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2017  
#430

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## SNAPCHAT REPORT

The following is from a recent conversation with a concerned Venice resident about the Snapchat problem. The resident requested to be identified only as Concerned Venetian.

JW: You live close by the Thornton Lofts area. Is that right?

CV: Correct.

JW: And you've seen a lot of things that go on in and around the Thornton Lofts. You see and talk to a lot of the employees of Snapchat and also a lot of the residents.

CV: Correct. But I also was directly affected about 2 1/2 years ago when I got notice that I would no longer be able to park in the garage area underneath the offices... well, actually, the residential spaces there. But now, currently, they're offices.

JW: At the Thornton Lofts?

CV: Correct. I believe myself and forty-one other residents were renting parking spaces in the garage area below that space.

JW: And what did they tell you in the notice?

CV: I actually was told by my landlord that I was losing my parking spot and that it was a dead end, that the new owners were not open to discussion about it and that I was basically S.O.L., Shit Out of Luck. And then, a week after, I was parking in my garage and a woman and several other businessmen approached me and asked me to confirm my full name and my address. And I was startled because I was like, "Who are you? How do you know my name and my address?" She said that she was the new manager for the new owners and that's all she needed to know. That's when I knew something was changing. I remember walking down the Boardwalk late at night seeing a light from their icon in front of this house.

JW: The Blue House.

CV: Yeah. The Blue House here on the Boardwalk at Sunset Avenue. I remember thinking to myself, "What a ridiculous sign and what could it possibly be branding for?" And it wasn't until a year later that I even knew what Snapchat was.

JW: It was about that time that they were taking over the building that used to house American Apparel?

CV: No. I think they didn't get American Apparel till much later. American Apparel was there for a year-and-a-half or so after.

JW: And now, that's where they sell the Spectacles thing.

CV: Correct. Yeah.

JW: How did the neighborhood change after that? What else did they do?

CV: I, like many people here in Venice, would go have a burger at Hinano's and come home late in the evening. I don't smoke in my apartment. There's no smoking allowed on the premises and it's explicitly stated in my lease that I can't smoke 50 feet of the building. So I used to go in the easement between the two lofts there and have a cigarette there like my other neighbors. There were a couple of nights that I was instructed by security guards that I needed to vacate the premises and that I was on private property.

JW: Was that their property?

CV: No. It's actually the easement from Thornton Ave. all the way to the beach, so it's public property. I just laughed and said, "Okay. Go ahead. Call the police."

JW: They were overstepping the bounds of their authority then.

CV: They were harassing me, telling me that I had to vacate and that I was trespassing. They told me I was trespassing on a public easement.

JW: Did they do anything intimidating? Did they present any kind of physical threat by looming over you or anything like that?

CV: Yes. They were standing within my personal space awkwardly, at night, in the middle of the night in a public space, when there's no one else around. But I didn't really take it as a threat; I just thought of it as a poor attempt at exerting some kind of authority.

*continued on page 5*

## VENICE HIGH STUDENTS: UNDER SIEGE

By P.S. Barber

I

### THE BACKSTORY

There is, in the educational processes of the United States and so in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), a fundamental conflict: this deep-seated dialectic pits the very essence of Learning – Critical Thinking – against a powerful and authoritarian obsession – Order.

It's an acute mistake to assume, as Venice High School (VHS) has, that students challenging this inherently repressive Order-obsession THROUGH NON-VIOLENT DISSENT must be threatened, managed and manipulated, corralled and coerced while SIMULTANEOUSLY their core grievances, those at the heart of a long-standing battle with their Principal, Oryla Wiedoeft, are swept under the rug for the sacred sake of Order.

A bit of background: Venice High School has served our community since 1911, Abbott Kinney personally picked the first principal and just like all of Venice, VHS has undergone numerous changes over the years: moving campuses, fires and earthquakes destroying campuses, changes in demographics, many thousands of students graduating over numerous decades. Today, a Magnet school with a student body of over 2,000, the graduation rate is currently 80%.

Because it's relevant to our story, here are some of the current VHS racial and economic demographics: a total minority enrollment of 86%, the largest part of that, 70%, is of Hispanic/Latino descent; 15% are White; 13% are African-American; 6% are Asian; another 58% are statistically considered economically disadvantaged; 12% are disabled.

Here's how the students' deep and ongoing conflict with their principal began:

Not long ago, November 10, 2016, the day after the election of the 45th President of the United States ended in a shocking upset, everyone awoke to a new world. The lives of many of those VHS students of Latino descent, as well as African-American, disabled, and LGBTQ students – anyone who fell under the category of "Other" – were immediately impacted on innumerable fronts: this new, improbable and pitiless reality menaced them personally, threatening their extended families and imperiling their suddenly fragile futures.

As a result, a small number of VHS students agreed to meet during morning Nutrition to discuss and emotionally access their new, ominous here-and-now. So as not to disrupt school or break any rules, the students purposefully and responsibly chose the appropriate time and place to meet, the Parents Center, where they regularly met with Ms. Lydia Ponce, their school-parent liaison.

Word spread quickly through various social sites and rather than the anticipated small group meeting, a surprising 80-100 concerned students unexpectedly showed up, eager to compare notes on an oncoming Armageddon which fate had thrust, unsought, upon them. Numerous of the VHS teenagers in attendance were from student-led organizations such as MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan), the Black Students Union (BSU), the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), and a group called, Students Deserve; many other students, also apprehensive, packed the room.

The students passionately discussed their legitimate fears and expectations, dissected the imminent uncertainty which each vulnerable and afraid student felt down to their shivering bones that November morning in the Parents Center. And while Students of Color, disabled, and Trans students -- anyone outside an express and unabashedly expressed xenophobic criteria -- spoke with open frustration and fear, it was the Latino/a students who felt particularly at risk.

The unexpected President-elect had run his campaign of intolerance on a promise to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), an Obama Executive Decision which protected so-called "Dreamers" from deportation: all of whom have known no other home but the United States; all of whom are, by proof of having registered under DACA in the first place, acceptable to the United States in terms of background checks, employment, paying over 2-billion a year in taxes, as well as being students, active-duty military, First Responders,

*continued on page 2*

Here we present a compilation of the sins of the current Venice Neighborhood Council members. The documentation we received reads rather dryly, but the outrage is in the deeds. It was clear in the last Neighborhood council election that a coalition of commercial property owners and developers came together to take over the Neighborhood council completely. They want to be able to green-light projects that are sent to the Neighborhood Council for review before going to the LA Department of City Planning (LADCP). This is the basic self-dealing that the Chamber of Commerce has been doing all over the LA City Neighborhood Councils. They are protecting their interests, and the interests of all businesses and property owners to do what they want in the pursuit of making big bucks. They whine terribly when their ambitions are thwarted. When examined closely a pattern of self-dealing emerges. Previously the development of community review for Real Estate Development projects was negotiated with LADCP, and so the insertion of community review caused a lot of worry and chagrin for re-developers and realtors. So what they have done here is a form of regulatory capture. Developers, if they don't just demolish and overbuild with impunity, often hire consultants to grease the wheels of the Real Estate deals. They have their own lobbyists working city hall with campaign donations, charitable donations, and lots of meetings with deciders, who may be looking for jobs when their tenure expires. Resident communities, i.e. mostly renters in Venice, resisting inappropriate projects and overdevelopment, cannot be allowed to have a voice. Remember to join the Tenant's Union.

Fortunately several community members decided to be there and witness the process, and document it. You can read their entire document online here: <https://goo.gl/FzP1NX>

It is hard to tell where the stupidity and incompetence ends and the malfeasance begins. Below is an excerpt.

July 9, 2017:

GRIEVANCE 1: ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL – date June 16, 2017

On June 1, Carl Lambert held a "community" meeting about his plans for 417 Ocean Front Walk at the Rose Room, 6 Rose Avenue in Venice. 15-25 people attended. LUPC member Daffodil Tyminski arrived towards the end. Ms. Tyminski stated that the meeting was required by the city attorney but she could not or would not specify which city attorney. We asked if 417 OFW was scheduled for a LUPC hearing. Ms. Tyminski specifically said that the meeting was not a LUPC outreach meeting and was not related to a LUPC schedule. Before Ms. Tyminski left, Dr. Judy Goldman asked for a show of hands of those who supported Mr. Lambert's hotel proposal. No-one present raised their hand.

Ms. Tyminski left quickly with Brian Silveira saying they had to get to a LUPC meeting. LUPC committee member Mr. Silveira was present for most of the meeting. In his professional life Mr. Silveira works as a land use consultant and expeditor. I asked Mr. Silveira if he was at the meeting as a representative for Mr. Lambert. He stated that he does not work with or represent Mr. Lambert.

On March 28, 2016 I had visited the City of Los Angeles planning department & signed the sign-in sheet. Mr. Silveira's signature was on the same sheet from the previous day delivering documents for 417 Ocean Front Walk to ZA Juliet Oh. It is unclear why he would do this if he does not work with or represent Mr. Lambert as he stated.

The current Venice Neighborhood Council board was elected in June 2016.

The new board approved a new VNC website. No update notification was sent to community members or posted on the VNC website alerting community members to important changes with the new website.

The VNC board & the Land Use & Planning Committee are the most consequential groups on the VNC. Historically all LUPC members could be contacted through the single email [lupc@venicenc.org](mailto:lupc@venicenc.org). Individual emails were also historically available for all LUPC and VNC members. Individual LUPC committee members are staff for projects coming to LUPC.

Up until June 8, 2017, the redesigned VNC website had only 1 email contact for LUPC. It was an individual email for LUPC chair Matthew Royce at [chair-lupc@](mailto:chair-lupc@)

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I Can Hear You

I have been visiting Venice Beach for the past thirty five years.

It is one of those special places on earth where you can feel free, creative, and connected to others. I'm Deborah, and I live upstate New York. I wanted you to know" I can hear you" all the way on the east coast regarding all the battles you are fighting to continue

to call Venice Beach your home. It is imperative for this community to continue it's history, and heritage that we all have enjoyed for so many years. I'm impressed by your efforts and how people in the community are coming together, and advocating.

I'm writing you to send you peace, love, and inspiration as you continue your struggles to save the community that you love, and the community that all of us across the country, and globe have enjoyed as we visited, and also, lived in the area.

Deborah Thomas

- her poetry and drawings are on page 9

Dear BeachHead,

I am hoping you publish this letter to remind your readers and everyone in Venice that The Freak Show is still looking for a home and for everyone to keep that in mind for a couple reasons. Reason #1: So someone can offer them space once sufficient space is available. Plenty of real estate people and property owners read this and hopefully one of them can be a hero. Reason #2: So people don't forget what is happening here in our town. Currently they are gone only for the replacement of a sign! The Freak Show AND all the neighboring businesses at 909 OFW. It's so wrong for so many reasons. THIS IS NOT VENICE!!! Ocean Front Walk is NOT supposed to have empty storefronts or be filled with offices!!! Snapchat may deny any involvement in this at all but they are the only ones who deny this while everyone who had stores there and all of the parking lot employees ALL say that Snapchat runs that building. An article in LA Business Journal even pointed to Snapchat bringing in an investment group called Snapshot Partners. I live over there and those retail stores did not want to leave, and the fact that only "For Lease" signs are left in their place is upsetting and cannot be forgotten.

Thank You, Emily S.

Mr. Venice sez...

Contribute to your



because it gets inside the machine!

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Venice High – continued from page 1  
police, doctors, lawyers, you name it; when all's said and done, Dreamers are all-around good, wanna-be citizens, per-capita contributing to the Republic more than many native-born Americans.

The average Dreamer, when brought to this country, was 8 years old, each child obviously having no say in their arrival. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' false statements that DACA caused a, "surge of minors" at the U.S./ Mexico border, or that the program's recipients, "drain Social Security" (none are yet old enough to receive benefits and actually contribute billions INTO the budget), as well Sessions' nativist lie that immigrants steal jobs from REAL Americans, reflects the Trump Administration's cynical and racist-based attitude towards immigration in general and towards the Latino population in particular.

Echoed against this background of pervasive racial intolerance from the highest sources in the U.S. government, but on a more immediate and intimate level, many of these same students unfairly impacted by their new President, were also having ongoing conflicts of a similar nature with their principal, Oryla Wiedoeft.

Principal Wiedoeft, beginning her third year at VHS, first clashed with her high school students two years ago over their request that the school's robo-calls, which were available only in English and recorded by Dr. Wiedoeft herself, also be made in Spanish for those families who'd stated on their school Emergency Cards that their preferred first-language be Spanish; without these calls being made in Spanish, many parents were deprived of vital information and missed school events, even though VHS permanently has translators available on-premises.

Principal Wiedoeft did make overtures to the students and their concerns about the robo-calls, saying parents who wanted their calls in Spanish needed to come down to the school in-person and fill out new paperwork for that specific purpose -- a massive inconvenience for working parents, just to make redundant, already readily available information included in the school's records. Principal Wiedoeft's attitude, the students inferred, was not only less than helpful -- it was, in fact, discriminatory.

Sensing a "double standard," the students saw their growing grievances dismissed or overlooked while, at the same time, they felt, a climate of indifference (if not outright hostility) was being fostered by Dr. Wiedoeft towards them -- sometimes individually, sometimes as a group. Indeed, there was a growing sentiment among these students that their Principal, instead of listening to them seriously, was determined to actively silence them.

Most importantly, the students felt this animus was somehow racially motivated: for instance, in an insensitive (at best) attempt to relate to the MEChA members' problems, Wiedoeft referenced herself as white on the outside, but brown on the inside; again callously, albeit without malicious intent (one may assume), the Latino/a and Hispanic students were told by their principal, that any of them who were not themselves Spanish speaking, should be ashamed of themselves – hardly a compassionate position in the face of immediate, real and desperate consequences to the lives of these particular students.

During the school year and during their ongoing conflicts, Principal Wiedoeft, without warning, replaced the students' mentor and MEChA sponsor, Lydia Ponce, with one of the high school's Spanish teachers, Ms. Leon. The students, not informed of this change beforehand, of course had no voice in the sudden disappearance of their long-trusted advisor, leaving them with an abysmal





feeling of betrayal.

Additionally, MEChA members felt Wiedoeft’s hand-picked advisor was too cozy with the principal and so the very purpose of their meetings – speaking openly about grievances without fear of recrimination – de facto, undermined MEChA itself. This unilateral and seemingly spiteful move, certainly political in nature the students felt, “took away our safe space,” and instead created an oppressive environment where they were, they sensed, observed hyper-critically and, “made to feel like targets” of the Principal’s personal ire.

Similarly, the Black Students Union believed Principal Wiedoeft was actively biased towards them and many members felt their Principal’s disposition was racially motivated. The examples given: during Black History Month, BSU was forced to change its schedule three times because the proposed commemorations were deemed, “too exclusive... and the White kids wouldn’t fit in.”

According to BSU students, Principal Wiedoeft used racially insensitive language while informing them that their high school was not a suitable platform for their chosen Black History Month observances; this time, Wiedoeft apparently said that she, “understood their problems,” because her, “grandmother was of Mexican descent.” Overlooking their Principal’s insensitivity, the BSU members keenly denied Weidoeft’s unsubstantiated accusations of their celebrations being exclusionary or, “too radical.” In fact, the avowed purpose of the BSU celebrations were one of “inclusion,” openly embracing everyone in the Student Body who wished to participate.

Other events, such as the school’s Black History Month student assembly and BSU itself were left out of the school newspaper, The Oarsman, as if they never existed or never took place. This struck many as stemming from a personal hostility which, they felt, Wiedoeft held against the Black Students Union and its members. Though it remains an unproven charge against the principal, the blatant exclusion from The Oarsman of BSU events and its negative repercussions throughout the school, speaks volumes about how pervasive the atmosphere of resentment is that Wiedoeft’s generated within a large segment of her school’s student body, in particular, among many disaffected Students of Color.

In a similar case of seeming bias, BSU members were told they couldn’t work in unison with MEChA because it, “would NOT promote unity,” in the school at large and, “would exclude the White students,” even though BSU and MEChA made it clear that participation for the ENTIRE student body in their various celebrations was, in fact, their welcome dual-objective.

But Principal Wiedoeft was intransigent: “BSU has its month. MEChA has its month.” This implacable opposition to these particular student organizations working together, further alienated many more students, adding fuel to the fire of speculation that “racism” was at the core of their Principal’s “unjust” actions towards them.

In the course of her two years at VHS, Principal Wiedoeft has also clashed with The Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) over gender-neutral bathrooms. While the

LGBTQ students’ relationship with Wiedoeft over this issue was less contentious on the surface than with the other student-led groups mentioned, the GSA also felt Wiedoeft often showed an insensitivity in language and attitude towards non-binary and Trans students, mostly it must be said, giving her the benefit of the doubt, out of ignorance rather than malevolence.

And while Principal Wiedoeft gave some verbal support for the idea of gender-neutral bathrooms -- occasioning students to do outreach with parents and community – in the end, GSA members felt betrayed by their Principal when, before the end of the 2016 school year, she dropped the idea of providing gender-neutral bathrooms altogether.

And though Dr. Wiedoeft did occasionally try and reach out to the all the politicized students, wondering what she could specifically do to make the Latino students feel safer about their newly tenuous futures, Principal Wiedoeft eventually backed away from each of the students’ suggestions – such as passing out flyers about possible immigration raids -- claiming she had to, as school Principal, remain politically neutral EVEN in the face of the students’ extreme and immediate dilemmas.

And while, as an abstract concept, the official position of detachment is in-part true, this fact does nothing to mitigate the students’ real-world concerns, which one would think, and which the students came to believe, was a much more compelling pursuit than the security of bureaucratic impartiality.

II  
THE SHOWDOWN

The reason this article focuses on the members of MEChA, BSU, Students Deserve, and GSA in particular, is because these student-led groups, by the end of the 2016 school year, vociferously stood together in publicly demanding the IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL of principal Wiedoeft for, “a history of blatantly and systematically discriminating against students of color.”

An extraordinary charge to be leveled by segments of a student body against their own high school principal. A very serious indictment, directed without restraint and without fear (chiefly by students at-risk from discrimination to deportation) against a manifestly more powerful and sometimes vindictive authority.

These student groups inspired an organic and authentic recalcitrance towards a very specific form of authoritarianism, undeniable in its underlying racial geneses: and they, along with the other students assembled that morning in the Parents Center, were determined to speak out against the injustice freshly perpetrated against them by, ostensibly (but for a twist of fate), their very own government.

This amalgam of politically focused, student-led groups initiated a passionate movement at Venice High, fighting with a vehement determination to be heard in spite of multiple pressures to silence them; a group of serious students working together with integrity of purpose and righteousness-of-mind, with a true moral cause -- SAVE OUR LIVES! And also save the lives of their

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VNC – continued from page 1  
venicenc.org. No other emails were available. The group email lupc@venicenc.org that has historically allowed community members to contact all LUPC members was not working but the community did not know this.

On June 8, LUPC agenda item 8a was ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL, 417 Ocean Front Walk, Venice Suites, LLC. The applicant is Carl Lambert.

LUPC committee member Daffodil Tyminski was the assigned staff person.

Many people sent protest emails in advance of the June 8 meeting using lupc@venicenc.org so that all committee members could see their opposition to ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL.

It was not until several days after that meeting that community members understood that their protests had not been received, read, or counted in opposition to ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL. LUPC members are supposed to consider all community input in advance of their vote.

On June 16, 2017, VNC president Ira Koslow stated in an email exchange that he also was not aware of the LUPC email change & he also had been sending emails to the lupc@venicenc.org address. This is 1yr after he was elected as President in June 2016 and many months after the VNC website was updated.

Only 1 letter of protest was posted in the “supporting documents” file for this case on LUPC’s archive. Ms. Tyminski stated that about 150 letters of support for Mr. Lambert had been received. She did not say how supporters of Mr. Lambert had successfully communicated with LUPC when those opposed to his proposal had been unable to do so.

Approximately 40 people spoke in opposition to ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL. 3 people spoke in support of Mr. Lambert.

VNC By-Laws Article VII, Section 1.F. states that “the Land Use and Planning Committee recommendations to the Board of Officers shall be in the form of a written report, which shall include a project description, pros & cons, A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT and any LUPC findings.”

VNC standing Rules #8 requires that “opposition or support (speaker cards) will be tallied and the tally shall be announced to the board prior to any action by the board.”

Neither of these requirements happened at the June 8 hearing.

LUPC is a 9-member committee. The 417 Ocean Front Walk vote was 3-1-2.

On June 20, the VNC board meeting heard the ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL application for 417 Ocean Front Walk.

MANY people sent protest emails to the VNC board in advance of the June 20 VNC meeting.

Matthew Royce requested Ms. Tyminski to present the LUPC staff report to VNC.

In her professional life Ms. Tyminski works as a lawyer for the Office of the United States Attorney.

Ms. Tyminski stated that about 250 letters of support had been received for Mr. Lambert.

Ms. Tyminski (LUPC staff), Mathew Royce (LUPC chair), Melissa Diner (secretary) or George Francisco (vice-president) did not present the number of emails and petition signatures received by LUPC or VNC in opposition to Mr. Lambert’s proposal.

VNC By-Laws Article VII, Section 1.F. states that “the Land Use and Planning Committee recommendations to the Board of Officers shall be in the form of a written report, which shall include a project description, pros & cons, A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT and any LUPC findings.”

VNC By-Laws Article VI: Officers: B: states “Vice President-Maintains oversight of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.”

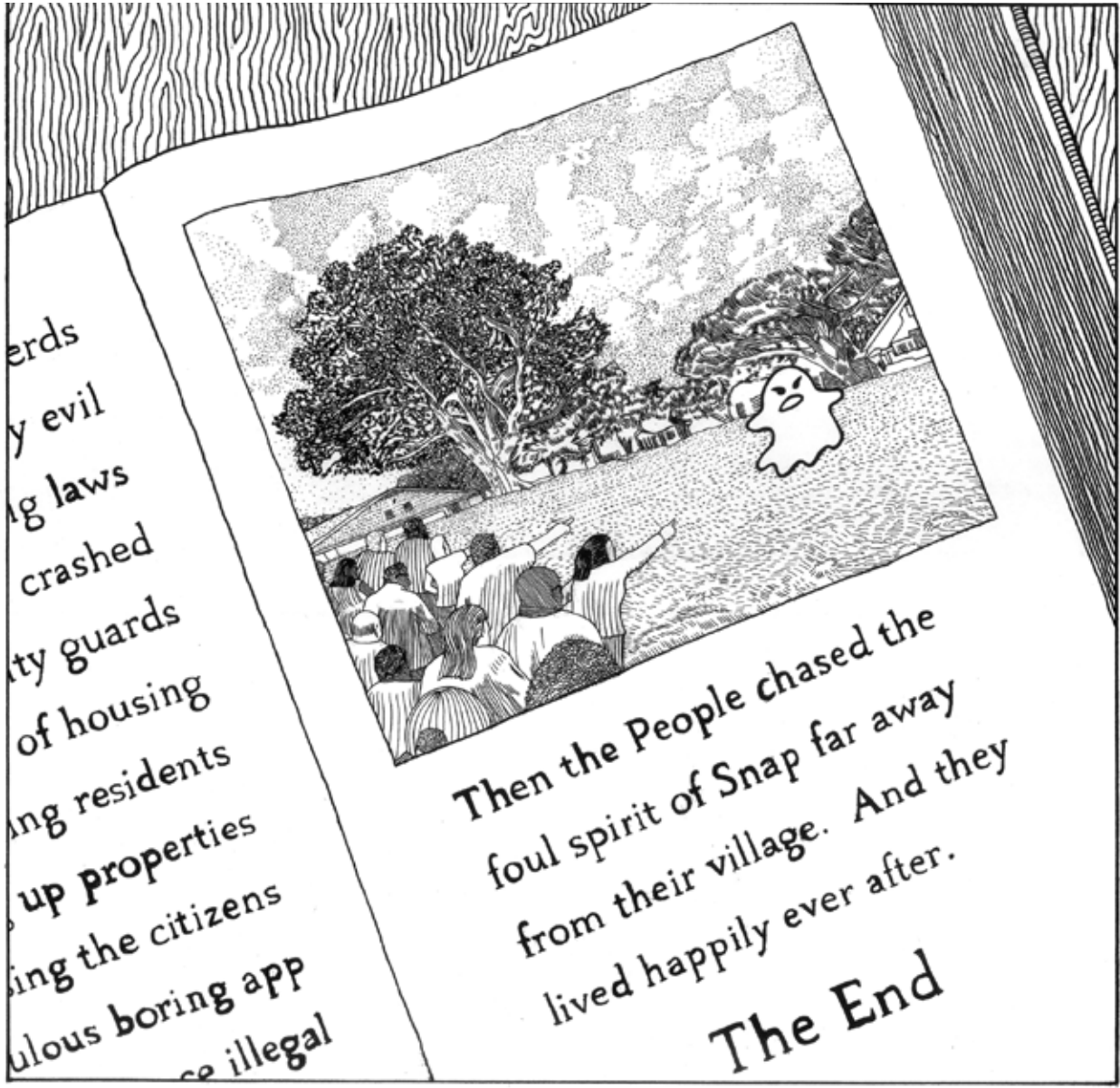
Article VI: Officers: C. Secretary states “Maintains all public records of the VNC. -Receives and logs all submissions and correspondence to the VNC and refers them to the appropriate Officer or Committee within seven (7) days.

In her staff report to VNC Ms. Tyminski stated that she had attended the community outreach meeting at the Rose Room and that no-one present supported the proposal. This contradicted what she told those at the June 1 meeting. She did not give the number of attendees who unanimously opposed the proposal.

Significantly, Ms. Tyminski stated that the current use of the building is a legal use (video).

Exactly one year earlier, on June 20, 2016, City Attorney Mike Feuer filed a civil lawsuit (criminal division) against Mr. Lambert because his current use of 417 Ocean Front Walk, a 32-unit RSO apartment building, is an illegal hotel. LAMC violations are quoted in the

*continued on page 7*



families and friends.

This alarming expectation was then -- as it is now -- in no way hyperbolic. The current DACA struggle between Congress and the White House, juggling with the lives 800,000 Dreamers, makes this harsh reality over an uncertain future unequivocally clear. So in the face of this new, dire future, these politically-prescient VHS students chose to be pro-active about their dilemma and, rather than sit silent, agreed to speak out loudly and publicly. So that November morning, the students of VHS communally concurred, like innumerable other students and citizens across the country, they needed to protest against this new all-wrong, Alt-Right President.

The VHS students decided they would rally that afternoon, gathering at the Senior parking lot. Importantly, they decided they'd protest NOT ONLY during lunch but then, willfully breaking school rules in an essential form of democratic dissent, skip class and continue protesting on through Fifth Period.

And like events earlier in the day, when the students gathered at the Senior lot during lunch, many more than expected showed up: in fact, so many more, the rally had to be moved to the front of the school auditorium. And while this successful protest did little to change their immediate reality, the students felt empowered and knew, as they moved forward in the collective fight to come, they all had each other's backs.

It was after this public expression of protest against being targeted by a new Trump administration, that the students' relationship with their principal took a turn for the worst, souring particularly for students in the key protesting organizations, as well as for teachers and counselors who supported the student-led organizations; eventually, the entire Senior class itself was targeted by Principal Wiedoeft.

It was during this time that certain individual students began to feel beset by their principal: many were called into the Administration offices, forced to answer questions about their further plans for dissent, and warned that continuing to express their sentiments in the ways they were, could possibly threaten their graduation status.

Particular students who clashed with Dr. Wiedoeft at this point were: Mireya Curiel (class of 2018), prior President of MEChA and current editor of "The Oarsman"; Mauriah Duffey (2017), prior BSU President; Danielle Cosmes (2017), Students Deserve Leader; Faith Freeman (2017), GSA President; Cobalt McAvinue (2017), another student pressured for being politically insubordinate and who became a chief target of Principal Wiedoeft's vengeance.

But it wasn't just the students who started having trouble with Principal Wiedoeft: History teacher and Teachers Union (UTLA) representative, Soni Lloyd, served as the Students Deserve councilor last year and, according to numerous VHS sources, came under Wiedoeft's reprisal for his mentorship of the purportedly progressive student group.

Similarly, the Students Deserve official representative, Alfredo Gamma, was dismissed by the LAUSD-wide organization (at the end of the year) for a perceived over-radicalization of students; as mentioned earlier in this article, also targeted was Lydia Ponce, the Parent-Student liaison who'd long-earned the student's trust and who was unceremoniously replaced by a Wiedoeft-friendly teacher; another important member of the school's community departed when Gaby Morales, an Attendance Office employee who unceasingly visited the homes of students not doing well, giving freely her time to improve the lives of innumerable minority, economically disadvantaged, and at-risk students, was unpopularly axed by Principal Wiedoeft.

The final straw for the students was the euphemistic "firing" of their only African-American College Councilor, Mr. Guy Cerda. The official terminology is, Mr. Cerda was, "Non Re-elected" to return for a third year at VHS by Principal Wiedoeft. "Non Re-elect" sounds benign, but amounts to open termination not just from Venice High School, but from the ENTIRE LAUSD. It's essential to note, Mr. Cerda subsequently challenged his "Non Re-elect" and WON his case. Mr. Cerda's firing was rescinded -- a true rarity, evidently, in the bureaucratic world of LAUSD -- although Mr. Cerda was assigned to another school and is today, not working at VHS.

When the students heard about Mr. Cerda's imminent dismissal last year, it shook them into action: after all, since his two years at VHS, Mr. Cerda had facilitated the implementation of a school-wide Parent Teacher Student Association, organized various college fairs, college prep workshops, increased the number of students going to 2-and-4-year colleges by 11%, almost doubled AP testing from 650 to 1267, and established a College Signing Day celebration for Seniors.

Over 840 students of all grade levels signed a quickly circulated petition pleading for Principal Wiedoeft to keep Mr. Cerda at VHS. The students also printed up flyers which they distributed to parents (just off-campus) as they ferried their children to and from school. The

students gained the support of a large number of parents, some of whom eventually became involved in the students' struggle with their principal.

It was through supporting the distribution of flyers and other similar student activities, that Students Deserve representative Alfredo Gamma came under fire: though these forms of non-violent dissent were chosen specifically by the students and represented THEIR needs, the proactive endeavors didn't match -- so the organization argued -- Students Deserve's official agenda.

Similarly, Mr. Lloyd was made to jump through hoops by Ms. Wiedoeft while working with Students Deserve, drowning him in bureaucratic red-tape and official arcana which, many felt, were roadblocks designed to undermine the VHS Students Deserve program itself. Eventually, VHS students formed a new organization which specifically addressed their concerns: they called their new student group, the "Student Union."

### III

#### THE HAMMER COMES DOWN

When a May 4, 2016 front page article in the school's student newspaper, The Oarsman, argued against the firing of Mr. Cerda for officially, "indefinite reasons... [and] budget cuts," it was Principal Wiedoeft's unsolicited writing alongside the students' which unfortunately drew the most attention. After numerous threats to shut down the school newspaper for publishing articles which displeased Dr. Wiedoeft, she suddenly insisted that she use The Oarsman herself as a forum for her opinions -- despite other available forms to get out her message. And so, Principal Wiedoeft (rather than addressing the student's concerns over the departure of their only African-American counselor) wrote an editorial in The Oarsman explaining the legal reasons why she couldn't explain her personal reasons for firing Mr. Cerda.

The students even tried appealing, along with parents, to the LAUSD Director of Secondary Schools, Mr. Jaime Morales -- but they got no positive response and so, Principal Wiedoeft's "Non Re-elect" of the students' esteemed college councilor became immutable. It was then that the students of Venice High, at the end of their collective rope, decided to stage a walkout in protest against the firing of Mr. Cerda and bring to a head their long-growing conflicts with Principal Wiedoeft, publicly asking for her resignation.

The daring students, led by the aforementioned organizations but representing pupils from ninth to twelfth grade, on June 5th, staged their walkout -- and they weren't shy about it. Alerting local media with press releases beforehand, TV and Print news covered the audacious event unfolding on the VHS front lawn: scores of students carrying signs and singing songs in the blazing noon sun, impassioned by their own political Promethean heat, determined to be heard and effect a change in their high school, made a big impression that day.

But still, nothing changed. Dr. Wiedoeft remained. Mr. Cerda was set to go.

Then on College Signing Day, a gathering Mr. Cerda had created to congratulate those seniors heading off to college, all hell broke loose: students handed out flyers in support of Mr. Cerda to stunned school and LAUSD administrators, held up signs and shouted slogans in support of their college counselor, turned their backs on speakers and shouted-down Wiedoeft until she finally had to leave the stage for a time.

That only raised the stakes. Wiedoeft's bureaucratic counter-punch was to write up a document which all the school's Seniors were ordered to sign or risk exclusion from all further student activates (including sports, music, theater, etc.), as well as disbarment from upcoming events such as the Seniors Awards Night and Graduation ceremonies. This "contract" the Seniors were forced to sign was drawn up with the LAUSD letterhead affixed atop the page, including the names of the Superintendent of Schools, Michelle King; the Local District Supervisor, Cheryl Hildreth; and that of the VHS Principal herself, Dr. Oryla Wiedoeft.

This seemingly official LAUSD agreement, which amounted to a unilaterally-imposed Loyalty Oath, ad-jured the school's Senior class to, "behave in a dignified manner and [not] engage in any disruptive or inappropriate activity." The Loyalty Oath goes on to threaten physical ejection from school events and ceremonies if "Order" is not maintained, because school activities were, "a privilege that is earned" and can be "taken away."

This is an overt threat, not an "agreement" of any type. It is a sort of blackmail usually perpetrated by authoritarian regimes against its citizens as a purposefully unsubtle form of coercion, rather than an "understanding" of any sort. The word "agreement" implies the sides involved came to a consensual and mutually-beneficial understanding. There was no such process here. In fact, as was discovered later, the LAUSD Administrators listed on the official document's letterhead, had no idea Principal Wiedoeft had constructed and distributed the provocative document. It is within the Principal's authority to use the letterhead at her discretion for official school business, such as the Loyalty Oath strictly was; but Wiedoeft's ostensible support from LAUSD for such a punitive document, was less than disingenuous.

All but one of the school's graduating Seniors signed the document: Cobalt McAvinue, who calls himself, "just a White kid from L.A.," refused to sign the compulsory document, claiming it violated his civil rights. When Cobalt and his mother showed up for Senior Awards Night, Principal Wiedoeft, true to her word, had Security escort Cobalt and his mom from the auditorium. It wasn't until after the school year, after protesting his extreme and unfair treatment, that LAUSD later remunerated Cobalt with his justified scholastic award.

### IV

#### LEARNING DISSES ORDER

There is plenty of precedent to support the argument that in American schools, the official knee-jerk reaction to student defiance against the canonized ideal of Order, is chastisement. The underlying assumption is that, left unchecked, unsanctioned student behavior will ineluctably devolve into unmanageable chaos and anarchy and so must be at all costs, truncated, nipped in the bud, murdered in the proverbial crib. It is not historically unusual for this point of view to be promulgated: it is, in fact, the very basis of the U.S. educational system.

American public schools were forged by Puritans with roots in a religious fervor for Order -- and punishment as the means to enforce those regulations, including, when needed for the good of the student, corporal discipline. There even existed in the early days of American education, a list of precisely how many lashes children should be administered for breaking the sacred rules: a student was to receive 4 lashes for, "boys and girls playing together"; 7 lashes for, "making swings and swinging"; and 10 lashes for the horrific offense of, "playing Bandy," which was, one can assume, the best game on the playground.

After World War I, the "Educational Trust," a conglomerate of American businessmen and educators, determined that the chief goal of public schools would be to, "impose on the young the ideal of subordination." Indeed, in the quest for better citizens and productive workers who could support the burgeoning capitalist American Dream, our educational system was seen as the perfect means to that end.

The Utopian ideal which American educators chose to copy and implement, was the Prussian secular-compulsory model where, above all else, National uniformity in thought, word, and deed were officially venerated. And so, a rush towards homogeneity became America's educational orthodoxy; industrial efficiency was added to the mix and soon the American school system became a huge national working factory to produce -- primarily -- factory workers.

These well-indoctrinated and subservient workers would, so the theory went, do as they were told without question and hold the State which educated them, such-as-it-is, in the highest regard. And the students-who-became-workers would account the State henceforward as their loyal and benevolent patron to whom they owe undying allegiance, to whom they are forever beholden as the progenitor of their better fates in this new, unquestioned social revolution.

Things didn't quite work out that way: because people, children most especially, aren't machines. And the antiquated Cartesian model of the human spirit, gears and springs and levers, is utterly antithetical to the beating heart of Learning -- which is -- Critical Thinking. By definition, Critical Thinking implies QUESTIONING -- challenging -- being CRITICAL and scientific in one's analysis of reality and all its complex and manifold aspects: THAT is the objective of education. Not the stultified version we've come to accept across the United States, including in our own schools.

John Dewey, the progressive thinker and educator of the early 20th Century, suggested that the rise of the, "formal-discipline idea of education," eventually treated children's minds like pieces of, "mental machinery separate from observation, memory, imagination, and common-sense judgments of persons and things." The American public schools, Dewey said, treated students as machines that should be, "trained by special exercises... as one might devise... for developing biceps." The result was a nation-wide student-stratification which arose from the discipline-based ideology where, "subjects par excellence, possessed a predestined fitness... [just] as certain machines are better than others." All this, led to creating a public school system where the, "method consists of a set of operations by which the machinery... is set going and kept at work."

And that Machine-Method demands for its smooth functioning, more than anything else -- ORDER. At all costs, Order must be maintained, first and foremost. Even at the sacrifice of students and Learning -- Order must be preserved -- If not, the gears, pulleys, and wheels won't whir as they're designed to do. Well... the Venice High students who protested against their President and their Principal felt they finally HAD TO DISRUPT that Order in order TO BE HEARD. And so the dissenting VHS students became the axiomatic spanner in the works. And the immense soul-munching Machine came screeching to a halt.

*continued on page 5*

V  
THE WAY FORWARD

There is another way to educate, besides bringing down the hammer when students express distress at being deported or discriminated against by their government or their school. And the intuitive students of Venice High, with great instincts and out of a devout exigency, rebelled against the Administrative worship of Order by taking THEIR LIVES INTO THEIR OWN HANDS and EMPIRICALLY EXERCISE the processes of Critical Thinking AGAINST the REPRESSIVE ORDER of an Administration which deprived them, in their minds, of that very indispensable purpose.

It’s crucial to point out that the conflict which arose (and still exists) between Principal Wiedoeft and her students needn’t have begun so contentiously or grown into the substantial crisis it did. Instead, the conflicts could have been, as another school Principal put it, “a Teachable Moment.” Mandy Breuer, Larchmont Charter School Principal of Secondary Education said, “Public schools truly can and should be incubators of democratic citizens.” Breuer contends that public schools often graduate students who are, “mindful and compassionate, but with critical-reasoning to challenge the status quo and advocate ideas that promote for a more equitable society.” Breuer went on to say, “Every day teachers get teachable moments and if we aren’t seizing those moments as opportunities to create empowered, engaged and mindful citizens, then we are failing as educators. We have an obligation to cultivate social communication skills and everyday our students bring us scenarios on which we can build vigorous, authentic learning opportunities.”

If approached without the predisposed orthodoxy towards Order above all else, the Teacher and Taught PARTICIPATE in the act of Learning TOGETHER – instead of the classroom being an obsessively austere one-way street. As another long-time teacher and practiced educator, Dr. Amy Frame, pointed out, almost more than anyone, it is teachers who care most deeply about students. And that in high schools in America, curriculums ARE focusing more on “higher order” skills which educators see as necessary for success in 21st Century. Mastering Critical Thinking, is primary among the “deeper learning” skills adopted in this newest view of education; VHS claims it is also committed to these ideals.

Former high school math teacher and current independent instructional coach, Chase Orton (Undercovercalculus.com), now trains other teachers in advanced ways to communicate math skills to students. Mr. Orton, channeling the educator John Merrow, contends that public schools are inclined to, “value what they measure, not to measure what’s of value.” In other words, graduation rates and test scores (easily measured and a solid sign of Order) are given the highest value. Other complex process, such as Critical Thinking -- which presupposes some level of conflict and dissent -- is not given as much weight and is therefore considered, though given lip-service otherwise, as of lesser value; especially when Critical Thinking tends to foster in students’ freshly awakened minds, an eliciting of “misbehavior” or criticism against the canonized ideal of Order. This, it must be pointed out, is more a product of Administration policies rather than teacher-student relationships; teachers ARE typically dedicated to their students’ Learning first and foremost – INCLUDING hands-on experience with political dissent – more than principally measuring test scores.

Now, there are extant and explicit laws circumscribing student behavior and student rights regarding Freedom of Expression; these laws allow school Administrations substantial leeway for interpretation and enforcement. The rules are purposefully broad in a legally-legitimate concern for students’ safety; but they also intend to leave room for peaceful student dissent. The Tinker Rule and other precedent-setting guidelines from previous legal cases establish roadmaps for addressing students’ critical concerns, while still maintaining safety standards; unfortunately these standards, prejudiced by an authoritarian obsession for Order, can be abused by any school Administration so inclined.

Recently in Arizona, a law was struck down which (implemented in 2010) abolished Tucson’s high school Mexican-American Studies curriculum for, “politicizing students and fostering resentment against White people,” as well as, “promoting ethnic nationalism which bred racial resentment.” The law, initiated in 2006 by former head of Arizona’s Education Department and one-time State Attorney General, Republican Tom Horne, and Superintendent of Public instruction, John Huppenthal, uses language uncomfortably reminiscent of the phrases adopted by Principal Wiedoeft when dealing with the Venice High students of BSU and MEChA.

In striking down the Arizona law, Federal Judge A. Wallace Tashima said it violated the students’ First Amendment right of Equal Protection as well as their right to, “receive information and ideas.” Further, the judge found, the Tucson law showed discriminatory intent and that the inequitable rules, “both in enactment and enforcement were motivated by racial animus.”

Mr. Horne (who claims he’s motivated by an anti-racist ideology) complained about the Mexican-American Stud-

*continued on page 8*

SNAP – continued from page 1

JW: What’s happened since then? They know you by name, right?

CV: That’s correct. And since then, we have seen a great influx of traffic on Speedway. There have been times when we can’t even back out of our driveways. I’ve seen, multiple times, them and their delivery trucks blocking the fire hydrant. I’ve noticed that they’ve taken down the ‘No Parking’ sign that was in the alleyway because, for days upon days upon months, I would go out there and direct attention to how this company and all the affiliate vendors who are coming to deliver things for them were directly disobeying the law and creating a traffic nightmare. If an emergency vehicle were needed on Thornton or Sunset or any of the adjacent alleyways where most residential buildings are, there’d be no way for any first aid response to be able to get through there because they’re not only just parking on the right side of the alleyway, they’re parking on the left side as well. You barely have traffic going through. You end up with a 14 car pile.

JW: What other kinds of experiences have you had with the security and/or the employees?

CV: I’ve had security follow me to my home. I’ve had security follow me through the alleyway in front of my home. I’ve had security stand in my driveway and take post while I’m waiting for an Uber. I once had an employee of Snapchat looming behind the trashcan on our property and I asked him to go somewhere else. I’ve talked to a ton of the employees in the buildings at Thornton Lofts. I’ll ask the employees, “What is it that brought you to Snapchat to work for them and where do you live?” The employees tell me that they came to work for Snapchat to better their life for them and their families who live in India and in Asia. They live in Koreatown and Los Feliz and Simi Valley. They’re worried that their H1B visas are going to be taken away and that they can continue to work. They don’t really care that they’re working in a two-bedroom condo.

JW: They’re kind of sweatshop laborers.

CV: Oftentimes, I video record some of these ‘team leaders’ and “team members’ who have to go out to the Boardwalk or go out to the beach to have internal meetings because those residential spaces are not configured to corporate office use. There are no breakout spaces for these employees. It’s ironic because Evan Spiegel himself is a complete paranoid nutcase when it comes to leaking of information. With the traction of Facebook copying all their different features on their platform, Evan Spiegel does not hold company meetings anymore. Out of fear of being recorded and leaking information, he often deals with H.R. questions and community questions via Google Docs. He’s not even interfacing with most of his employees. So I find it absurd that his team members and his leaders who are building his programming are having these conversations literally on my front doorstep. How much sensitive information are they carelessly discussing because they aren’t given the tools and the space that they need because of this company’s desire to eat up all the residential property in our neighborhood?

JW: Their habit of illegally turning residential spaces into office spaces is kind of squeezing them out in public where they’re compromising some of their secrecy then.

CV: Yeah. I mean, their interest for non-commercial spaces for their offices is compromising their leadership’s ability to discuss things internally on a team level and it forces them to do it out in public which is completely ironic.

JW: If I were them, I would move out to a proper business park in Santa Monica. Would that be a good idea?

CV: Santa Monica, Santa Clarita.

JW: Afghanistan.

CV: Westchester. Westchester is the final frontier when it comes to land use right now, with that new stadium coming in. They also have a ‘No Smoking’ policy. So, what it’s forcing their workers to do... because they can’t go up to their roof decks to smoke, they can’t step out to the balcony to smoke... is to go into the alley, under someone else’s residence, either in a parking spot or in a parking foyer, and smoke their cigarettes there and leave their butts there. It just goes to show you their actions are disrespectful. They don’t respect other people’s space. They think that this neighborhood is theirs for the taking. The fact that they have Gestapo-like security stalking my property does not make me feel safe. There have been multiple occasions, right here on the Boardwalk, in front of my house and in front of their offices, where there is an altercation taking place and I’ve seen the security guards run for the doors. They all run inside instead of calling the police or getting involved to just stay and witness or just clean up the mess in front of their place. The idea that they they’re creating safety... they love to spit out that the crime rate has gone down since they’ve arrived here. But if you talk to the Police Department they’ll quickly contest that.

JW: Yeah. One of the claims they make is that they’re somehow upgrading the community because of their security presence.

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CV: I think that a big concern of the neighborhood is that it’s like a walled-in corporation. There are no inroads for residents to voice their concerns or for those concerns to just be acknowledged. I did a lot of research to try to find a phone number. I found out, through different case studies, about pedophiles arrested for the use of their app. You should read the documentation of the hoops that they make the police jump through to try to get evidence to incriminate these criminals. It’s a FAX transmission request; you can’t even talk to anyone. And I think that’s a good example of how they shut off from the outside world. It’s their inability to want to be a community partner.

JW: Their practice of papering up the windows of the buildings they acquire is illustrative of their philosophy.

CV: I’ve asked them about that and they said it’s because the sun is too much glare on their computers. Well then, why are you having an office on beachfront property?

JW: They could go some place where there’s no sun.

CV: Or they could just go where there’s less windows. Have a building that doesn’t have floor to ceiling windows where the sun sets every day.

JW: You said, even today, that you had an encounter with security personnel over on the other side of town, over on Abbot Kinney.

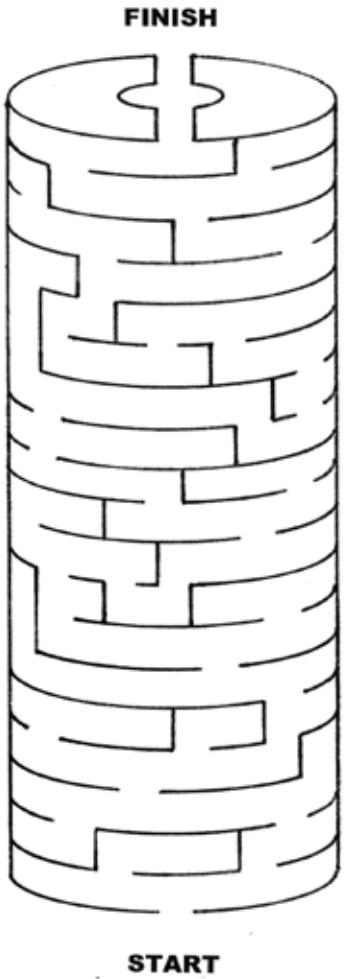
CV: Yeah. I was taking a photo of posted signs for their latest zoning approval request. They want to change yet another building that is zoned for residence to commercial use. And I took a picture and shared it with the community so they’d know that it’s happening and so that it can be confirmed that they are turning over residences into corporate housing and so that people have the actual inroad to get information. Because, what is not posted on that notice is the hearing date. They are banking on us not noticing and not raising our voices about it. I was walking back and I saw several of the security guards standing there. They said, “Oh hello.” They always make it known that they know me and that they know where I’m coming from and they know where I’m going.

JW: And they know where you live.

CV: They always make it apparent that they know where I live. The ones who work inside these buildings, whom I’ve never met, will call me by my name.

JW: That’s creepy.

CV: It’s a little creepy. I asked the security guard, “What exactly are you protecting?” He said, “Well, I’m protecting the people who work in these buildings.” I say, “Which buildings?” He pointed at that building, the building across the street, the building next to here, the building across the street from there. He pointed at five buildings. I asked him, “Do you think it’s okay for a single company to just come in and dominate?” He, this security guard, said, “Well, this is Abbot Kinney, the coolest street in America.” I always ask these guys, “Where do you live? How would you feel if one single corporation started plucking out house after house after house, disenfranchising families and long term residents?” His answer, unsurprisingly, was, “If it’s not affecting me directly, then I probably really wouldn’t care.” That’s the reason I continue to voice the truth for anyone and everyone who comes through Venice. “Do you know that this is a residential building and that Snapchat is operating illegally here?” I make sure everyone knows the truth because that company is hoping no one notices.







above – Musashi and Maureen Cotter

## Meet Musashi A Japanese Samurai Peace-walker.

While the world listens to threats of nuclear war, he walks to spread the message of world peace. His name is Musashi, a visitor from Tokyo, Japan. My friend Greta met him on a recent stroll along the Venice Boardwalk. Her curious nature made her stop and strike up a conversation with him. Inspired, Greta took his picture and information and sent them to me, knowing I am an American Peace-walker and would want to meet my counterpart from so far away.

I contacted Musashi and invited him to my peace garden at my home in Venice Beach. I couldn't wait to meet him and exchange stories and discuss how we went about reminding people the importance of solving our problems in a peaceful way.

My roommate Maureen greeted him at the gate. I was proud to wear his hat and hold his flag while we took pictures. Over a cup of tea, this man in his thirties, shared his mission with us.

"My mission is to get people interested in world peace and create positive change. In my case, I go to places where many people are and I have a dialogue with as many as I can. I take pictures with the people I meet and post them to Instagram. (samurai\_\_musashi).

This is to appeal for world peace and to share the Bushido – The Samurai Spirit with others. By increasing the number of people who understand and act Bushido, we will be a step closer to world peace." My curiosity was peaked and I asked him to give me some specifics.

below - Rev. Felicia Papazaider, Musashi, Eartheart.



JUSTICE  
COURAGE  
BENEVOLENCE  
RESPECTING  
HONESTY  
HONOR  
LOYALTY

He shared with me the seven virtues of Bushido.

It is about making sure that we do not become indecisive and that our decisions are made and based on the right reasons.

By choosing compassion over confrontation, and benevolence over belligerence, Bushido demonstrates ageless qualities we all admire. Today this lesson could not be more timely. I got it. All these qualities would decrease the amount of anger in the world. I felt connected to this man. We shared the same values.



As John Lennon once said, "Peace is not something you wish for. Its something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away." For our second meeting, I suggested we drive to the San Fernando Valley to participate in the Interfaith Solidarity March which was on Sunday September 10th, The event was also a memorial for the 9-11-01 attack on World Trade Center. The walk was 2 miles long and started at our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, and continued on to the Temple Judea, and finally to the Islamic Center to reject violence. More than 500 people attended. It was a good feeling to see the commonality as people drove by beeping their horns and cheering us on. Others along the way just started walking with us.

Once we made it to the Islamic Center we ran into friends from Venice Beach.

Another reminder that even our neighbors in Venice share the same values. They were curious about his traditional Japanese clothing. He explained he wears a



above – Musashi and Logan Mote

shade hat made by knitting stems such as rice straw and Makomo. His clothing is one of the oldest Japanese style clothes, called Hakama. It is clothing worn from the waist to the bottom.

Later as we enjoyed a bowl of noodles and shared our pictures, I felt satisfied to know that a simple task like walking is a fundamental activity for humans, from all walks of life.

In closing, I would like to quote Peace Pilgrim, "We the people of the world need to find new ways to get to know one another for then we will recognize that our likenesses are so much greater than our differences may seem. Every Cell, every human being, is of equal importance and has work to do in the world."

I challenge you to find yours.

Peace

Logan Mote (Eartheart)

below – Musashi, Fehmo Yildirim, Alice Stek and Logan Mote





# 1,000 Cranes Presented as Symbol of Friendship and Solidarity Between Japanese American and Muslim American Community



On Sunday, September 10, 2017, Japanese Americans from the Venice and West Los Angeles community presented 1,000 origami cranes to the neighborhood King Fahad Mosque of Culver City as a symbol of friendship, solidarity for peace and the promise to safeguard civil rights for all. The “1,000 Cranes: Solidarity, Vigilance & Peace” program took place in front of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument (VJAMM) on the corner of Venice and Lincoln Blvds.

“Today, we stand in solidarity for the protection of civil rights for everyone,” said Amy Watanabe, event organizer and board member of the Venice-West Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League. Noting that this year marked the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that allowed for the unlawful incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast, Watanabe said the event served as a reminder to “connect our stories and experiences to the present day.”

The 1,000 cranes were presented to Mohammad Abdul Aleem, representing the King Fahad Mosque of Culver City, in a show of support to the Muslim American community. The cranes, regarded in Japanese culture as a symbol of world peace, were folded in August at a family cultural event that drew dozens of children and their families to the Venice Japanese Community Center.

In January, President Trump signed Executive Order 13769, AKA the Muslim travel ban, issuing a travel ban affecting six majority-Muslim nations. The constitutionality of the Executive Order will be heard on October 10 by the Supreme Court. Keynote speaker, former California State Assemblymember Warren Furutani, included in his remarks, “It’s not much to connect the dots between the same thing that happened to Japanese Americans, who were incarcerated because of their ethnicity. When you look at those realities, and we look at connecting the dots of social justice and civil rights, you see that we’re talking about people coming together, bringing our issues together, and fighting together around making this America that we want for all people.”

The program started with a taiko performance by the Nakama Daiko group of Torrance.

The speakers included, in addition to Warren Furutani, activist and storyteller Taz Ahmed, co-founder of #GoodMuslimBadMuslim podcast, Len Nguyen, representing City Councilman Mike Bonin; Stephanie Nitahara, National JACL Associate Director; Tony Osumi, director of Camp Musubi; Mohammad Abdul Aleem, representing the King Fahad Mosque; and Phyllis Hayashibara, member of the VJAMM Committee.

The black granite monument on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards was dedicated in April and marks the corner where 1,000 Japanese Americans reported after being forcibly removed from their homes and then sent directly to Manzanar concentration camp. Two of the former internees, VJAMM Committee members Mae Kakehashi and Arnold Maeda, who were taken from the corner to Manzanar, were in attendance. The VJAMM Committee, represented by 6 members at the event, is very pleased that JACL decided to hold this event at the monument.



*VNC - continued from page 3*  
lawsuit (below).

A letter to VNC from Mark Kleinman, lawyer, & former LUPC staff with Kathleen Rawson for the 2016 VNC hearing of 417 Ocean Front Walk, was forwarded to VNC & Ms. Tyminski by Dr. Judy Goldman on the morning of June 20. Both she & Mr. Kleinman remarked on the “unnoticed” change to the LUPC contact email. Mr. Kleinman’s important letter on the previous hearing & findings was not posted in the case file online (supporting documents) or referred to in any way by Ms. Tyminski.

ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL, 417 Ocean Front Walk, should be reheard because:

1. LUPC and VNC should not hear this case while it is an open investigation with the Office of the City Attorney.
2. The change to the general email for LUPC was not shared in any way with the public. VNC President Ira Koslow was unaware of the change & stated that he himself was using the [lupc@venicence.org](mailto:lupc@venicence.org) email, unaware of the change. The letters of those opposed to this application were not received, read or counted by LUPC prior to their vote. The number of letters of support was presented to LUPC prior to their vote.
3. VNC Standing Rule (#8) states “Speaker cards shall have an ‘in lieu of speaking’ option and shall become part of the permanent record. Choice of the ‘in lieu of speaking’ option means that opposition or support will be tallied and the tally shall be announced to the board prior to any action by the board. These permanent records of the VNC should be put on record prior to any action by the board.

This did not happen at LUPC.

4. The city attorney’s lawsuit states that the current use of 417 Ocean Front Walk is an illegal use. Ms. Tyminski stated in her LUPC staff presentation to VNC that the current use of the building is a legal use (video). This statement was made prior to the VNC board vote.

Ms. Tyminski did not reference the violations of city and state law quoted in the city attorney’s lawsuit.

5. Ms. Tyminski quoted the number for the letters of support received for Mr. Lambert. Ms. Tyminski (LUPC-staff), Mathew Royce (LUPC chair), Melissa Diner (secretary) or George Francisco (vice-president) did not present the number of emails and petition signatures received by LUPC or VNC in opposition to Mr. Lambert’s proposal.

VNC By-Laws Article VII, Section 1.F. states that “the Land Use and Planning Committee recommendation to the Board of Officers shall be in the form of a written report, which shall include a project description, pros & cons, A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT and any LUPC findings.”

VNC By-Laws Article VI: Officers: B: states “Vice President-Maintains oversight of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.”

Article VI: Officers: C. Secretary states “Maintains all public records of the VNC. -Receives and logs all submissions and correspondence to the VNC and refers them to the appropriate Officer or Committee within seven (7) days.

None of these VNC board members presented the number of opposition emails & petitions received. This violates VNC By-Laws Article VII, Section 1.F.

6. Speaker cards shall have an ‘in lieu of speaking’ option and shall become part of the permanent record. Choice of the ‘in lieu of speaking’ option means that

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opposition or support will be tallied and the tally shall be announced to the board prior to any action by the board; comments shall not be read out loud.

VNC Vice-President George Francisco did not count and record the number of speaker cards in opposition or support of Mr. Lambert prior to the board vote as required by VNC standing Rules #8.

7. ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL is a serious and potentially precedent-setting case. Many propertyowners would like to turn their multi-unit Rent-Stabilized apartment buildings into hotels.

Mr. Lambert is the immediate past president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce. He actively promoted a VNC slate as president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce in 2016. 9 out of 10 of the candidates he promoted are VNC board members.

Mr. Lambert did not promote a candidate for VNC president. It is disturbing that Mr. Koslow was unaware of the changes to the LUPC general email as he attempted to communicate with that important committee over many months.

Matthew Royce reserved the Westminster Elementary School auditorium as chair of LUPC for a VNC event on October 13, 2016. He hosted a Survey LA community meeting on that evening and invited Ken Bernstein & Jonathan Hershey to make a presentation on Survey LA in Venice. Both Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Hershey stated in emails that they understood it was a VNC invitation and event.

That meeting did not have the required 72hr notice on VNC’s website (Brown Act violation) and it was posted with no committee attribution or agenda in violation of VNC By-Laws: Article VII: Committees and their Duties.

Mr. Royce reserved the auditorium on September 29, 2016.

A Venice Anti-Survey LA petition appeared on Facebook on the same date. Comments on that thread and in other online postings show that Venice anti-Survey LA factions knew about the VNC Survey LA meeting on October 3 or earlier.

VNC President Ira Koslow did not know about the meeting and was not present.

This is deeply disturbing to the community. Our voices are not being heard, acknowledged, counted, and entered into the record as required by NC rules.

The VNC president has also been excluded.

8. In April of 2017, VNC Rules & Selection Committee chaired by John Reed voted unanimously in favor of recommending changes to VNC By-Laws & Standing Rules. This included a recommendation to remove VNC Standing Rules/10. Meetings: Code of Ethics:

“Any member of the Board of Officers of the VNC who has a financial or material pecuniary interest in an item, as defined by State, Federal or local laws, shall recuse themselves from voting on any item in question. Board members must receive a certificate of completion for the mandated Ethics training within 55 days of taking office, whether by appointment or election, or they will be prohibited from voting on any land use issues or financial expenditures of any city funds. This Standing Rule shall also apply to all members of the Budget Committee and Land Use and Planning Committee effective August 1, 2013.”

Several members of the board & committees are developers and architects. VNC vice-president George Francisco is the Chamber President and several VNC board members are also VCOC board members.

Understandably the community has concerns about conflicts of interest. Ultimately this clause was not removed because of community protest.

For all of these reasons the June 8 LUPC vote and the June 20 VNC vote for ZA-2015-629-CDP-ZV-ZAA-SPP-MEL should be voided. This case should be reheard by LUPC & VNC.

The VNC is subject to city and state laws as well as VNC By-Laws and Standing Rules. Important VNC By-Laws and Standing Rules were not followed.

Letters of support for Mr. Lambert were acknowledged but the community opposition was not received, read, counted & entered into the record ahead of the LUPC and VNC votes.

Speaker cards in opposition or support were not tallied and announced to the board prior to the LUPC and VNC vote.

Laws matter.

Mr. Lambert is operating an illegal hotel in an RSO apartment building. The city attorney has said so. The Venice Neighborhood Council has a mandate to represent all stakeholders. VNC By-Laws and Standing Rules matter. Appreciatively, Margaret Molloy, Laddie Williams, Jataun Valentine.

*Space does not allow us to print this entire list of grievances. You will find the list of these grievances here: <https://goo.gl/FzP1NX>*



*Venice High* – continued from page 5

ies curriculum, saying, “it was a pure historical accident that a group of radical teachers created that program.” Apparently, Horne’s referring to the fight for Chicano rights in the late 1960s and Montezuma Esparza’s inspirationally-led school walkouts. These were not, as Horne complains about Arizona’s ethnic studies, a movement led by, “Communists who express un-American values,” but rather begun by marginalized individuals willing to protest for their Constitutional First Amendment rights.

Horne went on to say that schools’ ethnic studies, “teach kids they’re victims and can’t get ahead in life,” and that students should instead, “be taught [to] work hard so they can achieve their dreams.” This Pollyannaish point of view conveniently obviates the fact that the world is not, nor ever has been, a benign meritocracy where racism or colonialism never existed or where their repercussions don’t still reverberate across our country – even in our schools.

The truth is quite different. Multi-cultural education – studying other societies and histories rarely represented in school textbooks – has been proven to achieve positive effects on school communities across our country. Independent studies from Stanford University and the National Education Association (in 2010), show that students exposed to culturally-responsive education acquire better overall attitudes towards learning and achievement, better school attendance (in particular for at-risk students), improved literary skills, and a positive affirmation of students’ identities while, at the same time, creating within them a much needed, “sense of agency,” which further motivates them into college and on through their lives.

Additionally, test scores and graduation rates have been proven to rise when students participate in ethnic study classes. These twin objectives are hyped as the top two goals for both LAUSD and Venice High School on their websites. In fact, in a recent L.A. Times article, Superintendent Michelle King touted LAUSD’s recent 3% increase in the number of students graduating as compared to the previous year; critics argue that the increases reflect an ongoing, “lowering of standards” simply to bolster the appearance of performance. In either case, the bottom line remains the same: INCLUDING ethnic studies in High Schools helps all students succeed in all areas instead of, as Principal Wiedoeft suggests, injuring some at the expense of others; this scholastic fallacy can be consigned forever as a now-factually-debunked theory.

And while there are significant hurdles in American public schools for teaching students of varying backgrounds about their cultures (including the sullied facts of our nation’s history), it can only benefit White students of largely European descent (as well as students of color and others) to fully understand their nation’s genesis in genocide, slavery, and colonialism.

Such in-depth classes offer students opportunities for the development of Critical Thinking and empathy for not only the lives of others, but for their own backgrounds: the multifarious FACTS of our history are an unavoidable necessity to the UNDERSTANDING of our perplexing roots as a Republic. And certainly UNDERSTANDING is the deepest goal of education. So it’s overblown and spurious to suggest that knowing the truth of our nation’s origins, or the darker facts of its short existence, will somehow signal an end to Order in the American public school system.

Students are considerably smarter and more sophisticated than some Administrations sometimes seem to give them credit for: students typically WANT to learn about the world and how they fit in it, get a window into how reality really works. What they DON’T WANT is to be silenced, or worse, have their nascent minds and inchoate spirits sublimated by the very authority appointed to educate them.

In the same way that Students of Color profit from learning about their cultural origins (without it being leveraged as “victimization”), it’s also essential that in their educational evolution, White students NOT be made to feel that THEIR cultural backgrounds are a cause for guilt or responsibility towards a past not of their making. It is the FUTURE that is of concern! White students learning, as Principal Brewer put it, “to feel comfortable with feeling uncomfortable,” is the acid test and obvious first step in discovering what it’s like to walk in another person’s shoes – which is the lifeblood of our democratic ideal that contends WE ALL ARE, in the end, vitally Equal.

Likewise, it’s crucial that Students of Color -- while simultaneously asserting that White kids can never actually understand what it is to be a minority – realize that they nonetheless expect White students to somehow miraculously bridge that impassable gap and acquire an esoteric depth of subjective understanding they can, by definition, never attain.

Ideally, led by involved teachers, counselors, and crucially -- under the SUPPORT of a like-minded Administration not obsessed with Order above all else -- the cultural and ethnic diversity of a school can, instead of becoming a point of uncontrollable conflict, be an OPPORTUNITY for Learning and the development of Critical Thinking: “Education is not the filling of a pail,”

## GIVE US YOUR BOOKS space available

by Pat Raphael

Ever try to have a conversation, and then realize that the dialogue is taking place in different languages? Consider the difficulty of sharing ideas when the participants come from separate info-universes. This has been a recurring theme this season as the 420box ambitiously took on the task of dialogue, to write into existing a living document to serve as constitution for the Trans-National Alliance.

Very early in our dialogue, we saw how time after time that an earnest sharing of ideas is prevented when so many are informing their point of view based on their very own personal set of facts. These separate info-universes can diverge so widely that different speakers may be saying the same words, but hold so wide a variance on meaning, they may even have opposing definitions in mind. That’s no way to have a conversation.

Well if words are the problem, here comes words, heroically riding in, to save the day. We can begin to speak from the same info-universe when we have a common starting point for our dialogue. The following is a list of great books that have served to sharpen my point of view. We at the 420box invite members of the community to join us in conversation. We would like to have copies of these books around and have them in circulation among us thinkers.

Most of my reads are nonfiction, but there are a few classic novels in here too. Of course this is not a complete list of necessary reads -- for that we want to tap in to the community: if you have a book that have clarified for you the world you see, feel free to come to the 420box (on the north end of the OceanFrontWalk, before navy street), and share your read.

--Wealth of Nations, aSmith -- this book is a bit of a chore, but it describes well the big picture ideas that drive economic systems. The definitions it lay out, continue to be used in modern-day economic dialogue. Even if a bit daunting in its language, this is a good start just to understand the conversation.

--Feakonomics, sDudner & sLevitt -- great read to

W. B. Yeats wrote wisely, “but the lighting of a fire.”

And as a note to the VHS students themselves, who have fought so hard this past year for their individual rights: though the passions which motivated them are good fuel for action, the students themselves are not without blame in forging this negative dynamic with their principal, Dr. Weidoeft. It is essential to point out that much of the rhetoric and the adverse conclusions drawn about their Principal, lack the very aspect which this article has touted – namely, Critical Thinking.

The accusation of “racism” is a much too hasty and easy of a fallback position: it demands little or none of the deeper reasoning skills the VHS students claim, such as analytical thinking, towards a complex problem. The VHS students themselves are subject to some of the same shortsightedness of which they accuse their Principal – namely, a pre-determined bias. This does not mean they are incorrect in their fight for the freedom to protest their real and critical situation. It merely means the VHS students need to take a step back from their implacable position and apply some of that same Critical Thinking so essential to their lives, to this current struggle with their Principal. The students of VHS owe it to themselves to ALSO go the extra mile and help create a new environment where not just well-wrought emotions lead the way, but deep and honest analysis is applied -- not only towards their Principal, but towards themselves -- which is the only way to help create a well thought out and productive path for the future of Venice High.

The problem of racism in America – to which our schools are not immune at any level – is colossally complex, woven into the woof and warp of our nation’s soul; even though, it’s still often difficult to get White people to even acknowledge there IS such a thing as “White Privilege.” But Black Americans sure know there is. So do Latinos. And so do White Americans, really – they just haven’t, as a whole, had the courage to acknowledge it. In the 1930s, William Faulkner, the great American writer who knew the subject of White racism well, wrote once that the history of slavery is, “The curse of every white child that was born and that ever will be born. None can escape it.” Even Lincoln knew the conflicts perpetrated by White Americans against Black people brought to this country in shackles were anathema socially and morally, saying the resentments arising from our Civil War (which we still revisit every day in this country) created antipathies, “too deep even for a millennium to efface.”

And while resurrecting America’s past is not a goal, per se, understanding our present, and forging a beneficial future IS a worthy objective. And the Students of Color at VHS have every right in wanting to control events, rather than let events control them. But it’s simply idle speculation and particularly vicious name-calling to stoke the fires of “racism” without the larger context and structures of American society being taken into account.

*continued on page 11*

understand how economic motivations underpin almost all decision-making.

--The Shock Doctrine, nKlein -- especially relevant today as we watch a hurricane provide the perfect justification for the privatization of Puerto Rico.

--What’s the Matter with Kansas, tFrank

--Tipping Point, Blink, Outliers; all three by mGladwell -- the concept that at any given time, it takes a key group of critical people to allow ideas and movements to snowball into an unstoppable phenomena in ‘Tipping Point... then ‘Blink’ as an attempt to show how these people think, and ‘Outliers’ with the idea that nature’s gift is only the beginning -- the work and time put in by exceptional people, is key to their ultimate success. (looking forward to reading David & Goliath, also by Gladwell)

--Manufacturing Consent, nChomsky -- great read to understand the interplay of media & public policy. the central idea concludes that even tho smoked-filled-room-conspiracies exist, it doesn’t take such to have a media that does not serve the public interest. All you have to do is shrink the number of players in media, then when these few actors pursue their interest, overlaps in self-censorship occur that leaves only the bland, and a void remains where deep analysis or call to action may take place...

--A People’s History of the United States, hZinn -- takes the history book which only renders the account of leaders and notable people during the big moments in history, and turns it on its head by telling of some of the more ordinary actors who were also instrumental in fashioning history -- even as historical credit has failed to acknowledge their contribution...

--Overthrow, sKizner -- come to find out, we been ‘spreading democracy’ for a long, long time. And don’t pay too much attention on how these exercises in democracy building only comes to those nations who were stubbornly keeping natural resources away from freedom-loving U.S. corporations...

--48 Laws of Power, rGreene -- this dude is a diabolical thinker. He approaches the acquisition of power in such a clinical, end-justify-the-means way, that sane people shiver to realize that what he describe is taking place. He makes the case that it doesn’t matter whether or not you decide to play the power game, it is still going on around you. And ignoring the laws, only leaves you to be a stationary channel for those climbing the power ladder to amass their own... He also wrote on seduction and war -- which are just other sides of the power coin...

--The New Jim Crow, mAlexander -- I love her reliance on numbers. She drives home the point that it doesn’t always take racism to have racial outcomes. She gets into how the structure of our country relies on a black face to it’s permanent underclass -- even as there are more whites in that class than any other group. Then she shows how in the modern era, policing, the courts, and sentencing (to include parole and probation), all work together to reinforce and create some very similar outcomes to the old Jim Crow

--Auto-Bios : fDouglass, mX, nMandella

--Souls of Black Folks, wDubois -- doesn’t shy away and takes on, in a very direct way, race in the U.S.

--the bible -- have you read the bible? No not from the bible, but the whole thing, from ‘in the beginning’ to the last ‘amen’? Interesting read -- it might surprise you to see how far religion has strayed from their venerated texts.

--The Bhagava Gita; The Holy Quran -- opening your mind to other ideas can only clarify and expand your own point of view...

--1984, Animal Farm; gOrwell

--Their Eyes were Watching God, zHurston (which she wrote while in Haiti!)

--Catcher in the Rye, jSalinger

--Fahrenheit 451, rBradbury -- so funny to read an old-time description of future technology

--One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, kKesey

--The Electric Acid Kool-Aid Test, tWolfe -- part memoir, part philosophy, great read

--On the Road, jKerouac

--Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas, hThomson

--Freedom from Government, tGoodbaudy -- fifteen minutes, from cover to cover. Best fifteen minutes I’ve spent with a blunt in a long time...

--The Anarchist’s Cookbook, wPowell -- interesting read of all types of tactical information, along with his broad primer of basic understandings that any urban Macgyver ought to know.

We only stop here because we can’t put every single book that we should read to help us speak the same language in conversation. Are there other books that we should know about, but not here on the list? Feel free to bring some nuggets (or not) and come hang out at the 420box, and offer us your own reading list and book donations. We look forward to the continued expansion of dialogue, in our paradise found, here in Venice.



# THIS PAPER IS A POEM.

## Your Life The Beautiful Gift

Your life have been filled with dreams, aspirations, explorations, and self discovery. Open the doors to who you are, and share your gifts to teach the world. We all are teachers, and we all have unique gifts that can fill the world with wisdom, knowledge, and inspiration. By sharing what is on the inside you can help save the world. Most importantly you will save YOUR SELF

By,  
Deborah S. Thomas



## The Strength of a Woman

A woman is the strength of the world. She holds the world in the palm of her hands carrying all the social, political, and economic blows. She try to take a deep breath as she grasp for air to continue her march for freedom. She stands up, and look up at the zenith. It is the gateway to her soul. She must remain standing, because injustice spreads disease to the human race.

## The Poet Speaks

The poet speaks from the messages sent by the universe to unravel all of the told, and untold stories, mythologies, and mysteries of the world. It is here the dichotomy of living or surviving is created.

By,  
Deborah S. Thomas



12:45 Sunday, September 24th, 2017, #19, Lord Byron Apartments ..... Oh Father, I was once fruit of your loins. My memories of you are golden coins. The time at Carew Tower. Climbed the top. You held me o'er the edge. No way to stop. Gazed down the endless floors. Side walks below. Began to wonder. How far would I go? Were you providing Molock with a taste Of future dining? Would you drop in haste? Enough to hold me senseless. Well I know. My altitude left no where else to go. But plummeting below where I would drop. The height of Carew Tower. At the top. A tender babe who knew what fear purloins. I'm grateful to escape. Kept golden coins .....  
Roger Houston, metaphysical cavalier

## Place

by S.A. Gerber

Can't argue with the old man,  
he's seen a lot more sunsets  
than I have.  
Continuing to share the paper  
bag, he tells me of dunes he's  
scaled in the Gobi in search  
of the ancient dead.  
Of eager divorcees' met in Moroccan  
opium dens.  
Of treasure-laden ships sending one  
over the bow of his derelict vessel.  
He coughs up something dark and  
sticky before lighting up a "Lucky".  
I leave him in his fit a moment and  
walk over to purchase another  
quart of fine California port.  
He welcomes it like fresh air.  
Smoking, coughing and drinking,  
he squeezes out a tale of some sort  
of treachery and redemption on the  
docks of Singapore.  
Being onboard with Hart Crane and  
throwing up with Hemingway off  
the Florida Keys.  
He was always someplace.  
Yet always here...in the same place.  
This was a long time ago on the old  
pier, the one that sank. He'd 'a liked that.  
You can tell I still think about him.

Noah's Ark - an Allegory for our time  
By : B.B. Shapiro

Noah was rather a modest man  
who lived at a time way back when.  
He was mentioned in Genesis the first book of the old Testament  
Being a God-fearing and an honest man however  
he was not much appreciated back then.

The Bible mentioned God's warning of catastrophic proportions  
Noah being very astute and much aware  
of the Global changes that soon were to occur.  
He believed in taking heed with the proper measures  
for the unexpected and unexplained surprises in the weather;

Noah decided to follow GOD's advice  
by building an Ark, investing all his savings at a huge price  
The people laughed at Noah's grandiose plan soon enough to realize, he was not insane.  
His premonition of a big flood to come  
turned out to have a devastating outcome.

As a result of the flood people drowned and perished from the land  
causing much devastation and great pain;  
proving Noah's conviction was right as rain.  
Noah's good deed was somewhat rewarded after all, he did save his family  
and of the animals species he managed to rescue many.

Unlike the majority of our Officials serving in our Government elect,  
they would rather deny the radical changes and ignore the facts.  
While continuing the Fracking and over-use of Fossil Fuels;  
Yet doing nothing to stop the cause and effects.  
Answering to no one for the dire consequences.

Thereby, causing drastic turns in nature's delicate balance, of late;  
Sadly, these conditions are increasing at an alarming rate.  
Call it if you will, Climate Change or Global Warming  
Despite the Denial of the "God-Fearing Right",  
Nature is sending us an Ominous Warning.

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POETRY  
by, marty liboff

I spill out my guts, my heart and soul writing a poem  
and my best pal says,"I don't like poetry."  
My mom says,"I don't understand your poems."  
My dad said,"I have a stack of unread paperwork  
and have no time for your poems."  
My brother says,"I read books but I'm not into poetry."  
My sister says,"I don't read anything but my horo-  
scope,  
the funny pages and sometimes a recipe."  
My boss says,"Instead of wasting time writing poetry  
you should work harder and make more money."  
My girlfriend pretends to read my poems  
while she watches Family Feud on TV  
then says they are O.K.  
but I know she didn't read them at all.  
My parakeet reads my poems that line the bottom  
of the cage as he searches for seeds among the poop.  
I recite my new poem to my dog as we walk,  
as he relieves himself I use the paper with the poem  
to wipe up his doo doo.  
At last a real use for my poetry...

## FRIDAY MORNINGS at VENICE BEACH -MOISHE PUTZ-

Friday mornings at Venice Beach-  
Here cum's a detachment of the L.A. Gestapo-  
In trucks and cars-  
The bad guys dressed in black-  
Carrying guns,pepper spray,and bats-  
It is fun time to go and harass the homeless-  
They illegally search people's stuff-  
And throw out their few precious possessions-  
Interrogate,push around,tie up,beat up,demonize  
CRIMINALIZE-  
"To Protect and Serve" is only for the RICH-  
Instead of trying to house,feed and clothe the houseless-  
They are housed in JAIL-  
Most of your guilt money voted to help the homeless-  
Really goes to the police-  
To enforce petty laws-  
To fill our dungeons-  
Politicians as usual LIED to YOU-  
Our courts and jails are a huge,ugly MONEY BEAST-  
That needs to be fed human meat-  
The Monster is filled up-  
With the poor,minorities,homeless,and mentally ill-  
Where is your love and compassion L.A.-  
Shame,Shame America-

Extinguish

by S.A. Gerber

Extinguish  
the  
fire  
of  
burning  
anger  
and  
let  
the  
smoke  
dissipate  
upward.  
There  
remains  
plenty  
of  
kindling,  
and  
those  
with  
matches,  
able  
and  
more  
than  
willing  
to  
light,  
fan,  
and  
stoke  
flames  
of  
discontent.



## CALENDAR

## BEYONDBAROQUE.ORG

October 6 Friday 6:00 PM – 14th ANNUAL OTHER VENICE FILM FESTIVAL – Doors open at 6:00, screenings begin at 7:00 PM. <http://othervenicefilmfestival.com/>

October 7 Saturday 10:00 AM – 14th ANNUAL OTHER VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

October 8 Sunday 11:00 AM – 14th ANNUAL OTHER VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

October 8 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 are always welcome.

October 13 Friday 8:00 PM – ESSENCE & ATTITUDE – Join Venice locals for an evening of poetic recitation, short story narration and musical performance. Venice author Joseph Voelbel will read from his new collection of Short Stories, ‘Nineteen Stories’. Special Guest: Future Eyes (Art Installation and Photography). Regular admission. Members FREE

October 14 Saturday 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM – POETRY LIVE - WORKSHOP – See workshop page for details: <http://beyondbaroque.org/ProfessionalWorkshops.html>

October 14 Saturday 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM – GARRET CATHEY & JANET KIM: NEW WORK – See Mike Kelley Gallery page for details: <http://beyondbaroque.org/gallery.html>

October 14 Saturday 7:30 PM – SYNAESTHETE! – The synaesthete literary event will feature a reading by Patrica Lynne Duffy from her book, Blue Cats and Chartreuse Kittens, which is the first book written by a synaesthete about synaesthesia. Patricia also works as an instructor for the UN Language and Communications Programme. Patricia was introduced to Building Bridges by well-known synaesthete author, Maureen Seaberg. Jim Bolt, well-known LA poet will perform works by Arthur Rimbaud and Charles Baudelaire. A fascinating evening of synaesthete poetry, literature, and music. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 15 Sunday 4:30 PM – BEYOND WORDS: JACK KEROUAC’S ON THE ROAD AT 60! – What makes On the Road really important, what gives it that drive is a genuine new, engaging and exciting prose style. . . . What keeps the book going is the power and beauty of the writing.” ~ Kenneth Rexroth. Join a stellar line up special guests as we celebrate Kerouac’s game changing novel! Regular admission. Members FREE

October 15 Sunday 7:00 PM – VOICE IN THE WELL – Once There Was A Place Called CREATIVITY. Public Works Improvisational Theatre presents an evening of lively variety arts programming -celebrates the most talented writers, storytellers, poets, musicians and comics. Every month, we explore topical themes for your pleasure and enjoyment. Hosted by Eric Vollmer. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 20 Friday 8:00 PM – MARK RHODES & JEANETTE CLOUGH – Mark Edward Rhodes will read from Approaching Darkness (2016). Mark has written three books of poetry and twelve plays. He also performs his one man show featuring either the poems of the poet Dylan Thomas or T.S. Eliot, from time to time. Jeanette Clough (Flourish) will read new work. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 21 Saturday 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM – POETRY LIVE - WORKSHOP – Special hour for this work. In the Mike Kelley Gallery. See workshop page for details: <http://beyondbaroque.org/ProfessionalWorkshops.html>

October 21 Saturday 10:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Mini Master Class Series - With Holaday Mason – See workshop page for details: <http://beyondbaroque.org/ProfessionalWorkshops.html>

October 21 Saturday 4:00 PM – JEFFREY SCHULTZ & F. DOUGLAS BROWN – Jeffrey Schultz, author of two National Poetry Series selections, will read from his newly released collection, Civil Twilight. He will be joined by F. Douglas Brown, author of the Cave Canem prize winning Zero to Three, and Sara Borjas, whose poems have appeared in Acentos Review, Fog Machine, and Miramar. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 21 Saturday 8:00 PM – L.A. WOMAN: THE CONFESSION – Special encore engagement. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 22 Sunday 2:00 PM – THE NEBRASKA GIRLS OPEN READING – Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE but donations gratefully accepted. In the Mike Kelley Gallery.

October 22 Sunday 3:30 PM – AUSTIN STRAUS MEMORIAL – Join us as we remember the late, great Austin Straus. Born in Brooklyn in 1939, Austin moved to Los

## www.unurban.com

Weekly Events at UnUrban  
(The Unurban is remodeling, call first)

Tuesday: Go Club @7pm, Open Mic Comedy @9pm (sign up at 8:45)

Wednesday: Velvet Guerilla Cabaret (Open Mic Poetry) @9pm, sign up 5min prior.

Thursday: Live Music Showcase\* @7pm

Friday: Open Mic Music @7pm, sign up in person at 6:30pm

Saturday: Live Music Showcase\* @7pm

October 7 – Peter Quentin’s Variety Night

October 14 – The Painkillers

October 21 – Merrily Weeber & Friends

October 28 – Jazz Funk Fest

Sunday: Almost Vaudeville w/Brad Kay @2pm, Mews Small and Company @5pm, “Funny Feminist” Comedy Show @6:30

Angeles in 1978, and immediately settled into an ongoing renaissance of poetry in Southern California. He was the founder and cohost of “The Poetry Connexion,” on KPFK-FM, from 1981 to 1996. His guests included many of the most prominent poets in Los Angeles. His books of poetry include Laureate without a Country, Drunk with Light, and Intensifications. His late wife, the poet Wanda Coleman (1946-2013), and he collaborated on a sequence of poems celebrating their three decades of marriage, The Love Project: A Marriage Made in Poetry. His poems were reprinted in many anthologies, including “Poetry Loves Poetry,” Suzanne Lummis’s Grand Passion, Charles Harper Webb’s Stand Up Poetry, Steve Kowit’s The Maverick Poets, and Men in Our Time: An Anthology of Male Poetry in Contemporary America. Hosted by S.A. Griffin. Reception 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM. Reading starts at 4:00 PM.

October 22 Sunday 7:30 PM – 10 DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD – October 2017 marks the Centenary of the October Revolution, which overthrew the Tsar in Russia and created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR. Whatever you think of the Soviet Union, for the better part of a century they established the only alternative to capitalist dog-eat-dog economics, transformed the Darwinian survival of the fittest into a Marxist from each according to his ability to each according to his needs, became the primary force in defeating Nazism, sacrificing 20 million of their citizens to do so, and liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious death camp of Nazi Germany. Ross Altman hosts a literary and musical remembrance of both their highlights and shortcomings, with readings and songs that also look back on World War II and the Cold War. Invited guests include Mike Davis, Dick Flacks, Quincy Lehr, Richard Modiano, Robert Rosenstone, and Suzi Weissman. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 26 Thursday 8:00 PM – IN CONVERSATION WITH MARK BOAL – Beyond Baroque welcomes journalist, screenwriter and film producer Mark Boal, contributor to such publications as Rolling Stone, The Village Voice Salon and Playboy. Mark’s 2004 article “Death and Dishonor” was adapted for the film In the Valley of Elha, which Boal also co-wrote. In 2009, he wrote and produced The Hurt Locker, for which he won both the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Academy Award for Best Picture. In 2012, he wrote and produced Zero Dark Thirty, teaming again with director Kathryn Bigelow. The film earned him Academy Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture and a Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay. The pair collaborated a third time for 2017’s Detroit. As of 2013, Mark has won two Academy Awards (four nominations), a BAFTA Award, two Writers Guild of America Awards, a Producers Guild of America Award and four Golden Globe Award nominations. He has also won several critics awards. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 27 Friday 8:00 PM – SHARON ALEXANDER: INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY ABSENCE – Book launch for “Instructions In My Absence”, winner of the 2016 Palettes & Quills International Chapbook Contest. David St. John says: “her most extraordinary work yet... Alexander’s poems both thrive and blossom in darkness.” Joining her for the reading are poets Carine Topal and Cathie Sandstrom. Reception and book signing to follow. Regular admission. Members FREE.

October 28 Saturday 4:00 PM – THE LUMMOX POETRY ANTHOLOGY #6 – Come join us for the annual publication reading of the LummoX Poetry Anthology (#6).

## LAUGHTEARS

Established 1953

Oct 1, Sunday 7pm Subversive Cinema at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd free Political-Music films [http://www.laughtears.com/documental\\_subversive.html](http://www.laughtears.com/documental_subversive.html)

Oct 3, Tues 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club at Marina Del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html>

Oct 7, Sat 2pm Gerry Fialka’s workshop at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE “My Art Belongs to Venice” for <http://othervenicefilmfestival.com/> ...expand on Charlie Chaplin, Orson Welles, Andy Warhol, Agnes Varda, etc

Oct 7 Sat 7pm Brad Kay House Concert - Beef Wellington Orchestra at 732 Superba Av 310-822-4139, \$20 <https://www.facebook.com/events/521644714870138>

Oct 9 Monday 4pm-7:30pm Documental FILMS and MUSIC at Unurban 3301 pico, free <http://www.laughtears.com/documental.html>

Oct 14, Sat, 4pm MESS Poet Doug Knott interview at Unurban 3301 pico FREE <http://www.laughtears.com/mess.html>

Oct 15, Sunday 10-1pm The BackBoners free at Santa Monica Farmers Market Ocean Park & Main St - Suzy Bill Ginger Kahlil

Oct 18 Wed 6-9pm MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE <http://venice-wake.org/Events/current.html>

Oct 23 Mon 6-9pm Laughtears Salon 212 Pier Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free

Oct 28, SAT 7pm JAZZ FUNK FEST at Unurban 3301 pico, free, Live funky ass music <http://www.laughtears.com/jazzfunkfest.html>

Oct 29, Sunday 7pm 7 Dudley Cinema at Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE Political-Music films <http://www.laughtears.com/7dudleycinema.html>

Some of the 156 poets in this issue will be reading their poems. They are: Lynne Bronstein, Calokie, Don Campbell, Micah Card, Mitch Cohen, Sharyl Collin, Bill Craychee, Alicia Viguer-Espert, Mark Evans, Gil Hagen-Hill, Bill Gainer, William Scott Galasso, Marie Lecrivain, Mike Meloan, Linda Neal, John Pappas, Lorine Parks, Kevin Ridgeway, Linda Singer, Paul Suntup, Maja Trochimczyk, Vachine and your host, RD Armstrong. Copies will be on sale. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 28 Saturday 8:00 PM – BILL GAINER & JAMESON BAYLES – Bill Gainer is a widely recognized writer, editor, promoter, humorist and poet. He is the publisher of the PEN Award winning R. L. Crow Publications and is the ongoing host of Red Alice’s Poetry Emporium (Sacramento, CA). Gainer is internationally published and known across the country for giving legendary fun filled performances. His latest book, Lipstick and Bullet Holes, is from Epic Rites Press, Canada (2014). Visit: [billgainer.com](http://billgainer.com). Jameson Bayles is a roving correspondent for Poetrybay and was the co-curator of the 2016-2017 KC Poetry Throwdown held in Kansas City, MO. His work has been published in numerous literary journals and magazines; including Poems-For-All, Hedgerow, The Ambriel Revolution, Thirteen Myna Birds, Rusty Truck, Your One Phone Call and on Rumrazor.com. Jameson’s work can be found in the collaborative reader “A Case For Ascension” (Asinimali-Publications, 2015), the 2016 Hessler Street Poetry Fair Anthology (Crisis Chronicles Press) and “Delirious- A Poetic Celebration of Prince” (Night Ballet Press, 2016), “Recession In Neverland” (Paladin Knight Publishing, 2017) and his solo work “legends of doe hoe” (Spartan Press, 2017). Regular admission. Members FREE

October 29 Sunday 1:00 PM BAMBAZ – PRESS READING – BAMBAZ Press authors book launch - Mother and Daughter- Husband and Wife - Grandmother and Children/Grandchildren. It’s a Family Affair! Come join the reunion of love. With Jennifer Rose & Madeline Rose, Carolinda Jankel, Robert M. Jankel, and Carol Jean Pearlstein. Regular admission. Members FREE

October 29 Sunday 2:00 PM - NEBRASKA GIRLS OPEN READING – Sign-ups at 1:30 PM. Hosted by Wyatt Underwood. FREE but donations gratefully accepted

## electriclodge.org

October 8 - Espana Flamenca Dance Show  
October 12-15 – The Other Side Of The Story  
Tradamedy set in LA backyard of Wise and Truth



# Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library**, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. Poetry Bookstore, Literary Events. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org
- **Electric Lodge**, Dance, Theater, and Exercise Classes 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**, Mural Workshop, Print Making, Exhibits and Programs. 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org
- **Townhouse**. 52 Windward.
- **Venice Arts** 1702 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200
- **Vera Davis Center**, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865
- **Westminster Elementary School**, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2016
- **Unurban Coffee Shop** Open Mics, Showcases, Featured Performers, Meetings. 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

## Ongoing Events

### RADIO VENICE

4:20-6:30pm Sundays (not in September) Live Music  
Webcast from Breakwater Studios, : [www.radiovenice.tv/live/](http://www.radiovenice.tv/live/)

### OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

• 8:30 pm Sundays People's Potluck at 3rd & Rose.  
Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777.  
General Meeting After.

### COMPUTERS

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

### FOOD

• Free Food Distribution. Tuesdays Noon, Thursdays 12:30pm, Fridays 1pm. Vera Davis Center.  
• Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards).  
Vera Davis Center. 310-305-1865.

• Free Vegetarian Food Saturdays through Wednesdays 4:00 PM. OFW & Dudley.

• Mar Vista Farmers Market. Sunday 9:00AM - 2:00PM  
3826 Grand View Boulevard.

• Venice Farmers Market. Fridays 7-11am, 500 North Venice Blvd.

### KIDS

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

### MUSIC

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

6:30-9:00 PM Sundays - Venice Electric Light Parade, meet at Windward Plaza.

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

### YOGA AND DANCE

• Mondays 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free  
• Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson's, Electric Lodge, Donation.  
• Thursdays 11:15 AM-ish Yoga in the park at 4th and Strand, Ocean Park, 310-306-7330 - Gerry and Suzy.

### AA

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

## 11 • October 2017 • Free Venice Beachhead

*Venice High – continued from page 8*

It is much more likely that the SYSTEMS which Ms. Wiedoeft and LAUSD represent, even in their continuing efforts to ameliorate tensions between students and the Administration, are THEMSELVES in need of examination and change.

It is in UNDERSTANDING the LARGER PICTURE of HOW POWER WORKS, how it has established itself and been codified and how, in the struggle between Order and Learning, it is often not the removal of a particular individual which causes, or solves, a problem -- it is the SYSTEM ITSELF which needs re-examining! And so the VHS students, their teachers, and most importantly the ADMINISTRATORS, might consider reevaluating the structures of LEARNING and create a dialectic in the classroom where CONFLICTS can SERVE as fecund fodder for growth, rather than cause for retribution. Then... the teachers and Administrators can get down to the real business of helping the students of VHS achieve their dreams, however noble or majestic.

### FOOTNOTE:

The Venice Beachhead reached out to Principal Wiedoeft for this article. We received a response from LAUSD Public Information Officer, Samuel C. Gilstrap (Office of Communications and Media Relations). Mr. Gilstrap, in an email, stated Ms. Wiedoeft was, "not available" for interview as part of our research. Subsequent attempts to reach out to LAUSD through Mr. Gilstrap went unanswered, reflecting a basic "closed-door" policy regarding Venice High School and the students' conflict with their principal.

Research also discovered that Principal Wiedoeft has been on "Medical Leave" for a number of months; our sources confirm the authenticity of the claim and the Beachhead Collective wishes Dr. Wiedoeft speedy recovery. She is expected to return to VHS in mid-October. The Venice Beachhead still holds open the offer of interviewing Dr. Wiedoeft and other LAUSD officials.

Since Dr. Wiedoeft's absence, the VHS students (working with parents) have opened a gender-neutral bathroom in the school; robo-calls are also being made in Spanish for those requesting; a Latino/Mexican cultural studies class is now on the VHS curriculum.

Join **Robert Scheer** in conversation with Jere Van Dyk, author of *The Trade: My Journey into the Labyrinth of Political Kidnapping*

Jere Van Dyk is a journalist and author who has focused much of his writing on Afghanistan and Pakistan. While reporting on the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, Van Dyk was captured and held by the Taliban for 45 days in 2008. He is currently a consultant on Afghanistan, Pakistan, and al-Qaeda for CBS News.

In 2014, Van Dyk traveled to Afghanistan to try to discover the motives behind his kidnapping. In pursuing his kidnappers, and the stories of the intermediaries and money men, Van Dyk uncovered not just the story of his own abduction, but the operation of what he calls *The Trade*: the business of kidnapping to finance terrorist activities. Operating according to its own shadowy rules, *The Trade* has become a murky form of negotiation between criminal groups, corporations, families, and governments who have no formal lines of communication.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4 -6 PM THE TOWER ROOM 800 W. 1ST STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 Street parking or paid parking available across the street (704 W. 1st street)

Contact Kay Gallin [kaygallin@aol.com](mailto:kaygallin@aol.com) or 310.990.5789 (call or text)

Free to the public, RSVP required <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3095844>

## Hearing October 6 - Beach Curfew

Dear Citizen

I am writing to let you know about an important hearing coming up next week regarding Los Angeles' long-standing beach curfew.

The beach curfew closes five city beach parks—including Dockweiler, Venice, and Will Rogers in Council District 11 – from midnight until 5:00 am. The City Department of Recreation and Parks is applying for a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) to maintain the operating hours of the City's beach parks and to resolve legal questions about the need to have applied for a CDP when the curfew was originally approved in 1989.

The City Bureau of Engineering will hold a public hearing on October 6, 2017, to consider whether to approve the on-going implementation of the operating hours. The hearing will be at 6:00 pm in the Westchester Senior Center Community Room, located at 8740 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. You are invited and encouraged to attend this hearing so your input about continuing the beach curfew can be heard.

The Bureau of Engineering public hearing is the first step in this public process. After the October 5th public hearing, the City Engineer will issue a determination regarding the application. The City Engineer's decision is appealable to the Board of Public Works and will ultimately be considered by the California Coastal Commission. There will be opportunity for additional public input at each step of the process.

Although the application was submitted by the Recreation and Parks Department and my office does not have a formal role in the decision-making process, this matter affects the residents of CD 11, and I encourage you to get involved as this decision is made. Please share your thoughts either by attending the meeting or submitting comments in writing to William Jones either at [william.jones@lacity.org](mailto:william.jones@lacity.org) or at the address below. The Bureau of Engineering has requested that all written comments be received by 4:00 pm on October 6, 2017, in order to be fully considered before they issue any decision.

City of Los Angeles Bureau of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group

Attention: William Jones, Environmental Supervisor II

1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, Mail Stop 939

Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Thank you for your time and partnership in making our neighborhoods better places to live, work and enjoy. I encourage your participation in this public process to ensure that your voice is heard regarding the operating hours of the City's beach parks.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN – Councilmember, 11th District

## 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](mailto: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.



## 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](mailto: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.





# WE LOVE THE ABBOT KINNEY FESTIVAL

The Free Venice Beachhead Collective set up in our booth at the Abbot Kinney Festival, with our issues, back issues, donation premiums (t-shirts and posters). Our theme was “Tell Us Your Venice Story” and we got an earful. Original Black families, kids harrassed by police, go on to get their college degrees and success. People who have made Venice their community for a life time.

Having three hip eminent Venice historians, Jeffery Stanton, Marty Liboff, and Jon Wolff hanging out in our booth was quite the honor. Many long timers came up to tell us about their long history here. Other fans of the Beachhead came by to say hi and that they love the paper. Below are photos by Eric Ahlberg, reprocessed by the App PRISMA into these uncanny painting like creations. My philosophy is that everyone is art, and everything is art. Isn't this the creation?



above – Actress and film maker Sylvia Spross and her husband actor Robert Milano



Cute couple eh? Where did I put their names?



So sweet.



Beachhead Fans, it's so good to see you.



above – Verna Smith



above – Ryan Shanahan appears to be ready to engage in fisticuffs with Snapchat.



above – Steve F'Dor - eminent blues pianist.



I got one of these hats. Darker than “Keep Venice Funky”, and deeper irony.



above – Cary Lopiccolo and Jason Hill



above– Jeffery Stanton, Eminent Venice Historian



Thank You Abbot Kinney Festival for bringing us together on the street!