Dear Members: It has been an uplifting and exciting three months of events and activities. This newsletter will provide updates for the quarter covering July 2019 through September 2019. It will give you insights into the good work we continue to do and the connections we maintain with individuals and other organizations in the area.

**MCNAA Newsletter – Autumn 2019**

**What We’ve Been Doing at the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness**

- Several members of the Leadership Team attended a meeting at the Pingree School in S. Hamilton with school officials on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. We discussed the logistics for our upcoming Nat’l Native American Heritage Month Pow-wow on Sat., Nov 2nd that is being held in partnership with the School.

- Board Member Anthony Silva attended an event in Haverhill, MA on August 7, 2019 entitled “Arts and Cultural Asset Mapping in the Merrimack Valley”. Read more on page 2.

- Four members of the MCNAA Leadership Team attended Essex County Community Foundations’ Arts and Culture Summit at the Cabot Theatre in Beverly on Friday, September 27, 2019. Read more on pages 4 and 5.

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**Board Members**

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

**Advisory Council Members**

Eva Blake * JulieAnn Corbin * Rick Pouliot * Patricia D. Rocker * Kate Yeomans.
The Value of Arts & Culture - Mapping Our Assets in the Merrimack Valley
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

On Wednesday, August 7, 2019 I attended a workshop, entitled Arts and Cultural Asset Mapping in the Merrimack Valley. The session was held at the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub located in Haverhill and led by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission who received a grant from the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF).

During this free kickoff event, key officials from several community planning organizations outlined a plan to identify, connect and map the people, places, organizations and events that reflect the history, values and culture of the Merrimack Valley’s 15 Essex County communities. More than 50 people, including area artists, planners, nonprofits, government officials, community members and others attended this kickoff event.

The audience was broken down into smaller brainstorming group sessions to highlight art and culture assets in their communities. The groups were then able to report out and discuss what they found most important in their communities. This gave me an opportunity to point out the many influences of the Native American culture that helped shape the entire area and the importance of maintaining presence in any arts and cultural planning. I further highlighted the positive impact that our Pow-wow at Plug Pond has in bringing thousands of people to Haverhill for over 30 years. This was acknowledged by many of the people in the session as they have attended over the years and continue to return.

MCNAA hopes to continue attending all of these planning sessions in the future.

This asset mapping project is part of ECCF’s Creative County Initiative.

IF YOU ARE MOVING – RELOCATING
If you are moving and clearing out extra items that you cannot take with you or that you want to pass on, please keep us in mind to donate any Native American or non-Native items to. We will arrange to pick up your clean, mildly used treasures for our auctions.
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ANNUAL POW-WOW AT PLUG POND

-Celebrating 31 Years!
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

We had a great time at our Annual Intertribal Pow-wow at Plug Pond on the weekend of September 7-8, 2019. In addition to our regular programming – intertribal dancing, storytelling, craftmaking, interactive workshop, the pow-wow passport program, kayak rides, Native games, visits inside the teepees, traditional craft demonstrations – we had a number of activities that highlighted this year’s pow-wow. They included a memorable educational dance performance by the Kasibahagua Taino Cultural Society members of New York City; and an honor song for Sly Fox Oakley, Steve Sodano, and Clarence Wixon—three great warriors who passed into the spirit world late last year.

We also received a special visit from Representative Andy Vargas of Haverhill (left). He presented us with a Recognition Citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives congratulating us on celebrating 31 years at Plug Pond. Board Member Anthony Silva accepted the citation on behalf of the organization.

Cameron Jacobs, Cheyenne River Sioux, came to the Pow-wow (pictured below with Claudia.) He is a recent scholarship recipient and stopped by to thank the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness for its support. I brought him over to meet Board Member Claudia Fox Tree who was the only other Board Member on site who was available at the time to meet this new student. It is always good for us to meet some of the Native student’s we are helping and to chat with them awhile. Also, Aaron Creech, Chappaquiddick Wampanoag, was at the pow-wow and stopped by to say hello. He is a current student and has received a MCNAA scholarship in the past as well as this year. It was great to see him and his Dad again. (I didn’t have the camera ready to take their picture at the time.)
A SITE VISIT TO LAND IN Haverhill
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

On September 18, 2019, MCNAA Board Members Anthony Silva, Kim Orben, Burne Stanley, along with Advisory Committee Member Patricia Rocker and MCNAA Advisor Hoban Sanford met with the land owner and made a site visit to a plot of land in Haverhill that is being offered to our organization as a donation by this former MCNAA member.

The land is in a wooded area but offers a view of the Merrimack River during certain times of the year. Because the lot is off a paper road and abuts a number of other undevelopable lots it is unlikely that housing or other buildings will take place thereby leaving a lot of natural vegetation in the area. It will be an ideal site for weekend gatherings.

After walking the land and some preliminary discussions on site, it was felt that we as Native People should always consider accepting an opportunity when others are willing to return lands to the original keepers. In the end, if Native people gain back even a little piece of their former homeland or original Native territory, this is a step in the right direction as thousands of acres of land have been taken from tribes and from Native people for centuries. Healing starts with taking responsibility for the beginning.
We have seen a number of cases recently where lands were returned/donated back to tribes or Native American organizations. Read about a few:

In 2016, Dr. Larry Buell, founder of University of the Wild, donated a 2.5 acre tract of land in Petersham, MA to the Nipmucs. He said it was a small step toward addressing some of the injustices suffered by area Native Americans.

Feb 2018 - Returning Stolen Land to Native Tribes, One Lot at a Time. A quarter-acre of land in Oakland, California was returned to Native hands, bringing a sense of place and healing to the Ohlone people.

Sept 2018 – New Jersey couple donated their land to Native Americans whose ancestors once called it home. Jim and Margaret Hogan bought a historic piece of rural Burlington County for $9,000 in 1973. The wooded 1½-acre lot had once been part of a storied community called Brotherton — the first and only reservation for indigenous people ever established in what is now New Jersey.

Sept. 2019 – An Atlanta based Ministry returned sacred land to Wyandotte Nation. After 176 years, the United Methodist Church in Ohio returned the lands. It had been held in trust for 176 years by the UMC’s Global Ministries.

If you or someone you know owns a piece of property/real estate and are thinking that perhaps it should be returned to the original Peoples -- a Native organization, group, or tribe -- let your heart speak and contact us. We are open to receiving it and being the new stewards of the land. We have many uses in mind for any returned land. Some, by nature, will be conserved, some will be considered for building our Center, some for weekend youth gatherings, three sisters garden, etc.

This Haverhill land offer will be discussed further at our next board meeting on October 9, 2019 where we will make a formal decision as a team. We will consider any restrictions that might come with the transfer and decide if the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness will accept this piece of land that sits in the area of what was once known as Pentucket.
UNITED NATION'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE EVENT IN BOSTON
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

Board Member Kim Orben and her husband Frankie set up an information table at the U.N. International Day of Peace held on Boston Commons on Sunday, September 22 2019. This 10th annual celebration focused on the United Nations’ theme for the 2019 Climate Action for Peace and the need for peace with justice for all in our community and around the world.

Dawn Duncan, who was part of the planning team (as well as a MCNAA Board Member) was amongst a host of presenters who spoke at the event. She opened with a tribal land acknowledgement statement and spoke about “It’s Time to Balance Tolba Menahan (Turtle Island) Carry It On!” The event also included music, dance, song, poetry, artwork, face painting, and activities for children. It was followed by a walk to the Garden of Peace.

Kim reported that a number of attendees stoped by our table to chat and learn more about what our organization is doing. She said that although it was very hot, she enjoyed the event saying it was nice and peaceful and a good turn out.

30 YEAR OLD LOGO
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

I posted this message on our Face Book page to remind people of our simple but powerful logo and what it represents. I said…. “We created this simple but powerful logo back in 1989 shortly after I incorporated the organization. It has never been modified/altered/updated. No need I guess. It represents: The Circle of Unity, The Four Directions, The Feather of Brotherhood and The Pipe of Peace.”
In the planning of Essex County Community Foundation’s (ECCF) Annual Arts & Culture Summit, they expressed an interest in including a Native American group in their programming for the morning session. We felt this was an appropriate and thoughtful idea and decided that we would bring a group of Native dancers to their event at The Cabot Theatre in Beverly on Friday, September 27, 2019. Four generations of inter-tribal members, with collective talent and various dance styles, gathered at the Theatre. The program began with a Grand Entry through the aisles at this historic landmark. It was led by Elders Harry and Lee Edmonds followed by 14 additional dancers who felt heartened from the powerful song and the energy of the audience some standing and clapping during the performance. We then held a Round Dance that included eager Summit
participants who helped form a large circle around the aisles falling in step with all the dancers. And finally, the Native dancers led a grand procession of approximately 280 registrants outside from the Cabot Theatre down and across the street to the Dane Street Church with powerful, uplifting hand drumming & singing by Devin Wixon (left). He was accompanied by Dawn Duncan and Andre with their hand drums.

With the tribal land acknowledgement, Native grand entry, a round dance, and a procession led by Natives, this was an exciting and rewarding way for another organization (the Foundation) to pay homage to the original inhabitants of this region. What a great way to kick off ECCF’s second Arts & Culture Summit.

We have heard nothing but positive feedback from Foundation officials and Summit attendees. A few comments from the many we received include the following....

What a beautiful and powerful performance today! Thank you so much for sharing with us all. Lauren K

I definitely felt the energy and the pride the group brought to the theater. Seeing you dance made my heart soar. It made me dance harder. I love you Mom. Aquayah P.

Great job! Everyone has told me how uplifted they felt participating in the procession from the Cabot to the Church. Patricia R.

I have so many words! It was humbling, empowering and just plain fantastic! John A.

The energy in the Theatre and on the streets of Beverly truly made for a powerful and exhilarating presentation. We left the City feeling inspired and welcomed by the attendees and many officials from the Foundation. It was an inspirational day and many of us are still reeling from the experience.
MONTHLY DONATIONS ~ BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

At the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) we believe those in need deserve assistance, especially if we are in a position to help. More than one quarter of our Native American constituents still struggle to make ends meet and provide food for themselves or for their families. For three decades, we have been working to build a strong resource through our Social Assistance Program to help families and elders with food, heat and other basic needs. Thank you for helping us help some of the neediest families across Mass. But, as always, we can do more, with your on-going help.

As many of you might have noticed, 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 also have similar language on our website as we feel recurring gifts are a great way for our organization to take in funds on a regular basis and help more families. From our last e-mail appeal in mid-June, we added a few additional members to the monthly giving circle but more are needed.

We are grateful for the steady influx of small gifts that are coming in to help boost our monthly revenue stream. We hope more of our members and friends will hear their heart speak and commit to ‘giving monthly’.

In addition, in our last issue of TurtleTalk, we included a section about “giving-back.” This appeal was directed specifically to small and large businesses asking them to join the circle of monthly giving too. We are a 30 year old, not-for-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/justice initiatives.

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.

If you would like to discuss monthly giving further, please call Burne Stanley-Peters at 617.642.1683 or visit us at the Danvers Office. Thank you. ■
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN INTER-TRIBAL CULTURE!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC — ALL WELCOMED

29th ANNUAL NAT'L NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH POW-WOW

MCNAA has been celebrating Native American Heritage Month with powwows in different cities & towns since 1990. We are proud to bring this year's event to South Hamilton, MA.

Sat., November 2, 2019 | 11AM—5PM
Pingree School, indoors at the Athletic Center
537 Highland St., So. Hamilton, MA

Drums: Iron River Singers & Eastern Suns  Emcee: Larry Spotted Crow Mann
Head Dancers: Aquayah Peters and Andre Gaines, Jr.

Musical Performances * Intertribal & Demonstration Dancing * Kids Activities Table
Drumming & Singing * Arts, Crafts & Some Traditional (and American) Foods for Sale
Pow-wow Passport Program * Interactive Educational Discussion with Claudia Fox Tree
Conical Wigwam & Bark Basket Display set up by Jennifer Lee * Storytelling
New Craft-making Demo: A Talking Stick by Hoban Sanford.

ADMISSION: Adults-$5.00; Seniors-$4.00; Children (4-12 yrs.)-$3.00; Free-3 & younger.

The pow-wow is sponsored by the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) in partnership with the Pingree School. It is supported in part by a grant from Essex County Community Foundation’s Creative County Initiative; Mass. Cultural Council’s Project Grant; Mass. Cultural Council’s Festivals Grant; a grant from Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council, a local agency of the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency; and Merrimack Valley Magazine.

PARKING: Look for Event Parking signs * Ample parking in Ice Hockey Rink lot & behind Athletic Center.

For updated information, visit our Facebook pages or contact us at:
617-642-1683 * mcnaa@aol.com * www.mcnaa.org