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September
2012
#371

Skateboarding While Black

By Ronald McKinley

While skateboarding home on a nice, warm summer afternoon, Ronald Weekley, Jr. was beaten and then arrested by LAPD. Not beaten and arrested; there is a difference. The charge was for skateboarding on the wrong side of the street, and resisting arrest. Weekley has a broken nose, fractured cheek, and a concussion.

Several cell phone cameras captured the incident on Saturday, August 18. All the videos were by women who lived in the area. They can be heard speaking to the police.

One woman can be heard saying, "hit him again for the camera" in an effort to stop the police from doing just that. Weekley was prone face down and handcuffed on the lawn in front of his home, with four well-fed cops on his back. One of the officers grabbed Weekley's hair with his left hand and punched him in the face with his right. One woman said, "That was a bitch-ass move." Meanwhile other officers, not involved in the beat-down, tried to stop the videoing. Later she said: "I know this isn't Orange County, we just want to make sure you don't kill him."

The call for documentation could be heard: "video, video, video, video." There were several cell phones recording. The women were brave, they kept a dialogue going with the police the entire time Week-



Ronald Weekley, Jr. and Ronald Weekley, Sr. at the rally held August 22.
Photo: CJ Gronner

ley was prone on the ground. They were not kind to the police. I would have not been so inclined myself.

The Violent Crime Task Force is whom we have to thank for this mess. I thought they were supposed to stop violent crime. So skateboarding on the wrong side of the street is a violent crime? I guess if you knock over someone's latte...

At the Venice Neighborhood Council's August 21 meeting, held at the Westminster Elementary School auditorium, Capt. Brian Johnson, the commander of the pacific division, and Alex Bustamante, the inspector general of the police commission, held a question and answer session in the public safety-LAPD report portion of the meeting. This report includes a monthly Venice crime report and updates on law enforcement issues in Venice.

Johnson spoke on policing constitutionally, a favorite theme of his. He did not know the status of the officers involved in the incident, they could still be on the street. Bustamante spoke about the job of the office of the inspector general, the Professional Standards Bureau quality control for the police department. He also answered questions.

A number of people at this meeting spoke on being humiliated by the LAPD. One woman spoke about five officers stopping her from returning to her home after shopping. One man spoke about his 4th of July

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Roseanne Barr Is Coming to Venice

By Karl Abrams

Presidential Candidate Roseanne Barr is coming to Venice. The former comedienne, TV star and role model for millions of working class women is the candidate of the Peace and Freedom Party. Barr and long-time activist Cindy Sheehan won over the majority of delegates at the Peace and Freedom (P&F) Party's exciting Los Angeles convention on August 4 to become candidates for the 2012 Presidential election.

Both Barr and Sheehan spoke to the delegates (I was one of them) about progressive and socialist philosophies that they believe will help to create a better world. Overall, Barr's political speech was especially laugh-at-loud hilarious, a crowd pleasing technique that she calls "serious comedy that just writes itself."

The P&F Party is a democratic socialist, feminist and environmentalist political party founded in Venice in 1967 as a progressive alternative to the standard two-party policies of endless wars on both the third world and U.S. workers at home. Originally, and still, an anti-war and a free education party, its Venice Chapter headquarters was always very visible on Abbot Kinney Blvd during the 60s and 70s and always busy signing up new registrants. Presently the California P&F Party is in need of about 45,000 new members to remain on the ballot after 2014.

Barr, having also been a feminist and activist most of her life and an outspoken supporter of the Occupy Movement, is asking the American people to register in the P&F Party because the "...American people are sick and tired of the lesser of two evils garbage." Barr, who started her career as a stand-up comic, is also an award-winning actress, a producer and a writer of several books. Having successfully starred in the sitcom *Roseanne* for 11 years and having won a Primetime Emmy Award, a People's Choice Award and two Golden Globe Awards for Best Actress, the 59-year old Barr now intends to turn her comedic genius towards the embarrassment of the 1 percent, the legalization of marijuana and the erasure

of all homeowner and student loan debt. And that's just for starters.

Barr and Sheehan outright reject the "tweedledum and tweetledee" politics of Republicans and Democrats. Instead, they have enthusiastically embraced the platform of the P&F Party (www.peaceandfreedom.org and www.VenicePeaceandFreedom.org), dramatized by some slogans presented on Barr's website, www.roseanneforpresident2012.org.

For example, "We need you to make History! - Participate in your democracy!" Or, "Vote Peace and Freedom Party. America needs a real third party choice." It is also here that Barr asks the question, "Do you want to be homeless and jobless in the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Her website is also calling for volunteers to help with the historic task of getting the Barr-Sheehan ticket to appear on the ballot in at least 15 other states.

Another website, "Roseanne World" (www.roseanneworld.com) is a great site to understand why Barr is running for President. Here, in one of several interesting videos, Barr says, "I want the American people to have the opportunity to vote for a party which is not owned by bankers!"

And how Barr loves to tweet (Roseanne Barr@TheRealRoseanne). It is precisely here that her fearless ability to mix comedy and politics can be witnessed first hand. Her tweeted campaign slogan is, "I will fix this Shit!" When referring to America's two major parties, she tweets, "They suck and they're both a bunch of criminals." In another tweet Barr has promised to institute "European-style single-payer healthcare ... and to forgive all credit card and mortgage debt."

According to the New York Daily News, Barr has stated that, "The Democrats and Republicans have proven that they are servants -- bought and paid for by the 1% -- who are not doing what's in the best interest

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Above: First poster Earl Newman created in Venice, in 1960, of the Gas House, a coffeehouse, art gallery, and center of the Beat movement - see full story on page 7.

"I don't think I actually went to an event there, but in the daytime you could go in and wander around and sit in the bathtub and partake in the flavor of the whole thing. I liked to watch women who wore black."

--- filmmaker Pat O'Neill, talking about the Gas House



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Hi Mary,

A friend just shared your "Venice is a Poem" with me. Thank you, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would love to meet you and have you share your memories regarding this very special place with me. I love our little piece of Heaven on Earth. Regardless, I wish you all the best and thanks again for sharing your memories with all of us.

Peace and Light,
Beth Allyn

Dear Beachhead,

The 2nd Annual Sleep Out for the unHoused/homeless was successful in many ways. The food was incredible: hummus, breads, pies, salads, vegetarian chili, rice, soup, chips, dips, lots of fruits and vegetables plus more food (I can't remember it all). The movie, Rubber Tramps, was very well received. The music, dancing, and the speakers were entertaining. A free yoga class was conducted and the unHoused Game was simply incredible. The organizers, Occupy Venice, were very organized and things went off almost without a hitch. The characters were a plenty and it is Venice so we have a few stories to laugh about later. I think everyone had fun and some awareness was raised with the theme of this year's sleep out. We need to try to come together as a community and work toward positive humane solutions to homelessness. And we need to tell our public officials that's what we want.

Peggy Lee Kennedy



Venice Sleepout, August 25



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Venice to Silver: It's Not Your Mural

By Greta Cobar

The heart of our community was hurt this past month as bulldozers tore down the stairs leading to what used to be our historic post office.

New owner Joel Silver, big-time Hollywood producer behind movies like *Lethal Weapon*, *Die Hard*, *The Matrix* and *Predator*, started work both outside and inside the building without permits from the city.

"Our inspector stopped the job since the work done was not covered under the active permits," wrote Bob Steinbach, Chief, Inspection Bureau, Department of Building and Safety in an email message sent out August 8. However, it took only a few days for Silver to resume the demolition.

The worst of it we don't even know about, as it is taking place inside. And we won't know for two years, because that's how long Silver said it will take to finish the renovations and re-open the building.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office, which includes a wide spectrum of citizens and virtually all Venice organizations, found that an early start permit to demolish non-bearing walls at basement and ground floor was issued August 3. According to Michael King, an architect living in Venice, "early permits are the curse of historic preservation. The developers demolish stuff under these early permits before they submit plans for the real construction permit to avoid addressing a multitude of clearance issues with the demolished elements."

Silver also applied for a permit to demolish the interior, but has not received approval yet. Those of us that were able to secretly peek into the building can attest to the fact that things are being demolished. All historical postal furniture was secretly disposed of by the USPS before escrow closed.

Overall business with the United States Postal Service representatives has been shady, but one thing we have been told is that the 1941 Story of Venice mural by Edward Biberman will remain the property of the USPS.

Meanwhile Silver took it upon himself to remove the mural and restore it against the advice of Suzanne Zada, Executive Director of the Biberman estate, Deborah Padilla, Executive Director, Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), and Emily Winters, Venice muralist and Chair of the Venice Arts Council.

If the mural does not belong to Silver, why does he have the authority to decide that it needs to be restored, when Zada, Padilla, Winters and others do not think so at all. And why is he to decide who restores it in spite of experts' conflicting suggestions?

With the building expected to be closed for two years, Silver plans to move the mural to an undisclosed location. The mural can be damaged if not stored properly. It is also likely to be damaged when removed from the wall.

Although renowned mural experts have remarked that the mural is in excellent shape and that it is dangerous to move it, Silver has been unresponsive to community and expert input.

The Venice community would like to keep the artwork available for public viewing. Although



David Williams, Vice President of Network Operations with the USPS, stated that "the Postal Service will include measures to ensure the mural will remain available for public viewing in any plan for reuse or disposal of the Post Office property," such measures have not been made public.

"The purchaser and the Postal Service entered into a loan agreement in which the purchaser has agreed to allow access by the public to view the mural," Williams wrote in an August 13 letter to the Coalition. Although the original covenant for the building mentioned the mural and public access to it, the current covenant does not mention either one.

Cecilia Castillo, from Bill Rosendahl's office, told the Coalition that USPS attorney Maria Infanger mentioned that there is a lease agreement regarding the mural. However, when Castillo asked for a copy, there was no reply. The Coalition then asked Natalie Rogers, in Janice Hahn's office, to request a copy, which she did on August 17. With no reply from the USPS, the Coalition might have to get the document through a Freedom of Information Act request. Currently we do not know if the loan agreement enables removal of the mural from its intended location.

The City of Los Angeles decided to accept being the beneficiary of the covenant protecting our historic post office even though it has never assumed such a role in the past. Furthermore, the city does not require public access to its cultural monuments, and would not normally make this a requirement.

At the August meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council a motion was approved requesting that the public continue to have access to the mural and the historic foyer "for the same hours and days that the historic post office was open to the public before the sale of the property."

Because the public is not likely to have a presence in Silver's production company as much as it did in the post office, and because Silver is planning to remove the mural, an obvious question is: why not

move the mural to another public space? Although the "Story of Venice" mural was made specifically for the southern wall of our historic post office, we might choose not to lose the mural with the building. Especially since at the present time there is no provision for public access to view the mural. Moving it to the library is something that the community might wish to consider.

Another important factor to remember is the bargain that Silver got with this purchase. Not only is the building huge and it includes a large basement, but it is also in the heart of Venice, it is a historical building, and it sits on a large parcel of land. All of that for \$7.3 million? What a steal! And then he gets a mural by a world-renowned artist as a bonus? WOW! It shows that the USPS is not all that interested in making money.

Although the mass media has not covered the killing of a service provided for in the Constitution, the Beachhead has covered it in almost every issue for the past 18 months. Under a prerogative of losing revenue is actually a manufactured crisis caused by the demand that the USPS be the only business in the country to pre-fund the health benefits of its retirees for the next 75 years in a 5 year period. USPS also over-paid \$75 billion into its employee's pension fund. And with the planned sale of historical buildings, most of which happen to be in California, the USPS has been a cash cow for the government.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office has contacted and asked for help from every politician with jurisdiction. Aside from Bill Rosendahl and Janice Hahn, who wrote letters sympathizing with our efforts, there was a lot of silence and lack of responses. Senator Diane Feinstein's husband, Richard Blum, happens to be the chair of the Board of Directors of USPS property consultant CB Richard Ellis, which might explain why she chose not to speak against the USPS's plan to sell our historic post office.

"We really have a government that's just going to the highest bidder, which is all these private interest groups that are hovering around like vultures trying to pick the Postal Service, which actually is one of the strongest services that our government provides," said Dennis Kucinich (Dem-OH) in an August 1 interview with Nermeen Shaikh. He went on to say that "every time you privatize something, the cost goes up to the public. It may profit the private sector, but it certainly doesn't benefit the public."

Here in Venice, we should "let the fate of the post office be a warning of what can happen to the rest of Venice," said Jim Smith, who suggested that we create an oversight committee that will keep tabs on our post office and other historic buildings.

"Some of the best buildings from the Abbot Kinney era were demolished by the city, including St. Mark's Hotel, the block-long colonnade on Windward, not to mention the Pier and the Canals. In Venice, we seem to have organizations for everything except protection of our common heritage," Smith said.

It is the opinion of many that it is a violation of intent to change the purpose of a Works Project Administration building, such as our historic post office, and allow it to move into private ownership.

"There would be a distinct loss to the spiritual and patriotic relation between the citizen and the government if its activities were carried on in bare warehouses without architectural significance or dignity and constructed as cheaply and as shoddily as the average speculative structure" - *Southwest Builder & Contractor*, 9/13/1935.



This is all we can see of the inside of our historic post office

Photo: John Mooney

Skateboarding is Not a Crime

By CJ Gronner

There was a rally August 22 for Ronald Weekley, Jr., the kid that was beaten by police August 18th for skateboarding on the wrong side of the street. In Venice, California. That alone should tell you how wrong it is.

How horrifying is it that this can still happen in this day and age! And how inspiring and chill inducing it was to be there this afternoon with a Venice community that CARES, and is demanding action.

Weekley, Jr.'s skater friends were there, his classmates, his neighbors, the news, and people that had never heard of him before this despicable incident, came out in support on a gorgeous Venice afternoon, as cars of strangers drove by and honked their support.

The police line is that the young skater was violating traffic code by skating down the wrong side of the street (who hasn't?), and then resisting arrest for this blatantly heinous crime (who wouldn't?!). Then it was somehow decided to have four cops beat him up.

In broad daylight. In front of his home that he was skating back to. He has a concussion, a broken cheek, jaw and nose, and frankly, he looked a little like a Picasso painting as he stood in front of the crowd at the rally. For SWB. ("Skateboarding While Black", as one of the speakers said, and which appears to be so sad, but awfully true. Sorry, but you consider the neighborhood, the kid doing nothing anyone else doesn't do every day in Venice, and it really does look like his afro was his main problem. Which sickens me just to type). His father said that his son had thought he was going to die. In front of his own home. For SKATING!

Weekley Jr.'s very well-spoken and unbelievably calm, considerate father, Ronald Weekley, Sr., addressed the gathered crowd and brought tears to my eyes with his considerate and heart-felt words. He clearly loves his community, and wants kids of ALL colors to skate safely in Venice. He said people have asked what the family wants, and it is simply to have their son's charges dropped (he had to spend a night in County Jail without visiting a hospital first!), and the police officers that committed the crimes against Weekley, Jr. identified and charged publicly. In other words, JUSTICE. Which IS what we want, and we do want it NOW, as the chant went.

Mr. Weekley, Sr. went on to say that they hold no vengeance, no hate, and they are practicing forgiveness, but "forgiveness in context". That's right. He asked for skaters around California (and the World) to join together to combat police oppression, and "Redefine what it means to protect and serve!" That got a round of applause, as did most everything everyone said. When we weren't crying.

Like I was when Weekley, Jr. took the microphone stand and cried himself as he very softly said,



"Don't be angry at what happened ... Just help people that need it." What a special young man, that he already lives in a place of forgiveness, and is himself moving on to looking how to help others.

Obviously we have a big problem with police using excessive force in this country. It happens far too often to deny it. Now the press has it out that Weekley Jr. had warrants out for traffic misdemeanors (that almost everyone in Los Angeles has also had), but who cares? Police can't tell you have warrants by looking at you, and warrants don't equal beatings, even in our antiquated law books. The Weekleys have retained Benjamin Crump to help them, the same attorney who is handling the Trayvon Martin case. The Nation Of Islam were there today, standing in solidarity in their bow ties, and their spokesman Tony Muhammad reiterated that "This is not about color, this is about justice."

Reverend Al Sharpton called the family, and let them

him.

The chant evolved into "Peace From The Police!" as the group made their way down 6th Street, holding signs that read "Justice 4 Ron!" and the best one, "PEACE for Ron!" To quote everyone there, "YEAH!"



Skateboarding While Black - Continued from page 1

celebration stopped by the police; he said they set up a command post in front of his house. This happened to me some years ago, after the police formed a skirmish line and cleared the whole beach, after a confrontation in the pavilion between the police and graffiti artists.

The August 28 community meeting concerning Weekley, who called himself "present-day Rodney King," was an intense gathering attended by Johnson, Bustamante, and Mike Bonin from Rosendahl's office. The policemen who were involved in Weekley's arrest did not attend any of the meetings or rallies that took place.

Johnson pretended not to know there was racial profiling taking place under his watch. He spoke of Oakwood and was corrected by a woman in attendance, according to whom, "Oakwood is a park, but all of it is Venice. Separating Oakwood from Venice is a ploy to separate blacks from Venice."

Venice is changing, and not for the better. Money has found Venice. The police answer to the

moneyed. Walk down Rose Av. from the boardwalk to Lincoln Blvd. Slowly the people who make Venice, Venice are beaten down.

The place that perfected skateboarding is now making it a crime. I don't skateboard. I did when I was a teenager; that is when we nailed skates to a board. This is what happens when you don't vote. Someone who doesn't know you decides your fate.

Weekley, Jr. was held for six hours before being treated for his injuries. He was told he had to sign a certain document before treatment. I could not find out what this document was.

Weekley, Sr. spoke of a legacy, where young people of all colors could enjoy Venice; where kids could walk, skate and play in their own community without fear.

Now we wait to see if the charges against Weekley, Jr. are dropped. We wait on the use of force report. This investigation could and probably will continue until sometime next year. Peace from the police and enough is enough.



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Police and Selective Enforcement

In yet another incident exemplifying waste of time and resources on the part of the LAPD, Ibrahim Butler was arrested Friday, August 24.

A resident made a citizen's arrest on him for playing drums in what the resident deemed to be noise violation. It took twelve officers and a whole lot of hoopla to take him to jail and to seize about 15 drums that belong to four different people.

Ibrahim was released on \$100 bail that same day and the police released all drums as well. While waiting for him in the lobby of the Pacific Division, Shelly Rachel Gomez over-heard a child tell an officer that he wants to go and see inside the jail. The officer replied: "No, you don't. It's nothing but homeless, stinky people in there."

On the other side of the wall, Ibrahim was a first-hand witness to the discrimination leading to most arrests. He called it "profiling based on race and socio-economics."

The current Ocean Front Walk ordinance, which established the allowed noise levels, is one of the best examples of legislature created and used for the sole purpose of profiling and selectively targeting individuals.

Created with the stated intent of eliminating mass-produced items from the West side of the boardwalk, ordinance 42.15 was inaugurated with signs that listed LAMC 63.44.B.14(b) first. Although numerous community meetings were held and attended by hand-fulls of city higher-ups regarding the 42.15 vending and noise level ordinance, LAMC 63.44.B.14(b) was not once mentioned. The public did not know that it existed, let alone that the LAPD were getting ready to start enforcing it, and most definitely not that the signs concerning 42.15 were going to start out by listing 63.44.B.14(b).

By the way, 63.44.B.14(b) concerns the illegal curfew selectively now being enforced on OFW between midnight and 5:00 am. A person sleeping on OFW during that time is likely to be harassed by the police either with a ticket or an arrest, while someone walking his or her dog is likely to be ignored by those same cops.



Arresting officers, arresting woman, and horses shitting on Venice

According to the Coastal Act of 1976, "the public should have 24 hour access to the beaches." Under that same act, the city needs a permit for "any sort of curfews or restrictive ordinances that have such a negative impact on coastal access" said Charles Posner, Coastal Program Analyst with the California Coastal Commission in a phone conversation with the Beachhead in January.

While the illegal curfew is being selectively enforced, vending of mass-produced items is in full swing just like before the dozens of hours spent arguing about the ordinance. The police do not enforce the backbone of the legislature, whose one and only goal was to free up the space for self-expression and free speech.

More times than not local artists and performers are harassed on slow, overcast afternoons during the

week for being out of a spot or other petty BS while on a crowded, sunny Sunday all spots are taken by vendors selling made-in-China crap they bought downtown the day before.

For example, Sheila Richburg was found guilty of selling to an undercover officer a \$3 bracelet with beads that she hand-made out of paper. She was ordered to pay a fine and to complete 19 hours of community service. "It's like they're trying to get rid of the people the ordinance was supposed to protect," she said.

Ibrahim was arrested just because some lady told the cops to get him, and the cops complied. Meanwhile several others were performing on the boardwalk, some with amplified sound, which Ibrahim didn't even have. Next time you see an officer shitting all over Venice on a horse, why not place a citizen's arrest on him or her?



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Snake Man Cleared of All Charges

As the Beachhead reported in the June issue, Solomon, also known as Willie Lee Turner, or the Snake Man, was arrested in Santa Monica for allegedly hitting someone in Hollywood. Now that the trial is over and all charges against him were dropped, it's time to find out what happened.

Solomon: Thanks to my family, friends and supporters, I wish a Happy 2013 Year of the Snake to you all. The crown of my hope was the fact that I knew I didn't do it. I didn't even worry about proving my innocence, I just let them worry about how they would prove me guilty.

BH: So what happened?

Solomon: The two witnesses based on whose testimonies I was arrested recanted their statements and the case was dropped.

BH: Why did they identify you as the perpetrator in the first place?

Solomon: Sergeant Marc Reina was promoted to Lieutenant and moved from Venice to Hollywood. When a 911 call came in that a Black man in his 20's hit someone in Hollywood, Reina placed a 20-year old picture of me in the photo line-up. The witnesses did not pick me as a suspect, but Reina then showed them videos of me protesting in Venice. A week later, the two witnesses were driven in a police car to Santa Monica, where I was jogging, and were coerced into saying that I was the one whom they saw in Hollywood. The suspect was described as wearing a baseball cap and riding a beach cruiser with a milk crate on it, which definitely does not fit my description.

BH: It sounds like a Hollywood movie.

Solomon: Ya, like a nightmare on Elm Street. I had to spend 19 days in jail and now I have to pay back \$5000 to my family, who posted \$50,000 bail for me. But I count my blessings and feel victorious for defeating their efforts to frame me. It never ends, though. The other day I was performing two feet out of a marked spot, and the police wrote me a ticket. They want to keep me in the box. When I asked the policeman where to sign the ticket, he said: "in the box." But I am one of those who thinks outside of the box, and I think that self-expression should not be limited to the spaces currently marked on the boardwalk. I was one of the few who did not join the Lottery system, which created the assigned spots, and which was deemed unconstitutional since.



Solomon, the Snake Man, performing in Venice

BH: Thanks for giving us the latest on your endeavors, we wish you good luck in what you do.

Solomon: I want to thank the divine force for always bringing truth to the light.

Roseanne Barr and Cindy Sheehan Peace and Freedom Candidates

-continued from page 1

of the American people." At the same time, Barr points to financiers who have, "...stolen our money, our future and the American Dream...continue to enslave us with a broken monetary system."

Barr also advocates for a variety of progressive issues as addressed on her website and in her Official Candidate Questionnaire (<http://bit.ly/Aqdr0W>). The legalization of marijuana, for example, is viewed to "...end all Drug Wars and stop the monopoly of the subsidized prison systems..." Barr and Sheehan both are in favor of "self-determination and the right of return" for "Palestinians who have had their land stolen from them", and want "...to bring U.S. troops home and create new Green jobs [that] put people back to work". Barr says that, "Wars make the stock market go up and are fueled by profits...[while] the Military Industrial Complex...[remains] our shadow government. Let's work together to make war obsolete." Barr says she dreams of an American society that, "Runs best on diversity and freedom of thought interjected from many kinds of people".


Cindy Sheehan is a tireless activist for world peace. On her website (www.cindysheehanssoapbox.com) we are reminded of the tragic loss of her son during the Iraq War and how she transformed from a liberal democrat into a democratic socialist. Sheehan, the author of six books, has traveled and spoken to people all over the world about how the "U.S. is guilty of fighting an illegal and immoral war." She ran for Congress against House speaker Nancy Pelosi in 2008, coming in second place with 50,000 votes. At the convention, Sheehan also spoke for those who want a higher standard of living and education, in a peaceful world with "innovative solutions to homelessness and poverty."

Can Roseanne Barr and Cindy Sheehan actually win? Third party candidates always start out with high percentages and shrink to about 1 percent by the time of the election due to mass media reports of a close race between Democrats and Republicans. A better question to ask is can a big vote for Barr-Sheehan force Obama to the left. He already has California locked up so voting for Barr would not put his win in jeopardy.

According to an early 2012 study by Public Policy Polling (www.publicpolicypolling.com) and as discussed by The American Prospect (prospect.org), Barr would get a whopping 6% of the national vote if she ran for President. California might even be higher. Even more amazingly, young voters aged 18 to 29 who would vote Barr for President is even higher at 19% of the national vote. Nonetheless, even if Barr and Sheehan lose, many millions will gain in understanding how a better world is still possible with socialism.

Because of the passing of California's Proposition 14, the Peace and Freedom Party must almost double its registered voters to more than 100,000 in California by the end of 2014 to stay on the ballot. So, it is very important to register with the Peace and Freedom Party 30 days before the November 4 election.

Roseanne will speak at the Church in Ocean Park (2nd and Hill St.) at 7 pm Saturday, September 22.



Vote
BARR SHEEHAN
2012
www.RoseanneForPresident2012.org

Presidential Candidate
Roseanne Barr
visits Venice, and will speak
at the
Church in Ocean Park
2nd and Hill St.
7pm Saturday, Sept. 22
Music by Suzy Williams

**VOTE ROSEANNE BARR FOR PRESIDENT
AND CINDY SHEEHAN FOR VP**

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AMERICA – AND THE 99% –
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Earl Newman Goes From Venice to the Smithsonian

By Greta Cobar

“I want to thank Venice for being open to free-spirited people,” Earl Newman says 53 years after he came here from the East Coast with a wife and two kids in a ’55 Chevy station wagon “in quest of a future.”

And that he found. After being homeless for a few weeks, Earl and his family moved into the boarded-up store-front that now is the Small World Bookstore on Ocean Front Walk, next door to the Sidewalk Cafe. And there, according to Earl, “opportunity came.”

Someone had left, at the back of the Gas House, all the equipment he needed to silk-screen posters. “And I knew how to use it. I started using it to pay rent and didn’t think that it would lead anywhere or that I’d do it years later,” Earl recently told the Beachhead.

Well, it lead to him being a successful self-employed artist since. This year he is celebrating his 50th year designing posters for the Monterey Jazz Festival, which takes place September 21 to 23. He finds 50 to be a “good, round number” to change direction and “maybe stop designing posters for the festival, maybe go fishing or traveling in a ‘Winnebago’.”

Among his large following is the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC, which purchased the complete collection of Earl’s signed and numbered Monterey Jazz Festival posters for their permanent collection.

“I found something I really enjoy doing,” he says of creating and silk-screening his artwork. The first poster he printed in Venice was of the Gas House, a coffee shop just steps south of Small World Bookstore, where Vivianne Robinson’s Name on Rice shop is now located.

“My parents came to visit shortly after we moved into the place, and when my mom walked in, she started crying and said: ‘Earl, we didn’t bring you up to live like this.’” According to Earl, it was raining and there were pots and pans on the floor to catch the drips from the ceiling. The floor was covered in sand that he had hauled from the beach to cover up the broken tile.

Earl and his family lived a very primitive life-style and had little money. At times Earl didn’t think that they would make it, and might have to return to New England with his wife Jean and two daughters Andrea and April and return to being a school teacher.

Earl Newman in his studio in Summit, Oregon, holding the 2012 Monterey Jazz Festival Poster depicting Shelly Manne
Photo: Todd von Hoffmann



Looking back, Earl is thankful to Jean, who was also an art teacher, for inspiring him to come out West and for being supportive of their common endeavors. With perseverance Earl and Jean fixed the place up, painted it, made an art gallery in the front and set up residence in the back. “My son Dale was born in the back of the gallery. I delivered him,” Earl told the Beachhead.

Meanwhile, in the front, there was a new art show every month, which allowed Earl to “barely make it.” When he got a night job for the Yellow Pages in West LA, Earl thought to himself: “I’m not gonna do this,” and really got into poster making.

The commemorative 50th Monterey Jazz Festival poster depicts and is a tribute to Shelly Manne, whom Earl wishes to thank for “helping me get to this point.” It was back in 1962, in Escondido, that Earl was selling posters for the first time at a fair, and he met Shelly. “He saw my posters, bought a bunch, and invited me to his jazz club, Shelly’s Manhole, in Hollywood.” Earl went on to design two posters for Shelly, and while hanging out at the club he met a woman who was doing human relations for the Monterey Jazz Festival. She asked him to design a poster for the festival, Earl drew Joe Gordon, a trumpeter, and the rest is history.

“My first time attending the 3-day event, in 1963, I made \$1000. I knew right then and there what the formula is: fine art, not commercial, at a good festival.”

Back in Venice, a few years later, Earl set up studio a few houses south of Venice and Abbot Kinney Blvd. He bought a parcel of land with two lots on it, built a 2-story building for himself on one of the parcels, and offered the house residing on the other one rent-free to Rick Davidson, Ana and John Haag, all three of whom founded the Free Venice Beachhead and the Peace and Freedom Party in that very residence. Both the Beachhead and the Peace and Freedom Party operated in that location for quite a few years. According to Earl, “nobody remembers how many.”

By the time the ‘70s came around, business in Venice was slowing down for Earl, and big galleries were coming into town. “I didn’t fit into that package,” he said. So in ’72 he moved up north with his wife and three children to experience farm life in Summit, Oregon. “It’s one of the best things that happened to me - outside of Venice,” Earl said.

He still lives on that farm today with two cats, about twenty chickens, a garden with strawberries, peas, lettuce, rhubarb, carrots and much more. The farm is so big that most of it is a forest with a river running through it. And yes, there are bridges under big trees, with chairs and tables, ideal spots to sit and sip some wine.

Fresh off the boat in Oregon in 1974, Earl visited the Oregon Country Fair for the first time. There he found Peace and Freedom Party members selling bumper stickers and anti-war stuff. He thought to himself: “My posters might fit right in with this.” Within minutes Earl was selling posters side-by-side with the Peace and Freedom folks. After a few years of co-existence, the Peace and Freedom Party members took off on another adventure, and Earl continues to sell his posters there to this day, without missing a single year.

“I could get bored any time now, but for some reason I don’t,” Earl said about designing and printing posters at 82. “That’s the name of the game: find a passion,” he says. He definitely found his passion. “Art is and has been a great companion for me,” Earl told the Beachhead.

State Parks Cheat Environment at Malibu

By John Davis

Malibu Lagoon State Park, a haven for surfers and wildlife, was bulldozed this summer. Wildlife was laid to waste and surfing opportunities have been adversely impacted. All of this could have been prevented when the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released, but Staff of State Parks cheated and violated State law so the public would be silenced. There were no hearings on the Draft or Final EIR, as required by the California Environmental Protection Act.

The former Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks failed to call a meeting of the State Parks Commission, and thusly froze the public out of the comment process. This is like Coastal Commission Staff approving a skyscraper on the beach without ever telling the public Commission, and leaving the public without a voice. The State Parks Commission did not approve the current EIR, as required by State Law, and the final EIR for the project is a fraud.

In July, the *Beachhead* (<http://bit.ly/PvEWu6>) reported that former State Parks Director Ruth Coleman was letting both L.A. City and County steal revenues from Dockweiler State Park. Neither has any legal jurisdiction over the State property.

Since then, Coleman resigned as a result of yet another scandal exposed by the *Sacramento Bee* where the Directors’ staff was responsible for hiding \$54 million from the Governor and State Legislature. What remains to be seen is if the State will do anything to fix these legal problems. The answer is probably no, because elected officials like it this way.

Coleman resigned and was then replaced by California Under-Secretary of Natural Resources Janelle Beland, who is now Acting Executive Director of State Parks. But Beland is cut from the same cloth as Coleman. With full knowledge and intent, Beland is letting the City and County continue to extort millions of dollars from Dockweiler State Park and to arrest people for attempting to use the park after midnight in Venice.

“We have uncovered that there’s a whole culture of deception and entitlement in the state parks department, far greater than we anticipated,” said assembly person Beth Gaines (Republican-Rocklin) in a press conference.

The California Joint Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved the audit requested by Gaines.

But, as it turns out, the institutional fraud runs even deeper. Former Director Coleman and State Parks staff biologist Suzanne Goode have pulled another fast one at Malibu Lagoon State Park.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is very protective of the environment. When an EIR is underway, CEQA requires public hearings at every turn. This gives people the chance to speak their mind and to provide valuable information regarding proposed projects.

The California State Parks Commission is the public legislative body tasked by law to hold such

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Continued on page 8

Cannabis Access Set to Vaporize September 6

By Anne Alvarez

On August 14, the L.A City Attorney's office sent letters to 1,046 suspected dispensary locations and 728 landlords, stating: "Continuance of a medical marijuana business at this location may subject you to legal action resulting in a court ordered closure and imposition of monetary penalties of \$2,500 a day, as well as prosecution for a misdemeanor, punishable by six months in jail and a \$1,000.00 fine. Each day that the property is used in violation of city law is a separate violation."

This is taking away the safe and affordable access that medical marijuana supporters approved over 15 years ago, as well as wasting millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars fighting a battle that the State Supreme Court is sure to overturn, just as it threw out a court case that was part of the so-called "legal reasoning" for instituting the ban on Los Angeles dispensaries.

On August 22, the California Supreme Court overturned the controversial decision in *Pack v. City of Long Beach*, which previously had held that federal law preempts some dispensary regulations.

Joe Elford, Chief Counsel with Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the country's leading medical marijuana advocacy organization, stated that "The California Supreme Court has essentially pulled out the rug from under local officials who have used the Pack decision to deny access to medical marijuana for thousands of patients across the state. Pack is now a dead letter and, because of the California Rules of Court (Rule 8.528), it is disingenuous for any public official to contend that the appellate decision is somehow reinstated." The Pack decision has been used by several municipalities, including Los Angeles, to suspend or ban outright the distribution of medical marijuana. However, the dismissal of said decision questions the viability of such bans.

ASA along with Patient Care Alliance, Los Angeles, a medical marijuana trade association with more than 300 L.A.-based dispensaries and The Greater Los Angeles Collectives Alliance have teamed up with labor union United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 to qualify a ballot measure to repeal the ban.

On August 17, the Patient Care Association, along with 11 medical marijuana patients, filed a lawsuit against the city asking for an injunction that



President Obama while attending Occidental College
Photo: Lisa Jack

stops the dispensary ban from taking effect, and seeks to block enforcement of the ordinance. It also asks for an immediate injunction to keep city officials from shuttering dispensaries, which is scheduled to begin Sept. 6.

Meanwhile city officials have responded to the lawsuit by saying that the State Supreme Court decision and the public's outcry "changes nothing." The L.A City Council voted August 23 to enlist the help of the federal government, asking local and federal law enforcement agencies to develop new strategies to enforce the shutdown. "We need to get out of the way of law enforcement," said Councilperson Bernard Parks in asking the Los Angeles Police Department to coordinate with the district attorney and Drug Enforcement Administration on the enforcement of the ban.

On August 29, with plenty of time to spare, medical marijuana advocates filed more than 50,000 signatures in an effort to overturn the ban on dispensaries throughout the city. The city now has up to 30 days to either rescind the ban or call a special election and put the decision to Los Angeles voters early

next year. Depending on the timing, the city may be forced to hold a separate election in addition to the March primary and May mayoral election.

"Because of the ban's questionable future, the city ought to reconsider its tough stance on enforcing the ban" said Don Duncan, California Director with ASA.

If only President Obama could try to remember the good times he had back in the day while attending Punahou School in Hawaii. According to biographer David Maraniss' book "Barack Obama: The Story," when a joint was making the rounds, Obama often elbowed his way in, out of turn, shouting 'Intercepted!' and took an extra hit.

To make your voice heard and put a stop to local government officials infringing upon your rights, log in to www.stopthebanla.com and sign the petition. You can also learn more through Americans for Safe Access, the largest national member-based organization of patients, medical professionals, scientists and concerned citizens promoting safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use and research at www.safeaccessnow.org. Contact your local and state politicians listed below and let them know you are against the illegal maneuverings to deprive medical marijuana patients of their legally sanctioned, lawfully prescribed medication.

L.A. City Attorney's Office: (213) 978-8100
Councilperson Jose Huizar: (213) 473-7014
Governor Jerry Brown: (916) 445-2841



Where to begin? Well, since there was no beginning and will be no end, we'll have to pick it up somewhere in the middle. A lot of individuals (no such thing in this universe...maybe some other) wonder about the origin of things, and their end. No energy is ever lost, it just changes form. We have to get back to the awe of our childhood, back to our innocence and wonder, and adventure of the moment.

Every moment is an adventure when we get out of our mind and into our heart. Death, control and individuality are all illusions of this dimension. To take anything personally is to be duped by your ego. The idea of individual souls is an illusion. The essential nature of life is Blissful Creativity. Time and space are phenomena of this dimension and are transcended in the higher dimensions. We are multi-dimensional and essentially, Absolute Spirit. Our dharma is to blissfully create. We are co-creators with the Absolute Spirit. We need to take ourselves seriously blissful. We need to feel more than we are thinking. Thought keeps us in time, the illusion of ego. The ego is active when we forget it is all eternally One and connected to all parts of itself.

It's beyond the mind – the emotions are the link to the soul, and the soul is God within us. The mind has a strong ego connection. The ego survives in Time. Reality transcends time.

If God is everywhere, forever, hell can't be all that bad, and it would have to be existing in your psychosis, if you'll forgive my obnoxiousness. God is Love, and now I'm looking forward to a return to Paradise, with a 32-year-old wealthy, healthy, charismatic, creative, nymphomaniac, with modest standards, prone to charming old guys with a young, adventuresome spirit and a lively, erotic imagination.

State Parks Cheat Environment at Malibu - continued from page 7

public hearings, if the Agency proposes any changes to the State Parks General Plan, which includes EIRs.

Only after the State Parks Commission approves the Final EIR can the project begin. Parks Staff is required to file a mandatory Notice of Determination (NOD) with the State, which includes findings made by the Parks Commission and a record of all public hearings.

However, Goode simply made an end run around the law and filed the NOD without the Commission holding any public hearing at all. This was done in 2006, under the leadership of the now disgraced Coleman.

No wonder Malibu residents were surprised in 2010 when the Agency announced the lagoon would be bulldozed and dredged starting this year.

Was this nefarious deed an accident? Many residents feel that it was not.

Since 2006, many other similar decisions were made behind closed doors.

Contractors were hired to bulldoze and dredge the once beautiful coastal lagoon into a morass of lifeless mud. The once beautiful surfing park is now being turned into a perpetual dredging project. When the project is filled with sediment again, a natural process, it will be dredged again, and again. This will require the State to hire dredging contractors in the future.

The same group from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), a State Agency, and the parasitic private business that sucks from SMBRC, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, appear to be behind this scheme. They are planning to attack the Ballona Wetlands next.

The theory is to allow upstream polluters to continue dumping toxic substances into public waters. Their waste can then be dredged up, at public cost, on a regular basis. The polluters should be stopped at the source, and the public should not pay for their crimes, as they do now.

In her role as a State employee, Goode went so far as to demonize and label people who disagree with this process as opponents. She will soon learn

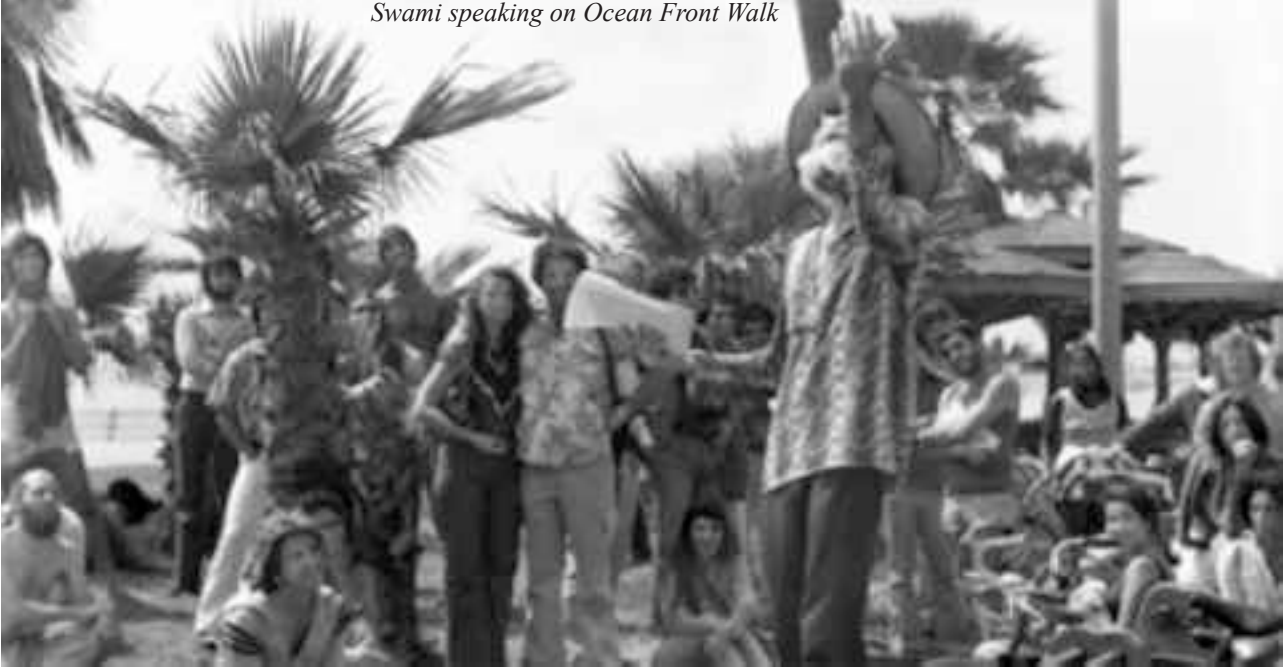
that Democracy is the true opponent of crime and that stakeholders pay her wage.

Without due process of law, democracy is meaningless.

Shelley Luce, who has been impersonating the Executive Director of the SMBRC for years, with no statutory authority, is also the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the private business which appears to be behind this whole mess. It is a non-profit business that has illegally operated out of the State of California Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Office since about 1994. Once discovered, they moved their business to Loyola University to hide.

The *Beachhead* (<http://bit.ly/NFeqNs>) previously reported on the group of California Government Officials behind the scheme at Malibu. They have now reached Ballona, and are preparing to unleash pollution belching bulldozers into a fragile ecosystem struggling to survive.

Swami speaking on Ocean Front Walk



Ancient Mothers

Long long ago, brothers and sisters, women were in control. Religions were feminine. People worshiped the magical powers of the Earth -
It was Mother Earth, Father Sun
The Moon was at night
The Sun god Ra took a journey every day but Hecate ruled at night
Women were associated with darkness
Along with the gift of birth
They also had the gift of death
They helped babies be born
They helped people die
They helped people get well with herbs and knowledge
They were dark -
Men hated them and feared them
Warrior men came and killed most of the women
And it's been like that ever since
The Mother is Divine
The Mother brings LIFE into the world
The Mother helps DEATH take your loved ones
The Spirit Guides are ready
Women are Divine -
Mother Earth and Father Sky
Six directions twirling always,
Concentrate on the center of your life
Pick up the fruit and sink your teeth into it
Drink the stream of JUICE and LIFE
Sink your teeth into Life and live
The Mother is Divine

- Mary Getlein

Mosaddegh at the Hague
by Majid Naficy

If you go to the Netherlands
Visit The Hague court of Justice.
On a rainy night
Linger at its closed gate
And look through the iron rods:
There, in that lighted building
Across the rain-laden trees,
An old man stood
More than half a century ago.
He came from our homeland
To speak out against the oil cartels
Before the whole world.
He did not hold anyone hostage
And took only a few steps
To reach the podium.
Listen, listen
Even years after that bloody August (1)
One can still hear his voice.
He speaks in beautiful French:
"Mesdames et Messieurs!
Ladies and Gentlemen!"

September 24, 2005

1. On August 19, 1953 Mohammad Mosaddegh (1882-1967), the democratically-elected Iranian Prime Minister, was overthrown in a coup d'etat orchestrated by the American and British intelligence services, in collaboration with Kashani, a fundamentalist clergy and Zahedi, a Nazi-sympathizer general. They gave absolute power to the Shah who had fled the country a few days earlier. In 1951, Mosaddegh led the movement for nationalization of the Iranian oil industry, which was under the control of the British. In June 1952, he traveled to the Hague to defend Iran's case in the International Court of Justice.

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In Search of Love
By Jacob Pryor

He spent a quarter of a century scheduled on shame,
And condescended to find himself at blame.
As a child, he crawled about the chilled floor
In search of love, sought in shadows, in sounds
Of autumn winds, and in golden lights x-raying air
As it shined through cracks of the oaken door.
But soon his search was in marked bounds
And was not free to devote time to things he found fair
Fawning grins and shocked frowns influenced his choices.
He found love by memorizing rules of heart,
Smile at that, bow to that and hate cripples.
Soon his morning fresh little rose dimples
Were replaced by a war-like frown.
Community required it to wear its laureled crown
And drink its intoxicating mead that wrapped
Prostitutes in patriotism and furs of queens.
And obvious fools became the great
Split between what he could think and know
And what he was forced to feel at the risk
Of a frown or something far worse.

00:33 Friday, January 16, 2009, parked in front of Beyond Baroque The "open" sign burns orange in the night
Down at Beyond Baroque. The neon light was left on just for us, CJ and me, Encouraging availability. But even more than this, Saint Philomene Perchance took pity, beacon light to shine It's hearty welcome to our orphanage On wheels, in hopes to end the awful siege, If only for one night. This heart of mine Concocts scenario, when in between The harsh realities; for now, this lee, Along our starboard side, is plain to see. A siren whispers, two sailors delight In warmth and invitation this cold night
Roger Houston (and CJWhitefang, Esquire)

Free Venice Beachhead • September 2012 • 9

Woodstock Revisited
By L.E. Mintz

I hung as many coats as I could. I got paid per coat. A radio announcer’s voice echoed in the factory. The New York State Thruway closed... too much flower power clogging the arteries. I wasn’t worried. I didn’t need no stinkin’ New York State Thruway. We were using the Connecticut Turnpike. I left work, ran home packed a bag went outside. The van pulled up. I got in. We hit the road. We hit the drugs. Everyone simultaneously lit joints popped pills snorted coke. We giggled we sang we cried I peed out a window. We ziggled ,we zagged across the state. Woodstock here we come. Traffic was light. We crossed a bridge to New York. Traffic was no longer light. We pulled on Route 17, the world’s biggest parking lot. A thirty five mile long line of cars standing still purring pungent reefer smoke pouring out in every direction half naked hippies girls with painted faces flowers long hair dancing across narrow streams of consciousness chased by half naked boys painted faces flowers even longer hair begging for their love. Acid heads floating across the backdrop, a magical mystery tour. The sky ominous dark storm clouds gathered lightening flashing primordial and apocalyptic, the dawn of time, the age of Aquarius. Oh yeah baby right up my alley.
Some hour floated by we exited Seventeen, snaked a winding country road looking for a place to hide in plain sight. We found an abandoned and broke house just down the road from a tiny grocery store, Kaplan’s, in the middle of nowhere three miles from the center of the universe. The store became my salvation, saved me from starvation. Exhausted I grabbed a box spring in an open air bedroom of the closed down house rolled out my bag laid down looked up dozed off awoke in someone else’s dream where it reeked of déjà vu went back to sleep slid into my own dream water skiing under a frozen lake.



Photo: Margaret Molloy

Readers and performers at the Fifth Annual Philomenian, which took place August 17 at Beyond Baroque
First row: Ellyn Maybe, Pegarty Long, Susan Hayden, Linda Albertano
Second row: Hillary Kaye, Brad Kay
Third row: Marsha Getzler, Mariano Zaro, Virom V. Coppola,
Fourth row: Jim Smith, Mariana Dietl, Suzy Williams

The Venice Sleep Out

By Charles Dunn

What had begun two years ago, has now transpired in to an Annual event, thanks to the hard work of all the teams involved. The day August 25 started at 4pm, even the weather turned up in its full vibrance and glory for the event.

There were Shoots and Ladders on a table approximately 6ft by 12ft in length, a stage for music and live performers whom were all part of the event, booths for Bradley Manning ran by the Veterans for peace, printed t-shirts, tarot card readers, plant a tree as well as the Beachhead. The best and most used, was the free food and drink booth, which served throughout the day and night many thanks to the volunteers.

The location Beyond Baroque on Venice Blvd. All day long vehicles that passed seemed to honk their horns in support for this event.

Vehicles that were parked alongside the event were a work of art themselves, as I was informed they are what's called rubber tramps. The art and creativity was outstanding and of the highest order. All the people that took part seemed to have a wonderful day, they were happy and free of their troubles.

Photo: Peggy Lee Kennedy



Night fell after an raising collection of stage music, poets, and performers. A rousing speech was given by Occupy, when they proposed a notion that the houseless leave their things in a building which is locked up until night time, which could then be retrieved between 6am and 9pm. This we should all fully support.

In the evening after the sun went down, the whole of the Sleep Out were given the luxury of watching the movie Rubber Tramps with popcorn

and a packet of m&m's, also hot drinks which were provided by the volunteers all night. The food was donated by kind hearts. The movie in its self explained why they call themselves Rubber Tramps. What an excellent movie we were treated to.

After the movie things were packed away and we all settled down for the night. This was a day and evening Venice can be proud of no trouble no suspense abuse of any, kind just peace and love.

I for one am looking forward to next years event. I learned a lot from these nice people, so when you come across them in your life, treat them with the respect and kindness they deserve 🚲

Thank you Venice Sleep Out

Sponsored by: Beyond Baroque, Venice Community Housing Corporation, Venice Justice Committee, Stand Up For Youth, Venice Food Not Bombs, SPARC, Heartbeat of Venice, Venice Action Alliance, Safe Place for Youth, POWER, Venice Family Clinic, Venice Arts Council, the Free Venice Beachhead, New Life Society and Reach or the Top. Special thanks to All Star Sound.

New Healthcare Law Provisions Take Effect Amid Controversy

By Roger Linnett

This is part of a continuing series, summarizing recently activated benefits that are part of the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. These new provisions were based on a 2011 report from the Institute of Medicine, the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, which relied on independent physicians, nurses, scientists and other experts as well as evidence-based research to develop its recommendations. They take effect at the insured's next policy renewal date on or after August 1.

Increased Access –

With about 7 million uninsured Californians, nearly 20 percent of the population, California will greatly benefit this year because of these new provisions:

- As much as \$15 billion per year in new federal funding for the state to help implementation.
- “Bridge” insurance programs that now cover low-income people and those with pre-existing conditions will remain in force until health care reform is fully implemented.
- Establishment of The California Health Benefits Exchange, which will act as a defined marketplace, much like the stock market, for consumers to buy insurance and apply for subsidies as needed. The exchange will begin enrolling prospective policyholders in 2014.

Increased coverage –

Forty seven million women, more than 5 million in California, who are now covered by individual or group insurance or Medicare will now be able to schedule preventive screening and counseling without incurring any additional out-of-pocket co-pays or deductibles.

Women and their doctors, not insurance companies, will now make decisions about their health needs, increasing the chance of catching potentially serious conditions at an earlier stage and substantially reducing the possibility of crushing medical bills for them and their families.

And, although women are the major beneficiaries of these new provisions, men and children can

also take advantage of covered preventive services that includes flu shots and other immunizations, screenings for cancers, high blood pressure, cholesterol and depression.

The health care law has already helped women gain access to potentially life-saving tests and services such as mammograms, cholesterol screenings and flu shots without co-insurance or deductibles, and women under Medicare also receive screenings and tests for diabetes and osteoporosis.

The following preventative services for women are now also covered:

- Annual “Well Woman” visits for all women who are sexually active or over age 21, including a physical, Pap test and clinical breast and pelvic exams.
- For women who are pregnant or nursing, gestational diabetes screening, breastfeeding support, supplies and counseling have been added to already available tests for Hepatitis B and anemia and folic acid supplements.
- Screening and counseling for domestic and interpersonal violence.
- HPV (Human PapillomaVirus) DNA testing for women 30 or older.
- Screening and counseling for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease.
- FDA-approved contraceptive methods, and contraceptive education and counseling.

This last item has caused a storm of controversy, driving opponents of the law to paroxysms of ecclesiastical fervor, claiming government intrusion into religious freedom. Bear in mind, though, that these are the same people who are relentlessly trying to plant their flag in the national vagina.

The Obama administration has said it will make common-sense accommodations with regard to conflicting religious dogma. Additionally, the administration announced that non-profit, religious employers who do not currently offer contraceptive coverage would not have to comply with the requirement for a year, and new regulations would be developed and finalized by the end of the year to accommodate religious concerns while ensuring access to these benefits for their employees.

Plus, group health plans and issuers that have maintained grandfathered status are not required to cover these services and certain nonprofit religious organizations, such as churches and religious schools, will not be required to cover these services.

Nevertheless, insurance companies know it is way more cost-effective to prevent a pregnancy than to pay for it.

Lowered Costs and Rebates –

According to a February 2012 brief by the Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Dep't. of Health and Human Services called “The Cost of Covering Contraceptives Through Health Insurance”: “When medical costs associated with unintended pregnancies are taken into account, including costs of prenatal care, pregnancy complications and deliveries, the net effect on premiums is close to zero.” (<http://1.usa.gov/zNTGuv>)

The brief also found that taxpayers realize a saving of \$4 for every dollar spent on publicly-funded family planning.

Because of a provision that went in effect January 1, 2012, called the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR), which was inserted into the health care law by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), insurers had to issue rebates to policy holders by August 1, if they spent more than 15 percent of premiums on administrative items for companies with more than 50 employees, or 20 percent with fewer than 50 or those with individual policies.

Nearly two million Californians recently received almost \$74 million in rebates from their health insurers based on 2011 financial records. Individual policyholders received rebates directly. Group policyholders, who paid either part or all of the premiums, are entitled to either a rebate or credit toward future premiums. Consult your employer's plan administrator for details.

If you have an individual or a group policy and your insurance provider complied with the MLR provision, you probably received a letter in which they congratulated themselves for not ripping you off.

Information for this article was compiled from: whitehouse.gov, kaiserhealthnews.org, aspe.hhs.gov, insurance.ca.gov and healthcare.gov.

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<div>Community Events – day by day</div> <div>Calendar Compiled By Charles Dunn</div>	<div>Location Guide</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.• Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006.• Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov• Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave.• Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - electriclodge.org• G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.• Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com• Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 pacificresidenttheatre.com• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.• Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865.•Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 310-606-2015.</div>
	<div>Ongoing Events</div> <div>COMPUTERS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbot Kinney Public Library offers Free Computer Classes. 310-821-1769.• Vera Davis Center offers Free Computer Use: M-Th 10am-12pm and 1-3pm; Friday 1-3pm.</div> <div>FOOD</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:30pm - Free Food Distribution: 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Vera Davis Center.• Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards). Call for date and time. 310-305-1865.• 5-7pm - Mondays: Hot Meals and Pre-packs. 2-3:30pm - Saturdays: Free Food Distribution. 1st Baptist Church. Westminster & 7th.• 8-10am - Sundays - Food/Meals at Ocean Front Walk near Rose Ave.</div> <div>KIDS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:30pm -Abbot Kinney Public Library Children’s Pajama Storytime. 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings.</div> <div>FILMS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:30pm - Abbot Kinney Public Library Thursday Movie Night. Call 310-821-1769 for title.• 7-10pm - 7 Dudley Cinema - First Thursdays at Beyond Baroque. Free.</div> <div>MUSIC</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8pm-12am - Hal’s Bar and Grill features Live Jazz Sunday and Monday nights. Free.• 8:30pm - TKO Comedy’s “Open Mic” for comics, musicians. 212 Pier. Free. Thursday nights.• 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday: Music at Uncle Darrow’s. 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.•5-9pm – Venice Street Legends. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Wednesday nights. Free.• 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - Psychedelic Surf Rock. Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free. • 9pm-12am - Jazz Flight on Tuesdays. The Del Monte Speakeasy. Free. 52 Windward</div> <div>MISCELLANEOUS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily ongoing Photography Exhibit (ends June 8): “Uprising: Los Angeles 1992”. SPARC (Old Venice Police Station). Free.• 7-10pm - MOM: Meditations On Media. 3rd Wednesdays. Beyond Baroque. Free.•11:30am-2:30pm – The Venice Oceanarium (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.• 6-8pm - McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club. Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesday of the month. Free.• 6-8:30pm - Eco-Yoga. 3rd Sunday of the Month. Church in Ocean Park, Hill & 2nd St. Bring a mat. Donation required.</div> <div>POETRY</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8pm-12am - Antonieta Villamil’s La Poesía Festival ¡en español! and Potluck Party: Bring original poesia, cuento, música, pintura. First Saturdays. Beyond Baroque Library. Free.</div> <div>POLITICAL AWARENESS</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occupy Venice General Assembly meets Mondays/Thursdays at 7pm. 1358 AKB. Free.</div>

It's Showtime for Venice Artist

By Anne Alvarez

Local artist Jaquelyn Fox will be unveiling her Venice canals paintings at an upcoming show at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. The Opening Cocktail Reception of "Beyond The Garden" will be September 8, from 3:00 to 7:00pm, and will feature free wine and cheese. Everyone is invited.

A native Californian, her zest towards her art is much like her approach to life: full of adventure and wonder. Her current series depicts the canals in a gentle, multi-dimensional manner, truly wondrous to look at.

Before devoting herself to painting, she was a successful photographer and ran her own studio for over a decade. She credits photography for giving her the discipline and clarity that come through her paintings.

If you would like to see Fox's paintings up close, check out her Santa Monica exhibit, which runs from September 8 to October 6 at Shomburg Gallery, in Bergamot Station.

Bergamot Station Arts Center
2525 Michigan Ave. E3A
Santa Monica, CA 90404
310.453.5757
Hours: Wed - Sat 11am - 6pm
www.jacquelynfox.com



Vermillion Moment Canals by Jaquelyn Fox



The most popular Venice poster of the 1960s, depicting a big event on the beach on Aug. 16, 1936, is available again.

Prices: \$35 framed, \$15 print
Size: 13" x 19"

For more information:
email: Beachhead@freevenice.org
call: 310-827-2329



September 8, 2012
Windward Plaza
1 Windward Ave
Venice 90291
11 am to 7 pm



PERFORMING: Planet of the Abts, Lili Haydn, Spiders and Witches, Insects vs Robots, Dylan Chambers and The Midnight Transit, Ya Harissa Bellydance Theater, Dance Hall Pimps, ATS Bellydance and Drums, Cubensis, Samba Da Mudanca, Champa St

SHOWING: art by sky, Joel Harris, Ra Ra Superstar, Brian Myllus, Jean Paul, Audrey Menamara-Garcia, Alex Avila, Sonji Mariposa, Martha C. Wilson









After Show 7 pm