

Evicted tenants take on corporate landlord at Lincoln Place – see pages 1, 3, 6, 7, 12

January
2006

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

CHEE
WAH WAH

We Survive
on your
Donations

ISSUE NO. 292 • P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org

PHONES: 396-0811 or 399-8685



Waves as high as the Venice Pier hit in late December. The Pier will be closed indefinitely while it is examined for structural damage. Photo by LeAnne Warren.

Goodbye, New Orleans It's Time We Stopped Pretending

By Mike Tidwell

AS WE REACH THE 90-DAY mark since Katrina hit, it's time we ended our national state of denial. Turns out House Speaker Dennis Hastert had it right all along, though his reasons were flawed. We should call it quits in New Orleans not because the city can't be made relatively safe from hurricanes. It can be. And not because to do so is more trouble than it's worth. It's not. But because the Bush Administration has already given New Orleans a quiet kiss of death now that the story has run its news cycle.

As someone who dearly loves New Orleans and has experienced many of her charms, it pains me immeasurably to call for this retreat. This is not a rhetorical stunt or a shock argument meant to invite compromise talks. I mean what I

—continued on page 8

Big Wednesday at the beach

By John Davis

On the Winter Solstice huge swells marched forth and pounded Venice Beach with one elephantine set after another. One super wave swept over the top of the Venice Pier tearing the concrete bathroom off it's foundation, then tumbling it into the ocean about fifty feet below.

The swell is a train of waves caused by an ocean storm. If you blow on the surface of still water waves move outward in a circle in the same way. Caused by a storm 1,000 miles to sea and North West of Venice, winds churned the water sending leading edge surges at local beaches.

The orbit of the moon around the earth is not a perfect circle. She gets closer to earth sometimes. When this happens the gravitational force from the moon tugs on the ocean surface and warps it upward. This is high tide.

When storm swells combine with a super high tide the sea grows. As swells reach the beach friction from the shallow bottom causes them to get much bigger. Arriving shore waves can be very large. Scary large. Along Venice Beach the type of wave that forms is called a

—continued on page 10

Lincoln Place – a month of heartache, anger and determination

By Jim Smith

A grinch named AIMCO stole Christmas - and Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Solstice and New Years - last month at Lincoln Place. Instead of snug apartments festooned with holiday trees, lights and decorations, Lincoln Place in December resembled a ghost town, patrolled only by security guards.

Sheriffs and Marshals knocked on 52 doors, beginning at 8am on Dec. 6, and gave residents only two minutes to get out of their apartments. New locks were placed on doors and windows were screwed down. Some tenants forgot their medications, including one who left her insulin shots behind. Another tenant had to beg security to release her cat who had been left in the apartment in the rush to heed the threat of guards and armed marshals.

At press time, the Battle for Lincoln Place continued to be a stand-off between residents and Denver-based landlord AIMCO (Apartment Investment and Management Company), but one that is much more painful for those who have been forcibly removed from their homes. On the

—continued on page 6

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ
U.S. 2,179 Dead – 52 this month
U.S. Wounded 16,115 – 411 this month
Iraqi Dead: 27,707 – 31,232
This month: 412 – 443
(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)
Source: antiwar.com



The collective staff of the

BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:
John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Erin Grayson, Yolanda Miranda, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. 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 and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org> Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>

Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
The Thought Police are rising
It is the Time
for the Beachhead's rebirth
Now is the Time to get your thoughts together
If you care whether you have a thought of any worth.
Thoughts left of Center
Homeowner or Renter
Put your Head where your Pen* is
Send it to us use your wits
and if we like it
We'll print or plagiarize it
or tear it into teeny tiny bits

— by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor or Computer

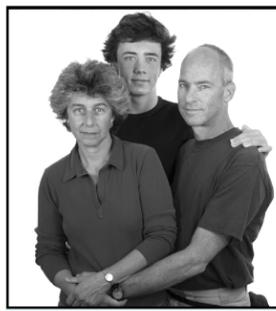
Beachhead Sustainers

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Richard Abcarian | John Haag |
| Karl Abrams | Ted Hajjar |
| Eric Ahlberg | Marjorie Hinds |
| Linda Albertano | Theresa Hulme |
| Helen Alland | Joan Klotz |
| Elinor Aurthur | Linda Laisure |
| C. V. Beck | Larry Layne |
| Chuck Bloomquist | Jay Levin |
| Lulu Carmone | Linda Lucks |
| Phil Chamberlin | Michael Millman |
| Steve Clare | Susan Millman |
| Stephen Cohen | Alessandra Montagna |
| Tina Corcoran | Tina Morehead |
| Nancy Cunningham | Tom O'Meara |
| John Davis | Bob Niemann |
| Steve Effington | Sherman J. Pearl |
| Ed Ferrer | Lydia Poncé |
| Peter R. Force | Nancy Raffaelli Richards |
| Larry Frank | James Schley |
| Don Geagan | Jim Smith |
| John Gibson | Moe Stavnezer |
| James Glazer | Alice Stek |
| Meredith Gordon | Mike Suhd |
| Robert Greenwald | Suzanne Thompson |
| Joseph Gross | Carol Wells |
| Pamela Gruber | Emily Winters |

Become a Beachhead Sustainer

Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year
Institutional Subscriptions: \$50/year
Annual Sustainer: \$100.

Send to: Beachhead
PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294



Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: "I'm 80 years old, on a fixed income and suffering disability due to arthritis of both knees and other age-related changes and I expect some help and a place to live."



Amazed and delighted

Dear Beachhead,

I was at the Kenneth Rexroth Centenary last Saturday night at Beyond Baroque, wandering about the foyer, when I happened to look down and see THE BEACHHEAD!!! Holy Guacamole, I thought, whatever else happens tonight, it's just frosting, because this takes the cake-

The only name I recognized in the collective was Carol (Hi Carol! SO glad you are still around) and I'm sure most of you don't know me, but I spent many years with the Beachhead, and we sure could use one now- I love the artwork and the design, and must include big applause for the poetry. I can't think of how many times we did the whole coverage of the Lincoln Place bit, and somehow, it's still front page news-

I'd love to find out when you meet and where- or does all this take place in cyberspace? Anyway- I'll be happy to send you some money (always good, let me know who to make the check to-) and when the deadline is for submissions- Would you like some book reviews? Supreme Court commentary? Philosophical essays? Poetry? Cookie recipes? Let me know where to send it-

Judith Martin Straw (I used to be Judith Martin, but I got married, added another moniker, you know how that goes-)

P.S. - Historical trivia - The first woman to keep her name after getting married was Lucy Stone, and when other women did it the press called them Stoners (this was in 1850-something). You can't even make up stuff like that-

More evidence the 60s were better

Dear Beachhead,

Michael Reich from the University of California, Berkeley, Economics Dept. and the Labor Center has written a paper noting that the Calif. minimum wage of \$1.65 for 1968 (the highest it ever was) would be \$9.65 by June 05, if multiplied by the Calif. cost of living index.

So the 20-30% of those making less in California now are receiving what would be illegal in 1968. It behooves us to raise the point, if it was illegal then shouldn't it be illegal now? I believe the majority of such recipients are working adults but look at the effects on young people (and their parents).

In addition, the tuition rates for UC, the State Universities and the Community Colleges have gone way up. My 1966-67 non-tuition tuition at UCLA was \$290 and minimum wage was \$1.50 so figure 193.33 hrs. to pay these fees, just slightly more than a month of work during the summer.

Now think of the recently frozen UC tuition of \$6,141 and current minimum wage at \$6.75 an hour, 909.77 hours, a ratio of 4.706 hours to 1 between the two periods, or 5.248 months. After full time summer work of 12 weeks a student would be working 12 plus hours a week every week of the school year.

Of course its worse than this, Factoring in taxes, beer, transportation and lunch money working full time for two months over the summer, versus all summer and 20 hours during the school year is more realistic.

Stephen Kessler

Disaster preparedness?

Dear Beachhead,

A point on our logic... Here in Venice, we have long been known as a forward-thinking community. That's why I was delighted when I noticed that our city council has a Disaster Preparedness Committee. Yet this made me think, while it is fantastic that we are equipped to respond to disasters, what about working to prevent their very occurrence?

For instance, thanks to researchers at the National Academy of Science, we know that the increasing number of extreme weather events, like Hurricane Katrina, is a direct effect of global warming. We also know that global warming is largely related to automobile pollution. Given this, shouldn't we be focused on reducing auto emissions overall so that we can prevent climatological disasters from even occurring, rather than only concentrating on developing response strategies for when they do to place?

While unexpected disasters are inevitable from time to time in any community, we can do a better job here in Venice to minimize their likelihood by focusing on prevention as well as preparedness.

Tracy Chavis

Lincoln Place tenants win one in court

From the ACLU Open Forum Publication, Dec, 2005.

Pfeiffer Venice Properties LLC v. Bernard (California Court of Appeal) Five years after the suit was filed, the California Court of Appeal upheld an earlier ruling on behalf of tenant activists, many of them seniors, at an affordable housing complex in Venice.

The tenants were sued by the apartment owners who wanted to demolish the buildings and erect condominiums and townhouses; the owners claimed that the tenants intentionally interfered with the companies' economic advantage.

We argued that the tenants were engaged in constitutionally protected speech and filed a motion to strike the owners' complaint under California's Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) law. The Superior Court struck the lawsuit, but not under the anti-SLAPP statute. As a result, we were not entitled to statutory attorney's fees. We appealed, arguing that the court should have determined whether the case was a SLAPP under the anti-SLAPP statute.

The Court of Appeal agreed with our position and remanded to the superior court to determine whether the case was a SLAPP. The Plaintiff appealed the superior court ruling that the case was a classic SLAPP. In October, the Court of Appeal affirmed the superior court, thereby establishing our right to obtain attorneys fees under the anti-SLAPP statute."

Dean Hillel Weiss, M.D.

Herbal Recommendations
Medical Cannabis Evaluations

"Integrating Holistic and Conventional Medicine"

310.437.3407



Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *"I have lived at Lincoln Place Apartments for more than 13 years. I want to continue living at Lincoln Place and I don't completely understand why I cannot."*

How you can help Save Lincoln Place

By Jim Smith

Lincoln Place is a beautiful affordable housing complex of 696 garden apartments. It's a historic site that was built 55 years ago by Ralph Vaughn, an African-American architect and set designer for MGM.

Vaughn was one of the successful Black architects of his day. His architecture and site planning of Lincoln Place and other recognized buildings are found throughout the city of Los Angeles. His talents ranged from high end homes for movie moguls to 15 - 38 acre FHA garden style apartments for WWII veterans, including Lincoln Place.

It would cost a large fortune today to recreate Lincoln Place. So why not save it?

Here's how you can help?

1. Show that the community supports Lincoln Place and wants the buildings preserved and rented and the evicted tenants put back in their homes. Come to the Jan. 16 rally (see back page) and visit the tent city on California, just east of Lincoln.
2. Demand that AIMCO either allow the tenants back in or sell Lincoln Place to another landlord.
3. Ask your elected officials to consider Eminent Domain for Lincoln Place. This means that the city (or state) take over the property for the "public good" and pay fair market value to the owner. Is it for the "public good" to preserve 696 affordable apartments in the face of a housing shortage? Isn't it in the "public good" to prevent approximately 200 tenants, including seniors and disabled, from being put out in the street when there is a homeless crisis?
4. Call L.A. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl at 311 (the city's main phone number) and thank him for his support of the tenants and housing.
5. Call Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (also at 311) and ask him to take action immediately to restore the tenants and preserve the buildings.
6. Call City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo and tell him you will not consider voting for him for state Attorney General unless he acts on behalf of the tenants, not the corporate landlord.
7. Demand that all candidates now running for state Assembly, Senate and Congress say what they will do for Lincoln Place and for increasing the amount of affordable housing.
8. Do the same for all candidates now running for Governor and other statewide offices.
9. Volunteer your help to the Lincoln Place Tenant Association or Lincoln Place Support Committee.
10. And, don't forget our own Venice Neighborhood Council. They passed a resolution supporting the tenants back in November, but they can do more. Insist upon it.

Our natural, and social, environment will be improved if we save Lincoln Place and other sites like it. They are being destroyed only because of the greed of corporate and individual landlords. Don't let them continue to wreck our environment!



X Swami X celebrated his 80th Birthday at the annual Winter Solstice Party held at Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Avenue last month.

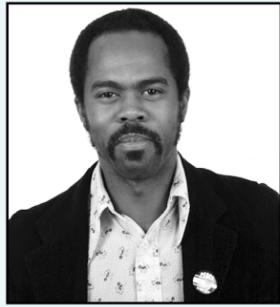
The Swami invented stand-up comedy on the Ocean Front Walk. Beginning in 1971 he would stand on a park bench and alternately amuse and insult his audience. His routine was half monologue and half banter with the audience. His poems have appeared in the Beachhead over the years and an in depth interview with Swami was conducted by Suzy William in the January 2003 Beachhead, which can be read at <www.venice-beachhead.org>.

The party and art opening sponsored by the Circle of Color brings back the spirit and good times of 60s Venice. This year's event spilled out into the street while the music never stopped. Circle of Color artists include Shige, Ibrahim and Diane Butler, Ralph Ponsa, Leland Auslender, Ra Superstar, Lani Ware and True.

Music included Black Shoe Polish, Venice Beach Drum Orchestra, Marla, Ramen Empire, Swami X and the Off Their Jingle Bell Rockers, a group that sings offbeat Christmas carols and parody songs.

The show is dedicated to the late homeless artist Michael Devalcourt. Circle of Color also sponsors a Summer Solstice party at Sponto's.





Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *"We wish and dream that our home will not perish and that my two kids can grow up in this wonderful neighborhood."*

No Applause – in Baldwin Hills or



Photo: Orange Empire Railway Museum

Once upon a time, when Los Angeles had a mass transit system the bus yard at Sunset and Main in Venice serviced the Red Cars. It was at an intersection of two lines – one came up the tracks between Electric Avenue and West Washington (now Abbot Kinney Blvd.). The tracks are still visible on some of the cross streets.

The other line went down Trolley Way (now Pacific Avenue). The network was so extensive that Venetians could travel as far as Orange and Riverside Counties without the need for an automo-

Who Loses When Politicians, a Developer, and the MTA Get Together?

By Carol Tucker of the Baldwin Hills Neighborhood Assn.

The MTA, RAD Jefferson, (a developer) and some unnamed politicians have successfully worked out a unique Land Swap Deal that wreaks havoc on the residents of Venice and Baldwin Hills so much so that the residents of both communities are ferociously fighting for their very lives and quality of life.

Historically, MTA has needed to relocate the Westside Division 6 Maintenance Yard because it no longer accommodates the needs of the transportation system. They have not been able to move because there was always community outcry about MTA moving into areas where there has been land available. Along comes RAD/Jefferson Development Group, namely Robert D'Elia, who offers to swap the land in Venice for the property formerly used by Sparkletts Water on Jefferson within the Baldwin Hills/Culver City area. In return for the Land RAD Jefferson will also construct the Maintenance Yard with MTA kicking in about \$12 million dollars. Once RAD Jefferson fully acquires the land in Venice, they want to build Condominiums and a shopping area which will totally impact that location.

The residents of Baldwin Hills are saying no because there is presently too much traffic on La Cienega and 150 buses will cause further congestion. Venice residents say no to a further impact of people and traffic as well as a proposed high rise gated complex.

What happens? Taxpayers get screwed because the land is swapped for less than the market value which enables the developer to make a profit in excess of a couple million dollars. Residents have to deal with further environmental pollution caused by increased traffic and people. And the efforts of Venice residents who worked to develop the Venice Specific Plan could be totally done in vain. And finally, residents in both areas get betrayed by elected officials who represent their own interest on the MTA Board of Directors.

ANASWARA
POWER YOGA FLOW

SANTA MONICA POWER YOGA
DONATION BASED

SAT 4pm west
T, TH 4:30 west
FRI 9am east

smp4 west 1410 2nd st
smp4 east 522 SM blvd



Beachsites . Com



Websites
Resumes
E-Commerce Solutions
Streaming Video Encoding
Domain Registration/ Hosting
(310) 823-4867

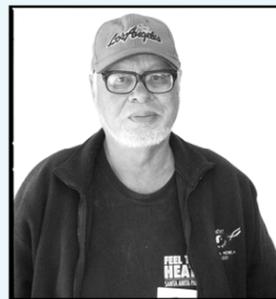
Support
Lincoln Place
Tenants Association

"Let's Own It"

P.O. Box 1312, Venice, CA 90294
24hr. Hotline: 310.281.6877



Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *"For months I haven't really known what was going to happen to me. I am on a fixed income and a restricted budget."*

Venice – for the MTA Bus Yard Swap

A message to the City Planning Commission

By Arnold Springer

I want to strongly object to this proposal project. There are many things wrong with it. Too tall, too dense, too out of scale, too greedy, too pushy, too confrontational towards the neighborhood and community.

Specifically I wish to protest the change of zone from M-1 to C-M Zoning. Granting this zone change request gives the developer the opportunity to build a residential project of up to R-3 density. The Venice Specific Plan and the North Venice Neighborhood Plan call out a zoning of RD 1.5.

Comment: I worked on this North Venice Specific (neighborhood) Plan from 1976 following the passing of the California Coastal Act to 1990 when the Specific Plan was adopted. I helped organize scores of neighborhood meetings at which 100's of residents and property owners listened and spoke, educating themselves about zoning and planning and coastal access issues. I worked as well with other Venice neighborhoods when they crafted their Specific Plans. All of us were under the impression that these plans would organize and regulate future building in their neighborhoods: That they would be respected by Los Angeles City planning authorities.

To me now, this is a matter of respect. You asked us to participate in this community planning process. You spent lots of public funds through the Planning Department and Commission helping us to produce these plans. We worked hard through myriads of meetings and hours of discussion and preparation. We acted in good faith with the City of LA. Will the City now reciprocate and repay us by staying in good faith with us, or disrespect us and disrespect our good will in working with you? This is a test!!!

It comes as quite a shock to see these plans ignored and dismissed, as is the case with this project.

Specifically, all of us in North Venice were aware of the MTA site and the possibility that it would be developed sooner or later. We very consciously decided to attach conditions to the zoning at this site (Q and T conditions) which would restrict the density on any future development to the density of the surrounding neighborhood.

One of the first successful neighborhood initiatives we undertook after the passage of the California Coastal Act was the successful initiation of a zoning rollback in the North Venice neighborhood from R-3 to RD 1.5.

We proposed this zoning roll back to the then Councilwoman Pat Russell. She supported this roll back. At that time we cited two reasons to justify the roll back. First, we wanted to support the Coastal Act, to wit: to do everything possible to "enhance public access to the coast" and specifically to Venice Beach. By lowering density and inhibiting large scale development we hoped to ease the pressure of gentrification,

maintain our low and moderate income housing stock, and thereby enhance and insure continued public access.

Since public parking was such a key issue in assuring and enhancing public access, our down zoning relieved pressure on Ocean Front vacant properties (which were down zoned from C-2 to C-1) and thus we hoped to preserve our public access parking.

All of us property owners realized that down zoning would reduce the speculative value of our properties. Nevertheless we enthusiastically supported the down zoning to C-1 and RD 1.5 because it would help achieve our two objects, to wit: Support of the Coastal Acts mandate to local governments to "enhance public access to the coast" and to support the low and moderate incoming housing stock in the Coastal zone.

We filed hundreds of appeals of LA City permits between 1976 and 1990. In all of these appeals we cited the above reasons. We were very successful with the Coastal Commission on our appeals and eventually convinced Los Angeles Planning Department officials to implement our recommendations. The zoning roll back took place, for the reasons cited above; the City started to protect existing coastal access and neighborhood parking and, with the passage of the Mello Act, also to protect our low and moderate incoming housing stock.

At the time in the 70's that all of us supported the zoning roll back, we argued that the MTA lot should also be zoned RD 1.5. We understood that M zone (industrial) could be changed, at the request of a property owner, to a C zone very easily, and that the C zone (either 1 or 2) carried with it a residential density of R-3. We were afraid that the MTA, which even at that time said it wished to move) would sell to a developer who would try to rezone to R-3.

When we proposed that the MTA lot should be rezoned from M-1 to RD1.5, we were told that the MTA objected to this because then they would be operating a bus yard in a residentially zoned parcel and so would be in violation of their zoning and that they would be open to a law suit (non conforming industrial use in a residential zone) which could have shut down their facility. They didn't want to be put in that position.

There was some logic to this argument. So as not to confront the MTA we proposed the application of Temporary Q conditions on the lot, proposed that the RD 1.5 designation be put onto the tract maps so that everyone knew that if sold or traded, if the industrial use on the site was terminated, that the underlying zoning would be changed to RD1.5

In this we acted responsibly and respected the MTA's concerns.

Nothing has changed since the T and Q conditions were applied by Councilwoman Ruth Galanter to this parcel, and I don't see any reason for the Planning Commission to overturn the land use policy adopted by the North Venice Specific Plan and the Venice Specific Plan.

What is the most obvious and appropriate use for this parcel? I would submit, parking. We do have a Beach Impact Zone (BIZ) which was established specifically to address the paucity or shortfall of visitor and residential parking in the North Venice area. Los Angeles City is collecting monies from developers which are supposed to go into the BIZ. Visitor serving parking has been significantly reduced of late by permitted projects on the Ocean Front between Brooks Ave in the south and Rose Ave in the north. I would say that 100's of public access parking places have been lost as a consequence. Has the LA Planning Department done a survey and produced an accounting of the previously existing visiting serving parking lost to new development in the North Venice area? I haven't heard of it.

Is the City of Los Angeles doing everything it can to enhance public access and visitor serving uses in the North Venice area? If not, it is in violation of the Coastal Act provisions which mandate enhanced opportunities for public access to the beach and coast.

In sum, I urge you to reject this project as proposed. I urge you to have this project rendered.

—continued on page 10

CLIP & SAVE



JANUARY CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

"Working to Improve the Quality of Life in Venice"

Wednesday, January 4 ... **GRVNC Land Use & Planning Committee** ... 7:00 PM at the Boys & Girls Club of Venice. The agenda includes a presentation/public hearing on the latest proposal for the MTA/RAD project. Details available on our web site.

Monday, January 9 ... **GRVNC Executive Committee** - 7:00 PM at the Extra Space Storage Community Room. The committee will consider/ approve items to be placed on the Board of Officers meeting agenda.

Tuesday, January 10 ... **Public Workshop on the Revised Ocean Front Walk Ordinance** ... 7:00 PM at the Oakwood Recreation Center. Sponsored by Councilman Bill Rosendahl and co-sponsored by GRVNC.

Tuesday, January 17 ... **GRVNC Special Election Meeting** ... 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Westminster Elementary School Auditorium. Voting to confirm Board appointment of District 2 Board Officer and to confirm bylaws change of Board terms to end September 30th instead of June 30th. *Please bring proof of stakeholder status* ... you must live, work, own property or belong to a Venice community organization to vote.

Tuesday, January 17 ... **GRVNC Board of Officers** ... 7:00 PM at Westminster Elementary School Auditorium. The Board meeting will run concurrently with the Special Election meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Coming in Late January ... **Venice Disaster Preparedness Workshop** ... GRVNC will host the first of a series of Disaster Preparedness Workshops.

Visit our web site at www.grvnc.org for more information.

GRASS ROOTS VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 500 . Venice . California 90294
Phone: 310.399.5515 . Email: info@grvnc.org . Web Site: www.grvnc.org

Lincoln Place – a month of heartache, anger and determination

– continued from page one

other hand, AIMCO is unable to build the 800 - 1,000 luxury condos it plans due to the historic status of the 30-acre garden apartments.

AIMCO's hopes of ever being able to build at Lincoln Place may have received a fatal blow by the anger it's needless evictions roused in the Venice community and among political leaders.

The largest single number of evictions in one day in Los Angeles history came in spite of personal telephoned pleas by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember Bill Rosendahl to AIMCO CEO Terry Considine not to order evictions during the holiday period.

AIMCO and 104 law enforcement officials used the roof top parking lot of neighboring Staples as their command center. Here the marshals, sheriffs and the LAPD reviewed their plans for driving 80 people out of their homes at

the behest of the corporate landlord. The Staples manager denied any knowledge of their presence until informed by a Beachhead reporter.

On the day of the evictions, tenants and supporters gathered at Elkgrove Avenue and Lake Street with picket signs.

L.A. City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl visited the gathering, but was unable to do anything to help the newly homeless.

Rosendahl, whose council district includes Venice, called the evictions "a travesty, an injustice, and a great shame." Plans were laid for a 24-hour a day vigil and tent city until the evictions are lifted.

That same evening tenants and community supporters protested at a Marina del Rey Middle School where Villaraigosa and Rosendahl were meeting with Del Rey homeowners. During his talk, Villaraigosa bragged that the city's affordable housing trust fund is fully funded, for the first time, with \$100 million. He also promised a referendum to establish a one billion dollar housing fund. Later, during a question and answer session, the Mayor called on some Lincoln Place evictees who were standing in the back of the

room holding protest signs. Hector Rivera told him he had moved to Lincoln Place from the inner city after his brother-in-law was killed in gang violence. Now, he and his family would be forced back into the inner city.

The mayor then ran into trouble when he said that the tenants had rejected a negotiated

the city council which include no evictions. A protest was held at his home and several have been held at his downtown office, all to no avail. Also coming in for criticism are Villaraigosa and Rosendahl, who are outwardly sympathetic to the tenants but have not adopted strong measures for their return to their homes.

There is growing support for action on Eminent Domain (see last month's Beachhead, page 4) in which the city would take over Lincoln Place for the "public good." Eminent Domain is usually used against tenants and home owners, but in this case could be used on their behalf. The "public good" would include saving and opening 696 units of affordable and historic housing that would otherwise be destroyed. It would also save and restore about 150 families from being thrown out of their homes.

Lincoln Place has been a major source of affordable housing in Venice for the past 55 years. At one time, 800 units stood in the garden-like environment behind Rhaps Market. Some were bulldozed, allegedly without permits, a couple of years ago. Of the nearly 700 remaining apartments, most stand empty because AIMCO has refused to rent them in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. After today's evictions, only disabled residents and seniors remain. They are scheduled to be evicted in March.

Meanwhile, the evictees refuse to go quietly into the night. The tent city (a symbolic, not an actual encampment) at California Avenue and Frederick Street, a block east of Lincoln Blvd., continues to thrive with tenants and community supporters staffing it round the clock.

Upcoming activities include a one-month commemoration of the evictions (six more households have been turned out since Dec. 6) and the establishment of tent city. The tenant association has an up-to-date website, <www.lincolnplace.net>.

A Martin Luther King / Lincoln Place rally has been set for 1pm Monday, January 16, (the MLK holiday) on the street next to tent city. Bill Rosendahl as well as celebrities, ministers and



Lincoln Place resident Hector Jimenez

agreement with AIMCO that his office had brokered. This triggered a storm of shouts of "not true," and "AIMCO's lying." Spike Marlin, who takes care of his aged mother, Frieda Marlin, at Lincoln Place, responded loudly and eloquently, that AIMCO's offer was a trick. AIMCO said it would allow tenants to continue living in a section of Lincoln Place while all but 240 apartments were torn down and replaced by luxury condos.

But if any tenant challenged AIMCO's building plans - or anyone in the community for that matter - the deal was off and the tenants were out in the street. Villaraigosa was visibly shaken, and made a dash for the door a few minutes later.

The following week, about 50 evictees and supporters went downtown to speak to the L.A. City Council. The obviously sympathetic council gave the group 65 minutes of public comment time to discuss their plight. The council then went into closed session and afterwards two motions were passed unanimously in public session. The first called for AIMCO to return to the bargaining table. The second motion directed various city departments to conduct a sweeping review of the state Ellis Act, and make recommendations for state legislative reform. The Ellis Act allows landlords to go out of the rental business and thereby evict tenants. Many believe that AIMCO, the largest landlord in the country, is misusing the law in order to clear out the tenants.

A certain amount of dissatisfaction with the lack of strong action from political leaders has developed among Lincoln Place activists. The main target of dissatisfaction is City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo who has consistently refused to hold AIMCO to conditions imposed by



Eviction plans were laid on Staples' roof by a host of law enforcement officers at the beck and call of AIMCO.

community leaders will speak and local musicians will play. "The evictions at Lincoln Place show that Dr. King's struggle for justice has not been completed. We intend to carry on that struggle on Jan. 16, and beyond," said Suzanne Thompson, one of the Rally organizers.



Rose Mary Murphy helps Christie Ellis after her eviction.



AIMCO's eviction attorney, Linda Hollenbeck, and AIMCO office worker Maria Lopez prepare eviction notices on Staples' roof.

LIFE AT TENT CITY, VENICE

By C.V. Beck

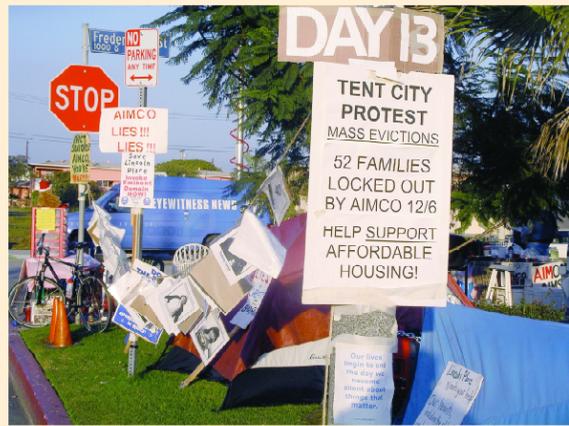
Day 1, December 6, 2005, was the pre-Xmas (dare I say it?) "Pogrom" in Venice, taking place at Lincoln Place Garden Apartments. It began with the locking out of working people and their children as well as lock-ins of pets and property.

Some people have been left homeless and in a state of shock, with their "significant others" taking the relocating money and running; but still have jobs and having inadvertently packed away their mailbox key, staying in motels and with friends...forgetting, under the stress of having their longtime homes ripped out from under them, that the mailperson *can't* put their mail in a paperbag and give it to someone, to give to them...no matter how well-meaning. They *still* have to go to the Post Office to pick up their mail.

Others are betting against the clock, praying that it will all work out in the last few grains of the hourglass running out, as their lives are turned to shit by an uncaring "City Imperiale," an even more uncaring "Corporate Fascismo," running rapine through this small beach town, like Attila the Hun and his army, this time of corporate warriors...leaving chaos and disorder, filling up the already full landfills, and with more working class persons heading for the streets.

On the other side of this picture are your basic workforce people: seniors, retired, disabled, up-and-coming-but-not-quite-there-yet people and a truly Venetian assortment it is! We are being assisted by some homeless angels, (David Busch, Phil and Neal) and sometimes accompanied by other Venice homeless persons, and people of character and ethics...we are being fed and supplied with necessities. We are now at Day 20 at the time of this entry and it is raining.

Two Rolls-Royces' have driven by "Le Camping" and many other, oversized, ever so chic gas-slammers, shiny, clean and new have come to make a u-turn and check it out. Few of these drivers will get out of their cars and come and chat with us but one of our more elegant campers went to this black, shiny and mysterious car and engaged the driver, hid-



den by black glass, in conversation, coming back to our campfire with a story. This person used to live at Lincoln Place, lost their home there and ended up on the street for about ten years. Now, apparently, having turned it around, gotten a grip and came to see us, Lincoln Place adrift in the fog, and signed our petition to save Lincoln Place. How wonderful!

Today, December 26, when I went out of my apartment to drop off a gift to the little girls next door, I saw a white dove perched in the window ledge on the second floor hallway. Apparently, it had gotten in and couldn't find its way out. I interpreted this as a good sign for the future and made arrangements with a neighbor with "Snow White" qualities to help this beautiful Dove of Peace to get out - but not be evicted from Lincoln Place.

People continue to come by and visit the Tent City with food and supplies, kind words of support and encouragement. We remain strong and committed to our course of action. We are all enjoying sitting around the primeval campfire, talking with neighbors in a sociable way. I realize that most of my contact with neighbors for the past nine or more years have only been in the context of the political struggle with the City rolling over for the landlords...not really what could be described as "quiet enjoyment" of any kind.

As of today, January 2, 2006, Day 28, we are hunkered down in the severe rainstorm of the last several days, waiting for the Pacific Division of LAPD to come and remove us any day now, according to comments made by Senior Lead Officer Craig White and we are still strong and committed.

Note: According to MSN Money, on 12/11/05, Los Angeles is considered to be one of sixty-five "extremely overvalued" housing markets in an report made by National City/Global Insight's Valuation Analysis in December, 2005 and they believe Los Angeles to be overvalued by 54.2%...or more than half, while the largest mass eviction since Chavez Ravine in the 1950s is presently occurring here in Venice, of all places.)



Lincoln Place tenants and supporters line up to speak at the city council, Dec. 13. From left to right: Spike Marlin, David Ewing, Steve Clare, Hans Adamson, Maria Colores, Amanda Seward, Elena Popp, Sheila Bernard, Clare Sassoon. Seated: Mark Stepanek



Bill Rosendahl asks the city council to support Lincoln Place tenants, Dec. 13.



Maria Colores pleads with Mayor Villaraigosa for help for evicted tenants at Del Rey Homeowners meeting. Behind and to her right are Suzy Williams, Judy Morasco (with baby Josephine), Linda and Kevin Young, Tom Torres, Rose Murphy, Gloria Morales.



An ecumenical service at tent city was officiated by Father Tomas Elis of St. Clement Church, Rev. Sandie Richards of the Church in Ocean Park, and Rev. Tom Ziegert of the Venice United Methodist Church



Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *"I feel bullied and pressured into moving when I don't want to move."*

Goodbye, New Orleans – continued from page one

say: Shut the city down and board it up before thousands more lives are lost.

In the weeks after Katrina, the American media somehow portrayed the catastrophe as a matter of failed levees and flawed evacuation plans. The "What went wrong?" coverage involved autopsies of every breached dike and a witch hunt for those responsible for the Superdome and Convention Center fiascos. But these were just horrifying symptoms of a much larger disease.

Katrina destroyed the Big Easy—and future Katrinas will do the same—not because of engineering failures but because one million acres of coastal islands and marshland have vanished in Louisiana in the last century due to human interference. These land forms served as natural "speed bumps," reducing the lethal surge tide of past hurricanes and making New Orleans habitable in the first place.

But while encouraging city residents to return home and declaring for the media audience that "we will do whatever it takes" to save the city, the President earlier this month formally refused the one thing New Orleans simply cannot live without: A restored network of barrier islands and coastal wetlands.

Tens of billions of dollars have been authorized to treat the symptoms—broken levees, insufficient emergency resources, destroyed roads and bridges—but next to nothing for the disease itself, that of disappeared land, which ushered the ocean into the city to begin with. No amount of levee building or stockpiling of bottled water will ever save New Orleans until the state's barrier shoreline is restored.

Just since World War II an area of land the size of Rhode Island has turned to water between New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico, most of it former marshland. And every 2.7 miles of marshland reduces a hurricane surge tide by a foot, dispersing the storm's power. Simply put, had Katrina struck in 1945 instead of 2005, the surge that reached New Orleans would have been as much as 5-10 feet less than it was.

These marshes, as well as the barrier islands, were created by the sediment-rich flood waters of the Mississippi River deposited over thousands of years. But modern levees have prevented this natural flooding, and the existing wetlands, starved for new sediments and nutrients, have eroded and "subsided" and just washed away. Every ten months, even without hurri-

To encourage people to return to New Orleans, as Bush is doing, without funding the only plan that can save the city from the next Big One, is to commit an act of mass homicide.

canes, an area of Louisiana land equal to Manhattan turns to water. That's 50 acres a day. A football field every 30 minutes!

A \$14 billion plan to fix this problem—a plan widely viewed as technically sound and supported by environmentalists, oil companies, and fishermen alike—has been on the table for years and was pushed forward with greater urgency after Katrina hit. But for reasons hard to fathom, yet utterly lethal in their effect, the administration has turned its back on this plan. Instead of investing the equivalent of six weeks of spending in Iraq, or the cost of the Big Dig in Boston, we must now prepare to pay for another inevitable

\$200 billion hurricane just around the corner in Louisiana.

The grand plan to change all this, commonly known as the Coast 2050 plan, would use massive pipelines and pumps and surgically designed canals to guide a portion of the river's sediment-thick water back toward the coastal buffer zone without destroying existing infrastructure or communities. This would rebuild hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands over time and reconstruct entire barrier islands in as little as 12 months. (It is estimated that the government's plan to rebuild the levees could take decades.) Everyone agrees the plan will work. The National Academy of Sciences confirmed the soundness of the approach just last week and urged quick action.

Yet in its second and final post-Katrina emergency spending package sent to Congress on November 8th, the White House dismissed the rescue plan with a shockingly small \$250 million proposed authorization instead of the \$14 billion requested.

How could this administration, found totally unprepared for the first Katrina, not see the obvious action needed to prevent the next one? My theory is that Bush hears "wetlands" and retreats to a blind, ideological aversion to all things "environmental." Which perhaps explains why in multiple speeches given during six photo-op

St. Bernard Parish
was destroyed by both the storm wind and water and the levy.

We spoke to a man working on clearing debris who said that the two tides about 20-25 feet high of storm water and levy water came together here in this parish, there was a terrible oil spill and the water(?) sat for a long time. You can see the actual lines on the buildings (that are still standing).

There are stray dogs running around, debris piled everywhere, crashed up buildings, and we saw a boat sitting on the freeway on the way in that has not been claimed or hauled off!

The attached picture is of the canal across from the lot we are in. Most of these homes are standing, but they will need to be gutted. This appears to be big business here - gutting buildings.

—Photo and eyewitness account by Peggy Lee Kennedy, Food not Bombs



FIDELITY EDUCATIONAL PRESS

5964 S. Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90044

ONEIL M. CANNON

A Union Label Printer



Office (323) 778-1432 Fax (323) 778-1917

**LEAFLETS - NEWSLETTERS
RUSH ORDERS!**

From your Camera Ready Copy
Email: FidelityPress@earthlink.net

By appointment: Office Hours Mon - Fri 11am - 3pm
LEAFLET PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE FOR PEACE MOVEMENT MEMBERS



Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *"My daughter...lives in the flat above mine and she is also raising her children here. Now we have both received eviction notices. We are very sad to have to leave the only permanent home we have known."*

Grandmother's Eyes

by Lynette

Two small holes of brown,
Encased in skin withered by eighty birthdays,
A thousand memories carved onto once-smooth flesh,
Hanging cutaneous bags above the cheeks.

Age clouds the brilliant sepia eyes,
Defines these eyes with a revered wisdom,
Enhances them with elderly reserve,
Eyes looked to for parental guidance
now sitting dry and useless in their sockets,
Eyes plentiful only with reminiscences.

Gazing sullenly from their rocking perch,
Staring out the window of life,
These are eyes of gentle respect,
Surrounded by progeny,
These are eyes of quiet inner reflection,
Recalling an energetic youth,

Pondering their aged status,
Glancing dismally into the future,
These are eyes awaiting death.

The swell of the ocean
dances
and the time passes
And the sweet sweet morning
becomes full of itself
and is lost to activity
and confusion.
And only a child's heart
finds large pieces that
are wholly different
and though not firm
live in the spaces
between time.

—Hillary Kaye

The Barbarian From The North (for Allen Ginsberg)

By Stuart Z. Perkoff

blind as roses
we sit in the evenings in rooms of our own choosing
rooms filled with intricacies of many delicately
structured parts
which dazzle & fascinate, & alter appearances &
statements
everything with its clear limits
everything marked & classified
all aspects known
all new structures viewed with distaste
everything of the utmost seriousness
what are we to say, then, of a man
who takes off his clothes in someone else's living
room?
are we to applaud?
what is his nakedness to us?
what do we care about his poems
do you realize he is in the lite? how can i
be expected to read?

he makes too much noise!
he says dirty words!
he needs a bath!
he is certainly
drunk!

i hope he soon realizes that it is, after all
now
& we have many wonderful things to amuse us
when we want to see clown
we go to the circus

is he gone yet? can i come out
now?

POETRY

New Lyrics by Spike Marlin and Bill Chappelle of Lincoln Place

All We Are Saying is Give Us our Homes
(To the tune of "Give Peace A Chance" by John Lennon)
New words by Spike Marlin & Bill Chappelle

Everybody's talking 'bout...
AIMCO, BLAMECO, SHAMECO, PAINCO, LAMECO, Going down in FLAMECO.

(All We Are saying is) Give Us Our Homes

Everybody's talking 'bout...
Tenants, Seniors, Kids and Dreamers call us Schemers, they're a bunch of Weiners.

Everybody's talking 'bout...
Pot lucks, Love ins, Save-the-building dig - ins, Save the tenants live - ins WIN WIN WIN WIN!

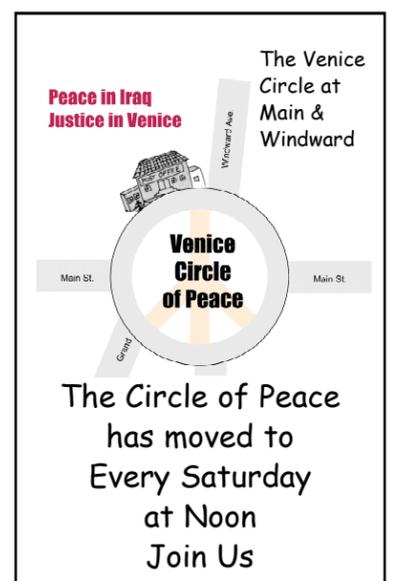
Everybody's talking 'bout...
Preservation, Resurrection, Preachers, Teachers, AIMCO is the Creature we need revolu-
tion, insurrection ethical correction....

ALL We Are Saying is Give Us Our Homes

The Venice West Cafe

By Bill Fleeman

the venice west
was our church,
a consecrated place
where we went to
say our sacred poems
in honor of the Lady.
where stuart had writ
on the wall a wally
berman quote:
"art is love is god."

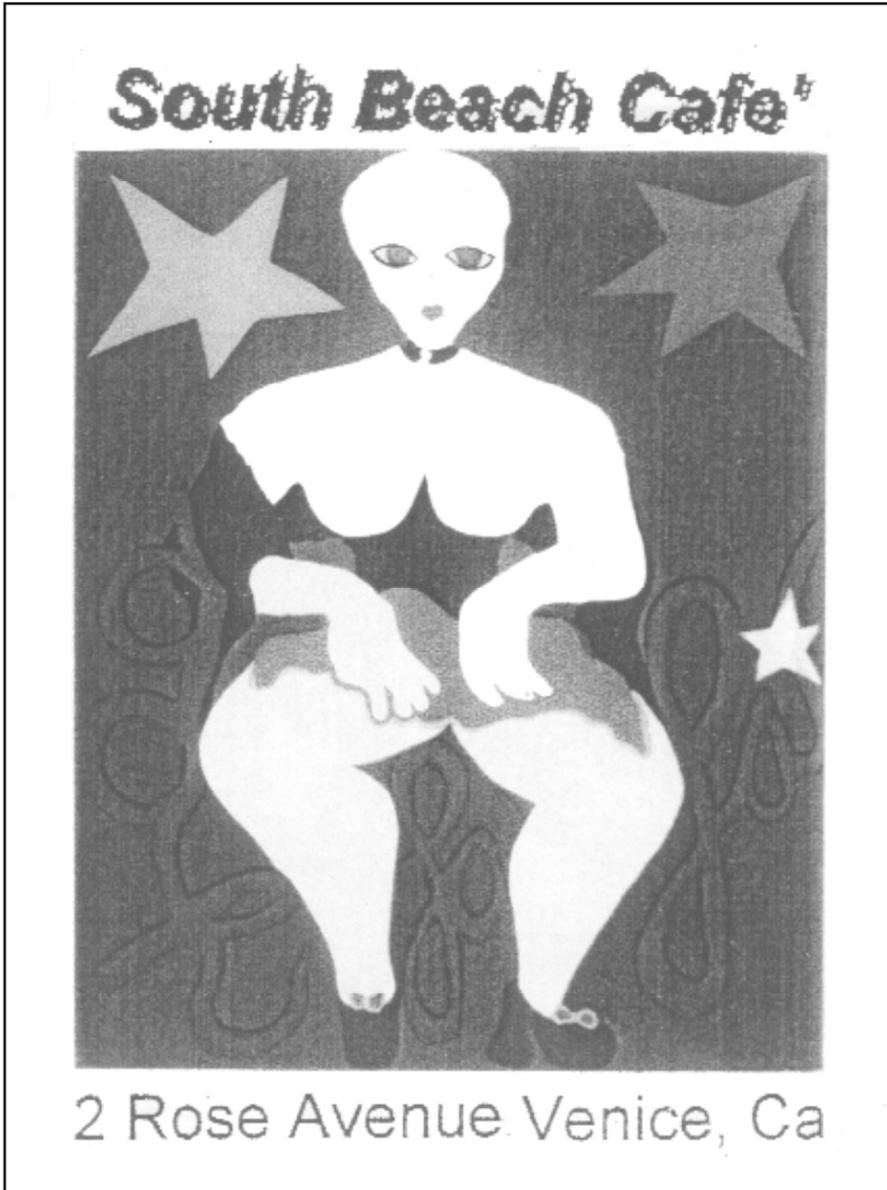




Photos by Elke Weiss



The Faces and Voices of Lincoln Place: *“For months I haven’t really known what was going to happen to me. I am on a fixed income and a restricted budget.”*



Big Wednesday —continued from page one

plunging breaker. A massive wall of water will form and hold its shape for a while before the whole thing suddenly crashes over itself into a thundering torrent of foam, sand, and sometimes surfers. These are dangerous waves.

There were severe cross currents that kept most Venice surfers onshore agonizing about not conquering the biggest waves most have seen here. On that day you could see walls of water forming almost a mile offshore where the ocean floor rises from two thousand feet to about forty. One innovative surfer along the coast had a jet ski drag him out to surf some of the massive offshore breaks nobody else could reach. Several rescues occurred near shore and of boaters.

The weather was around eighty degrees and it was clear. Like a grand fiesta, families and dogs came out to picnic and see the unusual spectacle. News crews were everywhere, even the national crews. Lifeguards were on their mark while the County scrambled to erect protective sand berms to stop waves from sweeping over the bike path into the handball courts again, or worse.

Then an ominous warning from the LAPD was distributed by email, the worst was yet to come. The most dangerous high tide would be on Christmas morning. The report indicated evacuation routes were being planned and severe flooding was possible.

“Voluntary evacuations,” were alluded to. But Venice survived and the waves kept their manners.

Venice surfers now call it “Big Wednesday” in homage to the famous surfer movie of that name; only it was real this time.

Photo by LeAnne Warren



Venice Organizations

(non-profits)

- Abbot Kinney Library - 501 S. Venice Blvd. 821-1769.
- Boys and Girls Club - 2232 Lincoln Blvd. 390-4477.
- Beyond Baroque - 681 Venice Blvd.
<www.beyondbaroque.org>
- Electric Lodge - 1416 Electric Avenue - 306-1854 - www.electrictlodge.org
- Food not Bombs - POB 2881, Venice 90294 - 892-8799
- Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council - PO Box 500 -
<info@grvnc.org> - <www.grvnc.org> - 399-5515.
- Inside / Out Community Arts - 2210 Lincoln Blvd 397-8820 -
<www.InsideOutCA.org>
- LPBN (Linux Public Broadcasting Network) 636-1815
- Oakwood Recreation Center - 767 California Ave.- 452-7479
- Peace and Justice Center - 2210 Lincoln Blvd
- Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) - 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560
- St Joseph’s Center - Rose & 4th - 396-6468
- University of Venice - 2210 Lincoln Blvd., 391-2391,
uov@freevenice.org
- Venice 2000 - 610 California Ave. -823-6100
- Venice Arts Council - info@veniceartscouncil.org
- Venice Arts Mecca - 610 California Ave. 578-1745.
- Venice Community Housing Corporation - 399-4100 or
<www.vchcorp.org>. 720 Rose Ave. Venice.
- Venice Family Clinic - 604 Rose Ave. 392-8636.
- Venice Farmers Market - 7-11AM, Fridays - Venice Blvd. and Venice Way - www.FarmersMarkets.org
- Venice Health Center - 905 Venice Blvd. 392-8636.
- Venice High Alumni Assoc. - www.venicehighalumni.com
- Venice Historical Society - POB 12844, Venice 90295 or
<www.veniceofamerica.org>
- Venice Peace & Freedom Party - 399-2215 -
<pfp@freevenice.org>.
- Venice Skills Center - 611 5th Ave. 392-4153
www.veniceskills.org.
- Vera Davis McClendon Center - 610 California Ave. - 305-1865.



Hip Crane

Emily Winters

**VENICE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS
A Public Art and Culture Workshop**

A Gathering of Venice Artists, Organizations and the Community for a Dialogue and Interaction about the Arts in Venice

What do you artistically dream for Venice?

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2006 11am - 4pm
refreshments provided

Venice Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts
2210 Lincoln Blvd, Venice CA 90291
RSVP: info@veniceartscouncil.org or 310-822-9560 x 15



Franco Letter



veniceartscouncil.org

Co-Sponsors include: Councilman Bill Rosendahl - 11th District, Los Angeles City Council, John S. Brady, West Area Representative, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council, Beyond Baroque, 876LA, Electric Lodge, spOxybOx, Free Venice Beachhead, Inside Out Community Arts, Social and Public Art Resource Center "SPARC", Ulan Bator Foundation, Venica Arts, Venica Chamber of Commerce, Venica Community Coalition, Venica Community Housing Corporation, Venica Progressives, Aldis and Maria Browne on behalf of the Venica Trust

**TENANT'S RIGHTS
ARE CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Martin Luther King Day &
Save Lincoln Place Rally
1pm - Monday - January 16**

California Avenue, One Block East of Lincoln

**Restore the Dream - Save Lincoln Place
Protect 696 affordable apartments
Return evicted tenants to their homes**

Sponsors Include: Lincoln Place Support Committee • Venice Progressives
Lincoln Place Tenants Association • L.A. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl

310.664.4412 • 310.399.8685 • LP@lalabor.org

