

The Ojai & Ventura



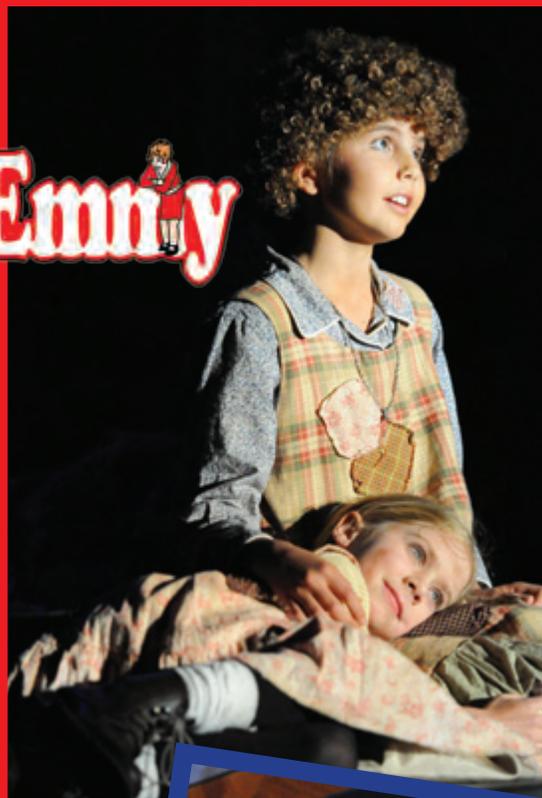
# VIEW



CASH CATS

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Emmy



© 2011, Mary M. Long

★

## SKATE OJAI



Photo © 2011, Mary M. Long

• BFB's  
JOHNNY PODZ

• OJAI  
LOAN  
SHOPPING

• Artiste  
Discount?

• DICK  
LYNCH

• PETS

• THE  
GOV



Photo © 2011, Mary M. Long



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• ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL?

• MAN OR MOUSE?

• SELF ABOVE SERVICE...

• WINE AND ROSES • OJAI MUSEUM: TOWN TALKS • VFW SANFORD DRUCKER • BLUES ARE OUR VICE

INSIDE: ROCK N' ROLL • ENVIRONMENT • People • Arts on Main - Camptown Livin'

# Ojai City Council Raggedy Edge

— Dick Lynch

Holy Smoke...Ojai has burned through it's dough and is out shopping for a bank loan. According to former Interim City Manager John Baker, they're going to be in big trouble if they can't secure a line of credit by July. "You're skating on thin asphalt around here...." he said. The Feb. 8 chamber-member-filled city council audience seemed to think that was a laughing matter and broke out into belly laughs and hee-haws... Laughing matter???

You might be askin' what's a comin' up in July? Well... in May McGilivray Construction will have to be Paid in Full for building that fancy new high-falutin' con-struction called Libbey Bowl.

Holy Gee Hossi-fits... Property Taxes from the rank and file homeowners of Ojai won't be coming in until December and by then the coffers will be looking mighty thin if not flatter n' a pancake with receipts from TOT and Sales Tax lower than projected. Councilmember Sue Horgan said, "You saw these numbers... the numbers are really bad this year."

Added to that interest bearin' line of credit being chased after for the Bowl debt is the \$159,000 smack-croos for the Visitor's Bureau (OVV). "A drop in the bucket," in the words of Councilman Blatz. All to lure them big-city dudes to Ojai so shop keepers don't have to pay for their own marketing expenses. Scratching my whiskers here to ponder how much of that OVB dough goes to administra-

tive salaries.... If Ojai is so unique, special and desirable why do we have to send more taxpayers dollars to a slick Ventura marketing firm to tell people what Ojai is? There's a cool \$109,000 going to Ballin Marketing firm with \$53,950 to the Chamber of Commerce for expenses, some of which are rent and utilities. This year the Chamber is doubling their management administrat-ing fees and hiring a new marketing assistant for \$23,000. Nice to know there are some new jobs being created in Ojai. Course this means a little "belt-tightening" down at the hall, with the city light bill going on the credit card, cause there ain't no dough. The Chamber is really flexing some muscle these days taking claim for getting two of "their" candidates elected to the City Council at their recent annual Awards Gala held Feb. 24 at the Ojai Valley Inn.

According to OVB supporters, there were about 60 travel articles glorifying chamber businesses in print last year, which were dishd out by Ballin in a frenzy to paint Ojai as a weekend "destination." Yet the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) receipts still went down last year for all but the Inn. The Inn will also be hosting Good Morning America... seems they get all the business in town. For those of you born yesterday, TOT is the

Raggedy Edge Continued Page 4...



## PRESS RELEASE

### Rare U.S. Vintage Poster Collection Coming to Simi Town Center ~ 3/5

"Hooray for the U.S.A.!" begins March 5 with special ceremony, and will continue at indoor gallery through Memorial Day. The Simi Valley Town Center announces an exhibit of rare, original military posters, art and propaganda from World War I through the present day — a collection not typically found in the Western United States. The assortment features pieces commissioned by the U.S. Government to inspire pro-American mindsets and help mobilize citizens to support war efforts.

The special March 5 opening ceremony will begin at 1pm in Center Court, with presentations by the Commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10049, representatives of each military branch and Simi Valley Civil Air Patrol.

Featured will be rare military propaganda posters dating from 1915 through the 1940s, as well as other artistic pieces from other wars and conflicts through present day. About 30 World War I and at least 20 World War II historic posters — for military recruitment, urging the purchase of war bonds, offering information for families to grow food at home and more — will be displayed from the collection of Simi Valley Resident Nigel Boucher. "They show the theme of World War I and World War II in posters," Boucher said. "Especially in World War I when they did not have television or radio, and in World War II before most people had televisions. The government basically told the story in the posters, in the propa-ganda."

After March 5, "Hooray for the U.S.A.!" will be open 10am to 5pm Sats., 11am to

www.YouTube.com/OVVtaView



5pm Suns. through the end of May, as well as select weekday hours. Location; Space No. 605, Center Court, 1555 Simi Town Center Way, Simi Valley.

It is the first time Boucher's collection will be displayed as such for public display. Such exhibits are more common in the Eastern U.S., such as at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia, not the West Coast. Boucher's collection is comprised entirely of originals.

MORE INFORMATION: VFW Post 10049 Simi Valley, 805/583-9722

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are...." — John Wooden

Send your Letters! editor@ojaiandventuraview.com multiple publication submissions discouraged

# A View from the Shore

## Homelessness as a Commodity by Lawrence and Lori Anderson (aka Criminal Sleepers)

As all of you faithful readers of The View remember from last month's issue, we had given up the life of criminal sleepers, checked ourselves into the cycle of dependency known as homelessness, and moved into a plasticized cardboard dome at River Haven, in Ventura. Well, all Havens are not a Haven. We lasted 23 days. The experience would require reams of paper and truckloads of pencil lead and erasers to document. Essentially, River Haven is built on a shaky foundation, by a city using homelessness as a commodity.



Campdown livin'

Our dome at River Haven cost us (at that time, homeless non-criminal sleepers) \$400 a month. Single sleepers pay \$200 monthly; if unable to pay, they must sign I.O.U.'s to the City. In short, the camp offers no electricity, no heat, a plethora of folks doing what they want, when they want, and, by far the worse, no enforcement of the rules of the camp about respect. Two days after we were moved in, we were asked to sign away all of our renter's rights. This facilitates the bosses' ability to get rid of renters without due process.

When is a dome not a dome? Ours leaked rainwater. Many of them do. Ours almost blew over in the constant winter wind, needing emergency repairs. The domes are transparent and placed five feet from one another. The "hardcore homeless," who have lived for years in the estuary next to The Haven, make almost nightly raids, making off with whatever is not bolted down, and, at times, even those things that are bolted down. To top it off, the City sewage facility is so close that many afternoons the smell is so pungent that one must wear a cover over the mouth and nose. Our \$400 a month dome was not dry, safe or private.

After three weeks of being used as a commodity pawn in order to "pay off the investment in the domes," and to create jobs for the otherwise unemployable and for volunteers, Lawrence finally "lost it" at a weekly meeting and was naive enough to question some of the threats and bullying by the administration. It seems

that because some residents are in recovery or on parole, all must sit through threats of constant surveillance and immediate expulsion. After the meeting, we were asked to leave as soon as possible. We were happy to go, giving everything we had acquired to the other residents, who had been, in most ways, kind to us. We would not want any reader to think that we are not grateful to those who truly care about the less fortunate. There are those who do care.

Yet, what we would like to debate is the sham, the shuck, of the whole "homeless issue" being used as a "feel good" by the politicians and others to make a few bucks. We have lived it. We have seen it in many programs.

The scenario might be like this: suppose that Washington has some money to rid the United States of the blight caused by shopping carts left on street corners, haphazardly, by souls in transition. Washington would give some of this money to its states, who would be instructed to jump through grants, catch the money and "handle" the problem. The states, as granters, would make the cities jump through double hoops, it is pathetic to imagine how the shopping cart foundations would have to dance to catch the nickels that might solve the problem. How many pennies will the shopping cart collectors collect? And as for the shopping cart? It has become a commodity.

We use the shopping cart analogy purposefully, to highlight the stereotypes of homelessness. Most homeless people have never pushed a cart. In fact, if you are living in an un-coded residence of any kind, you are homeless. Doubling up at your cousin's house? Homeless.

Overall, the problems, of the growing population of domestic economic refugees are best handled in a neighborly fashion. Persons helping persons. Unfortunately, many such generous impulses are subsumed into a series of systems wherein the bureaucracy outweighs the humanity. Workers and volunteers within these systems carry on nobly yearning for a better way.

We thank such workers, and hope that our brief exposé will help to make their jobs easier by cutting through the mire. That mire has driven us back to sleeping in the woods and removing ourselves from the cycle of dependence. Anyhow, we are recovering from recovery. — Lawrence and Lori Anderson (non-criminal sleepers)

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the Ojai and Ventura Real VIEW

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Ojai Parks and Recreation Commissioner Sage Iner, Feb. 3.

## Meeting Moment

"The [Ojai Parks] commission is feeling like they've been left out of the process on the Libbey Bowl and how that affects the park and other aspects of the park besides the Bowl"

- Ojai Councilman Paul Blatz, Ojai City Council Meeting, 2-8-11

## Gov. Brown Politics JERRY'S DESIGN FLAW

by Jefferson Pinto

The race for California's Governor is over. Meg is out. The Hummer and cigar smokers' tent are gone. Arnie has headed back to Hollywood (possibly Ojai) to make good on his "I'll be back" motto.

Jerry's back too. If you recall he campaigned on the premise that he's going to make things right for California again by closing the \$25 billion gap to balance the state budget. He's put his proposal out there and he's on his tour de California to sell his plan. But, there's a huge architectural flaw with Jerry Brown's plan.

Suppose an architect designed a building and it tumbled down, hurting people after the first big wind. Then the architect says, "Hey, you never told me to design the building to withstand 50 mile per hour winds. It's not my fault. It was never architected for that." Do we really need to tell an architect to design the building to withstand the reality of high winds that occur in the region? No! That's his job.

Back to California and Jerry. Jerry's proposed plan is to cut spending by \$12.5 billion, making the other half up with taxes. Here's where the first faux debate begins. Is it an extension of a temporary tax increase or a tax increase? Who cares what we call it; we are paying taxes to make up the other \$12.5 billion bucks.

Jerry wants to put the tax portion of his plan on the ballot and let the voters decide. The second faux debate is whether it's constitutional to vote on taxes. It is. Let's move on to the real problem.

Giving the people a choice to pay more or less tax seems a little risky. Hmmm? Let me think. Do I want to keep my money or give it to the state of California? What happens if the wind blows the other direction and the taxes to close the budget gap are voted down? The budget balancing architecture plan will fail. I can hear it now, "The people of California have spoken. They do not want to balance the budget." Hey Jerry, you're the leader. Putting the tax up for a vote is weaseling out of the core duty that comes with the governor's seat.

In response to the great depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) introduced "The New Deal." Seventy five years after the fact, whether it was a good deal is another commentary for another day. However, in response to the great recession, California needs the leadership to architect "The Whole Deal," one that the governor is going to stand behind during high winds.

Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, and holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country. Jefferson@ojaiventuraview.com

## PRESS RELEASE

### Richard Senate - The Ghosts of Victorian Ventura ~ 3/18

Date: Mar. 18, 2011 Time: 7pm to 8:30pm Fee: Lecture fee/donation is \$4 per person Where: Bank of Books, 748 East Main Street, Ventura Contact Info: 643-3154 or Richard Senate, 200-8658 hainthunter@aol.com

The many ghosts of Victorian Ventura's Garden District come to life in a tour and talk by Richard Senate, one of the top ten recognized experts on the paranormal in the United States. The lecture will discuss Victorian views of death and spiritualism. The talk will include a short walking tour, so dress warmly and be sure to take a camera and flashlight. The fascinating lecture will be open for questions and answers at the conclusion. Mr. Senate will be available to sign books and his books will be on sale at the Bank of Books for all who are interested.

As an added feature, Mr. Senate will discuss Victorian Ghost Hunting techniques. "I believe ghost hunting needs to go back to her roots - and away from a dependence on electronic gadgets."

## Why Ventura is The Broke Capitol of the World?

Who's Money is It Anyway?

The City of Ventura LOST \$10 Million Dollars over 2 years ago (well before the recent economic crash), through their ambitious high-risk investment plan; having placed precious taxpayer dollars with Bear Stearns (BS) private assets, which went belly up in the JP Morgan fiasco. This reduced Ventura's get-rich-quick-scheme to pie-in-the-sky. Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities.

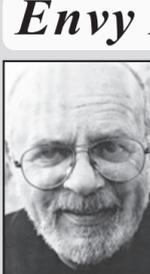
VIEW DETAILED FINANCIAL ANALYSIS Go To: www.ojaiandventuraview.com/OVVtaArt/TheRoseVol.IssueWebStealthkatGraphics.pdf

"The reason that everybody likes planning - is that nobody has to do anything..." — Jerry Brown



www.stopbigmedia.com

## Envy Anyone? (Part II)



"Don't Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess!"

Whenever we get caught in anything "negative" that is universally human, like envy, Thomas Moore comes to the rescue and asks, "What does envy want? Can we give this deadly sin an open-minded hearing?" When we're locked into envy we have no personal vision of our own, we only have other people's visions, of which we're envious. In the thick of envy we're blind to our own nature and our preoccupation with the lives of others leads to a neglect of our own. We become attached to envy and try to get everyone drawn into it. "Aren't you as outraged as I am?!" We resist our own path, feel cheated and deprived, because envy is a resistance to what our heart really wants. We're out of touch with the potential value of our own fate.

Check Out My Website/blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com

Envy is a defense and protects against deeper pain like grief, sadness and emptiness originating in childhood neglect and emotional abuse. We make excuses for family members who wounded us, "They did their best, they didn't know any better." This protection serves as a resistance to not feel deep sorrow, rage and emptiness. Therapy is not about "parent bashing", but it is about having genuine and appropriate emotional responses to what happened to us in the reality of our childhood. The only reason we journey into the past is because we're stuck and living out our wounds from the early years right now — in the here and now. An understanding and genuine emotional response to what happened to us in childhood liberates us in the present. We have to go underneath envy and hang out with that emptiness in patient awareness. We need to experience the void before it can be filled up with renewed passion, love, creativity and a new vision. Envy can be a lifelong repetitive detour, or if we're conscious of this emotion, it can lead us to look within and find gifts we never thought we had. Envy like all pathological symptoms is a sign of grace if we truly listen, because it invites us to dive deeper into soul and mystery. We begin to live with greater depth, maturity and flexibility. Ironically, pathology can be a route to a soulful life.

If you're stuck on the envy treadmill, you need to understand the following cycle: Envy leads to frustrated rage which leads to hostility towards others which leads to rejection by others which leads to depression and loneliness which leads to greater envy. Envy is the result of competition gone wrong. We need to get off the "envy cycle" because it doesn't allow closeness and intimacy. In closing, here is the poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's take on envy, "Against another's great merits, there is no remedy but love." Our neighbor's victories are our victories.

Love to Mother Meera. One for all and all for one.

PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D. Lic #MFT14142 37 Years Experience drpetermilhado@gmail.com • (805) 640-1810 Blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com Extensive Experience With Folks Over Forty and Artists In All Creative Fields

# OJAI CITY COUNCIL RAGGEDY EDGE

Continued From Page 2... tax money motels pay from folks beddin' down in Ojai for the night.

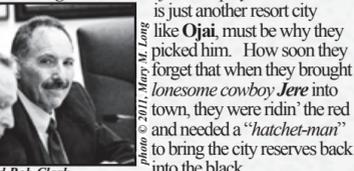
Now, divide those 60 fluffy articles into \$159,000 dollars... that looks like about \$2,700 per article. Who-eee that's good dough for a journalist. Perhaps the "OVSnooze" and independent tabloids would like to know what travel 'journalists,' who are being rewarded with freebies in exchange for kiss ass articles, are being paid. Seems they all have to mention (our turn now) Ronald Coleman's 1933 movie 'Lost Horizon' to play the Shangra-lalala Card in the first paragraph. How many ways can one say 'Lost Horizon' in 60 articles?

Speaking on plying the tourist trade, some of the Chamber member shop-keepers who showed up to lobby for funds for the OVB were "squatters" by local standards. Imagine businesses who set up in Ojai to trade on the "Ojai Mystique" by purveyin' not made in ojai arts & crafts? Or merchants who display local work who are not-local work themselves? What ever happened to "Art Sunday" when local artists could just set up their easels without handing a wad of cash to the city or the Art Center?

Horgan drew a line in the sand with her errr uh get-tough-no-nonsense attitude and declared that if there weren't "measurable" financial results from the OVB by next year there would be big trouble. Sue said, "If we were to fund this, I think next year when we go through this, there will have to be really measurable results... umm you know"... Tough talk from the little money-guy... Isn't this the same face-saving approach she used for Libbey Bowl, talkin' caution for a big dollar project and then votin' for it? She couldn't uh said it better herself, "I'm coming to the very same decision that I came to with Libbey Bowl."

Betsy Clapp, who ran on a platform of fiscal responsibility, voiced her frustration with the ever widening deficit at the Feb. 8 council meeting. "We don't have the money, what do you suggest we do? I think it's so unfair to the citizens to have to takeout a line of credit to pay our phone bill, to pay the light bill... to pay the water bill... we've taken huge risks to help this community. We took this risk when we chose to fund the Libbey Bowl...the city was in no position to fund building the Libbey Bowl...and now the taxpayers of this community are having to pay interest to pay our water bill, our light bill."

Dang good thing they hustled up a new City Manager who has experience with Cities that are teetering on the brink of Bankruptcy. Mammoth is just another resort city like Ojai, must be why they picked him. How soon they forget that when they brought someone cowboy Jere into town, they were ridin' the red and needed a "hatchet-man" to bring the city reserves back into the black.



Course Jere might not be too much of a dummy since the city is also still paying his salary while they move a new dude into his chair. Two-Two-Two almost City Managers for the price of Two...or is it Three??

Public comment at them City meetin's always brings in dissidents, activists and "trouble makers." Riding in with smoking guns, the lone ranger (your-three-minutes-are up) Leary, stood up and waved the January edition of The VIEW, challenging the Council to send their liaison to the Green Coalition to ask "What the Hell Are You Doing?" It's a confounding, mind-boggling thought that the "green" people are in the business of killing some of Ojai's, 100-year-old trees...

Where was our elected city treasurer Alan Rains during much of this recent financially draining time when the roof caved in...? Where was he when we needed him for moral support? You know "our man watchin' the city kitty..." the treasurer who owns that big general store in town, and is largely influential for gettin' the fums switched to the Save Libbey Bowl gang. Smiley is also a big outspoken honcho in the Chamber quest for that OVB dough. When all this pilagin' was goin' on he was on 'holiday,' ridin' the range in South America.

The trail-dusty Skate Ojai gang was back again with road weary faces, stunned that they are yet again locking horns with the Council over what should be a no-brainer... THE SKATE PARK NEEDS LIGHTS! Ms. Carol (Mayor-by-rotation) Smith, had a

couple of words to say about skating just not being in the same class as tennis. Waaall... the little lady just might have something there. How much wattage does it take to light a court for two tennis players to play a set, compared to the wattage used to let 50 kids use a small skate park? Dam good thinkin' there Care-ol...let's get the led out your pants and get the lights up before summer hits.



Ojai needs to go hat-in-hand to the Green Coalition and ask permission. Last time ah took a gander at the Green Coalition it wam't no government agency with off-ici-al powers...

Seems that there is a mighty powerful wallup behind this "non-profit," "politically correct" fringe gang. Hell they got more fringe on their trimmings than ah have on mah riding chaps... Better watch your back and not get their dander up! Make sure you ain't caught loping into Rainbow Bridge without your eco-friendly tree-saving cloth shopping bag and birkenstocks. We KNOW how they take to the cutting down of innocent trees!

Word has it that residents of the Libbey West Barranca/Los Arboles townhomes, and other streamside residents are hopping mad to have their view denuded for a dewey-eyed idealism that wants to take Ojai back to Pre-Columbian Days. Gone are the 21 Canary Island Palm trees from the Libbey stream. With Golden State Water taking a 26.2 percent rate increase, me-thinks that the city might reconsider the drip lines they have installed to water those "native plants."

Speaking of Carol...cowpokes been sayin' she and the city have a new suit to wear - it's filed!

Residents have been wondering why the developers of the Mallory Way project have been so silent. With a second chance to rehash their plans, from big-city duplexes to big city bungalows which would seriously whittle away at their high density profits, they have decided to stand and fight instead of slink off with their tails between their legs.

They had been given a chance to resubmit to the planning possee without having to wait a year to re-file and start over from scratch. In the meantime they have been mighty silent while they smoked a pipe and pondered their predicament. Seems like they are getting tired of seeing the same old faces down at the planning commission for the last seven years.

Course City Attorney Monte Widders did warn the council that when you make a decision to turn down a proposal you had better be able to back it up with some darn good reasons. Like it ain't fittin' with the general plan which is supposed to hang on to the "small-town" character stuff. You know that charm thing that brings the big-buck tourists to town? Big money developers just don't cotton to capricious decisions. Dam good thing new-bee City Manager Rob Clark has some experience fighting these rough-n-tumble land sharks. Means extra dough for Monte, with more billable hours for legal services charged to the city! Tough timing though, for an already strapped bunch of village dwellers.

Tough times too for the huge music department at Nordhoff. Schools are cryin' "wolf" as the budget cuts are threatening to curtail music classes for the kids. Tough for Wagner too, who has certainly done a great job. Dam good thing he has an "in" with the Music Festival folks. Since they are so dam good at fundraisng maybe they can take some of that over-flo from the Save-the-Libbey-Bowl kitty and schlep some dough to the local kids who need education to fulfill their potential.

Can you spend pledges or do you just have to chew on them until they turn into meat? Speaking of cutting the fat...wonder if some of those bigtime school administrators will be volunteering to take a pay cut for the benefit of the school kids? OUSD Super Hank Bangser, said in front of the en-tiire Ojai Rotary Club meetin' last year at Soule Park (3/12/2010), that he would be making "Administrative Salary Cutbacks" but I ain't heard hide nor hair of the matter from Hank since.....!!!!!!

Stay tuned for another excitin' gun-totin', range riding adventure where the good guys wear white and the bad guys could be the guys sitting next to you. Hang 'em High!

- Dick Lynch

## Albinger Museum Ventura's Mystery Stone

by Richard Senate

The Albinger Archaeological Museum is now closed to the public, the latest victim of budget cuts. But few know that this vest-pocket museum houses one of the greatest mysteries in California and one that may re-write the history books. It might be the concrete evidence that the Spanish were not the first Europeans to discover California and that honor might be given to the Medieval Irish!

The artifact is a large rock with odd markings scratched upon its surface. The rock is a hard material and so any markings must have been made with metal tools, and done not as an idle gesture but for some purpose. Who made these carvings? When it was first found in the early 1970s archaeologists speculated that it might be a Native American Calendar stone of some sort, others suggested it might have been used to make sea shell beads that the Chumash people used as a form of money. Still others held that the mystery stone must have something to do with the Old Mission as it was found close to Mission San Buenaventura. Could it have been used as a sharpening stone or maybe some sort of map.

The strangest, and perhaps the most radical theory was put forth in the 1980s by a couple visiting from West Virginia. They came away convinced that the markings were a form of writing called Ogam, used by the old Irish. Examples of these messages are found in Europe and the east coast of the U.S. Perhaps the best collection of Ogam Script has been found in Wyoming County, West Virg. Most anthropologists attribute the carvings to Native Peoples, but a determined group continue to seek more examples to offer evidence that the messages are old Irish. They point to records that a 6th Century Irish Monk, Saint Brendan, did sail across the Atlantic in small ships made of leather. Even if the stories of the venerable saint are true, Ventura is a long way from New England. The small leather ships might have made a trip from Ireland to the east coast but, the idea of them sailing around the tip of South America to California seem a bit too much to imagine. Still, the Irish are an inventive people known for their daring. Those who study Ogam have examined Ventura's Mystery Stone and they believe they can translate the grooves and ascertain it's meaning. They believe it reads: "This is the western boundary". Perhaps the Ancient Irish didn't sail here but marched across the American Continent marking it as their own, with Ventura the farthest west they reached. Interesting speculation but, do the marks really say this? Are they really Ogam or might their be another explanation? Could they be Chinese? Japanese? Perhaps Pacific Islander from mysterious Easter

Island? Who can say? But, with the Albinger Museum closed, perhaps permanently, the mystery rock may well be forever a mystery. I believe this curious artifact should be moved to a place where it can be seen by the public, maybe at Ventura's City Hall, or the County Historical Museum rather than languishing in the darkness. Maybe then, when scientists can study the thing, its ancient message may be discerned at long last.

- Richard Senate hainthunter@aol.com

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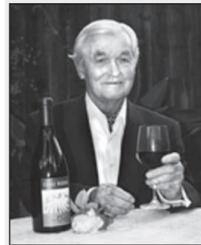
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# Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



February arrived, time to cut back the roses, and there is movement in the garden, preparing for spring. Percy Shelley wrote, in 1820, "And Spring arose on the garden fair, Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere; And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast rose from the dreams of its wintry rest." I also like Edward Lear's tribute to his garden. In 1876, he wrote, "And if you voz to see my roziz, as is a boon to all men's noziz, - you'd fall upon your back and scream, - 'O Lawk, O Crikey! It's a dream!'"

If you are looking for shopping bargains, save your trip to Ventura and shop Ojai. Many of the Ojai stores are having sales. Just take a walk down Ojai Avenue for lots of bargains, you won't be disappointed.

There may be good news for Ojai Artists. The whispered word is that The Art Center is planning on offering a 50% Discount this year on fees to "local" artists who purchase exhibit space in the May 34th Annual Art in the Park showcase. Can this be? Phone the Art Center for qualifying details, 646-0117

Overheard at plaza pantry tea shop... three lady tourists voicing their opinions on Ojai. One lady asked what do you do for stress around here? Another lady said she simply adored the bells chiming on the post-office towers, it reminded her of a medieval village. She was right, I now listen expectantly for the hourly chimes... Onward Christian Soldiers....

How did we lose our grip on the rhythms of life in this modern rat race times; the concrete jungle way of living? In the Middle Ages there were no clocks, just church bells ringing the canonical hours, matins, lands, prime, Vespers and compline. One could not make precise appointments, but as for psychological accuracy it was unparalleled: these sonorous bells literally reverberated within medieval man, cleansing his soul, restoring his contact with the universe.

Now we all go around mumbaling spring forward, fall back, so let the bells ring. Speaking of concrete jungle, is there any truth to the rumor of a big commercial Los Angeles Theater company purchasing The Ojai Art Center this spring? More info, call big John, 805.745.5432

All England is mesmerized with the upcoming marriage of Kate to Prince William in March, but not all English people admire the royal family. An anti-royalist group will be holding a rally in front of Buckingham Palace. They intend to bare their buttocks in unison, making a political statement. The leader of the group claims over 2,000 cheeks will be bared. It's a chilling thought and the police have vowed to get to the bottom of it otherwise it will be an Anna horribulis for the Queen.

If you are going to England for a visit and would like to visit an unusual place, go to Sir Thomas More's cell in the Tower of London. It is now open to the public after 465 years. Sir Thomas

Sir Thomas More, 1754

spent 15 months in the cell before being executed. Did you know in a restaurant French couples casually touch each other on an average of 115 times per hour. American couples average once, and the stiff upper brits, not at all.

I hear the printing firm of Johnson and Galley of Detroit is very unhappy. It seems they got Debbie Wheelers wedding all wrong, printing the wrong place, wrong time, wrong date and also printed her father as the groom. Debbie is suing the firm. Another couple, Alan and Laura Kelly sat down to watch the video of their wedding and discovered it had been recorded without sound. They are planning to sue as well.

The U.S. paid more than 48 billion in questionable Medicare claims last year. That's nearly 3 times the amount of bogus claims paid in 2009. Bogus claims include hundreds of prescriptions in the names of long dead doctors.

The U.S. Air Force is deploying a new drone surveillance plane in Afghanistan called the Gorgon Stare, he has nine video cameras and can monitor all outdoor human activity in entire towns and villages, cost \$18 million each.

Most garlic now sold in the U.S. comes from China. Since 2008 garlic import has tripled because it is less expensive to ship the Garlic thousands of miles than to grow and harvest it in California. All is not bliss in China. Officials have smeared butter along a 1,000 foot steel bridge in Guangzhou to stop people jumping off it. Officials have tried everything including fences and notices asking people to "Please not commit suicide off this bridge." Since smearing the rails with butter not a single person has committed suicide; the rails are too slippery. On the good side China has built 30,000 miles of highway. Auto sales are up 49 percent and McDonalds has built 106 drive-thru's and plan on building 300 more. For the first time China sold more cars to the world than the U.S. No more ugly Americans in Europe... ever since the Chinese began to travel, complaints against rude Chinese tourists have risen. A Chinese official claims Chinese tourists have been criticized for being cheap, talking in loud voices, and not only buying cut rate tours but then demanding first-class service. Over 200 million Chinese will travel abroad this year.

If you have a friend that rides a bike then buy them a bike trunk. It holds a folding bike inside a regular sized suit case that can be taken on planes. It comes in 51 colors and three trunk materials; costs only \$6,600. If interested, check www.pineletpinel.com Remember when local author Suza was our dear mayor and she could be seen bicycling everywhere advocating her yellow bike program? I hear Suza has purchased an electric bicycle like Mary S. and Ted D. to make her village excursions less exhausting. Sorry Buddy, you will have to keep riding your regular bike.... maybe for your next birthday.

Oregon Pinot Gris is an under appreciated wine. It tends to have a minerally mouth feel with hints of apples, pears and floral aromas. The best Oregon Pinot Gris strikes a middle ground between the rich wine of alsace and the crisp refreshing Italian style of Pinot Grigio, even though all three wines come from the same grape. Try these 2008 The Pines Vineyard Pinot Gris, Columbia Gorge 1852 cost \$20. The fruit in this wine leaps out of the glass. Chehalem Willamette Valley, 2008; cost \$23, tight in focus, taught in structure and delicious. This wine will be better with age. Ponzi Vineyards Willamette, 2009, cost \$18. Despite an intense process, this wine is so light and texture, it seems to dance across the palate. Do let me know what you think of these wines.

The sun has set over the yardarm, time to sit back, contemplate the days activities and enjoy a glass of wine. Peace to all living beings earth, Your comments are welcome - Ron Rowe, rhjrowe@aol.com

# Arts on Main

Arts on Main hosted a wine and cheese opening for their artists co-op, located on main in a cozy brick alcove at 242 E. Main St, Ventura. The gallery is reminiscent of the casual exhibition spaces that thrived during the 60s on Sunset or Van Nuys Blvd.



Stephanie Hogue



John Golson



Ruben Salinas



Steve Munch

The Feb. 18 presentation of photographs, paintings and sculpture by a group of artists, including Steve Munch, Kathy King, Idelle Iyzbir, Amy Paine, Stephanie Hogue, and John Golson brought a good turn out of art lovers and art collectors. Music was provided by The Jazz Consultants with Ojai's Ruben Salinas on Sax creating a party atmosphere despite the rain.

The eclectic collection of art was presented by gallery owner Stephanie Hogue of Image Source who eschewed her expensive photo equipment in favor of her cell phone cam. She displayed the resulting graphic collection of photos taken at the mid-state fair, which she explained was shot "In the mood where I was feeling artistic." When not having fun toting minimal equipment Hogue is a sought after wedding and portrait photographer.

John Golson's fine photography exhibit featured images derived from a 2009 photographic trip to the USA/Petrochem site on "the avenue". "I'm using color and imagery as symbols," he explained his piece "Happy Spot," is a dial that represents our judgment or lack thereof. "It's about leaving toxicity to get to your Happy Spot," John said smilingly. Photographer Steve Munch, one of the artists whose work will be on permanent display, has been featured in many travel/surfing mags and is well known for his big decorative images of the coastline. Seen attending the gathering was internationally recognized photographer Tim Hauf, whose images were exhibited at the gallery in December. Hauf is arguably the areas preeminent photographic expert on the Channel Islands, having spent 20 years in study. An impressive collection of at least ten fine art books are prominently featured worldwide. Tim is currently accepting reservations for his popular guided photographic tours of South Africa.

Arts on Main is a newcomer to the Ventura Art scene and unique in that it is structured to benefit the artist. Artists have complete control over their work and presentation, in exchange for renting the exhibit space on a per show basis. In most traditional galleries the gallery takes 50 percent of the gross on any sales. Said Hogue, "It's interesting to see what sells and what people like to hang on their walls. I think for the artists, they are investing... It may actually pushing them to create better work." - Joel Anderson

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ZEE America's First Aid & Safety Resource Dwayne A. Bower General Manager Phone: 805.646.1491 800.352.3434 805.646.1130 Industrial • Earthquake • Medical Kits Zee Medical Services Company 107 S. Bryant Street • Ojai, CA 93023

Pt 3: Climate Change Denial Tightens Its Grip on Washington, DC by Alasdair Coyne

Final, Part 3 and 3. Parts 1 and 2 published in the previous two issues of The VIEW.

American Scientists to Speak Out Dismayed by the success of climate change deniers in shaping public opinion in the U.S., the American Geophysical Union is assembling a group of 700 scientists who've agreed to speak out on mankind's role in accelerating global warming.

John Abraham, of St. Thomas University in Minnesota, is also creating a "climate rapid response team", including scientists who are prepared to appear on conservative radio and TV talk shows, and to go head to head with climate change skeptics.

International Efforts Last year's dismal failure of climate change negotiations in Copenhagen has resulted in renewed efforts to seek an international climate change agreement, before the upcoming meeting on the topic in Cancun this December.

While Europe and most of the rest of the world are now much closer to agreement than at Copenhagen, the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters, China and the US, are still not on board.

Yet another approach to an international climate change accord is being put forward - an expansion of the Montreal Protocol on the reduction of ozone-depleting chemicals, which was ratified over twenty years ago. The Montreal Protocol has successfully phased out nearly 97 percent of ozone-depleting chemicals worldwide. Since most of those gases were also potent contributors to global warming, this success has been equivalent to eradicating five years total of all greenhouse gas emissions.

The expansion of the Montreal Protocol - already ratified by the US Senate in 1988 - might take a few years before becoming a reality. Daniel Reifsnnyder, the US chief negotiator for the Montreal Protocol, said this accord "also has the tremendous ability to solve the climate problem if people are willing to use it that way."

Other Efforts Continue to Address Global Warming

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the biggest municipal utility in the nation, last year produced 15 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources. This year, the total may reach 20 percent, all without exorbitant rate increases.

In early October, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar approved the first large-scale solar electric plants on federal land - in the California desert. The bigger installation, Tessera Solar's ten square mile project, will reflect the rays of the sun onto a heat-operated generator. It could provide power to 500,000 homes. Five more similar projects may be approved by the end of this year - to provide enough power for two million homes. Bearing in mind an average of 3 people per home, that's enough power for 6 million Californians - or about one sixth of the state's current population.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is fast-tracking solar energy development in six western states, and plans to designate 24 "solar energy areas" as highly suitable for solar energy generation by the end of 2011. These sites will be

selected, among other factors, to avoid wilderness areas and critical habitat for endangered species.

Greenhouse gas emissions from wealthy countries fell by 7 percent in 2009's recession, but the slack was all taken up by increased emissions from India and China. All in all, global greenhouse gas emissions didn't grow in 2009, the first such plateau since 1992.

This effect of the recession draws stark attention to the combination of consumerism and everlasting economic growth that are the twin engines of global climate change. Make no mistake about it - the way we currently live and power our lives in the resource-hungry USA is not the only way for Americans to lead satisfying and rewarding lives. The coming era will of necessity be one of diminished resource consumption, of thriftiness, recycling, eating less meat, flying around less - and making do with far less stuff in our lives.

The Republicans in Congress may not give a hoot - yet - about global warming, but the US Navy isn't waiting around. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus is aiming for an energy independent Navy. For starters, by 2016 he wants to have a full carrier strike group composed of nuclear and hybrid electric vessels along with biofuelled jets. By 2020, he wants half the Navy's power to come from alternative sources instead of fossil fuels.

Here's another good book - Jonathan Bloom's American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of its Food (and What We Can Do About It). Think of it as a stocking stuffer this Xmas.

In total, around 40 percent of the food America produces fails to make it into anybody's mouth. On a daily basis, we fill the Rose Bowl with wasted foods, discarding 50 percent more edibles per person than we did in 1974.

What's more, this wasted food takes 70 times the Deepwater Horizon's spilled oil volume annually, to grow, harvest, ship, process package and distribute. That's before it lands on your plate. After the discards are thrown out, they need to be transported to the landfill, where they release methane as they decompose, which is 23 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than the carbon dioxide from fossil fuels.

The average family of four tosses out \$1,350 of food each year. This could provide 1,400 meals at a local soup kitchen.

Google is investing \$1.8 billion to construct transmission lines to connect offshore wind farms. They just purchased a 37.5 percent stake in the Atlantic Ocean wind energy project.

Last, but not least, helium-filled airships may soon be transporting non-perishable goods around the planet. They don't need airports, just docking and loading lifts to collect and drop off goods. Their fuel costs would be much less than an airplane's - and the US Defense Department is putting big money into research and development. Boeing and Lockheed Martin are busy with designs.

Just think what we could do when our nation embraces green energy at the national level. America still has the world's finest entrepreneurs and innovators. National leadership is vital in terms of standards, research, efficiency goals, and the shifting of government subsidies from the fossil fuel industry to alternative energy.

Walking in lockstep with the agenda of the fossil fuel industries, Republican legislators in Washington DC are as blind to the opportunities for American leadership of the green energy revolution as they are ignorant of the threats posed by global warming to life on Earth as we know it.

When will they wake up to this? -Alasdair Coyne www.SespeWild.org

Ojai's Annie

by Mary M. Long Emmy Hilgers is Ojai's grassroots Annie, star of the recent Ojai Art Center production of the musical Annie. Double cast with veteran Riley Conrad, of Ventura, Emmy and Riley shared the spotlight, with each actress taking eight performances.

Walking into tryouts at The Art Center at the urging of vocal coach Candace Delbo, Emmy had very little previous acting experience and only a few months of singing lessons behind her. "I really liked singing," said Emmy, "so I would sing all the time. Then my mom asked me if I wanted to start singing lessons."

Auditioning with "I Whistle a Happy Tune," from the musical The King and I, Emmy caught the attention of director Gai Jones who offered her an encouraging "good job." The next day, Emmy received an e-mail that she had made the call backs for the play. She really didn't know what to expect at call backs but remembers that there were "a lot of kids" who were asked to sing Annie's signature song "Tomorrow."

"I thought I did well," said Emmy. The very next day her mother, Melanie Hilgers, woke her up with the news that she had gotten the role of Annie. The whole Hilgers family rallied their support with Emmy's dad Chet helping her to memorize the script. Emmy would also disappear into the "secret" room upstairs at the Hilgers home where she would spend time working by herself. "Sometimes I got worried about remembering everything," remembers Emmy.

Professional actress J.D. Smith, who plays the role of Miss Hannigan, reassured her at a critical time, telling her about her own experiences. "I told Emmy that I had been in a similar situation, where I was double cast when I was a kid," said Smith. "I told Emmy that when I looked into her eyes, I saw myself, and I just saw that look of fear to let her talent shine. I told her that Gai saw her talent, I saw her talent, and that she wouldn't have been given the role if she didn't deserve it."

With all of Emmy's performances playing to sold out crowds, she has fulfilled the promise that those who believed in her had recognized. From Emmy's 2nd grade teacher, Kathy McAlpine, who nominated her for an Optimist Club award, to J.D. Smith's observation that, "Emmy has the same positive energy that the original Annie Character was based on," everyone agrees that Emmy has captured the Annie spirit.

What will become of the young rising star? J.D. Smith has few worries about her future. She said, "Emmy has a good head on her shoulders. She has a beautiful face, a beautiful voice, and most importantly a beautiful heart. Even though she is talented and the arts will always be part of her life, her spirit is so adventurous that I can't imagine it being confined to just one facet of her life."

Delbo sees no limitations to what Emmy can achieve if she stays focused on music. "I have worked with hundreds of children, and a voice like hers is one in 500. The role of Annie requires a "belt" from a child. Singing in a "belt" is a very delicate matter and she had it

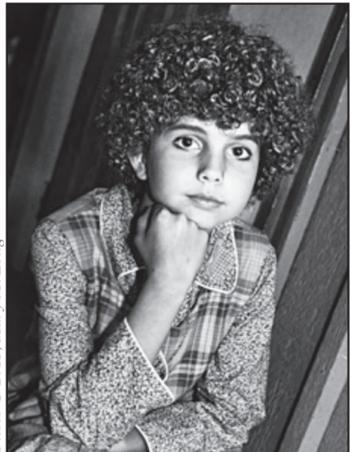
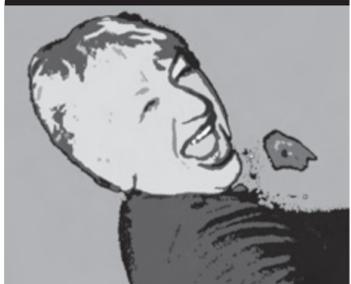


Photo © 2011, Mary M. Long

built right into her system. She came to me with the whole package, she had the voice, she had the drive, she had the personality, and she just needed to be channeled. I think this girl could sing on Broadway." Melanie Hilgers, says that she has always known that raising Emmy would be a challenge. "I'm excited for her. I'm proud of her, and the future is just a big unknown and that in itself is exciting."

- Mary M. Long mary@ojaiandventuraview.com

Tips from the Shut Up Guru



Dali Mama Sutras

Final guide for the spiritually challenged & confused! by Dvorahji (aka shutuppuru)

Well My darlings, it's well into the New Year, and we're all looking for our soulmates AGAIN!

"Trying to find a "soulmate" is like trying to Find ONE beautiful star in the heavens, when there are so many gorgeous stars, twinkling, wanting to have fun with you! If you want - find a star that makes you smile more than the others & play exclusively FOR A WHILE or a lifetime. But don't get so hung up on this "Soul-mate" fantasy NONSENSE! Find your OWN SOUL and Let EVERYONE become your soulmate!"

All this begging and pleading for a twin flame....tiring really! Go have some fun and find a good looking "soy" candle with a fragrance that turns you on!

HAPPY NEW YEAR Darlings.....

Yo dali-mama www.shutupuru.com

If It Could Be Different-It Would Be different and since it's not - Relax, or have a fit, either way, IT IS AS IT IS.

OJAI MARDI GRAS We need volunteers to help with a few things: -Volunteers to use their truck or van to move art from the studio to the Art Center and/or from the Art Center to storage. -Volunteers to help install art on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5. -Volunteers to help with food service. Call Holly Stone at 640-5692. -Volunteers to help clean up during/after either Sat night's Mardi Gras or Sunday's Fais-do-do. Contact Judy Nelson, 794-9228 4 Sat or Shane Butler, 665-8852 4 Sun.

OJAI MARDI GRAS 21st Annual Masquerade Ball Greenman's Magickal Lair Saturday, March 5th at 7:30PM NEW LOCATION! At the Ojai Art Center 113 South Montgomery St. Featuring the "Ojai Mardi Gras Band" With special guests Aaron Shaw & Warren Casey of "The Wicked Tinkers" Great Food \* No Host Bar \* Costume Contest! Admission: \$25 in Advance or \$30 at the door All profits donated to local person(s) with medical needs.

Don't miss Sunday March 6th's Fais do-do Zydeco Dance Party from 12:00 to 3:00PM. Advance tickets on-line: www.ojaiconcertseries.com plus at these stores: STUDIO SAUVAGEAU, OJAI CREATES, OJAI COFFEE ROASTING CO. in Ojai and CARDINALI BROS. MUSIC in Meiners Oaks MARDI GRAS HOTLINE: (805) 646-7843 PRESENTED BY THE OJAI MARDI GRAS WAKE-UP KREWE AND THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC CHECK US OUT ON Facebook SPONSORED BY THESE FINE BUSINESSES: BRYANT CIRCLE MINI STORAGE, Studio Sauvageau, Ojai Concert Series, Cardinali Brothers Music, Ojai Creates, Ojai Art Center.

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### Skate Park Lighting

by Mary M. Long

As the sun goes down and the moon rises over the Topas, an air of excitement begins to brew at the skate park. There is just a little window of opportunity to skate into the evening before the waning light visibility makes landing a jump an act of faith. The crowd thins as the skaters that remain represent the most committed and talented athletes.

They all agree they would love to have recreational lighting so that they can continue to skate after the sun goes down. Skate Ojai had removed the night lighting which existed for the temporary skate park as part of the construction of the permanent new concrete park. With the electrical conduits in place, they thought they had the go-ahead to start fundraising for the lighting only to have the city remove their thermometer sign which kept the level of funds donated visible to those passing by. Without a phone call or an explanation, the sign was removed pending a decision by the city council whether or not to install permanent skate park lighting.

According to Dale Summersille, Ojai Director of Recreation the lighting in the park plan was never intended for skaters, only for security purposes. The issue came before the city council, Feb. 22 as an agenda item with the council not yet approving the installation of lighting. In the meantime, Skate Ojai continues to raise money for the project through their website "Light up the Night" campaign. Skate Ojai hopes to have the lighting installed as soon as possible before the dog days of summer hit, so that skaters will be able to skate into the pink moment and on into the cool magical evenings.

While soccer, baseball, tennis and football enjoy the extended hours of play under athletic facility lighting, only the skate park closes when the sun goes down. Skate Ojai asks only that the city grant them permission to install lighting, taking all the responsibility for fund raising on themselves. They have already raised over \$22,000 towards the \$60,000 needed for lighting which will be both sky-friendly and bright enough for skating. "Give the youth a place to go, and the youth won't go away," Skate Ojai representative Chet Hilgers told the council. Benefits of night skating will not only give youth a safe destination, but it will also provide families who wish to spend the weekends in Ojai with activities for their children. Sports are good for kids and skateboarding is no exception. Famed Skateboarding giant Rob Dyrdek has formed a Foundation for the purpose of providing skate facilities for children. The Foundation's goal is to help create healthy communities by promoting and providing the benefits of skateboarding to all facets of society. The Rob Dyrdek Foundation recently opened its fifth Safe Spot Skate Spot in the City of Los Angeles.

Legendary Skateboarder

### photos © 2011, Mary M. Long

Tony Hawk has also formed a foundation to support and empower youth through the creation of public skateboard parks in low-income communities.

Why is it that the Ojai City Council has consistently made Skate Ojai fight for every inch of skate real estate and is now procrastinating on the installation of night lighting which can only be an asset to the community?

www.ojaiskatepark.com - Mary M. Long  
mary@ojaiaandventuraview.com



Under the shade of historic Palms - The Ojai Museum, a work of art

### A Conversation With Ojai The Keeping of Art and History in the Ojai

by Mary M. Long

Keeping a museum timely, relevant, and thriving is a work of art. There is no rust growing at the Ojai Museum since Michele Pracy has stepped into the role of director. "If you think it, do it," is her motto and her ideas are already being fast-tracked into action. Competing with over 200 non-profits in the small town of Ojai, Pracy is determined to keep the museum a vital asset to the Ojai community. Housing the Visitor's Center as part of their agreement with the City of Ojai, the museum has a dual purpose, both in attracting visitors and

enriching and preserving local history. Drawing motorists into the Visitor's Center, by drawing attention to the Ojai Museum, is good for local commerce as well as being good for the museum. Pracy envisions Carlyle Montgomery's massive California Condor stature, which is now largely hidden from view behind the museum, as "the ultimate calling card" for the city of Ojai. Relocating the 11ft Belgium Limestone Condor to the front courtyard, where it would be visible from Ojai Avenue, would attract visitors and remind people that "We are Ojai's only museum," said Pracy. She feels strongly that "the Condor is critical," and has already started a fund raising program to move the imposing statue to its desired location. It is a \$17,000

project and already almost half the necessary funds have been gifted. "Town Talks" are also well under way, with the first two of the year being held on January 30th and February 13, hosted by Paula Spellman. "The talks have been fabulous," claimed Pracy, citing optimum audience numbers and an enthusiastic interaction between audience and speakers as the measure of success. With such notables as Mayor Carol Smith and Former Mayor Steve Olsen attending, audience members were as illustrious as the speakers. Speakers in the first two roundtable discussions included Craig Walker (founder of Ojai Day), Dwayne Bower (Ojai Vintage Vehicles), Rose Boggs (longtime Ojai resident), historian David Mason, Terry Hill, Helen Peterson, Maxine Tempcke, Lerie Bjornstedt, Bill Burr, author Pat

photos © 2011, Mary M. Long



Dwayne Bower and Michele Pracy



Saving Ojai's treasures - Montgomery's California Condor



Paula Spellman served graciously as host of Ojai Museum's Town Talks



Former Mayor Steve Olsen



Terry Hill shares a moment in Ojai time.

### Doerner, Alan Rains and Cricket Twichell.

The dynamic Pracy's "think-it, do-it" plans for the museum include the addition of a cafe and art rental gallery which she proposes to house in the now defunct gas station next door. She sees the addition of an art rental gallery, which would feature the work of local artists, as a win-win for both artists and the museum, creating revenue opportunities for both. Pracy said that this program has already enjoyed marked success at other



Dwayne Bower and his "60s style" customized 1955 Ariel chopper, exhibited at the Museum.



Betty Williams and Ralph Williams, former Nordhoff High shop instructor



Tennis Anyone? ~ Ojai Mayor Carol Smith and Cricket Twichell show up in Town Talks



Paula, Steve and Liz Grumette.



Cricket Twichell and Joyce Robinson (right).



Ojai VFW salute Christine Drucker as they hand her the memorial American flag.



Lee, proprietor Ojai Community Thrift Store



Ojai arcade historian David Mason



Alan Rains



Paula, Steve and Liz Grumette.

go directly to the artist with the remainder going to benefit the museum. Pracy is aware that local artists often get overlooked by large corporate non-profits and feels strongly that the museum should support grass-roots efforts. "I believe this town should herald and protect grass-roots efforts," said Pracy, "they should be a Val-kyrie for it."

- Mary M. Long  
mary@ojaiaandventuraview.com



Dave Pressey, Chaplain VFW Post 11461

### Sanford Drucker - 1919-2011

Ojai turned out to celebrate the life of Sanford I. Drucker who passed away Jan. 13. Over 200 friends, family and associates of Drucker filled and overflowed Temple K'hilat Ha'Aloneem in Meiner's Oaks on Feb. 13. Drucker was a World War II Veteran stationed in the U.S. Army, Aleutian Islands Campaign. He was active in Ojai's VFW Post 11461, The Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce, The Rotary Club and the Ojai Valley Retired Men's Club. He founded the Ojai Living Treasures, and the Rainbow Valley Boy Scout Ranch. He was a successful stockbroker, investment banker, and humanitarian. The reception was held at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ojai. TO LEARN MORE about Drucker and other Ojai Vets "Ojai Valley Veterans Stories" can be found at bookstores everywhere.

photos © 2011, mary m. long



Doojic and Dave Pressey, chaplain VFW Post 11461



Sanford Drucker and Christine Drucker, Oak View Memorial Day Parade, 2008



Frank Safranski WWII Veteran and Christine Drucker.



Rabbi Yossi Carron



Dr. Richard Gould and his wife Cindi.



Sara Beeby



Andi Bloom



Jeff Haydon (alright)



Dan Lopez, Post Commander

# THE LEASHES END



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

by Ron Rowe

Fed up with their states reputation as the puppy mill capital of the world, voters of the state of Missouri sent an unmistakable message to the puppy industry there when they voted to pass Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. This statewide initiative ends standard conditions at commercial breeding operations. Elizabeth Oreck who manages Best Friends Puppy Mill Initiatives said, "This is a tremendous victory for the hundreds of thousands of dogs suffering in Missouri puppy mills. I look forward to the day when commercial breeding facilities are no more in the United States." Let's hope other states will follow this example.

A good book by Jeffrey St. Clair, **Counter Punch**, is a riveting account of how animals fight back against cruelty and exploitation. This is a history written from the end of the bears chain, from inside a tigers cage and the deaths of the orca whale tank. Think about the forgotten sagas of medieval animal trials where non-human species were given rights of consciousness and acknowledged?

People today are fighting for animal law, at present a dog is just a *chatel*, a piece of property. Law schools are seeing a greater interest in animal law and seminars address animal welfare, pet trust funds, veterinary malpractice and endangered species protection. There is an increasing recognition that animals play a role in our lives that is different from property. It's a good sign that people's awareness of animal cruelty is changing. Animals have emotions and feelings as well as us.

Jennifer, a 400 pound tortoise at the Cleveland Zoo was discovered, after 50 years to be a male. Zookeeper's have changed his name to Johnny. Americans spent a record \$7 billion on dog and cat

accessories in 2010. If you are interested in finding out how smart your dog is check out a new book, *The Intelligence of Dogs* by Stanley Coren. It gives five tests that tell your dog's IQ. Your dog should be at least one-year-old before testing.

If you are being challenged by a bull, check on his hair. Aggressive cattle lacking a spiral or whorl on the head are said to be the meanest. If you can't get close enough to see the hair then run like blazes.

Looking for a milk that won't curdle? Try camels milk.

All breeds of dogs have a purpose in life, border collies are sheepdogs who can get bored sitting around the house with nothing to do. A sheep farmer, in Washington state, is renting out his flock of sheep to the owners of bored sheepdogs. He charges \$15 for the use of the field and 200 sheep and has over 20 clients a day. In Maryland, a non-profit is renting out drug sniffing dogs for \$200 an hour. The dogs can detect drugs and even traces of marijuana in the house. If interested check out [www.dogsfindingdrugs.com](http://www.dogsfindingdrugs.com)

A Chihuahua was selected by Japanese police to be a search and rescue dog making it only Chihuahua in the world to be a police dog. According to Pet Insurance Research Company, Rottweilers top the list as the clumsiest dogs. Over three in five will get into an accident which puts them ahead of last year's clumsiest dog, the chocolate Labrador. Number two spot went to boxers. I should note the standard poodles consistently keep their positions as the least accident prone and most intelligent of all dogs.

Are you a man or a mouse? After mapping a mouse chromosome, researchers show humans may share 90 percent of our genes with mice. This is only 1 percent less than the variations between humans and chimpanzees. So that is why we like cheese...

The fight to ban Greyhound racing is now becoming a national debate. Life for most greyhounds is not pretty, as they are routinely caged for over 20 hours a day and permanently muzzled. Each year an estimated 22,000 greyhounds are killed because they don't turn a profit anymore. In the last 10 years over 85 media documents show cases of cruelty and neglect involving thousands of greyhounds shot, starved, bludgeoned and sold for animal experimentation. In Alabama, a veteran dog track employee has been shooting losing greyhounds in the head for over 40 years. An estimated 4,000 greyhounds are thought to be buried on his farm. It's about time Greyhound racing, cockfighting and dog fighting be abolished in this country. For more information Go To [www.grey2kusa.org](http://www.grey2kusa.org)

Peace to all living beings on earth  
- Ron Rowe, [rjrowe@aol.com](mailto:rjrowe@aol.com)



## Equine Sanctuary hosts fundraiser at Playhouse



Marilyn and Dwayne Bower with their 1929 Packard Straight-8



Ojai VFW Post 11561 with Sgt. Kelly



Renee Mandala & Sienna

Lines of horse lovers lined up in front of Ojai's historic Playhouse to view a special screening of the 2003 *Seabiscuit* movie to benefit the Equine Sanctuary of Ojai. The sanctuary is not only a haven and rehabilitation center for horses, it also offers equine based therapy for autistic and handicapped children and Servicemen returning from war zones with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). Alexis Ellis, founder and director of the Sanctuary hosted the event which included a drawing, prizes and guest speakers. Marilyn and Dwayne Bower, Ojai Vintage Vehicles brought their 1929 Packard which was parked in front of the Playhouse to draw visitors and media attention to the screening. The champion Thoroughbred racehorse, *Seabiscuit* was foaled in 1933 and after a tough beginning went on to symbolize tenacity and hope to the American public during the depression era. - M.L. Long

## A Call from the Wild



by Heather Green

As an animal communicator, I have found most of my work involves domestic animals. I have recently had a chance to work with wild animals, horses, dolphins, and whales. I found differences in the ways these beings relate to us, live, and express themselves. Some of the wild animals I have communicated with are highly evolved. Like mother earth, they are helping us grow and heal as a species.

Wild horses, as a species, role model community, genuineness, and cooperation. They each have a role to play and a place in the hierarchy of their group. Each horse's role is important and valued in the herd regardless of age or infirmity, unlike the old or weak in the human species. With horses, one, might be low on the totem pole, but they are still accepted in the herd. They also work together to survive, moving from place to place for food and avoiding predators, as well as raising their young together. This is different from humans, where many of us live alone and barely know our neighbors. When we do, we often compete for space, money, and relationships.

The genuineness of wild horses show in their raw sensuality and emotions. They enjoy running free and feel comfortable in their bodies, as seen in the mating, feeding, and rearing of their young. Anyone who has seen wild horses from a distance will notice how relaxed and natural they are in their bands and herds. They don't wear the masks we wear to fit into society because it is inappropriate to feel or act a certain way.

I once worked with a mare who was taken to a Rescue after being rounded up. When I tuned into her, I felt the outrage and sadness over what had happened. She showed me pictures of her family - a stallion and a little filly or colt. She kept saying, "Where are they? I want to see them!" Unfortunately, I had to tell her that this was her new home and that I did not know where her family was. To her, humans seemed like foreign invaders.

We must consider issues like rounding up horses, even if there is controversy over the betterment of the land, and how many horses versus cattle should have access to it. The most important factor is balance. This is the lesson the wild horses are teaching the human species. It is a lot like cutting all the trees down in a forest to build new homes. We have to admit that we could not live without some help from nature and the animal kingdom, but is it necessary to deplete or eliminate a species? We must find a way to allow them to thrive in the beauty of their natural habitat, while still keeping harmony with the rest of the world.

On a different note, working with the dolphins and whales in Panama helped me understand other lessons from the wild. I have found dolphins radiate joy, and whales bring in the wisdom that is needed at this time on earth. They are old souls who, like mother earth are anchoring in the new energies to help humanity move through the ascension process. Many people who go on whale and dolphin trips will experience this uplifting energy and go home transformed without even realizing it.

After speaking to the whale and dolphin consciousness directly, I have learned that many signed up to go through the process of being killed through slaughter or pollution to teach us a lesson, exemplified by the oil spill in the gulf. Most humans had to see this to be mobilized into action. We now know that changes must be made in how we treat the planet and manage our resources.

Similar to horses and mother earth, whales and dolphins absorb the energies of humans, particularly unacknowledged, toxic emotions. This is why we feel better after spending time in a meadow, riding a horse, or swimming with dolphins in the ocean. I have noticed that the nature kingdom and wild animals transmute these energies easier than domesticated animals, but we still have to be more conscious and responsible when it comes to dealing with our issues. This promotes health and avoids destruction in all forms of life.

Mother earth, whales, dolphins, and horses, are learning from humanity how to fully master compassion by experiencing our ignorance. We are soon to reach the level of mass awakening in humankind, where we will

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Ojai office manager

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- Diane Kruse, Ojai

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- Sheila Cluff, Owner  
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"You are not beholden to the establishment."  
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Ventura, activist

re The VIEW www.YouTube/QVTVIEW channel... "This is priceless. The sound effects are hysterical. This will go viral... I am sending it on. Thanks, great work"  
- Camille Harris  
Ventura, activist

"I like The VIEW"  
- Sheldon Brown  
Ventura, unsuccessful contractor

"Send it to my office."  
- Elton Gallegly  
U.S. Congressman



## Doggie Ice Cream Parlor Opens in Downtown Ventura



Robo and Val

family owned enterprise, the Rover boutique and pet parlor, exudes the same friendly atmosphere as the original doggie day care on Callens Rd.

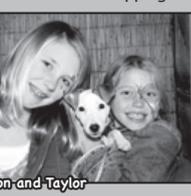
- Mary M. Long

### The Whole Rover Crew

Valerie Stallings is expanding her successful doggie day care, **Send Rover On Over**, to include a new location in the heart of Ventura next to the Ink House!

This day care will serve pet owners who want their four legged companions to have an outing while they enjoy an afternoon shopping. A

February 5th the Rover pack hosted their grand opening complete with awesome face painting for the kids, an on-site pet psychic to bend your favorite pup's ear, and ice cream all around for people and pets alike.



Hudson and Taylor



Hudson and Taylor



Pet Psychic Laura Stinchfield gets Babette's ear, Mary Jean (at right).



Chris, John, LuLu and Val

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be fully aware that nature and the animal kingdom are one and equal with us. How humans live, directly affects animals and nature. We know we cannot survive without them.

Instead, we can pick up on their lead by embracing our community, and being real with ourselves to reclaim our wholeness through an expanded consciousness. Ultimately, they are showing us how to connect to the divine source of love, power, and wisdom within each of us, so our example can give other humans permission to do the same.

- Heather Green, [greenbluehealing@gmail.com](mailto:greenbluehealing@gmail.com)  
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# BFB: Rockin' The House at GiGi's With FAITH

by Joel Anderson  
Saturday night the Brian Faith Band appeared at GiGi's bar in Oxnard. Bartender/Owner Julie took the mic and while band singer Karen Perry watched, she had fun backed by a world class band.

It's a friendly vibe at GiGi's where people of all kinds were stopping by to relax, enjoy the music and shoot a little pool. With the

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- 2/Wed., Mar - The Wrec Room/Ojai, Jeff Uzzel, 8:30pm, 646-6150
- 3/Thurs., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA. The Goodnight Noises/Elliott Randall & The Deadmen, 310-358-1881
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- 4/Fri., Mar - The Wrec Room/Ojai, Kic Rick and James K, 646-6150
- 4/Fri., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA. Hugh Cornwell/The Absolute, 310-358-1881
- 5/Sat., Mar - The HUT/Meiners Oaks, Action Down, 646-0670
- 5/Sat., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA. The Binges/Love and a .38/Great White Buffalo/Rival Sons, 310-358-1881
- 5/Sat., Mar - The HUB, Ojai, Cancer Fundraiser, 10-6pm, Live Bands | Bikini Contest \*\*\*First Prize \$500\*\*\* | Trip Tip Dinner & Much More! Adults \$20, \$75 includes Raffle Ticket for 2003 Harley Davidson Dyna Lowrider 100th Anniversary Edition and Tri-tip Dinner. Call for tickets 805-200-6900 or 805-794-1181

Brian Faith Band appearing with original member Johnny Podz back in the groove with them, it was a night to remember for BFB fans and those hanging out at the bar. **Johnny Podz Returns to BFB**

Bassist Johnny Podz is back with the band having recently resurfaced after leaving the music scene in Sacramento. He said, "The gig at GiGi's was a blast. It was exciting to see old friends and everybody was ready to rock...it was a good vibe." Podz was an original member of the BFB in the early 80s when they were the house band at Mr. Lucky's in Ventura, and "The P.L." (Ponderosa Inn) in Camarillo. It was a thriving music scene with Ventura's hard driving rockin' bands like *Prowler*, *The Press*, and *JTS* playing to packed houses seven days a week. Podz is happy to be back. "It feel natural to get back in the groove with my bros," he said.

Karen Perry remarked that Podz has the look of John Lennon in the late 70s. He also has some of Lennon's vocal influences which are most uncanny in the BFBs cut

Perfect World video. The BFB is a good fit for Podz with band members agreeing that it's a perfect fit. Ernie Joseph said only Podz can stick with an eight hour rehearsal session. Podz feels that, "Returning as a veteran bass player... it's good to be part of the team and even more fun the second time around."

The band has original music and videos on YouTube, produced by Johnny Podz. The tune *Michael*, a world peace song with Bassist Nick St. Nicholas (*Steppenwolf*) covering for Podz, *Feel Alright, Free the People* which is a tribute to those fighting for the revolution in Egypt, and *Get Yourself Together* with Jimmy Leroy. Said Podz, "We're already getting requests at our gigs for those and other songs that are featured on the net....It's gonna be great.... It feels good thinking about the prospects ahead.... Yeah...I'm ready to Rock and Roll."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Keep tuned into the Brian Faith Band in coming issues of *The Ojai and Ventura VIEW*, as the *Saga* continues....and watch for YouTube BFB original videos produced by Johnny Podz, *Perfect World, Feel Alright, Free the People, and Get Yourself Together* with Jimmy Leroy. For more info/videos [www.youtube.com/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/brianfaithbandsongs) - Joel Anderson



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# BLUE VICE LIGHTS UP THE HUT

Classic Rock n' Roll drifted out on the night air from the vintage adobe style bar in Meiners Oaks. A neon sign with letters spelling "THE HUT" glowed above the open door at the corner Lomita and El Conejo Dr.

It was the Saturday before Valentine's Day and the five members of **Blue Vice** were weaving together a tapestry of great covers and a few originals to create a warm and wistful evening for Hut locals. A stumble through the door provided the unsuspecting guest with a rare opportunity to hear first class professional musicians in an intimate casual environment.

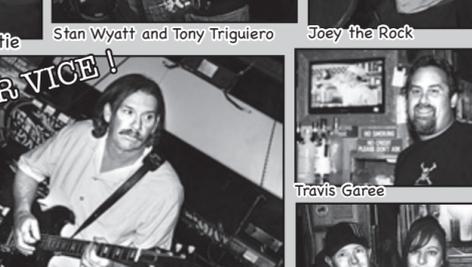
Guitarist and founding member of the band, Tony Cuccio, lead guitar/keyboards, is part of *The HUT* family, with son-in-law Sean Strben and daughter Katie, owning and managing the business. Other "Vice" members are Stephen Mann, flute/saxophone/vocals, Tony Triguero, bass/vocals, Stan Wyatt, guitar/vocals and John Perry, drums. Stopping by, Barry Moffet, guitar/vocals/songwriter (with *National Cats*, and *The Henderson Project*) jammed with the band. Moffet goes back with core 'Vice' members to when they used to jam eight or ten guitars at a time in their M.O. 'garage band' days....



Strben, he had heard **Blue Vice** on Independence Day and had wanted them to play at *The HUT*. "At first we wanted to keep them exclusive to us, but then we realized that we wanted them to be able to grow. We love having them perform here," he said "they always create a warm and fuzzy feeling when they play." The "warm and fuzzy" vibe at *The HUT* comes not only from the music but from the management style of the Strben family. "The business has been in the family for 15 years, owned and managed by Sean and Katie since 2005. Travis Garee and T.G. Hanna, sharing bartending duties with the Strbens, have also been part of *The HUT* family for over 5 years. "You've seen the show *Cheers*," said Sean, "we think of our place as the *Cheers* of Ojai where all of our friends come to meet. A lot of people call it 'the office.'"

Although Sean refers to *The HUT* as, "the best little dive bar in town," he is quick to point out that it really is a sports bar which boasts eight TVs while still offering pool tables and live music. Established in 1942 and remaining largely unchanged, *The HUT* historic appearance made it a featured location for the filming of the romantic-comedy, *A Girl, Three Guys, and a Gun*, starring former Ojai resident June Allyson in her final role. **Blue Vice** will return to *The HUT* March 12, featuring classic rock n' roll, blues, reggae covers and originals for those that missed out on the Valentine's party. Before assembling **Blue Vice**, Tony also booked into regular

gigs at *Charlie's at the Beach*, Ventura with his band *Flyte*. Stephen Mann was originally from New York and has played with legendary brit *Rod Stewart*, as well as other mega-bands. John Perry, having played drums all his life, is an accomplished session musician on the LA recording scene. Tony Triguero can be found regularly at the Watermark lounge with Lee Koch and *The Guy Martin Group* (*Live at Café Voltaire EP fame*). Stan Wyatt has jammed regularly with *The Old Blues Guys*, *The Hollywood Beach All Stars*, *The Terry Reid Band*, the *Strand Band* and other local notables. He is also a founding member of **Blue Vice**. The band has three new original releases (*Barbecue Blues* and *The Hut* by Tony Cuccio, *Scene her Dancing* by Stan Wyatt) getting airplay on Jango internet radio, also available at I-Tunes, Amazon and Napster. info. [www.blueviceband.com](http://www.blueviceband.com)



photos © 2011, Joel Anderson/MMLong

## March Specials...

- **Manic Mondays**, 12-6 Happy Hour
- **Tuesdays**, \$2 Draft
- **Thursdays**, Ladies Night, Ladies 1/2 Off Drinks • **Fridays**, Pink Kami's \$3/Pink Drink, \$4.50/Appletini, \$4 • **Sundays**, Bloody Mary's \$5



## MUSIC CALENDAR

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Studebaker	Fri. Mar 11
Blue Vice	Sat. Mar 12
Action Down	Fri. Apr 2
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 Continued from page 12...

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•6/Sun., Mar - JJ Brewsky's/Camarillo, 2493 Grand Ave, 642-2411/The Mighty Cash Cats, [www.MightyCashCats.com](http://www.MightyCashCats.com)

•6/Sun., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA, Blood Penny/Smoke Serpent/KB Jones/Kevin Max/Karen Williams, 310-358-1881

•8/Tues., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA, Blue Print, 310-358-1881

•9/Wed., Mar - The Viper Room, West LA, Squealer - March Residency/Ballerina Black/Mad Planet/The Broken Column/Hello Vegas, 310-358-1881

•11/Fri., Mar - The HUT/Meiners Oaks, Studebaker, 646-0670

•11/Fri., Mar - The Granada, SB, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, 805/899-2222

•12/Sat., Mar - The HUT/Meiners Oaks, Blue Vice, 646-0670

•12/Sat., Mar - Logsdons/Santa Paula, 824 East Santa Maria St, 525-1101/The Mighty Cash Cats, [www.MightyCashCats.com](http://www.MightyCashCats.com)

•17/Thurs., Mar - The HUB, Ojai, Jackie Lomax for St. Patrick's Day. One of the best R&B/soul voices and songwriters to have come out of the sixties and seventies, JACKIE LOMAX has somehow managed to avoid commercial success throughout his forty-year career. In 1968 Jackie Lomax was the first artist signed to the Beatles new label APPLE RECORDS. More info., [www.JackieLomax.com](http://www.JackieLomax.com), HUB Phone: 272-8344

•19/Sat., Mar - Golden China/Ventura, 652-1188, The Brian Faith Band, band info, 964-2411, [www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs)

•19/Sat., Mar - Logsdons/Santa Paula, 824 East Santa Maria St, 525-1101/The Mighty Cash Cats, [www.MightyCashCats.com](http://www.MightyCashCats.com)

•19/Sat., Mar - The HUB, Ojai, 29 Mules, 272-8344

•25/Fri., Mar - The HUB, Ojai, Alchemy, More info., [www.myspace.com/thealchemyband](http://www.myspace.com/thealchemyband), HUB Phone: 272-8344

•26/Sat., Mar - GIGI's Cocktails/Ventura, 2493 Grand Ave... 642-2411, The Brian Faith Band, band info, 964-2411, [www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs)

•26/Sat., Mar - The HUB, Ojai, Teresa Russell, Electric or Unplugged (acoustic), Teresa entertains a broad range of audiences with her "one-woman show". A versatile performer, Teresa steps it up with her personal touch that sets her apart from any other performer, HUB, 272-8344

•2/Sat., Apr - The HUT/Meiners Oaks, Action Down, 646-0670

•2/Sat., Apr - Golden China/Ventura, 652-1188, The Brian Faith Band, band info, 964-2411, [www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs)

•2/Sat., Apr - The HUB, Ojai, Nektare, A unique style of rock with a juicy undercurrent of blues, funk, soul and psychedelia. Influenced by the 60's and 70's, their music has a retro vibe, with a fresh appeal. More info., [www.nektare.com](http://www.nektare.com), HUB Phone: 272-8344

•23 Sat/Sun., Apr - Ventura Theater, Rebutelion, 653-0721

•8/Fri., Apr - The HUT/Meiners Oaks, Blue Vice, 646-0670

•9/Sat., Apr - GIGI's Cocktails/Ventura, 2493 Grand Ave... 642-2411, The Brian Faith Band, band info, 964-2411, [www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs)

•9/Sat., Apr - The Shores/Oxnard, 1031 Harbor Boulevard, 984-5533, The Mighty Cash Cats, [www.MightyCashCats.com](http://www.MightyCashCats.com)

•9/Sat., Apr - The HUB, Ojai, Night Owl, Local Ojai rockers. More info., [www.myspace.com/NightOwlCA](http://www.myspace.com/NightOwlCA)

•9/Sat., Apr - SB Bowl, SB, Janet Jackson, 805/962-7411

•16/Sat., Apr - Golden China/Ventura, 652-1188, The Brian Faith Band, band info, 964-2411, [www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs](http://www.youtube.com/user/brianfaithbandsongs)

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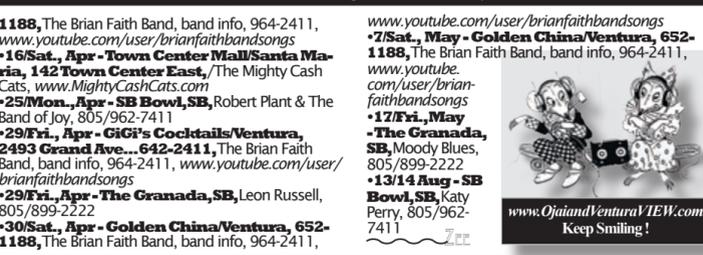
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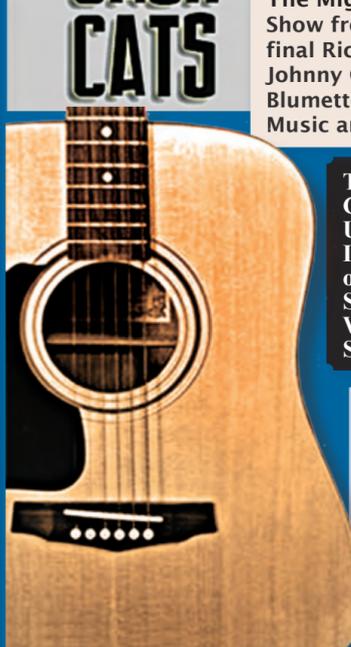
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- "The Audience felt as if Johnny Cash returned to the bandstand." - Jerusalem Post
- "Fantastic Show!" - Jeff Shore, E! TV
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- "America's #1 Johnny Cash Tribute." - Fairs and Festivals

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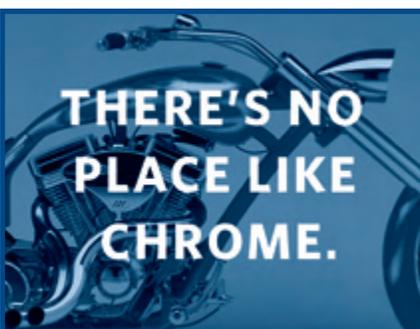
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**Dennis Leary's Proposed Letter on Behalf of the Ojai City Council to Governor Jerry Brown**

"Dear Governor Brown,  
 We mismanaged our own RDA. We played banker without a licence. We loaned money we knew that probably couldn't be repayed. We robbed Peter to pay Paul. We're only 400 units behind on affordable housing, thanks to your 20 percent set aside. We supposedly have 1.6 million in our low to moderate housing fund, but we might need that collateral to avoid bankruptcy. So, screw affordable housing. We have administrative bureaucracy, conferences, travel, membership dues.... all adds up.  
 We might be addicted to it but please don't kill this cash cow for the developers and us or we won't vote for you. Please don't use scare tactics of job losses, raids, starving communities.... because this is just propoganda lifted from the RDA and the big developers. It's like the pot calling the kettle black when you say they're raiding us, when you, yourself are raiding the general fund for developer goals. Prop 22 fooled voters due to big money from developers, and locked in abuses of corporate welfare, of walmarts instead of owner/operated businesses, costco's instead of classroom, malls instead of... and autoplazas, movie multiplexes, hotels, motels, stadiums instead of neighborhood infrastructures. Twelve percent, or \$6 billion is diverted from public need to private greed and political cronyism. A recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) showed that 66 percent of Californians and 63 percent of voters support a phasing out of RDA and using the funds for schools and other services. RDAs have a 93 billion debt and continue to sell bonds without voter approval. This is bad for small businesses in Ojai and small communities like I was raised in. So where did all the money go? Did we use that fund for even one affordable house? RDA monies are another level of unnecessary bureaucracy to wall off the public and provide cover for our public officials and their developer friends. Write a letter supporting governor Brown."

*Dennis Leary*



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