

FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968



CHEE WAH-WAH

September
2005

More on the
election:
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Neighborhood Council Election, Sept. 10-11

VOTE as if your town depended on it



Looking East, that's a "Gated Community" proposed for North Beach between Pacific and Main St. See below and page 5 for more.

Beachhead endorses Venice Progressive candidates in long-delayed vote

Finally, the Neighborhood Council may be back in business. Its demise last November at the hands of the city of Los Angeles, and the failure to follow through on a scheduled June election, did a disservice to Venice at a time when our town was under assault from a legion of developers.

Quite a few of the Venice Progressives spent hours and days trying to keep the Neighborhood Council alive so it could respond to the developers, the Ocean Front Walk lottery, the Centennial celebration, the selection of public art in the Circle and the host of other events that have kept Venice humming during 2005.

We believe the Venice Progressives have earned the trust of Beachhead readers (we can't speak for all Venetians) and deserve our votes in the Sept. 10-11 election at Venice High School.

We're also impressed that in these days of slick politicians who don't talk about real issues because it might alienate some voters, the Progressives have a detailed platform and have shown a willingness in the past to actually try to implement it.

There are a variety of opinions among the Beachhead Collective on such subjects of growth, definitions of noise versus music, torsos, etc., but we are of one mind when it comes to preserving Venice as a place where low-income people – residents and visitors – can feel welcome.

That simple pleasure is in jeopardy these days due to the invasion of cookie-cutter buildings, high fences, and believe it, or not, gated communities.

The Barbarians are at the gates, or rather, the Barbarians are putting up the gates.

We feel fortunate that there are so many Venice Progressives who are willing to – almost literally – stand in the way of the bulldozer.

There are a few other candidates who are running, but at press time, unlike the Progressives, they had not told us much about how they stand on the issues.

We, therefore, urge our readers to get out and vote for the Progressives.

MTA Lot Proposed Site for 56-foot-high Self-contained Gated Community

By Carol Fondiller

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has effected a land-swap that benefits developers Robert D'Elia and RAD Jefferson, LLC. The proposed development will rise 56 feet high. That's nearly 20 feet over the coastal development plan maximum. The development includes 10,000 - 13,000 square feet of commercial space.

At a March 24, 2004 meeting regarding the proposed plan, 255 residential condominiums were proposed with 167 of the 255 units at market rate prices, and 58 units proposed as "affordable." (since then, the "affordable" units have shrunk to 17 units.)

At last month's Aug. 22 meeting, called by the L.A. Planning Commission, over 150 Venetians showed up to protest this most recent development that would bring at least 750 more cars into the area, plus more traffic congestion.

One Venetian suggested that the future residents of this proposed gated community be locked in and only allowed out if they showed proper Patriot Act identification to ensure that they would not harm the immediate surroundings.

The 3.13 acre site is bounded on the west by Pacific Avenue, Main Street to the east, Thornton to the south and Sunset Avenue to the north.

By Jan Sproull

I am opposed to the request by applicant Robert D'Elia, RAD Jefferson, LLC, including but not limited to the request for a zone change – from M1-1 – to CM-1 – commercial manufacturing zone, which would allow the developer's proposed 5-story structure including 214 residential condominium units with only 341 parking spaces, plus 10,000 square feet of commercial floor retail space with only 59 guest parking spaces compared to 262 spaces for the commercial tenant representatives who would work there.

The proposal to increase the nearby building height to 5 stories, in violation of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (Ordinance 177,693), would invade the privacy of existing residents in historically significant structures built in the 1920s, before the prevalence of the automobile, on walk streets that give Venice its unique and world-renowned character.

Furthermore, to grant a specific plan exception in this neighborhood would necessarily result in noise pollution, street-parking depletion and traffic congestion. The neighborhood is already at capacity on these dimensions.

To grant zoning change or plan exception for this corporate (LLC) development would diminish the quality of life and experience of existing residents, as well as tourists, who can find the market-branded coffee shops, health clubs and retail outposts elsewhere between Marina del Rey and Santa Monica.

It has been rumored in the Venice community that short-sighted financial development interests would destroy the historical quality of Venice as artistic and garden haven by the sea, and seek a homogenous Marina-to-Monica strip.

This is contrary to the inherent intent or

–continued on page 4

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

U.S. 1,882 Dead – 87 this month

U.S. Wounded 14,021 – 462 this month

Iraqi Dead: 24,495 – 27,705

This month: 1,355 – 1,516

(some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)

Source: antiwar.com



Diva says thanks

Dear Beachheads,
A Deep Diva Davin to Suzanne Thompson, Emily Winters, Judy Baca and Divo "Dewey" from Beyond Baroque and others for working so hard and turning out the real peoples Centennial Venice Celebration, from the opening to the last fantastic act. It was indeed a celebration of Venice spirit, talent and style.

I was honored to be among the first class of Divas. I hope there will be many more, and I can think of some right now. Mary Jane, Ruth Galanter, Emily Winters, Susan Millmann, Linda Lucks, etc. And of course, what about a Divo award to all the male activists—but that's another potentially divisive excursion into the dark depths of political miasmas.

Thank you all, you talented terrific Venice Locals.

Devoted Divine Diva
Carol Fondiller

P.S. Almost forgot. Thank you Playa Venice for the good eats. The enchiladas were nearly as yummy as the incomparable enchiladas made by another worthy Diva Designatee, Terry Bloomquist.

Love you
C.F.

Where'd the laundromat go?

Hey Beachhead,
Perhaps you can do a story about 1440 Main Street --where the old laundromat used to be.

They're putting up 4-6 condos -- and next to it on Main Street/Horizon - where Channel 1 Video moved to (now they're out) they're putting a single family house.

What the hell -- we need multiple story housing, more density, low /middle income housing in all these places. This is bullshit. The beach ain't for the rich -- but it's going that way.

Pissed as hell.
Squidlow.

That dog don't hunt

Dear Beachhead,
I must address the myth or popular delusion that a Ms. M. Evry's canine did vote in the 2003 Grassroots Elections.

Here are the facts:
1) Ms. Evry did or did not cast one ballot under her own name.

2) Ms. Evry's canine's attempted voter fraud by proxy did not occur in reality, being headed off at the pass by the people who were diligently counting and examining the validity of the ballots at the Venice Library on that day. I know this because I was there, amongst the counters of ballots, people of Venice happily and diligently looking at, evaluating and accepting or rejecting the validity of the ballots. The dog's vote was NEVER counted.

This is what happened and nothing else. Everything else is a gross distortion of fact and a bald-faced lie, which has been narcissistically repeated and repeated over the past two years in a feedback loop.

C.V. Beck



The Beachhead Collective awards
Cindy Sheehan
Honorary Venetian Citizenship
for her continuing efforts to make
George Bush confront the insanity
of his Iraqi policy.
Keep up the great work, Cindy!



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

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

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 2, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org> Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org>

Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
The Thought Police are rising
It is the Time
for the Beachhead's rebirth
Now is the Time to get your
thoughts
together
If you care whether
you have a thought of any worth.
Thoughts left of Center
Homeowner or Renter
Put your Head where your Pen* is
Send it to us use your wits
and if we like it
We'll print or plagiarize it
or tear it into
teeny tiny
bits

— by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word
Processor or Computer

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Neighborhood Council Election

Dear Beachhead,
I am a member of the Volunteer Election Committee that is facilitating the Venice neighborhood council elections. It is our sincere hope that as many people as possible vote in those elections being held on September 10 and 11 at Venice High School. We do not want to turn away voters because they do not have proper credentials.

The neighborhood council has a very inclusive definition of who is a stakeholder. The original Bylaws include all those who reside, work or own property in Venice, as well as those who participate in a church or community groups that provide services within the boundaries of Venice.

The current election procedures provide that everyone who wants to vote must provide evidence that they are a Stakeholder. Those not pre-registered will be asked on election day to show credentials verifying they are a Stakeholder. These credentials must show the Venice address where the voter resides, works or owns property.

Valid credentials with a current address include:

- CA Drivers License or Residency Card
- A recent utility bill
- An imprinted check
- A property tax bill
- A recent pay stub
- A school ID or Report Card
- A Venice Boardwalk license or certificate not less than 90 days old

A Passport or Business Card can be used, but only in combination with any other credential.

Other credentials include a letter (on business letterhead) indicating participation in a religious institution, nonprofit organization or community group, a contribution thank you note or a dues receipt or membership card showing address information.

Homeless credentials can be documentation from a local Venice agency indicating that the Stakeholder is a client of or receives services from the facility.

BRING CREDENTIALS WITH YOU TO VOTE!

We must follow the election procedures, but do not want to deny any Venice Stakeholder this important ballot.

David Moring

Pioneer Bakery

Dear Beachhead,
Regarding "100 Years of Solicitude in Venice" (July, 2005), Marizsa Bravo-Casillas comments that her Great-Grandmother Lupe "...almost got a job at the Pioneer Bakery, but the other women working there at the time, refused to work with her, so she was let go." Because it is her Great-Grandmother, the accompanying picture is dated 1926 and she refers to the Depression, I assume the alleged occurrence pre-dates 1940.

Some facts regarding Pioneer French Bakery (then named National French Bakery):

From the bakery's inception in 1908 until approximately the mid 1930's the only woman "employee" was my Great-Grandmother. When someone came to the bakery they rang a bell and a baker (most likely my Great-Grandfather or my Grandfather) came and served the customer. If the bell rang several times my Great-Grandmother would come downstairs (my family lived above the bakery until the late 1950's) to help. An additional "employee," my Grandmother (now age 97), took on the same "job" in the mid 1930's.

Incidentally, my Great-Grandmother, like my Great-Grandfather, was a Basque emigrant from the French Pyrenees who spoke no English when she arrived in the U.S.

Ms. Bravo-Casillas is fortunate to have such a rich family history. But regarding their experience with Pioneer French Bakery (National French Bakery) they have the wrong facts.

John Baptiste Garacochea



Share the Joy, or Boardwalk Ordinance Unravelled

By Boardwalk Mary

Thanks to the efforts of the homeless advocate organization Food Not Bombs, the hated prohibitive ordinance—the so-called free expression ordinance—has been overturned. According to Gita Isagholian O'Neil, city prosecutor for the city's neighborhood prosecutor's agency, vendors will still have to go through the lottery process, but the ordinance no longer excludes commercial vending on the west side of the Boardwalk. According to some sources, the city parks including Griffith Park, Penmar, Oakwood—all City Recreation and Parks controlled parks are now open to commercial vending.

Unfortunately, with the lottery in place, this will still prevent devout Muslims from participating in the lottery, because according to devout Muslims, the lottery is gambling and Muslims are enjoined by the Koran and Mohammed from gambling.

According to some sources, all parks are now dubbed "Free Expression" zones. This means that people will no longer have to trek to Venice Beach, search for parking, etc., to do their shopping.

Soon, a park near them will have the same experience available, and the gas expense will be less costly.

Dept. of Rec. and Parks officials state that they are working to tighten the ordinance so that Venice Beach alone will have the exclusive designation of "Free Expression Zone."

But for the present (August-September '05) entrepreneurs, artists tattoo and otherwise, free speakers preachers, etc., can set up sell and perform in any city park. For more information call Victor or Robert at 310-399-2775 or 310-396-6764 (Venice Beach), Gita Isagholian O'Neil 310-202-3825, Lydia Ritzman, Supervisor (Rec and Parks, Western Division) 818-243-6488 x215.

This outcome is due to the hard work of the City Attorney's office, the L.A. Recreation and Parks Department, and the Los Angeles Police Department. Call and let them know how you feel about the expansion of Free Expression everywhere. Police: 310-392-5170 or 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

Keep free expression everywhere! Share the Joy!



Sunday, Sept. 25th - 10 am to 6 pm

If you want to see a bit of everything, the 21th Annual Abbot Kinney Festival in Venice is the place to be. Over 200 Local Arts & Crafts ... just browse a bit, or find a true bargain. Local music and lots of FOOD. This event is FREE! Bring everyone Sunday, September 25 on Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Look for the Beachhead booth!

Marina del Rey's Tree of Greed

By John Davis

Marina del Rey translates to Marina of Kings. A more proper name would be Marina of Thieves.

Venice founder Abbot Kinney was the first to propose a small boat harbor be dug out of the Ballona wetlands. His proposal to build a man made marina at the outlet of the Playa del Rey Lagoon was rebuffed by the Secretary of War because it was not consistent with the U.S. Rivers and Harbors Act that would fund it.

This estuary and the surrounding twenty-one hundred acres of wetlands were located in the Ballona Gap or valley. It was here the once untamed Los Angeles River entered Santa Monica Bay and the Pacific Ocean providing a vast floodplain that was replenished by the annual rains. A native American settlement consisting of several interconnected villages was located on the majestic Ballona Bluffs. Smoke rose from the cook fires and an abundance of food from the sea and surrounding mountains feed the people. The sage ritual was performed to cleanse the area of evil.

Later the area became known as the Rancho de La Ballona after a Mexican land grant. Settling title to the land after the Mexican American War was completed in the treaty of Guadeloupe Hildago. At that point native Americans were prevented from laying claim to the lands. The State failed to make a claim that many felt was due to pressures from private entities attempting to gain the valuable lands.

After the World War Two ended the County of Los Angeles approached the Army Corp of Engineers and re-applied for assistance under the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Chief Engineer then presented a final report to the Secretary of the Army who then presented it to the 84th Congress of the United States.

In the report the County claimed that there was no longer enough space on local lakes to provide recreation for those with small unseaworthy boats. A specious claim indeed!

The Report to Congress said the project would be part of the nationally funded Santa Monica Bay Restoration project. It would include a youth hostel, public campgrounds, restaurants, small motels and landscaping. The primary purpose of the proposed project was to provide a safe place for recreational boats not fit to go to sea. Water-skiing, fishing, and sailing were envisioned. It was to be a vast public marine park so that even people without boats could use it. Small cabanas were envisioned to be used on a rotational basis by visitors. All of the oil wells were to be removed. The grand plan was supposed to be part of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project.

The County of Los Angeles promised the U.S. Congress it would deed forever and in perpetuity all lands, easements, and rights of way necessary to complete the federal project as described to the Congress in House Document 389. The lands would then fall under the Doctrine of Public Trust for the good of the people in the United States. Only fair and reasonable rates could be charged. The County promised the Secretary of the Army it had the money to obtain all of the promised lands and the Secretary made the same promise to the Congress on behalf of the Army Corp of Engineers.

Land the County was supposed to deed to the U.S. included areas used to accept dredge fills in the Ballona Wetlands on both sides of Ballona Creek. The vast project boundaries included an exact description what is West Bluff to the South, Lincoln Blvd. to the East and extended all the way into Venice to the North.

The Congressional record indicates Howard Hughes wanted lands West of Lincoln Blvd to

extend his U.S. funded Airstrip. But the Secretary of the Airforce dismissed this claim saying the Airforce had no intention of extending the runway.

Hughes wanted those lands and locals know that what Hughes wanted he somehow got. He would not let the U.S. Airforce and Congress get in his way. This was the Hughes style. Howard really saw real estate development potential and personal profit in the Ballona wetlands.

Then the tree of greed began to grow. Shortly after the Congress approved the project under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1954 the County approached the Army Corp. and stated it really did not have the money to provide all of the land it had promised Congress just months earlier. The County asked the Corp if it was ok to obliterate the project approved by Congress and substitute a large yacht harbor with only ingress and egress to the sea that would preordain luxury development.

The Army Engineers were allowed by Congress to modify the project but not to demolish it entirely. But that is precisely what happened. The events played out like this.

Instead the County had a plan to deed a tiny fraction of the promised lands to the United States. This demolished the original project entirely without the knowledge of Congress and was far more than what the Corp tries to explain away as a legal modification.

There is a plaque in Marina del Rey that says that County Board of Supervisors Chairman Burton Chace turned a "mosquito infested swamp" into paradise.

What he really did was lie to the U.S. Congress with the full knowledge and cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The end results are that Burton Chace signed the illegal deed and President Eisenhower signed Public Law 780 authorizing the project. No questions were asked until now. If this deed is illicit then how will that affect ownership of the lands promised to Congress? Today the County and Coastal Commission allow for market rates. Fair and reasonable has been thrown out. Developers claiming to own Cabana spaces replaced them with luxury apartment buildings. High-end hotels like the Ritz Carlton and Hyatt have replaced small motels. Long-term sweetheart leases have been given to corporations consisting of favored figures in Los Angeles society such as former Councilperson Cindy Miskowski and developer husband Doug Ring.

Today there is no public campground nor is there a hostel. Oil wells still exist and Sempra Energy stores methane in reservoirs below the project. Oil and gas transmission lines run along Admiralty and Via Marina but were not disclosed to the public until one ruptured last summer.

The West Bluff is shown in the congressional project yet there is now development occurring on the land clearly described and shown as part of the project to the Congress.

And what about Hughes? When the County transmitted the deed to the U.S. Government it was supposed to be consistent with the Congressional approval. It was not.

Hughes got the Ballona Wetlands he so coveted. In course the land was transferred to Summa Corp. and then to Playa Vista.

So how did Playa Vista recently sell a portion of the Ballona Wetlands to the State of California? The County promised the U. S. Congress that same land would be deeded to the United States Government forever and in perpetuity. Marina del Rey is the skeleton in the closet of the County and City of Los Angeles and it is rattling again for truth and justice.



Howard Hughes
and Abbot Kinney



PEACE PRESS Lives again in Venice

What do Timothy Leary, Huey Newton, Brian Wilson and the Free Venice Collective have in common? The answer is that they were all clients of the Peace Press, an alternative print shop which produced posters, books and other printed matter from 1967-1987.

Though located in LA, and later Culver City, Peace Press was in many ways an extension of the Venice scene. Almost all of the Press founders and early workers lived in Venice and were tied into the politics of the community, as were many of the artists whose work rolled off the Peace Press machines. The Press printed posters and programs for the early Venice Canal Festivals, the Free Venice organization and the Venice Fox Theater, as well as for numerous other Venice-based groups. And its collective activist nature reflected the political sensibilities of Venice in the 60s and 70s, a time of political struggles against the Vietnam War and local battles to preserve the community.

Peace Press operated from 1967-1987 a long time for a political collective, a very long time for an anti-war group, and an extraordinary length of time for a print shop whose founders did not know how to print. Those founders were anti-war activists from SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), VDC (Vietnam Day Committee) and the Resistance who were looking for a way to print materials about the Vietnam War. Like many organizations in that pre-digital, pre-Xerox era, the three groups, sharing an office in Westwood, depended on a mimeograph. But mimeo machines produced fuzzy copies and could only run limited quantities. Commercial printers were not a viable option; they needed long lead times, cost too much, and they often refused to print the organizations anti-establishment, anti-draft materials.

SDS/VDC activist (and still a Venice resident) Jerry Palmer, then a UCLA graduate student, had envisioned a Peace Press for the movement ever since he visited a commercial shop to print some peace seals he had designed in 1965. The box of offset press parts that he brought back to the SDS/VDC/Resistance office one afternoon in 1967 gave first life to that dream. Jerry assembled the small press, learned how to run it, and he and others began printing the organizations mobilization leaflets and the thousands of flyers that Resistance members handed out at induction centers every morning. Sometime later, the Women's Strike for Peace, frustrated in their efforts to find a shop to print their Draft Law booklet, became the first of many organizations to bring their materials to be printed.

In those early years, the Press changed location frequently, as the FBI, local authorities and right-wing landlords took notice of their activities and had them kicked them out. For some time it operated out of two garages. By then Peace Press was becoming a distinct entity of its own, separate from the organizations that had spawned it.

That evolution peaked in 1970, when the Press purchased its first large press and set up business on La Cienega Boulevard. Within a year there were almost a dozen workers, earning subsistence or no wages, committed to offering low-cost printing to the community. In the process,

they forged themselves into a collective that worked and studied and played together.

Unlike traditional print shops, Peace Press involved community groups often women and people of color-- in the production of their printing work, teaching skills such as layout, paste-up, and camera work, as well as how to run the presses. Hundreds of individuals and organizations brought their jobs to the Press during this time, including the Black Panther Party, Chicano Moratorium, Free Angela Davis Committee, Teamsters United Rank and File, Free Venice Collective, Malcolm X Committee, National Association for Irish Justice, Harriet Tubman Bookstore, and many peace and justice coalitions. The Press became the hub of print production for the full spectrum of alternative social, political and cultural organizations in the area.

After a suspicious fire destroyed most of its equipment and supplies one night in 1972, the press came back

to life after only one day, due to an outpouring of community support, including offers to share facilities and equipment.

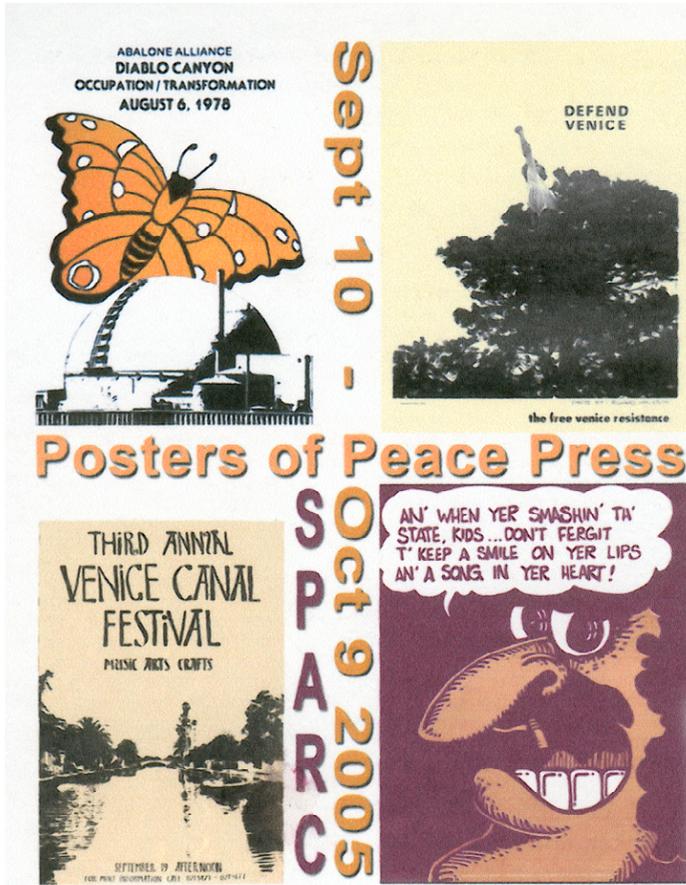
Almost a year later, with insurance benefits in hand, Peace Press moved into its last, most permanent, home in Culver City. During the Press 15 years there, as the Vietnam War ended and the issues of the times changed, the Press also went through a metamorphosis. It evolved into a business printing high-quality commercial work --primarily from rock promoters, artists, musicians, and local theaters. A publishing component was also added, which produced almost 50 books including Timothy Leary's writings, alternative energy and healing arts manuals, and a history of nonviolence in the U.S.

Still the Press kept its alternative socially-conscious nature in what it printed as well as how it conducted business. Anything considered racist or sexist, would be rejected, no matter how lucrative the job might be. Structured as a worker-owned collective, most decisions continued to be made collectively and everyone got the same wages regardless of skill or job position. And the Press continued to print at low or no cost for virtually every progressive cause taken up in LA. The Pentagon Papers Defense Committee, the United Farm Workers, Alliance for Survival, American Indian Movement, and groups advocating solidarity with Central America all had posters and leaflets printed at the Press.

Peace Press closed down in 1987, but its legacy continues. The materials it produced continue to speak to the issues of today. Once again our government has involved us in an unpopular war; environmental degradation is escalating; gentrification and economic injustices continue to deprive low-income people of basic needs; and civil rights for women, people of color, and gays and lesbians still need defending.

The Peace Press exhibit is presented at SPARC: 685 Venice Boulevard; 822-9560 from September 10 - October 9.

*EXHIBIT HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Fridays: 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM; Saturdays-Sunday, 1:00 PM to 5 PM
Opening Reception September 10, 6-9pm*



What do Venice and New Orleans have in common?

By Jim Smith

Watching the devastation (and destruction?) of New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina on TV, one wonders if it could happen here. Both Venice and New Orleans are at, or below, sea level. Venice has been subjected to large amounts of flooding in past years. That threat may be greater now than ever.

Katrina was the wayward daughter of global warming. The abnormally heated surface of the Gulf of Mexico made the hurricane much larger and stronger than it would have been otherwise. More Category 4 and 5 storms will be on the way.

None of this would have happened without global warming, which our "leaders" in Washington have ignored, refusing to sign the Kyoto Protocols to reduce carbon-based discharges into the atmosphere. Katrina was truly a case of the "chickens coming home to roost." But, the dead, wounded and homeless are not the policy makers in DC, but ordinary people who were never asked what they thought should be done about global warming.

Can it happen in Venice? If not a typhoon, how about a Tsunami? Warning signs and evacuation routes still have not been posted in Venice and Marina del Rey, even though this is a Tsunami danger zone since we are the main population centers by the Santa Monica Bay that are at sea level.

Even a fierce winter storm could breach the breakwater and the slight rise in elevation of the sandbar that runs along Pacific Avenue in North Beach. As global warming becomes more severe, so will weather disasters around the world, and the danger of flooding in Venice. Will land in Venice become less valuable when it's under water? It's time to take a lesson from the Dutch and start building a dike to hold back the sea water. Or, perhaps it's time to start digging out the canals and get a boat.

MTA Lot -continued from page one

explicit requirements of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (Ordinance 177,693), the Municipal Code, the Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance (and related California Civil Code), and the Mello Act, as well, potentially, as coastal protections and air-quality impact provisions of federal environmental law.

I urge the following:

1. deny the requested zone change from M1-1 to CM-1;
2. deny the requested specific plan exception from any part of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (Ordinance 177,693);
3. deny the requested adjustment from any portion of the Municipal Code;
4. deny the requested coastal development permit;
5. find that the project requests of applicant Robert D'Elia, RAD Jefferson, LLC, would not preserve or increase the supply of affordable housing in the Coastal Zone as the Mello Act requires (but, by parking depletion and Third-Street-Promenade-type inflated market increases, would indirectly force the working residents out, and be an undue economic inducement for one or more residential property owners to circumvent the Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance and California Civil Code by further improper means);
6. deny the requested project permit compliance with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan; and
7. make findings that the requests of applicant Robert D'Elia, RAD Jefferson, LLC, by site plan review, should not go forward under the governing codes, ordinances and acts for Venice, the City and County of Los Angeles and the State of California, and that federal environmental impact also be considered given the close proximity of the proposed building and development to the Pacific Coast including historical man-made alterations to Venice Beach.

(Jan Sproull is a neighbor of the MTA lot)

How Developers Skirt the Law to get their Projects Approved

By Joan & Marvin Klotz

Several of those opposing the MTA-RAD project at Sunset and Main Streets (CPC 2005-1002) strenuously object to the developers declaration that his project will be a "gated community." But, alas, there is no law against creating a gated community, no matter how alien to the history and spirit to our neighborhood – hence our outrage may well be futile. However, there is a law (LA City Ordinance 177,693 The Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, a 2003 revision of Ordinance 172,897 effective 12/22/99) that places fatal obstacles in the path of this development. All exceptions from the constraints imposed by

The Venice Specific Plan (VSP) must meet 5 tests required by the Los Angeles Municipal code section 11.5.7 F2 (a-e).

All 5 tests must be passed. And this project cannot pass any of them. Strict application of the VSP will neither impose avoidable difficulties nor deny the developer sustainable property rights enjoyed by neighboring property owners.

On the contrary, such exceptions will provide substantial and illegal property rights currently denied to neighboring parcels; those violations of height density constraints will create a precedent that will allow neighboring properties to demand the same consideration in the future. Further, this property exhibits no unique exceptional circumstances that might justify exceptions.

The only consequence of building within the height and density constraints of the VSP will accomplish what they design to do-namely, to mitigate the traffic, crowding, and mindless degradation of our neighborhoods.

Developers routinely approach the city with mind-boggling proposals that grotesquely violate planning ordinances. The city planners, perhaps, issue a gentle rebuke. Then the developers return with an amended proposal –We'll take five feet off the height-now it exceeds legal constraints by only 50%; we'll somewhat reduce the legal density we requested – and break the law by only 30%. See how responsive we are?

These new proposals remain abundantly absurd and terribly damaging to our community. The City Planning Department often exhibits some backbone; they found that the proposal does not meet requirements of the LAMC. But in recent past, the political appointed area planning commissioners often simply ignored both their own staff's carefully researched recommendation and the zoning ordinance while they enthusiastically murmured about some perceived greater good, no matter how illegal.

And we, without the deep pockets and the well-connected law firms, have to go to court with the odds stacked against us.

We ask the planning department to prevent the ongoing predatory rape, not only of Venice, but also of the entire West side of Los Angeles.

Abide by the law; deny the application for exceptions that do not meet the LAMC tests; don't force us to go to court to defend our part of this City from those whose only interest in Venice is to extract money from it. Rather, require them to build within the constraints of the Venice Specific Plan or take their project elsewhere.

One day, the City and the Coastal Commission may decide that current Specific Plans are untenable (though ours has been in force for fewer than 6 years). At that point, legislators will, doubtless, conduct cost/benefit analyses, and propose legislation that will change the zoning constraints in the coastal region. We residents won't like those proposals- but the law's the law and we will make do.

But until that day, we urge the City Planning Department, and the Los Angeles Planning Commission to apply existing statutes, to refuse illegal administrative exemptions to our Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, and to preserve the special character of Venice. All we ask, finally, is that the City of Los Angeles enforce its own ordinances.



Lincoln Place Q&A

By Sheila Bernard

For those who believe that we are a society of laws in which people who make promises keep them, and for those who believe the opposite, here is a little quiz. Answers next month.

- 1) If a developer proposes a project which includes conditions to mitigate the negative impacts of the project, and if the city grants a discretionary approval for that project which includes those mitigating conditions, is the developer required to actually meet the mitigating conditions in order to build the project?
- 2) Is the developer required to meet ALL the conditions of the project, or may the developer pick and choose which mitigating conditions he wishes to meet?
- 3) If a developer promises to relocate tenants as a condition to mitigate the impacts on the population, is the developer then able to turn around and evict the tenants using the Ellis Act?
- 4) If a developer attempts to evict tenants using the Ellis Act, and if the tenants file suit for declaratory relief (asking the court whether the developer is actually entitled to use the Ellis Act), are the tenants guilty of a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)?

The brave tenants of Lincoln Place (more than 160 households) seek answers to the above questions. The courts have provided answers to some of them, but landlord AIMCO does not interpret the court's opinion the same as the tenants do.

If a developer comes into a neighborhood and proposes a project, and the neighbors fight the developer tooth and nail, it is no wonder. Neighbors are apprehensive that if a project is approved with conditions that are intended to mitigate the negative impacts of the development, it does not matter. The conditions will not be met by the developer or enforced by the City.

The appellate court rendered a decision which says in clear language that mitigating conditions are not "empty promises," that they are not "mere expressions of hope." The court upheld the subdivision for Lincoln Place, but said that the conditions must be complied with. The conditions include relocation for Lincoln Place tenants within Lincoln Place, instead of evictions. But the appellate ruling has had no effect on AIMCO's pursuit of a completely empty community.

In addition, the recent designation of Lincoln Place as a California Historic Resource has had no effect on AIMCO's determination to destroy 45 buildings containing 668 units. It seems that AIMCO is impervious to the rulings of courts and the determinations of public agencies.

Now we will see what it will take to get the City of Los Angeles to see to it that the mitigating conditions on development projects are met. And we will see what it will take for the tenants of the historic Lincoln Place apartments to prevail against a giant corporation that has proven itself to be anything but a good corporate citizen.

Join us for Jazz and World Music!

Sunday, September 18, 2005

VENICE

music festival

Featuring Afro-Cuban Salsa Band **Sono-Lux**,
African Band **Alula** and Argentinean Band **Los Pinguos**

And Jazz at Palms Court
Champagne Brunch
Featuring Brazilian
Jazz Band **Braziliando**

Venice Music Festival 1 pm - 6 pm - Suggested donation \$20.
Food and Drinks Available. Silent Auction All Day.

Jazz at Palms Court Champagne Brunch 11 am - 1 pm - Tickets \$100.
Bid online beginning August 24, 2005 at www.VCHCauction.cmarket.com.

733-743 Palms Blvd. between Lincoln and Abbot Kinney, Venice
Call for Tickets or Info. 310.399.4100 ext. 106

Benefiting
Venice Community
Housing Corporation

Bank of America



These candidates are

Venice Progressive Candidates for Executive Committee



President: Jim Smith

It's been 37 years since I came to Venice, and decided that I never wanted to leave. At the same time, I don't want our community to become indistinguishable from the rest of Los Angeles.

I've been the Neighborhood Council's Treasurer for the past two years. I've also been involved in Venice issues - opposing over-development, promoting affordable housing and our unique culture - for many years.

I want GRVNC to be a strong advocate for all Venetians, be they rich or poor, young or old. While Venetians will never agree on everything, I will encourage people to work together when they do agree, and when they disagree, to do it respectfully. I will do my utmost to bring us together for the good of Venice.

As President, I will be accessible to everyone. My phone number is 399-8685 and my email is <JSmith@igc.org>.

I'm confident that we will have an excellent working relationship with the Progressive who have been elected to the City Council and as Mayor. With our Venice Progressive candidates representing GRVNC, we'll be able to address everyone's concerns including traffic, housing, development, getting our fair share of city services, and promoting the arts and free speech.

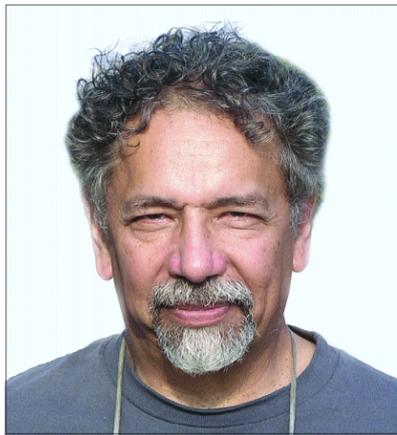
Vote Venice Progressive.



2nd Vice President: Don Geagan

Like Bill Rosendahl, I'm a Progressive. That's why I worked hard in his election campaign.

I agree with him and my fellow Progressives that we need to prevent over-development in the Venice area and preserve our shrinking amount of affordable housing.



Treasurer: Edward Ferrer

The late sixties is when I got comfortable with Venice. The cultural and economic diversity I experienced as an expansion of Freedom. I was raised with the principle of Benito Juarez: "Peace is the respect of other peoples rights." This milieu spawned an island of tolerance that I valued.

I was fortunate to buy a house in 1972. I do not plan to sell. I do believe Venice Of America is worth fighting for.

We have a Venice Community Plan that many developers seem to view as simply a bureaucratic obstacle to their vision of success. The work of the communities of Venice that produced the Venice Community Plan has to be respected.

Tom O'Connor turned me into the treasurer of the Free Venice Food Coop. He also got me started in what is now Armadillo Trading Co., Inc. dba Armadillo & CO. I am its president.

The resources the city entrusts to us should be used to move stakeholders into voicing their concerns on the quality of life issues and the nurturing of the diverse cultures that make Venice worth fighting for.

Why Vote Progressive?

The Venice Progressive candidates were selected at a community nominating congress. They are committed to the goals and issues in this brochure.

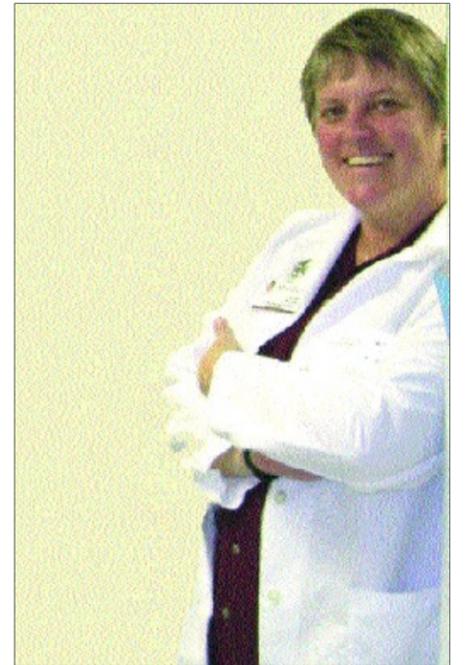
- Vote for all Executive Committee candidates.
 - Vote for all six at-large candidates.
 - Vote for one of the District candidates.
- Please vote for these candidates to ensure a progressive majority that will represent YOU.

Secretary: Alice Stek, M.D.

Venice needs to be a diverse community where everyone can live. The Neighborhood Council now has the opportunity to work productively with our new city council representative and mayor toward these goals.

Along with my fellow Venice Progressives, I am dedicated to preserving a unique, economically, racially and culturally diverse Venice, community control of development, affordable housing for all, environmentally sound transportation plans, and protecting the natural environment. See our website for our full platform. Contact me at alicestek@yahoo.com.

In my work as a faculty physician in obstetrics and gynecology at LA County + USC Medical Center, I focus on the care of HIV-positive pregnant women, teaching, and research. I am eager to continue working with the Neighborhood Council for a healthier Venice. I have served on the GRVNC Board since 2002, first as Canals/Peninsula district representative, then as 2nd and 1st Vice President, and on the Conservation and Outreach Committees. I am a homeowner in the Canals for 8 years. I am a founding mem-



ber of Voice of the Canals, an organization of renters and homeowners, and of Venice Progressive.

Protect our home; keep Venice a unique and dynamic community for the next 100 years. Vote Venice Progressive.



Communications: Erin Grayson

As a second generation native Los Angelina and a four year resident at Lincoln Place, I am willing to fight for the preservation of diversity in the Venice community.

After living in over six countries in Europe and Asia, I realize the world is right here in Venice. I am running for Communications Officer with the intention of utilizing my professional skills as a graphic designer for print, motion and web related media to facilitate the communication between Venice Beach residents and the government. Communication is the key to understanding our interdependence between all human beings, animals, plants and the planet.

I am a Progressive who upholds the slate including affordable housing, functional transportation and preservation of historical and ecological resources like Lincoln Place and the Ballona Wetlands. Low density and high diversity can pave the way for a massive amount of creativity. Freedom of expression is a Venetian Constitutional Right!

Our District 1 Candidate Ingrid Mueller has no opposition on the ballot

You can vote for one
District Representative of
your choice.



Dist. 1 (North Penmar): Ingrid Mueller

In 1988, I very consciously chose Lincoln Place Apartments for their beauty, the open space, and especially the quiet far from the maddening traffic. For some 15 years, LP tenants have taught me too much to let it "go to waste."

Some successes for Lincoln Place may assure Venetians that stubborn perseverance and love of Venice can get us together at the GRVNC table, where we can see green eye to black to blue to brown eye to celebrate our various worlds!

54-year old Lincoln Place, a California Historic Resource. was formerly populated by 3,000 happy neighbors from around the world. Now 170 households remain, defending their rights against Ellis Act Evictions.

At adjacent commercial "Lincoln Center," the developer pushes on without the requested EIR or community support.

We have work to do! We'll be totally suffocated by too many projects, but can finally help our progressive Councilman realize our combined visions!

VOTE

10AM - 5PM
Saturday - Sunday
Sept. 10-11

Venice High School
13000 Venice Blvd.
Bring Identification

Why the Election Matters

Venice does not have its own city government. As part of Los Angeles, we can only advise its city officials on issues that affect Venice.

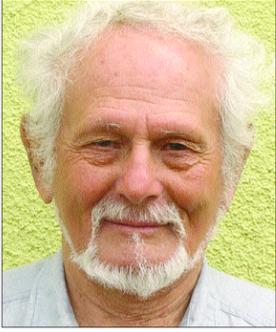
The Neighborhood Council is the only community organization that has official standing with the city of Los Angeles. City officials and departments must listen to advice from the Neighborhood Council.

It is also the only local organization whose elections are open to all members of the community.

In the future, the GRVNC can be even more effective since we will now be working with Progressives in the City Council and Mayor's office. We, Venice Progressive, expect to have a positive working relationship with the new city officials for the betterment of Venice.

endorsed by the Beachhead

Venice Progressive Candidates for At-Large VOTE FOR ALL SIX



**At-Large:
Joe Gross**

Participating in the community of Venice is a necessity. Ignoring that necessity means losing the community to inside and outside weasely entrepreneurs that fin profit-making life's utmost satisfaction.

Only a conscious and united community can stop these weasels. And that is what the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council represents – a barricade to those who would overrun our Venice community with high rises, malls and pastel boxes of gentrification.

I've lived in Venice for fourteen years, and I like living here, and I want a say in the direction Venice is going. I don't want weasels in control of that direction, so I am running for the post of Member At Large of the Neighborhood Council. I'm retired and at large most of the day and evening.



**At-Large:
Vessy Mink**

Having lived in Venice for over 7 years now, I find myself very grateful for this ocean-born town filled with possibilities. I am a singer/songwriter who has happily spent a great deal of time and energy creating my dreams in this free flowing community.

Venice rocks, and it does so because of the plethora of communicative neighborhood networks, like GRVNC, that enable it to creatively vibrate at a frequency which allows artists of all financial brackets to co-exist.

Venice is an abundant environment that supports low-income housing, the arts, excellent energy-saving public transportation systems, and small business. My favorite part of Venice are it's people. Diverse and fearless, pro-active and genuine, Venetians are for real. I would love to represent Venice on the Neighborhood Council, and will do my best to communicate the needs and wants of this enchanting place, we call home.

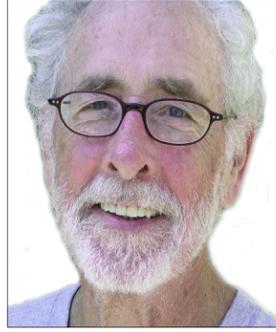


**At-Large:
Lisa Ezell**

I am a native Californian and a Venice resident since 1997. Why Venice? I like living in a politically and culturally charged community with creative individuals.

My love for Venice, her art, people and architecture, impassions me to empower the community's ability to make choices; whether it be to protect important architectural and social resources like Lincoln Place, decide on civic art for the Venice Circle, or keep big development at bay.

As an at-large council member, I will defend our community from the global corporate monoculture that threatens the authentic Venice entrepreneurs. Venice needs the fresh and courageous leadership of the Venice Progressive now more than ever. Gentrification will never drive away Venice's soul. lmezell@earthlink.net



**At-Large:
Peter R. Force**

I have been a resident of Venice for over 25 years. I retired from the State of California after having worked for 30 years as an economic analyst. In this capacity I followed local economic developments that affect the availability of jobs and trends in the general economic growth.

Currently I am active with the Los Angeles Transit Coalition, an advocacy group which works for the development of light-rail transportation. Besides supporting the expansion of our commuter rail lines, we help plan the construction of a light-rail system which will connect Santa Monica (and Venice) to downtown Los Angeles, and to other areas of the county.

My hope is that my experience as an economic analyst can contribute to the plans for rational economic development within Venice, and the eventual connection of Venice to the proposed light-rail system.



**At-Large:
Rebecca E. Tafoya**

I have been a resident of Venice for 43 years; I am a third-generation Venetian and my children are fourth. I recall my childhood in Venice very vividly: there were many other children to play with on West Washington (now Abbot Kinney Blvd.). I've seen many changes in my community and have only stood back and watched as they occurred. The long-time local families are consistently leaving and my own children cannot even go outside to play because of more traffic and strangers, especially from the bars.

Now I want to be part of the solution that can contribute to bringing back the harmony and uniqueness of the "true Venice."

I believe my voice and concerns are important to the future of Venice and its surviving families and children. Volunteering my time and effort to work with other people with the same objective in preserving Venice and addressing the gentrification of our community is how I see myself as part of the "solution" to saving Venice.



**At-Large:
Karl Abrams**

Having lived in Venice in the 1970s, 1980s, and presently, I have come to love this unique and diverse city. I feel moved to work with other Venetians to help protect affordable low-income housing, historic buildings, locally owned businesses, and the artistic uniqueness that is Venice. It is for this reason that I am running for GRVNC Representative-at-Large.

With my background as a tenured chemistry professor and textbook author, I am emphasizing a democratic, grassroots approach to progressive change. We can all work together to help protect Venice from the ravages of chain-stores, gentrification, and other forces which may adversely affect Venice's multi-cultural uniqueness.

Venice Progressive Candidates for District Rep. VOTE FOR ONE



**Dist. 2 – North Beach/Rose:
Jan Sproull**

In 1969, from down the coast at Seal Beach and Los Alamitos High School, I visited Venice. It became the dream come true to live here as a mature adult. Share your dream with me: 310-401-0408.

In freedom, creative expression and cultural change, the people of Venice have always faced the challenges of nature's nexus with an advancing humanity. Our year, 2005, is a time where having a heart politically can mean diverse things.

But to me, 2005 calls for listening to individual and community concerns, moderating strong emotions and participating in wise decisions. Venetians put the arts in motion, give voice to social movement, and enjoy the grand simplicity of sunset at the beach.

If we want to preserve the natural beauty and not become the Disneyland of beach fronts, the political energies of Progressive will be needed. Being part of the Progressive slate follows my first career in legal and corporate consulting (University of Virginia, J.D.), and later work in theological healing, interfaith ministry and artistic expansion.

With you to join us, Venice Progressive lead the way, to show the country and the nations what's possible from the grass roots up.



**Dist. 3 – Oakwood:
Amber Hartgens**

My primary goal as a candidate to represent Oakwood is to ensure that the residents have a voice within the neighborhood council and thus an active role in the decisions that affect Oakwood and Venice as a whole. Six years ago, my partner and I chose to buy a house and raise our sons in Oakwood because we wanted to live in a neighborhood that was culturally, racially and economically diverse. It is that diversity and intermixing of cultures that makes Venice such a unique and lively neighborhood and what I hope to help maintain as a representative for Dist. 3.

My experience as a neighborhood activist is limited, however, I was very active in the effort to keep the city from cutting down the sycamore trees in the north end of the Oakwood recreation park and thus retaining the one green and shady public space in Oakwood. Although successful in keeping the park green, the experience made me realize how important it is to have an informed and active resident base to protect those qualities of life that make living in Venice enjoyable. That process made me realize how vital it is to have courteous and respectful dialogue between the disparate views held by fellow Venice residents.

Oakwood has too long been thought of as the blight on Venice's image as a vibrant and creative home for interesting people and as a desirable destination for tourists and home buyers. I want that image to change and I want to see it embraced by the rest of Venice as a partner in the healthy and sustainable evolution of our great neighborhood.



**District 4 – Penmar South:
Mindy Taylor Ross**

I've been a resident of Venice most of my life. I attended both Walgrove Elementary, and Mark Twain Jr. High schools. When I was a girl, I lived in the Historic Lincoln Place garden apartments. I've lived in District 4 for over twenty years.

I became aware of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council when I got involved with the community in opposition to the Lincoln Center redevelopment project in early 2003. A number of us got together and formed the Venice Community Coalition (VCC). VCC has been instrumental in increasing community awareness about development issues along Lincoln Boulevard. Envision Venice, a design workshop which brought the community together to explore design possibilities along Lincoln Blvd. was put on by VCC. VCC also approached Cindy Miscikowski (former City Council member) to establish a Community Design Overlay along Lincoln Blvd. This one-year process will bring the community together in designing our future. I've been involved in a positive way in Venice for many years.

If I am elected, I will explore ways to preserve social and economic diversity, promote smart growth and protect Venice's heritage.



**Dist. 5 – Central/Milwood:
Sylviane Dungan**

I was born, raised and educated in Paris and came to the US 30 years ago. I am a progressive environmentalist, and art lover. I enjoyed living in district 5 for the last 15 years, between the beach and Abbot Kinney, next to the Circle. I am dedicated to prevent gentrification from robbing Venice of its identity.

Venice is a unique artistic beach community. Small yet diverse, it contains many sub communities which love it, and must live and thrive together in peace and dignity. I will promote the interaction and representation of these different groups so we can express our needs and hopes, and inspire each other to protect the future of all.

I will support only sustainable developments, community approved and benefiting all; small local businesses along Abbot Kinney, comprehensive programs to help the homeless; transportation planning preventing gridlock, air and noise pollution; social and cultural events encouraging community building and local artists; community involvement in choosing public art from the Windward Circle to Abbot Kinney and Venice Blvd, through district 5.

Listening to stakeholders' needs, I will strive to help us find sustainable answers together, to be shared within the Venice Neighborhood Council - Sylviane_g@msn.com

Venice California: 'Coney Island of the Pacific' by Jeffrey Stanton

Reviewed by Jim Smith

This is the year for books about Venice history. Although the Centennial is over, the books keep on coming. One of the best is Jeffrey Stanton's *Venice California: Coney Island of the Pacific*. An earlier edition was published in 1978. However, this is no mere reissue. The new edition has twice as much text and many more photos, than the first edition. In addition, it has a hard cover and a sturdy binding.

Stanton's publication is both a coffee table book and an effort at a serious work of history.

Although there are no footnotes, and Stanton's opinions and interpretations often show themselves, nonetheless, it is obvious that a great deal of research went into the book. A case in point is his treatment of the recent neighborhood council dispute, in which Stanton, gets his main facts right, in contrast to another book recently reviewed in the Beachhead.

Jeffrey Stanton is without a doubt Venice's most visible historian. He can still be found on Ocean Front Walk, plying his books and postcards, as he has since the 1970s. Stanton is also Venice's most controversial historians, ever since, he published a cartoonish wall map of Venice, years ago, which unfortunately depicted a mugging in Oakwood. Outrage quickly swept the community with Stanton being condemned as either racist or insensitive to African-Americans. Still, the map continues to grace many homes in Venice, often with a hole where the mugging was depicted.

While the book ambitiously covers more than 100 years of Venice history right up to the



Historian Jeffrey Stanton on Ocean Front Walk with postcards, books and maps. Photo by Jim Smith

current free speech controversy on Ocean Front Walk, it by no means gives equal treatment to all decades. There is hardly any mention of the World War II years in Venice, and much less about the Beats and the political movements that began in the 60s than these two cultural shifts deserve. Personally, I'd rather have less about Pacific Ocean Park and more about poets Stuart Perkoff, Tony Scibella, Frank Rios, Philomene Long, John Thomas, and even Larry Lipton. A few pages about such seminal Venice figures as John Haag, Rick Davidson and a legion of other feisty Venetians from the 60s forward would have rounded out the book.

In any case, for anyone interested in Venice history, *Coney Island of the Pacific*, is a bargain at \$50. It can be obtained at Small World Books on OFW, and from the author himself on the west side of the Walk. There's a website: <http://naid.sppsr.ucla.edu/Venice>

Venetians head for Burning Man

By Rich Mann

Much like our Venice Boardwalk's daily pedestrian community, the "Burning Man Festival," is located in the Central Nevada Desert area.

It's the second largest flat barren uninhabited terrain in the West. Located 600 miles northeast of Venice, and 100 miles north of Reno.

Somewhat like the Woodstock Festival, the community of Black Rock City is very cooperative of this yearly event, which attracts about 40,000 participants. This illusive happening occurs between: August 29 and Sept. 5. The actual burning takes place on Friday, Sept. 2 at 9:38 pm.

This years art theme is "Psyche: Conscious, subconscious, and the unconscious."

If you ever wanted to join a Circus, at Burning Man, are the Circus. The events are of a creative/art cultural Love-In nature, with a tolerant-survival-ceremonial bonfire, and self-expressing campgrounds, flavored with a masqueraded-psychedelic like funhouse of the mind.

Ritualistically, "Burning Man has taken place in the US. since 1986. Originating from San Francisco by it's creator, and organizer; Larry Harvey, it has been permanently relocated to the ever-mystical Black Rock Desert for the past nine enchanting years.

Our local aesthetic posse traveled to this



From left to right; Christian Hurd, Bobby Israel, Carl Cottle, Samuel Coniglio, Leila Hanfian, Kelli Lassen & Carl Johnson.

event from the socioeconomically marbled 5th St./Vernon St. Oakwood District of Venice and is depicted here, departing with an eclectic assortment of whims, wits and wonderments, also known as the: "Venice Vibe Tribe."

*For further information go to: www.Burningman.com or www.playadust.com, or view the Oct. 2004 issue of the Beachhead.

**Mucho ethereal fun, amusement, didactic enlightenment, and all out hilarity takes place at "Burning Man."*

Support
Lincoln Place
Tenants Association

"Let's Own It"

P.O. Box 1312, Venice, CA 90294
24hr. Hotline: 310.281.6877

Help Wanted

Venice writers, graphic artists, cartoonist wanted for the all-volunteer Beachhead Collective. The Venice monthly newspaper is one of the oldest alternative papers in the world. All Collective members are expected to participate in distribution and advertising solicitation. For more information, call 396-0811 or email <Beachhead@freevenice.org>.

L.A. - Amsterdam - Kyoto, an exhibition of found paper collage by Bruce Meade will be on display at the Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave., from Sept. 24 - Oct. 1. Vanessa Chow will also be showing new work in the Project Room. Opening reception, 7-11 pm, Sat. Sept. 24.

POETRY EVENING

On Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 7:00 pm, the church in Ocean Park will host poets Gerald Locklin, John Harris, Patricia Cherin, and francEyE at Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street in Santa Monica. Admission is by donation. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Always good conversation afterwards! Wheelchair accessible. Bus accessible by the Big Blue Bus, #'s 1,2 and 8 and MTA #33.

Neighborhood For Sale

FOR SALE! One formerly diverse and eclectic beach neighborhood.

The freaks, hippies, gays, artists, homeless people and those 'ethnic types' WILL ALL SOON BE PRICED OUT OF THEIR HOMES, making for very developable lots to build your concrete box with a large fence. (And Brentwood is soooo 2002). Highest Bidder Come be part of the problem. Marina del Rey adjacent

DEAD BETTY DYES
ONE OF A KIND HAND DYED VINTAGE SLIP DRESSES
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62 WINDWARD AVE
VENICE BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90291

VINTAGE • JEWELRY • COLLECTIBLES

HECHO EN VENICE

TIE-DYED T'S
MENS WOMENS KIDS & BABIES

By Hillary Kaye

After the deluge
after the rain
after the second coming of age
let's meet on the same ground.

let the yuppies take it

By Rex Butters

cloud shroud Venice
words embedded
cold gray cement walls
around showers
around unwanted police sub-station
damp flat
thirty person public
unveiling
thinning out
old men claiming beatness
mumbled or droned
in-joke lists
young wannabeats
windy with obvious puns
spoken their words
gray cold flat damp
deathmarch enthusiasm
all buddy reference Bukowski
who wrote extensively
of hating poets and readings

one after another
listeners leave
left hand over mouth
laughing
shaking heads

“If I had a razor blade
I'd slit my wrists,”
she said
indicating our own time to go

“What's that?”
one of 3 baggy clothed
boys asked/walking by
“Just that spoken word shit,”
another answered
not stopping

POETRY

Fifty ways to leave Iraq

(apologies to Paul Simon)

Lyrics modified by Jim Smith

Just leave before we're all dead, Ted
Jump on a freedom ferry, Mary
Let Haliburton take the fall, Paul
Take a jet out of there, Tony Blair

Just reverse the charge, George
Turn your back on the neo-cons, Don
You know all the killing is really sick, Dick
You don't need to blow up the earth
Just enjoy it for what it's worth

Just slip out of Iraq, jack
Make a new plan, stan
You don't need to be coy, roy
Just get ourselves free
Hop on the bus, gus
You don't need to discuss much
Just sail out to sea, lee
And get ourselves free

Gaia said it grieves me so to see you in such
pain
I wish there was something I could do to make
you smile again
I said I appreciate that and would you please
explain
About the fifty ways

The Demopublicans said why don't we just sleep
on it tonight
And we believe in the morning you'll begin to
see the light
And then they grabbed me and I realized I was
in for a fight
There must be fifty ways to leave Iraq
Fifty ways to leave Iraq

Just slip out the back, jack
You don't need to go to Iran, stan
You don't need to be coy, roy
Just get ourselves free
Hop on the bus, gus
We don't need to discuss much
Just sail out to sea, lee
And get ourselves free

Just leave before we're all dead, Ted
Jump on a freedom ferry, Mary
Let Haliburton take the fall, Paul
Take a jet out of there, Tony Blair

Just reverse the charge, George
Turn your back on the neo-cons, Don
You know all the
killing is really sick,
Dick
You don't need to blow
up the earth
A better world's in
birth

Two Bush's is not better than one
didn't vote for either one of em
the last one jus elected hisself
no one voted for him
his daddy bought him toy soldiers
innocent pieces of plastic
innocent young men and women
sucked in by their governments
now all those children.....
living with bombs bursting around
wont think twice about
blowin themselves up
its their life now..
nothing better

shanna moore

NO BEAUTY BEYOND US

By Sean F. Lynch

As I read back in our book of love
A life we lead together
Over mountains we'd climbed
to never forget the treasures we'd find
Of all dreams that had come true
The one that only mattered was me having
you

Beauty came upon us
No beauty beyond us

My bleeding heartfelt pen
Writes to wherever you are
For a perfect piece can never hide
to which I'll never leave your bedside
True hearts may break or bend
True hearts will always mend

Beauty came upon us
No beauty beyond us

Darling, I see you in the distance
Your ship's sailing in
I'm here, going nowhere
Yes, a spirit from above
I did see you wake up
Darling! You had fought to come back to
me
for you my hero, had rescued me

Beauty came upon us
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Latinos Against The War

By Javier Rodriguez H.

It's obvious to me that the Latino political establishment continues in the path of moderation and pragmatism. On the struggle for peace, the war on Iraq and the savagery of the empire, the most important international issues of today, Latinos are mired engulfed with myopia and lack of leadership engulfing Latinos. Though there are exceptions it is expected of this generation. I have seen it and critiqued it for over fifteen years.

However lately the myopia has filtered heavily unto the mid level and activist base. There is hardly a push from down below. So the establishment which, if pushed, in conjunction with the ongoing momentum, the 43 member Congressional Black Caucus and the progressive sectors, could play a significant role in congress, state and local government, stays almost mute and at times even waves the flag. Others are just outright indifferent and aloof.

Last week, over 100,000 Americans attended 1,640 vigils in support of that wonderful Gringa mother Cindy Sheehan. Of course the vigils sent a powerful message for peace, a halt to the murderous criminal war, the continued slaughter of Iraqis as well as to the deaths of American soldiers. This persistent Gold Star Mother has galvanized the anti war movement giving the peace option a tremendous boost and she's got George against the wall. However, here comes the but, not a single vigil took place in East LA, Boyle Heights or Lincoln Heights, etc.

Additionally, Sheehan and the vigils arrived on the heels of the spectacular revelations, the smoking gun if you will, brought on by the British Downey Street Memorandums. The DSMs clearly revealed President George W. Bush and his neo-con administration had decided to invade Iraq way before the UN inspectors had finalized the investigation on the "hidden" weapons of mass destruction. The high level intelligence memos clearly revealed the United States Congress and the people, with despicable assistance from the corporate media, had been duped. The reasons for going to war were all based on intentionally fabricated lies which legal experts now consider impeachable offenses. In that spirit, on the recent anniversary of the British memorandums, the anti war forces, which

have now penetrated Congress with an Out of Iraq Caucus, led by LA's fiery Congresswoman Maxine Waters, organized 300 Town Hall Teach In meetings throughout the United States. It was the beginning of the country's movement to impeach Bush and the cabal. Again predictably, as far as I know, not a single one of these watershed events was held in any Latino enclave in the nation.

What does all this tells us?

Two and a half years ago I conceptualized Latinos Against the War. I presented the idea initially to Guillermo Bejarano -Director and founder of the progressive Latino website Aztlanet.com - and CSO Carlos Montes. I laid out the strategy in two pieces Titled "No en Nuestro Nombre" and "Where Are Latinos on Iraq?" published on January 15 and 23, 2003 in La Opinion and Eastern Group Publications respectively. And it took off. However five days after the founding meeting, Montes, the former 60's Brown Beret leader whom I trusted, with the blessing and the backing of his left organization, don't know the name except for their newspaper "Fight Back", began a power struggle for control of that nascent movement. It was sectarianism and factionalism at its best. Consequently without a political strategy, the movement went into continuous activism, mostly quantitative. Initially with lots of media coverage, it mobilized 1000 demonstrators for its main debut. it was able to influence a couple of high schools, students, and teachers, and had minimal community participation.

Without a plan, It didn't build pillars such as a massive petition to enroll tens of thousands into the movement. With the exception of Fernando Suarez it did not connect with Latino families who were losing their sons or daughters in the war. It did not penetrate sectors of Latino traditional power, meaning the political establishment, entertainment, the lawyers, progressive fundraisers, the church, etc. It did not purchase newspaper ads in the traditional and highly influential Latino media venues nor in the corporate media as the Hollywood actors, ANSWER, NION and Move.On were doing nation wide. Most important it did not build bases of voters, nor permanent alliances with community councils and political organizations and unions within

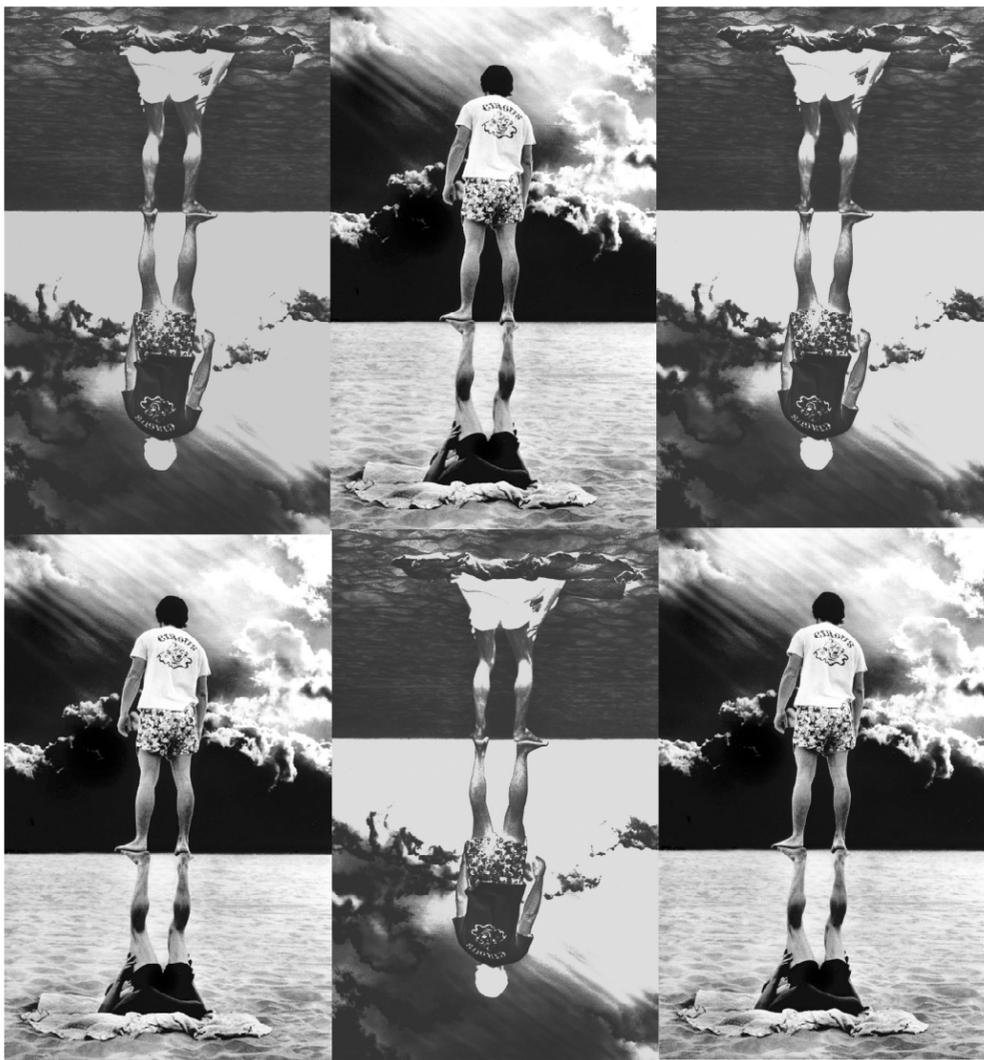
the districts of our illustrious elected leaders, and did not approach the constituencies of important Latino organizations. Regrettably, the street mentality did not allow for a lobbying strategy. After a year or so it fizzled out. Essentially the special interests within sealed its fate.

Today US Casualties are on the rise. Un-embedded reports say the troops have lost their mission. Media reports say the US military high command is divided. In the US public opinion has turned and finally begun to catch up with the world. The majority of Americans now believe the war was a mistake. They do not feel secure. The progressives in Congress are not alone anymore. The Republicans have begun to split and are making calls for an exit. Iraqi casualties are in the tens of thousands and their country is in ruins, in chaos, insecure with no air conditioning, potable water, schools or other basic services. The resistance is growing, gaining experience and as in Viet Nam, ultimately it will win.

So here we are and what to do is the big question?

Time Magazine's very recent poll on the 42 million Latinos is striking. Different from other minorities Latinos are a complex community except for language, culture and the majority are working class. 56% say the war was incorrect with 34% approving it. That's almost on par with the rest of the nation however, it places Latinos at a whopping 44% approval rate on President Bush and out of the 15 most important issues for Latinos the Iraq war is 14th.

In the international arena, as in human rights, police brutality etc., there is absolutely a vacuum of Latino political leadership and vision. But Latinos are not in the same place on the war as in 2003. The anti war struggle and the international solidarity movement in general in this country, is made up of people with a genuine concern for the human race and of course included are many Latino internationalists. A petition directed at Latinos is now moving on line and it has the potential of gathering hundreds of thousands signatures. What's at stake is peace, stopping the war and the massive murder committed by the empire in our name. The call has to be made for a major and permanent gathering of Latinos Against the War II.



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Simon Rodia of Venice

By Pano Douvos

We should now grant posthumously an honorary Venice citizenship to sculptor Simon Rodia if the recently shown film documentary is a yardstick.

The eloquent biography by independent film makers Brad Byers and Edward Landler is a complete depiction of the artistic and personal life of the artist.

The monument to the creative genius of Rodia remains the three soaring Watts Towers in South Los Angeles. The film makers' old black and white, and later, color film captured Rodia's inspired use of form and color in his personal spiritual statement. Art books have made good records of his towers. But the presentation of his unassisted creation with its immediacy and third-dimensionality of the film is an eye opener.

One particularly remarkable instance of the immediacy of the photography is the up close and magical view of the mosaic covered towers offered by the camera crane as it climbs. The perspective obtained is that of a horizontal bird's eye view – 40, 50 and 60 feet off the ground. Amazing!

The film makers ended up with a brilliant "film mosaic," emulating the process Rodia followed using humble materials such as ceramic pots, plates and colored bottles. He used mortar of his own design to solidify the iron bars and copper wire wrapped armator.

Rodia spoke for himself in broken English in the documentary but was very clear in presenting his ideas. His aim, he explained to questioners, was to produce a "good good" or a personal

expression we might say... A special original creation. An art piece.

The documentary shows movie recordings of the city's required safety tests on his towers. They were immovable – as the stress equipment and truck were lifted off the ground. Buckminster Fuller, of Geodesic Dome fame was shown speaking of the strength of the towers, saying it was due to Rodia's native intelligence and his awareness that a triangle shape is the strongest architectural configuration. Fuller was quoted as observing that "Rodia will be remembered as one of the greatest 20th century sculptors."



Rodia cut quite a figure clambering over his towers, scrambling ever higher carrying buckets of mortar. He was short in stature but stout of heart, as we say. He was a charismatic guy, marching to his

own drum...speaking forthright of his humanistic views.

The documentary was an open appraisal, including views from his nay-sayers, who spoke of his poor parenting and his drinking period. His uniqueness as an artist and as a personality shines through.

Byers and Landler advised film goes at the Sponto Gallery showing that DVD copies of the documentary can be obtained in October by googling up Simon Rodia. They concluded by saying that funding aid would be helpful.

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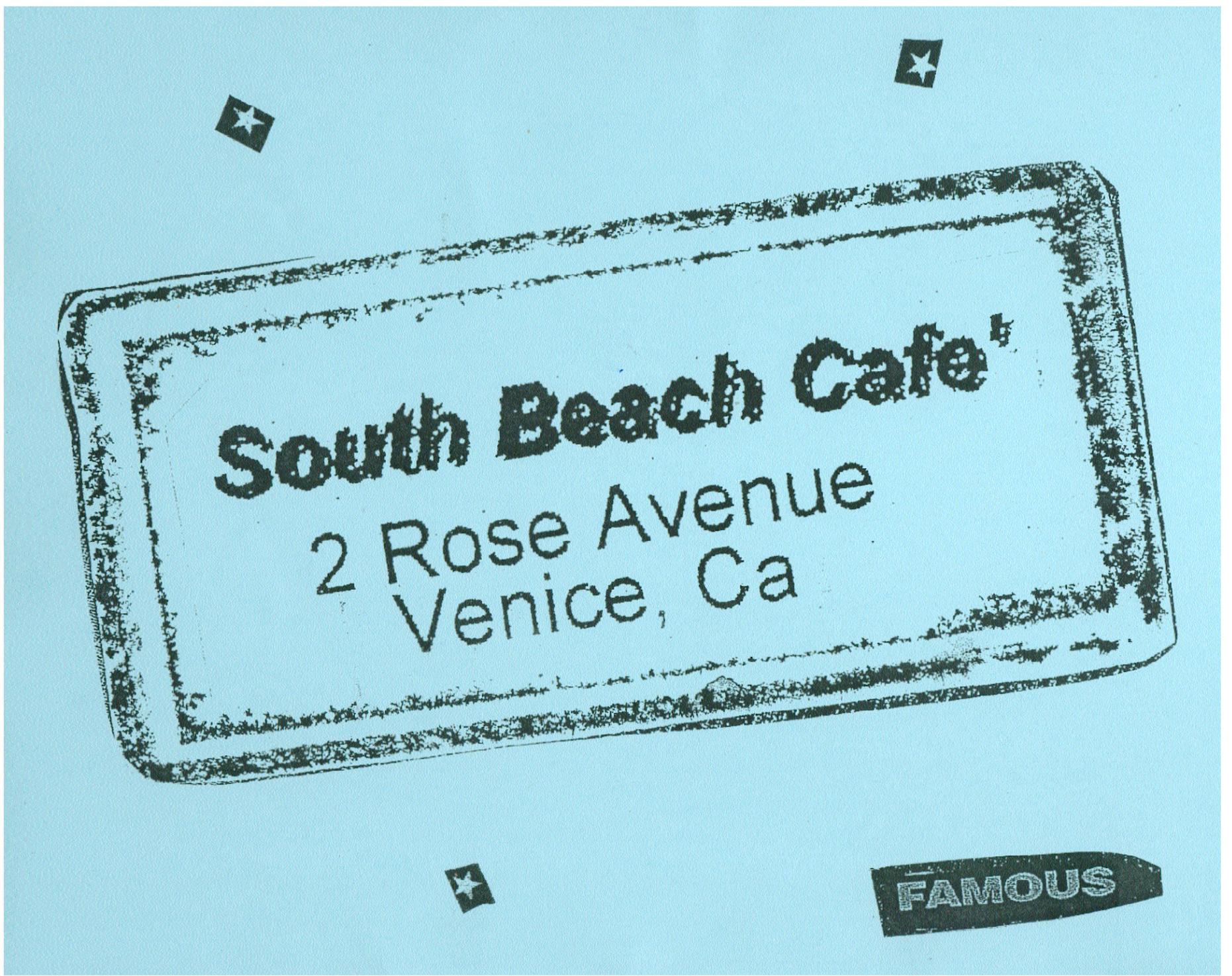
Suzy Williams was one of eight "Divas" who performed in a series of events at SPARC during August. Her's was a nighttime outdoor performance that was much enjoyed by young and old alike.

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