



Observers of Pomona's first official Kwanzaa celebration 'lift every voice and sing' in emotion-packed ceremonies at Fairplex

Kwanzaa, an annual celebration of African-American culture held from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 and first celebrated in 1966, was officially celebrated in Pomona for the first time last month, outdoors and on The Farm at Pomona's Fairplex – thanks to official action of the city council proclaiming Kwanzaa in Pomona – with 100 participants representing the diversity for which Pomona is known.

And perhaps no one could be better suited for the honor of lighting the candle for the first day of Kwanzaa than Aariyah Oliver, daughter of Pomona's new poet laureate, David Judah

Oliver, who also participated in the ceremonies along with his daughter.

That first candle, "umoha," or "unity," had a meaning of its own representing unity in nation and race, according to co-organizer Chara Swodeck.

Speaker Stephanie Baker, retired deputy superintendent of educational services for Pomona Unified School District and now the district's academic officer, was introduced as a strong advocate for African-American student inclusion in equity within Pomona through the African-American Parent Advisory Council and the Pomona Alliance of



LIGHTING CANDLE FOR FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA -- Aariyah Oliver, daughter of Pomona's new poet laureate David Judah Oliver, assisting at left, lights a candle representing the first day of Kwanzaa during Pomona's first official celebration of the cultural observance. Event co-organizer Chara Swodeck helps out at right as the event's official photographer moves in for his close-up. The event was held at The Farm at Pomona's Fairplex.

much and in honor of our youth."

Baker told participants that this summer she visited Hampton, Virginia, to celebrate the 400-year commemoration of the first recorded ship of Africans to land in this country.

And, she said, she intentionally used the word "Africans" and not "slaves" because they did not leave Africa as slaves but were enslaved here.

Baker also referred to the first principle of Kwanzaa "umoha" which she said encourages remembering the principle of unity – "unity which should guide us in all that we do – we pour in recognition of umoha."

She explained the seven principles of Kwanzaa – from self determination and collective work and cooperative economics to purpose, creativity and faith – "call on us... to stand in solidarity in support of the oppressed, the suffering and the struggling people of our family, our community, our nation, our world."

Baker said Africans came to this country with a sense of spirituality long before the slavemaster gave them the "white man's religion."

"We don't have to be uniform

Kwanzaa celebration... pg. 2

Adrienne Konigar-Macklin to serve as 2020 Pomona Unified School Board President

Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, who has served as a member of the Pomona Unified School District board since 2009, was selected by her colleagues at the district's annual reorganizational special board meeting last month to serve as board president for the coming year.

Board member Andrew Wong will serve as vice president for the 2020 calendar year.

Konigar-Macklin last served as board president in 2016 in the district's rotating selection process.

She is a practicing attorney with an emphasis in the area of educational law.

"I am honored to have been appointed by my esteemed colleagues to serve as board president this year," Konigar-Macklin said in a prepared statement requested by La Nueva Voz. "Serving the children and families of Pomona Unified School District is both a privilege and an honor that we all hold dear. I aim to continue the diligent work that this board of governance practices in ensuring safe

Konigar-Macklin... pg. 4



Adrienne Konigar-Macklin
2020 Pomona Unified
School Board President

Black School Educators.

"We celebrate Kwanzaa and we want our children to be in here listening and learning from the past," Baker said, "both our personal past and our past as a people."

Part of the ceremony, she said, would be pouring water into a plant because a plant "symbolizes the nurturing that we get from the earth," Baker added. And, she said, that pouring of water honors the Creator, "the motherland, the cradle of civilization, and in honor of our people . . . and the elders from whom we can learn

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Kwanzaa celebration... from pg. 1

in our spirituality, but we need to be united in our spirituality,” she said.

Baker pointed to talents present at the event, ranging from an artist, a chef, dancers, musicians, spoken word artists, businesspeople, parents – “all of those are passions and gifts and skills and talents.”

An emotional moment in the ceremonies came as the group joined in singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” known as the Black national anthem.

The week-long Kwanzaa observance culminates in gift-giving and a “feast of faith.” Kwanzaa, while originating in the United States, has spread outside this country.

Kwanzaa provides an opportunity for people of African heritage, regardless of religious background, to come together and show reverence for their Creator, to commemorate the past and to recommit to high ideals.

The celebration was produced by Swodeck and Jonathan Hall.



Artist John Barge III (www.johnbarges.com) sets up his canvas for a painting of two interlocking fists at Pomona's first Kwanzaa Joy celebration.



Pomona's Kwanzaa organizers Jonathan Hall, of J & D Food Co. in Costa Mesa, at left, and Chara Swodeck, of Pomona's Open Box Designs, kick off the festivities at Pomona's first ever official Kwanzaa festival.



Vendors came in all sizes at Pomona's Kwanzaa festival like this young basketmaker (making little baskets?)



Pomona author Farrell Chiles and Pomona branch NAACP President Jeanette Royston join in to sing “Lift every voice and sing,” known as the Black national anthem, at Kwanzaa at Fairplex.



Pomona's African American Museum of Beginnings had an exhibit at the Kwanzaa festival at Fairplex.



Speaker Stephanie Baker, at left, is assisted by volunteer Kiana Webb as they pour water on a plant.

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Pomona Mayor welcomes 2020 Lunar New Year Celebration to city

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval welcomed promoters and participants in this month's 2020 Lunar New Year Celebration to Pomona "to have all of you to start this new tradition here in the City of Pomona."

His comments came at a kick-off news conference at the Downtown Pomona Owners Association office where a room filled with predominantly Asian press recorded, videotaped, took notes and otherwise memorialized opening thoughts on this weekend's event in and around Shaun Diamond Plaza to welcome in the Chinese New Year, this year the Year of the Rat.

Featured at the event with free admission will be 100 food and merchandise booths, live performances, karaoke, a Chinese zodiac show and even trolley car tours of the Downtown Pomona area.

Sandoval told the group he remembers as a child growing up in Pomona leaving town once to experience a Lunar New Year festival in a nearby city.

"I remember it was about family, it was about food, it was about music and it was about



MAN OF THE HOUR -- Eddie Wong, at center, board member with the Downtown Pomona Owners Association and owner of Image Workshop, a print business in Downtown Pomona, holds court with a Second Street sidewalk filled with Asian news media following a DPOA trolley tour of the Downtown area by 54 members of the Asian press and vendors at this month's Lunar New Year Celebration following a kick-off press conference.

dancing," he said, "and what I love about it is that it brings people together no matter where you've been born, or no matter where you've grown up."

"Here . . . in Downtown Pomona is absolutely one of the

most vibrant dynamic places in the region . . . it's where people come to listen to music, a place where people come for serious arts, dance, poetry . . . and now that we've added the Lunar New Year festival this only adds to

DPOA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE WELCOMING NEWS MEDIA TO LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

-- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, welcomes what turned out to be predominantly an Asian press group of news media representatives this month as the Downtown Pomona Owners Association announced its first-ever Lunar New Year Celebration scheduled for Friday, Jan. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 25 in Downtown Pomona. Pictured at the podium with Sandoval is Eddie Wong, committee chairman for the event.



the vibrancy of the Downtown and it really couldn't happen without all of you," he said.

"We look forward to a long term relationship where we can bring more and more people from east of us in the Inland Empire to those who perhaps don't want to go down to the San Gabriel Valley or Chinatown, you can come right here to Pomona

and have a wonderful time," he added.

The event is open from 4 p.m. to midnight Friday and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, featuring dragon and lion dances along with the God of Wealth.

The Lunar New Year is the most celebrated holiday in Asia with many large festivals and events held around the world.

Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley to hold chili cook off fundraiser at Old Stump Brewing Co.

The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley will hold a chili cook off fundraiser next month to help support the club's efforts of "building great futures one day at a time."

The event is scheduled for 6 to

10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Old Stump Brewing Co., 2896 Metropolitan Place, Pomona.

Included will be chili, tacos, beer, and live and silent auctions featuring prizes from Stage Coach, Cal Spa and a week any-

where in the world.

Tickets are \$50 and include a taco plate, two pints of beer and an event glass.

For more information, contact club Executive Director Victor Caceres at (310) 863-2805.



We've said it in past years, but it is true every year at the Downtown Pomona Christmas parade -- there is just something about parades and kids. And these kids pictured at last month's parade down Second Street know how to get around once they get there! Thanks, mom!

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN -- And it was sad to see them go. Mr. D's Diner on Foothill Boulevard in Pomona closed its doors last month after giving Pomona a good long run. The Route 66 themed restaurant -- once a Carrow's and before that a Bob's Big Boy -- opened in June 2016 and joined the Pomona Chamber of Commerce with an official ribbon cutting in July. The owners have another seven or eight restaurants that are all doing well but the numbers in Pomona never got to where they needed to be. Hard to believe, too, because you saw somebody you knew in there almost every time you stopped in. You can still go down the street to the La Verne Mr. D's (originally a Denny's) and order that famous Pomona "skillet" breakfast, but they call it a "La Verne" over there. Thanks for giving us a try, Stefano, Yianni and Aristos.

League of Women Voters Valentines gala to mark 100 years of women's right to vote

The Mt. Baldy League of Women Voters will present a centennial celebration of women's right to vote with a "Gala 20's Celebration" on Valentines Day at the Women's Club in Claremont.

The event is scheduled for 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the Women's Club, 343 W. 12th St., Claremont.

Included will be live jazz, food and beverages and a silent auction.

For more information and registration, contact the League of

Women Voters at info@lwvmt-baldyarea.org or call (909) 624-9457.

The gala is the first in a series of events to commemorate women's right to vote with efforts such as supporting U.S. Census efforts and empowering voters.

Proceeds will go to the work of the group on voter education and service.

Tickets are \$75 to \$250 with smaller packages for those unable to attend but wishing to support the group.

30th annual Pomona Library Trivia Bee set for next week

Think you know something? Here's your chance to shine.

The Pomona Public Library and Pomona Heritage are sponsoring the 30th annual Pomona Public Library Trivia Bee from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Pomona Ebell Auditorium, 585 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

Tickets for spectators are only a \$10 donation to support the library and include food and one

"opportunity" ticket.

Admission tickets can be purchased at the library or at the door.

Limited spaces are available for team registration. Cost for teams is a \$300 donation for a team of three. Included is dinner and a shirt.

For more information, call (909) 620-2043, ext. 2730, or e-mail crystal_orosco@ci.pomona.ca.us.

Konigar-Macklin... from pg. 1

Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez told La Nueva Voz in an e-mail. "Our Board President is truly exceptional in that she is a highly regarded educational expert. Mrs. Konigar-Macklin's wisdom will help to ensure sound direction as we continue to re-

sign our instructional programs for the coming years."

Professionally, Konigar-Macklin established in July 2018 the Office of General Counsel for the San Diego County Office of Education in a legal services cost savings move which the office of education reported on its web site keeps "money in the classroom and away from the courtroom."

Konigar-Macklin and two legal services research analysts operate the legal team which has handled matters in areas of charter schools, the impact of new legislation, Public Records Act requests and others.

She also was appointed an administrative law judge for the State of California in 2010.



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schools, cutting-edge instruction and focused academic results."

Konigar-Macklin's current four-year term in office ends in 2022.

"I am very fortunate to have a diverse Board with significant expertise in matters related to our students and families," Pomona

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Services held for Al Castro, co-founder of Pomona's La Voz newspaper

About 300 friends, family members and business associates attended funeral services last week in Pomona for Albert Castro, a co-founder of Pomona's La Voz newspaper, who died this month. He was 85.

It was standing room only in the mausoleum at Pomona Valley Memorial Park. Todd Memorial Chapel handled arrangements.

Castro, who enjoyed playing jazz trumpet and loved photography, was a long-time real estate broker in Pomona.

But he was also credited with creating the original La Voz, the predecessor of this newspaper and Pomona's only community newspaper, with his friend, the late Candelario "Cande" Mendoza.

Even in recent years he was often seen at community events in the Civic Center Plaza and once was greeted by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval who called Castro a "legend" in Pomona journalism.

In an April 2012 interview with La Nueva Voz, Castro said one of the reasons he and Mendoza teamed up on the newspaper project was that "we wanted to create a positive image of the

Latino community because the mainstream paper . . . every time a Latino surname would come up, it would be in the negative form."

Their newspaper was launched in 1981 and published until 2009, six months before La Nueva Voz began publication. Pomona Unified School District operated the original La Voz for its last five years of publication.

Castro's real estate company, American Realtors, continued to operate in the old La Voz Publications building he has owned since 1967 at 699 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, a building that was home to La Voz for years.

It was also "home" to Dora Cruz, who designed the pages for La Voz for Castro and Mendoza and continues to design pages and provide translations for La Nueva Voz today.

Mendoza, a long-time member of the Pomona Unified School District board, died in 2008 – while serving on the school board. He was 89.

Mendoza was Pomona's first Mexican-American teacher and first Mexican-American principal.

Editor's Note: The complete 2012 interview with Castro can



Candelario Mendoza, at left, and Al Castro take a look at a copy of the old La Voz "hot off the press" decades ago.

be seen at www.lanuevavoz.net one.). Renee Barbee of La Nueva Cruz retrieved the photo of the two co-founders from the La Voz archives. (click on past issues and click on Voz attended the services and April 2012 – the story is on page contributed to this story. Dora

Gloria Morrow to present keynote at NAACP 'Freedom Fund' luncheon

Dr. Gloria Morrow, a clinical psychologist and director of behavioral health for Unicare Community Health Center, Inc., is scheduled to present the keynote address next month at the first annual "Freedom Fund Luncheon," presented by the Pomona Valley Branch NAACP.

Morrow is known for applying transformational leadership skills to provide leadership coaching to both non-profit and for-profit organizations.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Claremont.

Mayors of the cities served by the NAACP branch – Chino, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Ontario, Pomona, Diamond Bar, Montclair, Upland and Chino Hills – will be honored at the luncheon.

Tickets are \$65.

For reservations, contact president@naacp-pomona-valley.org.

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ALL YOU CAN EAT TACOS AND BURRITOS -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassadors, City of Pomona officials, representatives of elected officials and others helped cut the ribbon on "day one" of the grand opening at Paco's Tacos in Pomona. The restaurant, located at 1394 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, is giving it a new twist -- tacos and burritos are "all you can eat!" Come try the place out! Pictured cutting the ribbon last week, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, restaurant owner Francisco Sandoval, head cook Paola Ramos, and Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

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Our community is our last line of defense against Donald Trump's attacks on Women, Minorities, Immigrants and the rule of law. I am strongly supporting them and I hope I can count on you to support them as well.

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Norma Torres



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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JOHN MENDOZA <i>Water Boardmember</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DENISE MARQUEZ <i>Mother/Arts Commissioner</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FRANK GUZMAN <i>School Boardmember</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERIK SANCHEZ <i>Father/Student</i>

Chinese Lantern Festival returns to Pomona's Fairplex on new illuminated theme "Blooming Seasons" for night time run



The Chinese Lantern Festival came back to Fairplex on a new theme of "Blooming Seasons" with all new exhibits creating an after-dark wonderland. And, as always, there were plenty of cameras, plenty of selfies, a lot of walking around on the hill to see all the exhibits, and shows -- including this one, the traditional "Dance of the Drum," under the night skies.

Chinese Lantern Festival... pg. 11

U.S. News boosts Cal Poly University Pomona's already high ratings in 2020 scores

U.S. News & World Report has named Cal Poly University Pomona among the best undergraduate universities in the Western United States, bumping its ratings up a couple of notches from last year.

The university placed second among "top public schools in the West," up from fourth place last year, and tied for No. 14 on the "2020 best regional universities in the West," up from No. 28 last year.

A total of 128 colleges and universities across 15 states are included in the western region's rankings, according to a Cal Poly news release.

Cal Poly also was recognized as one of the "most innovative schools," ranking at No. 3. This category was based on schools making the most innovative improvements in areas of curriculum, faculty,

Cal Poly... pg. 10

The Democratic Vote for AD52 LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Senator Leyva



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IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SENATOR LEYVA & ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODRIGUEZ

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- Delegate for California Democratic Party
- President of Pomona Valley Democratic Club
- City of Pomona Historical Commissioner



Arturo Jimenez

- School Director, Laguna Technical College
- Delegate for California Democratic Party



Ronald Gonzales-Lawrence

- Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
- Delegate for California Democratic Party



Jacqueline Lissette Escobar

- Legislative Field Representative for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
- Delegate for California Democratic Party

Paid for by Arturo Jimenez

What would Mr. Smith do?

By Lynn Jenkins Galvin

Editor's Note: George Smith, a resident of Pomona since 1929, died last month at the age of 90. He would have been 91 next month. He was a beloved teacher (in Baldwin Park and Webb Schools in Claremont) and friend to many, as was evident at memorial services last week attended by 75 students, friends and neighbors at Pomona's Todd Memorial Chapel. La Nueva Voz safety columnist Jose Bermudez interviewed Smith for a profile story in La Nueva Voz that appeared in our April 25 issue (visit www.lanuevavoz.net, click on past issues, click on April 2019 and scroll down to page 16). The story focused on, among other things, Smith's memories of early Pomona. Bermudez, who attended the services, shared this eulogy with La Nueva Voz, explaining that the writer was a former student who was involved with Smith when he was an adult Girl Scout leader. Bermudez pointed out that while Smith left no immediate surviving relatives other than two cousins, he was remembered by those whose lives he touched. "George was a good man and led a productive life of service that bene-

fited many people," Bermudez said. "I am sorry I did not get to know him sooner."

Fellow followers and admirers of George Smith:

As I am unable to be with you today, I have asked to have my thoughts on George Ulysses Smith's life read aloud. George influenced my life, and, I expect, your lives, too. Always in a positive way.

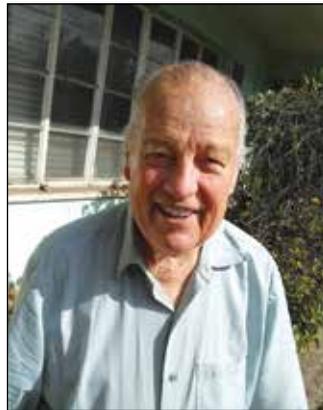
I learned a lot from George Smith in eighth grade math and science, knowledge that helped me prosper way beyond middle school. As a student I watched him create the magic of learning, the application of tolerance and patience, the gift of valuing each and every student, no matter their interest, background, personal hygiene or even their communication skills. (For instance, if you shared that eighth grade class with me in 1957, remember Reino from Finland who didn't speak English? Turned out okay because Mr. Smith spoke math). Students figure out teachers faster than teachers realize, and one thing about George was that he established an immediate reciprocal and respectful learning rapport,

a fun experience, and moments of amazing discovery.

Beyond the classroom, many of us shared another slice of George's influence. As senior Girl Scouts, 24

high school girls camped and traveled with eight adults, including George, on a six-week road trip up and down the Alcan to Alaska in 1960. He was an excellent camper who weathered A LOT of interesting camping moments with us. George survived one night near Anchorage, all the while cracking jokes, when our tents next to a stream ended pretty much in a floating ex-

perience. At another site in a Yukon campground, picture Mr. Smith climbing an electrical pole so he could access electricity to play some rock and roll. He was our



George Smith

group's on-the-road Disc Jockey, and we probably all will associate "Dance with me Henry" with him forever.

We observed, valued, learned from Mr. Smith. George loved keeping up with his students in later life and many of us were fortunate to maintain on-going communication. Truly, he must have had an amazing monthly phone bill. We admired George

Smith and everything he stood for: decency, honesty, hard work, respect, humor and belief in the goodness of mankind. The original Eagle Scout.

He even taught me, and others, how to be teachers. When I needed a job that shared a schedule with my young child, I became a substitute. What I quickly learned was whatever teaching skills I developed came pretty much from Mr. Smith's eighth grade class. As classroom problems identified themselves, I always thought: What would Mr. Smith do?

First, he'd make us laugh. He was an inveterate teller of riddles and puns. His classes typically roared daily. I adopted his humor approach and wrote riddles or jokes on the board. Two of my favorites,

Mr. Smith... pg. 10

Literacy program 'drops out of sky' at Emerson Middle School



Pomona cops and Emerson Middle School kids pose for a group shot with their books in front of a SWAT vehicle at last month's "Exchange a book with a cop" program.

Programs promoting literacy are popping up in the strangest places these days. Last month just such a program actually dropped out of the sky and landed on the playground at Pomona's Emerson Middle School.

Well, it was the Pomona Police Department helicopter that landed and there were a lot of cops already on the ground.

We know what you're thinking – somebody's mom was double parked in the red zone out front? Or the school resource officer wasn't a resourceful as she thought she was and had an outstanding parking ticket – or two?

Nope, it turns out the 15 students who read the most books and performed best on quizzes

were being honored by Pomona's finest in the "Exchange a Book with a Cop" program.

They got a chance to hang out with the cops, get like a really up-close look at the helicopter, and sit in a variety of fancy police vehicles.

Plus, they were able to exchange the books they read for the next books on their reading

lists. And the entire program is going to start all over again this semester.

The goal of the program is to encourage other students to pick up the tempo on reading to develop their most important skill needed for success – literacy.

The program was the idea of Pomona Police Officer Cynthia Jimenez.



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La Nueva Voz interviews its first serious newspaper competitor – and it's a 10-year-old publisher of a school paper!

Now seriously, picture this – a Pomona Unified School District student came up with the idea of starting a school paper, put the entire team together, got an instructional aid to sign on as the paper's advisor and actually got the paper into publication mode and produced its first issue.

And the kid is 10 years old!

La Nueva Voz knew something out of the ordinary was going on when Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez broke protocol and put on his public information officer's hat himself to "pitch" the story to Pomona's only community newspaper.

Martinez, who was clearly impressed with all of this, sat in on the interview conducted at school by Renee Barbee, Vice President of Operations at La Nueva Voz.

We need to kind of set the stage for this one – for example, this budding newspaper magnate – who isn't even supposed to be old enough to stay at home by himself – is making Google "slides" just for fun. Barbee told him she doesn't even do that, and she's in charge of social media operations at La Nueva Voz.

"I'm going to come to you," Martinez said.

So who is this guy? His name is Christopher Garcia Moreno, a fourth grader at Pomona's Barfield Elementary School. And he's in publication, producing the Barfield Times.

A few posters were circulated, and people started signing up for different tasks – illustrations, crossword puzzles, just the sort of things newspapers need, right?

He said he got involved because he always wanted to make a name for himself. He's 10! We've got some wingtips around here that are at least twice that age.

What kind of grades does he get? Pretty much A's and B's (did you know they call them 4's and

because of class response, were (and it's okay to groan):

"Why couldn't the bicycle stand up on its own?" (Because it was two-tired).

"What did the father buffalo say to his son when he left for school?" (Bi-son).

Second, he always required a class to work, as opposed to standing up front, showing and telling. I tried hard not to lecture.

3's now?).

Memo to parents: He said it is really not that hard – the key is paying attention while teachers are talking, something, apparently, everybody doesn't always do.

Barbee asked him how long he's been interested in newspapers and he said always, even though he doesn't read one at home.

Maybe Chris just likes to run newspapers (Christopher, can we call you Chris? Or how about just the old newspaper reference for the boss of "chief?").

Chris said he's wanted to start a newspaper ever since reading the book "Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great," a children's novel by Judy Blume, first published in 1972 (in the book, 10-year-old Sheila Tubman manages to mask her insecurities with a much more self-assured, confident persona).

Apparently, the book worked for Chris – it gave him the courage to give the newspaper club idea a shot.

And, he said, once he floated the idea, a few kids came up to him to ask if they could join him.

"Most of the kids didn't say anything to me," at least until he put the posters up around school.

And now, there is a copy of the first issue hanging where those posters were before.

He is shooting for a staff of 28

Mr. Smith... from pg. 8

Third, and really important because it brought EVERY kid in a classroom into the group, Mr. Smith often picked the least likely to succeed and helped them, one way or another.

I loved George Smith as a teacher and as a friend. I already miss him, miss his corny (but always chuckle-producing) jokes. I know for the rest of my life when I run into a pun my first thought will be to save it



December 2019 Issue 1

Barfield Times

The Start of Something New!

The inside scoop on The Newspaper Club!

You should ALL want to join the Newspaper Club because one, it's really fun. Two, you learn ALL about TEENY TIPS! Three, in club you can be ALL of your ideas out that were scrambling through your mind all day on some paper! Barfield Times started on November 6th, the idea behind The Barfield Times came from our very own Christopher Garcia.

Did you know...

- The Shark has Main Shark's top speed is 41mph.
- They don't generally attack humans.
- They can leap up to 20ft out of the water.
- They live in the water near Australia and New Zealand.
- Short the Mako sharks have big eyes.



Did you know...

- Wind comes from changes in pressure.
- Cirrus clouds are made of ice crystals.
- You can determine freezing rain vs. sleet by the way it hits the ground.
- Hail develops during thunderstorms.



What Teens want for Christmas!

For Christmas, most teens want makeup, electronics or cameras, maybe even candles! Lots of teens want makeup such as lip gloss, lipstick and other makeup. Makeup also comes in different colors like cool neon colors too! Teens like candles because candles have different kinds of smells and come in different colors like blue, pink, purple, white and green. A lot of teens also want phones, the most popular phone right now is the iPhone 11 Pro Max. Some teens even want computers, AirPods, tablets and a Polaroid camera.



Mrs. Robinson

Interviewers: What do you think about Barfield Elementary School?
Mrs. Robinson: I love it—I think it's a great school.

Interviewers: What are your goals for 2020?
Mrs. Robinson: My plans are to assist the elderly.

Interviewers: If you can be any animal what would it be?
Mrs. Robinson: I would be a puppy.

Interviewers: In three words, how would you describe Barfield Elementary School?
Mrs. Robinson: Innovative, awesome, Disneyland!

Interviewers: If you didn't work at Barfield, where would you work?
Mrs. Robinson: I would volunteer to read stories to children in the library.

PAPER, MISTER? -- The Barfield Times is hot off the press -- and the motivated students in the newspaper "club" are already working on Issue No. 2.

to 30, minimum.

"I wanted to cover like global news like any interesting stories... like Trump's getting impeached," Chris said.

for George. He lived his life well, influenced so many people in so many good ways. I feel fortunate to have had him in my life, for he was a man worth knowing. I leave you with one last joke and hope George is listening, as it memorializes the day he taught us about electrical conductivity:

Q: How did Benjamin Franklin feel after discovering electricity?

A: Shocked.

ISSUE NO. 1! -- Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, at left, poses with Barfield Elementary School newspaper publisher Christopher Garcia Moreno in front of a poster-sized version of the "Barfield Times," the school's first official school newspaper, that produced its first edition last month -- all under the leadership and direction of Christopher. And he's 10!

We'd say La Nueva Voz agrees with his assessment – it might take 28 to cover the impeachment proceedings – after all, you've got to give it all the play it deserves, right?

Chris started work on the first issue in the first week of November and his paper was on the street – or in the classrooms – in the first week of December. Good thing, too, since La Nueva Voz always publishes on the fourth Thursday. One less thing to worry about over here.

Then is he heading for a major in journalism when he gets to college?

"I might, but my most wanted

Cal Poly... from pg. 7

students, campus life, technology or facilities.

And the school also was noted for "best undergraduate teaching," tied at No. 9 in the region, and among "top performers on social mobility," also tied at No. 9.

Results were based 35 percent on outcomes, including graduation and retention rates, graduation rate performance and social mobility.

Faculty resources for the 2017-2018 academic year accounted for

career to go in is a media graphics designer," he said. (Sorry kid, we've already got one of those.)

Barbee kept hammering away at where his motivation came from and asked what his parents do for a living.

Turns out his dad's a construction worker and has taken Chris along for the ride a few times, like out to the job in East Riverside.

His mom works nights part time.

Chris says most of the kids seem to like the paper but don't talk about it much or submit very many ideas.

He said most of the kids who talk about ideas for stories are in the group that's working on the paper.

"That's what happens in newspapers, right? You just talk about the ideas?"

Well, um, yep, we'd say he's pretty much got it nailed there.

And he's given some thought to selling ads to help pay expenses and fill up some of those empty spaces.

The newspaper "club" sets up four tables with each table focused on a section of the paper.

Chris calls it the "power of teamwork" (OK, Chief, good plan!).

Then he threw La Nueva Voz a curve ball and said he wanted to start interviewing students who win awards and maybe even interview Pomona's Mayor Tim Sandoval.

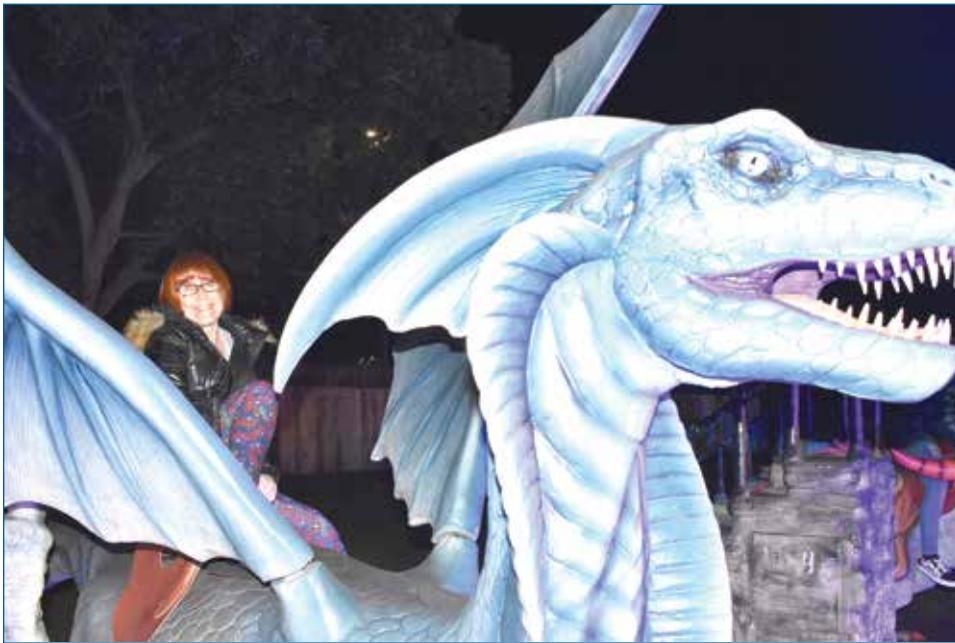
"I want to make this a newspaper for all of Pomona – that's my biggest goal, to put it out to Pomona, spread the word," Chris said.

"My first real competition," Barbee told him at the end of the interview.

Well, maybe not really, but we're definitely going to be keeping an eye on him.

Keep up the good work, Chris.

Chinese Lantern Festival... from pg. 7



Yep, there were lighted floral exhibits everywhere you looked at the Chinese Lantern Festival at Pomona's Fairplex. And if you look carefully at this photo, Renee Barbee hopped up in the saddle of this moving, um, help us here, dragon / dinosaur to get the full experience. And yes, trust us, the operator with the remote in his pocket kept the speed at minimum.

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Cuentito for Today

Last month I went to see my cardiologist, because I had been putting it off for almost six months. He said I needed to have a nuclear heart stress test STAT. I told him I had one of those done about four years ago and I wanted no part of a redo!

The last time I had that done I had a horrible experience. I felt like I was going to die of a heart attack when they injected the radiation into my hand. I nearly passed out and I was having a hard time breathing! My doctor didn't look too happy with my reaction.

That day I drove myself to the hospital, because I had no idea what to expect. Big mistake. But, by the grace of God, that day I made it out of that five-hour ordeal in one piece.

This time I asked my hubby and his brother, Johnny, to come with me in case I had another bad experience. We turned it into a fun seniors' field trip.

We couldn't believe the beautiful view of the mountains on

our way up there. The mountains were breathtaking. They were covered in a massive, ice blanket of snow. I took video and pictures of it all. Johnny took my viejito to breakfast while I was in patient mode.

Preparing my mind for this test was quite difficult for me. I couldn't sleep for weeks thinking about having to go back to do this again. I kept waking up with a full-blown anxiety attack and drenched in perspiration! But this time I had no choice, I had to have the test done, because I have been having chest pains.

We got lost on our way to the imaging center, thanks to Mapquest. I had to be there on time or they'd charge me \$500 for the radiation/isotopes! Thanks to Johnny, we made it right on time!

They called me in pretty quick. My tech guy was stern, but polite. I told him about my last experience, but he let me know that he would not put up with any of my unfounded fears. He put in the IV and immediately I felt dizzy

The Scary Fiasco

By Susie Perales

and felt like I was going to faint and slither right onto the floor! I told him that, and he laughed and said, "Susie, Susie, it's all in your head. You're thinking way too much! You're ok! I haven't even injected the medication into your vein, yet, it's only the IV needle!" I started laughing with him.

He sent me off to relax and fifteen minutes later he asked me to get up on the heart camera table. As I got ready to climb on it the IV fell out of my hand and blood was flying out of my vein. The floor was a mess and so was his hand as he tried to stop the stream of blood.

Then he tells me that he can't stand the sight of blood and that he passed out when his first baby was born. I thought to myself, "he also has fears just like I do." He was laughing with me over that fiasco.

He walked me to the next part of the test and sat me in a chair so I'd feel more comfy. He injected the radiation and told me not to freak out about it. He left for a

few minutes, so, I put my head down on the table to calm myself. I had been up since three in the morning, so, I was really sleepy. He came back in and he freaked out, because he thought I was DEAD! He shook me and asked me to wake up. I told him I was exhausted and he said, "you need to sit up!!" "Open your eyes!" I guess I scared him. HA! Poor guy.

However, if it wasn't for his help, I would have been a much bigger mess. He helped me get through the whole thing. I was a lot braver than I expected to be! I was happy with how he made it much easier to get through than the last time I had to have this done. He was hilarious. His name

is Habib. I made a new friend and I let him know that if I have to do this again, I was going to request him. He told me that his name meant beloved, a good friend and sweet. I told him God sent me the perfect tech.

Update: My husband and all my friends and family have been praying for me. Today I got the call from my cardiologist and he said that he didn't see the old heart attack I had on the results in every other EKG and that I only have a LBBB (left bundle branch block). The right side is fine, so I'm good! My viejito cried with me when we got the news. God has got this!! Thank you to all my friends and family for your prayers!

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Pomona Hope makes a difference in central Pomona – using Christmas cookies and community gardening

Sometimes a non-profit community needs assessment delivers a clear view of what the neighborhood wants. And when you deliver on that kind of a fine-tuned “wish list,” the community just keeps on coming back – as they have for the past 16 years.

Jeff Johannsen, executive director of Pomona Hope, said that’s pretty much what happened with his local non-profit which serves students and their families – originally including residents living in the center of Pomona (about 95 percent come from Pomona) but now some coming from as far as Chino and Montclair.

The “flagship” program, Johannsen said, is the after-school program which is open Monday through Thursday. Students can come in for help with their homework from volunteer college students or retirees, and they receive a healthy meal.

Then, depending on the day of the week, participants select from a rotation of activities – anything from fitness training in the gym, garden classes at Center Street Community Garden across the street, art classes and even STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classes.

For junior high and high school students, Pomona Hope even offers college success classes because, while all of their students are first generation and their parents are very supportive, they don’t always know the answers to the questions or what resources are available.

He said they even offer a “Campus Crash” program for high school students during spring

break – the kids tour at least one University of California campus, one Cal State campus, one private school and one community college.

“The hope is that they can then sort of envision themselves in a place like that,” Johannsen said. The kids eat in a dining room, see what a dorm room looks like, and get an idea of the difference between a class of 20 and a class of 300.

“So, they kind of say, hey, this is the kind of environment I’m excited about,” he added.

Johannsen said Pomona Hope was founded 16 years ago (the after-school program has been there for 13 years) by a group including a lot of recent Claremont Colleges graduates who were interested in forming a non-profit that could make a long-lasting, positive change in the city. The first three years included a lot of grass roots organizing and walking around the community asking what people needed.

He said high on the list were things like they didn’t feel safe at night in the central city area, so representatives went to the Pomona Planning Commission to get

streetlights installed.

They also worked to help control a local smoke shop that offered drug paraphernalia for sale, and they worked with the Pomona Police Department to help break up a local drug and prostitution ring.

Johannsen said that was what the community told them they wanted “so that’s what we do” – even though the original plan was just games in the gym and help with homework.

Other things came later based on community interest – like working in that community garden, creating a parenting workshops program and a summer enrichment program.

They even had their own annual Christmas party last month.

Johannsen said transportation is always a challenge so most walk or ride a bike or carpool to get to Pomona Hope.

His own daughter is in the program and gets dropped off by her carpool.

Sound pretty good so far? Then how does a place like Pomona Hope get funded?

“Over half of our funding is coming from individual donors –

54 percent – and about a quarter is coming from a variety of corporate and foundation grants,” Johannsen said.

Just under 10 percent is church support, under 10 is corporate support and seven percent comes from contributions from board members.

Pomona Hope has three full-time paid staff members, three part-time paid staff members (a garden coordinator, a grant writer and a bookkeeper) and a lot of volunteers – as many as 90 throughout the year but five or 10 on any given day.

And those high school students we mentioned? Those kids spend part of their day functioning as volunteers, too, helping run programs for the others, tutoring kids, teaching success classes and more.

“They are giving back – for them, they really like that because it’s giving back for most of them to a center that they grew up in and now it’s their turn to kind of give back,” Johannsen said. “They knew how much it meant to them as a kid.”

It seems to mean something to Johannsen, as well – he stepped down off the board seven years ago (after serving on the board for two years) to take a paid staff position as a program director. He was named executive director about a year and a half ago.

Johannsen, who is a resident of Pomona, previously had been

working for a similar organization in Santa Ana. Today, he is active in the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and uses that as a resource for referrals when parents of his kids have a need in a specific area.

Other programs going on at Pomona Hope include performance arts groups producing presentations for parents and the community, a parent open house at the end of summer, trick or treating for Halloween and this year, for the first time, arranging for some grant funding for a Thanksgiving feast featuring a catered meal served on a long table set up in the gym.

And that Christmas party we mentioned? They had every detail down to the cookie decorating. But instead of gifts for the kids, the kids were able to spend “dollars” they earned by doing homework so they could “buy” a holiday present from the Christmas “store” for mom and dad.

The mission of Pomona Hope, a community-driven, faith-based non-profit, is to empower people of all backgrounds, particularly at-risk youth and their families, to work together toward personal and community transformation.

It is located at 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona.

For more information, visit the web site at www.pomonahope.org.

Editor’s note: Renee Barbee conducted the interview for this story.

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Diamond Bar student wins best female athlete award



L'Mio Asia Edwards

L'Mio Asia Edwards, a student at Chaparral Middle School in Diamond Bar, was honored this month as the 2019 Outstanding Girl by the Southern California Association of the U.S.A. Track and Field.

She received the honor at an awards banquet in Lakewood.

Edwards is a member of the Chico Pumas Youth Track Club.



AND IT IS OFFICIAL! -- The ribbon was cut and Hilltop's Jamaican Market and Restaurant A1 was an official member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce. Pictured, beginning at fourth from left, are Francine Dixon, niece of the owner; Fatimah Hylton, daughter of the owner; and with the scissors owner Veronica Hylton; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanaras; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Ronald Hylton, the owner's son; Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Victor Preciado; and Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, Chamber Board member Michael Thomas, and Chamber Executive Board member Jill Reiff.



FIRST THE SPEECHES -- Everybody in town -- from Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval to members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce -- turned out this month to welcome Hilltop's Jamaican Market and Restaurant A1 to the chamber with an official ribbon cutting. First, of course, came the speeches and presentations. And everybody learned the restaurant had been there for 27 years of Jamaican, yeah mon! The restaurant is at 1061 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, (909) 629-6407.

Pomona Optimists to hold 'Sip and Paint' fundraiser to support youth programs and scholarships

The Pomona Optimist Club will sponsor another "Sip and Paint" fundraiser next month combining mimosas with artistic talent at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts.

Session 1 is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., lunch is from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and Session 2 is from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23.

The menu includes mimosas (including a non-alcoholic version), light lunch, coffee and desserts.

Cost is \$35 and includes materials for painting, lunch, drinks and one free raffle ticket.

All proceeds will go toward the Pomona Optimist Club youth programs and scholarships.

For tickets, contact www.facebook.com/pomonabreakfastoptimistclub/ or e-mail ericbyjung@gmail.com.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

The dA Center is located at 252 S. Main St., Suite D, Pomona.

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LA County Fair shifts to later night hours for cooler temperatures to improve guest experience

In an effort to battle the impact of high temperatures on attendance at the LA County Fair, officials are shifting the hours to open later and close later on Wednesdays and Thursdays to give fairgoers a chance to visit during cooler parts of the day.

And the cost of admission will remain the same for the fourth consecutive year.

On the theme "We light the night: Experience the glow," this year's fair will transform the fairgrounds from "retro futurism" during the day to an illuminated experience of the future at night, complete with high-voltage programming featuring lighted art installations and expanded entertainment.

Opening weekend admission (Sept. 4 to 7) for all guests will be \$10 when purchased online – a 50 percent discount on regular weekend adult prices, according to a Fairplex news release.

"The LA County Fair is an end-of-summer tradition – with our 2020 theme, we are creating a whole new experience of curated programming for evening enjoyment that is sure to engage the senses," said Fairplex

President and CEO Miguel Santana. "And with the special admission for opening weekend that is accessible to all, it's a great value for everyone."

Fair dates this year are Sept. 4 to 27 and Pomona Day is on opening day as is the tradition. Pomona residents can purchase \$1 admission tickets online. La Verne Day will be Sept. 11. And senior day will move to Fridays, with seniors ages 60 and older receiving free admission from noon to 4 p.m.

The Fair Value Menu, implemented two years ago, will continue with each food vendor offering one special item at a reduced price of \$6.50.

Regular hours for the fair this year will be 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, 4 to 11 p.m. Thursdays, noon to midnight Fridays, 11 to midnight Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

Last year, the LA County Fair saw the hottest temperatures on record. Even so, last year's theme "Fair Goes Pop!" received its highest guest ratings ever.

For more information, visit www.lacountyfair.com.



Sunday School teachers from Prince of Peace Church in Pomona held a Christmas event for the residents of Rose Villa Mobile Home Park. The festivities included a holiday dinner, music, games and distribution of toys for children, all made possible by generous donations of church members. "The book of Proverbs tells us not to withhold good from those to whom it is due. We are only practicing the true meaning of Christmas," said Sunday School director Patricia Luna (pictured above, front row, left) Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St. in Pomona. For more information, please call (909) 235-2943.



Cal Poly Foundation state-of-the-art eight 'platform' dining commons in the center of Pomona campus opens to the public

Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Inc., opened a new 35,000 square foot dining commons this week that will seat about 680 in eight dining "platforms" with food stations featuring items such as hand-made tortillas, a sushi bar, a salad bar featuring Cal Poly University Pomona grown produce, a carving station and plenty of vegan, gluten-

free, allergen-free and vegetarian options.

The new facility, known as Centerpointe Dining Commons, also will offer coffee beverages, smoothies, slushes and more.

It is open to the public and has a specialty late-night dining area with a 10 by 15-foot video screen for additional food service hours

and events. It also includes three private reservable dining rooms for faculty, staff, resident and non-resident students.

Menu boards at each platform will be web-based and mobile-friendly and will highlight nutritional information, allergens and food preference mapping, according to a news release.

In addition, each menu will contain a nutrition tool for customers to determine what food options best fit their nutritional needs and goals.

A grand opening celebration filled with food, entertainment and more was scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

Centerpointe is located at the

core of the Cal Poly campus at 3801 Temple Ave., Building 72, Pomona.

For more information, visit the web site at centerpointedining.com.

The Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Inc., operates as a nonprofit auxiliary of the California State University.

A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairpex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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From Vietnam refugee to educator at Cal Poly, Martin Luther King, Jr. program keynoter tells young people they have the power to change their circumstances

Cal Poly University Pomona's Dr. Lily Gossage fled Vietnam with her mother as a child in April 1975 after the fall of Saigon when remaining Americans were being evacuated.

Her mother was a civilian employee of the U.S. government and had seats arranged on a military aircraft – the “last flight out” – but the flight left without them, forcing Gossage and about 100 others to flee the country by sea on a barge which became their home for seven days.

She and her family had with them only two suitcases and several handbags carrying all their remaining belongings.

“For seven days and six nights as a child, I remember licking powdered milk from the palm of my mother’s hands,” Gossage said. “I remember her strong arms encircling me and I remember the shrieking sound of people crying, mothers looking for their lost children, I remember how cold it was, and that it rained.”

They were rescued by the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier U.S.S. Midway that took them to Guam. They were airlifted to Camp Pendleton where they lived in a temporary refugee camp for more than a year.

Today, she is a respected educator serving as director of the “Maximizing Engineering Potential” Center for Gender, Diversity and Student Excellence at Cal Poly’s College of Engineering.

Yet she told an audience of several hundred Sunday night in Pomona that she believes it was the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that made it possible for her to find a new home in the U.S.

Her comments came in the keynote address at the 38th annual Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project Celebration at Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church, this year on the theme “The Reverend Dr. King’s 20/20 Vision.”

Gossage had literally just returned from a two-week visit to Vietnam this weekend – her first visit back since leaving 45 years ago – and a delayed connection flight turned her 14½ hour flight back into a tighter schedule than she had planned – after taking her



Dr. Lily Gossage

80-year-old mother to their homeland to visit recently discovered family gravesites and to visit with their last surviving relative still living in the country.

She called Vietnam a war-torn developing country where the majority of the people continue to live in poverty even today.

And she said she reflected on that comparison during her flight back to her own experiences as a refugee growing up in the U.S., which she called a complete, prosperous country of freedom and opportunity.

After all of that, Gossage shared a quote from King who, she said, was one of the first historical figures she learned about in grade school in Long Beach.

“Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred,” King said in the quote she said is both timeless and meaningful to her.

“As you can imagine, having fled your country of origin, leaving your

home, the rest of your family, your way of life, leaving everything that you have ever known and traversing to the unknown, to a land that you are not familiar with is a traumatic experience,” she said.

She said she shared her story with the audience, especially the young people in the audience, for two reasons.

“Firstly, whatever painful experience you have in your life, you must believe there is always a way out and up,” she said. “If you hit rock bottom, then you can only go up from there.”

“You are stronger than you know, braver than you feel,” she said.

“Secondly, everyone has a history, so please take time to explore your past, for history can be a great teacher and a source of wisdom,” Gossage added. “For my family, the end of life that we knew in Vietnam was the start of new life in the United



Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Award 2020 winners are, from left, Salma Rashad, Diamond Bar High School; Tirenoluwa Oyenusi, Chino Hills High School; Gustava Drew, Diamond Bar High School; and Taelen Cobb, Pomona High School.

States of America. Whenever life tears you asunder, step forward from the regress and know that opportunity is around the corner.”

“We shape our own reality, we have the power to change our circumstances,” she said.

“Building peace in a war-torn country is a formidable challenge but building peace within ourselves takes only our will not to fight,” Gossage said.

And she encouraged the young people in the audience to practice steps daily for creating inner peace in the spirit of King.

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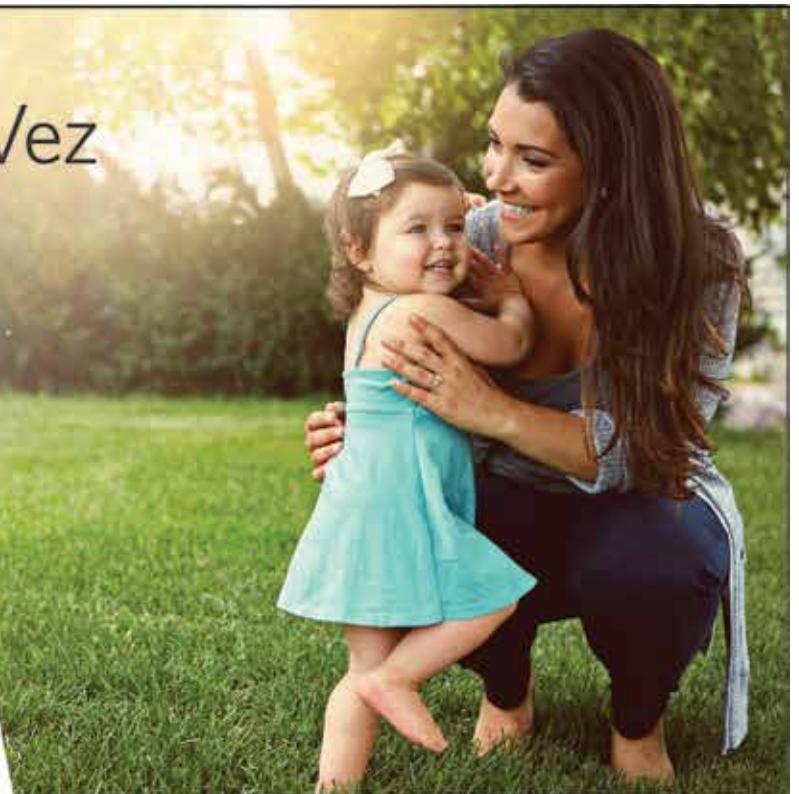
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