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November  
2012  
#373

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# Life Creeping Back in at Lincoln Place

By Greta Cobar

Apartment Investment and Management Company (Aimco) received the loan needed to redevelop Lincoln Place.

Being one of the country's largest owners and operators of apartments, Aimco received the largest unsubsidized loan ever insured by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It amounted to \$190.7 millions and it was awarded October 12.

The money will be used to re-furbish 696 existing apartments and to build an additional 99 units in 13 new buildings. When all finished, Lincoln Place will have the same number of units as it did in 1951, when its construction was finished. Aimco had bulldozed 13 buildings containing 99 units, and the replacements will not increase density or height at the apartment complex.

"History cannot be re-created," said Amanda Seward about the construction that could start anytime now. However, the new buildings "have to be somewhat compatible, with the same height and set-back" as those demolished following what is considered to be the biggest eviction day in Los Angeles history, which took place on December 6, 2005.

Construction is not set to complete until the fourth quarter of 2014, with existing units set to be refurbished by the second quarter of 2013.

Although an agreement was reached between Aimco and the Tenants' Association in May of 2010, evicted tenants were not allowed to return until April of 2012, six and a half years after being evicted. Originally 83 tenants were allowed to return, but some of those had moved on and were not able to re-locate again, and opted to receive monetary compensations instead.

Returning tenants moved in paying their original rent amounts plus "any authorized increases in rent that had been approved by the housing department for low-income units in the interim," Seward said. All original units will be rented out to new tenants at market value and will be under rent control, which limits the amount of rent increase per year.

The new 99 units that are to be built, however, will be rented out at market value and will not be under rent control, as only those units built before 1979 are required to follow rent-control payment increases.

"Overall I am very pleased with the outcome - that's what we wanted - for it to be preserved," Seward said of the agreement between Aimco and the Tenants' Association. As an attorney specializing in historical preservation, Seward's volunteer efforts to save the apartment complex were instrumental in saving it.

Lincoln Place is now on the State and National Register of Historic Places and it is designated as a local historical-cultural monument. Constructed between 1949 and 1951, its design team was led by Ralph A. Vaughn, an African-American architect interested in the Garden City Movement, which combined the amenities of urban life with ready access to nature. Its open green space, including almost 400 trees present on the property, will be preserved.

"It is specifically stated in the agreement that Lincoln Place is not to become a gated community," Seward said. The new swimming pool that the developers are planning to add to the living complex will be gated, however, as all pools have to be by law.

It's nice to see life creeping back into what has been hundreds of empty apartments for the past almost seven years. Aimco had originally planned to tear down all structures and build taller, bigger buildings that would have further increased the population density and the traffic congestion on Lincoln Blvd. Congratulations and thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have staged a historical battle that received national attention.

The Beachhead itself was instrumental in winning this long, hard battle by taking a strong stand against another big investor moving into our community and changing it to further maximize his profits.

For a complete list of names, organizations, legal battles and all other events that lead to this victory, see <http://bit.ly/TQS5i0>.



Above: Fun times at the 2012 Abbot Kinney Festival - See back page for full article

Photo: CJ Gronner

## Stop Flying Over My Head

By Martin Rubin

Santa Monica Airport flights should go back over Santa Monica, where they belong.

Historical facts show that for more than two decades changes to flight operations at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) moved the airport's impacts away from Santa Monica to over Venice. That's a fact.

It was 1990 when SMO's "departure-to-the-west" rules were changed. Instead of aircraft turning over Santa Monica after leaving the runway, they went straight out over Rose Avenue all the way to the ocean before turning, bypassing Santa Monica altogether. Remember when it was possible to sit out in the front patio of the Rose Cafe without the noise of jets blasting overhead?

Santa Monica and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) didn't just dump noise on Venice. As it turned out, in order to maintain a safe separation distance, the new departure rule over Venice meant that planes needed permission from the LAX control tower before they could take off. This resulted in long idle times on the east end of the runway with corporate and private jets sitting in cue for over an hour at times, spewing toxic pollution across Bundy Drive into the once quiet West Los Angeles bedroom community of North Westdale.

Even before Venice noticed the new noise impacts of jet traffic, residents in North Westdale complained to officials right away because jet fumes have a strong kerosene odor and are sickening. But their complaints fell on deaf ears as corporate and private jet traffic was allowed to grow at an astronomical rate. Can you imagine a 1,800% increase in jet traffic from 1983 until 2007? Throughout the entire year 1983 there were 578 jet takeoffs. That's about 1 or two a day on average.

It was 1984 when the FAA and Santa Monica signed the Santa Monica Airport Agreement that re-

mains in effect until July 1, 2015. The intent of the agreement was to lessen the impact of aircraft operations for all homes and neighborhoods around the airport. Really? The results show the intent was a complete failure.

Between 1986 and 1989 airport improvement projects were undertaken and the runway went through an expensive overlay so that corporate and private jet traffic would have a smooth landing surface.

In 1990, when jet operations grew to about double the 1983 level, Santa Monica residents near the flight path probably started to complain, or maybe Santa Monica city officials were forewarned about the inevitable influx of corporate and private jets about to arrive. Because in 1990 Santa Monica requested that the takeoff pattern be changed from making noise over Santa Monica to instead making noise over Venice. So it was that jet traffic as well as other instrument rated aircraft began to fly out over Venice, and continue to do so despite the resultant huge environmental increase in toxic air pollution. Jet traffic increased from an average of 1 to 2 takeoffs a day to more than 25 takeoffs a day, sometimes more than 40 jet takeoffs in one day, dumping the noise over Venice and the devastating toxic air pollution into North Westdale.

There's more. Santa Monica Airport has certain "recommendations" and "ordinances" which coincide with the airport's "Fly Neighborly" program. For example, "Visual Flight Departure Rules" for fixed-wing aircraft and for helicopters departing to the west are requested to overfly the Penmar Golf Course and initiate northerly turns at the shoreline and southerly turns at or after Lincoln Boulevard. This includes all the pattern flights of the seven flight schools that account for approximately half of all the flights out of SMO. So, not only do instrument (IFR) flight departures to the west go straight out over Venice to the ocean due to

Continued on page 10





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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.

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*Give Obama Another Chance!*

As an Iranian-American who voted for Obama four years ago, I would like to give him another chance in this election to accomplish his goals. If Romney moves into the White House, he will stick to his guns and God, bomb Iran, deport millions of Latino immigrants, limit women’s control over their bodies, cut benefits for the poor, elderly and disabled, abolish Obama care, ignore the catastrophic impact of greenhouse emissions on the environment, choose more conservative members for the Supreme Court, destroy NPR and PBS, and so on... With his anti-government ideology, Romney will kill all the jobs that Obama’s economic stimulus package has created in the last four years. Obama models his plan for economic recovery on FDR’s successful New Deal, and Romney on Bush’s disastrous selloff of the country to billionaires.

Obama’s election to the office was historical because it gave America a chance to come to terms with its racist past. Romney wants to “take back America,” that is, he wants to hold back America from progress toward racial equality. For Romney, Obama’s first term was only an aberration from the norm. If we give Obama another chance, America will have a golden opportunity to strengthen a colorblind democracy.

For those of you who want to vote for Romney, I have a deal. If you live in Ohio, Iowa or Florida, I can switch my vote with yours. You vote for Obama in your related states and I will vote for Romney in California!

*Sincerely, Majid Naficy*

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to **Carol Tantau** — on receiving the Marjorie Braude Award for Carol’s wonderful work on the Domestic Violence Task Force.

Carol is a constituent from the 11th District and a true leader on a variety of issues, as well as a dedicated volunteer to the causes that are close to her heart.

Carol has taken a leadership role on behalf of small businesses owners in Venice, especially those along Abbot Kinney.

Today we are honoring Carol for another hat she wears — as a domestic violence victim advocate.

Back in 2008, the Free Venice Beachhead recognized Carol as *A Few Of The Notable Women Of Venice Who Are Involved In Their Community* for her work as a victim advocate.

And here she is today — four years later — still doing great work for the people of the 11th District.

Congratulations Carol and thank you for your contributions to the community.

*Sincerely,  
Bill Rosendahl*



Carol Tantau accepting the Marjorie Braude Award from Bill Rosendahl

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# Stealth Flood Control Project

By John Davis

On September 26, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers announced a major flood control project to protect the Playa Vista development. Internal documents estimate the cost at \$100-200 million to the taxpayers.

The agencies working in concert are the California Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Army Corp of Engineers Los Angeles District.

All are engaging in a stealth marketing campaign to spin the real nature of the project. They call it a "wetlands restoration," but it is anything but that. Major wetlands and watercourses will be dredged, then filled. Valuable wildlife will be killed and scattered. State groundwater resources will be negatively impacted.

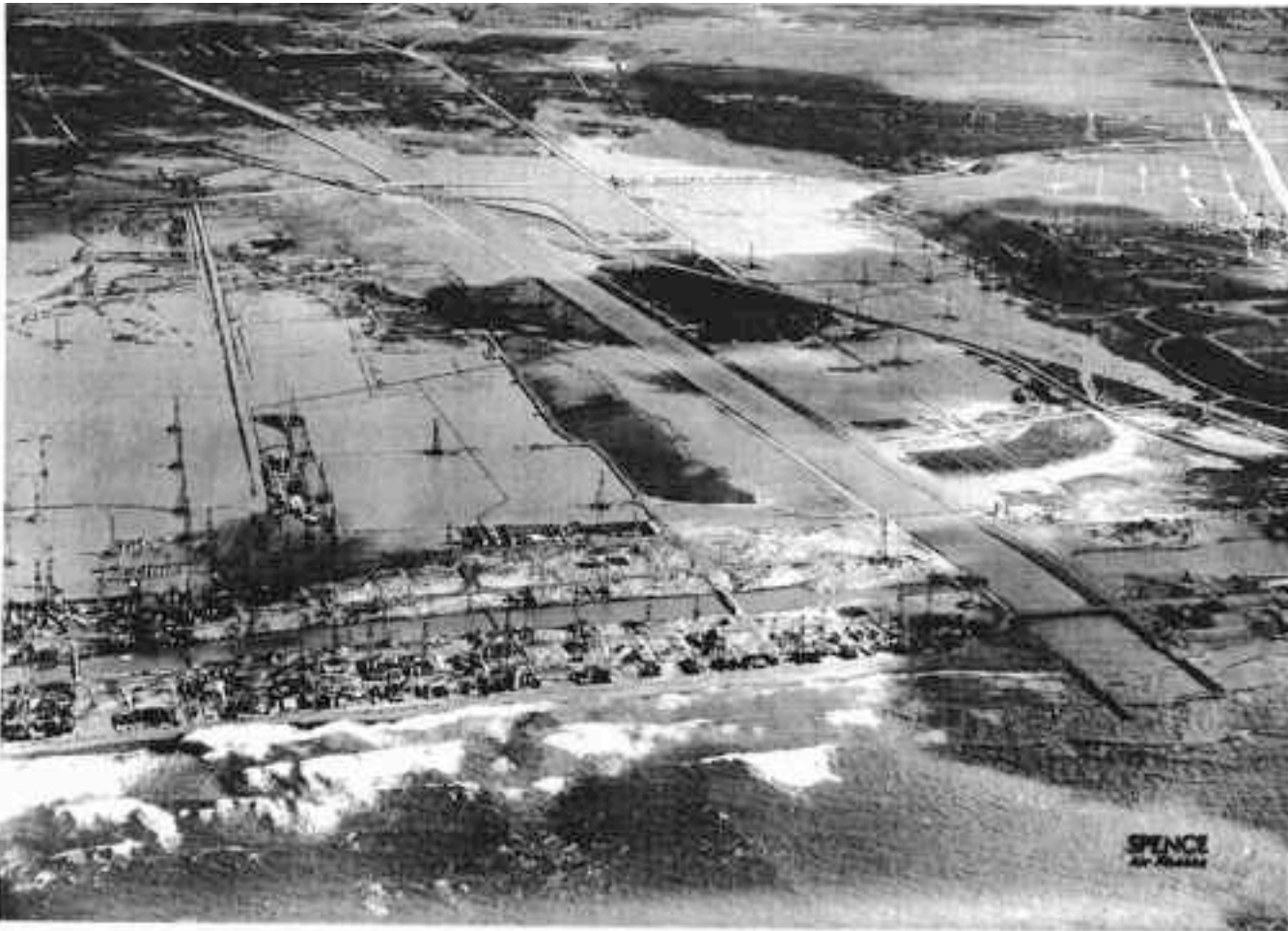
Proposition 12 and 50 funds, approved by the public, were supposed to be spent in part for environmental restoration and acquisition of wetlands. Part of that public money has been misused by the California Coastal Conservancy to propel only one project agency documents call the, "preferred alternative." The public had no formal voice in this plan. Preferred by who, is the question begged.

The project would serve the interests of the private Playa Vista development. It was constructed in a well-known floodplain flooded by storm waters in 1938.

The plan is to dredge a big basin for polluted water, then pile the wetlands material into 20-40 foot dirt levees on Lincoln, Jefferson, and elsewhere near the Marina and Playa del Rey. The mounds of dirt will stand taller than most houses, and never move. This will ruin the great views of wetlands that drivers see everyday.

The developers knew the project would flood again, sooner or later. So did the City planners. But, it was built anyway. With an eye to short term profits, the developers only hoped the project would not flood until after they took the money and ran.

Now the people are being asked to bail the developers out of their bad real estate gamble by footing the bill to protect a private corporation from floodwaters that are sure to come again.



Airphoto of a 50-year flood event in the Ballona Gap in the 1930s. A more severe 100-year flood swamped Los Angeles in 1862, the largest flood in California History. The City is overdue for both types of flood events.

It's the destruction of Malibu Lagoon all over again, only on a monumental scale.

When you hear the project shopped as a "wetlands restoration," don't take the bait. It is a flood control plan to protect Playa Vista, a private development at public expense.

There is still hope to preserve the wetlands. You can support your local environmental groups including the Grassroots Coalition, the Ballona Ecological

Education Project, and the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, all of which share concerns about this proposal.

The Sierra Club, the oldest grassroots environmental group in the world, opposed the project at the Airport Marina Regional Group. John Muir founded the club long ago and its accomplishments have been instrumental in the preservation of California's natural heritage.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Cannabis Update

By Anne Alvarez

Facing the public's outcry in the form of lawsuits, petitions and criticism: the Los Angeles City Council voted 11-2 to overturn the medical marijuana dispensary ban on October 2, allowing the city to avoid a referendum next year that Council officials said would likely succeed in reversing the prohibition. Medical marijuana advocates collected in August well over the necessary 27,425 signatures to put the decision to a March 2013 referendum, seeking to overturn the so-called "gentle ban" on pot shops which the City Council approved in July.

Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who is undergoing treatment for cancer and uses medically prescribed marijuana to deal with the side-effects from chemo-therapy said "What we had, the gentle ban, was an ugly ban. I'm here today because we have this vote. Where does anyone go, even a Councilman, when they need medical marijuana?" added Rosendahl in a soft, raspy voice.

Council members said it was time to go back to the drawing board on regulating the city's nearly 1,000 pot shops.

Members could have voted to place the referendum on the ballot or to repeal the ban. The Council also took up a proposal, which passed, to urge state lawmakers in Sacramento to pass regulations that would allow medical marijuana patients to safely and easily obtain their medicine while preventing illegal business practices.

Council President Herb Wesson and other Council members said they didn't want to see an election on the issue. "If we allow this to go on the ballot, it will be a Ringling Brothers circus," Wesson said in an interview before the vote. "I really don't think that



the voters want to deal with this, we repeal this thing and do what we should have done years ago, which is go to Sacramento, close loopholes so that we can put in force a policy that we can enforce."

The Council must now come up with regulations governing dispensaries in the city. Current action by the Council leaves the city without any rules or regulations regarding the maintaining of dispensaries citywide.



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# Beachhead Recommendations for the November 6 Election

**Prop 30:** Temporary School Funding - **YES**  
Income tax on top 2% of income earners and temporary quarter cent sales tax. Raises \$6 billion dollars for schools and higher education. No provision that the money will actually be spent on education.

**Prop 31:** Cuts Educational Funding - **NO**  
Shifts \$200 Million from education and other social safety net programs. Grants Governor extraordinary powers to cut health and social service programs.

**Prop 32:** Corporate SuperPAC Exemption - **NO**  
Does away with union political spending while exempting corporation from same restrictions.

**Prop 33:** Good Driver Rate Hike - **NO**  
Would allow auto insurance companies to raise rate on drivers due to break in coverage, regardless of good driving record.

**PROP 34:** Ends The Death Penalty - **YES**  
Eliminates the death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

**PROP 35:** Curbs Human Trafficking - **YES**  
Increases penalties on human trafficking and those convicted will have to register as a sex offender.

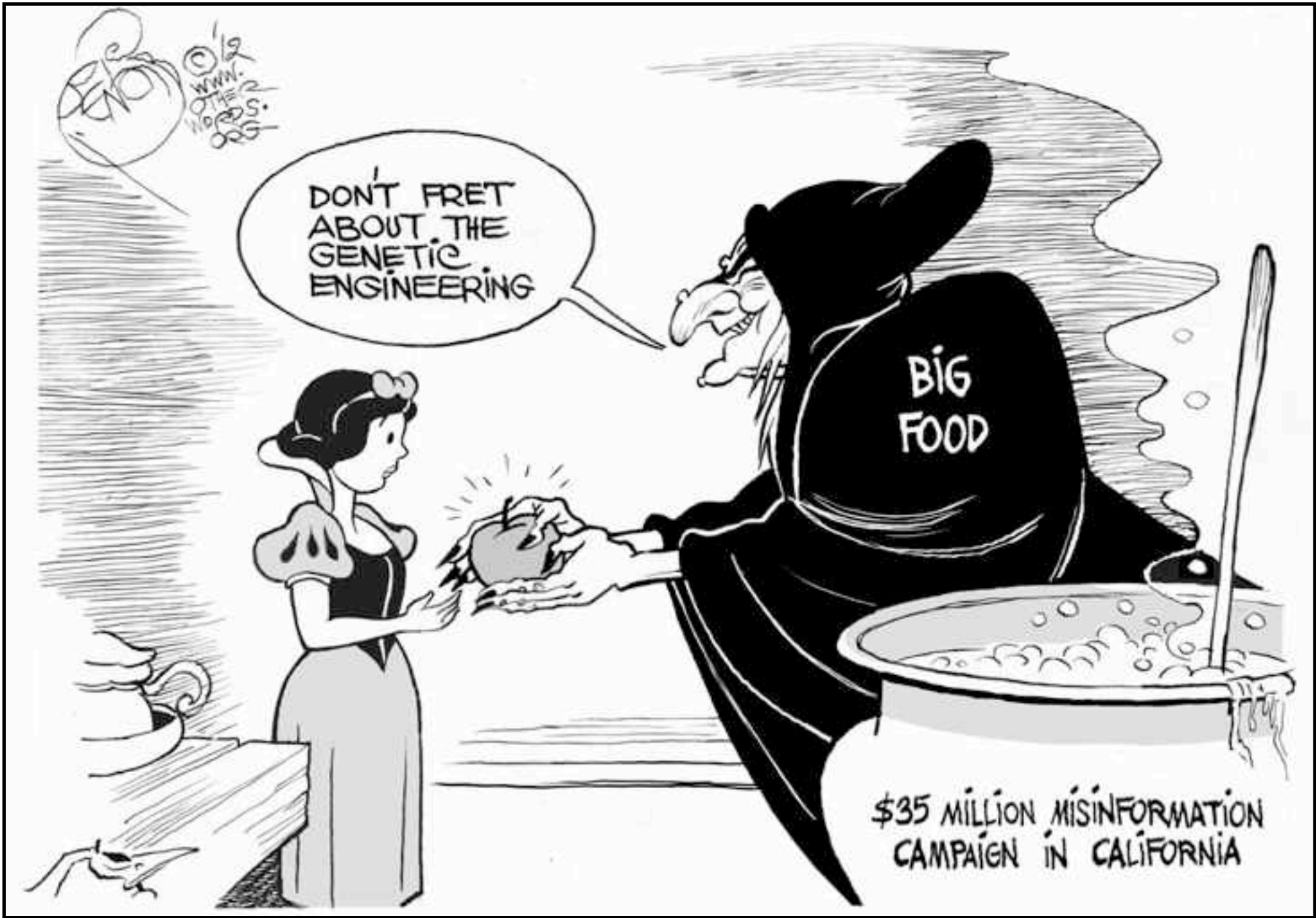
**PROP 36:** Changes The Three Strike Law - **YES**  
Limits "Three Strikes Law" to violent and/or sexual crimes, lowering prison populations.

**PROP 37:** Labeling Genetically Altered Foods - **YES**  
Requires genetically engineered food to be labeled as such and prevents such food from being labeled "natural".

**PROP 38:** Competing School Funding Proposition - **YES**  
Regressive income tax hike on individuals making as little as \$7,316 a year. No funds for higher education. Guarantees that the money will be spent on education.

**PROP 39:** Closes Tax Loopholes On Out Of State Corporations - **YES**  
Eliminates tax break that harms California business' while helping out of state business'. Funds education, social services and green jobs.

**PROP 40:** Approves New Senate Districts - **YES**  
Protects newly redrawn Senate districts. Keeps the courts out of the process.



## VNC Election Results

A record number of over 1600 voters cast their ballots at the October 28 Venice Neighborhood Council Elections. These are the winners:

President: Linda Lucks  
Vice-President: Marc Saltzberg  
Treasurer: Hugh Harrison  
Secretary: Kristopher Valentine  
Chair of Land Use and Planning Committee: Jake Kaufman  
Communications Officer: Helen Stotler  
Outreach Officer: Matt Kline  
Factual Basis Community Officer: J. Lloyd Jacobs

At-large Community Officers:  
Thomas Elliott  
Ira Kuslow  
Marisa Solomon  
Sylvia Aroth  
Abigail Myers  
Max Sloan  
Sevan Gerard  
Eduardo Manilla  
Oren Katzeff  
Tommy Walker  
Cynthia Rogers  
Erin Sullivan-Ward  
Scot Kramarich

## People's Reactions While Canvassing for Proposition 37 (YES! to Labeling GMOs) at the Ukiah Safeway 10/28/2012

"I'm a felon  
I can't vote!  
And I didn't murder the guy."

"I've already voted,"  
sly, grim smile;  
with emphasis:  
"by *secret* ballot."

"I've already voted YES!"  
YES! YES! YES!  
big, happy smiles!!!

"YES! I'm planning to vote for it!"  
thank-you for being out here!"  
more smiley faces.

"YES! I'm in a wheelchair and  
voting for it with my last leg!"

"YES! I'm obese!  
*GMOS are forced upon us  
with no scientific or health studies whatsoever."*

"WOW! look at that photo of a rat's  
giant tumor from eating GMO corn."  
"It's people's own fault they  
(*SUPERSIZE ME!*) drink too much soda."

"I only shop at Farmer's Markets so it doesn't affect me."  
*WRONG! Monsanto sues small farms  
when Monsanto's hybridized seeds  
contaminate farmer's heirloom and heritage crops.*

"Don't want no more gov'mint regulations."  
"There will be too many lawsuits."  
"It will cost the consumer."  
*Price of a new label : .001 cent.*

"It will benefit the Co-op."  
*Hooray!*

"We're Jehovah's Witnesses.  
We don't vote.  
We believe God will solve the world's problems."  
??????????????

"I'm voting YES!  
I care about our Earth,  
our health, and our children's future."

-- Erica Snowlake



# Joel Silver Holds Secret Press Conference Excluding the Press

By Greta Cobar

The worst-case scenario option came true at our historic post office once its doors closed, to be re-opened by invitation only for a press conference that seemed to include only those willing to smile and grin in Joel Silver's face, without questioning his actions or intent.

Although Silver bought the building, he does not own the Edward Biberman "Story of Venice" mural. The Coalition to Save the Post Office, which represents a wide spectrum of citizens and virtually all Venice organizations, has repeatedly asked for a copy of the covenant between Silver and the USPS concerning the mural. The document was never provided. Cecilia Castillo, from Bill Rosendahl's office, and Natalie Rogers, from Janice Hahn's office, have also officially requested the covenant, without avail.

It seems odd that although the community has been working tirelessly since August to obtain a copy of the covenant concerning the mural, nobody at the press conference bothered to ask Silver himself for a copy. It goes to show that the community was not represented, proven by the fact that the Coalition to Save the Post Office, formed over a year ago and backed by thousands of citizens, was not invited. The Beachhead wasn't invited either, even though it is the only publication strictly dedicated to Venice and the only publication that has been covering the fight to save the building and the mural in almost every issue over the past 20 months.

"There's always many issues in Venice, and there's always sometimes division on how we solve problems in Venice, but when it comes to this post office, this historic structure with the incredible mural inside, everybody is united to want to save it," Bill Rosendahl said at the November 5, 2011 rally to save our post office ([bit.ly/rUnWxk](http://bit.ly/rUnWxk)). He could not attend Silver's press conference due to his fighting the cancer that he was recently diagnosed with, but was represented by his chief of staff, Mike Bonin.

"In the sale and the development of this building we saw something that has never before happened in Venice: we saw everybody in Venice agree on something," said Bonin, speaking on Rosendahl's behalf, at Silver's press conference.

Yes, Bonin is not only stating the exact opposite of the person he is representing, but is also not stating the facts. It seems that one had to be willing to display



Edward Biberman's mural depicting Abbot Kinney would be appropriately displayed in the Abbot Kinney public library

that type of behavior to be invited to Silver's conference.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was conveniently among the attendees, as Silver will need City permits for his demolition projects. Presently he does not have any permits for interior demolition. Regardless, the interior looks significantly different than it did just three months ago.

It was most likely Villaraigosa's first time in our historic post office, and he proved to be unfamiliar with anything Venice. When reading about Venice history, Villaraigosa proved to be unfamiliar with Abbot Kinney, mis-read his name and had to re-read it. He went on to stumble reading what someone else

probably wrote and what looked like he was reading for the first time. "In 18 months it's gonna look a lot different than this," he said, proving our worst nightmares coming true.

Thanks to Tony Vera's video (<http://bit.ly/Wvkoax>), even those of us that were not qualified to be invited to the press conference can see the BS that transpired inside our beloved historic post office that morning. At 13:20 into the video, Bonin is heard saying "We have in Joel someone who has a history of loving the community." The camera turns to Silver, who smirks and laughs in gestures that show his surprise with Bonin's statement and his admittance of it not being true.

"We inherited this mural, which was one of the reasons that I love this building," Silver said about the Biberman mural when in fact he did not inherit the mural, which remains the property of the USPS. Nevertheless, Silver's behavior would make anyone think that he does own it, as he proceeded to clean it against the recommendations of Suzanne W.

Zada, Executive Director of the Edward Biberman Estate, Deborah Padilla, Executive Director, Social and Public Art Resource Center, and Emily Winters, Venice muralist and Chair of the Venice Arts Council.

In spite of conflicting community and expert suggestions, Silver plans to remove the mural from the wall. The Coalition to Save the Post Office and the Venice community as a whole need to arrange for the mural depicting Abbot Kinney to be moved to another Venice location that the public frequently visits, and what better place than the Abbot Kinney public library?

"There has to be some reason Silver's group is not turning over the paperwork," Amanda Seward, a Venice attorney and Venice Neighborhood Council board member who has been an integral part of the Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office suggested regarding the mural covenant. "It looks like the mayor pushed this through for Silver and unfortunately the Los Angeles Conservancy resolved the public access issue for him and allowed him to work around the coalition," she went on to say.

Silver had this to say about Linda Dishman of the LA Conservancy, who attended the press conference: "Even though she said not to say anything, I still love her very much, I hope she's not mad at me, and it's been remarkable that she got involved with us because she really, really made this possible."

As the big Hollywood movie producer that he is, Silver took advantage of every opportunity to pitch his movies. Providing for Silver film screenings in the lobby, he disguised his self-advertising as community access to the building and the mural in what he described as Biberman and Works Projects Administration (WPA) lecture series.

Silver described the WPA as a program that FDR created in a "time similar to now." Yes, FDR did create jobs and beautiful public buildings through the WPA in a time similar to this. It would have been, however, his worst-case scenario to have those buildings move into private ownership in similar times under a manufactured crisis. The USPS is the only business in the country required to pre-fund the health benefits of its retirees for the next 75 years in a 10-year period. USPS also over-paid \$75 billion into its employee's pension fund. If it weren't purposefully murdered in favor of private shipping companies paying lower wages and lacking labor unions, the USPS would generate a profit.

In yet another effort to fake concern for the Venice community, Silver bragged about creating an educational program involving students attending Animo Charter High School, located in Venice. Charter schools are truly private institutions operating for profit while their labor unions lack bargaining power. It makes total sense for Silver to favor such an institution as opposed to, say, Venice High School, which is a public institution with a labor union much like the USPS.

"The mural is going to come down in about 10 days ... and we probably won't put it up again until the building is complete, so in the interim, when the mural is finished restoration ... we will have to determine a place where it can be exhibited, whether that's locally or with the LACMA, but that's a question we have to ask the USPS, because I don't own the mural, the USPS owns the mural, so that would be a question for them. And access to the people, I am mean, we will work out a very reasonable way of seeing the mural, of calling, making an appointment to come and see it, it's not going to be a complex system and it is going to be access that the LA Conservancy will have special access, but it is going to be a pretty simple system that we will put in place when the building is up and we're gonna know how we'll be able to do it," Silver said when asked how the public will have access to the mural.

The Coalition to Save the Venice Post Office requested that Silver continue to provide public access to the mural during the same time intervals that the USPS did. Needing an appointment from Silver to see a public artwork that does not belong to him is unacceptable. It makes the case stronger for moving it to the library.

The community continues to stand united on not allowing another multi-millionaire to move in and claim ownership of our valued resources. Suzanne W. Zada, Executive Director of the Edward Biberman Estate, was just another one of many who was not invited to the press conference, according to her, "because he knew that I do not agree with what he is doing to the mural and he knew that I would say something unpleasant." She went on to say that she felt somewhat flattered that Silver was too afraid to invite her and other members of the Coalition to Save the Post Office to his so-called press conference.



Photo: Greta Cobar

Bill Rosendahl attending one of the many rallies to Save the Venice Post Office



# Joel Silver Announces His Immortality at VNC Meeting

By Anne Alvarez

The October Venice Neighborhood Council meeting was held at Westminster Elementary on October 23, and was attended by politicians, Hollywood moguls and neighborhood council hopefuls.

Congressional candidates for the newly formed 33<sup>rd</sup> district Representative Henry Waxman (D) and Manhattan Beach businessman Mike Bloomfield (I) took the opportunity to address the audience and lay out their policies.

Bloomfield acknowledged it will be difficult to unseat Waxman, who has been in office for over 38 years. However, he feels he just might win because voters are fed up with the hyper partisanship taking place in Washington D.C. . He also emphasized his independence from the two-party system, choosing to break away from the Republican Party to run as an Independent.

Henry Waxman addressed the crowd, pointing out that his opponent left the Republican Party, and proceeded to donate as much money as he possibly could to Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. He then went on to discuss his opposition of the Santa Monica airport and how he intends to do something about it in 2015, when its current agreement with the city expires. Waxman also mentioned his disap-

pointment that the Venice Post Office was sold; however, he is pleased with the buildings new owner, Joel Silver. He briefly addressed the thousands of homeless veterans that roam the streets while 400 acres of land at the Brentwood Veterans' Administration are being privately leased out, insisting he has fought to keep the V.A. from being altogether sold.

No questions from the audience or board members were permitted, and as soon as both candidates finished campaigning, they immediately left the building.

The audience was then introduced to over 50 Venice Council hopefuls including former Venice High school principal J.Loyd (Bud) Jacobs, who wants to improve the quality of Venice neighborhood schools and align community support for programs and schools that serve the local community

Through it all Joel Silver, the new owner of our historic postal building sat quietly in a back row of the auditorium before being asked to address the crowd. He proceeded by saying how much he has always loved Venice and how he was "happy to have been voted off the island," meaning the Warner Brothers Burbank lot. "It is going to be an incredible time for us to experience what Venice is, it is a dream come true," he said.

"We want to change the paradigm of Venice, the paradigm of Hollywood," Silver said. He discussed his plans for the community, and opened himself up for questions from the audience and board members; only 2 people asked questions: one woman wanted to know if he would hire her, the other sang his praises.

No one asked about the Biberman mural. I had a chance to privately ask Silver about the covenant between him and the Postal service and his willingness to release it to the public. He replied that "it is not out of the question and that it would ultimately be up to the Postal service."

When asked whether he has ever said that the Biberman mural will be view-able 7 days out of the year, as has been rumored, his reply was "never, that is ridiculous."

Silver also said that temporarily displaying the painting at a public Venice space like the Venice library is something he is willing to look into as long as he gets the okay from the owners of the mural, the U.S.P.S.

Board member Ivonne Guzman asked Silver if upon his death he would consider willing his new office space to the community, garnering a quick "I don't plan on dying anytime soon" from Silver, and laughter from the board members and the audience.



Venice Neighborhood Council board members' reaction to Silver announcing his immortality at the October VNC meeting

Photo: Rich Mann

# Another Night at the Other Venice Film Festival

By CJ Gronner

The Other Venice Film Festival 2012 is in the books, and once again, a great time was had by all. Due to logistics, I could only partially attend this year, but according to all the attendees that I spoke to, it was another smashing success organized by long-time Venetian, Reuben "Ruby" De La Casas.

Opening night was another big party at OVFF's headquarters at Beyond Baroque, with all the fun and casual order of an event in Venice. In accordance, the friend that I brought with me said, "I've never seen such a group of characters in one place before." I had, but it was close. The red carpet was rolled out for the occasion, and local and international luminaries strode down it to get inside and behold the films and the spectacle.

Natural Hi-Fi was the band kicking off the festivities, and they blew our mind - truly - with their one-armed guitar player, Paul Gunby. I don't know how he does it, but their version of The Doors' "Roadhouse Blue" was very true to the original. With one arm on guitar. We were super impressed.

I was not as impressed with either of the films featured this opening night. *The Ballad of Danko Jones* was all over the place, but featured cameos by Elijah Wood, Selma Blair, Ralph Macchio (the Karate Kid!), and the best one, Lemmy.

The feature presentation was Tony Tarantino's *Underbelly Blues*, and was perhaps the very worst movie I've ever seen. Ever. Mr. Tarantino told me that, "It's a spoof on *Pulp Fiction*, it's funny, and it's really, REALLY nasty." Well ... He got the last part right. I have nothing good to say about it, so I'll say nothing more other than I know for sure how much hard work getting a film made is, so good for them for getting something done, but bad for them that this thing was what they used their efforts for. Bllllech.

Highlighting Day Two was the inspiring (Slam-dance winning!) documentary *Getting Up* from director Caskey Ebeling. It's the incredible story of disabled graffiti artist, Tempt One. He suffers from ALS, but can continue to draw and create with crazy new technology that allows him to create with his eyes. See it. By far the best entry in this year's festival, in my opinion. Wow.

I wish I'd been able to attend every minute of all the films, musical performances and parties ... but Congratulations to all the Abbot Award winners and artists that got to see their hard work pay off with an audience of supportive Venetians at another of our good time events. Cheers!

Best Feature: Bring On The Mountain  
Best Documentary: The Webtel.mobi Intercontinental Challenge  
Best Short: Franky and The Ant  
Best Music Video: Dogtown Days  
Featured Artist: Matthew Schildkret

See you next year!



Red carpet rolled out for the OVFF, held at Beyond Baroque

Photo: CJ Gronner

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# Sparkly Party for SPARC's 35th Anniversary Celebration

By CJ Gronner

It has been all about the art lately in Venice, and a recent Saturday night was a big one for it. C.A.V.E. (Center for Audio and Visual Expression) Gallery on Abbot Kinney had the opening of renowned street artist Shark Toof's *Ping Pong Show* AND it was the big celebration for SPARC's (Social and Public Art Resource Center) 35th Anniversary. A full night of greatness.

My dear friend, Shana Nys Dambrot, wrote the introduction for Shark Toof's new and completely gorgeous coffee table book, and we discussed Shark Toof's fine art works on canvas with the man himself.

Shark (I'm gonna call him that, as I have a hard time with the f) opined on the state of sexual taboos in the world that gave his show its name.

"Ping Pong" does not refer to the hooker trick of yore, but rather the sex industry mores of Asia vs. here in the U.S.

Bright fluorescent stripes on the walls caromed about and around the paintings, giving the whole gallery an installation feeling, picking up the colors exploding off the art. The gallery was packed with collectors and hipsters, locals and even a couple tiger face-painted babies that could have climbed out of one of the paintings.

Shark is best known as a street artist, and his work has shown up on exterior walls all over the world, often featuring sharks.

With this new, crucial book, and gallery shows like this, Shark has taken his outdoor pieces inside, and successfully bridged that gap previously crossed by folks like Shephard Fairey and Banksy. "Post Art Bills" reads the box that houses his book. Yes.

The show is bright and profound and you can check it out on Abbot Kinney now through November 11th.

I raced from C.A.V.E. over to the SPARC affair at its headquarters in the old jail on Venice Boulevard. The entire building was lit up, with murals hanging from every inch of it.



Barbara Morrison performing at SPARC's 35th Birthday Party

Photo: CJ Gronner

The back parking lot had been transformed into a *Big Fish* style outdoor party, with lights strung up everywhere and music blasting from the stage, courtesy of Venice's own Tom Schnabel spinning his KCRW brand of world beats, and later jazz and blues legend Barbara Morrison and her band getting everybody up and dancing.

SPARC was founded by Judy Baca, Christina Schlesinger and Donna Deitch in 1976 with their first project, The Great Wall of Los Angeles. It is the longest mural in the world, taking the viewer through important moments in our history all along the L.A.

River bank. They offered tours of the massive mural (all done by volunteers and at-risk youth), led by Baca. I couldn't attend the mural tour, but encourage everyone to get down there and see this true wonder of the world as soon as you get the chance. It is truly massive, and makes abundantly clear the importance of art as a tool for social expression and teaching history.

Awards were given, speeches were made, and there was an air of jubilation over the entire affair. It was a delight to see so many neighbors all out and having a good time under the stars, dancing, drinking (theme drinks like "The Mural"), and eating delicious fare from the booths set up by Hal's, Casa Linda, and Ben's BBQ.

You could participate in live mural painting on one of the back walls, and it gave you a sense of the camaraderie and effort that goes into creating the more massive pieces that adorn our fair city.

Every surface was adorned with a mural illuminating important cultural characters and events. Even in the bathroom. In a time when street artists (folks like Shark Toof) get busted and jailed for beautifying spaces, and murals are under attack by small-minded building owners and corporate advertising, this was an especially satisfying evening in homage to the importance of art's role in social justice.

Once all the donation pitches and speechifying was complete, it was time to simply party. Barbara Morrison and her excellent backing band tore it up, and people kept dancing even as the event was being cleaned up around them. A great cause, a great night of wonderful art, and another exclamation point on the SPECIAL! place that we call home.

As SPARC's saying goes, "BE the Spark - to bring the past into the present to inspire the future."

Shark Toof  
*The Ping Pong Show*  
C.A.V.E. Gallery  
1108 Abbot Kinney Boulevard  
Through November 11th

SPARC  
685 Venice Boulevard  
Hopefully Always

## Book Review: *The Lure of a Land by the Sea*

By Greta Cobar

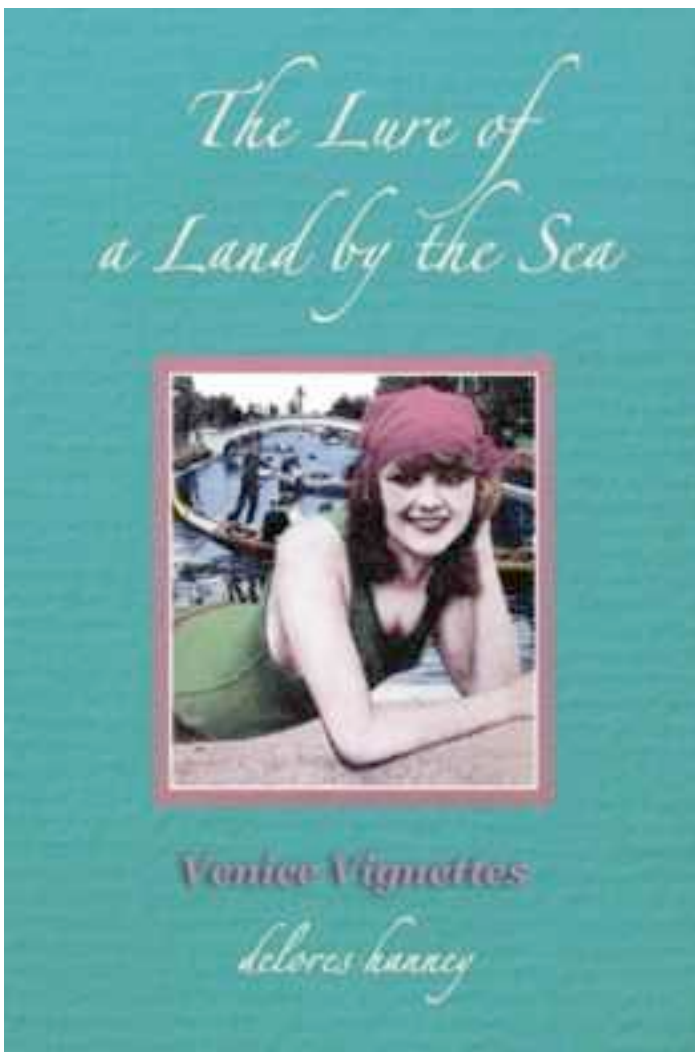
Long-time Venice historian Delores Hanney did it again: published yet another wonderful Venice memoir, made up of over thirty "vignettes," as she calls them. With grandiose vocabulary and in what could be called poetic prose, she tells funny and insightful stories from the times of Abbot Kinney's arrival in Venice all the way to more recent events that long-timers might remember.

Venice is "the spot just before one falls off the edge," according to Hanney, and her latest book, *The Lure of a Land by the Sea*, illustrates Venice characters and stories that most definitely have not just an edge, but an importance and a relevance that break through the geographical boundaries of what we call Venice.

The book starts, appropriately, with the beginning of our community, which established the way we do things by letting a coin toss decide where Venice of America was going to materialize. It could have been in Ocean Park, you know. "Abbot Kinney was a dreamer, and Venice-of-America was his most vivid dream," writes Hanney. She goes on to give details of Kinneyland, such as the philosophy movement it was based upon, which was meant to foster a sense of contentment, cohesiveness and belonging, "inviting surrender to a felicitous lifestyle."

"To see *Venice* is to live!" Kinney is quoted as exclaiming after he rearranged the marshland with a lagoon, canals, imported gondolas, singing gondoliers, even Italian pigeons.

Ever wondered who introduced Mardi Gras to the Venice scene? Read *The Lure of a Land by the Sea* to find out about Arthur Reese, "the first black businessman in Venice," who was originally from Louisiana and for who "it would have been unnatural" not to come to Venice. The book beautifully describes his journey from shining shoes to cleaning houses, to winning the first prize in the Tournament of Roses, to assuming the operation of the Venice Boat and Canoe Company. And yes, he is credited with bringing Mardi Gras all the way from Louisiana to Venice. Read that vignette for inspiration!



It was August 1, 1905, in Venice, California, that octogenarians Susan B. Anthony and Caroline Severance were speaking about woman suffrage to the 3600 audience members that filled the local auditorium. "Nothing is impossible to organized womanhood," Severance is quoted as saying. Indeed, on October 10, 1911 California became the sixth state in the

nation in which women could vote, nine years before women's voting rights would go national. Hanney proudly states in her book that "as the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in California is celebrated, these days more women than men are casting ballots."

From inspirational stories of nation-wide relevance to funny anecdotes that might make you start laughing out loud as you are quietly reading, go on to the next chapter. "lions & tigers & bears, oh my!" to Al G. Barnes Circus and Wild Animal Zoo coming to Venice and "those times when elephants or camels escaped to thunder about on the pier and the streets." From that story go on to the next, this time not about animals running wild among the humans, but about a well-known celebrity swimming with a certain dolphin every Sunday for nearly a year, "happily as a pair of sea otter sisters."

Wanna know about the beginning of Harley motorcycle's presence in Venice? In *The Lure of a Land by the Sea*, Hanney divulges how a 300-mile racing track was built in our 3-mile long community, and how Otto Walker claimed Harley's first national win at that very race.

No, it's not all happy stories, and December 18, 1929 was not a happy day for Venice. Oil was discovered offshore and within two years 450 wells were erected, "uglifying the once lovely shoreline, fouling sand and surf and the toes that might touch them with despicable tar-y blobs," Hanney writes. To make matters worse, the money did not stay in Venice, but was redirected to fund a fishing pier somewhere else. Read the book to find out where.

After laughing out loud to being saddened, the reader of *The Lure of a Land by the Sea* might find himself shedding a tear while reading about President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing Executive Order 9066, which committed 110,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent to various internment camps. "The Japanese Venetians were ordered to gather, with only what they could carry, on April 25, 1942, at Venice and Lincoln Boulevards where they waited with quiet dignity in a long, long line before being hauled off by

*Continued on page 10*



# Cats Crying for Your Help

By Charles Thomas

The cats at Lincoln Place need our help again. The cats and the Stray Cat Alliance need our help fast. The Stray Cat Alliance is the organization that has most substantively stepped in and worked tirelessly to guarantee the safety and survival of the cat population at Lincoln Place. The past two weeks has been something remarkable in the advancement of justice thanks to the Alliance.

If you have followed this story, last reported on in the July issue of the Beachhead (by Barbara Eisenberg) then you know that Lincoln Place has, for years, had a stray cat population. Lincoln Place, as most Venetians know, of course, is the apartment complex just "east of Lincoln" (behind Ralphs) that has often been at the center of controversy for the actions of its management company, AIMCO. The controversies have related to evicting tenants in cavalier fashion and simply shutting down living access to the facility while a legal issue ensued over AIMCO's desire to convert the property away from affordable housing. AIMCO recently voiced intent to begin trapping the stray cats and turn them over the West L.A. division of the city's animal shelter. Those of us researching the issue agree that such a trip to the shelter would probably be a death sentence for the cats.

The threat escalated almost two weeks ago when AIMCO posted notice of having secured a permit to begin trapping within days. The posting was something of a "slap in the face" to the Stray Cat Alliance (SCA) that had worked for almost two years at feeding and caring for the cats. SCA's efforts also included spay/neutering the cats, along with vaccinating, microchipping and some veterinary services. SCA spent thousands of dollars on these efforts and reduced the cat population from over one hundred to less than twenty five.

When the trapping notices were posted, SCA sprang into action and filed suit in L.A. Superior Court to enjoin AIMCO from proceeding with the cat extinction. SCA quickly secured an "ex parte" hearing (before the October 23 trapping commencement) and attorneys for both SCA and AIMCO appeared for oral argument. Judge John Reid ruled for SCA giving a temporary injunction to prevent AIMCO's trapping or proceeding with construction activities that would threaten the cats. This ruling is an exciting result because it could lead to "precedent setting law" in cases where an animal welfare organization is correctly claiming legal rights to, and "ownership" of creatures being protected. In addition to the injunction, a hearing was set for November 9 to revisit the issue, and on SCA's right to bring suit. However, the November 9 date will probably be vacated. Why? Because in the meantime, after the injunction, AIMCO has (*interestingly*) "come to the table" in dialog with SCA. The result is that SCA and AIMCO have come to an agreement. SCA has access to Lincoln Place to continue removing the remaining cats. Details of the agreement between SCA and AIMCO may be available as we go to press (but for now are private between SCA and AIMCO). The temporary injunction and the temporary sigh of relief mean that the cats will enjoy a "no kill" situation under the auspices of the Stray Cat Alliance.

The next step is finding homes for the cats. That is where we, fellow Venetians, can come in and help. We can come together as a community because a "stressed out" nonprofit like SCA can't do it all. The SCA has come this far (and done great work), but is in dire need now to find homes for the Lincoln Place cats. This may be more than the usual challenge because some selected darlings from Lincoln Place will be "special needs" cats. Some of these cats have lived feral lifestyles in various degrees. So, some may be "semi-feral," or some could be very unsociable (true ferals that must be "back yard cats" for now) and others may be harder to place due to visible characteristics rendering them "not pretty enough." Some, on the other hand, may be handsome felines, docile and completely adoption-ready.

Having said that, please consider adopting one of the Lincoln Place cats, and help us spread the word that the Alliance has these cats available. You can visit SCA's web site at [www.straycatalliance.org](http://www.straycatalliance.org) for contact information. In lieu of adoption, you can make a donation or sponsor a cat. SCA also needs volunteers for activities at Lincoln Place to complete this project. The web site displays the appropriate buttons and menus for whatever option you choose. It is a fun site with photos of cats up for adoption.

You can make a difference in the lives of these amazing creatures. Please open your hearts and your homes to these cats. It just takes enormous love, that's all.

## The Snake Around Venice

By Charles Dunn

The Snake that curls around Venice every Saturday and Sunday is easy to see as it slowly squeezes and suffocates its victim (Venice) like its next meal. Venice has become the metal Snake's new prey, with the residents having to stand by and tolerate its invasion each weekend.

I'm talking about the overloading, ever increasing amount of traffic on our roads. The traffic has numerous heads and tails which wind around the Venice streets - coursing, snarling and creating jams with no end in sight - not to mention the noise pulsating out of car windows, with no choice for the listener.

Let's put an end to this undesirable problem. We've all seen the empty parking lots at the Abbot Kinney library and at Venice High School the empty parking spaces outside local office buildings and businesses. A 'Park and Ride' system should be adopted. We could have a tram line setup, with maybe two cars that travel in a loop up and down Venice Blvd., running on Solar Power.

Presently every available parking space is taken up, disregarding the needs of Venice residents. One local said "they come to park in spots needed for us, then when they go home, they leave their trash behind for us to clean up some time Monday."

We need a solution to this problem for all parties involved. It's not right that Venetians should suffer and it's not right that the visitors are having to sit in endless traffic congestion. These visitors are unwittingly overpowering us with their unnecessary pollution.



Most of the visitors spend a good length of time in traffic during their visit and I'm sure this may eventually keep people away, thus local businesses would lose the much-needed revenue generated by these visitors, which in turn helps to pay their escalating rents.

I for one wish not to see Venice swamped with multi-story parking lots, ruining the unique Venice

landscape - take other cities around the world as an example, they have excessive multi-story parking lots and ever expanding shopping malls.

Main St. in Venice once had a tram system (its existing lines can be seen when the road is under construction), and was known as the 'Red Line' - maybe it's time to bring it back.

# Swami SPEAKs

Every moment is free, creative, ecstatic in eternity.  
Be wise and cherish the treasures in your memory.  
Eternity is a state of consciousness and every moment is blessed.  
Some lamb chops are bigger than others, however, they are all the best.

All there is is NOW!  
So why am I concerned with Where, When & How?  
Enough to know, the latest name for God, O Wow!  
Know ye not that ye are Gods, so why not take a bow?

If God is eternally everywhere, she would have to be inside of me and you.  
Don't mind me, I'm just attempting to uncover what is endlessly true.  
The Sun bestows Light, Life & Love, and a spirituality that is ever new.  
The possibility for real genuine democracy is now in the spirit that inspired the red, white and blue.

Many realms in Cosmic Eternal Existence.  
Why does the ego hang on with so much persistence?  
Its major trick and technique seems to be, to everything, resistance.  
It's interesting to observe how the aware maintain a cool distance from ego.



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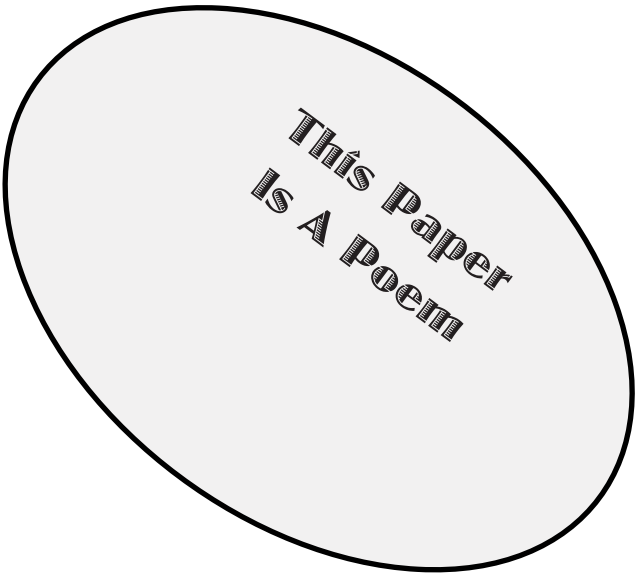
There’s a British man  
who walks in first  
wearing a puka shell necklace.  
He says he can only afford  
the \$20 to \$30 range & sits down.  
I plunge into  
the card reading & sure enough  
he is satisfied, nodding me on.  
The day fills up  
& soon the usual crowd is waiting  
as I read one person after another.  
Two young women come in.  
I start on the woman  
in the white pants outfit  
(who picks the High Priestess  
as herself).  
She claims I’ve read her before.  
I don’t remember. The other woman  
with long, brown hair rushes away  
to put quarters in her meter.  
She returns holding her left arm.  
A car hit her while  
she was crossing the street.  
Now why didn’t I read her cards first?  
She’s alright, just shook up  
& soon we are looking for  
marriage in her cards. They leave laughing.  
I stop for lunch, go upstairs  
& get into a conversation  
about swingers & such.  
Shawn from the mailroom sits in the background  
grinning. Men love hearing women  
talk about sex.  
Now it’s back to  
the cards & a lovely lady in her 60’s  
who relishes her reading. As she leaves  
she sees my last name, “schwimmer”, posted on the door  
& exclaims its rightness, how I am like a trout  
coming up & up & up.  
I almost start to cry  
when Sami appears.  
He is the last client  
but just as we are delving  
into his father’s death & small acts of revenge,  
I hear a scream behind me.  
I pull back the rain-ruined curtain  
to see a toppled wheelchair  
with arms waving side to side.  
For some reason this woman decided  
to take the two stairs  
in her wheelchair. Wrong door.  
It takes three of us to turn her upright  
while she cracks jokes & waves  
her right arm spastic-ally at us.  
Jo stands before her  
like a heron fishing, helps her with water  
& takes her to the bookstore itself  
where wheelchair girl is given a free book.  
Finally the day is almost over  
with Sami slouching towards  
the gated front door. He decides  
to tell me how the orgasm of a pig  
lasts 30 minutes. Did I know that? & please  
don't tell your husband, he concludes.  
I count \$210, pack up my dolphin  
table cloth & call home.  
Yes, indeed, the life around a card reader  
is something to remark about.

Parturition  
By Ronald McKinley  
  
The unhampered motion of being and thought  
Infused with pleasure and passion  
Cycled like a quantum wave  
Smell and palate change form  
Sight, hearing, taction evolve  
The space-time continuum breaks and mends your bones  
The caress of measured events  
Particle by particle emerge  
Secure the loop of existence  
Vision and sight don't always synchronize  
Lost to some ego by-pass  
When all is one  
The singular focus of a love driven existence  
Religion will become obsolete

**The Old Vine**  
by Majid Naficy

There is a green fence  
Between death and me  
Covered by an old vine.

When passing by  
I part the dense leaves  
To see the other side  
But the sun blinds me.  
I pluck a single leaf  
And like an old palmist  
Stare at its cryptic lines  
Asking myself in silence,  
“Who has planted this vine?”  
And before people point at me  
I brush the dust from my clothes  
And go on my way.



Chemical World

We are the solitary inhabitants of the subconscious world generated by neurotransmitters. Our sensation of living is the intermittent reaction we exhibit through opposite emotional expressions when extraneous agents stimulate our mind with simulations of desirable pleasures.

In the world excited by the selfishness of the prime rate, we are the serves of an estate demarcated with warning signs of private property and punishment. The regime that protects the estate is trademarked by bankers who use it to compete in the market for profits and instigate the fabrication of war as a good investment product.

The life we live is the effect of the balance of power, poverty and friction. The tax and prefixed value of our labor in the market controlled by speculators are the conduits and end of our freedom. We are separated by the equality of ambition and competition under a law enforced through the exercise of the fear of the Landlord performed by his army.

We live in a state of illusionary motion watching the spectacle of delightful living—animated by clowns, magicians, con-tortionists, and entities of bizarre appearance—projected through our naked retina by the architects of deception on TV. Our mind is the precious prey of the men of god—politicians, priests and generals—who strive to capture it enticing us to surrender our will to them with promises of world supremacy, peace, and eternal salvation.

In that place—where life is a probability valuated by insurance experts—planted with ICBMs and nuclear waste sites; celebrated in war movies and victory parades; remotely separated from the root of our nature, we are the suspicious sem-blances of an individual existence turned on and off with the remote control operated by the lords of social drugs and illusion.

Our experience of feelings, in economic “reality,” is an extension of the brain’s virtual arrangement of the self in the flit-ting moments of excitement precipitated by the chemistry of desire and illusion; of life and death.

—Humberto Gómez Sequeira-HuGóS

Bamboo

There is a grove of bamboo trees  
outside my window  
When the wind blows,  
They move with the wind  
a hummingbird shows up every now and then  
he hovers around my home made mobile  
When I see him, my soul lights up  
Oh yeah - there's that cute little hummingbird  
reminds me of youth and fairy tales  
when animals could talk  
and people could understand  
The sun shines strongly through the window  
I look for the bird  
but he's not here yet  
The bamboo remain to wave with the wind  
All is well again, all is well

- Mary Getlein

Beauty is the Outcome  
by Tyler Uhlenhake

Her soul dims and brightens as her heart peaks and shallows  
Wondrous the sight, battling the fallow  
The universe calls on her, she replies with all she is  
The total evokes a voice singing louder than a thousand  
violins heavenly sent  
Searching, but not forever wandering, the truth vies  
Not known to her, Known to those who surround  
That her triumph moves in a way  
That present, past, and future hope is never spent  
Beauty is the outcome, and such beauty is bliss

(A sample from 2008, hecho en Venice)  
23:43 Friday, April 11, 2008, 5th and  
Vernon, Venice Beach ..... A quiet spot,  
parked here, behind Suzanne, With iron  
fence perimeter; I plan On a long con-  
templation, to compose Some fitting  
testament. Well, I suppose I understand  
how Leonard Cohen felt With her, on the  
Saint Lawrence, having dealt With fields  
of trash and flowers long ago. Inside  
my feverish brain, perhaps I know The  
answer to the riddle. Tasted salt, And  
sailor I became, as all the fault Was held  
aloft for judgment, 'til up rose That  
resurrection son. Therefore, I chose A  
vision all my own, and so began My  
careful study, parked behind Suzanne  
..... Roger Houston, (Venezian-in-exile,  
just checking in. See you on Abbot Kin-  
ney Sunday. Ciao)



## Santa Monica Airport - Continued from page 1

the new 1990 rule, but SMO also requests that all the other visual flights (VFR) avoid flying over Santa Monica.

Santa Monica's fly neighborly program is anything but neighborly. It appears that Santa Monica wants no impacts from their own airport. However, Santa Monica city officials are extremely proud that Santa Monica is now being referred to as Silicon Beach. Understand that it is a Silicon Beach built on toxic air polluting corporate and private jets buzzing into and out of their private comfortable jet port.

Recently, Santa Monica residents in the Ocean Park community just north of Venice cried out that they don't want the FAA to return any part of the old takeoff route over Santa Monica. Understandable, but is that really fair? SMO impacts should be distributed in a way that would minimize the overall impacts and free up aircraft to take off without undue delays. Santa Monica should understand that if they decide to keep SMO operating after July 1, 2015, Santa Monica will bear their fair share of impacts from all flights. Venice residents don't want them just as much as anyone.

Join Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution to help fight this environmental, health and safety injustice. Website: [www.jetairpollution.com](http://www.jetairpollution.com).

## Book Review - *The Lure of a Land by the Sea* - Continued from page 7

the busload to Manzanar, 230 miles northeast of L.A., high in the Sierra Mountains," Hanney writes. Not coincidentally, just as we now have Suzy Williams as our beloved Songbird of Venice, so back then they had Mary Kageyama as Songbird of Manzanar.

"the beat of a bongo, the howl of a poet" is the title of the vignette about the Venice Beat Movement, which Hanney describes as "free of the inhibiting bondage of the conventional worldview ... under the influence of this substance or that." You might know about Larry Lipton and Stuart Perkoff, both of whom played a significant part in the Beat Movement, but did you know that there were not one, but two gathering spots called "Venice West"? Hanney gives details and locations for both.

*The Lure of a Land by the Sea* also tells the story of our Venice Poet Laureate Philomene Long, and how she jumped the covent wall of St. Joseph's of Carondelet in Los Angeles to be "spirited off - in the dark of night - in a get-away car driven by sister Pegarty." Hanney goes on to explain that leaving the covent did not represent an abandonment of spirituality, or even a rejection of Catholicism, and goes on to reveal Philomene's new self-identification.

Nowadays one might think that surfing is inherent to Venice. However, as Hanney discloses in her book, the first surfer here was actually brought from Hawaii as a lure to potential buyers. He came here

with his 200-pound, eight-foot-long wooden board of his own design.

Although many may have followed, the first Venice snake charmer was Carroll Shelby himself, who opened his Cobra manufacturing plant right here in Venice. His official mascot was a live cobra, which somehow escaped for a few days, and Shelby took drastic action upon its return. Read the book to find out what, and why Shelby moved out of Venice when his business went from a startup of nothing in 1962 to a \$16 million company in '65.

Hanney's vignettes abound, entertain, inform and mesmerize. In "painting the town" she writes about Rip Cronk, who "came upon a mural-painter-seeking ad placed by SPARC" upon his arrival in Venice. The first mural he painted in Venice was *Venice on the Halfshell* and it was located in the old Venice Pavilion. According to *The Lure of a Land by the Sea*, Venice's oldest mural is Edward Biberman's 1941 "Story of Venice," which all of us enjoyed looking at when visiting what used to be our historical post office. After the building's recent sale into private ownership, the public's access to its beloved mural was cut off. Hanney's quote of Cronk as saying that "the community mural de-alienates and delineates the individual in society" is relevant to Venice residents' current efforts to maintain the Biberman mural available for public view.

Hanney's book tells so many more stories, divulges so many other secrets, and sheds light on so much history. To get the full details, get yourself a copy at Small World Books or Beyond Baroque.

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# MOBY DICK

by Herman Melville



8am-10pm  
both days

Join the Venice Oceanarium  
Saturday and Sunday, November 17th and 18th  
for our annual Moby Dick Reading on the Beach!

By the breakwater rocks straight down from Windward Ave.  
Come and read or come and listen. Everybody's welcome!

The Venice Oceanarium is a museum without walls. Through its activities, the Oceanarium seeks to promote a sense of awe and delight while connecting people with the ocean as a scientific and aesthetic experience.



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For more information visit [www.veniceoceanarium.org](http://www.veniceoceanarium.org)



# Community Events – day by day

Calendar compiled by Charles Dunn

**Thursday, November 1**  
• 7pm - **7 Dudley Cinema - Larry “Wild Man” Fisher.** Beyond Baroque. Free.  
• 8:30-9:15pm - **Trapdoor Social.** The Talking Stick. Free.

**Friday, November 2**  
• 7pm - **Emily Oman, Bellinda Skinner and JP Cervoni, Raquel Rodriguez, B. Slade.** WitzEnd. \$10.  
• **1st Friday.** Abbot Kinney . Food truck. Crowds.  
• 10:30pm - **High Voltage Jam: Live music (String Theopy) and dancing.** Electric Lodge. Free.

**Saturday, November 3**  
• 7am-7pm - **El Dia De Los Muertos Exhibit.** Cafe Bolivre, 1741 Ocean Park Blvd. Free.  
• 7-10pm - **Molly Schulps.** Curio Studio. 324 Sunset Ave,. Free.  
• 9:30pm - **Death of My Daughter.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

**Monday, November 5**  
• 7pm - **Black Box Goes Out.**The Talking Stick. Free.

**Tuesday, November 6**  
• 7am - **Yoga class.** 122 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

**Wednesday, November 7**  
• 11:30am - **Toddler Story Time.** Venice Library. Free.  
• 8pm - **Wednesday Night Poetry.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

**Thursday, November 8**  
• 4pm - **Chess Club.** Venice Library. Free.  
• 6:30-9pm - **Day of the Dead.** Bring a personal memento of a loved one for the Community Altar! SPARC. Free.

**Friday, November 9**  
• 5pm - **Acoustic Beatles songs by Fefe.** Fig Tree Cafe, 429 Ocean Front Walk. Free.  
• 6pm - **Returning Soldiers Speak.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

**Saturday, November 10**  
• 10:30am - **Much Love Pet Adoption.** Venice and Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.  
• 4:30pm - **Sierra Club Camera Committee Fund-raiser.** 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Auction. Free.

**Sunday, November 11**  
• 8pm - **Lucille Day reading.** Beyond Baroque. Donations.

**Monday, November 12**  
• 9-11:30 - **Senior citizens. Enjoy Readings by PRT Theatre Artists.** PRT: 703 VeniceBlvd. Registration required. www.PacificResidentTheatre.com: 310-822-8392  
• 7pm - **Exploring the Kabbalistic Work of the Zohar.** Jewish Center, 505 Ocean Front Walk. Free.

**Tuesday, November 13**  
• 6:30pm - **Pajama Storytime.** Venice Library. Free.  
• 9-10pm - **James Loewen.** The Talking Stick. Free.

**Wednesday, November 14**  
• 6pm - **Rachelle Dowdy: Up North Art Opening.** Trunk Gallery, 12818 Venice Blvd. Free.

**Thursday, November 15**  
• 5:30-9pm - **Food Truck Night, live music with DJ.** Lincoln Blvd. and Ocean Park Blvd. Free Admission.

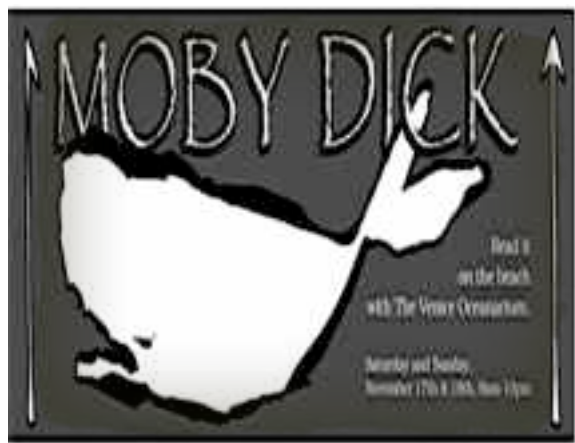
**Friday, November 16**  
• 9am - **Good Dog Animal Rescue.** Gold’s Gym, Venice. Free.  
• 8pm - **Waiting for Jack: Poems of the Beat Era.** Beyond Baroque. Free for members, or \$10.

**Saturday, November 17**  
• 10-All Day - **Elvino wine tasting.** Elvino, 1142 Abbot Kinney Blvd. \$10.  
• 7-10pm - **Round Brown Sugah with Boys.** The Talking Stick. Free.  
•8am-10pm - **Part #1 Moby Dick.** Read it on the beach with The Venice Oceanarium. At the end of Windward Ave, on the beach near Breakwater. Free.

### 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.

**Sunday, November 18**  
• 8am-10pm - **Part #2 Moby Dick.** Read it on the beach with The Venice Oceanarium. At the end of Windward Ave, on the beach near Breakwater. Free.  
• 2pm - **Open Reading.** Beyond Baroque. Free.  
• 7pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting.** Westminster Ave, Elementary School. 1010 Abbot Kinney blvd. Free.



• 7:30pm - **Suzanne Roberts Reading.** Beyond Braque. Free.

**Monday, November19**  
• 8pm - **Andy And The Rattlesnakes Return.** Trip. 2101 Lincoln Blvd. Free.  
• 8:30pm - **Yoga in Venice.** Yoga Centre.,122 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

**Tuesday, November 20**  
• 7:30-10pm - **Folk Rock `n Blues Nite.** The Talking Stick. Free.  
• 8pm - **Tuesday Night Creative Nonfiction.** Kathleen Hana. Beyond Baroque. Free.

**Wednesday, November 21**  
• 11:30am - **Toddler Storytime.** Venice Library.  
• 6pm - **Up North.** Trunk Gallery, 12818 Venice Blvd. Free.  
• 8pm - **Wednesday Night Poetry.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

**Thursday, November 22**  
• 4pm - **Chess Club.** Venice Library. Free.  
• 7-9pm - **Venice Art Crawl.** www.veniceartcrawl.com for map and info. Free.  
• 7pm - **Keaton Simons and Nikki Leonti.** Witzend. \$10.

**Friday, November 23**  
• 7-10pm - **Venice Rizing, hosted by Audrey.** The Talking Stick. Free.  
• 5pm - **Acoustic Beatles Songs by Fefe.** Figtee Cafe, 429 Ocean Front Walk. Free.  
• 7pm - **Rodriguez, B Slade.** Witz End. \$10.

**Saturday, November 24**  
• 7pm - **LummoX Journal** is back! Beyond Baroque. \$10.  
• 7-10pm - **Unity cd release party.** The Talking Stick. Free.

**Sunday, November 25**  
• 7pm - **Elle Carpenter, Mars Gana.** Trip., 2001 Lincoln Blvd. Free.  
• 7-10pm - **Solange and Jim’s Comedy Show.** Free.

**Monday, November 26**  
• 6:30pm - **Book Club.** Venice Library. Free.  
• 8pm- **Jazz at Hal’s Bar and Grill.** Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.

**Tuesday, November 27**  
• 8:30-9:15pm - **Melody Rose.** The Talking Stick. Free.

**Wednesday, November 28**  
• 7pm - **Pi Jacobs, Celia Chavez, Brianna Falcone and Jesse Macht.** Witzend. \$10.  
• 7-11pm - **Open Mic with Ellen and Peter.** The Talking Stick. Free.

**Thursday, November 29**  
• 8pm - **Lost Patrol Monks of Mellonwah.** Trip. Free.

**Friday, November 30**  
• 8:30pm - **Comic Jazz, David Zasloff.** Beyond Baroque. \$10.  
• 9-11pm - **Edge Water.** The Talking Stick. Free.

## Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006. [beyondbaroque.org](http://beyondbaroque.org)
- 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.** 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings.

### FILMS

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

### MUSIC

- 8pm-12am - **Hal’s Bar and Grill** features **Live Jazz** Sunday and Monday nights. Free.
- 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy’s “Open Mic”** for com-ics, 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.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 9am-4pm - **Venice High School Flea Market.** Antiques, crafts, collectibles, toys, jewelry, cloths. 2nd Saturday of every month. 13000 Venice Blvd.
- 7-11am - **Venice Farmers Market.** Fruits, vegeta-bles, flowers and coffee. Every friday. 500 North Venice Blvd.
- 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 origi-nal poesía, cuento, música, pintura. First Saturdays. Beyond Baroque Library. Free.

### POLITICAL AWARENESS

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



# Abbot Kinney, thanks for the fun!

By CJ Gronner

We always look so forward to the Abbot Kinney Festival every year, and this year could not have been a more perfect day for it. Gone was the oppressive heat at the beach that some maniacs have been complaining about (Never me), and a gentle breeze blew through the sunshine to create the most gorgeous possible day for all of Venice (and friends) to come together.

Once again, the entire town seemed to be in a great mood, and once again it reminded me of a homecoming weekend, or Thanksgiving, when you see all the old, familiar faces that people get too caught up in their own lives to see every day. I actually (once again) didn't get to look at too many booths or things, as every two feet you would have another friendly encounter. I love that.

I spent a good chunk of the afternoon kicking it at the Free Venice Beachhead booth, where I got to meet many of our town's readers, hear their concerns, ideas, support and funny stories. One extra OG man told me how he'd lived in Venice all his life, and it "used to be FUN here ... now the Pigs won't let anyone have any fun. It's all Yuppies and money now". Though I did see a person with a real pig as a pet, I believe this guy was talking about the cops. They were pretty cool on this day, but they kind of need to be now, when many in our community are pretty down on them after the whole Ronald Weekley thing. One young lady asked "How can I donate to The Beachhead or become a Sustainer?" It made me so happy that someone in the teen demographic understands and appreciates the need and the work that goes into a FREE press. And that it's a very important method for preserving OUR Venice, the way that man remembered it. Preserving the FUN, instead of being all about the money and hipster b.s. I headed back out into the mix, encouraged.

But this was a day for celebration, and everyone looked to be doing a great job at that. One great tip for ladies on Abbot Kinney Festival day is that the line for the ladies restroom is always the shortest at The Roosterfish. The 'Fish was completely packed all day. Gay, straight, every single genre of person having a total ball getting sauced in the daytime on the patio, where great looking hamburgers were being grilled up right in the middle of it all. So fun.

The kids were having a whole bunch of fun at the kid area at Westminster School, where they could do a climbing wall, ride a little Ferris Wheel, and generally go nuts on all the sugar they were hopped up on.

People out buying things too, from jewelry, clothes and art to hot sauce, fairy wings and feather headdresses. You could also register to vote to show your appreciation for the improved economy we were witnessing.

You could eat anything you wanted, and there were so many delicious looking food booths that it made it difficult to decide (we went with Outdoor Grill and gourmet ice cream sandwiches - yum).



Abbot Kinney Festival, 2012

Photos: CJ Gronner

It has irked me in recent years that the music stages did not represent our Venice musicians, hardly, if at all, which seems lame considering we all know GREAT musicians in Venice. Same deal this time around, and I really only made a point to catch The LivingThings, who fired up the people hanging out at The Brig and the Palms stage.

With all to see and do at the Abbot Kinney Festival, the very best thing remains the people. The people watching. Seeing old friends and making new ones. Seeing that some people walk goats around as pets, and some people don't really wear clothes. Some people wear really cool clothes. Some people get through the crowd on stilts. But everyone has a good time, and is happy to be here in our beloved Venice.

Back home later, I could hear the clanging of the poles on the ground from the booths being dismantled, another successful year of the fair coming to an end. I heard a drunken crew rolling down my street and one of the girls shrieking, "This was the best Festival EVER!!!" She probably

hadn't been to ones here in years past, but compared to others in the world, she was spot on. And the best part about the whole day every year is really that it's one big benefit for our desperately needed Venice Family Clinic. Good begets good.

We love you, Venice! Thanks, as ever, for the FUN!

