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BEACHHEAD

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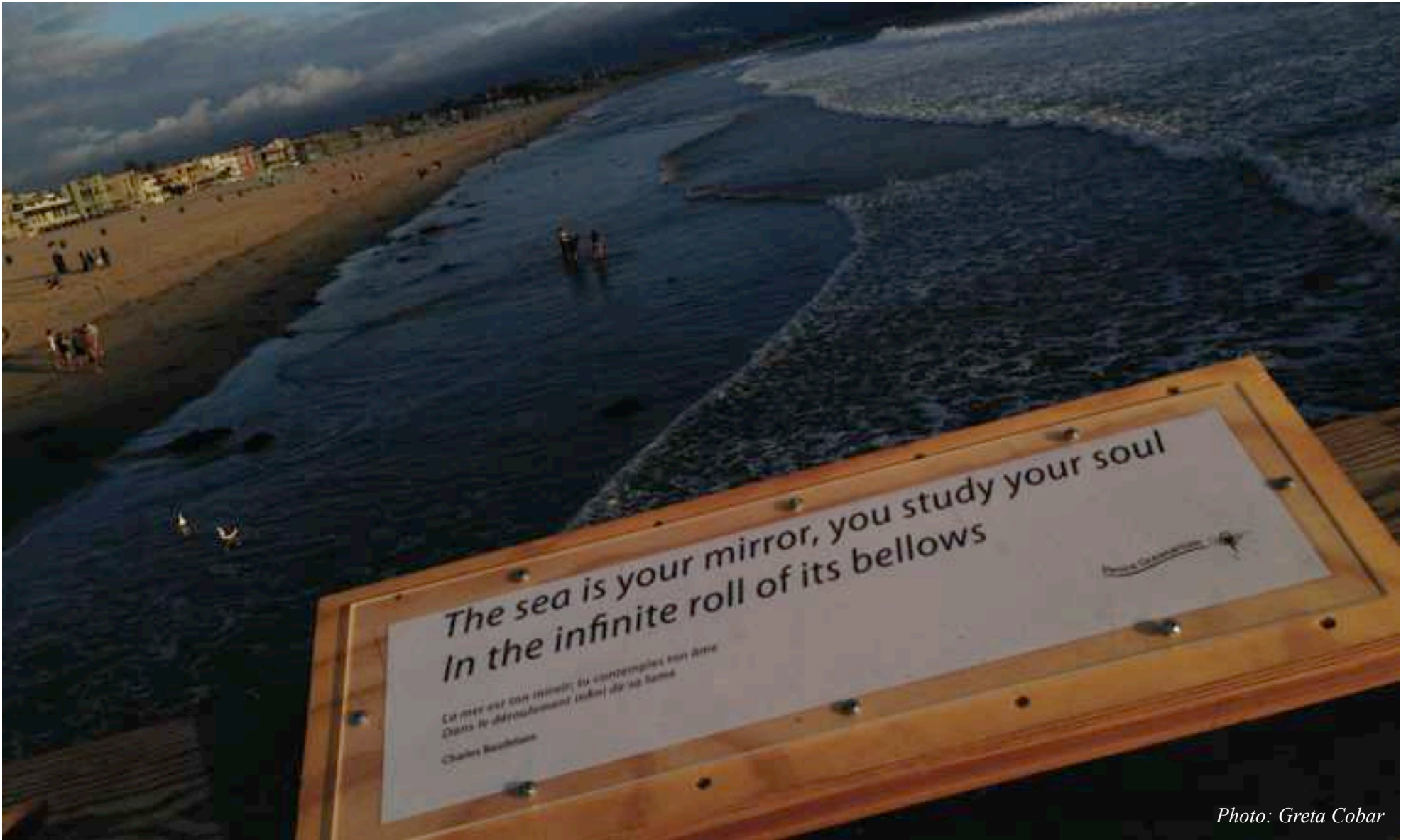


Photo: Greta Cobar

Happy April National Poetry Month! Above: a verse by Charles Baudelaire on the Venice Pier. The Venice Oceanarium is a museum without walls that sets up at the end of the Venice pier and beautifies it throughout with poems about the ocean and the sea. Every Sunday, 11:30 - 2:30pm.

Keep Venice Free - No OPDs

By Greta Cobar

What else could possibly be done to change the welcoming spirit that has been the trademark of Venice for as long as it's been on the map? How about bringing in Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs) that would make it illegal to park without a city-issued permit from 2am to 5am.

The California Coastal Commission has voted against OPDs in Venice on June 11, 2009 and June 10, 2010. Because neither the legislature nor the circumstances have changed since, it is expected that the same vote will yield the same results come June 2013. The judicial system of the US is heavily based on precedent rulings.

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) was scheduled to hold a Town Hall meeting on OPDs on April 4, but that meeting was canceled and the next tentative date is May 6.

The reason the last meeting was cancelled and the date for the next one is still up in the air is because of disagreement between Linda Lucks, VNC President, and the Outreach Committee of the VNC, concerning who should be on the panel answering the public's questions at the Town Hall.

"I'm not going to accept this," Linda Lucks told the Beachhead about the current selection of panel members. They include Mark Ryavec of the Venice Stakeholders Association; Arturo Pena, Bill Rosendahl's Chief of Staff; Jane Usher, former President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission; and Tamara Martin, LADOT representative in charge of OPDs. All of these individuals are strong supporters of OPDs.

Town Hall meetings in Venice have historically been dominated by strong, outspoken opinions and enraged citizens on all sides of an issue. But the current effort of the VNC Outreach Committee is to have the next one be non-controversial and non-confrontational. According to this committee, the option of not having OPDs is not an option anymore.

Following the Coastal Commission's 2010 ban on OPDs in Venice, Mark Ryavec's Venice Stakeholders Association filed a lawsuit with the City of Los Angeles in which he argued that no Coastal Commission approval is needed in order to establish OPDs in Venice. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, although at first against Ryavec's lawsuit, changed his mind and joined forces with Ryavec against the Coastal Commission.

"An earlier, tentative settlement went to the Commission about a year and a half ago, but it was rejected by extremists on the Commission. In the intervening time the Commission membership has dramatically changed," said Mark Ryavec,

Although the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board voted to approve OPDs in 2010, then Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission Peter Douglas joined forces with the 38 Venice residents who had filed an appeal against OPDs by filing his own appeal.

As a result, the Coastal Commission in 2010 voted against the establishment of OPDs in Venice.

Unfortunately Peter Douglas passed away on April 1, 2012, and the Coastal Commission went from what the World Bank had previously called "the strongest in the world" to what Steve Blank, a Commission member, predicted at the time of Peter Douglas's death: "Once he's gone, this commission will implode in the blink of an eye and all we'll be talking about is the color of the concrete used to pave over what's left of the coast."

Currently a tentative settlement between Ryavec and the Coastal Commission has been reached, which would allow OPDs throughout Venice if the Coastal Commission were to approve them. In addition, two-thirds of the residents of each block would have to sign the petition asking for OPDs in order for them to go into effect.

Linda Lucks, although not the most outspoken liberal member of the VNC Board in the past, is now

To Be A Poet

to be a poet is to be a waiter
you wait for inspiration
you wait for that ray of sun
that illuminates,
explains some piece of life
that eluded you before:
a casual kiss of a child to its mother
a smile, a laugh -
you looking on: grateful for a happy glimpse of humanity
glad to leave the dark side
hungry for the light
a chance blessing that you grab up and put in a poem
a recipe for life:
some hope mixed in with the despair
the light on the horizon
the hope sensed only sometimes
that everything is going to be alright
that you came through the horror and the pain
and found joy
and can hear the angels calling your name
to tell you, you are blessed, you are safe
and everything is going to be alright
that you are protected and glorious
and every day your light can shine
if you let it
and someone can see your light
and be changed by it and let their light shine too
to be a poet is to wait.

- Mary Getlein

Dedicated to my daughter, Susan Getlein, who is stronger than she knows.





Beachhead Collective Staff:

Karl Abrams, Anne Alvarez, Greta Cobar, Charles Dunn, Don Geagan, Dean Henderson, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Ronald McKinley, Alice Stek.

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

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Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
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Web: www.venicebeachhead.org
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Dear Free Venice Beachhead Family,

Esteemed greetings and utmost respects is extended to all of my Venetian Brethren!!

My name is Nicholas Anthony Sena and I was raised in Venice and love my hometown deeply!! I'm certain that this missive is very different from the norm, but I was inspired by our community's nature, and your work with Beachhead, to share some of my story with my family and neighbors, to hopefully give back to a community that I took so much from in my life ...

Where do I even begin ... Well, my story is unique for a number of reasons, but won't surprise a true Venetian, I'm sure!! I grew up with my "Godfather," Mike Bonafede, on Superba Avenue at 950. After battling and defeating a heroin addiction, my "Dad" and I moved there from the SFV when I was perhaps 5, in 1990 or so. I loved it!!

I recall riding my bike to Alan's Aquarium, the Boardwalk, and randomly down the walkways, Courts, and Avenues between Lincoln and the Beach ... The eccentric milieu molding my views of life and Community.

Around 10, I started going into the "System", and being bounced from place to place, facility to facility, until finally, after becoming delinquent, I ended up in Juvenile Hall. At 13, I was allowed back home with Mike, but kismet was to have me soon wrapped up in the Herculean tentacles and dragged into an abyss by the massive blue octopus that was the Venice Shoreline Crips!! As you know, Oakwood in general, at least a the time, and the VSLC's specifically, is a black gang.

But despite the seemingly incongruous coupling, (As I am of Italian descent), I was embraced and accepted with love!! This internecine contract would soon permeate every part of my being, as I became entrenched in the recidivist and ignorant phenomenon!!

I began going to "Juvi" more often, and finally CYA, where I was constantly accosted and attacked for my race in relation to my chosen Black gang ties!! Fortunately as a youth, a neighbor had trained me in the martial arts of Muay Thai and Gracie (Brazilian) Jiu-Jitsu. I was more than capable of defending myself, and preemptive offensives.

After three years in CYA, I was released upon our Avenues, more criminally minded and VSLC active than ever. A few months shy of my 18th Birthday, I quickly assimilated back into my Ghost Town roots, and began the parasitic behaviors that now disgust me (e.g. Crack sales, violence, etc...)

On June 13th, 2003, PAC Division arrested me in L.A. for a murder that had occurred 4 days prior in front of Red Hot Video ... I was flabbergasted! I had NOTHING to do with the crime whatsoever, and despite weak evidence, contradictory witness accounts and no real proof of my guilt (I had an incompetent lawyer, a former "customer" of my crack sales, one JJ Little) I was found guilty on December 15th, 2005 at Airport Court, and sentenced to 14 years to life. My path had put me in a direct collision course with an unfathomable destiny, despite my innocence.

Once in prison, the relentless fusillade of ridicule and physical attack continued. As I sill adhered to the ignorant ideologies I'd been imbibed with by the VSLC propaganda program, and because I had no funds to pay for legal counsel and prove my innocence, I was stuck and remain so.

In 2006, I changed my life, my priorities, and how I viewed life. I cut my VSLC ties and dedicated myself completely to the martial arts sciences. After thousands of hours of study, training, and cogitations, I've developed my own system and life philosophy in an expression I coined "Muay Sena" with Thai and Japanese influences, as well as Buddhist principles for life. In 2009, I was attacked by a Crip wielding a knife, for my disavowing of the Crips, and a new path. I defended myself from his attempts to murder me and with only a few kicks, and in a very non-excessive manner, thwarted his attack, resulting in his unfortunate death. I now am fighting the death penalty in Kings County Court, for defending my life in this now macabre Catch-22 of events.

I'm on my own in prison, with no support from loved ones, really. That ended years ago, despite peoples' periodic pop-ups when it's convenient. I remain stalwart, positive and productive, working on books on martial arts now, and trying to change my life and be a compassionate, good and progressive man despite my Draconian circumstances, and seemingly Sisyphean struggle for freedom, self-betterment and redemption.

This is compendious at best. I just felt compelled suddenly to share my story. However concisely, in hopes of somehow touching someone's life in some way. I seek to build, no longer destroy, to somehow share my radical change for the better and show that

Thanks for your generous donations!

Jim Smith
Eric Liner
Barbara Palivos
Karl Lisovsky
Venice Spring Fling

even from the stagnant bowels of unjust incarceration, people are capable not only of self-change, but exacting change in others. I now study Buddhism (Therauada and Zen) and really feel the precepts, or guidance, and feel I need to make myself, my journey, and my "Suffering" as we say, known to the the world. What better place to start than where it all started. Venice is my Genesis. It has dictated my life's course in many ways, and despite my change, it remains my heart's home.

I must say, this letter isn't very eloquent, or well thought out. I received my first Beachhead and it just ignited an irresistible urge to extend my hand to you all, so I decided to borrow a stamp and envelope and legal paper (all I have) and let my heart and mind flow freely. In the Venetian way.

I truly hope that this meets the eyes of whoever it needs to. You can find my photos,. etc, at "Prisonpenpals.com/f2o416.html" as well. Straight forward in solidarity, with true Venice love,

Nick (aka Ninja Nut Case)

Denny Lyons
"The Rock n Roll Realtor"
P:310.720.2710 F:424.228.2116
therocknrollrealtor@gmail.com
Lic: #01236373 3111 Ocean Front Walk #102 • Marina del Rey, CA 90292

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Venice Japanese American Memorial Maker Fundraiser at Hama Sushi on Thursday, April 25

By Phyllis Hayashibara

Esther Chaing, proprietor of Hama Sushi in Venice, has graciously offered once again to host a fundraiser for the Venice Japanese America Memorial Marker on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the landmark restaurant at 213 Windward Avenue “on the circle” in Venice. Head chef Kinya Aota and chef Masayo Onuki will once again generously contribute their professional expertise in the preparation of the bento box lunches. Bento will include chicken teriyaki, cucumber and potato salads, spicy tuna and California rolls, shrimp and vegetable tempura, plus a bottle of water or a soft drink, for \$20 each. Bento pre-orders must be received before April 23 at Hama Sushi, which is not yet open to the public for lunch. Esther will donate 100% of the bento box lunch profits to VJAMM, as well as 10% of the dinner proceeds that evening, between 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm. Contact Phyllis Hayashibara at (310) 390-1576 or phyllishayashibara@earthlink.net for bento pre-orders. Local businesses may contact Esther Chaing at (310) 308-6347 or hchaing@yahoo.com for company orders. For dinner reservations, call Hama Sushi at 310-396-8783.

“I am a U. S. citizen running a Japanese restaurant, and I just want to give back to the Venice community, which has been so good to me,” said Esther. “This is so important, to remember our history so that the same mistakes will not happen again.”

April 25 marks the 71st anniversary of the forced removal of some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu in 1942 after the Imperial Army of Japan attacked the U. S. naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, authorizing the military to declare areas of Washington, Oregon, and California militarily sensitive and to forcibly remove those living in the declared areas to live in hastily set up Assembly centers and War Relocation Authority concentration camps. Civilian Exclusion Order No. 7 gave persons of Japanese ancestry in Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu only days to dispose of their property, to pack only what they could carry, and to report to the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards for bus transport directly to the camp at Manzanar in the desert of Inyo County.

The VJAMM Committee has raised over \$80,000 to build and install a black granite obelisk on that northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. Hundreds of donations have ranged from \$10 to \$1,000. Most recently in February, 2013, Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District, donated \$5,000 towards the VJAMM. In March 2012, the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites program awarded the VJAMM a 2:1 \$50,000 matching grant. In 2011, the VJAMM Committee raised \$10,000 at its benefit at Beyond Baroque in October; the Venice

Neighborhood Council awarded the VJAMM \$1,300 in Community Improvement Project funds in May; and Bill Rosendahl, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 11th District, donated \$5,000 in April. Donors of \$5,000 or more will be permanently etched into the granite of the VJAMM. The rising costs of materials, labor, fuel, and taxes since the inception of the VJAMM project necessitates continuing VJAMM’s fundraising efforts. For a complete list of donors and supporters, or to make a new donation, please visit www.venicejamm.com.

The VJAMM obelisk of black granite echoes the iconic white obelisk in the cemetery of the War Relocation Camp in Manzanar. The white cemetery obelisk bears three Japanese kanji, which identify it as a “monument to console the dead.” The black VJAMM obelisk will remind the living “to be forever vigilant about defending our Constitutional rights, so that the powers of government shall never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race, or religion.”

The VJAMM Committee and Esther Chaing invite everyone to Hama Sushi on Thursday, April 25, for a short program beginning at 11:00 am. Pre-ordered bento box lunches may be eaten in or taken out from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Advance payment may be made in cash, with credit cards, or by checks payable to “Hama Sushi.” Dinner sales that benefit the VJAMM will begin at 7:00 pm end at 11:00 pm.



Above: April 25, 1942, intersection of Lincoln and Venice - Japanese-Americans waiting for bus transport to the camp at Manzanar, in the desert of Inyo County. The Venice Japanese American Memorial Maker has been working tirelessly to build a memorial at this very spot.

Poverty and the Profit Motive

By Mark Lipman

Disparity is all around us, pocketed by great bunkers of wealth. Fortified swimming pools and Rolls Royces share the same intersections as shopping cart homeless. Invisible to all, poverty is everywhere. The common theme we see from California to New York, from Benton Harbor to New Orleans, is that in every single community in this country there is an out and out war on the poor and dispossessed, with a mishmash of local “quality of life” ordinances targeting and criminalizing the weakest among us. Any sign of community or compassion is jeered at and attacked relentlessly by vigilante neighborhood watch groups. The wealthiest and well-connected do not want to have to see poverty; do not want to be directly confronted with the by-products of the system that made them rich – the system that supports their every need and desire – as only money can for the few. They do not want to feel guilty, so they get angry and look for someone to blame. Unable to find a mirror, they instead turn their fury to the very victims of the system, convincing

themselves that the poor are there because they are lazy and don’t want to work. That, however, would better describe trust-fund socialites than the family of four trying to scrape by, in a system that has trained them to be dependent on factories and corporations – dependent on the next paycheck – which then overnight took all the jobs away, casting aside countless of middle aged workers, who are then left unprepared for survival in a jobless economy. Those, who somehow think that merely “working hard” is the solution, have forgotten the founding principles that govern the economic system known as capitalism. For every “boom” in one corner of the world, a “bust” is required in another. The very cornerstone of the profit motive is founded on the exploitation of others, of disposable workforces and communities that are used up for their resources and labor, and then quickly discarded as soon as a cheaper means of production – through both the use of robotics, and the exportation of local manufacturing to unregulated markets abroad. Poverty is a necessary and inevitable pillar of capitalism, for the greater the poverty, the more wide-

spread the destitution and destruction, the more wealth that is accumulated and hoarded by those at the very top. At this very moment, while America reels from one financial crisis after another, with tens of millions of families living in abject poverty, the richest one percent are sitting on a combined wealth of \$4 trillion, which lies stagnant outside of the economy in private coffers and offshore accounts. Any attempt to tax or redistribute this wealth for necessary social programs is immediately scoffed at by politicians, who are indentured to corporate lobbyists and campaign contributions, in order to maintain their own positions of privilege and power. The ability to concentrate wealth enables the capitalists to also concentrate power, leaving all those without out. Without poverty and the massive debt it ensnares, capitalism would not be able to function. Therefore, when we speak of overturning the system of capitalism we are going directly after the root causes of the poverty that we see in our everyday lives.

March Venice Neighborhood Council Meeting Overview

By Greta Cobar

The March Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board meeting was of the shortest duration so far, according to Linda Lucks, VNC President.

One of the issues discussed during that meeting were digital billboards. The permits given for their operation by the city of Los Angeles in 2006 were deemed illegal by the California Supreme Court in February.

As a result, Clear Channel Outdoor was ordered to remove all of its 100 digital billboards, many of which are on the West side, including Lincoln and Venice.

“Images on digital billboards change every 8 seconds, which means that light in near-by homes changes every night, every 8 seconds,” said Dennis Hathaway, Venice resident and President of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, at the March VNC meeting.

Clear Channel, the owner of all digital billboards, “is trying to make a deal with the city to keep the billboards by intimidating the city into bankruptcy,” stated Hathaway at the March VNC meeting.

During his speech, Hathaway also mentioned a Swedish study that showed a decrease in driver safety as a consequence of digital billboards. Because of that study, the Swedish government ordered all digital billboards to come down.

A representative from Clear Channel, which owns all digital billboards in Los Angeles, also spoke during the March VNC meeting, stating that “none of the billboards are illegal - the permitting process is flawed.” He went on to threaten that “there is no real mechanism for the city to enforce laws concerning billboards.”

While addressing the issue of illegal billboards in Venice at the June 19, 2012 VNC meeting, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich stated that he had already eliminated all illegal billboards. Obviously not, as the illegal digital billboard at Venice and Lincoln is still standing.

Another sight-blinding issue discussed during the March VNC meeting is the Zip-line, which is scheduled to start operations on the beach, between the Art Walls and the basketball courts, during mid-June this summer. It is slated to quit operations by October 1.

Operated by the Canadian company Green Heart, the Zip line will have two towers and up to four lines. It is unclear at this point how much money it will generate, but two-thirds of the funds are supposed to come back to Venice in a Recreation and Parks account, which is supposed to help with maintenance, such as restroom upkeep at the beach.

“I am opposed to cleaning our bathrooms by destroying the beach,” said Ira Kuslow, VNC Board member.

If the money over-all generated in Venice were to stay in Venice, we would have nice, clean public bathrooms like the ones in Santa Monica. But because, unlike Santa Monica, we lack cityhood, the city of Los Angeles robs us of our funds.

Since when is beach bathroom cleanup contingent on blocking ocean view by a Canadian-operated Zip line? How many of their employees will be Venice residents? When they discontinue operations, where is the certainty that they will remove their two towers and the rest of their operation equipment?

“The hours of operation will not change,” said Linda Lucks, VNC President, when asked if the beach bathrooms will stay open longer.

The Zip line will be 720 feet long, but the towers will not have an underground foundation. When cautioned that strong winds might blow over the towers, Lucks stated that “they know what they’re doing.”

Last but not least, Steve Clare spoke of the success of the Winter Storage Program, which allowed house-less people taking the bus to the West Los Angeles shelter for the month of March to store their belongings in clean trash bins in a container situated by the Pacific Police Station. It was provided for by

the Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC).

The purpose of the container, available only to those taking the bus to the shelter, was to increase the number of people going to the shelter. However, according to those already going, the shelter was full to capacity.

Steve Clare, VCHC President, stated at the March VNC meeting that 36 people took advantage of the container, which he considered to be a “great success” considering that it was only a pilot program that people did not know about. He did not know at that time if the storage program increased the number of persons going to the shelter.

During its one month of operation I visited it often and spoke at length with the volunteers that attended it. I really thought that we need affordable housing for all, and that the storage bin available for just one month, with hours of operation just between 3pm and 5pm, and available to only those taking the bus to the shelter, was too much of a short-coming.

Yet one day I literally stood there with tears in my eyes as a family, including grandmothers, tried to stuff their belongings in the one bin provided. The volunteer person in charge told them that their bin would be OK even if the lid was not closed all the way; after all, it was the storage container’s last day of operation. The family was so very happy and thankful. I wondered what would happen to them the next day, when the shelter and the storage container would be closed. The West Los Angeles shelter is open only during the winter months, and it closed March 1.

The VNC is considered to be one of the most outspoken neighborhood councils in the city, with one of the highest public participation around. Yet over the last year I have witnessed attendance and public involvement decreasing. It’s your Venice, get involved! VNC Board meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month - hope to see you there April 16, 7pm, Westminster Elementary School Auditorium.

For more information, see www.venicenc.org

Sidewalk and Bus Stop Taken Over by New Owner of Venice Historical Post Office

By Greta Cobar

Joel Silver, the new owner of the historical building that formerly housed the Venice Post Office, does not have permits to block the sidewalk and the bus stop around his property, but he does not seem to care.

The public needs to call inspector Ed Oddone at 213-252-3085 for the limits on Silver’s building permits to be enforced.

However, according to real estate attorney Michael King, “the city is very lackadaisical about temporary fence installation enforcement because the contractors move it when the inspectors show up and move it back when they leave.”

First Silver denied public access to the historical building, then he claimed ownership of the Edward Biberman mural that is still the property of the USPS, and now he is taking over the entire sidewalk, a lane of street traffic, and a very busy bus stop.

Unabated, he might extend his fence to the entire Windward circle and beyond. If that seems unlikely, what he has done so far was beyond our worst imagined case scenario just a year ago.

Although the Venice Neighborhood Council in February passed a motion to move the Edward Biberman mural out of Silver’s office, and put it into a public space such as the Abbot Kinney Library, no further action was taken.

According to the Phase III Design Plan Review, Silver is replacing things like wainscoting, wood paneling, wood-frame bulletin boards, and other defining features of the building, with the provision that “they would be safely and securely stored so that they could be reinstated at a future date, if so desired.”

Call the inspector or risk getting hit by a car when walking along one of Venice’s busiest streets.



Photo: Greta Cobar

Failed Boardwalk Ordinance Leads to Abuse of Power

By Greta Cobar

As the Beachhead fore-saw in its January 2012 issue, the new Ordinance regulating free speech on Ocean Front Walk (OFW) is not being enforced, and vending is in full swing (<http://bit.ly/13dLKrQ>). The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) have displayed full power and control over selective enforcement, choosing to ignore vendors of mass-produced items and targeting local performers with tickets and arrests.

On March 20 Solomon the Snake Man, also known as Willie Lee Turner, was arrested on a panhandling charge. The incident was video-tapped by Vivianne Robinson and highly publicized online (<http://bit.ly/11Txvne> and <http://bit.ly/11SkLBd>).

The LAPD proceeded to confiscate all of Solomon's belongings, which they kept even after he posted the \$100 bail fee. After performing the same show, in the same spot, for the last twelve years, how much sense does it make for the LAPD to tell him that he cannot do it anymore? And how much sense does it make for the LAPD to confiscate Solomon's rubber snakes and everything else he used to put on his show? Is the LAPD implying that he should just sit on a street corner or on OFW truly panhandling, mocking the LAPD officers' charge for taking him to jail?

How easy do you think it is to lose your way of earning an income? And who gives the LAPD that type of power?

All of that while more than half of OFW free speech spots are once again taken by out-of-town vendors, reselling made-in-China merchandise bought downtown. That was exactly what the new OFW Ordinance, which took effect late January 2012, was supposed to eliminate.

Some of us had our Summer 2011 plans derailed by the city of Los Angeles's decision to hold dozens of meetings concerning the new OFW ordinance. Although Venetians did not sit back, but instead, like myself, attended each and every one of those meetings during the summer months, input from the community was completely ignored, and once again downtown higher-ups drafted their own version of the legislature.

One of the points that we did not agree with was the punishment proposed and finally provided for in the 2012 Ordinance. All repeat offenses carry misdemeanor charges with possible \$1000 fines and six months in jail.

Previous to this latest Ordinance, all offenses were categorized as infractions, not misdemeanors, did not carry a minimum charge and definitely did not have a jail sentence attached to them.

Besides being opposed to the fines and punishments for non-compliance, Venetians also asked that the First Amendment be mentioned in the Ordinance, opposed artists being called "vendors", and the free speech zone being divided into "designated" spaces, but none of our



Above: Solomon the Snake Man performing on Windward, between Speedway and OFW, circa 2003
Photographer Unknown

suggestions were incorporated into the final draft of the Ordinance. Who would have ever thought that free speech could be limited to a marked box?

The back-bone of the Ordinance, stating that all spots are to be occupied on a first-come basis, was a failure from the beginning, as the same people occupy the same spots day in and day out.

All of these legislations created by downtown higher-ups who chose to ignore our outspoken community activists did not make provisions for enforcement. As previously reported by the Beachhead (bit.ly/13dLKrQ), at the Dec. 15 2011 Friends of the Boardwalk meeting Lieutenant Paola Kreefft stated that the LAPD does not have a plan to enforce the new ordinance going into effect at the end of January 2012. Not surprisingly, the LAPD shied away from enforcing the Ordinance, but proved to be blunt when it came to selective enforcement on several instances (<http://bit.ly/XKdWuz> and <http://bit.ly/WZwKZL>).

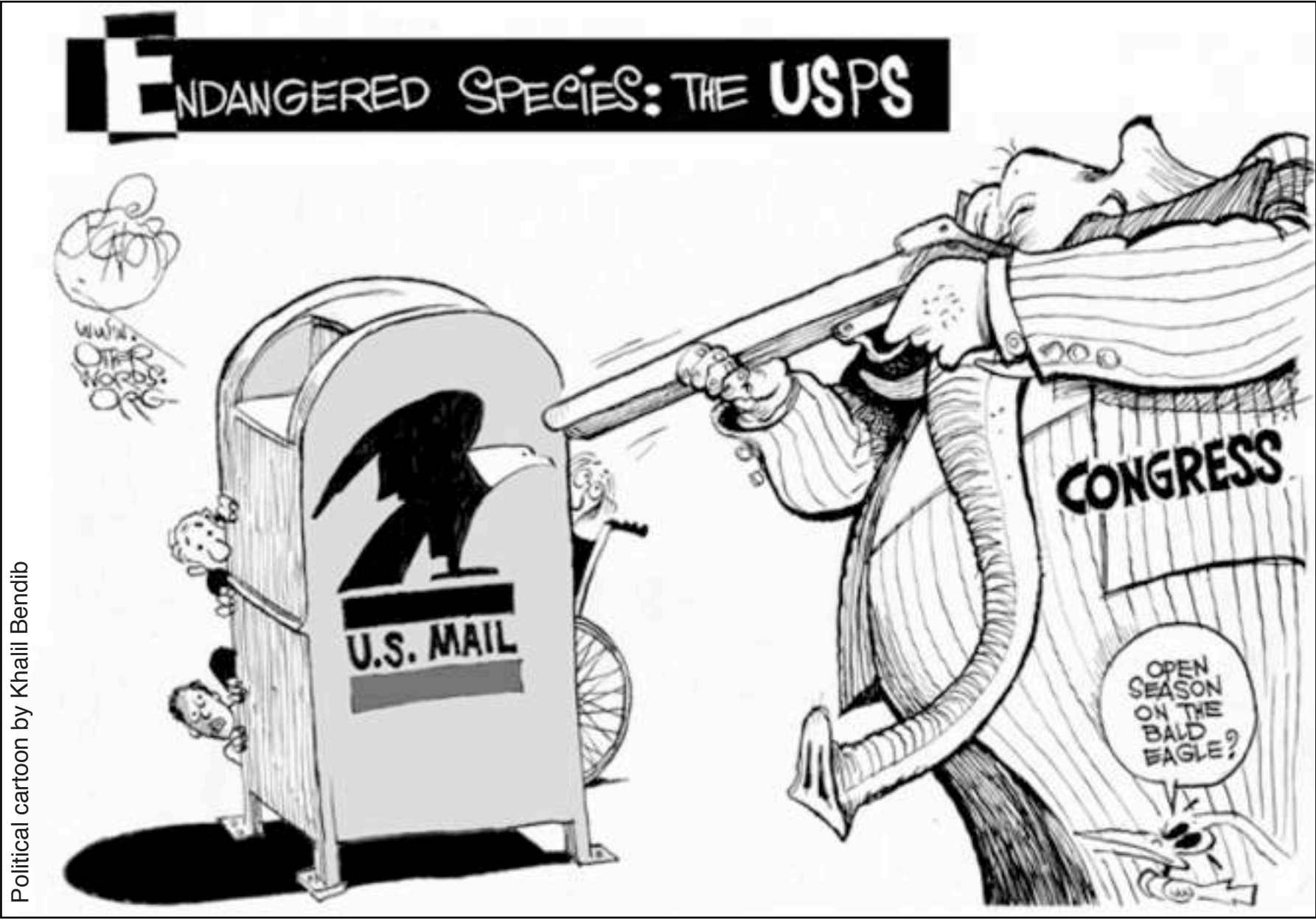
Just in case you are thinking that a new Ordinance needs to be drafted, remember that this is the sixth revision of the Los Angeles Municipal Code 42.15, first introduced in 2004. The previous revision,

of 2008, established the lottery system of allocating the 205 designated spaces on OFW. It was deemed unconstitutional by U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson in October 2010 on the grounds that it violated the First Amendment.

Although many OFW artists and vendors did not agree with the lottery system of allocating spaces, the very vast majority of them bought into it. Solomon was one of the very few who never joined the lottery system.

Just a few months ago a highly popular online video of an LAPD officer in Venice (<http://bit.ly/XjMVMS>) abusing his power resulted in public outcry, which led to the ticket being dismissed and the officer being disciplined. The same thing is bound to happen regarding Officer Gonzalez's arrest of Solomon, which was deemed as abuse of power and selective enforcement not only by the Beachhead, but even by websites that have traditionally been supportive of the LAPD.

Please contact your local police officials to let them know that you are against LAPD engaging in selective enforcement.



Political cartoon by Khalil Bendib

CRAWLING FOR ART IN THE SNAKE RUN

By CJ Gronner

Last night was the March Venice Art Crawl, and it was great. It kind of felt like First Fridays used to feel, where you saw a lot of locals and neighbors, and places served up free booze and music. The Art Crawl is actually better than First Fridays used to be, because the whole point is to appreciate local art ... the very reason Venice became cool in the first place.

Cool doesn't begin to describe how excellent it was to approach the Venice Skatepark just after sunset, seeing it all lit up, with a DJ blasting out good jams over the entire Boardwalk. They built a little entrance ramp so that people could go down in the snake run of the park, where the art of Mark Farina was hung.

It was a party, seeing all sorts of familiar Venice faces and catching up, all while checking out the brightly colored and highly political pieces from Farina.

These are the kind of original, fun ideas that make Venice special, and the kind of things we NEED - to show the world that they can keep their corporate chain stores and hum drum sameness.

WE have art openings IN skateparks. Bam.

There was a lot to see and do, so I had to crack the whip and keep us moving along ... to Small World Books next.

Among all the zillions of books I covet every time I walk in the best book store in the West, I now also want one of the pieces by Christina Mills showing at Small World.

Her work features the typical Venice scenes, with surfers and the Venice sign type images, with scads of tweets from Venice 311 behind them ... truly an example of "Where Art Meets Crim

On to The Gallery on Market Street, where we saw the gorgeous photography (featuring a bunch of Venice neighbors - Tawney! Shawn!) of Nicol Ragland.

The sign said, "A photographic exhibit raising questions about our ability to access primal and immaterial forces within the commercial ethos of western industrial society. The images stir a vital and confrontational animism by juxtaposing taxidermied wild animals in the arms of domestic U.S. citizens provocatively situated in the iconic centers of mass commerce." Phew. That's weighty stuff ... but the photos were lovely.

We stopped in to see my girls at Kiki Designs (and spied even more cool rings we all wanted) and



Photo: CJ Gronner

raise a glass, then did same at Gotta Have It, where the lovely Venice native, Mattea Perrotta, was showing her work. I knew almost everyone I saw, making it such a delight to be out and about, among friends.

Art was everywhere, and it was hard to take it all in when there was also so much socializing to be done. We did pretty well, but did get to Shulamit Gallery a bit too late to fully enjoy it, since they were kicking people out.

James Beach had Shark Toof and Tom French work featured - always a pleasure - and across the street at the Canal Club, owner Danny Samakow showed his very Venice paintings, that he was auctioning off for his upcoming AIDS Lifecycle Bike-A-

Thon. We drank champagne with "Team Venice" and I soon found myself being the person that drew the raffle tickets for the lucky winners of Danny Samakow originals. We had a blast with the boys, even more so knowing that it was all going for such a good cause (that you can still donate to. Contact Danny.)

We covered a lot, but we didn't cover it all ... so there will be a lot to look forward to when the next Art Crawl rolls around June 20th. The night was starry as we strolled back home, way later than I had planned. We passed underneath the Venice sign again, and I smiled to myself that I get to live here, where there are still staunch preservationists of what is truly cool, proven by nights like this.

I love you, Venice. (We say that a lot here)

ANNENBERG IN THE DOG HOUSE

By John Davis

The philanthropic Annenberg Foundation has undertaken many projects that benefit society as a whole. However, it's proposal to build a dog and cat kennel on the wetlands preserve is absurd. The City of Palos Verdes flatly rejected this project.

It was then offered to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, who accepted.

Cal DFW euphemistically calls the big dog house an, "interpretive center."

As described, the project will also consist of retail, office space, and baseball diamonds. The footprint of the 46,000 square foot building would be extended by a parking lot. Builders' stakes have already pierced the public land, even before the people decide if the project will go forward or not.

Cal DFG announced the big dog house will be part of the "restoration" of the Ballona Wetlands. The basic idea is oxymoronic. Placing a building on wetlands or upland habitat restores nothing.

Public agencies are not supposed to act as cheerleaders for projects they undertake. Their purpose is to inform the public, collect comments and execute the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The agency is to remain neutral.

It appears that Annenberg foisted a stratagem on Cal DFW to build the wetland dog house. It provided to the State a document called, "Ballona opposition emails."

On the other hand, Annenberg and Cal DFW arranged what it called "Conservations with the Neighbors," recording the attendance of two meetings. The public was not noticed. Only persons favored by the State Agency and Annenberg were invited, excluding all others.

The list included Cyndi Hench, President; Denny Schneider, Board Member and Past President; and Sibyl Buchanan, executive of Playa Capital Corporation and Board member, all from the Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council. Elizabeth Zamora,



Heron building stakes
Photo by Jonathan Coffin

Vice President of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council was invited too. Lisa Fimiani and Stephen Groner of the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands, a private business, participated.

Representatives of a number of non-profit businesses also attended, as did officials from the County of Los Angeles. The meetings were held on December 6th and 12th, 2012.

The list is long. It did not include the Venice Neighborhood Council.

The question is, why did a State Agency engage and meet with this select list of people and groups,

while failing to let any other stakeholders participate? The VNC should clearly have been invited.

Annenberg wants a long-term lease on the public property. It would result in bulldozing and filling valuable habitat in the Ecological Wetlands Preserve. The land deed restrictions do not speak to a long-term lease. Only Annenberg has the connections to pull it off.

There is no money to complete the overall project. That is probably why Annenberg was let in. If the enormous outlay of taxpayer money necessary for the project was disclosed, the public would shudder.

Getting Around

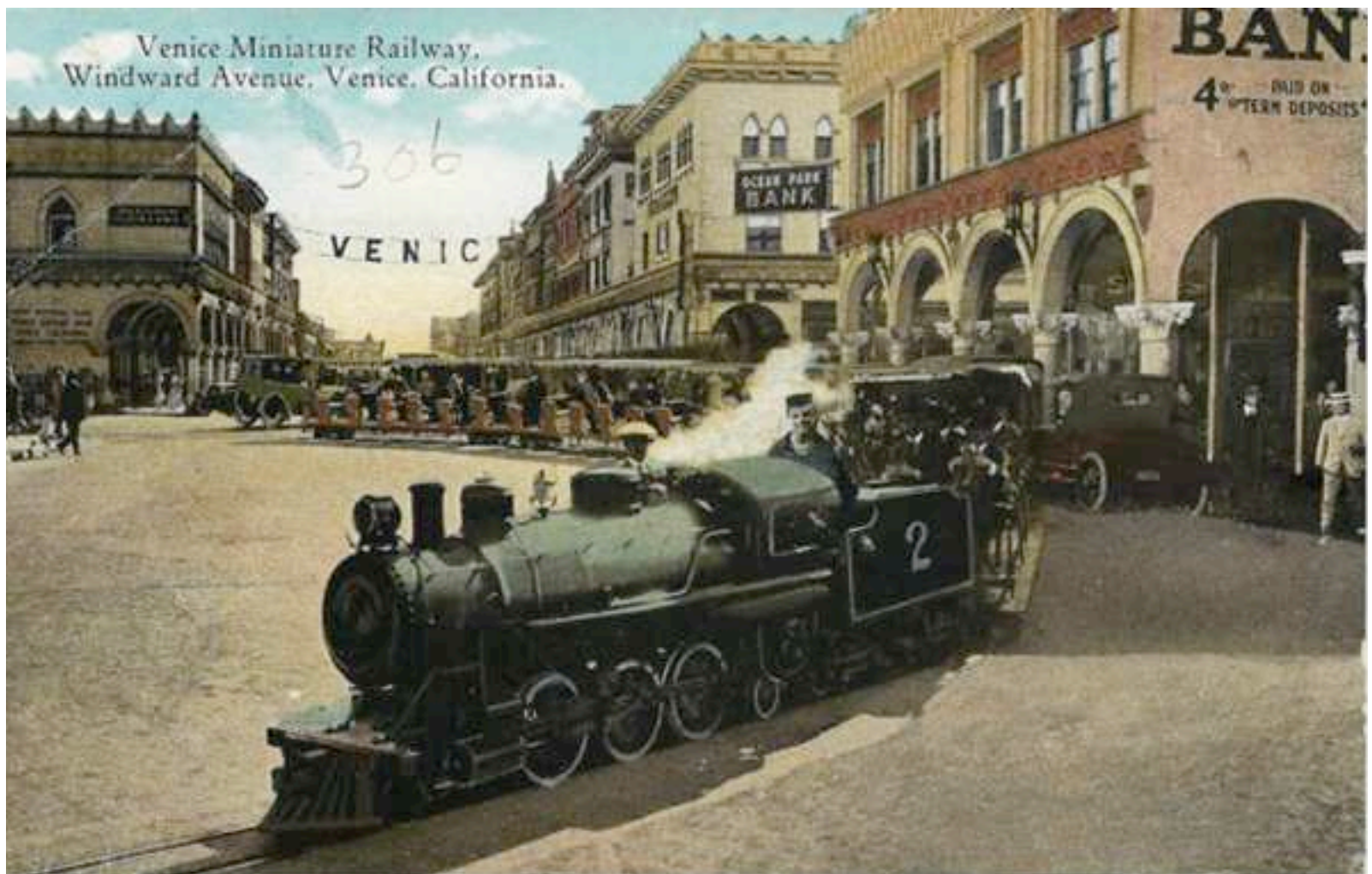
So tell me, where else in the world could one find
a tiny train parked downtown? Just give the conductor
a coin and be rattled home serenaded by a steam engine
whistle announcing the crossing of streets.
- William Carroll

By Delores Hanney

Always flush with imaginative ideas and the cash to fund them, Abbot Kinney – the milieu-maker of Venice, California – liked to do things with a flair. One of the most winning notions he brought into being, for his Italian-inspired settlement by the sea, was a pair of miniature trains. They were here from the very beginning in 1905, chugging over arching concrete bridges that spanned the canalways while circumnavigating the town site with frequent regularity. Initially they were tasked as the mode of transportation for schlepping prospective buyers of real property to check out the development's offerings. Before long locals and vacationers were big enthusiasts of the five-cent service as well.

Even as Kinney's ambitious Venice-of-America was still about the business of rising out of a marsh, he contracted with civil engineer John J. Coit to supervise the building of his Venice Miniature Railway made up of components similar to Coit's own diminutive train then causing gladness at Eastlake Park in Los Angeles. Kinney commissioned two of them. Built by the Johnson Machine Works out of L.A. to a one-third scale, each consisted of a black Prairie-type engine and five 12-passenger cars that sometimes offered an al fresco ride, other times carried travelers beneath a fringed, awning-like top. Each one of the cars sported a lion's head relief on the sides. And for a time, the dashing little engine from Coit's Eastlake train lent a hand in Venice as a substitute.

By way of enrolling his younger kids into a kind of participation in the beachside resort venture, Kinney's nine-year old son Carlton was listed as president of the Venice Miniature Railway on its State of California incorporation documents. Three years older, son Innes was named as Chief Engineer, though John Coit actually operated the railroad early on. Jauntily suited up in appropriately impressive uniforms, the boys were trotted out to take bows on ceremonial occasions or for visitations by dignitaries. One such event – in 1908 – was the gathering of 140 midwestern members of the National Association of Railroad Agents, at



which time the annual inspection of Kinney's Miniature Railway was executed for their edification.

A dog showed up one day and rapidly self-appointed himself as the mini railroad's mascot. Buster Braun was a Spitz that had become dissatisfied with the situation at home after his people brought home a newborn baby. Hanging out at the roundhouse and riding atop the tender as the train percolated around town – at a normal cruising speed of 20 miles per hour – apparently alleviated the loving-attention deficit the new home conditions caused and gratified his breed's natural herding instinct hereby undertaken, nontraditionally, with a rumbling mechanical assist.

Over the years the railway suffered a few modest catastrophes. Train number two smashed into an unseen-till-too-late grocery wagon witlessly left on the tracks. A boiler explosion took out engine number one as it was parked at the Windward Avenue turnaround. On another occasion a fire at the roundhouse caused heat damage to both engines when flames engulfed the building. The passenger cars were successfully hauled

off to a safe spot. None of these resulted in human harm but a horse was hurt in the train-wagon collision.

On a more ebullient note, the miniature railway was a not unusual element in Kinney's recurrent hosting of orphans for a day of jolly good fun in Venice: amusement-parking, hunting Easter eggs or whatever. The pint-sized trains performed as a prop in train robbery spoofs carried out by passels of comely beachwear-clad cuties.

Though lacking the current tug of nostalgia blocked by their au courant status in Kinney's time, trains still ranked high in appeal factor. Miniature trains, then as now, packed a special cachet. The photogenic images of the little Venice trains adorned copious quantities of postcards that were sent to friends and family by happy visitors and residents alike. They made tasty bait for attracting even more tourists and new dwellers to Abbot Kinney's dream, where their own sprightly presence added to the environment's inimitable élan.

They breathed their final chug as a Venice, California feature in February of 1925.



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Happy 25th Birthday, Hal's Bar and Grill!

By CJ Gronner

Hal's Bar and Grill is celebrating 25 years on Abbot Kinney in Venice, and loyal fans turned out Wednesday night to hear Linda and Don Novack and Hal Frederick in discussion with Jeff Gordon from the Writer's Boot Camp (and Hal's regular) at the Electric Lodge. It was packed with the fine folks that you can regularly see bellied up at Hal's, eager to hear and share stories of the many years of fond memories.

They opened up with the question, "What was Venice like 25 years ago?" to which an audience member piped up, "It was GREAT!" You could tell that most in the room were nostalgic for times when it really was more about the people, and the art, than the great money grab of the present, which Novack commented on, saying, "The street's gone crazy." True story.

Escalating rents are pushing out many of our old standbys, and a rumor was flying recently that Hal's would be another victim of the greed, but that was put to rest with a relieved sigh. This night of story-telling was pure appreciation for a true neighborhood landmark.

I knew many of the stories from having done an article on Hal's a while back, but it was a delight to hear all the locals chiming in with their 2 cents, in what became sort of an open forum. Artist Ed Moses

made the room laugh when he said, "The food is always B+, which is very good, always consistent, I love the Chef (Manuel), and that's why I like it." Meaning that Hal's food is very good, and he didn't WANT it to be A+, because that's for foodies and that's what makes you not be able to get a table, and what brings all the people from all over, not all your favorite people in town that you can catch up with whenever you want. For instance, Don got more laughs with, "I love Gjelina. If people can't get a table, they come to Hal's for B+ food." Which happens a lot. Which is great for everyone. (If they can find parking ... which is why locals should walk or bike and take it all back over again).

All in attendance agreed that Hal's has been the center of the Artist's community in Venice, and as Linda Lucks of the Venice Neighborhood Council decreed (with certificates handed out), "Hal's is the unofficial City Hall of Venice." Another audience member said that no street has gone through as much change, so quickly, as Abbot Kinney, not even in New York ... and the locals come to Hal's to feel comfortable. And they do. Because of the consistent menu and local favorites - we learned that their famous (it has its own Facebook page!) turkey burger is due to Stockard Channing wanting a burger back when they were not on offer - to the familiar faces and warmth extended

from everyone involved in the operation. Hal's is clearly a local treasure, and has been since they opened their doors back in the 1980's, when its address was the hard to locate West Washington Boulevard.

Local artist Peter Lodato spent a lot of time in New York, and he said that when he arrived back in L.A., Hal's became his spot because, "It felt like home." Don Novack added to that, saying, "Venice has STUFF. Grit, like New York." At least it always has, and God willing, that will remain in spite of the best (worst) efforts of the developer vultures circling.

Certificates were given, lovely Linda Novack got a beautiful bouquet of roses, and all the artists and locals in the Electric Lodge were thanked by the grateful panel from Hal's. Then we all ambled across the street, to get swept up in what Frederick called "The Mix" in the bar at Hal's. "It's ALWAYS been about the mix." By which he means, everyone is welcome ... struggling artist, millionaire artist, all ages, all races, all genders, all sexual orientations, any and everyone is in the mix. ALL will be welcome, at this beloved place that is "just a restaurant, but NOT just a restaurant ... it's so much more." It's Hal's.

Congratulations to all the Hal's family on 25 years of great times in Venice! And many more.

Food for the Soul

By Anne Alvarez

New Life Society is a local grassroots non-profit which was founded in 2001 by Millie Mims, in the mountain community of Badger, California. The original intent was to provide shelter on the family property to people who were in need of temporary housing.

For over ten years, Millie helped people who came to the community and needed lodging. She began going to the local farmer's market, asking for donations of fruits and vegetables for the small local school, and for families that were in need of food.

In 2010, Millie relocated to Venice, and immediately set up a spot on the Boardwalk to feed the homeless and anyone in need of a hot meal. She sets up a minimum of five days a week, across from the Venice Bistro at 3:30 in the afternoon, and stays until all six gallons of homemade soup, 2 1/2 gallons of salad, rice and bread are all distributed.

She is able to maintain this schedule through the generous donations of local farmer's markets. On Sundays, she heads to the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, where local farmers, like Lupe Cordova and her grandson Kyle Moran, donate on a weekly basis.

For about six months, New Life Society was out on the Boardwalk, seven days a week. However, the number of volunteers needed was not met, and she has been unable to maintain that schedule. "We are in need of help on Thursdays and Fridays, in order to get back to a seven-day-a-week feeding schedule. We also need a person with a car to come to the apartment where the food is prepared, to help pick up and

drop off at the beach ...

We need help with people serving, and we need someone that can return back with all the containers. We are also looking for volunteers to help with clean up in the evening for 1 hour, either from 6 to 7, or 7 to 8 PM, would be ideal."

The New Life Society offers clean water, vegetarian food and emergency shelter to all. Millie and her company are true advocates in the fight to end hunger and homelessness. Remaining persistent in her commitment to help those in need, she is a strong, wise and gentle human being.

Currently Millie is in search of a building in the Venice area, where New Life Society will be able to offer shelter to some of the unhoused looking to get their lives in order.

If you are interested in volunteering please visit

<http://www.newlifesocietycalifornia.org> or you can reach Millie at 310-398-1901.



Above: Millie Mims sharing food on OFW
Photo: Kevin Faircourt

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Abbot Kinney's Confession

By Jim Smith

I never wanted to build a city
My partners cheated and left me a swamp
I would have given up
except for my little dove

She was walking on the beach
with a parasol in hand
I couldn't pass her by
If I had I would begin to die

She greeted me and smiled
The sea gulls watched
from dunes piled high
as we sat upon the sand

She took my hand
and told me how she loved
the canals of old Venezia
and cried to be there now

As with Helen of Troy
A thousand dreams
Were launched that day
by Paloma of Venice

Sweeter than my Caporals,
more delicate than a dove
my Paloma gave her spirit and heart
to me and my new Venice.

Water Fasting

By Majid Naficy

"I am a mute dreamer and the world is deaf" Rumi

We are approaching midnight
Without a conversation or a shining eye
The dusty day has settled
The noise of the city has died down
And you are left alone in your bed
Your son is dreaming in the next room
And uttering words like a mute
Tomorrow he is going to a summer camp
And during his absence
You want to pick Rumi from the shelf
Hang down the pot and potlet
Blow out the flame on the stove
And waterfast for five days
Perhaps what you haven't found in feeding
You will discover in emptiness
He has packed his knapsack
And placed it near the front door
His sneakers are shining in the dark
And you are asking yourself:
"What he is dreaming now?"

The Light

Fateful grey evening sky,
Trees, black silhouettes
rising from the parched soil like motionless messengers of doom,
A cloud of ominous silence sailing over the valley,
We wait.

It arrives,
Expanding,
Illuminating the vast darkness,
A thundering ball of billowing smoke and yellow flame
Consuming Time,
A spectacle of Science.

It spreads,
A bright veil singing the dry earth in its wake,
A violet wind of dust and wood splinters,
Threatening,
Rolling hungrily toward us.

Devoured by the strange golden blast,
Our faces charred black by the ashes,
Frantically
we whisper loving words,
Intense heat melts our bodies together,
Gently
our spirits feed the conflagration.

Treeless,
Barren and poisoned countryside,
A city of rubber and choking ashes
decaying like a corpse in the Aftermath,
Our voices silenced forever by this day.

– Lynette

PINK CLOUD POEM

I walk out on the beach —
only one pink cloud
and it above my head –
low in the sky.
Such silence!
I raise my writing book
as if it is a chalice
and pen
for the cloud to give me
a poem
A soft rain fell.
The poem fell
onto the page –
Such silence!
— Philomene Long August 31, 2000

OF PHILOMENE LONG

By Kristine Mary Gloviak Ferry

Full moon over the
Water

caught my Soul
Oh! My Soul!

A famous Venice Poet
Died this week

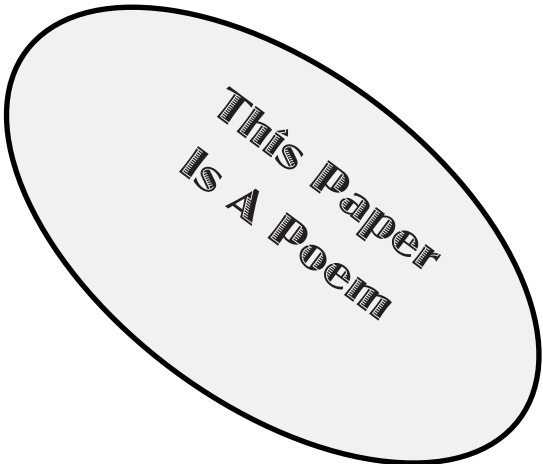
Steps below my feet

We both suffered
in heartache

She up there now
Me below

I caught her ageless
Youthful Glow

This I know. This I know!



A NIGHT IN THE RUINS

By John Thomas

Pen frozen in a fist
cold and slick as a stone.
Dark purple shapes
that boil and bloom
beneath closed eyelids.
Silver dreams, too sad
even for poetry.
Wretched, hungry poems.
Poems written for nothing
in small dark rooms.

Packaged By Me

By Ronald K. Mc Kinley

Do I exist because I say so
One moment flowing into another
Aware that I am aware
I can give my power to another
Give up my right to be me
To be lost is to let others define you
The image in others' eyes is just an image
To be called a thing does not make you that thing
Unless you convert
Existence is more than what you think you perceive
Most connected to your senses
You can be fooled
Beware of people who think they know you
They will construct a model that is for their use
Stealing your power and ancestry
Live with others but think your thoughts
Feel what you feel
It is your music
You will discover You

22:50 Tuesday, March 26th, 2013, Adullam Obser-
vatory Griffith; there, today. I gazed in the direction of
the bay. My bold imagination had to stretch. A glimpse
of the Pacific, tried to catch. I followed the contour of
roads, gone west, Imagining a Venice in the mist. I
stood beneath the Windward lettering. The breeze,
come off the waves, made reckoning. The crowds upon
the boardwalk, shadows cast, As countless, long-
necked palms conveyed their trust. Then, realizing
suddenly, that such were merely my mind's tent stakes
that I pitch. Content, was I, to know that, while away,
The Venice that I love is here to stay Roger Hous-
ton, homesick

What I See

By Emily Wood

I once met a man in a white coat
and asked him
"Why do you believe what you believe?"
He paused for a moment
Looked around and replied
"If you must call it belief, I believe what I see."

I once met a man in red robes
and asked him
"Why do you believe what you believe?"
He paused for a moment
Closed his eyes and replied
"If you must call it belief, I believe what I see."

Now I stand here with you
and you ask me
"Why do you believe what you believe?"
I pause for a moment
Look in your eyes and reply
"If you must call it belief, I believe what I see."

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Keep Venice Free - No OPDs - continued from page 1

taking a strong stand against the Town Hall panel being represented only by Ryavec and those who agree with him and his settlement with the Coastal Commission.

As a result, Ryavec and his Stakeholders Association on March 25 filed a request for an investigation of an ethics violation by Linda Lucks. According to the request, Lucks should recuse herself from involvement with deliberations concerning OPDs because she has a conflict of interest due to her position as Capital Campaign Coordinator at the Venice Community Housing Corporation, which has opposed OPDs.

“The ethics charges are groundless, I don’t have a conflict of interest,” Lucks told the Beachhead.

Ryavec has previously been a big advocate of the Oversize Vehicle Ordinance (OVO), which prohibits RVs from parking on certain streets between 2am and 5am. “Vehicle dwellers have simply moved to vans, small trucks, and SUVs, which are not subject to the restriction on oversize vehicles,” Ryavec stated.

“The city of Los Angeles cannot justify this proposal as a way to address homelessness,” wrote Kim Thompson, a San Fernando valley resident and regular visitor to Venice, in his 2010 appeal to the Coastal Commission against OPDs.

Undoubtedly public access to the beach would be restricted under OPDs. According to the Coastal Act of 1976, “the public should have 24 hour access to the beaches.”

The midnight to 5am curfew that is now in place in parts of Venice under LAMC 63.44.B.14(b) is not only selectively enforced, but also illegal. A person sleeping on OFW during that time is likely to be harassed by the police either with a ticket or an arrest, while someone walking his or her dog is likely to be ignored by those same cops.

According to the Coastal Act of 1976, “the public should have 24 hour access to the beaches.” Under that same act, the city needs a permit for “any sort of curfews or restrictive ordinances that have such a negative impact on coastal access” said Charles Pos-

ner, Coastal Program Analyst with the California Coastal Commission in a phone conversation with the Beachhead in January 2012. The city does not have such a permit.

OPDs come at a price to all residents: they cost money. And the fee will be increased on a yearly basis. All of a sudden we will have to pay to park in front of our own houses and will end up paying outrageous parking tickets when we forget to put up the permit. Our friends will have to leave in the middle of the night or pay for the ticket more than they would for a hotel room if they just decide to crash over. Or, even more trouble can come about if they decide to leave after drinking because they’re worried about getting a ticket.

Although OPDs would be a hassle to the residents, the more important issue to consider is the public’s right of access. Do we want Venice to become the equivalent of a gated community?

Just because certain fractions of the VNC are trying to make it seem as if OPDs are inevitable, the settlement reached by Ryavec is tentative, just like the ones reached in 2009 and 2010. The Coastal Commission cannot afford to discredit itself by issuing a ruling opposing its previous decisions. Neither can it afford fighting and losing, based on the Coastal Act and on precedent rulings, the lawsuits that would inevitably follow.

The Coastal Commission is going to hold a hearing on the settlement on either June 12, 13 or 14 at the Long Beach City Council Chambers, at 333 W. Ocean Boulevard, in Long Beach. The public cannot attend this meeting, but letters opposing OPDs can be mailed in. Also, keep an eye out for the Town Hall meeting, currently scheduled for May 6, and come to voice your opinion during the Question and Answer section.

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26 Abril 10:30 pm-->

www.veniceoceanarium.org



Community Events – day by day

Monday, April 1

- 10-12pm - **Annual Million Dollar give away.** Every Venetian gets a case with a million dollars inside. Is this an April fools or is it real? OFW. Free.
- 7pm - **Tango Practica.** Tango Classes. Electric Lodge. \$10.
- 7pm - **Mozaic Open Mic.** Talking Stick. Open to all. No Cover.

Tuesday, April 2

- 6pm - Real Talk. **Silent Art Auction to Benefit Oakgrove.** Trunk Gallery. 12818 Venice Blvd. Free.
- 8pm - **Tuesday Night Creative Nonfiction.** Open reading. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Wednesday, April 3

- 6:30-7:45pm. **Yoga in Venice.** Vinyasa tradition, all levels welcome. Venice Movement Art Center. 122 Lincoln Blvd. 1st Class Free.

Thursday, April 4

- 4:15-5pm - **Chess Club.** Ages 6-15, parents welcome. AK Public Library. Free.
- 6pm - **Jazz Funk Fest.** Live music. Talking Stick. No Cover.
- 7:30pm - **7 Dudley Cinema.** Ria Live Cinema. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Friday, April 5

- 9:30am - **Good Dog Animal Rescue.** Animal adoption. Gold's Gym. 360 Hampton Dr. Free.
- 6pm - **First Friday.** Food Trucks, shops open late, crowds. Abbot Kinney Blvd.
- 6:30-10pm - **En Foco/In Focus.** Photography exhibition. Venice Arts. 1702 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 9-12am - **Azar Lawrence Quartet.** Blues/Jazz. RG Club. 2536 Lincoln Blvd. Cover \$15, residents \$7.

Saturday, April 6

- **Installation Party #1.** Hands-on workshop transforming front lawn into an ocean friendly garden. Bring shovels, gloves, hats and sunscreen. Refreshments will be provided! Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Eric Charles Hosts Rock Night.** Live Music. Talking Stick. No Cover.
- 8pm - **National Poetry Month. Eve Brandstein's Poetry In Motion: Claiming Ginsberg.** Poetry readings, photo essay, film, story performers and live music. Beyond Baroque. General \$20, students and seniors \$10, members \$8.

Sunday, April 7

- 10-4pm - **Free Food for Everyone.** 101 Ocean Front Walk. Free.
- 7pm - **7 Dudley Cinema: Iggy Pop Celebration.** Live music by Raw Power Rangers and many more. **Beyond Baroque.** Free. Donations are welcomed.

Wednesday, April 10

- 6:30pm - **JillyJazz Dance.** Adult Jazz Class. Electric Lodge. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams.** Singer/songwriter. Live Music. Danny's Deli. No Cover.

Thursday, April 11

- 6-8pm - **Matt Wedel: Sheep's Head and Charles Garabedian:re:GENERATION.** Art Opening. L.A. LOUVER. 45 N. Venice Blvd. Free.
- 6pm-8pm - **Tourist** by Jow. Art exhibition. Marine Contemporary. 1733-A Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.



Saturday, April 13

- 11-6pm - **Venice Beach Surf & Skate Fest.** Live music, food, vendors, historic exhibits and modern displays. Venice Farmer's Market Lot. 2150 Dell Ave. Free.
- 7pm - **Joram Roukes and Bayo.** Art opening. C.A.V.E. Gallery. 1108 Abbot Kinney. Free.
- 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica.** Live music. Talking Stick. No Cover.
- 8pm - **National Poetry Month: Live Nude Poets.** Featuring Eloise Klein Healy L.A.'s first Poet Laureate. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, April 15

- 7-10:30pm - **MoZaic Open Mic.** Open to all. Talking Stick. No Cover.

Tuesday, April 16

- 7-10pm - **VNC Board Meeting.** Always open to the public. Westminster School Auditorium. Free.

Sunday, April 21

- 10-3pm - **CicLAvia.** Venice Blvd. closed off to cars from Downtown to Venice. Walk, skate, play and ride a bike. Activities along the route. Free.

Monday, April 22

- **Earth Day.** Be kind to Mother Earth!

Thursday, April 25

- 10:30-11am - **Kid's Sing-Along.** Cow's End. 34 Washington Boulevard. Free.
- 8pm - **King Lear.** Play. Pacific Resident Theatre. Suggested \$15 Donation.
- 8pm - **Comedy at the Canal Club.** 2025 Pacific Ave. Free.

Friday, April 26

- 7pm - **Subversive Cinema.** Political and Avant Garda Films. Buddy's Mission. 835 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 10:30pm - **Annual Grunion Party** - Breakwater at the end of Windward. Bring the kids. Organized by the Venice Oceanarium.

Saturday, April 27

- 3:30-9pm - **Give Hugs Comedy Film Festival.** Shorts, sketches, web series and animation. Electric Lodge. Kids showcase \$5, teens showcase \$7, adult showcase \$10.
- 4pm - **The Holy Barbarians: The Beat Scene in Los Angeles, 1950-2013.** Poetry readings by Beat, Post Beat Los Angeles and Venice Beats. Beyond Baroque. \$10 General Admission, \$6 Students & Seniors, Members Free

Sunday, April 28

- 2-4pm - **Tom Farrell's Student Showcase.** Live music by students ranging from ages 5 to 17. Talking Stick. No Cover.

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to free@venicebeachhead.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

- 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 comics, musicians. 212 Pier. Free. Thursday nights.
- 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday: **Music at Uncle Darrow's.** 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends.** Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Thursday nights. Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 9-11:30am - Free theater reading series for senior citizens with PRT theater artists. Second tuesday of the month. Pacific Resident Theater.
- 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, vegetables, 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 original poesía, cuento, música, pintura. First Saturdays. Beyond Baroque Library. Free.

POLITICAL AWARENESS

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

