

40 Years
of the
Free Venice
Beachhead
—see
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FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD

CHEE WAH-WAH

November
2008

#325

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

It's Obama!



Meanwhile in Venice, anyone out on the streets around 8 p.m. Nov. 4 could hear cheers and horns honking as news came that Barack Obama had won the election for President.

One Latina, with tears in her eyes, exclaimed, "We can't be free until Black people are free."

At one Venice precinct, a Beachhead reporter tried to

conduct an exit poll, but stopped after the first 12 people said they had voted for Obama.

Don Geagan reported that at least 1,000 Venetians turned out to vote at the Electric Lodge, where he was a poll worker. Final Venice results will be included in next month's Beachhead.

America's Finest Hour

The first African-American President of the United States was declared elected at 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.

It seemed like a peoples' revolution to the hundreds of thousands gathered in Grant Park, Chicago, and around the world. And indeed, it was a revolution in the culture of the dominant country in the world.

It seemed like a miracle to the descendents of slaves and those who were legally segregated until the 1960s.

Future historians may be amazed that it happened without violence in an often violent nation. There was no civil war, no division into warring camps. Indeed, the country came together more than it has been in many years.

It must seem shocking to people around the world that a nation they have been reviling for at least eight years would elect a Black man with an African name, Barack Hussein Obama.

But it was an act of redemption for millions who had been shamed by the Bush administration's violations of American and international law.

The disgust of voters with the previous regime, and the superb campaign run by Barack Obama and thousands of volunteers, have combined to give us all a second chance. Let us make the most of it.

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

4,189 U.S. Dead

30,764 U.S. Wounded

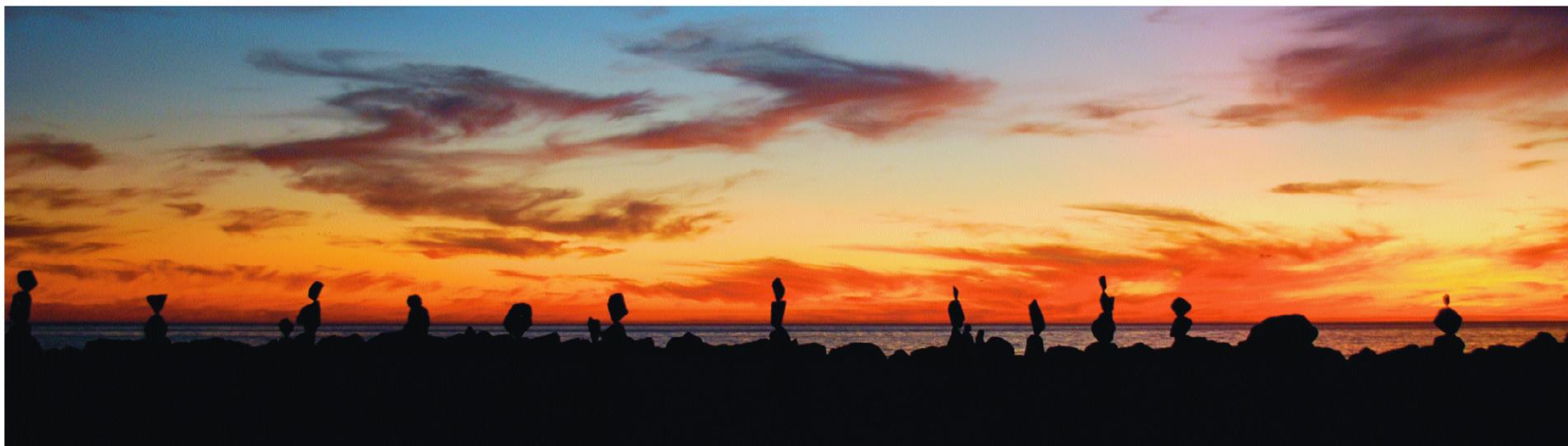
Iraqi Dead: 1,284,105

Cost: \$567+ Billion Source: costofwar.com

AFGHANISTAN

625 U.S. Dead

Sources: justforeignpolicy.org icasualties.org • anti-war.com



Rock sculptures on the beach by Kevin Morgan.

Photo by Lisa Lane



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

Karl Abrams, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller, Della Franco, Don Geagan, Mark Lipman, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Erica Snowlake, Alice Stek
Intern: Jessica Aden

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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:

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PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294

**An Open Letter
to President-Elect Barack Obama**

Dear President-Elect Obama,

Congratulations on your victory. While the final results are not yet in, we're confident that your winning percentage in Venice will be in the 70-80 percent range.

The Beachhead was impressed by your many statements that the country cannot afford four more years of George Bush's policies.

We have hope that you mean this, and will move swiftly to reverse the harmful changes made by your predecessor. Foremost among these are the Patriot Act, the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the denial of habeas corpus (a right that is much older than this country), torture, denial of other basic rights to the accused, the Guantánamo prison camp, and wiretapping of American citizens.

If the terrorists have as one of their goals the erosion of liberal democratic values in America, then they have been successful for the past seven years, with George W. Bush's help. We sincerely hope that the Obama administration will be characterized by the reversal of Bush's authoritarianism and the expansion of our democratic rights.

As you know, the Bush regime's policies toward the environment have put our entire planet at risk. Your administration must take immediate and decisive steps to limiting the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as well as instituting pollution controls that will return the oceans to good health. A major ingredient is a focus on clean energy, particularly solar and wind power. There is no such thing as "clean coal" or "safe" nuclear energy. Open pit coal mining will destroy even more of the ecology of entire states, and there is no solution to the problem of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors.

Our cities are in a shambles after the past eight years. There is no excuse for allowing millions to be homeless, and often, hungry. Millions more are on the verge of becoming homeless due to the current economic crisis. Coming into office, you will have at your disposal at least \$300 billion from the recent "bailout" bill. Please direct this toward emergency aid for those most in need. The wealthy on Wall Street can take care of themselves.

Your election campaign has given hope to millions who were hopeless. We trust that your first 100 days in office will confirm the trust the American people have bestowed in you.

Sincerely,

–The Beachhead Collective



We Need Your Help

Dear Beachhead,
We are organizing a Books and Bikes after school program here in Venice. Donations of books for young people, bicycle parts, bicycles and bike tools are needed. If you have recently purchased a new bicycle and still have the old one in the garage, we will gladly come out and pick-up your old bicycle.

Give us a call at 392-2162 and leave a message for the bike program.

Thank you neighbor,

Lou Bayland

Thanksgiving Dinner

Dear Beachhead,
Thanksgiving is right around the corner and the 2nd annual Feed the Beach event is coming up. We have less than a month to plan and prepare for this great event. Last year we feed over 500 people from the beach and community. This year we are striving to surpass this number with your help. People from all over came and lend their support by cooking, volunteering, and donating.

We are looking for the same people and more to reach out to this community for this year's event. We will need people to commit to:

- Cooking: Turkeys, Mash Potatoes, Stuffing, Pies, etc.
- Volunteering: Setting up, Prepare Food, Serving, etc.
- Donating: tables, chairs, chaffing dishes, money,

Currently, we have plenty of volunteers to serve and set-up. We have a local band set to perform. We have tables and chairs confirmed.

The event date is Thursday, Nov. 27 from Noon-2pm in front of The Fruit Gallery at 1 Westminster Ave. at OFW.

If you should have any questions please contact Nina or James at 452-3034 or email fruitgallery@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much for your support.

Fruit Gallery Team

Joel Isaacs, Ph.D.

Body oriented psychotherapist

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- Your body to sense yourself deeply.
- Your mind to discover your purpose.
- Your spirit to make your life purposeful.

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call 310-914-9494, Ext. 2#**

Stand on Homelessness

Dear Beachhead,

This is my stand on "Homelessness". The people out on the streets day and night strive to live life. Some choose to be there. Some struggle to be there. Some fear being there. Some don't like to be labeled "Homeless". Some don't consider themselves "Homeless". Some really need help. Whether it be medications or social help. Some need food or find food. Some have drug addictions and problems. Some are United States disabled veterans.

Why is it a problem in America to live "Homeless"? Why should Americans, who are free, be expected to fit into the mold of American Society? Whether it's the two story house with a white picket fence or a studio apartment, Americans should not have to live according to the standards of Americas "normal" views. Someone living in a tent or an RV should not be considered homeless. Before houses existed, people lived in caves or in trees, protecting themselves from the climate.

We should respect these people called Human Beings. We treat our cats, dogs, and other pets better than we do these people living on the streets. We have Animal Rights movements to protect animals and animals going extinct. Why don't we care about the Human Rights of these people choosing not to fit into society's mold? The Human Rights of these people may soon go extinct – called the Human Spirit. We should care, respect, honor, and love these human beings that choose to live life this way.

The ones that end up on skid row and are trying to get back into society should be helped immediately. Why are there loopholes and paperwork after paperwork to go through in order to get housing, shelter, food, medication, and other help? We get caught up on our own selfishness and want to ban these people from society. They make up our society as much as the Rich and the Poor, the Black and the White, the Chinese or the Indian.

We should not come up with petty laws to make it illegal for the people to live on the streets. We need to look at our motives as to why we feel this way. This is called Segregation. Yes! Like the separation of Black people and White people or like not letting women vote. It's a Civil Rights issue. They should be considered as another culture and we should honor and help that culture. For a culture and society that pushed the Native American Indians out of the land to make room for our democracy is barbaric and inhumane.

My stand on "Homelessness" is simply put. Prejudice. Prejudice to their rights as human beings in a FREE America. This may be their "Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness". Many need help to live life Free, many need help to live life as "normal" Americans do, and many need help to pursue the happiness of living life the way they want to live it.

Whether it be on the streets, park benches, beaches, tents, RV's, shelters, temporary housing, apartments, townhomes, condos, two story houses (with a white picket fences), or a mansion in Malibu.

Give them respect!

James F. Merced

Suspect Arrested in Ocean Front Walk Murder Case of Nathan Moore

By Karl Abrams

The Beachhead has learned from several detectives of the LAPD Homicide Division that a suspect in the unsolved murder of 25-year-old Nathan Alan Morgan has been arrested and is being held in a Pennsylvania jail on lesser charges. Morgan had been brutally beaten on March 9, 2008 and was discovered partially buried in the sand near Ocean Front Walk and Breeze Avenue. (See April '08 Beachhead, page 1.)

Councilperson Bill Rosendahl was successful in getting the L.A. City Council to offer a reward of \$50,000 to apprehend the murderer(s). The L.A. County District Attorney has been slowly gathering information and now appears ready to charge the suspect with murder. If this information had not been gathered in a timely manner, it would have been likely that the suspect might have been released from jail on lesser charges before a murder indictment could be formalized.

Any additional information about the case may be directed to LAPD Pacific Area Homicide, 310-482-6316 or Pacific Area Detectives, 310-482-6313.

A Day in Court for Lincoln Place

By C.V. Beck

The Complex Court had a hearing on October 16 in which AIMCO had filed their demurrer and Judge Carl West made it clear that we are dealing with the preliminaries at this point. It is not anticipated that anything of substance will be reached prior to the new year. At that time, seniors / disabled group will be addressed, followed by those who were "illegally evicted." The next hearing has now been scheduled for November 7 at 1:30 p.m. and is a status conference, monthly meetings with all attorneys will be held to address discovery matters. Thirty-seven unlawful detainer cases have been transferred to this complex court and are now being reviewed by Judge West. There is a motion pending for attorneys fees and a motion for restitution after appeal asking that these tenants be restored to their apartments immediately. It is anticipated that a hearing date will be set for these motions then. In the Bernard Mass Action Case, the judge denied AIMCO's motion as to all causes of action, a positive for us. He also ruled the "locked out residents" who dropped their appeals, could not be restored to their apartments; that restitution for these would be limited to money damages only. Lincoln Place residents attorneys are reviewing how best to deal with this decision. Also, the plaintiffs are given the right to file for additional claims for money damages for abuse of process. We also are considering filing a claim for elder abuse on behalf of tenants over 65. This amended complaint is expected to be filed on or before Nov. 14 as both sides continue with the discovery process.

I can't help but remark on how unused to members of the public this complex court seems to be. In the court room, there are only a few benches for the public, and parts of this is being used as some kind of temporary storage for boxes. Acoustically, this courtroom, along with all the others I have been to, are not adequate for anyone such as myself with a hearing impairment. I came with my hearing "aid" and still had tremendous trouble hearing what the attorneys and the judge were saying, even though there are microphones in use. There is paneling in the courtroom which seems to muffle vocal sounds. It would be very interesting for someone to do a study of the acoustics in all Los Angeles courtrooms. I believe this would reveal how inadequate they are for the public to be able to hear with clarity what is being discussed by the "insiders."

Locking Gates Replacing Board Ups

At Lincoln Place, board-ups are being replaced by very ugly locking iron gates. (See photo). I am not sure this is any kind of an improvement save for curb appeal" as people drive by. Functionally, it seems to me that more trash and debris will blow into the hallways and this then will not be reachable except with a key. We are still waiting for the chain-link fences to be removed and are definitely looking forward to this. It is my opinion that this "gating" of the entrances is a first step in an attempt to create a "gated community" here at Lincoln Place. It is unfortunate that with hundreds of

Venice Town Council Takes Action Against Over Development

By C.V. Beck

At the Venice Town Council meeting, October 10, a presentation was made by Ms. Lucille Saunders of the La Brea-Willoughby Coalition on a lawsuit filed against the City of Los Angeles' City Council, and its Department of Planning, plus John Does 1-10.

It is a petition for writ of mandate in the public interest to compel the city to follow their own laws and codes in planning and zoning law and the city's General Plan requirements. The city has not filed the required annual reports for adequacy of infrastructure since 1999. It is therefore in violation and failing to perform the duties it is supposed to do.

In other words, derelict in its duty to the citizens of Los Angeles. Needless to say, this has aroused some interest in the community and people are looking forward to relief from the relentless overdevelopment and crass money-grubbing of the developers, their toadies and hangers-on.

The next Town Council meeting is 7pm, Friday, Nov. 14 at the United Methodist Church Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

Power to the People

By Mark Lipman

Who says we're powerless?

Back during the September 16, 2008 VNC board meeting, the board of officers passed an amendment at the request of Councilmember Rosendahl's office, to exclude 520 Venice Way from a motion that all city owned real property in Venice be open to public hearing through LUPC (Land Use and Planning Comm.) in order to determine what the best use of Venice property would be for our community. The property in question was up for sale in November. All indications were that this property would just be quietly sold off to the highest bidder, until James Murez took the initiative to request that the board reconsider its decision and got the issue placed into the agenda for October.

At this October meeting there was an unusually high community turnout, due primarily to an unrelated issue of fences and hedges. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. All of a sudden one person after another got up and argued to save the property. A swell started to grow in the room. Public opinion abounded. Calls for hearings and community gardens flowed from the microphone.

Then the board turned to discussion and damage control ensued. Stan Mohammed then asked the room, "Who opposes reconsidering the amendment?" The room was silent. It was unanimous, nobody wanted the property sold.

Councilmember Rosendahl, who happened to be attending the meeting was then asked to come up and say a few words.

It would appear that the whole thing was a big misunderstanding, that an assistant had made the recommendation to sell the property and that the councilmember had no idea how much the community wanted to save this piece of land and that "just today" he had pulled out something called "Rule 16" (sort of a 'get out of jail free card' that allows one to reverse their position with no questions asked), to take the property "off the chopping block."

Applause filled the room and the board voted unanimously to save 520 Venice Way.

Whatever all that means, the bottom line is that Venice banded together to fight city hall and won. What a great day for us. That's the power of the people.

difference, attractive models for wrought iron security doors, that the one chosen seems to be the most "jail-like", with vertical iron bars.

One of my neighbors caught the exterminator in the act of cleaning the insecticides from his equipment into the grounds here. This neighbor has told me this has been happening for a long time, despite best efforts to get the on site manager to request the exterminator to desist from this toxic and probably illegal activity.

Recently, one of our neighbors to the north passed by, walking dogs with the right stuff. (That is, of course, sanitation materials and leashes...) and stopped to chat with her neighbor, visiting with me. What came up in the conversation was that the first neighbor had been challenged by one of the security guards, saying..."no pee-pee, no pee-pee." Neighbor was walking dogs on the sidewalk at the time. She said this was the first time

—continue on page 4

The US and the Reign of Fear

By Janet Phelan

A message of hope in the midst of the darkness.

The story ran on the front page of a major metropolitan newspaper in the states. On the streets of Baghdad, hit teams had become a matter of normal course. A car would pull up and shots would ring out. A man, a pedestrian making his way down a busy mid-day street, would fall to the ground, dead or deeply wounded.

And the passersby would keep on walking, as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred. No one would stop for the wounded or dying, no one would call out for help.

Beyond the depiction of the violence that has become an everyday event in Baghdad, this article revealed the impact of a reign of terror, the blow to humanity when normal, everyday people fear to even take notice of a fallen countryman.

Every reign of terror has its human cost, far beyond the cost of the fallen. Every reign of terror victimizes also those who know that their countrymen are being attacked and even killed, but who fear to speak up or reach out a hand, thinking that they may be next.

And this is how evil accomplishes its aims. This is how a reign of terror succeeds in imprisoning the spirit of a once free people.

Those who think that the people of the U.S. live now under a similar reign of fear need only surf the web. At elderabusehelp.org, you may read stories of the elderly and disabled, who are being robbed and denied lifesaving medical care, through the guardianship and conservatorship programs, run through our courts. Astute observers have likened this to the T-4 programs in Hitler's Germany, wherein the "useless eaters," the elderly and disabled, were sent off to their deaths, after their assets were secured by the Nazi state.

Both journalists and lawyers attempting to address this issue are under attack. Mary Garofalo was abruptly exited from her twenty year tenure at Fox 5 news in New York, the day after the second in her investigative series on guardianship ran on that network. Attorney Margie Mikals has been threatened with revocation of her bar license, after coming up against the conservatorship machine in Southern California.

These tactics have a chilling effect on those who might speak out about the covert, genteel violence being done in our courts, against the most vulnerable of our fellow countrymen. And it has gotten worse. We have journalists and whistleblowers now being imprisoned in our country. Look at the fate of author Fritz Springmeier. Look at what has happened to former reporters and CIA whistleblowers Susan Lindauer and Barbara Hartwell.

And it has gotten worse. Journalist Gary Webb took two bullets in the head in 2004 and his demise was dutifully reported as suicide by his fellow reporters. Over eighty scientists have met suspicious deaths since 2001. Steve Quayle has compiled the following list, which has not been recently updated: www.steve-quayle.com/index1.html

And it has gotten worse. Those in a position to realize the ramifications for possessing certain types of information, those with their fingers on the pulse of the nation--this would include journalists, broadcasters, lawyers, medical doctors and others in the scientific field--have certain choices to make. One may skirt around the increasingly obvious fact that people are being killed in this country, murdered by the state. One may maintain a safe distance from people who are being targeted, and, like those unhappy people on the street in Baghdad, to shut one's eyes to what is daily becoming more apparent.

This choice will ensure the continued and escalating oppression we are now seeing in the states.

The other choice is to continue to speak out, in the face of possible persecution and retaliation. The other choice is to take notice, as loudly as possible, of every person under mortal attack by our government. The other choice is to help those in trouble, not ignore their plight. While this choice may appear more risky in the short term, it is, in fact, the only choice that will give us any leverage to change the future.

This is the choice that I made, back in 2002, when my own mother came under deadly attack. <http://la.indymedia.org/news/2006/12/190681.php>

Those who know me know that I have paid dearly for my choice. And those who know me also know I have no regrets.

We have an incredible opportunity, right now, to make our voices heard, to stand up and speak out, without fear and with righteousness. We have a window of possibility, before the iron hand comes down, as we have never yet seen in this country. The choices we make today determine the future of our planet.



Scary politics on Halloween. Barack Obama drives a stake through Bush's policies as Cheney looks on. Photo by Michael Wamback.

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW



Saturday, November 22nd
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM
Admission: Free

Sunset Masonic Temple
1720 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica CA

Featuring a large operating N-Scale layout

If you are interested in trains, you won't want to miss this event. Expert model railroaders will be on hand to answer your questions about this popular hobby.

Co-hosted by Sunset Lodge #369 F & A M and Group 160 N-Trak

Lincoln Place

—continued from page 3

anything like this had happened to her here at Lincoln Place. A few days later, on Penmar, signs once again appeared which say "no trespassing." At this time I observed three security guards on Penmar alone...

We still have incidents of security breaches, where locked apartment doors are suddenly found to be unlocked and open despite the presence of security.



AIMCO "beautification" — locking gates at Lincoln Place

Enough is Enough

By Mark Lipman

Money is an illusion. Nothing has proven this more than the recent Wall Street bailout of more than \$800,000,000,000. This is money that doesn't exist, yet there it is as soon as the string pullers want it to be.

Money is basically a tool used by those in power to keep the rest of us in debt and subjugated for the rest of our lives. It is a way of hoarding and limiting the available resources to enslave an entire population. At the very base of it all, money and debt is the joke that has been pulled on us.

In and of itself, money is worthless. You can not eat it, or live in it. You can not clothe yourself in it (unless you are being very original). It can not make you well if you are sick and it can not educate you. Money alone has no purpose at all. At best you can wipe yourself with it after going to the toilet.

What is real is the food on the market shelf and the roof over your head. Real is the knowledge in books and the warmth of your bed. It is the medicine you take when you are ill and the sweat on your brow from the work you perform.

The tangible resources that are available here and now are the only things that are real - the rest is just a fantasy that we have all bought into.

Yet, that is the problem - we have bought into it. No matter how much the bankers say we owe, they can not stop the sun from rising the next day. The moment we reject their monetary system we win.

The government may say there is no money, but that does not deny the fact that the very real resources that we need to improve our lives exist in plenty. Resources abound. It is just a matter of making proper use of them.

You want a solution to the economic crisis - it's simple and can be done in one day. It's called Total Debt Forgiveness. You just push the reset button to zero and wipe out all debt in one fell swoop - Global Economic Amnesty. I don't owe you, you don't owe me and no one owes anyone a thing - your house, your apartment, wherever you live - it's yours and if you don't have a place to live then you move into whatever house is boarded up - and there's a lot of them around - and that's that. Zero homelessness in one day.

Screw the banks. Why not? They've done everything they can to screw us, so screw them. Screw the banks and the bankers to hell.

It's that easy.

Then we can look seriously at what physical resources we have and start repairing our community, our country and our planet - not in 2020, not in 2050, but right now today.

We have everything we need at our fingertips and the only thing that is stopping us is fear.

It is time to stop being afraid and to start taking responsibility - personal, individual responsibility for fixing the mess our world is in.

It is time for the people of the world to unite. It is time to say enough is enough - enough hatred, enough greed, enough fear. It is time for us to grow up and put the petty nonsense aside.

The time is now - what are we waiting for? Either we stand up and live on our feet, or we kneel down and die on our knees. For those who would rather grovel and kneel, all I can say is no thank you - not me. Life is too short and there is far too much yet to be done to waste another minute.

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The New President and The Depression

By Jim Smith

In the days to come, Barack Obama may look back on his election victory as a mixed blessing if the economy continues its nose dive.

At least, readers of the Beachhead who heeded my article, last year, on the economy have been spared financial disaster. As I said at that time,

"If you have your nest egg, 401(k) or other much needed wad of money invested in stocks, here is a word of advice: SELL! If you sell before the market tumbles, you won't lose a thing. If the crisis passes, you can always reinvest as if nothing happened. But if you wait until half the value of your stocks is gone, you're screwed. It might mean that you have to work another few years before retiring, or that you'll have to live more frugally for the rest of your life. Such is the fate of many people every time there is even a modest downturn in the stock market, let alone a crash."

(Beachhead, Sept. 2007)

Those of you who didn't follow that advice or

are new readers of the Beachhead may be in deep doo-doo. And if you think the worst is over, think again. The other shoe has yet to drop. When it does, we are probably going to experience a 10 year depression, at least (The depression of the 1930s lasted a full decade).

Why are economists so gloomy about U.S. and world finances?

It's because the mortgage crisis is only the tip of the iceberg. The global economy is beset with multiple, interlocking crises that almost defy remedy under capitalism.

Obama's ability to fix the economy is limited. There are some things that are beyond the control of

even the President of the United States. Booms and busts are inevitable under capitalism, and trying to stop them can just make them deeper and more long lasting. The best that a President can do is alleviate the suffering of millions of poor, working class and middle class people. This is what Franklin D. Roosevelt did in the last depression, and it is what Barack Obama must do if he doesn't want his current immense popularity to turn to anger and hatred.

If you don't think it's possible for Obama to fall from grace, look at the trajectory of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the Obama of Los Angeles.

Not long ago he was hailed as a role model for Latinos and as a dynamic "people's candidate." Now, most progressives in Venice, and elsewhere, have soured on his leadership as mayor, and are openly critical of his coziness with developers and big business. It would be a tragedy of Shakespearean proportions if the same were to happen to Obama.

Here are some of the problems the economy - and Obama - are facing and possible solutions:

• **The mortgage crisis.** The media and the pundits are blaming the victims - those who sought mortgages - for the problem. In fact, taking out a sub-prime mortgage wouldn't have been a bad idea, provided housing values continued to boom. When the bottom dropped out of the credit market, it was the home owners, not the investment houses that took the rap.

Obama should

issue an executive order for an immediate moratorium on foreclosures and evictions of homeowners and renters.

• **The Free Trade crisis.** Despite what you hear on the corporate media, free trade will not solve all our problems and lead us to the promised land. In fact, free trade is disrupting the economies of countries around the world and causing massive unemployment. Mexico is a case in point, where free trade means that small farmers cannot compete with corporate corn merchants. The farmers are being forced off their land into the cities and across the U.S. border in the millions. Free trade wrecks the environment by transporting goods half way around the world when they can be grown and produced in the local area. Obama should renegotiate NAFTA and other trade pacts to apply only to foods and goods that can't be produced locally. Protecting local farms and factories will create jobs and ease environmental problems.

• **The Dollar crisis.** This is not news to you if you've traveled abroad recently. In recent years, the dollar has fallen in relation to nearly every other major currency in the world. At present, the dollar is enjoying a slight uptick compared with some other currencies. If you can travel abroad, now is a good time. It won't last forever.

The dollar would be relatively worthless today except for two factors: 1) The dollar is the only currency used in the international oil market. If the oil producing countries began



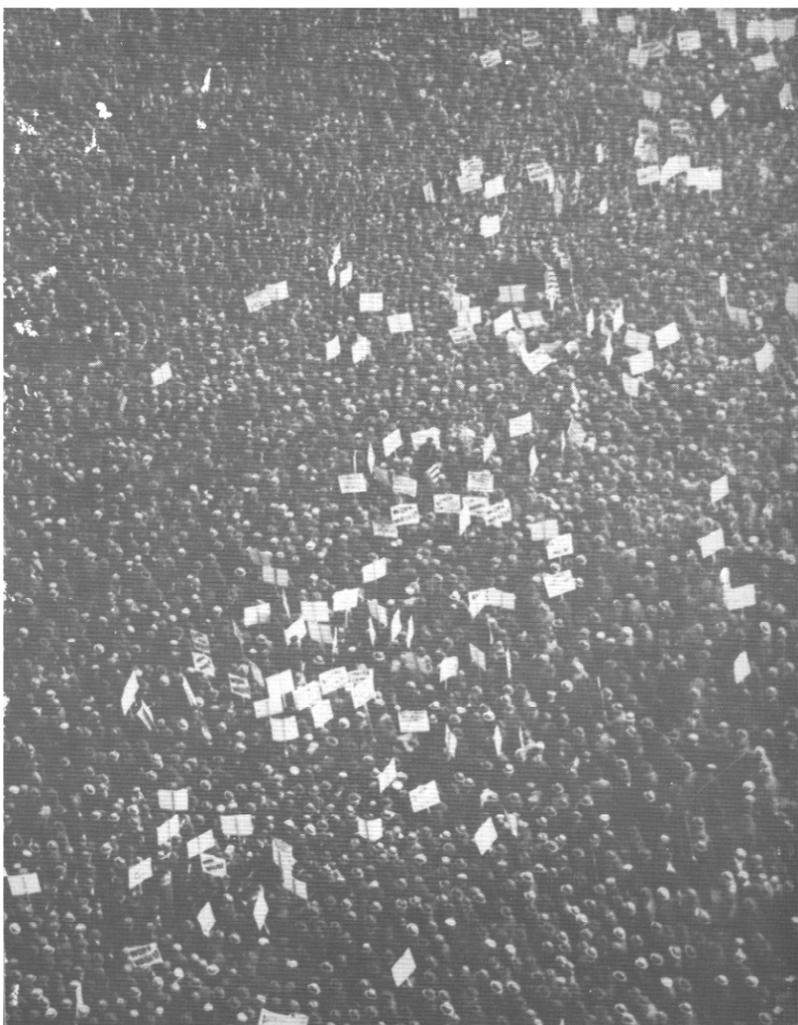
demanding Euros instead of dollars, most consuming countries would dump their dollars with disastrous results for the U.S. economy. 2) China owns nearly a trillion dollars in U.S. government bonds. Should the U.S. threaten China militarily, or otherwise piss off the Chinese, they could literally pull the rug out from under the U.S. economy by withdrawing their funds.

In addition, every time the government turns on the printing presses to pay for a bailout, the dollars in your pocket become worthless. The government deficit has the same effect. There is not much Obama can do about the weakness of the dollar, except to try to get a handle on the deficit and the national debt, without a wholesale restructuring of the economy.

• **The Overproduction crisis.** Too many goods are being manufactured around the world for the level of demand. Everybody is making cars these days. Someone, likely GM, Ford and/or Chrysler is going to get stuck with a lot of vehicles they can't give away. The same applies to other industries from machine tools to clothing to electronic gizmos. A flood of corporations are going to declare bankruptcy or be bought for a song by their competitors. Tens, perhaps hundreds of millions, around the world will lose their jobs. Obama should revive the WPA (Works Progress Administration) to put people



-continue on page 10



Unemployed rally, 1930, New York City

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The Earl Newman

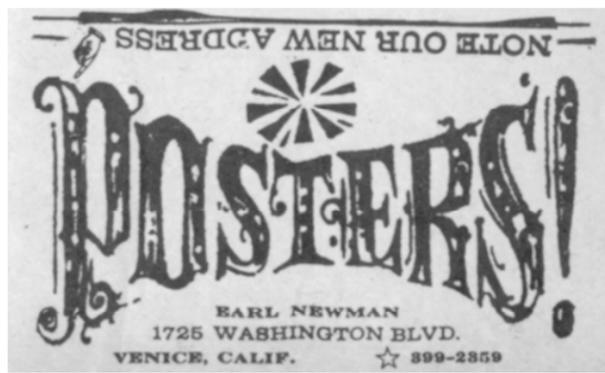
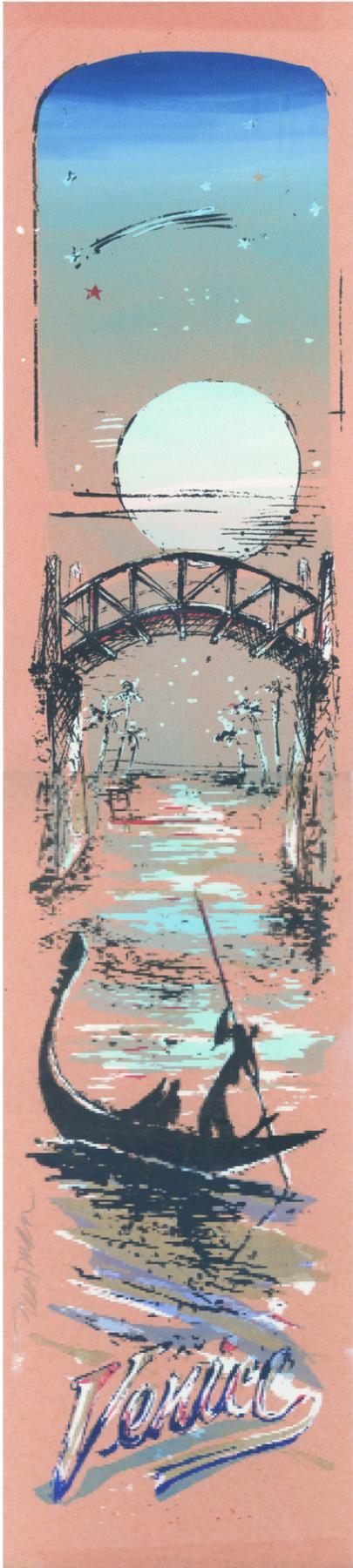
By Jim Smith

Earl Newman was back in town last month for events in his honor at Danny's Deli and Sponto Gallery. Newman has been living in Oregon for the past 35 years, but he has not been forgotten in Venice.

The silk-screen poster artist-extraordinaire was a fixture in Venice from 1960-72. His impact on our community was far more pervasive than just in the art world.

Forty years ago the Free Venice Beachhead was conceived and born in his studio at 1725 W. Washington Blvd. (now Abbot Kinney Blvd.). His studio was also the California and local headquarters of the Peace and Freedom Party, the Free Venice Movement and the state office of the Dr. Benjamin Spock for President campaign. The studio, which Newman designed and built, is still standing. It should be a historical monument. Most of the political activity took place in the little front house, which is also still there.

Newman moved to Venice from Berkeley where for the previous three months he had been camping out on Mt. Diablo. He came to an art show at the Gas



Earl Newman's advertisement in the first Beachhead (Dec. 1, 1968) which was produced in his studio.

House – the original Beat coffee house – in Venice on July 4. While here, he set up an easel in front of the coffee house and began painting. Before long, someone walked by and bought the painting. "I thought that was a good sign," said Newman.

His first poster was of the Gas House. He and Eric "Big Daddy" Nord, proprietor of the coffee house silk screened the posters on equipment at the Gas House. Newman says he works in silk screen because it is "the quickest, you get the most detail and the best color blends."

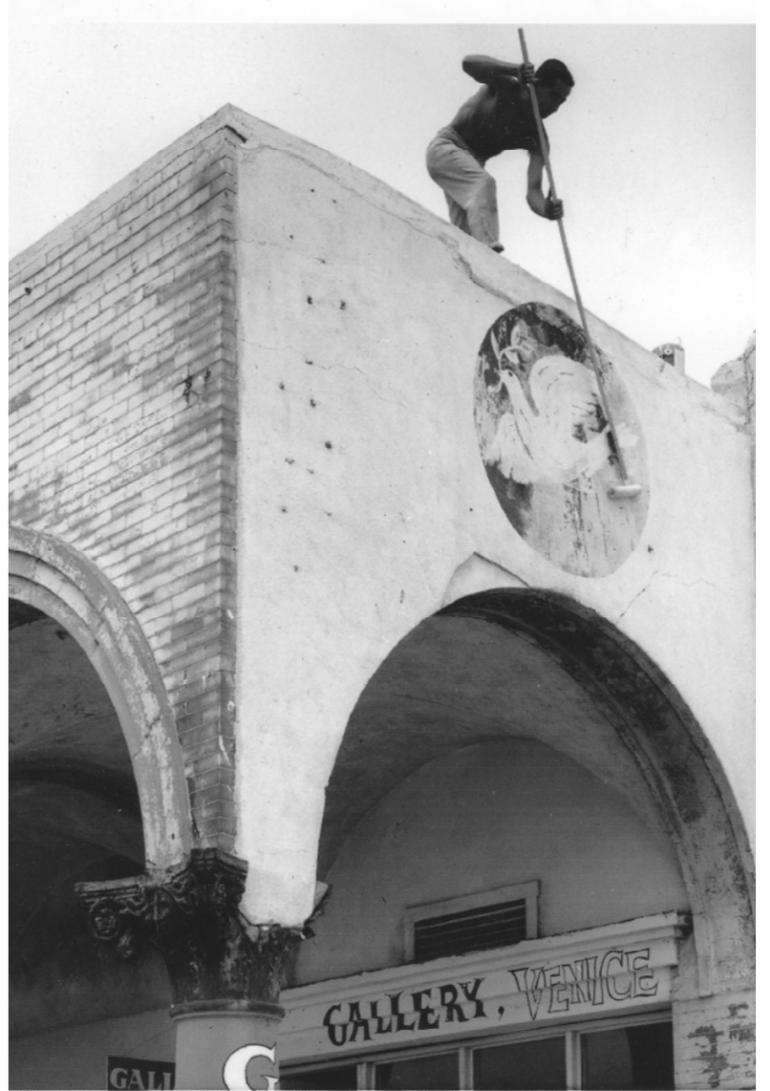
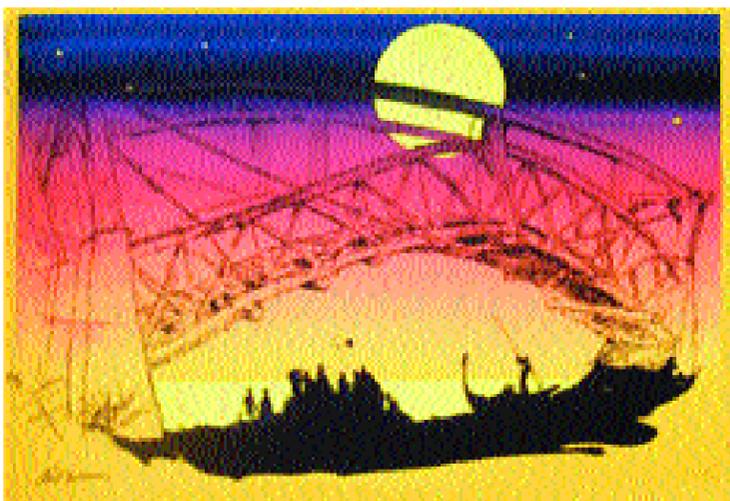
Newman rented a storefront half a block away for \$75 a month and named it Gallery Venice. It's now Small World Books. Newman created a unique flooring for the gallery, sand, which he carried in from the beach in a baby carriage. Newman and his wife made their home in the back of the studio in a loft he built. He parked his car next door in what is now the dining room of the Sidewalk Cafe. His son, Dale, was born in the gallery making him one of the few people to be born in Venice.

After a couple years at Gallery Venice, Newman turned it over to another well-known Venice artist, the late Marv Grayson, and went to Mexico for a few

months. When we returned, he opened a new gallery near Dudley Avenue, where he met John and Anna Haag, who owned the Venice West Cafe, another beat hangout.

The Haag's became leaders of the emerging community and political movement in Venice. When Newman ended up on West Washington Blvd., he invited John Haag, Jane Gordon and Rick Davidson to set up shop in the front house. Meanwhile, Newman pro-

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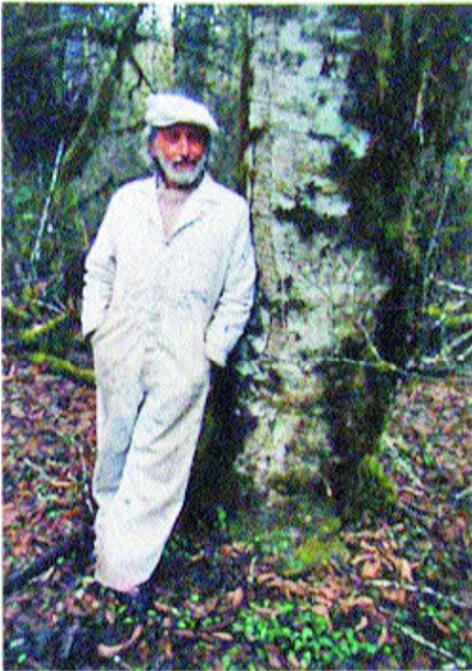


Earl Newman, circa 1960, paints over a mural of a dove that he had just painted on the side of his "Gallery, Venice," but that had incurred the wrath of landlord Werner Scharf. The building on Ocean Front Walk now houses Small World Books.



The Venice West Espresso Cafe by Earl Newman.

Story



Earl Newman, and friends, in Summit, Oregon

—continue from previous page

duced multiple posters for Peace and Freedom, and against the Vietnam war.

But it was another interest of Newman's, jazz, that became a life-long art pursuit. He made a connection through friends in 1962 with the producers of the Monterey Jazz Festival. That connection continues 46 years later with Newman still cranking out new posters for the annual festival.

Like many Venetians in the 1970s, Newman headed for the forests and fields of the Pacific Northwest. In his case, it was Summit, Oregon, a "town" of 200 people spread over five miles.

Newman, who is now 78 years old and shows no sign of retiring, likens art to a companion – a comfort, something you can do alone. "The older I get, the more thankful I am for this companionship."

Newman is also thankful for the time he spent here: "Venice has been very, very good to me. It's the land of opportunity. People come from all over the world looking for a new beginning. I believe there's a new awakening coming because of the economy."

Looking back, Earl Newman says of his life in Venice: "I'd do it all over again."

Examples of Earl Newman's art can be seen at www.earlnewmanprints.com.



Earl Newman's first poster: The Gas House, the original Beat coffee house in Venice. A limited number of the copies are available for \$100 each. A portion of the sales will be donated to the Beachhead.

This is a one-time chance to have an art treasure of old Venice. Contact Earl Newman at www.earlnewmanprints.com or send your check (mention the Beachhead for this special offer) to 20346 Hoskins Rd, Blodgett, OR 97326
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"Yes We Can" poster created by Earl Newman when Barack Obama was eight years old.



Prophecy: Can This Poet Restore America's Dignity?

By J.C. Williams

You see them all the time. The man with filthy, splitting shoes revealing blackened toenails, leaning on his shopping cart outside Alan's Market or the Venice Library. The woman with a weather beaten face, wandering the grass between the beach and the Venice Boardwalk, talking to herself or to someone unseen. "Homeless Vet," one sign reads; another begs, "Please Help." Who are these individuals, found in every metropolitan area? Where did they come from, and what do they need?

Before Columbia, before Harvard Law, before the Illinois State Senate, before the 2004 Democratic National Convention, before the U.S. Senate, before the Democratic Party presidential nomination, was the poet who signed his name "Barry." In 1979, this multiracial 17-year old high school student published a poem called "The Old Man" in a high school anthology. The poem foreshadows both the poet's future role as a catalyst for transformational change, as well as demonstrating what has proved to be an enduring compassion for the downtrodden.

*I saw an old, forgotten man
On an old, forgotten road*

The poem could be read as a discussion of race, specifically about African Americans being forgotten by history and having their rights and dignity trampled upon here in America. Then again, could it be about any man or woman, homeless or not, who has been forgotten or who has lost his or her way in life?

In retrospect, the poet's choice of words was profoundly inspired. The first few lines resonate with two common, yet surprisingly powerful words: "old" and "forgotten." Old, I get, redolent of ageism and obsolescence. But forgotten?

Has the man in the poem been abandoned by his own parents, unable to comprehend a child with a mental illness? Have self-absorbed siblings distanced themselves; or conversely, have dedicated ones despaired at the man's resistance to their interventions? Has the man been forsaken by kids who never knew their dad? Has a bitter spouse or ex-spouse dissed his memory, or just plain moved on? Have the government or healthcare system let him down, finding no place for certain kinds of people in their programs? Or does the blame belong to members of a society who do not seem to care about the fate of such an individual, as long as their cars are washed, lawns watered, mortgage payments made?

*Staggering and numb under the glare of the
Spotlight. His eyes, so dull and grey,
Slide from right, to left, to right,
Looking for his life, misplaced in a
Shallow, muddy gutter long ago.*

By the third line, the poem's protagonist is "staggering and numb," evoking not just physical imbalance, but possibly mental, emotional, and spiritual imbalance as well. He is "looking for his life, misplaced" (uh, honey, have you seen my life

anywhere? I just can't seem to find it.)

What is he seeking? What has he lost? His identity ... his ambition ... faith in himself ... or in a Higher Power? The poet does not indict, he merely observes. The man looks in a "Shallow, muddy gutter" and later, a "transient spark" crosses his face. Images of homelessness, vagrancy, dissolution, addiction, disenfranchisement and despair come to mind. Though written in another city, state and time, there is no shortage of such individuals today.

*I am found, instead.
Seeking a hiding place, the night seals us together.
A transient spark lights his face, and in my honor,
He pulls out forgotten dignity
from under his flaking coat,
And walks a straight line along the crooked world.*

What circumstances of fate or destiny put the poet in this man's path? As "the night seals [them] together," we see the poet's fate becomes intertwined with that of the man. An amazing transformation occurs: ". in my honor/He pulls out forgotten dignity . And walks a straight line .. "

In that beautiful, perfect, and powerful instant, the "forgotten" man is suddenly whole - redeemed - transformed by this seemingly chance encounter with the poet, a stranger who somehow helps the forgotten man believe in himself; who reminds him of his innate worth as a human being.

*He pulls out forgotten dignity
from under his flaking coat,
And walks a straight line along the crooked world.*

The final two lines must be considered in light of the poet's current occupation. In his 2006 book, Senator Barack Obama states in the Epilogue to *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*: "my satisfaction seems to come more often now from knowing that in some demonstrable way I've been able to help people live their lives with some measure of dignity." (page 361) Like the man in the poem, Obama himself seems to "[walk] a straight line," or live true to his principles, while traversing "the crooked world," a phrase prescient in alluding to the challenge of maintaining one's integrity in the world of politics.

So what about those on the streets, or any Americans who are struggling? What do these individuals ask of us? Will a meal, a bath or a means to make a living suffice? Beyond the mechanics of survival, how do we provide someone with dignity?

The name Barack is based on the word "baraka," which means "blessed" in several languages. Sen. Obama has certainly been blessed with unique talents, talents which enable him - in one capacity or another - to bless others. Has he been ordained to restore America's dignity and battered hopes? Time will tell, but for many Americans, he has already begun to restore "forgotten dignity"; the capacity to dream; and a sense that audacity is the way forward.

The Statute of Limitations and the Oscar of Liberty

Give us your poor so we can rob them some more
Give us your sick + we'll pile them on the
Welfare Floor
Give us your ignorant + we'll keep them that way
Give us your minds + we'll lead you up the one way
Give us everything, cause we're gonna take it, anyway

You can give nothing away, you're only here for a day
You are a ray from the eternal sun \ That is only one of many,
which all returns to One

It's not really here, and then again, it's never done
You can't give away, you can only share,
We're all on the run

If you dare the soul to bare, then same essence
We're from
You're only alive when you care about, at least,
Another one
Life is good, life is fair, life goes on forever,

Life is One

- Swami X

We Are Venice

By Mark Lipman

We are Venice.
The Jack Kerouacs of Venice
The John Haags of Venice
The George Carlins of Venice
The Jim Morrisons of Venice
We are what makes Venice cool
We are the Philomene Longs
And the Vera Davises of Venice
The Peggy Kennedys
And the Jim Smiths of Venice
We give Venice a heart.

We live wherever we can
And we all call Venice home
Some of us have been here days
Some years, some our entire lives
The ones who have been here the longest
Are often the poorest
Where do they call home?
Venice.

To take one part off
Is like amputating a limb
You can not do it and remain the same
Lose one part and you diminish the whole
All you're left with is a shell without a soul
Venice, we make you tick
And you wouldn't be Venice without us.

For those who have come lately
And there are more than a few
Stagnant and cold if your blood's not renewed
For the few who have more
And the more who have less
None should be despised
Instead may we treat strangers with kindness
Lest they be angels in disguise.

Yes, Venice we be
A shared history with Abbot Kinney
It is you, it is me, it is we
We are Venice

House Finches

By Krista Schwimmer

She comes to the bird feeder
after moments of watching
from above, amidst wire and sky.

She lands lightly, revealing
a bosom of dark stripes
beautiful as a girl's new breasts.

She watches and eats
moving all the day long
her head slightly to the side.

Sometimes her mate risks
the feeder first, his red head and chest
exposed as a saint's stigmata.

He stares at me, then eats
once pulling his body taut
to sing forth his song. And what a song!

Tell me, then, friend, why is
the world so full of horror when
daily the house finches feed?

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Illustration by Sergei Linnikov

Once again I am here at the beach to die...

Living outside is tumultuous,
in the Venice stimulation of mankind, happening
from a beatnik age of bare feet,
yet the modern bare feet ferment
a highly intoxicating wine of a thousand words.
How foolish now I am apart of a destructive cycle
death on the Abbot Kinney street
me out no where to been seen
couldn't afford a place to sleep
getting bills from helpless hospitals
with tears dripping on my sandy feet.
I am wondering why Venice Beach exists?
To end and renew through death,
a paint brush in the temple,
with blood along homeless sands?
Souls grow more out of their bodies at night
besides cold waves helps one's heart beat,
at each pumping drum circle,
die when the beat of bongos end.
I can feel this fire burning
over the Santa Monica mountains
it's lingering smoke trails poisoning the pink sunset
and suffocates my homeless job hunts on Lincoln boulevard.
My ancestors of the sun live,
at our blue globe I peer from ocean winds,
while here on the hill people are dancing languidly
as if waiting for an end to near.
Yet can the Venice force die,
or is it like a Stanley Kubrick obelisk?
I am half starving on the bum coast
but as Sunday drum circle is dispersing kids
they taunt a cornered cop
and the city youth are mad
I will paddle myself out to the Pacific
after I am dead.

—craig bowman

One for the ladies

I sense the full moon getting underway./ So bright it was
last night, took holiday./ Tonight's encore will surely do me
in./ A full moon over Venice: back again./ Perhaps it's
waned a bit; not quite as bright./ But I'll be happy once it's
in my sight./ We're all waning a bit, but we still glow,/
especially in Venice. Apropos/ to mention that the source of
my delight/ is not limited to Venetian moonlight./ But it's
right up there. No need to explain/ the powerful attraction
I obtain/ from lunar maximum. I love to play/ beneath its
fire. Such Lycanthropy.....rf wagner jr

Star Spangled

by hillary kaye

The star spangled banner the idiot of hope is back
the four corners of the world are darkened with despair
do we now awaken out of a dream?
The hideous captor offers up warm cups of cream clotted and filled with blood
ancient city of Mesopotamia the world that Gods touched with their crimson eyes
oh how they are burnt now from so much more than even Gods could understand
knowing that man was capable of love and yet had chosen this.
Corrupting power of contagious desire pulling forth even the gold teeth out of the
tiger and lamb
who now lay down so as not to be taken, at least not this time.
The gray grim reaper pulls out his knife and instead of having to come after prey
they jump upon it to eviscerate themselves in what once would have been a fight to
be alive.
The monkey the tiger the elephant are they running back into the woods where trees
are bought and sold
to be used in the homes of people with silk couches.
The streamline look of opulence captured in the reflection of a mirror, but not mir-
roring all that has been lost.

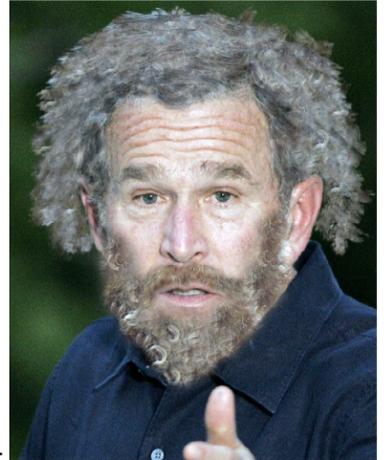
George Bush in Venice

By Jim Smith

George Bush was on another bender.
Yolanda shouted at me through the open door:
"You better go see about George,
He's acting really crazy."
"Ok," I said, and headed toward the Town House bar.
I had never liked the s.o.b. when he was president.
It was generally agreed that he was the worst ever.
Which only added to his drinking.
But what sent him over the edge
was when him and Laura split up back in '09,
Something seemed to snap in his puny little brain.

He disappeared from sight for a while
Said he gave the secret service the slip
and drove until he ended up in Venice.
I ran into him in the bar.
Thought he might be an Bush impersonator.
I liked him as soon as he complemented
my poetry in the Beachhead.
We were talkin' and laughin'
before I realized he was the monster, himself.

Nowadays there are two George Bushes.
One is the adolescent frat boy
who likes to get drunk at the Town House
and then run around North Beach
ringing doorbells and turning over trash cans.
Most people say, "Oh, that's just George,
another kook on the beach."



Himself

Photo improved by Jessica Aden

The second George Bush personality is a 1960s hippie.
He's let his hair and beard grow long and wears a head band.
A head band!
He's begun looking for answers to questions he didn't know existed.
George has developed a taste for pot and LSD
but most of his adventures end as bad trips.
He tells me he sees the ghosts of all those Iraqis
who died because of him.
And he says he doesn't have a friend in the world,
outside of Venice.
Some of us have had to sit suicide watches with George
when he gets this way.

When I walked into the Town House,
I saw that George was the center of attraction
jumping up and down and telling whoppers about world leaders.
He saw me, and yelled out, "Longfellow." (his nickname for me)
"Am I glad to see you. Hey buddy, do you have my cell phone?"
I sat down at the now empty table.
The frat boy was gone, too. George, the latter day hippie,
was looking into my eyes. What did he see, I wondered?

"Yes, George, I took your cell phone because you asked me to."
"Why would I do that," he demanded.
"Because last time you got drunk you called Laura and she hung up on you."
"Well, hell. Screw her," the frat boy interjected from somewhere in there.
"But I really need the phone. I've been thinkin' about that Iraqi thing,
and I think they set me up to have the invasion.
You know, Rummy, the neo-cons, Mr. Cheney.
(Dick Cheney was the only person who George never called by a nickname.)
"I want to call Mr. Cheney and ask him."
"George," I said, "you've already phoned Dick Cheney several times
and he always hangs up on you after cussin' you out."

"You're right, Longfeller. It's just. It's just. I don't know.
"All those people - dead. What have I done?
They told me I was doin' the right thing.
Givin' the terrorists what they deserved.
But those little Iraqi children.
They didn't hurt anyone. Now they're dead."
He broke off with tears welling up in his eyes.

What could I say? I hated our mad president's guts,
but felt sympathy for this shattered man.
Finally, I said: "George you have to make amends
as best you can.
"You got to explain what you and your pals have done,
and how horrible it was.
You know Harry Truman never said shit
about dropping those a-bombs on living, breathing people.
So we never learned anything."

He straightened up. A new George was emerging before my eyes.
"You're right, Jim." (he used my real name).
"You know they've put out a warrant in Europe for my arrest.
Tomorrow, I'm gonna fly to The Hague and turn myself in."
Gonna take my medicine.

He looked around the bar and said,
"Let's go to Abbot's Habit for a cappuccino.
Boy, am I gonna miss Venice."

this paper is a
poem

Film Review:

Vietnam: American Holocaust

By Karl Abrams

This incredible historical-political documentary by Venice filmmaker Clay Claiborne is an eye-opening account of the horrors and atrocities of the Vietnam War. It depicts, scene-by-scene, how misguided, ignorant and xenophobic racist U.S. war policies were mercilessly carried out by political and military leaders, many of whom remained unrepentant. Truman worried about a Soviet Union alliance with Vietnam, Eisenhower lamented that "tin and tungsten would cease coming" while McCarthy, Nixon, Ford, Johnson and McNamara wrung their hands over communist expansion, picking military leaders like Westmoreland to develop the details of military strategies. Many senior officers who championed these early war policies—like Alexander Haig and Colin Powell—rose through the ranks. Some soldiers in the field followed orders because they just wanted to stay alive, some refused to follow inhumane orders, still others deserted.

This is a story that quickly becomes an emotionally spell-binding and compelling must-see film for you and everyone you know. Its purpose is both to reveal the audacity of America's military policies in Vietnam and its blind and perpetual march into new horrors like our present-day wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This fast-moving film, skillfully narrated by actor Martin Sheen, begins with the colonial history of Vietnam and the longings of the Vietnamese people to win their democratic freedom. The most basic cultural aspects of the Vietnamese and their years of struggle for independence from the French, the Japanese in World War II, and the French again, for another 10 years were ignored by pentagon war planners. The film points out that Ho Chi Minh, the popular and beloved leader of the Vietnamese people declared independence from France, ironically in words from our own declaration: "All men are created equal..."

There is dramatic footage showing U.S. Senator Wayne Morse warning us to avoid war. He scolds us that "our country boasts about democracy" yet denies Vietnam their right to vote in 1956 for their own unification according to the Geneva Accords simply because intelligence sources already knew that "if democratic elections were held, Ho Chi Minh would win with 80% of the vote." There is also some amazing footage

that documents the Johnson-McNamara fabrication of the war-provoking Gulf of Tonkin Incident.

Clay Claiborne moves from history to the more gruesome details of the war, while an ironic blues sound track is played the background. Herein is the beginning of a war policy designed to ignore the popular wishes of a society it doesn't understand and to treat everyone as the enemy. If a civilian is accidentally killed, then automatically that person is considered an

enemy combatant.

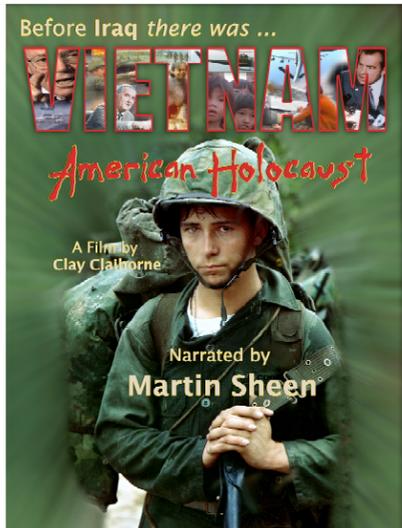
American battle cries of freedom and patriotism, once again, are skillfully twisted by our political leaders and fashioned into a war machine that can now be used to dehumanize the "gooks" and the once innocent American soldiers who have become, in the mindless fog of war, too scared to differentiate between peasant and Viet Cong. Their unrelenting approach was to kill as many people as possible and keep track by the now infamous "body count" and the 1000s of civilian villages burned in order to save them. The U.S. would not yield its madness until it lost over 50,000 soldiers and 300,000 wounded. The enduring and prevailing Vietnamese "enemy" of peasant soldiers and civilians lost a staggering 4 to 5 million.

What makes this film great is the riveting footage of events that have, for the most part, been kept out of view for most Americans. Who wants to see war-ravaged soldiers following

orders from brazen and brainwashed high-ranking officers to burn villages and shoot escaping innocent peasants? And who wants to see B-52s dropping more bombs than all those dropped by both sides in World War II or generals determined to use Agent Orange and napalm to defoliate one-third of South Vietnam? Scenes of white phosphorous destruction on human beings are also hard to bear. But this time the film deftly depicts dead Iraqis to show how war tactics never end. It is happening again. How can we stop the war machine?

From a critical point of view, the film misses one accusation. The masters of war, the political and military leadership that chooses war over diplomacy, need to be indicted by history as war criminals for their crimes against humanity. See the film and become part of the jury.

Vietnam: American Holocaust will premiere at 7:30 pm, Saturday, November 8 at the Culver City Plaza Theater, 9919 Washington Blvd.



The New President and The Depression

—continued from page 5

to work on the federal payroll fixing our decaying infrastructure. This was probably Roosevelt's most successful initiative.

• **The Global Climate Change Crisis.** This is an economic problem of the highest order. One of the major sources of misery in the 1930s depression was the great drought in the midwest. Fertile fields turned into dust bowls where nothing would grow. Millions left the farms and headed for California where they ended up in migrant camps or homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. Droughts, more tornadoes and hurricanes, floods and other climate disasters will wreck havoc with the food and water supply and the economy. The oceans are being polluted and depleted of fish, which much of the world depends upon for their food supply. Obama should create a program that makes slowing or stopping global climate change the top national priority. This was done with the Manhattan Project to create an atomic bomb and the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II.

• **The Crisis of Everyday Living.** In the debates, Obama and McCain spoke only about Wall Street and Main Street (code words for the wealthy and the middle class). What about all those who are economically below the middle class? There are millions in what is called the economically distressed working class - those who spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Because so much of their income goes to housing, they are constantly at the brink of economic disaster. If they go over that brink, they become homeless. Obama should set a goal of zero poverty in this country. This can be done by instituting an annual income (paid monthly) that pulls everyone out of poverty. If we can bail out the billionaires, we can bail out the poor.

Sinking into the third world

Immediately after World War II, the United States created half of the world's wealth. Today, it produces barely 6 percent. Meanwhile, the government acts as if it still rules the world. An impoverished economy cannot fund a worldwide empire. Americans will have to become more humble if we are to adjust to economic realities of the 21st century. The coming decades will be dominated by China, India and a united Europe simply because they have many more people and resources. It really won't be so bad to be a second rate power. Ask a Canadian. Our northern neighbors are generally happier and better adjusted than we citizens of the Empire. There is life after we stop being the world's boss.

When the depression is over, we will likely look around and discover that economically we're a lot more like Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Canada, than we are like Japan, Europe and China. The real question is what we will do with the limited resources we will command at that point.

Here is where Obama can become a great president. If he creates social programs that benefit average people and winds down the military budget and corporate welfare, we can end up with happy, productive lives for a long time to come. If on the other hand, he caters to the rich and powerful on Wall Street and in the Military-Industrial Complex, life in our cities may become a living hell for all of us. Good luck to the new President.

Since 1968 BEACHHEAD

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

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

Practicing in Venice and Santa Monica since 1996.



Political cartoon by Khalil Bendib

CommUnity Events – day by day

Thursday, November 6

- 7:30 - 9:30pm - VNC Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness/Vehicular Occupation - Discussion of programs, funding and partners for a RV siting and transition program. United Methodist Church.

Friday, November 7

- 6 - 9pm - **First Friday** - Stores open late on Abbot Kinney Blvd.
- 6 - 10pm - **Grand Opening of Gallery 1638** - Come down and enjoy art from glass artists, painters, and photographers. Gallery 1638, 1638 Abbot Kinney.
- 7:30pm - **Poets/Activists Maketa Groves, Agneta Falk, and Jack Hirschman** will read from their collection of poetry and will perform spoken word. Beyond Baroque.
- 9pm - **Free Raffle** - Altered Space Gallery, 1221 Abbot Kinney Blvd. - If you voted, you're eligible to win an 18" x 24" paper-to-canvas of Barack Obama by local artist Seth Balliet. Must be present to win. 452-8121.



Saturday, November 8

- 7pm - **Hurricane Season: "The Hidden Messages in the Water."** A two-woman show, that discusses the issues surrounding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and disenfranchised communities worldwide. SPARC \$20.
- 7 - 10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica** - L.A.'s only free event. Money raised will be donated to charity. Talking Stick Cafe.
- 7:30pm - **Vietnam: American Holocaust** - Theatrical premiere. Culver City Plaza Theater, 9919 Washington Blvd.

Tuesday, November 11

- 7pm - **Venice Historical Society**. Program relating to the history of Venice. Abbott Kinney Library.

Wednesday, November 12

- 7 - 9pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee** - Agenda includes cellular installations in Oakwood and sale of surplus property - Oakwood Recreation Center. www.grvnc.org.

Thursday, November 13

- 8pm - **And Baby Makes Two** - A special benefit reading - Santa Monica Group Theatre, 1211 4th St., S.M. - 394-9779. Free.
- 6:30 pm / 7:30pm - **Vintage Boutique/Speakeasy Event** - Shop for vintage clothing and enjoy music featuring artist Mikal Sandoval, and Dutch Newman & the Musical Melodians. Talking Stick Cafe, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. \$10 tickets/ Speakeasy attire welcomed.

Friday, November 14

- 7pm - **Topic: Oppose Permit Parking - Venice Town Council** - United Methodist Church Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. 6:30pm dinner provided for small donation. www.venicetowncouncil.org
- 7 - 10pm - **The Honoring** - Micheal Stillwater Live in Concert - Music of the award-winning songwriter, Micheal Stillwater. The Electric Lodge. \$25.
- 7 - 10pm - **Nette Radio Night** - 2nd Friday of each month. Coffee, pastries and music by a variety of musicians. Hosted by Ellen. Talking Stick Cafe.



Saturday, November 15

- 8am - 10pm - **Annual Moby Dick Reading on the beach** - The Venice Oceanarium - near Windward Ave. breakwater 424-270-5757 (continues same time on Nov. 16)

Monday, November 17

- 9:30am - **Hearing on Appeals of Permit Parking in Venice** - L.A. City Hall #350, 200 N. Spring St. - Call 310-365-0985 to carpoll or more information.
- 8 - 10pm - **Special Performance**- John Atkin and Mikey de Lara perform live. Talking Stick Cafe.

Tuesday, November 18

- 7 - 10pm **Venice Neighborhood Council Board** - Meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Westminster Elementary
- 8pm - **Backporch Music** - A night of acoustic singers/songwriters sharing the stage with Killing Cassonova. Unurban Cafe.

Wednesday, November 19

- 6:30 - 9pm - **Land Use and Planning Committee** - Meetings held at Oakwood Recreation Center.

Thursday, November 20

- 7 - 10pm - **Mozaic**- An event featuring art, music and poetry. Talking Stick Cafe.

Friday, November 21

- 7 - 10pm - **ShoutItOut Event** - A night of theatre and music. Hosted by ellen. Talking Stick Cafe.

Saturday, November 22

- 9am - 5pm - **Model Railroad Show**- Bring your train enth. to this educational event. Will feature a large operating N-Scale layout and expert model railroaders will be on hand to answer questions. Sunset Masonic Temple, 1720 Ocean Park Blvd. Admission is free.

Thursday, November 27

- **Noon - 2pm - 2nd Annual Feed The Beach Event**- Reach out to the community and help volunteer to feed the citizens of Venice. The Fruit Gallery, 1 Westminster Avenue (at Ocean Front Walk). Contact Nina/James at 452-3034 or fruitgallery@yahoo.com.
- 4 - 6pm - **Free Thanksgiving Dinner** - Oakwood Recreation Center.

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 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, (310) 399-2078.
- Talking Stick Cafe, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. (310) 450-6052.
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405.
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue.(310) 305-1865. Fax (310) 305-0146.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

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 one out - \$25)

Ongoing Events

Poetry

FREE WORKSHOPS & OPEN READINGS

Since 1969, Beyond Baroque has provided a free workshop and open-reading program as a gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, build communities, and experiment. Bring copies of your work.

- 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 Tess Whitehurst.
- 8pm - **Wednesday night poetry** - A legendary gathering & the West Coast's longest running, free poetry workshop. With Frankie Drayus.
- 8pm - Thursday **Alt. Screenplay** - Documentary, narrative, art film scripts, actor readings. Independent projects only. With Peter Coogan.
- 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 2nd Wednesday, Poetry Open Mic night. Talking Stick Coffee Lounge.

Theater

- 8pm - Thursday, Friday and Saturday / 3pm Sundays - **Fata Morgana**. A delightful comedy about a young man who encounters a night of magic with a beautiful woman. Directed by Marylin Fox. Ongoing until Dec.21. Pacific Resident Theater.
- Nov 7-8 -8pm & Nov 9 - 6pm- **"Reaching for the Unlimited"**. Inspired by Kate Chopin's novel The Awakening. Music by Grammy-winning guitarist/composer Andrew York. The Electric Lodge. 1416 Electric Ave. \$20 general/\$15 student, senior.
- 8pm - Friday and Saturday / 3pm Sundays - A new play by Vince Melocchi :**Lions**. Directed by Guillermo Cienfuegos. Ongoing until Dec. 7. Pacific Resident Theater.

Music

- 7pm- Every Sunday - **Wine, Women, and Song** - Musical Cabaret hosted by Carolyn Mignini. Pacific Resident Theater. \$20, includes a pre-show libation & hors d' ouerve buffet.
- 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.
- **Live Music Every Night**- The Good Hurt -12249 Venice Blvd. See week of events at -www.goodhurt.net

Film

- 6 - 10pm - **Documental** -Film series - Every Monday. The Unurban Coffeeshouse.
- 7pm & 9:00pm/Nov. 15 - Screening of **Pxl This 18**- Sponto Gallery.
- 7pm/Nov. 19 - Screening of **Day is Done** - Sponto Gallery.

Kids

- 7pm - Every Tuesday - **Pajama & Toddler Storytime** - Abbot Kinney Library.
- 3:30 - 5:30pm - Ongoing until Jan. 28 - **Middle School Youth Create, Explore and Perform** - Enroll NOW. Venice Center for Peace with Justice & the Arts. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 397-8820 ext.104

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.

Join
the
Celebration
7 p.m. Saturday
December 13
at
Beyond
Baroque

Celebrate 40 Years of the



Free Venice Beachhead

Meet the Venetians who have served on the Beachhead Collective during the past 40 years

1960s

Dora Bayrack
Virginia Bohannan
Phil Chamberlin
Rick Davidson
Carol Fondiller
Jane Gordan
Jay Jamieson
Anna Haag
John Haag
Mary Kerbret
Phil Melnick
Bill Olive
Jerry Wells

David Scheffler
Flash Obelisk
Gene Oreck
Lloydine Griego
Jill Lewis
Teri Volpin
Tex Ritter
Jean Allen
Glen Baker
Bob Beaulieu
Sharon Brannon
Ron Butler
Mike Clare
Ed Ferrer
George Gelernter
John Hosken
Rita Nargi
Roslyn Siegel
Randy Watsek
Dan Dohrman
Doug Marshall
Kitty Piper
Bob Wells
Peter Armerding
Rachel Dranow
Sharon Gold
Don Lubin
Laura Stenz
Brent Bryak
Andrea Tyson
Abe Dranow
Jim Somers
Val Starr
Rick Stenz
Ralf Jennings
Beverly Moio
Suzy Safford
Terry Slavin
Milton Takei
Debby Rosenfelt
John Jon Enman
Bea Free
Emma Goldman
Sandy Johnson
Tony Fidone
Don Gerard
Sarah Lanzman
David Morton
Bill Seavey
Jim Tokin

Peter van Zant
Jeff Lanzman
Frank Kearns
Miramma Carson
Carol Couture
John Kincaid
Mark Kleinman
Wally McCall
Linda Williams
Andrea Quiroz
Jim Zane
Gail Williamson
Gerry Goldstein
Phil Merrill
Dawn Rouda
Ron Rouda
Fred Manzanares
Bob Zagorski
Vicki Goldstein
Maurice LeCroy
Joanne Curtis
Daniele LeCroy
Joanne Zazzi
Susan Galusha
Karen Duke
Linda Lucks
Gordan Quinlan
Brice Wood
Jean Fries
Barbara Trees
Peter Galbraith
Lorrie Kazan
Jay Starkoff
Roy Williams
John Curtis
Sue Scott
Joan Friedberg
Olga Palo
David Kasper
Arnold Springer
Barbara Avedon
Chuck Bloomquist
George Gaitan
Osah Harmon
Mark Hawes
Stephen Krisa
Helen Karopoulous
Dal La Magna
William J. Margolis
Ged O'Shea

John Wachter
Jim Drinkovich
Pano Douvos
Steve Martin
Wendy Reeves
Gray Tyler
Debra Kaufman
Tom Paris
Mike Wells
Nancy Kless
Dave Tappan
Brenda Harney
Emily Winters
Gerry Goldstein
Joan Friedberg
Dave Tappan
John Haag
Lynn Bronstein
Linda Burdick

1980s

Elizabeth Elder
John Sprung
Tracy McKeen
Hope Blacker
Phil Gillette
Christopher Toussaint
Peter Kelly
Teresa Reese
Ed Ferrer
Mike Wells
Moe Stavnezer
Kit Stolz
Memphis Slim
Alice Cramden
Thomas Casanova
Richardson
Kathy Henderson
Petra Reinhardt
Jerry Sierra
Shay DuRon
Jenny Pirie
Patrick McCartney
Bob Rivkin
Sandy Blixton
Annie Nickerson
Amelia Amerika
Charles Feick
Janet Solomon

Jini White
David Wolfberg
Kabir Carter
David Collopy
Magie Crystal
Joe Bertram III
Bob Golden
Larry Abrams
Diane Nickerson
Karin Pally
Brian Stokes
Cheryl Beauchamp
Kate Keeling
Kathy Sullivan
Larry Sullivan
Cheri Leslie
Pete Savino
John Dover
Jim Prickett
Ernest Carter
Jeanne Costello
Kathy Ball
Victor Wightman
Miriam Goodwin
Geriatric Jack
Kathy Ball
Malcolm Tent
Deborah Heiser-
Kowsky
Kathleen Alvarez
Coliene Rentmeester
Sarah Omari
Beth Miller
Juan Persona Derosnee
Shipford Branes
Wendy Rowe
Judith L. Martin
Andre Hall
Bonnie Faulkner
Cherie Leslie

1990s

Rex Frankel
Chip Gatz
Mark Giacomelli
Michael Jackson
Hilda Bay
Abby Normal
Ben Gay

Watzeb Igdeel
Della Hitz
Chip Gatz

2000s

Chuck Bloomquist
Mimi Bogale
Sherry Chovan
Vessy Minkovski
Yolanda Miranda
Calvin Moss
Jim Smith
Alice Stek
Suzy Williams
A. Clover
Jeff Hirsch
Peggy Lee Kennedy
Maryjane
Fast Eddie
Lydia Poncé
Hillary Kaye
Theresa Hulme
John Davis
Joanna Silva
C.V. Beck
Marjorie Hinds
Erin Grayson
Rich Mann
Karl Abrams
Don Geagan
Suzanne Thompson
Erica Snowlake
Rex Butters
Della Franco
Alexandria
Shankweiler
Rebecca LaRue
Mark Lipman
Krista Schwimmer

Join past and present Beachhead Collective members for an evening of celebration and fun.

We'll take you through the high spots – and lows – of the Beachhead (and Venice) since 1968.

Films, readings and shocking revelations!

Refreshments too!

All for a minimum donation.

It will all take place at the Venice City Hall (Beyond Baroque) 681 Venice Blvd. in the old council room, now theater.

7pm Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008

Meanwhile, we would welcome submissions for our anniversary issue next month on the theme of the Beachhead, a free press, the 1st Amendment, and of course, Venice.

Submit your artwork, posters, poems, articles, etc. to Beachhead@freevenice.org or to P.O. Box 2, Venice 90294.