



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SCHOOL SPEAKER SERIES





DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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www.diversityslo.org

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**DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

About Us

The Coalition was founded in 2011 as a response to a widely reported incident involving a cross burning in Arroyo Grande. Steve Adams, then City Manager of Arroyo Grande, assembled a cadre of influential citizens to discuss what the community's response should be. While many others felt it unnecessary, with the support of the City government plus the NAACP Santa Maria Valley chapter and the Anti-Defamation League, the Five Cities Diversity Coalition was born.

In 2019, Five Cities expanded its reach to serve the entire county of San Luis Obispo County, changing its name to Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County.

<https://www.diversityslo.org/our-history>



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

About Us in Numbers

11

Years of
working
experience.

15+

School speaker
presentations per
school year.

1200+

Community
coalition
members

2000+

Students
participated in
2021-2022
school year
alone



**DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

Our Values & Mission

Values

Welcoming
Empowering
Understanding
Educating

Mission

The Coalition provides educational programs and resources to facilitate and advance the efforts of our affiliated organizations in order to promote and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.



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Our Speakers Program



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Our Speakers Program

Holocaust Survivors

Stories from:

- A Holocaust survivor who hid from the Nazis in an attic for 2 years. Very similar to what Anne Frank had to endure. She and her daughter share her story of survival.
- A couple who escaped Germany before the horrors really took hold, the wife as part of the orphan resettlement to England. They give a detailed history of the time and the events that led up to it.





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Our Speakers Program

Dutch Resistance Worker during WWII

Stories from:

- A daughter whose father was sent to a prison camp when the Nazis occupied Holland. She and her mother nearly starved, yet they still decided to hide a Jewish girl in their home, at great risk to their own lives.





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Japanese Internment survivor

Stories from:

- A survivor of a Japanese internment camp. He was sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona with his family during WWII.





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Our Speakers Program

Lost Boy of Sudan

Stories from:

- Refugee who survived the horrors of the civil war in Sudan in the nineties. His story was documented in a movie starring Reese Witherspoon. His American sponsor can join him to tell the story of his arrival in the U.S.





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Sudanese Refugee

Stories from:

- Refugee who survived the lead-up to war in Sudan, then worked to resettle other refugees, through the International Refugee Committee.





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Our Speakers Program

Other Speakers

- **Chumash/Titavian elder** – local tribal leader and historian.
- **Cambodian refugee and the journalist who wrote about her story** – features the author with a survivor of the Khmer Rouge genocide.
- **Actor/film writer on race and ethnicity** – currently works with Matt Damon and Ben Affleck to promote diversity in the film industry.
- **Afghan refugee** – worked with U.S. troops in Kabul. Left Afghanistan during the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.





**DIVERSITY COALITION
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It is believed that language was developed when humans got to sit around a fire telling each other stories. Stories connect us, and teach us about other people's experiences.

Our **School Speakers Program** attempts to showcase the importance of telling our story and the importance of seeing the world from someone else's perspective.

Every single one of our speakers have a compelling first-hand experience to share with younger generations.

Our **School Speaker Program** is free to schools and teachers and is meant to complement the amazing work done by educators. Combining classroom lessons and first-hand experiences promote higher engagement between students and classroom lessons.



Benefits



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The Process



- **LET'S CONNECT**

Identify the topic and speaker needs for the school/class.

- **SCHEDULE
SPEAKER VISIT**

Establish potential months/dates for speaker visit.

- **SPEAKER VISIT**

Speaker visits school, shares experience. Learning happens.

- **FEEDBACK**

School provides feedback for future speaker engagements.



**DIVERSITY COALITION
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Let's Connect!

We would love to share more about our
School Speakers Program.

Let us know when you're available and we
can schedule a meeting in person or
remotely.



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diversityslo.org