

Happy  
Birthday  
Venice!



July  
2008

#321

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# Still Venice Has A Heart!



Wendy Winston  
- photo by Amanda Renner

A packed hearing, June 26, on overnight parking districts (OPDs), firmly rejected the city's scheme which could require all Venetians to pay to park in front of their homes, while forcing those who live in mobile homes out of their vehicles and on to the streets.

More than 80 percent of those who paraded to the podium during the three and a half hour hearing said no, no, no to permit parking during their two minutes of allotted time. The turn out was probably the largest public meeting in Venice in recent years. Many homeowners and renters came to the defense of the women, children and veterans living in RVs.

The OPDs would, in effect, make Venice into a gated community, without the gates. No one would be allowed to park overnight unless they paid the city for a permit to put on their car. This would eliminate coastal access for anyone outside Venice who just wanted to dip their toe into the ocean at night, or watch the grunion run.

Whether or not this exercise in local democracy will carry any weight with the people in city hall is problematic. In addition, the Venice Community Housing Corporation and the Venice Town Council went on record in opposition to the OPDs. Around 700 signatures of Venice residents also have been received against the plan.

Something must be done about the social problems that force people out of their homes and into vehicles or on to the street. But most of us understand that the OPDs will only make matters worse. We need more affordable housing, more jobs, more helping hands and more concern for others. We're all in this together.

The Beachhead Collective feels good to know that so many Venetians feel compassion toward the less fortunate. Last night at least, the homeless haters were a distinct minority.



RV family: Laura Lindley, 10-year-old James Guterrez and baby lyobelis ask for understanding.  
- photo by Alexandria



Ocean Front Walk performer, Juan Alcalá - photo by Alexandria

## Venetians Not Pleased with Overnight Parking Districts

By Amanda Renner

More than 300 people lined the walls of the auditorium at Westminster School June 26, to voice their concerns on the possibility of overnight parking districts in Venice.

"All the comments received, both at the public hearing and by e-mail, mail, or fax that relate to coastal issues are considered in the decision to approve or deny the local coastal development permit," Jimmy Tokeshi, a public relations specialist for the city's Bureau of Engineering.

There are five parking districts: Oxford Triangle, Presidents Row, West Venice, East Venice and Villa Marina. According to a consultant, Dorothy Meyer of Camp, Dresser and McKee Inc., in order for the permits to take effect two thirds of each block must sign a petition in agreement.

There are still a few remaining steps left in the permit process. After all written comments are received, the city engineer will decide to approve, conditionally approve or disapprove the application for the development.

Then, anyone who requested a copy of the action in writing will be notified of the city engineer's action.

All appeals regarding coastal issues can then be filed within ten days of the mailing of the decision. These appeals must be written and an official appeal form must be filed within five days. After the appeals are heard the Board of Public Works will make their decision within 30 days of filing.

After this a Notice of Permit Issuance or Denial is sent to the executive director of the regional California Coastal Commission, as well as anyone else who was written a request for the notice.

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## Alternatives Suggested to Parking Ban

After attending the public hearing Thursday night and listening to what everyone had to say, this is a list of alternatives to parking permits in Venice that were suggested by various people during the hearing.

- Designated parking lots for those people living in RVs and cars to park at during the night. It would give them a safe place to sleep and could provide proper trash disposal, showers and bathrooms.
- Improved trash removal. One complaint was the amount of trash left behind from those without homes or living in vehicles. The truth is though, even those who do have homes contribute to the amount of litter on the roads and beach. Perhaps more trash cans and recycling bins could be placed on the streets.
- Installation of more public rest rooms. People have complained about fecal matter found on the streets and lawns. Access to public rest rooms could help to eliminate this problem.

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Peggy Lee Kennedy turns in 600 anti-OPD petitions- photo by Alexandria



Artist Emily Winters



Rev. Tom Ziegert  
- photo by Jim Smith

**CASUALTIES IN IRAQ**  
U.S. 4,113 Dead  
29 this month  
Iraqi Dead: 1,225,898

**AFGHANISTAN**  
U.S. 537 Dead

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

Cost: \$532+ Billion

Source: costofwar.com



George Carlin  
May 12, 1937 - June 22, 2008

## George Carlin, renown comedian and Venice canal resident, dies

By Jack Neworth

I'm not sure if it's prophetic, or eerie, perhaps neither that in the late George Carlin's most recent HBO special ("It's Bad For Ya") he commented so much on death. He did it with the same irreverence he gave to other taboo subjects, always with such insight into the truth that audiences laughed at seeing themselves.

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**BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:**

Karl Abrams, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Lydia Poncé, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, 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, sustainers and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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

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**Moon Over Venice**

Dear Beachhead,

I just want to thank you for posting Silvia Kohan's *Moon Over Venice* song on your website, [www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org).

I saw/heard her perform this song years ago and it so inspired me. In fact, so much so that I wrote another song, also called Moon Over Venice, in homage to Silvia's amazing song, inspired by her and my love for Venice. If you would like to hear it you can find it on [www.myspace.com/wendypprofit](http://www.myspace.com/wendypprofit).

I don't have the pipes Silvia has, but the heart is there. Thanks again, I've been hoping to come across her and her song again.

Love, Wendy Profit

**On The Homeless**

Dear Beachhead,

After having received a document concerning a recipe for mending a split in Venice, I wrote:

"Dear . . ., I appreciate your desire to correct what appear to be cracks in the Venice body politic. But what we have here is an issue of national importance. And dissension will bring it to light.

Let me give you a little background. There were no street people such as we have today up to 1950 or so. But in mid-twentieth century the advent of psychotropic drugs and abuses of the systems used to assist and restrain those in need of help brought into being a number of laws to correct the abuses and take advantage of the new medicines. California led the way with other states and the nation following. I lived through that period with personal friends involved on both sides of the issues. It has now come back to bite us. Large U.S. cities currently have growing assemblies of persons who cannot take care of themselves and who are dying on the streets in filth.

So your concern is well received but not conducive to the uprising of personal opinion required to get something done. To that end I have prepared a document which compares eighteenth century (London) street conditions and conditions now found in the streets of Venice. And it does not make our society look good. I want to raise the greatest possible concern and debate. With the elements now in place, it is possible for Venice to lead the way to better understanding and care.

DeDe Audet

**Summer Intern Amanda Renner Joins Beachhead**

Amanda Renner, a student at Southern Illinois University, is working with the Beachhead this summer in order to gain experience with an alternative newspaper. Renner's academic goal is to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Journalism, next year, with a concentration in news/editorial and a minor in sociology. She can be reached at [ARenner@freevenice.org](mailto:ARenner@freevenice.org).



The Collective sincerely hopes that Amanda's work at the Beachhead will not damage her ability to get a job in the mainstream media.

**Insurance Claims**



- Auto
- Motorcycle
- Bicycle
- Slip & Fall
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites

**Michael Millman**  
Attorney

**310-477-1201**

Fax 310-477-0260 • 2100 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Suite #105, West Los Angeles, CA 90025



**A(nother) RV/Mobile home letter**

Dear Beachhead,

Hello to one and all. I've been reading about the conflict and controversy regarding people's right(s) to live in their campers, RV's, mobile homes, vans and cars. As a lifelong resident of Venice (born and raised in the Oakwood District), I don't feel that my opinion is any more valid or logical than someone who has only just arrived... still, I do feel that I have a right, and perhaps an obligation, to speak my piece.

I now live on one of the small streets just near the intersection of Windward and Pacific avenues in a one-bedroom apartment for which I pay a decent amount as well as an additional fee for my parking space.

Why do I pay for a parking space? Because in my neighborhood, which was designed and built at a time when a great many residents didn't have cars, there was not enough parking created for a society wherein each household has two cars on average. So what happens? I found that on the weekends and all week during the summer, I simply could not find anywhere to park my car unless I either waited until after dark or parked anywhere from a block to a quarter-mile from home. Either that or get up at 7:50 pm and hope and pray that someone's left an empty spot that I can use until I had to leave for my damn job at 11 am.

That's right. I said a dirty, bad word... "JOB." It turns out that I actually get up every day and go to work to pay for my apartment, my parking, my life and my lifestyle. As many of us know, it isn't always easy (or even possible) to get a job that will afford one a home near the beach in the greatest city in California. I understand that. I also understand why one would want to be here whether they work or not (almost especially if not!). There's a lot to see, plenty to do and a great life to be lead here in 'Sunny Southern California'.

So although my true inclination is to just say "Get out" or "Get a job" or "Park in another city"... I just can't. I'm just as sad, hurt, mad, disappointed and sick as anyone else that there's a Subway, Quiznos and Coffee Bean within walking distance of my place. (I'm on the fence about Campos and Whole Foods, since they both seem vaguely hometown to me).

However, I think I have a fair compromise to share. First – and foremost – I would very much like for us to all join hands and figure out a way to cut down on the city's expenditure on the gallons and gallons of bright red paint that is used to keep us from parking at perfectly viable and sorely needed parking spaces on the street near our home(s). I'm all for paying for permits for additional cars and/or visitors, but I am strongly against the greed of arbitrarily painting three out of every ten available parking spots red on each street.

Back to the point; you see, I've always loved campers and motor homes and sleeper trailers. I want to own one myself one day, so I get it. We could also use some areas (such as the far end of the Library Parking lot and the unused City Parking right at the beach and on Venice Blvd just east of Pacific) as temporary parking for the Mobile Living set. Perhaps we could even make a couple of permanent spots where people wouldn't necessarily have to move their vehicles each morning for visitor and employee parking!

And here's the great part - - - Any and every law-biding and respectful vehicle that would care to use these newly available over-sized spots should be allowed to do so as needed. The only caveat: each and every vehicle parked in one of the spots would only need to pay a monthly fee equal to no less than 30 percent and no more than 125 percent of the median rent or average mortgage for the immediate area surrounding their parking spot. 'Why' you may ask, 'would the fee(s) ever be more than those averages?' – I can explain: for those of us that live in static dwellings (i.e. a house, apartment and/or condo) in the area, the fees we pay cover our usage of water, electricity, gas and so on. An RV or mobile home may acquire their own from elsewhere or create electricity with a generator (which would not be allowed to run within hearing distance of any neighbors during the evening hours). What we pay for (in taxes) are things like street cleaning, policing, trash removal, etc.

If the parking spot is on the street, the vehicle would of course also need to pay for a permit for each spot that they're using. Extra-long vehicles should – of course – pay for two spaces as they are effectively denying that space to other residents' cars or trucks to park.

In addition, there would need to be very strong vigilance to be sure that health standards, littering and noise are kept to neighborly and respectable levels.

Otherwise, I'm sure there's more parking, space, freedom and less restriction a little further out for your lifestyle. I see a lot of space whenever I drive through Palmdale, Lancaster, Sun Valley, Fontana and the like. Basically – If you feel that you have a 'right' to live on my block, I can't disagree. So you also have the inherent 'right' to earn your keep and pay your fair share for the same rights and privileges as your new 'neighbors.' No free rides.

How's that for "fair"?  
With Love from Above,

Jason S (Venice - Since 1967)



## Five Recent Murders Go Unsolved in Venice

By Jim Smith

Is Venice safe? Not for at least five people whose lives ended violently on the streets of Venice during the past two years.

After more than two months of effort to obtain the information with a Freedom of Information request, the Beachhead has finally been supplied by the Los Angeles Police Department with a list of unsolved murders in Venice.

The list includes five murder victims in the past two years whose killers have not been brought to justice. Originally, the LAPD was only going to give us information for the past six months. We pointed out that if the public knew about these unsolved cases that someone might come forward with information that could lead to a conviction. In some cases, rewards are offered for such information. The LAPD has a 24-hour toll-free number to call if you have any information on these murders: 877-529-3855.

In some cases, LAPD reports state that the victims were homeless, or involved in gangs or drug activity. We have omitted that information when no substantiation to such allegations were given.

The cases from newest to oldest:

**Nathan Alan Morgan** – The Beachhead has pursued this brutal murder in hopes of helping to find the culprits (see Beachheads for April and May 2008). Morgan, a visitor to Venice, was found partially buried in the sand near Ocean Front Walk and Breeze Avenue on March 9, 2008. Police said it appeared that he had been beaten to death and dragged to that location. A surveillance video tape of a brutal beating at 11pm the previous night was turned over to the police, who said the resolution was too low to identify anyone.



Tiny Dancer, aka Verica Popovich

Beachhead writer Karl Abrams had the video tape digitally enhanced. The improved video showed features about the attackers and spectators. However, police said the video showed an unrelated beating (at the same time and the same place!).

**Eric Paul Lorenzo** – On July 7, 2007, Lorenzo was leaving the Lincoln Liquor Locker at around 6pm. Two people confronted him and his friends. One of them shot Lorenzo multiple times with a handgun. The suspect was seen getting away in a silver Prius. Even though the murder happened in broad daylight, on a busy street, no witnesses have come forward.

**Verica Todor Popovich** – Tiny Dancer, as she was known to many, was a popular and sometimes homeless celebrity on the Boardwalk. The front page of the March 2006 Beachhead has a drawing depicting Popovich. Like Nathan Morgan, she was beaten to death at Avenue 19 and Speedway, where she was sleeping. Her body was found on Feb. 12, 2006.

**John Doe** – The police do not even know the name of the man who was found dead of a gunshot wound on the morning of April 27, 2006. Oddly, the police say he was 35 years of age, although no identification was apparently found. It happened on the 800 block of 6th Avenue.

**Coby Joe McBee** – McBee was a visitor from Missouri who was murdered on the hill behind the Dudley Pagoda near Ocean Front Walk shortly after 1am on July 20. He was stabbed in the heart. Reportedly, McBee interceded with a very enraged man who, at that moment was about to take his anger out on a young woman. The 36-year-old victim left behind two young children in Missouri.

## Is Venice Safe? Town Hall Says Yes

By Mark Lipman

The meeting started with the announcement that there would be no time limit, that the organizers wanted to hear what we had to say, that our concerns as 'stakeholders' (or was that 'shareholders'?) were what was important and so the microphone opened.

As usual there was the customary trepidation, no one wanted to speak first. Finally, one thin, frail woman raised her hand. The topic was safety and by her manner one could tell that she was deeply worried, what she had to say was sincerely important. "There's this 'element' that hangs around my fence," she said. "They're up to no good, I know it because they left trash in front of my gate." She then proceeded to produce color blow-ups of a paper bag resting on the ground, very thoroughly captured from three different angles. She was so upset by this atrocity that she said she was thinking of moving.

Next, a gentleman spoke at length about how best to bar and lock your trash cans and gave advice on how to properly call the police. There was no mention of the apparent contradictions in this advice to the safety concern of illegal garbage in Venice.

Concerns were raised about gentrification and bias against the poor, to the moderator's apparent discomfort, as he attempted to cut off one speaker until he was reminded that he himself set the rule for no time limit.

Councilman Rosendahl then spoke to the group reaffirming that Venice was strongly opposed to the war and asked for patience as he and others looked for the proper solutions in addressing the needs of the poor. Additionally, he advised that it would be a bad idea to lock our trash cans as many of the poor are able to eat thanks to their recycling of what we throw away.

Notably, a few residents from the Oakwood area, who have lived in Venice for nearly 60 years, pointed out that those who have only lived in Venice for a relatively short amount of time might find it better overall if they tried to adapt to the culture of the area they moved into, instead of trying to make the area conform to them.

The second half of the evening offered a panel of interlocutors, representing both the fire and police departments, as well as local officials speaking on disaster preparedness.

All in all, as someone who is normally skeptical

of anything official, the government representatives were very impressive. Both Captain Eisenberg and Lieutenant Merlo answered community concerns ensuring the body that they were well prepared for the summer months ahead. It is important to note that Captain Eisenberg presented the latest crime statistics, which show a 9 percent drop in crime for Venice over this time last year. By adding that to the 5 percent drop in crime from the year before means that in just two years Venice has become 14 percent safer. I feel better already.

Another bright spot to this report came from Lieutenant Merlo of LAPD, who confirmed that legally parked vehicles may not be arbitrarily towed by vigilante homeowners no matter how bad the paint job is. "Parking on public streets," he said, "is for the public, that means everyone."

Safety though is not just a matter of one neighbor pitted in deadly combat against another, as we all know. To be truly safe we must also protect ourselves against the wrath of God. To that, representatives from both the LA Fire Department and Mayor Villaraigosa's office spoke on disaster preparedness. To this important community information, LAFD Captain Hudson announced that Community Emergency Response Training classes were being offered free of charge to prepare for natural disasters. Please see: [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com) or call: 818-756-9674 for more information on this program.

Additionally, Stephen Cheung from the Mayor's office spoke about The Great Southern California Shakeout Campaign, the largest earthquake drill in American history, which will take place on November 13, 2008 at 10am. In anticipation of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that is anticipated to take place in LA sometime within the next 30 years. All are urged to participate. For more information please visit: [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org)

Finally, Tsunami preparedness was a key concern of many residents. The city has prepared an evacuation map suggesting that in case of emergency people evacuate east past Lincoln Blvd. or to the highest ground possible (3rd floor or higher). For more information on a Tsunami, visit: [wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov](http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov) and for LA's Emergency Preparedness Dept: [lacity.org/edp](http://lacity.org/edp) or call: 213-978-2222.

Conversely, the Beachhead would like to offer a free lifetime subscription to whomever gets the best ride on the wave.

## Lincoln Place Still Fighting Back

By Amanda Renner

The Lincoln Place Tenants Association held a fundraiser, June 21, in celebration of its recent legal victories.

Sheila Bernard, president of the Association, was there to answer questions, update guests on the case and inform them about the future of Lincoln Place.

Originally there were 795 units in Lincoln Place, however 100 were illegally demolished. Of the units left only 11 are occupied. Meaning that while the nation is in the middle of a huge housing crisis and locally the city is trying to fix the problem of citizens who have had to resort to living in RVs, there are more than 700 perfectly livable low cost units, empty because of our friends at the Apartment Investment Management Company.

Bernard said there are three categories of tenants. Hold-out tenants are those 11 that stayed and fought for their right to live there; Locked-out tenants, who had eviction cases filed against them; and Chased-out tenants, who signed agreements to leave.

The evictions have been proven illegal and now on behalf of the tenants there is a lawsuit pending, Bernard v. AIMCO, which is seeking restitution and damages against the company in hopes of being able to return to Lincoln Place.

"The place is engineered to bring people together," Bernard said.

She said that the 141 households and 191 tenants in the suit are from all walks of life, from families, to business men, to elders, there is a broad spectrum of people fighting to get their homes back.

"One hold up is that although the court of appeals has declared these evictions illegal," Bernard said. "Nobody knows how to get the tenants back in, because the tenants don't ever fight it this far."

They are hoping to be in a courtroom by the end of 2008. Bernard said they are not going into this wanting everything. They are looking for a reasonable settlement where both parties come out all right.

The story of Lincoln Place is not a new one. The Beachhead has covered stories on the housing development since 1972.

## De Olde Town Council Report

By Erica Snowlake

The newly revived Venice Town Council enjoyed its second meeting at the United Methodist Church, June 13, with 39 in attendance, daring the dreaded Friday the 13th. No, a more important taboo was on their minds, the order of the evening being the impending Overnight and Oversize Parking Permits. After thorough go-around on the issue, the Town Council voted to oppose permits and to rally an opposition by organizing petitions against them, collecting as many signatures as possible to bring to the city's hearing on June 26 (see cover story).

All present agreed the permits are not only a cash cow for the city, but also a blatant attempt to eradicate people living in RVs. Some present shared their situations and experiences re: living responsibly in mobile homes, how they feel persecuted by these permits and scape goated by some of the general public as well. Without being provided any other viable solutions these folks will be faced with tickets, fines, and possible impoundment of their homes if permit parking is enforced throughout Venice.

We also discussed the Ocean Front Walk, specifically the new (how many is it now?) ordinance and police practices.

A motion was passed to send a letter to Whole Foods Market, expressing concerns re: local hiring, the right of workers to representation, and allowing the vehicularly-housed to utilize their parking lot overnight. The council agreed to sponsor the July 9 Town Hall on Homelessness at the church. Finally, an outreach committee was formed.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for July 11, again at the church auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. Thanks to Pastor Tom Ziegert for this great meeting-place! Also kudos to Food Not Bombs and Demetrius for nourishing us (with an authentic spartan lentil soup!) All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is your Venice, make a difference by co-creating this ancient forum for a peaceful society.



## What do we see when we look out our window? Are we doomed to see only McSheds and blank walls?

By Fabiola Wright

When my husband died more than ten years ago, I raised my two daughters in our house in a quiet part of the Oxford Triangle. We all loved the back yard. Our house had a big backyard with great trees and bushes. It was our oasis to get away from the rigors of city life.

Then suddenly, several months ago the neighbor directly behind us started building a huge recreation room, inches from our property line. Soon we were looking at a wall of the building almost 16 feet high. We were shocked. The neighbors never contacted us to discuss this building.

The neighbors refused to discuss altering this giant room so I went to the city's Department of Building and Safety. I learned that my neighbors had hired an architect who filed an application with the Planning Department for a garage. It certainly was big enough for a two car garage. The problem was that there was no way for a car to get to the back of their yard as the distance from the fence on the sides of the house didn't leave enough room. The application was a total sham.

The neighbor's experienced architect had to know that a recreation room would never have been approved since the law requires variances or adjustments and the approval of two-thirds of the adjoining neighbors. The building, which was obviously not a garage became redefined as a storage shed. However, it still required the same variances, adjustments, approvals, etc. which were not applied for, or granted. If the architect had originally applied for a

plan to build a McShed this size, it would never have been approved. Instead he skipped the zoning administration which is supposed to be part of the city planning process.

To look at the attached picture one can see how the system failed. Laws, rules and regulations were ignored and side stepped. My property value has been decreased. If large structures like this are allowed with the complicity of the city of Los Angeles, Venice and other communities will suffer, as will homeowners.

When this matter finally comes to a zoning hearing at 10:30 AM, July 17, at 1645 Corinth Ave., West L.A. (off Santa Monica Blvd.), the citizens of the

Venice area should appear to voice their opinions so that their property and community are protected by the rules and laws that exist for their benefit. If we allow some developers and architects to flout the rules, we all lose.

Venice is such a unique area from the rest of Los Angeles, but Venice also has smaller lot sizes that most of Los Angeles. When developers, or uncaring neighbors, are allowed to build a McShed on their property line, or to erect a 30-foot-tall box of a house that blocks the sunlight of the house next door, they are dis-

regarding their neighbors. This is not the kind of community we want. In fact, it will not be a community at all if people are allowed to behave this way.

There is an old saying that a person's home is their castle. When I purchased my home many years ago with my husband, we felt that way. It had even more of a special meaning because we were able to live in Venice not far from the beach.

It has caused my family to change our attitude about being in the yard. Now, we often have to put up with hours of band practice emanating from McShed. Every time we look at this structure we feel as if someone has robbed us of the enjoyment of our property.



## Recycling Bins Set Up on Ocean Front Walk

A press conference, June 12, kicked off a new recycling effort with 12 sparkling-clean blue bins for glass, plastic bottles and aluminum cans, "clean" paper, and other metals and plastics. Appearing were Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Venice Neighborhood Council President Mike Newhouse, and various officials from Chrysalis Enterprises, which will collect the recyclables.

Once you toss your trash in these bins, its gone forever since the bins are locked, in contrast to the existing bins which will now hold only non-recyclable trash, according to the plan outlined today.

There was confusion about how Chrysalis would be paid, how many times it would empty the bins and even how many bins had been placed along the Walk. Neil Guglielmo, Director of the city's Sanitation Dept. recycling program, who was not at the press conference, later told the Beachhead that the funding for the bins was from Senate Bill 332, which provides grant money to the city in the amount of \$1 million per year through the state Dept. of Conservation.



Left: The new recycling bins.

Right: Set out a bag of bottles and cans for your friendly neighborhood recycler.



According to a city official, the bins – called "multi-sort warriors" – cost \$786 each plus tax.

Patrick Shandrick, a Chrysalis spokesperson, told the Beachhead that his organization would be compensated from the proceeds of the recycled trash. Bill Rosendahl said the proceeds would go to the city's general fund, however, he later said he could be mistaken. Newhouse said the city would subsidize Chrysalis for their trash pickups.

A city official said the bins, which can be found every two or three blocks beginning at the Santa Monica border, would be picked up daily. However, Shandrick said the bins would be serviced twice a week.

Newhouse, who said there were 11 bins, credited the VNC with getting the bins placed in Venice. He said there is still funding for placing 50-55 more bins on Rose Ave., Abbot Kinney Blvd. and Washington Blvd. Shandrick said Chrysalis is working to get the program expanded beyond Rosendahl's Council District 11. Rosendahl wants to expand the program to Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Westwood.

It's a win-win program for nearly everyone. But the homeless who live around the beach and rely on the collection of cans and bottles to buy food have just had their lunch money taken away. For now, the only way to help the homeless get a meal, other than

through panhandling, is to put your cans and bottles in the old receptacles where they can be recycled the old fashioned way.

Meanwhile, your money will be recycled downtown ever faster with "pay stations" soon replacing the parking meters in Venice.

## Flags or Freedom

By James Preston Allen

The other day I was attending the reception for the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy's Home Tour when I ran across an old acquaintance who immediately scolded me for being "unpatriotic" for not standing up for the National Anthem when it was played by the Golden State Pops Orchestra at the Warner Grand Theater for their Memorial Day tribute, "We Remember, A Tribute to Fallen Heroes." I have taken a lot of heat over the years since the Vietnam War days for my politics, in part because I stood up as a conscientious objector, but even more so for my continued abstinence from saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

My not standing up for the National Anthem is a protest on moral grounds that killing in any form, except for personal defense, is objectionable and the second, my not reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is my personal protest of the Pavlovian recitation of hypocrisy that we Americans so blindly follow, thinking that the mouthing of certain words in unison makes us somehow "patriotic." What I would remind my former acquaintance and all of the summer patriots along with him is simply this—there is a vast difference between the symbols of patriotism and the true acts of being a patriot. The problem is that we have both leaders and (apparently) followers who do not know the difference between the two.

Standing up for freedom or defending liberty in your daily life takes far more courage than standing up for the National Anthem or the Pledge of Allegiance at a concert or at a Lions' Club meeting. The Civil Rights workers who were beaten and even killed for defying the Jim Crow laws of the South during the 1960s, or Caesar Chavez's grape boycott demonstrations are both heroic acts of patriotism that are hardly mentioned come Memorial Day celebrations. Resistance to tyranny in any form is as truly patriotic to the American creed of liberty as is motherhood and apple pie for Kansas. But I don't generally make a big deal about it. If it makes you feel good or patriotic to stand up, sit down or put your hand over your heart and recite a few words that you don't think much about, that is fine with me. But don't call me a "communist" because I'm actually expressing that freedom by not participating!

Even more so, these days it seems quite antiquated to be speaking in terms of allegiances to nation states at all—being a patriot to one country over another, or even one faith as opposed to another. With the rise of the "global economy," we find ourselves in an increasingly interdependent world, where some 42 percent of what we consume comes from trade with China and the rest of the Pacific Rim nations. There isn't much that gets made in America anymore. And being a loyal American consumer means buying fruit from Chile, oil from Ecuador or Saudi Arabia, cloths from Indonesia, electronics from China or shoes from the next cheapest labor market.

Loyalty to almost anything American, from pet food to automobiles, has kind of gone the way of fealty to the crown—and this without even a good Boston Tea Party to celebrate its passing. If nothing else, we should recognize that there is a higher imperative encompassing a universal loyalty to the world or to mankind's survival in general. With the rising levels of industrial pollution causing global warming, what difference do national borders make? The carbon pollution from one continent warms the whole globe, without respect to any borders. In this sense, old fashion national patriotism takes John Donne's words that "no man is an island" to its most rational, universal end.

There are no borders worth defending if mankind decides to annihilate itself. There will be no nation states to raise a flag for, or to pledge allegiance to, or even to defend, if we destroy the foun-

—continue on page 10







## The Challenge of Freedom

By Mark Lipman

I sit here looking out my window at the world around me. For 232 years I have been free, or so I am told. Free to live, free to speak, free to write, free to think as I see fit, all thanks to the courage of those who would stand against oppression and tyranny; who for the sake of mankind would put their lives at risk, who would forfeit all that they had for the ideal called freedom, so that I would not, so that my children and theirs would not have to live beneath the iron heel of a monarch's boot.

It is thanks to them and those like them that we are able to celebrate our independence; that we are able to look upon our democracy as a beacon of hope. It is for those who fought and continue to fight in the belief that all are created equal, that rich and poor, that housed and homeless, whether black, white, American, Mexican, or Iraqi, we all have the same God-given human rights guaranteed by birth, that I stand before you today.

For as I believe in the idea of America in all its greatness, portent and potential, such that my breast swells with a patriotism, which could only be birthed from a love of one's native land, must I bare the cold hard truth that something is amiss with the U. S. of A. and it can all be traced right here to Venice, California.

As we all know, this country is at war, a war that, for the most part, we are able to realize was founded on a bed of lies. It would also not surprise anyone to know that a great majority of Venetians are opposed to the war. Yet, consciously or not, on a daily basis we contribute to and propagate the war right here at home, just so that we might maintain the precious illusion of freedom.

What does it mean to be free? Surely it is not something that you can only have if you are able to buy into it. That defeats the entire definition of the word. It is not something that you can hold in your hand by putting up a wall, or a fence, or an ordinance; and truly, if we are all equal, it is not something you can have by denying it to others.

That is the crux of the matter. Our society has been so manipulated by the belief that to succeed and be happy it must be every man for himself. We have forgotten that we all live on one planet and whether we sink or swim, we're all in this together. It is not possible to maintain a balance if a handful of individuals prop themselves up by standing on the backs of the great masses. It is shortsighted and selfish and will only lead us all to disaster.

If we in Venice are truly against the war we must come to realize that war is merely a by-product of capitalism; that capitalism is, by its very definition, the antithesis of democracy. As long as the two remain intertwined there can not be peace in this world.

By understanding this we hold a great power, for the only thing binding these two forces together is fear. Through fear we are controlled, like puppets on a string, to work against our own best interests.

Here in Venice, there has been a lengthy debate over safety, yet instead of coming to the realization that we are safest when we care for the needs of others, we call for more and more police to stand guard over our fences. What we see is that there has been a mass of confusion over the definitions of safety and security. Where safety is looking both ways before crossing the street, security is a prison lock down.

If we truly love freedom then it is our duty to defend it with our actions. I do not wish to live in a police state, I wish to be free and therefore I choose the safer path, the path of freedom. What we need in this world is less police and more compassion and where better to begin than in Venice?

Venice is after all an international city. The eyes of the world are upon us. What we do gets reported throughout the world by every tourist that comes our way. It is only fitting that we pick up the gauntlet that has been thrown down to us and rise to the challenge of standing up for something greater than ourselves.

With the resources and talents we have right here in Venice we can create a community that can be held up as the example for the rest of this planet.

By letting go of our fear we allow ourselves to love. By loving our neighbor, whether they live in a house, a car, or a cardboard box, we automatically look for ways to care for their needs and in so by doing we create the bonds of trust which become the bedrock of a safe and free society.

Instead of shunning others and hiding ourselves away out of fear from anyone who would look or dress differently than us, we might try saying "Hello." What we might discover in the process is that we all have much more in common than not. By opening ourselves to communicate we might actually find that we are surrounded by friends; that the only thing there ever was to fear was the fear itself.

## Cityhood Redeemed – The 80 Year Venice Dream

*at the edge of a city enormous with enemies*  
–Stuart Perkoff, Venice poet

By Jim Smith

In May, the Venice Town Council was reestablished as part of the city of Venice to the acclaim of Venetians meeting at the United Methodist Church auditorium. The VTC had been the de facto government of Venice for 20 years beginning in the 1970s. At the May meeting, there was no dissent that Venice once again needs its own independent city organization.

In recent years, too many meetings and closed-door decisions had been made in our more populous neighbor to the east. In fact, tiny Venice has but 1 percent of the population of the city of Los Angeles. No wonder that Venice needs get short shrift in the corridors of L.A. city hall.

Hardly any of our 40,000 Venetians could be oblivious to the problems of over-development, traffic, parking, chain stores, and the growing imbalance between rich and poor in our community. Yet, on none of these issues - or any others - do Venetians have the final say. Even the neighborhood council, which was established by the city of Los Angeles to head of succession movements and to pacify communities with the appearance

of power and decision-making, has not a wit of genuine power. It can only advise our colonial masters in the L.A. city bureaucracy. They are free to ignore it, as they often do.

This month, we are celebrating the legendary founding of the city of Venice on July 4, 1905. Venice was the garden spot of Southern California, and a thriving city as long as Abbot Kinney lived. When he died in 1920, the vultures began circling. The head vulture was the city of Los Angeles, which at that time was much smaller in size and population than it is today. Yet its city fathers were imbued with the vision of manifest destiny, in this case, the extension of the L.A. city limits to the Pacific Ocean. Venice had to be absorbed.

Every trick in the book, including threatening to cut off Venice's water, to infiltrating pro-L.A. voters into Venice, to making promises it would not keep, was employed until Venice finally voted by a small margin in 1925 to be annexed to Los Angeles. Almost immediately things went down hill in Venice. The central Venice canals were filled in, "blue" laws were imposed on our party town, needed city services were ignored and our new fire truck was taken away to be replaced with an old clunker. Demands to restore cityhood began to be heard. Those cries for freedom and independence have continued to be heard nearly every decade since.

Meanwhile, the beach was polluted by Hyperion Sewer Plant. It was quarantined and closed to swimmers from 1943-48. Venice became a "slum by the sea," in Lawrence Lipton's words. It was one of the cheapest places to rent a home or apartment in all of Los Angeles. When the Kinney Company's lease on the pier at the end of Windward expired in 1946, the city - in a final indignity against the founding family - refused to renew it. It was torn down a short time later.

By the 1950s, the city wanted to level Venice as an urban renewal project and build high-rise apartments as Santa Monica had done over the bones of Ocean Park. In the 60s, the city's plan evolved into the Venice Master Plan, which would have turned the remaining canals into a yacht harbor, run a freeway down the middle of Venice, and turn the beach area into high-rises. Fortunately, Venetians came together and successfully defeated the Plan after a long struggle. It was during this time that the cry of cityhood was heard again.

The desire for Venice cityhood sparked the creation of the Free Venice movement. Each Free Venice group was independent of the others but all were united by a desire for freedom and self-determination. There was a Free Venice Food Co-op, a Free Venice Theater Group, a Free Venice Play Group, and many more. The only Free Venice group to survive today is the Free Venice Beachhead. Strengthening the desire for the restoration of cityhood has always been a part of the Beachhead's

"mission." Perhaps it has survived so long thanks to a dogged determination to achieve that goal.

In the meantime, legal hoops were erected to make it easy to get into a city but almost impossible to get out. Even so in Venice, considering how much talent we have in our community, it should be possible to restore cityhood if we really want it. Here are three possible scenarios to winning back our city.



- 1. Use the existing law.** The current law says that any area that wants to establish its own city must vote in favor of separating from the larger city. That's the easy part. It also requires that the rest of the larger city also vote in favor of the separating. This might seem to many voters like voting to cut off their arm. The law is administered by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). You might have heard of LAFCO if you followed the effort of the San Fernando Valley to create a new city (see Beachhead, Oct. 2002 at [www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org)). Ultimately, the Valley voted in favor of succession, but the rest of the city voted against. End of story. The possibility of convincing voters throughout

Los Angeles to vote to let Venice go is made even more remote if the campaign against Valley cityhood is any example. Big developers poured millions into the campaign against succession. They've got a good thing going in the L.A. megapolis and they know it.

- 2. Change the law.** Just a minor adjustment to the Cortese/Knox-Hertzberg Act which LAFCO administers and Venice could break the chains that bind it to Los Angeles. At the present time it would take either Assemblymember Ted Lieu or State Senator Jenny Oropeza to introduce an amendment providing that any part of a city that had formerly been its own city could hold an election to reconsider its vote for annexation. Buyers remorse is a well-established reaction whether it is a new car or a new city that's being bought. Perhaps a committee of Venetians could be organized to meet with Ted and Jenny.

- 3. County Government.** The sprawling city of Los Angeles is nearly ungovernable, and the greater metropolitan area is even worse off. Traffic is approaching gridlock and regional planning is a joke. London, United Kingdom, has solved this problem by creating a Greater London government that deals with these and other regional issues. Within Greater London are 32 boroughs which are basically equivalent to our cities. They make most of the decisions which affect people's everyday lives. Under this system, the L.A. boosters would get an even bigger Greater L.A. and we would get a city of Venice. A county, or regional, government is almost an inevitability given the enormity of the problems we confront in Southern California. The question is, will it result in more democracy or less democracy.

There may also be a point four that will shortly be suggested by a reader, and will be so simple that everyone will jump on the Free Venice bandwagon. Let's hope we don't have to wait another 83 years.

### Same Story, Different Decade

1934: Venetians were becoming more frequently dissatisfied with Los Angeles city government. They were forced to grapple with a government bureaucracy physically remote and preoccupied with ameliorating the economic effects of the Depression. While they expected a fair shake after annexation, it seemed all they got were increased property taxes and little service in return. Property taxes increased by 116% from 1923 to 1929, yet not one bond issue for local improvements was approved by the electorate during the first few years after annexation. Bond issue for a community clubhouse and auditorium were regularly defeated.

—P. 224, *Venice California 'Coney Island of the Pacific,'* by Jeffrey Stanton.





# Once there was an amphitheater and beautiful murals...



Photos from the 1970s, courtesy of SPARC – Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd.



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For forty years after the founding of Venice, the area from Windward to the water was the Kinney Pier, the biggest attraction in Southern California between 1905 - 1946.

When it was torn down, the beach lay vacant until the 1960s when our very own amphitheater – just like in ancient Rome – was built. It was called the Venice Pavilion and it didn't quite measure up to the Roman Coliseum, but it was a gathering point for live theater, community meetings, senior activities (including shuffleboard), and concerts.

It also had a picnic court with stone tables and chairs. In the 1970s, a young muralist, Judy Baca, (bottom right, above) received permission to paint the history of the universe and the history of Venice.

The murals depicted the unsoiled wetlands, the indigenous people who live in harmony with the

land for thousands of years, the coming of the Spanish and the oppression of the missions.

They show the founding of Venice and its glory days, the discovery of oil and its toxic effect on the environment. We see the Beat poets and musicians living in a nearly-free paradise. Some of the thousands of elderly Jews – refugees from Hitler's concentration camps and the garment shops of New York – who once lived in the old hotels on Ocean Front Walk. The Sixties counterculture, which again made Venice famous, and led to institutions and attitudes that are still strong in our community.

Alas, first the top half of the wall was cut off so police could see what was going on inside. Then graffiti covered much of the murals. Finally, the city of Los Angeles decided we didn't need such a prize as the pavilion and tore it down.



# Another Break In The Wall, or Another Wall To Break?

By Maria E. Montano

When one thinks about walls to edify, one thinks about construction, progress and development. However, when one thinks about walls that physically try to separate societies of people, one tends to think opposite with regards to human sociological development. There is no construction of mutual bonds and human compromises to meet everyone's needs.

In the experience of different civilizations, it has already been long proven that gigantic walls do not prevent people from crossing over or under them. Take the Great Wall of China, first built during the Ch'in Dynasty, 210 B.C. This was to keep the northern nomads, Mongols, out of China. The wall was rebuilt over and over for centuries to follow. The original plan did not work, but there are many people buried in the wall, both builders and warriors.

More recently, we had the case of the Berlin Wall, which separated the German society. Between 1945 and 1982 German families and relatives were separated by a wall at their border. This was a response to the Nazi regime, when it tried to rule the western world during World War II. Not even 45 years later that wall came down, at the hands of the German youth. Both side were able to reconcile their political differences, and again unite their cultural roots as one nation. During those 45 years the German people missed their relatives and suffered much emotional trauma; not being able to travel all over Germany as their ancestors had done. The removal of that wall was a historical moment around the modern world.

In the case of Israel and Palestine we now have the great cement slab, that stands gigantically erect, hovering over both Israel and Palestine since 2002. It is indeed a threatening sight, even in photographs. Again, an intimidating wall put up as a symbol of political authority to create separation between two societies. Yet, the wall is just a reminder of the disagreements of religious views of culturally different people, who happen to be neighbors. The wall reminds everyone that the separation is uncompromising. How will the two societies contribute to the sociological progress and evolution of the world, if not through the exchange of ideas, language, food, customs and traditions, and just plain civility?

This is an attempt from totalitarian-type governments to have full control over what people say and do: They are unwilling to allow articulation and amicable communication between communities of people.

—continue on page 10



aliens come to the US in search of intelligent life  
Still looking.



Swami X "preachin'" in the 1970s - Photo by Regina Barton

## The Enneagram

By Swami X

Since neither of us are really doing anything all that significant, I thought we might amuse ourselves for a few minutes with the Enneagram. The Enneagram could very well prove to be the most ancient Numerological System known to man. However, I don't want you to be under, or even overwhelmed by this possibility. Someone, or something, always has to be first. It seems to be an obsession with just about everyone, including Mickey Rooney, Mickey Finn, and Mickey Mouse. Knowing your Enneagram number could help you understand why it always happens to you. There has to be an explanation somewhere.

To arrive at your Enneagram number you add the last two digits of your birth year, then reduce that number to 1 digit by adding them together. Then you take that number and subtract it from ten. If the birthday is in the 2000's, you subtract from 9. The Enneagram number begins on the Chinese New Year, when the Sun and Moon are conjunct in Aquarius. To illustrate, someone born in 1965 would be an 8.

$6+5=11$   
 $1+1 = 2$  2 from 10 is 8.  
 1945 =  $1+4=5$   $4+5=9$   $4+7=8$   $5+4=1$   $5+0=5$   $5+2=3$  etc.

Capice?!

It's good to realize someone could have the same number, but still be very different in the way they comb their hair, or make a crepe. There are only 9 numbers, so, we have to share. After all, they keep telling us we are a democracy. Why would they lie? Space for answers:

1's are the teachers and the preachers of the Enneagram. It is very important that they be right about everything. Ultimately, there is no right or wrong, only what works, or what doesn't work. This seems to be very difficult for a lot of people to understand, so I'll just drop it, and pray they'll work it out.

2's are proud and helpful and willing to go last. They have a challenge acknowledging their own needs, desires, and anguish. Some prove to be saints when they learn to appreciate their own humanity and neuroses.

3's will do anything, rather than fail. Success equates to being approved, accepted, and loved. 3's have a hard time accessing their feelings, and yet they can be charming, lively, and moderately obnoxious. Their favorite subject is themselves. Whose isn't? They have to get over this, or suffer the consequences.

4's are pussycats. Their compassion has no boundaries. They over-identify with their feelings, which causes all kinds of problems in the neighborhood. They are prone to following their

whims, which is why they sometimes end up in Poughkeepsie, with no real knowledge of how they got there.

5's worship knowledge with the vain hope it will assure them of security. They are well-informed about everything, except the secrets of Chinese cooking, Gin Rummy, and the Tri-Lateral Commission. They need to lighten up, get out more, and find a cure for paranoia. They have a positive attitude about longevity, water sports, and sex.

6's look for security outside themselves. Big mistake. They have many fine qualities, but most of them are punishable by law. They must go within to find real security, peace, and a good parking place.

7's are always making plans because the grass is always greener, and less expensive in another part of town. They must get in touch with their pain, otherwise they could spend the rest of their lives being brain-washed by Bill O'Reilly - Disneyland's answer to Dr. Goebbels.

8's bounce between tenderness and greed. Their neurotic need for money and power may divert them from finding "The Blue-Bird of Happiness." Eventually they will learn that vulnerability is not weakness, and that a dominant stance can lead to high public office and impeachment.

9's resist reality, their own and everyone else's. After a while everyone is persuaded to leave them alone. Late in life they may suddenly realize they were never really present. Without a belief in reincarnation this realization could bring on a serious migraine. People who believe in reincarnation come more than once. They make epic storytellers and convincing con men. They have a special talent for fly-casting and premature ejaculation.

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## Book Review: Pat Tillman's "Boots on the Ground" – One Mother's Courage

By Jack Neworth

It's probably fitting that July 4th is only days away as I review a book about Pat Tillman, a charismatic NFL star who left a 3.6 million contract and a new wife to fight for his country after Sept. 11. His enlistment was such a huge story of patriotism he received a congratulatory letter from Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld.

Unfortunately, Pat Tillman was killed in Afghanistan on April 24, 2004, at the age of 27. The entire country grieved as his memorial service was broadcast on national television. When his convoy was ambushed Pat had charged up a hill, and forced the enemy to withdraw, thus saving the lives of his fellow rangers. The army posthumously awarded him a Silver Star. The only problem was they had made up the entire story.

Four weeks later after Pat's death, Kevin Tillman who was in the same platoon but was not present when his brother was killed, was told by his sergeant that Pat was killed by "friendly fire." Pat's mother, Mary, heard the shocking news from a reporter who assumed she knew already.

*Boots on the Ground By Dusk: My Tribute to Pat Tillman* (co-authored by Narda Zacchino) is Mary Tillman's compelling account of her quest for the truth about her son's death. It outlines the ensuing cover-up, which, after four years, seven military investigations and two congressional hearings, still leaves many unanswered questions.



Mary and Baby Pat

"Friendly fire" is a fact of war. Outright lies from the military, generally are not. From the very beginning Mary Tillman was suspicious of the government's story. "It was so contrived, it sounded like a John Wayne movie." However, it was not the first time this administration fabricated a story about its soldiers.

On March 23, 2003, Pfc. Jessica Lynch, a 19-year-old supply clerk, was captured by Iraqi forces in a firefight during which she emptied her weapon rather than surrender. The truth was she had been rendered unconscious when her truck turned over and had not fired a single shot. A week later we were told Lynch was heroically rescued from an Iraqi hospital. But, in fact, the hospital had been abandoned and was empty of any personnel.

Why did this government lie so often? In Tillman's case, his death occurred during the month the Abu Ghraib scandal broke. In addition, the recent rebellions in Najaf and Fallujah handed the US forces their first tactical defeat. This was the worst month to date in Iraq in terms of casualties and the President's approval rating was dismal. The government needed to rally the country behind a failing war so Pat Tillman's death was seen as the perfect propaganda.

The "story" might have worked, were it not for the Tillman family's unflagging efforts to get at the truth. Pat's death was, at best, a result of gross negligence and incompetence, and, at worst, a sinister cover-up by high-ranking officials willing to lie to a soldier's family and the public in exchange for high-

er approval ratings. Worse yet, Pat's death might have been murder. He was an outspoken atheist and critic of the war in Iraq, neither of which was popular in his unit.

The book title comes from the order received by Tillman's commanding lieutenant, that they were to split the convoy in two and "have boots on the ground by dusk." The order was given far away from the battlefield and was strongly objected to by the lieutenant. The latest story is that the order was in fact "by dawn" and was somehow misunderstood.

Most cover-ups fail because of inconsistencies. Tillman's uniform, body armor and journal were destroyed. Why? Tillman's head was nearly blown off and yet records from the field hospital indicate he was given CPR and defibrillation. The Afghani soldier killed next to Tillman was shot eight times in the chest and yet the official report says he was prone at the time of the shooting.

It is incomprehensible how a government asks its citizens to serve in its military when its leader opposes GI benefits, when its wounded are treated with inferior care (Walter Reed) or when it lies to the grieving families. It is perhaps fitting this is written so recently after a former press secretary said of the current president that he was not "open and forthright," and that he had relied on "propaganda" to sell the war. It is also worth noting that Donald Rumsfeld, who wrote to Pat when he enlisted, did not send a word to the Tillmans upon Pat's death.

The determination and courage of Mary Tillman and her family is remarkable. Pat sacrificed everything for honor and country. *Boots on the Ground by Dusk: My Tribute to Pat Tillman* is important reading for anyone who values those principles.



Pat Tillman

## George Carlin, renown comedian and Venice canal resident, dies

—continued from page 1

His rift on death began by his boasting that he had a new hobby, that of crossing the names of friends who had died from his address book. "You do that?" he asked rhetorically. "That's a lot of fun, isn't it? Gives you a feeling of power. Superiority to have out lasted another old friend. But you can't do it too soon. Oh, no. You can't come running home from the funeral and get the book out. A little time has to pass. I have a rule of thumb, six weeks. If you're a friend, and you're in my book, and you die, I leave you alone for six weeks. Six extra weeks in my book, on the house, on me."

To really appreciate this, and any of Carlin's humor you have to see it. Fortunately he was so prolific with 14 HBO specials. We can see him on DVDs and TV reruns (he was on Carson 135 times) and hear his comedy on MP3s and albums. (Anyone remember vinyl?) This access to Carlin is not much consolation for losing him when it feels like we need him most, but I'm grateful.

Of course all the admiration I feel for Carlin would make him nauseous. In his act, he asks why people feel the need to gush about the deceased, "It's not like the guy can hear you. But there's always some point after the funeral, back at the house someone will say, you know, I have a feeling Joe can see us now and he's smiling from up there. Really? How do we know Joe isn't smiling from down there? How do we know Joe is smiling? Maybe he's screaming in eternal pain?" How could you not miss George Carlin? What are we gonna do without him?

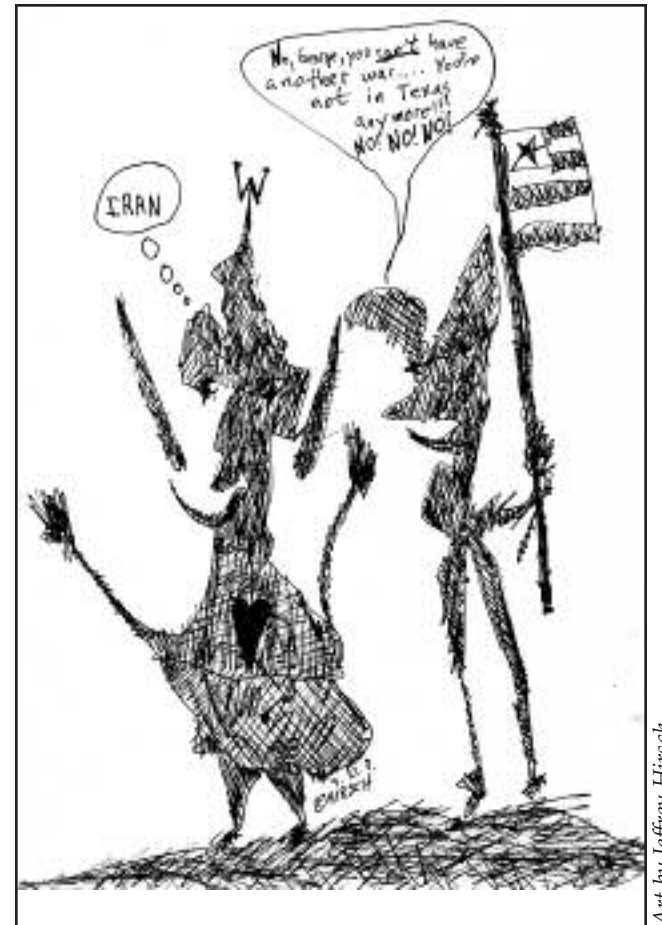
A longtime resident of the Venice canals, Carlin died on June 22 in Santa Monica of heart failure. He had turned 71 in May. Carlin is survived by his wife, Sally Wade, a daughter, Kelly Carlin McCall and an older brother, Patrick.

Carlin performed provocative and influential comedy for 51 years. On November 11, he will posthumously receive the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center. (Not bad for a 9th grade dropout raised adjacent to Harlem in New York.) I can't imagine anyone more deserving. It will be aired on PBS.

Carlin is probably best known for his "Seven Dirty Words" routine which led to the 1978 U.S. Supreme Court case "FCC v. Pacifica Foundation" that established the government's right to regulate profanity on the public airwaves. His humor which was often political and dark, and focused on his special love for language and speaking truth to power. His first Grammy was awarded in 1973 for "AM & FM" and the last one was in 2002.

Carlin's work places him in the pantheon of American comedy. Through talent and timing he was able to bring the danger of Lenny Bruce's humor and the counter-culture into the mainstream. His ground-breaking work has influenced untold numbers of other stand-ups, including Bill Maher and Lewis Black. To get an idea, right now, go to YouTube and type in "George Carlin Nails It."

Forget six weeks, I'm never going to take George Carlin out of my address book.



Art by Jeffrey Hirsch



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## Fire in the Lake

By hillary kaye

when I expose myself to the elements  
when I ask again and again for love and am denied  
when I couldn't break out of myself and blood poured out of every orifice  
when I demand the truth and am scorned  
when I am homeless and helpless and bereft  
when wrong is made right when evil is made palatable  
when vision is blinded when hope is an escape when things pile up and can't be dealt with when love is lost  
when friendship spills to the street like sewage when angels walk among us in agony  
when light is spellbinding when when when things are wholly different  
when things are wholly changed & the roof & the floor & the walls are split apart and then becomes a beginning.

## Summer of Bukowski

By Krista Schwimmer

The summer of Bukowski was hotter than normal even for Venice. Determined to swim in the ocean i bought cobalt swim shorts & three different tops i never swam.

Instead, i found my way into Bukowski's world through his poetry & let the heat take me. Soon, i discovered other Bukowski lovers – friends i had known for years who had kept him a secret from me. “When i first read him,” Shawn disclosed, “i took armloads of his books from the library!” (i had already done this myself.) There was a hidden world of his fans as well.

As i passed out Hank's poems to those worthy of his wit, another friend exclaimed “Bukowski possesses your soul!” True, i wanted to run to his grave on his birthday, but again the heat the heat just took me where it wanted & so i remained content to soak long hours in the tub with just Bukowski – to read him on the toilet – to wake up with him first thing in the morning. My husband not a jealous man at all.

Now the summer is almost gone. The heat remains in early October. And so does Bukowski.

## The Mountains

By Jim Smith

Woke up before sunrise to the east, there were huge mountains just where Los Angeles used to be

It's gone. Who can say why? Now, in the shelter of these cliffs we are free to be a beach town

Our arts, our city, our selves can all flourish as never before in the absence of the megaspawl

Hooray for our beautiful mountains! But when I looked again, I saw that they were only clouds

## He'll Eat Your Breakfast

By Hal Bogotch

Jerry Springer, bolt your chairs to the floor.  
John McCain is mad. Rip your head off, snap your neck mad. McCain is so mad, he's forgotten he's against torture. He's got Nancy Sinatra quaking in her boots. Larry King is chalk white with fear.

Word to the wise:  
walk on eggshells  
when John McCain is this pissed.  
He's got the eye of the tiger, wrapped in the stars and stripes.  
Leopard McCain'll never change his spots.

Hey war hero, why the short fuse?  
No Charles Keating trip wire booby trap henchman end game is foiling your plans.  
No vixen lobbyist head turner mother double marriage spoiler imbroglio is blowing up in your face like a black lace cherry bomb.

Well, then -- what has gotten John McCain's temper past the white-hot point?  
What was served on a plane:  
large curd cottage cheese.  
He likes small.

## My Government Won't Let Me

By Mark Lipman

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

The trains are on strike  
And the cabs look at me funny  
I can't get a ride  
Even though I have the money

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I've heard a lot tonight  
And I've seen even more.  
I want to write it down,  
But my government won't let me.

I'm out of my district  
And dressed rather strangely,  
No one here likes me,  
Because my hair's kinda mangy.

There are police on the corners  
And men lurking in doorways,  
No matter where I turn,  
There's an obstacle before me.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I want to go home  
And empty out my head.  
I want to lay down  
On a warm safe bed,

But my government won't let me.

By speaking my mind,  
They hate who I am.  
They prefer me to be blind,  
Than a liberated man.

They threaten my life  
And scare me to death,  
Till I cower in a corner,  
Holding my breath.

They get in my head  
And mess with my brain.  
They want to convince me  
That I am insane.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

They tell me to trust no one  
And I will be safe,  
Just like a prisoner,  
Behind the walls of a cage.

Hatred and fear,  
They consume everyone.  
But if we can't love each other,  
Then we have no one.

I'm shivering now,  
As I write these last words,  
Still looking for a cab  
And feeling absurd.

But if I don't say it,  
Then that leaves no one.  
The moment you are silent,  
Your government has won.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

I'm tired, I'm cold, I wanna go to bed,  
But my government won't let me.

this paper is a  
poem

## Poem After Living In Jazz Films

By Lynne Bronstein

Jillian dialed her trillion-sparkle cell phone  
But an unfamiliar sound came out.  
It was the Harmelodics of Ornette Coleman and Company  
trilling and drilling away.  
“Monkeys shrieking” she thought and dialed for operator assistance but she got Sun Ra in hippie beads creating the beat of ancient Egypt in modern America.  
“Nothing in Nature repeats itself” Sun told her.  
Jillian, disgusted  
Threw away her phone. She plugged into her Ipod.

But her preprogrammed consultant-spooned choices Had been usurped by the poetry of Allen Ginsberg.  
She got rid of that Howl and ran home to turn on her radio but Jack and Jill had given way to Miles Bird and Trane all together

ganging up on the non-natural repetitive focus group format.  
When she escaped to the TV American Idol had been taken over by street musicians with assorted git boxes and thousand year old blues voices singing of hard work and rough love.  
Jillian reached for her comfortable old slippers but they had turned into Blue Suede Shoes that grinned and shook like Elvis and told her “Don't Step On Us!”  
And Jillian screamed  
“This can't happen here!”  
“This is America!”  
Said the Shoes:  
“It's America. And it all happened here.  
“But you've had your ears plugged into oblivion.”  
“Oblivion” Jillian mused.  
“Is Oblivion a hit?”  
“Can I download it?”

(from *Thirsty In The Ocean*, poetry by Lynn Bronstein, 1980)

## What Safety Means to Me

by erica snowlake

venezian plum tree  
immortal free falling fruit  
sharing abundance

## Is Venice Seedy?

By Mary Getlein

Is Venice seedy?  
R U shittin' me?  
Venice has always been seedy.  
People been dropping seeds here for centuries all kinds of seeds  
plants, sperms, super seedy behaviour  
the guy that invented LSD just died was that seedy behaviour?  
picking up a new drug and trying it?  
And him a scientist, too?  
Venice is a vortex -  
an idea, an ideal  
a place to finger paint, get your feet wet,  
jump off into new ideas  
find a new way to play a guitar,  
beat a drum, yell some new poetry  
It doesn't matter what year it is  
It doesn't matter what new law they've just voted in -  
It doesn't matter how many times they tell us we just can't be that free -  
WE ARE FREE  
We can be ourselves -  
There is room for us  
There is a place for us -  
This is our West Side story -  
Allic Allic In Free - We're Home -  
We're Here and we're not going No Where!



## From the Beachhead Archives October 1969

### When WE Run Venice. . .

by Sam Greenberger

This article is in response to a question asked by the BEACHHEAD staff to BEACHHEAD readers: *If you had a real say in running Venice, what would you do differently, and how? We welcome and will try to print as many articles on this topic as possible (limitation: 500 words).* — the B.S.

The day we run Venice will be the day we return to nature. We will show that technological progress and a life in accord with nature need not be mutually exclusive concepts. Our community will be based on the concept that man is an animal, and as such, must dwell in an environment abundant in pollution-free, life-sustaining natural resources.

Crimes against the environment will be heinous offenses. No enterprise, whether private or public, will be allowed to pollute the air, water or land.

There will be no internal combustion engines permitted. Practical substitute power plants have already been perfected. No industrial wastes will be incinerated into the atmosphere.

No sewage will be deposited in the ocean, nor will any oil drilling be permitted there or on land. No chemical wastes will be disposed of in any manner deemed harmful to the environment. We will encourage the development of economical means of reducing garbage, paper, bottles and other trash to their natural elements so that they may be used in production or returned to the earth.

Venice will have a co-operative farm where organic fruits, vegetables and grains will be raised for the people. The use of health foods will be promoted as a potential solution to the problem of feeding the masses. Experts believe that through natural diet and proper eating habits, Americans could obtain quite adequate nutrition from as little as half their present food consumption.

We will respect the law of nature which tells us that animals need plants to survive and be happy. Vegetation is important as food, as the major producer of oxygen in the atmosphere, and also because natural, green surroundings are essential for the psychological well-being of animals. No more will trees, flowers, dirt and grass be indiscriminately covered with concrete and steel.

Technological advances, provided they are not at odds with the needs of animal and plant life, will be encouraged. With technology channeled in the right direction, we can be rid of mechanical chores and will be left free to dig our healthy, happy, natural community.

But first we must FREE VENICE.

What would you do if you could run Venice? Send your comments to the Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice 90294 or Beachhead@freevenice.org.

## Alternatives Suggested to Parking Ban —continued from page 1

- Diagonal Parking. Some of the wider streets around Venice might be large enough to have diagonal as opposed to parallel parking spaces, allowing more cars to be parked on roads.
- More parking. Instead of spending thousands of dollars simply for parking signs, construct more public parking lots and structures.

Get creative! Please email me at Arenner@freevenice.org with suggestions on how to fix the parking problem without resorting to permits.

—Amanda Renner



Douglas Eisenstark salutes the Beachhead for its coverage of the Lincoln Place crisis.

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac. acupuncture and herbs safe, compassionate care for appointments: 310.403.7018

Practicing in Venice and Santa Monica since 1996.

## Venetians Not Pleased with Overnight Parking Districts

—continued from page 1

If it is approved, the city permit will not be issued until 20 working days after the date of the Notice of Permit Issuance. Within these 20 days appeals can still be made by or to the Coastal Commission.

If a permit is issued by the city engineer, the project can proceed.

Each residential household is allowed three permits at the rate of \$15 each for 12 months. According to a document available at the hearing, there is a chance that they will increase to \$34 in the near future. Two visitor permits are also allowed per household and those are \$10 each, with the possibility of increase to \$22.50 each.

In the Oxford Triangle alone the estimated cost to install parking restriction signs in the area is \$10,000.

Meyer, who ran the meeting, called citizens up in the order that the comment cards were filled out in and allowed them each two minutes to speak.

However, some residents yelled their comments from their seats; saying things such as “you can’t make it so that only people with money can park” and “more parking structures, not less parking.”

There were about 76 individuals who stood in front of their neighbors, friends, coworkers and family members to share their comments. Of those 76 only about a dozen or so were in favor of the overnight parking districts.

“We don’t need a band aid on a flesh wound,” Molly Eastliang said. “And that is what’s going on here.”

Speakers ranged from rich to poor, young to old and homeless to those with a home. However, when most people spoke, it was

not about themselves and how permit parking would affect them, instead their concerns were about the community as a whole.

“It is great to see how many people are on our side [opposed] about OPDs,” Shireene Zahedi said.

Written comments were accepted through June 27. If there are any questions on overnight parking please call 213-473-7890.

The Bureau of Engineering will post the final staff report by mid-July, under the title “Venice Overnight Parking Districts,” this will be available at: [http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental\\_Review\\_Documents.htm](http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental_Review_Documents.htm).



Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and the Beachhead’s Karl Abrams at the Carnavale, June 7. Wait, what’s that T-shirt Bill is wearing?

## Flags or Freedom

—continued from page 4

dation of the ecology that supports life for us all. In the end, the myth of nationalism will fall by our very efforts to protect individual sovereignty and by our insistence on official, yet imaginary, lines drawn on maps that separates us from them.

So, on this coming Flag Day, when you are asked to recite the pledge or on the Fourth of July you stand up for our nation’s proud anthem, please ask yourself exactly what it means for you today. Are you doing it because everybody else is or do you really consider the meaning of it in this time of war, terror, and the greed of oil profiteers?

In the end, patriotism is not a passive act of compliance due to custom, tradition or peer pressure, but an assertion of beliefs expressed by actions. In other words, don’t tell me what a good patriot you are without doing something courageous.

Oh, and one more thing—“The Pledge of Allegiance” was written by a Christian socialist, a Baptist minister, Francis Bellamy in 1892. It reflected ideas shared by his first cousin, Edward Bellamy, author of the American socialist utopian novels, *Looking Backward* (1888) and *Equality* (1897). It was specifically intended to strengthen a sense of commitment to something higher than the raging materialism of the Gilded Age.

He was the chair of a committee of state superintendents of education in the National Education Association, and as such, prepared the program for the public schools’ quadri-centennial celebration for Columbus Day in 1892. It was structured around a flag raising ceremony with a salute—his ‘Pledge of Allegiance.’ He originally considered including “equality” in his pledge, but did not, because he knew that other members of the committee, opposed to equality for blacks and women, would not agree to it.

“Under God” was not inserted until the mid-1950s, when, during the height of McCarthyism, it was necessary to include in order to distinguish our form of thought police from the Soviet Union’s.

James Allen is the Publisher of *Random Lengths News* in San Pedro.

## Another Break In The Wall, or Another Wall To Break?

—continued from page 7

If there was more daily social interaction, it would allow for more bonding, and possibly an analysis of what the “enemy” is really like, once the initial prejudgement is effaced.

Today, there is the proposal to legislate a physical wall of separation at the U.S. border with Mexico. Is this a congruent idea? What effects will it have on both societies, and, the world? Have we really stopped to examine human resources and human relations in cases of totalitarian separation of peoples and cultures? Should we not reconsider lessons of the past before we allow present governments to create more separation, going opposite the sociological evolution of civilized nations?

There is much room left for articulation and rethinking of these ideas.

These physical walls have never proven to be a solution to world economic problems and overpopulation.

The world community needs to come together to protest intentions of governments to create massive walls to separate nations.

The world was developed by people who liked to adventure to faraway lands: Marco Polo, Columbus, Captain Cook, Magellan, Darwin, Neil Armstrong, and John Glenn were some who made the world a little better. They discovered lands, people, and sometimes new knowledge and ideas to further civilization.

The evolution of humankind is that of constant migration and immigration. Cement walls were not ever made by nature, but mountains were made to climb.

Today’s proposal to build a wall between present day Mexico and the United States is yet another useless attempt to separate a society of people from their cultural and linguistic ties. Just like Germany, just like in ancient China, and now Palestine and Israel. People will always find a way to continue to communicate and to better the world. Or have we forgotten about the Ho Chi Minh trail?

We don’t need your thought control.  
—Pink Floyd, circa 1973



# CommUnity Events – day by day

## Ongoing Events

### \*\*\* FEATURED \*\*\*

- **Marx in Soho** by Howard Zinn. \$20. Electric Lodge. 8pm, July 11; 3pm & 8pm, July 12 and 13; 8pm, July 18; 4pm & 8pm, July 19; 2pm & 6pm, July 20



### EDUCATIONAL

- 9:30am, Tuesday, June 3 & 17 - **Westside Quilters**. Group meets to quilt, crochet, and knit. All experience levels are welcome. Some instruction is provided. Abbot Kinney Library.

### KIDS

- 7pm, Tuesdays - **Pajama Storytime**. Alphabet storytime continues (weekly until June 24) with Strong "S." Craft project follows storytime. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- Electric Lodge - "**Moo Moo Musica**" - multicultural music and dance activities for babies thru 4 year old. 9:30am Mon; 10:45am and 3:15pm Tues and Thurs; 8:30am and 9:15am Friday. \$16. 1416 Electric Ave.

### ART

- **James Caprell Gallery** - Trewth - an exhibit "reflecting the veneer of life's obsessions" by James Caprell thru July 5. 1136 AKB.

### MUSIC

- 8-10pm, every 2nd Thursday - **Live Music at Danny's Deli**, 23 Windward Avenue.
- 6pm - Wednesday. **Singer/guitarist Evyn Charles**. Sidewalk Cafe. 1401 Ocean Front Walk.
- 8pm - Sunday and Monday - **Live jazz**. Hal's Bar and Grill.
- **Live Music at The Good Hurt**, 12249 Venice Blvd, See week of events at - [www.goodhurt.net](http://www.goodhurt.net)

### POETRY

- **Beyond Baroque** - Numerous events throughout the month. Check [BeyondBaroque.org](http://BeyondBaroque.org) or 822-3006 for details.
- 7:30pm - Wednesday, **Open Mic night**. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge. 1630 Ocean Park Blvd.

### THEATER

- 8pm Friday & Sat - 3pm Sun - **My Antonia**, a new music dream adapted from the Willa Cather novel. Pacific Resident Theatre. 703 Venice Blvd.
- June 27 - August 3: The Santa Monica Theatre Guild presents **Cabaret**. 2627 Pico Blvd. 828-7519.
- 8:30pm, Friday & Saturday; 7:30pm, Sunday, **Mamafied** - A world premiere comedy. The Edgemar, 2437 Main St. Ocean Park. \$25.

### POLITICAL

- 10am - 12pm, Sundays - "**The People's Voice**" - Stand up for freedom of speech. Santa Monica Palisades Park. Ocean Ave at Santa Monica Blvd.

### MEDITATION/YOGA

- 6pm - Monday and Thursdays - **Hatha Yoga** - Vera Davis Center. Donation.
- 9-10am (ish), Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays - **Stand-Up Comedy Yoga** on the beach with Vanda and Friends! Rose Ave and the water's edge. 360-789-1466.
- 7-9pm, Wednesday - **Maha Siddha Yoga** with Swami. Indian veg. feast after class. 14 Wavcrest Ave #2. Free.

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead. Send information to [Calendar@freevenice.org](mailto:Calendar@freevenice.org) by the 25th of the month. (If you can afford an advertisement, please take one out - \$25)

## Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, [max10@electriclodge.org](mailto:max10@electriclodge.org)
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - [www.halsbarandgrill.com](http://www.halsbarandgrill.com)
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - [www.pacificresidenttheatre.com](http://www.pacificresidenttheatre.com)
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078
- The Gathering, 132 Brooks Ave. 310-396-8205 - [www.udcworld.org/thegathering](http://www.udcworld.org/thegathering)
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from San Juan Ave.) 606-2015

### Wednesday, July 2

- 7pm - **The Celluloid Palette** - Films about Artists. Insights about the creative process and the cult of personality. Sponto Gallery. Free.
- 7pm - Neighborhood Council **Land Use Committee**, Westminster Auditorium.

### Thursday, July 3

- 7-10pm - **One Hawai'i** with Keali'i Reichel, Na Leo, Weldon Kekauoha and Hula Halau. Hawai'i celebrates Independence Day on the mainland. Santa Monica Pier. Free.
- 7:30pm - **The Night Before the 4th** - A patriotic preparation with Leslie Perry, Linda Pollack, Ross Altman, Susan Griffin and Code Pink. Beyond Baroque. \$7. \$5 senior/students.

### Friday, July 4

- All Day - **Happy Birthday Venice** (103rd) and USA.
- 11am - Join Catholic Worker and AFSC for a **Memorial Service and Peace Walk**. Santa Monica Beach, gather at Arlington West (north side of pier). For more info call: 323-267-8789.
- 11am - Venice Beach **Walking Tours**, with Jeffrey Solomon. Rose Ave and the Ocean Front Walk.

### Sunday, July 6

- 5pm - **Open Reading**: Deborah Edler Brown, poet and author and Daniel Garcia-Black, poet and musician. Hosted by Marie Lecrivain. 2 poem limit. Beyond Baroque. Free.

### Monday, July 7

- 6pm - **Finnegans Wake** Discussion Group. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.

### Wednesday, July 9

- 4pm - **Puppet Show**. The magical misadventures of Walnut the Wizard. Performed by Swazzle. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- 6:30pm - **Venice Town Hall on Homelessness and Criminalization**. Leading experts Gary Blasi and Carol Sobel present the hard facts with other guests and slide show, short film, music and activities. Venice United Methodist Church. 1020 Victoria Ave.



### Thursday, July 10

- 4pm - **Passport to reading poetry Slam** workshop. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Spanish Harlem Orchestra**. Greatest Salsa orchestra in North America. Santa Monica Pier. Free.

### Friday, July 11

- 7pm - **Venice Town Council** meeting. All Venetians welcome. Methodist Church Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. Dinner served at 7pm - Donation \$5, if you got it.
- **7:30-10pm. First Friday** on Abbot Kinney Blvd. has been moved to **2nd Friday** for July only. Stores are open!
- 7:30pm - A **live reading/performance** of the texts of Lawrence Weiner. Beyond Baroque. Suggested donation \$10.

### Saturday, July 12

- 11am - **Westside Writers** meet to discuss works in progress. All Welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
- 7:30pm - The Summer Lit Show - **Suzy Williams performs songs based on words** by Truman Capote, Dorothy Parker, Langston Hughes, Jack Kerouac and original music set to the words of Shakespeare, Vonnegut, Nabokov, Lewis Carroll, Steinbeck, Baudelaire, Norton Juster, and Raymond Chandler. Beyond Baroque. \$10.



### Monday, July 14

- 6-10pm - **Perez Political Films**. Documental films shown at the Unurban Coffeehouse. Free.

### Tuesday, July 15

- 7pm - Neighborhood Council **Board of Officers** meeting, Westminster Auditorium.

### Wednesday, July 16

- 4pm - **Magic Wands**. Make your own wands and dazzle your friends. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- 7pm - **Women's Films** - Live music preshow with Venice BluesMama, Joy Rippel. Sponto Gallery.

### Thursday, July 17

- 7:30pm - Join in celebrating five years of **poetic diversity**. Beyond Baroque.
- 7-10pm - **Victoria's Secret Pink PINKapalooza** with special musical performances. Santa Monica Pier. Free.

### Saturday, July 19

- 7:30pm - Beyond Baroque's 40th Anniversary Series: Jeffrey McDaniel and Amy Gerstler.

### Monday, July 21

- 6:30pm - **Goddess Sites**. Author Karen Tate invites you to come explore historic and archaeological sites around the world devoted to the Mother Goddess. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.

### Tuesday, July 22

- 7pm - Neighborhood Council **Land Use Committee**, Westminster Auditorium.

### Wednesday, July 23

- 4pm - **Venice Art Walls**. Participate in the making of a mural with talented artist Eric Moreno. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.

### Thursday, July 24

- 4pm - Passport to reading - **Graffiti Art** workshop. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Bachata Roja Legends**. Dominican sounds of the classic. Santa Monica Pier. Free

### Saturday, July 26

- 1pm - Vegan Potluck; 2:30 pm - Acoustic set; 3:30 - 6pm, Jam/Dance with DJ - The Poets Spirit at The Learning Garden, Venice and Walgrove - 309-0601.
- 7:30pm - Live from the world stage: **Billy Burgos, George McDonald and Tchikonsase Aje**. Hosted by Jawanza Dumasani. Beyond Baroque.

### Wednesday, July 30

- 4pm - **Magic Show**. Reading is truly magic with Tony Daniels. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.

### Thursday, July 31

- 7-10pm - Michelle Shocked with Mike Farris. Sanctified Americana. Santa Monica Pier. Free.

## Who Ya Gonna Call?

Trash pick up of large household items  
310-575-8393

Street & alley maintenance  
213-485-5661

Graffiti removal  
310-391-6302

Emergencies  
911

City of L.A.  
311

County of L.A.  
211

Clip 'n Save

[www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org)





## First Venice Eco-Fest Attracts Thousands

Mother Earth consciousness, environmental doo-dads, eco music and poetry and a beautiful day in Venice consumed the attention of thousands of Venetians and visitors, June 28.

A host of sponsors (see above), including the Free Venice Beachhead, helped make a reality of Stephen Fiske's dream of bringing a major environmental event to Venice.

Exhibitors included the Ballona Institute, Be Love/Common Peach, Beyond Baroque, BioPro Technology, Bohemian Exchange, California Recycles, California Solar Energy, Earth Friends, Pure Water Science, Santa Monica Baykeeper, South Central Farmers, Venice Arts Council, Voice for the Animals, and lots of Yoga practitioners, healthy food advocates and wholistic medicine groups.

A big stage was busy all day. Local music groups included the new Canalgators, Superbroke, and Suzy Williams and The Backboners. Poetry was interspersed, but as usual, did not get the same billing as the music.

The only shortcomings were a lack of expert speakers on the environment who could offer solutions to the environmental/energy problems we face today.

In a refreshing contrast to many festivals, the booths contained environmentally-conscious products where the aim seemed to educate as much as make money and then move on to the next festival.

The festival took place within sight of the beach and the ocean. At the rate we're pumping carbon into the atmosphere, the entire festival area, and most of Venice, may be under several feet of water within a few years or a few decades.

Perhaps events like the Eco-Fest will help make people aware of the danger of global climate change before it's too late.

Fiske told the audience that there would be another Venice Eco-Fest next year. By then more dire changes in the climate may draw an even larger crowd yearning to do something positive.



A teacher at the Yoga Vedanta Center, practicing yoga in front of their booth.  
Photo by Amanda Renner



The California Dance Institute.



Two visitors from San Pedro.



A visitor from far away.



Alfred Johnson & friends



Kathy Leonardo

All photos by Jim Smith, unless otherwise noted.

## Part of the crowd at the hearing on overnight parking permits, June 26 (see page 1)



Photo by Alexandria