



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 29TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2015

Title VII Indian Education First Annual Pow Wow Honor Virginia Christman and Hank Murphy

Indigenous people are joining forces

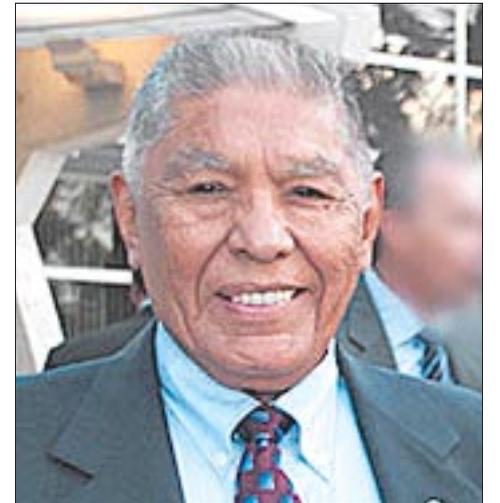
A PowWow sponsored by the San Diego Unified School District's Ballard Center, Title VII Indian Education Program, Parents and Community was proudly hosted at the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center in Old Town San Diego, CA. The organizing committee were diligent in making sure that this inaugural event was much more than a social event. Their mission was to provide an opportunity to raise cultural awareness within the the greater San Diego community and providing a learning experience for our American Indian children on many levels. The two day Pow Wow provided a spiritual experience and a remembrance of times past for the elders as well as bringing communities, families and friends to celebrate Native American Heritage and Traditions.

Reaffirm Identity by Celebrating Native Heritage and Traditions

For four decades, the Indian Education Program has reached out to support and address the unique educational and cultural needs of urban American Indian and Alaskan Native students who attend school in San Diego. The program serves students of Native heritage from Pre-K through high school. Some of the academic services offered are: tutoring and mentoring, dropout prevention counseling, parent teacher consultations, mentoring of student grades and attendance, college scholarship application assistance. Students receive enrichment activities in history, traditions and cultural and artistic heritage. The goal is help our American Indian/Alaska Native students succeed in school, graduate and enroll in college.



See Photos on page 9



The socially and culturally aware administrator and educators who work selflessly to assure academic excellence are unsung heroes within a bureaucratic labyrinth often devoid of cultural sensitivity.

A highlight of this cultural gathering was the honoring of two esteemed and respected Kumeyaay community elders Virginia Christman and Henry "Hank"

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Recognizing the Powerful Impact Labor has Played in the Progress of Civil and Human Rights

by LeMar Slater

Frank Jordan, a nationally recognized business leader and community activist, volunteered and served in a leadership capacity with a Civil and Human Rights Organization.

Mr. Jordan stated, "Through years of research, we have found that the American Educational System must be improved with the understanding that all students will not attend college."

He added, "This is due to a variety of reasons, such as not having the financial support, or not having the desire to go to college."

One of the most telling results of many students who finish High School, is that they don't have a marketable skill set. So, their chances of gaining employment are hindered.



Photo: Reverend Robby Thomas

There is a movement, nationally, to have communities consider implementing alternative Education Paths that will include Career Training in areas such as Construction and Building Trades.

"This idea is not new, but for whatever reason, Communities took their eye of the ball and stopped investing in alternative Educational Career Paths," according to Jordan.

Construction along with other fields present a great need for Electricians, Carpenters, Brick Masons, Elevator Technicians, Computer Technicians, Chefs, Plumbers, Mechanics, Heating and Air Conditioning Technicians, and hundreds more essential Career Paths for individuals to enter and maintain a Middle and Upper Class Lifestyle.

SEE **Impact of Labor**, page 2

**AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH CENTER
HONORING OUR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS
NOVEMBER 7, 2015 • VETERANS MUSEUM BALBOA PARK**



Impact of Labor

Continued from page 1

There is an ongoing effort to create Community Partnerships between Corporations, Labor, Education, Community and Religious Leaders to ensure that students have the best opportunity possible to succeed.

Mr. Jordan commended the leadership of Tom Lemmon, of the San Diego Building Contractors Trades Council and Richard Barrera of the San Diego Imperial County Labor Council for their commitment toward opening up doors of opportunity for individuals to get the chance to become Labor Apprentices. Jordan added, "The great part about this opportunity is that those who are fortunate enough to be accepted will "Earn while they Learn" a meaningful and marketable career."

Recently, Bishop George D. McKinney, Rev. Marshall Sharpe, Rev. Dennis Hodges, Mrs. Traci Carlisle, Elder John Powell, Ms. Alisa Curry, Deacon Jerome Kennedy and the Staff of Worldwide Multi-Media coordinated a Community Tour of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Training Center.

The Attendees came from various Churches and other Community Based Organizations and was representative of a broad based community.

Special thanks to the following hosts:

• Johnny Simpson, Business Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569

• Kevin Alvin, Business Agent of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569

• Andy Berg, National Electrical Contractors Association Chapter Manager of San Diego and Imperial Valley

• Bert Richardson, Assistant Training Center Director

• Ken Collier, Training Center Lead Instructor

• Kevin Gorman, President of Electrical Workers Minority Caucus of San Diego and Imperial County

• Steve Steppe, Treasurer of Electrical Workers Minority Caucus of San Diego and Imperial County

• Nephi Hancock, Board Member of Electrical Workers Minority Caucus of San Diego and Imperial County Michael Alvin, Inside Wireman Apprentice.

"This concept of creating Community Partnerships to help Students and Individuals obtain training in a major Career can be duplicated in communities throughout this Nation," stated Jordan.

Mr. Jordan, a veteran of the Civil Rights and Human Rights Movement, who once served as the State President for the California Conference of NAACP Branches, credits the Labor Movement for being a vital part of the success of the Voting Rights Act and other major Civil Rights Achievements. He adds that the Labor Movement will play a major role in making America Great by providing leadership and opportunity for those who want to take advantage of learning a marketable career.



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Historic Partnership Propels Native American Cannabis Industry

One of the biggest questions surrounding the current American cannabis industry has been the question of Native American involvement. Not if tribes would get involved, but when and on what scale? Well, if this historic partnership is any indication, that involvement is closer to reaching fruition than ever before.

Announced today, the Native American owned and operated CannaNative, LLC., has formed a partnership with General Hemp, LLC., one of the largest hemp players in the world. This partnership represents a groundbreaking shift in Native American cannabis involvement, as now over 560 Native tribes will have direct access to assistance and support in their desires to enter the hemp and or cannabis space.

The goal for CannaNative is to help tribes develop hemp and cannabis based economies on Native American lands throughout the United States. Anthony Rivera, Jr., the leader of CannaNative, is a Harvard- educated former Tribal Chairman who plans to help tribes utilize the rapidly growing cannabis and hemp industries to gain true sovereignty and

restore self-sufficiency with complete economic and environmental sustainability.

"The response has been 100% positive. Helping tribes create and implement proprietary solutions in the cannabis industry will take them to true sovereignty. Cannabis restoration by sovereign nations represents a unique advantage that is larger than the multi-billion dollar Native American gaming industry." – Anthony Rivera, Jr. – Co-Founder of CannaNative, LLC.

In addition to a booming cannabis industry, America has seen a drastic rise in hemp imports over the last decade. Current US hemp imports are valued at \$620 million annually. Native American tribes have unique rights that allow for cannabis (marijuana and industrial hemp) cultivation, manufacturing, marketing, sales, use, distribution, medical research and even banking institutions for the rapidly growing cash and carry industry. Given the opportunity for Native tribes to excel in a profitable and sustainable hemp industry moving forward, the partnership with industry leaders General Hemp, LLC., makes more sense than ever.

"We are honored to take part in this



Left to Right: Andy Nakai (Navajo Nation), Anthony Rivera, General Hemp, LLC. President Dr. Stuart Titus and Cedric Black Eagle prepare to sign historic partnership.

historic venture between Native Americans and our group that has developed the largest hemp CBD pipeline. Native Americans generally have a good amount of agricultural land that can be used to grow a robust hemp crop. I'm also very excited about the potential for medical marijuana to be grown and researched on native lands; that opens up a great amount of possibilities for tribes and the industry." – Dr. Stuart Titus, President of General Hemp, LLC.

Intellects both inside and outside the cannabis industry have been waiting to see if and when the Native American community would join the 'green rush', especially given the success of the gaming industry. General Hemp, LLC. President Dr. Stuart Titus thinks Native involvement is not only great for each individual tribe, whereas the gaming industry is rather limited based on location and tourism potential, but Native involvement could also help lay a foundation for successful

banking for the entire cannabis industry.

"Native Americans have done a lot to get the gaming industry 'banked' so to speak; the Native American gaming industry represents a proven banking model in a cash-based industry. Another thing we are interested in is developing banking solutions for the cannabis industry. Through the development of CannaNative, we are very excited about the numerous opportunities before us." – Dr. Stuart Titus, President of General Hemp, LLC.

Rivera went on to add:

"In the gaming industry, location is key and not all tribes are benefitting. However, the cannabis industry is limited to only land and imagination. The gaming industry is a great stepping stone proving that native tribes already have a blueprint for success in a cash-driven industry. Becoming involved in the cannabis industry levels the playing field for all tribes. We are here to help tribes grow with CannaNative." – Anthony Rivera, Jr. – Co-Founder of CannaNative, LLC.

The Vision

The vision for CannaNative began with former tribal Chairman, Anthony Rivera, Jr., who evaluated the emerging cannabis industry and viable business partnerships in late 2014. By early 2015, Rivera established a majority partnership with General Hemp, LLC, and launched the unprecedented venture CannaNative, LLC. CannaNative plans to bring back improved health, wellness and prosperity to all tribal nations – with cannabis.

"We Are a People, Not Your Mascots."

by Maggie Hundley (Mvskoke)

Native Americans are not mascots and we are making our voices heard. Through both online social media advocacy and boots-on-ground efforts, our voices are becoming louder. NotYourMascots.org is a nonprofit organization formed with a mission to educate about the harms of Indian mascots, caricatures, stereotypes, and misappropriation. Our board members' tribal affiliations include Chahta/Otoe Missouria, Yurok, Anishinaabe and Mvskoke Creek. It is 2015, yet educational institutions and professional sports franchises continue to use offensive team names to the detriment of Native Americans. We are saying 'enough'. We are growing in voice and solidarity, and helping others understand that our humanity has value. Our identities and cultures are precious, they are not commodities.

So often, rarely is racism against American Indians seen as "real" racism. It goes ignored from national narratives about race and ethnicity. The varying and unique issues we face go largely

unnoticed by the dominant society and mainstream media. In order to break down walls of misinformation and injustice, we must educate and bring awareness. We are attending and organizing rallies and forums; speaking at conferences and workshops, trending hashtags, sharing information on Twitter and Facebook, and our underlying message is the same: stop dehumanizing us with stereotypes. Native children are more likely to commit suicide than any other ethnic group in this country. Native women are raped and murdered at strikingly disproportionate rates compared with other racial groups. Our treaties and sovereignty

continue to be ignored. Cultural and physical forms of genocide are continuing to this day, and we strive to teach others about the connections between those occurrences and the harms of stereotypes, racism, and mascots.

Of course we cannot speak for all Natives; we are a diverse people. But our



Maggie Hundley is a citizen of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation, Wind Clan. She is a mother of two young girls, was born in Phoenix, AZ and currently lives and works in southern California. She is host of CommUNITY Talks on Success Native Style Radio Network, as well as a founding board member of Not Your Mascots, and is active in various efforts to bring accurate and positive representations of Native peoples and cultures in sports and mass media. She is also passionate about building solidarity across racial and ethnic differences, forming coalitions and partnership between indigenous folks and other groups sharing common goals of equality and justice. Twitter: @Creekleo

message is that we are a living people, here and now. We are not cartoons, caricatures; and we are not objects to be bought nor sold. We are doctors, lawyers, writers, artists, athletes, fashion designers, actors, and college professors. The practice of mascotting is dehumanizing and humiliating to watch. The NFL team in Washington D.C. continues to ignore our passionate demands that they change their racist team name "Redskins." To name our people as 'redskin' other was to station us to the bottom of the sociopolitical ladder so our lands and resources could be colonized, and our populations could be decimated. But we have remained, despite countless attempts of erasure. We have survived despite hundreds of years of removal, relocation, colonization, and genocide.

We are at a critical juncture in shaping the future for our children, and in doing

so we must also be aware of the struggles of other communities of color. As indigenous peoples, we have many similar issues and the underlying causes are similar because we exist within the structure of white supremacy and settler colonialism. Unity is essential. We stood in solidarity with the Justice or Else gathering, because we know that our voices are stronger when we stand as one. In this sense, our conversations and grassroots efforts to come together have become our biggest weapon. Our identities and cultures are precious, and our children deserve to live, learn and grow together in a place that is not hostile or dismissive to their humanity. We will continue to build solidarity and work for change. We will continue to use our voices to declare our personhood. We will continue to survive despite all odds.

Indian Voices Migrates to the Pacific Northwest

Gilbert Bejar is a Native traditionalist whose spiritual journey has him residing in Grants Pass Oregon. He has agreed to support and advance Indian Voices in that area.

Gilbert Bejar has been sensitive to the spiritual world of his Yaqui heritage. Growing up in Central CA (Yosemite) he held on to his Pascua Yaqui roots ever since. As a devoted and loyal follower of ancient customs and traditions he has traveled far and wide gaining and sharing knowledge from those that he walks with.

Gilbert Bejar states "Most of my adult life has been focused on cultivating and preserving American Indian Heritage. I

believe very strongly in bringing back traditions and weaving new traditions for the 21st century and connecting people with the greatness of their past, present, and future. Through ancient tribal songs and deep spiritual drumming, personal relationships with members of various tribes and fellowship with my people and Native relatives we are able to reach a place of blissfulness and wholeness. I am a visual artist and concept idealist, a craftsman and solutionist. I love engaging with the public finding out what's out there. My favorite past time is hunting down and putting together the mysteries of the world and the cosmos and I come from a family who had an appreciation for kitchen table talk and stories and I have many to tell and share. I am excited about representing "Indian Voices" in Oregon, Washington, and the entire Pacific Northwest."




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

Holidays of the Ruling Race and Class: Resisting the Matrix of Madness



by Min. Tukufu Kalonji

The holiday America named thanksgiving is once again upon us. Thus, it is important for us to do critical self-reflection as a people in struggle for liberation and a higher

level of human life. Mary McLeod Bethune, civil rights activist and educator argued for Afro Americans that “we are heirs and custodians of a great legacy,” thus, we are compelled to do whatever we can accomplish to protect, preserve, and promote our legacy, life, and the future generations yet to come. Moreover, we are to do this with an idea and practice of indomitable spirit, commitment, dignity, determination, conscientiousness, and righteous indignation. This is no less true for the Indian in the west. Both African and Indian legacy is a collective of life lessons where we have struggled for self-determination, self-respect, and self-defense. Given our role throughout history and contemporary times, we must as a means and method to circumvent our peoples being caught up in the moment of madness of their interpretation of eat, drink, and be merry, and the cultural psychosis that comes as part of the toxic fall out associated with participation in the established order’s holidays.

We must strive to reaffirm our rootedness in our sacred culture as a shield against the onslaught of racist lies told though the self-aggrandizing myth of history by the oppressor. Our culture is a reaffirmation of us a dignified people with a rich history of humanity in harmony with the divine, social and natural order at its best. In addition, our culture for us is a weapon for our self-defense and lastly, it manifest as a pillow

of peace for us to rest upon and rejuvenate our spirit for the daily struggle we have in front of us. Conceptually, the idea of giving thanks is a good ethical standard. Furthermore, Indians as do Africans, in our own way, pay homage to the creator, the creations, the ancestors, and the universe in general for the abundance of goodness that we receive from the earth. In fact as a matter of cultural tradition, we are ever so grateful to the entire universe as this abundance of goodness comes to us in many forms; i.e. our family and community, the rivers that flow, the food we have (whether harvested or purchased) to feed our families, the sun, the rains; and life in general.

In closing, let us both (Afro American and Indians) continue our lineage of shared culture and history of struggle. Let us remain steadfast in our resistance to the falsification of history and the ideology of oppression. Instead, we are compelled to rescue ourselves through embracing logic of liberation. This of necessity includes resisting and participating in festive rituals and celebrations that are not of ours; nor responds to our cultural and community needs. Let us remain standing in solidarity with a spirit of struggle as illustrated in the following statement by prominent activist and Wampanoag leader Frank B. Wamsutta James who said at the inaugural National Day of Mourning keynote address that: Our spirit refuses to die. Yesterday we walked the woodland paths and sandy trails. Today we must walk the macadam highways and roads. We are uniting; we are standing not in our wigwams but in your concrete tent. We stand tall and proud, and before too many moons pass we will right the wrongs we have allowed to happen to us!

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

A Multi-Cultural Thank You

by Norrie Robbins

It took Dr. Pat Adelekan to figure it out—after educators retire they continue to educate. In 1986, she started a program for inner city youth in Sacramento called Youth-on-the-Move. The children needed mentors; when she went looking for such mentors she learned this truth about educators—the good ones never retire. Eventually she realized that there were no awards for such important people. So she created the International Educators’ Hall of Fame 22 years ago.

Former inductees include Professor Jack Forbes (Powhatan-Renape/Lenape; UC Davis), David Risling (Hoopa) and Sarah Hutchison (co-founders, of D-Q University), and Carl Nelson Gorman (the Navaho Code Talkers).

This year’s inductees into the International Educators’ Hall of Fame included 16 individuals, 5 organizations/groups/families, and 3 international educators. There were even 4 posthumous awardees at the gala, black tie event in Santa Ana.

Among the honored individuals were Frances Rios (Achjachemen), a pianist, piano teacher, and bilingual story teller. She assists at the Lobo Lodge Native American Museum in San Clemente. Her friend John Windes (Creek) recited a beautiful poem by Joy Harjo (Mvskoke).

Psychologist Dr. Essie Preston was the first African American to serve as President of the Alabama Counseling Association. In 2014 she was named Distinguished Faculty at El Camino College, Compton Center, and Educator of the year for Phi Delta Kappa. One of her favorite quotes is, “The mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

The families of Gonzalo Mendez, Lorenzo Ramirez, and William Guzman were honored for their trailblazing and winning lawsuit against segregation in 1946 (Mendez vs. Westminster case) that allowed Mexican-American children into public schools in Orange County, including Westminster, Orange Grove, Santa Ana, and El Medena School

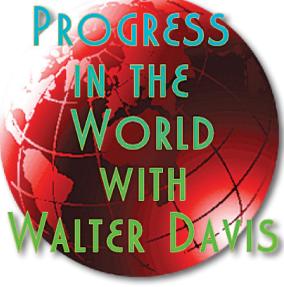
Districts. This paved the way for desegregation of schools around the US.

The family of Norrie Robbins were honored for the educational activities of her entire Iberall family—dad Arthur who retired and mentored grad students at UCLA; 102-year-old mom Helene who taught English to Russian immigrants and Yiddish to her peers at



Laguna Woods; and retired daughters geologist Norrie who teaches Science Explorers Club on reservations in San Diego County; enrichment specialist Penni who teaches everyone that most of us develop our vocational interest around the age of 7; computer engineer Thea engineer who writes plays including We Did It For You about how American women got their rights as told by the women who fought for them; and accountant Val who teaches piano and creates websites for organizations.

The wonderful event held at the Church of Scientology of Orange County was closed by two performances. Kathy Garcia (Lakota) led the Lobo Lodge Singers, who are second graders from Clarence Lobo Elementary School, in an Achjachemen song. And Steve Garcia (Tongva, Yaqui, Apache) brought down the house with his riveting rendition of the elegant Eagle Dance.



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The 2015 Maroon Conference

by William Loren Katz

One of the founding myths of this country is that world liberty began in 1776 with the Minute Men at Concord bridge, the Declaration of Independence and Thomas Jefferson. This neglects the history of maroon resistance by African and Native Americans that ranged from Canada to South America for more than a century before 1776.

Those of us who have long labored to bring to the light the long-neglected

story of maroon resistance to invasion and colonization are delighted to celebrate the successful "Operation Suriname: Maroon Day" that united the living relatives of North and South American maroons this October. Their intrepid ancestors were our first freedom-fighters, and in many instances they also became self-liberated people and forces of resistance within their home countries.

"I wanted to build Cultural Bridges to other Black Indian and Maroon Freedom Fighters in the Diaspora" said Da Pompey Fixico who represented the maroons of North America. Fixico. Now President of the Semiroon Historical Society, he has devoted his life to spreading the word in Blogs and articles, speaking at events, meetings, and on radio often with William Loren Katz whose book, *Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage* (Atheneum, 2012), he calls "a classic."

The successful Maroon Day organizer was Her Excellency Dr. Ambassador Fidelia Grand-Galon who invited Pompey Fixico and the other delegates to Suriname, a country of half a million people and 120,000 maroon descendants of enormous ethnic diversity. The 2015 National Celebration of Maroon Day recognizes the 255th Anniversary celebration of the "Peace



Treaty" signed in 1760 by the Dutch Colonizers in favor of the Maroons, who won their Freedom from the Dutch oppressors through arduous combat and also won the land that they resided on.

Fixico, an honored guest of and accompanied by Ambassador

Extraordinary Plenipotentiary, Dr. Fidelia Graand-Galon has written movingly about the experience: "Deep in the Rain forest I visited Proud Maroon People in 10 different villages, on two major rivers both the Tapanahony/Ndyuka and the Cottica River. The villages visited were : 1. Diitabiki 2. Dataa Konde 3. Sanbedum 4. Loabi 5. Pikinpiisii and Kisai (all on the Tapanahony River) 6. Wanhatti 7. Agitii-ondo 8. Lantiwei 9. Pikisant 10. Langa-uku (all on the Cottica River). In addition these villages I was invited -- with Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary, Dr. Fidelia Graand-Galon, I get to see Maroon War Sites and other Secret Sacred places that must not be spoken about.'

We all salute Maroon Day organizers who have for the first time bought together maroon descendants from all of the Americas.

Black Seminole Maroons in the Western Hemisphere



Phil "Pompey Bruner" Fixico

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**Saturday, November 28, 2015
1:00 pm**

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, Phil "Pompey Bruner" Fixico, Performance Artist, Activist, and Seminole Maroon descendant, will present the lesser-known history of free Black and fugitive slaves who formed alliances with indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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Tataviam Woman Walks 700 Mile Mission Trail 'To Honor Ancestors'

by Mark R. Day

Cesar Chavez led his followers on a march to Sacramento to call attention to the plight of farmworkers. Martin Luther King Jr. led a march from Selma to Montgomery to demand civil rights for African Americans.

And recently, Caroline Ward-Holland decided to walk 700 miles, visiting all of California's 21 Spanish missions, from Sonoma to San Diego. Why? "To comfort my ancestors," she said. "I felt they were being disrespected. I felt bad for them. I wanted to know we were there for them."

Ward-Holland is a member of the Tataviam Band of Indians, also known as the Fernandino Band of Mission Indians.

What prompted her journey was the Catholic Church's decision to canonize Franciscan Friar Junipero Serra, a man, she says, who was abusive to native Californians. "They need to know," she added, "that by making this man a saint they legitimized what happened in that period of history. And really bad things happened."

Ward-Holland, who has never considered herself an activist, began her

trek on Sept. 7 at Mission San Francisco Solano near Sonoma, ending it on Nov. 7 with a ceremony at Mission San Diego Alcala. She walked with her son, Kagen, and with Cat Wilder, a web page designer and social activist who helped with logistics and media relations.

"We relied on strangers," said Ward-Holland. "People were amazing. One person gave us \$500 for gas and food. We stayed in motels, at people's houses, at campsites, even in apple orchards."

Not everyone was receptive to them. "A padre at a southern California mission came out and called us liars. 'You need to go back to school,' he shouted. 'Your people made human sacrifices. There is only one God.' I was shocked."

But most experiences were positive, said Ward-Holland, and at several missions local tribal members showed up and joined in prayer circles, honoring their ancestors.

On Nov. 2 Cat Wilder reported on the group's website: "We reached San Juan Capistrano on Nov. 1. In front of the mission we were embraced by a warm welcome from Acjachemen women

leaders, and many others who joined us for a time of truth telling and healing. Although the circumstances of our coming together were not happy ones, by the time we left the mission, we felt truly uplifted and inspired."

Ward-Holland told Indian Voices that on balance, the tour had many positive results. "We went to all the missions and spoke to all the tribal bands, finding them to be in agreement about Serra and the church's narrative."

One priority, she says, is to revise the curriculum for fourth graders who study mission history. "We need to tell them how the Indian children were taken from their parents. Any fourth grader would understand that."

Cat Wilder added that the California bishops need to be called out for their plans on the reconciliation issue. "They are turning it into an evangelization project—to call Indians back to the church. It's a big media stunt. They are working only with handpicked Catholic Indians, not with legitimate tribal leaders. They aren't responding to the key demands of native Californians, such as the need to rescind the Doctrine of Discovery."

The three person pilgrimage stopped



Caroline Ward-Holland with son Kagen, and Cat Wilder who helped coordinate the Walk For The Ancestors.

Photo by Mark Day

Nov. 4 at Mission San Luis Rey to pray and reflect with Luiseno natives and friends in a light rainfall before heading to Mission San Diego de Alcala, their final destination.

Caroline Ward-Holland, her son Kagen, and Cat Wilder plan to meet with tribal leaders throughout the state to strategize and create needed changes in the post-canonization era.

For more information, consult their website: www.walkfortheancestors.org

Mark Day is a former Franciscan friar, journalist and filmmaker. He lives in Vista, Calif. Mday700@yahoo.com

AIM Takes Junipero Serra to Trial in Los Angeles

by Mark R. Day



Junipero Serra

Was Franciscan Father Junipero Serra a saint or a tyrant? The Catholic church spent 80 years vetting the controversial founder of nine California missions and

decided to canonize him. But native Californians never fully accepted that.

In fact, a week before he was canonized recently in Washington D.C., members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) put Serra on "trial" outside the Serra Library in Los Angeles.

Native Californians have always felt the deck was stacked against them since church investigators based their findings on the research and publications of Franciscan historians and others sympathetic to Serra's cause

In the late 1980s, controversy flared up when Serra was beatified, the first major step toward canonization. Bishop Thaddeus Shubsda of the Diocese of Monterey Fresno disregarded the protests and the documentation of natives about Serra's iron fisted rule at the missions and the atrocities committed against their ancestors.

The opposition was led by historian

Rupert Costo (Cahuila, 1906-1989), author of *The California Missions: A Legacy of Genocide*. Costo interviewed descendants of Indians who lived at the missions, but he also presented the opinions of eight historians handpicked by Bishop Shubsda in support of the beatification. Some of these scholars mocked the natives' testimonies and accused them of propagating historical inaccuracies.

The Vatican disregarded the indigenous objections and Pope John Paul II beatified Serra on Sept. 25, 1988. Recently, Pope Francis invited nine California natives to the canonization in Washington on Sept. 23. In his homily, he said, "Serra sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it."

The 'No Sainthood for Serra' Tribunal

The setting for the recent Serra trial was a lawn and sidewalk outside the Serra Library on a sweltering September day in South Central Los Angeles. Some 40 native Californians and members of other tribes observed the proceedings, performed as guerrilla theater, complete with jeers, war cries and laughter.

The event was punctuated by the sounds of nearby traffic, an occasional fire engine siren, and an ice cream truck playing, "That'll be the day." Nearby, two friendly LAPD officers kept watch over the performance.

Officially, the trial was called the case of "Indigenous Nations v. Junipero Serra." It was produced by Corinne Fairbanks, (Lakota), director of the American Indian Movement (AIM) of Southern California.

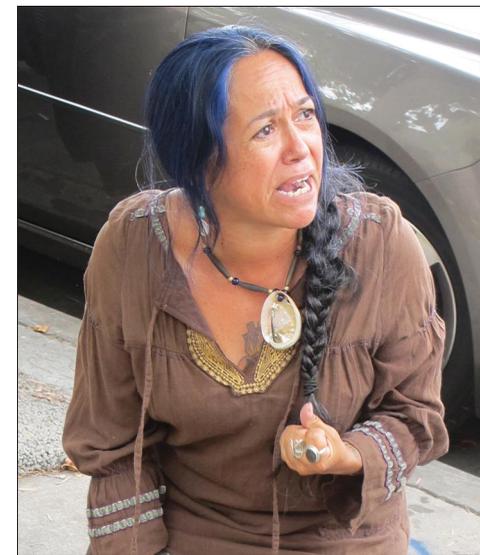
Fairbanks, who served as defense counsel for Serra, conceived of the trial to offset what she called the "dominant cultural mythology" taught in schools perpetuated by tour guides at the 21 California missions.

The tribunal was called to order by Judge Grey Wolf (Walter Ruiz), hand on gavel, seated at a makeshift desk beside, the accused, Junipero Serra (Kevin Head). Grey Wolf called on the public defender (Angela Darcy) who charged Serra with crimes against humanity.

"We will prove," said Darcy, that Junipero Serra was responsible for the crimes of genocide and forced labor, and that he should not be upheld as a saint. Saints are positive role models. Serra was no saint."

Darcy called upon expert witness Charlie Sepulveda (Tonva and Gabrieleno & Cal State Phd candidate). Sepulveda accused Serra of authorizing the beating, shackling and torture of Indians and exposing them to deadly diseases. He added, "Serra also locked up women in mission rooms called Monjerios where they were subject to rape by the Spanish soldiers."

"Many historians reject the use of the term 'genocide,' Sepulveda testified "But



Lydia Ponce gave a gripping performance as an indigenous field worker testifying against Junipero Serra.

Photo by Mark Day

I believe Serra was a genocidal person. He knew from past experiences what impact the missions would have on California Indians."

Next to testify was Mother Mary Tonantzin, a composite of the Virgin of Guadalupe and her Aztec precursor, played by Mary Valdemar. "All things, all beings are sacred," she said. "If you see men who say they are from the creator, yet cause suffering and harm, rape and murder, you need to speak out against them. We need to treat each other as sacred beings."

Lydia Ponce (Mayo, Quechua), gave a gripping performance as an indigenous field worker. Kneeling, addressing the

Southern Indian Health Council

**17th Annual Men and Women's Wellness Conference
October 29, 2015**

On this day Anthony Pico delivered what he described as the most important speech of his life. "I have an crucial objective today. It's to expose a deadly disease that haunts our reservations. It's the vicious cycle of childhood trauma that stalks us from birth to death".

He spoke to a large audience of tribal members and supporters at a immaculately organized conference at the Barona Golf Center. Anthony Pico spoke with a captivating urgency to bring awareness and solutions to the community about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

He concluded with a statement honoring his childhood friend and mentor, the late Chairman Leroy Elliott of Manzanita.

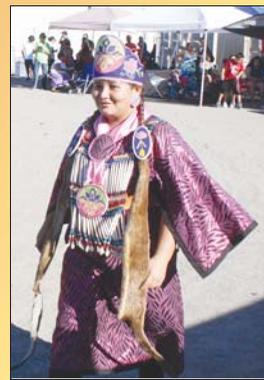
"Do the best you can to be involved with our culture and be proud of that and that's good enough."

**For the complete speech go to
www.indianvoices.net**

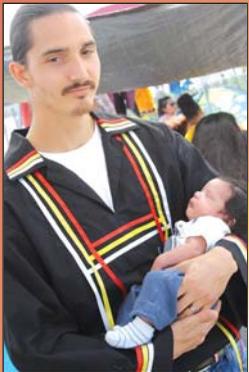




World Beat Center Tour
A Cultural Educational Experience



Title VII Pow Wow



Viejas Hotel Tower 2

by Angela Wyatt

Viejas Casino and resort just expanded their luxury hotel with the addition of Tower 2.

A grand opening celebration took place on October 30, 2015. Viejas chairman, Robert Welch Jr. Spoke of the expansion marking another step towards sovereignty, being grateful and thanked everyone that made it possible. Tower 2 was built with elegant accommodations. It is a greater luxury experience with many other new additions including a coffee bar, meeting places, and a variety

of dining experiences. What I saw as the biggest asset to the addition to the hotel besides the luxury suites are the new professional spaces. There is a multi function conference and seminar center. Two rooms, both open to outdoor patios as an extension to the rooms that accommodate 180 attendees. In addition, professional meeting spaces. These rooms have all the hook ups for a business meeting or presentation accommodating up to 16 attendees. On the third floor you will find the elegant



area below and mountains straight ahead. The Oak ballroom has a capacity for up to 1200 attendees. Last but not least an exquisite spacious penthouse made for entertaining was added along with a premier suite, spacious

and opulent that includes every convenience one would desire. The grand opening was very exciting. There was a live wire act, no net playing to the James Bond theme, live music, a huge fireworks display, champagne and chocolate truffles. Viejas hotel and resort now has nine meeting spaces and 237 rooms. Viejas, you never disappoint!

Photos by Angela Wyatt



Oak Ballroom. This is the largest addition to Tower 2 intended for social events it includes a beautiful lobby area and an amazing Terrace. The Terrace has a breathtaking view of the pool

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is apparent that the Crystal Geysers Water Company continues to be the beneficiary of corporate welfare. The EDA grant for the upgrade at the City Wastewater Treatment Plant clearly is required for Crystal Geysers' operation. The grant was made to the City specifically to benefit CGWC, yet in the Environmental Assessment they are only tangentially referenced. CG has not applied for a permit to connect to the plant but clearly must do so in order to operate. The City is searching for funding for the Interceptor Line to accommodate the plant's needs. We must be certain that the public is not left holding the bag.

On November 2nd PacifiCorp appealed to the California Public Utilities Commission to proceed with an upgrade of the Lassen Substation on South Old Stage Road which is clearly required for CGWC's operation. Again, CG is not mentioned. One of the 3 lines clearly goes to the CG plant. Who will pay and is this truly community need or corporate want? Is CG trying to set up their facility piece by piece, without an

environmental review (EIR)? Comments may be sent to project manager Michael.Rosauer@cpuc.ca.gov.

Surely ratepayers will be asked to subsidize the costs associated with both the WWTP & PacifiCorp upgrades. The time to protest? ~ now, before the work begins. Best Practices demands that all options be explored with the public, BEFORE committing to expensive infrastructure. The public deserves to know cost increases to their monthly bills and the share to be paid by any corporate beneficiary before approvals are given. Comments must be sent by Thursday 11/12 to Shannon Fitzgerald (sfitzgerald@eda.gov).

Read this article covering the citizens of Victorville vis a vis Snapple and wastewater treatment plant upgrades and rate increases:

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150430/NEWS/150439969>

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" Thomas Jefferson.

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In celebration of Native American Heritage Month

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by Native Artist

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Bunky Echo-Hawk (Pawnee/Yakima) is a multi-talented artist whose work spans both media and lifestyle. A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, he is a fine artist, graphic designer, photographer, writer and non-profit professional. During his live performances, he first opens a dialog with the audience and then uses concepts from that conversation to create an impromptu, one-of-a-kind painting. The painting from his SDSU performance will be subsequently sold at auction, with proceeds benefitting SDSU student programs.

American Indian Studies ASSOCIATED STUDENTS SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY Center for Intercultural Relations NAI SA

This event is free and open to the public. More information: 619-594-6991.

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Adrian Heckstall I Love Ancestry

My name is Adrian Heckstall, I would like to share with you how I LOVE ANCESTRY was born in October 2012. It emerged from my own personal experience of being multiracial and from my father's experience of racism in the US as I wanted to highlight the experiences of marginalized people.

I was born in the mid 1970's on a small island between Spain and Morocco to a French white mother and a Black father who was American from Virginia with some Native American ancestry. I was raised in France for most of my youth.

My parents' strong love union made me the person I am today, but their relationship was not well received by the patriarch of my mother's family. There was a stealth and eerie experience of racism in the 70's in France even though many parents claimed they were not racist. Still happening today by the way! The tension based on my father's race and skin tone laid the foundation for a not-so-subtle form of oppression toward me by members of my mother's family. When my parents separated when I was seven, the truth became more apparent.

Since I was so young, I didn't realize then the life-long impact it would have on me. Like the layers of an onion, the true nature of some members of my mother's family began to reveal itself over time. One day, I was having dinner with my grandparents when an argument erupted between my grandfather and me about my attitude. "You really have Black blood in you!" he shot at me with such disappointment. It felt like a bullet in my heart. I had no defense against his racism. Up until that point I didn't realize, or perhaps didn't want to admit to myself he truly felt that way but at the same time it confirmed that all these negative feelings I experienced while growing up were not



the product of my imagination. It became real. This is the first time in my life I felt separated from myself and my family because of my mixed heritage. What did "Black blood" have to do with anything? I wanted to believe I heard wrong, that he didn't mean it, that he really loved me anyway. It was an awful experience, one that I will never forget.

These few words became my new reality, bringing many conflicts about love, family and race. I understand today that no one of multiracial identity is immune from any kind of racism. But covert racism is the most dangerous kind in today's society. It is disguised and subtle, rather than being obvious and is hidden in the fabric of society, covertly suppressing the individuals being discriminated against. These racial biases cause a variety of problems that work to empower the suppressors while diminishing the rights and powers of the oppressed. Covert racism often works subliminally, and often much of the discrimination is being done subconsciously, and thus sometimes very difficult to prove. The kind my grandfather showed me was judgment hidden in the disguise of love.

Since living in Miami for the past 17 years, I didn't experience any type of racism, thanks to my "light skin privilege". But on the other hand, I've witnessed so much racism toward other people of color on many levels as I've worked in hospitality, real estate and retail. Now, I'm involved in digital and social media advocacy and I'm proud to say I have become a conscientious advocate for the rights of marginalized people and indigenous communities. That's how I Love Ancestry came to be, honoring my children and the memory of my father.

Today... I know where I'm going... because I know where I came from...



Cool Kids Corner

Pinky (Zirin), call me 619-534-2435 or email me Coolkidscorner@gmail.com

Hi There. I hope everybody had as much fun on Halloween as I did. I got together with my cousins Hannah and Miche. We covered the neighborhood and collected a lot of goodies. I was Little Miss Muffet.



Afterwards my uncle Riply and I had a bubble gum blowing contest. The family had a great time laughing at us.



I attended the Title VII First Annual Traditional Pow Wow and enjoyed the music and dancing.



DOO-WOP & POP

High praise for Calvin Manson's latest production "VOICES" at the ECC theatre on Ocean View. Over twenty songs sung a cappella by an ensemble of highly talented performers bring back Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, The Beatles among a host of other artists. A delightful evening of hand clapping nostalgia with the only musical



instrument on stage besides human vocal chords is a throbbing bass fiddle that gets the musical juices flowing. For tickets call The Ira Aldridge Repertory Players (619)283-4574; Two more performances: Nov. 20th, 8pm and Nov. 22nd at 2:30pm.

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Cops Can Still Take Your Cash With No Conviction

This year, California had the opportunity to rein in a serious problem plaguing our criminal justice system: civil asset forfeiture. Established in the heyday of the war on drugs — a.k.a. the war on low-income people of color — asset forfeiture laws were developed to target drug kingpins by confiscating their cash and property. Instead, these laws have been abused by cops to take average Californians' property even when they aren't convicted of a crime.

Did your state legislator stand on the side of justice or policing for profit?

Several departments throughout California rely heavily on asset forfeiture to supplement their budgets.

Unfortunately, our state legislature failed to pass SB 443, a bill that would forbid cops from permanently keeping someone's money or property unless that person was convicted of a crime.

Email your legislator to let them know California needs asset forfeiture reform.

This abusive practice leaves Californians empty-handed and unable to get their hard-earned money or property back. For example, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department confiscated \$10,000 from a taco truck owner even though there was no evidence of a crime and the driver was not arrested or charged.

Even so, legislators failed to stand up to law enforcement lobbyists, who swarmed the state Capitol to make sure money would keep flowing from the pockets of hardworking Californians.

While this battle was lost, the war is not over yet. We will be back to make sure for-profit policing becomes the rare exception, not the norm and we need your help.

Take action today to hold California representatives accountable for their vote.

Sincerely,
Clarissa Woo Hermosillo
Director of Policy Advocacy
ACLU of Southern California

Serra

Continued from page 7

defendant, she cried out defiantly: "We are still starving, we are still working in the fields. We built the missions with our blood, sweat and tears. You separated us from our children. I do not kneel. I do not pray to your God. Today we draw the line in the sand. Do not cross. Guilty!"

To the sounds of cheering and war cries, Judge Grey Wolfe banged his gavel and called for order.

Defense witnesses challenged the testimony of Serra's opponents, saying that whatever atrocities that occurred at the missions were not Serra's fault, but took place after his death. That drew more booing and jeers and the gavel from Judge Grey Wolfe.

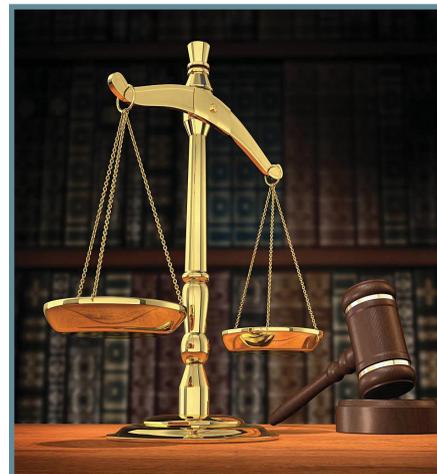
Junipero Serra was the last to testify in his own defense. "I came here to build

these missions so you could get away from your primitive life and live like Spaniards, like superior people," he said. "I did nothing wrong."

After a brief recess, Judge Grey Wolfe took a vote. Serra was pronounced guilty. The audience and the actors packed up their banners and picket signs, bid goodbye to the LAPD officers and left for home.

Afterward, director Corinne Fairbanks told Indian Voices, "We had no script. Everything was improv." "Nobody knew exactly what we were doing, and we didn't anticipate a comedic edge. But we ran with it and we had fun. The sadness, anger and outrage we felt was real, and the audience was feeling it, too."

Mark Day is a former Franciscan friar, filmmaker and journalist. He lives in Vista, Calif. mday700@yahoo.com



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Brianna Haire as Clara – Both Beauty and a Beast

by lisawitt

As Angie says, "She's a beast of a dancer!" and she's jazzed to have Brianna Haire joining the cast of Nutcracker. The inaugural year of the production focused on the Rat Queen, year two had more playful antics from lovable Drosselmeyer, and 2016 is the year of Clara as displayed by the medusa-like red locks of this year's Franky Agostino painting. Brianna saw the show last year and impressed her to audition - "I am honored to have been given the part. My sister Britney is on Future Shock and will be in the Nutcracker as a Rat, a flower and a member of the party scene. It will be awesome to share the experience with my little sister."

Brianna made her celebrity mark as the 13 year-old winner of Lifetime Television's Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition Season 1. Her focus at the current time is Hip Hop and Jazz Funk, and her favorite instructors at CSDC are Simone Swift (a.k.a. "my second mom") and Freddie Thompson. Coincidentally, Simone is also the head coach of the Torrey Pines High School Dance Team on which Brianna also dances. Brianna was selected for a coveted Ise Elite Protégés scholarship where she will be traveling the country to assist professional choreographers such as her idol Brian Friedman. In assisting Pulse's weekend workshops, she will gain valuable experience in all facets of the dance industry to help her choose her future path. At 16 years old, she is currently considering careers in kinesiology/physical therapy, or potentially becoming a dance agent.

You may have guessed that she is a



pretty busy gal. She has opted to take five Advanced Placement classes at Torrey Pines. She studies between dance practices and jobs and typically gets to bed at about 1:30 in the morning. For fun she enjoys relaxing in the barcaloungers at Cinopolis, especially if the movie is part of the Fast and the Furious series.

Want to see some of her work? She performed as a back-up dancer for Diamond White on the X-factor as well as in an artistic documentary about the topic of suicide called Don't Change the Subject. She hopes to dance in Future Shock in the spring semester and it's likely that a stellar performance in A Culture Shock Nutcracker will go a long way to getting her selected!

Brianna, welcome to the Culture Shock Family!

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NEWS from Las Vegas/Nevada

by Kena Adams

Reid Announces Senior Advisor For Hispanic And Asian Affairs

Washington, D.C. – Nevada Senator Harry Reid today announced the hiring of Monica Barrera as Senior Advisor for Hispanic and Asian Affairs. She replaces Maria Urbina who left last month for Voto Latino:

“I am pleased by the addition of Monica Barrera to our team. She has a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record on the issues that most affect the Latino and AAPI communities. As someone who has spent more time on immigration than any other issue, I also admire Monica’s dedication to fixing our broken immigration system and protecting hardworking immigrant families.”

As senior advisor, Monica Barrera will promote Senator Reid’s Latino and Asian-American Pacific Islander policy priorities and oversee outreach to Nevada’s influential Latino and AAPI

advocacy groups. She comes to this position with an extensive policy background on immigration and Latino issues. Barrera most recently served as Senior Policy Advisor for Latino Affairs in the Office of Senator Bob Menendez, where she advised the Senator on immigration policy, among other issues impacting Latino communities, and led the activities of the Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force. Barrera first started working on the Hill as a post-graduate legislative fellow in the Office of Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, where she authored the Help Separated Families Act, a bill intended to reunite the children of detained or deported immigrants with their families.

Barrera is a Peace Corps alumna and a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Columbia University School of Social Work.

Moulin Rouge America’s First Interracial Casino (1955)

The Moulin Rouge Casino and the rise of Historic Westside Las Vegas

Although the doors were only opened for less than a year America’s first interracial casino was on the front line of the racial struggle in America. The Moulin Rouge Casino is one of the most important casinos in history in helping to end segregation.

The casino has a prestigious position in the social structure on our society and is the only entertainment facility included in the National Register of Historic Places. It has had international exposure in the international media and has been featured on the cover of Life magazine. The Moulin Rouge also has been included in the Smithsonian historical archives. The Moulin Rouge’s key role in the Civil Rights Movement demands recognition and validation.

In 1955 the major casinos regularly booked big name entertainers, such as Sammy Davis Jr., Nat “King” Cole, and Ella Fitzgerald. Although these stellar established and entertainers drew high end customers to the established Strip Casinos however these performers were not allowed to gamble, socialize, or stay at these major casinos.. This cultural void gave birth to the Moulin Rouge combating de-facto segregation and being the first desegregated casino in Las Vegas which helped end segregation.

Every aspect of the casino was a rare and exquisite example of diversity and

indigenous virtue

In 1955 hotel staff and management included both black, and white, and Chinese.

Dr Sarann Knight Preddy of Black Indian heritage (Black/Creek Indian) and one time owner of the Moulin Rouge became the first female to hold a Nevada Gaming License. The Moulin Rouge was an icon of elegance and showcase for people of color. It was the home for black entertainers performing elsewhere on The Strip. the Moulin Rouge soon became a favorite place for A-list celebrities regardless of color to gamble and socialize. The night club shows at the Moulin Rouge became so popular that they added a 2:30 AM performance.

Every aspect of the casino was a rare example of diversity, especially in 1955. Hotel staff and management included both black, and white, and Chinese and also the first female to hold a Nevada Gaming License, Dr. Sarann Knight Preddy, a black and creek indian who passed away recently at the age of 94. Due to the casino’s open door policy and the fact that it was the home for black entertainers performing elsewhere on The Strip the Moulin Rouge soon became a favorite place for A-list celebrities regardless of color to gamble and socialize. The night club shows at the Moulin Rouge became so popular that they even added a 2:30 AM performance.

Despite its popularity the Moulin

Katherine Duncan Attends Parliament of the World’s Religions

On October 15-19, the 2015 Parliament took place at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. 9,806 attendees, performers, and volunteers from 73 countries, 30 Major Religions and 548 Sub-Traditions participated in the Parliament.

The 1893 Parliament, which ran from 11 to 27 September, marked the first organized gathering of representatives of Eastern and Western spiritual traditions. Today it is recognized as the occasion of the birth of formal interreligious dialogue worldwide.

Absent from this event were Native American religious figures, Sikhs and other Indigenous and Earth centered religionists. (It would not be until the 1993 Parliament that these religions and spiritual traditions would be represented.

Katherine Duncan attended the event in her official capacity “Las Vegas Chairwoman, Universal Peace Federation”

She states “It was an amazing group of people. The spirit in the room was greater than happiness. I love how the Sikhs gave us headdresses and spooned us delicious food from large buckets while we sat on the floor to eat. It was humbling and brought back childhood memories.

It was a cultural eye opener to meet so many different types of people from around the world who believed so many different religions.

The Islamic people seem to be the most challenged because of people’s perception. Islamophobia was a new term that I heard Muslims and non-Muslims use to describe the situation.

I engaged with Mayors and Chief’s of Police who were there to discuss policing in the community. That was exciting because Universal Peace Federation had just completed that discussion during its September 2015 Peace Forum in Las Vegas.

I attended at Interfaith Worship with the Sufi’s and toured the Mormon Tabernacle & Museum. The pagans and atheist attended, too.

Most of the time I spent in our booth talking to people about their reason for attending the conference.

My greatest experience was reconnecting with an old friend of over 20 years who is doing similar work in St. George, Utah. We rejoiced.

I am extremely proud of the work of the Universal Peace Federation, founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon in bringing religious people together as a way to bring peace to the world.”

Rouge closed its doors in November 1955 by police action which forced it into mismanagement and bankruptcy which was declared in December of that year. Several fires over the next few years did substantial damage to the casino, but the Moulin Rouge’s place in history was far from over.

In 1960 Las Vegas was facing increased pressure concerning the racial discrimination by the Strip Casinos. Nevada’s governor, hotel owners, NAACP president Dr. James McMillian, city and state officials, and local black leaders met to end segregation at the Las Vegas casinos. The meeting which resulted in the end of segregation at all Las Vegas casinos was held at the closed Moulin Rouge.

Eventually more fires, especially one in 2009, succeeded in gutting the old casino. The historic neon sign was taken to what is now the Neon Museum.

Indian Education Pow Wow

Continued from page 1

Murphy. Virginia Christman, a member of the Vegas Band. She served on the Tribal Council for twenty years. Henry “Hank” Murphy has more that 30 years as a firefighter and is the mastermind behind the establishment of

Native American Hotshots. The Sycuan Golden Eagle Hotshots IHC is

However, the casino’s legacy continues. Since its closing the Moulin Rouge has been a “pop up” casino. In order to retain a gaming license, Nevada law requires the licensee to open for at least eight hours every two years; something the holders have done.

The remnants of the Moulin Rouge rests in an undedserved community of Las Vegas known as the Historic Westside. Katherine Duncan, a long time activist and president of the Las Vegas Ward 5 Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a community initiated development project to revitalize the Historic Westside Neighborhood which was left devastated by the closure of the Moulin Rouge.

The concept for the future development is that of a new futuristic tourism destination in Las Vegas,

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Embracing the Historical Fabric of Our Nation

During Native American Heritage Month, we take the time to appreciate the First Americans of this land. Native American heritage is a pillar of Nevada's foundation and a cornerstone of American history. If future generations are to embrace and appreciate our unique and diverse heritage, we must preserve Native cultures with tenacity and determination. To preserve American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian cultures, we must support native people and their efforts to teach future generations about their Native

heritage.

The history and culture of Native Americans has been preserved through native languages for thousands of years. I have fought throughout my career to ensure that Tribes throughout the West and across the nation have opportunities to learn their Native languages. Studies have shown that children excel academically and socially when they are exposed to their native heritage. This empowerment is so important for young native people.

In Nevada, I have paid special

attention to the Washoe, Paiute and Western Shoshone people. I worked very hard to help the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe develop tribal schools on their reservation. Tribal members told me it was important to them to educate their children in their community to make sure Paiute language and culture were built into the classroom. The tribe currently has a thriving native studies program and native language program that emphasizes the importance of Native language and culture. The tribe is working towards developing a two year curriculum to develop students into fluent speakers. Over time public schools have grown to understand the value of incorporating native languages into their schools. The Washoe County School District held a

Paiute Language Bowl hosted by the University of Nevada-Reno this year. Thirty-five students from three schools participated in this competition which is designed to help them practice Paiute language skills and learn about their culture. I remain committed to ensuring that the true character and culture of Native Americans is preserved both in Nevada and around our great country.

The true essence of the American spirit has always rested within our ability to embrace the historical fabric of our nation. Native cultures are uniquely embedded within that fabric and I celebrate their place in the American story and will strive to support them so that future generations may appreciate the contributions of Native Americans.

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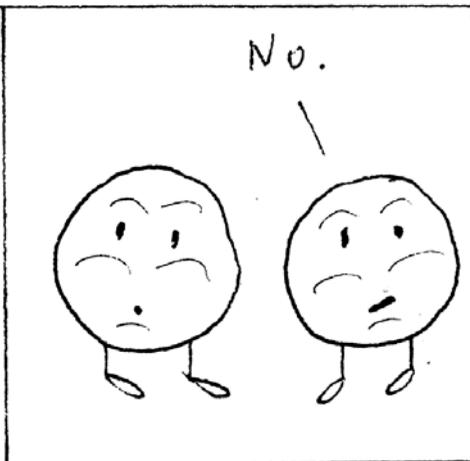
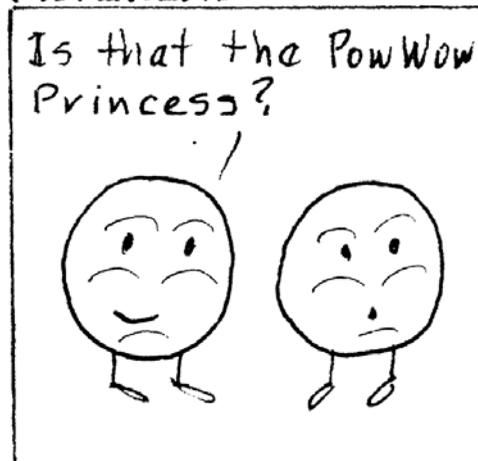
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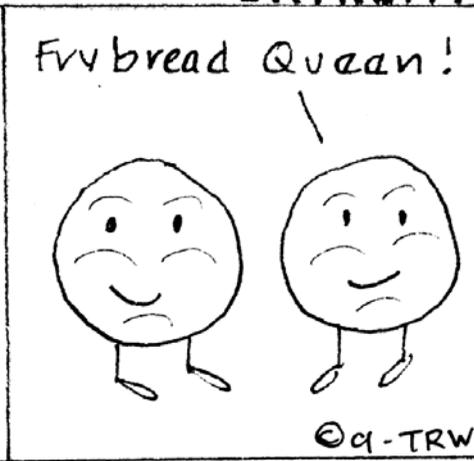


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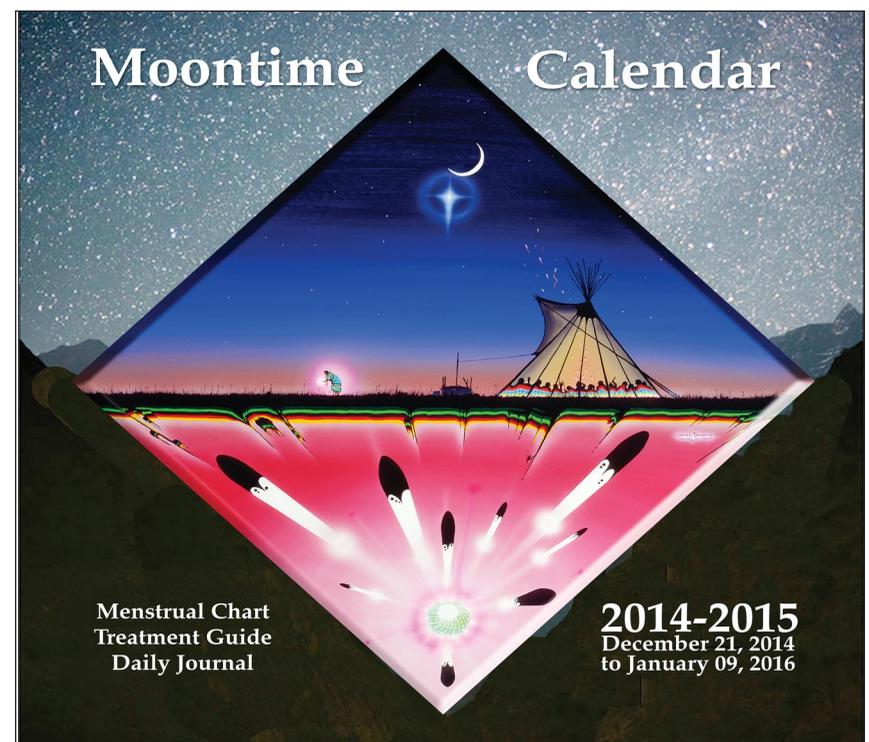
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