



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 38TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

JANUARY 2024

San Diego Community Greeting the New Year with Restorative Healing

by Rose Davis

The community of San Diego's Christmas holiday joyfully lingered until Dec. 30. Not only was a tumultuous year coming to an end, but celebration was in the air following Monica Montgomery Steppe's victory after she was elected to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

While the "political elites" struggled to define and control the soul of America, the community of San Diego happily unpacked and ceremoniously unwrapped the heart of the community with joyful singing, dancing, and communal merriment at the Southeastern Get Well Center, located in the heart of the San Diego Indigenous community. A cross section of the civically organized arts cultural members, grassroots workers, political activists and elected officials came together in unity with representatives and friends of the Great Kumeyaay Nation. The grassroots

spirit of civil rights icon John Lewis was palpable as Monica Montgomery Steppe's victory was shared in the collective consciousness of the politically afflicted.

A community held together by hope, hard work and determination - who reflect the American middle class values - was applauded by Shirley Weber who shared her civic knowledge with an impromptu lesson. She discussed how a political power shift is taking place from Sacramento to San Diego. Her inspirational words invigorated the latent spirit of hardened and tenacious communities that are positioned to continue this trend to the advantage of a needy constituency.

The grand mistress of ceremonies, perpetual motion Queen Mother Katherine Harmon, the ageless modern



California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber stands with newly elected San Diego County supervisor for District 4 Monica Montgomery Steppe. Photo: Rochelle Porter

embodiment of the Civil Rights Movement, choreographed the event flawlessly. She made sure that American Democracy and all of those who cherish it has a platform to work from to

preserve it.

The community outpouring of respect and admiration for Monica Montgomery Steppe and her political victory was reciprocated as she mingled and danced with the community, Mardi Gras style.

While the self-proclaimed corporate elite billionaires agonize over how to capture and maintain power, the San Diego Indigenous community and its allies are enjoying our great social/political experiment bequeathed to us by the Great Seneca Nation and the Great Law of Peace.

The challenge is to educate our fellows, especially the legacy media, to break away from the corporate prison and join the struggles as the ancestors orchestrate a divine paradigm shift to the future. Indigenous wisdom, chutzpah and dedicated vision will assure that our Democracy and the will of Crazy Horse will prevail for the next seven generations. San Diego is fertile ground for this garden.

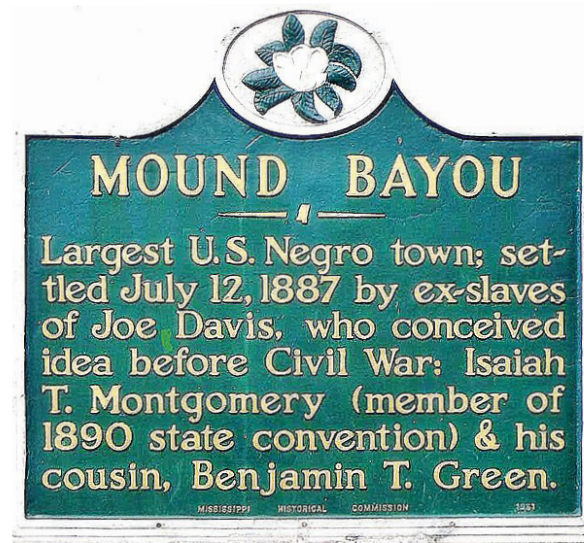
A Monumental Historic Opportunity ... The International Cottonpickers Unite Movement Needs Everybody!

Greetings Everybody!

Imagine a world where the resilient individuals who transformed the cotton fields into the Cotton Kingdom of the American South, who are often affectionately referred to as "grandmama'nem," are not just remembered, but respected, honored, and celebrated. This vision is within our grasp, and Khafre, Inc., a Mississippi Delta based non-profit invites you to be a part of this transformative journey.

Why This Matters

For over two centuries, cotton has silently powered the economies of America and Europe. Yet, the hands that planted, nurtured, and harvested this cotton—the hands of unsung heroes—have seldom received the recognition they deserve. These individuals, whose indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication shaped the global cotton industry, deserve our



gratitude and respect.

Our Vision

Khafre, Inc., in collaboration with visionary artist Ed Dwight, aims to create a lasting tribute—a 30-foot monumental statue—that will stand as a beacon of remembrance and gratitude. This statue will anchor a historical trail that traces the "triangular trade route," connecting the Mississippi Delta in America, Manchester in England, and Mali in West Africa. Along

this trail, a research and interpretive center will serve as a living testament to the enduring legacy of cotton pickers, with informative markers that educate and inspire along the way.

A Central Hub of Learning and Reflection

Located on a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) campus in Mississippi and in the historic City of Mound Bayou—one of America's oldest all-Black townships—this initiative will not only commemorate the past but also serve as a catalyst for dialogue, education, and unity.

Your Invitation to Make History

This is more than a fundraising appeal; it's an invitation to join a movement, to be a part of a legacy, and

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Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers: Native and African American Veterans Unite

Addressing challenges including homelessness and suicides with End Veteran Debt

by Meta J. Mereday

Former First Lady Michelle Obama felt a strong connection to America's military and the need to generate collaborations to assist them. "Our veterans who fall on hard times and find themselves without a home deserve more than just handwringing or kind words. They deserve real help that gets them back on their feet."

The plight of returning veterans has been depicted in a wide range of scenarios from the poignant "slice of life" features when a soldier surprises their family in a happy reunion, or the struggling soldier is depicted disheveled on a corner with a sign. Too often neither of these representations reflect communities of color, including Native Americans and African Americans, who played significant roles in America's military from the very start of this nation's history.

The involvement of Native Americans and African Americans in America's wars has often been questioned due to the historic conditions these diverse and distinct groups endured here. Over one million African Americans served a country that often treated the enemy better than them with discriminatory practices that continue to resonate negatively in African American communities.

With over 65,000 Native Americans who have served, they represent the largest percentage per their population to serve despite the ongoing challenges faced by Natives over issues ranging from land and sovereignty to disrespectful images and slogans.

Despite the achievements that both groups have made the military has barely scratched the surface in understanding and supporting the needs of veterans of color, particularly in mental health and racially motivated arenas. According to an article published

by the American Psychological Association entitled, Addressing the impact of racism on veterans of color: A race-based stress and trauma intervention.

"Veterans of color represent a unique intersection of individuals at risk of experiencing racialized discrimination during their military service and of developing negative mental health outcomes. At the same time, there has been little guidance for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health-care providers in how to address these clinical issues in a culturally competent manner."

Within this context, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported a major uptick in suicides during COVID that prompted the agency to partner with the Department of Defense in May 2022 to launch an initiative entitled, Mission Daybreak, formerly known as the Suicide Prevention Grand Challenge. This was a 20 million dollar purse designed to broaden the scope of solutions to address this public health crisis and to meet the diverse needs of veterans.

Exactly 1371 solution providers submitted their proposals for consideration. Exactly 30 finalists and 10 Promise Awardees were selected to share in the pot. Only 40 out of 1,371 were considered "innovative" enough. Really?

The contest missed the mark on diversifying the target groups within the military that are impacted by suicides differently. Once again, the results reflected "more of the same" and left out real solutions both by and for veterans of color.

America, the land of the free and home of the brave, thrives on the grand presentations and flag-waving ceremonies to achieve the "feel good" moments that overshadow the real circumstances and the growing epidemic of suicides among our returning heroes, African Americans, Native Americans and women who do not match the

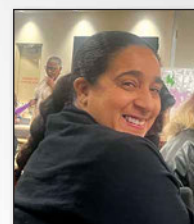
SEE **Building Bridges**, page 4

Monica Montgomery Community Celebration

Photos: Rochelle Porter



Fabio Magnelli (Kumeyaay) greets Kathleen Harmon



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Historic Opportunity

Continued from page 1

to make a tangible difference. Your contributions will directly support the creation of the statue, the historical trail, the research/interpretive center, and the educational programs that will accompany this endeavor. Every donation, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to realizing this ambitious vision.

The Need is Now

Together, we can ensure that the enduring legacies of the cotton pickers are respected, recognized, and celebrated for

generations to come. The time is now to join the International Cottonpickers Unite Movement and be a part of something monumental. To be a part of the team (see link below) or to contribute or learn more about this transformative initiative, please visit our GoFundMe site: <https://gofund.me/5b563abf>

In the meantime, thank you for considering this profound Call to Action. Together, let us weave a tapestry of gratitude and recognition for the heroes who labored in the cotton fields ... we lovingly call "grandmama'nem."

Again, now is time ... to say, "Thank You!"

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The Hokulae'a Arrives in San Diego

by D. Bartelli Oldfield

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

San Diego was the last stop on the US leg of the

Moananuieka voyage, a voyage that began in Alaska, traveled to Washington, Oregon, then headed to ports in California, including Eureka, San Francisco, Monterey, Marina Del Rey, Newport, Dana Point, and San Diego. This

segment of the voyage covered 2,800 miles with a diverse crew of experienced men and women. Those who served on this leg included a cook, a filmmaker, a PhD engineering student, a marine biology research assistant, a school principal, and others. All have a similar quest and that is to connect with others who have a common passion for preserving culture and the environment.

The mission of this voyage — *Malama honua (caring for Island Earth)* — is to use traditional Polynesian sailing techniques, such as the stars, signs in nature, and the surroundings, while sailing throughout the Pacific. The connections made along the voyage gather those who long for a meaningful relationship to the ocean and nature. The creation of the Hokule'a and its journeys revive the "legacy of exploration, courage and ingenuity that brought the first Polynesians to Hawai'i." It is a revitalization of non-instrument navigation, the traditional ways of the

ancestors.

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

Founded in 1973, the Polynesian Voyaging Society was created to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging. It provides experiential educational programs and connects groups who wish to honor and protect the ocean. It has revitalized ancient navigation and

brought revelations of how the ancestors navigated, found islands, and settled Polynesia.

The people and the stories of the Hokule'a are many. Those interested may enjoy reading detailed information on the Hokule'a website. It includes the history, detailed

voyage information, various crews and ports, photographs and video of the esteemed *wa'a*. Also included is the tale of one particular hero, Eddie Aikau, who lost his life, but has lived on in stories and legend.

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

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

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



Hokule'a along southern California coast.
2023 Polynesian Voyaging Society. Photo: Noah Paoa

CATCHING UP WITH CATHERINE

Indian Voices is pleased and honored to present this exclusive monthly column by US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev)

As the first piece for this new column, she shares her latest efforts to address the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)

The Senator's draws attention to the tragic case of Anna Marie Scott, discusses landmark legislation she passed into law with Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski, and calls for passage of her bipartisan BADGES for Native Communities Act to strengthen Tribal law enforcement and enhance collaboration on MMIW cases — one of the recommendations by the recent Not Invisible Commission report that her legislation mandated.

A Step Forward in Our Efforts to Combat the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



by Catherine Cortez Masto

Anna Marie Scott was 23 years old when she was shot to death and found inside a burned car at the Galena Creek Bridge between

Reno and Carson City. A mother of two small children and a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Anna is one of many Indigenous women who have faced violence, gone missing, or been killed.

In the United States Senate, I sit on the Committee on Indian Affairs to be a voice for the 28

Tribal Nations throughout Nevada, and that means combating the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) like Anna. Going back to my time as Nevada's Attorney General, I've heard tragic stories from Native women who escaped trafficking, detailing the horrors they faced. I've worked with our law enforcement to help keep tribal communities safe. To really address this crisis, we needed to take action on the federal level, and that's been a top priority for me since I was first elected.

Working together with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, I wrote and passed the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act, named after twenty-two-year-old Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind — a Native American woman of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe in North Dakota who was brutally murdered while pregnant. These bipartisan bills were both signed into law, giving the federal government more resources to coordinate with local partners and handle cases of missing, murdered, and trafficked Native Americans.

For too long, there has been a disconnect between the work of the federal government, Tribal law enforcement, and the Native communities we're responsible for keeping safe. The Center for Disease

Control and Prevention reported Indigenous women and girls are murdered at a rate 10 times greater than other ethnicities and it is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women. Furthermore, there is a big data gap that keeps us from fully understanding the severity of the crisis.

As part of my Not Invisible Act, we created a commission to bring together law enforcement officials, Tribal leaders, federal partners, and survivors and their family members to collect experiences from around the country and provide a report on how we can improve the federal response to the MMIW crisis. That report was recently released, and the commission identified both the challenges Indian Country faces and how the Departments of Justice and the Interior can work together to locate missing people, support survivors, and hold criminals accountable.

This is an important step forward in the effort to end the MMIW crisis, and I will continue working to ensure these recommendations are acted on and these laws are implemented so we can bring justice to the families of women and girls like Anna Scott who were taken from their homes. That includes working to strengthen tribal law enforcement, which is why I'm leading a bipartisan bill (the BADGES for Native Communities Act) to strengthen Tribal law enforcement and keep communities in Indian Country safer by providing more resources to recruit and retain police officers and ensuring Tribal, federal, and local law enforcement are working together on

MMIW cases. It also makes it easier for law enforcement to share information on missing persons cases.

There's more to be done to address this crisis, and I will continue working with survivors, law enforcement, and service providers to help ensure the safety of Tribal communities in Nevada and across America.

Young women like Anna Scott deserve to be here today.

What you see on the surface is never the same again
once you begin to plumb the depths.

— Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is a visual artist and a member of the Salish and Kootenai tribes.

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Breaking Boundaries: Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed's Unveils Her Journey of Resilience and Advocacy

by Christopher Lahr, MD

In the heart of Mississippi, where state and county laws once limited African American voting and contract rights, Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed, PhD, MS, MBA, emerged as a beacon of resilience and advocacy, transcending the challenges imposed by historical injustices.

A Legacy Rooted in Resilience and Determination

Dr. Turnipseed is not just a name but a testament to resilience, determination, and the indomitable spirit of overcoming the adversities of her ancestors. Born into a lineage deeply rooted in Mississippi's history, Dr. Turnipseed's grandparents navigated the treacherous waters of racial discrimination yet managed to own and operate farm businesses in Winston and Choctaw counties. Their story is one of perseverance, walking on eggshells to avoid offense, and treading carefully amidst systemic barriers.

All four of Dr. Turnipseed's grandparents and both parents were born in Mississippi's Winston and Choctaw counties during an era when the appearance of too much success would get African Americans lynched by racist

European Americans who could not compete fairly. Despite these formidable barriers, her grandparents and parents defied the odds, by raising cotton, cattle, and other agricultural products.

During Dr. Turnipseed's parents' era, only 4.3% of blacks were registered to vote in Mississippi in 1955. This tumultuous time witnessed Fannie Lou Hamer's courageous efforts in Sunflower County to increase African American voter registration, despite facing severe beatings and constant threats of lynchings. The stark contrast from the post-Civil War era, where 66.9% of blacks were registered, illustrates the arduous battle for equal voting rights, throughout the South.

Dr. Turnipseed's familial backdrop includes the horrifying incident involving Emmett Till, just 150 miles away from her parent's home. The gruesome photographs published in 1955, shortly before her parents moved to San Francisco as part of the "Great Migration," exemplify the urgent need for change and safety for the coming generation. However, the legacy of trailblazers like Fannie Lou Hamer, who fought tirelessly for voter registration, and the sacrifice made by the many who were



lynched in Mississippi resonate deeply with Dr. Turnipseed's journey.

A Commitment to Change

Dr. Turnipseed's parents' relocation to West to San Francisco positioned them as pioneers in the Great Migration, a movement that typically went North, and saw six million African Americans leave the South between 1910 and 1970. By choosing to settle in a city where only 5.6% of the population was African American, they discovered that discrimination persisted, but certainly not as bad as in Mississippi. Even baseball star Willie Mays, a San Francisco Giants icon, faced discrimination in 1957, when attempting to purchase his home. But it gave the family, particularly Dr. Turnipseed access to more opportunities to become what she became, a "first generation" college student who has travelled extensively around the world. Dr

Turnipseed, in honor of her ancestors, who paid the ultimate price, gained five higher education degrees, an A.A. in English; a BA in Radio & Television Communications; MS in Telecommunications; MBA in International Marketing Management; and a PhD in history/with an emphasis in Historical Preservation ... all in honor and tribute to "grandmama'nem."

Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed's story is not just a reflection of the past but a beacon for the future. Her journey, rooted in the struggles and triumphs of her ancestors, fuels her commitment to change, progress, and equality for all. Her life mirrors a journey of resilience, determination, and a relentless commitment to justice, as modeled by her fore parents. As she embarks on future political campaigns, and social movements she carries with her the legacy of those who fought against oppression and made the necessary moves to access better opportunities for future growth and development. Join Dr. Turnipseed as she leads the charge for the International Cotton Pickers Unite Movement; and as she continues the fight for equity, justice, and a future where everyone's story is acknowledged and celebrated, especially in the State of Mississippi.

For more information and to support the Movement, ; Cottonpickers.us; csadeturnipseed.com; or contact her at info@khafreinc.org.

Building Bridges

Continued from page 2

poster images and promotional videos. Not only are research options limited or nonexistent, but the resources also available do not provide access to these diverse groups who fall within the 70 percent of veterans who do not utilize VA Health care services.

Ironically, the opportunity to build bridges and amplify the stories for these underserved communities lies within an organization that was formed as an "off-ramp" from Mission Daybreak.

Jerry Ashton, a Navy veteran and nationally recognized debt reduction expert identified that debt, especially medical debt, is an additional burden that can lead to suicidal ideations among veterans already suffering from homelessness, joblessness, marital problems and other such plagues.

Ashton intentionally invited and included a number of the Solution Providers who were not selected and rallied the group to launch Veteran Mission Possible (VMP) (www.VeteranMissionPossible.com) to provide a more "Wholistic" approach to abating veteran suicide by bringing together a diverse group of veteran and civilian advocates and innovators to share their solutions and partner to elevate formats to engage a wider base within the group. VMP has the forward thinking and inclusive model that is ideal for underrepresented communities whose shared traumatic histories need to

be considered.

As momentum has grown and collaborations established with a diverse team, VMP rallied around the newly created charity, End Veteran Debt (www.endveterandebt.org), which addresses that universal problem. Regarding veteran medical debt, the group adopted the national campaign #EndVetMedDebt (www.endveteranmedicaldebt.com) which intends to motivate the VA to

release for total forgiveness the \$6B in debt owed to and through the VA. Guess what percentage of that debt is owed by people of color.

EVD and VMP are a new venue for bringing together Native and African American activists to share their common struggles to design initiatives that speak directly to their many unmet needs. They are the "real help" that our former First Lady was talking about, and there is no better starting place than you!

ALAN LECHUSZA AQUALLO

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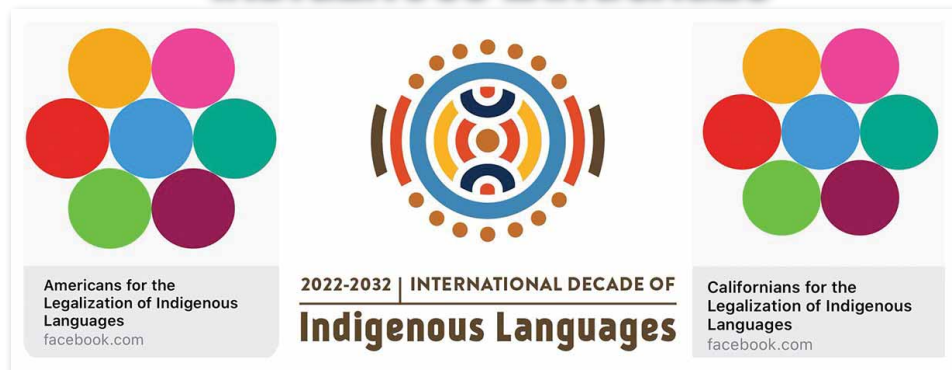
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INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



by Sholók (sholok.0000@gmail.com)

Kwaypay Yay Wemaw / Dazed King (Kumeyaay)



Synopsis:
A sudden change in your life always shifts your perspective. When I suddenly developed epilepsy and sleep apnea I realized my body is a living

organism that needs nourishing. But trying to get better feels like cartoon stars circling above me after getting hit in the head. Still I try.

Naiichachm spirr wexap
may-ipaat aaxwashlh
kushlawa uuyaaw ipaat
ñach may paychax kwaypayx 'uy

Marway kwelhyap ñuch
yas-ipaat kwekatt-lyemaash kwalhyaw
mat aayúm ñap shxwaalh
xepsuy metaarrlh ñap ña'aa

Ma'alh yas-ipaatch teñurr fyerrm
wekwá ñap ñamatm
ñamayk ñetxil xwattches
tetxapalh kwiinuusches

Ñach may paychax kwaypayx 'uy
ñamayk moyú tiñá
kuupal sholókch ñeyiichach ñewettim
shemalh ipaat aalh

Ñamayk moyú tiñá
ñap ñemetxá cholhuup-shxwaalh
xepsuy metaarrlh ñap ña'aa maw
pes ñap ñatetxapalh penkwis

Kurr uu-umch
kusiai
matwa'nap kwalpay
ñeuumán teknoloxí

Ñach may paychax kwaypayx 'uy
koron kwelhyap nepulh
ñap may ñalhemú tepkwirrp
ñawix ñap ñamat wekañ lyepay

Mapping of Tribal Territories and Boundaries Will Be Discussed

Dear Tribal Partner:

You are cordially invited to attend the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Tribal OIR Workshop and Consultations on January 30th and 31st, 2024 from 9:30am-5:30pm at the Jamul Casino, in the Prime Cut Steak & Seafood Restaurant, 14145 Campo Road, Jamul, CA 91935.

The workshop on January 30th and consultations on January 31st are opportunities for Tribal Leaders to discuss and provide comments and recommendations regarding CPUC's Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP) – staff proposal for revision and Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP). The input received will assist the CPUC in furthering the goals of the TLTP, promote improved government-to-government relationships

between the CPUC and California Tribes, as well as improve capacity building and access for Tribal participation in CPUC proceedings and programs.

CPUC staff will provide an overview of the current TLTP and the proposed revisions to the policy at the workshop. Tribal leaders and representatives from investor-owned utilities will provide perspective on their experience with the policy and there will be an opportunity for an open dialogue where tribal leaders and party representatives may provide comment or ask questions.

Thank you. If you plan on attending the January 30th workshop, please RSVP to TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please contact the CPUC's Tribal Advisor Kenneth Holbrook at Kenneth.holbrook@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

San Diego Original Black Panther Party for Community Empowerment



By Henry Lee Wallace V,
Chairman, San Diego
Original Black Panther
Party for Community
Empowerment

Greetings, Readers,
It is with great joy
and optimism that I
greet you, as we lay

2023 to rest. My name is Henry Lee Wallace V aka "Captain Morgan Lee." I am a man of action and activism. I've been invited to write a column once a month for this great newspaper. My column will focus on community empowerment and activism in San Diego County and the surrounding areas.

Last year (2023) was a year of many losses and joyful moments. As the chairman of the San Diego Original Black Panther Party for Community Empowerment, my board and I have struggled to keep our flagship program, the Evelyn and Frankie Germany free bulk food, open on a weekly basis. Because of the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic, we lost a few of our original Black Panthers. They were key players in keeping the organization in the fight of feeding those in need in San Diego. Because of the loss of these members, the work of feeding our community has fallen upon the shoulders of a couple of our remaining original members.

As for wins, the Original Black Panther Party always believed that the power to serve our community is within the people! Our slogan has and always will be: "All Power to the People!"

It's true. Nothing will change until our people stand and take total control of their lives... I am proud to say that I have watched this phenomenon all my life. People power has been a catalyst of change to the politics in our city, county, state, country and the world at large, whether through the voting process or protest. I've even witnessed people power recently since the pandemic. The people have stepped up to keep the Evelyn and Frankie Germany free bulk food program from closing down. The people are on deck every Wednesday, too, to help set up and give out food to the people who are suffering from food insecurities. Also, the food program has been able to provide prepared food to the homeless population in the downtown area, east and south of San Diego County on Tuesdays.

In closing, I want to thank Indian Voices for allowing me the opportunity to share this information with the San Diego community at large. I hope that I will be able to continue updating and bringing to you all more information from the San Diego Original Black Panther Party for Community Empowerment in the coming months of 2024.

From Lauren Stevens *Language is Life* PBS Native Series 4

Language Is Life – Since time immemorial, indigenous peoples throughout the Americas have innovated ways to connect across generations, cultures, and continents. Before 1492 there were over 300 Native languages spoken across North America. Today there are about 170. If nothing is done, linguists predict by 2050 there will be 20. Many Native communities believe when you lose language, you lose everything. But even in the face of these painful statistics, this risk of loss has served as a rallying cry across Native America – and an opportunity to seek new ways to persevere against extraordinary odds.

For over 500 years, America's First People have fought to ensure their unique ways of speech could be preserved. Now, a renewed effort to revitalize traditional languages is unfolding across Native America. *Language Is Life* showcases the beauty of Native American communication, and how their voices continue to shape 15,000 years of world changing history. And the heroes who are applying 21st century technologies to save a core element of Native cultures from time immemorial and to inspire future generations.

On the Navajo Nation in Arizona, Manny Wheeler, is on a mission to dub Hollywood blockbusters in Navajo. At the

drive-in theater of his newest project, Luke Skywalker's face fills nearly the entire screen. It's an iconic moment from *Star Wars*. And when Luke begins to speak in Navajo words, cheers rise from the crowd. Manny's work is revitalizing his community's connection to their language and giving classic films like *Fistful of Dollars* new life as Navajo-language classics.

Rumors of a stunning find in northern Georgia lead historian Julie Reed of the Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Cultural Preservation Officer Beau Carroll to an ancient cave. As they enter and activate their multispectral imaging devices, they realize the rumors were true: a massive panel of Cherokee syllabary-writing from 1828 is inscribed on the cave walls - just a few years after this unique writing system was developed. Decoding the inscription helps them to uncover a secret history that resonates with the larger story of Cherokee resilience.

And in Passamaquoddy, northern Maine, fluent language speaker Dwayne Tomah launches a mission to recover Passamaquoddy songs from 19th century voice-recordings on wax cylinders that haven't been heard for a century. He journeys to the Library of Congress and

SEE *Language is Life*, page 7



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).

Florida Black Historical Research Project Inc.'s 186th Seminole Maroon Family Reunion – January 13-14, 2024

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association

At the end of last year's Seminole Maroon Family Reunion, we (Corina Torralba, treasurer of SISCA and I) began making plans to attend this year's event. Why? Because the space that the Tinnies of Florida Black Historical Research Project Inc. (FBHRP) have fostered is one of warmth, inclusivity, openness, and love. It is familial and familiar. This truly has become a family reunion that I look forward to attending each year.

This year, the focus was on those who stayed in Florida, such as Sam Jones (Abiaka) and Cha-Chi, and the Saltwater Underground Railroad (aka the Bahamas). On Saturday, January 13 at 10:00 AM, we gathered at Sunset Park, located in West Palm Beach, Florida, for the Cha-Chi's Village Memorial Ceremony, which included a plaque dedication. The event, which was moderated by Professor



Plaque near Isa's Tree where the 186th Annual Seminole Maroon Family Reunion took place.

Michelle T. Riley, included an invocation by Reverend Gerald Kisner. After the invocation, short speeches were given by the Honorable Cathleen Ward, who is the commissioner for the City of West Palm Beach, District 1, Mrs. Annie Ruth Harrison, with the African American Research Library and Cultural Center of Palm Beach County, Brother Victor D. Norfus with the Heart of Boynton Unity Project, and Professor Derek Hankerson.

Dr. Wallis H. Tinnie, president of FBHRP, gave the occasion. She spoke beautifully and passionately about the all the work that had gone into preparing for the day and how the ancestors had helped and approved every step of the process. Dr. Anthony Dixon gave a brief history about the Florida Maroon Community that inhabited the area. Mr. Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, who designed the plaque, spoke eloquently about his work.

The plaque reads: "Seminole Maroon Remembrance Site: Indigenous Land Acknowledgment: Cha-Chi's Village: A prominent Seminole settlement, with a probable connection to Cha-Chi's Landing, a historical site once identified in what is now Downtown West Palm Beach, was located in this general area before and during the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842. The site, with its wealth of verdant and thriving crop fields, was destroyed by U.S. military forces in 1841, following the capture of Cha-Chi and his

wife Polly, among other captures, deaths, and forced deportation on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma Territory under the Indian Removal Act of 1830."

It goes on to say: "This memorial is placed by the City of West Palm Beach in cooperation with Florida Black Historical Research Project Inc. and the

African American Research Library and Cultural Center of P.B. County. It was made possible by grants from ArtLife WPB, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities."

Brian Forbing and his Capital Battery Line closed out the program with their rhythmic cadences and impressive

SEE **Historical Project**, page 11

A Taste of San Diego History

Yvette Porter Moore



Marie C. Widman – Black Arts & Culture District

While driving east, along Imperial Avenue toward Lemon Grove, you will find yourself in the heart of Southeastern San Diego, which is the birthplace of the Black Arts & Culture District, located between 61st and 69th Streets.

On June 14, 2022, the former President Pro Tempore of the 4th Council District, Monica Montgomery Steppe, secured unanimous votes from the council to designate this area as the Black Arts & Culture District. One of the main landmarks within this new district is the Marie C. Widman Memorial

Park. The park is situated at the corner of Julian & 6727 Imperial Avenue. The Boys & Girls Club is on the same block and is located east of the park. The Park & Recreation Board voted to have Encanto Park renamed after Marie C. Widman in the spring of 1994 at the end of the park's redevelopment.

This park is significant to the art district because this is the place where the community comes together to celebrate Black culture in San Diego. Many events have been held recognizing the culture, history and the people who have lived and thrived in San Diego.

In the past, I wondered who Marie Widman was. People like the late Robert Tambuzi and Conley Major shared what they knew, but it wasn't enough. Conley had photos, but after moving from Mexico to Atlanta, these items were lost. Individuals who knew her have since passed on, so there are only a few individuals alive who can give an

account. So, my goal was to search and recover what seemed lost. I found articles with unclear photos and documented Marie Widman's life. I also was put in connection with her son, who guided me to her resting place.

The pressure to find high-resolution photos of Marie Widman became a priority when Gaidi Fini of the San Diego African Museum of Fine Art commissioned me to search through archives and make requests to standing organizations that hold her history.

What many people might not have known is that Mrs. Marie Widman was a

Black woman. What I find Godsent and ordained is that Marie Widman Memorial Park is the hub of the Black Arts & Culture District. In 1975, the San Diego City Park and Recreation Board formed an ad hoc committee to serve as a liaison for cultural interests in the city. Marie Widman and Paul Leyton were named as co-chairs of the San Diego Cultural Arts Committee. Mrs. Widman advocated for all forms of arts and culture to be accessible to all people and to those who lived in Southeast San



Marie Widman
Union Tribune Collection, Courtesy of the San Diego History Center

Diego.

Marie Cooper Widman and her twin were born to Pearl B. and William Cooper on July 8, 1931, in San Diego, California. Marie attended San Diego Public Schools and was graduated from San Diego High School in 1949. She also was an alumnus of San Diego City College and San Diego State.

Marie C. Widman was a longtime leader in San Diego civic affairs, a housewife, and a mother of two boys. She was the backbone of her local community and of greater San Diego. She ran for the 4th District City Council and the 79th California State Assembly. Even though she did not succeed in securing those seats, she took up leadership roles in the campaigns of those who knew her leadership strengths and even those who she ran against.

Widman's resume is quite substantial,

SEE **Marie C. Widman**, page 15

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County Leader Wins Prestigious Baldrige Foundation Leadership Award

by County News Center, County of San Diego Communications Office



The Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award has recognized Barbara Jiménez, Community

Operations Officer for the County's Health and Human Services Agency, with a community leadership award. Jiménez, who oversees the County's Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC), was among the national awardees representing large and small businesses, health care, education, nonprofit, cybersecurity, communities and government. The Baldrige Foundation said today this is the first time 'Community' has been a category, and "the inaugural group embodies the type of role model leadership our communities and our

country need." Al Faber, president and CEO of the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Inc., said the leadership awards "recognize outstanding individuals, leaders, and supporters who embody Baldrige leadership and management values and principles, and who have provided outstanding service to the Baldrige community and beyond." For more than 30 years Jiménez has provided, promoted and overseen social and human services throughout San Diego County. Before being named HHSA Community Operations Officer in July 2021 and being tasked with creating HSEC, much of her career was focused on communities in South and Central San Diego. She is known for her binational and bilingual work and extensive community listening sessions, including steering Southeastern Live Well Center planning for nearly a decade. During the heart of the COVID-19 emergency, her responsibilities included coordinating

SEE **Barbara Jiménez, page 12**

Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber Announces Legislation Addressing Maternity Ward Closures in California

Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D. (D- La Mesa) announced that she will be introducing legislation to address the issue of abrupt maternity ward closures. The bill will enhance the existing state review process before a maternity ward closes which would include an assessment of the impact of the closure on the surrounding community. According to a CalMatter's article from last month, at least 46 maternity wards have closed since 2012, leaving twelve counties, most of them rural, without any hospitals delivering babies. "These birthing deserts make it difficult for pregnant persons to ensure that they will have a place that is equipped with the properly trained personnel to deliver their baby. Traveling long distances to find a hospital with an open labor and delivery unit should not

be something a pregnant person should have to worry about in California," said Assemblymember Weber. This bill will require a state review process before a maternity ward closes as well as a report measuring the impact of the closure on the surrounding community. "According to a recent JAMA study, the maternal mortality rates have increased in California over the past few decades and I am concerned that with the closure of these maternity wards, those mortality rates will continue to increase. As a practicing OB/GYN, I look forward to working with relevant stakeholders and state departments to develop a feasible proposal," concluded Weber.

Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D. represents California's 79th Assembly District, which includes La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley/La Presa, and parts of the cities of El Cajon and San Diego.

Help Us Build Strong Sustainable Villages Across California

Our coalition of 45 villages reach over 10,000+ multi-generational members, volunteers, and caregivers—helping to address the growing crises of loneliness, housing instability, and unaffordable and inaccessible social care for older adults in California. As we look ahead to 2024, there is still more to do, especially around building sustainability into our villages. We will be launching a new accelerator program that will help our 45 existing villages become even stronger and realize their potential impact on their members and in their communities. To fully launch this program, we are asking for your support before year-end.

You can donate easily online! Give at <https://villagemovementcalifornia.org/donate> Your donation of \$50 or more will go directly towards the launch of the village accelerator program to strengthen and sustain our statewide network of villages. Please help us to promote innovation and sustainability across our villages so that we are able to serve the rapidly growing number of aging residents—which will account for one-quarter of the state's population in the next decade. Together we can make so much more progress than we can ever achieve alone.

Federal Judge Allows Lawsuit Against the CIA by US Lawyers and Journalists to Move Forward

New York, New York - December 19, 2023: The Honorable John G. Koeltl, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan, decided a motion brought by the CIA in an action against it by individuals alleging that they were wrongfully spied on while visiting Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. In his 27-page decision, the Court refused to grant the CIA's motion to dismiss the litigation, finding the claim that the federal government was involved in an illicit scheme to seize the Plaintiff's electronic devices should continue against the CIA. In denying the CIA's motion, the Court stated: "[t]he plaintiffs' complaint

contains sufficient allegations that the CIA and Pompeo, through Morales and UC Global, violated their reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of their electronic devices." The Court went on to state that because "in an April 2017 speech, Pompeo 'pledged that his office would embark upon a 'long term' campaign against WikiLeaks,' " there was sufficient reason for the case to continue. Richard Roth of The Roth Law Firm, when asked about the decision, commented: "We are thrilled that the Court rejected the CIA's efforts to silence the Plaintiffs, who merely seek to expose the CIA's attempt to carry out Pompeo's vendetta against WikiLeaks."

Language is Life

Continued from page 5

using new technological marvels alongside their expert audio team, recovers lost songs and words – which he brings back to the Passamaquoddy community. Native heroes are using every tool to

recover, revitalize, and restore their linguistic traditions, with efforts as diverse as they are inspirational. These communities are calling out and demanding to be heard, restoring their rich and diverse languages to the public square. And their successes are changing Native America and the world at large.

Remember you are this universe and this universe is you.
– Joy Harjo
Muscogee musician, poet, and author, Joy Harjo was also named the first Native American U.S. Poet Laureate.

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Climate Action Fellows at WorldBeat Center's Martin Luther King Day Celebration

We were honored to be a part of this year's celebration and loved showing people around the Children's Peace Garden on such a special day. Seeing people happy and curious about the garden was unforgettable, especially spending time with the children. It was amazing to see how much they intuitively understand about the natural world.

At our table, we shared information about our composting efforts in the garden, which inspired conversations around people's own composting experiences at home. They were excited for our free composting workshop on



keep Dr. King's vision in our hearts as our own. We are here to leave the world better than we found it." -the CCAC fellows

Feb. 10th from 10am-11:30am, which we hope will serve as an opportunity for building community knowledge. Seeing people's positive reactions and excitement about what we are doing is so motivating; it's a beautiful reminder of how so many people care deeply about our earth and are ready to take action.

We are inspired more than ever to

FILM SCREENING OF THE GLOBAL ASSIGNMENT



By Makeda Cheatom

Save the date, Friday, February 16th at 6:30pm, Anthony Browder will return to WorldBeat Cultural

Center to screen his latest documentary, "The Global Assignment", a tribute to the life of Runoko Rashidi.

Runoko Rashidi, a prolific historian and scholar, left an indelible mark on our understanding of African history and culture. His passion for uncovering the rich tapestry of African civilizations inspired countless

individuals. Rashidi's legacy is one of enlightenment and empowerment, as he dedicated his life to dispelling misconceptions and celebrating the diverse heritage of the African continent. May his contributions continue to resonate and educate generations to come.

Anthony T. Browder is an author, publisher, cultural historian, artist, and an educational consultant. He is a graduate of Howard and has lectured extensively throughout the United States and five continents.

Mr. Browder is the founder and director of IKG Cultural Resources and has devoted 35 years researching ancient Egyptian history, science, philosophy and culture.

He has traveled to Egypt 52 times since 1980 and is currently director of the ASA Restoration Project, which is funding the excavation and restoration of two 25th dynasty tombs of Kushite noblemen on the west bank of Luxor, Egypt.

WORLDBEAT CENTER

WorldBeat Cultural Center's 35th Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration

By Berenice Rodriguez

The 35th annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration at WorldBeat Cultural Center was a true success. Each year families from all backgrounds and nationalities come from all over San Diego to attend this celebration. This year we had a great turn out and the diversity represented was a true testament to the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King. This year's event was



co-presented with Stand Up for Justice. Stand Up For Justice (SUJ), is a grassroots movement, bringing diverse people together locally, nationally and internationally, to expose injustice and work towards progressive

solutions. The vibes were positive and were co-hosted by Reggae star, Pato Banton and activist and musician Antoinette Rootsdavta. The celebration began with a blessing and a drum circle with the big drum with Tim Redbird and the Red Warriors and was followed by a beautiful dance

presentation by Danza Azteca Colibri. It continued with live music by Kool Boy Hoodbotic Puppets, Lone Angels, Natty Prophets,

Empress Akua and Pato Banton and the Now Generation. Walking through the crowd you could see couples, families and individuals having a good time with each of the talented performances. Pato as usual had the crowd engaged dancing and singing some of the fans favorite tunes. In between the bands attendees also were able to hear guest speaker panels and witness the screening of a new short documentary, "The



Spirit of Ubuntu".

Outside had a vibe of its own. We had a craft vendor village with vendors selling anything from herbal remedies, to oils, to tapestries, to clothes and fruits from all over the world. A big shout out too to our Climate Action Corp fellows for representing their contributions to our garden programming. This year we were so proud to have opened the garden for the first time this year and show the community the love and sweat that our fellows have put into the garden. And another shoutout to our new partner the San Diego Audubon for coming out to represent and support our event! We look forward to your annual Bird Festival in February and



our next collaborative events!

At the end of the night we were full of joy, pride and gratitude. To everyone who attended, participated, worked, volunteered, or participated in our donation drive: THANK YOU! To those who donated: thank you for helping us support

some of our city's heroes who are supporting our Haitian and African refugees at the Tijuana border. Thank you for all the beans, rice, blankets, socks, diapers and canned goods. If you were not able to attend, make a note; each year our celebration is on the 3rd Monday in January on the holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. For 2025 we have decided to dedicate the whole month to Dr. King so look forward to a full month of programming.



REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF PEACE, LOVE AND EQUALITY

by Makeda Cheatom

WorldBeat Cultural Center has been producing Martin Luther King Day for over 35 years. We thought this champion of justice, peace and human rights deserved a holiday and fought for his legacy to be remembered on his birthday. Nationally, The legislation to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day was first introduced just four days after his assassination on April 4, 1968. Still, it would take 15 years of persistence by civil rights activists for the holiday to be approved by the federal government and an additional 17 years for it to be recognized in all 50 states. Even though in 1979 it failed to pass in the House, public support for the bill continued to grow, in no small part due to musician Stevie Wonder. The Motown singer and songwriter's 1980 album "Hotter Than July" featured the song "Happy Birthday," which served as an ode to King's vision and a rallying cry for recognition of his achievements with a national holiday.

Today his message still rings and is more relevant. To continue to honor his message of peace, love and equality WorldBeat Center has decided that in 2025 we will honor him for a month. We will have poetry at the Martin Luther King Promenade, the unveiling of a new Martin Luther King statue, the inauguration of renaming

our garden to the Martin Luther King Peace Garden, a gospel showcase at our annual Martin Luther King Celebration and a peace and conflict resolution unity circle for the community. It's important that we don't fade away our history and most San Diegans don't know how difficult it was to honor Dr King in this city. Here's a short summary of San Diego's history on honoring Dr King written in the Voice and Viewpoint. Hail to the King!



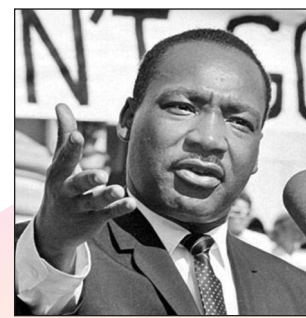
EUCLID AVENUE OFF I-15 AND MLK JR. HWY by Aryka Randall

The most notable of [San Diego's Martin Luher King] murals is the "Power to the People" visual located between Interstate 15 and Euclid Avenue off of Highway 94, also

known as "MLK Jr. Hwy". The mural was created by Phillip Matzigkeit in 2005 and spans almost 20 feet high and 225 feet long. The mural highlights MLK in three segments, one of them capturing his "I Have A Dream" speech.

The significance of the particular location of this mural is large as it comes after a history of controversy surrounding renaming California Highway 94 to MLK Jr Fwy. In Spring of 1986, the San Diego City Council voted against a name change for Highway 94. Instead they voted to change Market Street to Martin Luther King Way and a little over a year later, local voters pivoted on their decision in a referendum that restored the Market Street name. The city went back and forth deciding whether MLK should be honored with a statue in Balboa Park, by adding his name on the Convention Center, or by pushing to have the name of the Highway changed yet again.

Eventually, Assemblyman Pete Chacon and State Senator Wadie P. Deddeh pushed for the renaming of Highway 94 and the Legislature approved the request with the provision that private donations would be needed to pay for the new signage. It was then that The Martin Luther King Jr. Freeway Committee was formed to raise funds for these efforts.



What Dr. Martin Luther King Means to Me

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was a Black American minister who fought during the civil rights movement. In the same year I was born in 1955 he led the Montgomery bus boycott. My grandparents and my parents witnessed and also fought for their rights. My father enlisted in the Army to fight for this country and he also had to fight for equal rights in the service as a Black man. Martin Luther King fought for civil rights using nonviolent resistance. He was against Jim Crow laws which enforced racial segregation.

Being at the WorldBeat Cultural Center has taught me about the civil rights movement. Living in Germany where my dad was stationed, I did not get the opportunity

I would like to thank Makeda Cheatom, the Executive Director of WorldBeat Cultural Center who has educated me about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders of the civil rights movement. Thanks to the WorldBeat Center I know about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which was intended to end discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin in the United States. The act gave federal law enforcement agencies the power to prevent racial discrimination in employment, voting, and the use of public facilities. I am grateful that I am not asleep and that I have a Dream at the WorldBeat Cultural Center.

-Ronald Cheatom

THREE SISTERS STEW WITH CORN WHEELS

This dish honors the Iroquois legend of the three sisters.

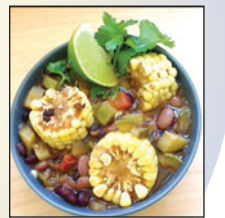
Corn, Beans and Squash grow together in the same mound of earth. Corn provides a ladder for the beans to climb. Beans nourish the soil with nitrogen and the squash covers the earth keeping it cool and moist during summer heat.

Try growing a three sisters garden and in the fall, at harvest time, prepare this three sisters stew and honor this beautiful Indigenous Iroquois Legend.

Note: For this recipe you can either use one type of bean or you can use equal amounts of kidney beans, black beans, and pinto beans.

6 cups of beans
1 onion, minced
4 garlic cloves, crushed
1 green bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
3 large tomatoes, chopped
½ jalapeno pepper, finely chopped
2 tablespoons chili powder
1 ½ tablespoon ground cumin
Sprig of thyme
3 ears of fresh or frozen corn
4 cups of yellow summer squash, sliced (about 1 lb)
2 medium zucchini cut into 1 inch pieces
5 tablespoons of cooking oil
Chopped tomatoes and minced cilantro for garnish

Soak beans overnight or quick soak by placing the beans in a pot with 2 quarts of spring water and bring to a rolling boil. Turn off the heat and allow the beans to soak for 1 hour.



Lily Gladstone Makes History With 'Killers Of The Flower Moon' Win At The Golden Globes

by Danielle Bartelli Oldfield

Lily Gladstone made history at the 81st Golden Globe Awards Sunday evening when she became the first indigenous person to win the award for the best performance by a female actor in a dramatic motion picture. It was an historic moment.

In the film, "Killers of the Flower Moon", she plays Mollie Burkhart, wife of Ernest Burkhart, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. As many know, the film depicts the gruesome murders of the Osage for their oil rights and their land. Many refer to this time as "the Reign of Terror."

The best-selling book, written by David Grann, was published in 2017. It tells the horrific story of members of the Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma, who enjoyed their newfound wealth after oil was discovered beneath their land. Their success was short-lived however, as tribal members mysteriously were killed off. Mollie Burkhart's family became a prime target. One of her relatives was shot, while another was poisoned. More and more Osage died under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were also murdered.

The newly created FBI took up the case, and Director J. Edgar Hoover turned to former Texas Ranger Tom White to try to solve the mystery. White put together an undercover team and,

together with the Osage, they began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" was made with extensive collaboration from tribal members and director Scorsese held routine meetings with the Osage people, some descendants of the tragedy. Accurate depictions were reproduced including period wardrobe, blankets, and settings. After a screening in Oklahoma, the film was released and has been in theaters and on streaming platforms.

Gladstone was nominated for the award, and there was much discussion that she is a contender, not only for the Golden Globe, but also a possible Oscar. All eyes were on Lily Sunday night, as she ascended the stage and began her speech with a few sentences in Siksiká, the language of the Blackfeet Nation.

"I just spoke a bit of Blackfeet language, the beautiful community nation that raised me, that encouraged me to keep going, keep doing this," she said. "I'm here with my mom, who, even though she's not Blackfeet, worked tirelessly to get our language into our classroom, so I had a Blackfeet language teacher growing up."

Gladstone continued, "This is a historic win — it doesn't belong to just me. I'm holding it right now — holding it with all my beautiful sisters in the film at this table over here, and my mother, Tantoo Cardinal- standing on all of your



Gladstone wore beaded earrings created by Lenise Omeasoo (Ermine Cree and Blackfeet) that featured a black and white mirrored Blackfeet design framed by pink and gold glass beads. They complimented Gladstone's Bulgari diamond necklace and a white Valentino gown.

shoulders," she said. (Cardinal played Lizzie, her mother, in the film.)

Gladstone went on to thank the film's director, Martin Scorsese, and her co-stars Leonardo Di Caprio and Robert DeNiro, along with Chief Standing Bear. Thank you, Marty. Thank you, Leo. You are all changing things and thank you for being allies.

"Thank you to all of you, and this is for every little res kid, every little urban kid, every little Native kid out there who has a dream, who is seeing themselves represented and our stories told by ourselves in our own words, with tremendous allies and tremendous trust

with and from each other," she said from the stage.

Gladstone, 37, grew up on the Blackfeet reservation until she was eleven years old. She attended high school outside of Seattle, where some of her classmates voted her Most Likely to Win an Oscar. The school sent formal congratulatory letters to Gladstone after her win.

Gladstone attended the University of Montana, earning a BFA in Acting and Directing. She also minored in Native American Studies. Gladstone's credits go as far back as 2013 and her breakout role was in 2016 in "Certain Women." Audiences have seen her recently in "Billions," "First Cow" and "Reservation Dogs," where she played Daniel's mother and Willie Jack's aunt, who was imprisoned. Upcoming projects will include "Under the Bridge" and "Mildred Bailey," a biopic of the Coeur d'Alene jazz legend similar to Billie Holiday.

With the historic win and speech, Lily Gladstone will be the one to watch. Her grace under pressure, her experience and her choices will build upon what she has learned and continues to learn. Her talent, her projects, and her support of indigenous actors will likely be groundbreaking.

Gladstone wore beaded earrings created by Lenise Omeasoo (Ermine Cree and Blackfeet) that featured a black and white mirrored Blackfeet design framed by pink and gold glass beads. They complemented Gladstone's Bulgari diamond necklace and a white Valentino gown.

Support the IJA-AAJA Pacific Islander Journalism Scholarship

Greetings,

My name is Hi'ilawe Neves, and I'm a Native Hawaiian journalism student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Last year, I had the honor of receiving the IJA-AAJA Pacific Islander Journalism Scholarship. I'm writing to you to ask for your support so that more Pasifika journalists may benefit from it too.

Over the past year, the funding has helped me tremendously, allowing me to afford to take more journalism classes and paying for my commute to and from Manoa from the west side of the island.

The exposure this scholarship has given me has also been amazing. Because of it, I am now a freelance writer for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' newspaper Ka

Wai Ola. At Ka Wai Ola, I am able to write stories and report on issues directly affecting my community, from Native Hawaiian art exhibits to the dire need for affordable housing for our community.

I am so extremely thankful for the Indigenous Journalists Association and Asian American Journalism Association for believing in me and helping fund my journalistic endeavors. It is because of them that I am able to do more of what I love.

Will you donate to support other Pacific Islander journalists and improve our community's representation in news media? Go to <https://naja.wildapricot.org/Donate> to make a tax-deductible contribution and don't forget to specify you'd like to support the Pacific Islander fund. If you're not in a position to give money, no worries — we'd also appreciate your help simply spreading the word that the 2024 IJA-AAJA Pacific Islander Journalism Scholarship application is open.

Our stories matter. Donate at <https://naja.wildapricot.org/Donate> if you'd like to help us tell them.

Mahalo piha, Hi'ilawe Neves

NETWORKING



VETERAN NEWS OUTREACH

In collaboration with Jerry Ashton

Senator Seyarto Introduces His 2024 Veteran Bill Package

SACRAMENTO, CA – Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) is proud to introduce his Veteran bill package for the 2024 legislative year, offering common sense solutions to assist California's Veterans.

SB 911 will exempt taxes from the first \$20,000 of Survivor Benefits Payments (SBP) received by widowed spouses and children of deceased Veterans. Much like a life insurance policy, this is an opt-in benefit available

to U.S. Veterans to pay into during their military career, guaranteeing up to 50% of the service member's retirement income to be paid to the beneficiary after the Veteran dies. California is one of only two states in the country that fully taxes these benefits. This bill will protect lower income families who have lost their primary income source and relieve the children and spouses of our great men and women in uniform from an undue tax burden.



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~ On the Town with Camille ~

by Camille Appling

Habari Gani

This Kwanzaa season was uplifted at the world-renowned World Beat Center located on Park Boulevard.



It was hosted by Queen Mother Makeda Dread with the support of Queen Mother Starla Lewis and Queen Poet Laureate Jonnie Rene. The evening was filled with artwork, vendors and

African-inspired clothing and hair. A family of Capoeira artists from Brazil

showcased their talent while Welslee and Khadijah brought tears to our eyes as they sang "Life Every Voice and Sing," also known as the Black National Anthem.

The evening also honored the late and greatly missed Dr. Runoko Rashidi for his service in the African American and international communities. The World Beat Center has always showcased the best in their Kwanzaa series. Check out Worldbeat Center's Kwanzaa event next year.



Snow Day in Barrio Logan

On December 16, 2023, the nonprofit organization All for Logan hosted "Snow Day in Barrio Logan." The event was held in the heart of Barrio Logan, near Chicano Park in the Tocumba at Mercado del Barrio right by the famous North Gate grocery store. Families crowded around the huge



snow area in the parking lot. While being serenaded by Christmas mariachis, families enjoyed Mexican pastries and

champurrado too. There was lots of snow fun. The local fire department also participated, and artists decorated the beautiful faces of the children of the community. It was such a lovely day of tradition, care and community. Check out Snow Day in Barrio Logan next year!

Enero Zapatista Anniversary 50-30-20 All The Walls Fall

On January 5, 2024, the freedom-fighting Enero Zapatista group celebrated its social accomplishments. The evening began with an honorable land acknowledgement by Enrique, who

covered the event with blessings from the 19 Kumeyaay Nations, addressing injustice and declaring support for our community. We look to heal "hurt people" before they "hurt others." This is the healing preference of our society. Fernanda Rios shared some of the important causes facing the



Zapatistas, like human rights, which started in areas such as Sherman Heights.

I was able to participate on the panel that included members of the Zapatista organization, members of the Palestinian youth organization and landlord tenant advocates. The panel was asked about the founding principles of the Zapatista community, including "Construir y no Destruir" meaning "to construct, not destroy" which aims to reduce exploitation and build community and spirituality. I wanted to share about building our community with cultural sensitivity to address the current social climate with knowledge, care and construction, to build and not destroy. Cultural sensitivity prevents hate crimes through social interaction and positive feedback. The evening also included spoken word artistry and plenty of cultural foods and drinks. There are a total of seven principles that were noted by the Zapatistas. Please feel free to stop by the Central Cultural De La Raza for a complete list.

Christmas Eve Toy Giveaway 2023

Christmas Eve 2023 was celebrated with attorney Shane Harris and heiress Cheryl Morrow with a huge gift of over \$15,000 in toys for homeless, foster and low-income children. The families were given \$60 worth of Walmart items, which included



self-chosen toys, clothes, shoes and hair and hygiene products. The Gomez Trial Attorneys also sponsored the charitable event. While Rosevelt Williams III brought great cheer as Santa Claus, future Harvard graduate Atraja Coleman and future rapper Jmovelte gratefully accepted gifts along with a beautiful array of multicultural children in the true Christmas Spirit. The Toy Giveaway was a blessing for both volunteers and recipients.

City of San Diego Launches Public Survey to Gather Feedback on Police Chief Recruitment

San Diegans can provide input through online survey and community forums

SAN DIEGO – As the City of San Diego launches its nationwide search for a new Chief of Police, community members are invited to take an online survey to share their opinions about the qualities and characteristics they wish to see in the City's next law enforcement leader.

"Choosing who will lead the police department will directly impact the public safety of all San Diegans," said

Mayor Todd Gloria. "For this reason, City Councilmembers and I hope all community members will express their needs and desires so that we can best select the appropriate candidate for this sensitive and important role."

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

Historical Project

Continued from page 6

showmanship.

After the plaque dedication, we toured Boynton Beach and stopped at special sites along the way, including Brother Victor Norfus's 92-year-old mom's house. We ended the day with a panel discussion about the Saltwater Underground Railroad, featuring Professor Stefan Moss, Dr. Grace Turner, and Dr. Anthony Dixon. They discussed Google maps exploration of the Saltwater Underground Railroad, Angola, and Andros, respectively. The Boynton Bahamian Dancers entertained the crowd with their lively dance moves and even got everyone up on their feet a few times.

On Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 AM, we gathered at the Loxahatchee Battlefield Park for the 186th Anniversary of the Annual Seminole Maroon Spiritual Remembrance of the Two Battles of the Loxahatchee River. This event, in my humble opinion, is deeply healing and cathartic. We gathered in front of Isa's Tree, which was dedicated on May 20, 2023, on Florida's Emancipation Day. Dr. Wallis Tinnie and Mr. Dinizulu Gene Tinnie welcomed everyone. Afterward, group of Buffalo Soldier reenactors, dressed in period uniforms, performed "Taps" and presented the colors.

The guest speaker was Professor Magdalena LaMarre. Her presentation was entitled "Sourcing Florida's Maroon Communities." Even though her speech was brief, she gave a thorough history of the Black Seminoles and even mentioned

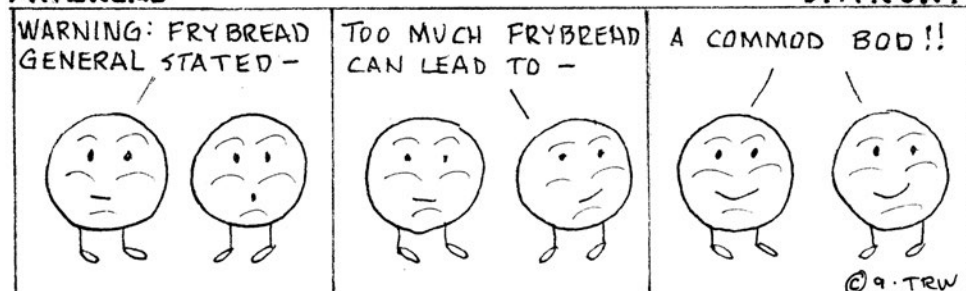
Brackettville and El Nacimiento. After her speech, a panel featuring Prof. Stefan Moss, Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Dr. Grace Turner, and Prof. Derek Hankerson discussed the Seminole Maroons of the Saltwater Underground Railroad. The panel was moderated by Dr. Anthony Dixon. And just like the day before, the program concluded with Brian Forbings excellent Capital Battery Line.

This year's event also acknowledged the passing of two luminaries — Dr. Rosalyn Howard and Richard Procyk. Dr. Howard's research on the Black Seminoles of the Bahamas is seminal. She is deeply missed. Richard Procyk was a champion of the Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park. Several of his dear friends spoke lovingly about him. Like Dr. Howard, his loss is immeasurable.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of meeting the most extraordinary seven-year-old. As she and her mom and a few of her friends were walking toward where the event was taking place, I saw that she was carrying a small bouquet of freshly picked flowers. I asked her what she was going to do with the flowers, and she said that she wanted to place them at Isa's tree. She asked me to accompany her, and I happily obliged. Before she placed the flowers at the base of the tree, she said a prayer, and the words she spoke left me in awe. She understood why we had gathered there, and she wanted to do her part to bring peace, love, and unity. In her tiny hands, our future is safe. I can't wait to return next year to see her and everyone else who I have come to consider family.

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A Concept For Peace And Unity And To "Stop The Hate"

Who: Indian Voices Newspaper, UNA San Diego, The Art Miles Mural Project, and Oceanside/North County diverse Non-Profit Organizations/communities of opportunity

- Invite Mayor Sanchez
- Invite representatives of Barrio Logan/Chicano Park to share History, experiences, lessons learned
- Invite Leaders of Community



What: Grass Roots Community Organizing - A request for collaboration and support to build an Indigenous Community Cultural Peace Park in Oceanside

When: February/March 2024 Initial meeting

Where: Initial Meeting to Organize in a forum format and live and with Zoom at Muramid Arts and Cultural Center to brainstorm thoughts presented below on attached background paper and come together to build a grass roots plan

How: To be focused and serious about real opportunities and possibilities through cooperation and collaboration as a method to "stop the hate"

- Conduct open discussions and brainstorm ideas regarding possible locations
- Invite as many representatives as possible of diverse ethnic groups
- Invite representatives of local Indigenous Tribes

Centers, Parks, and Recreation

- Invite leaders and/or members of interested city commissions
- Invite youth and adult representatives of opportunity Neighborhoods
- Utilize funding sources to plan and execute ideas:

Grants, Sponsorships, Donations, Fund raising

Donations in Kind/Volunteerism, Create success stories each step of the way (**Indian Voices**), Utilize KOCT-TV and social media, Create Partnerships with schools and cultural clubs, Include youth leaders as critical organizing members

Why:

- To STOP THE HATE
- Obtain community participation and support
- Build team building and leadership
- Promote education, art, tourism, communication, economic development
- Because it is POSSIBLE if we work together to make it happen!

Divine Spirit

Divine Spirit came about through a unique and spiritual encounter. Fabio Magnelli the founder of Divine Spirit had a dream about a woman with long black hair. He felt that this woman was special and that he would meet her someday. Ruby Ruscilli, a psychic medium and healer, walked into his life while he was promoting a product. He took her to lunch, and she offered to do a reading for him. She told him about a dream she'd had. She had been wanting to do a ceremony, but it had to be done by the right person and not by looking it up online. She said that, in the next one or two months, she would meet this person, and he would be Native American. This person would have abilities, and they were supposed to help others with their gifts. Magnelli told her about his dream as well. They were both amazed by this realization.



DIVINE SPIRIT

A few weeks had passed, and they met at a coffee shop. They were brainstorming different ideas of what they would like to do, such as healing events using sound bowls or different musical instruments. Getting people together at events so they could feel that they were supported. Finally Fabio came up with the idea for a nonprofit. Ruby loved the idea. A few days went by, and Ruby said, "Divine Spirit." Magnelli liked that name.

He got to work quickly to set up a page on Facebook and to work with as many people as he could to see who would help or be part of it. Then he applied for the necessary paperwork. Fabio says Divine Spirit is a spiritualist organization that teaches spirituality and healing through sound bowls, meditation, music and vibrations and creates a support group for the people when they want to join a community of hope.

California Penal Code

It is through the power of the story (in word, print and in action) that we can rely on more than our current legal system in the battle against the perpetuation of hate in our world. From its recent acceleration in the forms of violence toward the AANHPI communities prompted by Trump's racist and inflammatory comments during Covid to the historical legacy of white terrorism in rural America.

To prove this point, we do not need to dig too deep into the law to discover this reality. Under the California Penal Code section 487: If prosecuted as a misdemeanor, a grand theft conviction for the defendant can result in up to one year in the county jail plus fines, fees, and payment of victim restitution.

If prosecuted as a felony, a grand theft conviction is punishable by 16 months,

two years, or three years in the California state prison. Significant sentencing enhancements leading to extended state prison sentences apply in cases where the loss amount exceeds certain statutory thresholds.

And Under California Penal Code Section 422.6 Any person convicted of violating subdivision (a) or (b) shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both the above imprisonment and fine, and the court shall order the defendant to perform a minimum of community service, not to exceed 400 hours, to be performed over a period not to exceed 350 days, during a time other than his or her hours of employment or school attendance.

Barbara Jiménez

Continued from page 7

with nonprofits the expansion of outreach and resources into neighborhoods where they were already embedded and trusted.

"Barbara has a real passion for working side by side with the community, so this award is a perfect match," said Dr. Eric McDonald, interim HHSA director. "We are thrilled for her, but frankly not surprised because we see the good work she does every day."

Jiménez said she was both honored and surprised to learn of the award.

"Having the opportunity to make a positive difference in people's lives drives me and is something I couldn't

accomplish without the support and dedication of countless coworkers," said Jiménez. "This award is a tribute to all of our efforts, and I'm humbled to be the recipient."

The Baldrige Foundation was created as the private partner to the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program in 1988. Its mission is to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and to support organizational performance excellence throughout the United States and the world. The Leadership Awards will be presented during the Foundation Awards Ceremony held as part of the annual Quest for Excellence conference near Washington, D.C. on April 9, 2024.

*I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells.
For when you are at that center within you
and I am at that place within me, we shall be one.
– Crazy Horse*

Crazy Horse was a Lakota leader of the Oglala band and a victorious commander at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

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NEWS

from Las Vegas/Nevada

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

Mental Illness Plaguering Sin City — Stop The Hate

I lost my nephew due to mental illness issues this last year. He was walking along the freeway and ended up getting struck by several cars. Everybody has mental illness in their family; it's not a secret, but where do they go to get help?

During my own personal experience dealing with the situation, I've watched so many people, including my own family members, slip through the cracks here in Las Vegas when it comes to serving our disabled community. I recently started taking public transportation and noticed so many people suffering from this ailment. I have seen so many young black men, just like my nephew, who are not being helped and thus more than mental illnesses are now plaguing them. They now suffer from homelessness, unemployment, hate crimes and abandonment and so much more because of the lack of resources and education available to them here in Clark County. More times than most, when they ask for help, they're usually arrested.

"Mentally ill" is just such an ugly phase to call a person. There has to be another way that we can refer to our people who are suffering from this ailment. I think the phase itself brings prejudice and bad attitudes toward people who are already suffering from so much. People who have family that suffer from disabilities certainly do not consider their them mentally ill; they consider them their brother, their sister, their aunt, or their mother. Sometimes I wonder how we are considered the smartest mammal of the Earth when we treat each other so badly, mentally ill or not. Nevada is now known as the entertainment and sports capital of the world. So since that's the case, why is our mental health system so broken? I've said it before, and I'll say it again, is this growth really worth it if it's not benefiting the residents of Nevada? How can we be the entertainment and sports capital of the world when we can't even take care of our own mentally ill?

Clark County, we need to open this dialogue, and we need to do better when it comes to serving this community. This article is dedicated to all the people who have lost their life due to this issue and also to my nephew Vernon Michael Childress Jr, may you rest in peace and know that your death will not go unnoticed. We will open this dialogue.



Westside Happenings

A community garden thrives in West Las Vegas on five acres of donated land. Local volunteers have made this garden a staple in the West Side community, offering people fresh fruits and



vegetables who barely have access to a grocery store. Spearheaded by Rosalinda Brooks, this community garden proves that, even with triple digit summer temperatures, we can bring healthy food choices to a community that has been ignored for so long.

Black Motorcycle Riders

I remember older members of the Brothers of the Sun LA Motorcycle Club telling me how difficult it was to go down and buy a Harley-Davidson motorcycle during the '70s. Most of our brothers rolled Kawasakis, Hondas and other brand motorcycles, due to the constant racism that our



black motorcycle riders faced in the 1970s in Southern California when the BOTS club began forming.

In the 1920s and 30s, there were African-Americans, including one woman, who made history for the community. William B. Johnson, born in Maryland in 1890, was the first African-American to join the American Motorcycles Association (AMA), and he was issued a license to race. He opened the first black-owned Harley-Davidson dealership as well.

In 2024, all people of color can enjoy riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, thanks to the dedication and resilience of people like Wendell B. Johnson and black motorcycle clubs. throughout the United States that have defied the odds and kept their clubs together celebrating every day the joy of riding, brotherhood and community service.

visit:
IndigenousNetwork.org



Democracy In The New Year

by Sondra Cosgrove

This new year, which is an election year, will be filled with discussions, debates, and diatribes. Everyone, from your neighbor to political parties, will try to set a hostile tone and tenor for these conversations, but we have the power to do something different. We have the communication tools necessary to interact with each other directly and civilly without outside interference.

The first step along this alternative path is to create a new set of rules for speaking to each other, regardless of whether we agree on everything or not. We can reach a consensus, but only if we stop interacting with just those who agree with us on every issue. This isn't just a pipedream; it's imperative to move beyond the awful state of public discourse that dominates right now, and one way to do so is to start talking to each other without filters or gatekeepers.

In short, we need rules for bridging the gap between what we disagree about and what we agree we can accomplish

through broad coalitions that address specific issues. Because we only see allies where we agree one hundred percent on all issues, problems like untreated mental illness and chronic homelessness have persisted and grown exponentially worse. If we could set aside differences on other issues long enough to work together where we have common ground, much more could be accomplished.

Let's start 2024 by addressing shared goals, instead of worrying about each coalition members' total set of priorities. No purity tests and no cancel culture. If problems arise in a coalition, let's work them out. There may be a limited number and type of goals eligible for such coalitions, but isn't it worth it to finally fix problems like humanely treating mental illness and solving chronic homelessness?

Just think about the example this will set for the upcoming generation of young voters if we can choose to get along. Please stay engaged, so we can use 2024 to get to a better place on important issues.

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A Night of Elegance and Excellence: The 23' Joint Christmas Party at Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino

by Andre' Haynes
and photographed by Gabe Ginsburg

In a spectacular celebration of community, camaraderie, and Christmas spirit, the 23' Joint Christmas Party held on December 1, 2023, at the Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino was a resounding success. Presented by the dynamic trio of Salve Vargas Edelman, Patsy Brown, and Andre'



Haynes, the event brought together a diverse array of influencers, community leaders, and distinguished guests under one roof.

The distinguished hosts, representing the Armed Forces Chamber, Rising Asian Pacific

Americans Coalition for Diversity (RAPACD), and The Haynes Co., orchestrated a seamless evening that resonated with the true essence of the holiday season. The

venue, adorned with festive decorations and a palpable sense of joy, provided the perfect backdrop for an evening filled with laughter, goodwill, and recognition.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of outstanding individuals who have made remarkable contributions to their respective fields and the community at large. Honorees included the esteemed Shelley Berkley, whose dedication to public service has left an indelible mark; Ron Quince, a pillar of strength in community development; Stephanie Phillips, a



Nieve Malandra, a Silver State Awards winner, accomplished singer, and business owner. Malandra's presence added a touch of glamor to the proceedings, elevating the ceremony to new heights.

The event also boasted a lineup of distinguished special guests, including King Nat Jr., the Honorary Vice Consulate of Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), and Feven Kay, anchor and reporter from FOX5 Vegas. Their presence underscored the international and media significance of the celebration, emphasizing unity and collaboration across diverse backgrounds.

The fashion show, a dazzling spectacle curated by "Of Seventy Designers," was a feast for the eyes. Star-studded with models Andrea Aavruskin, Ashley Tesoro, Jeanette Lee, Jennifer Parkhurst, Nicole Duffel, and Paige Brooks, the runway came alive with a breathtaking display of style and sophistication. The fashion show announcer, Tiffani Neilson, added a touch of class with their eloquent commentary, guiding the audience through a mesmerizing journey of couture and creativity.

Beyond the glitz and glamor, the 23' Joint Christmas Party served as a testament to the power of collaboration and the importance of recognizing and celebrating those who make a positive impact on our community. The festive atmosphere fostered connections, sparking conversations that will undoubtedly lead to continued collaboration and shared endeavors.

As the night unfolded, it became clear that this was more than just a party; it was a celebration of the human spirit, a

trailblazer in business and philanthropy; and Hunter Cain, whose leadership has inspired many.

Awards were presented with grace and poise by the talented

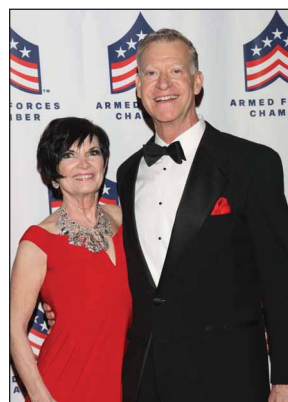
demonstration of the strength that lies in unity, and a reminder that, especially during the holiday season, coming together in joy and appreciation can create lasting bonds that transcend the boundaries of our individual lives.

In the grand tapestry of community events, the 23' Joint Christmas Party at Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino will undoubtedly stand out as a shining example of what can be achieved when visionaries like Salve Vargas Edelman, Patsy Brown, and Andre' Haynes join

forces to create a night of elegance, excellence, and enduring memories.

"In the tapestry of community, the 23' Joint Christmas Party was a symphony of unity, bringing

hearts together in celebration. Its success lies not just in the festivities, but in the



bonds forged and the shared spirit of gratitude. As the founder and CEO of the Armed Forces Chamber, witnessing

this joyous convergence reaffirms our commitment to building bridges and honoring those who make a difference. We look forward to continuing this legacy with the rebranded Armed Forces Chamber Annual Holiday Gala, weaving new stories of excellence and camaraderie." - Andre' Haynes, Founder and CEO of the Armed Forces Chamber.

Armed Forces Chamber Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) public charity and non government organization headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada, is passionately committed to nationwide community development for veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and their families. For more information, visit www.ArmedForcesChamber.com.

(BPRW) Manny Halley Productions Sets BET+ Premiere Date for "Dutch II"

Thursday January 18, 2024
Starring Lance Gross, Rocsi Diaz, Jamal Gravy Woodard, Macy Grace, Jeremy Meeks, D'Kia Anderson, and Natasha Marc

(Black PR Wire) Los Angeles – Black Independent film company Manny Halley Productions, Imani Media Group and BET+ has set the premiere date for "Dutch II-Angel's Revenge" sequel to the crime-drama film "Dutch."

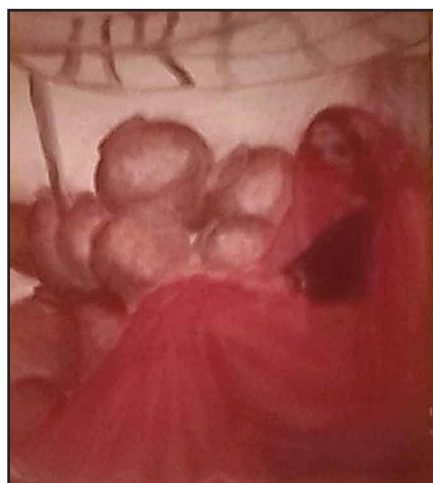
Based on the award winning novel written by Teri Woods and directed by Salvatore Sclafani, the movie is slated to premiere on Thursday January 18, 2024 on BET+. Manny Halley, Manny "World" Halley Jr, Rodney Turner II, and Yolanda Halley serve as producers under Imani Media Group on the film. "Dutch II" takes place three years after the notorious gangster Dutch (Lance Gross) escapes from jail. Now, with Angel (Rocsi Diaz), Dutch and the rest of his crew must band together

to gain back their territory, defeat the evil Roll (Jamal "Gravy" Woolard), and outsmart the FBI agents who are frantically trying to capture them.

Along with Gross (House of Payne) and Diaz (Good Morning America 106 & Park), the star studded film also stars Markice Moore (BMF, Snowfall) Jamal Gravy Woodard (Notorious) Grammy Award-winning singer Macy Gray (Training Day), Jeremy Meeks (Secret Society), D'Kia Anderson (Lethal Weapon), and Natasha Marc (Mayor of Kingstown Ballers) Tyrin Turner (Menace II Society)

Watch Dutch II trailer:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQL9_dkz3vE

About Manny Halley Productions: "A Manny Halley Production" is an black independent film production company based in Los Angeles, CA and Atlanta, GA. The company funds, licenses, and produces all of their content. Manny Halley Productions, take pride in their portfolio with over 14 successful movies and TV shows. MHP aims to cultivate communities with content for the black community for black creators and to give them space, with several more titles currently in the production pipeline.



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World Grit

by April Nurse

Grit affects us all. Iridium is a volatile and rare mineral found in only a few places on earth. The conditions must be perfect to contain and develop it. It's highly sought after, mostly due to its remarkable capacity to contain heat. That ability makes it desirable for rocket parts and jet engines and so much more. Iridium is a key part of those massive data lines running across the oceans. The importance of this mineral as our technological prowess grows is immeasurable. It's not hard to imagine that fights for control of the mineral are on-going. Cobalt is the word on everybody's tongue these days. It's a multitalented, multifaceted metal that is used to make long-lasting batteries, high heat metal alloys, permanent magnets, and so much more! It's even part of the natural gas refining process. It's found in several places in the world, but exports are concentrated in one area. A more uncommon but commonly known mineral is gold. This pretty bit of grit is as talented as the other minerals mentioned above. One of the reasons it's so popular today is because of the development of industrial uses. Gold resists corrosion and is an impressive electrical conductor, which makes it highly useful in technological concepts. It's a noble metal, meaning it doesn't react with most other chemical compounds. Its potential for other industrial uses seems to grow with every advancement we make.

Diamonds are used in so many other facets of our lives. They have the highest thermal conductivity of any natural element and are the hardest of all the minerals on earth. Diamonds are formed more than 200 miles underground. We find them because some time in their history volcanic eruptions brought them up close to the surface. Those extremes make them perfect for use in high heat and high pressure industrial processes. We also use them to cut tools and as abrasives. These fascinating minerals are and have been the sources of some of the most atrocious conflicts our planet has witnessed. Haiti is the second largest source of iridium on the planet. The destabilization of the country is ongoing. The largest source of iridium is South Africa. It is also one of the most prolific exporters of diamonds to this day. Diamond mining is incredibly destructive to the native landscape, visibly disfiguring the land beyond repair. More than half the cobalt in the world that powers our phones and electric cars is mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Gold and petroleum are Sudan's claim to fame. All of these countries remain in a state of upheaval and even more are at war for the gifts the earth creates naturally. We may feel far removed from wars and genocide, but we are all benefiting in some way. It is our duty to keep looking for a better way forward. Keep our families across the world in your hearts.

Nonprofit and Business Expo Creating Positive Impact in San Diego

San Diego, CA – Bragabilia Energy beverage, The Elegant Energy drink that's "A 'Quiet' Flex in a Can!" is hosting the first BragX fundraising Casino Night for a Cause - Your Cause and Business and Vendor Expo on Saturday, January 27, at SPARK at Encore Event Center. The event will raise money for San Diego area nonprofits and charities, with 100% going to participating organizations. The companion business expo will showcase local businesses and their goods and services. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with festivities continuing until midnight. Partnering across multiple sectors to invest in local causes, Bragabilia Energy Beverage is working to create a thriving San Diego by supporting local businesses and nonprofits. In this unique business and fundraising model, BragX handles the "heavy lifting" with no charge to non-profit organizations, while calling to action that they simply activate their networks to participate in the evening. This opportunity is open to nonprofits and charities with three (3) or more employees based in San Diego. All donations will be pooled for the night and distributed as a percentage based on each group's activity. Every non-profit in attendance is guaranteed a donation, regardless of the number of representatives present. The evening will begin with a red carpet Co-hosted by Sarah Alegre of Fox 5 San Diego and ABC's "Claim to Fame" Season 2 winner Gabriel Cannon. Live

music and entertainment will be provided by Metric DJ Danny, 2x Daytime Emmy Winner Comedian Mark Christopher Lawrence, and SqueekNuttty Bug from Seattle performing his Grammy-nominated song "Ice Cream Candy." "BragX is a new path forward in 2024, bringing cross-sector organizations and businesses together in a fun event centered around gratitude," explains founder Steph Groce. "Together we are standing up for our local communities and neighborhoods." The BragX Series is sponsored by Pur90, BNNano, and Invicta Water. BragX San Diego is supported by Blue Print Productions, Brav Consultations, Bragabilia Energy beverage, C4GS-ZEDlife, Encore Event Center, Kamatoy Media Group, LEGACY Parenting Survival Wear, Mark Christopher Lawrence Clean Comedy, Muscle Meditation, Prayerdudz, TigersShare, Trifecta Business. For more details on the BragX series, see <https://bragabiliaenergy.com/brag-x> and check out Steph's interview on Monday 22, 2024 via the @DocCulturepodcast on YouTube. Date: January 27, 2024 Time: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM Location: SPARK at Encore Event Ctr 8253 Ronson Rd. San Diego, CA 92111

Marie C. Widman

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and there is not enough space to include all she did and accomplished.

Positions she held:

- During the mid-1960's, she served on the Memorial Recreation Council.
- Served on the Park and Recreation Board and Southern Area Committee from 1971-1977.
- Served on the Library Commission
- Served on the San Diego City Planning Commission from 1976-1985.
- Served on the Community College District Citizen's Council from 1976-1989.
- She was a founding member of the Friends of Parks and Recreation Foundation.
- A member of the court-appointed school-integration task force
- She was on the San Diego Integration Board/Committee
- Chair of San Diego County Urban League's Community Education Committee
- San Diego City general chairperson of the Friends of the Strong (Cancer Research) Foundation

- City Planning Commissioner
- Mayor's Black Advisory Board and Crime Commission and State Commission on Police Community Relations
- The San Diego Metropolitan Sewer Task Force
- San Diego Chapter of the NAACP, Secretary
- The Boys and Girls Aid Society
- A life member of the YWCA and served four terms on its county board and held the posts of Vice President and President.
- Travelers Aid Society, Chair (served on the County and National Boards)
- San Diego County United Way officer


(Obituary in the SD Union Tribune)

As a member of the Community College District board, she fought for equal access to educational and cultural advantages for all persons, including children, seniors, minority groups and the disabled. As a member of the Parks and Recreation Department board, she helped plan a conference in 1974 that was aimed at encouraging broader participation in the leisure arts in San Diego. She interpreted the term leisure arts to cover everything from exercise

classes to art. Charles Reid, a member of the Community College District Board, said that "Mrs. Widman was an all-around community leader. She served all of San Diego." Former Mayor Frank Curran said that in June she agreed to work with him and others to form a not-for-profit urban health foundation to work toward solutions for community health problems among the disadvantaged. Curran said that he first met Mrs. Widman in 1955 when he was running for his first term on the City Council. She was working for one of his opponents, but he was so impressed by her that, when he was elected, he selected her to serve on the Library Board. Politics: First Vice-President of the County Democratic Central Committee. Served from 1966-1971 1968 Delegate to the Democratic National Convention Co-chairperson of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign in San

Diego Candidate for the 79th Assembly District in 1970. Was narrowly defeated in the primary, losing by 400 votes. Co-chairperson of Pete Chacon's campaign after she lost her bid for the 79th Assembly District. Marie Widman was the campaign chairperson for George Walker Smith's San Diego School Board Race. In 1971 Leon Williams planned to seek re-election to his 4th Council District Seat. Leader in the City Council Campaign of Leon Williams. She ran for the San Diego City Council when Leon Williams stepped down from City Council when he was elected as a San Diego County Supervisor. Marie Widman along with William Jones had the same number of votes from the San Diego Council; however, William Jones filled the position of Council Member. Mrs. Marie Widman died of cancer on July 23, 1989, at the age of 58. She was a woman who lived life to the fullest, and we must remember all she has done and never forget.

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For more information, contact David Salomon, Assistant Professor, Native American Studies
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2024 Presidential Primary Election

Voting for president? Your political party registration determines which presidential candidates appear on your ballot. Learn more at sdvote.com.

Every active registered voter in San Diego County will receive a ballot in the mail the week of Feb. 4.

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Return your ballot to any of the Registrar’s official ballot drop boxes around the county **starting Tuesday, Feb. 6 through Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.**



VISIT.

Avoid long lines by taking advantage of early voting! Starting Saturday, Feb. 24, vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, March 4.

On Election Day, Tuesday, March 5, voting hours change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Red Lake Retail Center

Native American Bank worked with the Red Lake Retail Center, a tribal business established by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, and 8 other partners to combine a USDA loan guaranty with equity contributed through New Markets Tax Credits, in order to finance a project located on tribal trust land.

The loan proceeds from this cutting edge structure allowed the Red Lake Retail Center to replace and expand its existing structure. The expanded store features a dollar store, eat-in and take-out food options, an in-house bakery and numerous services that directly compete with off reservation offerings that previously required a 60+ mile round trip.

This lending operation played a key role in addressing the grocery gap experienced by Native American communities. Through a multitude of partnerships and our loan guaranty and trust land expertise, the Red Lake Retail Center was successfully rejuvenated, leading to substantially increased access to fresh groceries and employment opportunities on the Red Lake Nation.

Native American Bank was the lead lender in a Red Lake Retail Center project which financed the construction and remodeling of a grocery store located on the Red Lake Nation, home of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.



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