

TURTLETALK NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of
Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc.
617-642-1683 mcnaa@aol.com www.mcnaa.org

AUTUMN-WINTER 2009

LEADERSHIP TEAM: President: Burne Stanley-Peters; Board Members: Dawn Duncan, Claudia Fox Tree, Kim Orben, Anthony Silva, and Maria Wilkins.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Don Barnaby, Eva Blake, Autaquay Chacin, Anne Foxx-Whitford, Len Rose, and John Sly Fox Oakley.

FOUNDER: Burne Stanley-Peters

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Joyce Rain Anderson, Len & Marie Rose, Anthony Silva, and Burne Stanley. ■

MCNAA NEWS & INFORMATION

21ST ANNUAL INTERTRIBAL POW-WOW

by Anthony Silva, MCNAA Leadership Team Member

September 12 and 13 marked twenty-one years that MCNAA has enjoyed its annual Intertribal Pow-wow at Plug Pond in Haverhill, MA. Despite having a near washout on Saturday because of torrential rain from a predicted Northeaster, the participants and the public were able to find refuge under the boat house arbor, thereby salvaging the program for the day. A makeshift circle was formed while our emcee Marvin Many Horses, and the host drum Iron River Singers, were able to keep the dancers moving. They danced, with high spirits, to the beat of drum as the rain fell.



George Thomas, Vendor
Courtesy Photo

Sunday proved to be a totally different day with rain and clouds giving way to bright sunshine and the public responded in numbers causing an overflow in the parking lot. However, because of a handful of selfless MCNAA volunteers, those who needed handicap parking were accommodated, while others were redirected to safe parking outside the lot on the triangle as well as to nearby side streets.

The steady flow of people experienced an educating and fun-filled program including storytelling by Loril Moondream and Peter White Fox, Hand drumming & singing by the Wolf Cry Singers, Iroquois Songs and Social Dances by Dave Little Tree, and dance demonstrations and intertribal dancing to the Iron River Singers.

Available for sale were tasty native foods including buffalo burgers, tumasis, pow-wow tacos, Indian pizza, corn soup, blanket dogs by Semple Concessions and a general fare of hot dogs and burgers provided by MCNAA with the help of volunteers.

On behalf of the MCNAA Leadership Team, I thank all who contributed to helping us make this a successful 21st year at Plug Pond. ■



Chicken Dancer
Photo by Coline Kelly Rodrigue

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION & RECEPTION.

by Anthony Silva, MCNAA Leadership Team Member

The Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) held it's Annual Benefit Auction and Reception on Sunday, October 25th to help support it's programs for our many Native constituents. The event was held at the Comfort Inn in Randolph, MA.

The afternoon moved smoothly under the planning and direction of our organizations President Burne Stanley despite the pain and discomfort of a broken humerus. She also had the assistance of Leadership Team Member Claudia Fox Tree who once again agreed to be the emcee for the afternoon.



Claudia Fox Tree
Photo by John Goff

Leadership Team members and Advisory Committee members each carried items around into the audience while auctioneer, Dr. Waters, generated the bidding. Live auction items are

usually chosen because of their size, name familiarity or value, usually including a Pendleton blanket, Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun certificates, etc. However, this years' items did not include any of these thereby making it difficult to predict which items might catch the eye of all and prompt spirited bidding. It didn't take long to answer this question as a beautiful one-of-a kind Obsidian Arrowhead Pendant (*left*) drew a large audience participation and appeared to be the item that would draw the largest bid. This distinction was short lived as a beautiful hand-beaded purse donated by an anonymous donor began a spirited bidding war that continued for quite a while. After out-lasting very fierce competition,



Leadership Team Member Maria Wilkins was the eventual winner of this the unique item.

At the conclusion of the live auction, people were invited to nourish themselves with an array of tasty hors 'd oeuvres and continue to make their bids on the many silent auction items in the back of the room. During this time, three raffle drawings also took place. The names of the winners are printed on page 5. In addition to the auction and raffles, MCNAA added a "give away" table of many nice items. All were able to leave with something including the connecting with friends old and new.

I thank all of you who took a beautiful Sunday afternoon to support our programs. For those of you who couldn't make it, we hope you can next year. It's a lot of fun for a worthy cause. ■

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY POW-WOW

by Joyce Rain Anderson, MCNAA Member and Associate Professor at Bridgewater State College with input from Burne Stanley, Member of the MCNAA Leadership Team

"It as an awesome time...a spectacular event...so much good energy in the room..."

Things were buzzing on Facebook following the powwow. After more than a year of planning, this day became a reality. On November 14, 2009 the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) held it's annual November pow-wow at Bridgewater State College (BSC) in celebration and recognition of National Native American Heritage Month. This year the event was co-sponsored by MCNAA and BSC with small grants from the Bridgewater Cultural Council and East Bridgewater Arts Council. The pow-wow took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Rondileau Campus Center on a rainy and windy Saturday. Despite the weather, a huge crowd gathered to participate.



Standing Room Only - Courtesy Photo

Five drums resounded throughout the room: Iron River Singers, Quabbin Lake Singers, Eastern Medicine Singers, and Fresh Water Singers. Urban Thunder roared in as the fifth, and we scrambled to find space! Several special performances and demonstrations added to the day.

Vendors began to arrive as early as 7:00 AM. William Lewis, Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity, and his assistant Donna Wood spent hours in the rain helping to unload and direct traffic. Other volunteers helped vendors bring in their things as the

large 3-room space became transformed from a ballroom to a powwow arena. Space filled in quickly as we worked to accommodate the large number of vendors. We even used the hallway area for overflow vendors. As the doors officially opened, crowds of people poured in and filled the arena. It was standing room only for most of the day.

After the opening thanksgiving by Dr. Bert Waters, Marvin Burnette –our marvelous emcee—called for Iron River Singers to begin Grand Entry. Head dancers Don Barnaby and Autaquay Peters-Chacin led what seemed to be a never-ending line of dancers

who entered from the east and crowded into the circle. All day the circle maintained its positive energy.



Joseph Fire Crow
Photo by John Goff

It was a pleasure to have as our featured artist, Joseph Fire Crow. He is from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation now living in Connecticut. He is a two-time GRAMMY Award Nominee, and a three-time Native American Music Award Winner. Joseph did an outstanding job in captivating our enthusiastic audience with his drumming, singing, and flute music.

MCNAA had tables set up with a wealth of information about the organization, local tribes, and about Native American awareness including a copy of the official declaration of National Native American Heritage Month. If you were lucky enough to come by at the right moment, Medicine Story was available to speak with and to sell his books. They also set up a small food concession area. The food, which included rice,

beans & corn, hot dogs, soda, water, was prepared primarily for the dancers and other pow wow participants. Semple Concessions provided the food, mostly Native fare, for the public. In addition, MCNAA invited representatives from some of the local tribal councils, Native organizations, and local tribes; as well as the Commission on Indian Affairs. Claudia Fox Tree had the pleasure of introducing them as well as members of the MCNAA Leadership Team and the Advisory Committee. A special "Thank You" was extended to Joyce Rain Anderson acknowledging all her hard work in helping MCNAA bring the pow-wow to the College.

Storytellers Peter and Loril Moondream had the children totally engaged by their wonderful stories, and a strong "aho" was shouted by children and adults alike. Deborah Spears Moorehead set up her artwork and Mother Bear displayed her wonderful diorama of Wampanoag life. Kerri Helme demonstrated her pottery and her husband Matt Boardley at her side provided folks with a lesson on how wampum is cut and shaped to make earrings. Marlene Lopez displayed her beautiful fingerweaving and provided information on the ancient techniques involved. David Little Tree provided Iroquois songs and specialty dances performed by the head dancers and others. A special crow hop dance was requested, and as one attendee later commented, multi generations entered the circle to dance.

This was a terrific day which was enjoyed by many and brought a better awareness of Native peoples to campus. We look forward to planning for next year. ■

MCNAA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY APPEAL

If you haven't already mailed in an annual "Holiday Donation", there is still time. We are accepting donations right into the new year as the need for your "gift" doesn't end with the Holiday. The donations from this appeal will be used towards the two critically important programs that we have identified this year as needing your support the most. They are the Fuel Assistance Program and the Scholarship Program. Please mail your financial gift to: MCNAA, P.O. Box 5885, Boston, MA 02114-5885. ■

RAFFLE DRAWING RESULTS

As you may recall, at this event we were to hold two raffle drawings. One for the 3-month Raffle Campaign that began back in July (which most of you participated in); and a regular event raffle drawing that included the 50/50. And, as is customary for us, we held a door prize drawing.

I have pasted below the names of all the winners and their respective prizes:

Door Prize Winner:

Harry Edmonds - Wampum Bolo Tie

3-Month Raffle Campaign Winners:

Martha Older - Native American Wedding Vase *signed by Dine' artist*

Pam Lincoln-Private Phone Session w/ *Spiritual Teacher, Medium Jenny Lynn Metevia*

Sally Joyce - Classic Jr. Roof Cargo Pack [canvas roof luggage carrier]

Louise Luchetti - Gift Card to Hess Gas Station

Kathleen (Betty) Anderson - Proctor Silex Deep Fryer

Patricia Landry - Gift Card to Stop & Shop Super Market

Pumukqien Collins - Jasper & Sterling Silver Necklace, Bracelet, & Earring Set

Charles Reese (Blackfoot Warrior) - Gift Certificate for IT Computer Support Time *with MCNAA Member Charisse Sebastian*

Ms. Bobby Robinson - Book on French and Native North American Marriages & Other Sources-Vol. 3 *by Author, Professional Genealogist, and MCNAA Member Paul Bunnell*

Harriet Simons - Enlarged Matted Nature Photo "Autumn Leaves" *by Photographer and MCNAA Member Audrey Rossow*

Event Raffle Winners:

Juan Silva - \$25 Gift Certificate to Bayrds Indian Trading Post in N. Reading, MA

Chris Howland - 3-month future Reading *with Medium/Astrologer Barbara Fiske*

Joyce Rain Anderson - Gift Basket - Bath Set.

Pam Lincoln - [2] Vouchers to visit Plimoth Plantation & The Mayflower II

Dr. Bert Waters - Book: Raven and the Sun*echoing our ancestors*

Edith Baptista - 50/50 - [cash] ■

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR MCNAA'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

In April of this year, Marie Levenson resigned from the MCNAA Leadership Team (Board of Directors). Marie had been part of the team since 2002 and involved with MCNAA for over 20 years. Since her resignation, we have been seeking nominations of interested Native Americans who are Massachusetts residents to fill this vacancy. The ideal candidate would be someone who has experience in various types of fund raising, has served on other boards or committees, and who is involved in MCNAA cultural and educational events. Please submit names to mcnaa@aol.com or 617-642-1683. ■

OTHER NEWS, INFORMATION, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWEST MEMBER APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR PATRICK TO SERVE ON THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

We're delighted to introduce you to the newest member of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs..... Mr. Christopher Montgomery, also known as Quiet Bear. On June 3, 2009, he was appointed by Governor Patrick for a three-year term. He will represent the Nipmuc Nation and cover Worcester and Middlesex counties as did his predecessor Cheryl Holley.



Christopher Montgomery
File photo

A native of Boston, Chris resides in Revere, MA. He is the father of 4 children and widower of 33 years of marriage. He received his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University and a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Marie College in Paxton, MA.

Chris served in the U.S. Naval Reserves as a Seaman First Class during World War II. From 1957-1991 he was a member of the Metropolitan Police (which is now known as the Massachusetts State Police). He served as Administrative Lieutenant at the Revere Beach Station. He also served on the Revere Human Rights Commission.

Additionally, Chris is the Nipmuc Nation representative on the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Advisory Council as well as a member of the Native American Memorial Committee on Deer Island. He is also the Chairperson of the Nipmuc Nation Investigative Committee, the Activities Committee, as well as a member of many Native organizations including the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness. ■

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES FLOURISH; NEW INSTITUTE LAUNCHES

Excerpts reprinted from a November 5, 2009 article written by Lissa Harris

For a new program, the Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS) has outsized ambitions: Nothing less than a new model of collaboration between the university, tribal communities, and state and federal agencies.



Jim Peters, executive director of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs; UMB Provost Winston Langley; and INENAS interim director Cedric Woods.
(Photo by Margaret Brett)

While UMass Boston (UMB) is not the only university in New England which offers courses and conducts research in Native American studies, INENAS, launched this past spring, is unique in the region. Designed to be a hub for collaboration across university borders, INENAS will work not only to promote the academic study of Native American history and culture, but also as a center for community education, a means of recruiting Native American students, and a meeting ground where tribes can connect with university resources and advocate for their own research agendas.

Founded with help from a state -matched grant from the Kellogg Foundation, INENAS is the fruit of several years of planning and research, conducted in collaboration with nine New England tribal communities.

Jim Peters, executive director of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs and a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, hopes INENAS will help spark new discussion of what Native American studies means to the university.

“We need more than just ‘native studies,’” Peters says. “We need to think about what native studies is. Is it studying Indians, or Indians studying?”

Clearly, the answer is “both.” As a center whose primary mission is to serve New England’s Native American communities, INENAS will take its direction from the priorities of the tribes, said Provost Winston Langley.

“The direction of the research agenda has to come from the concerns of the Native American communities,” said Langley, “and the issues to be emphasized must emerge from the direct and voiced concerns of those communities.”

It’s a vision INENAS’s new interim director, Cedric Woods, is committed to.

“I see the Institute as a valuable clearinghouse of information, both inside and outside the university,” said Woods, who is a member of the Lumbee tribe from North Carolina. Woods hopes that working closely with local tribes will also help the UMass Boston attract more Native American students, staff and faculty.

“My goal is to have this as the place where local tribes want to send their students,” said Woods.

November is National American Indian Heritage Month, and UMass Boston has much to celebrate. Besides Woods, two new Native American PhDs have joined the faculty this year: Associate Professor of History Josh Reid of the Snohomish; and Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department chair Robyn Hannigan of the Narragansett.

“The timing of this is very fortuitous,” says Woods. “2009 has been a good year for UMass Boston with regard to expanding the presence and visibility of native faculty and staff on campus, and increasing their ability to engage the broader native population, both in Massachusetts and the region.” ■

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AT BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE - NOVEMBER 2009

by Joyce Rain Anderson, MCNAA Member and Associate Professor at Bridgewater State College

This year has been exciting for Bridgewater State College’s Native American Heritage Month. Developed through the U.S. Ethnic Studies Program at BSC, a film series and a speaker series was designed to focus on local Native knowledge and interdisciplinary aspects of Indigenous peoples. In addition, we held the first pow-

wow at BSC -- an amazing day which is still being talked about. Moreover, three displays were set up on campus on the second and third floors of the library and in Boyden Hall to showcase the celebration of the month and bring attention to local Native artists. The featured exhibit was pottery by Wamapanoag artist Kerri Helme set in second-floor lobby of the Maxwell Library.



Speakers for the month included Annawon Weeden, Tall Oak Weeden, Joyce Rain Anderson, and Kerri Helme. Films were “After the Mayflower” from the *We Shall Remain* series, *Two-Spirited*, *In Whose Honor*, *The Exiles*, *Alcatraz Is Not an Island*, and *Rocks with Wings*. The breadth of our programming was designed to bring in a variety of classes from movement arts to social justice to ethnic literature and film and reach a larger number of people to promote Native American awareness on campus. By discussing a range of issues from using Native mascots to American Indian protest to Native arts of recovery, we broaden the scope of awareness on campus for our students and the general public. Moreover, we intentionally chose to bring in local Native peoples to promote the continual presence of Native peoples in New England, their activities to provide more accurate histories, and their continued activism.

Annawon Weeden’s visit was in conjunction with the showing of “After the Mayflower”; his role in the film was Metacom or King Philip. Annawon talked about his recent trip to Alaska to work on the Echo Project as well as how more truthful stories of Native peoples in New England need to be told. He spoke about how the filming and showing of *We Shall Remain* has been controversial within local tribes. We plan to have Annawon back in the spring to continue the conversation.

On November 18, I showed *In Whose Honor* followed by a presentation on using Native American mascots. While I have given this presentation before, this audience was particularly affected by the film and the content of my talk. The film helped to frame the feelings of Native peoples when it comes to using their cultures as entertainment for sports fans. In my presentation, I trace racist images used to disparage other groups and compare those to mascot images used by today’s sports teams and ask “would you feel honored?”

Tall Oak Weeden also came to campus and moved the audience as he spoke of the years of history of New England Natives. He discussed the National Day of Mourning held in Plymouth on Thanksgiving Day at Cole’s Hill and his involvement in its inception. He delighted us with his version of “Yankee Doodle,” and informed us with the images he creates to counter the often biased versions of American history.

The film series was designed to reach across Indigenous awareness in partnership with multiple campus departments and organizations. Two short films *Two-Spirited People* and *Two-Spirited* were shown on November 9 and co-sponsored by the GBLTA Pride Center. The 1991 *Two-Spirited People: The Berdache Tradition in Native American*

Culture discussed Native American ideas of gender, sexuality and sexual orientation and the term from anthropologists, berdache, which has been applied to two-spirit people. In the 2007 *Two-Spirited*, Rodney Geeyo Poucette tells “the only way to change people’s minds is to walk proudly while being true to one’s spirit.” This short film tells of Poucette’s performance as a jingle-dress dancer, a role usually reserved for women. *The Exiles* is a refurbished 1961 film about urban Indians in Los Angeles. Following a group of young Natives over a twelve-hour period, Kent Mackenzie portrays the Native Diaspora of the early ‘60s when many were moving from the reservations to cities. As one reviewer commented, the black and white images are “beautiful and devastating. Many of the BSC students discussed the film after its showing and made connections to classes they are taking. Similarly, the other films had impact on the students who often asked provocative questions. Several students attended *Rocks with Wings*, a documentary film about a Navajo girls basketball team struggle to win a championship; the students were using the film as a project for their classes.

This programming at Bridgewater State College is the beginning of more to come. This spring we will be holding events to tie in with other months such as African American History and Women’s History Months. Moreover, other spring programs and the addition of classes in Native American Studies will help to expand Indigenous awareness and programming on campus. Plans are being made to start a Native student organization, to work with our Native alumni, to develop a stronger Indigenous program, and to involve our local Native peoples. ■



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Advisory Committee Member, Len Rose, and wife Marie, proprietors of Bayrds Indian Trading Post in North Reading, are pleased to let everyone know that Bayrds Indian Trading Post has just celebrated it’s one year anniversary. As they enter the new year, they have added new items to the store, providing a wider selection of jewelry, regalia accessories, clothing items, bags and much, much more. This year they have also elected to offer classes to those people who may be interested in learning how to make some of what they see in the store.

Here is a list of the classes they are now offering:

Kids Drum Making Class

Learn how to make leather covered kids drum from start to finish.

Participants will leave with a completely assembled drum and a beater, and a pattern to use to make another drum whenever they want to.

Minimum of 10 participants at a cost of \$20.00 per person

Dream Catcher Class

Learn how to make a dream catcher, you will learn how to weave a pattern into your dream catcher and how to attach a feather at the center or hanging from the sides.

Participants will leave with a completely assembled dream catcher.

Minimum of 10 participants at a cost of \$18.00 per person

3 Row Crow Bead, Bone, Horn or Antler Choker Making Class

Learn how to make a 3 row choker, you will select your own beads to work with and will follow along in learning how to string your choker together and how to secure the ends. Participants will leave with a completed choker and a pattern to use to create other chokers whenever they wish.

Minimum of 10 participants at a cost of \$28.00 per person

Basic Brick Stitch, Fringed Beaded Earrings Class

Learn how to make a pair of brick stitch earrings using seed beads for the earrings and for the fringe. As with the choker class you will select your own beads to work with and will follow along in learning how to string your weave your earrings together. Participants will leave with a completed pair of earrings and the know how to make other earrings.

Minimum of 10 participants at a cost of \$20.00 per person

Raw Hide 15inch Northeastern Style Drum

Learn how to make your own personal raw hide hand drum. This class requires individuals to be able to sit and work for several hours. Participants will also create their own beater for the drum. Participants will leave with a rawhide hand drum and beater, and a pattern to use again.

Maximum of 5 participants at a cost of \$225.00 per person

Storytelling for “Kids” of All Ages

Come and enjoy traditional storytelling by Willow. Willow is an Abenaki storyteller with a warm and inviting presence who has a true gift for telling the stories of the people. Refreshments will be provided for participants.

Minimum of 10 to 15 participants at a cost of \$10.00 per person

**Dates for all classes to be determined upon level of interest. Please contact us and let us know if you want to attend one of these classes.

**Discounts are being offered for larger groups.

Bayrds Indian Trading Post
Owned and Operated by Leonard & Marie Rose
172 Main Street, 2nd Floor
North Reading, MA 01864
978-357-3525

www.bayrdsindiantradingpost.com Leonard@bayrdsindiantradingpost.com ■

MCNAA EVENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2010

Saturday, January 30, 2010 – Mid-winter Native Social & Potluck Feast, VFW, 30 Station Street, Middleboro, MA 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 11, 2010 – Annual Anniversary Celebration, Randolph, MA 1:00 PM

May 29-30 Annual Spring Planting Moon Pow-wow, Marshfield Fairgrounds, Marshfield, MA 11:00 AM ■