

TURTLETALK NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of
Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc.
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SUMMER 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: Claudia Fox Tree, Anthony Silva, Burne Stanley, Dr. Bert Waters, and Maria Wilkins. ■

MCNAA NEWS & INFORMATION

MCNAA INVITED TO HAVERHILL CULTURAL COUNCIL GALA

by Anthony Silva

On May 20, 2009 a contingent of MCNAA Board and Advisory Committee members attended a Gala sponsored by the Haverhill Cultural Council. Also present was the media and a number of local dignitaries. Prior to this event, MCNAA, along with a number of local organizations, competed for cultural grant money allotted to the City of Haverhill to provide cultural programs in the City. The grant, when awarded, is used to offset the costs of MCNAA's Annual Intertribal Pow-Wow in Haverhill at Plug Pond in September. Thanks to a well crafted proposal by MCNAA's President, and a good representation by our Leadership Team at the preliminary "Presentation Night" this past November, our organization was one of those selected for funding.

The purpose of the Gala was to allow the recipients of the cultural grants an opportunity to provide a snippet of their program and answer additional questions by the Cultural Council and the other attendees.

Each organization was given a table for exhibits as well as other items germane to their program. Board and Advisory Committee Members contributed to MCNAA's table by bringing a beautiful display of artifacts, jewelry, crafts, etc., along with a large photo display created by Sly Fox and Claire. What made this display special was that



Don Barnaby (DonDon)
Courtesy photo - Haverhill Gazette

it contained a number of photos and flyers from MCNAA's very first pow-wow held at Plug Pond in September 1989. Along with the displays, all MCNAA members dressed in some form of regalia or jewelry for the occasion.

Attendees were invited to visit each table to view and ask questions of the program members. After everyone was afforded a chance to visit each booth and gather information, each organization was offered an opportunity to do a live program or presentation. MCNAA was chosen to lead the program and did not disappoint. Don Barnaby (DonDon) offered to hand drum and sing the Micmac Honor song as well as dance in his new regalia. Prior to this date, he had never worn this regalia which included a head dress of over 200 turkey feathers, which was impressive to all.

His presentation began with a brief story of how the Honor Song came about. He then went into a stirring rendition, which had the audience in awe. MCNAA members, all of whom knew the words, sang along as the spirit was there. At the end of the presentation, the entire room stood and applauded. Many of the participants asked questions and requested future contact with MCNAA, including presenting at their schools and other events. All of the Cultural Council members, including the Chairperson, who had never attended a Pow Wow or other Native American event, were overwhelmingly impressed with the sampling of our program and promised to visit at the pow-wow in September.

Present at the gala were Advisory Committee Members Don Barnaby, Sly Fox Oakley, and Len Rose, as well as Board Members Kim Orben, Claudia Fox Tree, Burne Stanley, Maria Wilkins, and myself, all of whom took time from their busy schedules to make this a success in furthering MCNAA's aims. We also were graced with the presence and support of Claire Oakley of Haverhill, and Hoban Sanford who lives a few towns away. ■

MCNAA SPRING PLANTING MOON POW-WOW

by Anthony Silva

MCNAA held its' annual Spring Planting Moon Pow wow at the Marshfield Fairgrounds on Sat & Sun, May 23-24, 2009. This marked the 4th year after a long hiatus.

Although the fairgrounds are a distance for many to travel, a large contingent of Native people from all over the Northeast made the trek to participate in the sharing of our culture



*Dr. Waters and emcee Marvin Burnette.
Photo by Merry Glosband*

with each other as well as the public. Throughout the 2 day event, positive comments were made by many. As always, this years' pow-wow embodied a feeling of family and connectedness among all participants. It reminded us of the hard work and



*MCNAA Member Marlene Lopez at
the Spring Planting Moon Pow-wow.
Photo by Merry Glosband*

dedication of our many dancers and singers and creating their regalia and practicing their songs. It also showed the pride our youth and elders held in talking about and display/sharing their

culture. Additionally, with thanks and great compliments to our emcee, Marvin Burnette, the public left the pow wow with an enlightened understanding of Native culture and the fact that Native people still live in this region. ■

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR MCNAA'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

On April 2, 2009, Marie Levenson resigned from the MCNAA Leadership Team (Board of Directors). Marie had been part of the team since 2002 but had been involved with MCNAA for over 20 years. We are now seeking nominations to fill this vacancy. We are seeking the names interested Native Americans who are Massachusetts residents. The ideal candidate would be someone who has experience in all 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. ■

CHILDREN CELEBRATING CULTURES AT CARNEY ACADEMY

by Dr. Bert Waters

The Sgt. Carney Memorial Academy is located in a multi-ethnic neighborhood in New Bedford, and the students of the academy truly reflect the many and varied social, ethnic, and linguistic groups of the community. Further, the original school (Clarence A. Cook School) served the community prior to the assassination of Dr. King. Immediately following Dr. King's death, two weeks of "social unrest" (rioting) exploded around the original school. Consequently, the community leaders demanded



Some of the participant-Don Barnaby, Lee Edmonds, Harry Edmonds, Brian Weeden, Pat Weeden, Annawon Weeden, Mwalim, Dr. Waters, Susan Waters, and Aquayah Peters.. Photo by Mrs. Elizabeth Lauro, Gr. 3 Teacher, Carney Academy.

a new school, new school leaders and a curriculum which reflected the cultures of the citizens who lived in their particular school district. Thus, these requests were granted, and the new Sgt. Carney Memorial Academy was constructed in 1977, a new and innovative Multi-Cultural curriculum was designed and implemented, and right-thinking educators were hired and commissioned to deliver this humanistic education to the students and to other staff members.

To this day, the current principal Raymond Letendre and many staff members of the academy, continue to practice and deliver meaningful multi-racial and ethnic cultures to the students and community of Sgt. Carney Academy. Moreover, on 21 May 2009, a Multi-Cultural event designed, organized and coordinated by Mrs. Elizabeth Lauro, was held at the academy, and one of the featured cultures was that of the Wampanoag

Nation; scores of Wampanoags were present for this event; cultural artifacts, family pictures, genealogies, and samples of typical foods were presented to the viewing public; however, the focal point of the Wampanoag Nation's attraction was the singing, drumming and dancing. Wampanoags representing Mashpee, Seaconke, Pokanoket and Nemasket were present in full regalia, along with a M'kmaq friend. The drumming and dancing were presented in a main cafeteria area and then in the central forum, where all viewers to the entire cultural program assembled to see, hear and learn more about Native Americans in general and Wampanoags in particular.

The Sgt. Carney Academy Community wishes to extend a very special thanks to the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness. It was with their computer communicative know-how and physical presence at the event that aided the Carney community in having a very successful learning and enlightening adventure. ■

IPSWICH SUMMER GATHERING

by Maria Wilkins

AGAWAM SUMMER GATHERING HELD TO COMMEMORATE IPSWICH'S 375TH ANNIVERSARY - June 20, 2009.

As part of their week-long anniversary celebration, the Town of Ipswich recognized the original inhabitants of the region during the Agawam Summer Gathering. On a day that started with the promise of rain, a crowd gathered behind the Town Hall to celebrate the fact that Native people are still here and to share in the culture and history of the people who first inhabited Agawam and the surrounding areas.

As the sun emerged, the program began with speakers well versed in that history: Gill Solomon, Sachem of the Massachusetts/Ponkapoag Tribal Council, Donna Edmonds Mitchell, (Wampanoag/Cherokee/African) of Rhode Island and Abenaki author and educator Lisa Brooks.



*Dancer-Maria Wilkins
Photo by Deborah Mefan.*

Gill, a well known educator and speaker on Native American spirituality and life-ways, shared with a growing crowd the traditional importance of the Solstice to Indigenous peoples. Donna, known to many as Words in the Wind, (Minoweh Ikidowin) employed her storytelling skills and poetic talents to honor our ancestors and share her own narratives of personal growth and learning. Lisa, an Assistant Professor of History and Literature, Folklore and Mythology at Harvard University, painted a vivid picture of the entire northeast as Native territory. She spoke of Agawam within the broader network of river-ways and relationships, territory and geography - underscoring the fact that this land was fully inhabited before "New England" was ever conceived.

After an Invocation offered by Dr. Bert Waters, Host drum Iron River Singers, guest drum Eastern Sons and Emcee Hoban Sanford kept the crowd engaged and the dancers in the circle throughout the afternoon. During a brief break, another speaker, Annawon Weeden, addressed the crowd. Annawon shared the story of his upbringing and how traditions were instilled in him at a very early age by his parents and other members of both his mother's Wampanoag community and his father's Narragansett

community. He is also well versed in the history and culture of the indigenous people of the area, and shared some of the aspects of Native life – from past to present. Other activities of the day included Milly Sanford’s craft class for kids, where they learned how to make a bone choker that they could keep. Jason Wilkins also demonstrated how to carve a flute from red cedar and had some of his completed pieces on display and MCNAA was on hand with an information table.

The Planning Committee’s goal was that the Agawam Summer Gathering would help to spread an understanding of and appreciation for Native culture. Judging by the positive feedback and level of interest from the crowd on Saturday, the event was a big success! ■



*Speaker - Annawon Weeden
Photo by Deborah Mefan.*

MCNAA RAFFLE CAMPAIGN

Hard economic times have affected all non-profits but we didn’t expect the impact to be this great on our 20-year old organization. Because of these difficult times, there has been increased competition from large non-profit organizations for available grants leaving very few opportunities for the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness [MCNAA]. We have therefore concluded that we must increase our fundraising efforts like most other non-profits have.

MCNAA receives one small grant a year [\$2,500]. Other than this, it operates primarily from a few small private donations, membership fees, and funds raised by the organization. Fundraisers include the annual benefit auction in October, the annual holiday appeal in December, and an occasional raffle drawing. Monies raised help us continue to provide services to our Native constituency. The two programs we are focused on that require continuous funding are the Educational Opportunities Program and the Cultural Arts & Awareness Program.

The Educational Opportunities Program [Scholarship Program] helps our Native students with higher education expenses as well as other services to promote access to career development and postsecondary education programs.

The Cultural Arts & Awareness Program coordinates pow-wows and other cultural events to provide opportunities for our Native constituency to come together for cultural expression so that our culture and traditions stay alive. Additionally, the program educates the public about Native history and issues so that there is awareness and an increased understanding about and mutual respect for our People.

During recent discussions with the MCNAA Leadership Team, we decided to plan a few fundraisers before the year is over. One idea is to host a special event (either a talent show, benefit dance, or lobster boil) and the other is to organize a few simple efforts [sell raffle tickets to members and friends; set out a container at the pow-wows we attend asking for “Donations for our Good Work”; and solicit donations on eBay’s Giving Works Program.]

For our first effort, we decided to embark on a 3-month raffle campaign. Prizes include:

Prize #1 Native American Wedding Vase signed by Dine' artist



Many believe that as part of the ancient marriage ceremony the medicine man would prepare a special potion for the young lovers. The mixture signified the promise of deep love and eternal happiness for the couple. The Brave and Maiden then sealed the promise by drinking simultaneously from the vase, each using one spout. Wedding vases thus became a symbol of happiness and remain so to this day.

Prize #2 Private Phone Session with Spiritual Teacher, Medium Jenny Lynn Metevia

Private Phone Session (15 min.) with Spiritual Teacher, Medium Jenny Lynn Metevia, *as heard on WBZ Radio*. Intuitive consulting involves the use of one's inherent intuition, which we all have as an inner compass, to help shape decision making and invoke and manifest our true passion, our true power. Jenny uses this compass to guide others as well as teach others in order that they may connect with and learn to trust their own intuitive abilities, as she obtains information from Spirit on your behalf.

Prize #3 Classic Jr. Roof Cargo Pack [canvas roof luggage carrier]



5 cubic feet of storage space folds up to a compact size when not in use. It installs without tools and quickly attached to roof racks with straps or snapclips. There are handy side-release buckles that allow quick access to the load. This luggage carrier fits all vehicles with roof racks.

Prize #4 Gift Card to Hess Gas Station



➤ *Prize #5 Proctor Silex Deep Fryer*

Prize #6 Gift Card to Stop & Shop Super Market



➤ *Prize #7 Jasper and Sterling Silver Necklace, Bracelet, and Earring Set*

Prize #8 Gift Certificate for IT Computer Support Time with MCNAA Member Charisse Sebastian

Prize #9 Book on French and Native North American Marriages & Other Sources-Vol. 3 by Author, Professional Genealogist, and MCNAA member Paul Bunnell

Prize #10 Enlarged Matted Nature Photo "Autumn Leaves" by Photographer and MCNAA Member Audrey Rossow

All items are new and were donated to MCNAA for this effort. We hope you will help by requesting two books of tickets from us totaling \$20.00. (One book has 5 tickets - each ticket is \$2.00). If you trust us and want to save us postage, just mail a \$20.00 check to MCNAA and we'll fill in your name on the raffle ticket stub and make sure the stubs are put into the raffle jar.

If we mail the tickets to you, you can either buy them for yourself or sell them to family, co-workers, and friends. Once the tickets are sold, mail a check for \$20.00 to MCNAA along with the stubs that contain the names. The deadline is September 14, 2009.

The drawing will take place on Sunday, October 25, 2009 at MCNAA's Annual Benefit Auction and Reception at the Comfort Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), Randolph, MA. You do not need to be present to win.

For tickets, please e-mail mcnaa@aol.com or call 617-642-1683. Or, to send a check, mail to: MCNAA, ATTN: Raffle Campaign, P.O. Box 5885, Boston, MA 02114-5885. ■



MCNAA'S WISH LIST

Donations of all types needed!

- Mildly used (or new) flat panel computer monitors
- Postage stamps
- Reams of copier paper
- Memorial Gifts – When a friend or relative passes into the spirit world, honor their memory and send a tax-deductible contribution to MCNAA. Your contribution will be acknowledged by MCNAA to you and to the family.
- Remember MCNAA in your will or estate plans.
- A Building – Donate a useable building/property for MCNAA's permanent administrative offices and programs. Certain tax benefits may apply.
- Parcel of Land – Donate a buildable parcel of land to be used as financing leverage to build our Center. Any size or location within the I-495 belt is acceptable. Certain tax benefits may apply. ■



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 11:30 am & 1:30 pm

Allen Sockabasin: Passamaquoddy Storyteller and Author
Hear the story of *Thanks to the Animals*, a tale of traditional Native American thoughts towards animals and the natural

world, and Native people's reverence for family, togetherness, and celebration. Book signing at 2:30 pm. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members.

Thursday, Aug. 13, 1-4 pm Atlatl and Bow Demonstrations

Learn how indigenous people made and used the atlatl and the bow as devices for hunting everything from mega fauna to birds. Museum staff and visiting expert

Manuel Lizarralde, associate professor of Ethnobotany at Connecticut College, demonstrate the use of these tools. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members.

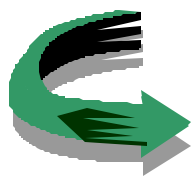
Friday, Aug. 14, 1 pm Free-Flying Raptors
Sky Hunters in Flight's master falconer Brian Bradley brings falcons, hawks, and other birds of prey for a dramatic aerial show. View raptors in action and learn how they fly and navigate the skies. Find out about their living and survival habits and how they served as hunters for Native people. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members.

Saturday, Aug. 15, 1 pm–3 pm - New Archaeological Discoveries
Join Museum archaeologists, historians, and paleobotanists on a tour of the archaeology labs and current excavations on the Reservation. Get a first-hand look at recent discoveries including 9,000 year-old starch grains, newly identified battlefields and artifacts from the Pequot War, and recent research on paleoclimates and environments over the last 15,000 years. Dress for the woods. Limited to 25, ages 8 and older. \$15/\$12 Museum members. Register by Aug. 14: (800) 411-9671.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 1 pm–2 pm “Treasures from the Water” A Behind-the-Scenes Tour
Executive Director Kimberly Hatcher-White and Head Curator Stephen Cook lead an examination of pieces of the Museum's collections, including birch bark and dugout canoes, paddles, nets, canoe cups, hand carved fishing lures, and wampum; some never seen before by the public. Limited to 25, ages 12 and older. Free with Museum admission. Register by Sept. 17; call (800) 411-9671.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 am–4 pm - Educators' Open House & Family Day
Teachers and their families are invited to discover the Pequot Museum. The day includes music by Emma Jo Mills Brennan (Wampanoag) and her jazz ensemble, Native games, stories and videos in the Children's Library, and presentations on primary sources in the Research Library and Archives. Choose from two tours: 16th c. Pequot Village or Exhibit Highlights. Resource packets available. Teachers and up to three family members receive free admission with presentation of a school or union ID. Reservations preferred; call Kathy Davis at (860) 396-6839 or kdavis@mptn-nsn.gov. ■

MCNAA CALENDAR



Events Remaining for 2009

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 12-13 Annual Inter-Tribal Pow-wow, Plug Pond, Haverhill, MA

Sun., Oct. 25 Annual Benefit Auction & Reception, Comfort Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn), Main Street, Exit 5A, Randolph, MA
(*Live and Silent Auctions, Raffle Drawing from 3-month campaign, Hors 'd oeuvres, Socializing, 50/50 Raffle, "For Sale" Item Table, and Give Away Table.*)

Sat., Nov. 14 Nat'l Native American Heritage Day Celebration and Inter-Tribal Pow-wow, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA ■