

INSIDE:

- Letters - 2
- Westminster, Med. Mari - 3
- OPDs - 4
- Jane Harman, Swami - 5
- Jaya, The "Air" - 6
- Carnevale, Passports - 7
- Permit Parking - 8
- Poetry - 9
- May 19 Election - 10
- Calendar - 11
- Pete Seeger - 12

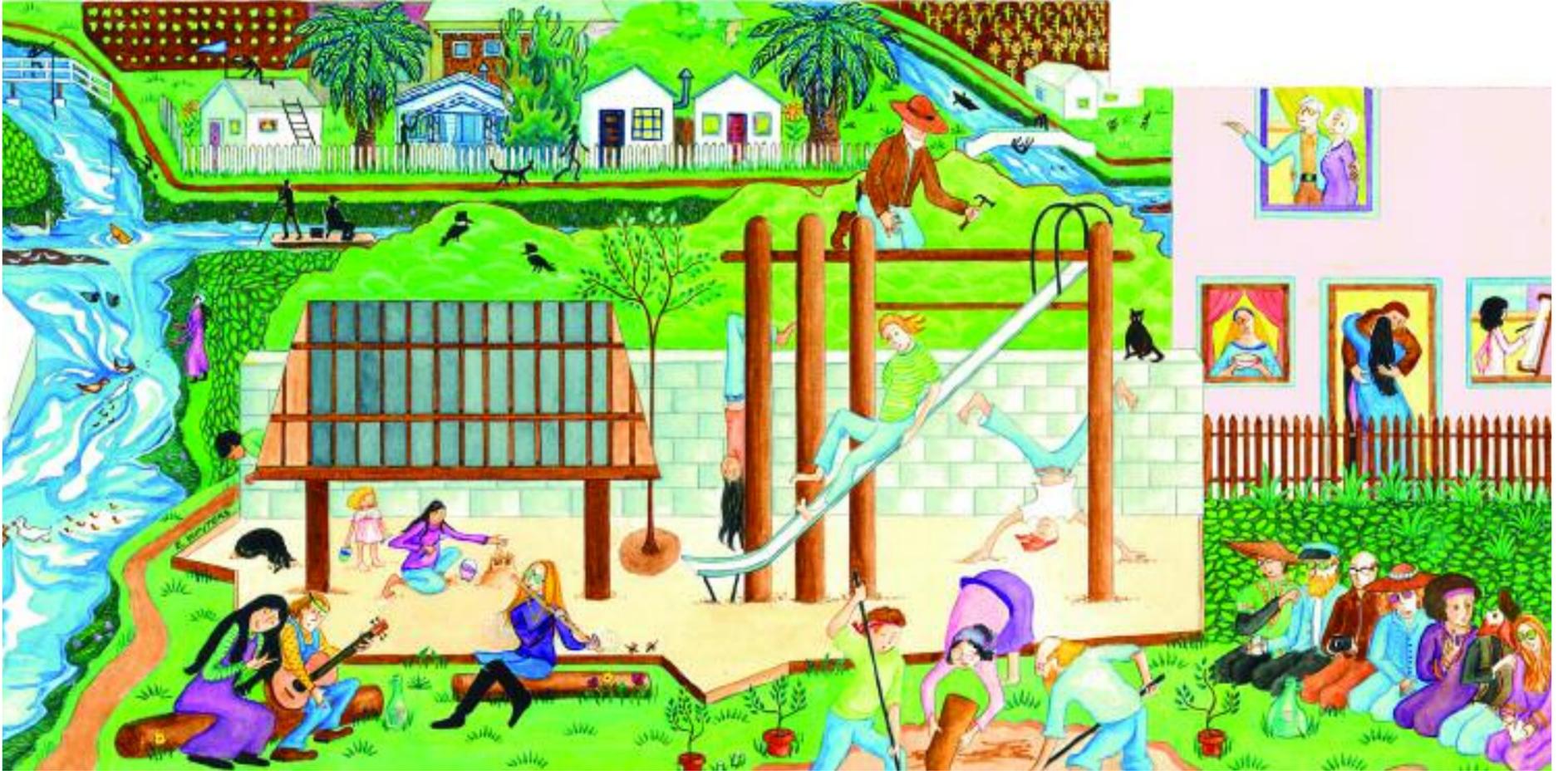
FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



May
2009

#331

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



The Jaya Mural

At Dell Avenue and Venice Blvd.

By Emily Winters and maryjane

In March 1974, Judy Baca of the City Wide Mural Project approached Jaya (Sanskrit for non-violent Revolution/peace/victory), an active, uppity Women Artists Collective, to create a mural about the Venice Canals community and its struggle to survive the intrusion of profiteers. Open public tedious meetings and hearings for this mural were held over a period of fifteen months. This included gathering permission from the building owner, the community and their input for the mural visuals. Jaya member, Emily Winters, volunteered to facilitate their ideas into actual design.

Emily Winters first submitted design was turned down by the community for being too 'sad'. They wished to portray the contrast of the canal people who had a love and zest for harmonious living with the intrusion of profiteers, those who didn't have a clue about life's realities and the importance of 'quality of life.'

With this in mind, Winters designed a second concept, this time to the wall's actual dimensions, and incorporated its architectural irregularities and idiosyncrasies. It was unanimously approved at more multiple tedious meetings and hearings.

Prior to this mural, the walls of the building were covered with graffiti expressing the despair with the then existing metro-squad/police abuses.

The community demanded that the graffiti "Stop the Pig", (then a term of empowerment), be included in the mural design.

The mural now known as the Jaya Mural, depicts the sterile white Marina trying to destroy our beautiful and colorful life in the canals. The People's Park which we built is the focal point showing daily canal life: the arts, farming, fishing, families of four generations; the general supportiveness of a community and the migratory birds. The house being illegally bulldozed symbolized all our homes being destroyed, and was based on a true incident about Sadie Hayes and her home. The ten protesters of that bulldozing stood the line, and were joined by the driver of the bulldozer in support of their action. Needless to say, all were arrested and taken to the hoosegow (jail), later released on their own recognizance.

After many months and with many volunteers, the mural was finished. Upon completion, a few residents protested "Stop the Pig" on the grounds that it was demeaning to our police force. However, they did not complain about the other side of the building which was covered with much stronger and demeaning graffiti commentary. Many tedious hearings again ensued to try and censor this important community statement of "Stop the Pig". First amendment rights prevailed and despite the picketers objecting to "stop the pig"; the mural was dedicated November 8, 1975. At the end of 1976, the Jaya Collective disbanded.

In March of 1981, for some mysterious fit of passion from a strange unknown brain, a crew of unnamed profiteers arrived at the mural site, very early in the am., and white washed the whole mural. The on-going community-never-failing-network got word out and immediately appeared, en masse, with

battle gear of water hoses, brooms and brushes, washing the paint away before it could dry.

The following morning, once again very early in the am, the profiteers again arrived in ski masks with police escorts and the oil based paints, sprayed the entire mural with thick green paint. And again, canalers arrived en masse prepared for battle with paint thinner, rags, ladders, brooms and brushes and scrubbed it all off. A greenish residue remained though, especially on the area of the sterile white Marina.

In late 1996, SPARC hoped to refurbish this mural as part of their 20th Anniversary celebration. Unsuccessful attempts at restoration had been made in the past, but permission was not obtained, even though the community had been requesting it since the 1981 paint out. Finally, due to the remarkable gifts of persuasion of a caring community member, permission was granted and restoration was realized by February 1997, resulting in a joyous sigh all around us.

Many people volunteered at various times in 1975, but a core

quartet of Jaya members did the everyday. Astonishingly and totally by chance, the same quartet gathered and achieved this 1997 mural restoration, 22 years later: Jaya members Emily Winters, artist, activist; Judith Foster, activist; maryjane, artist, activist and Don Unzicker artist and honorary Jaya member

The "Spirit of Venice Award," was awarded to Emily Winters in September 1997 for the refurbishment of this mural by the Abbot Kinney Festival.

Then in 2006, the Jaya mural was so badly tagged that the property owner was going to have the mural painted out unless the tagging was

-continued on page 6



Artist and Muralist Emily Winters

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

4,278 U.S. Dead - 15 this month
31,215 U.S. Wounded

Iraqi Dead: 1,320,110

AFGHANISTAN

679 U.S. Dead - 6 this month

Cost of wars: \$851+ Billion

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



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Karl Abrams, Amy Dewhurst, Carol Fondiller, Don Geagan, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Mark Lipman, Lydia Poncé, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Alice Stek. Intern: Ian Lovett

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

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

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

Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Web: www.freevenice.org
Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org



Beachhead Sustainers:

- Richard Abcarian • Karl Abrams
- Eric Ahlberg • Linda Albertano
- James Bambrick • Beyond Baroque
- Jennifer Baum • C. V. Beck • Sheila Bernard
- Big Daddy's & Sons
- Chuck/Terry Bloomquist
- David Brooks • Rex Butters
- Steve Clare • Cosmo • Maureen Cotter
- John Davis • Fred Dewey • Bob Dolman
- Steve Effingham • Douglas Eisenstark
- David Ewing • Lisa Ezell
- Ed Ferrer • Peter R. Force • Della Franco
- The Fruit Gallery • Nadine Gallegos
- Don Geagan • Linda Levitz Goodman
- Meredith Gordon • Joseph Gross
- Pamela Gruber • Susan Hayden
- Ted Hajjar • Arleen Hendler
- Dawn Hollier • Joel Isaccs
- Maureen Jacobson • Hillary Kaye
- John Kertisz • Mark A Kleiman
- Joan Klotz • Ira Koslow • Donna Lacey
- Larry Layne • Danise Lehrer • Janet Lent
- Jay Levin • Michael Linder • Karl Lisovsky
- Pegarty Long • Linda Lucks
- Stash Maleski – ICU Art • Eric Mankin
- Michael McGuffin • Debra J. Miller
- Michael Millman • Susan Millmann
- Tina Morehead • Sandy/David Moring
- Anne Murphy • Carmen Navarro
- Earl Newman • Barbara Palivos
- Peter Pearce • Sherman J. Pearl
- Lydia Poncé • Chicago Red
- Karen Reeves • Nancy Raffaelli Richards
- Gail Rogers • Cristina Rojas • Ron Rouda
- James Schley • Krista Schwimmer
- Linda Shusett • Jim Smith
- John Stein • Alice Stek • Mike Suid
- Surfing Cowboys • Ted Tannenbaum
- Carol Tantau • Swami X
- Suzanne Thompson • Venice Grind
- Venice Originals Skateboard Shop
- Venice Peace & Freedom
- Sabrina Venskus • Carol Wells
- Simone White • Suzy Williams
- Nancy Boyd Williamson • Emily Winters
- Mary Worthington • Fabiola Wright

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

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



President Obama and Mr. Abajo

Dear Beachhead,

Some readers actually have become more than full up with all the Obama fawning and the constant admiring of his continual PR and his continual campaigning. In this April issue, Jim Smith writes some helpful hints for handling [economic] depression, such as:

“Unemployment insurance should be cranked up to at least 50 percent of people’s previous salaries..... Two or three people on unemployment should be able to pay the rent and utilities. Don’t feel bad about improving and enjoying yourself while collecting the dole. Now is the time to receive a small dividend. Don’t turn up your nose at a year off with pay.”

Does this sound like he is saying it is good to ‘go on the dole’ as the Brits say, and assume that if a job is not easily found quickly, then just take the government’s money [that is= all the taxpayers’ money, including your prior employed payments] and pretend it is all ‘for free now’...not to worry...just take a year’s vacation on the back of the rest of the hard-laboring-citizens? Is that called helpful - moral - fair - and honest advice? Some of us differ.

The easy way out is not the best way, nor is the selfish taking “a year off with pay” a socially conscionable act. If you need time off because of some serious emotional or health reason, that is different, but just because work is more difficult to find or with less pay than you had before... that walk-away is not a healthy choice for you, or the rest of us either. In fact, the too-long-time-off creates other attitude problems for returning to employment. Better yet is learning how to trade and barter and help each other, any other, collectively, cooperatively, and willingly.

Spend less and realize that the good-economic-with-debt-times were a faked up advertised illusion, that you too believed as if no consequences would ever occur when over-consumption was indulged. Realize the ways USA’s have been sold on luxury, eating ‘out’, buying fancy new items [phones, electronics, clothes, toys], and always “more” with it’s attendant Entitlement Attitude was fun but that was also a fake lure. All that is excessive has it’s cyclic turn and then ...plop! right back into the good earth dirt mud. And what is wrong with being frugal, sharing sparingly but lovingly with others? It’s not hard to do unless you have become indulgent, expectant, and spoiled-childlike.

So how can each person share whatever skills they have accumulated in-Trade with someone else’s talents and resources? Barter more. What’s so hard about coming back around to where the global citizens had less, saved more, did without all those up-scale extras? And....without complaints and self-pity. Without taking advantage of anyone else or even the system?

Can’t we do as others do: Share apt. spaces, and learn how to “get along” with others that seemed so difficult before. Not everyone needs a whole apt. for themselves alone, or even just ‘for 2’. Like so many other peoples of this world, spaces can be used in shifts, or shared in different ways as work spaces, not just stored as ‘sitting rooms’. And what tragedies occur if time is used more practically with a lot less TV, movie, DVD, and passive other-story-watching?

Being INVOLVED in real life with real people is a real learning experience...yes, again. Learning to tolerate, accept and cooperate is a whole level we have easily avoided by the being able to live separately while previously affording ‘my very own’ for a while now. Can we now take the challenges we have avoided, like having to live alongside each other, again, instead of separating [like spoiled milk], or instead of looking down at having-to-share, yes, again.

Who ever said this USAmerican life is suppose to always be more filled with stuff, including electronics, toys, adult toys, and full wallets? Who ever promised us that we would always get MORE while working longer hours for less and like it too? We’ve heard that actual wages have not risen in real inflated dollars since 1997, but we have demanded to stay in that dream in which we could buy more and more because we “deserve” to keep always buying. Besides buying being a ‘national duty’ by this and prior Prez’s decrees too. Is it Depression, recession, hard times or just ‘harder than we ever thought it Should Be’? The word description is not what is important. It is how we go into the challenges and find creative ways of learning to live...again...differently than we have grown accustomed to...but still not so bad as is feared.

We still have what friends we realize we can trust and like. We may even have family to which we must connect back..yes, again. We may find that regular home-cooking, doing our own cleaning and laundry, driving less and taking public transportation at times,

Growing Up in Venice

Dear Beachhead,

Can’t thank you enough for printing Ms Mora’s fine piece of lit about Venice history. As a Jewish Female who is a native Angelino and Venice resident active in green politics, education and much more, the story resonated with me on multiple levels. Corny as it sounds, I laughed, I cried, I oohed and ahhhed.

I look forward to framing this story for all to read in 5 groundwork coffee houses. We are so proud to be part of a tradition that supports great writing about local passions.

What wonderful gift you provide for our one of a kind community.

Happy Springtime...

A. Karno, groundwork coffee, Java Juice Inc.



**Danielle Greco
Former Canal Resident**

Dear Beachhead,

We’ve received some sad news. Long-time Venice resident Danielle Greco passed away on April 23. She was found in her backyard in Boulder, Colorado by her daughter Danielle, apparently having died of a heart attack. She had had a recent history of heart problems. She was 65 years young. Life was not treating her well as of late, and she had mentioned she might be planning to move to Florida, where it was warmer.

Both Marcia and myself are saddened by this news, but feel that in a way, it was a relief to her. Danielle lived in the canals during the mid-70s and left town in the mid-80s.

I’m sure that lots of readers will remember her and appreciate the mention of this sad news.

thanks - paul tanck

reading for personal growth and learning, and talking to strangers [who love to share their secrets and advice too] is not as bad as we thought. The simple life. The fuller life.

Hey, why the sour look? The free paycheck from the gov’t is not free for all. But while finding clever ways of making just-enough to keep us housed and fed until another job or opportunity emerges, we can still stay free, independent, inter-dependent and be adults.

The welfare roles are not the best opportunity for growth or gain, tho many do lazily prefer them.

Try another way, for a change. Grow. Be willing to do something ‘different’ than just get. For a change.

maryjanie - artistic realist, word-player, creative-thinker

The writer responds:

maryjanie has some great suggestions in how to cope with economic hard times. However, I do disagree with her statement that taking a year off with pay is a selfish act. My disagreement is based on several considerations. First, we are not on this earth to spend half our waking hours making a profit for a big corporation, or even a little one. Life is too short to waste it. Second, all the wealth of our society was created by the muscle, blood and brain power of our collective ancestors, as well as our present generation. We are entitled to use our insurance payments and our time as we see fit. We are the masters of our society, even if we don’t yet have the power to enforce it. Third, a year off from the daily grind can give us time to develop and improve our skills, both social and technical. The next time we go back to work, we’ll be more productive and more competent, although we may not be so willing to take the BS that is dished out on a daily basis. In summary, if anyone is being selfish it is the super-rich on Wall Street who are fleecing the rest of us, and still demanding billions more.

-Jim Smith



Police Break Up "3rd Friday" on Westminster

Nine police officers in five squad cars showed up April 17 to restore public order on Westminster Avenue, between Speedway and Ocean Front Walk. The culprits this time turned out to be upstanding business owners from the block. The crime: no permit for playing music or otherwise having a good time.

There was one complaint that brought the gendarmes running, or driving. It was from Frank Lutz, the manager of the apartment building at 14 Westminster, known to some as the Dungeon and to others as the Morrison. Lutz told the Beachhead that the music was so loud that he couldn't hear his television. He added that he is opposed to having an

event on the street every month as planned, due to the number of apartments in the area.

However, Diane Adams and Jefferson Davis, who are the managers of The Waldorf Apartments at 5 Westminster, which overlooks the street support the events, which are intended to build community in this section of Venice. They gave each of their tenants a \$10 gift certificate to be used for purchases from the merchants during the event.

The music, by The Whalens, with lead guitarist, Eric Soullivin, had just begun when it was stopped by LAPD Sergeant Teresa Skinner and her cohorts.

The organizers of the event had planned to follow the music with films, including one about the

closing of the Lafayette Cafe, which used to be on the corner of OFW and Westminster. No music, no films, no event was allowed without official permits, said the cops.

Several of the organizers, including Jason Auer, manager of Groundwork Coffee, and James and Nina Merced, owners of the Fruit Gallery, are determined to continue the events every month. The next one would take place on the third Friday, which is May 15. See The Wonderful World of Westminster on page 6 of the August, 2008 Beachhead, <<http://tinyurl.com/cavdpg>> for more about this little community.

–Jim Smith

Relief Is Just A Toke Away

By Ian Lovett

The April 21 meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council saw an agenda item that proposed to limit signage on medical marijuana dispensaries to the side entrance, not the front. Though this proposal seems relatively minor, it is at odds not only with Venice's longstanding 420-friendly reputation, but also with the marijuana industry's tentative steps out of the shadow into daylight.

When I first moved to Venice three years ago, medical marijuana dispensaries possessed the aura of urban myth. I didn't know anyone with a so-called 'cannabis card,' I didn't know how you might get one, and I certainly had no idea where to find a dispensary.

Upon returning to Venice at the start of this year, however, I found a dramatically different atmosphere. Along Ocean Front Walk, in addition to the 'Legalize It' posters and homeless people holding "Need \$\$\$ for bud" signs which have long been Venice hallmarks, you'll also hear promoters wearing necklaces of plastic marijuana leaves shouting, "Get your medical marijuana recommendation here!" On the boardwalk alone, three clinics offer medical marijuana recommendations. And as I sat in the waiting room one doctor's office, a lawyer came by, as well, handing out a booklet called, "A Simple Guide to California Medical Marijuana Law." Which is all to say that these days, medical marijuana in Venice is almost impossible not to notice.

It's hard to know exactly how many dispensaries—the collectives that distribute marijuana to patients—are currently operating. Jason has worked in the medical marijuana industry for the past five years. "When I first started," he explained, "there were maybe 25 dispensaries in the whole state." Now, he says, there are at least 400 in the LA area.

Jason estimates that less than half of those 400 dispensaries are properly licensed. In September of 2007, the city of LA passed an ordinance, which put a moratorium on opening any new dispensaries. Still, new ones open every day, especially since Attorney General Eric Holden announced an end to DEA raids on dispensaries in states, like California, where medical marijuana is legal.

Still, some aspects of the medical marijuana industry retain a secretive feel. One of the doctor's offices I visited is located at the back of a shop that sells pipes and bongs, and I've heard of dispensaries run out of bicycle shops and florists. At Gourmet Green Room (GGR), which just opened on Lincoln, even the front door into the lobby remains locked until the receptionist buzzes you in. This feature is "mostly for security," said Tarek, the general manager. The shades in the smoking room remain down. The sign of the dispensary inside are the pictures of marijuana leaves taped to the window.

For patients, too, privacy remains important. Chris Comstock, who works at Dr. Dean Weiss' office on Lincoln Blvd, explains that many potential patients share a misconception that if they get a medical marijuana recommendation, their information will end up in some government database. "This

idea that once you get a recommendation the whole government know is just wrong. The information stays in our files—there's no government registry. It's confidential, like any other medical record."

And, of course, the vast, vast majority of marijuana is still sold illegally. Increasingly, though, it's moving over the counter. Despite its locked door, GGR advertises in various industry publications, and Tarek notes the prevalence of dispensary ads in publications like LA Weekly.

Nowhere is medical marijuana's move out into the open more apparent than at The Pharmacy—a dispensary with three locations, including one on Abbot Kinney—whose motto is, in fact, "Very Open." The marijuana products are kept behind the counter, while anyone—even those without a medical marijuana recommendation—can come inside peruse all manner of other herbal medicine throughout the store.

–continued on page 10



What's Behind the Push for OPDs?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Rubber Tramps, Gypsies, and Hippie Busses are nothing new to Venice. In fact, Venice is known worldwide for embracing different lifestyles. When the circus came to town, Venice is where the Gypsies stayed. Beat poets and anarchists hung out. Misfits fit in. If you were odd, you were cool in Venice. And we had more streets to park on then.

For much of its existence, Venice has been home to low and extremely low-income people. But as property value has increased with gentrification and the accompanying NIMBY movement. Venice has grown less accepting of the misfit and some are full of hate for street people or for those who might take a stand to defend them. Even though some still see Venice as eclectic and diverse, it is more a facade based on lingering history, and then there are those of us who simply refuse to leave.

As Venice gentrification has raged on, Venice property owners (quite often the newer ones), people with business interests, developers and the City of Los Angeles have worked increasingly to get rid of poor and homeless people living in vehicles. Now, with the loss of so much low-income housing to new development [unaffordable housing] along with the mortgage crisis and wide scale layoffs, many of the people living in vehicles in Venice – used to be renters or even homeowners in Venice. The homeless population is rapidly changing and growing.

Those working to rid Venice of homeless people and homeless services have formed groups, such as the "Rose Avenue Working Group" (which eventually managed to move the St Joseph's homeless center off Rose Ave) and the city formed groups using the Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) like the debunked "Homeless Outreach Committee." The groups wanting to remove the people living in vehicles in Venice worked directly, and still do, with the City Attorney's office and the LAPD.

One group, calling itself the "Venice Stakeholders Association" recently organized in favor of using the Overnight Permit Parking (OPD) law to remove people living in vehicles from Venice. The OPD, or Overnight Parking District, is a special permit-parking zone regulated by parking enforcement during the hours between 2AM and 6AM and only the people who qualify under the definition for resident can get permits.

The "Venice Stakeholders Association" hired a high priced attorney named Sherman Stacy to fight in favor of overnight permit parking at the California Coastal Commission. Members of the group include Mark Ryavec and Georgeann Abraham. Records gained through the Public Records Act reveal that these people have been working with the City Attorney's office for years trying to use the OPD permit parking system to remove homeless people from Venice.

Throughout the years, the different groups have come and gone, but they all have basically worked to get rid of homeless people. They worked with the city's Department of Transportation, with the help of the City Attorney's office or the City Council, to put up many restrictive street signs in Venice – street signs that are originally intended for other traffic reasons – but have been used in Venice to remove access to nighttime or daytime parking for the unwanted homeless person living in a vehicle.

Maybe you got one of these signs on your street and wondered why. They say "no overnight parking" or "2-hour parking." When there is a neighborhood complaint that someone is living in a vehicle, the city might even organize a community meeting in which the Department of Transportation gives a presentation of all the parking measures that can be employed as a removal "solution" to homelessness using street signs and permit parking. No kidding, I went to one at the Penmar Park community room.

The parking enforcement and the police ramp up enforcement on the street to target vans and RVs, which they assume are lived in, with 72 hours tickets or other parking tickets. The police will often bang on the RVs and the vans, leaving dents on doors and conduct other forms of harassment.

One of the obstacles to removing homeless people living in vehicles with the existing parking measures has been that most of the restricted parking signs are exempted by disabled placards or disabled license plates. A very large percentage of homeless people are disabled, especially due to the decrease in affordable housing and other safety nets

during the Bush administration. Another problem that surfaced was that almost all of those restrictive street signs put up in the Venice Coastal Zone (west of Lincoln Blvd) also restricted coastal access and were done without California Coastal Commission approval. That is not legal.

The NIMBYs, the developers, the homeless haters, and the city needed to come up with some way to get rid of the disabled homeless people living in vehicles in this want-to-be exclusive beach town – in some way that the Coastal Commission would allow.

Then one day in 2003 Alan Willis, Transportation Engineer, with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, sent an email to City Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski's Westchester office saying that he had found the answer to the Venice RV problem. It was California Vehicle Code 22507.5, a law meant to restrict commercial vehicles from parking on residential streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. – a law from which disabled plates or placards are not exempt.

Violating the intent of a law had not stopped the city from using them on homeless people before – so away they went to work on getting input from the residents who hate homeless people. This input included meetings, emails, and a motion from Cindy Miscikowski to have the City Attorney write the draft ordinance.

Interesting thing is that the very names on those July 2004 follow up emails from the May 2004 "community" meeting about using overnight permit park-

Venice Town Council

7 p.m. Friday, May 8

2210 Lincoln Blvd.

is hosting a party to

"let the letters set sail"

to the California Coastal Commission,
which is hearing
the Venice OPDs at its June Meeting

ing to get rid of homeless people living in vehicles in Venice (with the City Attorney and City Council employees at the Council District 11 Westchester Office) are the same people running Venice Neighborhood Council committees today! Jim Murez (now chair of the VNC parking committee), Mark Ryavec (chair of the VNC homeless committee – God help us) and Georgeann Abraham (chair of the OPD committee) were all working with the City Attorney's office and the City Council office in 2004 behind the backs of the legally elected progressive Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council. These meetings did not comply with Brown Act requirements of public notice and the topic was specifically to put in the Overnight Permit Parking law using California Vehicle Code 22507.5 to remove those living in vehicles.

Why California Vehicle Code 22507.5? Because the disabled RV people are not exempted from that law and they thought that the California Coastal Commission would just allow it to go in.

Bill Rosendahl, loving homeless people as he does, kept the OPD ball rolling forward once he got in office and he signed the motion to enact the OPD law. The OPD law – Los Angeles Municipal Code 80.54 – was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on July 20, 2005, the month Bill took office.

The progressive Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council was successfully eliminated by the city through a phony arbitration process that was conducted for a challenge against the June 2004 neighborhood council election. Another very interesting fact is that the person then employed with the Los

Angeles Human Relations Department and charged with the non-arbitration process (which took the Progressive Venice neighborhood council out) is now the Venice Deputy for the City Council, Mr. Arturo Peña.

DONE (the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment), who oversees neighborhood councils, created an election committee of Venice people more likely to follow the NIMBY agenda and a new Venice Neighborhood Council was elected. Rosendahl encouraged them to create an OPD committee, which first met in April 2006. The co-chair of the OPD committee, Stewart Oscars, worked with the Department of Transportation and the Council Office as if he was the representative for all of Venice on creating the Venice OPDs. Many emails from the city, gained through public records requests, assumes that Venice wants this or Venice wants that – in reference to what Stewart Oscars was saying in his emails to the city. Unfortunately, most of Venice did not know.

The Venice OPDs in the Coastal Zone go from the north border of Venice to the south border, from Lincoln Blvd to Speedway, but they forgot the Venice peninsula and it was too late to amend it by the time Stewart Oscars figured it out. These OPDs that cover almost the entire west side of Venice already exist and they have existed since December 2006.

The city thought that this would just fly through with the approval of the California Coastal Commission, but the Commission required a complete Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application process. Maybe it was because they already had received multiple complaints from the community about all the illegal street signs that had been installed in Venice (to get rid of the RVs), or maybe it was because the City wrote a law closing the beach at night, without going through the Coastal Commission.

Now stuck with doing a CDP, the Council office asked the L.A. Department of Transportation (DOT) to do the CDP, but they were not qualified. Then the Council Office asked the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to do the CDP, but they were not adequately staffed to expedite the CDP process. If the Council Office wanted the CDP process expedited, it would have to pay the BOE to hire an outside independent contractor – for \$75,000. So Bill Rosendahl used the Venice Surplus Property Fund to pay to get those CDP applications done.

Venice people have protested each step of the way – once they knew. Many of us knew nothing about this overnight parking scheme until the new Venice Neighborhood Council created the OPD committee. Only those who support the OPDs were notified by Bill Rosendahl's office that this law was coming up in the city council for a vote. Some are still finding out.

There was a hearing in Venice last June 26 to which hundreds of people came out in opposition, but the Bureau of Engineering rubber-stamped it and sent it off to the Board of Public Works, where 103 appeals were rejected and the city sent a letter of intent to the California Coastal Commission.

Venice submitted 38 appeals against that decision and in February 2009 the California Coastal Commission took jurisdiction over the matter. Now this will be heard June 0-12 at the California Coastal Commission meeting at the Marina Del Rey Hotel.

If you want to know what you can do to oppose the Venice OPDs, please stay posted by checking <www.NoPermitParkingInVenice.com> or call 310-398-7192 for updates.

Visit the FAQ page on that web site to find out the shocking facts about how much this permit system will soon cost you. Initially the resident permits start off at only \$15 each, but the city forecasts the cost to soon be \$34 and there are so many restrictions. One main point that should be stressed is that the city is not giving us more parking, so you will just be forced to buy a hunting license to park in Venice.

East of Lincoln, one of the streets in the only existing Venice OPD east of Lincoln, Indiana Ave, just finished a petition to remove the OPD from their block because they hate it. And the city does not seem to be rushing to take the action required to remove the permit parking signs, which takes only a letter from Rosendahl sent to DOT.

It is a mess and all because some property owners, developers, and the city that bows to them all wants to get rid of the poor in Venice so property values can go up. Not to mention the city can use all the permit parking revenue it can get.



Sign of the times? A mini camper.

Jane Harman - Caught In The Act?

By Jim Smith

Jane Harman, our Congressional representative, is in trouble. Before you rush off to save her, consider this. She was caught on a wiretap agreeing to try to get espionage charges reduced for two foreign agents. A 12-year prison sentence has already been handed down for a former Defense Intelligence Agency official, Lawrence Franklin, for turning over classified documents to the foreign agents.

This is not a new story. It first broke in 2006. But what is new is that actual transcripts of the conversations Jane had about this matter have surfaced. Also new is the revelation that Alberto Gonzales, Bush's Attorney General, stepped in to quash a Department of Justice investigation into Harman's role in the affair.

Harman has responded by going on the attack. The House intelligence maven, who knew about wholesale wiretapping of U.S. citizens by the Bush administration years before it became public is shocked – shocked I say – by the fact that she, a member of Congress, would be wiretapped. But it turns out that the wiretap wasn't aimed at Harman, but at the suspected foreign agent with whom she was having the conversation. In addition, Harman says she didn't actually do anything, which is more believable in her case.

The plot thickens because the country on whose behalf the alleged espionage was being done is Israel. And two of the spies, who have been indicted, were employees of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which is probably the most powerful lobbying group on Capitol Hill.

According to informed sources, Harman agreed on tape to "waddle into" the AIPAC case, adding "if you think it'll make a difference." She ended the conversation after saying, "This conversation doesn't exist," How embarrassing for Harman that it was caught on tape.

Full disclosure requires that I state that I ran against Harman for Congress in 2006. Needless to say, Harman, the wealthiest member of the U.S. Congress won big against my typical grassroots Peace and Freedom Party campaign (I did beat the Republican candidate in about half the Venice precincts.) I should also disclose that Harman is a member of the Trilateral Commission, which may be the organization that truly rules the world. She is also a leader of the "Blue Dog" caucus of Congressional Democrats. The "Blue Dogs" call themselves a "Coalition of Conservative Democrats." In an earlier day, they most likely would have called themselves moderate Republicans.

How did someone so out of tune with Venice's mixture of liberals, progressives and radicals become our Congressperson? It's pure and simple gerrymandering. The South Bay is full of Republican voters who used to make the seat a toss-up. When the Democratic majority redistricted California, they threw in Venice and San Pedro, both of which are full of Democrats. Ever since, Harman has waltzed to victory.

On Oct. 20, 2006, Time magazine broke the story on its website of Harman's involvement in the case, and that a Department of Justice investigation was beginning (later to be stopped by Gonzales). The article also mentioned that Harman had retained attorney Ted Olsen to represent her. Olsen previously had been George Bush's lawyer in the disputed Florida election of 2000, and was probably the person who was most responsible for putting Bush in the White House instead of Al Gore.

Two days after the news broke, Harman and I, along with the Republican and Libertarian candidates met for our one and only debate. While I concentrated on the war, health care and other issues including the Harman family's sweatshops in Mexico, I did raise the DOJ investigation twice.

Harman denied it was happening on one occasion (she must have talked to Gonzales) and ignored it the other time. However, she did appear very nervous and near the end of the debate seemed to be on the verge of tears. See the highlights on Google Video at <http://tinyurl.com/d64y7c>.

At the time, I naively believed Harman had reached the end of her political career. Perhaps this time around. There are calls for an inquiry by the Office of Congressional Ethics and for a real investigation by the Justice Department. There all already demands for her resignation. Will Jane Harman bounce back once again? With AIPAC in her corner, anything is possible. If she makes it to the 2010 election, then it will be up to the voters in Venice and points south to render a final judgement on our very own Blue Dog.



Jane Harman and friends

Swami X Speaks

I trust you understand I'm talking to myself here.



It's important to be aware of your basic beliefs, because a new reality is being manifest in the next 4 years. Sensitive people feel it coming. If you can't feel it coming, it doesn't suggest you are insensitive; you may have a lot of things on your mind. This could be an unhealthy condition. Not having anything on your mind has a lot to be said for it. It is rare and wonderful and refers to a meditation.

We are constantly talking to someone, even in sleep. To our ego, our ego is talking to us, or we have left the TV on. It's always something. We have a challenging time, unfolding non-attachment, serenity and peace.

We're looking in the wrong direction. It's right in front of us when we achieve total fearlessness. This Universal fear is the death of the ego, which is an illusion, and not to be taken seriously, unless, of course, you're somewhat masochistic.

Life never has a beginning, nor will it ever end, is a realization that will lessen your concern over bad TV, corrupt politics, and irrational relatives.

There are people who don't believe in the Life-Light-Love and Creativity that lives within them, which is sometimes baffling to those who have touched that inner reality. I try not to judge, especially myself, although I do have high standards, rarely realized.

In the immortal words of Willie the Shake, "All's well that ends well."

Douglas Eisenstark L.Ac.

Acupuncture and Herbs

supervisor at local acupuncture schools
private office in WLA at The Garden
2001 S. Barrington just north of Olympic

some evening hours

Santamonicaacupuncture.com

310-403-7018

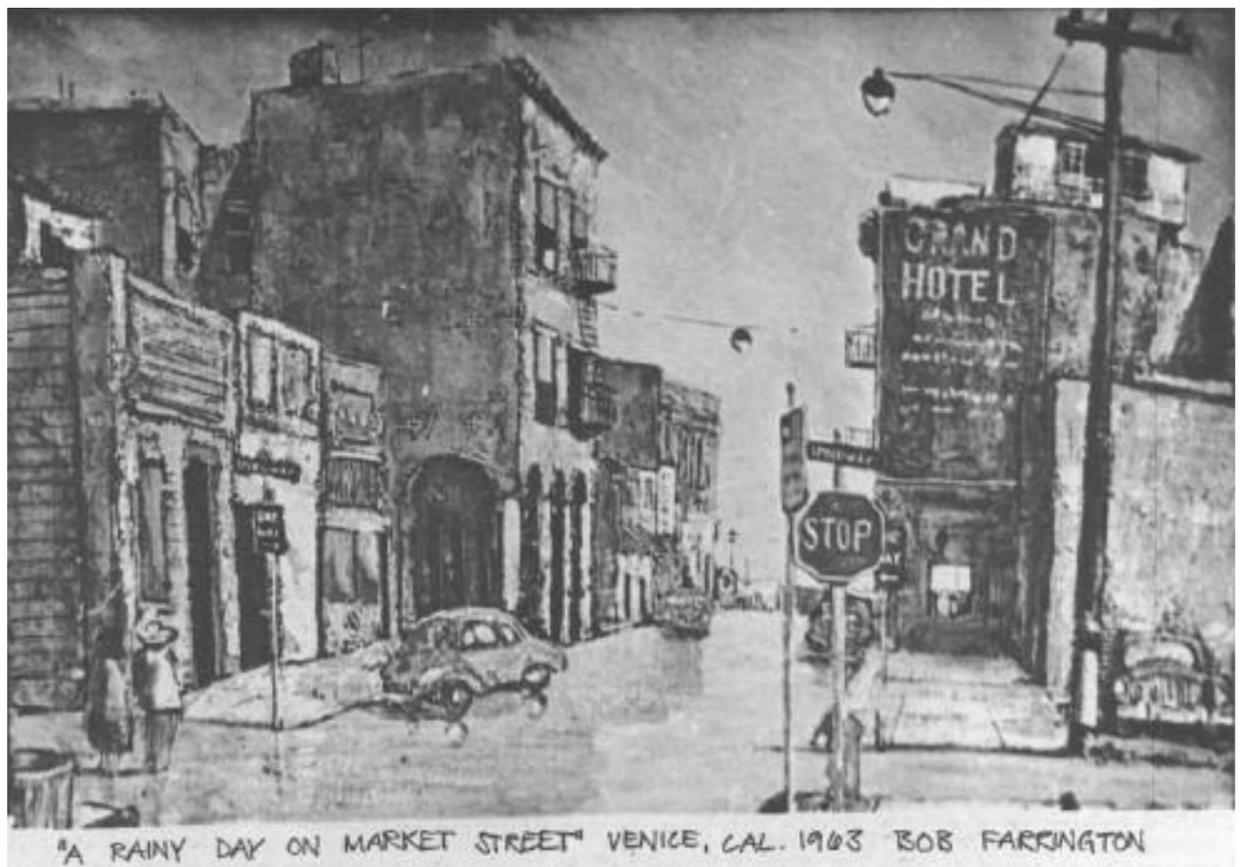
reasonable rates - most conditions treated
speciality in Chronic Hep C



Get breaking news
in Venice
from the Beachhead.

Check our Twitter site:

www.twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead





The Jaya Mural

From End To End

—continued from page 1

removed. The mural was also in need of major restoration. The Venice Arts Council founded the Endangered Art Fund which selected this mural as their first public art restoration project. Through the wonderful love, support and generosity of the Venice Community, and the City of Los Angeles, the mural was restored in 2008 by Emily Winters and Nathan Zakheim Associates.

The caring and diligence of the Venice community that has kept this mural alive for 39 years! A more detailed description can be read in "A Seashore Memoir" by maryjane, pages 65-67.

Images of the Jaya mural restoration and Channel 4 TV news coverage are available on YouTube or at www.veniceartscouncil.org.

The Jaya Mural is located at 316 South Venice Boulevard at Dell Avenue in Venice.

Jaya Mural Celebration – On May 3, the Venice Arts Council (VAC) Endangered Art Fund is celebrating the completion of the Jaya Mural Restoration Project by honoring donors at a champagne brunch. The brunch will be held at Switch Studios where the Jaya Mural is located, near the Venice Canals at Dell Avenue and South Venice Boulevard.

The event is by RSVP and includes comments from major donors such as; Paul Racs, Office of Community Beautification; Linda Lucks, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners; Jonathan Zeichner, Abbot Kinney District Association, Don Geagan, Beachhead Collective Member; and Grace Godlin, Voice of the Canals.

Artist Emily Winters will give an overview of the mural's history. Other speakers include Steve

Clare, Venice Community Housing Corporation and Suzanne Thompson, Endangered Art Fund.

Emily Winters is a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute majoring in figure drawing and painting. She moved to Venice in 1963. Winters raised two daughters while working in commercial art as a billboard painter for record companies and then outdoor advertising. She was the first woman painter hired by Foster and Kleiser. She was a union activist in International Brotherhood of Allied Trades, Local 831, elected to the executive board and served as shop steward. Winters, co-founded and chairs the Venice Arts Council.

See the Feb. 2006 Beachhead at www.freevenice.org and www.veniceartscouncil.org for more of her art.

Hot off the Press: New book of dissident political cartoons by Khalil Bendib, the only LEFT cartoonist LEFT in America!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

POLITICAL CARTOONS BY AMERICA'S ONLY MUSLIM POLITICAL CARTOONIST

KHALIL BENDIB'S Newest book of cartoons

Order now at: www.bendib.com



Photos by Pegarty Long

Yet another illegal giant sign on Ocean Front Walk

The historic Ocean Vue Apartments at 5 Rose Ave. have a new owner, and a new name, "Air."

"Hip Beachfront Living" will be a new thing for the low-income tenants who are fast disappearing from the building.

One senior holdout with a bad hip told the Beachhead that the changes were uncool. "The remodeled lobby has all the charm of a Macy's display window."

Many of the large signs on OFW do not have city or coastal permits and are just another kind of graffiti.



SVEN clogs

now at Zingara

1507 Abbot Kinney, Venice 310-392-6424 info@ZingaraTrading.com



Hillel, Mr Balloon Man

Photo: Edizen Stowell, Venice Papparazzi

Venice Carnevale to feature fire dancers, music, costumes and Mr. Balloon Man

After years of wandering around Venice looking for a home, Carnevale organizers believe they've found a permanent location for their once-a-year extravaganza. On June 6, Windward Avenue, west of Pacific, will be closed to traffic as local romantics garbed in medieval finery set up booths, stages, while minstrels wander through the crowd.

It's been a long search for Esquire Jauchem, Miriam More, and Brady Walker as they've tried to set down roots somewhere, and sometime, in Venice. Unlike the Carnevale in our namesake city on the Adriatic, our Carnevale is not connected with the beginning of Lent, or any other recognizable religious ceremony. Anytime is a good time to party and wear funny clothes in our Venice by the sea.

In past years, the Carnevale has set up shop on Ocean Front Walk, at the Venice Circle and, last year, at the old City Hall. One advantage for revelers this year is that there are two friendly bars – the Townhouse and Danny's – just steps away from the fun.

The Beachhead is a sponsor and will have a booth. Other sponsors include Graphics Quarter, Project Alma, and The Townhouse. It's not too late to become a sponsor or request a booth. Check the Carnevale website, <www.carnevale.us>.

This year's music and performance line up includes acts such as The Bonedaddys, Wadada Raggea, Mr. Balloon Man, Harissa Belly Dancer's Troupe, Kathy Leonardo, Street Smart with the Grand Finale featuring "Mutaytor," whose show combines not only music, but also dancing, drumming and pyrotechnic acts.

Spinning the U.S. Passport

By Janet Phelan

The Public Relations arm of the U.S. government is taking a "stab" at your travel documents.

The latest edition of the US Passport exhibits what appears to be an Orwellian effort to deny the damage to the American dream our country has suffered in the last few years. Not content to spin the television news, the major newsprints and magazines, the U.S. government has conjured up new travel documents that can only be considered a pre-meditated leap into a propagandistic fairyland.

A fearsome eagle is emblazoned across the photo page, which in prior editions demurely depicted only a photo of the passport holder, name and place of issue. One enters the new passport experience to find page after page of anachronistic American hype. Sprawled across the formerly blank visa pages, one now encounters Mt. Rushmore, the Mayflower, The Declaration of Independence, more bald eagles communing with buffalo and the obligatory Statue of Liberty, to name a few of the tried-and-true patriotic symbols of an American dream that has been reduced to rubble.

Each page of the new "spun" passport also contains a statement from one of America's statesmen or visionaries of yore, including a few who may have been assassinated for trying to bring the American dream to fruition. You got it--John F. Kennedy intones, from beyond the grave to "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." On November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, JFK paid that price.

Similarly, Martin Luther King, another victim of the rash of sixties' political murders, boldly states that "We have a great dream. It started way back in 1776, and God grant that America will be true to her dream." Well, Martin, you were as true as they get, all right. I hope you and the Kennedy boys are not getting apoplectic about what has transpired in the last forty plus years, up there in the Big Peace Rally in the sky.

George Washington also makes an appearance, exhorting us to "raise a standard to which the wise and honest may repair." The judges in our courts, who are now with shocking regularity violating statutory and constitutional law, might like to revisit that one.

The new passport is inclusive and egalitarian. The Mohawks have their soundbite here, declaring that "We send thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are glad they are still here and we hope it will always be so." The fact that the American Indians were the first victims of what is now commonplace American genocidal policies is not mentioned. Given

—continued on page 10



Fire Eaters

Photo: Esquire Jauchem

CRUELTY-FREE PRODUCTS



EKO ZONE

CLOTHING

HEMP • BAMBOO • ORGANIC COTTON
SHOES • ACCESSORIES • BODYCARE

10%
OFF

MENTION THIS AD

1718 S MAIN STREET NO. 1 | VENICE, CA 90291
TEL 310.305.1920 | WWW.EKOZONE.NET

WE'RE LOCATED NEXT TO THE WINDWARD CIRCLE

Permit Parking - Not a New Story

By Jim Smith

What's behind the effort to bring permit parking to Venice? In a word, gentrification. In Los Angeles, and cities around the country, it's a familiar story. A family of professionals spends big bucks to move into a so-so neighborhood. Before long the happy couple looks out the window and sees - gasp - strangers parking on their block. Who could these sinister people be - child molesters, foreigners, or perish the thought - homeless!

Then, calls are made to the local representatives and signs go up denying parking to anyone not from here. Most of the neighbors breathe a sign of relief as more parking places on up, especially on streets adjacent to commercial districts.

In Venice, this smooth process has run into snags for a couple of reasons. First, everything west of Lincoln Blvd. is in the coastal zone, which by law can be enjoyed by all Californians, regardless of where they live, or whether they have a hefty annual income or not. No law or city ordinance can restrict the right of inlanders to enjoy our fresh air and beach.

The second snag for the permit parking steam-roller is a sizable community of lower income residents and free-spirited Venetians who do not want to pay to park or plan ahead when friends drop over. They - we - do not think the coast should be off-lim-

its at any time of day or night to our overnight guests (whether inebriated or not), surfers, swing-shift workers, or that dreaded specter that is haunting Venice, the RV dwellers.

This is not the first time that efforts have been made to bring in permit parking. I recently ran across a copy of the Rialto Neighborhood News, the newsletter for the Rialto Block Association. The Sept/Oct 1982 issue had an article on preferential

"There are 21,422 vehicles in zipcode 90291, which includes most of Venice. No wonder we have a tough time parking!"

(permit) parking. The unnamed author says that this has been "an issue of long standing and its time for a decision to be made." The reason given in favor of preferential parking sounds most contemporary. "The purpose...is to discourage significant intrusion of commercial and institutional parking into residential areas." It goes on to say that parking restrictions could be any time, to daylight hours, or for night-time restrictions.

The early 80s were the time of the first Yuppie migration to Venice, but apparently there were not enough supporters to push this through, since Rialto residents and their neighbors have been happily enjoying free street parking for the past 25 years.

But on June 2, 1994 the then L.A. City Councilmember, Ruth Galanter, informed us by letter that she was "pleased to announce that the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed my motion to establish a preferential parking district in (our) neighborhood. It would have turned most of Venice into a permit parking zone.

The scheme this time was that non-residents (beachgoers) could park for two hours, then they would have to move their cars. It also prohibited overnight parking without a permit.

By the time the plan reached the Coastal Commission several years later, the only Venetians to show up were against it. The Commission unanimously turned their thumbs down.

This time around we have a coalition of city officials including our rapidly shrinking councilmember Bill Rosendahl, homeless haters and gentrifiers. They believe that if they restrict parking in the dead of night they can slip it past the Coastal Commission.

If passed, the permits would bring in nearly \$1 million to the city coffers (not the Venice coffers, alas).

It would force the RV dwellers out of Venice since they are ineligible for permits, and it might get rid of cars that are not new, cool and hip, if their owners can't afford the permits.

On the face of it, denying street parking to visitors to the coastal zone at any time of day or night seems to violate the Coastal Access Act. If the Commission doesn't toss it out, a court likely will.

Like nearly every plan that Los Angeles imposes on Venice, there are several myths underlying it.

Myth #1: It will be easier to park. According to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, there are 21,422 vehicles in zipcode 90291, which includes most of Venice. No wonder we have a tough time parking! That part of Venice, south of Washington shares zipcode 90292 with Marina del Rey, but it's a safe bet that there are thousands more cars in that part of Venice. The best estimate of RV dwellers in Venice is between 150 and 200. It may seem like more, but many RVs, vans, camper trucks and inhabitable vehicles are owned by Venetians who live in a house. Those vehicles will be eligible for permits. In addition, the other 150 RVs can return to Venice streets any time after 6 a.m. It makes no sense to think that even if 150 RVs were removed from the streets, that it would be easier for the remaining 21,422 cars to find parking places. In addition, this will have no effect on the thousands who come to the beach during the day and need a place to park.

Myth #2: It is a small price to pay to get rid of the RVs. Let's suppose permit parking becomes a reality. Within a month, most of the RVs might disappear from the streets. A huge victory for the homeless haters and gentrifiers! But wait. Now all of us who want to park our cars on Venice streets must pay to park for the rest of our lives (or at least the rest of our lives in Venice). Some victory!

Myth #3: My property value will increase if we get rid of the undesirable element. Our property values have been inflated beyond reason for the last several years. Now they are sinking to more reasonable levels. Let's face it. Most of us live in funky, old houses that are much older than we are. The days when winners in the stock market casino can buy old houses, tear them down, and build big, sterile boxes may be at an end. We may be stuck with the housing stock we have for a long time to come.

But why do people who can afford to buy a home at the beach want to move to Venice of all places? I believe we attract a particular group of more affluent people, those who are some sensitivity to the community and to the arts (although a few seem to have no sensitivity or compassion at all).

If we drive all the writers, poets, painters, sculptors and other creative people out of the community because they are not high wage earners, then what do we have to offer? The Art Walk and the Garden Tour will have to shut down. Many of those living in RVs are artists who were unable to afford their high rent in a Venice apartment. They are hanging on by their fingernails and their four tires. Let's help them continue to be a part of Venice, until we can have more housing that they can afford.



Will Boardwalk, Park Place and the rest of us get to keep our free street parking?



Sunset Lodge #369 F & A M
Proudly serving Venice since 1905

Evening at the Bijou

The Sunset Cinema Society presents a 1930's cinema experience with an Evening at the Bijou. A number of period shorts will be screened, including Laurel and Hardy's "Sons of the Desert", as well as a period feature. 1930's style refreshments will be served.

Friday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM

For additional information, please visit the Society website
<http://cinema.sunsetmasoniclodge.com>

Model Railway Show

Sunset Lodge and Group 160 N-Trak present a model railroad demonstration, featuring a 12 foot x 28 foot operating N-Scale model railroad layout. Expert model railroaders from Group 160 will be on hand to answer your questions about the popular hobby of Model Railroading. This event is suitable for children of all ages, including inner children.

Saturday, May 30th
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Sunset Lodge was established by Abbot Kinney and a group of leading citizens in 1905 in what was then the community of Ocean Park CA. Ocean Park was later divided into Venice and Santa Monica.

Continuing the vision of our founders, Sunset Lodge #369 and Ocean Park Chapter #245 OES continue to serve the families of Venice by offering opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills through membership in our organization, as well as through support for community projects and charitable works.

For additional information, please visit our website:
<http://www.sunsetmasoniclodge.com>

Sunset Masonic Lodge #369
1720 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica CA
310.452.3943



Alan Goldberg
The Community
Wizard
an Electrical,
Plumbing Specialist

Pager-310 495 2531

Challenger

Walls walls and doors
closing closing in
exaggerated sighing
holy soldier needs voucher
nothing nailed to gateposts
excessive drama, be gone
wish-fulfilling wonder
simmering stinking ecstasy

man can stand and die
woman solely fly

boy pitcher on mound
girl submerged in sound

rocket science to forefront
radar's comeback

invisibility relativity infertility rust
cosmic particulate Heisenberg dust

ten	infernal prisons
nine	climatologists
eight	war-torn years
seven	experimental acorns
six	shell-shocked skulls
five	integrated circuits
four	faded mug shots
three	Bunsen burners
two	isolation chambers
one	banana peel
zero	gravity
	a thousand pardons.

–Hal Bogotch

Yes we can

Early gloominess of winter approaches crouching
to spring – grasp throat or ankle
which ever comes first

damp darkness covers all ground- scape
dampens cheer and glue-shuts every door
to any prospect of a reviving sun

bear-trap silence signals storm before the storm
looming shadow of repellent pseudo-leader
clamps down tight all breathing space

near decade of despair withers hope
transgressions a leaning tower of misbelief
eyes mirror body-language droop yet

fortitude patience and optimism form ranks
covering the red the white and brown
a new guy leads a stride his horse - confidence

this knight and his shinning-mind as armor
now offers our password ...

yes we can

– Panos Douvos

The Speed of Thought

By Mark Lipman

If velocity (v) equals distance (d) over time (t), such that $v = d/t$;
and we assume that d = any positive integer (x), as any two points
have a calculable distance between them ; and if we further assume
that t = 0 (zero) , because all thought is spontaneous and therefore
takes up no space in time ; we would then be left with the equation
of : $v = x/0 = ?$ (infinity). Therefore the velocity of thought (T) is
infinite. If the velocity, or the speed, of thought is infinite, then it is also
instantaneous. If the speed of thought is instantaneous, then the
amount of time (t) that would be required to travel any given distance
at the speed of thought would therefore also be 0 (zero). And if that
be the case, then let it be known that right now, I'm thinking of you.

The overcast is artifice, man-made, / because the shoreline needs a little shade. / The
roasting coals have eased their fiery grip / within the ocean's reach, and drop by
drop / the mist transforms to dew and layers long, / recalling last night's nightin-
gale; his song. / As time and space are precious, at this end, / between two cosm's,
greetings do we send, / to distant strings and quasars, there among / the farthest,
most extreme. Tidings we bring, / in hopes this, our blest vantage, will not stop /
providing clues and evidence. What lip / could classify, or clarify, or grade? / Thank
God I have this pen. I have it made.

–RF Wagner, Jr.

Modern Times

By Jim Smith

Let's fire your ass.
Let's kick you out on the street.
We'll charge for every drop of water
And make fresh air a treat.
Let's raise all the prices
and lower your pay.
Hey buddy, the cost-of-living
has just priced you out of the market.
It's nothing personal
That's how we do it today.
Let's give the banks billions
And for you, a kick in the pants.
Don't forget, this mess all started
because you wanted a home of your own.
So don't give us crap about Wall Street.
We know the alley where you sleep.
Oh, and you're gonna get a new health plan
You'll stop complaining when you try our new
Pandemic.
Please don't tell us things are bad.
It's only 2009. Just you wait till next year.

Woof Woof

By John Davis

The dogs on my hill bark,

a signal crossing,

the continents and seas,

perhaps signaling

deep space,

reflecting off

comets

reaching points

unknown

to other demensions

then returning home to

their masters ears as a

reflection of

Bow Wow

this paper is a
poem

One Saturday Morning in Venice

Well, i woke up
one Saturday morning
some time ago, tired
from not sleeping.
In fact, my husband & i had
simultaneously
awoken from nightmares –
his about Clint Eastwood
& trying not to be killed –
mine about the end
of the world & movie stars
being alien star seeds
for new civilizations.
Anyway, i meandered
to the front porch
to find half the block
taped off by police.
We had heard nothing.
My neighbor
(of the screaming orgasms)
nosing around
with her Press Badge
heard a rumor that a woman
had been stabbed to death
by her boyfriend
who a week ago
had been arrested for domestic
violence. The sun was bright
& cheerful & there was
no music playing
in the background. Only people
murmuring & chatting loudly
on cell phones. By 4 pm
the coroner had arrived.
i found myself wanting
to see the body brought out.
Still, more rumors of domestic violence
& her throat being slit.
Urban myth, my husband said
later. i left for work
reluctantly, leaving my husband
with my camera.
When the coroner finally
wheeled out, no pictures were allowed.
Turns out, she died
mysteriously, accidentally
her boyfriend safely
locked away. She had
a strange bump on her head
probably from falling
after a drunken bout.
22 years old, i heard.
Oddly, i am relieved
it was not a stabbing
despite the fact
that the coroner still
carried away a young body
& that dead is dead
no matter which way
i turn my head around it.
We are strange creatures
after all, compelled
to witness the unexpected
in search of something
as elusive as alien star seeds.
So, i guess my dream
was right after all.
Someone's world
came to an end last night
witnessed only by
the basement walls
where she resided alone.
– krista schwimmer

Beachhead Recommendations for May 19 state election

May 19 is two elections in one. The city and community college runoff elections are sharing the ballot with six state propositions.

Here are the Beachhead Collective's recommendations:

L.A. City Attorney: Don't vote for Jack Weiss. He is pro-development and has shown little concern for renters while on the city council. His opponent, Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich is an unknown quantity, but a "pig in a poke" would be a better vote than Jack Weiss.

L.A. Community College Trustees (2 seats):
Office 2: Vote for Angela Reddock. The Beachhead endorsed her when she ran for city council four years ago. We urge another vote for her on May 19.

Office 6: Vote for Nancy Pearlman. She is a grassroots Green activist who should be returned to office.

The State Propositions: These are all bad for California. We like how the nurses association put it:

The California budget shortfall and subsequent impasse ended in a budget deal that included six propositions to be voted on May 19, 2009 in a "Special Election."

The six propositions would lock into place the ability of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to make major cuts in vital healthcare services while failing to secure stable revenue increases from corporate interests in California. Further, the closed door process that led to this deal, in which a small minority of the legislature was able to force huge cuts while writing in permanent new corporate tax loopholes, demonstrates that real changes are needed to the outmoded budget process in California, not gimmicks or cuts that disproportionately affect our most vulnerable state residents.

For these reasons, the California Nurses Association opposes all the measures on May Special Election ballot on policy and process. Join us in saying NO to Arnold and protecting Californians.

Relief Is Just A Toke Away

—continued from page 3

Recently, for the second straight year, a class of 3rd graders from Broadway Elementary came to The Farmacy to meet with the store's herbalist, who covered up all the cannabis products, conducted a lesson on some of the other herbs in the store, and then walked the kids back to class, pointing out plants they'd just learned about on the way. "We want to be a part of the community," Bill said, "and keep it safe for everyone."

Bobby is a medical marijuana patient who sells handmade jewelry on the boardwalk. "It's a lot safer now," he said. "I'm 50 now, and especially for someone my age, you don't have to meet with people you're not familiar with. At a dispensary, there are checks and balances about what goes on."

Indeed, Bill Leahy hopes to increase such checks and balances on the industry. "Regulation is the biggest problem," he said. "There no true regulation on edibles across the state." The Farmacy is part of a the Greater Los Angeles Caregivers Alliance (GLACA), an organization of some of the larger dispensaries that advocates for medical marijuana. GLACA's application for membership includes questions like "What is your collective's philosophy or mission statement?" and the group imposes more stringent rules on its members than Los Angeles requires.

Already, such efforts have helped change the public perception. "I've seen the industry change a lot in five years," Jason said. "At first, people didn't want the dispensaries there—they wanted to keep it under the table. Now, most often people look at us as doing a good thing for the community."

And, despite the Neighborhood Council proposal to move dispensary signs to the back door, Venetians continued to show their support for this increasing openness. Though the agenda item was held over until the next meeting, they did take a straw vote. More than 90 percent of those present raised their hands in support of medical marijuana.

Proposition 1A – Spending Cap: Oppose.

Would require the state to make annual contributions to a budget reserve until the balance in the reserve reaches 12.5 percent of General Fund revenues. Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make enacting budgets that meet California's needs and address state priorities more difficult. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how "unanticipated" revenues can be used in good years. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state's changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also give the governor new power to make budget cuts without legislative oversight. Prop 1A came from a deeply flawed process that as a result Prop A was written in quickly and without public input or analysis. Prop 1A would make permanent changes to the state's Constitution and would have major implications for future budgeting. A good analysis is available from the California Budget Project, www.cbp.org.

Proposition 1B – Prop 98 Payment: Oppose.

Contingent on Prop 1A passing. Would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. This measure requires the state to make \$9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over five to six years beginning in 2011-12, ostensibly to address uncertainty about Prop. 98 school funding guarantees. CNA supports full funding of public education and supports restoring the devastating cuts of recent years. But CNA does not support Prop 1B in lieu of proper payment under the Prop 98 guarantee. The legislature has the power to make education funding a priority and not tie funding to a spending cap as proposed with Prop 1A.

Proposition 1C – Lottery Securitization: Oppose.

A borrowing gimmick. Prop 1C makes major changes to the 1984 California Lottery initiative that would permit the state to borrow \$5 billion in the 2009-10 fiscal year from future lottery profits and more from lottery profits in future years. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education, and the state General Fund would be required

to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. Under Prop. 1C, lottery profits now dedicated to schools and colleges would be used to pay back the borrowing. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office warns that long term, lottery profits probably would not cover the higher payments to education required by Prop 1C, making this initiative a very risky gamble for students and Californians.

Proposition 1D – Redirection of Prop 10 Funds: Oppose.

Shifts money from Prop. 10, the 1998 voter approved initiative to tax tobacco for early childhood education programs, to the state General Fund. Under Prop 1D, \$608 million would be diverted in 2009-10 and \$268 million a year for the following four years, creating the illusion that more revenues are available. In reality, Prop 1D raids these funds in the short term in order to pay for some services, while taking funding away from other services. This measure is shortsighted and harmful for our children.

Proposition 1E – Redirection of Prop 63 Funds: Oppose.

Shifts money Prop. 63, the 2004 voter approved mental health services initiative, to the state General Fund. For the next two years, Prop. 1E would redirect about \$230 million a year from the Mental Health Services Act to the state General Fund to replace state funding for an existing screening, diagnosis and treatment program. As with Prop 1D, it raids existing programs to create temporary "savings," but makes less money available for some essential services and could result in the loss of federal matching funds. Like Prop. 1D, this measure is shortsighted and harmful for our most vulnerable population.

Proposition 1F - Legislative Pay: Oppose.

Would prohibit the California Compensation Commission from increasing the salaries of elected officials during budget deficit years. This punitive initiative was the ransom for one legislator's vote for the entire defective budget deal, and does not reflect a serious effort to fix a broken system. CNA is opposed to this measure on principal that the entire May 2009 Special Election is flawed and the incorrect way to budget for California's needs.

Spinning the U.S. Passport

—continued from page 7

the recent disclosure of the plans by the US Department of Navy to "take" (kill) over 2 million marine animals in war training exercises off the Pacific Coast, it looks like the hopes of the Mohawks have ended up in the burial grounds.

Not to worry, ladies. You too have a representative voice in the pages of the new passport. Anna Julia Cooper, author, educator and daughter of a slave, reminds us that "The cause of freedom is not a cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class—it is the cause of humankind, and the very birthright of humanity." I'd sure like to hear from all the vulnerable widows who were funneled into conservatorship programs, stripped of their property and their rights, then drugged to death in nursing homes as to how Cooper's vision played out for them.

The final page of the new "spun" passport exhibits a photo from space, depicting the earth, the moon and what appears to be a man-made satellite, possibly of the "spy" persuasion. Adding injury to insult, the opposing page reads, "This document contains sensitive electronics. For best performance, do

not bend, perforate or expose to extreme temperatures."

Hold on a minute here. "Sensitive electronics?" Could it be that the new passport, trumpeting the sanctity of our freedoms and liberties, actually contains a microchip? Could it be that this passport therefore contains a surveillance/tracking device? And is that spy satellite on the opposing page actually one of those satellites that can track RFID microchips?

And all this while I thought that the new passport was merely an exercise in verbal "spin." Could it be that this piece of thinly disguised propaganda is another means to tag, track and locate?

The initial efforts at creating identification systems in the US began as a means to identify runaway slaves. In other words, human property. Strange, I don't see anything about the history of slavery in this new passport. And what's the real intent of this micro-chipping frenzy anyway?

The only declassified document available concerning the "Clandestine Tagging, Tracking and Locating" program states that the capabilities of this program, initiated under SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND are "Classified." The highly technical verbiage in the CTTL document has some disturbing and apparently lethal implications as to what the "Classified" end result might be for someone who is "tagged, tracked and located."

Could it be that...OMG!! The passport is...AAR-RGHHH...I can't breathe....call 911....NO, DON'T CALL 911!! Get me a chaplain, a doctor, paramedic, anyone QUICK!!

Carot & Palmistry
Krista & Michael
Over 10 Years in Venice
Krista (310) 213-5663
Michael (310) 714-0423
www.mysticraven.net

Featured Readers at Bodhi Tree Books
Individual Readings - Events - Instruction



CommUnity Events – day by day

Friday, May 1

• 12 noon - **May Day!** Mass March & Rally- Full Rights For All Immigrants! - Olympic and Broadway, L.A. - Stop raids and deportations! Stop dividing families! Responsible immigration reform now! 323-269-6069.

• **Primero De Mayo 2009!** Gran Marcha 6 Mitin ¡Derechos Plenos Para Todos Los Inmigrantes! 12 del medio día - Olympic y Broadway, Los Angeles - ¡Alto a las redadas y deportaciones! ¡Alto a la división de las familias! Llama 323-269-6069, 213-745-5222.

• **First Friday** – Abbot Kinney Blvd. stores open late. Music, crowds, snacks.

Saturday, May 2

• 10am to 3pm - Inside Out Community Arts invites you to join 60 volunteers deep: planting, painting, fixing, building, and cleaning here at the Inside Out building! Contact Jason 397.8820 x102 or www.insideoutca.org

Sunday, May 3

• 10:30 - Noon - **Lincoln Place Tenant Association** – Tenants are still struggling – and winning – to save and return to their homes. Penmar Park Rec. Room. Everyone welcome.

• 11am - 2pm - Champagne Brunch for Venice Arts Council Endangered Art Fund - Honoring Donors for the **JAYA Mural Restoration Project** - at 316 S. Venice Blvd. (Corner of Dell and S. Venice Blvd.) - See page 6 for details - 570-5419 or www.veniceartscouncil.org

• 4:45pm - Open Reading at Beyond Baroque with **Ben Trigg and Annette Sugden**. Hosted by Marie Lecrivain. FREE. www.beyondbaroque.org

Monday, May 4

• 7pm - **Los Angeles Parents Union** – Parent Revolution meeting at Boys & Girls Club of Venice 2232 Lincoln Blvd. More Info: Shirley Ford 213-985-8749 or sford@parentsunion.org Childcare is provided.

Tuesday, May 5

• All Day - ¡**Cinco de Mayo!** No stinking Swine Flu is keeping us from celebrating the victory of Puebla Mexico's war against the French in 1862! ¡No! It is not Mexico's Independence Day- that's in September! Great food & music for everyone! We recommend a visit to a Mexican restaurant in Venice. While we are at it - open all the pinche' U.S. Borders to Mexico!

Wednesday, May 6

• 11am-12:30pm - **Sabar Dance & Drum Classes** begin today! Every Wed. Vera Davis Ctr. - Contact Fatou 323-293-7704 Sabarclass@yahoo.com or Mildred Cursh Foundation 310-822-6717

Friday, May 8

• 7pm - **Venice Town Council** takes up the fight against permit parking (see page 4 for details). Vegetarian meal at 6:30pm - Donation \$5, no one turned away. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. www.venicetown-council.org.

Sunday, May 10

• Don't forget- Mother's Day!

Friday, May 15

• Legendary **Climber Conrad Anker** give talk at The G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 452.2842 or rob@theg2gallery.com or www.theg2gallery.com.

Saturday, May 16

• Westside Permaculture Group will help you **plant a big or small garden** - herbs in your kitchen - or potted garden on your balcony! Plants & materials are free if you are low income. It is affordable otherwise. Call 323-428-1629 - Also May 17.

• 9am - 3pm - Friends of the Library 'Recycled' **Book Sale** - Abbot Kinney Library - Come early for best selection! More info- www.fov1.org

Tuesday, May 19

• Vote Venice People Vote! See page 10 for details.

Friday, May 22

• 7:30 - 9:30pm - **Everything you wanted to know about Cuba, but were too paranoid to ask** - with Beachhead Reporters Jim Smith and Karl Abrams, recently returned from the island. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge (upstairs) - Coffee downstairs, Treats upstairs. pfp@freevenice.org or 592-3272.

Saturday, May 23

• 7:30 - 10pm - **Live 'Son Jarocho' Music** Traditional music from the southern plains of Vera Cruz Mexico. SPARC Suggested Donation \$10. Part of proceeds will benefit Save LA Murals

Wednesday, May 27

• 6:30pm - **Magic Show** - Abbot Kinney Library Free! Tony Daniels is back- dazzling us with his magic humor & fun!!!!

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- The Good Hurt, 12249 Venice Blvd, www.goodhurt.com
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, 399-2078.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue.(310) 305-1865. Fax 305-0146.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

Ongoing Events

Announcing: **New Art Market in Venice:** Art, Clothing, Furniture, Music & more - every Saturdays & Sundays 10am- 6pm @ 2121 Lincoln Blvd. Near Venice Blvd. 310-663-3945 or riccodefile@yahoo.com

Poetry

Free Workshops and Open Readings at **Beyond Baroque:**

- 5 PM, sign-up 4:45. - 1st Sunday Free Open Readings, except Aug., Sept., Jan. Two-poem or three-minute max.
- 8pm - Monday Night Literary and Experimental Fiction - Bring copies of sections or short pieces. With Angie Kirk.
- 8 pm - Tuesday night Creative Non-Fiction - Bring works of creative non-fiction, memoir, and prose. With To Nga Nguyen.
- 8pm - Wednesday night poetry - A legendary gathering & the West Coast's longest running, free poetry workshop. With Ellyn Maybe.
- 8pm - Thursday Alt. Screenplay - Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Independent projects only. With Matt Bynes.
- 1:30pm - Saturday Afternoon Poetry - Bring a poem & 10 copies. With Bob Foster.
- 11am - 4th Saturday Morning Prose & Poetry - Workshop for publication. Bring 10 copies. With Annette Robinson.

• 7:30pm - Every Wednesday Night - Poetry Open Mic night. **Talking Stick Coffee Lounge.** www.thetalkingstick.net

Art

• 7pm - 9pm - No Human Being is Illegal - Center for the Study of Political Graphics - Thru March 7 - Selections from No Human Being is Illegal: Posters on the Myths and Realities of the Immigrant Experience. Korean Cultural Center, 5505 Wilshire Blvd. (323) 936-7141

Music

- 8pm - Live music and DJ's Sun-Fri - The Brig, 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 399-7537.
- 8pm - Live Music Every Night - Air Condition Supper Club, 625 Lincoln Blvd. Admission varies / Ages 21 and up. www.airconditionedbar.com
- 8pm - Venice Bistro - Live music Wednesday - Sunday night. Venice Bistro 323 Ocean Front Walk
- 8pm - 11pm Sunday & 9pm - 12am Monday - Live Jazz - Hal's Bar and Grill.
- 12pm - 2pm - Every Thursday- Live Jazz & Blues- Enjoy delicious Cajun lunch and music by Joe Banks and Friends. Uncle Darrow's, 2560 Lincoln Blvd.

Kids

• 7pm - Every Tuesday - Pajama & Toddler Storytime - Abbot Kinney Library.

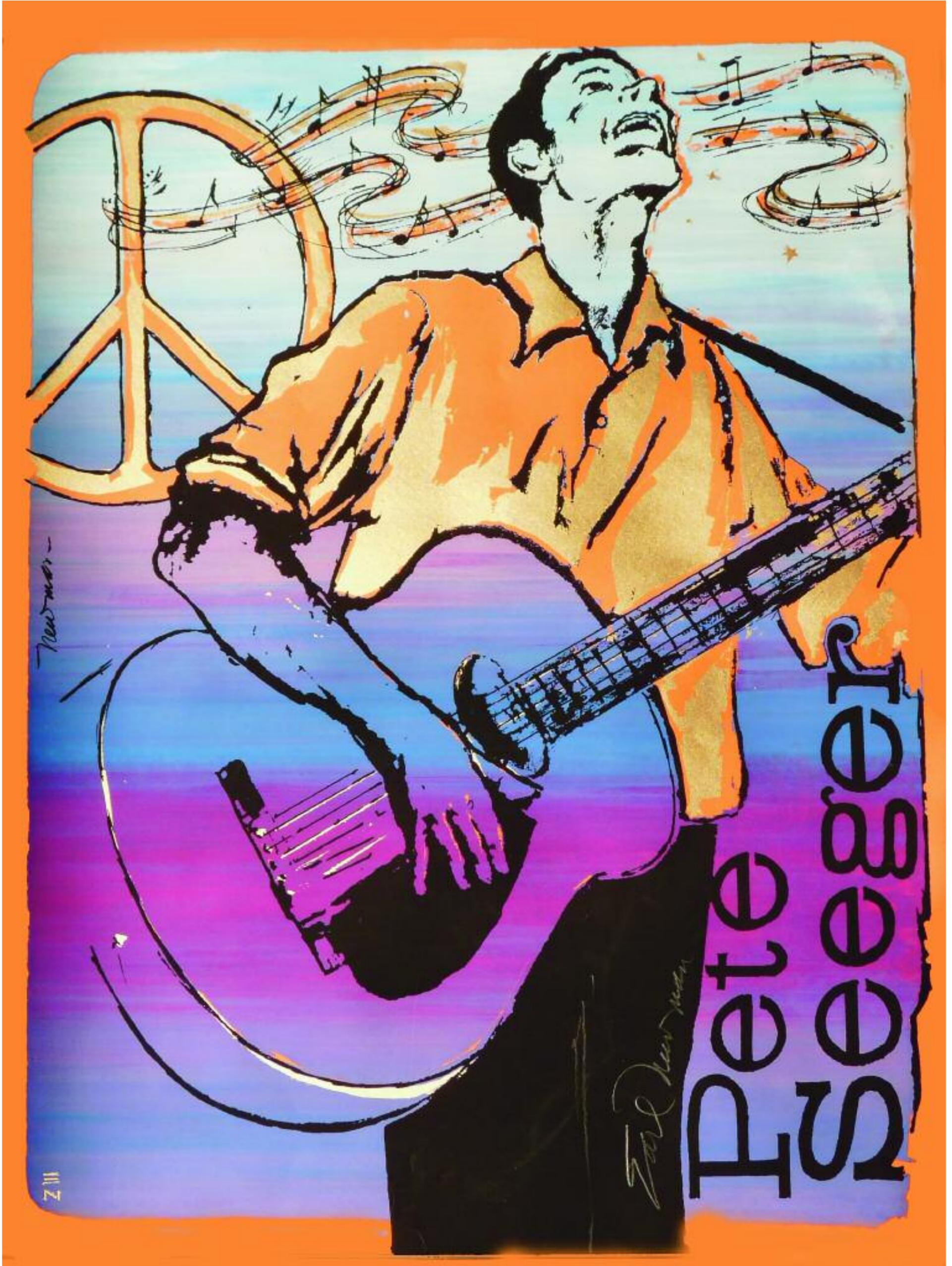
Free Food

- 3 - 5pm - Veggie Giveaway - Every Friday. Vera Davis Center. Contact Ivonne Guzman 323-867-2705.
- 3 - 5pm - Food Not Bombs- Free food on Thursdays. United Methodist Church.
- 12:30 - 1:30pm - Food Distribution Project: Hosted by Mildred Cursh Foundation. First come: first serve! Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr. (VDY&FC) and Oakwood Senior Club. More info - Antoinette Reynolds, 822-6717 or Eddie Nuno, 305-1865.

Get your local event listed in the Beachhead.

Send information to Calendar@freevenice.org by the 25th of the month.

(If you charge admission, please take out an advertisement - \$25)



Happy 90th Birthday, Pete Seeger

On the occasion of Pete Seeger's 90th birthday, Earl Newman has created this poster. Through the Beachhead, you can get one for only \$30. Part of the proceeds will go to keep your newspaper publishing. The poster is available in a variety of poster paper colors. Please specify which background color you would like. Send checks made out to the Beachhead to PO Box 2, Venice 90294.

More information about Pete Seeger's amazing life can be found at <www.peteseeger.net>. To sign the petition to award Seeger the Nobel Peace Prize, go to <www.nobelprize4pete.org>. Read Earl Newman's story at <<http://tinyurl.com/dab9n5>>. View his art at <www.earlnewmanprints.com>.