



AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

VOL XLVII ISSUE NO. 4

APR 2013

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Mar 4 – A screening of the film “The Cherokee Word for Water” drew a small but enthusiastic crowd. The feature-length motion picture takes place in the early days of former Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller’s career in public service, her first job with the Cherokee Nation, and is about a Cherokee community, Bell and the Bell Waterline Project, that uses traditional Native values of reciprocity and interdependence to rebuild their community. Information on the film and the Wilma Mankiller Foundation can be found at www.wilmamankiller.com. The event began with a reception at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). In addition to the primary stars of the film, locals in attendance included Dennis Zotigh, Karen Collins, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Mary Sunbeam and Mitchell Bush. Michael Butler (LCO) and Sylvia Nery-Strickland (Chereonhaka Nottoway) from Virginia Beach were supposed to attend but their work hours prevented them from making the trip. After the short reception, those in attendance headed up to Capitol Hill where the film was shown in the Capitol Visitors Center. For those of you familiar with visiting the Capitol, there was much walking. Fortunately, Christine Kheil, the director, held the film until most of the guests had arrived. The film is about Wilma Mankiller who passed from cancer. Mitchell was surprised to see Oren Lyons (Onondaga Faithkeeper) in a primary role. Wilma’s husband, Charlie Soap, also a director, was present and spoke. Moses Brings Plenty (Lakota) who played Charlie and Kimberly Guerrero who played Wilma were also present and spoke, as did Christine Kheil. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC Congressional Delegate, was also present and introduced. After the showing, two cakes, one carrying the Cherokee syllabary symbol for water and the other with “Cherokee word for water” were served. On their way to home, Karen/Mitchell/Karen/Manuel stopped at Bob & Edith’s Restaurant in Arlington for a light supper.

Mar 6 – The monthly AIS meeting was cancelled due to Winter Snowstorm Saturn which hit the area with varying severity, ranging from light snow and rain in the DC area, to over 5 inches in Central Virginia and over 10 inches in the Virginia Highlands. The meeting was rescheduled for March 13.

Mar 7 – The three judges on the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board in Alexandria held a 90 minute hearing on the never ending Redskins case. This time, a new group of five unnamed Native Americans filed a case in 2006 after Suzan Shown Harjo’s case was denied because the plaintiffs should have filed their case soon after the Redskins registered their name in 1967. The case is not expected to be resolved soon. Some credence has been given to a resolution passed by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) but the opposition has asked how many tribes NCAI represented at the time. Of course NCAI does not generally initiate resolutions. Rather it accepts proposed resolutions from interested tribes or groups. Also, the symposium hosted recently by the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) has been referenced. We are curious, however, about the poll which took place some time ago when Indians across the country were asked their viewpoint on the Redskins issue. We do not recall seeing the results of that poll.

NOTE – THE FOLLOWING IS FROM WIKOPEDIA:

“Following the 1992 Super Bowl protests, the Washington Post posted a survey in which “89 percent of those surveyed said that the name should stay.” In a study performed by the National Annenberg Survey, Native Americans from the 48 continental U.S. states were asked “The professional football team in Washington calls itself the Washington Redskins. As a Native American, do you find

that name offensive or does it not bother you?" In response, ninety percent replied that the name is acceptable, while nine percent said that it was offensive, and one percent would not answer."

"The possible flaw in random and anonymous polls of Native American's opinion is that they must rely upon self-identification to select the target group. In an editorial in the Bloomington Herald Times, Steve Russell, an enrolled Cherokee citizen and associate professor of criminal justice at Indiana University, states that both SI and Annenberg's samples of "self-identified Native Americans... includes plenty of people who have nothing to do with Indians". The problem of individuals claiming to be Native American when they are not is well-known in academic research, and is a particular problem when non-natives claim Indian identity to gain authority in the debate over sports mascots."

Mar 9 – Karen Collins, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Verde Halley and Mitchell Bush met for breakfast at the Denny's Restaurant in Carmel Church. After, Karen, Manuel/Karen and Mitchell traveled to the Pamunkey Reservation to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Intertribal Women's Circle (IWC). After a Native oriented buffet meal, the afternoon program included a blessing by John Parsons (Onondaga), presentation of a General Assembly Resolution honoring IWC by Delegate Betsy Carr, photo of IWC members, presentation of a gift to IWC leader Debora Moore, presentation of eagle feathers and Mildred Moore pottery by Debora to Mildred/Mitchell Bush/Chief Lynette Allston/Rose Powhatan/Karen Collins/Carolyn Talley/Beth Mills/Gail Egnew/Pinky Smith/Mary Wolf/Frances Crutchfield/Thijs and Rieneka Leenders/Danielle Moretti Langholtz/Stacy Littledeer/Youghtanund Drum/Full Circle Drum and the Stumptown Drum. Then Vicky Shenandoah and her group (Wesley/Lyana Halsey, Kyle Watson, John Parson, Kathlin Jocko) performed several Iroquois dances. Members of the audience joined in several of the dances including Chief Kevin Brown. The program moved outside where Youghtanund, joined by singers from the other two drums, sang. Singers included Pernell Richardson, Terry Price, Sal Aldez, Seguoyah Jon, TJ Tuppence, Tommy Tuppence, Tatanka Gibson, Lenny Harmon, Daniel Gear and Andrew Tyler. In addition to those already named, the following were present – John Eglin, Sharon Johnson, Keith/Susan Smith, Melissa DeSantis, Jesse Bass, Tess Bladin, Christine/Ken Hershey, Emma Custalow, Rev. Bonnie Dunn, Danielle Bradby, Bobby Mills, Robin Guthrie (flutist), Beverly Yazzie, Tawanda Talley, Sarah Alderson, Denise Walters, Ashley Maybush, Barbara Atkins, Harvey Moretti, Jeff Moore, Mary Lecis, and John Simermeyer. An IWC sheet cake was served toward the close of the event. Near the close of the celebration, the names of persons who have passed but are significant to IWC were read including Dr. Mercedes Osborne, Chief Ray Couch and VEVITA Commander Richard Begay.

Mar 13 – Karen Collins, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez and Mitchell Bush met for dinner at the Atlantis Restaurant near the Church of Saint Clement where the monthly AIS meeting is held. Karen Rodriguez turned in the rough draft of the March newsletter. On their way out of the restaurant, Karen Collins and Mitchell Bush stopped to visit with Stephen/Naomi/Kathy Gonyea who were having dinner there. Unfortunately, the meeting lacked a quorum. The First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer were not present. So those present had an informational gathering.

Mar 16 – The Lawilowan American Indian Festival, coordinated by Arvil Meisenhelter, was held at the Student Recreation Center of Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Emcee was Dave White Buffalo; Head Man Dancer: Terry Strongheart; Head Lady Dancer: Hannah Jacobs; Host Drum: White Buffalo Singers; guest drums: Southern Heart Singers, Red Arrow Singers, Medicine Horse Singers and Otter Creek Singers. Among the many vendors and exhibitors were: Cherie/Rick Germer, Gary/Sharon Schoch, American Diabetes Association, Pennsylvania Native American Flute Association (Allie Fogas), and the AIS booth manned by Karen Collins/Mitchell Bush. Doors opened at 10 am, grand entry around noon followed by intertribals, specials and social dancing until 6 pm when a feast was served to participants. AIS folks/friends who turned out to participate or for moral support included Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, *Dennis

Zotigh, *Ron Wible, *Tamika Taylor, *Emily Jeffries, *Shawn Haddaway, Barry/Barbara Lee, *Derek/Mary Ann Robins, Frank/Virginia Tarbell, Theresa Snay, Wendy Woodbury, Cheyenne/Reece Zeigler, Claudia Haddad, *Charles Eagletail family, Pete/*Summer Yazzie, Jesse Bass/Melissa DeSantis, Steve/Nick Hill, Tia Gibbs, *Dennis Wagner, Maxine Hillary and Linda Coates. Those who sang or danced are shown with an asterisk. After the festival was over, Maxine and her friend Gail, Karen, Manuel/Karen, Mitchell, Dennis Wagner and friends, John/Hannah and her grandchildren Alexis,/Elaine, Barbara/Barry, Mary Ann/Derek, Eliezer and Claudia stopped by chance at the Shippensburg Diner for something to eat before heading home.

Mar 22-24 – The three day Potomac Flute Festival was held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, MD. The event featured panel discussions, flute demonstrations/classes, a brief survey of Native American music past and present (Dawn Avery – Mohawk - Professor of Music at Montgomery College), concert by Mary Youngblood (Seminole/Aleut – two time Grammy winner) and sales of flutes and related Native American crafts. The event was well attended with plenty of parking. Host hotel was the Best Western Plus Hotel in Rockville where open mikes, receptions and social hours were held. AIS members/friends in attendance included Karen Collins, Mitchell Bush, Boe Harris, Tim Moore, Jimi Morehouse, Allie Fogas, Jeff Ball, Jan Seidan, Ron Warren, Michael Nephew, Dave/Toni Dorvitt, and Native Spirits (vendor – Susan Morgan). Dawn included her clan in her presentation. She utilized flute players, bells and rattles with her cello. Mitchell used an Iroquois horn rattle. He asked Dawn why she didn't use an Apache violin instead of her cello. She has been asked that question before and may make a change.

Mar 30 - The Elders Council met at the home of Mitchell Bush/Verde Halley in Ruther Glen to compile and evaluate the ballots submitted by AIS folks regarding the use of AIS funds for the funeral of the late Eve Hill. Elders present included Karen Collins, Verde Halley and Mitchell Bush. Kathleen Dorn came down from Burke, VA, to contribute her expertise in formatting a written report. Michael Nephew was also in attendance to serve as an observer. After the group finished its review, Mitchell served a light meal of chicken, noodles and dumplings with sugar free jello for dessert. After eating, the group watched the Academy Award winning "Life of Pi."

Mar 31 – On a chilly rainy day, the AIS Easter picnic was held in the Pavillion at Indian Pines. Rob Brown had cleaned the tables and set them up. Those present included Karen Collins who brought grape dumplings, Mitchell Bush who brought Iroquois corn soup with golden hominy and salt pork, Michael Nephew who brought potato/macaroni salad and Easter eggs, and Verde Halley who came by after church. Michael said grace before the group ate. It was so chilly that Karen/Verde/Mitchell/Rob returned to Mitchell/Verde's home to warm up and watch TV. Chuck/Judy/Billy Gray arrived just as Rob was leaving the Pines so they, too, came over to the house. Chuck finished off the Iroquois corn soup. Then, Karen headed to Dale City, Chuck/Judy/Billy to Stafford, and Rob to Indian Pines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE AIS WEBSITE: In your travels, send pictures to Myra Dunwoody with identification of people, place, event, date, tribal affiliation, etc. for the AIS website. Myra can receive digital or hard copy photographs and information. For mailing hard copy pictures contact Myra. Myra.dunwoody@gmail.com, 804-448-2516

PATHKEEPERS FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

NATIVE YOUTH CULTURE CAMP FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Culpeper, Virginia, is excited to announce its upcoming summer camp for Native youth. Pathkeepers mission is to provide opportunities and tools that allow for the practical use of traditional knowledge, the passing of this knowledge from Native elders and community leaders to younger generations, as well as the increased incorporation of traditional knowledge into educational, economic and governmental tribal systems.

Our first project is the Pathkeepers Native Youth Culture Camp for Native American youth, ages 11-16, and will be held July 21-27, 2013, in Culpeper, VA. The Camp will be a one-week residential camp and will provide Native youth with opportunities to experience traditional and cultural activities, identify healthy and sustainable food and life choices, and understand how environmental and conservation sciences are reflected in Native cultural knowledge and in our traditional uses of environmental resources. By providing these opportunities, we expect to build Native youth's appreciation and understanding of traditional lifeways and environmental stewardship, but to also build their self-esteem, leadership and consensus skills, health and wellness. The Camp will also include a field trip to Washington, D.C. to tour and meet with federal agencies, Congressional staff, and White House officials related to Indian Affairs.

Deadline for Camp Applications is June 1. There is no fee to attend the Camp so we are always looking for donations so that we can accept the most campers. We are also looking for volunteers, cooks and tribal members who could serve as facilitators and instructors of certain traditional activities. Camp brochure and application can be found on our website, www.pathkeepers.org. For additional information, please call Angelina Okuda-Jacobs at (202) 957-2696 or aokudajacobs@pathkeepers.org.

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April 3 - The American Indian Society (AIS) held its monthly meeting at the Church of Saint Clement-Episcopal in Alexandria, VA. Present were Theresa Hill (President), Steve Hill (First Vice President), Cathi Hill (Secretary), Vanessa Van Pelt (Treasurer), Elders Council: Mitchell Bush/Karen Collins, Loretta Eller, Tia Gibbs, Pete Homer, Gerrika Missouri, Jay Nightwolf, Calvin Van Pelt, and guests William Underbaggage, Charmaine White Face, Jacquie Arpan, Pam Blue Horse and J. D. Goodhouse.

Theresa called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. The minutes of our February 6 meeting were approved as read at our March 13 meeting. The minutes of our March 13 meeting were approved as read. Vanessa gave the Treasurer's Report of our general, scholarship, powwow and Inaugural Ball accounts as of February. We did not receive the March bank statements as yet.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave was not present to address the insurance question... Justine has not yet submitted cost information regarding the princess crown... Discussion on Mother's Day powwow. Due to lack of funds we should consider alternatives. Perhaps a potluck gathering on Saturday. The Executive Board will make decision due to the fact that Mother's Day is next month... Steve discussed locating new site for activities... Regarding children at business meetings, Steve suggested having cultural activities for them. That, however, would take adults away from the business meeting... Mitchell gave the results of last month's survey. Of the respondents, 6 thought AIS should pay for Eve Hill's funeral and 40 thought the Hill family should repay the funds.

We took a break so Charmaine White Face could speak about the open uranium pit issue her group is involved in. During discussion with the Board, she became irritated, and the guests left. That led to discussion on allowing guests to speak before we start our business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Theresa will have a taco booth at the Georgetown University Powwow on April 28 to raise funds to repay the Hill loan... Steve announced an upcoming Inaugural Ball meeting with the working group, elders and Executive Board. He briefly mentioned a legal dispute with the Marriott Hotel over its treatment of some of our guests... Tia announced a no fee contract for credit card use... Next month, discussion on 501(c)3 versus 501(c)4. Please come.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Elders Council will take part in the Longhouse Project dedication in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on May 18. We may take the AIS craft booth to set up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AIS Meetings 1st Wed. of every month - 7:30 pm (May 1, Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4)

The Church of St. Clement Episcopal, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA

Baltimore American Indian Center Cultural Classes - Thursdays 6:00-9:00 pm; Holistic Health Services - Thursdays 11:00 am-3:00 pm (call 410.675.3535 or email thomas.melody.c@gmail.com)

Baltimore American Indian Center, 113 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD. 410-675-3535. www.baic.org

Apr 27 (10 am-6 pm) - 13th Annual Celebration of Life for ALL People Powwow, Mt. Trashmore, 300 Edwin Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Free Admission & Parking - Vendor Spaces Fill Early.

Apr 28, noon-5 pm - Georgetown University First Annual Powwow, Copley Lawn, 37th and O Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

May 11, noon-5 pm - Mothers Day Gathering and Potluck, Indian Pines, 25401 Reservation Lane, Ruther Glen VA 25401. Directions: I95 to Exit 104: Carmel Church/Bowling Green (VA-207) East; Turn Right on Route 652 (Ruther Glen Road), Go Approximately 2.2 miles, Turn Right on dirt (graveled road) just past mailbox for 25473 Ruther Glen Road. Info Contact: Mitchell Bush 804-241-5462

May 18 - Lancaster Longhouse Grand Opening Celebration - Dedication Celebration at 1:00 p.m. Hans Herr House Museum, 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street, PA 17584. Volunteers/Native Artisans/Food & Craft Vendors can pre-register by calling Becky Gochner at 717-464-4438. Website: <http://www.hansherr.org/Home/Longhouse>

May 18-19 - MONACAN INDIAN NATION 21ST ANNUAL POWWOW, Rt. 130, 6 Miles West of Rt. 29 In Elon, VA. Info at website: <http://www.monacannation.com/powwow.shtml> email: mnation538@aol.com or phone: 434-946-0389

May 25-26 - Historic Eastville 1632 Homecoming Powwow 'Coming Full Circle' featuring the Accohannock Tribe, Indiantown Park (original Gingaskin Reservation 1640-1813), 7399 Indiantown Road, Eastville, VA 23347. Info: www.indianwatertrails.com/about.html, 410-623-2660, accohannock@verizon.net or www.eastville.esva.net, 757-678-7523, eastville@esva.net

May 25-28 - DE-UN-DA-GA 39th Annual Memorial Day Pow Wow, Custaloga Town Scout Reservation, 7 Boy Scout Lane, Carlton, PA 16311. Camping \$8 per person for the weekend. Dance sessions Saturday and Sunday, midnight auction Saturday, and craft contest on Sunday morning. No scheduled activities for Friday or Monday. For more information visit: www.langundowi.org or email: info@langundowi.org or call Doug Sestock 412-327.0372 or email hzo221@yahoo.com. Facebook: De-Un-Da-Ga Pow Wow.

2013 Pow-Wows Sponsored by Pow-Wow:

Contact: Barry Richardson 252-532-0821 email: powwow@vance.net

June 1-2 Fredericksburg Pow-Wow, Fredericksburg, VA Fairgrounds

July 13-14 Howard County Pow-Wow, 1022 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794;

Nov 15-17 Great American Indian Exposition & Pow-Wow, ***NOTE NEW LOCATION*** **The Richmond Raceway (old Fairgrounds), 600 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23222**

Jun 1-2 - The Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians 31th Annual Festival and Pow Wow, American Indian Cultural Center, 16816 Country Lane, Waldorf, MD 20601. Info: 240-432-7878, piscatawayindians@yahoo.com, www.piscatawayindians.org

SAVE THE DATE: June 8 - Skyfest 2013: American Indian Festival and Celebration, Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 17th Street Park (corner of Atlantic Ave. & 17th St.), Virginia Beach, VA. Contact: Michael Cloud-Butler 757-636-1475



CANCELLED: The American Indian Intertribal Cultural Organization (AIITCO) will not have a powwow this year. We previously posted a Save the Date for June 29-30.

Aug 31 & Sep 1 & 2 - 17th Annual Native American Festival sponsored by the City of Harrisburg and Peggy Grove, City Island, Harrisburg, PA (behind Senators Stadium, during Kipona). All drums and dancers welcome, feast provided. Parking Fee applies. Contact: sunrisesigns@nmax.net Website: www.harrisburgevents.com

Directions: From 81 take Cameron Street exit to Market Street & follow signs. From 76 or 83 go towards Harrisburg. Take Second St. exit & follow signs. From Second St. turn left onto Market St. The Market St. bridge has two ramps onto City Islands two public parking areas. PARKING FEE APPLIES for info call Michelle Fry: 717-589-7744.

SAVE THE DATE: Oct 25-27 - Meherrin-Chowanoke Pow-Wow. Info: www.meherrinchowanokepowwow.com or Lisa Lewis at 252-370-2237

CHECK the AIS Website at www.aisdc.org for updates on events between newsletters.

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