



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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An Evening of Magical Stories with Zuni Chopra and Davis Teens

(Woodland, CA) – On Saturday, April 13, the Yolo County Library, Yolo County Library Foundation, and Stories on Stage Davis will present a free evening of magical stories with author Zuni Chopra and Davis Senior High School student Kaussar Tortay, winner of a countywide 9th-12th grade writing contest. The event will be held at the Veterans Memorial Theatre in Davis, located at 203 E 14th St. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the event begins at 7:30 p.m.

Register for this free event at tinyurl.com/eveningofmagicalstories2024. The Yolo County Library Foundation and Stories on Stage Davis are accepting donations through the registration link to further support early childhood literacy, literature, and theater arts.

First, teen actors Jasarae DeRemer, Brody Welsh, Dante Baldini, and Amarie Brown will read Tortay's short story "Memory Vessel." After intermission, teen actors Brown, Banisha Hakim, Isabella Goudeau, and Wooyoung Jung will read a standalone excerpt from Chopra's novel *The House That Spoke* (Penguin India, 2017), followed by a Q&A session with Chopra, moderated by Dr. Andy Jones, and a book signing.

Chopra is a 22-year-old Indian author with four published works. She released her first collection of poetry at the age of 9 and her debut novel, *The House That Spoke*, at 15. She is most interested in magical realism and blurring the lines between our reality and our imagination. Her favorite authors include Neil Gaiman, Madeline Miller, T.S. Eliot, and Lewis Carroll. She is currently an undergraduate at Stanford University, pursuing a BA in English with a concentration in Creative Writing.

Tortay is a high school junior who has been writing casually since she was little. "Memory Vessel" is her first serious attempt at telling an original story. Drawing inspiration from her favorite lyricists and writers—Ryan Ross, Ray Bradbury, and Sophie Kinsella—she hopes to tackle larger projects one day. Her favorite genres are science fiction and slice-of-life. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting gifts.

Jones teaches at UC Davis and serves as the academic associate director of Academic Technology Services. As a poet laureate emeritus of Davis, he hosts Stories on Stage Davis and Poetry and Technology Hour on the KDVS radio station and leads the Poetry Night Reading Series at the Natsoulas Gallery.

For more information, visit the Library's website (www.YoloCountyLibrary.org) or Facebook (www.Facebook.com/YoloCountyLibrary.org) and Instagram (@YoloCountyLibrary) feeds. Find Stories on Stage Davis at www.StoriesOnStageDavis.com or www.Facebook.com/StoriesOnStageDavis. Stories on Stage

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