



# NEWSLETTER

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Our newsletter provides an opportunity to catch up on some of our organizational highlights. Here is a four-minute read of this past month's exciting news:



## BOARD CHAIR

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From Ocean Leader to Board Chair. Ocean Discovery is proud to announce our new Board Chair, Rudy Vargas. We are excited to have Rudy lead our Board of Directors and our organization into the future. He is an alumnus, community leader, and a City Heights ambassador that embodies the science leadership we believe our students can achieve.

## INTRO TO RESEARCH

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We have officially launched our Intro to Research Program for 2023! Our 13 Ocean Leaders and their families visited the lab to learn more about the two-week intensive research program in Baja!



## NEW STAFF

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We are excited to introduce the newest additions to our team! We are thrilled to have these team members with the skills and expertise needed to reach our goals in 2023 and beyond! We welcomed Veronica Varela Johnson, our Grants Manager, Carolina Barraza, alumnus, and Leadership Programs Manager, as well as Antonio (Tony) Figueroa, another alumnus, and City Heights community leader, as our Communications Specialist.

## PROGRAMMING

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It has been a busy start of the year in our programming. Our Ocean Leaders toured the labs at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and learned about graduate students' research projects. We continue our after-school enrichment programs at the living Lab with students conducting experiments onsite and using DNA electrophoresis machines to investigate plankton DNA.



*Science Leader working with a pipet to analyze plankton DNA.*



# SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE EVENT

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## Meet “Dr. Ocean”: A family book reading with Dr. Jeanette Davis

A dynamic author, research scientist, and diversity advocate, Dr. Jeanette Davis—or “Dr. Ocean”—has left her mark far beyond her scientific specialty, marine microbiology. Dr. Davis is joining Ocean Discovery for one week as our Scientist-in-Residence, mentoring students daily. Dr. Davis will read from her acclaimed children’s book, “Jada’s Journey Under the Sea.”

## EVENT DETAILS

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4:00 pm: Welcome

4:30 pm: Interview and Book Reading

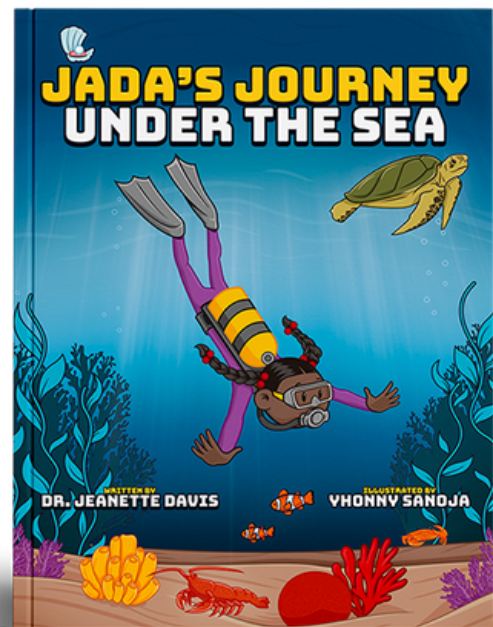
5:15 pm: Reception (Food and Drinks)  
and Book Signing

**Thursday, March 23rd, 2023**

Ocean Discovery Institute

4255 Thorn St. San Diego, CA 92105

Please RSVP Today 





## DONATION



We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Veritext Team. Veritext is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and is dedicated to meaningful change for our society. Earlier this month, Veritext surprised Ocean Discovery with a \$50,000 gift because they believe in our young people as they become the next generation of science leaders. Thank you, Veritext Legal Solutions!

Discover ways to contribute to 100% tuition-free programs by [clicking here](#).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

We recently participated in this year's City Heights Multicultural Festival of Love. Our very own Board Chair, Rudy Vargas, and Communications Specialist, Tony Figueroa, led the organizing of this amazing event, and we were so honored to be included! We had the opportunity to meet many City Heights Families, share our program opportunities, and celebrate love - because we love learning!





## VOLUNTEER

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Ocean Discovery provides school-day programs, after-school camps, and leadership programs.

If you are a Science Leader, we need you to enhance the experience for our students. You don't need to be a marine biologist, an oceanographer, or even a traditional research scientist to volunteer!

*BUBBLE UP! REIMAGINED 2023*

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH - PARK HYATT AVIARA RESORT



Contact [msandy@oceandi.org](mailto:msandy@oceandi.org) for sponsorship opportunities

**Click here** to RSVP for individual or table host tickets

Thank you to Ocean Discovery's Premier Sponsor, Southwest Airlines

