Our 42nd Year

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

CHEE WAH-WAH

December 2010 #350

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIF 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 310-396-2525

Lawsuit filed to protect civil rights of RV Residents

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

A civil rights lawsuit has been filed in federal court on November 23 against the City of Los Angeles for violation of the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments, and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

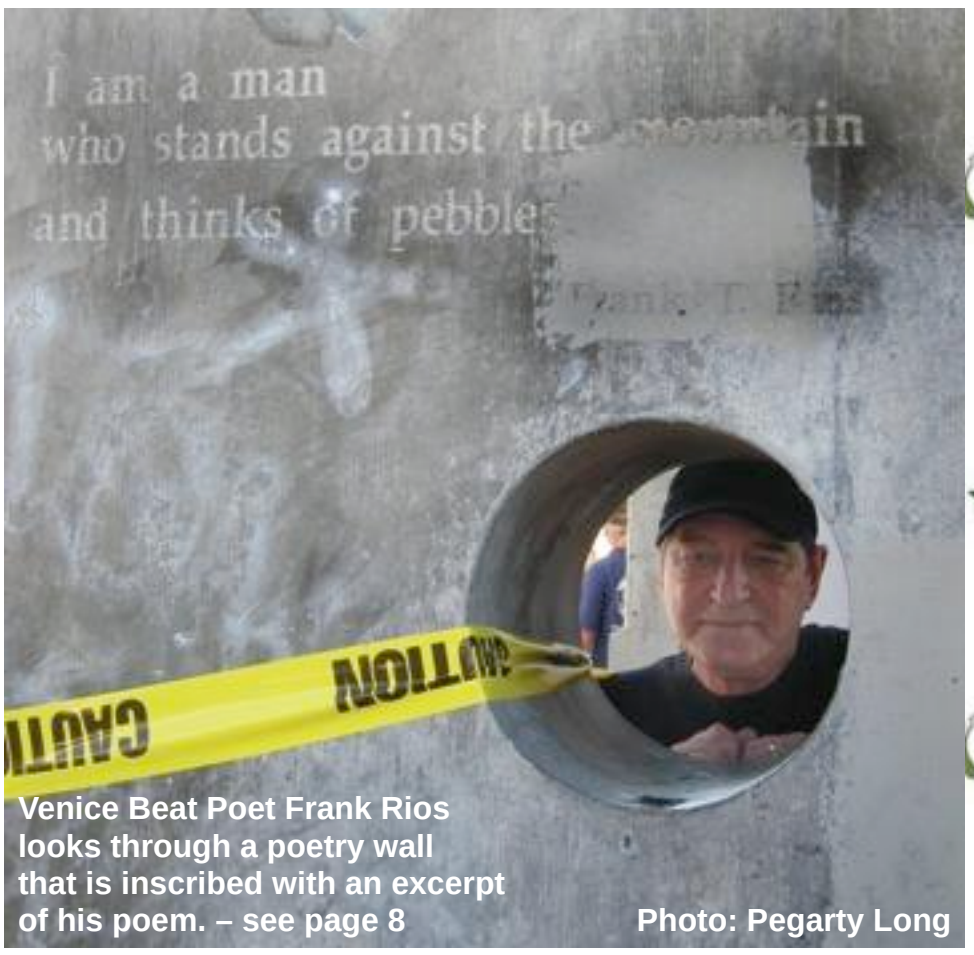
The plaintiffs in this civil rights lawsuit are part of the Venice community. Most are people who have lived in Venice for many years and used to be housed here. They get all their services here, they have been involved in the St. Joseph surveys, they are on housing lists, and they have given their personal information for getting in the "Streets to Homes" program - if it ever happens.

Their disabilities range from congestive heart failure, chronic bronchitis, nerve damage, shattered bones, and gout. One of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit is now on antibiotics and complains that she is coughing up blood from a new lung infection. Another plaintiff keeps "NitroQuick" on him at all times in case he feels a heart attack coming on.

The list of civil rights attorneys filing this suit include Attorney Carol Sobel, past president and very active member of the National Lawyers Guild, Attorney Barry Litt, a well respected civil rights lawyer known for working on the Pentagon Papers, Attorney Susan Millman with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and long time Venice resident, and Attorney Scott Rapkin with the Law Offices of Michael Rapkin in Santa Monica.

As Venice folks might already know, a new Venice LAPD Task Force has been placed specifically for banishing homeless people from Venice, especially those people living in vehicles. This task force of LAPD officers has been giving out bogus parking ticket after bogus parking ticket, which is

–continued on page 4



Venice Beat Poet Frank Rios looks through a poetry wall that is inscribed with an excerpt of his poem. – see page 8

Photo: Pegarty Long

Abbot Kinney Merchants Oppose Food Trucks

STATEMENT OF THE ABBOT KINNEY MERCHANTS COMMITEE

First Friday in Venice is where everyone wants to be, and the businesses on Abbot Kinney have taken a bold move. They have paid the Department of Transportation to post the street for "NO PARKING from 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m." with the full understanding that this means that passenger cars are included in the parking ban. The reason for this action is the excessive number of food trucks that show up. Valet parking services will be operating, including one at the corner of Navarre Court which is not restaurant-affiliated.

First Friday began in 2007 when a group of merchants on Abbot Kinney banded together in an effort to promote business on the street. It was slow to start, but attendance gradually increased as more businesses joined in. For years, Abbot Kinney has hosted a holiday event with great success, and they were trying to expand on that concept.

In June, 2009, there was a sudden increase in traffic, as word spread through social media that Abbot Kinney was 'the place to be on First Fridays'. The increase in pedestrians caused some concern for public safety.

The merchants, working with LAPD and the Fire Marshall, agreed to be more mindful of what they could do to stop contributing to sidewalk congestion. The crowds continued to flock to the street for subsequent First Fridays. The energy was exciting, and businesses flourished.

In early 2009, food trucks began parking in a private lot on Abbot Kinney. These first few trucks were novel and well-received by patrons. By September 2009, what started out as a handful of food trucks quickly snowballed. Presently, anywhere between 40 and 50 trucks park along the full length of the Boulevard which has routinely created a public safety hazard.

–continued on page 10

CASUALTIES IN AFGHANISTAN:
1,404 U.S. Dead • 49 this month
IRAQ:
4,429 U.S. Dead - 2 this month 32,929 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: Up to 1.4 million • Cost of wars: $1.1+ trillion
costofwar.com • antiwar.com • icasualties.org

Happy Holidays from the Beachhead Collective!

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD
SINCE 1963

Beachhead Collective Staff: Karl Abrams, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Roger Linnett, Lydia Poncé, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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

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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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LETTERS

Segregation

Dear Beachhead,

The day is November 11, 2010. And rumor has it that tonight there is supposed to be a sweep at the Rose parking lot on Ocean Front walk by the Pacific Division Police against the Venice citizens who live and reside in RV's. If this rumor is true, the intent behind the sweep is to tow, ticket, and overall instill fear and harassment to the RV community. They will no doubt enter RV's without permission, they will no doubt make arrests and make threats and mock the RV owners.

They will write out tickets that the people cannot afford or will tow away their homes with all their possessions inside.

This of course, is still a rumor. I will be out on OFW tonight with a camera to record everything and anything involving a badge.

There is a great sense of injustice in Venice, people are being forced out due to the selfish and yuppie like mentality that has slowly been usurping the town for the past 10 years. Homeless and Transients are being told they are not wanted, are being forced to leave. Where do they go? Does it even matter to the residents of Venice who push so hard for gentrification? It is a clear agenda by those who own property or demand a cookie cutter image of Venice against those who are the exact opposite in every sense of the word.

THIS is segregation.

I found outside of Beyond Baroque a flyer that someone had placed on the windshield of the RV, it was a flyer that basically added up to one solid message.

"WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE"

The flyer offered numbers of places to get "help", but these places never have the right kind of help and generally are not in the area, and far away from Venice. The Flyer also provided penal codes and sanctions making it clear that what RV dwellers were doing was against Los Angeles law, and that got me to thinking.

Just because something is a law, does not make it right. And I don't mean silly little laws based on personal preference. I mean BIG laws that were in place and oppressed people and separated them from society, and it was deemed acceptable both ethically and legally. I am talking of course about Jim Crow laws. Laws that forbade a black man from sharing a water fountain with a white man, laws that demanded that a white person would automatically receive a seat on a public bus if a black man was in it, laws that separated people simply because of what they are. And now, it's being done again, people being rejected from a town because of where they live, many RV owners can't afford to find housing in this town as the property values have gone up... Once affordable housing is all but extinct in this town so many RV owners live the next best way they can, but that too is now being stripped away from them. Public streets are off limits to them, The Rose lot put up ILLEGAL sanction codes that pertain to private property when the Rose lot is public that tried to banish any vehicle larger then a van.

How can anyone call it anything other then segregation? You don't want them here because they are different and because they do not meet up to your expectations, it's as simple as that. The trash and urine complaints are invalid because I watch tourists do just as much damage and there are a lot more of them then people who live in RV's... but I don't see us trying to force out tourism do I? I don't know what utopia the people who oppose RV's are aiming for, what I do know is the negative affects it has on the town that is renowned for open minded citizens and gritty and colorful personality. The RV community and homeless ADD that grit and personality, they help make this town what it is just as much as the art, and the music, and the skating, and the performers, and the vendors (mainly because many of the RV community ARE artists and vendors).

The solution that has been found is to segregate a class of people from living and enjoying Venice Beach, the (in my opinion) most beautiful beach on the planet. Why do I think it's the most beautiful? Because there is no place like it on earth, and all who oppose the RV community are trying to turn Venice in to every other beach community in the world. Boring, dull, separate Why do you want to do that? Why change what the whole world COMES here to see? And for those who moved here, it was never a secret, you HAD to have known what Venice was like before you moved here... why move somewhere and then demand to change it?

The laws that are imposed against people who live out of their vehicle are unconstitutional and elitist, and the way Venice is going it looks like it's just going to become another beach side community that has a private patrol group to keep "undesirables" out.

Black people were not allowed to live in certain areas, and now people who live in RV's are not allowed to live in certain areas.. go figure. who would have thought a town that was so multicultural and thrived on free speech would go down this way?

Shame on you Venice. Shame on you.

Ian Dean

More LETTERS on Page 4

Cell Tower at Extra Space Storage

Dear Beachhead,

T-Mobile is planning on installing two panel antennas, three microwave antennas and one GPS antenna on the rooftop of the storage facility at 658 Venice Boulevard, just east of Abbot Kinney. The community objected to this facility a few years ago, and fought against it for three years. After many compromises and concessions, it was built with a 27' height limitation.

I live within 300 feet of the proposed site and have many concerns. From the research I've read, there are many health hazards the World Health Organization admits are "possibly carcinogenic to humans based on studies of childhood leukemia".

Not only is the proximity to homes alarming, this site is close to schools. I am aware that similar towers were rejected at Palms and Beethoven because of the close proximity to schools, which reinforces my belief that these towers have a negative impact on us, and our environment.

In addition, studies conducted can cause the disappearance of bees and small fragile birds. My friend (in the site radius) has nine fruit trees and a garden that rely on the pollination of bees, along with all the other trees and flowers, and small birds to eradicate pests.

I have T-Mobile cellular service as do many others in the site area (did a survey) and there is not a gap in our reception. I understand that T-Mobile has seven towers in a very small area of Venice (from the ocean to Lincoln - from Rose to Washington Blvd.), and that's just T-Mobile. Think of all the other wireless corporations!

Cell towers reduce property values. We know it is reckless to endanger our health and environment for the profit of these giant corporations. Before we put our tax paying community at more risk, we would like to see more environmental studies. We don't know the long term effects on humans and animals. In my opinion, such towers should not be placed in residential communities until a way is found of defusing the electromagnetic frequencies, and especially the microwave radiation coming from the cell towers.

We sure can use your help by attending the hearing on Thursday, December 2 at 9 a.m. at the West L.A. Municipal Building, 2nd floor.

Nancy McCulloch

Additional Information:

This is T-Mobile Case No. ZA 2010-0734.

Because of a federal case ruling, we cannot talk about health concerns. The city can only take into account limited considerations when approving or denying these uses:

1. T-Mobile has no "Gap" in service (already 7 or more towers in site Ocean to Lincoln, Rose to Washington);
2. Near schools;
3. Concerns about birds, bees, wildlife;
4. Property values

Voice your concerns to:

- Whitney Blumenfeld, Senior Planning Deputy Councilmember Bill Rosendahl District 11 Whitneyblumenfeld@lacity.org • 213-473-7011

- Andre Parvenu, City Planning Zoning Administration - Andreparvenu@lacity.org • 213-978-1336

Alert!!

T-Mobile has applied for variance as Abbot Kinney and Venice Blvd. on City property to install a 58'5 wooden mono pole with antennas, meter cabinets, vaults and vent stacks. No hearing date has been set - yet!

Filet • Salmon • Ribs • Prawns
Wraps • Salads • Sandwiches
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Coastal Commission Body Slams City

By John Davis

The same City Attorney that chastised the Coastal Commission and accused it of nefarious misdeeds just faced them, begging them for approval of what City Councilman Bill Rosendadhl (CD11) wanted: private beach parking for Playa del Rey residents and their guests. Who would not want their property value to sky rocket with said approval?

The City Attorney started a long diatribe on the first amendment, like a seasoned tea bagger, nobody listened. He indicated the residents wanted four hundred parking places and the public could have twenty. He indicated that fishermen would not mind walking an extra half mile. He forgot about the elderly and disabled people though. City Attorney Sato said the beach is unattractive and nobody wants to use it, therefore nobody else but residents need parking.

Residents from PDR characterized everyone who parked near the lagoon at night as needle-using, drug-using gangbangers who had automobile orgies, pooped on the rocks, and littered their neighborhood with fish, murdering each other before they left and then ending the celebration by pissing on their flowers.

I testified that approval would discriminate against people, just as whites only drinking fountains once did, and that it would run contrary to Brown vs. Board of Education, which ruled that we are all equal and nobody is superior or inferior. Approval would create a class of demigods which would rule the beach. Bill knows better. He understands parking in West LA is not the same as parking in the Coastal Zone. People are attracted by the beach.

Questions as to why the City did not provide onsite parking came up. Why not unlock the parking lot next door?

Commissioner Sanchez stated she used to go fishing with her family at night and approval might limit access to families with children.

Another Commissioner wondered what about the other 35 million people who pay for the parking and access. Why should they be denied access to the sea?

David Ewing testified that no CEQA study had been done and the traffic study was not CEQA.

Linda Lucks informed the commission that she lived near the beach and has long accepted the fact that visitors come to the beach at night and showed a great spirit of love and tolerance.

In the end, the pathetic City Attorney had no real rebuttal and only jabbered like a turkey on the block. The full weight of the Commission then crashed down on the City Attorney like thundering surf and the ruling was unanimous against the City. Bill Roosendaal's crazy scheme to shut the public out of Play del Rey for his own private barbecues failed. The beach belongs to all of us, not just Bills buddies in PDR.

Venetian May Be Pardoned in Florida

Outgoing Florida Governor Charlie Crist is considering pardoning The Doors lead singer Jim Morrison, posthumously, for his 1969 conviction for exposure and profanity during a now infamous concert in Miami. Morrison was born in Melbourne, Florida, in 1943. He died in Paris in 1971, while his appeal was still pending.

Pardons in Florida must go through the Board of Executive Clemency, which has one final meeting this year on Dec. 9. Besides Crist, the state's CFO, Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner, all of whom will be leaving office in January, sit on the board.

Under state law, a pardon must have the consent of Crist and at least two other members. Each of the other board members have let it be known that, should Crist propose it, they would not be opposed to the pardon. –Roger Linnett

How Venice Voted

Venice #2 in Marijuana Support

By Jim Smith

Venice voters nearly topped the state on November 2 in support of legal marijuana. We were beaten out only by Berkeley, and then by a little more than 1 percent.

Venice 90291, north of Washington Blvd., voted by 75.8 percent to support the initiative which would have legalized small quantities of cannabis. Venetians who live south of Washington, in zip code 90292, voted by nearly the same margin, 70.2 percent. This may indicate that those of us living in the tonier districts of the peninsula and "Marina adjacent" are toking nearly as much as their unwashed brethren north of Washington.

In spite of Venice's best effort, Proposition 19 went down to defeat statewide, gathering slightly more than 46 percent of the vote. However, more Californians voted for pot legalization, 4,534,837, than voted for either Meg Whitman or Carly Florina, the Republican candidates for governor and senator, respectively.

The overall support in Venice for Prop. 19 was 74.8 percent, while Berkeley came in at 76.5 percent. Other local votes for Prop. 19 included the city of Los Angeles - 53 percent; Santa Monica - 65 percent; San Francisco - 64 percent; city of Santa Cruz - 72 percent; and Oakland - 68 percent.

Oddly, or perhaps not so oddly, both Mendocino and Humboldt Counties voted against Prop. 19. Illegal production of the weed accounts for about 50 percent of the local economy. Prop. 19 backers promised to take the profit out of illicit marijuana, a campaign slogan that in retrospect may have backfired.

In any case, backers of legal pot promised a new initiative soon that would be better written than Prop. 19. Let's try to "Beat Berkeley" when that happens.

Local Candidates

Two Venice residents, Debra Bowen and Lisa Green, where on the Nov. 2 ballot. Bowen ran successfully for reelection as state Secretary of State. Bowen received 74 percent of the vote in Venice and 53 percent statewide. Other Big Democrats were not far behind.

Lisa Green ran as the Green Party candidate for state Assembly. Her low-key campaign, which was also supported by the Venice Peace and Freedom Party, captured 7.5 percent of the vote in Venice 90291, where she mainly campaigned. She received more votes than Republican Nathan Mintz in three precincts and came close in several others. However, Democrat Betsy Butler beat the field with 66 percent of the vote in Venice and 50 percent district-wide. She will replace termed-out Ted Lieu who is planning on running for the state senate seat held by the late Jenny Oropeza. A special election for the seat, that includes Venice, likely will be held in March or April.

If you don't know your precinct number, you can get it on the web at <www.lavote.net/OnlineDistrictmapApp>. Then go to http://bit.ly/fmz4vJ to find out how your neighbors voted.

NOTE about the chart, below: On the left is voter turn out, then our assembly district (53rd AD), Debra Bowen's vote and percentage, and on the right, Prop. 19 results.

How Venice Voted - November 2, 2010

				ASSEMBLY:				SECRETARY OF STATE:				Prop. 19 - Marijuana		
	Registered	Voted	Per cent	Lisa Green - G	Betsy Butler - D	Nathan Mintz - R	Ethan Musulin - L	Debra Bowen - D Votes:	%	Precinct	YES	NO	Per cent
Central Venice	833	346	41.5%	26	273	23	4	291	84.1%	**3201**	280	60	82.4%
Cen. Venice/N. Beach	879	327	37.2%	26	221	37	14	229	70.0%	**2388**	258	62	80.6%
North Beach	813	316	38.9%	30	224	32	9	230	72.8%	**1243**	264	45	85.4%
North Beach	886	368	41.5%	32	256	45	9	266	72.3%	**1938**	292	65	81.8%
North Beach	870	346	39.8%	25	234	46	9	246	71.1%	**1244**	258	72	78.2%
Rose Ave.	930	383	41.2%	30	283	39	4	292	76.2%	**5386**	301	62	82.9%
Rose/Lincoln	829	359	43.3%	27	259	35	8	276	76.9%	**1542**	260	85	75.4%
Oakwood	864	362	41.9%	29	269	23	9	282	77.9%	**3235**	253	92	73.3%
Oakwood	962	417	43.3%	33	301	36	8	303	72.7%	**1546**	285	105	73.1%
Oakwood	934	412	44.1%	32	303	35	5	318	77.2%	**1545**	298	95	75.8%
Milwood	824	406	49.3%	25	302	44	6	325	80.0%	**3**	310	84	78.7%
North Penmar	844	437	51.8%	41	265	81	9	302	69.1%	**1549**	254	168	60.2%
South Penmar	795	419	52.7%	25	294	60	7	312	74.5%	**3202**	294	108	73.1%
Walgrove North	953	515	54.0%	38	324	103	12	353	68.5%	**1553**	362	138	72.4%
Walgrove South	930	455	48.9%	27	317	72	5	335	73.6%	**1554**	304	111	73.3%
Zanja	801	360	44.9%	27	246	51	11	261	72.5%	**5934**	257	96	72.8%
Presidents' Row	884	437	49.4%	32	296	57	13	318	72.8%	**5936**	308	121	71.8%
Presidents' Row	800	362	45.2%	24	248	42	5	266	73.5%	**5937**	279	70	79.9%
Canals	788	374	47.5%	39	249	57	4	271	72.5%	**2921**	295	71	80.6%
South of Canals	780	363	46.5%	21	255	59	8	267	73.6%	**2393**	253	102	71.3%
South Beach	897	446	49.7%	28	310	71	8	323	72.4%	**2863**	331	98	77.2%
Total Venice 90291:	**18,096**	**8,210**	45.4%	**617**	**5,729**	**1864**	**167**	**6066**	73.9%		**5,996**	**1,910**	75.8%
				7.5%	69.8%	22.7%	2.0%						
Venice 90292: (South of Washington)										Precinct			
Oxford Triangle	809	408	50.4%	24	241	92	12	267	65.4%	408 **2392**	274	124	68.8%
Pen: Wash. to Hurricane	724	377	52.1%	29	206	94	9	239	63.4%	377 **1884**	287	75	79.3%
Pen: Hurricane to Outrigger	884	480	54.3%	17	292	122	13	316	65.8%	480 **3197**	333	133	71.5%
Pen: Outrigger to end	1088	558	51.3%	16	308	190	7	346	62.0%	558 **561**	347	195	64.0%
Total Venice 90292:	**3,505**	**1,823**	52.0%	**86**	**1,047**	690	**41**				**1,241**	**527**	70.2%
				4.7%	57.4%	37.8%	2.2%						
L.A. City:	1,616,941	688,072	42.6%							**Venice:**	**7,237**	**2,437**	**74.8%**

Lawsuit filed to protect civil rights of RV Residents

–continued from page 1

actually the job of Parking Enforcement (not the bogus part). But maybe this is what some people (like people that care only about their property values) want, the city budget going to highly-paid, well-armed LAPD parking enforcement officers.

These new Venice LAPD Homeless Removal Task Force Officers can be seen wearing black SWAT police outfits, arresting and towing disabled homeless people, or standing around with the many well paid city agents in the new "Dumping Task Force," while they test the rain water in gutters.

The majority of the towing, ticketing, and arresting people "combos" are for nothing more than being homeless. Although the underlying issue for this whole homeless banishment campaign is living in a vehicle, the tickets vary.

The many bogus tickets being doled out are for violating the 72-hour parking law, posted 2-hour parking signs, existing six-foot height restriction signs, etc. But guess what? Disabled plates are exempt from those parking laws. And, incidentally, the 2-hour parking signs are a violation of the coastal act anyway.

So who knew that these disabled people's vehicles were exempt from these parking laws? They knew. They issue the bogus parking tickets anyway in order to harass these disabled people as part of their homeless banishment plan. Banish to where? They do not care. It is so cumbersome to fight a parking ticket, and many of the people simply cannot afford to pay one ticket let alone five, that it builds up to an inevitable tow.

The Task Force officers were also found following people just because they were "Driving While Homeless." After following one plaintiff, who was merely driving through Venice, the officers pulled her over on Lincoln Blvd. near Washington and admitted that they were following her. They told her that she has now been warned and if they see her parked in Venice they will arrest her and tow her vehicle for living in it.

There should be new signs as you enter Venice, like "Get Homeless and Get Arrested." Kind of like "Click It or Ticket."

These new LAPD officers were put in Venice specifically to improve so-called "quality of life," the very words of our LAPD Chief Beck at that hate-filled September 23 Town Hall run by Councilman Bill Rosendahl. This has translated into law enforcement activity that could cause a disabled homeless person to die. That is exactly what might happen to the man with congestive heart failure that now may be living on the cold street. So cruel it is hard to believe – but so true and right here in "Your Venice."

All this Task Force activity has made the people who nag the city council, call the LAPD, falsely report abandoned vehicles, and work with the LAPD Neighborhood Watch very happy. A few of these happy people actually show up to cheer at the towing and arrests of disabled people living in vehicles. Probably the proudest of this cheering section is Alexandria Thompson, also known as Alex, of a hate-filled blog that spews lies about those trying to actually help homeless people find housing in their own community - without arresting, torturing, towing them or sending their pets to the pound!

No one should cheer when civil rights are being violated or when harm is being done to disabled people.

Legal Aid Clinic Opens

The Legal Aid Foundation has begun a twice monthly legal clinic for the homeless and RV dwellers who have been ticketed or arrested in the Venice area. The clinic will be open from 6 - 8 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays. In December those dates fall on the 1st, 15th and 29th.

The clinic is located at 720 Rose Ave.(across from the Whole Foods parking lot). Those requesting legal help should bring all pertinent paperwork with them. A preliminary screening process will interview all potential clients to maximize the clinic's effectiveness.

Oversized Vehicles Banned by City Council

By Roger Linnett

On Nov. 17, an Oversized Parking Ordinance passed unanimously in the L. A. City Council, 13-0, banning oversized vehicles — those that are 7 feet high and/or 22 feet long — from parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. within the area bounded by Lincoln Blvd., Washington Blvd., Ocean Front Walk and the border with Santa Monica. In addition, an "urgency clause" was included in the measure, which means that it could go into effect right after being published in the paper of record. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa signed the bill into law on Nov. 24.

Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who introduced the ordinance, has been hounded like a hare for several years by some Venice homeowners and landlords regarding RVs, parked on residential streets in violation of an L. A. city ordinance.

Rosendahl claims that the new ordinance will not violate previous Coastal Commission edicts, but they still have to consider the measure.

In anticipation of the new ordinance, Rosendahl had petitions available since August for neighborhood residents, 2/3 of whom on any given block need to agree, to sign up for traffic signs indicating the restriction; to date some 40 such blocks have requested the designation. Back when the OVO was first proposed, monies were authorized to have the signage fabricated, which the LADOT can begin posting on Nov. 30.

In contrast to the rabbit-like quickness with which the ordinance scampered through the council (it was only drafted by the City Attorney sometime in early October), Rosendahl's testudinal "Vehicles to Homes" (nee Streets to Homes) program creeps lethargically along.

In a news release last July Rosendahl announced, "The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the City-County agency charged with administering the program, has prepared a draft Request for Proposals (RFP), a legal document that solicits bids from social service providers to run the program. The RFP provides a broad framework and foundation for the program; more specific details will be worked out with the community once LAHSA selects a service provider." LAHSA has tapped People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) to help guide the program toward realization.

Also in July, Rosendahl said this about the program: "This proposed program is the result of months of collaborative effort by hundreds of people. This is a smart and cutting-edge program that builds on the successes of similar programs in other cities, and improves and tailors them for our community. I hope to launch the program before the end of the year, concurrently with the implementation of the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance."

This begs the question, "Hey Bill, Why the big rush to pass the OVO?" Let us hope the "urgency" shown in getting the OVO enacted is now applied to realizing your laudable humanitarian project, as you seem to have intended.

LETTERS:

Why More Growth?

There are more poor people in Venice today than yesterday. These are not good times. Yet this city, Los Angeles, plans for more growth.

Good evidence of a "Let them eat cake" attitude can be found in the current Blueprint 2010 document from the City of Los Angeles Planning Department. It begins with a sentence about growth that inspires me to substitute some more appropriate thoughts of my own.

I can think of any number of ways to finish the sentence. Try these:

"As Los Angeles continues to grow"

. . .more sewer lines will implode

. . .more potholes on busy streets will ruin suspension and tires

. . .more utility poles will lean toward the ground

. . .more blackouts and brownouts will turn TVs off

. . .more traffic jams, more homeless and on and on

This city is not caring for the population it already has. What kind of wonder world are our elected officials living in that they either do not see or do not wish to see the truth?

Folks inside City Hall seem to have a dream that bigger is better. I often wonder what kind of steroids they're on. For far too long, cities relied on growth to solve problems. City fathers believe that more population is the way to make more revenue. Most elected officials will tell you the more revenue, the better. Remember, elected officials without revenue to spend do not entice the folks who bankroll elections.

The current population of Venice is growing, but not in a direction that will bring in revenue. In other parts of the city almost whole blocks of homes are being foreclosed and property tax revenue goes down. Where are those people going? If they are lucky enough to have an RV, they could end up in Venice. Current response by the city just moves the RVs to another street. It is not a solution. Entrenched city care for the indigent focuses on getting them into housing. Does the housing industry have a lock on charity? For heaven's sake will someone please get it across that a person in an RV is already housed?

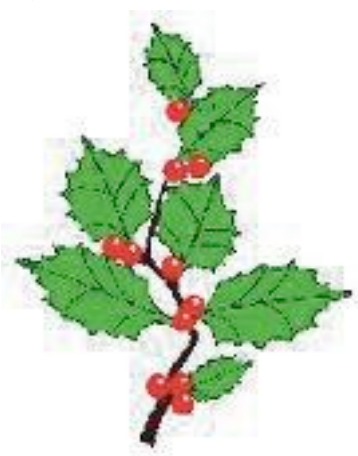
Now think about water and its relation to population. If there is not enough clean water to serve everyone comfortably now, how can less be made into more to serve more people? There certainly is a disconnect here, although there is talk about converting wastewater. But making clean, drinkable water from wastewater takes about as much power as desalinating water from the ocean.

The few officials at Los Angeles City Hall who understand the problem are outnumbered by the know-nothings dependent on a power system run from Washington D.C. through Northern California. But that power system is a pyramid. Without a base to hold it up, it is worthless. This city has a Mayor who enjoys a reputation of enjoying the company of glamorous and exciting women. That does not impress ordinary citizens who are still hanging on to their jobs and who are getting restless. It does raise thoughts about "Let them eat cake." The San Fernando Valley bunch who threatened to secede (and made it stick) are planning to dump all current Councilmembers who will be up for election in 2013.

Even though "Let them eat cake" is falsely attributed to Marie Antoinette when she was told that the people of France had no bread, the concept is valuable. Whether true or not, it did not save her from the guillotine. Likewise, planning for growth in the City of Los Angeles at this time does not appear to be a recipe for personal political success.

So where are the minds of the people who want to plan for growth? What city are they living in? Isn't it crucial for this city to care for the population already here, to plan better infrastructure, and secure sufficient clean water and power before planning for more population? I think so.

DeDe Audet



Hard Times Get Harder – Homeless Meals Cancelled

By CJ Gronner

I am absolutely thankful every single day in Venice. I'm grateful to live in a place where our community cares for each other, for our surroundings, and staunchly supports human rights. Which is why I'm so extra bothered that this year's Feed The Beach, a Thanksgiving feast for the homeless, put on outside at Westminster for the last several years by Nina and James Merced of The Fruit Gallery, and pot-lucked by the entire neighborhood, was cancelled. CANCELLED!

Why? Because red tape and bureaucracy appear to be more important than humanity. The LA Health Department reared its head this year (Why? Neighbor complaints? Silly rules? General Grinch-ness?), and made it too difficult for the Merceds to overcome, with threats of fines, liability in case of someone getting food poisoning or something, seemingly impossible to get permits, and the usual governmental scare tactics. When James went to the Park & Rec to inquire about the permits, he was actually told, "It's illegal to feed the homeless". Now how anyone can even get their vocal chords to vibrate in such a manner to form those words, I'll never know. ILLEGAL to FEED the HOMELESS?! On THANKS - GIVING?!? Simply appalling.

There are plenty of opportunities to get out there and share what you have with those less fortunate. I strongly encourage you to do this at all times of the year, not just when these obvious holiday times roll around, but it's deeply sad that the uniquely Venice Feed The Beach won't be happening, just because our society has become so scared and litigious that we've lost sight of helping the hungry without homes. I keep hearing Einstein's quote in my mind these days, "Remember your humanity, and forget the rest". Perhaps the best advice ever.

All of this had me thinking, just WOW. REALLY?! as I did my daily beach walk the other day. It reminded me of an encounter I had a while back, rocking along the sand, totally immersed in Prince (Controversy), when I saw a Homeless Guy shuffling towards me, and in between us was a weird bird, one I've never seen before. It was in some kind of distress as it wasn't taking off the closer the Guy and I got to it. It had webbed feet like a duck, but normal bird black and white body, but then BRIGHT red eye circles around beady black eyes. The Guy and I nodded at each other, and then passed on by.

A few feet later, we both turned around and looked back at the bird. He saw me turn and said something, that was drowned out by Prince. I took out my headphones and said, "Sorry, what?" He said, "I think he's hurt". I said, "I think so too". We both walked back and looked closer. The bird stayed put. A wave would come and push it along the sand, one time spinning it around so hard it was difficult to watch. The Guy said, "Maybe if I push it up a little bit with my shoe it won't get washed away?" As I was walking barefoot, I said, "Yeah, try that". He did, and it worked a little bit, but after some hissing and craning of the neck, the bird was still not moving. "I don't want it to peck at me if it's sick", said the Guy. "Yeah, me neither", I answered. "Maybe I should go tell the Lifeguard and they can call the Marine Animal people?" We pondered that while watching some more.

The Guy said, "I think he's exhausted from just trying to survive". We exchanged a glance that kind of felt like, "I know how he feels". It was an interesting understanding, and felt pretty heavy. He asked if I had any food to give the bird. I shrugged "Nope", as I didn't have much on, and no pockets. We stood silently for a moment, just watching the poor thing. Finally the Guy said, "I think I have a Vitamin E capsule in my backpack". Kind of random, but it was worth a shot. Energy, maybe? He dug the pill out of his bag, and walked over to place it on the sand in front of the bird.

All of a sudden, the thing went berserk, flapping its wings and squawking like a maniac. It lifted off the ground and flew to the top of a wave, and then duck-dove under it like a surfer and was back in its element, like nothing ever happened! The Guy and I looked at each other with raised eyebrows and frowns, like "Hmm. What do you know about that?" We watched the bird swim along for a moment, making sure he was cool. Once that seemed to be established, I shrugged and said, "Well ... Good Luck to us all!" The Guy smiled and said, "Yep, good luck to us all".

And on we three went. I think about that exchange often, but especially today, as we all prepare to gather and feast for the holidays, and hopefully, to share it all. In times like these, when feeding the homeless is "illegal" ... Well, Good luck to us all, indeed.

One more time ... Remember your humanity, and forget the rest!

9066 – Art by Yuriko Uematsu Etue (see below). Photo by Phyllis Hayashibara

Los Angeles City Council approves Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker motion

By Phyllis Hayashibara

The Los Angeles City Council on November 2, approved 11th District Councilmember Bill Rosendahl's motion of July 16 that "the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the Planning Department (Office of Historic Resources), the Department of Transportation and the Office of Council District 11 be directed to report with recommendations for the installation of a commemorative marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to commemorate the start of the internment of hundreds of Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the Venice community on April 25, 1942."

The Public Works Committee had, on October 20, approved Councilmember Rosendahl's motion, after it had been referred to the committee for review.

At a November 9 meeting of the VJAMM committee, local artist Yuriko Uematsu Etue shared her drawings and scale model of her sculpture, "9066," named after the Executive Order signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which authorized the military to designate areas for evacuation.

The sculpture depicts silhouettes of four figures carrying suitcases on a roughly hewn platform of wooden slats. Etue has exhibited her model in Los Angeles and in Glendale, and has been looking for a locale to build her sculpture for the past eight years. She looks forward to submitting a Request For Qualifications at the appropriate time.

For further information about the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker, please go to KCET Departures at http://bit.ly/eBNcZc or visit the VJAMM Facebook page at http://on.fb.me/fyRNXm. One hundred and seventy-one "friends" have already "liked" this site!

Tax-deductible donations towards the cost of designing, engineering, and building this important and historic memorial marker may be made payable to and sent to the Venice Community Housing Corporation, 720 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291, with memo VJAMM.

The VCHC is the fiscal sponsor of the Venice Arts Council, which has been building support for this symbol of an historical injustice that should never be forgotten or repeated.

60 Years Later / After the Internment Camps

They were our neighbors
Torn from our community
How could this happen

How could this happen
Nurseries and barber shops
Sold at bargain rates

Sold at bargain rates
"Please, take the horse and chickens"
And the fields left fallow

And the fields left fallow
Crying for children's laughter
Young lovers' meeting

Young lovers meeting
Near barbed wire, guard towers
Boredom and hot dust

Boredom and hot dust
Faded memories. At last
Soft voices speaking

Soft voices speaking
To those who did not witness
Utter disbelief

Utter disbelief
It will not happen this time
They are our neighbors

– Adelle Foley

Last year's dinner on Westminister.

Photo by Greta Cobar

The Abbot Kinney Art Haus

By Karl Abrams

The "art haus" is no more. After several months of feverish painting and philosophizing in a rundown donated space at 1307 Abbot Kinney Blvd., a unique group of Venice artists and creative thinkers/poets have seemingly melted back into the landscape of future possibilities, in search of a new place to gather, to paint and to party.

The BH asked Michael Ford, one of the art haus resident artists, how such a phenomenon roared into Venice for the past several months, only to vanish again.

"Because of the generosity of the J. Gelena owners, and the initiative and coordination of Jim Budman, a space was made available for local artists to work and create. The vigorous response from artists, the general public, and curious walk-in visitors was surprisingly strong and supportive. Everyone was overjoyed and appreciative of a space that they all had wished and longed for. Amazingly, in a very short time, a huge amount of artistic work has been accomplished. A collection of painters and sculptors, film and media makers, photographers, performers, musicians, artisans and art fans have gathered for 18-hour day and night sessions of productivity by sunlight, moonlight, fire light and blue light."

The BH asked if paintings were sold during these tough economic times. Ford replied, "Art works have been created and sold and others commissioned. All of this happened within the first month. It is a striking inspiration to the 100's of visitors who have come to see us and participate."

The rules of the house were minimal. Just come and paint. Ford told us, "Spread about the art haus and backyard, at makeshift 'art stations' each day, artists focused quietly, intent on their works. At other times [they were] engaged in playful chatter or had long discussions, wondering whether 'cumulative resource' and commonly shared spaces are the long-term answers. This spot (being temporary as a new restaurant will open here next year) is a model of what the artist and public seem to want, an example of what an artist community can be, and in turn, what the art community actually is, here and now, in Venice."

Rachael Tatum, a young and talented artist, writer and active participant in the art haus tells the BH how a small group of Venice artists "…found temporary solace in a dilapidated house, with ceilings as crumbly as our intentions. There are no rules or regulations, mostly negations and nonsense. Don't wear anything you care about here, you'll get paint on it and nobody will feel bad. I think we are all riding on a really nice sexy wave with gravel in the backyard and masks hanging on a plaque near the door. As strangers pass through this space, we fit even more snuggly into the image we want, don't want and can't help but be."

Judging by the enormous number of finished and unfinished drying canvasses, much work got done. The lives of the artists who participated would be changed forever by the evolving magic that fueled their artistic obsessions. Tatum describes how, "There is an air about everything that makes you feel useless unless you are creating something, adding to the leftover pieces of our simple and small existence. That air should be everywhere, not just here."

Was the dilapidated old structure conducive for hard artistic work, asked the BH? Tatum goes on, "We like the dirt on the floor and the way the blue lights make us feel. Dirty hippies, paint splattered suits, fake fires on television screens, candle lit dining room tables covered in crayons… and the roof seemingly falling in. I believe in what this is all about, which I don't really know at all and that is why I believe in it. Most of the time all I want to do is lift my dress over my head and walk barefoot through the house."

Photos by Rachell Tatum

Were non-artists welcomed to hang out at the art haus? Tatum smiled, "You don't need to be a somebody to fit yourself into the puzzle of our messy rooms, but you can't be nobody. It is highly recommended to sit outside at night [in the backyard of couches and exhibits] and listen to the shit that falls out of people's mouths. You will definitely catch something worth holding onto."

Tatum, speaking of "…the man with the feathers in his hat…" refers respectfully to another tireless art haus resident contributor who describes the space as a "psychedelic orphanage" hovering in a "temporary autonomous zone".

She is referring of course to James Mathers, another mad artist who loves to describe the indescribable as a non-stop visionary oil painter dedicated to painting transformative "portals". He paints far into the night, as do many of the other resident artists.

Mathers, describing himself as a "…vagabond gypsy and philosophical monster painter/poet", calls the temporary art haus phenomenon an "inherently holy act" that is a:

"Rickety flower of new creation. In its brief flickering, it has birthed numerous bodies of work, inspired a pack of painters, photographers, musicians, and others in a long psychedelic smear of goodwill, alarm and nostalgia across class lines."

What's next, asks the BH, and will there be another such community of Venice artists working publicly for all to see? Mathers tells us that "…artists like us are dinosaur…we are still here and all around you…we have simply learned to fly… [we are] a rear view mirror for a world that can only be understood backwards, if at all. We are always vanishing, like the 99 Gallery whose courageous champions of visionary art have also vanished, vanquished by loss, gloss and cost."

Ford adds that, "With luck and some type of 'collective initiative'…[the art haus] can [continue to] be an idea or vision of what an artist community can be in the future. Most were happy to be present, taking advantage of the immediate time and space available, working diligently and productively to create inspirational and relevant works within the cultural context of the Venice community."

Mathers leaves us with, "We [artists] have such a gentle hold, for all our tenacious images, [we are] a butterfly of ontological anarchy that alights for a moment, calls into question the status quo, challenges assumptions and is gone.

Thank you Venice for your love and attention. We are the vanquished, ever vanished, but you will never get rid of us."

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Temple of Man Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Beat Generation in Venice will be talked about and studied for years to come. Many of the landmarks are gone, but some remain. The Gas House, the first coffee house, was bulldozed by the city of L.A. years ago. It was on Ocean Front Walk at Market St. The Venice West Cafe at 7 Dudley Avenue is now part of an expensive Italian restaurant. Larry Lipton, who wrote *The Holy Barbarians,* and put Venice on the map, lived at 20 Park Avenue, now a private residence.

The Temple of Man, at 1439 Cabrillo Avenue, was the home of Rev. Bob "Baza" and Anita Alexander. It was also the place where the great poets and artists of those times met and discussed the issues of the day, and eternity, and traded poems.

Baza was a mail-order minister, ordained by Universal Life. He could marry couples and perform other priestly functions.

When Baza died, the house was sold, and today is just another residence on one of the former canals. However, The Temple of Man lives on. Marsha Getzler has recreated the ambiance of the Temple in her back yard. She regularly conducts events at Beyond Baroque and other venues. On October 30, poets from Venice and Denver (a refuge for many Venetian poets) read and reminisced about the Beat days.

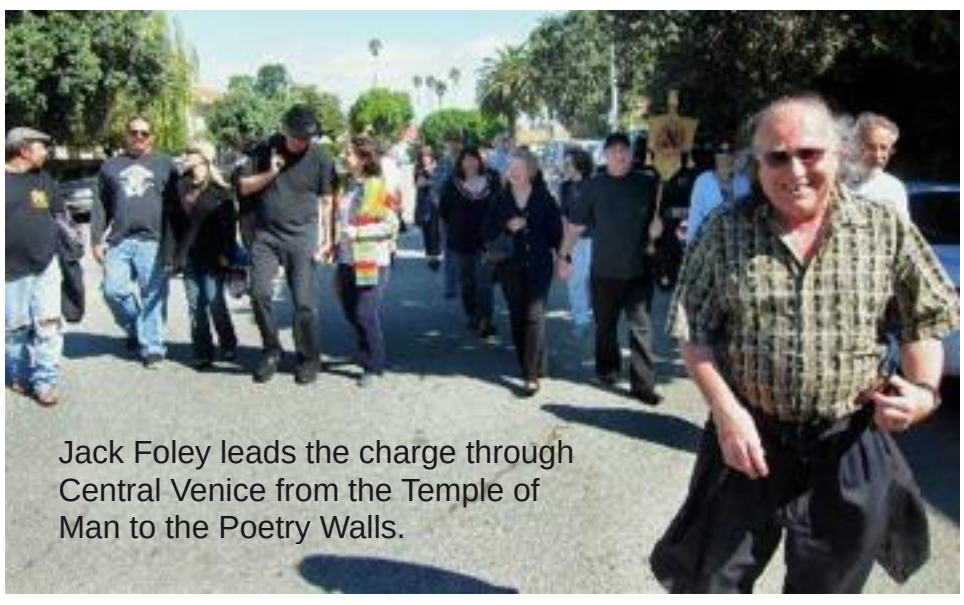
The next day, Halloween, the faithful gathered in the street at 1439 Cabrillo Avenue to remember the good old days. Then they departed for the poetry walls on the beach.

Photos by Pegarty Long

Here is a description of that day by San Francisco poet Jack Foley:

WALKING WITH THE BEATS ON THE VENICE BOARDWALK AT HALLOWEEN

the ghosts are all here—Philomene, John, Tony, Bill, Stuart, Jim—but they are all friendly,
taking in the health-giving sea air
and the glorious Southern California sunshine
weirdos everywhere and of course medical marijuana ("come in and see if you qualify")
and a store that said "Rafiki" ("friend")
and ice cream and children dressed for Halloween
and many, many breasts partially or sometimes nearly wholly revealed (SoCal!)
I walked with the Beatniks, led by Frankie Rios, poet, ex-con, ex-drug addict,
and the flag he carried with an emblem that was simultaneously Wallace Berman's Aleph
and a soft pretzel
postcards available but could not tell the half
of the life that exploded in this mad, improbable, only in Southern California place—
and I so wanted to join them
in their "voluntary poverty" and their "Art is Love is God" and their joy and laughter
and their collective "drive towards non recognition"
and their suffering and sentimentality and their self-congratulations and the way they reminded me as we walked
of Charles Ives' song, "General William Booth Enters The Kingdom of Heaven"
and the fact that most of them got lost went the wrong way on that confusing, marvelous, heaven-haven
where we visited the poetry walls (conveniently located near the public rest rooms)
and might have sung if any of us could remember a tune
and the six that remained together (including a famous Art Historian)
had slurpies and pizza and ice cream and noted the Everything
that kindly came blazing down from the heavens and told us a Dirty Joke.



Jack Foley leads the charge through Central Venice from the Temple of Man to the Poetry Walls.

Venice

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- Table dances
- Happy hour 2 for 1 beers
- + free food 4pm to 7:30 pm
- Best Tacos in town
- Private parties
- Sporting events
- Live music and dj's
- Open and partying 8 days a week

Monday thru Thursday: 5:30 to 2am
Friday thru Sunday: 12 noon to 2am,
12017 Venice Blvd. la 90066
(at Inglewood Blvd, next to Taco Bell)

Free Beer with this ad
(one per customer)

Don't Forget the Beachhead this Holiday Season!

It's also the Beachhead's **42nd** Birthday this month. And even though we're getting up there in age, we still like to be surprised by presents from our beloved community.

Our favorite presents are Dead Presidents pictures. Washington and Lincoln are cool, but we love to look at Andrew Jackson and U. S. Grant, and – although he's not technically a Dead President – Benjamin Franklin, our favorite. Alas, we don't get to keep our Dead Presidents for long. Our printer loves to look at them even more than we do.

We also love to look at your beautifully designed checks. The ones with lots of zeros just drive us crazy. Please don't think we're greedy. You see, it's all for a good cause – serving the Venice community.

We donate all our time and work to this little paper, and we hope you'll send us a treat for the holidays!

Support a free press! Become a Beachhead Sustainer for 100 Washingtons. Get 4 free business card-sized ads and your name on page two. Subscriptions are $35/yr. Mail to: PO Box 2, Venice 90294.

Theatre Review

Island of Brilliance

By Suzy Williams

Here is what we have right on Venice boulevard: Beyond Baroque, Sparc, and Pacific Resident Theater, all in a row. Three classy meccas of culture. The first specializing in poetry and literature; the second, art and murals; the third, plays - the tried and true and the new. We Beachheadniks often find ourselves in the first two meccas, but the latter… well, we know it's there, and we know it's good, but there's rarely a familiar face in the always intelligent-looking crowd of audience and actors standing outside the inviting rustic exterior. We just don't know anybody, and so with an occasional exception, the Pacific Resident stays out of our purview. It's been an island of brilliance that we just don't catch the ferry to see.

I just saw a play there that has inspired me to dig down deep and buy season tickets. "Island of Brilliance" is playing in the littlest of the three Pacific Resident theaters, the Co-op. The play concerns the life of Eve Brighton, a bright (and beautiful- in the form of Jill Renner) high school senior, and her relationship with her beloved special-needs savant sister, their mother and a carousel of characters who revolve around them. Ms. Renner's Eve is blushingly tormented, riveting to see, at once cynical and eager to please.

Ava Bogle, the special sister, is unforgettable with giant eyes peering emptily in every direction in slow motion, rattling off pages of instantly memorized text that had been read to her once. (Ms. Bogle was supreme as all three would-be girlfriends of Harold in "Harold and Maude"- a recent PRT production. If I hadn't read the program, I wouldn't have guessed they were all played by the same person).

We meet Eve's English teacher, father, and suitor- all excellently cast and played. (Mary-Jane, ex Beachhead collectivist, plays several college-entrance interviewers with humor and great subtlety.) Dawn O'Leary's plot keeps advancing and circling, exploring depths of character at every turn. The set-up is swell, the payoff fantastic. Suffice it to say, there is a hyper-dramatic scene towards the end that is upsetting, tear-jerking (in a good way), and revelatory. This is followed by a cleansing resolve that is nothing short of spiritually redeeming.

Try to get yourself landed on "Island of Brilliance" before it shimmers away. Written by Dawn O'Leary, Produced by Alley Mills and Orson Bean; Sets by William Wilday, Directed by Wynn Marlow.

Cast features (below) front row: Norm Skaggs, Nancy Linehan Charles, Jill Renner back row:
Maryjane, Kevin Railsback, Ava Bogle, Bill Lithgow

The show has been extended till December 19th, is dark Christmas week, and then continues for 3 more weekends starting New Year's Day. Thurs thru Sats 8 PM, Sundays at 3 0'clock. Pacific Resident Theatre: 703 Venice Blvd. Reservations:310-822-8392.

SWAMI X SPEAKS

Photo by Rich Mann

I seriously believe America's main addiction is entertainment. It may be true that all public gatherings are motivated by a dearth of sexual fulfillment. All the priest crafts have utilized fear and manipulated sex to control and bind us. God bless and awaken them, too.

The greatest entertainment is getting to really know one's self, as that unfolds to the realization of one's cosmic self. We are spirits having a human experience. Our essential nature is thought, will, and love; embraced, sustained and perfected in the Consciousness Existence Bliss Absolute, which is God. I said it and I'm glad.

If God is Absolute Bliss and She lives within us, it must be perfectly alright for us to enjoy ourselves, without any guilt. Of course, if you are addicted to the guilt, or any other negativity, please don't let me intrude on your inner life, enjoy yourself. It's between you and God, so to speak. People who deny God are just attempting to get her attention. How can one ignore existence? It's a trick the ego has figured out with the very intelligence that is God. Go figure!

The illusion of separation is the ego. All negativity stems from the ego. We create the ego and we have the power to expose and eliminate it. Always see Good, because God is Good with nothing missing.

Real daily meditation is the key and foundation to genuine spiritual life. All the great souls did it, and inspired us to do the same, so get on board, Pilgrim, it's going to get bumpy.

Always remember life is a journey from, in and to the Supreme Spirit, and you are loved and cared for by the universe. It goes on forever, which makes you immortal.

Angels

i sleep in
a bed of angels --
All through the night
their long wings
stroke me
peeling my body away
until i am
as radiant as selenite --
Their feathers
finger the crevices where
i have hidden
(like Blue Beard)
the corpses of old lovers --
The night sky
salted with stars
protests and pulls out
one luminous breast!
Still, they come
these grand seraphins
these cosmic feather dusters
and brush each body aside --
i sigh
slipping outside of my skin
once again
remembering outside of memory
once again
who i truly am.

–krista schwimmer

Stop the Ride

By Jim Mussio

Life moves in cycles stop the ride
i wave my flag up high and i surrender
i can taste those tears i'll cry forced to remember
all that pain i felt the last time

no where does it say i'm set in stone
somehow i must find another way
the strength to turn my backside to the front
the will to walk a different way

Life moves in cycles stop the ride
i wave my flag up high and i surrender
i can taste those tears i'll cry forced to remember
all that pain i felt the last time

it feels like i've been here before
the writings on the wall i can read
the warning signs are easy to see
but bad decisions are my tendency

I'm always drawn to the bad i think i need

Life moves in cycles stop the ride
i wave my flag up high and i surrender
i can taste those tears i'll cry forced to remember
all that pain i felt the last time

Life moves in cycles stop the ride
i wave my flag up high and i surrender
i can taste those tears i'll cry forced to remember
all that pain i felt the last time

Basking in My Element

By Roxanna Gómez Sequeira

This Paper
Is A Poem

You, patiently and quietly, watch
Persisting through the storms
Knowing all along
I am strong
In my chaos and pitfalls
I come up tall
You look and see
There is no other like me
Keep up, come on!
My path is steep, deep
And leads to a rapid fall
In purifying, tranquil waters
I float with glee
Towards the setting sun
In the distant aquablue sea
You will find me
Basking in my element
Waiting
To dive in
Deliciously

To Bill Rosendahl

You were right and I was wrong-
You do have the power to take people away
The cop says:
"Hey I know it seems like we're Nazis-
but I'm just doing my job"
The job?
Jacking people out of their vehicles
and arresting them for the crime of being poor.
The crime of having no place else to live but a vehicle.
All my friends are leaving Venice
It's the beginning of the end
they are either being kicked out by the police
or leaving because they see what is happening.
All the houses are filling up with rich people.
All the parking places are filling up with their luxury cars.
There is no room at the inn,
Or in a parking place.
People with gifts of music and art are being
pushed out by the highest bidder.
Capitalism wins again.
They won't be happy until everyone is arrested
and "disappeared"
Then they can drink their wine out of crystal goblets
and never have to see a poor person again.

–Mary Getlein

12:53 Monday, November 22, 2010, inside the Talking Stick..... My teacher, Mrs. Kimble, was called out, And notified, and here I sadly note How she returned in tears, dismissing us, Without explaining, so mysterious. The childish banter followed me, each step, Through snow drifts and the wintry chill. I stop To hear the speculation. But. once home, Recall how I was greeted by my mom. We sat together, watching; I let slip How I thought it was communists. I trip, Remembering that moment: two of us, Transfixed on such a tragedy, a mess, Revisited years later, and I note How it was the same day, to miss a lot.....Roger Houston, New Castle, Indiana, 1963. happy thanksgiving, mom.

Yo Saturnalia

(the original Christmas)

By Jim Smith

At the bottom of the year
we are soaked with fear

of economic loss thruout the land
and no leaders who will take a stand

The days dwindle away
And night comes to stay

Then festive Saturnalia arrives
and the social world comes alive

Yes, it's true, Venice is now quite a fright
But a new year is being born this very night

The Sun - and days of revels - are coming again
in our happy land where love is not a sin

A toast to a new year of kindness and peace in faraway lands
And all across our fair city, to the poor a helping hand.

Citizens of Venice, let's end the strife
and enjoy another year of light and life.

"We defeated apartheid nonviolently because the international community agreed to support the disinvestment in apartheid campaign. A similar campaign can help to bring peace in the Middle East..."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, August 2010

Help to put the Israel Divestment Initiative on the California ballot.

DIVEST! FROM ISRAELI APARTHEID

INVEST IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Sign the petition. Volunteer. Donate.

The goal of this campaign is to require California's two public retirement systems, CalPERS and CalSTRS, to divest from corporations that profit from violations of human rights by the State of Israel.

Email: ca.divest.sc@gmail.com

IsraelDivestmentCampaign.org

Abbot Kinney Merchants Oppose Food Trucks

–continued from page 1

Pedestrians walk in the street because of the congestion on the sidewalks -- congestion created by scores of people trying to navigate the narrow sidewalks made narrower by those waiting in line for the food trucks.

Many merchants have reported that their businesses have been hurt by the presence of this unsustainably large number of food trucks, and the consequent problems associated with their presence. Many report that 'scouts' for the trucks actually park cars on the street early in the day to ensure that a truck will have a space for that evening - one food truck space is roughly equal to two mid-size cars. Trucks that park in front of businesses effectively shut those businesses down by blocking their signage and window displays. The cooking exhaust fills the stores. The associated trash and food waste litters the sidewalk.

There is virtually no legislation in place that governs where and when the food trucks can do business. Most agree that having a few trucks present on First Friday could be an asset, but their attempts to negotiate moderation with the trucks have failed.

The merchants of Abbot Kinney are working together to continue to provide a safe, festive, and welcoming atmosphere on First Fridays. To that end, they have scheduled their "Holiday Street Walk' on Sunday, December 5th, from 3-8 p.m., with Santa and carolers convening at The Brig parking lot.

The 'no parking' posting for this Friday, far from being a long-term solution to the food truck issue, is a first step in the merchant community's ongoing efforts to preserve Abbot Kinney's unique appeal by restoring a measure of balance and order to Abbot Kinney Blvd.'s First Friday celebration. Nov. 27, 2010

From the first issue of the Beachhead, Dec. 1, 1968:

This issue of the Beachhead is dedicated to all our departed brothers, living and dead, who have loved Venice, and in particular to Abbot Kinney, Ron Boise, Stuart Perkoff, Maurice Lacey, John Thomas and Jimmy Morris. To those who read, greetings! We would welcome you back.

A small part of a collage by the late Beat Poet Stuart Perkoff, exhibited by Temple of Man at Beyond Baroque, Nov. 2010.

This is the 42nd Anniversary Issue of the Free Venice Beachhead

In the winter of 1968, Venetians began reading the Beachhead, and they haven't stopped since. The first issue contained articles by Jane Gordon, John Haag, Phil Chamberlin, Carol Fondiller and Rick Davidson. All of them were to play a crucial role in shaping the Venice we know and love.

An editorial on the front page proudly proclaimed "This paper is a poem." (see below). And so it is. The paper has also been a guardian of the community, sounding an alarm against overdevelopment, Threats to our free spirited life styles, unfair treatment of the poor and minority groups, and destruction of our homes and buildings.

This month we sound the alarm about more cell towers in the heart of Venice, the Melroseization of Abbot Kinney Blvd., mobile homes being torn away from their owners, and more.

At the same time we celebrate Venice's progressive spirit as revealed in November's election outcome, the creative spirit of our poetry, paintings and photography, and our support for a monument in Venice to the suffering of Japanese-Americans who were put in camps in World War II.

We, the current collective of the Beachhead, thank you for your steadfast support over the years. We look forward to many more years of being an essential part of our wonderful community.

THE FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

Number 1, December 1, 1968 VENICE, California Copyright 1968 10, 000 copies FREE to Venice residents

EDITORIAL

This paper is a poem. It is the first of a series. Your participation will decide how often we appear.

This paper is a poem for the people. We decided not to sell it to some of you, but to give it to all of you. It is a poem for all the people.

It is also a paper made by people who love to make poems and dig doing a newspaper which is also a poem.

Our subject this issue is Venice. Our purpose is to create a community.

We would like to give you a new poem every day. We hope to do it, for now, every two weeks.

Beachhead is a non-profit enterprise produced entirely by volunteer workers. Every resident of Venice is invited to join our endeavor and help to decide the outcome of each issue.

Any reader can contribute in some way to our next poem. Any Venice resident may join in our collective staff decisions by coming to our next work meeting on Sunday, December 8, 8 p.m. at 1727 W. Washington Blvd. To volunteer by phone, call 399-7681.

The next poem you read may be your own.

Free Venice!

CommUnity Events – day by day

Calendar by Karl Abrams

Thursday, December 2
• 6:30pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council Town Hall Meeting**. 1010 AKB, Westminster Elementary School. Parking available.
• 7:30pm - **Poetry Rodeo with Ellyn Maybe and Band**. Bring 5 minutes of poetry for band to improvise. Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.
• 7:30pm - **Conservation International Presents**: 20 Years of Exploration and Discovery to protect the World's remote corners. G2 Gallery. Free.

Friday, December 3
• 6- 9pm - **Artist's Reception: Meet photographers** Chloe Aftel, Titano Cruz, and Buddy Weiss of Nature LA. G2 Gallery. Free.
7pm – **First Friday on Abbot Kinney** Blvd. Open shops, countless food wagons, lots of people. No Parking (see page 1). Free.
7:30pm - **Multimedia artist Sinan Revell.** Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Saturday, December 4
• 4pm - **Michael C. Ford, Morgan Gibson and Laura Copelin read**. Beyond Baroque. $8, students, seniors, children $5, members free.
• 7:30pm - **Readings of established and emerging poets.** Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.
• 7-10pm - **Come celebrate Nancy Cunningham's life and passing** on October 6 at her house 753 Marco Place in Venice. RSVP: LZimble@aol.com

Sunday, December 5
• 3-8pm - **Holiday Street Walk on Abbot Kinney** with Santa and The Jingle Bell Rockers strolling the Blvd.
• 5pm - **Open Reading** with Genie Nakano and Cindy Weinstein. Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 7pm - **Holiday Party,** Reading by Hollywood **Institute of Poetry**. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Wednesday, December 8
• 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams at Danny's Deli.** Truly amazing. Free.

Thursday, December 9
10am-2pm - **Venice Skills Center "Job Resource Day"**. 611 Fifth Ave. 664-5820. Free.

Friday, December 10
6- 9pm - **Opening Reception: Meet photographers from Nature LA** and rock out to Sweet Talk Radio. G2 Gallery. $5 donation to charity.
• 7-9pm - G. Strong's **"The Magic of Merlin and King Arthur"** book signing. 1319 AKB. Free.
• 7:30pm - **May Sky Japanese Internment reading** by relocated Japanese Americans and Venice High students perform Kaiko Haiku. Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Saturday, December 11
• 2pm – MESS: Media Ecology Soul Salon. Political **filmmaker Alan Gorg; films and interview.** Unurban Café. Free.
• 2:30pm - Meet children's author T.A. Barron, see **photo-illustrated presentation on sustainable living**. Each guest receives signed copy of book. RSVP required. G2 Gallery.
• 7pm - **May Sky Japanese Internment panel** discussion on the poetry of detention and internment**.** Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.
• 7-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica Fundraiser.** Talking Stick. Free.
9:30pm - Art, music and poetry with Henry-Mortensen and Friends. Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Sunday, December 12
• 7:30pm - J.P. **Dancing Bear,** editor of the national poetry review, **C. J. Sage** of Black Warrior Review. Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Monday, December 13
• 6-10pm - Documental. Pxl This: **Toy Camera Film Festival.** Unurban Café. Free
• 6-10pm - Stefani Valadez and Steve Moos and Co. The Talking Stick. $5.

Tuesday, December 14
•7pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, December 16
• 7pm - **Poetry in Motion** with Eve Brandstein. Beyond Baroque. $10, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Friday, December 17
• 7pm – **Mozaic Spoken Word**. The Talking Stick. Free.
• 7-10pm - Subversive Cinema. 212 Pier. Free.

Saturday, December 18
• 3pm - **Inca Musicians in Venice Peruvian Concert playing enchanted music.** Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.
• 6-10pm - **Jazz Funk Fest.** Talking Stick. Free.
• 7pm - **Masters in the Chapel** musical concert with the Gospel Choir of St. Paul. First Lutheran Church of Venice, 815 Venice Blvd. Free.

Sunday, December 19
• 2:30-4pm - **Suzy and Her Solid Senders.** 1600 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica Xmas Show.
• 5-10pm - **It's Blues Time! Featuring Tom Gramlich & Mystic Miles.** The Talking Stick. Free.
7pm - Will Alexander and surrealist **poets read.** Beyond Baroque. $7, students, seniors, children $5, members free.

Monday, December 20
• 6-10pm - **Celestial Celluloid 16 mm**. 7 Dudley Cinema. Talking Stick.

Tuesday, December 21
• 7-10pm - The **Venice Neighborhood Council** holds regular meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Westminster School Auditorium.

Tuesday, December 28
• 7-9:30pm - **Bioneers Meeting: Work to improve the future of planet Earth**. G2 Gallery. Free.

Thursday, December 30
• 6-8:30 - **Free Venice Beachhead's Venice Poetry Renaissance** and After Party (9pm - ?). Beyond Baroque. Free.

Friday, December 31
• Midnight - **Happy New Year - 2011.**

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper
The Beachhead Calendar is a public service to the community of Venice. Our goal is to list free events within Venice. If you charge for your event, please consider taking out a $25 or larger advertisement.

Get Your Local Event Listed
Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@freevenice.org by the June 20.

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
•Danny's Deli, 23 Windward Ave. 66-5610
• G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
• Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
• Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
• 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 x15.
• Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net
• United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
• Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.
• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue. 305-1865.

Ongoing Events

• 8pm-12am - **Hal's Bar and Grill features Live Jazz,** Sunday and Monday nights. Free.

• 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy's "Open Mic"** for comics, musicians, speakers and artists of any kind. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.

• Thursday-Sunday 12-2pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am-1pm at **Uncle Darrow's featuring "Joe Banks and Friends."** 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

• 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesdays of the month. Free.

• 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library Thursday Movie Night.** Call 310-821-1769 for the upcoming movie.

• 6:30pm -**Abbot Kinney Public Library Children's Pajama Storytime**. Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.

• 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock.** Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.

• **Every Third Thursday is the Venice Art Crawl.**

• 7-10pm - **MOM: Meditations On Media.** Every 3rd Wednesday. Beyond Baroque. Free.

• 12:30pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays - **Free Food Distribution at Vera Davis Center.**

• **Nightly - Culver City Shelter should open on Dec. 1. Pick up point is Pacific Avenue at the Westminster Senior Center. Check for time. Contact the city at 311.**

When the Lifeguard Stations Salute the Setting Sun, You Know Summer is Over. At least those ugly telephone poles are gone.
Photo by Jerome Stumphauzer

VENICE POETRY RENAISSANCE

6 – 8:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 30
at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.

followed by an After Party
with live music, at a nearby location
RING IN THE NEW YEAR!

Venice Poets: Contact the Beachhead if you would like to read at this event (Ocean Park & Mar Vista poets also invited).

Everything's Free

including The Free Venice Beachhead, celebrating its 42nd Anniversary
310-396-2525 • Beachhead@freevenice.org