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FREE VENICE
SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



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September
2010
#347

We Are Venice... Who Are You?

By Ian Dean

We have a question to all the newcomers to this town. Who are you?

We see what you do, how much money you make, how much power you have... but we still don't know who you are.

Maybe it's time for you to know who WE are.

We are Venice.

We are the artists and the musicians, we are the homeless and the performers, we are the lost and the forgotten.

We are the children of the servants when Abbot Kinney won this land in a bet.

We are the brothers and sisters of the gangs.

We are the no good kids who revolutionized skateboarding and turned it in to a multi-billion dollar sport when it was viewed as nothing but a novelty toy.

We are the citizens who made a home in a town that was usurped by Los Angeles and then left to rot.

We are the graffiti writers and surfers who made our home on what used to be the POP.

We are the ones who took the worst of what we were given and made this forgotten ram-



Venice Sunset - photo by Jim Smith

shackle of a once proud city a place that was ours and no outsider wanted to be because we were "of color" or because we were losers with no incentive to better ourselves.

We are the ones who embraced all who dared to be different or were down on their luck.

We are the ones who called this place home even when Los Angeles wanted nothing but our oil.

WE are Venice.

WE stayed here when no one else wanted to walk even close to Ghost Town. WE never complained about property values being affected by the homeless.

WE never bitched about kids running amok and doing the stupid things that all teenagers do.

We never bought up giant parcels of land, kicked out families who had been here for years to build a condo or a 5-star restaurant so that money could be made by the very fact that this was Venice... a fact that WE created.

You moved here because of the aura, you moved here because of how happy we were, you moved here to be a part of something yet, little by little, all you do is destroy it.

You want the cool points of living on the beach or by it, where Jim Morrison came to play, where the Dogtown kids were inventive enough to turn decaying asphalt of our broken and run down environment and turn it in to an empire on various levels.

We are Venice. Who are you?



This is Festival Month in Venice

Don't even think about missing the fun. Two of the best, and longest running outdoor events take place in September: Jazz at Palms Court/Venice Music Festival (see page 7) and the Abbot Kinney Festival (see back page).

Sunday, Sept. 19, is the 18th annual benefit fundraiser for the Venice Community Housing Corporation. Two events take place: Jazz at Palms Court Campaign Brunch is from 11am - 2pm and costs \$125. (it's a fundraiser). For the rest of us, there's the Venice Music Festival from 2 - 6pm. It's only \$10. This year, Luminaries, The 44's and Allensworth will perform. This is mostly an event for Venice locals.

Everyone comes to the Abbot Kinney Festival, a week later on **Sunday, Sept. 26** from 10am - 6 pm. Don't let the crowds deter you. Lots of Venice community organizations (including the Beachhead) will be there, as well as genuine handmade arts and crafts. There's music and stuff for the kids. ☺

FIRST FRIDAY, FOR WHO?

By CJ Gronner

'On my last First Friday I realized this: There are way too many food trucks, they are so marginally talented and they need to drive to Bakersfield and stay there. And also, people of Brentwood, Santa Monica and the Palisades, PLEASE NOTE: you are not cool for just coming to Venice one Friday of the month. Love & Hugs as always...'

So read the Facebook status of one of my Venice pals the day after last month's First Friday. Yep, I think it's time for we citizens of Venice to have another little Pow Wow about it all. What started out as a thing to help out Abbot

Kinney merchants at a slow-ish time, and have a cool hang for the locals to mingle and enjoy each other as they strolled along the Boulevard, has now become a bit of a monster that no locals seem to want to participate in.

August's First Friday was a madhouse. I helped out at my friend's store (Firefly) that night, so I was really immersed in it this time, rather than looking down upon it all from another friend's balcony, which has been the norm recently. The entire part of the evening that we stayed open after normal non-First Friday hours, I recognized not one single soul from Venice - and I know a lot of people. Not ONE.

-continued on page 10



Food Trucks at the Brig - photo by CJ Gronner

**CASUALTIES
IN AFGHANISTAN:
1,269 U.S. Dead
54 this month**

**IRAQ:
4,417 U.S. Dead - 4 this month
31,929 U.S. Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 1.4 million
Cost of wars: \$1.2+ trillion**

costofwar.com • antiwar.com • icasualties.org



Beachhead Collective Staff: Karl Abrams, Greta Cobar, Don Geagan, Mary Getlein, C.J. Gronner, Roger Linnett, Lydia Poncé, Amanda Renner, Krista Schwimmer, Jim Smith, Alice Stek

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.

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To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. No payment is made for material used.

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View from the Venice Boardwalk

*Oh, what a lootery for you and me!!!
Get your permit (\$25) and
Your license (a mere \$10 fee)
— AND JUST SHOW UP!!!*

Okay, here's at least part of the lottery scene at the Recreation and Parks office every Tuesday morning at Venice Beach.

First - there are certain spaces that, no matter who is called for what, always seem to have been assigned to the same individual - even when that individual was not called! Divine intervention? Magic? Mysterious forces? You decide.

Second - Amazingly, some individuals have several names, all of which are entered into the lottery by said individual. Two names belonging to a single person had the misfortune to be called within one block of pulled permits in the lottery, revealing the duplication. Sorry, only one allotted space per person per lottery. Where are Recreation and Parks Dept. checks and balances (or checks, at least)?

Well, given that even corporations, aliases, a wife (using both married and maiden names), the kids (any age) and the extended family can enter the lottery, perhaps the people in the office should be cut some slack. You might wonder how many multiple names exist for a single individual that God hasn't yet intervened to blow the permit holder's cover. At least six, according to some sources.

Third - Invariably, there are the complaints from the crowd of permit holders, while the lottery is underway, that go as follows:

- A. a particular individual has not been called for at least two weeks - sometimes even as much as nine weeks - preventing him or her from working.
- B. a permit holder is known by complainant to be a homeless person who never sets up in the allotted space, but sells the space to buy beer.
- C. a permit holder whose name is called in the lottery, but who does not set up and instead, gives/sells the space to someone else.

Fourth: There are the ten "NO VENDING" BLACK SPACES - purportedly unassigned, first come, first served. Vendors regularly claim those black spaces by coming very early in the morning to the beach, often establishing a PERMANENT claim on the space. In which case - and more often than not - getting called in the lottery is a perk.

Additionally, vendors who regularly claim and occupy those black spaces are known to give a space they have won in the lottery to a friend, or let it lie vacant, while they vend from the BLACK SPACE. Alternatively, it appears that they let someone they know, who is in need of a space, use "their" BLACK SPACE, with the understanding that it reverts back to them when they need it at the end of their lottery period.

*Venice Beach Boardwalk Coalition
Administrative Board (VBBC)*

Ocean Front Walk Lottery

Dear Beachhead,
I read Della Franco's letter to the Beachhead (July, 2010) regarding the problems with your Lottery at Venice Beach with more than a little sense of disbelief.

First off, in all my years involved with Lotteries I never heard of someone being able to sell their place in the Lottery, much less someone wanting to buy it.

I'm also confused at allowing multiple family members to participate. That simply goes against all logic.

And from what I gather, the Lottery was established just for local Venice artists and craftspeople, but now outsiders have muscled in where neither do they belong, nor judging from the tone of Ms. Franco's missive, are appreciated.

I believe I have a solution to Ms. Franco's conundrum. The seashore along our New England coast is absolutely littered with the most beautiful smooth rounded stones of all sizes, but, from the pictures I have seen on the web of Venice Beach, you suffer from a terrible dearth of nice, palm-sized and larger stones, so necessary to conducting a satisfying Lottery.

Perhaps you could get those "Recs and Parks" fellows to procure a truckload, or if that's not possible, move your Lottery to a site where suitable projectiles are more abundant.

I do hope this helps you resolve your problem.

Regards, *Shirley Jackson*, Bennington, Vt.

Annexation and Secession Movements 1919 - 1939, Vol. 2 of The History of Venice of America by Historian Arnold Springer is now available for reading on the web at www.venicehistorybook.com

**Major Hoax
Don't Get Fooled Again!**

Dear Beachhead,
The U.S. once again declare a false end to the war in Iraq on August 31 in a fake ceremony in Baghdad.
First of all, this was never a war. This always has been an illegal invasion and occupation of a sovereign country and it was obviously for the monetary benefit of a few, and millions of people, including my family, have suffered because of it.

- The first MAJOR HOAX was that Saddam Hussein's Iraq had WMD and a connection to al Qaeda and if the US didn't invade immediately Iraq would send mushroom clouds, or drones with bio-weapons to the US East Coast--
- the second MAJOR HOAX was that we ended the war on May 1, 2003 when then US president, George Bush, declared an "end to combat operations;"
- the third MAJOR HOAX is that the US ended a horrible dictatorship, only to be replaced with a puppet US regime that almost makes execution a national sport.

Now, with a country in ruins and the US leaving many major construction projects unfinished-we are again perpetrating a MAJOR HOAX, not just on the people of Iraq, but the people of the US.

With 50,000 troops (the 3rd Armored Cavalry is deploying from Ft. Hood, Texas to Iraq as we speak), 18,000 mercenary killers and 82,000 support contractors (staffing an Imperial Embassy the size of 80 football fields), the illegal and immoral US occupation of Iraq is far from over.

As Ret. Lt. General James Dubik said recently: "It is in our (US) interest to have an Iraq that is friendly to the US." What he means is an Iraq that is friendly to US war profiteers.

I want to say this in the most simple and direct way that I can: "If you believe that the war in Iraq is over, and not merely carnage rebranded, then you are deluding yourself and I hope you wake up to the fact that for generations human beings have been used as pawns for the political elite-and, don't forget, that this is an election year."

I urge all of you to put on your critical-thinking caps and reject this propaganda and reaffirm your commitment to peace above political party.

Cindy Sheehan

Electric Trolley

Dear Beachhead,
Jim Smith's "Getting Around Venice" article in the August issue (#346) makes such very good sense.

The community of Venice would greatly benefit from an electric trolley (shuttle).

The often-congested Abbot Kinney Blvd. corridor would be a likely good starting point in making an impact in reducing the overabundance of automobiles. A covered trolley with tiered fares for natives and tourists would be so very practical and chic at the same time. The electric trolley could be a boon to the merchants and aid the community member trying to get from point "A" to point "B" without spending too much time in traffic.

I have had some good fortune in writing grants and developing ideas (many years ago) and would be most pleased to hear from community members that would like to kick this idea around.

Peace, *Robin Dayno*

**Community Meeting
to commemorate
the forced removal
of Japanese-Americans
in Venice to WW2
Concentration Camps**



corner of Venice and Lincoln, April 1942

- Meet internees
- Help decide on a marker or monument
- Get involved

FREE

2 - 5 pm, Saturday, Sept. 11
Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
12371 Braddock Drive (at Centinella)

This will be a reminder so that we never let it happen again.

The Real Stink about Dumping

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Recently, right-wing radio, along with some mainstream media, have been having a field day regarding alleged RV dumping of black water in Venice. With all the propaganda surrounding this, I cannot understand how over 100 gallons of sewage could come out of a holding tank that most likely has somewhere between a 25 and 40 gallon capacity. And the Venice Neighborhood Watch character, whose credibility has been questioned by community members, was the person who fingered the alleged dumper.

Still, Councilman Bill Rosendahl is calling for an agency "working group" in order to better respond to public health hazards. Here are some of our most critical public health hazards they will ignore:

1. The dumping of carbon pollution from petroleum and coal used for energy and transportation – our carbon footprint is something we should all be trying to reduce, but one of the main culprits is our US Military.
2. The dumping of livestock excrement into our waterways by factory farms, often unregulated, pollutes and kills life by spreading the chemicals injected into the animals along with the insecticides used on livestock feed into lakes, streams, rivers that flows into our oceans, and seeps into the ground water,
3. The dumping of methane gas into our atmosphere by these livestock factory farms, which is a significant greenhouse gas linked to global warming. If you purchase and consume factory farmed animal products, you are contributing to these public health hazards – not to mention creating a health hazard for you and your family.

In fact, these few examples of dumping I have cited (and there are more) are well documented public health hazards that many scientists believe will end life as we know it on Planet Earth, especially if they aren't reduced or controlled dramatically, not the people who live in RVs in Venice.

So a little perspective is in order here – along with trying to focus on positive solutions.

The city and the county could provide some free vouchers for RV dumping at Dockweiler State Beach. They could also open the existing public restrooms at nighttime. Along with a few well maintained port-a-potties – we could solve many of the issues related to the normal human functions.

Considering the millions of people who visit Venice, generating millions of dollars of tourist

revenue, it is simply silly that our city councilman has not tried at least these few things prior to calling for a high-faluting working group.

He could also do the humane thing and make sure people living in vehicles had some safe local public parking lots to go to at night before calling for the homeless haters to fill out bogus petitions in order to justify putting in his newly amended oversized vehicle ordinance in Venice.

We absolutely need to consider taking emergency measures pertaining to our homeless population, like providing safe public parking lots, because many people living in vehicles are sick or disabled, and we are in the middle of an economic crisis that does not appear to be resolved any time soon.

Let's not forget that we have the largest Free Clinic in Southern California in Venice.

Unfortunately, our city has mainly chosen law enforcement, incarceration, and the court system as the non-solution-based answer to homelessness. It costs much more to criminalize homeless people than to house them, and our local tax dollars are supporting these heavy expenditures. We tax payers are helping to perpetuate a big, festering, budget boil that has no cure.

It would save money and be much more helpful to those in need if people could get united behind solutions, like building more low income housing or assisted living, rather than hate and fear mongering. And as for

that right-wing radio, I think if you listen to those stations too much your IQ will be decreased – if not eliminated completely.

US Military Dumping of Carbon

In 2006 the Department of Defense was the largest consumer of energy in the world – using 1 quadrillion BTU. A standard military M-1 Abrams tank will only go 20 miles on 100 gallons of fuel. Lets not forget the hazardous public health effects of depleted uranium or all the extremely nasty chemicals, like perchlorate, used for explosives.
–*The Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism* - By Barry Sanders, AK Press

United Nations Declares Sanitation A Basic Human Right

Sanitation and safe and clean drinking water is a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights, the General Assembly declared July 28, voicing deep concern that 2.6 billion people, including the homeless in Venice, do not have access to basic sanitation and almost 900 million people worldwide do not have access to clean water.

The 192-member Assembly also called on United Nations Member States and international organizations to offer funding, technology and other resources to help poorer countries scale up their efforts to provide clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for everyone.

The Assembly resolution received 122 votes in favour and zero votes against, while 41 countries abstained from voting, including the United States.



If you have to stack 'em, you've got too many cars

It all began when Restaurant Developer Fran Camaj, otherwise know as ADC Development of Beverly Hills, applied to the city of Los Angeles for a permit to demolish the existing structures at 1305 Abbot Kinney Blvd. and build a restaurant on the site.

Naturally, the city rubber stamped the application even though it did not have adequate parking. Venice residents appealed to the Coastal Commission which found that substantial issues existed, especially the lack of parking. The Commission staff supported the appeal.

The Developer hired Attorney John Henning who had been, and may still be, the lawyer for Mark Ryavec's Venice Stakeholders Association, which has been leading the effort to bring overnight permit parking to Venice. The Commission voted against it last June.

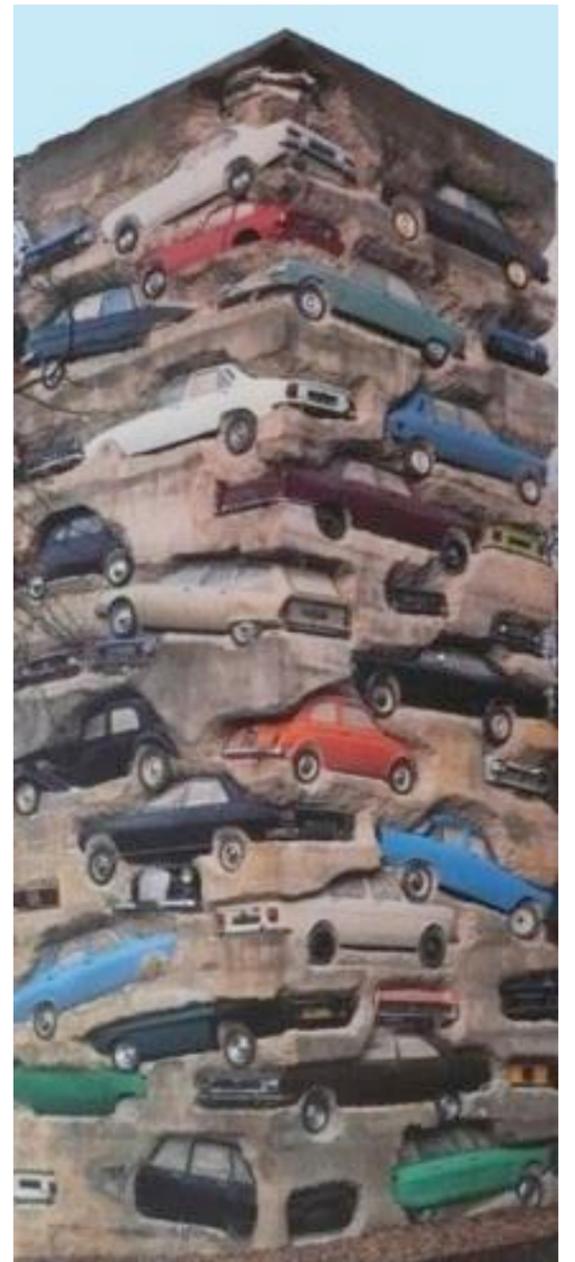
Henning recently argued before the Venice Neighborhood Council that the solution to the lack of parking for the restaurant is to stack the cars 30 feet high in a mechanical contraption (not to be confused with the photo above).

Camaj also owns another restaurant on Abbot Kinney Blvd. at Milwood Avenue, called Gjelina.

Back at 1305 AKB, some of the units are classified as residential, although they haven't been used as such since the boulevard became hip and landlords could charge more renting to businesses. The proposed new building would not be mixed use which would allow replacement of the former residential units.

It took the VNC more than an hour to dispose of the car stacking scheme. But this is likely not the end of the road, so to speak, for this latest gentrification plan.

–Jim Smith



Putting Labor Back in Labor Day

By Roger Linnett

The one thing in this country that we should be talking about but aren't, especially considering it's Labor Day, is jobs. Real jobs, too - not menial part-time jobs or ones that are ego-crushingly below one's qualifications and experience.

The economy seems to be recovering, if you follow the financial news, but there hasn't been a concomitant re-employment of sidelined American workers. The growing realization is that our jobs aren't coming back, and the corporations are just fine with that.

Recently, talking head economists let slip that American industry is sitting on over \$1 trillion in cash, which it is now going to use for mergers and acquisitions, i.e., buying up and consolidating economic holdings and power. We could be in for a whole new wave of job losses.

Remember the good old days after the Reagan tax cuts, when larger corporations were gobbling up smaller ones like M & Ms? Jobs disappeared by the thousands as consolidation was the mantra of the day. What couldn't be consolidated was dismantled and shipped overseas where goods could be produced at a fraction of the cost, mainly labor, than they could in the good ol' U.S. of A. We even gave tax breaks to companies that shipped their plants and our jobs overseas! (Just ask Senatorial Candidate Carly Fiorina about the killing she made with Hewlett-Packard.)

Then, our trade policies were shredded during the Clinton years; remember GATT, NAFTA and the WTO? So that today our tariff rates on imports average around 2 percent, whereas most of the rest of the industrialized world still operates at around 20 percent. Who in their right mind would want to open a factory here that could compete with our overseas rivals given those circumstances? And those jobs that can't be outsourced (a vile term) are, nonetheless, under assault.

A case in point - -

Three hundred five union workers at the Mott's apple processing plant in Williamson, near Rochester, N.Y., voted to strike last May when the plant, owned by beverage conglomerate, the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group (DPS), demanded that the employees take a pay cut averaging about 33 percent.

The reason for the company's action was not economic hardship; in fact, the company is making record profits. The company's position was based on their reckoning that the plant's workers were making about half again as much as the average wages being paid for blue-collar production in the Rochester area. It should be noted, however, that the area's workforce and economy has been suffering from years of layoffs and downsizing led by the industrial mainstays of the area, Xerox and Kodak. DPS maintains that, since the labor market in the area is depressed, they are overpaying their employees.

According to a recent New York Times article, union officials say that 70 percent of the plant's workers earn \$19 or less an hour and that many are highly experienced (some as much as 24 years) and deserve well more than \$14 an hour - the current comparable regional average wage, according to DPS.

The Times article also cited Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department

Why we got a day off

Labor Day was adopted in September of 1894 to try and ameliorate nationwide hostility towards the administration of President Grover Cleveland. Cleveland had ordered U.S. Marshals and 12,000 federal troops into Chicago to break a wildcat strike by 3,000 employees of the Pullman Palace Car Co., maker of the eponymous railroad sleeper cars.

The strike was ignited when, due to a sharp drop in orders for his cars, Pullman cut wages to his workers while demanding the same rents for his worker-occupied, company-owned housing. The strike lasted from mid-May to mid-July. At its peak the strike involved nearly 250,000 workers in 27 states, led by The American Railway Union, the nation's first industry-wide union. During the course of the strike, 13 strikers were killed and 57 were wounded.

Subsequently, Cleveland lost his bid to be renominated by the Democratic Party in 1896 in large part because of his handling of the strike.

George Pullman was so feared and despised by labor elements of the railroad industry that, when he died in 1897, he was buried, at night, in a lead-lined coffin within an elaborately reinforced steel-and-concrete vault to prevent his body being exhumed and desecrated. ☺

Store Union, which represents the Mott's workers as stating, "they said, 'We have no financial need for this, but we just want it anyway because we figure we can get away with it.'"

DPS wanted to cut their wages by about \$3,000 a year, freeze pensions, end pensions for new hires, reduce the company's 401(k) retirement contributions and increase employees' costs for health care bene-

fits. DPS said it was merely seeking to bring its benefits more in line with those of its other plants, the Times reported.

Furthermore, the employees were already incensed that over the previous two years the company cancelled bonuses, the company summer picnic and the annual employee's children's Christmas party, thus priming the workers to overwhelmingly agree on the strike vote. Adding insult to injury, the company posted record profits last year and increased its dividend by 67 percent in May.

DPS's dilemma is that it can't just up and move its plant to China. The apples are here, so they're stuck. The company has hired scabs to keep the plant open as the annual harvest begins. The plant processes about half the apples produced in the region, but many growers in the area are concerned about reports that the plant is only operating at one third its capacity. Despite pressure to settle, the company has refused to resume negotiations. Happy Labor Day, indeed!

Our country has gone from being the greatest creditor nation in the world to being the greatest debtor nation in the world; from being the largest exporter of finished goods to the largest importer of finished goods and from the largest importer of raw materials to the largest exporter of raw materials. We have, in 30 short years, gone from being the greatest industrial power on the globe to a third world nation. Our consumer-driven economy is being strangled because of the

decimation of the working and middle classes.

It is a principle of all economics that demand precedes supply. Thus, it must also be true that, in a consumer-driven economy, the consumers have to have enough money to purchase the products available. Henry Ford knew this; he paid his workers enough to afford to buy the cars they made; a practice which appalled many fellow industry leaders of the day.

So, how do we regain our former, glorious, working man's America? Labor built this country. So labor, the people, must be pre-eminent in the plans.

First, withdraw from the WTO. It's about time we started protecting our own industries and our own jobs again, instead of being a global laughing stock.

Second, roll back the Reagan tax rates to pre-1980 levels, when we taxed anyone who made over \$3 million per year at 74 percent. That will encourage companies to reinvest their profits in their businesses instead of sending them to offshore tax havens, and will bring CEO compensation back to reality.

Third, start enforcing the Sherman Anti-Trust Act again, which, Teddy Roosevelt used to break up the cancerous monopolies of the Robber Baron era. We must deconstruct the mega corporations that control media, energy, food production and virtually own our political process.

Fourth, pass the Employee Free Choice Act. It was the unions that grew the working and middle classes that drove our economy. Union jobs, as a percentage of the total labor market, have decreased from around 25 percent in 1980 to about 7 percent today.

The American labor has been consigned to the scrap heap, and replaced with a cheaper, but just as expendable, version. Our only purpose today is to consume the products being imported from around the world.

It's time for us to climb down off that scrap heap and take back our hard-won standard of living; to reignite the true American Dream, not of unspeakable riches and the dreams of avarice, but the one about owning your own home, providing for a secure retirement, about the freedom from worrying that a devastating illness will wipe out a lifetime's work and of helping your children have a better life than yours. Only then can we once again "celebrate" Labor Day. ☺

John Betz Does Not Like The Beachhead

By Jim Smith

The Venice Tea Party has arrived. If not in name, then in spirit. And in that spirit John Betz, and a few of his friends, are threatening Beachhead advertisers that they will never cross their threshold as long as they advertise in the Beachhead. Curiously, they have extended their boycott to the staid Marina del Rey Argonaut. It is apparently difficult to live up to John's standards.

So what's bugging John Betz? It seems that he thinks we are portraying Venice as a battleground between "liberals and conservative, between tolerant and intolerant, and between pro-gentrification vs. anti-gentrification." Let's hope he never tunes in to KPFF, or even MSNBC.

Who is John Betz? Apparently, he lives in Venice. He has been quoted in the L.A. Weekly denouncing poor people who live in RVs. He seems to have some association with Mark Ryavec's Venice Stakeholders Association, although he doesn't mention it in his emails to Beachhead advertisers.

John does mention YoVenice, a blog site where he apparently suggested the boycott in the first place.

That's not confirmed, since no one who leaves messages on YoVenice has the courage to use his/her actual name. However, someone with the "handle" Johnny said, "The Argonaut and BeachHead are two very powerful sources of misinformation," before urging a boycott and listing the Beachhead's advertisers. He went on to say, "Without advertising, they fold."

Sorry John or Johnny, that's not true. We are mainly supported by the people of Venice who contribute annually so this paper can continue to publish. Good luck with getting them to stop supporting the Beachhead. They don't scare easily. In fact, they are the backbone of our fair city.

Bret (his real name) is the administrator of YoVenice. He has a different opinion, "I don't think The BeachHead or The Argonaut are the issue, and I can't see that boycotting their advertisers would do anything but be a pain." Bret maintains a friendly relationship with Beachhead members, although he hasn't done much to provide adult supervision to the 10 or so grippers who seem to have nothing to do but rag on the Beachhead, the neighborhood council and the less fortunate in Venice.

The First Amendment (freedom of speech and the press) is one thing, says John. The other thing? It seems to be when the First Amendment is used to disagree with John. That, of course, is intolerable, and requires drastic action. The action that John is pursuing seems to be to go after mom and pop local businesses in Venice that want to promote their products and services in the pages of a couple of newspapers.

Is John doing something illegal? Certainly not. The right to boycott is part of the First Amendment. It is protected speech. We all boycott, at least informally, by not patronizing this or that establishment. Sometimes we urge our friends not to go someplace because the food is not that tasty, or overpriced. Unfortunately, John has shifted his wrath at the Beachhead to some local businesses.

John, why not come right out and tell people not to read the Beachhead? A tall order in Venice, admittedly. But you can do it. Or why not write a letter to the Beachhead denouncing our wrong-headed attitudes. We'll print it, so long as it is not racist or sexist. Or if that's not good enough, John, start your own newspaper. It's a lot of hard work, but give it a try. ☺

New Healthcare Law Provisions Take Effect

By Roger Linnett

Many new aspects of the Patients Protection and Affordable Care Act, which the president signed on March 23, 2010, are now in effect and much more soon will be. The major features of the new law are:

- It makes insurance more affordable by providing the largest middle class tax cut for health care in history, reducing premium costs for tens of millions of families and small business owners who are priced out of coverage today.
- It helps 32 million Americans afford health care who do not get it today.
- Under the plan, 95% of Americans will be insured.
- It sets up a new competitive health insurance market giving millions of Americans the same choices of insurance that members of Congress have.
- It brings greater accountability to health care by enumerating practical rules to keep premiums down and preventing insurance industry abuses and denial of care.
- It will end discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions.
- It will reduce the deficit by somewhere between \$30 billion and \$100 billion over the next ten years – and by as much as \$1 trillion over the second decade – by cutting government over-spending and reining in waste, fraud and abuse.

Here is a breakdown of the new provisions in three areas; 1) Consumer Protections, 2) Improved Quality at Lower Costs and 3) Increased Access:

Consumer Protections

Effective March 23rd -

- An easy to use website comes online to compare health insurance coverage options and choose the best plan for them, with ongoing improvements as data from insurance companies and public input make it more comprehensive.

Effective September 23rd -

- Insurance companies are prevented from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. In 2014, this prohibition extends to everyone.
- Rescission, i.e., dropping people from coverage when they get sick is banned, except in cases of fraud.

- It will be illegal to use errors on applications or technical mistakes to deny coverage.
- Imposing lifetime dollar limits on essential benefits like hospital stays is prohibited.
- A sharp restriction of the use of annual dollar limits on patient coverage. In 2014, all annual limits will be prohibited.
- A simplified way to appeal (to either the insurer or to an outside board), if the company denies coverage or a claim is established.

Improved Quality at Lower Costs

Effective March 23rd -

- Small businesses are eligible for tax credits to help them provide insurance for their workers. The

–continued on page 10

Venice Cityhood Meeting

7-9 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 8
Extra Space Storage
658 S. Venice Blvd.

- Help restore democracy
- Let Venetians decide on issues that affect our town
- Improve our city
- Stop Overdevelopment
- Protect the Environment
- Strengthen Renter Rights

*Venice becoming the city imagined.
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–Philomene Long*



New Book by Venice's Poet Laureate

REVIEW: The Collected Poems of Philomene Long

By Jim Smith

Philomene Long is back. The works of Venice's poet laureate, who died three years ago, are more accessible than ever thanks to the publication in August of *The Collected Poems of Philomene Long*. This epiphany-inducing book of hundreds of her poems is a must-have for poetry lovers, students of Beat culture and Venice history. Poetry lovers and Philomene lovers gathered for the third annual Philomenean at Beyond Baroque for the book launching on August 17 (the birthday of Philomene and Pegarty Long). The audio from the event can be found on www.freevenice.org.

Long's book and Stuart Perkoff's *Voices of the Lady - Collected Poems*, published in 1998, are like bookends for the Beat generation in Venice. Perkoff created the Beats in the 1950s (although he didn't use the name), along with Larry Lipton, Tony Scibella, Frank E. Rios, John Thomas and James Ryan Morris.

Long arrived in Venice in 1968 and was a close companion to Perkoff until his death in 1974. Except for brief absences, Philomene Long personified the best of Venice poetry until her death. Between the two of them, Perkoff and Long kept Venice on the poetry map for more than 50 years.

Before the publication of *The Collected Poems of Philomene Long*, finding her poetry was like an Easter egg hunt (green eggs included). A small number of her poems were published in *Queen of Bohemia*, *Cold Eye Burning*, *The Dream Awakening*, *Odd Phenomenon in An Abandoned City*, *The Ravens*, *The Book of Sleep* and *The Ghosts of Venice West* (both with John Thomas), *Bukowski in the Bathtub*, and of course, in the pages of the Free Venice Beachhead.

Thanks to the diligent work of her twin sister, Pegarty Long, who hunted down and edited more than 300 pages of poems and 27 pages of photographs, a new feast of poetry is available in one place.

The book does not include all of Philomene Long's creative work. There are also films, including *The Beats*, *An Existential Comedy*, and *The California Missions*, with Martin Sheen (Long's Mission poems are included in the book). It does include much that will be new even to friends and fans of Philomene Long. Many of the chapters are in chronological order. Others are titled "The Cold Ellison Poems" (some of Long's best work, about the castle-like apartment building at 15 Paloma Avenue where she and husband, John Thomas, lived for many years), "The Raven Poems," "Mission Poems," "A Book of Hours," and many others.

Philomene Long, in the opinion of this writer, was one of the greatest poets since Sappho's time. She was also one of the great Beat poets, although her work was much broader than any label. She was highly respected by the male-dominated Beat fraternity. Her friends included Allen Ginsberg, Jack Micheline, Charles Bukowski, Jack Hirschman, Jack Foley and counter-cultural heroes like Timothy Leary.

Long's poetry also helped reinforce the importance of Venice in world Beatdom. New York and San Francisco have usually gotten the lion's share of attention as the center of the Beat generation. However, Venice in the 1950s and 60s was just as vibrant, perhaps more so. Our small beach community sported two major coffee houses, the Gas House and Venice West, and many active poets and artists. Venice poets were more faithful to the Beat credo of eschewing fame and material rewards. Our poets often read their poems in a coffee house and then either threw them away or set fire to them, believing that the act of creation was more important than the act of preservation. Other poems and paintings existed only on the walls of their 'pads,' and were painted over by disgusted landlords. In contrast, many of the New York and San Francisco poets sought notoriety and book deals.

In 1984, Long married poet John Thomas (whose work is yet to be collected). John Thomas had been an early Beat poet and cook at the Gas House. He had stopped writing for several years before Long inspired him to begin again. For 18 years, the two had a fairy-tale romance that inspired both to ever-greater collective heights.

Thomas died in 2002, an event which shattered Philomene but led to many great poems of lost love. She survived, in part due to her Catholic fatalism and Zen tranquility. Long had entered a nunnery when she was 18 years old. She became a postulant at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the Brentwood hills. But the pull of Venice poetry caused her to go over the wall one night. Later in her life, Long took up the study of Zen with Maezumi Roshi. A book came out of this spiritual education: *American Zen Bones: Maezumi Roshi Stories*.

Philomene Long was a stalwart supporter of Venice, a frequent topic of her poetry. Besides being Poet Laureate, she was an active supporter of Beyond Baroque, our poetry center, and worked closely with its director, Fred Dewey. She also taught creative writing at UCLA and cultivated young poets and writers including Mariana Dietl and Mariano Zaro. Now, with the publication of this book, we can all be inspired by this great soul and poet, Philomene Long.

The Collected Poems of Philomene Long can be obtained at Venice locations including Beyond Baroque Books, Small World Books and Mystic Journey Bookstore. It can also be ordered on the web at: www.Raven-productions.com. ☯

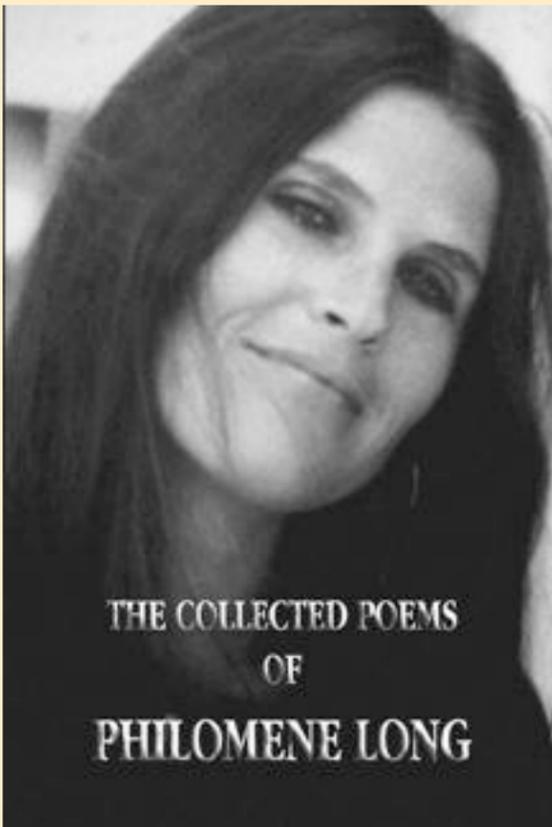


Photo by Pegarty Long

Miss Jessica and the Sugar Shack Attack

By Suzy Williams

Sept. 1 - Now it's...Sugar Shack time at Danny's Venice.

Miss Jessica Long is dolled up in blue-green, end-of-summer, empire paisley skimpiness and the highest, daintiest of sparkly shoes, too delicious looking to be true.



Johann on guitar is paying sweet, subtle homage to Motown. "Baby, baby, I love you." Peter Marshall has

switched from acoustic giant wood bass to a good old Fender, and does a wild break with Reggie Longware on drums. "Thank you, Peanut Gallery," purred herself when the song was over.

Next, Al Green is up on the charts, but Miss Jessica doesn't read off a book. She's just out there with her blinding brunette beauty, sharing a taste of intimacy. Hoop earrings, tall raven hair, her voice rising in praise or a piss-off, oh, with plenty of low notes. "I know you'll never let me down," sung so

low (how low can she go?) An on-key, on-the-dime, rhythm-perfect, pure, unadulterated pleasure.

A crescent-moon shaped tambourine in her hand, legs that don't stop.

The Sugar Shack genre is obscure R&B, seriously soulful but saturated with a great deal of fun.

This is a local band. "We're local heroes," said Jessica in response to a fan calling them national heroes.

Yet though they are relatively new, about a year and a half on the scene, they can now take their place next to Alfred Johnson, Freddy Ginns, Kathy Leonardo, Leon Reubenhold, Michael Jost, The Shoo Flies, Black Shoe Polish, Frank Strasser, Stephanie Valdez and all the august coterie that makes up our Venice music scene.

The last number in the first set was the classic "Willow, Weep for Me," a swinging original version, with two marvelous wails, just in the moment: *Willow! Willow!*. Then the set is over, and now it's already September at 8pm, and the sun is already down. ☺





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Ibrahim and Diane

By Greta Cobar

Ibrahim and Diane, two of the most enduring performance artists on the boardwalk, who have been here longer than most of us have been around, are going to leave a void on OFW and Dudley while they embark on a vacation to Maryland that could last as long as a year.

"I first set foot in Venice in 1967. People did not welcome me, for I was in uniform, having been drafted for the Vietnam War," said Ibrahim. With time he shifted from Agent Orange to the police agents of scorn on OFW. As one of the very few artists that had the courage to never take part in the Lottery, Ibrahim continues to exemplify the true spirit of Venice from back in the day, when freedom of speech was a right, not a lottery price.

"A retired police officer told me that if I interfere with the Lottery system they will have me killed," Ibrahim said. He continued to stand up for what he believed, speaking out against the wars overseas and the domestic wars between the haves and the have nots. Most of us might share his views, but how many of us have the courage and the power to stand up for these ideals day in and day out, enduring the police suppression and brutality that come as a result?

"I was tortured and poisoned by my own government," Ibrahim said. His spirit was not crushed, however. "We have rights, and you can't take away these rights because of your privileges," he declared, referring to the recent RV harassment incidents on Rose and 3rd. "It is staged, people purposely placing feces on the street to have proof for the Coastal Commission to impose parking restrictions in Venice."



Photo by Greta Cobar

Ibrahim recently followed the principles of Dr. Schulze and ate the special meals that Diane cooked in order to go through a liver, kidney and heart cleanse. According to him, going to see a medical doctor for an ailment would be the equal of surrendering to the enemy. "The VA would have killed me," he said.

A part of Venice will be missing while Ibrahim and Diane go on their journey. All of us wish them good luck, blessings, and a happy return. Please continue to inspire us towards righteousness. ☸

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SWAMI X SPEAKS

In my own humble way I have concluded that God, Life, Existence is an eternal mystery that inspires the soul to solve, absolutely; because they are One. You may find me mystically presumptuous, while I find you philosophically retarded. Welcome to the ladder of spiritual evolution. We're all on one rung or another, looking forward to ascension.

Obviously we're distracted by 10,000 things, when in truth, there is only One Reality, and meditation has surfaced. Without meditation there is no spiritual life. The mind must be stilled for authentic meditation. Meditation is the foundation of spiritual life. I hope you understand this. I'll keep bringing it up 'til you do. So what do you want to discuss now, Death???

That's a good one. It's an illusion, end of discussion. Reincarnation is the key and bottom line to the question of so called death. People (you) are too identified with their bodies, and here comes the ego. Of course, the ego is another illusion, a painful illusion, indeed. And it seems to be everywhere; or am I just projecting, a little bit. Maybe, a whole lot.

Personally, I am convinced it goes on forever, and climaxes in periodic fulfillments of Absolute Ecstasies. Hell is another illusion for the brainwashed. If you sum up all the speculation, discussion, analyses and messages from on high it all reduces to one obvious realization that it is all God, manifest and womanifest, forever. People who don't believe in God, don't believe or know themselves. Getting to know oneself takes lifetimes, and it's still a formidable challenge, and that's why you rarely run into a Zen Master at the local pub. Sustainable serene satisfaction only flows from the subjective realm.

We over think ourselves into chaos, confusion and conflict. The heart and mind must unite in the soul, if you know what I mean. If you don't, don't worry about it, you have eternity to figure it out. Peace. ☸



keepin' the BEAT

out of the cellar
of our venice hideaway
harachis's slappin' down the cobblestone
breezeway
finger snappin' the beat
to the beach and the ocean
this same spirit took me to the mountain in
Hawaii
next to another lady muse
Pele a spitfire goddess of the volcano
the one the old ones whisper
out of the closet now the words flow
take on the sound of bamboo
lionel hampton in the wind
and the smell of sandalwood

the spirit of Billie
a long ago lady of Venice—
wail of a tenor sax

—Shanna Baldwin Moore



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Love

For Tina Catalina Corcoran

By Mary Getlein

She went all the way to China
to find her little girl.
It was a mother and child re-union
Even though they had never met before
She was looking for true love, true love, true love.

She drove all the way down to Venice from Florida
She got in the car and drove-
all the way to Venice-
She was looking for true love, true love, true love

She missed her old friends,
here and gone, young and old,
She missed the spirits of Venice,
alive and gone,
Spirits be calling her,
Come home, come home, come home:
They were looking for true love, true love, true love

I drove all the way to Venice-
in an old yellow taxi
That we bought in Richmond Va.,
for \$70.
We got in the car and drove-
all the way to the Promised Land-
and, yeah, it was crazy,
and yeah,
I LOVED IT!

Joining the carnival was a lot of fun-
Clowns, minstrels, musicians, artists,
hoppers, dopers, junkies, evangelists,
preachers, teachers, bleeders-
vampires, ghosts, haunts coming out...

Looking for love
Looking for TRUE LOVE?
True love is love, not hate
True love is fun, it's great

Starbucks

Starbucks stole my soul
And drugged me with yuppie crack.
In my eyes
Addiction has reached new highs
Surprise!
The senile soul
at the inconvenient store
buys toothpicks to pick at angry sores
left by memory's footprints.
While the pied piper
with chalk in hand
creates magnificent
and intricate games of hopscotch
And adults as well as children
jump through the ring of fire
and come out
with faces that can only laugh at the misfortune of all,
With light beer in hand
they climb into their big bright red automobile
and roar off to their
front row seats
at the destruction of the world.
- Chance Foreman

Panties in the Trash

once in an alley
on the rich side of
Santa Monica near
the Blue Bus stop at
Harvard & Colorado
i found 6 brand new
Hanes for Her
Double X Large Ladies
drawers exactly my size
spilling from a plastic bag
store tags dangled from
the elastic waist bands
the crotches were
soft and snowy white
what a mystery
who would toss
her clean underwear
next to a grimy trash bin
maybe a successful
Weight Watchers i thought
now a size 8 and no longer
in need of so much cotton
she is prancing around in
her Victoria's Secret thong
while i stand undecided
beside a battered dumpster

-Joy Buckley

Pigeon Tower

By Majid Naficy

Far from my homeland
I want a pigeon tower, here
In this very room
In Venice.

When I look out from my balcony
The white waves smile at me
And when I come back to my room
A thousand migrating doves peek out
From a thousand dark corners.

No, the pigeon tower of Isfahanak (1)
Does not please me any more:
The spring rains have washed away its auburn roof,
The farmers of hot summer afternoons
Have left the shelter of its cool shades
And my winter forbidden fliers
Have decayed in its hiding place.

And Yet, I still feel the weight of the feathers
Which I gathered from the pigeon tower
Hanging from my hair and belt.

1. Isfahanak is a village in Kerarj district near Isfahan, Iran. The farmers of this district have build beautiful, muddy pigeon towers in their melon farms to make fertilizer from bird dropping.

Prison Bunk

Here comes the straight talk express
Candid as a son of a glitch
True to the need to know
Outfoxing henhouse keeper
Gunning for rosy bull's-eyes
Over and over easy
Bulldozing through blind man's bluff

Naked, unvarnished, and circumscribed
Isaiah in India ink
Typeface bold
Raw
Agile
Malleable

Lucid
Amazingly clear
Handshake firm

Arrested on the six o'clock
Reel-to-reel fabrication
Azimuth unfolding
Mindful of Miranda
Acrimony testimony
Cross-examination crony
Alibi and alimony
Legal liverwurst baloney

Attaché case, open and shut
Realistic boot nails
Under the rough underground
Armful with white flag
Listen to iron gate slam.

-Hal Bogotch



On First Looking into the Collected Poems of Philomene Long

By Jim Smith

Much had I traveled - or so I thought - in the lands
made brilliant by the poet laureate of Venice
'Til this mammoth and beautiful book
revealed to me my ignorance.
But now, with book in hand,
I can journey to every realm
under heaven and beyond the stars.

I took this magical tome in hand
and opened it at random.
Three baby pigeons flew out
and began chirping
♪*Philomene, Philomene.* ♪
The room came alive
with gulls, doves and
regal Ravens

Turning pages,
I was now on Paloma's beach
The sun became bright
and chased the fog away.
I looked up at an old castle
and saw two poets
standing in the window
their gaze was upon the ocean
far away.

Storm clouds appeared
as suddenly as turning a page.
The poet appeared as a giant on the beach
gliding toward me out of the setting sun
Twenty feet tall at least.
Her voice roared like a winter storm,
A booming roll of thunder seemed to say,
*who will walk upon our footsteps
that the light of Venice not be extinguished?*

Then I was in her room
high up in the Ellison
She was alone,
but a presence lingered.
She spoke to John
across the chasm of death
as if it were of no consequence.
As she told us, her poems
have conquered death.
They are beyond his reach.

I closed the book
and looked around
at my familiar room.
I will return often
to this magic book,
I vowed.
I thought of Philomene
and the journeys
we would have together.

Venice People

By Cosmo

Venice people of yesteryear, laidback nude beaches
mumbo-jumbo characters taking in the fresh air;
artist, poets, rebel rousers, skaters, body builders,
Yes, Arnold was here too.
Runaways too young to wipe their own asses,
Clowns, a circus of just about everything,
a good place to create art and music.
The makings of borderline history were in the air.
alive with a collective consciousness
waiting to be put into the soup of this time.
So many talented people in such a small place
parties bookoo, comradery for locals,
scared places to meditate,
never ending influx of interesting happenings.
African drummers from Africa!!
Wild naked dancers,
Yes, Venice was a nude beach for many years.
Tight knit cliques watching sunsets,
raving about the blue flash that
only happens a couple of time a year.
Late night skinny dipping
while chasing grunion for hours and hours.
This is a good life in Venice, then and also now!
Just different people here for the moment;
ocean breezes to calm the psyche
and awaken the spirit to life and love.

FIRST FRIDAY, FOR WHO?

—continued from page 1

When you ask Venice people these days if you'll see them on First Friday, the general response is "No way, I can't stand that mess," and it has actually propelled many of us AWAY from Venice (Helpful Hint: that would be a good day to try and lure us East of Lincoln, East side pals!).

And it really is a mess, literally and figuratively. A real mess, as people leave their food truck garbage everywhere (my bike basket is especially attractive to them for that purpose). A mess of people blocking the sidewalks, as it took me 20 minutes to get from locking Firefly's back door to get to my bike parked in front. A mess of traffic, as 40 (!) Food Trucks (the most ever, I believe) lined the streets, and a long queue more of them waited their turn on Milwood to turn on to AKB. It's gotten to where it's really just kind of gross, and not many locals want to participate in that.

People that live in Venice chose their home for a reason, generally, and that is that it is VENICE ... not Santa Monica, not the Marina, but Venice, and all that goes along with that. We don't want Abbot Kinney to be another cheesy Promenade. We like to support local businesses. We like to park somewhere near our homes. We like to ride our bikes or walk without a hassle. We like to recognize SOMEONE as we go about our fun.

More and more shops and businesses on the street are talking about not staying open for First Fridays, as it doesn't seem to be that profitable. The permanent restaurants on the Boulevard are all great, and busy on Fridays anyway. With such a glut of Food Trucks that night, and locals completely avoiding it all, who really benefits from the thing - other than the night trippers that want to feel all cool and Venice for an evening, I mean?

Again, I don't have the answers, but we need to discuss it all, before the whole thing turns ugly. There's already anger with the food trucks, the crowds, the garbage, the parking, etc ... and that's not cool. I just want my friends and neighbors to be

happy, and there hasn't been too much happiness (that I've heard of) with the whole First Friday deal. On the other hand, it's merely one night a month, and I guess we can all stomach that ... I guess. Most seem to think it's a passing phase/phenomenon, and we can just ride it out. People will find some other place to go litter and Twitter and get drunk soon enough. Time will tell...

It's a good time to talk about Venice Cityhood, too. With independence from Los Angeles, we'd be more free to sort out what's best for us as a city, and as a people. FREE - that's a big, big part of why I chose to live here, to feel free to live however I want to, with like sorts that also greatly value their freedom. That's why this paper is called The FREE Venice Beachhead. It's the core value, I believe, of Venice.

So let's talk about all of it... First Fridays, supporting local business and the best ways to do that, if Cityhood is a real possibility that has support and benefits everyone, litter, parking and anything else you want to talk about. Write to The Beachhead, or stop me on the street Monday-Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, since I probably won't be seeing any of you at First Friday. ☺



New Healthcare Law Provisions Take Effect

—continued from page 5

first phase provides a credit of up to a 35 percent of the employer's contribution. In 2014, tax credits will cover 50 percent of premiums. Small, non-profit organizations may receive up to a 25 percent credit.

- Seniors, who this year fall into the gap in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage known as the "donut hole", will receive a \$250 rebate. In 2011, a 50 percent discount on prescriptions begins.
- A new \$15 billion Prevention and Public Health Fund will invest in such proven prevention programs as smoking cessation and decreasing obesity.
- Medicare investigators, who returned more than \$2.5 billion to the Medicare Trust Fund in FY 2009, will receive additional resources to further reduce fraud and waste in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Effective September 23rd -

- New and existing Medicare plans that make specified changes will cover preventive services, bringing relief to millions of seniors for whom preventive care means early identification of disease and greater opportunity for treatment and

recovery. In 2011, Medicare eliminates all co-pays and deductibles for these services.

Increased Access Effective March 23rd -

- Young people are allowed to remain on their parents' insurance policy until their 26th birthday, unless offered insurance at their work. Most insurance companies already offer this.
- A transitional high-risk-pool program provides new coverage options to individuals who, because of a pre-existing condition, have been uninsured for at least six months. States have the option of running their own temporary high risk pool. If a state chooses not to do so, a National pool will be established by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Funding to expand the number of primary care doctors, nurses and physician assistants, through scholarships and loan repayments for primary care doctors and nurses working in under-served areas. Doctors and nurses with student loans will also receive tax relief if they practice in communities with a shortage of health care providers.
- \$250 million in new grants for states that have or plan to implement measures that require insurance companies to justify their premium in-

creases. Insurance companies with excessive or unjustified premiums may be ineligible to participate in the new health insurance exchanges beginning in 2014.

- States will receive increased federal matching funds for covering low-income individuals and families on Medicaid.
- A \$5 billion program to maintain affordable care has been created targeted at Americans who retire before they are eligible for Medicare (age 65) or are without employer-sponsored insurance, until more affordable coverage is available through the exchanges in 2014. Previously, many had seen their life savings disappear due to current exorbitant rates.

Effective January 1, 2011 -

- New funding will be allocated over the next 5 years to support the construction of, and expand services at, community health centers, allowing these centers to serve some 20 million new patients across the country.

Future legislation is working its way through Congress to extend and improve on the new law. For example, should the "public option" provision that allows Americans to join a national, single-payer program be enacted in the future, the savings in costs for both consumers and health care providers could be greatly improved, leading to further deficit reductions, while improving patient services.

Not waiting for a national program, many states are looking into starting their own single-payer programs. Congress is also in the process of creating legislation that will gradually lower the eligibility age for Medicare, which will further improve coverage and reduce patient's expenses.

Data for this article was compiled from the following:

WhiteHouse.gov,
KaiserFamilyFoundation.org,
ModernHealthcare.com and the
SeniorCitizensJournal.org.



Political Cartoon by Khalil Bendib

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Krista & Michael
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Michael (310) 714-0423
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Featured Readers at Bodhi Tree Books
Individual Readings - Events - Instruction

CommUnity Events - day by day

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Wednesday, September 1

- 3:30pm - **Toddler Story time** - Join us for stories, music, and flannel boards and laughs. AK Library. Free.
- 9:30 am - **Ocean Front Walk Task Force Meeting** with Councilperson Rosendahl. James Beach on N.Venice Blvd, west of Pacific. Free.
- 7pm - **Open Mic**. Sign up 15 min early. Hosted by Tom Gramlich and Byron Pfeifer. Talking Stick. Free.

Friday, September 3

- 8:30-11am - **Mayor's Office visits Venice Farmers' Market**. Parking Lot near Venice Library.
- 6:30pm - **Hollywood Institute of Poetics presents an evening of poetry, art and music**: Eve Brandstein, Corrie Greathouse, Michael O'Keefe, Frankie Salinas; Art by Lysa Flores, Louie Metz & Hector Velez; Hosted by Rafael F J. Beyond Baroque. Free.
- 7pm - **First Friday** on Abbot Kinney Blvd. Open shops, countless food wagons, lots of people. No music. Free.

Saturday, September 4

- 7:30pm - **Charles Goodrich, gardener and poet**, authored a book of essays, *The Practice of Home*. **Alex Escudé, Argentinean poet and teacher**, authored *Where Else But Here*. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Sunday, September 5

- 5pm - Open Reading with **Angel Perales, poet and filmmaker**, authored *The Brown Recluse* and **Charles Claymore, poet and musician**, authored *Fall From Prescopia*. Sign up at 4:45pm. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Monday, September 6

- 10am-5pm - **The LA/Long Beach Labor Coalition Annual Labor Day March** from Broad and E Street south on Avalon Blvd to Banning Park in Wilmington. Rally to include speakers, music and hot dogs. Broad and E Street, Wilmington. Free

Tuesday, September 7

- 6-8 p.m - **Hearing on DWP Oversight** - Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium, 11430 Woodbine Street.

Wednesday, September 8

- 10am - **Small Craft Harbor Commission meeting** - Burton Chace Park Community Building, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey.
- 7-9 pm - **Venice Cityhood Meeting** - Extra Space Storage Conf. Room, 658 Venice Blvd.
- 7-10pm - **The great singer/songwriter Suzy Williams** performs at Danny's Deli. Free.

Friday, September 10

- 7-11 pm - **Three artist Opening Reception** at Cave Gallery until Oct 2. 507 Rose Ave. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Mandy Kahn, poet**, co-authored *Collage Culture*, Steve Westbrook, poet whose work has appeared in numerous journals, **Neil Aitken, editor and poet**, recently authored *The Lost Country of Sight*. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 8pm - **Screening of Edward Blackoff's documentary "Incest, A Family Tragedy."** Followed by Q&A with director. 212 Pier. Free

Saturday, September 11

- 9am-3pm - **Book Sale, 50 cents to \$1**. Wide variety. Abbot Kinney Public Library.
- 2-5pm - **Japanese-American Memorial Meeting** - Learn about what happened at Venice and Lincoln in 1942 and plans for a memorial. Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 12371 Braddock Drive (at Centinela). 310-306-7372. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Claudia Keelan, Californian born poet and professor**, authored six books and **Donald Revel, poet, essayist, and professor**, authored "From the Abandoned Cities". Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 11am-1pm - **Klezmer Bunch**. Talking Stick. Free.
- 6pm - Mess: **Leland Auslander films & interview**. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Sunday, September 12

- 3pm - **Chopin with Cherries anthology reading**, edited by music historian and poet Maja Trochimczyk, celebrating the 200th birthday anniversary of F. Chopin. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- Noon-8pm - **Venicestock 2010. Windward Plaza**. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Alden Marin, poet, painter and musician**, authored over a dozen books, **Pablo Capra, publisher and poet**. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 7-10pm - **Venice MoZaic presents Art at the Stick** and First Sunday receptions, music, and art nights. Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, September 13

- 6-10pm - **Documental - Chicago George Manupelli films**. Unurban Coffee House. Free.

Tuesday, September 14

- 7:45pm - **A Night of Festive Musical Goodness** hosted by Danny Moynahan. Talking Stick. Free.

Friday, September 17

- 7:30pm - **Art photography opening of Roy Toft's "Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea."** G2 Gallery. Meet the artist at 1503 AKB. Free.

Location Guide

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinadelrey.lacounty.gov
- Danny's Deli, 23 Windward Ave. 566-5610
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue. (310) 305-1865. Fax 305-0146.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

- 7:30pm - **William Carlos Williams birthday reading**. Please join S.A. Griffin, Rafael F. Alvarado, Michael Leon and special guests read from the works of this celebrated. Bring your favorite Williams poem. Beyond Baroque. Free.

Saturday, September 18

- 10am - **Big Workday to get the Garden ready for our schoolyard**. Come help and check us out. Westminster Avenue School.
- 7:30pm - **Chiwon Choi, writer, editor, teacher and publisher, Melora Walters, actress and poet**. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 6-10pm - **Jazz Funk Fest**. Talking Stick. Free.

Sunday, September 19

- 2-6pm - **18th Annual Venice Music Festival**. Food and silent auction, benefiting Venice Community Housing Corp. 743 Palms. \$10.
- 3pm - **A Found & Lost Publication Reading**, a bi-annual publication with readings by Frank T. Rios, S.A. Griffin, Michael Leon, Bob Branaman and Michael C. Ford. Hosted by Richard Modiano. Free.
- 5-10pm - **"It's Blues Time!"** featuring Tom Gramlich and the Mystic Miles. Special Guests. Talking Stick. Free.

Monday, September 20

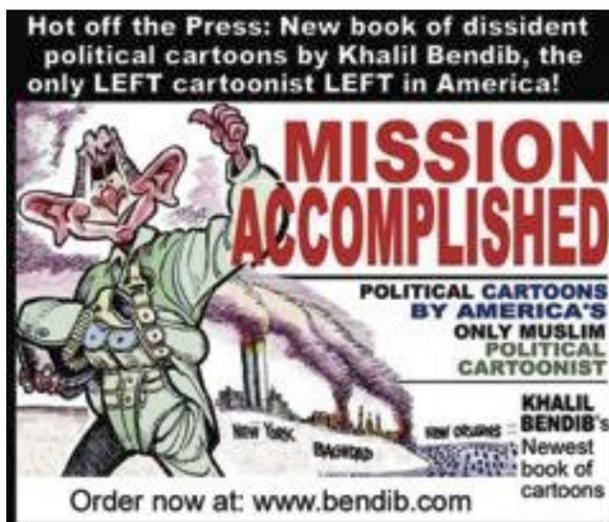
- 6-10pm - **7 Dudley Cinema** Ricky Leacock documentary pioneer films. Talking Stick. Free.

Tuesday, September 21

- 7-10pm - **The Venice Neighborhood Council** board meeting. Westminster School Auditorium.

Wednesday, September 22

- 7pm - **Blues Dynamo, singer/songwriter Kathy Leonardo** will be performing, featuring her original "Strong Woman Blues". Danny's Deli. Free.
- 7pm - **Public program Screening of the documentary "The Price of Sugar"** about Haitian sugar plantation workers. Venice Arts Gallery. 1702 Lincoln Blvd. 392-0846. Free.



Friday, September 24

- 7:30-10pm - **Suzy Williams, Steve & Don**. Industry Cafe. 6039 Washington Blvd. CC. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Poets Julie Sheehan**, award-winning poet and professor with **Douglas Kearney**. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 7-10pm - **Subversive Cinema** at 212 Pier. Free.

Saturday, September 25

- 5-9pm - **Sculptor Bryan Tedrick** shows his work. Also **Venice Beach Series: "It's Not All About Me"**. VOCA Art Gallery - dedicated to exhibiting emerging Venice artists, all proceeds go to the homeless. 215 Ocean Front Walk. Free
- 7:30pm - **Michael Hulce, English poet and translator, Tony Barnstone, award-winning poet and essayist**. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.
- 7:30-10pm - **The Backboners perform their wondrous music**. 11739 W. Washington Blvd. Free.

Sunday, September 26

- 10am-6pm - **26th Annual Abbot Kinney Festival**. Free.
- 7:30pm - **Marjorie Becker**, poet, journalist and Latin American scholar. **Jonathan Harris**, poet and Peace Corps volunteer. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Tuesday, September 28

- 7:30pm - **French band led by Victor Pavy, SAIBU** blends folk, pop and rock heritage from both sides of the Atlantic. The Talking Stick. Free.

Thursday, September 30

- 7:30pm - **Ellyn Maybe's "Poetry Rodeo"**, an open reading featuring Ellyn Maybe and her band. Bring up to 5 minutes of poetry and the band will improvise alongside the poetry. Beyond Baroque. \$7 regular, \$5 students/seniors.

Ongoing Events

- 8pm-Midnight, Sunday and Monday nights - Hal's Bar features **Live Jazz**, Internationally acclaimed musicians as Vince Wilburn, Cal Bennet, John Nau, Louis Taylor, and Greg Poree. 1349 AKB. Free.
- 8:30pm, Thursdays - **TKO Comedy's "Open Mic"** for comics, musicians, speakers and artists of any kind. 212 Pier. Free.
- 12-2pm, Thursdays - **Blues at Uncle Darrow's** featuring "Joe Banks and Friends" - 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free.
- 6-8pm, first Tuesdays - **McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club**. Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way. Free.
- 5:30pm, Wednesdays - **Venice Library Movie Night**. Call for the upcoming movie. Free.
- 6:30pm, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays - **Venice Library Children's Pajama Storytime**. Free.
- 7:30-9pm, Tuesdays - **Visionary film or documentary screening**. 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 8-9:30pm, Wednesdays - **High Hatha Yoga**. 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 6-10pm, Fridays - **Get Happier Hour: Live art, DJ's, VIP Garden of Weeden** for our customers (specials). 99 High Art Collective. 1108 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Free.
- 6-10pm, 2nd Thursday - **Psychedelic Surf Rock**. Mollusk, 1600 Pacific Ave. Free.
- 7:30-11pm - **Live music**. Thurs. Acoustic, Fri.- Open Mic, Sat.- House band & guests. Artisan Venice, 80A Windward @ Pacific. Free.
- Every Third Thursday - **Venice Art Crawl**
- 12:30pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays - **Free Food Distribution** at Vera Davis Center.

Get Your Local Event Listed

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

Calendar hecho en Venice by Karl Abrams

Support Your Local Nonprofit Newspaper

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

Who's the Boob?

Women - and Men - have nipples!!! Why should Women have to hide theirs?

... Said the sign on the Boardwalk last week held up by a man with his own impressive pair of breasts. Not Man Boobs either ... straight-up, ladylike boobs. The police presence was overkill, per usual, and gave me the idea that the next time I have to place a call to them, I'll add that everyone is topless and see if that gets a quicker response. Methinks it may.

After quite a debate, the man was let go ... though not until after lots of cop equipment was also called in. What is wrong with our society when TITS get this kind of reaction? You really have to just laugh.

Rumor has it that the guy intends to sue the City ... Boring. He missed the National Topless Day by a few days, when it all would have gone unnoticed, but I admire the chutzpah that prompted him to go it alone, on we ladies' behalf. Fight the power.

-CJ Gronner



Photos by Pegarty Long



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The Abbot Kinney Festival Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, has organized this popular community event since 1984 to promote Venice and to support local organizations that serve youth and families. To learn more, visit www.abbotkinney.org or call (310) 396-3772.