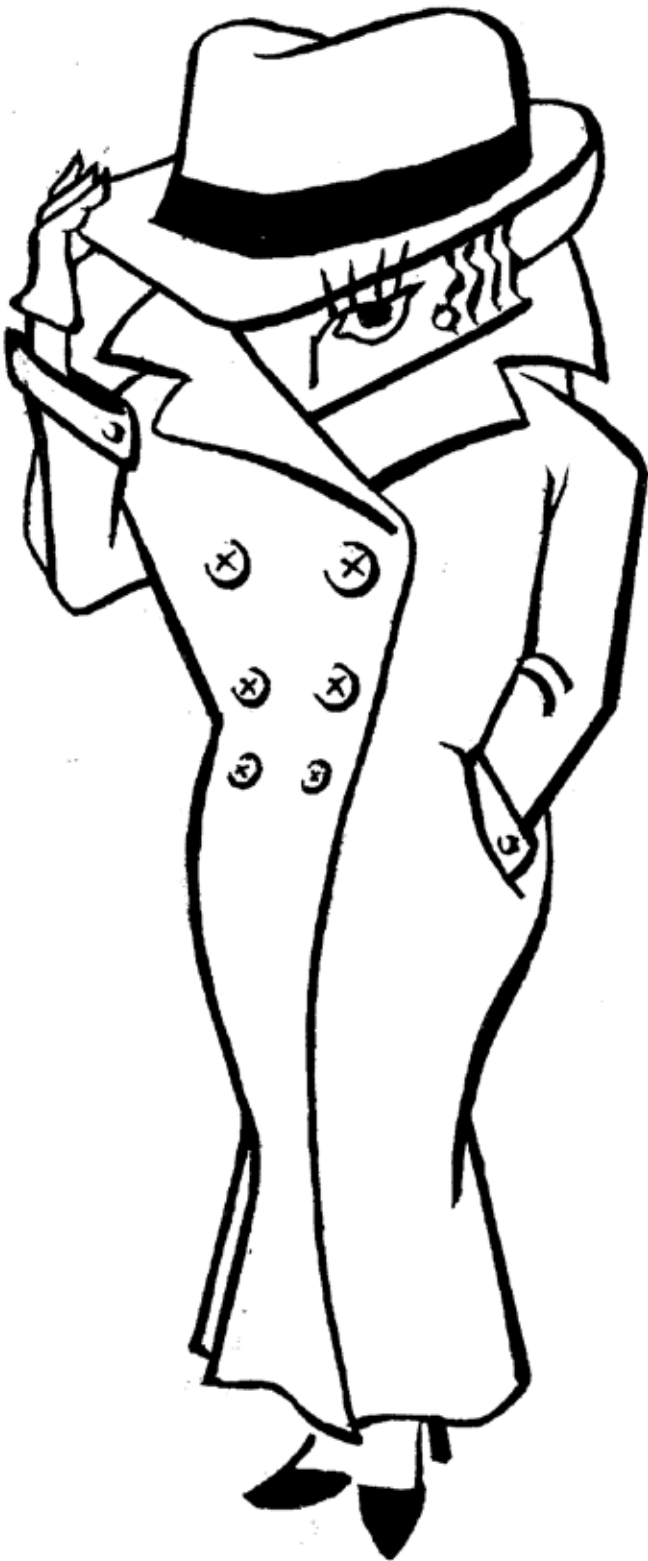
Are the workers struggling to overcome their oppression. – mmmmm

Are the workers victorious in overcoming their oppression. – ambiguous.

Conclusion: This is a bourgeois piece of trash that does a disservice to our community’s struggles. Chip, who Saves Venice, gets called “Mayor of Venice”, and gets the girl, is a complete dick. It is quite funny however in that uncomfortable embarrassing observational humor sort of way.

But what about the overall gestalt of the thing.

Metacritic: Critics: 43/100 User: 2.4/10 – ...pretty bad. I think it’s hard on viewers when they finally realize what a dick Chip is.



Interim Control Ordinance - continued from page 1

penned with an in lieu fee. Yes. So the City Of LA can collect funds paid by developers to wiggle out of their responsibility required by MELLO to replace the affordable unit they are erasing from the rental market. The City collects, interest on these funds are favorable, and it’s for affordable housing in the near future. How near is near? We don’t know, we asked for a timeline at the townhall and never got an answer. The answer: How about the in lieu parking fees collected in the last 15 years? How is that being handled and how many parking structures have we built within the 2 miles the funds were collected? If there were ever an in lieu fee - make it a million bucks! There is a viable and feasible solution!

Did anyone ask you about the in lieu fees? How about the BID(s)? The VNC approved the proposed BID presented by a defunct Business Committee and an illegal vote took place. This Business Committee has yet to post their minutes from 8 - 9 months ago and post the required BROWN ACT notifications for their public meetings, info such as meeting location, date and time. Thanks VNC President Newhouse for ‘looking into this... ‘ it timed out and this activist requested this to be placed on the agenda for March and it was denied. Yes, the vote was not legal and my inquiry failed. Tell us how this is legal again in our bylaws? Please ask VCHC and LACAN about BIDS. This OFW BID will further privatize our public beach and criminalize the homeless people. Just like DTLA and Hollywood - criminalize the very people the City Gov’t Reps claim to assist.

There was a list of promises in the town hall offered by CD11- but these promises cannot be held true without controls placed to tighten up the current laws. Nothing new needs to be written... These promises are empty without slowing or stopping the current rubber stamping of proposed development applications - we need an ICO on all MELLO applications. We need an ICO for a year.

The system is beyond rigged and beyond corrupt. It’s also glaring how CD11 chooses to communicate with the community... ‘Combat Homelessness...’ Perhaps a thesaurus can be of help to offer a kinder and more humane support. Are we at war with homelessness? Don’t just talk about it - be about it!

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MUST SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCY



Adoption

Two little girls
are soon departing
we don't want this
but there is no other way
They have been great kids
to have around the house
I knew my heart was going to break
and it did, over and over
but the broken heart is an open heart
open to the love bouncing in
open to the funny little songs they sing in the mornings
open to the joy and radiance they reflect
never to be closed again
never to be so cut off to the light
The light of love, forever loving, baby girls
Thank you, universe, Thank you

-- Mary Getlein

Venice, CA 90291

The sun burns
more than the surface.

Layers of dried skin:
a landscape of a dozen
decades of decadence
crumpling like an old
child into un-
original positions.

Heart problems we have and
hereditary memories
of torchlight reflected
off water
in the canals.

So many centers
(in this prodigal sister
city) of re
creation being sterilized

by boards by boards
of directors of circuitry

That nostalgia is always
half cancer in the bones
and half
a home that has never been
a house; we forget.

I have only been here
for so long; a short life
seems long to me. But I remember

the birth of tent city
and a time before

the boardwalk was reduced
to screen segments. I think I remember

the light used to be
a different color than
colorless.

But one leaf clings still:

There is
no police
force; no real
estate developer; no software
company; no binding
legislation that can keep
our manifest memories
at bay

our vibrant vagrants
our eternally settled and sanded wanderer
our indelible rust

will always give
our eternally wandering and wanting tourist

more than they ask for.

There is no rising tide
that can pull this pier
from its ghostly roots.

Until It is Done

for Nelson Mandela

by Mark Lipman

For all those who say,
it can never be done,

who look upon those ivory towers
with their militarized trenches
disappearing chambers
and puppet mechanisms

imitating human beings
in all aspects
'cept for a conscience
and a body to jail

enslaving a world with divisions
of hate and sectarianism,

I say, dream of a world
which is at peace with itself.

For all those who have
given up hope,

who have fallen to despair,
who see the skies falling in on them
and the shoreline inching closer

who have given into fear
and the bitter tears of defeat,

I say, courage is not the absence of fear,
but the triumph over it.

Stand tall and lead.

To be free is not merely
to cast off one's chains,
but to break them all.

For all those who dream of freedom
there is no easy path.

hills follow hills
and mountains
before we reach our valley

we must use our time wisely
and see the horizon.

Settle not for a life
... worth less than living.

Reach with your first and very last breath
towards victory, to that mountaintop

and we will all be there with you,
on the frontline of life
standing in the light
of that glorious sun.

Lift up your hearts, the time is ripe
it always seems impossible
until it is done.

9 • May 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

THE FUTURE MAN
by c. purein

look for the guy in the corner
for he knows loneliness and self loathing
if you are from the future
why are you here?
to set things right
so you can move forward
but
this is why we do not time travel
things like this
can never be undone.
the heart is fixed
no matter how many tries
i will always love You.
and
you have always left
still feeling
that same rip
from aeons ago
if you want to be free
this time
stay
or take me with you
you can break my heart
or the laws of time
obey time
and nothing streams.
please your heart
and break the barrier
i love you
receive it.
then all things
will break free
and nothing
not anything
can stop the flow
of infinity
love realized
infinity
don't be afraid
to feel good
You deserve it



A Perfect Balance
By: Chaya Silberstein

Some emotions are as heavy as a bag of pennies
that you are saving for a time that no longer exists.
You find yourself abruptly sitting and staring into the distance
until you are reminded that you have more important things to do.

Some emotions are as light as helium filled balloons.
You are so excited about the places you'll go,
you forget to do your chores.

I'll give you half my pennies
if you give me half of your balloons.

our transplants

our techies

Tuesday May 3

6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club
MDR library 4533 admiralty way free <http://www.venicewake.org/>

Thursday May 5

5:00 PM 1 year **Memorial Service For Brendon Glenn**, by the Townhouse.

Friday May 6

12:20 - 21:40 **Love Thy Nature** Film Showing at the Laemmle Film Center. An award-winning film narrated by Liam Neeson, Love Thy Nature shows how deeply we've lost touch with nature and takes viewers on a cinematic journey through the beauty and intimacy of our vital relationship with the natural world. www.lovetbynature.com
8:00 PM Mason's Noise Parlour - Our young adult variety show hosted by Mason Summit. Regular Admission.

Saturday May 7

4:00 PM Opening Reception: Dulce Stein
8:00 PM Stefani Valadez Trio and Bonnie Blue Heaven, at the Trip.

Saturday May 7

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM - 22nd Annual Venice Garden & Home tour.
8:00 PM - Poetry In Motion: In My Life Since 1988, Eve Brandstein presents the voices of Anne Beatts, Barra Grant, Desiree Hunter, Jann Karam, Rick Lupert, Sy Rosen, Austin Strauss, and Tommy Swerdlow. Hosted by Eve Brandstein. Special Admission: General \$20 or \$15 if you purchase in advance at Eventbrite, Students & Seniors \$10, Members \$8.

Sunday May 8

2:00 PM Soap Box Open Poetry Reading This is your home, share your words. Original acoustic music welcome as well. Sign ups 1:45pm. Hosted by Jessica Wilson.

Sunday May 8

4:00 PM - Jewish Currents Reading
The 70-year-old secular magazine, "Jewish Currents", will be celebrated with a reading by its editor and three prominent Los Angeles poets. Art from this iconic publication will be on display. Featuring readings by Lawrence Bush, Florence Weinberger, Carine Topal and Sherman Pearl.

Wednesday May 11

7pm: SUZY WILLIAMS jazz-blues-Dannys

Friday May 13

8:00 PM A Celebration Of Walt Whitman & Fundraiser For Beyond Baroque A full reading of Whitman's Song of Myself for his birthday month, featuring: Harry Northup, Brendan Constantine, S.A. Griffin, Lynne Thompson, Steve Abee and Carlye Archibeque Special Musical Guest Ross Altman plays us out with Civil War era songs. Admission \$20 for all.

Saturday May 14

All Day - Fine Arts Film Festival The premier showcase for independent film in Venice, California. Tickets \$35 at Eventbrite. More information at thefineartsfilmfestival.com
4:00 PM - March For The Homeless - Hollywood and Vine.
4-6pm MESS – Author KRISTIN FITZPATRICK interview at unurban

Sunday May 15

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM - **Venice Artblock** Open Studio Tour. Pick up a map at 1003 Gallery, 1003 Abbot Kinney Bl.
5:00 PM Voices In The Well Presents: Sail On, Silver Girl A celebration of the Merry Month of May

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

through poetry, comedy, storytelling and music. Featuring the talents of Laurel Ann Bogen, Chaya Silberstein, Vinnie Caggiano, Lisa Marguerite Mora and more! Regular Admission.

Sunday May 15

11:00 AM to 6:00 PM - **Venice Art Block - Open Studio Tour.** www.veniceartblock.com
5:30 PM Joseph Campbell Roundtable Second in the Joseph Campbell RoundTable series Stephen Linsteadt introduces Scalar Heart Connection, a revolutionary technique for facilitating heart-centered growth Donation suggested.

Tuesday May 17

7:00 PM - **Venice Neighborhood Council** Board Meeting, Westminster Elementary School.

Wednesday May 18

7-10pm: Mom- Media Discussion at beyond baroque

Thursday May 19

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM - Community Meetings - Interim Control Ordinances. Penmar Recreation Center @ 1341 Lake St, Venice,

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM - **Venice Art Crawl.** www.veniceartcrawl.com

8:00 PM Poetry In The Loft - Offsite At The Hotel Erwin Our favorite boutique hotel hosts David Zasloff. Doors 7:30pm. Suggested donation \$10. Purchase in advance at Eventbrite

Friday May 20

8:00 PM - Poets A Plenty Featuring Hiram Sims, Gerald Locklin, Anna Urena, Wendy Rainey, and Curtis Hayes. Open reading: first 10 sign ups admitted free. Regular Admission.

Saturday May 21

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Mavericks & Masters Workshop Laurel Ann Bogen: Negative Capability Does art require artifice as poet John Keats believed, or should the poet only write what the poet knows? Registration Required. Visit Eventbrite or contact specialevents@beyondbaroque.org. Class size limited to 15: General \$50, Members \$35, Audit Seats (observation only, limit 5) \$20.

4:00 PM Ricardo Quinones: Poetic Drama Join Ricardo and friends for an afternoon of poetry. Regular Admission.

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM **Venice Spring Fling**, Windward and the Beach. See ad on back page.

- 8:00 PM

The Red Bowl: A Fable In Poems A Publication party & table style reading, featuring Holaday Mason, Sarah Maclay, Mariano Zaro, Brendan Constantine & more. Regular Admission.

Sunday May 22

NOON to 6:00 PM - **Venice Art Walk**, at Google L.A. 340 Main Street. Venice, CA.

2:00 pm The Nebraska Girl Open Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. Sign ups 1:45pm. Free.

6:00 PM La Poesia Festival Bilingual poetry salon hosted by Antonieta Villamil

7:00 PM 7 Dudley Cinema - Folk Rock Films More information at laughtears.com

Monday May 23

6:00-9:00 PM- Laughtears Salon - 212 Pier Coffee-house

Tuesday May 24

1:00 PM - **Occupy Fights Forclosures** - Call To Action: Oppose proposed L.A. ban on living in Cars and RVs. L.A. City Hall, 200 N Spring Street. LA, CA, 90012

Thursday May 25

7:30-9:30 PM - Rachael Sorsa band at Dannys.

Friday May 27

8:00 PM Terri Niccum & Brenda Yates Buena Park author and poet Terri Niccum will be reading selected poetry from her new chapbook Looking Snow in the Eye. Niccum was a semi-finalist for the 2014 Pablo Neruda Prize for poetry. Brenda Yates reads from her new book, Bodily Knowledge. Regular Admission.

Saturday May 28

8:00 PM Beyond Baroque Fiction Showcase: Mathieu Cailler, Regular Admission.



Ready to fight for your rights?

Join us for the next meeting of the

WESTSIDE TENANTS UNION

Thursday, May 19, 2016 @ 6:30pm

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

with Legal Defense Training by the Eviction Defense Network

contact: westside.tenants.union@gmail.com

phone : 323-543-5997

www.facebook.com/WestsideTenantsUnion



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Ongoing Events

RADIO VENICE

4:20-6:00pm Sundays Live Music Webcast from Breakwater Studios, Venice visit: **www.**

radiovenice.tv/live/ **OCCUPY VENICE BEACH**

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

COMPUTERS

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

FOOD

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

KIDS

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

MUSIC

• 9pm Wednesdays, Venice Underground Comedy, Townhouse, No Cover
• 11pm Wednesday - Burlesque, Townhouse, No Cover
• 8pm Saturdays, Brad Kay Regressive Jazz Quartet, Townhouse. No Cover
• 2pm Sundays, Almost Vaudeville W/ Brad Kay at the Unurban
• O'Brien's Irish Pub Live music most nights.
• 1:00-4:00 PM Every Saturday and Sunday Free Live Music, Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

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

THEATRE

An Evening With Orson Bean, and Autunm and Winter, check www.paciricresidenttheatre.com for showtimes.

YOGA AND DANCE

• Mondays 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free
• Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson's, Donation, Electric Lodge

AA

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

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fov1.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Dannys** 23 Windward Ave Venice 310-566-5610
- **Electric Lodge**, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org
- **G2 Gallery**, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com
- **Pacific Resident Theatre**, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center**, 685 Venice Blvd. sparemurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice Arts** 1702 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2016
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

Pacific Resident Theatre

Ongoing Production

• **AUTUMN AND WINTER examines the relationship of older parents and their two adult daughters, during their regular monthly dinner. The play is rich, and powerfully emotional with bursts of humor, "Well worth experiencing if you have a taste for domestic combat." –Michael Billington, The Guardian.**

Often compared to Edward Albee, Lars Norén is regarded as Sweden's greatest living playwright. PRT is thrilled to present the United States Premiere of this powerful piece.

Cast: Em Svenninger, Melissa Weber-Bales, Nina Sallinen, Jon Johannessen

April 14 thru May 21, 2016!
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8PM 8pm. \$25

LA Louver Gallery

Jason Martin Counterfeit
Through 14 May
A MARCEL DUCHAMP COLLECTION
Richard Deacon - Siamese Metal #6
Through 14 May 2016

G2 Gallery

Nature and Environmental Photography
Supportinmg Art and The Environment.
100 Years of National Parks: Ansel Adams Portfolio
Two, The National Parks & Monuments
From Earth to Mars a 3-D Journey
Photoactivism: The Work of Jennifer MaHarry
Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 5:00 pm,
Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

C.A.V.E. Gallery

May 14 – June 20: 8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
GROUP SHOW – Opening reception is Sunday, May 22, 12-5pm. As part of the ANNUAL VENICE ART WALK 1108 Abbot Kinney Boulevard.
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12:00-6:00 PM
Sundya 12:00-4:00 PM

11 • May 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead



Design Action Collective & Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, offset, 2011, Oakland

Please join CSPG for the opening of **Too Hot to Handle: Posters on Climate Change, Pollution, & Environmental Justice**, a dynamic new exhibition premiering at Mercado la Paloma on Saturday, May 14th from 3-6 PM! This bilingual exhibition, on display through June 30th, features a diverse range of posters from CSPG's archive touching on ecological issues that are local and international, contemporary and historic, and more urgent now than ever.

Too Hot to Handle's opening date coincides with LA Break Free 2016, a rally and march that will start at LA's City Hall at 1 PM, shortly before the exhibition opening. This march is part of an international wave of mass actions demanding the transition from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy. Like Too Hot to Handle, the Break Free actions acknowledge the urgent need for a global movement fighting for environmental justice.

Too Hot to Handle includes 77 laminated digital reproductions of posters created throughout the world during the last 45 years, and features graphics from Australia, El Salvador, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, the former Soviet Union, and the United States.

On display May 14th through June 30th

Mercado la Paloma
3655 S Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90007



Nutritional Warehouse

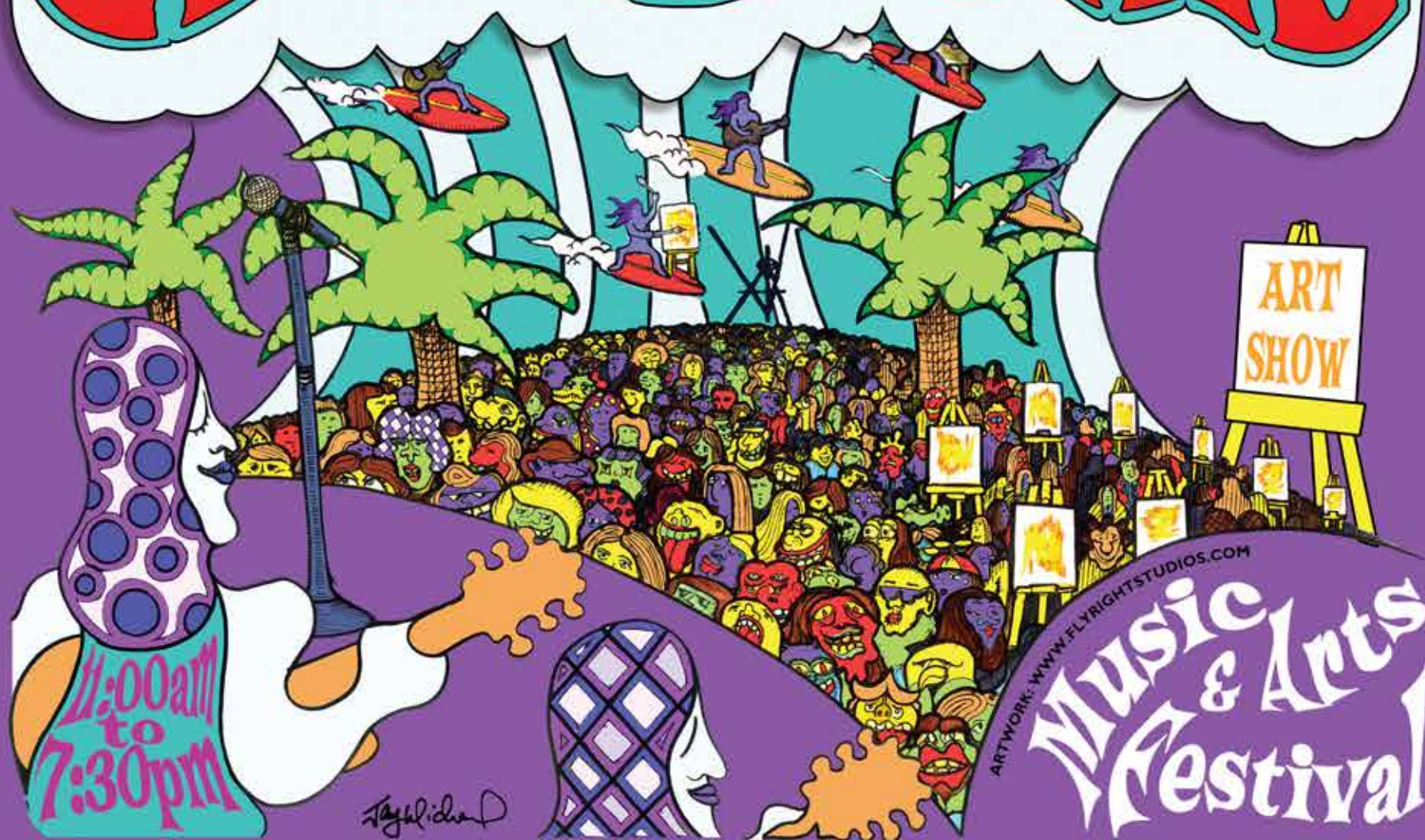
2118 Lincoln Boulevard Venice, California, 90291

Whey Protein 2 LBS \$15.99 * Pre-Workout Gaspari Superdrive \$9.98/oz only \$4.23/oz with this ad. * Virgin Organic Coconut Oil 14oz \$7.99 * Kombucha Mix Case of 12 \$36.00 * Real Water Case of 12 one liter bottles \$16.99 (310) 392-3636

MAY 21, 2016

Windward Plaza, 1 Windward Ave
Venice 90291

VENICE SPRINGFLING



ARTWORK: WWW.FLYRIGHTSTUDIOS.COM

Music & Arts Festival

GREG DOUGLASS BAND, YA HARISSA BELLYDANCE,
MEET ME AT THE PUB, RAWHIDE, THE SIGNAL,
MOTHER JONES, REDEYE REDEMPTION,
MARK LIPMAN, SLIM ZWERLING AND THE YUMS,
SAMBA DA MUDANÇA WITH SAMBA 4 U

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venicebeachsuites.com

 **THE SIDEWALK CAFE**

 **Venice**
Boardwalk Association

 **VOLCANO TEA HOUSE**
SINCE 2001

 **DR. BRONNER'S
ALL-ONE!**

 **ANIMAL
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27**

VeniceSpringFling.Com

[Facebook.com / VeniceSpringFling](https://Facebook.com/VeniceSpringFling)