

Inside:

- Letters - 2
- Election, Joseph Baruch - 3
- Japanese-Am. Memorial - 4
- Highway to Heaven - 5
- Tsunamis, Women - 6
- Larry Bell - 7
- Swami - 8
- Poetry - 9
- Nukes - 10
- Calendar - 11
- Tabors - 12



April
2011
#354

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Post Office Sale? Disruption at Vera Davis Center



By Jim Smith

The U.S. Post Office is considering selling its historic building on the Venice Circle, according to a spokesperson for the government agency.

Richard J. Maher, press spokesperson, says a decision has not yet been made and that the community will be given input before anything is finalized. He says the current operation will be moved to the Annex building at 313 Grand Avenue. The old Safeway grocery building on the site would be remodeled to accommodate both public and carrier activities.

Meanwhile, letters commenting on the proposed sale can be sent to the U.S. Post Office, Consumer Affairs Office, 7001 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90052-9631.

When the Hermosa Beach Post Office was on the closure list last year, residents sent 4,000 emails to Post Office officials and Member of Congress Jane Harman. The Post Office was saved and Harman pledged that no other facilities would be closed in her district (see details at <http://bit.ly/i0TkFs>). She resigned on Feb. 28 and an election is underway to choose a successor. Readers may want to ask candidates for a similar pledge before choosing one.

The Post Office was built in 1939 as part of the federal Works Projects Administration (WPA). It has historic status, said Maher. The reason for the sale is a budget shortfall in the federal operation. "We are doing everything we can to tighten the belt," he added.

The previous Post Office was at 310-312 Venice Way. That building is a good example of what can happen without historical protection. The art deco facade that made the building unique was destroyed a few years ago.

If the current Post Office has historical protection, a new owner would not be allowed to alter it. However, it could be used for commercial or office facilities. It's unclear what would happen to the historic mural in the lobby that was created by Edward Biberman in 1941.

PEOPLE WIN:
Westminster Keeps
Its Classrooms

By Greta Cobar

Green Dot will not open a sixth-grade charter school on the Westminster Elementary School campus, according to an email sent out by Karen Brown, Westminster Avenue Elementary Principal.

Thanks to this decision Westminster will not lose its library, parent resource center, science and art rooms. According to Proposition 39, an education initiative approved by voters in 2000, charter schools can move onto public school grounds and occupy rooms not used as classrooms.

The Venice Neighborhood Council's (VNC) Education Committee held a public meeting on March 12 to discuss the issue of "co-location" on the elementary school campus. Over 80 concerned parents, teachers and volunteers came out to voice their concerns, most of them speaking against the establishment of the charter school. Concerns centered around losing rooms critical to the school's programs and progress, technicalities such as a

—continued on page 8

Vera Davis Center
Faces Uncertain Future

Community organizations that service low income residents in Oakwood from offices in the Vera Davis McClendon Youth and Family Center at 610 California Avenue are worried that they are about to lose their happy home.

They learned only on March 28 that the building, which was the old Venice library, was being transferred from the jurisdiction of the Community Development Department, which serves the poor, to the Cultural Affairs Department.

Currently, there are six organizations at the Center. They are the Latino Resource Organization, Venice 2000, Venice Bulldogs, Venice Arts and the Mildred Cursh Foundation. In addition, it is the site of popular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, plus regular food distributions, free computer access and food stamp applications, all of which may have to relocate if the building is taken over by Cultural Affairs.

The change of purpose is being done without any community meetings or announcements to the community, although apparently at least two officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council were informed but did not pass on the information. Several demands for community input have been made to Cultural Affairs.



LIBYA:
64 Bombing Casualties

AFGHANISTAN:
1,514 U.S. Dead - 29 this month

IRAQ:
4,441 U.S. Dead - 2 this month
32,992 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: Up to 1.4 million •
Cost of wars: \$1.1+ trillion

costofwar.com • antiwar.com • icasualties.org

The Race Is On – For Congress

Eighteen candidates are running to replace Jane Harman as our Congressional Representative. Their political positions range from the Left to the Right, and far Right. Many of them will be sending you slick mailers every day between now and election day on May 17.

If no one gets more than 50 percent of the vote, which looks likely, the top two vote getters will go for another round to determine the final winner.

A candidates’ forum is planned by the Venice Neighborhood Council April 27th. 6:30 at Westminster Elementary.

Three of the candidates list a Venice mailing address. They are:

MICHAEL T. CHAMNESS, a Non-Profit Consultant who works at UCLA. Chamness is suing the Secretary of State, Debra Bowen, who is also running for this seat. Chamness objects to being identified as “No Party” when he is a member of the Coffee Party.

STEVE COLLETT is a Certified Public Accountant on Abbot Kinney Blvd. He is a Libertarian and is campaigning to legalize marijuana.

MARIA E. MONTANO is a Public School Teacher who teaches at Westchester High School. She immigrated from Mexico with her family and grew up in Venice. She is a Doctor of Education and the only Latina among the 18 candidates. She is also the only Peace and Freedom candidate.

Other candidates who have a relationship with Venice included:

DANIEL H. ADLER, a Parent/Entrepreneur/Producer who lists his address as Marina del Rey (but it’s really Venice). He is a Democrat.

DEBRA BOWEN is the current California Secretary of State who lives in the Oxford Triangle but is using a Torrance address in the campaign. She is a Democrat.

STEPHEN EISELE, a Businessman/Aerospace Entrepreneur, from the Marina is a Republican.

MATTHEW ROOZEE is listed as a Business Executive/Mathematician from the Marina. He has “No Party.”

JAMES L. THOMPSON calls himself Retired and is another “No Party” candidate from Mar Vista.

MARCY WINOGRAD is a High School Teacher whose office is in the Marina. She is a Democrat who ran against Jane Harman in 2006 and 2010,

Candidates from the South Bay, which is the other part of the district include:

PATRICK “KIT” BOBKO, an Independent Businessman/Councilmember in Hermosa Beach. He is a Republican.

MIKE GIN is the Mayor, City of Redondo Beach and a Republican.

JANICE HAHN is a Los Angeles City Council-woman who has her office in Torrance. She is a Democrat.

CRAIG HUEY, a Small Business Owner, from Rolling Hills Estates is a Republican. He is rumored to be prepared to spend \$1 million in the campaign.

GEORGE NEWBERRY is a Businessman from San Pedro, and a Republican.

KATHERINE PILOT is a Longshore Office Clerk from Hermosa Beach. She is a “No Party” candidate.

AL SALEHI lists himself as a Governing Boardmember/Entrepreneur from San Pedro. He is also “No Party.”

MIKE WEBB is the City Attorney/Prosecutor in Redondo Beach and also a Republican.

Congressional races have no residency requirement. That’s why **LORAIN GOODWIN** a Physician/Arbitrator/Teacher from Madera in the San Joachin Valley can run. She is a Democrat.

The front runners in the race will probably be Democrats Debra Bowen, Janice Hahn and Marcy Winograd, all of who have name recognition. Peace and Freedom candidate Maria Montañó may be a surprise vote getter as the only Latina and Spanish Surnamed candidate and by virtue of her professional credentials. Republicans Mike Gin, Craig Huey, and Mike Webb will be vying with each other to be the leading Republican vote getter in anticipation of re-districting which may split the district north and south, making the South Bay district more friendly to Republicans.

If you have internet access, go to <http://bit.ly/dRr10C> to see the list of candidates and their websites where they will tell you why you should vote for them. 🚲

Joseph Baruch, Finjan Cafe Owner



Joseph, Venice Beach regular, one time owner of Finjan Cafe on Ocean Front Walk and sometimes known as Vince’s only resident oud and dumbek master passed away on February 1st, just a few days before his 82nd birthday.

He was born February 9, 1929 in Baghdad, Iraq. He moved with his family to Israel in the 1950s, met and married Phyllis while she was visiting in Israel and in 1957 moved to London. He had difficulties there and returned to Israel shortly afterwards.

He separated and divorced from Phyllis in the mid-60s, eventually moving to Venice and later opening Finjan Cafe on Ocean Front Walk, serving Falafel and other mid-East and Israeli specialties. He could regularly be seen there entertaining customers and passers by on Dumbek, a mid-Eastern drum or playing oud, often for belly dancers.

After he gave up the cafe, he was still on Ocean Front Walk almost daily, selling, bartering, playing music and sometimes flirting with the women.

His is survived by his son Richard (Susan), grandchildren Hannah and Benjamin, by his daughter Susan (Jon) Carp and sister Flora.

Please leave comments, and see the remembrance and photos posted at <http://josephbaruch.wordpress.com/>

– Stan Strom



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Recognizing A Tragedy: 69 Years Later

It has been nine long years since a small group of Venetians came together to call attention to a terrible wrong that had been committed in our community. On April 25, 1942, approximately 1,000 Japanese-Americans living in Venice, Santa Monica and surrounding farms were required to report to Lincoln and Venice Blvds. with only what few belongings they could carry. They were put in buses that took them to a concentration camp called Manzanar in the high desert.

Shortly after the destruction of New York City's World Trade Center, on Sept. 11, 2001, there was a rising hysteria in the country against Arabs; indeed, anyone who looked like he or she might be Arab, was in danger of verbal and even physical assault. The signing into law of the Patriot Act on Oct. 26, 2001, took away many rights to privacy, allowed home searches without a court order and indefinite detention, among other things. Civil liberties hadn't been so threatened since 1942, when more than 120,000 Japanese in the western United States, two-thirds of who were citizens, were rounded-up and taken to concentration camps.

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by a paranoid Japanese empire. On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order "excluding" the Japanese - citizens and immigrants - from the western states. The concentration camps soon followed. On Feb. 24, 1942, the Battle of Los Angeles was "fought." Jittery sky watchers sounded the alarm that night of an invading air raid from Japan. It turned out to be nothing, a weather balloon or a UFO, but the nighttime sky was lit up over the basin with countless artillery barrages.

The jitters turned to hostility which turned to racism against the quiet but hard-working Japanese-Americans in Venice and elsewhere. On April 25, 1942, a coastal-wide operation, including Venice, sent 120,000 Japanese to the camps. It was overseen by Lt. Gen. J.L. DeWitt, who said: "A Jap is a Jap and it makes no difference whether citizen or not. I'm not worried about the Germans or Italians but we will worry about the Japs until they are wiped off the face of the earth."

Japanese-Americans had played an important role in the economy and society of Venice. At the time, it was surrounded by farmland, much of which was owned by Japanese, who grew produce including celery, beans, cabbage and lettuce. In addition to farming, Japanese were involved in a variety of businesses and occupations, including gardening, florists, restaurants, dry cleaners and concessions on the pier. Most Japanese-Americans, like Germans and Italians on the east coast, were fiercely loyal to the United States. But unlike those Europeans, they were viewed with suspicion by some government and military officials.

Even before the war, Japanese immigrants couldn't become citizens or own land. Most farms and other property were held in the names of their U.S. born children. Asians and whites couldn't intermarry in California until 1948.

According to Arnold Maeda, who was 15 years old when he reported with his family to Venice and



After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, FBI director Herbert Hoover convinced President Roosevelt that the Japanese-American citizens living along the West Coast might be disloyal. They were given only a few days notice to sell their farms, homes, and belongings at fire sale prices. In April 1942, more than 1000 Japanese-American citizens living on the west side of Los Angeles assembled at the corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. They were 'evacuated' to detention camps in remote areas of California and Wyoming for the duration of World War II.

—Jeffrey Stanton, Venice, California: Coney Island of the Pacific 227

Lincoln, others taken away on the bus, who are still living in the area include Jim Sukuhara, Amy Takahashi Ioki, Kazumi Kishi Tatsumi, Koko Tsutsumiuchi Matsui, Mae Kageyama Kakehashi, the Nakagiri family, Nori Kuroyama, Yosh and George Nojima, Nob Kamibayashi and his sister Shizue Kamiyashi Kiyohiro.

Also from Venice and Ocean Park: Mike Kusaba, Glenn Tomita, Kageyama siblings: Frank, Mae Kakehashi, Mary (Songbird of Manzanar) Nomura; Nishi sisters: Kiyo Tanaka, Miyo, Nancy and Aya; George Nojima, Nakagiri siblings: Shig, Jane Shintani, June Akioka; Kazie Nagai, Sam Ono, Toy Ioki Sato and brother Sus Ioki.

"There are many others but I'd be guessing," says Maeda.

It was probably hardest on the children who were taken out of their schools, including Venice High, Florence Nightengale Elementary (now Anchorage), Martha Washington (now Westminster), as well as schools in Santa Monica and Malibu.

There was no bus ride home from the camps in the Fall of 1945. After three and a half years in the camps, the incarcerated were given \$25 to make their way home.

Maeda's father went home and got his pickup which was being cared for by a

Attend the Ground-breaking Ceremony, April 25 at Venice and Lincoln Blvds.

On April 25, at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards, a "groundbreaking" ceremony has been planned for 10 a.m. to celebrate the progress of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker committee. The VJAMM committee invites interested members of the community to join Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, former internees of the War Relocation Authority camp at Manzanar and members of the VJAMM at the unveiling of the proposed memorial marker design and the proposed plaque text.

neighbor. He made many trips back to Manzanar to pick up people and their belongings and bring them back to Southern California.

Many Japanese had lost their farms and homes during the intervening three and a half years.

There was an exodus to Orange County and the Oxnard area. Farm land rapidly became housing tracts that enriched the new and mostly white owners. ☸

Manzanar Concentration Camp

Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada in California's Owens Valley. At its peak 11,000 Japanese Americans were held there.



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“Highway to Heaven” or “Roadmap to Hell?”

By Jim Smith

On March 22 the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) took another stab at addressing the biggest controversy in our community in recent years – RVs and homelessness. Some outraged voices maintain that the treatment of those living in their vehicles by the L.A. Council office and by the Los Angeles Police Department amounts to a human disaster for the poor. Others object to the presence of RVs anywhere in Venice and blame the occupants for criminal behavior.

Advocates of compassionate treatment of homeless people and RV live-aboards were given an unequal playing field at the council meeting. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and his chief-of-staff, Mike Bonin, both of whom seem to have catered to those who want the homeless removed, were given unlimited time to present their arguments, as were representatives of “People Assisting The Homeless,” (PATH) including its Chief Executive Officer Joel Roberts and others.

When “the public” got to speak, they only got one minute each, not enough time to present a cogent argument in opposition to the plan, now dubbed “Roadmap to Housing.”

The next day, the same scene repeated itself, although in miniature form, at the Los Angeles City Hall building, which is about 18 miles to the east. A handful of pro and con Venetians managed the trip to the City’s Transportation Committee, where they were rewarded with a whole two minutes of speaking time. Nothing much happened except that Rosendahl asked the assistant city attorney to take language out of the proposed “Roadmap” ordinance about legal parking on the streets because the anti-homeless residents didn’t like it. Another meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on April 13.

For the past several months, the LAPD has been implementing Councilmember Bill Rosendahl’s “carrot and stick” approach which includes citing RVs for vehicle and parking infractions, banging on their RVs in the middle of the night, making threats of arrest if they re-



main in Venice, as well as towing their vehicles to a San Fernando Valley storage yard where the nearly indigent are charged around \$800 to reclaim their vehicle/home. Some have called this a “streets to jail” program.

As a result, the number of RVs in Venice has shrunk from more than 200 according to a survey last July to around 20 today. This reduces the number of potential participants in the “Roadmap” program, which is now designed to accommodate only eight vehicles at each of Rosendahl’s two offices, one in West L.A. and one in Westchester.

Even residents who do not live in their RVs report harassment and unfair ticketing of their vehicles. One couple in central Venice who use their RV daily to go to work have found tickets on it for parking in one place for 72 hours when the actual time parked was between eight and nine hours.

In addition, new signs have sprouted up on streets around Venice that prohibit vehicle taller than seven feet or longer than 22 feet from parking from 2 - 6 am. This restriction of access was done without Coastal Commission approval.

Some of the RV live-aboards, harassed on all sides, have exchanged their large vehicle/homes for vans, pickups with camper shells and other cars that are not too tall or too long.

The subject of the VNC meeting was a new proposal from Rosendahl for a “Roadmap to Housing” program, formerly called “streets to homes.” Initially, it included provisions for some legalized street parking but was modified after complaints from anti-RV residents. It now includes only the two office sites outside of Venice.

Some anti-homeless residents had been vocal during the past several years about Santa Monica “dumping” its homeless on Venice. None of them objected to Venice RVs being “dumped” on West Los

Angeles or Westchester.

Opposition to the “Roadmap” and accompanying 85.11 ordinance came from RV live-aboards and supporters who said that the program would remove the poor from Venice. None of the housing being sought for live-aboards is in Venice, apparently. Nor is there much of an outreach program to local landlords to sign on to the program even though it can give them a guaranteed rent payment. Also called to the VNC’s attention by several speakers was the alleged misuse of the public Venice Area Surplus Real Property Fund, which is to be used only in Venice.

The arguments seemed to have an effect on the Board, which had been prepared to vote in favor of the “Roadmap.” In the end, no vote was taken. Another meeting will be held in April.

About 85 people packed the meeting. Attendance slowly dwindled during the three and a half hour marathon. One of those staying to the bitter end was Rosendahl.

Chairperson Linda Lucks maintained her streak of throwing a stakeholder out of each meeting. This time it was Ocean Front Walk vendor, Mark Herd, who was apparently too impassioned in his one-minute comparison of the treatment and removal of the poor to the 19th century treatment of Native Americans and to the Nazis’ treatment of Jews. His expulsion was the only action seen by any of the 18 LAPD officers who stood in the back of the room for the first two hours. Their presence added more than \$2,000 to the cost of the meeting and lessened the number of cops on patrol in Venice.

Problems with the “Roadmap to Housing” program

1. It increases gentrification of Venice to the detriment of the poor and working people.
2. It is at least two years too late to resolve the RV parking issue without dividing Venice.
3. Its housing component takes long-time residents out of their community.
4. It is paid for out of a fund which by ordinance can only be spent in Venice.

This “roadmap” is part of a larger city effort to rid Venice of those who are forced to live in their cars. At least one-third of RV live-aboards previously had an apartment in Venice, according to a survey by St. Joseph’s Center.

A major part of the reason for a growing vehicle-as-a-home phenomenon is Rosendahl’s failure, and that of his colleagues on the L.A. City Council, to lobby the legislature to repeal or modify the anti-rent control Costa-Hawkins Act, which prohibits vacancy control of rental units. As a result of exorbitant rents, a growing number of Venetians have found it necessary to live in vehicles or even the streets.

Growing hostility toward those without fixed addresses from some homeowners and some of those still able to pay their rents has played into the hands of developers and city officials who want to divide Venice. A number of Venetians have met with Rosendahl and his staff during the last several years to urge him to create a program in which those living in RVs could be safe from individual and police harassment.

They have suggested to him numerous lots and streets away from residences without result. Mean-



Mark Herd being ejected from VNC meeting

while, through Rosendahl’s notorious “carrot and stick” program, he has encouraged the police to become involved in a social issue that has taken them away from fighting crime, e.g. robberies, break-ins, assaults and murders. He has let the divisions in Venice fester while trying to increase city revenue with overnight pay parking schemes which most Venice residents did not want, but had to spend two years defeating.

Now, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a public agency, has been given \$750,000 by Rosendahl and the Council to implement the “Roadmap” program. LAHSA subcontracted to People Assisting The Homeless (PATH), a nonprofit group, and gave it \$650,000 (What did LAHSA do that allowed it to take a \$100,000 cut?).

Joel Roberts, the CEO of PATH, says that permanent housing is the goal of this program. This is a laudable goal, particularly if it is coupled with public assistance, jobs, health care and educational opportunities. However, there is no emphasis in Robert’s approach, nor in the entire “Roadmap,” to assisting vehicle live-aboards in their own community. For many potential “clients” in this program, occupying a Section 8 housing unit in the San Fernando Valley, or other distant location, means being torn away from their friends, their neighborhood, and indeed, all that is familiar to them. If this program is to be successful it must include an active effort by the Council office and by PATH to contact Venice landlords and get them to agree to provide at least one Section 8 housing unit. With enough effort, sufficient housing units surely can be found right here in Venice.

Misappropriation of Public Funds?

Finally, the majority of the funding for the entire “Roadmap” program is illegal. The Venice Area Surplus Real Property Fund can only be used within Venice. None of the major expenditures of this program take place here. PATH does not have an office in Venice. It’s staff are not from Venice. The parking lots under consideration for RVs are not in Venice. And now, because of aggressive policing, most of the RVs are no longer in Venice.

In short, little or none of the activities or expenditures fall under the definition of legitimate use of the Fund. Yet, \$450,000 has been appropriated to LAHSA for a program that largely takes place outside of Venice <<http://bit.ly/b26FiD>>.

The “Roadmap” can by no stretch of the imagination be considered to be “generally within the Venice Area,” as defined in the ordinance. The Fund is also known as Los Angeles Administrative Code, Section 5.121. See Sidebar for its exact language.

Further evidence of the Venice Fund misappropriation is contained in the draft 85.11 ordinance itself. It refers not to Venice or the Venice Area but to the 11th Council District as a whole, a clear misuse of the Fund.

The draft ordinance states in section C:

(6) In order to qualify for eligibility to enroll in the Roadmap to Housing Program, a person must establish one of the following conditions:

- (i) The person resided in a vehicle in the **Eleventh Council District** as of July 20, 2010; or*
- (ii) The person resided in a dwelling, not a vehicle, in the **Eleventh Council District** as of the effective date of this Section and later became homeless and forced to reside in a vehicle.*

In summary, the “Roadmap” and the draft ordinance, 85.11, both show misappropriation of public funds, to wit, the Venice Area Surplus Real Property Fund. ☸

ARTICLE 5

VENICE AREA SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY FUND

Sec. 5.121. Creation and Use of Fund.

All net proceeds collected from the sales of real properties located in the Venice area of the City of Los Angeles and such grant funds as approved by the City Council, shall be placed in a trust fund to be known as the “**Venice Area Surplus Real Property Fund**,” which fund is hereby created and which fund shall be used for the purposes as set forth hereafter.

1. The “**Venice Area**” is hereby defined and described as being that portion of the City of Los Angeles bounded northwesterly by the common boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the City of Los Angeles, northeasterly by the center line of Lincoln Boulevard, southeasterly and northeasterly by the City boundary adjacent to the county’s “**Marina del Rey**,” southeasterly by the entrance channel of the “**Marina del Rey**” and southwesterly by the last natural mean high-tide line of the Pacific Ocean.

2. “**Surplus Real Property**” is defined as those parcels of real property owned by the City of Los Angeles and neither dedicated to public use, such as recreation and park use or public street use, nor permanently devoted to some public use.

3. “**Net proceeds**” shall mean the gross sale price received for a parcel of real property minus escrow charges, title policy charges, appraisal charges, advertising costs, and any and all other costs and expenses attributable to conducting the sale and/or leading up to the sale of the property.

4. Upon adoption of a resolution by the City Council, the net proceeds from the sale of any of the properties mentioned above shall be devoted exclusively to capital or non-capital projects or purchases generally within the “Venice Area” for purposes which will be of benefit to citizens of the City of Los Angeles or tourists to the Venice Beach area.

5. The Fund shall be administered by the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Financial Management and Personnel Services, in accordance with the prior approval by the City Council pursuant to Subdivision 4. of this Section.

Are you safe from a Tsunami on Abbot Kinney Blvd.? Not Hardly!



This sign is here



How Can They Screw Up Something As Simple As Tsunami Signs?

The City of L.A. is doing us a favor by posting more Tsunami warning signs. Problem is, they're inaccurate, and possibly dangerous.

This sign on Abbot Kinney Blvd. is right in the middle of the Tsunami Evacuation Area, according to a city of Los Angeles publication (see above).

Other signs near Lincoln Blvd. claim that you're leaving the hazard zone when that might not be true.

Yet to appear are signs where the most tourists congregate, on Ocean Front Walk.

The Japan Tsunami last month went as much as six miles inland. In comparison, the San Diego Free-way is only 3.6 miles from the beach.

No one knows how fierce a Tsunami would be if it struck Santa Monica Bay. In 1958, a Tsunami 1700 feet tall hit Lituya Bay, Alaska. The Japanese waves topped out at 23 feet.

Matthew Hornbach, a researcher at the University of Texas says that Southern California Tsunamis

may be more frequent - and dangerous - than previously thought. That's because submarine landslides can, and have, triggered some of the world's most destructive Tsunamis. The ocean topography off our coast can lend itself to underwater slides.

Perhaps L.A. would do better to stop guessing, and urge Venetians and tourists to seek higher ground. The Fourth Street hill, north of Rose Avenue is the closest high ground. A safe haven can also be found north and east of the intersection of Rose Avenue and Walgrove Avenue.

Experts say that if you don't have time to reach high ground, go to the upper stories of a building. Even climbing a sturdy tree can save lives. 🚲

International Women's Day Celebrated in Venice

By Mary Getlein

On March 8 there was a gathering of women and men at 533 Rialto Avenue to celebrate International Women's Day. The purpose was to celebrate women and to receive a proclamation from the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa. Bill Rosendahl read the proclamation out loud and presented the proclamation to Yolanda Miranda, who received it with enthusiasm.

After that there were speeches, songs, poems and a sharing of stories about the women who came before us. There was an abundance of food, provided by Tamara's Tamales and individual contributions.

The room was filled with bright, happy women. Everyone was dressed in bright colors with paper flowers pinned to their clothes, or worn in their hair. The table was filled with tamales, beans and rice, fruit salad and lasagna. It was a happy occasion to mark the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day.

The Day also commemorates the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911, where young, immigrant

women were locked into the factory and couldn't escape the fire. The doors were always locked so union organizers could get in to talk to the women. Many of the women attempted to escape the fire by jumping out the windows, and fell to their death. All those young women, with all their hopes and dreams, were destroyed by the greed of the factory owners, who escaped the fire by making it to the roof. This incident brought about needed change and the push for worker safety laws.

It was an evening of sharing and laughter. It was a diverse crowd of women and men from many different backgrounds, Latinas, Romanians, Gypsies, African-Americans and Venetians. So many women and men came to hear stories and songs, speeches, to look at art and enjoy themselves. It was so good to see old friends and make new ones. Everyone was relaxed and very friendly.

Suzy Williams and Stephanie Valdez sang wonderful, funny songs together. Yolanda Miranda read the Sojourner Truth poem "Ain't I A Woman?" Suzy Williams acted as an M.C., and honored various

women around the room for their contributions to the Venice community. Hillary Kaye had made crowns of flowers and pipe cleaners, and Suzy used them to crown the women with. Hillary Kaye gave away magnets and matchbooks she had made, celebrating 100 years of Women's Rights. Lisa Green helped with the cooking and also led a prayer for women and the planet. She had everyone hold hands while she prayed for bringing healing back to Gaia, Planet Earth. Mimi Bogale brought her beautiful oil paintings to grace the event.

Maria Montano announced her candidacy for Jane Harman's seat in Congress. She is running as the Peace and Freedom Party candidate. She talked of growing up in Venice, and the effect of poverty and budget cuts on the young students she currently teaches in the L.A. Unified School District.

Alice Stek spoke of the challenges of being a doctor and working as an OB/GYN with HIV/AIDS mothers and children. She said in fourteen years she had never had to treat a baby born with HIV/AIDS, which is an amazing record.

Kathy Leonardo sang funny, sarcastic songs about men. Yvonne Guzman talked about feeding the homeless and helping people get into shelters. Carole Tantau talked about working as a domestic violence activist. She said she speaks three languages: English, Spanish and "Cop". She has had many occasions of getting a phone call in the middle of the night, and having to go out and talk to an abused woman and convince her to go to a shelter. She also runs Just Tantau, her store on Abbot Kinney Boulevard.

The event was conceived by Yolanda Miranda, who came from Utah to help organize it. She and her steering committee (Mimi Bogale, Greta Cobar, Lisa Green, Ivonne Guzman, Hillary Kaye, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Maria Montano, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams and Fabiola Wright) helped organize a wonderful night of celebration, songs and stories about important women in our community. All these women, with their many different gifts and talents, came together to know each other and to celebrate. We all acknowledged that there is a lot that could be changed and improved, but there is still a lot to celebrate.

Rebecca Frye ended the program by singing "We Shall Overcome", and the whole room sang it with her. 🚲



Left to right: Mimi Bogale, Lisa Green, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Yolanda Miranda, Maria E. Montaño, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams, Hillary Kaye.

WHO IN THE HEAVEN IS LARRY BELL?

By CJ Gronner

Renowned artist, Larry Bell, is a true Venice treasure. His profile, with hat and signature cigar, has been sighted all over town for decades, and is now the inspiration behind a new neighborhood hang about to open at the corner of Windward and Speedway, the aptly named “Larry’s” (Currently featuring a sign outside reading “Who in the Heaven is Spanto? [sic]”, which used to say “Larry” until someone graffiti’d over it with the name of our dearly departed friend, Sponto).



I got the chance to sit down and chat with Mr. Bell the other day in his Market Street art studio, and discover that he’s even cooler than I already thought he was. Surrounded by his beautiful works of art, both finished and in progress, we sat and talked about his Venice, then and now.

Bell was born in Chicago in 1939, and moved to L.A. with his family at the age of five. He always had an interest in art and music, and thought he’d get into animation over at Disney. As part of his art school (Chouinard Art Institute) curriculum, he had to study painting, which soon became his focus ... to the extent that now his painting and sculptures can be seen



in museums all around the world - and in his big, well-lit Venice studio, where he likes to “meet the people who want to own my stuff.”

At 19, Bell moved to Venice ... “because it was cheap.” At that time, it was full of empty storefronts and considered dangerous, so he was able to secure his studio space for a mere \$70 a month. Perfect for aspiring artists. A group of about 6 to 10 people started from scratch what became a true community of artists, and put Venice on the map as an art destination. Much of the gang became “The Cool School” (see the documentary of the same name to really get it), and gained fame worldwide. As we spoke about his work, Bell told me that “I’m interested in creating images I haven’t seen before ... It’s an organic cycle, I’m not in control, I’m more like the middle man.” Interesting, as I’ve heard guitarist Leo Kottke say about the same thing, and it was then that I noticed Bell’s 12-string guitar standing by. He claims to only noodle on it, but I have a feeling he’s being overly humble, considering the concentration he seems to apply to everything.

In 1972, Bell “fell in love with a beautiful girl, and wanted to get her away from the competition,” so he moved with her to Taos, New Mexico, where he traded his art for his new property. The marriage ultimately split up, and it was time to return to Venice. By some strange stroke of kismet, his exact same studio space was open and available on Market Street, unchanged and ready for him to get to work. He had built the doors on the front wall himself, in order to get large pieces and equipment in and out easier, and all remained intact. The only thing that changed was the Venice outside the doors.

About that, Bell says, “Venice inherited a mystique about being a creative place, which is extraordinary because it IS ... Nothing lasts, and Venice is an organic, changing place, and you can’t stop that or it’s Knott’s Berry Farm.” The place remains special, and will always draw people because of, “The AIR! The ionized air from the sea ... the weather is perfect here all the time” (Well ... it certainly was the day we were talking). He also finds special that there isn’t high-density housing at the beach. It’s still mostly individual homes and small apartment buildings, adding to the neighborhood vibe. We talked about cityhood for Venice, which he doesn’t think possible for just the basic economic facts, like who would pay the cops, firemen, etc ... and added, “The best way to protect the funky edge of Venice is to get it historical status.” Hmm ... an interesting idea, for sure.

In the years that Bell lived in Taos, he would always stay at the Marina Pacific Hotel when in Venice. He became fast friends with the owner, Erwin Sokol, and when the Marina Pacific became the Hotel Erwin a couple of years ago, Bell not only moved in, but helped design the lighting, and each room in the Erwin now contains a work by Larry Bell. He was invited to the hotel meetings to offer his input on various issues, and when the time came for Mr. Sokol to open a bar/restaurant in the ideal, hotel-adjacent location of Windward and Speedway, they all met to discuss possible names. Bell offered up “Altoon’s” (after John Altoon, a fellow Venice artist in the 50’s and 60’s, who lived nearby and died in 1969) as his choice, but was out-voted by the eventual winner - “Larry’s”.

Bell drew the self-portrait in hat and cigar for the neon sign, and his paintings are featured inside. He also made a list of Venice artists, past and present, to be a mural on the outside wall of Larry’s - honoring the people and art that has made Venice the place that it is - wearing the very heart of Venice on its sleeve. I spoke to owner, Erwin Sokol, and he hopes that Larry’s will be open for business in the next couple of months, as they’re sorting out



the Chef/kitchen part of it all now. It now looks like Larry’s will be open to greet the Summer along with the rest of us, and I can’t wait to watch Venice roll by as we sit on the patio and appreciate it all from the namesake spot of one of our coolest residents.

As we were wrapping up our time together, Bell’s son, Oliver, and beloved American Bulldog, Pinky, came back from a walk, and we all turned our attention to that sweet dog. Market Street was abuzz outside, with people getting ready for the Art Crawl, and soaking up the warm afternoon sunshine. Bell walked me out, and as we said our goodbyes, he saw a girl sitting in the next doorway, headphones on, a million miles away. Bell held out his arms and said, “Look, beautiful girls sitting in doorways, on a beautiful day ...”

There was nothing else for me to say but, “We’re lucky people.” He turned and smiled rakishly, “Yes, we sure are.” ☺



**GET THE NEWS
BEFORE IT HAPPENS
IN THE
FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD
–Become a Sustainer today.**



Last month, the Free Venice Beachhead featured this Tsunami art by Marina Valentina. The issue appeared ten days before the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami struck on March 11.



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SWAMI X SPEAKS



High Clues

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

All there is is NOW
So why am I concerned with where, when and how
Enough to know the latest name for God is O Wow
Know ye not that ye are Gods, so why not take a bow

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

To suggest that someone has no sense of humor is akin to
accusing them of being Unamerican, whatever the hell that might mean.
A valid, relevant sense of humor is founded on a well
informed intellect, a compassionate love for life and people and a
gentle philosophy which unfolds a suspense of judgment,
greater understanding and deeper awareness for the mystery and
magic of life.

PEOPLE WIN:

Westminster Keeps Its Classrooms & Garden

—continued from page 1

kindergartener sharing bathroom facilities with a middle-school student and a lack of trust in the promises of the Charter school.

The issue was brought up again during the March 15 VNC monthly meeting, and the board unanimously voted to endorse a resolution requesting that Westminster Elementary School students and teachers not be adversely affected by the proposed Charter school. Brought to the council by Venice resident and Westminster volunteer Sue Kaplan, the resolution asked that “the integrity of neighborhood schools be prioritized.”

Defeating Green Dot’s attempt to co-locate Animo Westside Charter School on the campus of Westminster Elementary was a community effort that once again proved the strength of Venice as a neighborhood standing against big for-profit organizations. Venetians chose public education provided by unionized teachers involving the neigh-

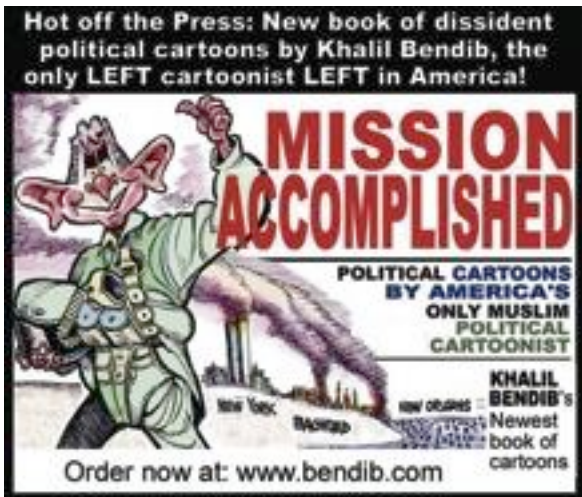
borhood children as opposed to allowing a for-profit organization (disguised as non-profit) funded by donations from politically motivated and biased organizations including The Walton Foundation (owners of Wal Mart), Eli Broad and Charles Schwab to move into the neighborhood.

Charter schools require students to apply for admission, a process that usually involves writing an essay. Although students are then accepted based on a lottery system, certain groups of students (such as English learners and Special Education students) are discouraged from applying in order to raise test scores. Although studies have failed to show that charter school students perform better than public school students on standardized tests, charter school wealthy business leaders have not hesitated to use their dirty business tricks to try to raise those test scores. For example, the Los Angeles Board of Education is in the process of trying to close six Crescendo charter schools after the schools’ founder, John Allen, allegedly instructed teachers to open sealed state tests and teach students based on the tests.

Another difference between charter and public schools is that charter school attendance is open to students from all over the country and is not limited to the immediate neighborhood, as is the case with public schools. Furthermore, charters often push out students who have discipline problems or parents who can’t volunteer time at the school. Teachers’ unions in charter schools have no bargaining power, having no say over their wages and working conditions.

Coby Dahlstrom, Westminster parent and booster club president, addressed the audience during the March 12 meeting and said that “LAUSD’s budget cuts do not allow the schools to operate.” Her statement resonates much truth, especially with the extremely limited resources the district will have to operate under during the next school year. Almost 7000 teachers and counselors will be laid off, class sizes will increase, and classroom supplies will be non-existent unless Governor Jerry Brown’s tax rise extensions will be approved by voters in June.

Congratulations to the Venice community for driving away Green Dot’s questionable tactics considering LAUSD’s poor reputation and grim future. Despite having no access to an ideal choice, the lesser of the two evils prevailed. Just like anything else, our public education needs resources to be able to operate, and LAUSD cannot be expected to thrive in spite of the truly crippling budget under which it is forced to operate. ☸



Who Owns The Earth?

I am already buried at sea
No place else to be
Drifting and smiling under the
Cold green waves
My ancient Venice days
And ways - so long gone
Yet I linger on -
Between Ocean Park and
Venice Pier, where my
Happiest days were spent
And now I can’t afford
The rent! As far as my
Eyes can see, the ocean
Is still free, and offers
The final home, from which
I’ll never roam.

- Kitty’s (Bratton) Sunset View

She

She was standing on the outside
looking in
looking in at all the brightly colored windows
yellow in the night
Beautiful houses filled with beautiful people
Never known hunger or cold or loneliness
she didn’t know how she got there
to that point in her life -
How it all seemed for nothing
She had nothing to show for her life
She trod very lightly upon the earth
They called her: homeless
but the earth was her home
the sky was her ceiling
and it went on forever
She knew she would always be on the outside
She knew she would never be invited in
to the warm and brightly lighted caves they had made
but she still liked to look.

- Mary Getlein

Sponto

It’s not the safest of places
It’s not being famous
A collector of women and art
A teapot clock on a chain link lock
Next door to the waitress at Piccolo
Free pot, a sink, a stove
An alien on a throne

- Liv Zutphen

I Like

I like Pacific sunsets and twilight
the painted skyline as the sun fall West
silver moonlight among autumn breeze hours before
dawn

aroma of The Getty rose garden
as you walk through neo-classic style
admiring colours and textures of their petals

to close my eyes and hear the rolling of waves onto Aba-
lone Cove.
I especially like the receding of it,
like tires slowly moving over loose gravel

the touch of lovers naked
eraser thin nipples brushing against my back
parted lips seesawing the curve from shoulders to neck
anticipating what comes next

Loyalty
integrity and honor
but not the innocence of youth

Truth
great and mighty
never divided
-- Jasper Schubert

Sunbeams

If sunbeans were weapons of war, we would have had
solar energy centuries ago.

–George Porter, Nobel laureate in Chemistry
(Beachhead, May 1976)

Airdrop the sequel.

PaddLing Hard. Farwest is my heading. I’m shred-
ding my bestular.
so blessed with this life yes yes yesi
Always seem to find a sweet peace o mind when my
board n i cross the shoreline.
itsa fine frame o time, like tasting the sweetuLar sun-
shine
tapping the current, the reef, tapping the flow.
yesi! like droppin on a sik! phat bowl!
cranking the ranking bottom turn. eyes a burning. sun
is glaring,
offshore is blaring.
yearning the vertical snap, i n i attack without look-
ing back.
engaged ontha face o tha wave.
i create my space in this place of time riding on my
saline rhymes.
spraying rythm n style all the way down the line.

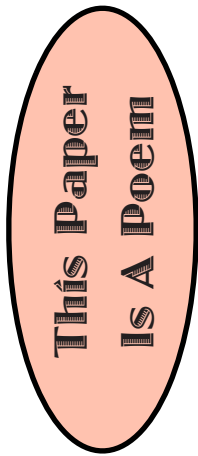
blessed so blessed.. got these rhymes in my chest.
yesi

- Jimmy Valentine

In Brief

By Jim Smith

me
you
love
sex
bliss
sleep
repeat



A thousand years and one summer.
Today . . .
The small wooden village church of my grandfather’s
childhood,
Engraved and embellished with a vibrant history of a
people,
Hidden behind rusting locks and angry steel beams,
Closed by government decree,
Condemned to the sound of silent bells.

Summer Sunday morning . . .
Pedestrians break the sanctioned stillness of Kiev,
Filing past the empty, cold market square
to the old woman’s house,
The criminals hide in her basement,
Men,
Women,
Children,
To pray before the makeshift altar,
Their tears calling on the spirit of Volodymyr the
Great
to baptize a captive nation with passionate faith.

Celebrating the secret millennium.

They pray . . .
In basements,
In catacombs,
As churches stand garish museums of the spoiler’s
culture,
The silent bells peal resonantly in their hearts.

-- Lynette

Walks with Brutus

By Aaron Reynauld

It smells like home
and we walk.
We walk, we walk.
It smells like childhood
it smells like fall.
Oh, fall!
One of my greatest loves lost.
It smells like a home,
one in a world of homes.
One of many places
I call home
And music plays
and we listen.
We listen, we listen.
All of the songs,
these notes,
the melodies.
Songs drive
and drift from windows.
They pour out of restaurants.
They are never separate,
but never whole.
These songs they drive us,
the guide us,
they walk with us.
Through the streets of Venice
we walk.
We walk, we walk.

America

By Murray Barnett

Look America, I’ve done as you asked.
I had my attic insulated to cut energy waste,
Sealed the windows to stop the drafts,
I even eat by candlelight.
I thought the electric company would be fair
And reduce the cost for the poor and desolate of the
land.
I didn’t expect conservation to be a deceitful practice.

Look America, I take the bus to go to work,
Bought a bicycle to do the shopping,
Traded my V* for an economy model
And joined a car-pool for my vacation.
I thought the oil company wouldn’t rejoice
And make a wind-fall out of my sacrifices.
I didn’t expect conservation to be a fraudulent prac-
tice.

Look America, I’ve planted vegetables in the front
lawn
And tend my little garden every day.
I didn’t expect dairies to pour their milk down the
sewer
To keep the prices high.
I thought conservation could be a noble purpose.

Look America, I see Death riding a pale-colored
horse
Across battle-lines drawn for your depleted resources.
And you, unmoved, as in the past, are busy
Selling what’s left to the highest bidder.

Look America, there was a time I trusted in you
And tried to believe that conservation
Was not a fast-buck practice.
Why does the passion for wealth
possess you?

(Beachhead, March 1976)

BOOK LAUNCHING
THE SELECTED POEMS AND PROSE OF JOHN THOMAS
BEYOND BAROQUE
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM

*“The best unread poet in America, John Thomas is the Iceman of the Arts, the in-
visible genius of American poetry. — Charles Bukowski, Poet*

*“By far the greatest underground poet in Los Angeles for the last 35, 40 years.
– Neeli Cherkovski, Poet*

Celebrate a major literary event of this year, the launching of the first comprehensive collection of the late Venice Beat Poet John Thomas’s THE SELECTED POEMS AND PROSE OF JOHN THOMAS published by Raven Productions-Press. Thomas often read at Beyond Baroque with his wife the late Poet-Laureate of Venice, Philomene Long. There will readings from John Thomas’s poetry, film and audio of John Thomas reading. Jim Smith will host. Readers include: Frank T. Rios, Bill Mohr, Harry Northup, Holly Prado, Pegarty Long, Mariano Zaro, Mariana Dietl, Marsha Getzler, Rain Dog, S.A. Griffin. Film by Pegarty Long.

Wine and refreshments. Free. Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd. • 310-822-3006

Nuclear Nightmare

By Ralph Nader

The unfolding multiple nuclear reactor catastrophe in Japan is prompting overdue attention to the 104 nuclear plants in the United States—many of them aging, many of them near earthquake faults, some on the west coast exposed to potential tsunamis.

Nuclear power plants boil water to produce steam to turn turbines that generate electricity. Nuclear power’s overly complex fuel cycle begins with uranium mines and ends with deadly radioactive wastes for which there still are no permanent storage facilities to contain them for tens of thousands of years.

Atomic power plants generate 20 percent of the nation’s electricity. Over forty years ago, the industry’s promoter and regulator, the Atomic Energy Commission estimated that a full nuclear meltdown could contaminate an area “the size of Pennsylvania” and cause massive casualties. You, the taxpayers, have heavily subsidized nuclear power research, development, and promotion from day one with tens of billions of dollars.

Because of many costs, perils, close calls at various reactors, and the partial meltdown at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania in 1979, there has not been a nuclear power plant built in the United States since 1974. Now the industry is coming back “on your back” claiming it will help reduce global warming from fossil fuel emitted greenhouse gases. Pushed aggressively by President Obama and Energy Secretary Chu, who refuses to meet with longtime nuclear industry critics, here is what “on your back” means:

1. Wall Street will not finance new nuclear plants without a 100% taxpayer loan guarantee. Too risky. That’s a lot of guarantee given that new nukes cost \$12 billion each, assuming no mishaps. Obama and the Congress are OK with that arrangement.
2. Nuclear power is uninsurable in the private insurance market—too risky. Under the Price-Anderson Act, taxpayers pay the greatest cost of a meltdown’s devastation.
3. Nuclear power plants and transports of radioactive wastes are a national security night-

mare for the Department of Homeland Security. Imagine the target that thousands of vulnerable spent fuel rods present for sabotage.

4. Guess who pays for whatever final waste repositories are licensed? You the taxpayer and your descendants as far as your gene line persists. Huge decommissioning costs, at the end of a nuclear plant’s existence come from the ratepayers’ pockets.

5. Nuclear plant disasters present impossible evacuation burdens for those living anywhere near a plant, especially if time is short.

Imagine evacuating the long-troubled Indian Point plants 26 miles north of New York City. Workers in that region have a hard enough time evacuating their places of employment during 5 pm rush hour. That’s one reason Secretary of State Clinton (in her time as Senator of New York) and Governor Andrew Cuomo called for the shutdown of Indian Point.

6. Nuclear power is both uneconomical and unnecessary. It can’t compete against energy conservation, including cogeneration, wind-power and ever more efficient, quicker, safer, renewable forms of providing electricity. Amory Lovins argues this point convincingly (see RMI.org). Physicist Lovins asserts that nuclear power “will reduce and retard climate protection.” His reasoning: shifting the tens of billions invested in nuclear power to efficiency and renewables reduce far more carbon per dollar (<http://www.nirs.org/factsheets/whynewnukesareriskyfcts.pdf>). The country should move deliberately to shutdown nuclear plants, starting with the aging and seismically threatened reactors. Peter Bradford, a former Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) commissioner has also made a compelling case against nuclear power on economic and safety grounds (<http://www.nirs.org/factsheets/whynewnukesareriskyfcts.pdf>).

There is far more for ratepayers, taxpayers and families near nuclear plants to find out. Here’s how you can start:



1. Demand public hearings in your communities where there is a nuke, sponsored either by your member of Congress or the NRC, to put the facts, risks and evacuation plans on the table. Insist that the critics as well as the proponents testify and cross-examine each other in front of you and the media.

2. If you call yourself conservative, ask why nuclear power requires such huge amounts of your tax dollars and guarantees and can’t buy adequate private insurance. If you have a small business that can’t buy insurance because what you do is too risky, you don’t stay in business.

3. If you are an environmentalist, ask why nuclear power isn’t required to meet a cost-efficient market test against investments in energy conservation and renewables.

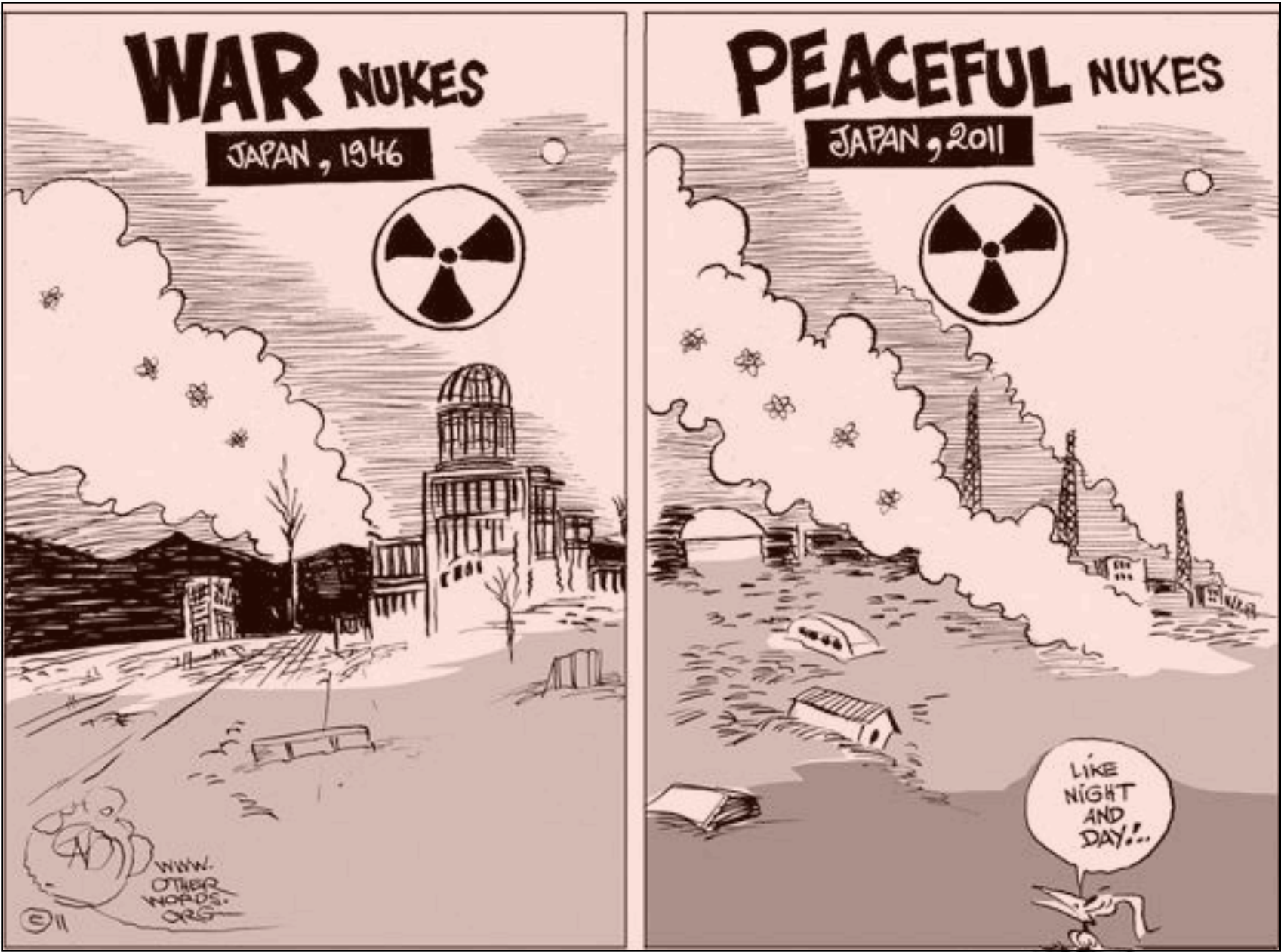
4. If you understand traffic congestion, ask for an actual real life evacuation drill for those living and working 10 miles around the plant (some scientists think it should be at least 25 miles) and watch the hemming and hawing from proponents of nuclear power.

The people in northern Japan may lose their land, homes, relatives, and friends as a result of a dangerous technology designed simply to boil water. There are better ways to generate steam.

Like the troubled Japanese nuclear plants, the Indian Point plants and the four plants at San Onofre and Diablo Canyon in southern California rest near earthquake faults.

The seismologists concur that there is a 94% chance of a big earthquake in California within the next thirty years. Obama, Chu and the powerful nuke industry must not be allowed to force the American people to play Russian Roulette!

Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, and author. His most recent book - and first novel - is, Only The Super-Rich Can Save Us. His most recent work of non-fiction is The Seventeen Traditions. ☸



Political cartoon by Khalil Bendib

Community Events – day by day

Friday, April 1

- 6:30-9pm - **Artist Reception** for photographer Robert Ketchum. Music by Tom Gramlich. G2 Gallery. RSVP, \$5 donation.
- 7pm – **First Friday** on AK Blvd. Open shops and lots of people. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Poetry readings**, refreshments, live **music by Charmkin Rebellion**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, April 2

- 8am-1pm - **Tree planting event** at WE Garden, Westminster Elementary School. Free.
 - 12pm – **First Earth Festival**: Four stages: live music, vendors, alternative energy and local artists. Windward Circle to Venice Beach. Free.
 - 4:30- 5pm - **Yoga for Kids**: Grab your towel/mat and practice yoga. Ages 5 and up. Parents welcome. Sign up at AK Venice Public Library.
 - 2pm - **Poetry readings from “Dirty Girls”**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
 - 6pm-12am - **“Ignite” by The Roots and Wings Project** with visual/performing artists. SPARC Gallery. Suggested donation, \$10.
 - 7pm - **Down, dirty, and neurotic comedy** by Lisa Orkin. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
- Monday, April 4
- 7-10pm – **Mozaic Spoken Word**. Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, April 6

- 11:30am-12pm - **Toddler Storytime**. Ages 0 to 3 years old. AK Venice Public Library.
- 7-10pm – **Songs by Miss Jessica** and The Sugar Shack Attack. Danny’s Deli. Free.

Thursday, April 7

- 3:30-4pm - **Toddler Storytime**. For ages 0 months to 3 years old. AK Venice Public Library.
- 6:30-9pm – **Reception** celebrating “Essence of Life: Fresh Water”. G2 Gallery. RSVP, \$5.
- 8pm – **Poetry readings from Guantanamo** detainees. Beyond Baroque. \$10. \$5 for seniors and students, members free.

Friday, April 8

- 7:30pm – **Poets read on Alaska’s wilderness**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
- 7:30pm - **The Artist Behind the Photo**: Venice’s J.J. L’Heureux’s world expeditions to the Weddell Sea and Antarctica. G2 Gallery. \$5 donation.

Saturday, April 9

- 2-4pm - **Rosie the Riveter reading**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
- 2-5:30pm - **Magic Show and Workshop**. AK Venice Public Library.
- 4pm - **World Wide Word Radio Network** 4-year anniversary readings by dozens of poets. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 4-5pm - **Masters in the Chapel Duo**. First Lutheran Church of Venice. 815 Venice Blvd. Free.
- 5pm - **Open reading**, sign-up at 4:45pm. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica Fundraiser**. Talking Stick. Free.
- 7pm-1am - **Fundraiser** to complete documentary film **“Venice America - Culture Heals”**. Food, drinks and screening of four shorts. 85 Market St. \$25 donation.
- 7:30pm - **Bunuel and Beefheart**. Beyond Baroque. No one turned away. \$7 admission.

Tuesday, April 12

- 7-10pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness** with Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, April 13

- 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams**. Danny’s Deli. Free.

Friday, April 15

- 7pm - **Venice MoZaic** celebrates **100th Show** at Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, April 17

- 10am-1pm - **Backboners** with Suzy Williams. SM Farmer’s Market, Ocean Park and Main. Free.
- 2pm - **Open reading**. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 4pm - **Sensuality of Writing**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
- 7-10pm – **It’s Blues Time** featuring Tom Gramlich with Mystic Miles. The Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, April 18

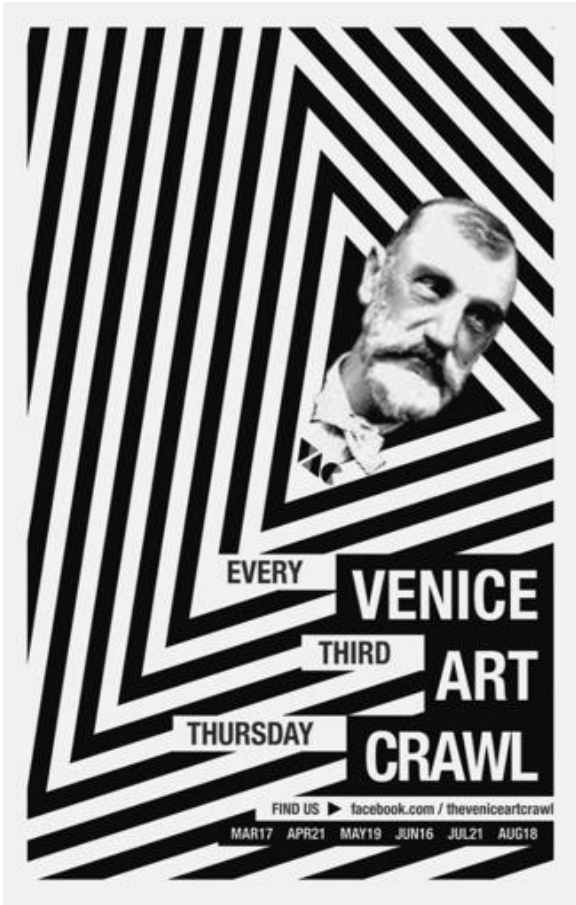
- 6-10pm - **Russ Forster** talks about his films. Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, April 19

- 7-10pm - **VNC Board Meeting**. Westminster Elementary School Auditorium.

Thursday, April 21

- **Venice Art Crawl**. Find the map at the end of Windward.



- 7pm - **Poetry in Motion: Readings**, refreshments, videos, music, memories and guests. Beyond Baroque. \$10.00 (members free).

Friday, April 22

- 7pm - **Experimental approach to writing** poetry. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, April 23

- 7:30pm – **Poetry Readings** from a new publication from City Lights. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Wednesday, April 27

- 6:30pm - **Candidates for Congress** Forum at Westminster Auditorium. VNC - Free.

Friday, April 29

- 7:30pm - Spring Musical **“Little Shop of Horrors”**. Venice High School Auditorium, 13000 Venice Blvd. \$10.
- 7:30pm - **In Concert: Natalie Azerad** performing originals and American jazz standards (Billy Holiday), French Cabaret (Edith Piaf), Brazilian Samba and Bossa Nova. G2 Gallery. \$5 donation.
- 7:30-10pm - **Subversive Cinema** at 212 Pier. Free.

Saturday, April 30

- 7pm - **Documentary of LA muralist Eloy Torrez**, Latino poets and musicians. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Sunday, May 1

- **7:30pm - Book Launching** - The Selected Poems and Prose of John Thomas - Beyond Baroque - Free

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

The Beachhead Calendar is a public non-profit service to the community of Venice. Our goal is to list free events within Venice. If you charge for your event, please consider taking out a \$25 or larger advertisement.

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006.
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854 - electriclodge.org
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
- Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 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
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 305-1865.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015.

Ongoing Events

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. Every Thursday.
- 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday; **Music at Uncle Darrow’s**. 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends**. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Every Wednesday. Free.

Movies

- 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library Thursday Movie Night**. Call 310-821-1769 for title.

Kids

- 6:30pm -**Abbot Kinney Public Library Children’s Pajama Storytime**. Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber - Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesday of the month. Free.

Miscellaneous

- 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock**. Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.
- 7-10pm - **MOM: Meditations On Media**. 3rd Wednesdays. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - 3rd Mondays at Talking Stick. Free.
- 11:30-2:30pm – **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.

Computers

- **Venice Library** offers a variety of **Free Computer Classes**. Call 310-821-1769.
- Vera Davis Center has free computer time: M-Th 10am-Noon and 1pm-3pm; Fri 1-3pm.

Food

- 12:30pm - 2nd, 4th Thursdays - Free Food Distribution. Vera Davis Center.
- Hot Meals: 5-7pm Mondays; Pre-packs: 2-3:30pm Saturdays; 1st Baptist Church, Westminster & 7th St.
- 10:30am-1:30pm, Thursday, April 28 - Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards) - Vera Davis Center.

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 20th of the month.



The Tabor Family

The Tabors, one of the founding families of Venice had a reunion was held at the Pacific Residents Theater, March 2.

It was conceived and produced by Maryjane and included family photos, documents and other memorabilia.

Irvin Tabor, the family Patriarch, was Abbot Kinney's personal assistant and chauffeur. Kinney

willed his home to Tabor, who lived in it for more than 40 years.

John Quincy Tabor, II, who is Irvin's nephew, entertained the audience with stories of the early days in Venice, including when his father won J.P. Morgan's former yacht, the Sultana, in a raffle but couldn't afford to operate it.

John Quincy, who will be 90 years old on June 1, was the first African-American lifeguard with both the city and the county.



The Tabor Family: 1st row- left to right- Sonya - Caroline - Jataun- Geisha- John Quncy- Francis- Ahimfa- Sia- Alvin- Allen 2nd row- Nolah- Clarence- Monque- George- Jay- Winola.



Don Sturdy + The Big Snake Hunters presents:

Free! World Premiere

The Homeless Movies



Bonus!
Larry's Academy Award Nominated Film Short: "Solly's Diner"

of EMMETT DEEMUS

a film by Larry Hankin*

The Talking Stick CoffeeLounge 1411 Venice Blvd. Venice, CA, 90291 - CINCO de MAYO (5.5.11) 8 PM

* the guy on "Seinfeld" who stole the raisins; Mr. Heckles: the upstairs neighbor on "F.R.I.E.N.D.S.", Carl, in "Billy Madison", etc...

310.450.6052

www.thetalkingstick.net

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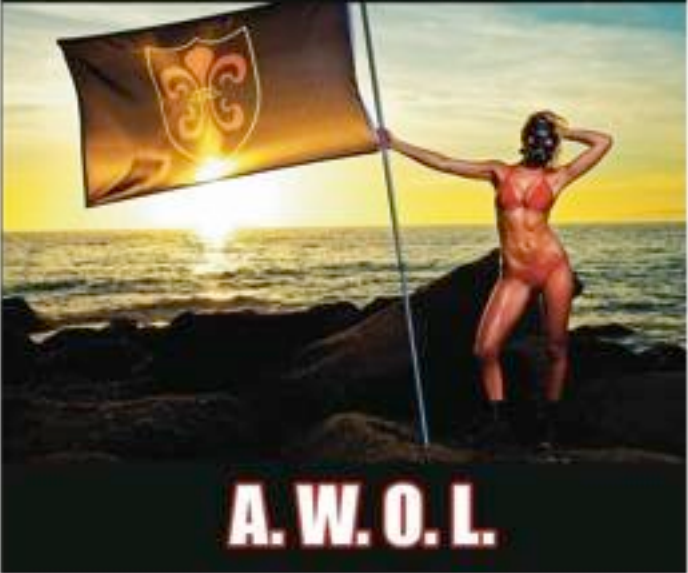
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