


This Month The Beachhead Celebrates Venice Women

- ✓ Women of the Arts
- ✓ Women who are making Venice a better place for all
- ✓ Women who speak truth to power

FREE VENICE

BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968



March 2008 #317

P.O. BOX 2, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org • 396-0811 or 399-8685

OPERATION OAKWOOD – Search and Destroy

LAPD, Feds kick down doors, terrorize seniors in early morning “Iraq-style” para-military operation Feb. 19. The 300-plus invasion force said they were looking for gang members but found mostly elderly women, children and babies in the homes after kicking down the front doors.



A word-of-mouth meeting that evening brought out more than 200 angry Oakwood residents who told horror stories of having guns put to their heads and forced to lie on the floor in their own homes. Up to 13 women are facing eviction from their federally-financed apartments because of the police raids. Below: LAPD officers try to fend off accusations from the audience. A video of the meeting is posted at: la.indymedia.org/news/hidden.php?id=214180



Photos by Alexandria

Oakwood Residents Demand Their Rights

By Jim Smith

An army, at least 300-strong, attacked that part of Venice known as Oakwood in the early morning of Feb. 19. The ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) troopers and the Los Angeles Police Dept. used “dynamic entry” (kicking doors down) to enter at least 18 homes. Anger and horror stories of the day’s events flew at a community meeting that evening.

One senior, Mae Phillips, said she was roused from sleep when she heard someone outside say her address. The next thing she heard was her front door falling in.

“I woke up this morning with a shotgun in my back and a gun to my head,” said another innocent homeowner.

“I’ve been here for 50 years, yet you kicked down my door looking for someone who has

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The View from Inside the House

By the owner’s grandchild (*name withheld because of fear of retaliation*)

The assault on 646 Broadway was unfounded and unnecessary. There were no drugs. There were no weapons. There were no felons. The home was occupied by Rosa Hamm and other family members.

In the past if officers had a problem or wanted to talk to a family member, they would ask to conduct their search and leave. Under the existing agreement with the city: 1) certain family members were banned and fined; 2) Signs were posted on the property that read- “No trespassing, no drugs, no weapons; 3) the iron gate was removed so the police could have access.

The property was purchased over 50 years ago and the neighbors wonder how we can afford to live in this community. Gentrification is as evil as the Holocaust. The SWAT officers shot

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CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

U.S. 3,973 Dead – 28 this month
U.S. 29,203 Wounded – 673 this month
Iraqi Dead: 1,173,743

Sources: antiwar.com • justforeignpolicy.org

Cost: \$498+ Billion Source: costofwar.com

The
collective staff of the



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Karl Abrams, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Alexandria Shankweiler, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Alice Stek

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

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used.

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Town Hall on the Ocean Front Walk Ordinance

Dear Beachhead,

What an evening! I must say that the dais demonstrated remarkable compassion and tolerance of the disrespectful behavior on the part of some of the OFW community members.

It is felt by all the current state of draft ordinance is unworkable.

Culturally disjointed: Zoning OFW is the absolute antithesis of the organic process that has brought world wide attention to Venice Beach.

Unenforceable: The existing ordinance could well be working if it were actually enforced. The NUMBER ONE CONCERN of the OFW community is the removal of the commercial vendors. If you did not make it you may not sell it. Please keep these people out thereby reducing the need for zoning.

Administrative nightmare: Zoning OFW as proposed has a fiscal impact that is not acknowledged nor are the jurisdictions involved prepared to accept the burden.

Being a musician who must rely on an amplifier, and an engineer, I have specific issues with the noise ordinance as discussed at the meeting. The specifications are inconsistent with the physics.

The ultimate objective is to harmonize the activities on OFW with the community while nurturing expression.

While I personally can not understand why anyone who chose to live at the beach would complain, I do acknowledge that there are folks that wish the performers had an off switch. For all the time and energy that is going into this, perhaps we should ask an architect in the community to comment on the feasibility of a structure to block the sound.

Lastly, I am dismayed that criminality is asserted in the ordinance. A workable ordinance will see enforcement limited to revocation of the permit to occupy a site with an appeal available subject to a hearing in the same venue that granted the permit. All criminality shall be judged according to existing municipal code.

You really need to walk the boardwalk on Sunday and pick a few people who will participate in crafting a workable solution.

Thank you for your commitment to the process.

Paul Carey

More on the Ordinance

Dear Beachhead,

The Ocean Front draft ordinance published in the February 2008 issue of the Beachhead would legalize 75 decibels of sound volume at a distance of twenty-five feet from any source on the Venice boardwalk.

The Noise Element (Exhibit H) of the city's General Land Use Plan places the volume of 75 decibels on a scale between the noise of shouting 3 feet away and the noise of a vacuum cleaner 10 feet away.

No member of the public should have to suffer this intolerable volume of noise while walking on the ocean front, and performer noise cannot legally be allowed inside the homes of residents who live on or near the ocean front.

Performer noise far below 75 decibels already invades the homes of Venice residents.

The noise decibel criteria in the draft ordinance is the wrong criteria because it will harm the public welfare and violate the seminal decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*, 491 U.S. 781 (1989).

In *Ward*, performers argued that they have a First Amendment right to perform outdoors even if their noise enters the homes of nearby residents. The Supreme Court ruled that performers do not have a right to place their noise inside anyone's home. The justices observed:

"... It can no longer be doubted that government has a substantial interest in protecting its citizens from unwelcome noise. This interest is perhaps at its greatest when government seeks to protect the well-being, tranquility, and privacy of the home ..."

Since performers do not have a right to put their noise inside the homes of Venice residents, city government does not have a right to do it for them.

Instead, government has a duty to "protect the well-being, tranquility, and privacy of the home" and that means keeping performer noise strictly on the outside.

Steve Schlein

Venice Women on the Web

Dear Beachhead,

VirtualVenice.info delights in showcasing the talents of Venice artists. These women have their own pages: poets Philomene Long, Kate Braverman, Lynne Bronstein and Wanda Coleman; authors Laura Shepard Townsend and Rana Ayzeren; and photographers Arielle Haze Tyner and Helen K. Garber.

I would love to feature more Venice women. All it takes is: for a visual artist, a few photos of Venice-related art; for a poet, a few Venice-related poems; for an author, a book excerpt or substantial review of your Venice-related book.

Bios and interviews are also desirable, and it would be great to have women in other areas too, like music and theater. All I ask is that the examples of your creativity have something to do with Venice.

Please consider contacting me for your own page in Virtual Venice.

Best of all possible regards, *Pat Hartman*

How High the Fence?

Dear Beachhead,

It's not too late to distance yourself from Fox News. Georgie Gravel went stark, raving mad, putting such an inaccurate slant on the Venice Neighborhood Council's Fences and Hedges meeting that Bill O'Reilly would be proud. Georgie, the only thing accurate in your article is the title, which, surprisingly, makes a good point. So why didn't you expand on it, instead of completely misrepresenting what actually went on.

Yes, tall fences violate an existing ordinance that a LOT of people don't like, some for very good reasons, some for, well, kinda shaky, embellished, emotional reasons. Yes, there was some rude shouting. But OVERWHELMINGLY, everyone was willing to listen to EVERYONE, for or against the law. Georgie Gravel, you are a liar. You said the meeting was seriously slanted in favor of people wanting to keep their illegally high fences. The FACT is, more than 90-percent of the people attending the meeting want illegally high fences. That's not slanted! That's just the way it was! Not only that, Georgie, but the few people with a minority point of view were graciously allowed to take cuts and speak earlier, so they wouldn't have to wait until the end of the meeting. And their points of view were applauded, too, even by the "other side". Yes, there were a few boos and hisses, but my dear Mr. Limbaugh, the meeting was mostly civil, and ably and democratically handled by the Venice Neighborhood Council. You make it sound like all opposing viewpoints couldn't be heard over the din of self-righteous law-breakers. No, everyone was heard.

And if you say there are 70-percent of Venice property owners who want the existing law, and that they should show up at the next meeting, I say right on! Where were they January 29th?

I say to the Beachhead: Your publication is important. You don't need to bend and misrepresent the truth to get your point across. That's what the other side does.

Kevin Maloney

How High the Fence on Rialto?

Dear Beachhead,

In his report on the VNC Board meeting on Fences and Hedges, George Gravel introduces himself as "an innocuous-looking gent that [he means, who] observes, asks questions and listens." Read further and nothing could be further from the truth.

He claims that 90 percent of the 200 Venetians attending "were screaming and hollering" their objections to the proposal to bring down all hedges and fences to a regulation 3' 6". While a few speakers qualified for this description, the majority of the objections from all but four of those attending were expressed in reasonable and often deeply felt terms.

George Gravel then asserts with no evidence that "attendance was seriously slanted to people wanting to keep their illegally high fences." To back up his contention he claims that he drove slowly through Venice and found that only 30 percent of our homes have high fences. I have done a house to house count of the 400 and 500 blocks of Rialto Avenue. There is no way you can do an accurate count with a drive-by. I found that 60 percent of the 400 block and 50 percent of the 500 block had high fences.

George Gravel concludes that on his count that means that "70 percent observe the law." Apart from rejecting his count, I would point out that several of the home owners in my block who have low fences nevertheless object to the proposed attempt to reduce Venice to a uniformity, when Venice represents for most of us a triumph of diversity - if not outright eccentricity.

If George Gravel considers his an impartial and objective piece of journalism, he should apply at once for a job with Fox News.

Brian Finney

or How I Got to Be In Charge For a Change

By Lynne Bronstein

For the last 30 years or so, women have been learning to assert themselves and how to delegate authority without aping the worst traits of authoritative males. Does assertiveness training work? Well, it still helps if people are able to abandon their double standards. Regardless of what one thinks of Hillary Clinton's politics, one has to agree that she comes in for some bashing for her take-charge attitude.

As for poor little old me, I've been trying for years to overcome a plethora of fears in order to get what I need. I've always been more of a loner than either a follower or a leader. But I have to thank the Venice Beachhead for helping me to see that I did have it in me to be a leader.

The Beachhead has always been run as a Collective and nobody is the editor. Editorial decisions are made by the entire group. Of course, since somebody has to lead meetings and organize production, every month one person volunteers to be the Coordinator, which would otherwise be called the Managing Editor. Back when I was on the Collective-late 1970s and early 1980s – each month's meeting would begin with the last month's Coordinator asking who wanted to take over for the new month-and somebody would volunteer.

For the first few months, I didn't volunteer because I was new and wanted to learn more about the functioning of the paper. Then, I didn't volunteer because it seemed as though all the others were so accustomed to speaking up that I wasn't able to jump in fast enough.

And then it got to the point where many Collective members were growing weary of the task of coordinating. The question would come up and there would be a moment of silence and then someone would sigh and say "okay, I'll do it, just this once more."

Finally came a month when the question was posed. I had been thinking about how I had a golden opportunity to finally "jump in" and say that I would coordinate. There was the silence. Nobody spoke. So I nudged myself and said "I'll do it."

Remember that moment in The Fellowship of the Ring when the various elves, dwarves, and humans are discussing who should travel to Mordor to destroy the ring, and everyone has excuses, and finally, little Frodo speaks up and says he'll take the Ring to Mordor? And the oth-

ers are abashed and they pledge to help Frodo on his journey?

I felt tears in my eyes when I saw that part of the movie because it reminded me of the time I first volunteered to be Coordinator of the Venice Beachhead.

Nobody knelt at my feet but nobody said "No, Lynne, you aren't assertive enough to manage things." It wasn't Beachhead policy to second-guess somebody else's abilities. I was entitled to have my turn as all the others did.

That being said, I soon realized that my first task would be to establish a sense of order, for my co-workers were gossiping and I needed to quiet them down. So, when my gestures and murmurs of "Quiet" were not heeded, I took out my police whistle that I carried for self-defense and I blew the whistle! Everyone hushed up at the sound.

Then we laughed and someone said "I like the way Lynne takes charge!"

I coordinated that issue and at least two other issues. There were no fights or ego struggles. I didn't have to stretch myself into a dictator to get my instructions across.

I don't know if the whole world could be run by the collective process but I do know that it was and is a system that allows the formerly powerless to taste what power is like-without abusing power.

And over the years, the Venice Beachhead has been the home of a large number of assertive, smart, creative women who contribute to the paper in every possible way.

I'm glad I got to be one of them.

Beachhead issue in Honor of Women



Women Do Get Weary, But They Don't Give Up

An Ocean Front Ordinance – Once More

By Della Franco

The long awaited night had finally arrived – as promised by Bill Rosendahl – for the people of Venice to discuss the proposed new ordinance for the Boardwalk.

It was quite a well attended meeting. A real Venice mixture, a handful of colorful residents and vendors, an assortment of City officials and also what seemed to be an unusually large number of police.

After general introductions, the proposed ordinance was explained by Council aide, Norman Kulla, and then time was given for public comment. Rosendahl has made it known that he really does want the input and approval of the community before any ordinance is passed. If he stays true to his word we are all going to have to wait a little longer because after this meeting the public comment was pretty clear.

It was started by an intense few minutes of drumming from a well known artist that set the beat for what was to follow. It went something like this: NO NO NO NO NO. Not going to work. Unfair. What? And some more no's.

Many speakers (mainly residents who live along the OFW) were concerned with the noise regulations and it was very clear that that is an issue that is going to be very difficult to rectify. The boardwalk is itself an extremely noisy place and trying to find that decibel balance is proving to be a hard task. Many speakers felt that the noise regulations were not going to work and in fact as one speaker pointed out - actually scientifically impossible. Residents openly complained about the fact that the noise is so bad and is only going to get worse; but after reading the proposed ordinance one wonders how the city could possible think that by putting ALL performers in one zone – the "P-zone" – is going to make the noise better for residents close to the Ocean Front Walk... HUH?

Some speakers were in favor of a few things the new ordinance would offer, in particular the screening process that a vendor would have to undergo in order to participate in the "I-zone."

The ordinance divides the available space on the boardwalk into two areas. One would be the "P-zone, and the other the "I-zone." P-zones would be the areas designated for performance, and the vending of items such as newspapers,

bumper stickers and books created by the vendor. The P zone will be made between 17th and Paloma Avenue, and only offer 120 spaces, most of which will be about 10 feet by 8 feet. 10 unassigned spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis and 5 spaces would be reserved for large acts by allowing spaces of 20 feet by 8 feet. 2 of the 10 unallocated spaces are for the distribution of free food. I-zones would be for expressive items created by the vendor, such as compact discs, paintings and sculptures, or those that are inextricably intertwined with the vendor's message. I-zone will allow for a maximum of 100 spaces. 25 of the spaces would be located in Windward Plaza, these spaces would be 6 feet by 6 feet. Another 75 spaces that are 6 feet by 8 feet will be found between Paloma Ave and Navy Court. According to the ordinance, "P" people will be allowed to use spaces in the I-zone but I people not in the P-zone. What??

There are also other differences between the zones that might bother some vendors. For example the permit system. P-zone vendors need to show a full permit but only during the peak season, I-zone vendors need one all year round.

Noise, ah yes, the noise problem – this will be regulated by restricting amplified noise to certain areas and banning it between sunset and 9am. Noise will not be allowed to exceed 75 decibels, measured from a distance of 75 feet, or 96 decibels, measure from a distance of one foot. There was no mention of what was to be done about the background noise which is sometimes louder than even an amplified guitar.

Without a doubt many artists will find this ordinance in bad taste as the city tries to separate and segregate artists and performers. There will be some who will enjoy the benefits, and of course there will be the ones who will try to break the rules, and there will always be residents who will continue to complain. That is the nature of the beast, I mean the boardwalk. More lawsuits will probably follow and in the meantime rampant commercial vending will continue. I really hope that the city and the people can come together and really make something that can work.. Something that is fair, constitutionally intact, and preserves one of the last free spaces in this world for artists and free speech to shine.

Read the full ordinance at www.freevenice.org.

Town Hall on Homelessness

By Alexander Shankweiler

Nearly 100 people attended the Town Hall meeting, Feb. 26, to discuss the subject of homelessness in Venice. Councilman Rosendahl was one of the speakers at the meeting and in his speech he said that the City of LA was giving \$400,000 towards building a "Parents with children" facility for the homeless in Culver City (which would also serve the Venice area). He also spoke about his desire to turn the old Animal Shelter on Centinela Blvd. into a facility that would house around 50 homeless people.

At the meeting, people were assigned to tables to engage in open group discussion on the subject of homelessness in Venice. Each table had their own facilitators who were city of L.A. employees that volunteered to assist with the meeting. After an hour of open discussion, a volunteer from each group was asked to come to the front of the auditorium and give the group's opinion on three questions. For the most part all the groups had the same basic answers to all three questions:

What makes Venice unique?

Diversity and sense of community is what makes Venice unique.

What do they feel is the biggest issue with the homeless in Venice?

Peoples fear for their own safety was at the top of the list for most groups. Health issues were the second biggest concern of the community on the subject of the homeless.

What can be done to resolve the issue of the homelessness in Venice?

It was agreed that there is a lack of resources for the homeless. The need for a place for the homeless to bathe and to sleep were at the top of the list of concerns.

There was no filming or pictures allowed at this meeting in order to protect the integrity and privacy of the homeless. The Venice Paparazzi had a "Speakers Corner" set up outside the front door and were filming anyone that wanted the chance to voice their opinion or comments.



Two Anonymous Comments from the Community

A majority of the people that the LAPD are searching for are already behind bars. This community member received a letter the was "concerning the activities connected to the park." Many 3rd and 4th generation African-American homes received the same letter because of their past and present associations of their family members, who are not necessarily living at these addresses. The gentrification that started back in the 1980s still continues to perpetuate ethnic cleansing.

I cannot tell you of the terror of the elderly people as so many different law enforcement agencies swept through this community! It was terrible to break down doors at 4:45am, awaken so many people in this fashion. If the individuals that they were looking for could have been arrested on the streets, would not this be the humane thing to do? We must come out and hold all entities who were responsible, accountable for this type of treatment of our neighbors. We must put aside our differences and realize that we all are human beings living together in a great community by the sea. Civil rights have been violated and this must be addressed and tackled so it will not happen again.

Police Raid Results in Terror and Evictions

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

A community meeting was held at the Oakwood Recreation Center the evening of February 19 to discuss the gang sweeps that took place that morning and the previous evening.

The community was visibly distressed and complained that warrants were used with names of people not even at the addresses. The Police crashed into the homes of senior citizens - breaking down the doors, terrorizing them, and leaving them unable to secure their homes. Guns were held to their heads. Officers screamed obscenities. An LAPD dog defecated in one family's house and a baby was almost trampled. A 14-year-old boy said that two guns were on his head, but he had never been in trouble before. Homeless people - not gang members - made up part of the grand total of 19 people arrested.

Oakwood residents, including very vulnerable senior citizens, affected by the so-called gang sweeps are now receiving eviction letters from either the Los Angeles City Attorney's office or their landlords using the current abatement and nuisance law, LAMC 47.50.

Oakwood is a community with generations of African-American homeowners and families. For many years they have been dealing with the criminalization of their youth, police harassment, programs such as PACE (Police Assisted Community Enhancement Program) that negatively impact many seniors, and increasing amounts of more affluent neighbors who refuse to fit in with the older community.

The so-called gang sweep, and subsequent eviction notices, are a low blow, according to many people in the community, in an on-going attempt to remove these black people from what is now a very high priced beach community.

Tips:

- What you say to the police or the city attorneys can be used against you. Consider getting legal advice before meeting or even having casual conversations with them.
- There are police misconduct forms, and self-addressed envelopes addressed to Internal Affairs, in every LAPD station. They should be sitting on the counter, or nearby. You do not need to ask anyone for them.
- People facing eviction can contact the Eviction Defense Network for assistance on a sliding fee scale. Call 213-385-8112.
- There are a few good attorneys and referrals (not a guarantee of legal representation). Contact me at humanrights@freevenice.org.
- If we stay in fear or only complain and never organize to document and oppose violations of our civil rights, we will have no chance of winning or protecting our civil rights.

Oakwood Residents Demand Their Rights —continued from page 1

been in custody for two months. Twenty-five officers were in my house. They beat my 14-year-old dog with a fire extinguisher, said another, her anger rising by the moment.

Police Capt. Joseph Hiltner responded, "this isn't the forum to debate that."

Operation Oakwood, as the police called the action, was well underway before Councilmember Bill Rosendahl received a call about it. He said he received a call from Capt. Hiltner as the Operation was beginning. There was no explanation why the elected official in the area was not informed in advance.

Police were allegedly searching for illegal drugs and firearms, and targeting the Shoreline Crips, a local gang. 60 arrest warrants and 25 search warrants had been issued by a judge, according to police.

City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo was apparently informed well in advance of the raid. He showed up for a press conference at the Oakwood Recreation Center around 10:30 am. Delgadillo vowed to clean up Oakwood whether the residents want it or not. He claimed that gang members had taken over the Rec. Center and refused entry to anyone else. This came as a shock to the Oakwood Seniors who have lunch in the facility every day, and to this reporter who frequently goes to the center on Beachhead business.

Another women said that police put a gun to her niece's head. "I almost had a heart attack when you bashed down my door," then she added: "Are you saying because I'm an African-American woman, I can't live in Venice?"

Her statement reflects the feeling of many in the community that the raid served more as an attempt to intimidate African-American homeowners in the gentrifying Oakwood area. Many of the homes have been in family hands for generations and are owned by the patriarchs and matriarchs of family groups that include grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Many of the offspring use these homes as their address even though they may rent in Los Angeles or Long Beach. Police either did not know this, or knew it and went ahead with the mission anyway.

The magnitude of the operation attracted the interest of several out-of-town newspapers, including the L.A. Times, Torrance Daily Breeze and the Marina Argonaut. All of them were apparently "embedded" in the police and city attorney's public relations department, and gave scant notice to the community's side of the story.

Fortunately no one was shot despite the firepower brought into the community by the 300 fully armed "soldiers."

In addition, the raid may serve to bring the entire community together to protect their own interests. However, when Jataun Valentine suggested the community have a meeting without the police, Rosendahl responded that first they should meeting with the Human Relations Commission, another city department.

The View from Inside the House —continued from page 1

a flash grenade through my Grandmother's bedroom window. They also gained entry through my Grandmother's window. The officers then proceeded to walk to the front door and beat it with a sledge hammer. All they had to do was unlock the door. They never identified themselves as police or any other law enforcement. They did not show a search warrant until they left. The house was listed as closed before they even searched it.

In some languages there is no word for "moving." People can be destroyed by simply moving them. Forced eviction and seizure of the property is the goal, not the arrest of individuals perpetuating the crimes. The perception is allowed to fester to justify the injustice. Delay of arresting the people selling drugs was the root of the problem. It was noted in the Los Angeles Times, "The general Oakwood area- a roughly one square mile neighborhood was conceived as a neighborhood for working-class blacks by Venice developer, Abbot Kinney."

Rosa Hamm is a law-abiding citizen who has worked her entire life. Why should she be prosecuted? Look deeply into your community.

The City Attorney's office issued eviction notices to 13 residents of Oakwood and has filed a motion to close the home at 646 Broadway, because of alleged drug sales.

International Women's Day

Celebrate March 8 in Venice with a march, an arts and poetry event, a gathering of friends.

Join with women across the world on this, our day.

For more information, www.internationalwomensday.com



Women are the Celebrities of the World

By CJ Gronner

Women have much to celebrate these days ... and also much to lament.

We have the first female Speaker of the House in Nancy Pelosi - great.

We also have the first serious female contender for President of the United States in Hillary Clinton ... who is desperately trying to scratch out a victory with negative attacks, her husband's political clout (how feminist is that?), lies, stealing (words and votes), and trying to put her foot on the throat of what is FINALLY an actual MOVEMENT towards positive change in this country, just to "win" - not so great.

I just read an article about how a huge percentage of young girls have as their dream job, "Celebrity Assistant." Not President, not Teacher, not Doctor, but someone who chases after the mental patient starlets of the moment. I'm still nauseous.

Sure, for every negative example you can hopefully find a positive ... but when you get Miss Teen Whatever's getting up and showing the world just how very very stupid American women can be ... and getting even MORE media attention to celebrate the fact - I'm going to start looking for someone to slap.

The Media? Parents? Society at large? What I DO know is that if we can IGNORE Paris, and instead we over-saturate the markets with women like Karenna Gore Schiff (yes, Al's daughter) who wrote a remarkable book called "Lighting The Way" about the absolute BEACONS called: Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mother Jones, Alice Hamilton, Frances Perkins, Virginia Durr, Septima Clark, Dolores Huerta, Helen Rodrigues-Trias and Gretchen Buchenholz. You might not recognize all of those names ... but you should.

It's always interesting to be a woman ... torn between wanting to be special, and be equal at the same time. We can't HELP but be special! We can create new life inside of us! We have marvelous mounds of flesh up front that can also nurture life! We have empathy and love and brains and beauty ... with all of that already going for us, frankly, I've never felt UN-equal to any man. We ARE different, so let it be and rejoice in it!

Just a couple weeks ago, I was in Kaua'i and went on a zip-lining adventure. I have long blonde hair and a decent cup size, and that was clear enough permission for one of the guides to unleash a ceaseless string of "Blonde Jokes" and lewd-ish comments the entire time. When he finally asked what I did, I replied, "I'm a neurosurgeon." (I'm not, but how would he know?) The look on his face was classic, and the jokes stopped. I can't even blame him, really.

The "Girls Next Door," the old ladies walking around Beverly Hills looking like The Joker, all going to the same plastic surgeon (Google Lois Aldrin - wife of Buzz - for the best example), fooling no one but themselves ... all of it is just so sad and surface, and only serves to perpetuate the empty headed Chick myth. And that is what we have young girls aspiring to!

We've got a lot of work to do in this country, in a lot of areas. But maybe we can start locally ... tell the ladies in your life how much you appreciate and respect them, don't buy the Celeb mags (read the above book instead), be a mentor to a young girl that deep down might want to change the world instead of just her lip gloss.

My feeling these days is not Female, not Male, but People power! Let's get things done TOGETHER! It really is the only way.

By C.V. Beck

Way, way, way back in the 60s, hangin' out in "da village" (yes, that village), I met a guy, Bill, at the Cafe Feenjon who was working as a manager at the Playboy Club "uptown."

He arranged for me to go up there for an interview. I went, scared to death. I was seen by the Bunny Mother, a very pleasant-looking woman with a red-dish-brown flip and contact lenses. She wanted me to not wear my black horn-rimmed glasses while working and also to put socks in the breastworks of the bunny costume. She took

BUNNY LUV



my picture with a polaroid, as I was bunny-dipping uncomfortably, with no glasses and with pairs of tube type sports socks stuffed in there.

We chatted a bit and I really didn't want to put in or on socks, take off glasses, or wear 3 inch spikes, etc. Needless to say, I was not hired there, much to my relief.

The Bunny Mom turned out to be Gloria Steinem...in a previous incarnation, naturally. It was the 60s after all!

How Venice Voted -

Obama Landslide in Venice

By Jim Smith

Venice proved its contrariness, once again, in the Feb. 5 primary election. While Hillary Clinton won California, 51.8% - 41.8%, and L.A. County 54.9% - 41.6%, Venice was going for Barack Obama by landslide proportions. Even neighboring Santa Monica went for Clinton by a margin of 300 votes.

Obama won every precinct in Zip 90291 except for the area between Lincoln Blvd. and Penmar Ave., north of Palms Blvd. While not doing as well in Zip 90292, that part of Venice

south of Washington Blvd., Obama still took three of four precincts. In Central Venice - the old canal area - Obama nearly tripled Clinton's vote. Perhaps the presence of an Obama office in this precinct gave him a boost.

Although John McCain won the Republican primary, the total number of votes does not bode well for Republicans in November. McCain's total votes were less than 9% of Obama's total in Venice. In the general election in 2004, George Bush was able to win 13% of the votes in Venice, a stellar performance compared to McCain's.

Third party candidates fared poorly in Venice, perhaps due to Obamania. Only some of the results are posted, but of those that are available, candidates for most third parties received fewer votes than in previous elections.

How Venice Voted - Feb, 2008					(Semifinal results)				
Nov. 7, 2006	President - Democrat				Precinct	President - Republican			
	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Kucinich		McCain	Rosen	Huckabee	Peel
Central Venice	131	297	1	1	3201	13	9	0	2
Central/North Beach	108	221	4	0	3288	17	5	3	6
Central/North Beach	105	247	0	2	1244b	12	10	6	8
North Beach	130	225	7	2	1244a	18	15	1	5
Rose Ave./Oakwood	136	261	1	2	1942	12	4	1	8
Oakwood	116	243	2	1	3226	5	2	0	1
Oakwood	158	352	3	0	1546	9	4	1	8
Oakwood/Milwood	164	326	0	1	1847	8	11	4	6
North Penmar	155	172	7	2	1548	30	17	4	3
South Penmar	162	206	3	4	3202	16	11	0	7
N. Penmar East	179	231	3	0	1583	28	31	5	3
Zanja	128	130	4	2	5934	11	13	1	5
President's Row	113	173	3	4	5936	11	18	2	4
President's Row	104	185	8	1	5927	9	8	1	5
Silver Triangle	96	164	3	2	2389	17	8	2	2
Canals	147	208	7	5	2921	14	17	2	1
South of Canals	106	145	2	0	2383	17	8	2	3
S. Beach	125	200	1	2	2863	13	12	4	5
Total Venice 90291:	2,422	4,066	87	31		289	281	38	88
	37%	61%	1%	5%		45%	35%	7%	14%
Venice 90292: (S. of Wash)					Precinct				
Oxford Triangle	56	122	0	2	2382	24	22	3	8
Per. Wash. to Hurricane	127	131	1	0	1884D	19	27	2	5
Per. Hurricane to Outigger	126	143	1	0	3197	49	40	5	2
Per. Outigger south	72	87	1	1	0961B	34	21	4	3
Total Venice 90292:	482	483	3	3		126	110	14	18
	46%	52%	0%	8%		47%	41%	5%	8%

Top Donors in Venice

Listed below is the top 10 contributors from 90291 during the 2008 cycle.

Contributor	Recipient	Occupation	Amount	Date
WEG, GEOFFREY	Obama, Barack (D)	VALENTI ROSE PLLC/ATTORNEY	\$4,800	Apr 27 2007
AJUTO, GREGORY	Obama, Barack (D)	SELF EMPLOYED/WRITER	\$2,300	Oct 31 2007
HALEY, WILLIAM K	Obama, Barack (D)	SELF EMPLOYED	\$2,500	May 18 2007
Hayward, Robert E	Obama, Barack (D)	Seminet Entertainment	\$2,300	Jan 31 2008
Goldman, Jon	Obama, Barack (D)	Foundation Entertainment	\$2,300	Jul 10 2008
FRIEDMAN, ANDREW H	Obama, Barack (D)	HELMER FRIEDMAN/ATTORNEY	\$2,300	May 21 2007
FRIEDMAN, ANDREW H	Obama, Barack (D)	HELMER FRIEDMAN/ATTORNEY	\$2,300	May 21 2007
GALAN, ARNELLY ALVAREZ	Obama, Barack (D)	SELF EMPLOYED/ACTRESS	\$2,300	Sep 4 2007
GALAN, NELLY	Obama, Barack (D)	GALAN ENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	\$2,300	Aug 31 2007
EVANS, JODIE	Reformers, 881 (D)	SELF EMPLOYED/ARTIST	\$2,300	May 2 2007

• Venetians in 90291 have given \$194,545 so far in the 2008 election cycle. That compares with average zipcode contributions of only \$21,414.

• All contributors from Venice are listed at www.opensecrets.org

• Election data is from www.lavote.net

A Few of the notable Women of Venice



Suzanne Thompson
Political Organizer; Fundraiser
Former President, Neighborhood Council



Navalette Tabor Bailey
Venice Historical Society;
Oakwood Seniors



Sheila Bernard
President, Lincoln Place Tenants Assn;
former President, Neighborhood Council



Yvonne Guzman
Director, "Reach for the Top" – Housing
for homeless children, men and women



Carol Wells
Director, Center for the Study
of Political Graphics



Challis MacPherson
Chair, Land Use and Planning Committee
of the Neighborhood Council



Carol Tantau
25-year-business owner, Just Tantau, and
Domestic Violence Victim Advocate

*Photos by Alexandria,
Jim Smith, Karl Abrams
and others.*

**A few more notable
women...**

The Venice group,
Adaawe.
Top Row:
Monique Afenjar,
Anindo Marshall and
Dayna Franklin.
Bottom Row:
Joselyn Wilkinson,
Bridget Graham
(former Neighborhood
Council Board
Member),
Phylliss Bailey Brooks
and
Nakeiltha Campbell.



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who are involved in their community



Jataun Valentine
Vice Chair, Venice Community Housing Corp.; Oakwood Seniors



Bunny Lua
Abbot Kinney Blvd. Activist; Owner, Green House Smoke Shop



Pegarty Long
Film Director/Producer
Photographer



Judy Baca
Founder/Artistic Director, Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC)



Debra Bowen
California Secretary of State



DeDe Audet
Past President, Venice Neighborhood Council



Ingrid Mueller
Lead Plaintiff, Lincoln Place Tenants vs. AIMCO



Linda Lucks
President, Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners



Lydia Poncé
Board, Oakwood Recreation Center;
Community Activist



Peggy Lee Kennedy
Venice Food not Bombs;
Advocate for Homeless



Nina Merced
Owner, Fruit Gallery; Organizer of Thanksgiving Day Meals Program



Amanda Seward
Lincoln Place Attorney; Won Historical Status for the Apartment Complex



Emily Winters
Artist/Muralist;
Chair, Venice Arts Council



Carolyn Rios
Neighborhood Council Board Member;
Teacher, Phoenix Continuation High



Suzy Williams
Singer/Performer

Beyond Baroque is here to stay

Beyond Baroque, the nationally acclaimed poetry and literary arts center, will keep its home in the former Venice City Hall, thanks to the actions of Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and the letters of support from a great many Venetians.

The City Council today unanimously approved a Rosendahl motion directing city agencies to renew and extend a low-cost lease, allowing Beyond Baroque to keep its headquarters at 681 Venice Blvd. through 2032.

“Beyond Baroque is one of the last bastions of the spoken word in Los Angeles,” Rosendahl said. “It is appropriate that it maintain its home and its special relationship with the community of Venice, so long a haven for poets, artists and writers.”

The council action came after weeks of intense concern by many in the literary arts community who worried that Beyond Baroque might lose its headquarters and be forced to close or move from Venice, which it has called home since 1968. City agencies had sought a new policy that would have prohibited low-cost leases with struggling arts organizations. Rosendahl intervened, effectively saving Beyond Baroque from possible extinction.

“We are extremely grateful to Councilman Rosendahl for his support and for his leadership,” said Fred Dewey, director of Beyond Baroque. “Beyond Baroque is part of Venice, and Venice is part of Beyond Baroque. I am delighted we will be able to stay there, and I am extremely grateful for the City’s continued support for the literary arts and for our public mission.”

The Vatican Rag

Headline: “Vatican toughens rules on sainthood”

By Marvin Klotz

Some headlines grab you by the throat,
Some by more primal parts.
But this one knocked me for a loop--
(Brash theocratic arts).
The last pope’s liberality
Created quite a stir.
He canonized five hundred saints--
(The most to date--by far!).

But worse than that, he bent the rules--
Cut short review time spent.
Beatified a host of folks
(Most, just in time for Lent).

Mother Teresa, all in all,
Was J. C.’s humble student;
But Pius Twelfth’s grim Concordat
(Dismissed as merely prudent!)

Creates some questions for this church.
The Fathers must take pause,
And delve more deeply, search the lives
Of new intercessors.

Sainthood is rare, and should be so.
So let’s slow down a bit.
Or risk a heaven SRO,
With no place left to sit.

And that might sour older saints,
Turn situations odd--
I wouldn’t want disgruntled help
Petitioning my god!



Tell Me Again

By Mary Getlein

Things that are no more-
can’t get them back-
all the trees that are cut down
all the people that were cut down-
what would you do with them if they were here
piled up trees and piled up people-
we can’t worship the dead
we can only take notice and appreciate them
for what they gave us
Just like the trees-
just take notice of how beautiful they are
how beautiful the sun going down-
it’s beautiful when someone dies
just as it’s beautiful when someone is born
The tide goes in and out, in and out,
follows the path of the moon
the planets are round
rocketing through space, always moving, always changing
A tear falls then another one-
every day someone is crying, someone is laughing
Trees are cut up for firewood!
Who is more important? The woman or the tree?
The spirit within the tree or the spirit within the woman?
A woman give birth and then takes the child away
Everyone is mad at her
the tree is gone, the woman is gone, the child is gone
Where did they go?
Somewhere they are welcome...
not on this planet
Women are born with an x on their back!
Women are murdered every day by husbands, lovers,
brothers, sons, fathers, friends, strangers, no one, everyone
Women are murdered by people who do not even know
them
Women are murdered for being pretty or not pretty enough
Women’s spirits are murdered for being pretty or not pretty
enough
Women are murdered for being raped or having sex freely
Women are murdered for having cosmetic surgery
Women are murdered for having “fat” surgery-
for being too fat- gotta have surgery to deal with it
Women are murdered by the media-
Media murders women day after day after day
Media murders women for being bad mothers
Media murders women who kill their children and them-
selves
A man can kill but not a woman
Somehow it’s worse when a woman does it
A woman kills for the same reason as a man!
frustration, anger, mayhem, drugs, alcohol, a lousy child-
hood
too much rap music
too much media
no community, no nurturing, no loving, no one there for
her
she murders her children so no one else will hurt them
she murders herself so no one else will hurt her

Greedy Night

By Lynette

One more,
Grotesque screaming faces
pressed against a rain-streaked car window,
Teenage vultures descend upon another Pop-cul-
ture carcass...

What do you want from me?!
A thousand hands clawing at clothes and flesh,
A simple song,
My suit of regulation black leather,
My disheveled hair,
My money,
My body,
...everything!

On stage
staring at the manic tapestry
of writhing and flailing pubescent bodies,
Bright lights blind the tired performer,
Seduced by commercial demand
I am your shallow, sexual robot...

Every city a ravenous, undulating crowd,
Caressing a plastic idol,
Searching for a secret,
In my pocket
precious, furious jewels,
Folded scraps of paper,
This is me...

Will you listen to my words?
Can you feel my private pain?

yes, there is a limit to hurt- death
death is the final end to hurt
being homeless used to mean
“freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose”
living in a place can be like a jail sentence
you have to live there because you can’t afford to
move out
Landlord is just a title!
it doesn’t mean “king”, even though they might think
so
“king” of all he owns-
his tenants live in fear of what he’s going to do next
I live in America
I live in America
I live in America
I turn on a tap and hot water comes out
I don’t have to gather fire wood in the Dafur, to make
a fire and boil water.
I don’t have to be afraid of being raped, when I go
out to get fire wood to make a fire.
I still am afraid of the dark, here in America
How many women end up in someone’s fire pit,
with the guy saying: she did it to herself,
all I did was burn the body?
How many times must a woman be called “BITCH”!
to her face before she gets it!
This country is not ready for her?
This shit just keeps going on and on and on
The princess women don’t get treated like this?
only the poor? The rich women get killed too,
by their husband, boyfriends, etc. etc.
tell me again why you won’t vote for a woman
tell me again about a woman who acts like a man
tell me again about a woman unleashing her anger
tell me again how hormonal women are
tell me again that a woman just can’t do a
man’s job-
What was that job again?
dropping bombs on children?
shipping jobs to other countries?
cutting off benefits to poor, elderly, children, mental-
ly ill,
homeless services?
sending back \$800 this time, to people who file for
taxes,
in an effort to “boost the economy”?
Look around
see all the homeless living in the street?
they are not invisible- they are here, in front of you-
how do you think they got this way?
is this a joke to you?
This is the direct result of some man being in office.
with trickle – down cruelty!
It’s another government trick to fool us!
doing one thing while telling us it’s another-
killing is killing, bro-
That’s how this country really makes money-
even if it means killing its own citizens-
at a war, or at home, on the street.
tell me again why you won’t vote for a woman.

Hope Is Hip

By S.A. Griffin

first of ‘08 and already
history has been
and is
being made

no need to spell it out here
but this ranks right up there with
first flight
penicillin
moveable type or
“Mr. Watson, come here.
I need you.”

first time since the 60’s were assassinated
that there’s been anything like genuine hope
sparkling in the drinking water

humans, wear your vulnerable skin
to the hungry dance
where dreamers
jump to such a song
sounding on the bones of
this nations’s
weary jukebox

a place where somebody with an open heart
knows the future on a first name basis
and all last laughs are
on the house

Praise for a lost Woman

By hillary kaye

A life covered
in the blood of betrayal
A cremation of dreams
A fire pit
of loss
A woman's
life
the life of the soul
emmeshed
in sorrow and joy
She gives birth and nurtures
and still is slandered
by a world enthralled with
its own destruction
And yet she loves the very things
that hate her
and is buried by the
same blood as her sons

**this paper is a
poem**

Applause

(5 from *The Haiku Series*)

By Paula Ross

Chet Baker

Bare bones of a boy
Raspy whispers tear a heart
Naked horn/stinging

Sarah Vaughan

Sounds of liquid gold
Flowing from her heaven place
As we chant...DIVA

Miles Davis

Gravel voiced guru
Painting rainbow trumpet strokes
Cosmic Chameleon

Betty Carter

Listen in the night...
Far away/Beyond Birdland
Shaman woman scats

Dizzy Gillespie

Oh, ancient father
There are secrets in those cheeks
Tilted toward the sky

(Paula Ross, Venice artist and poet died Dec. 19 - see last month's Beachhead for details. A memorial for her is being planned.)

After the rain

By Jim Smith

After the rain
the gulls were flying low
over the boardwalk.
I turned to see
if Philomene was near.

For days the air
had been thick and sweet
like a fragrant jewel.
I thought of you.
Is this how the dead
communicate with the living?
Philomene, our rain maker.
Poems floating in the air.

Cold Ellison I

By Philomene Long

"Cold cliffs more beautiful
The deeper you enter
Yet no one travels this road"
Cold Mountain - Han Shan

In this old cold building
The Ellison

In this small dark room
I sit cross-legged
Upon an old stale mattress
The feathers are finally
Leaving my pillow
To rejoin the birds of the air

At least once a month
The upstairs neighbor's toilet overflows
Our ceiling bulges
The walls turn black and green
in this dripping room
All my clothes are torn
Our only guests
The ghosts, the mice

Only dust
Over dog-eared books
And drifts of paper
Like dirty snow
My daughter stays away, says
"You were never a model
For a nine to five job."
My son visits occasionally
Long enough to smile
And ask for an aspirin
In this cold room
The window is bricked up
The pipes leak
Puddles always on the kitchen floor
Never any rice in the pot
Once there was a view
A eucalyptus tree, a ghost gum
It was cut down in June

I, who once was proud
That they called me
"The Queen of Bohemia"
Now blush, ashamed
"John!" I call
"I'm trying to bring myself
Out of something -
To nothing...
I'm going to pray
To embrace this poverty!"

"Pray to embrace *silence*
We already have poverty!" he says
"Hey. We're doing pretty well
For a tired old man
And a crazy lady...
Tomorrow I'll get you
A crown of rhinestones.
Do I give you enough?"

"John, to have you
For my companion
Through the glass centuries
Your diamond body
Calm, enormous land
This is the only center
That I seek."

At night
The cockroaches come out
They walk across my neck
To get to Masami Teraoka's print
"Zen Monk On A Blue Whale"
Hakuin contemplates death
They take refuge in the Buddha
Little insect eyes. Sad. Sad.
But too many. A thousand at least
So they must die
We'll use the money from
Selling our books of poems
To purchase roach poison

There are no roads
From this cold Ellison
Better sit still
And quiet the ills
Of the mind
I sit high in this old building
Higher yet the sky passes slowly
The birds swirl
incautious, completely free
I climb the road
To cold, cold Ellison
The road that never ends
"Who can break the snares of the world
And sit with me
Among the white clouds?"

-from *The Queen of Bohemia*, Philomene Long,
Lummo Press

The Venice Beat Poets -The Great River Outside the Mainstream - PHILOMENE LONG

By Jim Smith

Philomene Long came late to the party, but she soon made up for lost time with her dynamic personality and soaring poetry. The Beat scene was a decade old when she arrived in Venice, but Long gave it new life and energy.

Readers of the Beachhead will know that her death last August resulted in an outpouring of articles and poems reflecting the great love and esteem in which she was held by our community.

She was born in another bohemian community, Greenwich Village, along with her identical twin Pegarty Long. After growing up in San Diego, she decided to become a Catholic nun and lived in a convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for five years.

After climbing over the convent wall one night, Long traveled extensively in Europe and had two children, Maureen and Patrick, before settling in Venice in 1968. Here she met Beat Poet Stuart Perkoff, and became his steady companion. When he died in 1974, she was at his bedside.

Long continued to write. Some of her books published over the years included *The Queen of Bohemia*, *American Zen*

Bones, and with John Thomas, *The Book of Sleep*, *The Ghosts of Venice West* and *Bukowski in the Bathtub*. An excerpt from her unpublished novel, *Memoirs of a Nun on Fire*, appears in *The Outlaw Bible of America Poetry*. She also made films and acted, often collaborating with her sister, Filmmaker Pegarty Long. Her films include *The Beats: An Existential Comedy*, with Allen Ginsburg and *The California Missions* with Martin Sheen.

In 1974, Long began the study of Zen with Master Maezumi Roshi. She continued with him until his death in 1995. She later described herself as a Zen Catholic. Roshi gave Long her Zen name "Gyokuho" (fragrant jewel). He said, "Your fragrance will permeate the universe. But there is a reverse side to this as well - Don't Be Stinky!" (*American Zen Bones*)

In 1983, she married Poet John Thomas (see February Beachhead, page 9). Long and Thomas were together until his death in 2002. They lived in the Ellison Apartments at Paloma Avenue and Speedway for many years. "Cold Ellison" became a theme of a number of Long's poems.

In 2005, she was recognized as the Poet Laureate of Venice by the Los Angeles City Council.

Long's poetry combines a descriptive love of her community with a Zen sensibility that often takes her poems in directions that are both surprising and pleasurable to the reader. Jack Kerouac's concept of beatitude also had a profound influence on Long. Kerouac said that "Beat" stemmed from beatitude, which he defined as "trying to love all life, trying to be utterly sincere with everyone, practicing endurance, kindness, cultivating joy of heart..."

Philomene Long is generally recognized as one of the major women poets of the Beat Generation. Even though the Beat milieu was dominated by men, many with inflated egos, she gave no quarter. It has been said that Long "filled up a room" when she entered, by virtue of the force of her personality. She was friends with Allan Ginsberg, Timothy Leary, Charles Bukowski, Wanda Coleman, and with Venice poets Tony Scibella, Frank Rios, and others.

At an inauguration ceremony for Councilmember Bill Rosendahl at Windward Plaza in 2005, Long was invited to read the poem she had written for the occasion (see Beachhead, August 2005). Much of the poem was a paean to the glory of Venice. When she read it at L.A. City Hall, to the City Council, at Rosendahl's invitation, its celebration of Venichismo caused shock and consternation among the Los Angeles officials.

Their reaction must have pleased Philomene, who once wrote: *There is no comfort/In the poem./Expect to be seared/But to have entry.*



Philomene Long

photo by Pegarty Long

Venice
Holy Ground
Stained with the blood of poets
City which lies
Beneath the breasts of birds
Guarded by cats
Behind every corner
The Muse, Angel of Surprise
Poems out of pavement cracks

-Philomene Long
Her poem, reproduced on the Venice
Poetry Wall in Windward Plaza

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Swami Speaks

by X Swami X

I don't want to alarm you because I know you already have your share of problems.

Nevertheless, I must inform you that you are utilizing the wrong calendar, the one most everyone else is using. This is not a joke. Next to George Bush being in the White House, this is the most seri-

ous, bizarre and dangerous situation imaginable. The world is in "lethal disharmony" due to our disharmonious way of observing and measuring time. Seriously contemplate this idea, for you have the opportunity to bring about world peace, not to mention peace within yourself.

Alright, you're going to pass on that. How about this. Two or three years of frequent cell phone use will bring about brain cancer. You're already hooked and you're not buying that one either. Oh yeah, TV is bringing about mass insanity.

Try this. George Bush is a reptilian, controlled by an alien civilization, the Republican Party. Ha ha ha. I thought I'd just call the whole thing off.

I'm sure you're doing fine, enjoying life, looking forward to the next one, being a good neighbor to those maniacs next door, and looking forward to your vacation, retirement, demise, and next incarnation.

I'm having a grand time, alertly and adventurously approaching Death, that Grinning Sweeper, more joyously each passing night and day.

I am going to and enjoying movies, more than live or almost live human beings. My problem with live human beings is that I can see how, with just a little readjustment, they could be so much happier and at peace.

The Mayan calendar for one, meditation for another; being grateful for life itself is a good one; seeing the humor in everything that happens, and accepting everything that happens with the inner serenity that comes with daily meditation.

Seducing a good looking neighbor, reading or writing a best seller, playing chess, gin, or crazy 8's while under the influence of a powerful psychedelic with good looking naked neighbors around a pool full of friendly piranhas, or naked skate boarding in Beverly Hills on a quiet Sunday afternoon in a light invigorating rain...on December 21, 2012...while having a relevant, two-way conversation with God (or OWow) while on a powerful psychedelic with no police around, and naked, of course.

Women Are the Light of the World

Big Island, Hawai'i – Today my friend Ardas taught a kundalini yoga class to a new momma with her three-moon new daughter. I attended to feel the vibes and fill out the class. We chanted and breathed really well.

It was a delight to feel the bond between baby Io'lani, (named for the hawaiian word for hawk), and her young mama. Baby smiled, gurgled, and, between breast-feeding seemingly chanted along.

We sang "I am the Light of the Soul. I am Bountiful. I am Beautiful. I am Bliss. I am. I am." I would like to pass this affirmation on to all women to remind themselves we must never take ourselves for granted, we are loved and we most certainly are bliss! Well, on a good day! Aloha!!!

– Erica Snowlake



Long Road to Lincoln Place

By Ingrid Mueller

We are children of the Universe. This was engrained in my mind as of age 10. Who knows where it came from? My search for that meaning continues almost feverishly.

After a Hamburg(er) Scientific High School for Girls adventure, 'twas obvious: this ain't my earthly path. A curiosity for the human condition was deepened by the passing of my father after 7 years of MS paralysis. I was 16, had to become my own daddy.

England's north and international student community opened many minds to comparative religions, cultures, foods.

Paris' population very probably included relatives of my mother's grandmother who married into the East Prussian State in Kaiser Wilhelm's times.

My language studies were personal and intense in that City of Lights.

Barcelona was my very first paid job site as a trilingual secretary to the owner of a small Blanes/Costa Brava hotel.

San Francisco completely sucked me in in 1964 (go ahead, smile). Straight off the plane, a job on Market Street and a turn-of-the-century-apartment downtown allowed amazing revelations in my new, consciously selected country of an admired idea of human equality.

But a quickie Las Vegas wedding swept me onto the African continent where my engineer

husband helped build corn and flour mills across the South African veldt, as this child of the universe innocently stubbed toes and knowingly insulted Johannesburg apartheid laws right and left in the late Sixties. It was the very best social and human injustice education for four years.

Back in WA State with two daughters and eventually 'on our own', the professional and financial opportunity to be transferred to L.A. was happily grabbed in 1976 - after all, downtown's Bonaventure Hotel couldn't open without moi, child of the universe!

Alas, our car accident in late 1977 at the corner of Wilshire & 17th in Santa Monica stopped a whole lot more than my corporate job and my daughters' innocence. A decade later, this 'empty nester' discovered a new home off the beaten track, speak: busy Lincoln Boulevard, at the now historic 38 acre Lincoln Place Garden Apartment complex.

And here I've lived and loved and anxiously tippy-toed and complied and organized and protested since 1988. I hope I've helped advance all Los Angelenos' Renters' Rights in the face of rampant overdevelopment, and rampant overpayment for a CEO (for example, \$4.7M for Terry Considine/AIMCO in 2007). All of which undermines every person's right to housing.

Let's stay Los Angelenos. After all, Children of the Universe know a little...



Photo by Alexandria

Results of the February Beachhead Poll

February's poll was a no-brainer for Venetians. *Do you support or oppose the proposed 31-story tower on Lincoln Blvd?*

An overwhelming 86% said they oppose it, while only 6% support it.

Some of your comments included:

–Tell the developers to go back where they came from. Don't block our view of the ocean..

–what are they, nuts?

–This is Venice, NOT Miami.

–WHO makes the \$\$- APPROVING

these "affordable" "artist" 30ft+

CONDO's ...WHERE is the SKY?

cough hack

–this type of structure has no good

purpose in Venice

–traffic!!

NEW

Beachhead Poll

Fences: The City Ordinance limits a property's front fence to 3.5 feet.

I Support the Ordinance

I Oppose the Ordinance

Unsure or Don't Care

Comments:

To Vote, clip & mail, or go to:

www.freevenice.org.

Poll ends March 25

FENCES – The Venice Neighborhood Council on Feb. 19 took up the issue of the maximum height of front fences and hedges. The meeting took place the same night as the meeting in Oakwood (see page 1), but seemed to be a different city. Most of those in attendance opposed the city ordinance limited front fences and hedges to 3.5 feet. One speaker maintained that higher fences meant higher property values. Several spoke of concerns with crime, and a few, who had apparently never heard of the Venice Specific Plan, said they could do anything they wanted with their property. The VNC passed the buck to a new taskforce that will study the issue.

Chain Stores Be Gone

A Venice free of chain stores came one step closer to reality, Feb. 20, thanks to the tireless efforts of Venice Unchained.

A City Planning Department meeting on the subject was held at Westminster Auditorium at the urging of Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. The 50-plus Venetians in attendance supported the plan to ban "formula retail stores" (wherein every store looks alike, aka chain stores).

Discussion at the meeting included how much of Venice should be covered by the proposed ordinance, and how it should be structured. A Planning Department staff member has been assigned to shepherd the initiative through the maze of city bureaucracy.

Many Venetians have been advocating a chain store ordinance since 2004, and the Neighborhood Council passed a resolution in support. However, it is due largely to the efforts of Venice Unchained that this dream may become a reality. Contact them for more information at www.VeniceUnchained.org



Billboard Blues

Dear Beachhead,

Could someone please explain how it is that we got this hip, new, lighted mini-billboard on the corner of Main and Abbot Kinney?

Driving home from work the other day, I stopped at the traffic light.

I glanced over to my right to look for lurking cyclists/pedestrians and got an eyeful of the new ultra-desirable, oh-so-hip MacBook Air.

Why is there suddenly a billboard at that intersection?

Dangerously placed at eye level to a driver?

Do I need to find a new route home to avoid yet another slick pitch, this one so totally unavoidable?

Perhaps CBS/Decaux will face a lawsuit after someone gets knocked down because of their pretty but obstructive billboard.

Isn't someone supposed to vet these things? Whose brilliant idea was this?

Or, is it, as I suspect, acceptable only if the products advertised therein are in the tragically hip and lovely category.

I can't see a poster for Subway or Ralphs getting the green light, can you?

Are these the same geniuses that run the orange lights on the meaningless billboard at the community center all night.

Yours in total disbelief, *Grant Gordon*

Letter from Seattle

Dear Beachhead,

Hope all is well with the collective. We so enjoy our Beachhead – a bit of sunshine each month here in the Northwest! Here is our sustainer check for \$100. Keep up the good work!

Love, *Tina Morehead & Steve Effingham*

Immigration

Dear Beachhead,

There goes another bogus claim of the anti-immigration crowd. A report just released says that immigrants are far less likely to commit crimes than are native born citizens. People born in the United States are eight times more likely than immigrants to be incarcerated.

Go to any cosmopolitan city, New York, Miami, San Francisco, and you will hear a wide diversity of languages from around the world. So much for the "speak English" only spiel of talk radio hosts.

As far as the assimilation argument goes, I see multitudes of Mexicans and Latinos and their children and they're working, speaking English and assimilating quite well, thank you.

Every day the bigotry, intolerance and prejudice that drives the anti-immigration movement becomes more apparent. *Ron Lowe*

5th Anniversary of the Iraq Invasion

PROTEST

March 15 **Los Angeles**
12 noon
Hollywood & Vine
Protest initiated by ANSWER

Volunteers Needed

END THE WAR NOW!

AnswerLA.org 213-251-1025

More Reasons to Support the Beachhead

The recent rampage in Oakwood by local and federal police was uncritically reported by the L.A. Times, Daily Breeze, the Argonaut, TV and radio. Only the Beachhead told the people's side of the story. We're not afraid to take on the powers-that-be when they deserve it. Please help us continue to speak truth to power by becoming a Sustainer. These are dangerous times for free speech. Keep the Beachhead torch burning!

CommUnity Events – day by day



Wednesday, March 5

- 7pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee** - Agenda includes agenda 338 Rennie Ave., 728 & 732 Indiana Ave., 650 Broadway and 251 Market. Meeting at Westminster School Auditorium.
- 7pm - **Charles Bukowski films** - Ultra rare screening of Hank films. "Readings by S.A. Griffin & others. Sponto.

Friday, March 7

- 7:30pm - **Marilyn Hacker and Margo Berdeshevsky**. Poetry. Beyond Baroque.

Saturday, March 8 – International Women's Day

- 2pm – **Women's March** – Join women from Iran and Afghanistan for a March through Westwood Village - LeConte and Westwood Blvd.
- 7:30pm - **David Ossman**, writer and performer and Rex Butters, poet. Beyond Baroque.

Sunday, March 9

- 11am-1pm – **Drum Workshop with Adaawe** – 2921 LaCienega Blvd., Culver City, 888-419-0515, \$25
- 8pm - **Spiritually Incorrect Comedy** - subversive performances by cutting edge comedians - 6:30pm pre-show: Peter Demian. SPONTO

Monday, March 10

- 6pm - **Is there Sex After Death?** - A smart and witty take on the sexual revolution. Unurban Coffeehouse.
- 8pm - **Raises Cain**. A glimpse into the life and bizarre career of Alan Abel, the infamous underground media prankster. Unurban

Wednesday, March 12

- 6pm - **Lord Rusty** brings alive Renaissance art, humor and a variety of entertainment. Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- 7pm - CAMNET - the **Venice-based camcorder network**, shows "real-life television" and individual visions without commentary. LIVE comedy pre-show with Beth Lapidés. Sponto.

Friday, March 14

7:30pm - **The Moe Green Poetry Show** hosted by Rafael F.J. Alvarado and S.A. Griffin with Bill Gainer, Karen Harryman, Nila Northsun, Conney Williams. Beyond Baroque.

Saturday, March 15

7:30pm - **Bob Holman 60th Birthday Tribute** - He is a key figure in creation of a new and more inclusive American poetry, bringing to it a new populist energy. Beyond Baroque.

Sunday, March 16

- 5pm - **Peace Walk** - from Reed Park, 7th & Wilshire, S.M. to Arlington West Memorial on the beach. Amer. Friends Service Comm.

Tuesday, March 18

• 7pm – **Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting** – Westminster School Auditorium - Enter on San Juan, off Abbot Kinney Blvd. www.grvnc.org

Tuesday, March 25

• 8:30pm & 9:30pm - **Suzy Williams** and Her Solid Senders play live swing jazz and jump blues. Temple Bar. \$10.

Wednesday, March 26

• 7pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee** - Westminster School Auditorium.

Friday, March 28

7:30pm - **Sarah Maclay, Stephen Kessler and Ralph Angel** - Maclay is author of *The White Bride and Whore*. Kessler's new book of poetry is *Burning Daylight*. Beyond Baroque.

Ongoing Events

- **7:30-10pm. First Friday** of every month. Abbot Kinney Blvd. is open!
- 5-7pm, Wednesdays - Eat Sushi and **Dance Salsa** at the Canal Club. 2025 Pacific Ave. 7:30pm- Salsa lesson with Ana Maria Alvarez. Six session salsa workshops \$75/6 classes or \$15 per-class. Dancing and DJ afterwards.
- 8pm, Thurs., Fri., and Sat. - 3pm Sundays - **Alice Sit-by-the-Fire** written by J.M. Barrie - Pacific Resident Theater, 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - \$20-\$25
- 8pm, Thurs., Fri., and Sat. - 3pm Sundays - **The Time of Your Life** by William Saroyan - Coop Theater, 707 Venice Blvd. 460-2508 - \$12.
- 7:30 & 9:30pm, Sundays - **Cafe Plays** - Ruskin Theater, 3000 Airport Ave., S.M. 305-7888.
- **Live Music at The Good Hurt**, 12249 Venice Blvd, Check out week of events at - events@goodhurt.net
- **10am - 12pm, Sundays** - "The People's Voice" - Stand up for freedom of speech. Santa Monica Palisades Park. Ocean Ave at Santa Monica Blvd.
- **February 23 thru April 5 - Reinterpretation**. A new generation's commentary on War presented by SPARC.
- 8-10pm, every 2nd Thursday - **Suzy Williams** and Her Solid Senders - new series at Dannys Deli.
- 6-9pm, Mondays - **Intermediate Conversational Spanish** – Class.Venice High School. 13000 Venice blvd. \$20, seniors free.
- 6pm - Monday and Thursdays - **Hatha Yoga** - Vera Davis Center. Donation.
- 8pm -Sunday - **Open Mic poetry**, spoken word, storytelling and theatrical performance. Abbot's Habit.
- 8pm - Sunday and Monday - **Live jazz**. Hal's Bar and Grill.
- 6pm - Wednesday. **Singer/guitarist Evyn Charles**. Sidewalk Cafe. 1401 Ocean Front Walk. FREE.
- 7:30pm - Wednesday, **Open Mic night**. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge. 1630 Ocean Park Blvd. FREE.
- Thru Saturday, March 29 - e l e m e n t a l, the premier exhibit by **surf photographer Tom Servais**. Epoxybox Gallery. 602 Venice Blvd.
- 8pm - Friday and Saturday, March 14 - April 12 & 2pm, Sundays - **The Full Monty** - Santa Monica Theatre Guild. \$23. \$18 seniors.
- Every Sunday, 10:30am - **Mommy and Me Yoga**. On the beach in front of Windward Plaza.

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

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from San Juan Ave.) 606-2015



Painting by Mimi Bogale

**“Your Local Shop for Scrumptious
Food and Sinful Chocolates”**



Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm
Saturday 10 am - 7 pm • Sunday noon - 6 pm
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Additional Parking after 5 pm
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