www.lamorindaweekly.com Sold-out LLLC Sweet Thursday event features author and civil rights activist

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after their homeland was destroyed that same year by the but significant mention about massive New Orleans floods, visiting and being honored at the the family lived with Soskin's White House at the invitation of grandfather in East Oakland. Her Michelle and Barak Obama, and father worked in the hospitality her work with the National Parks. industry, wearing a red bell cap while working in a hotel. "Our planning of the Rosie the Rivmothers were 50-cents-an-hour eter/WWII Home Front National domestic servants, taking care of white people's homes and white Recreating the lost stories of Afpeople's children," she recalled.

memoir that includes entries from until recently unacknowledged "CBreaux Speaks," the blog she roles in the war effort is Soskin's created, is impossible to fit into mission. She leads popular prea 60-minute presentation or a sentations at the park three days single news article. "You live 97 years, you've got lots of amazing stories," she said. But highlights October," she suggested. from the night surely include her description of "trudging through memoir, Soskin said her life has

Moving to Oakland in 1927 area that is now probably where her personal political awareness the Oakland Coliseum is," a brief

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Soskin was integral to the Historical Park in Richmond. rican Americans and Japanese Soskin's life as told in her Americans who played vital, each week. "Make reservations; we're already booked through

Reading a chapter from her polliwogs and swampland in an been a "deliberate progression to

now." Asked during an audience minishes the nation. "The diver-Q&A about education today, Soskin said, "I was educated before Prop. 13 when the public school system in California was the envy of the country. I did grow up with none of the African American literary heroes in my life. But because I had the same heroes my (white) friends were worshipping, I'm less separated out. I was also growing up in a time when the crushing weight of low-expectations was not something I was experiencing. There weren't enough African Americans in the public schools to make new rules against. We were expected to deliver as much as anyone else did. Children growing up now are living under the crushing weight of low expecta-

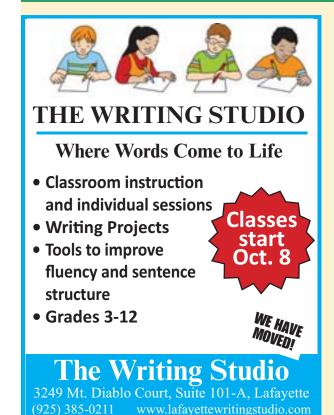
sity is where our richness comes. We are enhanced by those differences. To be all of who you are, no matter who you are, is the job of all of us," she said. Later, she added, "I am living in the future absolutely precious. Everything I that we created back in the '60s. We made that together, all of us did, black and brown and yellow and straight and gay. That I get to give voice to that is such a privi-

word "divine" when referring to Soskin. To close the evening, this woman who has lived nearly a century and experienced unimaginable social, economic, political and personal transformation, whipped out a mobile at LLLC, visit www.lllcf.org. device. Soskin, mouthing the words as they played, shared a

Lack of diversity, she said, di- recording she made of "Sign My Name to Freedom," a song she wrote in 1964. Claiming that she has "lost my sense of future," but is enrolled in the grand improvisation that is life, Soskin has made a discovery. "Time is do has to be real, truthful. I now can see the patterns I couldn't see when I was going through them." To Soskin, that there are other people sharing her purpose—to make the world better by reach-It's hard to resist using the ing to higher points of truthprovides hope and means "we've got it right."

To learn more about Soskin or order her memoir, visit https:// www.signmynamebook.com/. To see additional events offered

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