

ISSUE #7

APRIL 2026

FAR WEST FOCUS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FAR WEST REGION

greetings



Greetings Far West Family,

Spring is here, and with it comes a season of renewal, growth, and fresh perspective. It is a time that reminds us that all the work we have poured into this program year is beginning to blossom in meaningful ways. And Far West, you continue to shine.

We have successfully closed out our Children's Clusters across the region, and what a beautiful reflection of our commitment to our children and our mission. The care, creativity, and excellence poured into each experience does not go unnoticed. Thank you for continuing to show up in such a powerful way for our families.

I sincerely thank you for your grace and understanding during the new background check process. Navigating such changes can be challenging, yet your commitment to compliance and collaboration is truly commendable. As we approach the end of our program year, we celebrate leadership transitions and extend our congratulations to our newly elected officers. Your dedication to our organization and the families we support is inspiring. We also express gratitude to the sponsors who have been instrumental in inviting prospective members, strengthening our sisterhood's bonds.

This season is significant for families with graduating seniors, marking the culmination of years of hard work and the beginning of new adventures. We celebrate these young achievers as they prepare for their college journeys, knowing that Far West stands by their side as they enter this exciting chapter.

Far West exemplifies being ELITE—Empowered in leadership, Inspired in service, and committed to Excellence. As we conclude this program year, let's come together to finish strong, united in our goals and aspirations.

With gratitude and pride,

Monique Arrington

MONIQUE ARRINGTON
29TH FAR WEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR
JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.
EMPOWERED LEADERSHIP. INSPIRED TO EXCEL.

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Monique Arrington

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KEEPING UP WITH THE FAR WEST REGION

04



NATIONAL YOUTH TRIP

This year's National Youth Trip to Charleston, South Carolina was nothing short of extraordinary—a true journey into history, lineage, and legacy in the Lowcountry.

Our families were immersed in the rich and resilient culture of the Gullah Geechee people, whose traditions, language, foodways, and storytelling reflect a powerful connection to West African ancestry and the enduring spirit of a people who have preserved their heritage across generations. From exploring historic landmarks and sacred spaces to engaging in hands-on cultural experiences, this trip brought history to life in a meaningful and unforgettable way.

Participants experienced the depth of Gullah Geechee culture through curated excursions that highlighted everything from farm-to-table culinary traditions and storytelling to the

significance of land, family, and community. Whether walking through historic Charleston, visiting sites that tell the story of our ancestors, or engaging in intergenerational learning experiences, our youth and families were able to see themselves reflected in history and legacy in a profound way.

Moments of reflection, education, and celebration were woven throughout the weekend—from cultural tours and culinary experiences to powerful discussions on resilience, faith, and heritage. These experiences reminded us that our history is not just something we learn, but something we carry forward.

A heartfelt thank you to National Youth Trip Chair Jenee Hamilton for the incredible hard work, care, and intentionality poured into this experience. Her leadership was thoughtful, impactful, and inspiring. She is truly the embodiment of what it means to be ELITE—Empowered in leadership, Inspired in service, and committed to Excellence.

This trip was more than a journey—it was a connection to our past, a celebration of our present, and an investment in our future.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



ROOTS AND RHYTHM: CONNECTING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Our children gathered for an engaging cultural and educational drumming session filled with rhythm and discovery. Rooted in the rich traditions of West African culture, where drums tell stories, celebrate community, and preserve history, our youth experienced the powerful connection between music, heritage, and cultural pride.



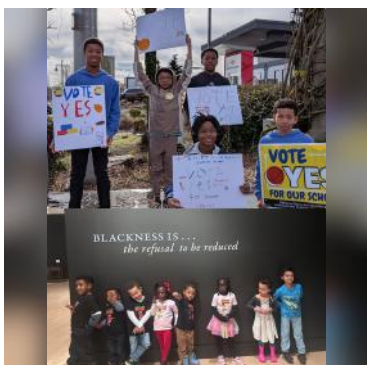
SOUTH LOS ANGELES LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

Grade Groups 1-4 brought African American history to life, portraying leaders, scientists, artists, and civil rights champions who shaped our nation. Supporters learned about heroes through engaging presentations. The museum inspired, informed, and uplifted the community with its portrayals.



THE "FASCINATING AND FEARLESS" FRESNO CHAPTER CELEBRATES BHM

The "Fascinating and Fearless" Fresno Chapter celebrated Black History Month with four events focusing on black literacy and art (hosted by members of Group 4 and 5). Our final event included poetry, games, and a fish fry. Overall, our Black History Month was filled with pride and chapter bonding.



LIVING BLACK HISTORY: TACOMA CHAPTER IN ACTION

Tacoma Chapter celebrated culture and leadership during Black History Month. Families honored trailblazers at Charles Rolland African-American Legislative Day, created self-portraits celebrating identity, delivered speeches by influential figures and explored Tacoma Art Museum's "Blackness Is..." exhibit. Inspired by history and shaping the future!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



THE SAN JOSE CHAPTER CELEBRATES "EXCELLENCE IN EVERY SENSE"

The JJSJ Black History Month event immersed families in a multi-sensory celebration of Black culture. Families enjoyed thoughtfully curated sensory stations that highlighted flavorful dishes, nostalgic cultural scents, and interactive crafts. The event also showcased our children's leadership through a live musical performance and a spectacular fashion show.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC!

We celebrated Black History attending a performance of powerful music by the South Coast Symphony, featuring several JJOC children and a mass choir from local churches. MM Chineta Goodjoin served as the MC and she captivated the audience with a poetic, inspiring presence that stirred pride, reflection, and heartfelt emotion.



PASADENA CHAPTER CELEBRATES BLACK AGRICULTURAL LEGACY AT BLOOM RANCH

In honor of Black History Month, the Pasadena Chapter visited Bloom Ranch, a Black-owned farm in Acton, CA. Families explored the legacy of Black farming, participated in hands-on planting activities, created seed bombs with affirmations, harvested collard greens, and learned about HBCU agricultural pioneers and the impact of 1890 Land-Grant Universities.



RHYTHM & RESISTANCE: UNLEASHING THE HISTORY OF CAPOEIRA

Partnering with the African American Museum of Southern Arizona, our youth explored the Afro-Brazilian roots of Capoeira. Participants learned our this martial art served as a powerful tool for resistance and practiced foundational dance movements. This inspiring session of "history in motion" connected cultural heritage, physical rhythm and community spirit.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



TRI-VALLEY JACK AND JILL YOUTH EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Tri-Valley Jack and Jill youth celebrated Black History Month through hands-on learning and meaningful conversations. Younger children explored cowboy culture at Fairyland's Black Cowboy Academy, Group 4 discovered Oakland's history and the Black Spaces exhibit, and teens joined educator Tyson Amir for a thoughtful discussion on African American history.



SUN VALLEY TEENS CELEBRATE LIVING HISTORY

The Sun Valley chapter was honored to attend the 21st Annual Living History Awards Program tri-hosted by the Phoenix chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., the Phoenix chapter of the Links, Inc., and the Gamma Mu Boulé Phoenix chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



POMONA AREA TEENS CELEBRATE HIDDEN FIGURES AND BLACK EXCELLENCE

Pomona Area Chapter teens lit up the room as they educated a packed audience on their chosen Hidden Figures, shining a spotlight on untold stories, brilliance, and impact. We also received an inspiring and uplifting message from Dr. Zachary D. Travis, Ph.D., MPH, Professor of Medical Science Education and Public Health at Western University of Health Sciences. His words challenged us, empowered us, and reminded us of the importance of our purpose and telling our story and not being silenced.



STYLE WITH SUBSTANCE: A LESSON IN FASHION, PRIDE AND PURPOSE

Hosted by the Black Design Collective, Group 5B from The Los Angeles Chapter, explored the legacy of Black fashion through the lens of Cross Colours co-founder Mr. TJ Walker. Teens learned about influential designers, creative customization, and entrepreneurial thinking. Presenters encouraged pride in personal style, choosing quality over quantity.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



SANTA CLARITA/ANTELOPE VALLEY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Santa Clarita/Antelope Valley chapter celebrated Black History Month with unique experiences. Children were able to explore the historic Leimert park, exploring Black Culture, and ended with lunch at a Black owned restaurant- Simply Wholesome where they learned about entrepreneurship. Teens attended the HBCU classic as a part of All-Star weekend, viewing the North Carolina A&T vs. Hampton basketball game.



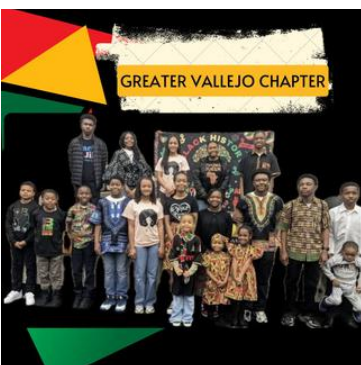
NCSD CELEBRATES THE FOOD AND TRADITIONS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

NCSD celebrated Black History Month with a multicultural potluck and talent showcase. The menu featured dishes from around the world, including Grenada, Nigeria, Antigua, Haiti, and the southern United States. Children from each grade group performed live music and dance. They also hand-made beaded bracelets and crafts and played games.



SAN FRANCISCO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SF chapter celebrated Black history month with intention! The children led the way by creating empowering messages through art, exploring a Black history museum with interactive Jeopardy, and reciting speeches honoring the sacrifices our ancestors have made across the Diaspora. Every day is Black history!



GREATER VALLEJO ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRADITION...

GVJJ proudly sponsors the annual African-American Family Read-In, celebrating and encouraging our children's oratorical mastery. The 2026 event marks the 33rd anniversary of this cherished chapter tradition, highlighting powerful literary works including "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin and "I Am a Christian" by Maya Angelou.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



PWV DIAMONDS CONNECT CULTURE, HISTORY, AND COOKING IN SOUL FOOD WORKSHOP

PWV Diamonds explored the history and cultural roots of soul food during a Black History Month cooking experience. Guided by a chef, they learned how African traditions shaped American cuisine and prepared a vegan dish while discussing how enslaved people transformed limited ingredients into enduring culinary traditions.



SACRAMENTO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH HARRIET TUBMAN THEATER EXPERIENCE

Savvy Sacramento families gathered at B Street Theatre for Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. The powerful production taught our children about courage, sacrifice, and leadership while bringing Harriet's journey to life. The experience deepened their understanding of the Underground Railroad and the bravery of those who fought for freedom.



OBAC GRADE GROUPS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This Black History Month, Oakland Bay Area Chapter's Grade Groups 2 and 3 explored Black entrepreneurship through Black women-owned businesses — proving that passions like fitness and baking can become thriving enterprises. Group 2 learned a recipe hands-on from a Black woman chef. Group 3 visited a Black women-owned gym and bakery. Both groups left inspired and empowered.



LAS VEGAS TEENS: SURVIVAL, RESISTANCE, AND DIGNITY BRUNCH

Las Vegas teens explored how etiquette has shaped African American history —from survival and dignity to resistance and pride. Through guided discussion, historical examples, and shared dining, Jacks and Jills learned that etiquette reflects self-respect, community, hospitality, and togetherness while honoring cultural traditions that uplift and empower generations.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



EMPOWERING INLAND EMPIRE YOUTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP, BLACK LEGACY, AND SERVICE

In celebration of Black History Month, Inland Empire Jack and Jill families gathered for an evening of fellowship, culture, and community. Youth and parents connected, learned, and celebrated Black excellence while creating lasting memories honoring our history and inspiring the next generation of leaders to carry the legacy forward.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CHAPTER PROUDLY CELEBRATES BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

The Contra Costa County Chapter proudly celebrates Black entrepreneurs this Black History Month. Guided by JBL Financial literacy modules, Group 5 led a vibrant Shark Tank-style pitch session, while Group 3 uplifted entrepreneurship by baking alongside a JJOA alumna and Oakland business owner of Full Belly Bakery.



ANCHORAGE YOUTH SHOWCASE HBCU LEGACY THROUGH LIVE BLACK WAX MUSEUM

Anchorage youth from preschool through high school welcomed the community to a dynamic Live Black Wax Museum, portraying distinguished Black leaders who graduated from HBCUs. Through research, performance, and poised public speaking onstage, participants advanced Jack and Jill of America's HBCU Initiative while honoring scholarship, leadership, and legacy.



SFVJJ CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY ACROSS THE DIASPORA

The SFVJJ chapter celebrated Black History Month 2026 with engaging, educational, and inspiring events highlighting the richness of the African diaspora. Jacks & Jills led immersive presentations that included exploring Afro-Brazilian culture and learning the origins and traditions of Mardi Gras.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS



PHOENIX LIVING HISTORY HONORING COURAGEOUS LEADERS ADVANCING JUSTICE DEMOCRACY & LEGACY

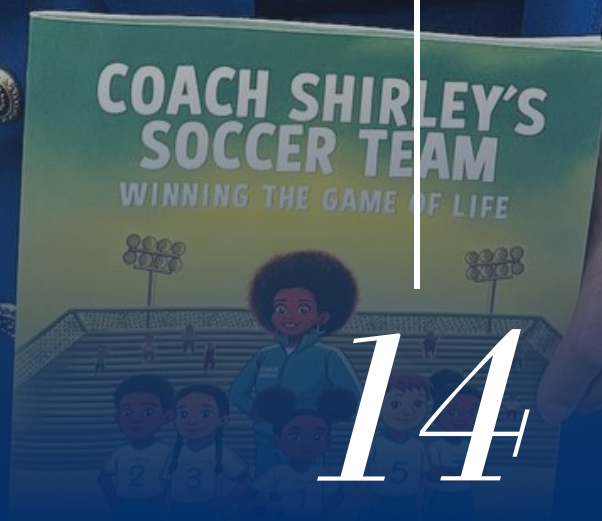
Living History 2026: Beacons of Hope Leading the Charge to Preserve Our Democracy and Civil Rights honored distinguished leaders through powerful teen-led research, interviews, and presentations. Recognizing excellence in justice, advocacy, and leadership, our youth celebrated trailblazers whose impact inspires future generations to lead with courage, preserve democracy, and advance civil rights.



*Honoring our history.
Celebrating our legacy.
Inspiring the next generation to excel.*

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MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



14

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mother Member Dieema Wheaton was honored to accept the Women's History Month proclamation from the El Segundo City Council. This proclamation recognizes the women who lead, mentor, and strengthen the community while honoring generations of women whose commitment helped shape the city.



TACOMA CHAPTER JACK SERVES AS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORARY PAGE

Fourth-grade student Tyce Jones served as an Honorary Page for the Washington State House of Representatives. He assisted on the House floor and delivered documents between legislative offices. Tyce attended Page School, where he learned about government operations, collaborative decision-making and impactful ways youth participate in the legislative process.



SAN JOSE BALLROOM DANCER BREAKS BARRIERS ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Congratulations to 6th-grader Anastyn Hill! From local first-place wins to reaching the U.S. National Amateur Dancesport Championship quarter-finals two years in a row, your success is incredible. Anastyn, your family and the San Jose Chapter is immensely proud of you for beautifully breaking barriers on the dance floor!



CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL CORPORATE ATTORNEY MM TIFFANY CRUZ!

MM Tiffany Cruz was named a 2025 Los Angeles Business Journal Finalist for the prestigious Corporate Counsel Award! This recognition celebrates her outstanding leadership, legal expertise, unwavering dedication to the legal field, and her continued support for the growth and success of our legal and business community!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



FOURTH GRADER EARNS NATIONAL CTY DISTINCTION

Parker Brown has been accepted into the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University. Admission is earned through rigorous above-grade-level testing and nationally benchmarked qualifying scores. CTY's research-based programs supplement school curricula, provide advanced academic challenge, and offer opportunities to engage in accelerated coursework alongside high-achieving peers nationwide.



SUN VALLEY CHAPTER MOM NAMED PHOENIX MAGAZINE TOP DOC!

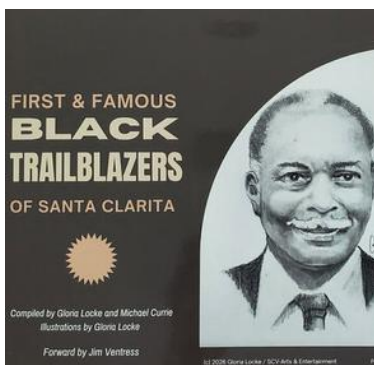
Dr. Ivorie Coleman, Charter Member of the Sun Valley Chapter and founder of Full Life Medical, a private practice providing personalized care for adults and children, was named a Phoenix Magazine Top Doctor in Internal Medicine. This peer-nominated honor reflects her commitment to preventive, relationship-centered care that helps patients thrive.



A WELL-DESERVED HONOR

The Los Angeles Chapter proudly celebrates Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh. She was recently named a Nina C. Crocker Faculty Scholar at Stanford University.

This distinguished recognition supports exceptional Stanford faculty pursuing innovative research and academic leadership.



CHERISE MOORE, TRAILBLAZER

The Santa Clarita Antelope Valley Chapter President, Dr. Cherise Moore is featured in the book "First and Famous Black Trailblazers of Santa Clarita." She is highlighted as being the creator of the MLK Unity Walk, the first Black President of the William S. Hart School Board, as well as other notable leadership positions she holds in the community - including President of our Jack and Jill chapter!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



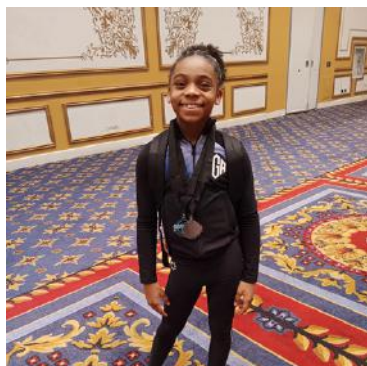
NCSD MOTHER RECOGNIZED AT ACADIA PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HER VALUE-DRIVEN WORK

APD Yvonne Adegbenle was recognized for her essay detailing her pharmaceutical research at Acadia and how she ensured their data reflected real world use in key drug compatibility studies, aligning with the company's value of putting underserved patients first. She proudly accepted a trip to the NYSE for her submission.



OBAC'S DR. CARLA WICKS GRACES KAISER PERMANENTE BILLBOARDS ACROSS CALIFORNIA

Oakland Bay Area is bursting with pride for our Mother Member Dr. Carla Wicks, OBGYN with Kaiser Permanente, who is gracing billboards throughout California as part of Kaiser's Top Hospitals marketing campaign. Dr. Wicks represents the very best of excellence, service, and sisterhood.



LAS VEGAS JILL BECOMES STATE CHAMPION

Congratulations to Las Vegas Jill, Journey Hardman, on an outstanding gymnastics performance, earning top honors and the title of Level 8 Nevada State Champion. Journey will proudly represent Nevada at the upcoming USAG Regional Competition. We celebrate her dedication, excellence, and the bright future ahead.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HONORS VOLLEYBALL ALL-STAR KENNEDY WHYTE

Contra Costa County spotlights Kennedy Whyte, a 6-foot-1 outside hitter from Group 5 at Monte Vista High School. A multi-time All-League selection, Team MVP, and NCS Fall Player of the Year, she surpassed 1,000 career kills, earned Scholar-Athlete honors, and was featured on NBC Sports California. Congratulations, Kennedy!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



INGLEWOOD CHAPTER CELEBRATES THE LEGAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADRIENNE GURLEY

Mother Member Adrienne Gurley (Moran) of the Inglewood Chapter continues to demonstrate excellence in the legal field. She is now a partner at Sanders Roberts LLP. As a seasoned trial attorney and investigations counsel, she brings nearly two decades of experience. Her leadership and courtroom success reflect dedication, integrity, and professional distinction. Congratulations.



ERICA WILSON CELEBRATES MAJOR CAREER MILESTONES IN LAW AND LEADERSHIP

Erica Wilson was appointed Vice President and Legal Counsel at First National Bank Alaska, recognizing her legal expertise and trusted counsel. Her article, "Going Beyond Face Value," published in the International Association of Chiefs of Police magazine (Chief's Counsel column), examines responsible use of facial recognition technology in law enforcement.



GROWTH, GRATITUDE & GOALS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Mateo McLean's standout Jack & Jill event was a health-focused chapter event bonding with peers and moms. The organization has shaped him into a thoughtful, service-minded young man. Considering Division I schools, he aims for soccer and sports broadcasting. As a graduating senior, Mateo looks forward to new experiences and encourages peers to stay humble and value every moment.



COACH SHIRLEY'S LEGACY REFLECTED THROUGH CHERRY PRAILLEAU'S PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP TODAY

Cherry Prailleau exemplifies the spirit of her book, showing that winning the game of life means building character, resilience, and purpose. With a heartfelt dedication to those who came before, this gifted author and devoted mother uplifts the Phoenix Chapter selflessly and will soon inspire others on her upcoming book tour.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE SPOTLIGHT

Last weekend Isla McMullan swam Alcatraz (Saturday) and the Golden Gate (Sunday) ~2 miles to raise awareness for drowning prevention.

Most drownings happen quietly and most of them are preventable. Swim lessons don't just teach people how to swim they teach them how to stay calm, float and survive.

Although this was her first time, she said, she's excited to do it again.



20

**FAR WEST
TEEN CORNER**

20

FAR WEST REGION



THANK YOU!

*offering love and encouragement to our
incredible sister regions*

RTP HAYDEN

RTVP NEVA-NATAIA

RTT LAILAH

RTS VIVIAN

RTFC EMILE



Introducing The

Far West Region

★ CHAPTER TEEN OLYMPICS

Introduction

Far West Region Chapter Olympics is a friendly competition where chapters will compete in a series of fun, creative and skill-based events.

The purpose is to build unity, teamwork, and regional pride while celebrating Jack and Jill values.



Points

1 7 pts

2 5 pts

3 3 pts

These points will be added every month to your yearly total. The chapter with the most points at the end of the programming year wins!

Even if you do not place that month, any participating chapters will get 2 points



FWR CHAPTER
TEEN OLYMPICS

*April
Competition*

Chapter Playlist

EXTENDED!

COMPETITION DESCRIPTION

Share a playlist of your chapter's favorite songs that capture your group's energy, personality, and shared memories. This could include hype songs you play before events, music that represents your chapter's vibe, or tracks that hold special meaning to your members. Describe how the playlist came together, why these songs were chosen, and what they represent to your chapter. You can also share when you listen to it and how it helps bring your members together or get into the right mindset.

JUDGING

- **Creativity** – How original, imaginative, or entertaining the video is.
 - Does it stand out from other chapters' videos?
 - Does it use a unique concept or editing style?
- **Representation of Chapter** – How well the video captures the spirit, culture, or identity of the chapter and its city.
 - Does it give a genuine sense of what it's like to be there?
 - MUST showcase AT LEAST 3 different teens, this is a chapter video, not a solo project
- **Visual & Technical Quality** – Overall video quality, editing, pacing, and clarity.
 - Does it look polished or intentional even if it's filmed casually?
- **Engagement & Personality** – The energy, humor, or emotion that makes it memorable.
 - Would viewers want to visit or join after watching?

FORMAT AND RULES

- **Length:** Maximum 120 seconds.
- **Style:** Storytelling
- **Content:** Must be appropriate and represent the chapter positively.
- **Teens:** Must represent at least 3 different teens
- **Deadline:** **EXTENDED! May 16th**
- **Submission:** Posted to your chapter/teen instagram page (with clear chapter identification) by the deadline. Make sure to **#FWRCO2026APR** and TAG @fwrjjteens to ensure we see your submission

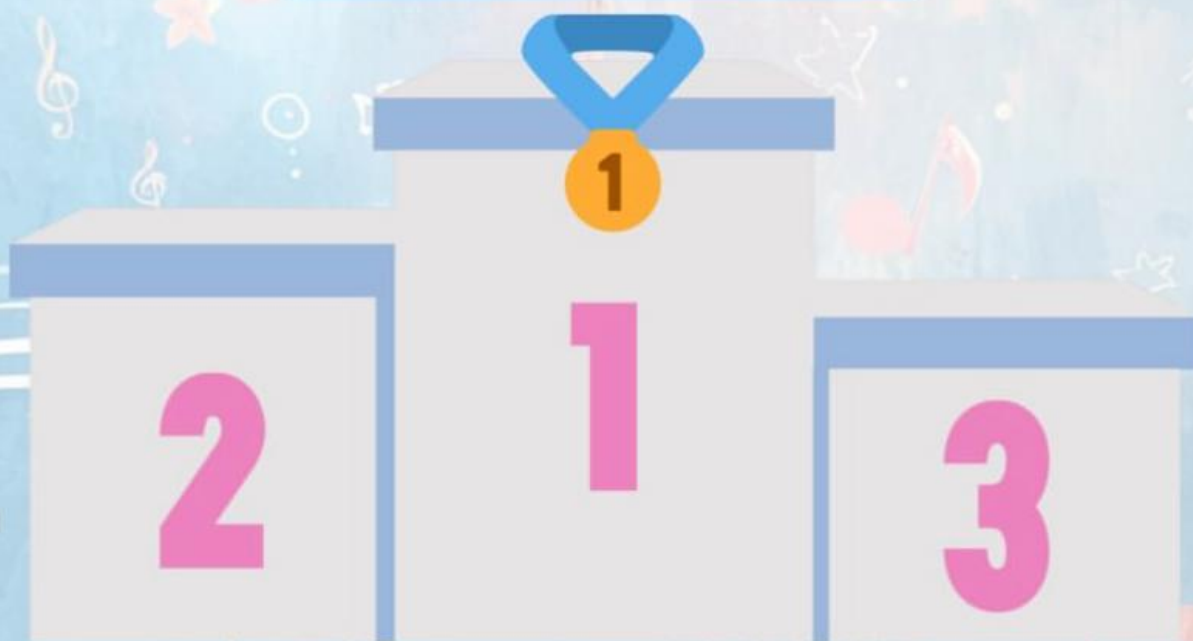
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU GUYS COME UP WITH!

The most important thing is to have fun. This is your chance to show everyone what your chapter is all about!

Don't forget to post using the official hashtag
#FWRCO2026APR and tag us
@fwrjjteens so we can find your video! Submissions without the
hashtags and tags will not be
counted

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH WINNERS

San Jose Chapter



No other chapters participated
this month



Introducing
Teen
Spotlight
Far West Region

CLICK HERE



greetings

Greetings Far West Region!

My name is Averie Gladden, and I am honored to serve as your Regional Teen Editor, representing the spectacular and amazing Santa Clarita Valley Antelope Valley Chapter. This year, I am thrilled to introduce Spotlight FWR, a digital newsletter created by the Far West Region, for the Far West Region.

The purpose of Spotlight FWR is simple yet meaningful: to celebrate the talent, creativity, and dedication of our teens while connecting every chapter across the region. This newsletter highlights the accomplishments, hard work, and unique voices of our members, giving everyone a chance to learn from and be inspired by each other. From leadership and service to athletics, the arts, and creative expression, the teens of our region are making a remarkable impact, and Spotlight FWR shines a light on their stories.

This issue features inspiring excerpts that showcase achievement, creativity, and leadership across the region.



Spotlight FWR not only celebrates individual chapters and members, but also fosters unity, pride, and connection throughout our community. It is a space where every teen and every accomplishment can be acknowledged, inspiring collaboration and recognition.

As you read this issue, I hope you feel proud of the incredible talent represented here and inspired to continue making a difference in your chapters and communities. Spotlight FWR exists because of you, the teens, leaders, and creators who make the Far West Region remarkable. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our members, connecting across chapters, and fostering a stronger Far West Region.

With gratitude and in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Averie Gladden".

AVERIE GLADDEN
REGIONAL TEEN EDITOR
JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.

CLICK HERE



All meetings are subject to CHANGE

MONTHLY MEETING

FWR REGIONAL TEEN BOARD

October 2025 – May 2026 @8:15pm

MEETING CANDENCE

Tuesday, October 07, 2025

Tuesday, November 04, 2025

Tuesday, December 02, 2025

Tuesday, January 06, 2026

Tuesday, February 03, 2026

Tuesday, March 03, 2026

Tuesday, April 07, 2026

Tuesday, May 05, 2026

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

TEEN

AUXILIARY GUIDELINES

COMMITTEE

4PM PST



APRIL 25TH & MAY 30TH



- Review the National Teen Auxiliary Guidelines and develop proposed recommendations for consideration by the conference body

Hosted by Holland Wiley
Regional Teen Parliamentarian



COMMUNITY SERVICE T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Theme for 2026

**LEAD
WHERE
YOU STAND**

WINNER



Teen Elyse Williams

LE!D
WHERE YOU
STAND

Far West Region 2026 Teen Conference
Phoenix, Arizona

36

ANNOUNCEMENTS &
UPCOMING EVENTS

36



DEAR SONS

Regional Chaplain Dani Kilgore

"A father is a shield against the storm." African Proverb

For this month, in honor of Father Appreciation, we pause our Dear Daughter, letters and turn our hearts toward you, the Far West Region Fathers of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

There is an African proverb that says, **"A father is a shield against the storm."** And what a powerful image that is. Across our Jack and Jill chapters, we are surrounded by fathers, father figures, and men who show up as protectors, providers, guides, and steady hands, whether in the home or beyond it. They stand in front of storms others may never even see. They absorb pressure, carry responsibility, and create space for children to grow, thrive, and become. And we also acknowledge the mothers who carry this covering, standing in strength and resilience where they have had to.

But to you, my dear son, this matters. Because you have built. You are leading. You are established. The strength you carry, the consistency you embody, and the love you extend again and again are shaping lives and leaving a legacy. You are living examples of excellence, of sacrifice, of vision fulfilled and still unfolding. So this month, we honor every man who shows up, who covers, who guides, and who stands firm. And we remind you that being a shield is not only strength, but character, compassion, and integrity. And may you continue to stand strong, steady, and full of purpose.



Speak Life: Our Words Have Power

Say it with your whole chest.
These are our truths, every day:
I am strong.
I am guided.
I am grounded.
I am built for purpose.

Speak Life:
Say it clear, say it bold...
I come from legacy.
And I'm just getting started.

Prayer Warriors Across the FWR

Meet two of our dedicated FWR Chaplains who continue to cover their chapters with care and presence. **Cheree Toombs (left) of the Las Vegas Chapter** brings calm insight, warmth, and a steady spirit that grounds every space she enters. **Natasha Burton (right) of the Santa Clarita/Antelope Valley Chapter** leads with grace and quiet strength, uplifting sisters through encouragement, compassion, and faith. We are grateful for women who stand in the gap and remind us that we are always supported.





Empowered Leadership Inspired To Excel

ELITE

Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
FAR WEST REGION

Kickstart to College Credit

Learn more about Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses. We'll walk you through each option so you can confidently support the path, best for your child's success.



Date
May 7, 2026

Time
7:00 PM PST

[Join Now](#)



Dr. Kalynda Webber McLean
Guest Speaker
SFVJJ Mother



FWR

JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA INC.

PRAYER *Service*

Join Regional Chaplain **Dani Kilgore**
and our Chapter Chaplains

FOR A TIME TO UNITE IN
INTERFAITH PRAYER AND UNITY.

Come together for a sacred moment of
reflection, connection, and collective covering
as we lift our voices in prayer.



SUNDAY
MAY 31ST



8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
PST



Submit your anonymous



Prayer Request



Together in Prayer
Rooted in Purpose



WE ARE ONE OFFICE HOURS

Planning for the '26-'27 Program Year?

FINAL SESSIONS

Let's work together!

What to Expect:

- *Open and respectful conversation*
- *Supportive community dialogue*
- *Space for questions, ideas, and feedback*
- *Inclusive environment where all mothers are welcome*

April 30, 2026 & May 28, 2026

7:30 - 8:30 pm PST

Sign Up and Join Us

For more information:

*Reach out to your chapter's
We Are One Chair*

We Are One Website



EmpowerUs Lounge



Hosted by **The We Are One Committee** and
The ELITE Connect Crew

FINAL SESSION
for the '25-'26 Program Year



Join us to:

- Heal in a safe space
- Discuss the unique triumphs and challenges of mothering our children
- Strengthen self-advocacy
- Reduce isolation, guilt, or shame
- Gain resources and support

MAY 1, 2026

Topic - Restoration: What it Means for You and Your Children

8 pm (PST)

Visit our [website](#) to learn more!

Mother Members Only

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS GROUP IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CARE. ALWAYS CONSULT A QUALIFIED HEALTH PROVIDER FOR PERSONAL HEALTH QUESTIONS.



Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
FAR WEST REGION

San Fernando Valley (SFV) Chapter hosts a WAO Fireside Chat focused on Neurodiversity, “Mattering”, and Creating Inclusive Leadership Spaces

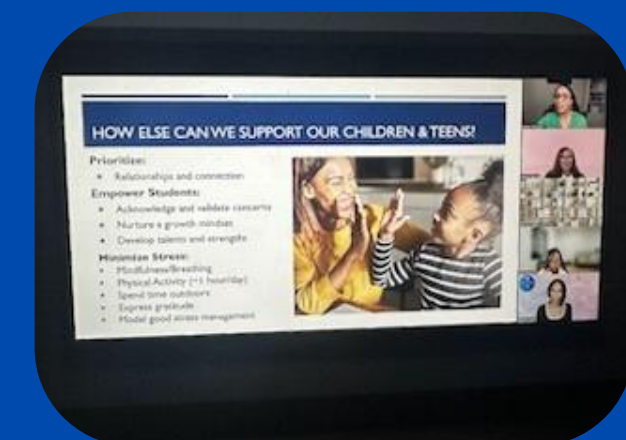
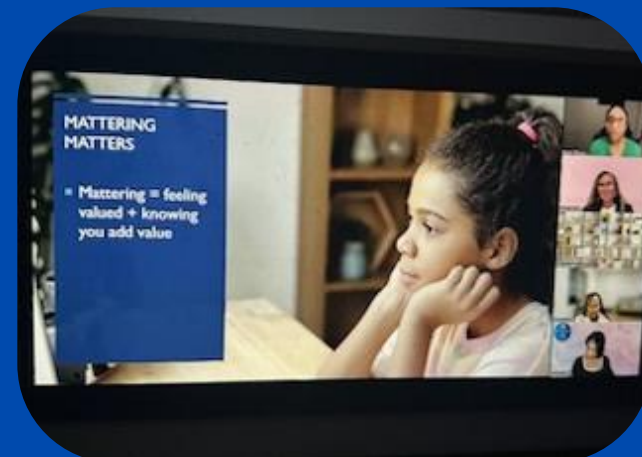
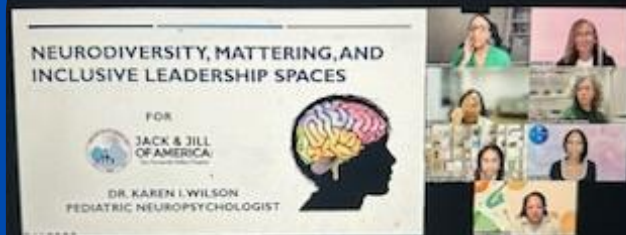
WAO IN ACTION

On Jan 28th, the SFV Chapter hosted a webinar with pediatric neuropsychologist Dr. Karen Wilson of West LA Neuropsychology, where Mother Members were guided in an insightful exploration of how learning differences, executive functioning, and social-emotional needs show up across grade levels, and how programs can be designed to support all children more intentionally.

SFV We Are One Committee, led by WAO Chairs Laurin Burrell and Katrina Griffin, drew upon the chapter’s own annual WAO Survey results. Dr. Wilson reframed the needs of our Jacks and Jills, not as individual challenges, but as predictable aspects of child development that require thoughtful program design.

Concepts Introduced:

- Mattering
- Feeling Valued
- Belonging
- Long-term engagement



Mothers left this session with a shared language and practical strategies for designing programs that reduce stress and increase participation, and a better understanding of how we can support diverse learning and processing styles without singling children out, while also promoting children's areas of strength.

- WAO Chair Laurin Burrell

OBAC showcases its first sensory (chill zone) lounge at Northern California Children's Cluster — BeyondThe Stars: Inspiring the Innovators of Tomorrow

WAO IN ACTION

On Saturday, March 7th, the Oakland Bay Area Chapter (OBAC) hosted its first sensory "chill zone" lounge at the Northern California Children's Cluster. Held at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, CA the overnight STEM adventure welcomed 200 families for interactive hands-on workshops, sparking curiosity in science, innovation, and wonders beyond our world and a meeting with an African American NASA astronaut.

OBAC We Are One Committee, led by WAO Chair Darolyn Davis, curated a soothing space to decompress and reduce overstimulation.

Lounge Featured:

- Tactile & sensory tools
- Ambient Lighting & low-level calming music
- Swing, trampoline, spinning seat, balance beam, blow up coach, bean bag, lounge, & massage chairs
- Tables with fidget items, building blocks, coloring books, stress balls, kinetic sand and more!



The impact was profound - one mother, moved to tears, shared her deep gratitude for the care put into creating such an inclusive space.

- OBAC WAO Chair, Darolyn Davis



Greetings Far West Regional Chapter Governance Leaders!

Join us for our Chapter Governance Pop In & Ask!

This is an informal opportunity to take a moment to check in. Join us on **2nd Tuesdays at 8pm PST** for a Zoom meeting to reconnect and address your outstanding questions.

Meeting ID: 891 5301 6538

Passcode: 255881

CLICK TO JOIN THE ZOOM

Tuesday, Jan 13th

Tuesday, Feb 10th

Tuesday, Mar 10th

Tuesday, Apr 14th

Tuesday, May 12th

We looking forward to connecting with you!

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Celebrate Your Graduating Seniors!

It's not too late to celebrate your seniors in a meaningful and lasting way!

Chapters are encouraged to submit a Souvenir Journal Ad to honor and highlight your graduating seniors as they close out this incredible chapter of their Jack and Jill journey. This is a beautiful opportunity to recognize their achievements, leadership, and the bright futures ahead—while also creating a keepsake they and their families will treasure for years to come.

Whether you're spotlighting one senior or showcasing your entire senior class, your tribute adds to the legacy and spirit of this year's Teen Conference.

Don't miss this last chance to show your love and pride—submit your Souvenir Journal Ad today! **Deadline is April 30, 2026!**

CLICK HERE





The San Jose Chapter of
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ABOUT US

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a nationwide organization of mothers who nurture future African-American leaders by strengthening children ages 2-19 through chapter programming, community service, legislative advocacy and philanthropy.

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African-American families, education, and health and wellness.



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Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
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NEWS

FLASH

STAY IN THE KNOW WITH THE FAR WEST REGION NEWS FLASH—
YOUR BIWEEKLY ROUNDUP OF REGIONAL UPDATES, KEY REMINDERS, AND
UPCOMING EVENTS.

CHECK OUT PAST EDITIONS BY CLICKING BELOW.

April 22, 2026

April 8, 2026

Misha L. Dunford

Regional Secretary

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JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED

FOCUS



Start your week with the National Executive Board's weekly newsletter spotlighting the people, programs, and purpose that make Jack and Jill of America, Inc. shine! Each Monday brings fresh inspiration, highlights, and important updates from across the country.

Click the link below to catch up on past editions of The Focus and stay connected to all things Jack and Jill!

Past Editions of The Focus





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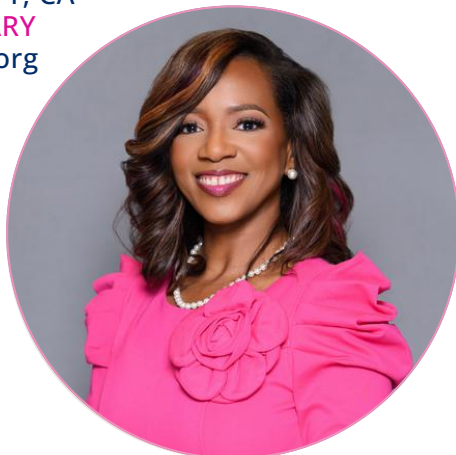
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As our members rise, so too does the Far West Region—lighting the path for the future of Jack and Jill.

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