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# FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

SINCE 1968

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May 2025 #489

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SPY Community Garden at Beyond Baroque, in bloom. Photo by Eric Ahlberg

## VNC Candidates Seated 2025

We're going to need a bigger boat!

It is clear if you're not on the CD11 Park Fun Train, rich and white, the rest of us insignificant constituents should reference her as the Mayor of Pacific Palisades. (Insert Janet Jackson chorus, what have you done for Venice lately?)

As for some of the current Venice Neighborhood Council, VNC- some reps are accessible and others you never want to have access to. However many on the VNC have direct lines of communication to Pacific Palisades Mayor Park; they have Park's personal cell phone number and that tracks.

We cannot address the VNC election debacle as it should be a book or written as a script and maybe Netflix will pick it up as a docu- series. Truth is leaning towards voter suppression. It's pretty awful when a Black Church, Venice community Historic Oakwood congregation of fam, friends and neighbors were denied their ballot to cast a vote for their VNC candidates they believe in. CORRECTION: believed in.

The VNC is advisory. To strengthen their voice, which you would think was a good thing, they now have a new commitment to write a Community Impact Statement, CIS. At VNC General Meetings votes for or against a specific agenda item. The results for the winning votes - will deliver a report as a CIS. It's a Community Impact Statement; it's a prop printed that anyone sitting in the seat at the LA City Council' shoehorn can wave above their head and say, "My constituents have spoken..." another tool in the deception tool box. An honest adjustment to the CIS, up on top of the header of the doc would be to place the results of vote taken at NC general meetings pertaining to that specific agenda item. Agenda items that win only by one vote hardly seem representational of what the Venice neighborhood wants.

Too few agenda items, as we have witnessed in consideration of complexity and many divided issues are kicked back to the proper committee that need to review it and to reconsider. Compromising or meeting in the middle is rare. Yes on occasion - democracy is delivered.

However Clark Brown's tow the White Bus agenda item was an obvious personal vendetta. We, the public, never saw the letters or written complaints that the bus was such a pain in our communities' ass. The rest of us only knew the white bus to be - a family's residence, it was non continued on page 3

## OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR KAREN BASS:

Dear Mayor Karen Bass,

Much to be said about our current situation with unhoused community, housing vouchers and funding for homeless services. We are requesting a meeting with you as soon as possible - for 30 minutes via zoom perhaps.

We are a circle of community that takes helping our family, friends and neighbors seriously. We have picked up on a few patterns and practices of the City of LA - and as LA County decided to discontinue the LAHSA - program.... There are people that are not receiving the support they are in need of and are very much deserving of. Here are some of their lived experiences:

A fire at one of Venice's 15 HUD Housing apartment buildings - caused the neighbor, to where the fire originated, to lose everything and she salvaged a few items of clothing. That was all. She was placed in a hotel for a month with support from different sources. For the months of Feb., Mar., and all of April to date, this young 26 old woman is sleeping in her car. The building management and landlord has denied her support and or information. They did not offer housing of any sort at the end of Jan 2025.

A working Father has his children on the weekends - was given a three day notice. This Father spoke to St Joseph's as they were responsible for paying their part of his rent, failed to pay it. He came thru with his rental payments. St Joseph's promised to show up to the court date. They did not appear on his behalf. He is court ordered to evict - vacate the apartment. Currently, the E.D. from St Joseph's is looking into the matter. We are not current on his case - last we heard he was packing to leave and he will be homeless, again.

The careless placement of people attempting to be sober - is difficult at best when neighbors are abusing drugs and alcohol, keeping up all hours over days of partying.... Moving furniture at all hours of the night. We have someone who suffered for 2 years and was finally placed - in the last two weeks in another building after advocating for themselves. They suffered an unhealthy building with zero peace and enjoyment. He did not have the peace and enjoyment everyone is deserving of.

Most Case Managers are not managing - they are complicit in some of the activities at some of the buildings.

Security hired to keep buildings and occupants safe, are failing because they have favoritism towards some of the tenants. Some security have been complicit in activities continued on page 5

## THE HISTORY IS IN VENICE

By Jon Wolff

Venice enjoyed two Venice Black History Month events in February. There was an oral history presentation on the 16th at the Venice Heritage Museum, and also the annual celebration on the 22nd by Original Save Venice at the Venice Library.

The Venice Heritage Museum hosted a panel discussion with three notable Venice Black History makers: Jataun Valentine, Dr. Naomi Nightingale, and Rusty Smith. Each represented a part of the multi-generational Black History of Venice. Museum Manager Anthony Carfallo presented the panel, and Alison Rose Jefferson moderated the discussion.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine spoke of her life in Venice since 1937. She is the grand-niece of Venice Founder Irvin Tabor. She celebrated her 88th birthday at this event. She was assisted by her daughter Jenny Emrich, son-in-law Benito Branche, granddaughter Cecily Emrich Branche, and sister Charletta Jennie Valentine Muldrow. Ms. Valentine talked about how the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in front of the home of her grandfather Alphonse Joseph Henry. She described the City of Los Angeles' policy of selective code enforcement for the houses of Black homeowners in Venice as a means to drive Black families out of Venice. Ms. Valentine said that "You can make a difference. But you have to be committed because nothing happens in a day."

Dr. Naomi Nightingale discussed the City's restricted covenants that were used to relegate African Americans to one neighborhood in the heart of Venice, now called Oakwood. She recounted the grocery stores, gas stations, and restaurants in the neighborhood that made for a successful, self-contained community. Dr. Nightingale spoke of Original Save Venice's ongoing work to restore the First Baptist Church of Venice. And she called for prayers that it remain a religious institution in Venice.

Rusty Smith is the lyricist and lead singer for the Venice punk rock band "No Reaction". His family settled in Venice in the 1940s. He remembered Venice in the 1970s as a tight-knit community. He told of how he discovered punk rock music and lived through the "wild and fast" 1980s.

Original Save Venice held their Venice Black History Month celebration at Venice's Abbot Kinney Branch Library. Library Director John Frank and the library staff facilitated the event. Security continued on page 3



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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published 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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**LETTERS**

I read a letter submitted by Rosie Lodge in the January -February 2025 issue , in regards to the Friendship Baptist Church. I would like to see the community of Venice and it's surrounding cities ( Santa Monica and Marina del Rey ) help with securing its place as a historical monument.

In a world with much uncertainty, I feel that people deserve to have a church that is open and continue to be a beacon for people to serve , listen to the word of God and feel that everyone is welcomed. I believe that Ms Lodge and her family will offer just that .

I hope to hear from past members of the congregation and from new people who are looking for a new place of worship to offer ideas on re-opening the church. Let's bring Friendship and Hope back into a world that seems hopeless.

Carrie Gonzalez

**About Those Fragile White Male Tears**

**No Kleenex for you, use your sleeve.**

These words are directed to the sidekick women, who wipe those white fragile male tears:

To the sidekick women, standing with men in our community, who participate to subjugate, to belittle, and to laugh as they actively participate in lateral violence against other women, why do you? Why do you support patriarchy, misogyny and support the oppression of Women Nation?

Just wanted to provide a reminder that you, you are a side kick... however you are still guilty and your hands are not clean. What makes you think you're not being used as a shield? Do the fragile white men who use you really value you? Perhaps that's your life goal? To be a side kick, that is all.

Look at the women who surround the resident in the WH.... cut from the planation owners' wife's generational colonial superiority of the history Christian white cloth only.

Let's peel back the truth on 'having daughters and wives...' it is political use of social standing as normal... to affirm the right to speak to women as they please, and believe they have the right to. Do they speak to their wives and daughters like that? Is that their normal? Fk that normal!

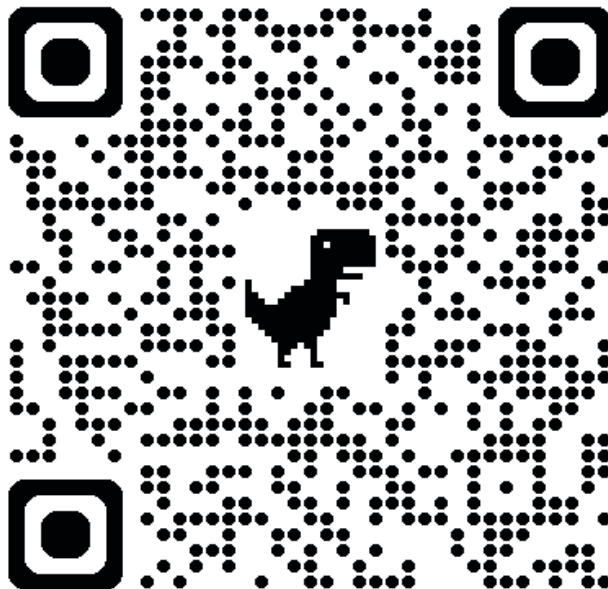
What is normal? Who is defining 'normal?' Who wants to go back to that specific normal? Wasn't that long ago women couldn't own, sh\*t; women couldn't do sh\*t... without permission. It was not that long ago.

Generational patriarchal colonial guilt is real and it shows. We do not wait for an apology from fragile men. #WomenNation #IdleNoMore

If you are a victim of your partner's violence, be it verbal, emotional, financial or physical..... if they're temporarily focused on someone else, you get a rest, and you get a pause....

Just know these one way streets, these alleys and these walk streets in Venice are very narrow - neighbors hear everything.

I whole heartedly offer: Domestic Violence HELPLINE:  
800-799-7233 Or Text BEGIN to 88788



**Emily Winters Honored at Los Angeles City Council Meeting**



problematic. Non problematic as declared by opponents, they admitted it.

All of Original Save Venice and Venice Beachhead endorsements were based on merits of humanity. We are not depending on the political party affiliation. Why? The reason being Venice political chameleons can camouflage under specific times - and location, be it sunlight - or moonlight, with hidden or known agendas.

Special Note: It's interesting that Spanish Translation is offered and yet there's no one repping our ESL, English as a Second Language community or Indigenous People, ever. No representation on committees, so there's no translation needed. The VNC is not fully repping everyone in Venice and has not for a long time now. The VNC hasn't worked on issues or challenges that anyone with ESL would think or feel they're empowered enough to show up to a meeting and ask for support. Ask for support to make a change or support to deny an agenda item.

However people are kept employed and kept exactly where employers need them to be - not informed or empowered. Keep them exhausted from toiling in your homes.... businesses, gardens or construction sites. Did you ever consider they may qualify for low income affordable housing? They'd benefit from living 20 minutes from their jobs? Yes. More time with their families, their children, and not just your children.

Let's Review: Brian Averill- deliberate decimation - to the Rule and Elections committee prior to the election. Damage done.

Sarah Mahir running for Community Interest was placed along with the At Large Candidates, it should have been separate but it was not corrected before the ballot was approved. Who approved it? What should the ballot should have looked like vs what was printed as an official ballot?

OSV and Venice Beachhead looked at who supported the following:

Who supported the Black History event at Abbot Kinney Venice Library?

Who supported the Dell Project?

Who supports resources and info for unhoused public?

Who supports low income housing in Venice not Barstow or Lancaster?

Here are, we supported:

Erica Moore - Out Reach Chair, Erica has supported Venice in off the charts activities- amazing outreach at many Venice events - she does a great job and SHE WON! Congrats!

Treasurer: Helen Fallon, supports voting by district and we love that she is the adult in the room. Her diligent work as a VNC volunteer is transparent, accountable and on point. VNC Treasurer! SHE WON! Congrats Helen!!!

Crystal - we hope Crystal will sit on the Finance Committee as she is qualified as an accountant - this is her fortay as a business owner. We must not allow the internal politics burn her out.

Steve Bradbury Communications Officer: Unopposed. Sneaky Coyote shape shifter. Congrats!

Tima- Secretary unopposed, GO TIMA! Congrats on the 2nd term, true Venice local who is intentional with his commitment to the community. We stand with you!

Mark Mack LUPC Chair - won - however our favored candidate Ted Henderson- yes, environmental heart, mind, and spirit will volunteer on the LUPC Committee. So that feels like a win!!! Congrats Marc! Thank you Ted for volunteering, too!

At Large:

Kenya Lee won the four way tie! Congrats!

Fran Solomon won! Congrats!!

Jason Sugars won!!!! Congrats!

Nico Ruderman - won! We agree on important and bigger picture!

Brennan Lawson winner winner congrats!

Joesph Garica - for the win! Congrats!

Richard Stanger - Winner! Congrats!

Lisa Redmond - winner, congrats!

Christopher Lee, winner winner, congrats!

Alley Bean - winning! Hmmm. She was the lead Plaintiff against the Dell Project. We love you and we want to understand, why the lawsuit? And - Congrats!!!

Yolanda Gonzalez - where's our GRVNC Election signs you stole? She won her At Large seat, again! Ay ay ay ay ay!

Clark Brown - collecting his tickets from "playing whack a mole" won and someone needs to tell him there is no prize. Venice Beachhead and

Original Save Venice believe Homeless are not a problem and we must always lean in on humanity for our collective future.

7 votes Mahir WON! Community Interest Rep!!!! She advocated votes for many other candidates. Sarah ran unopposed! We favor her new nickname and trust her fully to rep Venice. Congrats!!!! #7votesMahir

We are advising for a VNC Retreat- without violating the Brown Act.

1. Can we have a good old fashion dodgeball retreat?

2. Rent a space and share ayahuasca, and work it out

3. Peru Day of Boxing: go a few rounds of chola boxing - box it out in a ring and then all is forgiven. Go eat and drink together. This event can be annual.

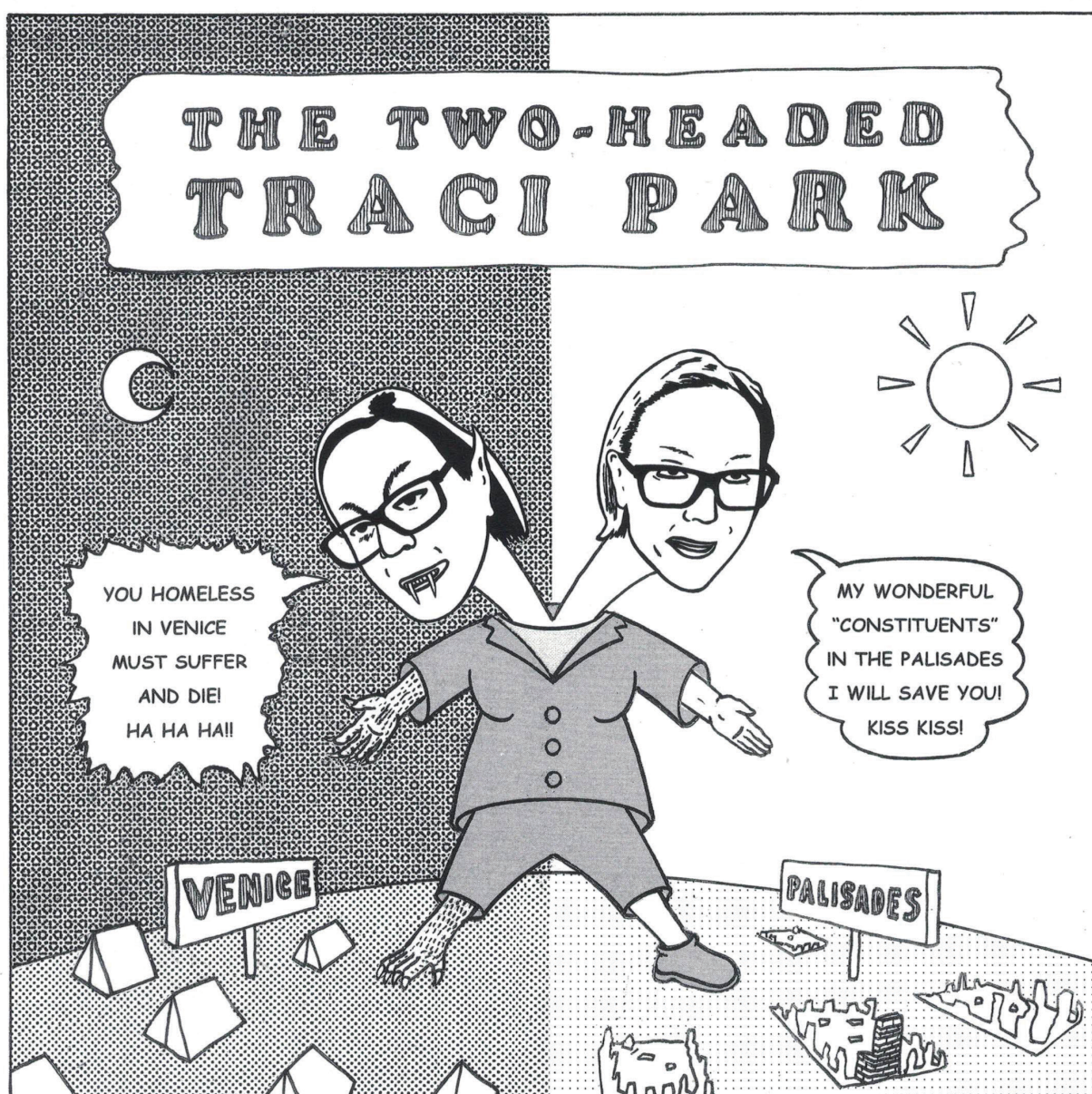
For the VNC future:

What the elections should have looked like vs what it actually was.... Something to consider.

We would like to extend our support and gratitude to Jim Robb as our community fam, bro and neighbor! Thank you for your heart and especially your kindness. Many blessings Rob.

Rob Thebideau don't forget your red clown nose for your next gentrification circus and don't let the door smack ya on ya way out. Close the door gently.

AI don't love us  
AI is using us  
AI don't give a fk  
about us  
In the end  
- AI will win.  
The man behind the curtain  
manipulating AI  
will profit from AI  
as we struggle to afford  
a tall cool glass of water...  
Everyday."  
-LP



Officer Brooks' help was most appreciated.

Lydia Ponce gave the opening prayer.

Dr. Naomi Nightingale spoke of today's diminishing economic security, and how history repeats itself. She talked about her visit to her grandmother's place of employment in the South where she was told to use the back entrance.

Sonya Reese Greenland is the granddaughter of Venice Founder Arthur Reese. She described how Mr. Reese designed Venice's gondolas in the early 1900s, and how Abbot Kinney asked him to take charge of decorating Venice's festivals. She said that "We're fortunate to be descended from people who were very innovative" and good at "working with their hands."

Laddie Williams recalled her experiences with discrimination. She said that her grandfather Henry Williams came from Arkansas after seeing his brother hanged by the Klan. She spoke about the time when the City of L.A. attempted to gate off the Oakwood neighborhood, and how Jataun Valentine fought the City and prevented it from happening. She said that the people in the community used to clean the streets, and even provided street lighting because the City wouldn't install lighting. Ms. Williams reminded everyone that it was Original Save Venice that won historical designation for the First Baptist Church of Venice.

The Venice Black History Month event is held each February in the Venice Library. Make sure to be there in person in 2026.

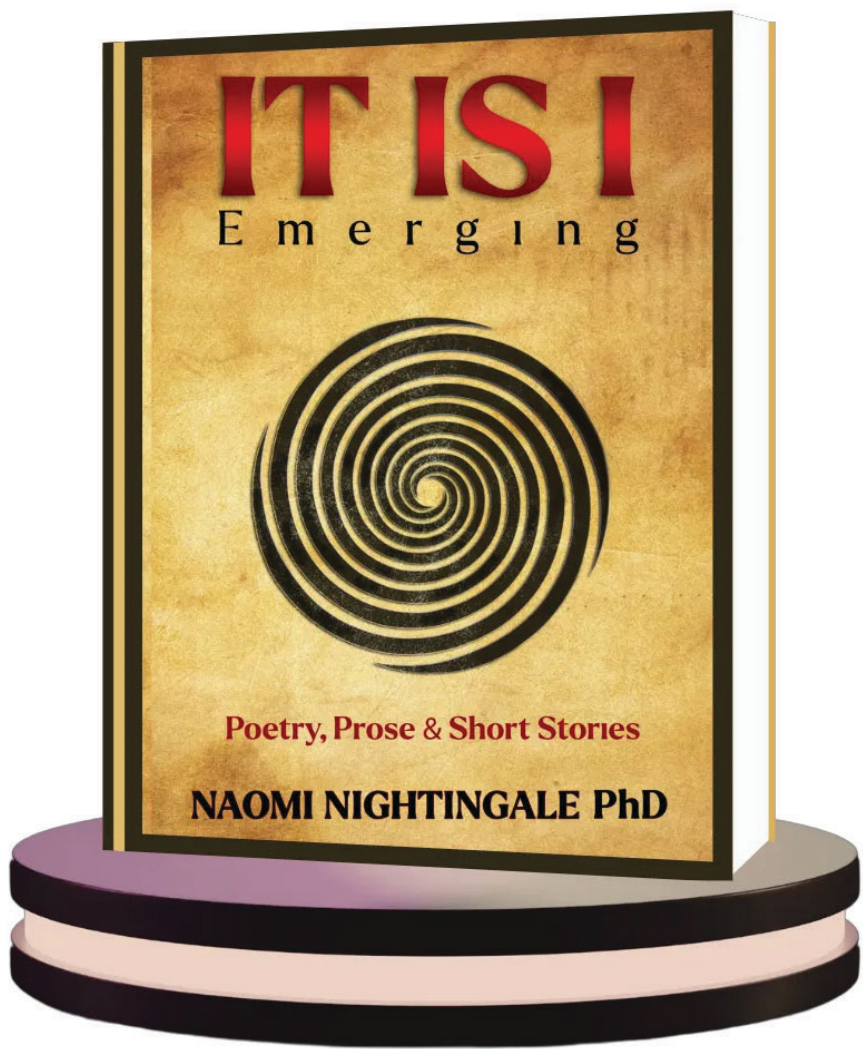


Photo by Margaret Molloy

**Discover a world of personal transformation with Dr. Naomi Nightingale's *It Is I Emerging*.**

This captivating collection blends poetry and prose to guide you on a profound exploration of self and soul. Nightingale's writing captures the essence of personal evolution, unraveling the complex journey of finding one's true self amidst universal experiences that connect us all.

With vivid and lyrical prose, Nightingale invites you to delve into your own identity and spirituality. Each piece reflects deep insights and emotional awakening, offering inspiration and encouragement to confront doubts and embrace your authentic self.

*It Is I Emerging* is more than a book—it's a transformative experience, leading you towards greater self-discovery and emotional resonance. Join Dr. Nightingale on this remarkable journey and connect with the beauty of your own evolving story.

Inside, you'll uncover:

**Poetry that Inspires:** Each poem serves as a mirror to your own experiences, guiding you to reflect on your life and purpose.

**Prose that Resonates:** Thought-provoking essays explore the universal themes of love, loss, and personal evolution, helping you find clarity in your own journey.

**A Path to Self-Discovery:** Through every page, Dr. Nightingale challenges you to confront your fears, embrace your strengths, and emerge as the truest version of yourself.

Embrace who you are, for in doing so, you will discover that the most profound and impactful stories are those that emerge from the depths of your own spirit. These narratives, rooted in authenticity and personal truth, resonate deeply and inspire change, illuminating the journey of self-discovery and the beauty of embracing your true self.

"IT IS I Emerging" can be obtained at <https://stillwaterspublishinghouse.com> and via email: [stillwatersnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:stillwatersnetwork@gmail.com)



Photo courtesy Naomi Nightingale



Photo by Margaret Molloy

Letter to Karen Bass - continued from page 1 within the buildings.

The buildings new as one year- grow mold - black mold and the steps to mitigate these is a faulty process. Building admin maintain a slow and ineffective work habits.

Buildings for affordable and low income are built with inferior materials - be it dry wall, be it the pipes and or the labor to build. It is not labor that decides to cut corners but the developers and investors who make these decisions.... So pipes leak or burst at all hours of the day and night.

We have a one woman with a minor son who had a DV voucher for immediate housing. The DV Voucher was not honored until 9 months and a week later. It appears there are too few resources and information for DV Victims.

We have come across the practice of case workers - promising another 'housing voucher' for their clients as long as the tenant gives up - signs off or simply doesn't renew their current housing voucher. They must update their info and re-certify their application and their need. So far we have a hand full of Safer Inside residents who lost their housing voucher because of empty promises or false intentions of continued housing. Now housing vouchers are being offered to fire affected people.... Really?

While we understand the fire victims must be supported - and we ask to which end? We need to find the equilibrium of fairness and balance in our collective humanity. We have sweeps that are equal to a fire, as we view these sweeps that take everything of unhoused people's belongings. It is the sweeps that take their legal documents, sweeps that disappear personal items like irreplaceable photos of family, much needed medications and into the trash everything goes. The unhoused community loses everything, too.

We have been offering support as liasons - we offer no recommendations - much like State of California programs we offer resource and referral - we offer information and assist as much as we can. The on going need is great because the City and County Reps do not return calls or emails. Select few representatives do respond to us.

We are supporting a Mother of 4, one is a special needs 23 year old, and they pay their rent to LA city.

She is communicated for a few years prior until these last 6 months where the family endured broken pipes and leaks that resulted in the worst black mold ever seen by any one of us. The City did not respond. They finally did a month ago as sewage was rising under the building and the water had to be shut off. We I advocated for the tenant and called LADWP. The water was shut off because of the need to repair the pipes... sewage, black mold, well, all of it.

The process to place people in temporary shelter leaves very much to be desired. We came up with a short list:

1. Not to harass tenants, bully and disrespect them
2. City of LA, Draft a one sheet - one form to expedite the logistics for the move.
3. Design next steps - flow chart or most frequently asked questions, FAQ
4. Flow chart or app - or information on websites as to what to expect once someone applies for low income / affordable homes.

t's much - however we would like to be part of a conversation for best practices and protocols that will support our shared community to stay sober, not self harm, or worse, and to help support an alignment of truth and altruistic healthy solutions.

Please stop wasting time, money, energy and stop supporting false solutions... our greater Los Angeles City and County knows best and can advise.

Update: "Two additional Holiday Breeze tenants have been located. They, too, have lost their homes due to the January fire. They were not relocated, they were not given interim housing, while their units are being repaired," Sarah Mahir reported. Sincerely,

Lydia Poncé - Housing Rights Liaison

Original Save Venice



Photo by Enyaj Pitchford

allenge begins! The studio has mats and props to assist in one's proper alignment.

Swami G. practices laughing yoga as well and his warm hearty laugh is truly a Soul filled wonder to experience. You feel like you're inside his cave sometimes as his laughter reverberates from the walls to the inner chambers of your heart.

Swami has both warmth and charisma and is absent of guile; with a mission to raise local consciousness. He hopes to establish a permanent center here and to return to his cave once it's running. Simultaneously, his organization runs an orphanage in India with over 700 children and feeds seven thousand people in India free meals in two cities daily. He is having a health expo with a panel of Ayurvedic doctors at his center the last weekend of March. I think we should expect great things from this vibrant, ever youthful Soul. Come and engage with this rare, authentic Himalayan Master at 1225 3rd st promenade in Santa Monica while he is in town. It's a lovely space with lovely people; so refreshing during these stressful times. There's a beacon of hope growing in our midst and you are invited to witness and participate in the wonder.

- Enyaj Pitchford

- Enyaj Pitchford

**Swami Advaitananda Giri** which means "non duality" better known as **Swami G** is a monk from a cave bordering Tibet and India in the Himalayas, where he spent 30 years meditating. And now he has taken over what used to be the Tesla showcase space and turned it into a creative conscious raising home of the z meditation Center. He is building a large network of healers and is offering yoga, meditation breath work and ecstatic dancing, amongst other healing modalities, which takes place everyday at 6 pm In April, I, Enyaj ji ( officiant titled by Swami G), will be partnering with fitness trainer Oswyn Serra, to offer a primal movement and yoga class. Primal movement, by the way, is a set of exercises imitating the motion of various animals; most find going forward is fun, but when you reverse the movement, that's where the real chal-

My book "A SEA SHORE MEMOIR Celebrating Venice 100th Anniversary 1905-2005," is a private memoir of public life. The era addressed is Venice's second 50 years. With the massive text, it contains @ 115 of my pen and ink of homes and public sites, @ 44 of my b/w photos, some historical papers, and poems of mine.

It has been donated to many families and 10 libraries. A bevy of partial pages from the book lead the reader to my watercolours herein, so one may have a better perspective of our remaining Venice Canals. This book formed from my ideas. It is fully realized by my favourite living visual artists John C. Ransom and Barbara Mastej, of Venice!

Maryjane's pro bono life presents litanies of works and benefits for: the Arts, environmental conservancy, cultural and historical programs / landmarks/efforts; health/human/civil rights. A petite list of such is seen below. She is a guest interviewee several times, of Gerry Fialka and Mike Sakamoto. One may refer to her 24 Venice ( more to come) documentaries on youtube.com: venice-historytapes.

Her solo Venice Festival in 1968; 1969 annual massive Venice Canals Festivals and then its Canal Funeral 1976; her idea and all work for the first California Coastal Bike Path in 1970; her work with the 6 Canal vest pocket parks, (5 torn torn by powers) and for the 6th one to be "in perpetuity;" she assisted Tom Moran for the remaining Venice Canals cultural/historical status(done in 1983); founded 1981 and ran fully 11years Venice Canal Holiday Boat Parade!; founding member/decades with Friends of Ballona Wetlands to conserve such, and such with Ballona Lagoon, Save Our Bay, and early on for Heal The Bay; founding member: of Peace and Freedom Party (1967), of Westside Women's Center/Clinic 1971, of Friends of Venice Library; of Venice Historical Society, 1986 for 14 years, of Free Venice, of Save the Canals, of VCHC 1988, for 27 years, of the Free Venice Beachhead newspaper Dec. 1968 (27 years, then at times in re-



Photo courtesy Mary Jane

cent decades), of Beyond Baroque 1968; she did field recorded interviews for radio, with @ 64 health and medical practitioners in 1993-1994, WISHING WELL.

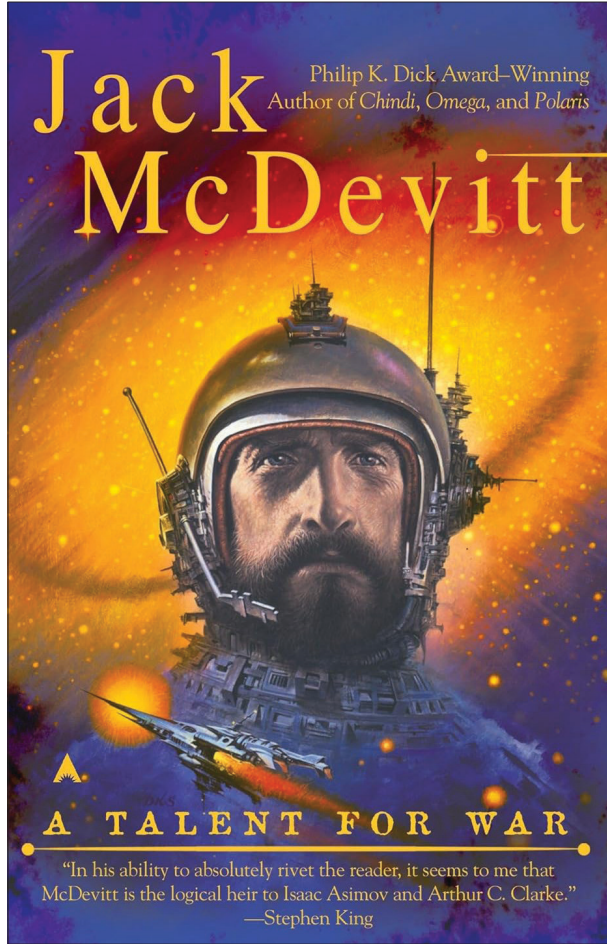
She founded/cofounded several theatre groups from 1968 to 1993. She was with the LOFT Studio of Peggy Feury and William Traylor, from late 1975 till 1991, as Peggy and Bill had ascended to heaven. She continues with our fantastic Pacific Resident Theatre since 1996, and founded, 2012, and runs her Free THEATRE FARE class for seniors there; PRT: founded in Venice 1985!

Maryjane founded and ran JAYA, a women's artist collective Jan 1973 till 1977, for All the JAYA /Venice Canal Mural, first dedicated Nov 1975 and redone in Dec. 1996-March 1997 ded: 22 March 1997, as well as opening and running its small gallery at 183 Pier in 1973. She also did decades of art exhibits for G. Ray Hawkins Gallery, and several gallery and restaurant exhibits over decades, as well as massive exhibits and events of months, with each, at our Venice Library. She has shown her slide show of the Library exhibits, in Venice, 15 times, at Pacific Resident Theatre and at James's and Daniel's Canal Club. She received a SPIRIT of VENICE Award in September 2000, at the annual Abbot Kinney Festival. Kinney built Venice and all its original canals and "opened" it on 4th July 1905.

- Mary Jane

Name-CALLING ALL IDIOTS? by Gerry Fialka

Name-calling does not work. Maybe it can release a lot of tension. But, there's better ways. Using street smarts to make our Beachtown and our nation a hearty place can help us all. Author Jack McDevitt wrote: "Idiots are not responsible for what they do. The real guilt falls on rational people who sit on their hands while the morons run wild. You can opt out if you want to. Play it safe. But if you do, don't complain when the roof comes down."

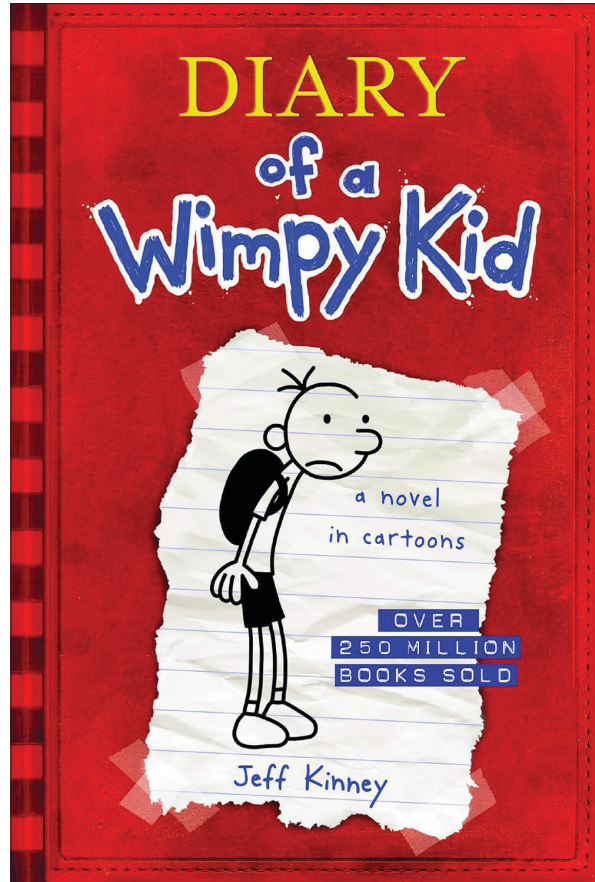


So the point of this essay is for you to speak up, and take action. Human goodness does exist and can persist. When you are finger-pointing, the accusations may be coming right back at you. Labeling others negatively is a psychological defense mechanism. Critical thinking is more productive. Don Marquis quipped "If you make people think they are thinking, they love you; if you make them really think, they will hate you."

We look to literature and music to uncover the hidden psyche effects of name-calling. Dostoevsky's THE IDIOT refers ironically to the protagonist prince whose goodness and open-hearted simplicity lead many of the more worldly characters he encounters to mistakenly assume that he lacks intelligence. Open your eyes to be comprehensively aware of those you want to label "idiots."

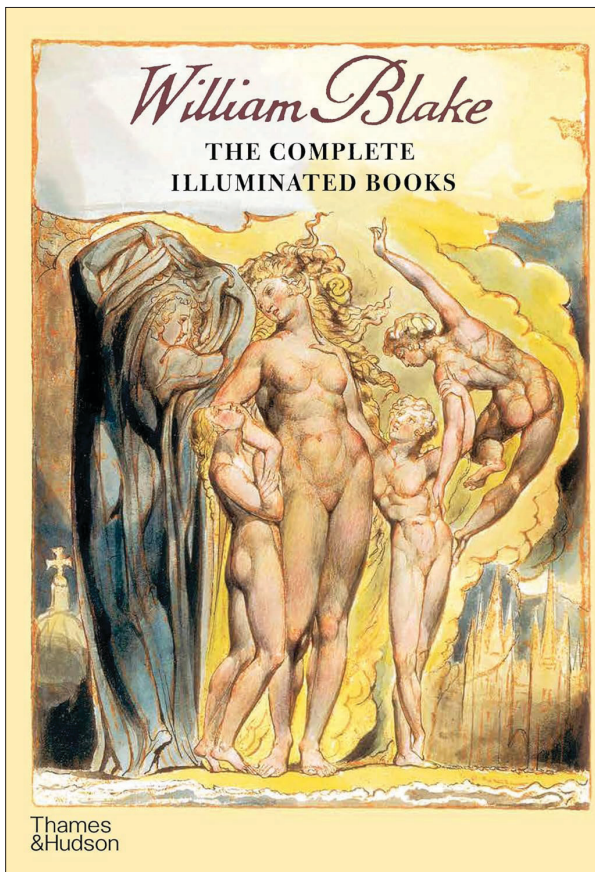


Jakob Augstein observes: "If we've learned anything from the best-selling Diary of a Wimpy Kid children's book series, it's that those who see themselves surrounded by idiots are usually idiots themselves."



Our rock poets deal in this realm. Frank Zappa sang, "I will love everyone. I will love the police as they kick the shit out of me on the street." He was influenced by Lenny Bruce, who said that we can call cops three names: police, pigs or peace officers. Why not stress "Peace"?

Consider William Blake's "We become what we behold." Blake expounded: "What is Grand is necessarily obscure to Weak men. That which can be made Explicit to the idiot is not worth my care." and "To Generalize is to be an Idiot. To Particularize is the Alone Distinction of Merit — General Knowledges are those Knowledges that Idiots possess."



Gandhi encouraged practicing St. Augustine's "Hate the sin, not the sinner." Instead of calling someone an "asshole," replace it with "don't act like an asshole." Get the big picture. "To define is to kill. To suggest is to create. - Stephane Mallarme.

I saw Frank Zappa sing "Broken Hearts are for Assholes," and as he sang "You're an asshole" pointing at people in the audience. Then he suddenly pointed at himself. Lay your cards on the table. Self reflection is important. Our recent Beyond Baroque event on Zappa's Freak Out Hot Spot map delved deep into his criticism of corrupt authority, shaped by the Watts riots and his own personal encounters with the police. His satirical songs

expressed a distrust of law enforcement. Big thanks to Dan Konoske, and Domenic Priore (whose recommended book Riot on the Sunset Strip: Rock'n' Roll's Last Stand in Hollywood covers LA's youth rebellion) who comprehensively covered our cultural landscape in this inspired and inspiring presentation. How does our environment shape how we express ourselves?

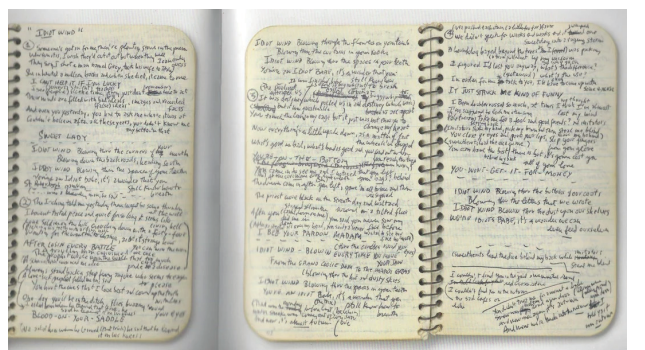


Zappa's witty lyrics in "The Idiot Bastard Son" capture the sentiment: "The child will thrive and grow, And enter the world, Of liars & cheaters & people like you, Who smile & think you know, What this is about, The song we sing: DO YOU KNOW?, We're listening . . . THE IDIOT BOY!"

The struggle for artistic expression and the tension between the community and the authority is a major issue in Venice. How can we get enlightenment from the arts?

"I am not . . . a "good man"! . . . And I'm not a bad man. . . I am not a "hero" — and I'm definitely not a President — and no — I'm not an officer! . . . You know what I am? . . . I AM . . . an IDIOT! . . . with a box — and a screwdriver — passing through, helping out, learning. - Steven Moffat, Dr. Who.

We can also learn from Bob Dylan, who turns 84 years young on May 24, 2025. Read these profound words from his 1974 song IDIOT WIND: "It was gravity which pulled us down, And destiny which broke us apart, You tamed the lion in my cage, But it just wasn't enough to change my heart, Now everything's a little upside down, As a matter of fact the wheels have stopped, What's good is bad, what's bad is good, You'll find out when you reach the top, You're on the bottom." Learn how to embrace contradiction.



Jonathan Cott observed that it was the first time that Dylan condemns himself in one of his songs, with the closing line "We're idiots, babe, It's a wonder we can even feed ourselves."

Be careful who you are calling what. When we feel trapped, we don't say or do our best. To promote healthy relationships, refocus on the good. Transcend insecurities, and speak out in kindness. Build a compassionate culture of appreciation.

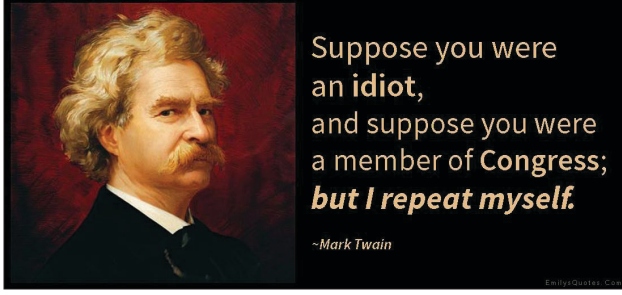
My friend Keith Nighenhelser adds, "In Shakespeare's King Lear, the Fool gives the advice 'Have more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest,' or as we would say, 'have more than you show, say less than you know' -- suggesting that you might have good reason sometimes to let others see you as an idiot. And to beware of the ones who tempt you to call them idiots -- consider whether they might be fooling you."

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself." - Mark Twain. Take a tip from the satirist Wes "Scoop" Nisker: "If You Don't Like the News

Go Out and Make Some of Your Own."

When Dylan won the Nobel prize for literature in 2016, The Guardian cited "Idiot wind, blowing every time you move your teeth, You're an idiot, babe, It's a wonder that you still know how to breathe" as one of his greatest lyrics.

So take a big deep breath before you fly off the handle and call people names.



"Love is my name" - Thomas Merton.

I welcome your input, Gerry Fialka pfsuzy@aol.com 310-306-7330

Idiocratic Addendum: I must be dumb all over. The word "idiocratic" is often confused with "idiosyncratic," but it's a relatively rare word, meaning "pertaining to rule by idiots". It is important to distinguish it from the more common "idiosyncratic," which means peculiar characteristics. How can we connect these weird happenings and push the project forward? What becomes wide spread is worth of study, and grounds for further research.

In his brilliant play and film "Born Yesterday," Garson Kanin threw a poison dart aimed at the lazy American public: "A world full of ignorant people is too dangerous to live in," How can we flip that danger into security and safety? Turn breakdowns into break throughs. Weakness into strength. McLuhan said you can't write the "Great American Novel" because the "front page of newspaper" is the Great American Novel (GAN). I update that aphorism: "The Youtube thumbnail is the GAN." What is your update? It could also be "the protest sign is the GAN." Did you apply magic makers to pizza boxes? Righteous review: "Let them eat Teslas" - "Hate won't make US great" - "Think it ain't illegal yet" - "Make America Think Again" - "Make America Humaine Again" - "Ugh Where Do I Even Start" - "Speak the Truth, even if your voice shakes" - "We don't want your Nazi cars, let's send Elon back to Mars."

When Mike Judge released his nervy comedy

"Idiocracy," a protest placard proclaimed, "Idiocracy was supposed to be a movie, not a documentary." Let's enlighten ourselves and our fellow humans with mutual understanding of reality. Let us address these social dysfunctions. Organize, don't just mourn. American idiots, useful idiots, privileged idiots, belligerent idiots . . . what harms are caused by namism? Or is it healthy release? How can we gain greater understanding of the political condition? How can we nurture skeptical and critical discourse?

Explore productive discussion via literature. Malcolm Muggeridge wrote this review of FINNEGANS WAKE by James Joyce in "Time and Tide," May 20 1939: "How many mornings Mr. Joyce devoted to coining this particular word, I do not know; perhaps it only took him one morning or just an hour or so; but in any case he was wasting his time as surely as, more surely than, a village idiot trying to catch a sunbeam." How do we get enlightened? If you don't have dreams, your dreams can't come true. Prankster/poet St. John Gogarty wrote that FINNEGANS WAKE was a gigantic hoax written by an idiot on the backside of beauty.

Feed forward? See that there is beauty by finding the light in the darkness. Coretta Scott King declared, "When we nurture hatred inside, we harm ourselves more than those we hate." How do we learn? Learn to listen? Learn that there is a middle ground and it not us vs. them? Can the positive approach have good effects?

What are the new questions and new metaphors? Why did McLuhan say this as a question: "You mean my whole fallacy is wrong?" Send Gerry your feedback.

Laughtears.com events upcoming:

\*\*Thursday May 15 at 3pm Gerry Fialka hosts Venice Culture Salons (VCS#13) at Venice Heritage Museum 228 Main Street - Fun, fiery, interactive discussions about our Beachtown. Free admission. Bring your stories and tales. Delve deep into Venice music, film, art, literature & current events. Live oral history.

The MAY 15 =VCS#13 features Venice Artist Patrick Liberty, and the June19=VCS#14 special guest is Marty Liboff, who has walked on the Boardwalk for 75 years.

\*\*\* Saturday, May 24 from 2-4pm, free admission, at Pour Vida Art & Plant House, 2124 Lincoln

7 • May 2025 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Blvd, BOB DYLAN SALON - IT's ALL WRITE MA- Former Dylanologist Gerry Fialka will host celebrating the paradoxical exuberance of Dylan Thomas/Little Richard wanna-be Robert Zimmerman (aka Bob Dylan) with live music (unplugged) and discussion.

\*\*\* Sun, June 15, Bloomsday Psychedelia at Beyond Baroque, 6pm live readings & music, free Celebrate James Joyce - psychedelic art party.

\*\*\* Sat, July 19, The 18th ANNUAL LIT SHOW with SUZY WILLIAMS & BRAD KAY at Beyond Baroque "You've read the book, now sing the song."

\*\*\*EVERY FIRST TUESDAY of EVERY MONTH is Marshall McLuhan-FINNEGANS WAKE Reading Club online <https://pfsuzy.medium.com/marshall-mcluhan-finnegans-wake-reading-club-by-gerry-fialka-e90829d2c2c6>

\*\*\*Check Gerry Fialka's "I'm probably wrong about everything" Podcast on Youtube- interviews with MUSIC, ART, LIT, FILM, POETRY, MEDIA, ACTIVISTS, SCIENCE, NEW KNOWLEDGE, INFLUENCERS & amazing people world-wide <https://www.youtube.com/@improbablywrongabouteverything6781/streams>

\*\*\*Every SUNDAY from noon - 5pm Brad Kay jazz merriment at Unurban 3301 Pico Blvd (with Suzy Williams, Mews Small and more. FREE (except 2nd sundays) JAZZ CABARET FOLK POPULAR MUSIC Live!!! <https://sundaysongbirds.com/>

\*\*\*CHECK Kahlil & Family playing FRANK ZAPPA songs at Beyond Baroque Sabbagh Rockin' Teenage Combo Venice CA 3-16-25 Hot Spots Map

Search on youtube "Sabbagh Rockin' Teenage Combo Venice CA 3-16-25 Hot Spots Map"



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**THE SPARRING Artists**  
Literary Anthology of Sparring With Beatnik Ghosts® Annual #2 / Dec. 31, 2024 Editors: S.A. Griffin & Richard Modiano

Featured Cover Artist:  
**Mike Street**

Memoir Excerpt:  
**When Tom Waits Met Michael C Ford**

Angel-headed Legacies:  
**Linda J. Albertano  
Neeli Cherkovski  
Andy Clausen  
Marc Kockinos  
Royal Kent  
Anne Marie Maxwell  
Hans Plomp**

Book Reviews:  
**Charles Plymell  
Jerry Kamstra**

Fear of a Hip Planet:  
**Malcolm J. Margolis' The Pain Journal and more**

Movie Reviews:  
**Kino Truth**

**Sparring Comix**

Sparring Artists:  
**Poems, Stories & Art**

**Review: The Sparring Artists Vol.2.** I loves me an anthology, with multiple assertive voices telling me what I want to hear. I read "The New American Poetry 1945-60" by Donald Allen in 1968 while I was in high school and marveled in Allen Ginsberg's poem "America", and opened my mind. Here we have a brand new anthology, chock ful of poems from some of our favorite local poets, and a lot of art. This book is an eclectic combo of cartoons, art and poems. It contains the work of Linda Albertano, Ellen Maybe, Rich Ferguson, Below is an Ellyn Maybe Poem from the book. **Available at the Beyond Baroque Bookstore.**

**ELLYN MAYBE  
EARTH DAY**

It's the Earth's Birthday and I was listening to it and it said it wanted 5 things.  
It wanted a compost salad.  
It wanted a gift certificate to a record store and had in mind the sound of people breathing as people listen to the ocean.  
The Earth said music is breath.  
Then the Earth said I want to read a billion books at once so write your words in my sky with kites.  
The colors you choose will tell me your mood, that will be a novel.  
The Earth said, I want to send you love, I said Earth you are very cool given everything.  
The Earth said it's true, but dig, we are all given everything, it takes our whole life to see it sometimes.  
Sometimes you need a kaleidoscope and to stand on your head on one foot like a flamingo to see it.  
Sometimes it's as simple as spaghetti.  
The Earth said I want to travel.  
I said, where.  
The Earth said, I don't know, surprise me.  
So I took a postcard of a drum and said shut your eyes and listen and you will be everywhere.  
The Earth said I feel the heartbeat of it all.  
I said, good cause it's your day, and the Earth said one last thing,  
Will you be my candles and tell everyone they are all candles that can last a second or forever.  
It's strictly how you dance if you know what I mean.  
The Earth was on fire and giddy.  
Full of stories and shy.  
The Earth likes talking and listening.  
The Earth is so cool.  
After all, it has been here for many millennium and it is sticking around while others might have left us.  
The Earth after all has options.  
The Earth said, I like challenges, I'm not going anywhere.  
Then the Earth picked up a phone and called its therapist.  
The Earth said it's not me it's them, the therapist said it's normal to get stressed sometimes.  
The Earth went into yoga pose and said thanks.  
And another day went by like ebb meeting flow,  
or is it Kander meeting Ebb, and the world simply went on dancing.



## The Amazing World of Arnold Rosenblatt

by Enyaj Pitchford, photos by Enyaj Pitchford, Artworks by Arnold Rosenblatt are all ceramic.

I walked by a Venice walk street, with its painted walls and twisted vines, the call of parrots, and array of vernal weeds and planted flowers, reminiscent of the original Venice before gentrification hit full force. Entering from the alley gate and greeted by his good friends, I sat down at the home of 98 year old Arnold Rosenblatt to hear and share the tale of his life's journey. He's originally a Bronx guy but has been out here 70 of his 98 years and has owned his home since the 60's. His back is a little out of whack but he manages to walk on his own, and guided by his friend who relishes his stories, he gave me one heck of a share.

Arnold came to Venice shortly after WW2, inspired by the idea of muscle beach, where one could exercise outdoors and not have to pay for a gym membership. He had been living with his parents, hanging with a group of guys at the gym who like to flex their muscles. Leaving the snow and grime of the city behind, Arnold had finally saved enough money to get out to California.

He first learned about a house on the beach where all the weight lifters were staying. It was called Muscle House. Steve Reeves, who played Tarzan in the movies, stayed at this location and that inspired other bodybuilders to live there.

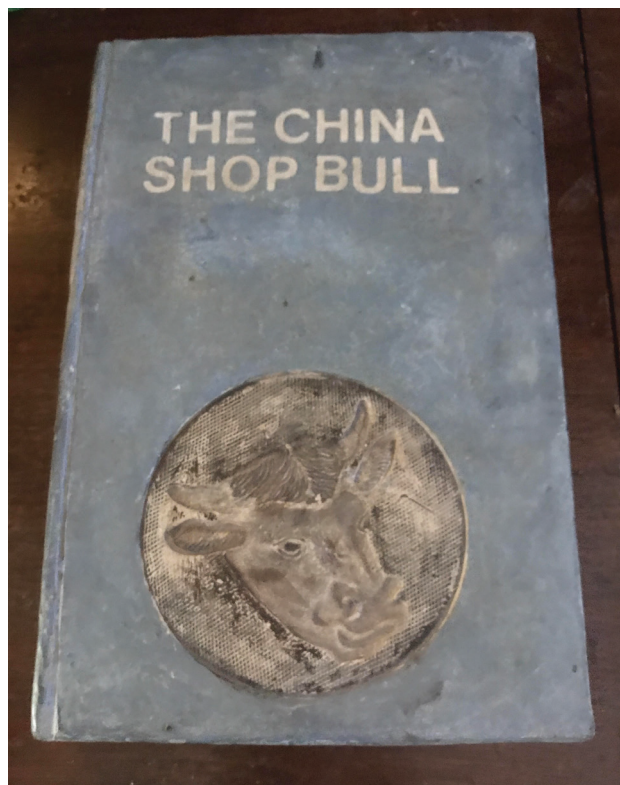
When Arnold arrived in the Westside, he fortuitously ran into someone he knew from the Bronx; a guy they called the Guru. Guru was called so because he had a photographic memory. He also went to India and told stories of the cows walking around and other stories that I found it better to omit! Anyway, Guru tried to not speak with Arnold because he didn't like his mother, but Arnold made it clear she wasn't coming out this way and he directed him to the Muscle House boarding house. Arnold's mother, by the way, seemed to have a Phd in how to start an argument in any conversation. Arnold was the only one visiting her toward the end of her life and she died in an apartment not far from his Venice home.

When Arnold first met the woman who owned the Muscle House, she said this was a vegan boarding house. Imagine that, in 1948! Arnold promised to eat meat outside the place but he never kept his word and I'm sure the other bodybuilders didn't either. The owner asked him how he found out about the place. He mentioned his friend from the Bronx, Al Bergen. She got red in the face and yelled "that bum!?" He skipped out without paying me!" Then she asked "Who else do you know?" So he tells her another friend's name. Again she yells "that bum skipped out without paying as well! Ok, it'll be 7.50 a week, paid in advance!!" Arnold happily accepted.

So Arnold stayed there for a few weeks, just half a block from the beach where he worked out. The beach at that time had tiny houses where the parking lots are now, right on the sand. This was in Santa Monica. At that time, there was only one electrician in the city. Mo, who took care of all the sand houses was well liked but the city wanted that property for parking lots. This group of people who ran the city at the time were so wealthy, they owned their own bank, like a big private piggy bank for land grabs. They pulled some shenanigans on Mo by putting bottles of whisky by his office. Mo didn't drink so he gave it to some young people passing by and he got fired for handing out liquor to someone under 21. Then they used their only electrician to condemn the homes and tear them down to build parking lots. (You can see the movie "Inside

Daisy Clover" with a teen Natalie Wood to get an idea what these old houses looked like.) These same people wanted to build a road from the workout area to a private Island in the ocean but fortunately it was voted down.

Arnold opened up his old black and white photo album, teeming with beautifully sculpted muscular men, Arnold amongst them, with tempting young ladies ready for action. The young men were doing the military press, the clean and jerk and the snatch; those were the three lifts of the day back then. Malcolm Brenner, who was amongst this crowd, was once awarded the Mr. America title. Robert Hofman, who was a known Nazi, had a magazine that published pictures of body builders and was one of the judges of a contest on the east coast. Malcolm was the favorite and poised to win. But because of his being Jewish, Hofmann convinced the other judges to not vote for Malcolm and he didn't win. There was a near riot and because of the cunudling of the judges that changed their vote. New rules were established and judges



could no longer speak to one another about the candidates. All this almost two decades before Gold's Gym opened its doors.

Arnold had quite the colorful life "We were bums; we didn't work.", Arnold says matter of factly. In the day, he hung out at a cafe run by gypsies and another cafe run by silent Leo, who was written up in 'Ripley's Believe It or Not' for breaking the record time for swimming to Catalina and back to the Westside. He even has shots of Gypsy Jeans (photo) and Gypsy Boots, two Nature Boys or hippies from the late 40s! Only 'Work Him Under the Table' Charley actually worked. The last time he went visiting Arnold, he had a bunch of old refrigerators in his truck and was taking them to Mexico (which was illegal back then for some reason). He was going to use the money to buy a place. He went and he never heard from him again. He imagines he found his place in the sun.

He starts listing another set of characters he hung around. One of them, the stupidest guy he ever met, Arnie the Swede, He could't remember Arnold's name! (Again, it's Arnold, Artie!) He says

he even slept with the stupidest woman! Then there was Marathon Marty, Hardball Hagarty, who did bit parts in the movie, as well as Bill Birdie the Medical Doctor and Millionaire Sam, to name a few. At night, he and his buddies frequented the Tropic Village, a bar on the beach teeming with all kinds of bohemian folks; the LBQT+ community were openly engaged there. One of his friends who frequented the joint, Art Diamond, went to Mexico and became a Toreador, but unfortunately died of a drug overdose a few years later.

There were a lot of dancing places back then. Arnold took a lot of girls ballroom dancing, but Gloria, who still visits him, was his favorite dance partner and good friend. His girlfriend was Diana who was bisexual and smoked a lot of pot and Arnold followed suit for a spell Then he stopped smoking weed when Diane left him for a lesbian. I guess that was a sobering experience!

Besides dancing, Arnold also played a lot of chess with these colorful characters. One of the guys was Bert who was tall and handsome and Peanuts, his brother, who was short and not handsome at all. Peanuts broke into an auto supply store but got caught and stayed in jail for a bit.

Albert's brother came out from NY, unannounced, while he was seeing the then new Hubble telescope at Griffith Park. He stayed with Arnold and started buying and renting houses. He paid off the mortgage and lived off the rent. Arnold took over one of his Venice properties and wound up owning the place, where he still resides. He fixed up the house which he says was "a real dump" when he got it.

After looking through dozens of pictures of weight lifters and hot girls and Gypsy folk, we turned our attention to his amazing artwork. Arnold is also an original ceramicist. The work is impeccably designed. He even published a book called "Geometric Pottery Designs". The vases were made with great precision, some completely caved out like lattice. It is a wonder they didn't warp and bend in the drying process, but Arnold knew he had to monitor and modify the drying carefully. He took classes offered to the community through Venice and Santa Monica High Schools. The variety of styles and complexity of just his vases is astounding. Some have perfectly painted floral work on them that look as if the designs were stamped on. There's a set of old shoes and boots which seem out of place in the room, until you realize they too are made of clay. It is 3D hyper-realism at its best. It took his roommate two months, and he had to bumped into them, to realize they were made of clay. But his piece de resistance is his watches which look identical to metal watches with all the detail of Roman numerals under glass! It is done with the meticulousness that only a master craftsman could achieve. It is difficult to believe they are made of clay even under careful examination. It is an act of pure genius that crafted these works!

It takes a while to realize that you are surrounded by his trompe l'oeil masterpieces. The flowers and hanging basket in the corner, including the hanging chain, are all made of clay, even the books and playing cards! They're all clay and rendered in meticulous detail with outstanding perfection. And, since it was the 70's, he also has the most unusual set of bongos!

After an amazing hour of sharing old photos, stories and amazing artworks,

his tone turns more somber. It seems someone has actively tried to rob this elder of his fortune, his home and his peace of mind, never mind the health difficulties he encountered under the abusive hands of one fraudulent woman.

He showed me a photograph of a woman, who used him in an article for promoting her non profit helping seniors. At one point, when Arnold was approaching his 90s and needing assistance with his estate, she was his caretaker and got power of attorney. Then, she proceeded to steal 2 million dollars and tried to steal his home! It's hard to believe that a man who had accomplished so much in his life and a long time homeowner, could find himself on

*continued on page 9*



the brink of complete ruin because of one scammer in the guise of a caretaker! Here's how this tragedy almost took place.

When COVID broke out Arnold was watching CNN and seeing so many people dying. He thought his attorney, and a trustee and caretaker would be a victim of the disease and he wondered how he'd be able to exist if she got sick and died. He started investigating his estate and called his caretaker several times to ask whom he should contact in case she died before

him. She answered "you don't need to worry about that," and simply blew him off. With her power of attorney over Arnold's affairs, she used his entire portfolio of stocks and bonds and safety deposit boxes of two million dollars and started buying property. The first one, she put in the name of her animal rights foundation. He never saw a dollar of rent. Nor did he know he bought another house. The money grew to four million and she bought herself another house for herself. Eventually the account was depleted. His dividend checks stopped coming. He called her to say 'hey I got no money what's going on.' Instead of giving him his own money, she started finding roommates for him. His now good friend was then the third person presented to be a roommate for him at the time. It was



a lucky pairing. Then she decided to use Arnold at her foundation home so he could sit for the dogs while she was gone, water her garden and take the trash cans out to the street. Mind you, that he is 93 at the time!

I

Arnold was bewildered and inquired of his housemate to help him. He had noticed Arnold's brother, who had left him the house and 2 million dollars, had put the name of a trust attorney on the refrigerator, so he called him. Arnold immediately fired the woman as his power of attorney. She responded with a slew of angry, threatening messages. Then she tried, unsuccessfully, to get his roommate arrested. She then managed to lie her way into getting a restraining order against him as well, to get him out of the house so that she could illegally enter Arnold's home. She lied to locksmiths, claiming his home as hers to get them to work for her. Even the person who served his roommate the court summons was duped by her claim of having power of attorney, though she had been fired months earlier. She illegally had his bolts cut to enter. She knew he and Arnold had no money, so she claimed his roommate was his caretaker with 'undue influence' over Arnold. But he was simply a roommate and who helped Arnold at his request. He was not his caretaker. She sued him for robbing Arnold, or for

doing exactly what she had done to Arnold. Thankfully, they found a contingency attorney who took no money up front to help them with their cases.

After years of litigation, Arnold won his landmark case of senior abuse against the woman and against her animal rights foundation for 22 million dollars. The charity owes him 7 million and she owes him 15 million for legal fees and damages. A great victory but not without a caveat. She let the house she bought with Arnold's money go into foreclosure! And now the bank wants 1.2 million out of it, So, even though it was put back in Arnold's trust, when he sells that property he'll not see a penny of that money, The other house she bought for 500 thousand then borrowed 200 thousand on it ,was sold in a fire sale for 700 thousand. Arnold was responsible to pay the bank loan of 200 thousand and then the lawyers contingency fee; he didn't get a penny out of the sale!

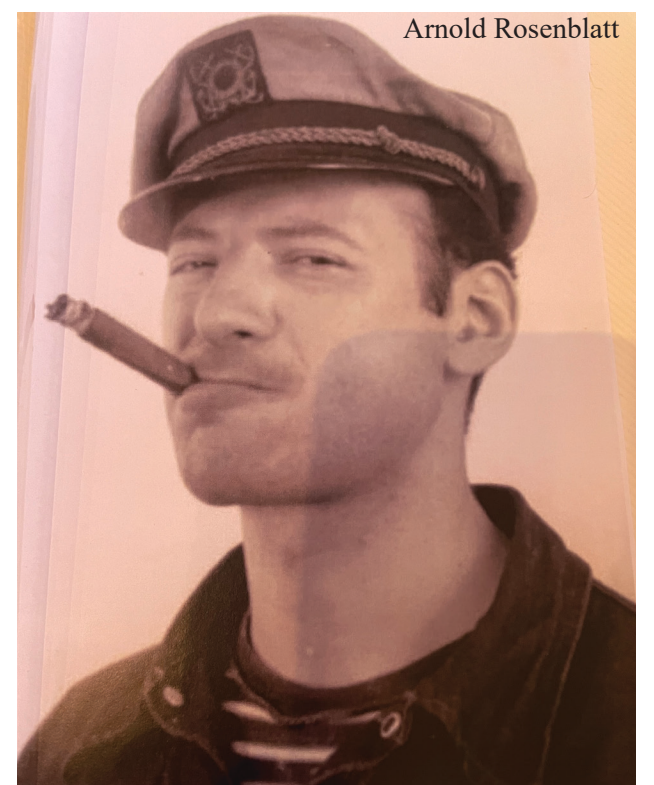
So with the 22 million dollar judgement, he gets to keep his house he's been living in but the deal with the lawyer is when he dies he'll have to sell it to pay their fees. Meanwhile, this woman has been found guilty of elder abuse and violation of fiduciary responsibilities and bank fraud, She's still in one the houses, resisting to leave and she's now using the crisis in the Pacific Palisades to raise money and sympathy for her charity, which seems more likely to be spent on more legal fees in her endless 'fraudsting' operations.

For those five litigious years, Arnold had a cloud over him. The court case just depressed him so deeply. He stopped going out for walks. His back slowly went out and now he's in constant pain. For months he thought it was witchcraft, but His friends convinced him to keep fighting. He feels like he's pretty strong for his age and determined to stay a few more years. His roommate put up a few objects and his own mojo to fight the witchcraft and took him to many doctors to get a good diagnosis and now he's just about pain management. The two of them are really good buddies and best friends. They often eat and make meals together. The roommate does most of the cleaning of the house. He told Arnold he has not just Slavic but slobbish roots so, Arnold's getting better at making his bed and keeping his place in order. He also convinced Arnold that he needs to push through



and live as if everything was going to work out in his favor. And so he made a beautiful garden in the yard. They worked together searching "offer up" and created a beautiful environment and he found all kinds of shelving to put his artwork at eye level display.

Arnold says he's happy he has his house. He'd like her to be in jail but he's glad she's out of his life. This case gave him so much stress, he's glad it's finally over. It took a year for the judge to even write the decision because she kept sending things to block the case from moving forward. They were completely discouraged the final time they walked into the courtroom. They both recalled the tension they felt that day the judgement came. His housemate recalled telling Arnold "I know you don't believe in God or anything, but if we should go into that courtroom today and the judge would say this woman is guilty, she robbed you, you're innocent, that would be a miracle, right?" And Arnold agreed. They walked into the court and all the officials were talking and they're waiting to see what's happening when one of the court appoin-



tees says "how about a summary judgement?" In March 2023 the judge, after a year of this woman's endless ploys to block the decision by filing various bankruptcies, and other lawsuits, the judge was finally able to make a decision and it lay entirely in Arnold's favor! On Dec 31, 2024, the judge was able to write the decision.

In the meantime, Arnold shared one last story about his grandfather in Russia. He was a big boss who was hard on the workers. Wasn't a great combination for a Jew to be. He got these trees cut down and the logs made into furniture. But his workers hated him so they burnt down the factory and called the police on him because he didn't pay a certain tax. But the fire burned all the evidence against him. So now he had nothing and had a big bunch of kids. So his grandfather went begging for daily bread. He'd arrive later in the day with a sack of bread. It was eaten up in five minutes. He tried to go to America, as he was a highly skilled furniture maker, but he couldn't procure a passport. But there was a woman with a lot of kids who didn't have a husband. So he posed as her husband and they got passports to come to America with all her kids.

When he got there he made his way to the Brooklyn navy yard and made them furniture and he was able to bring his entire family over to the states, paving the future for his grandson Arnold, a real mensch! It was an honor to share his story

The public record of the amendment & complete restatement of the Arnold Rosenblatt Revocable Living Trust est.2/23/2006 case # 20STPB03748

Superior Court of LA County, Central District

@Enyaj Pitchford



**-A MAD WORLD-**  
The world is goin mad

everything is bad and sad.  
Nations turn to tyranny  
propaganda, lies, insanity.  
Dictators take over and rule  
they are evil and cruel.  
Billionaires & crooks run the USA  
the poor will suffer and pay.  
Our country being torn apart  
the rich without conscience or heart.  
The Bill of Rights up in flames  
politicians playin dirty games.  
They're doin tricks & schemes  
it is our worse dreams.  
Our leaders are sick, sick, sick  
they'll try every dirty trick.

Our nation goin crazy  
the end of freedom & democracy.  
Democracy soon gone  
we've been taken in by a lying con.  
Politicians scream, rant, yell  
our world goin to Hell.  
We're deceived by words and lies  
the Statue of Liberty cries.  
We're sold illusions and delusions  
counting on ridiculous solutions.  
They're tearin up the Constitution  
headin for destruction & revolution.  
Evil madmen in power  
this is our fateful hour.  
Our world is a fright

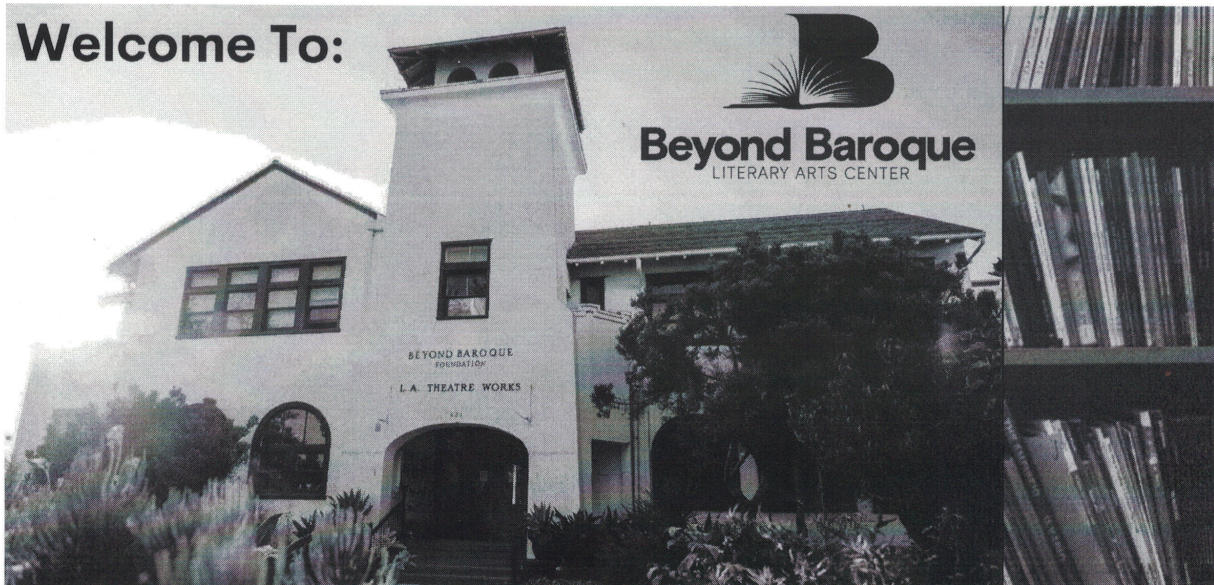


• TRUMP'S REMODELLED STATUE OF LIBERTY •

For our rights we must fight.  
March, march and protest  
fight, fight and never rest.  
We must do our part  
vote, write, sing, do your art.  
Get out and demonstrate  
before it's too late.  
Brothers and sisters unite  
we must fight with all our might!

-Patrick Moisha Henry-

**Welcome To:**



## About Us:

Beyond Baroque is one of the United States' leading independent Literary | Arts Centers and public spaces dedicated to expanding the public's knowledge of poetry, literature and art through cultural events and community interaction.

## Quick Facts:

- Our space features:
  - The Scott Wannberg Bookstore
  - The Mike Kelley Gallery
  - The Wanda Coleman Theater
  - The Poets' Garden
- Hosts over 10,000 attendees between our workshops and reading series each year
- Hosts of the Southern California Poetry Festival, the International Poetry Film Festival, and more
- Notable Workshop alum include: Dennis Cooper, Wanda Coleman, Amanda Gorman, Tom Waits, Exene Cervenka, and Amy Gerstler



Terrance Hayes reading in the Wanda Coleman Theater, 2023



Poets meet for the Wednesday Night Poetry Workshop, 1970's

## Martha Kaplan

by Pamela Ross

*This poem begins and ends about a very special friend. She's as sweet as she can be, If you knew her, you'd agree. She's one who is always there, to let you know she cares. She has a heart of gold, Her friendship I'll always hold. She's the best friend I ever had, She's there for me when I'm sad. Her migraines keep her low, I wish she didn't suffer so. She's really like no other, she's closer than my own mother. Nobody better say anything wrong, I'll knock them to Kingdom Kong. To me she really is a pearl She's my best friend in the whole wide world*

ROCKET MAN (Bowing to George Harrison and Jim Morrison)

By William Kingsbury

I  
ME  
MINE!

I know the answer  
I am the Lizard King  
I can do anything

Let there be me  
Cost no object  
Burn baby burn

Harden up!  
Some will have to go  
That's not my  
department

Let them  
eat my  
Spaceship exhaust

## City Phone Numbers

Police: Non-Emergency	877-275-5273
Police: TDD Service	800-660-4026
City Park Emergencies	323-913-7390
Water & Power / Report a Problem (no immediate danger)*	800-342-5397
Natural Gas Service	800-427-2200
Traffic Signal Outage	213-485-4184
Street Light Repair	3-1-1 (or 213-473-3231)
American Red Cross	310-445-9900
Animal Services	888-452-7381
Building Inspection Request	888-524-2845
Refuse collection	800-773-2489
Sewer & Storm Drain Issues - 3-1-1 (or 213-473-3231)	
Fallen Street Trees / Debris - 3-1-1 (or 213-473-3231)	

For assistance with most other City services, dial 3-1-1 within City limits;

or call 213-473-3231 -- from anywhere.

Weekday hours: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm;

Weekends and holidays: 8:00 am to 4:45 pm.

Or, visit MyLA 311.

For information about emergency preparedness programs in the City of Los Angeles, contact:

LA City Emergency Management Department (EMD)

Phone: 213-484-4800

E-mail: emd.emdweb@lacity.org

## Want to support, rent out our space, or learn more?

Visit our website: [beyondbaroque.org](http://beyondbaroque.org) and check out our upcoming events!

find us on social media @bbllitarts

681 Venice Blvd. Venice. CA



# Beyond Baroque

Gallery and Bookstore now open  
 Tuesday - Thursday, 2:00-6:00 by appointment  
 Friday - Saturday, 12:00 - 6:00 open

[beyondbaroque.org](http://beyondbaroque.org)

Public Works Improv Presents: Earth Day Cabaret  
 Sunday, April 27, 2025, 2:00 PM PT  
 In Person at Beyond Baroque & Live on YouTube  
 Hosted by Greg Bell, celebrate Earth Day at Beyond Baroque in song, poetry, and storytelling. Featuring Anika Paris, Elena Secota, Gloria Vando, John Silvers, Lee Boek, Paul Fleisher, ReRe Duce, Susan Suntree & Tom Laichas.  
 WAWOG: The New York War Crimes the Land Day Edition Community Reading  
 Thursday, May 1 2:00 PM PT  
 In Person at Beyond Baroque and Live on YouTube

Writers Against the War on Gaza present a reading & discussion from the latest issue of The New York War Crimes. The Land Day edition commemorates the 49th anniversary of strikes led by Palestinian and Israeli Arab citizens on March 30, Community activists, writers, and contributors to the newest issue, will read and discuss at Beyond Baroque's Scott Wannberg Bookstore.

Poet Film Stage  
 Friday, May 2 7:30 PM PT  
 In Person at Beyond Baroque and Live on YouTube  
 Poet Film Stage is coming to Beyond Baroque! Experience a night of poetry with moving images beyond the page and dynamic performances by multi-talented Los Angeles authors. Featuring Phil Abrams, Michelle Bitting, Brendan Constantine, Nicelle Davis, Kathleen Florence, Rich Ferguson, S.A. Griffin, Susan Hayden, Eric Morago, Harry E. Northup, abbi page, Jeremy Ra, Amy Raasch, David A. Romero, Lynne Thompson and jimmy vega.

L.A. Book Launch: Random Experiments in Bioluminescence, Amy Shimshon-Santo  
 Saturday, May 3 2:00 PM PT  
 In Person at Beyond Baroque and Live on YouTube  
 Join Amy Shimshon-Santo & friends for an afternoon of eco-poetry and community conversation at the LA launch of her book Random Experiments in Bioluminescence. Choral, cryptographic, and exhilarating, her work is a homecoming to the body and the planet, cultivating respect for multiple languages, and awe for life in our pluriverse. She will be reading with Karen Llagas & Àkpà Àrinzèchukwu.

A Celebration of New Poetry: Mark Irwin, Rick Barot, Matthew Gellman  
 Saturday, May 3 7:00 PM PT  
 In Person at Beyond Baroque and Live on YouTube

Beyond Baroque presents a captivating evening of poetry in celebration of three recently published collections and forthcoming works: Once When Green by Mark Irwin, Moving the Bones by Rick Barot, and Matthew Gellman's debut collection, Beforelight. The program will feature poets in The Wanda Coleman Theater with book signings to follow.

Wednesday Night Poetry Workshop  
 Wednesdays 8:00 PM PT Via Zoom  
 The West Coast's longest-running free poetry workshop welcomes new and seasoned poets to share new work and provide feedback. Please be prepared to share one poem. Facilitated by Tom Laichas via Zoom. Registration required.

*This Paper is a Poem*

## Are You Hungry? Free Food At Venice Beach

(Times and places occasionally change)

- \***You Matter- Michael's picnic with friends.** Tue. & Thur. around 11 am. North border of Venice on the Ocean Front Walk near Ozone Ave.
- \***Free Food with Dan and pals-** various groceries, bread, fruit, vegetables. Sat. & Sun. around 8am. Ocean Front Walk by Ozone Ave.
- \***Venice Equity Alliance-** Bread, vegetables, fruit, & . Every other Wed. 11am. 132 Brooks Ave.
- \***St. Joseph Center-** their clients, to-gomeals. Mon. 10-11:50, Tues. & Thurs. 12-2:50. 204 Hampton Dr.. Also weekly food if you register at (310)396-6468 ext.313
- \***St. Mark Church Free Food Pantry** Every Saturday from 11am to 1pm 940 Coeur d'Alene Ave, Venice 90291 (entrance Garfield Av) Vegetables, fruits and other food items. No registration needed. Drive-thru and walk-in options. Call St. Mark Parish at 310-821-5058 or email us at loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com
- \***Venice Family Clinic -** Free bag of fruits and vegetables. Every 3rd Wed. of the month. 10 AM to 12 PM. 589 Rose Ct.
- \* **Community Corp Veggie Giveaway Weekly** 3pm to 5pm on Wednesday 2033 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404, USA

### \* BAR Center at the Beach \*

201 Ocean Front Walk  
 Senior Schedule  
 LUNCH for seniors (60+years)  
 Monday thru Friday-12 PM  
 - FREE SENIOR CLASSES -  
 Mondays  
 10 AM Dance class with Zhanna  
 11 AM Virtual Travel Tours  
 1:45 PM Arthritis Exercise with Kathrin

Tuesdays  
 1:15 PM Tai Chi with Anton  
 Wednesdays  
 10 AM Shakti Naam Yoga with Allyn  
 11 AM Rummikub games  
 12:40 PM BINGO!  
 1:30 PM Arthritis Exercise with Shifra  
 Fridays  
 10 AM Fit & Fun in Motion with Shifra  
 11:15 Shabbat Celebration with Shifra  
 \* Every 1st

Friday of the month at 12:00 PM- Klezmer music with Gustavo, Freddy and Marty.

Marty's Movie Matinee once a month.  
 Arts and Culture Club with Sheryl- alternate Mondays.  
 + Plus Special Events and Parties Every Month!

• Additional classes available on ZOOM...

## Live Music The Trip Bar

2101 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica  
<https://www.tripsantamonica.com/calendar>

## Unurban Cafe

3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica  
 Open Mic Fridays 7:00  
*The Sunless Sea Poetry and Spoken Word Open Mic Show*  
 Tuesdays 7:30  
 Often A Sunday Afternoon Show with  
 Brad Kay and a number of lovely chanteuses

## Venice West

[www.thevenicewest.com](http://www.thevenicewest.com)

**WELL FAMILY MARIAN PLACE**  
 formerly well baby center

Well Family Marian Place, formerly known as Well Baby Center, has been a leader in early childhood and maternal mental health services since 2008. We offer affordable counseling, parent-child groups, and parenting classes/coaching in person or virtually.

12316 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA,  
 United States, California  
 (310) 402-2229  
[services@wellfamilymp.org](mailto:services@wellfamilymp.org)  
<https://wellfamilymp.org/>



## FREE LEGAL HOUSING CLINIC

CALL  
**323-951-1041**

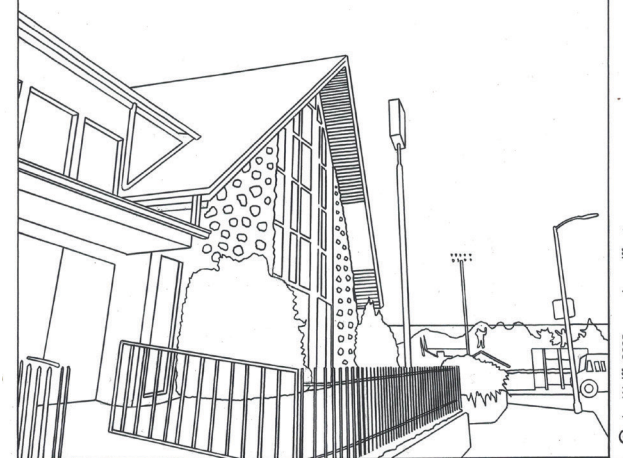
The California Women's Law Center is helping tenants answer their legal questions. Attorneys are available to discuss your legal housing needs, including questions about emergency measures related to COVID-19.

To receive free legal assistance please contact [cwlc@cwlc.org](mailto:cwlc@cwlc.org) or (323) 951-1041 to schedule your reservation.



Los Angeles Tenants Union  
 West Side Local Meetings  
 1st and 3rd Wednesday; 7-8:30pm  
 Oakwood Recreation Center  
 767 California Ave., Venice, CA 90291  
 Sindicato de Inquilinos de Los Angeles  
 Reuniones de la Sección Oeste  
 1er y 3er miércoles; 7-8:30pm  
[westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com](mailto:westsidelocal.latu@gmail.com)  
 424-272-1618  
 Casework de cases: 213-986-8266

## THE HISTORY IS IN VENICE

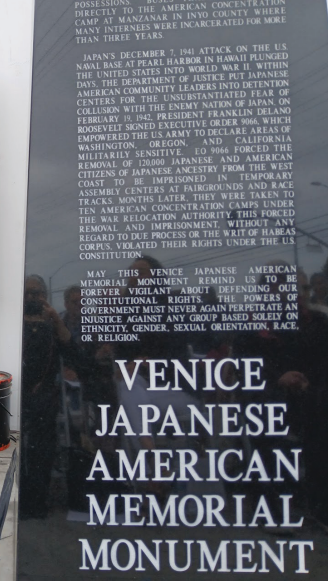


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 or call 424-256-3886

# Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument COMMEMORATION April 17, 2025



Suzanne Thompson



VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT



Esther Chaing



Dan Kwong, Bruce Embrey



Noel Johnston, Friend, Susan, Ingrid Mueller



Femi Yildirim, Aanti Sumaiyya



Erika Lee



Friend, friend, Mike, Craig, Marisol Perez, Iris Garcia, Jennie Tomita



Dan Kwong



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Phyllis Hayashibara, Miya Iwataki



Alvin Ho



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Susan Nakashima



Brian Maeda



Victoria and Roger Yamashita



Natalie Tokita



Miya Iwataki



Jennie Tomita



Jennifer Yamashita



Kraig Kishi, Jennifer Kishi



Remembering Manzanar: History, Legacy, and the 56th Annual Pilgrimage

13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VJAMM FUNDRAISER AT HAMA SUSHI RESTAURANT  
 213 Windward Avenue "On the Circle"  
 Venice, CA 90291

For dinner reservations, please contact Hama Sushi at 310-396-8783 or [www.hamasushi.com/menus](http://www.hamasushi.com/menus)  
 Eat in or take out!

10% of all dinner sales will be donated to the VJAMM for ongoing maintenance, educational outreach, and the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant

Thank you to Esther Chaing of Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice for your generous support of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument

Mail tax-deductible donation checks payable to VCH/VJAMM to Venice Arts Council, PO Box 993, Venice, CA 90294