

Free Venice

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Petitions for a historical marker delivered to Ruth Galanter on 60th anniversary of Japanese removal from Venice

On April 25, the Venice Peace and Freedom Party delivered several hundred petition signatures to Councilmember Ruth Galanter's office in Westchester.

The petitions and a cover letter (see other side) ask for the erection of a historical monument at the corner of Lincoln and Venice Blvd. where Japanese-Venetians were taken away to internment camps 60 years ago. The initial response from Galanter aide, Peter Brown, was positive.

Venice Peace & Freedom Monthly Meeting

7:30 pm Friday, May 3, 2002
533 Rialto Avenue, Venice



P&F calls for "City of Venice," but no election possible until 2004

The Venice Peace and Freedom Party, meeting on April 5, reaffirmed its support for Venice cityhood. A resolution was passed stating, "*The Venice Peace and Freedom Party supports reestablishing the City of Venice, and will aid efforts to explore its feasibility.*"

Secession experts have since told supporters of cityhood that it would be impossible to put the issue on this November's ballot. The next possibility would be 2004.

Renewed interest in Venice cityhood has been sparked by proposed redistricting of the Los Angeles City Council. Under the plan being considered by the City Council, District 6, which includes Venice, would be moved to the east San Fernando Valley. Council District 11 would be moved south from the Valley to include Venice. Instead of having an election in District 6 as scheduled next year, there would be no election until 2005. Valley Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski who has never run for election in the Venice area would be installed as the councilmember representing Venice.

Other issues fueling interest in cityhood include rampant development that is unpopular with Venice residents and a lack of affordable housing that is forcing Venetians to abandon their community.

P&F Registration Drive Needs \$\$\$

The Peace and Freedom Party is now the fastest growing party in California. After losing ballot status in 1998 and dropping to around 60,000 registered members, we have rebounded to within 10,000 of our goal of 86,000 registrations needed to requalify for the ballot.

At the present rate of growth, we should requalify in September or October. That is, if we can continue to fund the drive. Our bank balance is dangerously low.

Our successful drive has been due to a combination of volunteers signing up new members and paid petitioners. At one dollar per registration, we need a constant income to pay for 2,000 or more registrations a month.

➡ Please write a check to the P&F Registration Drive today and mail it in the enclosed envelope. Or, you can drop it in the mail slot at 533 Rialto and save the cost of a stamp.

No amount is too small. Nearly all P&Fers have limited incomes. It takes a lot of small contributions to keep our drive going.

We need outspoken anti-war, anti-poverty candidates on the ballot. If you agree, please send a check today.

Calendar

- 2 pm, Every Sunday - Venice Peace March - Rose & the Boardwalk
- 4:30 pm, April 29 - Picket G. W. Bush at Century City.
- 7 pm, May 2 - Oakwood "Town Hall" - 610 California St.
- 7:30 pm, May 21 - L.A. County P&F - 6569 S. Vermont Ave.
- 7 pm, June 13 - Venice Neighborhood Cn. elections - 2210 Lincoln

More news about Venice and P&F is available at www.freevenice.org

Japanese rounded up in Venice, April 25, 1942 Don't let this ever happen again – to anyone!



On April 25, 1942, they lined up at the corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards, and they were told to take only what they could carry. There was no violence. The Japanese-Americans went through a processing station and were sent to internment camps. They were released when the war was over but lost most of what they had owned. It was a black element in the history of the United States.

—Venice California, by Elayne Alexander

April 25, 2002

Councilmember Ruth Galanter
7166 W. Manchester
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Ms. Galanter:

This is a request for your assistance in the creation of a public historical marker to commemorate the removal and internment, 60 years ago today, of Venice residents of Japanese origin.

On April 25, 1942 hundreds of Japanese residents - most of whom were American citizens - were required to report to the corner of Lincoln Blvd. and Venice Blvd. This was part of a west coast internment of Japanese which resulted in more than 100,000 people being imprisoned at 10 camps for the duration of the war. None were guilty of any crime. They were interned simply because of their race and nationality.

It is true that survivors received \$20,000 each in reparations in the 1980s, but nothing can make up for the mass violations of civil liberties that took place. Today, probably most Venice residents are not aware that such an offense took place in their community. A historical marker is the least we can do to remind current and future generations of this shameful event.

Sixty years have passed since the roundup. Today, we are seeing similar violations of the rights of Arabs and Muslims in our communities. We can no longer say that what happened to the Japanese can never happen again. Therefore, it is appropriate that we remember the suffering of the Japanese for its own sake, and as a caution that we must be continually on guard and protective of the civil liberties of all people.

We are enclosing petitions in favor of the erection of a marker, and a copy of a photo taken at the northwest corner of the intersection 60 years ago.

Sincerely,

James Smith
Co-Chair
Venice Peace & Freedom Party

Yolanda Miranda
Co-Chair
Venice Peace & Freedom Party