

# TURTLETALK NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of  
Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc.  
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WINTER 2007-08

**GOVERNING BOARD:** President: Burne Stanley-Peters; Board Members: Dawn Duncan, Claudia Fox Tree, Marie Levenson, Kim Orben, Anthony Silva, and Maria Wilkins.

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

**FOUNDER:** Burne Stanley-Peters

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:** Michael DaLuz, Jeannine Love, Anthony Silva, Burne Stanley and Medicine Story. ■

## MCNAA NEWS & INFORMATION

### BENEFIT AUCTION & RECEPTION

*by Anthony Silva*

On Sunday, October 28, 2007 MCNAA held its annual Benefit Auction and Reception at the Holiday Inn in Randolph, MA. The event is held to help raise money for its programs and to assist needy Native Americans in the Commonwealth. Many of our members and friends came but the mood of the event was somewhat dampened by the news of the loss of Mrs. Mary Waters, the wife of Dr. Bert Waters. Our prayers and condolences go out to the family.

As always, our auction is divided into two segments – a silent auction and a live auction. During the silent portion, individuals are able to anonymously bid (and re-bid) on items placed on tables in the back of the room. This was done day-long so that individuals who wanted an item could see if others had bid on it and try to out bid them before the bids were closed. This year's event saw some very intense bidding for many of the Native books, jewelry, baskets, artwork, etc.

The day began with a prayer Circle and opening remarks by our own Board Member, Claudia Fox Tree. However, without the services of our de-facto auctioneer.....Dr.

Waters... who is so skillfully adept at motivating people to dig deep we..... had to call upon Claudia's father... Fox Tree...to pinch-hit as the auctioneer which he did graciously. He employed his own style but was very effective in getting people to bid competitively. We thank him for his help.

Attendees were treated to the many tasty hors d'oeuvres and beverages available while socializing and completing their silent bids. In between the bidding, Fox Tree acknowledged the many Native clans who were present at different tables and asked that they stand and be recognized. Throughout the afternoon, tickets were sold for our 50/50 raffle which many people enjoy but the surprise was that the last person who came to the event Rob.... was the surprise winner. I suppose I don't want to encourage people to come late to any event but I guess what we find positive in this is that this individual arrived late opposed to not coming at all.

Many of the donated items that were bid on by our friends included a beautiful Pendleton blanket as well as a Woolen Bandoleer Bag, Loon Man Mask Sculpture, Edward Curtis Reproduction on Canvas and his Master Prints Book, Guest Passes to Plimoth Plantation, Red Sox Shirt, Medicine Wheel Necklace, and many other great items.

We look forward to this event again next year and hope that those of you who were unable to attend this year will come and socialize next year and support MCNAA programs. ■

## CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

*by Burne Stanley*

This past November 2007, during Nat'l Native American Heritage Month, MCNAA was not able to hold its annual event. It was strange not having an event in November because for over 18 years we've always acknowledged and celebrated this occasion by holding a pow-wow. We have been hosted throughout these years by such communities as Concord, Lincoln, and Medford. This year, we were not able to secure an affordable venue for the event. Not all was lost though. Two of our Advisory Committee members, Don Barnaby (affectionally called DonDon), and Anne Foxx were involved in an event hosted by the Native American Student Society (NASS) based at U Mass Boston. The group sponsored "A Day of Gathering: An Intertribal Social in Honor of Native American Heritage Month," on Friday, Nov. 16,, 2007. The event included guest speakers – Marge Bruchac, Shanadeen Begay, Anne Foxx, and Don Caplin. There was a traditional Mi'kmaq drum group called The Red Horse Drum that traveled all the way from Canada. The event was highlighted by Native American dancers, as well as ample food. It was free and open to the public. It was great that some of our members were part of another event that celebrated this occasion. Here's a photo, shared with us by DonDon, of some of the participants. ■



## INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD

### Mary Waters

**M**ary C. (Daluz) Waters, 78, of Dartmouth, passed into the Spirit World on October 26, 2007 at St. Luke's Hospital after a 2-year battle with breast cancer. She was the wife of Dr. Herbert R. Waters, Jr. who has a strong connection to MCNAA.



*Board Member Anthony Silva presents Mrs. Waters with an award & flowers.*

Born in New Haven, CT on March 5, 1929, she was the daughter of the late John and Camilla (Paris) Daluz. Mrs. Waters graduated from Hope High School in Providence, and later lived most of her life in Dartmouth. She was a devoted homemaker whose proudest accomplishment was raising a daughter and four sons. All five served in the military, throughout the United States and abroad. The four brothers all became Marine Corps officers.

Mrs. Waters enjoyed attending Cape Verdean events. She was also a devotee of Native American pow wows, socials, and other events. As you may recall, at MCNAA's 18<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration last April, we had the privilege of honoring this very Special lady and long-time MCNAA Member. It was great to see her along with her family.

For several years, Mrs. Waters helped deliver Christmas baskets and toys to Carney Academy children in New Bedford. She enjoyed spending time with her two grandsons, Pedro and Herbie Ray. A fan of local sports, she had one last special night at home before her passing, watching the Red Sox win another World Series game with her beloved family.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Herbert R. Waters Jr; five children: Colonel (Retired) Herbert Ray of Middletown RI; Michael of New Bedford, and Susan, Christopher, and Mark, all of Dartmouth. ■

### **To Everyone at MCNAA,** *by Jeannine Love*

**B**illy Love, aka "Little Iron Horse", aka "Cousin Billy" passed on to the spirit world on November 5, 2007 at 83 years of age, after having suffered a stroke. We had been living in New Mexico the past 2 years in our new home. Although we had moved to New Mexico, we have fond memories of so many people that we had met at the pow-wows back East, and many who became very close friends.

His last wishes were to be cremated and then to have his ashes scattered on the railroad tracks. Bill told many of you the story of him running away from home at the



Jeannine and Billy Love at MCNAA's 16<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration. *Photo by Ricky Simaratana*

age of 13. His mother had died the previous year and the family was going to put the 2 boys (him and George) in a state home. Bill decided he didn't want any part of that; so when it came time for him and George to be sent away, he hopped a freight train in Boston and he ended up in Gallup, NM. He eventually came home; and every time he got into trouble, he would jump on a freight train and head out west. (That's how he got his name "Little Iron Horse".) The family decided not to send him and George to a home after all and to let the Grandparents raise the kids. They figured Billy would just run away from the state home, which he would have done. I told him that his craziness kept his family together.

So trains had a special meaning to Bill – they represented freedom. He told me that he never felt as free as the times he rood on a flat bed with nothing in his pocket (sometimes a quarter) and no idea where he'd end up. He was definitely a fighter and a survivor.

On Sunday, November 25, my parents, Pam, Jeff, Johnny and I went to the place he had picked out in Bernalillo, which we found shortly after moving to New Mexico, to scatter his ashes. The train tracks are close to the Sandia Pueblo reservation with the Sandia Mountains in the background, and horses down the street. It was the perfect spot for Bill's last ride. I drive through Bernalillo every day to work; and when I hear the train whistle, I yell "Hi Bill".

We'll all miss him so much – his stories (and he had many), his laughter, his generosity, his strength and his big heart. ■

### **Mildred Noble**

*(Reprinted, in part, from an article received from the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB))*

**T**he fragrance of "Sweet Grass" will linger long after Mildred Noble is gone. It is the lasting impression she has willed to the next seven generations in the form of her activism, words, knowledge and sensibility, and her love of her family and Native people.

A proud and spiritual Ojibwa woman, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Millie died on January 19, 2008 in Mashpee, Massachusetts after having lived for many years in Boston. She was born in the Canadian bush country in 1921 and was the daughter of Ojibwa parents of the Whitefish River Band and of the Hudson Bay region. She was raised in a log cabin in Northern Ontario where her family lived off the land and by hunting and fishing.



She lived the second half of her life within the Native American community in the city of Boston where she was one of several founders of the Boston Indian Council. Now called the North American Indian Center of Boston, it was established in the early 1970s to provide services to indigenous people including a significant population of Micmac who migrated to the city from Canada. Millie worked in several capacities at the BIC multi-service center from 1972 through 1985.

She was instrumental in the development of the first Native American halfway house in the Boston area. Located in Jamaica Plain, Tecumseh House remains an active drop in center for Native people in recovery. Millie was very proud to have recently celebrated 26-years of sobriety.

She earned her degree from Boston College as a senior citizen and was inspired to author several writings including "Sweet Grass: Lives of Contemporary Native Women," a volume of stories including her own published in 1997.

She was nearly 60 when accepted as a student at the Woods College of Advancing Studies at Boston College where Millie met and was mentored by the dean of the school, Father James Woods. He inspired her to write and exposed her passion for storytelling.

Disappointed that she did not have the talent to sing lullabies to her grandchildren, Millie had always been a consummate storyteller sharing many stories and tribal legends of their ancestry to teach them traditions and values.

When she earned her degree from Boston College in 1987 the most important achievement for her was to become a role model for her grandchildren and other Native youth. She wanted desperately to communicate to them that education was a critical tool that they would need to effect positive change in their world.

In 1989, she earned a graduate certificate from the Urban Community Fellows program directed by Mel King at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During her time at MIT she developed a respectful relationship with the Mashpee Wampanoag community and produced a television program called "Wampanoag Women Speak."

During her fellowship at MIT, Millie returned to Canada and visited the Whitefish River Reserve, meeting many of her extended family members for the first time.

Before her retirement in the 1990s, she had the opportunity to return home to Canada one last time where she visited with Paibomasai relatives on Manitoulin Island where today one of her relatives is tribal chief.

In her retirement, Millie enjoyed painting, writing, going to powwows and spending time with her family to whom she was very devoted and her friends in the city of Boston.

Millie was known among her family and friends as a giver. Few are surprised by her final act of giving, donating her body to the Harvard Medical School for medical research.

She is survived by daughter Carol Mills of Mashpee, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial ceremony was held for Millie at the North American Indian Center of Boston on January 27, 2008. ■

## Floyd Westerman

Westerman was born on the Lake Traverse Reservation, home of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Dakota (Sioux) in the U.S. state of South Dakota. As a youth, he attended an off-reservation elementary school where he was forced to cut his hair and forbidden to speak his native language. This would profoundly impact his later life and his restless pursuit of championing his own heritage. At the age of 10, Westerman was sent to the Wahpeton Boarding School, where he first met Dennis Banks of the American Indian Movement.



Westerman's film and television appearances include the role of the "Shaman" for Jim Morrison in Oliver Stone's *The Doors* and as "Ten Bears" in *Dances with Wolves*. Westerman debuted in *Renegades* in which he played "Red Crow" the Lakota Sioux father of Lou Diamond Phillips. In his last film, Westerman appeared as Standing Elk alongside his long-time friend Max Gail in the 2006 family film, *Tillamook Treasure*. He can be seen as well in the beginning of *Hidalgo*, as the Chief in Buffalo Bill's circus. His television roles have included playing "Uncle Ray" on *Walker, Texas Ranger*, "One Who Waits" on *Northern Exposure* and multiple appearances as "Albert Hosteen" on the *X-Files*. In September 2007, Westerman finished work for the film *Swing Vote*.

Before his entrance in films and television, Westerman had established a solid reputation as a country-western music singer. His recordings offer probing analysis of European influences in Native American communities.

He earned a degree in secondary education from Northern State University in South Dakota. Westerman also spent two years in the United States Marine Corps. Westerman was also a recognized political advocate for Native American causes, working at times with the American Indian Movement. In 2000, American Indian Expo named Westerman celebrity of the year.

From 2003-2007, Westerman appeared in a number of television advertisements for "Lakota" brand topical pain reliever, often wearing traditional Native dress.

Westerman died on December 13, 2007 at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles after an extended illness and complications from leukaemia. ■

## WORKSHOPS OFFERED TO EDUCATORS BY MCNAA

MCNAA offers schools and organization, workshops on topics related to systems of oppression, multicultural curriculum, diversity in the workplace, and specifically teaching about Native Americans. Although focused on teacher education, topics are relevant to other groups and individuals and are able to be adjusted. A few are entitled:

(1) What You Didn't Think You Needed to Know Before Teaching About Native Americans

- (2) Transforming Classroom Lessons to Create Culturally Relevant Classrooms
- (3) Race, culture, and achievement: What Strategies make the Connection?
- (4) Talking About Race and Racism
- (5) Intelligence and the Academic Achievement Gap
- (6) We CAN learn from each other! Peer Visits - A Model
- (7) Being An Ally Across Systems of Oppression
- (8) Workshops on specific Nation/Tribes: Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Arawak/Taino and others

The workshops run from 3 – 6 hours depending on your request. If your school or organization is interested in scheduling a workshop on any of these topics or any topic related to Native Americans, please contact us for further information and pricing. 617-642-1683 or mcnaa@aol.com ■

## MCNAA'S WISH LIST

Donations of all types needed!

by *Kim Orben*

- Reams of copier paper
- New computer with flat panel monitor
- Postage stamps
- 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.
- A Building - Donate a useable building for MCNAA's permanent administrative offices and programs. Certain tax benefits may apply.
- We will also accept a parcel of land that will 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.
- A travel trailer or motor home to be used as an on-site office, resting place, at MCNAA pow-wows. ■



## NEWS AND EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

### METTANOKIT'S END OF YEAR REPORT

by *Medicine Story* (Reprinted with Medicine Story's permission.)

*(Below is a prelude to his full report. The full report can be found at: [www.circleway.org](http://www.circleway.org). Please read it in its entirety and see photos for 2007.)*

I am tired, I confess. Every summer for the past twenty three years during five months I have run around through many countries to bring the teachings of our elders to people who are searching and asking for help. During the rest of the year I bring those teachings to circles in eight prisons here in New England. This year our

travels extended to six months, and now I am at home again in our birch cottage in the woods feeling very tired. I see the faces of my elders, long gone from this world, watching me. Always I am asking do I do right still? And their eyes look on me with patient affection and their smiles are approving. They seem to be saying, "It is well. You have done much. There are people listening. When the time comes for you to join us, there will be others to pass on the teachings." But it is not time for me to stop. When it is time the Creator will stop me and give me rest. I see so much need. Our Earth needs every human heart and mind to work together on her healing and restoration. All life on this planet now depends on what we do or do not do. And human beings have not yet learned how to live in harmony with each other and to give back to Creation for the gift of themselves. The answers to all these needs are clear in the teachings of our elders which it is my work to preserve and bring to all who seek and ask.

So I cannot stop yet. Most of the world has not heard of this wisdom still. There are other elder natives of the First Nations who know and are bringing this knowledge to today's troubled world, but we are still few in proportion to the world's population and the immensity of the problems it faces. Their messages should be taught in every school, woven into all the stories of every culture, into the books and films and television and into the consciousness of every person. There are as yet no young people of my own nation who have sought this task to save the world. Perhaps that is my fault. I must continue, for our elders, our ancestors, to say it better than I have, clearer and more simply, to confront ignorance with knowledge, despair with hope for us all, for the ones to come, the unborn generations. ■

## **HAFFENREFFER MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, BROWN UNIVERSITY**

300 Tower Street  
Bristol, RI 02809

### **MUSEUM EXPEDITIONS, GRADES K - 12**

These in-depth, two-hour programs engage all five senses as students learn about people and cultures, past and present, in a fun and informal format. Most sessions include a craft. There is a maximum of 48 students per session or 30 for "Dig It!"  
Museum Expeditions schedule:

January - March, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., weekdays only)

Native People of the Arctic: The Alaskan Eskimo

On this tour, students learn about the importance and role of technology for survival in the Arctic, play Yup'ik and Inupiaq games, see a real *inuksuk* built by Inuit artist Peter Irniq, and visit a replica hunting camp to learn about culture, society and nature in the Arctic!

April - June, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., weekdays only

Native People of the Plains

Learn about the lifeways of the Plains Indians, sit in our onsite tipi and think about what life was like on the Plains in the 1700s. Discover the importance of the buffalo to the Plains people, and gain insights into the reservation system and its impact on Native Americans. Learn about contemporary Lakota community life.

To book a program, call the Museum at 401-253-8388. ■

## **MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER**

110 Pequot Trail  
Mashantucket, CT 06338

### Upcoming Programs and Events

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 1-3 pm

#### Dale Carson's Buffalo Stew

Members Only. Join cookbook author Dale Carson (Abenaki) as she makes buffalo stew—and get a taste of the savory dish, too. Copies of her books are available for purchase and signing. \$20 per person. RSVP to Sarah Eleazer at (860) 396-6890.

Monday, Feb. 18, 2008 11 am-12:15 pm

#### Icebreakers: Exploring Global Warming

Join archaeologist Dr. Russ Handsman as he explores solar radiation and reflection, volcanic eruptions (really fun!) and the greenhouse effect. We supply the materials and the safety goggles. For 8–12 year olds and their families. \$15/\$10 for Museum members. Call (800) 411-9671 to register.

Tuesday & Thursday, Feb. 19, 21, 11 am & 1 pm

#### Meet Atka, the Arctic Gray Wolf

Get up close and personal with Atka, a full grown Arctic wolf. Learn the importance of predators in healthy ecosystems, and about the nationwide efforts to save this species for future generations. Free with Museum admission, free for Museum members.

Tuesday & Thursday, Feb. 19 & 21, 11 am-3 pm

#### Know Your Predators

After meeting Atka the Arctic wolf, person to predator, stop by the Discovery Cart to learn more about various animals, including the Eastern coyote and red fox, that Native Americans depended on for survival. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members.

Sunday, Feb. 24–April 27, 2008 10 am-4 pm

#### EarthWorks: Virtual Explorations of the Ancient Ohio Valley

This new exhibit lets you experience how virtual technology brings the ancient earthen constructions of the Ohio Valley to life. Native American cultures that flourished in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and West Virginia erected enormous geometric and animal-shaped earth works that often rivaled Stonehenge in their astronomical accuracy. Free with Museum admission, free to Museum members. Staff-led tours on weekends at 2 pm start March 1.

EarthWorks is a traveling exhibition from the University of Cincinnati Center for the Electronic Reconstruction of Historical and Archaeological Sites program produced in conjunction with the Cincinnati Museum Center and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 11 am-1 pm

#### Members-Only Exhibit Preview

Members Only. Special preview for Museum members of EarthWorks includes opening remarks by Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone tribal elder, and continental breakfast in the Museum Café. Breakfast from 11 am–noon, preview from noon–1 pm. \$15/\$10 for children under 12. RSVP to Sarah Eleazer at (860) 396-6890 by Feb. 19. ■

## FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBER

by Burne Stanley

**W**ell, it's official. Kim Orben and family will be moving out of state. They will journey to California and set up their new life there for about a year. After a year they plan to move permanently to North Carolina. The move will take place at the end of January. This may seem like a very quick move/decision but they have been discussing a move out of Massachusetts for years. If you recall, they had planned to move to Florida a few years ago but because of Hurricane Katrina, they lost the lease on the house they were going to move into. After that happened, Kim felt that the time wasn't right for them to leave.



Kim Orben, MCNAA Board Member  
Photo by Steve Sodano

For those of you who don't know Kim..... she is a current MCNAA Board Member and former MCNAA President. She works very hard for the organization and is a dedicated member of our Board. Her relocating out of state will be a tremendous loss to MCNAA and it will be difficult to replace the help that she and husband, Frankie, give us at our pow-wows and special events.

A "Farewell Party" was held for them recently.....a send-off in which they enjoyed. It was good to see them dancing the night away, chatting with friends, and enjoying a great meal. Kim always has a good time no matter where she goes. We are all very sad that they are leaving! She and Frankie will be missed alot by many. ■



## MCNAA CALENDAR (for the beginning of 2008)

2008

Sat., Jan. 26 Annual Pot-luck Feast and Social, VFW, 30 Station Street (off Route 105), Middleboro, MA 5PM

Sun., Apr. 6 MCNAA's 19<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration, Luncheon Buffet, and Silent Auction, Holiday Inn, off Route 128, Randolph, MA 1PM

May 24-25 Spring Pow-wow, Marshfield Fairgrounds, 140 Main St. (off Route 139), Marshfield, MA

May 31-June 1 Spring Planting Moon Pow-wow, Topsfield Fairgrounds, Route 1, Topsfield, MA ■