

Letters - 2  
PO, Lincoln Place, 4th of J - 3  
Checking out - 4  
Cityhood Now! - 5  
Sun & Moon in Venice - 6  
Nuch & Weed - 7  
Biennial - 8  
More 4th of J, Bradbury - 9  
Swami, Poetry - 10 & 11  
Skills Ctr., Evictions - 13 & 14  
Calendar - 15



July  
2012  
#369

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIF 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 310-396-2525



Postcard mailed  
Oct. 3, 1916



Post Office Grand Opening  
Dec. 9, 1939



Resurgence  
in the '60s  
and '70s



Venice at a Crossroads  
in the 21st Century

Can Venice survive an increasing flood of visitors, a money-hungry Los Angeles, and endless debates that keep us divided? —see page 5



Beachhead Collective Staff:

Karl Abrams, Anne Alvarez, Vanessa Cabello, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Roger Linnett, Ronald McKinley, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek.

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

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

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

The Beachhead is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.



Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.  
Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org  
Web: www.freevenice.org  
Twitter: twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead  
Facebook: facebook.com/FreeVeniceBeachhead

Beachhead Sustainers:

- Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
- Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
- Irene Bajsarowycz • C.V. Beck
- Sheila Bernard • Chuck/Terry Bloomquist
- Allen Boelter • David Brooks • Tina Catalina
- Steve Clare • Greta Cobar
- Cosmo • Maureen Cotter
- John Davis • Fred Dewey • Robin Doyno
- Steve Effingham • David Eisenstark
- Jennifer Everhart • Peter R. Force
- Antonette Garcia • Don Geagan
- Mary Getlein • John Gibson
- Jesse Glazer • Linda Levitz Goodman
- Meredith Gordon • Pamela Gruber
- Phyllis Hayashibara
- Ted Hajjar • Arleen Hendler
- Nick Jones • Martha Kaplan
- John Kertisz • Mark A. Kleiman
- Joan Klotz • Ira Koslow
- LA Surf and Swim • Donna Lacey
- Larry Layne • Janet Lent
- Eric Liner • Karl Lisovsky
- Pegarty Long • Peter Lonnies
- Michael McGuffin • Meenoy
- Patrick McMahon Philip Melnick
- Michael Millman • Susan Millmann
- Tina Morehead • Sandy/David Moring
- Anne Murphy • Earl Newman
- Ocean Blue • Rebekah/Michael Ozier
- Barbara Palivos • Thomas Paris
- Sherman J. Pearl • Quality Tire & Brakes
- Karen Reeves • Judi Richards
- Nancy Raffaelli Richards • Nicky Rhoe
- Gail Rogers • Cristina Rojas
- Milton Rosenberg • Bill Rosendahl
- Ron Rouda • Pete Savino • James Schley
- Dana Schumacher • Linda Shusett
- Jim Smith • Lauren Smith • John Stein
- Alice Stek • Mike Suhd
- Surfing Cowboys • Carol Tantau
- Swami X • Teddy Tannenbaum
- Venice Peace & Freedom
- Venice Spring Fling • Joe/Nanci Ward
- Tim/Nancy Weil • Suzy Williams
- Nancy Boyd Williamson • Marcy Winograd
- Mary Worthington • Fabiola Wright
- Stan/Roni Zwerling

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



Thanks for the Metaphors

Dear Beachhead,

Three months ago I gave notice of leaving the Collective that publishes this paper. Now it’s time to step aside. Working on the Beachhead for the past 10 years has been a labor of love. But I believe each person is more than the job or role he or she performs. So, it is time to put away this mask and just be myself.

Many things in Venice are called unique, but the Free Venice Beachhead truly is. It is the last underground newspaper still alive and kickin’ from the Sixties. It has become the “paper of record” for Venice.

In addition to all the great friends I’ve made while performing my Beachhead duties, I take pride in having contributed in a small way to saving Lincoln Place, stopping lots of development schemes that would have only hurt the community, and lighting a spark of remembrance that will, I’m sure, result in a permanent memorial to the shameful treatment our Japanese neighbors were subjected to during World War II.

My only regret is that there is not a mass movement for cityhood at present. That task will be for those who will follow in the footsteps of John Haag, Rick Davidson, Carol Fondiller and all the others who have heroically stood in the path of Los Angeles bulldozers, both physical and political, and proclaimed Venice a sacred space.

I will now join the exalted ranks of Beachhead readers, who are of course, the most important part of this newspaper. If you’ve enjoyed any of the things I’ve written during these past years, you can best show it by making a donation, or becoming a sustainer, of this unique publication.

Jim Smith

Response To Patrick Frank’s “Even More PO’d at the P.O.”  
(from Venice Beachhead “Letters” June 2012)

“...I won’t be sad to see that post office go, for several reasons.... It’s ugly in there.... The mural is historic, but it’s also very weird.” - Patrick Frank

I believe we live in a world where people might benefit more from writing with the hope to preserve “weirdness” in public places, rather than writing with aspirations of erasing it.

I for one could use just about as much weirdness as I can get from Monday to Sunday. Seems like these days, I have to practically search for weirdness from the time I roll out of bed in the afternoon. And sometimes I find it close to impossible to find any. Anywhere.

Sure, there’s the human stage of Ocean Front Walk, or the random colorful dispensary parking lot alleyways, but nothing does it for me quite like a good old fashioned giant “weird” mural. And finding one of those weird murals in a federal institution can be a down right staggering experience for the senses.

Weirdness doesn’t taste any sweeter than when it’s helping you zone out of day to day reality.... like staring at Abbot Kinney rising out of the doorway at the “ugly” US Post Office in Venice, CA.

My advice? Embrace the weirdness, Patrick. It may be the only real thing left in this sunshine complacent world.

Peace,  
Alan Arch

Thanks for your generous donations!

- Al Boelter
- Humberto Braga
- Electric Lodge
- Michael Millman
- Earl Newman
- Milton Rosenberg
- Summer Fest
- Suzy Williams

Inspired

Dear Beachhead,

I really enjoyed the articles written in the May Beachhead by Vanessa Cabello, Jim Smith, and Marisa Peck. I think you everyone at Beachhead is doing a great service to the community of Venice. You inspire people to help out Venice, and you put pride into every Venetian.

Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,

Cory Shumaker



The Great Western  
STEAK & HOAGIE  
Company

1720 Lincoln Blvd, @ Superba, Venice  
310-450-4545

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac.  
Acupuncture and Herbs  
supervisor at local acupuncture schools  
private office in WLA at The Garden  
2001 S. Barrington # 111 (just north of Olympic)  
some evening hours:  
Santamonicaacupuncture.com  
310-403-7018  
reasonable rates • most conditions treated  
speciality in Chronic Hep C  
licensed since 1996

# Post Office Goes Private?

By Jim Smith

What sort of a country do we live in that allows the government to take an important historic building that is part of the public’s accumulated wealth and turn it over to the super-rich 1 percent for private use?

That is exactly what is happening with the building that has been Venice’s Main Post Office since 1939. And, it is being virtually given away over the loud protests of the organizations and people of Venice.

Our battered but beautiful post office has been closed since June 15. No one has seen Abbot Kinney gazing down on us since then.

I visited the mini-post office that has been carved out of the old Safeway building that is now used to sort mail. The Postal Service must be ashamed of the place since they have given it a fake address, 313 Grand Avenue. Anyone going to 313 Grand will be confronted with a cul-de-sac that does not give access to the mini. Instead, by auto or bike it can only be reached from Riviera Avenue in Central Venice. Walkers can climb over a curb along Windward Avenue and walk through a small parking lot to reach it.

Once inside, I was struck by the contrast with our old post office. In the mini, there is no artwork on the walls, no soaring ceilings, deep varnished wood or expensive tile floors. Instead, we see painted plywood, cheap tiles on the floor and a low ceiling with ugly acoustic tiles. The overall appearance is that of a low-income commercial business in a mini-mall. This is what the Postal Service thinks is good enough for the people of Venice!

Movie mogul Joel Silver, who is now in escrow to buy the Venice Post Office, is reputed to have a net worth of approximately \$350,000,000. The Post Office was for sale for \$7,500,000. This represents a little more than 2 percent of his wealth. For a person with an annual income of \$35,000, 2 percent would be \$750. Even if you have an income of \$100,000 per year, 2 percent would be just \$2,000.

This exercise is to show how skewed income distribution has become and to show that a member of the top 1 percent can buy a major asset with petty cash. Is anything called a public building or public space safe if the government (also owned by the 1 percent) can so willingly bestow our national treasures on them?

If and when Silver moves in, the public will move out. The operation will be private. Visitors who want to look at the historic mural and lobby will be allowed in according to his whim. We will have no recourse if the Edward Biberman mural is visible only once every two weeks. Nor will we be able to object if the lobby is substantially altered. As in the Middle Ages, it’s all up to the good will of the Lord in his castle, in this case Silver.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office is scrambling to get an injunction to stop the sale. At this point, a legal action is about the only thing that can save the post office. But going into court places a severe financial burden on even a group of average income people.

We are forced to resort to legal action because of the failure of our(?) representatives to intervene. Here is the rundown: City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl - supportive but powerless at the federal level; Member of Congress Janice Hahn - supportive, but now campaigning for a seat in Congress from the L.A. Harbor area; Senator Di-anne Feinstein - aides were friendly and sympathetic, but no action from the Senator; Senator Barbara Boxer - aides were friendly and sympathetic, but no action from the Senator; Member of Congress Henry Waxman - unwilling to get involved while campaigning to represent us. Waxman was also one of the sponsors of the 2006 bill that forced the USPS to make huge advance payments for future retiree health care, thereby forcing retrenchment by the Postal Service.

The plight of the Venice Post Office is being repeated thousands of times across the country as more and more historic buildings are put on the sell list. There is currently a moratorium for many of these, but not Venice, while Congress deliberates a new postal bill. However, it is unlikely that anything Congress passes will help people across the country to save their post offices. If anything, it will probably make the situation worse, as Congress bows to 1 percents who want to snatch up prime real estate at bargain prices throughout the country.

Only a handful of Democrats and no Republicans seem interested in saving our historic legacy that stems mostly from New Deal days. One of the most vocal supporters of public post offices, Dennis Kucinich, was defeated in his primary election.

In addition, the mass media, also owned by the 1 percent, seems not interested in covering what has become a large movement to save the post offices. If it had not been for our necessary effort in Venice to save our post office, most of us would not have become aware of the extent of government’s actions to unload post offices and lay off hundreds of thousands of postal workers in the middle of a recession/depression. Since our struggle began, we’ve been in contact with people in other parts of the country who are also trying to figure out how to stop this juggernaut. We now have our own information resources, such as [www.savethepostoffice.com](http://www.savethepostoffice.com) and [www.savethevenicepostoffice.facebook.com](http://www.savethevenicepostoffice.facebook.com)

What do we need to do about it:

1. We need a good lawyer versed in federal regulations to join our fight at bargain basement rates.
2. We need to spread the word to everyone about the massive looting of public resources now taking place.
3. We need a new Congress that is responsive to protecting the public from the vultures in Wall Street and elsewhere. Our local problems have merged with national issues.
4. We need millions to take to the streets, and stay in the streets, until we have a revolution that turns government priorities right side up. 🚲



## Lincoln Place Cats Need A Home

By Barbara Eisenberg

For many years a resident at Lincoln Place Apartments has been hoarding cats. Without spaying and neutering the cats, they have been producing kittens and more kittens which have grown up and produced more kittens. The problem in itself has been very disturbing as they were not well cared for, not enough food, no vaccination shots, and/or no medications for those which were ill.

Now AIMCO, the owner of Lincoln Place, has refused to allow any loose cats on the property. They say that all cats which are found outside will be trapped and removed from the property. The fate for these cats is unknown.

With the assistance of wonderful, all volunteer, ladies from the Stray Cat Alliance organization many of the cats have been spayed or neutered and given immunizations. The current kittens have been bathed to remove fleas and been given their first rounds of immunizations, as well.

Most of the adults are very well socialized and love to be petted, brushed, get chin scratching. Some are incredible athletes with leaps that are Olympic worthy.

I have played with many of them and they do not bite or scratch when playing.

These loveable felines all need homes and as quickly as possible due to the previously explained situation.

If you are not able to adopt or foster, perhaps you could make a small donation for the ongoing spay/neuter process, which will continue until all the kitties are accounted for.

Anyone who would love to have a very beautiful cat or kitten or want more information of this effort PLEASE contact: Julie (TCLA08@aol.com), Barbara Eisenberg (barbeebavvenice@yahoo.com), or Christi Metropole (www.straycatalliance.org) 🚲

## Not Born on the 4th of July

By Ronald McKinley

When I was younger, I celebrated the 4 of July as all good Americans did. I lit strings of firecrackers. I burned sparklers. I ate hot dogs, corn on the cob. In New Orleans, where I was born I would go to the French Market and buy a large watermelon. One hundred years before my birth the same market sold slaves.

I was born eighty-five years after slavery was abolished. Slavery was abolished eighty-nine years after America got its independence. As an African-American, it took me long a time to understand the implications. My ancestors were not freed when America was freed.

In Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Maryland the fear of slaves on one hand, and the military potential of mobilizing slaves on the other, gave a peculiar twist to the logic of war. Virginia’s royal governor John Murry, the Earl of Dunmore, offered freedom to slaves.

“And I do here by further declare all indented servants, negroes, or others, appertaining to rebels, free that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining His Majesty’s troops as soon as maybe, for the most speedily reducing this colony to a proper sense of their duty to His Majesty’s Crown and Dignity.”

Dunmore’s proclamation triggered a mass escape. Lord Dunmore’s “Ethiopian Regiment” went to work pillaging patriot plantations, along the shores of the Chesapeake, to supply British ships with food. Some of the captured were put to death, some were sold up the river to slavers in the West Indies. Some were, at public expense, sent to work in western Virginia’s lead mines.

In Connecticut, the state with the largest slave population in New England, the legislature passed two important acts which paved the way for the recruitment of black soldiers: any men who procured a substitute would be exempt from the draft, and former masters who freed their slaves to serve in the Continental Army would be relieved of any future obligation for support. Any slave who agreed to serve would exempt both a master and his son. Whites who were drafted who did not own slaves often bought one. Some slaves were able to negotiate freedom as the price for their service. Some did not get this promise; however, others failed to get it in writing, and were pressed back into slavery.

The 4th of July is more than barbecue, hot dogs, and fireworks. “The Star Spangled Banner” should mean more than the opening of ball games. I want to be proud to be an American, even eighty-nine years after the fact. I have a higher standard for America. I live here. I give America my best, and want no less in

return. Make America the true home of freedom, not more choices at the market, and two on the ballot. Put people before things. Make no man or woman a prisoner for thinking differently than you. Whole sections of America think we should imprison people for doing drugs. Deny adults who are not related the right to marry. Criminalize people without housing. Make corporations citizens. Bomb countries into the stone age. I try to be the America I want.

Make America the true home of freedom. Do no harm in speech or action to any living thing. Celebrate freedom from fear.

I have seen the auction block. I have been in the slave quarters. Do you feel free? Does Congress make you feel free? Does the Supreme Court make you feel free? Yes, we have a black president. Does he make you feel free? 🚲

Please help sustain the Free Venice Beachhead

Details at [www.freevenice.org/Beachhead/Sustainer.html](http://www.freevenice.org/Beachhead/Sustainer.html)

# Bud Van Osdall, Long Time Venice Resident, Dies in His RV

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

He was discovered deceased in his Sportsman camper behind the Talking Stick Café in Venice around 10:30 am Friday June 15. The LAPD said he was just a transient, which is not true. Bud lived in Venice for more than 30 years. He was no more a transient than anyone else is on this planet and it is wrong to classify people like that - as if they have no worth.

Bud was the name all of his friends knew him by, but he was born Myron Van Osdall Jr. He was a Vietnam combat veteran. He graduated from San Diego State and worked with computers when they took up a whole room. He also drove cab for 5 years in Los Angeles.

I was told that he was coughing the night before he died and he had been complaining of stomach pains. One of the people who employed Bud doing odd jobs had been calling him for days with no answer. Sad that he died like that in his motor home without calling anyone for help or going to the doctor. May be he was too sick.

His miniature pincher, named Dog, is now in the pound for 30 days so that some next of kin Bud had not spoken to for twenty years has a chance to claim her before she can be adopted. There is already a taker to adopt her so it seems cruel to poor Dog to make her stay in jail for 30 days after her friend died.

Bud had lots of friends, besides Dog, and I was one of them. I really got to know him over ten years ago when Bud and his long time friend, Douglas Waters, would park in the Rose Ave parking lot in their Winnebago motor home. Douglas was a World War II veteran and an accomplished pianist. Sadly, he died of a heart attack a few years ago. And once upon a time there were three of them: Bud, Douglas, and John. Douglas and John Jenkins met in 1966. Bud came along in the late 70's or early 80's. After losing housing in the Venice canals, they lived in an old truck with a tree house and a trailer pulled from behind. Bud was in the tree house, Douglas and John in the trailer.

After John became terminally ill, they all (Douglas, John and Bud) moved into Lincoln Place apartments with the help of Carol Tantau and St. Josephs. John passed away six weeks after they moved in, but

Douglas and Bud lived there for 12 more years until forced into a buy-out. That is when they bought Bertram, the Winnebago. Bud and Douglas lived in Bertram for years together. I believe after Douglas passed away, Bud just never felt right.

Bud did odd jobs in Venice, including at Big Bill's and Just Tantau. Years ago Bud and Douglas used to make special origami boxes with recycled magazines that Just Tantau used for gift boxes and people still remember those boxes. Lilly, from Just-Tantau, recently gave Bud some extra cash so he could buy a remote control helicopter, which he said he always wanted. He flew it at Penmar Park until he got it stuck on a roof. He had to sort of break in so he could climb up to get it, but the helicopter broke when he was getting down. Bud said that flying the helicopter at Penmar Park gave him the opportunity to reconnect with some old friends from his past and it was good.

There will be a memorial held for Bud and Douglas at the Talking Stick Sunday, July 8 at 12:30pm. Carol Tantau said she will give box making lessons in memory of Douglas. ☺

# The Life and Death of Mikey

By Ian Dean

With the rising popularity and constant shifting of this tiny beach side community, countless faces drift in and out. Many are forgettable, few are truly memorable, some are people who you know by face but lose track of the moment they leave eye shot. A grimy little oasis, ever morphing and changing to the trends and flow of time. The pulse of the town is captured in countless movies and TV shows, mentioned in songs and reported through countless art communities. It is where the wealthy and cool come to play, eat and live, where the poor come to create and bargain and where the world comes to see the ever going freak show that is Ocean Front Walk.

Though times have changed and many people have come and gone, there was one man who through it all grew up and saw all these changes, and yet somehow remained unchanged and unaffected by the trappings of local fame.

In an era before Venice was the "hip" place to be, but rather a place many avoided, when surfing was considered the pass time of the lazy and worthless, when punk rock was in its adolescence, and you could see 5 bands for 2 dollars at a vomit soaked venue, there was a young man who did it all, lived it all and loved it all.

This man was Michael Lee Samuelson. Born on March 8 1963, the details of Mikey's early years are not the focal point of this story, mainly

Venice was more than just a place to hang out for Mikey, it was a beacon of comfort even in adverse times of alcoholism and drug addiction, severe loneliness and depression. It was a place of safety and where the saying "where everybody knows your name" could not apply any more so than if Mikey were Abbot Kinney himself. To meet Mikey was an experience all on its own and to KNOW him was always an adventure, seeing how his penchant for trouble making and overall patriotic anarchism (yes, there IS such a thing) took hold of any event in which he was involved.

From The Sidewalk Cafe to SxT Tattoo, The Trading Post Liquor, to the first Streets of Venice skate shop and even the now non-existent Hi Dee Ho Comics and the Westminster Pagodas ... EVERY-ONE, one way or another knew Mikey.

Countless young men and women and even small children in town know him as "Uncle Mikey", others know him as "Punk Rock Mikey" when he sang with punk rock Karaoke band "ToneDeaf", and close friends and acquaintances know him as "Wrecking Ball". All of them accurate, all of them meaningful, all of them given with love and respect. But how does one properly define in such a short column a man who was so many things to so many people? The reality is I can't... nothing I write will ever truly do the man justice, nor properly convey just how unique of a person Mikey was... but I can damn well try.

One would not think through his gruff exterior that there was a very lonely man despite being loved by so many people, and due to this loneliness he constantly put himself out there as an emotional anchor for anyone else. He became the person he wished to know, he became the person he wanted to look after him, but to everyone else.

He was a father to the fatherless, a friend to the friendless, a protector to the defenseless, a voice to the voiceless and was always willing to hear the shit on your plate even though he had loads on his.

Mikey battled alcoholism and drug use for years, but managed to go for years at a time not drinking or using anything... but even when he was, he still went to meetings and supported others, even if he could not stay clean. Recovery for him seemed less about not using but rather making sure others were not alone or had to face it by themselves.

In late March of 2012, just a few weeks after his 49th birthday, Mikey was raced to Harbor UCLA Medical where he would spend the next month in intensive care for the battle of his life.

Years of drinking and drug abuse, mixed with his punk rock lifestyle, had caught up with him. His body was shutting down. While in intensive care, the countless doctors that treated him mentioned multiple times that chances of Mikey living or leaving that hospital were close to none. This, however, had no effect on him, and slowly but surely, he became more and more stable, bashing through every medical obstacle like the wrecking ball he was named for.

While in the Hospital, there was a benefit held for him at Danny's Deli put together by Mikey's close friend and band member of Tone Deaf, Masao Miyashiro, in an amazingly short 12 hour time frame. In one night over 1500 dollars was generated for Mikey's expenses, and many old and new friends got together to support and honor their friend. Emotions



*Art, Passion of the Punk.... a nod to a true Venice local is by Kelly Jackson and Ben Thomas.*



because with the exception of his adoring mother, and to a degree his over demanding-father, Mikey did not have what one would call the "loving family."

Mikey was adopted and had very little connection to his extended family. As he got older and his parents passed away, that extended family showed very little interest involving him in their lives.

That is where this story drifts off to Mikey's true family.... Venice Beach itself. The random assortment of eclectic people that called Venice Beach home were his family, and there were many of them.

The bums, the junkies, the snow birds, the bikers, the punks, the skaters, the gang bangers, the small shop owners, all were his brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles. The limitless young homeless kids that came in and out who were runaways and orphans were his children who he was incredibly protective of, and always made sure that they had eaten or that no one was taking advantage of them. The beach itself was his mother, lover, best friend and Achilles heel all in one.

were high, but morale and love for Mikey was at an all time high.

Day by day, he got better, they took him off the breathing machines and he soon was taking liquids and then solid foods. He was talking and walking before anyone could even believe it.

But the truth was the long term damage had been already been done and it seemed Mikey pulled through all that because he wanted to die on his own terms, and not in a hospital bed.

He had always been a fighter and refused to leave this life unless it was his choice in the matter. As one friend, Dan Clements, stated "coming out of that hospital was his final victory lap".

While in the hospital, Mikey, had a slew of visitors coming from all over to possibly say their last goodbyes. The nursing staff actually became frustrated at the hordes coming to visit because no one wanted to "wait their turn" when it was so uncertain what the outcome would be. People started completely disregarding the rules and walked past security without even a forethought.

Mikey was eventually released and taken home, a miracle in his own right, but tired, as the experience had clearly aged him in just a few weeks. He went along with his daily life, but now everything seemed slower, quieter, and he still did not feel well. He could be seen walking around accompanied by various



# The Prospects for Venice Cityhood

By Jim Smith

Like the surf that keeps rolling up on Venice’s shore, the idea of restoring our cityhood just won’t go away.

In 2012, I am continually approached by Venetians who ask “What’s going on with cityhood?” or “What do we have to do to get free of L.A.?”

It’s not a new issue. In 1925, there were immediate claims of foul when the supporters of annexation by Los Angeles finally won an election. Previous votes to annex to Los Angeles or Santa Monica had both failed. In 1940, there was a bill in the California State Senate to restore Venice cityhood. During the 1960s and ‘70s, it became a movement, called Free Venice.

This paper, the Free Venice Beachhead, has always been a part of the demand for restoration. In the 1990s, a new committee was formed that actively campaigned for cityhood. Through the “00s,” community forums took place under the auspices of the University of Venice and well-reasoned articles appeared in the Beachhead. In the end, we didn’t get any closer to getting our city back.

### What’s different today?

A couple of things. More and more Venetians are becoming disgruntled with the city of Los Angeles. Previously, the megalopolis was able to quietly siphon off much more money from Venice than it returned. Lately, its financial problems have made L.A. look for any way to make a buck in Venice. This includes raising the price of parking and the tickets that everyone eventually gets on “street cleaning” day, whether there is any actual street cleaning or not, schemes such as the “Big Wheel” and the “Zip Line,” which include revocable “promises” of sharing revenue with Venice.

Waiting in the wings are more metered parking, more amusement rides, more fees for city services such as repairing broken sidewalks, allowing advertisements everywhere including Ocean Front Walk, renewed inspections by code enforcers and a wholesale reassessment of Venice’s taxable property values.

The Los Angeles City Council, June 5, declared a fiscal emergency. This enables the Mayor to make massive layoffs (just what we need, more people out of work) and cuts in services. There is a projected deficit of \$199 million for fiscal year 2013-14 and \$315 million for the following year. Unless it squeezes the life out of Venice and other “holdings,” it is on the path to bankruptcy.

At the same time, Venice is becoming wealthier. Property values are on the rise again, which could make a great tax base for the city of Venice. As an independent city, Venice would be larger than half of the 88 current cities in Los Angeles County.

Some critics have said that Venice would not be viable without a shopping center to tax. Anyone who has been past the intersection of Rose and Lincoln lately knows that Venice now has a shopping center, even if it is one hugely profitable Whole Foods Market. It is only a matter of time before a new proposal to redevelop Lincoln Center, at California and Lincoln, is floated again. As Lincoln Place becomes repopulated, it makes sense to provide stores that cater to the locals, and are a source of revenue for Venice.

For anyone seriously interested in regaining cityhood, it might be useful to look at how other cities of Venice’s size gain their revenue and what they spend it on. A nearby city of approximately Venice’s size is Culver City. More than 50 percent of Culver City’s revenue comes from three sources: Sales Tax, Utility Taxes and Business Licenses. The budgets of other cities in L.A. County can be easily accessed with an internet search.

In Venice, we would likely gain much of our income from our largest industry, tourism. This would include sales tax, hotel taxes, parking revenue, taxi fees and other fees to derive at least some income on the tens of thousands who descend on Venice each day.

### Uniting for a City of Venice

In recent years, Venice has been a war zone of neighbors battling each other over parking, poverty and development. Some Venetians believe that such divisions make it impossible for the community to come together in favor of cityhood.

However, the Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office has brought together groups and people who usually don’t get along. It includes this newspaper, the Venice Neighborhood Council, the Venice Stakeholders Association, Venice Peace and Freedom, SPARC, Venice Arts Council, Venice Chamber of Commerce, various poets, writers, artists, and business people. Personal attacks and extraneous issues are frowned upon by most of the participants. As a result, Venice has been able to speak with one voice and to wage a credible fight to save one of our most historic buildings.

The fight to save the Post Office has also pointed out our weakness in not having a city government. In Hermosa Beach, when the local Post Office was targeted for closure, the city responded with electronic signs on busy streets urging residents to email their Congressman. In a short time, Rep. Jane Harman received 5,000 emails from angry Hermosa Beach residents. She then demanded that the Postal Service not close the HB post office. Contrast that with the lack of response from our two Senators and Rep. Henry Waxman. Post offices are being abandoned by the USPS in Santa Monica and La Jolla. But in both communities the city government is considering buying the post offices and turning them into city buildings, thereby keeping them as public spaces.

Can we come together for cityhood before the remaining historic buildings and houses and public services are decimated?

Some Venetians have told the Beachhead that they are wary of cityhood because the other side (homeless haters or sixties hippies, take your pick) would assume power.

So it comes down to whether you’d rather be ruled by the crooks in L.A. City Hall or “those people” down the block. It also comes down to a question of democracy. Can you have anything resembling democracy in a jurisdiction of more than four million people? Democracy is more than having a secret ballot election periodically. It is at heart, a question of how much control, power, influence the average person has in the social maelstrom swirling about around him or her. Most of us who have served on the neighborhood council know that it is not a body with real power. At best, it can advise city officials on local policy. At worse, it is a placebo offered to a withering community that needs a dose of real power.

Venice is a potential city of 40,000 people. It can be walked, biked or skated from one end to the other. Anyone elected to a Venice City Council would have to live in this small area. Does anyone know where the 14 men and one woman who are the Los Angeles City Council live? Does anyone know where the department head, who has great decision-making power, lives? Does anyone even know the names of the bankers, corporate heads and big developers who are the real rulers of Los Angeles?

In Venice, civic-minded people would know their elected officials. They would also see these people at the market, the hardware store, or out riding their bikes. The potential for real democracy in a city of 40,000 would be much greater than it would be in an entity of millions.

Venice have suffered, you will ultimately find an instigator from the L.A. city government. This was true of the abolition of the progressive Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council in 2006, the Overnight Parking Districts, the beach curfew, and the Big Wheel, among others. This does

not mean that there weren’t locals who were more than happy to “front” the fight. However, if Venice was its own city, they wouldn’t be able to rely on these powerful backers. Accommodation, not confrontation, would become the political game in small town Venice.

How can we assemble a wide-ranging committee to plan the initial steps for regaining cityhood. As a temporary measure, I’d like to suggest a discussion begin on <http://yhoo.it/MWLGBN>. This is neutral ground, although I am the moderator. The only rule is that people use their real names. Regaining cityhood is serious business, not an idle discussion. Once we get together on VeniceCA, we can get volunteers to put up a website, Facebook page, Twitter, etc. So let’s get started!

Would people you don’t agree with be elected to office? Yes. Would people you do agree with be elected to office? Yes. This is how democracy works. In a town or a society where everyone thinks the same, you wouldn’t need democracy. But Venice hasn’t been that homogeneous since the Sixties (and probably wasn’t even then).

So yes, we would have disagreements, hard fought elections, and a few disagreeable people. But we would likely have less disputes than we do at present. If you search carefully through the major controversies that we in Venice have suffered, you will ultimately find an instigator from the L.A. city government. This was true of the abolition of the progressive Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council in 2006, the Overnight Parking Districts, the beach curfew, and the Big Wheel, among others.

This does not mean that there weren’t locals who were more than happy to “front” the fight. However, if Venice was its own city, they wouldn’t be able to rely on these powerful backers. Accommodation, not confrontation, would become the political game in small town Venice.

How can we assemble a wide-ranging committee to plan the initial steps for regaining cityhood? As a temporary measure, I’d like to suggest a discussion begin on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/veniceCA>. This is neutral ground, although I am the moderator. The only rule is that people use their real names. Regaining cityhood is serious business, not an idle discussion. Once we get together on VeniceCA, we can get volunteers to put up a website, Facebook page, Twitter, etc. So let’s get started! ☺



# Beach Curfew Violates Law

By John Davis

The Beachhead has reported on an ordinance of the City of Los Angeles that violates the California Constitution and the California Coastal Act. Former Executive Director Peter Douglas of the Coastal Commission agreed with the public that the City curfew has violated the law from the beginning. He stated that the City curfew was “unenforceable.”

Yet the City continues to arrest people to prevent them from legally using the public trust lands whenever they like, night or day. Some people work in the day so the only time they can enjoy the beach is at night. The same is true of fishermen when the bite is on at night or people who like to view the full moon in all its splendor as it illuminates the shining night sea.

But the L.A. City Council, particularly Councilperson Bill Rosendahl of CD 11, implies that there are Boogie Men who may roam the beach after sunset, creating such wild mischief that the public must be kept away. The City implies it cannot afford to provide a police patrol at night, even though untold millions of tax revenue is generated by Venice annually.

What is really happening is that Councilman Rosendahl is riding point for his posse so those who can afford beachfront real estate will enjoy higher property values.

Removing the public from the beaches they own provides exclusivity to certain property owners. If you owned a nice beachfront home in Venice, like former Congressperson Jane Harman does, would you prefer to see poor people on your beach after sunset? Of course not, they would ruin the view, and God forbid, reduce the value of the real estate. What better way to stop this than to imprison them! Bill is their man. Atop his high horse, he bugles the cry to sweep up the homeless from their home and to cleanse the beach. But he not only wants to remove the homeless. He wants all of us to get off the beach by sundown, or else his dark posse will ride down and punish you.

But the story goes ever further. Dockweiler State Park has three sections. One is south of the Marina Del Rey main channel, the other is just north, 11 acres (Least Tern Reserve) and most importantly, three acres where the Venice Pavilion once stood.

The City entered into an agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation in 1943 to lease and operate Dockweiler State Park. That agreement ended in 1998.

Currently, the City has no legal authority over the Park nor does the County, which provided maintenance and lifeguard services to the City while the lease was current.



This places major liabilities on the State Park System, which is now responsible for any injuries that occur on State Park lands. The City no longer holds the State harmless and indemnifies it, (the State is now responsible for loss not the City). I met with and informed the Superintendent of the State Park, Craig Sap, of this matter on June 13.

At no time, even when the City leased the State Park, did it ever have the authority to impose a curfew on the public parklands. The Regulations that govern the State Parks system only allow the Executive Director, Ruth Coleman, to impose a temporary curfew, and only for minors.

The State Parks Commission needs to consider this matter as soon as possible to make the City straighten up and fly right.

Andrew Willis, enforcement officer of the Coastal Commission, said the Commission is discussing the matter with the City and is encouraged the City will soon apply for a Coastal Development Permit. However, when I spoke to Rosendahl’s trusty sidekick, Arturo Pina, he informed me the City had not yet applied. How many years does it take to fill out an application?

Andrew Willis has said the same thing for years, but with no visible result. The Commission has failed to place this on its agenda as a violation of the Coastal Act.

Alex Halprin, Senior Staff Legal Counsel, sent the last formal letter to the Commission on February 3, 2011 reiterating Peter Douglas, “Because no such authorization has been granted, it is the position of the Commission’s Legal Division that the Beach Curfew is currently of no legal force or effect.”

Willis indicated that the Commission might be sued if it attempts to enforce the Coastal Act. I re-

sponded the Commission should welcome such a suit because a legal motion for dismissal or summary judgment would easily defeat it. I said the public would be enraged if the City fought to keep the people off of their beaches. The City would then back down. Willis would not even acknowledge this as a possibility, but focused only on not bringing the violation before the public Commission for enforcement.

Perhaps he and the Commission are in fear of the L.A. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, who stated on October 1, 2010 that the City needs no permit from the Coastal Commission, which is attempting to exercise the powers of a “super-legislature or court with power to effectively veto or nullify the laws of Charter Cities....Indeed, your interpretation of the Coastal Act is contrary to separation of powers defined by the Constitution of the State of California... A development in the Coastal

Act always refers to physical structures and things: buildings, walls, fences, etc.” (Note: The Coastal Act also defines development as change in access according to the Coastal Act).

Trutanich went on to state that “the Commission is not a Court....We trust the concept of the democratic process is not completely lost on the Commission and its Staff...The Commission obviously intends its investigation, (into the illegal curfew), to harass the City...The ongoing investigation ....represents retaliation against the City.”

Trutanich fails to even address the issue of constitutional access to public trust lands because there is no logic in which the City can override the Constitution of the State.

As for the Coastal Commission, they have known about the violation since 2008. The Commission Staff has hidden well over 1,000 other known violations from the public by failing to place them as enforcement matters before the Commission. This allows the staff, behind closed doors, to decide who can violate the Coastal Act and who they will let get away with the crime. It is the Commission at a public meeting that is to decide, not staff.

My opinion is that the Commission is not afraid of the City, but is working with it behind closed doors and with no written record to allow the violations to continue without intervention.

The non-enforcement of the Coastal Act further encourages the City’s ongoing violation and is green lighting to all other coastal communities up and down the coast that they too can remove the public in order to prop up real estate values for certain financially privileged individuals. ☺

## Sun Exposure: Benefits and Cautions

By Marisa Peck

The summer is a time of abundance. Food, friends, fiestas, and yes our blessed Sun. We Venetians have to be extremely careful when it comes to the Sun. With so many benefits, come so many cautions. We all know that sunshine can brighten our mood, fuel our gardens, light our way, and just 15 minutes in the sun gives us our recommended daily allowance of bone strengthening vitamin D! But we know the brutal reality of sun damage to our skin. This summer there is much you can do to protect yourself, to strengthen your body and pamper your skin so you can be fit to enjoy summers to come.

The number one thing you can do on a daily basis to help mitigate the effects of the sun is to eat a diet rich in antioxidants. Antioxidants turn harmful, unstable particles that damage healthy cells (aka free radicals) into harmless stable particles that have little to no effect on our bodies. UV rays create free radicals. Loading up on antioxidants will increase your body’s natural ability to fight off these free radicals and thus prevent the damage that they cause (such as discoloration, wrinkles and cancer). Talk about an all-natural sunscreen! Some of my favorite antioxidant packed summer foods are Sunflower seeds, kale, spinach, artichokes, red peppers, watermelons, blueberries, oregano, green tea and chocolate. Oh yes, all natural dark Chocolate (just a few bites).

Another consideration Venetians should be taking seriously this summer is our wardrobe. Cover up people! Hats, long sleeve shirts and pants are the best protection from the Sun that money can buy. Be aware that many fabrics do not completely shield you from the UV rays. If you are like me you love being

outdoors, you might consider investing in some clothes that are specifically suited to sun protection.

About now you may be thinking to yourself, “what about sunscreen?” I am so glad you asked. Sunscreen is questionable at best and should be used with extreme caution. For starters, most sunscreen products only protect against UVB (the rays that cause burns) and not UVA (the rays that cause age spots and cancer). This means that although you may be avoiding an uncomfortable burn, you are still being exposed to dangerous cancer causing rays. There are some expensive products out there that claim to protect against UVA, but due to an FDA loophole that allows any products that block out 20 percent of UVA rays to state that it “protects against UVA rays”, these claims are often bogus.

Furthermore, some of the compounds in commercial sunscreen have been found to be very dangerous, even carcinogenic. Vitamin A, for example, and ingredients related to Vitamin A are unstable and have been shown to increase the rate at which malignant cells multiply when used on the skin and exposed to extreme heat. The FDA has funded and supervised multiple studies over the last decade that prove ingredients related to Vitamin A can be carcinogenic when used in sunscreen, but the FDA know-



ingly withheld the results of these studies for years until consumer protection groups such as Environmental Working Group published their own (and very damning) studies of sunscreen and pressured the FDA to release its own (also very damning) data. Other chemicals commonly found in sunscreen, such as Oxybenzone, penetrate the skin and enter the bloodstream disrupting the body’s hormones. And many others have yet to be studied at all. If you do choose to use sunscreen (some of us absolutely must), safer options include organic, mineral based products containing nano free zinc oxide or titanium.

So be aware, and take good care. Remember that an annual skin cancer screening by a licensed dermatologist is a *must* for all adults. There are a number of dermatologists who offer free or low cost skin cancer-screening clinics. You can go online and find a clinic at a time and location that works for you. Get screened, eat right, cover up and live your life. Enjoy the summer! I’ll see you at the beach. ☺



# Public Safety Uber Alles, says Nuch

By Greta Cobar

A bigger-than-usual crowd showed up to the June 19 Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) meeting to hear City Attorney Carmen “Nuch” Trutanich. His opening speech exemplified his job duties of defending the city in lawsuits, of “representing the people of California,” as he put it. He went on to flaunt his job performance by claiming to have removed all illegal billboards in Venice, to have won many lawsuits that saved the city millions of dollars, and to have overall increased our quality of life. What about the illegal electronic billboard on Lincoln and Washington?

A question-and-answer session followed, with Linda Lucks, President of the VNC, asking him to clarify the terms of the Jones Settlement (Jones vs. City of L.A., 2007). Trutanich stated that because of the aforementioned ruling, the city cannot enforce prohibition of sleeping on any sidewalk between the hours of 9pm and 6am.

As far as personal belongings, Trutanich did not agree with the consensus in the room that the city cannot seize them. However, because of another lawsuit, Lavan vs. City of L.A., there is a restraining order in effect prohibiting the city from seizing or destroying property from homeless camps.

According to Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, “if someone claims that items in the streets are their personal belongings, the city cannot remove those items without risk of legal repercussions.”

This is not the first time we heard conflicting statements coming from supposedly trusted officials. During the January 23 VNC meeting Lieutenant Paola Kreefft blatantly misinformed the public that the Jones settlement, allowing people to lie on the sidewalk between 9pm and 6am, is valid only on Skid Row as a result of a recent re-interpretation by a judge. During the January meeting neither she nor Arturo Pina, who was making similar claims, was able to provide further details as to what case, when and where.

The remainder of the question-and-answer session was dominated by Venetians who spoke up to voice concerns more so than to ask questions. Trutanich provided no solutions or an-

swers, but used each opportunity to flash his victories in different lawsuits.

Because both the public and Trutanich did not observe time limits, not everyone who turned in a card to ask a question was able to speak. The Beachhead reporter, amongst others, was not given that opportunity.

When a Beachhead reporter approached Trutanich as he was leaving the VNC meeting and asked about the legality of the beach curfew now in effect midnight to 6am on Ocean Front Walk and the beach, Trutanich responded that it is in effect due to public safety concerns, such as someone drowning.

A Beachhead reporter challenged Trutanich’s statements by quoting Charles Posner, Coastal Program Analyst with the California Coastal Commission (CCC), who had previously stated that “the city does not have any approval from the CCC to implement the curfew.”

In a phone conversation with the Beachhead in January, Posner went on to say that under the Coastal

Act the city needs a permit for “any sort of curfews or restrictive ordinances that have such a negative impact on coastal access.” The curfew is in clear violation of the Coastal Act of 1976, according to which “the public should have 24 hour access to the beaches.”

Trutanich was somewhat at a loss for words when challenged with these statements, and walked away while authoritatively stating that public safety supercedes everything else.

We all know by now that the curfew was established to rid OFW of the homeless population, in violation of the Jones settlement. Saving people from drowning in the middle of the night not only was never a concern, but it is a poor fabrication on the part of a city attorney.

Happily, Trutanich’s efforts of replacing Steve Cooley as our county district attorney failed during the June 5 election. Sadly, we are still stuck with him as city attorney. ☹



# Cannabis Is In The Weeds...

By Anne Alvarez

A ban on medical marijuana dispensaries introduced by Councilmember Jose Huizar was approved by the Los Angeles City Council committee on May 29 and final voting was to take place on June 22. However, due to key Council members’ absences, voting was postponed until July 24. Huizar had originally proposed a closure of all dispensaries within city limits. After being pressured by other council members, he amended his proposal to conform with California law, citing “it is within state laws, that permit municipalities to have an ordinance which will allow for collectives to exist.”

The main reason for the large numbers of disparities within the medical marijuana community is that the regulations governing them are unclear and the city has been unable to come up with a plan to monitor them.

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl introduced a counter proposal, which would allow for up to 100 dispensaries to remain open until the state Supreme Court decides whether cities can regulate them. These would be the dispensaries that have been grandfathered in. Rosendahl also suggests that they be taxed. “Dispensaries are proliferating like there’s no tomorrow. The situation has gotten out of control,” said Rosendahl.

Shutting down medical marijuana dispensaries will not stop anyone from using marijuana. It will, however, punish the sick people that are in need of the relief voters approved over 15 years ago. Forcing law-abiding, medical-card-carrying patients into purchasing their medicine through illicit means, unable to determine whether the marijuana they are about to consume is organic or full of pesticides, whether it’s an Indica or Sativa, could have devastating results. To a medical marijuana patient these distinctions are of great importance.

Cannabis was used as early as 4000 B.C. in Central Asia, with written evidence going back to 2700 B.C. in the pharmacopoeia of the Chinese emperor Chen-Nong. It gradually spread across the

globe. The public health burden of cannabis use is arguably modest compared with that of alcohol, tobacco, illicit or prescribed highly addictive narcotic drugs (Vicodin, Oxycontin and Soma) to name a few that cause as many as 10,000 overdoses yearly. According to the Poison Control Center, there has never been a reported death from Marijuana overdose.

During his 2008 campaign, then Senator Obama raised hopes and votes from supporters of medical marijuana by pledging to respect individual state laws. Four years later, his administration has reversed course and massively escalated the federal government’s attacks on medical marijuana and its patients. Recently Obama’s Justice Department has authorized letters from U.S. attorneys across the country threatening to “vigorously” prosecute individuals acting in compliance with state medical marijuana laws. Obama clarified his position on medical marijuana by saying, “I never made a commitment that somehow we were going to give carte blanche to large-scale producers and operators of marijuana the reason is, because it’s against federal law. I cannot nullify congressional law.”

Indeed Obama can’t change Federal laws or own. However, he can tell the DEA how to do his job. Obama and members of Congress can reclassify marijuana to make it equivalent to morphine, codeine or Valium, (currently it is a schedule 1 drug on par with heroin, crack and LSD), or they can remove it from federal scheduling altogether. Since taking office Federal authorities have shut down more than 200 dispensaries in California. Meanwhile officials have been busy sending warning letters to cannabis dispensaries throughout the state, calling them “illegal marijuana stores.” Various members of congress are fed up with the hijinks, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi being one of them. Stating: “I have strong concerns about the recent actions by the federal government that threaten the safe access of medicinal marijuana to alleviate the suffering of patients in California.” Pelosi has called the matter a “states

rights issue” and has asked the federal government to respect the wishes of the people in the 17 states that voted to legalize medicinal marijuana. This issue has become as redundant as prohibition, except alcohol destroys your health, marijuana may just improve it.

If you would like to voice your opinion regarding this issue contact the following Council Members:

Jose Huizar @ 213-473-7014 or email Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org  
Bill Rosendahl @ 310-575-8461 or 213-473-7011 via e-mail councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org  
Mitch Englander @ 213-473-7012 or email councilmember.englender@lacity.org  
Congresswoman Nanci Pelosi: 414-556-4862 or via mail, 90 7th Street, Suite 2-800 San Francisco, CA 94103 ☹



# The Hammer Museum’s Venice Beach Biennial

By Dean Henderson

The Hammer Museum’s *Venice Beach Biennial*, an open air art exhibition, will take place July 13-15 on Ocean Front Walk. Fifteen Venice boardwalk artists will be among the nearly 50 artists exhibiting their work during the free three-day event. The Venice Beach Biennial (VBB) name is a reference to the famous Venice Biennale in Italy that draws visitors and artists from around the world.

The focus of the VBB is local rather than international, being part of the Hammer Museum’s three month long *Made In L.A. 2012* exhibit series. In years past, before Venice was trendy, low-rent studio space attracted artists to the area and an artist’s community was born. This was, in a sense, a return to Abbot Kinney’s original vision of Venice as a center of art and culture. Inexpensive studio space is a thing of the past, but a large community of artists remains, some with national or international reputations.

During the annual Venice Art Walk, local artists open their studios to the public, and there are far too many to visit in one day. Not all of our artists work in studios and exhibit in galleries, a number of them set up in the open along the Venice Boardwalk to create

and sell their work. Under the current vending ordinance, that number has grown. Aside from its bizarre and disturbing instance of politicians determining what is art (and jewelry is not art, according to the L.A. City Council. Tough luck Tiffany and Faberge), the ordinance has forced out most, but not all, com-

mercial vendors of mass produced items, opening up space now filled with artists. Perhaps “artist” is not a title that applies to everyone painting, drawing, or otherwise creating and selling on the boardwalk. Fortunately, the City Council has left it for the public to decide what constitutes good art.

The VBB brings together boardwalk artists and more established artists, taking the latter out of their comfort zone of studio gallery and museum, and places them all along Ocean Front Walk and Windward Plaza. Artists working in a wide range of media including sculpture, video, ceramic tile, performance, paint, installation and photography will be part of the VBB.

Longtime local Venice artist Arthur Moore assisted in the selection of Boardwalk artists invited to participate, and his best selling painting, *Funky Pussy*, is the image appearing on all VBB promotional material. ☺



Left: Arthur Moore, Venice Artist and Biennial Participant.  
Photo: Greta Cobar

## Juan’s New Hat



Photo: Greta Cobar

**Abbot's Habit**  
sandwiches salads  
coffee bagels pastries

phone your order in  
Venice — tel 310.399.1171

1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd  
Venice, CA 90291  
Cross Streets: California Avenue

open 6am-10pm everyday

Dale Newman Design  
Landscape  
Architecture  
&  
Garden Coach  
310.392.9863

# 4th of July in Venice, 1905

By Vanessa Cabello

Since so few of Abbot Kinney’s visionary buildings remain in our beloved Venice, we should cherish what we do have left, and what better time to so than July? Did you know the Fourth of July has always been a big deal in Venice? That on July 4, 1905, the Tobacco millionaire turned real estate developer Abbot Kinney celebrated the Grand Opening of his Venice of America?

Indeed, the Grand Opening lasted almost the whole week! The celebration began on Friday, June 30, as workers completed building Venice of America, Kinney’s bold attempt at recreating some of Venice, Italy’s famous canal system here in Los Angeles County. But it was the Fourth of July that hosted the main event: the ocean waters pouring into the canals for the first time.

On June 30, at exactly 2pm, with the rise of the ocean tide, thousands of workers, locals and tourists gathered at the Grand Lagoon to watch Abbot Kinney’s wife, Margaret, turn the valve that opened the pipes from the ocean, and the newly built lagoon and canals began to fill.

In his book entitled Venice California, Coney Island of the Pacific, author Jeffrey Stanton writes, “Ocean water, streaming in through two huge pipes, began flowing at a rate of 500 gallons a second thus filling the canal’s central lagoon. With the majority of the canals filled and the pier completed, Venice, California was ready to celebrate.”

Stanton continues, “On July 4th weekend, the festivities featured something for everyone. Yacht racing, swimming races in the lagoon, band concerts, fireworks at the lagoon’s huge 2500 seat amphitheater were some of the many events that amazed and wowed the 20,000 spectators... Venice of America was a success.”

According to Tom Moran in his book entitled, Fantasy by the Sea, “The auditorium was filled to capacity. Benjamin Fay Mills, an evangelist that Ed-

ward Everett Hale had labeled ‘the most wonderful preacher in America,’ addressed the crowd.” Moran also tells us there was an invocation and the Venice Children’s Chorus sang patriotic hymns to the audience, while outside of the auditorium, up to 40,000 visitors strolled around the new resort, though many of the buildings and attractions were still under construction. Moran describes, “The tourists had begun arriving with the first green electric car from Los Angeles in the morning and the influx had not slackened throughout the day.”

Moran continues, “Realtors reported that 355 Venice lots had been sold in two hours... They went for gondola excursions and sampled the food at the Ship Hotel. That evening they listened to the music of Arend’s Venice Band and watched a display of fireworks above the swimming lagoon.”

Another book that highlights details from Venice’s Grand Opening celebration is that of Carolyn Elayne Alexander. In her book entitled Abbot Kinney’s Venice-of-America Volume One, she states, “Elaborate plans were made for a week of grand opening ceremonies, sporting events, cultural attractions and just plain fun. A Venice Yacht Club, organized at the Country Club, announced a regatta for the beginning of July. The Southern California Swimming Association made plans for aquatic championship races and other events...”

One can only imagine the hustle and bustle from that day. The excitement, the joy, the hope. None of

that really ever makes into the history books as it’s so difficult to capture those emotions.

Today celebrating July 4 may not be as grandiose or exciting as it was back in 1905, but Venice still knows how to party. This year for the Fourth, my friends and I are staying local, taking a few days off to enjoy the Venice atmosphere at the beach. We locals all know the tourists still arrive by the busload and carload to experience some Venice magic. As we celebrate the birth of our nation, we will proudly remember to celebrate the Grand Opening of Venice too!



To learn more about the history of Venice, please explore the local history book collection at our local public library, fittingly named: the Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library. Below are some photographs from books in the collection which provide glimpses of the fateful Independence Day that started Venice Beach, and remind one of Abbot Kinney’s original slogan for his resort “To See Venice Is To Live.” 🚲

## Ray Bradbury: Martian and Venetian

# Gone with the Transit of Venus

By Jim Smith

On June 5, I was peering through Chuck Bloomquist’s telescope in his front yard as a tiny black dot - actually the size of the Earth - slowly made its way across the yellow-gold caldron we call the Sun.

At the same time, a few miles away, a 91-year-old man who had taken us to Venus, Mars and other worlds in his books was breathing his last. He had traveled across universes solely by the power of his mind. Now he was giving us one more amazing tale by hopping on Venus as it flew across the Sun. Only Ray Bradbury would think of such an appropriate way to make his exit.

Ray Bradbury was a novelist who wrote like a poet. His powers of description could transport the reader to Mars, Venus or to Venice, circa 1947.

He will long be known to the world as the author of *The Martian Chronicles*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Illustrated Man*, *Dandelion Wine*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, among other books of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Venetians will ever be grateful for his masterful description of a decrepit Venice of the late 1940s in the novel, *Death Is A Lonely Business*. This is a Venice that nobody comes to visit and where the fog rolls in every day and it rains a lot in the autumn that he describes.

It rained a lot on Venus, too, at least in a short story Bradbury wrote in Venice (probably while it was raining):

*The rain continued. It was a hard rain, a perpetual rain, a sweating and steaming rain; it was a mizzle, a downpour, a fountain, a whipping at the eyes, an undertow at the ankles; it was a rain to drown all rains and the memory of rains. It came by the pound and the ton, it hacked at the jungle and cut the trees like scissors and shaved the grass and tunneled the soil and molted the bushes. It shrank men’s hands into the hands of wrinkled apes; it rained a solid glassy rain, and it never stopped.*  
—The Long Rain, 1950

That is how Ray Bradbury wrote. His powers of description were unmatched through 500 published

works. He wrote every day, and still had time to carefully study the world around him. “If there were three of me, I could keep us all busy,” he once said.

In Venice, the young Bradbury was a self-described maniac, a true Venetian possessed by an enthusiasm for life.

“Venice is full of old people,” says Bradbury’s unnamed protagonist in *Death Is A Lonely Business*. They were old enough to have enjoyed the halcyon days earlier in the century when Venice was perhaps the most exciting place on the west coast. It is as if they had partied on the Titanic, but by the time Bradbury arrived they were clinging to rafts for dear life.

It is this atmosphere that is the foundation of Bradbury’s murder mystery where lonely people are put out of their misery by an unknown murderer. While this murderer was running rampant in Venice and in Bunker Hill, another community soon to be “renewed,” old Venice was experiencing its own death as Abbot Kinney’s Windward Pier and Amusement Park fell before an L.A. wrecking crew.

The Pier had been a center of Venice since its founding in 1905. Its rides, midway, movie theater and performance areas had set Venice apart from staid old Los Angeles.

The L.A. city fathers hated the libertine atmosphere of Venice and its Pier. When the Kinney Company filed routine paperwork after World War II for the renewal of its lease of the Pier (which Abbot Kinney had built), it was denied. The Kinney heirs had no clout downtown and could not save this part of Abbot Kinney’s dream. The destruction is portrayed in gruesome detail by Bradbury. Venice sank further into the fog.



*The Transit of Venus across the Sun, June 5 (big dot on right).*

*Venetian Chuck Bloomquist looks at the Transit.*

This is the gloomy atmosphere that Orson Wells portrayed a couple of years later when he decided that Venice would make the perfect stand-in for Tijuana in the film, *Touch of Evil*.

It was also the perfect cover for the Beats, who were hiding out from 1950s mainstream America. It led Lawrence Lipton to call Venice, the “slum by the sea.” By the late ‘50s Venice had sunk even lower as more than half the great old buildings on Ocean Front Walk and Windward Avenue, including the imposing St. Mark’s Hotel, at Windward and Ocean Front Walk, were toppled by order of L.A. Code Enforcers.

I encountered what was left of this Venice when I arrived in 1968. An empty Boardwalk, cheap rooms, a pervading sense of poverty and decay. I loved it.

-continued on page 12

# Swami X SPEAKS

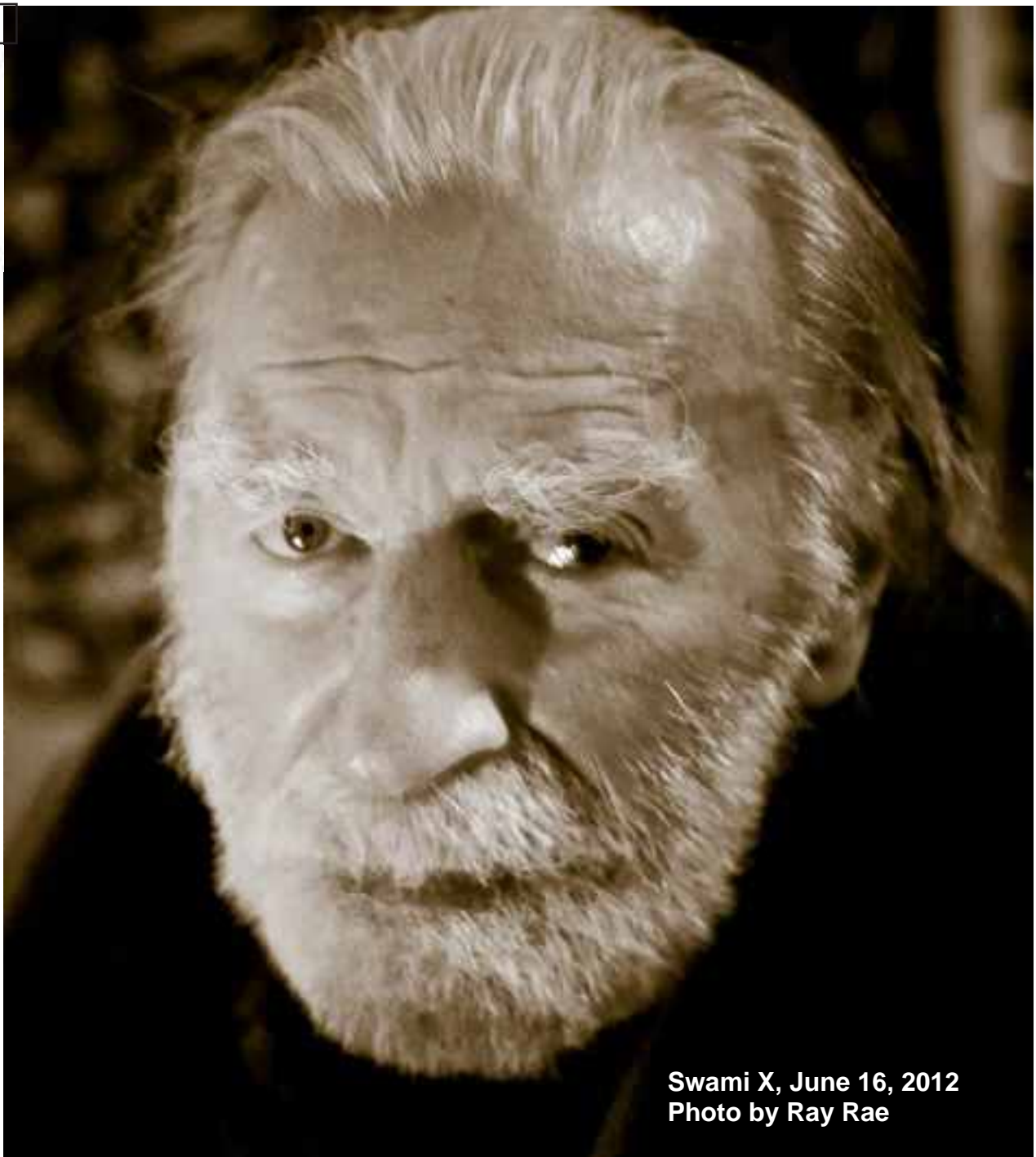
If you were so inclined and had the opportunity and ability to contemplate the vastness of the manifest universe, being trillions of light years and beyond infinity in space, it could cause you to get horny. The idea of the Unmanifest Absolute Supreme Spirit could easily bring on an orgasm. Of course, the whole thing is Love and Sexuality and God, if you'll forgive me summing up so early in the program.

Let me just rave and ramble and see what comes to the surface. God, She, has many names and endless expressions, which sometimes confuse people with no imagination and just one level of abstraction. They're usually short on curiosity, creativity and a sense of humor, as well. I don't mean to be critical, however, the truth inevitably nails somebody. The truth is never unkind. It may sting from time to time, however, it is never needlessly cruel. Kindness may sometimes be a disservice. Life can be tricky and getting to the bottom line is a really profound challenge. I have never read, or heard a definition of the bottom line. You would think someone would have come up with it, due to its popularity and wide use. Personally, I would love to just live at the bottom line, 24-7. I don't know if I have the attention span and nervous system for it, but I look forward to a shot at it.

The Bottom Line could be Ultimate Truth, Universal Good, Boundless Beauty, Cosmic Consciousness, Endless Existence, Absolute Bliss, innate intelligence, consecrated will, unconditional love, spontaneity, awareness, Light, Life, Love.

I certainly hope so. You may have a better, richer, or a bigger vocabulary. Let us hear from you, if you are so inclined, and have nothing more interesting to do.

Peace on Earth and Thru Out the Cosmos ☸



Swami X, June 16, 2012  
Photo by Ray Rae

## Introducing: The Venice Symphony Orchestra

Venice Symphony Orchestra actively seeking local volunteer musicians to join community-based orchestra. Looking for orchestral/symphonic instruments (violin, cello, clarinet, oboe, trumpet, etc.).

The purpose of this venture is to bring together local musicians within the Venice community to combine symphonic pieces with modern music for several performances each year. The intent is to celebrate all eras of music from classical composers to classic rock, jazz to Top 40 hits, and more to creatively bridge the gap between old and young.

Beginning mid-June there will be weekly rehearsals, leading up to the first performance slated



for early August. Again, participation is by volunteer basis, with a goal of bringing the community together through music.

The Venice Symphony Orchestra (VSO) is a community-focused organization dedicated to music education and exploration through sharing. From Beethoven to Beck the VSO is interested inviting our audiences to explore the rich history of music from centuries past and present. By providing free orchestral concerts to the Venice community and surrounding areas we will showcase a unique and dignified outlook on modern and classic works.

If interested, please contact for rehearsal details: [veniceorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:veniceorchestra@gmail.com) ☸



Venice Arts Council raised over \$6,000 at the Venice Poetry Walls at Boardriders, Venice, May 31.  
Front row L to R: Pegarty Long, Ellyn Maybe, Rick Noguchi, Exene Cervenka, Suzanne Thompson, Sherman Pearl, Mike Bonin, Wanda Coleman,  
Back row L to R: Linda Lucks, Francisco Letelier, Bill Rosendahl, Linda Albertano, Johnny Christopher Nelson  
Photo: Venice Paparazzi



1416 Electric Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291  
[www.electriclodge.org](http://www.electriclodge.org)

**Come check out our classes  
for Children and Adults!**

ACTING\*AFRO-CARIBE DANCE  
CREATIVE WRITING\*CAPOEIRA  
JAZZ\*TAE KWON DO\*MUSIC  
SAMBA\*YOGA\*TANGO  
and more!!

Transition

By Jim Smith

So now,  
the curtain falls  
on the bright sand beach  
and the wind rises to a fury

Was it real  
was it real or just a dream  
in the mind of a lizard  
laying in the sun

we rubbed skin on skin  
lips on lips  
as the waves  
caressed the earth

we performed our dance  
of a billion years  
birth, love, death  
as galaxies collided

weep not my friends  
there are more like us  
waiting in the wings  
to sing their songs

as we become the legends  
of this day, of this hour  
our stories have their glory  
in the living, not the telling

For Jim

Inside my head birds talked.  
Days carried on by themselves.  
Everyone I know eating bread crumbs.  
Spring died, right before my eyes.  
Nothing could be born here.  
Birds flew away, never saying good bye.  
Who could blame birds who didn’t have to talk.

In the summer, hot like a fire, things melted away.  
Children turned into puddles, as their mothers swept  
them into buckets, and used them for pillows,  
against something they wouldn’t talk of.  
I walked off, went on dreaming to myself.  
No one was calling my name, except here and there  
to say that something had gone amiss.

So I flew away myself.  
Charted a bird flight,  
right out of the big city.  
Kissed good bye no one anymore.  
What care I about coming or going?  
After traveling a while,  
I settled down with my soul.  
Kissing hope good bye  
I felt too good to care to hope.

–Hillary Kaye

Stream of consciousness

By Heather Freed

Red or blue

The consequence of sounds, meaningless verbs and nouns  
Words that crumble, lacking truthful grounds  
Like trying to walk without discs in your spine  
Like a blind-cripple stepping on to the tight-wire  
Like swimming to the surface for a breath of air  
But instead you inhale smoke, and lungs beyond repair  
And do I dare fleet across the seas  
Of relentless tar, the etymology  
Cruel intentions biting deep  
Even the pandemonium seeks company  
For what is a wolf without his pack?  
And so they flaunt you like a talisman  
You speak promises of stone with feet of clay  
Meaning shatters, just a needle in the hay  
Mend and mold words to suit your pursuit  
Give us Red or Blue to choose  
But it’s the same hue, the string from which you hang  
That allows you to advance across the board of their game  
Words of plastic, lifetimes to decompose  
Tell me what I want to hear but you won’t get my vote  
The consequence of sounds, meaningless verbs and nouns  
A nation that crumbles into cry of dissonant sounds

What

By Ronald K. Mc Kinley

What a bright gleaming thing is now  
What other purpose is, than to be  
Cast aside the material and thought.  
What cold thing can embrace you.  
What calculated mind set can lift you.  
Fly without flight close to mother earth.  
What reasoned risk can heat your soul.  
Lust lost to love.  
Hold the flavor in.  
Inhale life and spread it on your skin.  
Close your eyes and see what is.  
What was there all along,  
waiting for now, this point in space/time.  
What a song, a poem, a voice.  
Held together by billions of cells,  
encased in a soul.  
What a miracle you are.

GUEVARA

(translated from Serbian)

If the death comes  
may it be welcome  
others will replace me  
he said once.  
His beautiful face  
killed by US mercenaries and CIA  
Bolivia, La hugaera.  
Yet his face  
is all over America Latina  
next to Christ  
in every peasant hut.  
Che never died  
in death he grew  
and grew and grew  
Latin America  
moves  
is moving  
will move  
with his face  
in front.

–Nadja Tesiich

Mitt: Don’t Run  
(With Scissors)

It may be an unkind cut.  
Don’t be forgetful  
of the one

you tormented.  
Take a stab  
at real forgiveness.

Forgive yourself.  
Forgive, but never forget.  
When the hair grows long

is dyed blonde  
& appears effeminate  
it must be clipped

down to the roots. Your  
brutal roots are showing  
Mitt. Pick

up the clippers  
& scalp yourself.  
Let the Crow war cry

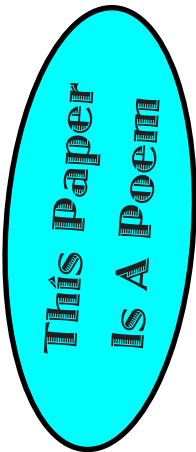
echo in your ears.  
This cruel streak  
of homophobia

is not becoming to you  
Mitt. Your walk  
on the razor wire

of brutality  
can’t be good  
governance.

Shave your head, Will.  
Repent. Weep.  
Quit running.

–Hal Bogotch



Oh Beautiful For Spacious Skies  
From Sea... To Shining Sea!

By Tina Catalina Corcoran

Oh, There’s oil on the beaches,  
Kids are sleeping in the sand...  
We only know what they teach us,  
We don’t always understand  
Till there’s oil on the beaches  
And kids sleeping in the sand...  
Oh beautiful for spacious skies  
What happened to our land?

Our Public Schools are FAILING,  
And, the kids don’t seem to know  
Why they’re ending up in jail, and  
No other place to go...  
For our Public Schools have FAILED  
To teach what they must know...  
Oh beautiful for spacious skies  
I used to love you so!

Our Soldiers BLEED for FREEDOM!  
They BLEED for YOU and ME!  
We “ship em” where we “need em”  
Even when they DISAGREE!  
They BLEED and FIGHT and DIE for  
The RIGHTS of YOU and ME...  
Oh beautiful for spacious skies  
God shed his grace on thee...  
Oh beautiful for spacious skies  
Cries our for YOU and ME!

Venice Desderada

For the drinking eyes  
The Wise  
The world of lies

Matching up to ventilate  
The Fools  
The world of hate  
Somewhere else to console  
Your fate

Regardless of the World  
With your freak-flag unfurled  
I pledge allegiance to Venice  
Without being a public menace

What’s the meaning of life here  
What I see, What I hear  
Or the music in my head  
The sunset skies are turning red

–Cameron Prior

Memorial. The decades roll away. I see you with

08:13 Monday, May 28, 2012 ..... Memorial. The decades roll away. I see you with closed eyes, and if I may, You haven’t changed a bit. You’re still the same As when we were together. There’s a flame That never will go out. You seem to rise. You walk my troubled dreams. I have grown wise Since our paths had diverged. I hear your voice. Your words form an adagio. What price Am I prepared to forfeit? Real-ize The gift that you bestowed, and this implies That, etched upon the wall, I’ve found your name. You haven’t changed a bit. That’s why I claim This day for resting laurels, and I pray That your soul rests in peace on this, your day.....

Roger Houston

Come sit when it’s finally quiet  
And look at the sky with me  
Come watch the sky fly by  
I’ve got the tunes to entice  
A background that grooves and moves with the atmos-  
phere

–paul tanck

# Ray Bradbury: Martian and Venetian – continued from page 9

Bradbury had arrived in Venice with his family in 1942. They had taken up residence at 662 Venice Blvd. It was at this location that he began work on *The Martian Chronicles*, which is really a series of vignettes stuck together as a novel. Until recently, the family home had survived, and even sported a plaque announcing its literary greatness. In 2008, the historic home was bulldozed in a barbaric display of callousness to make room for an upscale art gallery.

Delores Hanney of the Venice Historical Society, who interviewed Bradbury, believes that at some point he moved into an apartment closer to the beach. In the novel – which is accurate in all other descriptions about Venice – the protagonist lived in a \$30 a month room, across the street from a gas station and between the beach and the canals (A free Beachhead will be awarded the first person to identify this location.).

What else did Bradbury write while he lived in Venice? Probably a lot of short stories, like *The Long Rain*, which he attempted to sell to magazines. Some of them may have found their way into *The Illustrated Man* and other books. He was probably already thinking about *Fahrenheit 451*, which was published in 1953.

Bradbury left Venice in 1950 or ‘51. Venice of his day could accommodate a struggling writer, but having an author who was becoming a household name might have caused the stampede to the beach to start years earlier than it did.

Bradbury did not forget Venice. He returned frequently to bike or walk around his old home town. In later years, he spoke at the Abbot Kinney Venice Library under the auspices of the Venice Historical Society.

He wrote *Death Is A Lonely Business* in 1985. By then the circus wagons had been pulled out of the canals, the oil wells had given way to high-priced condos in the Peninsula, the Red Cars had stopped running, and those wonderful fogs had become infrequent.

Bradbury loved the Red Cars, and trains in general. He often took trains instead of flying. The man who traveled to other worlds in his imagination never learned how to drive a car. In low-income Venice of the 1940s, when he was growing up, it was a luxury most people could not afford. Besides, there was the wonderful Red Car system that would take you anywhere under the mountains. In Venice, then as now, one could quickly walk or bike anywhere.

In *Death Is A Lonely Business*, Bradbury’s alter ego says he wants to live forever. Ninety-one years is not forever, but it’s more than most people get. Even so, Ray Bradbury does have a shot at immortality through his books, which are as fresh and exciting as the day they were written.

For more about Ray Bradbury, see a 1963 film biography of Ray Bradbury, including shots of Venice: <http://bit.ly/NJwFTq>

A new short film based on Bradbury’s *Kaleidoscope* is currently making the rounds of theaters and film festivals. It was the Grand Prize Winner in the 2012 New Media Film Festival. 🚲



Ray Bradbury biking on the Venice Canals in 1963

## Ray Bradbury and the Free Monorail System

Ray Bradbury may have had his head in the sky for *The Martian Chronicles* and other amazing stories set on other worlds and dimensions, but he knew a good thing here on Earth when he saw it.

In the early Sixties, the Alweg Monorail Company offered to build a 41.8-mile long transportation system free of charge. It would have included two lines extending east and west of downtown Los Angeles, and a third running through the Valley to downtown. Standard Oil (now Chevron) became active in lobbying against the plan. Only a few years earlier, Standard, General Motors, Firestone Tire and others had bought up and derailed L.A.’s Red Car system, and numerous other urban railway companies throughout the country.

The Los Angeles Board of Supervisions quickly rejected the Alweg offer, over Bradbury’s strenuous objections. He recalled being thrown out of the meeting for making “impolite noises.”

The entire system would have cost \$123 million to build (\$740 million in today’s dollars), which Alweg would have been reimbursed for out of fare receipts. The company said it would consider more miles of the system if the County wanted it. The Alweg plan can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/MvuWIV>.

The towers for the tracks, and the tracks themselves, would have been built in a factory and assembled on the spot like a giant erector set. Since it would run down the center of existing streets the system could have been built and operating within months, not years. At the time of its proposal, Alweg had already built the Disneyland and Seattle monorails, both of which are still in service.

In contrast, the “Subway to the Sea” began with a projected cost of \$4 billion. The estimate has already increased to \$9 billion and that is only as far as Westwood. Getting to the Sea will cost billions more. Bradbury objected to this waste of time and money, as well, stating that with the pleasant climate in Southern California, monorails made more sense than subways.

Instead of \$9 billion for a 10-mile long subway, we could have had, or still could have, 549 miles of monorails. That would give us a transit system approaching the coverage of the old Red Car lines, which the city and county ripped up. By the way, the subway won’t be completed until 2036. Bradbury must have been livid.

See more about the Solid Gold Subway at: <http://bit.ly/ObL8Ko>

–Jim Smith 🚲

# The Life and Death of Mikey –continued from page 4

friends, and having lunch or a Shirley Temple at Danny’s Deli or Sidewalk Cafe. It was very clear though that the way Mikey had lived for the past 48 years was over.. it had been a good run but now it was only a matter of time. Mikey lost his battle on May 29.

On June 23 at 9 am there was a paddle out service for him at the Pier at the end of Washington Blvd and, then another service at 7 pm at the Skate Park, followed by a memorial party at the Gas Station just off Pacific. At both services, stories and memories of Mikey were shared and the reminder voiced that everyone was connected because of one man.

People who knew each other for decades and people who did not know each other at all mingled together to celebrate a person who in this small blink of an eye we call life, managed to bind so many people to one another simply because they loved him.

The aftershock and the lack of accepting of his death is still there and probably always will be. Some people are angry... some just can’t believe he’s gone. As one of his many nephews, Tripple Jenkins stated recently while at Danny’s Deli, “I keep expecting for him to walk in that door and say, ‘Hey Maaaaan, whats goin on?’”. Others, such as Damion Palmer, who has known Mikey for 30 years, comments on how it is a reminder that “we’re all gettin old, and watching your friends drop makes you put things in perspective”. Whatever the emotion may be outright, the reality that everyone is already missing him is showing as

people shuffle along Ocean Front Walk and realize never again will they see him sitting on a bar stool at Sidewalk Cafe, or riding that ugly orange beach cruiser with the bent frame and ringing the stupid cheeseburger shaped bell that he got such a kick out of.

On a more personal note, I myself last spoke to him on the afternoon of May 28th at around 2pm. I called him to wish him a happy Memorial Day, and asked if he wanted me to come pick him up so he could spend it at the beach. He replied with a soft spoken “No, I think I’m going to take a nap.” How little then did I realize how foreshadowing that statement was. I then told him if he changed his mind to give me a call and I’d call him tomorrow. I wished him well, told him I loved him. He replied with “Talk to ya later, little brother.” That was the last time I spoke to him.

Michael Samuelson is survived by his family... us, Venice Beach. His brothers, aunts and uncles, his sisters, his nieces and nephews, and children. The little boy who was adopted that ended up adopting a whole beach side community.

To end this, I want to quote Mikey on something he said in his hospital bed a few days before he was discharged: “Despite everything that’s going on, if I had to do it all again, I would. I lived my life my way and did it how I wanted to do it.”

How many of us can truly say that?

And will we be able to when it’s our turn?



I want to give a special thanks and recognize all the people who helped, donated their time, energy or were just there every single day Mikey was in that hospital, including, Katie Sullivan, Theresa Viselli, Jessica Hawkins, Toni Giuliano, Masao Miyashiro, Daryl Lee, Damion Palmer, Big Seven, Palar Brown

To all who helped with the charity items for the auction: ToneDeaf, Danny’s Deli, SxTx Tattoo, Streets of Venice, DogTown Skates, Maui and sons, Venice Originals, Sidewalk cafe, and countless others

And most importantly, Thank you to the Harbor UCLA medical center Nurses and Doctors for putting up with all of us and bringing Mikey back to us for a little bit longer. 🚲

# “Make all those poor people go away, Daddy!”

By Mary Getlein

Well, sweetness, we are doing the best we can - we’ve made it illegal to sit in the sand after midnight - that probably gets rid of a bunch right there. It’s illegal to feed them. It’s illegal to give them money. It’s illegal to talk to them. We have to isolate them - it’s the only chance we have. We don’t want to end up like them, do we?

So we turn people invisible. All you have to do is be poor, and people can’t see you.

Sometimes I hang on the beach and there is this big mound of bread delivered to the poor. What’s sad is, there are so many older people who rely on this. At the end of the month, when everyone has spent all their money, the bread goes very quickly. And many older people are disappointed, and don’t get any bread. Google and other companies notwithstanding, there are still hidden “pockets of poverty” all through Venice. It would be nice if we could help people instead of trying to get rid of them.

You might miss out on a great friendship with someone you wouldn’t ordinarily meet. The poor have a lot to tell you, but you don’t want to hear how it feels at the bottom rung of society, right before they come and take you away, for being crazy in public. Not eating regularly, not having enough water to drink, living on the streets, in a car, or in an alley, that life takes its toll on you. It’s hard to stay sober when you’re trying to “make it through another day.”

This country has so much money, wouldn’t you agree? We need shelter for our citizens. We need to stop criminalizing people for being poor. We need our beach back. Our beach was ripped off by the L.A. City Council and “closed” from 12 am to 5 am. The Coastal Commission says every Californian has 24 hour, 7 days a week access to the beach. What is Venice Beach without the beach?

Criminalizing people and throwing them in jail only creates money for the prison system. Every time

they move a prisoner (from jail to court and back again), the State gets charged. It should not be a crime to be homeless. The real criminals are the banks, which led a lot of people down a pretty path to economic ruin. And yet our country bailed the banks out. They need to bail our citizens out of poverty, persecution, and fear. We have a caste system in place and we don’t really care what we do with the “Untouchables,” as long as we don’t have to look at them or see their reality.

Venice needs to have more input with the decisions that affect Venice. Most of the citizens of Venice are not on the side of the “homeless haters.” Most people are able to put their prejudices aside and see the person there, not the cartoon figure they have in their mind of what a homeless person is supposed to be. ☺



## Summer Brings Glimmer of Hope to Venice Skills Center

By Charles Thomas

The Venice Skills Center enters summer with a glimmer of hope after enduring an emotional roller coaster these past several months. This past March, in the wake of across-the-board school budget cuts, the LAUSD school board voted to end all funding for adult education.

Gutting adult ed funding meant no operating funds for our Skills Center. What ensued, as a result of the board vote, was a plethora of rallies and activism to save adult education. We were loud and insistent for the board to reinstate adult education, and the persistence may have paid off.

LAUSD has set forth a plan to continue adult ed and the Skills Center. This latest development evidently resulted (in large part) from recent successful negotiations between the teachers’ union and the board. At issue was the union’s acceptance of 10 furlough days (maximum) for the coming school year. The furlough days, obviously, meant a pay reduction for the teachers, a feisty point of contention.

The union’s communications department says the yearly pay reduction is about 5 percent if the maximum furlough days stand. LAUSD contends that savings generated by pay reductions is necessary for the budget.

The board and union reached a tentative agreement on June 12 and the union body voted to pass the plan; the vote counted and announced the following Saturday. Only the previous week, Skills Center teachers attended a special meeting and workshop on campus to process their unemployment claims.

An operating plan has been handed down from the board that could keep ten locations of adult ed open for the fall, the Skills Center being one such location.

Accepting the aforementioned furlough days hasn’t created “happy campers” of a number of teachers. Many voted against the plan. However, approximately 58 percent of teachers supported the agreement. Apparently, the majority believed that a 5 percent pay cut was better than a 100 percent cut. As such, it seems the board held adult education “hostage” during this whole process.

David Lyell, a teachers’ union officer says that in previous times when teachers were “pink-slipped” in a similar reduction in force (RIF) issue, the district hired substitute teachers who were paid substantially less for doing the same job.

The substitutes got less benefits

too. In other cases when teachers were ‘RIF’ed, Lyell knows that principals would often hire those teachers back as substitutes. Those teachers were doing the same job, but were paid substantially less, possibly upwards to 50 percent less in some cases.

Lyell believes these events to be calculated practices on the part of LAUSD to give teachers the “short end of the stick.” He says, “LAUSD embraces irresponsible decisions. They should embrace a more transparent budget process like the County, which has budget hearings. There should be school board meetings at night so those who work days can have opportunity to address the board.”

Lyell further asserts, “They are trying to break the union. They want older teachers to retire because they cost more money. They want younger teachers to question seniority . . .” as this could be a method for creating discord in the union.

June 14 was the annual graduation ceremony at the Skills Center. The ceremony was a profound and touching event, with hugs shared and a few tears since we were under the assumption that this could be the last event of its kind. Our guest speaker was Councilmember Bill Rosendahl who spoke at length

of the Center’s importance for providing access to the homeless.

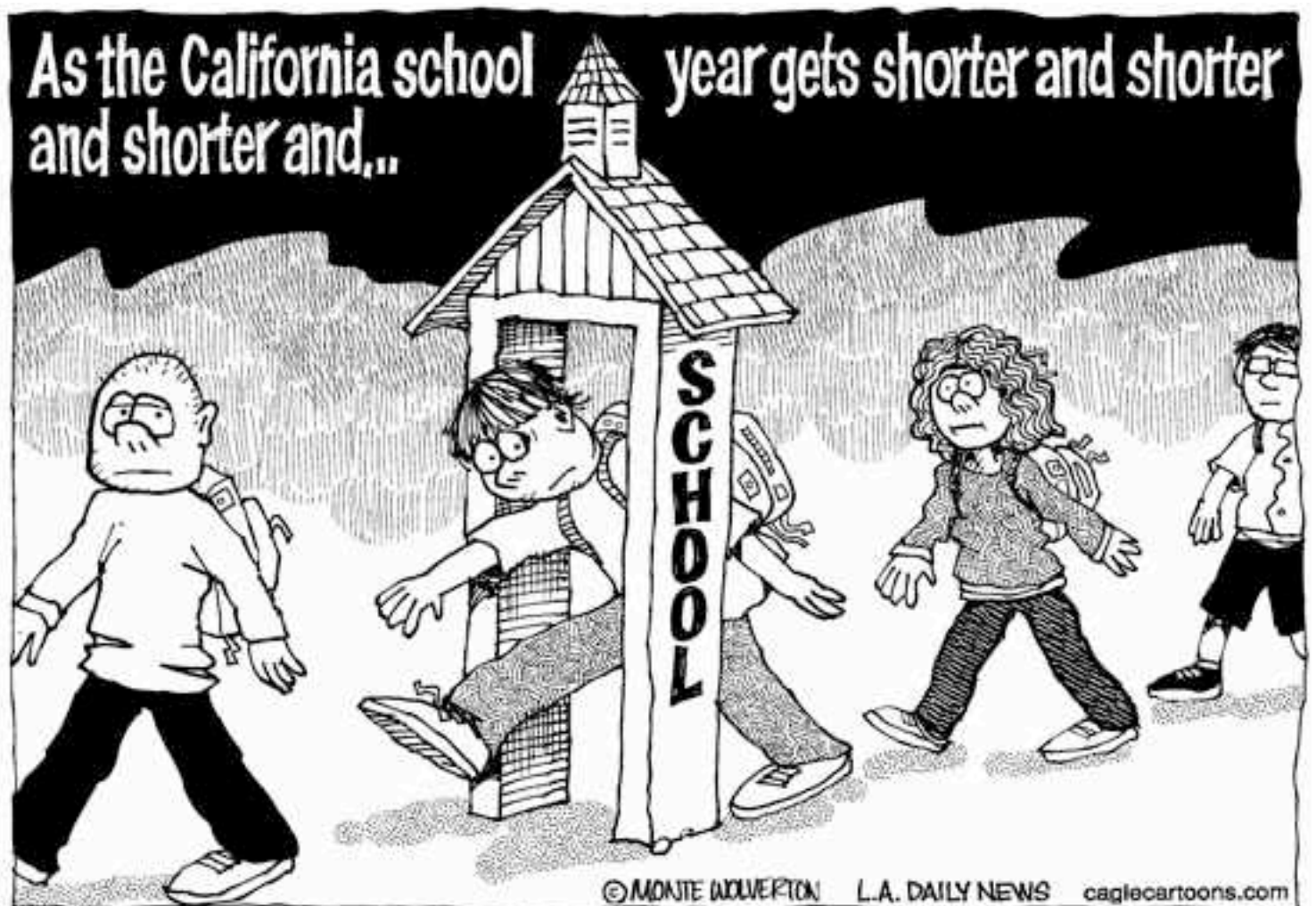
Other teachers have cause for better morale thanks to the steady drone of adult ed activists and those who successfully negotiated the board and union agreement. (Notably among those was Ernest Kettenring, the union representative for adult education.) I have a friend who is a long time Venice resident and LAUSD teacher. My friend is a tenured teacher, having toiled with LAUSD for many years. She thought she was going to have to declare retirement in the wake of all transpiring with the budget crisis. However, thanks to the aforementioned negotiations, she now has the option of seeing what is going to happen with her job and then plan accordingly in a less stressed way. Negotiations allow her to think things over until the end of August.

As we go to press, it looks as if there will be other Skills Center graduations after all. Please take note that on August 6, the Center will begin its “sign ups” for the fall term. Skills Center administration is confident enough about the improved budget prognosis to schedule registration for the Fall. Classes will be on a “first come – first serve” basis, so please plan on registering early to secure a seat in class.

Until the school budget is finalized (mandated by the end of the month) we won’t know for sure which classes are offered and which instructors return. We are not offered a summer session (due to the budget) as we have enjoyed in the past. We don’t know how much the budget cuts will impact availability of classes for the fall.

The Center’s website indicates class schedules will be available August 1. The Center’s website is found at [www.lausd.net/Venice\\_Skills\\_Center](http://www.lausd.net/Venice_Skills_Center). The phone is 310-664-5888.

We can breathe a collective, but cautious, sigh of relief and gratitude for the planned continuation of the Skills Center. In light of the averted “100 percent pay cut” alluded to earlier, let’s be grateful that we have something to work with (which is better than nothing). ☺



# Evicted Family Camps Out At Former Home

By CJ Gronner

The Gonzalez family had lived at 1033 Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice since 1953, when it was still called West Washington Boulevard. Mr. Gonzalez worked hard as a gardener at the Fox Hills Golf Course. He saved up, bought his home in Venice, and owned it outright, free and clear. He and his wife raised 10 kids in that house, which was built in 1904, a year before Abbot Kinney even officially proclaimed the land “Venice”.

The kids all went to Venice schools, worked and played in Venice, at a time when no one locked their doors, you talked to your neighbors on the streets, and the whole town would turn up for concerts or Thanksgiving dinners at the Venice Pavilion. They were happy times, and four generations of the Gonzalez family lived in their home. Then Mr. Gonzalez died. Then Mrs. Gonzalez died. Then it all fell apart.

I’d seen the family out in their front yard for years, saying hello as we’d pass by on our way to Lilly’s restaurant next door. The house was starting to show the wear and tear of passing years, but I always liked that there was a regular old house on Abbot Kinney, full of lawn art and wind chimes, in stark defiance to all the change and gentrification stuff going on up and down the street. They weren’t going anywhere. Then one day the family was camping out in their car. Then under a tarp on the side of the house. Then one day the entire house was gone, razed to the ground, and the people had set up camp on the sidewalk in front of the house. They STILL weren’t going anywhere. After seeing this go on for about 6 months or so, I was going by on my way to Joe’s (for the excellent Artist & Architect show curated by Tibby Rothman - great!) a few weeks ago, and decided just to ask the woman sitting there what was going on.

Adele Gonzalez lived in her family home on Abbot Kinney since her father moved the family in when she was 8 years old. Now 64, Adele told me her rough story as we sat on the curb in front of her now vacant lot of family memories, where she has slept since the whole nightmare began.

I wanted this to be a story about how The Man came in and forced out a poor family, something I could rage against, and shine light upon another shady housing scandal. This is not that story. Adele has a wayward brother, who after learning some swindling techniques during a prison stay, screwed the rest of his family out of both their family home and any proceeds from it (which online public records show sold for 1.3 million in 2010 to an unknown buyer). As we all well know, there’s not a lot you can do to sort out other peoples’ family dramas, but what we can do is clear up the hurtful rumors and check ourselves a bit as neighbors and members of the Venice community.

Adele would laugh at me using the word that I so often do regarding Venice - “Community”. She doesn’t think it exists in Venice any longer, but I think it’s more a case of her not BELONGING to the community. Folks waving to each other from table to table at Gjelina, or in line for coffee at Abbot’s Habit would certainly argue for the existence of community among Venetians. Dog park people and Kid park people and yoga class goers and the surf line-up and the Skatepark and the Boardwalk, all of us have a sense of place and belonging here after a while. But to hear Adele talk about her family situation, all sense of community for them dried up the minute they were booted from their home.

And booted they were. They were given about 20 minutes to gather their things and get out. A sister had missed a couple of loan payments she had taken out for home repairs (wasted money and effort as the house was bulldozed shortly thereafter), and that created the opening the brother needed to swoop in and sell the thing. It’s kind of a murky tale how it all came down, but that’s not really the important part of the story. It’s how they’ve been treated after the fact.

Adele is not a fan of Bill Rosendahl or his homeless programs. She is not a fan of Officer Skinner and her colleagues, who they feel harassed by (they were given two tickets in one week for having their things in found grocery carts - considered stolen. How are they supposed to pay these tickets when they’re just trying to get money for food?!). She is not a fan of the Baptist minister next door, who told them they couldn’t keep their things on the side of the church, as it “might attract more homeless people.” Adele doesn’t take kindly to being called “homeless” as she sits outside of what was her family’s home for over half a century, and added, “God never turns anyone away.” Yeah.

So they sit there and refuse to leave. Adele sits there and hears people go by talking about them as if they’re not there. They’ve been laughed at and called awful names, heard stories about how there were crazy hoarders living there, someone got killed in there, they had to condemn it, on and on, and not true and extremely painful to hear when you know, more than almost anybody, every bit of history - HISTORY - of this place we ALL want to live in and love. It’s awfully hard to swallow, one can imagine. For all of these nasty comments and slights, there are the occasional folk who come by and offer help or a bottle of water or five bucks to get a sandwich, and of them, Adele says, “They helped me, and God is going to help them. Think about it, one day you might be where I am, so don’t judge me or my family. Only God judges.”

There’s something to be said for yanking up your bootstraps, and making things happen for yourself, even when you’ve been screwed over, because that can and will happen to everyone. I’m not sure what

went wrong with the Gonzalez family internally to get them to where they are - Adele, her two grown sons, and two sisters are all camped together on the sidewalk, even right now as you read. I’m also very well aware of the attitude some have towards “the homeless” based on well-founded fear from bad experiences with some of the Mad Max style, tough customer homeless roaming the beach area, or just small-minded fear based on personal property value stuff. Adele’s father taught her to never lie or steal, and as she sees it, her only crime is being poor. Believe me, from sitting and talking with Adele and her family, they do not WANT to be on the street. They do not want to be in the way of your fancy stroller coming down the sidewalk. They do not want to be starving on the sidewalk just down from some of the posher restaurants in town. They need help. They just don’t know how to ask for it after living right there in their house for so long.

Shelters take women with young children first. There’s a waiting list that older women with grown and troubled sons idle at the bottom of. Adele is tired, and cold every night. Her sons need work, which could vastly help the situation, but it’s hard to secure work without an address and not much else but the clothes on your back. Adele has her birth certificate, and the original deed to the house. She doesn’t know hardly anything about the laws or real estate issues, but an “Advocate” from the city is “supposed to” come and see Adele to try and help them. She doesn’t plan on going anywhere until some of this is straightened out, if it even still can be. They need to be more pro-active, but that’s easier said than done when you’ve slept outside all night, are sore, tired, hungry and have no means to get anywhere.

Adele cried when she watched her childhood home bulldozed in front of her face on Easter weekend, as she watched from the cracked concrete where she now sleeps. She stays put out of defiance, to make a point, to HANG IN THERE. But she can’t keep this up. It’s cold, uncomfortable, unhealthy, ugly living. I find it admirable, in a FUCK YOU, I WON’T DO WHAT YOU TELL ME! kind of way, but I also find it heartbreakingly sad. That people would hurt each other so, even from within family. That people would react to them so heartlessly in the aftermath. And also, that they would settle for this kind of life for themselves. They’re willing and able to accept help, if anyone in housing or law or that kind of thing can give it. There has to be a solution, and a willingness, from both the family and the community, to DO SOMETHING. I believe that’s what we’re all here for after all, EACH OTHER.

I’m reminded of a quote from Billie Holiday, that just lays it all out bare ... “You’ve got to have something to eat and a little love in your life before you can hold still for any damn body’s sermon on how to behave.”

Yeah. ☺



## Nutritional Warehouse

Lowest Prices in Town  
\*\*\* John’s Specials \*\*\*

- ❖Wellness Formula – 40% Off
- ❖Protein Powder – 2 lbs. \$13.99
- ❖Coconut Oil – 54 oz. \$23.99

405 Lincoln Blvd. (2 blks. So. of Rose)  
310-392-3636

## FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

Sinners  
decadent desserts

Ron Rouda  
Recommends

Saints  
guilt-free delights

2547 Lincoln Blvd.  
Venice

# Community Events – day by day

## Sunday, July 1

- 9am - **The Abbot Kinney Sunday Bazaar.** Westminster Elementary School. Free.
- 2pm - **Planet Animation, a children’s play based on fantasy, hope and inspiration.** (Last show) Electric Lodge. Adults \$12. Children \$9.
- 5pm - **First Sunday Open Reading.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 8pm - **Bacchanal Sundays @** The Townhouse. Live Music. 52 Windward. \$7.

## Monday, July 2

- 1-2pm - **Zip Line Public Hearing** for Coastal Development Permit. Venice Neighborhood Council. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Max 10 Performance Lab** (Last performance until October). Uncurated performance event. No reservations. Electric Lodge. \$10.

## Tuesday, July 3

- 6:45-9pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting.** Venice Neighborhood Council. Oakwood Recreation Center. Free.
- 7pm - **Mindful Meditation.** Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library. Free.

## Wednesday, July 4

- 1pm - **Mr. and Mrs. Venice Beach Body Building Competition/Finals.** Muscle Beach. Free.
- 10am-1:15pm - **Linnie Canal 8th Annual Rubber Duckie Race.** Venice Canals. \$5/duckie.
- 1:30pm - **Downwind Regatta.** All boats must be wind powered. Venice Canals. Free.
- 2:30-1:30pm - **Crazy Hat Contest.** Venice Canals. Free.
- 2:30-4:30pm - **Potluck BBQ.** \$5/person, \$10/family or bring a dish. Venice Canals. Free.
- 9pm - **Fireworks Show.** Marina Del Rey Jetty. Free.

## Thursday, June 5

- 7pm - 7 Dudley Cinema: **2nd Annual Lit Show Film Festival.** Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 8:30 pm - **The Santa Monica Pier Twilight Series** presents **Donavon Frankenreiter.** Santa Monica Pier. Free.

## Friday, July 6

- 7am-12pm - **The Venice Farmers Market.** Every Friday. 501 Venice Blvd. Free.
- 7-11pm – **First Friday** on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Lots of people and open shops. Free.
- 7pm - **Music!-The Burn Riffs/Joe Firstman/Uncle Daddy/Aquile.** WitZend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. \$10.

## Saturday, July 7

- 12pm- **Sound andVision Vintage SwapMeet- Hifi Vinyl and Film.** Deus. 1001 Venice Blvd. Free.
- 7:30pm- **The Out of Towners.** Hollywood Institute of Poetics. **Beyond Baroque. Free.**

## Sunday, July 8

- 8pm - **Bacchanal Sundays @** The Townhouse. *Live Music.* 52 Windward. Venice. \$7.

## Monday, July 9

- 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica.** The Talking Stick. Donation.

## Tuesday, July 10

- 7:30-9:30pm - **VNC Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Agenda.** Canal Club. Free.
- 8pm - **Talking Burrito Comedy w/ Musical Guests.** Trip. 2101 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

## Wednesday, July 11

- 8-Midnight - **Trip Tease Burlesque Show.** Trip.2101 Lincoln Blvd. Free
- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams Sings at Danny’s Deli.** Jazz/blues. Free.

## Thursday, July 12

- 8:30am - **Hearing to legalize murals.** L.A. City Hall Room 350. Contact SPARC, 310-822-9560 for info.
- 7-9pm - **Symphonic Thursdays. Opera at the Shore.** Burton Chase Park. Free.
- 8:30pm - **The Santa Monica Pier Twilight Series: The Mighty Diamonds.** Santa Monica Pier. Free.

## Friday, July 13

- 11am-sunset - **Venice Bienniel: Made in L.A. 2012. Hammer Museum** in collaboration with **LA><ART.** Ocean Front Walk. Free.

## Saturday, July 14

- 9pm - **Open Vinyl Night w/ Andy Whitaker.** Bring your favorite record. 212 Pier Café. Free.

- 11am-sunset - **Venice Bienniel: Made in L.A. 2012. Hammer Museum** in collaboration with **LA><ART.** Ocean Front Walk. Free.
- 7:30pm- **Suzy Williams. The Lit Show.** Beyond Baroque. Special Admission \$15.
- 8pm - **John Steinbeck’s “Sweet Thursday” Preview.** Pacific Resident Theatre. \$10.

## Sunday, July 15

- 9:30am-2pm - **Santa Monica Farmers Market.** 2640 Main St. (Heritage Square). Free.
- 11am-6pm - **Venice Bienniel: Made in L.A. 2012. Hammer Museum** in collaboration with **LA><ART.** Ocean Front Walk. Free.

## Tuesday, July 17

- 7-9:30pm - **VNC Board Meeting.** Always Open to the Public. Westminster School Auditorium. Free.
- 10pm-Close - **The Back of the Hand Allstars aka The Brig Band.** The Brig. 1515 AKB.

## Wednesday, July 18

- 6:45-9pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting.** Venice Neighborhood Council. Oakwood Recreation Center. Free.

## Thursday, July 19

- 6pm - **Venice Art Crawl.** Find the maps online or go to OFW and Windward. Free.
- 8:30 pm - **The Santa Monica Pier Twilight Series** presents **HAIM.** Santa Monica Pier. Free.

## Friday, July 20

- 7pm - “**NEW ART, WOR(L)D”** designs of **ANGELIQUE GLENNON.** Electric Lodge. Free.
- 8pm - **John Steinbeck’s “Sweet Thursday” Preview.** Pacific Resident Theatre. \$10.
- 8pm - **Suzy Williams & Brad Kay and Friends.** Moose Lodge. 1600 Ocean Park Blvd. \$10.



## Saturday, July 21

- 7pm - **Pop Saturdays. Shelbie Lynn & Lisa Loeb.**Burton Chase Park. Free
- 7pm - **World Music Night** hosted by **StafaniValadez.** The Talking Stick. Free.

## Tuesday, July 24

- 10-3pm - **Old Fashion Day in the Park.** Vintage & antique yachts, motorcycles & classic cars. Burton Chase Park. Free.

## Thursday, July 26

- 7-9pm - **Symphony Thursdays. “Looking to England”.** Rich Caparella, Narrator. Burton Chase Park. Free.
- 7:30 pm - **Presentation with Nature *LA Artist* Barbara Gluck.** G2 Gallery. 1503 ABK. \$5.
- 8:30 pm - **The Santa Monica Pier Twilight Series**presents Jackie Greene. Santa Monica Pier. Free.

## Friday, July 27

- 7:30-10pm - **Subversive Cinema.** 212 Pier Café. Free.

## Saturday, July 28

- 8-11pm - **The Peoples Mic Poetry Night.** WitZend. 1717 Lincoln. \$10. (Readers Free.)
- 7pm - **Opening Reception: CAVE Gallery-New Works** by Gosha Levochkin/Ben Kehoe/ Netherland + **Project Wall in Gallery II** by Jean- nie Lynn Paske.1108 AK Blvd. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Encuentro de Poesia:** Roberto Castillo, Jorge Ortega, Gerald Locklin and Anthony Seidman read poetry. \$7; Students/Seniors \$5; Members Free.

## Sunday, July 29

- 12-4pm – **Poetry readings: Sparring with Beatnik Ghosts and BBQ Potluck.** Beyond Baroque. General admission \$10, Students/Seniors \$5.

## Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to [Calendar@freevenice.org](mailto:Calendar@freevenice.org) by the 20th of the month. Please take out an advertisement if you charge admission.

**Free Venice Beachhead • July 2012 • 15**

Calendar Compiled By Katy Crenshaw

## Location Guide

- 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](http://marinadelrey.lacounty.gov)
- Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - [electriclodge.org](http://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](http://halsbarandgrill.com)
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 [pacificresidenttheatre.com](http://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](http://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.

## Ongoing Events

### COMPUTERS

- 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.

### FOOD

- 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.

### KIDS

- 6:30pm -Abbot Kinney Public Library **Children’s Pajama Storytime.** Second and fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.

### FILMS

- 5:30pm - Abbot Kinney Public Library **Thursday Movie Night.** Call 310-821-1769 for title.
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - First Thursdays at Beyond Baroque. Free.

### MUSIC

- 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. Thursday 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.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 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.

### POETRY

- 8pm-12am - **Antonieta Villamil’s La Poesía Festival ¡en español!** and **Potluck Party:** Bring original poesía, cuento, música, pintura. First Saturdays. Beyond Baroque Library. Free.

### POLITICAL AWARENESS

- **Occupy Venice General Assembly** meets Mondays/Thursdays at 7pm. 1358 AKB. Free.

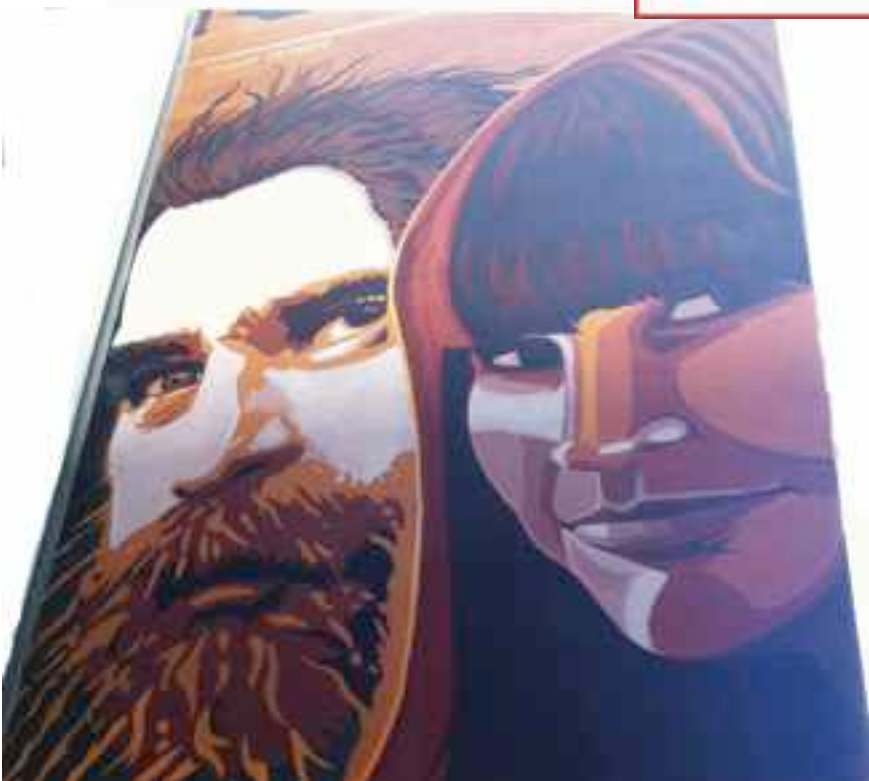
Below:

Venice Poets Stuart Perkoff and Philomene Long are in a new mural painted by Francisco Leteltier on a courtyard mural at the new “Frank” apartment building, which was built on the site of the Pioneer Bakery on Rose Avenue.

Perkoff was one of the great poets of the Beat generation and Long, writing from the 1970s to 2006, was the Poet Laureate of Venice.

[www.FX3Events.com](http://www.FX3Events.com)  
INVITES YOU TO SAVE DATES  
**4TH ANNUAL  
SUMMER FEST**  
**VENICE BEACH**  
**JULY 28 & 29, 2012**  
10AM to 7PM  
sKaTe and WaLK for Venice Homeless 9AM  
Monster energy drink  
**VIP MONSTER PARTY on the beach 11am**  
Summer Fest opens summer in Venice  
60 bands/performers 200 booths  
event info **562-277-7174**

7-Eleven GREYHOUND FAIRPLEX Colimucpla DIRECTV M Metro Starbucks Coffee



**Cairo COWBOY**  
MEDITERRANEAN GRILL  
310.452.7910  
Open Daily  
Sunday – Thursday: 11am – 10pm  
Friday & Saturday: 11am – Midnight  
46 Windward, Venice

White paint has obliterated the beautiful mural on Cafe Collage. How un-Venetian can you get? Photo: Venice Paparazzi.

