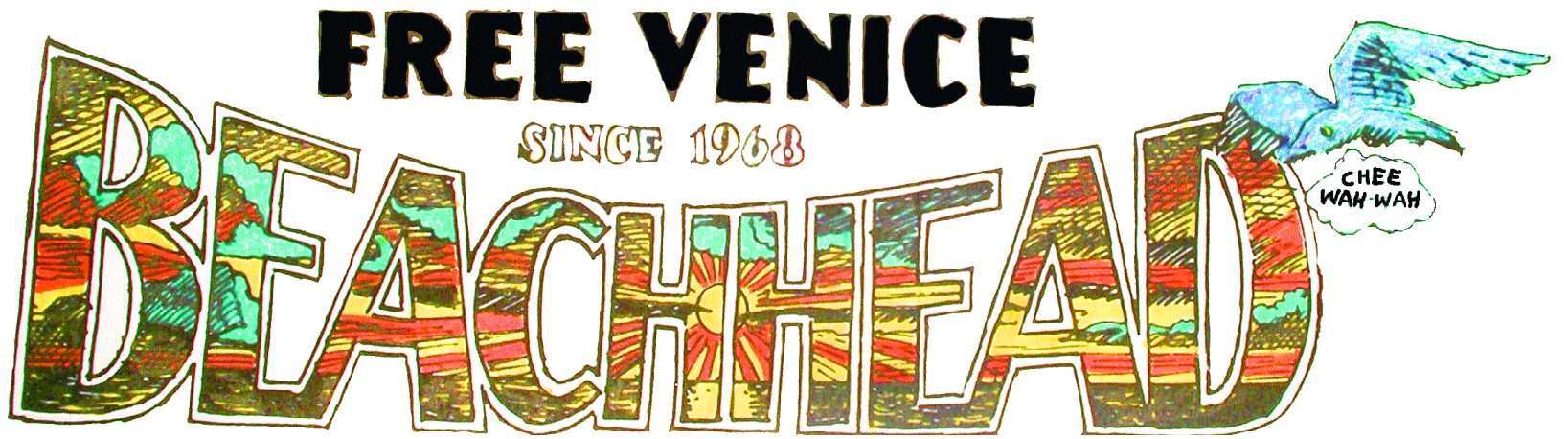


June  
2005

# FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

# BEACHHEAD



ISSUE NO. 285 • P.O. BOX 644, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org

PHONES: 396-0811 or 399-8685



Venice Artist Judy Baca has received death threats from anti-immigrant "Minutemen" who have vowed to destroy her monument, Danza Indigenas (indigenous dances) by July 1.



Photos by Jim Smith

## Venice Artist at Center of anti-immigrant storm

It took "Save Our State" (SOS) 13 years to discover a monument to California's diverse heritage created by Venice Artist, Judy Baca.

In spite of radio talk show coverage for a week leading up to a May 14 rally against the artwork, they were only able to muster about 20 people.

About 1,000 counter-demonstrators – including some from Venice – turned out to defend the

monument and to support Baca.

SOS, with ties to the Minutemen self-appointed Border Patrol, erroneously believed that quotes on the "Danzas Indigenas" monument were racially charged, seditious and anti-American in nature.

In reality, the quotes and the monument, itself, were the result of a broad-based community dialogue involving whites and Latinos, in

addition to many Native Americans, whose ancestors have lived in the area for eons.

On May 14, the Baldwin Park Mayor and City Council members reaffirmed their support of Baca's monument. Unfortunately, the death threats and racist insults continue.

—see photos & Judy Baca's comments on page 6-7

## Venice Skills Center Restores Summer School

By Marjorie Hinds

Skills centers are the only remaining vestige of what was once a comprehensive, affordable, post-secondary education system in California.

At Venice Skills Center (VSC), tuition fees range from \$30 to \$78 a semester. Programs include upholstery, clothing design, graphic design, Web design, network operator, certified network administrator, computer operator, dental assistant and dispensing optician.

Basic reading, ESL, GED, child care and sign language classes are also available.

"I was really worried the computer lab would be closed over the summer," says

Jeremy Spears, just one of the students who spoke about the crucial role VCS has played in shaping his career.



Students sign petition for summer school. Sue Hines signs while Anna Rae and Liddy Waling look on.

Spears, who has a congenital hearing loss, attends VSC because of the excellent services available for students with disabilities. This summer he will use the computer lab to prepare for the Cisco networking certification examination.

Entry level salary for a Cisco-certified computer administrator hovers around \$45,000 annually. If you can support yourself during the four semesters of training, as Spears did by detailing cars, and if you can ante up \$312 which is the total cost of the program, then you can succeed, as Spears did. He landed the job of his dreams immediately upon completing the program.

Cisco student John Tabar chose VSC because the program emphasizes hands-on training. "VSC is the only place to go," he says. "Other schools offer paper certification, they teach to the test. This is the only place offering applied training."

Despite the overall good news, students who attend evening classes, including Tabor, are not sharing in the celebration. Cisco networking is one of the classes which has been cut from night schedule this summer.

Upholstery and clothing design students are

being dealt the toughest blow. These programs will not be offered this summer and may be permanently discontinued. Enthusiastic upholstery students are not taking this lying down, however. Petitions are circulating and students are attending LAUSD Board meetings demanding the popular course be continued.

Upholstery student Anna Rae points out the ecological benefit of the trade. "American consumers throw so much away," she says, "if it isn't perfect they throw it out. Reupholstering is recycling."

Gabriela and Rigoberto Franco spend evenings at VSC redoing furniture for their home and making plans to open a small business based on skills they learn in class. Gabriela also attends day classes—working towards her GED. The couple's business plans hinge upon continuation of the course.

The good news is that LAUSD responds to pressure. The resumption of summer classes demonstrates this fact. The long-term survival of Venice Skills Center cannot be taken for granted, however, and the message is clear: Stay aware and stay involved.



Upholstery student Anna Rae reads all about it in last month's Beachhead.

**CASUALTIES IN IRAQ**  
**U.S. 1,572 Dead – 85 this month**  
**U.S. Wounded 11,595 – 755 this month**  
**Iraqi Dead: 21,834 – 24,776**  
**This month: 595 – 670**  
 (some sources say 100,000+ Iraqi dead)



BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:  
John Davis, C.V. Beck, Carol Fondiller,  
Theresa Hulme, Yolanda Miranda, Lydia  
Poncé, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams

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 644, 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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Send to: Beachhead  
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## Somebody Got it Right - Ed Gibbon

Dear Beachhead,  
I don't know who Ed Gibbon is, or how old either, but your article this month was dead on. I was raised in Venice, brought here by my parents when I was three in 1958 and I've seen all the different changes my city has gone through. Of all the good and bad changes by far the worst and most arrogant are what the ?\*^%\$# yuppies have brought to Venice. This is not what I ever could have imagined in Venice.

To me the beauty of Venice has always been its unique style and independent personality as opposed to any other city where I have lived, not to mention the simple beauty of the original homes in and around the canals and near the beach. Now that's all disappearing thanks in part to these creatures that have no roots in our concept of what Venice is to those who have been here for so many decades.

If you choose to live here why do you then barricade yourself with ten foot high fences? Venice has always been a melting pot of different colors and cultures, so why hide? Isn't the ambiance of Venice the reason people want to live here? I have always believed that to be one of the main reasons to live here but these yuppies apparently don't think so.

What makes Venice a great city is because you can be, act and breathe whichever way you want. Why change what Venice was meant to be: a great copy of a great Italian city?

Well as you can see I'm old school, but hey, isn't the original better?... I THINK SO.

Let Venice be Venice. If you want to live here.... then live and just leave Venice as is. If you can't deal with simple beauty, go south to Marina Del Rey you'll fit right in. My name is Horacio Becerra and I'm very proud to be a TRUE VENETIAN. Thanks for your time, Free Venice and Ed Gibbon.

Horacio Becerra

## Venice is not doomed!

Dear Beachhead,  
Last month, the Beachhead published an article entitled, "The Decline and Fall of Venice," by Ed Gibbon.

I must take strong exception to Gibbon's conclusion, "Venice is doomed" and to these similar comments which appeared in another publication: "Venice as we have lived it is dead. A new Venice will replace it." Hearing such comments makes me think just how appropriate is the expletive uttered by a Los Angeles City Commissioner last month: "This is bullshit!"

Gibbon, at least, correctly identified the source of most of Venice's problems in the malevolent behavior of the City of Los Angeles.

But, he errors I believe, in concluding that the outcome will be the doom of Venice. Venetians have been successfully speaking truth to power for generations. The onslaught of cruddy development projects with which we are currently confronted is no more overpowering than were past efforts to extend the Marina ambiance to Rose Avenue. And we've always had in Venice a thin layer of rabid right-wingers whining about the hood, the dogshit, the hippies and the homeless.

Venice is still alive and kicking because a great many Venetians have taken time out of their daily lives, or their TV viewing, to come together in organizations that have brought carloads or busloads to hearings, passed out flyers, distributed Beachheads, collected petition signatures and formed a peaceful army thousands who are determined to stay put.

If Venice is not the same counter-cultural haven it was in the 60s, that's because there is little culture in mainstream society to counter. Ugly buildings are found everywhere. Architects seem to have been reduced to mere designers of cool interiors for soulless cuboid structures. And who needs the Fox Venice Theater if Hollywood has been cowed by the Bush regime into producing only pro-military crap.

And has anyone noticed that housing prices are nearly as expensive 20 miles inland as they are in Venice? Come the crash, won't be nobody here but us squatters and homeless.

Funky Venice, '60s Venice, in-your-face Venice, let-it-all-hang-out Venice, gettin'-high-and-goin'-to-the-beach Venice is here to stay. Que viva Venice!

Jim Smith

## Add me to the List

Dear Beachhead,  
I ran across a copy of the Beachhead today, which I haven't seen for a while. Inside was a list of sustainers, including many people who I have known for 30 years or so, (but haven't seen for a while). This is a list I'd like to be on!

Enclosed is a check for \$100.00

Bob Niemann

## Venice Skills Center

Dear Beachhead,  
Hurrah for Marjorie Hinds' article regarding Venice Skills center! As a student of the center for the past 5 years I can attest to the fact that the closing of the facility would be a huge mistake.

My instructor, Louis Almeida who teaches upholstery fundamentals, received his notification that his services would not be needed for the summer session.

It sounds as though there may be some question as to whether or not the fall classes will commence. I, and many fellow students, depend on the center for vocational training and employment preparation. We are motivated adults who, with the tuition fees paid each trimester, pay for our supplies. Our teachers' salaries comes from a separate fund that does not affect the skills center budget in any way. My classmates and I have had the same lack of response to phone calls and letters addressing this matter.

Any republication of this article to help spread the word would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks in advance for any assistance you can offer.

Karen Sherwood

## DONE discriminating against disabled/seniors?

Dear Beachhead,  
This letter to Greg Nelson, General Manager, DONE, is in response to their Elections Meeting of May 18 in which various decisions were made to require disabled and senior persons to "appear" in order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in the GRVNC elections:

"Dear Mr. Nelson,  
Do you not think that the ill-advised idea of demanding seniors and disabled appear physically in order to preserve their voting rights is constitutionally discriminatory? It seems to me to be this way, facially. Did you run this by the City Attorney's Office or not?"

Sincerely,  
C.V. Beck, disabled person

## Harassment of Venetians continues

Dear Beachhead,  
The LAPD is continually harassing Venice residents...people are trying to feed the homeless and the LAPD gives them tickets for unloading food in the wrong zone. Yesterday afternoon, the LAPD arranged for a special huge tow-truck to come to the Rose Avenue parking lot and haul away someone's school bus, leaving the owner homeless.

The sun was going down, people were playing music and singing songs and the LAPD is towing someone's home away. No guilt, no shame is their game.

Harass the poor, protect the rich - I was talking to this police officer and he was telling me that most rapes on the beach were committed by homeless people. Give me a break! Most rapes are rapes committed against a poor, defenseless mentally ill homeless woman, who, for whatever reason, is camped out on the beach. When is LAPD going to have training sessions to get these poor deluded dudes on the police force closer to reality? They live in their own little world view of the planet - just puppets under the control of the LA. City Council, which really has very little to do with most residents of Venice.

The lottery system sucks. It's forcing people to pay for a permit and then subject yourself to a lottery system that is capricious by definition. All of the musicians I know like to play on the Rose Avenue side of the boardwalk, where it's quieter and more homey and mellow...fewer tourists...we are full-grown adults who would like to have a choice of where we can stand on the boardwalk. Of course, we have favorite places we like to play...

There are still many problems in Venice that deserve more attention than the stupid lottery system. There are lots of hard drugs in Oakwood, gang activity and real crimes going on that might be dealt with.

Yuppie folk have moved into Oakwood and drive recklessly around, endangering children and older people, and bike riders. They're all on their way to yoga class, or coming back, not learning much in the way of spirituality, as attested to the way they look right through you.

Venice is a unique mix of many cultures. It is our

—continued on page ten

# Bill has Balls

By John Davis

In the movie *The Caine Mutiny*, actor Fred MacMurray spoke of intestinal fortitude. GUTS! That is what I think our new Councilperson for CD 11 has. Bill scarred me at first at a 2004 Halloween party sponsored by conservation organizations banding together to save the Ballona Bluffs.

Bill said to us that he revered a gigantic redwood tree in Northern California to whom he had bonded. He said he took a bit of sap and brought it home to nibble on occasionally. Having lived in Humboldt County among the great trees I became immediately skeptical.

I thought, this is a democrat trying to bullshit me. I am of no declared political party and I am facing a man who claims to eat tree sap. But now I know it is true. Bill really is of a new breed. Though he has affiliated himself with the Democratic Party it seems only because he sees this as a way to change. At his election night party he claimed to be a "Progressive Democrat". While the term progressive has been taken up by many it can find its origins in the 1920s when women and laborers stood up and let their voice rise to political gain. Our new Mayor is an outspoken progressive too.

Together Bill and Antonio will be powerful allies with progressives in Venice.

Bill no longer scares me. Up until the night of the election I thought this guy is just selling me sap. He will be another Democratic Party hack like Ruth Galanter who was elected upon a solemn oath to save the Ballona Wetlands. Then turning her back on those who elected her, she fed the wetlands into the stinking teeth of bulldozers.

At nine on election night I pondered to walk six blocks over to Bill's party by the Dog Park. Since there was no clear outcome to the election at that late hour and to see if my skepticism over another Democrat was warranted I went to the party. Into the breach, as I had never attended such a political event and expected to find only strangers.

Entering the party I was pleasantly surprised to be swarmed with friends at the door and throughout the entire delightful party. My colleagues from the Sierra Club, the Ballona Land Trust, and the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council were there. So I was sold. And Bill spoke with the eloquence of great orators of the past.

He spoke truth to power while recognizing the many people responsible for him entering City Hall. And this man is unafraid. He stands against Playa Vista Phase 2 and for the preservation of the historic Lincoln Place apartments in Venice. Bill, like Congressman Maxine Waters would aspire to see the Ballona Bluffs preserved as a park and a place for Native Americans who have been here for tens of thousands of years. Bill has intestinal fortitude.



Old mural on Ocean Front Walk (replaced by "Starry Night." Photo by Rich Mann.

## How Venice Voted:

# Hahn creamed in Venice; Rosendahl doubles Krisiloff

By Jim Smith  
(based on final results)

In the end, it wasn't even close. Citywide, Villaraigosa and Rosendahl won by landslides in the May 17 runoff election. In Venice, it was a massacre worthy of a Roger Corman horror movie.

Antonio Villaraigosa, the former union organizer and People's College of Law student, ran up vote totals in Venice not otherwise seen outside East Los. In the some precincts, the Mayor-elect got 84 percent. He carried every Venice precinct in zipcode 90291, that is, everything north of Washington Blvd.

Bill Rosendahl, a former Venice resident and TV personality, likewise trounced his opposition, almost as decisively. He carried every precinct in Venice, winning 68 percent of the vote. Unlike Villaraigosa, he walked away with all four precincts in the Oxford Triangle and the Peninsula.

The largest turnout for both candidates was in the precinct that includes beleaguered Lincoln Place. Both winning candidates picked up nearly double the votes that they received in the average precinct. Both had written letters in support of the Lincoln Place affordable housing complex, while neither of their opponents bothered.

### Winners and Losers

- Most Venice Progressives associated with the neighborhood council endorsed and worked hard for Villaraigosa and Rosendahl. Their opponents associated with the Watchdawg and Venice Forum, with a few exceptions, supported the losers. The two winners were correctly perceived as the more progressive candidates. Villaraigosa had cast votes against the Hahn-supported LAX expansion plan and Playa Vista Phase II. Rosendahl also spoke out against unbridled growth, while Krisiloff was viewed with suspicion by many due to her support of unpopular development projects while a member of the West L.A. Planning Commission.
- Racism was a big loser as a Latino was elected Mayor in spite of anti-immigrant agitation and attacks on the candidate as a "Mexican Nationalist." In addition, Black-Brown unity in L.A. received a concrete demonstration as Villaraigosa handily carried most of South Central.

- Leaders of organized labor lost big with their support of Hahn. Instead of standing up against corruption and for "big picture" issues, they stuck with the devil they knew, and ended up looking like a special interest. Because of the death of L.A. labor's head, Miguel Contreras (the stress of his untenable position possibly contributing to his heart attack), new leaders are going to have to step in to fill the void and try to regain credibility with their members - who voted overwhelmingly for Villaraigosa - and with the public at large.

- Dirty campaigns were a big loser. Mudslinging by the Krisiloff and Hahn campaigns fell on deaf ears.

- And, growing interest in Venice cityhood is likely to be put on the back burner while Venetians give Villaraigosa and Rosendahl a chance to prove themselves.

### What to expect?

Will Villaraigosa be able to make the transition from a career as a legislator and councilmember to that of a public chief executive? Much will depend on what he does in the first 100 days of his administration. The city bureaucracy really needs a good house cleaning. But, this may fly in the face of his desire to be everyone's friend by keeping most of Hahn's appointees and policies. If so, we may be looking at the second four years of the Hahn administration, sans Hahn.

Our new councilmember, on the other hand, is a novice politician. Normally this would be a big problem, but since the unelected Cindy Miscikowski has so dramatically lowered expectations, Rosendahl is likely to be cheered just for showing up.

Alas, no honeymoon lasts forever. Will Rosendahl turn out to be a progressive, as he says he is? Venice will not be satisfied with less. It's time for concern when the Beachhead urges a vote for Rosendahl and he ignores it. And, when Villaraigosa endorses him and he ignores that too. Let's hope ol' Bill doesn't assume he can take Venetians for granted because we have nowhere else to go. When the going gets tough down at city hall, Rosendahl may discover that he needs us just as much as we need him.

On the other hand, perhaps we'll all live happily ever after.

## How Venice Voted for Mayor and City Council

	Villaraigosa	Hahn	Krisiloff	Rosendahl
Central Venice/N. Beach	617 75.4%	201 24.6%	240 31.4%	524 68.6%
Albot Kinney to Lincoln (north of Venice B.)	881 77.4%	257 22.6%	382 34.8%	717 65.2%
East of Lincoln	937 73.4%	340 26.6%	367 29.7%	869 70.3%
S. of Venice, N. of Wash.	723 68.1%	338 31.9%	341 32.8%	698 67.2%
<b>Total Venice 90291:</b>	<b>3,158 73.5%</b>	<b>1,136 26.5%</b>	<b>1,330 32.1%</b>	<b>2,808 67.9%</b>
<b>Total Venice 90292:</b>	<b>388 50.6%</b>	<b>379 49.4%</b>	<b>275 37.3%</b>	<b>463 62.7%</b>
<b>Venice 90291 + 90292:</b>	<b>3,546 70.07%</b>	<b>1,515 29.93%</b>	<b>1,605 32.92%</b>	<b>3,271 67.08%</b>
<b>Council District 11</b>	<b>30,627 56.97%</b>	<b>23,129 43.03%</b>	<b>22,629 43.75%</b>	<b>29,100 56.25%</b>
<b>City of L.A.</b>	<b>289,116 58.66%</b>	<b>203,968 41.34%</b>		

## IN BRIEF...

### MTA lot

The bus maintenance lot at Sunset, Pacific and Main redevelopment is proceeding. An Environmental Impact Report has been issued and is available for perusal at the Vera Davis Community Center and the Abbot Kinney Library. The developers want to put a gated community in the middle of Venice. Many residents would rather have an extension of the walk streets that constitute the surrounding neighborhood. So far, no hearing has been scheduled by the city. If you want to get on the list to be notified about the hearing, contact Jimmy Liao at 213-978-1331.

### More Redevelopment Projects

A hearing was held April 28 on another big box project by developer Frank Murphy. This one, at 202 5th Avenue, brought out quite a few opponents from the neighborhood and the GRVNC. The hearing officer, Lordes Green, will make a decision sometime in June.

Other recent project announcements include: 619-621 San Juan Ave., a 4-unit condo on one lot; 200 Pacific Ave., convert a triplex apartments into 3 condos; 622 Flower Ave., subdivide a 5,792 sq. ft. lot to construct a duplex condo. demolish a single-family home. 329 Rose Ave.; 2 new condos.

Plans can be seen at L.A. City Hall. Call first: 213-798-1343.

In addition the city has plans for the sewer pumping station at 140 Hurricane Ave. The Environmental Impact Report can be seen at the Abbot Kinney Library.

### Appeal of Graham statue in the Circle

An appeal by five Venetians of a city of L.A. decision to place a "Torso" by Robert Graham in the Venice Circle was heard by the Public Works Commission on May 23.

The three Commissioners listened politely and then voted unanimously to deny the appeals. Opponents of the monument will now take their case to the California Coastal Commission at an upcoming meeting.

### New Rapid Bus to the Airport

Venetians will soon have a quick and cheap way to get to LAX. On June 27, the Santa Monica Bus Line will inaugurate a "Rapid Blue" bus on Lincoln Blvd. that they say will be 30 percent faster than the regular #3 line. The only stops in Venice will be at Rose, California and Venice Blvds. The fare remains 75 cents. For questions by 451-5444.

### New (old) publication hits the streets

The Beachhead Collective is a firm opponent of the concentration of the media in fewer and fewer corporate hands. So it's nice to see the Venice Paper reemerge after a six-month hiatus. In its new magazine format, the publication will add indie film to its focus on art, architecture, surfing, skating and the 'hood, says owner and publisher Tibby Rothman.

**Support**

**Lincoln Place  
Tenants Association**



"Let's Own It"

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

## ATTENTION VENETIANS: The July issue will be our special centennial edition. We'd like your help –

1. Please send us your remenscences of past years in Venice.
2. Send us your comments on any of the following:
  - \* Who is the most significant person in Venice history (excluding Abbot Kinney), and why?
  - \* What was it like to live in Venice in the 1930s? 40s? 50? 60?
  - \* When was the Golden Age of Venice?
  - \* What is the best form of government for Venice?
  - \* Who is your favorite Venice poet? Venice singer? Venice writer? Venice painter? Venice Plumber? etc. and why?
  - \* What is your favorite book, movie, play about Venice?

Send by email (preferred) at [Beachhead@freevenice.org](mailto:Beachhead@freevenice.org) or by mail to  
Beachhead, POB 644, Venice 90294 by June 17.



## Lincoln Place Lives!



By Sheila Bernard.

Tenants at Lincoln Place are rebuffing efforts by owner AIMCO (Apartment Investment Management Co.) to displace them and demolish the historic complex. Aimco is misreading the law and misinforming tenants about their rights. The current issue is a little-known and to-our-knowledge-never-litigated part of the Ellis Act concerning who is disabled.

According to the Ellis Act, tenants who are at least sixty-two years old and tenants who are "disabled" are entitled to one-year notice of their units being removed from the rental market. For the definition of "disabled", the Ellis Act refers to Government Code Section 12955.3, which defines "disability" as any condition, impairment, disorder, or disease that would limit a major life activity. The definition includes many fairly common conditions, and the code states that it is intentionally broad.

Based upon this definition, most of the 175 families at Lincoln Place who are staying to fight the Ellis evictions qualify for the one-year notice, and have informed AIMCO that they qualify. AIMCO responded by asking for proof that the tenants qualify as disabled under the much-more narrow federal and state definitions, which do not apply. Tenants responded with a letter informing Aimco that it is misreading the law.

We will see whether AIMCO decides to accept what the law says or whether they choose to open up another front in their assault upon the Lincoln Place community. If that is AIMCO's choice, tenants will respond appropriately.

The 175 households who are staying have shown great courage in the face of enormous pressure from AIMCO, one of the largest landlords in the United States. In addition to fighting the Ellis Act, tenants are also in litigation with the City of LA over the City's improper granting of a subdivision which would include demolition of Lincoln Place. These households need the support of the community for their legal effort, which will benefit renters not only at Lincoln Place, but throughout California. Tax exempt donations can be sent to LPTA, p.o.box 1312, Venice 90294.9AM-1PM, May 20.

Venetians are urged to come to the Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Avenue to take part in a massive community clean up effort.

The Venice Community Housing Corp. (VCHC) is offering free bus transportation for schools that would like to bring their entire classroom. Free T-shirts and lunch will be provided to everyone who calls 390-8555 to register in advance.

Last year more than 250 local youth participated in the event. According to local resident and VCHC board member Jataun Valentine, "the youth worked really hard and were determined

to leave the Oakwood neighborhood spotless and sparkling... all of my neighbors were encouraged by their relentless efforts to do something for their community."

Co-sponsors include: Mark Twain Middle School, Oakwood Recreation Center, Venice 2000, the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department, Community Outreach for Prevention & Education (COPE) and Inside Out Community Arts.

### Documentary Film on Lincoln Place

This second documentary about Lincoln Place Apartments tenants' struggle to save their homes has been in progress since February - and help is needed!

To get a bit closer to understanding our passionate convictions, please take a virtual tour through this 55-year-old historic Venice neighborhood: [www.lincolnplace.net](http://www.lincolnplace.net)

Or a drive, or walk, through this 33-acre property may also enhance your appreciation of the Modern Architecture Garden Apartment Movement of the '50s.

Just imagine all homes re-occupied, those "empty meadows" refilled, the original landscaping better maintained, those 340 mature trees appreciated and cared for, and this community of renters continuing to make history!

If you want to help our cause with your kind in-kind contributions (food for crew; lend lighting or sound or additional camera packages for upcoming shoots; production assistance) - your credits are also assured!

The first 35-min. educational documentary by UCLA Anthropology professor Karen Brodtkin, another Venice resident, was released in 1995 and distributed nationwide by UC Berkeley.

This second educational doc, UPDATE! shows tenants' courageous stand to preserve their homes, as they are forced to learn how to continue living normal lives - despite out-of-state corporate, bottom-line only, attacks. The tenants must navigate through local legal jungles and State Historic Resources agendas; and try to calm our neighbors' states of angst, mostly produced by harrasing, pressuring "relocation methods" since Fall 2004.

Please note on your check: Documentary UPDATE! Mail to: m.e.i. venice productions, c/o LPHC dba LPTA, POB 1312, Venice 90294.

LPHC [Lincoln Place Housing Corporation] is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, thus your contributions are tax-deductible. For more information: LPTA Hotline: 281-6877 or Production Office: 392-3791 - e-mail: [info@lincolnplace.net](mailto:info@lincolnplace.net) or [meiearth@earthlink.net](mailto:meiearth@earthlink.net)

- Ingrid Mueller (Lincoln Place resident since 1988)

# Special Interests Call for Special Elections

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD • June 2005 • 5

By Theresa Hulme

On May 25 in Pershing Square, an organized protest attracted thousands of public employees who spoke out against broken promises to schools and open attacks on the working classes of California. The dual protests occurred simultaneously in both downtown Los Angeles and Sacramento. Attendees herded in from Santa Barbara, Long Beach and everywhere in between. Bus drivers, SEIU members, health-care workers, students, children, families and helicopters were heard loud and clear on and above the streets of LA opposing a looming 'special election.' (Republicans LOVE special elections!)

In a latest attack against the REAL heroes in our culture, Schwarzenegger is unleashing another round of misogyny described as 'reforms' onto our most important vocational resource. The large and broad group is courageously confronting the corporate puppet, known as the Governor, but better known for bad acting and ultra-violent movies marketed to children.

"Teachers are joining with parents, firefighters, nurses and many others who are fed up with this governor's broken promises and his plans for a wasteful \$80 million special election that favors special interests," said Barbara E. Kerr, president of the 335,000 member California Teachers Association. "These rallies in Sacramento and Los Angeles are sending a message that the governor isn't fighting special interests, he's fighting us."

The Governor recently described the public sector, including teachers and union members, as being a 'special interest group.' Ironically, he has received more contributions from 'special interest groups' (of the corporate sort) than any Governor in state history.

## Proposed Reforms, Schwarzenegger style:

**The Special Election:** Schwarzenegger's proposed \$80 million 'special election' is about initiatives that working people don't need, want or support. Insult to injury, his cronies at Enron and connections in Hollywood aren't footing the bill. We are. Me and you. We'll pay for it, then suffer the consequences.

**Broken Promises:** Arnie is renegeing on his promise to pay back the money he owes to public education. In 2004-05, he borrowed \$2 billion with the promise to repay when the economy improved. California's revenues for 2004-2005

rose by more than \$6.4 billion dollars. Despite this fact, he refuses to honor his promise to public education and to provide schools with their fair share of new state revenues. He offers no excuses why the money

has not been repaid. Incidentally, the Gropenator's kids attend private, not public schools in LA's wealthy Westside.

**Pension Reforms:** This statewide scheme is similar to the Social Security scam Bush is peddling nationwide. The motive being to send a lifeline to his buddies on Wall Street and the flailing US stock market by re-allocating Cal-STRS and Cal-PERS into the stock market. STRS & PERS are current retirement pensions that are automatically invested in conservative guaranteed accounts. About 8% of public employees' gross salary goes into these accounts where it is matched and grows slowly, safely, securely. These same adjectives also describe the reasons people enter into these professions. Not to get rich quick or to play the stock market, but to live modestly yet comfortably in retirement years. Most justify the horrible pay of a school teacher by looking forward to a secure retirement. (Although this is becoming a myth, as the years and Republicans go by)

By yanking the pensions from a stable environment and forcing their hard earned money into a risky, Las Vegas style, no guarantees stock market is stirring outrage among the very people it will affect. Cries of "No groping our public pensions!" could be heard in the crowds.

**Prop. 98:** A minimum funding guarantee, Prop 98 is threatened with being gutted while allowing the administration to cut public education and state programs at least twice in a given year. In addition to the \$2 billion he borrowed and hasn't paid back, Schwarzenegger hopes to leave classrooms at well below Prop 98's current minimum funding levels. Teachers wages are also threatened.

## No Child Left Behind:

Though nationwide and not open to a democratic process, NCLB was pushed through by Bush and drastically affects California's schools. A sneaky, complex Bill that forces public schools to report to the Pentagon the names of children eligible for the US military, in exchange for desperately needed funding. Schools must let military personnel onto campus to lure the young and disadvantaged into the military as a means to pay for escalating college costs that even middle class families can no longer afford. The Bill also imposes near impossible standards onto teachers where they must take endless multiple choice tests. Critics of the Bill say the criteria are unrealistic, oppressive and nearly impossible to meet. The ulterior motive of NCLB is to create a system of failure where the government must come in, declare destruction and 'privatize.' Nicknamed 'Leave no Academic Testing Company Behind,' the Legislation is looked upon as a joke, but it isn't really funny.

While California boasts the fifth largest economy in the world, it ranks 46th, or closest to last, in education. With Arnie's proposed cuts, California is poised to ascend to the heights of hypocrisy. Despite its enviable youth culture exported internationally, the Golden State imprisons more of its youth than anywhere in the world. Combined with a dying education system, Martin Luther King was eerily correct when he said "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."



## from the Beachhead Archives June 1975 • Issue #66



# CITY VS THE LAW

by B. Trees  
portions courtesy of Elizabeth Elder

Ten Canals residents were arrested and charged with trespassing on May 9th, as they attempted to stop the City Board of Public Works from illegally demolishing a house at 239 Linnie Canal. The request for demolition came from Our Councilwoman, Pat Russell, in spite of the State Coastal Commission law requiring a permit for any demolition within the Coastal Zone, and with clear disregard for the wishes of the community. About 5 years ago, the City acquired ownership of the house when Ms. Sadie Hay was unable to continue paying her property taxes. Ms. Hay, who was allowed to remain in the house as a tenant, was found dead in the house on May 1st, apparently of old age. Russell's office immediately requested Public Works to demolish the house and garage.

Ozzie Hunt, Russell's Field Deputy, has stated that on May 7th, he notified Public Works about the necessity of a permit. Curtis Rossiter, another of Russell's Field Deputies, also publicly stated that he would arrange a public meeting between the Canal Community and Russell on May 14th, to discuss maintaining the property as a much needed low-cost housing unit.

Meanwhile, other people were contacting the Mayor's office, informing him of the City's illegal action. Mayor Bradley's office intervened at that point and ordered the demolition to cease. The order was delayed, however, when Dennis Pickerel,

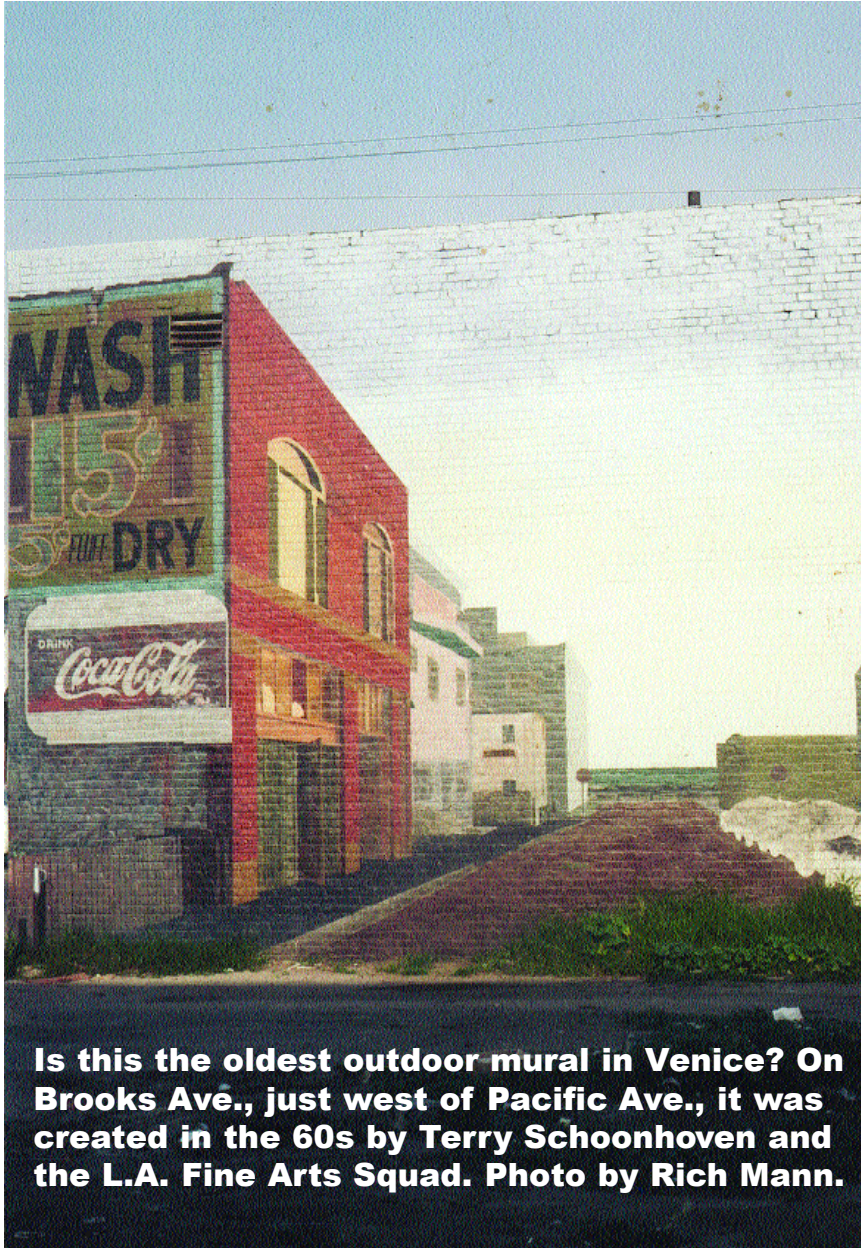
Asst. General Superintendent of Street Maintenance, refused to answer his on-the-scene radio phone and claimed that the City was exempt from the Coastal Commission permit process. By the time he accepted the order to cease, the garage had been demolished and ten people arrested trying to prevent it. Both the Mayor's office and Public Works had tried for an hour to reach Pickerel with the order.

Nevertheless, the Board of Public Works appeared with bulldozer and private army, (in the form of Venice Division L.A. Police) to demolish both the house and garage. Canal residents informed them that they were breaking the law and that there would be citizens' arrests made if they continued. The Police refused to assist in the citizens' arrests and instead, very politely, arrested ten residents who were attempting to stop the City of Los Angeles from breaking the law. The ten were later released on their own recognizance.

The hero of the day was the driver of the bulldozer, a city worker who was there 3 years ago when the City tore down the community house on Eastern Canal and 2 years ago when the Boardwalk and the children's playground on Howland Canal were destroyed. He apparently had finally had enough and got off the bulldozer, risking his job, and refused to take part in the demolition. Another worker was quickly hustled into his place.

It should be noted that this is not the first time that the City has taken action in violation of the laws established by the Coastal Commission. The City is currently under order by the State Attorney General and the State Coastal Commission to rectify another illegal act in Venice, where they opened and paved a previously unpaved cul-de-sac, Canal Street, and destroyed a 31 year old date palm without a Coastal Commission permit, and against strong community resistance. We have now learned that the residents of Canal Street have refused to pay the assessment and filed charges against the City for what was done, placing the City in the position of having to deal with TWO suits around their actions on Canal St. Meanwhile, the assessment remains uncollectable in the amount of \$50,000, give or take a thousand or two, and We, Dear Fellow Taxpayers, are paying for the City to fight these suits, for the amount of the assessment, for the bulldozers, and for the police, the court action against the Ten, etc., while the City pursues the rather expensive hobby of breaking laws at the instruction of Our Councilwoman.

Support is needed at the trial and the demonstrations around the trial. For further information, to get involved or to send much needed donations, write The Venice Ten, P.O. Box 575, Free Venice, 90291, or call any of these numbers: 823-1753, 823-6977, 396-6876 or 822-5154.



**Is this the oldest outdoor mural in Venice? On Brooks Ave., just west of Pacific Ave., it was created in the 60s by Terry Schoonhoven and the L.A. Fine Arts Squad. Photo by Rich Mann.**



**When Art Becomes Political**

Scenes from a confrontation over Judy Baca's Danza Indigenas monument in Baldwin Park. See article at right



The Smiling Minks - Suzy Williams, Moira Smiley and Vessy Mink were part of the entertainment at a Lincoln Place party to build support for the beleaguered tenants. More than 300 people came out during the May 1 celebration.



After months of wrangling, the City's Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) has moved in to take over the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC). Pictured above is the first of three meetings held by DONE at Westminster School to plan for an election. GRVNC's regularly scheduled election was to be held in June but DONE staff members claim that to be impossible. Instead they are aiming at a September election, over the opposition of some, and the agreement of others. The empty chairs speak for themselves.

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# Save Our Art

## A Statement by Venice Artist Judy Baca

An "anti-illegal immigrant" group, Save Our State, of Ventura County, emboldened by their recent victory at the removal of a billboard referring to "Los Angeles, Mexico" is now demanding the removal of the wording on a twelve-year old monument in Baldwin Park, California, entitled Danzas Indigenas.

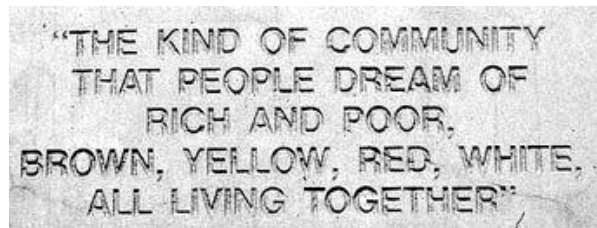
I was commissioned to produce this work in 1993 by MTA and the City of Baldwin Park in collaboration with the Kate Diamond Architectural Group.

The monument consists of a 20 ft arch, 100 ft plaza and 400 ft train platform.

Produced with extensive public input, the monument includes five languages:

English, Spanish, Gabrielino, Chumash,

Luiseño and is a layering of indigenous, Spanish and mestizo history, which is associated with the site.



Included also are the contemporary voices and diversity that is indicative of contemporary Baldwin Park. Asked to produce a work that was "mission in theme" that reflected the majority population of Latinos in the City of Baldwin Park, and in keeping with my practice as an artist for inclusion of community members in my design process, I designed this work to include the "past" and "present" of the region and the voices of local residents. Of particular interest to me was the sites proximity to the mission of San Gabriel. The arch in the Plaza is conceived of as a fragment of a mission arch. Its intention was to

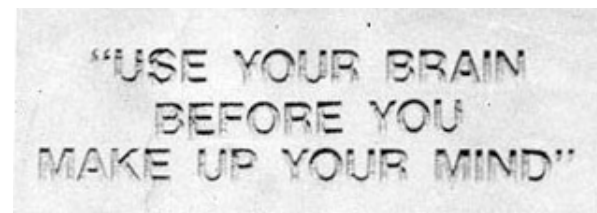
become a site of public memory for the people of Baldwin Park; to make visible their invisible history.

Local residents sentiments were included in the "present" side of the monument, with verbatim quotes sandblasted into the surface of the arch. Local residents of all ages and ethnic groups were recommended by the arts committee and the city council and interviewed. They were asked about their hopes for the future of Baldwin Park.

Additional statements from community members on the arch – which are not included in the discussion of the monument by the Save Our State group – include

"Use your brain before you make up your mind", "not just adults leading but youth leading too", "a small town feeling", "when the Indians died the villages ended" and "the kind of community that people dream of rich and poor, white, brown, yellow all living together". These statements all represent the community's desires, and are featured prominently in the work of art.

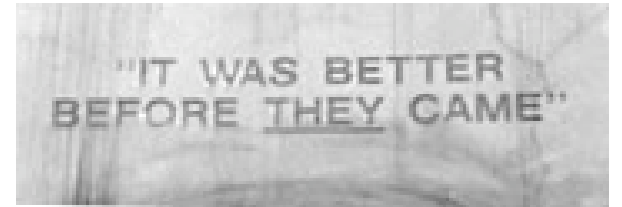
The work is not a work of a lone artist working without relationship to the community, but



rather a representation of community sensibilities and sentiment of the time. While this group has cast the artwork as part of a "Reconquista movement", it is in fact neither advocating for the return of California to Mexico, nor wishing that Anglos had never come to this land. This

statement "it was better before they came", was deliberately ambiguous. About which "they" is the anonymous voice speaking? The statement was made by an Anglo local resident who was speaking about Mexicans. The ambiguity of the statement was the point, and is designed to say more about the reader than the speaker – and so it has.

The quote "this land was Mexican once, was Indian always, and is, and will be again" is by a critically acclaimed Chicana author, Gloria Anzaldua. On the Save Our State website, she is referred to as a "dead Chicana lesbian." I chose this quote because the mission is one mile from



the Mission San Gabriel, and descendants of the Gabrielinos still live in the region, making Anzaldua's text particularly relevant to the increasing indigenous population. A correct reading of the quote makes it clear that this is not about Mexican "reconquista", but about the land returning to its origins.

This is not a question only of my rights as an artist to not have my copyright violated, but also a question of "revisionist history" carved out twelve years after an extensive democratic public process produced this work. It is the collective vision of the people of Baldwin Park that is under attack by this Ventura group. What is most deserving of respect are the voices that are represented in the monument. Also deserving of respect, are the voices of the ancient indigenous who say in the first person "memory and will power" is how we retain the knowledge of our culture.

Our capacity as a democracy to disagree and to coexist is precisely the point of this work. No single statement can be seen without the whole, nor can it be removed without destroying the diversity of Baldwin Park's voices. Silencing every voice with which we disagree, especially while taking quotes out of context, either through ignorance or malice, is profoundly un-American.

*Judith Francisca Baca is the founder and Artistic Director of SPARC – the Social and Public Art Resource Center in Venice.*



## Gift Horse or Trojan Horse?

By Lisa Ezell

On April 16 in a Los Angeles Times article, a reporter related the following story:

In 1994, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker was awarded a Graham designed stauette of a nude female torso for being a California "state treasure." Walker, who had just completed a book and a film about female genital mutilation, was outraged. "Imagine my horror when...I was presented with a decapitated, armless, legless woman on which my name hung from a chain," she told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Well, the City of Los Angeles has accepted a Robert Graham headless and limbless nude female torso sculpture that will stand 11.5 feet tall in the Venice Traffic Circle Island. I do not know what Alice Walker did with her sculpture, but we won't be able to hide this one under the bed or in the back of the closet.

From the top of the stump of the neck to mid-thigh where the legs end, the statue's height is 6'. It is made of solid cast aluminum, polished to a shiny finish, weighs 3,500 lbs. (yes, really 3,500 lbs!), and will be mounted on a 4.5 ft. steel base on top of a 1 ft. tall concrete footing, standing altogether, 11.5 in height. It is so massive that a 2 ft. high and 8 ft. square concrete base is required underground to support its weight.

Why look a gift horse in the mouth? After all, this sculpture is a gift to our city (by generous Venice Peninsula art collector Roy Doumani) and it is valued at \$350,000. It is by an internationally renowned local artist and requires solely the investment of an estimated \$75,000 of our city's funds for its complex installation.

This gift was accepted by local city council-

*Our community could not be more different than Beverly Hills and we deserve unique art!*

woman Cindy Miscikowski (reputed to own a small Graham "Torso" or two, herself), and the Windward Avenue Improvement Association has pledged to pay for all future maintenance of the sculpture.

Well, first of all, it is inappropriate for this location (literally our Venice Town Square). There are 5 streets that meet at the Venice Circle, and bordering its west side is the Venice Post Office with its beautifully preserved W.P.A. mural by Edward Biberman depicting the founder of Venice.

This site is not just another location for public art. Art located at this site will be, by virtue of its historic and central location in Venice, a civic



Rodeo and Dayton).

The Venice "Torso" has a more nubile body, its hip cocked in a more eroticized pose (to see the Beverly Hills "Torso," go to the artist's website, [www.robertgraham-artist.com](http://www.robertgraham-artist.com) and click on Public Works and then click on Torso at the far right of the screen). The Venice torso's arms are cut off, their stumps level with the neck (to see both "torsos," go to the Beachhead website at [www.venice-beachhead.org](http://www.venice-beachhead.org) and see the April 2005 issue).

Should our civic center sculpture match that of Beverly Hills? We don't have a lot in common with Beverly Hills, which is a high-style, money-driven and manicured sort of place. What makes Venice special is its diverse community. The environment here is a little rough around the edges, but there is a large concentration of writers, poets and visual artists; people who, in the words of Jimi Hendrix, "let the freak flag fly" live next door to preachers and teachers, musicians and skateboarders. Our community could not be more different than Beverly Hills and we deserve unique art!

Secondly, art for locations with civic importance is traditionally chosen by one of two methods. Either an open call for entries, or by the invitation of a small group of artists (the artists

monument, and as such, make a statement to the world about our community.

The Graham "Torso" is foremostly inappropriate as a civic monument for this location by its similarity to the 2003 "Torso" commissioned by the Rodeo Drive Committee for Beverly Hills (located in a median at the intersection of

selected by a committee such as the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department) to submit designs for the project.

Some residents are unhappy that the community was not given any other options or choices for this important location. Local artists are required to notify all residents within a two-mile radius for their own proposed mural projects even on a minor street. They resent the way the "Torso" project, by its designation as "a minor street or sidewalk alteration," was able to fraudulently avoid many of the usual bureaucratic requirements, and was made exempt from the

*The role of the artist in society today is "always the same thing. To be able to make something that enriches peoples lives."*  
—Robert Graham

provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

For example, the public hearing notices for the "Torso" were required to be given only to residents and business owners within 100 feet of the project!

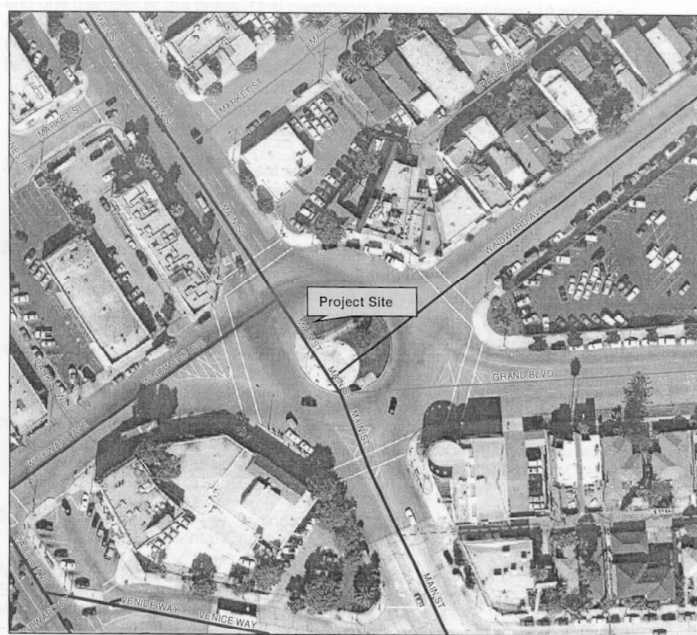
Thirdly, art related to Venice's rich civic and cultural history would be more appropriate for the Venice Windward Traffic Circle Island; and/or a fountain that would bring movement and music by its falling water to a location where the entire area was originally a canal.

Lastly, the "Torso" is a representation that is insensitive to the dignity of women. Its placement would be one block from the Venice Foursquare Church where Pastor Regina Weller holds meetings for battered women and former prostitutes. And seven local churches use the Venice Traffic Circle Island on International Prayer Day to gather together and pray. The "Torso" in this location is a choice of art that is insensitive to our community.

The "Torso" has divided our community. It is too bad that Robert Graham, who could possibly be the best artist in our community to create a sculpture that would reflect upon and celebrate Venice in its centennial year, has instead chosen to place yet another "Torso", a recurring theme that expresses his ego and ensures his legacy, in a location that would be visible to himself when he steps out the door of his fortress-like home on Windward Avenue. If only he would make good on his assertion to Venice Magazine in the May 2005 issue, where he was asked, "What is the role of the artist in society today?" He answered, "Always the same thing. To be able to make something that enriches peoples lives."

Please join Venice residents who believe that it is not wrong to "look a gift horse in the mouth," and would like the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department to go about selecting art for the Venice Windward Circle with more community involvement and include an open call or at least have other options for this historically important civic location in the heart of Venice. Please contact the Coastal Commission (200 Ocean Gate - 10th floor, Long Beach 90802 • 562-590-5071 • Fax: 562-590-5084) if you would like to file an appeal to the "Torso" permit. The deadline for an appeal is June 22 (Permit # 562).

Lisa Ezell is a Venice resident and says she has several nudes in her art collection.



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By Brittany Oates

ALL THE SIRENS IN THE STREET  
 ARE SO PLEASANT TO ME  
 THEY UNCOVER THE DARKNESS SO DEEP THAT RESIDES WITHIN ME  
 AND TO THINK ALL THOSE THAT LIVED AND DIED ON THESE STREETS  
 CAME WITH JOY AND LEFT WITH PAIN  
 JUST LIKE ME  
 CRIPS AT THE BEACH, BLOODS IN THE WOOD  
 HATED RACES AND CULTURES SO MISUNDERSTOOD  
 SMILES ON THE OUTSIDE WHEN BENEATH SO MUCH PAIN  
 PRETENDING THERE IS SUNSHINE IN THE MIDST OF SO MUCH RAIN  
 CHEERS IN THE STREET OF FALSE PROPHECIES  
 EVERY ONE LOOKING FOR THEMSELVES  
 WHAT TO DO, WHO TO BE,  
 BUT UNSATISFIED IS WHAT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE  
 FANTASIES LEFT UNFULFILLED  
 PEOPLE NO LONGER STRONG WILLED  
 THEY GET CHILLS WHEN FACED WITH REALITY  
 TRUTH IS THEIR FATALITY  
 HONESTY, THEIR CALAMITY  
 IT'S SAD TO SEE EVERY ONE AS DEATH SURROUNDING ME  
 AND WHEN IT SEEMS AS THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE  
 I BEGIN TO SEE MYSELF IN THE BACK OF A HEARSE  
 MAYBE I'M A CURSE, MAYBE I SHOULD FLEE  
 THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN SEE THE THINGS THAT I SEE  
 SO MUCH FALSEHOOD IN THE PEOPLE I MEET  
 SO MUCH POISON IN THE FOOD THAT I EAT  
 SO MANY SMILES WITHIN SO MANY TEARS  
 SO MUCH ANGER, SO MUCH FEAR  
 SO MUCH LOVE LOST, SO MUCH HATE GAINED  
 FELLS LIKE THE WORLD IS TRYING TO DRIVE ME INSANE  
 OR IS IT JUST THIS CITY FULL OF PROMISES SO EMPTY  
 SO LITTLE GOOD TO HELP ME, SO MUCH EVIL TO TEMPT ME  
 A CITY OF ANGELS IS WHAT THEY CLAIM TO BE  
 BUT A DESERT OF DEMONS IS ALL I SEE  
 LOS ANGELES, WHAT IS IT TO ME  
 A PLACE OF SEX, MONEY, DRUGS, AND DECEIT  
 AND TO THINK OF ALL THE HOPE FLOATING IN THIS CITY  
 ALL I CAN DO IS HANG MY HEAD IN PITY  
 LOS ANGELES, WHAT A SAD SAD CITY  
 LOS ANGELES, WHAT A SAD SAD CITY

**The Process**

By Joanna Silva

So many fists - punching  
 mine - swinging  
 breaking through glass  
 windows - or through my skull?  
  
 So many screams - voices  
 words - naming -  
 only in my own mind - or can you hear?  
 My angry acts - artful voice  
 my desire - outbursts  
 slamming but never  
 shattering the glass  
 the crash stops  
 in my head - or do you see?

**P O E T R Y**

**Venice Beach**

by Gerard Kuc

**Walking in the shadow of the Lizard King  
 can make one's life a nefarious thing  
 but that the day destroys the shadow  
 is no truer here than at Venice Beach  
 where the sun shines through tomorrow  
 color and beauty are within reach**

**Ocean Front is where the actions at  
 during the stroll, gulls spy overhead  
 along the sidewalk the vendors sat  
 artists continue being fed**

**Bicycles breeze as panhandlers sweat  
 What's this? A roller-girl I bet  
 in perfect form, a sight to see  
 to wander my mind from chastity**

**Lunch at the kitchen of Mao  
 the waitress more edible than the dish  
 clothes barely cover her tattoos-wow  
 violet hair, skull-studded belt-  
 Mine! (I wish.)**

**A walk through inland canals  
 the mallards quack me goodbye  
 so long Venice Beach  
 one last coffee, and look, I sigh**

**HEY! dig this hip cat...**

Know ye not that ye are gods, was told to  
 you  
 by someone who knew  
 That ye are gods is geneologically true  
 Never mind being egotistically superior  
 with  
 the red, white and blue  
 and forget about getting illusory rich  
 by finding someone to marry -- or sue  
 It's really very simple; you are what you do  
 If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall  
 be full  
 of light  
 God is light -- How's that for a clue  
 Those who love unconditionally, these are  
 your  
 mystical minority, the fulfilled few  
 Happiness sharing, joyously creating, ecstat-  
 ically  
 mating -- is the Cosmic Glue

- Swami X



On June 18, 1873, Suffragist Susan B. Anthony cast a vote. Subsequently Susan B was arrested. She was fined \$100. She never paid the fine and never lived to see women finally get the vote in 1920.

Remember ladies, the vote wasn't handed to us, our foremothers fought, and fought hard, to get it.  
 Susan B. Rocked the Vote!

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# Book Report: Ghost Town, written by Pat Hartman

By Jaime Forjador

Teacher told us kids that we each had to read a book about Venice and write a two-page report about it to be read aloud in class!

I chose Ghost Town, because I thought it would be scary. Well, it was scary all right, but not because of any ghosts ('cept one).

My Mama told me that some people used to call Oakwood Ghost Town because they didn't like Black people. But Ms. Hartman says there are other reasons that some people called it Ghost Town. I only know that Mama would get really mad at me if I called it that.

Anyway, Ms. Hartman, a white lady, lived in Oakwood from 1978 to 1984. I liked reading about it because that's when my Mama and Papa, and Uncle Billy, were little kids and lived here. They liked her book and they would read it at night after I went to bed. Sometimes I would hear them laughing about something the book made them remember. Mama said it was pretty realistic.

Well, you may wonder how a white lady can write a book about Oakwood. My Uncle Billy says there weren't any white people in Oakwood back then. But he must not have known Ms. Hartman or some of her neighbors. Besides, it turns out that she had a daughter, Carla, who was not only half-Black, but liked to hang out with Cholos. Carla was deaf and her mother worried about her a lot. I think Carla had more fun going to the beach and parties and living in Oakwood than her Mama did.

Ms. Hartman worked a lot. She had at least two jobs at a time but she doesn't talk about them much. Ghost Town is all about her neighborhood in Venice. She also had a Beachhead route and helped out with art shows and stuff. Mama says what's different about us Venetians is that we work so we can live while other folk live so they can work. I think what she means is that we like to stay in Venice and play with our friends.

Ghost Town is really a book for adults cause it's got stuff about drugs and crime and bad people. But Mama says I need to know about all that before I grow up. Ms. Hartman tells about some people she knew who got really messed up on hard drugs. She wanted Carla to see that

so she wouldn't try any.

She also talked about the Crips and the V13 gangs. Some of their members were nice and some were mean. Uncle Billy knows all about them but when I ask him to tell me, he says, "Mijo, you're too young for that."

According to Ms. Hartman, nearly everyone in Oakwood back then was really poor. People were always getting robbed or their apartments broken into. The only rich people were the Landladies, and they always wanted more money.

People moved around a lot too. Mama says now days we can't move because the rents are too high if you haven't lived in the same place for a long time. That's ok with me because all my friends live here.

Ms. Hartman never says exactly where she lived in Oakwood, but I know where it was. We pass by her old place when we go to the bread store on Rose. She gives some clues in the book, like the big house that used to be a store and the two alleys behind their place that go in different directions. See if you can figure it out when you read her book.

This is the longest book I have ever read. It's 542 pages! But Ms. Hartman broke it up like a journal with short stories of what happened from one day to the next, to make it easier to read. She is a really good writer. Sometimes I forgot I was reading a book and felt like I was there. Of course, if some of the people in the book, like the Houston kids, Rev. Ross or El Sordo (I don't think those are their real names) wrote a book of their own I bet it would be lots different.



Even so, Ms. Hartman tries to look at everything through other people's eyes as well as her own. But Uncle Billy says you can't really get inside someone else's head. You can't know what it's like to be homeless or what it's like to be in prison if you haven't been there. He should know!

Ms. Hartman wrote another book about Venice titled Call Someplace Paradise. While Ghost Town is all about Oakwood, her other book is all about the rest of Venice, way back when (1978-84). I want to read it too. I hope my Mama will buy it during summer vacation. She said she thinks they have it at Small World Books. If not, Ms. Hartman, has a website, [www.virtualvenice.info](http://www.virtualvenice.info), where you can get it.

Ms. Hartman inspired me to keep my own journal of what's happening from day to day. In a few years I'll have a book about Venice in the 21st Century!

I would recommend Ghost Town to everyone who wants to read a good book about our town. Not only did I learn a lot about Venice, especially Oakwood, but I learned a lot about people. What more can you want from a book?

The End

## Harassment of Venetians – continued from page two

hope that the new rich, affluent residents be transformed, much like the Earthlings in one Ray Bradbury story, who move to Mars and are constantly asking each other: "I wonder what the Martians looked like..." By the end of the first year of colonization, they had turned into Martians. Their skins were golden, they laid in the sun a lot, basking, their eyes were truly reptilian, able to withstand desert conditions...in much the same way, I hope the new young Venetians will be transformed into retro-Hippies or Beats, and find their souls hiding beneath the carefully frozen facial expression as they hold it in check, as they pass an older, wiser, Hippie-type (like myself, old, tired, wandering, Hippie..."what a long strange trip it's been...").

My landlady came here in the 50's, from Arkansas and bought property that was dirt cheap. She bought her lot for \$10,000. She tore down one existing house and built the house we're living in now. She told me no one wanted to live in Venice then; they had all these oil wells out here and so the oceanfront smelled of oil and rotting fish.

I came out here in 1971 and it was a Hippie dream. I was 20 years old and drove out here in a taxi-cab from Richmond, Virginia, where I was doing time at Virginia Commonwealth University. Promptly enrolled in the University of Venice and have learned a lot since then...the wheel fell off in Venice and we were stuck in Venice. We walked on the boardwalk for the first time and were hooked - sky-blue-pink skies, beautiful people drifting around, seagulls flying, ocean breezes...and it was December! In those days, if you were homeless, you could camp out in the canals. But rent was so cheap and plentiful that few people were actually homeless.

You would wake up in the fog to the sleepy quacking of the ducks in the canals. this is a magical land of hummingbirds, ducks, seagulls, dolphins and whales and lovely, sensitive, artistic and creative men

and women and children. We're living in paradise, brothers and sisters, and we all know it...when I got here, you could walk on the beach and see lots of starfish, tons of beautiful shells, jellyfish, squid and fish. Then the water got more polluted and the sea life disappeared from our beautiful beach.

We live a charmed life here: charming tiny town filled with humor, tolerance, just plain funniness. It was as if I had joined the circus...all kinds of freaks, musicians, entertainers, cross-dressers, transvestites, gays, lesbians, old Jewish folk on Ocean Front walk and the beautiful Black and Latino population in Oakwood, and all their families. People were friendly then and had concern for each other. We, in Oakwood, lived through the gang war in '92-'94 and we all have our memories of what happened. A lot of horrible pain and suffering, friends and families were murdered, and where was the LAPD then, while civilians of Venice were caught in the crossfire of gang gunfire? Where were they? No where near the violence until long after it was over. Since the rich Yuppies moved in, the LAPD response time has tightened up considerably.

Why does the LAPD and the City Council target homeless people and people living in their cars? Why do they harass and mistreat poor defenseless people living in their cars because they don't have enough money to pay these outrageous and criminal rents that are happening now?

People of Venice who make their living through their artistic abilities, either in art, arts and crafts, or music, or entertaining, should have that basic human right!!!, the right to plop your ass down where you feel more comfortable, to sing with our friends in the sparking sun...taking a break from the responsibilities of adulthood and learning to relax and enjoy the basic elements:

AIR, WATER, BREATH AND SOUND SUN-SHINE, COLD OCEAN BREEZES THE KISS OF THE

WAVES UPON THE BEACH, BIRDS CRYING... CHILDREN PLAYING PEOPLE SINGING SONGS AND LAUGHING- ENJOYING THEIR LIVES...

How did this happen? Is that man over there happy and having a good time? Does he have a PERMIT to stand in that particular part of the boardwalk - QUICK, run over there and see if he has a PERMIT to be laughing and to be so damned happy - is this were we are now? We are actually going to let LA City Council decide basic "standing in the sun" policy?

IF someone wants to help feed the homeless in Venice - could you leave them alone, if you're not going to help them?

These people who call themselves Christians and they decide to go over to another country and bomb civilians and children - "collateral damage" - it doesn't quite seem the definition of Christianity, does it? W.W.J.D.? Would he have a PERMIT to be happy and play music in the sun?

Anyway, maybe, after a while, they'll forget about us again and stop enforcing these pitiful laws. Vending can be a very educational day: you talk with a lot of people from a lot of different countries.

I've gone out there with my best friend, Patty - a.k.a. Patty-Watty, Patty Watkins, Patty-Melt, Patty-Pastel, Miss LA-LA herself, our own personal love goddess...sold her pottery and it was really fun, meeting all these people from Europe and their reaction to Venice.

Most everyone who comes here loves it. But LAPD is consistently brutal in their approach to the homeless people, mentally ill, alcoholics and people living in their vehicles, because they still want to live in Venice, because it is HOME-sky-blue-pink: Uncle Wiggly's definition of a color to paint the sky...that's what God gives to us almost every night, at Sunset time... PEACEOUT - ONE LOVE NAMASTE!

Mary Getlein

## Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

610 California Ave. 821-6030 - www.grvnc.org

◆ Thursday, June 2 - 6:30 - 9:30PM - Meeting put on by DONE to plan a GRVNC election - at Westminster School Auditorium, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

◆ Tuesday, June 7 - 6:30PM - Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) - Discussion regarding the progress of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council election community meetings (Item #6). at L.A. City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. Rm. 1010.

## COMMUNITY

◆ **Food Distribution**- hosted by the Mildred Crush Foundation, the Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr., & the Oakwood Senior Club. Distribution on 2nd & 4th Thursday the month - June 9 & 23 between 12:30-1:30PM. More info call 305.1865 Vera Davis Ctr. 610 California Ave.

◆ **CES - L HEAP Program:** The Low Income Energy Assistance Program is a non-profit program that assists low income individuals & families w/ their utility bills. The first Thursday of each month @ Vera Davis Ctr. 10am-3:30pm for Venice & Santa Monica residents only. More info 818.891.4148

◆ **Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles:** 1640 5th St. 899.6200// Must be income eligible - Santa Monica Offices offer assistance in these areas of law-Family Law; Government benefits; Debt & Consumer Issues; & Landlord & Tenant Issues. open Mon.- Fri. 9AM-12PM & 1-5PM. // **Domestic Violence Clinic:** assistance available @ Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St. Rm 121// Clients welcome on a walk in basis- Clinic hours: 8:30PM-11AM Mon.-Fri.

◆ **Mildred Crush Foundation:** offers The Companion Youth Learning Project. Math & Computer Mentoring Program, Homework Time, Field Trips, Social Activities & much more. Tues., Wed., & Thurs., @ Vera Davis Ctr. 3-5PM Children ages 5-15 yrs. Call Antoinette Reynolds, Coordinator - healedbyhisstripes@yahoo.com or 822.6717. Please call or e mail, commit to volunteering-make a difference, tutors are needed!

◆ **UCLA West Youth Network: Looking for your first job?** Services are free Assistance with: employment: skills to get & keep your job; career exploration & guidance; occupational skills training; tutoring & computer training; college preparation; leadership development; counseling & mentoring; and- alternative high school services! WOW! Do you qualify? Must be 18-21 yrs old; must be a resident of the City of L.A.; must be income eligible. More info- 206.4324

## Hearings

**JUNE 9 - 10:30AM Thursday**  
WLA Muni Bldg., 2nd fl, 1645 Corinth Ave - Applicant M. Trumpower, 796 Main St, (Burk's Place) continued sale/beer/wine on-site consumption and more.

**JUNE 15 - Wednesday**  
200 N. Spring St, Rm 1020 (L.A. City Hall),

**1 PM** - Condo conversion, Coastal Dev. Perm, Mello Act Comp. at **200 Pacific Ave & 102 Ozone Ave.**

**1:40 PM** - **2337 Abbot Kinney Blvd**, zoning appeal, small lot/townhouse dev. Coastal dev. perm, Specific Plan Permit adj.

**2 PM** - **5101 Ocean Front Walk** - zoning appeal, condo conversion, Env. clearance, Coastal dev. permit.

**2:20 PM** - **43 Ozone Ave**, Zoning appeal, small lot/townhouse subdiv and more, Coastal permit, Spec. Plan. Permit.

**JUNE 23 - Thursday** - WLA Muni Bldg., 2nd fl, 1645 Corinth Ave

**10 AM** - Applicant: J.R. Caleca, **1006 Pacific Ave.** - zoning adjust, 9-ft fence and more.

**10:30 AM** - App: R. & S.M. Binder, **418 Rialto Ave**, Zoning adjust, reduced side yard, 6-ft fence and more.

## Comm-unity Events



### Sex on the Beach

The Grunion are running this month. The starting times are listed below. They run for approximately two hours.

June 8 - 10:25 PM

June 9 - 11:00 PM

June 10 - 11:40 PM

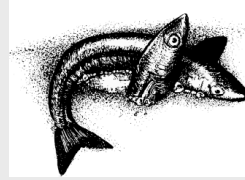
June 11 - 12:20 AM

June 23 - 10:40 PM

June 24 - 11:35 PM

June 25 - 12:30 AM

June 26 - 1:35 AM



The Grunion have their own website at <www.grunion.org>.

## ART

- ◆ **Attaway Studio:** 334 Sunset Ave. 339.4730
- ◆ **Culture Shop Gallery** 1221 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Presents jewelry designs by Thomas Mann Sat., May 7 1-5 PM 452.8121
- ◆ **Evolve Studio Gallery:** 219 Rose Ave. 314.3344
- ◆ **La Louver:** 45 Venice Bl.
- ◆ **Off-Rose:** 841 Flower Ave. 664.8977
- ◆ **SPARC Gallery** - 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560
- ◆ **SPONTO Gallery** @ 7 Dudley Ave. 399-2078.
- ◆ **Ten Women Venice** 1237 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
- ◆ **Universal Art Gallery** 2001 Lincoln Blvd. (Corner Amoroso Pl./two blocks north of Venice Blvd.) 302.8909
- ◆ **Venice Arts in Neighborhoods:** Classes for children. Call for new schedule, 578.1745 or www.venice-arts.org
- ◆ **Venice Arts Gallery** 1809 Lincoln Blvd. 578-1525
- ◆ **Venice Arts Centennial Committee:** Artists, Dancers, Musicians, Poets & Performers come anlend your talents to celebrate Contact Emily Winters 306.7372 emily-winters@earthlink.net

## Seniors

- ◆ **Senior Hot Lunches** offered @ these locations:  
Oakwood Park Mon. thru Fri. 11:AM to 1PM 452-7479  
Penmar Park Mon. thru Fri. 11AM to 1PM 396.9055  
Westminster Senior Park Mon.-Wed-Fri only 11AM - noon
- ◆ **Israel Levin Adult Senior Center** 201 OFW, 396-0205. -Movie matinee, 1 pm, Mondays - Line dancing, 11 am, Tuesday - Israeli dance, 10 am, Wednesday - Current events discussion, 11 am, Wednesday - Weight management workshop, 1pm, Thursday, 6 weeks for \$20.
- ◆ **Oakwood Park** offers - Exercise classes Tues. 10-11AM - Computer Classes Mon. 9:30-10:30AM - Bingo! Fri. 12:30-1:30PM

## THEATRE

**Inside/Out - Free Neighborhood Arts Program - Ages 11-14** - 397-8820 Theatre Arts based program, Tues.-Thurs., some Sats, July 12-Aug 23 (Employment offered - Youth Arts Leader - 11-12 graders)

- ◆ **BEYOND BAROQUE** - 681 Venice Blvd. Call for info -822.3006// BeyondBaroque@aol.com
- ◆ **Electric Lodge** 1416 Electric Ave. 823-0710
- ◆ **Insideout-** Call to sign up your middle school student for the next FREE session- Tues., & Thurs. classes from 3:30-5:30 PM & most Saturdays
- ◆ **Pacific Resident Theater** 703 Venice Blvd. 301-3971 - *Happy End* extended through June 12 - *When they speak of Rita* thru Aug. 7.

## Film/Video

- ◆ **7 Dudley Cinema:** film viewing at Sponto Gallery: //Location is 7 Dudley Ave. 306-7330.  
- June 15 - *Los Angeles Now* and *The Savage Eye* plus Poet Michael C. Ford  
- June 16 - Celebrate 101st anniversary of Bloomsday with adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

## Poetry-Readings

◆ **Abbot's Habit** 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 399-1171 8pm Wednesdays. Open mic opportunities offer spoken word, storytelling, & poetry.

◆ **Beyond Baroque** 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006 www.beyondbaroque.org

◆ **Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library-** 501 Venice Blvd. 821-2065 First & Third Mondays: Preschool Storytime, ages 3-5 yrs., 7:PM, Free. First Monday 6PM: Marshall McLuhan-FinnegansWake Reading Club; Saturdays @ Noon: Poets reading their works; Second Saturday 1PM Westside Writers' group discussion; free. 821-1769 for info.

## MUSIC

◆ **Abbot's Habit - Next/What** - Every Friday evening, 7 - 11PM - A singer/songwriter showcase - 1401 AKB - dacels@hotmail.com

◆ **LaCabana** 738 Rose Ave. 392-6161 Mariachis- 6:30-10:30pm Thurs., Fri. & Sun.

◆ **Casablanca** 220 Lincoln Blvd. 392-5751 Guitarists Mon.-Sat.

◆ **Foundation Gallery** 1720 Main St. Venice- *Mystic Movement*, live Middle Eastern music & dance - 8PM, every third Thursday of the month- \$10 cover 827.1523

◆ **Hal's Bar & Grill** 1349 Abbot Kinney 396-3105 All ages free! Sunday & Monday JAZZ!

◆ **Sidewalk Cafe** 1401 Ocean Front Walk 399-5547 Acoustic music Wednesday- Friday /karaoke on Sundays

◆ **Venice Bistro** 323 Ocean Front Walk

◆ **Yoruba House presents SOUL OF THE DRUM** - Every 4th Sunday Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street, O.P. - Drum class: 6:15-7:30PM - Circle 7:30-10PM Both for \$20 475-4440 - yorubahouse@verizon.net

**MOZAIC - Art Music Poetry** - Next to last Thursday every month 7-12 pm - Mozaic@lpbn.org - 795-0953 "GROW YOUR SOUL WITH MOZAIC" - Open mike sign up 7-7:30 pm

## POLITICAL

◆ **Film: REDEMPTION about Crips co-founder Stanley "Tookie" Williams** -

7:30PM, June 3 - FREE - at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., L.A. - Sponsors: Venice2000 and others. For info 310/260-8514

◆ **Protest Schwarzenegger at SMC** - 5PM, Tuesday, June 14 - Corner of Pico and 17th St., Santa Monica. Protest his attacks on education funding, teachers' wages, pensions and jobs.

◆ **Did George W. Bush Steal America's 2004 Election?** - June 19 - Venice United Methodist Church, 1020 Victoria Ave. \$10 donation. 390-8141

The University of Venice



The University of Venice is a free institution devoted to community development. contact 391-2314 or <uov@freevenice.org>.

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are at the United Methodist Church/Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

### SCHEDULE OF CLASSES/EVENTS:

◆ Sunday June 26 - 7-9PM - **Venice Rendezvous**, a performing Arts salute to the Venice Centennial - contact Eric Vollmer - voiceinthewell@hotmail.com

◆ Every Tuesday at 4:30 PM - **Toddlers Group** - at the Head Start Center - Bring your parent!

◆ Sunday, May 29 - 4:30 PM - **University of Venice planning meeting** - bring your ideas for a class - help UofV grow!



The parade route is as follows:

Assemble at 11 am, July 4th in front of Venice City Hall (Beyond Baroque), 681 Venice Blvd.

From there, we'll march, walk, skip or dance to Abbot Kinney Blvd., ending up at the Venice Circle - our Town Square.

There will be an open-mic session where everyone can describe their vision for the circle - statues, fountains, lagoons, etc. We can reminisce about the past 100 years and talk about our dreams for the next 100.

Come one, come all. Form your own group and parade with us!, i.e., the Anti-gentrifiers Squad, The Canine Collective, etc. For more information, call 310-396-0811 or [parade@freevenice.org](mailto:parade@freevenice.org).

### MOON OVER VENICE

By David Scott (1973)

Ain't got a nickel or a dime  
 Ain't got a watch to tell the time  
 Ain't got no job  
 Ain't got a prospect in sight  
 But I'm not feeling low  
 I've got no place to go  
 But there's a Moon Over Venice tonight

Ain't got no friends in city hall  
 Ain't got nobody I can call  
 Ain't got nobody who I helped  
 when times were tight  
 But I've no need to fear  
 I know the coast is clear  
 Cause there's a Moon Over Venice tonight.

I've got my eyes - to watch her shining  
 I've got my ears to hear the ocean roar  
 And there's a big bed of sand for reclining  
 Who could call for anything more?



## Venice People's Centennial July Celebrations at SPARC

For three months, starting in July, there will be multi-media art exhibits and performances to celebrate the 100th birthday of this extraordinary community of Venice. These events will be held at SPARC, 685 N. Venice Blvd. sponsored by the Venice Arts Council, the Venice Arts Collective, and SPARC.

July 2 - 26 - "Venice Artists About Venice" an exhibition of multi-media art work by Venice artists about their experiences living here in this extraordinary community. Curated by Emily Winters, Venice Arts Council; Chair and Janet Gervers, Venice Arts Collective Founder and President; and SPARC. There will be related events of music, video and performances to be announced.  
 Reception: 6 - 9 PM, July 9.

For more information: 822-9560 SPARC or [francisco@sparcmurals.org](mailto:francisco@sparcmurals.org) - 306-7372 Emily or [emilywinters@earthlink.net](mailto:emilywinters@earthlink.net) or [www.veniceartscouncil.org](http://www.veniceartscouncil.org).

## Venice People's Centennial August Celebrations at SPARC

Co-sponsored by The Venice Arts Council  
[www.veniceartscouncil.org](http://www.veniceartscouncil.org) and SPARC [www.sparcmurals.org](http://www.sparcmurals.org)  
 Produced by Suzanne Thompson

*Divas of Venice* is a month long series of multi-cultural; inter disciplinary events including an art installation, music, poetry, readings, progressive wear fashion show and films at SPARC.

Fri., Aug. 5 - 7 pm - Presentations by founding members of SPARC, muralist/visual artist, Professor, Que Viva Diva Judith F. Baca and filmmaker Diva Donna Deitch.

Sat., Aug. 6 - 7 pm - Poetry Diva Linda J. Albertano performs with original members of Nearly Fatal Women.

Sat., Aug. 13 - 7 pm - Music by Mamma Africa Diva Bridget Graham and members of Adaawe.

Sat., Aug. 20 - 7 pm - Writer/Journalist Divas Maureen Cotter and one of the first collective members on The Free Venice Beachhead, Carol Fondiller read original work.

Fri., Aug. 26 - 7 pm - L.A.'s Diva deluxe, Suzy Williams accompanied by avant-garde accordionist Nick Ariondo bridge the gap between torch and art songs.

Sat., Aug. 27 - 7 pm A founding members of CODEPINK, Political Diva Jodie Evans, along with special guests, appears in pink slips at the Progressive wear fashion show.