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# INDIAN VOICES

OUR 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

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## Networking Restores Peoples Media

### Ida B. Wells-Barnett: A Trailblazer for Justice



by Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed

Ida Bell Wells-Barnett's name is often eclipsed in the annals of history, yet her impact on

the struggle for justice and equality reverberates through time. Born into the crucible of slavery's aftermath on July 16, 1862, in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Wells-Barnett emerged as a beacon of courage and resilience in the face of adversity.

Her parents, Jim Wells and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Warrenton, instilled in her a fervent dedication to education and social justice. Tragedy struck early in her

life when the Yellow Fever epidemic claimed the lives of her parents and youngest sibling, leaving Wells-Barnett, at the tender age of fourteen, to shoulder the responsibility of caring for her siblings.

Despite unimaginable hardships, she pursued education at Rust College and later embarked on a journey to Memphis, where her indomitable spirit ignited the flames of activism. It was on a train ride in 1884 that Wells-Barnett's defiance against segregation crystallized. Refusing to yield her seat to a white man, she became a symbol of resistance, prevailing against the injustice of racial segregation.

This pivotal moment spurred her into journalism, where she wielded her pen as a weapon against inequality. Through

her column "IOLA," Wells-Barnett fearlessly exposed the harsh realities faced by African Americans, amplifying their voices amidst a cacophony of oppression.

But it was the brutal lynching of her friends Thomas Moss, Calvin McDowell, and Henry Stewart in 1892 that galvanized Wells-Barnett into action. Witnessing the perversion of justice, she embarked on a crusade to expose the scourge of lynching, traveling across the South to document and condemn these atrocities.

Her seminal work, "A Red Record," laid bare the grim statistics of lynching,



dispelling the myth of "protecting white womanhood" as justification for these heinous acts.

Wells-Barnett's unwavering courage in the face of danger earned her the ire of white supremacists, who sought to silence her through violence and intimidation.

Undeterred, she took her

anti-lynching campaign to international platforms, garnering support and solidarity from allies abroad. In England,

SEE **Ida B. Wells-Barnett, page 3**

### Ruth-Ann Thorn Indigenous Entrepreneur

Artist - Gallerist - TV Show  
Producer and Host

by Veronica Wood

Ruth-Ann is a gallerist and owns a successful art business in San Diego. Beyond that she also is a TV host of two series that are in distribution with major networks, 'Art in the City' and 'Indian Country', which she describes as Anthony Bourdain-meets-Native America.

Where does she find the time? That's beyond you or I.

She gives some insight into her prolific career: "My success is based on the willingness to do whatever it takes no matter what. If a person does that, things will turn in a good way. People give up too soon."

But her road was not a straightforward one, and certainly not easy. Ruth was out on her own at 15.



She became a drug runner for a few years. When she came out of it, she felt it was a spiritual awakening. She got married and moved to Hawaii, where she got an art job that changed the trajectory of her life. She knew what she was supposed to do.

She knew it was time to start her own gallery business. So she went to the bank for a loan, but was refused because she was a young entrepreneur with no credit established. And yet, as she has a pattern of in her life, she did it anyway. She built her first company out of the back of a truck, and was able to open her first gallery back in California, where she began to represent artists.

She has owned seven galleries in the 20+ years she's been in the game, and today, she manages a large gallery in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter in San

Diego, where she has recently been honored by the city of San Diego as the only known Native American sole proprietor business. Visit ECGallery for more info.

As an artist with an inherent gift of storytelling, she channeled her creative spark into a new TV show where she could share the incredible people behind the art that she loves. With no formal TV experience, she embarked on a journey across the United States to interview various acclaimed artists and share their stories. You can watch *Art of the City* on YouTube.

Of course, one TV show is not enough. Ruth-Ann also partnered with FNX to develop another show called 'This is Indian Country.' She hosts the show, interviewing Native people who

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## Joy Reid's #1 New York Times Best Seller: Medgar and Myrlie

MSNBC's Joy-Ann Reid, a triumphant work of biography that repositions slain Civil Rights pioneer Medgar Evers at the heart of America's struggle for freedom and celebrates Myrlie Evers's extraordinary activism after her husband's assassination in the driveway of their Mississippi home.

*"Medgar Evers deserves a place alongside Malcolm X and Dr. King in our historical memory. Evers, with Myrlie as his partner in activism and in life, was doing civil rights work in the single most hostile and dangerous environment in America." — from Medgar and Myrlie*

*"I love this book. The empathic, brilliant, and wise Joy Reid has brought us the poignant, fascinating inside story of Medgar and Myrlie Evers, transformational leaders who confronted pure evil and risked their lives to ensure that all American children might grow up in a United States that was more just. As Reid shows us, that painful task is now more urgent than ever." — Michael Beschloss*

Myrlie Louise Beasley met Medgar Evers on her first day of college. They fell in love at first sight, married just one year later, and Myrlie left school to focus on their growing family.

Medgar became the field secretary for the Mississippi branch of the NAACP, charged with beating back the most intractable and violent resistance to black voting rights in the country. Myrlie served as Medgar's secretary and confidant, working hand in hand with him as they struggled against public accommodations and school segregation, lynching, violence, and sheer despair within their state's "black belt." They fought to desegregate the intractable University of Mississippi, organized picket lines and boycotts, despite repeated terroristic threats, including the 1962 firebombing of their home, where they lived with their three young children.

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers became the highest profile victim of Klan-related assassination of a black civil rights leader at that time; gunned down in the couple's driveway in Jackson. In the wake of his tragic death, Myrlie carried on their civil rights legacy; writing a book about Medgar's fight, trying to win a congressional seat, and becoming a leader of the NAACP in her own right.

In this groundbreaking and thrilling account of two heroes of the civil rights

movement, Joy-Ann Reid uses Medgar and Myrlie's relationship as a lens through which to explore the on-the-ground work that went into winning basic rights for Black Americans, and the repercussions that still resonate today.

### COMMENTARY FROM SADE TURNIPSEED TO JOY REID'S BEST SELLER!

It's truly an honor to have contributed to Joy Reid's bestselling work, particularly in highlighting the profound significance of the Mississippi Delta and its pivotal role in shaping the American narrative. As we travelled through the Delta together, exploring its cities and towns, I'm thrilled to see echoes of our shared experiences reflected in the pages dedicated to "The Medgar and Myrlie Love Story That Awakened America."

On page 26, Joy's inclusion of my words underscores the importance of recognizing the Delta's rich soil, akin to that found in Africa, which facilitated the cultivation of cotton and contributed to the immense wealth of the region's planters. By acknowledging this historical truth, Joy lends credence to the invaluable research conducted by Khafre, Inc., a Mississippi Delta-based nonprofit organization committed to commemorating the contributions of cotton pickers. Under Khafre's guidance, monuments and historical sites honoring Cottonpickers are being planned not only in the Delta but also in Manchester, England, and Segou, Mali. This international movement, spearheaded by Khafre Inc., seeks to unite Cottonpickers worldwide in solidarity and recognition of their significant contributions.

I'm particularly moved by Joy's depiction of our journey together in the Delta on pages 302-303, where she beautifully captures the essence of our exploration. Her description of me as "the fabulous Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed" and her recognition of my role in shedding light on Mississippi's 'cotton kingdom' and the remarkable work of sculptor Ed Dwight fills me with gratitude.

As the Executive Director of Khafre, Inc., I am deeply committed to advancing the cause of honoring cotton pickers and their legacy. For those interested in joining our movement, I encourage you to reach out to Khafre, Inc. through our website at [www.cottonpickersunite.org](http://www.cottonpickersunite.org). Together, let us continue to celebrate and preserve the rich heritage of the Mississippi Delta and its resilient communities!

## Message From WorldBeat Center: Together As One

Greetings Family,

We've been jamming through the start of 2024. We had an amazing 35th MLK Day celebration again with Pato Banton and Stand Up for Justice. Thank you Pato Banton for this year's incredible theme song. It was one of the most hearticle songs and videos about Dr Martin Luther King that I have heard; it was about coming together in peace among all colors, all people and all races as well as about his struggle to achieve liberation for all.

A week later, San Diego experienced a hard flood. WorldBeat Center was also hit but our heart also goes to all the families that lost their homes. Thanks to your generous food donations on Martin Luther King Day we were able to do an immediate response to feed families affected in our closest neighborhoods. This has been a community effort to clean and rebuild the affected communities. So many individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations have come together. Big up to Fred Sotelo, Birdie Gutierrez, Jackie Robinson YMCA, Mundo Gardens, Monica Montgomery just to name a few. We also want to thank the volunteers and individual donors who helped us clean up the water at WorldBeat Center and helped us purchase supplies and pay for repairs. We are grateful to each

and everyone of you. Thanks to you we were able to have our doors open in time for Black History Month with the first event Black Comix Day.

We are now in Women's History Month and I am so honored to be recognized for the "Cesar E Chavez Humanitarian Award" by Barrio Station during their 54th Anniversary Benefit Dinner.

Soon we will also be in Spring Equinox and Spring is also the perfect time to cleanse out the body. Save the date Friday, March 22nd, come learn about iridology with Dr Derah. She will have consultations the next day. The next week will be a gathering with the Aztec Dance community to convene and watch the film screening of "the Last Totli" It's a free event on Saturday, March 29th.

WorldBeat Cultural Center has been celebrating Earth Day for 32 years. Even though San Diego Earth Works is no longer producing Earth Day in Balboa Park, WorldBeat Center is continuing our Multi-Cultural Earth Day Celebration. This year's theme is "Together As One". It's going to take all of us, all nations, all races, all ages, all colors to Save this Planet from the effects of Climate Change, War, Hunger and Food Insecurities. We also need to work

SEE **Together As One**, page 7



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*May you live in interesting times is an expression where the speaker ironically wishes an "interesting" time to whomever he is speaking. In reality, he or she wishes the person to live during times of uncertainty and disorder as opposed to peace and tranquility.*  
– Chinese curse may you live in interesting times meaning.

## Secretary Haaland Fights for Murdered Indigenous People



Secretary Haaland visits Australia to showcase the interconnectedness of Interior's mission with those of our international counterparts; Deputy Secretary Beaudreau highlights the progress made to address the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis;

Interior announces major investments in water conservation and reliability in the Upper Colorado River Basin; the Biden-Harris administration outlines its strategy to meet aerial firefighting equipment needs; a once-threatened bird is poised for a major comeback; we'll tell you how Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments are remediating orphaned oil and gas wells on wildlife refuges; archaeologists find artifacts and the foundation of a substantial brick building at the birthplace of Harriet Tubman; USGS evaluates mine waste as a potential source of critical minerals.

## Clean Elections San Diego

Every thing is on track to getting clean elections on the ballot this fall. Four years ago, we got four votes to put the clean elections on the ballot. But of course, we needed five votes. We failed by one vote. We have continued to educate our city council members about the need for campaign finance reform for the city of San Diego and we think we will have our five votes to put clean elections on the ballot in November.

We have not yet finished our review of our clean elections measure. It is in the final stages and once it is complete, we will soon put it on our web page:

<http://www.cleanelectionssandiego.org/>

Finally, do clean elections provide more competition in elections? Our answer is yes, clean elections do promote competition in elections by leveling the playing field between wealthy candidates, special interest candidates and qualified candidates who have wide support, but little cash..

Check out this research done by State Politics & Policy Quarterly which is a peer-reviewed academic journal that covers research in the field of political science

Title: *The Impact of Public Financing on Electoral Competition: Evidence from Arizona and Maine.*

Author: Neil Malhotra, Stanford University.

Does complete public financing of campaigns enhance electoral competition? Arizona and Maine implemented similar clean elections programs for state-level races in 2000, providing an opportunity to examine the consequences of public financing. Employing two measures of competitiveness, I find that clean elections programs in both states significantly increased competition in districts where challengers accepted public funding. These findings suggest that public monies do not simply attract low quality challengers and that access to campaign funds is an important determinant of competitiveness. As a result, while public financing programs are not panaceas for uncompetitive elections, such programs can enhance competition in races where money is accepted.

John Hartley, Coordinator: Clean Elections San Diego - 619-299-8870 - [hartley2k@aol.com](mailto:hartley2k@aol.com) - (Contact me if you have any questions or suggestions)

## Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Continued from page 1

she established the London Anti-Lynching Committee, harnessing global outrage to confront America's shameful legacy of racial violence.

Upon her return to the United States, Wells-Barnett continued her activism, founding the Women's Era Club and advocating for suffrage, alongside luminaries like Susan B. Anthony and Jane Addams. Her steadfast refusal to compromise her principles, even in the face of opposition within the nascent NAACP, cemented her legacy as a radical voice for change.

In her final years, Wells-Barnett remained undaunted, running for the Illinois State Senate in 1930, a testament

to her unwavering commitment to political empowerment.

On March 25, 1931, Ida B. Wells-Barnett passed away, leaving behind a legacy of resilience, resistance, and relentless pursuit of justice. Her words echo through the corridors of history, a rallying cry for those who refuse to accept the injustices of the present.

"One had better die fighting against injustice, than die like a dog, or a rat [caught] in a trap." - Ida B. Wells-Barnett

In honoring her memory, we acknowledge not only her extraordinary accomplishments but also the enduring relevance of her message: that the fight for justice is a struggle we must embrace with unwavering determination, for it is a fight worth waging, no matter the cost.

## Black Panther Party Monthly Review



Henry Lee Wallace V  
Chairman, San Diego  
Original Black Panther  
Party For Community  
Empowerment.

Greetings to one and all!

Black History Month 2024 was full of excitement, wonder, and knowledge. I was fortunate to begin my Black History Month journey of enlightenment at San Diego State University on the first day of February. I was invited to participate in a town hall forum, based on my experience as an original member of the San Diego Original Black Panther Party.

The students and faculty of San Diego State University were enlightening and inquisitive.

After my co-panelists and I shared our recollections of the San Diego of old for 45 minutes, the students and faculty, then, asked questions. I was struck by their knowledge of the civil unrest of the 1960s. Some of the faculty were actual participants during that time, and they shared their experiences with the students and panelists.

It was such an exciting forum that we ran over our allotted time. At the end of our forum, we took numerous group photos.

On February 15, 2024, I spoke with the students and faculty at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA. I was amazed by the number of students who attended the forum. This time, I was joined by Mr.

Robert W. Williams and Mr. William Upton, Black Panther Party members, who flew out of Chicago, Illinois, to participate in the forum.

I was amazed by the diversity of this college. I am proud to say Southwestern College has come a long way in the diversification of its student body. I noticed that Southwestern College's tensions and conflicts have dispersed, and there's harmony in play. The students actively participated in learning about the San Diego Original Black Panther Party's place in San Diego and the nation's history. I look forward to future interactions with the Southwestern College students and faculty.

February 17, 2024, was a double hitter. I was fortunate to speak at the Neal Petties Mountain View Community Park. I spoke about the history of this park and how it was a flash point of civil unrest several times during the Civil Rights Movement. I spoke of the need to preserve the park's place in history. Neal Petties Park has been awarded a six-figure grant to start the preservation and restoration of the park.

That same afternoon, I was invited to share my past experiences at the oldest Black-owned building, known as the Clementine McDuff Elks Lodge #598. This Black History Month event was hosted by grant awardee Mrs. Kim Pea, who invited the community to this historic building. There were several Civil Rights activists who spoke on the need to preserve the Clementine McDuff Elks

SEE **Black History Month, page 7**

## Baldwin, Colleagues Introduce John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

*Legislation fights back against voter suppression, updates and restores critical safeguards of the original Voting Rights Act*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and her colleagues introduced the John R. Lewis Voting Advancement Act, legislation to stop state voter suppression efforts, safeguard critical voting rights protections, and restore and enhance the Voting Rights Act.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's damaging Shelby County decision in 2013—which crippled the federal government's ability under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to prevent discriminatory changes to voting laws and procedures—states across the country have unleashed a torrent of voter suppression schemes that have systematically disenfranchised tens of thousands of American voters. The Supreme Court's decision in Brnovich delivered yet another blow to the Voting Rights Act, by making it significantly harder for plaintiffs to win lawsuits under the landmark law against discriminatory voting laws or procedures.

"The right to access the ballot box and have your voice heard is foundational to how our democracy and country works. Unfortunately, we have seen targeted attacks on this right in Wisconsin and across the country, and we need to put an end to it," said Senator Baldwin. "Our bill honors the legacy of the late Congressman John Lewis and continues his work by curbing voter suppression, protecting Americans' right to the ballot box, and ensuring the power is in the hands of the people."

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is endorsed by hundreds of organizations, including the following leading civil rights organizations: Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), MALDEF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, and Demos.

The legislation is led by U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

## Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre Takes Creative Control

by Danielle Bartelli Oldfield

As March continues and we celebrate women who've made and are making a difference, the accomplishments of Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre, Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, must be brought to light. This children's book author, busy wife and mother, jingle dress dancer, and woman on a mission has committed to sharing her stories to promote Lakota lessons and offer subtle messages to the next generations.

Rencountre recently made the tough decision to leave her counseling position with the Rapid City School District in South Dakota to pursue, present, and promote her creative projects. For ten years, she worked as an elementary school counselor. She also spent five years as a high school counselor.

Her work with young people, along with the Lakota values with which she was raised, inspired Rencountre to write four books all rich with deep meaning. Her first book, *Pet'a Shows Misun the Light*, emphasizes the importance of kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love. It resulted in Rencountre being awarded the Great Plains Emerging Tribal Writer's Award.

The book *Thunder's Hair* features a young man who is fed up with school bullies. He considers cutting his hair until his wise grandmother reminds him of the power of having long hair. A grandma figure intervenes again in *Rainbows in December* when the character Kimi faces the loss of a loved

one. Although meant for primary grade children, the message in *We Are All Related: Mitakuye Owasin*, Rencountre's fourth book, shares the belief that one creator made all living things and we are all interconnected. This is a message that may apply to readers of all ages.

Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre credits her parents with inspiring her as a child to continue her writing. She hopes that, with her family's love and support, she will continue on her path of storytelling. She has said that she felt it was necessary to follow the "intuitive pull" she felt to leave her counseling position to continue her creative work. Tragically, Rencountre lost both of her parents to COVID-19 in 2020. From that enormous loss, she felt that it was urgent to learn and share the knowledge she carries as a Lakota person. She wishes to make use of precious time to continue the messages of her people and lessons learned from her family.

Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre believes a deep cultural awareness will strengthen Lakota (and other) youth and may help to break the cycle of generational trauma. Rencountre uses storytelling, song, and dance to heal. Those readers who enjoy her books may also find healing. Rencountre will continue her book writing and touring.

You may wish to follow her and her family's journey as they work together to accomplish their goals. Jessie married Whitney Rencountre over twenty years ago. From humble beginnings, they have worked hard to achieve positions that contribute to Natives nationwide. It was during COVID that Whitney, with others, created Social Distance Pow Wow, an online Facebook (Meta) Group that featured drummers, dancers, stories, music, and so much more. It was during this time that Jessie hosted a Women's Empowerment Show. SDP continues to this day. History, news, images, cultural events, accomplishments, pow wow highlights, and shopping opportunities are just a few of the posted information scrollers will discover.

Those interested in reading about or ordering Jessie Rencountre's books may do so by visiting her website: [www.Jessierencountre.com](http://www.Jessierencountre.com).

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## Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch began in 1978 with the creation of Helsinki Watch, designed to support the citizens groups formed throughout the Soviet bloc to monitor government compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accords. Helsinki Watch adopted a methodology of publicly "naming and shaming" abusive governments through media coverage and through direct exchanges with policymakers. By shining the international spotlight on human rights violations in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Helsinki Watch contributed to the dramatic democratic transformations of the late 1980s.

Americas Watch was founded in 1981 while bloody civil wars engulfed Central America. Relying on extensive on-the-ground fact-finding, Americas Watch not only addressed abuses by government forces, but applied international humanitarian law to investigate and expose war crimes by rebel groups. In addition to raising its concerns in the affected countries, Americas Watch also critically examined the role played by foreign governments, particularly the United States, in providing military and political support to abusive regimes.

In rapid succession in the 1980s, Asia Watch (1985), Africa Watch (1988), and Middle East Watch (1989) were added to what was then known as "The Watch Committees." In 1988, the organization formally adopted the all-inclusive name Human Rights Watch.

New human rights challenges in the 1990s led to important innovations in the work of Human Rights Watch. Its reporting on the 1991 Persian Gulf War for the first time addressed violations of the laws of war in bombing campaigns. Advocacy targets were expanded to give greater attention to the United Nations and regional bodies such as the European Union. "Ethnic cleansing" and genocide in Rwanda and the Balkans prompted the need for both real-time reporting of atrocities and in-depth documentation of cases to press for international prosecutions, which became possible for the first time in the 1990s. Human Rights Watch has supported and critiqued the

international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, sought prosecutions of abusive leaders including Augusto Pinochet of Chile and Hissene Habre of Chad, and played a prominent role in the drafting of the Rome Statute to create the International Criminal Court.

At the same time, Human Rights Watch broadened and strengthened its work on the rights of women, children, refugees, and migrant workers, bringing a human rights perspective to such issues as domestic violence, trafficking, rape as a war crime, and child soldiers. The organization found new ways to investigate rights abuses in closed societies such as Saudi Arabia and North Korea. It helped spotlight previously ignored topics such as the rights of gays and lesbians. It examined the international arms trade and the role of business in human rights, producing ground-breaking studies, for instance, on rights abuses in the oil, gold, and meatpacking industries.

Human Rights Watch in 1997 shared in the Nobel Peace Prize as a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and it played a leading role in the 2008 treaty banning cluster munitions.

The 21st century has brought new challenges. The September 11, 2001 attacks and their aftermath highlighted the need for new forms of pressure on terrorist groups and their supporters and close monitoring of counterterrorism laws, policies, and practices that infringe upon basic human rights. The HIV/AIDS pandemic led to the creation of a Human Rights Watch program devoted to human rights and health.

Human Rights Watch is increasingly applying its research methodology to economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly in the areas of education and housing. Human Rights Watch has also begun using statistical research, satellite photography, and bomb-data analysis, among other new methodologies. Combining its traditional on-the-ground fact-finding with new technologies and innovative advocacy keeps Human Rights Watch on the cutting edge of promoting respect for human rights worldwide.

*Protecting Rights, Saving Lives*  
Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people in close to 100 countries worldwide, spotlighting abuses and bringing perpetrators to justice

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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



by Sholók (sholok.0000@gmail.com)

### Love Letter For The Desert (Kumeyaay)



*Synopsis:*  
The desert is a hidden gem in plain sight. As open as it is, it's an esoteric place where I have found a big part of myself. The fantastical species here act as our

mentors in life, but you must find the water in unlikely places and ask for help.

Nach xas'ilh shiilwilm xmi tapá, paalhch ñe'in kwalyhaw ña yayaanakches. Ipxawwittm, ñach ña pin we'ip yiwim metxá shuukattch ñamat taayul. Xechurrm ñach melay sholók chemxán lhyuukwím suunaarr vel a'aw walh. Chiipamp wetapsh, chilhiich wetapsh nesoom. Kwerrawp s'aay welhyap, pes ñawach ñip kuuwam ñaawaap chatarr parawí texwín mangoneat.

Ipaat weñurr kiinulches, xkay Matsay Sonorrch chilhiich taayulhches. Ña-wenák kepech'uurr keñewaych Suxwalm ñeway, shuumaap xas'ilh taaniw. Puy naa weshulhm La Rumorós, ñeta'yulhches. Pes rewí mat kwaxánch ñemeshi'ayk. Nach paychá emúp weyaytenakxwach mat kwatayk iinaalh kepech'uurr, matsay uwiiw. Nach paychá maayiich emúch Sierra de Juárez mat chuway. Emúch sa'malh kwechxaw ipaat mat s'aaym piipá ñechkuuyáwa.

Parawí, Kumiai xeyaay kwatxemích mat ewí mat may wiiw, kwelhyap ña-kwaas uuyaaw. Shuutík yoxán. Peyí El Diablitoch ñilhwá, wi omáhl kwaxwat toyúm, ñach xechurr taakay wim pekwilh.

Ñewí ñemich Matsay Sonorr 'a'a ñapaam. Paalh matsayp xanúp tewá, ñapom ña'waach xa ipaat uuyáw. Xas'ilhch ñu waam tewá, ñamaayk mat kwechxwimk xpá kwatay ñechewaykches. Ñaama xa ipaat kiipch chilhiich kwiinóslh ñewaaykches, ñaawaach wesáw.

Ket'ulhi 'a'a ñapaamm puuk Hayikwiir Mat'aarpuch 'ii 'aakuulh ñapaam, puuk Ñach kwaas kwa'xan kwaas welhich ipaatmches. Ñach Las Vegaslh xmú kwerraw naaman. Maach yuxm mepaycháx chexuukaay welhich waarraw

matm, pes kwaas welhichx maaw xiipukm. Ñaawaach kwalyhap kwatay chuupaam, metipay nepach tiinam tenam uuyaaw tewách, ñamayk ñach walh teñeway ñapom xak wam. Ipaat matsaym tapaa ñawaach lthewyaaw uuyaawxwachches. Pes ñamayk ña-wenák nesoom ñach wa chemu'yáwa tewám, puu shkwak yaam kemán. Ñach kwalyhap kwerrawx maw, pes kwalyhap mattaamm weshulh. Maaykalh ipaat ñip aw aatuk, ñamayk ñap Vegas tipay weyú.

Ñewí kwiinos Hayikwiir Mat'aarm Numu Tubewabem ñip match xa wesí. Matm kepiiyaw mat kwatay piyáw, ñip alap maayk piñewaa yechurrm. Welhyap piyiyaw, ñamayk alap wechax ñamayk chewuwch yoxán xa ñip wesich, pes ñipch xa tuupallh wenaw chilhich yoxán puym wesich. Met'aarr Tumpisach ñapom alap wechax wesí. Peyách met'aarrp welhyap xan Matm ñamach we'ip, pes matpu ñip wetapsh xam wenaw ku'aylh. Ñipch Timbisha ipaat tepkwirr piwám ñewá.

Mat kwatay Rokayóspuch ñakk Numu Tubewabe esuw ñapom Xa Xwal ñewá, ñip mat yoxán meshayp metipay Yumán ñipaam. Sukwín uuyaaw yumánch piim xemim tewá. Sukwín match matsaym pal meshiayp xan, ñipch ipaatp peyím tapám ñechaawiwaches. Napóm, ñach Xa Xwalpu meshiáypa wixches, puknach mat kwataym semay ipaat ñipch wenáw, ñapóm matsaylh xemúk ñemich wenáw: Numu Tubewabe, Hayikwiir Mat'aar, Matsay Sonorr, ñama Suxwallh wenáwches.

Ñach ñam kwalyhaw chepam. Nach peyím ipaat map tapá maw, ñach xas'ilh shiilwilm ipaat map tapá. Pes ñam stik tewá matsaych xewak wa ñepiwá. Nach chepap maay uuyaaw, ñach mat kwatay weshiich, ñawix ñach matsaym tanáwa rripuyx maw. Ñamoyúm ñach matm kwatay pshiw toyúm. Pes ñach kurr kepway, tikwán met'arr s'aay uwiw, ñipch ñeshalh ñetaaluus rewí ñapax ñexekwán met'arrm chepap mat kaakap. Mat kwatay xwat mewas xapshiw kwet'olhk, mat kwatay xapshiw wiikk, kweñilhpu kewaakk, kwekwaspu ñaakk.

Ñach ñowáy Matsay. Ñapóm ñach wiñ 'oxa'yí peyím weshúlh tetpiitt, puknach mat lexúx lhyewí uuyaaw. Ñach mat piyá piwá paycháx kuuxáp ipaatlh.

## JOURNALIST'S NETWORK

### Enemy of The People or Women Making a Difference?

Good Afternoon My Dear Sisters:

I join my dear friend, Rose Davis, *Indian Voices* Newspaper, who will not tolerate Donald Trump's attack on the press. She asked me to provide her with list of names of sisters in Las Vegas who are making a difference in the press. You are not the enemy of the people, you truly are the voice of the people. Please feel free to call Rose Davis direct for

additional information. Please expect to hear from Ms. Davis. She can be reached at 619-234-4753

So far Kimberly Bailey, *Black Image Magazine* has responded favorably. Comisha Monica Lenoir, *Las Vegas Tribune* and Crustal Carr, *Network News* are pending.

Looking forward to an exciting year!

Katie Duncan - Heritage House

### IJA Launches Indigenous Media Initiative Survey During Sunshine Week

Indigenous Journalists Association surveying Indigenous members on free press experiences

The Indigenous Journalists Association's 2024 Indigenous Media Initiative Survey, launched in coordination with Sunshine Week March 11-15, is now open through May 3. The survey is aimed at helping IJA better understand the value and status of free press and open government among Indigenous peoples and nations to inform its advocacy efforts.

Hosted by the Brechner Freedom of Information Project, Sunshine Week highlights the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary secrecy.

Indigenous peoples depend on tribal and Indigenous-owned media outlets for essential news and information about their communities. Because many Indigenous communities reside in places without an independent local media outlet, organizations supported and influenced by tribal and Indigenous nations may be the only source of information about these governments' affairs. Additionally, mainstream media coverage often sorely

lacks the context and perspective necessary to tell Indigenous stories with clarity and authenticity.

While tribal and Indigenous media outlets have the experience and depth of understanding to provide nuanced coverage, they may not have the freedom or resources to report fully on issues that concern their audiences.

IJA, formerly the Native American Journalists Association, conducted the Red Press Initiative Survey in 2018. In 2024, the Indigenous Media Initiative aims to survey Indigenous members again about their experiences with tribal and Indigenous free press and open government. Responses will inform IJA on the current status of these key issues within Indigenous communities.

All respondents that complete the survey will be entered in a drawing to win a weekly \$25 Eighth Generation digital gift card each Friday, March 15 through May 3.

All current Indigenous members will receive the survey directly to the email account associated with their membership. If you have any issues, please contact: scosper@naja.com.



### Honoring Slain Journalists

Altar for slain journalists: A Day of the Dead altar honoring slain Mexican journalists was recently installed in Tijuana at Centro Estatal de las Artes. Local journalists will gather at noon to remember slain colleagues, demanding an end to the violence against journalists and calling for justice for those slain across Mexico.

photo: TijuanaPress.com



*"The people must know before they can act, and there is no educator to compare with the press." – Ida B. Wells*



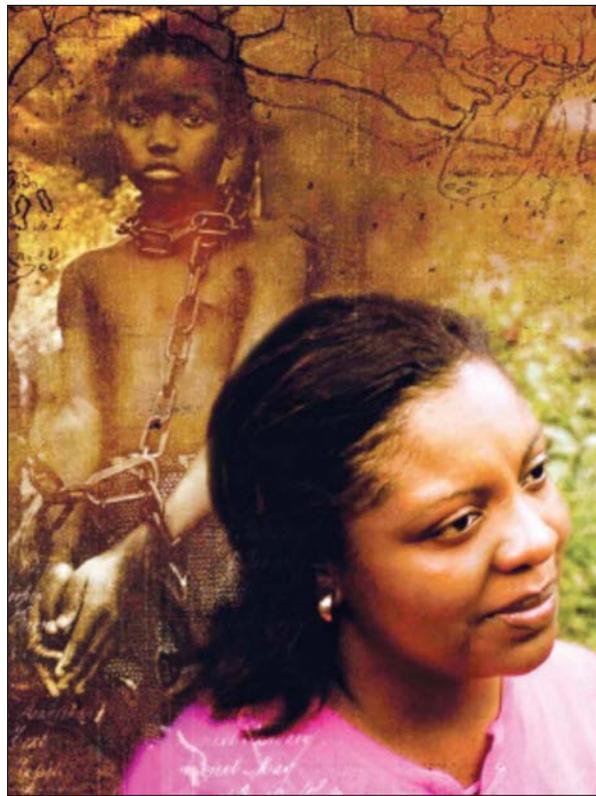
To improve the quality of life of those who recognize themselves and choose to be recognized by others as "Indigenous Peoples of Color of the Americas" and in support of The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization (AIRRO).

## When Priscilla Came Home: Tracing one enslaved African's genealogy from the United States back to Africa

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association

During Black History Month, FambulTik, which is known for leading African Heritage Tours, facilitated one of the most emotional and necessary Zooms for those who attended. Titled "Priscilla's Legacy", this meeting detailed the story of Priscilla and her descendants. What we witnessed was described by Fambul Tik as a "powerful tale of connection, resilience, and the enduring impact of the transatlantic slave trade." And it surely was. Following the presentation, there was not a dry eye in the house.

In 1756, a 10-year-old Sierra Leonian girl was stolen and forced onto a slave



ship called the Hare. That ship was bound for the not-yet-established United States. Upon her arrival in the Lowcountry Region of the United States, she was renamed Priscilla (Her real name has been lost to history). She endured fifty-five years of slavery.

Caleb Godfrey, who was the captain of the Hare, purchased the young girl in early 1756. The Hare departed from Sierra Leone on April 9, 1756, headed for Charleston, South Carolina. Following the harrowing 10-week sea voyage, the ship arrived at its intended destination. Henry Laurens, who was slave dealer, sold the newly arrived Africans. Elias Ball, who was a wealthy planter, purchased Priscilla and four other children. They would be given "American" names and be enslaved on his Comingtee Plantation, which was located near Charleston.

Interestingly, the Ball family kept

impeccable records pertaining to those they had enslaved. So it was recorded that Priscilla married a man named Jeffrey, with whom she had ten children. It was also recorded that Priscilla died in 1811 at the age of 65.

Edward Ball, a descendant of Elias and Isaac Ball and a writer, and Joseph Opala, a professor and anthropologist, researched Priscilla's story. They also traced her lineage through seven generations until they found Thomalind Martin Polite and her family.

Edward Ball wrote *Slaves in the Family*, which won a National Book Award. In the book, Mr.

Ball details the lives of the Ball family as

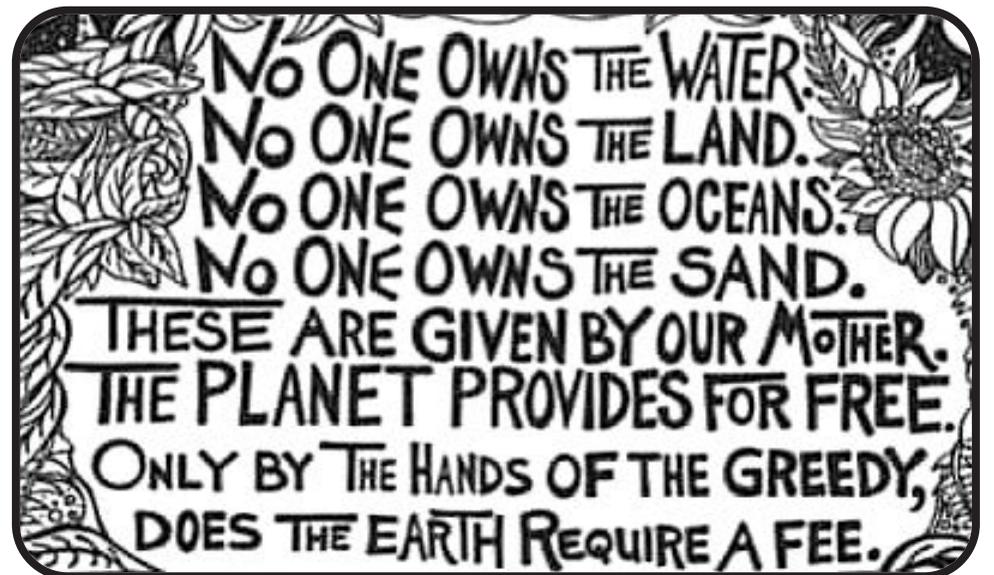
slave owners and his journey as he researched and tracked down descendants of the people who were enslaved by his family.

Upon the discovery of Priscilla's living descendants, a trip

to return home to Sierra Leone was planned. In May of 2005, Thomalind and her husband Antawn returned to Sierra Leone. They were there for seven days. Each day was filled with diplomatic meetings and cultural exchanges. And the whole time that she was there, Thomalind was called "Priscilla."

Almost 250 years after she had been stolen from her homeland, one of Priscilla's descendants was able to return home, and she was greeted with open arms because they had been waiting for her.

If you would like to watch the video, just search "Priscilla's Legacy – Zoom Meeting" on YouTube. It is on Fambul Tik – Leading African Heritage Tours's channel.



## Powerful Words

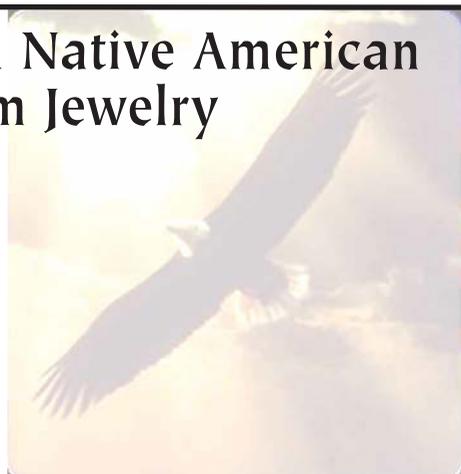
During the 1960s in the United States, young people began speaking and writing this phrase as a form of rebellion against what they perceived as oppression by the older generation, especially The Establishment. The Black

Panthers used the slogan "All Power to the People" to protest the rich, ruling class domination of society. Pro-democracy students used it to protest American involvement in the Vietnam War.

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## Encinitas City Council Unanimously Passes Youth Resolution To Support Ca Law Protecting Communities From Oil Drilling Passes

*The city has endorsed keeping SB 1137, the health & safety setback legislation, in place when residents vote on the referendum on the November 2024 ballot*

Encinitas, CA – On Wednesday, February 28th, the City of Encinitas voted unanimously to pass a resolution requested by high school students in the Youth v. Oil Campaign. This resolution puts the City of San Diego on the record as endorsing the Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, joining with environmental groups to stand up to Big Oil. It commits the City of Encinitas to prioritize uniting our communities to keep the health and safety setback bill SB 1137 in place, and defeat the 2024 repeal referendum. View the meeting livestream (item begins at about 20 minutes into the meeting; this link may not work after the meeting ends, but recordings will be linked on this page).

SB 1137 was signed into law by Gov. Newsom in 2022, implementing 3200 ft setbacks between oil drilling sites and homes, hospitals, schools, and more to help protect against the severe health impacts of air pollution exposure. In the past year, Big Oil has unfortunately decided to try to overturn this lifesaving law, gathering the signatures to call for a referendum on the bill on the 2024 November ballot.

At the council meeting, youth and community members spoke passionately on the need to ensure safe and healthy neighborhoods for all Californians. 24 organizations signed a letter of support and many people submitted public comments in addition to the 6 youth and 4 community members who testified in person. A similar resolution was unanimously passed at the City of San Diego Environment Committee just two weeks prior and is expected to go to the full council next month.

Youth v. Oil is SanDiego350's youth-run grassroots climate action and justice campaign committed to preserving

a livable climate for young people everywhere. Youth v. Oil members have worked for over two years advocating for setbacks, previously passing their End Oil Drilling Resolution at the SD City Council, which called on Gov. Newsom to support the implementation of 3200 ft setbacks and contributed to getting SB 1137 passed.

"As the City of Encinitas we're proud to stand with frontline communities and continue our commitment to banning offshore and on-land drilling with this resolution," said Councilmember Kellie Hinze, who brought this resolution to the council. "Today we saw how the youth of Encinitas are passionate and empowered to stand up to Big Oil and fight for our future."

"Today's unanimous vote to support the Campaign for a Healthy and Safe California is a great first step," said Taarika Sethee, member of Youth V. Oil and 8th grader at Pacific Trails Middle School in Encinitas. "As youth who live in Encinitas, we need to know our elected leaders are invested in ensuring a healthy, sustainable future for all Californians."

"We must send a clear message to Big Oil that Encinitas residents support the right of all California communities to a safe and healthy environment, free of toxic pollution produced by the oil industry," said Isabel White, Youth v. Oil member and senior at Canyon Crest Academy and Encinitas constituent.

"Oil drilling is wreaking terrible health impacts on the communities of color. It's imperative that we ensure that SB 1137, the lifesaving bill that creates health and safety buffer zones between these toxic sites and people's homes, schools, playgrounds and jobs, is implemented." said Sydney Chan, the Youth4Climate intern with SanDiego350 and a senior at Canyon Crest Academy. "Today's vote at the Encinitas City Council is a great step for the City of Encinitas to stand with impacted communities."

noise pollution. WorldBeat Center is looking into creating green spaces using the Miyawaki forest method led by our climate advisor, Nan Renner. This year at Earth Day we will have Green Stations where you can swap seeds, learn to compost, learn about healing herbs as well as information on ways to get involved with local organizations. See you and the family Sunday, April 21st 12pm-6pm at WorldBeat Cultural Center. Remember here at the WorldBeat Center you are all our relations!

**Asante and many blessings, Aho!**  
**Executive Director, Makeda Cheatom**

## Performing Arts Organizations Unite for San Diego Theatre Month - March 2024

**For the 9th year in a row, dozens of San Diego performing arts organizations will offer value-priced tickets throughout the County**

SAN DIEGO – "San Diego has sent more shows to Broadway than any other city in America, and we want audiences to experience what makes our region's performing arts scene so unique. The goal of Theatre Month is to get you to a seat and enjoy what San Diego has to offer," says Jay Henslee, President of the San Diego Performing Arts League (SDPAL), a nonprofit which advocates for performing arts organizations and operates the iconic ArtsTix Ticket Center in Horton Plaza Park. SDPAL also manages the popular [www.sdartstix.com](http://www.sdartstix.com), San Diego's only nonprofit online ticket service.

For Theatre Month 2024, all tickets will be offered at discounted rates of \$15, \$30 or \$45 - these seats are the best in the house as of the night of the event. The goal is to simplify ticket purchasing for all participating events by using one website [www.sandiegoteatremoth.com](http://www.sandiegoteatremoth.com).

"What began 9 years ago as Theatre Week has expanded into an entire month

of exciting offers from over 30 performing arts organizations," said Henslee, "We're working to introduce even more San Diegans and visitors to our world-class arts and culture scene, from Escondido to the Silver Strand and everywhere in between! The options are considerable."

This year, audiences have the opportunity to view exclusive, behind-the-scenes footage from participating groups through a series of Instagram takeovers beginning in late February. Follow the official San Diego Performing Arts League Instagram page (@sdperformingartsleague) for backstage content and surprises.

For questions, please contact [artstix@sdpal.com](mailto:artstix@sdpal.com) or call 619-234-ARTS.

*Participating organizations include: Broadway San Diego, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Theatre for Young Professionals, Patio Playhouse, City Ballet of San Diego, Mockingbird Improv, New Village Arts, National Comedy Theatre, Genesis Opera Theatre, PowPAC, Poway's Community Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, MOXIE Theatre, Lamb's Players Theatre SDSU School of Theatre, Television and Film, San Diego Actors Theatre, Scripps Ranch Theatre with Common Ground Theatre, Backyard Renaissance, San Diego Junior Theatre CCAE Theatricals, The Roustabouts Theatre Company, Trinity Theatre Company, Coronado Community Theatre, Oceanside Theatre Company and more to be announced soon!*

## Black History Month

Continued from page 3

Lodge and educate the community on growing and supporting Black businesses in San Diego.

On February 21, 2024, I was invited to join the Neal Petties steering committee. I felt very welcomed by this group of diverse community members. The committee was staffed by Caleb with San Diego's City Recreation, along with San Diego's city police, the sheriff's department, the city council staff and various community members. I want to thank Mr. G, Cybele Thompson, Dwayne Hill and Jeffrey Hayes, for making me feel welcomed at the business meeting. A lot of good planning came out of the meeting for the Neal Petties Park. I can't wait to see the future improvements to this park.

On February 24, 2024, I was fortunate to attend The Keepers of the Culture 2024. It was pure Black excellence. The San Diego History Center located in Balboa Park was packed with a who's who of the A-listers. I enjoyed seeing the iconic panelists and hearing their light-hearted exchanges with the attendees. The panelists consisted of county supervisor Mrs. Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vernon Sukumu, formerly of the Us Organization, former members of the R&B singing group Satisfaction and others. Their stories were told with humor and laughter. It was a night to remember.

On February 25, 2024, the African American Heritage celebration took place. It was hosted by Ms. Kristie Cummings, Secretary of the House of the USA. This

event was attended by a diverse cross-section of our community. It was located in the historic houses of nations in beautiful Balboa Park. The participants of this wonderful event were the Boys Scouts, San Diego Police and the sheriff's department. There were speeches by community activists and myself. I even shared my musical talents with the attendees.

On February 28, 2024, several community activists and I were invited to the hallowed chamber of city hall by the Human Relations Commission's Tootie Thomas (Chair), Tyker Duncan (Vice-Chair), Ryan Trabuco (secretary). We all received numerous certificates from the city fathers and the Bayard Rustin Plaque award, by the Commission.

On February 29, 2024, I was invited, at the last minute, to a Black History Month celebration at the old post office in El Centro, California. The celebration was hosted by Black Lives Matter, which is headed by Mr. Hilton Smith and his son Wesley Smith.

The community was diverse, with plenty of multi-cultural food. Yummy!!! There was music performed by Ms. Toot. Five community members were recognized, including myself. We were awarded a Black Lives Matter medal. Our keynote speaker was Mr. Yusef Miller of the North County Equity and Justice Coalition/San Diego Original Black Panther Party.

We had a heartfelt, wonderful time.

I want to thank all of the event hosts and our communities for a fun-filled 2024 Black History Month!

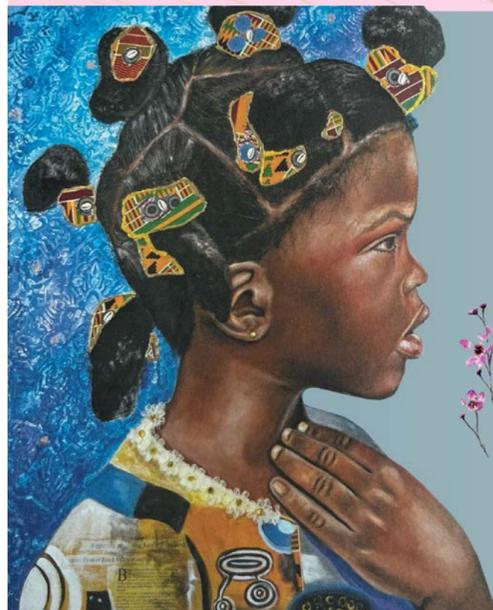
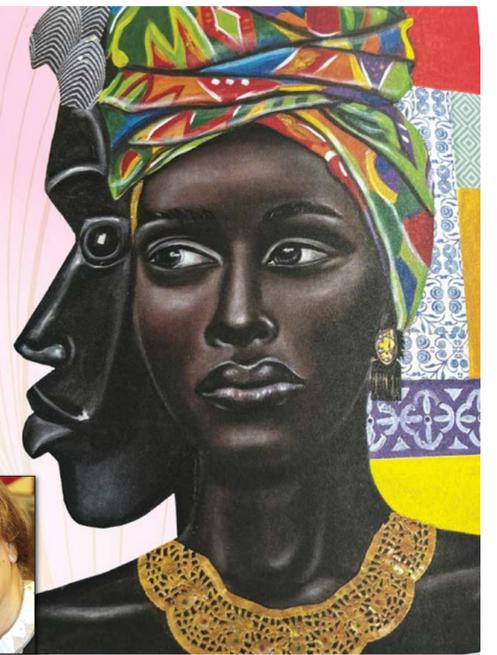
## Together As One

Continued from page 2

together with our environment. We can no longer see ourselves as separate. We all must join together and have a purpose that's beyond greed and constant division. Humans have also created urban heat islands that are disproportionately affecting low-income and BIPOC communities. To address this challenge we must plant and caretaker of more green spaces. These green spaces can help absorb CO2 as well as create sanctuaries and buffer zones against

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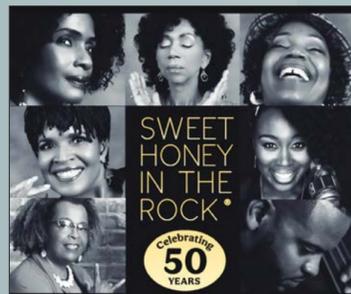
Bernice Johnson Reagon

Sweet Honey in the Rock was founded in 1973 by Bernice Johnson Reagon. The ensemble's most powerful messages are proclaimed through an enormous catalog of songs addressing the world's woes. They are currently occupied with immigration injustices, congressional greed and lack of compassion for citizens, the environmental imbalance, racial issues and women's issues.

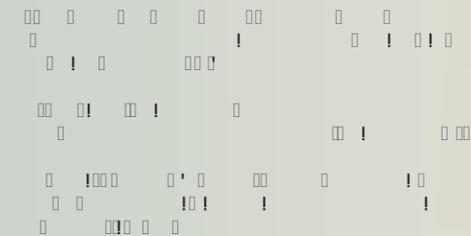
They performed at the White House in 2009.

This all-women African-American cappella ensemble are a three-time Grammy-Award nominated troupe. They express their experience as Black women through song and dance. Although the members have changed over five decades, the group continues to sing and perform worldwide.

As the universe embarks on a new chapter in our celestial journey, it is refreshing and assuring to know that Sweet Honey in the Rock is here with us to assist the Ancestors in guiding us to the next level of our existence with music and love in our hearts.



Holding Up Half the Sky



**We Rise**

## The Chris Hedges Report With Pulitzer-Prize Winning Reporter Gretchen Morgenson On How Private Equity Billionaires Bought Up America And Turned Workers Into Serfs

by Chris Hedges

The U.S. economy is being held hostage by a small cohort of financiers who run private equity firms --- Apollo, Blackstone, the Carlyle Group and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. These equity firms buy up and plunder businesses, piling on debt, refusing to reinvest, slashing staff and often driving companies into bankruptcy. The object is not to sustain businesses, but to harvest them for assets to make a short-term profit.

Those who run these firms, such as Leon Black, Henry Kravis, Stephen Schwarzman and David Rubenstein have amassed personal fortunes in the billions of dollars. The wreckage they orchestrate is taken out on workers who lose jobs or see salaries and benefits slashed, on pension funds that are depleted because of usurious fees or abolished and on our health and safety.

Residents of nursing homes owned by private equity firms, for example, experience 10 percent more deaths because of staffing shortages and reduced compliance with standards of care. Private equity owned hospitals have created a crisis in the health-care system. Nursing shortages have contributed to one of every four unexpected hospital deaths or injuries caused by errors. The private-equity firms do not serve patients but profits.

They have closed hospitals, especially

in rural America. They cut back on stockpiles of vital medical devices, including ventilators and personal protective equipment. In 1975 the U.S. had about 1.5 million hospital beds and a population of about 216 million people. Now, with a population of over 330 million people, we have around 925,000 beds. Fifty-six percent of Americans have medical debt, even though many have insurance, and 23 percent owe \$10,000 or more.

Emergency room visits - emergency rooms are often run by private equity firms -- contributed to medical debt for 44 percent of Americans. At the same time, the health care system, because of this slash-and-burn assault, was unprepared to handle the Covid epidemic, seeing 330,000 Americans die during the pandemic because they could not afford to go to a doctor on time.

These private equity firms, like an invasive species, are ubiquitous. They have acquired educational institutions, utility companies and retail chains while bleeding taxpayers of hundreds of billions in subsidies, made possible by bought-and-paid-for prosecutors, politicians and regulators.

Joining me to discuss private equity firms and their assault on the economy is Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Gretchen Morgenson, who along with Joshua Rosner, wrote "These are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs - and Wrecks - America."

## NETWORKING



In collaboration with Jerry Ashton

## A NEWS OUTREACH

### Armed Forces Chamber Honors Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo at Lincoln Day Dinner

Pahrump, NV – The Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce proudly presented a plaque to Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo on February 23, 2024, at the Lincoln Day Dinner held in Pahrump, NV. The prestigious event, hosted by the Nye County Republican Party, witnessed overwhelming success with a sold out event drawing esteemed dignitaries, officials, and media.

The evening featured distinguished guests such as Nevada Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, Nye County Commissioners Bruce Jabbour and Frank Carbone, Nye County Sheriff Joe McGill, and Justice of Peace Michele Fiore. Media coverage was provided by the Pahrump Valley Times and KPVM-TV.

Andre Haynes, Founder and CEO of the Armed Forces Chamber, had the privilege of bestowing the plaque upon Governor Lombardo. Acknowledging the governor's extraordinary dedication to the nation, Haynes expressed, "Governor Lombardo's narrative, emerging from a military family in Japan and subsequently



servicing in the United States Army and the Nevada National Guard, deeply aligns with the values and dedication we champion within the Armed Forces Chamber. Presenting this plaque symbolizes our joy in acknowledging his commitment."

Governor Lombardo, with a background rooted in military service, attended Rancho High School in North Las Vegas and later earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Following his military service, Lombardo joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, ultimately becoming Sheriff of Clark County in 2014 and being re-elected in 2018. Elected as the 31st Governor of Nevada in 2022, Lombardo is committed to diversifying the state's economy, restoring law and order, and enhancing education.

The Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt gratitude to Governor Lombardo for his exemplary service and leadership.

### Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce Honors Leo Blundo with Prestigious Plaque at Lincoln Day Dinner

Pahrump, NV - The Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce proudly presented a commemorative plaque to Mr. Leo Blundo, Chairman of the Nye County Republican Party, during the highly anticipated Lincoln Day Dinner held on February 23, 2024, in Pahrump, NV. The event, hosted by the Nye County Republican Party, witnessed overwhelming support with a sold out event and gathered distinguished guests from various realms of politics and public service.

Prominent figures such as Nevada Lieutenant Governor Stavros Anthony, Nye County Commissioners Bruce Jabbour and Frank Carbone, Nye County Sheriff Joe McGill, Justice of Peace Michele Fiore, and many others graced the occasion. The media presence was robust, with coverage from the Pahrump Valley Times and KPVM-TV capturing the essence of this significant gathering.

The keynote speaker for the evening was none other than Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo, whose address resonated with the audience on matters of critical importance. The highlight of the night



came when Andre Haynes, Founder and CEO of the Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce, presented the prestigious plaque to Leo Blundo, acknowledging his unwavering support for veterans and his pivotal role as a partner of the Armed Forces Chamber

of Commerce.

In expressing his appreciation, Andre Haynes remarked, "Leo Blundo's commitment to supporting veterans and his dedicated partnership with the Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce exemplify true leadership. We are honored to recognize and celebrate his contributions to our community."

Leo Blundo's advocacy for veterans and his active involvement in fostering collaboration with the Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce have positioned him as a beacon of support for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. The ceremony underscored the importance of unity and collaboration in strengthening the bonds between the community and those who have served in the armed forces.



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by Camille Appling

## San Diego Neighborhood Coalition

For more information, email us at [Kevin@sandiegonc.org](mailto:Kevin@sandiegonc.org)

Knoxville, Tennessee native Kevin G. Arnold has prepared a superb program for the San Diego Neighborhood Coalition. His humble beginnings include attending Clark Atlanta University, where he served as the Black Student Union President and Student Body President. His sociocultural and educational training prepared him to serve under the late great Congressman John Lewis. He oversaw community relations and business.

His experience includes coordination for Congressman John Lewis' actual campaign, held in DC. He is also the president of Clark Atlanta University's Alumni Association. As founder and facilitator of the San Diego Neighborhood Coalition, he promotes community safety and crime prevention.

He has prepared multiple programs for community improvement in Little Italy, Downtown, East Village, North Park, Point Loma and other communities. The programs include open forums for law enforcement, including Sheriff Kelly Martinez and politicians like Stephen Whitburn, where the community can ask real questions with real resolve. We are also planning a community day for San Diego families and homebuyer seminars.

Kevin Arnold is joined by a stellar staff, including Ana Firicano who stated, "I joined the San Diego Neighborhood Coalition because I really believe in the mission! There is no more noble work than that of care-taking for your community. We cannot stand by as our beautiful city is overrun by crime and a lack of safety. I feel very passionate about helping San Diego neighborhoods become more vibrant, resilient and more welcoming, like we used to be. I want to be part of something bigger than me." Ana is a vibrant member of the organization who is diligent in service.

We also have help from Patty Doyle who valiantly stated, "The purpose of forming the San Diego Neighborhood Coalition was a meeting of the minds between community residents and business owners concerned about the rise in crime in our fine city. Under the leadership of Kevin Arnold, we stepped up to say something, and do something to advocate for cleaner safer neighborhoods for all." The organization is filled with vibrancy and a pure desire for safety in our communities.

The San Diego Neighborhood Coalition would like to invite you to some of next meetings listed below.

*San Diego Neighborhood Coalition*  
**MISSION STATEMENT:** Our mission is to create a safe, clean and educated community where businesses prosper and residents thrive. We focus on environmental stewardship, educational growth, and vibrant commerce to ensure a better future for San Diego.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Thursday, March 21, 2024  
 Location: The Helm, 191 West Beech Street San Diego, CA. 92101  
 Time: 6:00PM

- Thursday, April 18, 2024  
 Monthly Speaker: Sheriff Kelly A. Martinez of San Diego County  
 Location to be announced  
 Free to the Public  
 RSVP required

- Monday, May 6, 2024  
 Time: 6:30pm -8:00pm  
 Meet and Greet  
 Guest: City Council Member Stephen Whitburn - District 3  
 Location To be announced  
 Free to the public  
 RSVP required

- Thursday, May 16, 2024 monthly meeting  
 Time: 6:00PM  
 Location: The Helm, 191 W. Beech St., San Diego, CA. 92101

- Thursday, June 20, 2024 monthly meeting  
 Speaker: Barbara Bry, former city council member and mayor candidate  
 Time: 6:00pm  
 Location to be announced

- Thursday, July 18, 2024  
 Speaker: Clayton Fowler, Downtown Partnership  
 Time: 6:00PM  
 Location: The Helm, 191 W Beech Street San Diego, CA. 92101

**UPCOMING EVENTS 2024**  
**HOME BUYERS SEMINAR**  
 • August 24, 2024  
 Time: 10:00am -3:00pm  
 Location to be announced  
 Free to the the Public  
 RSVP required

- September 21, 2024  
 Candidates Form  
 6:00pm -9:00pm  
 Location to announced  
 Open and free to the public

- October 19, 2024  
 Community Day  
 WaterFront Park  
 Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm  
 Free and open to the public

Vendors Needed.  
 Artist events, exhibits, food vendors, exhibits, not for profits, music, excitement.  
 This is a non-alcoholic and non-smoking event.

For information email us at [Kevin@sandiegonc.org](mailto:Kevin@sandiegonc.org)

**Women of Color in the Law**  
**Balancing The Scales: Strategies for Lawyers Confronting Stress in the Pursuit of Mental Well Being**

On March 3, 2024, the Women of Color in the Law (WOCLSD) hosted a luncheon at the Westgate Hotel. It was titled "Balancing the Scales: Strategies for Lawyers Confronting Stress in Pursuit of Mental Well Being." This luncheon was convened in response to the need for mental health care and processing in the

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legal community.

Honorable Queen Mother and Administrative Law Judge Vallera Johnson started Women of Color in the Law in 2002 to increase diversity and mentorship in the San Diego Legal Community for multicultural attorneys. Her plight for justice was riddled with adversity, but she remained a phoenix to supersede personal trials and tribulations to inspire others. Her story of overcoming personal challenges was both motivating and uplifting in the tradition of other notable Howard University graduates like Vice President Kamala Harris.

She was accompanied by fine company, including the host Ivette Kuyateh, a



"devoted Christian, wife, and mom" and founder of Kuyateh Law Group, who is a volunteer at District Attorney Summer Stephans Family Resource Center One Safe Place located in San Marcos. University of San Diego alumni and Society of Women Trial Attorneys 2022 Woman of the Year Bibianne U. Fell shared her heartbreaking story of her child's illness and helped the audience empathize with her and other attorneys' humanity. Bibianne is currently a professor at University of San Diego School of Law in the Advance Trial Advocacy Department and the NITA program.

A Southern California Super Lawyer since 2017, Srinivas "Vas" Hanumadass shared his inspiring story, too. The Chicago native has utilized various mental health strategies to allow him to thrive and assist the community, especially "promoting women in the Law and Society."

Clinician Rosalind Solo also attended to help with her specializations, including "anxiety, depression, grief and loss" and more. The licensed professional clinical counselor has also spent extensive time

utilizing trauma-informed mindfulness. If interested in more information, please check out their website: [woclsd.org](http://woclsd.org)

## Ladle Fellowship at The First Presbyterian

Another lovely day of service at the First Presbyterians Ladle Fellowship reiterated the obligation to serve others the Lord's Way. The

homeless population is filled with people in need of mental healthcare, medical care, nourishment and prayer. Many of them are displaced employees and people in need that could thrive with continued care. Some of them are struggling with undiagnosed mental illnesses too. The Ladle Fellowship provided the people with clothing, blankets, personal care products and even food for their animals. The volunteer event had a special appearance by the Legacy Center of Mission Valley's own Susan Peterson, who came by to help serve and pray for the people with countless children, teenagers and adults. If you are interested in serving the Lord through serving our people, check out the website.



## Tarrah Aroonsakool The Athenaeums Bread and Salt

On March 9, 2024, the Barrio Logan Community welcomed artist Tarrah Aroonsakool, whose artistic maze was a popular example of modern art. The Bread and Salt gallery was filled with multicultural families with children, where we were served a beautifully prepared charcuterie. The evening was filled with a multicultural community with a high respect for her Asian identity, which was highlighted in her presentation. Tarrah was able to verbalize the complexity of the Asian culture's self-identity and identity with other cultures. The event was both informative and comforting in sharing cultural experience.



**After about 15 years in this Vista location, we will be relocating back to ESCONDIDO, where it all began, long ago in 1985.**



# Cotton Pickers Movement

*Dear Friend of American History and Culture,*

For the last few years, members of the Khafre, Inc team have traveled around the Delta and throughout the country listening to people share their hopes and dreams for Mississippi. Those concerns are heartfelt and strikingly similar. They are hopes of fairness; harmony among the races; a state government that serves and protects all Mississippians, and hopes of finding an equitable way to show respect for the culture and historical legacy of the people who worked so hard to give this country its financial footing to become a world super power ... it's all about dignity preservation.

After deeply listening to those concerns and spending more time in quiet prayerful meditation, our team too became hopeful that a path to positive change would be revealed. Essentially, we have concluded the obvious. There is a definite and distinct need to build a monument that pays tribute to the spirit, the work and the heritage of the people who planted, chopped and picked cotton. ...e.g., the Cotton Pickers; and, one that honors their "sweat equity" investments in America. We as a nation have shamefully ignored the very essential labor force that made "cotton king" in the Mississippi Delta; and, cotton trade/manufacturing the most important industry in America for nearly two hundred years. This is the primary work of Khafre, Inc. Our goal is to bring emphasis to this oversight and assist in the process of

healing the traumatic pain still felt by the people who were Cotton Pickers. In our assessment, the lack of awareness about the major contributions made by the millions of people in the South is the central issue that impact dreams of fairness, harmony and respect throughout this country.

It is for this reason that the Khafre Inc Board, Bobby Rush, Honorary Chair, B.B. King, Honorary Chair (past), Maya Angelou (honorary chair, past), Ed Dwight (Monument developer), Clifton Taulbert (national spokesman), Congressman Danny Davis (historical advisor) Johnnie L. Dupree (historical advisor), Carroll Van West (historical advisor) and thousands of people from around the world have agreed to support the initiative to build the "Cotton Pickers of America Monument and Sharecroppers Interpretive Center" on the outskirts of Mound Bayou, MS.

Just for a moment, imagine the power of the light of dignity when it shines on this Monument in the Mississippi Delta.

We are certain of the economic and "feel-good" impact on the region, once we do the "right thing" and celebrate the work of those who spent their entire lives, for seventeen generations planting the seeds of success for us all. That is why I am asking for your input and your love too. I believe, together, we can inspire the artists, politicians and educators of American cultural history to join this movement to show respect for the legacy by developing instruments and that will contribute to the construction of a historical site, and symbol of dignity, for the Cotton Pickers' of America, at the epicenter of our collective pain and the place where America's root music the Blues was born, in the Mississippi Delta!

There are several ways to support our

effort:

- Your Financial Contribution; will underwrite our educational and youth programs in the Mississippi Delta: Healthy U, Young Publishers' Network and Young Leaders Lecture Series

- Legacy Brick(s); to ensure Grandmama'nem's historical legacy and their permanent place on the Monument Complex

- Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities; underwrites Khafre, Inc's annual events, e.g., Cotton Pickers' Ball, and the Sweat Equity Investment in the Cotton Kingdom symposium

## "BLUE MOUNTAIN TRIBE" Indigenous American Blues Band

Blue Mountain Tribe represents Native Veterans, Wounded Warriors and Native Youth with Disabilities through Retired Sergeant Robin Hairston on Harmonica/Chiricahua NDE, and his Son Caleb Hairston on Lead Guitar/Chiricahua NDE, a person with autism who proves that Native Youth, especially our Native Youth with Disabilities, are talented, vital individuals who CAN redefine themselves by their abilities.

Their debut CD, "ALL OUR RELATIONS" is a breakthrough in originality and excellence, with all songs composed and arranged by Caleb and lyrics written by his father Robin, a 22 yr., highly decorated Veteran & Wounded Warrior who was also 1st responder at Hurricane Katrina. Caleb is Executive Producer of the CD & also the youngest civilian ever hired

- Miniature Statues; of Cotton Pickers' Monument

- Petition; to induct the Cotton Pickers of America Monument complex into the National Park System upon completion

I look forward to involving you in this ongoing effort to finally pay respect to the people whose compensatory rewards are long over due. It is time...and, on behalf of grandmama'nem, we sincerely appreciate your support.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
C.Sade Turnipseed, MBA, PhD  
Founder/Executive Director  
inf@khafreinc.org • 662.347.8198



by the Department of Defense at Edwards AFB, California, where he works along with Robin, and drummer

Pat Mata/Tribal Member Northern Band, Chumash-Yokuts. Bassist, James Bixler/Cherokee-Scotch, has been a successful small business owner and web developer who now mentors youth through music education and the liberal arts.

We hope to represent the BEST of All Nations as we move forward promoting Traditional Values, our Culture & our People. We hope to encourage our youth to embrace their Heritage, to look out for one another, help one another, and heal one another.

PO Box 2464, Tehachapi, CA 93581-2464  
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www.bluemountaintribe.com

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### U.S. Department of Energy to Hold Tribal-Only Listening Sessions on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Activities in Support of Commercial HALEU Production

DOE released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the potential impacts of the Department's proposed action to acquire high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) for commercial nuclear energy use and demonstration projects and to establish domestic commercial HALEU production. DOE is hosting two virtual and one in-person Tribal-only listening sessions to explain the process used to analyze the proposed action and alternatives and seek oral comments and feedback from Tribes on the draft EIS.

Please see below for information on the tribal-only listening sessions. For anyone unable to attend, the virtual sessions will be recorded and made available on the project website.

All attendees must register to attend these tribal-only listening sessions. Please visit <https://www.energy.gov/ne/haleu-environmental-impact-statement> to register.

#### Tribal-Only Virtual Listening Sessions:

1. Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm ET via Zoom.
2. Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 9:00 pm ET via Zoom.

#### In-Person Tribal-Only Listening Session:

1. Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in Chandler, AZ at 5:30 p.m. MST
  - Upon registration, you will receive additional logistics and meeting details.

In addition to comments provided during the listening sessions, written comments may be submitted by mail or email now through April 22, 2024.

Written comments received through the mail must be postmarked by April 22, 2024, to ensure consideration. Comments can be submitted to the following addresses:

#### Mail:

Mr. James Lovejoy  
DOE EIS Document Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy,  
Idaho Operations Office,  
1955 Fremont Avenue, MS 1235,  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

E-mail: [HALEU-EIS@nuclear.energy.gov](mailto:HALEU-EIS@nuclear.energy.gov)

Tribal comments and feedback will help DOE further refine its analysis, identify new information, and consider additional alternatives in preparation of the final EIS. Responses to comments and any associated revisions will be included in the final EIS.

For more information on the Tribal listening sessions and registration, and to access the draft EIS, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/ne/haleu-environmental-impact-statement>

E

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada



The Las Vegas business and academic community is awash with the spirit of relationship building and networking. Cooperation and unity are in the air. The University of Las Vegas is busy preparing for its upcoming powwow, which will bring multitudes together.

The NCAI Enterprise Development Corporation is winding down from its successful and exciting annual conference at Caesars Palace. *Indian Voices* is grateful to have the services of our reporter and photojournalist Yvonne Wolf, who covered the event. A people person with an affinity to relate with a positive and agreeable nature, Ms. Wolf is a natural communicator and networker. Our Indigenous community will have the benefit of strengthening relationships and positive growth through journalism as our media grows.

Please enjoy the images and observations that Ms. Wolf highlighted as she covered the event.



This is Lieutenant Governor Hershel Gorham of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe of Oklahoma who works with Governor Reggie Wassana



Tammi Tiger and Danielle Finn speakers



Retired Army Keshon Smith. She is part of the Native American Women Warriors



Pine Ridge College students speak on donated clothing materials for fashion and sales.



Tammi Tiger speaker



L-R: Chris Financial Development Officer Governor Reggie Wassana, Travis Ruiz Arapaho Legislature Second District, Kara Lehman CEO director of Lucky Star Casino, Brandon Wassana film video coordinator Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe from Oklahoma



Prairie Blount AIBL Executive Director



Carla Roman, Executive Assistant and Licensed Funeral Director, Palms Mortuary, Las Vegas NV



Danielle Finn Professor, Lawyer for the UNLV Harrah College of Hospitality



RES Conference volunteers registration.



Tammi Tiger with the Native Student Body Committee of UNLV.



Jacob O'Brien Wayan Owens-Ethan Blount College students of Pine Ridge College in Montana





## Garden Grit

by April Nurse

Happy spring! It's my favorite season. Spring is emergence and life renewed. I'm lucky enough to spend some of this renewal season in my garden. Garden grit is so much a reflection of us. The plants that grow and the ones that won't, tell a short story about who we are and what we're made of.

When I first greeted my garden many years ago it was caked in dense and impacted clay. Deeply yellow and tenacious in its refusal to be moved. It was sodden in the winter and concreted in the summer. We tried everything to change that clay but to no avail. So we gave in to it. We fed it old leaves, cardboard, grass clippings, veggie scraps and bags of coffee grounds (in my barista days) until it had its fill. Worms moved in with countless roly polys and colonies of ants and armies of lizards. When the life came back we knew it was time for planting. The grit had become soil that yielded gently under trowel and made room for carrots and beet roots, that housed happily families of potatoes and yams and even held more firmly our trees. It was a valuable lesson.

If you wish the ground to feed you, you must feed it too.

Somebody once created a pathway round the back of the garden with hundreds of thousands of quartz pebbles. In a few years nature had taken the path back and it wasn't until we realized plants were refusing to take root we found the intruder. It took a very long time to dig it all up but once we did, delicate roots had no trouble tucking in. Quartz has an effect on soils thermal conductivity. In most garden spaces it's not a problem but in this case it was enough to discourage growth. If you've ever rubbed two quartz points together to see the sparks created by their friction; you know why.

Garden grit has taught me so many lessons. Sometimes it's more important to build up and feed the grit (and the spirit) than it is to dig into the void. Sometimes the lack of growth we see is a symptom of a problem underneath. It's our job as the caretakers of these bodies and this earth to find a way to bring balance. Happy spring and may your gardens be fruitful.

## Ruth-Ann Thorn

Continued from page 1

are engaged in various spaces from culinary arts to traditional dancers. With three on camera, one on sound, they hit the road, staying in Airbnbs along the way. Starting at the tip of Washington and making her way down and through the United States, she profiles twelve incredible artists. One of her goals, she says, is for people to really introduce themselves to the communities right in their own backyards. She notes, '*doors truly were opened by the ancestors*' and she felt guided by spirit through its creation. The show is in its final stages of completion and is anticipated to air in the fall of 2024.

She loves her work and plans on being in the arts forever.

She even has a new creative entrepreneurial project in the works (I know, her bio is reading as if there's four people here). She has recently launched a luxury skincare brand, N8tiv Beauty:

<https://n8tivbeauty.com/>. This is a Native luxury skincare line. Based on the acorn medicine of her culture, and named N8tiv because of the eight seasons in Luiseño culture, her brand is firmly grounded in native values. She is aiming to sell the product in Nordstrom or Niemen Marcus, to show Native women in luxury spaces. She reminds us that Natives were the most wealthy population, but were raped and put into a category, the lowest of low. With her new line, she wants to return to the feeling of abundance, and for women to speak with confidence about their beauty.

Besides her own businesses, she has found a way to give back. She returns to her own reservation, Rincón Luiseño, to work in economic development. She is an entrepreneur creating jobs - and that's the Indigenous way.

So what's next for Ruth-Ann? She's focussed on team building. She has a belief that things work best in teams — people supporting each other, circular business the native way. Gallery team

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FRIEND EMMA MAE PATIE

IN LOUISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

We send you greetings and best wishes and look forward to Networking with you and learning more about Louisville, MS and educating ourselves about each other.

Enjoy your birthday and share stories.

*Congratulations and Warm Regards from your Loving Son  
Fredrick and his Cotton Pickin' Friends in San Diego, CA!*



## Academic Community Engagement (ACE)

At SDSU, Service Learning (SL) and Community Engagement (CE) activities are supported by the Office of Academic Community Engagement (ACE), which is a part of Faculty Advancement and Student Success. ACE provides opportunities for civic engagement and leadership development at SDSU for students, faculty, staff, and community members by supporting high-impact pedagogical practices and active course-based learning in partnership with a range of community organizations. These practices often involve innovations in teaching and learning. SDSU partners with the CSU's Center for Community Engagement as part of the California Call to Service Initiative. SDSU has been awarded the Carnegie Elective

Classification for Community Engagement.

ACE Vision:

The vision of Academic Community Engagement is for faculty and community partners to feel part of a collaborative community of practice utilizing service learning pedagogy, community-based action research, and other forms of community-engaged scholarship to facilitate deep student learning as they explore and address critical societal issues.

ACE Mission:

To cultivate community engagement within and across SDSU's research and teaching programs while creating accessible engagement opportunities for 75% of SDSU's students.

## City of San Diego Charges Ahead with Electric Vehicles to Achieve Climate Action Goals

*25 Recently Delivered Vehicles Will Be Used By Police And Parks Staff*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego's fleet is going green. In recent

months, the City has received 22 new Ford Mustang Mach-E electric vehicles (EV) and three Ford Lightning trucks to support City operations.

More EVs are on the way.

building. Building her startup N8tiv Beauty, and collecting stories for another season of Indian Country.

Does she have any advice for people looking to make an impact? She says, 'My hope is that people are looking at their interests, seeing what they enjoy doing, and then figuring out what they should

do based on what they enjoy doing. And from that, how can they create a revenue stream that supports them and is also giving back to the world?'

You can connect with her on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/artempress/> or on her website, <https://ruthanthorn.com/>



Muramid Arts and Cultural Center  
Art Miles Mural Project  
760 500 7737  
[www.artmiles.org](http://www.artmiles.org)

**Gwendolyn Parada**  
Chairwoman

**LA POSTA BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS**



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Boulevard, CA 91905

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Cell: 619.301.4794  
Fax: 619.478.2125  
[lp13boots@aol.com](mailto:lp13boots@aol.com)

## Southwestern's Successful Pow Wow to Continue Next Year



by Danielle Bartelli Oldfield

On February 24, Southwestern College held its first powwow on the college's soccer field. Months of planning resulted in a well-attended event, which was fun for all who participated. As one of the earlier powwows of the season, spirits ran high, and those performing and spectating were ready to hear the drums and see the dancers. The Kumeyaay Bird Singers and Gourd Dancers began the day. Many veteran participants were seen falling into their familiar roles. If key organizer Asst. Professor David Solomon's goal was to "bring joy to the community", his goal was met.

Food vendors and arts and craft vendors were busy satisfying customers as the announcing, speaking, drumming, and dancing took place. The Host Northern Drum was Green River, and the Host Southern Drum was Shakey Town. Arena Director Victor Chavez kept things

moving, and before long, the circle was full of energetic dancers, both young and old. The weather cooperated, and the grounds were full of people celebrating the event.

Solomon credits the success to a strong head staff and those on campus and beyond who helped with this inaugural event. "We at Southwestern College want to let the Native American community know that the campus is a welcoming place for Native students of all ages."

The college is expanding its Indigenous Studies program to include their first Native American History course in the fall of 2024. Native students and those interested in learning Native Studies will have more options for learning, particularly if told from an Indigenous perspective.

If this successful event is any indication of interest, those who choose to attend the program will benefit from the rich knowledge and resources in our community. When thanking those who helped make it possible, Asst. Professor Solomon wanted to thank Carla Tourville, Chuck Cadotte, Dr. Guadalupe Corona, Carla Sevilla, Brenda Mora, Sofia Salgado Robitaille, Lucia Napolez, Erica McGarry, Benito Pastrana Ruiz and all the staff and faculty at Southwestern College for their help and support of this first powwow. We look forward to the expansion of the Native Studies program and a continuation of this powwow tradition on campus.

Hometown: Los Angeles/Highland Park, CA

1. *What made you choose UC San Diego?*

Visiting the campus helped solidify my choice, and I remember loving the idea of being able to walk to the beach.

2. *What advice do you have for potential Native students?*

As a Native student pursuing higher education, it often felt out of reach because, in spaces such as universities, there is a lack of Indigenous representation. The most helpful thing I have found for feeling out of place is to find your community and people who can relate to you, like at the ITRC or by joining a club with people who share your interests.

3. *What do you like to do for fun?*

I love spending time outside, being present in nature with my dog Bubbles. Every summer, I look forward to going camping with her and my friends in the Sierra Nevada.

## Ask A Native Triton



Each month, we profile one of our amazing Native American students, staff, or faculty at UC San Diego! If you would like to nominate a Native

student, staff, or faculty member for us to feature, please email us at [itrc@ucsd.edu](mailto:itrc@ucsd.edu).

The ITRC is proud to introduce...

### Hawk Funmaker

Tribal Affiliation: Ho-Chunk  
Year/Major/Minor: 1st-Year Transfer Student/Business Economics and Environmental Studies Minor

## California State University Student Workers Vote To Unionize, Creating Largest Such Union In Country

by Olga R. Rodriguez

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Undergraduate student workers at California State University voted to join a union to negotiate better pay, sick time, paid parking and other benefits with the university, creating the largest such union in the country, officials announced Friday.

The California Public Employment Relations Board said 7,252 student workers submitted electronic ballots between Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, with 7,050 voting in favor of joining the California State University Employees Union, or CSUEU.

Student assistants at the largest four-year university system in the country last April submitted a petition with thousands of signatures asking state authorities to approve their union election and organized get-out-the-vote campaigns at the university's 23 campuses.

The university's 20,000 student assistants will join CSUEU/SEIU Local 2579, which already represents 16,000 university staff members.

The student workers say they are underpaid and unappreciated. They get paid \$16.25 an hour, which is the state's minimum wage, don't get paid sick leave, and are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week.

"Many of us will only be here for four years. But we know that this isn't just for us, this is for every student worker who comes after us," Gem Gutierrez, a student assistant at Sacramento State, said during a Zoom meeting after the vote results were announced.

CSU Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Leora Freedman said in a statement the university respects the student assistants' decision to unionize and "looks forward to bargaining in good faith with the newly formed CSUEU student assistant unit."



(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry told the students Friday they are making history as the largest undergraduate student worker union in the country. "I'm here to tell you that your victory will reverberate, inspiring change for millions all across the country as the next generation of leaders in our movement," she said.

Emilio Carrasco, a junior majoring in Liberal Studies at California State University, Fresno, works 20 hours as an administrative assistant in the dean's office of the Department of Education at his university. He gets financial aid and some help from his parents, but he still needs to work help pay rent and buy food.

He said he is lucky to only need one job but that other student assistants have two or three jobs to make ends meet.

"The CSU says that their goal is to help the student body to make sure they're set up for success. But it's kind of hypocritical in a way because they're not paying many of the student assistants enough to even support themselves, to pay their rent, pay for food, pay for bills," he said.

Last month, California State University faculty members reached a tentative contract agreement with the university the same day that nearly 30,000 professors, librarians, coaches and other workers went on strike. Members of the California Faculty Association suspended their planned weeklong walkout and returned to work the following day.



Jake EagleFeather Jacome

For more news throughout the month visit: [indianvoices.net](http://indianvoices.net) and [Indigenousnetwork.org](http://Indigenousnetwork.org)

VJMS Spring  
**GEM MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW**  
APRIL 6 AND 7, 2024  
SAT. 10-5 &  
SUN. 10-4  
ANTIQUÉ GAS AND STEAM ENGINE MUSEUM  
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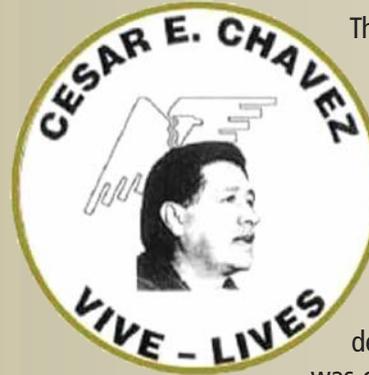
# BARRIO STATION 54TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET DINNER HONORS MAKEDA DREAD AND WORLDBEAT CENTER



San Diego cultural icons were celebrated and recognized Thursday, March 14, 2024 at an Indigenous Celebration that recognized and paid tribute to champions of San Diego's original inhabitants.

Among those acknowledged were Professor Armando-Vasquez Ramos, California Mexico Study Center and Makeda Dread, Executive Director WorldBeat Cultural Center, Balboa Park.

**WORLDBEAT CENTER**



The distinguished Honorees received the prestigious "Cesar E. Chavez Humanitarian Award"

The setting for the elegant affair was the Barrio Station Theater, 2175 Newton Ave. San Diego CA. 92113.

The lavish banquet which featured a delectable main course, desserts and beverages was catered by Ranch Events.

The skillful and thoughtful organizing team expressed their appreciation. "It is with deep gratitude that we present two well deserved awards honoring special individuals for their dedication and contribution that promote Social Justice and serve communities in need."



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**NATIVE AMERICAN BANK**

**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

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