



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 39TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

FEBRUARY 2025

NETWORKING TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY

Women of Color Roar Very Early in the Morning



Compassionate community leaders gather to Roar in Unity at the annual Women of Color Breakfast celebrating the Human Spirit.

by Alastair Running Bear Mulholland

On the first day of Black History Month 2025, the seventh annual Women of Color Roar Breakfast began at 7am at San Diego City College. The breakfast honored the strength, resilience, and

remarkable contributions of Black women who continue to help shape our communities and country. The event hosted several hundred people, many of whom were women, students, and elected officials. The sponsors were too numerous to count; however, there were

local community colleges, the ACLU, IBEW 569, SEIU Local 221, Grid Alternatives, Pillars of the Community, and the North County African American Women's Association. Vice President

SEE **Women of Color Roar**, page 15

American Democracy in Crisis

#NoDictators #NoOligarchs #NoFascism #NoTheocracy #NoWhiteSupremacy

How we lost the 2024 election and why we may continue to lose

Opinion by David Bear-Esparza

Let's not complicate things. The central matter at stake is Democracy in America. Our very form of representative governance, with its constitutionally mandated foundation built upon the **Separation of Powers**, and limits on those powers by a system of **Checks and Balances**, is being dismantled piece by piece right before our eyes. This isn't sensationalism or alarmist exaggeration. It's happening right now.

Another thing that's not super complicated is **how** we got here. The

we I am speaking of inhabits a very large tent. It includes Democrats and Republicans. People of color. Immigrants and Indigenous folks. The credentialed class and the working class. In short, the **we** I'm addressing here is everyone who agrees that the only legitimate and **acceptable form** of government is one that operates with **our consent** and one which we may directly influence and exert constraint over with our **voice** and our

vote. But all of us who care about Constitutional Democracy lost the election to a person leading a party who demonstrably couldn't care less about the Constitution, Democracy, or the Rule of Law.

Donald Trump's Republican Party is presently trying to replace Representative Democracy in America with autocratic fascism. This means power consolidated in

SEE **American Democracy**, page 15

"ADIRE: The Beauty in Our Land" Script Table Reading to Premiere at 29th Edition of FESPACO

A Celebration of African Cotton, Culture, and Economic Empowerment

by C. Sade Turnipseed, PhD



Indianola, MS – The Sankofa Empowerment Initiative (SEI) is proud to announce the



premiere table reading of *Adire: The Beauty in Our Land*, a collaborative script that celebrates Africa's rich heritage in cotton manufacturing, cultural preservation, creativity, and economic opportunity. This groundbreaking project—authored by students from two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States in collaboration with peers from universities in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and

SEE **Adire**, page 3

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PRAISE THE BROKEN PROMISE OF AMERICA

by Alison Luterman

Praise deep mineral veins under rich dirt,
and fossilized remains of dinosaurs turning themselves into gas
for our benefit. Praise the exhausted earth,
miles and miles of subsidized corn
and cattle lowing from their hell-holes
in automated milking barns.

Praise farmworkers rising before dawn,
their sore backs and aching knees. Praise the myths
that drew them here, stories eagerly consumed
when there is nothing to eat but faith.

Praise the courage of the reverend to look
the dragon in the eye and preach mercy;
praise whatever hidden waterways are still pristine.

Praise music that refused to play at the funeral of democracy,
and the killing cold that swept through Washington
when the fake Pope took power.

Praise drag queens and lipstick lesbians, boys who are girls
and girls who are lions, butch women wearing tool belts,
and all the music theater nerds
who are even now building new passageways
mapping the next underground railroad
and suiting up to be conductors—oh, everybody,
get on board! This train will chug quietly
across the great plains and over rocky Sierras,

into the desert where people still leave bottles of water
and packets of food for the desperate
who have always been the lifeblood
of this nation. It will stop in obscure hamlets
to pick up fugitives with tears tattooed on their cheeks
and fraying backpacks overspilling with contraband books.

Praise the weirdos because if anyone can save us
it will be us. And praise all the glittering illusions
we gawked at, ignoring our own neighbors
in favor of a 24-hour peep show on the internet.

Praise the convict fire fighters on the front lines in L.A.,
battling the insurmountable for ten dollars a day. We gambled
our future for a hot air balloon with a hole in it. Praise
our reckless hubris, and the infinite distractions
of the hall of mirrors we find ourselves in now, and bless
our overwhelmed brains, scurrying like mice for shelter.

Bless our collective rage, and protect
the officers who stood up on January 6th and now see their
attackers
roaming the streets like rabid dogs, ah, bless the animals
we have always been, in our coats and shoes
and clumsy language, bless our willful ignorance,
so enormous, so world-altering, that, like the great wall of China,
it can be seen from outer space,
where the gods are shaking their heads even now,
in pity and in awe.

originally published by Rattle.com.

Kendrick Lamar's Halftime Show: A Wake-Up Call to America?

When rapper Kendrick Lamar took the stage at Super Bowl LIX, where the Philadelphia Eagles dominated the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22, fans expected an electrifying performance from one of hip-hop's most celebrated artists. Kendrick Lamar's halftime performance brought a wake-up call to America. (Wikimedia Commons)

by N. L. Cooper | Houston Ethnic Media

When rapper Kendrick Lamar took the stage at Super Bowl LIX, where the Philadelphia Eagles dominated the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22, fans expected an electrifying performance from one of hip-hop's most celebrated artists.

What they got was even larger: A performance from the Pulitzer Prize winner packed with symbolism, cultural commentary and an unmistakable call to action.

While some viewers criticized the halftime show for lacking spectacle, others saw it as a bold statement in a time when many claim that Black voices are being silenced. In an era where entertainment is often used as a distraction, was Lamar using one of America's biggest stages to shake the country awake?

From the moment the show began, it was clear this wasn't just about music; it was about message.

Lamar is no stranger to blending artistry with activism, and this performance followed suit, leaving plenty for the audience to dissect.

Perhaps the most striking visual of the

night was Hollywood A-lister Samuel L. Jackson's portrayal of Uncle Sam — a not-so-subtle jab at America's controversial history when it comes to race relations. Known for his commanding presence in films like Pulp Fiction and Django Unchained, Jackson's role in the performance was a deliberate statement about power and control.

The original character's traditional patriotic look was replaced with a more modern, streetwise take, reinforcing Lamar's recurring theme of Black identity under American rule.

Lamar's background dancers also wore military-style uniforms, possibly symbolizing both obedience to the system and the resistance against it. The red, white and blue color scheme was ever-present, but rather than a celebration of patriotism, it felt like a reflection of America's contradictions.

The stage itself appeared enclosed at times, evoking imagery of confinement, prison and systemic oppression. Fans took to social media to decode these details, comparing them to Kendrick's past work in albums like To Pimp a Butterfly and DAMN.

The longstanding tension between Lamar and the rapper Drake fueled further speculation about the performance's hidden messages, especially since Lamar performed "Not Like Us," a song widely interpreted as a direct shot at Drake.

Their feud, which dates back to the early 2010s, escalated after Lamar's

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Multicultural News from an American Indian Perspective

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Black Women Roared

by Angela de Joseph Founder/President Women of Color Roar Media

February 1, 2025 was declared “Women of Color Roar Day” by the San Diego City Council. Over 600 community members including elected officials, civic leaders and students convened at San Diego City College for the 7th Annual Women of Color Roar Black History Month Breakfast.

The theme “Rooted in Resilience” resonated with the crowd but was particularly poignant to the Black women in attendance. So many had supported Kamala Devi Harris, the first female Vice President, and first Black woman major party nominee for president of the United States. The extraordinary 107 day campaign she ran and tumultuous election she fought with confidence and grace cemented her place in history. But the loss still stung.

Stacey Johnson-Baptiste and Carole Porter, two of Vice President Harris’ childhood friends gave the keynote address at closing out the event, sharing stories about young Kamala and her mother, Shyamala Gopalan. Stacey and Carole accepted the Women of Color

Roar tribute gift, an original painting by TL Duryea of Kamala, her sister Maya as children with their mother Shyamala on behalf of Vice President Harris.



Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., founder of the Black Women’s Institute for Leadership Development presented by her protégés.

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. was honored by Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe and presented with a custom Sherroes Rise Scarf featuring her portrait. The founding board members and graduates from Dr. Weber’s Black Women’s Institute for Leadership Development (BWILD) joined

her on stage.

I find myself reflecting on the mission of Women of Color Roar and what the next chapter will bring.

When Women of Color Roar was envisioned eight years ago, the idea of creating a multicultural event to celebrate

Black women elected officials and encourage young women of color to run for office, was a novel one. Did I get push back? Absolutely. Nevertheless, I persisted.

My motivation for starting Women of Color Roar came from a visit to the Rayburn Building in Washington D.C. I was struck by how few non-Black members of Congress employed Black staffers or interns. After doing some research, it was apparent that there

were two primary obstacles; access and family economic status. The two were often overlapping, families with greater economic means also have greater access to get their children internships which lead to jobs. The average white family median income is 32% higher than the average Black family household income.

that honor the dignity of Africans and preserve their historic legacies and cultural contributions. *Adire: The Beauty in Our Land* seeks to fulfill this vision by creating purposeful and deliberate scripts that bring the wisdom of the past into conversations about the present and future.

The table reading will take place during the 29th Edition of FESPACO, the largest and most prestigious film festival in Africa. Students will participate both virtually and in person, making this a historic moment for cross-continental collaboration, and virtual hand-shake in agreement for Africa’s future. This is the first time such an experiment has been attempted, offering a platform to explore the fusion of traditional, modern, and futuristic storytelling.

The collaboration doesn’t end with FESPACO. Following its debut, the final script for *Adire* will transition to production in Nollywood, the vibrant heart of Africa’s film industry. This ensures that the story of Africa’s history of cotton, culture, and economic resilience will reach audiences across the world, amplifying its message of empowerment, agency, and traditional pride is still respected.

The *Adire* project is part of the larger Sankofa Challenge, an initiative to retrieve and honor the wisdom of Africa’s ancestors while inspiring future generations. It celebrates the dignity of African heritage, blending past, present, and future to create narratives that empower individuals and communities.

As Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed, the visionary behind the project, explains:

“Adire is more than fabric—it’s a reflection of Africa’s resilience, beauty, creativity, and cultural contributions. Much

And, that disparity only widens with greater wealth and influence.

I returned home from D.C. with a vision to create an event to uplift and fortify Black female elected officials and prepare young women of color for careers in public service. I had a very limited budget, so my original plan was to host thirty women in the community room at my local library. However, I was given the opportunity to share my plan with the board of the Democratic Woman’s Club of San Diego and they agreed to provide the seed money to rent the Celebration Room at the Jacob Center for the first Women of Color Roar Breakfast (Roar). The inaugural event was a tremendous success and each year Roar has grown larger, becoming an established cultural celebration in San Diego.

San Diego Community College District – City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, and College of Continuing Education came on board as Platinum Sponsors and partners this year. Gold Sponsors were SDG&E, United Domestic Workers of America, Office of Racial Justice & Equity and San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council. The generosity of our sponsors, donors and volunteers are an integral part of our team.

like the concept of Wallaidu defined by Ali Farka Touré, Adire expresses a soulful longing and connection to the land, to heritage, and to the economic possibilities that arise when creativity and culture align. The magic of Wallaidu is it doesn’t just evoke emotion—it creates connection. It reminds us of what we’ve forgotten, of what we’ve lost, and of what we still carry within us. By celebrating cotton, we honor the land and the creative spirit of our ancestors while building economic opportunities for future generations. This project connects the rich legacies of Africa to the entrepreneurial potential of today and into the future. Adire represents the Beauty in Our Land; and is A Tribute to Africa’s Cotton and Cultural Heritage.”

The Sankofa Empowerment Initiative (SEI) and its partnering institutions and agencies: KHAFRE, INC; Bel Art Cotton-Africa; Burkina Faso Ministry of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism; Pan African Film Festival, Ouagadougou (FESPACO); National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP/Nollywood); Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU); New Dawn University (NDU); Ghana Academy of Film and Television; Jackson State University (JSU-COLA, ISJRR), et al, is committed to fostering cultural and economic empowerment across African and Diasporic communities. Through projects like *Adire: The Beauty in Our Land*, SEI illuminates Africa’s profound heritage, its vast economic potential, and its role as a global cultural leader.

For media inquiries, to RSVP for the table reading, to join our movement, or to support this project, please contact Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed @ 662.347.8198, or, info@khafreinc.org; <https://www.cottonpickers.us>.

Adire

Continued from page 1

Germany—will debut at the 29th Edition of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) from February 22 to March 01, 2025.

The reading, held before a live audience in Ouagadougou and streamed globally, brings together themes of cultural pride and sustainability. Under the guidance of Cheick Oumar Sissoko, acclaimed director and former Minister of Culture, and Kevin Arkadie, celebrated Hollywood script supervisor, *Adire* bridges African and Diasporic narratives to tell a story of historic unity, resilience, and creative innovation.

The title *Adire: The Beauty in Our Land* refers to the traditional art of Adire, which means “tie-dye” designs on organically grown cotton using natural dyes. This centuries-old practice is deeply rooted in African culture, symbolizing creativity, resourcefulness, and sustainability. Adire designs are both an art form and an economic opportunity, representing Africa’s unique ability to marry heritage with innovation.

The project highlights cotton’s central role in African economies, particularly in countries like Burkina Faso, one of the continent’s largest producers of organic cotton. Adire’s intricate tie-dye designs serve as a metaphor for the beauty and potential of Africa’s land and people.

Drawing parallels to the Cotton Kingdom of the Mississippi Delta—where cotton’s legacy is interwoven with the Blues sound and culture—the project emphasizes the deep connection between Africa’s cotton industry and the Diaspora’s

cultural identity. Legendary musician Ali Farka Touré’s concept of Wallaidu, referring to the soulful expression of longing and connection in music, is echoed in the project’s themes, underscoring how cotton and the Blues reflect Africa’s creative spirit and historical journey. Wallaidu, as told by Touré, is not just art—it is the soul and essence of our being, whispering to us that we are part of something far greater than ourselves.

At its core, *Adire* is a call to action for sustainable development and economic empowerment. The project shines a light on the potential of Africa’s cotton industries, encouraging local manufacturing, job creation, and creative entrepreneurship. By promoting the use of organic cotton and natural dyes, *Adire* advocates for environmentally friendly practices that honor the land while driving economic progress.

The narrative also underscores the intersection of culture and commerce, showing how traditional practices like Adire has evolved into global cotton industries, and fashion houses; but don’t necessarily celebrate African heritage, while supporting the livelihoods of millions outside of Africa. The potential for commerce in Africa is huge.

Thomas Sankara, former President of Burkina Faso and Founder of the Paul Robeson Diaspora Prize for FESPACO, expressed a profound vision for African and Diaspora historic preservation through film. He once stated:

“The experiences of what we have lived, do live, and are suffering ... is the cry from the heart of our ancestors.”

This project embodies Sankara’s call to action by intentionally crafting narratives

From Oversight to Overlooked: The Government's Failure to Control Trillions in Misspent Funds

In 20 years the US Government made \$2.7 TRILLION in improper expenditures. In fiscal year 2023 alone, GAO determined the federal government improperly dispensed \$269 Billion.

by Dennis Kucinich

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), created more than a century ago to assist Congress in its constitutionally mandated oversight responsibilities, issued a report just last year which estimated that in a span of 20 years, including 2023, that the US Government made \$2.7 TRILLION dollars in improper expenditures resulting from overpayments, inaccurate record keeping, and fraud. In fiscal year 2023 alone, GAO determined the federal government improperly dispensed \$269 Billion.

Let this sink in for those who are getting the vapors about administrative overreach into sensitive Treasury payment systems: TRILLIONS of our tax dollars have been lost through faulty payment systems. Rising taxes, mounting deficits and loss of faith in government are the effects.

The problem isn't that President Trump and Elon Musk are diving into this, but that sweeping action to attack corruption has not been attempted by Congress, or by the Executive branch, in many a year.

This critical condition is above and beyond political parties and personalities. The failure to root out financial and other corruption in the US government has placed our nation in grave jeopardy through rising, seemingly uncontrollable deficits.

Government elites, kleptocrats, conniving with contractors, have long enabled this perilous condition, not the work-a-day federal employees.

The revolving door, individuals moving from high office in government to highly paid positions in the private sector, and back to the revolving door, has represented a takeover of the government by private interests.

This awareness inspires caution about the motives, intent and direction of the present bureaucratic realignment.

As a member of the Government Oversight Committee for 16 years, I yelled "stop thief," many times into a din of indifference, inertia and blind acceptance of corruption as the implicate order. It was extraordinary to witness elected officials who helplessly shrugged at a system riddled with thievery while they, and they alone, were empowered to set it right.

Years before I was elected to Congress, I was Mayor of Cleveland. In my first year in office, I was able to cut city government

spending by 10% without reducing service --through the elimination of waste, fraud and abuse - and ran the government on a cash basis.

I look at present federal spending, approaching \$7 Trillion annually, \$5.2 Trillion coming from revenues and \$1.9 Trillion borrowed (adding to the deficit), with the interest on the national debt now exceeding \$1 Trillion dollars annually.

I can easily envision that the elimination of waste, fraud and abuse at a federal level could save the American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars annually, helping to protect revenues for basic government services and lowering the national debt's dangerous trajectory.

As the President's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative moves relentlessly through the innards of the federal government, it exposes decades of failure of administrative responsibility for the custody of U.S. taxpayers' money.

I am not, nor have I been an apologist for this or any White House. Immediately, I am deeply concerned about the potential destruction which may be visited upon the American people by the summary firings and defunding of entire government agencies.

Yes, the government is riddled with waste. It is also true that the government provides essential services, programs and lifelines for millions. There clearly needs to be a reset, but it can and must be done with care and caution consistent with forming a more perfect union. Public money for public good.

Congress, as a body, has for years failed to act on the systemic corruption which its own auditors uncovered. Upon receiving detailed reports on misspending Congress could have denied funds to departments and agencies until accounts were put in order. It did not. Instead, offending agencies often saw their budgets increase.

The Supreme Court may ultimately decide on legitimate questions of the constitutionality of DOGE's bull-in-the-china-shop approach, its end-run of Congress' statutory authority to create an operative federal department, and its indiscriminate reduction of the federal work force.

The revelations of the staggering amounts of money involved in misspending, government waste, fraud and abuse will surely shock most American taxpayers who, at best, are living paycheck to paycheck, and once informed of the scope of waste of their tax dollars will demand action to stop it.

The Bitter Irony: ICE Targets Native American Indians Using Misguided Racial Profiling

by Dr. Joanna Rose Benavidez, L.P., H.S.P., (USAF Ret.)

As a Latine-Indigenous person, I find myself grappling with a profound sense of outrage and disbelief as I report on the latest chapter in our nation's troubled history with its Indigenous peoples. In a cruel twist of fate, the very descendants of this land's original inhabitants are now being targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a series of misguided raids that expose the deep-rooted racial profiling plaguing our immigration system.

The Navajo Nation, a sovereign territory spanning Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, has become ground zero for this unconscionable assault on Native American rights. At least 15 Indigenous individuals in Arizona and New Mexico have reported being stopped at their homes and workplaces, questioned or detained by federal law enforcement, and asked to produce proof of citizenship during immigration operations. The irony is palpable—those whose ancestors have walked this land for millennia are now being asked to justify their presence.

One particularly harrowing incident involved eight Navajo citizens who were detained for hours without access to communication with their families or tribes. Imagine the fear and humiliation of being treated as an outsider on your ancestral homeland, forced to prove your right to exist in a country built upon the very land your people have safeguarded for generations.

The shame our nation should feel is immeasurable. We, the Latine-Indigenous people, products of complex histories and identities, are now witnessing the continuation of erasure through misguided immigration policies. How can we claim to be a nation of immigrants while simultaneously persecuting those who have the deepest roots in this soil?

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's words resonate with a painful truth: "My office has received multiple reports from Navajo citizens that they have had negative, and sometimes traumatizing, experiences with federal agents targeting undocumented immigrants in the

SEE **Racial Profiling**, page 15

"ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE," wrote William the Bard. And everyone mere players. It's really not hard. Some play small parts, others quite large.

With scenes that are obscene but too little friction. The stories turn out much stranger than fiction.

The scene thus set for a New York developer whose surname was almost certainly Drumpf. He had few discernable talents other than a desire to put on a grand show and appear at days end to be a winner, you know?

Yes, to this future leader of the Free World, appearances would be the only thing that ever matters. In a post-truth world why let reality ever get in the way of a good show? He knew the secret to keeping an audience. It was limiting what they know.

As the fates would have it this man sauntered along from one stage to another. First it was the tabloids, then the TV, and finally the throne and the

Presidency.

A master of the universe, and modern day god, though totally orange, there's no one diviner. He's dressed in the emperor's finest clothes, of course made in Chiner.

He has no valuable ideas to propel the story forward. Instead, he relies on the source of his power; an unquenchable ego, a persona without substance, existing on vapors. He'll deal with the press and shut down the papers.

Razzle and dazzle, and many words spoken, but on decency or compassion, not even a token.

But like a good dealer he's ready with the next hit. A rush and a roar and the dopamine soars. And once again, the showman is mock-adored, and at the top of his game. Damn the Republic. He'll put it to shame.

To Hell with accountability and the Rule of Law. Down goes the system of Checks and Balances, with freedom, to the Monarchy's Maw.

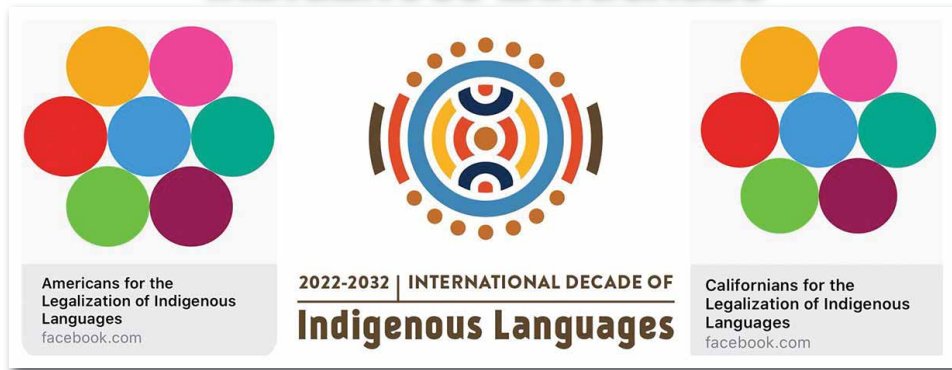
MONOGRAPH ON INDIGENOUS WISDOM

"America is in the throws of fighting a cultural virus lingering from the Civil War. Those seeking to gain power by keeping us divided have skillfully orchestrated a roadmap to destroy the one tie that binds us with the rest of the civilized world ... our **DEMOCRACY!** Americans are bound together by a DNA and common history more powerful than hatred and deception. **Indigenous Intelligence** can liberate the human spirit and conquer the primal force of domination and control."

- Rose Davis

Omnilogue: All of us communicating with each other, so that we all come to a collective understanding, so that we all work towards the same goal.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



by Vincent McCarthy: jmvc16@aol.com

'Emat Wemirr, Mat Uuyaaw ('Iipay Aa) Love the Land, Know Yourself



The 'Iipay verb "yip (yewip)" means, "hears, listens, feels, senses, thinks". We learn best and remember most clearly when we "yip"—watch and listen, attentively. My childhood memories are dominated by times spent out in

nature. Whenever I am bored at my desk, it is there I think of and long to return. To me, that is the best place to "yip"—simply perceive fully. Perhaps there are things beyond words that only nature can show us, if we listen.

'Aastik nyata'waach 'ewaachemuyuw 'ehap nyata'aam, 'iwaarm 'elymash marwayvech nyewupch wipches, "Peyaach wal wiich nur. Hellytaach mewalypkuh." 'Iichachvu 'aaypch 'apesiwh 'emaaw, pukenaach wal 'iich 'enur. 'Elymash marwayvu 'ewuw: kwaachemuyuwvech nyawaaypem, pupch mat ucheniwch uchewayp tenyewaych wiivu nyii yewiph umaaw. 'Enyaach hwally 'iich 'eshepechaa ta'waa; 'epa'wiich 'enurs. Nyaapum 'enur: meyipvek, 'uuchuch 'ehmiiym wal miik menurh. 'Iipay Aavi, nyaam hemaallm yiph umaaw. Esallym yip, eyaym yip, emaat nyaamatm yip llya'am.

Heyally stikm 'eyay sakesak wii. Kupilly nyaamat nya'hwin rewii: Maaykaam tarchachm 'iiahallyp 'aa. 'Ewaa kway'kuu 'ehapch puully ta'waach 'enyaa 'ehap. Ta'urpem 'echepakvek, yaaypch weshah, 'ematvech taketak. 'Uuyuk nyii 'uuchuch kwa'shash umaaw ewuwvu. 'Iipaych 'ematvu chepitt nesoom, 'ewaa 'uunyaay nychewiichm. 'Uuchuch nyaamat hemull rewii; 'emat peyaa 'ewily kuhmullm wechuwches. 'Uuchuch melaayks. 'Iipaych pu'yuuch nychewayph umaawhm tuuyuuw.

'Uuch paam 'enurs, 'ewuwch. Nya'aastikm matetaym, matsaym nya-aams. Mataahway 'enyewaa kuhwakches. 'Emat 'emaayk 'amp ta'aa, ta'aa. Nyahunnm 'emati 'epelyakch kwenmesaap 'ukuwaayk, hantak wemichm 'eyewipch nya'epemach. Maaykallym

'aashaach chuuyaaym hatepullch 'ily chechetochm 'ehuuchaapch 'enyaach chepakm 'ewupms. 'Iichaas 'emannch 'esemay kwa'harvi, 'iitaay 'ehapch 'ily 'ukuwaay 'ekwak echitt 'eyaawch 'esaaws. 'Emat nya'talyvech 'uuchuch 'ehmiiym nyiny; nyaamatvu 'echechaaph 'ellypechewar.

Maaykallym yaaypch hechuur, pes wehays. Meyaask may'patt meyip. 'Enyaach nyapekwillym 'ehellytaa 'emaay, 'enyaawapch 'emat kunkun 'emaay 'enepekwillly, 'uunyaay kwa'stik 'akechewiich. Nya'ar 'epchkwi 'esnyaaw kway'kuu 'ewuwch, matt hesill kunykuuy 'ehin. 'Uuchuch nyaamat 'eshash: 'ily hemal kuheshiw, 'emaay 'ehaa kwettak, 'emat kwa'kwasekwaas mes-haraaym aayay. 'Eyiich kuutuyps nyaewupch. Peyaach 'enyewaa perewii.

Hiichurm, weraawh nyamaawm, matsaym 'enaas. 'Emat peyaa 'ewayches, Hellytaa Hewak wiich chuuhim. Puy 'ehaastik 'ehinch tuuyaqs matetay kumeyay 'eyaak. Matetay peyap 'ewilym wechaawch; 'eyaak 'ewilyvech 'elyemis; 'emaaym 'ewily kwa'chekwii 'enekull 'uumiirpvech tenyeways. Nya'enekemichech 'ewaa 'echaawch nya'entewaattm, nyaapum 'enyaach 'ekunycheway 'ehiinkem 'uuteyumpem matetay 'enekull. 'Oorr 'ehmiiym matetayvu 'enekull ta'nam. Kwathemiivech 'eyaakvi nyii nyewuph llypechewar. 'Ewilyvelly 'entepachms.

Matetay nyamekullch, mekwarkwarh mellypuuwars. Memily mesallych maaym naahvu mewuwwhlly mars; umaawvek, metehenyirrk menallh. 'Emaaym maahvem mumh memaawvek, metuuhwillpk metekewanphlly marh. Mekull nyatemaach, 'uuchuch marway nyaamat memaaykiiwayks. 'Ewily 'ehinm mewuw, 'ewilyvu mehenyaa, meyip. Iilyuw 'ehini 'ewilyvu muuyaawh. 'Ewilyvech munyewayches, mehaawinns. Maach nyaam mepekwillly temaas puu 'iipatt kwa'kull kwapesiivvi. Peyaa nyamiichaam, meyaaych mehellytaavelly hwally wiis.

'Emtaarvi nyata'waach, 'enurvech 'estikm 'ewuwches. Wetaph peyaa,

SEE **Indigenous Language**, page 6

JOURNALIST'S NETWORK

Indigenous Rights Radio Celebrates 10 Years of Amplifying Indigenous Voices

On World Radio Day, Cultural Survival is celebrating 10 years of amplifying Indigenous people's voices through the Indigenous Rights Radio Program (IRR).

Today marks the 14th annual celebration of World Radio Day, as proclaimed by UNESCO. On the first celebration of World Radio Day in 2012, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples James Anaya (Apache and Purépecha) emphasized the importance of community radio for the world's Indigenous Peoples, "Radio has been a fundamental means for Indigenous

Peoples to maintain their languages and to exercise and defend their rights." In many parts of the world, despite the risk of police raids, jail time, threats, and even death for community journalists, community radio stations serve a vital function by distributing information about important news and educational programming like emergency disaster relief, voter registration, and public health campaigns. The power of radio reaches even the most rural areas, providing Indigenous communities with access to programming in their own languages and serving as a voice that promotes Indigenous cultures, traditions, and belief systems.

"It's You and Us, Kid" – The Power of Cross-Border, Cross Ethnicity Reporting to Better Expand the Native American Story

by Jerry Ashton, Publisher "Now Hear This"

It is estimated that some 400 Indigenous news outlets, including print, digital, and broadcast, operate throughout North America and reach audiences from a few hundred to millions. The resonance outside the community? Not so much.

Native American stories, culture, and influence have yet to penetrate America's consciousness. When the native is portrayed in mass media, it's timeworn and often cartoonish. Certainly doesn't show the contemporary Indian. That is a loss on both sides of this equation and needs correction.

Now Hear This and Indian Voices

Although neither of us can remember where or when (likely 15-20 years ago when I was involved in economic development in Indian Country), Rose Davis and I made a strong connection based on mutual trust and regard. This is why I reached out to her when I created a media platform called Now Hear This on my charity's website and offered an

opportunity for Indian Voices to expand its audience.

Not just any audience, but familiar to the Native American community—veterans.

This article by our lead editor, Meta Mereday, will give the reader a flavor of this partnership. In turn, Rose has provided us with a section in Indian Voices called "Veteran News," which we write monthly.

Where do we expect this partnership to go? First, a possible template for other native, Hispanic, Black, and Asian media outlets. Secondly, full partnerships in campaigns that will catch national attention. Thirdly, by way of a strategy by which we Think Globally and Act Locally, bring attention and money to communities to directly support their veterans.

Want to learn more? Please contact either Rose or myself, and let's chat.

Jerry Ashton is a former Navy Journalist, member of , co-founder of , and founder of End Veteran Debt.

Prophecy of Crazy Horse

Statement from The Great Lakota Warrior Crazy Horse.

"Upon suffering beyond suffering; the Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world.

A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations.

A world longing for light again.

I see a time of seven generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again.

In that day there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom.

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells.

For when you are at that center within you and I am in that place within me, we shall be as one."



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).

SISCA's January Monthly Zoom Presentation - Angela Walton-Raji

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association (SISCA)

On Wednesday, January 22, renowned genealogist Angela Walton-Raji was SISCA's monthly Zoom presenter for January. Mrs. Walton-Raji captivated the attendees with her stories about making genealogical connections. She also gave beginner genealogists important tips to get started. The presentation soon became a conversation when Mrs. Walton-Raji asked if there were any questions.

First and foremost, Mrs. Walton-Raji instructed anyone who was interested in starting their own genealogical journey to start by talking. She encouraged everyone to talk to our elders, to write down their stories and to record them if we were able to. (We all have smart phones that we keep close to us on a daily basis, so put them to work!) Also, talking to our elders is a great way to get closer to them. In learning more about their lives, we might discover that their experiences aren't that different from ours.

Another piece of advice that she gave was to visit the National Archives. This experience will allow you to physically

see the documents that might reveal important information about your family.

When we opened the presentation to questions and discussion, Mrs. Walton-Raji and Mr. Bennie McRae, renowned African American military historian, discussed how they had met and their mutual appreciation for each other. Mrs. Walton-Raji discussed her visit to Brackettville, Texas, in the nineties and her desire to return.

She encouraged everyone on the Zoom call to become more intentional with their research. Sometimes, just starting will lead to a wealth of discoveries. And your findings could help your future family members in their

own search. Any information that is found will be helpful.

Mrs. Walton-Raji was born and raised in Arkansas. She received her bachelor's degree from St. Louis University and her master's degree from Antioch University. Mrs. Walton-Raji began researching her family's history in 1975. She located her family records in the Choctaw Nation in 1991. This discovery confirmed the oral history that her great-grandparents were enslaved Africans who were owned by Choctaw Indians.

Mrs. Walton-Raji is the author of the following books: *Black Indian Genealogy Research: African-American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*,

Freedmen of the Frontier Volume 1: Selected Cherokee, Choctaw, & Chickasaw Freedmen Families, *Freedmen of the Frontier Volume 2: Selected Creek and Seminole Freedman Families*, and *Oklahoma Freeman of the Five Tribes*.

She runs several blogs entitled *The African-Native American Genealogy Blog*, *Choctaw Freedmen Legacy*, and *Arkansas Freedmen*. And she has a podcast titled *The Freedmen Files*.

She is the founding member of the Midwest African-American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI). She resides in Maryland.

Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association
MONTHLY ZOOM
LECTURE PRESENTATION
Wednesday, January 22
at 7:00 PM CST/8:00 PM EST

Speaker:
Angela Walton-Raji
Genealogist



FIRST 2025
PRESENTATION

The Zoom link will be emailed to everyone on our email list. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. If you would like it to be emailed directly to you, please contact us.

seminolecemeteryassoc@gmail.com
www.seminolecemeteryassociation.com

Artificial Intelligence vs Indigenous Intelligence

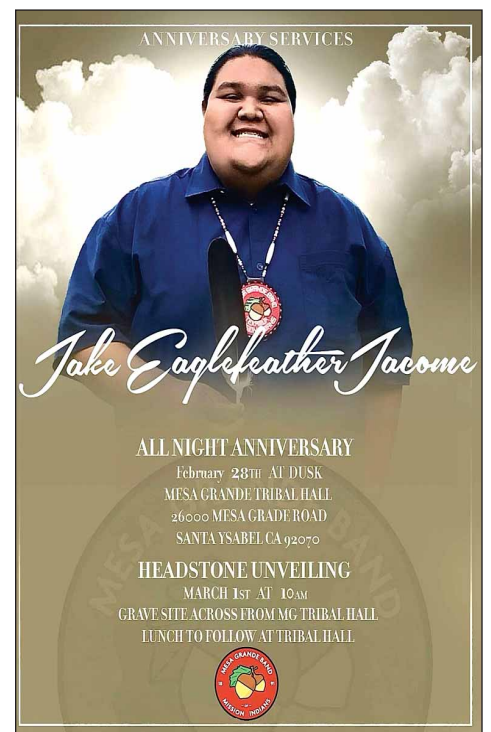
"It is in collectivities that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism."
– Angela Y. Davis

Hope and optimism remain elusive tools during times of crisis. Angela Davis, a Black feminist, political activist, philosopher, academic and writer offers this quote in her 2015 anthology *"Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement"*. For decades, her work has been instrumental in movement towards intersectional, liberatory Black futurisms. Davis imagines and builds avenues for freedom despite enduring the violence of being a Black woman.

Indigenous Language

Continued from page 5

chewuuw peyaa 'ewuuwch 'uuch weyuu nyii 'enurh 'emaaw. 'Ily peyaa, 'ewily peyaach matwaam mu'yum tenyeway keyinemi. Kway'kuuches 'Emaay 'Ehaa wechuwvu. Matetay puu nya'etepurch, kwa'kurm 'um; 'enyaach kwa'hwatt kwehapvech 'alypaayem wettuw pa'yuuws matekun 'ewilym kutehillypvi. 'Enyaa 'esallym 'ewuuws; puy 'ill 'ehinch wetaph kwa'stik 'ehin tehepallp pa'waas. Nyuully pily kuhunn tewaak nemesaph. Helyepaym 'ewuuwvek, 'ekurm 'ewuuwvek, 'uuchuch nyaamat 'ewuuwvech 'eshash perewii. 'Uuchuch 'ehinm 'uuyaaws: NyeKuphaawvech pu'yuch wechuwches. 'Uuchuch nyaamat 'eshashm wechuws; peyii 'enychewayphm tuuyuuw. Peyaa 'ewaa wechuwch nyinyches. Peyaak 'eneyiws 'enyaamatech. Nyawihch peyaam kupilly 'ehin 'enekewaykhs.



GREETINGS TO ALL FROM MAVIN LOGAN – WATERTOWN, SD More to Come!

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Action In Texas

by Liz Colvin, Mental Health Advocate, Author & Caregiver



Advocacy Day at the Texas Capitol is an opportunity to hear, engage, and become aware of upcoming legislation, which includes Native and Indigenous

communities. The Travis County House of Representatives Delegation hosted the event, with featured speakers: Rep. Vikki Goodwin, House District 47; Rep. Gina Hinojosa, House District 49; Rep. Donna Howard, House District 48; and Rep. Lulu Flores, House District 31. Their goals are to assist advocates, like myself, as we learn about proposed bills and the procedure of a bill in the Texas Legislature. They gave an overview of their achievements and future initiatives for the following: Fair Rent Incentive Act, Improved Special Education, Women's Healthcare, and HB 4199 – Relating to the provision of menstrual products at public schools, respectfully.

The Texas Legislative session began on January 14, 2025, and meets every other odd-numbered year. A regular session is

140 days in length, beginning on the second Tuesday in January. In addition, there were several groups that presented an overview of their platforms, such as the Texas Women's Health Caucus, the Texas Freedom Network, PTA, National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Citizens Climate Lobby (citizenclimatelobby.org) which will hold an Austin rally on April 1. Moms Demand Action, Texas Chapter will rally and meet with legislators to advocate for common-sense gun laws at 10:30 am (CST) Thursday, Feb 27. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/f554yvee.

Last but not least, a special congratulations to Justice-elect, Maggie Ellis, who was elected to the 3rd Court of Appeals. She was sworn in on January 6, 2025. Honorable Ellis will bring her commitment to justice and her compassion for others to the (first time in history) all-female bench. In summary, the five steps to effective advocacy across America are (1) know your issue, (2) listen to the people you want to help, (3) engage with the community, (4) build relationships, and (5) Don't Give Up! For Bill Tracking, go to capitol.texas.gov.

"Man's law changes with his understanding of man. Only the laws of the spirit remain always the same."
– Crow Proverb

What is Project 2025?

by David Esparza

Led by the Heritage Foundation and supported by over 100 other conservative organizations, Project 2025 is a written document and comprehensive plan to undo, defund, and replace the previous presidential administration's policies, programs, and appointees, with the overarching goal of centralizing power in the executive branch.

Project 2025 includes all three branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) and is designed, in effect, to resist the constitutionally mandated system of checks and balances, as well as the separation of powers. Project 2025 includes "The Conservative Promise," a highly detailed guide in the areas of healthcare, national security,

education, and economic policy. Though candidate Trump denied any knowledge of Project 2025, and his campaign even went so far as to say they would ban anyone associated with it from serving in his administration, President Trump's administration is, in fact, now filled with authors and architects of this comprehensive conservative overhaul of the U.S. Government.

As prescribed by Project 2025 for its first 180 days of implementation, sweeping changes in each of these areas of public policy have already been enacted via some 60 executive orders. A number of these executive orders, including those ending the granting of birthright citizenship and a sweeping freeze on federal grants and loans, have either been rescinded by the Trump administration or temporarily blocked by federal judges.

Purvi Shah, Founder and Executive Director Movement Law Lab

An experienced movement lawyer, civil-rights litigator, policy advocate and law professor, Purvi has spent her career at the intersection of law and social movements. After a decade of providing legal support to grassroots movements, Purvi founded Movement Law Lab to build a new generation of legal organizations and lawyers with the skills, know-how and vision to use law to create social change.

Purvi has a long-track record as an innovator having founded numerous visionary legal organizations and initiatives in the past decade. In 2015, in the aftermath of the Ferguson uprisings, Purvi co-founded Law For Black Lives, a national network of 3,500 lawyers committed to using law to build a world where #BlackLivesMatter. Prior to that, Purvi was the founding Director of the Bertha Justice Institute at the Center for Constitutional Rights, the nation's first movement lawyering institute. While there, she trained thousands of emerging lawyers on movement lawyering and helped build a global network of movement lawyers in 16 countries. Prior to that, Purvi co-founded the Community Justice Project of Florida Legal Services in 2006. There, she represented taxi drivers, tenant unions, public housing residents, and immigrants rights groups. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Purvi worked as a

community organizer with youth in Miami, students in India, and families of incarcerated youth in California.

Purvi is best-known for being an effective multiplier and a skilled coach on movement lawyering. Her teaching experience spans being a distinguished Givelber Lecturer at Northeastern Law School, a clinical professor at the University of Miami School of Law (2007-2011) and a sought-after trainer on movement lawyering at law schools and legal organizations around the world.

For her work, Purvi has been awarded an Ashoka Fellowship, Echoing Green Fellowship, Soros Equality Fellowship, Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellowship, Miami Foundation Fellowship, and a New Voices Fellowship. She is also the recipient of the East Bay Community Law Center's Justice Award, the ACLU of Florida's Rodney Thaxton Award for Racial Justice and the Community Justice Project's Community Defender Award.

Purvi's work has been featured in Forbes, MSNBC, the Nation, the Miami Herald, and the Daily Business Review. Purvi holds a BA in Political Science and Social Policy from Northwestern University and an JD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Follow Purvi on Twitter @purvishahesq

Trump's Immigration Crackdown Only Empowers The Police State

by Don Via, Jr

As mass arrests begin nationwide, it serves as a boon for the centralization of authority into the hands of an even more corrupt government and the monopoly on violence which protects it.

It has begun. Last week the Trump administration initiated a nationwide campaign of migrant roundups and mass deportations allegedly targeting illegal immigrants. The crackdown, a coordinated effort across multiple federal agencies and spanning several states included the reauthorization of raids in

previously prohibited protected areas including schools, churches, and hospitals. The operation is touted as "targeting criminal aliens".

On his first day in office, president Trump signed a slew of executive orders targeting immigration, many of which were illegal and outright unconstitutional, among them attempting to target the 14th amendment of the constitution of the United States which enshrines birthright citizenship into law, slated to go into effect February 19th and impact the lives of over 150,000 children.

visit: indigenoustransaction.org

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Music, Art, and Culture: A Weapon for Unity in Divisive Times

by Makeda Cheatom, Founder of WorldBeat Cultural Center

In times of uncertainty, when division and conflict seem to dominate the national and global landscape, we must remember the power of music, art, and culture to heal, unify, and uplift. These are not just expressions of



creativity—they are weapons against hatred, ignorance, and fear. Through the rhythm of a drum, the stroke of a paintbrush, and the shared experience of dance, we build bridges across cultures, generations, and perspectives.

At WorldBeat Cultural Center, nestled in the heart of San Diego's Balboa Park, we have always believed in the transformative power of cultural exchange. For over 40 years, our center has been a sanctuary where diverse communities come together to celebrate our shared humanity. From the African drum circles that connect us to ancestral wisdom, to reggae and world music concerts that carry messages of resistance and love, to indigenous ceremonies that remind us of our duty to protect the Earth—our mission has remained clear: to educate, inspire, and unify.

Cultural centers like WorldBeat are more important now than ever. As our country grapples with instability—politically, socially, and environmentally—spaces that foster cultural awareness and collective healing become essential. Hate thrives in ignorance, and cultural spaces act as antidotes by preserving stories, traditions, and histories that mainstream narratives often ignore.

Music, art, and dance are some of the most powerful means of expressing truth and inspiring dialogue. The great Bob Marley once said, "If you know your history, then you would know where you coming from. And you wouldn't have to ask me who the heck

do I think I am." He also famously declared, "The people who are trying to make this world worse aren't taking a day off. How can I?" He understood that his music carried a revolutionary message—that if he had simply spoken the truths he sang about, he could have been killed. Yet, through song, he awakened millions to the struggles of the oppressed and the need for unity and love.

We have seen firsthand how music, art, and dance can transform lives. A child who learns capoeira not only gains discipline but also a deeper appreciation for Afro-Brazilian heritage. A community gathering for a reggae festival not only enjoys the music but absorbs the messages of unity and

social justice. A visitor who experiences indigenous wisdom walks away with a renewed sense of responsibility toward the land and future generations.

As the world struggles with division, we must lean into culture, not away from it. We must invest in our creative institutions, honor our diverse roots, and use art as a tool for dialogue, not destruction. Our ancestors knew this well—music and storytelling have always been sacred tools of survival and resistance.

At WorldBeat Center, we will continue to fight for peace through culture. We invite you to join us—whether by attending an event, volunteering, or simply sharing in the spirit of unity that we cultivate here every day. Together, we can make sure that in the face of division, we respond not with fear, but with music, art, and the unwavering rhythm of peace.

"None of us are free until all of us are free" - Fanny Lou Hamer



WORLD BEAT CENTER

Cultural Reclamation: The Ishak Film Screening at WorldBeat Cultural Center

by Makeda Cheatom



On Friday, February 14th, 2025 the WorldBeat Cultural Center in Balboa Park recently hosted a screening of Ishak, a short documentary experimental drama that delves into the history and identity of the Atakapa-Ishak Nation, an Afro-Indigenous community in the South. The film, directed by Maaliyah Papillion, sheds light on the struggles of the Atakapa-Ishak people as they navigate the complexities of proving their ancestry while preserving their cultural heritage. We were honored to have Maaliyah with us and following the screening, she engaged in a

discussion with attendees, offering deeper insights into the film's themes and the ongoing efforts of the tribe to reclaim their identity.

For generations, the Atakapa-Ishak people have faced systemic barriers to recognition due to the controversial "blood quantum rule," a policy that has disproportionately marginalized those of mixed-race ancestry. Despite their deep historical roots, many Afro-Indigenous communities, including the Atakapa-Ishak, have struggled against exclusionary definitions of Native identity that fail to account for the complexity of their lineage. Ishak brings this struggle to the forefront, using storytelling to illustrate the resilience of a people determined to maintain their traditions and rightful place in history.

Papillion's work is not only a cinematic exploration of these issues but also a personal endeavor to uplift the voices of those often erased from mainstream narratives. As a filmmaker and storyteller, she brings authenticity and urgency to the subject, ensuring that the Atakapa-Ishak story is both seen and heard. The film serves



as a powerful testament to the broader fight for Indigenous sovereignty and self-definition, challenging the limitations imposed by colonial-era policies that continue to shape the lives of Indigenous peoples today.

The WorldBeat Cultural Center remains dedicated to amplifying stories like that of the Atakapa-Ishak Nation. Through events like this screening, the center continues its mission to celebrate cultural diversity, educate the public on Indigenous histories, and provide a platform for communities reclaiming their heritage. By fostering dialogue and understanding, the center reaffirms its commitment to unity, preservation, and the ongoing struggle for recognition faced by Afro-Indigenous peoples.

Celebrating a Reggae Icon: Bam Bam - The Sister Nancy Story

by Berenice Rodriguez

The reggae world is abuzz with the release of the new documentary, "Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story," a captivating exploration of the life and legacy of Sister Nancy, the first female dancehall DJ who has left an indelible mark on the genre. Known for her iconic track "Bam Bam," Sister Nancy's influence extends beyond music, as she has become a symbol of empowerment and resilience in reggae culture.

"Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story" not only highlights her musical achievements but also delves into her personal journey of overcoming challenges and breaking barriers in a male-dominated industry. The

documentary is a testament to Sister Nancy's unwavering dedication and passion for her craft, inspiring audiences around the globe.

As we celebrate Sister Nancy's legacy, we invite reggae enthusiasts and newcomers alike to explore the vibrant world of reggae music and its powerful stories. Don't miss the chance to witness San Diego's favorite legendary artist in action at the Tribute to the Reggae Legends/ Bob Day festival.

Born Ophlin Russell, Sister Nancy emerged from Kingston, Jamaica, to become a



trailblazer in the reggae and dancehall scenes. Her groundbreaking album "One, Two," featuring the hit "Bam Bam," has been celebrated worldwide, sampled by numerous artists, and remains a staple in reggae music. Sister

Nancy's pioneering spirit and distinctive voice have paved the way for future generations of female artists, earning her the title of the "First Lady of Dancehall."

In a fitting tribute to her contributions, Sister Nancy is set to headline the upcoming Tribute to the Reggae Legends, an event that honors the greats of reggae music. The celebration will take place at the WorldBeat Cultural Center in Balboa Park, San Diego, a hub for cultural and musical expression. Attendees can look forward to an unforgettable performance that pays homage to Sister Nancy's enduring impact on the reggae community.

For more information on the Tribute to the Reggae Legends, visit tributetothelegends.com or call 619-230-1190.



Herbalism at the World Beat Center Peace Garden

Seeds of Herbalism - An introduction to the art & science of herbalism

by Cindy Saylor

Gathering as a community to learn about herbs in the World Beat Center Peace Garden is a gift. We are a rainbow of humans from many cultures, races, ages, genders and places. But together we make a



beloved community. Folks leave their everyday worries behind and come to explore herbs, herbalism, connecting to the natural world, connecting to themselves and to each other. I am blessed to have this opportunity to share the teachings passed down to me. Though there are many, many books about herbalism from every culture and tradition in the world, herbalism still remains an oral tradition. Person to person, sharing

knowledge, experiences and connections about the plants.

Seeds of Herbalism - An Introduction to Herbalism is a six week class. My goal is to provide students with a foundation to study and learn about herbs that will support them for a very long time. The class emphasizes experiential and embodied learning. Herbal tea tasting is a key stone of the class. Herbal tea tasting teaches us about the flavors and aromas of herbs and how they interact with our body, mind and spirit. This beautiful and ancient practice is simple and profound. We explore the human history of plants - that exists everywhere across all cultures, times and places. I share my own lineage

Reviving Heritage: The Relaunch of Our Seed Library

In a world where food sovereignty and justice are more crucial than ever, the relaunch of our seed library at the WorldBeat Cultural Center marks a significant step towards empowering communities. This initiative is not just about seeds; it's about reclaiming our heritage, preparing for emergencies, and fostering climate resilience.

Seed libraries serve as a beacon of hope and resilience. They are repositories of biodiversity, preserving heirloom seeds that have been passed down through generations. These seeds are not only a link to our past but also a key to a sustainable future. By safeguarding these seeds, we ensure that communities have access to diverse crops that are better suited to withstand changing climate conditions.

At the heart of our seed library is the principle of food sovereignty. It is about giving communities control over their food systems, allowing them to grow what they eat and eat what they grow. This autonomy is essential for food justice, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

In times of crisis, whether due to natural disasters or socio-economic upheavals, having a seed library can be a lifeline. It allows communities to quickly rebound by planting crops that are

which is grounded in western herbalism, rooted in the ancient practices of Egyptian herbalism. We study 12-15 different herbs learning their herbal actions, energetics, and flavors. Understandings of sustainability, sourcing, endangered plants, honorable wildcrafting and growing are discussed. Finally we explore how to integrate herbs into one's daily and seasonal life. Learning to flow with the seasons, spending time with the plants and the natural world as the wheel of the year unfolds. This flow creates the ability to listen to the plants and ourselves for the messages we need to thrive. Grounded in each season students have herbal practices and remedies they can turn to when needed for themselves and those they care about.

The World Beat Center Peace Garden offers a unique and special place to explore herbalism. Everyone feels welcome and together we can be in community to fall in love with the plants, nature and our own connection to the earth.

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

adapted to local conditions. By relaunching our seed library, we are investing in the resilience of our communities, ensuring they are prepared for any challenges that may come their way.

The impacts of climate change are undeniable, affecting food production



worldwide. Our seed library is a critical tool in building climate resilience. By focusing on heirloom and climate-adapted seeds, we are equipping communities with the means to cultivate crops that can thrive despite environmental changes. This not only supports food security but also helps in maintaining ecological balance.

As we relaunch our seed library, we invite communities to participate, learn, and grow with us. Together, we can nurture a future where food systems are equitable, resilient, and sustainable. Join us in this journey of empowerment and resilience, where every seed sown is a step towards a healthier planet.



Remains of 21 Oneida Indian Nation Ancestors Repatriated from Colgate University

On December 16, 2024, Colgate University repatriated the remains of 21 Oneida ancestors from the collections of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology to the Oneida Indian Nation at the Nation's Mary C. Winder Community Center. The repatriation continues the longtime partnership between the Oneida Indian Nation and Colgate University and reaffirms the university's commitment to the return of all Oneida Indian Nation ancestors and artifacts in its collections.



Oneida Indian Nation Homelands (December 17, 2024) – The Oneida Indian Nation and Colgate University came together yesterday to repatriate the remains of 21 Oneida ancestors to the Nation from the collections of the university's Longyear Museum of Anthropology.

The repatriation was part of a visit from Colgate University President Brian Casey and a delegation of university leaders, who had the opportunity to meet with Oneida Indian Nation leadership, tour the new Mary C. Winder Community Center and the Nation's Shako:wí Cultural Center and learn more about the rich history and cultural legacy of the Oneida people.

The ancestors repatriated to the Oneida Indian Nation included the remains of seven individuals from burials at the site of a 17th-century village in Madison County within the Oneida Treaty of Canandaigua Reservation boundaries. The remains were removed from their resting place by avocational archaeologist Theodore Whitney, a member of the Chenango Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association, sometime in the 1960s and donated to the Longyear Museum at Colgate University in the early 1970s.

Remains of another 14 Oneida ancestors removed by avocational archaeologists associated with the New York State Archeological Association - Chenango Chapter from an unknown number of sites were also repatriated during Monday's event. These ancestral

remains were disinterred from Oneida ancestral lands between 1950 and 1980.

"We are grateful for the partnership that has grown between the Oneida Indian Nation and Colgate University and for the leadership the university has shown in the repatriation of Native American remains and artifacts," said Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter. "Throughout all of our work together on repatriations, the university has consistently demonstrated the high levels of urgency and thoroughness that are required to ensure Native remains are returned to their proper resting place."

President Casey shared his thanks for the collaborative nature of the work between the Oneida Indian Nation and Colgate University.

"Working alongside the members of the Oneida Indian Nation is an honor for our faculty and staff, and we are appreciative of their strong partnership in this important

endeavor," Casey said.

Monday's repatriation reaffirms the University's longtime commitment to the return of ancestral remains and cultural artifacts to Native American tribes. In 1995, the University made its first repatriation to the Nation, returning the remains of seven Oneida ancestors and eight funerary objects.

Most recently, in November 2022, more than 1,500 funerary belongings and other cultural items were transferred from the collections of the Longyear Museum to the Oneida Indian Nation in one of the largest repatriations of its kind in New York State history. During the 2022 repatriation event, President Casey offered an official apology on behalf of the university for its past acquisitions of Native American remains and cultural objects and expressed a strong commitment to righting these wrongs in the future.

About the Oneida Indian Nation: The Oneida Indian Nation is a federally recognized Indian nation in Central New York. A founding member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (also known as the Six Nations or Iroquois Confederacy), the Oneida Indian Nation sided with the Americans in the Revolutionary War and was thanked by Congress and President George Washington for its loyalty and assistance. Today, the Oneida Indian Nation consists of about 1,000 enrolled Members, most of them living in Central New York. The Nation's enterprises, which employ more than 4,500 people, include Turning Stone Resort Casino, YBR Casino & Sports Book, Point Place Casino, The Lake House at Sylvan Beach, The Cove at Sylvan Beach, Maple Leaf Markets, SavOn Convenience stores, Verona Collective, a seed-to-sale cannabis operation, RV Park, and marinas. Proceeds from these enterprises are used to rebuild the Nation's economic base and provide essential services, including housing, health care, and education incentives and programs, to its Members.

NETWORKING



VETERAN NEWS OUTREACH

In collaboration with Jerry Ashton

U.S. Ramps Up Efforts to Round Up and Deport Illegal Aliens – and Likely Ramps Up Native American Military Veterans Suicide Rates

by Meta Mereday



With a burden of literally billions of dollars of debt and up to as many as 44 veterans committing suicide a day, we have a national crisis within our

veteran community. Its impact, along with current government actions, will be even more significant within our Native American population.

America could be driving its native peoples, who once proudly served its flag, to suicide. How so, and what can you and I do about it? Let's first get educated and grounded.

Imagine you are a Native American Army veteran rounded up and detained in the hunt to "weed out illegal aliens." Imagine your military documents (if you have them) are scoffed at and ignored.

Recent events involving Native American veterans, many of whom may not have suitable identification due to the nature of the tribal citizenship processes, make them susceptible to arrest and even deportation.

Show Me Your Papers

Those questions were not asked of these people and other races during WWII or the many wars afterward. In fact, without the participation of people of color, including members of Native/Indigenous tribes currently being targeted, many of the victories would have been more costly—even to the point of becoming losses.

Native Americans, who currently number over 65,000 serving in active duty, over the history of our country, have

been the largest ethnic group per capita. Bar none.

Many veterans return to a civilian life where societal indignities force them to live with their traumas in isolation, removed from the same resources and privileges they risked their lives to protect and provide for others.

Broken Treaties, Broken Promises, and Now This

End Veteran Debt intends to do all it can to bring this current injustice to America's awareness. It's bad enough that unpaid and unpayable debt—much of it brought about by our own government—leads to substance abuse, incarceration and homelessness. Suicide rates are highest among the Indigenous veterans and their families. Couple this now with the fear of being deported (to where?) due to the actions of government agents bereft of training and cultural awareness (Too DEI, ya say?). These agents do not recognize tribal IDs and Certificates of Indian Blood (CIBs) as legitimate forms of ID.

Native Americans are further impacted by the current administration's unwillingness to acknowledge birthright citizenship.

Native Americans did not acquire citizenship until 1924 despite "living on the land" before Columbus. Through the lens of racism, Native Americans are being cast as "illegal aliens" and "non-citizens." This is yet another broken promise that litters this era's "Trail of Tears."

Learn more about End Veteran Debt and our national "Operation Debt-Day" which focuses on both local and national initiatives to keep veterans—from all ethnic groups—from falling through the cracks or experiencing something as outrageous as they are now.

This cannot, and will not, stand.

5th Annual - Binational Water Summit - 2025

Saturday, Mar 22
1pm-5pm
San Diego, CA. Final TBD

We are convening international leaders from government, non-profit organizations, academia, global institutions, businesses, and the innovation sector to engage in productive dialogue about the future of our waters.

<https://www.agesinc.com/event-info/5th-annual-binational-water-summit-2025>



visit: Indigenousnetwork.org

~ On the Town with Camille ~

by Camille Appling

**Harvard Kennedy School
John F Kennedy School of
Government**

Harvard University has put together a splendid selection of discussion groups for the public to attend. This month, the conversation was held by Dr. Nathalie Laidler Kylander who discussed the idea of “Authentic Leadership.” Dr. Nathalie went over important topics like how personality affects leadership. She discussed areas to reflect on in leadership like “self-reflection and learning.” She defined the Big 5 Personality Test and how to use these theories to improve leadership abilities. Dr. Nathalie’s discussion was both interesting and easy to understand. The idea of authentic leadership is important because it shows how we can lead with authentic emotion and clarity in decision making in leadership. The university has multiple webinars with varying topics to employ critical thinking and manifestation of careers and services. Please check us out at hks.harvard.edu

El Tesoro Del Folklore

God’s light shown brightly as the dance troupe Tesoro del Folklore performed



traditional Mexican dances that illustrated strength and the ability to overcome adversity during development. There were

young children that performed traditional dances beautifully with the help of their dancing parents. The dancers gleamed in authentic costumes while dancing the afternoon away. We were treated to ceviche, chicken enchiladas, mole, and pizza; there was even rice pudding. Overall, the event was entertaining, educational and nutritious.

**The Opening of Bisbas
Restaurant
6511 University Ave, San
Diego CA 92115**

On January 31, the grand opening of Bisbas Restaurant, which specializes in

Somalian food, took place. The restaurant was founded by Ali and Yusuf with support from attorney and Peoples Association Justice Advocate Shane Harris, Roberto Marin from the



Office of City Council President Sean Elo Rivera, County Supervisor Jordan Marks, and Small Business Aficionada Lynn Edwards. The event was filled with beautiful children from all over the world who were ecstatic to enjoy traditional healthy food like sambuusa and baklava. The menu even includes hamburgers. Bisbas Restaurant is an excellent choice for dinner, so bring the whole family! For more information, contact @eatatbisbas on Instagram.

**Volunteering at the Woman
of Roar Breakfast
Rooted in Resilience**

On February 1, 2025, Women of Color presented its seventh annual Women of Color ROAR Breakfast. The event was titled “Rooted in Resilience” and was held in honor of our very own Kamala Harris, the first African American and Asian American Democratic presidential



candidate. Harris was given a tearful, heartfelt tribute by her friend and author Stacy Johnson-Batiste and author Carole Porter. The luncheon honorees included California State Senator and daughter of the California Secretary State, Dr. Akila Webber; Cheryl Alethia Phelps, Chief Communication Officer of the ACLU/SDC; Jasmine Crockett, Texas Congressmember, and Jotaka Eddy, the founder of Win with Black Women.

Women of Color founder Angela de Joseph and her team, including Tama Becker, worked tirelessly to put on



the annual event and have done superior work in the community assembling past events. San Diego’s very own Tammy Blevins and the young Black male group Blue Heart were there, ushering political officials and guests. Attendees enjoyed a superb breakfast of quiche, sweet potatoes, and bacon. As a volunteer, I was so impressed by the guests and their mission of humanity! Please checkout Women of Color at WomenofColorRoar.com to find out more about their upcoming events.

Kendrick Lamar

Continued from page 2

now-legendary verse on Control, where he called out several rappers — including Drake — claiming to be the best in the game. Since then, subliminal shots have been exchanged in interviews, songs and even award show speeches.

Adding to that, tennis legend Serena Williams unintentionally became part of the cultural conversation after cameras caught her doing the Crip Walk on stage during “Not Like Us,” but was that blown out of proportion?

The Crip Walk originated in Los Angeles gang culture but has since become a mainstream dance move, often used in hip-hop and sports celebrations. However, because of its roots, it has sparked controversy in the past.

Serena’s Crip Walk moment immediately went viral, leading some to speculate that she was throwing shade at Drake, whom she briefly dated. But this claim didn’t hold weight; Serena, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, has done the Crip Walk multiple times before, most notably after winning an Olympic gold medal in 2012.

As a reminder, hip-hop icon Snoop Dogg, too, openly Crip Walked during the 2022 Super Bowl Halftime Show, yet it was embraced as a fun tribute to West Coast hip-hop.

So why did Serena’s moment stir more controversy?

Whether intentional or not, her dance move became yet another example of how Black culture is constantly analyzed, debated and at times policed.

If Lamar’s performance felt like a wake-up call, it’s because it was.

His ending message, “Turn off the TV,” drew strong public comparisons to Donald Glover’s groundbreaking 2018 hit “This Is America,” a music video filled with social and political symbolism that forced viewers to confront America’s deep-seated issues.

Like Glover, Lamar chose to use art as resistance, rather than entertainment for entertainment’s sake.

For those who both loved and hated the rapper’s halftime Show, one thing is clear: It was not just another spectacle filled with fireworks, dance breaks or viral pop moments. And in today’s climate, that may be the boldest performance of all.

“Archbishop Romero of El Salvador was a member of the Salvadoran aristocracy. He could not have risen to the top of the church hierarchy otherwise. But after he began voicing critical remarks about the war and concerned comments about the poor, he was assassinated.”
– Michael Parenti

MAAC NEXT LEVEL & GRID ALTERNATIVES PRESENT

THE FUTURE OF SOLAR JOBS

Learn to install solar panels and gain valuable skills for a growing industry. Get support services to help you succeed.

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ebaratti@gridalternatives.org

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- ✓ Unemployed or Underemployed
- ✓ Low Income
- ✓ Authorized to work in the US
- ✓ High School/GED Preferred

MAAC Next Level Interest Form GRID Alternatives Intake Form

CONTACT US: MAAC NEXT LEVEL Youth Workforce Development Program GRID ALTERNATIVES San Diego

NEWS

from Las Vegas/Nevada

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

Protecting Nevada's Communities from the Threat of Wildfires

by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

As Nevadans, we know that the wildfire season in the West is only growing longer and more severe. Over just the past 20 years, wildfires have burned more than 8.8 million acres in Nevada, and the number of acres burned annually has doubled.

Recently, we have seen fires tear through Southern California in the middle of the winter. Last fall, the Davis Fire south of Reno burned close to 6,000 acres. I toured the burn scar personally. It is clear that we need solutions now to protect our homes and communities in the Silver State.

That's why I just reintroduced the bipartisan Western Wildfire Support Act.

This legislation would authorize funding for cutting-edge firefighting equipment, create new training programs for federal and local firefighters, and support wildfire recovery efforts. It also includes a provision to ensure Tribes can access grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to convert vehicles into flexible, early response fire engines.

This isn't a partisan issue. During the 118th Congress, the Western Wildfire Support Act passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee with bipartisan support. This year, my Republican colleague Senator Tim Sheehy from Montana is a cosponsor of the legislation. I will fight to make sure that it crosses the finish line and gets signed into law.

I will continue meeting with Nevadans, including Tribal leaders, to find collaborative solutions to the threat of wildfires in our state. Together, we can keep our communities safe.

It saddens my heart to hear the news Johnny Watson, the founder of San Diego Chapter Brothers of the Sun has passed away today.. My condolences goes out to the family.



In Loving Memory or Luther Bow Jr.



September 8, 1967-February 1, 2025

Funeral Services

Wednesday~February 5, 2025

@MOAPA TRIBAL BUILDING

Viewing 1:30-2:00pm

Services 2:30-4:00

Dinner 5:00

Half night sing to follow

Burial at sunrise

CATHERINE'S CORNER

Catherine CORTEZ MASTO
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR NEVADA

Cortez Masto Reintroduces Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Public Safety in Indian Country

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) reintroduced their bipartisan Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety (BADGES) for Native Communities Act to support the recruitment and retention of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement officers, bolster federal missing persons resources, and give Tribes and states tools to combat violence.

"It's time that we passed this commonsense, bipartisan bill into law, and I'm committed to getting it done," said Senator Cortez Masto. "The Bureau of Indian Affairs needs more resources to recruit and retain officers, solve missing persons cases, and combat crime in Indian Country. I urge my colleagues to work with me to move this critical bill forward."

"Our legislation is a significant step toward enhancing resources for Tribal law enforcement," said Senator Hoeven. "It authorizes the BIA to conduct background checks on law enforcement applicants, providing Tribes with the tools they need to address critical staffing shortages and infrastructure challenges. This not only strengthens public safety within Tribal communities but also ensures that offenders are held accountable, empowering Tribes to better protect their citizens and uphold justice."

"Every Arizonan deserves to feel safe, and that includes those living on Tribal lands," said Senator Gallego. "Too often, cases go unsolved or uninvestigated because Tribal law enforcement lack the staffing and resources they need. This commonsense, bipartisan bill will go a long way in addressing those needs, and I hope to see it signed into law this Congress."

"Tribal officials in South Dakota have been dealing with public safety issues for several years, and they need more support," said Senator Rounds. "Our legislation would give tribal leaders and law enforcement officers more tools to assist with investigating crimes, recruiting additional law enforcement personnel and keeping their communities safe."

Senator Cortez Masto is a strong supporter of Tribal communities and passed two bipartisan bills, the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act, to combat the missing and murdered Indigenous

women (MMIW) crisis during President Trump's first term. The commission created by the Not Invisible Act specifically called for passage of Cortez Masto's BADGES for Native Communities Act to help law enforcement better serve Native communities. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously last year. The BADGES for Native Communities Act would:

- Increase Tribal access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) by requiring Tribal facilitators to conduct ongoing Tribal outreach and serve as a point of contact for Tribes and law enforcement agencies, as well as conduct training and information gathering to improve the resolution of missing persons cases.
- Require a comprehensive report on Tribal law enforcement needs.
- Allow the BIA to conduct its own background checks for law enforcement officer applicants in order to speed up and improve officer recruitment.
- Establish a grant program to help states, Tribes, and Tribal organizations coordinate efforts related to missing and murdered persons cases and sexual assault cases.
- Ensure BIA officers and Tribal police have access to culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs.

Senator Cortez Masto has repeatedly called on the both the Trump and Biden administrations to do more to address the epidemic of violence against Native women and girls, and has secured federal funding to protect Native communities. She urged the Biden Administration to draft a plan to address this issue, and requested the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate the federal response to this crisis. She's also fought to ensure that law enforcement officers across the country have the support they need, securing historic funding for the Byrne JAG grant program, which she champions every year. The program is the leading source of criminal justice funding for state, local, and Tribal governments and provides support for programs related to crime prevention, law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, and mental and behavioral health.

LINK:

<https://www.cortezmasto.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cortez-masto-reintroduces-bipartisan-bill-to-strengthen-public-safety-in-indian-country/>

Message from Catherine Cortez Masto

As Nevada celebrates Black History Month this February, I want to take a moment to honor the contributions of Black Nevadans.

Even before statehood, Black cowboys like Ben Palmer were helping the Northern Nevada economy thrive. Nearly 100 years ago, Black families in Las Vegas built the Historic Westside, which remains a cultural hub. Today, Black Nevadans serve our communities as elected officials, teachers, and entrepreneurs.

I am grateful to the contributions of the Black community in making Nevada the state it is today. To ensure the Black community can continue to thrive in Nevada, I will fight to lower costs, create good-paying jobs, invest in education, and keep our communities safe.

2025 NEVADA SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE
FEB. 20-22, 2025

EXTENSION College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources
USDA United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency



Happy Black History Month from everyone at Indian Voices

(Photo: Oancea Marius)

Truth Versus Fact; Government Contracting

by Stephen Munford

As a Current Nevada Native Owner of a government contracting company I wanted make sure our native people, especially in Nevada understand the the truth verses the continued spreading misleading information about federal government contracting, and it's crucial to set the record straight.

Here's the reality: Nellis Air Force Base alone procures over \$3 billion annually, and when you include Creech Air Force Base (40 miles north of Las Vegas), that number climbs to nearly \$5 billion in federal purchases each year. The claim that federal contracting DEI programs (such as DBE, SBA HUBZone, and SBA 8A) are somehow unnecessary or wasteful is deliberately dishonest—or at best, wildly uninformed.

Under FARs (Federal Acquisition Regulations), Nellis AFB is supposed to allocate at least one-third of its contract dollars to small, disadvantaged businesses, including:

- DBEs (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises)
- SBA HUBZone Businesses (businesses located in historically low-income areas)
- SBA 8A Certified Businesses (federally certified small businesses owned by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals)

But here's the problem:
• Nellis likely hasn't even come close to meeting its goal of awarding one-third of its contracts to these businesses.

• Nevada, as a whole, has fewer than 100 federally certified businesses qualified to compete for these contracts—despite the fact that many Nevada Native American tribes could qualify for SBA 8A and HUBZone certification, yet none currently do.

• The claim that these DEI programs are somehow taking money away from the government is pure nonsense—because the federal government spends trillions annually, and these programs exist precisely to give small businesses and historically disadvantaged companies a fair shot at competing.

The Real Agenda Behind These Attacks

People like Donald Trump, Bob Beers, and Kevin Child want you to believe that DEI contracting programs are some sort of handout—as if small, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses aren't earning these contracts through competitive bids. That's a lie.

The reality is that these attacks on federal contracting programs are just another way to consolidate wealth and power among large corporations while shutting out small businesses, including:

- Minority-owned and women-owned businesses
- Veteran-owned businesses (including disabled veterans)
- White-owned small businesses that qualify under SBA DEI programs

By dismantling these programs, they're actively blocking opportunities for new and small businesses to compete—all while funneling even more taxpayer money into the hands of huge defense contractors and corporate monopolies.

So next time you hear people like Trump, Beers, or Child lie about federal contracting, ask yourself: Who actually benefits when small businesses get cut out of the process? Because it's not taxpayers, and it's certainly not small businesses of ANY race, gender, or background.

Don't fall for their BS. Follow the money.

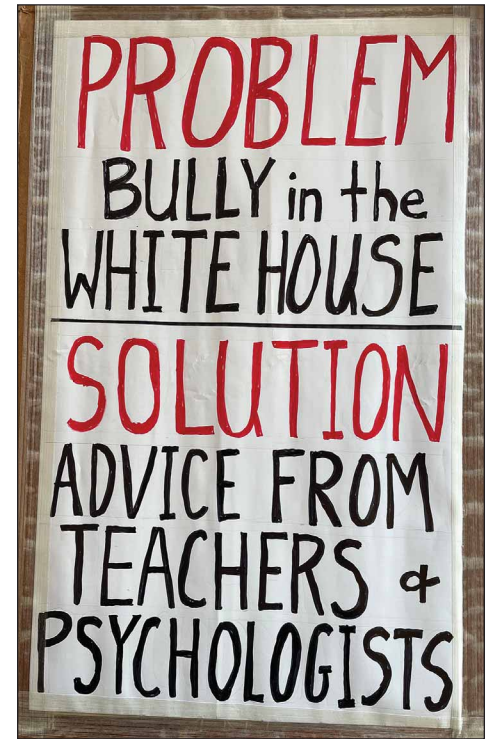
Agency	Total Contracts	Contract Value	Savings
Bureau of Land Management	1	\$389,494	\$169,712
CFPB	2	\$19,999,898	\$19,999,998
Department of Agriculture	11	\$112,899,940	\$110,618,680
Department of Commerce	6	\$4,461,887	\$2,059,920
Department of Defense	1	\$3,615,922	\$2,233,350
Department of Education	4	\$4,571,972	\$3,867,113
Department of Energy	2	\$748,094	\$378,020
Department of Health and Human Services	15	\$59,345,341	\$29,167,448
Department of Homeland Security	7	\$43,274,837	\$14,925,126
Department of Labor	1	\$9,676,269	\$7,856,119
Department of State	2	\$2,491,785	\$1,912,092
Department of Treasury	21	\$35,892,018	\$25,247,793
Department of Veterans Affairs	2	\$371,222	\$131,080
FAA	4	\$45,180,000	\$45,000,000
Environmental Protection Agency	1	\$3,251,353	\$3,000,000
General Services Administration - OAS	2	\$7,957,905	\$4,682,129
General Services Administration - FAS	1	\$15,168	Admin. Costs
National Labor Relations Board	1	\$192,000	\$96,000
National Science Foundation	1	\$1,250,000	\$750,000
NOAA	1	\$421,549	\$386,000
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	1	\$804,717	\$446,631
Office of Personnel Management	3	\$516,805,292	\$494,956,233
OPM/HS	1	\$3,323,310	\$2,000,000
OPM/National Park Service	1	\$3,708,799	Admin. Costs
OPM/Treasury	1	\$2,337,505	\$2,300,000
Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation	1	\$107,190	\$37,530
Railroad Retirement Board	1	\$157,500	Admin. Costs
Small Business Administration	1	\$553,792	Admin. Costs
Social Security Administration	1	\$19,022	\$109,224
USAID	7	\$375,138,197	\$228,730,692
Grand Total	104	\$1,259,365,178	\$1,000,060,792

FYI...

Why Was February Chosen for Black History Month?

Historians say there's a simple answer: Black History Month, which began in 1926 as Negro History Week, is in February because it coincides with the birthdays of two important figures in the abolitionist movement: *President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass*

visit:
IndigenousNetwork.org



San Diego Football Club

by Julie LaBrake, Pow Wow Coordinator | Tribal Government

The San Diego Football Club's first home game will take place at the Snapdragon Stadium on March 1, 2025. I don't know much about Major League Soccer, but I have contacts, and one close contact is Tom Penn, the CEO of the San Diego Football Club.

Mr. Penn said, "San Diego FC is a brand new expansion professional soccer team in Major League Soccer. We will compete against the best teams in America, Canada, and Mexico. In our competitions, we will play at Snapdragon Stadium. We will be the second major league professional men's team in San Diego with the Padres in baseball."

Penn also explained how Right to Dream and Sycuan are involved. "San Diego FC is partnered with Right to Dream, which is a network of youth



development clubs in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Newly added is Right to Dream in San Diego. Right to Dream offers unique scholarships and

opportunities to talented youth soccer players, boys and girls, to attend the Right to Dream school and have an immersive experience at a residential academy. At Right to Dream, we will develop the best players in North America to play

professionally or attend college on full scholarships. This will happen on the Sycuan tribal reservation as we've converted the Singing Hills Golf Resort Hotel into our Right to Dream Academy and performance center."

I am excited about this new major league professional sports team in San Diego. Last year, I was able to attend a football (soccer) match, and the energy from the crowd was so intense. Hopefully, San Diego will have a winning team!

New Date Set for Homeless Count

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) today announced new dates for the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which was postponed due to the recent wildfires. The rescheduled count will take place over these three nights in February:

• Tuesday, February 18: San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys (SPA 2) and Metro Los Angeles (SPA 4)

• Wednesday, February 19: San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3) and East Los Angeles (SPA 7)

• Thursday, February 20: Antelope Valley (SPA 1), West Los Angeles (SPA 5), South Los Angeles (SPA 6), and South Bay/Harbor (SPA 8)

"The safety of our volunteers and unsheltered neighbors is vital," said LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum. "We are grateful for the flexibility and

understanding of our partners and volunteers as we strive for a safe count."

The annual Homeless Count provides critical data that informs the system's understanding of needs across Los Angeles County.

LAHSA emphasized the importance of volunteer community members to the success of the rescheduled count. "We're facing unprecedented challenges this year, so the success of the Homeless Count depends now more than ever on community involvement. We urge everyone who can join us as a volunteer," said Dr. Adams Kellum.

Team LAHSA
Find your Homeless Count 2024 resources at <https://count.lahsa.org/>
"Our mission is to drive the collaborative strategic vision to create solutions for the crisis of homelessness grounded in compassion, equity, and inclusion."

2025 Poetry Out Loud Winners

I'm circling back with this year's winners of Poetry Out Loud from the competition on February 4th! Here is a



WOL Executive Director Walter Ritter; Runner Up Ixchel Roman Medina; Malakas Schlater-Julian, Winner; Artistic Director WOL Veronica Murphy

link to some photos and the initial press release. The photo credit is Frank Rogozienski Thank you for any sharing of the student winners you are able to do!

- The 2025 Poetry Out Loud winner is Malakas Schlater-Julian from Valley Center High School
- The 2025 Poetry Out Loud runner up is Ixchel Roman Medina from Academy of Our Lady of Peace
- Malakas will go on to compete at the State finals in Sacramento on March 16th and 17th, 2025.

The Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, managed in California by the California Arts Council and regionally, by the City of

San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture in association with Write Out Loud, presents POETRY OUT LOUD, a national poetry recitation competition for high school students. San Diego Regional Finals took place this year on February 4th at 5:00pm. The event was free and the public was encouraged to join our student participants and their families at the Neil Morgan Auditorium at San Diego Central Library.

Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry—both classic and contemporary—through memorization, performance, and competition. Since the program began in 2005, more than four million students across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud. For the 2025 Poetry Out Loud, students will present their recitations of works selected from the Poetry Out Loud Anthology of more than 1,100 poems. Performances are judged on criteria including voice and articulation, evidence of understanding, and accuracy. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have created free, standards-based curriculum materials to support Poetry Out Loud including a teacher's guide, lesson plans, an online anthology, posters, and video and audio on the art of recitation. Write Out Loud offers in person and virtual poetry examination and performance workshops for students.

You're Invited: Black Family Wellness Expo San Diego, CA, Chapter Of The Links, Incorporated

Dear Zeta Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,
The San Diego (CA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, in partnership with the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, is proud to announce the 2025 Black Family Wellness Expo. This community-wide event will occur on Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy. Attendance is free, and while registration is highly encouraged, it is not required.

We are asking for your help by sharing

the expo information with your organization through your February chapter announcements or newsletter. You will find a formal letter, flyer, and postcard attached for your use.

In Service,
Iris Savage Dargan, Dr. Rio Dickens-Celestin, & Mireille White
Black Family Wellness Expo
Committee Tri-Chairs
San Diego (CA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
Angela Hilliard, President, San Diego (CA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

visit: Indigenousnetwork.org

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Sycuan Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Soccer Stadium and Sharp Healthcare Performance Center



Photos:
Rochelle
Porter



Gwendolyn Parada
Chairwoman

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lp13boots@aol.com

Women of Color Roar

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Kamala Harris received a special tribute, and California State Senator Dr. Akilah Weber received the Woman of Distinction Award.

The event began with people being guided to the event hall by the bumping music of Buki Domingos and DSOU, several kind volunteers, and the smell of some deliciously catered breakfast. Several tables selling stuff and promoting causes were chilling at the perimeter. At one of these tables was Stacey L. Johnson-Batiste, author of *Friends from the Beginning: The Berkeley Village That Raised Kamala and Me*. Batiste kindly greeted me and explained that she wrote the book quickly,

in only six months. It was easy for her to simply recall her lifetime friendship with Vice President Kamala Harris. Batiste said that, despite Vice President Harris's great accomplishments, she has remained a kind and compassionate friend to her over the years.

Women of Color Roar founder Angela de Joseph welcomed everyone in attendance and asked to begin the morning with a prayer from Queen Mother Kathleen Harmon. The Queen Mother's dress was truly wonderful with bright and varied colors and unique patterns of traditional African wear. Shortly after the prayer, Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber spoke. Weber emphasized that the day was to honor the accomplishments of those that were

acknowledged but also the many, many of those that remain unacknowledged. Women who have, for her, been as inspiring and as important as those that are much more written about in history. Weber blasted the new administration's outright racist overuse of blaming anything and everything on DEI and declared that "this is war."

One of the attendees was Woi Hiopsi, a board member of the Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego. He lamented, "If we're gonna move forward together in this difficult time, everyone for justice for Natives and African Americans, we need to start in the right way by acknowledging the land where we are." Steff Saavedra, was asked to do a land. Saavedra is a descendant of *nhanho*, Pueblo and Tsalagi

tribes. She is also a board member of the American Indian Recruitment programs and a client relations manager for Colusa Indian Energy. Incredibly, at the beginning of the land acknowledgement by Saavedra, there was an electrical power outage that lasted the exact duration of her speaking. Despite the outage, it went down in a good way. During the land acknowledgement, she thanked the Kumeyaay Nation and acknowledged other original peoples of San Diego County (Luiseno, Cupeno, and Cahuilla Nations) for all their efforts and asked for "guidance and clarity about how we can all work together to continue to build a legacy for seven generations to come."

Racial Profiling

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Southwest." These experiences are not merely inconveniences; they are wounds inflicted upon the collective psyche of a people who have already endured centuries of displacement and marginalization.

As a Latine-Indigenous person, I feel the weight of this injustice acutely. Our heritage is a testament to the complex history of this continent, but it should never be used as a tool to further marginalize Indigenous communities. The fact that Native Americans are being mistaken for undocumented immigrants

speaks volumes about the pervasive stereotypes and racial profiling that continue to plague our society.

The Navajo Nation's response to this crisis is both heartbreaking and infuriating. They have been forced to issue guidance advising their members to carry state-issued identification or Certificates of Indian Blood when interacting with federal authorities. It is a stark reminder of the "papers, please" mentality that has no place in a just society, let alone one that owes its very existence to the land and resources of Indigenous peoples.

As we grapple with this shameful reality, we must ask ourselves: What does it say about our nation when the original

stewards of this land are treated with suspicion and hostility? How can we reconcile our ideals of freedom and justice with the traumatizing experiences inflicted upon Native communities by our own government agencies?

The time for change is long overdue. We must demand an immediate halt to these discriminatory practices and a comprehensive reevaluation of our immigration enforcement policies. The United States must recognize and respect the sovereignty of Native American nations and ensure that their citizens are never again subjected to the indignity of proving their right to exist on their ancestral lands.

As a Latine-Indigenous person, I call

upon all Americans to reflect on this bitter irony and to stand in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We cannot allow the sins of our colonial past to continue haunting the present. It is time to honor the true spirit of this land and its original inhabitants, not through empty words, but through meaningful action and respect for Native American sovereignty.

The shame of these ICE raids should serve as a wake-up call to our collective conscience. We must do better. We must be better. For the sake of justice, for the sake of our shared humanity, and for the sake of honoring the true spirit of this land we all call home.

American Democracy

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the executive branch designed to benefit a specific population, namely white nationalists, to the detriment of absolutely **everyone else**.

Make no mistake, team Trump is trying to make America a Dictatorship.

Many people who voted for Trump may not know what this means, and they wouldn't like it if they did. Many of them only felt, and made known, that the ideas of the far left had left them out of the conversation altogether.

Trump went full fascist and only a literal handful of Republicans resisted. Wedge issues were successfully used to further divide the nation.

A critical mass of the Democratic Party, for its part, has been pushing a kind of supremacist factionalism, one that disenfranchised historically Democratic voters. The perspectives which alienated many are not ones based on race, culture, or religion. They are based on a kind of supremacy of viewpoint espoused by academics and far-leftists. It includes things like Critical Race Theory and Intersectional Feminism. To be certain, these perspectives shed light on the sources and causes of institutional and systemic bigotry and oppression in modern day America. But to insist that anyone not signing on and supporting wholesale, the entire suite of associated sociological theories, is to be reviled and shunned as an outcast, is a form of ideological supremacy. It is also

ableist insofar as there is a relatively high intellectual threshold to be able to grasp some aspects of these theories associated with graduate level university study.

The Fascist Party of Donald Trump understands these dynamics and is taking full advantage of the unforced errors of the Democratic Party.

Immediately following the election, major news outlets published editorials calling for a "great reckoning" of the Democratic Party. That reckoning has yet to happen.

Recent reporting on NPR reflected that Latino and Black populations felt the Democratic Party had left them behind with their focus on gender and LGBTQ2S+ related issues. Vice President Kamala Harris gave her opponents the red meat they wanted when she answered in the affirmative that the U.S. Government is morally bound to use American taxpayer dollars to pay for gender affirming healthcare to incarcerated undocumented immigrants.

In 2023, in a televised hearing, U.S. Congressman Mark Takano (D) California, was asked if biological males who identify as female should be allowed to compete with biological females, Takano's reply was: "The short answer is yes." He went on to clarify that it really should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. But the soundbite, taken out of context, was nevertheless exploited.

The social pressure on Vice President Harris and Congressman Takano from their peers in the educated, professional,

and managerial classes was, and remains, so great that any hesitation in saying biological males should be allowed to compete in sports with biological females ... would place them firmly outside the in-group. They would be labeled as transphobic bigots.

More recently, in the aftermath of what is being called the worst fire in Los Angeles history, LAFD Deputy Chief Kristine Larson addressed concerns that female fire fighters might not be physically strong enough to carry a man out of a burning building, saying, "He got himself in the wrong place if I have to carry him out of a fire."

The Civil Rights movement in America has come a very long way since 1964. Is it perfect? No, not by a long shot. But if our civil rights are lost to the Fascist Party of Donald Trump, these rights will not easily be won back. Let's not give up on Democracy simply because it is not yet as fair, just, and equitable as we would like it to be. It will be difficult to protect the civil rights of people of color and LGBTQ2S+ populations in a totalitarian dictatorship.

Midterm elections are in about 21 months. The choice is ours to make. We can continue doubling down on the cult of moral purity, the assertion that no population in human history has ever been as morally superior, decent, or respectable as that of the far-left modern Democrat.

No social, political, religious, ethnic or ideological group of people has ever had, nor ever will have, an exclusive on goodness or evil. There is not now nor has

there ever been a THEM. There is only one BIG US. Humanity. Whenever humans are involved, humans will get things wrong. From minor violations of human rights to outright atrocities ... humans will always be the common factor.

You are welcome to look down on the Founding Fathers. But these white, slave-holding men did not develop the U.S. Constitution on their own. They drew upon the Great Law of Peace of the Iroquois Confederation. They knew then, and it holds true today: Absolute power corrupts absolutely. If humans are to have any chance of governing themselves with any semblance of justice, equality, and equity, then the rule of law based on a Constitution with a Separation of Powers, within a System of Checks and Balances ... which countless lives were long ago self-sacrificed to attain, must be preserved.


The Fascist Party of Donald Trump does not want the Democratic Party to have that reckoning. Trump desperately wants ours to remain the small and exclusive tent of the "morally pure." The party of an elite group who look down their noses at everyone who does not see the world exactly as they do.

For Democracy in America to work, it must preserve the rights of its people to hold different perspectives. Though we must always strive for a more perfect union, let us not let the Perfect become the Enemy of the Good.




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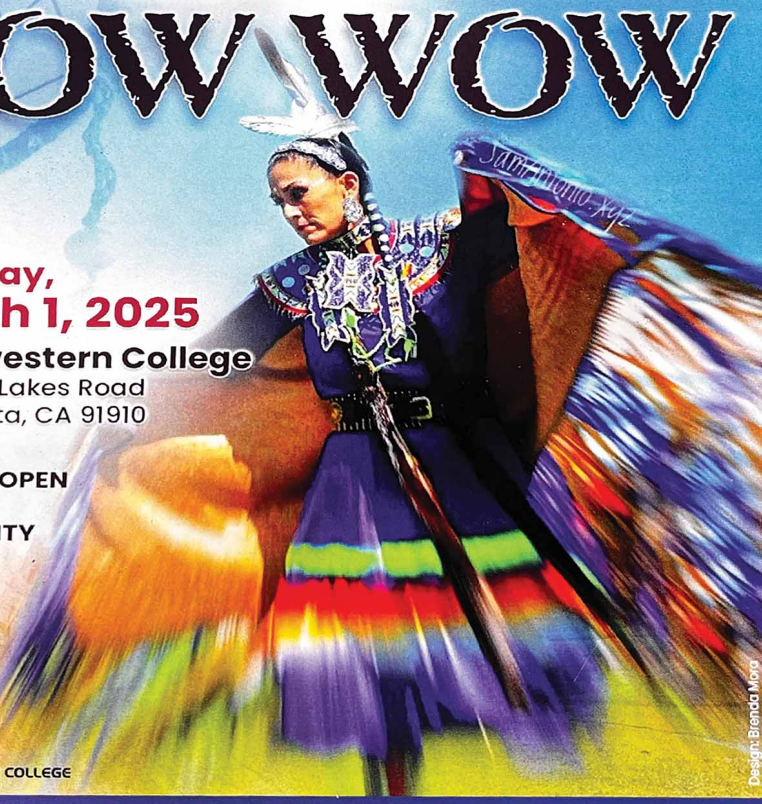
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Native American Bank was able to utilize a loan guaranty offered through the Office of Indian Economic Development, under the Division of Interior's Indian Affairs Agency.



**Sacred Circle
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The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, with reservation lands located in both eastern Nevada and western Utah, operate a health division of the tribe in Salt Lake City, Utah, where it offers a wide range of healthcare services to both tribal and non-tribal members.

Sacred Circle Healthcare was founded and financed by a group of doctors who formerly worked for Indian Health Services. Over time, the tribe has slowly increased its ownership and management of the clinic. Today the tribe now proudly owns and operates 100% of the entity, which is now a division of the tribe.

Native American Bank worked with the tribe to refinance existing debt and purchase equipment for a new pain management clinic. The bank also provided an operating line of credit to expand business activities. Native American Bank was able to work with the tribal division utilizing a loan guaranty offered through the Office of Indian Economic Development, under the Division of Interior's Indian Affairs Agency. With our expertise, the tribal division now offers a full suite of medical services to the community!

