

# Free Venice

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## THE RETURN OF JOHN HAAG FEB 5

### Venice Peace & Freedom Party

6 pm • Pizza • 533 Rialto Avenue, Venice

John Haag – whose long career of fighting for the rights of Venetians has earned him the title of People’s Doge of Venice – will make a rare appearance, Feb. 5, to greet old friends and talk about the past, and future, of Venice.

Haag was a founder, and a long-time leader, of the Venice Peace and Freedom Party and co-founder, along with Rick Davidson, of the Free Venice movement.

He was the proprietor of the Venice West coffee-house and led the fight for the right of poets to read their poetry at a time when it was illegal in Los Angeles without an entertainment license.

In addition, Haag “...served as founding president of the Venice Chapter of the ACLU, chairman of the Venice Forum, publicity chairman of the Venice/Santa Monica chapter of CORE, ‘action chairman’ of the Westside United Civil Rights Committee, rally chairman of the Congress of Unrepresented People (COUP), chairman of the International Days of Protest Committee, arrangements committee chairman of the Southern California Committee to End Police Malpractice...” (Venice West - The Beat Generation in Southern California, John Arthur Maynard, Rutgers University Press, 1991).

John Haag has been in the thick of every struggle to defend Venice for the past 40 years. He was instrumental in the successful opposition to a freeway through Venice, turning the canals into yacht harbor, fighting police brutality in Oakwood and throughout Venice, upholding the rights of artists and poets to perform and sell their creations, and against commercial overdevelopment in Venice.



Beachhead - June 1969

(Photo by Bill Daley)

**John Haag (on right) has been living in quiet retirement after devoting 40 years to defending Venice from police brutality, freeways, developers, and the random greedy. Now he's back for a rare appearance.**

Call 310-399-2215 for information.

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