



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 29TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

JANUARY 2015



Photo: Joyce Stanfield Perry

Juaneño Tribal Leader David Belardes Dies at Age 67

by Abel Silva

SAN DIEGO, CA – David Belardes, tribal chairman of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, died on December 29 after a brave battle with cancer.

Serving his tribe since the 1970s, Belardes was repeatedly elected chairman for the Juaneños of the Acjachemen Nation since 1989. The tribe is currently a non-federally recognized coastal tribe still living in and around their ancestral lands of Orange County, Riverside west county, Los Angeles south county, and San Diego north county.

Belardes, who grew up with the “old knowledge,” cared dearly for his people — all of whom he knew, most of them personally. Over the years, he became a highly respected and successful leader in dealing with

the politics, ceremonies, and social services for his tribe, among numerous other responsibilities he gladly took on.

In San Juan Capistrano, Belardes was the head of a cultural museum at the Blas Aguilar Adobe/Foundation, which was originally built for his mission neophyte family in 1794 and later in 1845 for his Californio Mexican colonist family. It now belongs to the City and is operated as an interpretive center of Juaneño/Acjachemen history. Thanks to David's time and efforts, this museum and its foundation will receive a preservation grant that will ensure his people's legacy forever. As early as 1979 David would negotiate with developers on sites when human burials were being disturbed and asked for them

not to be taken away. A decade later he would be designated by Sacramento as the tribes “Most likely Descendant” (MLD) under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Having sat on Chairman Belardes's tribal council off and on since 1997 (as I currently do), I can personally attest to the many selfless traits that made him such a great leader and friend. Like many others, I owe the respect and dignity I now have for my Juaneño tribal brothers and sisters to David Belardes — who, despite much political and cultural controversy, brought people together.

He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, tribal members, and all who had the good fortune to know and work with him.

Yawaa (Peace)

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Sycuan Tribe Carries on a Kumeyaay Tradition of Human Compassion

The traditional Kumeyaay were skilled hunters and innovative agriculturalists that achieved a sophisticated and scientific understanding of the plant and animal life, and waters of their territory. The Kumeyaay ancestors maintained a spiritual way of life on the basis of their own language, cultural knowledge and identity, all of which are very much honored by contemporary Kumeyaay. Today, the people of the Sycuan Band of



Dr. Gwendalle Cooper accepts gift from newly elected Sycuan Tribal Chairman Cody Martinez on behalf of Council of American Indian Organizations.

SEE **Sycuan Compassion**, page 3

U.S. Black Press Calls for Normalizing Relations With Cuba

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Black Press USA

To begin the year the the President/CEO of the National Newspapers Publishers Association, the 73-year-old federation of more than 200 Black community newspapers in the United States, called upon the Black community to support full normalization of relations with Cuba. Benjamin Chavis, Jr. noted only Congress can lift the embargo of Cuba, and only the people can "force Congress to do the right thing." Now is not the time for Black America to be silent, he said.

— Benjamin Chavis, Jr., President/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association., National Newspapers Publishers Association

President Obama's historic announcement that the U.S. is restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba, after more than five decades of strategic political and military opposition, is today resonating positively throughout Black America. It is in the economic, cultural and political interests of 42.7 million Black Americans across the United States to focus on the new emerging opportunities to strengthen relationships with the people and government of the Republic of Cuba.

President Obama stated, "In the most significant changes in our policy in more than 50 years, we will end an outdated approach that, for decades, has failed to advance our interests, and instead we will begin to normalize relations between our two countries. Through these changes, we intend to create more opportunities for the American and Cuban people, and begin a new chapter among the nations of the Americas."

A key question that needs to be asked is: How will the changes that President Obama highlighted about Cuba will

afford Black Americans in particular more opportunities to establish joint ventures and other business relationships with the people of Cuba? Too often some of us limit ourselves to lengthy debates about our changing world, but miss out on a chance to participate in helping to actually shape and build new world realities.

Our worldview about has always included international perspectives. Our consciousness is informed not just by what might be popular domestically at any given moment in time, but also how we see the international struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

In Black American education, literature, music, sports, business, religion and other cultural realms we have witnessed the benefits of defining and securing the interests of African people throughout the world.

I vividly remember James Baldwin encouraging me to understand better what it meant by the slogan "Viva Cuba!" Baldwin helped me to see the relationship between the Cuban Revolution and the African Liberation Movement against imperialism, colonization and the sufferings of neo-colonialism in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Viva Cuba" became synonymous Viva Africa! Angola and Namibia, as well the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa, all benefited from the enormous sacrifice and support that Cuba rendered to southern Africa during the 1970s and 1980s. Now that Cuba is once again the subject of solidarity for some and renewed ridicule from others, I believe it is important for Black Americans to actively support for our brothers and sisters in the island nation of Cuba. More than 11 million people live in Cuba. The 2002 Cuban census puts the Black population at 10

percent, mulatto 23.8 percent, Asian 1 percent and Whites at 65 percent. Most estimates place the people of color figure at 40 to 60 percent of the population.

I have been to Cuba many times and each time I am reminded how African culture and Latin culture have fused together extraordinarily well in Havana, the capital city, and in the other urban and rural areas of the nation.

I thank Harry Belafonte and others for helping to inspire the current generation of Cuban poets, writers, musicians and hip-hop artists in Havana who will certainly now have a stronger chance to spread their artistic genius throughout the world. We should remain vigilant because the forces of repression and ignorance are still active.

Predictably, some conservatives have already announced plans to have Congress block Obama's plan to designate a U.S. ambassador to Cuba. The economic blockade of Cuba is a matter that only the U.S. Congress can end through legislation. But the will of the people can force Congress to do the right thing regarding Cuba. Let's continue to stand up and speak about Cuba and the rest of the world. This not a time for Black America to be silent.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which represents the Black Press in the United States. He can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf.

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

"We weep for the victims the horrific attack on Charlie Hebdo, who include the cartoonists Charb, Cabu, Tignous and Wolinski and Bernard Maris," Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Christophe Deloire said.

"Our thoughts are with these colleagues and friends, who have been taken from us by hatred. There can be no worse attack on media freedom,

and all other freedoms, than to storm into a media outlet and shoot on sight. We will continue our fight for freedom and tolerance in the face of this barbarity. We will do it for them and for all those who have fallen in defence of such fundamental values as freedom of information."

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of this terrorist attack.



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Member, American Indian Chamber of Commerce

Email: rdavis4973@aol.com

Website: www.indianvoices.net

Editorial Board: Rose Davis

Editor:	Rose Davis	Writer:	Jaclyn Bissonette
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Endeavor Media Group
André Haynes
Lakeside Business Suites
2620 Regatta Dr., Ste. 102
Las Vegas, NV 89128
(702) 902-2844 • Fax: (702) 902-2845
andre@EMGnv.com
www.EMGnv.com

111 South 35th St.
San Diego, CA 92113
(619) 234-4753
(619) 534-2435 (cell)
Fax: (619) 512-4534

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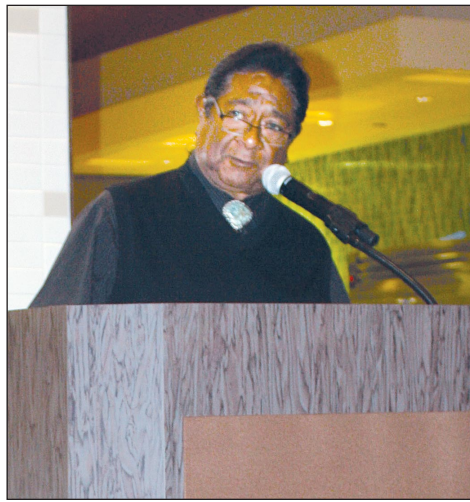
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IT IS TIME TO BREAK THE CYCLE!

Sycuan Compassion

Continued from page 1



Danny Tucker

the Kumeyaay Nation stand proud, making the most of their relatively small reservation land base. Mindful of their rich ancestral past, the self-reliant members of Sycuan are planning and working diligently for the benefit of their future generations.

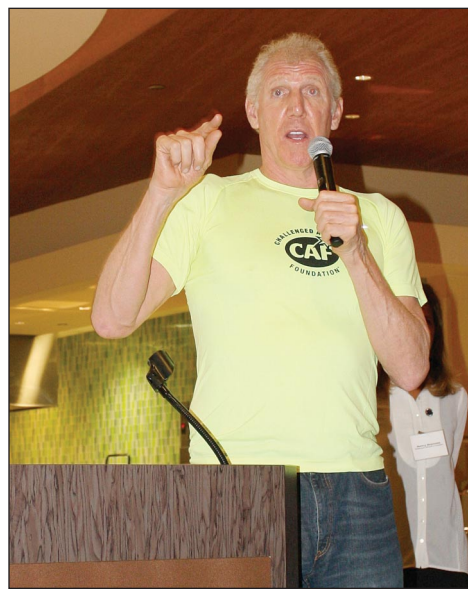


The San Diego Church community is embraced.

They demonstrate a reverence and concern for all people regardless of race or social standing.

In keeping with their mission to protect

relationships to



Bill Walton

Sycuan's sovereignty and preserve the well being of their people through self-sufficiency and responsible governance, while having a positive impact on our community the tribe exercises unselfish generosity and good will.

The tribe's philosophy of giving back to the community assures that the residence of San Diego of all ethnicities can feel safer and more secure. This allows San Diegans to grow and develop healthy social relationships to



Chairman Cody Martinez and Shirley Murphy.

abilities, or qualities. It often holds that members of different races should be treated differently.

Racism was a driving force behind conquest and the Transatlantic slave trade, and behind states based on racial segregation such as the U.S. in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and South Africa under apartheid. [I]t has also been a major part of the political and ideological underpinning of genocides such as The Holocaust, but also in colonial contexts such as the rubber booms in South America and the Congo, and in the European conquest of

Baja Love

Dawn Parker-Waites
Opens the Border

I am excited to announce that I will be working with the team at Indian Voices and sharing stories about my journey moving out of the States and into Baja Mexico including the projects that I am involved with and people that I am meeting here. I will be sharing my immense love for this region as well as some of the spirited people that are dedicating their lives to ensure the region is resilient and environmentally sustainable. I was having difficulty making any headway in California and found myself being led to meet key people in Tecate, Tijuana, Rosarito and



Ensenada that gave me hope to continue. We are building a network and I hope you will join us in crafting a much needed bridge of friendship and collaboration. I realize America has become one big reservation and the oppression has now grown to include the white "upper crust." I am sorry for what has happened, it pains me greatly. Life was not meant to be lived this way. I am counting on the wisdom of indigenous tribes to help guide us out of this nightmare and into a place where all life is sacred again.

Dawn Parker-Waites is the founder of San Diego Loves Green and has worked with numerous organizations on projects related to protecting the environment in California including the plastic bag ban, AB 32. She also has been helping to bring attention to the toxic water on Hopi and Navajo land.

combat issue of racism, poverty and bigotry on all levels.

Twenty-eight community groups were blessed with monetary offerings during holidays at the tribes annual donation ceremony held

in the 'buffet area of the casino with the newly elected tribal council. The groups included civic, social and church organizations the benefits to the citizenry reaches deep into the life force of the people providing cultural healing and bonding

As San Diego and our country struggle with the current social unrest, and anxiety afflicting us as a nation, the indigenous intelligence and ethics of the Kumeyaay that embraces nature in balance is good medicine for San Diego and the world.

Racism Dissected

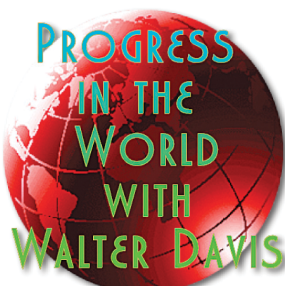
Racism consists of both prejudice and discrimination based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. It often takes the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems that consider different races to be ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits,

the Americas and colonization of Africa, Asia and Australia.

Maroons (from the American Spanish word cimarrón: "feral animal, fugitive, runaway") were African refugees that escaped slavery in the Americas and formed independent settlements. The term can also be applied to their descendants.

When the British captured Jamaica in 1655, the Spanish colonists fled, leaving a large number of African slaves. These former Spanish slaves created three Palenques, or settlements. Former slaves organized under the leadership of Juan

de Serras allied with the Spanish guerrillas on the western end of Cockpit Country, while those under Juan de Bolas established themselves in modern-day Clarendon Parish and served as a "black militia" for the English. The third chose to join those who had previously escaped from the Spanish to live and intermarry with the Arawak people. Each group of Maroons established distinct independent communities in the mountainous interior of Jamaica. They survived by subsistence farming and periodic raids plantations. Over time, the Maroons came to control large areas of the Jamaican interior.



Walter Davis
29991 Canyon Hills Road, Ste. 1709-921
Lake Elsinore, CA 92532-2579
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Africans and Indians, Eating from the Same Pot: Generations of Shared Culture, Traditions, Language, Food and Music

Greetings!

The Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band is thrilled to announce its 2015 conference. The conference theme for this year's conference is "Africans and Indians, Eating from the same pot: Generations of shared culture, traditions, language, food and music." The conference will be held at Langston University Langston University, 4205 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Friday, May 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM - Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 10:00 PM (OKC campus). The two day conference will focus on the history and plight of the African Indian Freedmen from all Five Tribes of Oklahoma, Indian Territory (Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Seminole).

Activities and presentations will include genealogy workshops; a Mvskoke language workshop; a presentation by the renowned Storyteller, Wallace Moore; presentations by scholars, lecturers, and

attorneys; a panel discussion; and a presentation by the Urban League 'Young Professionals.' In addition, a special viewing of the MCIFB's documentary "Bloodlines" will be shown at the historic Paramount Theater, centrally located in downtown OKC, only minutes away from the historic Deep Deuce and Bricktown district. Other activities and a full list of speakers and presenters will be announced soon!

This conference supports the MCIFB's primary goal to enhance public awareness of Black Indian Freedmen and Native American cultures by educating our members, supporters, and the general public regarding the history and cultures of the two groups.

It is our desire that the rich cultural heritage of the Freedmen/Black Indian will be recognized and represented in museums as well as elementary, high school and college textbooks. We have secured scholarly speakers and presenters and are confident that each attendee will enjoy a quality educational conference!

Our hope is that this conference will not only inspire seasoned researchers, but challenge young researchers as well. Who should attend? Scholars, history buffs, genealogy societies, genealogists, family historians, beginner, intermediate, or experienced researchers, hobbyists, students, descendants of Black Indians, the general public, and anyone interested in learning more about the unique history of the Black Indians.

Registration includes all workshops, entertainment, lunch, special viewing of the MCIFB's documentary "Bloodlines" (showing at the Paramount Theater), and a banquet dinner on Saturday evening. You can purchase your tickets via Eventbrite at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/africans-and-indians-eating-from-the-same-pot-generations-of-shared-culture-traditions-language-tickets->

SEE **Eating from the Same Pot**, page 5

The Irish Slaves: What They Will Never, Ever Tell You in History Class or Anywhere Else ... White and Black Slave

by *Radio 2hot Standard*

None of the Irish victims ever made it back to their homeland to describe their ordeal. These are the lost slaves; the ones that time and biased history books conveniently forgot.

The first slaves imported into the American colonies were 100 White children. They arrived during Easter, 1619, four months before the arrival of a the first shipment of Black slaves. Mainstream histories refer to these laborers as indentured servants, not slaves, because many agreed to work for a set period of time in exchange for land and rights.

Yet in reality, indenture was enslavement, since slavery applies to any person who is bought and sold, chained and abused, whether for a decade or a lifetime. Many white people died long before their indenture ended or found that no court would back them when their owners failed to deliver on promises. Tens of thousands of convicts, beggars, homeless children and other undesirable English, Scottish, and Irish lower class were transported to America against their will to the Americas on slave ships. YES SLAVE SHIPS.

Many of the white slaves were brought from Ireland, where the law held that it was no more sin to kill an Irishman than a dog or any other brute.? The European rich class caused a lot of suffering to these people, even if they were white like them. In 1676, there was a huge slave rebellion in Virginia. Black and white slaves burned Jamestown to the ground. Hundreds died. The planters feared a re-occurrence. Their solution was to divide the races against each other. They instilled a sense of superiority in the white slaves and degraded the black slaves. White slaves were given new rights; their masters could not whip them naked without a court order, etc. White slaves whose daily condition was no different from that of Blacks, were taught that they belonged to a superior people. The races were given different clothing. Living quarters were segregated for the first time. But the whites were still slaves.

In the 17th Century, from 1600 until 1699, there were many more Irish sold as slaves than Africans. There are records of Irish slaves well into the 18th Century. Many never made it off the ships. According to written record, in at least one incident 132 slaves, men, women, and children, were dumped overboard to drown because ships' supplies were running low. They were drowned because the insurance would pay for an "accident," but not if the slaves were allowed to starve.

Typical death rates on the ships were from 37% to 50%. In the West Indies, the

African and Irish slaves were housed together, but because the African slaves were much more costly, they were treated much better than the Irish slaves. Also, the Irish were Catholic, and Papists were hated among the Protestant planters. An Irish slave would endure such treatment as having his hands and feet set on fire or being strung up and beaten for even a small infraction. Richard Ligon, who witnessed these things first-hand and recorded them in a history of Barbados he published in 1657, stated: "Truly, I have seen cruelty there done to servants as I did not think one Christian could have done to another." According to Sean O'Callahan, in *To Hell or Barbados*, Irish men and women were inspected like cattle there, just as the Africans were.

In addition, Irish slaves, who were harder to distinguish from their owners since they shared the same skin color, were branded with the owner's initials, the women on the forearm and the men on the buttocks. O'Callahan goes on to say that the women were not only sold to the planters as sexual slaves but were often sold to local brothels as well. He states that the black or mulatto overseers also often forced the women to strip while working in the fields and often used them sexually as well. The one advantage the Irish slaves had over the African slaves was that since they were literate and they did not survive well in the fields, they were generally used as house servants, accountants, and teachers. But the gentility of the service did not correlate to the punishment for infractions.

Flogging was common, and most slave owners did not really care if they killed an easily replaceable, cheap Irish slave. While most of these slaves who survived were eventually freed after their time of service was completed, many leaving the islands for the American colonies, many were not, and the planters found another way to insure a free supply of valuable slaves. They were quick to "find solace" and start breeding with the Irish slave women. Many of them were very pretty, but more than that, while most of the Irish were sold for only a period of service, usually about 10 years assuming they survived, their children were born slaves for life.

The planters knew that most of the mothers would remain in servitude to remain with their children even after their service was technically up. The planters also began to breed the Irish women with the African male slaves to make lighter skinned slaves, because the lighter skinned slaves were more desirable and could be sold for more money. A law was passed against this

SEE **Irish Slaves**, page 11



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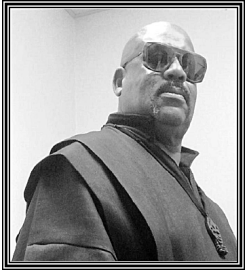
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Black Path Commentary: Critical Analysis on Culture, Community, & Struggle

King in the Scales of History: Truth, Service, & Sacrifice, a Model of Moral Leadership



by Min. Tukufu Kalonji

Again it is January, not only marking the beginning month of 2015; but also whereas we honor and raise the

name and legacy of one of our cherished saints, hero, prophet, and advocate for justice; the Right Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We honor King in our own unique and special way which is clearly different than corporate, and dominant society funded un-African and deculturalized activities purported to be in homage to Rev. King's legacy. To rightfully honor King we must engage in the context of which he evolves and makes his most significant contributions to Black life and the forward flow of

human history. And that is the Civil Rights Era of the Black Freedom Movement. For no matter what others say, there is no way to truthfully do an analysis of King's life and legacy; nor honor his legacy unless it is from the context of the history and struggle of his people, Afro Americans, which he is of and a note worthy ambassador. And, the most significant way we can honor King's legacy is take his lessons and emulate them in our current context of our liberation struggle. From King's lessons and legacy, I pose Truth, Service, and Sacrifice as three essential socio-ethical concepts and teachings in which we can in 2015 embrace more broadly and boldly as a people in struggle for the rights to be respected as human beings as Malcolm X asserted "by any means necessary!"

King's idea of Black people in the U.S. was an extensive vision, which

positioned Black people as a moral and social vanguard in this country as well as in the world. Consequently, using his spiritual framework of Christianity as a lens to perceive and engage the world, King grasp a hold of and roots himself in the African tradition of seeking justice which argues for bearing witness to truth for truth will set you free. King's view on character is grounded in his sense of truth as he contends "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Moreover, King emphasizes in word and deed, service to his people, Thus, King argues;

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

Finally, King viewed sacrifice in our struggle as an ethical imperative regardless of the adversity facing us and the potential for death. King's argument

that "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live" speaks to the depth of his view on sacrifice. Thus, as we honor his birth, we are also compelled by history and heaven to remember Rev. Dr. M. L. King's, Dhabihu, and (Swahili for the Day of Sacrifice); April 4, 1968; for his birth, life and legacy, and his martyrdom are all inextricably linked as a monumental parts of Afro American history. It is as our ancestor Ms. Fannie Lou Hamer contends "there are two things we should all care about, never to forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that carried us over" And quintessentially, Rev. M.L. King Jr, is one of those bridges

In the final analysis, let us as a people of cultural and moral aptitude speak truth, serve the creators by serving our people, and believe in a cause, i.e. Black community liberation, and stand steadfast to sacrifice on behalf of the greater good sought for our people now and the future generations yet to come!

Min. Tukufu Kalonji is Founder of Kawaida African Ministries,
For info contact @ tkalonji@hotmail.com

Border Angels

Founded by Enrique Morones in 1986, Border Angels is a non-profit organization supporting humanity. The organization consists of extraordinary volunteers who want to stop unnecessary deaths of individuals traveling through the Imperial Valley desert areas and the mountain areas surrounding San Diego County, as well as the areas located around the United States and Mexican border. The high percentage of unnecessary deaths have been results of extreme heat and cold weather conditions, in addition some have sadly been the results of racial-discrimination crimes.

Steps Needed To Be Taken Spring and Summer Months: With horrifically hot temperature conditions, hundreds of rescue stations are located along the ten state US Mexico border region. Temperatures reaching as high as 127

degrees, water is critical for survival. Volunteers maintain stations throughout the spring and summer months.

Fall and Winter Months: Critical life-saving stations are established throughout the San Diego Mountain areas. Winter clothing, food and water are placed in winter storage bins to help decrease negative health results from being exposed to the incredibly freezing temperature changes that exists in the San Diego County mountain areas during the Fall and Winter.

Awareness and Support Educating citizens and government dignitaries on the status of weather related deaths and racial-discrimination crime deaths is crucial in gaining support in the volunteer, donation and jurisdiction areas. Border Angels are proud supporters of Equal Rights.

Border Angels P.O.BOX 86598
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For more information about the MCIFB, Visit us at www.1866creekfreedmen.com or contact us by email at contactus@1866creekfreedmen.com

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Stevie Wonder Awarded Medal Of Freedom by President Obama

Stevland Hardaway Morris (born May 13, 1950, as Stevland Hardaway Judkins), known by his stage name Stevie Wonder, is an American musician, singer, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist. A child prodigy, he has become one of the most creative and loved musical performers of the late 20th century. Wonder signed with Motown's Tamla label at the age of 11 and continues to perform and record for Motown as of the early 2010s. He has been blind since shortly after birth.

Among Wonder's works are singles such as "Superstition", "Sir Duke", "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You"; and albums such as Talking Book, Innervisions and Songs in the Key of Life. He has recorded more than 30 U.S. top ten hits and received 25 Grammy Awards, the most ever awarded to a male solo artist, and has sold over 100 million albums and singles, making him one of the top 60 best-selling music artists. Wonder is also noted for his work as an activist for political causes, including his 1980 campaign to make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a holiday in the United States In 2009, Wonder was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace In 2008, Billboard magazine released a list of the Hot 100 All-Time Top Artists to celebrate the US singles chart's 50th anniversary, with Wonder at number five. The Presidential Medal of



Freedom is an award bestowed by the President of the United States and is the highest civilian award of the United States. It recognizes those individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States and world peace."

***The only security of all
is in a free press.
- Thomas Jefferson***

Eating from the Same Pot

Continued from page 4

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For hotel accommodations we have selected Homewood suites and Hilton Garden Inn. Enjoy a conference rate of \$149.00 per night. Please visit the links below to book your reservation. For guest arriving on Thursday evening, Homewood Suites offers a complimentary dinner (M-Thurs) and breakfast.

<http://homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/O/OKCBKHW-MCI-20150528/index.jhtml>

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/O/OKCSAGI-MCI->



To improve the quality of life of those who recognize themselves and choose to be recognized by others as "Indigenous Peoples of Color of the Americas" and in support of The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization (AIRRO).

As the year rolls out we are gratified that our continuing networking campaign is reaping positive results. We are all learning from each other as this educational process (each one teach one) solidifies relationships. We are reaching out across borders. We are happy to introduce Ambassador Fidelia Graand-Galanto to our readers and welcome her as she expands our body of knowledge and enlightens us about the history of Maroons from her unique perspective.

Maroons of Suriname



by Fidelia Graand-Galon, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Rep. of Suriname to Trinidad & Tobago

Maroons of Suriname are descendants of runaway enslaved Africans in the era

of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade. They are living in six tribal communities based on their African traditions, in the hinterland of Suriname. 10th October 1760, marks the signing of the first lasting peace treaty between the colonial Dutch government and the rebellious Okanisi/Ndyuka Maroons. Tribes: Saamaka, Okanisi/ Ndyuka, Pamaka, Matawai, Aluku, Kwinti. 28%=117,000(2012 census) of the Surinamese population are Maroons. Suriname commemorates 10th of October 1760 as "Maroon Day". It has been declared a national holiday in 2010.

Maroon Women's Network / Marron Vrouwen Netwerk (MVN) Suriname was founded in 2000 by Drs. Merina Jessamy-Eduards (Saamaka) and Drs. Fidelia Graand-Galon (Okanisi/Ndyuka). The current president of MVN is Drs Cynthia Leune-Alendy (Okanisi / Ndyuka) since January 2014. She

succeeded Fidelia Graand- Galon, now the honorary chairperson of MVN.

The primary purpose of the MVN is to encourage networking among all tribes, Maroon women and Maroon women's organisations to provide opportunities for knowledge transfer, resource sharing, and collective implementation of projects, which are geared towards sustainable empowerment and socio-economic advancement of Maroon women and by extension, the tribal communities in which they live and operate.

Through this comprehensive set of social, educational and economic tools, it is envisioned that Maroon women, who are frequently the "undervalued" backbone of the socioeconomic fabric of many rural communities in Suriname, will be properly resourced so as to pursue reliable, dedicated income generation in a disciplined and sustainable way.

In partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Regional Development and the "Medische Zending" (Medical Mission), the Network developed and managed a Birth Registration awareness project for the tribal communities.

In collaboration with the director of

the Department of African Studies of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), MVN planned and implemented the Break the Silence HIV/AIDS Awareness Project in 2004. HIV/AIDS was a prime "taboo subject" within the communities. Through the use of embroidery on pangis (wraps made and worn by Maroon women), crafted calabash and songs composed by Maroon artists, the Network informed the communities about the disease in their mother tongue, which eventually led to discussion sessions that sought to

shift the knowledge, practice and attitude (KPA) of Maroons towards the disease.

To enforce international cooperation among Maroons, MVN initiated, Maroon Women Chamber of Cooperation (MWOCC). A memorandum of Understanding (MOC) was signed by representatives of Maroons of Jamaica,

Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)
between
Marron Vrouwen Netwerk (MVN) Suriname
the
Maroon Indigenous Women Circle (MIWC) Jamaica
the
Merikins Trinidad & Tobago

This Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) will serve as a framework for co-operation between Maroon Women and their communities in Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and other Maroon Communities in the hemisphere of the Americas to be referred to herein as "the Maroon Women Chamber of Cooperation (MWOCC)."

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is for the Maroon Women and their Communities in the hemisphere of the Americas, to recognize and embrace the philosophy, opinions and community endeavours of the Maroons. This is a forum to allow Maroon dialogue that allows members the opportunity, to identify areas of common interest and concerns that will be addressed and the solution for which can be found through cooperation, using Maroon principles. To include observers and partners for sustainable human development programs. The Maroon Chieftancy shall serve as the advisory board of this forum. The signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad & Tobago and the Maroon of Suriname will as a model to enhance the social, cultural and economic well being of our communities in future partnerships.

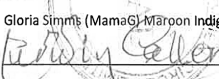
The overall areas of interest are: Social, Cultural and Economic Development.

This Memorandum of Cooperation will take effect on this 11-01-2014

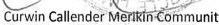
SIGNED BY:


Fidelia Graand-Galon (Mafide) Marron Vrouwen Netwerk (MVN) Suriname

11-01-2014
Date


Gloria Simms (MamaG) Maroon Indigenous Women Circle (MIWC) Jamaica

11-01-2014
Date


Curwin Callender Merikin-Community Trinidad & Tobago

11-01-2014
Date



Maroon women in their attire participating in a trade fair last November 2014, selling pangis artifacts and food products.



Maroon woman doing embroidery on a pangi (traditional Maroon wrap). The artwork on pangi's carries a message.

Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. A forum fundamentally embedded in Maroon principles, for dialogue in

identifying common interests and concerns. The overall areas of interest are: social, cultural and economic development.

In closing on behalf of all six tribes of Suriname and all members of MWOCC, I would like to firstly say congratulations to Mr. Stevie Wonder for winning the "Man of the Year" award. We would also like to thank you as "Friend of the Maroons", for granting us the opportunity to broadcast on the MWOCC, promoting Maroons via your radio station. "The MVN and MWOCC, also thanks, our brother Maroon, Phil "Pompey Bruner" Fixico.

Happy Holidays, Kwanzaa, Joy to the World and Peace on Earth



by Phil Fixico

Congratulations to Stevie Wonder, legendary man of music and powerful social activist.

The call letters of his radio station KJLH stand for everything that he

embodies:

Kindness, Joy, Love and Happiness. The station is composed of 24 hours of contemporary urban music, gospel, and

news. Five days a week from 4:30 am to 6:00 am it is home of "FrontPage". FrontPage is a Peabody Award winning morning Talk Show, heard by the Southern CA diverse listening audience. I have had the opportunity of being on the show multiple times.

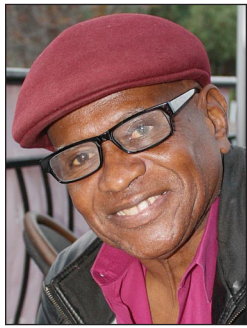
Daring my last on air offering I was pleased to let the audience know of the important news coming out of the Caribbean concerning Maroon Women and their communities in Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

I have been in communication with Dr, Fidelia Graand-Galon, the Suriname

Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

Because I am a North American Maroon Descendant, documented by the Smithsonian Institute I enthusiastically look to inform the public in the U.S. about the Memorandum of Cooperation between Maroon communities in the Americas. This directive will focus on social, cultural and economic development using Maroon principles. We have the opportunity to re-tell history through the lives of those who banded together and won their freedom daring slavery.

If You See a Good Fight ... Get In It



Part One

by Dr. Willie Blair

Well hello there! And a very robust, Happy New Year to all of our frequent and loyal readers of the *Indian Voices*

Newspaper Magazine! My name is Dr. Willie P. Blair and I am hoping that you will allow me to introduce myself both as a 35 year resident of the sprawling San Diego Community, and as well as one of your new monthly, feature writers of this wonderful publication!

First, I hail from the Southern environs of this marvelous nation, having been born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee! I am also a Vietnam-era Naval Officer a proud father of an Air Force Officer daughter, and an equally proud U.S. Veteran! But more about my full background and who I am just a wee bit later! But as you are well aware we are closing in on that historically significant date of January 15th - which is the birthday anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And if the math is correct, Dr. King would turn the seasoned vintage age of 86 years old!

In this, my initial article to you, permit me please to highlight two or three (perhaps) little known "anecdotal-heavy" episodes that involved arguably the greatest civil rights leader that the world has ever known! These hall-mark events cover perhaps the most crucial, and telling segment of this "once in a century" visionary leader's life - from the early 1960's, until Dr. King's far too premature exit from this world in 1968. In this writing I will only cover one of those events in depth.

How well that we know plenty about Dr. King's rise to prominence during the American Civil Rights Movement, initially beginning with his nearly indispensable involvement alongside other epic civil rights warriors, such as the incomparable Rosa Parks, as together they and others lead a most successful resolution to the

Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. Or when he delivered one of the greatest speeches ever given in modern times on August 28, 1963 during the March on Washington, his venerable "I Have A Dream Speech!" And who can forget Dr. King's timely and well deserved receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964. And of course, when he gave his prophetic - (Nostradamus-type other-world) visionary masterpiece speech, "I Have Been to the Mountain Top!"

But how many of you can remember during these hallmark events in the Dr. King - led Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's South, that the movement became periously bogged down a number of times? One such time was when Dr. King and other major Civil Rights leaders began to sense that outside of the "Deep South" states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, etc., the rest of the nation - especially in the North - white people of good will - just did not feel the urgency to rally around the plight of oppressed "Negroes and the poor!"

Dr. King and other major Civil Rights Leaders soon surmised that many Jim Crow southerners and other just outright bigots "smugly felt" that as long as there were no major national or any international outcries or condemnation of their racist actions, then their vile behavior toward mainly "Negroes" would go unchecked and unabated! Soon after realizing this daunting dilemma, Dr. King and other civil rights leaders seized upon a bold idea. But it needed two main components in order for it to work and be accepted nationwide. Despite the unspeakable horrors and extreme brutality that "Negroes" faced at the hands of southern segregationists and hostile whites, Dr. King and many of his fellow civil rights associates still had the faith and belief that if the disparaging plight of "Negroes" and the hellish conditions that they had to endure in the South, could be somehow taken into the very homes of "Americans of Good Will" then Americans would rise up against this

SEE **WB**, page 12

Dennis J Kucinich

This is my New Year's vision for our nation:

1. Ensure a full employment economy by reclaiming control of our money system. The US Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, provided Congress with the money power. The monetary system was privatized in 1913 and handed over to private bankers. As a result, we have a debt-based economic system, at the expense of the many, for the profit of a few.

2. Reclaim our right to privacy. In 2001, I voted against the Patriot Act ...because I read it. In 2003, Rep. Ron Paul and I introduced a bill to repeal the Patriot Act, invoking Benjamin Franklin who warned, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Let 2015 be the moment when we confront the monstrous NSA, its illegal reach into our private lives, its promotion of self-censorship, and demand that Congress legislate to stop the NSA, once and for all, from treading on our 4th Amendment rights.

3. Make America a more peaceful place. With the support from across America, I brought forth a landmark bill to create a Department of Peace, to transform our approach to gun violence, gang violence, racial violence, police-community clashes, domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in the schools, and violence against people based on their sexual orientation.

Let us, in these times of increased violence, restore the dream of "Domestic Tranquility" nourished by President Jefferson and others, and reach a new awareness, a new consensus, to rid our nation of the thinking that violence is inevitable, through supporting the effort, now carried forth by Rep. Barbara Lee.

4. Transform America's role in the world; focus on the needs of people here at home. The US has 662 bases in 38 foreign countries and has been involved militarily in over 100 nations. We have become entangled in wars for resources, wars for domination, wars for geopolitical advantage, at a cost of trillions of dollars, driving the national debt and endangering the soul of our nation.

"America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy," said President John Quincy Adams. Let 2015 be the year that we recreate at home an empire of democracy, a true citadel of freedom, and stop the plotting, the interventions, the wars, and the calamitous reach for world domination.

5. Establish a US Commission on Truth and Reconciliation. America was led into a war against Iraq, a war which killed over 1 million innocent Iraqis, a war which was based on every manner of deceit. In our name, and with our tax dollars, countless people were either killed, injured or tortured, their homes ruined, the land destroyed. It is time for Americans to know the truth about Iraq and other wars. Let us push Congress and the President to create a US Commission on Truth and Reconciliation.

6. Restore our relationship with nature and restore our planet.

Let us face the New Year with the confidence that our ability to bring great change depends on our willingness to expect great things of each other and of ourselves. Our current condition of nationhood begs to be re-joined to the visionary confidence of those who 238 years ago announced the birth of a nation and the empowerment of 'we the people'.

Let us summon great courage, and, through the work of our hands and our hearts, create anew the nation which we most desire, one that is blessed with peace, prosperity and justice.

Happy New Year. Welcome, 2015 !

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2014 in Review

San Diego's Indigenous Urban Community Come Together Traditionally Throughout The Year



The 126th Tournament of Roses – Was Truly “Inspiring”



Lisa Brighton of Washington DC. put finishing touches on Donate to Life Float.

by Earl Heath

Its been an annual event for well over a century and the 2015 Tournament of Roses didn't disappoint. The theme "Inspiring Stories" was named in honor of one of America's war hero's of WWII Louis Zamperini.

Seven years ago Rose Bowl 2015 President Richard Chenin read the book Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand-The story of USC Graduate and Olympian in the 1936 games became an air bombardier.

Zamperini spent two years as a POW in Japan after his plane went down in the Pacific Ocean. He and a crew-mate survived for 47 days in shark infested waters before being captured by the Japanese.

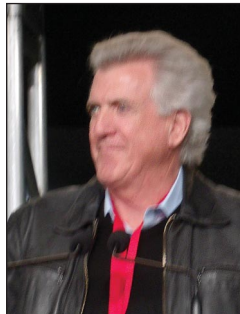
After a family discussion, the theme

"Inspiring Stories" was born."We thought the story was so inspirational," said Cheinn. "It was a family idea".

Zamperini passed away last July two months after being named Grand Marshal- He was represented by his family during the parade.

"The Love Boat" cast reunited to celebrate Princess Cruises 50th anniversary by appearing on a float at the Rose Bowl Parade.

The Love Boat cast, including Gavin MacLeod (Captain Stubing), Fred Grandy (Chief Purser Gopher),



Luke Zamperini speaks at Kick-off Luncheon.

Ted Lange (Bartender Isaac), Bernie Kopell (Doc), Lauren Tewes (Cruise Director Julie) and Jill Whelan (Captain's daughter Vicki), recently named Regal Princess, having served as the ship's godparents before the cruise ship's maiden Caribbean season and their appearance in the New Year's Day parade.

Ted Lange is still as sharp as ever. The show ran for ten years and has a place in everyone's heart. "It was about romance every week," said Lange. That's the one thing that's in a lot of people lives tuned in because the show gave them a feeling."

"Since the theme of this year's Rose



Love Boat cast in front of Princess Cruises Float (L to R) Fred Grandy (Chief Purser Gopher), Lauren Tewes (Cruise Director Julie), Gavin MacLeod (Captain Stubing), Ted Lange (Bartender Isaac), Jill Whelan (Captain's daughter Vicki).

materials. Flowers included roses, orchids and carnations, dendrobs, tulips, cymbidiums, delphiniums and gerbera daisies.

The Donate to Life Parade float represents thousands around the world. In their passing deceased donors open up a whole new world of health, sight and mobility to people in need. John Brockington won the National Championship in the 1968 Rose Bowl while playing for Ohio State. He went on to play for the Green Bay Packers. He moved to San Diego and befriended long time Packer fan Diane Scott. He suffered kidney failure in 2000. In 2001 she donated her kidney to John they later married. In the Parade John rode the Float and Dianne was one of 30 donors to walk along side the Donate to Life float.



Rose Bowl Queen Madison Triplett with U of Oregon President Scott Coltrane and wife.

Parade was 'Inspiring Stories,' we thought it was the perfect opportunity to launch our 50th anniversary year celebrations," said Jan Swartz, president of Princess Cruises. "For the last five decades our guests have been sailing with us to amazing places and they've returned with inspiring memories that have lasted a lifetime, and we want to celebrate this throughout our golden anniversary year."

The Princess Cruises float measured 60 feet long and 24 feet high with more than 24,000 flowers and natural

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that annually hosts the Rose Parade, the Rose Bowl Game and a variety of associated events. The Tournament's 935 volunteer members act as ambassadors of the organization within the community and serve on one of 31 committees that ensure the success of the parade and game. Collectively, they contribute upwards of 80,000 hours of manpower each year. The 126th Rose Parade was presented by Honda.

Photo and stories Earl Heath-720-232-9506

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Welcome to Kumeyaay.com

This web site is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Kumeyaay culture. **Kumeyaay.com** tells the story from the Kumeyaay perspective, and is the premiere source for Kumeyaay Indian information.

Visit us at: kumeyaay.com
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Healing the World

by Makada Dread

Your health is your wealth. Yes! People keep coming to be cleansed. It's good that we let our juicer be our drug store. I'm proud of all of you for trying to eat simpler and cleaner and sticking to a



plant based diet.

With your vegetable rich drinks you can add coconut water to your cleanse. If you would like a fresh young jelly coconut, please ask for one when you pick up your juice. Young coconuts are amazing. In fact, the young coconut is one of the most important fruits within the tropical regions because of its potassium and mineral rich water. Besides being highly nutritious, young coconuts have also been exceedingly revered as having medicinal qualities for heart, liver and kidney disorders. In fact, the coconut has recently been reported to reduce the viral load of HIV. Coconut oil is also amazing. You can use it on your hair and skin. Also in your salads and in any of your raw and cooked meals.

Cayenne pepper is another incredible food that we will be featuring today.

Native Americans have used cayenne (*Capsicum annuum* or *frutescens*, or red pepper) as both food and medicine for at least 9,000 years. Cayenne pepper is an important spice, particularly in Cajun and Creole cooking, and in the cuisines of Southeast Asia, China, Southern Italy, and Mexico.

Many cultures including those of the Americas, Africa, Caribbean and China, have a history of using cayenne pepper therapeutically. A powerful compound with many uses, cayenne pepper is currently gaining buzz for cleansing and detoxifying regimes such as the Master Cleanse, which uses the spice to stimulate circulation and neutralize acidity. Cayenne pepper has been used for its anti-irritant properties, anti-cold and flu agent, anti-fungal properties, migraine headache prevention and detox support. It has also been said to provide digestive aid and relieve joint-pain for arthritis. Cayenne is an excellent preservative and has been used traditionally to prevent food contamination from bacteria. Studies done at the Loma Linda University in California found that cayenne pepper may help prevent lung cancer in smokers. Scientists at the Laval University in Quebec found that participants who took cayenne pepper for breakfast were found to have less appetite, leading to less caloric intake throughout the day. It is said to be good for the kidneys, lungs, spleen, pancreas, heart, and stomach.

Here are two juice options:

Option A) collards, apple, carrots, mint, chlorella

Option B) celery, diakon, carrots, apple, spinach, cayenne

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Running Grunion Preserving Sacred Sites



Below is a brief outline of Protectors of Historic Sites and how it got started. In 1995 when State Park refused to acknowledge Native Americans living in Old Town and early California history,

Protectors of Historic Sites sought justice. Since then, many key players of this group have past on. Below are some of my family members who were the main contributors, but there are others too who have past on. Including Fern Southcott, Dr. Florence Shipeck, Dr. Ray Brandes, Historian Mary Ward, Maurice and Marcy Bandy ...

Died 1/30/1996 - Robert Albert Silvas (my dad)

Died 1/30/2003 - Irene Silvas Richardson (my sister)

Died 3/16/2014 - David Silvas Martinez (my uncle)

Died 9/6/2014 - Royce Richardson (my brother in law, Irene's widow husband)

San Diego Marriage Records: Sept. 15, 1837. Jose Manuel Silvas marries SD Mission Neophyte, Tecla Regaldo a Diegueno/Kumeyaay

In April of 1995, Old Town San Diego State Park uncovered Jose Manuel Silvas's homesite from the early 1800s, presumed to be the 1821 complex that his daughter, Maria Eugenia, took over. State Park officials planned to build their park rangers' office in a reconstruction of James McCoy's 1869 house. But the project was halted by Protectors of Historic Sites, a group of citizens led by Jose Manuel's descendants who wanted the State Park to reconsider their plans to build their new offices on top of the oldest adobe foundation footprint in Old Town. State Park officials refused, and a writ of mandate was filed by Protectors in Superior Court in 1998. Judge Judith McConnell favored State Park's plan, saying it was an environmental effect, not a social effect, and it wasn't up to her to judge if it was a fair EIR (environmental impact report), but only that they did an EIR. (Superior Court Case No. 713944, David Martinez and Abel Silvas v. State of California Department of Parks and Recreation).

Abel Silvas aka Running Grunion
858-761-4369 www.AbelSilvas.homestead.com

COMUNIDAD Y TIJUANA REDOBLAN SU LUCHA EN SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL CON AYOTZINAPA! PRESENTE!!
Marcha desde el Parque Larsen Field en San Ysidro hacia la Frontera Internacional de San Ysidro/Tijuana. Sabado 10 de Enero de 2015 de 2:00pm - 5:00pm

COMMUNITY AND THE TIJUANA REDOBLAN HIS FIGHT AT INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH AYOTZINAPA!
Started from the park Larsen field in San Ysidro at the border International San Ysidro / Tijuana. Saturday of 10 January 2015, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Irish Slaves

Continued from page 4

practice in 1681, not for moral reasons but because the practice was causing the Royal African Company to lose money. According to James F. Cavanaugh, this company, sent 249 shiploads of slaves to the West Indies in the 1680's, a total of 60,000 African and Irish, 14,000 of whom died in passage. (While the trade in Irish slaves tapered off after the defeat

of King James in 1691, England once again shipped out thousands of Irish prisoners who were taken after the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

These prisoners were shipped to America and to Australia, specifically to be sold as slaves. No Irish slave shipped to the West Indies or America has ever been known to have returned to Ireland. Many died, either in passage or from abuse or overwork. Others won their freedom and emigrated to the American

colonies. Still others remained in the West Indies, which still contain an population of "Black Irish," many the descendents of the children of black slaves and Irish slaves. In 1688, the first woman killed in Cotton Mather's witch trials in Massachusetts was an old Irish woman named Anne Glover, who had been captured and sold as a slave in 1650.

She spoke no English. She could recite The Lord's Prayer in Gaelic and Latin, but

without English, Mather decided her Gaelic was discourse with the devil, and hung her. It was not until 1839 that a law was passed in England ending the slave trade, and thus the trade in Irish slaves. It is unfortunate that, while the descendents of black slaves have kept their history alive and not allowed their atrocity to be forgotten, the Irish heritage of slavery in America and the West Indies has been largely ignored or forgotten.

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Hablamos Español

Bitcoin vs. Political Power: The Cryptocurrency Revolution

Historically, politicians have always fought for the power to create money out of thin air, so they can increase their spending without having to directly increase taxes. The staggering growth of political power throughout the twentieth century -- the century of war -- was largely made possible by replacing

money limited by gold with paper currencies, which can be printed at will by government-controlled banks.

Cryptocurrencies are the first self-limiting monetary systems in the history of mankind, and could be our greatest chance to check the growth of political power since the Magna Carta.

Attorney For the People



Pablo Zamora has a Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2009. While attending Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Pablo Zamora served as the President of the Student Bar Association. Additionally, he was the Vice President of the Public Interest Law Foundation.

Having worked in the legal field for over a decade, Pablo Zamora is dedicated to helping individuals as they navigate through the complex immigration laws and immigration court system. He understands the urgent needs of undocumented individuals as well as those who hold a green card status. Realizing that many individuals do not have the knowledge required to adequately represent themselves, he strives to educate individuals and organizations on the important areas of immigration law that apply to their cases.

WB

Continued from page 7

segregationist system with a vengeance!

Well ... this was the plan ... but how would it be carried out? At this point Dr. King and his freedom associates realized that they needed a friend (s) who had broad national communication powers! So they reached out to their allies and friends that they had been courting within the organized labor movement - principally in the AFL-CIO and the Auto Industry, et.al. Union bosses such as Walter Reuther, George Meany, and others. This was timely as organized labor's power was growing as to be an extremely potent force to be reckoned with in America. The trade unions therefore, had a great deal of say so on what would be shown or portrayed on everyone's local television stations. And I remind you, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960's, the typical U.S. household only had three (3) television stations for you to choose to watch at one time or another. And that would be either ABC, CBS, and NBC! That's it! You might have said, well I'll just watch my cable. No you won't! There was no cable in 1963! Then you might say " then I'll just watch from my Satellite Dish - Well no, not for another 40 years you won't! Well, what about me watching on my digital computer - uh...seriously - stop it!

Therefore, Dr. King and several other civil rights leaders ultimately worked out a deal with the several major organized labor unions and urged them to wield their immense powers to influence the

three main Television stations to film, broadcast and capture all of the inhuman horrors that Negroes and other civil rights devotees of all races were facing in the South and who only sought to gain basic rights due to all American citizens regardless of race, religion, creed, or national origin. The end goal was to shock and shake the conscious of this nation to take remedial action and to do it now! And lo and behold, the plan worked! When the average American sitting in their homes in the Mid-Atlantic, the Northeast, the Mid-west and the western parts of our nation saw giant police dogs slashing the bodies of civil rights demonstrators, high powered water hoses being turned on women and children, angry white mobs and brazen, seething law-less police officers beating and clubbing the marchers to an inch or two of their lives, were shocked and horrified beyond belief! Here it was, some of the worst cases of man's inhumanity to man brought straight into the living rooms of literally millions of Americans! Yes, it is happening live- right here in our beloved nation! The land of the brave and the (so called) free! Not in Russia or South Africa, or China! Right here in the good ole United States! (Wow)! This television filming and coverage of the mid-1960's civil rights movement with all of its protests, marches, failures, awakenings and successes, gave birth to two new significant new forces in the ongoing battle for full human and civil rights - the Freedom Rider and new Landmark Federal Civil Rights legislation. Stay tuned for Part II next month! With warm regards, Dr. Willie P. Blair

Yvette Porter-Moore is a Professional Genealogist & Family Historian, and is the owner of **Root Digger Genealogy Research Services.**

Ms. Porter-Moore is available for speaking presentations and writing assignments.

You can catch Yvette online at

www.TheAncestorshavespoken.blogspot.com and www.yvetteportermoore.com.
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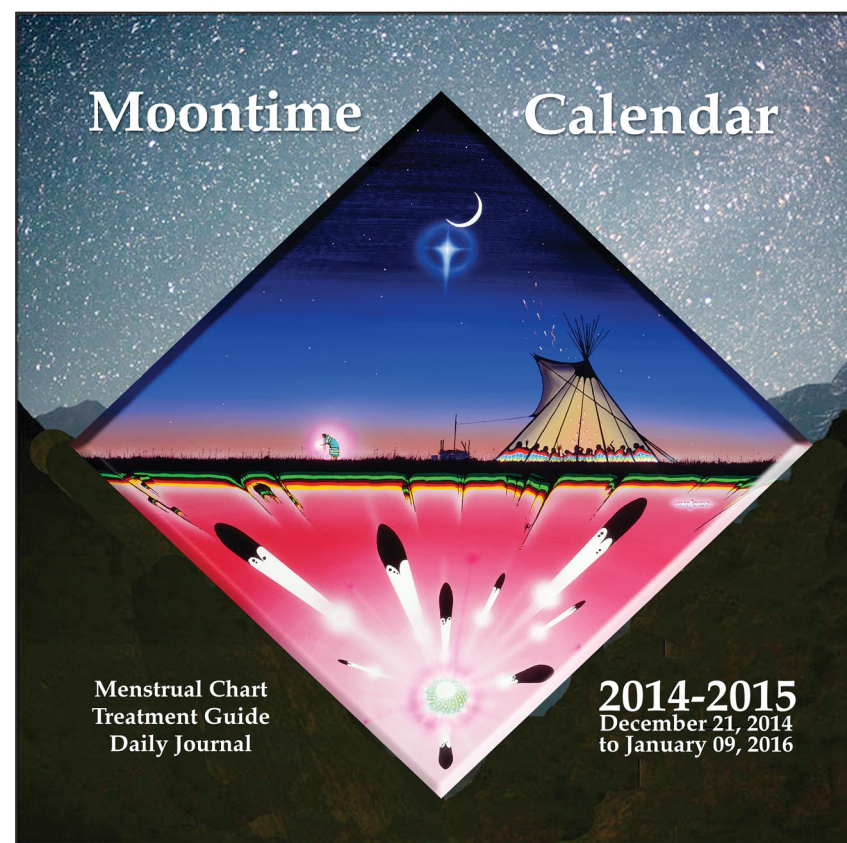


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NEVADA NEWS

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Acclaimed Songstress Rita Coolidge to Perform Valentine's Special at the Suncoast Showroom February 14-15

LAS VEGAS, NV – Recording artist, songwriter and two-time Grammy Award winner Rita Coolidge will set a romantic tone at her Valentine's show, "Rita Coolidge: A Special Valentine Evening," at the Suncoast Showroom February 14 and 15.

Coolidge began her career as a backing vocalist in Memphis in the 1960's. Shortly thereafter, she relocated to Los Angeles and became the first-call backup singer for performers like Ray Charles, Jackie Wilson and The Temptations.

After establishing her dominance as a backing vocalist, Coolidge was asked to join the ensemble band Delaney and Bonnie, and toured with Joe Cocker and Leon Russell on the "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" tour in 1970. Coolidge

would go on to work with high profile rock artists including tours and recordings with Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Leon Russell and Stephen Stills.

Coolidge began her solo career with her self-titled debut album in 1971. Since then, she has released 15 albums and charted several hit songs, including "Fever," "We're All Alone," "One Fine Day," "(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher & Higher," "The Way You Do The Things You Do," "All Time High" and "Superstar."

Coolidge has appeared in numerous movies, including "A Star Is Born" alongside Barbara Streisand, "Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid," "Vanishing Point" and "Christmas in the Clouds."

Showtime each evening is 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available from \$15.95, plus tax and fees. Tickets can be purchased at any Boyd Gaming box office, by calling 702.636.7075, or visiting www.suncoastcasino.com.

About Suncoast Hotel and Casino
Located at the corner of Alta Drive and South Rampart Boulevard, Suncoast Hotel and Casino features eight restaurants, a 16-screen movie theater, a 600-seat bingo room, a 500-seat state-of-the-art showroom and an 80,000-square foot casino. For further information, visit www.suncoastcasino.com, on Facebook (www.facebook.com/suncoastcasino), and Twitter (@suncoastcasino). Suncoast Hotel and Casino is a property of Boyd Gaming. Headquartered in Las Vegas, Boyd Gaming is a leading diversified owner and operator of 22 gaming entertainment properties located in Nevada, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey. Additional news and information on Boyd Gaming can be found at www.boydgaming.com. Boyd Gaming and Suncoast press releases are available at boydgaming.mediaroom.com.

Sarann Knight Preddy, Entrepreneur, Passes On

July 27, 1920 - December 22, 2014

Born on July 27, 1920, in Eufaula, Oklahoma, she migrated to Las Vegas in 1942 with her parents and husband. They settled in the Las Vegas black community, the Westside. Where she gravitated to Jackson Street, the black business district. She became a Keno writer in the Cotton Club. She gained business acumen in the gaming industry. She bought Hawthorne's one club for blacks, renamed it the Tonga Club. The gaming license she obtained for that club



Photograph courtesy of Steve Davis.

gave Preddy the distinction of being the first black to own a gaming license in Nevada.

Preddy then decided to try her hand and business acumen at the Moulin Rouge. In the late 1990s, the doors were closed. The Moulin Rouge secured designation in the National Register of Historic Places.

The ultimate entrepreneur, she actively participated in community activities by facilitating fashion shows, planning fundraisers for worthy causes, running for the Las Vegas City Council, serving on the local NAACP Executive Board, and organizing the Women's Auxiliary to the local NAACP branch. In addition, Preddy joined the Nevada Voter's League, became a founding member of the Las Vegas Barbara Jordan Democratic Club, and played a leadership role in a business community.

News Flash: The Speaker of the House Representative Does NOT Have to be a Congressman

A Ron Paul or any American of good standing could be nominated and elected by the new Republican Majority sent to represent all the people of the United States of America.

Call your representative to verify! This might be your last chance to change the course!

Is It Harder to Vote if You're Disabled, Poor or Can't Drive?

When voter ID laws are implemented in states across the country, many vulnerable populations are left struggling to obtain identification that will allow them to exercise their constitutional right to vote. As a volunteer with the ACLU of Nevada, you could help stop voter ID laws that would shrink Nevada's pool of eligible voters. Sign up to volunteer

today!

While it may not be a big deal for many of us to go this extra step of getting ID to vote, this isn't the reality for everyone. There are those who struggle with disabilities and can no longer drive. There are others who can't afford the fees to get an ID, much less miss out on one or two days of work to visit government

offices. The bottom line is voter ID laws make it harder to vote and unfortunately Nevadans are likely to see at least one voter ID law in Nevada's 2015 legislative session.

The ACLU of Nevada works to protect the civil rights and liberties of every Nevadan. Join us to ensure that the right to vote for every Nevadan is secure. We will be working with community members and organizations to gather stories of Nevadans who would be harmed by voter ID laws. We need volunteers who are willing to attend community events and talk with fellow Nevadans about preserving voter rights.

Sign up to volunteer with us. We will inform you of upcoming volunteer events and will contact you so you can join us in this important fight.

Sincerely, Tod Story, Executive Director ACLU of Nevada

P.S. Our first volunteer opportunity is on Tuesday, January 27 in Reno, NV.

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Reid Restoring and Protecting Tribal Land

Nevada's Great Basin truly has a rich, diverse history and has always been the home to the Washoe, Paiute and Western Shoshone people. Its mountains have also been home to thousands of bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope, and its streams and lakes were full of Lahontan cutthroat trout.

But like every other state across the nation, Nevada's natural and cultural heritage has come under immense pressure as our cities and population have swelled. As our society continues to expand, stresses on our land, wildlife, and water resources will also grow. That

is why I'm pleased that last month, President Obama signed into law a package of bills to restore tribal lands and protect our nation's wild and scenic places.

The law protects over 1 million acres of landscapes, watersheds, and historic treasures and protects over 140 miles of wild and scenic rivers throughout our country. These land bills create nearly 250,000 acres of wilderness in five states—Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington. The package conveys over 100,000 acres to local communities for economic

development.

And it is especially important to my home state of Nevada. The legislation places nearly 400 acres of land into trust adjacent to the Elko Indian Colony of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada. The Colony is landlocked by the growing City of Elko, where Elko Band members have been coming for decades for mining and railroad jobs. These lands will help the Elko Band preserve their culture and heritage as well as spur housing, and economic and community development.

It also protects over 75,000 acres of wilderness in Humboldt and Lyon Counties in Northern Nevada—the first new wilderness protections in the state since 2006. One of those areas is the

Wovoka Wilderness area in Lyon County near the Yerington Paiute Indian Reservation. This 49,000-acre wilderness area is named for Wovoka, a Paiute spiritual leader from Nevada who fathered the widespread Ghost Dance movement in the 1800s.

I believe in passing this legislation, we have restored Western Shoshone lands and made long-term and forward-looking improvements to public land management and stewardship. I will continue to work hard to make sure Nevada's lands are restored to tribes and conserved so that those who follow us will have the same opportunity to find and experience these incredible places as we have.

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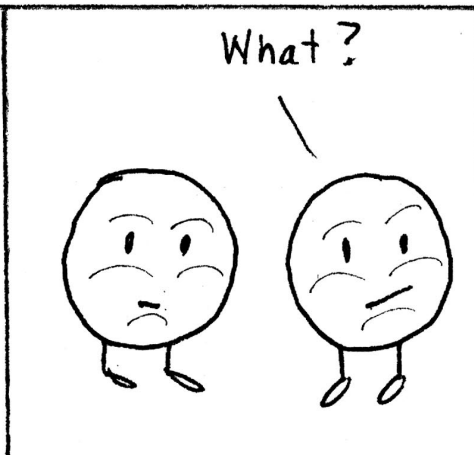
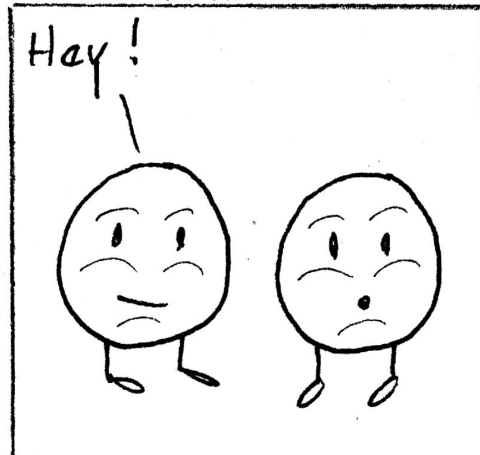
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