



# 2017 Venice Community Calendar

Celebrating Venice Landmarks!  
Sponsored by Betsy Goldman





*Celebrating Venice Landmarks!*





## Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monuments and National Register of Historic Places in Venice California - Celebrating Venice Landmarks!

A landmark reflects a significant event, person or change marking an important turning point.

The **2017 Venice Community Calendar** celebrates the preservation of Venice's history through our landmarks - a reminder of Venice's unique heritage.

The two ways of attaining official landmark status are through the National Register of Historic Places under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior and as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission of the Office of Historic Resources.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic resources. Website: [www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/)

The City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance, enacted in 1962, has made possible the designation of buildings and sites as individual local landmarks. The City currently has over 1,000 Historic-Cultural Monuments, providing official recognition and protection for Los Angeles' most significant and cherished historic resources. Website: [www.preservation.lacity.org/commission](http://www.preservation.lacity.org/commission)

Our landmarks weave a story of Venice's past. The Warren Wilson Beach House and Sturdevant House represent an era from 1905 to 1922 when many beach homes were built in Venice illustrating beach area settlement patterns and early 20th century vacation customs. The Venice City Hall (now Beyond Baroque) and Venice Police Station (now SPARC) were early municipal buildings in the development of Venice and its former independence. The Kinney Tabor House tells the tale of racial discrimination. Lincoln Place Apartments documents the need for affordable housing after World War II. The former site of the Venice West Café served as a local symbol of the growing counter-cultural

movement in the 1960s and the Bohemian spirit in Venice imparting a social and cultural significance that continues to this day.

## Venice Landmarks We Cannot See

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #490 designated in 1990 - Sa-angna - 4231-4363 Lincoln Blvd. at Admiralty Way. The site was a major village and burial ground circa 1540 of the Tongva/Gabrielino Native Americans and contains remains of tools, jewelry and weapons.

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #532 designated in 1991 - Venice Arcades, Columns and Capitals at 67-71 Windward Ave., as historically pictured above. Constructed in 1904 by Abbot Kinney as part of his Venice-of-America development, and designed by C. H. Russell, the arcades were patterned after those surrounding the Piazza San Marco in Venice Italy and were the visually unifying element of the architectural streetscape.

As we know, there are few remaining arcades, so it is important to keep the existing ones. In 1991, the Cultural Heritage Commission approved a nomination by the Venice Historical Society of the above colonnade section prior to construction of a new building on Windward Ave. But do you see it now? Technically, historic monument status allows the Cultural Heritage Commission to object to the issuance of a demolition permit for 180 days, with an additional 180 days extension possible upon approval of the City Council, in order to evaluate preservation alternatives. This time line did not happen with the Windward Ave. colonnades. An important reminder of Venice's history was gone before anyone could object to the ultimate demolition.

Proudly presented by  
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Inside front cover photo courtesy of Paul Tanck..

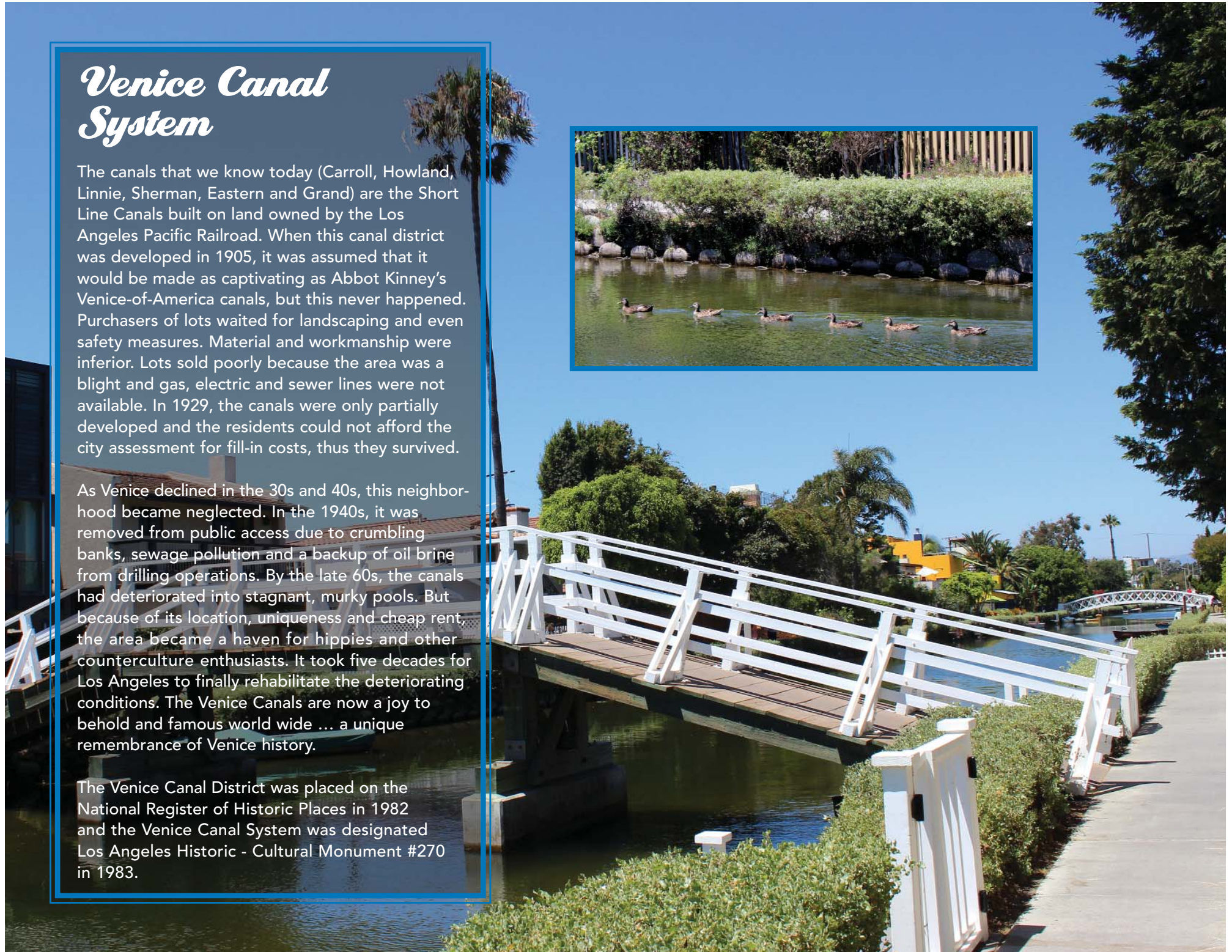


# Venice Canal System

The canals that we know today (Carroll, Howland, Linnie, Sherman, Eastern and Grand) are the Short Line Canals built on land owned by the Los Angeles Pacific Railroad. When this canal district was developed in 1905, it was assumed that it would be made as captivating as Abbot Kinney's Venice-of-America canals, but this never happened. Purchasers of lots waited for landscaping and even safety measures. Material and workmanship were inferior. Lots sold poorly because the area was a blight and gas, electric and sewer lines were not available. In 1929, the canals were only partially developed and the residents could not afford the city assessment for fill-in costs, thus they survived.

As Venice declined in the 30s and 40s, this neighborhood became neglected. In the 1940s, it was removed from public access due to crumbling banks, sewage pollution and a backup of oil brine from drilling operations. By the late 60s, the canals had deteriorated into stagnant, murky pools. But because of its location, uniqueness and cheap rent, the area became a haven for hippies and other counterculture enthusiasts. It took five decades for Los Angeles to finally rehabilitate the deteriorating conditions. The Venice Canals are now a joy to behold and famous world wide ... a unique remembrance of Venice history.

The Venice Canal District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and the Venice Canal System was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #270 in 1983.



# JANUARY 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

57th Annual <b>Penguin Club Ocean Swim</b>								
New Year's Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
					Full Moon 			
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	Inauguration Day	20	21
14th Annual <b>Venice Film Fest</b>								
						New Moon 		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	Chinese New Year	28
29	30	31						
						December 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	





## *Warren Wilson Beach House*

Warren Wilson, owner and editor of the Los Angeles Daily Journal, built the Warren Wilson Beach House in 1911 as a summer home for his wife and eight children, where it stood among the sand dunes south of the commercial center of Venice. Among the strong family ties to the community were the marriages of two of his daughters to Abbot Kinney's sons.

The Warren Wilson Beach House is a two story 4373 square foot Craftsman Bungalow with many fine architectural elements. The exterior has a multi-gabled roof, wide overhang, stucco clad first floor, shiplap-clad second floor, porches, pergola, many sets of multi-paned casement windows and Craftsman decorative details. The interior contains many fine Craftsman details such as boxed beam ceilings, picture rails, plate rails, built-in bookcases, brick fireplaces and wide woodwork with corner block accents.

The Warren Wilson Beach House is now a bed-and-breakfast inn giving guests a visual reminder of the early days of Venice. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.



# FEBRUARY 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					7th Annual <b>Poetry of Venice</b> <b>Photography</b>
			1	Groundhog Day 2	3	4
					Full Moon ○	
Super Bowl LI 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lincoln's Birthday 12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	17	18
19	Presidents' Day - Washington's Birthday 20	21	22	23	24	25
New Moon ●						
26	27	Shrove Tuesday 28				



## *Venice Branch Library*

The first Venice Branch Library was located in a large store building at 1110 Washington Blvd. (later West Washington Blvd. and then Abbot Kinney Blvd.) at which time it was under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County. After annexation of Venice to Los Angeles, the branch was added to the Los Angeles Library System. In 1930, the branch moved to a building designed by Witmer and Watson at 610 California Ave. In 1995, the Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch at 501 S. Venice Blvd. was built to provide more space. The original branch is now used as the Vera Davis McClendon Youth and Family Center.

The Venice Branch was designated as a Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument in June 1984. In 1987, the Venice Branch and several other branch libraries in Los Angeles were added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of a thematic group submission. The application noted that the branch libraries had been constructed in a variety of period revival styles to house the initial branch library system of the City of Los Angeles. With respect to the Venice Branch, the application described the building in the Spanish Colonial Revival style made of masonry construction. The front entry has oak double doors with diamond-shaped panes and small wrought-iron lamps flanking the entrance.



# MARCH 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>February 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>April 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>		<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<p>Full Moon </p>						
<p>Daylight Savings Time begins</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<p>St. Patrick's Day</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<p>Spring begins</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
	<p>New Moon </p>					
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<p>César Chávez Day</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	



## Venice Division Police Station

In 1906, with the City of Venice growing, the Ocean Park Trustees formed a new police department, hiring officers for \$65 per month. Officers maintained a daily journal, commonly known as a "blue book", in which they recorded their daily activities. After annexation to Los Angeles, Venice police officers who could pass the City of Los Angeles Civil Service Examination were allowed to join the LAPD. The original division consisted of 4.10 square miles with 30 assigned police personnel. By 1929, the division had grown to 19.44 square miles and 46 sworn personnel.

In 1930, a new police station was built at 685 Venice Blvd. It is the only Art Deco police station in the city, and the first public building constructed in Venice after annexation. By 1950, the facility was so small that the night watch would have to stand in the hallway while the day watch was getting ready to go home. Eventually the Detective Bureau moved to the city hall next door. The new Venice Police Station located at 12312 Culver Blvd. opened in 1973. In 1982, the LAPD and community leaders agreed to rename Venice Division as Pacific Division in order to reflect the entire community it served.

The former Venice Police Station now houses SPARC (Social and Public Art Resources) a cultural arts center specializing in public art. Some interior features still intact include the mahogany reception desk, division offices and jail cells.

The Venice Division Police Station at 685 Venice Blvd. was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #595 in 1994.

Acknowledgement to LAPD Capt. Nicole Alberca for permission to use information from "The History of Pacific Detectives."



Photo by Paul Tarck. Inset courtesy of Venice Historical Society.



# APRIL 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					April Fool's Day <b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
	Full Moon 					
Palm Sunday <b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	Passover <b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	Good Friday <b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Easter Sunday <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	Tax Day <b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	Earth Day <b>22</b>
<b>23</b>			New Moon 			
<b>30</b>	Holocaust Remembrance Day <b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



## *“Binoculars” Building*

The “Binoculars” Building was designed by Frank Gehry and built between 1985 –1991 for advertising agency Chiat/Day. The building is notable for three different architectural styles that make up the façade. Anchoring the outer two disparate structures is a sculptural pair of binoculars designed by Claes Oldenburg and Coosie van Bruggen, best known for public art installations typically featuring large replicas of everyday objects. This type of novelty, post modern architecture is called mimetic, also known as programmic architecture, characterized by unusual building designs that mimic the purpose or function of the building. Another example would be the original Brown Derby restaurant.

Today, the “Binoculars” Building complex at 340 Main St. is home to Google, with the top part of the binoculars used as a conference room and the area between the lenses used as both a pedestrian entrance to the building and a vehicle entrance to the garage. It was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #656 in 1998.



Photo by Wayne Ford







## *Venice of America House*

Officially designated "The Venice of America House" by the Department of Interior, this late Victorian residence built 1904-05, features a Byzantine dome and stacked double-arched front porches. The home, one of oldest in Venice, achieved status as both a National Historic Landmark as well as a Los Angeles Historic Monument for its rare architecture, which blends Queen Anne with Colonial Revival.

Because early city and county records of home ownership did not include Venice of America, the original owner or perhaps renter, is a mystery. However, the home was built by the Abbot Kinney Company, which later sold it for a land swap plus a ten dollar gold piece. The first record of purchase is in 1918 to John Fonnell, a Polish immigrant. Vintage photos show the two story Victorian already standing as the canals were being dug. Period postcards indicate the presence of a foot bridge near the house, spanning the Cabrillo Canal. One creative historian suggested that the engineer for the Venice canals may have first lived here, keeping an overview of Kinney's dream from the home's second story porch.

Honored for preservation by the Venice Historical Society, The Venice of America House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, and designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #270 in 2002.





# JUNE 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	July 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
					1	2
						Full Moon ○
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Flag Day	14	15	16
						New Moon ●
Father's Day	18	19	20	Summer begins	21	22
	Juneteenth	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	



## Venice City Hall

In 1906, there was a power struggle between Abbot Kinney and Ocean Park's Board of Trustees. When the residents passed a bond issue to finance a city hall, Kinney offered several parcels of land as a possible building site. Instead, the trustees accepted a remote site far removed from the commercial district. The city hall was called the imperial palace at Tokio because it was a long way to go for civic activities.

The Venice City Hall, designed by architects Garrett and Bixby in the Spanish Mission style, opened in 1907. Architectural details included tiled cross gable roofs, tower, parapet and double hung windows topped by a transom. Historic photographs show ornate mission style detailing that was removed after the 1933 earthquake. The building is now the home of Beyond Baroque, a literary center.

The Venice City Hall at 681 Venice Blvd. was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #749 in 2003.



Venice Arts Plaza  
Kiss The Ground Regenerative Garden

Inset courtesy of Venice Historical Society



# JULY 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1
						Full Moon 
2	3	U.S. Independence Day <b>Venice's 112th Anniversary</b> 4	5	6	7	8
						12th Annual <b>Suzy Williams - The Lit Show</b>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
New Moon  Parents' Day	23	23				
30	31	25	26	27	28	29



# *Lincoln Place Apartments*

Lincoln Place Apartments, a garden-style complex on 38 acres east of Lincoln Blvd., was designed by Ralph Vaughn, an early African-American architect, and Heath Wharton featuring International Style and Moderne architectural elements. The 795 units were built between 1949 and 1951 in response to the shortage of low to moderate rental dwellings after World War II. It was the biggest housing project in California under the historic FHA program.

Today, the combination of old and new architecture is a testament to the determination, perseverance and tenacity of a group of people who, through more than 20 years, fought for the right to stay in their homes and to preserve affordable housing stock for others.

Lincoln Place Apartments was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 and was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #1008 in 2011.





# AUGUST 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY




TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
		1	2	3	4	5
41st Annual <b>Festival of the Chariots</b>	Full Moon 					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	New Moon 					12th Annual <b>Venice Beach Music Festival</b>
20	Senior Citizens Day	21	22	23	24	25
					Full Blue Moon 	26
27	28	29	30	31		



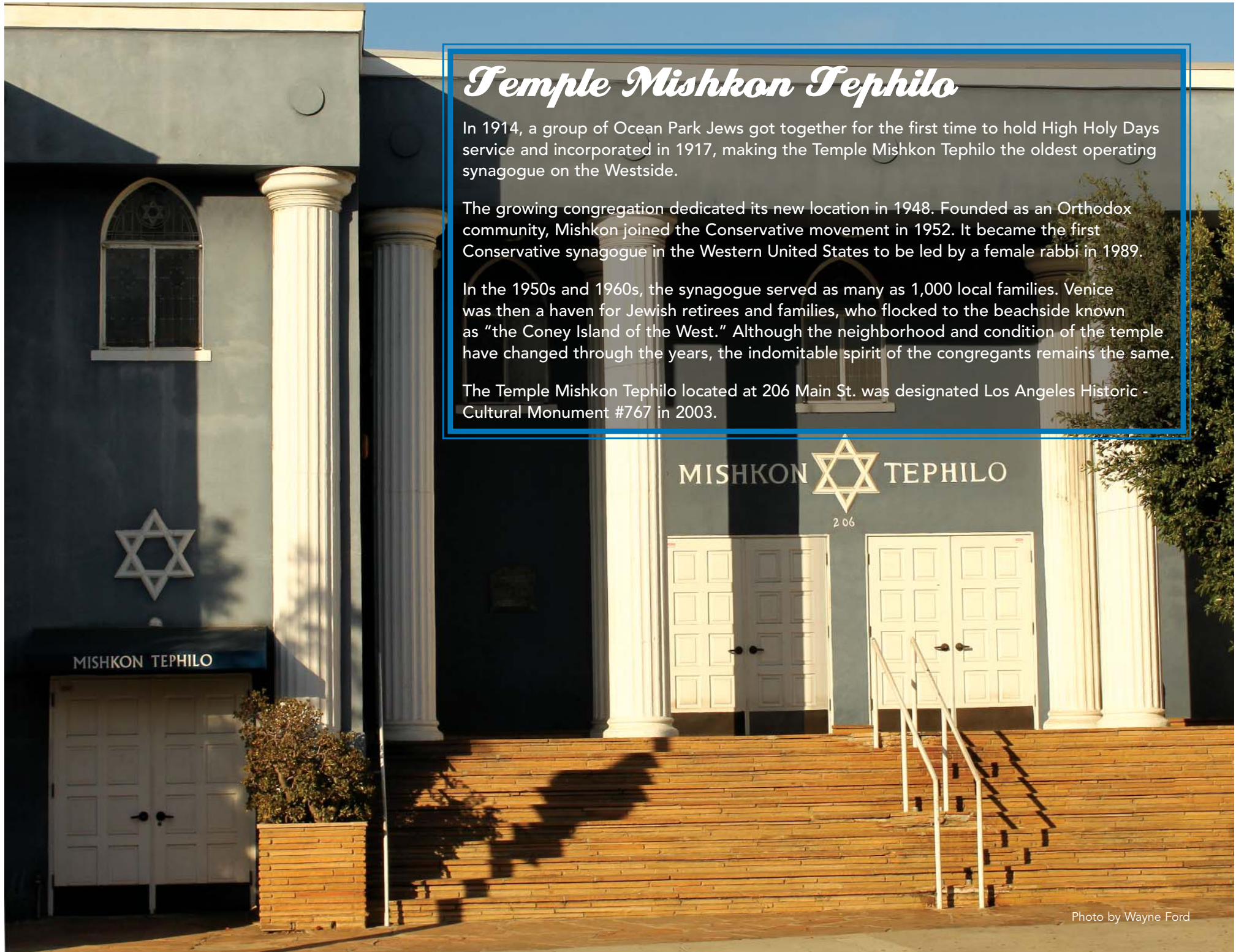
## *Temple Mishkon Tephilo*

In 1914, a group of Ocean Park Jews got together for the first time to hold High Holy Days service and incorporated in 1917, making the Temple Mishkon Tephilo the oldest operating synagogue on the Westside.

The growing congregation dedicated its new location in 1948. Founded as an Orthodox community, Mishkon joined the Conservative movement in 1952. It became the first Conservative synagogue in the Western United States to be led by a female rabbi in 1989.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the synagogue served as many as 1,000 local families. Venice was then a haven for Jewish retirees and families, who flocked to the beachside known as "the Coney Island of the West." Although the neighborhood and condition of the temple have changed through the years, the indomitable spirit of the congregants remains the same.

The Temple Mishkon Tephilo located at 206 Main St. was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #767 in 2003.





# SEPTEMBER 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
			Full Moon ☉		1	2
3	Labor Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
Grandparents' Day 10	Patriot Day 11	12	13	14	15	10th Annual Venice Vintage Motorcycle Club Rally 16
25th Annual Jazz @ Lincoln Place 17		New Moon ● 19		Rosh Hashanah 21	22	Autumn begins 23
33rd Annual Abbot Kinney Festival 24					Native Americans' Day 29	Yom Kippur 30



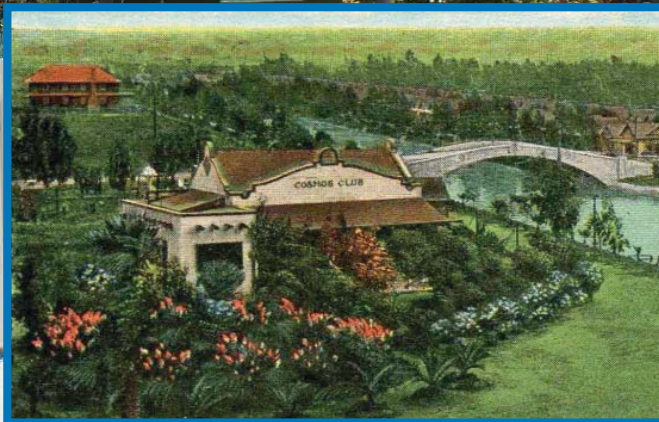
## *Kinney - Tabor Residence*

Abbot Kinney built the oldest part of the Kinney-Tabor House circa 1906 as a bunkhouse for canal workers. It was then leased by the Cosmos Club for a women's group, used as a grade school and as a meeting place for a fraternal organization known as The Owls.

In 1917, Abbot Kinney added on to the structure to make a large clapboard Craftsman house as his family home at One Grand Canal. After Kinney's death in 1920, Irving Tabor, his black chauffeur, friend and confidante, inherited the house arranged through an oral agreement.

Tabor moved into the house in 1925, but neighbors did not like the idea of a black man living among them. Racism was strong enough that, although he went through great effort to stay there, he never felt at home. Eventually, he decided to move and took the house with him. The Tabor brothers pooled their talents, resources and knowledge to transport the house in three pieces to its present location at 1310 Sixth Ave., where Irving Tabor lived until his death on January 9, 1987 at the age of 93.

The property was purchased in 2003 by local restoration enthusiasts and was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #926 in 2008.



Inset courtesy of Paul Tanck



# OCTOBER 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

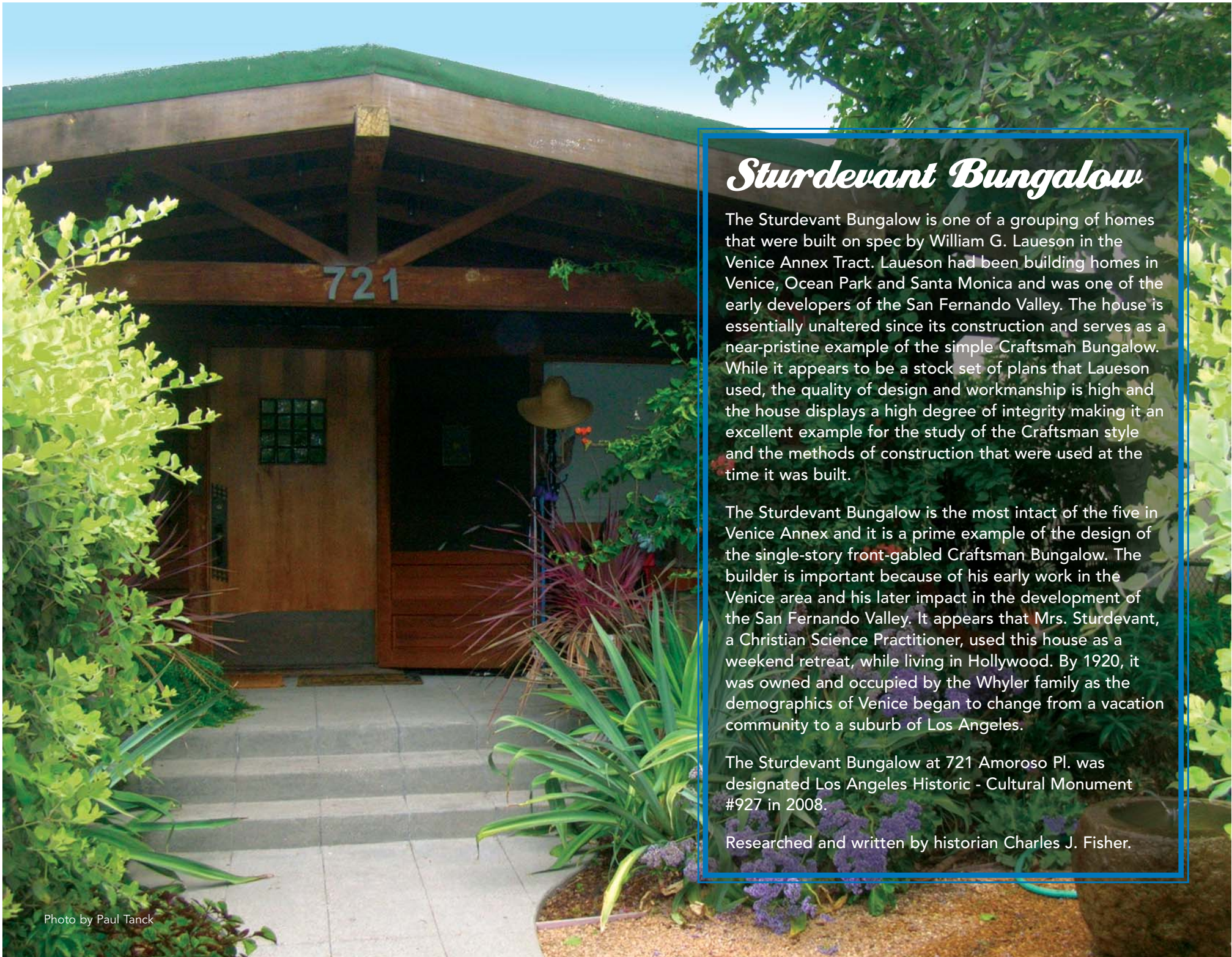
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Full Moon 	14th Annual <b>Other Venice Film Festival</b>	14th Annual <b>Other Venice Film Festival</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14th Annual <b>Other Venice Film Festival</b>						
8	Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
				New Moon 		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	United Nations Day	25	26	27
29	30	Halloween	31		September 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30





## *Sturdevant Bungalow*

The Sturdevant Bungalow is one of a grouping of homes that were built on spec by William G. Laueson in the Venice Annex Tract. Laueson had been building homes in Venice, Ocean Park and Santa Monica and was one of the early developers of the San Fernando Valley. The house is essentially unaltered since its construction and serves as a near-pristine example of the simple Craftsman Bungalow. While it appears to be a stock set of plans that Laueson used, the quality of design and workmanship is high and the house displays a high degree of integrity making it an excellent example for the study of the Craftsman style and the methods of construction that were used at the time it was built.

The Sturdevant Bungalow is the most intact of the five in Venice Annex and it is a prime example of the design of the single-story front-gabled Craftsman Bungalow. The builder is important because of his early work in the Venice area and his later impact in the development of the San Fernando Valley. It appears that Mrs. Sturdevant, a Christian Science Practitioner, used this house as a weekend retreat, while living in Hollywood. By 1920, it was owned and occupied by the Whyler family as the demographics of Venice began to change from a vacation community to a suburb of Los Angeles.

The Sturdevant Bungalow at 721 Amoroso Pl. was designated Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #927 in 2008.

Researched and written by historian Charles J. Fisher.



# NOVEMBER 2017

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		All Saints' Day <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	Full Moon  <b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Daylight Savings Time ends <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	Election Day <b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	Veterans Day <b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	22nd Annual  <b>Moby Dick Reading</b>
22nd Annual <b>Moby Dick Reading</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	Thanksgiving <b>23</b>	Black Friday <b>24</b>
<b>26</b>	Cyber Monday <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		



## *Former Site of Venice West Café*

Before the hippies of the 60s, Venice was home to the Beats of the 50s. It was a cherished life style that enabled struggling poets, musicians and artists to escape from conventional codes of behavior to express their own brand of creativity. The Venice West Café opened in 1958 by Stuart Perkoff to cater to the emerging counterculture movement. The bohemian scene of "Venice West" received national exposure in "The Holy Barbarians" written by Lawrence Lipton in 1959. The café closed its doors in 1966 after battles with the community and an eviction attempt by the building owner.

Built in 1922, the rectangular commercial vernacular building is low slung with a flat roof and rounded corner at Dudley Ave. The exterior features the original coarse brick with "steers head" ornamentation in white glazed brick accentuating the roofline.

Although no longer here, the Beat Generation spirit of "Venice West" continues to influence the ambiance of Venice.

The former site of the Venice West Café at 7 Dudley Ave. was designated a Los Angeles Historic - Cultural Monument #979 in 2010.









## *Venice Breakwater*

My favorite landmark hasn't been designated historical. Most people don't even know its history. If you go to the end of Windward Ave. and continue on the beach until you come to the edge, you'll see a group of rocks. This sight probably wouldn't make anyone think twice. But, they are not just ordinary rocks. In 1904, Abbot Kinney started construction of Venice - of - America, his dream of an Italian Renaissance. One of the main attractions was to be a pier at the shoreline. Among its many amusements, it would house a restaurant, auditorium and pavilion.

There was a terrible storm four months before the planned opening of Kinney's fantasy, or folly as some people called it. Pilings were torn from beneath the pier and the end part washed away into the ocean. The buildings were either damaged or they collapsed. What was Kinney to do? Actually, he anticipated this sort of problem and had requested permission from the War Department in Washington to build a break-water as protection against such ravaging storms. The government was slow in responding. Kinney received an approval letter two days after the disastrous storm struck.

The set-back did not faze Kinney. He authorized overtime for the crews and rush orders for necessary materials. Venice - of - America would open on schedule! The 500-foot semicircular breakwater was made from 70,000 tons of Riverside granite transported by nearly 1000 railroad cars from quarries in Hollywood.

After Kinney's death, the pier was destroyed by fire in 1920. Thornton Kinney, Abbot's son, ordered to have it rebuilt. Then in 1946, 21 years after Venice was annexed to Los Angeles, the City refused to renew the 25-year tideland lease for the amusement pier. The Recreation and Parks Commission wanted it to be dismantled. Its demise was completed by another fire in 1947.

Although the pier and its amusements are now gone, we still have this remnant from the hey-day of Venice. The breakwater is a reminder of what was. It also has become a landmark of what the beach is now. It is a wonderful spot to watch crashing waves and to surf.

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

*Betsy*

