

Cleveland investigative reporter honored for her impact on reducing nation's backlog of rape kits

Hundreds of thousands of untested rape kits are backlogged in police storage facilities across the country due to budget or staffing issues – rape kits that otherwise could be used to help take serial offenders off the street.

This startling statistic surfaced this month in Ontario at

the annual Southwest Conference Against Trafficking, presented at the Ontario Airport Hotel and Conference Center by the National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation.

This year's 2018 National Journalism Impact Award was presented at the conference to

Rachel Dissell, an investigative reporter with "The Plain Dealer" newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio, where she has devoted her career to covering violence against women and children involving sexual assault, domestic violence and teen dating violence.

Melissa Schwartz, of the Joyful Heart Foundation, nominated



OHIO REPORTER RECEIVES TRAFFICKING HONOR -- Rachel Dissell, at left, an investigative reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, receives the 2018 National Journalism Impact Award from Michelle Bart, President and Co-Founder of the National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation at this month's annual Southwest Conference in Ontario.

governments and no federal agencies require that police departments count or track the kits in their possession," Schwartz said. "Yet too often the decision is made not to test those kits."

Schwartz said in addition to a lack of resources, there is "an unwillingness among many law enforcement agencies to prioritize and dedicate sufficient resources to sexual assault cases and to treat sexual assault as the serious crime that it is."

Dissell for the award.

The Joyful Heart Foundation has worked nationwide advocating for funding to test the backlog of kits which provide evidence used in investigating and prosecuting rape cases.

"We don't even know the number (of backlogged rape kits) because only some state

ous crime that it is."

She added that more than with any other crime, members of law enforcement frequently disbelieve or even blame the victims of sexual assault.

She said her organization is working to launch a national campaign to pass comprehensive

Reporter honored... pg. 10

Cal Poly's Dr. Soraya Coley calls on young people at Martin Luther King celebration to have mindset of 'inspiration and hope'

"Up from a past that's rooted in pain I rise."

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

Excerpted from "Still I Rise" By Dr. Maya Angelou

Setting the tone of her Martin Luther King Jr. celebration address based on the words of the poet Dr. Maya Angelou, Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley told an audience of 500 – many of them students – that the words of the poem "Still I Rise" are "so simple yet profound."

"While they acknowledge the pain and the harsh reality, they also capture the struggles of the movement, the social justice led by Dr. King," she said.

"But as with Dr. King's own words, 'even in the face of hate, bigotry and hurt, there is



Dr. Soraya Coley

hope, a vision and a call for us to not despair," she said, adding that "Dr. King said only in the darkness can you see the stars."

Coley was the keynote speaker last week at the 36th annual celebration presented by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project, hosted by Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Coley posed a question to the young people in the audience, after hearing messages of "rising above the pain, the struggle, the bigotry and exclusion... why do we rise?"

"Why in the face of all that

King celebration... pg. 2

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King celebration... from pg. 1

has happened to each of us, personally, maybe in our homes, our jobs, our community, why do we still rise," she said.

And, she pointed out, "rising is not guaranteed," as she outlined four chief elements "that enable our rising."

"The first is our self-perception, that is how do we see ourselves," Coley said. "Are you confident but not arrogant, do you believe that regardless of the circumstances you are in that with fierce determination, discipline and high expectations that you can accomplish your goals?"

Coley told the story of Harriet Tubman, known as the most famous "conductor" of the "Underground Railroad" that helped slaves from 1810 to 1860 escape to freedom in the north.

Tubman was known for making 19 trips leading hundreds of slaves to the north.

Coley questioned what it was that led her to continually go back into the slavery system of the south risking her life or her own re-enslavement to bring others out.

"I believe that while her physi-

cal body was in slavery when she was beaten and punished like others, but she did not see herself as a slave," Coley said. "Her self-perception was that 'I may be in physical bondage but I, my mind, my thoughts are not that of a slave.'"

The second element, Coley said, is that "we rise through our faith – our faith gives us strength and it inspires us to rise, it provides direction and energy."

"Dr. Martin Luther King said faith is taking the first step even when we can't see the whole staircase," Coley said. "So through our faith we are trusting the unseen and knowing without the evidence."

Coley explained that the third element is very much aligned with the theme of this year's celebration, which was "Difficult times make us a stronger community."

"For even in the midst of closed doors or rejections, we rise because we give and we receive the support of our families and our community," Coley



Members of the Inland Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Ontario perform at this month's Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project celebration at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church.



ZENNIE CUMMINGS AWARD -- Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, at left, in her 25th year as senior minister at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, is presented this year's Zennie Cummings Award by Maggie Green at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. She was honored for her "continuous commitment and recognition of our youth and their work in social justice in our community." The award is presented each year to individuals who through beliefs and thoughts are continuing the commitment of the legacy of Dr. King. Green said the award this year "goes to someone who has opened their heart and their doors for 25 plus years." The event has long been held at Pilgrim Congregational Church.



SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD WINNERS

-- Seven students received "Youth Social Justice" awards this month at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration presented by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church. The winners, pictured from left, are BiJohn Stevenson of Pomona's Garey High School; Bryan Brown, a student at UC Santa Barbara; Destinee Hunter, a student at Cal State University Fullerton; Melvin Houston III, a student at Diamond Bar High School, Brahma Teach Academy and Project Lead the Way Stem Program; Ivan Hernandez, a student at Pomona High School; Alena Reed, a student at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School; and Cassidy Sparks, Claremont High School.



and support," children who don't have access to healthy and stable environment, or do not have adequate schooling, health care or they don't feel safe are more likely to grow up with fewer options for social and economic security and advancement."

"But it is through our leaders across all sectors joined with parents and community and working together that progress and achievement can occur," she said.

"As Cesar Chavez once said, we cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about the progress and prosperity for our community," Coley said. "Our

said. "Often we can feel alone or disconnected from others as we face challenging and difficult times."

She described the "despair and hope balance" – with the feeling of defeat and despair on one end and hope and determination on the other.

"And the difference often comes in whether you feel connected to a community of caring

circumstances."

"Dr. King stated that whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly," she added. "I could never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

"The final element that enables us to rise is the access and opportunity provided by society," Coley said. "We know that

ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and the needs of others."

She linked that concept to her work as President of Cal Poly.

"We see our role is to work in partnership throughout the region to foster aspirations and build expectations and work with families, communities and schools so that our young people

King celebration...pg. 14

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New executive director to join Pomona's Bright Prospect

Health care and education veteran Elizabeth Zamora will take over the helm of Pomona's Bright Prospect next month as its second executive director, succeeding Stephanie Campbell who is retiring after 16 years as the organization's founding executive director.

Zamora will join Bright Prospect on Feb. 20, according to a news release.

"I am excited for the opportunity to lead Bright Prospect into the future and build on the accomplishments it has already achieved," Zamora said. "As a first generation college student myself, I look forward to working with Bright Prospect's remarkable students and our community partners, and to continue the development of the organization which serves such an important role."

In health care, she previously worked as executive director of Women's and Children's Health Development at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and as executive director of development and alumni

relations at the UCLA School of Nursing.

And in the field of education, she worked to improve academic achievement at public schools by raising funds for academic intervention programs, programs to increase parent capacity and the construction of new schools.

She currently serves as a board trustee at the Westside Neighborhood School and is a past board member of Bright Star Schools, both in Los Angeles.

Zamora was the elected chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee for City Council District 11 in Los Angeles, and served as the legislative officer for the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality Political Action Committee.

She is a graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont and received a master's of business administration degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu.

"We are thrilled for Elizabeth to join us," said Eric Garen, founder and board chair of Bright Prospect. "After an

executive recruitment process that was both extensive and intensive, Elizabeth stood head and shoulders above a very strong field of finalists."

"She has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the non-profit sector, proven leadership and fundraising experience, and a real passion for Bright Prospect's mission," Garen added.

Campbell will continue to work as a consultant to Bright Prospect and will be the honoree at Bright Prospect's annual gala scheduled for April 20 at the Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont.

Bright Prospect empowers low-income, first-generation students to get to and through college. The organization serves more than 2,200 high school and college students from Pomona and Ontario.

More than 86 percent of Bright Prospect's students complete at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 11 percent of similar low-income, first-generation students nationally.

Pomona's Palm Lake Golf Course expected to re-open!

Attention golfers! Pomona's city-owned Palm Lake Golf Course is expected to re-open in the next three to six months following the Pomona City Council's approval last month of a contract with a Chino company.

And the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps is already hiring young adults as corps members to help clean up and maintain the facility.

City councilmembers last month – on a motion by Adriana Robledo that was seconded by Ginna Escobar – voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving the lease agreement with Chino Development League for use and operation of the golf course.

The initial lease term will be a 20-year lease at \$1 per year, automatically renewable for three additional five-year terms but canceled if Chino Development fails to invest at least \$100,000 in capital improvements into the property.

Danny Oaxaca, founder and director of the Corps, said a partnership with Chino Development will enable the Conservation Corps to create a new career path for young adults ages 18 to 25 looking for a second chance.

He said Corps members are able to get paid while they work and learn.

Chino Development will be responsible for all maintenance and operational costs of the facility. And, should the golf course become profitable to the point that \$150,000 or more is generated in net profit in any year, the city would receive 10

percent of the net profit.

The new operator will be responsible for all water and maintenance costs associated with the golf course.

The 56-year-old nine-hole par three golf course, driving range and vacant snack shop closed a year ago after an unsuccessful three-year attempt by Pedro Gonzalez, a teacher at Pomona's Madison Elementary School, to revitalize the course on a cost-effective basis.

Chino Development plans to fully rehabilitate the golf course, pro shop and restaurant, install new netting for the driving range and course, new irrigation systems, upgraded greens and fairways and a replacement for the abandoned lake, and repave the parking lot and make repairs to all course lighting.

And the city's water department has plans to provide recycled water to the golf course to reduce the facility's impact on the environment.

Once open, the course will be open seven days a week until 10 p.m. (later on weekends) with nine holes (weekday adult non-members) for \$10 or \$11 on weekends. Members and Pomona residents would play for \$8 on weekdays and \$9 on weekends.

Chino Development, a 25-year-old company owned by Pomona resident Celso Palafox, also owns Fox Nurseries which recently completed the beautification project along Garey Avenue, the Fairplex and Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.

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The Big Fall - Cuentito By Susie Perales

On December 11th, this last year, my honey woke me up begging me to take him to the Dollar Tree in Chino. He wanted to buy Christmas lights for next Christmas. I told him, “ay hombre, at least wait till this holiday ends, geesh.” “But

they are going to be on sale,” he said. “Sale?!” I thought. “Aren’t they always on sale for \$1.00!”

I reluctantly started my daily routine so we could go on this little trek. I guess the Black Friday frenzy must have been his motivation

to go shopping.

The truth is my sweetie is a shopaholic and he’s like a kid when he’s in the stores around town, especially on Christmas. I can’t resist the look on his face when he gets his favorite toys. We got to the parking lot and I got lucky. I got a handicapped parking spot right in front of our destination. I hopped out of the car and gingerly made my way toward the store. My honey was right behind me.

I suddenly felt like my feet were going on their own toward the plate glass window next to the Dollar Tree. I was falling and trying to stop my fall, but instead I saw myself racing to the window. I thought to myself, “what the heck is happening to me, am I going for the gold medal, or what?!” The next thing I knew I crashed full force into the metal frame around the glass window. My head and forehead split wide open! I fell back and my honey came to my rescue. I stuck my four fingers into my wound and felt my bare skull. My next thought was—“I’m dying here in front of the dang Dollar Tree!”

That’s when I started to fervently pray out loud to God! I was losing consciousness and everything looked blurry. My honey bunny held my hand and reassured me I wasn’t going to die. He was my hero that day. He was giving orders like he was General Patton! Two people showed up who said they were nurses. In minutes someone covered my huge gash to stop the bleeding.

The ambulance got there quick. They dropped me off at the ER and the doctor ordered one of the ER nurses to put a neck brace on me.

Then I had to face the next step. STITCHES! The numbing shots never numbed my head so I felt every stitch. The pain was excruciating and worse than the pain from the fall. At least that’s what it felt like at the time.

As usual, after the ordeal was over, I started making jokes about this horrific day. I had my son, Danny and his wife, Lori and my hubby laughing. I was laughing at myself. Hey, everyone looks hilarious when they are desperately trying hard not to fall. And I must

have been a sight running to get into the store through the window!

The next day I decided to get in the tub and relax my twisted muscles. My knee was a mess. I wrapped it up in plastic to keep it dry. But when it was time to get out – I couldn’t get out of the tub! My arm and back hurt so bad I had no strength to pull myself out! I banged on the wall and yelled for help. Luckily, my babe was in the house. I felt so embarrassed as I sat there shriveled up like a prune.

My hour glass figure went poof when my ‘El Macho’ man came to pull me out like I was Dumbo! Too bad I couldn’t just fly out of the dang tub by myself! It’s not easy to suck in your gut when you’re an old abuelita.

As I sat stuck in the tub I had visions of the fire department coming to help my babe pull me out of the tub. I thought, “OMG, not in my old, withered, bruised body!” So I screamed like a mother giving birth and told my honey to pull harder and get me the hell out of there!

Editors note: We are glad our friend Susie is feeling better!



VISITING HIS HIGH SCHOOL COACH -- Kammy Delp, at left, who plays offensive guard for the Pac-12 Oregon State University Beavers, stopped by Pomona’s Village Academy High School this month while home in Pomona over the holidays to visit with his former Diamond Ranch High School football coach Roddy Layton, now assistant principal at Village Academy (and yes, the two are holding last month’s copy of La Nueva Voz). Delp, who graduated from Diamond Ranch in 2014, is looking forward to going into his senior year this year and is already thinking about moving on to the NFL after graduation. And, at 6 feet 4 inches tall and 335 pounds, he should expect a lot of offers. For now, he has already earned his first degree in sociology. Delp, who wears a Number 51 jersey for the Beavers, played for Coach Layton for three years at Diamond Ranch.

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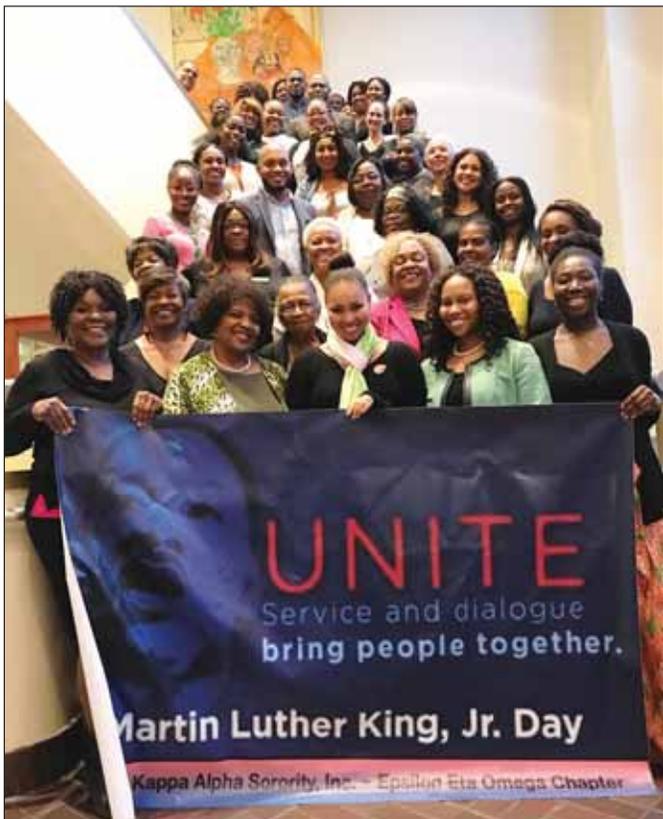
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Alpha Kappa Alpha hosts annual 'MLK Day of Service Sunday Supper'

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of diversity in community interaction, fellowship and camaraderie, two local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority hosted their seventh annual MLK Day of Service Sunday Supper this month at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont.

A diverse group of more than 60 community members from the Pomona Valley area discussed issues impacting society, viewed a slideshow of images chronicling the history of black people in America and saw a video of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The event was co-hosted by the Epsilon Eta Omega and Sigma Rho Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, with guests including



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY SUPPER -- Participants at the seventh annual Martin Luther King Day of Service Sunday Supper pose for a group photo at Claremont Graduate University.

Dr. Denise Hayes, Vice President for Student Affairs of the Claremont University Consortium, U.S. Army Major Christol McFadden, Toni Hughes of the Buy Black Movement, and Tammy Martin-Ryles, President of

the Black Chamber of Commerce-Inland Empire.

Sorority members continued the celebration the following morning on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day with a breakfast and clothing drive at the Pomona Valley Christian Center, in partnership with Webb Family Enterprises/McDonald's and the Farm Store at Cal Poly Pomona.

More than 100 men and women in transition from winter shelter were provided breakfast sandwiches, beverages and fresh fruit, along with clothing and toiletry

items.

It was the group's 11th year of sponsoring "A Day On, Not A Day Off" on Martin Luther King Day as a community service effort commemorating King's legacy.

Cleopatre Thelus, a post-graduate student at Claremont Graduate School, and Shannon Jones, a graduate of Cal Poly University Pomona, co-chaired the event.



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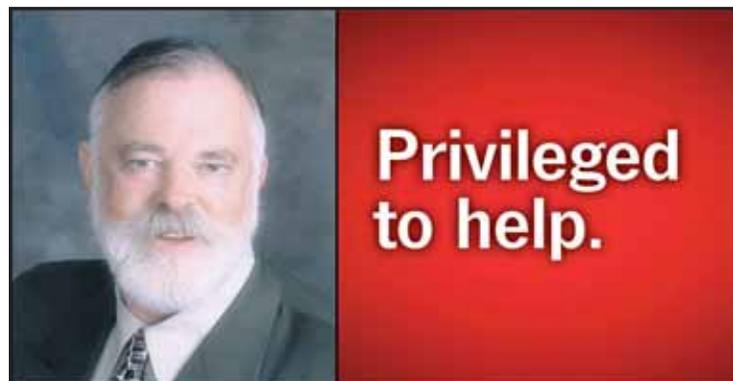
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Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at center, help promoters of the show cut the ribbon to officially open this month's two-day Asian American Expo at Fairplex.



REACHING OUT AT ASIAN AMERICAN EXPO -- The Pomona Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Cal Poly University Pomona and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce teamed up this month to represent the Pomona community at this year's Asian American Expo at Fairplex. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board members David McElwain of the Los Angeles Office of Education GAIN program and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Dao Hua Gordon, a career development program specialist with GAIN (Greater Avenues for Independence); and Dr. Charlene Ashton, associate director of program development, College of the Extended University, at Cal Poly Pomona.

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ASIAN AMERICAN EXPO 2018 AT FAIRPLEX -- Pomona's Fairplex hosted the two-day 2018 Asian American Expo this month featuring exhibition halls, more than 1,000 exhibitors, on-going on-stage performances and food courts. Originally founded in 1982 as the Chinese Business Exhibition with only 60 exhibitors, it was re-named the Chinese American Expo and, more recently, the Asian American Expo to reflect the diverse ethnic backgrounds participating today. The event is held at the beginning of the year as a "New Year" celebration ahead of the Chinese New Year to showcase the market potential of Asian goods. Pictured are participants in a "Happy New Year" parade making its way through Fairplex, featuring marchers in costume, banging the drum and beating the gong.

GOOD LUCK WITH MONEY

-- Everything was on sale at the Asian American Expo at Fairplex this month -- from imported ceramics and jewelry to vibrating pod-like massage chairs. But this booth caught the attention of La Nueva Voz -- not only were there plenty of colorful decorative items but those little hanging things with the red tassels -- complete with several imitation Chinese gold coins -- bring good luck with money. And, the nice lady told La Nueva Voz, they are guaranteed. (Well, one of them worked right away -- for the vendor -- since La Nueva Voz paid \$3 to give it a try. It is hanging on the mirror in the official La Nueva Voz news van, so we'll keep you posted on how it works out.)



Thousands of visitors attended this year's event and the Pomona Police Department issued a special traffic advisory due to the congestion -- and tram crossing activity -- along White Avenue.



SPECIALIZING IN BONE CHINA CERAMICS -- Ceramics were on display at the Asian American Expo at Fairplex this month. This booth, Jingdezhen Rongyuan Ceramics LLC, based in China but with a local office in Hacienda Heights, even provides custom design work.



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Reporter honored... from pg. 1

rape kit reform legislation in all 50 states, and has established six “pillars of reform” including mandating annual statewide inventory to monitor progress, and providing survivors with the right to receive information about the status of the rape kits.

To date, she said, only eight states nationwide have laws on the books mandating the testing of both backlogs and new rape kits.

Only one state, Texas, has enacted legislation covering all six “pillars.”

California, meanwhile, has adopted legislation for only two of the pillars, and those laws were passed only last year.

She said California law does not require law enforcement agencies to count, track or test rape kits.

“In fact, we have no idea how big the backlog is here in California,” Schwartz said, referring an audience of about 100 to the endthebacklog.org web site to view the status of individual states.

Actually, Pomona Police Department Capt. Mike Ellis, who heads the department’s investigative services section, told La Nueva Voz a new law went into effect this month in California requiring tracking of rape kits

using a statewide database.

He said Pomona is in good shape on rape kits and really has no backlog at all – just 10 kits that are currently being processed or are in line for processing.

“We’re fortunately on top of it,” Ellis said.

Pomona relies on the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department crime lab for the actual processing, he said. That lab is available to all police agencies in the county.

“We have made a tremendous amount of progress in the Southwest this year, actually more than any other region combined, and I believe that with advocacy and support we can get these other states to join Texas in providing true accountability and full reform,” Schwartz said, adding that first they need legislation mandating tracking and testing of every kit.

Schwartz said Dissell published an eight-part series 10 years ago about a teen who was sexually assaulted and then shot in the face by an abusive ex-boyfriend, an incident that helped lead to change in two Ohio laws.

“In the wake of Rachel’s reporting, Cleveland’s police chief began sending the kits to a state lab for testing and Ohio’s at-

torney general issued an open call for other departments to follow suit in sending their older untested kits,” Schwartz said.

“To date, 13,931 kits have been submitted and are projected to be tested this year,” she added. “Her work has become a model for how reporters can become agents for change.”

Dissell thanked the National Women’s Co-



WALK AGAINST EXPLOITATION -- Walkers pose for the camera on the final day of the National Women’s Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation trafficking conference before beginning their eighth annual “Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Walk,” sponsored by San Bernardino County’s Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation. Pictured, from left, are Donna Bart, Social Enterprise Director for the coalition; President and Co-Founder Michelle Bart, and Dr. Gloria Arroyo-Grubbs and Carmen McKibben, both presenters at the conference and members of the League of United Latin American Citizens. More than 900 supporters registered for the walk and about 400 participated.



Celebrity Gloria Loring performs her well-known theme from “The Facts of Life” television show at the gala dinner for this month’s human trafficking conference presented by the National Women’s Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation. Loring served as the evening’s master of ceremonies and was the honorary chair of the event.

Singer and actress Gloria Loring says recent sexual abuse claims are result of people saying ‘enough’

Singer and actress Gloria Loring, honorary chair of this month’s Southwest Conference Against Trafficking in Ontario, believes women today are going public with their claims of sexual abuse against politicians, actors and producers because it “reaches a point at which people say enough.”

Loring, who co-composed and sang the “Facts of Life” television theme song among others, and who played “Liz Chandler” on “Days of Our Lives,” told La Nueva Voz in an interview that sometimes women “blank out” abuse, as she did.

She said she was the victim of “inappropriately sexualized contact with my father when he was drunk when I was three” but did not begin the healing process until she was in her 40s.

“I certainly understand the shame and the reticence – women hold this information about what happened to them for decades because they know that no one will believe them or they will be talking about men of power who just elbow their way sexually through the female population and take whatever they want,” she said.

Loring, a resident of Lake Arrowhead, said “enough women come forward that even though others don’t want to believe it, there are enough people who say ‘wait a minute.’”

Asked if the legal system is doing its job, she said it is hard for her to say “but people have to press charges and a lawyer has to say you have a case.”

“It’s not perfect but at least we have it,” she added. “There

are countries where you can get away with raping a 13-year-old if you marry her.”

And on “sexting,” she said young women “don’t understand what they are doing.”

“I’m sure it’s exciting and titillating and they think, like, they are something really special and what they are doing is demeaning themselves and they don’t understand and they will find out,” she said.

“Very often some of these kids are not getting the kind of love and attention that they need at home, so it’s the attention they are going for, but they are getting the attention inappropriately and eventually it wears on their spirit and their soul,” Loring said.

She was asked about Pomona **People saying ‘enough’... pg. 13**

alition Against Violence and Exploitation for “the work that you guys do in raising awareness and helping people find their children, help prevent trafficking.”

She also thanked the group for honoring journalists “at a time when beating up on them is sometimes a little more in vogue.”

“In this movement to end sexual assault and exploitation, I really do think that we all have a role to play,” Dissell said.

The coalition began honoring journalists in 2010 to recognize excellence of a journalist who uses the power of media to high-

light on-going violence through coverage of news with local, national and international significance.

The National Women’s Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation is a volunteer-operated national non-profit organization headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, with offices in Washington, Oregon and California that works to inform, educate and prevent violence and exploitation against women and children nationally and internationally.

La Nueva Voz was the “official media partner” at the event.



STEREO CHICKENS -- The Stereo Chickens perform at this month’s human trafficking conference in Ontario. Pictured, from left, are Tom Walters, Cynthia Ford and Ken McMeans, founder of the group. McMeans, a resident of Morro Bay, told the story of how he and his wife were introduced to the National Women’s Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation missing children’s division when their 16-year-old daughter Emily went missing. He credited the Coalition and President and Co-Founder Michelle Bart for helping bring Emily home after reaching more than three million people through social media and providing counseling and support to the family. “The work that this organization and people like Michelle Bart do is so important -- we are honored to be here tonight performing for you all,” McMeans said.

Neighborhood residents cut ribbon to open new park

Jaime Perez, a young resident of South Pomona's Angela-Chanslor neighborhood, once told Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa at a planning meeting that a new park near his home would never happen.

But he was present on a cloudy Saturday morning this month to cut the ribbon – along with the other residents who worked on creating the park – and officially open the new Esperanza y Alegria Park.

“The children . . . kind of lost hope that the park was going to be built,” Carrizosa said. “And I can understand (Jaime’s) frustration because this certainly took time and yet here we are. And he is here.”

Carrizosa, who spoke first in Spanish, said she came to the Angela-Chanslor area in 1993 and saw a lot of trash right out front but, as a new member of the council, she wasn't quite sure of what to do. And she was frustrated because there were no resources.

“So the only thing I knew what to do was start cleaning,” she said, explaining that she started picking up papers. Others in the neighborhood began helping and came out with brooms.

“And that was the beginning of my work here in the Angela-Chanslor projects,” she added.

“(The residents) never stopped believing that the park would be constructed some day,” Carrizosa said.

The new neighborhood Esperanza y Alegria Park, Spanish for “hope and joy,” is located at 2381 Angela St. in Pomona.

“This community is changing – let’s never go back,” Carrizosa said. “Let’s continue moving forward. This is a new community, new children, Esperanza y Alegria, that’s what we want in this part of the city.”

And, Carrizosa said, the park grand opening and ribbon cutting was not a “traditional” ribbon cutting by elected officials.

“Today we are going to let the people who live here do it,” she said.

The park, formerly the Angela-Chanslor “Pocket” Park, provides a new playground area with a children’s slide and climbing wall with safety surfacing, a combination basketball and volleyball court, benches and a picnic table.

While the city funded most

of the project, about 20 percent of the costs came through grant funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, created after voters approved Proposition A, the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act, in 1992 which provided \$540 million in grant funds.

“This small park will make a big difference in helping create a safe and healthy environment for the children of Pomona,” Carrizosa said.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told 150 residents, community partners and elected officials that Carrizosa “worked incredibly hard to ensure that families feel safe and that families feel heard.”

He said the park is one of six on-going park projects in the city.

New park... pg. 14



Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa



COUNCILMEMBER CRISTINA CARRIZOSA ASKS RESIDENTS TO CUT THE RIBBON -- Breaking with tradition and passing the ceremonial honor of cutting the ribbon to open a new park to the residents who worked on the project, Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa expressed her appreciation to those who attended the planning meetings and helped make the project happen for the new Esperanza y Alegria Park in South Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Priscilla Velasquez, Jaime Perez and Sandra Pulido, all of Pomona Beautiful; volunteers Maria Angel and Sandra Verdugo; Councilmember Carrizosa; and volunteer Carlolina Galvan.



Two of the smaller residents of Pomona's Angela-Chanslor neighborhood get the hang of the new slide.



OFFICIALS TURN OUT FOR OPENING OF NEW PARK -- Joining the community to open the new Esperanza y Alegria Park are, front row, from left, Congresswoman Norma Torres, the ladies of the Angela-Chanslor neighborhood dressed to celebrate the Epiphany, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia. At rear, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Cristina Carrizosa, Robert Torres, Ginna Escobar, Adriana Robledo and Rubio Gonzalez, and Norma Martinez, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.



Mayor Tim Sandoval



POMONA YOUTH ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT PARK OPENING -- Members of the Pomona Youth Orchestra, with Professor Carlos C. Mares conducting, performed this month at the opening of the new Esperanza y Alegria Park in South Pomona. Pictured singing with the orchestra on the new basketball court is vocalist and La Nueva Voz friend Manuel Castillejos, singing “Maria Bonita.”

Services held for Western University founder Dr. Phil Pumerantz

Dr. Phil Pumerantz, who founded what became Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences and served as its president for 38 years, died last month at his home in Upland. He was 85.

At the time of his retirement in September 2015, Pumerantz was the second-longest serving sitting president of a college or university in the U.S.

"This is a tremendous loss – Phil was a singular soul, most congenial yet indomitable and intrepid," said Dr. Dan Wilson, who succeeded Pumerantz as the university's top officer. "His passing will be keenly felt across the university community, throughout health professions education and the many communities WesternU serves."

A native of New London, Connecticut, Pumerantz served in the U.S. Army in West Germany for two years during the Korean War and, upon returning to the United States, became the first in his family to go to college.

With the help of the GI Bill, he completed a bachelor's degree

in history at the University of Connecticut and started his first job as an educator teaching history to students at Waterford High School in Waterford, Connecticut.

After serving as principal at a junior high school in Fairfield, Connecticut, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in education administration, receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Connecticut and going to work for the University of Bridgeport School of Education.

In the early 1970s, he began consulting for the American Osteopathic Association in Chicago, and by 1976 became their director of education.

He was recruited by a group of osteopathic physicians who wanted to "rebuild" the profession in California and, in 1977, the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific – which later became Western University –



La Nueva Voz file photo
DR. PHIL PUMERANTZ -- Founding President of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences. Dr. Phil Pumerantz is pictured at his last major public appearance in Pomona in June of 2015 when he received the first ever Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Honorary Chamber Life Award" at the Chamber's installation and awards banquet.

was born in an abandoned shopping center in Pomona.

Since then, the college has been joined by eight sister colleges encompassing allied health professions, pharmacy, graduate nursing, veterinary medicine, dental medicine, podiatric medi-

cine, optometry and graduate biomedical sciences.

The university today occupies a 25-acre campus that anchors Downtown Pomona.

More than 3,900 students are enrolled in 21 programs based on the Pomona campus and a second campus in Lebanon, Oregon.

More than 15,000 Western University alumni practice around the world who carry Pumerantz'

philosophy of delivering humanistic, compassionate care.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Harriet Krinsky Pumerantz, their three children Andrew (and his wife, Dana), Beth, and Richard (and his wife, Brigitta), five grandchildren and his brother, Howard Pumerantz.

Services were held at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Simi Valley.

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People saying 'enough'... from pg. 10

na's own Holt Avenue corridor which Pomona police officials describe as "nationally known" for its prostitution activity. Just this month a 17-year-old girl was rescued from human trafficking by local officials, police said.

"Very often children try to escape really bad home lives by going out – they might be 17, they might be 18 – and they get out there and they suddenly realize in order to survive, in order to have food, they have to put out," Loring said.

"And then they get caught and they are so ashamed and they don't know what else to do," she added. "A lot of times gay kids are kicked out of their homes because the creator made them gay and they get blamed for it by supposedly religious people and they go out and in order to survive they have to sell themselves."

"It's a horror that moves my heart so deeply," she said. "I know the occasions in my life when I was placed in compromising situations. I can only imagine having to survive day to day by doing things which are abhorrent to me."

Loring is the author of the book "Coincidence is God's Way of Remaining Anonymous," subtitled "Reflections on Daytime Dramas and Divine Intervention." The book provides insight into how everyone can use coincidence to transform their life.

Michelle Bart, President and Co-Founder of the National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation, presenters of the conference, said her organization began as a personal project in 2009 when she was a member of Soroptimist International. The non-profit coalition itself was founded in 2012.

Bart, formerly of Southern California but now a resident of Vancouver, Washington, and herself a survivor of rape, presents the annual conference alternating between Southern California and Vancouver.

"If you look beneath the surface at everybody, we all have some form of violence in our

past," she said.

She acknowledged that most of those attending the conference this year were from Southern California. But she said the problem is everywhere.

"As long as there's the internet, there's always going to be a situation with predators," Bart said. "The internet is not the entire root of all evil but it is the majority. So the internet can be a friend or a foe."

"As long as kids continue to be lured away, as long as women are continuously raped or boys are raped, then there is going to continuously be a need for awareness and education," she added. "We're happy to organize the conference to bring together the experts, the survivors and the people that make a conference work."

"We wouldn't keep doing it if it wasn't making some kind of

an impact," Bart said.

Bart told La Nueva Voz the conference by design is held each year at the time of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and, an hour later, opened the evening's program saying "I had a dream of a world without modern day slavery."

Some 230 people from throughout California, 11 states and two countries attended the week-long conference.

CHAMBER NETWORKING ON THE FARM -- Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean of the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture at Cal Poly University Pomona, was the special guest at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon speaking on the university's "learn by doing" philosophy. Pictured is Kessler in Cal Poly's AGRIScapes facility near the Farm Store at Cal Poly. She told Chamber members that the College of Agriculture, the first college created at Cal Poly Pomona (there are eight colleges today), serves about 2,000 students -- with 76 percent female and 34 percent first generation, or the first in their family to go to college. Kessler said it is the only four-year college of agriculture in Southern California. "The students are here -- they are planting the vineyards, they are picking the produce, they are growing things," she said. Eight available majors in the College of Agriculture range from agribusiness and food industry management to animal science, apparel merchandising and plant science. She said foods and nutrition is the most popular major and serves 23.2 percent of the "ag" students. AGRIScapes was created in 2001 as an educational outreach branch of the Huntley College of Agriculture.



Pomona

'State of the City' set for Feb. 1

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council have invited members of the public – and families – to this year's "State of the City" presentation, scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at Pomona's Fox Theater.

It is the first "State of the City" since Sandoval and three new councilmembers were elected in November 2016.

The city's elected officials are expected to "share successes and challenges" as well as "highlight some under celebrated community members who make our Pomona beautiful."

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Fox Theater is located at 301 S. Garey Ave. in Downtown Pomona.

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King celebration... from pg. 2

believe that they can attain a college education," Coley said.

And while that philosophy extends to all 23 campuses of the California State University system, Coley said it is estimated that by 2030 "California will need one million more bachelor-prepared individuals than we are projected to provide."

"This means that we must all drive hard to prepare all of our young people to progress and achieve," she added.

Coley called on the young people in the audience to "have a mindset and an attitude of inspiration and hope rather than despair and helplessness."

"Remove the have nots, the can nots, the do nots that I have in my mind," Coley said, reading from a prayer for young people by an unknown author, "especially the thought



KING PROJECT PRESIDENT -- Gayle Claiborne, Board President of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project, presides again this year over the annual King Day celebration in Pomona. She announced at the event this was her last year in that capacity, although she told La Nueva Voz after the event she plans to continue her work on the board.

that I am not good enough."

Coley is the sixth President of Cal Poly Pomona and the first

woman to serve in that role.

Participating at the event in the presentation of this year's "Youth Social Justice Award" winners were State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, Pomona City

Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez and Cristina Carrizosa and representatives of Congresswoman Norma Torres and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

Also present were representatives of the Latina/Latino Round-

table of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women Pomona Valley Section, and long-time supporters of the event Reggie and René Webb of Webb Family Enterprises, among others.

New Park... from pg. 11

Sandoval added that the city is several months away from opening a homeless service center to "assist our homeless to help them get their lives back . . . (and) to make sure that we get our homeless out of our parks."

In addition, he said the city council and staff are working on a program to station park "rangers" at "every park or every other park to ensure that when you go to the park that it's a safe place, it's a clean place."

"As a city, we are doing everything we can to ensure that our parks are clean and that our parks are safe," Sandoval said.



It didn't take long after the official opening of Esperanza y Alegria Park for the kids to figure out how to use the new climbing and sliding equipment.

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Limit one coupon per table per visit. Expires 2-28-18 LNV



RIBBON CUTTING AT POMONA'S GP DENTAL CENTER -- Representatives of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and elected officials turned out this month for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at GP Dental Center. The dental office, located at 1410 N. Garey Ave., #B, Pomona, re-opened in August under new management with all new staff. Pictured, from left, are Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Paola Avendano, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona Chamber Board members David McElwain, of the Los Angeles Office of Education GAIN office, Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, and Jeff Keating, of Western University of Health Sciences; Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres; office manager Ling Wang; her husband and owner Dr. Techao "David" Huang; Dr. Ling Chang, an associate dentist; Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; and Chamber Ambassador Richard Mason, of Primerica. Not pictured are son Jason Huang who is helping out but plans to attend dental school at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Mario Ramos, representing Congresswoman Norma Torres. For more information, call (909) 623-8535.

Free community health fair to be held in Claremont as part of Eagle Scout project

A free community health fair featuring fun and games as well as free health screenings is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3 in Claremont – all courtesy of a 13-year-old Boy Scout who is producing the health fair as his Eagle Scout project.

Shahin Amani, who has been in Boy Scouts since he was six years old as a "Tiger Cub Scout," said it is his goal to "become a capable adult, a responsible person and show myself to be a valuable leader within my family, community, school and within scouting."

"I feel that the Boy Scout organization has provided me with a

foundation which will teach me to acquire my dreams and set attainable goals," he added.

He previously received the highest ranking in Cub Scouts, the Arrow of Light, and is "well within reach of the highest rank in Boy Scouts – Eagle rank."

The health fair, on the theme "Health fair – wellness at work," will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 3 at El Roble Middle School, at 665 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont.

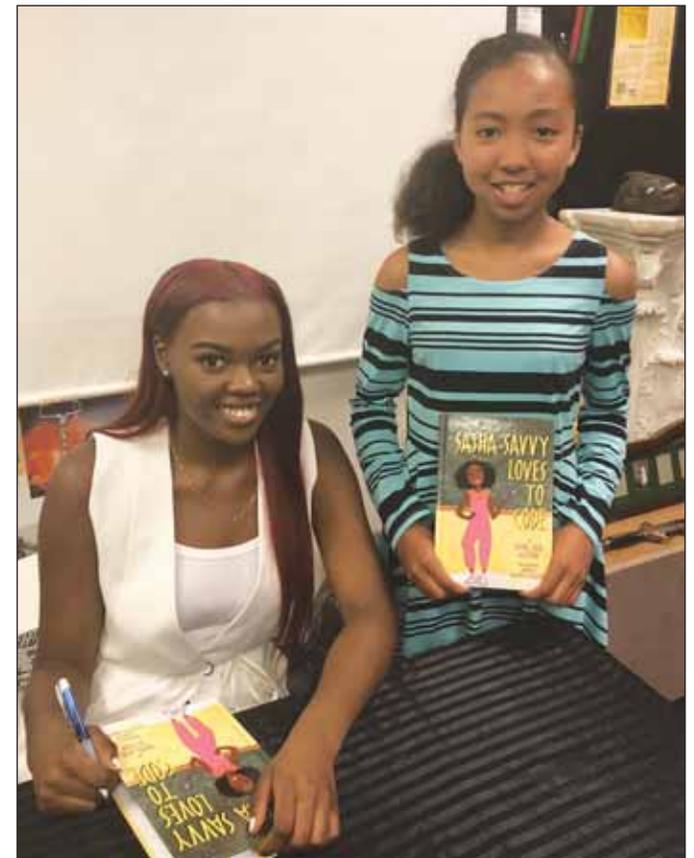
Sponsor of the event is Inland Valley Hope Partners, a regional food bank that also provides shelter and other services to the home-

less and others in need.

Amani's goal, he said, is to educate people about their health and safety "to reduce injuries and save lives by empowering our community to make positive life-changing decisions."

Included will be vision screenings, blood pressure testing, orthodontic screenings, cholesterol and glucose testing, stress management and more.

In addition, Boy Scouts from Amani's Troop 402 in Claremont will be on hand to help teach the basics like first aid, emergency preparedness, outdoor safety, CPR, fire safety and more.



BOOK SIGNING AT AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM -- Author Sasha Ariel Alston signs a copy of her new book, "Sasha Savvy Loves to Code," for L'Mio Asia Edwards, a student at Chaparral Middle School in Diamond Bar, at a book signing and presentation last month at Pomona's African American Museum of Beginnings at the Village at Indian Hill. The book, a children's book on computer programming, was an effort by Alston "to encourage and empower girls, especially girls of color, to learn how to code." The author is the granddaughter of Pomona author, veteran and community volunteer Farrell Chiles.

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THURSDAY / JUEVES
FEBRUARY 1, 2018

6:45PM-8:00PM
 Doors Open at 5:30PM
 Las puertas abren a las 5:30 PM

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**MAYOR TIM SANDOVAL
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*as we share successes and challenges.
 We will highlight some
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DAVE LOPEZ APPEARS AT POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION EVENT -- Los Angeles television news reporter Dave Lopez, who celebrated his 40th anniversary with CBS 2 in 2017, served as "special guest master of ceremonies" this month at the Pomona Ebell Museum of History as the Pomona Public Library Foundation presented "130 years of treasures from the Pomona library special collections." Pictured is Lopez, at right, getting a brief history of Pomona and the Ebell Museum from Foundation President John Clifford before the evening's program. Lopez, who also has reported for KCAL 9 since 2002 when the two stations merged, told La Nueva Voz before the event that he believes libraries are "very, very important." "And I think they should continue to be supported," he added. "I'm a little surprised that they don't get more funding from either the city or the county. But their efforts (Foundation members) are great and hopefully they are successful in making the library what it once was." He said "there is no substitute for reading and if you can't go to the library and enjoy yourself and get knowledge then there's no other place for you to go." He told an audience of nearly 200 that there are more public libraries in America than McDonald's restaurants -- 16,766 including branches. Numerous artifacts were on display, and Clifford's slide show included early photos of the library from 1912. Clifford said one of the most used sections of the library is the photographs of old houses, some dating to the 1880s.



**Assistance League of Pomona Valley
 Cordially invites you to a**

Valentine Tea

**Come and enjoy our Bake Sale, Opportunity Baskets,
 Cash Drawing and Door Prizes at historic
 Ebell Club**

585 East Holt Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Doors will open at 12:30 pm and tea service will commence at 1:00 pm

\$40 per person

Make checks payable to **Assistance League of Pomona Valley**
 and mail, along with any seating preference (8 maximum per table), to:
Assistance League of Pomona Valley
 655 North Palomares Street, Pomona, CA 91767-4703
Please RSVP by February 3, 2018

**For further information, please contact Lisa Frazier
 by telephone: (909) 268-5742 or by email: lisa.frazier1@verizon.net**

Participate with us in "Legacy of Literature" by bringing a new book for a child in grades K-8.
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Proceeds from this event will benefit our Philanthropic Programs. Learn more at www.alpv.org.
 Assistance League® of Pomona Valley is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
 Federal Tax ID #95-1896906. \$30 of your reservation price is tax deductible.