



DEC 2023

ISSUE 5

WINTER 2023

EXPLORER

for lovers of Art and Nature!

www.artandwildernessinstitute.com



T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST RESULTS OUT NOW!



Edited by:
Sumayyah
Labanieh

Newsletter
Intern

Art and Wilderness
Institute
is a community
centered
Institute
focused on getting
the community
re-connected
with Nature.

We are based in
Southern CA
and believe
that by Exploring,
Creating,
and Connecting,
we grow
as people and
as community.

All of our programs
aim at incorporating
service-learning
in order to give back
to our local
communities
and the world.

To learn more

[CLICK HERE](#)



HS MENTORSHIP'S TRIP TO THE
KELSO SAND DUNES: PAGE 3

AWI Newsletter Winter 2023



**Look deep
into nature,
and then you will
understand everything
better.**

Albert Einstein

Creature Feature!



BARN OWL

The barn owl is an amazing hunter that uses silent flight and night vision and on top of that it has the most sensitive ears of the animal kingdom, enough to hear a mouse living underneath the snow. To feed its young it tears apart its food to give to the 6 or so mouths. Before the food goes into digestion, the content is sorted into two stomachs, one for the meat and one for the fur and bones. The fur and bones come out of the mouth as owl pellets and as for the meat, it comes out the bottom end.

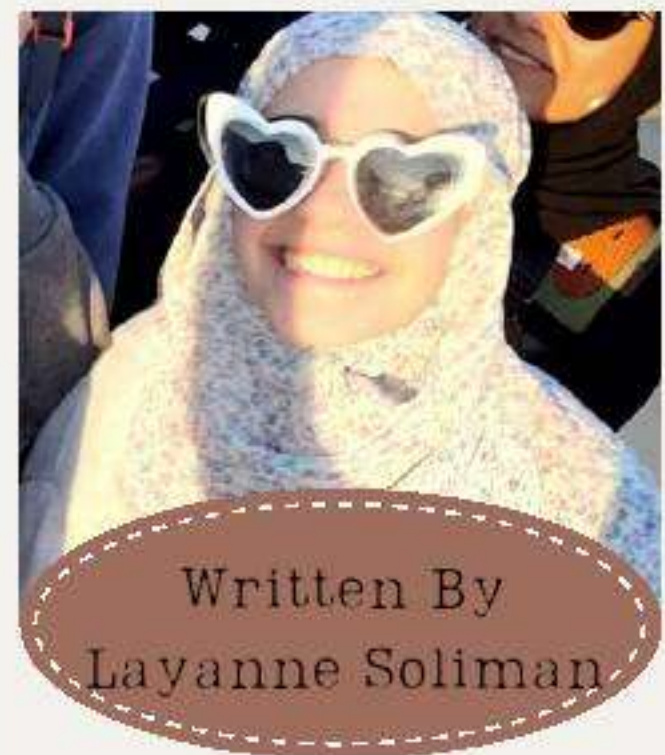


Kelso Sand Dunes

A few weeks ago, the high school Mentorship class went to the Kelso Sand Dunes. We met at the Corona Masjid at 5 AM, it was not fun. I wore my iconic heart sunglasses. We were blessed by the company of Ustadh Hassan, who taught us many beneficial lessons. After praying Fajr, we split into four cars and started our journey.

Sr. Sama assigned our seats, I don't know about everyone else, but I didn't mind much, I enjoyed my car ride--I enjoyed the girlies' company (I was with Fathia, Safiyah, Maryam, Mariam, and Hannah). We stopped at a coffee shop (Six Beans, I got their Christmas Cookie Latte) after about an hour of driving. The coffee was mid, it wasn't the best coffee I've had though. We also stopped at a cool gas station with some really cute (and really expensive) beanies. After the gas station, we weren't going to make any stops but we got stopped by some stupid train for, like, 20-30 minutes. Ust. Hassan gave a talk about a squirrel and right after that, the train moved! We got back into the cars and finally got to

the sand dunes; we had to make sure our bags weren't too heavy 'cause then the hike would be even more miserable than it was (I brought 4 water bottles). We were told it would be super cold, but it was not when we first started hiking. I was actually dying. The hike was pretty easy at first but then we got to this huge sand hill. I was looking up at it and was actually gonna faint, like gurl--no way I'm hiking up this whole thing.



Written By
Layanne Soliman



Kelso Sand Dunes (cont.)

The hike up was actually awful, I felt miserable and my hijab even fell off at one point (but we don't talk about that). We had to make sure to stay hydrated or we could've died of heat exhaustion. I even stopped at one point and recited Quran and it was the most magical feeling, and Subhan'Allah



made me feel much better. Once we got to

the top tho>>> It was amazing and definitely worth it. It felt like such an achievement to get up there, and just standing and looking at the sand dunes was an indescribable feeling. Eventually, we all got up there and got to just chill. Some people rolled down the hills, some people sat and talked, and some people

boogie boarded down the hill.

We stayed at the top for a few hours until the sun was about to start setting. Before we left we prayed Duhr & Asr; standing on the hill above them and seeing them pray was so amazing. It gave arab-movie-core.

Themnn, we wrote speeches about hardships, and what they mean to us. Fathia, Aiza, Safiyyah, Ali, Ak, and Taufeeq gave the speeches. I'm super glad I didn't have to do the speech, I was planning on fake-fainting if I got called to do it, but I didn't Alhamdulillah. Then we headed down, it was way easier (and funner) than the way up--one kid even boodie boarded down the whole thing. Hannah was the first one back to the parking lot, she was like way ahead of anyone and then some other people were super slow and took forever. After we finally all got back we prayed Maghreb & Isha we set up a bunch of snacks we all brought and had a feast. I was too tired to eat, which totally sucked. We also told super scary stories that I still think about (thank you guys, they've scarred me). Then we started on the way back; I was in the car with Sumayyah, Maimoona, Aleena, and Aiza this time. We talked about what kind of bread we'd be (we agreed I'd be hamburger buns {with sesame seeds}). We stopped at a Panera, which was really random, but that's okur, 'cause I love Panera.

Kelso Sand Dunes (cont.)

Me and my bestie were going to share a Mac n' Cheese but we had to leave before we were able to which was really disappointing (Panera Mac n' Cheese is on top). After Miss. Sumayyah made dua for traffic (EDITOR'S NOTE: hehe sorry but I was really enjoying my car ride okay! And I was joking, I didn't think it would actually happen.), there traffic appeared, but eventually, we did get to the Masjid (around 10:30). I had a lot of fun, and would totally do that hike again (in like 5 months though). I feel like I learned a lot and just being in nature was amazing. The whole thing was totally a vibe. Thank you, Sr. Sama and all the other adults who went with us for agreeing to spend the day with a bunch of annoying teenagers <3

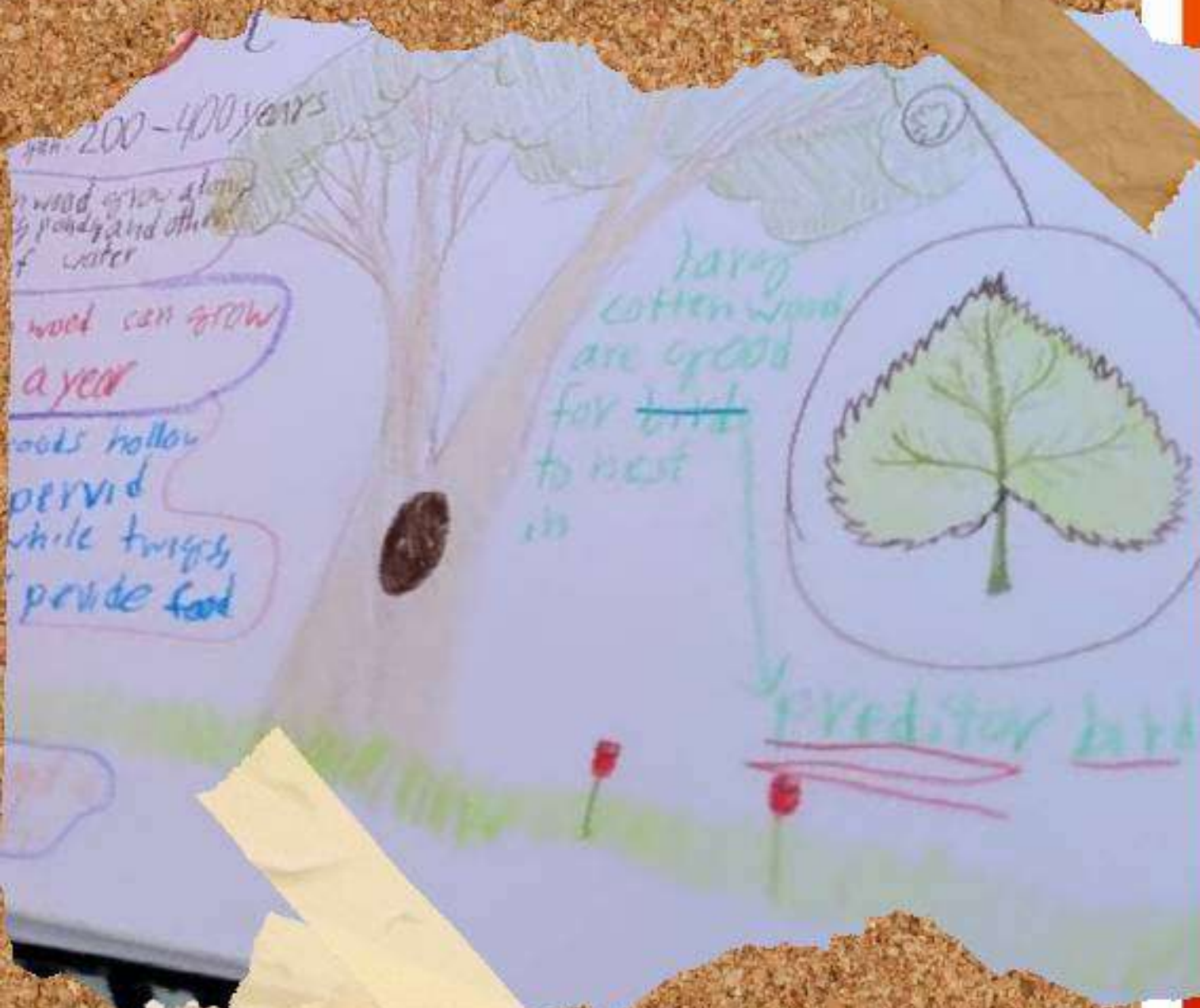
Layanne

NATURE JOURNALING GALLERY

Featured
Artist



Maryam Wang

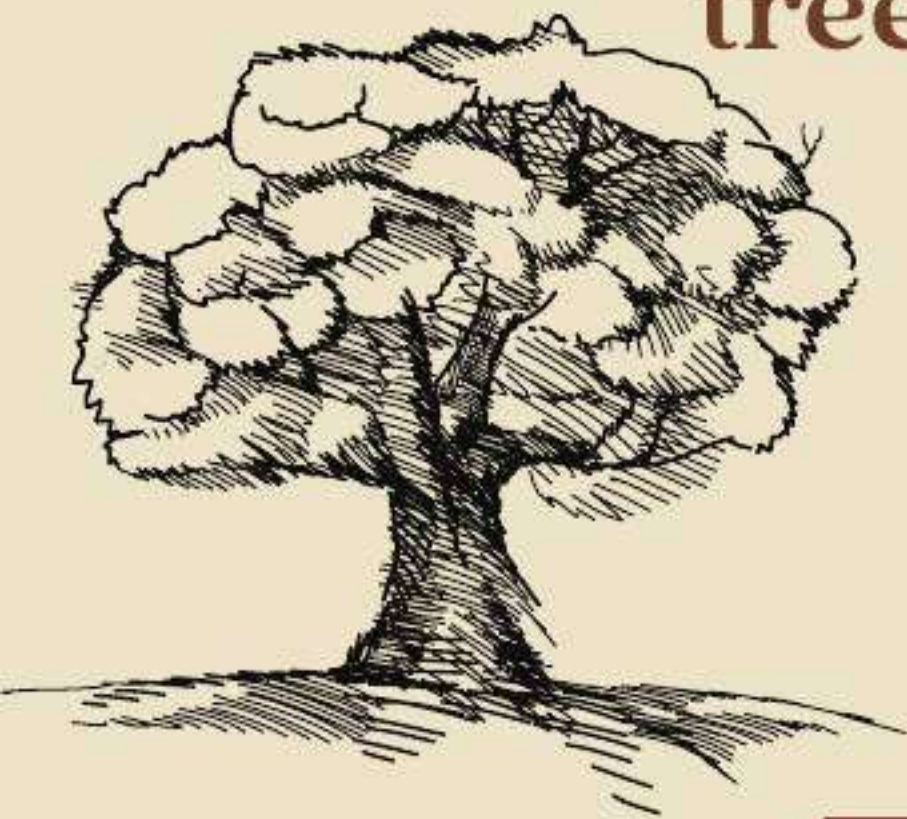




[CLICK HERE](#)



Learn about sycamore trees with Amani!



House Drinks

Emerald Owl Warm Elixir

-1/2 hot milk, 1/2 milk

-Cocoa powder

-A TINY bit of cayenne pepper

Serve with whipped cream
and teal or purple
sprinkles





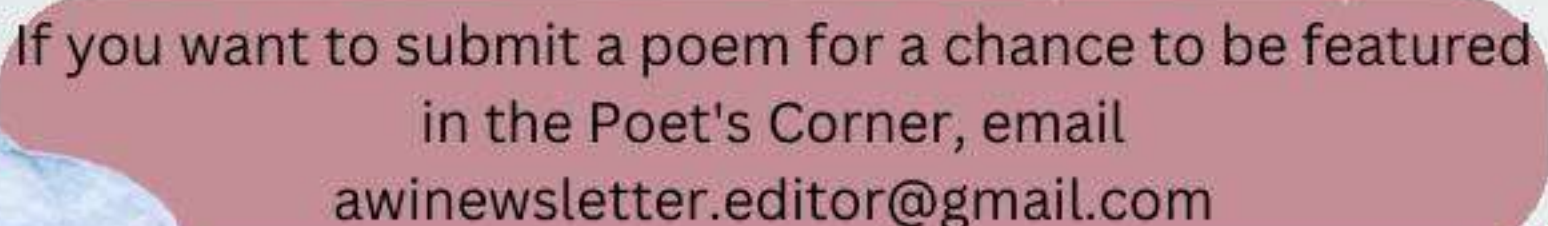
AWI
POET'S
CORNER



Winter

Wandering snowflakes sparkle and fall,
Ice coats the ground, like a glistening shawl.
Nights are long, days become short,
Trees stand lonesome, their leaves lost to the chilly breeze.
Eager children giggle in the snow as they play,
Reveling in each snowy day.

-Anonymous



If you want to submit a poem for a chance to be featured
in the Poet's Corner, email
awinewsletter.editor@gmail.com

Palestine

By Fatima Mohammed



In the long-loved land of Palestine
There's no more laughter or sunshine
Dust and glass choke throats and breath
The sun is blocked by planes raining death

The masjid Al-Aqsa is sacred to us
But it's being treated like forgotten dust
Still, remember, more sacred are the lives
Lost by the thousands as the world connives

As America funds a mass-genocide
But now we are finally changing the tide
We may be separated by the sea
But we are together, for our minds are free
Unshackled by the chains of malice and spite
The stars are brighter the darker the night
If the Ummah is one body, Palestine is our heart
And Israel can only try to rip it apart

Palestine (cont.)



So what if the quote-unquote superpowers are on the
wrong side?

Allah is with Palestine, and He will always provide!
Israel cuts off water, but Allah controls the skies
Everyone has seen the treachery, the lies

Israel is digging its own grave deep
In this life they laugh--in the next they will weep
Seventy five years haven't gone unchecked
Hey, oppressors, you'd better stop and reflect

You only fool yourself with your propaganda and tricks
Your words are no heavier than feathers and sticks
You've lost all your honor, your respect and your rights
You've blackened your hearts with your hatred and
spite

Palestine (cont.)



You've given us blindfolds, we've refused to wear them
as you do

For Palestine is the side that is true
No matter what, they will achieve victory
They'll be celebrated in history

The martyred Palestinians felt no pain
Israel only loses and they only gain
If we all stand together no force can resist
The power of truth when we insist

So my brothers and sisters, say this last part with me
From the river to the sea:
Palestine will be free!

If you want to submit a poem for a chance to be featured
in the Poet's Corner, email
awinewsletter.editor@gmail.com



CORNER

The Green Masjid Initiative aims to support our masajid transition towards more sustainable and responsible practices in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah.

We have been endorsed by the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California.

Visit our Website



TERACYCLE DROP OFF

AT REDWOODRAVEN CAMPUS



Terracycle and Colgate partnered up to create a national recycling program for all brands of USED AND EMPTY ORAL CARE PRODUCTS.

You can help reduce plastic pollution in our ocean by recycling used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, floss picks, and packaging.

Note: Electric or battery-operated toothbrushes or products are not accepted. Please remove as much product as possible like leftover toothpaste in tubes.

Also available: Collection bin for any flexible plastic food packaging.

(Please contact 315-871-9891 with questions or for other drop off options)



Any flexible food packaging like empty chip bags or snack packages.



old toothbrushes*



empty toothpaste tubes



floss picks and floss dispensers

HOUSE SCOREBOARD

Emerald Owl is in the Lead



2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR



REDWOOD RAVEN

3

POINTS



EMERALD OWL

15

POINTS



FOX FANGS

10

POINTS



SAGEBRUSH STEWARDS

1

POINTS

HOUSE CUP WINNERS

2022 - 2023 - FOX FANGS

2021 - 2022 - FOX FANGS

Did you know?

You have to fill out the form to earn points for volunteer days, leading hikes, and other things. The points won't get added unless you fill out the form!

Only actions worth 5 or more get displayed on the house scoreboard even though the points will be added.

Learn more about how the houses earned these points

Get House Points

CLICK HERE



AWI Newsletter Winter 2023

14

Summer's Comics



SINKHOLES!

SINKHOLES ARE TYPICALLY CAUSED BY BUILDUP OF WATER UNDER THE ASPHALT WHICH OVERTIME CAUSES EROSION

DUE TO A LOT OF RAIN OVER THE WEEKEND... THE AWI CAMPUS HAS A DANGEROUS SINKHOLE!!

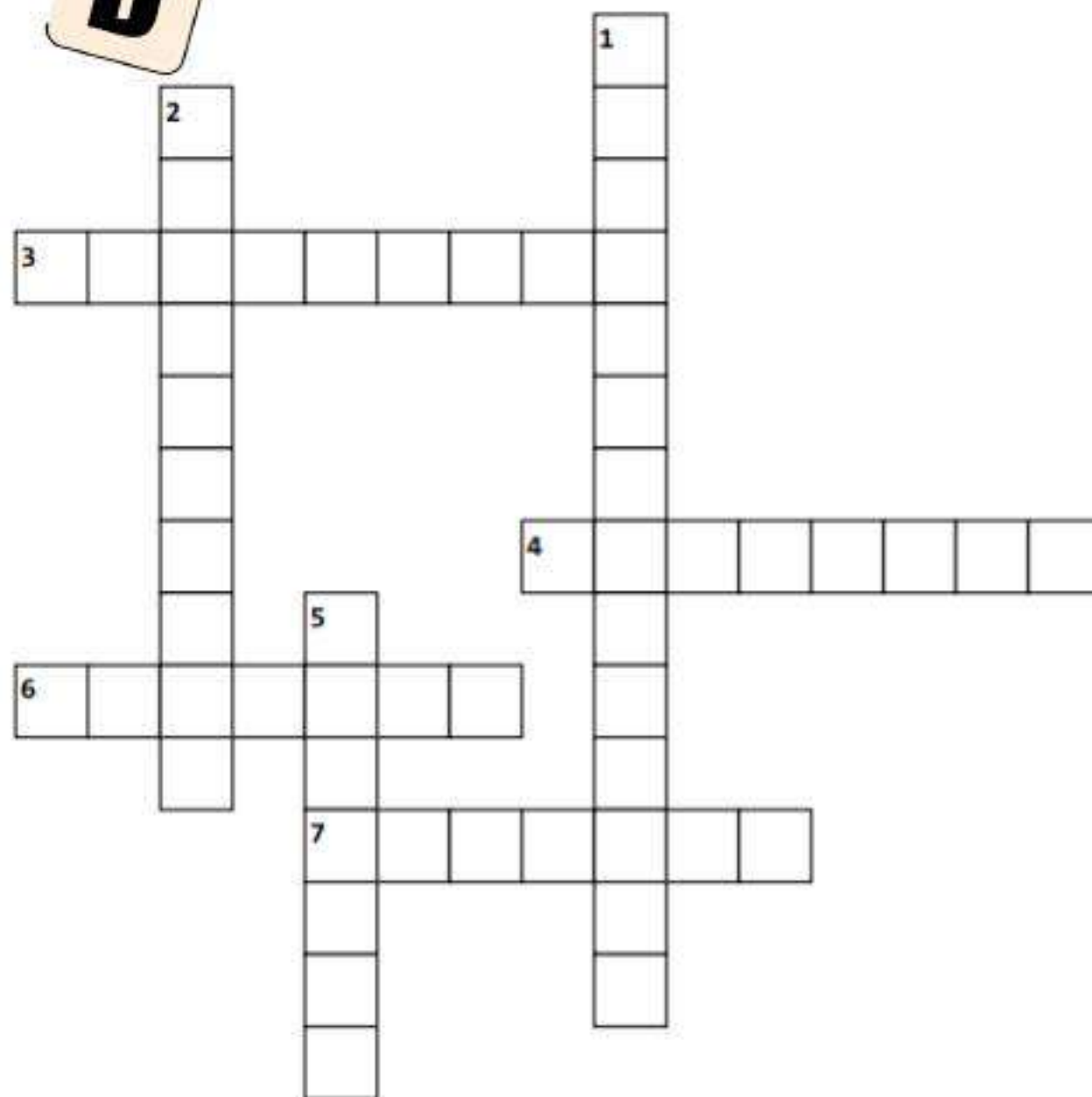
MUDSLIDES AND THE SETTLING OF THE GROUND SHIFTING IS A DANGEROUS HAZARD ⚠️

UNTIL THE WEATHER CLEARS UP BE CAREFUL OF THE SINKHOLES!! (parents and students)

ART AND WILDERNESS INSTITUTE (AWI) SUMMER KURDI, 2023

CROSSWORD

CORNER



Across

- 3. long green wiry reeds that grow on rocks
- 4. This is a predator of shrimp, fish and octopus
- 6. A short slugish invertebrate
- 7. A quick, small fish smiler to a goby

Down

- 1. An incredibly intelligent three hearted mollusk named for its two spots
- 2. A creature that uses empty snail shells for protection
- 5. known for being shaped like a star with webbing between the arms

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/crossword-corner-tide-pool-editionheading>

click link to play!

INTERVIEWS WITH AALIYAH R.

INTERVIEWING SUMAYYAH LABANIEH, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

What is your favorite trail and why?

The Mariposa trail in Yosemite, because of how green and pretty it is.

What is your favorite OC park?

Carbon Canyon.

Have you been to any National Parks?

Many such as... King's Canyon, Arches, Rocky Mountain...

What is your favorite national park?

Sequoia National Park

What do you do for art and wilderness institute?

Newsletter Editor



INTERVIEWING SUMAYYAH LABANIEH, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR (CONTINUED)



What is your hobby or hobbies?

journaling, reading, writing

What do you do in your free time?

Writing, mostly

What is your favorite book?

Heaven to Betsy

What is your favorite house and why?

Fox Fangs, because they are the best (and because I am in that house.)

If you had a superpower what would it be and why?

Time traveling, because it would be useful for procrastination.





2023



- Holidays
- Semester Begins/Ends*
*Membership Exception
- Summer Camp
- AWI points store
Festival day
- Make-up Week
- ★ Drop Date No fees
- ★ Drop Date 75%
- ★ Drop Date 50%
- ★ No refunds after this date
- 🏠 OVERNIGHT

JANUARY

Theme: High Ambition

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FEBRUARY

Theme: Patience

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MARCH

Theme: Humility

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APRIL

Theme: Gratitude

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MAY

Theme: Compassion

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JUNE

Theme: Celebration

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JULY

Theme: Resilience

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AUGUST

Theme: Reflection

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SEPTEMBER

Theme: Purpose/Intention

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OCTOBER

Theme: Self-discipline

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NOVEMBER

Theme: Good Manners

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DECEMBER

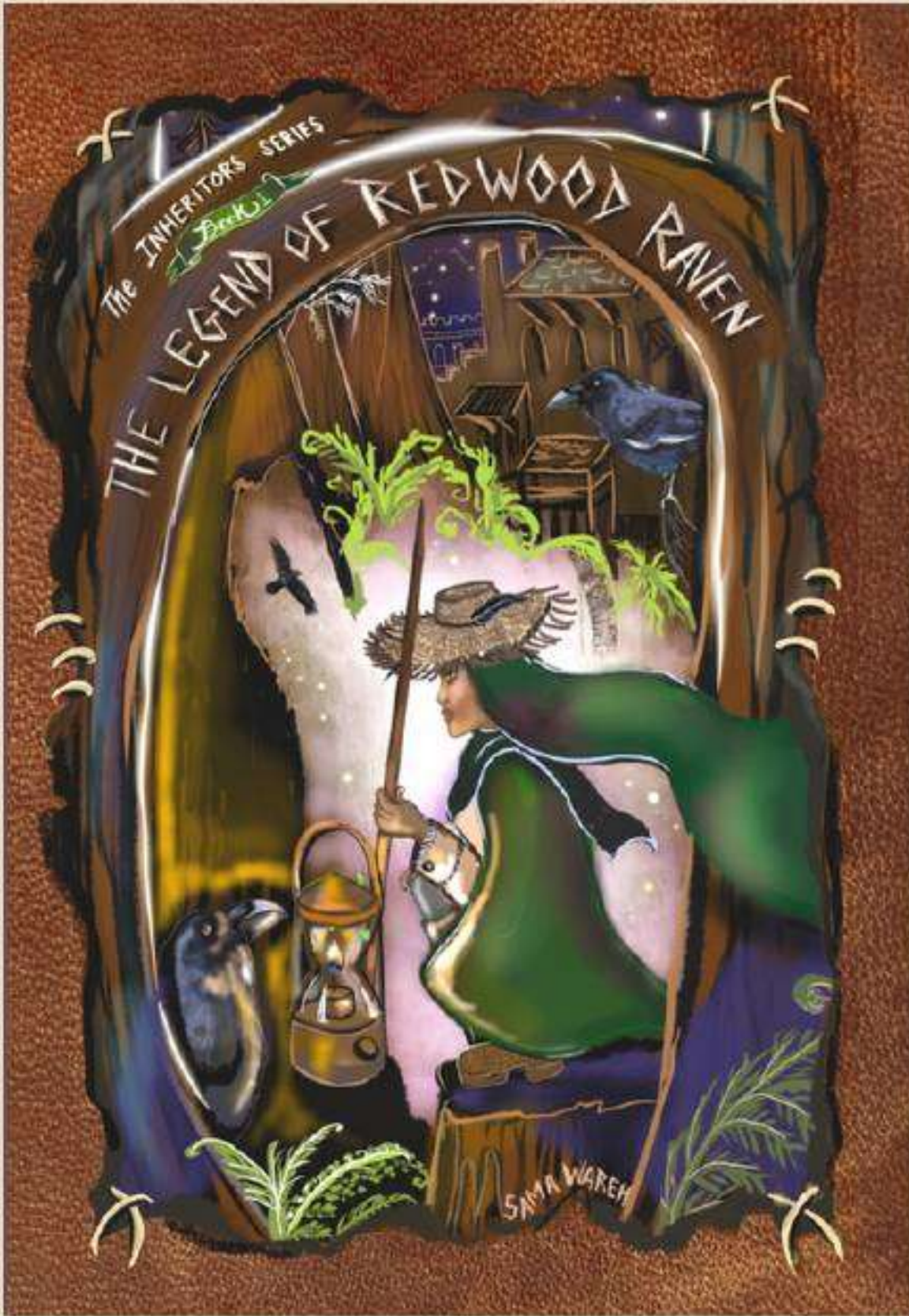
Theme: Friendship

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Calendar

BOOK RELEASE



Redwood Raven has no ordinary childhood. Her parents left when she was but a child and left her with a mysterious raven to watch after her. Growing up on her own in the sentinels of the Redwoods during the industrial revolution, her world is turned upside down one day when a logger tears down her home and all she holds dear. As forest after forest is brought down, her plan for revenge turns into a beautiful unexpected journey.

Meet the four characters behind our Art and Wilderness Institute houses as Redwood Raven takes you on an epic fictional adventure based on the non-fictional natural history of California as well as the history of the industrial revolution.

Brace yourself for magical characters, heartbreak, hope, and resilience in this 280 page novel.

Purchase Book



TRADING CARD GOSSIP

SHHHHH DONT TELL NO BODY

BUT THE TRADING CARD WINNERS ARE NOW
ON THE WEBSITE

[CLICK HERE](#)

ANNOUNCING TSHIRT WINNERS

Congratulations!



Yousfa Janjua

FRONT



BACK

ANNOUNCING TSHIRT WINNERS

Congratulations!



AliRida Serhan



FRONT



BACK

Want to contribute to the Newsletter?

Email

sumayyah.labanieh@gmail.com

TO JOIN THE TEAM

Call for:

Poetry,

Articles,

Comics,

Nature Journaling Pages,

Cool stories about your AWI

classes, teachers,

and more!