



P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIF 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 396-0811/399-8685

A Beach Head Writes About The Beachhead

By Carol Fondiller

Frankly, I feel as if I'm viewing the decades of the Free Venice Beachhead's existence on old celluloid film. Jumping and bumping with splats, cracks and flashes. Cutting through images that have been spliced together with cellophane tape being fed through the old moviola of my brain.

Who was that guy with the Jesus-length hair who was a master of lay-out? Can't remember his name. And John Haag - 'this paper is a poem' and through the four decades of its' publication, there were poems in every issue of the Beachhead.

The remaining Beats watched with tolerant condescension as the collectives struggled to put this together.

The margins were never even, misprints, mistakes were always in abundance. Somehow, no matter how hard we tried to eradicate those cussed little errors, they'd pop up to be forever immortalized in print. Some contributors were deeply hurt by what they considered negligence and disrespect for their articles. My thought was we never gave voice to the voiceless, there were and are many voices in Venice who speak and are ignored. The Beachhead enabled these voices to be heard by a larger group of people than just their allies.

The Beachhead grew from a bothersome little rag to an influential voice in the community. Truly the Beachhead worked locally and thought globally. The



Beachhead was founded by the Peace and Freedom Party, but except for a few years, welcomed even political contributors to its pages. From polemics and theory to explanations of various laws and regulations and, of course poems and stories to pro-renter and women's movements, and anti-war activities, if it was happening locally -it was reported in the Beachhead.

The Beachhead ALWAYS had points of view. It reported events from a distinct populist what is called leftist point of view. The Beachhead tried to be accurate in its reporting of facts: But it has always been pro majority of the people who inhabit this little blue planet. I.E., the low income folks who are struggling to star housed, the people who are unhoused and the people who've lived in the area for years, but are being displaced because they don't have the \$\$\$ to stay in their community by the sea and they

wonder why renters don't get involved in their community because they have been told by landlords, the city, the state, etc., that they don't count. (There are still renters who believe that they don't have a right to voice their opinions, if any, about the direction of their community. The Beachhead still has a lot of work to do regarding consciousness raising about this).

Speaking of consciousness raising, The Beachhead raised awareness about stalking and the vulnerability of the people to the dangers of this highly romanticized dangerous activity in a series of articles about the terror and disruption inflicted on a respected member of Venice and a collective on the Beachhead.

We used to lay out the Beachhead on the floor using glue, scissors, Xacto Blades and press tape oh, who could forget presstype -my nightmare. I don't know who if it exists anymore-it consisted of a sheet of plastic with letters that are pressed down individually onto the paper, rubbed it and a headline was created-that is, unless parts of the letter fell off, then the handy dandy black pen would come into play. My headlines were almost always crooked-sort of like a humpback whale swimming through the print. When the Beachhead first came into being there were no computers.

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**Celebrate
40 Years
of the
Free Venice
Beachhead**

Join past and present Beachhead Collective members for an evening of celebration and fun.

We'll take you through the high spots - and lows - of the Beachhead (and Venice) since 1968.

Films, readings and shocking revelations! Refreshments too! All for a minimum donation.

It will all take place at the Venice City Hall (Beyond Baroque) 681 Venice Blvd. in the old council room, now theater.

**7pm
Saturday
Dec. 13**

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

4,207 U.S. Dead

30,832 U.S. Wounded

Iraqi Dead: 1,288,426

Cost: \$575+ Billion Source: costofwar.com

AFGHANISTAN

627 U.S. Dead

Sources: costofwar.com • icasualties.org • antiwar.com



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Karl Abrams, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Mark Lipman, Lydia Poncé, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Alice Stek Intern: Jessica Aden
Special thanks to Amy Dewhurst and Edizen Stowell

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large.

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads, sustainers and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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

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I've Never Done This Before

Dear Beachhead,

This is the first paper to which I have become a sustainer. Your newspaper is the first that I have thought of as a worthy cause. You have done a fine job of representing the past, present and future of our community, and my heart and wallet want to sustain your mission. Keep up the good work!

Donna Lacey

You Guys Rock

Dear Beachhead,

What a great institution, and here's to another 40 years!

The 15th Anniversary of the Beachhead was greeted with mixed emotions by staff members, and many of their outpourings can be found at www.VirtualVenice.info. As far as I can tell, these vintage Beachhead articles aren't anywhere else online. "25 Years Ago in the Beachhead" is a recurring feature, with the articles changed every month. After its turn on the monthly page, each article is archived.

Unless you own a complete set of Beachhead back issues, this history hasn't been available until now. These aren't just images of the old pages. Each article has been hand-transcribed from the original print editions, so the terms are searchable.

www.VirtualVenice.info looks to the Free Venice Beachhead as a mentor. Like the paper, VirtualVenice is into relevance, attitude, non-mainstream-ness, art, community, and all that good stuff. Without the Beachhead as an example, VirtualVenice would never have happened. Much love to all.

Pat Hartman, Webslave, VirtualVenice
www.virtualvenice.info

Beach Head Carol Fondiller

—continued from page 1

In the mid 70s the holy grail of print technology was an IBM Selectric Composer. I believe Moe Stravnezer and Linda Lucks were the proud owners. I never advanced to more than pen and pencil, having been intimidated at an early age with typewriter ribbon and indentation. I am forever grateful to people who slaved over my chicken tracks and transcribed them into print.

Now it is zipped through computer straight to the printers who mates with the disk and births many thousands of Beachheads.

The Beachhead has gone through many collectives and many changes but the message remains the same: PEACE AND FREEDOM.

4 More Decades!

The New York Times and the L.A. Times try to be objective, however in the face of injustice and greed there is no room for objectivity, but there is fairness. Thank Goodness the Beachhead hasn't "balanced" discrimination with points of view from the KKK to balance out the view of racial equality.

There I hope I've been clear.

From the 15th Anniversary Issue (Dec. 1983

Dear Beachhead:

Congratulations for still hanging in here! I remember when I first held your baby-soft pages in those early days after your nativity, 15 years ago.

In that year we were fighting to keep the canals from becoming an extension of the Marina. It was the year of the Tet offensive in Vietnam; and in our country, while H.H.H. (Hubert Horatio Humphrey) was being nominated to oppose R.M.N. (Richard Milhouse Nixon), mayor Daley's police were battering demonstrators in

**Congratulations
on your 40th Birthday!!!!!!
Keep up the good work of keeping
Venice well informed!**

I did mostly graphics and typesetting for the Beachhead in the late 70s, early 80s. We met every Saturday morning for the first 3 Saturday's of the month, the 3rd Saturday being paste up day. We received and discussed the articles submitted from the community for the first two sessions, selected what to print, type set all articles on typewriters, and on the third session, cut and pasted each page, which took all day. Many times we were rewarded with a gourmet dinner cooked by Arnold Springer after all our hard work was done and the paper put to bed. Our camaraderie on this paper created lifelong friendships still existing today that I treasure deeply. I worked full time with children at home, so this was my way of contributing to our Venice community. We put out a wonderful paper, full of interesting comments and ideas from and by the community about what was going on with all the rapid onslaught of development, sometimes up to 28 pages!

Memorable incidents were such things as we were sued by a small paper in Texas. We received community papers from other areas, and we had used a generic graphic from one of these papers. What a shock! Fortunately, our local lawyer Steve Clare called them and smoothed out the surly and vituperative accusations with a lot of smooth talking legalize vernacular that basically said we were a tiny newspaper with no money. By the time Steve was done, they were ready to make us a donation!

Another incident was that a small business selling books from Toronto Canada had run \$5 monthly ads, and had not paid for them. It just so happened that one member of our collective, Chuck Bloomquist, traveled a lot for his job, and just happened to go to Toronto for a conference. Using the address on the ad, he went over to this business and demanded immediate payment. Despite the initial shock of Chuck being on his doorstep, no money was retrieved.

We had many, many wonderful times together because of the wonderful people who were there. The Free Venice Astronomy Club was formed by our master astronomer, Chuck Bloomquist and this group lasted for over 20 years. We made spring and fall camping trips to Joshua Tree National Monument for night viewing of the skies, fireside songs and lies, daytime hikes and gourmet camp-out cooking.

We made the Free Flowing Venice Wine in Arnold Springer's basement, the only basement anywhere in Venice.

The Beachhead still represents the Venice we all know, care about, and love.

Emily Winters

JOIN US FOR A COASTAL APPEAL HOLIDAY PARTY

*** No Permit Necessary ***

7PM Friday, Dec. 12
at the United Methodist Church
Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

Dinner served at 6:30PM - Food donation \$5
Send off an Appeal of Overnight Permit Parking (OPD) and party with your neighbors!

Venice Town Council

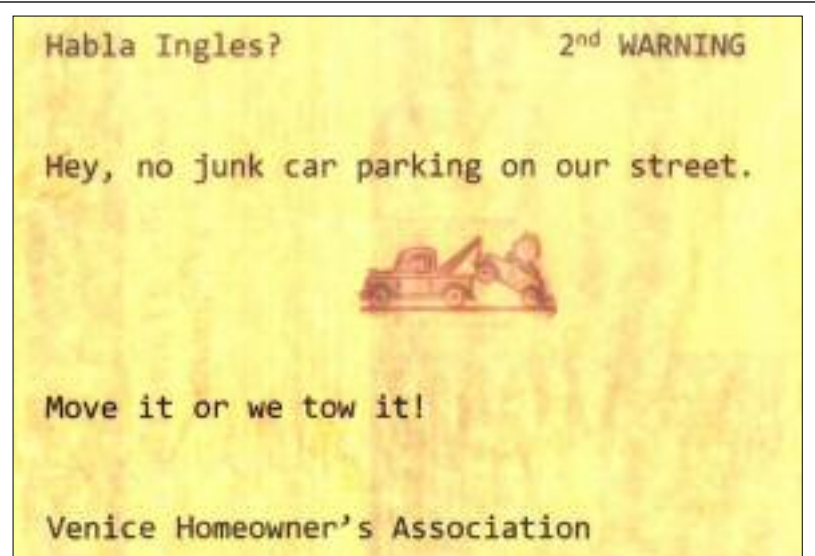
**Vigilantes Don't Like
Vintage Cars**

Dear Beachhead,

A friend found the attached note on her car Saturday morning. Hers was the only vehicle with a notice on Linden between the alleys Marco Court and Amoroso Court, and there was no "first warning" left on her car.

Having attended the Venice Town Council meeting on Friday evening, I wondered if the proposal for OPD influenced this (racist) scare tactic?

Nancy Raffaelli Richards





Welcome to Venice. Now Run!

By Karl Abrams

Venice now has its first Tsunami Evacuation street sign. On Monday morning, November 24, the first of 90 such signs went up on the west side of Pacific Avenue just north of Navy Street. The remaining signs are expected to be up as early as Thanksgiving. Councilperson Bill Rosendahl held a press conference on site and explained how the tsunami evacuation signs could save lives by directing people and traffic to higher and safer ground along a planned escape route. These signs would be especially crucial in directing and evacuating tourists on Ocean Front Walk who may be otherwise unfamiliar with Venice streets and confused during a tsunami emergency.

Rosendahl explained how the combined affect of Venice's shallow bay, along with the shape of the coast, could lead to possible 8 feet waves propelled deep onshore by an unpredictable shift of the Santa Catalina underwater plates. "No one knows for sure how big such tsunami waves would be," explained Rosendahl, "we estimate, until we have better clarity, that we'll have 15 to 30 minutes to get out."

Rosendahl specifically thanked Jim Smith of the Beachhead for helping the sign project to reach a more timely implementation and promised he would immediately explore the possibility of placing a tsunami siren on the beach as first warning.

Richard Deppisch, LA's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator also spoke about the availability of \$350,000 in funds, citywide, under the Urban Security Initiative Grant, to better prepare people in the event of a tsunami or earthquake. Cyndi Hench, a volunteer organizer from Westchester, also spoke of the importance of being prepared for such possible disasters.

Seismic tsunami waves have occurred in the past and may happen again. According to John Davis' article, "It Can't Happen Here?" (Beachhead, January '05), a devastating tsunami wave struck the coast of Santa Barbara in 1812 and a 1964 "Alaskan wave swept down the Pacific seaboard, wiping out a lot of the proto-Marina del Rey." Such tsunami waves would be especially dangerous in the Santa Monica Bay because of the way in which such waves would gather destructive energy by bouncing and reflecting around the bay.

On December 16, a Venice Neighborhood Council agenda item will be a "tsunami evacuation discussion" to clarify details of the escape route and the possible placement of new evacuation signs.

Retirement Income

If you had purchased \$1,000 of AIG stock one year ago, you would have \$42 left. With Lehman, you would have \$6.60 left. With Fannie or Freddie, you would have less than \$5 left. But if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all of the beer then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have had \$214.

Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle.

It's called the 401-Keg.....

Joel Isaacs, Ph.D.

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Negotiations Underway to Buy Lincoln Place

Two sources have confirmed to the Beachhead that negotiations are taking place between AIMCO (Apartment Investment and Management Company), the infamous owner of Lincoln Place Apartments and the tenants association. The subject of the negotiations is the purchase of Lincoln Place by a buyer lined up by the tenants, or a combination of an individual buyer and the tenants. Several of the tenant leaders have told the Beachhead that they would prefer eminent domain being used by the city. This would guarantee continued low-income housing without the construction of condominiums to pay back a private buyer.

Eminent domain was first raised as a possibility by the Beachhead (see "The Case for Eminent Domain at Lincoln Place, Dec. 2005).

As of Nov. 30, AIMCO stock was trading at \$11.47 a share, down from \$43.67 earlier in the year.



Photo: 20th Century Architectural Alliance

Neighborhood Council's Homeless/RV Committee Holds Secret Meetings

By Mark Lipman

At the last meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council's Homelessness/RV committee on November 6, a sub-committee was formed specifically tasked with looking for ways to evict poorer residents from our community.

On this sub-committee are Susan Beckman, Stuart Oscars, Carolyn Rios and Mark Ryavec, committee co-chair.

Not even two months ago, VNC president, Mike Newhouse attending a committee meeting, carefully explained for 20 minutes the rules under which they were operating. The Brown Act, which quite simply sets strict guidelines on the behavior of all those conducting the public's business in a political manner and requires public notice and access to all official meetings.

Newhouse patiently answered all of the committee's questions and made it completely understood, with everyone shaking their heads in the affirmative, that the greatest number that they could privately meet in to discuss policy was half a quorum.

A quorum is half of the whole plus one, which in this case, being 12 in the body, the quorum would be 7 and therefore half of that is 3.5, which is rounded down to 3, as exactly explained by Mike Newhouse, VNC president.

This new sub-committee of 4 is more than 3 and the Beachhead discovered at the last VNC board meeting on November 17 that as of that time, this sub-committee has met twice in secret at the house of co-chair, Mark Ryavec, with meetings closed to the public. This is an unmistakable violation of the Brown Act.

Moreover, the two board officers, Stuart Oscars and Carolyn Rios have no excuse for this violation, having served on the VNC board of officers, they are required to know about and abide by the Brown Act.

Additionally, co-chair Mark Ryavec has no justification for this misstep, as he was instrumental in taking down the last Homelessness Task Force, chaired by Steve Clare, precisely for claims of Brown Act violations, as confirmed through numerous sources.

What is to happen to this committee is still uncertain. Yet, with the weight of this violation, the committee should at a minimum be dissolved and those who took part in this back room dealing be disciplined, with a minimum of excluding them from further participation regarding policy making for homelessness and RV issues.

Filing Closes for City Elections

Bill Rosendahl and Antonio Villaraigosa will face only token opposition for re-election next May 19. Harry "Craig" Wilson is the only candidate to file to run against Rosendahl in the 11th City Council District.

Villaraigosa will face Republican Walter Moore and several other unknown candidates. It was unknown at press time if David "Zuma Dog" Saltsburg has turned in sufficient petitions.

Some observers had expected stiff opposition for Villaraigosa after his less-than-stellar first term. Likewise, there had been talk of a Venice candidate to oppose Rosendahl because of his stand on permit parking. Neither of the challenges materialized, however.

Noel Weiss, an attorney for some Lincoln Place tenants has qualified to run for the City Attorney post being vacated by Rocky Delgadillo. However, Councilperson Jack Weiss (no relation) is likely to be the favorite.

Another City Council member, Wendy Gruel is running for City Controller.

Permit Parking:

City Hall Says NO to 102 Venice Appeals; Fight Moves to Coastal Commission

By Jim Smith

As expected, the Los Angeles Board of Public Works rejected all 102 appeals of the proposed Venice permit parking plan at a downtown L.A. hearing, Nov. 17. Appeals of the city's action must be received by Dec. 22 by the California Coastal Commission. The city's plan would charge for street parking by requiring the purchase of overnight parking permits. LAPD and parking enforcement officers presumably would prowl the streets of Venice between 2 and 6 am seeking out lawbreakers who were attempting to park without a permit.

The Public Works Commission gave each Venetian who had made the hour-long trip (during morning rush hour) two minutes to state his or her case. Among those expressing their opposition were Alice Goldstein, Steve Clare, Karl Abrams, Rev. Tom Ziegert, Nancy Williamson, Sheila Bernard, Susan Millman, Eden Andes, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Linda Lucks, Jim Smith, Fabiola Wright, Ross Wilson, Mark Lipman, Mark Knudson, Robert Israel, and others. Speaking in favor of permit parking were Stuart Oscars, DeDe Audet, Mark Ryavec, Carol Bolander, Bill Rosendahl and others.

Councilmember Rosendahl spoke out strongly in favor of permit parking and urged the Commission to deny the appeals. He said people in Venice deserve the right to have permit parking as do other areas not within the coastal zone. "Residents of Venice are asking for the same equal treatment," he argued. The Commissioners seemed much impressed by Rosendahl's statement, much more so than they seemed to be while sitting through the statements of the other speakers. Rosendahl happens to be the chair of the city council's public works committee, which oversees that department and its commissioners.

The Board rejected the appeals in such a cavalier manner that it seemed to this reporter that they had not even read the appeals. The Bureau of Engineering staff had done more work in laying the basis for the rejection. In its written refutation, the staff repeated several misrepresentations of the facts, claiming that "there is an existing problem with inadequate on-street parking for residents due, in part, to abandoned and commercial vehicles and other long timer parking abuses (!). It may come as a shock to Venetians to learn that their community is plagued by abandoned vehicles.

The staff report also essentially ignored the outpouring of opposition to permit parking in Venice. Instead, the report notes that the Venice Neighborhood Council supported permit parking. However, the board of that body has never called a public forum on the issue, nor has it held a referendum.

No Permits for OFW Residents

In the area nearest the beach, the city apparently wants to convince the Coastal Commission that there are adequate parking lot alternatives to make up for the loss of street parking. The permit parking plan would set aside two small lots - at Windward and Pacific and at Rose and Pacific - for overnight parking. However, under the plan, residents living west of Speedway would not be eligible to buy parking permits. Since this strip along Ocean Front Walk is probably the most densely populated part of Venice, the small lots would be inundated with cars owned by these residents. Hundreds more of the west of Speedway residents would likely be without any parking options within blocks of their apartments. The staff report wrongly states "There are on-street parking spaces between Speedway and Ocean Front Walk." Also ineligible for parking permits would be residents who have outstanding parking tickets, probably a sizable number of people in Venice where parking tickets are nearly unavoidable.

An anti-homeless faction in Venice sees the permit parking as a way to drive RV owners from the community, a loophole in the overnight parking plan may allow them to remain. Each resident (living in a house or an apartment) would be entitled to buy two visitors permits for \$10 each. The permits, which are valid for four months, could be given to RV residents. Only 75 renters or homeowners would be needed to supply the entire 150 RV mobile residents with parking permits.

At the end of the hearing, the five commissioners, none of whom live in Venice, voted unanimously to deny the appeals of 102 Venetians, based in part on the urging of a city councilmember who lives in a part of Mar Vista which has free street parking and where no permits are required.

To find out how you can help stop the city's parking permit plan at the Coastal Commission, contact the Venice Town Council at 310-365-0985 or attend the next meeting at 7 pm Friday, Dec. 12 at the United Methodist Church Auditorium. Appeals must be made on an official form for the South Coast District (that's us) available at www.coastal.ca.gov/cdp/CDP-AppealForm-sc.pdf.

Cop Shoots Self in Leg - News at 11

By Jessica Aden and Mark Lipman

On the evening of the 24th of November, at approximately midnight, the Beachhead received tens of calls saying that there was a police invasion in the Oakwood district currently in progress. Beachhead reporters Jessica Aden and Mark Lipman were immediately dispatched to cover the on-going scene.

Upon arriving, a swarm of police officers had descended upon the intersection of Sunset and Lincoln - the entire division was out. They were preparing to move in ranks of two down Sunset Avenue.

Reaching the police barricade, with a search helicopter circling overhead, we discovered that it was an officer-involved shooting and followed behind the police detachment that was heading down the road.

Secured behind a tree, across from the targeted house, we saw the police lining up, pistols drawn, single file along the neighboring wall. Slowly they crept, inching their way towards a barred gate. A leather padded hand wrapped itself tightly around one of the bars and slowly drew back the gate. It rolled open, sliding along its rail without so much as a creak.

The first entered - the point man, with a searchlight drawn - another had his back. Systematically, they searched every nook and cranny. Twilight jumped behind a bush - nothing moved - nothing there - again a step - and another and a jolting light snapped behind the parked car - eyes peeled for any trace of intrusion.

Oh, these boys were good. They knew what they were doing and had 20, 30 guns backing them up. yeah, they were gonna get their man. Then they advanced another step and "Hey, whatcha doing there!?"

With a smooth snap and a flick of the wrist, the shadowy figure turned and held out his credentials, "Press," he said. "The Beachhead - covering the scene for Venice."

"Well, you can get off the crime scene - back behind the line. We'll send someone out with a statement," the silver haired commanding officer retorted.

"Yes sir. Happy to help out any way I can."

Meanwhile, Beachhead reporter Jessica Aden was digging away, in the adjacent alleyway, to uncover more clues for this evolving story.

She reports below:

Around 1 a.m., rumors of an officer being shot in the leg began to emerge. They had a suspect - a Latino male wearing a blue shirt and shorts was hiding in the bushes. It was suspected that it was a bust gone bad and they were vigorously in pursuit. Nothing confirmed or denied. With taco truck closed, the scoop was getting cold. It was time to call it a night.

But wait - the Beachhead did not stop there. We dug a little deeper so that you'd get all the facts - Venice deserves nothing less.

As it turns out, the man they were in pursuit of - the Latino male - had absolutely nothing to do with the shooting and they were looking for him for something completely unrelated.

In fact, it is now discovered that the officer involved, or perhaps his partner - it was not made clear - experienced an unfriendly revolver discharge in err, which had adverse consequences to the former's leg - right or left - we could probably have that information to you by press ... In whichever case it may be, accept our condolences and a speedy recovery.

Venice High School Pool Closure?

By Lydia Poncé

WTF - Where's The Funding? The Venice pool closed September 29. A well attended meeting was held at Venice High's Auditorium on Nov. 12 at the same time as regarding the Cell Tower meeting a few blocks away, no conspiracy just sheer coincidence.

LAUSD, the city representatives and parents shared dialogue that simply sank. The outcome: do we fix the pool and hope it holds without leaking 1,000 gallons of water daily? Or do we build a new pool since this one is so old?

The entire westside of district 11 has only three year-round heated pools, Venice High School, LACES, and Westwood. The VHS Waterpolo teams, both boys and girls, are being bused every day to practice. What will become of the kick ass team we have now and what about the VHS Spring Swim Team? More busing? For how long? Aquatics Coach Sophie Sabbah, Venice High, had the best idea yet, "We must build a temporary pool on the student parking lot while the new pool is constructed". Brilliant! They built a 50 meter pool with ten lanes for the Olympic Trials in Long Beach. If LBC can do it- so can Venice!

The Venice pool has an outside private construction company working hard to repipe and reconstruct the deck and their deadline is this January! Does that mean our pool will re-open? According to one of the construction workers, "This is a five year band-aid. Eventually Venice will have to re-build a new pool."

We need to know how much cash is there is for our pool, new or old. Since there's a money shortage in both, state and city budgets, we need to get resourceful.

POWER, People Organized for Westside Renewal, has organized a group of parents, who will keep the city of L.A. on point with their words and their promises. This group, determined to be pro-active and not re-active.



Adam, Perla and Desiree Pacheco

Murdered on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Who Was Adam Pacheco?

By Jessica Aden

Adam Pacheco was gunned down outside the Otheroom, on September 28 at 9:20 p.m., after attending the Abbot Kinney Festival with friends. What should have been a day filled with reunions of old friends, good food, and memories; instead became the last day of the life of 31-year-old Adam Pacheco.

Many youths growing up in Oakwood have few choices in the direction of their lives. Adam Pacheco lived for his family, especially his young daughter Desiree. He was only 18 when she was born. It changed his life forever. He immediately settled down and got married. Though many spiral down the path of violence and drugs, Adam Pacheco broke free of the web surrounding him and rose above society's expectations.

Adam dug deep and became a family man. To provide for his young wife, Perla, and for Desiree, Adam began taking multiple jobs from Costco, to Bagel Nosh, and others, but he still managed to provide time for his wife and little daughter. He obtained a job at P.B.&J jobs in Marina Del Rey, starting as a sweeper, making a little more than minimum wage. Through his hard work and patience, he developed the knowledge and skills of fitting fire sprinklers, and within eight months was in the union, Plumbers Local 709, making twice his starting salary.

"They killed a family man," his wife Perla states. Adam's family was his pride and joy. Always putting his family first, he was a dedicated father. Adam's life revolved around going to work, taking his daughter to and from school, cheerleading practice, baseball practice and making sure his wife and daughter were well provided for.

Both Adam and his wife, Perla, strived for there daughter to grow up in a positive environment, making sure Desiree had the opportunities to become whatever she wanted in life. At only 12 years old, Desiree has served as Student Body President at her elementary school. She is currently a straight A honor student at Culver City Middle School and the captain of the Santa Monica Viking's Cheerleading Squad, which just made the national competitions.

"Adam gave Desiree the time and encouragement to be able to accomplish what she has done in such a short time," says Perla. Following the death of her father, the Pico Youth and Family Center (PYFC), Chiquele Studios and I.C.U. Art held a silent auction on November 15, benefiting Desiree's dream of going to college. Entitled "Desiree's Dream" more than 25 pieces of art were auctioned off, generating over \$4,000 dollars. At the event, Adam's friend of 12 years, Sal Galvan, an educator and motivational speaker and member of the PYFC, said, "Adam was a part of several communities, that came together tonight to help his daughter that he loved so much."

Born and raised in Venice, Adam Pacheco was proud to be a Venetian. He had a long arm in the community and was loved and respected by all who knew him. Growing up with the odds against him, Adam prevailed and became an example to follow.

"He was in his own back yard, where he felt the safest," says Perla of that tragic night. "It hurts me to think that my husband is being categorized as a gang member."

"He did not deserve to be killed in such a cowardly way, being shot from the back. He did not even see it coming. It makes me sick how someone can do this to another human being," she sobbed.

Police officials told the Beachhead that they have no leads in the case. Please call Councilmember Bill Rosendahl's office at 311 to ask him to establish a reward for information leading to the capture of the murderer. If you have information, please call LAPD Detective Salazar at 310-482-6371.

They're in the process of securing a meeting within 30 days as the city promised. It was suggested that the city provide a bus for the senior citizens who participate in Water Aerobic exercise every Friday. Can't we get them a ride? POWER is meeting December 10 - at 7PM. Contact POWER for location, Bill Przulucki, Organizer, (310) 392-9700 x 3# or bill@power-la.org.

Some Venice High pool documents can be found on the city's Aquatics website. This report does not include geological or engineering testing. (www.laparks.org/dos/aquatic/facility/venicePool.htm).

Support the Waterpolo Team. The girl's season just started! Venice High School's website is: www.venicehigh.net

Venice Says No To Prop. 8

By Amy V. Dewhurst

Venetians have had a long history of radical thinking, compassion and action.

On November 11th, that was no different, when dozens gathered in Windward Circle to march in opposition of the November 4th Proposition 8 vote. Prop 8 was an amendment initiative eliminating the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry. This vote won by 52.1%. In the state of California that is 6,434,312 Yes-Votes. Odd, because we are a nation built on fearlessness and freedom. The Declaration of Independence clearly states all Americans are entitled to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" so, what happened California?

As stated in the General Election Official Voter Information Guide prepared by Ron Prentice and Rosemarie Avila

"Proposition 8 protects marriage as an essential institution of society. While

death, divorce or other circumstances may prevent the ideal, the best situation for a child is to be raised by a mother and father"

I personally wasn't aware that marriage immediately resulted in children. Nor was I aware that being raised by a mother-father team was decidedly the "best situation for a child". I have known miserable heterosexual couples who have mentally, emotionally and physically scarred their children for life, as have I known wonderful young men and women reared solely by one hardworking parent (grandparent, aunt, uncle or family friend). This argument is but one of the stronger, in a barrage of weak and fear-ridden propaganda presented by the "Yes on 8" Campaign.

Adversely, "No on Prop 8" simply outlined the actual LEGAL differences between marriage and same sex partnerships. These truths are as follows; "Prop 8 takes away the rights of gay and lesbian couples and treats them differently under the law". It's that simple, but let's review; "Prop 8 takes away the rights of gay and lesbian couples and treats them differently under the law". This is in direct violation of the aforementioned "Pursuit of Happiness". It limits the legal rights of two people who choose to be in a relationship. How, I ask, is this constitutional? By this ideal the state (or a group within the state) can choose any assembly of people to persecute and strip of their rights. Caucasians, African Americans, Hawaiians, Mexicans, even Bottle-Blondes, and then Los Angeles, where would we be?

Peter Wolf and Geoff Scowcroft, Los Angeles Chapter Leaders of "Marriage Equality USA" have been in a committed relationship for 13 years. Two weeks ago they were a married couple. Now, with the 'Yes on 8' decision their marital status is threatened. Though the prevailing legal opinion is that marriages enacted before the November 4th decision remain valid, it is an opinion. That's not good enough for an emphatic Peter, who remarked, "Why should I have to validate my life with votes from people I don't even know, deciding on my rights? This is my LIFE. Not a court decision".

Though a semi-step towards tolerance, domestic partnership is NOT the same as marriage. Under this rule Peter and Geoff cannot share insurance. They are not able to file a joint tax return. If one of them is to get ill or injured outside of state lines, they have no spousal rights. Imagine you are traveling with your husband/wife. You are in an accident. You are both rushed to the emergency room. Your husband/wife is in critical condition and an immediate medical decision is required. You have no right to make that decision, though its outcome will affect your entire existence.

Regardless of religious, political or societal definitions of 'traditional marriage,' these are ethical questions that require an answer. We are a nation force-fed the promise of freedom, but where do these alleged freedoms begin and where do they end? It is up to "We the people" to define our cultural imperatives.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best during his March on Washington, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'" Do you know who organized that march? Bayard Rustin (Psst...he was gay!).

Marriage Equality USA will be hosting a multitude of local events educating, organizing, and continuing, "To fight this thing" -CS.

For more information on the internet: www.marriageequality.org. "Yes On 8" declined to comment.



Can We Keep Venice Livable?

YES WE CAN! AND YES WE HAVE!

By Jim Smith

Venetians have a well-earned reputation for actively opposing things in their community that they do not like. During the past 40 years, the Beachhead has reported on struggle after struggle against obscene developments and efforts to make Venice more like Los Angeles. Not all of these struggles have been victorious, but many have. Many of the victories came with our city council "representative" taking the opposite side. Lately, box-like buildings have sprouted up on nearly every street in Venice, each seeming to try to outdo the other in sheer ugliness. But it could have been much worse for Venice if there were no mass protests against the worst of these. Those fighting today against permit parking and to save Lincoln Place can take heed from the lessons of the past.

The Master Plan - 1969

In the late 60s, Venetians looked across the Santa Monica border and saw most of the community of Ocean Park destroyed by urban renewal. Gone were beautiful victorian homes and streets full of local businesses. In their place rose high-rise apartment buildings that were divorced from the surrounding community. Meanwhile, city fathers in downtown Los Angeles looked on in glee. Already, in the early 60s, about 25 percent of all buildings on the Ocean Front had been pulled down by L.A. building code enforcement, including the architectural masterpiece, the St. Mark's Hotel at Windward. Mayor Sam Yorty said, "Let's bulldoze it," referring to the rest of Venice. In this atmosphere, the Venice Master Plan was born, and with it, an opposition that protects Venice still.

The L.A. Planning Commission wanted to build parking lots along the beach from Venice Blvd. to Navy, and add a couple more on the sand at Brooks and Westminster. East of the parking lots would be high-rise apartments. Pacific Avenue was to be doubled in width. Oakwood would be reduced in density to prevent low-income apartment buildings. West Washington (now Abbot Kinney Blvd.) was considered "a blighting influence on the adjoining neighborhoods." The north end would be high rises and the rest would become a commercial manufacturing zone. Wait, there's more! The Marina freeway (also called the Richard Nixon for a short while) would bisect Venice. The most likely route would be down the Red Car right-of-way on Electric Avenue. North of Venice it would take to the sea on a causeway before reemerging on dry land in Malibu.

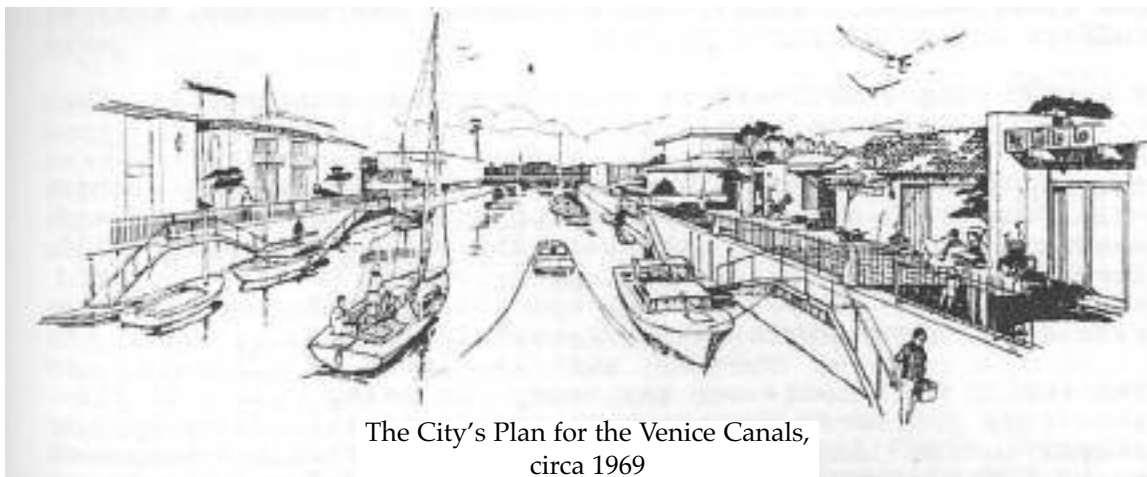
The Venice community, under the umbrella of the Free Venice Organizing Committee, created a community-wide coalition and fought the Master Plan with busloads of protesters at L.A. City Hall, thousands of petitions and constant mobilizations in the community. The plan that ultimately passed the L.A. City Council was much diluted and was dead on arrival. It was politically impossible to implement. A revised community plan was adopted a few years later without any of the destructive elements.

A freeway bisecting Venice

Although it was deleted from the Master Plan, the freeway is still a long-held dream of city planners in their downtown fortresses. A revised plan, the "Marina Bypass" surfaced in 1983 that would have dumped freeway traffic on Washington Blvd., near Abbot Kinney. Many saw it as a piecemeal approach to the same old plan to run a freeway across Venice. The community again rose in opposition and it was shelved. In 2001, another plan to extend the Marina freeway across Lincoln and turn Admiralty Way into a eight-lane expressway, ending at Ocean and Washington was the subject of a "scoping" meeting. Venetians again demanded the right to discuss it, and officials hurriedly left the room. It resurfaced again brief in 2006. Still, in some dark recess of the L.A. Dept. of Transportation, a room, a filing cabinet, a drafting table and furtive planners work behind a blank and locked door waiting for an opportune time to bring forth their dark designs.

The Canal Assessment District

Concurrent with the Master Plan was a scheme to turn the Venice canals into yacht harbors for the rich. Once again, Venetians headed off to city hall and circulated petitions. A community center was constructed out of an abandoned house at 468 Howland Canal. A people's park was build on vacant city land at Sherman and Dell. Silk screen posters were created by Bill Olive (who also designed the current Beachhead masthead), and sold to raise money for the park fund. In a 1969 interview with this writer, John



The City's Plan for the Venice Canals, circa 1969

Haag said the community used delaying tactics to run up the cost of the project. He also cited a rumor that letters where sent to prospective contractors stating that their equipment would be sabotaged if they took the project. In the end, no bids were submitted to the city, and the project died. To celebrate their survival the canal community organized annual Canal Festivals for several years, beginning Sept. 13, 1969.

A huge development at Main and Rose

In the 1970s Venice activists gained the support of a friendly government entity, the California Coastal Commission. Now it was possible to appeal to after receiving an automatic no from the city of L.A. We also had a unifying organization in the Venice Town Council. In 1978 a huge development was proposed for the vacant land along Main Street, from Rose Ave. to Navy, by Frank Gehry and others. More than 60 Venetians traveled, at the urging of the Town Council, to the Coastal Commission hearing where the development was turned down. Later, Developer Harlan Lee's "Venice Renaissance" proposed building was successfully scaled down and affordable units were increased from five to 23, thanks to pressure from the Beachhead's Moe Stravnezer and others.

A victory? Well, it could have been worse.

A mega-shopping center/office park near Washington and Lincoln

Jumping ahead to 1985, a huge development was proposed for the now-vacant Hughes Helicopter plant that is now the site of Costco. The original plan included two 17-story, two 15-story and one 12-story office buildings and miscellaneous buildings for restaurants and parking. After community pressure, the developer, Prudential Insurance Corp., changed the plan to a one million square foot shopping center to be called Marina Place. By now, the Venice Town Council (VTC), an independent body, was going strong. Debra Bowen, now state secretary of state, filed suit against the development on behalf of the VTC. After trying to bribe the VTC with \$12 "mitigation" funds, which were rejected 68-2, Prudential eventually gave up. The next plan for the site was a union-friendly Price Co. The much scaled down project was not seriously opposed. However, Costco gobbled up Price Co. before the store was built. And the rest is traffic...

Another giant shopping center called Lincoln Center

In 2003, two six-story buildings were proposed for the area now occupied by Ralphs, Rite-Aid, Ross and other buildings. They would include a new supermarket on the second floor, as well as several floors of expensive apartments and a few "affordable" units. Although nearly everyone in the community opposed this castle in the center of Venice, many felt that it could not be stopped. Yet, planning meeting after meeting of irate Venetians slowed the momentum until it was finally put away at an L.A.



Model of proposed condos at the MTA bus yard (looking east).

Planning Commission meeting in 2004. This reversal took place in spite of an endorsement from the Venice Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee and from then Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. The Beachhead ran a number of articles opposing the project. This was the largest victory against redevelopment in a number of years.

A gated community at the MTA lot

The Lincoln Center victory was followed by another seemingly impossible victory against a gated community planned for the MTA bus lot on Main and Sunset. A deal had been worked out by the MTA and a development group known as RAD to trade the Venice lot to RAD in exchange for another lot near Baldwin Hills. Venetians found out about the deal after it was done (although we later found out it was contingent on RAD being able to build on the Venice lot). Again, the community and the Beachhead sounded the alarm. Led by North Beach neighbors of the proposed project, people mobilized hundreds for various planning meetings. RAD attempted to make modest modifications, but the community was having none of it. Many complained that it would not fit the neighborhood, which is a series of walk streets, and that the lot could be put to better uses. It was pointed out that the MTA lot had formerly been the Red Car lot, and had been public or quasi-public for a hundred years. Bowing to public pressure, on March 9, 2006, the L.A. Planning Commission put so many restrictions on the project that RAD felt it was impossible to carry out its plans. The lot continues to be a bus maintenance lot.

A 50-foot-tall luxury hotel at Brooks and Abbot Kinney

Hot on the heels of the victory at the MTA lot, came the proposed luxury hotel project a few blocks away at Brooks Ave. and Abbot Kinney Blvd. This one had also been approved by the VNC Land Use Committee, on Dec. 7, 2005, before it became generally known to the community. But by Sept. 19, 2007, it was official dead when the West L.A. Planning Commission voted 5-0 against it. Persistence of community opposition paid off at last. The proposed Ray Hotel touted itself as being "too cool" to abide by the Venice Specific Plan requirement of a maximum height of 30 feet. The Ambrose Group project would have been "green" and would have preserved part of an old warehouse on the property. But most worried about the precedence of allowing a too tall building that catered to the rich on the edge of Oakwood and the Abbot Kinney commercial strip.

Light at the end of the Lincoln Place tunnel?

Perhaps the longest running battle in Venice history is over the future of Lincoln Place. The government-financed 900 garden apartments were built for returning GIs and their families after World War II. All went well until property values soared in the late 90s. The 38 acres seemed too good to be true for local speculator, Robert Bisno, who bought the complex from its original owners. He promptly began evicting tenants, destroying vegetation and bulldozing 200 units of the affordable housing. He brought in AIMCO (Apartment Investment and Management Company) as a partner. AIMCO, the biggest apartment owning corporation in the country bought out Bisno and began promoting its plan to eliminate the apartments and build high-rise condominiums. But they didn't count on an aroused group of tenants and a community skilled in struggle. For years, Lincoln Place had been the home of retired garment workers and union activists who had passed on their skills to a younger generation. When Bisno and AIMCO came along, the Lincoln Place Tenants Association was ready for them. Joined by many Venice activists, they employed a combination of public activities and legal strategies. Even though all but a handful of disabled and senior tenants were evicted in early morning raids by marshals on Dec. 6, 2005, the struggle did not end. The remaining tenants, former tenants and the community redoubled their fight to preserve the remaining 700 units of affordable housing. Since then, a judge has ruled that the tenants were evicted illegally. Years of dedicated work may yet have a happy ending. It is a story that has been covered in the Beachhead more than any other single issue. And the story is continuing.

So what does it all mean? It means that seemingly invincible wealth, political power and lots of men in suits can be overcome by a community that is united and tenacious. This is especially true if that community - Venice - has a voice that will tell the facts and won't be intimidated by power, police or prestige. This is the role the Beachhead continues to fulfill 40 years down the road.

Beachheads Through The Years



Dec. 1, 1968 – our first issue



May 1969



August 1970



February 1971



June 1971



April 1972



April 1978



October 1978



August 1979



January 1980



July 1982



March 1983



April 1985



February 1986



July 1992



August 1993

Guadalupe Day – Finding More Than Meets The Eye

By Maria Joyouspirit

December 12th is another way to celebrate our winter holidays. It is the feast day of Our Lady or Virgin, actually Tonantzin and only later called Guadalupe by the Spaniards.

Don't wait for the commercialized, consumerist, propagandized, later December day to celebrate. Bring your family down to La Plazita Church across from Olvera St. in downtown LA in the late afternoon and immerse yourself in an allied culture from near our own borders. Bring your children, your cameras, your appetite, and your curiosity. And a candle or flowers, too. Parking is in nearby lots. The experience will be exquisite. And fun!

But who is this special woman, Guadalupe, the image seen everywhere in LA?

The story is essentially told that a special devotion to Guadalupe started almost 475 years ago when the Virgin appeared to an Indian, Juan Diego, on Tepeyac hill near Mexico City. Although it was December, the apparition, Guadalupe, told Juan Diego to take the Castilian roses she produced right there for him – roses which were out of season and not found in those arid lands in the cold winter. She told him to gather them in his cloak and to present them to the high Catholic bishop, as a sign of her presence. She also requested a temple be built in her name.

Juan Diego had to return to the Spanish Bishop three times before he was given any credence. Then, finally, when the poor humble Indian unfolded his cactus-fiber cloak, the beautiful roses fell out and at the same time, miraculously, Guadalupe's image was emblazoned on his shirt -- showing the dark-skinned Aztec princess, standing in front of the sun and on top of a crescent moon.

Juan is depicted as the native population were preferably seen by their rulers -- as devout, submissive people repeatedly carrying out orders. He was just delivering a message man-to-man to the conquerors and their religious counter-parties. The princess did not appear or make herself known directly to those who now ruled these Mexican lands.

The Catholic version likes to claim that seven years after Guadalupe's apparition, some 8 million Indians were converted. Conversion may be the most important aspect of a religious group appropriating another apparition, a visitation, and an actualization of a venerated female ...of color. Many people now still pray to her as a miracle worker no matter what they think about the formal Church. They will pray to Guadalupe even when they won't pray to a grey-bearded God. Many mix their own traditional beliefs with the overlaid dominant Christian version of who [all] rules the earth and heaven.



In 1754, 200 years after her noted sighting, Pope Benedict XIV declared Our Lady of Guadalupe then patron of what was then called New Spain. Much later, in 1946, Our Lady of Guadalupe was also decreed as the Patroness of the Americas by the Catholic male hierarchy. In 2002, Juan Diego was canonized in the Basilica in Mexico City.

It is not clear if Guadalupe was ever actually canonized, instead of her messenger. However, she has obviously been fully appropriated as if she was a saint or part of the religious iconography. How else could you explain the churches that incorporate her images and utilize the veneration given to her in their masses and prayers? Some assume she must be the Virgin Mary of European depiction, which seems to give credence to their taking what was not actually Christian at all. Who now is to say who Guadalupe actually is or was?

The main shrines of Guadalupe in Mexico D.F. had been preceded by the indigenous temple on Tepeyac hill, honoring the earth and fertility goddess Tonantzin - our

lady mother, who, like Our Lady of Guadalupe, was also associated with the moon. In pre-Hispanic times, that temple was the site of large scale pilgrimages.

The original temple, which was dedicated to the Queen of Tepeyacac, was built near where Juan Diego had seen her. Tenochtitlan was the Aztec capital city prior to the arrival of the Spanish. The area was known then as Atzacualpa or Atzacualco.

It is written that most Mexican Catholics believe that Guadalupe was a manifestation of the Virgin Mary in the Americas, yet this was not written down by those Mexicans. [So we now ask : how did the natives record this event or even make known her appearance or presence? What media was used then? Who depicted Guadalupe before the Catholics conquered and overlaid their story with their patriarchal dominant religious views and beliefs with their parchment and ink? What was written over any original native recordings?

Though Guadalupe is NOT A SAINT nor raised to special religious status, she is defined, re-framed and utilized as a duplication and apparition of the same Holy Mary that Catholics already own for their own religious stories and carefully crafted histories of special December winter events.

Guadalupe is also seen as the sorrowful mother, a figure who embodies the suffering of Mexican & Latina populations.

Interestingly, stories & controversy abound about the credibility of proof of Guadalupe's visit. Some consider it miraculous that the tilma maintains its structural integrity after nearly 500 years, since replicas made with the same type of materials lasted only about 15 years before disintegrating. In addition, the tilma resisted an ammonia spill that made a considerable hole, which was reportedly repaired in two weeks with no external help. (It is not surprising to note that the Catholic bishop kept the original tilma containing the sacred image in his private chapel. Upon completion of the main church, he then transferred the sacred image so that all may see...taking the now sacred object for only catholic use, keeping the valuable icon safe from and for the native people of whom she belongs.)

In 1921, an anarchist placed an offering of flowers next to the image. A bomb hidden within the flowers exploded and destroyed the shrine. However, the image suffered no damage. So, there seem to also be supernatural physical "proofs" still in existence, in Mexico City.

For further information on Guadalupe, you can visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Guadalupe.

A Cell Tower in Your Back Yard

By Lydia Poncé

Two Very Important Meetings - Held on the Same Night: Regarding the Cell Phone Tower at Oakwood Park and Venice High School Pool Closure (see page 4).

Liska Mendoza, the Oakwood Park Director, saw this EMF monster being erected one Tuesday afternoon and ran out to stop the T-Mobile workers. The workers had pushed the park fence 20 feet back and dug a hole 30 feet deep. Liska managed to stop the construction for a few days. However the cell tower is up because the Los Angeles' Bureau of Engineering, (BOE), had approved this project. This cell tower stands at 47 feet high; it's 15 feet over the legal height.

T-Mobile put a cell phone tower at Oakwood Park without going through proper procedures. The city and T-Mobile failed to notify the residents. T-Mobile did not provide the required Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact. They failed to present their cell phone tower plan

to Venice Neighborhood Council, (VNC) or to Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) for that matter. What about the Coastal Commission, you may ask? Nada, zilch, zip, zero. And as a public record, we cannot seem to find the signature, as to who in all their brilliance, signed off on this. Villaraigosa? Not Rosendahl! It's a real who-dun-it mystery.

As for public process, the municipal code ordinance - LAMC Sect. 62.03 was amended by the L.A. City Council and Mayor Villaraigosa about six months ago. Above Ground Facility and BOE enforced the amended ordinance.

According to Whitney Blumenfeld, representative from Rosendahl's office, stated they never received any information regarding this cell tower at Oakwood Park. Well, no one has been notified, perhaps this is the first you have heard of this. You are not alone. The child care center across the street from the park, the church on the corner of 7th and Westminster, and Oakwood Park themselves did

not receive notification. BOE stated that since no one appealed this project, they went forth with it. No one appealed it, because no one knew about it! BTW-Rosendahl has said previously that he opposes all cell towers in all residences.

VNC stated they didn't know anything about this project. But LUPC called a meeting at Oakwood Park, where upset residents voiced their concerns. "A two man team from the City tried to explain how this came to be. LUPC decided that because of the overheight and lack of public notice, this cell phone relay station had to be removed," reported C.V. Beck, Beachhead Reporter.

One resident recommended that it should be removed and placed in the City representatives' backyards.

There's just too much flim flam going on in Venice! For further information regarding the future of the cell tower and other atrocious crimes occurring in Venice:

Please contact, Jataun Valentine 804-4786.

Swami Goes To The Movies

Review of *What Just Happened?*

By Swami X

You don't know because you are either suffering regret over the malleable past, or in fear of the illusory, self-made future. What did just happen is the most entertaining, engrossing, mesmerizing film that has ever been made about movies. Masterpieces defy description. When you have been exposed to a masterpiece you are moved to give expression to your own inner spirit.

Everyone here is a star, especially the director and writer. The stars are so real you forget they are stars, and enjoy them as real live human beings, being human, funny, crazy, vulnerable, unique, pathetic, seeking their own reality. If this doesn't get some Oscars, I'm moving to Alaska.

What "Bulworth" was to politics, "What Just Happened?" is to movies. If you are calibrated over 200, this film is definitely for you -- twice.

Movies are magic and we love the magicians who move, uplift and enlighten our emotions, imagination, vision, ideals and understanding. A film of this honesty, humor, humanity, and genius is rare and deserves our gratitude. You may have problems and don't feel gratitude for anything. Maybe it's your attitude, belief systems or diet. Those Big Macs and Coca Cola could be killing you. Why don't you wise up and start taking care of yourself. Get to know yourself. You are your own best friend.

See the movie; you'll thank me. It's good to be grateful, for "What Just Happened."



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January 2005



August 2005



January 2006



June 2006



March 2007



May 2007



December 2007



Collage and photos by Edizen Stowell, Venice Paparazzi

Do you know about the Venice Surf and Skateboard Association?

By Edizen Stowell

The Venice Surf and Skateboard Association have been around for 15 years. VSA unofficially started in 1993 and was officially recognized during a demonstration as the Venice Pavilion was being torn down by the City of L.A. in 2000.

VSA's mission is to serve the youth and to preserve the surf and skateboard culture/lifestyle in Venice. Some of their activities include hosting surf and skateboarding contests and demonstrations throughout the Los Angeles and greater Southern California region.

This year, they hosted the 15th Annual Venice Surf Competition on October 18 and the VSA skateboarding competition on July 14. Some VSA mem-

-continue on page 14

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Photo: Kirsten Levisen



Photos by Edizen Stowell, Venice Paparazzi

2nd Annual Feed the Beach on Thanksgiving Day Serves 700

From the Organizers:

Thank you once again to each and every one of you for making our vision a reality at the 2nd Annual Feed the Beach on Thanksgiving Day. We could not have done this without you.

Once again the spirit of Venice came out strong in support of this event. We met our projected mark of feed-

ing about 700 people this year. This goes to show that with the right people and loving hearts anything is possible. With the amount of support, contributions, donations, and help, this event became the center point of this holiday.

We had 100 volunteers come out to serve, set-up, clean-up, shred turkeys, and tear down. We had Impacting Hearts Ministries come out with 17 young teenagers, who are foster children, to help serve and give back to this community.

We want to thank the 200 plus individuals who donated and contributed to this event. We raised over \$1,000 in monetary donations which went towards food, supplies, and toiletries. The Rotary Club of Venice Marina was able to raise an additional \$1,000 for this successful event. The Rotary Club of Venice Marina played a huge role in spreading the word, raising money, and collecting over 20 complete dinners. Without those who donated and contributed to this event, we would have not had an event as successful as this one was. It takes the help of everyone to give, in order for an event to happen.

We also want to recognize our local media coverage Beachhead Newspaper and Venice Paparazzi who promoted this event through their paper, website, and email database. Venice Paparazzi had a photo booth at the event in which they took postcard sized photographs of people attending the event. The postcard was printed and postage was provided free of charge by Venice Paparazzi.

We want to thank and recognize all of the following businesses for their support:

Beachhead Newspaper; Daisy Estrada - Party Rental (Tables/Chairs); Local Fire Station No. 63; Gotta Have It Vintage Clothing; VenicePaparazzi.com (go to this website to see photos of event); The Wailens Band; YoVenice.com

And from Westminster Avenue: Bombay Indian; Groundwork Coffee; Lydia's

Pupusas; Royal Food Falafel's; Thai Restaurant; The Waldorf.

We will keep this event alive throughout the years to come. We will be prepared to hit the 1,000 mark in next year's Feed the Beach celebration.

Best Wishes,

James and Nina Merced,
The Fruit Gallery Team



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Victims of L.A. police riot on Venice beach, April 20th. (Photo by Bill Daley)

Hog Wild Weekend by Carol Fondiller

Monday. A heavy headed hangover day. People congratulating one another that they stayed out of jail, or were bailed out. People talk about their experiences on Hogwild Weekend like Belair matrons discuss face lifts and operations. "I was hooked for inciting." "Glad to see you-we thought you were in jail." "Joe's in for failure to disperse." The talk is of lawyers and bail.

Broken bottles, crushed flowers, clothing litter the beach and the ocean front walk. The police cars drive by slowly, like sated tigers.

I had a feeling it would end up like this on the preceding Friday, when I witnessed the Police harass eight young people and take them away. The feeling was further intensified when they arrested a friend of mine for interfering with an arrest, when all she did was ask what charges were these people arrested on. She was jerked to the ground, handcuffed and shoved into a police car by 2 very young very tense officers.

Saturday. 100 people marched to the police station, to protest the harassment of Venice residents, while on the roof of the Venice Police Station that still says Venice City Hall, policemen take our pictures.

Sunday. The sun is hot and a salt water taffy smell comes from the ocean. People go to the Free Venice Art Festival and sit in the Lafayette Cafe waiting for the Free Press Party, and watch the police cars race by with 4 men in each car. The side streets are filled with blue Dodge Darts and lithe young men wearing tennis shoes and sun glasses start mingling on the ocean front, their bank pockets bulging.

One o'clock. 10,000 people converge on Venice to wish the Free Press a happy birthday. People in hot colors seem to vibrate with the hard rock music. The stores are jammed with people buying something cool...girls of all colors and ages display all manner of female things in see-thru dresses. Men of all colors and condition appraise, reject, accept and approach. An old woman with flowers on her hat asks me what holiday it is. I tell her it's the Free Press Birthday Party and her milky eyes glow like opals. She smiles and offers me an orange from the universal string bag that all good grandmas carry. A bearded feathered man takes my picture. An old man tells me to dance because young people should dance. "I can't dance any more now, but when I was young..." his old lips smile.

Families go by loaded with picnic baskets and children play with dogs.

Four o'clock. Men with rifles are on the roofs of apartment houses. The lazy assembled crowd is ordered to disperse by the police who come in with their clubs. The crowd starts running up the Ocean Front Walk, followed by officers. Some of the crowd tries to run up the alley ways. They are blocked off by police... "But we were told to disperse..." Hands are pulled into handcuffs... "But officer, I'm looking for my ride." "What did I do?" Waiting paddy

wagons are jammed with bewildered frightened American citizens. Sirens, screams, curses, children crying for their mommies. The Ocean Front stores close down...only the bars are open, and Barbra Streisand sings Don't Rain On My Parade.

Six o'clock. The beach is in suspended animation between sunset and dark. A chill wind curls the hurriedly dropped objects on the beach. A life guard truck drives down the beach, loudspeakers blaring "the life guards love everyone! Free Venice!" And the litter lies on the beach, people lie in jail, and husbands, wives, parents, friends and lovers mill outside the Venice Police Station that still says City Hall, waiting for Monday.



The Thornton-Sunset Block Committee, one of a series of neighborhood groupings concerned about L.A.'s Master Plan for Venice, created the following letter as a statement of their opposition to the proposed Master Plan.

"Dear Councilman Braude,

As a resident of Venice, I urge you to oppose the Master Plan to be presented to the Planning Commission on May 29. Among my many reasons for making this request are the following: Venice is a unique community where the Senior Citizens and people from all walks of life live compatibly.

"If there is a radical change, such as this plan proposes, the residents of Venice, your constituents, will be left homeless.

"I feel there are alternatives to the Master Plan that would be more acceptable than parking lots, freeways, shopping malls, and extensive sterile high-rise apartments.

"Venice is my home. As a citizen, voter, and taxpayer, I urge you to defeat this plan."

The letter is being distributed to the residents of Venice to be signed and mailed to Councilman Braude.

The Block Committee brought neighbors of the Thornton-Sunset area together to resist the inhumane idea of our homes being torn down and rebuilt into a parking facility. We felt a sense of community in working together to protect Venice. Some alternatives to the Master Plan have been suggested by the committee, such as an adequate public transportation system for the residents of Venice, building parking areas on Lincoln, and turning a portion of the beach area into a parking lot.

If you haven't received a copy of this letter at your door, you can clip it from BEACH-HEAD (or write your own version) and mail it to Councilman Marvin Braude, City Hall, 200 N. Spring, L.A. 90012, so that he may feel your opposition to the Master Plan.

CONSTITUTION VOID ON VENICE BEACH ?

On February 4, the Parks and Recreation Commission held its second public hearing on a proposed park ordinance which if passed would include the following regulations:

"Except as specifically authorized by written permit issued by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, within the limits of any park in the City of Los Angeles, (this includes Venice Beach, Westminster Park and Balboa Playground) no person shall: (partial list)

1. "Sell or offer for sale any merchandise, article or thing of any kind or nature whatsoever..."
2. "Play or utilize any sound amplifying system except within or upon an area set aside for such purpose by the Board."
3. "...post, place or erect any bills, notice, paper or advertising device or matter of any kind."
4. "Enter or remain in any park between the hours of 1:00 AM or 5:00 AM."

In another section the ordinance states that:

"No person or group shall hold, conduct or address any assembly, meeting or gathering of persons, or make or deliver any public speech, lecture or discourse or take part in any public debate...in any park in the City without a written authorization granted by the Board or its designated representative."

There was a small gathering to protest the ordinance - spokespersons were Grace Simon, president of Citizens to Save City Parks, Rick Davidson from Free Venice and Peter Young, attorney with Venice Neighborhood Legal Services. Without exception the speakers attacked not only the tenacity of the ordinance, but also its real purpose. (Do you think the Commission would refuse a permit for a Major Forty benefits? Who about an anti-war rally?) Only Peter Young's attack of the ordinance for its absolute and total disregard for the rights supposedly guaranteed as by the U.S. Constitution caused the Commission to postpone passage of the ordinance and "take it under advisement."

The City's attempt to deny our freedom of speech and right to assemble cannot be ignored. The Free Venice Organizing Committee, Venice Neighborhood Legal Services, and the BEACHHEAD are following the actions of the Commission. Somewhere down the road, however, it may require the action of all People to defend our rights.

Beachhead, Feb. 83 - Page 2

Park a Car, Go to Jail

by JOHN HANG

"No person shall use a vehicle parked or standing upon any City street as a living quarters, either overnight, day by day, or otherwise." That is the text of a new city ordinance (Sect 85.02 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code) passed 12-0 by the City Council on October 26, 1982 and effective December 11, 1982.

At a time when the rising number of homeless in our country is being estimated at two or three million, when a vehicle may be the only shelter a person has, the Los Angeles City Council has chosen to eliminate that possibility with no alternative for the individuals or families in that situation.

There was no consideration of setting aside areas where people living in vehicles might be allowed to park, and no thought of providing sanitary facilities, certainly no hint that our Councilmembers even wish to provide shelter for the homeless. "That should be up to the private sector," I was told by an aide to Hal Berason, 12th District Councilman, who introduced the draconian ordinance. In other words, if you can't pay for private housing, get out of Los Angeles.

There are already laws against parking more than 72 hours, littering, and obstructing traffic, etc. which regulate the conduct of people using vehicles on public streets. To prohibit their use as shelter with no alternatives is unnecessarily cruel, and cynical as well because, guess what? People without a residence are not allowed to register to vote, either. So, no voter backlash to be feared.

This hit-then-when-they're-down law is not going unnoticed, however. Action against the ordinance is being planned by the Peace and Freedom Party, Echo Park J.O.I.N. (Jobs or Income Now) and the Westside Unemployed Council with as many other organizations as we can get together on this. But please don't wait for us. Call Councilwoman Pat Russell's office, 776-4559, and tell her staff what you think of her voting for this brutal law.



Marge Buckley & Rick Davidson married on the Venice beach 13 December 1969

Attorney Marge Buckley of the Venice Neighborhood Legal Services and Rick Davidson, architect, poet and a founder of the Free Venice Organizing Committee and the Beachhead got married in a Very Venice ceremony on the beach. - January, 1970 Beachhead

Roderick Phillip Bradley from the archives - reprinted from Feb. 1971

By Rex Butters

you're happy to call yourself a friend of the earth
 but how much is the life of an animal worth?
 you recycle plastic/you recycle paper
 but when it comes to animals you're a Green World raper
 tell me, don't you think it's odd
 you say life is sacred, except for that cod
 breaded and fried in your fish and chips
 unnecessary killing shines on your lips
 you speak in green living platitudes
 while you live archaic Abrahamic attitudes
 that state animals live to fill your need
 self blinding justification for your primitive greed
 you're so sensitive, so spiritually aware
 yet fear drenched muscle tissue tastes totally fair
 you claim to be psychic and know where it's at
 but you've clogged your receptors with animal fat
 the tortured caged hens with chopped beaks and feet
 sick and insane, to you that's good enough to eat
 use your head, try to think for a change
 did the chicken die happy 'cause you called it free range?
 your wannabe Indian or pagan pretense
 insults Nature with your costume party offense
 you pat yourself on the back because you killed it wild
 no feedlots, no hormones, no Nature defiled?
 who are you fooling with your hypocrisy now?
 not the deer you shot down instead of eating a cow
 not the fish suffocating with a spike in its head
 chant under the moon, another animal's dead
 times ain't Neolithic, you can shop at a store
 buy the sustainable nutrients you're killing for
 you drag noble traditions through the selfishness mud to
 satisfy your perpetual lust for blood
 it's century 21, why are you wearing pelts?
 you don't need strips of steer skin for your shoes and belts
 everywhere people talk about the strange weather
 then grab a stylish jacket made out of leather
 it's hotter every year, will there be no relief?
 Amazon rainforests cleared to graze cheap beef
 animals are beings with consciousness, too
 subjugated mutilated in the name of you
 remember as you suck down your spongy brain burger
 how now ground cow?
 meat is murder

At the 99 Cents Store Off Lincoln Boulevard

i am standing in line
 at the 99 Cents Store
 holding 2 cans
 of shaving cream –
 a pink one for me,
 a green one for my husband –
 & the line
 is long.
 A clerk opens a new line
 walks over
 to direct an old black man
 with a cane to be the first
 when from behind me
 a scowling latino girl
 pushes through
 to leap in front.
 i hold my arm out
 to stop her & she does
 reluctantly, mumbling
 something in spanish. i hate
 line jumpers & this one
 was determined
 to mow down the old guy.
 The rest of the line
 follows him
 like marching ants
 but when i get up to the cashier
 she tells me
 "that girl says she was
 in front of you."
 i reply, "no, she wasn't!"
 & turn to see her
 glaring at the floor.
 A second mexican woman
 immediately backs me up.
 i am satisfied
 that i have stopped
 another asshole
 in her tracks today.

krista schwimmer

this paper is a poem

By RF Wagner, Jr.

08:27 Sunday, November 9, 2008, Meter #1937, Ocean Avenue, SMonica.....Imagine, forty years. Remember well, / do I, to Sixty-eight. How I could tell / much younger souls of magic in the air, / a permeation, stretching everywhere. / Four decades. Anniversary has come / to rest a laurel. There is time for some / reflection, celebration; let the drone / of residents declare this Beachhead Zone. / Oh, Venice, you have this bright jewel, at home, / so totally accessible. So, come, / and recognize your voice, four decades here, / announcing and protesting, as it were. / A voice of the community, to spell / it's truth, column and line, and free to all.....
 23:19 Sunday, November 9, 2008, Meter #2224, Ocean Avenue, SMonica.....Four decades have flown past. In retrospect, / I guess it took a while. One might expect / time's elongation, as we forward gaze. / Beyond our shoulder, seems that better days / already passed us. But there's still Beachhead, / a noble cause, I here note that it's said / by some: in forty years it carved a niche / into the local woodwork. Seemed to catch / a glint of golden sunlight, so displayed / as to assure survival. In this trade, / it takes that special quality, bright rays / of hope, dark indignation; count the ways / of sharing all the news, and here inflect, / suggesting four more decades to inspect.....
 12:30 Monday, November 10, 2008, C-3, Westchester H.S.....As timely now as it was, way back when / that first edition printed, and since then, / four hundred-eighty issues, all in all, / have been conceived since that first one, to tell / each bold account, each drama to unfold, / each series of events; each page was filled, / composed in sweat and blood, truth found its way / out of deep thoughts, well-hidden. One might say / that tears were mixed with ink, each time it spilled / upon the type, well-set into the mold. / Another forty years? What seasons spell / themselves eventually, each year to fall / into brief increments, attain a Zen. / We'll wait in expectation, until then.....
 Humbly submitted to my dear friends at the Beachhead from an honest gypsy

Beachhead ♥ Venice

By erica snowlake

nights around the long table
 wax eloquently
 wane inelegantly
 wise words written whimsically woeful
 tall tales told theatrically humble
 reckless poets and homeless rebels
 decreeing politics of peace
 simply by being...

offending perhaps provoking
 those with blood money tokens
 to burn shamelessly
 we defend our (un)Holy Grail
 Immaculate Stone
 Virgin Saint Goddess Crone
 Chumash and San Gabrielino
 seeded willful of Her Own.

collectively conspiring
 Her rising and shining
 in starry-eyed multi-versed tidings.

heart-yolk of freedom teetering
 on the edge of the Pacific sea
 spiritually unbroken
 birthing light free...
 at a news stand near ye.

Hey! we know the funk rhymes
 last time we looked
 it wasn't a crime.

The Heroic Age of Venice

By Jim Smith

Justice for the people I sing, who forced by fate
 to abandon their homes and flee
 the vast wasteland of mediocrity
 Now filled with haughty boors of unrelenting hate,

Expelled and exiled, they came to the Venice shore
 O Muse! what adventures each may claim
 in their native lands, now turned against them
 Let them tell their tales
 We will listen for a hundred years

They flocked to our quiet haven
 which sheltered and healed the damage
 to those who just wanted to be left alone
 But even here, the fearful guards of propriety
 hounded and harassed the holy men and women
 Who could not still their creative daemon.
 In small cafes and on the broad beach
 they cried out their laments against unfair existence
 In a land that valued wealth not wisdom.

The poets shouted: "stop this madness
 I will not be a part of it.
 Leave me be in tranquil Venice –
 Y'll not have me for your war machine"
 They jailed our bards, Stuart and Frankie
 But it only made their words stronger.
 They and Tony, John and later Philomene
 said, "This Venice you shall not have.
 It belongs to the Lady. Beware!"

And many more gathered to defend sacred Venice
 They rallied around the Haags - John and Anna
 from far off Roma, worthy successors of Aeneas
 who long ago also came from far away
 to fight for freedom for his people.
 And soon they were joined by the quiet architect
 Rick Davidson and Carol of two names, Berman and
 Fondiller, and a mighty pen;
 Jane Gordon, Maryjane, Mary Lou, Marvena and so many
 more steadfast and sure
 who rallied for a Venice with freedom to love and create

They rose in the thousands from the cafes and bungalows
 to fight for fair Venice's survival, struggling to throw off
 the yoke.
 of landlords evil as marauders who have no thought
 except for pillage.
 The people marched, again and again
 to save their homes, to stop a freeway, to protect their
 canals
 and always for freedom, a concept their enemies could not
 grasp.
 Our heroes said there must be peace, in Vietnam and
 Venice
 and all of us must be equal to live and love side by side.

We will not sleep until the killing stops, they said,
 so all can live free of fear.
 But, the black shirts came to sweep the people from the
 beach
 to stop the poetry and the music that soothed and enlight-
 ened so.

In 1967, a piece of Venice spread across the state
 to bring Peace and Freedom to all who were awake.
 "This is good," said John, "but how do we spread the
 word?
 Here at home, the barbarians from the city are at the gates.
 They intend to destroy all that is good and just
 for they hate that which is different and denies their prof-
 its."

How to let our people know?
 Our heroes debated long and hard.
 Some said we must have a radio station to be heard.
 But most agreed that it was a newspaper
 that must be made to serve the community
 and be its voice.
 John answered: "We have made a beachhead in our town,
 Like the one in Normandie, but this time for peace not war
 Let us inform our readers what precious things we've
 made
 our poetry, our art, our comradeship, our gentleness and
 hope
 Truly a beachhead in a land that needs it badly."

Long did they labor those dark nights of November 68.
 But on December First, our heroes gave birth at last.
 The Free Venice Beachhead - 10,000 strong
 proclaimed for all to see, "this paper is a poem."
 Freedom and truth are our watchwords
 and let the chips fall where they may.
 And through the years, hundreds more joined in
 to add their Beachheads to the growing pile -
 three million - and even more - copies since 68!

When did our heroic age end? you ask.
 We will tell you when it does!
 Forty years have come and gone
 Many heroes have fallen, but others rise up to take their
 places.
 We struggle still, for freedom and just to be left alone
 The outcome is far from certain, but we are determined
 we shall not fail to heed the call –
 We shall be human until we fall.

We will thrive so long as beloved Venice
 is truly a beachhead, a beacon upon the land
 for all those who value a beach more than a bank
 and friendship more than commerce.
 And we will know our community is strong,
 its people well and loving.
 as long as the seagulls sing *Chee Wha Wha*
 and our treasured Beachhead is surviving still.

EVERY ONE IN VENICE KNOWS
by Carol Fondiller © 1971

VENICE

NATIVE AMERICAN Update
By Robin Beart
Venice renters league

GROWING PAINS

PEOPLE WIN
By Joan Friedberg
A Venice resident, female impersonator Goldie Glitters, stole the homecoming queen title November 1 at Santa Monica City College. Goldie won the title with a landslide victory of 669 votes out of 1768 in a field of 13 candidates... the rest women.

INSIDE GOLDIE GLITTERS: an exclusive interview

VIVA VENICE

FOX VENICE
620 Lincoln 99
396-4215

CANALS MONSTER VANQUISHED
DR. ZANE'S LOBOTOMY COLUMN

CANAL FESTIVAL FUNERAL
By Mary Lou Johnson
The question most often heard these days along the canals is "When is the canal festival going to be?" There seems to be a general feeling that somehow a Canal Festival Committee lurks somewhere in the wings awaiting the magic moment of resurrection and...
By Carol Fondiller
About this time anyone who has been the least bit involved in Venice things, start getting asked about the Canal Festival. "When's it gonna be?" "gotta start making coke-spoons for it." Well, my dears, the Canal Festival did not originate to make the... for back to...
WE HAVE A HISTORY
ANCHORAGE ASSESSMENT LOOMS
REDLINING
FREE VENICE I

BOB WELLS IN SUPERVISORS RACE
By Mar...
The special interests who fought the passage of Proposition 25, the Coastal Initiative of 1972, are vowing their best to amend the will of the people. Proposition 25 expires in less than six months. A powerful coalition of utility companies, real estate developers, big labor and some short-sighted politicians are lobbying against the initiative of 1972 and have succeeded in having it...
AUGUST 1974 No. 56

MARINA BYPASS
By DeDe Audet, Chairperson
Venice Town Council Traffic Task Force

Los Angeles magazine writes off Venice
By Susan Scott
FARMWORKER INITIATIVE INSURES "senior citizens ARE ALL OUR PARENTS"
The Venice Advisory Town Council was created in March, 1973. It's first official act was to drop the word "advisory" from its name.
FEBRUARY 1973 No. 38

VERY VENICE FESTIVAL

VENICE PEOPLE'S Park Celebration

WHAT IS FREE VENICE?
"Free Venice" has a dual meaning— firstly it is a small group of activists who have started many projects in Venice; secondly it is a broader movement of people throughout the community to free ourselves from the social, political and economic forces which now control our lives.

VENICE TOWN COUNCIL
The Venice Town Council is an experiment in community government.
APRIL 1973 No. 40
The Free Venice Food Co-op (or Food Conspiracy) is a food buying club—members buy food collectively in bulk, and therefore pay near wholesale prices. But there ain't no such thing as cheap food. Members must pay in hassles, in work (four hours per month per adult), and in countless other ways.

WHO WEARS THE PANTS?
by Marge Buckley
Three years ago, while defending Rick Davidson, who had been arrested for disturbing the City Council as part of Venice's struggle to save the Canals, I was threatened with 6 days in jail for appearing before Municipal Judge Detmer in a pantsuit. At that time, I returned in pants with other women and male lawyers to litigate my right to wear any neat, professional costume. I was prepared if necessary to take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court.
APRIL, 1976 No. 76

SHOULD VENICE SECEDE?
by Rick Davidson
JULY 1975 NO. 67

RENTERS LEAGUE UPDATE et al

HOW A REVOLUTION IS FOUGHT
By MILTON TAKI
Should—or could—a revolution in the United States be non-violent? This question is being continually debated within the left in this country. All too often, this debate is formulated as for and against the kind of tactics used by the Weather Underground, and all too often, the language used is rather rhetorical. Hopefully, there is room for a viewpoint that favors violence only as part of a general, all-out war against the ruling class, rather than isolated acts of terrorism—a viewpoint that views armed struggle as simply necessary to the continued survival of humanity.

ARCHIVES
January '73--
December '76

SILKWOOD INVESTIGATION REOPENED
JUNE 1973 No. 42
PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY
A TRIBUTE TO STUART Z. PERKOFF
ART SEIDENBAUM
Passion to the People
If you are one of those government souls who'd like to take government in your own hands, let me tell you about Venice, Calif., as a model of what might be.

Passion to the People

ISSUE No. 84. DECEMBER 1976

By Now you've probably noticed that we're celebrating 40 years since the Beachhead's founding.

Please help us continue for another 40 by becoming a Beachhead Sustainer. We are a reader-supported, all-volunteer newspaper. Keep us going for just \$100 a year (we take installments).

Poets as Rebels

By krista schwimmer

Recently, a neighbor said something about poetry that truly touched a nerve – one of those fiery, explosive nerves that when shaken, keeps quivering for a while. I was lamenting how many of my current friends do not read poetry; he replied, when asked why, that it was because poetry only meant something to the individual writing the poem, not to anyone else. He insisted that he had actually read poetry to come up with this idea.

Well, dear Beachhead readers, imagine how stunned I was! In fact, I was so stunned, I did not come up with a retort at the time. So here is my reply now.

Poetry is one of the most powerful of all genres. There is clear evidence of this fact by some of the lives of history's famous poets. Take the Russian poet, Anna Akhmatova, who was so loved in Communist Russia that even Stalin would not kill her – only some of her friends and family! A visionary poet, Akhmatova wrote:

*Why is our century worse than any other?
Is it that in the stupor of fear and grief
It has plunged its fingers in the blackest ulcer,
Yet cannot bring relief?*

*Westward the sun is dropping,
And the roofs of towns are shining in the light.
Already death is chalking doors with crosses
And calling the ravens and the ravens are in flight.
(from "Selected Poems", trans. by D.M. Thomas)*

Or the poet, Pablo Neruda, also a poet involved in politics and war, who wrote the epic poem, "Canto General" about South America. This same man wrote such beautiful love poems that at one point, when he was asked to read one of these poems at a gathering of hundreds of people, the audience recited the poem, from memory, back to him because he did not have that one with him.

On a more local level, I noticed how the death of the poet, Philomene Long, obviously touched the Venice community. I found out about her for the first time in the September 2007 Beachhead issue with the headlines, "Venice Loses Its Poet Laureate – Philomene Long, RIP." Poet Laureate? How wonderful, yet sad as I only found out about her because of her publicized death. A photo of her appeared in this issue of her standing by her poem inscribed on the Poetry Wall in Windward Plaza. I loved the poem, a simple poem capturing what Venice means to me and others:

Venice
Holy Ground
Stained with the blood of poets
City which lies
Beneath the breasts of birds
Guarded by cats
Behind every corner
The Muse, Angel of Surprise
Poems out of pavement cracks

Reading the article, I discovered a woman who had been part of the Beat movement, as well as a Catholic nun for five years. I discovered, too, that

my own community actually treasured a poet.

It is true that today much of published, modern poetry is banal and selfish, speaking in crafty ways of absolutely nothing. Frankly, I would prefer a child's poem with thought or feeling over many of these "smart" poems found in literary magazines. Some people like to blame the "confessional" poets such as Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton for the turn of modern poetry into personal vomit and self-pity. Such people do not understand that these great poets used the personal to dive into the universal, as well as to ignite mythic and archetypal forces.

One simply needs to know where to find the poetry that speaks to your soul. As Mary Oliver says at the end of her handbook on poetry, "poems are not words, after all, but fires for the cold, ropes let down to the lost, something as necessary as bread in the pockets of the hungry."

Can you live a happy life without poetry? Probably. It is simply untrue, however, that poetry is only by the poet and for the poet. Even Emily Dickinson, who shunned publishing her poems in her life, touches the lives of individuals today. Or why would people leave poems on her grave?

Great poets are rebels in every sense of the word. They shake our ideas, our senses, our souls. For those of you who do not like poetry at all, too bad. The rebels are here to stay. And some of these rebels are reading and writing poetry in the Beachhead!



Billie Holiday

By Majid Naficy

Oh Billie, I dance with you
Holding your waist with my hand
I circle around on tiptoe
Your playful rhythm leaks into my veins
And the salt of your skin sinks into my blood
The sea is far but I hear its sound
The sea is big but fits in my body
Let us cast off our shoes

And step on its sandy carpet
The little waves grab our feet
and draw us toward the green waters

Oh Billie, I dance with you
Holding the hem of your long skirt
I walk gently on the skin of the sea
The wandering wind wraps around our bodies
And the albatross opens its wings on our shoulders
There, across the sea is the land of my childhood
With fragile trees that like the tips of your fingers
Are now growing all over my skin
The sea is borderless but beats in my heart
The earth is vast but fits into my skull
Tonight no border can separate you from me
But... suddenly my hand lets go of the radio antenna
The blues singer begins to whine
Ah, my dance partner is not imaginary!
I hold her waist as before
Her velvet voice rises again
And takes me back to the nightly dance

Spearhead with a new face

by Hillary Kaye

This is my country
burning its fire
lighting its light
in the name of desire
allegory and empire
raging and
crude
The bull in a china shop needed a new face
Some symbol for us
with more gallantry guile and grace
what a relief to find one no matter what race
who can rule the world with a smile
and kill with good taste

8 Guys Behind A Bar

By Mark Lipman

So, these guys walk into a bar
and they sit behind it
sit behind the bar
behind the bars
the bars
the bars of a prison cell
in the joint,
for smoking one
isn't that a laugh?
now, you're a laboratory experiment,
stuck in a cage,
and they're gonna teach ya
just how to behave
in polite society,
to lie,
to cheat,
to rob,
to steal,
all the skills you'll need
to survive on the streets outside.

Once there, you find
you're not reformed,
but that shouldn't be
such a big surprise,
it's not you they want to change after all,
you're just fine,
in fact, getting better
it's everyone else
that's the problem,
you're controllable,
and most likely without
the right to vote
and probably wouldn't use it,
if you had it.

No, they want to make
the others just like you,
heading back in the stock,
for round two,
the school of higher learning,
where you get qualified
to rape
and kill
before setting you loose
to reek more mayhem.

Ah, if they could all be like you?
Screw the middle class!
They're all pushing
into the Rich man's backyard,
besides, we're getting
our workforce oversees now,
they're a hell of a lot cheaper,
than Mr. Suburbanite

we just need to keep enough of them
employed to make the numbers
look right to our stock holders.

They're the ones who pay
for us to make X-rated,
head decapitating video games,
for us to sell
to every twelve year old,
with a twenty spot
to drop,
just a drop
in the bucket
and it helps to keep
enrollments up
at State Pen U.
your old Alma Mater,
but now, you're in the Fed-Pen
sitting on a death row bed-pan
because you offed some
nameless Joe
for what was in the register.

So what, if your court appointed lawyer
slept through half the testimony,
hey, that's just how it goes
in a capitalistic society,
and we're not about to try
to fix you,
you're a valuable commodity,
you help keep insurance rates high,
and We can afford to pay
for the security to keep
You away from Us.

Haven't you realized it yet?
nothing ever gets any better,
only worse,
and we're here to make sure
it stays that way.

Sure, you can say,
that one day,
it will come back around
to bite us on the ass,
but that's just hypothetical,
and off in the future,
besides, by the time
the effects of all
the damage I have done
begin to materialize
I will already be dead,
it's not my problem,
so blame my kids,
I don't give a damn!

That's how it is,
and how it always has been.

The Venice Surf and Skateboard Association

—continued from page 9

bers also provide mentoring and skate lessons to the youth. Right now, their main project is to bring a world class skate park to Venice.

The active members of Venice Surf and Skateboard Association include enthusiasts Ger-I Lewis (Executive Director and Venice Surf-A-Thon founder), Jimmy Valentine (Music co-coordinator), Tonan Ruiz (Surf Instructor), Lance LeMond (Veniceskates.com), Bart Saric (Art Director), Heidi Lemmon (SPAUSA Skate park Association of America), Orion Comstock (Ozonegear.com) and BMFS (Sgt. at Arms). Currently, there are about 150 VSA members.

VSA members anxiously await the construction of a new skate park in Venice. VSA members have lobbied for over 10 years for this project. Ground breaking of the new Venice Skate Park was scheduled for September 2008 but has been reschedule to January 2009.

Many VSA members are disappointed because of the delay in the construction. Tonan says, "Santa Monica, Culver City, Fontana, Glendale and even El Segundo have a skate park, but Venice, where skateboarding originated, does not even have a skate park. I asked, "what about the skate park that is there now?" Tonan responds, "It is not a professional skate park. It's more of a prop, something to look at and it is poorly made."

The public can support VSA by becoming a member. VSA supports and provides our kids with positive and athletic activities, maintains and keeps the spirit of the Skate and surf culture alive in Venice, is proactive in getting the new Venice Skate park built, and involves a group of men and women who were born and raised in Venice trying to do a good thing for the community by establishing and providing this needed organization. Sports, teams, competitions, community involvement make better kids into better citizens. VSA provides all this.

The Venice Surf and Skateboard Association is asking for people to get involved and join them in their mission to provide positive activities and a venue (new skate park) for the children of Venice. VSA memberships costs \$25 per year and includes a membership card, sticker and t-shirt. According to Heidi Lemmon, "Memberships pay for hosting events. To host an event there are permit and insurance fees, trophies, certificates and t-shirts that are given to these kids who participate in these events." Geri-I says, "The VSA hosted six events last year but we would like to double the events scheduled."

Documentaries and movies such as the Lords of Dogtown, Dogtown and Z-Boys, and the Rising Sun have made Venice even more popular and has inspired people from all around the world to come to Venice. Skate and surf is a large part of the Venice. Join now! Get involved and help preserve the Venice culture. Volunteer, donate and/or become a member today. It's super cheap to be a member of VSA.

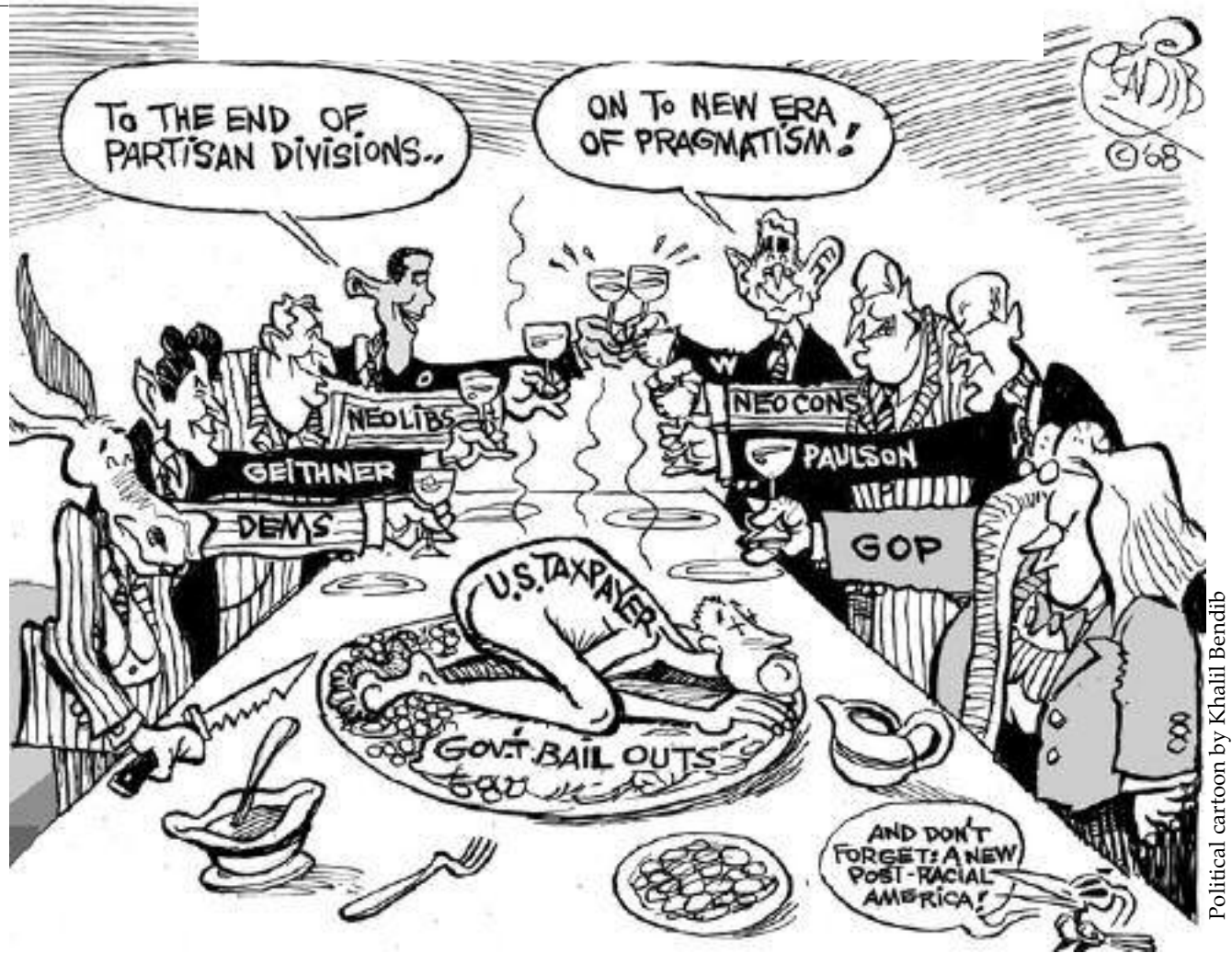
To obtain more information on Venice Surf and Skateboard Association, to volunteer, obtain membership and for questions regarding the new Venice Skate Park, visit their website at www.venicesurfandskateboardassociation.blogspot.com. Also you can contact Ger-I Lewis via email at venicesurfsk8@yahoo.com. For more information and to see a 3D design plan of the new skate park visit, www.veniceskates.com. To view a video of this interview or see photos and videos of past VSA events on the internet: www.venicepaparazzi.com.

Be active and help preserve the Venice surf and skate culture. Join today.

Edizen Stowell is a member of Venice Paparazzi.

Poet For Sale

Struggling Artist Seeking Sponsors
No Stipend Too Small
Impresarios and Major Donors Welcomed
Poetry, Music and Paintings also available
For more info contact Mark at:
escalatepeace@yahoo.com



Political cartoon by Khalil Bendib

How Venice Voted

Once again, Venice voted to the left of Los Angeles and the rest of the state. In Venice, Barack Obama received 88 percent of the vote. This is more than the 77 percent he received in the city of Los Angeles and the 61 percent he received in California.

John McCain received on 10 percent of the vote in Venice 90291 compared with 13 percent that George Bush received in 2004. Kerry won 85 percent in that election.

It was not a good year for other presidential candidates. Peace and Freedom candidate Ralph Nader

finished third with just 1 percent. Cynthia McKinney (Green) and Bob Barr (Libertarian) trailed with about half a percent.

Venice voted resoundingly against Proposition 8, a constitutional ban on gay marriage. Not a single precinct favored the measure. Unfortunately, L.A. County and California voted for Prop. 8. Does this mean that gay marriages can still be performed in Venice? There is certainly public support here.

-Jim Smith

How Venice Voted - Nov. 2008

Nov. 7, 2006	For President					Precinct	Prop. 8 Ban Gay Marriage	
	Obama Democrat	McCain Republican	Nader P&F	McKinney Green	Barr Libertarian		Yes	No
Central Venice	683	34	11	10	1	3201	46	687
Central/North Beach	598	44	6	2	5	2388	52	594
Central/North Beach	622	52	7	7	8	1244b	65	624
North Beach	656	81	13	3	5	1244a	86	664
Rose Ave./Oakwood	658	58	3	5	4	1542	116	599
Oakwood	668	42	5	1	5	3235	179	523
Oakwood	747	45	7	1	5	1546	200	582
Oakwood/Millwood	722	68	6	1	4	1547	99	692
North Penmar	556	107	13	4	4	1549	194	481
South Penmar	684	96	7	3	2	3202	123	658
N. Penmar East	654	146	8	3	4	1553	195	611
Zanja	464	75	10	0	5	5934	105	444
Presidents' Row	409	64	6	2	3	5936	79	402
Presidents' Row	475	47	5	1	1	5937	80	442
Silver Triangle	449	65	2	0	2	2389	84	424
Canals	463	71	3	4	3	2921	67	474
South of Canals	416	54	1	1	1	2393	55	413
S. Beach	498	63	4	2	0	2863	58	499
Total Venice 90291:	10,422	1,212	117	50	62		1,883	9,813
	87.9%	10.2%	1.0%	0.4%	0.5%		16%	84%
Venice 90292: (S. of Wash)						Precinct		
Oxford Triangle	422	104	4	3	4	2392	122	406
Pen: Wash. to Hurricane	420	128	3	1	3	1884B	124	419
Pen: Hurricane to Outrigger	480	129	4	0	1	3197	106	502
Pen: Outrigger south	280	101	1	1	3	0561B	94	289
Total Venice 90292:	1,602	462	12	5	11		446	1,616
	76.6%	22.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.5%		22%	78%
L.A. City:	736,552	208,156	7,450	3,078	4,764		399,918	541,231
	76.7%	21.7%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%		42%	58%
L.A. County:	2,247,352	941,003	26,372	10,912	16,518		1,594,038	1,591,134
	69.3%	29.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%		50.0%	50.0%
California:	7,978,533	4,850,296	104,189	36,989	65,185		6,759,103	6,190,523
	61.2%	37.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%		52.2%	47.8%

CommUnity Events – day by day

Thursday, December 4

• **7:30 - 9:30pm - VNC Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness/Vehicular Occupation** - Discussion of programs, funding and partners for a RV siting and transition program. United Methodist Church.

Friday, December 5

• **7-9pm - Fundraiser for Venice 2000** - Panel discussion and the signing of Tom Hayden's book *Street Wars: Gangs and the Future of Violence*. All proceeds will go directly to support Venice 2000. Epoxybox, 600 South Venice Blvd. \$10 Suggested donation.

• **7-10pm - "Unity" Art Show** - Art by local Venice artist Flewnt. Abbots Habit Coffee House, Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free Admission.

• **7:30pm - Beyond Film: The Signature of All Things: A film of the Centenary Celebration of Kenneth Rexroth** - Enjoy a screening of the film of the BB Centenary of poet, essayist, translator, critic, and instigator of the SF Renaissance, Kenneth Rexroth. Beyond Baroque. Admission free.

Saturday, December 6

• **9am - 3pm - Holiday Book Sale** - Sale featuring non-fiction/fiction, hardcover/paperback, children's, CDs/Videos/Audio/Cooking. Abbot Kinney Library.

• **10am - 4pm - Holiday Faire** - Celebrating 21 years of our annual jewelry and crafts sale. Will be held at the The Church in Ocean Park, 245 Hill Street. Free.

• **2pm - Pacific Resident Theatre Presents - "Strings Snapping"** - A special evening benefit of a staged play written and directed by Andy Wolk. Also Dec. 7 - 7pm - Pacific Resident Theatre.

• **5 - 7pm - Twilight Bridge Lighting and Holiday Party** - Bring your friends and family to the annual lighting of the bridge. At the Sherman Canal Bridge. Free.

• **6 - 10pm - End of the Year Celebration** - Come enjoy food and a special musical performance by Herencia Mexicana at 6-6:30pm. SPARC \$10 donation.

• **7:30pm - Readings from Uri Hertz, Doren Robbins, and Sharon Doubiago** - Beyond Baroque. Free.

Sunday, December 7

• **7:30pm - Opening Reading** - Featuring Jack Bowman and JC Sullivan. Beyond Baroque. Admission is free.

• **11:30am - 3:30pm - Board of Officers Retreat** - Coffee and mingling will be at 10:30am - 11:00am and drinks will be at 10:30am - 11:00am. Beachwood Restaurant, 822 Washington Blvd.

• **2pm - Closing day of La Tinta Grita -The Ink Shouts: The Art of Social Resistance in Oaxaca** - Will be held at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, Box 951549 Los Angeles, CA 90095. Admission is free.

Monday, December 8

• **7pm - 9:30pm - VNC - Administrative Committee Meeting Agenda** - Agenda will be posted on the 5th of December. United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, December 10

• **6:30pm - 9pm - Land Use and Planning Committee** - Agenda includes cellular installations in Oakwood and sale of surplus property - Oakwood Recreation Center. www.grvnc.org.

Thursday, December 11

• **7:30pm - 9pm - Westside Police Redeployment Meeting** - Felicia Mahood Senior Citizen Center Auditorium, 1138 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles.

Friday, December 12

• **6:30pm - Venice Town Council** - Join us for a coastal appeal holiday party. Dinner will be served 7pm. Food donation is \$5. United Methodist Church Auditorium.

• **7:30pm - I Shall be Released: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** - Come and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that was signed in Dec. 10 1948. Will feature Ross Altman, Eric Gordon, Leslie Levy, Susan Suntree, and Adrienne Albert - Beyond Baroque.

• **10am - 8pm - Dec. 12 & Dec 13, Dec. 14 - 11am -7pm - Rabbit Kinney** - Eco friendly clothing line featured at Eco Gift Show, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Admission \$10 a day/\$20 a weekend.

Saturday, December 13

• **7:30pm - 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Free Venice Beachhead** - Bring one, bring all! Come celebrate the voice of Venice for the last 40 years. Join collective members past and present for readings, films, and refreshments. Beyond Baroque.

• **5pm - 7pm - Book Signing** - Featuring Rin Tanaka. Come meet author and fashion culture historian sign copies of his book *My Freedamn!*. Surfing Cowboys 1624 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

• **11am - 4pm - Ocean Charter Winter Faire** - Come down and enjoy varieties of crafts for children and adults, live music and food. Free to attend. Activities will cost between \$2-5. Proceeds will support the Ocean Charter School. Ocean Charter School, 12606 Culver City Blvd Culver City.

Sunday, December 14

• **3pm - 10pm - Screening of Stacy Peralta's film "Made**

in America" - Enjoy music and a Q&A after the film. Will also feature a solo art exhibit of Pope Art. The Stronghold, 1625 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.

• **4pm - Venice Boat Parade at the Venice Canals.** Holiday spirit with a brilliantly lit display of small boats, canoes, kayaks and costumes. 869-4733 venicecanalsassociation@gmail.com

Monday, December 16

• **8pm - Hosted by MESS (Media Ecology Soul Salon)** - Critically acclaimed author Janet Fitch will be speak. Canal Club 2025 Pacific Ave. Free.

Saturday, December 20

• **5pm - 10pm - Celebrate the Winter Solstice** with art and music. Circle of Color at Sponto Gallery. Free.

• **Dec 20 & 21 - Venice Youth Plan Holiday Concert** - See website for details.

www.venicechristmaschoir.ning.com

Thursday, Jan. 1

• **All Year - 2009!** Let's do it all over again!



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, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov

• Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org

• The Good Hurt, 12249 Venice Blvd, www.goodhurt.com

• Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com

• Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.

• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com

• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x 15.

• Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, (310) 399-2078.

• Talking Stick Cafe, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. (310) 450-6052.

• United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).

• Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405.

• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue. (310) 305-1865. Fax (310) 305-0146.

• Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead.

Send information to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 25th of the month.

(If you can afford an advertisement, please take one out - \$25)

Ongoing Events

Poetry

FREE WORKSHOPS & OPEN READINGS at Beyond Baroque:

- 5 PM, sign-up 4:45. - 1st Sunday **Free Open Readings**, except Aug., Sept., Jan. Two-poem or three-minute max.
- 8pm - Monday Night **Literary and Experimental Fiction** - Bring copies of sections or short pieces. With Angie Kirk.
- 8 pm - Tuesday night **Creative Non-Fiction** - Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. With Tess Whitehurst.
- 8pm - **Wednesday night poetry** - A legendary gathering & the West Coast's longest running, free poetry workshop. With Frankie Drayus.
- 8pm - Thursday **Alt. Screenplay** - Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Independent projects only. With Peter Coogan.
- 1:30pm - **Saturday Afternoon Poetry** - Bring a poem & 10 copies. With Bob Foster.
- 11am - 4th Saturday Morning Prose & Poetry - Workshop for publication. Bring 10 copies. With Annette Robinson.

• 7:30pm - Every 2nd Wednesday, Poetry Open Mic night. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge.

Spanish

• 1-4pm - Mondays - Burton Chace Park, Marina del Rey - 310-831-2325 - Semester: \$27 (\$7 Seniors).

Theater

- 8pm - Thursday, Friday and Saturday /3pm Sundays - **Fata Morgana**. A delightful comedy about a young man who encounters a night of magic with a beautiful woman. Directed by Marilyn Fox. Ongoing until Dec.21. Pacific Resident Theater.
- 8pm - Friday and Saturday /3pm Sundays - A new play by Vince Melocchi: **Lions**. Directed by Guillermo Cienfuegos. Ongoing until Dec. 7. Pacific Resident Theater.

Music

- 7pm- Every Sunday - **Wine, Women, and Song** - Musical Cabaret hosted by Carolyn Mignini. Pacific Resident Theater. \$20, includes a pre-show libation & hors d'ouerve buffet.
- 8pm - 11pm Sunday & 9pm - 12am Monday - **Live Jazz** - Hal's Bar and Grill.
- 12pm - 2pm - Every Thursday- **Live Jazz & Blues**- Enjoy delicious Cajun lunch and music by Joe Banks and Friends. Uncle Darrow's, 2560 Lincoln Blvd.
- **Live Music Every Night**- The Good Hurt -12249 Venice Blvd. See week of events at www.goodhurt.net

Film

- **6 - 10pm - Documental** -Film series - Every Monday. The Unurban Coffeehouse.
- **7pm & 9:00pm/Dec 6** - Screening of **Pxl This 18**- Sponto Gallery.
- **7pm, Dec 9** - Screening of **Day is Done** - Sponto Gallery.
- **Dec 10 - 7pm - Robert Carl Cohens** - Concerned Citizen Film Marathon - Sponto Gallery

Kids

- 7pm - Every Tuesday - **Pajama & Toddler Storytime** - Abbot Kinney Library.
- 3:30 - 5:30pm - Ongoing until Jan. 28 - **Middle School Youth Create, Explore and Perform** - Enroll NOW. Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 397-8820 ext.104

Free Food

- **3 - 5pm - Veggie Giveaway** - Every friday. Vera Davis Center. Contact Ivonne Guzman 323-867-2705.
- **3 - 5pm - Food Not Bombs**- Free food on Thursdays. United Methodist Church.

Calendar Handmade by Jessica Aden



BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968