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VNC ELECTION SPECIAL



Painting: The Venice Neighborhood Council - 2008 by Emily Winters

LAMBERT THE LOSER

By Jon Wolff

Carl Lambert is the present owner of the building at 417 Ocean Front Walk in Venice. In October of 2018, Lambert was denied a variance for a change-of-use from a 32-unit apartment house to an apartment hotel with two dwelling units and thirty guest rooms. Associate Zoning Administrator David Weintraub denied Lambert's request in spite of Lambert's argument that the building used to be a hotel.

On March 20, 2019, Lambert appeared at a hearing before the West Los Angeles Planning Commission to appeal the Zoning Administrator's decision. Present on the Commission were Vice President Lisa Waltz Morocco, Commissioner Esther Margulies, and Commissioner Adele Yellin. Commissioner Heather Rozman was absent, as was President Michael Newhouse who had recused himself from this hearing.

Lambert spoke and re-asserted his claim that the building had historic use as a hotel. Mr. Weintraub countered by citing provisions of the Zoning Code, the Land Use Plan, and the Coastal Act which clearly showed that 417 Ocean Front Walk is an apartment building. Vice President Lisa Waltz Morocco asked Mr. Weintraub about the zoning history for the building. Mr. Weintraub said that the City Council had decided that this property and adjacent blocks were residential properties. He also stated that the certificate of occupancy calls it an apartment building.

Lambert's supporters spoke at the hearing. Elizabeth Peterson of Elizabeth Peterson Group, Inc. said that the building had been used on-and-off as a hotel and should therefore be returned to hotel use.

Steve Kaufmann believed that visitor-serving uses should have priority over residential uses, and that Short Term Rentals are a high priority along the coast. He felt that this would protect special communities.

Nancy Singular, of the Executive Committee of the Venice Chamber of Commerce said that we need hotels and that Carl Lambert has given so much to our community.

Mattias Bunge spoke on behalf of his father, Jose Bunge, owner of the Fig Tree Cafe. He said that we need tourism and we need hotels.

Brennan Lindner talked about how great Carl Lambert is.

Edizen Stowell repeated the sentiment that we need hotels.

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The Sports Harbour & The Terrace closed by The Venice Restaurant Group

By Will Kazlowski

The local beloved hangout The Sports Harbour, on 13484 Washington Blvd just east of Lincoln Blvd, was forced to close its doors on September 30th 2018. It was the latest victim from heartless property owners that call themselves The Venice Restaurant Group which includes Hans Tiedemann, his partner Michael Dobson, and current Venice Neighborhood Council member Michael Greco. In addition to the Sports Harbour, all of them also own The Whaler, The Terrace and run the Red O establishments throughout the city. Unfortunately for Venice their repulsive business practices, unethical social habits and shameful treatment of their employees is not only considered utterly atrocious by many in the Venice area, but is something everyone should think about before visiting any of their establishments again in the future.

If any bar depicted the family atmosphere of the 80's sitcom Cheers or the eclectic Tender Bar in J.R. Moering's classic book, it was the Sports Harbour. For hundreds, if not thousands over the last 30-plus years, it literally was a place where everyone knew your name. It was a place where you felt like you were walking into your basement to have a drink and a place where you could always go to meet new people or see a familiar face. If there was one place to go to watch a sporting event with others who felt the excitement of your team win or the heartbreak of your loss, this was the place. And it was not just a destination for sporting events, but in life too. It was a place to celebrate personal victories, to drown your sorrows or to simply get away and have a drink by yourself. This wasn't your typical touristy Venice. This was a place where a huge amount of Venice locals were loyal to its barstools over 30-plus years and felt as if it was their second home, or even their sanctuary. It was there for any event you could think of and it changed faces from day to night and night to day with the constant flow of great sports, comedy nights, office parties, karaoke, anniversaries, fundraisers, trivia nights, and wedding receptions along with arguably the cheapest drinks on the westside. And behind it all, the founder of this beloved establishment was Rahim who was constantly surrounded by his many friends, bartenders and employees that were eternally loyal to him.

Rahim Javan moved to LA from Iran in the 1960's and was an All-American wrestler at UCLA. He famously held big Thanksgiving feasts at the Harbour every year claiming he didn't know what Thanksgiving was when he first moved to the United States, but a long-time employee's family included him in their dinner and showed him what it was all about. He then vowed to himself, if ever given the opportunity, he would always do the same and give people somewhere to go and not spend Thanksgiving

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photos by Margaret Molloy

THE RALLY FOR THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

By Jon Wolff

A rally was held on April 14, 2019 at E.L. Holmes Square on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice to celebrate a year and a half of struggle to save the First Baptist Church of Venice. The event was organized by the Save Venice team and emceed by Venice Activist Mike Bravo. There was a mighty crowd of people, with speakers and musicians keeping the excitement level high. Media representatives and photographers were everywhere, and a documentary film crew interviewed key members of the Community.

Since 2017, Save Venice has fought to keep this historical African-American church in Venice from becoming a private mega-mansion for a rich White couple, Jay Penske and Elaine Irwin. This church institution had served as a spiritual beacon in the Venice Black Community for over a century until the building was sold to the Penskes, under questionable circumstances, by Horace Allen, a pastor who came from outside of Venice. The City of L.A. has not, at this point, recognized the historical significance of the church. But Save Venice rallied on this special Sunday to draw the Venice Community together to show the world that Venice will not let a such a sacred site go to the gentrifiers.

The first speaker was Venetian Taylor Nightingale. He talked about growing up in Venice. He called Save Venice's regular Sunday gatherings in front of the church a beautiful thing and he encouraged more people to come out and participate.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine thanked people for coming and urged everyone to never give up.

Dr. Naomi Nightingale spoke about Save Venice's upcoming appeal hearing to challenge the Penskes' exemption from doing an environmental impact report. Normally, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires such a report. Certainly, an 11,700 square foot residence would have an impact on the community, the adjacent park, and other resources in the neighborhood. Dr. Nightingale urged those in attendance to continue the fight, and reminded everyone that the group had come this far without lawyers.

Jeremy Gonzalez, of the Tongva-Kizh Nation, the indigenous people of the Los Angeles basin, talked about the importance of the church and the importance of History. Mike Bravo played a ceremonial drum and sang a Tongva song of welcoming and friendship.

David Johnson, a lifetime Venetian and member of the church told of his youth in the church's Junior Boys Chorus. He described the church as a place where people could come to get help, seven days a week, and how the pastor would visit people to solve problems. Mr. Johnson felt that people coming to Venice these days have no idea how important the church really is.

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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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**Todd Von Hoffman writes us about the VNC**

Failure of leadership in America? Our so-called "Leaders" in Venice help explain. And while I will defend every individual's right to an uninformed opinion, these observations come from personal experience.

Venice Hysterical Society Prez Jill Prestup for example who succeeded in driving off 3 historians - MaryJane, Jeffrey Stanton & Elayne Alexander - all friends of mine. Who does that? How can you preserve history if you can't preserve your historians? And naturally she leads the objection to our Venice Heritage Museum which is open to ALL Venice Collections. Leadership is more than the need to control. Yet Prestup is dug in there seemingly as Prez-for-Life. Leadership also means (if you sincerely care about the mission) knowing when to get out of the way. It means you're always on the look-out for someone younger & smarter to replace you. What is the goal of history except to inform, engage, and hopefully excite & inspire future generations? History owns the old; it years for youth.

Take VNC Prez Ira Koslow - he's been on the VNC forever. We have friends in common and not one can tell me a single thing he's ever done. Leadership is part meritocracy - y'know, 'Lead by Example'? It's not just sitting on committees because you have a need to feel important. Result? It makes his opinions irrelevant.

Then there's the ultimate dysfunction junction, our Venice Corrupt Clique of Commerce. Newly arrived carpetbagger George Francisco has been spanked in these pages before, and with good reason. As Chamber Prez & VNC vice-Prez you have to wonder if this guy is a glut for attention or abuse...both I guess. I give everyone the benefit of the doubt but George made it clear early on that he was a shady climber, a poseur, and a problem. That he was trailing behind wee boy Carl Lambert referring to him as a "community leader" was a 'tell' certainly.

Leadership, particularly as an income property owner, means that you have an understanding and empathy for the character of your community and all those in it. Lambert's greedster campaign drives residents from their apartments such that our friends who work here can no longer afford to live here.

Both involved themselves with the Venice Sign but only to polish their turd images and/or deceive newer newbies that they were 'the shit' on stage at Sign events; not just shit.

That brings us to the Venice Sign 3 Stooges - Donna Lasman, Dave Moring & Alex Rosales. They could not carry out the simplest bit of business honestly - even forming their own committee within the Venice Sign Committee to bestow license agreements and put up that warning sign by Bank of Venice. Leadership means playing by the rules, that old integrity/trustworthy thing. Not screwing up a great civic project with compulsive corruption syndrome.

The Venice Sign Restoration was such a joy, bringing so many local volunteers and businesses together in this fractious funky town. Yet these darlings, David & Donna, openly accused our Restoration Team of lying about the finances 5 Years After Installation. Alex Rosales was onboard in an instant. Of course they didn't speak to or fact check with a single member of the build team - just one of those oversights I guess when you're in a hurry to fuck someone over.

When I told David Moring that we need to straighten this slander out asap with the Chamber his response was, "We don't need to meet with you." Wow. Now I'm a great believer in righteous physical violence - but what am I supposed to do? Clobber "Mr. Travelocity Gnome Runner-up"??? Suddenly I knew what it was like to be Alfred Dreyfus.

I brought in Robert Feist who knew the facts (when I was finally granted an audience) and do you know little Davey Moring actually begged me not to tell on him! Leadership means, (and I believe Ben Franklin said it best), "Accuse falsely Not & Be Thou Not a conniving, backstabbing, whining, gutless little bitch, Mr. Attorney". "More wine please".

And hey, take George Francisco - Chamber Prez & VNC vice-Prez. This guy is either a glut for attention or punishment - both probably. He's up there on the Chamber site with Donna Lasman under "Leadership" so they must be leaders right? I mean just look at all the certificates they keep giving themselves...leadership confirmation right there.

George showed up at Mark-Antonio Grant's retirement party. Now MAG, most of you may know, worked as Senior Field Deputy under Bill Rosendahl (RIP, pard). Mark was instrumental in helping get the Venice Sign up - fellow NJ boy and a great guy.

George actually tried to pick a fight with me in the middle of the party - it was hilarious. He was upset that

SPORTS HARBOR - continued from page 1

ing alone on this grateful holiday. This led to years of free Thanksgiving buffets paid for by Rahim and prepared and served by his family of employees for anyone who otherwise would have nowhere to go.

His generosity didn't stop at Thanksgiving either, as he always did everything he could to accommodate every single person that entered his bar, and not just once or just on holidays, but literally every day and always. Rahim and his friend Stan Lee opened the bar in 1987 steps from the corner of Lincoln and Washington. Lee owned the property and Rahim owned the liquor license. Lee always promised to Rahim that the property would be left to him, but after Lee died on August 7, 2009 it went to his much younger widow, Francine, not to Rahim.

In March 2015, Francine Lee sold the property to Brad Neal who subsequently sold it to Hans Tiedemann. The lease for the property had an end date of September 30, 2018. The property however is a zoning nightmare, sitting in three different geographical zones of Culver City, Marina del Rey and Los Angeles. If Tiedemann planned to keep it going as a restaurant/bar, he would need the liquor license. He offered Rahim an extension of the lease for three times the rent (which Rahim willingly agreed to) but attached the condition that Rahim sell Hans his liquor license at an embarrassing figure to which Rahim immediately declined.

If Hans kept it open without a liquor license then no one would show up and it won't generate any income, and if he were to apply for, and receive, a new liquor license he would have to offer parking which would inevitably lead to a teardown since the Harbour has never had parking - it all belonged to the triplex owned by Stan Lee, which through a verbal agreement, provided parking for both customers and employees due to very limited street parking. However, when the property was sold to Brad Neal, he immediately forbid any Sports Harbour parking in the lot and sealed it off, thus not allowing anyone to park there and be completely overgrown with weeds for many years.

Anyway, negotiations got nowhere with Hans expecting Rahim to basically give his liquor license to him and Rahim knowing if he did that the entire bar would be lost anyways. It was a stalemate, however leading up to the last days of September 2018, Hans continually gave Rahim and the staff the impression that the lease would be extended another 6 months or until football season was over the following year. Hans pretended to discuss a lease extension around March of 2018 and strung Rahim along for 6 months until late September. Sources say one of the new owners of the Venice Restaurant Group said "I'll run it as a hot dog and lemonade stand if I have to" without a liquor license.

Then September 24th, just FIVE days before the lease ended, word was given that the last week of September would be the last week of business. This abrupt notice gave Rahim and the employees only a few days to prepare for closing and literally no time at all to prepare a proper farewell for its loyal clientele from the last 30+ years. Not to mention the lack of time for the employees to make future employment arrangements. To add insult to injury, only days after the closing, Tiedemann, Dobson, Greco and their investors hung a sign on the roof with the douchey frat-boy name "D' Harbor Sports Bar and Restaurant" and posted a notice of intent to sell alcohol with the business name "Sports Harbor LLC" (omitting the U in Harbour) trying to cash in on Rahim's 31 years of sweat equity and insulting the intelligence of Rahim's loyal customers, making it look like it is just a remodel without a change in ownership.

The Venice Restaurant Group made it an extremely stressful and emotional time for Rahim, his dedicated employees and their devoted patrons from the last three decades and on October 1st, 2018 its doors were shut for good. The realization of its future absence left many sentimental Venetians in tears who were now losing their second home from which they accumulated an abundance of memories. Most recently, in late April 2019, the sign "D' Harbor" was changed and it opened as the "Washington Ale House" proving they never got a liquor license - only for beer and wine.

Continued on page 4

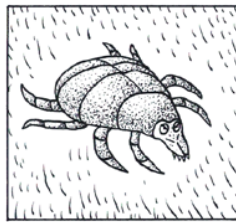
I ignored him I guess and was trying to impress some buddy of his at the bar that he was a 'macho man'. Like all fun encounters it inspired a poem...

Have you met George Francisco? Good God, what a putz...

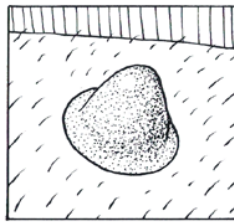
He CLEARLY knows more about Grooming than Guts.

And is George Francisco going to set the record straight? Will George see that the false Chamber accusations made about the Venice Sign Restoration Team are withdrawn? (and trust me, this is just the tip of their corruption) Well, the little poseur carpetbagger hasn't show any interest. Remember that the next time these damaged children posing as adults crowd on stage for the next Venice Sign event. They'll be the ones congratulating each other on a job well done.

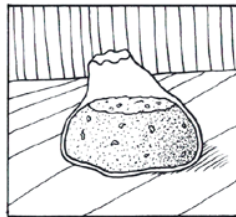
2019 CANDIDATES FOR VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



BLOOD-SUCKING TICK



FESTERING BOIL



BAG OF VOMIT



GEORGE FRANCISCO

Lambert the Loser - continued from page 1

Alex Stowell believed that everybody would benefit from hotels and that tourists "add life and color to Venice". From this statement, we can conclude that Alex Stowell feels that, without the tourists, Venice would starve for lack of life and color.

Lara Leitner, counsel for Venice Suites (Lambert's company) took issue with a part of the Zoning Administrator's findings. She thought that the bit about the illegal conversion to a hotel should be removed.

Don Berene, the architect said that the zoning for Ocean Front Walk was capricious. He mistakenly believed that the entire Boardwalk is commercial.

Kelli Lane, a consultant for non-profit organizations said that Lambert supports non-profits. She said that she couldn't do it without Carl.

Thomas Nitty, a representative for Lambert argued that renting for thirty days or less was not prohibited in 1928.

Jason Tong lamented that his family's properties had been hit hard when the area was re-zoned.

Sam Trude said that the Boardwalk should just be a commercial zone, and Judy Marcarsh believed that the Boardwalk is a commercial zone.

Venice Neighborhood Councilmember Jim Murez spoke. He mainly groused about problems with the Land Use Plan. Interestingly, Murez was the only pro-Lambert VNC member to show up at this hearing. Usually, other members turn out to support Carl Lambert in his efforts to convert this apartment building into a hotel. Vice President George Francisco and former member Will Hawkins used to lend a hand. Melissa Diner and Robert Thibodeau were once on Lambert's side. Remember, Carl Lambert was instrumental in getting most of the current VNC board elected. Why was Murez the only one left? Have Lambert's cohorts abandoned him in his time of need? Have they jumped ship before it crashes into the rocks? Maybe.

There were many people who spoke at the hearing who agreed with the Zoning Administrator's decision to deny Lambert the variance. Jed Pauker, a conscientious former member of the Land Use and Planning Committee of the VNC talked about Lambert running an illegal hotel for profit. He reminded everyone that the L.A. City Attorney's lawsuit against Lambert is ongoing.

Susanne Browne of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles said that the building had existed as a rental property and that, under the Mello Act, it couldn't be converted to commercial use.

Judy Branfman, the Documentary Filmmaker reminded everyone that this building had been an apartment building protected by rent control.

Bill Przylucki, Executive Director for the non-profit organization POWER (People Organized for Westside Renewal) spoke about how the "highest use" of proper-

ties is not conversion from longtime residential buildings into hotels.

John Given, with Keep Neighborhoods First affirmed that there was no basis to overturn the Zoning Administrator's findings.

Dr. Judy Goldman, with Keep Neighborhoods First warned that unpermitted conversions would set a tragic precedent, and that Venice would become "a neighborhood without Venice".

Becky Dennison, Director of Venice Community Housing made it clear that we don't trade rent-stabilized housing for Short Term Rentals.

Venice homeowner David Ewing declared that "Carl Lambert is a one man housing crisis."

Robin Rudisill, former Chair of the VNC's Land Use and Planning Committee called the Zoning Administrator's decision "rock solid". She reminded the Commission that the previous VNC board had denied Lambert's proposal.

Joseph Jimenez, a Venice Local since the 1970s said that he used to work for Lambert. He said that this building isn't the only one that Lambert is seeking to convert. He told of how people had already lost ninety homes, and he implored the city to stand up for these people.

Venice Local Beth Allyn pointed out the enormity of the loss of thirty homes in this building. She wondered what might happen to the building where she lives.

Vreni Merriam said that this proposal pitted visitors against residents.

Michael Jost said that his community in Venice is disappearing. He said that we didn't need more tourists; there are already plenty of them.

Charlie Carnow from the Hospitality Workers Union spoke of the problem of Ellis Act evictions in Venice.

Margaret Molloy presented a slide show of the apartment buildings that Carl Lambert has converted into hotels. She called him a serial violator of rent-stabilized buildings and warned of the cumulative impact of such violations.

Carl Lambert attempted to respond to some of the comments made at the hearing. He said that he loves old buildings. He said that other people are operating Short Term Rentals. He felt that a hotel should still count as residential use. And he believed that he had vested rights for his proposal.

Associate Zoning Administrator David Weintraub corrected Lambert by explaining that, if he really had these vested rights, he wouldn't have needed to apply for a variance. He re-affirmed that the property was not zoned for hotel use, the area is designated for medium-density residential use, and the permit history for the building always described it as an apartment house.

Commissioner Esther Margulies questioned Juliet Oh

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Rally at First Baptist Church - continued from page 1

Mike Bravo took a moment to give a eulogy of respect for a Sister in the Community, Pamela Krantz who passed on recently. He then listed the significant milestones in the work that Save Venice has been doing behind the scenes. His chronology started with the rally in August of 2017 where members of the group confronted Councilmember Mike Bonin. At that event, Bonin pledged to help in the battle but later refused to write a letter of support to save the church. Mr. Bravo talked about the times where the Venice Neighborhood Council facilitated the Penskes' plans to desecrate this sacred site. He described the various battles with city officials and commissions, and he reminded everyone that the fight is far from over.

Aztec dancers inspired awe with a colorful and moving ceremony of dancing and drumming. They shared an Aztec tradition of Peace and Harmony.

The Reverend Oscar Rhone spoke earnestly at the event. He himself had been raised in this church. He talked about Jesus Christ making His final entry into Jerusalem to be arrested and beaten, and to endure the cross. He said that Jesus stopped to heal two blind men on the side of the road, and that God is always able and never fearful. Reverend Rhone spoke of Pastor E.L. Holmes as a trail-blazer and a pioneer. He told of his tutelage under Pastor Holmes. He affirmed that his grandmother, along with fifty others, gave the deeds for their homes to build this church and how Pastor Holmes gave back the deeds when the church was built. And Reverend Rhone declared that God will take care of this current struggle too.

David Busch said that he, a White homeless person in the community, was saved by the food, love, and care of Black people. He fumed about the idea of a son of a billionaire moving in to the church and possibly installing a hot tub over the altar.

Reverend Dennis Moore, Assistant Pastor of True Everfaithful Missionary Baptist Church of Los Angeles grew up on Westminster Avenue. He remembered the old church across the street and Pastor Brown who created the Junior Boys Choir. He said that he wouldn't be what he is today without Pastor Holmes and Pastor Brown. He assured us that God will bring this battle to a swift conclusion.

Caviar, from the Horny Toads, played a lively acoustic guitar set that included classic songs such as "The Crystal Ship" by the Doors.

The man who identifies himself as The People of California talked about "Bishop" Horace Allen. Allen was the pastor who sold the church to the Penskes. He called Allen a charlatan and a fraud and one who would destroy the community. He invited the 32,000 signers of the petition to save the church to donate \$5 for legal expenses.

Two teachers from Venice High School, Kelli Arslanacan and Soni Lloyd spoke of how their students face the

Continued on page 12

from City Planning about whether a conversion from an apartment house to a hotel was a change from residential use to commercial use. Ms. Oh felt that it counted as residential use. Ms. Margulies reminded Ms. Oh that only two out of thirty-two units would remain residential. Ms. Oh said that it would still be considered residential use. Ms. Margulies asked, "How?" Ms. Oh answered that they would still be dwelling units, but just not long term dwelling units. Ms. Margulies called it "a mix". Ms. Oh insisted that it would still contain residential use. Ms. Margulies expressed amazement at Ms. Oh's logic and urged the Commission to do what's best.

Commissioner Adele Yellin remarked that Lambert's proposal goes against everything the city has been doing to maintain affordable housing for people working in the community. Commissioner Margulies agreed that it is counter to the city's efforts. She saw no findings to allow Lambert a variance. Commission Vice President Lisa Waltz Morocco said that, after hearing from the appellant and the Zoning Administrator, she was convinced that the Zoning Administrator's findings were sound. And she noted that Lambert had already granted himself a sort of variance anyway.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to deny Lambert's appeal. He lost. Carl Lambert lost. He lost after years of the City Attorney's lawsuits. He lost after years of making a profit on a conversion from an apartment house to a hotel. He lost after causing displacement and inflicting much heartache. But he lost. For now.

Lambert will probably keep trying to bring great harm to Venice. Like a villain in a comic book, he dies, only to come back a few issues later. It will take constant vigilance to guard against the Carl Lamberts of our time. And the People of Venice will win again. Venice always wins.



Reese Davidson Community Frequently Asked Questions (“Cheat Sheet”)

What is affordable and supportive housing?

Affordable housing generally serves people earning less than 60% of the area median income (AMI) in Los Angeles County, and can further target individuals or families, seniors, artists, and others. Supportive housing is a category within affordable housing, where tenants are homeless at the time they move in, and can include or target families or individuals, veterans, transition aged youth (TAY), people with disabilities and/or serious health conditions, or people who have been homeless for a very long time (“chronically” homeless). Supportive housing has a higher level of on-site services, to support people in maintaining housing long-term, having access to meaningful opportunities, and contributing to their communities. All residents in affordable and supportive housing are tenants, with legal tenant rights and responsibilities.

What is proposed for the Reese Davidson Community?

Reese Davidson Community (RDC) will include 140 apartments for low-income households as detailed below. The beautifully designed site, co-developed by Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing (VCH/HCH), will greatly enhance the existing surface parking lot and surrounding area as well as provide much needed housing. On-site, trained professional staff will provide social services to the residents of RDC, property management, and general oversight of the properties. In addition to housing, there will be open space, the Gregory Hines Community Arts Center, community meeting rooms, small-scale retail, public parking and resident parking.

Specifically, our proposal includes:

- 140 total apartments
- 68 supportive housing apartments, home to those who have experienced homelessness
- 34 apartments for low-income artists
- 34 apartments for low-income households
- 4 apartments for staff living on site, providing 24-hour staffing to ensure high quality, healthy and safe buildings
- Office space for 4 additional on-site staff to provide support and social services directly to tenants
- community rooms for tenant services, recreational opportunities, and community meetings upon request/reservation
- flexible community arts space
- to 4 community-serving retail space

Where is it and who owns it?

The proposed development will be located on a City-owned parking lot located between North and South Venice Boulevards, and Dell and Pacific Avenues (excluding 3 private properties on the northeast corner of the site). The parking lot is part of a larger effort by the City of Los Angeles to better utilize public property to address its housing crisis. The City will retain ownership of this site and will enter into a ground lease with the development team. VCH/HCH were selected, in a competitive bid process initiated by the City in 2016, to pursue approvals for an affordable and supportive housing development on the site.

How will the Reese Davidson Community be staffed?

There will be 8 full-time, on-site professional staff, including four case managers as the main social service point person for tenants and they will have offices on site. The other four members of the staff will occupy apartments set-aside for on-site personnel. VCH/HCH will be responsible for the management of the building and the overall provision of services, and additional staffing and supervision will be provided to the site as required. The property will have 24-7 on-site staff.

How does the proposal enhance the site and community?

The current site is a public parking lot, closed at night, and lacks lighting, 24-hour staffing, and any other amenities. The Reese Davidson Community will preserve and improve the existing public parking, but also provide much-needed housing, a community arts center with flexible design for multiple uses, community meeting rooms, open space, green space, wide and well-lit sidewalks, community-serving retail, and other improvements. It will also create a unique and inviting environment for residents and the public to enjoy.

Why should we build on this site instead of others, or in less expensive communities?

We can and should do both. Affordable and supportive housing are primarily being built in other communities. There are more than 8,000 permanent supportive housing units (PSH) operating Countywide, 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 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.

What happens to the current public parking spots?

The redevelopment plans for the site include a 1-for-1 replacement of the current public parking and a possible increase in the amount of public parking. Additional parking will be provided for residents and commercial uses. Parking garages will be built on both sides of the canal, and surrounded by the housing to enhance the pedestrian experience and the vitality of this block.

What types and sizes of units will be included?

The proposed units include:

- 34 artist lofts, averaging 400 square feet
- 51 studio apartments, averaging 300 square feet
- 32 one bedroom apartments, averaging 540 square feet
- 23 two bedroom apartments, averaging 785 square feet

The proposed square footage of all units is at or just above the minimums required by affordable housing funding sources.

How will Reese Davidson Community be approved and what is the status of that process?

In December 2016, the City approved the Venice-Dell-Pacific site to be included in its Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites Program, and selected VCH/HCH to pursue an affordable and permanent supportive housing development on the site. The City's program also requires that any development proposal include the provision of public parking spaces in an amount equal to the current public spaces provided on the surface lots. In January 2017, the City and VCH/HCH entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) for the site.

In November 2018, an application was submitted to the City, initiating an approximately 12 to 14 month process to approve the Reese Davidson Community proposal. Completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the first step in the process, which includes public input and hearings. The first public meeting is the Scoping Meeting, on January 14th. Written comment can be submitted at this meeting or online to provide input on what specifically should be included and studied in the EIR.

How will be people be able to apply for and/or referred for housing at Reese Davidson?

Application procedures will be announced later in the development process, and will include specific steps for low-income artists and other low-income households. Units designated for people who are currently homeless will be filled through the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for the County's Service Planning Area 5 (Westside communities), so individuals and families should ensure they have completed the process to be in that system. Individual questions about application procedures will be answered at ReeseDavidson@vchcorp.org.

Will the development seek to use the City's new Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance to streamline approvals?

No. The site does not qualify for streamlined approvals or other benefits under the new PSH Ordinance.

Is this the most efficient use of funds? Are there better alternatives?

Based on substantive research over the past decade, development of permanent supportive housing is a cost effective intervention that saves local governments money and successfully ends homelessness for most. There are also other cost-effective programs and interventions, but the development of new supportive housing units has been extremely limited in the past decade and more and is greatly needed to supplement other programs in Los Angeles in order to end homelessness.

Who are Reese and Davidson?

Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing decided to name the development in honor of two amazing leaders who were instrumental in building and maintaining a diverse, inclusive and innovative community in Venice.

Arthur Reese was a community leader and Venice resident from 1905-1963. As a decorator, inventor, entrepreneur and more, he contributed substantially to the history, culture, vibrancy and diversity in Venice. Reese is among the founders of Venice and was the first African American homeowner in the neighborhood.

Rick Davidson was a community leader and Venice resident from 1961-1999. As an advocate, architect, poet and more, he worked tirelessly toward a more equitable Venice, region and world. Davidson is one of the founders of Venice Community Housing.

How can people get involved with the look and feel of the buildings and open spaces?

Venice Community Housing will be convening meetings focused on aesthetics, public art possibilities, and other ideas for ensuring welcoming and safe spaces, as well as other things that create a good fit for Venice, after the application for land use changes is submitted to the City. VCH will also attend formal or informal community meetings upon invitation to discuss RDC.

For involvement in the overall development approval process, there will be many public meetings and hearings. Sign up for the RDC email list on VCH's website at www.vchcorp.org.

How can people get involved in actively supporting the approvals for Reese Davidson?

Email ReeseDavidson@vchcorp.org and let us know you want to be a supporter. We will follow up with emails and opportunities to get involved. The first step will be to sign a support letter, and after that there are all kinds of ways to help!

To see visuals of RDC and full Q&A, visit <http://www.vchcorp.org/reese-davidson-community/>

SPORTS HARBOR - continued from page 2

Sadly, this wasn't the first time Hans Tiedemann, Michael Dobson and Michael Greco have dangled employees until the last few days and screwed over hundreds, if not thousands, of locals – they did the same with everyone at the Terrace only months earlier and the Whaler years prior to that. Although it wasn't the local watering hole the Sports Harbour was, The Terrace Café at Washington and Speedway was also a neighborhood restaurant and bar that had its loyal clientele and local employees that were there for many years, given its outdoor beachy atmosphere and the absence of the loud millennials that frequented The Whaler across the street.

As most people might remember, The Terrace was owned by the boisterous Vladimir Robzer from Russia. Vladimir, like Rahim at the Sports Harbour, was also very catering to the locals allowing them to throw private parties and hold meetings virtually whenever asked. The Terrace consisted of 2 buildings and the lease for each building was coming to an end. As with many other buildings in Venice these days, the owner then wanted almost triple the price.

Michael Dobson got his hands on the lease for the other building which forced Vladimir to sell the Terrace to his Venice Restaurant Group. Rumors about Tiedemann and Dobson buying the Terrace started in early 2017 and continued throughout the year until December when employees then learned Vladimir's lease was up at the end of that calendar year. All the employees were told everything would be fine and not to worry about their jobs and to enjoy the holiday, but once January 2018 started, Tiedemann and Dobson immediately started playing puppeteer with the employees much like they did recently with the Sports Harbour. The employees, roughly 80 of them, had to interview with a random Human Resources person for their own jobs not once, not twice, but multiple times over the course of the next 3 months, all while being told everything would be fine, only to pro-long what they knew they would do the entire time... close in escrow.

They retained only two of the estimated 80 employees praising a “new concept” and then told employees they “don't need locals” anymore, and it will now be “tourist-catering” which seemed quite obvious after they then cut down the menu, started serving smaller portions and raised all the prices. They even posted a sign stating as much at the front door promising a new “Brighter Venice Terrace” which a lot of the former employees and residents viewed as a statement that they got rid of the locals that were consistent and loyal, and now not wanted. Much like they did at the Sports Harbour, employees were given no notice at all to prepare for other employment after many reassurances they wouldn't need to. Most recently on February 3rd 2019, they abruptly closed the Terrace again to rebrand it as “The Pier House” and Slice of Pizza on the corner will now be called “Carolina”. Sources say The Pier House will be more like Ma'Kai, an upscale sushi restaurant/dejays lounge that is on Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica, which in not doing very well and is For Sale as well, rumor has it.

Tiedemann, Dobson and Greco already had a reputation around town as being heartless towards employees and unsympathetic towards locals, but to make it even worse for everyone who worked or frequented their establishments was their lack of moral character fueled by what some close to them allege were personal vices. Across the street from the Terrace is The Whaler which Tiedemann purchased in 2008. Any Venice barfly will tell you a well-circulated story that led to Tiedemann having to give up the property of the Whaler. This forced friend and colleague Michael Dobson to take it over along with his business partner Michael Greco from Las Vegas.

Dobson was already known for his quest to gather up as many leases as he could on Washington Boulevard,

Continued on page 5

including Baja Cantina. Other rumors floated around from Venice barflies that Dobson would frequent the Terrace in the early mornings to order a kettle one with a splash of soda as his hands were uncontrollably shaking after visiting the bathroom. It was further alleged that he would frequent the Terrace a lot with his family and all of the long-term employees who took care of him and his family were essentially all fired later. In addition, Tiedemann, Dobson and Greco are also known for using unlicensed contractors, the latest with the name of Alex Marshall who actually started a GoFundMe page last year so he'd legally be able to get a license. That same GoFundMe page has since been removed.

Even more disturbing, after all of this, on Tuesday December 18 2018 Michael Greco was elected to the Venice Neighborhood Council by the VNC, instead of many other better-qualified candidates who've consistently attended previous VNC meetings and have been viable parts of the community for over 20 years. A newcomer from Las Vegas who's only known to the community from shunning locals and his employees, his introduction speech cited his willingness to give back to the community that doesn't frequent his establishments anymore - seriously.

The fact that Greco was voted in, someone who just moved here from Las Vegas 3-4 years ago, has never attended any meetings and has never been a part of a neighborhood committee like the other applicants were, says a lot about the VNC itself, a council that's supposed to represent Venetians, and justifies the horrid reputation they instilled on themselves the past few years. His appointment was even berated by community members during public comment at last February's monthly VNC meeting. Now, Greco is currently slated as a nominee for the upcoming VNC election to be held on June 2nd at the Oakwood Recreation Center to be voted on by stakeholders.

These are the people their employees and local Venetians had to suck up to and interview with multiple times to retain their jobs, some of which they've had for over 25 years. They even had a falling out between themselves as Tiedemann and Dobson are no longer partners on the Sports Harbour property. They say they love Venice, yet they treat the people of Venice and the community like scum thinking no one will notice. Maybe in towns like Las Vegas these actions would go unseen, but here in Venice it's different and the community stands up higher and yells louder than anywhere else - just ask the Penske's, any Snapchat employee or Lincoln Place activist. They are perfect examples of why Venice has been losing its soul for many years now and why so many locals feel the need to stand up to protect what's left of it.

Like most developers, The Venice Restaurant Group (Tiedemann, Dobson and Greco) say one thing and do another. They're sure to have many people all over town rave about what "nice people" they are, but we can add them to the list of other "nice people" that carve up the town however they see fit just to make an extra buck they hardly need, without any remorse to the community, peoples livelihoods or the ramifications it will have. It's a shame - in a town that's being gentrified at an expedited high rate and where protests are being held to protect small businesses, even some of the independent businesses like these are letting down the community.

Yes, everything is legal, but the excuses of "That's business" or "That's the country we live in" is just as heartless as it sounds and just because it's legal, it doesn't make it right. Their actions have changed people's lives for the worse - people that worked for them directly, their families and thousands of other good people in the community. And the only thing locals can do about it is to simply not support the businesses that these appalling people own no matter what they're called: The Whaler, The Terrace (now The Pier House), the former Sports Harbour (now the Washington Ale House), Slice of Pizza (now Cartolina), and the Red O, and tell others to boycott them also and the reasons why: Community Unity. Tourists will unknowingly go wherever looks most beneficial for them at the time, but there's no reason for locals to go to these establishments at all. They're clearly not wanted anyway!

These few people have had a massive detrimental effect on the everyday lives of hundreds of Venetians and the social lives of thousands of locals and they just don't care - if they did, they would've done things differently. There's no reason to be "assfuckingholes" (a term one Venetian/former employee referred to them as) to good people, especially good people that have been a part of the community for decades longer than these new owners and developers have been in Venice. If they really knew Venice, they would've known better because if you're an "assfuckinghole" in Venice you can expect to be called out on it. The community is strong, people talk and word gets around - especially in bars like the ones they own.

MO MONEY marty liboff

We hoped that after our last article about money that billions of dollars would pour in to support the Beachhead. Well, thank you everyone who sent money but we are still close to being broke. So here is another chance for you to send in a spare million or trillion dollars - and here are more sayings and jokes about filthy lucre...

"I spent half my money on gambling, alcohol and wild women. The other half I wasted. W.C. Fields. A woman of valor, her worth is far above jewels. My wallet is like an onion, when I open it I cry. "Peace is good for business and war can be even better for business." (the Ferengi on Star Trek) They found that a chimpanzee makes as good stock picks as your broker! If something sounds too cheap it usually is. How much money you have is not indicative of how much brains you have. It doesn't cost anything to be nice. One should not keep score by wealth. Marrying for money is the hardest way of getting it. You can't buy respect from your wife and kids. An expensive bouquet of roses still wilts away over time. You spend more at the market when you're hungry. You can't pay someone to practice playing the flute for you. The best cologne for men is called Odor de Moola. People are only as successful as they think they deserve to be. Our city will hire consultants for a million dollars to solve a \$100 problem. Why do they call money dough? we all knead it. Peace is in your heart and not in your wallet. I am so poor that the pigeons at Venice Beach throw me bread crumbs!

A very old couple go to Vegas for their 60th anniversary. The old wife sits and plays the slots while her old husband has a drink at the bar. A very sexy, young gal sits down next to him

and says, "Cum up to my room and have a great time!" "How much?" he asks. "\$200" she whispers in his ear. "\$200? Why I only paid 50 cents back in 1931." "You old tightwad!" she snarls and she goes and sits next to another man. The next morning the old couple are having breakfast and the sexy hooker walks by and sees the old man with old wife and she laughs and says, "Well, you see what you get for 50 cents!"

Sometimes your self confidence determines your success. A job you love is better than one that pays a lot and you hate. They are talking about stop making pennies but it doesn't make any sense (cents). A dumb jackass in an expensive tuxedo is still a jackass. People who say that money isn't everything are usually very rich. One's greatest wealth is one's freedom to choose. Why does a hooker give money to the I.R.S.? it's in cum tax. The best way to lose a friend is to lend them money. A valuable diamond in the rough looks like a worthless old stone until it is polished, just like our heart and soul. Even the most expensive restaurant can't cook as well as your mom. More comfort and money doesn't necessarily mean more happiness. Japanese women yen for yen. Success at work is not worth it if it means being a failure at home. They say money won't buy you love unless you buy a puppy. Money won't relieve our suffering, only knowledge of the Self. They are thinking of re-naming the Euro the Zero. Generous people are usually happier. Sometimes getting money costs too much. Whoever said that money won't

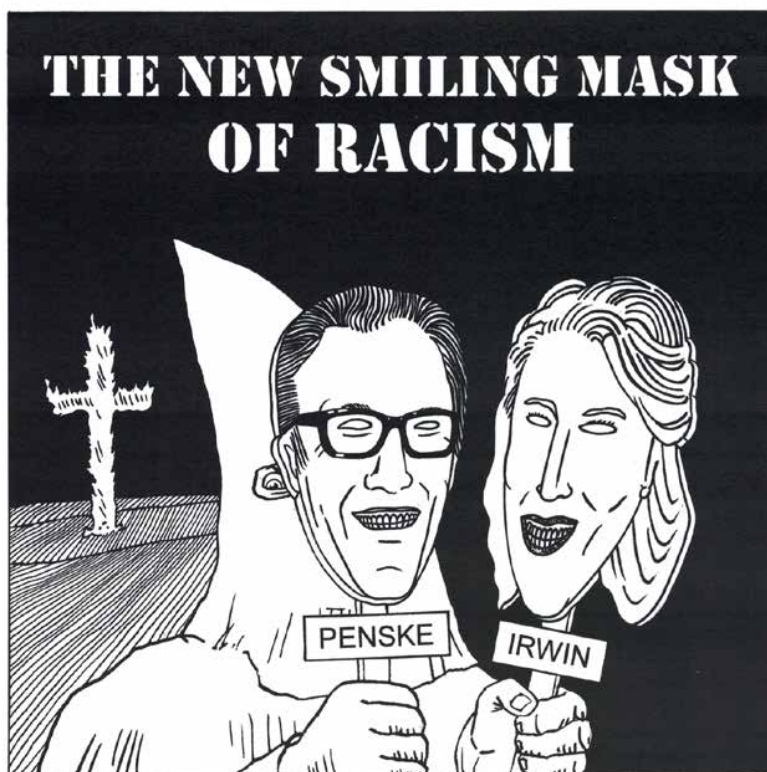
buy you happiness didn't know the right places to shop. Death can ruin the best plans for getting rich. The little Jewish kid had to hire an accountant because he couldn't touch his non kosher piggy bank. What kind of money do cows use? = moola.

Bills, bills, bills, all I get is more bills. Bills for doctors and pills. My expensive rent gives me the chills. I can't afford any frills, got to pay my high utility bills. My dentist bills for drills. All I get is more bills, car bills, gas fills, food bills for grills and dills, I'm took by crooked shills. I have no saving skills. Hospital bills for falls and spills. My bank account has lots of nills, nothing in the tills. The stress from the bills kills. Maybe I should hide in the hills from all the bills, bills, bills...

We enslave ourselves to the pursuit of riches. Even Donald Trump went bankrupt 3 times and look at the old loser now! When someone tells you it is not the money but the principle of the thing it is usually the money. Television tells you that you're nothing unless you buy all the crap they show you need to buy. The prostitute was cheap and whored out all her money and got rich. Never pay for a job until it is done. We seem to find plenty of money to house the homeless in jails but we can't find any money to house the homeless in homes. When the economy stinks that can be the best time to make money. Sometimes watching the sunset for free at Venice Beach is better than an expensive vacation to some far off land. If you've waited until retirement to enjoy yourself then you've waited too long. Apathy and our fears of change are what makes the difference between success and failure in business and Life. Gold and diamonds I have none, but we can still sing, dance and have fun.

All the kids at school made fun of Izzy the little Jewish kid. They would say to him, "Izzy, what would you rather have this big nickel or this tiny dime?" And Izzy would always take the big nickel and the kids would go away laughing at the stupid Jew. One day the rabbi overheard Izzy taking the big nickel and not the little dime and the kids laughing at him. The rabbi ran over and asked him, "Izzy, why didn't you take the dime?" And Izzy said, "Mind your own business rabbi. I've already made 20 bucks off the kids giving me nickels!"

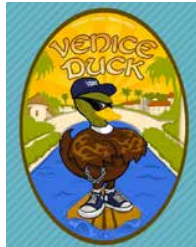
The only exercise I get is running out of money. Never judge others by the money in their pocket. Going in debt is a poor substitute for what it buys. The rich sometimes die young and the poor old. Don't always make your decision by how much something costs. What is 9 inches long, 2 inches wide and in your pants that drives women wild? = \$100 bill. Money can't buy happiness but being broke can't buy anything. The good Lord gave us two hands, one to take with and the other to give. Everyone is searching for a pot of gold and all I want is some pot. Ya win some and lose some. "It cost telephone numbers!" (my dad Jess) Good health is true wealth. The rabbi did circumcisions and didn't get paid, he only took the tips. One loss doesn't make a season. Sometimes the Tooth Fairy doesn't leave you anything because they are broke too. A happy person is one who is content with what he has. "All my possessions for one moment of
Continued on page 8



Venice Duck Beer

by Carol Gronner, photos by Carol Gronner

Most people who have lived in Venice for a certain amount of time have been served an adult beverage by John Henry Binder and/or Christian Warren, bartenders extraordinaire. Binder was voted Best Bartender in the L.A. Weekly in 2017 for his many years of service at James Beach, and Warren has gone on to have his own bar, the very popular Melody Bar on Sepulveda near LAX. Being so good at their jobs, these good fellows thought they should also have their own spirits brand ... and thought, "Venice has got to have its own beer", and thus, Venice Duck Beer was born.



Let's go back in time a little ... I sat down with these gents one recent happy hour and heard the story of Venice Duck where it all began, there at the bar in James Beach. Binder was born in New York, and came out to L.A. when he was

12 to live with his Dad, a documentary filmmaker (he shot Woodstock!). He got into acting (playing a kid in Popeye when he was 10!), and attended UC Santa Barbara. Digging the beach, Binder made his way down the coast to Venice in 1993, and began his illustrious career as one of our most beloved barkeeps. A stint at Typhoon in Santa Monica taught him all the mixology ropes, and led him to the then new James Beach in 1996, where he has been ever since.

One drinking night at Hal's, Binder was introduced to Warren by the Hal's bartender, Happy, and they became fast friends. Warren was born in San Francisco, and also made his way to L.A. to be an actor like so many before him. He got a gig working at the then super hot Whiskey Bar in Hollywood, where he learned the bartending trade (after paying bar backing and valet dues). He wasn't feeling Hollywood, and says, "There was something familiar about Venice that made you feel at home ... and everyone was cool" (those were the days, right?!). He soon got a gig at Baja Cantina (when that place was super happening), where he worked for six years, and earned the nickname "Elvis" from a fellow bartender who observed him making out with all the customers and said it was "like working with Elvis". Ah, the good old days!

Warren then came to work at James Beach (for a mere six months), and that is where the idea for Venice Duck Beer came up one late night after a shift. Binder and Warren were in back sipping on their Sierra Nevadas in 2002, and the "Wouldn't it be cool if there was a Venice beer?" talk started. Something like the Sierra Nevada they were drinking, but VENICE. Their friend, Happy, had told them about a drunken night when he passed out in the Canals on the way home, and woke up to find a flock of Venice ducks had covered his body with theirs, to keep him or themselves warm. It was a funny story, but Binder thought, "Venice ducks will



always be here ... that's the name."

Time passed, both guys had kids and a lot of other things going on, and nothing happened with

their beer idea. Warren bought and sold the Makai bar in Santa Monica in two years, and then opened the Melody Bar, which kept him real busy, remodeling and refining it. Binder was tending bar at James, and raising his family, when Warren came back and told Binder the time for Venice Duck was now, with the craft beer industry exploding. They had meetings with investors (friends) and did fundraisers, and went about finding the right brewmaster. They wanted to brew their beer in Venice, but you need an industrial area and there



wasn't one. They found their guy in San Jose, and soon (after much trial and error) they had their Venice Dogtown Duck IPA.

Lucky Duck (an agave nectar blonde ale) and Stoner Duck (hemp seed nut brown ale) soon followed, and all have their own Venice story. Dogtown and Stoner are obvious, but the Lucky Duck is inspired by the flapper-era ladies who one would meet in prohibition booze smuggling tunnels legendary in Venice. And coming soon - NALU, a hard seltzer from the Venice Duck guys (like Truly or White Claw) with yum organic flavors like yuzu and ginger. Awesome.

After starting out by self-distributing their wares around town, Venice Duck was taken on by Southern Wine and Spirits, the largest alcohol distributor in the United States. It can be found, of course, at the Melody Bar and James Beach on tap, but also Mercedes Grille, Cheesecake Factory, Umami Burgers, LAX, various liquor stores, and they're only growing larger every day. "The dream is to keep growing and have people drink it internationally, but come to Venice one day to drink it in its home," says Warren. And they envision that Venice home to be their own tasting room in Venice proper. Stay tuned for that excellence.

Binder takes his role as a Venice bartender very seriously, and isn't interested in being a flashy, trendy mixologist. He's more about making everyone feel special and important as they sit with him and drink their beverage of choice. That care for his customers is obvious as a nonstop stream of friends and well-wishers forced this interview to happen in two parts, so busy was he mixing cocktails and shooting the breeze, giving high fives and hugs left and right. That speaks to what Warren said as we sat there at Binder's bar ... "Venice always feels like home, it has changed, but there's always something magical about it. Everyone embraces everyone, and there are so many cool, eclectic, interesting people ... People still come and fall in love with Venice."

We wrapped up our chat and our drinks (spicy prickly pear margarita for me, thanks John Henry!) with Warren saying the following truth: "Once Venice touches your heart, it's in you, and you will always have it with you." That's right, and that's why we'll always love it.

Drink local!

VeniceDuckBrewery.com

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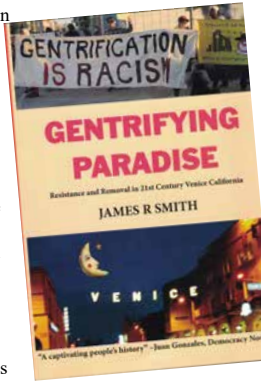
SRO for Book Release Party at Beyond Baroque

We had quite the party for these two excellent Venice Authors. Passages were read aloud to the full house of friends.

Gentrifying Paradise - by James R Smith

"A Magisterial people's history, in the best tradition of Howard Zinn and Studs Terkel. Smith chronicles the battles for cultural preservation and against gentrification in Venice California, from the 1990s to the present invasion by the Silicon giants. It vividly illustrates the process of accumulation by dispossession analyzed by Davide Harvey, as well as a community's movement for its self-protection via the struggle to decommodify land theorized by Karl Polanyi. A timely contribution to the field of urban studies and a great resource to community organizers."

— Gonzalo Santos, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, California State University, Bakersfield



Destiny's Consent, by Laura Shepard Townsend

Destiny's Consent is a series of 3 novels of historical fiction, about gypsies and bohemians who come to Venice from Europe in the era of Abbot Kinney's founding of Venice.

"This wonderfully written novel combines two topics which fascinate me----bohemians and Venice Beach. As the first book in the "Destiny's Consent" trilogy, it's an entertaining and enjoyable read. I was immediately transported to the magical world of Los Angeles at the early part of the 20th century. The women in this novel are strong and empowered, and their gypsy culture is colorfully described, making you feel like a participant in every vivid scene.

If you love Venice Beach, these free spirited characters will warm your heart and enrich your consciousness." - Amazon Review

Both books are available at the Beyond Baroque Bookstore, Small World Books, Amazon, or directly from the authors.



photos by Margaret Molloy



Karl Abrams

Suzy Williams

EDITORIAL ON THE UPCOMING VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION

By Jon Wolff

The election for the board of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019. A big voter turnout is expected and much controversy will surely follow. For the past three years, the VNC members have been the subject of many articles in the Free Venice Beachhead, and this round should be no different.

The Council is mainly an advisory body that makes recommendations to the real politicians and officials in L.A. City government. But their influence is felt on the ground level here in Venice. When you see a demolition notice on a lovely old house, and the house disappears and gets replaced with a Big Ugly Box made of concrete and glass, know that the current VNC had everything to do with it. When a mom 'n' pop business shuts down due to a rent increase, be sure that the VNC was involved. When another alcohol license gets granted to a restaurant next door to you, look for the VNC's fingerprints.

Here is some helpful information about a few of the candidates on the 2019 ballot. Let's start with the good guys. Joslyn Williams was the only African-American person on the previous board and she consistently voted against the bad stuff that the bad guys promoted. She is now running for the position of Outreach Officer.

Jim Robb and Alix Gucovsky have both stood strong with the Save Venice team's efforts to keep the First Baptist Church of Venice from becoming a private mega-mansion. Saving this historical Black church is the most important issue facing Venice today, and Venice voters should take notice of who is on the good side.

Furthermore, Alix Gucovsky is running to be the Chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) of the VNC. LUPC is one of the most influential committees because it's the first to recommend or deny those demolitions that mar the face of Venice every month. Alix Gucovsky is running against Daffodil Tyminski. Tyminski (or Daffy, as her friends call her) has been a member of LUPC for years and was the sign holder for Andy Layman at his get-aquainted party on the roof of his illegally converted hotel on Ocean Front Walk. Layman's illegally converted hotel was eventually un-converted by the L.A. City Attorney, and Layman cried himself out of Venice. Now Tyminski wants to be the LUPC Chair. Vote for Alix Gucovsky to get rid of Tyminski.

Incumbent President Ira Koslow is running against VNC member Hollie Stenson. Koslow hasn't really been either good or bad for the past three years because he usually only acted as a tie breaker. Since the bad guys outnumbered the good guys on the board, he rarely had any effect on the outcome of votes. Hollie Stenson, on the other hand, always voted with the bad guy platform. And her Valley Girl speaking voice is... fingernails, chalkboard, etc., etc.

Now for the bad guys: The Kill-the-Homeless Party has put their worst demons on the ballot. Mark Ryavec aka Beelzebub is running, along with the other two lizards Travis Binen and Christian Wrede. Christian Wrede is the main hate-bucket behind the Fight Back Venice website. Fight Back Venice works to Fight Back Against Venice by thwarting any plans to house un-housed human beings in housing. Christian Wrede is also the official sucking cartoonist for Fight Back Venice. His cartoon illustrations are expected to win First Prize in the Sucky Sucking Sucker Cartoon Contest. And bringing up the rear is C.J. Cole. She's the female member of the Felonious Four. Her job is to hiss and spit during the VNC Homeless Committee meetings.

John Reed, Matthew Royce, and Robert Thibodeau are all current VNC members and they are all Evil Architects. They're running again. John Reed is the Rodent of Rose Avenue who makes the ugly glass buildings that contaminate Venice. Matthew Royce has been the Chair of LUPC for three years. If you hate what's being done to Venice architecturally, then you hate Matthew Royce. Robert Thibodeau is the architect behind the desecration of the First Baptist Church of Venice. Maybe that's why, at each VNC meeting, he looks more and more like the devil.

Jim Murez has not died of Pickle-Face disease, and he is on the ballot again. He was the Chair of the Transportation and Safety Committee of the VNC. He was the one who tried to put Pacific Avenue on



photos above by Margaret Molloy

a road diet so that Venice could have worse traffic jams. Actually, he needs more parking spaces because his venue on Main Street doesn't have the required adequate parking. So he wants to make everybody else drive so slowly down Pacific that it will become... a great big parking lot!

Evil business owners want to represent you on the VNC this term. Michael Greco, the owner of the Whaler was partly responsible for closing down the beloved neighborhood bar, the Sports Harbour. He saw happy people having a good time and vowed to put a stop to it. Sam Trude runs that Great White thing that's spilling out onto the sidewalk on Pacific and Windward. He boasted of having got rid of the non-rich people who were eating at the Subway that used to be there. He believes that blocking the sidewalk is only against the law for homeless people.

Melissa "24/7" Diner is running for Secretary unopposed. The middle name/number in quotation marks is her idea. She called herself that on the last ballot. What it means is anybody's guess. She has served as a minion for Carl Lambert, the most evil reptile in Venice. She's tried to get other good VNC members off the board. And she's an expert at coming up with pointless proposals like topless sunbathing, and lights on the beach at night to scare away the native bird species.

Sunny Bak is back too. She's mainly known for being the creature that follows Vice-President George Francisco around.

And speaking of Vice President George Francisco. He's the transplant from Chicago who's been number two on the VNC for the last three years. He's also the President of the Venice Chamber of Commerce, which is considering changing its name to the Venice Chamber of Conflict of Interest. He's been a friend to Carl "Lucifer" Lambert, and posed with him in numerous group-grope photo opportunities. He's best buddies with developer/destroyer Jason Teague. He's spoken on behalf of the Penskes when they've appeared before city commissions to advance their plans to turn the First Baptist Church of Venice into their own private plantation house. And he's voted for every ugly development, every hateful law, and every anti-Venice proposal that the VNC can devise.

George Francisco is running for Vice President again. This time, he's running against Grant Turck, the head of Venice Pride. Recently, Francisco and the Chamber of Commerce played a double-dealing trick on Venice Pride and attempted to prevent Venice Pride from having their annual Venice sign lighting event. Maybe this will get the voters to flush George Francisco once and for all.

So don't forget. Venice Neighborhood Council election day is Sunday, June 2, 2019. Vote while it's still free.

7 • MAY 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD



Ongoing Demonstrations at Wurstküche. LATU asks that Venice neighbors boycott Wurstküche 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 Oakland Recreation Center.



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REGINA EVELINE ROSA FERNADES
 OCT. 20, 1938 - April 20 2019


Anyone who went to Henry's Market at the corner of Dudley Ave. and the Speedway will remember the owner Regina. Regina ran the market for many years and her beautiful daughter Shyla helped her out. Regina was a very sweet lady. Henry's Market was known for the friendly service and helping the local

poor and homeless. They were one of the only places along the Ocean Front Walk that would take Food Stamps. If you were down on your luck and you were short a few cents for a cup of coffee or a sandwich Regina and her daughter would let you slide or you could pay them some other day. Regina would make great sandwiches and other things that I loved. Her prices were the lowest and she would even make you up a sandwich to order. They got in trouble with the owner of the building and the neighbors because the homeless would sometimes hang around in the morning waiting for the market to open. A few people complained about the homeless there and finally the market was forced to close. Another one of the cool places in Venice was lost. I used to sometimes see Regina taking a walk after the store was closed. Regina and Henry's Market are very much missed in Venice.

A couple doors down was where the Venice West Cafe had been many years before. It was run by John and Anna Haag who were the founders of the Beachhead. They had also been forced to close by the property owner and neighbors because they had Beatniks hanging around reciting poetry, smoking pot and having fun! Everything different and cool in Venice seems to get kicked out or they jack the rent up too high for them to stay. -marty

Scott Mitsuo Ueda, Jr. entered this world on November 28, 1992 and departed on March 24, 2019 at the age of 26.

Scott was, and continues to be, a quintessential member of the community where he was born and raised: Venice, California. From his publications in the Venice Beachhead to his efforts that led to the Japanese-American memorial marker on Venice and Lincoln, his contributions have made a lasting impression.

In addition to being an acknowledged community contributor, he was an all-around gifted and talented soul and known amongst his family, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances as a wordsmith, talented musician, creative and bold chef, and charismatic young man. At a young age, he demonstrated an inherent aptitude for music and learned to master many instruments throughout his lifetime. Impressively, he became a Corporate Executive Chef at the unprecedented age of 25 and was even nominated by Forbes, "30 under 30" in his industry. His culinary creations were recognized by respected food critics and featured in esteemed publications, including LA Weekly, Eater LA, Vogue, LA Times, and more. Everyday adventures with Scott included inspired or organic quotes and quips, mischief and tomfoolery, musical demonstrations, and endless laughter. To know Scott was to love him.

Scott is survived by his parents Scott & Melinda, his sisters, Nina, Nikka & Jessica, his wife, Karena, his two children, Juniper & Ace, a large & loving family, and countless friends. Even though his time in this world was brief, he made a lasting impact. The world has suffered a great loss, but Scott continues to live on through cherished memories, which will forever bring a smile to the faces of those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Scott would want us to find comfort in knowing that he lived a full life, only to be described by one of his favorite authors, Hunter S. Thompson, "Faster, faster, faster, faster until the thrill of speed overcomes the fear of death."

Mo Money - continued from page 5

time." Queen Elizabeth I as she lie dying.

A man goes to a Catholic Church and confesses his sins, "I almost screwed a married woman. We got naked and rubbed each other but I never put it in." The priest says, "Well, that is almost the same thing. Say ten hail Mary's and put \$10 in the poor box." The man goes over to the poor box with \$10 and rubs it. The priest yells, "I saw that you didn't put that money in the box!" The man laughs and says, "I rubbed it and you said that is the same as putting it in!"

Giving money to your wife and kids is not like giving them your time, attention and love. The more material things you have the less freedom you have. A job you enjoy can be more fun than a fancy vacation. A man may have no money but be rich in life with a wonderful wife. Why shouldn't you lend money to a skunk? he may only have one scent. There is no elevator to success, you need to take the stairs. It is easier, faster and cheaper to buy the more expensive paint than the cheap paint. Never lend anything you expect to get back. A rich man's shit stinks as bad as a poor man's. Most women love older men; George Washington dollars, Abe Lincoln fives, Jefferson tens, Grant 50s and Ben Franklin 100s. Even with a 100 bedroom mansion you can only sleep in one at a time. Making a good living is not the same as making a good life. "Never give a sucker an even break." W.C. Fields

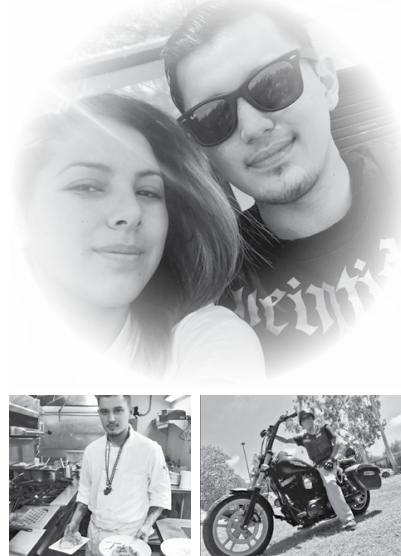
A rich old man marries a beautiful, young model. After awhile he wonders if she really loves him so he asks her, "Dear, would you still love me if I lost all my money?" She smiles and says, "Of course I would still love you, and I would miss you too!"

Love is the greatest investment- it returns great dividends. Take away his 65 billion dollars, his many mansions, his fame and brains and there is really nothing different from me and Bill Gates. There is no greater treasure than a baby's laugh. The keys to success are usually right in front of you if you can only open your eyes and see. Most people can't tell the difference between a \$5 bottle of wine and a \$500 bottle of wine. Sometimes when you get something for free it may cost too much. You can be the smartest and richest man on earth and still not understand women. When you help another to succeed you gain treasures in your heart and soul. Everything changes and to be a success in Life and business we need to always change too. Even with lots of money all you have is the moment. When you need to borrow money it's best to look rich. A bargain is something you don't need for a price you can't resist. What is alimony? = a screwing you get for a screwing you got.

The Presidents of Mexico and France are flying over a poor country with Donald Trump. The French President takes a \$100 bill and throws it out of the plane and says, "That will make one poor person happy." The Mexican President takes ten \$10 bills and tosses them out and says, "That will make ten poor people happy." So President Trump takes 100 one dollar bills and throws



Scott Mituso Ueda, Jr. 1992 - 2019



them out and he says, "That will make 100 poor people happy." And the French and Mexican Presidents both say, "Why not throw yourself out and make the whole world happy!"

A bank will give you all the money you want if you can prove you don't need it. I'm so poor that instead of taking the garbage out I take it in! The phone company calls to tell me to pay their bill so I can get calls from everyone else I owe to pay them too. "Money is numbers and numbers never end. If it takes money to be happy, your search for happiness will never end." Bob Marley. My accountant told me to get my finances in order so I put my 3 cents in my wallet. I live in a nice neighborhood in Venice, my old car I sleep in is parked on Rose Ave. If you have a gun you can rob a bank but if you're a bank you can rob everyone. Some people are in such a hurry to get to the good life that they rush right past it. The only friends you can trust with your money are your dog and cat and even they may chew it up. Teach your children good values and not just good value. You slave your youth away for riches then when you're old you would give it all back for your youth. I have enough money to last me the rest of my life if I die tomorrow.

Groucho Marx money sayings; "I found my true love, I married for money. Behind every successful man is a woman, and behind her is his wife! I worked my way up from nothing to extreme poverty. The best faces I know are the faces on dough. +Will you marry me? Do you have any money? Answer the 2nd question 1st."

You can't sleep because you're broke and you can't sleep when you're rich because you worry you may lose it. Spend your time with your love ones and not just your money. You can inherit wealth but not wisdom. Don't forget that the animals representing stocks are the Bull and Bear because your broker will give you all the bull you can bear. Most problems are solved with money and most problems are caused by money. To most people money means more than memories as they sell our family heirlooms. You think you got such a deal until you see the shipping and handling costs. What do women and condoms have in common? = if they are not in your wallet they are on your dick.

Miss Smith, the 2nd grade teacher asks her class, "Anyone who guesses the right answer gets 50 cents. Who was the greatest person of all time?" Little Sally answers, "George Washington." "That is a good guess Sally but you're wrong."

Bobby answers, "Abe Lincoln." "That's a nice answer Bobby but no." Finally Sam the little Jewish kid answers, "Jesus Christ." Miss Smith smiles and says, "You're right Sam! Here is your 50 cents." After class Sam's Jewish friend asks him how he could say Jesus was the greatest and Sam says, "Well we both know Moses was the greatest but I knew Miss Smith is Christian and business is business."

The real gold and diamonds are your wife and children but it never hurts to have a pot of gold to take care of them. The greatness of our soul has nothing to do with our material greatness. Don't confuse success with talent or even usefulness. Even if you're broke you can still give love. If you make a dollar dishonestly it may cost you \$10 later on. You can still have fun with no money and be rich and miserable. Make your money before you spend it. Never sell your soul for money. Another day another dollar. Don't ask the tire salesman if you need new tires. Even if you're rich you can only eat until you're full. Sometimes enthusiasm is the key to success. A position can be bought but respect must be earned.

A poor man prays to God, "Please God, won't you let me win a million in the lottery?" The clouds open and a great voice bellows, "At least give me a break and buy a ticket!"

Many give up right before they were going to succeed. A prostitute gets a \$100 bill with semen on it and she puts it down on her taxes as Gross Income. It's not that money makes everything good but that no money makes everything bad. If we can find lots of money for war and killing people then we can find money for peace and helping people. Success usually comes from hard work and not talent. Invest in your family first and your business second. Many people waste all their time wishing for money instead of going out and earning it. Real wealth is not how much money you have but how much love you give. Buddha said if it costs you your peace then it is too expensive so let it go. Heaven is not like a fancy hotel and Saint Peter won't ask you how much money you have to get in. You can always get more money but not more time. "Money can't buy life." Bob Marley.

Poverty sucks and ya ain't gonna get any fucks with no bucks. Ya can't get a date if ya don't rate. Being poor ain't no joke cause gals don't want ya if you're broke. If you're poor your gal will kick ya out the door. Without a penny ya ain't gonna get any. So even if you're ugly with lots of money you can get a Playboy Bunny.

So where else can you read drek like this? Please empty out your wallets and help support your favorite local newspaper, the Free Venice Beachhead. Thanks again. As Spock said on Star Trek, "Live long and prosper."

Ruben read

by alan rodman

Ruben read the Beachhead
in the barbershop
on Venice Boulevard
and thought someone else
was using my name
to print poems
"We are the dream teachers
of the infant god
named Brahman,"

reads the hand painted sign on Ocean
Front Walk

You are in the world of actions, but you are
not of the world of action.

Per cup

I feel caffeine

and love!

also some nostalgia

for the good old way

things aren't how they

don't make it like

they used to be

anymore and they

never will

THIS PAPER IS
INTENTIONALLY A POEM

Loop

by alanr od man

*

Everything
is always
a doughnut

begins tenderly
goes around
comes to a crumbly end

deliciously encircling
its birthless
whole

Stroke

Curse the salt!
Curse sausages and salami!
Curse burgers and pizza!
Curse every thing cured in salt!

It was last week
Tuesday morning at seven
When in the shower
Your right arm became numb
And your tongue loose.
You dialed the magic number
With your left hand.
An ambulance came
And took you away.

Life without your gazes,
Words and kisses
Is a saltless morsel
Which I cannot swallow.

Majid Naficy
March 12, 2019

Under One Umbrella

The geese do not fit in one pond
The seagulls on one lookout
Nor you and I under one umbrella.

And yet, it rains equally
Over raspberry bushes,
Anis weed and poison oak,
Over the waveless bay,
The bike path, and our words.

Let us close this umbrella
And skip in the rain.
Perhaps it will wash us
And bring our hearts
Closer together.

Majid Naficy
April 1st, 2019

Two Neighbors

This morning when returning from
stair-climbing
I saw her going for a walk.
She was brisk and swinging her arms:
"Mr. Clever is returning
Mrs. Lazy is just leaving."

We both had fled our homeland
Lost our spouses
And live with our only sons.

Now, in her apartment downstairs
She is listening to orders of customers
On her answering machine.
The scent of chicken tahchin
Is wafting up to me
Through the window
And I know soon
She will knock at my door:
"Mr. Poet loves tahchin
Mrs. Chef brings it to him."

Majid Naficy
April 8, 2019

9 • MAY 2019 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

HAPPY VALENTINES

MARTY LIBOFF

Another Valentines Day
my lover makes me pay, pay, pay.
Flowers, jewelry and candy
pretending everything is dandy.
Cupid's arrows sting
all I wanted was sex and a fling.
A phony holiday invented by big business
it is all B.S. and silliness.
Valentines is full of apathy and anxiety
it was supposed to be full of love and
beauty.
All I feel is confusion and nausea
Valentines gives me a headache and diar-
rhea.
You should show your love everyday
not forced to pretend on one day.
So happy Valentines Day
when it is over I'll yell hurray

LOVERS SONG

marty liboff

All the ones I fell for
didn't want me-
they were looking for
their prince charming
or a guy with a big salami-
but I kept lookin
for my one and only...
woe is me, woe is me, woe is me-
Debbie said I was the best
but I was short and ugly.
Laurie said what would she tell
her mommy and daddy?
Vicki lied and said she had her lover back
just wanted a night in the sack.
Camille just wanted fun and to party
a gypsy who wanted to be free.
Woe is me, woe is me, woe is me-
Sonia told me she got a new man
not to ask her out or talk to her again.
Francine so sexy found a jerk to kiss
then ignored me like I didn't exist.
Marla said we weren't made for each other
wanted a frat boy like her father and brother.
Victoria went out and had a great time
why she didn't want me she kept Victoria's Secret
without a reason or rhyme?
Woe is me, woe is me, woe is me-
Silvia was nice and full of spice
but she and another guy got pelted with rice.
Adele was fine & I thought maybe?
Was gone and showed with some guy's baby.
Margaret & me used to talk and go and eat
she fell for a cute guy that kissed her feet.
All these gals I wanted so bad
all ran off with another and left me sad.
Woe is me, woe is me, woe is me-
Now I'm tired, gray & old
no longer brash and bold.
I still look at a pretty face
but I gave up the romance race.
Instead of a mad lover's fog
I just take a walk with my dog.
All the ones I fell for
didn't want me-
they were looking for
their prince charming
or a guy with a big salami-
woe is me, woe is me, woe is me!

BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

MAY 10 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – PHOEBE MAC-ADAMS & MARK EDWARD RHODES – Mark Edward Rhodes is a poet and playwright. He has written thirteen plays. Including *Wild Justice*, 1989; *Ceremonies of the Horsemen*, 1996; and the trilogy: *In A Dark Time*; containing: *The Night Train*, *An Altar In Harlem*, and *Finding The Black Queen*: 1986 to 1995. Phoebe MacAdams is the author of *The Large Economy of the Beautiful*, her seventh book of poetry. Her previous books include *Sunday*, *Tomboutou Press* (1983); *Ever*, *Rose Valley Press* (1985); *Ordinary Snake Dance*, *Cahuenga Press* (1994); *Livelihood*, *Cahuenga Press* (2003); *Strange Grace*, *Cahuenga Press* (2007) and *Touching Stone*, *Cahuenga Press* (2012). Regular Admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 11 SATURDAY 8:00 PM – NARRATIVES OF THE SOUTHWEST - L.A. TIMES BOMB – *Narratives of the Southwest* is a four part series that looks to examine US history as a whole from the perspective of the Southwest. - L.A. Times Bomb is the second in the series and tells the story of the bombing of the Los Angeles Times in 1910 as well as the story of Ricardo Flores Magon. It functions as both local history and L.A.'s place in world history through Magon's involvement in the Mexican Revolution. The L.A. Times Bomb narrative will be intersected with "Working LA," a curated poetry reading of contemporary poets writing about their experiences as workers in the city of Los Angeles. Hosted by Irene Sanchez and Matt Sedillo. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 12 SUNDAY 2:00 PM – SOAP BOX POETS OPEN READING – 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 gratefully accepted.

MAY 12 SUNDAY 7:30 PM – VOICE IN THE WELL: MAYDAY MAYDAY! – 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. This time it's a celebration of Spring! Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular admission. Members FREE.

MAY 17 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – ARPINE GRENIER & ALEX FRANKEL – Whereas one cannot aptly read vulnerability, whereas the unfinished business with grief, greed, gratitude and google—Arpine reads from *The Silent G* (Corrupt Press, 2019) and a text-sound collaboration, *Willed Capital*. Alex reads from *If There Is No God, We Then Submit to Oriana Grand?*, and recent work that uses chance operations to portray a world of private struggle, obsession with fame, and disconnectedness. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 18 SATURDAY 4:00 PM – LUSH AGAVE: SONGS FOR A MOON – A gathering under May's Flower Moon to celebrate the debut release from Alisha Erao, a multidisciplinary artist residing in Eagle Rock. Songs for a Moon synthesizes Alisha's formal training as an operatic vocalist with her passion for minimal electronic music. Presented by Never Content, Venice's local cassette label and small press. Suggested donation: \$10 Regular; Students/Seniors \$6; Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 18 SATURDAY 8:00 PM – THAISA FRANK & BRIAN EVENSON – Highly acclaimed short-story writer and novelist Thaisa Frank reads from her work, which is sometimes characterized as "domestic magical realism" and draws on her bi-cultural upbringing in suburban Illinois and immigrant New York. Brian Evenson is the author of a dozen books of fiction, most recently the story collection *A Collapse of Horses* (Coffee House Press 2016) and the novella *The Warren* (Tor.com 2016). A new story collection, *Song for the Unraveling of the World*, is scheduled to appear in June of 2019. Evenson lives in Los Angeles and teaches in the Critical Studies

Program at CalArts. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 19 SUNDAY 5:00 PM – SALIENT SUNDAY OPEN READING – Hosted by Radomir Luza and Patricia Murphy. FREE.

MAY 24 FRIDAY 10:00 AM – FINE ARTS FILM FESTIVAL – The Festival is dedicated to presenting the finest new films about art in the western capital of the art world. Tickets will be available at veniceica.org and other outlets. Check the FAFF website for details: www.thefineartsfilmfestival.com

MAY 25 SATURDAY 10:00 AM – FINE ARTS FILM FESTIVAL – The Festival is dedicated to presenting the finest new films about art in the western capital of the art world. Tickets will be available at veniceica.org and other outlets. Check the FAFF website for details: www.thefineartsfilmfestival.com

MAY 26 SUNDAY 2:00 PM – THE NEBRASKA GIRL OPEN READING – Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE but donations gratefully accepted.

MAY 26 SUNDAY 7:00 PM – 7 DUDLEY CINEMA
Films and fiery discussion with Gerry Fialka (Laughtears.com). Free, but donations gratefully accepted.

MAY 30 THURSDAY 8:00 PM – DIMITRIS LYACOS AND HAROLD ABRAMOWITZ – Dimitris Lyacos visits Los Angeles for the final reading of his US tour on the occasion of the recent *Box Set* publication of his trilogy *Poena Damni*, joined by L.A. luminary, writer and publisher Harold Abramowitz. So far translated into thirteen languages, *Poena Damni* developed as a work in progress over the course of thirty years with subsequent editions and excerpts appearing in journals around the world, as well as in dialogue with a diverse range of sister projects it inspired. Renowned for combining, in a genre-defying form, themes from literary tradition with elements from ritual, religion, philosophy and anthropology, the trilogy reexamines grand narratives in the context of some of the enduring motifs of the Western Canon, while, at the same time, being one of the most widely acclaimed avant-garde works published in the new millennium. Regular admission. Members FREE. Advance Tickets

MAY 31 FRIDAY 8:00 PM – WALT WHITMAN BICENTENNIAL: LEAVES OF GRASS – Celebrate Walt Whitman's 200th birthday with a reading from *Leaves of Grass*. Readers: James Cushing, Robert Forster, Phoebe MacAdams, Harry E. Northup, Holly Prado Northup & Aleida Rodriguez. Curated by Harry Northup. Regular Admission. Members FREE.

Pacific Resident Theatre

Thru May 19 – A.D.th.v.N.c., written and performed by Mary Jo Deschanel. Dark Matter and the ripple in ordinary time. VENICE, CALIFORNIA, 1975

A place apart

An unexpected death

Eight women forever

Transformed

Friday and Sat 8pm Sun 3pm



Mark di Suvero
Painting and
Sculpture
1 May 2019
to
8 Jun 2019



LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

May 7 Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library

May 8 Wed Laughtears Salon (rsvp 310 306 7330 for location & time) free - politics, art,

May 15 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice

May 19 SUN 1-5pm BSP AvantFunkJazz Live Music & Poetry at John Mooney's glass art studio at 705 Hampton Dr., Venice CA free "Free your art and your consciousness will follow"...walkin' and wakin' de art

May 23 Thurs, PXL THIS 28 Toy Camera Film Festival screens Thursday May 23, 2019 at 8pm (doors open at 730pm) at Echo Park Film Center, 1200 N Alvarado St, LA 90026, \$5 admission. <http://www.echoparkfilmcenter.org/events/pxl-this-28/>

The Fisher-Price PXL2000 (Pixelvision) is a toy camera, manufactured from 1987-89, that records on quarter-inch audio cassette tape. The low resolution and high contrast made it cheap for kids, but also suitable for artists. Today Pixelators are merging Pixelvision with cell phones and live streaming. PXL THIS, one of the oldest film festivals in LA, celebrates visionary moving image artists from seminal experimental filmmakers to 10-years-olds to homeless to professionals. This year includes entries from across the US. Pixelvision has been screened recently at Lincoln Center in New York, and at LACMA's 3D exhibit in Los Angeles.

May 26, Sun 7pm Its All Write Ma RobZimME at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd Venice CA Rare FOLK-ROCK film clips and live music

June 4 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>

Crackheadbarney on the Venice Boardwalk

by Gerry Fialka

Many Venetians do not walk on the Boardwalk, and do not really know what they are missing. There's rainbows in that chaos, and waves of wonderment in the sea of humanity.

I have frequented the Venice California Boardwalk nearly daily for four decades. "Get your life and your job as mixed up as possible" is one of my mantras. In this lazy beach town, there's a fine line between "performance art" and "lifestyle choices." On April 25, 2019, I was fortunate to experience an amazing artist known as "Crackheadbarney" (referred to here as CHB). Her 5 minute act sprawled onto the board itself, at the feet of the strollers. Some tried to avoid her. Other gawked in disbelief. Eventually the locals were tipping generously for her uniqueness. She was needling somnambulism with astonishing intensity. She crawled on the boardwalk itself in an alarming way. McLuhan said, "To the blind all things are sudden." This maxim applies to CHB, whose every move had me on pins and needles. The sounds out of her small amp screamed like a Brian DePalma horror film embellishing uncertainty. CHB wore a Trump mask. She'd whip out a ten inch dildo made of cloth, and then tuck it back into her gym trunks.

These shocking gestures immediately evoked Carolee Schneemann, Johanna Went, Karen Finley, Lynda Benglis, Vito Acconci, Pat Oleszko (google'em homey) and Chris Burden, who did a lot of performance art just blocks in Venice. CHB transforms these innovators into a fresh newness that

Continued on page 11

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

Crackhead Barney- continued from page 10
messes with your mind, body, soul and spirit. Shock it to 'em. Art is anything you can get away with, and hers is staggering. CHB illustrates the Balinese credo, "They have no word for art, they do everything as well as they can."

I felt that CHB displayed Ruth Draper's aspiration: "The key is to bring the audience up onto the stage and into the scene with you. It is they who must give you even more than you give them in way of imagination and creative power." CB accomplished what Judith Malina & Julian Beck promoted: "We believe in the theater as a place of intense experience, half-dream, half-ritual, in which the spectator approaches something of a vision of self-understanding, going past conscious to unconscious, to an understanding of the nature of all things."

CHB has the courage to take these risks as a street performer. We should be proud that Venice provides the venue. She did not have to get booked at RedCat, the Hammer, or LACMA for us to experience her. Those venues are important, and definitely helped "art critic of art criticism" supreme Matt Gleason to write his book Most Art Sucks. Read it !!! CHB does not suck! She stimulates critical thinking skills with new questions and new metaphors.

"The fool is portrayed as the peripatetic wanderer, the mutable, changeable, shape-shifting trickster who tries our patience, tempers our self-importance, and challenges our perceptions. The fool mirrors

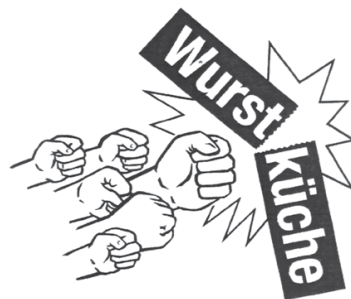
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a universe which is both timeless and changing, a universe which is both waves and particles." - Peggy Beck.

Frank Zappa retrieved Eddington's 1920 term, calling this universe "wavicles." Crackheadbarney spun wavicles of wonderment causing an overwhelming tsunami of feelings that washed over Venice, where there is more than just the water. Let's hope she floods the Venice Boardwalk with her seismic sea waves again.

Instagram Crackheadbarney. Support the arts.



Thank you. Photo of Crackhead Barney by Gerry Fialka



¡BOICOTEAR 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!



Instagram: @latenants
#homenosabusados
#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.



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
#homenosabusados
#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.





photos above from top, 1,3,4,6 Eric Ahlberg, 2,5 by Margaret Molloy.



photos above by Margaret Molloy

Rally at First Baptist Church - continued from page 3
threat of gentrification. They said that the students were allowed by the City of L.A. to paint images celebrating the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice on a local circuit box, but the City of L.A. soon painted them out. The students have plans to re-paint them this summer. They called the fight for the First Baptist Church of Venice one of the greatest fights in the U.S. today and they allied Venice High School with Save Venice.

Peter Demian played guitar and led everyone in great spiritual standards such as "Amazing Grace".

Ivy Beach and Adolfo Alzuphar answered those who say that Save Venice is fighting for things that aren't going to happen. They explained that this fight is not going to be won overnight. They described how the elders in the Community have said that a beautiful struggle has come from this movement. They vowed to win the fight for the church and for our dignity.

The event concluded with a huge prayer circle where most everyone in attendance joined hands in unity. Rev-

erend Rhone led the prayer. And each person took a turn saying a prayer, or offering words of positive encouragement.

On this Sunday, the People of Venice showed that the First Baptist Church of Venice is more than just a building. It's a symbol of the Community of Venice and the History of Venice. Although the fight is not yet over, it's clear that the Save Venice team and their supporters aren't slowing down at all. In fact, more and more momentum is growing. And more attention is coming from the media and the public. The Victory to save the First Baptist Church of Venice is within reach now. All that remains is for you to join the fight and share in the Victory.

Go to www.savevenice.me for info and to sign the petition.

