



MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS, INC.

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MCNAA TurtleTalk – July – September 2021

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MCNAA OFFICE!

The MCNAA office was opening up slowly to our members but with the rise in COVID-19 infections that began in June, we had to scale back again. However, we are still maintaining a physical presence by having a couple board members work from the office a few days a week. We are also meeting visitors outside who come by to pick up items they purchased or to drop off memberships or donations. Face masks are still worn for these short visits.

Despite the lack of planning live events like our auction, dances and pow-wows, our days are filled with other important work that keeps all of us very busy. Over the last three months, we:



- * Updated the Fundraising Sales Page on our website by adding additional donated items. Please take a look - www.mcnaa.org/for-salefundraiser
- * Packaged and mailed items that were purchased from the new fundraising web page.
- * Assisted a number of needy Native families and Elders – mailed food gift cards, and paid utility bills.
- * Worked on the Scholarship Program - e-mailed & received student applications and coordinated a virtual Meet & Greet for board members, students and parents.
- * Responded to many requests for speakers, panel discussions, and programs that are being planned for the October-November season.
- * Planned the next two book discussions and a craft-making afternoon.
- * Worked on routine tasks - memberships, bookkeeping, attended informational and training webinars, responded to e-mail inquiries, updated our social media pages, prepared for fiscal year end, etc. ■

BOARD MEETING HELD



On August 5, 2021, we held a virtual Board Meeting. Zoom was operated by Board Member Claudia Fox Tree and the meeting was chaired by Board President Burne Stanley-Peters.

Important matters that were discussed at length included the following:

- (a) 2021 Fall Scholarships Awards – the selection and award process, application deadline, and a virtual Meet & Greet date;
- (b) Office Lease - Board agreed to renew the office lease at 85 Constitution Lane in Danvers that expires at the end of October;
- (c) Out-door Social Gathering that was tentatively planned for the end of September was cancelled due to the on-going concerns surrounding the COVID-19 Delta Variant;
- (d) Autumn and Winter Book Discussions - dates, book titles, and prospective surprise guests were decided along with ideas for a late winter crafting afternoon using pre-made kits prepared by MCNAA volunteers.

It was great to see and work with this terrific team again. At our Autumn board meeting, we will work on updating our 5-year strategic plan. ■

Board Members

*Dawn Duncan, Claudia Fox Tree,
Kim Orben, Anthony Silva, and
Burne Stanley-Peters.*

Advisory Council Members

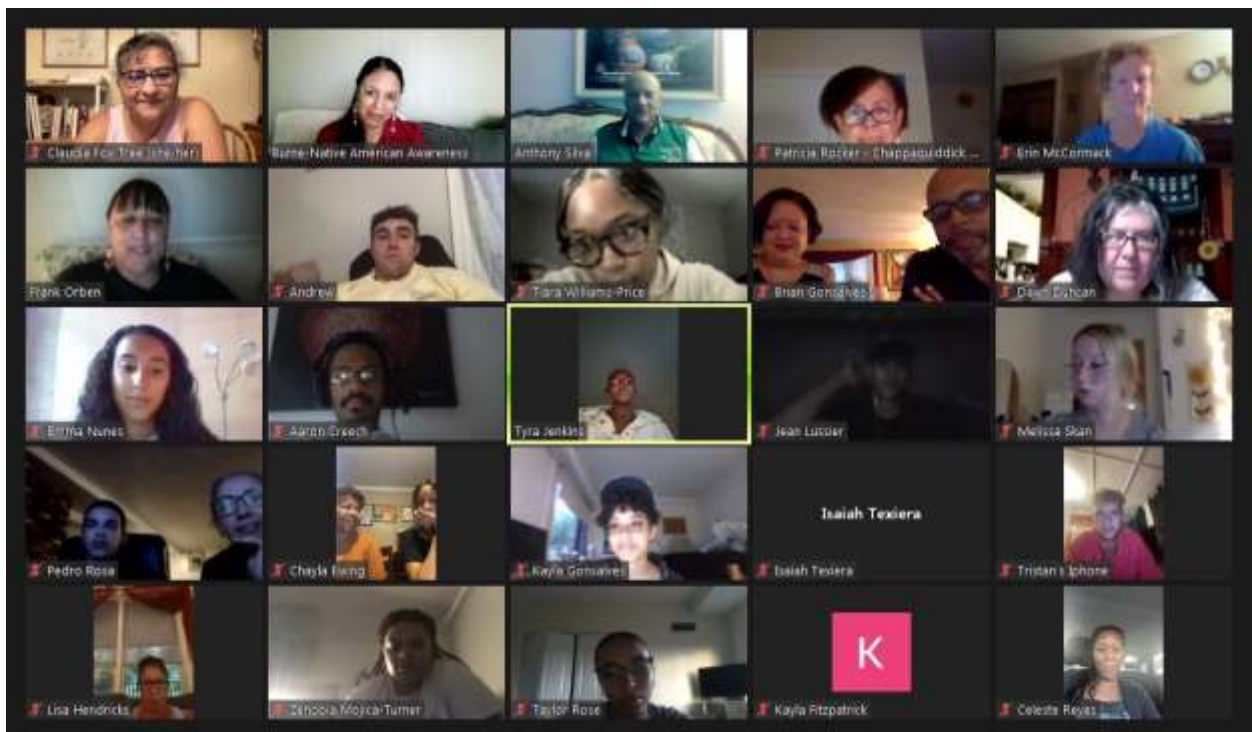
Eva Blake * Rick Pouliot
Erin McCormack * Patricia D. Rocker
Kate Yeomans.

VIRTUAL MEET AND GREET HELD FOR MCNAA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

by Board Member Anthony SkyHawk

On September 23, 2021 at 6PM, the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) held a virtual Meet and Greet for Native American students who are attending a Massachusetts state college this fall and applied for an award under MCNAA's Scholarship Program. This program is usually funded by our live fundraising auction, smaller silent auctions set up at other special events, and several oldies dances which were cancelled for the last two years due to COVID-19. But thanks to a grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, we were able to award \$20,000 in scholarships.

Although we were unable to meet the students in person as we have done over the years, we felt that it was important to continue to offer our support beyond scholarships. Therefore we invited all of the students and their parents to meet on zoom and speak with members of MCNAA's board and advisory council.



The program began with an introduction by our board member and designated host Claudia Fox Tree who introduced herself and gave a brief welcoming. After her introduction, all other members of the board as well as two of our advisory council members, Patricia Rocker and Erin McCormack, introduced themselves and congratulated the students as well as offered inspiration and continued assistance to all the students throughout their educational journey. It was emphasized to the students and their families that many of us have skills that we are

willing to share with the students. In fact, Erin, who is a former college teacher and writer, volunteered her writing skills to help students edit their essays, college applications, or academic papers. This is important because many students have the knowledge but sometimes find it difficult to put it on paper.

After introducing all of the MCNAA team, each student was asked to introduce themselves and speak about their major and educational goals and on a light-hearted note to reveal something that most people don't know about them. Although we expected some students might be shy, surprisingly, every student openly participated. This was the most encouraging part of the meet and greet as we were able to hear directly from the students. It was also encouraging to see a number of parents attending and showing their support.

We are pleased to announce the names of the up-and-coming leaders who were selected by the MCNAA Board of Directors to receive a scholarship for the 2021 Fall Semester. They are:

Tristan Araujo (Aquinnah Wampanoag), Bridgewater State University
Aaron Creech (Chappaquiddick Wampanoag), Bristol Community College
Chayla Ewing (Natick Nipmuc), U Mass/Dartmouth
Kayla Fitzpatrick (Mi'kmaq), Worcester State University
Kayla Gonsalves (Aquinnah Wampanoag), U Mass/Amherst
Tyra Jenkins (Nipmuc), U Mas/Lowell
Jean Lussier (Abenaki), U Mass/Lowell
Larry Mann (Nipmuc), U Mass/Amherst
Andrew McKinney (Mashpee Wampanoag), Bridgewater State University
Zenobia Mojica-Turner (Nipmuc), U Mass/Amherst
Emma Nunes (Mashpee Wampanoag), Fitchburg State University
Pedro Rose (Wampanoag-Dr. Waters Grandson) U Mass/Dartmouth
Taylor Rose (Mashpee Wampanoag), U Mass/Boston
Melissa Skan (Tlingit), Salem State University
Isaiah Texiera (Mashpee Wampanoag), U Mass/Dartmouth
Tiara Williams-Price (Nipmuc), U Mass/Lowell

We wish all these students success and invite them and their families to keep us aware of their progress toward their goals.

Congratulations to these incredible students. ■

*Success Is Personal, So Stop Comparing Your Apples
To Their Oranges. --Yohance Salimu*

COMING UP

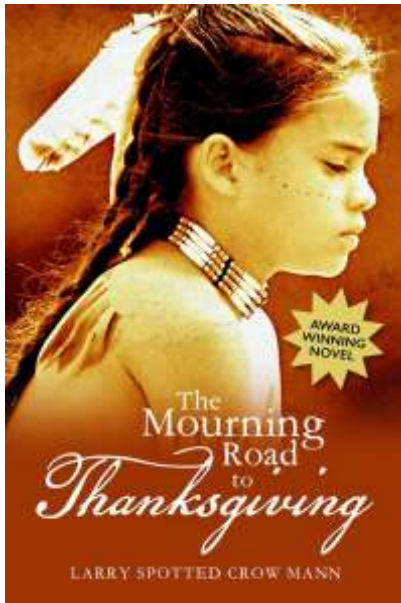
TWO VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSIONS – SAVE THE DATES.

by MCNAA Advisory Council Member Erin McCormack and MCNAA Member Xóchi Kountz

MCNAA is looking ahead to the Autumn and Winter seasons and is in the planning stages of two new virtual book talks. The titles and dates are as follows:

1. **The Mourning Road to Thanksgiving** by Larry Spotted Crow Mann, Nipmuc

Monday, November 1, 2021 at 5:00pm EST



On Monday, Nov 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM, MCNAA is hosting its third virtual book discussion on “The Mourning Road to Thanksgiving” by author and educator Larry Spotted Crow Mann, Nipmuc.

For the discussion, MCNAA has selected a book of fiction set closer to home in contemporary Massachusetts. Larry Spotted Crow Mann’s award-winning young adult novel looks at the conflicted emotions of a Native family as the Thanksgiving Day holiday approaches. One of the main characters decides to act on his opposition to the traditional Pilgrim celebration in a hilarious but powerful way. Other members cherish the idea of a day of family togetherness and feasting in a spirit of gratitude. Mann uses storytelling as a way of teaching some hard truths about Native American experience and passing on history that is not included in schoolbooks. How the characters

work out their feelings, and what actions they take, create the plot of this timely, provocative, and entertaining story. The book was named a WordCraft Circle of Honors winner in 2015.

Larry Spotted Crow Mann, citizen of the Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts, is an award-winning writer, poet, cultural educator, traditional storyteller, tribal drummer/dancer and motivational speaker involving youth sobriety, cultural and environmental awareness. A father of four, Mann is a frequent speaker and presenter for MCNAA, and also the co-director of the Ohketeau Cultural Center and Founder of the Native Youth Empowerment Foundation. He is also a former board member of the Nipmuc Cultural Preservation.

Larry has traveled throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and parts of South America sharing the culture, history, music, and beauty of his Nipmuc culture.

The event is open to all. If interested in joining the discussion, please RSVP at mcnaa@aol.com and a link will be e-mailed to you closer to the discussion date. ■

2. Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5pm EST



*“In the **Firekeeper's Daughter**, Daunis Fontaine’s life is split between two communities, that of her white French Canadian mother and the other of the Sugar Land Ojibwe Tribe of her late father. When Daunis witnesses a tragic murder, Daunis finds herself involved in an FBI investigation into drug trafficking in her community. However, the investigation will uncover secrets and threaten many people, including many she knows. In this thrilling and dynamic story, Boulley tells a tale that is suspenseful, insightful and emotionally complex.”*

In a few months, Erin and the team will create a more detailed summary of the book to include in the next issue of TurtleTalk. But in the meantime, please purchase the book if you don't already have it and plan to join us on January 24, 2022 for a discussion. ■

VIRTUAL CRAFTING AFTERNOON – SAVE THE DATE!

by Board Member Claudia Fox Tree

On Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2pm, MCNAA will offer a virtual Crafting Afternoon making a leather pouch from pre-made kits. This event is open to all ages (no needles are involved.) Participants will receive a pre-cut kit in the mail before the event.



People helping were: Maggie Day, Claudia Fox Tree, Xóchi Kountz, Bridget Scholnick, Julia Whiteneck, Jemfier Wolfrum, Laurel Wolfrum, and Sarah Wolfrum. (Some helpers were not captured here.)

In preparation for the afternoon, me, along with a small group of committed MCNAA friends (most pictured here), gathered outside one day and started to put together pre-made "craft kits" that will be shared with participants who register for the event. The group, using gifted leather and fur, got into a rhythm and great start - but found that plenty more work is needed before we complete enough kits and are "open for business" in March 2022 with kiddos for this virtual crafting.

If you or your child(ren) are interested in joining the crafting afternoon, please send an e-mail to mcnaa@aol.com and we will add you to the invitation list. A kit will be mailed to you and you will also receive the zoom link in advance of the March 2022 event. ■

INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD

by Burne Stanley with excerpts from obituaries and info reprinted from face book posts

It is with great sorrow that we share the news about a huge loss in the Native community. On Wednesday, August 4, 2021, another Native Warrior and respected Elder.....Dr. Herbert R. Waters, Jr., Colonel US Marine Corps (ret.) of North Dartmouth, MAleft on his spirit journey to join our ancestors. He was 90 years young.

Extremely proud of his Wampanoag heritage, Black Eagle, as he was known throughout the Native communities, was a long-time, valued member and supporter of Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA). Since its founding in 1989, there was hardly a MCNAA pow-wow that he did not attend. Despite his age, Dr. Waters was always one of the first dancers in the Circle and one of the last ones out.

But Dr. Waters' support of MCNAA went far beyond the pow-wow field! He attended and supported many other MCNAA programs and events including our yearly anniversary



celebrations, socials, and fundraising events, including our annual fundraising auction which he volunteered as the auctioneer a few times. His ability to communicate and engage the audience always assured a lot of spirited bidding and a profitable outcome.

In addition to supporting our cultural arts and fundraising events, Dr. Waters also presented Native American educational workshops during MCNAA's 6-week lecture series when they were held in several communities North of Boston in the 1990's. He was very knowledgeable about the topics that were selected and presented these learning experiences to our attendees in an insightful, meaningful way.

There is so much more about Dr. Waters that I'm sure many don't know. Here are some highlights of his long distinguished life:

- He graduated from Providence College in 1953 and dove head first into the U.S. Marines. He served for 14 months in the Korean War and worked his way up the ranks to the title of colonel, remaining in the Marine Reserves.
- As distinguished as his military career was, he is perhaps best known as the long-time principal of Carney Academy, where he developed a national reputation in urban education for setting high standards for personal accountability and academic performance.

- After his retirement as principal of Carney Academy, he went on to open and become the director of Carney Day Care, a safe learning environment for children in grades kindergarten through 6. He resigned as director about a year ago to officially enjoy retirement.
- He was appointed to the Commission on Indian Affairs on March 24, 1995 – 2012 representing Bristol County for 17 years;
- For many years he attended the National Day of Mourning where he read the message from political prisoner Leonard Peltier; and so much more. He was such an accomplished person!

He was an educator and inspirational leader who devoted his life to community, family, God, and country. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew and loved him.

Dr. Water's funeral was held in New Bedford on Thursday, August 12, 2021 followed by a burial in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, MA. ■

SUCH DEEP SADDNESS FOR THE BLAKE FAMILY.

There have been so many losses in the Native community with several that are connected to the Blake Family. It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of these family members:

Joseph Figueiredo Souza, Jr....also known by close family and friends as Zack, passed away on July 28, 2021, the day of his 83rd birthday. Zack was the husband of our good friend Dawn Blake-Souza. Dr. Souza was a graduate of New Bedford High School, Worcester State College, Troy State University and Heed University where he achieved the degree of Ph.D in Counseling Psychology. He served six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, followed by 21 years in the United States Air Force. He retired in 1983 at the rank of Captain. Throughout his military career, Zack served in France, Spain, and Panama. He further worked in Portugal and Italy in the service of the Portuguese Government.



Zack spent his retirement years volunteering for many organizations. He sat on the boards of the New Bedford Historical Society, North Star Learning Centers, and the Fort Rodman Military Museum. As an accomplished artist and musician, Zack would frequently donate his artwork to local non-profits. When they moved to Arizona, he became a regular at the Avondale Senior Center and would often entertain the members with his music. At MCNAA we remember him best at our annual oldies dances in Canton as well as at our auctions and anniversary celebrations. We remember with great love and fondness how he brought in, set up and played the electric piano at a number of our anniversary celebrations. As an artist, he painted

and donated a painting to one of our October auctions. He and Dawn were very supportive of MCNAA and were always ready to lend a helping hand.

Funeral services took place in Avondale, AZ, followed by cremation. His cremains were then interred at the U.S. National Cemetery in Bourne, MA at the end of September.



David A. Blake. David A. Blake, 68, of Gloucester and formerly of New Bedford passed away after a brief illness Friday, July 30, 2021 at Lahey Clinic in Burlington. Born in Acushnet and raised in New Bedford, he was the son of our long-time friend Alden “Windsong” Blake as well as the brother of MCNAA Advisory Council Member, Eva Blake. David graduated from New Bedford Vocational High School and served in the Army and later in the reserves for many years. He worked as a Corrections Officer for the Commonwealth of MA for over 15 years. David loved animals and enjoyed taking his dog to the dog park daily. He also enjoyed making models and painting. Calling hours were held on Friday, August 6, 2021 at the Donaghy New Day Cremation and Funeral Care in New Bedford. Cremation followed.

Donald Blake. On Friday, August 13, 2021, the Blake family suffered another loss of a beloved relative, Donald L. Blake. Donnie was the only son of Donald and Claudette (Carr) Blake. He was a lifelong resident of New Bedford and a graduate of New Bedford High School. After high school, Donnie spent time in the Navy on the U.S.S. Suribachi. His time at sea gave him the opportunity to meet and make friends with many who remained in his life today. When his service was over, Donald worked at the Department of Corrections as a corrections officer at Bridgewater State Prison until he retired in 2014. Donald was especially proud of his work with the Assonet Band of the Wampanoag where he served in ceremonies with tribal elders. An avid crafter, he created paintings and objects that celebrated his Native American heritage. In the early years, he was a fixture at MCNAA auctions in Middleboro; he also attended many MCNAA powwows and social events.



His wake was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Saunders-Dwyer Home for Funerals in New Bedford. A memorial service will be held in Donald's memory in the Fall. He will be missed dearly. ■

ANOTHER LOSS IN OUR CIRCLE – RICHARD FOURNIER.

We are sad to share the news that on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 Richard Fournier, 73 of Manchester, NH passed away at Catholic Medical Center after battling lung cancer for several years. He was the son of Raoul “Ralph” Fournier and Rosalie (Dionne) Fournier.



Richard was well known in the Pow-wow and Native Circles. He and his wife Cheryl, owners of the Micapache Bead Store in Manchester, NH, were long time vendors at the MCNAA pow-wows and many others in the region. He had also emceed a number of our pow-wows in the past, and more recently at the pow-wow held in Gray, Maine with Len Rose.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Cheryl; sons Eben Fournier Lowy of Camas, WA and Seth Fournier of Manchester as well as 3 grandsons. He is also survived by his siblings, Raymond Fournier and Pam Anderson of Florida.

Richard’s visitation was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at Phaneuf Funeral Homes and Crematorium in Manchester, NH. ■

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT MCNAA *BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR*

Many of you have noticed that on our membership application there is a section you can check-off that says *“I want to do more. Instead of the annual membership fee above, I want to pledge \$___ monthly.”* We have similar language on our website as well. We feel recurring gifts are a great way for our organization to receive funds on a regular basis to help more families and/or to put towards some of our other important initiatives.



In the spirit of “giving-back” all year round, we invite you as well as businesses, small and large, to help make a difference by joining the circle of monthly giving. We are a 32 year old, non-profit, tax exempt organization that can use additional support throughout the year. 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 click “reoccurring” or “make this a monthly donation.” Or you can mail a check monthly to the organization at: MCNAA, ATTN: Monthly Giving Circle, 85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3-B1, Danvers, MA. Thank you. ■