Dear Members: This is a brief update to keep you informed on what we have been doing for the past several months and what is coming up. It highlights the results of our events and activities from the beginning of January through the end of March 2018.

**MCNAA News Brief – Spring 2018**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - CONNECTIONS**

**INDIGENOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS – in brief**

Board Member Tony Silva and several members of MCNAA attended a lecture at Brandeis University on Thursday, January 18, 2018 presented by the Dean of Students Office & the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The event was entitled “Indigenous and Environmental Rights: Conversation and Stories with Rev. M. Kalani Souza”.

Prior to the presentation, Dr. Souza invited Board Member Anthony Silva, and Yale Assistant Director of the Native American Cultural Center Kapiolani Alyce Laronal, for an intimate discussion.

Dr. Souza is a gifted storyteller, singer, songwriter, musician, film director and producer, poet, philosopher, priest, political satirist, peacemaker, mediator, and educator. A Hawaiian Practitioner and Cross-Cultural Facilitator, he has experience in promoting social justice through conflict resolution. Tony reports that this was a very enlightening discussion.
HARVARD LATINX LAW CONFERENCE: ADVOCATING ACROSS COMMUNITIES – *in brief*

Board Member Claudia Fox Tree represented MCNAA at a conference at Harvard Law School on **Saturday, February 10, 2018**. The topic was "Advocating Across Communities: Shared Identities, Struggles, and Imaginations".

Claudia writes….. “What ties Latinx and Indigenous people together? Saying, “I am Native American” is different than saying, “I have indigenous roots” - which has a different governmental relationship. Don’t confuse your indigenous identity with the legal aspects of federal government definitions and control.”

This past year has been an important and historic moment for Latinx and Indigenous communities alike. In the midst of great uncertainty and, at times, open hostility, they wanted to provide a space for dialogue and skill development that would transform this moment into one of opportunity and empowerment for Latinx and Indigenous lawyers and law students across the nation.

**BOOK TOUR – Lisa Brooks – *in brief***
*by Erin McCormack, MCNAA Member*

“In her magisterial and momentous account of King Philip’s War, Lisa Brooks imaginatively exposes not only the complex brutalities of colonialism, but also the brilliant strategies of Native resistance and adaptation” – Tiya Miles, author of the Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits.

On **February 22, 2018**, Lisa Brooks (Abenaki and Polish), professor and author, was at Harvard to speak about her new book, “Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War” – in the very location where one of the subjects of her book, James Printer (Nipmuc) worked at the Indian College in the 1600’s, and where she herself dove into the historical
archives as a student a decade ago – remarking that there was still a law on the books that, “No Indian go about after six in the evening.” Up through the time of the war in 1675-76, the Indian College was a remarkable place of classical, multi-lingual education where Indian and English youth studied together with a mandate to go forth to educate – and Christianize - their own communities. One impact of assimilation of Indians into the Christianized “Praying Villages” was a new consideration of benefits to individual families, rather than in relation to the kin-group or wider networks. The “Beloved Kin” Brooks refers to are the Nipmucs who came from north and west to convince their relations from one of the Praying Villages to come away with them, rather than trust their English protectors. Ultimately, those who stayed loyal to the colonists were rounded up and sent to Deer Island in Boston Harbor, only to perish, while those who fled were able to re-group in new places with other indigenous peoples, while keeping alive their own histories.

MORE THAN A WORD DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & Q&A
by Claudia Fox Tree, Board Member

I was honored to represent the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) at Milton High School for a screening of “More Than a Word” on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The event was moderated by Cedric Woods, UMASS/Boston Institute for New England Native American Studies. The screening was followed by a discussion.

I was able to share some of what I know about dismantling the use of Native American mascots. MCNAA has a statement against the use of Native American mascots and imagery on the website and actively educates on the topic.

The people who were there represented the social activist groups in towns with mascots (Quincy, Tewksbury, Malden, Turner Falls, etc.), so, as you can imagine, it wasn’t an enormous turnout - but WOW, there are people/allies in so many towns trying to make this happen. The film was great and very current about the history of the issue, up to the “Slants” victory in court and how that impacted the R*dskin trademark fight, and it ended with hope.

The conversation was inspiring and great points were made during the public commentary that I want to share with you:

Cedric Woods, UMASS/Boston Institute for New England Native American Studies, Moderator

· May, 2016 Massachusetts formed a group to look at these issues.
· Indigenous people make up one half of 1%, so we need our allies: engagement, education, alliance building
· There is a call to have Native American education infused into the curriculum. This exists in some states, but not Massachusetts
· Indigenous erasure has been so successful, we need our allies
People who want to keep mascots are not fearful of change, but of what they are going to lose.
The worst phrase we can hear is, “We’ve always done it this way.”

Like in Black Panther, I try to envision a world where everyone looked like me. Where other people wouldn’t try to get me to identify as who they think. Mascots are not a part of that picture.
The Nipmuc Nation has a statement about the misrepresentation.
Learn about the indigenous people from your area first.
Look for street names in your town.
Look for herbs and local medicines.
Mascots can’t be changed without education.
The research shows that this is damaging to native youth.

It’s not about honor and respect.
It’s about power and entitlement (for non Indians).
It’s about having what you want when you want it (for non Indians).
Mascots are the war we, indigenous people, are now fighting.

22% of indigenous people live on reservations – many reservations don’t have clean water, among other things – Being called Indian or Native American, or engaging in the mascot fight is not the priority.
Yes we need education, 78% do not live on reservation, we need our voices heard and we need allies.

Tried to support at local level with support of superintendent but school committee voted against.
Then went to state senator who didn’t support it, but brought it up (as required).
It has begun awareness and conversations.

There is a distinction between private organizations and public schools (Schools are breaking the law by creating a hostile school environment).
We need to update language and include indigenous people in the writing of the next version of the bill.
Laurel Davis-Delano works at Springfield college
- Has worked on this issue for 30 years
- Works particularly on strategy
- Made herself available to others who needed citations
- There is not one native “culture,” there are “cultures”
- Native People are not a homogeneous culture
- Referred Netflix film from Wisconsin – Understanding the Harm

John Swan from Winchester, Chippewa Cree
- Mascots are one thing and lack of education in the school is another
- How do we bring out more dialogues into the community?

Next steps?
- We need to find contemporary leaders
- We need to add contributions
- We need to connect with towns that don’t have the mascots and get there support.

**Board Meetings Held – brief results**

At our **January 15, 2018** board meeting: 1) Burne gave an overview of last years’ activities and programs as well as governance initiatives taken. 2) Based on the new 2018 focus of co-sponsoring and partnering with more North Shore organizations, and the lack of (young) staff and volunteers to help with some of the laborious events, board members discussed and decided on which events we will hold and not hold in 2018. 3) Because this September (2018) will be our 30th year at Plug Pond, Haverhill, we discussed plans for expanded and special activities for the pow-wow. 4) We discussed our delight in receiving a $30K grant from the Boston Foundation. 5) Future funding opportunities were discussed. Also, Board Member Claudia Fox Tree, who is involved with the planning of a conference of another organization, gave an update on its progress. This is a very interesting concept and a fundraising opportunity MCNAA might adopt next year.

At our **February 21, 2018** board meeting: 1) the updated student scholarship application was reviewed and discussed. A few edits were made. 2) Board Member Claudia Fox Tree gave a verbal report on the conference she attended at Harvard Univ. 3) Board Members Tony Silva and Kim Orben gave updates on plans for the Spring Planting Moon Pow-wow in Marshfield and the Intertribal Pow-wow in Haverhill. The updates covered some new proposed activities as well as getting additional volunteer help. 4) Future funding opportunities were discussed and included training for Giving Circles by Board Member Dawn Duncan. 5) Board Members were in accord with MCNAA being one of the co-sponsors of the Annual Genocide Walk again.
Leadership Team members and Advisory Council members will attend Essex County Community Foundations’ first regional Arts & Culture Summit. It will take place at the Cabot Theatre in Beverly, MA on Friday, April 13, 2018. The purpose of the summit is to introduce ECCF’s Creative County Initiative – a new way of collaborative thinking about the future of arts and culture in Essex County. We will keep you informed.

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, we will hold our Annual Oldies-But-Goodies Spring Fundraising dance at the American Legion Function Hall in Canton, MA. The dance will benefit our scholarship program.

The Mass. Center for Native American Awareness will, again, be one of the many co-sponsors of the Annual Genocide Walk on Sunday, April 22, 2018. The event will begin at 1:30 PM at the Holocaust Memorial in Boston for a gathering and speakers followed by a walk to the Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway for a closing program.

Board Member Claudia Fox Tree will represent the organization on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the upcoming “Anti-Racism Organizing in the Suburbs” event. It will be held in Melrose at the First United Methodist Church from 9:30AM-5PM.

On Wednesday, May 16, 2018, MCNAA will attend and perform at the Grantee Gala Reception at the Haverhill Citizen’s Center in Haverhill. The Gala is a night to honor the 2018 grantees of the Haverhill Cultural Council.
We are in the process of lining up participants and finalizing plans for our Annual Spring Planting Moon Pow-wow. It will be held at the Marshfield Fairgrounds in Marshfield on the weekend of **May 26 and 27, 2018.**

We are planning a Wild Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk this summer in the North of Boston area. This will be co-led by long time member and friend Russ Cohen, a Naturalist and Wild Foods Enthusiast who is familiar with many locations available to the public in Essex County. We will be accompanied by member Hoban Sanford and some of other Elders living in the area who will be able to offer their lifelong experiences as well. We will be reaching out to our youth to participate in the walk as well. Currently we are looking at dates in **June and July,** so please look for an update soon.

**Special Delivery**

After our Board Meeting on **Monday, January 15, 2018,** two special gifts were hand delivered to us by our good friends and MCNAA members, Hoban Sanford and Norma Obert. These treasures were a direct testament to the generosity of friends Jeanne Dancing Butterfly and Gene Shadow Dancer of Amesbury, MA. Jeanne and Gene moved into a smaller apartment and wanted to share a few of the gifts they did not have space for. Hobie and Norma good-heartedly agreed to deliver them to the MCNAA office in Danvers.

One of the items is a beautiful picture of 6 of our warriors that was transferred onto aluminum. The other is a bust of a warrior that reminded Jeanne of Slow Turtle that she wanted to gift to Burne and have a presence in the office.

A big ‘thank you’ to Jeanne and Gene for these beautiful treasures; and to Hobie and Norma for always making themselves available to do ‘good’ in the community.
Members of the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness are sad to hear about the recent passing of another Elder and community member - Mary Anne Hendricks. As her daughter Deedy Wyman reports – “The Hendricks-Thomas family is heartbroken to announce the passing of Natick Nipmuc Sachem, and our beloved mother, Mary Anne Hendricks, who started her transition to the spirit world early this morning 3/9/18. She lived a long 88 years on this earth and had much to contribute, making an impact on so many who knew her.” Deedy added that her Mom “influenced, educated, supported, fought for, and advocated for so many people, communities, and values. She was active on the Columbia Point Action Council many years ago. Her involvement in the Boston Teachers Union helped give paraprofessionals a voice. Her dedication to the improvement and recognition of Native American issues was undying. For more than 20 years, she was the Natick Nipmuc Sachem who saw to it that we would not forget the tragedy that occurred on Deer Island in 1675, (the internment of more than 500 Indians on Deer Island) by making sure we would continue our annual Deer Island Memorial Sacred Run and Paddle. She often paid out of pocket to help pay for the expense of this, e.g. payment for Harbor Police escort, food and location rentals. Again I would like to thank you all, for your condolences and prayers. She was a great Mom and a wonderful woman. Everyone’s words of kindness, thoughts and prayers, have made me happier knowing that she touched so many lives.”

Mary Ann was the grandmother of Kristen Wyman and Marcus Hendricks (to name a few) whom we have known for years. She was also the mother of Michele Phelan, Deedy Wyman, Winona “Noni” Hendricks, and Teddy Hendricks. Pictured to the right is Mary Ann speaking at a past MCNAA Anniversary Celebration at the Holiday Inn in Randolph, MA. We knew her well and in the late 90’s and early 2000’s she attended a lot of our functions in Randolph at the Holiday Inn and at Lombardo’s. Aside from the meetings she attended at the Mass. Commission on Indian Affairs, one of the vivid times I remember Mary Anne is when she attended MCNAA’s very first Fundraising Auction at the old Best Western in Waltham in 1998. She came with her niece Pam (Ellis). Mary Ann will be deeply missed by everyone she touched.
Please check our website and Facebook page for our confirmed event dates. You will also find a list, on our website, of area events promoted by other organizations and individuals. Thank you!

Thank you all for taking the time to read our brief news. We hope you found some of the information interesting and/or useful. Look for our next update around the middle of July 2018. We want to thank you for being part of our organization and your connection to us.

-- Burne and The MCNAALeadership Team

**JOIN THE TEAM**

We are still looking for fresh voices to complement our current Board of Directors, and a few new voices for our Advisory Council. If you have a strong connection to our organization and support our mission, please consider joining the Board to share your expertise with us. For more details and to be considered, e-mail Tony at mcnaa3@aol.com. He’ll discuss the positions with you.

**Current Board Members:**

Dawn Duncan  
Claudia Fox Tree  
Kim Orben  
Anthony Silva  
Burne Stanley-Peters

**Upcoming Events**

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - Ralph Waldo Emerson*
Membership Application

Membership Benefits include: Discount on admission to MCNAA pow-wows. • Discount on MCNAA’s t-shirts and merchandise. • The annual listing of area pow-wows and special events • Updates, via e-mail, on upcoming events, Native news and issues.

I’d like to become a member of the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA). I understand that membership is open to everyone and that I don’t have to be Native American to attend any event or to help with any of the items of interest I’ve checked off below. I further understand that before the date of expiration MCNAA will send me a renewal invitation.

I’d like to renew my membership with the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA). My Membership Number is: #__________

____ Elk $20       __ Wolf $30       ___ Buffalo $75       ___ Bear $100
___ Deer $150     __ Hawk $250     ___ Turtle $500-Lifetime ___ Eagle $1,000-Lifetime

I want to do more. Instead of the annual membership fee above, I want to pledge $_________ monthly. I understand I can make payment each month by credit card, my PayPal account, or by mailing in a check to MCNAA.

I don’t mind if someone from MCNAA calls/leaves a message to remind me of membership renewal, upcoming events and activities; or for auction donations, year-end donations, etc.

My interest is in (check all that apply):

___ Attending pow-wows, gatherings, craft workshops & learning about the Native culture. The last MCNAA Pow-wow I attended was in the City/Town of _________________________________.
___ Attending spiritual talking circles, spiritual gatherings, and/or friendship circles.
___ Attending meetings on social change/justice issues and being part of rallies & peaceful marches.
___ Knowing about & attending educational workshops, lectures, and other learning experiences.
___ Volunteering at MCNAA events. ___ Volunteering at the Danvers Office
___ Including the MCNAA in my will/estate plans.
___ I just want to show support for the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness and its mission.
___ Other (please explain): ____________________________________________________________

Name ________________________________ Date of Birth ____________
Address _____________________________ Apt. # ________________
City ________________ State __________ Zip Code ____________
Tel #: Home (__________) ________________ Cell (__________) ________________
E-mail address: (please print clearly) ___________________________________________________
Tribal Affiliation (only if applicable) ___________________________________________________

I’m on face book and am a ‘Friend of the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness’ page.

Please make check payable to: MCNAA and mail to: P.O. Box 5885, Boston, MA 02114-5885.

For Office Use Only: Exp. Date: __________ Date Rec’d __________ CK # __________