



MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS, INC.

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MCNAA TURTLETALK: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING AT MCNAA

MCNAA ATTENDS CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR DAVE TOWNLEY AT ENDICOTT PARK

by Anthony SkyHawk, Board Member

On Friday, July 29, 2023, a contingent of MCNAA board members, friends, and volunteers attended the "Celebration of Life" at Endicott Park for our friend Dave Townley. Dave was the head Ranger and Director of the Park and managed it for 40 years from the time it opened to the public in 1972. Dave was also a long-time member of MCNAA and in early years enlisted us to present cultural programs at the Park and eventually several pow-wows in later years.



The MCNAA Contingent - Maria Wilkins, Anthony SkyHawk Silva, Lee BraveHeart Edmonds, Harry Hawk Edmonds, Kim Orben, Dawn Duncan, Kat Neal, Len Rose, and Frankie Orben in front. Chris Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources for the Town of Danvers, is on the far right end. Photo by an event attendee.

At the outdoor celebration, a number of dignitaries attended including State Representative Sally Kerans of the 13th Essex District who also reached out to the MCNAA group. We were also greeted by Dave's wife, Joan, who let us know how much Dave loved our organization. She was so happy to see that we were taking part in the Celebration as several members of our group were on the schedule to participate.

Former MCNAA Advisory Committee Member, Len Rose, spoke from his heart. He had a personal connection with Dave as it was his grandfather, Leonard Bayrd, who made a Native headdress for Dave years ago when Dave was just 15 years old.

MCNAA Board Member, Dawn Duncan, was then invited to the front of the audience and hand drummed and sang Amazing Grace in Cherokee. After finishing the song,



Dawn Duncan hand drumming at the Celebration of Life for Dave Townley. Photo by Kim Orben.

members of the MCNAA group were invited to come to the front of the stage area to be introduced. MCNAA elder and long-time supporter, Harry Hawk, who traveled a great distance with his brother Lee BraveHeart, asked to speak. He spoke from his heart about his respect for Dave and how he had gotten to know him as a great individual and that Dave's reverence and respect for the original Peoples of this land was unwavering conveying what we all felt.

Harry then spoke about Native culture and the lands they all stood

on. He also spoke in the Native language which was met with great praise from the audience who clapped and nodded with approval. After the ceremony, a number of people from the audience sought out Harry, Lee and a few of us to learn more about Native culture.

The Celebration concluded with a reception in the air conditioned Carriage Room which provided much needed relief from the excessive heat and humidity.



Len Rose speaking at the Celebration of Life for Dave Townley. Photo by Kim Orben.



Harry Hawk Edmonds speaking to the group at the Celebration of Life for Dave Townley. Photo by Kim Orben.

Large trays of gourmet sandwiches, desserts and beverages were set up for all to enjoy while spending more time with one another.

In the Conference Room, some of Dave's personal items were on display including the authentic Native American head dress made by Len's grandfather which sat prominently on the display



Some of Dave's personal items on display. Photo by Dawn Duncan.

table. What a great collection of important and memorable items from Dave's life and career at the Park.

Throughout the afternoon, Joan and her family expressed their appreciation of our attendance at the Celebration and the presentation we shared with the guests. She graciously extended a standing invitation to MCNAA to present future programs, workshop or pow-wows at the Park. We look forward to the possibilities when we resume in person events.

Dave was an avid supporter of MCNAA and our mission as well as Native Americans in general. He touched a lot of lives and judging by the turnout at the Celebration, he was loved and respected by so many. Our group was honored to help represent our community at this event for such a wonderful and generous person. Dave will be sorely missed. ■

MCNAA REPRESENTED AT NATIVE AMERICAN LIFELINES EVENT

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

MCNAA Board Member Dawn Duncan (*right*) represented the organization at the annual "Back To School Health Fair" held at the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and sponsored by Native American Lifelines (NAL). Free backpacks and school supplies were available to all Indigenous students who got an on-site dental screening.

This was an opportunity to set up a table to share information about our organization, programs and the good work we do in the community. ■



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE!

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member



* We relaxed our visitor guidelines and have allowed for scheduled visits in the office. If you'd like to visit and reconnect with us, please e-mail us at mcnaa@aol.com

* We worked on other and varied tasks that included the following: prepared bookkeeping records and sent to the accountant for year-end tax returns, collaborated with Brandeis University on events for Indigenous Peoples Day, posted an appeal for additional speakers/presenters to fill the growing number of requests that come in around October and November, sought a graphic artist to recolor our logo, composed & e-mailed donation receipt letters, processed membership renewals, attended informational webinars, explored more grant opportunities, responded

to general e-mail inquiries, and updated our website and face book pages.

* We re-started culturally sensitive mentoring with students, helped with vital resources, awarded scholarships, as well as provided other supportive services to our college students at the beginning of the 2023 Fall Semester.

* We continued to assist needy Native families and Elders with food purchases, gasoline for their vehicle, and other utility bills such as electricity, internet, and cell phone service. ■

SPENDING REPORT ON OUR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – HELPING NEEDY FAMILIES & STUDENTS

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

During fiscal year '23 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023), we are pleased to report that the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness spent over \$75, 000, through our Social Assistance as well as our Scholarship Programs, helping students, Elders, and Native families in need who lived in and around Massachusetts. Funds, which came from private donors and several small grants, were used towards scholarships, food, heat, other utilities, and heating system repairs. We are grateful to have been in a position to help so many needy constituents. ■

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR THE 2023 FALL SEMESTER

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member



We are pleased to announce the names of (14) up-and-coming Native students who applied for the MCNAA Annual Scholarship for the 2023 Fall Semester and selected by MCNAA. They are:

1. Kaylen Gallant (Pocasset Wampanoag) - U Mass/Dartmouth
2. Mia Geter (Nipmuc) Bristol Community College
3. Kayla Gonsalves (Aquinnah Wampanoag) U Mass/Amherst
4. Izsabella Hazard (Nipmuc) U Mass/Amherst
5. Mason Hendricks (Mashpee Wampanoag) U Mass/Dartmouth
6. Xavier Hendricks (Mashpee Wampanoag) U Mass/Dartmouth
7. Tyra Jenkins (Nipmuc) U Mass/Lowell
8. Abigail Jones (Mashpee Wampanoag) Bridgewater State
9. Danielle Klash (Nipmuc) U Mass/Amherst
10. Kaylee Malgeri (Mashpee Wampanoag) Framingham State
11. Calin Oakley-Robbins (Mashpee Wampanoag) U Mass/Amherst
12. Daelyn Peters (Mashpee Wampanoag) U Mass/Dartmouth
13. Andrew Sockey (Choctaw) U Mass/Lowell
14. Miranda Tozier-Robbins (Comanche) Fitchburg State

It's amazing to have read some of the comments in the scholarship applications that were made by some of the students. They wanted to share some of their personal hardships with MCNAA and the individual donors who contributed to our scholarship program so that these awards could be made. Here's a few:

"I would first like to thank the donors for helping to fund this program to aid in the furtherance of education for native peoples and for helping to spread awareness to greater audiences. As many college students today, my financial hardships are a major source of anxiety, depression and burn-out and the leading cause in my doubts of finishing my education are the expenses that accompany secondary and post-secondary education. Coming from a large family leaves me in a difficult position as I do not have the option to receive help from my parents when it comes to education expenses, therefore I have to spend my summer, winter and other various breaks at home working two jobs and searching for a third job in the Amherst area for when class is in session. This scholarship would greatly help me to be able to spend more time focusing on my education so I may be able to start a successful and meaningful career in my future."

"I would like to say thank you for this opportunity. It really makes a difference for students who are struggling to pay for things. All throughout school, I struggled with ADHD and Aspergers, and my

mom always told me my “job” was to be a student. My parents are paying for my education and I can focus on my studies without worrying about working. I’m a sophomore now and I made the Dean’s List my first year. My mom is a teacher and I know it’s hard for my parents to pay, but my education is important to them.”

“I am currently living from paycheck to paycheck as I work full time and go to school part time. I am a first generation college student and this whole process has had its ups and downs. Being the first child in my family going to college and my parents having no familiarity with the process, I have figured a lot of this out on my own. Now that I have finally chosen a career path and degree that suits me, I have been pushing myself even harder to achieve my goals. I am grateful for all the support and hope that once I get my degree, I can move up in my workplace so that I can finally be financially stable because I have never been able to feel that type of security yet in my life.”

“First, I’d like to say Thank You! It’s generous people like you that make a difference in our world. I’d also like to say that winning this scholarship would mean so much to me. It would help me out tremendously. My mother is working three jobs to pay my tuition and I would love to be able to contribute to my education and lessen the cost for her. Any extra assistance would be greatly appreciated.”

We wish these students great success and invite them and their families to keep us updated on their academic progress throughout the semester. Congratulations to these incredible students. ■

2023 U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE BOSTON

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

On Sunday, September 17, 2023, the Boston-area event for the 2023 UN International Day of Peace was held on the Boston Common. MCNAA Board Member, Dawn Duncan, was the emcee for the program that included music, song, arts, & peace education. It also included brief presentations by peacemakers about their work, as well as musical performances and art



activities for children. The 13-year event concluded with the reading of a list of recent local victims of violence and then they all walked to the nearby Garden of Peace to pray for peace among stones engraved with the names of local victims of violence.

This year’s event was co-sponsored & organized by: Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), Friends Meeting at Cambridge, and the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA). Dawn reported that the event went very well and it was an informative day for all who attended. ■

MCNAA'S UPCOMING EVENTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

We finalized some of our programming for Autumn (and Winter.) Several activities will be held virtually, while others will be in-person. The first event will be held in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day and will take place on Thursday, October 5, 2023 followed by a second event on Saturday, October 7, 2023, both in partnership with Brandeis University. Please read more below.



THEME: Building Indigenous Sovereignty Through Community

Day One - Thursday, October 5th - 6PM-8PM

Keynote Speaker, Community Round Dance & Community Meal

- Dawn Duncan - A few words about the MCNAA
- Eva Blake - Keynote Speaker on "Indigenous Language Reclamation"
- A Community Round Dance led by Evangelina Macias (a visiting Indigenous Scholar at Brandeis)
- A Community Meal (open to all attendees.)
- MCNAA will set up a table with information as well as a few sales items.

RSVP by pasting the URL into your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6xgh_1eRm9i_s7H-xbP1X9wNfXo6gtsWIhPboLfjGxz8WA/viewform

Day Two - Saturday October 7th - 5PM-7PM (Space Limited)

Dance Showcase and Conversation with an Indigenous Dance Scholar.

- Larry Mann – Land Blessing
- Evangelina Macias – Join Visiting Professor Evangelina Macias, (Amskapi
- Pikuni Blackfeet & A'aninin GrosVentre), for an evening of community connection and a showing of dance work "*Niiksokowaiks My Relatives*". Light refreshments will be offered.

RSVP by pasting the URL into your browser: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/niiksokowaiks-my-relatives-dance-offeringshowing-tickets-714599545477>

Both of these events will be held in-person at Brandeis University and are open to all. For the October 5th program, there will be a virtual option to join us. The virtual program link for zoom will be sent to you after you RSVP. Please RSVP for either program and plan to join us.

This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Mass Humanities and the Mass Cultural Council. ■

THINGS YOU CAN DO ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AND YEAR-ROUND:

- Share & Read Books by Indigenous People - Too often, the history of Indigenous people is excluded, twisted, or diminished on purpose. Reading a book by an Indigenous author is a great way to “flip the script.”
- Purchase from Local Indigenous Businesses - Consider Indigenous businesses, large and small, when purchasing items for you and your family.
- Skip Columbus Day - Begin a new tradition with family and friends of observing Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Share Knowledge About Indigenous Peoples Day - Use your company’s reach and influence to teach others about Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Create a Slack Channel for Deeper Discussion - If your friends use a chat app, create a channel to explore Indigenous Peoples Day further.
- Attend an Event - Research events hosted by a group of Indigenous People or an Indigenous organization. Learn more about how you can be of assistance with any issues that the organization is facing.
- Donate to a Cause – Put your money where your mouth is and support an organization that helps Indigenous people locally like the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc. ■

MCNAA’S MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Last year, MCNAA received a small grant to help Native families and elders with heating bills during the winter season. However, the grant doesn’t help with other program needs such as: scholarships for students; food & basic needs for elders and families; cultural programs, social change events; and youth activities. Monthly donations are a sure way to help our organization receive recurring funds on a regular basis and will complement the small grant we received.



In the spirit of “paying it forward”, we invite you as well as large, medium, and small businesses, to become a GEM (Give*Every*Month) donor and help make a difference by joining the circle of monthly giving. Donations will be applied to either our college scholarship program, our social assistance-needy fund, or our social change/social justice initiatives.

If your heart speaks and you would like to support the organization this way, please go to your PayPal account and make a donation to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (or mcnaa@aol.com) then select “make this a monthly/reoccurring donation.” Thank you. ■

DANVERS AWARD PROGRAM HONORS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MASS. CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS

Danvers Award Program, the organization that puts on the annual "Best of Danvers Award", has informed us that Mass. Center for Native American Awareness has been selected as the winner in the category of Community Center.

Here is their Press Release in part:

August 27, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANVERS -- Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, Inc. has been selected for the 2023 Best of Danvers Award in the Community Center category by the Danvers Award Program.

Each year, the Danvers Award Program identifies companies and organizations that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Danvers area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2023 Danvers Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Danvers Award Program and data provided by third parties.

MCNAA is honored to be a 2023 recipient of this community award as our leadership has worked hard to help others and be exemplary in Danvers and the surrounding communities. ■



"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

— Edward Everett Hale

FOR SALE – DONATED NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTES

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

In efforts to help raise funds for our programs, four, basically new Native flutes, in different keys, were donated to MCNAA. They are all from High Spirits Flutes in Arizona. They are all adult-size instruments and also come with an instructional manual if you are a beginner. However, there are also several song books that might be of interest to you if you are proficient in flute playing. Each of these flutes are of very high quality and if you purchase one, you won't be disappointed. Here's the descriptions and photos of each flute:

Spirit Flute Bass..... Key D minor.....Spanish Cedar



This Spirit Flute is a Traditional Bass flute in the key 'D' minor. It is handcrafted from Spanish Cedar, a softwood that gives the flute a rich bass voice, warm high notes, and the versatility to be played as a contemplative bass flute or a lead instrument.

This 19-inch length flute makes this one of the shortest bass flutes, which allows for the possibility for those with smaller hands to play this deeper-toned flute. It is adorned with 5 Thunderbird nicely carved along the top.

The short mouthpiece is convenient for travel, it provides ample back-pressure to accentuate clarity on the higher register notes and minimizes moisture buildup. This flute is valued at \$289 but we will accept \$189 or any reasonable offer.

The Crow Flute, Key A minor.... Ebonized Walnut



The Crow flute is handcrafted from Ebonized domestic Walnut, a hardwood. It is keyed in the key of "A" minor and can also be played in the relative major diatonic scale in the key of "C". The Crow has a very special musical tonal quality because of the Ebonize Walnut wood flute body. This flute is 19 inches long. This flute is valued at \$315 but we will accept \$225 or any reasonable offer.

The Crow flute goes through a time-consuming, multi-step process that involves being ebonized multiple times and then repeatedly sealed with coats of non-toxic oil, to create the final high-gloss look and finish along with an enhanced tonal voice. The flute is then completed with decorative Turquoise cabochons to enhance the natural beauty of the instrument and adding to its character as both a musical instrument and a piece of functional artwork.

NOTE: This photo differs slightly from the actual flute that is for sale. Our donated flute has less turquoise cabochons on the top.

Signature Hummingbird Flute, Key F#m.....Aromatic Cedar



The 2022 Hummingbird Signature Flute is tuned in the key of 'F#' minor is the newest design in the Hummingbird Signature Series. It can also be played in the relative major diatonic scale in the key of A. The dimensions of the flute are approximately 22 inches in length with a 1-inch (2.5 cm) bore diameter. This beautiful instrument is valued at \$470 but we will accept \$350 or any reasonable offer.

This flute is handcrafted from Aromatic Cedar with a beautifully hand-carved Hummingbird attached atop. Aromatic Cedar was chosen for this flute because of its exceptional tonal qualities, which give the flute a clear, warm, balanced musical voice. The entire flute is adorned with hand carved Hummingbirds and flowers inlaid with abalone shell which was chosen because of its vibrant iridescent color. This is another extremely well crafted flute and is more beautiful in person.

Signature Migration, Key G minor.....the loon.... Aromatic Cedar



The Migration is handcrafted from Aromatic Cedar which is considered to be an exceptional tonal wood that gives the flute's voice a fine balance between warmth and clarity. The flute is also inlaid on both sides with Turquoise cabochons as well as adorned with hand carved Thunderbirds that reflect the Native American cultural view that like all things in nature have life. The flute is extremely well crafted and more beautiful in person.

The flute is tuned in the key of G minor and can also be played in the relative major diatonic scale in the key of A# / Bb. It is 21 inches long with a 1-inch bore diameter. This flute is valued at \$445 but we will accept \$325 or any reasonable offer.

The original inspiration for our Migration Signature Flute was from the Sandhill Cranes that migrate by their thousands to Southern Arizona each year. During the winter season the Sandhill Cranes come south to enjoy the temperate climate, and the vision of witnessing hundreds of large birds flying and grazing was so awe inspiring.

These two Signature Series flutes utilize a unique airflow design that provides exceptional responsiveness and player control, superior amplification, and makes them ideal for a wide range of musical styles. They are designed to be both concert quality musical instruments and functional artwork.

The flutes are housed at our office in Danvers for anyone who is seriously interested in purchasing one (or all) of them. If you'd like to make an appointment to drop by and see them, please e-mail us at mcnaa@aol.com. Conversely, if you'd like to purchase one, based on the photo and description above, please e-mail us with your selection and we'll follow up with you via phone or e-mail. Funds raised from the purchases will go toward MCNAA's programs. We hope some of you will take this great opportunity to own and learn to play a flute or gift one to a loved one. Thank You. ■

DISCLAIMER: From what we know from our research, these flutes are NOT Native-made.