

didn't know we were colonized and that's why we speak Spanish. All of this was like putting the missing pieces to the puzzle which is who I am."

He then built up the courage to reclaim the name Johanis: "I was 21 years old. Now I'm 23 and finding out the true meaning — that it means 'beloved one,' and that's why my mom named me that."

After attending LCC for a few years, Tadeo decided to take a break and became a teaching assistant at Cascade Middle School. He never saw himself as a teacher, but after a while he knew that he wanted to do more for the students. So began CityWide MEChA.

That summer Tadeo used his entire last paycheck from Cascade to self-fund his own summer program. "We

didn't have permission from the University of Oregon or anything. It wasn't like they knew what was going on, but I had a colleague that gave me a room. That's all I needed," Tadeo says. He and his guest speakers spent the summer teaching ethnic studies to the 25 students who attended the program.

He spent two hours each morning personally driving each student to the classroom.

After seeing his work at his summer program, CALC hired Tadeo as a community organizer. Recently, Tadeo was able to connect 15 local Latino-owned businesses and is working with them to set aside money to help Springfield and Eugene's Latino communities.

Tadeo puts everything he can from his CALC paycheck



A STUDENT'S SKETCHES FOR A NEW MURAL



JOHANIS TADEO AND CITYWIDE MECHA STUDENTS MAKE THE SIGN OF THE PHOENIX, A SYMBOL OF REBIRTH

into his City Wide MEChA program, but he says it's not enough. The program has the Brethren facility only until June, "and then it gets demolished," he says. Tadeo hopes a new location can be found.

City Wide MEChA will be doing a podcast, inviting local politicians, business owners and other prominent community members to talk about the issues that their community faces. It's also hosting a fundraising film screening of "The Golden Dream" 6 pm Friday, Feb. 24 at 1072 Main Street in Springfield. Admission is \$5.

"This all started from Thurston students who contacted me who are all powerful young women who wanted to see something different within their school and their community," Tadeo says.

Find out more about City-Wide MEChA at facebook.com/CityWideMEChA201 or email citywidemecha@gmail.com.

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UO Center for the Study of Women in Society presents
6th annual CSWS Northwest Women Writers Symposium

WOMEN @ WORK

STORIES OF THE GREAT MIGRATION

featuring *Ayana Mathis*

Friday, March 3, 2017

KEYNOTE & BOOKSIGNING
6 pm – 8 pm
Downtown Eugene Public Library
100 W. 10th, Eugene, OR 97401

PANEL DISCUSSION
3 pm – 4:30 pm (light reception 2:30 pm)
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
Ford Lecture Hall, 1430 Johnson Lane
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403

Ayana Mathis will read selections from *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, with comments by:

- Marjorie Celona, UO Creative Writing
- Sharon Luk, UO English Department
- Mo Young, Equity & Access Coordinator, Lane County
- Michelle McKinley, Director, CSWS

Ayana Mathis's novel, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, was a *New York Times* Bestseller, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, a *Boston Globe* Best Book of the Year, an NPR Best Books of 2013, and was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as the second selection for Oprah's Book Club 2.0.

Full Schedule: csws.uoregon.edu/nwws2017/ **Info:** 541-346-5015

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