

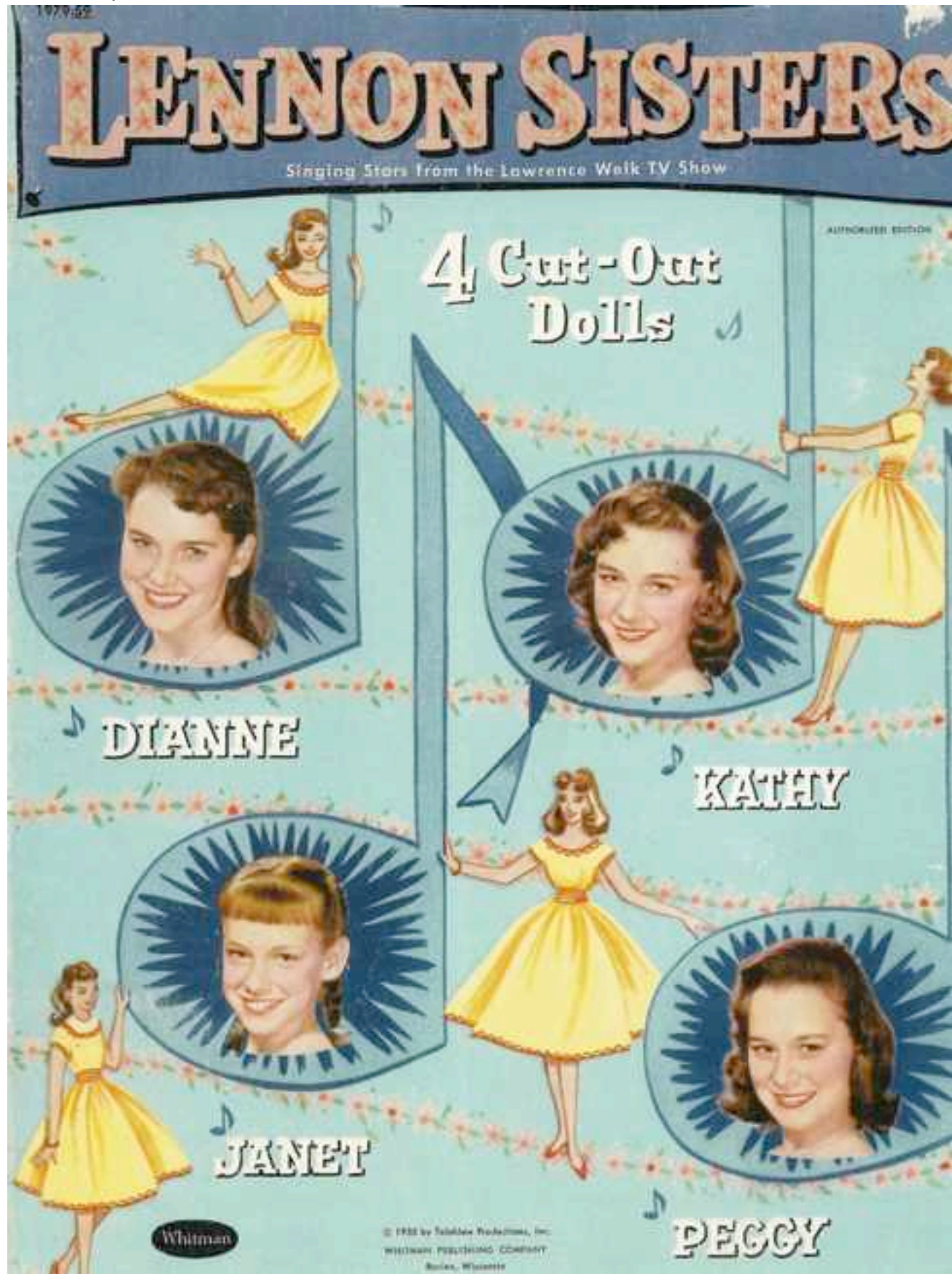
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Front cover of a set of Lennon Sisters paper dolls copyrighted 1958 - read their story, *Sister Act...With Murder* by Venice historian Delores Hanney - on page 6

Don't Sell Out!

By Bradley Bobbs

“Yes, I support the principles of Roseanne Barr and the Peace & Freedom Party; but realistically we know that she’s not going to win the election, so I’m going to vote for Obama to make sure that Romney doesn’t win.” Have you said this to yourself? (Or maybe it was about Libertarian Gary Johnson or Green Jill Stein.) If so, just what do you think you’re going to accomplish by selling out your principles like this? You didn’t seriously think that the election was going to be so close that your one vote would decide the result, did you? And you didn’t seriously think that, despite all the evidence to the contrary over the past many decades (including the 2008 election), a Democrat President was really going to do much different from what the Republican candidate would have done if he had won, did you?

So just what ARE you accomplishing by voting for the lesser of two evils instead of voting for good? You’re giving your vote of support to continuing the absolute rule of the Democrats and Republicans (or “Demobli-cans” as I call them) and their power to crush any third-party competition. You’re accepting having your principles suppressed indefinitely, as long as the government occasionally throws them a bone to appease them. You’re saying that you don’t want any real change, you just want to stick with the status quo and the establishment that has created every problem that exists in our government today. You’re giving up on your principles and selling out, and sending that message out for all to see. Is that really what you want?

For decade after decade under Demoblican rule, the problems in our government just keep getting worse. The old problems rarely ever get solved, and just keep piling up as the government keeps creating new ones. We see the Presidency keep bouncing back and forth between Democrat and Republican, but rarely bringing about any real positive change. Yet gullible voters keep thinking “If only the Democrats (or Republicans) win this time, everything will get better!” How many times does this foolish expectation have to fail (and fail miserably) to happen until the voters wake up and see that the Demobli-cans will only continue to make things worse?

There’s a reason the Demobli-cans keep failing to fix the problems in our country: It’s because that is NOT their goal. They may have an official platform of lofty principles, but they only give it lip service. There is only ONE principle that really means anything to them: Get elected, get power, get money, and get it by whatever means necessary. The Demoblican political machine doesn’t exist to serve YOU, it exists for you to serve IT. It will sweet-talk you, fool you, trick you, or strong-arm you, as needed, to get your vote and your money. THAT is the goal of the Demobli-cans. If you care about principles, you need to look elsewhere, to the candidates who struggle for the opportunity to improve their country only with grassroots support, WITHOUT benefit of a political machine.

Continued on page 10

What Have They Done to the Rain?

By Mary Getlein

What Have They Done To The Rain? was written by Malvina Reynolds. Malvina's song was protesting nuclear testing on the people and livestock of Utah in the 1950s. Most of the people and the livestock got cancers, and died. Malvina's emphasis was on children and families - to protect our world, our planet from our own greed. Our greed cuts down the old-growth forests. Our greed is killing our children! We sell arms, we sell video games that train young boys how to kill. We kill our children - we feed them horrible food, food that will make them sick and give them life-long diseases. We kill our children - we quickly diagnose them and put them on psycho-tropic drugs, whose side effects might manifest as homicide, suicide, or both.

We kill our children - we lock them up for false charges to ensure we have a huge population of prisoners. California's cash crop is prisons. California is free-falling right now. They can't pick up the trash on Venice Beach, but they can put thousands of brown, black and low-income whites in jail. We kill our chil-

dren. Every one of the corporations related to this is making a "killing" on killing our children.

The real point of Occupy for me is taking off the every day glasses of "I'm ok, screw everybody else." The notion that if you're "ok", then things are really "ok" for the rest of us. They're not. Unemployment is high, rents are high, people are living in their cars, if they have cars. Poor people are being discriminated against and harassed, while rich people who commit REAL crimes are let off the hook.

Occupy is calling a pig a "pig". (Sorry to all the real pigs). How many houses do you need? Seriously. How much wealth does one person need, when he can go out in the streets and see people sleeping on the sidewalk? And these are not all young run-aways. A lot of these people are old. They spend their days going to food pantries, or begging on the Boardwalk, and finally going to sleep on the sidewalk at night.

Since when did the notion of having a Third World country inside the United States become a good one? This is a frightening scenario. More and more people living in the street, while the rich people

drive around in limos, fly around in helicopters, and generally have a good time.

So what happens when all the people in the streets get sick? All the people in the streets are stricken by small pox, bubonic plague, cholera, typhoid, measles ... Pick one, any one. All are highly contagious diseases and ALL the poor people are sick. Not just a little sick - FRIGHTENING sick, with big huge boils forming all over their bodies. Where their bodies collapse and they die with blood exploding from every orifice. "Highly contagious" - which means everybody gets it. Then what? Then you would see a mass exodus from wherever the rich people live - oh yeah, they'll be on the first plane out of here (remember Katrina?). Then all the poor people DIE, then years later, when the government has finally decided it's safe to go back, they let the rich people back.

I have no problem believing in the real history of this country which was based on greed, taking all the land, killing all the Native Americans, destroying their language, their customs, their belief system.

Continued on page 10



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Dear Beachhead,

How strange, cops from Hollywood division and Alex Thompson on an arrest at the same place at the same time. Thompson gets pics and story for the front page of her website Venice311. Thompson gets the scoop and feels like a hero, making someone look bad to the public. Regardless of his past or his relationship with the LAPD beach detail. Doesn't Reina work at Hollywood division? Wasn't he the Sgt at the beach detail? Does Thompson have proper media credentials? How did Thompson get the information about the arrest in Santa Monica?

Just one on a list of their enemies (dirtbags) of Reina & Thompson from the beach. This is exactly what I was talking about, Thompson getting police information. I hope the department is as concerned as the residents about this seeming inappropriate activities. Is the relationship between Lt Reina or LAPD and a convicted felon of retaliation and revenge approved department policy?

My information is Thompson has taped Solomon on the beach and gave the tape to the victims family in Hollywood. How in Gods name did she even know about the incident or family information if this is true? I would hope your inhouse internal affairs investigation is not complete and this is just more proof of their unsavory relationship.

How many other victims are out there? I am just one of many with Thompson getting a restraining order against me being 3000 miles away and unable to defend myself. Other restraining orders, lawsuits, a number of evictions, arrests of innocent people, accusations and dismissed felony cases. LAPD has just thrown more salt in the wounds of intimidation, retaliation and revenge from Thompson and all her aliases. This reign of terror and people looking over their shoulders has to stop. Thompson is a criminal and she should be treated as such, not the golden girl LAPD thinks she is. Everyone now sees the truth and is closely watching all the incidents adding up. Why doesn't LAPD?

Boston Dawna

Dear Swami,

Thanks so much for that wonderful commentary. I lived in Venice between 1981 and 83, and heard you many times, and you even made it onto my hand-made xmas card one year, as i drew a picture of you eulogizing from a bench along the Boardwalk. I know life up on Oakland. I was searching tonight to see if I could conjure up one of your great lines, something to the effect, "Yes, as you know, We in Disneyland have a lot of dues to pay". I'm sure that was a set up for a joke somewhere in there, but can't remember how you finished up that by-line.

I had just graduated from UCLA, and was living on Ozone Avenue back in 1982. As you might know from the T shirt that some were wearing back in that day, "There's No Zone like the Ozone".

Courtney Miller

Dear Beachhead,

I was reading the *Beachhead* and wanted to make another correction to Paul Tanck's correction about Olivia's. Yes, it was in Santa Monica, not Venice, but Olivia's Place on Main Street in the 1960s was NOT where the surf and skate shop ZJ Boarding House is located today. No, it was across the street in small low rise storefronts where **California Heritage Museum** is today (remember they moved those Victorian houses from Ocean Ave in the 1980s to the current location). The original buildings were torn down. 2618 Main was on the west side of the street.

I used to eat at Olivia's with my dad in high school. Maybe I sat next to Jim Morrison.

Thanks,
Karina

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The Shameful State of Homelessness in LA

Each night, there are 48,000 homeless people in Los Angeles County. That's more people than 1 ½ times the population of Venice and of those, 20% are physically disabled, 25% are mentally ill, and about 10% of them are children. Take a moment to let that sink in.

There's a lot to feel ashamed of in those numbers and I could throw down a long list of other statistics that would make you sick to your stomach – like the fact that more than ¼ of all those homeless people are in families headed by single mothers, or that 41% of our homeless adults were employed within the last year.

Your politics aside, these people are a part of our community and there is an economic, social, and environmental cost to allowing this issue to continue festering. Each homeless person is lost potential economic productivity. Every trip to the emergency room or jail is taxpayer money. Any crime by or against the homeless population diverts vital funds from schools to public safety. But, most importantly, it's a self-sustaining blight against humanity.

I don't want to get into the conversation of why or how a person is homeless. To me, it's irrelevant. Either that person made bad choices, caught some bad luck, or simply couldn't avoid it for whatever reason. My worry is the drag on our community and when I speak of "our community", I'm talking about everybody – homeowner, renter, entrepreneur, and homeless person.

I think it's obvious why we need to act now for the benefit of the homeless. How can that person take care of himself or contribute to the community when he doesn't even have the basic privacy to go to the bathroom or change his clothes? Should we let someone who can't make a better choice just slip off to hide in the shadows of our streets? Do our teachers have any chance of helping a kid whose only time to relax is in the safety of a classroom?

Did you know that homeowners in Venice pay a median property tax rate of \$6,711 per year? The median rent in Venice for a 1 bedroom apartment is \$1,995. What does the city of Los Angeles owe the person who pays that each year? A street full of RVs? I recently met a young father who had to explain to his 5-year-old daughter why a homeless man was peeing on the sidewalk in front of their house one morning. I just saw the same thing happen this morning when I took my own daughter to school. Is that okay?

I don't think that anyone on our city council lacks compassion, but it takes more than feeling sorry for someone to fix a problem that affects every corner of society. It takes the political will to spend the money and time to change things.

And if we don't do it now, when? We're in an era of high foreclosures, empty housing, and nearly zero interest rates. Will tackling this problem head-on ever be less expensive, or should we wait until all of the homeless children grow up? Every single person has value in our society, but they can't begin to tap the unlimited potential for human greatness that resides within us all until they have the security of a room.

Odysseus Bostick, teacher and candidate for Los Angeles City Council in District 11



Let the Sun Shine on World Peace and a Greener Tomorrow

By Don Geagan

Imagine a world where energy is clean and free. Where nations no longer have to encroach on, or fight over, their neighbor's resources and where concerns over global warming are a thing of the past. Sounds like a fairytale or heaven on earth? Thanks to a major breakthrough in solar technology, that is what researchers at UCLA are apparently developing in our own back yard.

UCLA's California Nanosystems Institute announced an organic polymer that can turn virtually any hard, flat surface into an electric power generator. The applications boggle the mind, and when fully developed, will transform the way that humanity develops and utilized electric power.

This "solar film" literally harvests light and turns it into electricity. It can be applied to the exteriors of buildings, and equally stunning, this polymer can be applied to the outside of cars and airplanes and may, very well, do way with the need to 'fill up the tank'. Since this miraculous substance is also organic, it has the potential to mitigate, if not alleviate, global warming.

Along with the solar film, researchers have developed a new electrode, a metal, which appears to be transparent. Thus you have a new solar cell. But the truth is, the electrode is not actually transparent, it's just that the silver nanowires are so small that they are imperceivable to the human eye. These nanowires are

about one one-thousandth the width of a single strand of human hair.

This malleable and highly durable polymer utilizes the infrared part of the light spectrum. Currently, isolating the infrared spectrum is a less-efficient way to make electricity, converting about 6% of the sun's energy into electrical current. Researchers believe that by using the new technology they will double or even triple that conversion rate in 3 to 5 years.

When you consider that enough sunlight hits the Earth's surface in one hour to power the entire world for a year, the potential of these new photovoltaic cells to generate clean and free energy is inexhaustible.

The Obama administration is currently pushing hard for more "Green technology". It appears that this new solar film is the greenest of green technology.

As astounding as all these technological and energy breakthroughs sound, one must consider the rather positive international ramifications of such a new energy paradigm. Namely, the lessening of tensions and/or wars now fought over our planet's very limited natural resources.

In other words, no more blood for oil. No more need for hundreds of American military bases all over the world in order to protect U.S. oil company's pipelines and profits.

Could harnessing the true power of the sun actually bring about world peace?

It sure couldn't hurt.

"JOHN STEINBECK'S 'SWEET THURSDAY'"

Drama review by Suzy Williams and Brad Kay

Steinbeck fans will delight in the Pacific Resident Theatre's production of Sweet Thursday, newly adapted for the stage by Robb Derringer and (director) Matt McKenzie. World War II is over. Formerly happy-go-lucky marine biologist Doc returns to Cannery Row from the Army, sobered and seriously dead-set on finding meaning and purpose in his life and research. The townsfolk, alarmed at the change in him, arise en masse to return Doc to his pre-war, party-animal condition so the revels may continue. Life, love and hijinks abound. The classic Steinbeck utterances remain: "Everyone here is bound by gossamer threads of steel!" - "We got to get Doc outta the slings of despond!" - "There ain't no way to get into trouble if you keep your mouth shut." - "It hurts my feelings when I steal." – on and on. Lest we forget, John Steinbeck celebrated California and populist thought for much of the last century.

The first thing we noticed about this frequently hilarious Capra-esque romp was its elaborate, cinematic scope, realized through wondrously clever use of the small stage by set designer Charles Erven. The story takes place all over town. We visit the Palace flophouse, the seashore, the diner, the dance Hall, the bodega, Doc's laboratory, a discarded boiler as a living space, the Bear Flag Whorehouse and a drive into the sunset in a boat-turned-car. Oh, the resourcefulness!

The pace, the lighting, the excellent, consistently eye-popping period costumes, the sound – all superb. Did we mention the casting? Here in 2012 is a room full of old-fashioned Preston Sturges Stock Company character actors - a breed we had thought extinct. Jeff Doucette, who played Mack, the flophouse leader, took the cake for the most authentic, convincing old-school showmanship. But right up there is Eric-John Scialo as Hazel, the "special needs" strong man, Kevin Fabian as "Mr. Elegant," the prostitutes' gay best friend, and Dennis Madden as "Seer," a very Venice Beach-style evolved old bum. George Villas played bodega-keeper "Joseph-and-Mary," and with his tight, matador form and his crisp white shirt, he turned in a delightful, mock-villainous performance. The leads, Joe McGovern, playing Doc, was a little young for the part, but still plenty sexy, and Lela Loren as "Suzy" was lovely, lovely.

For a non-musical, this show contains a surprising amount of music, a great deal of it live. Some of the actors double very capably on trumpet, guitar and sax; singing and dancing erupt frequently among the players, and there is one stunning ensemble number.

The scrappy, all-for-one camaraderie of the play reflects of the real-life attitude of the Pacific Resident company itself. Operating on a budgetary shoestring, but with a maximum of ingenuity and heart, Executive Producer Marilyn Fox marshals these talents to create all this goodness and suspension-of-disbelief. She talks with the Moon on a tin can and a thread. And this is YOUR neighborhood theatre – three stages worth – right on Venice Boulevard, one block east of Beyond Baroque and SPARC.

Run, don't walk, to your computer, phone, semaphore or carrier pigeon and reserve yourself a seat for this compactly grand entertainment.

John Steinbeck's Sweet Thursday
World Premiere adaptation by Robb Derringer & Matt Mckenzie
Pacific Resident Theatre
703 Venice Blvd
Venice, CA 90291
Tickets \$20 - \$28
Running through October 28th
For reservations: www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
or call 310-822-8392

Endeavour Doing Doughnuts over Venice

By CJ Gronner

The Space Shuttle Endeavour made its final voyage September 21st, and it was pretty great to see. My brother Rich back in Minnesota reminded me to go out and look for it, and as I made my way to the beach, I saw that it was the talk of the town.

The Venice pier and the beach were packed with sky gazers of all ages, and it made it extra exciting that a bunch of kids were out on field trips to see the fly-over, and their hyped up yells made the whole experience that much more awesome, in the true sense of the word.

The kids played ball, the old folks set up camp chairs ... I set up my towel and sunscreened it up to await the arrival of Endeavour.

Everyone stared skyward and it felt like maybe nothing would happen, when all of a sudden, one of the teachers yelled "KIDS! Here it comes!" They all ran screaming towards the shore, everyone else stood up and shielded their eyes from the bright sunny perfectly blue sky ... looking ... and then there it was, accompanied by two little (looking) jets.

A cheer went up from the pier, and we all stood and watched the massive spaceship fly over Venice.

It was unexpectedly moving, I guess because it made you think about space exploration and adventure and the possibility of dreams, and of times when the sky really was the limit.

Also moving because it was again something like the *eclipse* a few months ago, where people from all walks of life came together to observe something bigger than ourselves for a moment.

We watched it go overhead, and as soon as the chills subsided, the kids packed up to go back to school, folks streamed back off the pier to get back to work, people got on their phones to tell their friends about it, and I closed my eyes to think about this massive Universe.

Before I got too deep into my head, I heard a guy yell, "Here she comes again!" and sure enough, here came Endeavour for another buzz over. My friend Brandon wrote that Endeavour was "doing doughnuts over Venice" - Ha!

Thanks for the thrill, Endeavour ... and here's to the dreamer in all of us.



Photos: CJ Gronner



Roseanne Barr, None Other

By Ronald K. Mc Kinley

Roseanne Barr, Presidential candidate for the Peace and Freedom party, spoke on September 22 at the Church in Ocean Park. Sponsored by the Venice chapter of the Peace and Freedom Party, the event drew a full hose of about 400 attendees.

Born Roseanne Cherrie Barr on November 3, 1952 to Jewish parents in Salt Lake City, Utah, she could only have been a comedienne. Barr's parents kept their Jewish heritage a secret from their neighbors. Barr's paternal grandfather changed his surname from Borisofsky to Barr upon entering the U.S. from Russia.

In 1970, when Barr was 18, she moved out by telling her parents she was going to visit a friend in Colorado for two weeks; she never returned. She did stand-up while in Colorado, doing gigs in Denver and other Colorado clubs.

She appeared on The Tonight Show in 1985. In 1987 her HBO special, The Roseanne Barr Show, earned her an American Comedy Award. She was offered the role of Peggy Bundy in Married with Children, but she turned it down.

The Cosby Show executive producers Marcy Carsey and Tom Werner hired Cosby writer Matt Williams to write a script about factory workers, and Roseanne Carter was born. The show premiered October 18, 1988. Barr won an Emmy, a Golden Globe, a Kids Choice Award, and three American Comedy Awards.

During the final two seasons in '96 and '97, Barr earned \$40 million; the only woman in show business earning more money was Oprah Winfrey.

Barr is the 2012 presidential nominee for the California-based Peace and Freedom Party.

She won the nomination the same day she was roasted by Comedy Central August 4. Her running mate is Cindy Lee Miller Sheehan, born July 10, 1957 in Inglewood, CA.

Barr announced her candidacy for presidential nomination of the Green Party earlier this year, but she lost to Jill Stein, a physician. Stein was a candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in 2002 and 2010 gubernatorial elections. Mitt Romney was elected Governor in 2002.

When I walked up the carpeted stairs to enter the church proper, a black woman greeted me. She was the only woman of color there. She placed a Barr for President sticker on my chest. She wore corn rolls and one afro puff, centered on the back of her head, and a tie-dyed caftan. I found out later that this was Cynthia Mc Kinney, former Georgia Congresswoman and first African-American woman to represent Georgia in the House, former Green Party presidential candidate.

The event began with the Venice songbird Suzy Williams. What a way to begin!

Williams wowed the audience. The third song she sang, Roseanne Barr None, was written by Williams, Brian Woodbury, and Brad Kay and is Barr's official 2012 campaign song.

The lyrics were printed and passed out to the audience before-hand for a sing-a-long. Williams's performance drew praise from Barr herself. Too bad if you missed this one. She is our treasure. She rocked.

Barr spoke about the need to remove the clowns from politics; she said she was the only true commedi-

enne. She voiced what the people wanted to hear, but with humor.

Barr spoke of the fixed vote, the pentagon, and health care vs. health insurance, prison, and media military industrial complex. She spoke of how socialism is a bad word except when it's for Wall Street.



Photo: Herbert B. Fishberg

She rallied against war, saying how the less privileged have to choose between war and prison. She also said that politics is the entertainment arm of the pentagon. She vowed to end the war on drugs, citing prohibition, the Volstead Act, and the lives and money wasted on enforcement.

She wants a vote not owned by the bankers, but change from the bottom up.

Barr sounds a lot like most third party candidates, and that is what America really needs. That is why she will not win. America badly needs a woman's touch and a Ms. President. And I don't mean for housework, unless you mean the House of Representatives.

It was a fun evening thanks to Barr and Williams. But the joke is on us. The state America is in, is not funny. November will tell if we are still the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Roseanne Barr None!

Official 2012 Campaign Song

By Brian Woodbury, Suzy Williams and Brad Kay
Lively 6/8 March

Roseanne Barr None!
A nonpareil woman on a presidential run!
Roseanne Barr None!
She represents the Ninety-Nine Per Cent
and not the One!
Roseanne Barr None!
The Peace and Freedom Party
never got to have such fun!
And if she has her way
a lot of good stuff will get done!
Roseanne Barr None!
A fearless, righteous loudmouth
speaking truth to everyone!
Roseanne Barr None!

O – oh say, can you see,
A “Domestic Goddess” Presi-den-ceeee!

Rosea-a-a-a-a-a-a-nne
Barr None!

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The Golden Age of Politics

By Chuck Bloomquist

Since Harry Truman stunned Thomas Dewey in the 1948 presidential election I have been a hard-core Democrat. For the same length of time I have been a practicing Contrarian.

In high school I wrote a paper arguing for the merits of “socialized medicine,” one of Harry Truman’s many enlightened initiatives. In my small Iowa town of rock-ribbed Republicans the paper was not well received, even though I had quoted the town’s only socialist in favor of the proposal and the local pharmacist who was vehemently opposed.

While in the Marine Corps I strongly supported Truman’s decision to sack MacArthur. This decision was wildly unpopular especially among the military and my fellow Marines. MacArthur very much wanted a clear-cut victory no matter what it took. Truman’s policy was to drive the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel and call it quits. I discovered only recently, in Max Hastings book *The Korean War*, that MacArthur had a list of 26 sites in North Korea, along the Yalu River, and in China proper, that he wanted to attack with atomic bombs to “win” the war against the Chinese Communists. Thank goodness the contrarian view prevailed.

In 1948 I was too young to vote. In 1952 I was still too young to vote, although I had been in Korea for ten months. In the 14 presidential elections since I have voted in 13 of them and always for the Democratic candidate. In retrospect those were all good votes. The only election in which I failed to vote was the 1968 contest in which the Democratic convention forced the nomination of Hubert Humphrey in spite of the delegates won by Eugene McCarthy, who was the primo antiwar contender. This was a grievous mistake on my part. The criminality of Nixon’s reign has led inexorably to 40 years of Ayn (according to her, pronounced ‘swine’) Randian politics.

But we may be on the verge of, to quote one of my least favorite presidents, “a new morning in America.” Right now we have the best Democratic president since FDR. Unfortunately, he has been thrown into the worst political and economic situation in my lifetime. He inherited two unwinnable and unjustifiable wars at a time when our nominal allies could barely stand us, when our infrastructure resembled that of postwar Korea, when our health system was one of the worst in the industrialized world, government regulators were in the pockets of the regulated, nurses and teachers were excoriated as being greedy puppets dangling from the strings of their unions, and the global environment headed for almost certain disaster.

And then, to top it off, the entire world economy was on the brink of collapse thanks to the greed and arrogance of the worlds’ financiers.

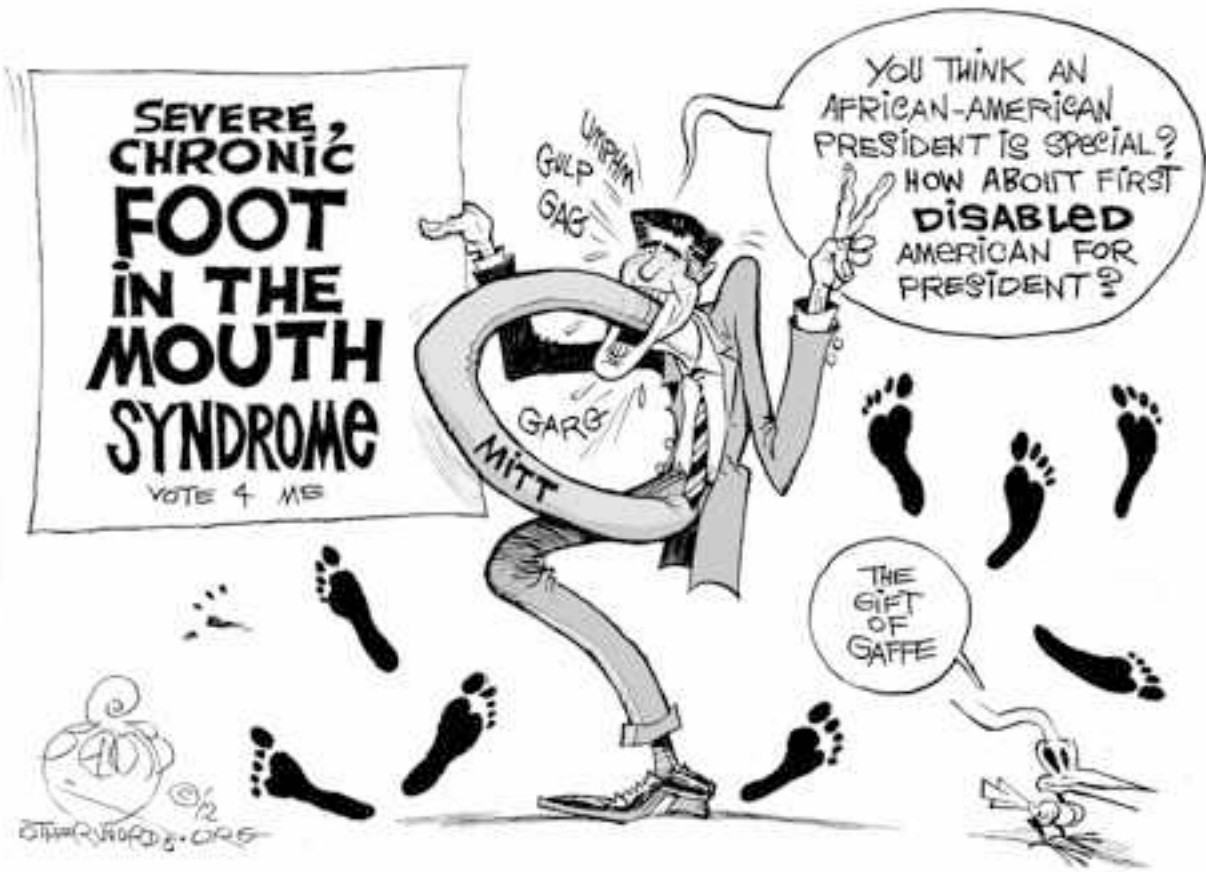
Now, in this situation, one might think that everyone would do their best to support the president as he tried to deal with this myriad of problems. But no. The Republicans through the minority leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, among others, announced that their primary goal was to make sure that he was a one-term president. To this end he was to be denied any success, however small. They fought him at every turn and by using the filibuster in the Senate were able to deny him most everything he attempted to do. And his fair-weather friends castigated him for doing too little to solve the problems left after 30 years of Reaganism and eight years of Reaganism on steroids.

In spite of it all Obama keeps trying He may be the smartest president since Jefferson and the best politician since Lincoln or FDR. He did manage to pass the Affordable Care Act, a down payment on “socialized medicine,” which extended medical coverage to millions. In spite of Republican ambushes he ended the war in Iraq, is drawing down the war in Afghanistan, and has whacked Osama bin Laden. He has ended Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, passed Equal Pay for Equal Work legislation, and pushed through financial regulations to deal with the most egregious violations of the banksters. He rescued the auto industry, which put millions back to work and raised fuel efficiency standards in the bargain. Imagine what he might have done with a bit of help from the other side of the aisle.

To top it off in California we have in Jerry Brown arguably the best governor in the United States. After Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey referred to him as “an old retread” Brown responded by challenging Christie to a three-mile run. Brown has cut the state’s budget deficit, overseen two on-time budgets, reformed the state’s worker compensation system and implemented pension reform. With Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein we have two of the best United States Senators in that body, and a House delegation including Henry Waxman and Janice Hahn. Locally, we have a hardworking and intelligent mayor in Antonio Villaraigosa, a reasonable City Council president in Eric Garcetti, and our own energetic City Councilman, Bill Rosendahl and our beautiful and competent Venice Neighborhood Council president, Linda Lucks.

I suspect that most people think that they could do a better job than those named, or at the very least, could tell them how to do their jobs better.

As a life-long contrarian, I disagree. In spite of their peccadilloes and political maneuvering, we are lucky to have each of them. And as a life-long Democrat I urge you all to vote for Democrats every chance you get and to support them to the extent that your purse, energy and conscience allow. It is in the final analysis votes that win elections, not money.



Nothing Secedes Like Success

By Philip Proctor

To the Red States: We've decided we're leaving. We intend to form our own country, and we're taking the other Blue States with us. In case you aren't aware, that includes Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and all of the Northeast. We believe this split will be beneficial to the nation, and especially to the people of the country of New California.

To sum up briefly: You get Texas, Oklahoma and all the slave states. We get stem cell research and the best beaches. We get Elliot Spitzer. You get Steve King. We get the Statue of Liberty; you get Dollywood. We get Intel and Microsoft; you get WorldCom. We get Harvard, you get Ole' Miss. We get 85 percent of America's venture capital and entrepreneurs; you get Alabama. We get two-thirds of the tax revenue, you get to make the red states pay their fair share. Since our aggregate divorce rate is 22 percent lower than the Christian Coalition's, we get a bunch of happy families; you get a bunch of struggling singles.

You will also have to cope with 88 percent of all obese Americans (and their projected health care costs), 92 percent of all U.S. mosquitoes, nearly 100 percent of the tornadoes, 90 percent of the hurricanes, 99 percent of all Southern Baptists, virtually 100 percent of all televangelists, Rush Limbaugh, Bob Jones University, Clemson and the University of Georgia. We get Hollywood and Yosemite, thank you.

Additionally, 38% of those in the Red states believe Jonah was actually swallowed by a whale, 62% believe life is sacred (unless we're discussing the death penalty or gun laws), 44% say that evolution is only a theory, 53% that Saddam was involved in 9/11, and 15% of Ohio Republicans believe Romney killed Ben Laden.

By the way, we're taking the good pot, too. Peace out!

"I believe in an America where millions of Americans believe in an America that's the America millions of Americans believe in. That's the America I love." ~ Mitt Romney



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Sister Act... With Murder

By Delores Hanney

I read about it in the *National Enquirer*: main Mad Man, Jon Hamm, has gone goofy for the Lennon Sisters. He's acquired all their records and packs an urge to evangelize. Soon, perhaps, one of their era-appropriate songs will find itself in that singular position of honor wherein such period icons as Bob Dylan and the Beatles have already been celebrated, playing behind the credits for one of *Mad Men*'s episodic chronicles of the deliciously tortuous lifeways of a gaggle of 1960s ad makers.

The Lennon Sisters, you might recall, came to fame as a mid-twentieth century quartet of juvenile songbirds made legendary by their presence on a weekly TV musical-variety program, an entertainment type of considerable popularity during that age. The girls were homegrown products of Venice, California, a fact that astonishes many who consider them too oxymoronically wholesome to have sprung from such notoriously quirked-out soil. But there you have it: Venice has range!

For a generation, *The Lawrence Welk Show* – inaugural habitat of the sisters' renown – was a Saturday evening staple epitomized by faux champagne bubbles drifting around like a luminous swarm of migrating butterflies, a heavily German-accented, accordion-playing big band leader-cum-host and a particular predilection for sprightly polka music.

A production of KTLA-TV in Los Angeles, it was broadcast locally from the Aragon Ballroom on the Lick pier in Venice, during its 1951 to 1955 incarnation. Later in '55 it went national on ABC, broadcast live from the Hollywood Palladium. In 1971 ABC canceled it; afterwards, till 1982, Welk produced the program himself for viewing on independent stations. With the persistence of gum on one's shoe, the show is still seen in re-runs.

But back when Dianne Lennon was sixteen, Peggy fourteen, Kathy twelve and Janet nine, Lawrence Welk's son, Larry, happened to catch them singing at an Elks Club soiree and with a quickness trundled them home to sing for his father. With equal swiftness they became fixtures on *The Lawrence Welk Show*, debuting on Christmas Eve 1955. "We've acted out our lives in stages, with 10,000 people watching," they testify tunefully on their website regarding growing up so publicly.

Warmly welcomed into the home of massive multitudes each week via television, they also arrived as merchandizing tie-in items, such as storybooks and coloring books, paper dolls and TV trays. In 1956, they would also be carried home in the form of their first hit record, "Tonight You Belong to Me."

But as in all fairytales there was a dark side – in this case a very dark side.

Chet Young was a certified "dangerously insane" psychopath within whose scrambled brain Peggy Lennon was his "true" wife and mother of his kids; the sisters' dad was the bad guy who was keeping them apart. For months Young harassed the Lennon family: turning up on their doorstep, stalking, calling, sending letters. The last, unopened before his murder, pictured William Lennon with a gun to his head, be-

neath which the words "High Noon."

And at noon on August 12, 1969, Young waylaid Bill Lennon as he left his job at the Venice Golf Club. After arguing briefly, Lennon turned away. Pulling a rifle from a sack, Young shot him in the back then put the gun to his temple and fired again. He escaped in an Oldsmobile Cutlass. Two months later he was found inside the trunk of said Oldsmobile, suicided using the same weapon. As a ghastly final touch he left a note for Peggy asking her to explain to the non-existent children that he took his life because they couldn't be together.

The Lennon Sisters quit the *Lawrence Welk Show* in 1968 and were set to begin their new program, *Jimmy Durante Presents: The Lennon Sisters Hour* in the fall of 1969, just weeks following the horror of their father's murder. Undaunted as polar bears on an ice floe, they set aside their personal trauma to gutsily go forth with their commitment but were cancelled after a single season. During the next couple decades they were guests on all manner of TV variety shows, game shows and late night talk shows.

In 1994 they whiffled off to Branson, Missouri, where they assumed their position in the spotlight at The Welk Champagne Theatre for ten years or so. Younger sis Mimi picked up the slack with the retirement of Dianne and Peggy.

Now that Jon Hamm has come out as an avid admirer of the Venice-born sister act, the floodgates could open to whole new gajillions ripe for a hankering after their harmonic convergence.

Everything old is new again.



Above: Dianne & Kathy's dressing room (at left) with superimposed paper dolls representing them toggled out in two outfits that came in the set.

Below: Janet & Peggy's dressing room (to the right) before which those dolls are arrayed in equally swell outfits.



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Venice is Best when the Kids are Happy

By CJ Gronner

The minute I heard about 826 LA opening in Venice back in 2005, I was on board. I have adored author Dave Eggers since reading his wonderful memoir, *A Heartbreaking Work Of Staggering Genius*, and gobbled up every word he's written since. He founded 826 Valenica in San Francisco to offer tutoring and creative writing adventures to kids after school, and when it became such a success, it was almost no time before chapters began opening up across the country. As L.A. is so spread out, we are lucky enough to have two locations, one in Echo Park, and one right here in Venice, upstairs in the SPARC building (though they'll soon be moving a bit more east on Venice Boulevard).

I painted chairs and helped assemble Ikea furniture alongside Mr. Eggers to get the Venice location open, and then volunteered with them at Animo Inglewood to get a book by those kids out in a project collaboration with former Lakers coach, Phil Jackson. It was called *Rhythm Of The Chain*, and it was awesome. Then I got all busy with life and work and stuff and wasn't able to get to 826 during tutoring hours, but have kept track of them over the ensuing years, and am always impressed.

non-profit, and all of it is so inspiring, your heart swells just sitting there observing.

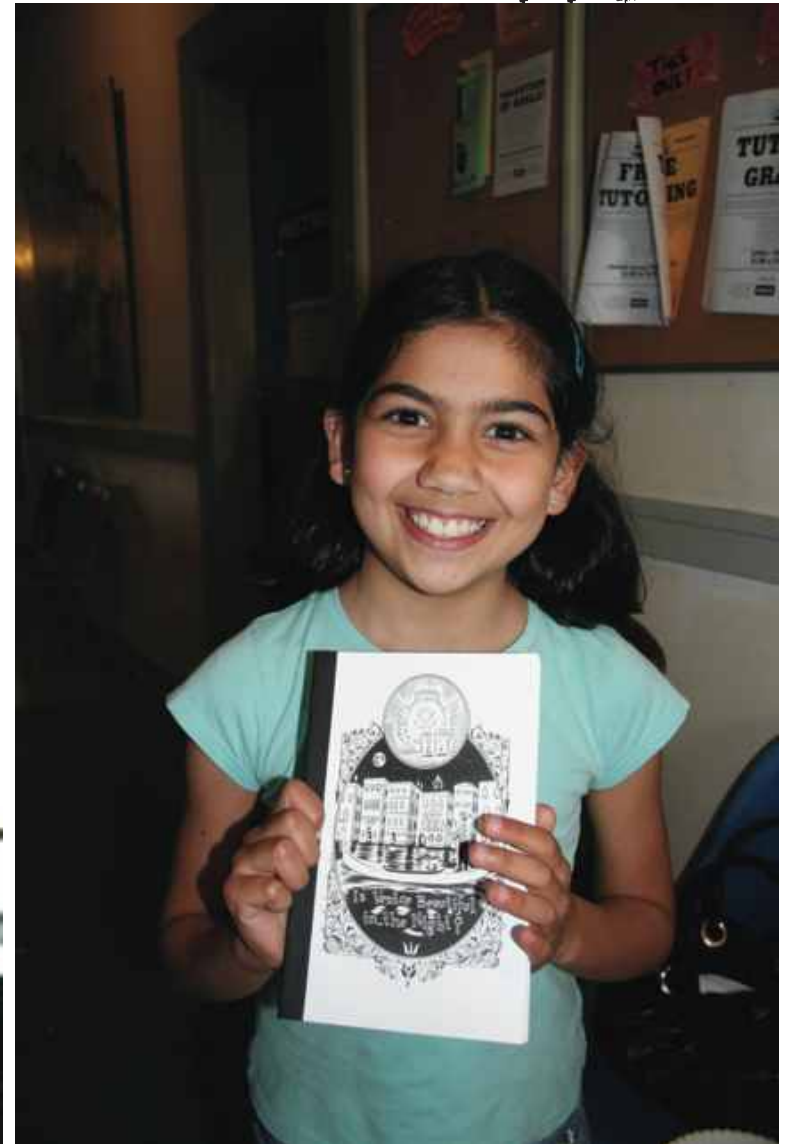
As I did one recent day, and watched all the fun, creative interaction between kids and tutors, and the light bulbs popping on as things got figured out, and ideas came to life. Once the kids finish their day's homework, they settle in to write fun stories. As these stories get closer to completion, they move up a basket, and when a child's story is ready for the top basket, all action stops, an announcement is made to the entire room, and that beaming, proud child gets to clang a bell in celebration of their story.

Two little guys were so small they had to climb up on a desk and jump to ring the bell, and you could tell they'd been bursting at the seams to do it. Their faces as they received the applause from their peers and the grown-ups were a sheer delight to behold, as you could see them see their own potential ... and it's looking pretty bright for them. (These finished stories will then be part of a reading the students participate in at Beyond Baroque to share with their friends and family).



When I went to check them out again recently, I was beyond impressed. I was floored. That the tutoring room is PACKED with kids, all excited and bright eyed and eager to learn, to a kid. There is a happy buzz in the room of controlled chaos, as the kids (from 6-18) get help from extra nice and helpful adult volunteers with their homework and creative writing stories. And they have FUN learning. 826 also offers class field trips to schools, free workshops, In-School programs, Young Authors' Book Projects, English Language Learner Summer Camp, Spoken Word Summer Camp, they publish a newspaper by the kids (The Venice Wave), have their own publishing brand (Dogtown Press), and help high school students with preparing College essays. All of this is free, all of it is

Speaking of bright, ALL of the kids I spoke to said that they were doing much better in school since attending 826. One little 5th grade girl I talked to named Melisha, full of energy and spilling over happiness, said simply, "It's a great place to write". She should know, as she attends 826 every day they're open, and loves it. I asked her what she loves most about Venice, and she said, "826 LA". Whoa. I said, "More than the beach?" A very firm, "Yes". Now THAT is impressive. She continued, "I get 3's and 4's every time because of coming here. 826 LA made me gifted. My Mom was so happy. Now I want to learn more to make my advanced level higher," she said with excited



eyes blazing. I high-fived her for that, and for talking to me, and she went back to her volunteer, saying, "I'm done with my meeting." Ready to get back to it. How very great.

As I have found with my previous creative writing teachings with kids, their purity and unabashed honesty in writing makes your own writing better. I spoke with volunteer named Lili Flanders, a writer now in her fifth year of tutoring at 826, and she wholeheartedly agreed. She said, "I fell in love with the creative cacophony that is 826 ... It amazes me the turnaround you'll see in kids from being here for two hours a day." She explained that the young people running the place are very impressive, (like Birte Klug and Lauren Humphrey, who were my hostesses for the afternoon) care deeply about grass-roots education, and they give you everything you need to be a volunteer, including a true feeling of appreciation every time. Because the first rule of 826 is that everyone is there because they WANT to be, students and volunteers alike. Lili went on to say, "Being here gives these kids power over their craft, and it's really happy learning ...

Continued on page 10




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Swami SPEAKs

What we believe has a lot to do with what we experience, and how we experience it. Unfortunately, we take on beliefs before we are emotionally mature enough to fully understand them. Herein, we have religion, and it's disturbing history and challenging psychology. If we go to the bottom line, we find monogamous marriage taking part in an endless number of social ills. To be brief, it simply doesn't work. Not to be judgmental, however, I don't believe, aside from a couple thousand successful mystics, that anyone has attained permanent peace within themselves, here on earth. Of course, I could be over reacting to television. We need each other, real, rich, human contact if we are to be spiritually alive. We are spirits, projected from the Supreme Spirit, to experience the mystery, wonder and bliss of creativity. No, I don't have any answers, but I do have a lot of questions. I'll share them with you sometime. Forming a good sentence is an achievement, however, forming a good question is even more impressive. Zen people say the answer is hidden in the question. What can you expect from someone who stares at a blank wall all day, and rejects a well cooked steak. I kid the Buddhists because Buddha had a great sense of humor, and he danced with the stars, sun and moon, and only passed the hat when he felt he had done a good show.

Teach me always to be humble and grateful all the days of my life, because the enlightened souls of yore have left their endless gifts of revelation and wisdom that I may live on earth in happiness and joy.

Like the song of the morning bird, let thy wisdom and love awaken me from the slumber of spiritual forgetfulness.



Chicago Teachers Strike

By Fred Owens

I am not getting involved in this issue. I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and I have a long-standing survival policy -- when they're fighting downtown, stay away. Chicago fights can get nasty. Then you throw in teachers and parents getting into these fits of self-righteousness about who really cares about the precious children -- bystanders can get injured.

The timing of the strike is terrible for President Obama. There's a hundred ways he can lose and no upside. But I have more concern for the parents of the school children. I remember when my two kids were small and in grade school and the summer vacation drags on and on, and by late August you're ready to kill them or abandon them at the nearest bus stop and your only salvation is that the little brats will be going back to school after Labor Day and someone else will be watching them for a while. So this is a vulnerable time for parents. Teachers should strike in the middle of the school year -- it would be more of a fair fight.

But don't ask me about the issues -- performance reviews, wages, co-pays on pensions & insurance, class size, curriculum content -- I have nothing to say.

Except maybe one thing. I can't teach, but I admire people who can teach. It's a special skill. I couldn't be the principal of school either, having to deal with students every day and making judgments on the spot. But I could easily be a school superintendent. It takes no brains for that job, and you get paid enormous amounts of money. That's the whole key to success in education. Teaching is a job for suckers. The real money is in the overhead.

Seriously, teachers are on the front lines of education -- they work for their money. It's the people upstairs who put a strain on the budget.

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POEM FOR AUTUMN

By John Thomas

So many fine words falling
out of the language one by one
like leaves, or teeth from
an old man’s jaw. Who,
for example, says Autumn,
any longer? It’s always
merely fall, now. Fall, Fall, Fall.
Never beautiful Autumn.
If I want to hear Autumn,
I must say it to myself.
Hence these sentimental lines. Hail
and farewell, bright sad Autumn

Nervous Skin

I put on my black gloves of natural rubber
to insulate the red current of sensation
that runs through my open palms
and leads me to the habitual incitation
to overcome the emotional uncertainty
of orgasm and fear
in the nervous skin of deception
before I begin to auscultate my self.

—Humberto Gómez Sequeira-HuGóS

Fire in the Lake

By Hillary Kaye

When I expose myself to the
elements
when I ask again and again
for love and am denied
when I couldn’t break out of myself
and blood poured out of
every orifice
when I demand the truth
and am scorned
when I am homeless
and helpless
and bereft
when wrong is made right
when evil is made
palatable
when vision is blinded
when hope is an escape
when things pile up
and can’t be dealt with
when love is lost
when friendship spills to
the street like sewage
when angels walk among
us in agony
when light is spellbinding
when when when
things are wholly
different
when things are
wholly changed
& the roof & the
floor & the walls
are split apart
and then becomes a beginning.

you've forgotten how to scream

did you think one day
you'd wake up to find
everything was fair?
do you get up in the morning
and pump up your head with air?

do you think your leaders work for you
and all right thinking folk?
don't you see them with their child sex slaves
doing endless lines of coke?
to them you're another worker ox
tethered to their yoke
taxed to pay for their misdeeds
the butt of all their jokes

the alarm's gone off
you're still asleep
you prefer your waking dream
with t.v.'s lulling reassurances
you've forgotten how to scream

your doctor sells you poison and death
that comes on long and slow
you're addicted to their lies like meth
you just don't want to know
that you're a guinea pig
a consumer report
sucked down by the under tow
your chronic ill health
provides their wealth
your misery makes them glow

the alarm's gone off
you're still asleep
you prefer your waking dream
with t.v.'s lulling reassurances
you've forgotten how to scream

it's election time and the ruling class
has coughed up two more of its sons
they both think the same
in this transparent game
that guarantees nothing gets done
it should be clear to any fool
it's always been one party rule
the only thing rising is scum
no one thinks it's strange
only the spokespeople change
their agendas enforced with a gun

the alarm's gone off
you're still asleep
you prefer your waking dream
with t.v.'s lulling reassurances
you've forgotten how to scream

- By Rex Butters

"Democratic Womanism"

By Alice Walker

You ask me why I smile
when you tell me you intend
in the coming national elections
to hold your nose
and vote for the lesser of two evils.
There are more than two evils out there,
is one reason I smile.
Another is that our old buddy Nostradamus
comes to mind, with his fearful
400 year old prophecy: that our world
and theirs too
(our "enemies" – lots of kids included there)
will end (by nuclear nakba or holocaust)
in our lifetime. Which makes the idea of elections
and the billions of dollars wasted on them
somewhat fatuous.
A Southerner of Color,
my people held the vote
very dear
while others, for centuries,
merely appeared to play
with it.
One thing I can assure
you of is this:
I will never betray such pure hearts
by voting for evil
even if it were microscopic
which, as you can see in any newscast
no matter the slant,
it is not.
I want something else;
a different system
entirely.
One not seen
on this earth
for thousands of years. If ever.
Democratic Womanism.
Notice how this word has "man" right in the mid-
dle of it?
That’s one reason I like it. He is right there, front
and center. But he is surrounded.
I want to vote and work for a way of life
that honors the feminine;
a way that acknowledges
the theft of the wisdom
female and dark Mother leadership
might have provided our spaceship
all along.
I am not thinking

of a talking head
kind of gal:
happy to be mixing
it up
with the baddest
bad boys
on the planet
her eyes a slit
her mouth a zipper.
No, I am speaking of true
regime change.
Where women rise
to take their place
en masse
at the helm
of earth’s frail and failing ship;
where each thousand years
of our silence
is examined
with regret,
and the cruel manner in which our values
of compassion and kindness
have been ridiculed
and suppressed
brought to bear on the disaster
of the present time.
The past must be examined closely, I believe,
before we can leave
it there.
I am thinking of Democratic, and, perhaps
Socialist, Womanism.
For who else knows so deeply
how to share but Mothers
and Grandmothers? Big sisters
and Aunts?
To love
and adore
both female and male?
Not to mention those in between.
To work at keeping
the entire community
fed, educated
and safe?
Democratic womanism,
Democratic Socialist
Womanism,
would have as its icons
such fierce warriors
for good as
Vandana Shiva
Aung San Suu Kyi,
Wangari Maathai
Harriet Tubman
Yoko Ono

This Paper
Is A Poem

Frida Kahlo
Angela Davis
& Barbara Lee:
With new ones always rising,

wherever you look

There is no system
There is no system
now in place
that can change
the disastrous course
the Earth is on.
Who can doubt this?
The male leaders
of Earth
appear to have abandoned
their very senses
though most appear
to live now
entirely
in their heads.
They murder humans and other
animals
forests and rivers and mountains
every day
they are in office
and never seem
to notice it.
They eat and drink devastation.
Women of the world,
Women of the world,
Is this devastation Us?
Would we kill whole continents
for oil
(or anything else)
rather than limit
the number of consumer off-

spring we produce
and learn how to make our own fire?
Democratic Womanism.
Democratic Socialist Womanism.
A system of governance
we can dream and imagine and build to-
gether. One that recognizes
at least six thousand years
of brutally enforced complicity
in the assassination
of Mother Earth, but foresees six thousand
years
ahead of us when we will not submit.
What will we need? A hundred years
at least to plan: (five hundred will be handed
us
gladly
when the planet is scared enough)
in which circles of women meet,
organize ourselves, and,
allied with men
brave enough to stand with women,
men brave enough to stand with women,
nurture our planet to a degree of health.
And without apology —
(impossible to make
a bigger mess than has been made already)
—
devote ourselves, heedless of opposition,
to tirelessly serving and resuscitating Our
Mother ship
and with gratitude
for Her care of us
worshipfully commit
to
rehabilitating it.

Don't Sell Out! - Continued from page 1

If Roseanne is unlikely to win the election, have you thought about why that is? Is it really because her ideas are unpopular, and the Demoblicans have better ideas? Guess again. It's because the Demoblicans have the power to crush the competition, and no qualms against abusing that power. The Democrats can't eliminate the Republicans, and vice versa; but the two parties working together can sure as heck keep anyone else from winning. They have almost unlimited power and money at their disposal to do so. The Demoblicans use taxpayer money to fund their conventions and campaigns. They flood the airwaves with their propaganda. They make rules aimed specifically at keeping their competition off the ballots and out of the debates.

The Demoblicans once made a serious error years ago, when Jesse Ventura of the Reform Party was running for governor of Minnesota. They got overconfident and, thinking that Jesse didn't have a chance of winning anyway, allowed him into the candidate's debate. Well, once the public got to hear Jesse talk about having real principles, instead of the same old empty promises from the Demoblican candidates, he won the election; and for the first time, a state had a governor that was NOT Demoblican! You can be sure that the Demoblicans learned from their mistake, and that they will do everything in their power to make darn sure that you don't get to hear third-party candidates debate against Demoblican candidates again!

But the Demoblicans can only crush their competition if the American people allow it. You don't have

to fall for their propaganda that tries to fool you into believing that Democrat and Republican are your only real choices. In fact, the only thing stopping the other candidates from winning is that belief. If the 99%, who supposedly are not happy with our current government and want change, would only do something as simple as voting FOR change instead of continually voting AGAINST change, then the change would come. Instead, most of them just keep voting Demoblican and then gripe about the pitiful consequences that they brought upon themselves.

So now think about what you could accomplish by standing up for your principles and casting your vote for Roseanne (or Gary or Jill or another third-party candidate). You could be sending out the message that you AREN'T happy with the status quo, that you want something better than the unprincipled Demoblican regime that exists only to serve the interests of their politicians by preying upon the American public. You could set an example to all those who don't have the courage and insight you have to see how a true patriot votes. You could show them that a government run on real moral principles is easily within our grasp, if only they will join you. You could give them hope for a better country. Maybe it won't happen in this election; but if we keep trying, and don't sell out to the Demoblicans again, it will happen in time.

Give REAL change a chance. Just say no to the status quo. Vote against the Democrat-Republican regime this time. Don't sell out!

Venice is Best when the Kids are Happy - Continued from page 7

The connection with the kids is the reward, and I usually leave here dizzy and happy and having used every bit of me and my time." What a satisfying feeling!

The proof of 826's success is in those little happy, proud, inquisitive faces ... and their grades. Given attention, encouragement, knowledge, and respect, kids thrive. It's plainly obvious that 826 offers all of this, in abundance. When parents arrive to pick up their children, it's a happy reunion as they hear their kid gush about what they did that day. As a busy, working parent ... what a joy to know your child is not only learning, but thrilled about it. Everyone wins in this place.

A recent chap book published by the 826LA kids (through their "Barnacle & Barnacle Publishers") was titled *Is Venice Beautiful In The Night?* featuring stories by the young writers about Venice, California and Venice, Italy. I would answer that Venice is extremely beautiful at all times, but maybe never more so than on a golden afternoon, from 3-6, with the sun streaming in over the kids of our town, as they write about what they love.

This is a perfectly wonderful organization, and they can always use more volunteers and donations. Contact them at IWANTTOHELP@826LA.org and feel wonderful about it.

826LA - Venice
685 Venice Boulevard
Venice, 90291
310.305.8418

What Have They Done to the Rain? - Continued from page 1

Today on Reservations there are huge amounts of alcohol and drug abuse. You can't tell me this is not deliberate. This is deliberate. This is just as deliberate as the amount of liquor stores in South Central L.A. More liquor stores than grocery stores. Genocide! The first thing the Army did when they got out West, was to give liquor to Native Americans. So they got strung out on alcohol. They never had alcohol, or sugar, in their lives until the white armies showed up. When your culture is destroyed, and they give you alcohol - you drink. And watch your culture, your life, go down the tubes.

The psych drugs they give us don't work. 70% of people taking anti-depressants say they don't work. We're basically guinea pigs for their edification, and their profit motive. They have convinced us we need all these drugs, and we have to pay accordingly. It's the capitalist system at its best! They are the doctors, you are the patient, and you do what they say. But if these drugs don't work, or end up killing the patient, all the doctors can say is "I'm sorry."

If we were healthy, if we didn't spend most of our lives on the freeway ... what kind of life would that be? If you knew your neighbors and talked to them, what kind of life would that be? If you could realize that everything you do has an impact on the planet, and we are losing eco-systems and animals so fast, could we change? Could we hear the cries of other people in our country, can we hear the cries of the poor? Can we hear the cry of the tree that got cut down? Can we hear the cry of the seagulls over the polluted sound? Can we hear anything, except the relentless beating of our hearts, and our own selfish needs?

We have to care again. We have to really love each other, because if we can love each other, maybe we can love someone else. Hating each other is not working. We have to find a common ground, and that is this - we need to help our planet. To survive our time upon the Earth.

We have to have respect for our children and not lock them up at the first offense. Do you really want a future population of young adults to come out into society after spending most of their lives in the prison system? This is a scheme to serve only the rich billionaires who proposed it in the first place. By arresting someone, you automatically condemn them to the criminal caste. Why should anyone care about a criminal? So prisons get away with solitary confinement, overcrowding, and many ways to put your life in danger while you are locked up. This is just an eerie reminder of the way society treated black people in slavery. They viewed them with a dollar sign over their heads. If they treated them halfway decent, it was only to increase their profit margin.

The white owners would rape their female slaves and then sell their own children down the river, to avoid the "disgrace". The way we sell our own children down the river is buying killer video games and letting our child play them. They desensify in a devastating way, and they basically train your kid in Army situations. Do you want a trained killer, age 14 - at the height of hormonal hatred for their parents - living in your house? Do you really believe violent video games had nothing to do with all those young adolescents going to school and killing other adolescents?

Now a new way to kill your female adolescent child is opening up - Republicans running for office want to repeal Roe v. Wade. Remove the legality of abortion and open the door to criminal, back-alley abortions for the poor. Many patients who are requesting abortions are in their teens, and already have two or three babies. If a young mother, living in poverty, requests an abortion, I would say give it to her. And provide her with help with the children she is already raising.

The Republicans are going after women. People want to know why women aren't fighting back. Maybe women are trying to keep their job in these times of no jobs, or part-time jobs. Unemployment has run out, people can't pay their rent, they are evicted, and suddenly another family has hit the streets. So yeah, maybe that's one reason women are not fighting back.

Maybe they are tired. Maybe doing something requires too much energy, when you are raising your daughter's kids, because your daughter is in jail.

Maybe you are scrambling for a place to live before you lose everything and are left on the curb. When you're on the curb, it's pretty hard to fight back.

Maybe you don't understand what feminism is. I have heard a lot of women say "I don't really feel like I'm a feminist, because I have nothing to rebel against. I don't feel like I've ever been discriminated against." Most of the women saying that were young, full of energy, health and beauty. But try looking for a job in this job market, when you're over 60 and you're not young, cute and healthy. You're "old", your back hurts a lot, your hands are starting to swell up with arthritis, and you're scared. Who is going to hire you? As what? A greeter at WalMart, or the guy who hands your your coffee at McDonald's? All day on your feet, at age 65, is this what you thought it would be?

Maybe we already know who the enemy is, and we don't have to go to policy meetings to figure this out. Republican men in \$6,000 suits are trying to reduce women to a secret? "Oh, did you hear so and so's daughter had an abortion?" This is not the question.

The question is when are these guys going to get a clue?

They are suffering from the Messiah complex and they actually believe they are working for Christ. What would Jesus do? Well, he always said stuff like love each other, and be kind to each other. Love should be the center of your life. These people are haters and they hate anything they can't control. They are against reproductive rights for women and have a totalitarian approach to a medical episode in the life of a woman. They should stay out of a woman's womb. If they hate women, they hate themselves, because they came from a woman. Or is it because they were raised by women, and women were viewed as subservient?

The Republicans need to look over on their side of the street - what have they done to sell the country out?

We are not stupid people. We do not believe the lies and the stupidity coming out of the ruling class. Democrats ... Republicans ... they're all the same. Rich men in expensive suits, plotting new ways to dehumanize the planet. And kill your kids.

They don't care. Remember Katrina? Remember George W. Bush - quite possibly the stupidest President we ever had - drained all the money out of the US budget to pay for two horrible wars? The guy had a big grinning face all the time. George Bush Senior had a great partnership with the Sheiks of Saudi Arabia. After 9/11, when all the planes were grounded, they were given secure passage out of this country (George Bush - Head of the CIA! Get it?)

Remember? Don't forget your brain while you go vote. Don't vote for Republicans - because they actually do want to kill your kids. Prison or war, who cares?

The motto of the ruling class has always been "Keep the poor people down." Which means all of us who ain't rich, and ain't on the other side of the line drawn in the sand.

1% or 99%? Which side are you on?

Please help sustain the Free Venice Beachhead

Details at www.freevenice.org/Beachhead/Sustainer.html

Monday, October 1
• 6:30pm - **Piano Dances of the Americas: Tangos and Waltzes.** The Annenberg Community Beach House. 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Free.
• 7:30pm - **MoZaic Open Mic.** Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, October 2
• 6:30-9pm - **Teen Tuesday, Joseph Jacques.** Witzend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. Tickets \$10.

Wednesday, October 3
• 7-9pm - **BPA Expert Randi Kreger: Workshop for Personalty Disorder** Deacon Compean Hall, 2475 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
• 7pm - **Open Mic with Eric Charles.** Talking Stick. Free.
• 6:30-8:30 - Book signing and author talk for “**Sound Medicine: The Complete Guide to Healing with the Human Voice**” by Wayne Perry. Mystic Journey Bookstore, 1319 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.

Thursday, October 4
• 8pm - **Day of the Living Festival.** Dealing with Suicide. **Continuing through Sunday.** Electric Lodge. \$15.
• 7pm - **Mark Cantor’s Jazz Films.** Hosted by 7 Dudley Cinema’s Gerry Fialka. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Friday, October 5
• 7-10pm - **First Fridays** - food trucks, shops open late and lots of people. Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
• 9pm - **Mason Summit** singing Buddy Holly. Witzend. 1717 Lincoln Blvd. \$7.

Saturday, October 6
• 7pm - **Daryl’s Fundraiser.** Talking Stick. Free.
• 7-10pm - Gallery Opening: **New Works by Michel Temple.**Trunk Gallery. 12818 Venice Blvd.
• 7-11pm - Gallery Opening: **Interviews** - curated by Daniel Rolnik. Curio Studio and Collection, 324 Sun-set Av. Free.
• 7-9pm - Artist Reception for David Alexander English: “**Framed Works From the Boardwalk.**” Mystic Journey Bookstore, 1319 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.

Sunday, October 7
• 9-12pm - **Free Yoga and Basketball for Kids.** Venice Beach Basketball courts. Free.
• 10-6pm - **Abbot Kinney Festival:** vendors, music, food, drinks and dancing. Abbot Kinney Blvd, between Venice and Main St. Free.
• 7pm - **Ya Harissa, Belly Dancers.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, October 9
• 8-10pm - **Night Creative Nonfiction.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

Wednesday, October 10
• 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams:** great music, dancing and fun. Danny’s Deli. No Cover.
• 7-11pm - **Open Mic with Ellen and Peter.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, October 11
• 6-8pm - Art Opening: **Deborah Butterfield Inside/Out.** Runs through 12/10. L.A. Louvre, 45 N. Venice Blvd. Free.

Friday, October 12
• 7pm - ‘**Nette Radio Night.** The Talking Stick. \$5.
• 6pm - **9th Annual Venice Film Festival (OVFF).** **October 12-14.** Beyond Baroque. Ticket Information www.othervenicefilmfestival.com or 310-463-0275.

Saturday, October 15
• 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica:** great artists busking for great charitable causes. The Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, October 14
• 7-10pm - **Sunday Sol Salon** hosted by **Nick Black.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, October 16
• 6:30pm - **Get Ready for Halloween.** Show your artistic flair by creating your own pumpkin window decoration. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
• 7-9:30pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Meeting.** Westminster Elementary School. Free and open to the public.
• 7pm - **Following the Ethiopian Wolf:** Dr. Claudio Sillero-Zubiri talks about the Ethiopian wolf, the world’s most endangered canine. \$5 donation to support the Wildlife Conservation Network.



Thursday, October 18
• 7-9pm - **Venice Art Crawl.** Throughout Venice. www.veniceartcrawl.com for map and info. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Schoenberg and Mortensen’s What? No! Shut up!** Live, true stories told with reckless abandon. Beyond Barque. Free.

Friday, October 19
• 7pm - “**Go West**” **Comedy Show.** The Talking Stick. Free.
• 8pm - **Suzy and her Solid Senders:** Great music and dancing. Moose Lodge, 1600 Ocean Park Blvd.

Saturday, October 20
• 10am-12pm - **Nothing but Sand Beach Cleanup.** Venice Pier, 3100 Ocean Front Walk. Free.
• 10am - **Mar Vista Fall Festival:** Community Entertainment, Green Zone, Food, Arts and Crafts Booths, Inflatable Bouncers. Mar Vista Recreation Center, 11430 Woodbine St. Free.
• 7-11pm - Celebrate 35 years of Art, Education and Social Justice in L.A.: **SPARC Celebration Party** featuring awards, retrospective exhibition, jazz and blues legend **Barbara Morrison.** SPARC, 685 Venice Blvd. \$35.

Sunday, October 21
• 8:50am - **Rambam Class.** Pacific Jewish Center. 726 Rose Av. Free.

Wednesday, October 24
• 10:15am - **Hath Yoga Class.** Bring a mat and stretch A.K. Public Library. Free.
• 7pm - **Open Mic.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, October 25
• 4pm - **Baby and Me exercise.** Dance, stretch and strengthening for you and baby. A.K Public Library. Free.
• 7:30 - **Anna Sobelmam,** author. Book Reading. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Friday, October 26
• 8:30pm - **Ellyn Maybe’s Poetry Rodeo and Potluck Party.** Poetry open reading accompanied by an improvising band. Beyond Baroque. General admission \$8, students and seniors \$5, members free.

Saturday, October 27
• 7pm - **Talking Stick’s Annual Halloween Gala** featuring The Superbroke Brass and Tin Marching Band Ensemble. The Taking Stick. Free.

Sunday, October 28
• 10am-4pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Elections.** Westminster Elementary School. It’s your Venice, get involved!
• 6:30-8:30pm - **Community Meeting: City Housing and Community Development Plan.** Oakwood Recreation Center. Free and open to the public.
• 8pm - **Bacchanal.**Townhouse. 52 Windward Av. Free.

Tuesday, October 30
• 6-10pm - **Jazz Funk Fest Halloweenie Special.** Talking Stick. Free.
• 6:30 - **Adult Book Club.** A.K Public Library. Free.
• 8pm - **Tuesday Night Creative Nonfiction.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

Wednesday, October 31
•8pm - **Wednesday Night Poetry.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

Get Your Local Event Listed

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

Location Guide

• Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 310-821-1769.
• Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006. beyondbaroque.org
• Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
• Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
• Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 310-306-1854 - electriclodge.org
• G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
• Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310-396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
• Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703½ Venice Blvd. 822-8392 pacificresidenttheatre.com
• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
• Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net
• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865.
• Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 310-606-2015.

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.



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OCTOBER 7, 2012
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