

Summer Comes to Venice!

- Lifeguard Stations
- Favorite Things To Do
- Summer Reading
- Gardening & Sharing

FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



June
2010
#344

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIF 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 310-396-2525

LINCOLN PLACE LIVES!



Photo by Jim Smith

Final agreement signed: 83 evicted families will return, all buildings will be preserved, a total of 795 apartments will be occupied.

By Jim Smith

How do you spell victory? L-i-n-c-o-l-n P-l-a-c-e is as good a way as any. There was jubilation among tenants when the last of three agreements was approved by the L.A. City Council on May 26.

It had been a long struggle for those who had lived at Lincoln Place for 20 years or more. Chief among them is Sheila Bernard, the president of the Lincoln Place Tenant Association. She and other veterans were joined over the years by hundreds of activists and thousands of

well wishers from Venice who all contributed in small and large ways to the final settlement.

It was also a victory for the corporate owner, AIMCO, who instead of carrying a large liability on its books will ultimately receive up to \$1.5

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RV Residents Under Gun (stick); Showdown is June 10

Is it really possible that the powerful California Coastal Commission will cave in to a lawsuit started by an irate Venice resident?

It's more than possible, it's probable, unless Venice residents turn out in force at the June 10 meeting at the Marina del Rey hotel to remind the Commissioners of their mission to protect the coastal zone for all, and to place access to the beach above all political considerations.

Under the proposed settlement, whose terms will also be considered by the L.A. City Council at its June 2 meeting, "movable home" residents will be evicted from Venice. Last month's Beachhead broke the story, and the City Council finally came clean on its agreement with Mark Ryavec's Venice Stakeholders Ass'n. on May 25.

The agreement would phase in permit parking, beginning with six months of enforcement of a new no oversized vehicle law from 2-6am. After that, the city could announce that the oversized vehicle law is not working and a full permit parking law is needed.

The Coastal Commission blocked permit parking (OPDs) in Venice last June, calling it a violation of beach access. The Commission's staff had recommended that the Commission go along with the city by allowing permit parking.

After a huge turnout of Venetians opposed to the OPDs, the Commission defied its staff and voted against the permits. The Commission then directed the staff to write a revised report in opposition to permit parking.

That report concludes, "...Commission approval of the proposed project would be a bad precedent that would prejudice the ability of the City to prepare an LCP that is in conformity with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and is therefore not consistent with Section 30604(a) of the Coastal Act.

An LCP is a Local Coastal Program. Each part of the coast is supposed to have one. Yet, Los Angeles has been unable to create one that is acceptable to the Coastal Commission. Past efforts have been too friendly to development, and permit parking would be yet another sticking point (See April 2008 Beachhead: <http://bit.ly/ccboDb>).

There are at least two aspects to this battle which has sucked in Venice organizations, the city of L.A., the Coastal Commission, and the right-wing Pacific Legal Foundation, so far.

At stake, are the legal and moral rights of poor people who are unable to

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Schedule of Events

- **June 2** - L.A. City Council votes on settlement.
- **June 7** - Venice Town Council meets at 7pm at 2210 Lincoln Blvd. to consider how to oppose settlement, RV banishment and permit parking.
- **June 10** - Coastal Commission meets at Marina del Rey hotel to approve, or disapprove the settlement.



**CASUALTIES
IN AFGHANISTAN:
1,087 U.S. Dead
37 this month**

**IRAQ:
4,400 U.S. Dead - 6 this month
31,822 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 1.4 million
Cost of wars: \$1+ trillion**

costofwar.com • antiwar.com • icasualties.org

Lifeguard Stands Get A New Look for Summer

See story on page 3



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

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

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Homes With Wheels

Dear Beachhead,
The letter from Bill Rosendahl addressing the OPD issue that you published in your last issue calls for a few comments.

First, the people living in their vehicles are not "homeless;" rather, their homes have wheels. The concern expressed in the letter doesn't at all address the truly homeless – those living on the streets and sleeping in nooks and crannies where they are hopeful they won't be harassed before morning. The people exposed to the elements. So, one wonders what the real issue being addressed is.

Second, the condescension with which these people are addressed in Rosendahl's letter leaves much to be desired. Many of them are in those vehicles because they have no other option, given the current economic and political situation. They are not the totally dysfunctional people they come across as in the description proffered. They could actually be considered quite enterprising in their attempts to deal with their less than ideal situation. Instead, the plan to address their circumstances is couched in terms that make them seem unable to breathe on their own unless they have their hands held. Perhaps it would be more useful to treat them as individuals instead of hapless victims who would not possibly help themselves or think for themselves.

While there are people in the streets who do deserve assistance and aid, and who probably are not sufficiently functional, the OPD issue does not address them or their circumstances.

This brings me to a thought that might be worth some reflection. It might be more beneficial to everyone (and not only in Venice) if Mr. Rosendahl used his influence in city hall to address the wholesale corruption and venality that one can justly consider to be at the heart of the current unsatisfactory state of affairs which has led to the "homeless" problem – and many others as well. It might be very gratifying for everyone to see just how capable these people (and the unseen others on the receiving end of the corruption) are at constructively addressing their situation once they become convinced they are being dealt with justly and honestly.

Thank you. *Therese Dietlin*

City Doesn't Care about Beach

Dear Beachhead,
Our monthly meeting was cancelled tonight, but since six people arrived we decided to have an informal meeting, anyway. A lively discussion of beach issues ensued and after nearly an hour some interesting observations were reached:

1. The lack of the city's interest in Venice Beach as a priority, so that necessary changes or improvements are ignored or put off indefinitely.
2. Although the beach offers the widest variety of activities imaginable -- Swimming, fishing, biking, surfing, skateboarding, roller-skating, jogging, hiking, shopping, dining, volleyball, basketball, handball, weight-lifting, exercising on equipment, tournaments, exhibits, contests, a children's playground -- one would never know it due to the lack of clean and repaired restrooms, sidewalks, and garbage cans -- this large array becomes a jumble since upkeep is neglected.
3. The lottery has created as many problems as it has solved. Instituted to fairly distribute limited vending space, it has led to people who have no interest in vending except selling their lottery tickets. Also, family members participate in the lottery, leaving single vendors with fewer chances.
4. Commercial vending, with its cheap imports, has largely replaced the artists and craftspeople that have to compete with two-dollar goods.
5. The last ordinance, that is both confusing and conflicting, needs to be changed for clarification, implementation and fairness to shops, vendors and the public.

The final conclusion was that nothing will change unless City Hall sees Venice Beach as a priority worthy of fair rulings and constant maintenance.

Sincerely, *Annette Robinson*

Recreation and Parks Board Member

Venice Hosts Produce Exchange – Share the Surplus!

By Joey Marie Soto

On May 22 a group of us got together to organize the first West Side Produce Exchange. The location of the site was right here in Venice, at the home of Carly Eiseman.

The idea was borrowed from the Hillside Produce Cooperative which holds a free neighborhood monthly exchange of all the fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers that its members grow in their yards and don't want or won't use themselves. "Then no food is wasted and we all get a variety of fresh local produce to eat for free," says Hynden Walch, who organized their co-op.

"My garden time had a greater purpose. I was harvesting to participate in this great event. So I picked collard greens, Swiss chard, kale, some parsley and some oranges. Loaded it up on my bike and traveled the super close distance of two blocks away and dropped off my contribution. Then, as if angels were in charge, a box was delivered to me! Got home from work with a box of veggies waiting at my doorstep."

Meanwhile, back in Venice, Catherine Vargas participated by sharing her surplus of beets. She is excited to help in person this weekend at the Hillside Exchange so she can learn from the pros. "Happy with the first event in the Westside Exchange. I am excited to watch this grow. We had 9 participants and next month we hope to have more."

Naomi Curland the woman in charge of organizing the day felt really good about how it all worked out. "We had TONS of delicious fresh organic produce. By 1:30, each bag was filled to the brim with Meyer lemons, oranges, beets, chard, collards, kale, salad greens, arugula, celery, rosemary, tarragon, basil, parsley, and garlic chives. What a bounty! A huge thank you to our bagging volunteers Steve and Sylvia, and to our wonderful host Carly."

So the second or third Saturday of every month we will be hosting this exchange at different homes in the West Side. Do you have veggies or a fruit tree?

Why not get involved? It is true that money is tight and community is more important than ever. This is one option to off set the need to travel to the market, spend money and use fossil fuels to get your veggies on.

Contact Naomi at ncurland@gmail.com if you are interested in sharing your surplus. ☺



Giant Beets to share

Food Trucks

Dear Beachhead,

I own SliceTruck and I live in Venice. We were at First Friday once and that was in January. We were parked in front of The Other Room about three blocks from Abbot's Pizza. We are currently the only pizza truck in L.A. County so it must have been us you were referring to. I'm sorry it disturbed you so much.

I'm wondering, do old-timey Mexican taco trucks not take business from Casalinda or whatever Mexican restaurant they might be parked near? Why would that be OK with you?

-David of Slice Truck

Color Comes to the Beach

By C.J. Gronner

June Gloom has arrived here at the beach. It makes it extra hard to get up early in the morning to have my walk along the shore, but we do it anyway. It really does affect my mood, this thick mass of gray, and so it was that as we walked along this morning, my mind wandered to darker things. Things like why are there so many big clumps of tar along the beach this morning? The BP horror show in the Gulf of Mexico has been in my thoughts a lot lately, obviously, but there's no way tar clumps could be HERE already, is there? It HAS been spewing for over a month ... I don't know. I do know that I have to scrub my feet for a half hour when I get home, and that's with being careful where I step. I walk this stretch of beach every morning, and it's way more tar than normal. Even if it's completely unrelated, there shouldn't be tar washing up, period. And as for the Gulf, people need to go to Jail. For life. No question. And don't even get me going on the huge profits BP has made lately. What an absolute dirty joke.

My friend Jenny and I get pretty riled up in our discussions about such things, and it wasn't until we were walking past the huge tractors digging up sand near the sewage outlet (Again, I'll refrain from THAT digression of pollution in our waters - just for now), that we saw and remembered that this morning was the unveiling of the first three painted Lifeguard Towers for the fantastic Portraits of Hope project.

By the time the Summer is in full swing, all the lifeguard towers from Zuma Beach in the North, to Palos Verdes in the South, will be completely decked out in brightly-colored patterns. They were all



Photo by Karl Abrams

May 31: A memorial for Devin Petelski continues to be kept seven and a half months after her tragic death at this corner, Venice Blvd. and Glendon Ave.

"Death by Police Car" Victim's Family Files Suit

A civil suit for negligence was filed May 13 in the Santa Monica Division of Superior Court against the city of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department for the death of Devin Petelski.

Petelski was killed shortly before midnight on Oct. 15, 2009, when a police car traveling at a high rate of speed and allegedly with no lights hit her vehicle. A "black box" in the police car had clocked it at 78 miles per hour. Petelski was beginning to make a right turn from Glyndon Avenue onto Venice Blvd. The speed limit on Venice Blvd. is 40 mph.

According to police, the car had not sent a radio message that it was responding to a crime in progress. The reason for speeding without lights is unknown. However, it seems to be a common practice for officers to engage in "silent running" even though it was prohibited several years ago and the LAPD denies any knowledge of the term.

The lawsuit, by her parents, Ron Petelski and Shaunnah Godfrey, comes after an internal investigation by the LAPD found no wrongdoing on the part of the officers. Named as defendants are LAPD Officers James Eldridge, the driver, and Ramon Vasquez, a passenger in the squad car.

Petelski, age 25, died a day and a half later from injuries she sustained in the accident. The case is scheduled to be heard beginning on August 31. Judge Lisa Hart Cole will preside.

Petelski's parents are represented by Bruce A. Broillet, Timothy J. Wheeler and Geoffrey S. Wells of the Santa Monica law firm of Greene, Broillet & Wheeler.

"In barreling down Venice Boulevard at night without using required lights or sirens," stated Bruce A. Broillet, "the LAPD's conduct was not only negligent, but careless and reckless as well. The LAPD's failure to follow proper procedures exponentially increased the odds of putting a member of the general public in harm's way. So very sadly for Devin's parents, it was their daughter who became the victim of the LAPD's utter disregard for public safety. In seeking justice on behalf of Devin Petelski, we have filed this lawsuit to hold the LAPD accountable for its actions."

"Devin Petelski died a senseless death," said Lawyer Wells, "all because the LAPD was driving too fast in the middle of the night without using required lights or sirens. Yet, if the LAPD had its way, they'd place all the blame on an innocent bystander in order to exonerate themselves from any wrongdoing."

Petelski had just left her job as a counselor at the Clearview Treatment Programs down the street on Glyndon. Police initially claimed she was drunk, however, no alcohol was found in her blood. The driver of the other car was not tested.

After her death, Petelski's heart, kidneys and liver were donated to needy recipients.

There are two Beachhead articles about the incident, "Murder on Venice Blvd." and an eyewitness account. They may be found at <http://freevenicebeachhead.wordpress.com/2009/11>.



Waiting for Summer

painted on boards by kids and volunteers around Los Angeles, and the panels will be put up on the towers by construction teams.

As we got closer to the last tower before the Santa Monica Pier (the one where we usually take a water break and stretch on), I had to crack up a bit, because something felt different. I realized that the beach was the most immaculate I'd ever seen it in my life - fully raked and groomed, not ONE piece of garbage, and the homeless guy that has been crashed out sleeping near our tower EVERY morning for over a year, was nowhere to be seen (Paid off to move? How does that work?). Then I saw the reporters and cameras assembling on folding chairs by our tower, as well as guys in suits and the Venice H.S. Marching Band, and connected the dots that they would want to have a pristine beach for all the photo ops that were about to happen. Kinda funny, but nice to see the beach like that, real or fake.

The three towers were shrouded in gray tarps, matching the mood of the weather. The line-up of city officials began, with the speechifying that usually accompanies such events. We stood there in our tarry feet for quite a few speeches, and it went on and on.

L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky talked about how L.A. beaches

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA MUDDLE

By Greta Cobar

A Los Angeles City Council Ordinance on medical marijuana is set to take effect June 7 and to impose some of the toughest rules in the state. The city's current 800 or so dispensaries will be reduced in number to 70, while in Venice twenty-some medical marijuana shops will have to close, as we will only be allowed to have one. The difficult-to-comprehend ordinance was approved by a vote of 9-3, with Bill Rosendahl, Jan Perry and Bernard C. Parks voting against it.

The 187 shops that were opened before the November 13, 2007 moratorium will be allowed to remain open as long as they are not located within 1000 feet of schools, parks, libraries, churches, and other so-called "sensitive use" areas. In addition, they cannot be located across the street or sharing a corner with a residentially zoned lot.



The ordinance states that when any of those 187 shops closes, it won't be replaced until the number is reduced to 70, but it does not go any further to explain how and if any of the 187 dispensaries that opened before the 2007 moratorium will indeed be closed to reduce the number to 70.

As far as Venice is concerned, the 8 dispensaries that opened before the 2007 moratorium are Ironworks, The Pharmacy, Marina Caregivers Cooperative, Venice Beach Care Center, California Alternative Caregivers, Nile Collective, Supplemental Organic Solutions and Herbalology. They will be allowed to remain open as long as they abide the 1000 foot location restrictions, but on the other hand the ordinance allows for only 1 dispensary in the city of Venice. How those 8 shops will become 1 is unclear at best.

It will be interesting to see if the city will indeed proceed to force hundreds of prosperous businesses to close in the middle of the great recession or if the lawlessness that dominated in the last few years will continue.

Despite the November 2007 moratorium over new dispensaries in Los Angeles, hundreds have opened since then under a hardship exemption included in the moratorium itself. And after the Obama administration announced this past year that it wouldn't prosecute medical marijuana users, the number of dispensaries further boomed.

Meanwhile, all threats from the local as well as the federal government did not materialize. For example, in July 2007 the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) sent out letters notifying owners that they stand to lose their properties and face 20 years in prison for allowing their buildings to be used for "un-

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Open hearts, Open minds, Open Doors
Venice United Methodist Church
 1020 Victoria Ave, Venice

Big Give-Away Party Day
June 13, Sunday 1-3pm
Women's Shoes, Blankets, Pantry,
and Yummy Cooked Foods
***Shoes for Women living homeless,**
living in a vehicle & very low income

Everyone Is Welcome!
We Need New Women's Socks,
Volunteers, and Canned Foods
 (NO MEAT PRODUCTS PLEASE)
You can drop off socks early to
Church Office M-Th 9-2pm 310 391-2314
Contact Pantry To Volunteer or Donate
310 398-7192 - Or Just Show Up

CAST AN INFORMED VOTE ON JUNE 8TH

The Propositions on the June Ballot

- Prop. 13 – Seismic Retrofitting – YES**
- Prop. 14 – Top Two Primaries – NO**
- Prop. 15 – Public Funding of Elections – YES**
- Prop. 16 – Two-thirds vote requirement for local public electricity providers – NO**
- Prop. 17 – Car Insurance – NO**

Recommended by Americans for Democratic Action, Southern California Chapter

Vote NO on Prop. 14

By Lisa Green

While standing outside the gated entrance to Governor Schwarzenegger's Brentwood estate with other activists with signs stating, "Vote NO on Prop 14" and "Stop Top Two" I began making a list of what makes Proposition 14 such a bad idea:

Do you want fewer choices on the ballot in terms of candidates?

Do you want even more emphasis on campaign contributions by big corporate power influencing candidates?

Do you wish to protect incumbents by improving their odds because of name recognition, regardless of effectiveness?

Do you want to increase the chances of having ONLY 2 candidates from the same party on the November ballot?

Of course not. The average voter I speak with wants qualified candidates that have the ability and the skills to address the problems, and offer effective, achievable solutions.

Vote NO on Proposition 14 on June 8. Washington and Louisiana have not improved the partisan nature of elections or elected officials. Instead, these laws have made it far more difficult to challenge incumbents or change the direction of government.

Proposition 14 would deny independent and third party candidates and politicians in this state a chance to be heard, while further polarizing our districts and limiting voter choice – all at increased costs to taxpayers and candidates.

Vote NO Prop 14 on June 8th. Tell Sacramento that it's time for real solutions.

Lisa Green is a Green Party candidate for State Assembly. ☸

What About The Judges?

By Jackie Goldberg

- Office #35 - Soussan Bruguera
- Office #73 - Laura A. Matz
- Office #131 - Maren Nelson
- Office #28 - Mark Ameli
- Office #107 - Valeria Salkin;
- Office #117 - Alan Schneider

Here is some commentary on all of these. These are NOT easy to figure out. So, in addition to my recommendations, I am including other information which may, or may not, cause you to vote differently than listed above. Not a problem for me. I just want you to have as much information as I could find.

The three incumbents, Bruguera, Matz and Nelson, are being challenged for no apparent reasons and deserve to be re-elected. If it makes a difference to you, I don't know Judge Matz's political party affiliation, but the other two are both endorsed by the Democratic Party.

Office #28: This is a crowded race with eight candidates, six of whom are rated "qualified" by the County Bar, two are rated "not qualified," and none are rated "well qualified."

Office #107: I've endorsed Valerie Salkin, as has the Stonewall Democratic Club. Salkin was the student rep on the ABA Board, actively championing LGBT issues (as a straight woman). Salkin is rated "qualified" by the Bar, but both of the other candidates are rated "Well Qualified." Tony de la Reyes has served on the Los Angeles City Police Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Cultural Affairs Commission and some endorse him as well.

Office #117: Alan Schneider is the only candidate rated "well qualified" and he has been endorsed by Stonewall.

Jackie Goldberg is a former progressive state Assemblymember and an education activist. ☸

Vote No on Proposition 14



- It will destroy California's independent parties and erode democracy because of fewer choices for voters.
- It will increase the cost of elections and make them more about personalities.

Register and Vote
Peace and Freedom

California's Democratic Socialist Party

Color Comes to the Beach —continued from page 3

are some of the most recognizable in the world, and this lifeguard tower project is going to brighten it all up, from land, sea and sky, all summer long, until October. After that, many of the wood panels will be sent to Haiti to provide both shelter and color to a place that sorely needs it. Wonderful! Supervisor Yaroslavsky said it was actually kind of nice that it was so gray out, as the contrasting brightness of the towers would be all the more noticeable. True, but when our beloved Sunshine is back, it's really going to be something.

The Venice Marching Band played (and it warms my heart in this increasingly electronic age that there are still kids that sign up to be in Marching bands), and little kids ran about learning about Ocean stuff (and hopefully avoiding tar).

Then the brothers behind the Project of Hope, Ed and Bernie Massey, were up next to speak, but it was all taking so long that we really had to split and get our days started.

Please go to their website - PortraitsofHope.org - to learn more about this great organization that stresses the importance of teaching ART to kids, while making them feel that they're a part of something BIG, which this endeavor surely is.

We kept turning around as we walked to see if they had pulled off the tarps yet, and all the way back to Venice, they STILL hadn't. (I get it that people work hard on things and want to say their bits, but, Man. Short and sweet, People).

My morning felt a little unfinished not having seen the dramatic unveiling, so I pedaled back down there this afternoon. Sure enough, through the gray mist, the colors popped out at me, even from quite a distance. I love it. With all the gloom and doom and fear shoved at us on the evening news every single night - environmentally, politically, financially, and even in our own community with more bike thefts, OPD fights, redtape hassles and other lameness like that, it can be real easy to fall into that line of thinking. Especially when the marine layer socks us in on top of it, it can be like S.A.D. disorder around here.

So when an entire 30 mile stretch of beach fights back against that to proclaim - NO! This is going to be a Summer of Color! (that's actually the theme of the Lifeguard Tower project, painted across the top of each of them) - it makes you embrace the color inside yourself, and fight back in your own mind against all the heavy gray that looms around you.

Color. Hope. Community. Fun. YES! And all just in time for Summer. A Colorful Summer. Embrace it.

☸

Coming Next Month:

The Beachhead's Annual Venice Celebration Issue.

Venice was born on July 4, 1905.

Please submit your letters, poems, articles, photos, drawings about Venice. Give us your views, recollections and opinions about historic, present day and future Venice.

Send to: Beachhead@freevenice.org or P.O. Box 2, Venice 90294

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Featured Readers at Bodhi Tree Books

Individual Readings - Events - Instruction



RV Residents Under Gun (stick); Showdown is June 10

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Can they be treated like animals who have to be controlled with a "carrot and a stick"? The result of this policy, as Beachhead readers know, has been early morning sweeps by crews of police, who would probably rather be home in bed, or out chasing criminals.

It has also been responsible for utilizing an obscure law that prevents vehicles taller than six feet from parking within 100 feet of an intersection.

Councilmember Bill Rosen-dahl has been a force in keeping permit parking alive in Venice. He has promised to find RV owners a safe place to sleep, yet he is rushing to get agreement on their eviction from city streets prior to finding an alternative location for them.

Coastal access is at issue, as well. It was this issue more than any other that caused the Coastal Commission to vote against permit parking because it reserves precious street parking for residents and denies it to visitors to the beach.

The revised staff report points out that it is not just 2-6am parking that is the problem, but that it gives residents with permits a head start on beach goers who may arrive later in the day.

Proponents have argued that Venetians have the "right" to impose permit parking on themselves. Next

they will be promoting high rents as a "right" we should enjoy.



Peggy Lee Kennedy, a third-generation Venetian, believes that the most important right is that those who are homeless or live in "movable homes" should have basic civil rights. An assumption of the lawsuit settlement documents, says Kennedy, "is that someone living in a vehicle is not part of the general public or even considered a resident of Venice. Nothing is further from the truth," she adds.

"People using a vehicle for shelter or home do reside in the Venice Coastal Zone. Most are regularly using the homeless services provided in Venice, such as the Venice Family Clinic," observes Kennedy.

June 10 at the Coastal Commission will be a critical meeting for those who believe that Venice should be a haven for a diversity of people. It will also be a time to speak up for those who do not want to pay to park in front of their homes.

June 10 will be a clash of two views of future Venice: the free-spirited Venice of its residents, or the income generating Venice of the gentrifiers, backed by the city of Los Angeles. Call (310)-398-7192 to find out how you can help stop permit parking and RV evictions in Venice.

Which do you choose? ☸

Housing is a Human Right: Math Whiz Needed?

By Cindy Chambers

On May 22, the Los Angeles City Council, through its actions and votes, communicated to 61% of its constituents that housing is **not** a human right. Just let that sink in for a minute. Sixty-one percent of L.A. city constituents now face the reality that L.A. City Council deems housing a luxury – something that not everyone deserves. Hmmm ... very interesting. What does that mean?

Sixty-one to Seventy Percent

Sixty-one percent of L.A. city residents rent apartments. Last I checked, 61 percent comprised a majority; or, at the very least, this percentage portrayed a number greater than half the population. Even though I'm no math whiz, I'm fairly certain that we could all agree that 61 percent of anything comprises the majority. Venice, on the other hand, is comprised of nearly 70 percent renters, or an even larger majority. So when the LA City Council voted to send the rent increase moratorium back to committee – essentially making it impossible to save renters facing rent increases slated for July 1 – Councilmembers Garcetti, Rosendahl, Cardenas, La Bonge, Koretz, Parks, Perry, Reyes, Smith and Zine's action simply stated: You, the majority, only deserve this basic human right if you can afford to pay the same rent that we're charging much wealthier folks. In other words, money provides you access to human rights.

To add insult to injury, Councilmember Zine instructed police to remove renters and community organizations. In the packed chambers with peaceable residents including seniors, women and children, the Los Angeles Police Department deemed it necessary to forcibly remove, arrest and even taser some of the residents. Again, these are the same individuals representing 61 percent of LA City population, or as councilmembers may need reminding – 61 percent of voters in Los Angeles. These same families and individuals face losing their homes as rents increase. Where would they go? What would they do in a city with limited affordable housing?

During a time when our country, and Los Angeles in particular, is facing the worst recession in our history with families and individuals scraping to pay bills and buy food, the L.A. City Council displayed its disdain for those without wealth or seemingly lacking power by saying, "hey, that's the breaks."

The L.A. City Council fails to realize that this lapse in judgment, their failure to fight the good fight and their insistence on supporting a wealthy minority does not come without consequences. As the middle class slips quietly from existence and the working poor are forced to subsist on even less while good paying jobs represent the stuff fantasies are made of in L.A., more and more people experience the reality of unfettered greed and the uneven distribution of wealth. Today's poor and working poor look much different than yesterday's, and, what they lack in personal wealth is eclipsed by their education and access to information, ability to organize, sense of right and wrong, and, for the unemployed, lots of free time to make these and other issues a priority. It doesn't appear that this time, people will retreat silently into the night never to return.

What does this mean for Venetians?

Venice's rich and colorful history is founded on diversity of thought and opinion; a place where arts, culture and counter-culture blossomed; a city by the sea that embraces all. People come here and stay for myriad reasons, however if rents continue to skyrocket, Venice will no longer reflect its rich roots, but instead become something akin to a gated community. As I walk our community, I see vacant apartments remain so for 6, 9, 12-months and longer. In this economy, no one can afford high rent; and, for the first time in my 15 years as a resident of Venice, I've seen move-in specials posted.

Some landlords are willing to lower their rents; but the vast majority of them are doing so only for tenants who have moved in during the past couple of years. Still others are blatantly disregarding tough economic times and raising rents as high as possible.

Is this about need or necessity to off-set a mortgage; or is it about capitalistic greed feeding the ever hungry need for more and more money while pushing out long-term residents in order to secure new tenants at exorbitant rents? Who benefits? Certainly not the 70 percent of renters who call Venice home; unscrupulous landlords benefit while tenants become homeless. In this economy, finding an alternate home is next to impossible.

Just another catchphrase?

You may be thinking: Okay, so the majority of renters will face rent increases beginning July 1 but how does that equate with housing being a human right? Allow me to create the picture or framework of what we're discussing here. Most cities like Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Berkeley, San Francisco and others connect rent increases to the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, which is a fancy word for inflation. When the CPI – or inflation -- is negative, as it was last year, rent increases reflect that meaning that these cities allow a rent increase ranging between 0 and 1 percent. L.A., on the other hand, imposes a floor of 3 percent, which means that even if the CPI is negative, landlords with rent-controlled apartments may increase rent between three and eight percent. The three percent floor makes no economic sense; and, a study conducted for and paid by the city in 2009 recommended removing the three percent minimum increase among other things.

The Office of United Nations Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing who visited LA in 2009. Her job: to focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. After her visit to L.A., she prepared and submitted a report to the UN, which included a recommendation that the city reform its rent control law to protect tenants against unfair rent increases. On March 30, City Hall received this report when 300 residents of the 630,000 rent-controlled households presented it. Again, the message is loud and clear: Housing is a human right.

What's the hold up, City Hall?

Good question. Clearly, it isn't a result of lacking information or being ignorant of the situation. Councilmembers have heard repeated testimony about how the lack of a rent increase moratorium will adversely affect a large majority of renters. The City's inability and/or unwillingness to address these issues and implement the necessary and repeated recommendations leaves tenants burdened with housing costs that in many situations consumes more than 50 percent of their income. Idly standing by and allowing this to happen is not only wrong, but also criminal – it is a human rights violation. Siding with landlords, talking about business, while tenants are talking about their lives in a situation where many could become homeless, seems outrageous and heartless, however in the context of what we've seen in recent months with Wall Street, corporations and banks is not surprising. Still, how can we allow this to happen in our own backyard? The L.A. City Council must be held accountable for this atrocious human rights violation. The U.N. took this stance, and it's time we do, too.

Bottom Line

It boils down to this: housing is a human right; and, everyone deserves the right to feed, clothe and shelter themselves. Without such basic human rights, a person cannot determine his or her own destiny. It's that simple and it is that important. Venice residents need action now!

What's Next?

Elected officials see the world in a much different way than you or I. They see things in numbers like voter tallies, dollar signs, calls and emails, etc. Sometimes they mistakenly think that they can quickly identify these figures by noting a person's race, gender, etc. As the fight continues to win affordable housing for all of L.A., it just might be time to educate them on who wants affordable housing as I'd venture a guess – again, not being a math whiz or anything – that the majority of us want and need affordable housing to succeed in Los Angeles.

Get involved and join us in leading the fight for housing in our great city. Here's how: Contact POWER (People Organized for Westside Renewal) via Email info@power-la.org or call POWER's office, 392-9700, to get involved in the fight. POWER has been and continues to be a strong voice in the fight for affordable housing on the Westside.

The rent increase moratorium is only the beginning. Implementing permanent reforms detailed in the U.N. report remains the goal. Early on, residents demonstrated a desire to work within the system by asking to come to meetings; speak on panels; share information with neighbors and other residents; show support and communicate through emails, fax and phone calls. Sixty-one percent of the city did their part to rectify this human rights violation. The system failed them – it failed each of us. Now it is time to demand change on our terms – the terms outlined by the U.N. and 61 percent of L.A. Please, get involved today and join the fight. Housing is a human right. ☺

Fun Things to do in Venice in the Summer

From the Beachhead Collective:

Krista

1. Set up my hammock on my front porch and snooze, read, snooze some more.
2. Wear less clothes! (makes hubby happy, too.)
3. Swim in the lovely & warm Pacific ocean (unfortunately wearing clothes).
4. Try out my new, beautiful blue hula hoop on the beach.
5. Check out Festival of the Chariots (I particularly enjoy the crazy christians with their big signs & dour faces who usually trail the colorful parade.)

Roger

1. People watching on OFW
2. Reading in the shade of a palm tree at the beach.
3. Sunsets at the beach with friends
4. BBQs
5. Watching 4th of July Fireworks from the beach

CJ

1. Playa de Los Amigos
2. Bike Posse to the Pier Concerts
3. Rooftop BBQ's
4. Summertime produce at the Venice Farmer's Market
5. Bomb Pops from the guy selling them on the beach and telling you to wear plenty of sunscreen. Festival of The Chariots (tie)

Jim

1. Outdoor parties
2. Enjoying the heat, and the fog.
3. Swimming in the great Pacific Ocean, well at least the Santa Monica Bay
4. Daylight until 9pm.
5. Finding a fellow Venetian among the tourists.

Greta

1. Run barefoot on the wet sand
2. Bike on the Venice pier
3. Volunteer for the Beachhead
4. Make art
5. Rollerblade on the boardwalk

Karl

1. Contemplative walks alone on the beach
2. Waking up early and walking to Abbot's Habit
3. Laying on a beach blanket reading a favorite book
4. Wandering around the community before the sun sets
5. Watching sunsets

Lydia

1. Go to the beach, stick feet in sand, squeesh sand between toes, repeat squeeshing
2. Bike ride to canals, hang out long enough to worry canal residents
3. Ibrahim's Sunday Music Jam every Sunday Dudley & Ocean Front Walk
4. Flea Market at Venice High every second Saturday of the month
5. Watch Sunset at Skate Park

Don

1. Walking on the beach
2. Looking at the latest babes
3. People to people contact
4. Love the breeze at 4 p.m.
5. Sunsets on Ocean Walk ☺



Art by Frank Strasser

Tragedy of Errors Sinks Oil Rig

By Roger Linnett,

The oil volcano (you can't call it a "spill," as that implies a known quantity) continues to spew crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. As of June 1 it has been doing so for 42 days. On May 29, British Petroleum officially announced that the "topkill" procedure was not going to work as the pressure coming from the well was too great to stop by this method.

Several strategies are being implemented to try to stop the gusher. This week, BP plans to cut the crumpled riser pipe, which may increase the outflow by as much as 20 percent. A snug-fitting cap, attached to a pipe leading to a surface vessel would suck up most, but not all of the gusher. Also, second blow out preventer is going to be installed to replace the one that failed, and another containment dome is being readied to cover the wellhead.

None of these methods will completely stop the oil from leaking out into the ocean. The general consensus now is that only the two relief wells, which continue to be drilled, but are not expected to actually be functional until sometime in August, can definitely relieve the

pressure that is the underlying cause of the upwelling.

Many new facts are coming to light through official hearings and news media reporting, regarding the series of decisions and incidents that led to the catastrophe. The most damning evidence comes from BP documents that show they chose the riskier of two casing procedures, which used only a single barrier at the wellhead, instead of two; the safer, and more expensive method.

According to the New York Times, "Workers from the rig and company officials have said that hours before the explosion, gases were leaking through the cement, which had been set in place by the oil services contractor, Halliburton. Investigators have said these leaks were the likely cause of the explosion."

Additionally, problems with the casing and blow out preventer were observed back as far as 11 months prior to the explosion, and that, in March, BP officials had informed federal regulators that they were struggling with a loss of "well control," according to a Sunday Times article.

The Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Services are holding hearings in Louisiana to investigate reports of a disagreement "between a BP well site leader and crew members employed by TransOcean, the rig's owner, the morning of the blast," the Times reports. A witness testified that, "the disagreement followed BP's decision to replace heavy drilling fluid with lighter saltwater before the well was sealed with a final cement plug."

Initially, BP estimated about 200,000 gallons, or 5,000 barrels, a day was gushing from the wellhead.

It has now been reported that a government team, led by Dr. Marcia McNutt, director of the U.S. Geological Survey, has revised the estimate to as much as five times the original estimate, which works out to nearly 39 MILLION gallons to date! However, a recent report by the Deepwater Horizon Unified Response Command, a collaboration of BP, TransOcean, the Coast Guard and a dozen federal government

site, by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin., the Coast Guard and Sky Truth, shows that the effluvia from this underwater volcano has spread into the Loop Current, which circulates through the Gulf, and will carry it through the Florida Keys and into the Atlantic and the Gulf Stream Current. In the coming months we will, no doubt, be hearing reports from all over Florida and the Carolinas of tar balls

and oil slicks despoiling their coasts, just like those now coming in from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Another disastrous side effect that is likely to be realized in the coming year concerns Florida's water supply. Florida, it seems, is built upon fairly porous limestone, the remains of an ancient coral reef, which is the source of the hundreds of springs that percolate up all over the peninsula. Eventually, this toxic soup of crude oil and dispersant (which actually facilitates the oil leaching through the limestone), will eventually poison some, if not all, of Florida's ground water. Florida, especially the fragile Everglades wetlands, may well become a "dead zone", devoid of all plant and animal life, and people, for decades to come.



departments and agencies, puts the upper limit at 10 million gallons less, or "only" 29 million gallons! Astoundingly, this disaster only ranks 19th on the scale of recorded oceanic oil spills since 1967.

Another determination by the feds, that ameliorates the extent of the damage, is that a fair percentage of the oil has been siphoned off through a pipe BP inserted into the wellhead, or has been skimmed off, burned or sprayed with dispersant on the surface. This still leaves a volume several times the amount spilled in 1989 by the Exxon Valdez loose and unbounded in the ocean.

One redeeming fact, if you can call it that, is that video analysis of the gusher shows a portion of the outflow is methane gas, instead of crude oil. Unfortunately, the methane simply rises to the surface and up into the atmosphere. It is a potent greenhouse gas, over 20 times more effective in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, and usually remains airborne for approximately 12 years.

Most distressing of all is that, again per the Unified Response Command, as of May 27, BP had dumped over 850,000 of gallons of a highly toxic dispersant called "COREXIT9500" (which is banned in Britain) on the slick to sink and disperse some of the God-awful mess in an attempt, not to do something positive about the slick, but to make it less visible to satellites that have been following the spreading disaster, and the attendant photos and maps flashed around the world. Dispersants cause the oil to break up into tiny droplets and sink, settling to depths between 30 and 50 feet. These are the depths that many of the ocean's major fish species inhabit, all of which are subject to poisoning from BP's "accident."

Between April and June, Bluefin tuna come to the warm Gulf waters each year to spawn. The Bluefin has only recently been taken off the endangered species list, and marine biologists fear that losing an entire generation may very likely doom the species. Besides Bluefin, Yellowfin tuna, swordfish and marlin also congregate in this part of the ocean, as do sperm whales, Bryde's whales, several species of dolphins, as well as, sea turtles, manatees, sharks, barracuda, tarpon and other sport fish that inhabit the coastal waters plus the many seabirds that feed in the open ocean. All these animals feed on smaller "forage fish", which are more apt to ingest the droplets created by the oil mixed with the dispersant, mistaking it for food. Making matters worse, the highly toxic dispersant is what is called a bioaccumulator, that is, it is passed up the food chain.

A real-time map of the Gulf, on the Times' web-

On Thursday, May 27th, President Obama held a press conference, the main thrust of which was that, he, the Coast Guard and the federal government have been on this thing from the beginning and have, in fact, approved every step BP has taken in plugging the wellhead, as well as, overseeing the cleanup efforts.

Troubling reports are coming in about fishermen, hired by BP to help with the clean up, suffering from respiratory problems, headaches, dizziness, nausea and other effects from exposure to chemical irritants rising from the polluted waters. Various sources are reporting that the fishermen were not given respirators or any other safety equipment, and were, in fact, threatened with firing if they used them.

An N.O.A.A. vessel, that had detected an oil "plume" ten miles long, three miles wide and 300 feet thick was ordered to withdraw from the area. Also, there have been reports of BP security contractors patrolling the beaches to keep unwanted photographers away from despoiled areas. Additionally, a Coast Guard cutter intercepted a boat with a CBS News crew on board, and told them to leave the area, and that they were acting on the authority of BP!

I leave it to you to make up your own mind as to whether all this flowed from the top, or not. I only wish the president had come out three weeks ago and told the country what he said on Thursday. While not as reassuring as I would have hoped, President Obama's press conference has helped ease the anguish in my heart at the thought of the tragedy yet unfolding. ☺

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From the Beachhead Archives

From June 2005 - 5 Years Ago

MTA lot

The bus maintenance lot at Sunset, Pacific and Main redevelopment is proceeding. An Environmental Impact Report has been issued and is available for perusal at the Vera Davis Community Center and the Abbot Kinney Library. The developers want to put a gated community in the middle of Venice. Many residents would rather have an extension of the walk streets that constitute the surrounding neighborhood. So far, no hearing has been scheduled by the city. If you want to get on the list to be notified about the hearing, contact Jimmy Liao at 213-978-xxxx.

From June 1985 - 25 Years Ago

The Independence Day Parade Committee (formerly the Free Venice Parade Collective) regrets to announce that the July 4th parade will not take place.

First there was the \$125. filing fee (non-refundable) to be turned in with the parade application, with no assurance that the application would be approved by the Police Commission. We could have raised the money, but some of us thought it would be better used for other community needs.

Then there was the committee itself. We changed our name to have broader appeal. (What does Free Venice mean? Collective? That's a commie word, isn't it?) No one could quite remember who had proposed the parade, so there was no one clearly in charge. Almost everyone on the committee is already swamped with other responsibilities, leaving us to wonder who would do all the work: taking the application through the bureaucracy, contacting groups, businesses, individuals, putting out press releases, distributing leaflets, distributing posters, recruiting monitors, etc.

So, before we went any further, we decided to cancel the proposed parade. (We could always have one next year, or even later this year.) Sorry.

From June 1980 - 30 Years Ago

Excerpts from "Chuck's Briefs"
by Chuck Bloomquist

"The ten most profitable companies (in billions) in the U.S. for 1979 were:

Exxon	\$4.3
IBM	3.0
GM	2.9
Mobil Oil	2.0
Std. Oil - Ca.	1.8
Texaco	1.8
Std. Oil- Ind.	1.5
GE	1.4
Gulf Oil	1.3
Std.Oil - Oh.	1.2"

(So, out of a total of \$21.2 billion, \$13.9 billion, or 66% of the profits were by oil companies.)

From 3/09/80 NYT article:

"IKI ISLAND, Japan (Reuters)- About 4,000 dolphins massed around this island today, forcing fishing boats back to port, a day after fishermen from the island slashed and stabbed about 200 dolphins to death after trapping them in their nets.

Meanwhile, an American environmentalist, Dexter Cate, 36, from Hawaii, was charged with obstructing fishermen's business by force and damaging equipment by cutting nets.

Cate freed some 250 dolphins that had been trapped in the bay at Iki Island where the others had been killed."

"There are a series of ten U.S. spacecraft called Vela. Their sole function is to monitor the planet for atomic detonations. They had correctly reported over forty such explosions over the years, the last being in Sept., 1979, off the southern tip of Africa. South Africa has 50 kilograms of enriched uranium, that they got from us. They could have the bomb.

So could Pakistan. Israel probably has one. Kenneth Brower reporting in the April issue of OMNI magazine said, "Of all the dangers inherent in nuclear power, proliferation is the gravest. . . It is not remotely conceivable that we can avoid nuclear war in a world where 50, or 100 nations, have nuclear bombs."

(Current count is 9 nations.)

From June 1975 - 35 years ago

Excerpts from "Harpy Droppings"
by Carol Fondiller

"Guess what -- the Marina Del Rey Bicentennial Commission is going to have a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party, and we're all invited to watch them throw tea bags into the Marina." (The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

"The Venice Marina Del Rey Chamber of Commerce, that group who objected to public drinking at the Canal Festival, is having a floating wine and cheese party. The Harpy is aghast and appalled. There are enough drunks floating in the Marina already."

From June 1970 - 40 years ago

Lincoln Place:

Recently 75 families living in the Lincoln Place Apartments received notices to move. The notices flatly stated that "these building are to be converted to adults only."

The tenants crimes then were two-fold. 1. They had children. 2. They were not rich. Incensed, the tenants held a meeting at the Venice Library to organize some resistance to management's action. Approximately 100 people attended, including a management fink who took down everything that was said. It was learned that a total of 150 families on

Penmar had children and could expect to get notices soon. A committee to carry on the protest was formed. The next day the committee met with the manager of the apartments who, very divisively stated that not everyone was required to move and that all cases would be treated separately (contrary to what was stated in the notice). Our friend, the manager, was also very aggrieved that no one had spoken to him before going to the meeting.

Currently, no more notices have been received by the tenants and some have asked management to be allowed to stay. Their requests have been graciously granted. Organizing towards a tenants association continues.

—compiled by Roger Linnett and Jim Smith ☸

New Shop with an Old Feel Opens in Venice

By Roger Linnett

Recapturing the spirit of Venice of 40 years ago, the Artisan Venice shop at the corner of Windward and Pacific features art, jewelry, sculpture and clothing all made exclusively by artists and artisans from Venice, and everything on display is for sale.

Virtually every square inch of wall space is covered by paintings, ranging from small oils and drawings to large 6' x 6' canvasses and mixed media works. You may recognize some of the pieces as works by artists you see along Ocean Front Walk.

Several cases exhibit hand-made jewelry, necklaces, earrings and pendants, and many days one of the artisans features his wares on a table in front of the store. Several racks of brightly-colored clothing harkens back to the colorful '60s, as do displays of hand-made knitted caps, hand-painted baseball caps, and a variety of hand-painted patches, which can be custom-ordered. There is also a fairly extensive array of glass appliances for the discerning Venice fumotherapist.

Opened last month, owner Darren Hall and art director Steve Avila are trying to recreate the laid back Venice of old. In addition to selling all manner of art and artifacts, they have musical events every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 7:30 p.m. til closing, usually around 11.

Thursday is acoustic night, which has featured a very good Brazilian trio in past weeks. Friday is open mic night, and Saturday the house band, with invited guests, rocks the house.

The Artisan Venice is open Tues, Wed. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 7.p.m. and Thu., Fri. and Sat. from 11 a.m. 'til whenever. They're closed Mondays. ☸

From
the
June
1970
Beachhead



Over 700 anti-war protestors participated in a march and rally on May 10 (Mother's Day). The demonstration was called by the Venice Peace and Freedom Party "...for those who wanted to show their feelings against the war and couldn't go down to Exposition Park on the 9th" according to Jane Gordon, PFP candidate for Congress in the 28th District, and one of the speakers at the event. Lew McCammon, PFP congressional candidate in the 26th District and Jim Berland for Movement for a Democratic Military were other speakers, as were Mike Coffey, Stan Armsted, and Ed Ferrer, residents of Venice's Black and Brown communities. The best received happening of the afternoon was an unscheduled performance of EARTHLIGHT, a newly arrived theater group in Venice whose address is 1631 W. Washington Blvd.

SINKING ARIZONA

By Jim Smith

*Oh Arizona, where the elderly go to die
a Death's Head has gripped your state.
Immigrants raise their eyes and ask why
they must suffer such a criminal's fate.*

Sunstroke has come early to Arizona this year, or so it would seem. The Anglo majority in the Arizona government has tyrannized the Latino minority in ways that would not be expected in an American state.

Not since the "good" German Christians decided in the 1930s to declare German Jews to be unwanted aliens without rights has a group of people, defined by their ethnicity, been subject to automatic police harassment and ostracism.

How did the federal government respond to this civil rights atrocity? By sending in the troops – 12,000 national guard to be exact. This should be no surprise since the feds responded to the earthquake in Haiti by sending in the troops. At least, Latinos will have some protection like Blacks did in the South. Wrong. The troops are there to seal up the border, not protect anyone's rights.

Meanwhile, sources tell the Beachhead that commercial areas of Phoenix are like a ghost town since Latinos – both documented and undocumented – are afraid they will be seized if they leave home.

The word Arizona became a source of derision around the world with the passage of SB1070 and its signing into law by Gov. Jan Brewer on April 23. The bill is euphemistically titled, "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act." Now South Carolina, the birthplace of the Confederacy, has a copy cat bill pending in its legislature.

Cutting through its 16 pages of legal BS, the Arizona law permits police to determine who looks like an "alien" and to arrest them. It penalizes anyone who attempts to hire them for day labor, but goes easy on big employers who "unknowingly" employ aliens. It makes it a crime for a church or an individual to give sanctuary to immigrants. It is a crime to befriend an immigrant by giving he/she a ride or



other aid and comfort. Law 1070 also allows any person to sue a police officer, city, county or state agency for not being zealous enough in enforcing its draconian provision.

But wait. We're not done yet. How can you top SB1070? With HB2281, the so-called Ethnic Studies ban which Gov. Brewer signed May 11. Education will now be controlled by the state legislature. No classes will be allowed that are designed for one particularly ethnic group or that advocate ethnic solidarity (James Brown's song, I'm Black and I'm Proud, will no doubt be prohibited in a music class).

It also becomes illegal to "promote resentment toward a race or class of people." Obviously, teaching about the Holocaust would be illegal since it might create resentment toward Germans.

But it should be clear that the real target is Latinos. Any Latino reading Howard Zinn's "Peoples History," or numerous books by Latinos about the history of unfair treatment of immigrants, workers and U.S. citizens of Latino heritage would certainly cause resentment against those who perpetrated and continue to perpetrate discriminatory acts in Arizona.

Most Venetians know Arizona, if at all, as a long yawn out the car window, or a moon-like landscape from an airplane window, on their way east. Arizona (arid zone) is a 310-mile-wide desert that must be gotten through to get anywhere interesting. There are

two large oases in this desert – Phoenix and Tucson – and several smaller ones. Arizona is also home to one of the world's biggest holes in the ground, the Grand Canyon.

There would be few people living in Arizona today if not for a modern technological invention – air conditioning. If the power ever goes out, or the water runs dry, the Anglo "civilization" of Arizona will go the way of the Native American and Mexican cultures that they trampled on, and are still trampling on. Earlier civilizations in the Arizona area like the Pueblo culture, the Hohokam and the Sinagua peoples were more advanced than the current residents in that they lived in harmony with nature and were not particularly warlike.

The territory of Arizona was originally proclaimed by that great President, Jefferson Davis. Oops. Yes, in 1861 the good people of Arizona seceded from New Mexico so they could enjoy being slave owners along with the rest of the Confederacy. The leaders who had performed this coup had come to power after the United States declared war on Mexico in 1846 and seized two-thirds of its territory, including what is now Arizona. Taking land by aggressive war is hardly a legal basis to impose draconian measures against those Mexicans who would be

–continued on page 14

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Art Walking

By CJ Gronner

This past weekend was the big annual Venice Art Walk, (to benefit the Venice Family Clinic) where we remember that Art is what made Venice so special to us in the first place. As the popular T-shirt goes, "Venice: Where Art Meets Crime". Crime was somewhat in effect, with a rumored mugging in broad daylight near the French Market, but it otherwise may have gone unnoticed, as super dang windy as it was. WHOOOOOSH!

But that didn't stop hordes of art lovers from coming out to take it all in.

I always like to start at Westminster School, where the silent auction takes place. It's cool because you can see around 400 pieces in one spot, see what you like, and then head out to the studios of many of the auction's featured artists to see where they create their works. I always thought the school part was free to walk through, but I guess it's not. They might want to open just that School part up (for people to look at, and if they want to bid, then pay?), to make some of it accessible to all Venice residents, not just ones who can cough up the steep admittance fee. It is the biggest fundraiser for the essential Venice Family Clinic, so I get it, but if our community is about art, art can also be about the community sometimes. You never know how your next big collector will start out. The school yard is open to all, and has food tents, live music, and mingling about, but if it's art you're into, you have to go inside.

It can be a bit hard to tell what the pieces will look like in a home vs. hanging on a rather blah elementary school wall, but you do your best.

Some of the works had no bids at all next to them (for good



–continued on page 11

Artist Justin Herber on display at The Other Room. Photo by CJ Gronner

Saving Mother Earth

An Eyewitness Account of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

By Ron Ridenour

Presenting the People's Agreement—"mother earth does not belong to us, we belong to it"—worldwide was the first act of the Global People's Movement for Mother Earth. It took place in April in Cochabamba, Bolivia, thanks to that country's president, Evo Morales, and representative activists from five continents.

There were accredited delegates totaling 35,000 people from 147 countries. The conclusions of the conference's 17 workshops—held April 19-21 at the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth (WPCCC) were presented to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to the Non-Alignment Movement (now 130 Third World countries) plus China (the world's second greatest polluter), and then to leaders of the European Union.

President Morales initiated the people's conference as a response to the failed Copenhagen conference (COP15) held in Denmark last December. The so-called "Copenhagen Accord" was strongly biased in favor of the rich governments and transnational capitalist corporations that continue business as usual: extracting unlimited profits from human labor and natural resources while contaminating Mother Earth with their gaseous emissions and devastating wars.

Although conference delegates decided to take their analysis and proposals to COP16 to be held November-December in Cancun, Mexico, President Morales warned, at a May 6 news conference in New York, that there are only two choices: "Either save capitalism, or save Mother Earth. If Cancun is the same as Copenhagen, then unfortunately the United Nations will lose its authority among people in the world." He implied that peoples' movements might replace the U.N.

Key points of the final document arrived at in 17 workshops include:

- "Live well" (indigenous philosophy), not "live better" (capitalism's creed). This enhances the environment holistically and encourages meeting everyone's basic needs while the latter requires greed and destruction of the planet, and war amongst men and between nations over the Earth's natural resources.
- Demand the United Nations force the rich nations (capitalist west) to reduce their CO2 emissions to 50% of 1990 levels by 2017, the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
- These nations must use at least 6% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), much less than they use for wars, for mitigation of and adaptation to climate changes in the developing world.
- Recognize the Universal Rights of Mother Earth—the right to life, clean water and air, free from contamination; every human being is responsible for respecting and living in harmony with her; guarantee peace and eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; decolonization of the atmospheric space.
- Conduct a worldwide referendum of five points concerning how to protect nature: agree or not to eliminating the capitalist economy; transfer all financing for wars to finance the defense of Mother Earth; our territories be freed of troops and military bases; create an International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal to judge and sanction contaminating nations and firms.

□ "Capitalism, as a patriarchal system of endless growth, is incompatible with life on this finite planet...the alternatives [to both capitalism and the Soviet experience with a predatory production system] must lead to a profound transformation of civilization."

The Workshops

The Minister of Foreign Affairs David Choquehuanca coordinated with the renowned private university at Tiquipaya, Univalle, to host the unique climate conference. Classes were suspended and many students helped with logistics. We were accredited with a photo and number, which had to be checked each time we entered the campus.

The finalized program included more than we had anticipated. Aside from the workshops, there

were three important speeches by President Morales and others by visiting presidents. In addition, there were several panel discussions on main themes that ran during our work sessions. At times, there were three panels at once. Then there were the outdoor stands where groups sold their wares, mostly information and propaganda, but also textiles and the new drink Coca Colla complete with a bag of coca leaves was on sale for 10 bolivianos (\$1.40) for a half-liter.

At that price, four times the favorite drink of the death squads, Coca-Cola did not have to worry. There were also outdoor speeches and music during the day to distract those weary of workshop concentration.

I concentrated on workshops 1 and 16, structural causes of the climate changes and activities to protect Mother Earth. In addition, there were workshops on Mother Earth's rights, Evo's proposed 5-point referendum, the 50 million climate migrants, indigenous peoples, climate debt and adaptation, financing, development and transfer of technology, carbon market dangers, the Kyoto Protocol, agriculture and food sovereignty, compared visions, and the forests. All documents can be read on the conference webpage www.cmpcc.org.

—continued on page 10



At Cochabamba: (left to right) Tomás Borge, Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua, Evo Morales, President of Bolivia; Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela.

Photo by Ron Ridenour



Butterface RIP, Mural at Ocean Front Walk and Avenue 19. Art: Anonymous. Photo by Mike Ponce.

Butterface Stowell

November 24, 2000 —May 18, 2009

By Amy V. Dewhurst

Beloved Venice Resident, Butterface Stowell passed away May 18, 2009 at 6:58am.

As the face of Venice Paparazzi Butterface always "Made The Cut". A true local, Butter enjoyed skateboarding the boardwalk with his mom Edizen, boxing and playing tug-of-war with his dad Alex and enjoying leftovers from the finest Venice Establishments. In the latter part of his life this local celebrity, enjoyed relaxing with his sister, Pancake, as he sipped on wheatgrass shots over looking the ocean.

"Butter was a treeeeeemendous kisser!" laughs VNC Member Nancy Feinberg, "When I had to put Tango (her 14 1/2 yr old Maltese) to sleep...I was sitting on the couch by the window at Alex and Edizen's house. Butter and Pancake layed on top of me, to hug and comfort me. Their love and kisses was the only thing that made me feel better"

In the wake of Butter's passing the community mourned in its' usual way (cards, phonecalls, facebook messages). However, in true Venice

Fashion, a miracle occurred. In the middle of the night, an anonymous artist had painted a mural of Butterface on the side of his building on Ocean Front Walk. A mini-shrine of remembrance was created, as friends and neighbors left candles, mini-skateboards, photos and of course...sticks of butter!

Butter-Love: "He was as happy and zen as ever" reports Rae Ray Goldman who recently rendezvous-ed with the Stowell Family "RIP Butter, I miss you already!"

One of Butter's sparring partners, James Cooney smirks "He was always the loudest and most gentle simultaneously. He has the sweetest growl."

Local photographer Kirsten Leveson agrees "I introduced Butterface to my son when he was about two months old. I remember being momentarily horrified when Butter got close enough to sniff my son. I realized that my son's whole head could easily fit into Butter's mouth without much effort. My next thought was to be so thankful that Butter was such a loving dog & that Edizen and Alex had given him such good training. My son is now 10 months old and is very excited about dogs.

However, he is still learning how to be gentle and managed to tug Butter's ear a little too hard when we saw him last week. Butter was such a good dog! He just kind of sighed a little and then he gave a couple of sweet & tender kisses to my son.

He was a big dog who knew how cool he was & didn't need to prove it to anyone. He just was...."

Butterface Stowell is survived by his parents Edizen and Alex Stowell and his sister Pancake Stowell.

For more on Butterface go to venicepaparazzi.com.

www.venicemyles.info

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Beach Chair Reading

By Jack Neworth

Summer is coming. I can tell by all the weight loss commercials urging us lemmings to get in shape for beach season. Fat chance. (Pun intended.) It's the beach, not a model's runway! Trim or chubby, I'll be on the sand taking a good book with me. Here are a few you might want to check out.

The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption and Pee, is by Sarah Silverman, the sexy, outrageously filthy, and yet innocent comedienne. Silverman is also the co-creator and star of Comedy Central's "The Sarah Silverman Program," an Emmy nominated sitcom in its 4th season.

With her signature taboo-breaking humor, Silverman describes being a bedwetter well into high school. She was plagued with guilt and fear, especially on sleepovers and overnight camp. And yet, she manages to joke about the shame she endured.

As a teenager Sarah also was in therapy for depression. Once, while waiting for an appointment, she was informed that her shrink had just hung himself. Lovely. Meanwhile Sarah had an hour to kill (no pun intended) until her mother was picking her up.

Another shrink put Sarah on 16 Xanax a day. Fortunately, a sane psychiatrist weaned her off the medication or she might have wound up on "Celebrity Rehab."

Sarah eventually outgrew the bedwetting, and focused on more important issues, i.e. her lifelong struggle with hairy arms. ("There's not enough wax in the world.")

Following a stint in college, she braved the daunting world of standup. After a childhood trauma, including the tragic death of her infant brother, the stress of being funny in front of strangers paled in comparison. *The Bedwetter*, published by HarperCollins, is surprisingly poignant and still laugh-out-loud funny. (Also includes an afterword written by God!)

When the Game Was Ours follows the lives of Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. For any fan of basketball, or of unlikely friendships, it's a compelling read.

Bird and Johnson's rivalry, which bordered on hatred, began in the historic 1979 NCAA Championship game, in which Magic's Michigan State beat Larry Bird's Indiana State. The rivalry was so intense it's been compared to Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier's, but without the gloves.

Magic and Bird's arrival into the NBA is credited with saving the sport from its twin epidemics of drug abuse and uninspired play. Their rivalry ushered in an NBA golden era.

In 1980 Bird was Rookie of the Year but Magic exacted his revenge. Playing center for an injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic led his Lakers to the NBA Championship over the 76ers with a 42-point performance. Bird and Magic met face to face three times in the NBA finals, with the Lakers winning two out of the three. And now, of course, the Celtics and Lakers are meeting once again.

The two couldn't have been more different. Brooding, Bird shunned the limelight. Ebullient, Magic was the limelight. But, after retirement, they discovered that they had shared small town roots and childhood poverty.

When Bird was 19 he was devastated by his father's suicide, committed largely over financial issues. (Sad irony, in a few years Bird would be a millionaire.) Bird acknowledges that the only other time he felt as hopeless as after his father's death, was when Magic contracted HIV.

A fascinating and touching read, "When the Game was Ours" by Bird and Magic, was co-authored by Jackie MacMullan. (Whom I suspect did the bulk of the writing.) It's published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

"And No More Sorrow," written by Santa Monica author Liliane Pelzman, is a powerful and poignant memoir about her mother's heroic survival from Auschwitz. But the subtitle suggests the more universal story: "A mother, her daughter, their war."

Sonja Rosenstein suffered unimaginable horrors during the Holocaust. But for many survivors' children, it was their war, too. As in "normal" families, parents often pass their life traumas onto their children. But, after decades of distance, Liliane spent years interviewing her mother, and in the writing of the book, was able to finally heal their relationship. *And No More Sorrow* is published by Llumina Press.

Mark Twain once opined, "History is only the winner's version." *A People's History of the United States*, by the late and legendary Howard Zinn, reaffirms that profound quote. And another: "Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it."

SWAMI X SPEAKS



When you get to 84, the urgency to get laid dramatically diminishes. Not to suggest I no longer fully appreciate the warmth, sensitivity, intelligence, wit, wiles and charm of a full-grown woman; I just don't want to disappoint her.

I am still dedicated to discovering the bottom line to all the secrets of life and death, and everything in between, if you'll

forgive my arrogance. I have concluded SEX is a sacred ritual, ecstatically inspired and spiritually fulfilled. It has been demeaned, corrupted and exploited by dogmatic religions, and the madness continues. It may end soon. It can never be soon enough. I was too soon, a lot.

A lot of people are afraid of death because of a short attention span, and they're not religious, except on Sundays. What we really have to learn to do is love ourselves. This is not easy in a Consumer Society, which is 98% of the world. We have to be inspired and learn to delve into and investigate ourselves.

Meditation is the key and foundation of spirituality, and the secret of real peace. Love is the answer, however, compassionate, absolute Love, our origin, sustenance and destiny. In the meantime, we shall find that cosmic love within ourselves, as the soul. Creation is God's love story with Herself. Sounds egotistical, but it's not. It's a love story, and we are the Beloved.

If God is everywhere, Hell can't be all that bad.

To be truly sane, one must be a little mad,

to be truly happy, one must sometimes be sad.

And regardless of how clever you may be,

sooner or later, everyone,

by Absolute Bliss, is had. ॐ

Rights of Mother Earth

—continued from page 7

In Morales' excellent "10 Commandments to Save the Planet, Humankind and Life", the first one is "To End with Capitalism", followed by "Renounce War" with figures of damage to Mother Earth.

I elaborated on the environmental damage caused by militarism and quoted the co-director of International Action Center, Sara Flounders, who recently wrote, "Pentagon's Role in Global Catastrophe". The Pentagon, as Flounders wrote, "is the largest institutional user of petroleum products and energy in general. Yet the Pentagon has a blanket exemption in all international climate agreements." In 2006, the CIA Factbook stated that only 35 countries, out of 210, consume more oil per day than does the Pentagon.

Officially, that is 320,000 barrels a day but that does not include fuel consumed by contractors or consumed in leased and privatized facilities, nor the fuel energy used to produce and maintain their "death-dealing equipment or the bombs, grenades or missiles they fire."

www.iacenter.org/o/world/climatesummit_pentagon121809/
climateandcapitalism.com/?p=1534#more-1534,
January 9, 2010

"The Pentagon wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, its secret operations in Pakistan, its equipment on more than 1,000 U.S. bases around the world, its 6,000 facilities in the U.S., all NATO operations, its aircraft carriers, jet aircraft, weapons testing, training and sales will not be counted against U.S. greenhouse gas limits or included in any count." How can that be?

The Pentagon demanded during Kyoto Accord negotiations that "all of its military operations worldwide and all operations it participates in with the U.N. and/or NATO be completely exempted from measurements and reductions." It secured this concession and then had the audacity to refuse to sign the accords. Yet to this day, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change ignores all U.S. military emissions of CO2 and all other lethal toxics and radiation.

That means when it is written in workshop 1's declaration that the United States increased its Greenhouse Gas emissions by 16.8% from 1990 to 2007 (while the rich block as a whole increased emissions by 11%), this does not include GHG emitted by the Pentagon and its wars. This is certainly a major factor when arguing to retain the Kyoto Protocol as does Evo and workshop 10.

Besides spreading CO2, U.S. weapons include depleted uranium, which "have spread tens of thousands of pounds of micro-particles of radioactive and highly toxic waste throughout the Middle East, Central Asia and the Balkans", says Sara Flounders.

"The U.S. sells land mines and cluster bombs that are a major cause of delayed explosives, maim-

ing and disabling especially peasant farmers and rural peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. For example, Israel dropped more than 1 million U.S.-provided cluster bombs on Lebanon during its 2006 invasion."

The US accounts for half the world's expenditures of \$1.3 trillion on wars and defense. The US and Europe just gave their major capitalists \$3 trillion to bail them out of their self-made financial crisis. These rich governments offer .03% of that for developing countries to "adapt" to climate changes.

Then there was the controversy about "workshop 18". One of Evo's strongest supporting groups, the indigenous Conamaq, wanted a workshop on national preservation of the earth, including banning or curtailing the extraction industry from removing petroleum and minerals. In a closing interview with Democracy Now, Goodman asked Morales of this dilemma, given that a fourth of national income comes from this industry. He replied that while studies had to be made, and controls utilized, "of what are we going to live" if this demand is accepted?

On the 22nd, our last day, the sun was so strong that firefighters sprayed the audience of 25,000+ with water. Seeing so many banners naming the true enemy of humanity and the planet—capitalism—made me happy and reminded me of my young activist days in the United States. After the inspiring '60s turned into Reaganism, it seemed to me and many other revolutionaries that the vanguard for socialism would not come from the most industrialized—and thus most pacified—workers but rather from some of the most exploited and oppressed, namely, from Latin America, where Che Guevara is still revered.

Here, in this stadium in Cochabamba, I was witnessing that thought come true. The many thousands gathered here had understood that we cannot advance the spiritual aspects of humanity; we cannot eradicate hunger and poverty nor maintain a lively planet with this deprived economy. A sign showed us that "Bolivia is the capital of dignity". We were happy and felt dignified chewing on coca leaves and listening to the People's Agreement being read by a Bolivian woman and a Usamerican man.

The next day, hundreds of activists and Bolivian students and soldiers planted 10,000 trees on one side of Kötü Mayu mountain, in Tiquipaya. The president planted Tipas (the tall Rosewood tree). I planted the Jacaranda, which sprouts lovely fragrant trumpet-shaped blooms. This was the beginning of reforestation plan, 10 million seedlings each year for five years.

For these days we 35,000 people were of one common mind: unity against capitalism and its depravities. We hope that environmentalists and others around the world will listen to our conclusions and draw from them the understanding that as long as capitalism exists, our planet will continue dying and one day no life will awake. ॐ

From Columbus to Clinton, Zinn's masterpiece gives the reader insight into American history far different from what we were programmed to memorize in school. *A People's History* is published by Harper & Row, HarperCollins. (It's also available free online at:

www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/zinncol1.html)

All the above are available at bookstores, Amazon.com and the public library. So, this June, while you're busy getting your body in beach shape, why not do the same for your brain? Read a book or three. And, above all, have a great summer. ॐ



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Beyond Palatable

(a haiku)

Shrimps in mole' sauce
Oysters Rockefeller-ized
Gulf of Much-sorrow

– Roger Linnett

The Man!

By Essombe Sone Massoua

Treachery and deception started it
A life spent on the edge of lies.
No wonder mankind feels uncomfortable.
Cause they hide and camouflage
We started crusades of perdition
Hazardly disregarding the feelings of the common man
Morality is at its lowest. Our fear skyrockets.
A society in an advanced stage of decay.
Pungent smells of decadence fill the air
I can't stay here no more. It's tainted with blood.
Nothing holds me back, it's a screw-up situation.
Staying means dying, leaving offers an opportunity.
To find a place and make hay again.
Maybe start afresh, a clean slate.
On which to clear the air from this foul
and vile transgression.

Art Walking

–continued from page 8

reason) and some of them were clearly going to require hand to hand combat to obtain. Beach and Venice-centric pieces are very popular, as are pop culture ones, like Shepard Fairey's skateboarder and Jaws surf spot ones.

That's a cool thing about the Silent Auction part ... one piece will be by your quiet neighbor that you didn't even know was an artist, and the next will be by Ed Ruscha. No zoning.

It's a big job to amass it all and get it hung and sorted, and the whole thing is by and for the Venice Family Clinic, probably the most important cause we can give to in this town, especially in times like these when health insurance is a luxury many can't afford.

Once you do the laps of up and downstairs at the school, it's off to the artist studios you've starred in your guide. It's very cool to be invited into these hallowed spaces where people create their expressions in so many different mediums and vibes. There's the real messy ones, with paint everywhere. The real anal pristine ones where you wonder how anything ever gets done. There's the ones that artists live and work in, and the ones that are strictly showrooms. It's kind of telling as to the art and the artist themselves, if you think about it (and I do).

Highlights for me were the studio (and stories) of rock photographer Guy Webster - Wow. The vivid photography of Gjelina's own Robert Schwan. The colorful maze of the "Milwood Mansions" (Scott Mayers residence).

The Venice beachiness of Jay Mark Johnson's trippy "Spacetime" photography. The live painted naked lady drawing quite a crowd in front of the window of the 99 High Art Collective. The very realistic and cool tree sculpture by Pontus Willfors. All of it is interesting, some of it is just more to my taste ... as it goes with any kind of art.

I really missed "The Eclectic Collector" this year, the craziest house in the world, that I brag about the rest of the year. Where were you, E.C.?! Instead, a really great treat this year was the Neighborhood Numbnuts exhibition put on by local raconteur Alan Shaffer, who has been part of the legendary Venice gang of Bell, Conal, Dill, Edge, and Moses since time began, pretty much. His fantastic photos documenting his years of running around with this bunch were all over the walls of Capri restaurant, along with a piece by each guy photographed. Alan was there to tell stories about each, and there are so many that we're just going to do his own story here very soon.

Of all the art I saw, the ones I most want to organize a heist around are the gorgeous wood stain paintings of music icons by local artist, Justin Herber, on display at The Other Room. Bob Dylan is the one I most covet (Happy Birthday, Bob! 69!), but each one is just jaw-droppingly great. Jimi. Billie. Louis. Willie. Mick. Each of them are all the way up my alley, and you should check them out immediately. Love.

You could really use a solid week to get around and not just see it all, but hear about it all, as every piece of art has a story, and I'm all about the story. It's a great day to be out and about and bump into your local characters and neighbors, so many that you end up chatting and not getting to see it all before it shuts down for the year. And that's all part of the fun. I look forward to this weekend each year, where Venice once again becomes all about the Art - and celebrates that in its every nook and cranny. ☺

Do I Really Care?

i'm not sure why
people i barely know believe
i care so much for them.
i've noticed that
if i simply pay attention
and remain seated
in my entire body
people near by wake up
& cling to me.

It's not that i don't care
either or that i'm indifferent (yet).
i simply like being here.
Please, do not mistake
this gesture for concern.
i certainly haven't in you
& still spend much of my time
alone & sweetly content.

– krista schwimmer

For Dr. John

By Mary Getlein

I will, said Dr. John.
Who will laugh?
I will, said Dr. John.
I'm hungry, who will help me?
I will, said Dr. John.
I'm scared and a runaway,
I'm lonely and homeless,
who will help me?
It's okay, I'm homeless too said Dr. John.
Who will listen to my troubles,
when I am sad and blue?
I will, said Dr. John.
Who will love me?
I will, said Dr. John.
Dr. John was our bodisattva,
our barefoot sadhu.
When he was lying in the grass,
by the library, people would come by
and talk to him, and receive love and
understanding.
He loved music and dancing on the Broadwalk.
He would dance, dance, dance and then
thank you for dancing too.
He was living the life of Jesus,
living a life of bliss, day by day.
He was our magical friend - so cheerful
and happy to see you.
Young people and children loved him.
At his memorial, there were so many
stories of his loving kindness.
Thank you Dr. John, for dancing with us.
We will keep dancing,
and keep the spirit alive -
Your heart will keep us all warm.
Thank you for your Life!

Love,
Mary

Vanishing

*News Item: Tiny Island Sinks
Off Indian Coast*

Next trip, let's visit the Bay of Bengal
where the ocean consumes land in small bites.

We'll hop from one submerged islet to the next,
finally stop at a speck the tour book omits.

Its name is Forgotten, its name is Farewell

and its high point juts from the water
for a last longing look. If we hurry

we'll get there while it's still above the surface.
We'll stand on the peak

while the tide creeps up the hillside
and we ourselves start to turn into islands.

It's name is Remember, its name is Beware.

Before water washes it out of our maps
we'll watch it become a garden

of fishes and ferns, algae greening the rubble.
We'll sing the national anthem of that

immemorial rock. We'll gather seashells
as souvenirs, photograph stones as they sink.

– Sherman Pearl

How will it be?

By Jim Smith

How will it be
in the far future?
when everyone is a poet
when everyone is a lover
when everyone is a musician
when everyone is a philosopher
when everyone is a silver-tongued orator

and no one is
sad,
poor,
violent,
hungry,
depressed,

How will it be?
Pretty damn good!


This Paper
Is A Poem

ANNOUNCING

The First Annual
BEYOND BAROQUE POETRY PRIZE

The cherished heart of L.A.'s poetry community is conducting its first-ever poetry contest. All poets of our region will benefit from boosting Beyond Baroque at a time of urgent financial need. Winners will further benefit from cash prizes and the reading/reception held in their honor. There can be no losers.

Prizes: \$500, \$250, \$100
Final Judge: Tony Barnstone
(Professor at Whittier College, NEA Fellow, Pushcart Prize winner)



CONTEST RULES

1. Submit up to three unpublished poems, 40 line limit.
2. All themes and styles welcome.
3. Deadline **Sept. 1st, 2010** (postmarked)
4. No ID on poems; poet's name, address, phone, e-mail address and poem titles on cover sheet.
5. Send entries, including \$15 reading fee, to: Beyond Baroque Contest, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291.
6. Checks payable to Beyond Baroque
7. No SASE. Poems not returned.

Note: A reading/reception will be held for the three cash winners and five top finalists at Beyond Baroque on Sunday, Oct. 17th.

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Information: Beyondbaroque.org Art by Emily Winters

SPARC and Beyond Baroque Host Event for Cuban Political Prisoner and Artist

By Diana Block

How do you break through the 12-year blockade of silence that has kept five Cuban political prisoners invisible to the American public? How can art transcend U.S. prison walls and present the truth about these men, locked up in five distant prisons scattered across the United States, to a Southern California community?

On May 22-23, a collaboration of artists, actors, organizations and organizers addressed these issues by hosting two events, at SPARC and Beyond Baroque, dedicated to the freedom of the Cuban 5. The Five have been held in U.S. prisons since 1998, charged with spying against the United States. In reality, they were monitoring the activities of violent Cuban exile groups in Miami to prevent future terrorist actions against Cuba (for detailed information about the Cuban 5 see www.thecuban5.org).

During his years in prison, one of the Five, Antonio Guerrero, learned how to paint, and an exhibit of his artwork was put together by his supporters on the outside. Over 150 people attended the opening of the exhibit, titled *From My Altitude*. This was followed the next day by an educational and fundraising brunch that focused on the denial of family visits to the wives of the prisoners. Both events, presented by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, successfully raised awareness and material support for the Five and advanced a collective commitment to the continuing campaign to win their freedom.

The art show was held in the gallery of SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center). Ironically, the SPARC gallery is situated in the old city jail building which, for the past 33 years, has been converted into a "liberated" space. SPARC promotes public art based on the vision that "the arts can have significant transformative impact on the most significant social problems of our time" (from the SPARC brochure), so this was a very fitting venue for the paintings of a political prisoner. The gallery in which Guerrero's paintings were displayed includes a preserved portion of an original cell from the old jail, and one of the curators of the exhibit, Debra Padilla, SPARC's Executive Director, effectively used this cell to highlight the current confined situation of the artist.

As people arrived, they entered the gallery unsure of what to expect. Quickly, they came face-to-face with the set of bars that encased the small cell space. After entering through the narrow door way to the cell, their experience of the tiny, enclosed area was offset by the paintings hanging on the wall and a colorful banner with the strong faces of the five prisoners which was set above Guerrero's artist's statement. In 2003, searching for an occupation which could take him away from the tension and violence of the prison climate, Guerrero began to take a drawing class taught by an African-American prisoner, André. When André was transferred to another prison, Guerrero continued his study with a Native American prisoner and gradually moved from pencil, to watercolor, then pastels and finally oils. In developing his art, Guerrero was guided by José Martí's precept, "Truth needs art," and he continues to see his painting as a means of communicating the truth about himself, the Five, and the Cuban people. "Each work expresses not only my human essence, but that of the Five, united as we are by unbreakable principles."

After this compelling introduction, visitors went on to view a range of other paintings. The scenes, drawn primarily from Guerrero's memory, included portraits of the mothers of the Five, paintings of Cuban cityscapes and countrysides, as well as pictures of Elian Gonzales, Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

Judy Baca, the founder and current artistic director of SPARC and a world-renowned muralist, scholar and educator, welcomed the crowd to the exhibit. She made it clear that SPARC was honored

to host the exhibit and to support the struggle for freedom of the Cuban 5. Baca pointed out that there are very few artistic spaces that will support such socially significant efforts, but the city of Los Angeles is now threatening to take away SPARC's lease of this historic space in order to make more money, which would endanger its future existence.

After touring the gallery, people expressed amazement that Guerrero could have produced such inspired paintings while living in the dehumanizing prison environment. The intergenerational, multicultural crowd included people who knew little or nothing about the Five, as well as those who had been following the case for many years. At 90 years old, Esther Cicconi was probably the oldest visitor that evening. She explained that her eyes were not good enough to

clearly see the paintings, but she wanted to come to the exhibit anyway in order to express her long term support for the Cuban people. "I've been fighting injustice all my life and to me this case is just one more example of that," she exclaimed.

At 8:30, the crowd moved next door to the old Venice city hall building, home to *Beyond Baroque*. After Richard Modiano, a board member, welcomed everyone to the theater space, Suzanne Thompson, producer of the weekend's events, explained her connection to the case. Several years ago, Thompson produced a documentary about the case that focused on Leonard Weinglass, one of the attorneys for the Five. This past December, she experienced Cuba for herself, met family members of the Five, and became convinced that she had to do something more. "I refuse to allow a small group of reactionary right-wing, Miami Cuban-Americans to dictate U.S. foreign policy towards Cuba!" She also commented, "In all my years of producing concerts, events, and exhibitions, I've never experienced such a lack of response from the corporate press - a media black out, silence about the case of the Cuban 5. So we need to become the media."

Thompson then introduced a documentary-in-progress by filmmakers, Saul Landau and Jack Willis, titled, "Will the Real Terrorists Please Stand Up?" The film exposes the aggressive terrorist activities that right-wing Cuban groups based in Miami unleashed against Cuba during the 1990s and dramatically shows the context which motivated five young Cubans to volunteer to infiltrate these groups in order to prevent further death and destruction in Cuba.

Following the film, Alicia Jrapko, national coordinator of the International Committee to Free the Cuban 5, noted that it was the birthday of Mirta Rodríguez, Guerrero's mother. She also explained that most of the legal avenues for appealing the sentences of the Five had been exhausted, except for a current *habeas corpus* petition for Gerardo Hernández that was due to be heard in the middle of June.

Jrapko encouraged people to become involved with the grassroots efforts to free the Five which will be critical in the next period. Next was a videotaped greeting from actor Danny Glover who was originally supposed to be present at the event but was unable, at the last minute, to attend.

Glover read a beautiful story called "The Bird and the Prisoner" that Hernández had told Alicia on one of her visits to him at the federal prison in Victorville, just 100 miles away. The story, which Jrapko transcribed from memory after the visit, describes how Hernández nurtured a frail baby bird back to health and the special relationship that then developed between them, despite all the prison rules against such connections. At the end, Gerardo lost touch with the bird when the prison was locked down for an entire month and he was unable to go outside during this time.

People in the audience were visibly moved by this story which revealed so much about Gerardo's character, his sensitivity, and the ways in which other prisoners looked up to him. (To request a copy of *The Bird and the Prisoner*, email info@cuban5.org).



The Cuban 5 political prisoners (top to bottom): René González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labaniño and Fernando González.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA MUDDLE

—continued from page 3

lawfully distributing a controlled substance." Three years later, no owner lost his property and nobody went to jail for allowing a dispensary to operate on his property.

Thus, the over 600 dispensaries throughout the city that received notices to close by June 7 are hoping that the law will not be put into effect this time, just as it wasn't in the past. Four dispensaries asked for a temporary court order to stop Los Angeles from shutting them down come June 7, but their requests were denied.

On the other hand, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, an initiative to legalize marijuana, will be on the California November ballot. If passed, it would allow adults 21 or older to possess, share and transport up to an ounce of marijuana for personal use and to grow up to 25 square feet of marijuana per residence. It would allow local governments, but not the state, to authorize the cultivation, transportation and sale of marijuana and to impose taxes in order to raise revenues.

A person would be able to buy marijuana without a card from the doctor and dispensaries would be able to operate for-profit, but this legalization initiative might not change much else, as the LA City Council will maintain control over the dispensaries much as it does now.

We know from the November 5, 2009 Venice Neighborhood Council meeting that when asked who supports legalizing marijuana, everyone in the packed room raised their hands. However, without cityhood we would not be able to keep our twenty-some dispensaries open or have much input into any other decisions regarding marijuana, either sold as medical marijuana or legalized.

However, most growers in Humboldt County fear legalizing marijuana because they fear their profits will shrink from taxes and competition. Corporate tobacco companies could move in and take over the business, causing prices to drop significantly.

As a matter of fact, Northern California marijuana growers have already experienced a significant drop in prices, as dispensaries are now paying \$2000 for a pound, compared to just a few years ago, when they used to pay \$4000 for that same pound. On the other hand, the dispensaries themselves continue to sell an eighth of an ounce for \$50, which adds up to \$6400 for a pound. This has actually forced people from up north to go back and sell on the street for a better profit. If marijuana laws, whether medical or fully legalized, go astray, marijuana business will be right back on the streets.

And while doctors are allowed to prescribe marijuana under the current state law, according to the federal government it continues to be illegal and classified as a Schedule I drug, one with "a high potential for abuse" and "no currently accepted medical use in treatment", criminalizing the acts of prescribing, dispensing, and processing marijuana for any purpose. Thus marijuana cannot be grown for federally-sponsored research studies, which leaves the doctors prescribing it with only folk-tales to learn from, without any medical literature.

The American Medical Association, the nation's largest physician association, has recently joined the Institute of Medicine and the American College of Physicians in calling for a review of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance. Re-classifying marijuana as a Schedule II drug would not only put it in a category other than heroin, but it would open the door to research into its benefits. Doctors are now prescribing it for children with autism, but the research on this as well as its other uses is minimal at best.

In 1986 the FDA and the DEA approved marijuana in pill form, called Marido. People did not like it, but why would the FDA and the DEA OK it in pill form, but not in its natural form? Well, because a pill can be trademarked and its profits controlled, while an herb that grows as a weed cannot.

However, marijuana is believed to be California's largest cash crop. The California State Board of Equalization estimated the state could gain \$1.3 billion a year in taxes and fees if marijuana were legalized. Let's hope that legislators come up with common-sense, supply-and-demand oriented laws that we can all be happy with. Nobody wants to go back on the streets, depending on Mexican drug cartels supplying pesticide-ridden herb.

Just like in 1996 California led the nation to become the first state to approve medical marijuana, it will be the first state to have an initiative to legalize it on the November ballot. But whereas the medical marijuana dispensaries blossomed while laws were vague and not enforced, we need to have a better system in place for regulating legal marijuana. ☸

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Lincoln Place Lives *—continued from page 1*

million per month in rents. In addition, AIMCO will be allowed to build an additional 99 units on land where apartments had been bulldozed by the previous owner. However the new buildings cannot be taller than 30 feet.

Meanwhile, all those who were evicted five years ago will be paying 2005 rents, and every existing apartment will fall under current rent control laws.

In a celebration May 29, tenants and community supporters were lavish in their praise for Amanda Seward, who won historical status for Lincoln Place, for Laura Burns and Jan Book, who did much of the legal research, and for all the tenants, whose tenacity ultimately won the day.

In addition, Venice residents – many of whom had once lived at Lincoln Place – came to the aid of the tenants time after time. In all, 10,000 families have lived in the complex since it was built in the late 1940s.

A turning point in the long struggle that was cited by many was Dec. 6, 2005, the day of the most evictions in Los Angeles history. While it was a dark day for the 52 families who were summarily removed from their homes by more than 100 police, it also served to turn public opinion against AIMCO.



Hector Jimenez on eviction day, Dec. 6, 2005. With photos like this, AIMCO swiftly lost the public relations battle.



The night of the mass evictions, tenants pleaded with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to help them at a meeting in Del Rey. He wasn't interested.

After that, there were mass meetings and rallies, the intervention on the side of the tenants of City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, fundraising to cover legal expenses, and a variety of lawsuits that kept tenants in court day after day.

There were three settlement agreements: AIMCO and Amanda Seward, to preserve the historical status; AIMCO and the Lincoln Place Tenants Association, to preserve the rights of the evicted renters and to allow their return; and AIMCO and the city of Los Angeles, which protects the buildings and calls for rehabilitation of the historic apartments.

It is unclear how long it will take for the 83 evicted families to return to newly renovated homes. Currently, there are only 11 disabled and senior residents and families living at Lincoln Place. Under the agreement, all 83 families will be relocated in the buildings close to the Ross store. This will provide for easy access to Ralphs and Rite Aid.

After that, up to 500 union construction workers will begin replacing the electrical and plumbing in all units.

In the end, there will be nearly-new rent controlled apartments for up to 3,000 people. In addition, there will be 99 more units which will not

be under rent control since current state law specifies that buildings must have been constructed in 1978 or earlier to qualify under a city's ordinance.

The fight to save Lincoln Place has been won. At one time, the landlord's plan was to bulldoze all the beautiful garden apartments after tossing out their occupants who were never to return. In their place, would have been 1,000 high rise apartments or condo-



Tenants and supporters took their fight to City Hall. In front row: Spike Marlin, Steve Clare and Elena Popp. The city eventually came down on the tenants side, due mainly to Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

miniums which would have forever changed the character of Venice.

That is one future we don't have to worry about thanks to the heroic tenants of Lincoln Place.

The entire settlement agreement between the City and AIMCO can be read at www.freevenice.org/City-AIMCO-Agreement.pdf. A summary of the agreement between the tenants union and AIMCO is at: www.lincolnplace.net/pr090813.html.

The Many Faces Of Lincoln Place

Backstory



The Many Faces (but not all) of Lincoln Place is by Elke Weiss. All other photos on this page are by Jim Smith.



Tent City at California and Frederick gave evicted tenants a place to mingle with each other and the public.



Another iconic photo taken on Eviction Day, Dec. 6, 2005.

SPARC and Beyond Baroque Host Event for Cuban Political Prisoner and Artist

—continued from page 12

Actor Edward Asner (best known for his role as Lou Grant on TV and more recently, the voice of the grumpy old man, Carl Fredrickson in the film, "Up"), brought the evening's program to a close. Asner, who has supported Latin American struggles for many years, pointed out that this is an important period for Americans to show solidarity with the developing unity in Latin America.

He then read two poems by Guerrero and a letter written by Ramón Labañino for his daughters when they first learned about his activities on behalf of the Cuban people. "Now you can understand why daddy couldn't be with you longer, or share all the happy times with you like other fathers do with their children. For that, I'm very sorry... But I want you to know that I had to leave because of my love for you and everyone. That wherever I have been and wherever I will be, you have been and will always be with me." (from *Letters of Love and Hope, The Story of the Cuban Five*).

Speaking with deep emotion after reading the letter, Asner concluded: "Justice in the U.S. these days is rarer than hens' teeth, and the struggles we all engage in are never ending. But empires don't last forever and perfidies will be exposed. So, keep on fighting!" After that, the audience took postcards to mail to President Obama on their way out of the theatre, urging him to use his executive power to free the Five. One woman commented, "I can't believe how cruel and senseless it is to keep them in prison. And to think that Obama has the power to free them immediately. We just have to figure out how to build a strong enough campaign to make him do it!"

The following day a group of 50 people gathered for brunch and a closer examination of the way in which the U.S. has been violating the rights of the Five to family visits. They watched the video *Against the Silence* which features interviews with the mothers and wives of the Five.

All family members have experienced difficulty obtaining visas and scheduling visits. Even once they have visas, the constant lockdowns of the prisons

prevent them from seeing their loved ones. Hernández's wife, Adriana Pérez, and René González's wife, Olga Salanueva have been denied visas for 12 years on the absurd grounds that they might meet with terrorist groups while they were in the United States or that they might try and remain in the U.S. illegally.

In 2002, Adriana was granted a visa, but when she arrived in Houston she was detained and interrogated for eleven hours and then was sent back to Cuba without ever seeing Hernández. Perez and Salanueva denounced this denial of family visitation as a weapon being employed by the U.S. to try and break the resolve of the men and their families. It is a clear violation of international law and has been condemned by Amnesty International, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and members of the European Parliament.

Following the film, Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) addressed the group. She unequivocally condemned the right-wing Cubans, based in Miami, as the real terrorists. She described meeting with the families of the Five, in Cuba, and said that wherever she goes to speak she makes it her mission to talk about Cuba's great accomplishments, especially in the areas of education and health. She pledged to continue working for the freedom of the Five and urged everyone to engage in political organizing as the means for achieving change. She ended her talk with the UFW's landmark chant "Si se puede! Si se puede!" which was joined by everyone in the room.

The ensuing discussion was far reaching. Pacifica Radio KPFK host of "Sojourner Truth," Margaret Prescod, pointed out the role of Cuban doctors and other international graduates of Cuba's Medical School in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake. Another person spoke about the annual allocations of \$30 million by the U.S. government to promote disinformation and destabilization programs in Cuba. Someone else exclaimed that Cuba was the one place in the world that the corporations don't control and



Painting by Antonio Guerrero: Prison Shirt "One day my prison shirt will be left hanging."

that is why the U.S. hates the revolution and incarcerates the Five. Finally, a young Cuban-American woman stood up. "The face of the Cuban exile in this country is changing," she explained. She went on to say that the younger generation wants to heal the wounds inflicted by their parents' generation and working for the freedom of the Five as a human issue is part of the process. All agreed that the weekend's mix of art and advocacy had successfully broken through the silence about the Cuban 5 in this community. The energy that had been generated would serve as a strong launching pad for future work to Free the Five.

Antonio Guerrero's exhibit closes June 11 at SPARC Gallery, 685 Venice Blvd. ☺

Sinking Arizona —continued from page 1

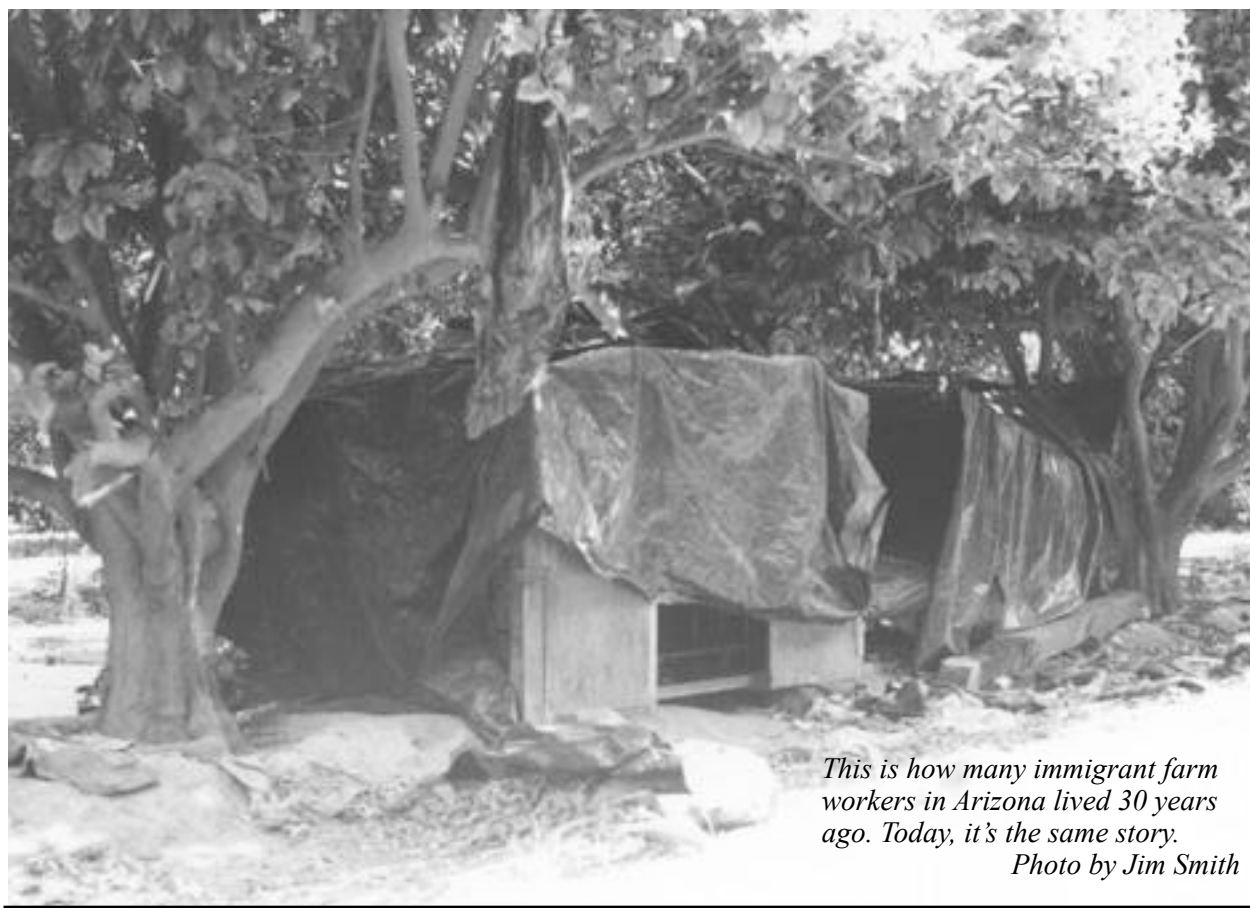
able to travel freely throughout their land had it not been violently seized from them.

Nineteenth Century immigrants from the United States spread a frontier mentality into Arizona. Towns like Tombstone were admired for their lawlessness. In some ways, Arizona was America's last frontier. It did not become a state until 1912 and America's "Indian Wars" only ended in 1918 with a battle against the Yaquis near Nogales, Arizona. Part of the frontier culture in Arizona and elsewhere was a deep seated racism against Native Americans and Mexicans. This long tradition of racism plus "white flight" from parts of Southern California are the ideological foundations of the extreme racial laws now emanating from the state government.

In May 1980, I attended an immigration conference held at El Mirage, near Phoenix. After it was over I visited with immigrant farmworkers in the area. They lived in the fields where they harvested crops. Their living conditions were worse than those of slaves in the antebellum South. Some lived in the open, under trees. Others had built lean-tos out of packing crates and covered them with plastic tarpaulins.

At another ranch a few miles away, the Arizona Farm Workers Union had just won a contract which provided for spartan, but clean, rooms for farm workers. It contained an innovative provision that called for a fund to be used to create jobs in those Mexican states where the farm workers resided. Unfortunately, most growers couldn't care less about solving immigration problems, let alone improving conditions in the fields, and the union withered and died.

Immigration to Arizona and other U.S. states was spurred by the North America Free Trade Agreement beginning in 1994. It allowed mass produced U.S. goods to undercut Mexican products, thereby causing massive job losses and a constant stream of job seekers to "El Norte." Mexican farms cannot even grow and sell corn, a staple of their diets, competitively. U.S. corn is now dumped, thanks to NAFTA, at 30 percent below its cost of production. The difference is made up by government subsidies to U.S. corn farmers. NAFTA and other freely trade agreements allow capital and products to free cross national boundaries, while workers are either left holding the bag or forced to violate immigration laws in search of a livelihood for themselves and their families. In Arizona, bad politics has placed U.S. workers against Mexican workers instead of



This is how many immigrant farm workers in Arizona lived 30 years ago. Today, it's the same story.

Photo by Jim Smith

uniting them to fight for fair trade agreements and job creation projects in Mexico.

Events may move swiftly in Arizona. After this article is published on June 1, we may hear of other measures by that state to finally solve the "Immigrant Question." Perhaps they will reactivate the numerous concentration camps in Arizona that were used during World War II to incarcerate Japanese-Americans, who were mostly U.S. citizens, and for housing German and Italian prisoners of war. Or they may repeal the Martin Luther King holiday, that they so begrudgingly accepted after a boycott of the state proved successful. Worst of all, state sponsored persecution of an easily recognizable group can embolden otherwise cowardly racists to engage in violent vigilante acts against immigrants.

How should we respond to Arizona's assault on human rights? The Los Angeles City Council has voted to boycott Arizona. The Venice Neighborhood Council, other Venice organizations and individuals

should likewise commit to boycott travel and goods from Arizona. And let's urge President Obama to get off his executive seat and tell Arizona that immigration is a federal responsibility and that they have no business getting involved.

In addition, we should see what has happened as an object lesson of where hatred or disrespect for others, particularly the vulnerable, can lead. Let's ask the L.A. City Council to reign in their harassment and roundup of our own vulnerable group, homeless people.

Meanwhile, Arizona racists – in uniform and out – are chomping at the bit to become latter-day storm troopers when SB1070 goes into effect on July 28. But what will suburban Arizonians do, when Maria the Maid, Rosa the Nanny, and Pedro the Gardener no longer come to work, and Manuel the Laborer no longer builds houses and José no longer harvests their vegetables and fruits? ☺

CommUnity Events - day by day

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Wednesday, June 2

- 6pm - **County Bicycle Master Plan** workshop of LADPW is discussing additional bikeways and bicycle facilities. Marina del Rey Library. Free.
- 10am or later - **L.A. City Council** motion to impose new restrictions on Venice parking. Carpools: 398-7192.

Thursday, June 3

- 7-12pm - **The Talking Stick Seventh Annual Anniversary Party**. Talking Stick. Free.

Friday, June 4

- 7pm on - **First Friday's fun and celebration**.
- 7pm - **Jules Muck** at Artisan Venice Music. Free.
- 7-10pm - **Java With Javelin - Indies singer** and 3-Time Rockies Award Winner. Talking Stick. \$3
- 7pm to midnight - "**Angel's on Abbot Kinney**", a new Gallery/Event space that features artist and former French pop-star D'Geyrald and LA singer Paul Bradley. 1744 Venice Blvd. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Paintings and Drawings by Nelson Gary**, exploring the relationship between random and the ordered will be reading from his book "Twin Volumes." Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Saturday, June 5

- 7:30pm - **Music Festival Featuring Scott Cazan and Wyatt Keusch** and self-reflection and exploration of feedback systems. Guitarist, singer/songwriter and visual artist **Emma Ruth Rundle**, accompanied by drummer **Daniel Yasmin** create haunting melodies in odd meters. **Casey Thomas Anderson** works with electronic music and saxophone. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 8-10pm - **The Joint Juke Gang** playing original Acoustic Roots Music. Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, June 6

- 4:45pm - **Open Reading: The Bicycle Review** Presents **Ginetta Correlli** (authored the novel "The Lost Episodes of Beatie Scareli") and **Adam Henry Carriere** (published in various magazines and is a poet, teacher and former NPR broadcaster). Sign up at 4:45pm. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, June 7

- 7pm - **Venice Town Council** - Topic: Opposing Permit Parking/RV evictions - Venice Methodist Church Auditorium.
- 7:45pm on - **Open Mic: "MoZaic Monday"**. Sign up at 6:30 pm. **Hosted by Matt Sedillo, DJ Noj, and Nickie Black**. The Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, June 8

- 7:45pm - **Night of Festive Musical Goodness** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.
- 11:30am-12:00pm - **Toddler Storytime**: Songs, stories and dance for babies and toddlers to 36 months. Free.
- **Vote No on Proposition 14** as it will make it more difficult to challenge incumbents and would end third party candidates.
- 7:30pm - **Eddie Nervo** (toured throughout the US and Japan) and **Lisa Douglass** (award-winning Writer) and **Les Plesko** (wrote the novels Slow Lie-Detector and The Last Bongo Sunset). Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Thursday, June 10

- 9am - **Calif. Coastal Commission Public Hearing and Voting on OPDs and "early morning parking restrictions"** is back again. Please attend and vote away, Marina del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, MDR.
- 5-10pm - **Venice Street Legends** at Venice Bistro, 323 Ocean front Walk venice street musicians playing mix of blues, country, rock & all rest. Free.

Friday, June 11

- 7:30pm - Selected writings from Beyond Baroque's "Creative Non-Fiction Workshop." Includes chapters on memoirs, societal commentary and examination of the human spirit. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Saturday, June 12

- 8:30pm-12am - **Poets Rush the Boardwalk at the Figtree Café**. Open mic and art show. Featuring Miles Away Artists and Guests. 429 OFW. \$5.

- 3pm - "Mess" with Uncle Ruthie Buell interview. Unurban Cafe. Free.
- 8-10pm - Grass Roots Acoustica. A Free Charity Event. The Talking Stick. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Members of Cathy Colman's workshop** read from their poetry and prose. Participants have been published in top literary magazines. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Sunday, June 13

- 4pm - **Live from New York City! Peter Carlaftes** (comic author/actor playwright and poet, **George Wallace** (award winning poet and journalist) and **Kat Georges** (three collections of poetry and punk rock journal). Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Monday, June 14

- 6-10pm - "**Documental**" on **James Joyce** Bloomsday films. Unurban. Free.

Tuesday, June 15

- 11:30am-12:00pm - **Venice Library's Toddler Storytime**: Songs, stories and dance for babies and toddlers to 36 months. Free.
- The **Venice Neighborhood Council** has regular meetings on third Tuesday of the month. Westminster School Auditorium.

Wednesday, June 16

- 7-10pm - **The Amazing Suzy Williams** at Danny's Deli. Free.

Thursday, June 17

- 5-10pm - **Venice Street Legends at Venice Bistro** 323 Ocean Front Walk. Venice street musicians playing mix of blues, country, rock & all rest. Free.

Friday, June 18

- 7pm - **Mosaic Presents the "Spoken Word"** on Art, Music and Poetry. The Talking Stick. Free.

Saturday, June 19

- 7:30pm - **Mandy Kahn's** "Poetry Across the Americas" and **Steve Westbrook's** work have appeared in many journals. **Neil Aitkin** is founding editor of *Boxcar Poetry*. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Sunday, June 20

- 4pm - **Barry Simons Memorial Gathering**. Poet and painter with wacky readings, and tributes/memories by friends and admirers; **hosted by Rod Bradley**. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Monday, June 21

- 6-10pm - "**7 Dudley Cinema**" and **Cuban Music Films** at the The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, June 24

- 7:30pm - **Erica Fabri, author of Dialect of a Skirt** (Hanging Loose) has been published in New York Quarterly. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Saturday, June 26

- 7:30pm - **Cadace Pearson** (journalist and poet), **Jenny Factor** (Astraea Foundation Grant in Poetry) and **Steve McDonald** (professor/author of 4 college composition texts). Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Saturday, June 27

- 10am-6pm - **Venice Eco-Fest: Beach Music and Arts Festival** at the Venice Beach Plaza and Recreation area. 150 Booths, a solar sound stage, Beer Garden (on Windward), a cooperative community art exhibit, international vegetarian food court. Even interactive children's and family art/play area. 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
- 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. pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411 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.

Ongoing Events

- 12-2pm - Thursdays - **Blues at Uncle Darrow's** featuring "Joe Banks and Friends" 2560 Lincoln Blvd. 310-306-4862. Free.
- 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesdays of the month. Free.
- **Venice Library Movie Night**. Wednesdays 5:30pm. Call for monthly theme 310-821-1769 for upcoming movie.
- **Venice Library Children's Pajama Storytime**. Second and fourth Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm.
- **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**. Thu.- Acoustic, Fri.- Open Mic, Sat.- House band & guests. Artisan Venice, 80A Windward @ Pacific. Free.

Calendar hecho en Venice by Karl Abrams

Get Your Local Event Listed

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

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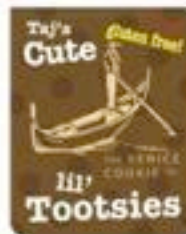
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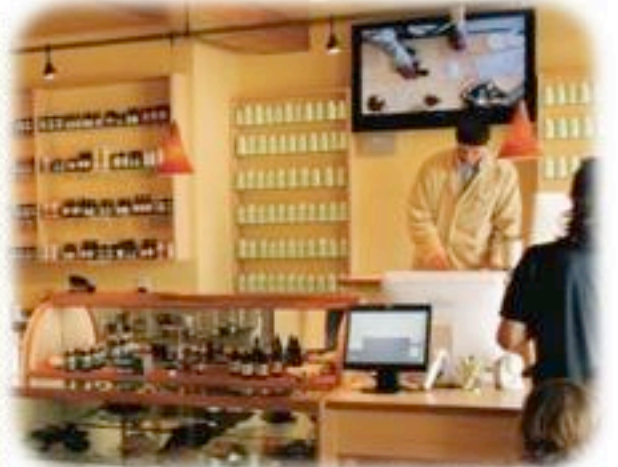


One Coupon Per Customer

Expires June 30, 2010

Offer only good at: **THE FARMACY**

1509 Abbot Kinney Boulevard | Venice, CA 90291



\$35 Consultation
with Practioner
for First-Time Patients

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The Farmacy operates in strict compliance with the letter and the spirit of California medical cannabis laws as defined under California Health and Safety Code Sections 11362.5 and 11362.7, et seq., and Prop 215 and SB 420.