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FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

February

2011

#352

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Photo by
CJ Gronner

New, Improved *History Is Myth* Mural on East Side of St. Charles Hostel by Rip Cronk. See Page 6 for Story.

Community Leader Handcuffed, Harassed by Los Angeles Police

When an elected official is subjected to intimidation and humiliation by “law” enforcement, are any of us really safe? And if there is no public outcry, can we be assured that it won’t happen again to another law-abiding Venetian? Ivonne Guzman, elected board member of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) and outspoken community member, was handcuffed for close to an hour by 16 policemen in eight police cars for reasons that one can only speculate on. Did they target her because she spoke out in support of the Venice RV residents? Because she opposed the motion to keep the extra 21 police officers in Venice during a VNC meeting that the officers themselves were attending? Because of her role in the community? Because she is a woman?

She was driving to Mar Vista from Lincoln Blvd. and Sunset Ave. on January 8 to give a ride home to Petr Hromadko and his daughter Monae Hromadko . When she pulled into the driveway of his home 8 police cars surrounded her car with flashing sirens and 16 officers with drawn guns ordered everyone in the car to exit with their hands up. Ivonne Guzman and Petr Hromadko proceeded as ordered and were immediately handcuffed, but Monae Hromadko, suffering from cerebral palsy, was unable to understand or respond to the officers. Guzman and Petr Hromadko tried to explain Monae Hromadko’s situation to the officers, but they were ignored.

Refusing to cooperate with Guzman and Petr Hromadko, the officers approached Monae Hromadko with drawn guns, screaming through loud speakers commands that she could not understand. Meanwhile Petr Hromadko, who has raised and cared for Monae Hromadko for all of her 21 years, worried that the officers ignoring his explanations might harm his daughter, who is susceptible to spasms and seizures. Once they realized that she is indeed handicapped, they left her in the car and kept Ivonne Guzman and Petr Hromadko handcuffed because, according to the police, they were conducting a kidnapping investigation.

Sixteen officers and eight police cars were probably not necessary, but someone may have thought that they would be intimidating. A kidnapping call could have been made by someone seeing Petr Hromadko put his daughter in the car back on Lincoln Blvd. and Sunset Ave., but why would the officers follow the car all the way to Mar Vista while the presumably kidnapped child could be harmed on the way?

If the police would have really suspected kidnapping, they would have immediately asked for the

identification of the father and daughter. Instead, they decided to draw guns and handcuff everyone. In addition, the officers did not end the standoff when Petr Hromadko volunteered to prove that there was no kidnapping by showing identification for him and his daughter. The officers were obviously not even remotely concerned with Monae, since they left her in the freezing car, with the doors wide open, without proper supervision while her father was handcuffed in front of his house and not allowed to approach his own disabled daughter.

The officers told Guzman that they did not run her license plates, but nevertheless called her by name without ever asking for her ID. Sergeant Mark Reina, who personally knows Guzman from the VNC, and the Ocean Front Walk Task Force, which she chairs, did not acknowledge the fact that he knows her, but instead treated her as a possibly dangerous criminal.

After what seemed like an eternity, especially for Monae Hromadko, who was terrified, the officers

—continued on page 5

CASUALTIES
IN AFGHANISTAN:
1,468 U.S. Dead
23 this month

IRAQ:
4,436 U.S. Dead - 6 this month
32,973 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: Up to 1.4 million •
Cost of wars: \$1.1+ trillion

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Beach Curfew Fight Coming to a Head

By John Davis

Last August several people filed complaints with the California Coastal Commission that the City Council of Los Angeles passed a curfew preventing the public from accessing and using their public beaches at night. The Coastal Commission then sent advisory letters to the City Attorney and copied Councilpersons Rosendahl and Hahn, whose districts were affected. The Commission agreed that the Curfew violated the California Constitution and the California Coastal Act by preventing people from using the beaches they own, at any time.

The City Attorney responded by claiming the Coastal Commission did not have jurisdiction in the Coastal Zone, and failed to address the violation of the Constitution.

Peter Douglas, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission, sent a final letter which required the City Council to respond and apply for Coastal Development Permits if the Council wanted to close the beaches to the public. The approval for permits would stand a slim chance of survival. The letter required the City Council to respond by last November.

A request for the response was recently sent to the Coastal Commission. The Commission letter stated there has been no public record of response by the City.

Councilman Rosendahl of CD 11, which includes Venice Beach, has made several remarks deploring the State Commission for enforcing the Coastal Act in Venice and ignores the State Constitution protections against such closures. In fact he recently advocated for establishment of private

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Beachhead Collective Staff: Karl Abrams, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, CJ Gronner, Roger Linnett, Lydia Poncé, Amanda Renner, Jim Smith, Alice Stek Intern: Alexandra Howard

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Bill Rosendahl's Police State for the Poor

Dear Beachhead,
Venice has become a police state for the disabled, unhoused people living on the street. A special unit of the Los Angeles Police Department has been harassing, arresting people and towing vehicles. This beach community in southern California has been a refuge for artists, musicians and craft persons. Many of them are disabled with disabled license plates who are parked to have access to the beach, medical clinics and food programs. The recent appearance of a special LAPD task force has had an extremely negative impact on the poorest people living in the community.

A recent incident of a disabled man, a Venice artist, who was found dead in his van has been attributed to police harassment. Threats of violence and misinformation have been coming from some hateful Venice blogs. People posting on these blogs are members of the local Neighborhood Watch - people associated with the LAPD who influence the LA City Council.

Venice area City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, a former Neighborhood Watch block captain and a popular member of the Democratic Party, has helped spread hatred towards the poor and disabled by supporting those who hate the homeless and by facilitating hate forums, such as the September Venice town hall meeting over an exaggerated alleged RV dumping incident. One of Rosendahl's supporters and volunteer staff, Jim Horowitz, a well-known Democratic party functionary, was seen at the town hall meeting standing with the local police who regularly bash on the homeless and was then seen standing behind a sign being held up by two children. The crude cardboard sign read "Our streets are not toilets." These young children were obviously brought to the meeting by their parents who have taught them to hate the poor, parents who themselves instructed them to make the sign.

Bill Rosendahl and his city council staff continue their campaign against the most impoverished people living in the Venice community. He has openly threatened people at public meetings by saying its jail or the highway "we dont want you." This type of get-rid-of-people politics has only created animosity in the Venice community.

Just imagine the ruthlessness of the military on the Afghanistan population: night raids, assassinations, children being wounded, maimed and killed. Rosendahl's special (task force) police units are pushing hard on the homeless people in Venice. People living on the streets with serious disabilities are being driven out by cruel and ruthless LA city politics. After an LAPD raid on a disabled person ends in a tragedy - who is to blame?

The city agencies doing the harassment should be held accountable: Bill Rosendahl, the LAPD and neighborhood watch members. Persons posting hate rants on local blogs are just as responsible for violence as big-mouth, talk-show hosts. The recent tragedy in Arizona was caused by irrational hatred. This is also true of what is going on in Venice. Hatred and bigotry directed towards the poor is alive and thriving. This is being orchestrated by callous and cruel politicians, the LAPD and their Neighborhood Watch cronies.

Calvin Moss

Gasland

Dear Beachhead,
A little follow-up to the GASLAND article that appeared in the October 2010 issue of The Beachhead. I listened two nights ago to the right-on and spiritually ecstatic Caroline Casey on KPFF, who was conducting an interview with Josh Fox, the maker of GASLAND, the movie. He has been nominated for Best Documentary by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

The Oil industry has already come out with this dart: "The Movie industry should stick to art and keep out of science." Man, that should get a few goats! It turns out that since this poetic and factual film has been made, the only tangible positive result (besides oceans of appreciative viewers) is that the state of New York has declared a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, aka "fracking."

Honestly, this fracking thing has to stop, immediately! Even tho Venice and California are not on the oil industry's current crosshairs, fracking does concern us all. We're talking about millions of gallons of fresh sweet water being poisoned right now! As a Venetian, I lovingly urge anyone reading this to see the movie, and go to the website:

gaslandthemovie.com - and get those letters to congress people and any appropriate higher-ups post-haste! Anyone who wants a free copy of this film, do call me at 310-306-7330.

thank you, *Suzy Williams*

Battle of Marina del Rey

Dear Beachhead,

With some of our politicians pledging not to hide or hinder their public interactions in light of the January 8th shooting incident at an open meeting in Arizona, there is one local leader that has been absent from any public outings in the unincorporated area of Marina del Rey for many years. Don Knabe has failed his constituents in providing explanations for the numerous drastic changes that will come before the Board of Supervisors on February 1st. The community organizations are "lawyering- up" and the battle for our public lands along the coast of Los Angeles continues.

Mr. Knabe and the appointed Harbor Director, Santos Kreimann, are planning to eliminate 800+ more public boat slips and continue to increase residential/commercial densities without an adequate public vetting of the Local Coastal Program Amendment on the agenda to be heard next Tuesday. The LCP is already touted by State experts as the worst document of its kind and with its changes would give even more public resources over to the private sector. Academians from USC and UCLA have long stated that the deals in the Marina are not in the best interest of the public and now further revenue generating potential will continue to taint the original intent established by the Federal, State, and Board of Supervisors.

The continued reduction of small, affordable entry-level boating opportunities will inevitably damage boating in and around the harbor of MdR. This belief has been supported by Dr. Ed Mahoney and Dr. Daniel Stynes of the Recreational Marine Resource Center at Michigan State University. Both Boating Economists have stated that boating communities are like most other ecosystems and food webs - diminishing the primary and secondary levels (small boats) will cause irreparable damage. Their research along with recent statements by the National Marina Manufacturers Association President, Thom Dammrich, clearly indicate bad planning by the County and its sole interest in generating revenue.

"For years, as long as I've been in the industry, everybody was working to build bigger and bigger and bigger boats and it's interesting to hear that it's kind of moving in the other direction, and I think it needs to. We've got to build what the market wants and right now it wants smaller boats." - Thom Dammrich, President, National Marine Manufacturers Association, November 2010

The lack of public participation into the decisions of Marina del Rey development have been a topic of concern at the California Coastal Commission. Commissioner Bill Burke (former County Supervisor Yvonne Burke's husband) spoke to his fellow commissioners about the lack of input and public process in Marina del Rey. Jim Fawcett, former Director of Planning for the Department of Beaches & Harbors, has described it as a public process gone wrong questionable planning practices.

One thing will be clear on Tuesday Morning, February 1st, a very large contingency of Developers, their representatives and special interests will be present at the Hall of Administration to give the Supervisors their support to pass this controversial amendment to the LCP. We haven't found one member of the general public that does not stand to make money from these deals in favor of the comprehensive amendment to our laws. This is a prime example of Noam Chomsky's "manufactured consent."

Jon Nahhas, The Boating Coalition

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Google Venice

The announcement last month that Google Corporation had leased the Binocular building at 314 Main Street and two adjacent buildings totaling 100,000 square feet was generally greeted with delight.

However, many Venetians are now wondering what will be the impact on our town when a corporation with \$29 billion in revenues moves in next door.

Should such a giant profit-making enterprise locate a branch in the coastal zone, which was created to preserve the natural environment and provide a haven for those escaping the city?

Some people are calling this corporate office a “campus,” but it is nothing like the traditional definition as used for an educational facility. The public cannot stroll the sidewalks and admire the gardens as we can at UCLA or Cal State. The use of the term campus is designed to make big corporations appear to be “warm and fuzzy,” which they are not.

The offices in Santa Monica that Google will vacate for unknown reasons were about half the size of the Venice location. It employed about 300 workers. Presumably another 300 would be hired to fill the Venice buildings.

Will Google hire from the local community? What will we do if they do not? Will Google practice affirmative action (google it) for people of color, women, the unemployed and the homeless? If not, why not.

Or will Google bring more people into the area where they will add to the unaffordability of housing in Venice and contribute to the glut of auto traffic? Venice has some experience with big corporations including Whole Foods (with revenues of only \$9 billion) which brought much more traffic to the Rose and Lincoln area. RVs which once parked in the commercial area on Rose disappeared when Whole Foods began its move into the former Big Lots and Sav-on Drug Store.

Armed security guards roam the parking lot creating fear in some and security in others. The grocery chain received little criticism from community organizations, some of which were, and still are, given cash and food on a regular basis.

Perhaps Venice organizations should refuse a handout this time while asking to meet with Google representatives to discuss how our new corporate neighbor is going to improve the natural and social environment of Venice.

There’s no word yet on when Google will make its move to Venice. ☺

New Book on Japanese-Americans in Venice

A new book on Japanese-Americans in Venice has been published by the Venice Japanese Community Center. It is a large book with hundreds of photos and maps chronicling “the 100+ year history of the Japanese American Community of Venice, California.” The book was written by Perry Miyake Jr. with Tiffany Yoshikawa Sato and Alexa Giffen, and is published by the Venice Japanese Community Center. Copies can be obtained from the Community Center. Call first: 310-822-8885. ☺



The Coffee House Revolution

When I visited Tunisia a year and a half ago I was impressed with the huge business done by outdoor coffee houses. There were not just hundreds, but thousands, of Tunisians sitting at tables on the broad sidewalks with a coffee cup in front of them. I would pass them in the morning on my way to see the sights and when I returned in the afternoon, they were still there. I mean the same people.

“Doesn’t anyone in this country work,” I wondered. I soon found out the answer was no. There were few jobs. Many people in Tunis, the capital and main city, hang out on Avenue Habib Bourguiba, which is the main street.

Ask anyone what they thought of Bourguiba, the first president of the Republic, and they will tell you that he was a wonderful leader. They will point out that he brought equality for women, public education including college, family planning, a

modern, state-run healthcare system, and an emphasis on literacy to Tunisia. Then when we asked them what they thought about his successor, Ben Ali, they would change the subject. Ben Ali fooled no one with his coup in 1987 when he had Bourguiba declared mentally incompetent. The police state began with Ben Ali’s sly rise

to the presidency, and only ended with the coffee house revolution last month. Ben Ali was so paranoid that he decreed a year in jail for anyone - Tunisian or foreigner - taking a photo of his presidential palace.

Tunisia has been part of the civilized world since the founding of Carthage in 814 BCE. It may not have been well known in the U.S., but it’s now taking center stage. Pundits are now attributing the revolution to everything from WikiLeaks to Twitter or Facebook.

But in Tunisia, according to Wikipedia, only 17 percent of the population even have internet access. In most third-world countries internet access is very slow and tentative. Those who can afford broadband and the latest gadgets tend to be the local elites, whose long-term interests may not be the same as the masses of poor and unemployed who are taking to the streets in Egypt, Yemen and other countries.

When Egypt cut off access to the internet throughout the country, the protests didn’t stop. Coordination proceeded with landline telephones, motor scooters and public transportation. There is still no substitute for face-to-face contact if you want to challenge the status-quo. It remains wishful thinking to believe that the internet is available to the seven billion people on planet Earth. Even here, perhaps a third to a half of our community doesn’t have a computer at home or a broadband connection.

In Venice, we are blessed with quite a few coffee houses. Problem is that many customers don’t think they have the power to affect anything, certainly not high rents, food prices, foreclosures and lack of jobs. We have many unresolved problems in Venice, and America, as the economy slowly settles to the level of a small North African country. Perhaps our liberation, like Tunisia’s, will not come with Pot or LSD, but with caffeine.

—Jim Smith ☺

DeDe Audet Turns 90

Venice activist DeDe Audet was celebrated at the Venice Neighborhood Council, Jan. 18, with a cake. Audet accomplished her goal of blowing out the candles, which numbered somewhat less than 90.

Audet is the former president and president emeritus of that body. Long ago she was also an active member of the Venice Town Council and was a leader of several successful efforts to stop a freeway from coming through town.

Her activism has extended to the city of Los Angeles, where she was named a “True Angel” by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Unlike most Venice activists, Audet is a registered Republican, although many in Venice would define her as a “feisty Republican.” Also unlike some of her colleagues, Audet works with, and is friends with, Venice activists on the political left. She has been an irregular contributor to the Beachhead over the years. Her most recent article, which criticized pro-growth attitudes in Los Angeles, was in December.

Audet is currently working on some of the most complicated issues, including the L.A. city budget, water resources and the Dept. of Water and Power. She says she is studying “Complexity Theory.” Can you say the same? ☺



DeDe Audet contemplates her 90th birthday cake at the Venice Neighborhood Council.

Cafe Collage

Things change, and they do so without warning. The tables outside Café Collage used to be a Venice hangout spot, where the likes of Dr. John prophesized, inspired, taught and otherwise had countless hours of conversation regarding the state of current affairs and the way one could take over the world in order to fulfill its true potential for happiness and true love.

Counter-culture does not express the views of the majority, much like Socrates and Plato did not back in their days, but its importance cannot be disputed. By removing the tables and chairs from the front of Café Collage, the owner, Steven Han, eliminated one of the spots where people could gather, socialize and mobilize. When asked why he decided to remove them after all these years, his answer was: “To get rid of the homeless. It makes the place look bad.” Not only are the so-called “homeless” not allowed to sit, they are also denied service by Han. He stated without hesitation: “I do it because I can.”

We can’t say that we live under a dictatorship similar to the one in Tunisia, but their revolution was partly conceptualized and mobilized in and around coffee shops. Not surprisingly, then, Han stated that the LAPD pressured him to get rid of the tables outside. Our democracy is far from perfect, and without resistance even the limited freedom and the few rights that we do have are in peril.

The Jones Settlement (2006) states that a person is allowed to lie on the sidewalk between the hours of 9pm and 6am. However, Café Collage hired a security guard during those same hours to make sure that the sidewalk is used as a passageway only. Asked about the legality of the issue, Han stated that it is private property.

The Beachhead and all other free publications got evicted out of Café Collage as well. Although the Beachhead had enjoyed the shelter of the café for many years, its rack now has to sit on the corner, braving the elements, rain or shine. Sadly, it still has more privileges than some Venice residents.

Whatever you do, remember that you cannot eliminate certain people and you could never stop the progressive, off-mainstream movement of Venice. Also, there’s a reason why The Coffee Bean went out of business: it was not a local hangout.

—Greta Cobar ☺



Eight candidates filed for the vacant state Senate seat formerly held by the late Jenny Oropeza. These are excerpts from their sometimes wordy answers. To read the full responses, go to www.freevenice.org/2011candidates.html



State Senate Candidates Respond to the Beachhead!s Questions

Beachhead's Questions	MICHAEL CHAMNESS No Party Venice Non-Profit Organization Consultant	MARK LIPMAN No Party Mar Vista Publisher/Community Organizer	KEVIN THOMAS MCGURK Democrat Venice Public Defense Lawyer	TED LIEU Democrat Torrance Legislator	JEFFREY E. FORTINI Republican Hawthorne Retired CBP Officer	JAMES P. THOMPSON Republican Lomita Attorney/Housing Provider
1. Why should voters in Venice, specifically, support your candidacy?	Venice has a strong tradition of activism, embracing diversity, building community, and basically giving a sh*t. By running as an independent candidate and member of the “Coffee Party”, I think my campaign honors that spirit.	Venice is a deep part of who I am. It is from my involvement and roots with the community of Venice that has led me to seek office – because I care deeply about what is happening here.	I currently live in Venice and have done so for the vast majority of my time in L.A. As a deputy public defender, I have had the opportunity to work daily with people from all walks of life. I can bring a fresh perspective to get things done.	California’s Senate is one of the best places to advance progressive values. From education to the environment, I want to help Californians who don’t have a voice.	I believe that this is natural extension of my career in the Federal Government. My career was about service to the American people, I feel I still have something to contribute. I have always been a servant of the people.	Californians enacted term limits for a reason. We don’t want career politicians entrenched with special interest money, constantly seeking higher political office while creating a \$28 billion deficit and a \$500 billion state pension liability
2. What are your top pro-environment priorities, if elected?	Promote the use of renewable energy and recycling, cleaner air, sustainable water conservation and effective mass transit. Protect wild lands such as the Ballona Wetlands and overturn Prop 26.	Solar energy – I want solar panels on every government building with parts made here in California. Water conservation is the key. Divert golf course water and keep Ballona Wetlands away from developers.	I support the implementation of AB32. I would set ambitious targets for renewable energy and aggressively protect our oceans and beaches including finding creative solutions to urban runoff.	I will fight to protect our coastline and expand green job opportunities. That’s why I have the endorsement of both the California League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club.	Maintain our pristine coastline, clean water and more green technology.	The most urgent issues are jobs, the \$28 billion deficit, the \$500 billion in state pensions and reducing the size of government. These problems are caused by state over taxation and overspending.
3. What are your other top priorities, if elected?	Fight budget cuts to the poor, stop the expansion of prisons and the criminalizing of the homeless. Support government transparency, reduce small business taxes/fees by providing a progressive state income tax.	My top priority is ending poverty. Other issues that I will focus on are Universal Healthcare, properly funding our schools and creating jobs, specifically in rebuilding our infrastructure.	Spur job growth and eliminate wasteful spending. Suspend the death penalty and develop alternative sentences for non-violent offenders. We can’t pay \$50,000 annually per inmate and axe crucial social services.	Protecting education funding must be a top priority. As a legislator, I have consistently voted to support budgets that protect education funding.	Ensure our children – our future - have proper educational funding. Stimulate job growth, provide incentives to small business to grow. Eliminate unnecessary expenditures and maintain critical services.	Cutting taxes makes products less expensive, lets us keep more money to spend and results in more jobs and revenue, reducing the deficit. Change the ruinous state pension formulas.
4. With the recession/depression more people are becoming homeless. What would you do as a member of the Assembly to provide housing, services and jobs for this population, and for the unemployed in general?	Support local job training programs and equal pay for equal work with a shorter work week. Use vacant housing to shelter the homeless and build low income housing for the poor. Provide tax incentives for green technology.	It costs us more financially to keep people on the streets than to simply give them housing. I want a moratorium on homelessness by putting people in empty housing units.	Since California holds roughly a quarter of the national homeless population, I would apply for federal assistance to expand access to affordable housing while improving coordination among agencies to maximize funds for needed services.	Essential services for the needy have been cut to dangerous and inhumane levels. That’s why I support more revenues to fund these services, healthcare and job training.	We need to take care of Californian’s first by finding funds to help assist in job training, vocational skills and grants for affordable low cost housing. We need to look at all avenues for funds to make this happen.	It is not the Government’s duty to create jobs or to provide housing. Taxpayers pay for government housing projects and government jobs. Encourage the private sector. High taxes are devastating our economy.
5. Gov. Brown is proposing cuts that would adversely affect some of the poorest Californians, students and state workers, including \$1.7 billion from Medi-Cal, \$1.5 billion from the welfare- to-work program (Cal-WORKs), \$750 million from the Department of Developmental Services, \$500 million from the University of California, \$500 million from California State University, and \$308 million from the take-home pay of many state employees in the form of a 10 percent pay reduction. Will you support these cuts in the new state budget?	No. I advocate for annual cost-effectiveness studies and the closing of existing corporate tax loopholes by modifying Prop 13. Increase the gas tax and reinstate renter’s tax credit. Enact a Tobin tax on financial transactions across state borders.	No. I will not support cuts to education and human services. I would end wasteful spending methods of our elected officials . This is where the money we need can be found.	Our current economic climate simply forces us to make painful cuts. Some cuts must be made. I would not support counterintuitive cuts to higher education that transfer costs to young adults/parents or any cut to state employees’ pay.	There are no easy choices. Without competitive higher education, we lose our edge. Eviscerating social services programs only make pursuing economic opportunities more difficult. We must increase revenues.	I believe that the funding is there to continue these services without these cuts. What needs to be done is a top to bottom review of the wasteful spending practices of our State Legislature. That is where reform needs to begin.	Yes. Our Governor & I will eliminate the massive waste and fraud in welfare to work, stop EBT for fast food, cut prison guard six figure salaries and overtime, day care in court-houses etc. The list of waste is massive.
6. If elected, will you establish an office in the Venice/Mar Vista area? Will you hold regular town halls to get input from your constituents?	Yes on both. And there would be free coffee.	Absolutely. This campaign is about all of us and our issues as progressives and community input is vital for us to find the necessary solutions to the problems we face.	Establish an office in the Venice/Marina/Mar Vista area and hold regular town halls to gain input from constituents. I pledge they will be carried out in an exceptional manner.	The campaign has an office in Venice. If the state budget allows, I would open a state office in the Venice/Marina/Mar Vista area. I will continue to hold town halls.	I have not decided where I would establish an office as of yet. I would have regular town halls to listen to the concerns of my constituents. In my career, I have always maintained an open door policy.	Absolutely. I’d love it. As a Superior Court Judge Pro Tem for 15 years, I have learned to actively seek out all opinions, arguments and facts, fully and fairly before making an informed decision.
7. Would you support or author a bill to amend the law to make it easier for a former city, such as Venice, to regain its cityhood by requiring a vote only within the boundaries of the former city (in this case, Venice)?	As an individual voter and Venice resident, I support Venice cityhood. As a state representative, I would support such an effort if it was determined that there was significant interest within the Venice community to propose such legislation.	I am not opposed to it. However, the people of Venice must first deliver a petition with the required number of signatures or an endorsement of cityhood by public referendum with the VNC, with a clear plan.	I would not lend my support because I’m not well versed enough on the issue. It seems that Venice and Los Angeles have an interest in potential separation, but I will certainly do more research on the issue.	As a former City Councilmember, I have always supported local control. As a State Senator, I would actively work with stakeholders to examine this issue.	I could not say one way or the other until I had time to examine the issue and determine if it would be cost effective and in the best interests of the citizens of the proposed city.	Yes. I fully support Governor Brown’s efforts to return more control and responsibility to local governments. Allowing Venice to become a Municipal Corporation will certainly further this worthy goal.
8. Do you support any other electoral reform such as public financing of elections, repeal of Prop. 14, instant runoff or proportional representation?	Overturn Prop 14, which limits choices and effectively eliminates third party candidates advancing to general elections. I support Instant Runoff Voting and proportional representation over the current winner-take-all duopoly.	All elections should be publicly financed – that’s the only way to keep them clean. Let’s give Prop. 14 a chance – if I get elected will be thanks to Prop. 14.	I support publicly financed elections but I don’t think it’s feasible. I’m intrigued by instant runoff voting because it would lead to candidates being elected who had a higher level of support from a greater percentage of the electorate.	I support a Clean Money system. I was a co-author of Proposition 15, which would have created California’s first publicly financed election for the office of Secretary of State.	I believe that the Supreme Court made the wrong decision regarding corporate financing of elections and needs to be revisited. I think that a person should be able to participate in the entire electoral process regardless of party affiliation.	Yes. I support restriction on the amount of individual & corporate contributions to political campaigns. If individuals, businesses and corporate unions wish to advertise on their own that’s their private free speech right.
9. Do you support single payer health care in California, either by legislative action or an initiative petition?	Yes.	Having experienced Universal Healthcare while living in Europe, I can say without a doubt that it absolutely works and is cheaper to manage than Corporate Care.	I support the concept of single payer health care. Considering practically every other industrialized county in the world has some form of it I’m not alone in that sentiment. The key would be how California could enact something like that.	Yes. I have co-authored every Single Payer bill in the Legislature.	Yes, I think that it is time to bring the cost of health care down and affordable for all Americans.	No. I do not support any legislative action, initiative or law that would force Americans to buy any product. I believe in individual freedom, liberty and personal responsibility.

When the Shooting Starts

By Jim Smith

Back in the '60s, the level of paranoia in Venice was high. Most of us held radical views, were poor or black or brown. We endured daily harassment by L.A.'s finest. Our heroes JFK, RFK, Martin Luther King, Fred Hampton, Malcolm X and others were being gunned down by either overt or covert government action to the approval of good Americans across the country. Meanwhile in Vietnam millions of residents of that country were being executed by more good Americans. The carnage in Vietnam was so bad that it led King, the modern-day Prince of Peace, to call America "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. He was assassinated one year to the day after that speech.

Our worst fears, that vigilantes or G-Men in vigilante disguises would start shooting anti-war protestors and other radicals were not realized, at least not yet. Some of my closest friends in Venice packed up and moved to Canada, a decision they have not regretted. Others of us scouted potential places of exile in Mexico. It's happened before. Another Venetian friend grew up in Mexico City, where her family had fled during the McCarthy years (if you don't know about this terrible time in American history, google "anti-Communist witch hunt").

Comes now the horrible shooting in Tucson of a member of Congress, a judge, a nine-year-old girl and many more. The media and leaders of government shed crocodile tears that such a thing could happen in this great country. Meanwhile, a million people lay dead in Iraq because of senseless American action, thousands more fall because of American drones in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In Gaza and the West Bank, still more feel the bite of American weapons. At this writing, Egypt's dictator is on the verge of using American weapons against its people. Iran, North Korea, Yemen, Cuba, and some South American countries are threatened by

the American government which has shown it is not above stooping to thuggery on behalf of corporate profits.

None of this is mentioned in the memorials and recriminations about Jan. 9 in Tucson. It is as if such violence is an inexplicable catastrophe. How could this have happened? It must be because of Fox News or Sarah Palin or those Republicans in Congress. If we can only swat these mosquitos, everything will be fine. No need to drain the swamp. Don't think about the the billion people in the world who live on a dollar a day or less. Don't think about the tin-horned dictators around the world who daily commit atrocities against their own people with the backing of American arms.

Yes, we are a violent species and if it wasn't America it would be someone else oppressing and killing mothers, fathers and children. But we have to admit that America is the best ever at holding down the whole world. The Nazis couldn't do it. The sun has set on the British Empire, and the French. But America has cruised along for the past 65 years on top of the world. During the same time random, and not-so-random, violence has invaded our cities and our politics.

Even in our lovely Venice, hostility and threatened violence against the poor has reached such a level that a small but well-heeled segment of our community has earned the title, "Haters." No one has yet been shot in Venice. But that may only be because the right mentally-unbalanced person has not yet acted.

Recently on a local blogsite, one of the anonymous haters posted a photo of himself sunbathing and surrounded by his gun collection. Isn't this just a little more obvious that Sarah Palin's crosshairs on Gabby Giffords' congressional district? Why on Earth does someone living in an apartment in Venice need a lot of guns? And by the way, the Second

Amendment calls for a well-armed militia, and is not *carte blanche* for lone gunmen to arm themselves.

Is it a surprise that the shooting started in Arizona? In my article, entitled *Sinking Arizona*, last June, I versified: *Oh Arizona...a Death's Head has gripped your state*. It didn't take an oracle to see that taking up arms was coming. But since the main targets of hostility were immigrants, who are nearly invisible to middle class pundits, no notice was taken until it was too late.

Even the timing of the shooting left a trail through history. It came within a week of Martin Luther King's birthday. In the 1980s it had taken a boycott of the state to compel its legislature to acknowledge the national holiday. Since then the state has been "enriched" by white Californians relocating there because they do not want to live in our state which is becoming a majority minority. Their racist, right-wing views fit in well with the frontier mentality that still permeates much of Arizona.

In America's long history of slavery, the taking at gun point of half of Mexico, thousands of lynchings, segregation, McCarthyism, assassinations, mass killings in our schools, the most massive prison system in the world, wars and more wars, the shooting of a Blue Dog Democrat, a federal judge, a little girl and others will likely end up as a footnote in the sad story of a country that never outgrew its wild west attitude.

If we had any storytellers of merit, he or she might write a Greek tragedy about that terrible day of Sept. 11, 2001 and the hope that was born on that day with the birth of Christina Taylor Green. The tragedy ends with that hope – that young girl – being shot dead nine years later in a Tucson shopping center.

James Baldwin's aptly named book, *The Fire Next Time*, may describe the next few years of the American "experience," as atrocities mount on atrocities both at home and abroad with nothing or no one to stop it. ☸

Community Leader Handcuffed, Harassed by Los Angeles Police —continued from page 1

took the handcuffs off Petr and allowed him to take his daughter inside the house. Guzman, on the other hand, was not released. Instead, she had to take a sobriety test, which she passed. When all was said and done the officers left without further explanations or apologies.

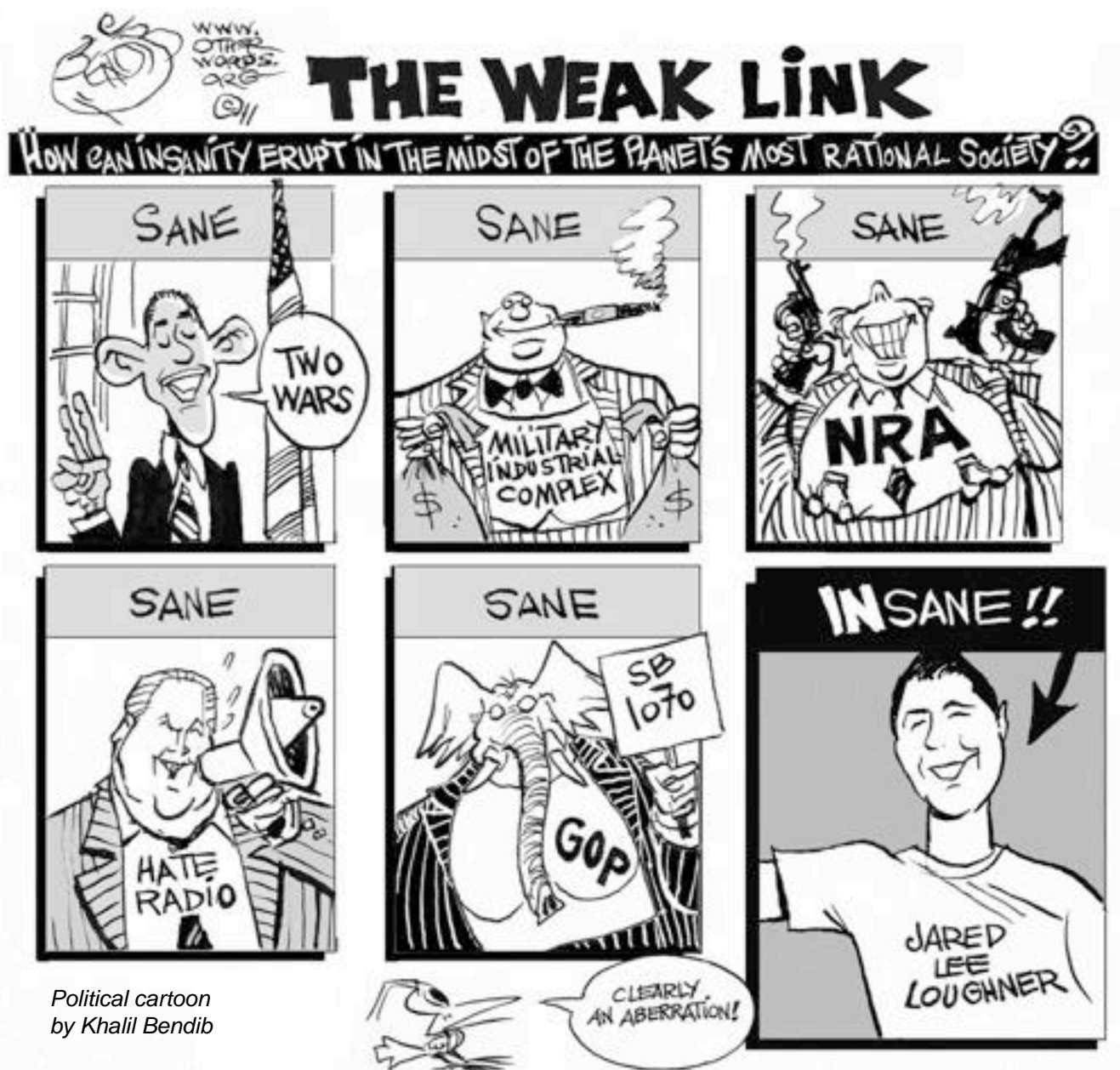
It does not seem that the police officers were really trying to "protect and serve," as they claim, but instead they targeted Guzman and harassed her for an hour under the guise of an alleged kidnapping call that was probably never made. The purpose of the hour-long standoff was to intimidate her as well as anyone else who might contemplate speaking out against extra policemen or in defense of the homeless in Venice.

The community came together at the January 18 VNC meeting with an outpouring of love and support for Ivonne Guzman. Venetians spoke out against the inappropriate conduct of the LAPD and demanded answers and investigations. Guzman herself wrote a letter to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and police Chief Charlie Beck stating the details of the incident, but she has yet to receive a formal answer.

This is just one of many incidents of police abusing their power, using excessive force and selective enforcement, going so far as to violate our human rights. It happens every day, usually to the weak and vulnerable, it is not a shocker anymore, but when an elected official is so blatantly targeted for her role in the community, it is even more alarming. And we can't help but wonder: where does it stop and what can we do about it?

The Beachhead Collective is concerned and outraged at the treatment that one of our elected representatives received at the hands of Los Angeles police. We urge Councilmember Bill Rosendahl to speak up on Ivonne Guzman's behalf. We urge that a citizen's committee be convened to investigate this incident and report to the community and the department of justice.

-The Beachhead Collective ☸



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Rip Cronk Paints Venice

By CJ Gronner

Of course I've been familiar with the art of Rip Cronk for years and years ... we all are, here in Venice. His murals are icons of the community, from Jim Morrison on Speedway, to the huge Abbot Kinney on North Venice, from his self-portrait hanging over The Boardwalk, to the brand new one he's been working on for the past three months on the side of Danny's Deli ... I'd argue his art is as important to Venice as any attraction we have.

I was not familiar with the man himself, however, until we sat down and had a beer at Danny's together after he knocked off for the day, so I could learn about how it all came to be. What a cool guy.

Rip grew up on the East Coast, then went to get his art degrees in Florida and New Mexico. From there he moved to Hawai'i, where he got into the mural medium. He didn't feel the desire to pursue gallery art, as it's hard to get into one, and then they just want more of the work that got you in, so your freedom of expression is pretty much censored by the gallery owner's market. No, he wanted to get the big public walls. The walls that not only reach a wide audience, by their sheer size alone, but that also affect society, and become landmarks of a neighborhood, as Mr. Cronk's surely have here in Venice. (Check his website - www.rcronk.com - for super insightful and wise essays on art and culture).

He moved to Venice in 1979 "on a lark," (he's lived here three different times, as he said, he doesn't visit places, he just moves to them) and one day saw an ad for a muralist needed at SPARC. That is what you call destiny.

He has been involved with SPARC ever since, and the social/public art they champion. The mural projects gave Rip ways to interact with the fine art context in new and different ways, as evidenced by the variety of his works.

The art murals come about in different ways. Rip keeps his eyes open for attractive sites, and he's also approached by business owners who want a cool wall, that enables them to be seen as a "culture provider." That then tends to help them commercially, so everyone wins. Rip explained that he's "not trying to make the big bucks, I'm trying to get the big walls." He isn't interested in being commissioned to do, for instance, a big historical vignette, he's more interested in the mural BECOMING history, which it does the day it goes up. The big walls give him the freedom to take ideas in unexpected directions, as he really only does a rough sketch of a piece, and then makes most of it up on the wall as he goes along. It's been fascinating to fly down Speedway every morning and see his progress sailing along, and



funny too, as various citizens lobby to get themselves included up on that vast Venice tableau.

We talked about Venice itself a while, and all that Rip has seen change (and stay the same) over the decades. I liked

when he said that of the 200,000 people down on the Boardwalk on a weekend, the 2,000 of them that are a real part of the community are all you really see ... the ones that truly have a sense of "Core Community." He finds there to be a very protective, self-regulating camaraderie among locals, that crosses financial lines. "The business owners and the street people have the same values, and mostly even dress the same," said Rip, when explaining how he feels that Venice is really a focal point for creativity.

"Not just the Boardwalk or Abbot Kinney, every SIDE street is FULL of creators, in every house. They've been drawn here for more than half a century, and creativity just BREATHEs out of here. Even if an idea started somewhere else, it catches on here. It's a cultural vortex." I sat there listening to Rip explain what I've always felt, while surrounded by the faces of Venice past and present that Rip painted on the inside walls of Danny's Deli. You could almost see the faces of the mural nodding in agreement.

Rip has notebooks of ideas that have never been used, because the idea comes from the location. And with Venice as a location, there has been no shortage of ideas. "The Boardwalk is a cultural EVENT that happens every day, unto itself ... Venice is an International Beach, unlike anywhere in the world." That got us to talking about how for as big of an attraction (and revenue earner) as Venice is, how little the city of Los Angeles gives to it (gross bathrooms, poor street cleaning, not enough garbage cans, etc.). On that note, and for the record, Mr. Cronk is FOR Venice cityhood.

Rip now lives up north in Weed, California, where he raises horses with his wife, Lindy. Though not a resident at present, he remains a key figure of Venice, to the extent that publications continually contact him as a Venice source - for good reason. He works down here a lot, obviously, and when he's in town, he can most likely be found - when not up on his scaffolding machine painting - at Danny's Deli, James Beach and the Sidewalk Cafe. He loves the beach and the canals, and continues to be inspired by that creative vortex, even now after all these



years.

As far as changes to Venice, Rip said that thanks to things like our Art Crawl (every 3rd Thursday!), people can go out in an alley now and feel safe, and "I like that!" He feels it's less dangerous now, with no loss of edge. One failing, as he sees it, is that hippies seem to have been edged out, and he urges them to come back! (I guess he didn't think I was hippie enough, but then, we just met). "Other than that, everything that's been happening the past 40 years meets with my approval."

And everything I've seen and heard from Rip Cronk, both artistically and humanly, completely meets with my approval. 🚲



Rip Cronk speaking to a packed house at Rip Cronk Night, Jan. 25, at Danny's Venice. Photo by Jim Smith

Passings...



Lawrence Scott

Scotty's time was up Saturday, January 22 just after midnight. He was 67 years old.

Having lived in Venice since his return from the Vietnam War, Lawrence Scott was well-known around the Venice Bistro as Scotty. He could be seen most nights dancing to the groove, especially Sunday afternoons, when his favorite band, Peace Frog, entertains the crowd. Legend has it that during the last 13 years Scotty only missed two of their Bistro shows. On their third show without his presence, on the Sunday after his passing, the band gave a warm shout-out to Scotty, whose spirit undoubtedly was in attendance.

Scotty is survived by Lawrence Scott Jr., his biological son who lives in Texas, JJ Rogers, his step son, Joann Allen, his adopted daughter, and Sarah, his goddaughter. Standing by the impromptu memorial set up for him by the Bistro, Joann recalled how she ran away from home when she was 15 because she couldn't take her mother's beatings anymore and how Scotty took her in to live with him, his wife Phyllis and Phyllis's biological son JJ, whom Scotty adopted and helped raise.

Scotty became homeless 15 years ago when his wife Phyllis passed away. He was given shelter in March of 2009 in Santa Monica, but continued to hang out in Venice on a daily basis.

Sarah described him as "the kindest, purest person I met in my entire life." Jeanne, the Feather Goddess, referred to him as "my favorite dance partner at the Bistro." Diane Butler remembers him as a constant figure on OFW between Dudley and Rose, where he greeted a-many on a typical Venice sunny day.

—Greta Cobar



Scotty's Poem:

We are homeless
We have issues
We are no different than you.
You never know when you
may become one of us
and learn the way it feels
like slaves in 1863
Appearance is the key

The same person can be denied
service
Because of the way He/She
looks – one hour
Later this person will be
served because they changed
clothes and appear to be
another person...Discrimination



Patrice Martinez

Patrice Martinez, the gregarious and kind owner of the French Market Cafe, who has brightened my day for years and years, has passed away.

I still have chills. I can't bear to imagine how Patrice's wife, Agnes, is feeling. Theirs was a true and obvious love, full of fun and adventure. Adventure is what Patrice was up to in Chile on a motorcycle trip with his best friend. There was a fatal accident on the bike, when Patrice was hit by an oncoming car. The only comfort you can think of is that he was doing what he loved with his best friend.

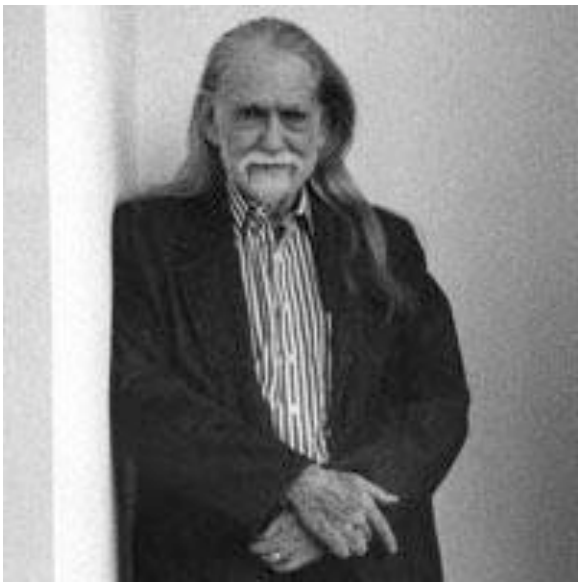
I will remember him always exactly as he is pictured above, which is how he looked most of the time. Always a kind word, always a little teasing, always the ultimate host of the delightful neighborhood oasis that he and Agnes created together.

My favorite thing Patrice ever said to me was one day when I met a friend for coffee in the morning at The French (as we call it) ... which became lunch ... which became one, two, then three bottles of day-time champagne with other regulars on the patio. I went inside to get something and bumped into Patrice and said, "Patrice, my morning coffee has become three bottles of champagne!" To which he replied, "C'est bon, that is very french!" We laughed together ... and I stayed until it was dark out.

Please keep Agnes and all the French Market family in your thoughts and kindnesses. And man ... remember to LOVE your life every moment that you have it. It can be gone oh, so quickly.

Rest In Peace, Patrice. You will be forever missed.

—CJ Gronner



Charles Brittin

The 82-year-old artist and photographer of Venice's beat scene died Jan. 23. Brittin's photos are invaluable for visualizing Venice in the 1950s and 60s. He also photographed the civil rights movement in Southern California and the deep South. Brittin's friend, Marsha Getzler of the Temple of Man, says he will be honored with a memorial when a scheduled showing of his work opens in April at the Michael Kohn Gallery in Hollywood.



The Venice Poetry Renaissance,

a free Beachhead holiday event, Dec. 30, filled Beyond Baroque's theatre with an enthusiastic crowd of poetry lovers. The readings were followed by a party featuring some of Venice's best musicians at a local home.

The poetry event began with readings, and rare audio recordings, of the works some of Venice's great beat poets, including Stuart Perkoff, Tony Scibella, Frank T. Rios, John Thomas and Philomene Long.

Contemporary poets then took the stage and showed that a renaissance in poetry was in full bloom.

Live readings were heard from Roger Houston, Krista Schwimmer, Hal Bogotch, Linda Albertano, Pano Douvos, Lynne Bronstein, Jim Smith, Mary Getlein, Karl Abrams, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Wayne Slappy, Suzanne Verdall and Hillary Kaye. An Open Mic brought still more poets to the stage.

The first all-Venice reading was followed by a showcase of Venice musicians including Peter Demian, Brad Kay, Alfred Johnson, Eric Ahlberg, Freddie Ginn, Sam Clay and Suzy Williams.

A high point of the evening was a rendition of Black Palm Tree by Demian and Moon Over Venice by Williams, both of which were joined by every voice in the house.



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JULIA

- A glimpse thru the walls of the Pacific Resident Theatre

By Suzy Williams

The poster for Vince Melocchi’s wise and funny play is an artful eye-catcher. It features a girl on a 1950s backstreet in curlers, sockless tennis shoes and an angora sweater, playfully posing with eyes shut. Now, you won’t see that girl in the play, but she is an apt evocation, for JULIA is full of working-class images and quips. Mr. Melocci has his characters knock out such wisecracks as “Marriage? How about a carpet sample first?” “It was packed - nothin’ but elbows and

assholes”. “He’s ninety-eight pounds... wet.”

JULIA is the story of a reunion of lovers after a 50-year hiatus - with a twist. Set in a near-defunct diner in 1952 outside Pittsburgh, the opening scene has Steve Spinelli, the proprietor, played by the strapping, charismatic Keith Stevenson, making deals with his bookie. His buddy Frank (the natural and charming Haskell Anderson} comes in with a supply of New Year’s Eve decorations and the bon mots start to fly. In walks this long-lost old guy Lou (Richard Fancy) and slowly we get a thickened plot.

Eventually this shuffling, coughing character ends up turning all shades of beet, and falls to the floor. Deft dramatic writing has a now-young Lou blowing his relationship with the love of his life to high heaven and the final scene involves Hostess Snowballs, Jesus and the Palisades, all set in a nursing home.

Roses Prichard - remember that name. She plays the dotty and fragile Julia with a tender skill. At one point she looks in the mirror and says, “I’ve never seen her talk so much before,” a statement that lets you far into the mind of an Alzheimer’s patient.

This parallels the show next door at PRT, “Island of Brilliance,” where the plot concerns a brain-damaged savant. Both actresses (Ava Bogle who



plays Emily in “Island” and Roses Prichard) are world-class.

Leave it to Pacific Resident to put on the quality stuff. Of special note is the set designer, Norman Scott, who, in the first scene, put in plain view the set to the second scene, but it was somehow completely camouflaged, an impressive theatrical sleight of hand.

See JULIA, and / or any play that Vince Melocchi writes. And support your local brilliant theatre. 🚲

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Swami X in the 1970s
- Photo by Lance Diskan

SWAMI X SPEAKS

Practicing the Presence of God

Our mind is a door to the Divine. Our beliefs build or hamper our life and its expression. God is Conscious, Existence, Bliss, Absolute. We are intelligence, will and love eternal. God lives in us and we live in God, forever. The mind can be a door to greater awareness and understanding or the obstacle of ego-producing selfishness and sorrow.

The choice is ours. Choosing positive, more universal and compassionate alternatives is the essence of free will. The mind must be observed, trained and guided into the Light that is God. God is Light, Life and Love: Omni-Everything.

Of course, the ego will attempt to escape and avoid ineluctable enlightenment. It is no contest. Don’t make a false bet. Some people bum rap the ego failing to recognize its significance in the cosmic realm of things. The ego is an experience toward greater awareness, understanding and compassion because its ignorance leads to sorrow and a hunger for joy and understanding. The creation of the physical plane of consciousness made the ego inevitable and essential. Remember, in your Father’s House there are many mansions. Life is a divine ladder back to God’s perfection.

Prayer is essential, vital, instinctual, and natural in spiritual aspiration and unfoldment. Prayer is made up of aspiration, honesty, awareness, inspiration, faith, courage, patience, love, compassion, vision, idealism and realization. Prayer is an intimate conversation with the Self, that is God. Prayer is asking for it. Meditation is waiting for it, with grace. Pray as if it were yours, because it is. Prayer is a love letter, to and from God. 🚲

beats

By Jim Smith

Holy Voice of Venice
Crying out softly
in the morning mist.
Escapes from an empire
gone mad with power.
Out they come
from the Venice West
from the Gas House
from the ancient bungalows
lining the walk streets.
Walkin’ down Ocean Front Walk
Got a nickel for a coffee?
Hey man, give me some
of those bennys.
Is that Bird blowin’ out
of Billy’s apartment?
Yes. Bop’s the thing
Oh my head is racing
Gotta put the words
on paper.
Don’t try to think.
No why, No how,
Just go. go, go, go
Listen, man, listen
the ocean will tell you
The gulls are chiming in:
Chee wah wah
And Bird’s layin it down
for a gone world.
Man ooooo man,
We are in The Groove.
Listen you slaves of production
Listen you slaves of advertng
Turn your back on the city
Look out at the ocean
Just stop. Just Stop. Let it take you
in its arms. In its infinite arms.
We are home. We are home.

Groundwork

Step into the aroma
And witness
The mechanized magic
Making mornings better
Where the bitches
Blending reality, and the dream seem
Into a dark ended tip of obsidian
Cutting through the night,
And dripping the blackest drops of gold
Reflecting the coming dawn
Only to find, the spirit of Venice
Its wavelike essence
Glassy and rough, singing, as it paints itself on the sky
Applauded by that lucky minded, high as time, jack
of all trades
Building bridges over burnt dreams
So as to be closer
To that elusive angel, naked as the sunset
Watching over her city
Doing the daily groundwork.

—Chance Foreman

20:38 Monday, January 24, 2011, outside the Beach-head..... A simple valentine: I want to give To all of Venice. You would not believe The constant interrup-tions, to prevent My tending to this project. Where time went? Well, I just had to pull over and park, And let the porch light melt away the dark, And focus my heart’s yearnings; have his say. Deliver his soliloquy this day. It seems a lark To whip up something wor-thy. Let the spark Of Romanesque emotions make a dent. A simple Valentine makes its advent To you, dear Venice. Dropping from my sleeve, I offer this to you, love, as I live.....Roger Houston, debutante-at-large

AiRDROP ParT one

By Jimmy Valentine

sLammin off the airdrop! Hit the fLats Like punk rok!
tendons bent , twisted hamstrings..
fuLL effect! n not a
damn thing. eLse ontha top o my mind.
on my cranium. no tik tok o time..
thats when i dialL in. kinda riLed,
wicked n wiLey, sLashing with styLe.
then i gotta say fuckit! with G carve chucking phat
bucketz, of saLine im spraying. YeSi!
jus saying.. i’m craving. these waves..
ensLaving me gracefuLLy pLacing me.
my hearts racing G. when the tube reLeases me
Jimmy V . spit out by the seas.
baptismaLLy.
bLessed SO bLessed.. Yesi!!
got these waves in my chest.

For FrancEye

By Mary Getlein

To my Mother
Who’s not my Mother
You feel like my Mother
A Mother who tell me what I need to hear
to follow my own path
That my only real job, as an artist,
is to find out who I am.

A Mother who buys me things, if I want them.
Who pays me to sit on my ass and read
if I’m tired
Who tells me it’s okay to say No.

My Mother who’s not my Mother,
I love you
I admire you
I cherish you for your mistakes
and your willingness to share them with me.
I don’t want you to leave
but I know you must, some day
and I know you’ll be sailing in the sky
like an old grey goose,
like the song you brought us in choir.

My Mother who’s not my Mother
You showed me how to be brave
You showed me not to give up
You showed me how to sing while marching
down the hall of a nursing home,
singing the “Women with wings” song from church.

You showed me in your angry defense of me
how much you loved me -
All the things my birth Mother never did.
My birth Mother gave up too early
left the party before it was over
cut out like Cinderella -
couldn’t deal, refused to deal and
taught me how not to deal
Tried to impose on me what had been
imposed on her -
How to be a “lady”
The legacy of that ended up killing her.

But you’re still alive,
Still walking your walk,
Still strutting your stuff,
Still putting your handprint on the wall
declaring to everybody: THIS IS ME!!!
As proud and defiant as any four year old, or 13 year
old, or 84 year old.

A Thought

By Dusty P. Greenhaus

When one is PERFECT and not loving,
One is not perfect;
But
When one is loving and not perfect,
One is LOVING.

Peace

By Stuart Perkoff

peace peace
we too shall
rest.

& in the air
no breath
& in the eye
no birds
& in the black
no needs

then when we are nothing & one
& our flesh is eaten
by trees that thrust to the sun
& our bllod is drunk
by lizards flickering tongues
& all that we are is nothing
& all
& being born.

then over the fields of quiet wheat
the wind will caress
& there will be peace
& we too
shall rest.

Surfer’s Sojourn

By John Davis & LeAnne Warren

I walk between the grains of Sand...
To the realm of Sharks, not of Man.
The Ocean Rolls and a Warm Wind blows, Softly
Board in hand I glide to Sea,
And lie in wait....., so paitently
Till Thunder Roars and the Hydra Soars,
Charging forward the Wave grows Near,
Zen the mind, no time for Fear,
I become the Sea and ride the Crest,
Floating on, Mother Nature’s breath.....

EZ WAR RHYMES

War adventures, hi-de-ho
take up arms & off we go

lock & load, you’re in my sights
bombs away on old termites

reconstruction is a boon
force will make you change your tune

inflict suffering & pain
open daylight in your brain

army, navy, air force, too
all for the red, white, & blue

take you to Guantanamo
when there’s info we must know

counting numbers in my head
all the injured & the dead

patrolling borders, my new chore
battlefields forevermore.

—Hal Bogotch

Pacific Resident Theatre honors the Legacy Family of Venice

The Tabor Family



SHARE A CENTURY OF MEMORIES OF VENICE AT PACIFIC RESIDENT THEATRE

Featuring **John Quincy Tabor at 90!**
Wednesday, March 2, 2011 — 7:00 pm
Display of archival materials open at 6:00 pm

NO RESERVATIONS • \$5.00 Donation at Door
703 Venice Boulevard in Venice • 310.822.8392

- The Tabor Family — First “black” graduates of Venice High School
- The first “black” lifeguard — in the pool, 1961, in the ocean, 1962
- Recollections of the Lamson, Harsh and Asner families
- Venice High Grad — Class of ’39
- Memories of Venice’s early window, candy, pet, ice cream, train, shops and the Venice Beach
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www.PacificResidentTheatre.com
maryjane: 310.226.2903

maryjane

Pacific Resident Theatre celebrates Venice High Centennial



Venice High at its birthplace, Sept. 1911

Venice High School

1911 2011

Pacific Residence Theatre
25th Anniversary
Venice High School
Centennial • 1911 -2011

Very Venice High Graduates
from 1939 - 1960 share memories
of their experiences.

With **John Quincy Tabor at 90** –
VHS Class of ’39 – who became
the first “black” lifeguard!

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 @ 7:00 pm
Display of archival materials open at 6:00 pm

NO RESERVATIONS
\$5.00 Donation at Door
703 Venice Boulevard in Venice
310.822.8392

FEATURING:
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• Overtime Souvenirs
• Display panels of archival photos

CENTENNIAL NOVENERS
Last years eight men — before the big events and Venice Beach on June 25th and 26th.

www.VeniceHighCentennial.com
310.216.9365
Conveners: Grace Francis, Tom Anderson, Larry Bove

www.PacificResidentTheatre.com

25th anniversary

maryjane

Politicians and Papers: Are They Above Suspicion?

By Roger Linnett and Jim Smith

Was it a quid pro quo, hanky panky or just coincidence that put Bill Rosendahl on the cover of the Marina del Rey Argonaut the week after that newspaper ran a full-page ad taken out by the Half-Marathon organizers at the Councilmember’s recommendation?

It was all on the up and up, or just bad timing according to both the Councilmember’s office and the newspaper’s editor. Argonaut editor Vince Echavaria told the Beachhead that there was no discussion about the advertisement prior to running Rosendahl’s mug on the front page. “I wasn’t aware of the ad,” said Echavaria.

Rosendahl’s new press aide, Tony Arranaga, was even more emphatic: “It’s just ridiculous,” and “heavens no” he said.

Apparently the Argonaut and Rosendahl are just not as conniving as Staples Center and the Los Angeles Times, who conspired to trade advertising revenue for favorable news coverage back in 1999. When the Times editorial staff got wind of it, there was a rebellion. The Times’ new publisher, Kathryn Downing, said she was not up to speed on journalistic practices (like not letting the advertisers run the paper). But this shocking breach of ethics ultimately took down the family-run paper, which became a branch office of the Chicago Tribune. Downing, her boss, Chairman Mark Willes and Editor Michael Parks, all lost their jobs in part due to this fiasco.

Why would anyone think that there might have been collusion in this case between a politician and a newspaper? Well, first of all, the Second Annual 13.1 Mile Half-Marathon was run through the heart of Venice.

Rosendahl’s email advisory of Jan. 14 noted that, as one of the conditions for granting the permit, he was requiring the organizers to take out a full-page color ad in the Argonaut newspaper, detailing the route, times, detours, etc. However, since their coverage and distribution area ends at the Mar Vista - Palms border, a large portion of the populace along

the race’s route would not have been notified of the impending disruption of traffic during the event, and, insofar as last year’s event had an “incredibly detrimental impact . . . on the community,” the best method to guarantee the highest notification to residents along the route, would have been an ad in the L.A. Times or perhaps a combination of a Venice newspaper with the Culver City News or Observer.

Other reasons why eyebrows might be raised include the one week time period between the publication of the advertisement (page 2, Jan. 13) and the front page photo of Rosendahl (Jan. 20). In addition, the article that Rosendahl, a city official, posed for was about the attack on U.S. Congressperson Gabrielle Giffords. Echavaria said that Rosendahl was much easier to get a photo of than either of the U.S. Congressmembers Jane Harman or Maxine Waters.

Unfortunately, the \$3,000 or more that the Argonaut received for the ad, thanks to Rosendahl’s thoughtful gesture, was apparently not perceived as a breach of journalistic ethics or political ethics, if there is such a thing, by either party.

Journalistic Ethics is a college course that many would-be writers overlook in these days of anything-goes blogs where opinion is substituted for news. The Free Venice Beachhead takes ethics very seriously, which is why we are printing this article, in spite of the firm denials of wrongdoing. As a staff-run newspaper, we don’t have to worry about what corporate bosses want to print.

Similarly, family-owned newspapers like the Argonaut, and formerly, the L.A. Times, are under much less pressure to distort the truth than are corporate-owned newspapers, radio and TV stations and networks that have to cater to their corporate masters.

We appreciate those who pointed this out to us. We’re satisfied that there was nothing more to it than a politician’s geographical confusion. Perhaps next time our Councilmember will consult a map before recommending advertisements to prospective promoters. 🚲



Rosendahl on the cover of the Marina del Rey Argonaut the week after he required the Half-Marathon to take out a full-page ad.

Beach Curfew Fight Coming to a Head —continued from page 1

parking permits for residents of Playa del Rey. The Plan was denied by the Commission which voted unanimously to keep the beaches open to the people.

The Coastal Commission only has one move left. The Executive Director can now issue a temporary Cease and Desist Order, and a Restoration Order to force the City Council to withdraw. Once that is done then the Commission at a public meeting can make it germinate.

The problem is that the Coastal Commission moves far slower than a constipated elephant. The fact that Councilperson Rosendahl refuses to acknowledge the rule of law, the California Coastal Act passed by the State Legislature (which implements the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 passed by the Congress), and the State Constitution itself is saddening.

Bill is simply pandering to real estate owners who really want the beach all to themselves. This would drive up their property values while all others fall. To do so, he is willing to spit in the face of the State Legislature, the U. S. Congress, and to trample the State Constitution, with due process of law, into the ground.

The Councilperson need only to place a resolution before the Council to remove the curfew, but he apparently does not have the balls. He seems to prefer forcing the State to spend its precious funds on a legal fight which Bill knows the City will lose. The State holds four aces and Bill can only throw down four jokers. 🚲



USE IT

A Southerner Looks At Venice

By Alexandra Howard

(Alex has been the Beachhead’s intern and is now returning for a new semester at Oberlin College.)

From the land of Jack Daniels, Confederate Flags, Country Music, and Jesus Christ to Venice Beach. You all must first and foremost realize the reality in which you are. You are a place to go for those who have nowhere else. That’s your history, that is what you still exist for today--despite those “Venetians” who think “homeless” is a scary term and RVs an eyesore. You all should disperse; the rest of the country will accept you. You are the ones polluting Venice Beach.

Me, I grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, idolizing the fantastical cultures and groovy tunes of Janis and The Doors. While the stories I heard from Nashville were surely dramatized and ridiculed, my soul tugged and I felt the energy from a young age.

The beat poets made my mind vibrate and my tongue articulate. Stacy Peralta and Jay Williams I could never stop crushing for. Venice was a place I admired from afar, and I suffered severe existential crises knowing, just knowing, that Venice or even San Francisco forty years ago was where I belonged.

You could say I came to Venice misplaced and, within context, misunderstood. From the moment I stepped on the boardwalk, I felt inspired and at peace except for the side of the boardwalk I was on. The swarm of tourists were fun to watch and funny to listen to, getting their medical marijuana prescriptions and peering through the imaginary glass at those who sit for hours on end hiding behind paintings and patches. It was those people dedicating each day to their art in whichever form it was in that I envied and wished to know.

The artists of Venice do not seem to succumb to the prevalent L.A. attitude, seeking out fame and the insane dollar. Art is created for and by the artist. It is pure, not suffocated by commercial America’s do’s and don’ts. Just like the beats, expression is practiced to admire one’s own conception of beauty, the natural world and its corruptors.

I have to say the purest expression of this I came across was the Sunday drum circle. It exists with no conception of profit, purely beauty and community. I came to know it as an individual and a group expression of the so-called Worship. If only those gun-loving, color-hating, stick-up the ass-ing folks from my lovely Bible Belt could feel the vibrations of a drum circle.

I am highly moved by the transcendence of it all, finding myself in the middle of the beat, surrounded by everyone giving out their pain, their frustration, their power, their powerlessness, their most foundational love. My body carried away by the joy of it all, my hands attempting to direct the energy: channel it and spread it around.

The weekly drum circle renewed my faith in Ra and the raw power of the drum. As I leave Venice behind—temporarily of course, my return is now surely inevitable—I am not looking forward to the Sundays to come. I grew to know and build an unspoken connection with the drummers; we all clearly felt the same spirit moving through us, directing the beat and our bodies to it. Never will I be able to recreate, but I will always remember. 🚲



Community Events – day by day

Wednesday, February 2
• 5:30-8pm - **Westminster School Free Movie Night: “How To Train Your Dragon.”** Invite friends. Movie begins at 6pm. Dollar pizza slices/ dollar raffle tickets for prizes. Westminster School Auditorium. Bring pillows & blankets for kids. Free.
• 6:45-9pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting.** Oakwood Recreation Center in the Community Room (Oakwood and 7th Avenue).

Thursday, February 3
• 7-8:15pm - **Soul Line Dance Class** with Nawili Gray. Beginners welcome! Every Thursday: Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave. \$5 donation.

Friday, February 4
• 7pm – **First Friday** on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Open shops and lots of people. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Southern California Winter in Haiku** - Deborah P. Kolodji and Wendy Wright will read accompanied by photography and electric guitar. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, February 5
• 2-4pm - Gerry Fialka hosts a **panel discussion** of award-winning **Venice photographers**. No one turned away due to lack of funds, Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
• 4-7pm - **The Poetry of Venice Photography**. Photo Show Opening at Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 6-8pm - **SPARC’s Planet Siqueiros Series:** A Panel Discussion moderated by Professor Judy Baca, activist and SPARC director, focusing on the destruction and criminalization of street art in L.A. SPARC in Venice. RSVP to tickets@sparcmurals.org.
• 7:30pm - **Poetry and artwork by Gronk**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Sunday, February 6
• 5pm - **First Sunday Open Reading**. Sign up at 4:45pm. Hosted by Marie Lecrivain. Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 7pm - Raymond J. Barry presents his latest play, **“Love, Politics and Economic Hitmen in a World of Endless War.”** Electric Lodge. Donation, pay what you can.

Monday, February 7
• 7-10pm – **Mozaic Spoken Word**. The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, February 8
• 6:30pm – **Women’s Sailing Association of SM Bay Monthly meeting**. Light dinner with Mary Ho speaking about her non-stop sail to **Easter Island**. Windjammers Yacht Club, 13589 Mindanao, MDR. Free..
• 7-10pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.
• 7pm - Venice Historical Society Presents: **Hollywood comes to Venice**, a slide show by author and historian Marc Wanamaker. SPARC. Free for VHS members, \$5 for non-members.

Wednesday, February 9
• 7-10pm – **Suzy Williams at Danny’s Venice**. Truly amazing. Free.

Friday, February 11
• 7pm – **Art Opening: C.A.V.E. Gallery** presents, “Outside Looking In” featuring artists Gannon, Davis, and Macsorro. 1108 AK Blvd. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Gerald Locklin will read, sing and dance** his poetry and **Rick Smith will read** from his new book. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, February 12
• 2-9pm – Last weekend to see iLCP RAVE: Retrospective, featuring **18 nature/wildlife photographers**. The G2 Gallery. Free.
• 3pm – MESS: Media Ecology Soul Salon. Political Thinker **Marcy Winograd** founder of Progressive Democrats of Los Angeles. Unurban Café. Free.
• 6-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica** Fundraiser. Talking Stick. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Stephen Dobyns reads**; author of 10 volumes of poetry. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Monday, February 14
• 6-10pm – Documental: **Experimental filmmakers** Tony Gault & Elizabeth Henry. Unurban. Free.
• 7-10pm - Stefani Valadez, Steve Moo’s **“Valentine’s Love In.”** The Talking Stick. \$5.
• 7-10pm – **Valentine’s Night** featuring the luscious songs of **Suzy Williams** at Danny’s Venice. Free.

Tuesday, February 15
• 7-10pm - **VNC Board Meeting**. Westminster Elementary School Auditorium.

Wednesday, February 16
• 7-10pm - **MOM: Meditations On Media**. Every 3rd Wednesday. Beyond Baroque. Free.
Thursday, February 17
• **The Venice Art Crawl:** Exploration of Venice Beach and the Venice artist community. Free.
• 7pm - **Poetry in Motion** continues with the usual/ unusual array of writers from Hollywood, Venice and the literary world at large. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Friday, February 18
• 7pm - **Dark Chocolate and Poetry with The Jazz Trio Rats**. Chocolate truffles for all. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
• 9pm - **Warriors of Light with Arianna Gouveia, Chicana poet, singer and healer**. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
• 7pm - **Venice Moziaç’s Black History Month Celebration Showcase Event:** Music, art and poetry with **House Poet Roger Houston**. Talking Stick. Free.

Saturday, February 19
• 6-10pm - **Jazz Funk Fest**. Talking Stick. Free.
• 7-10pm – **Planet Sisqueiros:** A Traveling Mural Project: **“Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan.”** with tabla performance by Ehsan Habib. Donation. SPARC.

Sunday, February 20
• 10am-1pm - **The Backboners** perform. Farmers Market, Ocean Park & Main St. Free.
• 7-10pm – **It’s Blues Time** featuring Tom Gramlich with Mystic Miles. The Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, February 21
• 6-10pm - 7 Dudley Cinema - **Jean-Luc Godard & Igor Stravinsky Films**, by Richard Leacock. Talking Stick. Free

Thursday, February 24
• 7:30 pm - **Ellyn Maybe’s Poetry Rodeo** with Band: Bring up to 5 minutes of poetry and the band will improvise alongside. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Friday, February 25
• 7-10pm - **Subversive Cinema** at 212 Pier. Free.
• 8pm - Beyond Music: Boundary crossing **saxophonist Ulrich Krieger** with guitarist Scott Collins. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, February 26
• 7pm - **Masters in the Chapel music** of “The King of Instruments” with Christoph Bull, organist playing in the chapel at First Lutheran Church of Venice. 815 Venice Blvd. Free.
7-10pm – **King’s Ball**. Danny’s. Free

Sunday, February 27
• 7:30pm - **Comics, Poetry, and Kick Ass Women:** An all-female lineup of writers reading poetry, nonfiction and fiction. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Tuesday, March 1
• 7pm - **25th Anniversary Venice High School Centennial** Venice High Grads share memories of their experiences from 1939 - 1960. Pacific Resident Theatre. **Archival materials on display at 6pm**. \$5 donation at the door.

Wednesday, March 2
• 6pm – **Venice archival photos with recollections of John Quincey Tabor** (first African-American Venice High grad in ‘39) and Tabor Family. Pacific Resident Theatre. \$5 at door.

• **Need Shelter? Go to the Transportation Pick-up Point at Market Street and Ocean Front Walk** on the boardwalk any day, 4:45pm and 5:15pm, to be driven to 110 bed **Winter Shelter Program**, Culver City. Call 213-435-4052.

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

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769.
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006.
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny’s Venice, 23 Windward Ave.
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave. 823-0710.
- G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 452-2842.
- Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Ave.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392- pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 - thetalkingstick.net
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 305-1865.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015.

Ongoing Events

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

• 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy’s “Open Mic”** for comics, musicians, speakers and artists. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.

• 12-2pm - Saturday & Sunday; **Music at Uncle Darrow’s**. 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

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

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

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

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

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

• 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** - 3rd Mondays at Talking Stick. Free.

• 11:30-2:30pm – **The Venice Oceanarium** (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Every Sunday, weather permitting. Free.

• 5-9pm – **Venice Street Legends**. Venice Bistro, OFW & Dudley. Every Wednesday. Free.

• Every Third Thursday is the Venice Art Crawl.

• **Venice Library** offers a variety of **Free Computer Classes**. Call 310-821-1769.

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

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

Michael Linder Puts Venice Radio On The Air

By CJ Gronner

Venice has its own brand new radio station now, folks - KVB, online at KVB.FM, streaming dance tunes and Venice news and fun stuff, 24 hours a day. I sat down recently with the founder, owner, programmer, pretty much everything-er of KVB, Michael Linder, to hear about his vision for a station that's all about Venice. KVB is run out of his home/studio, perfectly located right above Ocean Front Walk, with the Boardwalk hubbub and vast blue ocean right outside the windows.

The whole situation is operated from a computer and a few techno boxes, to a global internet audience. I learned from Michael that the first radio station in 1922 Venice was KFAV, a tiny 5 watt station that went on air to promote the new Ballroom at the beach. Along those same lines, KVB plays an all dance format, the only one of its kind in Los Angeles.

Linder has a long and storied broadcasting career, beginning with an early gig on WMCW (Milk Center of the World), a local farm radio station in Wisconsin. From there, he went on to interview interesting people (The Ramones, Tom Waits, John Lennon at his green card ceremony ...), and even helped to negotiate with Saddam Hussein for the release of 227 hostages in Kuwait. There's a picture on his book shelf of them together, and Linder said, "Saddam was always very good to me ... he was a small town gangster that took over a country, who Bush Senior then double-crossed after he saved our ass for ten years with Iran." You wind up going down a lot of interesting conversation paths with Mr. Linder, that is for sure.

Radio led to TV news, on camera. Then work as a producer on *Entertainment Tonight*, then creating *America's Most Wanted*, which "reinvented t.v. ... it's all reenactments now!" Linder made a move to Tokyo to work on US/Japanese television co-productions, and then after fondly recalling his first stint living in Venice in 1973 (in a "No tell Motel"), he came back to the beach, for 20 years now.

Most recently, Linder grew bored with doing radio news, and thought that since so many people are interested in both Venice and Dance Music world-wide, a Venice radio station could be both a hit and a community service. There is brand new cd quality dance music streaming every day, "a modern art form that is shaping acoustic realities ... with all the International DJ's out there now, it's a dance planet." I asked about the strictly dance format, as my own ears are more guitar attuned, and he said, "Dance music is party music and Venice is a party town, so why not feel good and dance?!" I could not argue with that a bit. And not quite a month in, (the station debuted on New Year's Eve with a 29 hour non-stop Rave) there have been no mass Rave hospitalizations reported due to KVB as yet. Bonus.

KVB is also "a radio blog, in a way." Meaning that the local news and human interest stories posted on the site are a snapshot in time of every day here in Venice. Community issues and interests are discussed in interviews with people like the VNC's Linda Lucks, on the State of the City (if we were a city, ahem), and correspondent Tibby Rothman interviewing surfboard shaper Scott Anderson. Man on the Street, Zuma Dogg, with a story on local street artist, Kid Iconz, and another story giving out medical marijuana brownie recipes. Clearly you do not have to deal with the FCC in the online format - another bonus.

The Podcast stories are all entertaining, and offer a slice of life to listeners far and wide. Joe Praino, a comedian and KVB reporter, recently went around to bars asking the mixologists their feelings/warning them about Lindsey Lohan moving into the neighborhood. Another one about the guy who walks on glass on the Boardwalk, who says in his great accent, "I jump on glass, talk shit, and make people laugh." Classic, all. The street noise and crowd chatter add to the feeling that you really are having a nice time in Venice - even if you're not, because you're in Iceland or somewhere.



Photo by CJ Gronner

Michael Linder in the KVB.FM Studio. Photo by CJ Gronner

I asked Linder his personal feelings about Venice, and he said, as most do, "There's a creative energy bursting out of this place ... why would you want to live in Brentwood?! I've had a life long love affair with Venice. There's a hometown you're born with and a hometown you make for yourself, and Venice is that for me." (Me too!) He added that "It's the people that make you stay. Like the ladies at Small World Books, who CARE, and manage to stay open when so many others have failed. Waruku on Abbot Kinney makes me feel like I'm back in Tokyo. All the cute shops and restaurants ... walking down the Boardwalk on MLK Day was just amazing ... one guy had a sign that said, "Will do raccoon stuff for money!"

Linder's glee at his chosen hometown's creativity and uniqueness is obvious and inspiring. He did say, however, that he is "heartbroken by the way the community is being split in two - or more - about issues like the homeless and rv's ... the political rancor is as serious here as in the entire country." He is firm about not participating in neighbor vs. neighbor, and feels a real need to rethink political dialogue on all sides. Again - and why this is so hard to grasp, I'll never know - we're all in this TOGETHER. Or as Linder put it, "It's all about evolution, and how to get to the next phase. We're all going to get there together, so let's not beat each other up in the carpool." Yeah.

We talked about how Venice is so special because "People come here looking for people who are NOT like them. Diversity and individualism are worshiped and praised, and how many places like that exist on the PLANET?!" Sadly, but truly, not many. We agreed that we are incredibly lucky, and that we ALL need to remember that.

KVB.FM celebrates all of that, 24 hours a day, with both humor and balance. Linder and I ended our conversation as the Boardwalk and beach turned all golden outside the windows, and he said, "I don't know where this will go, but if you put enough good energy into it, good things happen."

True for KVB, surely, but true also for Venice, and the entire World. ☺

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Beachhead



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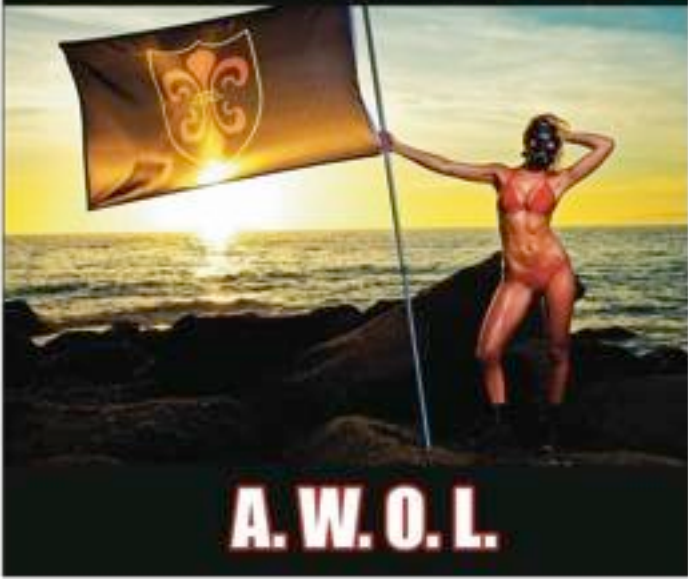
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