



Rosemead Report

An Organization Working to Develop the Community Through the Promotion of its Businesses

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Upcoming Events

Fanniversary TGI Friday's 4th Annual Charity Event

May 25, 2018
All Day

TGIF Rosemead
3518 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead,
CA 91770

Contact (626) 262-4533 for details
on raffle prizes

Outdoor Family Movie Night

May 25, 2018
7:00pm-9:00pm

Rosemead Community
Recreation Center
3936 N. Muscatel Ave.,
Rosemead, CA 91770

Free Event

Contact (626) 569-2100 for more
information

L.A.'s Largest Mixer 2018

July 26, 2018
4:00pm-8:00pm

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Congresswoman Judy Chu Delivers Annual Legislative Update

By Chris Ventura

On Wednesday, May 2, Congresswoman Judy Chu (27th District) delivered her annual legislative update to the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce during its Power Hour Keynote Speaker Lunch Series.

Rep. Chu began her annual update speech with the announcement of her recent promotion. At the start of the current Congressional Session, Chu received an appointment to the House Ways and Means Committee. The Committee has jurisdiction over every bill that has a fiscal impact, making it a very powerful committee.

The Congresswoman explained that her appointment is notable in that the committee has traditionally been composed of men.

"Very few women have ever broken through the glass ceiling to join this committee," Chu said.

Not only is Chu one of the few women to have become a member of the committee, but she is also the first Asian American woman in history to hold such a position. The audience erupted in a round of applause following this statement.

Ways and Means handles areas such as healthcare, taxes, and trade. Congresswoman Chu took the time to discuss the progress made in each area over the past year.

Chu praised the efforts made in the community by doctors, patients, and advocates—collectively calling Congress and helping to fight against the many recent attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

"We were so worried that this past year, the ACA might be repealed because there were so many attacks on it," Chu said. "If it was repealed, so many people would not be able to attain healthcare because of things like preexisting conditions. So it was very important to keep it and thank goodness it has largely been maintained."

Chu expressed a desire to make the ACA better. She noted a problem where certain states only have one insurance provider and competition is important to driving costs down.

One way to fix the current ACA, Chu explained, is through a bill that she and her colleagues, Congressmembers Langevin and Ruiz have introduced: H.R. 3311, The Individual Health Insurance Marketplace

Improvement Act. The bill would take the current model of "reinsurance" and provide federal funding to help insurance companies offset the cost of the most expensive insurance claims.

"The concept of 'reinsurance' is that for patients that are very expensive—the federal government would be able to subsidize the insurance companies, so insurance companies would have a steady budget in which to operate," Chu explained.

She explained that this would increase the desirability for insurance companies to introduce products and services in more markets, thus increasing competition and providing options for patients which would in turn help to lower healthcare costs.

In the area of taxes, Chu spoke about much-needed tax reform. She said that despite the bipartisan agreement that action was necessary, there were many faults with the way the reform process was conducted.

"While we knew that there had to be something done, what was disappointing to me is that Republicans decided to do it all on their own and not include Democrats in the discussion," Chu said. "I think a bill can only be successful if you do have true bipartisan discussions."

As Chu explained, previous successful tax reform (in 1986) was a lengthy process which saw two years of hearings, examination by experts, full bipartisan discussions, and a thorough vetting of the bill. This time, however, there were no hearings, the bill was written behind closed doors, and it was unveiled only hours before the markup on the bill (for a vote) in front of her committee.

What upsets Chu most about the bill is its impact on California—placing a cap to the State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT). As a result of this cap, approximately 6.1 million California families will now pay more on their taxes. SALT has been around for nearly 100 years and has helped to ensure taxpayers wouldn't be taxed twice on earnings. The deduction cap now stands at \$10,000, although the yearly average of deductions claimed by Californians is around \$18,438. Other states impacted include New York and New Jersey.

Chu also commented on the lowering

of corporate taxes. Chu claimed that the deduction caps put in place for California, New York, and New Jersey was how Republicans helped pay for that—at the expense of individual taxpayers.

She also views the recent tax reform as a missed opportunity to assist the middle-class such as tax credits for employers who train and hire new workers, tax credits for apprenticeship programs, or the expansion of the American Opportunity Credit which helps to make college more affordable.

On trade, Chu says that she and other members of Ways and Means have been monitoring developments in regards to recent tariff actions as well as the discussions involving the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS).

Chu criticized President Trump's recent announcement of imposing a 25% tariff on steel imports and a 10% tariff on aluminum imports.

"President Trump justified his actions saying 'Oh, this is for national security,' and basically saying all these military weapons have to be made with steel," Chu said. "In reality, what has already been happening is that there have been a lot of exemptions for different countries. In fact, already, the administration has already granted exemptions to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, member countries of the European Union, and South Korea."

She also explained that as the rules stand now, any company can apply for a 'product exemption' which would mean that some companies could continue to receive supplies of steel for manufacturing a product without being subject to the tariff. Chu points out that while it looks as though many countries may not even be impacted by the imposition of tariffs, China is one of the countries that not on the list of exemptions.

"The President also wants to impose tariffs of up to \$60 billion worth of Chinese goods—1,200 products—due to the unfair intellectual property practices by China," Chu said. "While most Americans would agree that something must be done about this intellectual property problem, it's not clear that these tariffs would be the most **CONGRESS, continue on page 7**

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Rosemead Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce is to serve as the catalyst for a prosperous business environment and contribute to the quality of life in the City of Rosemead and the San Gabriel Valley.

Community Press Releases & Photos Accepted

The Rosemead Report is not funded by taxpayers' money.

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City Hall
8838 E. Valley Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770
Phone: (626) 569-2100
Hours - Mon-Thu: 7a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri - Sun: Closed
Website: www.cityofrosemead.org

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Mayor Pro Tem: Margaret Clark
Council Members: Sandra Armenta, Bill Alarcon, Margaret Clark, Polly Low

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2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
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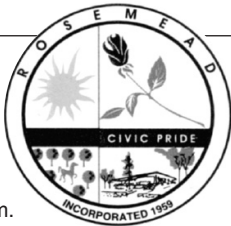
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AYC Spring Cleaning SALE!

- Sat. May 19, 2018
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Rosemead Report Deadline 15th of Each Month

E-mail is preferred: news@rosemeadchamber.org

Please submit your press releases, news articles, photos, and ad before the 15th of each month to be published the following month. Our staff has been working diligently to arrange earlier delivery of your monthly newspaper so it arrives at the beginning of the month. Therefore, we must have your information by the 15th of the preceding month to make it possible. Stories submitted must be in Microsoft Word or plain text format and photos in a JPEG format. Stories cannot exceed 400 words. If you have any questions, please call (626) 288-0811.

PUBLIC POLICY

Board Approves Support for Proposition 68

This week, the Board of Supervisors voted to support Proposition 68, the statewide parks, environment and water bond that will be on the ballot this June. If passed, Prop 68 would invest in multi-benefit green infrastructure, clean drinking water and drought preparedness, stormwater, mudslides and flash flood related projects.

“Green spaces are community places, and it’s important to maintain clean, healthy areas where our neighbors come together to spend time with family and friends,” said Supervisor Solis. “Prop 68 will save lives, prevent property damage, and create a more climate-resistant future for our state.”

Prop 68 will also invest dollars locally by directing funds to local conservancies, which will result in benefits for all LA County residents to enjoy. In 2016, the voters passed Measure A, which generates \$94 million annually for the maintenance and development of our local parks and open spaces. Prop 68 will continue to beautify and save our neighborhood spaces!

Bill 1108 is on the Way!

SACRAMENTO – The State Senate approved passage of Senate Bill 1108, which prohibits work requirements as a condition of Medi-Cal eligibility.

Authored by Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D. (D-West Covina) and approved by a bipartisan vote of 28-11, SB 1108 was introduced after the Trump Administration invited states to revise their Medicaid programs to include punitive policies that will lead to fewer people with health insurance. This bill ensures that California stands firmly against this concept, and continues to prioritize access to health care for some of our lowest-income residents.

“Millions of people without health insurance gained coverage under the ACA, and the Trump Administration is trying their hardest to undermine that progress. Making health insurance coverage contingent on work requirements goes against all we’ve worked for here in California,” said Senator Hernandez, chair of the Senate Health Committee. “SB 1108 puts California on record as rejecting efforts to take Medi-Cal coverage away from those who need it most.”

On January 11, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a State Medicaid Director Letter providing guidance on waiver proposals for states to implement work requirements for Medicaid recipients.

States instituting work requirements in Medicaid may bring more harm to individuals, including reducing low-income families’ access to care, worsening health outcomes, and making it more difficult for them to maintain health care coverage.

SB 1108 prohibits the Department of Health Care Services from seeking or obtaining a Medicaid demonstration project or waiver requiring:

1. Work or community engagement activities as a condition of Medi-Cal eligibility;
2. Waiting periods, time limits or coverage lockouts prior to or subsequent to the determination of Medi-Cal eligibility or coverage;
3. Any other condition of Medi-Cal eligibility or coverage not authorized by state law or federal statute or regulation.

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The Los Angeles County celebrated National Small Business Week on May 4th by hosting a very eventful workshop at the Hacienda La Puente Adult School. The main focus of the event was to help entrepreneurs network with each other and assist in starting or growing their businesses.



2018 AAEDE Scholarship Opportunity

Who's Eligible?

- ◆ Must be a Graduating High School Senior from one of the 9 eligible *SCHOOL DISTRICTS* and/or 2 *HIGH SCHOOLS* listed:
Alhambra Unified School District • Arcadia Unified School District • Baldwin Park Unified School District • El Monte Union High School District • Montebello Unified School District • San Gabriel Unified School District • San Marino Unified School District • South Pasadena Unified School District • Temple City Unified School District • Ramona Convent Secondary School • Don Bosco Technical Institute
- ◆ Demonstrate financial need (to be eligible for financial aid, applicant must have submitted a FAFSA form by the March 2018 deadline.)
- ◆ Cumulative high school *unweighted* GPA (out of a 4.0 scale) must be 3.0 and above.

Award Amount:

There will be (3) awards of \$500 each and (3) awards of \$1000 each.
A total of 6 scholarship awards will be offered.

Requirements:

- ◆ *Complete the AAEDE Scholarship application.
- ◆ *Please provide an essay (in 500 words or fewer).
- ◆ *Provide 1 Letter of Recommendation along with the recommendation form completed by the recommender.
- ◆ Provide an official sealed copy of your high school transcript.

Application Deadline: Friday, June 8, 2018 @ 5:00 pm



Scholarship winners from 2017 shown with AAEDE Administrative Assistants , Grace Gao and Ann Tsuchiya.

For more info, please contact the AAEDE Scholarship Coordinator via: www.aede.org • aedeinfo@gmail.com • (626) 572-7021

All forms may be downloaded online from www.aede.org

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EDUCATION



Dear Rosemead Community and Friends,

Congratulations to Savannah Elementary School Staff and Students for becoming a California Distinguished School for 2018

The Rosemead School District Board of Trustees and District Administration congratulate Savannah Elementary School Staff and Students for becoming a California Distinguished School for 2018.

The award reflects the school’s success in making exceptional gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education for all students by meeting state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard.

Savannah will be recognized during the California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony on May 3, 2018 in Anaheim.

“We are very proud of our Savannah Students and Staff for their great accomplishment as a 2018 California Distinguished School,” Superintendent Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez stated.



Pictured (left to right): Board President Nancy Armenta, Teacher Lisa Rodriguez, Teacher Mary Heck, Teacher Sharon Choi, Office Manager Bella Galvan, Principal Ruth Soto, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Rosemead School District Superintendent Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez, Teacher Susan Arreola, Teacher Christina Arce, Teresa Hack, and Trustee John Quintanilla.

On behalf of the Rosemead School District Board of Trustees and District Administration we are extremely proud and congratulate you for a job well done!

Janson Students Thank The Jester & Pharley Phund, a Non-Profit Organization, that Brought a School-Wide Read-A-Thon to the Campus

The Jester & Pharley Phund, a non-profit organization, brought a school-wide Read-a-Thon to Janson Elementary School from February 26, 2018- March 16, 2018. The Read-a-Thon benefitted pediatric patients at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. The young patients received books and dolls to cheer them up. All costs were covered by




corporate sponsorships to The Jester & Pharley Phund.

Pictured Left to Right: Back Row-Teachers of Classrooms that Read the Most Pages: Ms. Cheung, Mrs. Seibel, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Kidd, Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Herrera, Ms. Hastings from the Jester & Pharley Phund, Mrs. Avila, and Representatives from the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles; Front Row-Top Reader at each grade level: Austen Tan, Rymel Rojas, William Engelke, Tien Huynh, Emily Mai, Jasper Tieu, and Shania Grubb

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

For more information on any event listed below, please visit the Rosemead School District website at www.rosemead.k12.ca.us.

- May 2018:**
- Mon., May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday (Schools/District Closed)
- June 2018:**
- Thurs., Jun. 7 - Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Study Session
 - Wed., Jun. 13 - Minimum Day, 7-8th grade Students
 - Thurs., Jun. 14 - Minimum Day, 7-8th grade Students
 - Fri., Jun. 15 - Minimum Day, TK-8th grade Students
 - Fri., Jun. 15 - Muscatel Promotion Ceremony, 4:00 p.m.
 - Thurs., Jun. 21 - Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Regular Meeting






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April 2018

May 2018						
Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore** Tuesdays & Fridays at 11 AM			Reading Buddy For ages 4-7 Saturdays, 12-1 PM on Build confidence & your reading skills by reading to a "buddy."			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
**Please see flyer for more information on this program		1	2 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM	3 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	4 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM Teen Advisory Board Meeting (ages 12-18) 5-6 PM	5 MakMo Activity: Microscopes (ages 5-12) 12:30-2 PM Detective Science (ages 6-13) 3-4 PM
	6	7	8 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	9 **Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM	10 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	11 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM
13	14	15 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	16 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM	17 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	18 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM Family Game Day (ages 6-13) 3-4 PM	19 Sound of China Guzhang Ensemble (all ages) 2-3 PM Celebrating Asian American Heritage Month Art Activity (ages 5-14) 3-4 PM
20	21	22 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	23 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM	24 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	25 Baby Toddler Storytime & Play and Explore (ages 8 mo-3) 11 AM-12 PM Teen Book Club (ages 14-18) 5-6 PM	26 Smart Living with Smartphones (ages 18+) 11 AM-12 PM *Sign up required Frida Khalo: Her Life & Work (ages 18+) 2-3 PM
27	28	29 Citizenship Class (ages 18+) 10 AM-12 PM *Sign up required	30	31		



COMMERCE

CONGRESS, cont from page 1

effective thing to do, because what people worry about is China then threatening to impose tariffs on American products.”

Chu warns of the effect that would have on California. China could potentially put much higher tariffs on California-produced products such as almonds, pistachios, and wine.

“A lot of us that would favor a more measured approach, think that a multilateral action working with other countries to deal with this intellectual property problem is better,” Chu said. “...and that implies diplomacy, so that’s better than doing a trade war.”

Chu reminded the audience that these things cannot be imposed overnight, and there is a process that must occur in regards to tariffs. She said that there are currently a lot of threats from each side, but we should all wait to see what comes of it. Chu will continue to monitor trade issues and carefully consider their impact on our local economy.

The Congresswoman then began to discuss small business.

“While I’m excited about my work on Ways and Means, because of how important small businesses have been to me and the district, I insisted that I still be able to serve on the Small Business Committee,” Chu said. “And I’m glad I did, because small businesses are the backbone of our economy.”

Chu said that small businesses in the San Gabriel Valley create two out of every three new jobs and it was very important to her, as soon as she got into Congress to get Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) into the San Gabriel Valley. The Congresswoman worked to bring two full-service SBDCs to the area—one at Pasadena City College and one at the University of La Verne.

SBDCs are open to anyone looking to start a new local business. They can provide assistance with such things as a business plan, marketing research, help with financing, as well as a plethora of other small business related assistance.

According to Chu, combined, the two SBDCs have provided nearly five thousand hours of consulting to hundreds of clients, created hundreds of jobs, and helped to launch dozens of new businesses in the community.

Chu took a moment to stress the fact that these services are provided by the SBDC for free and are a valuable resource for people who want to start or expand their businesses.

“My biggest focus on the Small Business Committee is opening up sources of capital,” Chu said. “That is loans that businesses can use to expand or stay afloat.”

Chu said that 73% of small businesses are turned away for conventional loans by banks. The SBC relies on loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration, called 7a Loans, to open up sources of capital for small businesses. The Congresswoman said that she has made it a priority to ensure those programs keep working.

“7a Loans” are loans that have very broad terms in regard to how money can be used—they are the most popular loans that seekers of capital apply for.

“We have been working to make this program even better, because a couple of years ago, they reached the cap in terms of how many loans could be guaranteed and we had to fight hard to increase the cap so there would be no disruption in the loan process for those that were in the pipeline,” Chu said. “So we worked together on legislation and I am happy to say that the bill has passed the Small Business Committee to fix this and is now awaiting action in the Senate.”

Chu discussed Congress’ recently passing of the CREED Act, which was a bill Chu introduced to revitalize the Small Business Administration’s 504 loan refinance program. The 504 program allows small businesses to refinance old and expensive real estate loans at today’s low interest rates.

Chu is also currently committed to helping out start-ups. The House voted unanimously on a bill introduced by Chu

to do just that.

The Small Business Investment Companies Program (SBIC) is an investment program with a Small Business Administration (SBA) guarantee that increases access to capital for high-growth, start-up businesses.

The Congresswoman’s bill lifts that cap that banks can have for investing into the SBIC fund resulting in more funds being available for individuals who would like to build a start-up.

In the area of infrastructure, Congresswoman Chu was quick to find fault with President Trumps infrastructure plan by stating that it was no plan at all. She said that while the president says he is eager to move forward on his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, it would be only \$200 billion in federal money dedicated to the improvement of infrastructure while the rest of the money would come from a match by the cities or from private companies who could charge for things such as tolls.

“There’s a reason we call freeways, freeways—they’re free!” Chu said. “If cities had had the money to match, they would have actually spent it already because we have huge infrastructure needs.”

Chu noted one of the major bottlenecks in our freeway system: The 57/60 interchange which is notable as one of the most dangerous and congested interchanges in California. She said that progress has been made to improve it, but funds are still needed to complete it.

Funds are also necessary to complete the Alameda Corridor East Project. This project is ongoing and is responsible for constructing a number of grade separation projects (the reduction of railroad crossings in favor of bridges which separate train and vehicular traffic from one another) throughout the San Gabriel Valley in an effort to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, and improve the efficiency of freight shipments via rail.

Grade separations in the area include Baldwin Avenue and the newly opened Puente Avenue in the City of Industry.

Chu said that she had called the California Secretary of Transportation last month to voice her strong support for the funding of these projects and was pleased to announce that the State of California reaffirmed its support for strengthening the freight rail system by recommending awarding \$78 million in grant funding for two separate ACE grade separations.

Chu praises Congress passing an omnibus bill in March which allows for \$2.5 billion in funding for highway formula grants, \$500 million in new funding for transit grants, and \$1 billion in funding for TIGER grants—the grant responsible for phase 1 of the 57/60 interchange improvement.

The Congresswoman is concerned over the President’s push to eliminate TIGER grants in favor of providing infrastructure funds for rural areas. She would rather see both grants co-exist in a sense that there is fair competition for funds when needs arise, citing the need for rehabilitating heavily used infrastructure necessary in our urban environment.

Chu concluded her legislative update with a report and her thoughts on immigration.

Chu criticized the President’s stance on immigration citing negative statements made during his State of the Union address. She accused the President of oversimplifying chain-migration and stated that immigration is a very lengthy process as it is now. Petitions for single family members can take months and even years. She also went on to say that the President’s statement that ‘a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives’ is simply not true and isn’t even allowed in the current system. She continued that if Trump gets what he is proposing, children could not even be able to petition for their parents to come over.

Chu is a supporter of a clean DREAM Act and said that this legislation would make DACA permanent and finally give the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who are contributing and living here a path to citizenship.



9th Annual Rosemead Fitness and Health Art Contest
Concurso de arte Día de la Salud • 美国健康日艺术比赛

The 9th annual Rosemead Fitness and Health Fair will be held on Nov. 18th, 2018 at Rosemead Community Center. We are excited to announce the launch of the Fitness and Health Annual Arts Contest 2018 with the themes: “**Healthy Living**” and “**Protect the Environment**” “**Water-in-Motion**”. To submit contest art work: <https://www.fitnessandhealthfair.org/art-contest> or abc.arts@yahoo.com





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SUNDAY, November 18, 10a.m. ~ 3p.m.
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3936 N. Muscatel Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770
(Valley & Muscatel, next to the Rosemead City Hall)

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- Health Screenings • Senior Haircuts \$2
- Resource Information • Raffle • Prizes
- Demonstrations • Oriental Medicine

- Entrada Gratuita • Actividades de Arte y Música • Exámenes de salud • Cortes de pelo \$2 • Información de Recursos • Demostraciones • Raffle • Prizes • Medicina Oriental

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CHAMBER



Univerity of the West Celebrated Their 4th Annual Common Ground Week

University of the West students, staff, and faculty celebrated unity in diversity during their 4th annual Common Ground week. The fun-filled week of activity took place the first week of April, with staff and students joining forces to arrange a program of engaging and inspirational activities that reflected UWest’s core values of Community, Compassion, and Character. Participants gathered each day to share in a variety of cultural, spiritual, and educational events, as well as artistic performances and presentations, community-building activities, and delicious foods from some of the many traditions and cultures represented at the university.

Common Ground week kicked off with a multi-faith blessing offered from several Buddhist lineages, as well as from Hindu, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions. Other spiritually uplifting events throughout the week included meditation cushion making, a dharma talk by Venerable You Heng, and a Buddhist altar dedication ceremony. UWest’s Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Peter M. Rojcewicz, also delivered a presentation titled The Idea

of the Holy: the Numinous in Religious Experience.

Throughout the week, the community came together to break bread and enjoy delicious foods at several events, including a spectacular lunch catered by Vegan Tiramisu Factory on Monday, a multicultural potluck on Wednesday featuring Boba Tea provided by Loose Leaf Boba & Tea Company, and a BBQ hosted by the UWest Student Government on Friday. Not to be overlooked was a beautifully presented Chinese tea ceremony, a wonderful Mexican-style fruit stand complete with raspados (shaved ice slushies), and the regular gathering of friendly faces for a warm cup of tea and snacks at the weekly “Tea @ 3” hosted by the campus chaplain.

There was no shortage of art as students installed a stunning photo exhibition that remained on display throughout the Common Ground festivities. Participants were further entertained with two nights of movie presentations, a grand talent show featuring the creative and skillful abilities of UWest students, and a demonstration of Beijing Opera that wowed the audience with a stellar

display of intricate makeup, costumes, and captivating song and dance. Additionally, students from Nepal provided beautiful henna tattoos to willing recipients.

A great deal of comradery was shared throughout the week, with several community-building activities such as an illuminating field trip to Homeboy Industries, the group sharing, listening, and bonding of Way of Council, and Community Service Day, whose Life is a Garden theme brought community members together to plant colorful and inventive arrangements of succulents. Students also rolled the dice together for Game Club Night in the recreation center and received the benefit of a workshop and discussion on dating across cultures titled Love Notes.

For those eager to stretch it out or break a sweat, the campus was invited to an inspiring Discover Your Superpower and Yoga class presented by the Wellness Center and a 5K Run/Walk that wove its way through the neighborhood. The widely-anticipated event each year, often drawing the largest crowd of onlookers and

participants, is the Student vs. Staff Basketball Game. This year did not disappoint, as the community yet-again descended upon the basketball court to cheer for and compete in this friendly match. Much to the dismay of the hard-working faculty and staff, the students turned the tide this year and clinched a victory on the court.

University of the West may be a modest-sized learning institution, but during Common Ground week students, staff, and faculty came together for an enormous showing of heart. The hard work of organizers and enlivened spirits of participants were appreciated throughout the entire community, and the beauty and strength found in the joining of diverse viewpoints and cultures are what makes a week of celebrating differences one of the most rewarding and enjoyable periods each year for all of those at UWest.

To learn more about UWest, please call 626-571-8811 to schedule your own private campus tour. Lunch will be provided.

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