

FREEDOM FORUM OF ORANGE COUNTY
PALACE REBELLION
HISTORY

1. It seems inevitable that in any organization there always is waiting in the wings some individual who will attempt a palace rebellion to grab the reins of power.
2. Freedom Forum of Orange County is no exception. Here we have a case history of such an attempt.
3. Freedom Forum of Orange County (Forum) was established by Rosemary Carter generally to provide information and entertainment for the public. It regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month.
4. Approximately seven years ago Mike Lerman volunteered to set up a website for the Forum. He chose FreedomForumOC.tripod.com, a FREE web page parking service. The website was fully dedicated to the interests of the Forum. He voluntarily spent many hours and faithfully maintained the website for the sole benefit of the Forum.
5. Approximately 2½ years ago Rosemary Carter transferred all control and interest in the Forum to Judith Rice. From that point onward Judith Rice managed the Forum's schedule and activities.
6. As one might expect, there were subtle changes in style of the organization. Over time Mike Lerman showed an increasing dissatisfaction with the way things were done. Apparently, he decided to take matters into his own hands and wrest control from Judith Rice without her approval or knowledge.
7. On Wednesday, March 5, 2008 the Forum had a guest speaker. At that presentation, without the knowledge of Judith Rice, Mike Lerman distributed a flyer which announced a new location and new admission pricing for the next regular event.
8. For the next regular meeting place on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, Judith Rice arranged for speaker Dr. Stanley Monteith to present information about economics. When contacted again by Judith Rice who apprised him of the situation, he agreed to stay with the original arrangement between him and Judith Rice.
9. On March 6, 2008, at 10:44pm, The Forum's website was changed, apparently by Mike Lerman. The following announcement was on the web site:

THE FREEDOM FORUM WEST OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Join us. Become part of freedom and stay the course.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OUR NAME TO THE FREEDOM FORUM WEST OF ORANGE COUNTY WHICH IS NOW A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT NEW GROUP FROM THE OLDER FREEDOM FORUM OF ORANGE COUNTY WHICH IS BEING RUN BY BOB AND JUDY RICE. BECAUSE OF UNWORKABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP THIS CHANGE WAS NECESSARY. IF YOU ARE SEEKING THE FORUM THAT BOB AND JUDY RICE WANT TO RUN PLEASE CONTACT THEM. AND WE WISH WELL

IF YOU ARE HOWEVER SEEKING TO COME TO A NEW SEMINAR VENUE WHERE YOU WONT JUST HEAR THE SAME OLD ,SAME OLD ABOUT PROBLEMS BUT WILL FELLOWSHIP WITH LIKE MINDED EMPOWERING PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP YOU FIND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS THEN YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. FFT MIKE

The Freedom Forum West of Orange County California is held on the first Wednesday of each month

Our meetings will now be held at the

.....
..... [Expletives deleted 😊]
.....

until further notice

Leading freedom advocates and speakers from across the country come and speak on current issues that are greatly affecting the loss our freedoms and liberties.

These are the critical news events and stories of our time that the press will not cover and doesn't want you to know exist.

Does it cost anything to attend ?

A Small suggested of \$5 per man or woman and \$8 per couple donation is requested to help us recover meeting cost and expenses.

10. Notice that the name, location, and cost of admission was also changed. All of that was done without the knowledge or consent of Judith Rice.

11. A few hours later the change to the web site was discovered. Immediately, Mike Lerman's access privileges were suspended, the password was changed, and from the Forum's backup copies the web site was restored to its proper status.

12. It should be noted here that the web site gets about 4,500 hits per month. It would be a significant advantage to Mike Lerman's new enterprise if he could intercept those queries to redirect the Forum's audience to his own competing business interests. [We think competition is good, but hijacking the Forum's communication channel does not speak well for the hijacker.]

13. When Mike Lerman discovered his loss of privileges, he wrote the following note to Judith Rice:

"March 7, 2008, 6:44pm

I noticed that your email has been substituted for my email on my website. I also noticed that I am locked out of my website which means you have hacked my website which is a trespass. I call this site my site because it is my intellectual property. I created it and maintained it as a courtesy to the Freedom Forum but never gave you or your predecessor the right of ownership or of control of my intellectual property. I expect you to return the access of the web site back ASAP. If this is not accomplished within three days, you have agreed by contract to pay for the site and all damages caused by your actions. Hacking a website is a Federal cyber crime. My hope is that it will not be necessary to seek additional measures against you or Bob for your illegal action. My desire is to find a way to find a path to peace between us but peace between us has to involve mutual respect which I feel you do not show me. This kind of divisiveness only hurts the very movement we are both a part of. Be advised that I have the full capacity to take lawful recourse if a path to peace is not found."

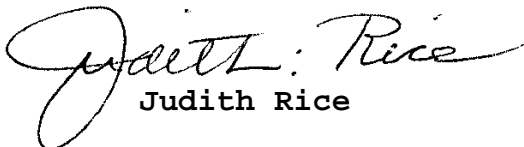
14. Mike Lerman is a volunteer. He volunteered to set up the web site which cost him no money. The free web site was totally dedicated to the promotion and communication of the Forum's interests. He volunteered to provide the labor and talent for that purpose. During his term of volunteer service he did an excellent job.

15. It is not unusual for a long-term volunteer to forget that he is a volunteer and has no proprietary investment in the organization he is helping. It is a well established legal principle that a volunteer can not contribute time, effort, money, assets, or intellectual property, and then later expect or demand compensation or a return of some imagined vested interest.

16. Unfortunately, it appears that Mike Lerman wants exactly what the courts and common sense have long denied.

17. Since this writing we have heard that Mike Lerman has continued to sully the reputation of Freedom Forum of Orange County and its owners. It is not necessary for him to indirectly so do. Mike Lerman is invited to submit his response for posting to this web site. Then, let the court of public opinion express itself.

March 10, 2008


Judith Rice