

ROCK ON

Youth find their niche playing rock 'n roll at a west side music studio. PAGE 8

The West View

www.westviewmedia.org

Community news focused on west Salt Lake City

Spring 2014

Same-sex marriage hits home for couple

By Charlotte Fife-Jepperson
WEST VIEW MEDIA

Fairpark residents Gordon Storrs and Orlan Owen have been together in a committed relationship for almost 12 years. They were one of over 1,300 same-sex couples who got married during a brief, but historical 17-day period when same-sex marriage was legal in Utah last December and January.

On December 20, Storrs and Owen heard the news that U.S. District Court Judge Robert Shelby had struck down Utah's ban on same-sex marriage. Over the next couple of days, they followed the developing story with great interest, and Owen said to Storrs, "We should get married." Storrs replied, "Well, you haven't asked me to marry you yet."

After an "official" marriage proposal, they decided to go to the Salt Lake County Clerk's Office on December 23, "as much as anything, to witness history," Owen said. There was a long line and lots of commotion. "It was a circus," Owen said.

MARRIAGE PAGE 13



Community seeks solutions for poor air quality

By Tammy Reque and Maria Zagal-Crosby
STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS,
U OF U COMM 4670

It's no secret. We cough and sneeze and blink our way through the crud for what seems like months, hoping for a storm just to blow the junk out of our valley.

Inversions are no secret, but solutions seem to be.

At least 15 air quality bills were introduced this past legislative session. None seemed adequate to help us out of the

AIR QUALITY PAGE 15

ILLUSTRATION BY JON BURTON

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as an inclusive medium of communication that works to strengthen community identity and vitality, increase civic involvement and foster social justice for the diverse community members of west Salt Lake City.

The West View is a product of West View Media, a non-profit dedicated to community news and information as it pertains to the people of west Salt Lake City. Published quarterly, *The West View* is mailed to nearly 19,000 homes and businesses throughout the Fairpark, Glendale, Rose Park, Westpointe, Jordan Meadows and Poplar Grove neighborhoods. An additional 1,000 copies are hand-distributed to local businesses and organizations in the community.

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PHOTO COURTESY RAY WHEELER

While removing trash from the Jordan River, Ray Wheeler takes a break to play with a ball he found floating in this island of garbage.

The unsinkable Ray Wheeler

By **Scott Frederick**

WEST VIEW MEDIA

Ray Wheeler looks the part of an environmental activist. His large stature, graying beard, hiking boots and cargo pants convey his love for life in the outdoors. When it comes to environmental issues, especially protecting the last remaining open spaces along the Jordan River, Wheeler is all-in. His 40-page manifesto on the subject can be found at his website, www.earthrestoration.net.

From removing literally tons of garbage from the Jordan by himself, to personally standing up to Salt Lake City and County politicians and developers, Wheeler has been on the vanguard of preserving open space along the river since 2004 — the year he and his wife moved into a house on the banks of the Jordan.

Wheeler's interest in the environment in general and his fierce protection of the Jordan in particular go back to his college days when he was a river guide on many of the major riv-

ers in the West. After college Wheeler became interested in sea kayaking and has gone on expeditions all over the world, including a 700-mile trip off the coast of Alaska.

Wheeler's commitment and credentials in the environmental movement are formidable, (in no way is this a complete list of the projects and organizations he's been a part of). During his career with the University of Utah's Space Planning Department, Wheeler worked three-quarter time to enable major hiking and photography expeditions across the vast Colorado Plateau. Between 1992 and 1994, Wheeler completed a three-stage, 600-mile backpacking trek across the core wild lands of the Colorado Plateau, from Westwater Canyon, Colo., to Zion National Park.

From 1990-1994, Wheeler was a board member of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. He also was a principal co-author of "Wilderness at the Edge," which, according to SUWA's website, is "the definitive description

of the original citizens' proposal for Utah wilderness."

In June 1983, Wheeler embarked on the kayak trip that inspired his interest in the Jordan and led him to find a home on its banks years later. That was the year of massive flooding in Utah, and riding the crest of the flood was Wheeler in his kayak, floating solo on the Jordan from Utah Lake to the mouth of the Bear River.

"I wanted to see the impacts of the flood from the river itself," Wheeler said. "So I did this long trip starting in Provo, carrying my kayak across I-15 with enough food for a week. I floated down the length of the river, camping out on its flooding shorelines.

"I floated the eastern shoreline of Utah Lake, down the entire length of the Jordan River, out into the Great Salt Lake, up its eastern shoreline, out to Fremont Island, over to the causeway, which I carried my boat over, and then up to the mouth of Bear River."

WHEELER

continued from **PAGE 2**

The trip took 10 days, covered between 75 and 100 miles and led Wheeler to form an intimate relationship with the river.

“That was a profound experience because very few people see a flood from its own point of view,” Wheeler reflected. “So, in 2004 we decided to buy this house and that’s how I ended up living on the river, but I had this pre-existing, very deep experience with exploring and discovering the river and the two lakes it connects and their shorelines.”

Wheeler says the Jordan has a reputation of being a trashy, dirty river.

“The quantity of trash floating in the river is really mind-boggling,” he said. “I mean, you think of [garbage] as being a problem in Third World

countries, but it’s equally bad here, and I just couldn’t stand it, so I’d paddle upstream, pull it all out, put it in garbage bags and drag it to the nearest trash barrel.”

Ray Wheeler kayaks near a trash island during a Jordan River clean-up foray.

From shopping carts, to car tires, to drink bottles, Wheeler has a theory as to why so much trash gets into the river. “I think everyone has a fascination for moving water and they like to watch things float away and they like to see if things sink or float, so it’s probably curiosity — and I think many people regard the river as a conveyor belt to infinity,” he said.

Besides keeping the river clean and preserving what little open space remains near the river for the enjoyment of hikers, bikers, boaters and those seeking respite from the hustle of the city, there is

more
online

www.earthrestoration.net

www.jordanrivercommission.com

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

another reason to consider implementing the Blueprint Jordan River plan. Millions of birds use Utah Lake, the Jordan River and the Great Salt Lake as part of their migratory path. Squeezing out significant open space near the river could have dire consequences for the health of these birds which would impact the entire ecosystem.

Removing trash from the river is therapeutic for many people, including Wheeler, but now he focuses on implementing the Blueprint Jordan River, a comprehensive study that lists as its No. 1 priority: “[To] Preserve and rehabilitate natural river features and functions to the

greatest extent possible.” Also tasked with implementing the Blueprint is the Jordan River Commission.

According to its website, www.jordanrivercommission.com, “the Jordan River Commission was created by an interlocal cooperation agreement in August 2010. It was created to facilitate regional implementation of the Blueprint Jordan River, to serve as a technical resource to local communities, and to provide a forum for coordination of planning, restoration, and responsible development along the Jordan River corridor.”

Laura Hanson is executive director of the Jordan River Commission and has read

Wheeler’s recommendations and communicated with him via email. “Although Ray and I don’t see eye to eye on some issues, he helps move the process forward, he is an out-of-the-box thinker and even though he has been critical of the Commission, I know he wants what’s best for the river,” she said.

Wheeler is unrelenting in his stewardship of his beloved river and urges anyone who wants to preserve and maintain its natural characteristics to get involved in the political process. “The most important thing people can do of course, is to speak out and contact their representative in city government, their city council member, their mayor, and their representative in the Utah State Legislature,” he said. “That is far and away the most important thing you can do.”

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Exploring identities

Recognizing my white privilege



Christina Caputo

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

I am a Rose Park girl through and through; raised from infancy to not only have pride in my west side neighborhood, but pride in my family name. Being a Caputo is central to my identity. The name is a badge of honor that carries a legacy which I inherited from a long line of well known community athletes, educators, and entrepreneurs. The family connections seem to be endless in the Salt Lake area.

For example, it is a common occurrence for random people to hear my last name and ask who my father or grandfather is, if I am related to the nice guy that owns that delicious deli downtown, if my family owned the old Caputo's grocery store in Rose Park, or they simply recite their favorite Godfather or Goodfellas movie line. From this, I learned at a young age that being a Caputo made me special and unique, but it was not until college that I discovered that this was about something more than just being special, it was about privilege.

During my sophomore year of college I participated in an alternative spring break trip to do service learning in Mexico. While on this trip I had a life changing conversation with

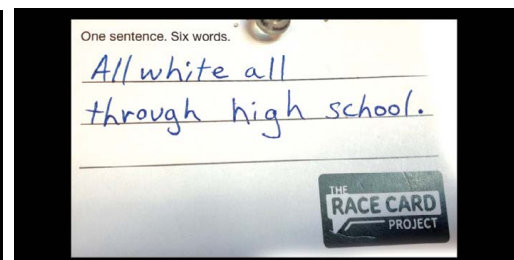
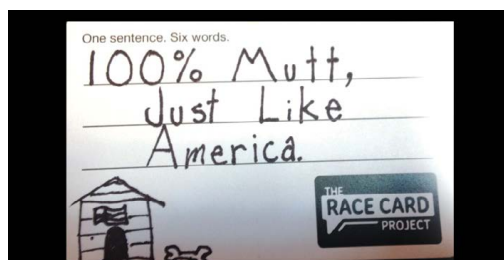
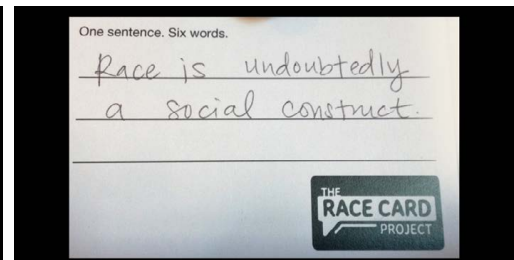
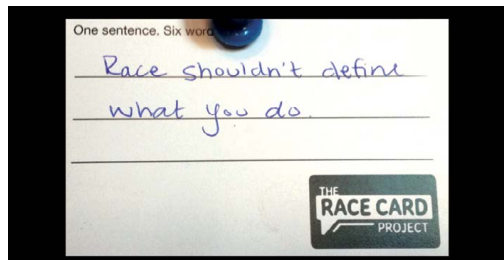
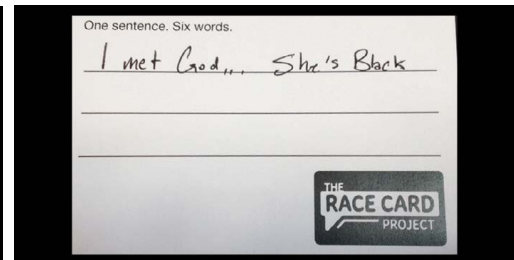
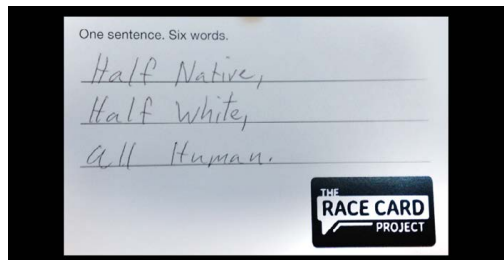
one of my fellow trip mates who was Mexican.

One night, we returned from dinner at a local restaurant where we celebrated the birthdays of some of our other trip mates. My friend was very upset following dinner. When I asked him what was wrong, he said that he was frustrated by the way some of our group members behaved by wearing traditional sombreros and acting like "funny Mexicans." He explained that their behavior stereotyped and degraded his own identity as a Mexican. I tried to excuse their behavior—after all, their intentions were not to cause harm as they were simply having fun.

He looked at me and said that I could not understand because of "my privilege." He explained that he could see that I was sensitive to the experiences of others but I needed to recognize that my own identity and experience as a White person prevented me from recognizing this sort of thing for what it was, privilege and oppression.

I felt like someone knocked the air out of me. I had always been raised to be open and accepting of people from all backgrounds and taught not to "see" color. I grew up in a very diverse neighborhood where I had friends who never saw me as White. "You're not White, you're cool Caputo." Furthermore, my own immediate family struggled financially for most of my adolescent and young adult life. I was the oldest of five children who lived in a small house on the west side with only one bathroom. Money was always

PRIVILEGE PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE FIFE-JEPPERSON

Here are a few of the postcards that visitors have filled out and tacked to the wall at Mestizo Coffeehouse & Art Gallery. These cards attempt to sum up each writer's feelings about race in only six words.

The writing on the wall

THE RACE CARD PROJECT

By Misty Brown
WEST VIEW MEDIA

Michele Norris, American journalist turned author, started The Race Card Project in 2010 "to help foster a candid dialogue about race." She asked people to think about the word "race" to collect their questions, observations, hopes, and dreams on the subject. Then she asked them to take thoughts and "distill them" into one sentence using six words.

The intention of the project is to use the six word sentences written on postcards to get a peek into America's honest views about race and identity.

"The submissions are thoughtful, funny, heartbreaking, brave, teeming with anger and shimmering with hope. Some will make you smile. Others might make you squirm," Norris says on the website, explaining the importance of honoring a candid and open dialogue even when it is uncomfortable.

To create your own Race Card online or to learn more about the project, visit www.theracecardproject.com. To create one in person, visit Mestizo Coffeehouse located at 631 W. North Temple, where these cards and many more are currently on display.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

event info Local race card events

Panel and Community Discussion, "Talk With Me, Not About Me"

March 25

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
SLCC South City Campus,
Multipurpose Room
1575 S. State St.

Student Conference on Writing & Social Justice
The Dream Revisited (or The Beloved Community Today)

April 23

2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Salt Lake City Public Library
210 E. 400 South

Community Reading
Race: Perspectives Anthology

April 23

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Salt Lake City Public Library
210 E. 400 South



Exploring identities

PRIVILEGE

continued from PAGE 4

tight and being the oldest, I had a lot of responsibility at a young age, which included taking care of my younger siblings and even having to help with family bills, pay for my own school fees.

And all of sudden, in an instant, I was being told from a friend that, despite my own individual experience and struggles, skin color mattered and my White skin prevented me from being able to really understand or relate to his experience.

After this conversation I spent the rest of the trip wrestling with hurt, confusion, resistance and even resentment. How could I apologize or make up for being something I had no control over? I started to have discussions with some of my group leaders about this notion of privilege and what it meant, but I learned firsthand for myself when we prepared to cross the border to return back home.

We were stopped by border officials and questioned at length because they were suspi-

cious that we were trying to sneak my friend back across the border. Because of his brown skin they did not believe that he was an American citizen and held us for quite a while to validate his identification and the nature of our business in the country. And there it was staring me in the face, something I would never have to experience because of my White skin.

This is the basis of privilege in general; unearned incentives or benefits that often go unnoticed by those that possess them. Everyone has a different set of privileges based on their backgrounds and life experiences in the areas of ability, gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. Who is privileged and who is not in a given area is grounded and informed by our social-historical context.

For example, historically men have been in a position of privilege compared to women with regard to their right vote, earn a fair wage, or receive career advancements. Although you may not have asked for these benefits simply because of your gender as a man, you still

receive and experience them. Thus, White privilege works in the same way but based on skin color rather than gender.

I have learned to familiarize myself with the areas in which I am privileged. This does not mean apologizing for who I am or being ruled by guilt, but rather owning and recognizing my privilege so that I can be more aware of how to use it in positive ways rather than simply blindly benefitting from it.

Like I said, I'm a Rose Park girl through and through and I have a responsibility to recognize that my individual experience is not necessarily reflective of the rest of my Rose Park community which is made up of a variety of rich and distinct voices and experiences.

Cristina "Teeny" Caputo is a Rose Park native and West High graduate. She worked for the University of Utah for over 5 years and graduated with her Master's in Educational Leadership and Policy and currently works as the Assistant Director for Academic Enrichment at Indiana University Purdue University- Indianapolis (IUPUI).



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Smith's partners with Poplar Grove in weekly cleanups

By Charlotte Fife-Jepperson
WEST VIEW MEDIA

The friendly checkers, stockers and baggers at your local grocery store apparently aren't getting enough satisfaction at work. Now they want to serve the neighborhood during their

time-off.

Last February, a Smith's employee approached the Poplar Grove Community Council to find out how they could better support the community.

Next thing you know, PGCC Vice Chair Dennis Faris found himself at Smith's Food & Drug grocery store on 800 S. 900

West in a back room behind the produce. He was surrounded by eager employees sitting on plastic milk crates. They asked him, "What can we do to help?"

Now, Smiths is partnering with the PGCC to participate in weekly service projects in the Poplar Grove neighborhood, which includes the area from

900 South to North Temple, west of I-15.

Cleanups started in March and have taken place at the Native Plant Garden and 9-Line trail near 900 S. 900 West., the park behind Smiths, the Jordan River Parkway trail, and the new bike pump track on 900 South near I-15.

For now, folks meet every Sunday from 2 – 3 p.m. in the front foyer at Smith's and go out for an hour or two.

Those interested in joining the cleanup efforts should "like" Poplar Grove Council on Facebook or email poplargrove-council@gmail.com for updates.

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MAA students learn about legislative process

By Jose Hernandez
STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR,
U OF U COMM. 4670

One west side group is getting more high school and college students involved in the state legislature. Mestizo Arts & Activism

Legislative Internship (MAALI) is a year-long program intended to support local high school students in gaining a better understanding of our local and state government in Salt Lake City, Utah. By creating a hands-on experience with its participants, the

Mestizo Arts & Activism Legislative Internship provides high school students with the opportunity to develop and enhance communication, email writing, and lobbying skills with their elected officials. The program is rigorous, yet fun.

Co-director Israel Corrales said, "When you participate in the legislative session...you experience a space of representatives and senators that debate about a bill, and in the process, as a student, you are doing research and forming connections within the house

and senate." There are two student components of MAALI: the mentors, who are undergraduate students that get college credit through the University of Utah Hinckley Institute of Politics, and the interns, who get high school internship credit through West High School.

Mentor Manuel Bernal Adame says, "The process of going through the Hinckley was very easy. As a mentor, I stated my responsibilities and the purpose of the program. The faculty love the local internship and are excited to work with us." Their role as MAALI mentors require participating college students to take part in a two-step process. Prior to actually becoming mentors during the legislative session, prospective students were required to partake in preparation sessions and workshops during the 2013 Fall Semester. The students come from many different high schools across the valley.

In Utah, the culture of politics is informed mostly by male/white norms, an area in which Dr. Audrey Thompson, who is a professor at the University of Utah the Department of Education, Culture & Society focuses her scholarly work. Society needs to realize that diverse youth can have a strong role that can affect local legislation. Youth need the opportunity to have a voice and get involved in the legislative process. Youth have the right to know the discourse that circulates at the Capitol and to have a say in state policies.

In Rochelle McConkie's undergraduate these she said, "students must decide how they will express their voice, and a big part of this is deciding which language to use. If critical pedagogy validates per-

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PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Musicgarage.org Director Steve Auerbach, and Max Hedding have fun at a rehearsal in February.



PHOTO BY DAVID RICKETTS

Left to right, Rachel Twigg, Kyle Greeneisen, Andrew Hopkins (drum coach), Peter Chase, Brynn Allein, Robert Rehermann and Ava Halka get set to rock the house during February rehearsal at Musicgarage.org.

Musicgarage.org rocks the west side

By Scott Frederick
WEST VIEW MEDIA

On a typical Thursday at Musicgarage.org, students come in at 5 p.m., warm up for 15 minutes jamming, socializing, and catching up with their bandmates. Then comes the process of instruction and coaching. Students aren't broken down into bands; rather they each have a part in several of the 15 songs they are working on. So that means a student may play guitar on one song, bass on another, sing on still another, or sit out a song altogether. The students nominate songs and then as a group they are voted on.

Musicgarage.org, has found a home on the west side at 250 West 1300 South and is the brainchild of founder and director Steve Auerbach. Musicgarage.org's new digs include a main stage, an outdoor stage, and multiuse rooms for practicing and production.

Auerbach is quick to point out that Musicgarage.org does not provide instrument or vocal lessons. "We're not a tuition-based music school; Musicgarage.org is a fee-based band

training program that, instead of hiring teachers and making money from musicians who teach, we support musicians in private practice within the community instead of competing with them" he explained.

Instruction is provided by Auerbach and several other local musicians. The reason Musicgarage.org keeps its prices low, (between \$50-\$200 per month on a sliding scale) compared to private music instruction is because the instructors trade their time as instructors for Musicgarage.org in exchange for practice space within the facility. In other words, instructors use Musicgarage.org's practice rooms for their own students, in exchange for providing instruction for Musicgarage.org students.

Auerbach realized early that Musicgarage.org did not want to replace music teachers within the community engaged in private practice. "We didn't want to take a student away from a teacher that had nurtured the student up to that point," Auerbach said. "We want to support music teachers by offering a service that's modular."

According to Auerbach, the No. 1 reason students drop out of music lessons is because they don't have a goal. Musicgarage.org aims to provide the incentive and wherewithal to get students up on stage in front of their community and take a stab at being a rock star, he said, and that's a powerful way to keep students engaged in their lessons and practicing.

"The student can attend as many seasons as they want at Musicgarage.org, and that actually helps the teacher retain that student, because that student now has a goal, the goal of getting on stage and performing with their friends."

There is a social aspect to Musicgarage.org, and students find support and a whole new circle of like-minded people.

The schedule for instruction is broken down into semester-like seasons. Each season consists of 11 three-hour sessions on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. In the 12th week, the musicians play two shows: one performance for their parents, and then — the highlight of the season — a real show for

MUSIC PAGE 9

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MUSIC

continued from PAGE 8

friends and the public.

The fall, winter and spring seasons lead up to the biggest payoff of all for the students — the summer music festival season. “I’m very proud to say we provide more quality performance opportunities for our students per capita than any other youth organization on the planet,” Auerbach said. We played 22 gigs last year, and only eight of those were on our stage. The rest were out in the community at fairs, festivals, special events and so forth. We also produce the Sugar House Fourth of July stages; the students run the stages, they don’t do the sound — yet — but that’s coming,” he says.

Auerbach encourages “any parent or uncle or aunt or friend of a kid that wants to sing or play to get over here and sing and play.”

Casey Frederick, longtime former student and current drummer for local act Disforia, said Auerbach “works really hard and is a good role model for kids. He teaches a great work ethic and is there when [students] need him.”

Gina McDonald, whose son Aidan is a student at Musicgarage.org is happy Aidan has a professional, safe space to cultivate his commitment to music. “Here’s the great thing about Musicgarage.org, McDonald said, it’s a supervised environment, and it’s a professional space with professional lighting and professional sound. I guarantee [Musicgarage.org] has gotten Aidan further along faster than trying to form a band from among his school friends,” she continued.

“Any kid that thinks he or she can sing or play, do not worry about money. If you are amazing, we want you,” Auerbach said. I don’t care how much money they have, we will work it out. Because I want kids that are going to work, and kids that don’t have resources work hard. They understand the value of something when it’s given to them. Our scholarship fund is available, and it’s robust,” he said.

“The idea of Musicgarage.org is this, what we have today,” Auerbach said. “My vision has always been to have a place that is a venue, a rehearsal hall, and a training center for kids--and eventually for adults. Adult Jam Club will be coming soon. It’s like a fitness center for music for adults. For a small fee we will jam in our space once a week,” he said.

Note: People can donate to the scholarship fund through the Utah Arts Alliance, or they can donate old guitars or amplifiers. Visit Musicgarage.org for details.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

FEAR AS AN INSTRUMENT OF IMMIGRATION REFORM?

By Robert "Archie" Archuleta

WEST VIEW MEDIA

An excerpt of a speech written on Oct. 24, 2012:

The dark cloud of FEAR that hovers over the immigrant, especially the undocumented immigrant, is crushing their spirit, hope and growth. The FEAR is palpable, breath-cloying and ever present.

The FEAR of deportation, family separation and the destruction of the togetherness and love generated within the family is debilitating...

That dark cloud of FEAR permeates the household and the individuals, exacerbated by every noise, every knock on the door, every nerve-wracking ring of the telephone...the anxiety produced, if it were a sound, would be deafening...

When the children are sent off to school, a real blessing to the immigrant, the mind returns to the FEAR:

Will my child even be allowed to stay? Will s/he be teased because s/he is not "American enough?" Will I still be home when my child returns?

When my husband leaves the house to work, or to look for work —

Will he be abused or robbed of his labor? Will he be picked up by the "Migra" or the police? If he is picked up, will we be able to see him? Will he be hand-cuffed? Will his dignity be dragged through the mud? Will he be treated like a criminal?

If none of this happens, and he comes home, Will I be home? If neither of us comes home one night, who will comfort, who will feed my

children? Will that shadowy FEAR that creeps about the house silently, envelop my wits, making me crazy? Will this mindless, heart-thumping FEAR throw me into a frenzy? Will I be able to think in order to save my family or will the mind-numbing FEAR, finish us?

It seems to the immigrant that the whole power of the State is gathered against them; the police, followed by the sheriff, FBI, ICE State Police, legislature, county, city and Congress.

This FEAR is psychically damaging: It damages your dignity. It damages your self-worth.

And questions flow through your mind like a current of violent air: Can they be right? Am I worthless? Am I truly criminal scum? Am I worthless and without Grace?

...And yet, like all pioneers, immigrants, emigrants and emigres all over the world, they embody the same characteristics:

HOPE of a new and better life for themselves and their children—

COURAGE, for it takes that to leave all you have ever known, all you love, your traditions, language; entering a new frontier; escaping an old terror, perhaps to face a new one—

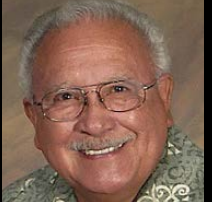
SELF WORTH, I am human— I love, I hate, I forgive, I think, I cry, I work, and I bleed like all being—

DETERMINATION, as hardships arise, they continue to carry on, as some fall along the way, or turn back...

Now, here they are, and here they want to stay, for they have SELF WORTH, DETERMINATION, COURAGE and large doses of HOPE and FAITH in other human beings'

about the writer

Robert "Archie" Archuleta is a retired educator and worked as administrative assistant for minority affairs in the Salt Lake City mayor's office in 2004. He continues to be an activist and advocate in minority, poverty, peace, economic, civil rights, civil liberties and cultural issues.



NEW LAND, NEW HOPE

IMMIGRANTS' STORIES

Compiled by Leyla Feize

MARIA

Maria is from the Middle-East and her husband from South America. They came to the U.S. two years ago. They came here to have a better life and be successful. She is an architect and fluent in four languages: French, Arabic, Spanish and English. All she wants is acceptance. She says that she is white and does not look like a foreigner if she doesn't talk; but when she does talk and people see her accent, they treat her differently and it is hard.

She says that she has never thought about discrimination before coming here; and with a smile, she says, "As I said my husband is from another part of this world and I do not mind. When we accepted each other's cultures, we did not have any problems and are happy with each other. I am from [the] Middle-East, but I am not a terrorist. Whenever I travel, I cry because of the way I am treated in the airport."

SOL

Sol passed the border and came to the U.S. from Mexico with her three children to join her husband. She says, "My husband came to U.S. to search for a job. I waited for him for three years. I had no other choice but to leave; I could not raise my children without my husband." When she found her husband, she found out that he was in a relationship with another woman and hardly accepted to take care of his family. She says, "Just imagine how hard was it for me. I tried hard to take care of my children, but my husband did not help me and sometimes did not provide food for us. He even hit me time to time in front of my children's eyes. He was telling me that he can do anything with me and that I cannot get any help because I do not

speak English and am not documented. One night, he hit me and pulled my hair all the way from upstairs to downstairs. I was about to die, and my children were crying. I told my daughter to call 911. At that time, I did not think about being undocumented; I just did not want to die. When the police arrived, I was almost unconscious. The police man treated me kindly and took me to the hospital, and later helped me go through the proper legal process as a domestic victim. I found my way in this society and raised my children successfully, but I want to tell people to not let us to be harshly abused because we are not documented. We should have the right to call the police for help anytime without fear."

NAIMA

Naima was 6 months old when her parents fled from Sudan to Kenya. She grew up in a refugee camp, and only attended a religious school. When she moved to the U.S. with her family, she was 16 years old. She was placed in tenth grade. The huge high school was scary and she would get lost often. She could not ask for help because she did not know English. Nobody in high school was her friend; even students from her own country did not want to hang out with her because of her language inefficiency and unfamiliarity with the environment. Her only companions were some wonderful teachers who helped Naima after school so she could complete her assignments. When Naima talked about those teachers, she had a smile on her face and feelings of satisfaction and appreciation.

After finishing high school, she got accepted to the University of Utah, but she was told by the admission several times that she could not be successful at the University of Utah, and that it was better for her to attend Community College. She

proved that they were wrong by being a good student in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Her family has always been supportive, but they have had their own problems. Her mother has been depressed and traumatized due to witnessing violence in Sudan. Naima's grandfather was killed in front of Naima's mother's eyes. Naima has been the interpreter for her family. When a DCFS translator translated her mother's feelings and thoughts mistakenly, they decided to separate the mother from her children. Naima and her sister had to convince them that their mother's words were translated incorrectly and that she was not dangerous.

Naima said, "I am a survivor. From all the hardships, I could be dead by now. I have many disadvantages. I am a black, Muslim Woman. I know I look and act differently, but it does not mean that I have less mental abilities and am inferior to others. I want to be successful and return all the goodness that I have received from wonderful people in my community by being a social worker."

GARCIA

Garcia is from Mexico. He used to be a taxi driver but then decided to come to the U.S. "I love my country," Garcia said, "But the gangs and drug dealers do not allow us to live safely." He came here almost 20 years ago, and has been deported more than 20 times.

"The only thing that I have ever wished for is to have a better life and live without fear," he said. He believes that borders should not separate people; All of us are human and have rights to improve our lives. "This country was built on immigrants' bones," Garcia said. Garcia wishes that people like him would be judged



LEAVING THE HOMELAND

Her heart was light
Her face bright
As she said good-bye
To all she had ever known
And may not see for quite a while
Yet she did not sigh
Did not cry
Until they reached Holland
Then suddenly she wondered
Where is it I'm going?
How will I speak the language?
It finally dawned on her
That she was journeying into the unknown
Far away from home
What to do?
Her roots had been torn
She felt scared...
She wanted to go back
But the journey continued
Across the endless ocean
At last they arrived
'America'
In silence she stared, she watched
It was so different
So strange, so bizarre
But she thought to herself,
This place, these unpacked cases, my husband
They are my life now
Now I must build it

about the writer

Varesh Gorabi wrote this poem about her mother, who left her home country to build a new life in the U.S. She is a Freshmen at Highland High School and enjoys writing poetry, cooking, running and learning about the world around her. She is passionate about universal issues, nature and science.



based on their effectiveness and productivity for the society, not based on having a piece of paper. He added, "If we do not do anything wrong in this country why should we not have the right to live here?"

Utah Crew brings rowing to the Jordan River

By **Misty Brown**
WEST VIEW MEDIA

In the spring, while driving along Redwood Road, you might miss what is going on down on the Jordan River surplus canal — the sound of water rebounding off a wooden dock, the gathering of gear, and the calls of rowers as the members of Utah Crew, a unique non-profit rowing club take to the water.

Rowing in Utah? It might be surprising to learn that in a state known for its beautiful deserts and towering mountains, not only is rowing occurring in Utah, but there is a thriving community right here on the west side. “The rowing community in Utah is small, but passionate,” said Janet Frasier, a parent and Booster member for Utah Crew, one of several rowing clubs located in Utah. She said that rowing is relatively new in this valley, and that many of the coaches and “boosters” behind this sport grew up rowing in other places. “They are eager not only to find good places to row in this desert for themselves, but to introduce the kids of our community to the sport,” Frasier said.

Historically, as long as we have relied on rivers for transport and trade there has been rowing. According to George Saylor in his book “An Illustrated History of Rowing,” the sport is believed to have originated from traders competing for fares. The first recorded competitive event was held in 1715 on the Thames River in England. In the 1800s the sport flourished throughout college communities. It is in fact the oldest American college sport (1844) predating football (1871), baseball (1879), and basketball (1891). It debuted as an Olympic sport in the 1900 Paris Olympics, and added female events in 1976.



PHOTO COURTESY UTAH CREW

Beginner rowers in Utah Crew's Learn to Row Program practice on the Jordan River surplus canal.

Often accused of being an elitist sport, rowing communities are increasingly reaching out to more diverse populations.

“Rowing is a very expensive sport, unfortunately, due to the very high cost of the equipment,” said Utah Crew Head/Competition Coach Jeff Massey, who explained that a new boat can cost upwards of \$30,000. To help offset the high cost of participation, Utah Crew has a scholarship program. “We want anyone interested in rowing to be able to row,” Massey said.

Massey, a Boston native, rowed for Cornell University. He relocated to Utah four years ago. “It has been really fun and fulfilling for me to witness the tremen-

dous growth of the sport in Utah. We have athletes being recruited to row at some of the top collegiate rowing programs in the country,” he said.

Under Coach Massey and Recreational Rowing Program Coach Josie Byrbegan, Utah Crew anticipates 30 youth rowers for the spring season - 20 male, 10 female. The majority of the athletes come from West High School, Skyline, Judge Memorial, East High, and Highland high schools but the program is open to any who might be interested. Their mission is “to develop team-oriented, disciplined, confident, mentally-focused, and physically fit young people, through the medium of the sport of rowing.”

The young athletes ages 13-18 don't just train in the water, they train hard in the gym. During the winter months they train two hours twice a week in the basement of West High School. Their backpacks and discarded sweatshirts line the corridor while the steady sound of the coach's counts and the whirl of nearly a dozen rowing machines echo down the long narrow hallway. Workouts include strength training, cardiovascular endurance via running, and of course intensive rowing on the machines. Driven by the enthusiasm of their teammates, they are preparing for when they get their first feel of being on the water together.

But rowing enthusiasts say

event
info

Utah Crew

Saturday, May 10

Brine Shrimp Sprints, Utah Crew's annual race event
Jordan River surplus canal,
2301 West Indiana Ave.

Sunday, May 11

Great Salt Lake Pole Race
Great Salt Lake Marina,
start time TBA.

For more information about
Utah Crew, visit the website
at www.utahcrew.org.

it goes beyond simple physical fitness. The young women of Utah Crew feel that the life lessons they learn from rowing - teamwork, leadership, and a sense of duty and community - are the key to their future. Recruited by older siblings and friends to the sport, they are hopeful they can raise the awareness of the benefits of rowing to others.

Rowing crosses boundaries between schools, genders, and generations. “It is a universal sport,” one young rower said. “I can't believe how many people I talk to who have rowed. It ties us together instantly.”

There are other benefits of rowing. Involvement in the sport can boost a student's college or job/internship application. There are also many college scholarships available for female rowers. According to the NCAA, Division I schools spend approximately \$250,000 and Division II schools approximately \$46,000 in athletics scholarships for rowing.

In mid-March, the Spring racing season opens and Utah Crew begins training in the surplus canal. Per arrangements with Salt Lake County, the dock is currently located at 830 South DeLong St. along the Jordan River surplus canal (approximately 2100 W.) and is

MARRIAGE

continued from **PAGE 1**

And they were worried that a legal stay could be issued at any moment, which would prevent them from getting married.

They decided to drive to a Davis County Clerk's Office in Farmington. They were surprised with the warm reception they received. Teary-eyed clerks were asking couples how long they had been together and offered "awkward" hugs from

behind the counter.

They received a marriage license, but learned that it had to be "solemnized" within 30 days. Fortunately, they were directed to a lovely, young Unitarian minister from Logan who was marrying couples in front of a large window overlooking the old courthouse. Owen choked up when it was his turn to repeat the vows, but was able to continue on after Storrs reassuringly squeezed his hand.

"We didn't think we would

feel any differently by getting married," Owen said, "but it sealed our relationship."

Storrs said they got married because they could. "We are not looking for other people's approval," he said. He feels that gay relationships are "purer" than some heterosexual relationships. "Our commitment is totally voluntary; we get together because of love."

Storrs was not always openly gay.

However, he had known he was gay since he was 8 years old after he read an article about homosexuality in Better Homes and Gardens. He had always been attracted to boys, but he was a devout Mormon and was taught that if he acted on his same-sex attraction, he would be separated from God. So, after serving an LDS mission, he married a woman he had grown to love, because he thought it was the right thing to do.

He was in this monogamous, heterosexual marriage for 32 years. He served in his local LDS bishopric and was a Boy Scout leader for 20 years. He and his now ex-wife had four children. "We were a model family," he said.

One day in 1999, while working as Salt Lake Community College's facility planner, he was asked to be the advisor of the college's gay-straight alliance club. At the first club meeting,



PHOTO BY JOSÉ BERNARDO FANJUL

Orlan Owen and Gordon Storrs recall the story of their marriage at their home in Fairpark in March.

he learned that all 18 students in attendance had attempted suicide at least once.

Growing inner conflict led Storrs to consider the pros and cons of coming out as gay. He worried what it would do to his wife, his family, and to his professional life.

"I had been deceiving myself, and everyone else. You can only do that for so long," he said. "And my wife deserved better."

Storrs came out at age 51, while serving in the Bishopric in his local LDS ward and as Chair of the Poplar Grove Community Council. As a re-

sult, he was ex-communicated from the LDS church.

"God still loves me and always will. My relationship is with God, not the church. I'll always love the [LDS] Church because of how it guided my life and formed my character, but there's no place in it for me now," said Storrs.

Storrs and Owen are hopeful that the 10th Circuit Court will reaffirm Judge Shelby's decision. Storrs said, "We don't want to give up our marriage certificate. It's a symbol of being equal, like Rosa Parks being able to sit in the back of the bus."

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Sorenson Multicultural Center
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Dreamkeepers project

Glendale students weigh in on air quality

By Luis Sengua and Horatio Beltran

STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

Air pollution, both indoors and outdoors, poses health risks to millions of Americans every day. Rising temperatures can make smog pollution worse and increase the number of "bad air days" when it's hard to breathe. Since 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency has worked to protect public health by setting and enforcing standards to protect the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

On a larger scale, governments are taking measures to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. One way is through the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement between countries to cut back on carbon dioxide emissions. The United States has not signed the Kyoto protocol, but if Americans are serious about protecting the environment, we should lobby politicians to reconsider the international agreement. Another method is to put taxes on carbon emissions or higher taxes on gasoline, so that people and companies will have greater incentives to conserve energy and pollute less.

During the 1970s, the U.S. government began to regu-

late dangerous chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons, which were used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants until they were banned because of their deteriorating effect on Earth's ozone layer.

Utah's population has doubled in size since 1980, and yet the state is still growing. By the year 2050, the state population is expected to grow to three times its current size, so we must take action now to make sure we can sustain our population in an environmentally safe way.

Air pollution is especially a problem on the west side of Salt Lake City, and it causes many people to get sick. It has built up a thick smog affecting people with asthma and breathing problems. As air quality became worse during the winter, local news outlets talked about smog and how to stop it from affecting Utahns. We believe that if air is causing many people to be very sick, we need to stop the cause of the pollution.

According to the National Geographic website, many things cause air pollution. First, using cars produces a lot carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas that causes pollution. Another factor is methane being burned in factories. Also, a lot of people

use firewood to keep warm when they don't have a heater, and others rely on it to survive during the frigid winter. All the smoke from fires may cause some smog, but not as much as the factories on the west side. Pollution can even come from abandoned factories due to the left over chemicals from past

production.

We believe we can work together and stop the pollution. We can start by not driving cars. If everyone rides a bike or takes TRAX or FrontRunner, the west side wouldn't be as polluted, and we all would breathe fresher air. It also would help if the

public transportation on the west side were a real alternative to driving. We can also advocate to make factories use less dangerous chemicals by contacting our local representatives like state Rep. Angela Romero and City Councilman Kyle LaMalfa.

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about the writers



Luis Sengua



Horatio Beltran

Luis Sengua and Horatio Beltran are students in the Dreamkeepers Project at Glendale Middle School. They are both concerned that Salt Lake City and Utah are not doing enough to improve air quality after another winter of difficult breathing. *Dreamkeepers Mentor and West View intern Ivan Ottaviano helped edit this article.*

UTAH CREW

continued from **PAGE 12**

in the water seasonally from April through November.

Unfortunately, the site lacks good viewing and spectator areas. On-site parking for rowers, coaches and parents has to be pre-arranged with the neighboring business. The rowing community is hopeful that a better situation for both rowers and spectators is in their near future. Michael Horrocks, founder of Wasatch Rowing Foundation, a non-profit, is leading the charge to construct and maintain a permanent boathouse facility. He is hopeful such a venue would help promote not only the sport of rowing but better use and enjoyment of the Jordan River and the surplus canal. Supporters say the project has a long way to go, but it is an attainable vision.

That vision was given a boost when a public draft of the West Salt Lake Master

Plan, released in January, stated that “in conjunction with Salt Lake County, [Salt Lake City] should explore the opportunity of creating a small summer recreation center to complement the existing, temporary rowing facilities in place at Indiana Avenue and the surplus canal.”

“We plan on seeing a lot of change in the next 10 years in the rowing community in Utah,” Janet says, speaking hopefully of expansion and improvements to the program.

Utah Crew offers programs for beginning as well as competitive rowers. The cost of the Learn to Row eight-week recreational program is approximately \$200. The price steadily increases for those rowing competitively to around \$425, not including travel expenses. To help students whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their participation, scholarship funding is available.

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AIR QUALITY

continued from **PAGE 1**

mess. The bills that passed do not allow Utah to make laws that are stiffer than federal regulations, and none allow local governments to charge increased taxes to expand public transportation.

Salt Lake’s population is projected to double by 2030. This means more cars and more energy consumption contributing to air pollution.

Inversions have been shown to have a negative effect on the cardiovascular system, the brain, the lungs, birth outcomes, chromosomal and fetal development. They have been associated with increased rates of breast, lung, prostate, cervical, brain, and stomach cancers. Mortality rates are growing.

The west side is particularly in jeopardy. We live in the lowest areas of the valley, and right now, there are more refineries on the west side than in any other region in Northern Utah.

event info

Community Conversation with the Mayor

**April 14, 6 p.m.
Sorenson Unity Center
1383 S. 900 West**

Topic: Transportation
Readers, what topics would you like to discuss in future Conversations with the Mayor?

*Send your ideas to
unitycenter@slcgov.com*

The mayor and three city officials discussed important solutions they are working toward that could make a big difference at the first of three “Community Conversations with the Mayor” series hosted by the Sorenson Unity Center.

On Feb. 5, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker along with District 5 City Councilwoman Erin Mendenhall, District 2 City Councilman Kyle LaMalfa and Salt Lake City Office of Sustainability Director Vicky Bennett formed a panel to

discuss air quality issues in the Salt Lake Valley with west Salt Lake residents.

About 40 people attended the two-hour meeting, whose aim was to bring people together to find solutions.

The panel members suggested that the state could raise the cap of how much local governments can invest in transportation infrastructure, in order to improve public transit services. They also considered raising the gas tax to improve roads, thereby accommodating more buses and discouraging people from making unnecessary car trips. The last recommendation addressed the role of state government. The panel urged local residents to pressure the state to make changes to Section 106 of the Environmental Quality Code under the Air Conservation Act chapter.

The argument that prevailed during the panel’s presentation was that people are willing to take action on a local level.

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Same sex marriage

“OUR STORY” ABOUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY

RELIGIOUS VIEW ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



Geoff and John Clapp

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

John: The term “marriage equality” holds layers of significance to me. Marriage represents to me validation, equality, recognition and safety. I hope marriage will be the catalyst for change, to bring fair housing and employment opportunities and security to us. To not fear holding hands in public. To not worry about being victimized or assaulted for who we are. To fully hold our heads high, and be valued for the creative, intelligent, and giving human beings we can be.

Geoff: Ever since I was a young boy, I had no doubt in my mind that I would one day marry the one I loved. Of course, back then I was oblivious to the laws of the land and society’s perspective on the roles we give ourselves. I met the man I would soon marry, John Clapp, at a gay men’s group. From the moment I saw him I was head over heels. No sooner after we had met I knew I would spend the rest of my life with him. In the following months we prepared our wedding arrangements. We chose our rings, fitted our clothes and purchased the plane tickets, among other things (we were first legally married in the state of California). For me, preparing our wedding invitations was most important to me above everything else involved in the wedding preparations. I wanted it to be stunning yet masculine. I wanted it to be memorable and inviting, but

most of all I wanted our families to see our spouse no differently than those in any other marriage they had been invited to---which is why the picture coupled with our invitation was not of our faces but the joining of our hands and our rings. Getting married to John was more than just declaring my love for him; it was me telling the world that this is who I am. Being able to marry the one you love is more than a declaration of your commitment; it is a basic human right. That is why I feel it is so important that Utah grants marriage equality, not only to John and myself, but for every other LGBT couple.

John: Walking into the government building for the second time (first in San Diego in 2008 and then again in Utah, 2013) was a surreal feeling mixed with this cautiously optimistic idea that we might gain full marriage rights again and yet at any moment, just like with Proposition 8, it might be taken away. Being at the government building on December 20th, 2013 you could sense the historical significance of what was taking place. There was so much joy and love and a sense of heightened urgency. Now, both of our marriage licenses, one from California and now one from Utah, hang matted and nicely framed for all in our home to see. They also remind us not to take marriage for granted. Marriage is a way forward for our society. I believe marriage for same-sex couples will “strengthen marriage”, and the social stability of the family unit will be promoted. We (LGBT persons) want a better life, and we will be always be willing to fight for it if need be. Marriage for same-sex couples someday will just be called marriage. This is my hope. **John and Geoff Clapp are a married gay couple who reside in Poplar Grove. Geoff is a native of Utah and John is originally from Idaho. They have two boys, Jake and Riley (a basset hound and a dachshund terrier mix).**



Kajsa Berlin-Kaufusi

WEST VIEW MEDIA

Recent legal events in Utah surrounding marriage equality have intensified the rhetoric against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ policy on same-sex marriage, calling it “hateful,” “backward,” and “cruel.” Those words have also been used to describe LDS persons who support their church’s stance on the issue, in addition to the all-too common label “bigot.”

As a person who considers herself an active and faithful Latter-day Saint, I think it is important to acknowledge that equally offensive things have been said by LDS persons toward the gay community; I believe this hurtful diatribe needs to stop.

I do not in any way speak officially for the LDS church (for the LDS church’s official policy on gay marriage please visit the website www.LDS.org). I speak as a Latter-day Saint who takes a compassionate stance against gay marriage. To many, that may seem like an impossible thing, an oxymoron, even. In the legislative process, passions are high and tempers are heated as both sides advocate for what they feel will best suit our society.

I see the relationship between a man and a woman to be a critical one, illustrated not only in major religious texts but also biologically. All Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) view this union between man and woman to be God ordained and life giving. My lived experience

has led me to feel strongly that men and women, united in marital union, perfect and refine one another as they work together as equal partners. There is incredible power and capacity in this male/female union not only in its unique ability to support the opposite sex but also to create life.

When possible, marital unions welcome children into their home who are ideally supported through the efforts of both “mom” and “dad.” Though such marriage and family situations are not possible for all, I see marriage between a man and a woman as the “standard” for which society should aim when creating family units. I see marriage as having a two-fold purpose: 1) to emotionally and physically support one’s spouse and 2) to provide a structured and loving environment where children can see both parents modeling cooperation and support between their two genders, setting the standard for love, cooperation, and respect between genders for the next generation.

I cannot be in support of a legislative effort that legalizes gay marriage, because it is my belief that such a standard would move society away from an ideal that is best for maximizing the security and prosperity of humankind.

While holding such a view, I believe it is possible to stand firm in one’s convictions while at the same time showing compassion to those of differing views. As a member of the LDS community, I encourage others of my faith to get out of their comfort zones and get to know people different from them, specifically those who consider themselves an active part of the LGBT community. If we don’t allow ourselves the chance to hear another’s story, then how can we truly engage in compassionate dialogue?

Kajsa is married, has a baby boy and lives in Poplar Grove. She is finishing her thesis and will be graduating soon with an MA in Biblical Studies.

community editorials

Your story matters. *The West View* encourages community members to contribute stories to the paper, either by telling their own story in their own words, or by helping report on important community issues. Come learn more at our monthly Newsroom meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at the Sorenson Unity Center, 1383 S. 900 W., from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Glendale residents make plea for safer roads



Misty Brown

WEST VIEW MEDIA

Genaro Zaragoza-Valencia wore a white cowboy hat. He walked the streets in Glendale beside his wife in her motorized wheelchair as they collected cans to recycle. He always had time to smile and say hello. He was funny and liked to tease.

Some of us who live in the area may not have known him well, but on November 25, 2013, when we saw police cars blocking access to 1000 West at 1700 South, red and blue lights flashing in the darkness, and a white cowboy hat lying in the road among a few aluminum cans, we instantly knew who had been the victim of a tragic auto/pedestrian accident.

Upon hearing the news of his death my young daughter gasped, "Who will walk his wife?"

For two days following the accident, the cars driving up and down 10th West drove by slowly. The pedestrians carefully crossed in the crosswalks, looking both ways, following all the rules. But over time, people forget.

I, however, cannot forget how dangerous this road is. I too lost someone at that intersection. My loss was not as severe as losing a husband, a father, or a grandfather. Mine was a sleek black dog



PHOTO BY MISTY BROWN

A temporary memorial for Genaro Zaragoza-Valencia stands near the corner of 1700 S. 1000 West, just a few feet from the spot of the tragic auto/pedestrian accident that ended his life last November. His Glendale neighbors tend to the flowers and candles in his memory, hoping that no more lives will be needlessly lost.

that could run like the wind - a dog I drove round-trip 14 hours to bring home from Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah. His name was Kilo and he had never seen grass.

Kilo and I were paired after my sister was found dead in her apartment and I could not recover from the loss. I was struggling to make it through each day. I felt abandoned and isolated in seemingly endless grief. Trapped by memory. Haunted by the details of her death and yet afraid to forget. I was too lost and alone to make much sense of the world

around me. I needed to find a light. And I found one in that dog.

One dark, early morning before sunrise, our family was loading up for a day canoe trip on the Weber river. Kilo slipped out through an open gate, looking for me. Not finding me in the driveway, he must of headed south toward the route we ran together on the Jordan River Trail. His broken body was discovered in the road by his own family, as we spotted him in his dying moments in our headlights.

In the grass within sight of the stop sign, a small memo-

rial for Genaro Zaragoza-Valencia still stands all these months later. The makeshift cardboard sign which read, "Please Slow Down" is gone, but the message still lingers here.

While working in the ER of the University of Utah, I saw first hand the devastation of careless drivers and pedestrians alike. A car, like a train, can be a horrific weapon that a person is simply no match for. I am very careful to mind the speed limit in the neighborhoods that I drive. Even with that caution, I have had close calls. It scares me

Safety tips For drivers

- Always be alert and avoid distractions while driving.
- Drive the posted speed limits.
- If you can't see clearly, slow down. Pedestrians and animals can be hard to see, especially at night, in bad weather, and direct sunlight.
- When entering a crosswalk area, drive slowly and be prepared to stop.
- Do not pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.

For pedestrians

- The best defense is a good offense; don't count on drivers paying attention to you. Look both ways before you cross the road, even in a marked crosswalk. If possible, make eye contact with the drivers around you to be sure they see you.
- Be predictable by using sidewalks and marked crosswalks whenever possible.
- Where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safest to walk facing the road traffic.
- Make it easy for drivers to see you. Dress in light colors or wear reflective material.

to think that the day before Zaragoza-Valencia was hit, I narrowly avoided hitting a small child who had darted out in the road at the exact spot the memorial now sits.

Any one of us could accidentally hit a person or an animal in the road, due to sunlight or darkness, rain or



communitybulletin

communitycouncil

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL!

Community councils are neighborhood-based organizations developed to help community members directly advocate for change in their communities. Their job is to provide various city departments with input and recommendations generated directly from the community. These councils consist of local residents, service providers, property and business owners. Meetings are open to the public. In fact, involvement from the community is essential to the process. After all, who better understands the issues and needs of a community than the people who live, work, and play there? To find out which community council area you live in, go to www.westviewmedia.org

FAIRPARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fourth Thursdays: March 27, April 24, May 22, 6:30 p.m.
Northwest Multipurpose Center, 1300 W. 300 North
Chair: Steven Johnson: philogooch@yahoo.com
801-521-3168
Website: www.fairparkcommunity.org

JORDAN MEADOWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Second Wednesdays: April 9, May 14, 6:30 p.m.
Day-Riverside Library, 1575 W. 1000 North
Chair: JoAnn Anderson: zcar1977@netzero.net
801-355-5583

ROSE PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

First Wednesdays: April 2, May 7, 6:30 p.m.
Day-Riverside Library, 1575 W. 1000 North
Chair: Blake Perez: blakeperez@hotmail.com
801-702-2522
Facebook: Rose Park Community

WESTPOINTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Third Wednesdays: March 19, April 16, May 21, 7 p.m.
Day-Riverside Library, 1575 W. 1000 North
Chair: Erin Youngberg: erin@westpointecc.org
801-815-0130

POPLAR GROVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fourth Wednesdays: March 26, April 23, May 28, 7 p.m.
Pioneer Police Precinct, 1040 W. 700 South
Chair: Andrew Johnston:
poplargrovecouncil@gmail.com, 801-699-1381
Facebook: Polar Grove Community Council

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Third Wednesdays: March 19, April 16, May 21, 7 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary, 1380 S. Navajo St. (1335 W.)
Chair: Randy Sorenson:
801-973-6652

BALLPARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

First Thursdays of each quarter: April 3, May 1, 7 p.m.
Horizonte Center cafeteria, 1234 S. Main Street
Chair: Elke Phillips: Ballparkcc@gmail.com
801-708-3915
Website: www.ballparkcc.org
Facebook: Ballpark Community

Salt Lake City Mayors Office

P.O. Box 145474, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114
801-538-7704 Facebook: Ralph Becker



GET INVOLVED. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

Apply to be on a Salt Lake City Board or Commission
Salt Lake City boards and commissions are a vital link between constituents and City government. Volunteering to be a member is a great way to voice opinions, raise concerns and help represent your community in government decisions. And, with over 20 different advisory bodies, there is something for every skill-set or interest.

To learn more about vacancies in your area, visit www.slcgov.com/bc/vacancies or call 801-535-6006. Salt Lake City looks forward to hearing from you.

GIVE BIG. FEEL HAPPY. Volunteer for Salt Lake City.

Making Salt Lake City the best place to live, work, play and do business is at the core of the City's goals. With such a full plate, the City gratefully relies on the help of interested residents who are willing to donate their time and energy in a spirit of community engagement.

Volunteers improve the many public spaces, natural and urban, that contribute to the great quality of life in Salt Lake City, and, in turn, enjoy a fulfilling, meaningful and satisfying experience.

The upcoming months are packed with fun and engaging volunteer opportunities for groups, individuals, youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.slcgov.com/volunteer.

Poplar Grove community council

Groove In The Groove:

Monday, July 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Pioneer Precinct, 1040 W. 700 South
Sponsored by: Poplar Grove Community Council, Salt Lake City, Smith's Food & Drug

Join us
meeting schedule
4th Wednesday of the month (excluding June, July, Nov, Dec) @ 7pm
Pioneer Precinct
1040 W 700 S
SLC 84104

385-743-9POP (385-743-9767)
PoplarGroveCouncil@gmail.com
facebook [PoplarGroveCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PoplarGroveCouncil)
twitter @PoplarGroveCC

NeighborWorks Salt Lake

622 W. 500 North, 801-539-1590
nwsaltlake.org



YOUTH ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 23, 2014
Noon - 8 p.m.
At the Bridge Over Barriers Art Project, 300 N. from 600 W. to 800 W. in Salt Lake City.
Free and open to the public.

Facebook: Youth Arts & Music Festival, Salt Lake
Twitter: @YAMFSaltLake
#YAMF #SLC #Utah #Youth #Arts #Music

If you would like to be a part of the festival, come to the planning meetings at 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at NeighborWorks Salt Lake, 622 W. 500 North.

The Rythmos Project

RHYTHMOS: FEEL THE HEARTBEAT!

Monday March 31
3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary
Special guests, George Grant and Alex Caldiero work with students in an interactive workshop and performance that explores rhythms found in life.

RHYTHMOS: EXPLORING THE HEARTBEAT OF LIFE

Wednesday April 2
3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Interactive Concert with Special Guest George Grant

The Rhythmos Project is the search for unity between different cultures and aspects of life through all art mediums incorporating verbal and non-verbal communication. In this interactive performance you will explore, reflect, and express your artistic voice by examining rhythm as an underlying element experienced in all facets of life.

For additional information about the Rhythmos and Mundi Project programs, please contact:
Hana Janatova
801-487-8594 (Office)
801-897-2297 (Mobile)
janatova@mundiproject.org

event
info

communitybulletin

Northwest Recreation Center

1255 W. Clark Avenue (300 N.)

**EGG DIVE**

Friday, April 18, 6 p.m.

Swimming Pool

Cost: free to members, daily admission for all others

EGG HUNT

Saturday April 19, 9 a.m., Free

GIRLS SOFTBALL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

Ages 6 to 15. Season runs April 22 - mid-May

\$36

Two games per week, one weeknight and one

Saturday. Register early to ensure practice time with a coach.

TRACK & FIELD

Ages 6 and up. Registration opens late April, early May, \$26

Practices begin the end of May.

Two practices per week, days of week TBA.

Participants learn proper running form, stretching, relays, field events, and more. Meets are held throughout the season ending with a qualifying regional meet for All-County Championships.

Sunday Anderson Westside Senior Center**EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: FORGIVENESS PRESENTATION**

March 27, 1:15 p.m.

CLUB CAREGIVERS: SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALL CAREGIVERS

Every third Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE SCREENING (PVD) AND VISION SCREENINGS

April 10, 9 a.m. - noon

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

April 11, 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

SPRING BUFFET WITH ENTERTAINMENT FROM HEART AND SOUL

April 16, 11 a.m.

BIRTHDAY TUESDAY

May 6, 11 a.m.

Entertainment by the Tap Dancing Grannies

Sorensen Unity Center

1383 S. 900 West, 801-535-6533

www.sorensonunitycenter.com

**ON GOING EVENTS:****EARN A BIKE PROGRAM****Every Saturday**

March 15 - April 26

Noon - 3 p.m. for youth, ages 10 to 18

Want to earn your own bike? Earn a Bike Program is a six week basic bike mechanics course offered for free, totaling 18 solid hours of instructional time. Upon graduation, students will earn their own bicycle to keep and ride with pride. Limited to 12 youth. For more information or to register, please call 801-535-6536.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSROOM**Third Tuesday of every month**

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Check the West View Media Facebook page for possible schedule changes or email wvm.editors@gmail.com with questions.

Join folks from The West View newspaper to collectively brainstorm future content, learn about the community journalism process, and construct quality news stories for your local newspaper. Come with feedback and any suggestions to make the newspaper a better forum of communication.

TEEN MOTHER WORKSHOPS**Every Tuesday**

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Are you pregnant or a mother under age 18? You can become a member of our weekly support group. Teen Success Members benefit by earning \$10 for each week of completed class, \$100 bonus for every 25 weeks attended, and free snacks and child-care provided. For more information, call Paco with Planned Parenthood at 801-521-2741 or visit www.facebook.com/ppacofutah.**HORIZONTE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free Register for classes at the Sorensen Unity Center. Sign-up with instructor, all levels are taught. Please bring a driver's license or utility bill for proof of address when registering. Childcare is available from 9 - 12 p.m. for ages 8 weeks to 7 years old. \$1.50 per hour, per child or purchase a 15 hour punch pass.

Sorensen Multicultural

855 W. California Ave. (1300 South), 385-468-1300

**MARCH:****March 1:** Swm lessons, session 5
Registration opens: Feb. 22**March 4:** Swm lessons, session 6
Registration opens: Feb. 25**APRIL:****April 1:** Swm lessons, session 7
Registration opens: March 25**April 5:** Sewing 101 and 201
Registration deadline: April 4**April 8:** T-ball and coach pitch
Registration deadline: March 29**April 12:** Superhero 5k
Registration deadline: April 11**April 14-18:** Spring break camp
Registration deadline: None**April 19:** East egg hunt
Registration deadline: April 19 at 9 a.m.**April 23:** Outdoor soccer (spring)
Registration deadline: March 29**MAY:****May 3:** Swim lessons, session 9
Registration opens: April 26**May 6:** Swim lessons, session 10
Registration opens: April 29**JUNE:****June 4:** Outdoor soccer (summer)
Registration deadline: May 24**June 9:** Summer day camp
Registration deadline: None

The West View

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Get involved in your community newspaper by helping with distribution, copy editing, fundraising or office management. If you are interested send us an email at wvm.editors@gmail.com.

Postal Patron

West side wildlife



Dan Potts
West View Media



Wandering Garter Snake,
Thamnophis elegans vagrans

The garter snake, often called the garden snake, is probably the most common snake in America.

The most common subspecies of this garter snake in the West is found from the valley floors all the way up to the tops of our mountains, and as its subspecies' name (vagrans) implies, it wanders everywhere, including into our own yards.

Unfortunately, the wandering of this snake is also contributes to its most common cause of death, being run over by cars, especially in highly urbanized areas like Salt Lake City.

Locals usually refer to this subspecies as the "water" snake, probably because it is commonly encountered near waterways like the Jordan River where it can swim equally well both on top and below the water.

This snake is easy to identify

(see photo above) with its grey- brown body, dark brown spots, a single body length buffy yellow dorsal stripe, and another yellow stripe down each side to the tail.

They commonly grow to about two feet, but larger ones can grow to 40 inches.

Their closest competitor on the Jordan is probably the non-native bullfrog.

Active from April through October, they hibernate underground during the colder months, sometimes in large groups.

They often all emerge and breed shortly afterward in the spring.

Like humans their babies are born live, but give birth to broods of up to 70 young.

Most reptiles, amphibians and fish typically lay eggs that hatch later.

If provoked they are known to bite people, although generally considered to be non-poisonous, and considered harmless and certainly nothing to be afraid of.

Its saliva does have toxins that can cause pain, prevent blood from clotting, and may cause other unpleasant reactions in some people, so I think it is best leave them alone.

This saliva can, however, kill some of the very small prey

that they actively hunt during daylight.

They are known to feed on live and dead animals alike, and may have the widest diet of any snake.

In urban habitats they are beneficial predators, often eating pests like mice and garden insects.

Their best defense is a stinky, offensive musk odor they exude from their anus.

That musk apparently did not prevent me from spending many hours as a kid catching and handling these, and many other critters that I carried home to the displeasure of my mom who usually told me to set them free.

Letting them go in our neighborhood sometimes resulted in screams from the neighbors who later encountered these transplanted serpents in their yards.

On the positive side, I think it may have been this snake that originally caused me to be so infatuated with wildlife that I ended up in graduate school seeking a higher degree in zoology and my passion to educate the public about wildlife all these years later.

Dan Potts is a Poplar Grove resident, local naturalist and President of Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association.

MAALI

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sonal and community identities, bringing voices which have been in the margins to the center, then it cannot be assumed that everyone will speak the same language or use the same words to express ideas."

The Legislative Internship was created through University Neighborhood Partners. One of the main reasons college students in the Social Justice Scholars (SJS) program created the Legislative Internship was to give communities on the west side of Salt Lake City a voice, especially minorities.

SJS students feel that the Utah State Capitol is primarily filled with white, male individuals who have easy access to a public space that is meant for everyone. Israel Corrales says, "As a participant of this program I have seen that the Capitol should be accessible to everybody, even west side residents. In order to change the space of the Capitol, we need to get involved and be the agents of change in our community."

The SJS students back in 2008 wanted to create that voice for teens that have different ethnic backgrounds, to give them that opportunity to go up there and talk to their representatives and senators and voice their opinions. This pathway has created a more inclusive practice towards having community members participate in legislative sessions.

EMAIL: wvm.editors@gmail.com

ROADS

continued from **PAGE 17**

snow, distraction or carelessness. An auto/pedestrian accident is devastating to everyone involved, not just the

victim. The driver, whether at fault or not, has their life altered in an instant. Their family and the victim's family are all impacted. Lives are changed forever.

Every school day morning

I watch the children of our neighborhood walk to school. They cross the streets in tiny hopeful packs; they are our future. These are not just streets, these are the gateways to our homes. Please slow down and

remain vigilant on our roads. Please travel these roads with care.

Misty Brown is a Glendale resident and avid gardner, runner, blogger and writer for The West View.