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FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

February
2009

#328

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The Big One



Classic Poster by Ron Cobb

What Should Be Done With The Postal Annex?

By Carolyn Rios

As reported in last month's Beachhead, the Postal Annex on Windward Circle is up for sale.

This is the last available site in Venice that could solve our two biggest problems - parking and homelessness. The Postal Annex is the perfect site for:

1. Ground-level parking, desperately needed in Venice due to severe overdevelopment and use of "grandfathered" parking spots. This lot is conveniently located close to both the beach and the Abbot Kinney business district. Parking fines and fees have been put aside for years that could help fund this proposal.

2. Transitional housing on the 2nd and 3rd stories, with full services, for 30 people, possibly modeled after the highly successful OPCC Turning Point

Program in Santa Monica, which has moved 60 homeless people into permanent housing.

The postal annex is located on four major bus lines so clients can easily get to jobs, services, schools in Santa Monica, Culver City and Los Angeles.

There is funding available from both the city, and county, and probably federal government to provide these desperately needed services.

We need to identify these sources and ACT NOW before private developers get in the way.

3. This could be a model "green" building with rooftop gardens and all, possibly opening up additional funding.

The site is large enough that the building itself could be set back 20 - 30 feet with landscaped parking to provide both beauty and privacy. Each story can be set back further with gardens on the balconies and roof.

Government officials must immediately stop any idea of selling this to private developers.

Imagine 50 or more additional parking spots between Abbot Kinney and the beach, just where they are needed the most. Imagine taking 30 homeless people each year off the beach. Imagine !!!

However the community decides to use this lot, it is vital that the community get this property for local needs.

ALL SHOOK UP

By John Davis

The pressure wave came first in the form of an audible boom followed by the shock wave. The earthquake was caused by a fault one mile North West of Marina del Rey, directly off of Venice Beach. If you stood at the end of the Venice Pier it would be very near.

Other active offshore faults exist in and near the bay. A geologic (study of the earth) fault is a crack in the rock layers below caused by various underground pressures that cause rock layers to settle and shift.

If you can imagine a tasty but brittle graham cracker breaking you will understand what a fault is. Now imagine a stack of delicious crackers that are intact with the broken one at the bottom.

The weight of the crackers on top can cause the cracked one below to shift. Sometimes distant earthquakes can move the local fault just enough to trigger another quake.

When this happens an earthquake occurs at depth and the effects are felt at the surface. The underground origin point is called the epicenter of the quake.

In the case of the Venice Beach Quake the epicenter of the temblor was 4.6 miles below the surface, about the same distance to LAX from Venice. If you have ever walked a mile you can get an idea of how far below the surface that is.

The movement of the rocks can displace the sea and translate into a fast high wave. Sometimes underwater canyons get shaken causing underwater landslides which can also trigger deadly tsunamis. Our local underwater canyon is the Santa Monica Canyon and it abruptly plunges to a depth of 2000 ft with very steep walls.

On January 23 at 7:44 pm residents as far as Santa Monica, Culver City, and Westchester felt the earth move. People closer to the source reported hearing a sort of boom then the jolt. I was in Westchester in my car and felt a gentle ripple. The good news is there was no Tsunami. The other good news is our Councilperson, Bill Rosendahl, had the foresight to insist Tsunami Warning Signs be placed in Venice recently to help people prepare in advance.

The bad news is we still live in earthquake country and should always be prepared with enough water for three weeks, a lot of canned food, a can opener, medicine, a radio with extra batteries or a wind-up unit, and a family plan. You should think in advance about what to do if you are separated from family because of school or work. Discuss what your family will do if this happens so that everyone will remain as calm as possible.

Surviving a disaster starts with a plan. Panic is not an option.



CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

4,236 U.S. Dead

30,984 U.S. Wounded

Iraqi Dead: 1,307,319

Cost: \$592+ Billion Source: costofwar.com

AFGHANISTAN

644 U.S. Dead

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



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Intern: Jessica Aden

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.

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Postcard from Venice (Italy)

Dear 'Heads,

Carousing singers still active at 2 a.m. outside our hotel window - demonstrating roots of California Venetians in the *Che Wah Wah* lifestyle.

Thought I saw Abbot Kinney this afternoon, turning the corner ahead of me in an alley.

One of life's great treasures is to be part of a Grand Tradition. Happy 40th!

Lance Diskan



Parking and Homelessness

Dear Beachhead

As a twenty-five year resident of this amazing community, sometimes I wonder where your loyalty lies. It is certainly not with the hard working people who live here. After living on Paloma Ave. for six years I know all too well the horrendous parking situation that exists in this neighborhood. There is no other fact than this: there is not enough parking to accommodate the legal residents of our community.

Why when I get home from my second job at midnight do I feel blessed to find a parking spot FOUR blocks from my house!!!! Countless times I have had to pay hundreds of dollars to have my car released from the tow lot because I had no other choice but to park overnight in Gold's Gym's lot.

Try carrying a sleeping two-year-old and her diaper bag and a purse and three bags of groceries from Hampton Ave. to Paloma and Speedway. Dare I mention for fear of offending the sensibilities of our homeless "residents," how dangerous it is for a "youngish" woman to be walking this far at night through this neighborhood which is wrought with criminal activity perpetrated by your beloved homeless population. I know. I have been accosted on several occasions. I know they are not ALL criminals.

However, it is certainly NOT the legal residents of this community committing the robberies, acts of vandalism, assaults and murders which we still find happening even with the massive overhaul of this community.

You do realize that for every RV that is parked on our tiny, overcrowded streets, there are three to four legal residents who cannot find a place to park their cars after returning from their JOBS where they have been all day rather than lazing around in the California sunshine. Not only am I pro overnight parking permits, I am pro parking permit all day, all night, every day, always. It's only January. As soon as summer is here, the real parking nightmare begins. Maybe, all of you who are so against OPD's will let me and my family park in your garage.

Peace and Love

Casey Bowen

P.S.- thank you for your wonderful article on our cherished Sponto. He was a delightful fixture in the neighborhood, whom I'm sure would disagree with my opinion on parking. I wish he were here to have the debate.

Alternate Proposal to Permit Parking

By Mark Lipman

Preamble: A great many persons in Venice strongly oppose installing permit parking in our community for various reasons and it is improper to simply ignore their concerns.

Firstly, the proposed Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs) discriminate against very low income residents, who are forced to live in their vehicles due to the overwhelming economic crisis.

Secondly, the OPDs will force many renters and home owners to pay for parking in and around their neighborhoods.

Thirdly, the OPDs discriminate against large families and households with more than three vehicles.

Finally, the OPDs discriminate against people living near the beach, who will not be eligible for permits.

Understandably, many in our community are concerned with there being an excess of recreational vehicles parked on the streets and the various problems associated with this. However, installing OPDs is the wrong solution to this problem.

May I propose the following more balanced approach to solving this problem:

I. Residency

Whether we like it or not, it must be recognized that for whatever reason a number of people are living in their vehicles. According to Section 85.02 of the LAMC, this is illegal. However, there is much acknowledgement throughout the city, on up to our own councilman Bill Rosendahl, that this is a bad law and must be changed.

Additionally, many may rightfully argue the validity of this law under the constitution. Under the basic precepts of our freedom, the right of lifestyle choice is fundamental.

Therefore, we are forced to accept that if someone, who is housed in a vehicle chooses to live in our community they have the constitutional right to do so.

Beyond that however the city does also have the right to regulate this form of housing for the overall well being of our community as a whole.

The first order of business is to determine who and how many amongst the vehicularly housed are residents. This will give us a good understanding of how many parking places are necessary within the Venice boundaries to accommodate our needs.

Those who desire to register as residents of Venice will then be issued a permit to be affixed to their vehicle. By registering, this will establish residency in Venice, with the same rights and responsibilities as other residents, including the right to vote in all local elections.

II. Permits and Parking

Through the issuance of residency permits, vehicularly housed residents will be required to pay a permit fee of say \$50 per year (with a recommended fee waiver or reduced fee for the first year of implementation). This permit fee would be reflective of a property tax that could be used for community investment in needed areas such as street maintenance.

This permitting structure would shift the tax/fee burden from renters and home owners to the vehicularly housed residents, thus making it fairer for all concerned. Renters and home owners will not be forced to pay for parking, while vehicularly housed residents will pay a reasonable fee for use of public streets and approved parking lots to live on top of legally.

In order to reduce the community impact of this arrangement the city will create preferential parking zones for RV's and other vehicles within Venice that display the vehicular resident permit.

There will be a study performed to determine what the best locations for these zones will be that have minimal impact to traditional residential zones.

III. Lincoln Place

One location where there is currently plenty of available street parking is in front of the housing project known as Lincoln Place. These streets could easily accommodate many motor vehicles and could be made into preferential parking zones for RV's.

As Lincoln Place will eventually be reopened as

-continued on page 10

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Showdown on Permit Parking?

Venice Votes

By Mark Lipman

Finally, at the eleventh hour, after two years of community disenfranchisement, the stakeholders of Venice will be given a public vote on one of the most divisive issues we've seen since the debate over annexation to Los Angeles. On Saturday, February 21, all are asked to turn out to vote on whether or not we as a community want to allow permit parking (also known as OPDs) in Venice. The vote will take place from 12:30 to 3:30 at the Venice Library. This will be our only chance to vote on the issue.

Opinions on this are as various as the Venetians who live here, so below are merely my two cents:

The entire structure of Overnight Parking Districts has been set up poorly from the beginning. They were suggested by downtown Los Angeles specifically as a way to evict RVs from Venice (and to fill the city coffers) and were merely rubber stamped by the Venice Neighborhood Council. They create more problems for our community and solve none, pitting one class of residents against another, while making all of us pay. While alternate suggestions to solve our local parking problems in a fairer, more balanced way, have gone ignored, these OPDs have been shoved down our throats.

Supporters of Initiative B now state that they have a "democratic right" to establish overnight parking, yet fail to recognize that they wanted to deny Venice the democratic right for a vote on the issue from the very beginning.

Quoting Reta Moser from her Triangle Update, "Can't believe the City of Venice could go thru the petition process for each street, get the City to spend thousands of dollars for an engineering study for each district within Venice, have a public hearing, get a vote of City Council approval, and be at the point of getting Coastal Commission approval only to find out dissidents, who have appeared at every meeting, have a petition that can trigger a costly election. Something is wrong with the due process system." Agreed. Due process would have started with a public vote, yet a handful of elitists feel that they have a right to create a domino effect on our public streets that will force all of us to pay for parking, while disenfranchising entire segments of our community.

Conversely, Initiative A restores our democratic process by giving us the vote that we should have had a long time ago.

Whatever your position on this issue, now you will have the chance to have your voice count – at the ballot box.

Vote on Saturday, February 21, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Venice Library, 520 Venice Blvd. and keep our Venice streets free.

YES on Initiative A – to overturn costly overnight parking permits in Venice. "To Fairly Represent Venice, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Must Rescind any VNC Board Approval of Overnight Parking Districts in Venice and Transmit a Letter Stating Such to the Los Angeles City Council Office, the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of Transportation, and the California Coastal Commission."

NO on Initiative B – to keep our streets free from paid permit parking. "Venice Stakeholders re-affirm that Venice residents have the same democratic right as other L.A. residents to establish by 2/3rds petition signatures, OPDs for their blocks to preserve parking for residents and for night-time security, and call upon the VNC to communicate affirmation of this right to the pertinent governmental bodies."

Points Opposing Overnight Parking Districts

1. There is no way to vote NO on permit parking on your block.
2. Anyone living west of Speedway cannot get a permit.
3. Creates a safety risk at night for those forced to park far from their homes (see point 2).
4. People on walk streets do not get a vote on their blocks.
5. Limits the amount of permits residents are able to obtain.
6. No exemption for handicapped.

THE MAIN EVENT

The California Coastal Commission has the final say, short of the courts. It will take up Venice Overnight Permit Parking at its next meeting:

10AM, Wednesday, Feb. 4

at the Huntington Beach City Hall,
in the City Council Chambers,
2000 Main St., Huntington Beach

Opponents of permit parking will be carpooling from the United Methodist Church at 8AM.

THE LOCAL EVENT

A vote will be held by the Venice Neighborhood Council on permit parking

VOTE Yes on A – VOTE No on B

12:30 - 3:30PM, Saturday Feb. 21

at the Venice Library, 520 S. Venice Blvd.

All Venice residents (including RV-livers & OFW vendors) are eligible to vote, as are landlords, businesses and workers. Bring ID.

Can we work this out?

Venice was mentioned on the AM radio station that I listen to, in the context of motor-vehicle living persons this morning. Bill Rosendahl was recorded as saying that there are no more than 200 motor-vehicle living persons in Venice and he felt that -- under the circumstances of the dire economic straits many people will be finding themselves in -- the "overnight parking districts" were not realistic. I thought this was pretty good news, that of realism, for a change, instead of the bombastic hyperbole we are inflicted with by the media on homeless matters.

I figured out that if you divide 200 by the 11 neighborhoods in Venice, that works out to be 18 MVLP's per neighborhood. That is not per block but per neighborhood. If placement is done correctly, this should not be a real problem for anybody. Isn't that right?

Why don't we see if we can work this out for a change? Times are tough, let's not make it worse.

– C.V. Beck

7. Permit fees will increase every year.
8. Will create more parking problems, not less.
9. Another step towards the gentrification of Venice.
10. Discriminates against the poor by targeting those who are forced to live in vehicles.
11. Permits hours are from 2am to 6am, when there isn't a parking problem.
12. Encourages drunk driving after bars close.
13. Visitor parking will be highly restricted.
14. There are other solutions to the existing problems that have not been considered.
15. It will become another multi-million dollar cash cow for L.A., out of our pockets.

Valid Credentials for Voting are:

A valid credential includes, but is not limited to one of the following: CA Drivers License or CA Residency Card (for an address within the VNC area); School ID Card (for a school within the VNC boundaries); A business card (in combination with any of the following with a matching Venice address: Business license, business check, or pay stub); A recent utility bill (for an address within the VNC area); An imprinted check (including an address within the VNC area); Pay stub (from a business within the VNC area); Passport (only in combination with any other credential item); School report card (from a school within the VNC boundaries); Property tax bill (address within the VNC area);

Other credentials: For Church/Religious Institution within the VNC area: Letter on church letterhead with contact information from Church/Religious institution attesting to volunteer work; Nonprofit Organization within the VNC area: Letter on organization letterhead with contact information from organization attesting to stakeholder volunteer work; Senior Group within the VNC area: Letter on group letterhead with contact information from group attesting to stakeholder volunteer work; or Venice Beach Boardwalk Public Expression Permit.

How Overnight Parking Districts Became An Issue in Venice?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

The Overnight Permit Parking District law, LAMC, was put through the city council by Bill Rosendahl in 2005 and Councilman Rosendahl created districts, through resolution, without a public hearing in Venice. A committee was created by the Venice Neighborhood Council, co-chaired by Stewart Oscars with supporting members such as Mike Newhouse and Mark Ryavec, was empower by Rosendahl to solicit support for this overnight parking permit program in Venice.

Last year Councilperson Rosendahl spent \$75,000 from the Venice Surplus Property Fund to pay an independent contractor to process a Coastal Development Permit application in order to create Overnight Permit Parking Districts (OPDs) that cover almost all of Venice west of Lincoln Blvd. The city is required to submit a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application when a development affects coastal access, which includes parking restrictions in the coastal zone.

The reason for spending the \$75,000 is the Bureau of Engineering, the only department qualified to process a CDP, was not staffed to expedite the application request. It would have taken them longer if they did it.

A requirement of the CDP application process is to hold a public hearing, which was June 26, 2008. It was the only real advertised public hearing. Venice opposition to the OPDs dominated the meeting. Nonetheless, the application was rubberstamped and no transcript of this hearing provided.

Last August 26, a letter approving OPDs in Venice was mailed out by the Bureau of Engineering. Over 100 notarized appeals were filed against this decision by the first week of September 2008.

In November, the Board of Public Works pretended to hear the appeals and sent a Notice of Permit Issuance letter dated November 17, to the California Coastal Commission. They acted as an agent of the California Coastal Commission, denied the appeals and approved the Venice OPDs.

We had until December 22, to appeal to the Coastal Commission and 38 appeals were filed, including one from the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Submitting these appeals was the only way to get to the Coastal Commission.

This is now on the meeting agenda for the California Coastal Commission February 4, and you can read all of the appeals and the staff report online at www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html under South Coast (Los Angeles).

We encourage people to come to the meeting and write letters to the California Coastal Commission and Staff opposing the Overnight Permit Parking in Venice.

Car pool will be leaving from the Venice United Methodist Parking Lot, Feb 4th at 8am.





First Lecture of 2009!

08:56 Tuesday, January 20, 2009, Room 236, Palms MS.....Alone, this lonely watch. Quiet for now./ The room across the hall sounded the vow,/ the oath of office sworn, could barely hear,/

but President Obama's voice was clear./ Out in the hallway, just outside the door,/ a drinking fountain waits, ready to pour./ No sign forbidding anyone to drink./ Apparently, a few have learned to think./ Injustices die hard. But at this hour,/ Magnificent hope sparkles. There are more/ good reasons, I imagine, to set fear/ aside. Emboldened be, let us draw near,/ regroup, and join the battle. Friend and foe/ alike, will stand in silence and in awe.....

-R.F. Wagner, Jr.



Correction: Last month, the Beachhead ran a poem and a photo about long-time Venice business, Big Bill's. Unfortunately, the photo turned out to be the welding shop next door. This time we're pretty sure it is Bill Big and his auto repair shop.



Vote No on Measure B

Dear Beachhead,
When Bill Rosendahl came to the Jan. 10 DWP Workshop he asked for a show of hands of all those against Measure B. And all but one hand went up.

Then he asked for a show of hands for Measure B and I saw only one hand go up.

Finally Bill asked the assembled Neighborhood Council reps if they would be willing to listen. And almost all hands went up again.

As Soledad Garcia (Chair of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition DWP Committee) said, "We are for solar energy. But there should have been timely notification. We think ratepayers will have to pay more for this hasty program."

I believe Soledad is right. As with all work performed in a great hurry, this hastily cooked up proposition they call Green Energy and Good Jobs does not have the language and polish one might expect from the great City of Los Angeles. I call it the Miserable Measure B, all 27 pages.

Everyone I know is willing to do what is necessary to meet California renewable energy requirements. But why put extra stress on ratepayers? Rates will have to go up more than necessary in order to duplicate training and solar installation businesses already in place.

We are already training people for this in the public education system and there are lots of businesses in the City of Los Angeles to do the work. People ready, willing, and able to do the job right now. People who need the jobs now.

There is more to it, though. DWP reps and Measure B documentation refer to the use of "financial institutions" and "tax credits" as advantages.

Au contraire. In the first place, tax exempt organizations like DWP cannot use tax credits. And who ever heard of a financial institution doing something for nothing?

What their hasty cooking serves up is a mish-mash of vague and contradictory ideas for voters in March.

Vague: that is what the judge called it when Measure B supporters hauled 8 dissenters into court for daring to say that Measure B would increase rates. "Who knows? Who knows?" is what the judge said as he dismissed the claim.

Contradictory: in some parts of the documentation it says that DWP will "operate and maintain," then go on to say "install/operate." And on and on.

"...shall install, operate, maintain and repair and/or oversee the installation, operation, maintenance and repair,"

"...department's ownership and operation. . ."

"...installed, owned, operated, and maintained..."

And here is the kicker:

"The Department shall own and operate all Department-installed solar power installations except as required to secure tax subsidies by permitting financial institutions to own the solar power installations, subject to a power purchase agreement with purchase options for the Department...All electric power generated pursuant to this Program shall be owned by the Department and shall be delivered directly to the Department's electric system without first passing through the meter measuring the electric use by the host program participant."

Over the past few years a number of financial institutions have tried this and failed when the I.R.S. determined there was an absence of business "substance" in the transactions. What happened is that municipal tax exempt organizations sold city property such as sewer systems, etc. to taxpaying financial institutions via sale/leaseback arrangements in order to confer tax benefits. But there was no business purpose in the transaction other than to confer tax benefits that the tax exempt organizations could not use. That's a no no.

As a friend of mine remarked, "Maybe they think they can change the tax code."

The Beachhead has always done a great job of exposing political shenanigans. I hope that Beachhead readers will see that the name "Green Energy and Good Jobs" is just a screen to cover-up a reward to political contributors.


It's disgraceful they did not consider what the great increase in rates will do to poor people.

Thank you,

DeDe Audet

Depression Got You Down? Turn Off Your TV And Open Your Beachhead!

Help the Beachhead survive these troubled times:

- **Sustain:** Become a Beachhead Sustainer. For \$100 a year, you can become a Beachhead Fat Cat. The free press you save may be your own. Now you can donate on-line. Go to www.freevenice.org and click the  button and use your favorite credit card.

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- **Recycle:** After you've read the Beachhead in a coffeehouse, restaurant or bar, pass it on to someone else. You'll make friends and help build our community.

Please list me as a Free Venice Beachhead Sustainer! (mail to: Beachhead, POB 2, Venice CA 90294)

Here's my check for: _____ \$100 (one year); _____ \$50 (6 months);
_____ \$8 monthly (electronic check)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



The late folk singer, Utah Phillips, was a Beachhead fan.

Solar Power to the People? What's Wrong With Measure B

By Jim Smith

Most voters in the city of Los Angeles may not be even dimly aware that an election is scheduled to take place on March 3. But to many insiders battle lines have already been drawn on Measure B - Solar Power and Job Creation - that is one of five propositions on the ballot.

Opponents claim that it is a power play by the Dept. of Water and Power (DWP) and by its union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 11. They say electric rates will be raised unnecessarily. One of the opponents is former Venice Neighborhood Council President Dede Audet.

Supporters of the measure say it is a straightforward attempt to dramatically increase the installation of solar power in Los Angeles. They say that electric rates will either not increase or will increase by a modest amount. Joining Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in signing the supporting argument on the ballot is Mike Newhouse, the current President of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

Supporters went so far as to sue to block the opponents ballot argument, claiming it contained false and misleading statements. However, Judge David Yaffe, who has been involved in the ongoing Lincoln Place drama, and is no friend of the tenants, threw out the suit, saying that there is little substance to the measure, anyway. Representing the opponents in court was Venice attorney, Noel Weiss.

Newhouse told the Beachhead he signed on to the measure because, "we are finally reaching a point where development of alternative energies and green jobs are backed by significant political will, and have become much more mainstream concepts."

Aside from Newhouse, most Neighborhood Council leaders around L.A. are strongly opposed to Measure B, seeing it as an end-run around their organizations. In addition, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC), an umbrella group, is fighting the measure.

Soledad Garcia, President of the LANCC's DWP Committee, told the Beachhead that "the City did not provide voters with the costs analysis, adequate plans, evidence of resources and enough workforce numbers to complete the plan within the time line." She also believes that the neighborhood councils were not provided with adequate input. "Voters are being asked to pass the solar program without providing them costs until after the elections," added Garcia. Not so, says Newhouse, "The City Council took a public vote on this matter, and voted unanimously that Measure B go on the ballot."

Dede Audet is also concerned that rates will increase drastically if the measure is passed. She says the City is claiming it will receive tax credits and deductions that are not available to the DWP under the solar proposal that will appear on the ballot.

In addition, it seems to this reporter that an undercurrent of anti-unionism runs through the opposition. Not all opponents are anti-union by any means. In fact, one of the activists is a prominent retired union official, Humberto Camacho (He is also President of the Pico-Union Neighborhood Council.).

However, some of the opponents attack the measure as being union inspired, and that it will create a monopoly for the IBEW. It is true that the measure mandates that all work be done by IBEW members, which could be a good thing, since they will all receive a union apprenticeship training program, good wages and benefits. Some opponents, including Ron Kaye, former managing editor of the L.A. Daily News, see this provision as simply increasing costs which, he says, will be borne by ratepayers. Some other neighborhood council leaders seem to be disposed to opposing unions on general principles and because they view them as a rival, perhaps the chief rival, to neighborhood councils for power in the city of Los Angeles.

In fact, the opponents, mostly from neighborhood councils, are lined up against nearly the entire Los Angeles power structure. The pro and con

From the Beachhead Collective:

The March 3 Election – A real snoozer

If you ever wanted to miss voting in an election without having a guilty conscious, March 3 may be your day.

How can a civic-minded newspaper say such a thing. Well, you can call it being realistic. There is no serious opposition in most races. There is no "change guy" running to turn things around in L.A. Yes, the Mayor is running for reelection, but there is no well-known opposition, unless you count Zuma Dogg. Bill Rosendahl is running for reelection for city council. His only opponent is on the far rightwing of the political spectrum.

If you decide to vote, here are the Beachhead recommendations:

For Mayor: Antonio Villaraigosa has blown it, big time. He campaigned four years ago with the support of nearly every progressive in town. He won election and was quickly seduced by the Dark Side. He even rode a corporate jet to Rosa Parks funeral. Rosa Parks, who started the civil rights movement by boycotting the segregated Birmingham, Alabama, buses. She walked, and Antonio flew in style. He could have been a positive role model of thousands of Latino youth. But he blew that one too. When Lincoln Place tenants asked for his help, he denounced them for not giving in to LP's corporate owner. Don't reward bad behavior with your vote.

For Council District 11: Bill Rosendahl has stood out in sharp contrast to the Mayor. He has gone to bat for Lincoln Place tenants, and he's done the right thing on many other issues that affect Venice. Sadly, he has dropped the ball when it comes to helping the weakest among us, the homeless. Bill has talked a good game about finding places to park for those forced to live in RVs. He's expressed compassion for our Venice neighbors who live on the street. But when it comes to action, we're still waiting. He's sided with the homeless haters who would impose a parking permit tax on all of us, in their misguided attempt to force the RVs out of Venice. Sorry Bill, we can't endorse you and remain true to the homeless at the same time.

For City Attorney: Hooray, Rocky Delgadillo, our worst City Attorney, perhaps in history, is leaving

spending on Measure B is likely to be very lopsided in favor of labor, business and city hall. The outcome will be a landslide for Measure B unless the neighborhood councils surprise most observers and show that they really do represent the "average Joe's" of L.A. and have the ability to turn them out. The NCs have a lot riding on this election, including their own credibility.

Councilperson Bill Rosendahl has not yet taken a stand on Measure B. He told the Beachhead that he voted for placing it on the ballot, with the understanding that voters would be told how much it will cost. Rosendahl, and the public, may find out the price tag at a town hall he is sponsoring at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 at Daniel Webster Middle School, 11330 West Graham Place. DWP representatives are expected to speak.

Opponents of Measure B act as if all the problems associated with Measure B are a fluke, and not business as usual for the city. It is hard for this reporter to envision a "clean" solar power proposition where no one is on the take, and where the residents of the city are not taken for a ride. Like most other actions taken by the city, this one will cost much more than it needs to cost, will be inefficient, and will likely result in future scandals that will keep the media busy for years to come. Yet, the question has to be asked: how else will we ever get solar power in this city?

office. He's been picketed a number of times by angry tenants who resent his biased support of landlords. The favorite to succeed him is Jack Weiss, a city councilmember who has been a target of recall for all the right reasons. Jack Weiss would not be much of an improvement. Also running is Noel Weiss, a Venice resident who represents some of the Lincoln Place tenants. He's not universally favored by the tenants, but he would be an improvement on Jack Weiss (no relation).

For Controller: Unfortunately, Laura Chick is termed out of office. Her audits kept the rest of the gang at city hall on their toes. Running to replace her are Wendy Greuel, a city councilmember, and Nick Patsouras, a transportation expert. Greuel has done nothing to shout about during her term at city hall. On the other hand, Patsouras is intelligent and seems honest. Qualities that might come in handy as Controller.

Other Offices: Angela Reddock, who ran against Bill Rosendahl four years ago on a platform including a moratorium on development, is running for the Community College Board of Trustees. She should be supported. Nancy Pearlman, a candidate for a different Community College seat is a Green who began running for this office in the '90s on a very low budget. After building name recognition, she finally won a few years ago. She's done a good job, and is running for reelection.

The Propositions

Also on the ballot are five propositions (called Measures in Los Angeles). When it comes to propositions from the city of Los Angeles, it's best just to vote no. Most of them involve some scheme for someone, or some group, to get rich at your expense. Other measures don't do what the voters think they will. A case in point is the 2006 measure to increase monthly trash fees from \$11 to \$28 in order to hire 1,000 new LAPD officers. Didn't happen. According to City Controller Laura Chick, much of the money was used to increase the LAPD budget without hiring new officers.


One of them is highly controversial, even though it has an innocent sounding title, "Solar Energy and Job Creation Program." See sidebar for the story (to the left).

Polls will be open at the usual locations on March 3 from 7 AM to 8 PM.

—The Beachhead Collective


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An Island of Mystery

By Jim Smith

Many of us in Venice wish there were none of those developers in town who tear down perfectly good homes and bungalows just to make more money. If only all Venetians had affordable rent and lived without fear of landlords, speculators and developers.

Suppose I told you that there is a place on this Earth where there are no profit-hungry developers or speculators at all? In fact, there is an entire island in the Caribbean without a single capitalist or greedy developer. It is Cuba.

Last month, the Beachhead sent reporters to the ends of the earth (not quite) to find solutions to our problems. We journeyed to a land without American tourists.

We found the buildings of Havana to be just as they were in the 1950s, the 1850s and earlier. In 1519, La Habana became the first major city to be created by the conquistadors in the new world. Today in Old Havana, there are some new apartment buildings and a sparkling new art museum amid the ancient buildings. But much of the effort in this historic area has been to rehabilitate the existing old, but beautiful, buildings instead of replacing them with new, more utilitarian, structures.

It is illegal in Cuba to make a profit off peoples basic needs, such as housing, health care, education



and transportation. The result is that excellent health care and education are free to all (Cuba's infant mortality rate is lower than the U.S. rate), housing rents for less than 10 percent of a person's income, and the cost of a ride on Cuba's shiny new Chinese-made buses is approximately two cents.

Things could be better in Cuba. The island is still struggling to pull itself out of the third world.



In Old Havana: (clockwise from top) Art for sale on the Prado; a couple of the countless musicians in Havana; woman and child in her school uniform; the restored Hotel Sevilla.



Cuba's ability to meet people's needs is hampered by an economic blockade around Cuba that has been maintained by the United States since 1960, in spite of world wide opposition. Because of this it is impossible to get U.S. building supplies, machine parts, medicines and other essentials. Likewise, it is impossible for Americans to buy Cuban imports.

Cuba is a mystery to most Americans because the U.S. government allows only journalists, researchers and those who were born on the island to visit. At the same time, most media outlets from the New York Times to CNN keep up a steady stream of propaganda against Cuba. As a result, when many Americans think of Cuba, they imagine a gray dictatorship without any freedom. Nothing could be further from the truth.

What is our government so afraid that we will see if we go to Cuba? Is it that poor people in a third world country can make a revolution that will provide for people's needs? Is it that we will see the hardships that average Cubans face because of our country's blockade. For instance, many things that we take for granted, from toothpaste, disposal razors, aspirins and diapers, are in short supply in Cuba, even though the source of these goods lies only 90 miles away. Are they afraid that Americans will see that people can be happy when they are not driven by consumerism, advertising, and the creation of false needs?

In this last respect, Cubans are much like many Venetians. Both of us value the arts, music, poetry, learning, and having a good time, more than the drudgery of slaving for some corporate boss. Many Venetians have to work too hard at someone else's business in order to maintain a small apartment within walking distance of Ocean Front Walk, the drum circle, the canals, etc.



Photos by Jim Smith

Cubans certainly work. And many work very hard. Yet they seldom get fired, and if they do, they can easily obtain another job. After work, they can attend a concert featuring some of Cuba's top musicians for the equivalent of about 20 cents a ticket. Or they can attend the many free outdoor concerns around La Habana and other cities and towns. But Cubans seem to most enjoy making their own music. This is a place where nearly everyone seems to play an instrument or sings. A great many Cubans can recite verse after verse of poetry.

Some comparisons might be useful in explaining Cuba. In Venice, we have hundreds of homeless people. In Cuba, there are none. Everyone has the right to a home. In fact, 85 percent of Cubans own their own homes. They achieved home ownership by pay-



ing rent for between eight and 20 years, after which they received the deed to the property.

There is a shortage of cars and spare parts, again from the U.S. blockade (perhaps a good thing since this encourages Cubans to walk and ride bikes). This hasn't stopped Cubans from innovating. There are '50s Chevrolets with Ford engines and Dodge rear ends, and vice versa. Diesel engines, that never saw Detroit, power a good part of this wonderful fleet.

Our trip coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. As Che, Fidel and the other rebels were making their way into Havana on Jan. 1, 1959, the dictator Fulgencio Batista fled the country. Also leaving in a big hurry were the mobsters who ran the casinos, the developers and the fat cats. Most



A "Coco" Cab. Named for its resemblance to a coconut. Bill Rosendahl: Why can't we have some of these in Venice for seniors and tourists?

of them only made it as far as Miami where they proceeded to run U.S. Cuban policy for the next 50 years. Some may even have been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy because he was not to their liking. In any case, they had to leave their new Caddys, Roadmasters, Imperials and many other fine convertibles behind. Little could they have

—continued on page 10

How Artists Survive In Cuba

Venice is a city of artists, musicians and writers. Yet most of them get no encouragement when it comes to survival. A network of support for artists and writers exists in Cuba.

Most aspiring artists, musicians and writers go to art or music schools or major in art, music or literature at the universities (which are free).

After that, writers of poetry, novels and non-fiction can join literary workshops throughout the country where they can have their work constructively criticized and where they can develop their skills. No one is required to attend. Instead, writers can send their work to magazines on the island. If accepted, they are paid for the work. Many writers have two professions, says Esther Pérez, a writer and editor of Caminos, the magazine of the Martin Luther King Center in Havana. "They write and also are editors, university professors or work in publishing houses."

"There are organizations of musicians that are willing to evaluate musicians. If they are competent, they get assignments to play at events and get paid. The most popular musicians don't need this help because they are constantly being asked to perform."

Likewise, artists can join collectives that have galleries where people come and buy their art. The public libraries also have exhibition areas for artists. We talked to one artist at the Taller de Artes Gráficas. He told us that when a sale is made, 70 percent of the amount goes to the artist and collective and 30 percent goes to the government which provides the building, utilities and upkeep.

Those artists who are not invited to join a collective are still able to sell their work on the street or in art markets, similar to Ocean Front Walk.

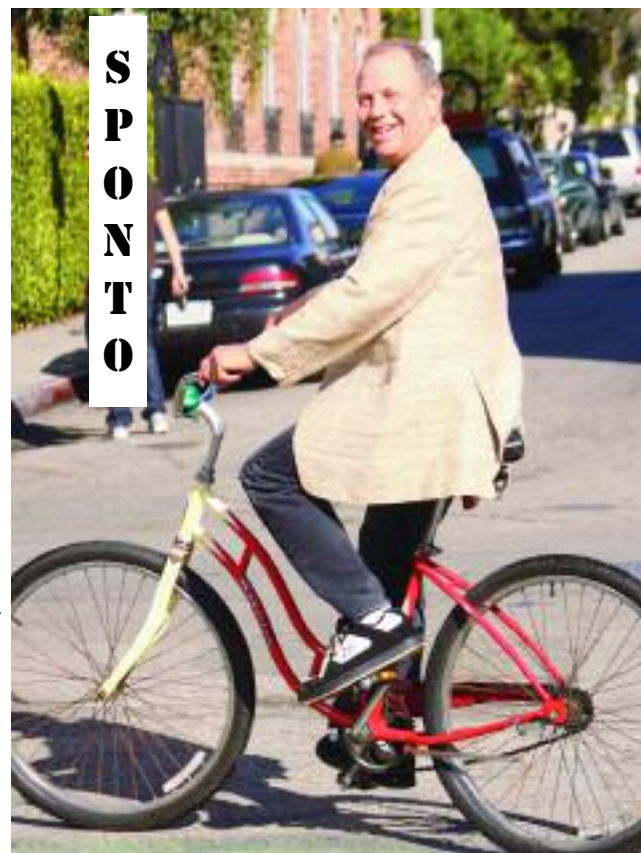
Creative people in Cuba are not confronted with the crushing rents we have in Venice. Many younger artists live with their families because of the housing shortage. They, like all Cubans, receive a food ration card that guarantees no one will starve. With food, housing, education and health care covered, there are few reasons why a creative person would be unable to pursue his/her art.

—Jim Smith

Venice Says Good Bye to Sponto



Suzy Williams speaks at the memorial



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Photos: VenicePaparazzi.com

By Eric Yarber

At 11 a.m. on January 11, more than 420 people assembled on the green not far from the Sponto Gallery to collectively remember the man who made everything happen there. Most knew him simply as Sponto, but there were plenty who went back far enough to never stop thinking of him as Mark. No matter how long you'd known him, it hadn't seemed long enough.

The event became a joyous mosaic of perceptions and expressions centered around one remarkable man. As his neighbor Colleen expressed at one point, "Where did he find the TIME to know all these people?" The question seemed even deeper when you consider how this varied assortment of friends, many of whom had never met before, managed to put together a unified, deeply focused event.

As it was, this was actually the third memorial service to take place in the two weeks since Sponto's death. The first was the spontaneous, ongoing observance of a shrine that evolved in the doorway of the locked gallery, tended by a small core of friends but available to anyone who needed a place to focus their sense of loss. Candles, flowers, mementoes and testimonials quickly blanketed the space and were constantly renewed.

This was followed on January 7 by a remembrance ceremony primarily intended for the friends closest to

Sponto. Beyond Baroque donated space for the evening, which began with a series of films Gerry Fialka had assembled to show at 7 Dudley that evening. Appropriately enough, the theme was Venice Beach history. Instead of the usual discussion afterward, the floor was opened to anyone with memories to share.

Over a hundred people attended the Wednesday ceremony. Gerry kicked off the proceedings with thoughts concerning his long collaboration with Sponto through over 200 shows at the gallery, Shirley Vernale read a letter from Sponto's oldest friend Barry Weiss, and Suzy Williams performed her just-composed song "Sponto." Artists, poker buddies, and Venice fixtures then spoke in turn of whichever side of Sponto's life they wound up seeing. It was a deeply emotional, but consistently upbeat evening that seemed impossible to duplicate on a larger scale.

The ceremony on the 11th was meant as a chance for the public at large to acknowledge Sponto's years of involvement in the life of Venice Beach. Though the general format of speakers with their memories would be much the same as the Wednesday event,

expectations were that the gathering would be much more diffuse as people wandered in and out of the area at random. A solar-powered microphone was set up, and Titanic silenced its sound system to give some audio space for the event, yet it seemed impossible that more than an inner core of the spectators sitting around the dais would be attentive to the program.

However, everyone in the crowd had come for the same reason, and for over two hours held together with even more intensity than the Wednesday gathering.

Chavella brought the group together by blowing a conch shell. Gerry invoked Sponto with a cheer that had rocked Beyond Baroque but now took on even larger dimensions as the crowd repeatedly

shouted, "Sponto, get me high" seven times in full voice. Shirley then had the audience shout in turn for each decade they had first met Sponto, demonstrating with each roar how long and consistently he had cultivated new friends. Joe Budd, perhaps Sponto's oldest friend of all, came from Florida to tell about the man who had been a brother to him nearly all his life.

Suzy sang "Sponto" again, this time in a haunting *cappella* performance. The other musical highlight of the ceremony was Ann Nicholson's moving rendition of "Amazing Grace," also a *cappella*.

-continued on page 8



Dancing for Sponto - more photos at VenicePaparazzi.com

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We All Scream for N'ice Cream!

By Yolanda Miranda

Many of the new small business recently opened on Abbot Kinney cater to the hip bohemian affluent and contribute to the gentrification of Venice. I miss the old days when Abbot Kinney (then Washington Blvd.) was a mecca of second-hand stores selling their wares in clothing and furniture for low income people like me.

Living on a fixed-income, I admit I don't really shop at the clothing boutiques although I do splurge once in awhile buying earrings or a scarf I can't resist for myself or my sisters.

Last September I noticed a store located next to Pinkberry was being renovated. I assumed it would be another boutique but to my surprise it was an ice cream parlor. Not a franchised chain store, they make gelato and sorbet daily in the independent store. The various fresh flavors are based on the fruit that is in season.

The display counter with its large sparkling clean window is enticing, there are so many flavors with deep and rich colors making it difficult to make a decision. Thank goodness you can try each before buying!

The owners Laura Nielsen and Christian Toxobe were both born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, and are young, friendly and greet you with a smile. After graduating from college they traveled together through Asia, Spain and the United States.

Laura received her teaching degree and taught third grade. Christian, has a background in music, promoted concerts in Denmark, and lived in New York as well. In between jobs, Christian went to work in Copenhagen for a store making gelato. He quickly found another passion besides music.

When the business began to expand, it cut down on the quality of its product to make more profit and became a string of chain stores. The company was known prior as a hippie, worker-friendly, low-key operation. It transformed into a corporate-mean mentality, said Laura.

What to do? Christian and Laura took time off since they did not want to be part of that corporate philosophy. They spent time in Spain to contemplate what they would do next. They both were in agreement they loved making ice cream, pleasing customers and owning a small shop. They decided to come to America to fulfill their dream.



They scouted Seattle and different places in America to start their business. On their first trip to Venice they knew immediately they wanted to live here, open up their business and they did. The charm and romance of Venice did not stop there. They were married less than a month after opening their business.

Within a short time since opening their business they both have been involved in working with children in foster care, or at-risk, inviting them as a group to see how gelato is made and taking a quick few lessons. For its not every neighborhood that has a speciality homemade ice cream parlor or a young couple willing to share their knowledge in an old ice cream tradition.

Congratulations Laura and Christian on your marriage, business and making children feel important Welcome to Venice! Your gelato and sorbet is equal to what I have tasted in Italia.

N'ice Cream, 1410 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
Business Hours: Monday-Thursday: 11am-10pm
Friday-Saturday: 9am-11pm
Sunday: 9am -10pm

Snapshots of the Unemployed

By Sherman Pearl

They scan the classifieds- circle, underline, clip-- compose lyrical resumes that sing the praises of who they once were. They dress for success, lug failure to interview rooms.

They knock on locked doors, peek through windows for glimpses of careers that last a week but give them somewhere to go on workdays. They visit agencies that tell them times are hard and offer to retrain them as grave diggers or night watchmen for banks besieged by the dispossessed.

They stand in long lines, shuffle toward windows that dole out baskets of shame.

They stand on edges of cliffs staring down at the future, tempted to leap into it, out of the present.

They sink into sofas and watch dreams flicker by. They study their hands, evaluate the lifelines, curl the fingers

to see whether they still make a fist.

They stand on corners holding cardboard signs with our names inscribed.

Swami X Speaks

Be of good cheer, nothing to fear, the Photon Belt is here. TV can't hurt you, but it will negate your emotions, lower your IQ and have you kicking your own rear...

Let me give you a bum steer: Eat at McDonalds for your health...

A clear mind, open emotions and a spiritual ideal is what is real wealth.

Praise Jesus, boost Buddha, acknowledge Allah, admire Moses and accept OWow.

Ripley it or Not, we're all getting lighter and closer to NOW.

If your mind and heart are open, you don't have to be concerned with how;

Doing that which is before you, with clarity, joy and compassion, could be the Tao.

Eternity dies in the dungeon of self-centered existence.

Life flows, it's the ego that sets up resistance, Love of Truth, Good and Beauty is the soul's endless insistence.

Between the soul and God, there is absolutely no distance.

Venice Says Good Bye to Sponto

—continued from page 7

Every participant shared in their own way. Carol had collected a series of "Sponto-isms," that brought one laugh after another. Theresa Hulme delivered a poem she'd written especially for the ceremony. Donna assured the crowd that Sponto was most certainly living it up on Level 5 of Heaven at that very moment, and told of how magical it had been for her the day she first brought her husband to the gallery and was able to see it anew through the eyes of another person seeing it for the first time. The highlight of my own Sponto anecdote was mentioning his perpetual distraction at the sight of any pretty woman and hearing the crowd shout along, "I see her around here ALL THE TIME!" with me as we collectively remembered his favorite ogling catchphrase.

For all the speakers who stepped before the mike, even more memories were shared within the crowd itself. Story after story was passed around until the remembrance finally reached a point of saturation, if not cessation.

Walter, a bagpiper who led a slow procession to the open beach, initiated the final stage of the ceremony. The entire crowd linked hands in a huge circle as a flock of doves were released, circling briefly over Seven Dudley itself before vanishing into the East. The crowd finally dispersed. Some returned to the Gallery for free sandwiches from Henry's; others regrouped in smaller parties to continue talking, or left to consider the implications of the day alone.

Sponto had been a lynchpin of the Venice community for decades. Usually, removing such an

indispensable link means that the tentative group he centered would dissolve. Instead, we held together even tighter, if possible. I think the reason for this is that Sponto was not a leader, but an inspiration. He formed such a string personal bond with everyone he touched that each of us held the circle together as individuals after his passing.

There were tears at the gathering, but little overt grief. Such displays simply didn't seem appropriate for a man who had bestowed such consistent good cheer toward his enormous body of friends even as he became increasingly overwhelmed by the individual burden that is now up to all of them to collectively assume.

The memorial is not over. Gerry and Shirley have been assembling a network of friends and supporters to ensure that the Sponto Gallery continues to serve as a Free Arts and Venice History Center. To immortalize another of Sponto's loves, an effort to place a backgammon table on the pier in his name is also underway.

To learn more about this ongoing project, look for updates on myspace.com/SevenDudleyCinema. Donations can be sent to Sponto Memorial Fund, PO Box 1553, Topanga, CA 90290, or Sponto.org. If long-distance giving seems a little distant as a gesture for gregarious Sponto, stop by the Gallery some sunset and talk to Gerry himself to see what you can do. He's there whenever he's not putting on a Seven Dudley show anywhere he can find the space. There will almost certainly be others with him still keeping the memory of our mutual friend alive.

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac.

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Letter to the Brother taken by War

By Antonietta Villamil

What can I tell you
Dear brother
Mutilated in silence.

You disappear,
As so many of
My brothers, with
rigorous sin-chronicity.

The dripping of the clock
Coagulates my eyes.

Between brows and eye-corner glances
I keep an ash
That repels the fire
That doesn't find your bones.

A tomb I know by heart
Butchers my hands.

With the only effort
I have left
I write these lines,

While outside
And around us
everything collapses
and bleeds.

Winter

by hillary kaye

Winter
silence
snow
crunch
bird
silence
cold
I am
my self
alone
I am
to
my self
unkind
as the winter
is
to
the weak
Hey bird
fly
like you would
past
any set of circumstances.

Ah Romantics, Thus Are We

By Mark Lipman

Ah romantics, thus are we,
Who sit by fire bright
Uncontent with life we flee
To passion's burning light.

Ah romantics, thus are we,
Who dream of starry sky,
And curse aloud the misery
Of a loveless gloom on high.

Ah romantics, thus are we,
Who steal a lover's kiss,
And regret the lonesome life we lead,
When love, we know have missed.

But what is the good alone,
Of fire and kiss and star,
Without the feelings of loss be known
To make us romantics, who we are?

Gaza, 90291

By Jim Smith

The Gaza strip
extends from
Santa Monica
south along the coast

Many thousands of us are packed tight
and cannot leave what is called
the world's largest prison

We have been driven west
until we can go no further.
Here, under the Pagodas
we line up for UN food distributions

Walking down the Boardwalk
I see the wounded,
and the ghosts of many friends

A new explosion billows
black smoke across the sand
sending us into chocking fits.

A women on her knees is crying
"They took our land and homes,
what more do they want."

A man walks by.
He was a vendor not long ago
Now he is a fighter, "They want us gone.
They want us dead," he shouts.

Ali walks up and whispers in my ear,
"They are targeting The Waldorf and
5 Rose today. Stay away," he urges.

But where can I go? On the sand
I feel naked and exposed.
Should I swim out into the ocean?
And how could I run away
when our people are dying?

Once long ago, our tormentors
were the tormented.
They were horribly incinerated
on another continent.
They came here to find peace,
and found...us.

Today, another hideous crime is underway.
Four hundred children dead already.
Genocide is such a big word to
describe a little guy being blown apart.

Boom! A missile has exploded
an apartment building a block ahead
Many of us are running to help the wounded.
Bodies are strewn across Ocean Front Walk
The living are screaming and crying.

Should we fight back?
They call us terrorists when we do.
And with what shall we fight?
Do we throw sand in their faces?
Is it sacrilege to hurl devotional candles at them
from Sponto's memorial.

The tanks are rolling down Pacific Avenue now.
Someone has found gasoline for a
Molotov cocktail. He hurls it at the tank,
but it burst against the steel without effect.

The tank turns and fires down Paloma.
The roof of a house flies off, a fire erupts.
Was a child inside doing her homework?
or just playing a video game?

Is there no justice in the world?
Why do people see our destruction
and turn away?
Are we not people? Do we not suffer?

In my reverie, I've wandered close to 5 Rose.
Soundlessly I see white bricks flying toward me.
They push me back into the parking lot
I cannot stand the pain, then it ceases.
Now I am riding the bricks into the sky
I look down and see Gaza one last time.

Monday Morning Errands

Now that i have been
redeemed by love
& thrown away
all thoughts of enlightenment
i find there
is little left for me to do
but observe the world.

This morning while returning
the video "Three Lives of Thomasina"
& a play station 2 Smack Down dvd
a young couple walks by me
absorbed by each other.
The macho one grabs
his girlfriend's ass
while she looks down
at the sidewalk
immensely enjoying
the public display.

Should i tell them now
i think, as i cruise by towards
the video drop slot
the truth about love? i say
nothing, turning instead to watch
them both as he continues
his proud grope.

Later, two mourning doves
are standing in the middle of Horizon
the male chasing the female's tail
both so dazzled by each other
that neither seem to care about
the fast approaching SUV.

-krista schwimmer

I too have stormed heaven.
The very moment I realized
it was my lock
and my key,
I kicked down the door and announced myself,
but found no one home
but me.

-- Jack Cross

Hiroshima

By Jessica Aden

Death drops on steel wings
as the solitary aircraft climbs.
And generations tremble at the sound,
of cherry-blossoms burning in the radioactive air.

Commitment

to Mark (Sponto) Kornfeld

Spontabulous!
Spontomiraculosol!
You flew away
To the sounds
Of benevolent water angels
Through the showerhead
What messages did
Those Angels of Oxygen
Take note as you
Passed in to the nebula
Or did they, themselves
Pluck you up with your agreement
A mission accomplished
From faithful commitments
To the sanctuary you made available?
Where so many could hear
Revelations through poetic word
Informational moving pictures
And interdimensional communion.
A loading zone for creative vision
And comfort food for the unsheltered
Or did the Greed Demons
Of this bereaved earth
Bear down too hard
On a battle of impossible terms?
You made your Mark
And left a legacy
Willingly or not...
Your signature will remain
On the very concrete of 7 Dudley
And now, words of thanks cannot be measured.

-Suzanne Verdal

this paper is a
poem

Venice History – By Jeffrey Stanton

Was the Annexation of Venice to Los Angeles in 1925 a good idea?

– continued from last month (to read the first part, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/cxxnmb>)

With its amusement pier gone, Venice didn't recover financially after World War II. Its housing stock was run down and it became a slum by the sea. It was the least expensive place in Los Angeles to live, and it attracted young beat poets and starving artists because studio space was cheap. It became a counter-culture mecca, much to Los Angeles' dismay. It soon became clear that the city was waging a campaign to evict the 'undesirables' from the community. The police harassed, arrested and often beat hippies, anti-war protesters, blacks and Chicanos. A federal project called Neighborhood Legal Services often defended the poor and oppressed.

In the early 1960's the city, using money from bond issues passed in the late 1950's, built a new recreation center along the beach on ex-pier property purchased by the state from the Abbot Kinney Company in 1950. Athletic facilities, beach parking and a main pavilion building were constructed and opened in 1962. There were plans to construct a swimming pool beside the pavilion, but when costs escalated, the Board of Education offered to contribute if they would build it adjacent to the Venice High School campus.

Since Venice residents were a thorn in their side, they naturally wanted to redevelop Venice just to get rid of the residents. They slyly crafted a measure in 1961 that all buildings in Venice had to be brought up to present building codes, and if the owner couldn't comply for financial reasons, he had to demolish his structure at his own expense. The project would be done in three stages and take three and a half years.

The first two buildings inspected in January 1962 were the Gas House on Ocean Front Walk, a center for artists and poets, and the St. Marks Hotel on Windward. Neither passed code and were found in such a state of deterioration that repairing them would be useless. When they were condemned for demolition, the owners asked for a hearing. After all the buildings on Windward were either condemned or the owners were asked to make expensive repairs for which they couldn't get loans, they formed a Shoreline and Landmarks Society to get them declared historic landmarks. The city claimed the Venetian styled buildings weren't representative of Southern California architecture and denied them landmark status. A lawsuit to stop demolition failed and much of the Venice's historic buildings were demolished. Phases II and III took place in 1963 and 1964 with little opposition. By the end of 1965, 550 buildings, one third of the Venice community had been demolished, much of it near the beach. Venice took on the appearance of a bombed out war zone just cleared of rubble. Fortunately code-enforcement for Oakwood and other inland sections of the city

were minimized by a series of lawsuits that prevented Los Angeles from redeveloping an entire city as one big project.

It is quite apparent that the city of Los Angeles took Venice's tax money and in returned provided few municipal benefits, while continually destroying the community. They filled in the canals, closed its amusement piers that generated its tourist business, and destroyed most of its historic buildings. Annexation to Los Angeles was a definite mistake.

One could speculate what would have happened if Venice had consolidated with Santa Monica. The canals would have been likely filled in because Venice wasn't laid out for automobile traffic and the age of the automobile meant progress. It is unlikely that the city of Santa Monica would have torn down Venice's historic buildings, and they would have supported an enlarged business district that would have been built along Venice Way. The three amusement piers complexes would have lasted at least until the late 1960's, if not longer. The amusement park business throughout the nation hit bottom during the decade of the 60's and parks were closing everywhere, and it is unlikely that all three could have survived financially. Santa Monica did their best to run Pacific Ocean Park out of business while they were redeveloping Ocean Park into tall apartment blocks. They feared that people didn't want to live near an amusement pier, and despite providing the pier with a new parking lot, made getting to the pier nearly impossible with deliberate street closures. Its City Council, which was against all piers, voted to tear down the Santa Monica Pier in 1970. And when citizens rose up in anger, those who voted for it were kicked out of office. But overall it would have been a better match between the cities, since both communities had the same interests.

There are still factions, although fewer than a decade ago, who yearn for seceding from Los Angeles to form an independent city. They believe that Venice's high residential property values and taxes (which are dropping rapidly) will fund its city government. But property tax is paid to the State, and then divided up for education, for County government, and only about 15% is allotted to local cities. City income has to be supplemented by taxes on industry (Venice has none) and commercial business sales tax. Frankly there isn't a lot of revenue from selling cheap sun glasses and T-shirts along Venice Beach, and Venice's many tattoo parlors don't generate sales tax either. There are a few hotels, but not enough.

The solution is to have a larger city that might include Mar Vista, Playa Vista and Westchester. But it is doubtful that they would have the desire to merge with Venice. I would expect the new govern-

ment to be just as factional as it was in the 1920's. Just go to any meeting and if there are 100 people, there are 70 different opinions and no one wants to compromise. Besides the sticky part is that not only getting the residents of the seceding city to agree, but to get all the voters of Los Angeles to agree to the divorce. That is highly unlikely.

Jeffrey Stanton is the author of Venice California - Coney Island of the Pacific, the definitive 288 page hardback on Venice's history with an 80,000 word text and 367 historic photos of Venice's canals, amusement piers, and historic buildings. He sells his \$50 book, which was published for the Venice Centennial in 2005, along Ocean Front Walk on weekends, or you can call him at (310) 821-2425. jeffreystanton@yahoo.com

Island of Mystery

–continued from page 6

imagined that these cars would outlive most of them, and they are still in daily use on the potholed streets of this tropical city.

Also left behind were the fine hotels and casinos owned by Meyer Lansky, Santo Trafficante, and representatives of every Mafia family in the U.S. The casinos are long gone, but the hotels are still in use, many of them sporting their 1950s decor. The elevators are creaky, most don't have room service or telephones, but who wants to stay indoors when you are in what seems like another planet. Besides, if you don't like hotels, you can stay in a room rented in the home of a Cuban family for \$20-\$30 per day.

Cubans must be among the friendliest people in the world. They are particularly well disposed to "norteamericanos" and hopeful that Obama will lift the blockade. They are also among the most musically innovated, having created several new forms of music, including Afro-Cuban, Cuban jazz, Nueva Trova, Timba, Boleros, and more. These forms and variations can be heard daily, and nightly, on the street, in outdoor concerts and in "teatros" that look like opera halls.

Cubans are also film addicts. This addiction is fed by the low ticket price, the equivalent of a nickel, at the many movie theaters. Cubans are also fanatical about baseball. All teams are amateur, but are as good or better than U.S. major league teams.

It is impossible for a visitor to say how committed Cubans are to their current form of government. Fifty years ago on Jan. 1, Havana residents went on a rampage, smashing slot machines and other mob gambling equipment that infested their city. The next day, Che Guevara (Saint Che, the icon of the revolution) and an army of rebels entered Havana. Fidel Castro followed on Jan. 8. More than a million people turned out for the celebrations.

Do Cubans still feel the love and admiration they felt for the revolution in the early years? In 2006, Fidel stepped down as president. That position went to Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, who was another leader of the revolution 50 years ago. The Cubans I talked with - not a random sample - acknowledged many problems in the country (see www.havana-times.org for criticisms by young Cubans). On the other hand, they seem loyal to the revolution and all of them said that Raul seems to be doing a good job now that he is no longer in his brother's shadow.

There are reasons why Cubans would support their socialist government. Everyone has a job, a home, some money, enough to eat, affordable cultural and sporting diversions. The government has not been oppressive to the average citizen. There are far fewer people in jail, per capita, than there are in the U.S. Before the revolution, Black Cubans were second-class citizens. Today, they are fully integrated into the Cuban society. Most families that I observed included a rainbow of colors among their members from lily white to all shades of brown and black. While 50 years is not enough time to eradicate racism - or sexism - Cuba is on its way in both respects. Today, women play an equal role in most aspects of the economy.

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Alternate Proposal to Permit Parking

–continued from page 2

affordable housing, with many of the illegally evicted tenants returning, there will be a number of additional housing units available there and priority placement could be offered to those vehicular residents who choose to park in this zone of Lincoln Place.

IV. Non-Residents Living in Vehicles

Those persons choosing to opt out of becoming vehicular residents of Venice would choose to be considered as tourists, travelers, or variants of such. For those non-residents, they would be permitted to park as normal, however the city parking control agents would be informed to strictly enforce all existing parking regulations, with particular emphasis on 72 hour parking limits.

For 72 hour parking enforcement, agents would both chalk the targeted vehicle's tires and leave a warning ticket on the vehicle's windshield informing them that they have been targeted for citation.

V. Enforcement of Current Laws

One additional way to increase public street parking is by enforcing the current zoning laws. If a

survey were conducted of houses in Venice, it would be found that many of the garages that were required to be built in order to receive the original building permits, have been illegally converted into ping-pong parlors and workshops, storerooms, game rooms, living rooms, offices and even apartments, instead of places to park their cars as prescribed by law.

If these property owners insist on violating the existing zoning laws, thus exasperating the parking situation, the least they can do is stop blaming RVs for the problem they helped create.

VI. Overnight Parking Districts

If after the above solutions have been implemented and there is still a need for OPDs in certain areas of our community, there would be more openness for consideration, knowing that others in our community would not be adversely affected by them. As it is the current OPD proposal being sought by the City of Los Angeles is rife with problems that detrimentally affect too many people throughout the Venice community to be the proper solution to the challenges we face. We deserve better.

Put A Little Love In Your Heart

By Amy V. Dewhurst

Everyone knows ya gotta give love to get love. So this Valentine's Day instead of going out and breaking things (boys) or staying at home with a box of tissues (girls) why not give a little love to those who can use it most? The following local outreach services, non-profits and charities run solely on the communities' time, talent and funding. As we learned from the Beatles "In The End The Love You Take, Is Equal To The Love You Make..." So go make some love!

A Window Between Worlds (AWBW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to using art to help end domestic violence. Through creative expression, battered women and children gain a sense of renewal and power. (310) 396-0317 • Info@awbw.org • www.awbw.org

Angels At Risk is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping teenagers and their families at risk for drug and alcohol abuse. (310) 457-1421 • www.angelsatrisk.com Angelsatrisk.sas@gmail.com

Beyond Baroque Literary / Arts Center is based in the old Venice City Hall, built 1906. The Center offers an extensive program of public readings, free workshops, a project room, bookstore, publications, and chapbook /small press archive. During our forty years in Venice, we have nurtured and presented many of the best writers, artists, and poets from the West Coast, around the country, and world. Beyond Baroque is always looking for new interns/volunteers! If you are flexible, reliable and have a love for books. 681 Venice Blvd. • (310) 822-3006 beyondbaroque@gmail.com • www.beyondbaroque.org

Boys & Girls Club of Venice

"Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring responsible citizens" (310) 390-4477 • www.bgcv.org

The Electric Lodge is a laboratory for artists and environmentalists. We engage our community through the visual and performing arts, innovative classes, programs and seminars, providing experiential contexts and opportunities for dialogue. 1416 Electric Avenue • (310) 306-1854 www.electricleodge.org

Food Not Bombs

"We Protest War & Serve Healthy Vegetarian Food to the Hungry." 365-0985 • venicesantamonicafnb@fastmail.fm www.foodnotbombs.wetnostril.net

Island of Mystery

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With a depression descending on the capitalist world, Cuba may receive some breathing room to further develop it's unique alternative to capitalism. Barack Obama has an opportunity to do the right thing and normalize relations with Cuba, as has been done with such "dreaded" communist countries as China and Vietnam. The Cubans say they are ready for immediate talks, as long as they are treated as equals and with respect. Raul Castro recently said he is willing to trade Cuba's political prisoners to the U.S. if it will release five Cubans it is holding as political prisoners.

Unfortunately, there are many irrational critics of Cuba in Miami, and even in California. Many of them are the wealthy, or their descendants, who left Cuba because of the revolution. Others are old-fashioned right-wingers who can't stand the thought of a society existing that doesn't worship the almighty dollar. But none of them are young Black Americans who daily suffer harassment from police and are routinely put into the "criminal justice" system. None of them are homeless people or those who live in RVs. And none are renters who face being kicked out on the street if they get laid off. These are the Americans who can learn from the Cuban experience and from the remarkable achievements of the revolution.

For more information about Cuba from independent sources, see:

www.HavanaTimes.org

and

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CubaNews>

The Fruit Gallery's "Venice Veteran's Day Project" is an awesome event honoring our troops here at home on Memorial Day, May 25. This is a critical time for our veterans here at home that need our help and support. Please spread the word of this project event. (310) 452-3034 • fruitgallery@yahoo.com

Harvest Home provides shelter and assistance to homeless pregnant women. As a full-programmed residential home, we equip our residents with the knowledge to make healthier life decisions; cultivate their parenting skills; and increase employability through education. (310) 452-1223 info@theharvesthome.net • www.theharvesthome.net

Inside/Out Community Arts

Through visual and performing arts workshops, performances and festivals, our mission is to give youth from all backgrounds the tools, confidence and inspiration to make a positive difference in their communities and the world...from the inside out. (310) 397-8820 • www.INSIDEOUTCA.org

Jessie's Place is a non-profit corporation committed to providing assistance, food, shelter and education to disenfranchised people while building a bridge from a life of survival to one of fulfillment and choices. (310) 398-2594 • info@jessiesplace.org • www.jessiesplace.org

Latino Resource Organization provides advocacy, family life education, HIV / AIDS services, information and referral, substance abuse services and youth services. 578-6069

The Lincoln Place Tenants Association has successfully protected our tenancies and prevented developers from demolishing Lincoln Place for nearly two decades. Our struggle is part of a much larger struggle to preserve quality affordable housing. info@lincolnplace.net www.lincolnplace.net

New Start

A counseling center for people whose lives are affected by unimaginable circumstances (310) 664-1415 • www.newstart-aconversation.com

Oakwood Recreation Center

Our Venice park, in the heart of the community. 767 California Ave. • (310) 452-7479 www.laparks.org/dos/ereg/facility/oakwoodRC.html

Pacific Resident Theatre is a company founded by actors and dedicated to producing the classics, rarely performed plays, and the works of new writers. (310) 822-8392 prtboxoffice@earthlink.net • www.pacificresidenttheatre.com

Phoenix House

It is the mission of Phoenix House to: Reclaim disordered lives. Encourage individual responsibility, positive behavior, and personal growth. Strengthen families and communities. Safeguard public health. Promote a drug-free society through prevention, treatment, education and training, research, and advocacy. (310) 392-3070 • www.phoenixhouse.org

SPARC-Social and Public Art Resource Center

The Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) is an arts center that produces, preserves and conducts educational programs and community based public art works.SPARC espouses public art as an organizing tool for addressing contemporary issues, fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting civic dialogue. (310) 822-9560 • www.sparcmurals.org

St. Joseph Center provides a variety of emergency and ongoing programs to assist low-income and homeless individuals and families in the West Los Angeles area. Services include child care, emergency food, homeless support services, mental health services, personal goods, services for older adults, services for veterans, and a thrift store. (310) 396-6468 • trideout@stjosephctr.org www.stjosephctr.org

St. Joseph Homeless Service Center has referrals to shelter, has pre-arranged beds with Samoshel. Services include child care, emergency food, homeless support services, mental health services, personal goods, services for older adults, services for veterans, and a thrift store. Lincoln and Flower • 399-6878

The VENICE 2000/H.E.L.P.E.R organization and its various innovative programs, such as Gang Intervention, Safe Passage programs, Youth Impact sessions and the Amer-I-Can program, which teaches the responsibilities of self-determination to all people, empowering those exempted from power and participation in the mainstream. (310) 823-6100 • www.venice2000.org

Venice Arts mission is to ignite youths' imagination, mentor their creativity, and expand their sense of possibility through high quality, accessible media-based arts educa-

tion programs; and to serve as a catalyst for people of all ages, living in low-income or underrepresented communities, to create and share personal and community stories through photography, film, and multi-media. 578-1745 info@venice-arts.org • www.venice-arts.org

Venice Arts Council

Venice is a vital hub for artistic activity in Southern California and the world. The Venice Arts Council celebrates and supports this tradition through preserving old roots and encouraging spirited new growth in the culture and community we cherish. 310-306-7372 • emilywinters@verizon.net

Venice Community Housing Corporation

VCHC works to preserve the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice and the surrounding area by maximizing affordable housing and economic development opportunities and providing needed social services to the area's low-income population. (310) 399-4100 marlies@vchcorp.org • www.vchcorp.org

Venice Community Service Center

The agency provides health services, mental health services and substance abuse services for people of all ages who live in the Los Angeles County area. (310) 399-9883

Venice Family Clinic

Provides free, quality health care to people in need. Founded in 1970 in a borrowed storefront dental office, the Clinic has grown into the largest free clinic in the nation. (310) 664-7532 • itrejo@mednet.ucla.edu www.venicefamilyclinic.org

Venice Historical Society

Strives to increase public awareness of Venice's irreplaceable historical, cultural and architectural resources. (310) 967-5170 • info@veniceofamerica.org

Venice Neighborhood Council

We are governed by state and local laws and assisted by the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. (310) 606-2015 • info@venicenc.org www.grvnc.org

Venice Peace & Freedom Party

The Peace and Freedom Party is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism and racial equality. We represent the working class, those without capital in a capitalist society. We organize toward a world where cooperation replaces competition, a world where all people are well fed, clothed and housed; a world of freedom and peace where every community retains its cultural integrity and lives with all others in harmony. (310) 399-2215 • pfp@freevenice.org www.venicepeaceandfreedom.org

Venice Public Art Walls (The Graffiti Walls)

ICU Art is a Venice based art organization that has been curating the Venice Art Walls since the year 2000. As an advocate for graffiti artist and public art in general, ICU Art has developed a broad-based network of artists and support personnel to work on issues and projects related to various forms of public art. (310) 309-7756 info@veniceartwalls.com • www.veniceartwalls.com

Venice Skills Center classes are designed for participants who seek to acquire a vocational skill, upgrade their current skills or master minimum competencies which will increase their marketability. (310)664-5820 • www.lausd.net/Venice_Skills_Center

Venice Surf and Skateboard Association

The VSA's main focus is to bring a world class skatepark to Venice. The preservation and historical recognition of the indigenous sport/art of skateboarding and the Venice skateboard/surfing community's contribution to the world of skateboarding and surfing. venicesurfsk8@yahoo.com venicesurfandskateboardassociation.blogspot.com

Venice Unchained

Is a non profit organization dedicated to passing a city ordinance that will ban formula retail stores from Abbot Kinney and Ocean Front Walk. www.veniceunchained.org

Vera Davis McClendon/Oakwood Youth and Family Center

provides services including adult/child mentoring, case/care management for at risk families, clothing, computer classes, family and individual counseling, health screening, job search/placement, occasional emergency food assistance, parenting skills development, recreational activities for youth, specialized information and referral for off-site social services and tutorial services. (310) 305-1865

Women in Recovery, Inc.

The agency provides a twelve-step oriented sober living program for chemically dependent. (310) 821-6401

CommUnity Events – day by day

Sunday, February 1

- 10am-12:30pm - **Lincoln Place Tenants Association** monthly meeting - Penmar Park Rec. Room.

Tuesday, February 3

- 6pm-8pm - **Marshall McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club** - Join a community of Angelinos who have explored the teachings of Marshall McLuhan and James Joyce. Meetings are every first Tuesday of the month. 4533 Admiralty Way MDRey. Free admission. No previous experience is necessary. For more information call Gerry Fialka at (310) 306-7330 or visit venicewake.org

Wednesday, February 4

- 10am - **Stop Permit Parking in Venice** - Attend the California Coastal Commission Meeting. Agenda will include Venice Overnight Permit Parking. The CCC has the power to overrule the city of L.A. Carpooling will be available at 8am, at Venice United Methodist Church parking lot, to anyone who wants to participate. The meeting is at the Huntington Beach City Hall, in the City Council Chambers, at 2000 Main St., Huntington Beach. For more information on the appeals filed against OPD, go to <http://tinyurl.com/czefpg>
- 4:30pm- **Townhouse Bar Hearing** - Hearing will be held to decide whether the Townhouse Bar can re-open its basement, that was once a favorite hangout of locals of Venice. Hearing will be held at the Henry Medina West LA Parking Enforcement Facility 11214 Exposition Blvd, Second Floor, West L.A.

Thursday, February 5

- 7:30pm - 10:30pm - A special free show by **Suzy Williams and Stormin Norman Zamcheck** - Come and experience the vibrant energy and passionate singing of Suzy Williams and Co. Suzy Williams also performs every second Thursday at Danny's Restaurant, 23 Windward Ave.

Friday, February 6

- 7pm - 11pm - **First Fridays on Abbot Kinney Blvd** - Come stroll down the late nights on Abbot Kinney for fabulous finds, drinks, snacks, entertainment and fabulous specials.
- 7pm - 11pm - **"Zen & the Art of Vintage Motorcycle Racing"** photo exhibit by Brady Walker - Hair Venice, 1354 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice

Saturday, February 7

- 12pm - **Venice Community Pool Potluck** - Come down and celebrate the re-opening of the Venice Community Pool. Bring your bathing suit/towel and food to contribute. Venice High School. Nulydia@earthlink.net

Friday, February 13

- 7pm - **Venice Town Council** - Agenda includes opposition to Venice Permit Parking at the Coastal Commission, development issues and other concerns to Venetians. United Methodist Church Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. Veggie dinner will be served at 6:30 pm for small donation. www.venicetowncouncil.org

Saturday, February 14

- 2pm-8pm - **Kulov's 9th Annual Valentine's Tea Festival** - Event will feature a special musical performance of Alice in Wonderland Tea Party at 6:30pm and an art exhibition. Electric Lodge Performing and Visual Arts Center. Festival tickets: \$10 (free for children under 12). Performance tickets: \$10 for adults/ \$5 children 2-12. All day pass: \$15 for adults (includes both festival and performance).

Tuesday, February 17

- 7pm- **Town Hall Meeting** - Discussion will be held on the DWP solar plan and ballot Measure B. Daniel Webster Middle School, 11330 West Graham Place. Sponsored by Councilperson Bill Rosendahl.
- 7pm - **Neighborhood Council Board Meeting** - Current board members will vote and appoint 1 of the 7 nominated candidates to fill one vacant community officer seat. Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
- 8pm - **Lady Lord Buckley** at MESS (Media Ecology Soul Salon) - Canal Club, 2025 Pacific Ave.

Admission free. For more information: 823-3878.

Thursday, February 19

- 6:30 - 8pm - **March to support tenant rights** - Holiday Venice Tenant Action Committee - Starts at 5th and Broadway.

Friday, February 20

- 7pm- **Mozaic Spoken Word** - Monthly event of art, music, and great poetry. The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge. Admission free.

Saturday, February 21

- 12:30pm-3:30pm - Neighborhood Council stakeholders will vote on **overnight parking districts** - election will be held at Abbot Kinney Library. www.grvnc.org

Thursday, February 26

- 7pm-10pm- Mikal Sandoval presents: **Speakeasy Night** - Once-a-month music bash with Dutch Newman and the Musical Melodians. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge. \$10.

Saturday, February 28

- 9am - Friends of the **Venice Library Book Sale** - Abbot Kinney Public Library.

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 x15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078.
- 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.(310) 305-1865. Fax 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 charge admission, please take out an advertisement - \$25)



Beachhead T-shirts are back! Only \$18. Men and Women's styles. Send check to POB 2, Venice 90294

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 Wednesday Night - 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 8pm / 3pm Sundays - Fata Morgana. A comedy about a young man who encounters a night of magic with a beautiful woman. Directed by Marilyn Fox. Extended starting Jan 9 - Feb 22 - Pacific Resident Theater.
- 7pm - Five Sunday Performances Feb. 8th & 15th / March 8, 15, & 22 - An Intimate Cabaret Starring Broadway's Carolyn Mignini - Pacific Resident Theatre. Tickets will be available at the box office or online at www.pacificresidenttheatre.com

Music

- 8pm - Live music and DJ's Sun-Fri - The Brig, 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 399-7537.
- 8pm - Live Music Every Night - Air Condition Supper Club, 625 Lincoln Blvd. Admission varies - Ages 21 and up. www.airconditionedbar.com
- 8pm - Venice Bistro - Live music Wednesday - Sunday night. Venice Bistro 323 Ocean Front Walk
- 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. Admission varies / Ages 21 and up. See week of events at www.goodhurt.net

Film

- 8:30pm -Every Monday - Changing - Barnard's documentary details the history of the culturally diverse area within Santa Monica, that is being lost due to accelerating development and gentrification. The Unurban Coffeehouse 3301 Pico Blvd, SM. Admission free. More information 306-7330.
- 6-10pm/ Feb. 16th- 7pm- Adaptation of Walt Whitman's Song of Myself - John O'Keefe's adaptation of Walt Whitman's lovingly poem from 1855.
- 8pm- Lowell Blues: The Words of Jack Kerouac- Henry Ferrini's combines visual history and jazz to illuminate Kerouac's holy land. 8:30pm - Charles Olsen and the Persistence of Place. 7 Dudley Cinema continues at The Talking Stick. Free admission. 306-7330

Kids

- 7pm - Every Tuesday - Pajama & Toddler Storytime - Abbot Kinney Library.

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 & 1-3pm OFW, south of Rose.

Calendar Handmade by Jessica Aden