

★ **FREE VENICE** ★

Special Independence Issue

BEACHHEAD

CHEE WAH-WAH

July 2010 #345

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Venetians Speak Truth to Power at the Coastal Commission



A Day at the Beach with the Coastal Board

By Jim Smith

The California Coastal Commission began discussing Venice permit parking around 4 pm, after hours of hearing testimony from Venetians who overwhelmingly opposed the scheme.

At first, I had trouble comprehending that the "square" looking Mark Stone was saying that he would oppose the recommendation from their staffs to support Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs). Then another Commissioner joined him in opposition, then another. The room began to sway and tilt. I couldn't tell if it was the "big one" or a cataclysmic political event that was rocking my world. The woman next to me dug her fingers (talons?) into my shoulder, as if she would otherwise fly off into space.

I suddenly snapped out of my delusions when Richard Bloom, formerly a Santa Monica City Councilmember, began to propose a compromise. He made a substitute motion that there would be six months of enforcement of an oversized vehicle ordinance after which the city would have to come back to the Coastal Commission if it wanted to institute permit parking. I thought, "please no, not another hearing." But to my surprise, the other Commissioners weren't going for it. Several mentioned that the city had provided no evidence that there was a problem with access that needed regulation to fix. No one had come forward to say they couldn't get to the beach because of the RVs, they observed. There had been no parking study, as Steve Clare and others had been telling them for hours.

—continued on page 8



Artist Emily Winters tells the Commissioners to reject OPDs.

—Photos by Jim Smith

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Beachhead Collective Staff: Karl Abrams, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, C.J. Gronner, Roger Linnett, Lydia Poncé, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.

Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org

Web: www.freevenice.org

Twitter: twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead

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Albert Vera

Dear Beachhead,
Albert Vera died last week in Culver City. I went to his 'commemoration' at Holy Cross Cemetery on Slauson in Culver City.

I saw Sol Grammatico there. He ran against Ruth Galanter in her first race for Council District 6. He was from Culver City. All the politicians were there as well, elected officials and their wives....and an honor guard of the fire and police departments, and the priest actually asked the people to give Albert Vera a loud and sustained applause for his service to the community. Can you imagine that? It was a Catholic ceremony.

Albert Vera ran the Sorrento Market on Sepulveda in Culver City, down by the mall there at the Richard M. Nixon Freeway appendage.

Well, Anyway.

Albert Vera was an Italian and he came to California in 1947 as a teen or so, after WW II. Then, what happened?

He worked hard. Got Married.

He raised a family.

He became a small business man in Culver City. He was successful. His neighbors liked him, and trusted him, and he gave back, and back, and back.!

Because he was trusted and loved by the community people (we can say the 'citizens' which we in Venice cannot!) of Culver City, he was elected Mayor three times in popular votes of the people. He was trusted and loved and respected. A very simple immigrant.

And then after his service he went back to his Sorrento Market: Where he worked with his partner and comrade Ursula until he was suddenly struck by a heart attack and died right there and then in his home. He was about 75.

Ursula had just hours before been admitted to the hospital with a high fever. She is really ill with a kidney problem.

I knew Albert Vera from the Sorrento Market where I often shopped ---for the best of everything and service etc---great, great bread and fresh pasta for example.

I knew his name from the campaign signs during election days when driving through Culver City.

I was always glad to see him and Ursula at the Sorrento Market. What a generous, wonderful, honest, concerned and caring Man.

Arnold Springer

Vending on Ocean Front Walk

Dear Beachhead

I am writing about the terrible situation the crafts people of the OFW are finding themselves in and it is getting worse as the summer season begins.

There are TOO MANY COMMERCIAL VENDORS taking up vital space on the OFW. The ordinance is not being enforced, vendors are not asked to display their work to Recs and Parks before getting a permit, anyone and any age can receive a permit. It is so sad to see over 200 real artists not receive a permit to set up while there are endless tables selling plastic factory-made goods that takes away the authenticity and uniqueness of Venice Beach.

Why can't the old rule of "MAKE YOUR ART ON THE SPOT" be enforced in some or most designated areas? It has always been a solution to some of these problems.

The main issue with the lottery these days is that people are just joining the lottery to get a space in order to "sell it" to the highest bidder. Also, you now have vendors paying people to join the lottery to ensure they get a space. You also have several (or more) family members joining the lottery even though half of them do not participate on the OFW.

There has to be more control over the permit and lottery system, before Venice Beach becomes just another swap meet. The lottery has long been a corrupt system that does not protect the rights of the artists of the OFW. I encourage fellow Venetians, artisans and other concerned members of the public to write to Bill Rosendahl at bill.rosendahl@lacity.org and tell him of your concerns. Help Save Venice Beach!

Della Franco

Special Event
7:30 pm, Saturday, July 10
Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice
Mariana Dietl, award winning Argentine-American writer and journalist whose novel, "Confined," began in Philomene Long's Master Class at Beyond Baroque. Mariano Zaro is a poet, fiction writer and winner of the 2004 Roanoke Review Short Fiction Contest.
Pegarty Long is a photographer, painter and award-winning filmmaker. "The Irish Vampire Goes West" and a filmic trilogy, "Incision," starring Philomene Long. Beyond Baroque. \$7 students, \$5 seniors, members free.

Free Speech on Ocean Front Walk

Dear Beachhead,

On Sunday, June 20, Dave Bradt (Mr. Anti-circumcision), Norman and Stella (Urantia), and I (general political commentary) were set up in the Sunset Pagoda area, as we had been led to believe by second hand reports from LAPD officers on the Pacific detail that we had every legal right to do. Our displays were compact and did not impede any traffic into, out of, or through the Pagoda area.

Early in that afternoon, LAPD officer Quesada approached Dave Bradt as I watched from the other side of the pagoda area.

After a few minutes of observed discussion between Officer Quesada and Dave, I joined the exchange, explaining that I was part of the group who had opted to do this. One of our justifications for being in the Pagoda was that the eight (8) black spaces purportedly set aside for first amendment people like us (LAMC42.15 section B (5)) were all occupied by aggressive commercial vendors of various inclinations and that we had been informed we could set up in the Pagodas.

Officer Quesada, while being very sympathetic to our plight, told us that we had been misinformed. We could NOT set up in the Pagodas. If we were allowed to be there, soon many others would be vying for the spaces. She told us we needed to go to the Recreation and Parks Office on Windward Plaza and ask them to make those black spaces available to us as LAPD had nothing to do with space allocation and usage. I told her I was willing to move but would not do so until my partners returned from a rest room break; the woman is 91 years old and I was not about to abandon her without telling her what was going on.

Shortly after, Officer Quesada returned to our little group in the Pagoda and told us she had found us a space but we needed to move there right away. Dave and I gathered what we could of our displays and took them to the space Officer Quesada had cleared of an illegal vendor for us. After moving all our stuff, Dave and I walked the Boardwalk to the Rec and Parks office to request that the people there remove the illegal vendors in the black spaces, with Dave taking pictures of the black spaces on the way.

We hoped to document the evidence of unacceptable commercial vending in those spaces. At space P-28 we encountered threats and hostility. We later learned that one of the individuals involved threatened to "kill" us.

When we got to the Rec and Parks office, it was closed and a message on the door gave the hours (for permit purchase) as Mon-Sat 12noon to 4pm.

We returned to our new space and reorganized our prematurely disrupted displays.

My usual routine is to walk the Boardwalk after I have dismantled and stored my display. I look for plastic that may contaminate the ocean and kill our fish and fowl. I also pick up discarded evidence of city-sanctioned commercial vending on the Boardwalk. I now have two grocery bags full of "evidence," should any civic minded soul care to look at it. Last Sunday, I did not do this routine check. I did not feel safe after the verbal threats that I learned were directed at me.

We are concerned that:

1. Commercial vendors are being allowed to occupy those black spaces, which have purportedly been set aside for First Amendment Free Speech Activists such as Dave, Norman, Stella and myself.
2. That the people occupying those spaces feel free to threaten us with bodily harm when we gather evidence to support our claim.
3. That Recreation and Parks has let these commercial vendors occupy those eight spaces and sell with impunity for over two years, while we have been afraid to take them due to threats to our persons.
4. We request that these spaces be identified in situ as available "for Free Speech Activity only, NO VENDING."

We ask that this unacceptable and unconstitutional situation be remedied at once.

We further ask that steps be taken to insure our safety from assault or other harm while, before and after occupying those spaces.

In addition, we ask that those spaces be relocated further north on the Boardwalk where they will be less vulnerable to possible assaults to legitimate occupants by aggressive commercial elements masquerading as religious or other organization.

Therese Dietlin

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Planes Over Venice, or Santa Monica?

By Laura Silagi, Stephanie Body, Ingrid Mueller, Joan Miner and Mindy Taylor-Ross.

Santa Monica residents have received a lot of press lately about the FAA test flight path of a few propeller planes over Santa Monica. The test is over and the residents of Santa Monica are happy that all flights again have returned to departing over Venice. But what about those who live in Venice? Are we a dumping ground for Santa Monica?

We have no say in where the planes fly. Despite years of calls and meetings with the Santa Monica Airport (SMO) officials, Venice receives no relief; we are in the same situation as before.

Here are some facts:

In 2009, there were on average 153 flights per day out of Santa Monica Airport (SMO), of which jets accounted for 19 operations per day, according to Robert Trimborn, Airport Director. During the FAA test period of flights over Santa Monica approximately 10 planes per day were rerouted over the Sunset and Ocean Park areas of Santa Monica, according to a 3 month interim evaluation by the FAA.

This caused the residents in Santa Monica to organize, petition and call the airport with the official tally for May being at least 3,500 complaints. The City of Santa Monica was very supportive of its own residents, and even Congressman Henry Waxman wrote a letter to the FAA protesting this egregious intrusion into the quality of life to his Santa Monica constituents.

In Venice, there is an average of over 150 flights per day flying over our homes. All the jets that depart out of SMO fly over Penmar Golf Course and down Rose and the sound and fuel pollution is spread out over the adjacent densely populated neighborhoods.

The noisy prop planes flying east are recommended to turn south at Lincoln and head east near Venice Boulevard. SMO calls this their "Fly Neighborly" program. It is certainly friendly to Santa Monica. Now the residents of Santa Monica want to make the flight path over Venice mandatory. SMO benefits the City of Santa Monica with no benefit to those in Los Angeles.

Airport departure hours are weekdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends starting at 8 a.m. Basically, Venice is assaulted from early morning to late at night. And there is no curfew on landings.

In addition, the six flight schools that are housed at SMO use the airways over Venice for practicing. They circle over the homes, schools and businesses all day and evening. They practice what is called "touch and goes." Student pilots take off from SMO and circle around to the south of the airport and then head east, returning to the airport to land and then take off again. They practice the same procedure over and over again. And on weekends they practice "taxi back" procedures which simply means they land and then go to the end of the runway before starting the procedure again.

In a recent report by a team of Pediatric Residents at UCLA entitled "Santa Monica Airport Health Impact Assessment," the doctors analyzed other studies regarding negative impacts of other airports and assessed the results with Santa Monica Airport. One example cited from England showed that sound pollution above 55 decibels can affect the learning abilities and hearing of children. This is well below the noise level of jet plane take-offs.

Researchers from this study suggest aiming for noise exposure maximum values of 55 decibels during the daytime in order to protect the more sensitive segments of the population, such as children and the elderly. The report also details other potential negative health effects of Santa Monica Airport on the surrounding community especially to children, older adults and people with cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, or diabetes.

In the Venice and Mar Vista area alone, there are over 11 schools, from elementary through high school, as well as adult schools that lie in the flight path of both props and jets. There are also many day-care centers and young children at home, at the beach and in local parks exposed to sound pollution.

A recent UCLA research team led by Dr. Suzanne Paulson, published a study in which the area downwind, east of the airport was monitored for air pollution. High levels of Black Carbon particulates and very high concentrations of Ultra-fine particles were found.

Ultra-fine particles can enter a cell wall and travel virtually anywhere in the body. There is anecdotal evidence of high concentration of cancers in that area. Pollution levels associated with jet idle and



jet blast measured in the Los Angeles neighborhood east of the airport can be as high as most anywhere in Los Angeles. Although this study did not include Venice, we can assume that there are health risks here from air pollution caused by departing jets in particular.

And there are safety and quality of life issues. Student pilots flying over densely populated areas scare many people. Old planes and vintage planes are not restricted from SMO. There is no buffer zone required for jets. For more than twenty years, the FAA waived the runway length requirements for jets at SMO. Pilot error or mechanical malfunction can lead to tragedy.

Meanwhile, Congressman Henry Waxman and the City of Santa Monica continue to ignore the noise and pollution complaints that come from neighboring residents of Venice, Mar Vista and West Los Angeles.

What can be done?

There are now groups organized to fight this environmental injustice, and the new Venice Neighborhood Council's Santa Monica Airport Committee is open to all those who are interested.

This committee has a survey on the VNC website for those in Venice who are adversely affected by the airport. Go to <http://www.grvnc.org/node/1419>. Comments from those who participated so far include: inability to carry on a conversation in the home; work at home without constant noise; house shaking with vibrations as planes going overhead; blackened leaves on plants and fruit trees; children living in fear of planes crashing into their bedrooms; and the constant irritation of noise pollution.

The VNC group is trying to assess the number of people and areas in Venice where residents are affected by the SMO. That information will be publicized and used to pressure politicians to pay attention and change the situation for Venice and its neighbors. Venetians need to organize to fight for clear skies, especially targeting Federal representatives and the FAA. The VNC Santa Monica Airport Committee meetings are held every third Wednesday, 9 a.m. at the Rose Café. Check the VNC website for upcoming dates, agenda items and minutes.

City councilman, Bill Rosendahl, has spoken out repeatedly about the problems SMO causes for Los Angeles residents. He has said he is willing to lie on the runway to make his point. Perhaps we should take him up on this offer and join him. And please join in the struggle to stop Santa Monica Airport abuse. It is also time to again complain to SMO regarding noise since they send these complaints to the FAA. Santa Monica Airport 24 hour noise reporting: 458-8692.

Websites for further information:

VNC Santa Monica Airport Ad-Hoc Committee
<http://www.grvnc.org/node/1420>

Concerned Citizens Residents Against Airport Pollution <http://jetairpollution.com/> (a great resource for past and current information and actions.)

Santa Monica Airport Health Impact Assessment
http://www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/hiaclic/pdfs/SM_Airport_Health_Impact_Assessment.pdf

Aircraft Emission Impacts in a Neighborhood Adjacent to a General Aviation Airport in Southern California
<http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/es900975f?cookieSet=1>

Santa Monica Airport Noise Complaint Form
<http://www.smgov.net/departments/airport/form.aspx?ekfrm=8886>

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How Venice Voted

This review of how Venice voted carries on a Beachhead tradition established by Arnold Springer many years ago. These are semi-final results of the June 8 election. The final results can be found on www.lavote.net after July 8.

In the June primary, Venetians once again proved two things about their politics. First, they are more progressive than the rest of Los Angeles, and second that they are too lazy to actually get out and vote. Less than 17 percent went to the polls. Not to worry, soon the corporate oligarchy will relieve all of us of the burden to vote because it is too expensive.

One might think that this year there would be ample reason to spend a few minutes at a local polling place. Marcy Winograd, whose views are simpatico with most Venetians was taking her second crack at defeating Jane Harman, the darling of the spooks and generals. In the Assembly race no less than three Venetians - probably a record - were in the running in



Betsy Butler

the hotly contested Democratic primary. One other fact that emerged in this election is the divergence in the amount of "leftness" between Venice north of Washington Blvd. and Venice south of Washington Blvd. In the Peninsula, they even favored Harman over Winograd. What's wrong with those people? Aren't they read-

ing the Beachhead?

Most of those Venetians who did vote went with the candidate who spent the most money, Betsy Butler, and not with any of their neighbors. Meanwhile, Winograd did well in Venice, but not well enough to offset aerospace country in the South Bay which voted hugely for Harman. Winograd did marginally increase her percentage district wide, rising from 37.5 percent in 2006 to 41 percent this time. Let's see at that rate, she might defeat Harman in only four more elections. Harman again outspent Winograd by a 2-1 margin (\$520,847 to \$267,825)

In the Assembly race, surprise, surprise. Those who spent the most, got the most votes. Butler spent more than \$400,000 to win 26 percent of the vote district wide. Also district wide, Venetian James Lau came in second with 18 percent, and it only cost him \$360,000. But in Venice 90291, another Venetian, Nick Karno came in second with 23 percent. He finished third district wide, while Lau finished third in Venice. Another Venetian, Peter Thottam finished fourth in Venice and sixth district wide.

Once again, Venetians voted for someone, Butler, who they had probably never heard of before the election. The current occupant of the 53rd Assembly seat, our "in Lieu of a representative," failed to achieve stardom as the Democratic candidate for Attorney General as he had hoped, coming in fourth out of seven candidates.

My conclusion is that Marcy Winograd could have easily won the Democratic primary for State Assembly, where she could have been a helpful resource for Venice and other communities. In four

years or so, she could have used her strong record in Sacramento to run, and win, a seat in Congress.

In November, Butler will face Lisa Green, appropriately the Green candidate, Libertarian Ethan Musulin and Republican Nathan Mintz. Trying to unseat Harman will be Republican Mattie Fein and Libertarian Herb Peters. Neither the Greens nor Peace and Freedom put up a candidate against her.

-Jim Smith ☺

Assembly Candidate	Rank in Amount Spent	Rank in Votes Received
Betsy Butler	1	1
James Lau	2	2
Nick Karno	3	3
Kate Anderson	4	5
Mitch Ward	5	4
Peter Thottam	6	6
Edward Saenz	7	7
Diane Wallace	8	8

How Venice Voted - June, 2010															
Nov. 7, 2006	Registered	Voted	Per cent	DP- Ass'y Butler	DP- Ass'y Thottam	DP- Ass'y Saenz	DP- Ass'y Wallace	DP- Ass'y Ward	DP- Ass'y Lau	DP- Ass'y Anderson	DP- Ass'y Karno	Precinct	Congress Winograd	- DP Harman	
Central Venice	838	135	16%	31	8	3	1	6	20	6	26	3201	70	43	
North Beach	842	88	10%	15	9	0	3	5	9	9	11	1243	47	24	
North Beach	865	89	10%	16	7	0	2	7	6	7	18	1244	38	30	
North Beach	874	114	13%	24	10	7	0	2	13	9	21	1938	56	34	
North Beach, Central	867	78	9%	15	4	1	1	1	11	4	13	2388	38	20	
North Beach	921	143	16%	18	7	5	5	2	23	22	18	2063	52	51	
Oakwood	924	129	14%	35	8	6	3	6	10	6	20	5386	58	40	
Oakwood	865	109	13%	17	8	4	5	8	9	2	30	3235	42	41	
Oakwood	817	96	12%	10	7	16	5	4	12	7	17	1542	43	31	
Oakwood	929	143	15%	23	12	5	7	13	26	7	17	1545	61	53	
Oakwood	981	154	16%	30	13	10	9	5	20	7	23	1546	60	62	
Milwood	908	211	23%	51	19	17	3	3	20	13	44	1547	118	65	
Milwood	827	158	19%	19	10	3	2	2	18	29	35	0003	72	54	
East Venice	850	170	20%	23	10	7	3	5	23	15	21	1549	66	45	
East Venice	914	165	18%	32	30	4	3	2	4	30	13	1554	83	38	
East Venice	785	177	23%	34	15	7	2	2	14	19	41	3202	78	63	
Zanja	787	123	16%	21	19	5	9	1	6	7	10	5934	55	32	
Silver Triangle	765	137	18%	40	10	2	2	4	14	15	20	2389	63	46	
Presidents' Row	869	176	20%	32	16	8	5	4	10	14	32	5936	66	58	
Presidents' Row	798	112	14%	14	13	3	1	2	7	5	29	5937	37	40	
Canals	808	134	17%	30	7	4	2	4	16	16	19	2921	68	35	
South of Canals	781	153	20%	36	7	4	1	6	15	24	14	2393	63	57	
Total Venice 90291:	18,816	2,994	16%	566	249	121	74	94	306	273	492		1,334	962	
				26%	11%	6%	3%	4%	14%	13%	23%		58%	42%	
Venice 90292: (South of Washington)													Precinct		
Oxford Triangle	776	145	19%	15	5	6	5	1	4	21	18	2392	48	34	
Pen: Wash. to Hurricane	888	141	16%	26	7	4	7	6	6	6	8	1084	35	39	
Pen: Hurricane to Outrigger	880	177	20%	69	3	1	4	10	7	5	11	3197	34	62	
Pen: Outriggersouth	1096	220	20%	53	11	6	3	15	16	17	10	561	48	94	
Total Venice 90292:	3,620	683	19%	163	26	17	19	32	33	49	47		165	249	
				42%	7%	4%	5%	8%	9%	13%	12%		40%	60%	

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Bus Service Improves But Fares Go Up

Metro also will implement a new Metro Rapid Line 733 that will operate between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica via Venice Boulevard.

The new rapid line will replace limited stop service on Line 333 and will downtown L.A. to Santa Monica, via Venice, seven days a week between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.

The Rapid Bus will operate every 10 to 15 minutes on weekdays during the day with later evening service operating every 20 minutes. Late night service on Venice Boulevard will be provided by local Line 33.

MTA fares are increasing on July 1 from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a ride. Twenty-six percent of operating costs are paid for by fares.

Santa Monica Blue Bus fares are going up from 75 cents to \$1 on Aug. 29. Twenty percent of operating costs are paid for by fares.

Frequent riders, seniors and students can get discounted fares on both bus lines.

There are now Rapid Buses on both Venice Blvd. (MTA) to Union Station and Lincoln Blvd. (Blue Bus) to LAX.

Unfortunately, higher fares will keep many people from riding the bus. A fare reduction would increase the number of riders. How much carbon would be removed from Venice and L.A. skies if riding a bus was free?



Is Real Independence for Venice Possible?

By Jim Smith

*Venice
A dream so sublime
A fate so unfair*

What more can be said about Venice after 105 years? Venice has nearly everything: a beautiful beach, a great climate, walk streets galore, a multi-racial and multi-cultural population, a thriving arts and poetry scene, a habit of creating trends that sweep the country and the world.

Yes, Venice has everything except independence. Does it really matter that we can't make decisions for ourselves, and that our highest form of democracy is to be able to advise others when they make decisions for us. Well, yes, it does matter. In a supposedly democratic country, we are ruled by politicians and bureaucrats in a building many miles to the east of us.

Recently, Venetians have conducted long struggles that have resulted in victories. Just last month, we convinced the Coastal Commission to deny a pay parking scheme devised for us in that high-rise city hall in downtown Los Angeles. Years of effort by many Venetians preserved the biggest chunk of our reasonable rental property – Lincoln Place. Last year at this time we defeated pay parking (it's starting to be a regular event). Before that, we stopped the giant shopping center where Ralphs, Rite-Aid and Ross now reside. We've prevented numerous attempts to run a freeway through the center of Venice, we saved the canals, more or less. At least they didn't become a yacht harbor. Those high-rises along Ocean Front Walk, like Santa Monica Shores, never got built.

These, and many more, are all great victories for Venice. Problem is, we were on the defensive every time. Strategists including Sun Tzu, Clausewitz and Napoleon, will tell you that you can't really win a lasting victory unless you go on the offensive. We've won many battles, but the war cannot be won if we are always responding to someone else's initiative.

This is why everyone who wants a Venice that is unique, and democratic, should now turn their attention to working for and restoring our status as a city.

*So they faked an election, back in '25
And there our independence died
Rise Venice Rise*

When Venice lost its cityhood in 1925, it was a real tragedy. Most of the canals were filled in, many businesses went bust, oil revenue that could have made Venice rich disappeared downtown never to be seen again, and ultimately Abbot Kinney's fantastic pier at the Windward Breakwater was torn down. The only lasting improvement L.A. made in Venice for many years was a police station and jail.

The election in '25 was itself dubious. It was the third annexation vote in as many years. Threats were made to cut off Venice's water supply, shady characters moved into Venice to agitate for annexation and to vote. There should be no doubt that a vote to restore cityhood would be equally difficult.

But restoring cityhood will be easier than reforming Los Angeles. It is a city of four million people. It is bigger than half the states in the United States. It has a bloated bureaucracy and a police force larger than the armies of more than 50 countries. It has so many vested interests that it cannot balance its own budget. Most of its city council is bought and paid for by developers and assorted billionaires. With or without Venice's 40,000 residents, L.A. is too large and unwieldy to function effectively.

Would Venice do any better? Yes, because it does not need such an overwhelming bureaucracy.

Of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, Venice is larger than nearly half of them. These small cities are doing just fine financially. Some are very rich, others have less revenue than Venice will have. Just how much revenue would Venice have? I asked L.A. City Controller Wendy Gruel that question a couple of months ago when she appeared at a Neighborhood Council meeting. She said she didn't know how much revenue comes from Venice, or how much is spent here.

We can safely assume that Venice revenue to the city of L.A. is in the millions of dollars. At least it is far more than the \$50,000 a year that L.A. gives back to the Neighborhood Council. With it, we would be able to beautify Venice, adequately fund social service agencies that do good things for Venice, and make our streets more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Shuttles could take us to shop and transport visitors, urban gardens could provide much of our food.

Will having our own city stop the bickering among Venetians? Not entirely. But if it comes from frustration at not having any power to fix our problems, then there will be less of it and Venetians will work together more than in the past. We will still differ on many issues, but we will be able to resolve

them among ourselves, instead of relying on others to decide what's best for us.

Isn't it nearly impossible to get out of L.A.? It is not easy. There are two ways to do it. We can go to the state agency, Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO), <www.calafco.org/docs/CKH/2009_CKH_Guide.pdf> and circulate a petition according to their rules. One of their rules is that all of L.A. would have to vote in favor of Venice cityhood!

Or, we can change the rules. It's logical that a former city that voted for annexation should be able to opt out. That is, there should be a "buyer's remorse" clause that allows a former city to vote again on restoring its cityhood, without L.A. also voting. L.A. residents didn't vote to annex Venice.

Why should they vote on the reverse?

We can petition our state legislative representatives to author a buyers' remorse bill. They would be under intense pressure from Los Angeles lobbyists not to introduce such a bill, or vote for it, so we had better have lots of signatures of Venetians in favor of the bill to modify LAFCO.

There is no reason to wait for someone to do this. To paraphrase Rabbi Hillel, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

All this and more will be discussed at our old city hall, now Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. on Sunday, July 25 from 3 - 5pm. Be there if you care about the future of Venice.

*One morning we will come out of our homes
with picks and shovels and dig out our canals
We'll come with hammers and saws
and build homes for all of our Venetian family.*

☸

Venice

Obscure Facts About Venice

- Venice was incorporated as a city, not in 1905, but on Feb. 17, 1904.
- The original name for the city was not Venice, but Ocean Park. Today, Ocean Park is the name of the community to the north of Venice.
- The date we celebrate as the founding of Venice, July 4, 1905, was the grand opening of "Venice of America."
- It was not until May 29, 1911 that the park of Ocean Park south of Navy Street detached themselves and named their new city Venice.
- The city limits of Venice extended from Navy St. in the north to Imperial Highway. The southern park, from Pershing Drive west is today called Playa del Rey. Its street names and numbering follow the pattern in Venice.
- The most eastern point of Venice was Walgrove to Beethoven, south of Venice Blvd. It was here that the city of Venice built its high school.
- When Venice was a city, most of the surrounding area was farm land.
- Before Abbot Kinney Blvd. was named, it was called Washington Blvd. Before that it was called Lake Avenue. It was also called El Camino Real.
- North Venice Blvd. was named Pico Blvd. and South Venice Blvd. was named Virginia Ave.
- Palms Blvd. was an extension of Rialto Ave. and was named Rialto. Evidence can still be seen on the alley south of Palms, which is called Rialto Ct.
- The Venice civic center, city hall, fire and police departments were on Lorelei Ave. (now called 17th Ave.), between Pacific Ave. (then called Trolley Way) and Speedway.
- Why are so many streets and alleys in central Venice named for cities in Spain? Originally, they were named for cities in Italy. Did some hispanophile in Los Angeles change all the names after Venice was annexed at 9 am on Nov. 25, 1925? Here are just some of the names that were changed from Italian cities to Spanish cities: Verona to Toledo, Mantua to Granada, Ravenna to Valencia, Modena to Cordova, Pavia to Seville, and Ferrara to Navarre. Oddly Andalusia has always been Andalusia.

The above information was obtained from the city of Venice archives which are now being held captive in downtown Los Angeles. Free Venice!

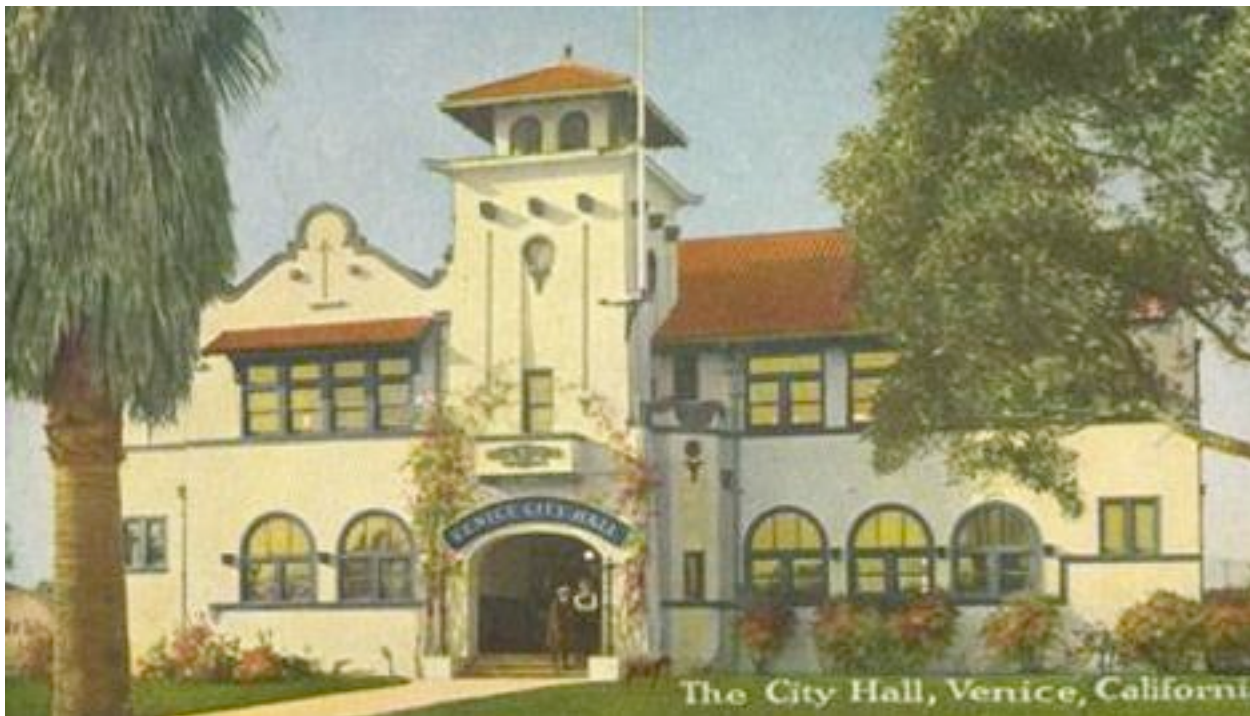
—Jim Smith

**Tired of having L.A. make all our decisions for us?
Get the Facts and Make Plans for Restoring Venice Cityhood
We can make it happen!**

Venice Cityhood Meeting

**at our old City Hall
(Beyond Baroque), 681 Venice Blvd.**

3-5pm Sunday, July 25



Support Building for Japanese Internment Memorial at Venice and Lincoln Boulevards

A campaign promoted by the Beachhead since 2002 is gaining new supporters.

At a meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board, June 15, a slide show was presented, two former internees spoke, Arnold Maeda and Yosh Tomita. Everyone who spoke in public comment was in favor, including Scott Pine, a Venice High School student, who said: "This monument will clearly show the people of Venice, and every citizen who passes by this monument, how easy it is to lose our precious democratic rights. Besides the monument's symbolic meaning, it marks the historical setting where Japanese Americans gathered, to be relocated."

He added: "I found out about this tremendous idea in an article in the Free Venice Beachhead."

The VNC voted unanimously to support the monument and to write a letter to Councilmember Bill Rosendahl calling on him to introduce a motion in the L.A. City Council to authorize the memorial.

Japanese on the West Coast, both U.S. citizens and non-citizens, were put in concentration camps

during World War II. Those in Venice were ordered to report to the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards where they were put on buses to Manzanar.

In recent months, new endorsements have come from the Venice Arts Council, the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, the Venice Japanese American Community Center, the Culver-Venice Chapter of the

Japanese American Citizens League, the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA, the New Media Academy students at Venice High, the Venice Town Council and the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC).

The effort was initiated by the Venice Peace and Freedom Chapter which circulated petitions in 2001. Approximately 200 Venetians signed in support of the idea. ☸



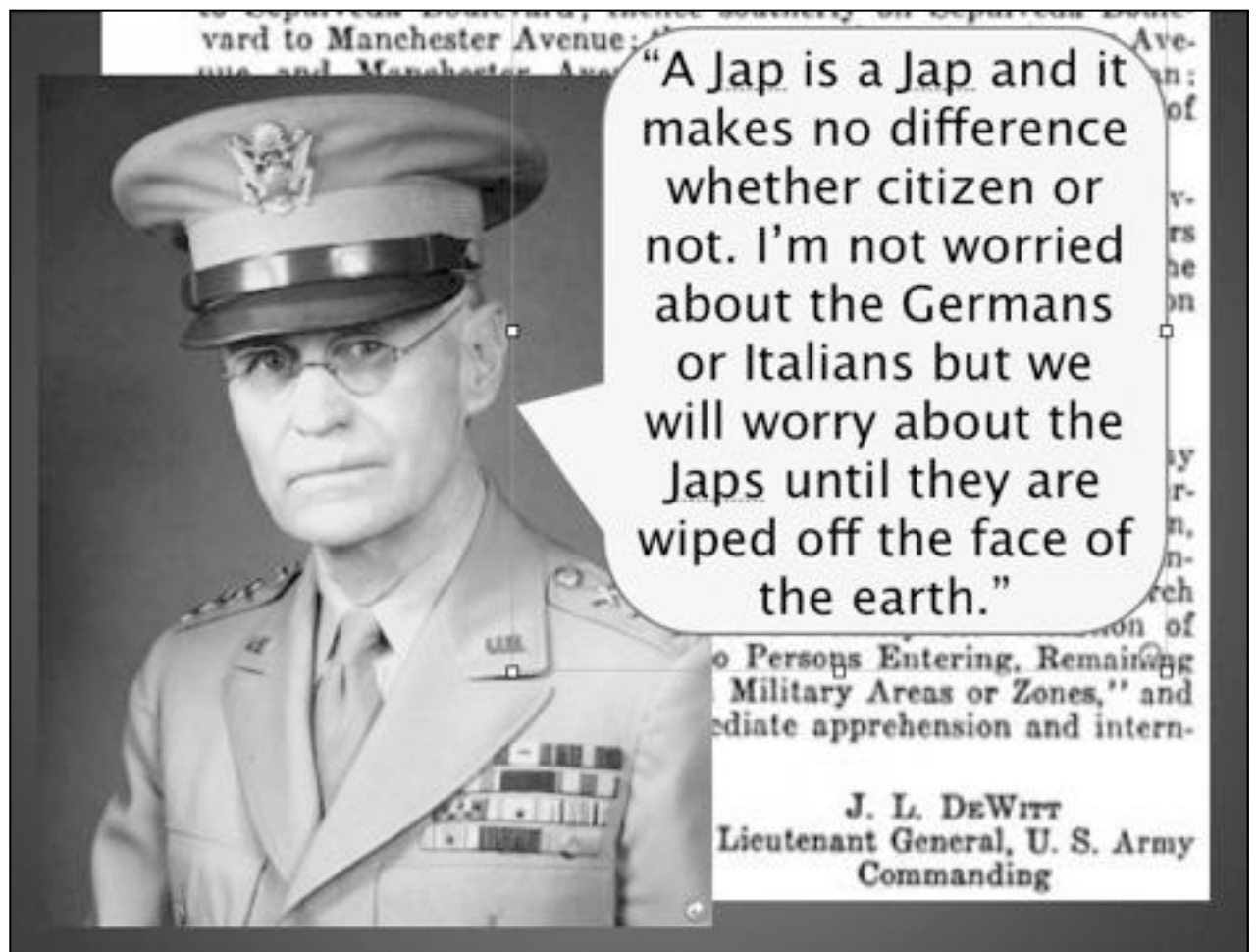
Remarks of Former Internee Arnold Maeda to the Venice Neighborhood Council

Arnold Maeda


I was born in Santa Monica, in 1926 and have lived in Mar Vista since 1958. I am here this evening to voice my support for the MARKER project sponsored by various individuals and organizations of the Venice community. I feel that this is a worthy project, especially today, to highlight and educate the people about the historical event that took place at this intersection 68 years ago. We were ordered by Civilian Exclusion Orders to report for further instructions as to when and where to assemble for transportation to our unknown destination. Our pick up spot was on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards.

The more we publicize information like this to the general public, the better chance we have of preventing a similar incident to occur again. On that unforgettable day in April of 1942, our destination turned out to be a mile-square patch of desert land that was fenced in by barbed wire and surrounded by eight guard towers -- an American-style detention camp that eventually held over 10,000 men, women, and children. Our camp was named Manzanar War Relocation Center, and it was located between Lone Pine and Independence on the west side of Highway 395. I am not here to talk about Manzanar where I spent three and a half years of my teenage life.


I am here to encourage the Venice Neighborhood Council to pass a motion to write a letter to Councilman Bill Rosendahl in support of a memorial marker on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln. I have such a personal connection to this corner, and I always point out this location to any of my passengers as we drive by. I always have had a very visceral, emotional response to even thinking about my incarceration. But with discussion of this marker, my negative feelings have somehow dissipated, and have been replaced with feelings of hope. ☸



General DeWitt was an example of anti-Japanese hysteria, racism and advocacy of genocide. And he was in charge!



Alan Goldberg
The Community Wizard
an Electrical,
Plumbing Specialist



Pager-310 495 2531

Take Me For A Sea Cruise

By CJ Gronner

Maybe it's because of all the horror of the Gulf Oil Spill down South, but it seems to me that people here in California are getting a lot more riled up lately about saving our own waters from the same fate. Because we MUST.

In that vein, I recently went out with the Santa Monica Baykeeper folks to observe National Oceans Day, and also to take a look at what shape our beloved Bay is in. Started in 1993, the Baykeeper's mission is to protect and restore our waters through enforcement, field work, and community action. As we've seen down in the Gulf, if people are allowed to do whatever they want to our environment, they will - and with disastrous results.



So it was that I woke up early on a Sunday morning and pedaled over to the Marina to meet up with Brian Meux, Baykeeper's Marine Programs Manager, and Kristy Pyke, their lovely P.R. Lady. The idea was to take the boat up to Point Dume and meet up with reps from Heal The Bay, The Surfrider Foundation, and Below The Surface, who were paddling out on stand up paddleboards to highlight our most diverse and productive ocean area, and check out the health of the kelp forests that keep our entire oceanic eco-system thriving (hopefully) while we were at it.

It was a misty morning, with waves just big enough to make us happy that we'd behaved ourselves (somewhat) the night before. It was, in all honesty, a joy just to look down and see blue water, after all the black globby images we've seen coming out of the Gulf Of Mexico. It was not a joy, however, to see a giant cluster of mylar balloons floating by, way out at sea. I've said it before and I'll say it again



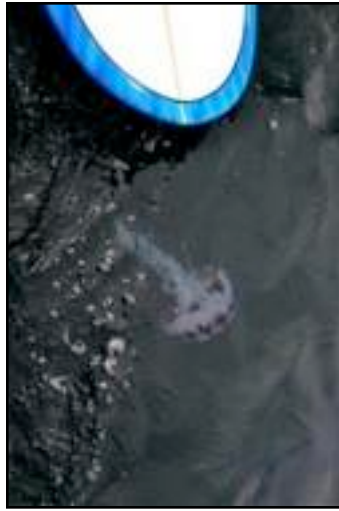
... LEAVE YOUR DANG BALLOONS OFF THE BEACH!

Your kids will still have a happy birthday, I promise. They kill marine life, period. That is not a good lesson to teach the birthday party kids, now, is it? We scooped up that bunch of balloons, and just wished we'd had a chance to wring the necks of those who

thought it best to leave them in the sea. Grrr.

Cruising along, we spotted the Paddlers up ahead, and we all met up to discuss what they were doing, and what we can ALL do to make sure that we continue to have beautiful beaches and waters to enjoy for generations to come. It's all about involvement, after all. Each of the organizations mentioned above has events or clean-ups you can volunteer for pretty much every week. And you should.

It's good for the soul to participate in things that are bigger than you, and that make the world better in one instant. I pick up after some of you fools every morning as I walk along the beach, and you have the instant gratification of it being more lovely than you met it each morning, just by bending down and grabbing that broken bottle



(REALLY?!) or picnic remnant or stupid balloon scrap.

We were all encouraged (and one surfer a little spooked) when a gigantic purple striped jellyfish



wafted by right under the guy's board who was next to the boat. If that big jelly was happy where he or she was, things may be looking up for our Bay. The stories these guys can tell you, from their paddle-outs, their aerial surveys, and kelp forest dives are full of both dismay, and hope.

Dismay that people actually still have the mental capacity to think it fine to dump old toilets



and tires IN the sea, 3 miles out from the coast! What in the world is WRONG with these brains that could do that? Dismay at the "Plastic to Plankton ratio" that some say is like 6 bits of plastic to each one of plankton. I just almost puked as I typed that, but it's true.

But there is hope for us yet. I felt it as we raced across the waves and watched about 30 dolphins race alongside us and in our wake, jumping out into the sunshine and gracing us with their sleek beauty and natural smiles. Hope that we were all out there early



in the morning, because there are these organizations and people who care so much, and actually get out to DO SOMETHING about it.

Hope was evident again this past weekend as Baykeeper, Surfrider, Heal The Bay, and a whole bunch of concerned citizens met up for "Hands Across The Sand" down by the Venice and Santa Monica Piers, and at over 650 other coastal beaches around the world at noon our time.

We all gathered by the Venice Pier, and talk was less what you did last night, and mainly all how much we love our beaches, and how badly we all want to preserve and IMPROVE them, and especially save them from any oil related fate. On that note, Venice friends and neighbors laid down on the sand to spell out "Go Green" and "End Oil" out of humans. Then all of us who were not being used in a letter, held hands all across the beach to demonstrate to the world that we mean business about our beaches. We have to.

As the motto of Below the Surface states, "Be The Solution". That can mean many things, but it HAS to mean doing SOMETHING. Bring your own bags to the market. BAN Plastic bags. Use a stainless steel water bottle every time, and phase

out those plastic ones. Participate in beach clean-ups. Throw your beach trash away in the first place - duh. Get rid of your cigarette butts in an ashtray, not out your car window, jerks. (I will make a citizen's arrest on that one. Every time.) Reduce your filthy oil habit, as best you can. Reuse and Recycle. Ride your bike. Take a WALK, L.A.! Hold hands across the sand with your friends to bring attention to it all. Walk the talk. As Summer takes over Venice, get to know your H2O. Our health depends upon its health. Imagine our Summer months down at the beach, looking out at black tar islands and choking sea creatures, instead of shimmering blue waters full of life. That would wreck your buzz for sure ... and we really don't want that.

*Photos by Paul Gronner (Baykeeper) and Sean James (Hands Across The Sand). 🚲



A Day at the Beach

—continued from page 1



Karen Wolfe displays 547 anti-OPD signatures.



Ibrahim Butler

Rumor has it that Bill Rosendahl put Bloom up to making the "compromise" motion when he (Bill) saw that things were not going his way. In any case, Bloom's attempt to torpedo the rejection of the OPDs failed as five Commissioners voted against it and only four voted for it. Back to the main motion to reject the tremendous pressure asserted by everyone from the state legislature to the city of L.A., Mark Ryavec aka Venice Stakeholders Association, the Pacific Legal Foundation, and miscellaneous homeless haters.

In the end, six of the Commissioners found the courage to stand up for access for all, including those who can only afford to live in recreational vehicles. The motion was defeated six votes to three. The courageous ones who voted against it were Sara Wan, Ross Mirkarimi, Mark W. Stone, Esther Sanchez and Bonnie Neely. All those voting against OPDs were appointed by either the State Senate or Assembly, except Neely, who was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Neely was the third vote in favor of Bloom's substitute motion which would have allowed OPDs after six months. Those voting in favor of the staff recommendation for OPDs were all appointees of the Governor, except Bloom, who was appointed by the State Senate.

At the hearing, I witnessed my fellow Venetians rising to the occasion, and speaking more articulately and more brilliantly than I had ever heard them before. So many came and spoke. Some ditched work to be there. Those living in RVs risked exposure to the police who were watching and listening. We must make sure there is no retribution visited upon them for exercising their constitutional rights.

Many of them pointed out that nothing had changed since last year when the Coastal Commission overwhelmingly (9-1) voted this down. Others told the Commissioners that people were being arrested for being on the beach at night, just the opposite of access. Steve Clare explained why permit parking in Santa Monica doesn't restrict access, while it would in Venice. Santa Monica has 5,500 parking places in beach lots, while Venice has only 1,727. At the same time, Santa Monica hosts three million beachgoers, while Venice is inundated with approximately 16 million per year.

There was the battle of the petitions. Mark Ryavec, who filed the lawsuit that kept OPDs alive, said he had signature of 441 Venice residents. A search of the petition on his Venice Stakeholders website showed that at least half were anonymous or name withheld. Karen Wolfe told the Commissioners that Venice Action, a group that opposes OPDs but supports



Councilmember Bill Rosendahl confers with Asst. City Attorney Valerie Flores while Mark Ryavec looks on.



Jataun Valentine



Juan Alcolar



John Davis

an oversized vehicle ordinance, had collected 547 signatures. They were unfurled as she spoke. Peggy Lee Kennedy won the petition contest with 900 handwritten signatures and 300 online signatures against OPDs which were collected by the Venice Justice Committee and the Venice Town Council. She also said that her public records request turned up on 51 signatures in all of Venice from people requesting permit parking, and some of them were bogus.

The LAPD also got into the act with Captain Jon Peters saying that OPDs would be another tool in the police's tool belt in fighting crime. He said that the current law that vehicles must move within 72 hours was not a good tool in their tool box because drivers can simply move a few feet. He was flanked while he spoke by officers Theresa Skinner and Peggy Thusing. All three wore their work uniforms and accessories.

Conservationist and former Beachhead Collectivist John Davis pointed out the irony of the police arresting and incarcerating people for coming to

—continued on page 9

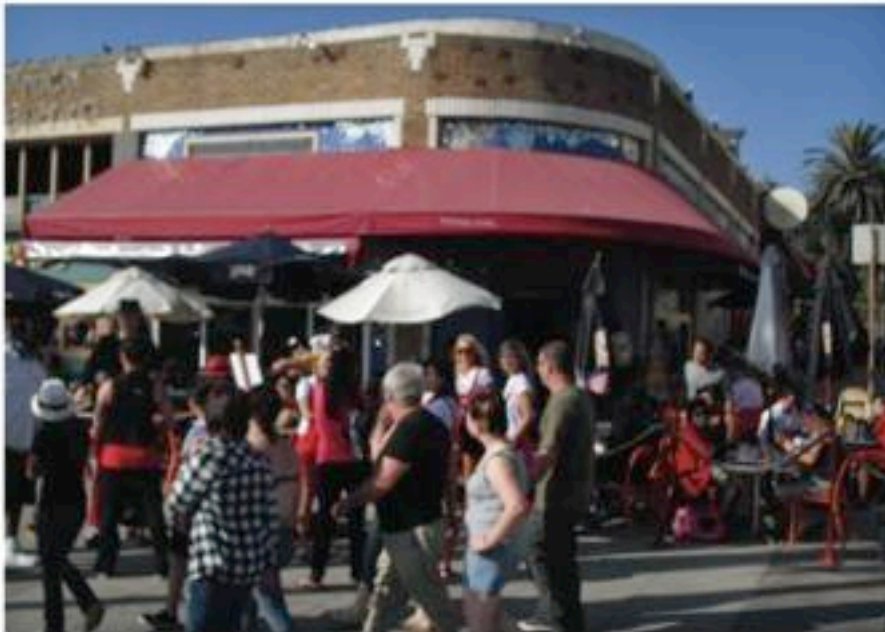
Watch the
June 10

Coastal Commission
proceedings at:
<http://tinyurl.com/3yd5gpd>
Item 14

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An authentic Venice Landmark, 325 Ocean Front Walk
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Enjoy the fresh breezes and ocean view from a front row seat at the world famous Venice Boardwalk while sampling one of our more than 20 domestic and imported beers on tap.



The perfect Happy Hour spot to relax and toast the sunset!

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Wine - Domestic house wines-32 oz. pitcher- \$12/ Imported wines by the bottle from \$16
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Mon.-Fri. 7 til 10 a.m.- Half price special: our Signature 4-Egg Omelets, potatoes & toast.
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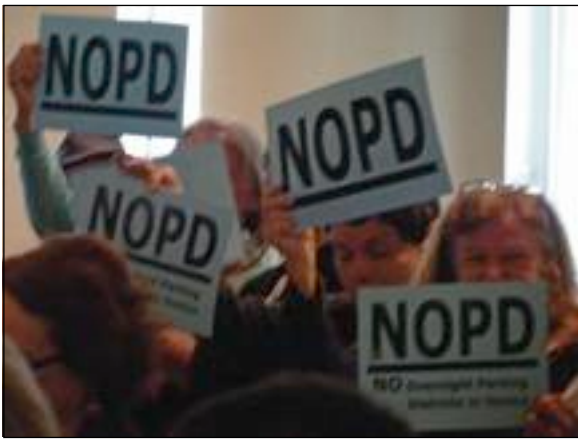
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NOPD - No Overnight Parking Districts, Peggy Lee Kennedy on the right



Lydia Poncé



Former Councilmember Ruth Galanter



Mary Getlein



Ivonne Guzmán

(photos in this article by Jim Smith)

the beach at night when the coastal act is clearly in favor of access. Jack Ainsworth, the South Coast Deputy Director for the Commission responded that he completely agreed with Davis (then added "on this matter"). He said the staff was preparing a memo to city planning directors telling them that prohibiting access to the beach at night is not legal.

Several residents of the North Beach area, including Frank Lutz, Colleen Saro, Eloise Kong and Debra Gavlak, told the Commissioners that their parking problems would become worse if the OPD plan took away their overnight parking lot at Rose Avenue and Main Street. By putting in overnight meters, their parking costs could go from none to \$700/month. This would force even more people to park on the streets which are already filled with cars.

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WHEN VENICE STOPPED A (POLICE) RIOT BY STOPPING A PARADE

By Carol Fondiller

The Establishment Parade vs. the "People's Parade" but first, background. Background is all. I remember the parade that didn't happen in Venice.

Those nasty un-patriotic beer swilling pot smoking coffee drinking hippies and Beats and Commies as Werner Scharff and the Venice Civic Union used to call them, and if one indulges in E-mail, that vicious, crude and lying effluvium, the same swill slightly recycled still emanates from some flea ridden hound's master's website. "Anti-Progress" they bark un-American they whimper Aging Hippy Commie Dope Smoking Beats they whine, as they cower in their lairs wishing they could afford to live in Malibu but absenting that, these rabid whelps will endeavor to move disagreeable elements out of Venice, i.e., patrons of Los Trocas on Rose Avenue, clients of the Venice Family Health Clinic. (Many of the nouveau hip donate money to St. Joseph's and the Venice Clinic. They love poor people just not in their backyard, the street they live on, the libraries they patronize, the shopping centers - you get the drift. They love you in Biafra just not on San Juan Avenue.)

In 1968-1969 the threats Venice faced were the same as now. People who had been paying their mortgages and their rents for years were faced with what were called improvements - and to be fair, some of the improvements would have been beneficial - street lights paved sidewalks, etc. But most of the improvements centered on getting rid of small cottages and hotels that were part of Venice since it's inception. And in the improvements the casualties would be low income people. Folks who bought the little houses to live in, and renters who looked on Venice as their home.

But they were soon told by the powers that be, the City of Los Angeles, the banks who acted in collusion with property owners who owned large plots of land, that the property owner and renter alike, were expendable. they were to be displaced for a better use of the land, Werner Scharff's vision of Miami Beach West.

The Venice Survival Committee, and the Free Venice Committee, one of the first groups to advocate secession from Los Angeles, fought back. These groups were organized by the Peace and Freedom Party, and despite red baiting, police and F.B.I. harassment, these groups managed to rally people to fight for the right to live where they were. It wasn't as if these rich people were happily doing whatever rich folks do, and suddenly all these ground apes, knuckles dragging on the dirt, invades their mansions, peed in their fountains and their Perrier, it was the other way around. Low income people living by the ocean! Much too good for them -- and money, honey, could be made. As one of the mini speculators, Alan J. Radford, developer of the unsuccessful Washington Square project said, "Water and poor people don't mix". The city saw tax dollars and the speculators saw more -- the only barrier to wealth were those annoying people who already lived there.

In '68-69 this pot had been boiling for years. Confrontations with the, at that time, the lackeys of investors and banks, the LAPD, and the Venice residents were common and sometimes brutal. Protests against the war in Viet Nam were savaged and spied upon, the F.B.I. was trying to infiltrate the Peace and Freedom Party. And as it is today, people question loyalty to cover up their own lack of commitment to the principals of the government's contract with the people - the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

The Free Venice Survival Committee and the Peace and Freedom Party decided to take back America. It was also discovered that in 1905 Venice was officially opened. What better way to say Happy Birthday America and Happy Birthday Venice than with a parade? -- Indeed, it was thanks to the Free Venice Beachhead years later, that Venice's Birthday was taken note of by the establishment.

So this "unamerican" bunch of hippies of every color and persuasion, radicals aging and

-continued on page 14

Happy Birthday Venice

Everyday is Christmas - In Venice!

Everyday is Christmas - In Venice!
Everyday is the 4th of July!
Everyday's a play day,
A May Day, hey day, GAY Day,
"Ole!", Shout hooray day! - We're alive!

Everyday's YOUR birthday - In Venice!
Celebrate your worth day everyday.
"Local Color's real here,
"Magic fingers heal here
"Vegetables" can feel here - so they say!

Everyone is someone - In Venice!
Every "bum" is some Dear Mother's Child!
Poets, punks, and preachers,
Health nuts, drunks and teachers,
Hippies, yuppies, weirdoes, winos - WILD!

Venice is for Valentines and Lovers!
Saint Patrick's Days - That never seem to end.
Stars play in the sunshine,
Blonds share all the fun time,
War wounds, of the worst kind, come to mend.

Commemorate the "Dream Town" - we call Venice!
Here, the University of Venice LIVES!
Addicts mix with purists,
Natives mix with tourists,
The rich mix with the poorest - Hey, what gives?

Venice, an oasis, to the traveler.
Yet, "Family Town"- This Kingdom-by-the-Sea.
"Roller Skating Cuties,"
(Barely) bathing beauties,
Music, mermaids, muscles - ALL for Free!

Treasure your "Vacation Days" - In Venice!
Participate - In all the ambiance!
Weight-lift, (if you're able)
Share your cafe table,
Support "the local artists" - needs and wants!

Yes, Everyday's a Holiday - In Venice!
Everyday's an Easter Parade!
Halloween's "hang" here
(The V-13's a gang here),
STREETSMART sings our "Sunset Serenade"!

When you think you've seen it all - In Venice!
SPECIAL guests drop in to "blow your mind"!
See friendly porpoise play here!
Spot Great Pacific Grays here!
Catch Krishna's BIG Parade here - What a find!

Celebrate "The Spirit" - That is Venice!
"Live and Let" - "If you snooze you lose" -
"Don't hit up the residents" -
"Cheers - to Independence!"
HAPPY BIRTHDAY VENICE - I LOVE YOU!

-Tina Catalina Corcoran

Living in Venice

You put my friend in handcuffs-
for playing music
in Venice!
a place, a holy place,
Where one can be buddha,
a jesus, a homeless monk looking for his dharma and
accidentally pick up a drum,
or a guitar,
and get in touch with Divine Power...
Blissed out by life, we celebrate:
We SING to the power of the Lord, come down...
That's what they say,
Those Bible folk always waving their books around-
Well, I got a book wide open in front of
my face!
Birds, currents, waves, ocean breezes, Love,
sons, daughters, come to the edge of the world,
as we know it,
and drink in the colors of the sky!
beautiful sky- blue- pink-purple bands of LIGHT
streaking across the sky!
God is talking to you-
A little present from God-
to remind you of how very Blessed
you are to live in this holy place:
a place where many a lost child has found solace-
Someone to hug you, feed you, love you...
be glad that you are alive-
be there for you until you can be happy...

You put my friend in handcuffs for playing MUSIC
you may as well try to lock up the OCEAN
we have to SING
That's our job: we play music and SING-
we praise God,
Lift up our heads and SING!

Ibraihm in handcuffs-
he didn't turn off the mic fast enough-
so the new cop started yelling
and put my friend in handcuffs-
A "CRIME"
The night before-
well, we had this great party at Sponto's
we were all happy
everybody loving each other-
MUSIC + ART+, MUSIC+ ART+, MUSIC + ART
spinning round and round,
Through the wheels on the baby buggies,
through the wheels of people in wheelchairs,
through the circles in the AIR
through the shining eyes of the children
dancing through their days...
music provided free by various and different
street artists,
music people, joksters, coyote people,
Always laughing, when they ain't bitching...
About what?
Try living on tips while feeling like a Mozart,
a Picasso- "outsider art" is what they call us.

And that's when it got me:
That next day-
watching another pathetic attempt of LAPD
to abuse, fuck with, "pretend arrest".
hey, "HELLO!"
It's harassment, intimidation, false arrest,
"drive-by-fucking-with you"...


Why you gotta be so mean?
The Miamization of Venice is in full swing.
Police are on alert:
placate wealthy home-owners-
harass the poor people-
rich people don't like to see poor people.

Police: new job:
shut down the vendors
shut down the music
try to crush the poor people into the ground.

People are not cockroaches!
You cannot get rid of us so easy
we ain't going anywhere-
we are already HERE.
This is my home,
this is my land,
these are my brothers and sisters,
and WE ARE HOME.

-Mary Getlein

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Venice as Mecca, Jerusalem

By John Haag

I sit here on the sand,
a holy place on sacred land,
remembering the tribes and clans
that gathered here, took counsel
and dispersed; forseeing all
the ones that will arrive,
drink our blessed water and survive,
only to disperse in turn
to spread the word
amongst a disbelieving world.

Take heart, my heart,
for here is never lost
anything forever (but the soul
at times sent wandering
along some other plane).

It too returns safely,
found like a cache of nuts
the squirrel lays by against
a cold day in hell, forgets,
then comes upon in time
of need.

Rejoice!
The promised land is here;
the time is near at hand.

The Sounds of Venice

By Abigail Templeton

A rip roar of tides
The breaking of water
The clacking of skateboard meeting pave-
ment
A whirl of breath
Notes from a piano that has never known
ceiling
Radio blast that almost reaches sky
The clanking of back alley cans
The Sunday swirl of rollerblades
The swiftness of brushes
Helicopters yowling overhead
The faint blur of sand hitting concrete
The hush of spray cans
Seagull squawk and the shuffle of pages
turning
A high-pitched laugh where the Pacific has
lapped up on bare thighs

The sounds of Venice pound through
neighborhoods,
howl past LA freeway signs, cascade into
open ocean.
The sounds of Venice are a small marking
of this carousel town—
An eruption of kaleidoscope and sea.

18:01 Saturday 5, June 5, 2010, inside the
Talking Stick, for Dennis Hopper..... The LA
WEEKLY stares right up at me, As I com-
pose my thoughts on what may be As sad
a passing as I've known, of late. But let me
render praise and counter fate. The memo-
ries come flooding. Numerous, Too numer-
ous to list. It surely does Provoke imagina-
tion. And so I Reflect, in my attempt to
have a try. Rebellion comes to mind. One
might suppose That you would not sit still,
nor would you pose, But taking Dean's
suggestions, you were great At simply be-
ing real. I contemplate The substance, ef-
fortless, and what may be One lofty Mag-
num Opus, easily..... Roger Houston, Ven-
ice

Venice Dreams

By Jim Smith

Venice, it seems, is buildings, streets, canals
but look again, it is built from dreams
and knitted together by we, the dreamers

The biggest dreamer, Abbot Kinney,
dreamed Venice out of the void
And into the soft fog of the world

By his side, Irving Tabor dreamed
of sunlight and good for his people
In a few blocks called Oakwood

When Abbot died, little dreamers
sat by the beach and dreamed
only for a family, a job and a home

Then came the poetic dreams of the Beats
set to the lonely bebop riffs
of seagulls' cries and waves pounding

Stuart Perkoff dreamed
of the Lady, and the Lady
dreamed of Stuart

John Haag dreamed of freeing Venice
for the people, for all the people
to live in peace in a city of their own.

Philomene Long wove
her dream of timeless love
from her lofty perch by the sea.

Now, thousands dream
their dreams that everyday
recreate Venice in our minds.

Do you have a Venice dream?
If you do, make it real,
make it real.

Venice, Oh Venice

Venice oh Venice you cosmic whore!
Every one's playground
our home away from home
I love you, I lust you
Your healing sunsets and
expansive views, ocean scents, people ga-
lore
music and shows
freaks and Sneaks add to the glue of Venice!
my soul got stuck here forty years ago.
home at last, home at last

—Cosmo

Seen on the Paloma sidewalk, near OFW:

The Beauty
of
Venice
controls
the
SUN

Everyday
Venice
takes
your
 away

Into the Country of the Weak

(After Tereza in "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" by Milan Kundera)

i am leaving now
for *the country of the weak*
you who are so light
unable to see
that i am heavy now
in my darkness --
an overripe pear
bruised by sweetness
(too much i am told)
too much sweetness
that makes me heavy
and i fall on the wet green grass
darkened
my skin torn in the corner.

Will you eat me now?

i am weary
with the sweetness of myself,
i, who must go now
like brave Tereza
unable to forsake
the *unbearable lightness* of our beings
together. i write you
bruised and alone
wanting you, too
to come with me
momentarily
into *the country of the weak*.

—krista schwimmer

The Gulf

The personal is personal
I harbor grave doubts

my black blood
seems to seep
from forever veins

coating
million year old pelicans
hostage to a crude century

glossy sheen on the surface
swamp water, an elixir
an omniscient presence

adding limes and shellfish
to coat of arms shield
token knowledge

dark waters run deep
reason, a chasm
thunder of warring systems

as Big Plunder (aha!)
gouges a gash in the fabric
of wholly-unified Tao field

after 76 libertarian days
of well-point doctors purchasing time
LoozyAnna's womb

still bleeds
official explanations suck
black holes, pulling hydrocarbon mass

this scant matter
sticks in my craw.

—Hal Bogotch

**This Paper
Is A Poem**



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f: 310 392 7841
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dale@daleneNewmanDesign.com

Swami Speaks

Compassion is accessible when we realize there are different levels of Consciousness embodied in the Absolute Cosmic Consciousness that is God. Everything is the manifestation of God. Every manifest creation is the outgoing breath of God. Every manifest creation is the outgoing breath of God. Every indrawn breath of God is the return of creation to the Absolute Perfection of God. Neat huh!?!

Hell is an illusory trick of the many priest crafts down thru the ages. Fear has kept as immortalized in irrelevant activity for ages. It is time to awake. Even though I'm still dozing, I hope so. The problem with hope is that it takes you into the future, which is an illusion. Politicians use it a lot. Anyone who knows, knows it's all here and now.

It's nice to know that the Supreme Creator, that Effulgent Reality, the one without a second, is Cosmic Consciousness, Creativity, Compas-

sion, Endless Forgiveness, Understanding, Wisdom, Originality, Spontaneity, Bliss, and that we share Her nature, being and destiny.

We struggle and survive hoping to win
And hoping, before our demise, to find peace within

We must unfold Light and shine on sin
We are destined to realize we've always been
Everything that lives in our kin
Brother, can you spare a fin
No matter, God is ecstatically, creatively,
compassionately everywhere
Here, there, whence and where
Aum and pray for all men
If God didn't have a sense of humor, how do you

Explain Rush Limbaugh, Sarah Palin, and Bill O'Reilly? ☸



Testimony to the Coastal Commission

My name is Mary Getlein. I've lived in Venice since 1971. One question I have is since people are being arrested for being on the beach at those hours, those nighttime hours, what's the point in having coastal access? The people who live in oversized vehicles and other vehicles are residents. You don't have to be in a home to have a home. You have a home in your heart. I was homeless for 10 years. Do you know what being homeless is like? It's like being a Jew in Nazi Germany. Everywhere you go, you are hassled. You are humiliated. You are put down. They take away your dignity as a human being.

People need help to get out of being homeless. It takes forever and a day to get out of being homeless. If you have a choice to do something good today or to do something wrong, why would you choose the wrong thing? Why? Is this a case of being the "good German" who knew what was going on and did nothing?

People are not homeless by personal choice. Heh – I think I'll become homeless today. No, man. They lose their jobs. They lose their apartments. And you're out there with the trash. And the police treat you like shit. They treat you like trash. They kick you from one trash can to the next.

We are put on this earth to help each other – not stick a label on someone, put them in a box and ship them away. Where are these people suppose to go? These are children of God. These are not cockroaches. We're not here to be exterminated. We're here to do the right thing today and not be "Good Germans!"

We are not going to sit silently by and watch powers that be round up our friends and the only crime is to be without a home. Where are you going to be 30 years from now when people talk about this? What are you going to tell your children, your grandchildren what you did to save people's lives? We're talking about people living in RV's that are harassed by vigilantes.

As I speak, they come and break windows of RV's. People who are staying in them are old ladies. They can't get around without a cane. And these big, strong men come and break their windows. Because they don't want to see a RV by the park. Well, they have nowhere to go. There's no affordable housing here in LA.

This is our home. You don't need a house to have a home. Home is where your heart is. My heart is forever Venice! We will not be moved! ☸

A Day at the Beach

—continued from page 6

Perhaps the speaker most appreciated by those opposing OPDs was Ruth Galanter. She showed how a city councilmember could be on the side of her constituents. While she is no longer in office, many expressed their wish that she was. She said in part, "These are public streets. There is already a 72-hour law. The city doesn't have the staff to administer parking permits. People won't be able to come and visit." She asked the Commissioners to "protect the ability of visitors to come to the coastal zone."

Another speaker who was well known to the Commissioners was Pam Emerson, a retired staff member of the Coastal Commission. She told the Commissioners that OPDs were clearly a restriction of public access. She said, "In the 1950s, my family bought a Spartan trailer. At that time, trailer people were not considered upstanding citizens. I appreciate the life people live in RVs. I hope you will protect their rights."

Also using history to good effect was Winola Smith. She told the Commissioners about her uncle, Irwin Tabor, who was Abbot Kinney's driver. Kinney willed his house to Tabor, but when he died, Tabor had to move the house because Blacks weren't allowed to live in that section of Venice (on the Circle). Smith asked, "So why are RVs being discriminated against all over again? These people need help. They could be anyone, your family or your friends."

Other opponents of OPDs who gave a good accounting of themselves at the podium, included Juan Alcolar, Eden Andes, Lisa Aycock, Jim Bickhart, David Busch, Diane Butler, Ibrahim Butler, David Ewing, Mary Getlein, Ethel Gillette, Lisa Green, Ivonne Guzmán, Terry Hendrickson, Sue Kaplan, Mark Lipman, Susan Millmann, Chris Plourde, Dana Schumacher, Jim Smith, Demetrius Tahmin, Mike Suhd, Linda Patterson, Holly Moser, Jataun Valentine, Patty Warivonchik, Lois Webb, Emily Winters and Joshua Xi.

The few speaking in favor of OPDs generally talked about their distaste for those living in vehicles. They included Lois Brower, Stewart Oscars, Michael Lamb, Shelly Burger, Phil Raider, Barbara Gibson and Marie Hammond.

Assistant city attorney Valerie Flores did a good job in distorting the facts of the city's OPD case. She was apparently drafted to present the misrepresentations by her boss, Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich, who did not show up. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who seems intent on squandering the good will of Venetians on his adamant pursuit of OPDs, did not speak. He sat quietly for most of the hearing with Mark Ryavec as Venetians paraded to the microphone to denounce permit parking, and in some cases to denounce Ryavec and Rosendahl. The councilperson departed before the vote was taken. During a break, I asked him if he was getting an earful today. He responded that this was democracy in action. Yes, democracy can be a dangerous thing, as when Hamas won the Palestinian elections, and closer to home, anti-OPD candidates won most of the contested seats in the Venice Neighborhood Council, last April.

Rosendahl ultimately rejected the wishes of Venetians. In a written statement the next day, he (or ghost writer Arturo Piña) said: "I am very disappointed that the California Coastal Commission rejected a settlement proposal that would have given residents of Venice the same ability to regulate street parking as every other community on the California coast." Yeah, right. It seems that the Coastal Commission is denying us the right to charge ourselves for pay parking and more tickets every time we turn around. Oh, the suffering Venetians!

Likewise, Mark Ryavec quotes himself on the Venice Stakeholders website saying the Coastal Commission action to deny OPDs was a "bait and switch" trick. "Our only recourse is to remove overnight parking in Venice from this arrogant body's jurisdiction by renewing our litigation," Ryavec said.

Sour grapes notwithstanding, most of those who attended the hearing were jubilant at snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. In an age when politicians and their appointees usually have little or no backbone, the Commissioners showed that they would stand up for the people of California, no matter what powerful forces were aligned against them. In this case, they had to say no to the city of Los Angeles, the Pacific Legal Foundation, many of Venice's landlords, real estate speculators and gentrifiers, not to mention distorted reporting in the Los Angeles Times and elsewhere.

Clearly those intent on driving the poor out of Venice will not give up. They will not say they are

sorry for all the bad and untrue things they have said about those down on their luck. They will not try to work with the desperate and deprived. They will not even try to work with Peggy Lee Kennedy – who we all owe a debt of gratitude to for her unstinting determination and courage in spearheading this human rights struggle. It will take many more defeats like those of June 10, 2010 and June 11, 2009 before they finally learn that Venice is not Manhattan Beach and never will be. ☸



After the vote: "Smiling Steve" Clare (on right) and Linda Lucks, VNC President, giving a hug.

The Oil Spill and the Green Revolution

By Stephen Fiske

Historical paradigm shifts occur when a critical mass has coalesced, born out of a movement embracing a new idea, a new consciousness. Examples of this are the Women's Suffrage and Civil Rights Movements. This consciousness shift begins at the grass roots level, finds its way into the fabric of society, and eventually into corporate and government policy-making.

The Green Revolution is a shift in the very way we live and do business in this world. Its mission is to place environmental considerations at the very top of every societal agenda. It acts to preserve, protect, and restore what is left of the vital planetary life support system: our forests, soil, air, and water. It begins with each individual doing the everyday things like driving less, driving more gas efficient, hybrid, or electric vehicles, using alternative transportation, using reusable shopping bags, reducing, reusing, and recycling. It extends to activism on the broader collective issues such as writing to elected officials, joining and supporting an environmental group, and voting for proven environmentally-supportive candidates. Every individual act counts and adds up to create a tipping point.

The Green Revolution confronts the paralyzing policy-making machinery that prevents progressive life saving steps to a positive, sustainable future. It recognizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of all living things and embraces the sacredness and sanctity of the Earth and its biodiversity. It builds a sustainable future using renewable energy and non-polluting technologies. It strives for carbon neutrality and a reversal of global warming. With education and non-violent activism at its core, it seeks peace and prosperity for all people and for the long term good of the planet. Nothing is impossible when we put our will, creativity, ingenuity, and power of action into making it so.

The calamity of the BP oil spill lays bare the hubris and greed of the corporate industrial complex. Wherever we live, we are all the victims. The spill most specifically and immediately impacts the environment and economy of the Gulf States, but hits like a sucker punch to the kidney of an already staggering national and international economic system built around fossil fuel dependency. This low blow to the Gulf States spreads like debilitating goop on the economic global tides, and weakens the stamina of a financial system already punch drunk and propped up by handlers who erroneously believe their champion can go the distance.

The cost of this catastrophe is beyond estimation. The global economy based on fossil fuel addiction is

going down for the count, its non-sustainability more and more evident with each tragic gush.

All things in this revolving incubator bubble that we call the Earth's ecosphere are subject to this mega-spill's gross violation. There is no "away" to throw anything. Already ten times more vast than the Valdez disaster, the damage of the Gulf spill is global in its impact, increasing every day. We will be feeling the deadly, disgusting consequences for years to come.

We are all part of the global atom pool. We are all intrinsically intertwined in a common global life support system. What you spill into the system in your part of the world impacts me in mine. Winds blow and drift radioactive fallout, volcanic dust, and toxic pollutants all over the globe. Tides and currents carry the stinky ooze throughout the oceans, to its shorelines and life forms.

BP tried to cover up the enormity of the spill and minimize its impact through a slimy, lying PR campaign. Outflanked by the continually spreading slicks, the BP line that the oil spill was of minor consequence became exposed as infuriating double-speak. Tell that to the "small people," the fishing, tourist, and other industries destroyed by this disaster. Tell that to the pelicans, migrating birds from all over the world, or the sea creatures. Tell that to the workers faced with the impossible task of clean up, using toxic dispersants while breathing oil fumed air, risking untold health hazards in the process. Tell that to the families of the eleven killed on the deep-sea oil rig, rigged for profit at the expense of safety.

It is a biological fact that an organism cannot survive in its own waste. There comes a point when the pollutant overwhelms the life form. The Earth is a living organism on life support alert. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* sounded the alarm about DDT poisoning. The first Earth Day 40 years ago initiated the Green Revolution as a mass movement speaking the environmental truth to power. The movement has been simmering, mobilizing and growing ever since, pointing to scientific evidence, crying out the warnings, offering solutions. Chevron, Ford, Dow, Wall Mart, are all greening themselves. BP had gorgeous TV ads touting their diversification in renewable technologies. But the conversion process is continuously encumbered by corporate and political collusion.

This is a dirty business in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and a dirty business on Capital Hill. For years, BP money has found its way deep into Republican and Democrat coffers, including the pockets of President Obama who, according to the Los Angeles Times, has been a leading recipient of BP cash. The President has also been a proponent of offshore drill-

ing. The Bush administration, with Cheney's oily hand steering the course, provided subsidies and incentives for gas and oil companies drilling on the outer continental shelf, legislation that Obama, then as Senator from Illinois, supported. No wonder government oversight skipped some regulations and looked the other way while BP was at play in ultra deep water without a clue of how to handle a hole in a pipe a mile down. It seems they drilled a little bit over their heads.

Now President Obama, in a let-me-change-my-tune speech, despite the fact that oil spills have occurred regularly for decades, is seeking to restrict offshore drilling and toughen regulations, using the spill to reemphasize his renewable energy platform of wind, solar, and other green energy sources. Better late than never.

It is an old story that crisis precedes solution. Add this oil spill to the list of environmental crises such as global warming, overpopulation, water and food shortages, biodiversity and resource depletion, rampant pollution, loss of species, to name a few, and you come to see crisis overwhelming solution, especially when solution is blocked by the blindness of corporate lobbyists and political gobbledygook. The oil spill raises the ante of the overall situation so severely while the window of opportunity for solution keeps shrinking so rapidly, that to feel immobilized by the hugeness of the problems facing this planet is understandable.

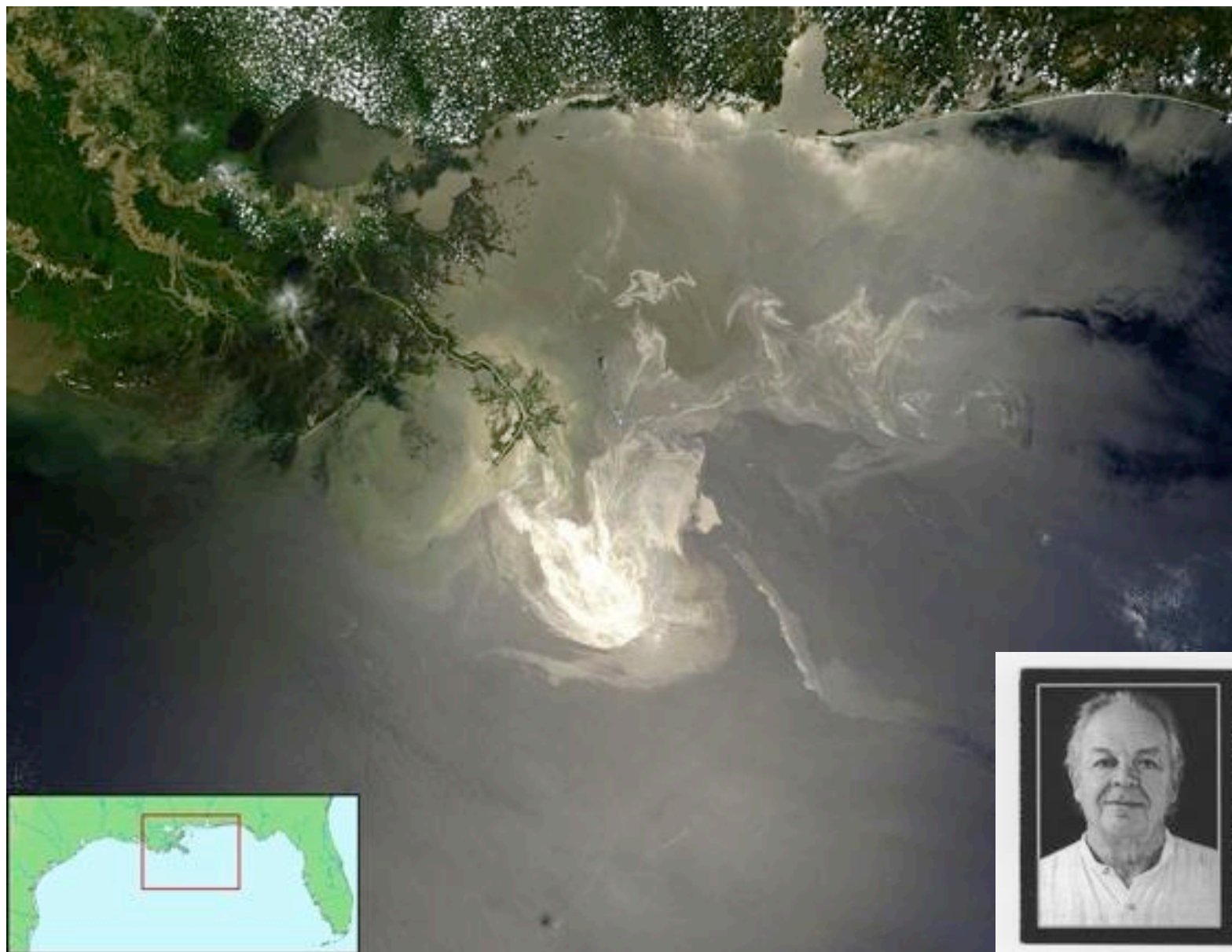
Yet the magnitude of this oil spill and its ongoing in-our-face daily reality can be precisely the wake up call needed to mobilize the environmental movement to the necessary planet-saving proportions. Now the Green Revolution reaches into every household, every corporate desk, every policy makers' agenda, like an emergency siren. Saving the planet is no longer just an environmentalist's slogan, but the call to action for every citizen. Our life support system is in peril and we must act as if our lives are in danger. Because they are.

Everything we do must take into account the environmental impact of our actions. We must make the shift from exploiter and pillager to caretaker and steward. The Industrial Revolution and the rise of corporate hegemony have had a 200 year jump on the relatively young environmental movement. But now the tide must turn. No matter what your political affiliation or world view, the Earth is literally every living thing's common ground. The lesson to learn from the Gulf oil spill is that a paradigm shift must be undertaken with no time to spare. This crisis tragically and vividly illustrates the ecological implications of corporate oil self-interest driving economic and political policy. It comes at a critical turning

point in our planetary history. We must convert from fossil fuel to renewables. We must see that going green benefits the bottom line and that green is the way of the future. This won't happen overnight, but the Green Revolution has begun, and we must accelerate this conversion with every ounce of vitality and technical know-how we can muster. This catastrophe is a call to action. Join the Green Revolution in building the sustainable future for our children and future generations. ♻️

Stephen Longfellow Fiske is a musician and founder of the July 10 Venice Eco-Fest.

Photo: The oil slick as seen from space by NASA's Terra satellite on May 24, 2010.





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WHEN VENICE STOPPED A (POLICE) RIOT BY STOPPING A PARADE

—continued from page 10

otherwise, bikers, librarians, poets, drunks, REALLY SQUARE homeowners, and churches got together a parade committee. We worked on it for months.

Parade permits were applied for and denied. So, we decided to walk our parade route. We hadn't counted on parade horses or motorcyclists but the motorcyclers, most of whom hung out in the pagoda by Breeze Ave. So, we through we'd just walk, obeying all the traffic signals and allowing traffic and pedestrians to pass without being blocked. We leafleted and planned, and met. The meetings were open, and, for the limited resources of P and F the publicity was pervasive.

The police started warning people to stay away from the parade.

As the 4th of July neared, the police were more present than usual. Police rode motorcycles up and down the Ocean Front Walk. Portable booking stations were installed in the oil holding facilities by Windward and O.F.W. Police cars sirened up up and down the streets.

I was living at Westminster and West Washington Blvd. (Now Abbot Kinney Blvd.) opposite Westminster School. I was awakened several days before the Fourth by something flying overhead. The police were practicing landing and take-off maneuvers with their helicopters on the school playground.

People were told by Councilman Marvin Braude's office to stay away from Venice. I believe the the newspaper, the Evening Outlook, even printed cautionary tales regarding the forthcoming July 4th radical-led riots in Venice. Did I neglect to tell you that we had children's groups and the Israel Levine Senior Citizen Center signed up for the parade? We also had a boom box contingent.

As the 4th got closer as in 2 days before, we began to hear rumors of a "Police Action", that is, being clubbed by a baton wielding L.A.P.D. officer for just being there. The day before the parade, we faced the reality that an un-armed peaceable joyous celebration with flags children dogs and PEOPLE would be clubbed and beaten for just walking celebrating their town's and their country's birthday. We sat up all night debating. I remember crying because we really had to call off the parade. We called, explained, re-leafleted walked and got the "walk" cancelled.

Ah, but the cops had their fun anyway. It seems some hippys took responsibility to save lives and stood on entrances to the beach with signs saying, "Stay away from Venice Beach! Police Riot Planned!" "Free Venice!" These people were trying to save lives. They were arrested and roughed up by the police. We were also castigated by a group of self proclaimed radical documentary filmers called

NEWSREEL for not going forward with the parade so they could film the confrontation between the cops and the citizens. They missed the drama of people being driven out of their homes and prevented from partaking in a celebration.

Subsequently, the Peace and Freedom Party and the Free Venice Committee and the Free Venice Survival Committee sponsored other parades. They were fun, they were funky and anyone could join. No charge. Eventually the City even signed our permits.

So excuse me if I feel a bit out of sorts when I see "my" parade being co-opted by profit makers. Listen I hope the Venice Centennial Committee has a great time. I'm really happy about my Centennial calendar, and I want a Centennial T shirt (XXXL) but I miss the sight of Happy Jack ex-biker riding a car down the O.F.W. with a beer and a broad YES! a broad on each arm, the low riders, and the fife and drums led by John Haag holding the Don't Tread on Me flag.

So, it's interesting to me to see that the same issues are still here in Venice, only bigger and meaner. And one other anecdote from the parade that never was.

July 5th, I was walking down the O.F.W., when I was stopped by a white haired woman. "Thank you", she said "Thank you for cancelling the parade." She pressed \$5.00 on me for the Beachhead into my hand.

So, I don't begrudge the City sponsored Venice Centennial, with it's masks and cars. I just want some of the new arrivistes to realize if it weren't for us ol' rads cranks and socialists there wouldn't be, as Ruth Galanter said, anything left to fight over. ☺

Originally published July 2005.

Warning: Pensions in Peril

By DeDe Audet

Articles in CityWatch (an online newsletter circulated among Neighborhood Council Coalition members) about pension planning engage my interest, but often reach above my ability to understand. It appears that the bankers and investment folks argue for full investment whereas a city union worker argues for less.

There is plenty of recent history to make all workers aware that their hard-earned retirement money may not be in the best hands as long as greedy politicians or corporate officers can run their institutions into bankruptcy.

I have no training in pension benefits. All those symbols like DB or DC, ERISA, MVL, PBGC, and SOX tire my old brain. But as the beneficiary of a pension plan I do have an opinion and it has to do with age, cheating, crystal balls, and baloney.

Growing close to 90 gives me, I believe, a perspective. I am sure that I have outlived the "average" age of death predicted when my husband first signed up.

The actuaries who design these plans only have records of the past from which to predict the future. People in the past did not live as long as folks today. And because there are many others vested like me, my longevity is a burden not planned for by the "experts."

Yes, but, planners say: our computer programs now build models based on all of the available information; we know that people live longer today, so we extrapolate that information into our models.

Nevertheless, the question remains; how much longer will people live in the future? Accused by their critics of guessing they respond, "Yes, but it is an educated guess."

Why an educated guess is better than an uneducated one escapes me.

Keep in mind that predicting is predicting whether one uses a crystal ball or a computer. The sad stories of the huge number of trusts, corporations, and other entities who got caught by the I.R.S. for fudging depreciation and tax credits are a testament to the fast talking swindlers who sold fancy computer programs designed to bilk the U.S. Treasury.

From the nineteen-eighties to 2008 the U.S. Treasury lost \$30 to \$300 billion per year in tax shelter schemes. For quite a while the schemers got away with it because the I.R.S. did not have enough investigators or lawyers to pursue the cases.

The statute of limitations on federal tax fraud requires the I.R.S. to file within three years. In 2002 the I.R.S. caught up with part of its backlog and nailed those who filed returns based on LILLO (Lease In, Lease Out) tax shelters to evade U.S. tax.

In 2005 the I.R.S. finally caught up with entities using SILO (Sale In, Lease Out) tax shelter programs to evade their tax. In 2008 if the tax evaders just brought the money in right away they were offered a deal, "Send what you owe and the penalty is forgiven."

Unfortunately, some could not pay up. Wachovia provides a splendid example. With \$800 billion in assets, Wachovia could not pay \$800 million in tax, 1/10th of 1 per cent! Many more of the tax evaders suffered the same.

So why didn't all those fancy models predict this kind of fallout? Surely someone could have figured out that the I.R.S. would eventually catch up. The "tax specialists" who sold the tax shelter programs were not hiding.

Too, the use of computers by investors speeded up the buying and selling of assets at the same time as leverage increased. The idea of using leverage, other people's money, became extremely popular.

So more people went on "margin" to make more transactions. As the value of assets grew, they believed they were lessening their exposure without, apparently, noticing that their risk increased.

Several years ago, a nephew went into the gold market on margin secured by his residence and business holdings. When we came to visit him on a Saturday after he began this adventure he was haggard and it looked like he hadn't changed his clothes in days. The market was moving at a rate faster than he could research and he had to scramble to keep ahead of the interest he had to pay for the leverage. He felt he was lucky when he finally got a chance to back out without losing his shirt.

Of course, he was not an expert and might have expected trouble by playing with other people's money. The ancients had a name for this. They called it usury and it was not a compliment.

For more than twenty years, up to February 2008, leverage worked as long as markets kept going up. All of the experts benefited by the gains. And the tax evaders had all that extra money to play with.

But everyone knows that markets also fall down. Sooner or later, the government will catch up with fancy cheating schemes. Why didn't the experts plan for that? And how do you plan benefits for a populace that, year by year, increases its age while using a market that may be up one year and down the next? At what rate of increase or decrease? Well, nobody knows.

Here are a few things that payers into a retirement plan might want to consider carefully:

1) In 2009, every pension plan I know about admitted that net worth was down. Then followed that news with an announcement that it is no cause for alarm. But the reasoning is unclear. Had the pension planners intended to lose billions?

2) Computers make a game of playing with margins and not always to the benefit of the user. There will always be someone with a faster computer or who knows how to slow down results.

3) People are getting older at an unknown rate and no one knows if it will continue.

4) Experts can't tell when a market will implode. Or if they can, they sure as hell are not telling the rest of us.

So, taking these things into consideration, wouldn't it be wise to follow a course of making employers lay aside more for tomorrow rather than less? A union worker who argues for less perplexes me. In thinking about pension plans, I am not comfortable with the thought that those who retire after me might be cold or hungry without a place to lie down because some fortune teller, er, excuse me, expert was not as wise as advertised. ☺

Tragic Death on Prom Night

By Greta Cobar

Prom is a celebration and a right of passage that students as well as parents envision and dwell on for a long time before it comes about.

Having a drive-by shooting at a Venice High School after-prom party that left a 21-year-old Venice alumnus dead and another 18-year-old former Venice student injured was not the envisioned end-of-the night event, however.

The party on the night of June 12 on Louella Avenue, south of Venice Blvd. near Walgrove Avenue, was heavily anticipated, planned and advertised on Facebook.

Thus everyone knew about it and everyone, including Hamilton High School students, showed up for a good time.



As the place got full, the people throwing the party had to turn away non-invited guests. Most of the people who were turned away from the party did not rush to leave, but instead mingled on the sidewalk in front of the house.

This was the situation that Michael McGuire, Jr. and his 18-year-old friend encountered when they showed up to have a good time just like everybody else. When denied admission into the party, the two did not hang out by the fence like the others, but walked back to their cars instead. A car came by and shot towards them, injuring both.

They were both taken to the hospital, and the 18-year old was released that same night while McGuire, a 21-year-old Venice High School alumnus, was pulled off life support the next day.

The police brought out the sirening cars and two helicopters, but they did not find any suspects. According to a student who was present at that party, guests were placed in lock-down in the back yard and were escorted by adults and police to their cars in groups of 10 through the back of the house.

Michael McGuire, Sr., father of the victim, stated at a news conference on June 29 that his son has never been associated with gangs. He also asked anyone with any information to please call the LAPD at 877-LAPD-247.

A paddle-out ceremony in his memory is scheduled for Saturday morning, July 10, near the Venice Pier. ☺

CommUnity Events - day by day

Friday, July 2

- 6-9pm - **Opening Reception for artist Amy Von Holzhausen.** G2 Gallery. 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 7 pm - **First Friday on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Fun, food and the place to be.**
- 7-10 pm - **Java with Javelyn** – Indies Singer and 3-time “Rockies Award” Winner. The Talking Stick. Free.
- 7-11pm - **One Year Anniversary Celebration and Opening Night, Eagle and the Condor: 2012 Prophecy.** Show runs through September 3. 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 7-11pm - **Opening Reception: Wishful Thinkers.** C.A.V.E. Gallery. 507 Rose Ave. Free.

Saturday, July 3

- 8-10pm - **Juke Joint Gang. Acoustic Roots Music.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, July 4

- 11am-midnight - Free Beach Shuttle. Fireworks can be seen from Burton Chase Park. Free.
 - 5pm - **Open Reading with Annette Sugden author.** Sign up at 4:45pm. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
 - 10am-10pm - **Marinapalooza Music Festival Block Party and Charity Fundraiser.** Bands include Von Folta, Iron Heel, Makepeace Brothers, many more. 1-100 Catamaran. Free.
- Monday, July 5
- 7-10pm - **Open Mic - MoZaic Monday.** Sign up at 6:30pm. Hosted by Matt Sedillo, DJ Noj and Nickie Black. The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, July 6

- 6:15pm - **Kenneth Thomas**; 7pm - **Tim Pearson**; 7:45pm - **Sister Rogers**; 8:30pm - **LorÆ Lie**; 9:15pm - **Farther Than Nowhere.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, July 7

- 6-8pm - **Opening Reception for Tony Berlant, Matt Wedel, Mark di Suvero.** LA Louver. 45 North Venice. Free.

Thursday, July 8

- 7:30pm - **Simone Forti interview, dance pioneer** who revolutionized dance in New York. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 5-10pm - **Venice Street Legends. Street musicians** blues/country rock. Venice Bistro, 323 OFW. Free.
- 7pm - **Konono Congolese Trance Dance.** SM Pier. Free.

Friday, July 9

- 7:30pm - **RED(D)RESS: Pamela August Russell, Darren Clavadetscher and Douglas Kearney, musical guests: Arlo and Aisling.** Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.

Saturday, July 10

- 10am-6pm - **Venice Eco-Fest: Beach Music and Arts Festival at the Venice Beach Plaza and Recreation area.** 150 Booths, solar sound stage, Beer Garden (on Windward), community art exhibit, international vegetarian food court. Children and family play area. Free.
- 6-9pm - **Opening Reception: Micheal Lande: Unesposed Art/Clothesline Exhibit.** VOCA Art Gallery. 215 OFW.
- 7:30pm - **Mariana Dietl,** Argentine-American writer. **Mariano Zaro** poet, writer, **Pegarty Long,** photographer, painter and filmmaker present trilogy, “Incision,” starring **Philomene Long.** Beyond Baroque. \$7 students, \$5 seniors, members free.
- 7-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica.** Free event to raise money for charity. The Talking Stick.

Monday, July 12

- 7-10pm - **SV and the Painkillers.** The Talking Stick. \$5.
- 6-10pm - **Documental** - Thomas Ince with Eric Dugdale. A Venice Film. The Unurban. Free.

Tuesday, July 13

- 7pm - **A Night of Musical Goodness.** Hosted by Danny Moynahan. The Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, July 14

- 7-10:30pm - **The Amazing Suzy Williams** at Danny's Deli. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Open Mic Night.** Sign up 15 min early. Hosted by Ellen. The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, July 15

- 6-10pm - **Real Talent Presents** with Nicole Davis. The Talking Stick. Free.

Friday, July 16

- 7:30pm - **Will Alexander and Roger Taus.** Surrealistic poets. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 7pm - **Moziac presents the Spoken Word. Art, Music & Poetry.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Saturday, July 17

- 7:30pm - **George Kalmar and Michelle Bitting.** working on book, “The Longing.” Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 7-10pm - **Venice Beach Central presents: Danny Moynahan.** The Talking Stick. Free.
- 3-6pm - **MESS with John Rappoport.** Unurban Coffee House. Free.
- 7pm-12am - **Sponto's Evolution Art & Music Celebration** at “Artisan Venice”, Pacific & Windward. Free.

Sunday, July 18

- 3pm - **Poetry Panel moderated by S.A. Griffin** with **Rafael F. J. Alvarado, Hugo Machuca, Luis Rodriguez, A. Razor.** Griffin is editor of “The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry” Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 5-10pm - **It's Blues Time! Featuring Tom Gramlich & Mystic Miles,** with special guests. The Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, July 19

- 6-10pm - 7 Dudley Cinema **Dave Markey's Punk Rock & Hwd Street Performers.** Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, July 20

- 6-10 pm - **Real Talent Presents with Nicole Davis.** The Talking Stick. \$5.
- 7-10pm - **The Venice Neighborhood Council** has regular meetings on third Tuesday of the month. Westminster School Auditorium.

Wednesday, July 21

- 7-10 pm - **Open Mic Night.** Sign up 15 minutes early. Hosted by Tom Gramlich and Byron Pfeifer. The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, July 22

- 7-10 pm - **Mikal Sandoval's Speakeasy Night** featuring Dutch Newman & the Musical Melodians. The Talking Stick. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Italian hip-hop now rap and rock, Jovanotti** aka Lorenzo Cherubini. SM Pier. Free.

Friday July 23

- 7:30pm - **Sparring with Beatnik Ghosts,** featuring re-sounding poetic voices in L.A. and Special Guests. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 7-10pm - **Good Sounds Good Time Music.** The Talking Stick. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Subversive Cinema with Bryan Konefsky** at 212 Pier. Free.

Saturday July 24

- 12-3pm - **The G2 Gallery's Second Annual Pet Adoption.** G2 Gallery. 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 7:30pm - **The “Lit Show” with Suzy Williams performing songs based on great writers** as Henry Miller, Dorothy Parker and more. With Brad Kay and friends’ music. Beyond Baroque. Special admission \$15.

Sunday, July 25

- 3-5pm - **Old City Hall Panel Discussion on making Venice cityhood a reality.** Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, July 26

- 7-10pm - **TK Promo presents Rena Wren. Indie-Pop/ Folk Rocker & Band.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, July 27

- 7pm - **Lawrence Lynn**; 7:45pm, 8:30-10:30pm. **TK Promo presents Marian Call.** The Talking Stick. Free.

Wednesday, July 28

- 7-10pm - **Open Mic Night.** Sign up 15 min. early. Hosted by Ellen. The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, July 29

- 7-10pm - Popular and unique **vocalist from India, Kailash Kher.** SM Pier. Free.

Friday July 30

- 7:30pm - **Factory School Poets, a community service collective.** Readers include Allison Cobb, C.A. Conrad, Catherine Daly, Sueyeun Juliette, Deborah Meadows, Sarah Menefee, Kathryn Pringle, Frank Sherlock, Brian Kim Stefans, Heriberto Yépez and Diane Ward. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.

Location Guide

- **Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769**
- **Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006**
- **Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov**
- **Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org**
- **The Good Hurt, 12249 Venice Blvd, www.goodhurt.com**
- **Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com**
- **Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.**
- **Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com**
- **SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.**
- **Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net**
- **United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).**
- **Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.**
- **Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue.(310) 305-1865. Fax 305-0146.**
- **Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015**

Saturday, July 31

- **Noon-5pm - 4th Annual Venice Community BBQ & Picnic.** Oakwood Recreation Center. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Max Sympathy reads,** accompanied by **Marlene Koncewicz,** and paintings by **Austin G. Ohm. G.P.D'Alosio** reads. Beyond Baroque. \$7, students/seniors \$5, members free.
- 7:30-10:30pm - **Music Magic Presents.** Talking Stick. Free.

Ongoing Events

- 12-2pm - **Thursday's Blues at Uncle Darrow's** featuring “**Joe Banks and Friends**” 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club.** Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesdays of the month. Free.
- 5:30pm - **Venice Library Wednesday Movie Night.** Call 310-821-1769 for the upcoming movie.
- 6:30pm - Venice Library **Children's Pajama Storytime.** Second and fourth Tuesday evenings.
- **Free Food Distribution** at Vera Davis Center. 2nd & 4th Mondays, 12:30pm.
- 7:30-9pm - Every Tuesday - **Visionary film or documentary screening.** 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 8-9:30pm - Every Wednesday - **High Hatha Yoga.** 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 6-10pm - Every Friday - **Get Happier Hour: Live art, DJ's, VIP Garden of Weeden** for our customers (specials). 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock.** Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.
- 7:30-11pm - Thu - Fri - Sat - **Live music.** Thurs. Acoustic, Fri.- Open Mic, Sat.- **House band & guests.** Artisan Venice, 80A Windward @ Pacific. Free.

Calendar hecho en Venice by Karl Abrams

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

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

Get Your Local Event Listed

Email your time, date and a brief description to Calendar@freevenice.org by the July 20.



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