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Manufactured goods have replaced many Venice handicrafts since the lottery went into effect. Photo: Jim Smith

Court Order Puts End to Ocean Front Lottery; Reinstates Amplified Music

By Greta Cobar

The boardwalk lottery, which somewhat changed the free spirit of Venice over the past two years, was deemed to violate the 1st Amendment's right to free speech by the US District Judge Dean D. Pregerson. A temporary injunction is taking place immediately to make all boardwalk spaces available on a first-come basis.

Most, if not all, true artists are pleased with the ruling, as the lottery system allowed families to enter all of their members in the lottery, from children to senior citizens, in hopes of a space or multiple spaces, which they were able to fill with merchandise cheaply purchased on The Alley downtown and sold at double or triple the price out here in Venice. Either that or they sold their spots to other vendors selling other imports from China.

The noise ordinance established by the lottery, prohibiting musical instruments or amplified sound in

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WHY RVs ARE HERE TO STAY

By Jim Smith

Forget about the wars, forget about global warming, and forget about obnoxious weed blowers, the Santa Monica Airport, illegal fences and rent gouging. Nothing has attracted more strong feelings in Venice lately than the issue of RVs.

The atmosphere has gotten so heated that a few Venetians have become obsessed by the topic and seemingly spend all their waking hours blogging to each other about their latest horrifying sighting of a recreational vehicle. Just when it seemed we were finally done with the overnight parking districts (OPDs) scheme, where all of us would pay a fee to the city of Los Angeles to park on our streets at night, up pop more acronyms and assorted euphemisms like OVO (overheight vehicle parking), "safe parking" and "streets to homes." And as the issue gets outside publicity, more RVs head this way.

Here's the problem with these so-called solutions: OVO would ban RVs from city streets between 2-6am. It would prevent access to the coastal zone in the same way that OPDs would have, and will likely draw the ire of the Coastal Commission. Another effect will be for RV owners to downsize to a van, which is not covered by the OVO ordinance. Banning RVs from beach lots is an even more flagrant abuse of access for all.

"Safe parking" sounds like a great idea. The problem is in the implementation. It's been talked about for several years without any result. Suggestions of various parking lots that could be used for overnight RV parking have been made to the L.A. Councilmember's office, where they have disappeared down a black hole. Of course, nearly any lot would probably attract NIMBY (not in my back yard) protests. Another problem is the apparent need by city and social service agencies to make repressive rules that would treat the adult RV owners like children. This urge to clientize anyone who falls within their clutches seems to be endemic with social service types.

Lastly, "streets to homes" is about the removal of the poor from Venice. Those who blame the homeless and RV dwellers for their circumstances share a belief expressed by the Los Angeles Real Estate Voice, which says, "The vast majority of the people living out of their cars are doing so because they want to: it's a lifestyle choice." The truth is that for nearly everyone who is homeless or living in an RV it's because of economic necessity. Sure, long time Venetians would rather live in a vehicle than live in a roach-infested tenement in Hollywood or the Valley. Who wouldn't?

The goal of many of the property owners and landlords who seem to be at the heart of the anti-homeless crowd is to get the poor out of Venice, thereby supposedly raising their property values.

The first step is to remove the homeless and the RVs. Then demolish low-income housing, followed by conversion of as many rental units as possible to upscale condominiums. To accomplish this they must change the traditional role of the police from fighting crimes against people (rape, assault, murder) and crimes against property (burglary, robbery, theft), and instead use them as a tool of social enforcement. In other words, make them take the side of the rich against the poor.

The police would become a militarized force for gentrification. This begins with a concentration on petty crime using former Chief William Bratton's "broken window" policy, which is now being administered by his successor, Chief Charlie Beck. As applied in Venice, the police are used to implement the "stick" of Councilmember Bill Rosendahl's "carrot and stick"

approach to the homeless and RV owners. The carrot has yet to appear.

Implementation means "sweeps" of both homeless and RVs, looking for "failures to appear," "broken tail lights," "expired registrations," and other petty infractions. While the violations may be petty, the tickets are not. Poor people, who don't have enough for everyday necessities, are plunged into the criminal "justice" system of mounting fines, jail time and loss of their possessions. The overall goal is to create a climate of fear that will impel those being targeted to leave Venice.

I have been told by a number of different people, all homeless or living in RVs, that the police have told them that if they see the person in Venice again, he or she will go to jail. Many of the homeless experience regular rotation to county jail and back to Venice. Some have given up living in their chosen community and have left for another city where the cycle is likely to start all over again. As local homeless people disappear, the collection of cans and bottles from residential trash cans is being taken over by immigrants, who may be the next target if the homeless are driven away.

But removing the homeless and the RVs from Venice is easier said than done. Property owners have mistakenly blamed the homeless for the decline in their property values. Their vision apparently does not go beyond Walgrove Avenue. The entire country, and most of the world, is in a severe depression that is driving down the value of all investments, and which started with the housing crisis of 2008. Even if there was not a single homeless person or a single RV anywhere in Venice, property values would not rise.

The current official unemployment rate in California is 12.9 percent. The real unemployment rate (which was changed by the Clinton Administration) is around 23 percent. At the bottom of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the unemployment rate was about 30 percent. One and a half million people are now "99ers," that is, they have exhausted their 99 weeks of extended employment. Some of these will have no choice but to climb into an RV while others will be on the streets.

—continued on page 4

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Mail: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294.
Email: Beachhead@freevenice.org
Web: www.freevenice.org
Twitter: twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead

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Venice Needs a Dump Station

By Edward LaGrossa

First off, let’s make this absolutely clear... I know of no homeless person or RV dweller in my over three decades in Venice that thinks it’s acceptable for anyone to dump their RV waste on the streets or gutters of this town. NO ONE. Doing this is like taking a collective dump on everyone in Venice. The issue is not just the concerns of renters and/or homeowners; but everyone of us in Venice. This especially includes the self-righteous person or persons who are throwing feces and urine under RV’s they deem unacceptable in what they think of as their neighborhood, then calling the authorities to remove the RV. This happened to Louis Garcia on September 30th on Windward Ave. with a note that read:

“Hey Fuckhead. I see shit leaking out of this heap. I light it on fire. See you, I kick your fucking ass! I’ll be looking for you M[other] F[uck]er.” [See sidebar]

Five days later, an RV did burn down in the Chase Bank parking lot on Lincoln Blvd. and Milwood Avenue and the RV dweller lost everything. They don’t know whether it was an accident or arson. Coincidence? Perhaps not. What we do know is that someone took a picture of this burning RV within minutes after it was caught on fire! Who took the picture? It’s unknown, but a well-known local RV hating web site launched pictures of this burning RV within the hour.

When a web site allows anonymous commenters to stir up hatred and escalate the violence on the pretense that it is their town, not homeless people or RV dwellers, this site could be held responsible to any injuries or death (the anonymous commenters also said they will go after anyone who writes for The Venice Beachhead, which as a free speech advocate, I decided to call their bluff). These haters wanted poor Louis’ head without knowing that he’s never used his bathroom in the two years he’s owned his RV. Now that we have the handwriting of the saboteur, we’ll be able to check handwriting samples to identify and hopefully prosecute this potentially very dangerous person(s).

Committing violence to protect the optimal resale value out of certain home and business owner’s Venice real estate investments is not what defines this unique town. The boardwalk gives us our unique identity and the boardwalk is about artists and musicians. Always has been, always will be. Personally, as a long-time boardwalk musician, I am extremely concerned about why RV dwellers are dumping waste on our streets? Lazy? Drunk? Indifferent? Broke? Maybe so, but the closest dumping station is at Dockweiler Beach in Playa Del Rey, just less than 16 miles round trip from the Rose Avenue parking lot.

The dump cost \$10 and the gas to drive to Dockweiler Beach will add another \$8 to \$10 in an RV that gets 6 MPG. This needs to be done about once every six weeks for a single RV dweller with a 20 gallon tank. Now to someone who owns a million dollar piece of real estate, this cost is no big deal. Of course they don’t have to worry about their excrement. But for someone who is living in their RV and has very little, if any income, this is quite a burden. Everyone has a right to the dignity of using a bathroom when needed. Everyone! As the Bible says: those that have much, much is required (Lk. 12.48). This one sentence turned Bill Gates from the riches person on the planet, to the most generous man to the world’s homeless in the history of humanity. That is the compassionate leadership that is needed on this issue.

I drove to Dockweiler Beach to see how the dumping operation worked. I talked with a gentleman by the name of Anthony Rodriguez who works for LA County Beach and Harbor. He told me that approximately 20 people dump on a weekday and up to 50 on a weekend with more in the summer. When I asked him if people from Venice come there he said “not too many because it’s too far for them. Venice needs one there.” He said there’s one in Malibu and there’s one here at Dockweiler, so with Venice in the middle, it would be perfect. The dump site itself is literally a hole in the ground with a metal plate covering it and a nearby water hose. There was no smell what’s so ever. Anthony suggested charging five dollars per dump, affordable for most RV dwellers every six weeks.

The location of the dump station could easily be put in the Venice Blvd. parking lot on the left hand side of the bathrooms where there is now an empty space. RV’s would just have to back up, dump their waste and be on their way. Incredibly, since October 1, no RV’s are allowed to park in our public parking lots in Venice - so they would have to leave after the dump.

So there’s the humane RV dumping solution. Now how do we get the political will to get this done when so many homeowners feel they own the LAPD and politicians as part of LA County’s tax base; and wants them to get rid of all RV’s in Venice? The question is how far we’ll they go to get their goal of privatizing city streets? As if to exemplify their digital KKK tactics of terror; while I was writing this article, someone stabbed the tire on my uninhabited RV that was parked legally in front of my house. I say let’s stop them collectively before someone gets hurt or killed. We do that by identifying who they are and prosecuting the violence they hide behind. But make no mistake about it folks - this is another slice in the larger war of “The People vs. The Money.” Where do you stand?

Nancy Cunningham, Community Activist, Dies

By Lisa Zimble

Venice lost a longtime resident and ardent supporter of the community, when our friend Nancy Cunningham passed away in her home on October 6 from complications due to esophageal cancer. She had lived in Venice since 1991.

Although Nancy never married nor had children, she is loved and remembered by those lucky enough to be counted as her friends and neighbors. We admired her fierce independence, her prodigious intellect, her blunt honesty, and her unfailing kindness.

She was often out and about with her two dogs, Justice and Lazarus, who predeceased her in the last year. Her cat Max remains on the block, adopted by kind neighbors, and still takes his place on the bench in Nancy’s yard, guardian of her memory and potted plants.

Born in Minneapolis, Nancy graduated Stanford in 1959 and practiced criminal law in the L.A. Public Defender’s office until her retirement in 2004. She was a fearless, outspoken and generous supporter of progressive political causes and a crusader for animal rights. Art, travel, service, reading, women’s rights, her pets and friends constituted the core abiding values of her life. She also loved football, her Venice bungalow, her Mini Cooper, and had no use for organized religion, republicans, and/or other kinds of fools.

One of her favorite pastimes was bringing challenging, and what some might consider subversive literature to children. She loved prying open little minds, helping to turn the neighborhood kids in her life into independent critical thinkers.

She was used to making her own decisions, and as cancer ravaged her body, she decided it was time to go, and she went. Her belief in the afterlife not only did not sustain her, but was non-existent. Still, she was fearless in her final weeks, as she had been her entire life. If she runs into God, she’s going to be extremely surprised.

Her distinctive and ready laugh still rebounds up and down our street. Nancy, you will be missed.

Donations in Nancy’s memory can be made to VCHC - Venice Community Housing Corporation, 720 Rose Ave. Venice, CA 90291 (310) 399-4100, www.vchcorp.org; Inside Out Community Arts, 2210 Lincoln Boulevard Venice, CA 90291 (310) 397-8820, www.insideoutca.org/about-us; or Venice Arts, 610 California Avenue, Venice, CA 90291 (310) 578-1745 <http://www.venice-arts.org>. ☸



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Gjelina Restaurant in Hot Water

The busy eatery at 1427 Abbot Kinney Blvd., at Milwood Avenue, is in danger of losing its permit to operate. At a hearing Sept. 30 before the West L.A. Planning Commission, it was found that the restaurant was seating 40 more customers than permitted.

Complaints from neighbors about parking and noise from live music on the patio were heard at the Oct. 19 Neighborhood Council meeting.

At that meeting, the Council’s board voted to ask the Planning Commission not to take action against the restaurant for eight months.

The topic became heated when co-owner Fran Camaj started yelling at one of the restaurant’s neighbors, Amy Alkon. She was shaking her head vigorously in opposition to Camaj’s statement that he had secured extra parking for the neighbors.

Camaj also told a Beachhead reporter that the valet parking place in front of the restaurant was legal. However, Mohammad Blorfroshan an engineer with the L.A. Dept. of Transportation told the Beachhead that painting the curb white was illegal since the restaurant had only been approved for a 6pm - midnight loading zone. He said that anyone could park in the spot during the day.

Meanwhile, the owners are seeking to add two more restaurants on Abbot Kinney. They are planning a pizza parlor next to Gjelina (same block as Abbot’s Pizza) and another restaurant on Abbot Kinney Blvd. at Santa Clara. A request for a car stacking permit has gone over like, well, a car stacking permit. 🚲



The white zone is for loading and unloading of passengers only. In this case it is not appropriate. -Photo by Jim Smith

Gold’s Gym CEO Gave \$2 million to anti-Gay Candidate Group

Gold’s Gym CEO Robert Rowlings, a Texas billionaire, has given \$2 million to American Crossroads, which supports anti-Gay candidates. Rowlings, who is the CEO of Gold’s parent corporation, TFT Holdings said he was merely supporting fiscally conservative groups.

However several LGBT groups, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force aren’t buying it. In addition Change.org has launched a petition demanding Gold’s stop supporting anti-Gay candidates.

Several Gold’s franchise gyms in Northern California have withdrawn from the chain due to the controversy.

Gold’s gym was founded in Venice by Joe Gold, who later sold the business. 🚲

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That’s Where Our Money Goes

It’s not often that we ordinary citizens get to peak behind the curtain. But the furor about salaries in the city of Bell has forced the city, and the state, to show us how much our 50,000 public “servants” are getting paid.

It’s no secret that L.A. City Councilmembers make \$178,789. But you might be interested to know that 32 employees of the L.A. Police Department make more money, including Police Chief Charlie Beck who is paid \$304,000. Not bad for a starting salary.

Poor old “Nuch” (Carmen A. Trutanich), the new city attorney, only gets \$214,546, hardly enough to commute from San Pedro every day. Only two other city employees make more than \$300,000 a year. They are the General Managers of the Airports and the Harbors departments. But there are many more making more than \$200,000 or in the high \$100,000s.

Meanwhile, the estimated average per capita income in Los Angeles is \$28,071.

The database is maintained by the City Controller (\$196,667). It lists job classification, not names of employees, but for the highest salaried it is easy to guess his/her identity. Find it at: <http://bit.ly/aFNK0d>

The state of California also lists the salaries of employees of most cities and counties in the state at: <http://lgcr.sco.ca.gov>. 🚲

Your Senator Has Died

Quick now, what was her name?

If you guessed Jenny Oropeza, you must have heard the news that the 53-year-old state senator died Oct. 20. Her name will remain on the November ballot and she will likely win the election.

Oropeza won the senate seat - District 28, which includes Venice - in 2006, narrowly defeating George Nakano, who represented Venice in the state assembly for years before being forced by term limits to seek another position. The 28th District is gerrymandered in such a way that it nearly guarantees that a Democrat will win, although not necessarily a progressive one. It includes Brentwood, San Pedro, Inglewood, Dominguez Hills and a sliver of Long Beach. That sliver includes the home where Oropeza has lived since the mid-’90s. Redistricting took place after the 2000 census. How Oropeza’s home was included in a narrow finger of the 28th District is probably an interesting story. Or perhaps, it’s just coincidence.

Jenny Oropeza was a classic apparatchik in the Democratic Party, who devoted herself since college to moving up the political ladder. She held elective office as student body president at Cal State Long Beach, member of the Long Beach school board, the Long Beach City Council, and the state assembly.

Her political career employed two tactics. First, volunteer for every job, no matter how distasteful, within the Party, as a way to gain name recognition and supporters among political activists. Second, run for every office where she had a chance of winning. The latter tactic caused her to lose elections in Long Beach, but the odds were with her that she would eventually win one.

The state senate apparently was just a way station on the way to even higher office. In 2007, less than six months after winning the senate position, she announced for an open seat in Congress, but came in second to Laura Richardson. Her popularity within the Party resulted in numerous appointments, including as the student representative on the California State University Board of Trustees, and positions on the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the obscure Southern California Association of Cities.

Oropeza’s remarkable record of running for office outshined her actual accomplishments in office. Her legislative record in highlighted by bills for various cigarette smoking bans. There is no record of her initiating bills on major issues confronting the state, nor is there evidence that she was involved in any issues specific to Venice. She did author a bill to ban smoking on state beaches but it was vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. She had been away from Sacramento since May due to medical issues relating to her battle with cancer that began in 2005. Even so, her death last month seemed to be a surprise, according to family sources.

Assuming voters on November 2 decide Oropeza can do a better job as senator than any living person on the ballot, she will be elected. However, she must show up, Dec. 6, for the first day of the new legislature. If she fails to show, the governor will call a special election for the seat that will probably be held in March or April.

-Jim Smith 🚲

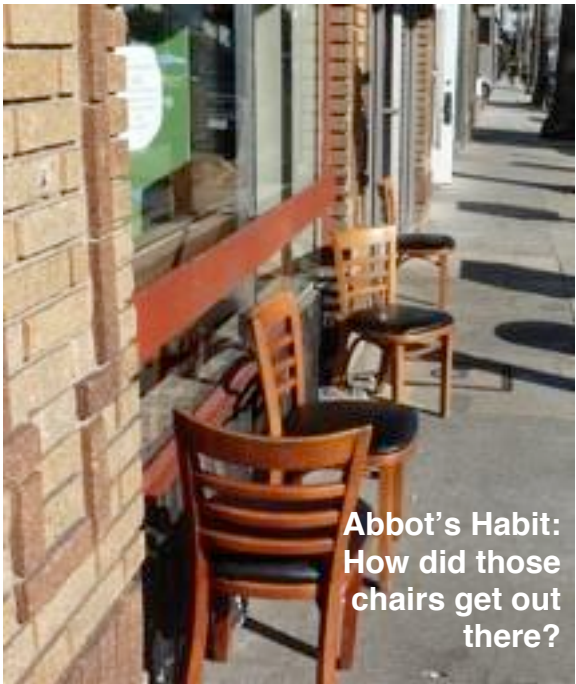
Street life on Abbot Kinney

Last month, city inspectors banned tables and chairs from the sidewalks on Abbot Kinney Blvd. around California Avenue. At least one merchant was ticketed.

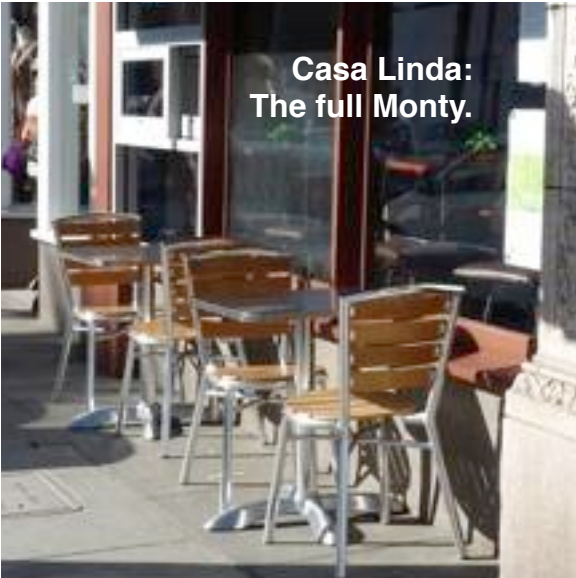
Here’s how the businesses are coping with the loss of outdoor customers one month later:



Nice Cream:
The slow creep to the sidewalk.



Abbot’s Habit:
How did those chairs get out there?



Casa Linda:
The full Monty.



Abbot’s Pizza:
No more tickets for us!

Photos by Jim Smith

Court Orders End to Ocean Front Lottery; Reinstates Amplified Music
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certain areas of the boardwalk between 9 am and sunset, was also suspended by the judge.

The basic rules of the boardwalk, however, are that only hand-made items can be traded for donations and that anybody is entitled to free speech, such as political activism or performance art. If that law was enforced, there would be plenty of space for everybody. Instead, true artists and performers are harassed and marginalized in favor of commercial vendors mostly from outside of Venice. This is true with or without the lottery system.

Under the lottery system, 100 spaces on the boardwalk were labeled as “P spaces,” which stands for Performer, and another 100 spaces were “I spaces,” which stands for Interactive-Intertwined, a code name for selling stuff, and an additional ten “Black” spaces were available on a first-come basis, two of which were for food distribution only. In reality, however, all spaces have been used mainly by commercial vendors over the period of the lottery system.

Although getting rid of the lottery was celebrated by the Venice artists, they would also like to see all commercial vendors gone and the boardwalk back to what it was intended to be, a place of self-expression.

The lawsuit was filed by 13 Venice artists, such as Solomon, the snake man, who was unable to continue performing on the boardwalk because he chose to not be part of the lottery system. However, most Venice artists were cornered into taking part in a system that they did not agree with.

Ibrahim, one of the most prolific artists in Venice and one of the few who stood his grounds and never took part in the lottery, said that getting rid of it is fantastic. “I have a suitcase full of tickets, all behind the lottery, that I still have to go to court for, even though I’m supposed to go on vacation. Although the lottery is gone, I still have to go to court,” he said. Talk a about waste of resources on the government’s part.

RA RA Superstar, who has been showcasing his paintings on the boardwalk since 1999, had to become part of the lottery to continue his presence on the boardwalk, but confessed that many weeks he did not get a space and was frustrated. He also pointed out the fact that there never was a P or I zone, but it was just commercial vending all over the place. Also, without a lottery ticket one could set up in a P zone only after 12 noon, which affected the flow of people on the boardwalk, as the tourists tended to come only after noon, when the place was livelier.

Vivianne Robinson, who does the “Name on Rice” and who was born in Venice, was happy to see the lottery gone. She chose to be part of it as a back-up plan, but she mainly used or shared the black space right in front of her shop. She’s been on the boardwalk for 16 years.

Wolf, one of the best musicians in the world who plays flute, mandolin and guitar on the boardwalk, was another one of the few who resisted becoming part of a lottery system he did not agree with. To continue performing he had to maneuver around the rules and pay unfair tickets.

Following the Venice tradition, we will focus on the positive and celebrate the injunction of one of the nastiest regulations ever enforced on our boardwalk. However, in that same tradition we will continue the fight towards real opportunity for self-expression, minus The Alley junk. 🚲



Battle of the Beach Curfew

By John Davis

In 1998 the City Joint Powers Agreement with the County of Los Angeles to operate City beaches, parking lots, and Dockweiler State Park expired. The State Park and beach consist of a large area south of Marina del Rey, an area just north of the Marina entrance, and a few acres at the end of Windward. The border begins at the center of Ocean Front Walk in Venice.

On August 26 the California Coastal Commission, a State Agency, sent a letter to Councilperson Bill Rosendahl of CD 11 which represents Venice. The letter informed “the Bill” that the city ordinance which places a curfew on the beach at night was not only a violation of the Coastal Act but also the State Constitution.

L.A.’s novice city attorney, Carmen “Nuch” Trutanich, went ballistic over the issue.

“Nuch’s” letter to Andrew Willis at the Coastal Commission accused that body of harassment: “It has not escaped our notice that you have proceeded with your “investigation” ... only *after* the City initiated an administrative mandate proceeding in the Superior Court to challenge the Commission’s decision regarding overnight parking districts in Venice.

“If the City had not taken the Commission to court, the Commission and its staff would not now be investigating a law concerning beach hours...

“The Commission obviously intends its investigation to harass the City into abandoning its litigation against the Commission. The ongoing investigation is totally unjustified, without any legal merit, and represents retaliation...” And so forth. The letters are on the Beachhead’s website at www.freevenice.org.

(Additions to the article by Jim Smith) 🚲



Welcome to Venice. Sign at Rose Avenue parking lot prohibiting vehicles over 20 feet. Photo: Greta Cobar.



Oversized vehicles are banned from Rose Avenue parking lot —unless the city can make money off them. Photo: Greta Cobar.

Why RVs Are Here To Stay

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For those who still have a job, or a trust fund, this is merely a recession. For those who have lost nearly everything, it is the worst depression imaginable. There were 325,000 foreclosures across the country in August, the latest month to be reported. California led the nation. In 2009, there were 2.8 million foreclosures. California, Florida, Arizona, Illinois account for 50 percent of the foreclosures. In addition, a massive number of delinquent home loans have not yet reached foreclosure, say economists. Not all of the people who have had foreclosures have bought an RV and headed for Venice yet.

If your home was foreclosed, or you were evicted from your rental unit, would you rather sleep on the street or in a comfortable, if small, recreational vehicle? Prices for RVs are now at \$1,000 or under for a 10-year-old model. That’s less than a month’s rent in most Venice apartments. It’s just the ticket for people who have lost nearly everything, including their jobs, and are trying to survive with odd jobs or government assistance.

As more and more cities adopt restrictions against RVs that are even more stringent than OVOs, more campers will come to Venice. Strict enforcement of punitive laws against those in RVs will not solve the problem. It will only force those in RVs to be more stealthy, to downgrade to vans or to begin living on the streets. Unless the homeless are rounded up and put in camps like the Japanese-Americans were during World War II, the issue must be considered a social problem, not a police problem. Unfortunately, the problem cannot be solved solely in Venice. We are not an island.

Here are some suggestions that may help:

- Create a massive public works and jobs program to rebuild America’s infrastructure. This was done in China instead of a bailout of the banks. As a result, China has avoided most of the ill effects of the depression.
- Pass a law in the legislature to ban restrictions on RV parking anywhere in the state. This will make all cities, rich and poor, share in whatever burden RVs cause.
- Stop using the police to solve a social problem.
- Open all public lots to overnight parking. Tap into the sewer line for waste disposal wherever feasible.
- Create an annual basic income for all. This will alleviate poverty and eventually eliminate it. In addition, it will eliminate the social service bureaucracy that siphons off funds that should go to the needy. A basic income can be paid for by ending military adventures around the world and by instituting a maximum income ceiling. This is not a new, nor a radical proposal. It was proposed by the Governor of Louisiana, Huey Long, nearly 80 years ago. 🚲

By John Davis

Around 1999 former Councilperson Ruth Galanter began work to finish a Local Coastal Program (LCP) for Venice, a focused planning process that involved the community in hearings that were intended to help plan Venice so that a balance of development, resource preservation, and most importantly access to the Coastal Zone could be struck. But, both components of an LCP were not accepted by the Coastal Commission.

While the Land Use Plan was largely in conformance with the Coastal Act the Commission Staff would not even consider the submission of the Venice Specific Plan because it was so far out of conformance with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. The City has since been utilizing this plan which is inconsistent with State Law, the Coastal Act, for over a decade now. The result is planning gone awry in Venice. The Beachhead reported this around 2004. It has gotten so bad that the former city planner, appointed by the Mayor, began issuing Coastal Development Permits instead of a legislative body as is required by the Brown Act. Even worse, a senior clerk typist was even allowed to sign CDPs in the Planners Office, removing public participation from the picture entirely.

Put them all together and we are left with a pile of bad planning. The result is overdevelopment which has encroached on public parking, the County illegally operating City facilities while taking money from the public with no authority whatsoever, and an illegal beach curfew which the LAPD uses to sweep up innocent persons and throw them in jail for simply exercising their rights under the California Constitution to access public trust lands. This is done in a discriminatory manner targeting persons of lesser means.

I met with Bill Rosendahl recently to discuss these issues which his office has know about for years, but has taken no measures to correct. Well, the problems did not correct themselves and have become far more entangled to the point that the Community sees no way out of the political negligence.

But finally, there may be some positive movement. The LCP process would bring community members together, again, to discuss parking matters in a framework of real public hearings that are part of a legal process with an end result. This could help. Of course, as in democracy, not everyone will be happy with the finished product, but at least legal plans could finally be drawn. That is, of course, if Rosendahl picks up the ball. And it appears he has, partially.

He has informed me that he is now in consultation with the city planner in regard to finishing the coastal planning process in Venice, and perhaps other beach communities such as Playa del Rey. He is also

in contact with the Office of the City Attorney to determine what measures can be taken to regain control over the City’s valuable beach property.

Dockweiler State Beach, which the city leases, includes many parking lots and is intended to accommodate RV Homeowners. Some of those lots are not used at night at all and are next to restrooms. County Supervisor Don Knabe has usurped CD 11’s authority unlawfully at the State Park and also operates parking lots such as the one at the Venice Pier, which is also empty at night, and too, is adjacent to public restrooms. Knabe allows a third party, a non-governmental entity, perhaps one of his campaign contributors, to operate the lot, extort money from people, and close it at night. This is clearly an abuse of political office because the county has no lawful jurisdiction whatsoever. It is the same as if the County were to impose a fee on people visiting City Hall.

If Rosendahl could wrest control back from Knabe, a pump-out station could be installed at the Venice Pier lot so residents would not be faced with greywater discharges by irresponsible people onto the public streets. Perhaps the lot could even be used for parking at night, which may irritate some residents but benefit the community as a whole.

Regarding the illegal beach curfew that LAPD is using to punish citizens who lawfully visit the beach at night, Bill seems stalled and would not respond to my questions in that regard.

Here are the questions I posed to Bill in regard to the curfew. I informed him that I would include his response to the people in this article, if any.

“The city was granted its tidelands by the state legislature. The grant requires free access to public trust lands in accordance with the state constitution. The Coastal Act also insures access to the coastal zone at day and night. Some people that work during the day wish to visit the coastal zone at night. Many, such as myself, enjoy stargazing, fishing, and surfing before dawn.

The city has been informed by the Coastal Commission that the ordinance is not only a violation of the Coastal Act but is also violative of the California Constitution.”

Question: Will you by motion request the City Council to repeal this unconstitutional curfew and if not, why? Bill –NO RESPONSE

Question: Will you continue to support the use of this unlawful curfew ordinance to conduct beach sweeps which have resulted in the arrest of citizens simply exercising their constitutional right to beach access and if so why? Bill-NO RESPONSE

Lets all hope that Bill takes charge of Venice, and soon. Otherwise he will be seen as no different from former councilmember, Cindy Miscikowski, who was known for doing nothing positive and developing everything in sight. 🚲

Deconstructing the Current Tax Cut Squabble

By Roger Linnett

The Bush-era tax cuts are about to expire, as they were designed to, at the end of 2010. President Obama has proposed extending the current tax rates only for individuals making \$200,000 or less, or families making \$250,000 or less. The main effect will be to reinstate the maximum marginal pre-Bush tax rates on incomes over that amount, i.e., from the current 35 percent back up to 39.6 percent. Additionally, the capital gains tax rate would rise back to 20 percent from its current 15 percent.

Republicans in both the House and Senate are stridently demanding that the entire tax package should be extended, or they will hold their collective breath until they turn blue. And they’ve pledged they would rather let the tax cuts end for everyone than see the upper 2 percent subjected to the cruelty of Obama’s blatant discrimination.

Sadly, a large number of Democrats facing tough election races in the House, including several freshmen and many of the so-called Blue Dogs, sent a letter to the president at the end of September requesting he reconsider maintaining the capital gains rate at its current level, claiming their reelection chances would be crippled should they stand with him and the party leadership on his proposal.

There are enough of these recalcitrant Congressmen that it is unlikely the measure would pass a House vote as it stands. Should the entire tax cut package be renewed, and with the possibility of the Republicans retaking control of the House, it would most likely be extended for another decade.

Recent Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Tax projections show continuing the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of taxpayers will directly reduce revenues by about \$690 billion over the next 10 years.

However, the actual cost of those tax cuts is a bit more than \$690 billion. We would also incur in-

creased interest payments on the added debt of almost \$140 billion. Therefore, the true cost of maintaining the tax cuts for the uber-rich increases to almost \$830 billion.

But here’s the real mind blower - if a 4.6 percent increase amounts to \$690 billion, the gross income needed to yield that \$690 billion can be computed as follows:

\$690 billion divided by 4.6 = \$150 billion, i.e., 1 percent of the gross.

That 1 percent x 100 = a gross income of \$15 TRILLION!!

Now, \$15 trillion taxed at 35 percent yields a net income of \$9.75 trillion. Whereas, \$15 trillion taxed at 39.6 percent nets only \$9.06 trillion. The difference being \$690 billion.

So the crux of the Republican’s argument is that we should extend the tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans because they will only rake in \$9.06 trillion instead of \$9.75 trillion. Oh! How will they ever manage on such a paltry sum?

Moreover, let’s not forget that those that make over \$250,000 would still recoup around \$7,000 in lower taxes on that first quarter million. Chump change for the uber-rich, but I doubt they’ll refuse it.

With all their caterwauling about the deficit these past two years it will be interesting to see what the Republicans do after the elections. Of course, that also depends on whether or not they do, in fact, seize control of the nation’s purse strings. 🚲

Where to Vote:
Check www.lavote.net
Or go to a Venice polling place: Broadway School; Venice Methodist Church; Westside Leadership School; Lifeguard Headquarters; Westminster School; New Bethel Baptist Church; Mark Twain School; Coeur d’Alene School

BEACHHEAD Recommendations

Prop 19 - Legalize Marijuana YES
End prohibition. It didn’t work with whiskey, and the herb is a less dangerous drug than alcohol.

Prop 20 - Congressional Redistricting YES
Creates multi-partisan commission to draw new boundaries of congressional districts. Prevents one party from dominating process.

Prop. 21 - Vehicle License Fee YES
Fee to be used for state parks and wildlife programs. Seems only fair since car pollution is helping destroy the environment. Bonus - Vehicles that have paid fee get in state parks for free.

Prop. 22 - Transportation and Local Government Funding NO
The state shouldn’t be tampering with local funding. On the other hand, even more important programs could be cut if the state cannot tap these funds.

Prop. 23 - Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws NO
This isn’t something to help workers or create more jobs. It is funded by the big Texas oil companies for their own self interest.

Prop. 24 - Repeals Corporate Tax Breaks YES
Corporations should pay their fair share. If they don’t pay, we pay.

Prop. 25 - Majority Vote on State Budgets YES
The legislative battles to win a two-thirds majority in order to pass a budget are legendary. These needless budget battles cause a hardship for thousands of poor people and state employees.

Prop. 26 - Two-Thirds Vote on Fees NO
A corporate tax loophole in the making. Don’t fall for it.

Prop. 27 - Repeals Redistricting Commission NO
Politicians trying to grab control back so they can continue in office without opposition until termed out. 🚲

VOTE for Lisa Green for State Assembly

The Beachhead doesn’t make many candidate endorsements, but when a Venice activist runs we can’t sit on the sidelines.

Lisa Green (her last name and her political party) is an advocate for the environment, humane treatment and respect for the homeless and RV dwellers, and a supporter of Venice Cityhood.

Her Democratic opponent, Betsy Butler, was one of the few candidates in the primary who did not return the Beachhead’s questionnaire. Not a good start for a future assemblymember.

We hope Butler will be a positive voice for Venetians if she is elected, but at this point we just don’t know. 🚲



Opening Night

By Jim Smith

The Other Venice Film Festival is not like any film festival you might have attended or heard about. It is informal and casual. Except for a few extremely high heels and two men wearing suits with ties, it was like any other Venice gathering.

The kick off took place in an old Venice bungalow on Rose Avenue, now a store called the Big Red Sun (although it's blue). Unlike the big, ugly boxes that are springing up around Venice, it has a back yard and a front yard. The movie screen and projector were in the back yard. The Margarita bar was in the front yard. This reporter was in the front yard in earnest conversation with photographers Edizen Stowell and Gisele Reberio (name dropping is required in film festival reviews) and missed the beginning of *Venice (Beach) in the Sixties, A Celebration of Creativity* (just the main reason he was there!).

I wandered into the viewing area in time to see Big Daddy Nord on film. He was the proprietor of Gas House, the first Beat coffee house in Venice. It was torn down by the city of L.A. which thought we shouldn't be corrupted by such things (always looking out for our interests).

Leland Auslender, who shot the film and is a long-time acquaintance, finally assembled his footage and did a voice-over to turn it into a picture. I'm surprised that he got away with shooting at some of the beat pads in the early '60s. Even in the late '60s, anyone with a camera was considered to be a Narc, which Leland certainly isn't.

His short film also has a scene shot in the Venice West Cafe which was located at 7 Dudley Avenue. In it we see its owners John and Anna Haag, without a doubt the most influential couple in Venice history. John, a Harvard graduate, took the Venice West to its greatest fame as its third owner. It was founded by the great Venice poet, Stuart Perkoff. He was also a founder of the Free Venice movement, the Peace and Freedom Party (today the largest socialist party in America), the Free Venice Beachhead, and helped

integrate the Lincoln Place Apartments in his spare time. Anna, a dark-eyed beauty from Italy, was perhaps the first vendor in Venice and on Ocean Front Walk. She made jewelry which she sold in Venice from the '60s until her death in 2003. Together, their political and cultural influence on modern Venice was second only to Abbot Kinney's.

Also visible in Auslender's film inside the Venice West are poet Maurice Lacy, who is described as an "albino" (does any of his poetry survive?), Claire Horner, who wrote little books of "sayings," and was by no means a Beat poet but was still part of the scene, and Tamboo, Venice's first conga player who started the Drum Circle without knowing it. He and friends would play at the Cafe and at the Dudley pagodas. By the late '60s, the drums had moved to the Brooks "hill." Later, the city built a platform out by the bay at the Brooks jetty (now buried under the sand), and finally it settled smack in the middle of the beach.

The film is available on DVD from www.canyoncinema.com.

A Dennis Hopper film from 1961, *Night Tide*, includes shots of the basement bar at the Town House (which played jazz in the film, not a bad idea today), the Santa Monica Pier and the Venice Police Station (now SPARC).

Hopper was without a doubt a good actor which was obvious in this, his first starring role. But was Hopper a Venetian. He did live in Venice for many years, at a compound at Hampton and Indiana, but did not involve himself in the community. Hopper was more conservative than most Venetians, perhaps being influenced by his father who worked for a forerunner of the CIA. Venice artist Bill Ataway, who was introduced as a friend of Hopper's, said he only saw the actor twice, even though his studio is right across Hampton from Hopper's home. Katherine LaNasa, who was one of Hopper's five wives, had only good things to say about her late ex-husband.

While taking a quick toke down the street with new friends I watched a homeless man I know walk by with his dogs. It made me think about the relation of art (film) and real life. The great Russian poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky, once said, "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it."

Two Views of the


Today many art critics, perhaps including some of those at the Other Venice Film Festival might say that "it's art for art's sake, man, that's all." It seems that social consciousness in art is at a historic low ebb. Is it because living is so expensive that only those with a trust fund can practice art? Or is it the constant barrage of the mass media that pretends social issues don't exist and that consumption is the ultimate experience?

As I was biking home, I cruised down Third Street between Rose and Sunset. There are no homes on this street, only buildings. It is a perfect place for RVs to park (and perhaps would make a good venue for next year's festival?). I ran into a friend who was walking up the street from her RV. She told me that police harassment is almost constant. The patrol cars cruise by during the night clicking their sirens and loud speakers. From time to time, they bang on camper doors and demand that everyone comes out. Sleeping in a vehicle is not permitted (although it is permitted on the sidewalk). She told me that a lawyer had advised her to say she wasn't sleeping, that she had been having sex next time she got a bang on the door. Or, if she was alone, to say she was masturbating, which is also legal.

Pedaling onward down Hampton to Broadway I notice a silent-running police car (speeding without any lights) zooming up the street. It was almost one year to the minute from last Oct. 15 when a silent running police car had killed Devin Petelski on Venice Blvd. A memorial to Petelski still exists at Glynndon Avenue, but the perpetrators who surely would have been convicted of second-degree murder had they not been police officers received only a slap on the hand. (<http://bit.ly/5oLQws>). After Petelski's death, the LAPD denied knowing what silent running meant, and furthermore denied that they still engaged in it.

Arriving home to a warm and cozy environment, I felt good about our own "other" film festival, which is becoming an essential part of our community. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Reuben De La Casas, who has shepherded it through seven years, and to all the volunteers who made it possible. Don't miss it next year.

Yet the evening left me wondering: should we be happy that we have a great film festival in Venice, or should we be sad that art cannot change our world which is so crummy for so many people? ☹



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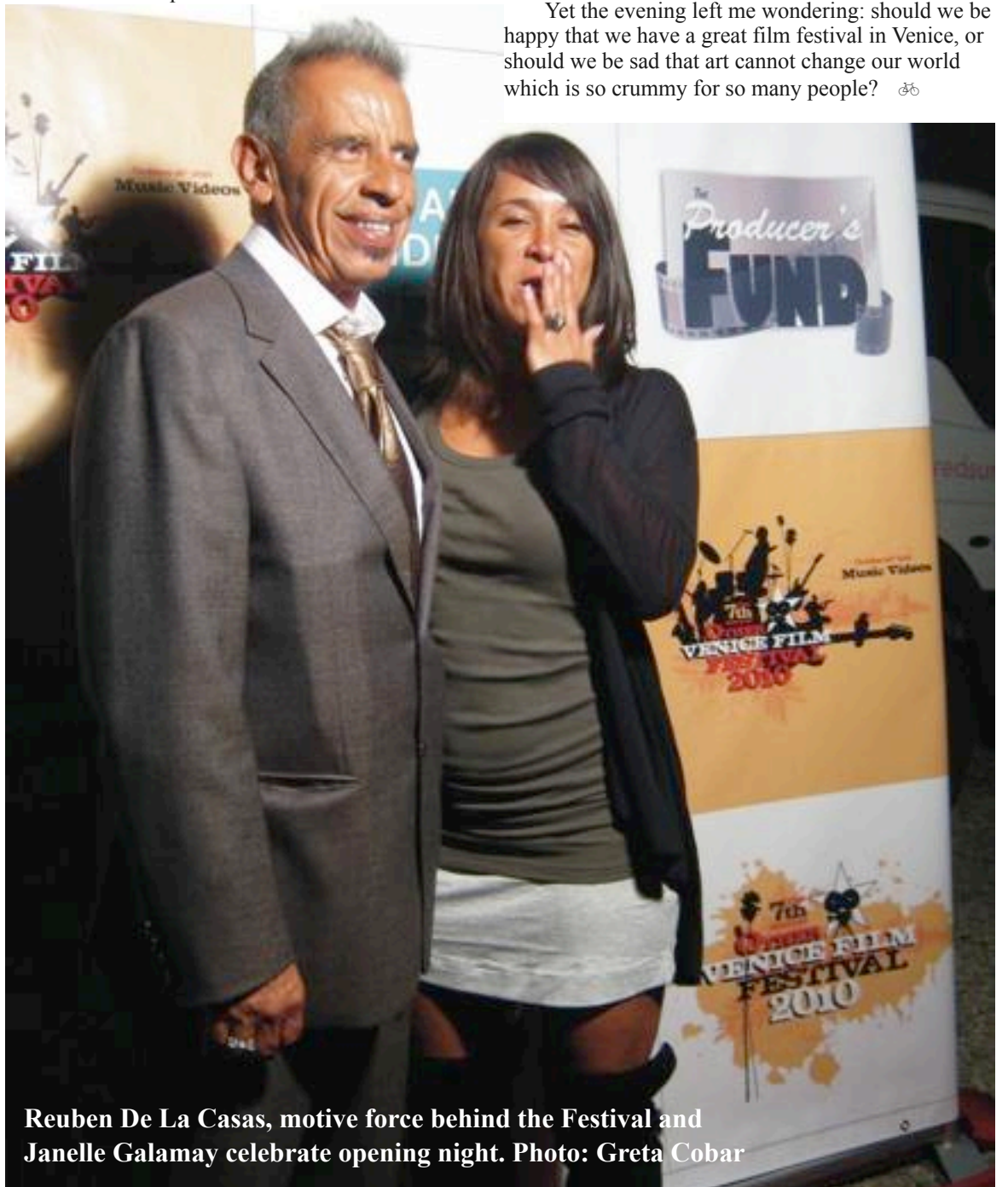
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Reuben De La Casas, motive force behind the Festival and Janelle Galamay celebrate opening night. Photo: Greta Cobar



Soccermom: The Movie



By CJ Gronner

The weekend was another one of those gloomy, mist all day scenarios, which actually made it perfect to tuck inside and catch some film. As The Other Venice Film Festival venue of Beyond Baroque is my spitting distance neighbor, it made it pretty easy to catch the 2010 OVFF WINNER for Best Documentary, *Soccermom: The Movie*.

If you’ve lived in Venice for any time at all, you should know the band Soccermom. They’ve been a staple at music clubs around town forever, and its members, Helen, Matty, Cecil and John, have probably all been squeezed in next to you at a party at some point.

I loved Soccermom with all its humor and punk glory (and I say lovED because I have no idea what’s going on with them right now, and haven’t seen them play in quite some time. Or seen Helen around, for that matter ...). This film about them - though cut a little sloppy in places, and in need of some sound tweaking - captures all of it, and really, only makes you want to see more of them.

The talking head interview bits spotlight all sorts of Venice characters: Jeff Ho, Valerie of Slave fame, Nik from Trim, and all sorts of friends of the band, that clearly love them. These are the funniest parts, as the surfer dude qualities that crack you up, and the sheer irreverence, make you instantly recognize YOUR people, and laugh along with them.

Helen says at one point, “I met Matty and he said, ‘Can you sing?’ and I said ‘No’, and he said, ‘Perfect.’ He taught me how to be retarded.” Then it cuts to them all going absolutely mental patient on stage.

They are punk rock, in sound, look, and attitude. Helen and Matty have gotten into fistfights on stage. They played their first show for some Realtor meeting, and opened with a song about what assholes Realtors are. They have hot girl groupies, and a song called “Mangroupie” about just that, the guys that show up to love Brazilian born, and adorable, Helen, of whom one guy fan says, “She’s like a Joseph Conrad character, the Heart Of Darkness.”



Their punk tunes are informed by surf and skating (and vice versa), and skate legend Jeff Ho is a treat to hear spin tales of Soccermom, and how “In Venice, something is always gonna happen ... stabbings, beer bottles thrown ...” and another guy talks about how “Soccermom usually plays somewhere where your car WILL get broken into ...”. Classic, and we love it all.

It’s a bit of a time capsule about the early millennium in Venice, CA, and makes you feel a little nostalgic for the balls out way they - and we - would party here. (Ok, and sometimes still do). I think Helen puts it best when she says, “Aside from the blood and the tears, it’s all happiness.”

A bit like life here itself.

Check out Soccermom, both the band and the movie, whenever and if you get the chance. It’s a rowdy-good time, every time. 🚲





Caza de Poesia proudly announces the launch of our new anthology **Revolutionary Poets Brigade** bringing together **76 poets from 25 countries** around the world speaking truth to power. This collection featuring local, national and international poets includes selected works by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jack Hirschman, Agneta Falk, Luis J. Rodriguez, Majid Naficy, Matt Sedillo, Mark Lipman and Antonieta Villamil, just to name a few.

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City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco - Dec. 14, 7PM

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Beyond Baroque, Venice’s Unique Poetry Center

By Harry E. Northup

In 1968, an article appeared in the Santa Monica Outlook about the opening of Beyond Baroque, a literary center on West Washington in Venice. It announced that there would be poetry readings on Friday nights. I began attending the readings. On Feb. 26, 1969, the free Wednesday night poetry workshop began; I was one of the original members. The workshop was coordinated by Joseph Hansen and John Harris.

Why did the founder George Drury Smith name the literary center Beyond Baroque? The two answers he gave were, “It came to me in a dream” and “I wanted a name to take literature into the future.” He created a central gathering place for poetry in Los Angeles.

I attended the Wednesday night poetry workshop for six yers, where I met Luis Campos, Francis Dean Smith, Dennis Holt, Bill Mohr, Michael C Ford, Wanda Coleman, Paul Brooks, Paul Vangelisti, Tony Russo, Mark Rhodes, Jay Jenkins, Jack Grapes, Kate Braverman. Leland Hickman, who had turned me onto poetry in 1966 in Manhattan, was living in Los Angeles & he saw my name on an ad for a reading at Beyond Baroque, which he came to. He began attending the workshop. At times, there were thirty to fifty people in the class. Emersonian self-experience was a foundation for one’s poetry. Physical reality, conciseness, devotion to language, study, hard work, precision & transcending reality through the imagination, were stressed. Politics, ranting, fuzziness & e.e. cummings were laughed at.

One thing I liked about the workshop was that a person would read a poem & people in the circle would respond to the poem. The reader would listen & not respond, would not argue -- listen & move on to the next poet. I liked that -- reading a poem, listening to others’ responses, taking it all in & moving on.

One of the great things, outside of reading your poems & getting responses, in the workshop was the presence of literary magaine editors: Bill Mohr/ Momentum; Michael C Ford/Sunset Palms Hotel; the editors of the many Beyond Baroque lit. mag. manifestations; Bill & then Hickman/Bachy. You would read a poem & an editor would say, “I’d like to publish that in my magazine.” It was wonderful to get your poems published that way.

“cowboy angel,” was the first long poem I wrote. I took the ms. to George Drury Smith in his apartment above the literary center. He published the first fifteen pages, along with colored illustrations, in Beyond Baroque 711, in 1971. I was thrilled.

Jim Krusoe, Associate Editor of Newletters, Vice President of Beyond Baroque, published two of my poems in Newletters, in 1974. Newletters was “distributed free.” It had “a printing of 6,000.” The “Readings”included the Beyond Baroque Center listings. In the “Books” section, Alexandra Garrett wrote, “from Mt. Alverno Press, The Jon Voight Poems, by Harry E. Northup, \$4... Square back, well printed. Expensive but worth it. A new and excellent poet, sharp and true with an uncommon voice. Those familiar with Santa Monica will get an extra charge of recognition. Those expecting conventional writing will be disappointed.” Alexandra Garrett was the

SWAMI X SPEAKS



Photo by Rich Mann

Some question the existence of God when they have yet to comprehend the reality of themselves. Hows about that?!? Ignorance is the villian. You can’t take it personal. Go with the flow and be out of step. What can I say, everyone has their own destiny, which is Oneness as God. It doesn’t get any sweeter than that. From, In and Back too. Talk about Blessed.

I believe things would be better, more positive, creative and joyous if we paid more attention to the Imperishable, Immutable, Indefinable, Unmanifested, Omnipresent, Incomprehensible, Immovable and Eternal; however I could be wrong. I’m not betting on anything these days. I do believe one’s beliefs are highly significant, influential and meaningful in one’s life and unfoldment back into the Ultimate Reality. God bless us all because God cuts us a lot of slack, no matter what we believe.

Truth, Good and Beauty are 3 winners that will take you home smiling with no regrets or a bad taste. We were created with an undying love for Truth, Good and Beauty. Pork chops came later, with the bad taste.

If God’s in Her Heaven, all must be right in the world. The only culprit in this plot is the ego, and we’re all involved in that drama. Life is an obstacle course back to the perfection that is God, Cosmic Consciousness. The one and only obstacle is the illusion of ego, adn if it is an illusion, how come we’re taking it so seriously killing each other over a difference in beliefs. And there’s the challenge, embracing beliefs that compassionately embrace the entire universe, and everything within it. God is Cosmic Consciousness, Love and Understanding. Nothing to fear, the word is awe.

Becoming totally bored is an introduction to enlightenment, with all due respect to television, politics and entertainment. It’s an inside job to realizing the mystery of Absolute Bliss. 🚲

number one volunteer in Beyond Baroque’s history. We all owe her a debt of gratitude.

There was a time in the early 1970s when so many people were coming to the workshop that Joe & John & others didn’t think the most talented regular poets were getting enough attention, so they began a Monday night class that included Joe, John. Lee, Wanda, Francis, myself & a few others. I was honored to be in it.

My son Dylan, who was born in early 1969, went with me to many Wednesday night workshops & Friday night readings. By the time he was sixteen, he had been to as many or more poetry events as anyone his age. Many times, Francis would bring her daughter. I remember Luis Campos bringing his son.

The first weekend Holly Prado & I were together, in 1977, we went to see John Logan read at Beyond Baroque. After the reading, we went to Peter Levitt’s house to hang out with John Logan & our Beyond Baroque poet friends. The afternoon before the reading, we went to the Glendale library, got a book of John Logan’s poems, went to Holly’s home & read them.

Poets, shoulder to shoulder, creating Los Angeles poetry’s second generation legacy.

Looking back at Beyond Baroque after many years of writing poetry, it is the place itself that stands out -- a place of poetry readings, new poets & old ones, lyric poets, epic poets, protest poets, experimental poets; a place where the free Wednesday night poetry workshop still continues forty-one years after it began; a place where the authentic act of composing poetry binds us together -- a mostly non-commercial act in Los Angeles, the most commercial city in America.

I cherish & will always cherish the poets I met in the early years at Beyond Baroque.

I have sat many times during a poetry reading intermission on the ledge west of the steps outside Beyond Baroque & looked up past a palm tree to the moon, felt the Pacific Ocean breeze.

Beyond Baroque is located in the old Venice City Hall, 685 Venice Blvd. Check the Beachhead Calendar for upcoming events. 🚲

Oil 2010

By Cosmo

Our liquid desert is filled with oil,
the beginning of the downward stroke
upon ourselves,
unrelenting destruction
at its worst phase.
Death at every turn,
a sunami of liquid gold
that reaps all life from our planet,
an ocean of dead.
I pray and bless each life force,
miles of creatures,
dying as I write these words.
Where does it end?
We just quickened our own extinction,
A couple of notches.
We are fed only bits
of information of what is really going on.
If life starts in the Oceans,
It also ends there.
The upside to this is,
Nature almost always recuperates.
The gentle balance
Has been broken
For the moment.
It is up to us to help
Heal man’s insanities
of what is right or wrong.
At this time we must be
More pure and honest
And caring with our actions,
Or our liquid deserts will all
Stop and die with us.

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13:40 Tuesday, October 19, 2010, *in front of Nickie Black’s Garden Green*.....Release my soul; rise up to meet the rain, As near to Heaven as I might obtain. Cast off my ballast, and my mooring lines, Release my spirit as my faith consigns. Release my body from captivity, But not before you free the real me. Swing wide the doors and let me go outside. Extend angelic wings. Give me a ride. Among the teeming, huddled, who must flee Oppression, masses yearning to breathe free. But give me lasting freedom, of designs No despot can defeat, my poor soul pines For freedom, everlasting. Once again, Grant me my leave to rise to greet the rain.....Roger Houston, Venice

The Fetch

The mirror, and the papers in my wallet,
tell me I am nearly seventy.
This is, of course, Los Angeles -- Venice --
and the Pacific’s edge whispers not far away.
The year (we know, yes?) is 2000.
The seventh of April, late evening, yes?
Outside, unseen below my window,
two young men laugh as they stroll by.
But their laughter, I must tell you,
is in Baltimore, near the end of Dolphin Street,
on a crisp autumn night in 1957.
Ah, the laughter! My heart swells within me,
if only for these few instants healthy again (trust me)
and young, exultantly young, 1940s young!
As I write, it pumps strongly, drunk with itself,
on a soft tropic night in a port town in the Antilles.
My mind (call it that) floats abroad,
out of all time and place. And these words:
when and where will you read them? Perhaps
you even wrote them? Can we know?

I must leave you now. But listen.
Listen to the murmur of the surf,
and to the antique laughter. Take joy
in your hotly beating heart.

–John Thomas

Venizens of the Beach

Tattoo-tarot, Tarot-tattoo
Venice Beach rendezvous

Drink your tea leaves by the street-side serenade
Of Rap-Man (Mo-Po)’s Hit Parade
Ride the whirlygig heli-copper
Exhorting citations at street vendor offenders

Tattoo-tarot, Tarot-tattoo
Venice Beach rendezvous

–Tim Weil

Crow Secrets

i know the secrets
of the crows.
i take in the strut
& the warning *Caw*
of the sentinel.
i fly with a murder of 40
& declare
No Mercy! No Mercy!
Watch me!
i am dark, dangerous
& loud.
i will rub you wrong
with my beak
& steal your shiny Maya.
i know the secrets
of the crows.
Tell me, do you know?
Look now at the horizon.
Two comrades beat back a hawk!
We are many, we are proud.
We know far too much
of human degradation.
Caw! Caw! Caw!
We march in our blacks
against you, on Judgment Day.

–krista schwimmer

Washing

By Majid Naficy

Only the sound of the washer remains
And our clothes are losing
Their fragrant nightly memories:
The scent of firewood and wet grass
The stains of wine on your blouse
And the blackberries on my cuffs
The fingertips of morning dew on your shoulders
And the brown mark of earth on my back
Rolling, rolling under the fading stars
And suddenly the big red ball of the sun!

Let it turn around, around
and mingle our clothes together.
Love is stainless
And its clean shirt
Always shines.



Power

By Jim Smith

(In answer to Byron’s The Isles of Greece)

Too many tyrants have risen
and ruled heedless of our suffering.
O, to smash them down
And set our selves, our land and people free
Which of you will wield the Power
and drive away the dark?

Young liberators take action.
Ride the tiger to the far horizon
Yet, it is a dangerous game you play
Power is not free or freedom.
It has a deadly price
to pay

Power is always either here or there.
In times past with mighty strokes
we laid our oppressors low
and put all wrongs to right
then gloried in our deeds.
till time again began its march.

Slowly, slowly, Power took control
the servant became our master
Black and white became our colors
Our veins ran cold
with only the cruelest blood
and the tyrant lived again.

And tempting us still
are the gods of Homer
inviting us to slay another foe,
whose threat we will soon invent.
But what foe is greater than Power
and harder than it to slay?

Come here my friends
and drink good Venetian wine
and take this soothing herb.
For eons we have in battle raged
and still we suffer like the beasts.
Let’s play an earthy tune instead.

Comrades, I would remove my armor
and hang my sword upon the wall.
Leave me amid gardens and sparkling canals
and ocean sunsets caressing Venice.
Pray let’s celebrate our peaceful ways
writing verses in these golden days.

Yet even now I hear the sirens’ call,
the march of pickets echos in my head,
and martial chants entice me still.
Whoa Power you shall not win this day.
Your time is passing. You will not thrive.
Our human race, and me, without you will survive.

They Are Tearing up the Country

*For my father, James Phelan
Whose journalism also broke the rules*

They are tearing up the streets
where we once lived
You walk across the broken asphalt
over the exposed conduits
of power/water/fiber optics
through a rent in time
You are as strapping as a Viking
your blue eyes unclouded
your typewriter unsheathed

You pick me up
and twirl me like a baton
above your head
I squeal with delight
and then I remember
you are long dead
long buried
almost, actually, irrelevant

They are tearing up the streets
where I played chalked-up hopscotch
they are tearing up the house
where you taught me to be fearless
they are tearing up the city
where I once roamed wild
they are tearing up the country
where we took refuge
they are tearing up the planet

which once was the garden
the cracks deepen to fissures
the temblors shake the temple

they are tearing up
they are tearing up
they are tearing up

–Janet Phelan

The Heaven Help Us, Venice

Ohh, They – CHOPPED Down the JASMINE!
And, they PLANTED ‘sawed-off POLES!
They – CHOPPED Down the Sweetest Smelling Shade
The Heaven knows...

They – DRIVE ACROSS THE BOARD WALK
They call it: “Valet Parking”
They say that: “Money Talks”
Hey! LAND’S END’S MONEY’S BARKING!
(Heaven Help Us, Venice – Heaven Help Yourself!)

Ohh, They “barrel down” the Board Walk,
Anytime – Of Day or Night!
“The King of Beers”, “The Dairy That Cares”?
L.A. LAW – in Black and White!

They post: VEHICLES PROHIBITED
A Law – No One Enforces!
They say: NO DOGS ALLOWED
(Only Pigs? and Horses?)
(Heaven Help Us, Venice – Heaven Help Yourself!)

Help Save ‘THE CIRCLE’, from the “circle jerks” in town!
Help Save ‘THE CIRCLE’ – keep it Simple, Keep it Round!
Stand next to THE STATUE! Circle slowly. Head held high!
Feel – ‘The Spirit, that is Venice’ – While you still can see the sky!

Ohh, They Build Those Mighty Condos,
On Those Tiny Cottage Lots!
They make more walls, of money,
Between – The “haves” and the “have nots”!

They wake the Sleeping Homeless –
NO MORE SLEEPING – Day or Night!
They “make beds” for new flowers.
They paint the palm trees white!
(Heaven Help Us, Venice – Heaven Help Yourself!)

Ohh, They padlock Thee Pavillion,
And They CLOSED The Venice Pier!
They keep – Giving “drunks” those tickets,
As THEE LANDMARKS disappear!

They “folded” (down) THEE CARD ROOM,
While the Restrooms ‘Go To Pot!’
Now, Thee Oil Wells stand empty,
As THE GRANDE PAGODAS ROT..
(Heaven Help Us, Venice – Venice Help Yourself!)

Help! Save “The Pagodas” – Sweet Green Temples by the Sea!
Save “Our Pagodas” – a Home away – For You? and Me?
Blessed Shade and Shelter: Sharing Soup and Breaking Bread
Save the past, that can be saved, Before ALL Color’s Dead...
Ohh, Help! Save The People, Save the Pier, and Save the Walk!
Save The Small Green Shelters, Where God’s Creatures come to talk...
Where, The Weary Traveler, finds a “way” away from home...
Where, The Venice Spirits, Free and Restless come to roam...
(Heaven Help Us, Venice – Venice Help Your Own!)

–Tina Corcoran

NO TiME 4 HATERz

By Jimmy Valentine

There is no time for haterz.
i have no time, or space there .
i repLace your waste of taste, in
Haste, with the upMost grace.
i will not reside with, or by that
Bitter vibe.
RefLecting bLue skies into my
Eyes, i bark YES-I!
Like a pitbull on watch for King
SeLLasie-i.
One Love is true, those are my
Roots.
I’ve watered those roots, since
A small youth, with a Love for
Life despite the abuse.
For everyone bears a scar, weather near, weather far.
Denounce the fear and the darkness, with every ounce of
Heart.
PerpetuaLLy grasping for the
StarS.

Lincoln Place: A Community Victory – Part Two

Amanda Seward's story of the victorious struggle of Lincoln Place tenants began in last month's Beachhead. You can read it from the beginning at <http://bit.ly/d6dy8c>.

By Amanda Seward

Several eviction lawyers offered advice and legal forms that accelerated our learning curve. Eviction Defense Network attorneys Elena Popp, Robert Reed and Leah Simon-Weisberg helped, as well as Steve Collier from the famous Tenderloin Housing Clinic in San Francisco who had tremendous experience in Ellis Act evictions, a state law that allows owners to evict tenants if the owner intends to get out of the rental business. It was the Ellis Act that the owners of Lincoln Place invoked to evict the tenants.

Susan Brandt-Hawley, a California Environment Quality Act ("CEQA") lawyer, graciously wrote a letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer offering a legal response to AIMCO's attorneys' last-ditch argument that the historic designation process violated CEQA. I remember being very grateful that I did not need to try and become, overnight, a CEQA expert.

The Attorney General's office took the lead in the case brought by the owner against the State Historic Resources Commission and me, as the author of the nomination. In the second lawsuit against us challenging the designation, the Commission did not settle and the designation was upheld. I learned a lot from the lawyering skills of Deputy Attorney General Gary Tavetian.

Media coverage also played a role in this story. Bob Pool wrote a feature in his inimitable storytelling style regarding the preservation efforts, which was published in the Los Angeles Times. I think he admired us for trying, but did not think we would pull it off. Roger Templeton of the Venice Paper attended and reported a key vote of the State Historic Resources Commission in Fresno. He and Tibby Rothman, then editor of the Venice Paper, covered material aspects of the story over the years, as did The Argonaut, the Santa Monica Mirror, the Santa Monica Daily Press, Daily Journal, the LA Weekly and the Los Angeles Times. Jim Smith and the Free Venice Beachhead could not have been more supportive. Jim never let the "he says, she says" form of reporting in the name of neutrality confuse him; he called it the way he saw it. The Free Venice Beachhead could have been titled the Lincoln Place Chronicles. I also appreciated the thoughtful acknowledgement of Christopher Hawthorne, the Los Angeles Times architecture critic, who wrote in an article that Lincoln Place was an important example of the low rise garden apartment that was part of Los Angeles' legacy in bringing sophistication to the affordable home. Peggy Clifford, the former editor of the Santa Monica Mirror was relentless in her support. Terrence Lyons, also of the Mirror became a familiar face covering all aspects of the story during all the ups and downs. Martha Groves of the Los Angeles Times once overheard me digging up information at the public counter in the Planning Department and gave me her card asking me to call her and keep her updated on what was going on. Linda Immediato of the LA Weekly went so far as to interview each City Council person to get their office's

response to the controversy and reported each response prominently.

Local broadcast media covered the preservation efforts as well as the evictions. The Spanish-language stations broadcast the visuals of the evictions repeatedly. We often had trouble with the media merely repeating what the owner said without giving us a chance to respond. The Spanish-language stations consistently reported our side of the story.

The images of us demonstrating at the home of then City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo to protest the lack of support from the City Attorney's office under Delgadillo's leadership also drew attention to our cause. KCRW featured a debate about our story and KCET featured it in a web documentary. NPR also took interest and featured the controversy in a report about housing in the United States. Getting the story out was important to help hold all decision makers accountable and to let people know this was an important issue. The media committee, headed by Judy Branfman and Clare Sassoon, worked tirelessly to get coverage.

Linda Dishman and the Los Angeles Conservancy were instrumental in the preservation effort. The Conservancy sponsored a free walking tour of the complex that was designed to educate decision

makers and leaders in the community on the rich history and architectural importance of Lincoln Place. Linda also provided testimony in favor of the nomination and helped me prepare for an important presentation. She advised me to focus on my own story about Lincoln Place rather than to allow opposition arguments to define the presentation. It was one of the best presentations I gave on the nomination.

The Conservancy also participated, along with the California Preservation Foundation and the National Association of Minority Architects, and 20th Century Architecture Alliance, in litigation challenging the demolition of some of the buildings on the property. The case established that the demolition was illegal and stopped future demolitions until certain conditions were met. This gave us time to firm up the historic nomination in the interim. I also would like to thank David Busch for his leadership on Tent City. David is a homeless community activist who led efforts to staff our "symbolic" encampment, where we held around-the-clock vigils to demonstrate the plight of the homeless and the lack of affordable housing. David made it safe for us to be there through the night. Up until about 11:00 p.m., sitting at Tent City was like sitting around a campfire with friends. But after that, it sometimes got scary. Too many people roam the streets at night, some just down on their luck and others who appear rather menacing. David knew the difference; he engaged the former and encouraged the latter to move on, while treating everyone with respect. One of the people we met there one night had gone to college with Councilman Eric Garcetti and true to his word he appeared at a City Council meeting and spoke on our behalf. Councilman Garcetti recognized this fellow and it made for a more personal engagement about the lack of affordable housing and the importance of saving Lincoln Place. Speaking of City Council members, Bill Rosendahl was wonderful. Councilman Rosendahl and I had our differences over preservation; he saw the fight as people over buildings. I argued that for no other reason, he should see preservation of the buildings as an effective strategy to support the people by ensuring that quality affordable and workforce housing could not be so easily demolished. He rose above our conflict and was there for everything we needed. Without his support and the hard work of his staff, we would not have reached settlement. He made Lincoln Place his number-one issue. His staff, especially Mike Bonin, Mark Antonio Grant, Norman Kulla, and Arturo Piña, assisted us in every conceivable way.

Many other Venetians acted as consultants or participated in one or more of the three settlement attempts over the years. Steve Clare advised us on affordable housing issues. Linda Lucks helped us with the Mayor's office and community outreach. Jataun Valentine assisted with community outreach and spoke at various City Council and community meetings in support of Lincoln Place tenants. Frank Murphy, William Garner, and Joseph Murphy of Venice Collaborative tutored me on real estate development issues.

Other activists and community leaders helped, including Aris Anagnos, Elinor Aurthur (deceased), Jim Bicker, Marianne Brown, Larry Gross, Dennis Hathaway, DeDe McCrary (deceased), Stan Muhammad, Mindy Taylor-Ross, Sabrina Venskus, and Laddie Williams. Rick Tuttle, a former controller for the City of Los Angeles, gave us invaluable advice on organizing political support, testified before the City Council, and lobbied for us behind the scenes. Many hosted or attended house parties and contributed to the

LPTA. All of these and other local leaders argued our case to anyone who might be inclined to oppose our efforts, and through their work, we were able to present a united front.

Negotiations for peace commenced and failed twice. Only the third time did we reach agreement and close the book on a twenty year controversy. The settlement negotiations were another adventure in themselves. But briefly, settlement required the support of the owner of the property, the preservationists, the tenants, the community and various city departments and took years of negotiation assisted by judges, mediators and arbitrators. The Mayor's office, the Housing Department, the Department of Water and Power, the City Council, and the City Attorney's office all played a part in moving the settlement forward.

Along with the preservation efforts and eviction cases that were my focus, there were many lawsuits and grassroots campaigns over the years, causing more than one judge to call it the Lincoln Place saga. This letter does not attempt to recall the entire saga and does not attempt to recognize all those who contributed to the struggle to save Lincoln Place. There were companion battles and battles that preceded my involvement, including, for example, the political opposition led by Ruth Galanter, then City Council member, and the legal efforts from lawyers engaged over the years by the tenants including Jan Chatten-Brown, Amy Minter, Susan Brandt-Hawley, Elena Popp, John Murdock and his team, and Noel Weiss. And I am sure others have been overlooked. Also, it is not intended that AIMCO and its representatives are painted as villains. The company's executives and its representatives came around to make this a win-win victory. This is merely my thank you and acknowledgments for the work of our team. 🚲



Lincoln Place Garden Apartments

Calendar by Karl Abrams

CommUnity Events – day by day

Tuesday, November 2

• **Tuesday is Primary Election Day** to vote for Cannabis, Governor, local offices, Propo-sitions. (see page 5)

Wednesday, November 3

• 9am - LA County Regional Planning Commission public hearing on **Marina del Rey Local Coastal Program** Major Amend-ment. 320 West Temple St, #150, LA.
• 4pm - **Dance to the music of Sandra San-dia**. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.
• 7-10pm - **Miss Jessica and the Sugar Shack Attack** - R&B, Soul, Funk, Jazz - Free, Food & Drink available. Danny’s Deli.

Friday, November 5

• 7pm – **First Friday on Abbot Kinney Blvd.** Open shops, countless food wagons, lots of people. Free.
• 6-9pm - **Opening Reception: Autumn in Venice** - A Group Show. VOCA:Venice Oceanfront Contemporary Art Gallery. 215 Ocean Front Walk. Free.
• 6-9pm - Reception with Tom Wright. **Live music by Eric Kufs**. G2 Gallery. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Diane Martin, Rick Bursky, and Millicent Borges Accardi** read poetry. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, November 6

• 10:00am-Midnight – **2010: Odyssey Fund-raiser Readings** by over 100 poets. Beyond Baroque. Donation.
• 6-9pm – **Art Opening**. VOCA Art Gallery. 215 Ocean Front Walk. Free.

Sunday, November 7

• 12-2pm - **2010: Odyssey - Music and per-formance by the Scrappers and Mudpeo-ple**. Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 2-6pm - **Panel discussion & Party**. Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 7pm - **First Sunday of the Month Read-ing**. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, stu-dents, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Monday, November 8

• 6-10pm – **Documental: Dance Films - Eight Women**. Unurban Coffee House. Free.

Tuesday, November 9

• 7pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Good-ness hosted by Danny Moynahan**. Talking Stick. Free.
• 6:30pm - **Pajama Storytime Around the World** followed by a kid’s craft. AK Public Library. Free.

Wednesday, November 10

• 7-10pm - **Suzy Williams**, the Songbird of Venice - Free, Food & Drink available. Danny’s Deli.
• 7pm - **“Mash-Ups: Merging Photography with New Media for Social Change.”** Ven-ice Arts Gallery. 1702 Lincoln Blvd. Free.

Thursday, November 11

• 7pm - **Poetry in Motion. A Monthly Thursday Night Series**. Presented by Eve Brandstein. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$10, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.
• 7:30pm - **A Night of Classic Rock by “The Heist”** at G2 Gallery. \$5 donation for environmental charities.

Friday, November 12

• 7:30pm - **Returning soldiers read poetry**. Beyond Baroque. Donation.

Saturday, November 13

• 7-10pm - **Grassroots Acoustica Fund-raiser**. Talking Stick. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Judith Pacht and David St. John read**. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, stu-dents, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Monday, November 15

• 7-10pm - 7 Dudley Cinema. **Film “Com-mon Ground,”** an experimental film documenting military families. Other films also. Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, November 16

• 7-10pm - **The Venice Neighborhood Council Board**. Westminster Auditorium.

Thursday, November 18

• 7pm - **Voices Against Big Oil: Poets & Musicians mixing it up**. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Friday, November 19

• 6-9pm - **Opening Reception Jack Dykinga: Native Lands**. Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photography that celebrates Native Americans as featured in the National Geographic. RSVP. G2 Gallery. Free.



• 7-10pm - **Subversive Cinema**. 212 Pier. Free.
• 7:30pm - Border Poets: **Edgar Rincó-Luna, Martin Camps, Bibiana Padilla Mal-tos, Armando Molina, José Rico, and An-thony Seidman**. Beyond Baroque. Admis-sion \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Saturday, November 20

• 3pm - **MESS: Media Ecology Soul Salon**. Interview with Political activist and journal-ist Chuck Anderson. The Unurban. Free.
• 7:30pm - **Evening of No-Holds-Barred Poetry**. Dominique Lowell and A. Razoran. Beyond Baroque. Admission \$7, students, seniors, children \$5, members free.

Sunday, November 21

• 5-10pm - **It’s Blues Time! Featuring Tom Gramlich & Mystic Miles** with special guests. The Talking Stick. Free.
• 2:30pm - **Reception and Presentation with Photographer Jack Dykinga** discuss-ing images of **Native American tribal communities**. G2 Gallery. Donation.

Sunday, November 28

• 7-10pm - **Stefani Valadez Hosts World Music Night**. Talking Stick. \$10.

Get Your Local Event Listed

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

Location Guide

• Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Ven-ice Blvd, 821-1769
• Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
• Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey.
marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
• Danny’s Deli, 23 Windward Ave. 66-5610
• G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd 310-452-2842.
• Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 -
www.halsbarandgrill.com
• Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 Cali-fornia Ave.
• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 -
www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
• Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lin-coln Blvd. 450-6052
www.thetalkingstick.net
• United Methodist Church and Audito-rium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
• Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.
• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave-nue. 305-1865.

Ongoing Events

• 8pm-12am - **Hal’s Bar and Grill features Live Jazz**, Sunday and Monday nights. Free.
• 8:30pm - **TKO Comedy’s “Open Mic”** for comics, musicians, speakers and artists of any kind. 212 Pier. Free. Every Thursday.
• Thursday-Sunday 12-2pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am-1pm at **Uncle Darrow’s featur-ing “Joe Banks and Friends.”** 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
• 6-8pm - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. First Tuesdays of the month. Free.
• 5:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library Wednesday Movie Night**. Call 310-821-1769 for the upcoming movie.
• 6:30pm - **Abbot Kinney Public Library Children’s Pajama Storytime**. Second, fourth Tuesday evenings. Free.
• 6-10pm - 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock**. Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.
• **Every Third Thursday is the Venice Art Crawl**.
• 7-10pm - **MOM: Meditations On Media**. Every 3rd Wednesday. Beyond Baroque. Free.
• 7-10pm - **The Venice Neighborhood Council** holds regular meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Westminster School Auditorium.
• **Free Food Distribution at Vera Davis Center**. 2nd & 4th Mondays, 12:30pm.

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

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

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and advertisements from local merchants.

We couldn't keep publishing without
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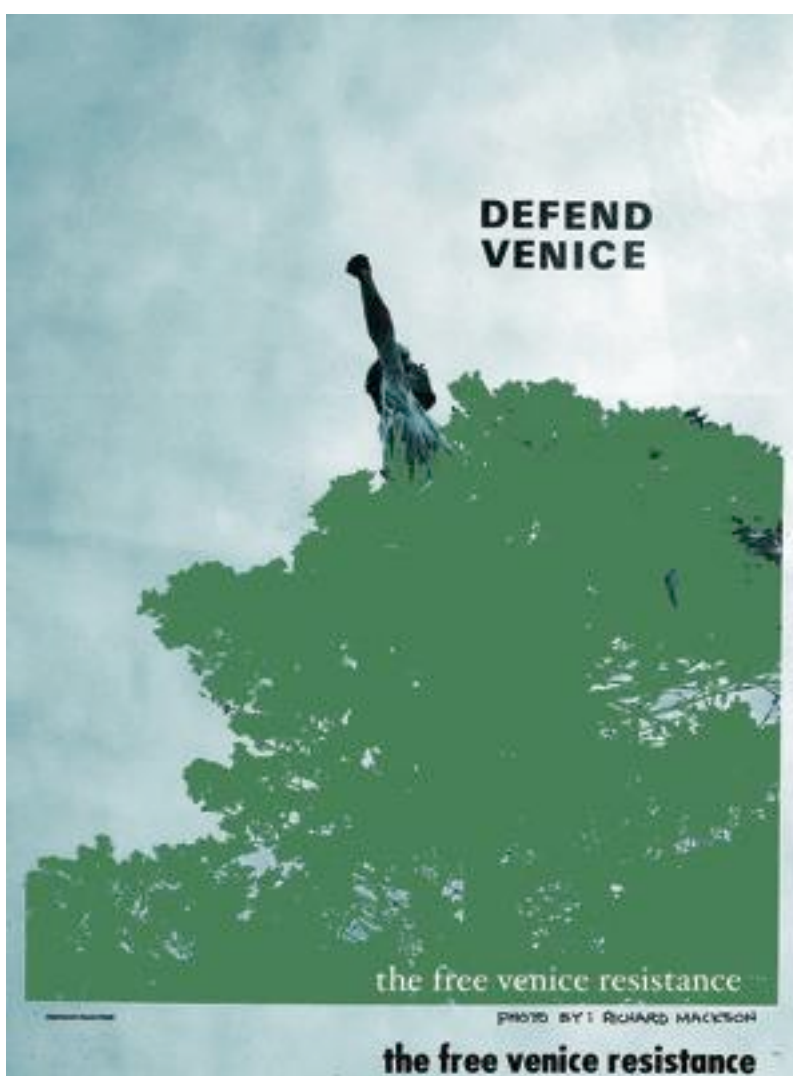
December is the 42nd Anniversary of the Free Venice Beachhead. If you were a member of the Beachhead Collective in the past, or would like to contribute a recollection about the Beachhead, please submit it to Beachhead@freevenice.org.

Volunteer writers, photographers, stringers, and distributors are always needed. Consider putting in a few hours a month for your local newspaper.

Get local news about Venice from the Beachhead. Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/VeniceBeachhead

Read back issues of the Beachhead at
<http://freevenicebeachhead.wordpress.com>
Our on-line library currently goes back to 2002.

Check out Beachhead cover art at:
www.freevenice.org/Beachhead/Beachhead_covers.html



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