

March East Village Joint Meeting

Full House in Attendance

On Wednesday, March 19th, 6:30 pm at The Courtyard Marriott at 1st & Linden a momentous joint meeting of the following groups was held: The North Pine Neighborhood Alliance, West End Community Association, East Village Association, Willmore City Heritage Association and the Saint Anthony's Neighborhood Association.

The jammed-packed room, with its perimeter lined with a variety of group information booths managed to retain a "Town Hall Meeting" atmosphere. The format of the evening consisted of talks given by both Mayor Bob Foster & City Manager Pat West, interspersed with comments given by 2nd District Council Member Suja Lowenthal and Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal. In addition, a question and answer period added an exciting interactive quality to the event.

The Mayor stated that during his twenty months in office, The City has made great strides in bringing Long Beach closer to a fully Green, Clean Air status. The Mayor listed a few components of The City's Year Clean Air Plan: #1. The Ports' proposal to eliminate "dirty" diesel trucks from San Pedro Bay cargo terminals within five years. #2. The Ports will join with the state and local agencies to finance programs to replace trucks with a new generation of clean or retrofitted vehicles. A requirement that all dirty trucks will be banned by Oct. 12th, 2012. #3. Containers will receive a \$35 container fee.

Mayor Foster added that they (City Officials) are trying to move from being "Regulators to Facilitators".

During an open question and answer period, moderator, Robert Garcia passed the microphone among the hundreds of enthusiastic attendees. Discussion ensued regarding such issues as the loss of numerous small "mom & pop" retail establishments, the need for more park spaces, the possibility of movie studios coming to Long Beach, the feasibility of bringing back the breakwater, and a proposal that three-wheel bicycles be provided free to retail shoppers.

Answers given provided the following information: The Mayor stated that talks are currently in process concerning the use of Boeing property by two movie studios and RV parking. In regards to parks: Several new parks have already been developed or are in the planning stages. These include parks at: Pacific & 4th, Seaside, 851 Orange Ave., and as stated by First District Councilwoman, Bonnie Lowenthal, another park is upcoming near the Edison School and will include an environmental center. The Mayor concluded the discussion on parks by replying to Phil Appleby's pertinent question on the status of the Armory Park at 7th and Alamitos. Applause filled the room as the Mayor informed the audience that recent talks with the property owner indicates the possibility that The City may be able to purchase land needed to proceed



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with the project. The Mayor further stated that at this point, the reality of the Armory Park is more a matter of securing the funding that will be needed.

The Mayor's answer to the question regarding bringing back of the breakwater, stressed the fact that it is mainly a matter of convincing the Army Corps of Engineers, and that a study is needed before any steps can be taken toward such an endeavor. The Mayor added that a proper study would cost approximately two million dollars.

Other information provided by The Mayor included the comment that the City's "Visioning Team" is kept abreast and involved in all new development plans. He said that new bicycle pods have been installed at the Aquarium and City Hall, and that those who are interested in securing public trash cans, may inquire to the Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA). (562) 436-4259. www.downtownlongbeach.org

City Manager West, spoke of improvements in West Long Beach, including reduction of both apartment gang activity and prostitute hotels.

Second District Councilwoman, Suja Lowenthal made a point to those concerned with empty storefronts along Pine and other areas of The City, and to view open space as an opportunity to secure a higher-standard or quality business tenant, rather than to see it as a deficit. She made a request that we be patient in this time of revitalization and growth.

Commendations and appreciation go to: DLBA President & CEO-Kraig Kojian and his staff for their efforts in informing the public of the meeting, as well as their provisions of food and beverages and to Robert Garcia for organizing and moderating the meeting, to The Courtyard Marriot for their gracious hospitality and use of the meeting space, to Dan Darnauer for his city wide efforts in getting the word out and to all the volunteers for planning and coordinating the event.

Shades of Afrika

Article by Louise Kripal

When one enters the realm of Shades of Afrika today, one is hard-pressed to believe that back in its early beginnings in 1994, owners and sisters Reneé and Vonya Quarles opened with just a few art prints on the sidewalk, odds and ends, and not much else. They started having open-mic poetry once a week and providing after school events. Children would take part in the painting of magnets and other art projects such as making scented candles.

Now when you enter the store, you can't help but be amazed by the diversity of the selections within: from a diverse collection of books, tapestries and wall hangings, wood carvings and collectables you look in awe of its beauty.

Beauty and Health Care products, Home Aroma Oils, and quality, hand forged jewelry line the walls. In addition to these products, Reneé offers an impressive selection of Fine Afrikan & Afrikan Amerikan Art and full Custom Framing services. Shades of Afrika has been home to many Long Beach artists such as Internationally known, Cidne Wallace and Victoria Thompson, a well respected Celebrity Artist and Jabari the wood carver.

In addition to being a strikingly beautiful woman, Reneé is powerfully articulate and truly inspirational with her dedication and commitment to the community. She definitely "walks the talk" as is demonstrated by her on-going efforts to provide both essential yet innovative classes and events. See below for a list of what is offered.

Special Note: Due to upcoming redevelopment, Shades of



Shades of Afrika actually in Long Beach as it would look if Reneé Quarles would have set up shop in Afrika....montage and photos by Steven Stein, Africa photos by Bert Bigelow..

Afrika will be relocating to: 1001 East 4th Street (1 block East of Alamitos) on 4th Street.

Our Story Study Group, Thurs. Nights at 6:30pm-8:30 pm
The Girof Café Open-Mic Every Sat. at 8pm-10pm (\$3 cover)
Sunday Morning Meditation & Yoga Classes at 11am-1pm
All are welcome. No charge. Donations are accepted.
The Fathers Love and Guidance Group Offers direct assistance to troubled teens: (562) 999-6346

Shades of Afrika

**352 E. 3rd Street • (562) 436-2210 • www.shadesofafrika.com
E-mail: shadesofafrika@verizon.net**

Al Varel Village Artist

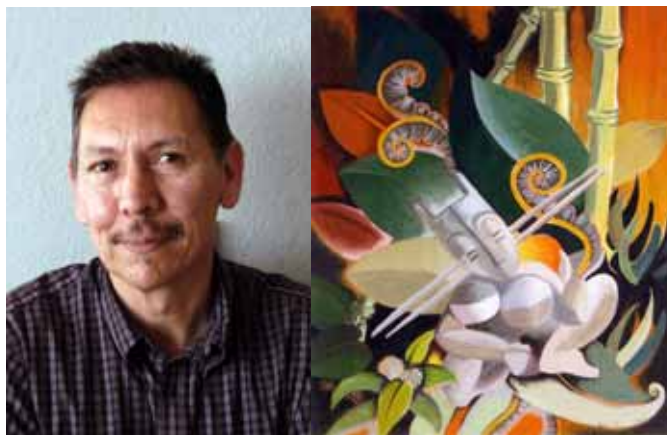
Article by Louise Kripal

Al Varel born 1952, in El Paso, Texas has lived fourteen years in Long Beach with the last ten years, being in the East Village. When asked about any family influence on his love of Art; Al gave the followed. "At a very young age my father was a large influence, as he was always drawing and creating art around the house. He was excellent in his ability but since he was busy working to support the family, he never had the opportunity to do anything with it." Al added that his sister was very artistic and that his mother was also, through her exquisite embroidery work.

Al describes himself as mostly self-taught although he did attend Platt College and received a Certificate in Graphic Design. However, he gives credit for what he has learned in Art, to: Long Beach Arts, Instructor-B.J. Wilson, more than to anyone else.

Al's experience in the Art field began early in his adult life. As a young man, in 1972, he ventured out to Westchester to be in their Street Fair and in the 80's he joined the Beverly Hills Art Association where he was a participant in their Art Exhibits for two years. It was here, at these public Art Fairs, that Al said he had his first taste of public appreciation. Here also, as his work began to sell, he gained the added confidence needed to venture out even further. Subsequently, he served as the Director of Long Beach Arts (then located on Long Beach Blvd.) for two years.

Al has exhibited extensively throughout the general Los



Al Varel uses recycled materials in respect for the environment.

Angeles area, including Long Beach and San Pedro, including several solo shows. In painting, Al's media of choice is acrylics and he uses recycled materials extensively in his assemblages out of respect for the environment. His artistic style is unique, as is his personality: exact, crisp, at times having a mathematical-like feel to it, humble and pure. His work, largely interspersed with mythical symbology, shows the influence of his interest and study of Jungian Psychology and various religious cultures including: African, Asian, Hawaiian, European, American Indian and others.

Currently Al is a member of the 2nd City Council Gallery and Performance Space at 435 Alamitos Ave. He looks forward to the day when he can live his days according to his "real interest in life", that being: creating Art.

2nd Saturday Art Walk April 12th

2nd Saturday Art Walk is a monthly event which takes place in the East Village Arts District, Downtown Long Beach. The East Village Arts District borders are: 10th on the North, Ocean on the South, Alamitos on the East & Long Beach Blvd. on the West.

Local retail businesses such as art galleries, gift shops, boutiques, restaurants and coffee shops stay open until 10:00 pm. Linden Ave. is closed to traffic and transformed into a street art fair with local artist's booths & a stage dedicated to street performances and live music.

2nd Saturday Art Walks start at 4:00 pm and end at 10:00 pm. Admission is free.

Parking is available in nearby structures and parking lots for about \$4.00 or free, by chance, on local streets.

The greatest attraction of this event is its unique items and works of art, paintings, sculpture, photography, crafts and hands-on workshops. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk offers kids as well as adults, entertainment and an opportunity to create their own masterpieces.



Photo by Thomas McConville

East Village Arts District—Downtown Long Beach

Linden Ave. between 1st Street and Broadway

Live Music • Mini Art Car Race • Kids Art Activities

These are the dates of the next 2nd Saturday Art Walks:

May 10th • June 14th • July 12th

Please call 562.435.5232 or See the Official 2nd Saturday Art Walk website at: www.artwalklb.com



Piece by Piece

Mosaic murals created by children

Robin Bott displays her own mosaic work as well as mosaic murals created by her students from Barton Hill Elementary School in San Pedro and Island Elementary School in Wilmington.

Join in the fun of working on an interactive mosaic mural in progress at Gallery Eleven Seven, 117 Linden Ave. Long Beach, CA 90802. Phone 562.590.6525

4:00 - 10:00 pm:

"Piece by Piece" Mosaic murals by children (see above)

6:00 - 7:30 pm:

"Mini Art Car Race" Unique race of toy cars assembled by local artists and business owners. Under supervision and art direction of Larry Bott.

6:00 - 9:50 pm:

Music by Paul Dominguez and the Number 2 LAOB Duo Featuring Joey Joel, guitar and vocals.

6:00 - 10:00 pm:

Local galleries Opening Receptions:

Ascend Gallery, 105-B Linden Ave.

C1D Gallery, 441 E. 1st Street

Gallery Eleven Seven, 117 Linden Ave.

Ginia Gallery, 443 E. Broadway

Hellada Photography Studio, 117 Linden Ave.

Koo's Art Center, 530 E. Broadway

2nd Saturday Artwalks are organized by local artists in partnership with local galleries, businesses & residents and are supported by:

City of Long Beach • Vice Major Bonnie Lowenthal, *Councilwoman District 1* • Suja Lowenthal, *Councilwoman District 2*

Arts Council for Long Beach • Downtown Long Beach Associates
East Village Association • Appleby Brokerage • Downs Properties

Hellada Photography Studio • Gallery Eleven Seven

ThePrimeSpot.com • C1D Gallery • Ginia Gallery

Ascend Gallery • Lola • Cement Records • Best Western

Village Treasures • Lafayette Homeowners Association • Broadlind

Participating Retail Businesses & Restaurants:

The Academy, 433 E. 1st St. • Alpha Cult, 408 E. 1st St.

Cheta, 126 Linden Ave. • Good Vibes Cafe, 510 E. Broadway

Lola, 105-A Linden Ave. • Long Beach Times, 119 Linden Ave.

Martian Church, 406 1st St. • Pates Restaurant, 400 E. 1st St.

The Village Grind Cafe, 443 E. 1st St.

Utopia Restaurant, 445 E. 1st St.

Village Treasures, 146 Linden Ave.

Submissions are welcome and need to be sent in by 20th of the month before issue is out. The Deadline for the next (June/July) Issue of East Village News is Tuesday, May 20th, 2008. Submit to: ssstevev@aol.com Write: "EVA Newsletter Submission" in subject heading. Or call: Louise Kripal at: (562) 491-5677 for more info or to schedule an interview. The East Village News cannot be held responsible for name, date changes, and/or errors therefore it is best to confirm meeting and/or art events by calling ahead to verify such.



KaRi and ThePrimeSpot.com

Article by Louise Kripal



KaRi

How does one ever begin to describe KaRi? And then what is ThePrimeSpot.com anyway? Well, you could start with some basic facts like KaRi was born in Brooklyn, New York, raised in Freehold, New Jersey and lived in the Land of Aloha for a stint. And that she's a part-time Express Mail carrier for the Post Office. However the best place to start is by explaining what ThePrimeSpot.com is and what it means not only to KaRi, but to us all.

I was first introduced to KaRi and ThePrimeSpot.com through fellow artist advocate, Anna Wooten (who will be interviewed in an upcoming issue). We both were helping Anna coordinate an East Village art exhibition for AHA or Artist Helping Artists. KaRi was there doing what she does best: being a first rate "people promoter".

How so, you ask? You see, KaRi has a very unique and innate gift: the ability to discover, energize and convince (hundreds, today possibly thousands of) people, that they have talent. And then, with her passion to create, KaRi utilizes her websites ThePrimeSpot.com, TPSradio.org, Poddywood.com to provide those willing, an opportunity to connect and be known. KaRi is the connection! She's the "conduit" as she has humbly been called by local band Slushbox or better yet, she's what I call, the "mastermind" behind the scenes. To whatever KaRi chooses to take on, she gives it her all and when you couple it with her enthusiasm, she's downright contagious.

Here's just a short sample of KaRi's accomplishments. Former Columnist for "View From the Hill" newspaper" (Signal Hill) & LongBeachOnline.net (KaRi's KoRner), volunteered as: TourGuide for LB's Artwalk, LB Heritage, University Art

Museum, Big Red Bus Art Tours Summer 2007, also Project Read, WF2003, SACA Rape Hotline, feeding the homeless, LBCTelevision, CSULB/Cerritos/LBCC student radio.

In 1997, KaRi began supporting the Arts with the acquisition of her first piece of art, a painting by Josh Nardo, the son of a fellow postal worker and her first "local" CD of the band, Mention. Today, KaRi's Art collection has grown and now includes pieces by several well-known Long Beach Arts Members.

Back in 1999 she started promoting arts, music, local CD's, local events, and anything happening in the 90802 zip code. KaRi funded neighbor, Leldon's music demo prior to being signed by MCA, and gave Jerry Lee (drummer/The Tinder Box) his first paid gig in LB as a web designer. She uploaded her homemade music video that was played on Channel 3 into a video podcast.

From 2001-2003 KaRi was responsible for running ThePrimeSpot Soundstage at Gallery Eleven Seven. Here she gave many local bands exposure, promoting their appearance by playing their CD on The Prime Spot Radio Show.

When it comes to websites, KaRi takes the cake. She owns over 50 URLs. KaRi got involved with the eVillage after painting her own car with a website address. EastVillageArtsDistrict.org, when she took part in an Art Car event.

She also runs EVfriends.com, myspace.com/artwalklbc and myspace.com/club562 (which has over 3000 local friends). She's podcasted since 2005 and gathers with LBpodcasters.com on occasion.

In closing, please make a note that September 2008 will be a special month for KaRi. ThePrimeSpot.com & TPSradio.org will be celebrating its 9th Anniversary and KaRi will feature Artists with Disabilities during the 2nd Saturday Art Walk at Gallery Eleven Seven. Featured will be paintings by Cindi Bernhardt (MouthArtistCindi.com) and also jazz singer Margery Lee Sauve (margerysauve.com). Both of these special women are examples of who inspires KaRi, who in turn encourages others to use their creativity fully! Look to a future issue for more information on KaRi and this upcoming event.

2nd City Council Gallery

2nd City Council invites all people; artists as well as those who support the arts, to become involved in this exciting, new community.

435 Alamitos Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 901-0997 • <http://www.2ndcitycouncil.org>

California Visual Artists (CVA) (an Open Exhibition)
March 8 to April 10, 2008, Reception: March 15, 7 - 9 p.m.

Earth

April 19 to May 22, 2008, Reception: April 26, 7 - 9 p.m.
Art that depicts the beauty of the earth, environmental concerns or solutions.

The 2008 Members' Exhibition
May 31 to June 26, 2008

ATTENTION: All readers, please make note! In the last issue (February/March) of the East Village News the following statement was in error.

"A Farmer's Market on 1st Street will not be considered until after the street has been closed down to traffic."

A retraction is as follows:

The current Farmer's Market vendor our office has been working with, has stated that they will consider moving down to 1st Street when it has been closed down to traffic. That being said, we will continue to work towards a viable solution to bring a farmer's market vendor down to 1st Street with or without a street closure.

Submitted by: Jemie Sae Koo
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Councilmember, 2nd District
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