Bridging America's Divides, One Conversation At A Time

*StoryCorps One Small Step*

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VIR TUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Starring IRA FLATOW

OCTOBER 23
5:00PM PACIFIC TIME

KVPR's own science reporter Kerry Klein will join in this fun and enlightening evening

TICKETS $30 each • For information and tickets visit kvpr.org
Shortly before the pandemic began in 2020, we were honored to host the national tour of StoryCorps with stops in Fresno and Bakersfield. While the two month residency was cut short by COVID-19, we were thrilled to record in-person interviews with hundreds of local residents, each a conversation between two friends, family members or loved ones. You’ve heard many of them air locally on Valley Edition, and several have also aired nationally on the weekly StoryCorps segment on NPR’s Morning Edition.

So when the folks at StoryCorps reached out to us earlier this year with an invitation to partner on another national project, we jumped at the opportunity. StoryCorps One Small Step is a project that aims to bridge the divides that often define and divide our country and our communities. We’re honored to be one of six stations nationwide taking part in this project, including Alaska Public Media, KOSU in Oklahoma City, Vermont Public Radio, High Plains Public Radio and KUNR in Reno.

However, unlike the traditional StoryCorps interview, which documents the conversation between two people who typically have known each other for years, this new project is all about bringing together people who are strangers, and on the surface might have little in common.

Through the proven StoryCorps process, our team with StoryCorps works to pair local residents with differing views and personal backgrounds for a conversation. The idea is NOT to debate politics, but to encourage participants to talk about their lives. In the process, these conversations can remind us all about our shared humanity, and reinforce that even people who disagree on nearly everything, have more in common that they might appreciate or realize. As StoryCorps creator Dave Isay says, “it’s hard to hate up close.”

If you’re interested in participating in a One Small Step recording session, you can learn more and sign up online at kvpr.org/oss. You can expect to hear highlights from these sessions in 2022 on KVPR, and expect a special online event later this calendar year to celebrate this project in partnership with StoryCorps.

Speaking of online events, we have a very exciting online fundraiser taking place October 23rd featuring Science Friday host and founder Ira Flatow. This special event will be a night of science, trivia and insights into the long-running public radio show. In addition, it will feature our own Kerry Klein, who has become something of a regular guest on the national program, thanks to her reporting on everything from valley fever to COVID-19. We hope you’ll join us on Zoom for this special event, which will help raise funds to continue the programs you enjoy every day on KVPR. You can purchase your online event ticket at KVPR.org today.

Finally, I’d like to formally welcome Alexandra Burke to our staff. She joined our team this summer as KVPR’s new Content Director. She comes to the station following tenures at NPR stations elsewhere in California, including KAZU in Monterey, and KUSP in Santa Cruz. We’re excited to have her expertise and leadership helping Valley Public Radio as we continue to work to serve you with the best in public radio programming every day.

jmoore@kvpr.org • 559-862-2481
**MUSIC**

For a listing of our music selections, visit KVPR.org or contact the station.

- **CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** The weekly broadcasts offer a unique format that illustrates the fascinating stories found inside the music. Broadcasts are Tuesdays at 8pm.

- **CLASSICS ALL NIGHT with Peter Van De Graaff** Host Peter Van De Graaff plays sweet and soothing selections for late night and early morning listening. Late nights & early mornings: weekdays until 3am; weekends until 5am.

- **CLASSICAL 24** Timeless classical music. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on KVPR Classical digital stream.

- **CONCIERTO** Classical music at KVPR.org and KVPR 89.3 HD-2 by composers and performers, presented in English and Spanish. Hosted by Frank Dominguez. Saturdays at 9pm.

- **EARLY MUSIC NOW** Music from the Medieval, Renaissance and early Baroque era. Sundays at noon.

- **JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA** Host Christian McBride takes listeners on a tour of live jazz performances from today's top stars. Saturdays at 8pm.

- **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC** Recorded performances of the New York Philharmonic hosted by Alec Baldwin. Mondays at 8pm.

- **SUNDAY BAROQUE** This program celebrates the current wealth of recorded Baroque music. Suzanne Bona hosts every Sunday from 9am to Noon.

- **SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ** Hosted by KVPR's David Aus with jazz classics to new recordings. Sundays from 9pm to midnight.

- **THE THISTLE & SHAMROCK** Host Fiona Ritchie’s weekly program has become a gathering place on the radio for those that love music with Celtic roots. Sundays at 8pm.

- **WEEKEND CLASSICS** Musical selections from KVPR.

- **YOUNG ARTISTS SPOTLIGHT** Student performances Thursdays.

**INFORMATION**

- **1A** Daily talk program from WAMU and NPR, exploring issues in a changing America, and encouraging you to “speak freely.” Hosted by Jenn White, weekdays from 9am-11am.

- **ALL THINGS CONSIDERED** News magazine from NPR. Weekdays 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Weekends 5pm to 6pm.

- **THE CALIFORNIA REPORT** This statewide newscast is heard weekday mornings at 6:50am and 8:50am. The California Report Magazine, a half-hour news magazine program, is heard Fridays at 6:30pm.

- **FORUM** A statewide look at the issues facing California, hosted by KQED's Mina Kim. Monday-Thursday 1pm to 2pm.

- **FRESH AIR WEEKEND** Hosted by Peabody Award-winning Terry Gross. Sundays at 6pm.

**HERE AND NOW** News and features from NPR and WBUR in Boston. Mondays through Thursdays 11am to 1pm.

- **LEFT, RIGHT & CENTER** A fast-paced hour of smart, witty, and serious talk that takes on the week's front-page issues. Saturdays at 6pm.

- **LATINO USA** Hosted by Maria Hinojosa. The only national, English language news and culture program from a Latino perspective. Saturdays at 7pm.

- **MARKETPLACE** Business news with host Kai Ryssdal. Weekdays at 3pm, rebroadcast Monday-Thursday at 6:30 pm.

- **MORNING EDITION** National and international news from NPR. Weekdays from 3am to 9am.

- **VALLEY EDITION** Hear the issues that matter to Valley residents each week with a mix of in-depth reports, studio discussions and more. Valley Edition airs live on Fridays at 1pm, and is repeated Fridays at 7pm.

- **SCIENCE FRIDAY** with Ira Flatow. Talk about science and the environment. Fridays 11am to 1pm.

- **WEEKEND EDITION** The Saturday and Sunday edition of NPR's most popular news program. Weekend mornings from 5am to 9am.

- **STAR DATE** Days at 6:19am, 2:58pm and 10:00pm.

**TALK & ENTERTAINMENT**

- **IT'S BEEN A MINUTE** NPR's Sam Sanders brings us casual conversations about the connections between pop culture and current events. Saturdays from 4pm-5pm.

- **MILK STREET RADIO** Host Christopher Kimball explores the world of food. Saturdays at 10am.

- **THE MOTH** True stories told live, from professional and amateur storytellers based in New York. Tuesdays and Sundays at 7pm.

- **RADIOLAB** Radiolab believes your ears are a portal to another world, where sound illuminates ideas and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy and human experience. Mondays at 7pm.

- **TED RADIO HOUR** Innovative ideas from the world’s top thinkers. Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 9pm.

- **THIS AMERICAN LIFE** Hosted by Ira Glass. Themed stories with a unique focus on our everyday experiences. Wednesdays at 7pm, Saturdays at noon.

- **THINK** Host Krys Boyd brings us conversations about current events, culture, history, food, wine and the arts. From KERA. Weekdays at 2pm.

- **THROUGHLINE** NPR’s weekly program about history, dedicated to the idea that the past is always present. Thursdays at 7pm.

- **TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES** Explore with with travel expert and author Rick Steves as he talks with friends from around the globe. Saturdays at 9am.

- **WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME!** Join host Peter Sagal for this fun-filled hour of mind-stretching fun, based on the week’s news. Saturdays at 11am.
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MADE IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, USA.
While Americans face challenges unlike any other time in our history, KVPR, in partnership with StoryCorps, the national nonprofit dedicated to recording and preserving personal stories, invites people to take part in meaningful conversations that are recorded for history. With support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the San Joaquin Valley is one of six locations across the country selected to take part in StoryCorps’ nationwide One Small Step initiative to facilitate and broadcast conversations with Americans of opposing viewpoints. With participant permission, these conversations are preserved for future generations at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. KVPR plans to broadcast edited versions of select submissions from its local communities.

“I am thrilled StoryCorps chose KVPR as one of the six locations nationwide to participate in the One Small Step initiative,” said KVPR News Director Alice Daniel. “Considering the strong political divide in our country, there’s never been a better time for all of us to try to find some common ground, to really listen to those with different perspectives and to also ask ourselves what informs our values. Having produced audio segments from the StoryCorps San Joaquin recordings (made during the 2020 StoryCorps Mobile Tour in Bakersfield and Fresno), I know the positive impact intimate conversations can have on participants and the community. I look forward to seeing people in the San Joaquin Valley take those small steps to foster our humanity and help us understand each other better.”

Recent polls demonstrate what most of us have already experienced first-hand: that there is a pervasive culture of contempt that threatens the very foundations of our democracy. According to a CBS News poll released earlier this year, more than half of all Americans say the greatest danger to America’s way of life comes from their fellow citizens,” said Dave Isay, Founder and President of StoryCorps. “One Small Step aims to remind people of the humanity in all of us, and that it’s hard to hate up close. These communities can model this change for the rest of the country.”

“StoryCorps uses its innovative approach to sharing stories in its One Small Step Communities initiative to
foster understanding and respect, even among people who deeply disagree,” said Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

“By working with local public radio stations to connect people with different backgrounds and political beliefs, One Small Step is helping stations strengthen their communities, one step at a time. CPB is very pleased to support this effort.”

Launched by StoryCorps in 2018 in response to growing division in the country, One Small Step is a nationwide initiative that provides two strangers who hold different views with the opportunity to take part in facilitated and recorded conversations—specifically to counteract intensifying hostility and to enable those who disagree to listen to each other with respect. Rather than spark additional partisan debates, One Small Step encourages answers to questions such as, “Was there a moment, event, or person in your life that shaped your political views?” and “What scares you most when you think about the future?”

KVPR encourages residents of the San Joaquin Valley to take part in this limited-time opportunity:

• Information about how to participate is at KVPR.org.
• In locations where COVID social distancing requirements remain in place, KVPR will use StoryCorps’ remote recording platform, which pairs two strangers for a conversation over video and is hosted by a trained facilitator.

KVPR will also team up with a variety of community organizations to spread the word and will collaborate with StoryCorps to match participants and record conversations through the end of the year. The project will include a series of public listening events, streamed online, in fall 2021. Find out how your organization can partner with KVPR at KVPR.org.

KVPR’s participation in the One Small Step Communities project is made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. StoryCorps’ national One Small Step initiative is made possible by the generous support of The Hearthland Foundation, the Fetzer Institute, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Charles Koch Institute.

About Valley Public Radio

KVPR serves residents of Central California with NPR programming, local news, classical music and more. The station operates two programming services: KVPR (FM 89.3 in Fresno and FM 89.1 in Bakersfield) and KVPR Classical (FM 89.3 HD-2 in Fresno), as well as streaming and podcasts at KVPR.org and the KVPR app. For over 40 years, KVPR has been a leading source of news, information and music for listeners in Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Mariposa Counties. In 2019 the station was named California Non-Profit of the Year by State Senator Melissa Hurtado.
and in 2021 received three Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards from the RTDNA for news coverage.

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003 by Dave Isay, StoryCorps has given people of all backgrounds and beliefs, in thousands of towns and cities in all 50 states, the chance to record interviews about their lives. The organization preserves the recordings in its archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered, and shares select stories with the public through StoryCorps’ podcast, NPR broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, wisdom and values; engender empathy and connection; and remind us how much more we have in common than what divides us.

StoryCorps is especially committed to capturing and amplifying voices least heard in the media. The StoryCorps MobileBooth, an Airstream trailer the organization has transformed into a traveling recording booth, crisscrosses the country year-round in order to gather the stories of people nationwide. There are also StoryBooths located in Chicago and Atlanta.

With the 2015 TED Prize awarded to Dave Isay, StoryCorps launched a free mobile app that puts the StoryCorps experience entirely in the hands of users and enables anyone, anywhere to record meaningful conversations with another person and upload the audio to the Library of Congress. The StoryCorps app serves as the facilitator, guiding users through the interview experience, from recording to archiving to sharing their stories with the world. It provides easy-to-use tools to help people prepare interview questions; record high-quality conversations on their mobile devices; and upload the audio to archive.storycorps.org which serves as a home for these recordings and also provides interview and editing resources.

StoryCorps recently launched StoryCorps Connect, a new video-based platform that makes it possible for two people in different locations to conduct a StoryCorps interview safely and remotely.

After recording a StoryCorps conversation via any of these methods, participants are emailed a link to their interview, and a digital file goes to the Library of Congress, where it will be preserved for generations to come.

StoryCorps is a national institution that fosters a culture of listening in the United States; celebrates the dignity, power, and grace that can be heard in the stories we find all around us; and helps us recognize that every life and every story matters equally. In the coming years, StoryCorps hopes to touch the lives of every American family.

About the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally managed and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services. For more information, visit cpb.org, follow us on Twitter @CPBmedia, Facebook and LinkedIn and subscribe for other updates.
KVPR Hires
New Content Director
ALEXANDRA BURKE

KVPR has a new employee responsible for the station’s broadcast and digital content, Alexandra Burke. Burke began work in mid-June as the station’s new Content Director. Burke will supervise the station’s two broadcast services, KVPR and KVPR Classical, including programming, on-air personnel and operations staff.

Burke joins the station’s management team with over a decade of experience in all aspects of public radio operations. Prior to joining Valley Public Radio, Burke worked at other fellow California NPR member stations including KUSP in Santa Cruz, KAZU in Monterey Bay, and KALW in San Francisco. She has worked on-air as a Morning Edition host, served as an operations director and station manager, and has extensive experience in station fundraising efforts.

KVPR’s President and General Manager Joe Moore said the station is excited to welcome Burke to the team. “Alex is an important addition to our station, and will help elevate our service to the community across the board. She has the sort of broad range of experience in public radio that is essential at stations of this size, where we all have to wear a lot of hats. At the same time, she has a big picture perspective of the public radio system, and how stations can serve their community and continue to innovate that is a great compliment to our existing staff,” said Moore. “We're really excited to work with her and think she has a bright future in public radio.”

“I am so impressed with the strides KVPR has made in growing their regional news service in recent years, while continuing to offer the signature arts and cultural programming that the station has built its legacy on”, Burke said. “KVPR is doing a better job than ever at providing timely, relevant content to San Joaquin Valley residents, and recent audience growth proves it. I can't wait to help amplify and build on the great work that’s already happening here.”

Burke is returning to Fresno after 15 years living and working in the Monterey Bay area. She started out in radio as an undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz, hosting music shows on the student-run radio station on campus, KZSC.

In Burke’s new role at the station, she’ll be supervising a number of significant projects, including a rebuild of the station’s website, a rebranding project, and a continued evolution of the station’s local presentation of flagship NPR news programs like All Things Considered.
Distance-Learning Investigation: Shortfall In Student Engagement Despite High Attendance Numbers

By Soreath Hok – KVPR

After over a year online, Madera South High School adopted a hybrid schedule in April so students could return to classrooms a couple of days a week. But inside Rodia Montgomery-Gentry’s 12th grade economics class in early June, it felt like school was already out. Desks with plastic dividers lined the room but there were only three students.

“Everyone, would you mind turning on your camera? It’s our last day might as well,” Montgomery-Gentry is heard addressing students on her screen.

Most of the students Montgomery-Gentry was talking to were still online. Out of 27 logged in, eight had their cameras turned on, but most of those cameras were pointed at the ceiling.

“The students have heard, probably every single class time, me announce, you know, ‘So and so are you here? Put in the chat if you’re here. And mic yourself if you’re here.’ Nothing,” said Montgomery-Gentry.

It was a challenging year for Montgomery-Gentry and other teachers. Just because students were officially in attendance, or at least logged in, that didn’t mean they were participating or even there.

Daniel Lupian Ceja, was one of the few students in the room. He says he had always cared deeply about school, but in the pandemic he lost his motivation, his drive. Online learning made classwork seem, well, empty.

“It felt like if it wasn’t in person, then it just didn’t feel as real. It felt like a phone call versus being there and talking to someone,” said the 18-year-old senior.

Madera Unified is a poor district. Nearly 90% of students receive a free or reduced price lunch.

Here at Madera South High, the vast majority of students are English learners. Seventy percent speak Spanish at home and others speak indigenous languages like Zapoteco and Mixteco.

So how are those students doing? FM 89 filed a public records act request for the school’s attendance records. Officially, the chronic absenteeism rate was just 5%, meaning nearly all of its students were going to class.

But that’s not what teachers and students were seeing and even the district admits that official statistic is misleading.

“It’s inflated. I mean, it’s absolutely inflated,” said Alyson Crafton, Director of Student Services at Madera Unified.

She was in charge of making sure records were compliant with state requirements. But it was difficult to monitor attendance and engagement without the requirement for distance-learners to turn their camera on.

“You can literally be on your phone, on YouTube or with...
your friends -- and or sleeping,” said Crafton.

But that’s not how the district was supposed to count attendance.

Under a law signed by Governor Newsom last June, administrators were required to track not only whether students showed up, but how much they participated in distance learning -- for example, whether they communicated with their teacher or turned in assignments.

But even though we requested it, the district didn’t share that detail with us. And neither did other districts in the Valley, like Fresno and Clovis Unified. And, so Crafton said the true level of student engagement remains unknown.

“And quite frankly and I don’t know there’s any way to tell,” said Crafton.

However, Babatunde Ilori, executive director of accountability and communications at Madera Unified said the district does know the true level of engagement by utilizing several metrics including grades. According to Ilori, 18% of students received D’s and F’s before the pandemic. After the last school year, that number was 32%.

Senior Daniel Lupian Ceja was counted as present when he was online. He would log on, but he wouldn’t do the work. Eventually, taking a job pulling weeds from grape crops seemed like a more sane use of his time.

“I was mostly in the fields like working, trying to make money because that seemed more important to me at the time than just keeping up grades,” he said.

But when school reopened, he changed course.

“What helped me get back into school was realizing that if I don’t put in the effort, I might not graduate,” said Ceja.

In Montgomery-Gentry’s economic class, 11 students got D’s and F’s. That’s twice as much as during a normal year where she says the average is 4-5. Economics or civics is a graduation requirement, so students who fail this class can’t graduate.

Many students could get by with marked attendance by either logging in, turning in work, or having contact with teachers. But without the requirement to turn cameras on, and with piling work loads, Crafton said the number of D’s and F’s shot up the first semester.

“If they weren’t self motivated to learn, and even if they were. Some of the depression, some of the sadness, some of feeling overwhelmed, feeling very apathetic kicked in to a degree that really interfered with them,” she said.

Districts were required to reach out to students if they dropped off. Crafton says part of the district’s plan was more home visits.

This past year, the district logged more than 4,000 home visits. In a normal year, that number was 500. Visits ranged from engagement attempts to meal deliveries and award recognitions.

Despite the challenges, Crafton says she believes the law forced the district to make necessary changes to address individual student needs.

“What we sometimes lost sight of is the human compassion. And an understanding of why perhaps that family or that child that day or that month or whatever is not in place to receive any of the things that we want to teach him or her,” Crafton said.

The law allowing distance learning expires at the end of the month and students will return to classes five days a week in the fall.

Back in Ms. Rodia Montgomery-Gentry’s nearly empty classroom, she’s getting ready to sign off for the last day of school, addressing both students in the class and online.

“It’s been an honor to be called your teacher,” she said, as she addressed the lone student in the room.

“And it’s been an honor to be called you guys’ teacher.”

Tears begin to form in her eyes as she addresses a screen of digital squares.

“This is hard on you. It’s hard on teachers, but you made it. You made it,” she said.

Gentry said she believes the most important lesson for students this year was resiliency, a life lesson they’ll carry into adulthood.
NPR and Member Stations Win Pulitzer Prize For Audio Reporting

For the first time in its 50 year history, NPR has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for audio reporting. The honor comes for the network’s podcast series No Compromise, which was produced in collaboration with NPR member stations KCUR, WABE and WAMU.

NPR’s CEO John Lansing wrote the following on June 11, in a note about the honors:

The podcast takes audiences deep into the most uncompromising corner of the gun debate. It is especially significant that this work was a true network collaboration among talented public media journalists at NPR and at Member stations. NPR’s reporting on the assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was a finalist in the same category.

I couldn’t be more proud of these honors, and what they say about the teams at NPR and NPR Member stations. Coming after the events of the last 18 months, this news is a fitting tribute to the resilience, hard work, and excellence of public media journalism," said NPR President and CEO John Lansing.

No Compromise demonstrates the unique power of the NPR-Member station partnership and our shared journalism network. Reporters Chris Haxel (KCUR, Kansas City, MO) and Lisa Hagen (WABE, Atlanta, GA) began investigating this story as part of WAMU’s Guns & America public radio reporting collaboration, then joined forces with NPR’s Story Lab to develop the podcast with NPR’s Investigations Team, including Robert Little and Graham Smith and many other mentors and supporters across divisions. Neal Carruth in Programming headed up the execution and launch of the program. Thanks to all who played a role in this important work at every step of No Compromise’s development.

Audiences depend on the excellence of NPR reporting on major world events and rely on the global reach of the NPR newsroom to deliver it. The vigor of our journalism was on full display with our coverage of the assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani as reported by All Things Considered, our International Desk, and Throughline.

And there’s even more good news to share. Just a few days ago the Gracie Awards were announced, with honors recognizing outstanding journalists and journalism at NPR and Member stations. The dozens of Gracie Awards recognize and display the thorough and wide-ranging storytelling that our network is poised and dedicated to sharing with audiences across platforms. This year’s Gracie honors to the Texas Public Radio and the Texas Newsroom -- the collaborative journalism hub in Texas -- are once again evidence that collaboration brings about the best public service journalism.

Wherever you are, I invite you and your teams to join me in celebrating all this good news.
KVPR presents the Fresno Philharmonic Daniel R. Martin Masterworks Series

Listen to the Fresno Philharmonic’s 2021-22 Masterworks concerts on KVPR. The broadcasts air on the second Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. following the orchestra’s concerts and are hosted by KVPR’s David Aus.

**FALL 2021 BROADCAST SCHEDULE***

**Jupiter Symphony**
*Broadcast date: Tuesday September 21, 2021 8:00 PM*
- Liszt - Piano Concerto No. 1 (Joyce Yang, piano)
- George Walker - Lyric For Strings
- Mozart - Symphony No. 41 “Jupiter”

**Serenade for Strings**
*Broadcast date: Tuesday October 19, 2021 8:00 PM*
- J.S. Bach - Concerto for Oboe and Violin (Rong Huey-Liu, oboe; Stephanie Sant’Ambrogio, violin)
- John Winglass - Alone/Together
- Tchaikovsky - Serenade for Strings

**Mozart x2**
*Broadcast date: Tuesday Nov 16, 2021 8:00 PM*
- Bartok - Romanian Folk Dances
- Gabriela Lena Frank - Elegia Andina
- Mozart - Concerto for 2 pianos in C Major K. 365 (Rei Hotoda, piano; Fabio Bidini, piano)

*Schedule and content subject to change
## Community

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Find more events at kvpr.org

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Due to COVID-19 in-person events may have changed following publication. Please consult event organizers and our online calendar for current information.

### EVENTS/EXHIBITS

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Thru 10/22</td>
<td>Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts 2021</td>
<td>Madera County Arts Council, 424 N. Gateway Drive, Madera</td>
<td>maderaarts.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties: 22nd Annual Crab Feed</td>
<td>Garza Residence, Clovis</td>
<td>casafresnomadera.org</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>CASA of Tulare County: Once Upon A Dream Gala</td>
<td>Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia</td>
<td>casatulareco.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Dark Sky Festival 2021 (Virtual)</td>
<td>Sequoia Parks Conservancy, Three Rivers</td>
<td>sequoiaparksconservancy.org</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Respite by The River: reading by Sam Pereira, music by Los Peripherals</td>
<td>San Joaquin River Parkway, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno</td>
<td>riverparkway.org</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Safari Night</td>
<td>Fresno Chaffee Zoo, 894 W. Belmont Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>fresnochaffeezoo.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's (Fresno-Madera)</td>
<td>Tesoro Viejo Welcome Center, 4150 Town Center Blvd., Madera</td>
<td>alz.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### THEATRE/DANCE

| Date       | Event                                                        | Location                                                | Details                                                               |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|                                                                      |
| 16 Thru 11/7 | The Addam's Family                                          | Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre, 1226 N. Wishon Ave., Fresno | rogerrockas.com                                                     |

### MUSIC

| Date       | Event                                                        | Location                                                | Details                                                               |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|                                                                      |
| 11-12      | Fresno Philharmonic: Jupiter Symphony                        | Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno | fresnophil.org                                                       |

### EVENTS/EXHIBITS

| Date       | Event                                                        | Location                                                | Details                                                               |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|                                                                      |
| 2          | Harvest Home: A Festival of Traditional Americana Music      | San Joaquin River Parkway, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno | riverparkway.org                                                     |
| 1-3, 8-10  | Sierra Art Trails: 18th Annual Open Studio Tour             | Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties                    | sierraarttrails.org                                                 |
| 6-17       | Big Fresno Fair                                              | Fresno Fairgrounds, 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno         | fresnofair.com                                                       |
| 16-17      | Bakersfield Museum of Art: Via Arté Italian Street Painting Exhibit | The Marketplace, 9000 Ming Ave., Bakersfield            | viaartebakersfield.com                                              |
| 20         | San Joaquin Valley Town Hall: Jon Meacham                    | Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno                   | valleytownhall.com                                                  |
| 30         | Wine Walk                                                    | Old Town Clovis, Downtown Clovis                        | oldtownclovis.org                                                   |
### THEATRE/DANCE

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<td>29 Thru 12/19</td>
<td>Holly Jolly Holidays</td>
<td>2nd Space Theatre, 928 E. Olive Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>gcplayers.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-30</td>
<td>Godspell</td>
<td>Stars Theatre Restaurant, 1931 Chester Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bmtstars.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>Cats</td>
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<td>fresno.broadway.com/shows</td>
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### MUSIC

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<td>Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra: Bruch and Dvořák</td>
<td>Mechanics Bank Theater, 1001 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bsonow.org</td>
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<td>9-10</td>
<td>Fresno Philharmonic: Serenade for Strings</td>
<td>Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>fresnophil.org</td>
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<td>15-16</td>
<td>Sequoia Symphony: Star Wars, A New Hope in Concert</td>
<td>Visalia Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main Street.</td>
<td>sequoiasymphonyorchestra.org</td>
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### EVENTS/EXHIBITS

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<td>17 Thru 12/24</td>
<td>Annual Holiday Show and Sale</td>
<td>Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak Ave., Visalia</td>
<td>artsvisalia.org</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Day Hike: Woodpeckers and Fire Ecology</td>
<td>Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park</td>
<td>yosemite.org</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Sazon Con Arte (Virtual)</td>
<td>Arte Americas, Fresno</td>
<td>arteamericas.org</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>San Joaquin Valley Town Hall: Dr. Abraham Verghese</td>
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<td>valleytownhall.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-21</td>
<td>Wrinkles: The 55+ Musical Revue</td>
<td>Stars Theatre Restaurant, 1931 Chester Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bmtstars.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The Nutcracker</td>
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<td>valleyperformingartscouncil.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra: Mozart and Moore</td>
<td>Mechanics Bank Theater, 1001 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bsonow.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Fresno Philharmonic: Mozart X2</td>
<td>Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>fresnophil.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sequoia Symphony: Scheherazade</td>
<td>Visalia Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main Street.</td>
<td>sequoiasymphonyorchestra.org</td>
</tr>
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Neal Conan, who spent 36 years with National Public Radio and 11 years as the host of the network’s Talk of the Nation died Tuesday August 10, 2021 in Hawaii of glioblastoma at the age of 71.

I met Neal almost 50 years ago, at a small, hopeless FM radio station in New York City, WRVR. Neal spent much of what would have been his college years, if he’d attended, working at New York’s Pacifica noncommercial radio station, WBAI, where he took his first radio job as an engineer.

When I first knew him, while we hosted a WRVR news program together, he used to wear a railroad engineer’s cap. “They don’t make announcer’s caps,” he’d explain.

The Neal I knew was funny, smart and 100% radio, with an incurable curiosity and the silvery voice of an Irish tenor.

Last year, a few of us NPR old-timers gathered on Zoom and took turns explaining what had hooked us on radio. Neal didn’t invoke the great broadcast news oracles of our youth. He was a high school senior, spending a lot of time at the office of his physician father who, Neal recounted, “had an FM radio so he could play easy-listening music to drown out the screams of his patients.”

But it was on that radio that he heard something different — WBAI, a public radio station in the middle of a fundraising drive.

How he stumbled onto public radio

“People didn’t talk like people on the radio,” he recalled in a 2007 interview with Public Radio Arizona’s Wavelength magazine. “I stumbled across this unbelievable conversation where people were telling really bad jokes and were laughing. You heard women’s voices (very unusual in those days). You heard Midwestern and Brooklyn accents, people with passion who cared about what they were doing and wanted to involve me.”

He went to work there soon after.

And in 1977, he joined NPR, where he held an astonishing variety of jobs. He was, at various times, the line producer and executive producer of All Things Considered. In 1987, he ran NPR’s coverage for a year as news director.

As a reporter and host, he covered confirmation hearings of Supreme Court nominees, two Olympic Games, President Bill Clinton’s impeachment and presidential debates. Abroad, he won a handful of awards for his coverage of wars in the Middle East and conflict in Northern Ireland.

In the final days of the Gulf War in 1991, while reporting from southern Iraq in the U.S. battle to liberate Kuwait, he was captured by the Iraqi Republican
Guard and held hostage for a week, along with New York Times reporter Chris Hedges.

How he combined his love of radio and baseball

Among Neal’s passions were military history, comic books and — perhaps, above all — baseball. (Especially the New York Yankees.)

His love of the game was such that he took a sabbatical in 2000 to live out his dream — but took radio with him — working as a Minor League Baseball announcer for the Maryland team Aberdeen Arsenal.

It didn’t produce a dream career, but it did produce his book, Play by Play: Baseball, Radio and Life in the Last Chance League.

Neal lived radio at work and at home. He was married to Liane Hansen who hosted NPR’s Weekend Edition Sunday for many years. That marriage ended in divorce, but together they raised two children, Connor and Casey.

Neal’s most prominent role at NPR was hosting the daily call-in radio show Talk of the Nation. He tried out for the position the week that began on Sept. 10, 2001, in what became a crash course: 9/11 was Neal’s Day Two on the job.

His stint in the baseball world, he said, was surprisingly great training for those long, demanding days. Having to give play-by-play commentary for three-hour games, Neal told the Los Angeles Times in October 2001, “gave me much more stamina, much more ability to think off the top of my head.”

Talk of the Nation was canceled when NPR opted out of talk-show production in 2013 and Neal left the network. True to his predictable unpredictability, he went to Hawaii to become a macadamia nut farmer. He lived there the last several years of his life with his wife, the writer Gretel Ehrlich, as well as at her home in Montana and Wyoming.

Inevitably, of course, there was still radio in his life.

In Hawaii, he worked at Hawaii Public Radio as a commentator on Pacific News Minute. When then-President Donald Trump entered the White House, he returned to national airwaves to give historical and continued on page 22
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NPR Names LA’s A Martínez As New Morning Edition Host

A Martínez joins Steve Inskeep, Noel King and Rachel Martin

After conducting a national search, NPR has selected A Martínez as the fourth host of Morning Edition, NPR’s morning drivetime news magazine carried by 835 public radio stations nationwide, including Valley Public Radio. Martínez will be based at NPR West in Culver City, Calif.

Martínez has been the host of Take Two at KPCC in Los Angeles since 2012, before that he was a familiar voice to sports-talk radio listeners in Los Angeles as host of 710 KSPN’s In the Zone. During his tenure, Take Two has created important forums on the air and through live events that have elevated the voices and perspectives of Angelenos, and provided nuanced coverage of the region’s challenges including homelessness, climate change and systemic disparities in health and education.

“We are delighted to have A join the Morning Edition team anchoring from the West Coast. He brings a remarkable record of journalism and empathy that allows him to truly connect with audiences and stories,” said Sarah Gilbert, NPR’s Vice President for News Programming. “He brings intelligence, a sense of humor and a deep curiosity that will fit right in with the show’s commitment to telling distinctive stories that make a difference to our understanding of the world.”

“Nine years ago, I had never listened to public radio. I was about to start a new path that would change my career, and in a deeper way, my perspective on life,” said Martínez. “The time I’ve spent at KPCC proves that public radio journalism can be accessible, relatable and understandable to ANYONE, regardless of their background or educational pedigree. I’m excited to bring every experience I’ve had along the way to NPR and to represent Los Angeles and California the best way I can.”

A Martínez will be joining Steve Inskeep, Noel King, and Rachel Martin on this bi-coastal, 24-hour news operation. He fills the vacancy in the host lineup that was left after David Greene’s departure in 2020. Morning Edition hosts often get out from behind the anchor desk and travel around the world to report on the news firsthand. Produced and distributed by NPR in Washington, D.C., Morning Edition draws on reporting from correspondents based around the world, and producers and reporters in locations in the United States. This reporting is supplemented by NPR Member Station reporters across the country as well as independent producers and reporters throughout the public radio system. Since its debut on November 5, 1979, Morning Edition has garnered broadcasting’s highest honors, including the George Foster Peabody Award and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award. The show reaches 11.5 million weekly listeners on more than 835 stations. The team also produces the popular Up First daily news podcast, which highlights the top three stories listeners need to start their day.
KVPR & Science Friday Present Virtual Trivia Night With Ira Flatow

Join KVPR and our partners at Science Friday for a fun night of trivia and science as part of our Virtual Trivia Night. The online event with SciFri host and creator Ira Flatow takes place on Zoom Friday October 23rd at 5:00 PM Pacific Time. KVPR’s own science reporter Kerry Klein, who is a frequent guest on the national broadcasts of Science Friday, will co-host the event with Flatow. Tickets are $30 and all proceeds will benefit Valley Public Radio. Purchase yours today online at: kvpr.org/scifri-trivia

About Ira Flatow:
Award winning science correspondent and TV journalist Ira Flatow is the host of Science Friday, heard on public radio stations across the country and distributed by WNYC Studios. He anchors the show each Friday, bringing radio and Internet listeners worldwide a lively, informative discussion on science, technology, health, space, and the environment. Ira is also founder and president of the Science Friday Initiative, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit company dedicated to creating radio, TV, and Internet projects that make science “user-friendly.”

Flatow’s interest in things scientific began in boyhood—he almost burned down his mother’s bathroom trying to recreate a biology class experiment. “I was the proverbial kid who spent hours in the basement experimenting with electronic gizmos, and then entering them in high school science fairs,” Flatow says. Mixing his passion for science with a tendency toward being a bit of a ham, Flatow describes his work as the challenge “to make science and technology a topic for discussion around the dinner table.”

He has shared that enthusiasm with public radio listeners for more than 35 years. As a reporter and then news director at WBFO-FM/Buffalo, New York, Flatow began reporting at the station while studying for his engineering degree at State University of New York in Buffalo. As NPR’s science correspondent from 1971 to 1986, Flatow found himself reporting from the Kennedy Space Center, Three Mile Island, Antarctica, and the South Pole. In one memorable NPR report, Flatow took former All Things Considered host Susan Stamberg into a closet to crunch Wint-O-Green Lifesavers, proving they spark in the dark.


On television, Flatow has discussed the latest cutting edge science stories on a variety of programs. He also hosted the four-part PBS series Big Ideas, produced by WNET in New York. His numerous TV credits include six years as host and writer for the Emmy award-winning Newton’s Apple on PBS, science reporter for CBS This Morning.
and cable’s CNBC. He wrote, produced, and hosted Transistorized!, an hour-long documentary about the history of the transistor, which aired on PBS. He has talked science on many TV talk shows including Merv Griffin, Today, Charlie Rose, and Oprah. He has co-starred twice on the CBS hit series The Big Bang Theory.

On the Internet, Flatow has hosted numerous science-related web casts for Discovery Online, The Great Planet Debate, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

In print, Ira has authored articles for various magazines ranging from Woman’s Day to ESPN Magazine to American Lawyer. His commentary has appeared in The Los Angeles Times, and Current newspapers. Public speaking and moderating discussions are a regular part of his schedule. He has spoken at Rockefeller University, the World Economic Forum, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett Packard, Calvin Academy, Cal Tech, MIT, Harvard, University of Wisconsin, OSHU, National Inventor’s Hall of Fame, and the Kentucky Author Forum. In 2004, Ira was resident scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. His recent honors include: the Isaac Asimov Award (2012), the Nierenberg Prize (2010), Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, membership (2008), National Science Teachers Association Faraday Science Communicator Award (2007), the National Science Board Public Service Award (2005), World Economic Forum Media Fellowship (2005), AAAS Journalism award (2000), Brady Washburn Award (2000), and the Carl Sagan Award (1999). Ira is member of the National Association of Science Writers, AFTRA, and Screen Actors Guild. His hobbies include tennis, golf, gardening (especially orchids), and electronic gadgets. He loves the theater. A native of New York, Flatow now lives in Connecticut.
political context to the new administration with a program called Truth, Politics and Power.

On his 70th birthday, in 2019, Neal received bad news: He had a malignant brain tumor. He would fly to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for treatment, where the prognosis was never encouraging. But his friends and fans hoped against hope that he might somehow pull this one out.

How he wanted to be remembered

Earlier this year, he sat down with his nephew, former NPR journalist JJ Sutherland, for a long interview about his life.

Asked how he wanted to be remembered, Neal put it this way:

“I was lucky enough to be part of establishing what I think is now a really important news organization in this country, and for NPR News to have advanced so far from the organization that it was when I joined it and become so important. And there’s never been a more important time for an independent news organization in this country than right now. So, that, I think more than anything, is what I would like to be remembered for.”
KVPR receives support from the following local businesses and organizations:

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