

## Community Gathers to Pay Tribute to Randy Edmonds as He Relocates to Seminole Land

by Danielle Bartelli Oldfield

Randy Edmonds and his wife, Bonnie, were celebrated by the Native Community in a send off gathering at Southern Indian Health Center Saturday, August 19th. Randy and his family will soon start a new chapter in Hollywood, Florida. Many members of the community journeyed to this event to see Randy off. Food was shared and stories were told. Drums played and voices were raised in song. Many people paid meaningful tributes to both Randy and Bonnie.

Randy opened the gathering with a blessing over the food. In his prayer he asked that we remember Lahaina, Maui, and he asked for the people and the land to be healed. He also thanked and blessed people who had traveled far and wide to celebrate.

While a slide show was projected in the background, Larry Edmonds, Randy's son, provided details about many of the photographs. The images included pictures from Randy's childhood, Randy as a young athlete, family memories, pow wow events, a Presidential Inauguration, and even a red-carpet event with Oprah and John Legend. For those who didn't know, Randy won an Emmy Award for the animated story, "Crow, the Legend". Even with all those photos and explanations, most people knew the list of Randy's accomplishments was far from complete.

Many in the community are familiar with Randy's story. Randy (Kiowa,



Randy and Bonnie Edmonds from the Great Kumeyaay Nation to the Great Seminole Nation.

Caddo) moved to Los Angeles from Oklahoma as part of the Indian Relocation Program in the 1950's. While working in LA, Randy realized the need for Urban Indians, many who like himself longed for cultural traditions, to

gather and revitalize them. These Native groups had relocated to California, but decided to work together, share their stories, play their songs, make crafts, and carry out traditions. Randy drew the people together and he continued to do so when he came to San Diego.

Randy again recognized the needs of Native People. He started the Indian Human Resource Center, he served as an advisor to local and national governments on Native American Issues, and he became "The Voice" of the pow wow. Most pow wow attendees recognize Randy's deep beautiful voice (and special brand of humor) at pow wows near and far. Randy is known particularly for the Balboa Pow Wow which he started so Native artisans could showcase and sell their work.

Drummers, dancers, food vendors, honored guests, and non-natives all gained something from the experience. Randy believes it is crucial that people know that "We are still here!"

Many in the sendoff group close to Randy and Bonnie, stood to share

SEE **Randy Edmonds**, page 14

## Ethnic Media - CA Black Media Form Powerful Partnership With Grassroots to Save Democracy and the Fourth Estate

*Elegant Convention held in Sacramento*

by Rose Davis

It is indeed gratifying and rewarding to receive awards and recognition from one's peers, especially if those peers are fellow journalists. Journalists hold a unique and, arguably, sacred position in our democracy as representatives and voices of the people. With this distinction comes an enormous responsibility and obligation to meticulously and accurately reflect community consciousness, awareness, and perception. This is the foundation of our freedom as a society.

As we evolve as a species, technology and futuristic advances in the media have presented an intellectually seductive arena to distract serious journalists from their primary focus of keeping a pulse on the

community, which is growing and developing beyond their observation. Add to this the predatory political players who look to build a power base that excludes the general public, and we are faced with a toxic formula that threatens our very democracy.

It cannot be denied that the mainstream American media has abandoned the common citizen in favor of corporate control and ratings. The consequence has been disastrous, not only to conscientious journalists, but also to the very fabric of our society. This flaw inevitably affects our image globally, as well as domestically. World leaders no

longer feel obligated to hold the line of civility and decorum because they are not held to any level of scrutiny by the journalists, who should be demanding accountability.

The world's stage has turned into a platform for pathetic, egomaniacal power mongers. Statesmanship has



Photo by Corrie Martin, AsAmNews

taken a back seat to lying, allowing imposters to win congressional seats. At home, our political debates are reduced to a theatrical performance equivalent to a high school civics version of "America's Got Talent."

Our religious institutions are under

SEE **Ethnic Media**, page 3

### In this issue...

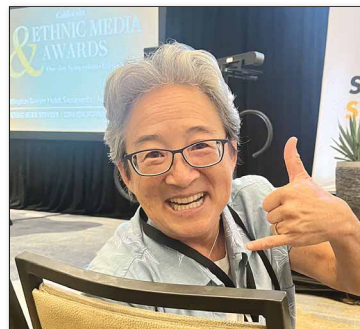
- 1 Tribute to Randy Edmonds  
Ethnic Media Awards
- 2 Tribute to Abel Silvas  
Documenters
- 3 Black Tech Fundraiser  
Native American Bank
- 4 Culture of Racism  
San Quentin News

- 5 Native Women Intertribal Circle  
Indigenous Language  
Post Cards for Nov 7 Election  
Big Money Sucks
- 6 BBIA
- 7 Press Forward  
IV Award  
SD Press Club

- Next Gen Radio
- 8-9 World Beat Center
- 10 Hawaiian History Month  
Honolulu Pow Wow
- 11 On the Town with Camille  
Indigenous Story Tellers  
We Can't Drink Gold
- 12 News From North County"

- New Garden in City Heights  
Suicide Prevention Month
- 13 News from Las Vegas
- 14 GRIT/METAL  
South American South  
Happenings in Soboba
- 15 Armed Forces Chamber Command
- 16 California Teachers Association





## Tribute to Abel Silvas (Running Grunion) 1960-2023



It is with remorse and deep regret that *Indian Voices* received the news of the passing of our good friend and colleague Abel Silvas. This

accomplished artist and performer inspired imagination, spontaneity, and lightheartedness when collaborating with our project.

Abel Silvas was killed recently when the car he was driving struck a tree. No one else was in the car, and there were no other injuries. He was 63 years old. His family is arranging a memorial service in late September with details to follow.

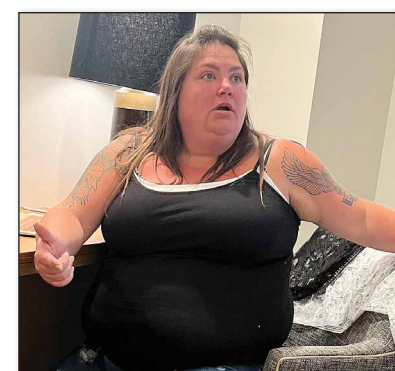
Abel was well-known throughout San Diego as a theatrical and innovative community activist and involved cultural entertainer. Among his many

accomplishments:

- In the mid-eighties, he created and directed ballet pieces.
- He was widely known as a comedian, a storyteller, and a mime. He performed his one-man show "Running Grunion" in India, Europe, Mexico and South America and was invited by the Smithsonian Institution to perform at the National Museum of the American Indian in NYC. He trained under world-famous mime Marcel Marceau at the University of Michigan.
- He was a Fullbright-Hays scholar and studied briefly in Paris.

He worked as a Native American monitor on archeological sites and served as a tribal council member of the Acjachemen/Juañeno tribe of Southern California.

Abel Silvas was an inspirational cultural icon who walked a path of folly and wisdom, while setting a high bar for all aspiring to carry on in his name.



## The *inews*source Documenters Program

On Friday September 15 we recognized U.S. Democracy Day, an annual collaborative effort among American media companies to draw attention to the state of democracy.

This seemed like a perfect time to announce our latest effort to protect and preserve local democracy. We're launching the San Diego County Documenters, a program that will pay and train local residents to take notes on public meetings and publish the results.

As our CEO and Editor Lorie Hearn writes, "many urgent, local issues are aired and decided at public meetings, often without oversight by the local media, which has been painfully shrinking ... This is where you come in."

The examples set by Documenters programs in 11 other cities give us confidence and excitement for what's to come.



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# (BPRW) Elevate, Innovate, Celebrate: 2023 Black Tech Gala Fundraising and Awards Ceremony Shines a Spotlight on Tech Innovation and Impact

## Showcasing Black Tech Professionals Lighting the Path to a Brighter Future

(Black PR Wire) The Power of Technology Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a leading advocate for promoting diversity and inclusion in the tech industry and is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Annual Black Tech Gala Fundraising and Awards Ceremony, aimed at raising awareness about tech diversity amongst business and career professionals. Global tech pioneers and entrepreneurs Jamila Brown and Cameron Hairston founded the Power of Technology Foundation Inc to help address the critical issues of underrepresentation in the tech industry. Brown and Hairston's goal are to advise and educate the community while helping to increase the participation of women and minorities in the fast-growing field of technology. The gala will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the InterContinental Hotel in Buckhead - Atlanta, and promises to be a captivating evening of elegance filled with inspiration, recognition, networking, and community-building.

In today's rapidly evolving world, it is vital to address the need for increased diversity in the technology sector. The Black Tech Gala is a platform designed to

bring together professionals, industry leaders, and advocates to champion diversity, equity, and inclusion in tech. By highlighting the contributions and achievements of underrepresented individuals, the gala aims to foster an inclusive environment that nurtures innovation and empowers diverse voices in the tech industry.

This will be an elegant night of fun, live entertainment, dining, dancing, and of course fundraising to help support the black community in bringing more awareness about technology and career opportunities. Additionally, there will be panel discussions with leading experts sharing insights, best practices, and success stories on fostering diversity in the tech sector. One of the key highlights of the gala will be the presentation of the Power of Technology Awards, honoring individuals and companies who have made exceptional contributions to advancing diversity awareness in the tech field. These prestigious awards will recognize outstanding achievements in promoting underrepresented communities and inspiring change.

The Black Tech Gala will also serve as an opportunity to raise funds to support the Power of Technology Foundation's ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing

tech diversity awareness. The funds raised through this event will enable the organization to continue providing scholarships, mentorship programs, and training opportunities for aspiring tech professionals from underrepresented backgrounds. "We are delighted to host our Annual Black Tech Gala Fundraising and Awards Ceremony to further our mission of fostering tech diversity awareness.", said Brown. "By bringing together industry leaders, professionals, and advocates, we aim to ignite meaningful conversations and catalyze positive change within the tech sector. Together, we can create an inclusive ecosystem that empowers and celebrates diverse talent." The Black Tech Gala is open to professionals, industry leaders, organizations, and individuals passionate about driving change in the tech industry.

By attending this event, participants will have the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, gain valuable insights, and contribute to the movement for increased diversity and inclusion in technology. Please consider joining us at this exemplifying event.

For more information including ticket purchases, sponsorship opportunities, or partnership details for the Black Tech Gala, please visit [www.blacktechgala.com](http://www.blacktechgala.com) or email us at [sponsors@blacktechgala.com](mailto:sponsors@blacktechgala.com).

**BACKGROUND** - The Power of Technology Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) organization specializing in bringing technology career awareness and economic development for underserved local and global communities. We provide community events, training, supplies, computer equipment, scholarships, donations, volunteer mentoring hours to help with the growing digital transformation and resources to support aspiring tech professionals from underrepresented communities.

## Ethnic Media

Continued from page 1

attack as extreme evangelicals have terrorized Jesus. Our youth are falling victim to fentanyl, and mental health is a number one medical issue. Yet the issue of the age of the president and other trivial matters secure the headlines. And tragically, we have lost our sense of humor.

Ultimately, the fault lies with the journalist community which has not yet found the fortitude and professional combative backbone to stand up to these forces. Shame on us.

Fortunately, we still live in a democracy and have the opportunity to turn the tide. The gathering of the Ethnic Media Conference provided the perfect venue to surgically analyze and examine and find solutions to the issues plaguing modern-day media and journalism at a cellular level. The underlying diagnosis is that the Mainstream Elite Legacy Media journalists have dropped the ball, especially those closest to the seat of power. The trickle-down effect is that our democracy is threatened, and the erosion of people's rights has already begun. It is the role of journalists to sound the alarm.

As representatives of the will of the people, we are the conduit through which information flows. When oppression begins to intrude, it is the journalist's role to recognize and report on this. Our words cannot be gerrymandered, unless we allow them to be. Our stories cannot be ignored or distorted, unless we allow them to be. Our freedoms cannot be taken away, unless we allow them to be. When the flow of information is tampered with, our freedom is tampered with. It is our solemn duty and obligation to protect the flow of information from the bottom up if our democracy is to be preserved. Those who feel immune from this reality are delusional and doomed to live in a bubble of cosmetic, corporate opulence, leading to stressful anxiety, which keeps Big Pharma and Artificial Intelligence in business.

Telling the truth can be treacherous and dangerous. Power politics is a blood sport, and dealing in that arena requires

savvy and shrewdness rarely taught in journalism school. Journalists must come together and work in unison like individual fingers making a fist, a quote from Chauncey Bailey that Sandy Close often references.

The convention took place at the Sawyer Hotel, less than a block away from the Capital Mall where governors, senators, and various decision makers meet to discuss important issues that affect Californians and the rest of America. No doubt the media was a hot topic circulating in the halls as Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber, opened the award ceremony. The US Census director Robert L. Santos was in attendance along with the Department of Civic Engagement, Department of Healthcare Services, and the Department of Aging and Ableism. Functionaries from the governor's office were there to strategize with the people to open up corridors of influence.

As the program and presentations progressed to a close, the Indigenous Science of keeping it real was in play. The presenters abandoned all manner of traditional protocol and brought the message down to barefoot reality.

The underlying subliminal message bubbled through — If the media elite and journalists don't begin to exercise their obligation to more forcefully stand up to the power elite and fulfill their obligation to the people, our democracy is in peril.

Grassroots journalists have a patriotic duty to reach out to our mainstream legacy media colleagues who seem captive in the psych trap of income, ratings, and power, guarded by corporate overlords, which detracts them from stepping up their interviewing skills so that they can word-grapple with adversaries in a way that will make us proud.

In attendance at the invitation of the Ancestors were the spirits of Harriett Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Crazy Horse, and all of the icons of indigenous intellectual honesty who are guiding us toward a Fourth Estate with all of the power to overcome earthy obstacles and human ignorance and lead us to the GREAT LAW OF PEACE!



  
**CHIEF SEATTLE CLUB**

Native Americans account for approximately 1% of the population but a staggering 15% of those experiencing homelessness\*. The Chief Seattle Club is meeting this critical need with financial services from Native American Bank.

The Chief Seattle Club, founded in 1970, is a registered human service agency dedicated to physically and spiritually supporting Native individuals in urban areas, many of whom experience homelessness and unique challenges in an ever-changing urban landscape.

In 2021, Native American Bank provided a \$1 million revolving line of credit, which was used to mobilize and bridge reimbursement requests related to a \$10 million Washington State Department of Commerce Housing Assistance grant. The grant was part of an Emergency Rental Assistance program requiring that at least 90% of the funds would be used for direct financial assistance, such as rent, utilities, and other allowable housing expenses.

In King County, Washington, which includes Seattle, Native Americans account for approximately 1% of the population but a staggering 15% of the population of those experiencing homelessness and 32% of those experiencing chronic homelessness.\* The Chief Seattle Club exists to build a future where Native Americans are safe, healthy, housed, and connected to a support system that respects and celebrates indigenous cultures.

Native American Bank senior staff toured housing facilities and participated in a community service project to support the important work of the Chief Seattle Club. We are proud to provide financial services and assistance to such a critical and impactful program.

\*As of April 2022, according to HUD USER data





## Indigenous Have Faced A Culture Of Racism And Discrimination That Goes Back Centuries

By María G. Ortiz-Briones | *The Fresno Bee*

When California's Central Valley leaders of Mixteco origin learned about the racist comments made by three Latinos on the Los Angeles City Council regarding the Oaxacan Indigenous community in October 2022, they were not surprised.

After all, those insults against the indigenous are nothing new and are part of a culture of racism and discrimination that goes back centuries.

"We have always experienced discrimination and oppression from Latinos themselves," said Oralia Maceda, program director of El Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño in Spanish in October.

### Culture of racism

Hugo Morales, co-founder and executive director of Radio Bilingüe, said culturally, discrimination and racism against indigenous people is something that has taken place since colonial times when white people invaded and conquered México and Latin América "instilling their own culture of racism."

The 74-year-old Morales, who is of Mixteco descent, said after the Spaniards invaded México and Latin América, they wrote a legal code of hierarchy placing pure whites from Spain at the highest order above Blacks and native Americans.

"That was literally part of the legal system in colonial times throughout, you know, Latin América that was ruled by Spain, which is most of the Américas," Morales said. "So, you know, that racism was embedded there."

The racist, anti-indigenous comments by Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martínez, along with Councilmembers Gil Cedillo and Kevin de León, among others, were caught on audio and leaked near Columbus Day. The holiday is referred by Morales and other indigenous as the "the anniversary of (Christopher) Columbus' march of colonization and genocide."

Recently, Columbus Day has increasingly been replaced with Indigenous Peoples' Day, which honors and celebrates the history and culture of indigenous people of the Américas.

"We are in the commemoration of 530 years of resistance of our Indigenous

communities and we are still experiencing those bad experiences that we have as (Indigenous) communities," said Maceda, who is of Mixteco origin.

In the leaked audio, councilmembers refer disparagingly to the appearance of immigrants from Oaxaca, calling them ugly, short, and dark-skinned.

California is home to about 350,000 Indigenous Oaxacans, who are mainly concentrated in the Central Valley, the southern part of the state and the Monterey area, according to a 2016 study by USC and the Mexican research institute El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

Racism and discrimination can evolve to hate speech and hate crimes. State officials have noted an increase in hate crimes in recent years among all ethnicities and sexual orientation.

The indigenous have been discriminated against because of their language, culture, stature, dress or indigenous features they have.

"I think that racism among Mexican mixed bloods is so deep that it doesn't matter how a person dresses," said Morales, adding that people find a way to discriminate.

For example, the Monterey County community of Greenfield, where about one in three residents are Oaxacan indigenous migrants, made the news in 2011 when national media reported an "ugly conflict" between long-time Latino residents and Oaxacan newcomers who spoke their own languages, and kept their own customs such as arranged marriages to daughters still in their teens.

Latinos, mostly Mexican Americans, were unhappy with the new immigrants and presented a series of escalating grievances against the Oaxacans to the city council, social media sites and the local newspaper.

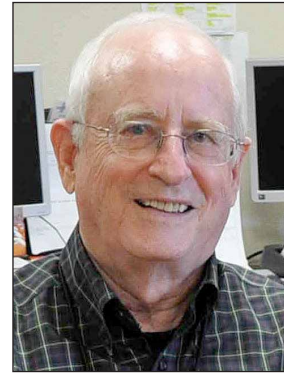
Elsa Mejía, the first Mixteca elected to a U.S. city council, has endured slurs like those made by Los Angeles leaders since childhood.

"It didn't stop when I was a child. It happened in social settings as a teenager. It happened in the workplace and it continues to happen," Mejía said.

At one entry level job, the manager who was Mexican called Mejía "Indita" (Little Indian.) and nobody said anything about it.

SEE **Indigenous Racism**, page 15

## The San Quentin News



Steve McNamara

Ralph Nader welcomed newspaper publisher, Steve McNamara, to discuss the "San Quentin News," California's largest inmate-run newspaper

and the birthplace of the San Quentin News Forum— where incarcerated men and visiting police, attorneys, and judges share their perspectives on the criminal justice system.

Steve McNamara is a newspaper publisher, editor, and reporter. He has previously written for and edited the Winston-Salem Journal, The Miami Herald, Car and Driver magazine, and the San Francisco Examiner. From 1966 to 2004 Steve and his wife, Kay McNamara, published the Pacific Sun—the country's second-oldest alternative weekly newspaper— and Steve has served as president of the California Society of Newspaper Editors and as founding president of the National Association of Alternative Media. In 2008 he helped revive the San Quentin News— a newspaper written and edited by incarcerated men at San Quentin Prison— and continues to work

as a volunteer adviser at the paper.

The recidivism rate among the inmates is zero... And actually, the problem that we have is the turnover is terrific because they keep getting paroled or serving their sentence.

Prisons are little empires and the emperor is the warden, and what he decides goes. And many, if not most of the other wardens in California wanted no part of this damn newspaper. So we had a lot of trouble getting it distributed. But by now it's become very popular with the inmates throughout the state, and with many of the correctional officers as well. Because we've made some intelligent decisions. One was to write the personality profiles of some of the better correctional officers and of the programs that take place in the prison.

Most people in the criminal justice system think that it goes this way: somebody breaks into a house, and then they get caught, and they go before a judge, and they get sentenced, and they disappear. And as far as many, many people in the criminal justice system are concerned, that's the end of it. These people have disappeared. We don't need to worry about them any more. But as everybody should know, 80-90% of them will be back on the streets... So do you want these guys to have the same sort of attitude about life as they did when they went into prison? If not, here's a chance maybe to move things in a better direction.

visit:

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



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The Native American Women's Intertribal Circle (NAWIC) established in 1995 has met each month for a potluck and community conversations. Mission Bay was perfect for their annual picnic gathering. A good time had by all.



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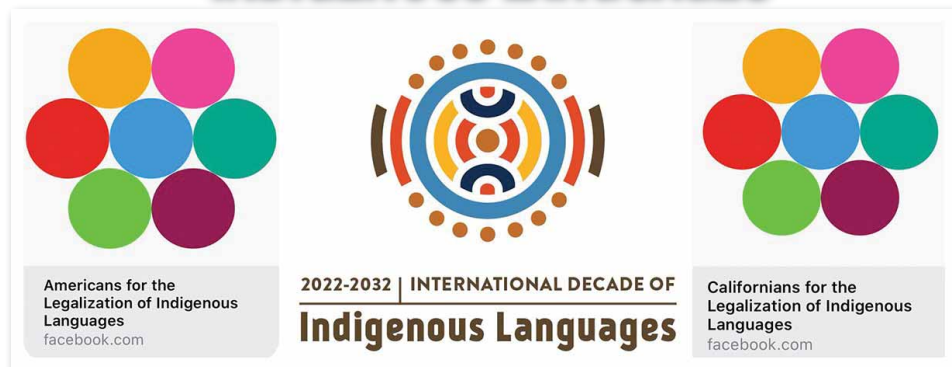
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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



### Pup 'Enyaa, Peyap 'Enyaa



by Mandy Curo,

*Synopsis: Words are powerful. Words have the ability to hurt or heal. The Kumeyaay people have always been a people who take the time to allow their*

*emotions to process. It can be heard in our songs. It was so in the beginning, and it is so still today. No one sees the world through the same eyes. This song about two young people in the FX Productions indigenous American comedy drama television series "Reservation Dogs," now in its third season, falling in love, but one's life was taken much too soon. That life will be missed and mourned by everyone who knew him, but not as she will. As the chorus says; "No one else will remember it quite this way. Now it's all I have left of you, so I remember Those Days These Days".*

Peyaa aaknaa 'iipaych 'iipay chawuw weyuk Rez Dogs chuuhii. Daniel Elora hunn 'ehin echemaach taaniw tanyeway. 'Ewaa ewamp. Elorach ni wewuwuh umaawh. Ma'yum nyhekwan 'enyaaach'uuwuwp, 'emich tawaa tawaa tawaa. 'Iichash werap apsiw, nyapoom 'emtaar gitaarr 'aachpaach, peyaa 'echeyuw 'uumall tawaa. 'Iichih wenah tawaa puknaach nya'waap kwethemii werap weyiish. Ni Wip "nya'aamh"llywaar tuuyuwch umaawh. Iichaa ni nyechuuwiich tuuyuwch umaawh. Ma'yum 'ellymaam siny tawaa'iichaa. Heyaay, ma'yum haasillym'nyaach enaak tewaa 'iikwich 'elymaam nyemii wenaak tawaa. 'Enyaa'ehaa'enyaaapch newatt. Elora rewii, nyip ichaach, ni'enyaa

enyakenaah umaaw. Nyakwar uuyawh maaw. Nyip kenaach'enyaaach 'echeyuw.

'Enyaa wechan tawaa, 'iichaa Nyip hun, 'enyaaach 'ehaa emak tehelmuk  
Ma 'enyaa emily mes-haraaym Mesally nysally hawinn tawaa Hemilh wemirrm 'ehans tenyeway'iipall 'enyaaawap nyechuw Ma'yum'iipall waam, 'iichashm menyewaayp  
Matt 'iichashm menyaawich nyawim 'iipay nyimich, 'iipaych 'uuy i.  
Nyapuun 'emii, nyapuun 'emii Ha, pup 'enyaa peyap 'enyaa 'iichaa ma'yum yiw chepitt  
Ha, 'ehan tewaa pes newatt, nosoom. 'ewaa 'ehini, 'enyaa 'ehini tewaa 'uuyaaw ni 'iipay nye'mich Ma Iichaah rewii umaaw Tenaaych puun waach riipuy 'Uuch pe'aam, Nyaamat nyechuuwiich  
Nyip kenaach pup 'enyaa peyap 'enyaa'iichaa  
Kepech'uurr yachish 'a'aaw hellyap Uumall wechuw nyapoom eyay wellich  
Kepech'uurr 'ematt 'a'aaw 'oorches Wenyuy, nyapoom hemull chehekaayp Hemilh wemirrm 'ehans tenyeway 'iipall 'enyaaawap nyechuw Ma'yum 'iipall waam, 'iichashm menyewaayp  
Maat 'iichashm menyaawich nyawim 'iipay nyemich 'iipaych 'uuy i  
Nyapoom 'emii, Nyapoom 'emii

mandycuro@hotmail.com

### From the Creative Mind of Justin Cox: Hot Water Cornbread Presents the Halloween Homecoming Bash!

Los Angeles, CA— Get ready for the most spook-tacular event of the year, as Hot Water Cornbread presents the Halloween Homecoming Bash! This festive gathering promises to be a hauntingly good time filled with music, a live HBCU band, costume contests, and a treasure trove of over 100 talented Black vendors. Mark your calendars for October

8th, 2023, and join us at The Beehive, 961 E 61st Street, Los

Angeles, CA, 90001, for a night of frights, fun, and fantastic festivities!

We're all about community, creativity, and celebrating together. So, grab your costume, gather your friends, and join us for a Halloween Homecoming like no other!

Date: October 8, 2023

Time: 12 noon - 8pm

Venue: The Beehive, 961 E 61st Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90001

### Postcards Go Out to Registered Voters for Nov. 7 Elections

by Tracy DeFore, County of San Diego Communications Office

More than 430,000 postcards have been mailed to registered voters in the Fourth Supervisorial District, Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Municipal Water District listing their voting options for the Nov. 7 special election. Only the voters who live in each of those districts can vote in their respective elections.

The special runoff election for the Fourth Supervisorial District will fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the current term ending in January 2027.

Voters who live in the Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Municipal Water District will vote on a ballot measure.

Registered voters in these districts will receive a ballot in the mail the week of Oct. 8. The official ballot packet will also include an "I Voted" sticker, voting instructions and other important election information.

Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 9, at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa. Hours run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday. However, the Registrar encourages voters to take advantage of the convenience of voting by mail.

You can vote at home and return your voted ballot through the mail – no postage needed – or to any of the Registrar's official ballot drop boxes around the county starting Tuesday, Oct. 10 through the final day of voting, Nov. 7.

Remember to sign and date your ballot return envelope. You must sign the envelope for your vote to count.

Voters who return their ballot through the U.S. Postal Service can track it by signing up for "Where's My Ballot?"

If you want to vote in person and avoid long lines, select vote centers will also offer early voting starting on Saturday, Oct. 28. The vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the final day of voting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, when all vote centers will open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Learn more about voting in the Nov. 7 special election at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

### Teamsters Ratify Ups Contract, Averting Strike

UPS workers represented by the Teamsters union have ratified a tentative contract negotiated last month, ending a labor dispute that had threatened to disrupt package deliveries and business supply chains, the union announced Tuesday. The union said 86% of workers casting votes favored ratifying the agreement, the most overwhelming support for a contract in the Teamsters'

history at UPS. The union represent 340,000 UPS delivery drivers and package sorters. The agreement calls for UPS to pay new part-time workers \$21 an hour, up from \$16.20. Existing workers will get a \$2.75 hourly pay increase this year, and a \$7.50 bump over the life of the five-year agreement. Teamsters leaders called it their "most lucrative" contract ever at UPS.

### Vapid GOP "Debate" Reveals Why Big Money Politics Sucks

by Jim Hightower

Peggy Lee struck a mournful chord with her hit song, "Is That All There Is?"

It was about the vapidness of life, and I found myself subconsciously singing along last week as I pondered the GOP presidential debate. Of course, these made-for-TV spectacles are more akin to mud-wrestling than actual policy debates. Still, I dared hope for some tiny element of civic seriousness. After all, the eight aspirants were auditioning to be ("Oh, say can you see...") the next President of the United States!

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, for example, stands out as a textbook example of the vapidness of modern American politics – a rampaging ego with no core democratic principles, no authentic persona, no speaking from the heart... and no possibility of being elected except that special interest powers have pumped him up with a couple hundred million dollars to be their boy.

Indeed, a strategy memo from DeSantis' own funders and consultants surfaced publicly just before last week's debate, confirming his vacuity – as a candidate and a person. The detailed memo instructed him to avoid talking about policy solutions, to "sledgehammer" an opponent, to appear both for and against Trump, and maybe show a little human emotion by talking about his kids. In short, he needs advisors to tell him how to be "himself."

DeSantis is hardly the first who-am-I candidate for the White House. Hillary Clinton's managers reintroduced her as the new "real" Hillary every couple of months in 2016, and Rick Perry's handlers tried to make him look smart by wearing horn-rimmed glasses.

This lack of authenticity is now the norm, for it allows Big Money to shape candidates in its image. And that's why today's public policies are overwhelmingly based on what money wants, not on public need and honest principle.





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).

## Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association's Seminole Days 2023

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association

From Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17, the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association (SISCA) celebrated our annual Seminole Days celebration in Brackettville, Texas. This was our 44th celebration, which honors the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, their history, and the founding of the cemetery in which many of these brave soldiers and their loved one are buried.

This year, as we have done for the past 11 years, we began our celebration by hiking Seminole Canyon. This beautifully

scenic and picturesque canyon is located in Comstock, Texas. It was named for the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, who traversed the area either on horseback or on foot, while performing their scouting duties. Our guide Tanya safely guided the group to the watering hole that the scouts used as a rest stop.

Later that afternoon, we gathered at the Carver School (back in Brackettville) for our annual Friday Lecture Series and Meet & Greet. This year, our guest speaker was Dr. Eric Crawford, who is a musicologist, spoke about Gullah Geechees and Negro Spirituals. He connected the Gullahs to the Negroes Mascogos through Negro Spirituals, which are sung in both places (South Carolina and Mexico) in the same or close to the same dialect (either Gullah Geechee or Afro-Seminole Creole). Guests at this Friday lecture were treated to a special meal prepared by chef Adrian Lipscombe. She made calabacita.

The next day, Saturday, was filled with events. At eight in the morning, several attendees gathered at the Palisado Building in Fort Clark to enjoy a breakfast prepared by the Fort Clark Historical Society. Afterward, at 10 o'clock, our annual parade made its way down Ann Street (our main street in Brackettville). It was a happy conglomeration of vehicles and people on foot who were both local and from several places from here in the United States.

After the parade ended at the Carver School, everyone made their way to the Carver School Grounds for our annual program, which was hosted by Micco Fay.



During the program, parade winners were announced and the theme for Seminole Days (honoring our Medal of Honor recipients) and Deiz y Seis (Mexico's independence day) were honored and discussed. Several attendees were invited to announce which Seminole Negro Indian Scouts they were descended from, as well.

Once the program ended, our annual BBQ plate sale began. Following the BBQ, those who wanted to stay outside and enjoy the nice weather played bingo/loteria. At three o'clock, our Saturday lecture series began. Our first speakers, Randall Factor, his son Quintin Factor, and Johnny Montgomery honored our theme by discussing the four Medal of Honor recipients (Adam Payne, Isaac Payne, John Ward and Pompey Factor). Randall and Quintin are descendants of Pompey Factor. They discussed the battle at Eagle's Nest Crossing, which resulted in Lt. John Bullis recommending Isaac Payne, John Ward, and Pompey Factor receive the Medal of Honor. Artist Johnny Montgomery discussed Adam Payne. He recently completed a painting of Payne and has been researching the Black Seminoles for the past 30 years, so he was the perfect person to discuss Adam Payne and his triumphs and untimely death.

Following the first three speakers was Tom Ashmore with the West Texas Archeological Society. Tom came to give us an update on the incredible work he is doing at Camp Meyers Springs. He has identified and is replicating the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts camp that he located via satellite and drone. In this speech, he

told us about an additional camp (Bullis' camp) that he had found and confirmed more areas, such as wagon trails. The work that he is doing is incredibly important. He is quite literally creating a visual history lesson.

After Tom Ashmore, Dr. Anthony Dixon and Zarian Hadley spoke about The Black Seminole Project, a feature film and documentary project they are currently producing. They came to Seminole Days to announce their project and to get us, the Black Seminoles, involved. They are working closely with members of the Black Seminole diaspora.

Following the series of thought-provoking and entertaining lectures, we enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prepared by chef Adrian Lipscombe. Her food was filled with love. You could taste it with every bite.

The next morning, chef Adrian Lipscombe prepared a breakfast that consisted of lemon ricotta pancakes, bacon, and sausage. Afterward, we all gathered at the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery for our annual cemetery service. During our service, we honored all of our loved ones who have passed away since our last gathering. This year, my mom's name (Darnett Darlene Goodloe Daniels Hardrick) was added to this heartbreaking list. As a way to honor the cycle of life, we also honored all the babies that have been born in the past year. For every loss, there is a new addition. It is bittersweet.

This year's Seminole Days focused on our Gullah Geechee roots and Medal of Honor recipients. We had people travel from quite a distance to be here in Brackettville, Texas, population 1,760, for the weekend to celebrate our history and ourselves.

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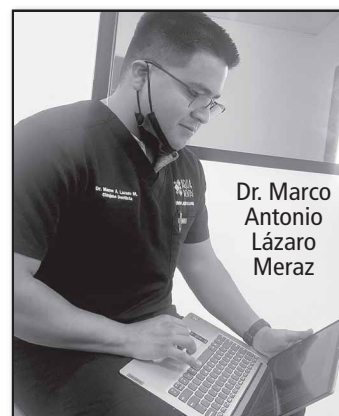
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# Press Forward Philanthropy Initiative Launched To Drive Local News Sustainability

by Frank Mungeam

Major philanthropy organizations, led by the MacArthur Foundation and the Knight Foundation, will invest at least \$500 million in local news over the next five years through the new Press Forward initiative.

The details of Press Forward were formally announced on Sept. 7 in news releases from Knight Foundation and from Press Forward.

Leaders at the journalism programs at Knight and MacArthur previewed the Press Forward initiative in August at LMA Fest, the annual in-person conference of the Local Media Association in Chicago. Press Forward was the primary topic of a keynote conversation about philanthropy's role in local media, moderated by Dr. Toni Draper, chief executive officer of The AFRO.

Kathy Im, director journalism and media for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Jim Brady, vice president of journalism for the Knight Foundation, described the goals of the funding initiative as:

- First, recruit more funders to make journalism a top funding priority
- Second, put that money into the field where it's needed most

More than \$500 million has already been committed toward the effort, and the goal is to grow that to \$1 billion for local news in the next five years. So far, at least 20 funders have joined the campaign, led by \$150 million in funding from Knight and \$150 million from MacArthur.

"We know there's a connection between access to information and people making good civic democracy choices," said Brady, talking about the effort to persuade additional funders to prioritize support for journalism.

"Democracy is a strong sell," added Im. "Whatever is your priority for funding, misinformation undermines that. Journalism is the way to drive impact on that. It should be your second priority."

Brady said the Press Forward effort would seek to put money "into the field in the places where it's most needed," including news deserts and philanthropic deserts, and in ways that improve access to quality information for all Americans.

Im added that Press Forward will broadly seek to support four types of local information sources that are "consequential providers and sources of information," including both nonprofit and for-profit newsrooms, public media and academic institutions.

Press Forward will include both "pooled" funding and "aligned" funding, according to Brady and Im. The details on exactly how applications will be taken and funds disbursed are still being worked out, with Brady joking: "Don't send me an application on Sept. 7." On the Press Forward website, newsrooms interested in seeking funding are advised: "Please hold your inquiries until grantmaking guidelines are released in early 2024."

But Im and Brady did detail the four areas of funding that will be the focus of Press Forward:

- Supporting local newsrooms that have the trust of communities.
- Growing the infrastructure of local news by supporting efforts to help publishers with scalable technology and shared services.
- Supporting diverse newsrooms in underserved communities and news deserts.
- Exploring public policy options to expand access to local news.

MacArthur Foundation has already announced that journalism will become a new core area of its funding focus, and has posted several jobs to lead that effort. Im and Brady indicated that the Press Forward campaign will also add staff to lead that effort.

Im summarized the challenge that these funders hope Press Forward will help solve: "Bad information is free. How do we make good information more easily accessible?"

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**7:30 pm Program**  
Election of Board of Directors, Officers Scholarships Presentation  
Wild Card Category Winner  
Body of Work Category Winner  
Best of Show Awards  
Rising Star Award

## IJA-NPR NextGenRadio: Indigenous at KOSU Oklahoma City, Oct. 1-6

Audio workshop for early-career professionals focused on Indigenous storytelling returns to Oklahoma

The Indigenous Journalists Association and NPR's Next Generation Radio Project announce the latest NextGenRadio: Indigenous, a five-day digital-first workshop centering Indigenous stories and storytellers, on Oct. 1-6. For the second year in a row, the project will be hosted by KOSU in Oklahoma City at Oklahoma State University and applications are due by 12 midnight CT, Sunday, Sept. 10.

This project is open to early-career professionals and is designed to enhance coverage of Indigenous affairs with Indigenous voices.

Indigenous journalists with less than five years professional experience working in media, journalism, written and audio storytelling in addition to graphic design, illustration or data can apply here. The program is free to participants and past radio experience is preferred but not required.

Selected project participants will find and produce their own multimedia story, and will be paired 1:1 with an experienced coach and mentor throughout the workshop. Fellows will produce a 3:30 to 4-minute, non-narrated audio story, write a 500-600 word story about their subject and create other digital assets.

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- Rez Radio music mix of classic rock, country, soul, blues, native and reggae 20 hours daily.



## "Who Controls The Seeds Controls The Land"

by Makeda Cheatom

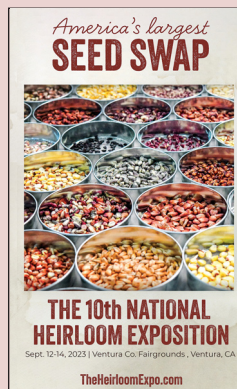
This Heirloom Expo was not only educational but also a necessity for human existence in these times. This annual event is made possible thanks to Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds and Rare Seeds. Baker Creek's mission is to

provide seeds for a sustainable food supply for everyone, keeping heirloom varieties alive for future generations. We believe that farmers, gardeners, and communities have the right to save their own seeds and, in doing so, preserve seed diversity and food security in an age of corporate agriculture and



the seeds we sell can be saved, shared, and traded, and we encourage people to save their own seeds. This year's event was at the Ventura Fairgrounds from September 12-14th.

Heirloom seeds are seeds from plants that have been passed from one generation to another; they are open-pollinated and have been passed down for at least 50 years. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds is



1,000 heirloom varieties. Travel through time and check out some of their stunning seeds.

Charitable giving is a foundation of Baker Creek, and they have donated seeds to the WorldBeat Center to support our effort to start our seed library. We are grateful to Jere and the team for their generosity, not only for us but also for the various organizations they support. If you are ready

WorldBeat Center and join our library. We welcome heirloom and open-pollinated seeds but not seeds from GMO plants. "GMO" stands for genetically modified organism, referring to any organism whose DNA has been modified using genetic engineering technology.

Vandana Shiva has been called the "Gandhi of grain," the "rock star" of the anti-GMO movement, and an "eco-warrior goddess." For more than 40 years, the Indian physicist turned ecologist and food rights advocate Vandana Shiva has taken on big agriculture, arguing that we can

America's top source for heirloom seeds. They collect and grow seeds from all over the world, and their 2024 seed catalog is out now with over



end world hunger and help save the planet while also preserving the unique cultural and culinary traditions that make our world so wonderfully diverse. She has been a guest speaker at the Heirloom Expo on several occasions. I was honored to have attended one of

her speaking engagements a few years ago and was able to meet her. Shiva's dedication and service to the Earth and indigenous communities started nearly five decades ago with the Chipko movement. Protecting the Earth and indigenous cultures is more important than ever today because five centuries of colonialism and three centuries of fossil fuel-based industrialism have brought us to collapse. Indigenous people have lived in harmony

with nature, respecting the Earth and her limits. They are teachers for survival in a period of extinction.

The event included keepers of ancestral seed speakers. There was also a three-day seed swap where growers came and exchanged their heirloom



varieties. As you can see in the pictures, there was an incredible variety of summer and fall crops, including watermelons, tomatoes, peppers, squash, and pumpkins, to name a few.

We have to grow our food and have pure soil free from pesticides, free from over-tilling, and free from monocropping. We need to keep the ways of our ancestors. If this nation had listened to the indigenous people, the rivers would not be polluted, the air would not be polluted, and the land would not lack nutrients. We must wake up and save the Earth for our sake, or it will continue without us.

# WORLD BEAT CENTER

## WorldBeat Takes Over the Children's Hall



Urban Birds project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This collaboration extended into two national projects funded by the National Science Foundation. The first focused on

It's always an honor to work with children in citizen science. Ten years ago, WorldBeat Center had the privilege of teaming up with the Celebrate



institutions. The second project revolved around community-based organizations co-leading a science initiative addressing noise pollution and wellness. We took a leading role in San Diego, researching plant communication and identifying urban gardens like WorldBeat Center's Peace Garden as Noise Refuge spaces. We even delved into the fascinating world of plant

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in collaboration with community-based organizations and informal science

music.

This year, we returned to the Heirloom Expo's Children's Hall to share citizen science resources with families and educators from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We brought books, bird sounds, and bird kits. Additionally, we shared resources on how to initiate a seed library, and students and families were enthusiastic about the possibilities for their communities. We were also thrilled to host our first African Drum circle for families led by Dramane Kone! Families also thoroughly enjoyed the activities led by Farmer Dale and our new Climate Action Fellow, Dahlia. These activities included creating seed mandalas, seed flower bombs, and making seed packets. We're already eagerly looking forward to next year!

## WorldBeat Travels to Costa Chica, Mexico

by Makeda Cheatom and Berenice Rodriguez

On August 26th WorldBeat landed at Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico. Puerto Escondido is a quietly known destination where travelers come from all over the world for surfing. We were picked up the next day by Israel Reyes Larrea, my mentor and his son and taken to their town, Jose Maria Morelos about 2 hours north. The roads were surrounded by pristine and lush tropical mountains with coconut, papaya and corn farms. When we arrived at Israel's house we were welcomed by his wife, Angustia with a whole cut up watermelon and boy was it the best one we had ever eaten. In fact, all the fruit and food was the best. It was fresh probably like they said because it had ripened on the tree. Everything is better when it's harvested close to the source instead of thousands of miles away.

Costa Chica ("Short Coast" in Spanish) is one of two regions in Mexico with significant Black communities, the other being the state of Veracruz on the Gulf coast. The Costa Chica is a 200-mile-long coastal region beginning just southeast of Acapulco, Guerrero, and ending near the town of Puerto Angel, Oaxaca. The people of these communities were some of the most welcoming and nicest from all my travels. They are of Mixtec and African descent and are proud of their descent.

The history of Black Mexico has often been hidden, and sometimes with reason, for it was part of the nation's survival post-revolution. Mexico's Black roots have been subjected to many movements in history including: slavery, racial violence, European ideals, and national identity. The first Black people in Mexico arrived as enslaved workers in the 16th

century. There were approximately 200,000 enslaved workers arriving from West, Central and South Africa forming around 10 percent of the population at the time. Little people know that the first Black president of the Americas and second president of Mexico was Vicente Guerrero.



Communities in the Costa Chica region of Oaxaca and in the state of Veracruz are home to the majority of Afro-Mexicans. The communities have preserved their African heritage and culture, despite experiencing social and economic disenfranchisement. Campaigns by Afro-Mexican activists from the 1990s to now have been vital to the increased visibility and cultural awareness of Black Mexico. In 1999, the first annual Gathering of Black Communities (Encuentro de Pueblos Negros) was founded. This yearly forum and festival for Black Mexicans was organized to give "visibility to Afro-Mexicans in order to be included as a component of Mexican society." The forum provides a space for African culture to be celebrated openly and freely, while giving an opportunity to discuss community problems and solutions. For the first time in history, the 2020 Census concluded that 2.5 million people identify as Afro-Mexican or of African descent.

Israel and his son prepared a wonderful itinerary for us and got to visit The Museo Nacional de las Culturas Afromestizas in Cuajinicuilapa, Guerrero. The museum is a tribute to the history of enslaved Africans in Mexico and, specifically, to local Afromestizo culture. Our docent guide at the museum, Angelica Sorrosa was so knowledgeable about Black Mexican history and culture and also shared the struggles of the museum. It's not easy being a cultural worker when neither your people nor the local government agencies see the same long term vision of

supporting community based museums and cultural centers. It's so important that we are able to tell our stories. She shared that the best way to support them is by continuing to visit as means of income.

We also met some incredible Afro-Mexican artists including Aydee Rodriguez Lopez and Santa Obdulia "Yuye" Hernández. Both Aydee and Yuye say that they began as self-taught artists who focused on Black Mexican culture because they did not see themselves represented. Aydee focuses on the stories that people share and Yuye on nature and women. Their artwork which includes paintings, wooden engravings, masks and sculptures feature in major galleries across Mexico including the National Museum of Mexican Art. WorldBeat Center is working on doing an exhibit next year showcasing their art so stay tuned!

Another highlight was meeting the mixtec artists. We were able to visit the Grabadores Mixtecos Unidos where resident artists are painting limited edition Converse shoes, carving calabashes and painting acrylic all around the animals and flora of Costa Chica.

We are so grateful to the team who took part in this adventure. Thank you Teresa Moore for the incredible photographs she documented. And also Berenice for translating. But a warm thank you to the people of Oaxaca and his family for wonderful hospitality and we are humbled by their caretaking; we felt like family. We will see you soon!

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month. Come visit our Pathways to Freedom Exhibit at WorldBeat Center (2100 Park Blvd, San Diego, 92101).

## MILLET CAULIFLOWER BURGERS With MISO

Yield: 6 burgers  
Sweet white miso has a slightly salty, cheesy, cheesy flavor that goes well with the cauliflower in these burgers.

1 medium onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
3 teaspoons of olive oil  
1 1/2 cups cooked millet (cooking instructions below)  
1 cup chopped cauliflower, steamed (about 1/4 pound)  
1/4 cup vital wheat gluten flour  
1/4 cup chopped cilantro leaves  
4 tablespoons sweet white miso  
3 teaspoons paprika  
2 teaspoons cumin powder

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F  
2. Sauté the onions and garlic in the olive oil until they are transparent.  
3. Mix all the ingredients together, and form into burgers.



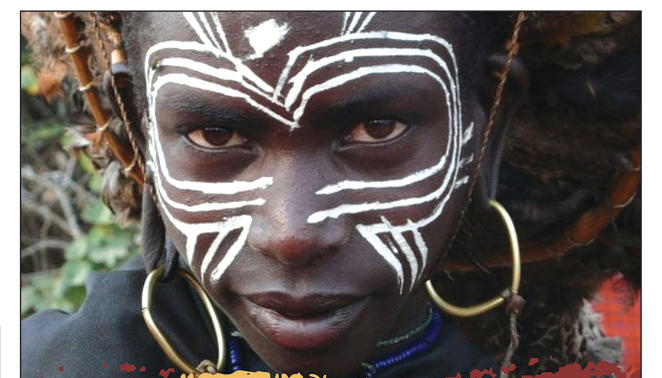
4. Arrange the burgers on an oiled baking sheet, and bake for 15 minutes on each side until browned.

\*To Cook Millet: Toast 1/2 cup millet in a pan until it begins to give off a nutty aroma. Add 1 cup boiling water, and return to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover, and cook for about 20 minutes. Turn off the heat and let stand for about 10 minutes, then fluff the millet with a fork. This makes about 2 cups. Use 1 1/2 cups for this recipe.

Serving Suggestions: Try these burgers with a spicy salad dressing and all of your favorite fixings on a whole grain bun.

## Mariko and Makeda Guest Speakers at Heirloom Expo

This year Mariko Gifford of Moringa For Life and Makeda Cheatom of WorldBeat Cultural Center spoke on Moringa and its benefits for the world. Mariko Davis Gifford has been growing Moringa in San Diego, California for 25 years. By co-creating with Moringa, she has learned many clever ways it can be grown, as well as, the essential way to produce the highest quality Moringa possible. 10 years ago she began teaching others her methods and now has students in more than 37 countries around the world. Her courses are available online which has enabled those in remote and disadvantaged areas to participate and learn how to grow the highest quality Moringa in their regions.



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# Thoughts During Hawaiian History Month

Aloha. A warm welcome and a fond farewell. An essence of being - with love, peace, compassion, and mutual respect. A way of living in harmony with the people and land around us with mercy, sympathy, grace, and kindness. Aloha to this September's Hawaiian History Month.

This month my people are hurting. The deadliest wildfire in Hawai'i's history just devastated the town of Lāhainā on Maui, the historic town that served as the first capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. This was the deadliest wildfire in the United States in a century. At least 115 people have been killed. Hundreds are still missing and unaccounted for. The land search for survivors was completed on August 28th and survivors are no longer expected. The suffering is incomprehensible. Suffering that now stacks on top of the Hawaiian peoples' continued suffering from the illegal occupation of their land.

'Aina Momona, an organization dedicated to achieving environmental health and sustainability through social justice and the de-occupying of Hawaiian lands, recently shared a YouTube video titled "Pa'a Ke Aupuni The Reel History of Hawai'i". This hour-long video is essential viewing for anyone with an interest in Hawai'i, history, or humanity. Deepening my knowledge of the land from which my ancestors hail was a healing act.

The story of Hawai'i is full of awe,

brilliance, and pride. Early Hawaiians developed a sophisticated navigation system using the stars, currents, and winds to traverse the Pacific Ocean. They were experts in engineering and food production. By the mid-1800s, nearly 100% of Hawaiians could read and write making Hawai'i one of the most literate countries in the world. Hawai'i became the first non-European country to join the Family of Nations which inspired other countries to secure their internationally recognized sovereignty. Hawaiians were so advanced that their 'Iolani Palace was outfitted with electric lights in 1882, years before the White House would receive those amenities. Hula and Hawaiian music are important in communities around the world to this day.

Hawai'i's story is also a sad story of the horrors of capitalism and colonialism. One of a peaceful, sovereign nation overthrown by US military-backed businessmen who were greedy for profit. So greedy that they formed a political party, spread fake news, illegally overthrew the Hawaiian government, defied the US government, and declared themselves the new Hawaiian government without the approval of Hawaiians. To boost their profits in the sugar business, those businessmen colluded with the US government to colonize Hawai'i.

A recent conversation with my uncle Jonli reminded me that this history is not so far away. Four generations ago my

ancestors lived through the overthrow. Just three generations back, my nana witnessed the passing of Queen Lili'uokalani, Hawai'i's last monarch whose September 2nd birthday inspired Hawaiian History Month. This history grounds me in the necessity of spreading the truth and learning from our elders. The well-being of oppressed peoples and the preservation of our cultures depend on it.

This Hawaiian History Month we must acknowledge that the same greed that toppled the Hawaiian Kingdom has just destroyed Lāhainā and its people. The dry conditions that set the stage for the wildfire was a direct result of "centuries of water diversion, greed, and land mismanagement by companies like West Maui Land Co.," 'Aina Momona recently wrote. Maui county has sued Hawaiian Electric Company for failing to de-energize their power lines after red flag warnings. Their electrified power lines were blown over by the winds which helped the wildfire spread at such a rapid pace. Human caused climate change played an undeniable role in creating the drought, dry conditions, and winds that fueled this wildfire. Climate scientists have been warning us that disasters like this will be more frequent and severe unless we make rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.

The government failed to adequately care for the people in the aftermath of the

wildfire. Instead, emergency relief was successfully organized and executed by Maui community members who stepped up in the state's absence. Their strength, compassion and mutual aid remind us that only we can keep us safe, that any hope for survival lies in the power of the people.

The movement for Hawaiian sovereignty is part of a larger struggle for collective liberation. Among many things, the Lāhainā tragedy is a plea for the revolutionary politics the struggle requires. Politics to move us beyond capitalism and into socialism. Beyond police, prisons, private property, and into freedom.

A socialism based on direct democracy where people can choose to live without monarchs, presidents, or rulers all together. Where everyone affected by a decision has the opportunity to have their say in making that decision.

A world where goods are produced according to need, not profit. Where land is returned to its original stewards so they can collectively care for it once again. A world guided by indigenous values like generosity, cooperation, community, reciprocity, and aloha.

You can visit [hawaiiaponoi.info](http://hawaiiaponoi.info) to learn more about Hawaiian History Month. To support the wildfire victims and the movement for Hawaiian sovereignty, please visit [kaainamomona.org](http://kaainamomona.org).

A better, happier, more liberated world is possible. Aloha

**Steven Kimo Marquardt, Olympia**

## Honolulu Powwow Celebrates Native American Traditions

*The Honolulu Intertribal Powwow took place on the Great Lawn at Bishop Museum bringing together hundreds of people to celebrate Native American heritages.*

by John Berger

The 47th Annual Honolulu Intertribal Powwow, presented by the O'ahu Intertribal Council, Saturday and Sept. 10 at Bishop Museum, is a perfect opportunity for Hawaii residents to watch, enjoy and learn about Native American culture.

Native American residents of the islands will be joined by dancers and musicians from the mainland to celebrate the traditions of their culture.

OIC member Loa Simoes said that everyone is welcome to come watch the dancing but asks them to remember that this is a cultural event, not a commercial tourist show.

"You always ask dancers first if it would be OK to photograph them," Simoes said. "They'll either say yes or no. If they say no, that means that maybe they're in mourning,

or maybe they have part of (their) regalia that they don't want to be copied. So that's why sometimes they say no. The majority the time they'll say yes, but ask."

Simoes' husband, James Simoes, added that "regalia" is the correct term for the ceremonial clothing worn by dancers and musicians. "What they wear should never be called a 'costume,'" he said.

National protests in recent years about the use of Native American names and images by sports teams has heightened awareness of the importance of proper names and protocol regarding Native Americans. The council uses the terms American Indians and Native Americans when referring to the members of tribes and nations within the United States; First Nations is the preferred term for residents of Canada.

The council traces its history to 1971 when a Native American woman who was stationed in Hawaii put an ad in the paper seeking other Native Americans in the islands. A Hawaii resident of mixed Native



Jakobi Medicine Bear sat on the lap of his father, Sky Medicine Bear, who is Navajo and Lakota, at last year's powwow. photo: CRAIG T. KOJIMA / 2022

American/Native Hawaiian ancestry responded. Several years later, the original pair had been joined by others and grown into a group; the first Honolulu Intertribal Powwow was held at Ala Moana Beach Park in 1974.

Since then, the council has hosted cultural exchanges with other Native American, Alaska Native and First Nations groups, and presented outreach events and educational presentations for the local community at-large.

Loa Simoes said that the powwow offers an opportunity to watch, take

in information shared by the emcee and talk with participants who are willing to share their knowledge. She added that powwow dancing consists of much more than people dancing "around a circle" and making it up as they go.

"Grass dancers have a different dance. Men's traditional has a different step. Women's jingle dress (dance) is a healing dance. They have little jingles on them. Every time they jingle, the prayer goes out. People have come to jingle dress dancers

and ask them, 'Will you please pray for my mom who is sick, or for my dad?' They dance, and at the same time their prayers go out to them, so that's why it's called a healing dance." This year's event also will feature hoop dancers.

The decision to have the powwow at Bishop Museum brings an additional layer of cultural protocol to the program.

"The Bishop Museum is on Hawaiian land so when we come in for the grand entry there is a protocol of asking the Hawaiians, 'Can we have our powwow on your land?'," Loa Simoes explained. "We talk to the Hawaiians and they chant, and we answer back, and they answer us, and we thank them, and then we have our powwow. When we end the powwow, we give that piece of land back and we say, 'Thank you very much. It was an honor being on your land.'"

James Simoes said that the spirituality of powwow can be so strong that it becomes a physical experience.

"You feel the (drum) beat in your heartbeat," he said. "You feel it in your soul when you're down there. It's so loud, it's so intense. Very spiritual. The Hawaiians and the natives are so much alike in many ways, and they respect each other. The respect for each other is so duplicated."

*Reprinted with permission from Honolulu Star Advertiser*



## ~ On the Town with Camille ~

by Camille Appling

**Ethnic Media Awards 2023**

The illustrious Ethnic Media Awards were held in our capital city, Sacramento, this month. The venue was the Sawyer Hotel, which is less than a block away from the historic Capital Mall where governors, senators, and various decision makers meet to discuss important issues that affect Californians and the rest of America. The speakers included San Diego's own Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber, who gallantly opened the award ceremony. The US Census director Robert L. Santos discussed the census with the audience. We were also graced by the Department of Civic Engagement, Department of Healthcare Services, and the Department of Aging and Ableism.

Grassroots newspapers like the Latino Times and Oakland Post reflected the communities' concerns with the opportunity to have pertinent questions about legislation, healthcare, and even transportation answered by Secretary of Government Operations Amy Tong and Secretary Toks Omishikan of the Department of Transportation.

Ethnic Media Services' longtime activists Sandy Close and Julian Do provided the audience with diversity and cultural sensitivity training. Regina Wilson of the California Black Media was also in attendance. These meetings are so important to our communities because they offer the opportunity to say what's going on in the streets and in the government so that we can address and prevent crises. The interaction between the media and government can save lives through thoughtful planning and research. We can ask questions and give

insight to change things that aren't working for a better resolve for society.

There were countless awards there, but we are so honored that our very own Editor-in-Chief Rose Davis received the Ethnic Media Service Award for Outstanding Reporting and Service. Well deserved, Rose. You are an inspiration!

**The Legacy International Center in Mission Valley**

The Magnificent Legacy Center of Mission Valley presented the Powerfully Created film the Sound of Freedom Movie in its very own Auditorium to an array of fans for viewing. The Angel Studio Film is a heroic story of Triumph over the horrendous world of child human trafficking. The film set in central America followed the story of children



separated from their father after auditioning for commercials. The Legal Lead Tim Ballard played by Jim Caviezel was able to recover the children after serious investigation that led him and his team deep into the Rainforest and allowed him to deliver them to their father. The subject matter is so serious in

that children can be easily separated and by the Grace of God can be found. Please check out the film Sound of Freedom at theaters everywhere. angel.com

**Salvation Army**

Saturday afternoon was filled with BBQ and music at the Salvation Army



located downtown SD at 825 7th Street. The BBQ was opened with a powerful prayer of blessings for the mixed community of downtown locals, homeless, disabled and good people. The staff served huge plates of BBQ chicken, burgers, sausage, macaroni salad, potato salad and watermelon. The Salvation Army's doors are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12pm to help locals with an array of vegetables, meats, fruits free to the public. salvationarmy.org

**Prison Radio****What Prison Radio is:**

We are an independent multimedia production studio producing content for radio, television, and films for 30 years and distributing throughout the world. We stream our high-quality audio material to media outlets and the general public in order to add the voices of people most impacted by the prison industrial complex.

We challenge unjust police and prosecutorial practices which result in mass incarceration, racism and gender discrimination by bringing the voices of incarcerated people into the public debate. Our radio broadcasts examine core issues that create crime and disenfranchise communities. Our educational materials serve as a catalyst for public activism; strengthening movements for social change. Prison Radio's productions illustrate the perspectives and the intrinsic human worth of the more than 7.1 million people under correctional control in the U.S.

Tax ID: 68-0334309 Prison Radio/Redwood Justice Fund

**Mission Statement:**

Prison Radio's mission is to include the voices of incarcerated people in the public debate.

How to become a correspondent for Prison Radio

If you are or know someone who would like to become a correspondent, please contact us at <https://www.prisonradio.org/about/contact-us/>

**Indigenous Journalists Association Brings Storytellers Together for Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Sweden****IJA/GIJC Indigenous journalism fellowship focused on global collaborations and networking**

The Indigenous Journalists Association (IJA) and the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) are bringing Indigenous journalists together for a four day fellowship Sept. 19-22 at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC) in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Indigenous journalists from around the world share similar successes and struggles in their newsrooms.

Indigenous communities across mother earth share common ground and news from our nations is often unreported. IJA is creating space for fellowship participants to discuss the stories that need to be told.

IJA is hosting a pre-conference day workshop to network and collaborate on

international Indigenous investigations, facilitated by IJA Associate Director Francine Compton and IJA Membership Manager Sterling Cosper.

Delegates from the IJA/GIJC fellowship will speak about their work on two separate programs at the conference:

- Investigating Indigenous Stories: A Roundtable, Sept. 20 3:30 p.m. CEST
- Indigenous Investigations, Sept. 21, 1:30 p.m. CEST

IJA is a proud major sponsor and partner of #GIJC23. For any questions or media inquiries please contact IJA Associate Director Francine Compton [fcompton@naja.com](mailto:fcompton@naja.com)

*About the Indigenous Journalists Association: IJA serves more than 850 members, including media professionals working in Indigenous, freelance, independent and mainstream news outlets, as well as academia and students covering Indigenous peoples and communities.*

**We Can't Drink Gold**

by Alastair Running Bear

In good faith, on Sept. 13, 2023, the planning commission of Imperial County voted to suspend their approval of a large development around Glamis, California, that would involve the exploration and potential mining of gold by the SMP Gold Corp. (aka Oro Cruz). Quechan Indian Tribe president Jordan Joaquin was the first to speak during the public comment and shared how the BLM (Bureau of Land Management), which has basically given the green flag by Oro Cruz to go forward with their project, has never had a true tribal consultation with the Quechan Indian Tribe. Community members of Fort Yuma, Quechan Tribal Council Members, and registered Quechan and Kumeyaay members unanimously voiced their opposition to the development.

How much gold will be enough?

Between the years 1500 and 1650 alone, there were over 200 tons of gold taken from the Americas by colonial European powers. Most of the gold was mined by indigenous peoples from Bolivia to Mexico, and none of that wealth was given to them. And now Oro Cruz wants to get more. They have already mined some 61,000 ounces around the area, which is equal to around \$122,000,000. It was mentioned in the meeting that the land is now public lands, but Quechan tribal president Joaquin shared that new pottery and cultural artifacts have been found in the area. Incredibly none of the tribal members or community at large talked about wanting a share of the gold mined. Their concerns were with the birds that would be affected, their sacred ancestral lands, the contamination of the water, the Mojave Desert Tortoise, and other immaterial things.

**visit: [Indigenousnetwork.org](https://indigenousnetwork.org)**



## NEWS from San Diego North County *By Linda Kallas*

### Self-Discipline

by Katelyn Kallas

Hi, I'm Katelyn Kallas, better known as Katie. I'm 18 and freshly graduated from Carlsbad High School! This article is not going to be about what college I am going to and what I am majoring in. It is not about what a typical graduate does after high school; instead, it about what they typically DO NOT do. And that is join the United States Military. The Navy, to be exact.

Ever since about my freshman year of high school, I have been interested in learning what it takes to be in the Navy. I've always wondered if I could commit to such a career. Of course, the major money benefits always sounded nice too. I've really wondered what bootcamp could do to such a stubborn person. I'm used to waking up on my own time, so now I wonder how I'll do when I am forced to wake up at the crack of dawn to the sounds of yelling and screaming. I wonder how I'll handle working 40+ hours a week on a ship in the middle of the ocean. And of course, the time away from my family and friends won't be easy. My grandma will literally be calling every commander at my bootcamp just to check on me.



Katie and Linda

With all this comes a major factor in a successful life, which is self-discipline. Self-discipline can be defined as the ability to stay motivated and keep going, no matter how hard it is. It is simply persevering until you reach your goals.

Boot camp is a great example of a goal that will require quite a bit of perseverance and a good mindset. It is a chance at bettering my etiquette and attitude towards the next big chapter in my life.

Another reason I am choosing to take this path in becoming what nobody thought I would be is

simply to prove them and myself wrong! Doubt is something everybody struggles with. Not believing you can do it while others are also agreeing with you can be a big letdown. Over the years, I have learned to flip that around and make good out of it. At the end of the day, that little voice in your head telling you that you are not strong or brave enough should only be more motivation to keep going and meet those goals that make YOU happy and proud.

Therefore, I, Katelyn Kallas, am joining the United States Military to, not only get my education paid for like everyone else, but to learn how to be the best version of myself that I can be of and to leave my loved ones, friends, and any other doubters speechless and honored to know me!

### New Garden to Open at Park de la Cruz Community Center in City Heights

#### Space Will Provide Accessible Gardening Activities For Older Adults, Individuals With Disabilities And Other Community Volunteers

SAN DIEGO – An overgrown vacant lot in City Heights has been transformed into a garden at the Park de la Cruz Community Center. This morning, Sept. 16, a ribbon cutting event will be held to celebrate this new garden, which has been under development since 2021 and is now ready for community use.

Park de la Cruz Community Center opened in May 2020 with in-person programs commencing in June 2021. The center, a former YMCA building, has been transformed to include several amenities including a public gymnasium, fitness room, recreation room, sensory room, computer lab, multipurpose and community spaces, a kitchen and space for the Parks and Recreation Department's Therapeutic Recreation and AgeWell Services programs.

The garden has been a planned addition to the facility since it opened and was made possible by several donors and community volunteers. The Park de la Cruz Garden aligns with the Parks Master Plan, as well as the Age Friendly San Diego Action Plan, adopted by City Council in December 2021.

The garden provides accessible garden beds, benches and shade coverings for older adults, individuals with disabilities and other community volunteers. Participants will be able to learn gardening skills, harvest fruits and vegetables, and enjoy this tranquil outdoor space. To enhance the space further, a mural was also painted on the walls surrounding the garden. The mural

was designed by a local artist and community members assisted with the painting.

"The Park de la Cruz Program Garden is a fantastic addition to the City of San



Garden mural in progress.

Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Therapeutic Recreation and AgeWell Services', said Kristi Fenick, District Manager for the Parks and Recreation Department. "Because of the generous donors, numerous community agencies and volunteer support, the garden is thriving, resulting in the harvest being used for cooking classes, produce exchange, and garden/nutrition educational classes for individuals with disabilities and older adults."

Following the ribbon cutting on Saturday September 16 festivities were held throughout the Park de la Cruz Community Center and surrounding park to give participants a glimpse at many of the programs offered. There will also be refreshments, entertainment, activities and giveaways. Everyone is welcome to attend

Park de la Cruz Community Center  
3901 Landis Street  
San Diego, CA 92105  
(The community garden is located to the right of the building.)

### Promote National Suicide Prevention Month

We can all help prevent suicide. Every year, the Lifeline and other mental health organizations and individuals across the U.S. and around the world raise awareness of suicide prevention during September, National Suicide Prevention Month.

#### About National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and

community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness.

National Suicide Prevention Week is the Monday through Sunday surrounding World Suicide Prevention Day. It's a time to share resources and stories, as well as promote suicide prevention awareness.

World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10. It's a time to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most.

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## NEWS

from Las Vegas/Nevada

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

## Nevada Politicians Fighting for Seniors

Kena Adams & Steve Wolfson  
Clark County District Attorney

*Indian Voices* was recently in attendance at a luncheon with Seniors United. The luncheon was located at the Flamingo library in

Las Vegas. During the luncheon guest speakers Steve Wolfson, Clark County District Attorney and Senator Jacky Rosen spoke on protecting and supporting our Nevada seniors wherever and whenever necessary, with a major emphasis on Medicare. During Senator Rosen's speech *Indian Voices* asked if

Native seniors on IHS (Indian Health Services) and living in rural areas medical concerns were also being protected? Senator Rosen

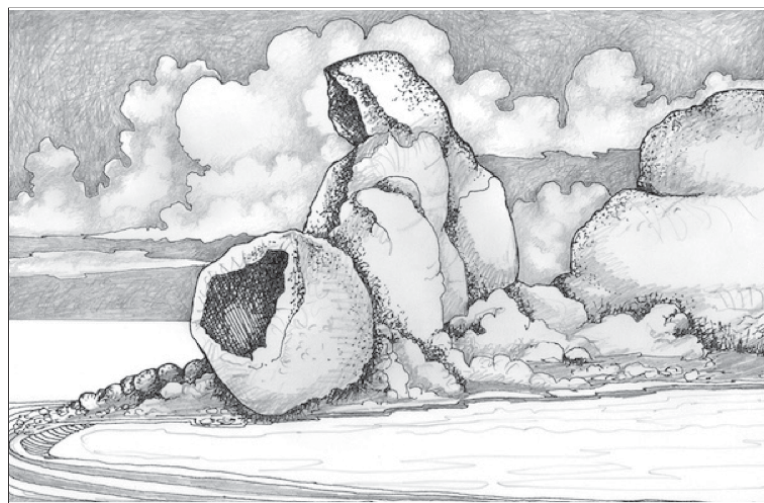
assured me that she is always working with the Indigenous community, and mentioned Senator Masto as well, "We (Senator Masto and Rosen) have worked on many projects together concerning Nevada's Indigenous Community such as making Spirit Mountain a National Monument for instance."

Kena Adams & Senator Rosen  
at Seniors United event

## The Art of Ben Aleck Honors Career of Indigenous Numu (Northern Paiute) Artist and Educator

Courtesy NEVADA Today

The work of lifelong artist, educator, and enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Kooyoee Tukadu/cui-ui fish eaters) Ben Aleck will



"Pea Teepe" by Ben Aleck

be featured in an exhibition titled The Art of Ben Aleck, which opened April 1 at the Nevada Museum of Art. The exhibition features over thirty of Aleck's paintings, drawings and mixed-media artworks, and traces his long career through works that emphasize deep connections between Indigenous communities and the Great Basin.

For the duration of the exhibition, all members of tribal communities will be offered free admission and due to the Free Student Admission Program, all University students are also able to visit

the museum free of charge.

An active and exhibiting artist in Northern Nevada, Aleck had his first solo exhibition at the age of 23 at the Nevada Museum of Art (then called the Sierra Nevada Art Gallery in Reno) in 1972. For many years, Aleck was employed by the Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitor's Center, and his art often relays the stories of the plants, animals, and geography of Pyramid Lake, located forty miles northwest of Reno within the boundaries

of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. His paintings and drawings also give visual form to Indigenous stories about the stars, coyotes, the formation of Great Basin lands, and the origins of its people, while at the same time tackling issues involving the environment and water use.

A longtime Nevada resident, Aleck was born in Reno in 1949 and was raised on the Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC). As an aspiring artist at Wooster High School, Aleck became part of the Upward Bound Program and was invited

to take art classes at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"I was in middle school, just twelve years old, when I first started attending fine art classes at the University of Nevada, Reno through the Upward Bound Program. One of the first classes I took was a drawing class from the University when I had a break from the regular classroom at Vaughn Middle School," Aleck said. "I grew up on the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The Colony at that time was at the edge of town, and I'd have to walk to my class at the campus early every morning. But, I enjoyed it. Even at that time, I knew that education was important if you want to go onto higher education in any field—mine happened to be art."

As part of the Upward Bound Program at that time, Aleck took classes from Professor Don Kerr where he learned to paint and draw using models. "The anatomy of the human body is important in my artwork and that was an important part of my development as an artist," Aleck said. He also studied under art teacher James McCormick. "By the time I finished high school I had built an art portfolio, and I pretty much had my choice of what art schools I could attend."

"All my teachers along the way from elementary school at Orvis Ring with Mrs. Wolfe to junior high school at Vaughn Middle School with Mr. Yacavelli, and Wooster High School with Tom Tucker, and the Upward Bound Program, where I studied at the University of Nevada, Reno with Don

Kerr and James McCormick have always encouraged me to do art. From the very beginning, I had a lot of support. I was really fortunate for that.

"The instruction in fine art that I received when I was an Upward Bound student at the University enabled me to create my artwork and to develop my technique, especially in drawing and painting. Having those skills enabled me to attend one of the better art schools in our region, the California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts (CCA)) in Oakland, California after I graduated from Wooster High School in 1968. I was a student there while the occupation of Alcatraz Island was going on, and that introduced me to more Native perspectives.

"Following what the Native American movement was doing as a young college student and artist gave me a greater insight into what it means to be Nuwu/Northern Paiute, and an enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Kooyoee Tukadu/cui-ui fish eaters). To this day, my artwork tells the stories of the Great Basin Tribes and gives visual form to not only Indigenous stories, but environmental issues that impact Indigenous people in the Great Basin, like water use," Aleck said.

After graduating from Wooster High School in 1968, Aleck attended the California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts (CCA)) in Oakland, California. During his time in the San Francisco Bay Area,

SEE Art of Ben Aleck, page 15

## FYI...

#JobAlert Clark County is hosting a Virtual Job Fair on September 27 at 9 a.m. Get insight on job openings available in several departments. We offer a 4-day work week, generous sick/vacation leave, 100% employer-paid retirement, and affordable medical/dental/vision benefits. Register today! <https://bit.ly/clarkcounty92723>

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## Metal

by April Nurse

Grit isn't just gorgeous gemstones and mysterious mineraloids. It's also the all-important category of metal. Everything from iron to ever-desired gold is mined and refined for everyday use. There are a few stock metals we commonly see in jewelry making, and they can have a large impact on the look and feel of the pieces we make.

Silver is the metal most smiths start with. It's readily available and comparatively inexpensive. This cool-toned metal is loved for its relative neutrality. When paired with most stones, it allows the natural colors and textures to shine through. It's a reliable medium for makers who love working with a variety of minerals. If you wanted the reflective nature of silver with greater durability, perhaps platinum might serve you better.

But if exclusivity is your aim, Rhodium, platinum's rarer cousin, takes the cake. It does, however, cost a pretty penny at about \$4,200 an ounce.

The ever-popular (and historic choice) is gold. An ounce of gold costs about \$1,900 per ounce in today's market. Silver, by comparison, costs about \$23 per ounce. The price of gold limits the range of makers who can learn the trade; as such, it's remained a fairly tight market. Outside of exclusivity, gold brightens the look of everything it touches. Inferior stones, backlit by gold, appear warmer

and more saturated in color. To achieve this look for less, metal smiths often choose brass or red brass (which has more copper). While cooler in tone to gold, thanks to the inclusion of zinc, this metal alloy gives a very similar effect, brightening and reflecting light. Most smiths shy away from using gold and brass with very dark colored stones as they can wash out the beautiful contrast and details.

Copper is a very inexpensive and common metal that forms some of the alloys we know and love, including brass and bronze. This unique rusty-colored metal is naturally beautiful. Over the last couple of years, copper-included gems and minerals have taken off in popularity and remain trendy today. Copper, as a setting material, greatly changes the look of gemstones. It's popular with opaque stones of complimentary colors like turquoise, blue flash labradorite, and amethyst. Because of the polarizing color and fast rate of tarnish, it's more common to find copper jewelry as a stand-alone textured and/or patinated pieces.

In the creative process of jewelry making, the setting material is just as important as the gemstone. The choice of material can determine whether the gemstone is brighter, warmer, contrasting or glows from within. It can determine whether imperfections are highlighted or hidden. Similarly, where we place ourselves determines which attributes shine through. Thankfully no setting need be permanent. While it's not always easy, we are free to change our setting as we see fit. What does your setting do for you?

## African American South in New Survey

The African American South is one of the 15 community types designated by the American Communities Project, which uses US census data, electoral results and other types of statistics to assemble a profile about the American people.

This African American South (AAS) comprises 272 counties, mostly in the South, often with Black majorities, and with an average Black population of 43%.

The AAS counties are not home to all Black Americans, not even close, with a population of only 13.1 million in total. There are at least 47 million Black folks in the United States, most living in the other 14 community types.

The AAS includes rural counties with shrinking populations, along with some counties of the growing metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Georgia Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham metropolitan areas in

North Carolina.

Many of the famous 1960s Civil Rights battles of Alabama took place in this region, as did the peak number of anti-Black lynchings in the early 1900s.

The most rural AAS counties have some of the lowest number of college graduates of any other community type. Rates of poverty are often high, as well. Ironically, Holmes County, Mississippi, is rated as one of the poorest counties in the U.S., yet has a high rate of Black land ownership.

Most Black Americans do not live in AAS counties, but in large cities of the South where they are not the majority, but are often in close proximity to AAS counties where the Black social and economic networks cross county and state lines.

For more information check out the American Communities Project at [www.AmericanCommunities.org](http://www.AmericanCommunities.org).

## Randy Edmonds

Continued from page 1

stories, sing honor songs, and recall special times. Family members shared significant moments, treasured family times, and advice that Randy had offered over the years. Some were overcome with emotion and some tears were shed. The drums continued to play and those who were able participated in a Round Dance. There were smiles and laughter as the

circle encompassed the room as Randy and Bonnie took it all in.

As the gathering drew to a close, Randy gave some 'shout outs' to all those who are carrying on the work here in San Diego. He appealed to the young and to the elders to keep up the good work. He saluted the efforts of SDAIHC and its leadership, he thanked organizations such as SCAIR, SDUSD Indian Education, and the local leaders in the room. He concluded by reminding people of an Old Indian Saying, "Lead, Follow, or get the hell out of the way!" His last remarks advised the people to be creative, support each other, and support the clinic, as we do not have communities or neighborhoods like other groups. He thanked the Great Spirit for everything and slowly the group said its goodbyes.

Randy and Bonnie will be in the land of the Seminoles as they make their way to Florida. As most can imagine, Randy already has people there. Those who know Randy but were unable to make it to his send off, can communicate by using his current information or contact him through the Health Center. Many who gathered took photos and video, so if you missed the gathering, ask a friend to share their memories of this event.

## Happenings in Soboba

by Robert Betancourt

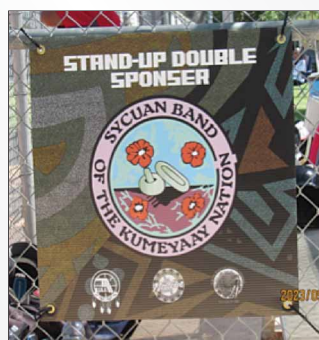


September 10, we had a pancake lunch for Saint Jude School (1 – 5) with some of our small cooks.

## THE NCAA INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

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## Indigenous Racism

Continued from page 4

“So that was very disappointing. It was heartbreaking, painful and angering to have experienced that in the workplace setting where all of us were supposed to be treated equally,” said Mejia, who is currently in the Madera City Council . Madera , the county seat, has a large and influential Oaxacan population.

The “-ita” is added at the end of the words as a term of endearment, but the terms become insults when paired with words directed at México’s Indigenous.

“I think that when people stay silent and they see that you’re going through something like that, they’re also accomplices to the person that is attacking you,” said Mejia.

“So there is a lot of work to be done around educating, you know, the community in general and decolonization of mindsets,” said Mejía, a first-generation college graduate.

Mejía said everyone’s experience is different when it comes to racism and discrimination.

Herself being Mexican American, indigenous born in the U.S. , Mejia said, is different from other indigenous people like her parents who migrated from Santa María Tindú in the Mixteca region of Oaxaca in their youth.

“We are experiencing this differently. We have different obstacles,” she said. “I know that our parents had the greatest hardship of physically coming here, but that doesn’t mean that, you know, obstacles stop for us.”

“We still have to break through so many barriers, including institutional barriers, college or being in places like city council or just all these new places for us, it’s like all of these different barriers,” said Mejía, who in 2021 lost an opportunity to be appointed to fill a vacancy on the council. One council member said she was not

qualified because she has never been a mother.

Mejia said she recognizes and acknowledges that she has “light-skinned privilege”.

“A lot of people didn’t always right away identify that I was Oaxacan myself because they have that prejudice,” Mejía said. “They think that everyone from Oaxaca is supposed to be a certain type of way, and we’re not.”

### When media perpetuate racism

Morales said media companies (he mentioned Televisa or Univision) – through movies, programs and novelas – continue to perpetuate racism and discrimination against indigenous people.

For example, Morales said, the character La India María – which is popular in México – degrades indigenous people.

He said media companies also use the words like ‘Oaxaca’ and ‘Oaxaqueños’ as being the defining entity representing the indígena (indigenous), plus there are still television programs or series that make fun of indigenous people.

“And you know it’s considered normal,” Morales said.

Morales said that racism is used by Mexican commercial media to draw an audience and to feed the racism, and the worst of Mexicans and Latinos, for the sake of the ratings.

He said television, radio and print news media in México are very comfortable “in discriminating and portraying us as, you know, as undesirables or ridiculing us and to build audiences.”

The racism in México, Morales said, is not just around indigenous and blacks, but also the Chinese.

Morales said some radio stations (he mentioned Univision Radio ) use a lot of the term ‘El Chinito (little chinese)’ which it’s all tied to racism against indigenous, a term that he is very well familiar with since

## Art of Ben Aleck

Continued from page 13

he witnessed the politics and protest of the Vietnam War era and the countercultural Hippie Movement. He became involved with the American Indian Movement (AIM) and participated in the American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from CCA in 1972.

“The Creator provided Ben with amazing gifts including the ability to address injustices effectively and succinctly. Ben is empathetic to all our relatives be they breathing or inanimate.... Ben’s art reflects how he prioritizes our stories, traditions, and our beloved Mother Earth. His work is heartening, and so necessary as we make our way through the drudgery and beauty of today’s world,” said Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission Stacey Montooth, who is also a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe.

“Ben blends humor, knowledge, and emotion to open eyes and hearts to contemporary issues of the region we call the Greater West,” said the Andrea and John C. Deane Family Chief Curator and Associate Director Ann Wolfe. “The Nevada Museum of Art is committed to amplifying and celebrating the many voices of Indigenous artists in the Great Basin and Sierra Nevada.”

Aleck is a founding member of the Great Basin Native Artists and has shown his work regularly in exhibitions at galleries and museums throughout the American West. Pieces of his artwork are in the permanent collections of the Nevada Museum of Art and the Nevada State Museum.

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it has been used against him many times.

“It’s racism, a play off, Mexicans are racist against Chinese, but they’re also racist against indigenous,” he said.

“Mixed bloods take a joy out of insulting indigenous people by calling them chinitos when in fact they know they’re not chinitos. But that’s what they use as a way to insult and degrade people, you know, in your face,” Morales said, adding that it is so ingrained by the media that people see it as normal.

Seeing how commercial media treat indigenous, Morales said that is why Radio Bilingüe highlights the voices of Mixtecos and Mixtecas every Sunday - with music, language, culture – a program that is transnational, being broadcast in their own homeland in Oaxaca and are respectful to its audiences, all indigenous.

“So, this is our way, one of our ways of lifting the voices of indigenous, of educating our other audiences who are mixed bloods and other people about, you know, what value we place in our listeners who are indigenous and they are capable of doing our radio show and projecting and speaking for themselves and advocating for ourselves and celebrate our own culture, our own language and so forth,” Morales said.

### A sense of pride: Breaking the culture of racism

Decolonization – breaking the culture of racism – begins with “education of not just the community in general, but even ourselves within our indigenous families,” said Mejía, a former journalist.

Her parents always instilled in her siblings and herself “a sense of pride of being mixteco,” Mejía said.

Mejía said indigenous parents teaching the next generation of indigenous born in the Valley like herself about their culture’s practices, traditions, customs beliefs and “that sense of pride, of being mixtecos,” arm their children at home with the

knowledge.

“And that empowers them in the event that they are bullied,” Mejia said.

However the job or the challenge of breaking the culture of racism shouldn’t fall only on the indigenous community, said Morales and Mejia.

“It’s not us, you know, it’s the other. It’s not the victim. It’s the perpetrator that, you know, we should focus on,” said Morales, who has lived in the United States since he was 9 years old.

From his own experience, Morales said he has faced less discrimination among white people than Latinos or Mexican Americans.

“Where I’m more appreciated, frankly, for my accomplishments are more white people,” Morales said. “It’s just sad. It’s not that white people are not racist because there is a lot of racism among white people. But the racism in Mexico continues unabated.”

Mejía said she heard that in Madera Unified there is education going on about “our large concentration of Indigenous people here in Madera.”

“The community in general needs to know who we are and that respect is important. And respect is a two way street,” Mejia said.

It’s been a long process, she said, “but just even having the conversation, that narrative in the media haciendo conciencia (raising awareness) it’s making progress.”

Comparing it to when she was younger to now, Mejía, who is in her 30s, said there is a sense of pride.

“People are uplifting our community. They’re not being ashamed of who they are and just celebrating who we are,” Mejia said. “And I think that La Guelaguetza Madera is one example of many that are happening right now.”

*This is part of a series on Stop The Hate, a project funded by the California State Library .*



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