

## The Great Kumeyaay Nation Speaks

### San Diego Unified Students Bear Witness to History as Kumeyaay Flag is Raised at District Headquarters

by D. Bartelli Oldfield

San Diego Unified students participated in a historical event as the Kumeyaay flag was raised at the District Offices on Normal Street on November 3, 2023. Students, parents, district staff, Native leaders, and community members joined on the lawn to celebrate the raising of a cherished flag, with a dramatic story of its own. Hoisted by students, they saw it fly for the first time on district grounds.

After the SDUSD board signed a resolution officially declaring November as Native American Heritage Month, this act came as a welcome action to show acknowledgement and respect to local tribes on whose land most of San Diego now inhabits.

Connie Greybull, (Hunkpapa Lakota, Shoshone-Bannock) Indian Education Director, with support from Dr. Ricardo (Ricky) Medina, organized the event that ranged from the serious to the joyous. While the media's cameras snapped, Harmony Sweetgrass, Kumeyaay Princess (Sycuan), opened the occasion by saying she was honored to be a part of the ceremony. She introduced Board of Education member, Cody Petterson, who delivered an impassioned land acknowledgement, full of meaningful reminders that moved some audience members to tears.

"We took the land we are standing on from your people. We took these canyons from you. These coastlines. And wetlands. And rivers. These forests teeming with life. We took the oak and



Photo: KPBS

sycamore and pines. We took the acorns. We took the deer. We took food from your children's mouths."

Petterson, who has extensive experience in working with indigenous peoples, continued, "An acknowledgement without action, without restitution, is no comfort at all. Is no justice at all . . . With regard to our Native children and youth, we will continue to reverse the historical inequalities that have characterized our educational system."

Yvette, (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation) a Mt. View Elementary 5th grade student, spoke next. She thanked the audience for being there and shared that, in her classroom, students show an interest in her culture, which makes her feel seen and proud of who she is. She even gave a shout out to her teacher who has made a difference with lessons of inclusion and support. She thanked the community for their time and support. She then introduced Blue Eagle and the Kumeyaay Bird Singers that include Jaime LaBrake (Sycuan Tribal Councilman), who shared his message, requesting help in preserving indigenous knowledge, preserving nature and culture, and the holistic values of his people. The Bird Singers then sang, and the young people danced.

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## Monica Montgomery Steppe, District 4 Supervisor

### VICTORY KEEPS HOPE ALIVE IN SAN DIEGO

With strong support from Labor and District Four, Supervisor Montgomery reflected powerful grassroots support for an encouraged, political savvy, civic minded aggressive constituency with a John Lewis spirit. An out pouring from the community shows their appreciation.

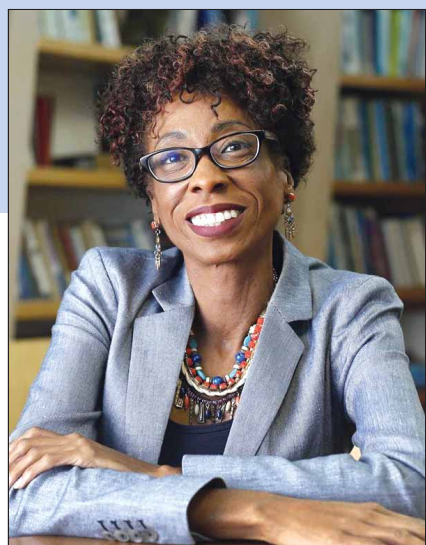


Photo: San Diego Union-Tribune

Well Done Supervisor Montgomery!!! May you continue to open doors for all to follow. Prayers and strength to you.

– **Henry Wallace,**  
**Black Panther Party**

Congrats to you County Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe! History has been made and looking forward to your success in making San Diego County a better place to live!

– **Yvette Porter Moore**

I am a strong supporter of our newly elected supervisor for the 4th District. Finally we have elected a person who we can see some results We also have waited for a Black leader - thank God she is first Black Women who rose to

top with an overwhelming 61 percent on the first ballot to come out. Thank you Lord for our blessings, oh what a great God we serve. Be encouraged we stand strongly behind you.

Congratulations!  
– **Kathleen Harmon**

Congratulations Monica. My family and I have been long supporters of you and your pioneer leadership. We are encouraged by your focus and determination. You reflect all that is positive about civic engagement. As you rise our family and community stand fully with and behind you. Thank you. Keep Pushing!!!

– **Ken Malbrough**

Congratulations and I look forward to continuing the great work you have begun.  
– **Clovis Honore**

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## Hate Crimes and the Attack on Gaza

For a long time, many Zionist groups have insisted that Judaism and the state of Israel are inextricable, meaning being anti-Israel is antisemitic. Allegedly, this connection is causing antisemitic backlash on social media and beyond as people are outraged by the Israeli siege in Gaza. During this time, it has been reported that antisemitic hate crimes have increased over 166% in New York City in comparison to the same month last year, according to the New York Police Department. But groups like Jewish Voice for Peace are declaring that not all Jewish people are supportive of Zionism.

The Hamas attack on Israel was gruesome, killing children in their beds where they rested. Not to diminish in any way this horror, but to keep all accountable, let us remember that this kind of violence was also perpetuated by the United States military during its invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. Nevertheless, since the horrendous attack by Hamas on Israel on Oct. 7, which claimed 1,200 lives, Gaza has been under

siege. Access to food, water, sanitation, and electricity has been severed. Israel has killed an estimated 11,000 Palestinians (67% of whom are women and children) in Gaza so far, and Israeli aggressions have not been limited to Gaza.

Israel has defended its recent killing of 6,000 children in the Gaza strip as unfortunate casualties of war, blaming Hamas for hiding amid them. Ben Shapiro, in a recent debate at Oxford University, argued that civilians are sadly necessary casualties of war and cited the bombing of Dresden Germany during World War II, where estimates range from 25,000 to 250,000 civilians being killed in a matter of days. Unwittingly, Shapiro made a very accurate comparison. Winston Churchill is quoted as saying, "It seems to me that the moment has come when the question of the bombing of German cities simply for the sake of increasing the terror, though under other pretexts, should be reviewed." And in today's case, in Gaza, the other pretext is to kill Hamas. But the reality is that they

are killing unprecedented scores of women and children.

But what is Zionism? It is defined as the movement for the self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland, the land of Israel. To this end, many atrocities have been committed. Under this pretext, it is permissible for Native Americans to occupy their former ancestral homelands all throughout the United States of America and wage war on American civilians.

While it is stated that the goal of Israel is to be a sanctuary for all Jewish people, there are some inconsistencies in the application of this sanctuary along racial and ethnic lines. For example, the following excerpt from an article by Efrat Yerdar of Tel Aviv University titled "Jewish Illegality: The case of Ethiopian Jews

between 1955-1975" highlights this point:

"A particularly striking dynamic characterizes nationalism in Israel considering the State of Israel's desire to secure a Jewish majority and at the same time to prefer the European component of the immigrant identity over the Jewish component. It is evident from the 1970 amendment of the Law of Return, which allows non-Jews by the earlier definition of the law to naturalize under the new law of return, mostly from the USSR.

"...This claim fits in opposite ways to USSR immigrants and Ethiopian immigrants. In the case of immigrants from the USSR, the country made legal and international efforts to enable their arrival. In contrast, in the case of Ethiopian Jews, despite a continuous presence in Israel, the state prevented and hardened their ability to integrate ..."

## Kiicha Nights, Coyote Dreams

A performance dedicated to Luiseño Stories at the Mission Branch Library

November 30, 2023

6:00 - 7:00pm

Celebrate Luiseño stories that inspired the "Kiicha Nights, Coyote Dreams" mural at the Mission Branch Library, with a special reader's theater interactive performance, music and bookmark coloring activity, presented by Eliane Weldauer, Mel Vernon, Kilda Kallas and Steve Harvey.



Close-up of a portion of the mural.

## Kumeyaay Flag

Continued from page 1

Soon Marcia Hunter, (MHA Nation, N. Dakota) Indian Education Parent Committee Chair, thanked the audience for being there and recalled the successes of the Indian Education Program. Among them are the ongoing classes led by Carla Toureville (Tule River) and Chuck Cadotte. She also thanked Connie Greybull for all her efforts with informing the community and gathering people together. She recalled the success of the first District Pow Wow held last year at the Ballard Center, and she encouraged people to attend the next pow wow to be held March 2024.

Student Giovanni, (Colorado River Indian Tribes) a 3rd grader from Clay Elementary, spoke next, echoing the messages of others; we need to support our indigenous young people, provide support, encourage more accurate histories, and provide educator opportunities to explore ways to support young people in the schools.

Chuck Cadotte, (Standing Rock Lakota), cultural educator and dance teacher, shared the program's success in the cultural opportunities for Native students, dance classes, storytelling, beading, sewing, and other skills taught weekly. Just recently, Indian Ed held a college fair and a fall harvest experience for students and their families. Options exist for young people to learn from their cultural elders and invested community members. Cadotte praised the group. Then the students demonstrated multiple dance styles to the crowd.

Soon Bobby Wallace (Barona Band of Mission Indians) spoke and held the Kumeyaay flag to be raised. The flag was gifted to him by his cousin, Julie LaBrake (Sycuan), and since receiving it, Wallace

has carried the flag on many important occasions such as the "Run With the Sun" trek, a cross country journey that called attention to the many threats to our clean water. "Walking Stick", as he is also known, described only some of the adventures of the flag, including a stint on the aircraft carrier, the USS Midway.

Bobby likely has more stories about the Kumeyaay flag that holds the logos of the 12 bands of Kumeyaay. He alluded to several of them, but those are stories for another time. Wallace spoke of the need for all to acknowledge the original keepers of the land. The raising and displaying of the flag is "a step toward actual healing of our people and telling the truth of this land."

The flag was attached, and students hoisted it up. Drumming aided the efforts. Many recorded the historic images, and student and community shared the historic moment. Group photos were taken, blankets were offered, and young people felt the effect of the occasion.

Now it is time to see what steps San Diego Unified will take to continue its support to Indigenous students. The efforts must go beyond the month of November.

In a recent, well-attended Ethnic Studies Conference held at Hoover High School, Dr. Medina demonstrated his commitment. Teachers listened to experts in the field and received resources for their classrooms. Dr. Petterson stated his commitment by saying, "We will continue to strengthen a curriculum for all students that accurately describes our history and that gives a prominent place in that history to our region's Native inhabitants." And thoughtfully reflecting on the raised flag, Bobby Wallace concluded, "It's sad to see it go, but (it is) for everybody that's been here before us and for everybody that's coming."



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## Civil Rights Department, Local Government and Community Partners Join Together for Launch of Sixth Annual United Against Hate Week

*Highlight dozens of anti-hate events planned across California, from poetry slams to rallies and more*

*Share new preliminary statistics showing approximately 513 reports of hate to state's anti-hate hotline and resource network in first six months since official launch*

BERKELEY – The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) — in partnership with the City of Berkeley, Not In Our Town, and LA vs Hate — Nov. 14 joined government and community leaders for the launch of the sixth annual United Against Hate Week (UAHW). The week is part of a call for local civic action to help put a stop to the spread of hate and discrimination, which remains a threat to our neighborhoods, towns, and



Courtesy Photo: Becky Monroe, deputy director for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, California Civil Rights Department speaks Nov 13, at the kick-off to for CA vs Hate United Against Hate Week.

cities. Throughout UAHW, local government and community partners will host dozens of anti-hate events across California — from poetry slams to rallies and more. In addition, CRD today also announced the release of new preliminary statistics showing approximately 513 reports of hate to California vs Hate, the state's anti-hate hotline and resource network, in the first six months since its official launch.

"California continues to lead the charge in pushing back against hate," said CRD Acting Director Mary Wheat. "From civic engagement at the grassroots level to historic statewide investments, the Civil Rights Department is proud to be part of a new generation of leaders in the fight for greater inclusion and equity for all. During United Against Hate Week, we encourage all Californians to take advantage of existing resources — like California vs Hate — to push for change from the ground up for all our communities. Whether it's because of conflict abroad or here at home, it takes real strength to stand in solidarity in the face of bias and discrimination. Together, we're united against hate."

"With hate crimes increasing in California and different views spurring debate that sometimes turns hostile,

movements like United Against Hate Week become more vital," said Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. "It is my hope that providing awareness about nonprofit services available to victims or other resources, such as the Civil Rights Department hate crime reporting hotline, we can spread the message that hate is not okay and that there is support available for those who need it."

"Berkeley is proud to have a founding role in United Against Hate Week," said Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin. "Over the last few years, we have seen this event grow exponentially, yet there is still so much work to be done. Now more than ever, in the face of growing hate crimes, we must take a stand to bring our communities together against hatred."

"We're honored to stand with this coalition of organizers and leaders who are committed to pushing back against hate for the safety of all residents," said Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission President Ilan Davidson. "When we founded LA vs Hate in 2019, it was in direct response to the rise of hate our communities were enduring, and we knew that we could not do this work alone. Through community partnerships, organizing, and activism, we have created a unique, holistic program and an expanding system that is working to ensure peace and safety for all of our communities. We hope that all who are targeted for hate know that we are here for you, there are services for you, and together we can stop the spread of hate in California and beyond."

"Black people are disproportionately impacted by hate crimes in California, which is why the NAACP California Hawaii State Conference is proud to participate in the sixth annual United Against Hate Week," said Rick L. Callender, ESQ., CA/HI NAACP President. "The NAACP CA/HI State Conference, in conjunction with our 57 branches across California, is dedicated and committed to eradicating hate within our state through community action and by supporting bills such as AB 449 (Ting), the CA vs Hate Hotline, and our collaborative efforts with the CDSS Stop the Hate grant. It is through these comprehensive measures that we will make a positive difference in the statistics we have seen persist for far too long."

Initially created by local government and community leaders in the Bay Area in

SEE **Hate**, page 10

## Native American Monument Unveiled In Sacramento

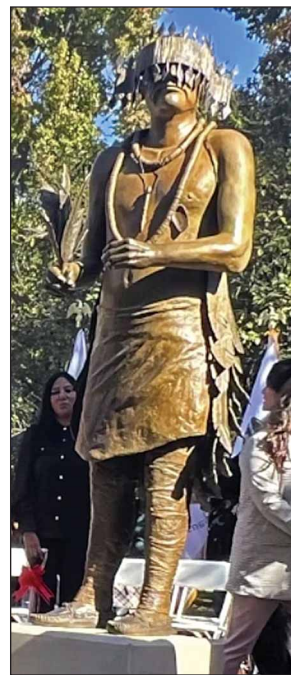
*A Native American monument is unveiled in outside the California Capitol in Sacramento.*

by Sophie Austin AP

SACRAMENTO, CA – An 8-foot-tall bronze statue of a late Native American leader known for preserving cultural dances now stands surrounded by trees in a historic park outside of California's state Capitol building, replacing a statue of a Spanish missionary that protesters toppled it in 2020.

California lawmakers, tribal leaders and hundreds of others on Tuesday celebrated the unveiling of a statue depicting Miwok leader William J. Franklin, Sr., in recognition of the Native American tribes whose ancestral lands are now the grounds of the state Capitol.

"Finally, the California Indian people will have a monument here on the Capitol grounds for all those visiting to know that we are still here," said Assemblymember James C. Ramos, the first Native American



AP Photo: Sophie Austin

in the state Legislature. "We're here because of the resiliency of our elders and ancestors."

It is one of several moves that California lawmakers have made in recent years to acknowledge the history of Native Americans in the state. In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a formal apology for the state's legacy of violence against Native Americans, saying it amounted to genocide. Newsom has also signed laws to promote the teaching of more Native American history in schools and to remove a derogatory slur from sites across the state.

The new statue comes after racial justice protesters in 2020 tore down a decades-old statue of Junípero Serra, an 18th century Catholic priest and missionary who has been criticized for destroying Native American tribes and cultures. The monument of Serra was torn down at a time when protesters across the country targeted statues of historic figures — including

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Va. — whose legacies came under heightened scrutiny in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

California Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said he hopes the monument will "cultivate a deeper understanding" of Indigenous communities and their contributions to California.

## The Hokule'a Arrives in San Diego

by D.Bartelli Oldfield

In the late afternoon of November 8, the much-anticipated Polynesian voyaging canoe, the Hokule'a, arrived in the San Diego Harbor and docked at the San Diego Maritime Museum. Local sailing and ocean enthusiasts paddled out to greet and escort the canoe. Following the landing protocols, the crew and staff were welcomed by the Kumeyaay Nation and Native Hawaiian hosts who honored them with Bird Songs and chants. Blessings were given, the conch shell was blown, the group debarked, and proceeded to Waterfront Park. Spectators lined their path, some holding leis, and flowers for the honored guests. Local dignitaries gave welcome speeches, reminders of common goals, and words of celebration. Halaus (Polynesian dance groups), and Kumeyaay singers and dancers waited in turn to welcome the voyagers.

San Diego was the last stop on the US leg of the Moananuieka voyage, a voyage that began in Alaska, traveled to Washington, Oregon, then headed to ports in California, including Eureka, San Francisco, Monterey, Marina Del Rey, Newport, Dana Point, and San Diego. This segment of the voyage covered 2,800 miles with a diverse crew of experienced

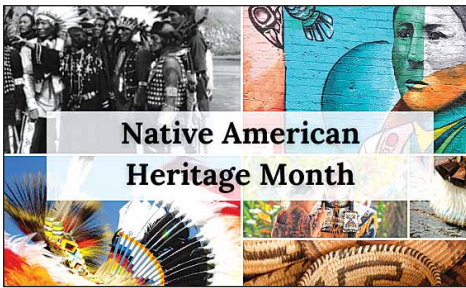


men and women. Those who served on this leg included a cook, a filmmaker, a PhD engineering student, a marine biology research assistant, a school principal, and others. All have a similar quest and that is to connect with others who have a common passion for preserving culture and the environment.

The mission of this voyage—Malama honua—Caring for Island Earth, is to use traditional Polynesian sailing techniques, such as the stars, signs in nature, and the surroundings, while sailing throughout the Pacific. The connections made along

SEE **Hokule'a**, page 4





## Native American Heritage Month

### ...and the journey of Red Fox James

November marks Native American Heritage Month. A relatively new holiday, President George W. Bush signed it into law on October 8, 2008. But its history began almost one hundred years earlier...

In 1914, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, set out to gather support for a



Red Fox James - Wikipedia

national day recognizing and honoring Native Americans. He rode over 4,000 miles from state to state and convinced 24 states to endorse his cause. On December 14, he presented these

endorsements to the White House. At the time, the U.S. government didn't proclaim a national day. However, the state of New York declared the second Saturday in May as American Indian Day.

Since then, progress has been slow, but steady. In 1986, the 99th Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the President to proclaim November 23-30, 1986, as American Indian Week. President George H.W. Bush continued the proclamations until 1990, when he approved a joint resolution to declare November as National American Indian Heritage Month. This tradition has continued annually until the official day was recognized in 2008.

See pictures of Red Fox James on his journey in Images of America: Grand Island: The Julius Leschinsky Photographs

## Variety Magazine Awards Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter with the Variety Creative Leadership Award

Oneida Indian Nation Homelands – *Variety* recently named Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Turning Stone Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter this year's Variety Creative Leadership Award recipient. *Variety* praised Halbritter's significant impact on improving lives of the Oneida people and his influence for positive change throughout Indian Country and Hollywood. In the *Variety* article, Academy Award-winning filmmaker James Cameron was quoted

saying, "Ray [Halbritter] is a strategist and has won again and again for Indigenous peoples through sometimes quiet but highly effective work behind the scenes. He's extraordinarily humble. I am constantly inspired by Ray's curiosity, vision, determination and humanity."

To read the "Variety article about Halbritter earning the Variety Creative Leadership Award and his impact, visit <https://variety.com/2023/film/focus/variety-creative-leadership-award-ray-halbritter-native-americans-1235774386>



Dear Warrior Women Project community,

With holidays approaching and the year beginning to come to a close, we've been reaching out to people in our community to check in, share updates, and send warm wishes.

Your donations last year helped us create the Honoring the Women of Wounded Knee 50th Anniversary exhibit. It's already had a huge impact as an intergenerational teaching tool on the power of Indigenous matriarchy.

Here's a recap of what we pulled off in 2023:

- We designed & created an interactive, multimedia exhibit on the women behind Wounded Knee 1973
- We launched the exhibit on Pine

Ridge with a community event - 300 people came to honor the Wounded Knee matriarchs

- We organized a day of activities and workshops around the exhibit for 200 students at Pine Ridge High School
- We took the exhibit on its first international trip – to the Netherlands!

This Native American heritage month, we're launching part 2 of our 50K for Wounded Knee 50 fundraiser. The exhibit is built to travel - so that the lessons of Wounded Knee matriarchs can be shared far and wide.

We need your help to get this exhibit on the road!

With your support, we can:

- Cover costs to ship/travel the exhibit to more Native communities—from Pine Ridge to urban centers across the country.
- Develop more oral history content and digital resources to engage students and community.
- Preserve and develop our archive in perpetuity.

DONATE NOW!

Please consider supporting the Women of Wounded Knee Traveling Exhibit campaign today.

**Elke W. Chenevey**

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Financial Advisor

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## Hokule'a

Continued from page 3

the voyage gather those who long for a meaningful relationship to the ocean and nature. The creation of the Hokule'a and its journeys revives the "legacy of exploration, courage and ingenuity that brought the first Polynesians to Hawai'i." It is a revitalization of non-instrument navigation, the traditional ways of the ancestors.

Moananui kea is Hokule'a's 15th major voyage in her first 50 years. It was artist Herb Kane, who dreamed of constructing a double hulled sailing canoe (wa'a kaulua) like those of his ancestors. It had been over 600 years since the last of these canoes had been seen, and Kane felt the project would connect the past to the present. People of diverse backgrounds and skillsets joined together in the construction of the craft. Since she was built and launched in the 1970s, the canoe continues to attract those who wish "to protect our most cherished values and places from disappearing."

Founded in 1973, the Polynesian Voyaging Society was created to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging. It provides experiential educational programs and connects groups who honor and wish to protect the ocean. It has revitalized ancient navigation and brought revelations of how the ancestors navigated, found islands, and settled Polynesia.

The people and the stories of the Hokule'a are many. Those interested may enjoy reading detailed information on the Hokule'a website. It includes the history, detailed voyage information, various crews and ports, photographs and video of the esteemed wa'a. Also included is the tale of one particular hero, Eddie Aikau, who lost his life, but has lived on in stories and legend.

After her visit in San Diego, the Hokule'a will return to Hawai'i. Although the canoe may have sailed back to the Islands, the risk of El Nino predictions prevented this journey. PVS CEO Nainoa Thompson said, "The signs for adverse weather are there, and we need to pay attention and respect. That's what we do. We watch what nature is telling us and make choices based on it."

Once back home, the Hokule'a will sail to Lahaina, Maui, a vital center of the voyaging community. As most know, Lahaina suffered a catastrophic fire in August of this year. The wa'a kalua may offer comfort and healing to the island and its people.

Some information in this article was provided by the Hokule'a website.

visit:

[IndigenousNetwork.org](http://IndigenousNetwork.org)



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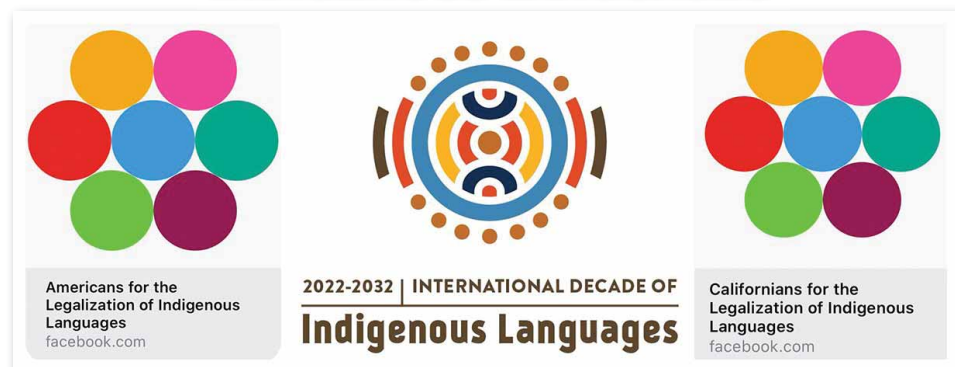
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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



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## Mat Tekat / Chopped Land Kumeyaay - Tipai



by Sholók

Ŋaach  
YawTikwanm  
xemí, mat Tipay.  
Ŋaxikwalh tewá,  
kwelhyap  
kwamaay uu-um  
ŋamaayk paychá  
maayich  
may'mak kurr...

parawii mat kewaylh uu-um ŋamaayk  
paychá maayich kuwaay kurr. Ŋaach  
ŋaxikwalh mat uuyaw tewá; pes, ŋa'xemi  
iilyuwm yiw shiimaap weyú. Melay 'uuch  
palh ŋekwii'nus matm. Ŋaach tostilok  
wesaaŋ lypish uusaw ŋamaayk wa  
chemu'yaw tewá, ŋaach 'ii pistool sunaarr,  
uu-um uuway shiilwilh YawTikwán metarr,  
melhyaay XuwimXamch mii aalhmarr  
ŋamaayk ŋaach ewaaw maayk wisapol  
kep'aw, parawii emúch kwechchut 'iikuuy.  
Chamch kwa'xan ipaatm tewá.

Wa chemu'yawach ŋechkuuyaw  
chka'nap Waax Kaliporn maaw.  
Ŋekuunap tewá ŋawaap teyach  
kwexaakwaalh, chocolat, ŋawaach  
aashuux tewá meshiayk Meshik kwaypay  
ŋemat, parawii Maaya paywechaach  
waarrchesk. Ŋetaaxil tewá texilh charr  
kenaach iimá cha'yaaw mariaach tenam.  
Ŋaach cham ŋip uuway, pes uuchuuch  
p'am tewá.

Ŋaach ŋemat chxwimwach ŋiilyuw  
uu-um kewaay lhywii 'aashá kwaamaay.  
Ŋaach uuyaaw Meshik YawTikwank  
maaw, ŋii Maaya, teyach, chocolat, ŋii  
mariaach. Ŋaach naaman iilyuw rriipuypu  
ŋap ŋewich, ŋip iilyuw ntaatch  
ŋekaanaap. Ŋawaap ŋekalipornipay,  
ŋawaap ŋerrawches. Mat tekát xaakaaym  
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shaaxok nakaguataay, ŋawaap ŋekepaxaw  
WiKwaAmém tewá, parawii ŋawaap  
teyach ŋexaakwaalh maw, pes ŋawaap  
siŋaw ŋexaakwaalh.

Californiop 'aa kwelsawx maaw wii

chuusii metipay mat iilyuw  
Californiaspuk. Tipaych cham-chaawam  
peyá mat chuusii maaw, pes ŋawaappu  
ŋechshaam uucheyaawp xan, Ŋamaayk  
ŋawaach nemaa peyá tekxap ŋiŋuuyches.

Tekatep munisip Waax Kalipornrk,  
waach mat Kumiai ŋiichash wa, Mat  
Kuchumá. Kuchumá kusiai Kumiai  
wenemaa Mat Metipay kepaxaw shin.  
Ŋepil, matp tekát xaakaaym  
mat'shuuxwírr, metaarch iilyuw nexiimírr  
ŋechaawiwches. Ŋepil ŋa ŋawaach  
ŋexiimírr ŋuuman, yaylhpit  
mat'shuuxwírr, ŋamaayk kepaxaw shin  
ŋiŋuy.

Ŋaxikwalh tewá, kwelhyap kwa'maay  
uu-um, mat kewaaylh uu-um. Ŋamaayk  
ŋaach waam ŋemat, uuyaaw kwelhyap  
ŋemiich, mat ŋemiich, parawii ŋaach  
uu-umwach ŋemat kwa'kurr uuyaaw  
maayich wich maaw. Ŋepil ŋawaach  
uu-umwach ŋa pii yayk.

*I grew up in Tijuana, Tipay land. As a  
child, I used to look up at the stars and  
wonder what was beyond... and I used to  
look at the soil and wonder what was  
below. I was very self-aware as a child;  
however, when you grow up in your own  
culture you become blind to it. You don't  
realize certain things are unique to you. I  
snacked on tostilocos after school, I  
played with wooden pistols, admired the  
shrubland outside Tijuana, burned my  
feet with the sand in San Felipe and  
screamed after stepping on a sand spur,  
and the bighorn sheep was the symbol of  
pride to me. It was all part of everyday  
life.*

*In school I wasn't taught the history of  
Baja California. I was told we were the  
children of corn, chocolate, we came from  
the great Mexica empire, and the wise  
Mayas. They even dressed me up in a  
charro suit to dance to mariachi music. I  
loved all of it, but something was  
missing.*

*I had to immigrate to be able to look  
at my culture from a bird's eye view. I  
realized the Mexica were not from  
Tijuana, and neither were the Mayas,  
corn, chocolate, and even mariachi. I  
started longing for that lost culture of  
mine that only my father used to tell me.  
We are Californios, always were. Before  
the land was split in half with the border,  
our family was already here. I then felt  
the obligation to not let our history and  
culture disappear and soon started  
studying the ways of my people. I*

## Governor Newsom Proclaims Native American Heritage Month

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin  
Newsom today issued a proclamation  
declaring November 2023, as Native  
American Heritage Month.

### PROCLAMATION

During Native American Heritage  
Month, California recognizes and honors  
the first people to call this state and  
nation home, while also committing to  
the personal, collective and institutional  
work we must continue to embrace as  
we create a California that respects,  
values and uplifts Native peoples.

Over the course of the last year, we  
celebrated the unveiling of a new  
monument to California Native peoples  
on the grounds of the State Capitol,  
witnessed the validation of the Indian  
Child Welfare Act from the nation's  
highest court and felt every emotion  
with the conclusion of Reservation Dogs.  
We also saw California tribal nations  
leading the state in historic efforts to  
address climate change, launch  
state-of-the art cultural centers and  
compel institutions to once and for all  
return Native ancestors to their lands  
and communities. These milestones are  
all testaments to the power of shifting  
the narrative, making space for Native  
people to determine their own place in  
our collective culture and elevating the  
Native experience in the story of  
California.

While we celebrate these  
achievements with Indian Country, we  
remind ourselves that they are but small  
signs of goodwill and progress in the  
journey toward truth and healing. Native  
people in California have been  
advocating for greater space, voice and  
understanding for hundreds of  
years—during which time their  
communities and cultures have been  
actively erased, displaced and painted  
over. Peoples that long predate even the  
concept of “California” have fought to

keep languages and families intact in the  
face of ongoing waves of settlement of  
this place. This month, it is our task to  
reflect on our knowledge gaps and fully  
educate ourselves on the histories,  
cultures and governments of the first  
peoples of this place in order to codesign  
a future that elevates Native voices and  
experiences where many of our  
predecessors sought their eradication.

If the only time we reflect on the  
Native Peoples of the United States is  
during the month of November, we are  
selling ourselves—and Native  
peoples—far too short. It is incumbent  
on all Californians to remind ourselves  
of the price Native peoples had to—and  
continue to—pay as a result of centuries  
of oppression and the settlement of  
California beaches, grasslands and  
mountains. We owe it to them to better  
understand, acknowledge and elevate  
their place as the first peoples of these  
lands.

This Native American Heritage  
Month, I challenge all Californians to  
commit to the lifelong process of  
learning more about the diverse Native  
peoples in California as we work toward  
truth, justice and accountability for all.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN  
NEWSOM, Governor of the State of  
California, do hereby proclaim  
November 2023, as “Native American  
Heritage Month.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of California to be  
affixed this 18th day of November 2023.

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of  
California

ATTEST: SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State



visit:  
**IndigenousNetwork.org**

*discovered we've been here for at least  
10,000 years, we were created in Avi  
Kwa'ame, and we are not the children of  
corn, but the children of acorn.*

*Californio is a loose term used to call  
people from the cultural region of The  
Californias. Most indigenous peoples  
don't identify with it anymore, but those  
of us who were stripped off our culture  
do, and now we are trying to reconnect  
with it.*

*Tecate is a municipality in Baja  
California, home to the heart of the  
Kumiai nation, Kuchumá Mountain.*

*Kuchumá was a Kumiai wiseman who  
tried to unite the nation. Now, the  
mountain is split in half with the border,  
explicitly demonstrating the fracture in  
our culture. Now is the time to heal the  
fracture, transcend the border, and  
reunite.*

*As a child I used to look up at the  
stars, down at the soil. When I left my  
land, I realized the stars were different,  
the soil was different, and had to gaze  
miles and miles back at my land to  
realize what I was missing. Now it's time  
to look ahead.*





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).

## Dr. Anthony Dixon's The Black Seminole Project

by Windy Goodloe, Secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association

In 2019, Dr. Anthony Dixon was our Friday Lecture Speaker for Seminole Days. We were in desperate need of a speaker for this event, and he graciously accepted the offer to visit Brackettville (sight unseen) and speak. What we knew about Dr. Dixon was that he had written a book about the Second Seminole War and the role Black Seminoles played in it. What we didn't know was how passionate he was about Black Seminoles and making sure that he is always of service to our community.

Dr. Dixon's presentation riveted the crowd, so much so that people still talk

about it. He reminded the Black Seminoles in the audience about who we came from and how hard and resolutely our ancestors fought. He did not mince words.

Following his speech, he continued to keep in touch with our community. He is a protector and an ally of our history.

Dr. Dixon is a native of Fort Valley, Georgia. In 1994, he received his B.S. in History with a minor in African American Studies from Florida A&M University. In 2001, he received his M.A.S.S. (Masters of Applied Social Science) from Florida A&M University with a concentration in History. In 2001, he received a doctoral fellowship from Indiana University's History Department where he majored in the African Diaspora. His studies included African American History and African History, with a minor in Library Science (specifically Special Collections and Archives). In 2006, he became a Visiting Professor at Florida A&M University, as

well as the Head Archivist and Historian for the John G. Riley Museum. In the following year (2007), he completed his dissertation entitled



Dr. Anthony Dixon

"Black Seminole Involvement and Leadership during the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842", and received his Ph.D. in History from Indiana University. In 2019, he received a Master's of (Library

and) Information Science from Florida State University. Currently he is the President of Archival and Historical Research Associates.

Dr. Dixon has also published two public history books. *Florida's Negro War: Black Seminoles and the Second Seminole War* was released in the spring of 2014. This work is a historical piece that examines the Black Seminole leadership and Involvement in the Second Seminole War. *Florida's Negro War* also re-examines the War in the context of a slave rebellion. In the fall of the same year (2014), Dr. Dixon published his third book, *Florida's African Diaspora Timeline*. This book was created with the ideals of assisting in the infusion of Florida's Black history into the public educational system. Dr. Dixon feels that the more pride our young African Americans have in themselves, the more inclined they are to succeed.

In September 2023, Dr. Dixon attended our last Seminole Days. He came to Brackettville because he wanted to announce and seek support and approval from the community for The Black Seminole Project, which is a dual visual endeavor that will culminate in a documentary and a feature film.

Dr. Dixon and director Zarian Hadley are currently working on their documentary, which is slated to be completed in May 2024. Immediately upon completion of the documentary, they will begin filming the feature film, which will be based on Dr. Dixon's book *Florida's Negro War: Black Seminoles and the Second Seminole War 1835-1842*. Both projects seek to enlighten viewers about the Black Seminoles. The documentary will go the extra mile by providing history

## American Indian Events

### Native American Heritage Month

Social & Indian Craft Market

Nov. 24<sup>TH</sup>

25<sup>TH</sup>, 26<sup>TH</sup> 2023

Tucson Mall Sears

Entrance #3 Catalyst Arts

4500 N Oracle Rd,

Tucson, AZ 85705



### American Indian Arts Exposition

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and illuminating the issues that our community faces today. Ultimately, the goal of The Black Seminole Project is unity. This project will show, through telling the story of the first underground railroad and the largest rebellion of enslaved Africans in the United States, all that can be accomplished when people come together. For more information, please visit [theblackseminoleproject.com](http://theblackseminoleproject.com).

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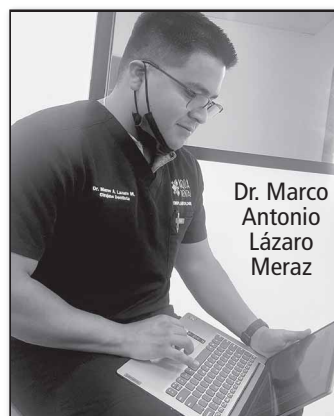
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# ImagineNative, Film and Media Arts Festival

Special Report: Film and Media Arts Festival in Toronto, CA, the land located on the traditional territory often Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and the Mississaugas.

by Veronica Wood

We were able to attend the largest Indigenous Film and Media Arts festival in Toronto, CA, from Oct 17-22.

The event centered at the TIFF Bell theatre, and welcomed thousands of indigenous artists and industry leaders from across the globe.

What was most inspiring was the diversity and fusion of art and media.

In the main cinema complex, there was a new media and digital art space, which included language revitalization robots, 2-bit games, and an arcade. The artists dreamt of grandmothers in the sky, of poetry in the water and of the future of indigenous art.

The festival included many film premieres, as well as shorts and even a viewing of RezDogs.

One of the Festival Shorts series I was able to attend was the Witness Series, a co-production between the Arctic Indigenous Film fund and Canada Film Fund. This was about centering narratives of climate change with indigenous voices. By uniting filmmakers and mentors, they produced five short films about



indigenous intersections with climate change. One film spoke about the dwindling reindeer population. One film spoke about the devastation of recent wildfires. Another film addressed two-spirit identity and acceptance within rural communities vs. city communities. Throughout the festival, there was a real sense of cooperation and collaboration between filmmakers. Each of the filmmakers on this panel were from different countries, yet all viscerally impacted by climate change, and passionate about telling the stories in their arctic communities.

Another programming highlight was the Art Crawl, which featured hundreds of indigenous artists in various art galleries throughout downtown Toronto.

Festival-goers took to the streets to explore new works. One artwork, 'A Seat at the Table', expressed voice recordings from council members, as well as a video installation of the lack of democracy in back-door decision making.

There was also a Pitch Forum, where indigenous filmmakers presented their ideas in front of a panel of industry leaders. One man, Bruce Miller pitched a beautiful documentary about a family who makes intricate regalia. Another filmmaker pitched a native sit-com-style coming-of-age TV show. The industry panel then had a Q&A session where they were able to help the filmmakers see into any blind spots and hone their pitches.

The festival also was able to present awards to artists, and named the audience-favorite 'Hey Viktor!' the best documentary feature. "Mamá" won the award for Best Documentary Feature. As part of their work, they present cash awards to winners, as well as provide grants, mentorship and programs throughout the year. They also offer screenwriting labs and directors labs for emerging filmmakers.

Throughout the festival, there was a feeling of camaraderie. The indigenous film world has some of the most incredible artists and stories. Indigenous people are storytellers - and the stories they tell are not only necessary, but world-class works of art.

# One-Third Of U.S. Newspapers as of 2005 Will Be Gone By 2024

The decline of local newspapers accelerated so rapidly in 2023 that analysts now believe the U.S. will have lost one-third of the newspapers it had as of 2005 by the end of next year — rather than in 2025, as .

Why it matters: Most communities that lose a local newspaper in America usually do not get a replacement, even online.

By the numbers: There are roughly 6,000 newspapers left in America, down from 8,891 in 2005, according to a new report from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications.

- "We're almost at a one-third loss now and we'll certainly hit that pace next year," said the report's co-authors — Penelope Muse Abernathy, a visiting professor at Medill, and Sarah Stonbely, director of Medill's State of Local News Project.

- Of the papers that still survive, a majority (4,790) publish weekly, not daily.

visit: [IndigenousNetwork.org](https://IndigenousNetwork.org)



# Getting Closer to Our Ancestral Home: Our Trip to Senegal

by Clovis M. Honoré

Africa is currently made up of about 54 countries. I say "about" because there are still colonial debates about who has the right to control some African "territories" and "dependencies". This is unfortunate, but Africa is coming of age and coming into its own, in spite of the intervention of outside forces.

My wife and I have a secret that allows us to travel around the world inexpensively. If I tell you what it is, it wouldn't be a secret anymore. So, I'm

going to tell you about my trip to Africa, but I'm not going to tell you my secret ... maybe.

When we were planning for our trip to Senegal, we started by doing a lot of research. Who are the people? What is their culture? What are their languages? What do they eat? How do they live? Where should we go? How do we get around?

Just about every country on Earth is pretty big. Maybe not as big as the United States, but I challenge you to walk across any country. Well, the Vatican (been there) is pretty small. But it would take about eight days to walk across Senegal.

That means you can't realistically hope

to see and do everything in a nation that big in one short visit. But you can (and we did) see some of the most iconic and important places.

Dakar is a city of over a million people, with a metropolitan area of close to 4,000,000.00. They are pressed into a land area less than one tenth the size of San Diego, California, which has 1.3 million people (32.05 square miles versus 374.2 square miles).

Senegal is known for "teraanga". BBC Travel says, "Characterized by generosity, hospitality and warmth, teraanga is everywhere in Senegal, and has helped shape the nation's identity."

All the people we met lived up to this description with the warmth, love and care the people of Senegal showed us. From the young lady who checked us in, to the folks who helped us get around town to the tour guides who took us to the Bandia Reserve and Goree Island.

The best part of the trip was our new best friend Cheik Amar. He is a sophisticated and savvy Senegalese entrepreneur who lives with his American wife in Atlanta. We met Amar on the plane, when my wife accidentally sat in his seat.

He was very gracious. Our correct seats were right in front of him, and when we got off the plane, it was evident that we were "gringos" and didn't have a real good grip on what we were doing in Senegal.

SEE [Senegal](#), page 15



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## Division and Hate

With all the division going on in the world, WorldBeat Center is blessed to be awarded the Home for Humanity award. Home for Humanity is an incredible organization with its headquarters in France. It's a beautiful organization that is based on peace, compassion, and love projected for planetary goodness and respect for humanity. Rama and Alexander are examples of compassion and working for the good continually to stop hate and division. Sometimes, I get bewildered and think this planet will never be enlightened, but I know that is not true because

people all over the world are tired of hate and violence. People are tired of injustice, and Peter Tosh says there cannot be peace without justice. What's happening in the Congo in Africa is devastating also. People working in mines for cobalt, copper, and other minerals needed for smartphones, EV batteries, and other electronics. If we are using these in our daily lives, they deserve safe working conditions, a livable wage, and not slavery-like conditions for greed. We suffer from greed all over this planet, and you wonder why there are immigrants. These people have been pushed from their



## THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF TASTE OF AFRICA

by Makeda Cheatom

Taste of Africa was amazing with incredible savory tastes from Africa. Brothers and sisters from all over the

continent of Africa. People of all colors came together to taste the culinary arts of Africa. Big up to DJ Francois from the Congo, Stephanie O, our Afrobeat dancer from Nigeria who killed the night. By the way, we're having an Afrobeat dance night on Friday, November 24th and you're all invited. Dramane and the

African dance troupe.

Big thanks to Micah, our kemetic yoga teacher. The jollof rice competition was won by Olivia's Kitchen from Ghana. It's funny, before the contest she said she was going to bring her "A-game and going to win" and she did. We look forward to next year!



Olivia's Kitchen Jollof Rice Contest Winner



# WORLD BEAT CENTER

homeland by corporate and government greed. Octavia Butler talks all about what's happening in her book, "Parables of the Sower." It takes place in 2024, and this is really scary because the book is based in California and in many familiar cities. It's a sci-fi novel, and yet it is very real. She is one of my favorite sci-fi



writers. Speaking of Sci-Fi, get ready for Black Comix Day happening. I do believe that change has to start within. Going back to being in nature and following the ways of the ancestors. If we're going to heal the Earth, we need to heal ourselves first. Our ancestors knew the way. They knew how to grow their food. They knew how to share in a crisis. They

knew how to have empathy for others. They knew how to respect all creation. This should be a time during the day that we stop to give thanks to the creator. Go out in nature! That's a must. Cut off the phone and slow down and try to identify the birds you see. Look at the hummingbirds gathering nectar from the beautiful salvia. Is it a Rufous hummingbird or is it an Anna's? Take off your shoes and walk barefooted on the mother. She will heal you. Be still and go into your step, in every slow footstep. Our minds are racing with millions of thoughts.

Give thanks to all creation on Turtle Island and our ancestors who have shown us the way. Desires are the main cause of our anger and greed. Once you fulfill one desire, you're looking to satisfy the next. This world is built on impermanence, so why are we yearning for things that are fleeting? Take time for yourself, save the soil from contaminated toxins, support local farmers, and grow your food. Forgiveness and knowing humility are the keys. I know we're only human, but let's try to embrace humanity.

All my relations,  
Om Shanti  
Peace  
Makeda Cheatom



## Connecting in the World Beat Center Peace Garden

### Plant Spirit Meditations and Tea Tastings

by Cindy Saylor

To enter the Peace Garden at the World Beat Center is to feel the love that has been imbued into the soil from many hands. It has been an honor to share my love of plants and the earth with a monthly Plant Spirit Meditation & Tea Tasting. The purpose of these meditations is to connect deeply to the self, the earth and the green kingdom. To feel the universal energy that flows through all beings - humans, animals, plants & trees and the elements of earth, water, fire and air. This connection, this belonging to ourselves and to the earth is our birthright, lineage and responsibility. Our modern culture has lost a sense of belonging to the earth. Yet, the connection remains. The way forward is by re-connecting and remembering who we are in the circle of life.

This quote sums up my philosophy and approach: "It's all alive. It's all connected. It's all intelligent. It's all relatives." - Bioneers

I love watching attendees wander down the garden path to the peace poll and our community circle. The worry and stress begins to melt away. You can see the rigor of the week peel off of hard working shoulders, and a brightness comes into the eyes. We begin the meditation in gratitude.

The goal of the meditation is to find self-love, connect to the earth and all of its relations. The meditation theme changes with the seasons. After the meditation there is time for group reflection and we transition to the tea tasting. As an herbalist the foundation of what I



know comes from direct experience with the plants ... and lots of learning from teachers and books. But the foundation is direct experience. This is what I share in the tea tasting. We taste herbal tea without knowing the name of the herb. Providing a pure direct sensory experience. Guests discover how their senses respond to the plant. Afterwards I reveal the herb, and share about its traditional and medicinal uses. Generally this is a lively time with conversation and

## SPICED MILLET PILAF WITH FALL VEGETABLES

by Twintastic Treats

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup of millet  
2 tbsp cooking oil  
1 medium sized yellow onion, finely chopped  
1 small winter squash (butternut, kabocha, acorn, delicata, sugar pumpkin, etc.), cut into ½ inch dice( about 1 ½ cups worth)  
1 tsp turmeric powder  
½ tsp cumin powder  
½ tsp coriander powder  
½ tsp sea salt  
¼ tsp cinnamon powder  
Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes  
2 tsp date syrup or maple syrup  
2 1/2 cups of water  
1 ½ cups cooked chickpeas (if using canned, rinse and drain)  
2 cups of chopped spinach (if using baby spinach, you



can leave it whole) 4 dates, finely chopped  
2 tbs well stirred tahini for drizzling  
Salt and pepper to taste

### PREPARATION

1. Heat the oil in a heavy pot over medium heat. Add the onion and saute' for about 5 minutes, stirring often. Add the salt and spices and stir to coat the onion and spice mixture. Add the millet,

squash, and syrup and give the entire contents a good stir. Pour in the water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover the pot with a tight fitting lid and cook until the liquid is completely absorbed, the millet can easily be fluffed with a fork and the squash is tender for about 30 minutes.

2. Toss in the chickpeas, chopped spinach and dates. Remove from the heat, place the top back on the pot and set aside for 10 minutes or until the spinach has wilted and the chickpeas and dates have warmed through.

3. Drizzle in the tahini and season to taste with salt and pepper. Taste for seasonings and adjust as needed.

sharing. Similar and unique sensory reactions are discussed, but all are true to each person's own experience. Finally we close our circle and re-enter the modern world. My hope is that everyone leaves a bit more grounded, strengthened by their own connection to self-love, the earth and our beloved plant elders.

As one of my frequent attendees says: "Cindy's guided tea tasting and meditation is always a soul-nourishing experience. On top of that it's given me a

newfound interest in herbal teas and an appreciation for meditation. I always leave Cindy's guided meditations feeling more grounded, grateful and whole." HB

Join us! Plant Spirit Meditation & Tea Tasting Sunday December 10, 2023 10am-11am

RSVP: [cindy@everdayplantmagic.com](mailto:cindy@everdayplantmagic.com) | Learn more: [everydayplantmagic.com](http://everydayplantmagic.com)

Cindy Saylor is an herbalist, nutritionist, poet and devoted to sharing the teachings of the plants and the earth that have been shared with her.

## WorldBeat Center Congratulates Capoeira Graduates

by Makeda Cheatom

WorldBeat Center would like to celebrate all the graduates and initiates that participated in this year's



Capoeira batisado with Os Malandros De Mestre Touro and Mestre Preto Velho at WorldBeat Cultural Center. On October 28th, 2023 over 30 students received their belts and certificates after participating in the capoeira "roda." Master Dennis Newsome also known as Mestre Petro Velho has taken these kids out of an environment that is detrimental to their wellbeing. I will never forget one of the stories that Dennis shared about the mother of his students that was sitting on a corner prostituting. Maestro Dennis said he pulled over and cried when he realized that was his student's mother. So many children have grown up at the

WorldBeat Center and with great instructors like Mestre Petro Velho whom I've known since he was 16. This year I was honored to have received an award to recognize "the decades of support to the group and the community."

Capoeira, well known as an African Brazilian Dance/Fight ritual evolved in Brazil during the era of enslavement. The Batisado is an initiation ceremony for the newest students into the Capoeira "Roda" (Circle). Various rituals and traditional Batisado practices are employed during the ceremony. For older students it is a time to receive recognition for their progress and to have the opportunity to play Capoeira with other students from other schools and with other Professors, Contra-Mestres, Mestres and our Mestre (Master), Mestre Preto Velho (Master Old Black). The Batisado is a celebration of the Capoeira path. When executed by masters, Capoeira represents an explosive, yet gracefully executed series of movements most akin to dance that has as its purpose a game, a philosophy of life, a self defense and a triumph in battle.

Mestre Preto Velho is the first African born outside of Brazil to hold the title of "Master of Capoeira" in its 500 years of history. This title was bestowed on him by "Grupo Cultural de Capoeira Corda Bamba" de Mestre Touro of Brazil. Mestre Touro is one of only a few grand masters of Capoeira in Brazil. Mestre Preto Velho is registered with both the "Liga Carioca de Capoeira" and the "Federation of Capoeira Sport of the State of Rio de Janeiro". Mestre Preto Velho also has other schools in the U.S. and returns to Brazil periodically to have select students train in the grand tradition of the Brazilian African masters.





## City of San Diego Warns People About Unauthorized “Water Quality” Notices from Private Companies

### Residents Are Encouraged To Exercise Caution And Protect Personal Information

SAN DIEGO – In response to recent reports of City of San Diego residents receiving a “water update” notice at their homes, the City is warning people to be aware. The notices, which include a request to “Please call us ASAP,” appear to be from a private company that has no association with the City of San Diego and is not authorized to perform any work on behalf of the City. Residents contacted by the company are urged not to agree to services and not to provide personal information.

The City’s Public Utilities Department continually tests water quality, and our water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality regulations. Detailed information about our water quality is available on the City’s Water Quality webpage.

“We want to encourage our customers to be vigilant and verify the information that is sent to their homes,” said Juan Guerreiro, Director of the Public Utilities Department. “Our teams are committed to customer safety and delivering clean water to homes and businesses across San Diego. City staff will always identify themselves right away; please contact Public Utilities if you have any concerns

about a notice left at your home.”

Recently, customers of the City’s Public Utilities Department in ZIP code 92154 reported receiving notices that could be misleading. Similar notices have been reported in other cities and regions around the country.

The City of San Diego will not request access to your home to test water quality. Any notification from the City regarding water quality would include a City logo and be delivered by City personnel with proper identification. City personnel are always willing to show proper identification and provide a supervisor’s phone number for verification.

Residents should check any phone number provided to ensure that it is legitimate. Anyone claiming to be a City employee who refuses to wait while the phone number is contacted for verification should be considered fraud. Report any suspicious personnel to the San Diego Police Department at its 24-hour non-emergency line at 619-531-2000 or Public Utilities Department’s emergency hotline at 619-515-3525 as soon as possible.

Public Utilities Department customers can also contact the City’s Water Quality hotline at 619-668-3232 or email [drinkingwaterquality@sandiego.gov](mailto:drinkingwaterquality@sandiego.gov) during business hours.

## Hate

Continued from page 3

response to white supremacist rallies in Berkeley and San Francisco, UAHW is an opportunity for local residents to take action in their communities under the simple, yet powerful principle that, when cities and their residents work together against hate, we can restore respect and discourse, embrace the strength of our diversity, and build inclusive and equitable communities for all. Through local events, sharing stories, holding rallies, and connecting with local institutions, UAHW, which runs from November 12 to November 18, is about working together to help combat a national and statewide increase in reports of hate. In California, reported hate crimes have continued to rise in recent years, reaching their highest levels since 2001 — jumping more than 20% from 2021 to 2022.

More broadly, California has continued to be at the forefront of efforts to combat hate, whether through civic engagement, nation-leading investments in local anti-hate programs, and the first statewide commission working to track hate crimes and recommend policy. A key component of the state’s anti-hate initiatives includes the recent launch of CA vs Hate, a new multilingual statewide hotline and resource network that provides a safe, anonymous reporting option for victims and witnesses of hate. CA vs Hate aims to help overcome barriers to reporting by

offering people targeted for hate — and their communities — additional resources to report acts of hate through a community-centered approach that does not require engagement with the criminal legal system. Whether individuals report to CA vs Hate online or by phone, they are eligible to receive care coordination to ensure they can access resources and support, including legal, financial, mental health, and mediation services.

In the first six months since its official launch, CA vs Hate has been contacted by hundreds of individuals. Key preliminary statistics from May through October include:

- CA vs Hate received 513 reports of hate acts across California. Of those reports, 233 were made over the phone and 280 were made via the online portal.
- More than 60% of all individuals who reported an act of hate accepted care coordination services, including direct and ongoing support accessing legal aid or counseling.
- More than 75% of California’s counties were represented in the preliminary data, up from approximately 40% in the first month following the official launch.
- Among the reasons cited for the report of hate, race (27%) and ethnicity (18%) continued to be the most reported bias motivations, followed by religion (13%) and sexual orientation (11%).
- Approximately one in six reports were made by a witness or advocate. Most

## NETWORKING



## VETERAN NEWS

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## Truth & Reconciliation Commission San Diego Meeting December 15 - 16, 2023

Register with QR code.

reports were made by an individual who reported being targeted for an act of hate.

CA vs Hate is a non-emergency, multilingual hate crime and incident reporting hotline and online portal. Reports can be made anonymously by calling (833) 866-4283, or 833-8-NO-HATE, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT or online at any time. Hate acts can be reported in 15 different languages through the online portal and

in over 200 languages when calling the hotline. For individuals who want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or who are in imminent danger, please call 911. For more information on CA vs Hate, please visit [CAvsHate.org](https://CAvsHate.org).

You can find more information on UAHW, upcoming events, and ways to help drive change in your community online at <https://www.unitedagainsthateweek.org>.



~ On the Town with Camille ~

by Camille Appling

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Women PeaceMakers Fellowship

The University of San Diego hosted a powerful discussion this month about international women's empowerment. The event panel was introduced by



four-time Emmy Award winner Dr. Gayle Baker, who is an advocate for peace and diaspora studies. The evening was filled with harrowing stories of adversity and triumph through education. The participants included facilitator Brianna Maubi. The presenters included Sveto Muhammed Ishoq, a clear advocate and TEDx speaker who has revolutionized



the social justice arena with her studious work in women's empowerment through fashion and financial independence. Sveto, a proud Afghan woman, fights diligently for Muslim women's rights to education through the use of arts like storytelling and "awareness building" about Afghan women. She pleaded for the audience to not forget Afghanistan. Kay Soe of Burma has advocated for "peacebuilding and gender equality." Kay has worked to support victims of rape and human trafficking in the Burmese Region and elsewhere. Her dedication to humanity has been supported by studies including security research, international women's studies and peace studies. Her story of commitment is quite admirable. Lastly powerful businesswoman Shadi Rouh Shahbaz of Iran discussed important business and humanity efforts for Iran and International Friends. Shadi, who speaks five languages, pleaded for the safety of the Kurdish people who have encountered senseless crimes against humanity. The crimes against humanity cannot be accepted here in the United States or with our friends abroad. Stopping the hate of violence is key to supporting all of our humanity.

WorldBeat Center's Makeda Dread Honored with Home for Humanity Award



On October 29, 2023, the World Beat Center held the Home for Humanity award ceremony to honor humanitarian Makeda Dread and the World Beat Center. Makeda has supported her humane agenda by helping the community with heartfelt culturalism. Dr. Rama Mani was the co-convenor of Home for Humanity. Their goal is to foster leadership creation and the stability of housing nationally and internationally. Dr. Mani provided a powerful skit about the multicultural journey for problem solving and healing. The Native American group Red Warriors were also there to support the event with their powerful drum circle. I was so proud of the national and international agreeance for Makeda's award and the mission for humanity.

Tribal Nations' Flag Raising Ceremony Chairwoman Nora Vargas

On November 8, 2023, a powerful flag



raising ceremony took place at the County Administration Building, located at 1600 Pacific Highway. Erika Pinto, chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California



and the Kumeyaay Nation, introduced the event with a declarative land acknowledgement. Chairwoman Nora Vargas spoke valiantly of the county's responsibility to perform such an important flag raising in respect of Native American heritage and culture. District Attorney Summer Stephans attended as well. We received a special tribute of dance by the Native American group Bird Singers and Wayne Nelson. The attendees included highly welcomed national and international citizens of various races and religions. Native American Day brought the community closer by acknowledging our cultures' importance and the community's reverence.

Brindis Gala: Noche Tropicana MANA San Diego

This year's Brindis Gala was held at the Marriot Marquis Marina. The event was emceed by glorious immediate Past-President Venus Molina and President Claudia Rempel. The gala honored Latinas and the sacrifices they've made to be successful. The event supported Hermanitas, the young women's group. Its goal is to educate and train Latinas for careers and family. MANA has been supporting the community with their Hermanitas program and Latina Success Leadership Program (LSLP) for years. The honorable mayor Todd Gloria of San Diego and the distinguishable mayor Maria Salas of Chula Vista attended in support of MANA's longstanding community service and philanthropy. Youthful leadership like Yolanda Apalategui Lugo from District Attorney Summer Stephan's office and honorable Judges Rachel Cano and Marissa Bejarano were also in attendance, as well as credentialed City Attorney Mara Elliot. Brindis was carefully planned by the MANA de San Diego staff, including Executive Director Dr. Inez Gonzalez Perezchica, who is the director of operations and governance, Christine and Michelle Roberts and Community Relations and Events Manager Fernanda Canchola. The event brought together San

Diego's finest to promote social responsibility and support educational excellence for our MANA de San Diego.

Downtown Fellowship Servant Church of San Diego

This week, the Downtown Fellowship held its monthly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church on Date Street. The charismatic Chris Sandoval of the Servant Church of the Greater Barrio Logan Area shared his message of service and care for God's people. His church serves the homeless and assists with food and community care. The Servant Church helps the community with their mental health and spiritual care through their organization Alma Community Care in addition to the youth-based project STRONG Youth Outreach. The Multicultural Servant Church is covered by the Presbyterian Church of America and the Acts 29 Network. (Mathew 22:39, Jeremiah 29:7, Mark 10:43)

For more information, please visit ServantChurchSD.org

Biscuits, Grits and Politics



The Jacobs Center at 400 Euclid hosted the "Biscuits, Grits and Politics" breakfast held by our journalism friends at the Voice and Viewpoint. Dr. John Warren led the panel, which included district attorney Summer Stephans, who discussed the prevention of hate crimes and cultural sensitivity. I was able to discuss Indian Voices' Stop the Hate movement on the panel with the district attorney in support of her agenda for community safety. The meeting included experts from the multicultural community who facilitated communication to prevent hate crimes through education and the interruption of violence. The menu included biscuits, grits, fried fish, bacon, sausage, eggs, juice and coffee. Check Out the next event on Eventbrite!

Good Evening Bros.,

I'm calling on you for assistance with the MLK Harmony Health Festival. With this year's MLK Parade and 5k walk/run we've added a festival in Ruocco park and have dubbed it "Harmony Health Festival". We'd like to have heath care related vendors and/or speakers at this event. It will be held on Sunday Jan. 14th from 9:30 - 2pm. Please see the attached flyer, as well as a link to the website below.

If you are, or know of anyone in the health care field (doctors, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, exercise specialists, mental health, etc.) who may want to be involved, please share this information.

Ask:

1. Assist with outreach to obtain vendors and/or speakers.

- 2. Become a vendor and/or speaker with your organization.
- 3. If you know of any organizations who may want to sponsor this event, let us know.

4. Become a member of the committee to help create this event and bring it to life.

**Website:**  
[www.sandiegoalphas.com/sdmlkfestival](http://www.sandiegoalphas.com/sdmlkfestival)

Note, the theme of our MLK weekend events is "A healthy community thrives together!". It stems from this MLK quote.

*"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane."* – MLK March 1966

**Thanks, Brian E. Samuels**  
  
San Diego Alpha Foundation  
Vice President & MLK Parade Chairman  
Cell- 309-287-0215  
Parade Email: [SDMLKparade@sandiegoalphas.com](mailto:SDMLKparade@sandiegoalphas.com)



## NEWS

from San Diego North County By Linda Kallas

Miiyuyam (Hello to you all). The Valley Arts Festival was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, from 11 am to 4 pm at Heritage Park in Oceanside. What a fabulous day it was.

The weather was perfect as we welcomed the public to enjoy live entertainment, arts and craft booths, basketweaving, storytelling, fry bread, and drumming.

The festival's theme for this year was Spirit of the Valley, Circle of Life in celebration of the Luiseno people who have lived in this area for over 10,000 years. We opened with a land

acknowledgment and blessing from Mel Vernon, Captain of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, followed by the Dancing Cloud Drummers. Opening remarks were made from Julia Fister (Studio ACE), Office of Congressman Mike Levin, Assemblywoman Laurie Davies, Oceanside Mayor Esther Sanchez, Gwyn Grimes (Ex. Director Mission San Luis Rey).

The musicians included Spiritual Storm and Faustino Fredericks, who played the flutes, and Tracy Lee Nelson, who played the guitar and sang old rock and roll songs, and P.J. Fosselman performed traditional Native American bird songs. Elementary students from Pablo Tac Elementary School also sang "I Can See Clearly Now", and everyone really enjoyed the live entertainment.

The fry bread was a huge hit again with over 2,000 sold! Children and their

families were able to participate in making a necklace, painting a gourd, a scavenger hunt, free book from the library, chalk drawings of feathers, mural painting,

storytelling and making a basket. There were educational and history booths and tables, jewelry, skirts, and painted gourds for sale, and Mark Farris did a live traditional basket weaving demonstration all day. The California State Parks, Cleveland National Forest, and Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park were all present with

educational information.

The day was filled with joy and goodwill as I only saw smiles all day long. This was our third annual festival and, at least, 700-950 people attended. The sole purpose of this festival is to inform and engage the attendees about the Luiseno people and to share their heritage with future generations. This collaborative project included the Paa'ila Basket Weavers, Luiseno/CIBA table, San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Mission San Luis Rey, Muramid Art and Cultural Center, Oceanside Public Library, Pablo Tac Elementary School, Studio ACE, Oceanside Cultural Arts Foundation, and Floating Hearts Connections. The event Title Sponsor was Visit Oceanside. Partnership Sponsors were Edison and Oceanside Public Library.

It was truly a remarkable and memorable day.



## City of San Diego Planted New Trees in Sherman Heights on Kate Sessions Day

### Community event at Sherman Elementary school helps kick off San Diego's tree planting season

SAN DIEGO – On November 8, the City of San Diego, in collaboration with Tree San Diego, is planted trees in the Sherman Heights community to celebrate Kate Sessions Day and recognize the start of the tree planting season. November to May is considered the optimal time for tree planting in San Diego as these months bring more rain to the region and less chance of damage from the scorching sun, key benefits for newly planted trees.

The City of San Diego aims to plant 100,000 more trees by 2035 with 40,000 being planted in Communities of Concern, as identified through the City's Climate Equity Index. The City of San Diego recently secured a \$10 million grant

from U.S. Forest Service to plant thousands of new trees in parks and on City streets.

Kate Sessions was a botanist, horticulturalist and landscape architect who lived and worked in San Diego in the early 20th century. She was known as the "Mother of Balboa Park" and introduced hundreds of trees to the San Diego region, including the popular Jacaranda tree. Her legacy is celebrated on Kate Sessions Day, her birthday, every year.

San Diegans can join the effort to grow the City's urban canopy by planting trees on their properties. Residents can also request a tree be planted in the public right of way near their properties through the City's Free Tree SD program, which offers resources including tree maintenance schedules and information about the health benefits of trees.

## The General Public Has Begun to Notice The Corruption

by Jim Hightower

Wow! A couple of Supreme Court justices say they're now starting to think that maybe the Court should sorta start thinking about possibly, perhaps, someday adopting some sort of anti-corruption reforms.

This nine-member group of unelected, supremely powerful judges is allowed to make up its own rules of ethical behavior. So – Surprise! – they've chosen to have no code of conduct like all other top officials are expected to obey. Unsurprisingly, then, the justices feel free to accept financial payments (excuse me: "Bribes") from moneyed interests seeking favorable legal rulings from the supposedly-impartial Court.

But – oops – the general public has begun to notice the corruption, and public belief in the court's integrity has plummeted. Thus, one of the far-right Supremes, Amy Coney Barrett, is now supporting a vague veil of an ethics code

for her colleagues, even as she attests that all "are very committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct."

Seriously? Including the notorious money sleaze, Clarence Thomas?

But wait, even a progressive justice, Elena Kagan, joins in the charade that an ethical code might produce... well, ethics. Or, at least, political cover for the lack thereof. A code, she surmises, would "go far in persuading other people that we were adhering to the highest standards of conduct."

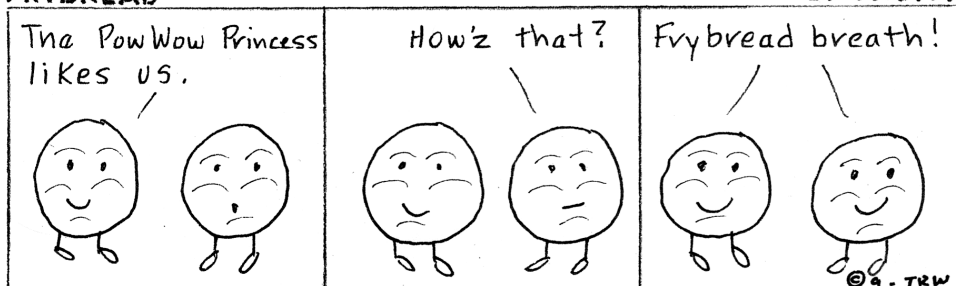
Hello – would you be persuaded? Yet, these "Supremes" won't even take the minimal step of adopting a simple code to measure basic integrity. "It would be a good idea for us to do it," Barrett meekly says. "It would be a good thing for the court to do that," Kagan echoes.

Stop it! Stop the pitiful posturing. There's only nine of you – you're in charge! Convene a Happy Hour, confront reality, and do the right thing! Just do it – I'll buy the beer.

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## NEWS

from Las Vegas/Nevada

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

## A Las Vegas Legacy's Homegoing

Former Assemblyman Harvey Munford traveled to the other side on October 26, 2023. With sorrow in my heart, Indian Voices considered this man a friend, but most of all, a true crusader for life and especially for the "The



Kena Adams & Assemblyman Munford-Carson City 2013

Historic Westside." Mr. Munford lived for over 30 years in West Las Vegas in the same house, which recently had the street named after him. The house he built was of education, civil rights, stewardess, and family. It was a place where the community could come together and celebrate the

westside culture. Munford's accomplishments were exemplary. He went from being a professional athlete to a Nevada State Assemblyman. I will always remember the long conversations I had with this soft-spoken giant who always had a smile on his face. This crusader will be missed, which was displayed in the immense amount of support and kind words at his homegoing on November 11, 2023. His family, State of Nevada representatives, and so many others whose lives he touched flooded the air with honor and respect for a man whose spirit will never die. Indian Voices sends condolences to his family and offers prayers of comfort during your time of need. A hero is gone, but he will live on at Harvey Munford Street until infinity. May you rest in eternal peace, Harvey Munford.

## Biden Welcomes Golden Knights to White House

On November 13, 2023, the Vegas Knights were welcomed to the White House by President Biden, who seemed excited about the event, which was evident in his enthusiastic welcome speech. Also in attendance were Nevada politicians, such as Catherine Cortez Masto D-NEV, Steven Horsford D-NEV, Susie Lee D-NEV and former Senator Harry Reid's family members. VK player Zach Whitecloud stated, "This is something I thought I would never be able to do. It was awesome!" Captain Mark Stone looked somewhat nervous, as did some of the VK players as well, who wouldn't be nervous as they stood in front of the president with the Stanley Cup on display as Biden remarked about how the Vegas Knights went from an expansion franchise to Stanley Cup Champions in a six year "transformation." Las Vegas is doing big

things in the sports world. We can now be proud to hold the title of the sports and entertainment capital of the world. Vegas is booming; it's almost hard to keep up because we're moving so fast.

## 2023 Indigenous American Heritage Celebration

Sunday November 13, 2023

Water Street Plaza in Henderson hosted a tribute to Native America through an art, dance and cultural exchange with the 2023 Indigenous American Heritage celebration. The celebration included pow wows, hoop dancers, bird singers and Danza Azteca.



Photo: KSNV news3lv.com Water Street Plaza Native Event

Our local Las Vegas Paiute artist and activist Fawn Douglas was there. She educated others on the Southern Paiute culture and displayed some her beautiful artwork. Fawn owns an Nuwu Arts and Activism Studio in Las Vegas. She has made history as the first Native, female owned art gallery in the Huntridge neighborhood. Nuwu was also a sponsor for this event. With the help of her partner A.B. Wilkenson, they took two old buildings and turned them into the Nuwu Art Gallery. Besides the family fun events, locals were invited to participate with the dancers and artists at the event. It was a perfect day to celebrate Indigenous culture in Nevada.

## Tupac Shakur Murder Suspect Duane Davis Pleads Not Guilty During Twice-Delayed Arraignment

Duane Davis was indicted on one count of open murder with use of a deadly weapon.

Davis, who is accused of orchestrating the murder of rapper Tupac Shakur, pleaded not guilty to murder during his arraignment in November.

Davis' arraignment was delayed twice as he sorted out his representation. Davis, who was handcuffed and dressed in a blue jumpsuit, said in a Las Vegas court in early November that he had not retained his own counsel. He was appointed a public defender and waived his right to a speedy trial. He is next scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 7.

The state said it does not plan to pursue the death penalty in the murder case. Davis asked Judge Tierra Jones for clarification after she inquired if prosecutors were "taking this to death review."

## Hate Crimes up 20% in California 2022 Report

Reported hate crimes increased in California in 2022, including instances of violence motivated by bias, according to state data released Tuesday.

Hate crimes involving racism against Black people, as well as homophobia and anti-Semitism, all rose last year, compared with 2021 data.

Overall hate crime events — which officials say are likely underreported — increased 20%. Crimes targeting Black people in California remain the most widespread and rose 27.1% — from 513 in 2021 to 652 in 2022 — in the aftermath of the country's racial reckoning following George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police officers in 2020.

But anti-Asian bias events decreased by 43.3% in 2022, from 247 in 2021 to 140, after major increases in past years following the emergence of the coronavirus in China.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the figures Tuesday during a news conference in Los Angeles. The California Department of Justice has collected and reported statewide data on hate crimes since 1995.

Two percent in 2022, up from from 1,763 in 2021 to 2,120. "This report is a stark reminder that there is still much work to be done to combat hate in our state," Bonta said in a news release. "An attack against one of us is an attack against all of us. The alarming increases in crimes committed against Black, LGBTQ+ and Jewish people for the second year in a row illustrates the need for our communities to join together unified against hate."

A hate crime is motivated by the victim's gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Hate incidents such as name calling are not necessarily criminal.

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Henry Wallace and his crew. Captain Morgan Lee headlines International Blues and Jazz Festival in Sonora, Mexico.

Read all about it in the December issue of *Indian Voices* featuring Henry's new column.

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## Major Rainforest Nations Agree to Work Together to Save Biodiversity



Two-thirds of the land-based biodiversity and 80 percent of the tropical forests in the world are located in three tropical forest basins: Congo, Amazon and Asia-Pacific. These rainforest ecosystems also provide the livelihoods for more than a billion people, a press release from WWF said.

Last week, government officials and heads of state met for three days in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, for the Three Basins Summit to discuss collaboration on ending deforestation and protecting, restoring and sustainably managing these essential and irreplaceable ecosystems.

While the Three Basins nations agreed to cooperate on conservation, an official alliance was not formed, according to a press release from WWF.

“Tropical forests are rich in biodiversity and significant culturally and economically for people globally. But they continue to face threats from deforestation and forest degradation,” said Fran Price, WWF Global Forests Lead, in the press release. “The Three Basins Summit provided a good start on important discussions about the future of these forests and the

solutions that are needed to address the challenges they face, but we are disappointed that it did not result in an Alliance of the three basins, as hoped.”

The summit, which concluded on Saturday, was hosted by the Republic of the Congo and was attended by NGOs, officials from the finance sector and technical experts, in addition to presidents and other government officials, reported Reuters.

“We’ve realised that joining forces is an absolute necessity, and we’ve recognised that the initiative to unite the three basins is part of an inevitable dynamic,” said Arlette Soudan-Nonault, environment minister for the Republic of the Congo, as Reuters reported.

Troves of plant and animal biodiversity and carbon sequestration, tropical forests

are being destroyed at a rapid pace, releasing carbon dioxide and contributing to the climate crisis.

A report released last month by a group of environmental organizations showed deforestation worldwide increased four percent last year, moving further away from a commitment made to end forest loss and restore hundreds of millions of acres of degraded forest and terrestrial landscapes by 2030.

At the summit, policymakers and experts discussed their priorities, as well as possibilities for funding for the preservation of ecosystems in developing countries in the lead up to the UN COP28 climate talks next month in Dubai.

“We are encouraged by the commitments made at this summit. The governments of the three basins must now use this renewed momentum to foster concrete action to restore forests, bolster scientific and technical cooperation, stop and reverse biodiversity loss and adopt measures to address the climate crisis. These forests are essential for the livelihoods and cultural identity of tens of millions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The leadership of countries across the three basins will be key to ensuring we have a liveable planet for future generations,” said Dr. Martin Kabaluapa, WWF director for the Congo

Basin, in the press release.

The Republic of the Congo signed a plan with the European Union for a partnership on forests with the goal of increasing the amount that is restored, protected or sustainably managed by 2030, which would reduce the rate of forest loss and create more jobs, reported Reuters.

Yustina Lina Dina Wambrauw, lecturer at State University of Papua, Indonesia, said collaboration with and input by Indigenous Peoples is essential to the preservation and maintenance of the region’s tropical forests.

“The protection of tropical rainforest ecosystems in the Three Basins will succeed if we include the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who live inside it as main actors. The forest is a sacred home for many Indigenous Peoples and local communities who have been managing it sustainably to live there for generations after generations. For Indigenous Peoples, the forest and the community are interconnected; therefore, the survival of our people is dependent on the longevity of the forest, the full cover of the rainforest canopy, and the availability of food and natural medicines that the forest provides,” Wambrauw said in the press release.

## City of San Diego Launches Recruitment Effort for Next Police Chief

**Community Forums Will Gather Public Input; Current Police Chief David Nisleit To Retire In 2024**

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is kicking off a robust process to recruit and hire a new Chief of Police for the San Diego Police Department (SDPD), which will include a thorough outreach and community engagement effort to give San Diegans a voice in the hiring process along with a national search for a diverse pool of applicants who reflect the City’s priorities.

“I’m grateful to Chief Nisleit for his decades of dedicated service and his steady leadership of the department over the past five years,” said Mayor Todd Gloria. “As we launch the search for his

successor, we’ll look to community stakeholders to help us select someone with great integrity and a passion for public service who’s similarly committed to ensuring San Diego remains one of America’s safest big cities.”

San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit, who was promoted to the top position in 2018, officially announced his retirement on Monday and will complete his service in June 2024. Nisleit joined SDPD in 1988, following in the footsteps of his father, who also had a long career as a police officer with the department.

“It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the City of San Diego during my 36 years with the San Diego Police Department,” said Nisleit. “Over the next seven months, I’m committed to

continuing the great progress we’ve made toward keeping San Diego one of the safest big cities, and look forward to transitioning the department into the hands of the top-tier candidate who is selected to serve as the next police chief.”

Bob Murray & Associates has been awarded the contract to handle the recruitment process for a new police chief, with the goal of having the new chief hired and on board in time for Nisleit’s departure. The firm specializes in executive recruitment for government positions, including law enforcement.

The recruitment for qualified candidates begins today and the effort will include input from community members throughout the City, key stakeholders and City officials. Community forums will be held in each of San Diego’s nine City Council districts beginning in January.

All San Diegans and community groups are invited to provide input on the ideal qualities and characteristics the new chief should embody. Language interpretation and translation services will be provided during the community forums and an online survey will be created to increase access for those who cannot attend.

Candidates will undergo a series of interviews including one conducted by a panel of community leaders nominated by City Councilmembers and the Mayor.

The process to hire a new Chief of Police, outlined in Council Policy 300-08, calls for the Mayor to appoint a candidate to be confirmed by the City Council. For more information on the recruitment process and upcoming community meetings, please visit the City’s Police Chief Recruitment webpage.



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Senegal

Continued from page 7

We’ve been to more than 30 countries, so we know how to get our bearings and find our way around. But Amar was having none of it. The teraanga kicked in, and before we knew it, he had made arrangements for a taxi to get us to our hotel, paid and tipped the driver, given us his WhatsApp number and insisted that we call him so he could take us to dinner later in the week. Southern hospitality and African hospitality all rolled up in one. Amazing!

One of the largest monuments in Africa is the “Monument de la Renaissance Africaine” (African Renaissance Monument) located in the Capital City of Senegal, Dakar. It stands 52 meters (171 feet) tall, making it taller than a 15-story building.

It is an amazing and imposing structure, shaped in the stature of a man, carrying his small child on his shoulder and pulling his woman alongside him as they move into the future.

This monumental 49-metre-high bronze statue in the capital Dakar was meant to symbolize the triumph of African liberation and rival the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower as a tourist destination. (Africa News, The story behind Senegal’s African Renaissance Monument - 2/27/2020.)

The monument has a garden surrounding it and several museums inside. There is an observation deck at the top with a panoramic view of the city and the Atlantic Ocean. The monument was designed by the Senegalese architect Pierre Goudiaby.

The monument has different entry fees for folks from different places. If we had spoken French or Wolof or any of the other indigenous languages, we might have passed for Senegalese. Alas, we do not speak any of those languages well enough to pass. But when the wonderful young brother at the ticket gate asked us where we were from, he told us, “You are Africans who are just returning home” and he gave us the African discounted price for entry. The visit was well worth any price.

A testament to teraanga was the young lady from Senegal, who lives in the Netherlands, who was back in Senegal to visit family. She translated the entire tour inside the monument from French to English for us (There is no tour in English.). Through three or four different levels, each with its own unique museum, the young lady walked with us and helped us understand the depth of importance and historical significance of what we were experiencing while the tour guide ran it all down in French.

As Karma would have it, because she was translating for us, the tour guide allowed her to ride with us in the elevator to the top of the monument, even though she didn’t have a ticket. Everyone treats everyone else like family, which, after all, we are.

Senegal hosts the Museum of Black Civilizations. As with any museum, it is

filled with more important historical and cultural artifacts than can be discussed in a short discourse. Suffice it to say that they are frank about their history.

Importantly, at least for me, was the display paying homage to all the women in Africa who before and now play important roles in African government. More than 20 women have served as heads of state in Africa. The United States has yet to have a female head of state. What are we waiting for?

There is also too much to say about Goree Island, the end of the line port on the western-most point on the African continent. Here untold numbers of Africans were held and herded onto slave ships bound for the Americas.

Our guide on Goree, Abou Sall, told us that when there is a mixed crowd of Blacks and whites listening to the Goree “griot” tell the history of the Goree slave trade. At the end, virtually all of the white people clap, and virtually all of the Black people cry.

No matter when or where we went in Dakar, we never felt threatened or ill at ease. There was constant hustle and bustle. People were going about their business, taking care of business. Needless to say, it was amazing to be Black in a country where nearly everyone was Black. Everywhere we looked, we saw people who looked like people we know. Like being around family and friends.

The climax of our trip was when Amar picked us up from in front of the Monument de la Renaissance Africaine and drove us to one of his favorite local places to eat. It was an open-air restaurant right on the beach. We arrived as the sun was setting; it was warm, and there was a perfect breeze.

The place was full. Two of Amar’s sisters met us there, and we shared a large plate of five different kinds of fresh-caught fish, prepared in the traditional “yassa” fashion with rice, potatoes and vegetables. The word yassa is derived from the Wolof word yaxa, which means “to cook in a sauce of onions.” It’s delicious. (we had food yassa style several times while in Senegal.)

Near the end of the meal, there was a sudden strong breeze and, as if on cue, in an instant, everyone was up and moving quickly for cover. It was the rainy season, and that breeze meant rain. In a matter of minutes, it was pouring down rain! We ran under a canopy outside one of the stores nearby while Amar got the car, and he took us safely back to our hotel.

Our first trip to west Africa (we’ve been to Egypt) was a wonderful cultural and spiritual renewal and has solidified my desire to see more of the land of my family’s origin and the origin of all of humanity. We are planning trips to Benin and Nigeria next year. Start saving now and come with us. Help us write the story of the Africans who have come home. And share the love and teraanga. Peace.



Obsidian Reflection

by April Nurse

The end of the year draws close, and as the temperature drops and the time changes, nature calls us to pause and reflect. In the world of grit, few minerals are as helpful or exemplary in this slow reflection as obsidian.

This volcanic rock is more akin to glass. Formed by volcanic eruptions that cool so quickly no crystalline structure can develop; it’s often found in mounds and chunks. Historic use takes advantage of its reflectivity and its brittle nature. Sharp shards became knives and the best arrowheads. Larger pieces became the most desirable mirrors. Those who practice the old ways still tell of black glass mirrors used to see into the future. When properly polished, this black glass allows for a deep look at oneself in a way that modern mirrors simply can’t replicate. Reflection without the distortion of modern lenses can play a powerful hand in gaining perspective.

Working obsidian is one of my favorite transformation stories. We hand a student a dull black rock, and they come back with a new treasure. Hours of frustration later, they discover bands of brilliant green and pink or translucent gray stripes, sparkles of gold, or sprinkles of pink and white. It’s a journey. You never know what you’ll see until you dive a little deeper under the surface.

Obsidian is often the first stone we use to teach lapidary/polishing skills. It’s

relatively easy to cut and requires a slow steady hand to polish to a high sheen. It teaches us to find imperfections by engaging our senses. Listening to the sound of the wheels tells us if more or less pressure is needed. Touching to feel the differences in textures and finishes, watching the way the light bends as the piece rotates, studying for scratches or differences in color, etc; it’s an experience, one we must be fully present for. Carelessly handled glass will shatter, and no shard is sharper than that of obsidian.

The thing about glass, even volcanic glass, is that getting it to shine requires work. The smallest scratches, smudges and scrapes draw all the attention and reduce its reflective capacity. It can be frustrating, but after a little experience, the eyes start to coordinate with the hands to either enhance natural imperfections or smooth them out to refine the surface. It’s not unlike our own reality. Looking back on the past isn’t easy or always pleasant, but seeing the past as skills honed for future use certainly helps. It might take a few tries, but after some practice, it gets easier.

I hope that, as winter draws near and the days grow short, you find some time to rest and reflect. If you aren’t ready to peer into the future, that’s ok! Keeping a chunk of obsidian might just be a reminder that you’ve conquered more than you’ve given yourself credit for! Perhaps, it’ll serve as a pause to dust off the lessons learned and skills acquired over the past few years and be grateful. Or if you prefer, obsidian may serve as a symbol of transformation; that something so violent and earth changing as a volcanic eruption yields the most beautiful treasure. In any case, take a moment to yourself; you deserve it.

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## Oceti Sakowin Power Authority



Oceti Sakowin Power Authority (OSPA) has been working to establish and develop natural wind resources for over ten years. Their plans are now becoming reality with \$7 million in financing from Native American Bank and collaborative efforts with six other Sioux nations, tech giant Apple, and several other collaborators. While the unique capital arrangement presented a challenge for Native American Bank, ultimately, the project will move forward with plans to produce two Gigawatts of emissions-free electricity with a capacity to generate up to 60 GW of power on tribal lands.

The massive project will support economic growth, create numerous job opportunities, generate tax revenue, and create permanent high-skilled careers while reducing energy costs for tribal communities. The coming together of multiple tribal nations with Native American Bank's unique expertise has brought this project to life!

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