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"Carmen Fitte deja legado de activismo"



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Celebrating Black History Month and the Rich Diversity of Americans promotes Inclusion Goal



By Dr. José A. Flores

Growing up in Grand Rapids, MI. for my family meant living in a highly segregated community and attending similarly segregated schools. The few White families in our neighborhood were similarly low-income or holdouts in a rapidly changing area.

We were renters growing up on the SE and SW areas in old homes where we each took turns filling our coal furnace at night during cold winters. Our friendships would allow us to share our cultures through music, speech, religious practices, and daily living. Our experiences together as neighbors and friends, parents working side by side in local factories seemed quite natural. Although we were of different races we seemed to get along.

In middle and high school our friendships with Whites, Blacks, Native Americans were benefits of an integrated school system and our loyalties and bonds grew overcoming race divisions. It was not always harmonious, but we had friends across the color spectrum. Our books did not cover Black American History or Mexican American History. There was no "Critical Race Theory" in our curriculum. Our contributions to America as members of racial/ethnic minority groups was absent. I remember the stereotypes and treatment of Black & Brown people in our texts, television and the movies centered on slavery and negative imagery of Africa and Mexico helping to promote an inferiority complex among us. My high school and college independent readings helped me overcome these feelings of second-class citizenship, as would my experiences living during the Civil Rights Era.

Dr. Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights marches, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, Malcolm X, Muhammed Ali, the NAACP, The Black Panther's Party, and others would get coverage on television news broadcasts and the media would stoke fears of riots, looting and mayhem as America's Negroes pushed for Civil Rights and Equality. Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver, Huey Newton, Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael, Angela Davis and others across the nation raised their voices and made our nation focus on racism and segregation.

Brown leaders like José Angel Gutierrez, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, LULAC, the American G.I. Forum and National Council of La Raza joined in to promote our movement for greater inclusion and equality. Native Americans too advanced efforts to bring attention to Indigenous issues. Red Power voices included Clyde Bellecourt, Dennis Banks, Russell Means, Vine Deloria, Jr., Clyde Warrior, and others.

Later the efforts of people who felt left out of the American Dream of freedom and equality would see their efforts bear fruit through the advancement of People of Color in Congress, city and state leadership, Industry, music, sports, newsrooms, TV broadcasts and entertainment. The integration of the military, police departments, firefighters, city administration, school leaders, teachers, counselors, and an infusion of books written by our people into libraries and our schools gave rise to the promise of inclusion.

Unfortunately, our nation has returned full circle to similar racism and equity issues confronting younger generations of Americans. Fortunately, younger generations have learned lessons from our past, honed the skills of civic activism and have led movements of similar confrontation to upset a system that has reverted to the conservatism of the 50's in thought and attitudes toward race and gender. America

continues to experience a reckoning with our past and is witnessing a call for change in race relations to ensure a more united future.



Diversity and inclusion should be embraced by all Americans to bring about the needed healing and harmony fractured by recent division and bigotry sown by our nation's leaders. We cannot erase the past through a new movement of censorship and the creation of false narratives about historical events. Children must engage true historical accounts. They must learn about the struggles for equality. Respect for themselves and others must be an outcome of education. We should all value diversity and every human's worth in society. We cannot continue as a nation

of segregated and divided Americans if we are to truly live up our creed of "Liberty and Justice for All." There is no liberty and justice in a divided, segregated, and two-tiered system that divides our people by race, income, and social status! We must work for the common good and advance inclusion in every field of endeavor to make our nation the model of democracy which is our common destiny.

Criado en Grand Rapids, MI, para mi familia vivimos en vecindarios altamente segregada y asistimos a escuelas igualmente segregadas. Las pocas familias blancas en nuestro vecindario eran igualmente de bajos ingresos o reticentes en un área que cambia rápidamente. Fuimos inquilinos que vivimos en las áreas SE y SW en casas antiguas donde cada uno de nosotros nos turnábamos para llenar nuestro horno de carbón por la noche durante los fríos inviernos. Compartimos nuestras culturas a través de la música, el habla, las prácticas religiosas y la vida diaria con nuestras amistades. Nuestras experiencias juntos como vecinos y amigos, padres que trabajaban en las fábricas locales parecía bastante normal. Aunque éramos de diferentes razas, nos llevamos bien.

En la escuela secundaria y preparatoria, nuestras amistades con blancos, negros y nativo americanos fueron beneficios de un sistema escolar integrado y nuestras lealtades y vínculos crecieron superando las divisiones raciales. No siempre fue armonioso, pero teníamos amigos en todo el espectro de colores. Nuestros libros no cubrían la historia afroamericana o la historia mexicoamericana. No había "Teoría crítica de la raza" en nuestro plan de estudios. Nuestras contribuciones a Estados Unidos como miembros de grupos minoritarios raciales/étnicos estuvieron ausentes. Recuerdo los estereotipos y el tratamiento de las personas negras y marrones en nuestros textos, televisión y películas centrados en la esclavitud y las imágenes negativas de África y México que ayudan a promover un complejo de inferioridad entre nosotros. Mis lecturas independientes de la escuela secundaria y la universidad me ayudaron a superar estos sentimientos de ciudadanía de segunda clase, al igual que mis experiencias durante la era de los derechos civiles.

El Dr. Martin Luther King, las marchas por los Derechos Civiles, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, Malcolm X, Muhammed Ali, la NAACP, el Partido de las Panteras Negras y otros obtendrían cobertura en los noticieros de televisión y los medios avivarían los temores de disturbios, saqueos y caos mientras los negros de Estados Unidos presionaban por los derechos civiles y la igualdad. Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver, Huey Newton, Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael, Angela Davis y otros en todo el país alzaron sus voces e hicieron que nuestra nación se enfocara en el racismo y la segregación.

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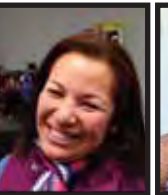
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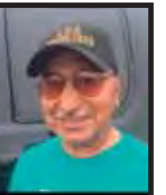
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TRANSFORMACION EDUCATIVA ES NECESARIA



Por Dr. Edgar León

“La educación es el arma mas ponderosa que puedes usar para cambiar el mundo” dijo Nelson Mandela. Usualmente, en Puerto Rico, los departamentos de educación y las instituciones de educación superior son las últimas instituciones que cambian su manera de llevar a cabo sus funciones en beneficio de su pueblo. Los líderes políticos de Puerto Rico todavía no le han dado la prioridad necesaria para transformar su sistema educativo y pretenden seguir haciendo disparates en la manera de preparar a sus maestros y ofrecer cursos en línea. Se cree que con tener edificios nuevos y equipo se puede transformar la educación. No se dan cuenta que todavía el currículo que están usando y la manera de enseñar es del siglo pasado donde se preparaba gente para un trabajo. Esos trabajos ya no existen. Seguimos promoviendo carreras cortas las cuales no sirven para mantener una familia en el Puerto Rico de hoy.

Debido a los efectos de la pandemia del Covid 19 todas las instituciones en el mundo han tenido que hacer una reingeniería de procesos para proveer los servicios a su pueblo de manera rápida y eficiente. Otros países han cambiado completamente la manera de educar a sus niños y a sus jóvenes. Específicamente han cambiado la manera de educar a sus maestros usando nuevos métodos de enseñanza y eliminando los currículos viejos. Para comenzar, se han abierto cursos masivos que se pueden tomar en cualquier momento y hora del día. Se le facilita el acceso a la educación sin restricciones.

Hay que estar consientes que ya la manera de educar no será la misma. Esto ya cambió y no podremos dar clases presenciales como antes. Hay que hacer un currículo nuevo y relevante que pueda motivar a los estudiantes y a sus padres usando tecnología y dando un contenido que le enseñe a pensar para resolver problemas. El currículo y la escuela debe ser una educación híbrida donde vamos a tener clases presenciales limitadas y clases en línea de alta calidad y sin limitación geográfica. No debe permitirse que los estudiantes tengan horas libres porque falta un maestro. Se necesita un sistema de maestro sustituto ya sea en línea o presencial para cubrir esta necesidad.

Los estándares para ser maestro no deben ser los mas bajos. O sea, el departamento de educación en la universidad no debe ser el refugio de los que fracasan en la universidad. Se deben subir los estándares para ser maestro de tal manera que nuestros hijos tengan los mejores maestros. Se debe pagar mucho mas al maestro preparado y que tenga las destrezas para enseñar su materia. Para ello, se necesita una reingeniería educativa a nivel de país. Los directores escolares deben ser maestros ejemplares y no políticos que fueron recipiente de un premio de campaña y por lo tanto consiguió ser director o directora de una escuela.

Mientras sigamos pendientes del dinero de dadas federales no veremos muchos cambios. Nuestro sistema de gobierno y educación publica responde a los grandes intereses. El problema grave es que no recibimos en servicios lo que pagamos de impuestos. De la manera que se desperdicia el impuesto en el gobierno y no hay transparencia.

Los billones gastados en educación publica y educación superior no se traduce en desarrollo económico. Seguimos viendo que fracasan los estudiantes por la baja calidad del sistema educativo. Ahora debido a la pandemia se ve claro donde esta la falla pero ni se menciona. Se asume que abriendo las escuelas es una garantía de aprendizaje. Eso no es cierto y seguiremos con un sistema fracasado si no se hace la transformación.

Hay que eliminar las presidencias que micro manejan los recintos universitarios. Hay que eliminar las rectorías innecesarias para dirigir el dinero a los profesores que hacen la diferencia ayudando a los jóvenes con sus carreras universitarias. Hay que cerrar la oficina central del Departamento de Educación de Puerto Rico y dirigir el dinero a los niños, maestros, estudiantes y directores de las escuelas con un currículo moderna integrando la tecnología en la solución de problemas actuales y relevantes.

Solo de esta manera veremos un cambio significativo en Puerto Rico.



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OBITUARIES

Eugene Bandlow

SEPTEMBER 22, 1969 – JANUARY 3, 2022

Eugene "Gene" Bandlow, age 52, of Otsego passed away Monday, January 3, 2022. Gene Bandlow, or "Mean Gene" was a man who would drop anything and everything to help a person in need. Gene was the absolute life of the party and had a smile that would light up any room. Eugene attended New Life church in Wayland and he was employed by The Rapid city bus driver for 21 years. He is survived by: his wife, Kristi Bandlow; stepsons, Levi and Miranda Grant, Austin and Julia Grant, Derrick Grant and the most amazing step daughter, Heather Grant, Mother; Carol and Mike Hoffman, Father; Bruce Bandlow; Mother in law and Father in law, Mary Ann and Jerry Smith, Brother; James and Liz Bandlow (Ryan) and Sister; Karen and Jason Veldkamp. On Saturday, Celebration was held January 8, 2022 at 11:00 am at New Life Church, 160 Pine Street, Wayland, MI 49348 officiated by Brad Vanderson.



Gene Bandlow, o "Mean Gene" era un hombre que dejaría cualquier cosa para ayudar a una persona necesitada. Gene era el alma absoluta de la fiesta y tenía una sonrisa que iluminaba cualquier habitación. Eugene asistió a la iglesia New Life en Wayland y fue empleado del conductor del autobús urbano The Rapid durante 21 años. La celebración se llevó a cabo el 8 de enero de 2022 a las 11:00 am en New Life Church, 160 Pine Street, Wayland, MI 49348 oficiada por Brad Vanderson.

Magali Eugenia Garcia Martin

Magali Eugenia Garcia Martin, age 81, of Wyoming, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 3, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, Antonio. She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Antonio Martin and Maria Martin; grandson, Geoffrey and Erin Martin; great grandson, Aedan, and one on the way. Magali was born in Havana, Cuba. She retired from Amway Corp. after many years of service. Magali enjoyed cooking and sewing. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 am on Monday, January 10, 2022 at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 3138 Birchwood SW, Wyoming, with Rev. Steven Cron presiding. Burial at Resurrection Cemetery.



Magali Eugenia García Martín, de 81 años, de Wyoming, falleció pacíficamente el lunes 3 de enero de 2022. Magali nació en La Habana, Cuba. Se retiró de Amway Corp. después de muchos años de servicio. Magali disfrutaba cocinar y coser. La misa de entierro cristiano se llevó a cabo a las 11 am del lunes 10 de enero de 2022 en la iglesia católica St. Joseph the Worker, 3138 Birchwood SW, Wyoming, presidida por el reverendo Steven Cron. Entierro en el Cementerio Resurrección.

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By Jorge Martinez
U.S. Veteran

We have more in common with Jason Bourne the hunted spy than first believed. You probably don't have Tread Stone agents hunting you, but you should recognize and avoid undercover secret operations. Unbeknownst to most there are ongoing overlapping simultaneous concurrently running undercover operations throughout the country. For example, Stanislaus Sheriff's recently disclosed a large-scale secret narcotics operation that included DEA targeting international drug cartels. Who knows how many more there are or how

many innocent citizens got accidentally mixed up in this? Cops don't believe there is anything such as coincidence. Once you go onto a watch list, you're toast. Cops don't care, so if someone gives them your name you can kiss your rear goodbye. Police, Sheriff's and FBI, CIA, NSA agents are incentivized to make arrests and you look suspicious. Seemingly ordinary neighbors or new friends may be undercover agents. People you once trusted could be turned against you. Authorities are operating hidden license plate-reading systems. Private prison owners that compete to house overflowing prisoners may be illegally incentivizing probation officers to arrest you. So, if you are a person of color, live on the wrong side of the tracks and have relatives on probation or parole check your six, and watch your step. Cops only get promoted for making arrests, not helping ordinary tax paying citizens. Contrary to marketing slogans, cops are not here to serve or protect, it's their career.

If you use illegally grown marijuana undercover narcotic agents are targeting you. If you belong to Black Lives Matter or Southern Poverty Law Center your phone may be tapped, especially if you call a Middle East Muslim country. Section 702 of the foreign intelligence surveillance ACT (FISA) gives Government power to listen to any possible threat to National Security. The law was passed in 2008 to legalize George W. Bush warrantless wiretapping of foreign overseas communications with Americans. This violation of the constitution was exposed by Edward Snowden who escaped to Russia in 2013. Reality Winner went to prison. Recent waves of smash and grab robberies in San Francisco and central valley Sheriff Jeff Dirkse of Stanislaus County stirred further fear. Dirkse criticized Proposition 47 designed to cut incarcerations, offer drug treatment and lower bail. It was enacted in response to decades of incarcerating nonviolent offenders unable to pay bail. As of today, the justice system is criminalizing poverty, wrote US District Judge Clyde S. Cahill in 1960. "In practice, we're locking up people because they are poor", wrote Senator Julia Salazar. Tony Messenger, published "Profit and Punishment: How America Criminalizes the Poor in the Name of Justice," Dec. 7, 2021.

Those who believe social ills can be solved with more prisons are earning billions housing prisoners. This has lethal potential for abuse as nonviolent criminals are worth more as prisoners than as a free person. America has numerous private prisons and 18 corporations to guard some 10,000 prisoners in 27 states. As of Jan 27, 2021 the prison population was 1.43 million plus more than 700,000 in county and city jails. So, we must respond in increments as former sheriff, cop, CIA; FBI and NSA employees recommend and not take authorities at their word. Police, FBI and CIA have blatantly lied and literally gotten away with murder. The CIA has become a killing machine, including lethal organized fake vaccinations of children while hunting Osama Bin Laden. Fox News Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham and Tucker Carlson blatantly undermine democracy via support of Jan.6th attackers. When CIA killings are exposed, what happens is that such operations are rewrapped and relocated. Such as Operation Chaos unrolled during the 1960s anti-war demonstrations wherein President Lyndon B. Johnson gave the CIA permission to spy on Americans. Remnants of this ideology were proven when retired Gen. Michael Hayden confessed to using Metadata to kill people, including Americans overseas. Hayden oversaw massive illegal spying on Americans exposed by Edward Snowden. "We Kill people based on metadata" admitted Hayden. It was then we understood the enormous danger and recognized that authorities have always lied. President Obama, a Nobel Peace Prize Winner, killed more people via drones than any other president. Treasonous politicians are risking the soul of the nation, and killing faith in the government as the basis of patriotism requires the ability to trust.

Tenemos más en común con Jason Bourne, el espía perseguido, de lo que se creía al principio. Probablemente no tenga agentes de Tread Stone persiguiéndole, pero debe reconocer y evitar las operaciones secretas clandestinas. Sin que la mayoría lo sepa, hay operaciones encubiertas que se superponen simultáneamente y se ejecutan simultáneamente en todo el país. Por ejemplo, Stanislaus Sheriff's reveló recientemente una operación secreta de narcóticos a gran escala que incluía a la DEA apuntando a los cárteles internacionales de la droga. ¿Quién sabe cuántos más hay o cuántos ciudadanos inocentes se mezclaron accidentalmente en esto? Los policías no creen que exista algo así como una coincidencia. Una vez que entras en una lista de vigilancia, estás frito. A los policías no les importa, así que si alguien les da tu nombre, puedes despedirte de tu trasero. Los agentes de la policía, el alguacil y el FBI, la CIA y la NSA tienen incentivos para realizar arrestos y usted parece sospechoso. Vecinos aparente-

mente ordinarios o nuevos amigos pueden ser agentes encubiertos. Las personas en las que alguna vez confió podrían volverse en su contra. Las autoridades están operando sistemas ocultos de lectura de matrículas. Los propietarios de prisiones privadas que compiten para albergar a los reclusos desbordados pueden estar incentivando ilegalmente a los oficiales de libertad condicional para que lo arresten. Por lo tanto, si usted es una persona de color, vive en el lado equivocado de las vías y tiene familiares en libertad condicional o libertad condicional que verifiquen sus seis y cuiden sus pasos. Los policías solo son ascendidos por hacer arrestos, no por ayudar a los ciudadanos comunes que pagan impuestos. Contrariamente a los eslóganes de marketing, los policías no están aquí para servir o proteger, es su carrera.

Si usa marihuana cultivada ilegalmente, los agentes encubiertos de narcóticos lo están atacando. Si pertenece a Black Lives Matter o Southern Poverty Law Center, es posible que su teléfono esté intervenido, especialmente si llama a un país musulmán de Medio Oriente. La Sección 702 de la Ley de Vigilancia de Inteligencia Extranjera (FISA) otorga al Gobierno el poder de escuchar cualquier posible amenaza a la Seguridad Nacional. La ley fue aprobada en 2008 para legalizar las escuchas telefónicas sin orden judicial de George W. Bush de comunicaciones extranjeras en el extranjero con estadounidenses. Esta violación de la constitución fue expuesta por Edward Snowden, quien escapó a Rusia en 2013. Reality Winner fue a prisión. Las recientes oleadas de robos a mano armada en San Francisco y el alguacil del valle central Jeff Dirkse del condado de Stanislaus generaron más temor. Dirkse criticó la Proposición 47 diseñada para reducir los encarcelamientos, ofrecer tratamiento por drogas y fianzas más bajas. Fue promulgada en respuesta a décadas de encarcelamiento de delincuentes no violentos que no podían pagar la fianza. A día de hoy, el sistema de justicia está criminalizando la pobreza, escribió el juez federal de distrito Clyde S. Cahill en 1960. "En la práctica, estamos encarcelando a las personas porque son pobres", escribió la senadora Julia Salazar. Tony Messenger, publicado Profit and Punishment; Cómo Estados Unidos criminaliza a los pobres en nombre de la justicia, 7 de diciembre de 2021.

Aquellos que creen que los males sociales pueden resolverse con más prisiones están ganando miles de millones en alojamiento de presos. Esto tiene un potencial letal para el abuso ya que los criminales no violentos valen más como prisioneros que como personas libres. Estados Unidos tiene numerosas prisiones privadas y 18 corporaciones custodian a unos 10.000 presos en 27 estados. Al 27 de enero de 2021, la población carcelaria era de 1,43 millones más más de 700 000 en las cárceles del condado y de la ciudad. Entonces, debemos responder en incrementos como ex alguacil, policía, CIA; Los empleados del FBI y la NSA recomiendan y no toman la palabra de las autoridades. La policía, el FBI y la CIA mintieron descaradamente y literalmente se salieron con la suya. La CIA se ha convertido en una máquina de matar, incluidas las vacunas letales organizadas falsas de niños mientras cazan a Osama Bin Laden. Fox News Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham y Tucker Carlson socavan descaradamente la democracia a través del apoyo de los atacantes del 6 de enero. Cuando se exponen los asesinatos de la CIA, lo que sucede es que tales operaciones se vuelven a envolver y reubicar. Como la Operación Caos que se desarrolló durante las manifestaciones contra la guerra de la década de 1960, en las que el presidente Lyndon B. Johnson autorizó a la CIA a espiar a los estadounidenses. Los restos de esta ideología se probaron cuando el general retirado Michael Hayden confesó haber usado metadatos para matar personas, incluidos estadounidenses en el extranjero. Hayden supervisó el espionaje ilegal masivo de estadounidenses expuesto por Edward Snowden. "Matamos personas basándonos en metadatos", admitió Hayden. Fue entonces cuando entendimos el enorme peligro y las autoridades reconocidas siempre han mentido. El presidente Obama, ganador del Premio Nobel de la Paz, mató a más personas a través de drones que cualquier otro presidente. Los políticos traidores están arriesgando el alma de la nación y matando la fe en el gobierno, ya que la base del patriotismo requiere la capacidad de confiar.

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CARMEN FITTE'S TORCH BURNED BRIGHT,

HER LEGACY REMEMBERED IN WEST MICHIGAN

I sadly learned of the passing of a great community leader and friend last month. Carmen Fitte, had a life-long history of community service in the Grand Rapids area before retiring and moving to Florida where she recently passed. Her legacy as a contributor in education, community activism and volunteerism are impressive. Carmen served our community in several roles. She was Co-Founder of the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, former Executive Director of HCWM and served as the Director of Membership and Marketing for the West Michigan Girl Scouts among other jobs.

Carmen Was born in Caguas, Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She moved to Grand Rapids while still of high school age. Her vistas for community service emerged before moving to Grand Rapids, later marrying, and beginning her work in education and community agencies. Her work included service at the Latin American Council in youth services and the Grand Rapids Public Schools providing needed tutoring to students. She also worked providing outreach, employment services to youth and activism in advancing the Hispanic/Latino Community of West Michigan through community agencies. Her two daughters Carlisa Wells and Heidi Jeluso often accompanied her in community events, and she was immensely proud of them. Her motivation to serve the Girl Scouts was very much inspired by her desire to provide her daughters positive experiences and support.

I first met Carmen Fitte while I was teaching History and Chicano/Boricua Studies at Central High School. She first visited my classroom to promote her agency efforts to provide youth employment services. She took the time to give our students a pep talk about careers and the importance of getting an education. She genuinely connected with our students and made a lasting impression on them by relating her personal struggles to succeed. Hispanic/Latino positive role models were direly needed at the time and Carmen exemplified the best among us.

Carmen volunteered for many years developing the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan's organizational infrastructure helping to garner funds from sponsors and creating innovative programs to serve the community she loved. When leadership called upon her to run the Hispanic Center, she gladly stepped up to the role of Executive Director and provided exemplary leadership. Under her leadership we provided employment services, employability skills training, tutoring for youth, home revitalization, translation & interpreting, summer youth employment and Community Mural Painting Project and collaborated with the National Council of La Raza. She was also instrumental in launching the Hispanic American Festival as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which became an annual event.

Victor Vasquez, another great leader in our community recalls, "Carmen was very proud of her Puerto Rican cultural heritage. Her generous heart led to her volunteering for the American Red Cross cleanup after the hurricanes damaged Puerto Rico during the early 2000's... She was a close family friend for over 30 years, was Godmother to one of our daughters... and made our community at large better through here contributions."

Carmen Fitte will be missed by many in our community who knew her, collaborated with her, or had the privilege of calling her friend. It is an honor to recall part of her legacy for The Community Voice/La Voz family of readers. For our readers wanting more information, please follow this link on your computer:
<https://view.oneromstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1641003139156870>

Tristemente me enteré del fallecimiento de un gran líder comunitario y amiga el mes pasado. Carmen Fitte, tuvo una larga trayectoria de servicio comunitario en el área de Grand Rapids antes de jubilarse y mudarse a Florida, donde falleció recientemente. Su legado como colaboradora en educación, activismo comunitario y voluntariado es impresionante. Carmen sirvió a nuestra comunidad en varios roles. Fue cofundadora del Centro Hispano del Oeste de Michigan, exdirectora ejecutiva de HCWM y se desempeñó como directora de Membresía y Mercadeo para las Girl Scouts de West Michigan, entre otros trabajos.

Carmen nació en Caguas, Puerto Rico y creció en Brooklyn, Nueva York. Se mudó a Grand Rapids cuando aún estaba en la escuela secundaria. Sus perspectivas de servicio comunitario surgieron antes de mudarse a Grand



Por Dr. José A. Flores

LA ANTORCHA DE CARMEN FITTE QUEMÓ BRILLANTE,

SU LEGADO RECORDADO EN EL OESTE DE MICHIGAN

Rapids, luego casarse y comenzar su trabajo en agencias educativas y comunitarias. Su trabajo incluyó el servicio en el Consejo Latinoamericano en servicios juveniles y las Escuelas Públicas de Grand Rapids brindando la tutoría necesaria a los estudiantes. También trabajó brindando servicios de divulgación y empleo para jóvenes y activismo en el avance de la comunidad hispana/latina del oeste de Michigan a través de agencias comunitarias. Sus dos hijas, Carlisa Wells y Heidi Jeluso, la acompañaban a menudo en eventos comunitarios y estaba inmensamente orgullosa de ellas. Su motivación para servir a las Girl Scouts estuvo muy inspirada en su deseo de brindarles a sus hijas experiencias positivas y apoyo.

Conocí a Carmen Fitte mientras enseñaba Historia y Estudios Chicanos/Boricuas en Central High School. Primero visitó mi salón de clases para promover los esfuerzos de su agencia para brindar servicios de empleo para jóvenes. Se tomó el tiempo para darles a nuestros estudiantes una charla de ánimo sobre las carreras y la importancia de obtener una educación. Ella realmente se conectó con nuestros estudiantes y les dejó una impresión duradera al relatar sus luchas personales para tener éxito. Los modelos a seguir positivos hispanos/latinos eran muy necesarios en ese momento y Carmen ejemplificó lo mejor entre nosotros.

Carmen fue voluntaria durante muchos años en el desarrollo de la infraestructura organizativa del Centro Hispano del Oeste de Michigan, ayudando a recaudar fondos de los patrocinadores y creando programas innovadores para servir a la comunidad que amaba. Cuando el liderazgo la llamó para dirigir el Centro Hispano, con mucho gusto asumió el cargo de Directora Ejecutiva y brindó un liderazgo ejemplar. Bajo su liderazgo, brindamos servicios de empleo, capacitación en habilidades para el empleo, tutoría para jóvenes, revitalización del hogar, traducción e interpretación, empleo juvenil de verano y Proyecto de Pintura Mural Comunitaria y colaboramos con el Consejo Nacional de La Raza. También jugó un papel decisivo en el lanzamiento del Festival Hispanoamericano como parte del Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana, que se convirtió en un evento anual.

Victor Vásquez, otro gran líder de nuestra comunidad recuerda: "Carmen estaba muy orgullosa de su herencia cultural puertorriqueña. Su corazón generoso la llevó a ser voluntaria para la limpieza de la

Cruz Roja Americana después de que los huracanes dañaran a Puerto Rico a principios de la década de 2000... Fue una amiga cercana de la familia durante más de 30 años, fue la madrina de una de nuestras hijas... y mejoró a nuestra comunidad en general. a través de aquí contribuciones."

Carmen Fitte será extrañada por muchos en nuestra comunidad que la conocieron, colaboraron con ella o tuvieron el privilegio de llamarla amiga. Es un honor recordar parte de su legado para la familia de lectores de la revista, La Voz de la Comunidad/La Voz. Para nuestros lectores que desean obtener más información, siga este enlace en su computadora: <https://view.oneromstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1641003139156870>



Un pequeño pinchazo puede ayudar mucho a protegerlos a usted, a su familia y a la comunidad. Cuantas más personas reciban la vacuna, más fuertes seremos todos en nuestra lucha contra la gripe.

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- ✓ Aquellos con enfermedades crónicas

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Más información en: spectrumhealth.org/flu



Celebrar el Mes de la Historia Negra y la Rica Diversidad de los Estadounidenses promueve el Objetivo de Inclusión

Por Dr. José A. Flores

Continuación de la versión de el artículo en español pag. 03

Líderes marrones como José Ángel Gutiérrez, Rodolfo "Corky" González, César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, LULAC, la American G.I. Foro y Consejo Nacional de La Raza se unieron para impulsar nuestro movimiento por una mayor inclusión e igualdad. Los nativos americanos también avanzaron en los esfuerzos para llamar la atención sobre los problemas indígenas. Las voces de Red Power incluyeron a Clyde Bellecourt, Dennis Banks, Russell Means, Vine Deloria, Jr., Clyde Warrior y otros.

Más tarde, los esfuerzos de las personas que se sintieron excluidas del Sueño Americano de libertad e igualdad verían sus esfuerzos fructificar a través del avance de las personas de color en el Congreso, el liderazgo de la ciudad y el estado, la industria, la música, los deportes, las salas de redacción, las transmisiones de televisión y el entretenimiento. La integración de las fuerzas armadas, los departamentos de policía, los bomberos, la administración de la ciudad, los líderes escolares, los maestros, los consejeros y la infusión de libros escritos por nuestra gente en las bibliotecas y nuestras escuelas dio lugar a la promesa de la inclusión.

Desafortunadamente, nuestra nación ha regresado al círculo completo a problemas similares de racismo y equidad que enfrentan las generaciones más jóvenes de estadounidenses. Afortunadamente, las generaciones más jóvenes han aprendido lecciones de nuestro pasado, perfeccionado las habilidades del activismo cívico y han



liderado movimientos de confrontación similares para trastornar un sistema que ha vuelto al conservadurismo de los años 50 en el pensamiento y las actitudes hacia la raza y el género. Estados Unidos continúa experimentando un ajuste de cuentas con nuestro pasado y está presenciando un llamado a un cambio en las relaciones raciales para asegurar un futuro más unido.

Todos los estadounidenses deben adoptar la diversidad y la inclusión para lograr la curación y la armonía necesarias fracturadas por la reciente división y la intolerancia sembradas por los líderes de nuestra nación. No podemos borrar el pasado a través de un nuevo movimiento de censura y la creación de falsas narrativas sobre hechos históricos. Los niños deben involucrarse en relatos históricos verdaderos. Deben aprender sobre las luchas por la igualdad. El respeto por sí mismos y por los demás debe ser un resultado de la educación. Todos deberíamos valorar la diversidad y el valor de cada ser humano en la sociedad. No podemos continuar como una nación de estadounidenses segregados y divididos si realmente queremos vivir de acuerdo con nuestro credo de "Libertad y justicia para todos". ¡No hay libertad ni justicia en un sistema dividido, segregado y de dos niveles que divide a nuestra gente por raza, ingresos y estatus social! Debemos trabajar por el bien común y avanzar en la inclusión en todos los campos de actuación para hacer de nuestra nación el modelo de democracia que es nuestro destino común.

Help Change A Life! Sign up at AFG to become a Mentor today

Detroit, MI - Alternatives For Girls is currently seeking Mentors like you for 2022. Do you have a passion for helping others? Want to be a support system and help your mentee grow into a successful future? Start volunteering today at AFG. Spanish Bilingual is a plus.

AFG is a non-profit organization that helps homeless and high-risk girls, young women/individuals, avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation. The organization supports participants with the essential tools and resources to help them and their babies to build safe, healthy and independent futures.

Programs include the following

- **Shelter:** Provides a stable home, counseling, support for getting their education back on track, job readiness and life skills training to homeless young women ages 15-22 and their children.
- **Prevention:** Serves girls ages 7-19 who are at

risk of gang involvement, abusing drugs or alcohol, early pregnancy, and school truancy. We engage them through mentoring, after-school programs, a college prep program, and a summer camp.

- **Outreach:** Helps teens and women engaged in high-risk activities, such as street-based prostitution, drug use, domestic violence, and gang involvement, to understand the risks of such activities and transition to safe choices and healthy lives.

Alternatives For Girls está buscando mentores como usted para 2022. ¿Le apasiona ayudar a los demás? ¿Quiere ser un sistema de apoyo y ayudar a su aprendiz a crecer hacia un futuro exitoso? Comience a ser voluntario hoy en AFG. Si eres bilingüe (español) es una ventaja.

AFG es una organización sin fines de lucro que ayuda a niñas sin hogar y de alto riesgo, mujeres jóvenes/individuos, a evitar la violencia, el embarazo adolescente y la explotación. La organización apoya a los participantes con las herramientas y los recursos esenciales para ayudarlos a ellos y a sus bebés a construir un futuro seguro, saludable e independiente.

Los programas incluyen lo siguiente

- **Refugio:** Brinda un hogar estable, asesoramiento, apoyo para recuperar su educación, preparación para el trabajo y capacitación en habilidades para la vida a mujeres jóvenes sin hogar de 15 a 22 años y sus hijos.
- **Prevención:** atiende a niñas de 7 a 19 años que corren el riesgo de involucrarse en pandillas, abusar de drogas o alcohol, embarazo precoz y ausentismo escolar. Los involucramos a través de tutorías, programas extracurriculares, un programa de preparación para la universidad y un campamento de verano.
- **Divulgación:** ayuda a los adolescentes y las mujeres que participan en actividades de alto riesgo, como la prostitución callejera, el uso de drogas, la violencia doméstica y la participación en pandillas, a comprender los riesgos de tales actividades y la transición a opciones seguras y vidas saludables.

Voter Suppression: What are Some Reasons Behind It?



By Kindra A. Peterson

Voter suppression is the discouragement of certain groups from voting in order to encourage the outcome of an election. It may be safe to conclude that the world can recall during the 2020 election, democratic candidate, Joe Biden, offered a lot of foundational

black Americans with the infamous, yet spiritually and physically untrue statement: "you ain't black if you don't vote for me." Statistically for centuries, foundational black Americans have been known to mainly vote for the democratic party, yet that's the appreciation that they receive with such a disgusting, entitled remark from a candidate. Winning the black vote (and the election in 2020) with a disparaging comment such as that, is no way to win intelligent, black votes; it actually pushes voters away and those that chose not to vote for him are expressing absolutely no regret due to his recent and current actions since he's been in office. The black vote seems so important, yet since 2008, there have been road blocks placed in the way of black Americans' opportunities to cast a ballot throughout the country.

Current examples of voter suppression – particularly in Arizona by the republican party are: early voting by request, regular-timed voting must take place in a polling center or designated place, identification cards must be presented in order to verify citizenship and fingerprints would be taken or an issued unique security code with voting done in person as well. The concerns with American Indian voting issues make them easy victims and/or targets of voter suppression. Due to the high number of tribes that exist, especially in Arizona, requiring them to vote in person is a physical inconvenience for them due to the stretch of the tribes throughout the state. People who are not citizens feel that these types of obstacles align with voter suppression and not with legislation. On the democratic side currently in Texas, there is an attempt to combat voter suppression. Volunteers will be contacting millions of Texas residents in



order to stop voter suppression. The volunteers will assist with helping people understand how to overcome voter suppression.

Most importantly, there isn't just one political party that is guilty of contributing to voter suppression, as it may seem that way based on the number of accounts regarding the matter; hands that control the media have to be considered with access to these accounts. There are discriminatory practices from both parties – no matter how much one may pander a bit more to a certain demographic over the other party. Everyone can work together to stop the unjust act of voter suppression

and challenge laws that are being passed in order to have oppressors benefit from this disgraceful act. A lot of Americans feel that their votes matter and a consensus of people fighting to make sure that their voices are hopefully heard, is what will possibly make voter suppression a hard act to continue.

La supresión de votantes es el desaliento de ciertos grupos de votar para alentar el resultado de una elección. Puede ser seguro concluir que el mundo puede recordar durante las elecciones de 2020, el candidato demócrata, Joe Biden, ofendió a muchos estadounidenses negros fundacionales con la declaración infame, aunque espiritual y físicamente falsa: "no eres negro si no lo haces". Vota por mí. Estadísticamente, durante siglos, se ha sabido que los estadounidenses negros fundacionales votan principalmente por el partido demócrata, pero esa es la apreciación que reciben con un comentario tan repugnante y titulado de un candidato. Ganar el voto negro (y las elecciones de 2020) con un comentario de-spectivo como ese no es forma de ganar votos negros inteligentes; en realidad aleja a los votantes y aquellos que optaron por no votar por él no expresan ningún arrepentimiento debido a sus acciones recientes y actuales desde que estuvo en el cargo. El voto negro parece tan importante, sin embargo, desde 2008, se han colocado obstáculos en el camino de las oportunidades de los estadounidenses negros para emitir su voto en todo el país.

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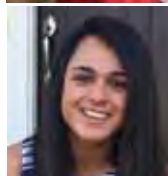
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Monica Puig



Each month, we will feature a Latin American representing our community in professional sports.

Ranking No. 44 in the World Association of Women's Tennis (WAT) and making her presence known in tennis history is Monica Puig.

By Odille Parker

Puig is a Puerto Rican professional tennis player who made history when she became the first Puerto Rican to win a gold medal in the women's singles event at the 2016 Rio Olympics. She was also a gold medalist at the Central American Games in Mayagüez 2010, Veracruz 2014, and Barranquilla 2018, as well as a silver medalist at the XVI Pan American Games in Guadalajara in 2011.

With her win in Rio, Puig also became the first Latin American champion in the women's singles discipline and is the only unseeded fe-



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male player to win the gold medal since the reintroduction of tennis in 1988.

"I just want to tell [Puerto Ricans] this is for them," Puig said in an interview after her gold medal win. "They're going through some tough times and they needed this and I needed this... This is for Puerto Rico and also for all of the rest of Latin America."

Puig entered her first tournament at the 2007 Prince Cup but withdrew from the qualifying round. Her breakthrough season came in 2009 when she had standout performances in larger tournaments. She reached her first Grade-1 final in Casablanca, continuing stand-out performances, including a semifinal appearance at a Grade-B1 tournament which she lost. In her next tournament, however, she won the doubles title.

She won her first gold medal in women's singles at the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games, also taking the second seed in the singles event at the Singapore Youth Olympics that year.

Since turning professional in 2010, Puig has won two WTA singles titles and six International Tennis Federation singles titles. She reached her career-high singles world ranking at No. 27 in September 2019, and peaked at No. 10 in the doubles rankings in May 2015.

Puig missed the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and the rest of the season after undergoing a second shoulder surgery to repair a rotator cuff and bicep tendon. She expressed her goal to heal and hopefully compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Mónica Puig ocupa el puesto número 44 en la Asociación Mundial de Tenis Femenino (WAT) y da a conocer su presencia en la historia del tenis.

Puig es una tenista profesional puertorriqueña que hizo historia al convertirse en la primera puertorriqueña en ganar una medalla de oro en el evento individual femenino en los Juegos Olímpicos de Río 2016. También fue medallista de oro en los Juegos Centroamericanos de Mayagüez 2010, Veracruz 2014 y Barranquilla 2018, así como medallista de plata en los XVI Juegos Panamericanos de Guadalajara en 2011.

Con su victoria en Río, Puig también se convirtió en la primera campeona latinoamericana en la disciplina individual femenina y es la única jugadora no cabeza de serie en ganar la medalla de oro desde la reintroducción del tenis en 1988.

Puig se perdió los Juegos Olímpicos de Tokio 2021 y el resto de la temporada después de someterse a una segunda cirugía de hombro para reparar un manguito rotador y un tendón del bíceps. Expresó su objetivo de sanar y, con suerte, competir en los Juegos Olímpicos de París 2024.

Stellantis Raises the Bar on Developing Diverse Talent

- *Launches two new programs focused on training and developing emerging Black and multicultural talent for future leadership opportunities*
- *Modeled after the company's award-winning Women's Leadership Experience development program*
- *Pilot cohorts will be managed by the company's 11 Business Resource Groups, in collaboration with its Diversity & Inclusion Office*

Stellantis announced the launch of two new leadership development programs focused on training and growing emerging Black and multicultural talent for future leadership opportunities with the company.

The programs, called BLAC (Black Leaders Advancement Collective) and LEAD (Leaders Embracing All Diversity), are modeled after the company's award-winning Women's Leadership Experience (WLE) development program.

WLE, BLAC and LEAD will run concurrently beginning in January 2022.

"The launch of these two new programs is just another outstanding accomplishment of our four-year North America Diversity & Inclusion strategy," said Lottie Holland, director - diversity, inclusion, engagement and EEO compliance, Stellantis North America. "Our leaders know that building a sustainably successful company requires being intentional about identifying, developing and fully engaging diverse future leadership talent and providing tangible growth opportunities for diverse people and communities."



Developed by the company's Women's Alliance Business Resource Group (BRG), WLE is an eight-month program offering participants a mix of professional experiences, including executive coaching, executive sponsor interactions with both male and female sponsors and leadership opportunities. This robust program was designed to provide participants with enriched perspectives of the business, connections to senior leaders and enhancements to their individual leadership tool kit.

The WLE program earned two awards for excellence from the Brandon Hall Group in its first two years of existence. The Brandon Hall Excellence Awards recognize the best organizations that have successfully deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems and tools that have achieved measurable results. The awards attract entrants from leading corporations

around the world. In October 2021, WLE graduated its third class.

The three WLE cohorts have already achieved meaningful career success, with 86% of graduates experiencing professional growth through promotion or developmental assignments.

WLE, BLAC and LEAD will be managed by the company's 11 BRGs, in collaboration with its Diversity & Inclusion Office, and delivered by the Center for Creative Leadership.

The company's 11 BRGs represent a range of affinity communities and provide leadership on many staff networking and development programs, as well as engagement with diverse communities and issues.

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February Events

Eventos en Febrero

Black History Walking Tour

January 15-23, 2022
Grand Rapids

Rosa Parks Circle

This free walking tour specifically examines the African American population from 1826 until the present: The remarkable people, places, events, issues... The legends and facts about being Black in Grand Rapids.

Caroline Cook of Grand Rapids Running Tours will guide you through a maze of touchstones in Downtown that prompt intriguing narrative.

Tour meets at Rosa Parks Circle.

Este recorrido a pie gratuito examina específicamente a la población afroamericana desde 1826 hasta el presente: las personas, los lugares, los eventos, los problemas notables... Las leyendas y los hechos acerca de ser negro en Grand Rapids. Caroline Cook de Grand Rapids Running Tours lo guiará a través de un laberinto de piedras angulares en el centro que provocan una narrativa intrigante. El recorrido se reúne en Rosa Parks Circle.

2022 Michigan International Autoshow

February 3-6, 2022
Grand Rapids

This is the greatest annual opportunity to view your "next new car!" Car manufacturers from around the world will bring their finest traveling displays with new vehicles - including sedans, vans, SUV's, trucks, hybrids and sports cars. Not only is the Auto Show the BEST place to shop and compare options for every day vehicles, it is also the first opportunity for West Michigan residents to see many of the most recently released or "soon to be released" models! Presented by the Grand Rapids New Car Dealers Association.

Esta es la mejor oportunidad anual para ver su "próximo auto nuevo". Los fabricantes de automóviles de todo el mundo traerán sus mejores exhibiciones itinerantes con nuevos vehículos, incluidos sedanes, camionetas, SUV, camionetas, híbridos y autos deportivos. El Auto Show no solo es el MEJOR lugar para comprar y comparar opciones para vehículos de todos los días, sino que también es la primera oportunidad para que los residentes de West Michigan vean muchos de los modelos lanzados más recientemente o "pronto". Presentado por la Asociación de Concessionarios de Autos Nuevos de Grand Rapids.

Winterfest

February 3-6, 2022
Grand Rapids

This event will be an interactive community art installation that will include outdoor geometric dome art experiences with hands-on creation options available and potential live music. These domes will serve dual purposes as spaces for potential collaboration and fellowship as a functional space, as well as art themselves with visual images displayed across the forms.

Este evento será una instalación de arte comunitaria interactiva que incluirá experiencias de arte en cúpulas geométricas al aire libre con opciones de creación práctica disponibles y posible música en vivo. Estas cúpulas tendrán un doble propósito como espacios para la colaboración potencial y el compañerismo como un espacio funcional, así como el arte en sí mismos con imágenes visuales que se muestran a través de las formas.

Disney On Ice Presents

Mickey & Friends

February 10-13, 2022
Grand Rapids

Share every enchanting moment with all your favorite Disney characters. An epic adventure awaits. Sail with Moana and Maui on a high-seas adventure to save Moana's island, celebrate true friendship with Woody and the whole Toy Store gang, travel to Arendelle with Anna and Elsa and learn how love is the most powerful magic of all. See Cinderella, Rapunzel and the Disney Princesses make their dreams possible through bravery, kindness and perseverance. The magic comes to your hometown this February.

Comparte cada momento encantador con todos tus personajes favoritos de Disney. Una aventura épica te espera. Ve a Cenicienta, Rapunzel y las Princesas Disney hacer realidad sus sueños a través de la valentía, la bondad y la perseverancia. La magia llega a tu ciudad natal este febrero.

2022 West Michigan Golf Show at DeVos Place

February 11-13, 2022
Grand Rapids

Golf in February! Golfers can discover great courses in Grand Rapids, West Michigan and beyond! Plan vacations around the U.S. and Michigan, buy new equipment from huge retail displays, and try the latest club fitting technology. Dream about golf, enjoy lessons, contests, and the world famous Hole-In-One Challenge. WestMichiganGolfShow.com

¡Golf en febrero! ¡Los golfistas pueden descubrir excelentes campos en Grand Rapids, West Michigan y más allá! Planifique vacaciones por los EE. UU. y Michigan, compre equipos nuevos en grandes exhibiciones minoristas y pruebe la última tecnología de ajuste de clubes. Sueña con el



golf, disfruta de lecciones, concursos y el mundialmente famoso Desafío Hoyo en Uno. WestMichiganGolfShow.com

Winter Snowshoe Hike

February 12, 2022
Muskegon

Join us for a snowshoe hike in the beautiful wooded dunes of Hoffmaster State Park. Bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair in advance. Reservations may be made at the at the front desk or by calling the visitor center. Due to the limited number of snowshoes available, reservations will be limited to 2 per person. Four or more inches of snow is needed for a snowshoe hike. Hikes will be canceled due to lack of snow cover. When in doubt, give the visitor center a call at 231-798-3573.

Únase a nosotros para una caminata con raquetas de nieve en las hermosas dunas boscosas del Parque Estatal Hoffmaster. Traiga sus propias raquetas de nieve o reserve un par con anticipación. Las reservas se pueden hacer en la recepción o llamando al centro de visitantes. Debido al número limitado de raquetas de nieve disponibles, las reservas se limitarán a 2 por persona. En caso de duda, llame al centro de visitantes al 231-798-3573.

46th Annual North American Vasa Festival of Races

February 12-13, 2022

The North American Vasa Festival of Races is a premiere cross-country ski event hosting 50K, 27K,

12K, and 6K races through the stunning Vasa Pathway.

This year's festival also includes Fat Tire Bike and Snowshoe races.

El North American Vasa Festival of Races es un evento de esquí de fondo de primer nivel que alberga carreras de 50K, 27K, 12K y 6K a través del impresionante Vasa Pathway. El festival de este año también incluye carreras Fat Tire Bike y Snowshoe.

Meijer State Games of Michigan - Grand Rapids Winter Games

February 18-20, 2022

The 2022 Winter Games will feature two hubs for the event: the lower peninsula/Grand Rapids (February 18-20, 2022) and Marquette (February 25-27, 2022). Some events may take place outside of these two main weekends. Each participant is required to sign a waiver of liability form. You are able to do this electronically through registration, or it here and bring it with you to the event.

Los Juegos de Invierno de 2022 contarán con dos centros para el evento: la península inferior/Grand Rapids (del 18 al 20 de febrero de 2022) y Marquette (del 25 al 27 de febrero de 2022). Algunos eventos pueden tener lugar fuera de estos dos fines de semana principales. Cada participante debe firmar un formulario de exención de responsabilidad. Puede hacerlo electrónicamente a través del registro, o aquí y traerlo con usted al evento.



1951 Chevrolet Pickup Truck

1956 Chevy Bel Air

1960 Ford Thunderbird owner Tom Lewis from Battle Creek, MI

1974 2 door Oldsmobile Delta 88

1957 Chevy Bel Air owners Bill & Cathy from Jenison, MI

Cool Neon Lime

Middle Finger Rod Shop

Beautiful ride

Nice Ford Mustang GT

Hard to pick which one to ride in

Good rides!

Hot Rod with this car!

The 16th
Annual
28th Street
Metro Cruise
Part II

Held August 27 & 28, 2021
Rogers Plaza

We really couldn't get enough of our fill of excitement about the car customs showcased in the 2021 Metro Cruise held this past summer. Here is our continuation of pictures of this awesome and exciting two day event.

Imagine 6 miles of cruising from Wyoming, MI. to Kentwood MI on one of the longest commercial streets in the state, then turn around and go back to do it all over again.

Roger's Plaza and all along the packed 28th St. route, they had many food vendors, tents, displays, concessionaires, live entertainment, DJ's, even a Miss Metro Cruise 2021, and lots of cars to see. Wow! You have to mark your calendars for next year in August. We will keep you posted!

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!
Having a car event?
Contact Homer (616)893-3906

LALLES



Zendaya is a famous American actress, singer and model. She was born on 1st September 1996 in Oakland, California, United States. Her full name is Zendaya Maree Stoermer Coleman. Zendaya is best known for starring as Rocky Blue in the Disney Channel sitcom Shake It Up in 2010 – 2013. Although even before that she had started her career as a child model and dancer.

She has received various accolades, including a Primetime Emmy Award, a Satellite Award, and a Saturn Award. In September 2020, Zendaya was cast as Ronettes frontwoman Ronnie Spector in a biopic adapted from Spector's memoir Be My Baby. In 2018, she was cast in Brian Helgeland's crime thriller *Finest Kind*. She will also star in *Dune: Part Two* which is set to be released on October 20, 2023.

Zendaya es una famosa actriz, cantante y modelo estadounidense. Nació el 1 de septiembre de 1996 en Oakland, California, Estados Unidos. Su nombre completo es Zendaya Maree Stoermer Coleman.

Zendaya es mejor conocida por interpretar a Rocky Blue en la comedia de situación de Disney Channel Shake It Up en 2010 - 2013. Aunque incluso antes de eso, había comenzado su carrera como modelo infantil y bailarina.

Ha recibido varios elogios, incluido un premio Primetime Emmy, un premio Satellite y un premio Saturn. En septiembre de 2020, Zendaya fue elegida como la líder de Ronettes, Ronnie Spector, en una película biográfica adaptada de las memorias de Spector, Be My Baby. En 2018, participó en el thriller policial Finest Kind de Brian Helgeland. También protagonizará Dune: Part Two, que se estrenará el 20 de octubre de 2023.

Zendaya

8 Facts about Valentine's Day



By Odille Parker

February 14 has become the epitome of a Hallmark holiday. Each year, the day is filled with flowers, romantic reservations for two, decadent chocolates, and gifts that were probably overpriced for the occasion. Valentine's Day has become a day to celebrate and showcase the love in your life – an ode to love, all in the name of St. Valentine. While hundreds of years of traditions and customs have made it into the holiday

that is celebrated worldwide today, Valentine's Day has some pretty dark, complex beginnings.

Whether your February 14 is being spent with your partner celebrating love, your friends for a little valentine's celebration, or just another average day with maybe a little more chocolate in hand, here are eight interesting facts about Valentine's Day:

There is potentially more than one St. Valentine. The holiday is named after its patron saint, St. Valentine, but there is actually some confusion surrounding which St. Valentine the holiday technically honors. One legend looks at a priest in third-century Rome who defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage. Valentine illegally married couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death. Another legend suggests that a prisoner named Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome. According to the story, he sent the first valentine message while imprisoned, signing his letter "From your Valentine."

Valentine's Day traces its origins to an ancient Pagan festival. While some historians argue the holiday commemorates the death of St. Valentine on February 14, others believe that the holiday has its roots in a Pagan fertility festival called "Lupercalia," which was celebrated on February 15 in ancient Rome. Dedicated to Fanus, the Roman god of agriculture, and Roman founders Romulus and Remus, the day was celebrated by sacrificing animals and smacking women with animal hides, which was believed to encourage fertility.

Cupid has its roots in Greek mythology. The charming cherub, often sporting a bow and arrow, can be traced back to 700 B.C. to the Greek god of love, Eros, who was a handsome, immortal man who would use two sets of arrows – one for love and another for hate – to play with the emotions of his targets. The Romans adapted Eros into the childlike appearance recognized today, naming him "Cupid." By the turn of the 19th century, Cupid became linked to the holiday due to his love-matching powers.

Writing "Letters to Juliet" has become a yearly tradition inspired by the Shakespearean tragedy. Every year, thousands of romantics send letters addressed to Verona, Italy to "Juliet." The city marks the location of

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," and the love letters are read and responded to by a group of volunteers, called Juliet's secretaries. Each year, they award the "Cara Giuletta" prize to the author with the most touching love letter.

Giving flowers on Valentine's Day dates back to the 17th century. The practice of gifting flowers for the holiday dates back to when King Charles II of Sweden learned the "language of flowers" – which pairs specific meanings to certain flowers – on a trip to Persia and introduced the tradition to Europe. The act of giving flowers then became a popular trend during the Victorian Era, with red roses symbolizing deep love.

Hallmark Cards produced their first Valentine's Day card in 1913. According to Hallmark, 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every February 14. This makes Valentine's Day the second biggest holiday for exchanging greeting cards, after Christmas. Teachers take the crown for receiving the most cards annually.

Signing "xoxo" didn't always mean hugs and kisses. The origins of the signature stem from the Middle Ages, when the "X" symbolized the Christian cross, and the letters ended with the sign of the cross and a kiss ("O") to symbolize an oath. As the gesture became more popular in literature and letters, it came to mean something had been "sealed with a kiss."

Americans don't shy away from spending money on love. Americans spent over \$21 billion on Valentine's Day gifts in 2021, according to the National Retail Federation, with the average person spending approximately \$164. That's a lot of fancy dinners and jewelry – the most gifted item on the day.

El 14 de febrero se ha convertido en el epítome de un feriado de Hallmark. Cada año, el día se llena de flores, reservaciones románticas para dos, chocolates decadentes y regalos que probablemente fueron demasiado caros para la ocasión. El Día de San Valentín se ha convertido en un día para celebrar y mostrar el amor en tu vida: una oda al amor, todo en el nombre de San Valentín. Si bien cientos de años de tradiciones y costumbres se han convertido en la festividad que se celebra en todo el mundo hoy en día, el Día de San Valentín tiene algunos comienzos bastante oscuros y complejos.



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With 'Encanto,' Colombia Is Finally Seen and Not Just Heard

Encanto is the first soundtrack to go to No. 1 since 2019, and only the sixth soundtrack to an animated film ever top the chart. Beyond that, Encanto is a film set in Colombia, with a largely Colombian cast who sing and speak in Spanish and English; animated or not, this degree of exposure and success for my country is unprecedented onscreen.

According to a report released by the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative last September, from 2007 through 2019, Latino and Hispanic characters accounted for only 5% of speaking roles in 1,300 popular films. This number was despite the Hispanic and Latino population accounting for almost 20% of the U.S. population and almost 50% of the Los Angeles population where most of the film industry is based, according to the study.

For years, movies filmed in Colombia were actually filmed elsewhere; blockbusters Collateral Damage and Clear and Present Danger, for example, were both shot in Mexico because Colombia was deemed too dangerous. Meanwhile, Colombian characters were often played by Mexicans or Spaniards speaking with the wrong accent. More recently, even our beloved Narcos featured Brazilian Wagner Moura as Pablo Escobar, speaking in Portuguese-accented Spanish. Mind you, it's not an issue of origin; after all, dozens of stars in eminently American-themed films and series are British. But Andrew Lincoln of The Walking Dead does not play the role of a Georgia sheriff with a British accent.

Encanto, on the other hand, really minded its Ps and Qs, from accents to outfits to minute details like the hand-painted tableware, the embroidered dresses (which, contrary to what some writers have said, are not Mexican; Colombia has its own version of embroidery), the food, the many colors of our skin, even the animals – including the ubiquitous toucan and the yellow butterflies that are synonymous with García Márquez.

That a film with such a specific setting and aesthetic would be so successful is surprising, but not shocking; witness Coco, which enchanted by celebrating the very Mexican Day of the Dead. What's shocking is that Disney, that most mainstream of brands, did this with a country that's been consistently either vilified onscreen or ignored altogether.

Encanto es la primera banda sonora en llegar al número 1 desde 2019, y solo la sexta banda sonora de una película animada encabeza la lista. Más allá de eso, Encanto es una película ambientada en Colombia, con un elenco mayoritariamente colombiano que canta y habla en español e inglés; animado o no, este grado de exposición y éxito para mi país no tiene precedentes en la pantalla.



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Según un informe publicado por la Iniciativa de Inclusión Annenberg de la USC en septiembre pasado, desde 2007 hasta 2019, los personajes latinos e hispanos representaron solo el 5% de los papeles oradores en 1300 películas populares. Este número fue a pesar de que la población hispana y latina representa casi el 20% de la población de EE. UU. y casi el 50% de la población de Los Ángeles, donde se encuentra la mayor parte de la industria cinematográfica, según el estudio.

Durante años, las películas filmadas en Colombia en realidad se filmaban en otros lugares; los éxitos de taquilla Daño colateral y Peligro claro y presente, por ejemplo, se rodaron en México porque Colombia se consideró demasiado peligrosa. Mientras tanto, los personajes colombianos a menudo eran interpretados por mexicanos o españoles que hablaban con el acento equivocado. Más recientemente, incluso nuestro querido Narcos presentó al brasileño Wagner Moura como Pablo Escobar, hablando en español con acento portugués. Eso sí, no es una cuestión de origen; al fin y al cabo, decenas de estrellas de películas y series de temática eminentemente americana son británicas. Pero Andrew Lincoln de The Walking Dead no interpreta el papel de un sheriff de Georgia con acento británico.

Encanto, por otro lado, realmente se preocupó por sus P y Q, desde acentos a los trajes a los detalles minuciosos como la vajilla pintada a mano, los vestidos bordados (que, contrariamente a lo que algunos escritores han dicho, no son mexicanos; Colombia tiene su propia versión del bordado), la comida, los muchos colores de nuestra piel, incluso los animales, incluidos los omnipresente tucán y las mariposas amarillas que son sinónimos con García Márquez.

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2022 FEBRUARY MODEL SEARCH

Can Omicron Cause You to Get Reinfected With COVID-19?

We're now entering year three of pandemic life and are facing a massive spike in cases in the U.S. due to the rapid rise of the highly-infectious Omicron variant. With public health officials warning that everyone will likely be exposed to Omicron at some point, it's only natural to wonder if you can get reinfected with COVID-19 thanks to the variant.

But how likely are you to get reinfected with COVID-19 during the Omicron wave, and can you get Omicron twice?

What is a reinfection, exactly?

Reinfection means that you got sick once, recovered from the illness, and then later got that same illness again, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains. The CDC says that some COVID-19 reinfections "are expected," but that scientists are still trying to learn more about reinfections with the virus.

Can you get infected with Omicron after having a previous variant of COVID-19?

"Yes, it's definitely possible," says Thomas Russo, M.D., professor and chief of infectious disease at the University at Buffalo in New York. The CDC says that people who have been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and those who have actually had the virus have a "low risk of subsequent infection" for at least six months. Meaning, you should be protected for six months after having COVID-19. Beyond that, though, it's hard to say.

There's a lot of variation from person to person and factors like how severe of a course of COVID-19 you had the first time, different variants that are circulating, and your individual immune response can all play a role, says William Schaffner, M.D., an infectious disease specialist and professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Can you get Omicron twice?

"Yes, you can get Omicron twice," says Stanley Weiss, M.D., professor at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Department of Epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health. He cites a recent lecture he attended from a virologist in South Africa, where Omicron first emerged, who said that doctors in the country had seen several people who had Omicron reinfections.

"Omicron is highly contagious and it would appear to not induce fantastic protective immunity," Dr. Weiss says.

Exactly how common Omicron reinfection is remains to be seen, given that this is still a fairly new COVID-19 variant, Dr. Russo says. "If you had a mild infection, didn't get a very good immune response, and you get exposed again with a big dose of the virus, it's definitely possible," he says.

How to protect yourself from Omicron if you've been relying on natural immunity

As the CDC points out, data is still being collected on how much protection you get from a previous infection and how long it lasts. But the medical community generally advises that you get vaccinated against COVID-19 after having the virus. "Once your symptoms resolve, it's OK to go ahead and get vaccinated," Dr. Russo says.

Something to keep in mind: One study found that, in people who already had COVID-19, those who do not get vaccinated after recovering are more than twice as likely to get the virus again than those who get fully vaccinated after their recovery.

Research has also shown that getting vaccinated against COVID-19

after you've had the virus gives you a high level of protection—including a nearly 50-fold increase in neutralizing antibodies. "People who have been naturally infected should get vaccinated," Dr. Schaffner says. "You will end up with very high levels of antibodies."

Ahora estamos entrando en el tercer año de la vida pandémica y nos enfrentamos a un aumento masivo de casos en los EE. UU. debido al rápido aumento de la variante Omicron altamente infecciosa. Dado que los funcionarios de salud pública advierten que es probable que todos estén expuestos a Omicron en algún momento, es natural preguntarse si puede volver a infectarse con COVID-19 gracias a la variante.

Pero, ¿cuál es la probabilidad de que te vuelvas a infectar con COVID-19 durante la ola de Omicron? ¿Puedes contraer Omicron dos veces?

¿Qué es una reinfección, exactamente?

La reinfección significa que te enfermaste una vez, te recuperaste de la enfermedad y luego volviste a tener la misma enfermedad, explican los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC). El CDC dice que "se esperan" algunas reinfecciones de COVID-19, pero que los científicos todavía están tratando de aprender más sobre las reinfecciones con el virus.

¿Se puede infectar con Omicron después de haber tenido una variante de COVID-19?

"Sí, definitivamente es posible", dice Thomas Russo, M.D., profesor y jefe de enfermedades infecciosas de la Universidad de Buffalo en Nueva York.

El CDC dice que las personas que han sido vacunadas contra el SARS-CoV-2, el virus que causa el COVID-19, y aquellas que realmente han tenido el virus tienen un "bajo riesgo de infección posterior" durante al menos seis meses. Es decir, debe estar protegido durante seis meses después de tener COVID-19. Más allá de eso, sin embargo, es difícil de decir.

Hay mucha variación de persona a persona y factores como la gravedad de un curso de COVID-19 que tuvo la primera vez, las diferentes variantes que circulan y su respuesta inmunitaria individual pueden desempeñar un papel, dice William Schaffner, MD, especialista en enfermedades infecciosas y profesor de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Vanderbilt.

¿Puedes obtener Omicron dos veces?

"Sí, puede obtener Omicron dos veces", dice Stanley Weiss, M.D., profesor de la Escuela de Medicina de Rutgers New Jersey y del Departamento de Epidemiología de la Escuela de Salud Pública de Rutgers. Cita una conferencia reciente a la que asistió de un virólogo en Sudáfrica, donde surgió Omicron por primera vez, quien dijo que los médicos en el país habían visto a varias personas que tenían reinfecciones de Omicron.

"Omicron es altamente contagioso y parece que no induce una inmunidad protectora fantástica", dice el Dr. Weiss.

Queda por ver exactamente qué tan común es la reinfección de Omicron, dado que todavía es una variante bastante nueva de COVID-19, dice el Dr. Russo. "Si tuvo una infección leve, no obtuvo una respuesta inmunológica muy buena y se vuelve a exponer con una gran dosis del virus, definitivamente es posible", dice.

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2022 LaVoz Valentines Couple Photo Shoot



Happy Valentine's from all of The Community Voice La Voz Magazine Team Members. Our Valentine's photo shoot took place on Saturday 1/23/2022 and was a great success. This evening we took photos of couples dating and/or married and the biggest surprise of all was Javier asking Isabella for her hand. Afterwards we enjoyed each other's company as they told their story before an endless table of taco's. Thank you to all who applied and Oh, in case you're wondering, she said YES!



Ekansh & Aadya were out of town so they submitted this photo of their Wedding to us from their backyard reception in Grandville.



Javier & Isabella aka Bella were the first BF & GF selected in our event. Javier asked me during the weekend shoot if he could propose and of course La Voz, often using social media, brings you the news in real time. She said YES and the Grand Rapids couple are graduates of Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport University. backyard reception in Grandville.



Miss. Sarah & Mr. Timothy are new nick-names given to this couple during the photo shoot. They met at a singles church function and it's now going on 2 years strong. They are strong Christians and both are big fans of long walks hand in hand.



The couple of the year met at The LaVoz/The Haunt photo shoot VIP night. Introducing Raymond & Olivia! The final couple selected were the group's outgoing characters who were amazingly positive energy. A Big thank you to Christina (the daughter of Olivia) who kept stopping the shoot to make adjustments to the models and helping the photographers do their job. I do believe who have a future elected official on the way,

Michael Farage "Cool Mike"
 For details contact Mike at:
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TELLER- Kalamazoo County State Bank is currently accepting applications for a full-time

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Interested applicants must possess, or be able to acquire, a Commercial Driver's License (CDL-A) with an "N" endorsement. Wage per contract \$17.41/hour - \$20.00/hour. A comprehensive job description may be obtained at the offices of the Road Commission at 7700 East Apple Avenue, Muskegon, Michigan 49442 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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